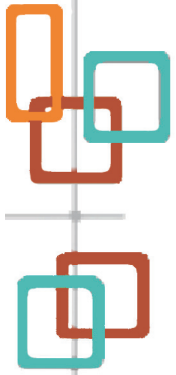


Summer 2021



lookout avenue



IN THIS ISSUE

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 16TH LA MESA HISTORICAL
SOCIETY HOME TOUR UPDATE | 2 |
| GROSSMONT CENTER TURNS 60 | 7 |
| LA MESA HISTORY...
Q & A: FALLOUT & MORE | 12 |

The NEWSLETTER of the LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS

JAMES NEWLAND
PRESIDENT

VERONICA MARTZAHL
VICE PRESIDENT

SHARON SMITH
SECRETARY

JEREMY MARTINSON
TREASURER

SHERYL CASTRO
VP MEMBERSHIP

DIRECTORS

KRISTINE ALESSIO

MELODY ANDREWS

DONNA BLOOMER

DON CARY

STEVEN CHURCHILL

DAVID CLINE

KARI DODSON

MICHELE GREENBERG-MCCLUNG
TRACEY STOTZ

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

VERONICA MARTZAHL
ARCHIVES

MELODY ANDREWS
COLLECTIONS

STEVEN CHURCHILL
COMMUNICATIONS

DON CARY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

JAMES NEWLAND
2022 HOME TOUR

TRACEY STOTZ
LANDSCAPE

VERONICA MARTZAHL
MCKINNEY HOUSE

MICHELE GREENBERG-MCCLUNG
MEMBERSHIP EVENTS

DAVID CLINE
ORAL HISTORY

NEWSLETTER

esencia
creative

SAVE THE DATE!

16th La Mesa Historical Society Home Tour

New Date: January 29, 2022

Thanks to all for supporting last year's virtual Home Tour event.

The LMHS Board is committed to re-enacting our traditional in-person Home Tour as long as we can do so safely.

Due to the uncertainty of the public health situation the LMHS Board has determined it necessary to postpone the Society's popular Home Tour event from November to Saturday January 29, 2022.

We hope to provide information soon on the featured Greater La Mesa area neighborhood and homes. Be assured that we will continue the tradition of highlighting the amazing and breathtaking architecture, period décor and inspiring landscapes that make our Home Tours' so popular.



LMHS Home Tour Heritage slide from 2020 Virtual Tour:
Watch the Virtual Tour on the LMHS YouTube site.

Continue to keep in touch via our website, Facebook page and Instagram account for updates on tour

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

QUIETLY PRODUCTIVE SUMMER

Soft Opening and Big Plans

It has been a busy and interesting Spring/Summer for the Society. Thanks to all who have supported us as we moved, albeit cautiously, to reopen our Museum and Archives and work to schedule, and re-schedule, our programming.

Landscape Restoration Continues

A major aspect of the "soft" re-opening to regular hours in late July was related to all the progress on the historic landscape restoration of the McKinney House grounds. The big news on that project being the amazingly generous \$10,000 matching grant. We are still needing donations to maximize this offer. (See Board Member Tracey Stotz' article in this newsletter to learn how you can help us. Thanks to all you who have already donated). In addition to the completion of our irrigation system and DG surfaces, we are actively working on design of our new "monument" sign and other interpretive elements. Keep an eye out on all the improvements that these funds will help us move forward this Fall and Winter.

We have re-opened to our regular Saturday 1 to 4pm hours for the museum and research archives. In response to the recent spike of COVID cases we took a conservative "soft opening" approach without much promotion. In addition, in order to protect all visitors, volunteers and slow any spread, we ask all visitors and staff to be masked when inside our facilities. Thank you for your

consideration of our community and LMHS members during these challenging times.

We also welcome the addition of La Mesa native and museum professional Samantha Alberts to our team. Sam is working with the Board and volunteers to prepare us for expanded interpretive programming. Looking to take advantage of activating our new landscape, with Sam's leadership, we are preparing for new and diverse programming that we hope to start this coming Winter/Spring 2022. If you interested in becoming a McKinney docent or programming volunteer, please contact us at info@lamesahistory.com.

Similarly with our Research Archives we have many community members visiting the archives or taking advantage of our fee-based research services. Several of these researchers looked to gather information for future historic landmark nominations or answer questions about the history of their homes or other documentation on historical institutions, individuals or events.

DeAccession/Estate Sale Saturday October 2nd

Our first "event" on site at the McKinney House will be on Saturday October 2nd from 9am to 1pm--our DeAccession/Estate Sale. During our closure we have had several of our Board members and volunteers work on assessing some of the materials in our archives and museum collections. The

"President's Address" Continued on Page 4

Archives and Museum Committees have prepared a list of materials and objects that that the Board has concurred to de-access from our collections. These items do not fit our Statement of Collections criteria on the history of the Greater La Mesa region. Included are professional journals and period publications that are now available as online sources. Read more about the event in this newsletter. The sale will also feature some antiques donated from members Jim & Charlene Craig's family estate. The sale of these items will result in clearing space for our permanent collections and provide some revenue for those efforts.

Updated Event Schedules

As noted in the last newsletter the Board has been monitoring the changing public health situation. Thus, we have updated the schedule for LMHS events for this Fall and Winter.

The biggest news being the re-scheduling of the next LMHS Home Tour from November to Saturday January 29, 2022. This delay will give us more time to prepare for the Tour. Keep an eye out on our Facebook, Instagram and websites for the latest as the event planning comes together.

In addition, we have planned to merge our annual Holiday Open House with our Annual Awards Event for December. Also keep an eye out for more details coming soon.

See more about our participation in anniversary events for Grossmont Center Saturday October 9th and Grossmont High School's 100+1 event on October 16th in this newsletter.

We also thank all for adapting to our shifting the Board of Directors election online again. You can see the newly elected 2021/22 Board of Directors and officers in this newsletter. Welcome to our new Board Member Kristine

Alessio and returning treasurer Jeremy Martinson. Thanks again to outgoing Board members Dave Kesner, Alex Quintero and Kristin Dooley.

