

Volunteer Award ...



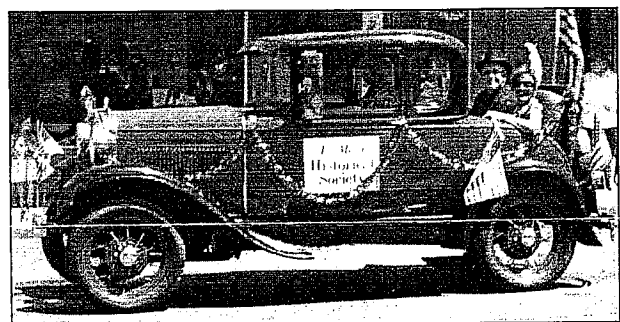
For the past two years, the La Mesa Historical Society has honored an outstanding member and volunteer. This year on May 1, 2010 at the Annual Meeting,

Rose Garden Celebration and English Tea, we honored long time member, Carol Lockwood, for her outstanding service by presenting her with the Volunteer Award.

Carol Lockwood became a member of the La Mesa Historical Society in 1976 and has served on the Board of Directors, helped with fundraising activities, written articles and chapters for various publications, assisted with house tours for school-age children and preservation of household articles, and is a docent in the McKinney House. Mrs. Lockwood is especially appreciated for continuing to volunteer one afternoon a month as a docent in the McKinney House.

In addition you may have had the opportunity to meet her husband, Brice, who also volunteers for many activities and tends the flowers in the pots in front of the McKinney

House. So... if you visit the McKinney House on the third Saturday of the month in the afternoon, you will have the opportunity to visit with Carol and discover the history of the Historical Society and the McKinney House. Thank you, Carol.



Rumbling right along in Judy Jo Beardslee's Model A are LMHS VP Aaron Landau and his wife, Bernadette, all enjoying the annual Flag Day Parade.

Upcoming LMHS Presentations ...

Mark your calendars for the next LMHS history presentations. Two are currently scheduled. They are connected, so it is very likely that you might want to attend both of them.

The first is on the background to the formation of the Grossmont Union High School District in 1920 and the building and opening of Grossmont High School in September 1922. The presenters are Jim Newland, local historian and author whose recent book is a history of La Mesa, and Aaron Landau, 1st VP of the LMHS. The lecture/

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presentation will take place in the Library of Grossmont High School on the school campus On **Saturday, August 28th at 10 AM.**

The second presentation will cover the history of Grossmont High School through the years from its opening in September 1922 through the 1980s. Highlights in academics and athletics as well as unique traditions, outstanding alums, and memorable stories from those decades will be covered. The presenters are Don Ginn, GHS alum, current journalism teacher and school historian and Aaron Landau. This lecture/presentation will also take place in the Library of Grossmont High School on the school campus on **Saturday, September 25th at 2 PM.** September 25th is the actual opening day of the then brand new Grossmont High School in 1922.

This presentation will be part of a day-long celebration of the 90th anniversary of the Grossmont District and Grossmont High School. You are advised to arrive early for this presentation, as parking will be tight around the entire perimeter of the high school due to this large, well-advertised day-long fiesta.

We Welcome Our New Members!

David and Mary Cuzick
 Dave Campbell
 Mary Ann Glatt
 Lothian Realty Group, Inc.
 Kristin and Lucas Kjaero

Rose Garden Honorees ...

Inducted into the honor roll of La Mesans at the May 1, 2010 celebration were:

- o Curtis Clare, a minister serving the La Mesa United Church of Christ, Sharp Grossmont Hospital and family and youth services.
- o Dorothy and Lee Griner, instrumental in the founding and maturation of the La Mesa Historical Society.

- o Gordon Jones, eight-year president of the historical Society and founder of the Historic Home Tour.
- o F. "Mac" McClellan, a long-time La Mesa auto dealer and business leader and amateur golfer.
- o Col. J. A. "Jack" Moore, a Berlin airlift veteran, realtor, General Dynamics analyst, Rotarian, and resident since 1950.
- o Viktor and Marian Svensson, who moved to La Mesa in 1951 upon retirement from the Coast Guard and raised their family.
- o Rev. John M. C. Warren, a lemon rancher (near La Mesa Blvd at University) since 1905, whose sister, Louise, was city librarian.



