



The Innkeeper

Spring 2006

Newsletter of the Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel, Cary, NC

The *Big* Event is Coming!

By Mike Longmire

The Friends of the Page-Walker invite you to join in celebrating the **Grand Opening of our new Garden** with a **BBQ dinner and lawn concert** on **Saturday, May 20 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

Laura Ridgeway and Friends will provide the music, **Cooper's BBQ** will cater the meal, and the Friends will provide a variety of delicious desserts! This concert will be the first in the newly renovated garden area, leading us to the Starlight Summer Concert Series sponsored by the Town of Cary and The Friends of the Page-Walker.

Funds raised from ticket sales will support the work of the Friends – historic preservation, museum expansion and our annual concert series. Purchase tickets to support activities such as:

- **Digitizing Cary's history:** help preserve our oral history, currently on cassette tapes, and the reams of fragile paper history we've gathered.
- **In with the new AND the old:** help bring the Cary Historical Museum at the Page-Walker into the technology age.
- **Cary's leadership history:** Help save, preserve and catalogue the history of Cary's past mayors.
- **Support historic preservation seminars:** see the article later in this newsletter
- **Our concert series:** our annual winter and summer concerts series feature local and national artist and a wide spectrum of musical styles.
- **Bus transportation:** The Friends fund transportation – about \$100 per visit – to bring students to the Page-Walker to learn about local history

Please plan to bring your family and friends to the Page-Walker on May 20th to for an enjoyable afternoon and evening of good food, good music and good company. The fun will begin at 4:00 PM.

Tickets can be purchased at the Page-Walker, from any board member (a list of board members appears later in this newsletter), or by contacting Michael Longmire at 851-2560, mlongmire@nc.rr.com.

Ticket prices

Individual \$25.00 • Couple \$40.00

Family (four) \$65.00

Business sponsorships also available

Begin or renew your Friends membership when you purchase a ticket and receive a 10% discount on your membership fee!

SAVE THE DATE!

**→ MAY 20, 2006 ←
4:00 PM – 7:00 PM**

**Friends of Page-Walker Herb
Garden Grand Opening with BBQ
dinner and concert**

President's Message

By Julia Morrison

Hope that you had a wonderful holiday and a happy new year. The Page-Walker looked beautiful again this holiday season, thanks to all of my wonderful volunteers (see the articles and photos later in this newsletter). This year, we had a special holiday event – more than 140 adults and children attended Diamante Inc.'s inaugural **Three Kings Day** celebration and **Star of Hope** culmination. It was the Friends' way to reach out to the local Hispanic community and bring new faces to the Page-Walker.

Thanks to a generous grant from the **Lazy Daze Arts and Crafts Committee**, the Friends will be able to supply herbs and signage for our reinvigorated herb garden.

We have received a good bit of press in the last couple of months. The Friends and its members have had some very productive endeavors. Recent articles in *The Cary News* have included:

- The **Bus Transportation Grant** that the Friends are offering to teachers to help transport their classes to the Page-Walker hotel for a tour of the hotel and its museum.
- An interview with **Peggy Van Scoyoc** about the oral history project. Peggy has delivered 41 tapes to the Wilson Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Friends, with the help of **Rick Knapp**, **Sara Maulsby** and I, have applied for a grant to partially cover the cost of digitizing our oral history tapes. With 41 interviews on cassettes tapes, we want to make sure that these are preserved for future generations.

The **Historic Preservation Committee** under the direction of **Bob Myers** has been busy coordinating the historic plaques for the Town Center historic district. Currently, seven homeowners have ordered the plaques, which will bring attention to these homes and educate and remind the public about our heritage.

Our **Winter Concert Series**, thanks to **Mike Longmire**, continues to draw hundreds to the Page-Walker. It has been a wonderful season.

Our **Annual Meeting** is scheduled for May 3rd. We will elect new board members from our general membership to replace those whose terms have expired. Please contact Bob Myers at 467- 6308, robmyers@us.ibm.com if you are interested in serving on the board. **All Friends members are invited to the annual meeting!**

Anne Kratzer and her **Garden Committee** are in the planning stages to bring the gardens back to life. If you are interested in helping, contact Anne at 467-8887.

Carol Aupperle, with the help of **Lee Alcorn** and **Roy Perry**, has been very busy working with the **Cary Chamber of Commerce**, attending many of the sub-committee meetings and publicizing the Friends and our activities.

I also want to make sure that we remember to thank the newsletter staff, especially **Brent Miller**. Wonderful job!
[Editor's note: The newsletter staff appreciates the unwarranted recognition and notes that the Friends president deserves much appreciation for her unending hard work]

Remember, it is **you** who make the Friends what it is.

