



La Mesa Historical Society

LOOKOUT AVENUE

Volume 39, Issue 1

Winter 2014

Eighth Successful Home Tour

On a beautiful sunny California day, November 2, 2013, the 300 participants and over 50 volunteers had the opportunity to visit five beautifully maintained and decorated historic homes in La Mesa. Our eighth annual tour took guests to two early suburban subdivisions, Outlook Terrace (1909) and Morningside (1912), to experience La Mesa's heritage. The first Old Town Trolley bus left the city parking lot staging area at 10:00 AM and delivered visitors to the Joe Flax House, the Harold Caukins House, the Sidney Holland House, the McKinney House and the Dr. A. J. Fouchy House.

The La Mesa Historical Society Board thanks the many people who make our Home Tours spectacular and successful. The tour, of course, could not be done without home owners Laura Lothian, Robert Wildfong, Roger Feyen, Susan Prise, and Steve and Connie Garner. We appreciate the time they took to prepare their houses and that they allowed almost 400 people into the private world of their homes.

Many thanks to our sponsors: Laura Lothian and Pacific Sotheby's, EDCO, the Duggans, La Mesa Today, San Pasqual Winery, Blumenthal's Fine Jewelry, What a Dish, and Johnny B's. Also, we give special recognition to L & S Design Co. for providing flower arrangements for each house, Foothill Art Association for providing an artist at each site, all the docents for keeping things moving and people safe, Costco for providing water to all participants, the Model A Restorers Club for bringing cars to the staging area, Old Town Trolley drivers for adding that distinctive special touch, City of La Mesa for giving us the use of the parking lot and signs, and

the Historic Preservation Commission for their support.

In eight years, the Home Tour has presented 43 historic homes to over 2300 visitors. Hope to see you next year.

President's Address

Jim Newland, LMHS President

As you read this, you hopefully have had a Happy New Year and festive holiday season. For the La Mesa Historical Society it was certainly a very busy and successful year—especially during this past autumn season.

Once again the Society held several outstanding events in support of our mission to educate and preserve our community's history and heritage.

History Roundtable

In September we had historian Alex Bevil provide a biography of noted architect Emmor Brooke Weaver and his work here locally as part of our history roundtable lecture series.

Photo History Demonstration

In October, thanks to Board Member Suda House, we hosted over 100 Grossmont Community College photography students for a guest tintype photographic demonstration, and display of our image collections. This was a doubly successful event in that it engaged a new audience to the Society and our operations—and clearly fulfills our educational goals.

Home Tour

The following week, on November 2nd, we held our Annual Home Tour. Our Home Tour chairperson Donna Niemeier and her able event crew, featuring next year's co-chairs Linda Rankin and Pat Stromberg, put on another marvelous event. The Society's recently restored McKinney House being a feature for many tour guests. Thanks again to our team of wonderful volunteers and generous sponsors and homeowners for making the Society—and La Mesa—look so good.

Christmas Open House

The Christmas Open House was also another success. Raffle prizes, McKinney House-made cookies and good times had by all who partook in our annual gathering. Event chair Kathy Tinsley coordinated all the preparations (with her usual organizational prowess) with assistance from ALL our Board Members.

Especially telling of the quality and character of our members was the effort of our longest standing board member Ed Blackman. Although Ed is suffering from severe injuries from a bicycle accident, Ed and his lovely wife Beth still came through with their traditional role in providing the McKinney House with a proper Christmas tree for the open house. We wish the best to our great board colleague and friend, Ed.

Silent Movie Night

We still have another great event, the 2nd Annual Silent Movie Night, upcoming on Saturday January 11th, 7pm at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, 3902 Kenwood in Spring Valley.

Noted San Diego organist Russ Peck will accompany the films (one locally produced 1911 Flying A short and the 1929 Douglas Fairbanks classic "The Iron Mask"). Don't miss this wonderful evening of historic, family friendly entertainment. This special year-opening event should set the tone for an even better 2014.

More SDSU Interns for 2014

We are solidifying our efforts to renew our relationship with San Diego State University's history department—and professor Sarah Elkind (Go Aztecs!)—to provide additional history interns—such as last year's successful intern Frances Wolven—who continues as an archives volunteer with us today.

Preserving the Spring House

We have also been very involved in helping the City with plans for the rehabilitation of Collier Park—specifically making sure that preservation of the historic Spring House (City Landmark #3) is part of the plan. Our Historical Society, and our local history friends such as those from the Lemon Grove and Spring Valley Historical Societies and the Save Our Heritage Organization (SOHO), have all helped remind the City of the significance of this building to our civic history. I especially appreciate all those that have provided input and support. We will keep in touch on the latest.

