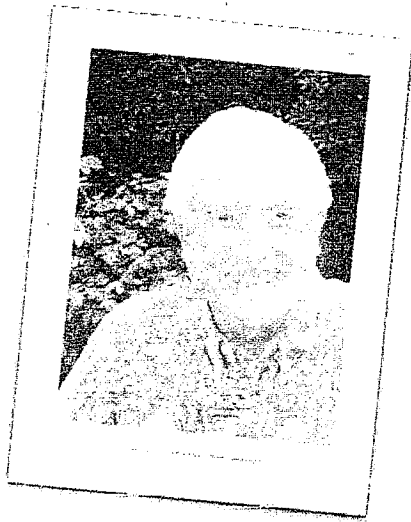


La Mesa Historical Society
LOOKOUT AVENUE

Volume 30, Issue 17

Winter, 2008

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS



For a smaller city, we have a remarkable inventory of historical sites and resources, and I think we have done a decent job of highlighting them, educating our citizenry (especially the children), and preserving them.

Volunteers make this happen (witness the number who work the home tour) and if you have an interest, please do let us know where and how you want to be active.

Please patronize the La Mesa businesses that sponsor the home tour. They provide valuable items for our raffles and other support for what we accomplish. Equally supportive are special Council members and staff of the City of La Mesa.

Our membership is up again this year and we are seeing larger numbers of individuals researching their family histories, land marking homes, selecting photographs for reproduction, all especially pleasurable for us as volunteers in our archival collections. In fact, you might want to look at our microfilms the *La Mesa Scout*. You may well spend the afternoon reading and amazing.

Both printings of *La Mesa Through the Years* were sold out quickly and we are entertaining the idea of publishing another special volume of La Mesa history. We certainly have enough materials to make it interesting and collectible, and, an author, Jim Newland, who knows whereof he writes. However, we've managed to make some copies of *La Mesa Through the Years* and they are available for sale now.

The quarterly History Roundtables continue to be sell-outs and another series is on the way. Suggested topics are always welcome.

Most importantly, we thank each and every one of you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you at future events.

Remember, our website is lamesahistoricalsociety.com.

LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President

Gordon Jones

1st Vice President

Donna Niemeier

2nd Vice President

Ruth Contino

Secretary

Sharon Crockett

Treasurer

Rod Whitlow

Directors-at-Large

Ed Blackman

Tom Hart

Dave Kievit

Aaron Landau

Linda Rankin

Kathy Tinsley

COMING EVENTS

March 29, 2009:

Antique Street Faire in the Village

April/May 2009:

History Lecture on the La Mesa Police Department (call for exact date)

May 2, 2009:

High Tea, Rose Celebration, Annual LMHS Meeting

November 7, 2009:

2009 Historic Home Tour

CITY OF LA MESA CENTENNIAL

The La Mesa centennial is coming in 2012. 700 citizens voted to incorporate on Feb. 7, 1912 and the incorporation papers were filed on Feb. 16, 1912. We have appointed an ad hoc planning committee chaired by Aaron Landau, with the support of Kathy Tinsley, Donna Niemeier, Tom Hart and Jim Newland. If you have any ideas to provide please call 466-0197 to let them know.

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE
CELEBRATED**

The annual Christmas Open House was held on December 6th and treated over 80 guests to homemade cookies (baked by our fabulous Sharon Crockett), hot apple cider and Christmas carols sung by the Sing Along Group. We give many thanks to donors to our raffle: La Mesa Thrift, Cosmos Coffee Cafe, Grossmont Hospital Thrift Korral, GIO Bistro & Wine Bar, K.C. Hair Productions, Johnny B's Burgers & Brew, Mostly Mission, Trattoria Tiramisu, Carol Yaremko, Donna Niemeier, Sharon Crockett, Ed Blackman and Ruth Contino.

LMHS HISTORY LECTURES

The LMHS history lecture series for 2009 is in full swing. One of the functions of the society is to provide an ongoing lecture series on the history of La Mesa and other aspects of local history outside the boundaries of our fine city. Our goal is to present four lecture/ presentations over the course of

year. The last fall was our starting point. We are on schedule for 2008-09.



LMFD Firefighter Dave Miller (left) with the Society's Aaron Landau, who organized the Fire Department event.

On September 13th, 2008, we hosted a lecture on the centennial of our La Mesa Fire Department. This took place in our two year old Fire Station #11. A video of the history of the department along with photos from the archives of the LMFD and the LMHS were displayed around the conference room. Firefighter Dave Miller was the keynote presenter. The department's refurbished 1955 Kenwood fire truck was on the premises for young and old to climb aboard and check it out. A good time was had by all.

