

La Mesa Historical Society

# LOOKOUT AVENUE

VOLUME 30 , ISSUE 11      SPRING 2007

## RESTORATION: FROM A TO Z

BY: MARK L. GUNDERT

As all owners of old homes can attest, they are a lot of work. There are always chores to do and things to fix. This is a given unless a previous owner has completely remodeled the whole house. Then you do not really have an old house, just an old house frame. Do not fret however; it is just the exterior of an old home that qualifies for the Mills Act and the benefits that come with being an owner of a Historical Landmark. The interior of a home is fair game and anyone can remodel the inside to their heart's content, under the Mills Act. However, I am an "old school" owner that wishes to preserve the original design and integrity of my home as much as feasible, both inside and out.

I own the Dillon House on Dillon Drive. I applied through the City of La Mesa's application process to have my home as Historical Landmark. I like old, cars, antiques and old homes. It was quite a journey for me to research the ownership of my home. There were fifteen different owners as provided by the San Diego County Records Office. I was able to find some personal information on each previous owner through public records that anyone can obtain with a little effort. This personal information I found on the previous owners made my research much more fun and exciting to me.

I have owned the Dillon House since 1986. This was and is my dream home. The house itself in

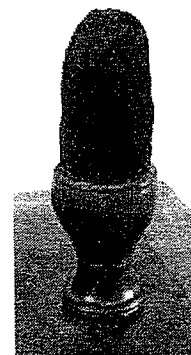
what you call Spanish Revival. After the World Fair at Balboa Park in 1915, many people in the San Diego area and elsewhere found the Spanish Revival style appealing and decided to build homes with the same style and flair. The Dillon House is called the Dillon House because it was built by Lloyd and Lydia Dillon in about 1934. At the time the Dillon House was the only home on the street, hence the current name of Dillon Drive for my street name.



Over the years I have been renovating the inside and out of my home in various ways. Most of the work I have done have been both maintenance related and restorative. I've had some water leak damage that has been repaired at substantial cost. I have also stripped some of the natural wood of the paint and restored the natural wood to what it was intended to look like in 1934.

*Please look for the 2nd part of this three part series in the next issue. If you would like to obtain a copy of the entire article, please contact the Historical Society.*

(619) 466-0197



*Antique paint brush*

### A BURNING QUESTION ... WE ARE UNABLE TO ANSWER.

Were there freshwater pearls hidden somewhere in or near La Mesa, perhaps by a creosote pit, near a small Chinese settlement? Any you can validate any part of this puzzle, please let us know at 466-0197 so we can pass it on to the inquirer.

**La Mesa****Historical Society**

8369 University Ave. La Mesa, CA  
91941

LAMESA.HISTORY.COM

Winter 2007

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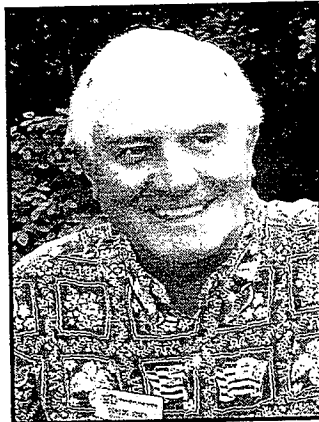
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**Newsletter Publication**

Rienzi/Erin Haytasingh

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

BY GORDON JONES

We'll never be able to thank enough the many individuals who put so much time and energy into the development of the first-ever Historic Home Tour! Too, we must thank the sponsors: EDCO, Mary de Waal Real Estate, American National Investments, Re/Max Heritage Real Estate, Johnny B's Burgers & Brew, Restoration Roofing (which did our McKinney house roof restoration) and substantial help from La Mesa City Councilmen David Allan and Ernie Ewin. It all began with the willingness of five LMHS members to offer their homes for the tour, plus that of the Railroad Depot Museum and La Mesa United Methodist Church. SOHO helped to publicize the Tour, as did our own city's *La Mesa Focus*.

We of the La Mesa Historical Society have a lot of good things going for us (as attested to by our peers) with solid events and super people who care about La Mesa and its history. Thanks to you all!