We thank you for all you do.

Membership Update

The Friends thank these Community Partner, Sustaining and Silver Sustaining Members:

Rosanna M. Adams, Jim and Mary Adcock, Mercedes Auger, Ed and Ruth Clayton, Joanne and Bob Brisbin, Marla Dorrel and Gary Craven, Jerry and Jean Harris, Jack and Nancy Leavell, L.D. and Claudia Mormino, Lynn and Carole Wright

A membership form (for new memberships and renewals) appears later in this newsletter.



Oral History Update

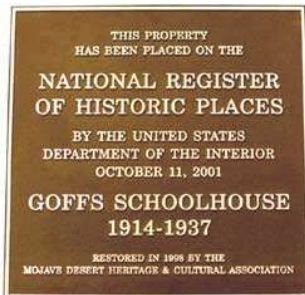
By Peggy Van Scoyoc

In November 2005, a fourth submission was made to the Wilson Library at UNC in Chapel Hill that contained twelve oral history interviews. This brings the total interview count under the Cary subheading of the Southern Oral History Program to **forty-one tapes and transcripts**. These interviews are now available to the public through the university system, and to scholars to mine for their historic research.

The Cary News recently published a feature article about the Cary oral history program. The article gives details about the kinds of stories captured in the interviews, and proves once again that little old Cary was a fascinating place to live and grow up. And it remains a wonderful place today.

Historic Preservation

The **Historic Preservation Committee** is excited about our speaker series planned by members **Pat Fish** and **Marla Dorrel**.



The committee also is in the process of recognizing the contributing historic structures in the Town Center (a **National Register of Historic Places Historic District**) with plaques.

We hope to install the first set of seven plaques, ordered by owners of some of the historic buildings, soon.

The Historic Preservation Committee meets from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Page-Walker.

A Look Back

“A Seed Begins to Sprout” 1983-1985

Anne Kratzer continues her series of the history of the Friends of the Page-Walker

(continuation from Fall 2005)

When we left off last fall – in 1983 – the Page-Walker Hotel was in a horrible state of disrepair, valued at only \$4000, and the Cary Historical Society’s Preservation Committee was looking for a way to save the hotel...

In the fall of 1983, when it appeared that no one would purchase the hotel and use it as a place of business, **Preservation NC (Myrick Howard)** and the **Preservation Committee of the Cary Historical Society** made an offer to purchase the hotel and one acre for **\$50,000**. A letter of intent was signed, and the Preservation Committee began to identify funds for a tarp for the roof to impede further water damage. Other interested Cary citizens who heard about the effort joined the expanded Preservation Committee, which was renamed “**Friends of the Walker Hotel**”. This was an exciting time, with the infusion of new people, new resources, and renewed energy and enthusiasm. Many Saturday clean-up days were organized to prune vegetation and remove debris. Fake owls and snakes were placed on the roof to deter the pigeons. The Friends began interviewing architects. The estimated cost of restoration was **\$250,000**. Although the Friends were still trying to identify ways to raise money for the tarp, enthusiasm remained high and the restoration goal seemed attainable. We were on a roll!

In the spring of 1984, **Bob Strother** informed the Friends that he had a prospective buyer for the hotel and therefore could not honor our letter of intent. Our immediate reaction was tremendous disappointment. The spirit of the hotel and the community effort to preserve it had



captured our imagination. Myrick Howard encouraged us to look at this change in a positive light. This building that had become the object of considerable passion would be saved.

Disappointment can foster character formation. In the case of the hotel, disappointment taught us the importance of resilience and perseverance. In the spring of 1984, the Friends' dream for the hotel appeared to be derailed. A few months later, though, we seemed to be back on track. The buyer withdrew his offer for the hotel. The "bucket brigade" resumed its role; Myrick Howard offered the same proposal as before; Bob Strother declined but presented a counter offer that was, sadly, beyond our means. 1984 ended with the restoration effort in financial limbo.