As always, there are many more LMHS activities and improvements being worked on. So keep in touch and as always, thanks for your support—and patience, WE KNOW THAT WE ALL SEE YOU SOON and feel free to contact me at info@lamesahistory.com with your thoughts.

Take care of yourselves, your families and our community.



Jim Newland
LMHS President

HISTORY ROUNDTABLE LECTURE SERIES

Mid-Century La Mesa Arrives: The Fight for, Development, and Legacy of Grossmont Center

La Mesa Historical Society invites all to learn more about Grossmont Center's Construction, often unrecognized Architectural Heritage and its role as an Economic catalyst for the City of La Mesa and Greater La Mesa Region

WHEN: Saturday October 9, 2021 (10am to 11:30am)

WHERE: “The Well” Event Space, Grossmont Center
(next to Barnes & Noble on mall interior)

WHO: **James Newland:** historian and author of “Images of America: La Mesa; Around Mt. Helix, and Grossmont Hospital District: Legacy of Community Service

Come hear, learn, and participate in a new historical presentation featuring the story of the owners, developers, designers, contractors, and memorable and long-standing retail and commercial tenants of this seminal Regional Mall. LMHS President and historian Jim Newland will present the fascinating story of La Mesa’s efforts to land a cutting-edge Mid-Century municipality’s commercial dream—A Regional Shopping Mall. Audience members will also be able to query, speak and share memories after the presentation. Don’t miss this historic opportunity to hear, learn and experience more about the fascinating history of Grossmont Center.



Don't miss the Center-wide celebration including period music, Grossmont Center trivia & prizes along with other fun activities.

GROSSMONT CENTER 60TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBIT

60TH Anniversary Celebration LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY GROSSMONT CENTER HISTORY EXHIBIT

Located at “The Well, Community for Women” Event Space
(next to Barnes & Noble on the mall interior)



Grossmont Center Opening Day, October 5, 1961. LMHS Archives collection.

Come see and relive some of the memories of this regional La Mesa retail powerhouse. The Exhibit will feature historic photos and memorabilia from the LMHS's Grossmont Center and Society archival collections. The Exhibit will be on display through the Grossmont Center Anniversary Event weekend.

Thanks to “The Well, Community for Women” non-profit community-based organization for hosting the exhibit and lecture.
Find out more about “The Well” at twcfw.org

“Grossmont Center 60th” Continued on Page 7

"Grossmont Center 60th" Continued from Page 6

LA MESA SCOUT
SERVING: LA MESA, GROSSMONT, MT. HELIX, ROLANDO, VISTA LA MESA, NORTH LA MESA, LEMON GROVE, SPRING VALLEY, FLETCHER HILLS
Published as second class matter at the Post Office at La Mesa, California under Act of Congress of March 3, 1915
Vol. LIV No. 40 SECTION ONE OF TWO SECTIONS LA MESA, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1961 Phone Hopkins 6-3215 COPY 10 CENTS

Grossmont Shopping Center Opening Today

Millions At Stake In School Elections

Voters of the area will go to the polls Tuesday to decide on millions in school bonds and two tax increases.

The La Mesa-Spring Valley School District is asking for local bonds in the amount of \$2.2 million; authorization for state aid bond of \$2.7 million and a tax override of 27 cents.

The Grossmont Union High School District is asking for a bond issue of \$1.8 million and a tax increase of 25 cents.

The newly formed Grossmont Junior College District is asking for \$8 million for land acquisition and construction.

The La Mesa-Spring Valley measures have become hotly contested during the last two weeks as groups formed for and against.

The La Mesa Chamber of Commerce has given its endorsement to the measures for all three districts.

There has been little if any apparent opposition in La Mesa to either the high school or the Junior College bonds. Some schools

given a new contract. We believe that he has shown unusual integrity, courage and foresight in maintaining a first class school system for our children in the face of a difficult financial situation and continues, we believe, unwarranted criticism by a vocal minority."

Copies of neither petition have as yet been before the school trustees. H. G. Snodgrass, heading the move to oust Murdoch said his petition would be presented after the election. No official notice has been taken by the trustees of The La Mesa-Spring Valley District is at present operating on a \$1.70 tax rate. At the end of this fiscal year the rate will automatically drop back to the state-set maximum of 90 cents unless the 27 cent increase is approved. This would bring the tax rate to \$1.97.

The increase is needed to pay for operating costs in a constantly growing area and would provide rules for teachers. Teachers said

THE NEW GROSSMONT Center Montgomery Ward Store is shown above as preparations were being completed for the grand opening today when visitors and customers will get their first look

at the sparkling new merchandise. The store will officially open at 10 a.m. following dedication services of the Center. Below, Ralph A. Peterson, manager of the Grossmont Montgomery Ward.

18 Center Stores Open Their Doors

The first 18 stores in the Grossmont Shopping Center will open for business this morning immediately following dedications ceremonies at 9:45.

The official program will be opened by the drum and bugle corps of Boy Scout Troop No. 311 of La Mesa. Don Rose, KPMB Public Affairs Director will act as master of ceremonies. He will introduce Ray Drachman, co-developer with the Del E. Webb Corporation, of the new \$20 million Center which will eventually include 50 stores.

Drachman will welcome guests. Following his talk, Troop No. 311 will play to the colors and their color guard will raise the flag to signal the official opening.

Following this program, many of the stores will have ribbon cutting or similar ceremonies.

Official hostesses for the opening will be Geraldine Miller, who won the queen's title in the Miss Teen, 1960 contest last year.

Other stores to open in November will include the largest store of the Center, the 35,000 square foot Marx's, Baby's, J. J. Jenop & Sons, Food Basket, Stone's Gift Shop, Stimmie Travel Agency, San Diego Federal Savings & Loan, Bank of America and others.

New access roads have been opened to the Center's parking area for 5000 cars.