**NEW MEMBERS**

Tim & Elaine Thomas

Herbert Hafter

Pat Wood

Salle & Darrell Croxall

Judy Holton

Charlotte Preston

Sharmel McCarthy

Mike & Bonnie Stinchcomb

**COLLECTION ADDITIONS**

To our delight, Ann Porter Hall invited our exploration of some of her attic spaces in the land marked Roach-Porter House and we were able to obtain a great many priceless pieces of La Mesa history: including maps, photographs, a child's chalkboard/easel, period clothing and other treasures.

## MURRAY MANOR STUDENTS VISIT THE REV. MCKINNEY HOUSE

As part of the La Mesa Historical Society's educational Program 100 Murray Manor third grade student took a trip back in history. On November 13 and 15, 2006 the children, teachers and parent volunteers from Murray Manor took a docent let tour of the Rev. McKinney House Museum. They also viewed many pictures of "old" La Mesa and Participated in lessons about old toys and school practices 100 years ago The children really enjoyed this unique opportunity.

As a community project and thank you, the children from Mrs. Michalowski's class made popcorn strings for the McKinney house Christmas Tree. Learning how to decorate an old fashioned tree was an outgrowth of the visit.

By Donna Niemeier

*Students work together to operate tools from the past. These students are learning to use a clothes ringer.*



*Students listening to Mrs. Niemeier, while being surrounded by antique photos of La Mesa, in the Palermo Building at the LMHS.*



## NEIMAN MARCUS COOKIES *by Sharon Crockett*

16 tbsp. (2 sticks) butter

1 tsp. baking soda

1 cup of sugar

½ tsp. salt

1 cup packed light brown sugar

2 cups (about 12 oz.) semisweet chocolate chips

1 tsp. vanilla extract

1 ½ cups of walnuts, chopped

2 eggs

4 oz. Hershey's chocolate, graded

2½ cups oatmeal, processed in blender to a fine powder

Preheat oven to 375°. Using an electric mixer, cream butter and sugars together in a large bowl until fluffy, about 3 minutes. Add vanilla and eggs and beat until combined, about 30 seconds. Add oatmeal, flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt and beat until combined, about 30 seconds. Stir in chocolate chips, walnuts, and chocolate. Roll dough into 1½" balls and place 2" apart on large baking sheets. Bake until light golden but still soft in the middle, 10-12 minutes. Transfer cookies to a rack and let cool.

2 cups of flour

1 tsp. baking powder

# FALL HOME TOUR 2006

A success by any measure: almost 400 visited, served by more than 60 volunteers. They enjoyed the Old Town Trolley buses, meeting the enthusiastic owners and docents of the homes, and the working artists in the yards. The event generated much-needed monies for the maintenance of our McKinney House and our third grade education programs for La Mesa schools.



Volunteers of the home tour

We hope 2007's Historic Home Tour (Saturday, November 3) will let people experience homes in the Date Avenue Historic District. EDCO has assured us of its continued support, and we will enjoy the cooperation of *San Diego Home and Garden*.

## HOME TOUR SPONSORS

PLEASE LET OUR HOME TOUR SPONSORS KNOW THAT YOU APPRECIATE THEIR PARTICIPATIONS:

La Mesa City Councilman Dave Allan  
La Mesa City Councilman Ernie Ewin

EDCO Disposal Corp.  
Lemon Grove, CA

American National  
Investments  
(888) 580-7056

De Waal Realty  
8030 La Mesa Blvd.  
La Mesa, CA 91941  
(619) 741-4294

Roofing Resources, Inc.  
1313 Simpson Way, Suite F  
Escondido, CA 92029  
(800) 410-8410

