

# *D i s p a t c h*

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS HOMES TOUR

Steve Hennessey

After a cold and rainy day dampened our Homes Tour in 2006, just the opposite greeted us in 2007. December 2, 2007 was a bright and sunny day: cool enough for us to still feel that Christmas was coming, but warm enough to enjoy visiting the several sites provided for us in this year's Christmas Homes Tour sponsored by the Apex Historical Society.

And the large crowd who took part in the Tour did enjoy themselves.



**Fireplace Mantle at the Maynard-Pearson House**

Like tours of the past, one could start at any of the homes, receive a map, and find the way to all of the others. I prefer to start at the Maynard -Pearson home, take a good look at the beautiful decorations, buy some items at the Sweet Shoppe, participate in the home-made goodies...and then set out on my way.

This year, I next went to the former Teacherage on Hughes Street. This beautiful historic home has been redecorated by its new owners and reflects their artistic flair while keeping the beauty of the historic home preserved. Although I hated to leave so quickly, I had too much to do to stay in one place.

My next stop was the log cabin on US 64. This was a new place for me and was absolutely amazing. Not only did we get to see hand crafted furniture inside a hand crafted cabin, but the owner was there himself to explain any questions that we might have. While I did at times feel a bit claustrophobic when so many of those on tour arrived at close to the same time, I was pleased that such a large crowd was enjoying our 2007 Apex Homes Tour. Many of the tourists next headed for the home next door, but my schedule didn't allow that as I was to begin greeting people at the former Johnson home out on NC 751. I had worked there a few years ago when the owners had graciously offered their home but this time it was even better.

The comments from those ranged from "Wow" as they entered, to, "I think I'll be daring and try something like these walls in our home." Note that the last line was often said by one person with the spouse, while loving it for this home, had reservations for such daring in his/her own home.

By 5 PM, the last guests had left and so did I. I returned to the Maynard Pearson home where my wife had been selling sweets all afternoon. I was informed that we had a record number of guests and that the Sweet Shoppe had sold out.

***What a great day!***

Thanks to all who helped make the **2007 Holiday Home Tour**, *our major fund raiser of the year*, such a big success. Thanks to those who decorated the homes, especially the Maynard-Pearson Home; thanks to those who opened their homes; thanks to the committee and all the work they did; thanks to those who made and packaged and sold the sweets; thanks to all who worked at all the homes. Especially thanks to our president, Judy Miles, who was also in charge of this year's tour. Thanks to any I've missed in this list. And...it's almost two months since the tour so plans are already in progress for another great Apex Holiday Homes Tour 2008...See you there!

## SOUP AND PIE SUPPER

Steve Hennessey

On a cold Thursday evening in January, what better way is there to bring people together than the lure of homemade soup and pie? The Historical Society did just that, hosting the annual Soup and Pie Supper on January 17<sup>th</sup> at the Maynard-Pearson House. Approximately 35 people braved the cold and enjoyed the delicious offerings. The choices of soup included white chili, chicken and broccoli, vegetable, green pea, and beef stew. As a follow-up to these delicious soups, members ate the following pies with gusto: pumpkin, coconut cream, pecan, chocolate, and chess. Thanks to all of the members who made such delicious fare for us to enjoy.



Judy Miles, AHS President, gave a brief report on the AHS, noting that we made over \$4,000 from the Annual Homes Tour in December 2007. Harry Beasley gave a report from the Maynard-

Pearson Trust, which is looking for some new members. Appointments to the Board of the Maynard-Pearson Trust are for six years. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact

Harry Beasley or Ron Ragland. John Pearson also spoke of the web-site committee that has been formed with the goal of changing and updating the look of the AHS website. There are future plans for a "walking tour" of historic homes in the downtown and a page showing homes from past Annual

Home Tours. A page has also been added with links to similar organizations within the area and state. A request was made for members to provide the web committee with any information/history they may have on the buildings in downtown Apex. The web committee consists of John Pearson, Mack Thorpe, Mary Petersen, and Molly Weston.

