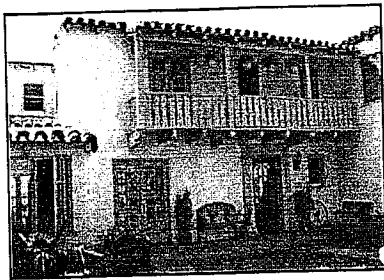


La Mesa Historical Society

LOOKOUT AVENUE

Fall 2009

Volume 30, Issue 19



Clang, Clang, Clang Goes the Trolley!

Saturday, November 7, 2009 will see the fourth Historic Home Tour presented by the La Mesa Historical Society. The tour features five La Mesa historic homes dating from 1927 and will run from 10 AM to 3 PM.

- Dall House, an imaginative house in a Spanish Villa style, built in 1938 atop Mount Nebo.
- Styles House, built in 1953 in the Mid-Century Modern style. It was designed by renowned architect Cliff May.
- Hyatt Home, an expansive Spanish Colonial home, built in 1935.
- Prather House, a Spanish Colonial built in 1927, featuring rare and unique Junipero Company roof tiles.
- Simard House, a Mediterranean style house designed by preeminent architect Lillian Rice in 1938, and built by the commander of Midway Island at the WWII Battle of Midway.
- The tour also includes the 1911/1925 Central Congregational Church, of Spanish Mission design, with a Gill-designed chapel.

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 since there is limited parking and vehicle access for most of the homes. Please call (619) 465-1883 for more information.

Next Up: La Mesa During the Great Depression: First-Hand Accounts From Those Who Were There.

Presenters will include Jim Polak, Andy Smith and Norrie West with Aaron Landau moderating; at 10 AM, Saturday, October 24, in the Grossmont Healthcare District conference center adjacent to Briarcrest Park.

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For Your Calendar ...

- Saturday, October 24, 2009
History Roundtable: La Mesa in the 1930's
- Saturday, November 7, 2009
Historic Home Tour
- December 5, 2009
Christmas Open House
- March 28, 2010
Antique Street Faire
- May 1, 2010
Spring Tea and Annual Meeting

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We Welcome Our New Members!

- Marcie Atkisson, La Mesa, CA
- Tim Katzman, La Mesa, CA
- Pat and Suzanne McHenry, La Mesa, CA
- Spencer Luke, Cardiff, CA
- Dr. Steven Luke, Naples, FL
- Lawrence A. Scriver, La Mesa, CA
- Penny & Chris Brawner, La Mesa, CA
- Joanne Nelson, La Mesa, CA



A Very Special Walking Tour of the Village!

Karissa Valencia, in her pursuit of a Girl Scout Gold Award, organized historical walking tours of the Village of La Mesa in mid- August. With the assistance of Lisa Lei, Jacob Klein and Julia Shu, all of whom are recent graduates of Helix High, she and other students designed and led tours focusing on the development of the city.

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President's Comments

Donna Niemeier

Volunteers have been working hard this summer planning and organizing our fall events and attending committee meetings. Aaron has lined up three wonderful speakers for this quarters Roundtable. Please join us and learn first had what it was like to live during the 1930's depression. Also, thanks to Gordon, Linda and Rod for all they are doing to make this year's Home Tour another great success. The quality and variety of the houses on the tour is impressive. Don't miss it. You will have a great day.

We have established an Accession and Archives committee to organize the La Mesa Historical Society's collection. This includes computerizing all archival materials and objects as well as cleaning the storage building and properly storing all materials.

We also have established a Centennial 2012 committee. The committee has been meeting since January 31, 2009. Members are now working with a larger committee established by

the La Mesa City Council which is planning a celebration for the City's centennial.

I hope you enjoyed my "Historic Highlight" about the Colonel Randlett Home in the spring/summer newsletter. Thanks to Wendy Harrison for the information she sent about the property. I have included that information in my article about Rose Hedge Manor the Randlett House.

Here is the "Historic Highlight" question for this issue. Who was the first physician to live in La Mesa? He established a tuberculosis sanatorium in La Mesa in 1904 and he was elected to the first City Council in 1912. Who was he and where was his sanatorium?

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Board of Directors:

Board meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM.

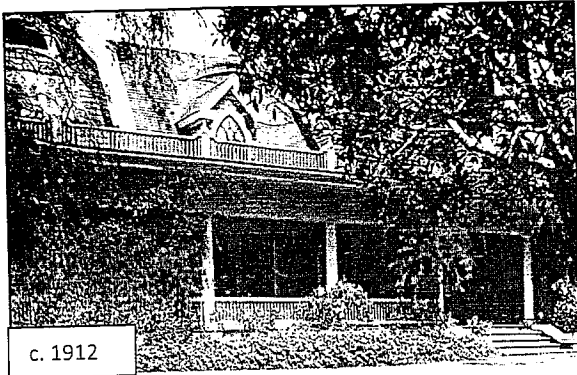
President	Donna Niemeier
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	Tom Hart
	Cherie Peacock
	Linda Rankin
	Pat Stromberg
	Kathy Tinsley
Past President	Gordon Jones

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Rose Hedge Manor - the Colonel Randlett House

The ten-acre piece of land where Rose Hedge Manor was built was purchased by Colonel James F. Randlett soon after his arrival in La Mesa in 1906. The house sat where the Rose Hedge Manor condominiums are today, 4900 Rosehedge Dr., off La Mesa Blvd. across the street from Little Flower Haven.

