



LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

LOOKOUT AVE.



VOL. No. 2, ISSUE No. 2

DECEMBER 1978



CALENDAR

- Dec. 2 - Work Party at McKinney House
- Dec. 6 - Board Meeting (Traditional Decorating of McKinney House)
- Dec. 9 - OPEN HOUSE 11:00 - 3:00
- Dec. 9, 10, and Jan. 13, 14, 27, 28 (tentatively) - GRAPEFRUIT DAZE

DECEMBER 9 - OPEN HOUSE

LMHS yearly at Holiday Time opens McKinney House for a day as a gift to the Community. This year on December 9, from 11:00 - 3:00 refreshments will be served by VIVIAN HIGGINS' Hospitality Committee. Members have already been alerted by WOODY LINKE's gay flier, telling of the display of antique quilts, miniatures and doll houses.

The DOLL HOUSE, made by one of the Society members will be raffled for the donation of \$1. The House itself will be decorated in the Holiday theme, and Santa's Helpers will be buzzing about with the colorful pink and gold GRAPEFRUIT from Borrego.



MEMORABILIA

By THELMA TODD

We are very pleased with some gifts of furniture which have been received and accepted by LMHS Board.

GERTRUDE BAILEY gave us a charming little settee that looks as if it had been made for the living room.

ELEANOR HILL HOLTSCHLAG donated a "parlor" table of the type so popular in the early 1900s. It is golden oak, with metal claws on the twisted legs, holding glass balls. It belonged to her grandmother, MARY BAILEY, who came to La Mesa in 1908 and lived here until her death in 1938 at the age of ninety.

ALICE BISHOP EVANS donated a very unusual sewing rocker. It has a drawer under the seat to hold sewing materials. It belonged to her grandmother.

We are happy to report that our picture collection continues to grow.

MEMORIES OF OLD MAIN

At the October meeting, MR. HARRY D. GILHAM presented the Society with a pen and ink drawing in memory of his wife, ELLEN MORIARITY GILHAM. The drawing, done by CLARK ALLEN in 1929 or 1930, when he was in MRS. GILHAM's high school art class, is of Old Main at Grossmont High School and will stir memories for many when it hangs in McKinney House.

It is hoped the picture will be further memorialized on the stationary to be sold for fund raising. Such gifts are appropriate. Also, gifts of money are appreciated.

A MEMORIAL FUND is now set up for LMHS, according to MRS. LLOYD DONAHOO, who can furnish details for interested members, La Mesa residents or former residents. (Tax deductible gifts can assist in restoration and preservation of memorabilia.)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

Short of a snowy mountain trip, we Southern Californios forego the nostalgic "White Christmas" but enjoy nonetheless the joys of the holiday season with its family reunions, community gatherings, exchange of greetings and gifts. Our Historical Society Open House, intended as a gift to the community, returns again December 9. We hope to see many of our members and their guests.

Thanks go out in this season of gratitude to all who contribute lovingly to our group - the self-effacing GUYS, JEAN and HUBERT, and JULIE BRAS for the MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY and year's program just now published; to the fund-raising people who invest many hours in producing income in this and other ways; and to the hard-working editor of Lookout Avenue for restoring to us our helpful newsletter, enjoyed by all. A special mention is needful of those 56 supportive La Mesa business and professional people whose ads made our Directory possible; let's make it a point to patronize them!

Be saving February 15, the date of our THIRD ANNUAL DINNER MEETING, details to be announced. We hope to have a lively, fun-filled evening.

Meanwhile, thanks to the local press and our telephone committee, you will be kept informed of "Grapefruit Daze" dates. Seems the grapefruit are slower in ripening this year! LLOYD DONAHOO, ANN PARKER, BOB BROWNE, and committee will be working hard to supply those pink, juicy wonders!

A MERRY CHRISTMAS and a Bright and Prosperous NEW YEAR to you all!

Joan L. Wilken
President

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Well! More than 350 MEMBERS now! Get a friend to join us! Just send \$5 (\$10 for a couple), to P.O. Box 882, La Mesa, CA 92041, La Mesa Historical Society, Inc.