A gorgeous day for a celebration!

Board of Directors:

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

President	Donna Niemeier
1 st Vice Pres.	Aaron Landau
2 nd Vice Pres.	Ruth Contino
Secretary	Sharon Crockett
Treasurer	Rod Whitlow
Directors-at-Large	Ed Blackman
	Tom Hart
	Cherie Peacock
	Linda Rankin
	Pat Stromberg
	Kathy Tinsley
Past President	Gordon Jones

Accessions and Archives Report

Due to our very successful work party on May 22, 2010 we now have a complete inventory of everything in the McKinney House Museum. This includes photographs and descriptions. Thanks to the wonderful work crew Ruth Contino, Pam Clark, Gordon Jones, Aaron Landau, Jim Newland, Linda Rankin, Janis Schlundt, Leslie Tonkinson and Rod Whitlow. A job well done.

We are continuing to work on Thursdays and Saturdays through July, August and September on the archives building inventory. If you are able to help please call me at 619 461-2419.



President's Comments ...

As I start my second term as La Mesa Historical Society President I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board members and volunteers

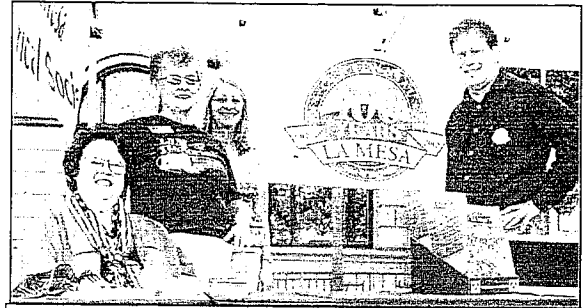
who have and are continuing to support me. Our organization is thriving because of the hard work being done by so many of you. When I ask for help with activities, events and programs the responses are always positive.

You make my job fun and easy to do. You make me look good and I appreciate it.

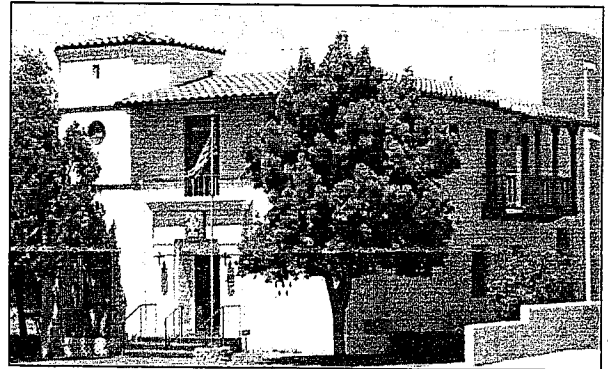
THANK YOU ONE AND ALL.

Andy Phemister, Charmon Lehew, and Janis Schlundt responded to our spring "History Highlights" question. Walt Disney sent Briar Patch elementary school a letter, figures of Br'er Rabbit and his animal friends as well as records of "Song of the South" for the opening day ceremony on January 26, 1958. Andy said that the letter hung on the office wall and Charmon informed me that the figures were on the nurses' room windows.

The "History Highlights" question for this issue is: Which La Mesa park was used by the San Diego Chargers from 1964-1970 as an in-season practice site?



The new book premieres at the Flag Day Parade.
(l to r: Patty O'Reilly, Donna Niemeier, Ruth Contino, author Jim Newland)

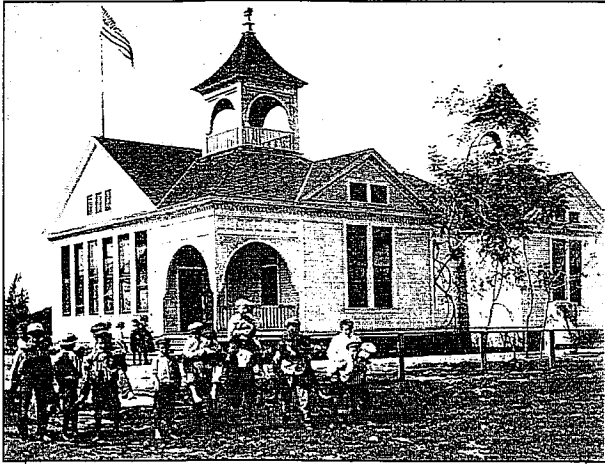


Happy 100th Birthday!