18 STORES OPENING NOV. 6

ALLSTATE INSURANCE
BALLARD AND PROFFITT
BISHOP'S SPORTWEAR
CHARLES HART STYLIST
FOOD MART
HART'S
J. J. JENOP & SONS
MARX'S
MONTGOMERY WARD
NATIONAL SHIRT SHOP
SECURITY FIRST
WETHERBY-KAYNOR SHOES
F. W. WOODWORTH

STORES NOW OPEN:

ANITA SHOP
BUDDY'S T-SHIRT SHOP
BYRON'S FURNITURE
FLORIS SHOES
GALLINER'S
GROSSMONT CENTER FLORES
HARRIS AND REAN
HOLIDAY SHOES
HOUSE OF FURNACE

ADVENTURE JEWELERS
S. H. KRESS
LEON'S SHOES
LONG'S DRUGS
MONTGOMERY WARD
NATIONAL SHIRT SHOP
SECURITY FIRST
WETHERBY-KAYNOR SHOES
F. W. WOODWORTH

WATCH FOR THESE OPENINGS:

BANK OF AMERICA
BONNELL'S PHOTO SHOP
CORPUS BANK
DE WANN (OPTIONALIST)
HARRIS & REAN
HOUSE OF NUTRITION
STANETTE TRAVEL AGENCY
LA COCCA

HART'S
MATERNITY MODES
NELSON'S TEN KORAL
BOY CLOTHES HOUSE
SAN DIEGO FEDERAL
SAVINGS & LOAN
WETHERBY-KAYNOR SHOES
CO.
SEE'S CANDIES

Eleven more stores open their doors Monday at Grossmont Center. With this opening, you will have 29 excellent reasons for coming to San Diego's new, convenient, one-level shopping center—Grossmont Center.

GROSSMONT CENTER
HIWAY 80—FLETCHER PARKWAY at JACKSON DR., LA MESA

Initial Opening Day, October 5, 1961

YOU are Invited!

OPEN OCT. 5

GROSSMONT CENTER OPENS TODAY!

OPEN NOV. 6th AND AFTER

GROSSMONT CENTER
HIWAY 80—FLETCHER PARKWAY AT JACKSON IN LA MESA

Opening Day Ad, October 1961

Monday's the day...

at GROSSMONT CENTER

NOVEMBER 6

Eleven more stores open their doors Monday at Grossmont Center. With this opening, you will have 29 excellent reasons for coming to San Diego's new, convenient, one-level shopping center—Grossmont Center.

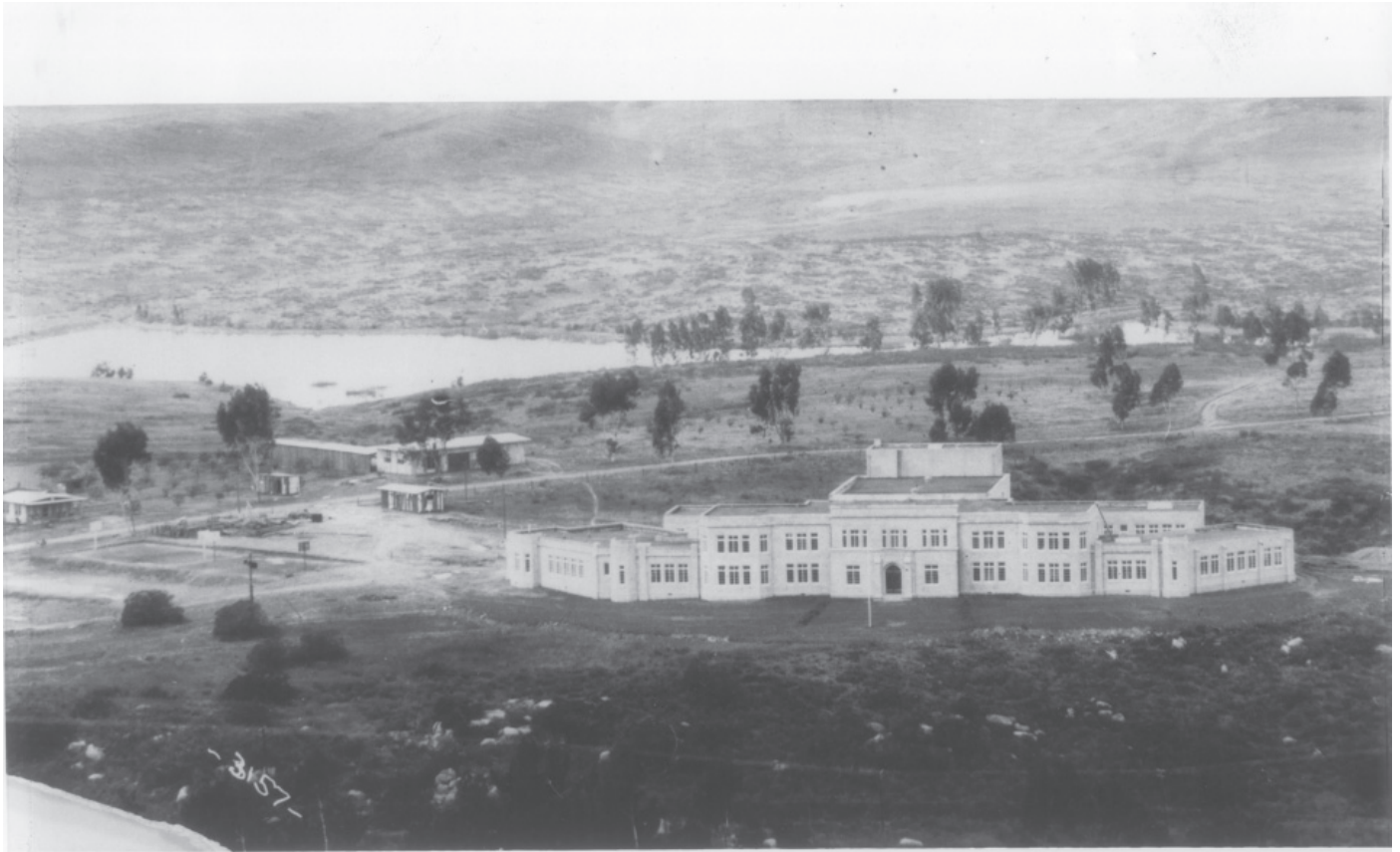
GROSSMONT CENTER
HIWAY 80—FLETCHER PARKWAY at JACKSON DR., LA MESA

Ad for November 6, 1961 Opening Day



Opening Day Entertainment, October 5, 1961

GROSSMONT HIGH SCHOOL MUSEUM REOPENS AT 100+1 EVENT



New Grossmont HS Building, 1923. LMHS Archives collection.

