

Mark your calendar

Quarterly History

Roundtable

* Sat., Oct. 22 *

Fall Back Festival

* Sun., Oct. 30 *

Christmas Open

House

* Sat., Dec. 10 *

Lookout Avenue

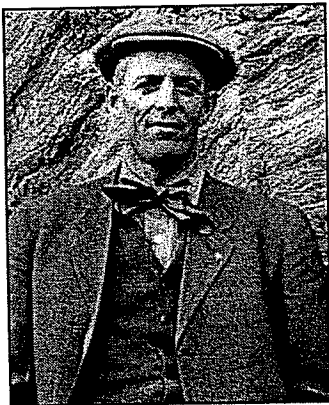


Volume 30 Number 7 Fall 2005

Discover Grossmont

Early Settlement of Grossmont Mountain by Pioneers Ed Fletcher and William Gross

10 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 22nd
*La Mesa Historical Society, 4369 University Ave.,
Palermo Archives Building*



Ed Fletcher

Grossmont will be the topic for The La Mesa Historical Society's Quarterly History Roundtable. Attendees will learn about the early settlement of Grossmont Mountain by pioneers Ed Fletcher and William Gross. You will discover the incredible technical achievements of Ed Fletcher, who pioneered development of the mountain with the financial and marketing help of William Gross.

Did you know that El Granito Avenue, the first road up the mountain's north slope was dubbed "Freaky Fletcher's Frantic Flight" because of the dubious possibility of building a road through a mountain slope peppered with boulders?

Learn about Grossmont's Art Colony, the early mountain settlers, and the first homes built on the knoll – and which ones are still standing. Find out about landscaping projects on the mountain by renowned horticulturist Kate Sessions and landscape designer Roland Hoyt.

Grossmont has a rich heritage of art, music, architecture and horticulture that continues today as its residents discover the enchantment of life on the mountain. Please call (619) 466-0197 early with reservations. Be sure to leave your name, telephone number and names of guests. If the response warrants, we will arrange for another, larger venue and notify you. Continental breakfast will be available at this free History Roundtable.

About the speaker

Pamela Bensoussan is an accredited senior member of the American Society of Appraisers. She is both a personal property appraiser specializing in art and antiques and a real estate appraiser focusing on historic properties. The Chula Vista Mayor and Chula Vista City Council recently appointed her to a four-year term on the Chula Vista Planning Commission. Bensoussan, who has also served for several years on the Chula Vista Resource Conservation Commission, has been an active participant on various advisory committees involved in the City's general plan update and urban core revitalization. A longtime advocate of partnering historic preservation with urban renewal, Bensoussan received the Congress of History of San Diego and Imperial Counties Award of Honor in 2002, and in 2004 she was named Chula Vista's Historic Preservationist of the Year.



William Gross

A note from the president

by Gordon Jones



You're going to see certain significant changes at the Society in the near future, with new board members **Dave Kievit** and **Dr. Rienzi Haytasingh** getting deeply involved quickly. Just look at what else is mentioned elsewhere in Lookout Avenue. Please call to volunteer if you see something in

which you would like to be involved.

We are considering replacing the summer event with La Mesa's first home tour of historic homes next Fall, retaining the arts and crafts portion and foods available for purchase. Much more on this exciting project in the next issue. The summer raffle will be incorporated into the Spring 2006 Rose Garden Ceremony, Tea and Annual Meeting (and will include a plant sale).

Assuming the 3rd annual Antique Street Fair, sponsored by our La Mesa Village Merchants Association, comes off on Sunday, March 26, 2006, you will see us there, enjoying ourselves as usual. More on that later.

La Mesa Historical Society, Board of Directors

July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006

President: Gordon Jones

1st Vice President: Donna Niemeier

2nd Vice President: Ruth Contino

Secretary: Sharon Crockett

Treasurer: Donna Niemeier

Directors-at-Large:

Stephanie Glazer

Ed Blackman

Kathy Tinsley

Virginia Hill

Dr. Rienzi Haytasingh

David Kievit

**This newsletter is created by LMHS
Newsletter Editor, Stephanie Glazer.**

**For information or suggestions,
contact her at (619) 466-0197.**

La Mesa Historical Society turns 30!

On July 16, the La Mesa Historical Society celebrated its 30th anniversary at its annual summer celebration on the lawn of the McKinney House. Members and guests alike celebrated to the sounds of great oldies classics from The Ideas, while feasting on the fabulous burgers from Johnny B's Burgers and Brew, drinking rootbeer floats, and playing old fashioned games.

Many thanks to the Foothills Art Association and the Spinners and Weavers for sharing their talents. All proceeds from the summer event help the society with its efforts to preserve La Mesa's history.

We congratulate the winners of the raffle, and of course a special thanks for all who donated. They winners are: **C. A. Bras** won a handmade sampler quilt, donated by Legacy Quilting Guild of Santee; **Julie Krummenacher** won a 1940's Tinware Basket, donated by Gordon and Carol Jones; **Frances Lee** won a porcelain doll donated by Amanda Bingham; **Marilyn Webb** won Legoland Tickets, donated by Donna Niemeier; **Michael Rummel** won a See's Candy gift certificate, donated by Donna Niemeier; **Peg Overlund** won "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" board game, donated by Amanda Bingham; **Sharon Fitzpatrick** and **Ruth Kramer** each won Lamplighter Tickets, donated by Lamplighter Theater; **Brice Lockwood** won railroad tickets; **Ellen Briggs** won a \$20 Cosmos gift certificate, donated by Dr. Rienzi Haytasingh; **Bob Friedgen** won a Nasturtiums painting, donated by Hazel Ross; and **Helen Givens** won a red flower painting, donated by Maic.