New Membership Levels

In addition our board has been very active in working to enhance the activities and stability of the Society. As noted in the last newsletter, due to significant increases in mailing and printing costs over the last few years, we have accordingly added \$5 to our lower membership levels.

We have also re-ordered the benefits for our higher levels. One particular note being that renewing \$100 annual members will now receive two home tour tickets. New Lifetime and Business Memberships are also part of the revamped membership system. Feel free to stop by, or contact us, to see what level works best for the Society and you.

Looking forward to a great 2014 for all of us here at the La Mesa Historical Society.



Upcoming Events

Silent Movie Night – Trinity Presbyterian Church, Saturday, Jan. 11th

Archives – Open Saturday 1 – 4pm

McKinney House – Open 2nd & 4th Saturday 1 – 4pm

Check our website www.lamesahistory.com for the latest on Society events.

In the Spotlight

Carol Lockwood: A Colorful Mosaic

Carol Lockwood, a LMHS member since its inception in 1976, is a community institution. She is a nexus for so many aspects of the La Mesa community. There are far fewer community people who do not know Carol than those who do. Her life is a dedication to service and to aesthetic enhancement of her cherished city. Carol has been a La Mesan for 56 years. She has been married 61 years to Brice whom she met in the high school library in North Hollywood. Both are UCLA grads. Brice has been on the board of the LMHS.

Carol received a BA in Art Education and a minor in Home Economics. She taught 4 years in L.A. Unified. She took a 10 year hiatus to raise their children Leslie and Brian. Carol and Brice have two “grand” children—Emily 17 and Ian 13.

Carol taught mostly 3D Art and some Home Economics at Grossmont High School for 30 years. She developed the California Arts Project to provide in-service for teachers in the arts especially at the elementary level. She retired from teaching in 1996. Are you doing the math trying to figure out how old she is? I didn’t have the nerve to ask.

Carol may have retired from full time teaching, but she still teaches ceramics in her 13th year for the

Grossmont Union High School District Adult School at the La Mesa Adult Enrichment Center.

Included on her easel stand is extensive travel with Brice including a UCSD trip around the world. Carol is definitely a “worldwind”. As an aside, she is a natty, colorful dresser—a fashionista for the Medicare set.



Carol sees herself most accomplished as a community volunteer no slighting her career as an art educator, proud mother, and devoted wife. This harks back to a pledge she made as part of a sorority initiation at UCLA for the Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority which stated: “To welcome the opportunity to contribute to the world’s work in the community where I am placed because of the joy of service thereby bestowed and the talent of leadership multiplied”.

Behold her palette of community service:

- La Mesa Cultural Arts Commission (3 years; commission disbanded)
- Community Services Commission (17 years)
- La Mesa Human Relations Commission (4 years)
- La Mesa Beautiful Board Member (12 years)
- Del Mar Fair Ambassador (17 years)
- La Mesa Arts Alliance Board Member (since its founding)
- A docent at the McKinney House once a month for a score of years—literally. 20 years..

- La Mesa Centennial Legacy Project Fundraising Committee Member

Carol is most definitely kaleidoscopic. She has boundless energy. She makes the Energizer bunny look like a lazy ne'er-do-well. In conclusion, Carol and La Mesa go together like two peas in a pod.

Carol Lockwood's Top Ten

Favorite:

Book: "David and Goliath" by Malcolm Gladwell

Wine: Lockwood Winery

Color: Purple

Movie: "Pretty Woman"

Trip: Orient Express

Pastimes: Crafting, gardening

Travel Destination: Laguna Beach

Shop: Bazaar del Mundo

Local Pub: Johnny B's

Weekend Getaway: The Mission Inn, Riverside

La Mesa Scout

Starting in this issue, we'll be featuring news stories from the La Mesa Scout. Here's a little background on La Mesa's only newspaper. It ran from March 15, 1907 until it ended in 1985 after 78 years. The newspaper was an 8x11, 4 page monthly when it first started and costs 25 cents to purchase. There once was a competing newspaper called the Eagle from 1908-1909, but the La Mesa Scout bought it out. It then ran as a weekly, also under the names La Mesa Springs Scout and The Eagle.

La Mesa Through the Years:

100 Plus Years Ago

La Mesa Springs Scout

Vol. 1 La Mesa, California March 15, 1907 No. 1

La Mesa Springs: San Diego's Pasadena

The ideal location for a suburb, away from the water. The South Park electric line is being extended to La Mesa Springs. The electrification of the Cuyamaca will surely come, or the use of electric or gasoline motor cars will make rapid transit

practicable over this line. Then these two lines will form a loop for an exceptionally pleasing trip out El Cajon Avenue to La Mesa Springs, a carriage ride to top of Lookout Park and return to San Diego by the Cuyamaca.