The next lecture occurred on Saturday, January 17th. This presentation was on another centennial event—the history of the Cleveland National Forest. Our speaker was the renowned La Mesa historian James Newland. Jim is a State historian for the California Department of Parks and Recreation and has authored a book entitled "The Cleveland National Forest" published by Arcadia Publishing. The book, in addition to a narrative history, includes numerous photographs depicting the colorful history of this local gem, which

encompasses San Diego County and Southern California. Mr. Newland had copies of his book available for sale and autographed many of them. His future project (in coordination with the Historical Society) will be book on the history of La Mesa itself, published again by Arcadia, and in time for the city's centennial in 2012.

2009 HISTORIC HOME TOUR

Saturday, November 7, 2009 will see the fourth Historic Home Tour presented by the La Mesa Historical Society. It will be co-sponsored by the City of La Mesa's Historic Preservation Commission. The tour will run 10 am to 3 pm. Tickets will be sent to society members as the event time approaches. Four homes are scheduled to be shown. Three are Spanish eclectic and 1 is mid-century modern. We are actively searching for a home of a different style to be included in the tour. Last year the Society netted a much-needed \$5700, which goes towards expenses of the event and general upkeep/endowment of the Society and its activities and property.

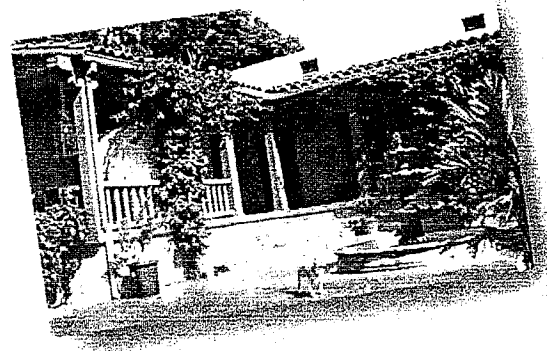
QUILT SHOW / MCKINNEY HOUSE CELEBRATION SUCCESS

Last September, the Society celebrated the McKinney House's 100th birthday and combined it with a very successful quilt show. There were many attendees who reminisced about the house and viewed museum-quality quilts hand-made by members of the community that were exhibited throughout the property. We thank all donors for allowing their quilts to be shown.

NEWLY DESIGNATED LANDMARKS



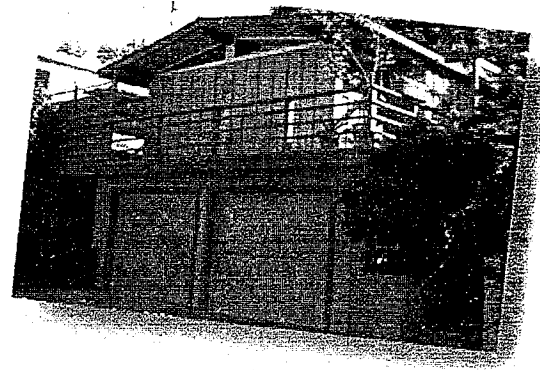
#29 Gilbert Judy House (1924)
Located at 4572 Date Avenue and owned by Debbie Caringi, it is a fine example of an early California cottage. It can be found in the Date Avenue Historic District and was occupied for many years by a prominent La Mesa family.



#31 Prather House (1927)
Located at 4171 Merritt Boulevard, this is a distinctive Spanish eclectic home utilizing using unique and rare handmade Junipero Spanish tiles. It is owned by Keith Okonski



#30 Thiele House (1915)
Located at 4572 Third Street, this is an early La Mesa example of an attractive tract home by a pioneer builder. It is virtually unchanged and is owned by Chat and Charlene Ashburn.



#32 Styles House (1953)
At 8545 Chevy Chase Drive, Lane Rider owns this mid-century modern home on Boulder Heights. It was designed and produced by noted architect Cliff May as a "kit" house.



#55 Cole Residence (1954)

Lloyd Ruocco, an outstanding architect, designed this mid-century modern house located at 5628 Nokonis Street overlooking the Eucalyptus Reservoir of the original Flume. It is owned by Vincent Ursillo and Jeffery Kleve

NOTE: The City of La Mesa adopted a Historic Preservation Element of the General Plan on December 11, 1984. The goals of the Preservation Element are to preserve existing historic resources and foster community pride through the identification and improvement of historic sites, buildings and districts. To qualify for recommendation as a Historic Landmark, specific historical criteria must be met. A structure should be characteristic of a distinctive style, period or method of construction; be identified with a person of historical significance; represent the work of a notable architect or builder; or embody elements of outstanding attention to detail and craftsmanship. A written request for designation from the property owner needs to be filed with the Community Development Department accompanied by sketches, photos and historic background of the structure. The Historic Preservation Commission will then review the application and, if approved, will submit a written recommendation to the City Council. At a public hearing, the City Council will consider the designation and vote on the request.

