

La Mesa Historical Society

## LOOKOUT AVENUE

Volume 30, Issue 16

Fall 2008

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

This is going to be a pretty busy fall! As you can see in this newsletter, we are in great financial condition and, truth be known, we're probably better off without relying on government for funds.

You should know that the McKinney House is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, as the banner on its second story proclaims. The Quilt show is new and special, the history roundtables continue to showcase our past, and something special is planned for the Christmas Open House in December. I will paraphrase author John Connolly; "We are working to ensure that La Mesa is a place with a concept of its history and a respect for its past." Could be a great mantra.

Remember, our website is [lamesahistoricalociety.com](http://lamesahistoricalociety.com).

**A HISTORY LESSON FOR LOCAL THIRD GRADE STUDENTS**

Third grade students from Lemon Ave and Murray Manor schools visited the Rev. McKinney House in late May and June. As part of the La Mesa Historical Society's educational program these 200 children took a trip back in time.

While touring the McKinney House the children learned about life without electricity, indoor plumbing and

motorized vehicles. They had many questions regarding the chamber pot, the pump organ, the ice cream maker and the tub with a wringer for washing clothes. As well as the docent let tours of the McKinney House, the students participated in lessons about old toys and school practices 100 years ago.

Docents Charmon Lehew, Virginia Hill, Carol Lockwood, Pat Kettler, Gordon Jones and Donna Niemeier were instrumental in making this study trip for Lemon Ave and Murray Manor students a success.



Lemon Ave. and Murray Manor third graders learning history. What, no computer games in 1908?

**100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND QUILT SHOW**

The Reverend Henry A. McKinney House has been the official location of

the La Mesa Historical Society since 1975. The house turned 100 years old this year. To celebrate this passage of time, the Historical Society is throwing a birthday party at the house on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> between 1pm and 4pm.

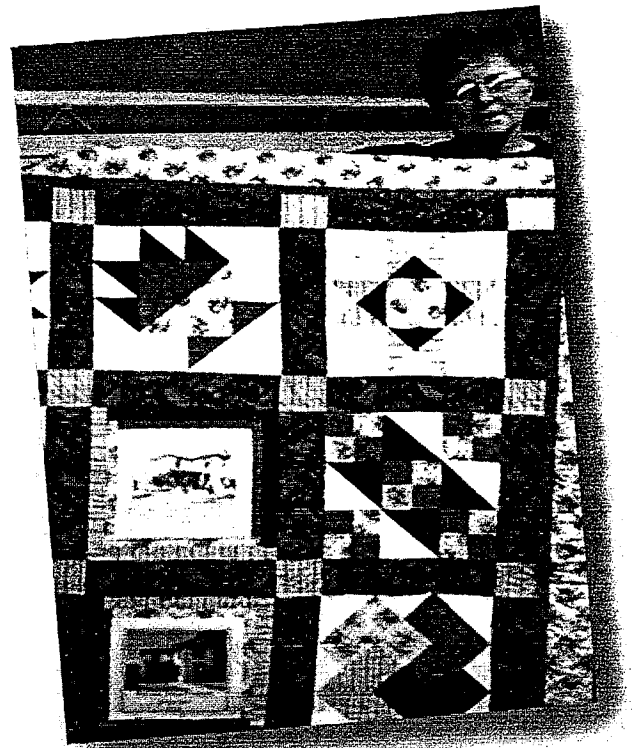
We are combining the birthday celebration with an old fashion quilt show in honor of the Quilters Guild that was so important in its support towards establishing the LMHS.



Looking good 100 years later....thanks to volunteers.

A raffle will occur and the featured item will be a very special anniversary quilt showing the McKinney House, designed and created by our wonderful Donna Niemeier. Raffle tickets will be sold at the event. Please join us for an afternoon of fun, refreshments, prizes and the quilt show. The house and backyard will be decorated with many special quilts from the past. We are hoping for sunshine, but will move indoors if need be. Rumor has it there will be music, even if it is just a boom-box. Again, the event is at:

The McKinney House  
8369 University Ave.  
Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008  
1:00 – 4:00pm  
(Free admission)



Donna Niemeier with her anniversary quilt of the McKinney House. Buy a \$5 raffle ticket on September 27th and this could be yours.

### 2008 HISTORIC HOME TOUR

Saturday, November 8, 2008 will see the third Historic Home Tour presented by the La Mesa Historical Society. It is co-sponsored by the City of La Mesa's Historic Preservation Commission. The tour will run 10 am to 3 pm. You will receive a ticket application shortly, but save the date! The homes included are:

- **Samson House (1911):** A bungalow in immaculate condition and home of La Mesa's first Mayor.
- **Frew House (1928):** A nicely restored, compact hillside home.
- **Winslow Home (1908):** An attractive and distinctive California bungalow.
- **Washburne House (1912):** An excellent example of adaptive reuse of a historic structure.
- **Garfield House (1918):** Home of a renowned judge and a plein-air painter.



