

LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

# LOOKOUT AVE.

VOL. No. 3, ISSUE No. 3

FEBRUARY 1979



## ROARING TWENTIES DINNER FEBRUARY 15

Have you remembered your reservations? Plan to arrive at 6:30 to hear the Dixie Land Music. BEN CASEY'S ALL STARS, a group of local doctors, will donate their time for the Social Hour, since they are interested in LMHS. (One of them, Dr. Clyde McMorrow, the drummer, is a past president of San Diego Historical Society.) The others are Dr. Sam W. Smith, clarinet, Dr. Myron D. Fessler, trumpet, Dr. Bruce McClure, trombone, Dr. Ervin Billing, tuba, Dr. Marvin James, piano, and Dr. Vernon Perrigo and Dr. Larry Zinn, banjos. They will continue until the 7:30 swiss steak dinner. Another facet of the social hour will be the Zaney Photography. Wear costumes or borrow props of ours to enhance your photo: "something to remember us by." Appropriate door prizes will be given. Woody Linke is planning a RAFFLE of "art nouveau" items in the theme of the party. AFTER DINNER entertainment will be by Thora Guske, vocalist, and pianist Dorris Palley. Mary Smith and her Original Nostalgia Troupe, including Norris West, Lloyd Donahoo, Jim



## THE VILLAGE By Eric Sanders

The La Mesa City Council has approved Community Development Block Grant Funds to assist in restoration of the old La Mesa Depot--\$9,000 for site preparation and improvement and up to \$6,000 for the building itself. Receipt of the funds must be upon approval by HUD. In about two months it will be known which of two sites will be chosen: one, by the tracks on the West side near Nebo Hall; the other, between La Mesa Blvd. and Lemon Avenue.

Restoration is now in the design phase, but work cannot begin, of course, until the now rather fragile structure has been moved.

The La Mesa Depot Museum Committee has been enlarged to include Richard Teague, LMHS member, and Walley Barber, Pacific Southwest Railroad Museum Association

ANNUAL DINNER  
6:30 THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15  
THE OXBOW INN 9816 Campo Road Spring Valley  
\$5.95 includes tax and tip. Bring guests and prospective members.  
LATE RESERVATIONS Dorothy Griner 460-3726  
Dorothy will also try to arrange transportation for those living in the La Mesa area who'd like to go to the dinner but have no means of getting there. DIRECTIONS: From Spring Street, take Campo Road or take 94 East and exit at Kenwood Drive. The OXBOW is across the street from the FIESTA DINNER THEATRE.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

SUCCESS!

Wave flags, sound horns, ring bells!  
On January 30 La Mesa's City Council voted to grant the request of La Mesa Historical Society for \$25,000 to finance the restoration of the McKinney House. These funds will come from Fifth Year Housing and Community Development Block Grant Funds. Another hurdle to be crossed is approval by HUD. The City of La Mesa application will be made by April 30. Then we wait with fingers crossed!

Estimates were prepared by our Restoration Committee and submitted in detail to the Council at the time your president made the request. (See "Orchids" column.) It is anticipated that these funds will not be available from the Federal Government for a number of months. Meanwhile, your Board of Directors is pushing ahead as fast as feasible with funds at hand. The re-wiring is nearly complete; paint removal is under way on woodwork on the main floor. Plastering and repainting will follow as soon as possible.

Our appreciation to the City Staff and Council members for any and all assistance and their confidence in us!

Activity is available; your board hopes you will take advantage of the annual dinner, February 15, intended to be fun, full of reminiscences of the "old days," music, and zaney photos! Workshops at the House on February 10 and 24 allow active participation in restoration. Come out! ~~The Amtrak Tour~~ March 17 will be a great day! We hope to see you.

Sincerely,  
Joan L. Wilken, president.

JEAN SINCLAIR - SPECIAL PERSON

With great sadness we report the loss of member, Jean Sinclair, who died on December 27. A long-time La Mesa resident, Jean had taught and counseled in La Mesa Intermediate School (later Junior High School) for many years. A gifted writer, Jean had done considerable research for La Mesa's Bicentennial Committee as they prepared their Brief History. Jean's warmth and generous support will be sorely missed. Memorial

**CALENDAR**

- Feb. 7 7:15 Board Meeting
- Feb. 15 6:30 Annual Dinner
- Mar. 7 7:15 Board Meeting
- Mar. 17 TOUR--Amtrak to Santa Ana
- April 4 7:15 Board Meeting
- Easter Week Kids Tour of McKinney House
- May 2 7:15 Board Meeting
- May 20 Third Annual Membership Meeting. Election.
- June 6 Board Meeting
- June 23 TOUR - J. Paul Getty Art Museum
- July 1 Annual Ice Cream Social

ALSO

- Feb. 10 Work Party (Wood Stripping)
- Feb. 24 Work Parth (Wood Stripping)
- Feb. 19 Quilters Workshop
- MONDAYS (2nd and 4th) LMHS Quilters

ALSO

The McKinney House Museum Open Soon. Watch for announcement. Hours will be posted at the House.