101th Anniversary Celebration

Save the Dates

Friday, October 15, 2021: An Alumni Celebration

GHS Museum Open from 4-6:30pm

New Museum Dedication 5:00pm

Varsity Football Game vs Granite Hills 6:30pm

Saturday, October 16, 2021:

2020 Hall of Honor Ceremony at 10am in the New Theater,
followed by campus wide celebration

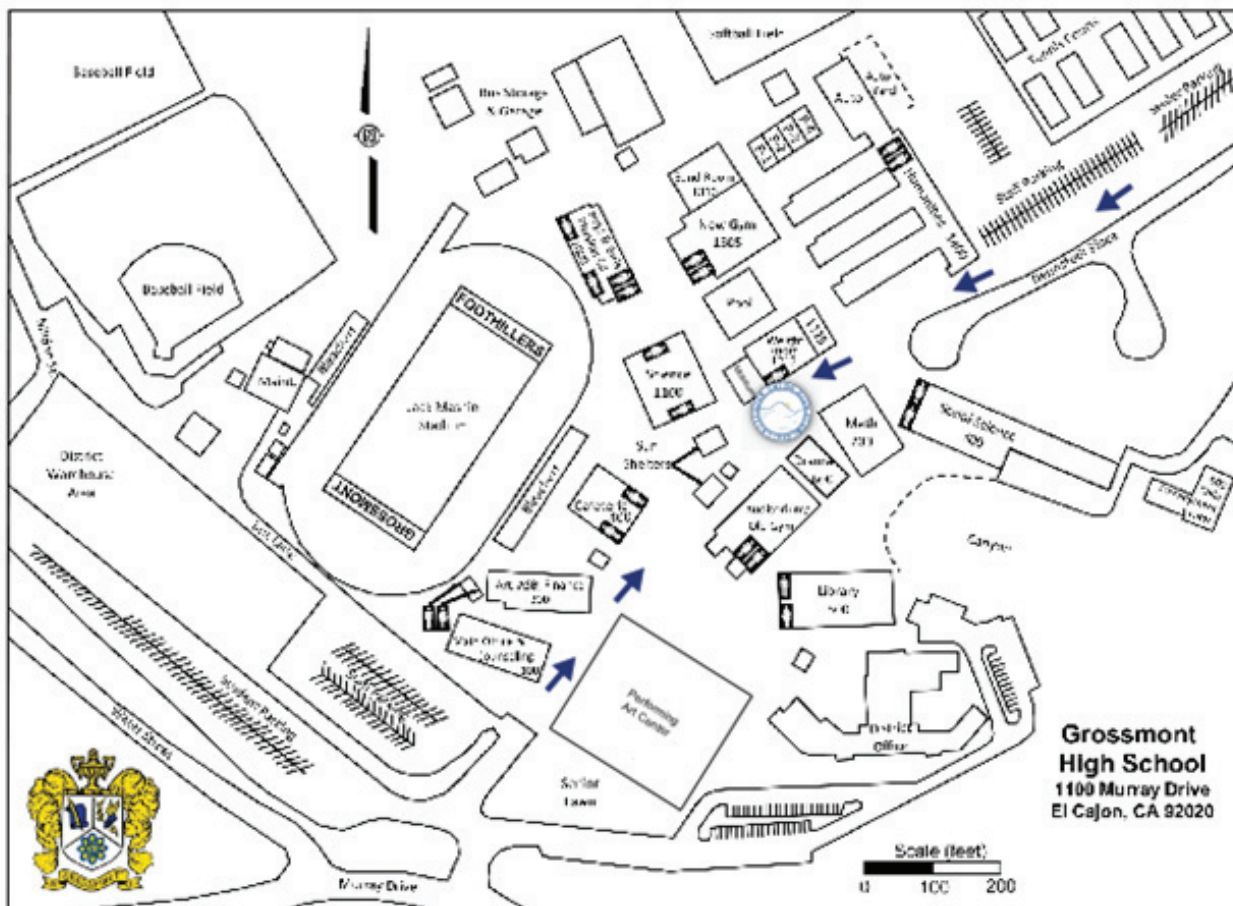
"Grossmont High School Museum" Continued from Page 8

LMHS TO PARTICIPATE IN 100+1 EVENT

The La Mesa Historical Society will be participating in the Saturday October 16th event in support of our colleagues at the GHS Museum. We will have a booth at the GHS Library along with other local historical societies in recognition of the Centennial + one of the Grossmont High School district. Come by and say hello and learn more about this seminal local public educational institution.

New Buildings:

2010 Two Story Science Building • 2010 Boys and Girls PE Facility
2013 Humanities Building • 2014 Automotive Technology Facility
2016 Two Story Student Support Services & 2016 Two Story Art Buildings
2020 Performing Arts Center



GHS Museum: Connie & Lynn Baer | GHS Alumni: Paul Miller
619-668-6140 | ghsmuseum@guhsd.net | <https://www.foothillermuseum.com/>
P.O. Box 1043 La Mesa, CA 91944

MATCHING GIFT HELPS FURTHER LANDSCAPE RENOVATIONS

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, a \$10,000 matching gift challenge has been issued to supporters of the La Mesa Historical Society. The funds are being used to move the landscape renovation project forward. "Our donor is a long-time supporter of the Society and wanted to give us a push to keep the project moving forward," said Landscape Campaign Chair Tracey Stotz. So far \$6145 in matching funds have come in which gives the Society \$12,290 to work with. "It would be great to get the full \$10,000 match so we could get even more of the project done," she added.

The first step has been to widen the walkway that wraps around the McKinney House Museum allowing for wheelchair access. New irrigation, including a new valve, has been brought to the front yard and the first plants have been tucked into the bed in front of the house. "We are also working with a designer on concepts for a new monument sign for the front yard," said Stotz.

