

La Mesa Historical Society

LOOKOUT AVENUE



VOLUME 30 , ISSUE 14 FALL 2007

RESTORATION: FROM A TO Z

BY: MARK L. GUNDERT- PART 4 OF 5

There is a tool you can use that power planes away the layers of paint. I found that this is a difficult tool to use and it takes a lot of practice. If you become proficient with its use, this is the fastest method to strip wood on a flat surface like a wood door. You can not use this tool in tight places or on curved or ornate wood work. The web site to get more information on this tool is:

<http://www.metabousa.com/uploads/media/p113PaintRemover.pdf>

For most of us the other three methods for stripping paint is accomplished with a lot of elbow grease. What has worked best for me is to first use a heat gun, then the chemical stripping method. You will also have to do some light to moderate hand sanding to get a finish that you will be proud of (heat gun, chemical paint stripping, sanding).

The heat gun is an inexpensive tool that looks like a hair dryer. You can purchase one of these on EBay or at places like Home Depot for about \$15.00 with all the attachments. I believe this is a good investment that will last years and years.

The heat gun has a drawback. There are usually two setting of heat with a fan that a heat gun puts out. Use the lower setting. Just be aware that much of the old paint contains **lead which is highly toxic**. A particle mask that you can get at the hardware store is not going to help you with toxic smoke. You will need a respirator mask. You can get a 3-M respirator mask for about \$45.00. If you use the lower setting on your heat gun, this setting should not cause the paint to smoke, just lift up enough paint to get a putty knife underneath. Get two different sized putty knives (small to medium size). Once you see the paint bubble up, the paint is now ready to lift off with a putty knife. Scrape your entire project first with a putty knife. If you have smaller grooves or

irregularities, use the small putty knife to gouge out the bulk of the paint. The heat gun will cut through many layers of paint with no problem. Have a waste bucket nearby to toss your paint peels as you scrape the paint off.

Another drawback to the paint gun is using a paint gun around windows. If you get too close to a window or glass



"...old paint contains lead which is highly toxic. A particle mask... is not going to help you..."

with a paint gun, you might crack the glass. You might have to forgo the use of the paint gun around glass and go directly to the chemical paint stripper. Remember your old house may still have the distorted view

window panes from years ago. If the window pane breaks you will have to replace the window with modern non-distorted glass or pay an arm and a leg to special order the distorted glass via mail order. This is new or modern distorted glass and not antique.

The next step is to get the residual paint that your heat gun did not get. To get the residual paint, the best method is to use the chemical paint removers that you can buy at the hardware or home centers. There are many different types of chemical paint removers. Look at the labels of the paint stripper and buy the paint stripper that will strip the paint off in about fifteen minutes. Other paint strippers are more environmentally friendly but can take hours to strip the paint and they do not do a very good job. It is up to you if you can wait an hour for the paint to soften, buy the slow acting paint stripper.

Please look for the 5th 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

La Mesa**Historical Society**

8369 University Ave. La Mesa, CA
91941

LAMESAHISTORY.COM

Fall 2007

Vol. 30, Issue 14

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY GORDON JONES

**President's Notes**

Now, I think this is really exciting! We are most grateful to Bob and Laura Duggan for the donation of the funds necessary to purchase a microfilm reader and printer which will be available to researchers in our archives building.

The primary use is to view the 100 years of *La Mesa Scout* newspapers on microfilm. You may know we have the originals, but they are much too brittle for most research use. Just before Bob and Laura gifted us the funds, I had initiated discussions with the San Diego County Library system to transfer the films from the El Cajon branch to LMHS. They agreed to do precisely that! Even if you are not a history buff, you can't help but to enjoy viewing the evolution of our City.

Thank you, Bob and Laura. We appreciate your interest in the preservation of La Mesa history and making it available to our citizens.

Many other good things are happening, including an expanded membership of energetic individuals. But, now we have several opportunities for volunteers committed to what we do. So, when Carol Jones, our volunteer coordinator, calls please tell her you would enjoy helping. We do try to make things fun and interesting and she can bring you up to speed on ways you can put your knowledge, skills and abilities to work.

Five gorgeous homes in or near the Date Avenue Historic District! Such a fine way to build on the resounding success of our first Home Tour. See the insert for details. The event generates much-needed monies for the maintenance of our McKinney House and our third grade education programs for La Mesa schools.

