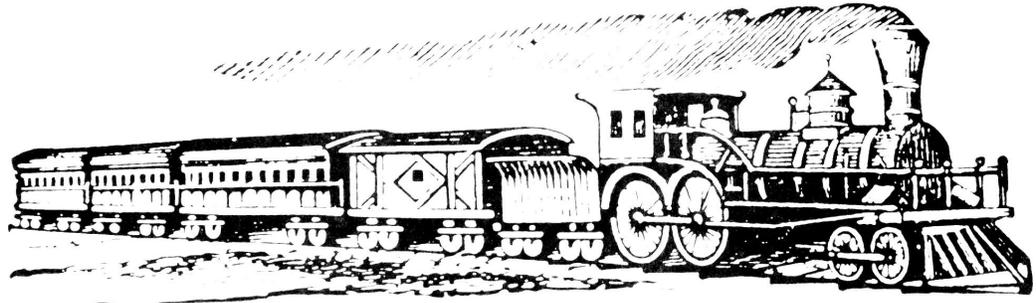


The Dispatch

Apex Historical Society



The Newsletter of the Apex Historical Society

Apex, North Carolina

Jan/Feb/Mar 2021

Greetings to our Members:

No one could have predicted this one year isolation in Corona Virus Pandemic mode that we have experienced this past year.

Hopefully with the world wide vaccines we will move on to a new day.

In the meantime, the Apex Historical Society is ready to gear up for our spring Plant Sale on Saturday May 8th at the Maynard Pearson House on 1101 Olive Chapel Road.

Apex Historical Society
Annual Plant Sale
Second Saturday In May
8 am to 2pm
Each year at the
Maynard-Pearson House
1101 OLIVE CHAPEL ROAD APEX, NC 27502
All Proceeds Go Towards
The Support of the
Maynard-Pearson House
www.apexhistoricalsociety.com

We continue our work in other ways:

We post on "Apex Historical Society" Facebook page: sharing memories by members on topics such as the biggest snowstorms, lining up at school to get a sugar cube for

polio, posting old photos relating to Apex, enjoying stories by Warren Holleman from "Apex Is Amazing" Facebook page about the

Log Pond, The Morrisville Station, Black History month feature stories about the life of Rev William Davis growing up in Apex with one on "Baseball and Jitterbugging" and reading comments by our own Town Ambassador J C Knowles.

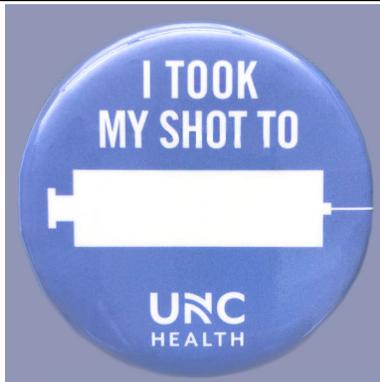
Thank you Apex supporters for sharing wonderful Apex memories on Facebook.

We attend Town Board meetings ready to hear news about preservation of our Historic District as well as updates on the Thompson-Utley-Tunstall House at 406 Elm Street.

Coronavirus Continues:

From Claire Rousseau's Journal
Today Sunday March 7, 2021
It is 30 degrees at 6:30AM.

I am up early having my hot coffee and cinnamon raisin toast, thinking about families and friends during Covid time. Everyone has cares, worries, isolation issues, money problems related to lack of jobs, concerns about their children still not back in school. Some people are sad and depressed about being alone. Yet we try so hard to carry on and to have faith and hope for a brighter day. Many are motivated and get involved in helping others. Even volunteering at the Covid vaccination sites.



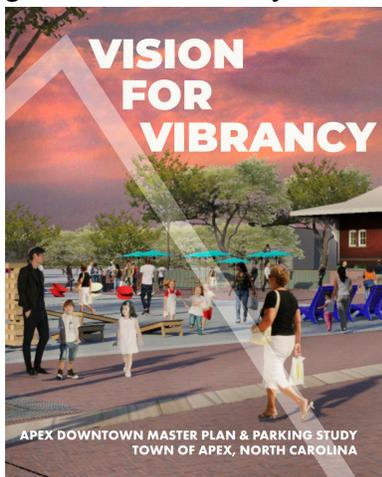
On day 361 of the pandemic, Bill and I received our 2nd Pfizer Covid shot. It was a memorable day Friday March 5th as we waited in a spaced out line at UNC Healthcare, ready to roll up our sleeves. We walked out of there looking forward to back to normal. Are we one step closer? What do you think?