La Mesa's Masonic Lodge celebrated its 100th anniversary with a ceremony on Saturday, June 19. Their Spanish Colonial Building was built in 1930, designed by Henry Wright and built by prominent La Mesa contractor David Marker for \$17,200. Innumerable civic and social leaders of our community have been members. A wonderful commemorative book was put together by Lodge member and LMHS member Bob Speegle.

Don't forget ...

to get your copy of the new book just published by the La Mesa Historical Society, authored by LMHS member Jim Newland. It contains 200 vintage photos in 128 pages and is a limited edition. A copy can be yours for \$20.



First La Mesa/Spring Valley school in 1911.

La Mesa-Spring Valley School District & Brier Patch Elementary School ...

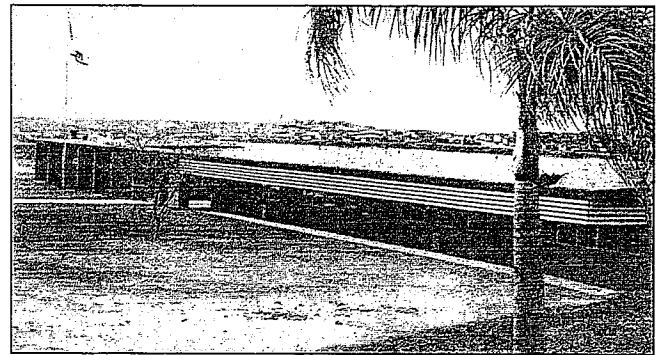
La Mesa, since it was named Allison Springs, has emphasized public education. The Allison School District was founded in 1891 with a proposed school of the same name to be built on land originally owned by Robert Allison. The minutes of the Board of Trustees for May 6, 1895 indicated the Board's approval of an election on the question of a bond issue for \$2000. The vote was passed and after the election school construction began on a 150-foot square lot, known as the Barbour Tract. This lot was located just where the school district office is today. The Board also contracted for a schoolhouse to be built for \$450. Before the school house was completed classes were held in the lemon packing shed by the railroad tracks. The schoolhouse was completed in 1895. Instruction began that year with less than 20 students. Even after the school was completed the children used the Barbour lemon orchard for a lunch area and to play games during recess.

The Allison Street School was doubled in size in 1908 and replaced by La Mesa Grammar school in 1914. La Mesa Grammar was the only school providing kindergarten through 8th grade classes for the children in the La Mesa-Spring Valley School District until 1942-43.

In 1942, the impact of World War II increased the population in the area and it became necessary to build two new schools, Lemon Avenue and Spring Valley Elementary. The building boom continued through 1970 with 18 more schools being added to the district rolls. (Rolando-1946, Casa de Oro-1948, La Mesa Dale-1949, Fletcher Hills-1951), La Mesa Jr. High-1951, Spring Valley Jr. High-1951, Murray Manor-1954, Northmont-1957, Bancroft-1957, Maryland Ave.-1958, Brier Patch-1958, Avondale-1959, Rancho-1960, Parkway Jr. High-1961, Highlands-1962, Kempton-1963, La Presa Elementary-1965, and La Presa Jr. High-1968. The last three schools to be built by the District were: Murdock-1972, Loma-1979 and Sweetwater Springs-1993.)