Other plans for the next six months include a new fence for the property line to the east, and installation of the memorial rose garden in January. Board member Donna Bloomer has been working with local scout troops to recruit

an Eagle Scout candidate to assist with various aspects of the project.

If you want to donate to the matching gift campaign go to Lamesahistory.com and click on the "donate" button at the top of the page. Any gift from \$5 to \$500 is appreciated.

You can also purchase a commemorative brick through the website donation page by clicking on the "Annual Campaign Funding" link on the bottom right of the page. Those donations are separate from the matching gift challenge but also support the landscape project. "In fact all previously ordered bricks are now installed except those that were ordered in August and one that came in misspelled" said Stotz. Donors are welcome to stop by the McKinney House and walk the property to find their brick.

"By early 2022, if not sooner, we hope to have our first event at the updated site and invite everyone out to see the progress," said Stotz. Watch for fun programming in the future (pending health directives) that utilizes the updated space.

Donors to the matching gift campaign (as of 9-16-21)

Anonymous, Aaron Amerling, Tom and Donna Bloomer, Stephen and Sheryl Castro, Maggie Clemens, Jim and Charlene Craig, John Denhart, George Fahouris, Holly Fields, Mary Ann Glatt, Jo A Harby, Irene and Donna Ice, Veronica Martzhal, Kay McGrath, Steve Michels, Donna Niemeier, Wendy Parcel, Carol and Charles Perkins, Charlotte Preston, Brenda Richmond, Jim Stieringer, Tracey Stotz, Lou Turner, Margaret Tyler, Ginger Weatherford, Jian-Sen Wu, and Judith Zander.



*Widened sidewalk wrapping around
McKinney House Museum*

SOCIETY DEACCESSION “YARD” SALE



**SATURDAY, October 2, 2021
9AM TO 1PM**

**MCKINNEY HOUSE GROUNDS, 8369
University Ave, corner Pine St.**

Come find some historically interesting items for yourself!
And support the Society's mission to preserve its collections.

The LMHS has identified materials from our Society's collections, property and archival holdings that will be made available to our members and the public for sale on October 2nd, 2021. These are items and property that don't meet our Statement of Collections criteria, and/or objects that do not have any historical association to the Greater La Mesa region.

These include period books, magazines and journals as well as various antique items that had been donated over the years including some historic hardware items. All items have been approved for deaccession by the Board of Directors and will be **PRICED TO MOVE!**

Similar to the deaccession sale done roughly a decade ago, all proceeds will go to supporting the preservation, treatment and storage needs of our permanent archival and object collections.

ESTATE SALE ANTIQUES AVAILABLE

In addition to the items from the Society, we also will have some antiques from the Craig Family estate. They generously have offered to sell these items with the funds going to the Society. [Please do NOT bring any additional items—as much as we appreciate the thought—our goal is to reduce our inventory of non-collection items on site, thank you!]

We will also have our regular LMHS Store items available for sale, including books, DVDs, VHSs, t-shirts, Landscape Brick orders, etc. Also included will be some rare and antiquarian books such as two signed Memoirs of Ed Fletcher books.

We hope you can come by to partake in our clearing out sale.

Note: October 2nd is Oktoberfest weekend downtown—so arrive early for best parking access.

LA MESA HISTORY...

Q & A ON WHAT YOU ALL WANT TO KNOW

BY: JAMES D. NEWLAND

Once again, we continue to get some interesting questions sent in. One recent question came upon us concurrently with our national anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. For many La Mesans the fear during and after those terrorist attacks twenty years ago are seared into our memories.

For Mid-Century Americans the fear of nuclear war during the Cold War arms race at times also mimicked similar concerns for the safety of family, home, and nation. Although concerns with the potential for nuclear attack had been around since the Soviet Union's acquisition of nuclear arms in 1949, the situation heightened with the failed 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion to overthrow Communist Cuba and the subsequent Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. Many Americans believing that a nuclear attack was imminent during these intense days of international posturing and "cat and mouse" diplomacy.

Ok, so why this bit of Cold War context? We recently received a question from a lovely couple who live in the Vista La Mesa neighborhood.

The note and question: **"We recently unsealed our in-ground fallout shelter and wondered if you had any information on how many others might exist in the La Mesa area?"**

In all my years of doing research on the Greater La Mesa area I had only seen documentation of one other shelter (also from this period) having been built in the Redwood Village neighborhood. But have always known there had to be more—especially in our region with our military presence and potential as a target.

The Vista La Mesa fallout shelter had been built below the garage floor of the 1952 house in late 1961. They learned from neighbors and previous owners that it had been something the concerned mother had insisted was needed for protecting their family—just in case. The family stored food and water in the shelter for many years in preparation. The shelter entrance had been sealed up in the 1980s. The current owners were doing some improvements and had to unseal it to have its structural stability assessed. What they found inside were some rusted out old vacuum cleaners and various other items that had been previously stored there. Subsequently they have cleaned it out. They also did some research on the company on the valve—Whitaker. They built both swimming pools—and fallout shelters locally.

So they invited me to stop by and "drop in" for a visit to this piece of Cold War La Mesa history. You can see the photos of the cleaned out shelter. Clearly these were not structures designed for long-term residence. The roughly 10x20 foot space was more likely designed to survive any local blast damage, and to wait out a few days to allow fallout to dissipate. (For those that remember the 1999 Brendan Fraser, Alicia Silverstone comedy "Blast from the Past," where a 1960s family gets locked into their fallout shelter for 35 years, you will be disappointed).

Now, for their other question, **"How many of these exist in the Greater La Mesa area?"** We will need your help!