Ahh, we can look back, but never go back. We will move forward with that “Apex pluck and perseverance” that has kept Apex moving along the tracks to a new day.

A new day is coming to Apex.

The Apex town council and its planning department have crafted a new vision for Apex, and has produced a brochure to describe what they see coming to Apex. The town's Vision for Vibrancy was created with lots of public input as well as assistance from professional planners.

Item number 8 in their priority list pertains to their plans to revitalize the Tunstall house, grounds and strollway. The brochure can be



found online at <https://www.apexnc.org/1318/Downtown-Plan> (or, just google Apex NC Downtown Development Plan)

Jeff Hastings on Preservation

A big thank you to the Apex Town Council during their budget retreat, the Tunstall House came up in their capital expense plans. While it was not voted as a high priority, councilman Terry J Mahaffey brought up the future of the house. It was decided that the plan of action might be a workshop on the future of the house. It is the first time in years that the house seems to have a glimmer of hope.



**Thompson-Utley-Fletcher-Tunstall House
Apex, North Carolina**

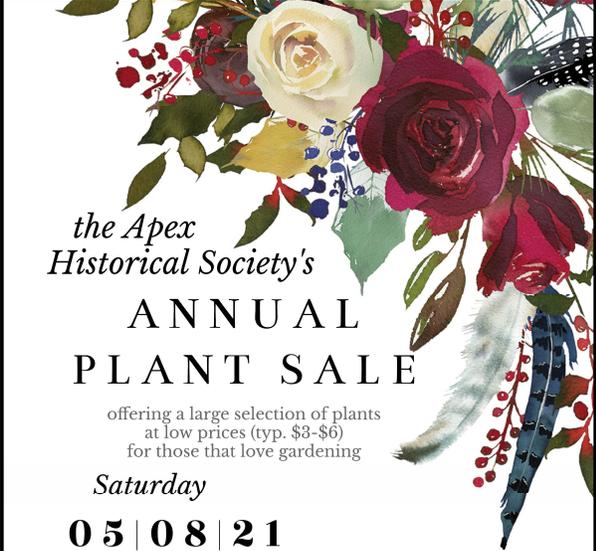
Illus. courtesy of Brenda Priest, Your Door & More

W. F. Utley built this house at 406 Elm Street, facing the railroad tracks, around 1870 for Dr. A. J. Thompson, but later acquired it for himself. A prominent Apex merchant, Mr. Utley was a Wake County Commissioner, a postmaster, and a Justice of the Peace. The A. J. Fletcher family inherited the house and property and subsequently sold it to Verne and Mary Lee Tunstall around 1940. Mr. Tunstall was an early Apex Town Commissioner and farmer.

For many years the Tunstall family put a single red candle in each window at Christmas. Since the house stood apart on a knoll, the lights became a part of the decorations on Historic Salem Street.

The town of Apex bought the property in 1997 to build the Town Campus. The house became a Wake County Landmark in 2003.

Plant Sale



*the Apex
Historical Society's*

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

offering a large selection of plants
at low prices (typ. \$3-\$6)
for those that love gardening

Saturday

05 | 08 | 21

8:00 AM to 1:00 PM
come early for the best selection; most plants are sold by noon!

The Maynard-Pearson House
1101 Olive Chapel Road
Apex, NC 27502

*Due to the current situation,
AHS is requesting masks be
worn while at the sale. We thank
you for your understanding.*

Contact Diane Long (919-418-6625) for additional information or to donate plants for the sale

Diane Long, John Messler and Erin Thompson are co-chairs on this event Saturday May 8th starting at 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM at the Maynard Pearson House. Members are asked to bring potted plants, marked with the name and care of the plant, to the back yard the week before. Last year was a very good sale and Diane is enthused to see everyone again this year. She says to tell you plants are spaced around the yard and masks are worn.

Give her a call if you can come out to help work for a few hours. Much appreciated.

Diane 919-326-8097.

The Halle Window Display ~ Looking Back at Apex Hospital

Diane Long and Michael Lawrence have put together a memory of the once Apex Hospital in the Halle display window on the far end of the hallway downstairs. Go by and see it. Say hello to our doctors now in our memories.

Two of our early doctors who help start the hospital are pictured in this display:



Dr John Kent Pearson born January 5, 1926 and passed away January 9, 2010 after serving as a family doctor for over 35 years. For many years he was one of two doctors serving Apex. In his early career, he delivered the first set of triples to be born in Wake County.