(Ads from March 15, 1907 "La Mesa Springs Scout")

Wanted

Lemon glimmers at Mohnike's packing house, La Mesa Springs. None with wooden legs or glass eyes need apply.

I have five Special Discount Scholarships to award to ambitious men and women in this locality. The first five who calls, secures one.

Mrs. G.A. Oliver, La Mesa, California

(Retyped from the microfilm copy.)

Who is this group sitting on a La Mesa front porch c1911?



A: The American Film Manufacturing Company's Flying A film crew. Leading man Jack Kerrigan middle left; director Allan Dwan upper right next to leading lady Pauline Bush; heavy Jack Richardson second from right in front next to ingenue actress Jessaba Von Trump; character actors George Periolot (next to post) and Louise Lester (next to Kerrigan) and cowboy James Morrison (left of post) are featured.



ArtiFACTS!

Christmas Angel Topper



Our featured artifact this issue is a vintage angel tree topper with a thin celluloid face, spun glass hair and cloud, silver wings, straw halo, and a coiled wire base. Produced in the Late 40's early 50's, it is pictured here with Shiny Brite Glass Christmas ornaments and Doubl-Glo Icesicles from the same time period.

The most popular tree topper is the angel. The history of the angel tree topper goes back to the Victorian era, when Royals used the angels on their trees.

On Board

Linda Rankin

Some may wonder what being a board member of the La Mesa Historical Society means, when you don't have a title and are simply one of the "Directors-at-Large." The answer to that is, just about anything. One of Linda's current responsibilities is to organize part of the annual home tour. She has been in charge of the docents for this event for the last 5-6 years, coordinating which house they will be at and what times they'll be there. Linda is the organizer of flow, meaning, together with the homeowners, she figures out the flow of people coming through the houses. She convinces homeowners into allowing all of us interested look-y-loos to roam about their home.

Which, as you can see in the Home Tour Recap in this issue, involves some 300+ people passing through to admire the home. Linda is always on the hunt for willing homeowners for the home tour. If you are interested in showing off your home, just give Linda a call!

Linda over the years has also become in charge of the interior of the McKinney House. She was in charge of the interior restoration of the house this last year, deep cleaning and redecorating the rooms – including setting up the sewing room exhibit. Linda, along with other volunteers, went through the archives, catalogued donations, and removed artifacts that were either duplicates or not appropriate for the time period of the house. Like the other board members, the work Linda does for the society is invaluable.

A love for antiques and most things old first brought Linda to our historical society some 9+ years ago. She became a board member within a month of joining and has been on the board ever since. Linda believes that her love of old homes started at a young age. She grew up in a 1909 craftsman style home in L.A. and does not remember a time when she didn't love old houses.

Linda has been an antiques dealer on and off for the past 30 years. She currently collects interesting antiques and then holds vintage sales twice a year with a few of her friends.



Linda is a retired elementary school teacher. She taught for over 30 years in San Diego County, mostly teaching 3rd and 4th grades. She, and her husband,

Rod (a fellow board member) have lived in the same house since moving to San Diego some 30 years ago.

Linda's loves include traveling, theater, a good meal and a good glass of wine.

Linda's Favorite Things

Movie: Somewhere in Time

Book: Mysteries (Favorite author: Michael Connelly)

Color: Blue and green

TV show: The Black List; or anything on HGTV or the cooking network

Music: Jazz

Time period: early 1900s

Vacation spot: some place new

Linda, and Pat Stromberg, are looking for new docents to volunteer for the McKinney house. The house is open the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month. They will be holding a workshop in January for those interested in volunteering. Call the house to find out more! (619) 466-0197

Collection Connection

We thank all of these donors individually and collectively.

Donor	Donated Items
Marlene Campbell	1943 photograph of Lemon Ave School
Norm Applebaum	August 1949 San Diego Magazine
Mountain Empire Historical Society	55 pictures of La Mesa, 4 official July 4 th 1911 Programs, February 10, 1911 La Mesa Scout



Share story ideas, comments and suggestions with Editor Erin Ben-Judah at erin.benjudah@hotmail.com

Ed Blackman

On Saturday, November 9th, long time LMHS Board Member and former President Ed Blackman was severely injured in a bicycle accident. Due to the seriousness of the injuries, he was life-flighted to Sharp Memorial Hospital.

One of our most dedicated members, Ed joined the LMHS in 1987 along with his wife Beth. In 1989 he became a board member as did Beth. He was President of the Society in 1993. Beth also was a Vice-President for many years.

In addition to his Board work, he has provided expertise and hard work in maintaining the rose garden and landscape of the McKinney House property. In doing so, he has overseen the function and maintenance to the irrigation system.