"La Mesa History..." Continued on Page 13

"La Mesa History..." Continued from Page 12

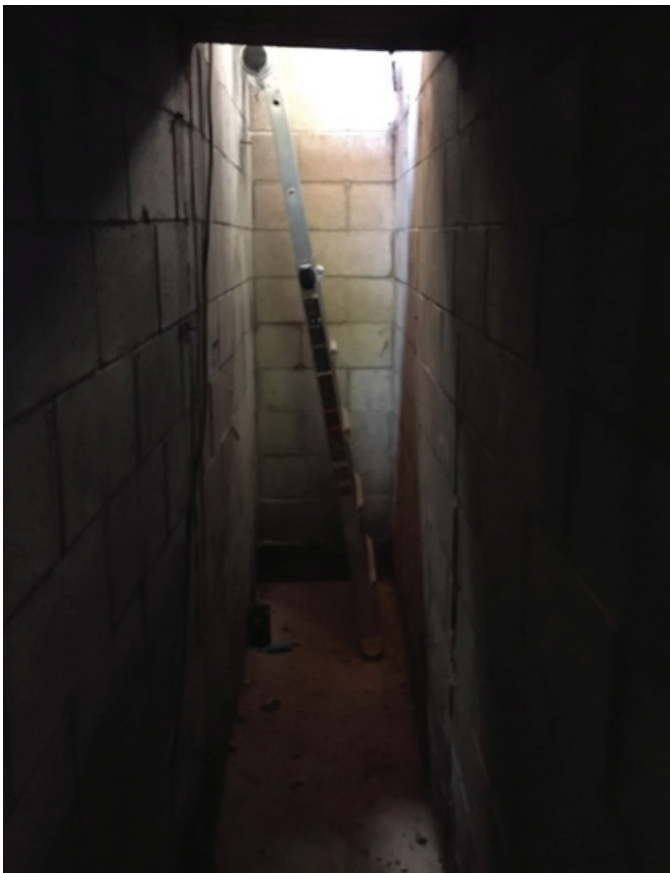
If you have a fallout or bomb shelter at your home/property, we would love to know. You can email us at: info@lamesahistory.com. We don't necessarily need your address, unless you are ok with providing it for the Society's records. We will not be publishing any addresses, but are interested in the neighborhood and/or any other documentation such as date of construction, brochures, permits, photos, etc.?



Unsealed Fallout Shelter Entrance



Do you know what this is for?



Entrance corridor to Shelter Room



Main Shelter Room

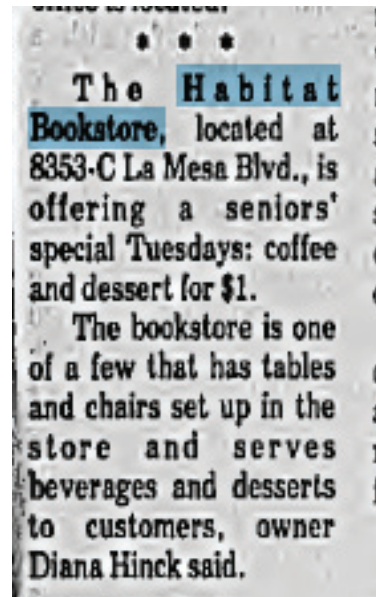
"La Mesa History..." Continued on Page 14

"La Mesa History..." Continued from Page 13

La Mesa's Habitat: The Book Store?

Bradley Owen recently sent us a question asking about information on a used bookstore in the downtown area in the 1970s called "Habitat." Well, yes Bradley we did find some info, from the early 1980s (1982-84 specifically), of the Habitat Bookstore, located at 8353-C La Mesa Blvd. That is the unit that is actually fronts on 3rd Street south of today's Curbside Eatery & Drinkery.

Articles in the La Mesa Scout and San Diego Union noted that such independent bookstores were growing along with chain bookstores in meeting the book demanding public (ed. my kinda peoples). Owner Diana Hinck noted that in addition to selling new and used books, her store also had tables and served coffee, teas, cider and deserts to customers. They also hosted music, poetry and readings. Another interesting piece of La Mesa retail history revealed.



La Mesa Courier article mentioning Habitat Bookstore, Nov. 1982



Here are some shared images from Fallout Shelters in Mt. Helix and San Carlos. We also got correspondence of others in Porter Hill and north La Mesa.

LMHS SUPPORTS CITY PRESERVATION EFFORTS

BY: JAMES D. NEWLAND

The City of La Mesa's Parks Department is actively working on restoration and reconstruction plans for two city-owned historic structures. Both of these La Mesa landmarks are currently part of the big rehabilitation plans for Collier Park, the historic first city park and site of the original "Allison Springs."

City Park Director Susan Richardson, along with other city staff in the public works and planning departments have reached out to myself and the Society for input and research related to both the historic Spring House and old City Water Fountain.

Spring House Structural Study

First is the Collier Park Spring House. At City staff's request, I've assisted with my knowledge and experience in historic preservation work to help them prepare a much-needed historic structural assessment study that will provide the scope and preservation approach for this long-mothballed building. The approach and scope are key elements in helping determine the actual costs of stabilization and restoration of this city landmark building. Such costs will be key in searching for grant funding for restoration and reuse efforts.

City Landmark #3: The Spring House was part of San Diego developer and promoter D.C. Collier's original plans for a large home and bottling operation at the still flowing natural springs. The City obtained the property from Collier around 1916 specifically to serve as a public park. It became the first, and only, city

park until after WWII. Originally constructed in 1907, the Spring House was fully restored in a large, award-winning 1948 Park renovation project.

Over the years it served as the dressing room for the original Collier Park city swimming pool/pond and as a meeting room for civic groups, educational programming and private functions into the early 1980s. It was closed in the late 1980s due to concerns with its structural condition. The 2013 Collier Park Master Plan identified the historic building for preservation and new adaptive uses. The City will be undertaking future community input on the reuse plans for this historic city building once restoration plans have been identified.



Bottling Works and Fountain at La Mesa Springs
Photo of Spring House and on-site fountain at today's Collier Park, La Mesa Scout April 5, 1912. Courtesy LMHS Archives.

"City Preservation Efforts" Continued on Page 16

Garden Club Beautifying Collier Park Spring House

Members of the Spring House Garden club, who have taken as a project the beautifying of Collier park, are now renovating the spring house, which they will later use as a meeting place.

The club, with the assistance of city officials and funds, is planning to take out partitions, put in new floors and windows, repair the roof and redecorate the entire inside of the building. Members are also landscaping the grounds surrounding the building. They plan, among other things, to beautify the running stream and construct a plant-rimmed rock pool.