ORCHIDS TO YOU

Acknowledgement and appreciation to JANET GROF of QUILTS AND SOFORTH of Grossmont Center's Paseo Bonito for her generous donation of materials for the quilt we are doing for McKinney House... LMHS QUILTERS.

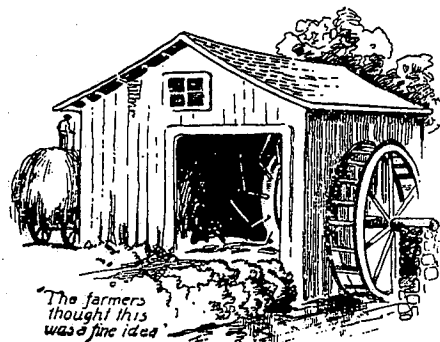
JEAN & HUBERT GUY - for many hours spent in preparing the MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY and PROGRAM.

JULIE BRAS - who now takes over the task of distribution.

GRAPEFRUIT DAZE

Remember to drop by McKinney House:

DECEMBER 9, 10, and hopefully January 13,
14, 27, 28
for your BORREGO PINKS.




MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Big News!!! LMHS Membership Directory 1978 version is ready and you are urged to get yours at the December 9 Christmas Open House. FREE! The directory includes a membership list, a schedule of LMHS programs for the year and a directory of the kind merchants who sponsored the publication. Be ready for 1979! Get yours FREE on December 9 and 10, or from JULIE BRAS.



THE VILLAGE

 Home again!

Newspapers and television stations spread the word! The La Mesa Railroad Station is back in town!

Well, not really! JACK WHITE of KGTV Channel 10, described the building as the shell of the station. Time and vandalism (the latter has been a great problem in recent months) took their toll, but LARRY ROSE, Superintendent of the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association, says the shell will be used and missing parts such as window frames made from parts that remain. The station building will be restored!

Reroofing with wood shingles will be undertaken immediately. Other work can also be done, but the bracing presently on the building will remain until the station is moved to its permanent location from where it sits in an empty lot on Nebo Drive and Orange Avenue.

The selection of a permanent site will be that of the La Mesa City Council after Re-development Phase II planning is completed.

PSRMA has already paid \$1,100 for the moving job and it has been donated a supply of wood shingles. The La Mesa Historical Society will help with the restoration and will seek ways to obtain local financing to cover or help cover the cost of the foundation, a wooden floor, etc. Total effort, including the restoration, maintenance and operation of the La Mesa Depot Museum will be a joint undertaking of both organizations.

If original plans are finalized, the station, two 1890 wooden coaches and a steam locomotive will be placed alongside the San Diego & Eastern Railway Company right-of-way.

In the next issue of "LOOKOUT AVENUE" we'll tell what we know about the history of the eighty-four year old station.

Thank you, members, for your great material on the theater, the wooden flume and other items.

-- Eric Sanders

LOOKOUT AVENUE

Lookout Avenue is the official publication of the La Mesa Historical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 882, La Mesa, CA 92041.

Lookout Avenue is published quarterly as a service to members. Society Headquarters are at McKinney House, 8369 University Avenue, La Mesa.

Society officers are:

JOAN WILKEN, President
T. WILLIAM OSBORN, First Vice President
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THELMA J. TODD
LLOYD E. DONAHOO

} Directors



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PUBLICATION NOTICE

The next LOOKOUT AVENUE publication date is February 9. Copy deadline will be January 29.

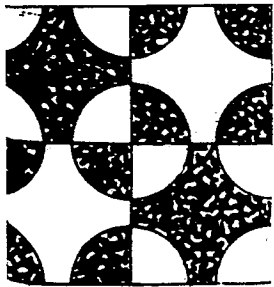
LA MESA SCOUT: February 17, 1917

LA MESA CELEBRATES RAILROAD SERVICE TO AND FROM SAN DIEGO.