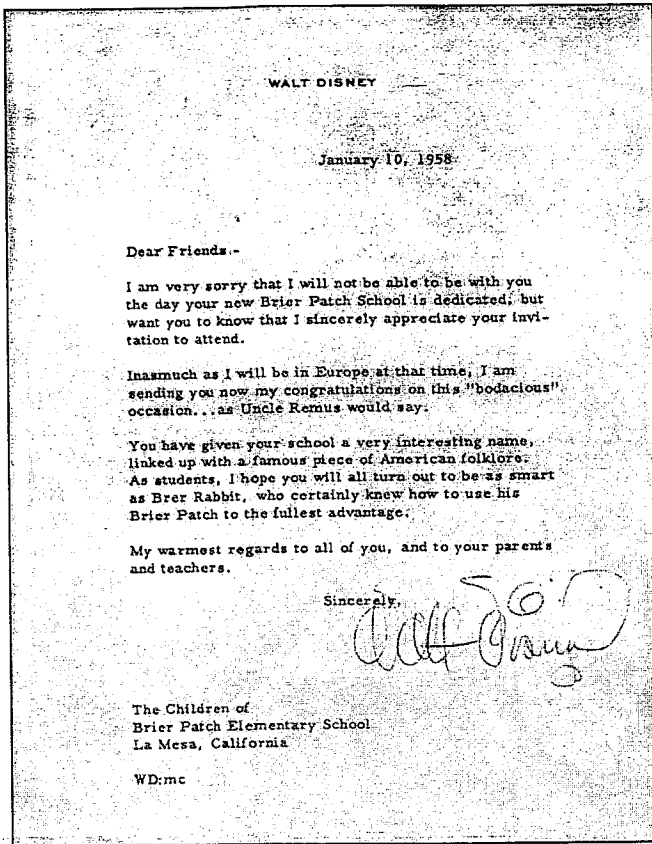
Now on to the Spring Newsletter "History Highlight" question. Which La Mesa school received a letter from Walt Disney when it opened in 1958? Of course by now you know that the school was Brier Patch Elementary.

The school site was known as "The Brier Patch" in the late 1800's because of the native berries which covered the area. Later it was a popular berrying spot for ranchers who referred to it as Brier Patch. The school dedication took place on January 26, 1958. Before dedication started, the principal Jim Halcomb and custodian caught a young wild rabbit on the school grounds, which naturally was named Br'er Rabbit. The following day Br'er Rabbit was introduced to the children of the school and then set free.



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The letter from Walt Disney was read at the dedication.



On Monday, the day after the dedication each class at Brier Patch viewed the full-length color motion picture "Song of the South" featuring Uncle Remus and his Brier Patch friends. The film was donated by Disney Studios along with life-sized figures of Br'er Rabbit and his animal friends.

About a week after dedication, students buried a time capsule by the flag pole which contained signed photographs of students. In January 1983 in preparation for the 25th anniversary and closing of Brier Patch school a lengthy search by the school's administrator was ended when the time capsule was located. The capsule made of copper and welded shut, was buried about six or eight inches under the ground. It was opened at a school assembly and then displayed at a reception. After 25 years, because of low enrollment, Brier Patch School was closed and the property sold to Grossmont Hospital.

The Brier Patch PTA Historian Book, which include the original letter from Walt Disney and the time capsule are now part of the La Mesa Historical Society's archives. Does anyone know what happened to the film "The Song of the South" and the life-sized figures of Br'er Rabbit and his animal friends?

Our Fifth Home Tour ...

Saturday, November 6, 2010 will be the fifth annual Historic Home Tour presented by the La Mesa Historical Society, co-sponsored by the Historic Preservation Commission of the City of La Mesa. The tour, which will highlight five La Mesa/Grossmont historic homes, will run 10 am to 3 pm.

The sites include Spanish eclectic, Cottswald Cottage/Tudor, Mission revival and 1940's "storybook" homes, all in a scenic, not-often-seen part of town.

Since there is limited parking and vehicle access for the homes, free Old Town Trolley shuttle buses will operate from the Tour Center at the historic La Mesa Women's Club at 5220 Wilson Street on Grossmont Blvd, opposite the former Linens and More and Circuit City stores, across from Discount Tire. Abundant free parking will be available.

Tickets purchased the day of the event will be \$15 for LMHS members and \$18 for non-members. Pre-sale tickets at \$12 for LMHS members and \$15 non-members are available until October 29, 2010 by telephoning (619) 465-1883.

LMHS members will receive a flyer/order form in late September.

Lookout Avenue is a publication of the La Mesa Historical Society. Please let me know your comments and suggestions.
Editor: Gordon Jones (619) 465-1883.
www.lamesahistory.com



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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