

The Mountain Laurel

Historical News from the Hill Country

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Note From the President

The long, hot and very dry summer of '09 is finally over. Record-breaking temps in the 100's coupled with a two-year drought gave us a summer to remember (not happily, regarding the weather at least). All of us are breathing a sigh of relief at cooler fall weather and some rain at last.

We enjoyed summer leisure, family time, and maybe even a vacation or two. Our children and grandchildren are now back in school and regular activities. Our calendars are filling with all the things we do after summer break.

With all the demands on our time, we still make the effort to stay involved and interested in the happenings in Boerne and our great hill country area. The Boerne Historical Society continues to care about current events and our ability to document, preserve, and tout all the good things that make Boerne such a great place.

I've enjoyed my time learning about my role as president. I've definitely needed a learning curve for re-educating myself about when, where, why, and how certain things transpired in the past activities of BAHPS. I had many years when I was not a super active member, although my heart was always with the organization during its almost 40- year history. When my children were small, when my parents were older, and when we were out of state a lot, I didn't always have first-hand knowledge of the inner workings of the organization. I'm learning some of that now.

Thank you to all of you who have helped me this year. I couldn't do it without your expertise and your willingness to share. And thank you to all the dedicated people before me who developed and nurtured BAHPS, leaving all of us the framework we have today to continue functioning and prospering.

I think the potential for a preservationist organization such as ours is tremendous. I hope you will join me in getting "re-inspired" to do some good things for the community we love.

Betsy Sueltenfuss, President

Thank You For Your Support!

KUHLMANN KING HOUSE



Kuhlmann-King House inventory of furnishings and display items -

In February and March, a committee met on numerous occasions to work on a complete inventory of KK House items. They updated the records and retagged some items that had fading ID numbers. Many thanks to the KK Committee: Martha Hawkins, Paula McGehee, Dolores Holman, Emmeline Whitworth, Mary Ann Vallad, and Betsy Sueltenfuss.

Re-do of Graham building interior -- In early March we were informed by the City of Boerne that they were in need of a single office space and would require the back portion of the Graham Building for that purpose. We complied with their wishes and moved furniture and display items from the back room. City workers helped move heavy items and stored two glass display cases in one of their storerooms. We put some of the furniture in the KK House, combined exhibits, and stored a few things in our small storage units.

Spring cleaning - In readiness for the May home tour, we gave the KK House a good cleaning. Old houses accumulate dust faster than brooms, mops, and rags can handle it, but the house looked good for the tour. The inventory crew did double duty with cleaning.

HISTORIC HOMES TOUR 2009

We partnered again with the Convention and Visitors Bureau to sponsor a tour of homes. We had some great houses on display for the tour on May 9. Many thanks to the homeowners who welcomed the public into their lovingly restored historic homes: Ted & Janice Maxymof, the Maxymof house; Lyne Tomm, the Stendebach-Frey-Carter house; Betty Mangum, the Herms-Mangum house; David & Yolanda Kovac, the Adam-Wendler-Davis house; Dr. Brian & Cindy Fowler, the Ebensberger-Fowler house; the Kuhlmann-King house and Graham Building; Debra Gracy, Phillip Manor Square. The Society made a profit of \$1,915.00.

The publicity and recognition given to area preservationists is always a boost to our mission as an historical organization. An added bonus is our contribution to the community with an event so appreciated and enjoyed by attendees. Thank you to all who helped in any way. Special thanks to Bettie Edmonds, Sue Martin, and Wendy Little for heading the home tour committee.

SURVEY

Survey to members - A survey with questions about members' opinions on the issue of needed repairs to the Kuhlmann-King house brought some thoughtful and interesting comments. A specific suggestion (put together by Kate Skinner-Klee and Pam Hodges) resulted in the board considering a long-range approach to the museum idea. Incorporating the KK house into a larger tourism destination could include all the buildings on schoolhouse hill, plus the related land that will house the new library and proposed new city hall. The board will be meeting again with city officials to determine how we might proceed.

September general meeting - About thirty people attended the Sept. 23 meeting. We had a great time of visiting, eating, and catching up on news and events of Society interest. The recent survey was discussed, indicating the variety of opinions given by members. Thank you to the thirty-plus who returned your survey. It's a tremendous help to us!

MEMBER NEWS

Many thanks to board member, Sue Martin, for 22 years of civic contributions as a member of Boerne's Landmark Commission. Another BAHPS member, Andrea Wood, is now serving on that board as well. Good job!

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Wed., Oct. 21, 2009

9:30 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church

All Members Welcome

Awards Night

Date: Thursday, November 5

Time: 7:00pm

Place: Boerne Public Library Meeting Room

Building awards to:

The Sachs Garage Building, Main St. at the Cibolo

Owned by: Dwayne & Hadel Haskett

The Boerne Turn Verein

Membership bowling club originating from the German vereins (athletic and social clubs) of the late 1800's

Publication award to Jeanne Dixon and Marlene Richardson for *The Settlement of Leon Springs, Texas: From Prussia to Persia*

Two BAHPS members will receive honors: Wendy Little, The Distinguished Service Award and Martha Hawkins, The President's Award.

We'll have a slide show of historic Boerne buildings, from early days forward, and the introduction of the new board of directors for 2010. And, of course, refreshments and visiting among friends. Don't miss it!

Gone But Not Forgotten

Alice Dierks passed away on Aug. 25, 2009 at the age of 84. She was one of the first active members at the beginning of the Society and served for many years. She earned the first Distinguished Service Award in 1981 for her help in setting up the Kuhlmann-King House museum. She and her husband, Wil-lard, were active in ranching their property near Bergheim.

Dorothy Busby passed away on Sept. 8, 2009, also at the age of 84. Dorothy served as President in 1981 and '82 and she received the Distinguished Service Award in 1992. She also spent many hours volunteering at the Kuhlmann-King House. She had a career as a secretary with the FBI.

Katherine Holmgreen Droste reached the amazing age of 100. She passed away on Sept. 12, 2009 in San Antonio. Katherine lived in several historic homes in the Boerne area and was always an advocate of "things historical." She had a career in the petroleum industry.

These fine ladies will be missed by many. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to their families.

TIME TO VOTE!

Your ballot is enclosed. Please vote right away and mail in the return envelope. If you think you will do it later, you may forget. Please add your email address where indicated so we can update our records. The new board will be announced at the November meeting and Awards Night, Nov. 5.