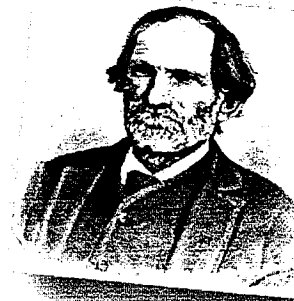
Visit this house at the 2008 Historic Home Tour on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Again this year, free Old Town Trolley shuttle buses will operate from the Tour Center at the corner of Palm and Lemon Avenues in the downtown Village of La Mesa. Artists will be present at each house and their work will be available for sale. Advance ticket prices are \$12 (LMHS members) and \$15 (non-members). Please come by the McKinney House any Saturday between 1pm and 4pm to purchase your advance tickets. On the day of the tour, prices are \$15 (LMHS members) and \$18 (non members).

---

### LA MESA HISTORY IN THE NEW LIBRARY

Coming soon to the new La Mesa Library is a concise ten-minute presentation of historic photos and city-related narrative on a flat-screen TV in the west entry. It will show our beginnings with Robert Allison and travel through time to present day. Take a look next time you go browsing for books at the library.



Robert Allison – La Mesa's pioneer rancher and land owner.

---

### ADDITIONS TO OUR COLLECTION

Our collections have been enhanced recently with Harvey Throop's donations of a very nice series of photos of William Gross and a photograph of a Kumeyaay chief pictured here. Also donated is correspondence by Madame Ernestine Schuman-Heinck. Dick Leach donated a pair of Cub Scout uniforms dating from 1940. The La Mesa Historical Society appreciates Harvey's and Dick's donations. If you have something of value to donate, come by the McKinney House. We are always eager to gain new, interesting additions that help us interpret La Mesa's past.

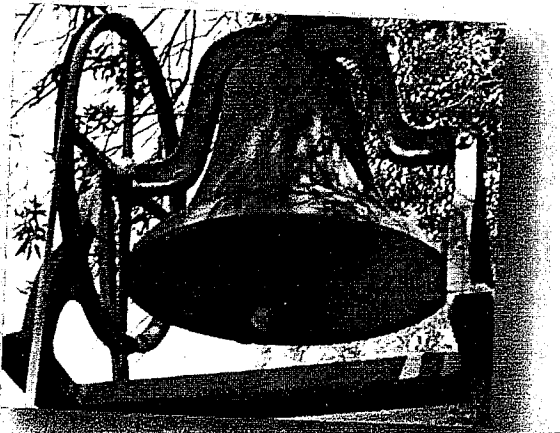


Kumeyaay Chief photograph donated by Harvey Throop.

---

### ALLISON SCHOOL BELL

This bell once rang from the tower of the first school in La Mesa, Allison School. It rang there and at La Mesa Grammar School until 1947, then was stored, and finally installed on the campus of La Mesa Middle School in 1964. It is still there.



Unlike Philadelphia's Liberty Bell, this one is crack free.

---

### LMHS HAS A NEW SIGN!

We can thank Dave Kievit, Dot Harrop and Germaine Harris for volunteering to get the new sign installed. It looks great. What's next, gang?



Such a nice job...what will Dave, Dot and Germaine tackle next?

---

### NEW MEMBERS

The following La Mesa history buffs pulled out their wallets or dug into their purses and decided enough is enough: time to join the La Mesa Historical Society. Their contribution assists our cause to preserve the city's history and to keep it for generations to come. Thanks for joining!

- Joanna Cuevas
- Mike & Bonnie Stinchcomb
- Lesley & Jim MacIndue
- Cheryl Lundmark Severtson
- Amy Fry
- Sandra J. Gonnerman
- Ellen Monfredi
- Eldon Horton
- Robert Benjamin Abel
- Connie Baer
- John & Eliza Martin

If you know anyone who wants to join, let us know or tell them to come by the McKinney House or to visit our web site, [www.lamesahistoricalsociety.com](http://www.lamesahistoricalsociety.com) for information.

# LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

Gross Receipts		
Membership	\$	4,326
Donations		2,160
Fundraising Events		12,510
Sales		119
Interest		<u>574</u>
	\$	<u>19,689</u>
Direct Costs		
Library Presentation	\$	500
Fundraising Events		3,698
Sales		<u>95</u>
	\$	<u>4,293</u>
Net Receipts	\$	15,396
Expenses		
Preservation	\$	5,520
Communication		740
Administration		<u>2,961</u>
	\$	<u>9,221</u>
Retained Receipts	\$	<u><u>6,175</u></u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash		
Checking	\$	8,531
Savings		25,782
Certificates of Deposit		18,414
Petty Cash		<u>27</u>
	\$	<u>52,754</u>
Property & Equipment		
Museum Collection	\$	16,128
Office Equipment		3,781
McKinney House		<u>82,450</u>
	\$	<u>102,359</u>
Total Assets		<u><u>\$ 155,113</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
Sales Tax Payable		\$ 8
Beginning Equity		\$ 148,930
Retained Receipts		<u>6,175</u>
	\$	<u>155,105</u>
Total Liabilities & Equity		<u><u>\$ 155,113</u></u>