Corrections

Annual Ice Cream Social will be July 1 instead of the date mentioned in the fall issue of LOOKOUT AVE.

Apologies: The drawing of Old Main was presented in memory of Elsie Moriarity Gilham--not Ellen. (Thanks, Thelma.)

**NOTICES**

At a short business session February 15, 2 members of the Nominating Committee will be elected. The election of officers will be held at the May 20 Pot Luck.

The Depot Museum Committee would like information regarding the former furnishings of the building. They are also trying to find any of Mr. Levette's relatives who might tell us about this former telegrapher-station agent, who was employed by the Railroad or the Western Union, and worked in the building.

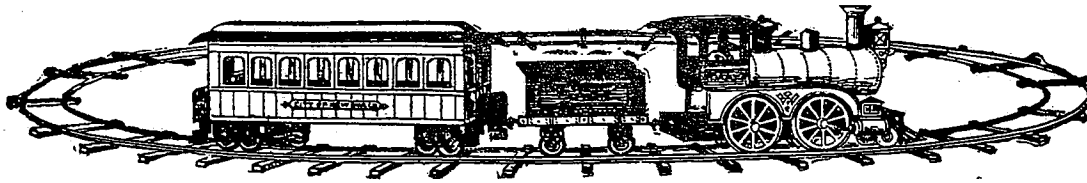
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If you still have pink, red or white camellias that you would share for the February 15 dinner tables, call Vivian Higgins, please. (466-9244.

HELP WANTED

For Spring Issue of LOOKOUT AVE.

## ALL ABOARD FOR SANTA ANA



The La Mesa Historical Society will sponsor a train tour to historic Santa Ana on Saturday, March 17. The tour will depart from the Santa Fe Depot at 9:30 A.M. and return at 8:10 P.M.

The first stop on the tour will be the Charles W. Bowers Memorial Museum (1931-1936). This Spanish Colonial Revival building, designed by Frank Lansdown, is set in a luxuriously planted garden. It is now a city museum which houses many treasures of local interest and features tours and rotating exhibits.

The tour will also be visiting the old Orange County Courthouse and the Howe-Waffle House, both of which are on the National Register of Historic Places, and the Episcopal Church of The Messiah.

In Southern California's oldest remaining courthouse, a Richardsonian-Romanesque structure built of red sandstone in 1900, one can see a restored courtroom and judge's chambers.

The Howe-Waffle House (1889) was the home of the first woman doctor to practice in Orange County. Now owned by the city of Santa Ana, this two-story, 12-room Queen Anne dwelling is currently being restored by the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society.

The Episcopal Church of The Messiah (1889) is one of four remaining Episcopal churches in Southern California designed by Edward Coxhead. This church is considered to be Coxhead's most sophisticated early design, combining Medieval Gothic, Classical, and late Queen Anne (shingle style) elements.

There will be two refreshment periods during which luncheon and dinner may be obtained. The cost is \$18.00 for adults; \$12.00 for children ages two to eleven. Reservations should be received by March 2. Refunds will not be made after that date unless tickets can be resold.

Please make your check payable to the La Mesa Historical Society and send it with a self-addressed stamped envelope to LMHS TRAIN TOUR, 8671 Tulare St., La Mesa, CA, 92041. For information, call Dorothy Griner or Donna Regan at (714) 460-3726.



### CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE REVIEW

The December 9 Open House, annual LMHS gift to the community, at which displays of charming miniatures and beautiful quilts and gourmet refreshments were shared, not only brought JOY but netted \$314.00! Raffle of the dollhouse created by Roy Swearengen and won by Mrs. Don Warfield, made the most of the profit. Stationery and fruit cakes were also sold. A truly sparkling occasion!

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### MEMORABILIA

By Thelma Todd

We received a most generous gift from Julius and Harriett Acevez, long time residents of La Mesa.

1. A handloomed blue and white reversible bedspread, made by Harriett's great grandmother, Mary J. Tower. In one corner is woven the date, 1854.

2. A small hand made quilt, log cabin pattern, made of silk ties and other silk pieces. It was made in 1875 by Harriett's grandmother, Eugenie H. Sawyer.

