

Legion Hall Restoration  
Update #3

Engineering design for the seismic retrofit of Crockett's Memorial Hall (Legion Hall) is now underway. Strength tests are now being made on the bricks and mortar of the exterior walls. The outcome of these tests is crucial to the design of a seismic strengthening system to protect the building and occupants from collapse in an earthquake. Testing Engineers, Inc. of San Leandro is doing the work, having offered the lowest bid of three qualified firms.

In our ongoing investigation of Memorial Hall, we have now uncovered all three of the great arched windows on the inside. These were hidden behind cosmetic materials by the County in 1974, according to Larry Schwafel. It is a joy to find them intact and in excellent condition! Their restoration to original condition will be very easy, and placing them back in service will make a terrific contribution to this historic asset and to Crockett.

We've also been able to inspect the roof for the first time. Thanks to Harold Burnett and a ladder truck from the Crockett-Carquinez fire department, we were able to get up on top, clear away the old leaves and decades of lost balls, take measurements and photos. We confirmed that the building has a copper roof and found it to be in excellent condition! We also found the reason why rainwater is getting into one of the walls, and this should be an easy fix.

The American Legion emblem in the center of the ceiling has now been safeguarded. It was found to be a heavy stained glass panel, illuminated from behind by a light bulb. It was hanging perilously and should have come crashing down years ago, but we've managed to give it protective support in the nick of time. It will soon be removed for safe keeping during the construction process.

You should also know that Harold Burnett has given us hundreds of digitized old photos of Crockett, obtained from the Crockett Museum. They include several of Memorial Hall that are of great importance in documenting its history and in the restoration process. Does anyone else have old photos or know someone who might?

There is good news about fund raising for this project, also. ConocoPhillips has agreed that our project will get half of the proceeds from this year's "Walk of Honor for Our Veterans" across the Carquinez Bridge. We'll be publicizing the event quite a bit once the date has been set for sure. Last year \$40,000 was raised that went out of town to the Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley. They are happy to share this year with our project. The Crockett Community Foundation has already approved a donation of \$1,000 to help sponsor the Walk of Honor. They have also agreed to match any donations made to them by local organizations or residents for our Memorial Hall project. So please consider making such a donation. The deadline will be September 30. We'll be getting more publicity out shortly. We also plan a dinner dance fundraiser in conjunction with Veterans Day. More on that later.

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