In 1988 Dr & Mrs Pearson had their home on our second Holiday Home Tour at 1015 North Salem Street. You may have met our gracious hosts at that time. I'm sure many of you knew Dr Pearson as your physician.

Dr. Lillard F Hart b. 1909 d. 1986 who moved to Apex in 1947 to open his practice with his wife Ethel Hart, who worked as a Medical Technologist alongside her husband. They met at Berea College in Kentucky and wed in 1943 in Winston- Salem.

They resided on Hunter Street not far from the Apex hospital.

You may also remember Mrs. Hart as a dedicated Girl Scout leader. She loved camping and helping the Girl Scouts, even speaking about her scouting times in later years to our Girl Scouts relating Apex history on behalf on our Apex Historical Society, before her passing in 2001. The Harts were a community minded family.

Others doctors pictured in this display are **Dr Eddie P Stiles** a family doctor, **Dr Charles Rath** and **Dr Fred Ng** both surgeons at the hospital consecutively, also a group photo of **Dr Wilson** on his birthday with the hospital staff. He helped get the Apex Wake Health

Services started in Apex on Hunter Street and later on, moving to the Salem Street office, after the Post Office vacated to their newer bigger facility on Hwy 55.



1982, Co-workers Marion Smith and Diane Long.

Diane tells us that “this Apex Hospital served the area of 2000 residents well. It was the beginning of getting health care services out to the people in the county.”

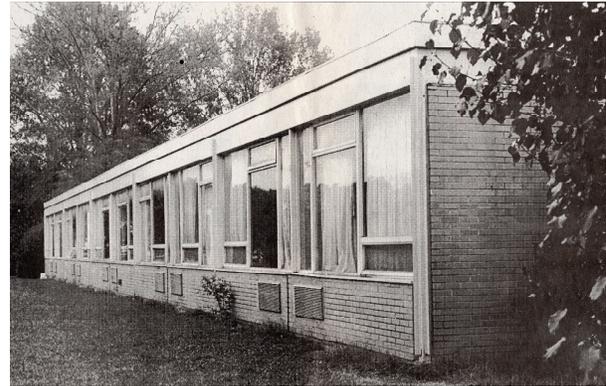
Article printed in the Apex Herald October 22, 1997 by Ron Page

“Longtime residents of Apex remember when Western Wake Hospital first opened its doors on Hunter Street near Highway 55 in Apex back in 1961.

For the next 30 years it provided a network of medical services for the community and neighboring areas as one of four satellite hospitals under the Wake Medical Hospital System ~ others being in Fuquay-Varina, Wake Forest and Zebulon.

It was in 1991 when its facilities moved into what has become a campus of modern medical buildings at 1900 Kildaire Farm Rd at the corner of Tryon Avenue in Cary.”

This hospital is now gone but in its place is an Apex Fire Station.



Diane enjoyed putting the Halle display window together. She says, “In Pandemic times we appreciate even more these hard working, dedicated hospital staff and EMS people in our community.” Diane knows first hand of their dedication as she worked at this Apex Hospital for twenty-five years as the Nursing Administrator. She reminds us also that in 1961 Apex did not have an ambulance service or EMS.

Diane Steed Long is a resident of Apex having moved here after her marriage to Moody Allen Long in 1963. She is a dedicated, much appreciated Board member of the Apex Historical Society. Thank you Diane for your caring display and your story about our Apex hospital, we appreciate it.

“Health Care Professionals in Early Apex”

From the Holleman brothers book “*Pluck, Perseverance and Paint., Apex, North Carolina: Beginnings to 1941*”

“Rural physicians were generally loved and respected by the community and deservedly so. They traveled long distances to see their patients.....spent hours and sometimes nights in the homes of their patients, provided care even to those who could not pay and zealously protected their privacy of those entrusted to their care.

The first doctor to establish a practice in the town of Apex was Dr A Judd Thompson...

Dr James R Rogers practiced in Apex from 1886 to 1893...

Drs L L Moore, Robert Wade Johnson, Harry G Utley and Charles B Wilkerson established medical practices in Apex in the 1890's and 1900's....The next generation Dr Carey C Jones (1920to 1950) and Dr O.S. Goodwin began in 1924."

Editor's Note: Read Dr Goodwin's profile story of a country doctor on pages 132 to 135. He practiced medicine in Apex for fifty-two years. The story of a doctor who was a part of his hometown.

This is just a glimpse of Chapter Nine on "Staying Alive" in Apex. It covers all the diseases at that time. It is well documented and gives one pause for how far modern medicine has come in our time.