(continued on page 3)



c. 1912

Colonel Randlett was a U.S. army officer and Civil War veteran who chose to retire in La Mesa. After purchasing his land he constructed a home and planted a citrus orchard. He played a major role in the early development of La Mesa Springs. He was among the original subscribers to the fund for the building of the irrigation flume that brought water from Cuyamaca Lake to La Mesa. In 1908 Randlett was one of the prominent people of La Mesa Springs who organized a library association so the citizens might avail themselves of the traveling library furnished by the State.



Edwards, James and Mary Porter on the steps of Rose Hedge Manor In 1926.

In 1916 members of another important pioneer family James W. Porter and his sister Mary H. Porter came to visit family in La Mesa Springs. Upon the death of Colonel Randlett James Porter bought Randlett's home. The Porters developed the house into a lavish residence. They called it "Rose Hedge" because of the Cherokee rose hedge encircling the property. Soon after James Porter purchased the property, his brother Edwards William Porter, also moved into Rose Hedge. The three siblings lived at Rose Hedge

until their deaths: Edwards 1928, Mary 1929, and James Porter on May 10, 1934 at the age of 96.

During his 18 years in La Mesa James Porter was active in the Congregational Church and La Mesa Country Club. He donated Porter Park and Porter Hall to the city in memory of his brothers and sister. He also paid off the indebtedness of the Congregational Church in the 1930's and gave the church the organ and chimes used in its services.

Edwards Porter was a prominent political figure. He was appointed to fill a vacancy on the La Mesa City Council. Then he was reelected to serve a full term and later elected to serve as Mayor of La Mesa from 1920-1924. It was under Mr. Porter's regime as mayor that the city first undertook the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the city's sewer system. During his second term Edwards and his board built La Mesa's first swimming pool in Collier Park.

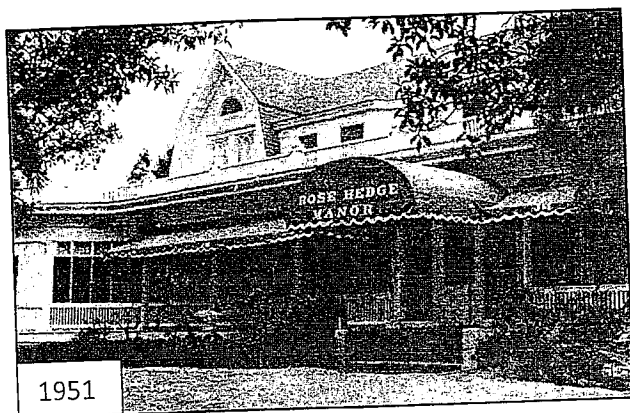
At his death all of James Porter's properties were deeded to his cousin Sherman Goble. In 1937 Goble remodeled the residence and built bungalows and guest cottages on the property. A headline in the La Mesa Scout on December 31, 1937 stated, "Open House Jan. 1 at Rose Hedge Ranch". Until 1947 Rose Hedge Manor Ranch was run as a guest home and also was the residence of Sherman and Anna Goble.

During this time in 1944 the surrounding property was subdivided into residential lots. In the September 15, 1944 La Mesa Scout the following was reported. "La Mesa will soon have a new and unique subdivision which promises to provide an exceptionally desirable residential section. Mr. Goble plans to maintain his residence and five bungalows and cut Rose Hedge Drive through the property to Randlett drive. The subdivision will be restricted to residential use and all lots will be 100 feet in width facing toward the Goble residential property, which will be improved as a park."

Sherman Goble died in June 1947. His wife Anna B. Goble maintained ownership of Rose Hedge and leased the house from 1947-1957 to Raburn "Rusty" and Marshall Rust. The Rust family which included three children, lived at Rose Hedge,

(continued on page 4)

rented out rooms and established a restaurant. Susan Embree, the Rust's daughter remembers wonderful times living at Rose Hedge. Her father did the cooking and daily baking. He was famous throughout the county for his fried chicken dinners. Her mother was the hostess. Susan remembers playing in the many rooms and learning to drive a stick shift car on the circular drive.



An advertisement for the restaurant published in 1951 stated, "Rose Hedge Manor was built more than 50 years ago. As the home of a Colonel Randlett, it was the gathering place for the early century San Diego county leaders. All that remains of this by-gone era of mansions and vast orange groves in the name and architecture of the old Manor. Under the management of Ray Rust and his wife, the Manor is once again a gathering place for people who enjoy good food."

Sometime after the Rust's lease ended the Rose Hedge Manor Mandarin Garden an Oriental cuisine restaurant was established. The Oriental restaurant was opened through mid 1960 when the building was used in a controlled burn by the La Mesa fire department.