An ongoing tradition for Ed was selecting and delivering the perfect Christmas tree for the McKinney House parlor for our annual Open House. Ed insisted from his rehab bed that his family's tradition for the Society be continued—and they provided the tree again this year.

Ed's road to renewed health will be a long one. Now out of the hospital, he is in a rehab facility making progress toward recovery. However, the extent of his injuries and the recovery will be long and very costly for the family.

Therefore, thanks to his friends and co-workers, a fundraiser has been established to assist the Blackmans—who have assisted this Society and community for so many years. The Society is glad to forward any donations. Make checks out to Beth Blackman (cash or gift cards also accepted). Mail donations either to:

Ed Blackman Fund
c/o La Mesa Historical Society
PO Box 882
La Mesa, CA 91944

Or mail donations to:
Sharp Rees-Stealy Pharmacy
Attn: Kari Dodson
5525 Grossmont Center Drive
La Mesa, CA 91942

***A Special Welcome for
the Society's New Members***

Rob McDonald
Laura Hawley-Jarvis
Susan Zatorski
Patti Garfield
Tammy Huntress
Susan Brannian
Connie Miller
Curt Sherman
Linda Kazarian
Marcia Baugh

Board of Directors

President	Jim Newland
1 st Vice Pres.	Wade Douglas
2 nd Vice Pres.	Ruth Contino
Secretary	Sharon Crockett
Treasurer	Rod Whitlow
Directors-at-Large	Ed Blackman
	Suda House
	Linda Rankin
	Pat Stromberg
	Kathy Tinsley
	Donna Niemeier
Past President	Aaron Landau

Board meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM.

**City Council Approves
Three Homes For Landmarking**

At the October 22, 2013 La Mesa City Council meeting three homes in La Mesa were designated as Historic Landmarks and property preservation (Mills Act) agreements were established for the sites.

4767 Mission Bell Lane

The Eugene and Katherine Hyatt House is a two-story Monterey style residence with Spanish Eclectic influences. It was built in 1935 by the Dennstedt Building Company, and was featured in the company's promotional advertising. The house has been added onto four times, in 1939, 1956, 1999 and 2010. Although there have been significant additions, the most essential physical and character defining features of the home are retained. As such, the property meets historic landmark qualifying criteria.

8463 Lemon Ave

The Sidney Holland House is located on the east side of Lemon Avenue between Grant Avenue and Crowder Lane, in the Outlook Terrace subdivision. Outlook Terrace was created in 1909 from a portion of the 65-acre Schuyler Ranch, which subsequently became Crowder Ranch and Lookout Ranch. The house was built in 1910 by William and Emma Abbott, who sold it two years later to Sidney Holland. Stylistically, the house represents a transitional phase in residential development during the early part of the 20th century that combines elements of late Victorian (bay windows, steeper roof) and early Craftsman (simple non-ornamental finishes).

4604 Date Avenue

The C. Clarence and Fannie Park Home is a one-and-a-half story Craftsman bungalow. It was built by Charles Clarence Park, co-founder of the Park-Grable Investment Company, which subdivided 200 acres of land in and around central La Mesa into 1,000 town lots. Located at the northwest corner of Date Avenue and Finley Avenue in the heart of the Date Avenue Historic District. Park and his wife owned and lived in the house until 1921. In addition to being involved with the land development company, members of the Park family were officers in the La Mesa Lumber Company and the Bank of La Mesa. Park's father, Dr. Donald Franklin Park, served as Mayor and City Councilman. His son, Harry Park, served on the City Board of Trustees and the Planning Commission.



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(619) 466-0197
www.lamesahistory.com

Change Service Requested

Cut along line and mail the section below with your check.

AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY Membership Application

The Society depends on membership dues, bequests and fund-raising activities to support the restoration and preservation of local history.

The La Mesa Historical Society operates the Rev. Henry A. McKinney House, a 1908 house/museum located at 8369 University Avenue (at the corner of Pine Street) in La Mesa. Open 1-4pm every second and fourth Saturday of the month or by appointment. Group tours are available. Call (619) 466-0197 for further information. Lookout Avenue is the official quarterly publication of the La Mesa Historical Society. Our address is:

La Mesa Historical Society
P.O. Box 882
La Mesa, CA 91944

Lookout Avenue was the original name of La Mesa Boulevard from the 1890s until the city council voted to change the name in 1940. Lookout Avenue was La Mesa's main street.

- \$500 Benefactor
- \$250 Patron
- \$100 Sponsor/Organization
- \$50 Sustaining
- \$25 Family
- \$20 Individual
- \$10 Student

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

I would like to be a volunteer in the following areas:

- Docent/Education
- Grounds Building
- Events
- Archives/House