With this project, they hope to win a \$1000 prize being offered by Better Homes and Gardens magazine for the most ambitious beautification project followed to completion.

All of the 14 countries of 500,000 over, have computation of milk.

An estimated 4 will be stricken result of drinking diseased milk.



LA MESA SCOUT, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1949



Pictured above during the Springhouse Garden club's fall flower show last week-end in the spring house at Collier Park are members who assisted with the show. Kneeling in front of the new fireplace is Mrs. Norbert Taylor. Standing, left to right, are Mrs. Benjamin Anthony, secretary, Mrs. Russell Ray admiring a flower arrangement while Mrs. F. L. Lowe prepares to light the candles. —Village Studios

GARDEN TOUR VISITORS



Just a few of the hundreds of people who visited the beautiful gardens on display Saturday during the 3rd annual garden tour sponsored by the Springhouse Garden Club, and enjoyed refreshments served in Collier Park by members of the club. The organization working as a class of the Adult Education Department of Graceland Union High School has as its main project the beautification of the park long neglected before they took it over. Chances are instructed by Mrs. Margaret Thibon Wheatley. —Village Studios

City Water Fountain Reconstruction

The City has obtained funds for additional Collier Park improvements and hopes to bid the work this winter. One of the tasks associated with this work is the re-location of the historic "City Water Fountain." The fountain has been in Collier Park since it was moved from its original location in 1965. The City Fountain was originally constructed next to the La Mesa Depot in 1915.

During research on its history, in preparation of recordation work required for its relocation in the Park, discussions were undertaken to consider its re-location close to its original location near the restored historic La Mesa Depot. The City has concurred with the project and we are now helping with reconstruction plans for both returning it to the city-owned Depot property—and reconstructing it to its original design when at that site from 1915 to 1965.

City Fountain History: In 1915 the civic and business leaders of the young city moved to construct the frame and stucco, tile roof "Mission-style" city water fountain. They placed it in one of the most prominent locations in the City. Next to the recently remodeled and expanded La Mesa Depot (the San Diego Railroad Museum restored the Depot to its 1915 condition in the late 1980s). Its Mission-style architecture matching the 1914 La Mesa Richard Requa designed Grammar School. They also pumped water from the City owned springs in Collier Park up to serve the fountain. Therefore, providing visitors with a chance to taste the "La Mesa Springs" water.

In the early 1960s, after rail service had ended in 1951 and the Depot building was sold and moved, the City began plans to widen Spring Street in anticipation of its being extended from its original end at Pasadena Street south to the new SR 94 freeway. As such the City Water Fountain, now in the way, and in disrepair, was

La Mesa Scout article July 15, 1948 announcing plans to renovate Spring House; one showing refurbished interior of Spring House, November 17, 1949 and Spring House Garden Club members in front of Spring House May 17, 1952. Courtesy LMHS Archives.

"City Preservation Efforts" Continued on Page 17

"City Preservation Efforts" Continued from Page 16

moved to its current location in Collier Park in 1965. The only elements of the original 1915 structure reportedly reused were some roof framing and tiles. Thus, as seen in the photos, the all-red brick structure no longer reflects its original design.

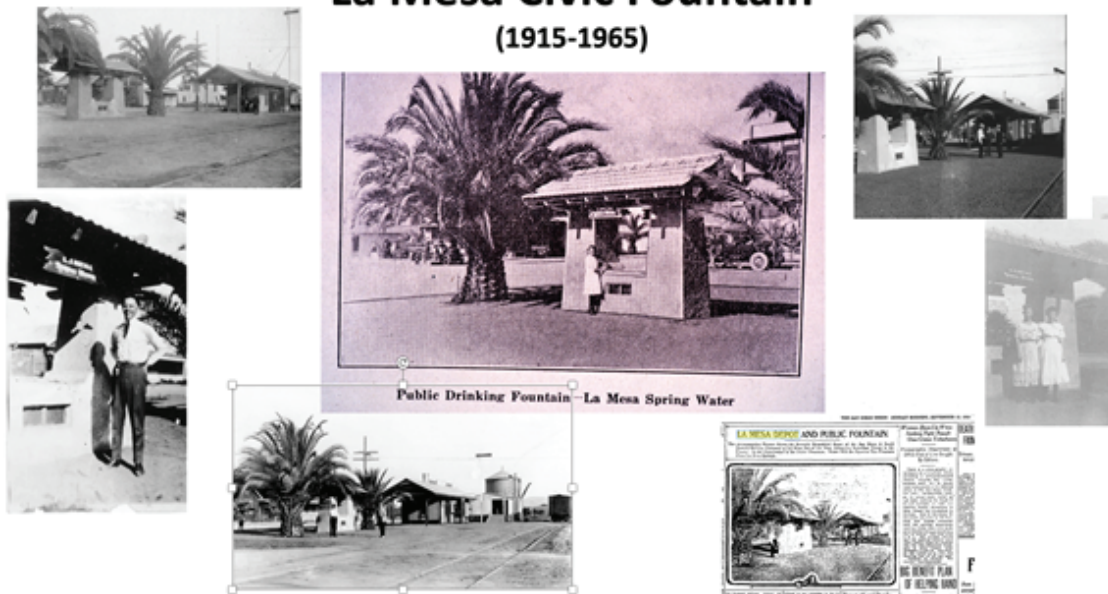
As such City Parks concurred with the relocation and reconstruction plan for the City Fountain. First tasks are the recordation and research into the specifications for the reconstruction of the fountain in its original configuration and materials. As such we have been able to secure SDSU archaeology graduate student Sarah "Saz" Benchekroun to assist (see photo of Saz at work). Saz's thesis is documenting the value of using LIDAR "light detection and ranging" technology to help record historic structures such as the current City Fountain and Spring House. This recordation along with historic analysis and extrapolation of historic imagery will help also prepare the reconstruction plans and specifications.

We thought you would all be interested in the great work that our partnerships with the City and SDSU are helping in the preservation efforts



City Water Fountain 1965 version at Collier Park near Spring House, circa 1985. Courtesy LMHS Archives.

