

Mt Angel just had its 125th birthday! A party was held at the Festhalle on April 3rd which is the date exactly 125 years ago that the town of Mt Angel was incorporated. In fact, the first gathering of the newly elected city council was held on April 3rd, 1893 and all council members were sworn in by the postmaster who was the only Notary Public in the area. A seal for the city was also approved and ordered at that meeting. A very nice crowd attended the birthday party and of course there were two very large delicious cakes to help us celebrate.

The new Heritage Trail plaques were also on display at the party. The Heritage Trail project was started to identify sites in town that had an impact on the town's history. The first ten sites chosen were: Mt Angel Abbey, Bank of Mt Angel (started in 1905), Weissenfel's Blacksmith Shop, Mt Angel Creamery, Glockenspiel, Queen of Angels Monastery, Saalfeld House, St Mary Church, Southern Pacific Railroad depot, and Schmaltz and Son's Warehouse. The Society provided most of the pictures used for the plaques and helped with researching information for the text. The pictures of the sites are etched into metal as well as the text explaining why the site is significant. City employees have already started pouring concrete bases to mount the support posts for the plaques. More sites will be added later. A brochure will also be published with a map of the walking trail which will guide people on a walk around town to see all the plaques.

Father Augustine from the Abbey has given us more items. In the past he gave us copies of the St Joseph's Blatt and the Mt Angel Magazine both published by the Benedictine Press many years ago. They contain lots of interesting facts to help piece together the history of our town. Recently he gave us copies of articles and ads from The Pacific Star which

was the newspaper of the College. I find the ads very interesting. For example, I was aware of the Watson, Gooch, Terhaar, Worley and Fisher drug stores but, new to me, in the December 1911 issue there was an ad for Th. Schaecher, proprietor of Mt Angel Pharmacy. Also, an ad for Mrs. Hottinger (notions and variety store) and a H. Wittenberg (boot and shoe repairing). Both Hottinger and Wittenberg are names I had not heard before. If anyone knows more about these people, please let us know.

The Saalfeld house project creeps along. Because the County would require a change of use permit, we had to get a structural engineer involved to submit a report outlining the necessary changes we would have to make. The house is currently designated for residential use and we would need to change that to office use. This would possibly require some structural changes particularly under the house. I met with an engineer at the house and should have his report soon outlining exactly what changes are needed. Patience, patience, patience!

I want to say thank you to Therese Nichols and her daughter Brigid for retyping a report for the Society. I had found a paper someone had written about the history of the Parochial schools in Mt Angel, but the type was so faint it would not scan well. There were quite a few pages, but they retyped it so I could scan and digitize it. Therese and her husband Joseph are new members of the Society having moved to Mt Angel recently from Fresno. Thanks again.

Bill Predeek, President, Mt Angel Historical Society
Please feel free to call 503-845-2464 or email predeek@mtangel.net if you have any questions, comments or suggestions.

Thank you for your support!