

*Mark your calendar*

*Antique Street Faire  
March 20*

*Annual Meeting,  
Rose and Tea  
Celebration  
April 30*

*Summer Celebration  
July 16*

# Lookout Avenue



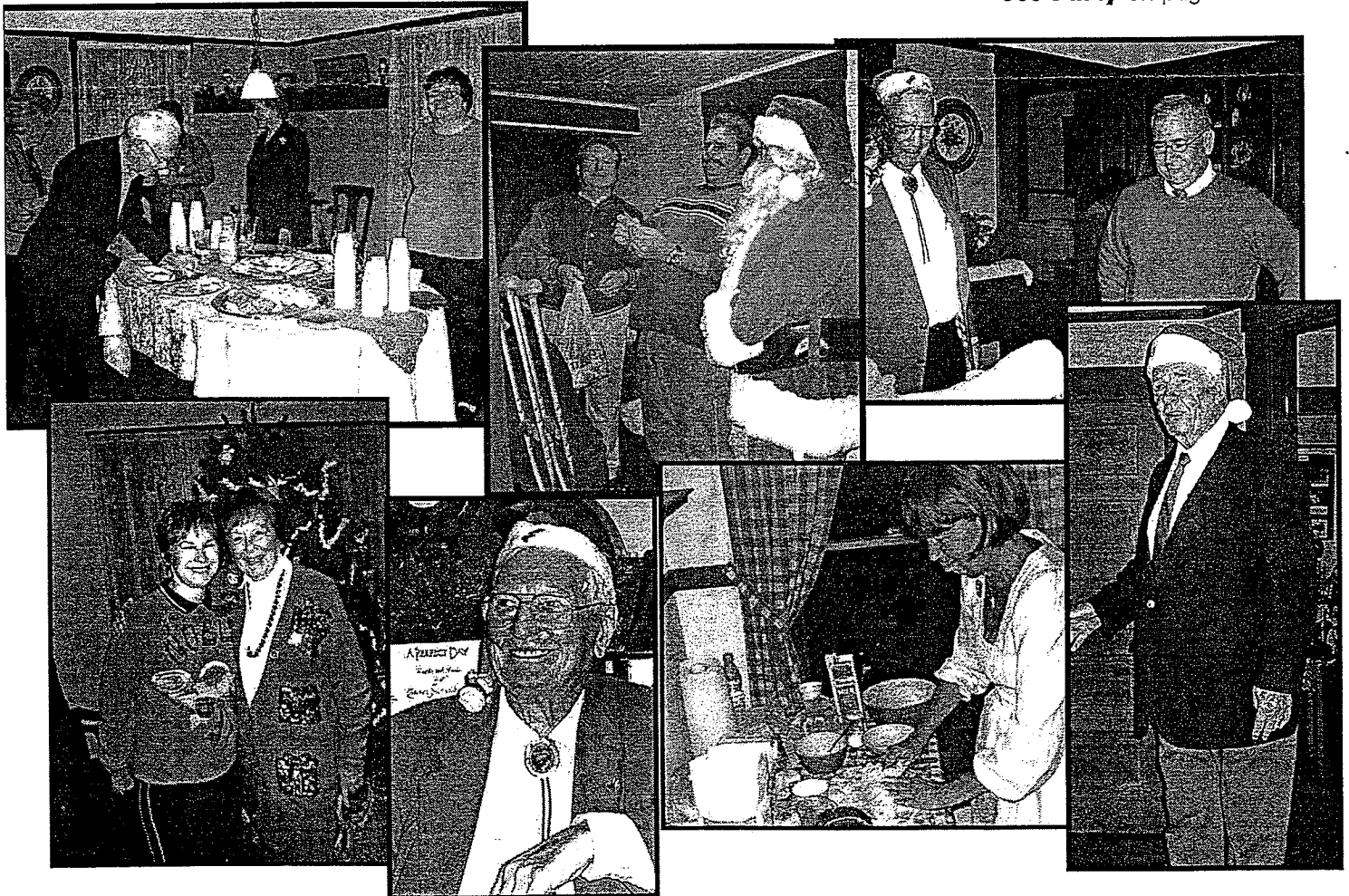
**Volume 28 Number 4 Winter 2005**

## ***Holiday Open House - a smashing success***

The La Mesa Historical Society's annual Holiday Open House was held Dec. 11. Guests were entertained by Amazing Dana (the magician), Christmas carolers and fire engine rides (to and from Christmas in the Village) provided by Councilman Dave Allan. Councilman Ernie Ewin and his wife Nancy provided cash prizes for the best-decorated homes on Pine Street.

Many thanks to our sponsors for their generous support: the Carpet People, Baskin-Robbins, Cosmos Coffee Cafe, Risque Hairdesign, Trattoria Tiramisu, La Mesa Welfare Association, Johnny B's Burgers & Brew, Lamplighter Theatre, K.C.Hair Production and the San Diego Railroad Museum.

See **Party** on page 3



## A note from the LMHS president

by Gordon Jones



We were gratified by the turnout for the initial history roundtable with the local Native American history being the topic. The speaker was captivating and the sandwich buffet was nicely handled by Darby Michaels, Alexandra Caldwell and Ruth Juleen. We hope subsequent forums will include the artists'

colony of Grossmont, the movie history of La Mesa, the how-tos of photo preservation, the restoration of historic structures, and other subjects pertinent to our mission.

