

Air 410 J. Hockaday History Lesson on Chamber
(Filled in for Haeder)

KINS COMMUNITY COMMENT – RECORDED JANUARY 9, 2012

J. Hockaday for Community Comment

WHEN YOU DRIVE BY THE EUREKA CHAMBER THESE DAYS.....YOU MIGHT NOTICE A BIT OF A DIFFERENCE.

THE BUILDING HAS BEEN REPAINTED, THE GROUNDS COMPLETELY RENNOVATED WITH NEW LANDSCAPING, PLANTS AND TREES. CHECK IT OUT THE NEXT TIME YOU DRIVE BY.

THROUGH THE LEADERSHIP OF CHAIRMAN...GREGG GARDINER THIS IMPRESSIVE FACELIFT BECAME A REALITY. IT'S NO ACCIDENT THAT THIS YEAR THE CHAMBER STAFF ENGAGED SEVERAL THOUSAND MORE TOURISTS THAN LAST YEAR. AND THAT'S IMPORTANT BECAUSE EVERY PERSON WHO WALKS IN THE CHAMBER DOOR IS ONE MORE CUSTOMER FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES. THE INCREASED VISIBILITY AND THE WELCOMING ENTRANCE TO THE VISITOR CENTER PUTS DOLLARS IN LOCAL CASH REGISTERS.

BUT, THAT ALWAYS BEEN THE IDEA.

THE EUREKA CHAMBER WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1891. IT WAS AN ECLECTIC GROUP OF DIVERSE BUSINESS PEOPLE COMING TOGETHER IN AN EMERGING TIME. LOGGERS, FISHERMEN, GROCERS, MERCHANTS AND BUILDERS COMBINED EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THE MUTUAL BEST INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY. THAT WAS EIGHT YEARS BEFORE THE FIRST AUTOMOBILE ARRIVED IN EUREKA.

BUT I DIGRESS.

THE RECENT LANDSCAPING PROJECT WAS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH THE COMBINED VOLUNTEER EFFORTS AND DONATIONS OF MANY CHAMBER MEMBER BUSINESSES.

TO NAME ONLY A FEW, JACK REIKE AND SHAFER'S ACE HARDWARE, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS THOMAS MEAGER AND AMY BERKOWITZ, TEEN CHALLENGE...EARTHSCAPES AND CAMPTON ELECTRIC.

DURING THE PROCESS SOMEBODY OFFERED TO REFINISH MY DESK. IT'S BEEN THERE SINCE 1956. IT CAME WITH THE BUILDING THAT ERNIE PIERSON AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERED TO CONSTRUCT. BACK THEN....BUSINESS LEADERS MADE A DEAL WITH THE CITY.....THEY SAID WE'LL PUT UP A BUILDING ON THE OLD PUMP SITE ON HAWTHORNE AND BROADWAY.....GIVE US A LONG TERM LEASE AND WE'LL COVER THE EXPENSES. IF WE HELP BUSINESSES TO SUCCEED, THE CITY SUCCEEDS. SO....THE CHAMBER OFFICES WERE BUILT IN THE TRUE SPIRIT OF A PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN 1957. SINCE THEN, CHAMBER MEMBERS HAVE COVERED EVERY EXPENSE AT NO COST TO THE CITY.

THE POINT IS THAT A WHOLE LOT OF BUSINESSES STEPPED UP TO MAKE THIS WORK. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY. THAT'S HOW THE SAMOA BRIDGE WAS BUILT AND THE MATTHEWS DAM CREATED.

BUT WHEN IT COMES TO THE DESK....THE SAME DESK THAT PAST CHAMBER DIRECTORS SUCH AS DICK DENBO, JACK OWEN, WES REED SAT BEHIND, I FEEL A SENSE OF HONOR TO OCCUPY IT NOW. I GET TO BE PART OF THE 122 YEAR OLD TRADITION.

I SUPPOSE I COULD HAVE THE DESK REFINISHED BUT THE ANCIENT DENTS AND CIGARETTE BURNS ARE A TRIBUTE TO THE PEOPLE WHO USED IT. NOPE...I'LL LEAVE IT AS IT IS. THEN PERHAPS THE NEXT CHAMBER EXECUTIVE MIGHT JUST FEEL AS MUCH A PART OF THAT PIECE OF HISTORY AS I HAVE.

BESIDES, I HAVEN'T SEEN THE TOP OF THE THING FOR MONTHS. WITH THE FILES AND MEMOS, PROPOSALS, REMINDERS AND CALENDARS, I RARELY SEE THE WOOD. I LIKE TO THINK OF IT AS A HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED PILING SYSTEM.

I'LL KEEP THE DESK AS IT IS.

ALBERT EINSTEIN ONCE SAID“If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind, then what are we to think of an empty desk?”

IN THE MEANTIME, WHEN YOU SEE THE CHAMBER WITH IT’S NEW FAÇADE, THINK OF IT AS JUST A CONTINUATION OF WHAT IT HAS BEEN FROM THE BEGINNING.....A COMBINED EFFORT THAT IS DETERMINED TO MAKE EUREKA A BETTER PLACE.....FOR BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT, FAMILIES AND THE CHILDREN WHO WILL DESCRIBE US AFTER WE HAVE LEFT OUR DESKS.

IN 1891 EUREKA BUSINESSES HAD A HOPE AND A DREAM. TODAY SO DO WE.

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