Thank you Warren and Toby Holleman for this history book treasure that we can share today.

Their book "Pluck, Perseverance and Paint" is for sale at the Rusty Bucket Store at 104 N Salem Street in Downtown Historic Apex. Pen & Ink drawing note cards of Apex Historic sites by "Your Door & More" also available at the Rusty Bucket.

Peak Tique Antique Sale will be in September. Call Mack or Pam Thorpe if you know of a one acre site to host this event. Rusty Bucket 919-290-2575, Mon--Fri.

In memory of Kent McIver, owner and operator of Apex Funeral Home on Williams Street, Apex.

Originally known as Carpenter Casket House, Apex Funeral Home was first located approximately 100 yards East of Good Hope Church Road in Carpenter, NC. The funeral home was jointly owned by Will Carpenter and Mal Butts. Eventually, Mal's son and daughter moved the funeral home to Apex and renamed

the business Apex Funeral Directors. The business was located in downtown Apex on the corner of W. Chatham and N. Salem Streets.

After the death of Mr. Ralph Butts, Bob McIver, Kent's father, bought into the business. That was in 1964. McIver and co-owner Dwight Johnson moved the business to the corner of Olive Chapel Rd. and Williams St. in June, 1965.



Under Kent's leadership, the business was relocated to a newly constructed 13,000 square foot facility at 550 W.

Williams Street in 2005.

Kent McIver and his family owned and operated Apex Funeral Home for over 45 years, before he passed away Tuesday, October 20, 2020, at his home in Apex. The Apex Funeral Home was a charter Corporate Member of our newly formed Society in 1987. He will be missed as a contributing part of our Apex lives. Kent's kind smile and reassuring ways will stay with us along our journeys.

The Apex Historical Society extends its heartfelt condolences to the family for their loss.

www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/apex-nc/kentmciver

This is your invitation to join the Apex Historical Society

On October 22, 1987, a small group met with the purpose of forming an organization to integrate Apex's past to its future progress. Officially chartered on March 24, 1988, the

group has grown to include townspeople with the avowed purpose of **preserving, protecting and promoting the history of the Apex area.**

Since its inception, members have presented Apex with a community tree; initiated a town tree lighting ceremony; sponsored an annual holiday home tour; participated in Apex Peak Week and Fall Festival celebrations; researched and prepared documentation for the nomination of the train depot to the a National Register of Historic Places; produced historic Apex note cards; acquired a caboose and located it adjacent to the train depot; acquired the c.1870 Maynard-Pearson house and continue to work on its maintenance and restoration.

If you believe that the historic character of Apex is part of what makes Apex special, then become a part of the group that helps maintain Apex' historic flavor.

Membership levels:

- Individual\$30.00
- Senior (70+) ... \$20.00 per individual
- Family\$50.00
- Contributing\$100.00
- Sponsor \$250.00 (or more)

Memberships are renewed in March. Included in your membership are four free events; free Holiday Home Tour tickets (number of free tickets depends on membership level), volunteer opportunities and a wealth of local history.

- Preservation and Pie - Talk at the Halle Center
- Pot Luck Dinner - Annual Membership meeting
- Ice Cream Social
- Fall picnic

The Apex Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your dues and additional donations may be considered tax deductible charitable contributions.

(Note: we are still suffering with the Covid pandemic. It is unlikely that we will be able to hold our normal General Meeting and Pot

Luck dinner in March, so we are encouraging everyone who normally pays their dues in person at that meeting to pay by mail this year. **PO Box 506, Apex, 27502.** Please stay safe. We wish you continued good health during these difficult times.)

Please update your personal information:

Address: _____
 City/State/zip _____
 Telephone: _____ Cell phone: _____
 Email: _____

Make checks payable to the Apex Historical Society. Thank you if you have already sent in your 2021 dues.

AHS 2021-22 Board Members:

- Jeff Hastings AHS Board President
- Jeremy Bradham AHS Board Vice President
- Erin Thompson AHS Board Co-Secretary
- Diane Long AHS Board Co-Secretary
- John Messler AHS Board Treasurer
- John Pearson AHS Board Member
- Margaret Lawrence AHS Board Member
- Michael Lawrence AHS Board Member
- Laverne Seagroves AHS Board Member

Apex PeakFest will take place on September 11, 2021

PeakFest and its predecessor Peak Week have been a part of Apex social scene for more than 40 years. These days, the event can be expected to draw in excess of 22,000 visitors. It has become Apex' largest public event. The Apex Historical Society will have the caboose open to the public on that day.