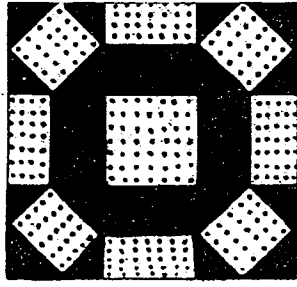
On February 22, La Mesa celebrates motor car service on the San Diego and Southeastern Railway to and from San Diego. The celebration will include an auto parade, an auto scenic tour, and a barbecue - served on a vacant lot between City Hall and the lumber yard on Spring Avenue, one block north of LOOKOUT.

GRAPEFRUIT DAZE AT MCKINNEY HOUSE -
December 9, 10, and hopefully Jan 13, 14,
27, 28 (Call Ann Parker)

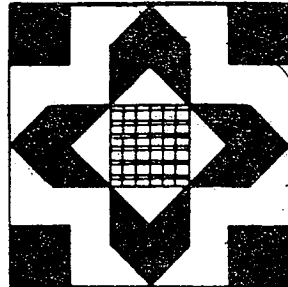




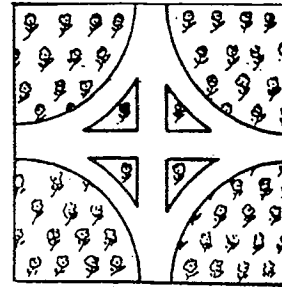
MILL WHEEL



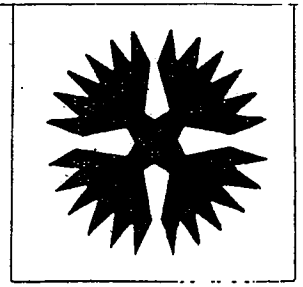
ROLLING STONE



AUNT SUKEY'S CHOICE



COUNTRY CROSSROADS



CHIPS AND WHETSTONE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR . . .

Dear Editor:

I graduated from the old LMGS in 1931. I received the following poem from my first grade teacher, the late Miss Mabel E. Walter, who was Primary Supervisor of the La Mesa Grammar School prior to the defunct La Mesa Elementary School. She taught many in this area in the 20s and 30s. My copy, dulling with age, is in Miss Walter's handwriting on a pale blue card, dated 12-21-41!

Marian Forte

MY CHRISTMAS WISH FOR YOU

May the Spirit of Christmas wholly possess you,
And bless all you plan and think and do;
May the joy of the Christmas Bells ring in your heart,
And peace and good will from it never depart;
May the memories of Christmas present and past,
Shed a fragrance like Pine that will ever last;
May the Candle of Hope in you brightly flame
With its glow undimmed and ever the same,
May every gift you give and receive Love's perfect pattern help you weave,
And for greater than all, may His Guiding Star,
Lead us to the King, whose heirs we are.

With love,
M.E.W.



A LETTER FROM DAWN STANLEY . . .

has the following requests: "We would like all of your beautiful old quilts out of the closet and on our walls. We will treat them with tender loving care, so that all may see them on December 9. Please call us by December 8, if you wish to show your quilt."

Dawn Stanley - 281-8660



ABOUT QUILTING...

Some LMHS members are forming a group for quilting. We don't have any special name -- just call ourselves the Historical Society Quilting Circle. So far we have only one project in progress -- quilting on the quilt top donated by RUTH MCKINNEY for the house. We have other projects in mind, but will report on them later when we can determine how much we can accomplish.

Our greatest need is more quilters. Most of us have never quilted before, so we encourage beginners to come and learn with us. Until further notice we will be meeting at my house, starting around ten every Monday morning. Anyone interested, even if inexperienced, please call me.

We also need donations of materials, particularly cotton and cotton blends and muslin. They can be left at McKinney House if desired.

If we can get more people interested, we can put all of their busy fingers to work and have more projects to report around the first of the year.

By Gail Chance, 461-5722



Telling about a forthcoming JULY PLANT SALE, DAWN STANLEY wrote the following to your Editor, who recalls an old saying, "Whatever is worth having is worth waiting for."