The donations include \$1,700 for the purchase of a microfilm reader and \$300 for the historic presentation project at the new library. The majority of the work on this project will be accomplished during the next year. The majority of the receipts from fundraising events continue to be the home tour. This year we netted \$4,788. The Spring Tea brought in \$1,412. A new sign in front of the house cost \$1,056.

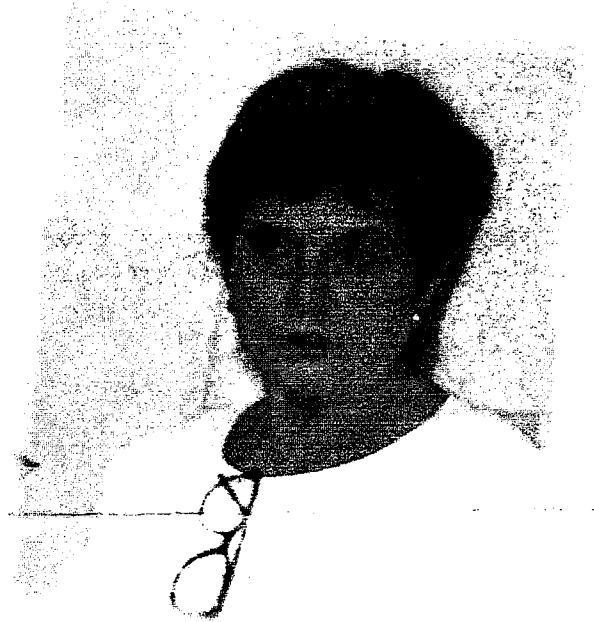
A complete financial report is available upon request.

---

**PAT KETTLER RECOGNITION**

At the Annual Meeting on May 3, 2008, Pat Kettler was presented the first La Mesa Historical Society award for outstanding volunteer service. Pat's dedication to La Mesa's history began approximately 25 years ago when the City of La Mesa asked community organizations to help plan and sponsor the City's centennial celebration. Pat represented the La Mesa Women's Club. At these committee meetings she met other people who were in the process of forming the La Mesa Historical Society. She was involved in the purchase of the McKinney House and the construction of the Palermo Building. She is one of our founding members and has held almost every position on the Board except treasurer. She has written many articles on the history of La Mesa and the Historical Society. She is especially noted for her extensive research of the La Mesa Scout, a historical local newspaper, once located in downtown La Mesa. In the 1980s as a young mother she would take her baby down to the office and the newspaper staff would let her read the back issues in the archives. When the newspaper closed she helped raise the funds to microfiche copies of the La Mesa Scout. This microfiche film containing the local history of La Mesa is in the Palermo building. Through a recent donation the La Mesa Historical Society was able to purchase a microfiche reader.

Pat is the photo archivist and a docent on alternating third Saturdays in the McKinney house. Pat's service and dedication to the Society over the years is greatly appreciated.



Pat Kettler, 2008 La Mesa Historical Society Volunteer Award recipient.

**LA MESA FIRE DEPARTMENT  
Centennial Celebration Presentation  
Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM**

**Firefighter Dave Miller, Presenter**

- Firefighter Dave Miller will conduct a tour and presentation on the 100 year history of the LMFD.
- A question and answer session will follow.
- Historical photos of the early years of the LMFD will be present throughout the meeting room and firehouse.
- Light refreshments with a fire department motif will be served on the patio.
- Free rides on a 1955 restored Kenwood Van Pelt fire engine.

**Place: Fire Station No. 11  
Emergency Operations Center  
8054 Allison Avenue, La Mesa**

**Seating is limited.**

**Please RSVP to: (619) 466-0197 with your name and number of attendees.**

**Sponsored by:  
La Mesa Fire Department  
and  
La Mesa Historical Society**



NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 208  
LA MESA CA 91941

## 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 91941  
**Change Service Requested**

[www.lamesahistoricalsociety.com](http://www.lamesahistoricalsociety.com)

Cut along line and mail the section below with your check.

### 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 Avenue (at the corner of Pine Street) in La Mesa. Open 1-4pm every first and third Saturday of the month 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. Our address is:

La Mesa Historical Society  
P.O. Box 882  
La Mesa, CA 91941

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
- \$50 Sustaining
- \$20 Family
- \$15 Individual
- \$5 Student

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

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

I would like to be a volunteer in the following areas:

- Docent/Education
- Events

- Grounds/Building
- Archives/House