### *The Dispatch...*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Judy Miles

Two thousand seven seems to have flown by. However, before we leave it and begin a new year, I would like to say thank you to all our members who generously gave of their time and effort to make it a great year for the Apex Historical Society. I would like to thank each of you for your contribution toward making our Twenty-first Annual Homes Tour a great success. It takes a large number of people to prepare for and host the homes tour, and you were all eager to help. When I attempted to list your names, I found that the list included nearly everyone in the society. The society would like to thank our homeowners Marcie & Craig Corry, Cathy & Daniel Martin, and Rosalyn & Bobby Cox for offering their homes for the tour. We wish to thank Teresa & Beth Stern, Shirley & Harry Beasley, and Buddy Holland for the super job they did in decorating the Maynard-Pearson House. We applaud our downtown merchants The Rusty Bucket, Antiques on Salem Street, Pineapple Tea Room, and the Chamber of Commerce for the great job on presale tickets. We are looking forward to another successful year.

Two thousand eight got off to a good start for the Apex Historical Society with a delicious soup and pie supper held at the Maynard-Pearson House on January 17.

If you visit our website, [www.apexhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.apexhistoricalsociety.com), you will find that John Pearson and Mack Thorpe are in the process of updating and adding historical information about Apex's downtown district. Our next membership meeting will be held on March 20. The evening will begin with a pot luck dinner at 6:30 p.m. Our annual membership meeting will follow dinner. Three new board members are to be elected and a change in the by-laws will be voted on.

Every society member is needed to help fulfill the mission of the society. If you haven't been involved in the society and would like to be, please call one of the board members. We welcome everyone's help.

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## TAKE A LOOK AT THE AHS WEBSITE!

John Pearson

If you have not seen the Apex Historical Society website or have not looked at it for some time, take a look at how it has changed in recent months. The appearance of the website has been updated to give it a fresh look, and the content has been updated with new information to make it more useful to members and others who want to learn about area history. We have also formed a website committee (Mack Thorpe, Mary Peterson, Molly Weston, and John Pearson) to plan what can be added to make the website more useful and some of the ideas have already been implemented.

Keeping a website current with new, fresh content is a continuous task, and we believe a "team" approach is the key to making it more useful and to represent the views of the Society. Please let us know if you have ideas that can make the website more useful or of any changes needed. If you find it helpful in learning more about the history of the Apex area, please let your friends who have an interest in local history know about the website.

The website address: <http://www.apexhistoricalsociety.com>

Our email address: [apexhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:apexhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

One recent change was to add a page called "Downtown Historic Buildings" featuring photos of downtown sites along with descriptions of current residents and information about the history of each. Note that a number of descriptions have not been completed, so let us know more about history and previous occupants of any buildings you know about. We have also added a page called "NC Historical Society Websites" listing other historical societies and organizations around the state to make members and

visitors aware of places they might read more about or visit. This page is growing as we learn of other historical societies. Please let us know of others you know about so we can add them.

Check out the "2007 Open House Slide Show" section on the home page that links to a slide show assembled by Mack Thorpe (co-owner of The Rusty Bucket shop) from photos taken during the 2007 Holiday Home Tour. There are also links on the "Events" page to three outstanding articles authored by Dolly Sickles describing three of the 2007 home tour sites.

Other sections of the website have been given a fresh new look, and revisions are being made to the content. New photos are being added to reflect both the history of the Apex area and to show changes as the community grows. We will be expanding the section showing past events the AHS sponsored or participated in and will be adding summaries of past home tours to preserve more about history learned on those tours. We have also started listing "Patrons" of the Society – those who make a contribution of \$100 or more to support the AHS – and we will be contacting merchants and offering an opportunity for more businesses to help sustain the Society.

From our research to date, it appears the AHS website may be the among best historical society websites in the state. It is our goal to make the website provide a place to help document and preserve history about the area and make it available to all who are interested in learning more about our community.

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## RUSTY BUCKET IN CONTEST

Reprinted with the permission of J. C. Knowles, Editor of *The Triangle Gazette*.

The Rusty Bucket is one of three stores across North America that has been chosen as a finalist in the *Country Business Magazine's Retailer of the Year* contest. *Country Business* is a trade magazine located in Chicago that is geared toward independent specialty retailers. Every year they honor a retailer and a vendor that stands out among all others.