Dawn's message to YOU:

PLANTS - We want plants: TREES, SHRUBS, CACTUS, HOUSEPLANTS, LARGE OR SMALL, or anything that will grow in a container.

We would like to see all of you GREEN THUMBERS -- and those who aren't to start NOW putting your clippings in styrofoam cups, tomato cans or what have you.

The amazement will be yours when you see all of the plants you will have for the sale.

POTS - anyone who has pots of any size not in use, please leave them at McKinney House. Those who need containers to plant in can pick them up there. Thank you.

If there are any questions, call Dawn Stanley - 281-8660.



HELP WANTED

To assist with LOOKOUT AVENUE publication -- typists, artists, reporters. For information, call 463-6886.

WORK (?) PARTY

December 2, 9:00 A.M. will see members busy at work readying the HOUSE for the December 9 OPEN HOUSE. But neither of those dates will be more fondly remembered than the date of Wednesday, December 6, 7:00 P.M. This evening will see the TREE decorated with its old style baubles, pop corn, cranberries and the rest, when the LMHS Board lays aside their usual hard-hitting business meeting and celebrates the season by making ready their beloved HOUSE for COMPANY.



GRAPEFRUIT DAZE

December 9-10 (and hopefully, Jan 13, 14, 27 and 28) will see the Queen's Favorite Grapefruit brought down fresh and juicy from FERNANDO MURAD's famous OSO RANCH in Borrego and distributed at MCKINNEY HOUSE for La Mesans' gourmet delight.

For future deliveries, call Ann Parker, or check the papers or listen to KOGO.

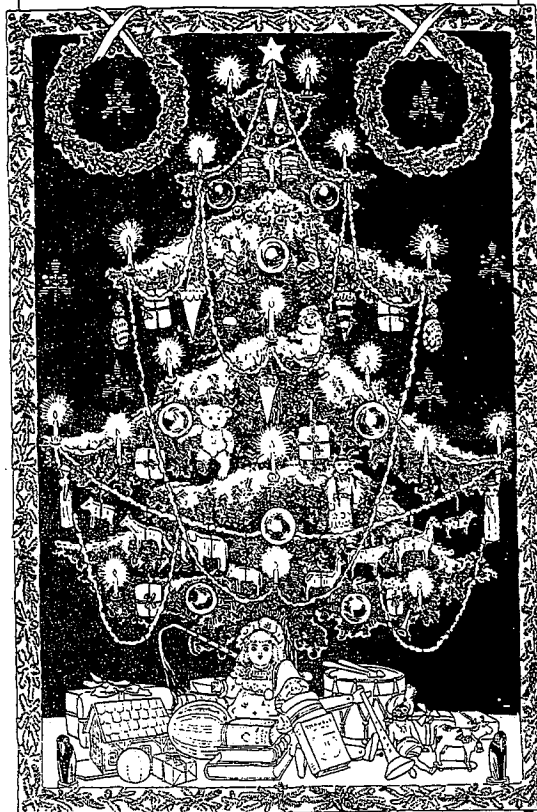
A blue note: PAY upon pickup, even for friends, as the committee pays CASH to our good Borrego friends.

COMING EVENTS.....The annual event of LMHS which is planned just for fun, and is planned for February 15, as you will note by your October issue of LOOKOUT AVENUE. There will be delicious food and entertainment in keeping with the gayest years seen in the era of McKinney House. Come prepared with props for Zaney Photography or borrow those we shall provide. The theme planned is . . . "THOSE ROARING TWENTIES".



The Dear Old Tree

BY LUELLE WILSON SMITH



There's a
dear old tree,
an evergreen
tree,

And it blossoms
once a year.

It is loaded
with fruit from
top to root,
And it brings to
all good cheer.

For its blossoms
bright are small
candles white
And its fruit is
dolls and toys
And they all are
free for both
you and me
If we're good little
girls & boys



From *St. Nicholas Magazine*, Dec., 1907.

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