Johnny B's Burgers & Brew  
4738 Fourth St.  
La Mesa, CA 91941

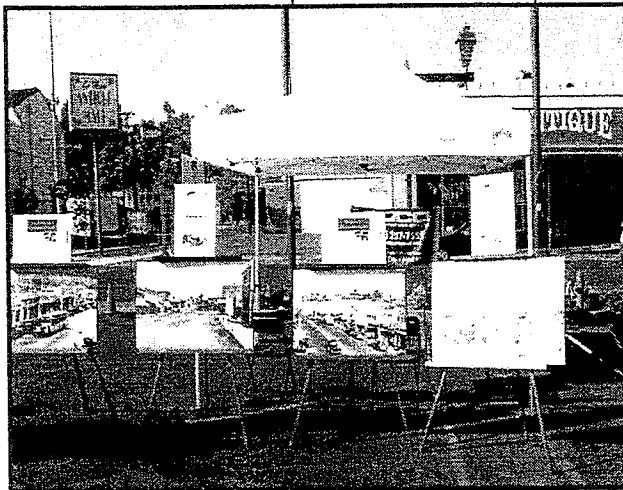
Re/Max Heritage Homes  
6950 Navajo Road  
San Diego, CA 92119  
(619) 460-5300

Cosmos Coffee Café  
8278 La Mesa Blvd.  
La Mesa, CA 91941  
(619) 698-4217

Homeland Florist  
8324 La Mesa Blvd.  
La Mesa, CA 91941  
(619) 462-4242

La Mesa Florist  
8747 La Mesa Blvd.  
La Mesa, CA 91941  
(619) 466-4151

Debbie White's class & Liz's Flowers  
Adult Enrichment Center



# UPCOMING EVENTS

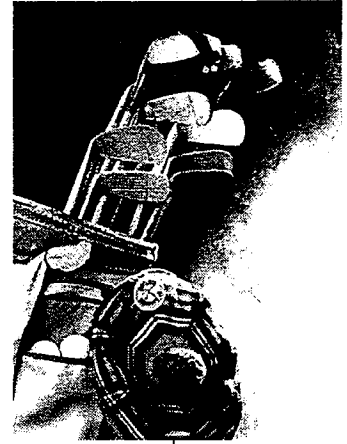
Historical Society activity dates to put on your calendar:

Sunday, March 25 — Antique Street Faire in La Mesa Village

Saturday, May 5 — Annual High Tea/ Rose Celebration/  
Annual Meeting at McKinney House

Saturday, May 19 — First-ever Golf Tournament at La Mesa's  
Sun Valley Golf Course

Saturday, June 16— La Mesa History North of Highway 80  
by noted historian Jim Newland



The La Mesa Historical Society presents  
A Fun Fundraiser Golf Tournament  
No Experience? - No Clubs?? - No Problem!!!  
Saturday, May 19th, 9:30 am - Sun Valley Golf Course, La Mesa  
Shotgun Start – Lunch – Prizes  
\$28/player or \$100/foursome (students & seniors \$22)  
[Tee & Green Sponsorships Still Available: David (619) 667-6672]  
Registration forms will be sent out in March  
Reserve the Day - Join the Fun

## McKinney House Rose Garden Commemoration

Each year, in the Spring, the La Mesa Historical Society Conducts a special ceremony at the Rose Garden at the McKinney House. This year our celebration will be held Saturday, May 5th, 2007.

The Commemorative Rose Garden was initiated in 1996 with start-up monies from the La Mesa Women's Club. Its purpose is to recognize designated persons by the addition of their names on the Rose Garden plaque. Anyone may designate a friend or relative for inclusion on the plaque by the donation of \$50.00 towards the Rose Garden fund of the La Mesa Historical Society (LMHS). LMHS member Hal Doerr constructed the plaque. LMHS board member Ed Blackman presently maintains the garden.

If you wish to honor an individual, please complete the following, and send it with your check for %50.00 to the La Mesa Historical Society, P.O. Box 882, La Mesa, Ca 91944. The information and check must be received by April 15th, 2007.

Name of the honoree \_\_\_\_\_ Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for commemoration/Information about the honoree:



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

# 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  
 Change Service Requested

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WWW. LAMESAHISTORY.COM

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Change Service Requested

## AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE LA MESA HISTORICAL SO-

### 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.*