The stars must have aligned in 1985. In January, a **Salisbury Appearance Commission** member visited Cary and spoke to the Town Council. He had seen the deteriorating hotel during his visit and told the Council that Salisbury "**would kill to have the Walker Hotel**", because it was such an architecturally significant structure. The Council indicated that it would be willing to listen to a proposal for its restoration and preservation. The Friends took the Council up on its offer. Mr. Strother had indicated that the situation needed to be resolved quickly if the building was to be saved. **Mayor Harold Ritter** and I discussed an idea that Myrick Howard had proposed: the Town would purchase the hotel and land and lease the hotel and one acre to Preservation NC. As soon as the Friends received non-profit, tax exempt status, the lease would be assigned to the Friends to develop a plan for the use of the Hotel, guide the restoration effort and raise funds for the project. Mayor Ritter was supportive of historic preservation and with his leadership, the Council approved the proposal. On June 13, 1985, the Town Council purchased the building and land for **\$235,000**, and on August 29, a lease agreement was signed with Preservation NC. The Friends were beside themselves with joy!



A review of the successes and challenges of the newly formed Friends will appear in the next issue of *The Innkeeper*!

Friends Save History

Determined not to allow documents detailing Cary's history to disappear, the Friends of the Page-Walker are taking steps to secure the papers of Cary's past. To achieve this goal, the Friends have used a **2004 Lazy Daze Arts & Crafts Festival grant** to purchase valuable storage devices and supplies. Purchases funded by the grant include:

- File storage
- A two-door storage cabinet
- Acid-free albums and paper
- Photo and slide pages
- Sprays
- Labels
- Map and print folders
- Archival polyester film tissue
- Storage boxes
- CDs for digitizing information

In cooperation with the Town of Cary, these storage facilities are now housed in the Page-Walker Arts and History Center, home of the **Cary Heritage Museum**. Members of the Friends and other Cary residents who have been serving as custodians for documents detailing



Cary's past are now placing those treasures in this central location. The new repository houses:

- Digitized copies of the **Dr. Templeton letters**
- The **Page Collection**, including an original letter from Walter Hines Page
- The **Koka Booth** collection
- The **Cary Centennial** collection
- The **Library** collection
- The **Cary History** collection
- The **Page-Walker History** collection
- The **Friends of the Page-Walker Oral History** collection

Cary residents who believe they are in possession of important papers related to Cary's history are invited to contact Friends president **Julia Morrison** (jkmccary@earthlink.net) to discuss the possible donation of their documents to the Friends of the Page-Walker.

The nonprofit Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel, Inc. serves as a guardian of Cary's history and pursues historic preservation in Cary. Created initially to save the Page-Walker Hotel, one of Cary's most important landmarks, the organization continues to preserve the integrity of the historic structure and its grounds, while it promotes community participation, education and interest in history and the arts.

Friends in the News

By Carol Aupperle

The Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel were among the businesses reported on in the *Triangle Business Journal's* recent *Cary Business Journal*. The "**Cary Biz**" column in this December publication noted the Friends' museum task force, as well as our efforts to recognize downtown historic structures and initiate a historic preservation lecture series.

Even Charlie Brown's Tree Needed Help!

By Carol Aupperle

Thanks to Friends, the Page-Walker sparkles with Victorian splendor during the holiday season (see article and photos later in this newsletter). Yet, our warm holiday display is showing signs of wear.

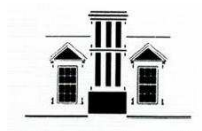
The Friends' silk flowers, evergreen garlands and golden sprays are beginning to crumble when handled. Because consistency is an important component of the Page Walker's holiday sparkle, it is imperative that we acquire a large number of matching holiday flowers and bows for our many mantels and windows.

This important project will require walking through the beautifully-decorated building to make an inventory of our needs and finding a business that might consider being a benefactor of holiday cheer. With untold numbers of Cary families discovering the Page-Walker each year during the holiday tree lighting celebration, Page-Walker holiday decorations are a wise investment.

You may be able to benefit the holiday décor cause in one other way as well. Did you purchase the perfect artificial holiday tree, only to discover it's not perfect for your space? Or, does your traditional garland no longer fit your holiday decorating style?

If your basic holiday decorating supplies are in terrific shape but no longer fit your needs, please consider donating them to Friends. Holiday decorators this year discovered some garland that has been bent into shape too many times and a tree that was returned to storage. Your errant purchase might make the perfect donation and save your attic from clutter.

If you're interested in taking on the Friends' holiday decor project or if you have an item you'd like to donate to the cause, please contact Julia Morrison at jkmccary@earthlink.net.



A Page-Walker Moment

Health concerns for “Wat” Page

By Dean Teitelbaum



Walter Hines Page

Until 1900, at the age of 45, Walter Hines “Wat” Page’s health supported his many activities and driving ambition. But after this, he was chronically ill with a variety of problems, including rheumatism, high blood pressure, hardening of the arteries and a stomach ulcer.