NEW MAP OF LANDMARKED STRUCTURES AVAILABLE

Dave Kievit and Dot Harrop have just completed a new map of landmarked structures and sites in our fine city. Published February, 2009, please come by the McKinney House during open hours for your free copy.

NEW MEMBERS

The following La Mesa history buffs recently joined the Historical Society and we thank them. Their contribution assists our cause to preserve the city's history and to keep it for generations to come. Thanks for joining and don't forget to come by the McKinney House to visit with us.

- Connie Baer
- John and Eliza Martin
- Sue Williamson
- Teresa Stalnaker
- Joan Rollins
- Betty Frizzell/Mark Beeson
- Mark and Sheila Wilson
- Helen Ofield
- Dory Miller
- Kitty Nicholson
- Evangeline Englert
- Rose Snow
- Peter Soutowood
- Wendy Harrison
- Ed Woodruff
- Lee and Nancy Hauser
- Ron and Dale May
- Karen Markowitz
- Kathryn Greene
- Nancy Clement
- Dr. Lynn Leventis
- Bill Baber
- Lorna L. Walsh
- Marty J. Wingett

McKINNEY HOUSE PAINTING AND SCRAPING



Boy Scout Troop #319 (Jared Robin, Kennan Langsford, Daniel Jacobs, Deuyh Ho, and J. Delaney) and Scout Master John Wissenberg preserving history.

Six boy scouts from Troop #319 worked for six hours over Martin Luther King week-end on the back porch of the McKinney House. They washed the walls and then scraped loose paint, primed, and painted. The hours were put in toward a community service merit badge. The scouts were given a tour of the house, and spent some time with Gordon Jones in the Palermo building asking questions about the historical society and the history of La Mesa. A couple of the scouts were working on speeches for a communication project for which they planned to use The La Mesa Historical Society as their subject.

The boys used scrapers and paint brushes that replicated the tools of the time period in which the McKinney House was built. The paints were a bit more modern. When the project was near completion all the hard working painters were treated to pizza. Involving the Boy Scouts in the preservation of a historic house was a great success.

“La Mesa Through The Years – More Than a Century of Local History”

We’ve recently re-printed copies of this popular historical book about La Mesa. This second edition was published in 2002 and does not include some recent information (newly landmarked structures, for example), but it is still a definitive publication on the history of our city. It chronicles more than 130 years of people and events and includes chapters about civic leaders, historical homes, our movie-making heritage, local businesses, pioneer families and more. The price is \$15/members and \$20/non-members.

“Mount Helix Nature Theatre” DVD

Produced for the Historical Society, this twenty-minute CD depicts the history and building of this local landmark. The theatre was built and opened in 1925, though construction continued till 1929. Now held in trust by the Mt. Helix Park Foundation, the theatre project was designed by architect Richard Requa and landscape architect Emerson Knight. The price for this CD is \$20/members and \$25/non-members.

“Three Million Dollars” DVD

La Mesa had a part in movie-making history when it produced local movies between 1911 and the 1930’s. This 10-minute, black and white, silent movie was produced in 1911 when the city’s population was only about 700. This comedy can be purchased for \$10/members and \$12/non-members

All proceeds benefit the La Mesa Historical Society.

FOR SALE:

Saturday, May 2, 2009 McKinney House Rose Garden Celebration

Each year, in the Spring, the La Mesa Historical Society conducts a special ceremony at the Commemorative Rose Garden of the McKinney House. This year our celebration will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2009.

The Commemorative Rose Garden was initiated in 1996 with start-up funds 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 a donation of \$50 which goes towards the Rose Garden fund of the La Mesa Historical Society. Society member Hal Doerr designed and constructed the plaque. A Society board member presently maintains the garden.

If you wish to honor an individual, please complete the section below and send it with your check for \$50 to the La Mesa Historical Society, P.O. Box 882, La Mesa, CA 91944. The information and check must be received by April 10, 2009.

Name of Honoree _____ Donor Name

Donor Address

Donor Telephone # _____ Date

Reason for commemoration and information about Honoree:



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

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