La Mesa Civic Fountain (1915-1965)



Images courtesy LMHS Archives.

THANKS TO ALL OUR ACTIVE LMHS MEMBERS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Samantha Alberts
Radu & Amber Alexandru
Forrest Allen
Konrad & Patricia Andersen
Renee Anderson
Melody Andrews
Chat Ashburn
Nina Babiarz
Bonnie Baranoff
Tom & Liz Barber
Marcia Baugh
Judith Beardslee
Steve Bindel
Ed Blackman
Glenna Bloeman
Donna Bloomer
Michael Blum
Kristel Boe
Brad & Jo-Ann Boswell
Joe Braunwarth
Ken & Edythe Brown
Peggy Buffo
Charlotte Cagan
Skip Carter Way
Monica Casper
Stephen & Sheryl Castro
Jane Chianese
Steven Christiansen
Steven Churchill
David Cline
Ruth Contino
Charles Correia
Michele Cowdery
Charlene Craig
Don Criswell

Sharon Crockett
Cindy Davis
Linda & Sharon Davis/
Fitzpatrick
John Denhart
Keith Dindinger
Karin Dodson
Allison Dossett
Helen Dowdy
Gail Duffield
Aaron Duggan
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Duggan
George Fahouris
Holly Fields
Diane Finch-Payne
Sharon Flack
Steven Garjian
Connie Garner
Fred Gordon
John Grasberger
Kathryn & Mark Greene
Herbert Hafter
Laura & Guy Halgren
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hanson
Jolene Harwell
Kyle Hermann
Kevin & Nikki Hewitt
Chris & Karen Hinman
Joseph & Israel Hofmann/
Huerta
Marline Holloway
Evangeline R. Nelson Homer
Michele Hottel
Terry Hovland
Sandy Howes

Richard Hoy
Janine Hurd-Glenn
Jill Hurlburt
Catherine Jervey
Linda Johnson
Bonnie Kaley
Jason Kardos
Julie Karlo
Tim Katzman
Dave Kesner
Pat Kettler
Karen Kill
Lisa & Dan Kincaid
Gary King
Allyson Kinnard
Vera Skop Knianicky
Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Knutson
Kari Koskinen
Ruth Kramer
Nikki Kreibich
Noelle Krueger
Betty Lee Kuhne
Mark LaBonte
Daniel Lamb
Diane Lapp
Frances Lee
Christina Leefeldt
Tonya Lehman
John Lehton
Lynn Leventis
Larry Liebermensch
Brice & Carol Lockwood
Esther Long
Earlene Lourenco
Karolyn Malmin

"LMHS Members" Continued on Page 19

"LMHS Members" Continued from Page 18

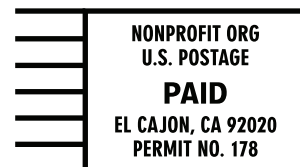
Michael Marks	Donald Pogoloff	Suzanne Vattuone
Jeremy & Katie Martinson	Bill Pogue	Eldon & Darlene Vogt
Veronica Martzahl	David & Charlotte Preston	Signe von Verdo
Michael Matteucci	Pamela Rader	Kurt Vozely
Walter McClellan	Michelle Regan	Glenda Wade
Joe & Michele McClung	Donna Regan	David & Gwen Warburton
Kay McGrath	Ted Reiff	Paul Ward
Richard McLaughlin	John & Valerie Richardson	Susan Wayne
Sandie K. McNulty	Susan Richarson	Ginger Weatherford
Michael Medeiros	Brenda Richmond	Mike & Cindy Williams
Sara Megling	Janet Rippinger	Mark & Sheila Wilson
David Messina	John Robbins	Leslie Witherspoon
Althea Miller	Gary Rogers	Jian-Sen Wu
Constance Miller	Tyler Rogers	Dorothy Young
Clark Mires	Michael Rummel	
Virginia Howard Mullen	Janis Schlundt	
Troy Murphree	John & Eileen Schmitz	
Jim Mussro	Ann Schwartzwald	
Chris Naire	Nancy Shelton	
Luis Naranjo	Cheryl Singleton	
Samuel Narveson	Nadia Skop	
Brenda Neill	Dr. & Mrs. Andrew Smith	
Jim Newland	Sharon Smith	
Michael Newman	Rose Snow	
Kitty Nicholson	Jeannette Steiger	
Donna Niemeier	Jim Stieringer	
Kevin Owens	Tracey Stotz	
Wendy Parcel	Diane Svensson	
Jonathan & Mary Parker	Rick Sweeney	
Earnest	Lorelei Taylor	
Sally Parrish	Aileen Teague	
Carmen & Todd Pauli/Pitman	James Thompson	
Brooks Pauly	Kathy Tinsley	
Cathleen Pearson	Andrew Torpey	
Susan Peinado	Suzanne Trelease	
Carol & Charles Perkins	Greg Truesdale	
Andy Phemister	Sandia Tuttle	
Sandi & Ted Phoenix	Margaret Tyler	
Judy Platt	Isaac Ullah	

TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN LMHS,
PLEASE VISIT THE MEMBERSHIP PAGE ON OUR
WEBSITE AT LAMESAHISTORY.COM



McKINNEY HOUSE MUSEUM
AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ARCHIVES RESEARCH FACILITY

8369 University Avenue
La Mesa, CA 91942



LMHS MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 882
La Mesa, CA 91942



lamesahistory.com



[LaMesaHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/LaMesaHistoricalSociety)



619.466.0197



[@lamesahistoricalsociety](https://www.instagram.com/@lamesahistoricalsociety)

The La Mesa Historical Society is an all-volunteer non-profit 501c3 corporation charged with preserving the history of the greater La Mesa area. The La Mesa Historical Society operates the Rev. Henry A. McKinney House, a 1908 House Museum and the Historical Society Archives Research Facility located at 8369 University Avenue in La Mesa, California.

The **Lookout Avenue** is the official quarterly publication of the La Mesa Historical Society. Closing dates for submitting contributions are the 1st of every March, June, September, and December. Word document and jpeg image files preferred.

Submit contributions via email, or email the Editor at info@lamesahistory.com