*Country Business* magazine is paying expenses for the owners of the Rusty Bucket to attend the Chicago Market during January. The contest winner will be announced with a champagne toast during a seminar at the Market. The winning retailer will receive a trophy, recognition at the Market, and \$5,000 in merchandise credits to use for purchasing inventory for their store.

The magazine's editor, art director, and photographer were in Apex during December working on photo shoots for the magazine. GO RUSTY BUCKET!



The Rusty Bucket is located at 104-A North Salem Street in Historic Downtown Apex.

**UPDATE:  
Rusty Bucket WON!  
COUNTRY BUSINESS "RETAILER OF THE YEAR 2007"**

**Way to go Mack Thorpe!**

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## NEW MEMBER

Submitted by Mary Peterson

Please welcome new member **Elaine Powell**. We hope to see you at upcoming events!

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## CABOOSE UPDATE

Thanks to a large donation from the Town of Apex, the Apex Historical Society (AHS) has been able to hire a painter to paint the caboose standing next to the Chamber of Commerce. The outside of the caboose will be sandblasted, painted, and stenciled in the next few months once the weather grows warmer. Money the AHS has had set aside for this endeavor will be used to replace the cracked windows. The inside of the caboose will remain its current color until more funds can be raised to pay for the labor. The paint was all donated by Mark Petersen of Wallauer's, a paint distributor in New York state, and father-in-law of the Secretary of the AHS, Mary Petersen.



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## HISTORY OF WHITE OAK GRADED SCHOOL

Written by Mammie Luther when she was principal at White Oak School.

[**Editor's Note:** This is exactly how Ms. Luther typed it.]

The history of this school begins a good many years before the Civil War. It was then a private school, some of the teachers being Sidney Holloman, Johnson Olive and Robin Williams (the latter being the great-grand father of the present principal of the school) The attendance was large until the school at Olive Chapel claimed a large number of its pupils.

After the war this school was changed into a public school and a new house was built. The school was then called "Rocky Springs". It remained here for several years. About 70 to 80 pupils attended school here while Mrs. S. C. Perry and daughter were teachers.

The district was made larger and the school house in 1878 was moved about one mile west to center of district. It was then known as the "Jenks School" taking its name from Hinton Jenks who served faithfully many years as a committee of this school.

During the following years there were many faithful teachers, much progress was made and the school had great influence for good on the community at large, as well as training many of the boys and girls, who have since become the patrons of the present school, for higher citizenship and nobler aims in life.

From this school have gone out teachers, preachers, soldiers, successful farmers, men successful in other votations of life. Mr. L. J. Sears, Chairman of Wake County Board of Education and J. H. Sears, Sheriff of Wake County received early training in the school,

In 1905 the district was changed. The school voted. local tax, 35 & 90 giving the school the honor of being the first school in Wake County to vote a special tax. The school was moved to the present site, a new building was erected, costing \$1250.00. The school has been known since then as the White Oak Graded School.

Perhaps the greatest progress in the history of the school has been made since local tax was voted. The school has been fortunate in securing well-trained teachers and each year there has been marked progress. In 1908 a Betterment Association was organized. This association has done much good in helping to beautify school house and grounds, lengthening the school term, working school farm, etc,

This history would not be complete without mentioning the faithful work done by our present principal who has done four years of her best work in our school. It is quite a coincidence that she should make the eighth member of her family who has taught in this school (Great-grand-father, three great-ants, grand-mother, an aunt and one cousin.

[Per an e-mail from Molly Weston: "Miss Mamie Luther was a fixture in Apex. She lived on Salem Street in a house that was torn down many years ago. It was either beside Holland's Jewelers or one house down. Miss Mamie walked everywhere, but all the kids said she stomped!"]

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## It's time to pay your dues!

Please fill out the Membership Application below and return it to the address at the bottom.

### YES! I WANT TO BE PART OF APEX'S HISTORY!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please provide your 9-digit ZIP code.)

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please use ALL CAPS.  
Indicate if a character may be confused with another (one vs. ell).

#### TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (\$10 annually)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Member (\$35 annually) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$15 annually) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member (\$50 annually)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$25 annually)     |  |

Apex Historical Society • PO Box 506 • Apex, NC 27502

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Apex Depot

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