The Historical Preservation Committee has been busy on a number of projects this year, and we want to bring you up to date on our progress.

**Film Restoration**

Our largest project this past year has been the ongoing restoration of the GPCA Film Library to DVD format. We have almost 80 8mm and 35mm reels, and VHS tapes that needed to be converted to the DVD format.

Some of the reel tapes dated back to Mrs. Crane’s 1932 visit to the Pyrenees Mountains in France to bring back to the US the first Great Pyrenees, the first sanctioned AKC match in the US, and Mrs. Crane’s dogs and kennels (Basquerie).

The condition of the tapes was a concern. The years have not been kind to the reel to reel films, and mold and dirt had become a problem. Often in the past years, a member who was in charge of the tapes kept them in their basement or attic to keep them safe. We just didn’t know then what damage was being done to these priceless tapes due to humidity and age.

Our first step was to find a reputable company that we could trust our collection with that we felt would give them the time and attention they deserved. Chamberlain Photography was chosen after much research. We sent in our first box of VHS tapes last fall and they were returned to us within 3 weeks. All tapes were cleaned and repaired (if necessary) and then enhanced and digitalized to best fit the DVD format.

When returned to us, we inventoried each dvd, the contents, and the date filmed if possible. We ended up with 33 dvd discs. The second box was sent early this year and we received 34 dvd discs back. We are currently adding them to the Film Library inventory and will publish that in the Bulletin later this year.

We plan to offer the DVDs for sale at the National Specialty this year in Dallas, and have been making copies in anticipation of the national.

We will have several dvds on display at this years' national during hospitality room hours so come in and enjoy some fun and exciting times of the past. You might even recognize a fellow member or two and have a good chuckle.

If any members have any old dvd, vhs or reel tapes that contain GPCA or Great Pyrenees content, please let us know and we will pay to have them converted to dvd and added to the library. You will receive a copy free with our thanks as well!

**Donations**

It's been a fairly busy year with several donations made to Historic Preservation. Flo Laisher sent us several boxes full of old catalogs, Jan Waitz Brody sent us a box full of treasures (magazines, brochures, books and catalogs) and Ann and Tom Wells sent us a boxful of old Bulletins. We really appreciate all that was sent and it filled in some holes we had with missing months and years. In addition Nicole Sharpe donated pyrhair clothing from some of the oldest kennels in GPCA history and was involved in the donation of longtime pry person Diana Turbin items.

Bret Zacker designated the HP Committee as the beneficiary of a yearly grant from his employer, Verizon. This year will be the 4th year of his donation, totaling $3000.

Mike Floyd made a donation of the JoAnn Teems Memorial Trophy he won in 2003 to be made part of the permanent collection of HP.

Dan Gifford also sent in his collection, accumulated over several years, of books, pictures, and postcards to be added to our online collection.

With the untimely loss of Charlotte Perry, several monetary donations were made in her name to the HP Committee to help us continue with our goals. Those donations, along with the generous support of our membership (when they renew membership each year
and make a donation to the HP Committee, or purchase an item from the HP store, enable us to continue along making progress and achieving our goals.

Our Procedures
Whenever we receive a donation, our procedure is to log in each donation, photograph it, add it to our inventory and then store it in the GPCA climate-controlled facility. Some pictures are added to our HP section on the GPCA website (gpcaonline.org). We are in the process of planning how we can bring our collection for all to see at each year’s national, so hopefully we will have an update on some type of plan and procedure soon.

One idea is to invest in a traveling trailer that would be driven each year to the national site. If this is approved by the BOD then we will have to start a major fund-raising campaign in order to raise the funds necessary to purchase, outfit and maintain a trailer (unless anyone wants to underwrite the purchase for us?).

The Future
Several members have sent word to us that they wish to talk about donating their collections and treasured items to the GPCA and the HP Committee. We appreciate you thinking about us and will be ready to go over details when you are ready. We have a member who has volunteered to pay for any legal fees to add a codicil to your will or estate planning, and several members have already spoken with us about making plans. Please take some time to consider what you might be able to do to help our club and the dogs we all love.

With the whole sport of dog breeding, showing, and pure-bred dog activities either under attack, becoming too expensive for many or losing popularity, it is more important than ever before for us to prepare now for the future.

In closing, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or donations or ideas you may have that will help us continue to add to our inventory of books, photographs, kennel records, and film. It could even be a trailer! It is truly a pleasure to work on this committee and me thank you again for all your support.

Joan Ziehl

If you would like to join the HP Committee, please contact Joan Ziehl 540-731-8692.