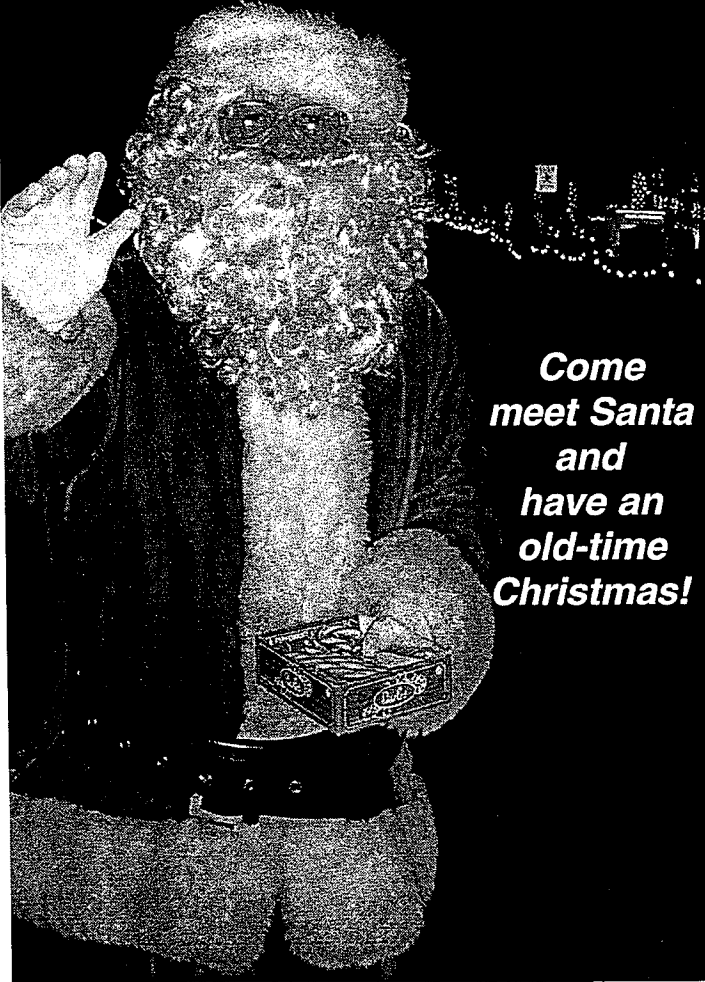
LMHS welcomes its newest members

Mary and Paul Nelson, Keith Okonski, Tim and Gwendolyn Campbell, Pamela Bensoussan, Catherine F. Jervey, Jean Sweetwood, and Alan and Lesley Collins.

It's great to have you with us!

Christmas Open House set for Sat., Dec. 10

In keeping with tradition, the La Mesa Historical Society will once again be hosting a Christmas Open House on Saturday, Dec. 10. Look for more information mid-November.



**Come
meet Santa
and
have an
old-time
Christmas!**

Gaslamp Quarter Street Faire

We are looking forward to our participation again in the 5th annual Fall Back Festival – Children's Historic Street Faire. It will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 30. Several new LMHS volunteers are joining in this free event in the historic Gaslamp attended by thousands of children of San Diego, and we will have a booth of hands-on old games and educational materials of the past. Take your kids and grandkids for this unique Halloween event – you'll love it!

La Mesa Historical Society Annual Financial Report, July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005

As of June 30, 2005, the LMHS has a total of \$44,075.24 in monetary assets. The Histories CD, Capital Improvement CD, and \$3,019.10 of the Savings Account are restricted funds and can only be used for designated expenditures. Monies are distributed in the following categories:

Checking Account	\$3,306.61
Savings Account	\$23,579.41
Histories CD	\$9,429.32
Capital Improvement CD	\$7,732.90
Cash	\$25.00

Total gross receipts for the year ending June 30, 2005 are \$10,522.10. The LMHS received income in the following categories:

Contributions	\$1,858.60
Special Event Fund Raising	\$3,525.00
Sales	\$1,389.50
Membership	\$3,545.00
Investment Income	\$204.00

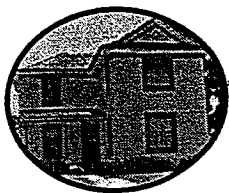
Total expenses for the year ending June 30, 2005 are \$9,881.75. Reimbursements were made in the following categories:

Special Event Fund Raising	\$1,047.98
Sales	\$101.29
Promotional/Administrative	\$2,011.83
Utilities and Maintenance	\$6,664.09
Preservation	\$56.56

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.

Roof and Porch Repair

We are presently searching for a competent contractor(s) to replace the old, disintegrating roof and dry-rotted, termite-eaten front porch of our McKinney House. We would like to hear from you if you know of good contractors, especially if they are knowledgeable regarding historical structures. We would like to add to our database.



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

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 _____

City _____ Zip _____

Ph () _____

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