His most annoying affliction was what he called “catarrh”, a persistent cough and shortness of breath. This was aggravated by severe throat irritation and lung congestion. By 1912, and for the remaining six years of his life, emphysema would take an increasing toll on his strength.

What caused the deterioration of his health at a relatively early age? Was it stress and overwork? Was it genetic? Or was it his habit of smoking up to 20 large cigars a day?

The Friends Thank...

Friends board members can now leave their “calling card” when they visit businesses or organizations, thanks to Cary resident **Lori Bush**.

Ms. Bush designed, produced and donated business cards for the Friends board members, and the Friends send a big **Thank You** to Lori Bush!

Holiday Cheer

The Page-Walker looked beautiful in its holiday splendor, as seen in the following photos, during December and January. Thanks to everyone who helped decorate the building.



John Duncan and Anne Kratzer (above); Pati Schetzina & Cheryl Perry (below) decorate



One of the many mantles in the Page-Walker is decked out for the holidays (below).





Decorators (left to right) Sandy & John Duncan, Pat Fish, Pati Schetzina, Julia Morrison, Carol Aupperle, Mercedes Auger, Paul Wasylkevych, Anne Kratzer, Roy & Cheryl Perry

The Open House at Page Walker was held Saturday, Dec. 3rd, just before the town tree lighting ceremony. The Friends hosted the open house that included music, refreshments, museum tours and activities for children.



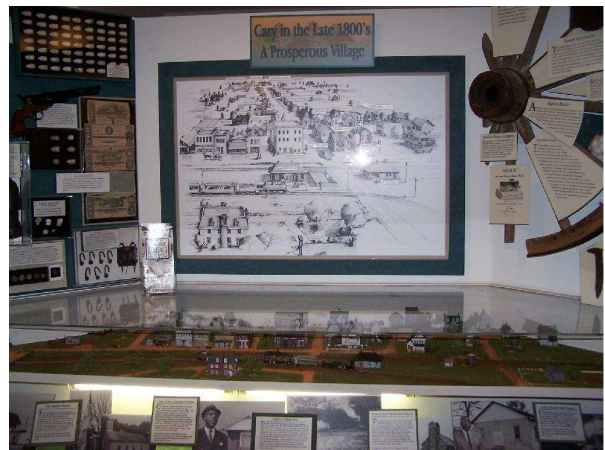
Board members Rick Knapp, Anne Kratzer and board president Julia Morrison at the holiday open house



Board members Pat Fish and Brent Miller (above) host visitors in period costume



Visitors enjoy the holiday concert (above) and a visiting Bactrian (below)



The Cary Heritage Museum at the Page-Walker was a big attraction during the open house



Kudos To...

The Friends want to thank and recognize several of our members who make great things happen with their hard work:

- **Julia Morrison** for scanning twenty years of minutes and *Innkeepers* to preserve the records and make them accessible to the public.
- **Bob Myers** for his preservation efforts and donating the file cabinet to the Friends for storage of important historical materials.
- **Pat Fish** for tireless efforts and almost single-handedly being responsible for our presence at Lazy Daze
- **Cathy Richmond, Ruth Guthrie, Mike Longmire, Pat Fish, Sara Maultsby and Mercedes Auger** for organizing a fantastic holiday pot luck dinner
- **Mike Longmire, Mercedes Auger, Winnie Ferguson, Pat Fish, Carol Aupperle and Joy Mellon** for a fantastic 2005-2006 concert series



Kudos to Julia, Bob, Pat, Cathy, Ruth, Mike, Sara, Mercedes, Winnie, Carol and Joy!

About *The Innkeeper*

The Innkeeper is the newsletter of the Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel. After a period during which the newsletter was “on hiatus”, the Friends have brought the newsletter back as a way to communicate with and reach out to our membership and the community.

The Innkeeper is a team effort of the Friends; editorial and production staff consists of Brent Miller and Michael Longmire.

We welcome your contributions to *The Innkeeper*. If you have articles, suggestions or ideas to share, please send them to Brent (brent@posmoroda.com).

Electronic Newsletter

You can receive your copy of *The Innkeeper* electronically. This offers convenience for you and helps the **Friends** reduce postage costs.

If you elect to receive our newsletter electronically rather than on paper, please contact Brent Miller (brent@posmoroda.com). You will receive future issues via e-mail.