A report in the La Mesa Scout on August 20, 1964 states that the La Mesa City Council gave approval for owner, Clyde R. Capelo, to put a commercial building on the property. On February 3, 1965 an article in the Scout states "...the owner, Clyde Capelo, will also ask planners for a variance on the property to allow placing apartment buildings on the rear portion without maintaining the required side yards and setbacks."

No information could be found about the exact date Rose Hedge Manor was burned. City directories show that the building was vacant in 1965 and Rose Hedge Manor Apartments were established by 1967.

Information from Wendy Harrison indicates that the carriage house and the stable still survive and are tucked behind the existing condominiums. In the alley accessed from Rosehedge are a few remnant rose bushes, presumably from Col. Randlett's collection.

Susan Embree does not remember a carriage house or stable but thinks the original barn was made into a residence when Sherman Goble did the renovation in 1937.

Donna Niemeier

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Recent Gifts...

- ❖ A series of fine color aerial photographs of the I-8/125 interchange construction in the early 1990's. Given by Chris and Juanita Thomas.
- ❖ A panoramic photograph of the La Mesa Elementary School student body in front of the school in 1928. Given by Judy Jo Beardslee.
- ❖ Public safety patches, old postcards of our area, a gorgeous souvenir book of the Panama - California Exposition of 1915-25; with a large fold-out photo of Mount Helix, a program for a 1926 Mt. Helix Easter sunrise service, and one of the treasured limited edition autographed copies of William Gross' book *The Conquest of California*. All given by Jeff McGreevy.

Lookout Avenue is a publication of the
La Mesa Historical Society.
Editor: Gordon Jones
(619) 465-1883.
www.lamesahistoricalociety.com.

We Need Your Help!!!!

Photos, Memorabilia, & Memories Needed for New History Book & Centennial Programs

As noted in the last edition of Lookout Avenue work is underway to publish a new book on La Mesa history. Local historian Jim Newland will author the book for the Historical Society and it will be produced through Arcadia Publishing, noted for their local photographic history books. This book should be out by Summer 2010 and is hoped to shed awareness for the City's upcoming Centennial in 2012—of which planning is also underway.

With these important projects coming up, it is a logical time to supplement and update the Historical Society's archival collections. The Society as most of you know, has a wonderful collection of historical photos, records, and memorabilia both projects—however as we look to cover the full history of the City and local environs up to today, we need additional images and memorabilia—especially those of individuals, institutions, and activities of the last 40 or so years.

We are interested in photos, memorabilia and also memories that are out there and would be important contributions in documenting La Mesa history. Recognize that it is your stories and photographs that hold the "personal" history of the community. Remembrances of the local houses, schools, churches, businesses, youth sports, clubs, issues, families, individuals and events are of interest. The day-to-day history of life in La Mesa is just as important and relevant as what was well documented in the newspaper or other public records.

Start combing through your old photographs, shaking loose your memories, and help identify long-time neighbors, residents, and community leaders who would be important subjects for interviewing as well. One goal is also to move forward with establishing an on-going oral history program as well. So please help us uncover and share our collective histories for current and future residents to enjoy. You and your neighbors' memories are an essential part of preserving and celebrating the unique heritage of La Mesa.

We are looking to collect your memories through:

Photographs: Thanks to new technology we do not necessarily need to have you give us your photographs. Computer scanning has become such that digital images can be safely archived. Therefore if you are willing to share photographs (loose, framed, in albums) of La Mesa and the surrounding area please contact us.

Memorabilia: Objects other than photographs or items that can be scanned are also of interest. Street or business signs, maps, restaurant menus, advertisements, business letterheads & cards, contracts & deeds, event flyers, architectural plans, school yearbooks and other such items/objects may also be of interest.

Oral History Interviews: Help us to identify those who would be great subjects for recording. We will also be needing volunteers to help with these activities—training will be provided.

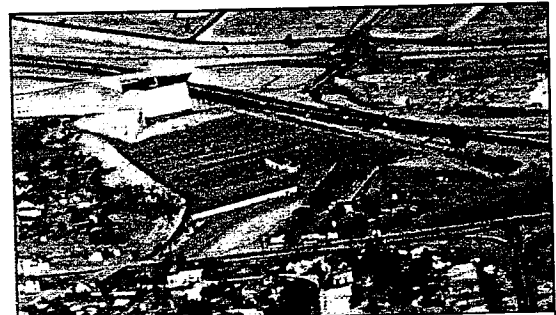
Just remember that your photos and memorabilia don't have to be really, really old. Items from just a few years ago or ten or twenty years ago that document individuals and events are just as valid historical sources. Also, photos and stories of houses, buildings, families and everyday life don't have to be "professional quality." Sometimes that simple family snapshot has far more historical value than the professionals' portrait of a building or business.

All images and materials will be made available to benefit the programs of the Historical Society and our community partners. More information on these programs will be forthcoming soon.

If you would like to contribute, please contact the Society at 619-466-0197.

Jim Newland

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Alvarado Drive-In Theater: at the northwest corner
of Baltimore Dr. and El Cajon Blvd.



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www.lamesahistoricalsociety.com

Change Service Requested

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