3. A black wool fringed shawl. It was brought to this country from Belgium by Harriett's Aunt Albertina Holl in 1900.

We appreciate this gift and I am sure many others will enjoy seeing handwork of this quality.

# THE MCKINNEY HOUSE AND ITS RESTORATION

## RESTORATION UPDATE

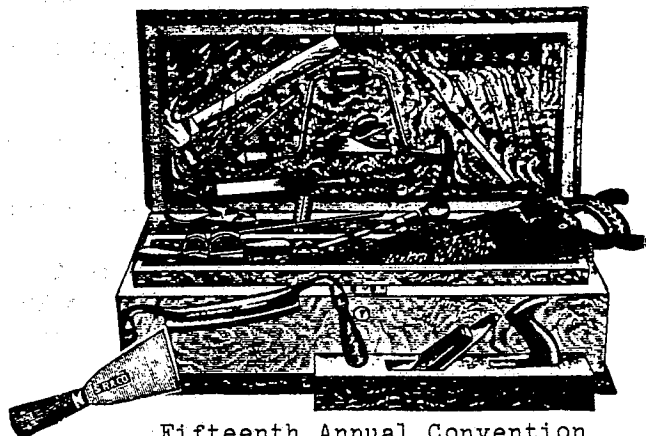
By Donna Regan

The most important news concerning restoration is of course the La Mesa City Council's recent decision to ask HUD for \$25,000 in Community Development Block Grant Funds for the McKinney House Restoration. If final approval is given by HUD, then we will be able to proceed much more quickly with the work to be done. Without the grant some of the major projects costing several thousand dollars, such as the re-roofing of the house, might have to wait for a number of years.

Meanwhile, through the rainy days of winter, work continues. Our electrician will soon complete the rewiring considered necessary for purposes of safety and convenience. This has included grounding existing outlets and adding new outlets and circuits.

Restoration of the woodwork in the dining room, entry hall, and office has already begun. Scheduled for the near future is the repair of the plaster in the dining room and office. The ceilings in both of these rooms have had cracks, and the dining room ceiling has extensive water damage, apparently owing to a leak from the upstairs bathroom some time in the past. After the damage is repaired, a finish coat of plaster will be applied to the entire ceiling and down to the picture molding. This plaster coat will have a sand finish to match the original.

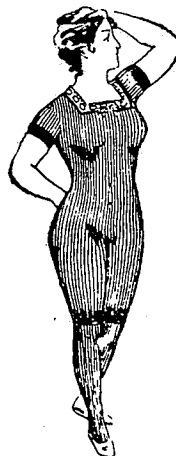
If you would like to participate in the restoration, please let us know. Call Donna Regan, 460-3726.



Fifteenth Annual Convention  
Congress of History of San Diego County  
Serra Hall, 2540 San Diego Avenue, Old Town  
THEME: CALIFORNIA--LAND OF NEW BEGINNINGS

## STRIPPERS NEEDED

ATTENTION!  
ALL STRIPPERS!



Strippers of woodwork, that is! Can you give a few hours of your time to the McKinney House?

Following the Restoration Committee's recommendation, the LMHS Board approved the decision to restore the woodwork in the McKinney House dining room, entry hall, and office to its original appearance.

According to family recollections and physical evidence, the woodwork in the principal rooms was finished with shellac or varnish when the house was built. In every room but the front room, however, the wood received a later coat of paint.

Work has already begun in the dining room to carefully remove the white paint. Fortunately, since the wood had been finished originally, it did not absorb the later paint, so removal is not as difficult as it could have been. But there is a lot of woodwork--especially in the dining room, which has four doors, door and window frames, plate rails, picture molding, china cupboard, and baseboard--so volunteers are needed to help with this endeavor.

We have scheduled two Saturdays in February for wood stripping: the 10th and the 24th, from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Also, tentatively, March 10 and 24. Other days can be arranged; let us know what is convenient for you.

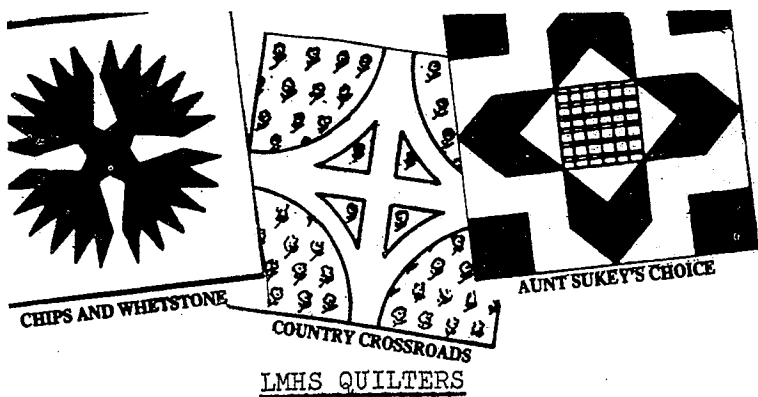
If you are coming on a scheduled day, please call in advance so that we can plan for the proper number of people and have sufficient equipment. Needed supplies include heavy rubber gloves; cotton-lined neoprene is recommended.