Board Members

Your **Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel board members** are these volunteers: Mary Adcock, Lee Alcorn, Mercedes Auger, Carol Aupperle, Cindi Baker, John Duncan, Winnie Ferguson, Pat Fish, Ruth Guthrie, Anne Kratzer, Mike Longmire (immediate past president), Melvin Matthews, Joy Mellon, Brent Miller, Julia Morrison (president), Bob Myers (Vice President), Olene Ogles, Roy Perry, Cathy Richmond, Julie Robison, Dean Teitelbaum, Renata Thompson and Peggy Van Scoyoc (Secretary).

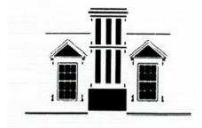
The board is also fortunate to have the participation of Town of Cary staff members Lyman Collins, Rick Knapp, Sara Maulsby and Darrell Stover.

If you are interested in serving on the Friends board in the future (or if you have served in the past and would like to contribute again), please contact any board member or get in touch with us as described in the "Contact the Friends" article later in this issue.

→ Please share this issue of *The Innkeeper* with a friend! ←

Calendar of Events

- **March 1, 7:00 p.m.:** Board meeting
- **March 19, 7:00 p.m.:** Concert at the Page-Walker – *Diversions*
- **April 5, 7:00 p.m.:** Board Meeting
- **April 9, 7:00 p.m.:** Concert at the Page-Walker – *Montana Skies*
- **May 3, 7:00 p.m.:** Board Meeting
- **May 20, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.:** "The Big Event" BBQ and concert (see details on page 1 in this newsletter)



Order “Big Event” Tickets *Today!*

To order tickets to the May 20 BBQ dinner and concert fundraiser, fill out the form below and mail it with your check to:

Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel
Box 4234
Cary, NC 27519

Please send me:

Of _____ tickets at \$ _____ Total \$ _____

(Number) (type of ticket, see below) (see price list below)

Price List:

Individual: \$25

Couple: \$40

Family of 4: \$65

Business sponsorships: *Please inquire* (Michael Longmire at 851-2560, mlongmire@nc.rr.com)

Name/Organization _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Telephone _____ e-mail address _____



Begin or Renew Your Membership *Today!*

To join the Friends, or renew your existing membership, fill out the form below and mail it with your contribution to:

Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel
Box 4234
Cary, NC 27519

All members receive a complimentary copy of *The Innkeeper* newsletter. Non-business donations of \$100 or more and business donations of \$500 or more will be recognized in the newsletter. **Please note: if you begin or renew a membership at the time you purchase tickets to "The Big Event" (see previous page), you receive a 10% discount on the membership rates listed below!**

Individual, family, and civic group memberships:

- | | | |
|---|---------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$30 | (Winter concert series ticket discount) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$50 | (Winter concert series ticket discount) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Partner | \$100 | (Includes 2 winter concert series tickets) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member | \$101 - \$249 | (Includes <i>Around and About Cary</i> book, winter concert series ticket discount) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Sustaining Member | \$250 or more | (Includes 2 winter concert series tickets) |

My employer, _____ has a matching gift program

Business memberships:

- | | | |
|---|---------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Member | \$250 - \$499 | (Includes 2 winter concert series tickets) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Partner | \$500 or more | (Includes 2 winter concert series tickets) |

Name/Organization _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Telephone _____ e-mail address _____



Contact The Friends

By mail:

Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel
Box 4234
Cary, NC 27519

By telephone:

Information about the Friends:

President Julia Morrison: (919) 469-0044

Information about Page-Walker programs: (919) 460-4963

By e-mail:

President Julia Morrison:
jkmccary@earthlink.net

On the Web:

<http://www.friendsofpagewalker.org>

Visit the Page-Walker Hotel:

Address: 119 Ambassador Loop

Directions: Located on Ambassador Loop on Town Hall Campus. The campus is off North Academy Street, between Chapel Hill Road and Chatham Street in downtown Cary.

Hours of Operation:

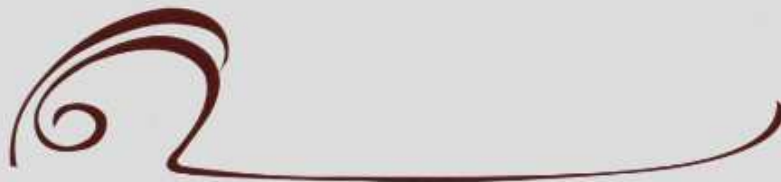
Monday – Wednesday: 10:00AM – 9:30PM

Thursday: 10:00AM - 5:00PM

Friday: 10:00AM - 1:00PM

Friday Evening - Sunday: by reservation

The Page-Walker Arts & History Center is closed on all official Town holidays.



FRIENDS OF THE PAGE-WALKER HOTEL

