



## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Tom Wiederhold

Wow, what a great Christmas party we had! I hope y'all had as much fun as my wife and I did. Some great gifts and laughs were exchanged.

Now, welcome to 2013 my friends. I write this from sunny California and missed the snow and cold you all experienced. We had a great Christmas with our son and his family just outside of LA. We have been doing the normal tourist duties, seeing the Hollywood sign, the Queen Mary and other treats. We'll be back in Texas mid January.

We have ordered a rifle to raffle and will begin selling tickets very soon. Anyone who wants to can help with this project. We plan on a second raffle for the last half of the year and hope to have great results.

Of course the New Year brings challenges and one of those is the same each year, how to maintain and increase both membership and participation in the Society and the Museum.

As you may have noticed we are taking a break and there will not be a meeting in January. So let's get started in 2013 with a little bit of romance in February! We will, as normal for me, be looking at how other museums operate out this way and maybe come up with some new thoughts! Some of what we are looking at for the New Year are a new Military Cemetery Tour at Oakwood in May that reflects on Fort Worth's contributions to our Military Veterans buried there, and honor all veterans in the process. More ideas to come!

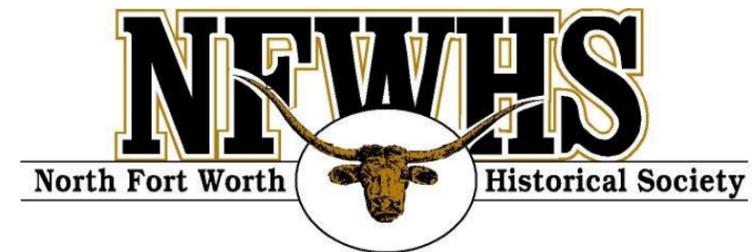
I look forward to seeing everyone at the next gathering!

Happy Trails!!

- Tom

Congratulations to Gwen Weiderhold on her retirement. Her last day at work was December 19, 2012 and her first day of retirement starts January 1, 2013. She has worked at the Fort Worth Police Department since 1983. Gwen received several awards during those years but the one she is most proud of is the Thomas R Windham Community Policing Award, which is bestowed upon the officer by the citizens of the community.

Gwen also has been the Fort Worth Police Historical Association President during the planning and kick off of the Panther Badge Centennial Project. Gwen and Tom plan to travel with their new RV.



Membership Newsletter January 2013

There will **NOT** be a meeting in **January**.

But stay tuned for information on an exciting meeting in February.

### Interesting History...

The Fort Worth Opera House was built in 1883 by a syndicate headed by Walter Huffman. The 1,200-seat theater was located at Third and Rusk (now Commerce) streets.

In 1890, Huffman sold the opera house to Henry and Phil Greenwall and it was renamed the Greenwall Opera House. The first performance was William A. Brady's "After Dark".

The Greenwall Opera House was torn down about 1906. There are two stories surrounding why the Greenwall was demolished. One is that during a performance of Ben Hur, the horses on the treadmill put too much strain on the stage. The second is that a strong wind blew the building off line by four inches. It was replaced by the Byers Opera House in 1908. The Byers Opera House became the Palace Theater in 1919.

The interesting connection is that the famed "Palace Theater Light Bulb" that has been burning since 1908 was originally housed in the Byers Opera House.

Come see the 104 year old light bulb at the Stockyards Museum!

*Parts of this story were borrowed from the City of Fort Worth website.*



Greenwalls Opera House



## Time to Renew your NFWHS Membership!

As a member of the North Fort Worth Historical Society, your support helps preserve an important part of the Stockyards' colorful history for future generations. Membership contributions support museum exhibitions, collections, conservation and research. In return, all members receive a 15 percent discount in the Museum Store, invitations to members-only events and access to the Museum's research library.

### Please choose your Membership Level

- \$25.00 Individual
- \$35.00 Family
- \$12.00 Student\*
- \$150.00 Patron/Corporate
- (no dues) Honorary\*
- Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_



It's easy to pay your dues Online with PayPal. Just go to the [Contact Page](http://www.StockyardsMuseum.org) at [www.StockyardsMuseum.org](http://www.StockyardsMuseum.org)

\* Student and Honorary members will not have voting privileges.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address1 \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to volunteer (ex: in our museum/gift shop, special events, etc.) if needed?

\_\_\_\_\_

Are there any talents that you would offer to the NFWHS (webmaster, decorating/design, public speaking, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_

Members may purchase a gold magnetic name badges with their name, the Molly logo and NFWHS.

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ badges @ \$12.00 each. Names as you would like them on the badge \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Return to: NFWHS ▪ 131 E. Exchange Ave., #110 ▪ Fort Worth, TX 76164 ▪ 817.625.5082

The North Fort Worth Historical Society is a 501c3 Non-Profit Corporation

## NFWHS News by Teresa Burleson



### Congratulations to Keith Bridwell

for winning the Iron Whistle Mustache Contest. The contest was sponsored by the North Texas Beard Alliance at the Rahr Brewery in Fort Worth.



**John Pugh** has been down (but not out) lately. He had a run-in with a calf and the calf won and it left John with a concussion and broken rib. He recovered from that only to get the flu. Keep John in your thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery.

**Please remember the North Fort Worth Historical Society** when you are considering making contributions. The NFWHS is a non-profit organization and we depend on your donations.

### Interesting Things to Do

**Jan. 3rd**—Thursday at Midnight, Aggie Yell Practice. The Association of Former Students and the 12th Man Foundation invite you to join them for the Aggie Yell Practice at the steps of the Armour & Swift Plants.

**Jan. 5**— Saturday, 10:30 am– 12:00 pm, Presented by Dr. T. Lindsay Baker. Machine Gun Kelly's Kidnaping of Charles Urschel, the Richest Man in Oklahoma. Tandy Lecture Hall, Fort Worth Central Library.

**Jan. 17**— Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. For more information call 817-626-7131

**Jan 18 to Feb. 19**— The Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo at the Will Rogers Coliseum.

**January 19, - Saturday.** Stockyards Station Western Sale Extravaganza. 10am.

Get gifts, art, jewelry or your western Stock Show outfit.. Over 20 unique boutiques, art galleries and more!

**And don't forget,**

...the Fort Worth Herd's cattle drive every day at 11:30 and 4pm on E. Exchange Ave.

...The Cowtown Opry performs every Sunday at 2pm on the steps of the Livestock Exchange Building.  
[www.cowtownopry.org](http://www.cowtownopry.org)



*Wishing you and yours  
a very Happy and  
Prosperous New Year!*