The work is not difficult, but does require care and patience. If you can devote a few hours to this project, please call Donna Regan, 460-3726.

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WELCOME Staff Artist, Clete Gress!

Do you know the history of the La Mesa Scene



ORCHIDS TO YOU!!

We are making good progress on the quilt for the McKinney House, but we are in need--urgent need--of more helpers between now and the end of June. We have a lovely quilt top donated by Nadine Washburn to complete for the July 1 Ice Cream Social Raffle.

Work has been started on smaller projects--Christmas decorations, aprons, pot holders, etc., (all quilted style) for additional fund raising.

Regular quilting sessions are on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at my home, 7949 Eastridge, at 10:00 A.M. On the 3rd Monday, February 19, there will be a general workshop--same time, same place. Bring a sack lunch. We welcome anyone with a few hours to spare who will kindly join us with helping hands. If you can cut patterns and squares, hand sew, machine stitch, "gofer," or have any hidden talents, we need you.

Also welcome are donations of fabric, cotton flannel, bias tape, lace or any kind of trimmings. These can be left at the McKinney Houe or my house.

We anticipate and appreciate your response.....Gail Chance 461-5722

JULY 1 PLANT SALE

Dawn Stanley repeats her request for plants--trees, shrubs, house plants, cactus, etc. If in styrofoam, they are easy to re-plant. Pots may be brought to the McKinney House; pick up pots there if you need containers in which to plant. If you'd like instructions for saving cuttings, call Dawn. We will then be prepared to add our efforts to the July 1 Fund Raising at the Ice Cream Social.

--Dawn Stanley (281-8660)

MORE ORCHIDS (Reaching 'way back)

To--Forrest McKinley, generosity in making the House available for purchase. AMERICAN LEGION POST 282 Aux, Several large contributions for

To--Eva Quicksall, Bill Orsborn, Lucile DeWaide, Vivian Higgins, Jean Twiss, Ragnhild Heath, and Mabel Perrapato for dinner arrangements and entertainment and to Dorothy Griner and Irene Judy for telephone reservations.

To--Anne Parker, Lloyd Donahoo, Gil and Irene Judy, Don McKinney, Mary Atkinson, Andy Smith, Jim, Pat and Noel Orsborn, Bill and Nancy Orsborn, Nancy McCarthy, Vivian Higgins, Dorothy Benton, Jean Morrell, Margaret Cauthen (publicity), Jay Fischer, Ruby Peters Machado, Harry Gilliam, Hally Holmes, and Joan Wilken for making a success of the GRAPEFRUIT DAZE project. They spent many cold hours selling and time driving to the Oso Ranch whose people also deserve thanks.

To--Elizabeth's Attic for lending hats and props for Zaney Photography.

To--Harriet Acevez for donation of historic antique quilts.

To--Hardy Kuykendall for insurance advice.

To--Dennis Tuttle for preparation of display boards for displaying early pictures at Oktoberfest and future events.

To--Everyone involved for the fine new sign which now identifies our McKinney House: La Mesa Lumber, supplies; Eddie Walsh, constructing the sign; Mr. McEwen, painting the sign; Donna Regan and Lee Griner, installation.

To--Eric Sanders, our liaison with Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Assn., for all the detailed shepherding required to get the funds for the return and restoration of the Old La Mesa Depot.

To--Woody Link, Vivian Higgins, Dawn Stanley and committees for hard work on the December 9 Open House and Quilt Show.

To--A cluster of members who helped make possible the successful bid for \$25,000 from the City of La Mesa: Donna Regan, Lloyd Donahoo, Dorothy Griner, Barry Worthington, Eric Sanders, Sandia Tuttle, Dick Wilken and Joan Wilken. Also, to Mayor Paul Fordem, Councilmen George Bailey, Rick Augustine, George Nagel and Walt Slater, City Staff, especially Mike Huse, for aid and comfort in achieving our goal.

.....ORCHIDS TO YOU ALL!

A Special Thank You

La Mesa Scene  
8200 Block  
La Mesa Blvd.



"Hippity hop to the Barber Shop  
To get a stick of candy;  
One for you and one for me  
And one for Sister Annie!"

LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
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LA MESA, CA 92041

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