

Have you heard the NEWS



"There's Good Rocking Tonight"

News letter for members of the Official Elvis Presley Fan Club, Elvis-Aberdeen.

Graceland Redevelopment Plans Scaled Down

The owner of Elvis Presley Enterprises said on Wednesday March 9th that it is scaling back plans to redevelop the Graceland attraction due to a difficult economic climate. CKx Inc. said in a Securities and Exchange Commission filing that expanding the visitors centre and adding new attractions, shops, and a new hotel adjacent to Elvis' former home would take several years and substantial financial investment. The filing also said expenses for operating the Memphis tourist attraction rose last year due to higher professional and legal fees that were primarily related to a 2010 master plan that has been postponed.

The company is exploring opportunities to build a new Heartbreak Hotel with a business partner, CKx CEO Michael G. Ferrel told The Associated Press. But the other previously studied parts of the redevelopment would happen only in "incremental steps," depending on the economy, he said. "We ran straight into a headwind for what this project was supposed to be," Ferrel said. "It's going to be done on a different timetable than we first anticipated for reasons beyond our control." CKx has been studying ways to redevelop Graceland and the surrounding area for years, with the possibility of breaking ground in 2011 or 2012. Ferrel told the Associated Press in August that tough economic conditions over the past two years, including a dearth of financing for construction and a drop in consumer spending, had delayed the study looking at improvements.

Elvis lived at Graceland for 20 years before he died in August 1977. The home has been open for public tours since 1982. Jack Soden, president CEO of Elvis Presley Enterprises, said the visitors complex development is on a slower track, but the company is still committed to investing in the long-term growth of Graceland. "It's designing and developing with a sharper pencil, and that's the new economy," Soden said. Last year, 518,940 people visited Graceland, a 4.4 percent drop from 542,728 in 2009.
Source: Elvismatters.com

ELVIS ABERDEEN—CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS UPDATE

I would like to take the opportunity once more to thank Garry Leiper and all of his helpers for the money raised at the Rock n'Roll Night in December. (Sorry for the late update). Garry raised a total of £231 which was passed to the committee for inclusion in our charitable donations this year. Many Thanks Garry for another fantastic effort.

Due to this and the efforts of all the committee and members, we are happy to announce that we recently donated £500 to Woodlands Hospital in Aberdeen and £100 to Paul Downie for sponsorship going to Glasgow's Yorkhill Children's Hospital.

In addition, we are currently in the process of another charitable donation. More news later.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

A reminder that the Annual Membership Fee is now due and was payable in March. The fee remains unchanged at £5 per year (a bargain I am sure you will agree), and should be paid at the March or April Elvis Nights, or alternatively by post to the address overleaf.

Please make cheques payable to "Elvis Aberdeen".

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Elvis Trivia

March 12, 1969: Elvis begins filming his thirty-first and last fictional film, *Change Of Habit*, in which, as a ghetto doctor, he accidentally seduces a nun played by Mary Tyler Moore. Only four songs appear in the film, one of which is a American Sound session recording, "Rubberneckin'."



Long Distance Friendship with a Memphis Sherriff

I recently had an interesting conversation with one of our members Gerrie Lawrie in which she described her friendship with a Memphis Sherriff and a gift she received from him. I asked her if we could include the story in the newsletter and she has kindly agreed to give more information. I hope you all enjoy it as much as I did. Thanks Gerrie for a great story!

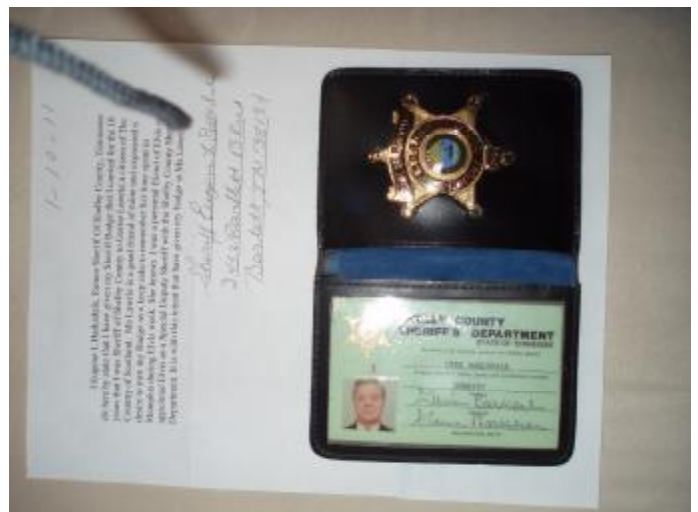
Gerrie Lawrie: I attended an Elvis event in August 2010 in Memphis during Elvis Week, it was a karate special evening at the premises where Elvis trained karate in the late 1970's. It was there I first had the pleasure of meeting Mr Barksdale who was one of the many guests attending who knew Elvis. We bonded immediately and exchanged email addresses. We kept in touch regularly via email and phone and met up again in January 2011 during Elvis' Birthday week. We spent a few days together visiting many interesting places in Memphis taking about his own life and career and of course his friendship with Elvis. Gene is a wonderful guy, and even at the young age of 89 he is still full of spirit and energy and our friendship just grew stronger. Gene's career started off in the US Air force and lasted 26 years retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, Command Pilot. He then served as a Police Officer for over 20 years before being elected In 1976 Sheriff of Shelby County in Memphis which lasted 10 years before he retired.

Gene has provided a summary of his life, career and friendship with Elvis and then Gerrie: I met Elvis in the summer of 1947. He was living in the Lauderdale Courts and I was living in the neighbourhood about one block from him. I was a policeman with the Memphis Police Dept. He was always interested in Police work, so one day he saw me in my uniform, on my way to work, and he stopped me and he introduced himself to me, and from that day until he died we remained good friends. I went to Humes, and he went to Humes school. Of course I was about 13 years ahead of him so we talked about our school days, and his interest in Law Enforcement, we talked about his music, what he wanted to be which was a career in singing for a living. As for his career in music the rest is history.

We maintained our friendship over the years and I watched him set the world on fire with his music. Even with his busy schedule we talked often over a cup of coffee at my house or his house about my career and his progress in the music business. He was never to busy to take time to talk to me. He followed my career, as I advanced in rank with the Memphis Police Dept, to becoming The Sheriff of Shelby County, TN. In Sept I swore Elvis in as a special Deputy Sheriff. He attended the Sheriff's Dept training Academy for 13 weeks and graduated with Honors in all Subject Matter. Elvis was a great person, inside and out and would give you his shirt off his back if you needed it. He had a good heart. He gave money, and so many other things too many to mention.

On that fatal day in 1977, I was one of the first to arrive at the mansion and observed Elvis. My heart was broken. Such a loss to the world. He gave us music that the world would have never heard, if he had not given so much of himself. These many years later, he is still loved by the world, and has a special place in my heart, which will remain until I join him. We will talk over old times, and the good things that happed in our lives and I will listen to him sing. It makes me so sad, even at this late date.

The reason I gave Gerrie my Gold Sheriff Badge is she Loves Elvis and seems so interested in Memphis, my career and life as well as my friendship with Elvis. I know she would keep the badge, honor it and it would be safe with her forever. She is my best friend so it is only natural that she should have it.



Contact info

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Next Dance: Friday 1st April