

# THE ASSOCIATION

## For The Preservation Of The Las Vegas Mormon Fort

3149 Hebard Drive  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89121  
March 19, 1977

Dear Friends of the Fort:

This is the call to our annual meeting, April 5, 7:30 p.m. at the home of members Dr. Maxwell and Bernice Kaye, 4206 Ridgecrest Drive, Las Vegas (take Flamingo to Sandhill, right on Sandhill to Paradise Crest, right turn immediately on Ridgecrest, 4th house on right). At the annual meeting we will elect members to the board, conduct business and view a selection of slides of our year's activities. The slide show is rated GN for mostly GOOD NEWS!

What of last year? On the plus side, the long-stored monument no. 35 from the Nevada State Park System marking the Old Fort as a historic site was dedicated. The dedication on May 12 during National Historic Preservation Week drew a large crowd. At that time we presented the Mayor with a petition containing 1,500 signatures supporting preservation efforts at the Old Fort. On June 12, we celebrated Flag Day and the 121st anniversary celebration with music, readings from period journals, and a showing by local artists of their paintings of historical sites of the area, many of them of the Old Fort.

One big plus has been final approval of the \$30,000 grant from the National Park Service, administered by the Nevada State Park System, to repair the exterior of the Fort. That ugly cement will be removed and replaced with new adobe blocks. Work is scheduled to begin in early summer.

Our goal to open the Old Fort to the public at regular hours with professional staffing has been realized on a short-term basis by a grant from the Nevada American Revolution Bicentennial Commission for \$750. This grant, which must be matched by donated time and materials worth \$375. and cash of \$375., has allowed hiring of two UNLV historical archeology students, Marta Planzo and Christopher Moran. Chris and Marta have been conducting tours at the Fort on Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; the first and third Saturdays, second and fourth Sundays of the month from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. The tours and special activities began February 28 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at which Nina Liston, West Coast representative of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Pauleen Foutz, representing the Nevada American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, wielded the scissors with assistance from Donn Blake, of the Las Vegas Bicentennial Commission. The Daughters of Utah Pioneers provided refreshments. The DUP is assisting the project by providing hostesses for openings. Do stop by the Fort for special activities such as weekend crafts demonstrations and to give support to our guide-interpreters in this new effort.

Also on the plus side, the City of Las Vegas appears favorable to purchase of the Elks Lodge. This purchase is essential to preserve the integrity of the Old Fort. As most of you know, the Fort is surrounded on all sides by Elks property. We desperately need the breathing room that purchase of the Elks Lodge would afford. Additionally, we will ask for space in the Elks building to introduce the public to the history of the Fort before the visitor tours the Fort. Do write to Commissioners Lurie, Christensen, Mayor Briare and especially Roy Woofter and Myron Leavitt encouraging purchase of the Lodge and property surrounding the Fort.

The current threat to the Old Fort is the enthusiasm of Commissioner Roy Woofter for an outdoor sports complex on Cashman Field which would include a motorcross track (NOISE!!) and stadium seating for 7,000 with bleachers for 3,000 just below the Old Fort. Ignoring the Cohen-McDaniel Action Plan for Downtown Las Vegas (1975) for which the City of Las Vegas paid \$20,000 which recommends preservation of Cashman as an inner-city cultural park with the Fort as a star attraction, Commissioner Woofter forges ahead with a plan which is damaging to the integrity of the Fort. Do get off a letter to the Mayor with copies to the commissioners and the Convention Authority (the hoped for source of funds in the amount of 2.78 million) urging compatible development for the Fort on Cashman Field.

Remember, we need your dues and donations! Dues money is used to run the organization; donations are utilized for special projects exclusively. The Bicentennial matching requirement is just one example of the way in which donations are used. Opening the Fort to the public is a big step which needs your continued assistance. Dues paid now will be credited to next year's membership. Donations are welcome any time!

HOLD THE FORT!

*Anna Dean Kepper*  
Anna Dean Kepper, President

P.S. See enclosures