### Going, going, gone.

We have very few copies of La Mesa Through the Years remaining, and we are not intending another print run or second edition. We would suggest that you pick up yours now if you wish a copy at any time in the future. Just stop by the McKinney House any Saturday afternoon between 1 and 4 p.m. It sells for \$12 per copy to members.

We are also down to our last few copies of the Historic La Mesa Walking Tour book, though it is possible that we will be issuing a slightly revised edition in the future.

We are looking into the publication of a book containing the pictures, narratives and map of the 22-to-date homes and other structures that have been landmarked in the City of La Mesa. We will keep you informed.

### La Mesa Historical Society, Board of Directors

July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005

**President:** Gordon Jones

**1st Vice President:** Donna Niemeier

**2nd Vice President:** Ruth Contino

**3rd Vice President:** Leslie Tonkinson

**Secretary:** Sharon Crockett

**Treasurer:** Donna Niemeier

**Past President:** Karna Webster

#### Directors-at-Large:

Stephanie Glazer

Ed Blackman

Kathy Tinsley

Bob Freeland

Virginia Hill

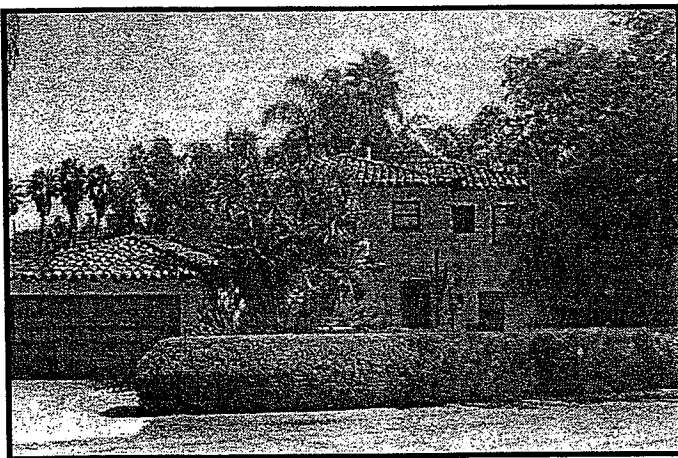
### LMHS welcomes its newest members

The La Mesa Historical Society welcome its newest members. They are: Jeffrey A. Lutz, Karen H. Berry, Gale A. Wall, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Goyette, Maryellen Huhn, Faris and Sylvia Nasri, and Wes and Jefe Torzeski.

*It's great to have you with us!*

**This newsletter is created by LMHS  
Newsletter Editor, Stephanie Glazer.  
For information or suggestions,  
contact her at (619) 466-0197.**

### La Mesa welcomes its newest historical landmark – the Dillon House, No. 22



Built in 1934, the Dillon House is an example of the early 1930's Spanish Colonial Revival style. The exterior is almost all original including the red Mission tile roof. The Dillon House was the largest, and is still one of the largest, homes in the southwestern part of Grossmont (3,450 sq. ft. of living space). The house was the first home built in the area and Dillon Drive was named after the Dillon family.

It was built for Lloyd and Lydia Dillon. Lloyd Dillon spent 39 years in the Navy, serving in both WWI and WWII.

## *Indians in East County*

An enthusiastic audience enjoyed the presentation of Cheryl Hinton (pictured below, second from left), director and curator of the Barona Cultural Center and Museum, detailing the complex structure of the Native American peoples – bands, nations, language groups, etc. – in East County.

Accenting her talk with choice artifacts, Cheryl gave us new insights into the Indian cultures, family organization and traditions. We can say that we did, indeed, gain new understandings and respect for our Native Americans.

This interactive session was a terrific way to initiate our new series of history roundtables.



## *Railroads in La Mesa and East County*

Our second history roundtable, which was held in November, featured a great look at our local railroading history by prominent railroad historian Bruce Semelsburger. He also presented some special pictures and artifacts of the railroads which were an important part of our area's development. The capacity crowd thoroughly enjoyed a special morning.

This meeting was held in the Society's Palermo Archives Building which fits the purposes of these meetings very nicely. It included a continental breakfast at no charge to Society members.

### **Party**, continued from page 1

And many thanks to all the volunteers that made this event so enjoyable: Marilyn Webb, Mae Ann Ehlers, Darby Michaels, Beth and Ed Blackman, Ruth Contino, Virginia Hill, Sharon Crockett and her family, Leslie Tonkinson, Donna Niemeier, Carol and Gordon Jones, Stephanie Glazer, Luis Porto, Keith Atencio, Danny Cancino and last but not least, Santa Claus.





**La Mesa Historical Society**

Museum: Rev. Henry A. McKinney House (1908)  
8369 University Ave., La Mesa, CA 91941  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 882, La Mesa, CA. 91944

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
La Mesa, CA 91941  
Permit No. 208

**Change service requested**

**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 Ave. (at the corner of Pine Street) in La Mesa. Open 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday 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**  
**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.

- \$250 Patron
- \$100 Sponsor/Organization
- \$15 Individual
- \$50 Sustaining
- \$20 Family
- \$5 Student

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Ph ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

*Memberships and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*