The City of La Mesa, EDCO and other sponsors have assured us of their continued support, and we will enjoy the cooperation of *SOHO*, *the Union-Tribune* and *San Diego Home and Garden*. Naturally, La Mesa Historical Society members and last year's attendees have received advance announcements and special admission prices.

For your calendars

December 8 – Traditional Christmas Reception, Rev. Henry McKinney House

January 12 – History Roundtable at 10 AM at Mission Trails Park: The Kumeyaay

March 30 – Antique Street Faire, La Mesa Village

May 3 – High Tea, Rose Celebration and Annual Meeting

Special Thanks

The La Mesa Historical Society would like to thank the San Diego Union Tribune for their help in promoting our home tour. The San Diego Union Tribune article *A Walk in the Past* by Cathy Lubenski, was especially helpful in making our Second Annual La Mesa Historical Society's Home Tour a great success! There are many other volunteers, La Mesa Historical Society members, businesses and historical home owners we would like to thank also. We appreciate all your hard work and efforts to help us preserve our history for many years to come. Please mark you calendars for next year at this time.

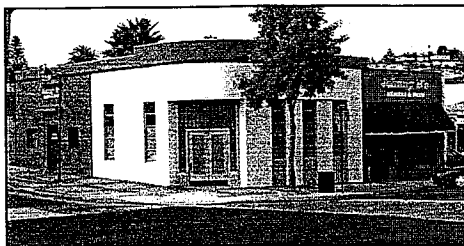
RECENTLY DESIGNATED AS LA MESA HISTORIC LANDMARKS

Number 24: Harry and Vada Robertson House (1909) 4562 Palm Avenue



This Craftsman-inspired bungalow, and others in the area contained by Fresno, Lemon and Palm Avenues and Fourth Street, define much of the character of La Mesa housing in the first two decades of the twentieth century. It was landmarked by Neil and Catherine Butler.

Number 25: Post Office Building (1939) 8393-95 La Mesa Blvd.



The 1939 Old Post Office Building in many ways reflects the La Mesa of 1939 and the early 1940's. It was designed in the Modern style by hugely successful architect Frank Hope, Sr. for owner/developer/Mayor, George Sheldon. It was landmarked by Michelle and Paul Cowdery.

Number 26: Staveley House (1924) 4628 Third Avenue



This single-story Craftsman-Oriental style bungalow is unique in La Mesa with its upswept roof peaks. Built by Mr. and Mrs. John Staveley, the house was later occupied by Ernest and Ruth Wright who were co-owners of the Right Grocery Store on Lookout Avenue. Wright also served as a City Councilman. It was landmarked by Cindy Davis.

La Mesa Historical Society

Annual Report

July, 2006 through June 30, 2007

As of June 30, 2007, the La Mesa Historical Society has a total of \$49,265.17 in monetary assets. The Histories CD, Capital Improvement CD, and \$5,701.82 of Savings Accounts are restricted funds and can only be used for designated expenditures. Monies and distributed in the following categories:

Checking Account	\$10,618.73
Savings Account	20,736.43
Histories	9,799.08
Capital Improvement CD	8,085.93
Cash	25.00

Total gross receipts for the year ending June 30, 2007 are \$21,646.80.

The La Mesa Historical Society received income in the following categories:

Contributions	\$ 3,446.45
Special Event Fund Raising	11,757.27
Sales	1,927.13
Membership	925.00
Investment Income	590.95

Total expenses for the year ending June 30, 2007 are \$14,578.10. Reimbursements were made in the following categories:

Special Event Fund Raising	\$ 3,878.98
Sales	-0-
Promotional and Administration	1,348.71
Utilities and Maintenance	7,457.13
Preservation	1,893.28

Increased revenue for the year is due to our very successful Home Tour. Our major expenses are for utilities, the cost of insurance, building security. Building maintenance continues to rise and these three items account for \$5,412.00 of our utility expenses.

If you would like a copy of the itemized spreadsheet showing specific income and disbursement in each of the general categories listed above, please contact Donna Niemeier at (619) 461-2419, Vice President/Treasurer.



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

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

WWW. LAMESAHISTORY.COM

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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: _____

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Ph. (____) _____

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