LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

LOOKOUT AVE.

VOLUME NUMBER 4, ISSUE NUMBER 3

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Members: As I write this note to you, the air is filled with hopeful news of the hostage situation and the presidential inauguration. In perspective and by comparison, our problems seem minor. However, the business of the world goes on, and we must continue to function "as usual." The restoration of the House is soon to be completed, and I am looking forward to that date. In February we will have our Annual Dinner Meeting. It will be a pleasure to meet so many old friends again and renew our memories. The year 1980 was a successful year for the Society, both financially and activity-wise. The Quilters, the Fund Raisers and the new Crafts group spent many hours in preparation of sales items. There is progress with the Railroad Depot and Museum. See for yourself the next time you go downtown. Space limits crediting all those who worked so hard in their committees. Our next big FUND-RAISING EVENT will be the Sixth Annual Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social on Flag Day, Sunday, June 14, 1981. Plan to be there and bring a friend. "Woody." Helen Wood Linke, President.

FEBRUARY 9 DINNER

Our Annual Dinner Meeting is Monday, February 9 at Anthony's, La Mesa. Again, there are only 150 places available, so get your reservations TODAY with your check and the names of your guests. Call Thelma Todd, 466-5970; or Vivian Higgins, 466-9244.

$25.00 per couple  $12.50 singles  DEADLINE: February 5-Thursday

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<th>Shrimp</th>
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Our program will be fun. A short business meeting for the Nominating Committee will be necessary. If you have camellias, will you share them with us? They add so much in their beauty. Call the above numbers, please. Thank you. Vivian Higgins, Hospitality Chairman.

LOOKOUT AVENUE is the official publication of the La Mesa Historical Society, Inc., P. O. Box 882, La Mesa, CA 92041. Telephone 714-463-6886. Published quarterly. Editor: Lucile DeWaide. Reporters: Eckoe Ahern and Lanette Wray. Artist: Clete Gress.
SWEET ADELINE QUARTET AT FEBRUARY 9 DINNER PARTY

The Chapter Four Quartet of the Singing Hills Chapter of Sweet Adelines of La Mesa will bring the joy of their music to this always lively occasion. The ladies in Chapter Four are Patti Glendenning, Bonnie Cross, Larinda Pilkerton and Sally Brumfield.

This dinner is the time of the year for renewing old friendships. Come in plenty of time to visit. One special thing about the LHMS is the way this group can become engrossed in conversation. This warmth and friendliness is important. Our own Hospitality Chairman, Vivian Higgins, will be Mistress of Ceremonies. She will introduce Ben Polak whose team will lead us in humorous reminiscing about Old La Mesa. Be sure to send in your reservation TODAY. The seating is limited to 150 persons. Last year many people did not get to attend the dinner. Be on time. Look forward to a fun evening. There is a flier elsewhere in this LOOKOUT. Clip the form and send in your reservation by February 5! OR BEFORE! HOW ABOUT TODAY! Pat Kettler, Program Chairman.

WARNING OF HISTORY LOSS

Much of La Mesa’s history may be lost because of a population that keeps moving. Every time people move, they clean house and throw what may be valuable historical documents into the trash. There is a need to save, preserve and find a loving home for photographs, papers, artifacts and books that might be of historical significance. The danger is in throwing them out willy-nilly. If you have old documents or photographs, preserve them in plastic or copy them before they crumble any further. Often descendants are not aware of the historical value of things. They find things dumped in their laps and don’t know what to do with them. If you find yourself in this position, please call the La Mesa Historical Society or whichever historical society appropriate to what you have. La Mesa Historical Society - 460-3726, 463-0197 or 466-5970.

WHAT ABOUT LA MESA’S BOOMING CITRUS INDUSTRY - 1890’s?

The more one learns about our local history the more one’s curiosity leads them to want to learn more. For instance, by 1895 La Mesa really began to grow after the railroad came through and large amounts of water were brought through the East County via flume from the Cuyamaca Mountains. This in turn brought people west on trains and many of these people established La Mesa’s first industry - citrus. Curiosity led to looking for any visible reminder of this citrus industry in La Mesa and, to date, I have seen nothing. There was a citrus packing house on the northwest corner of Lemon Avenue and Nebo Street which was torn down in 1920. We have several photographs of it for a visual reminder but no citrus packing labels, boxes, machinery or actual photographs of people working at and in the packing house. It’s strange that out of this booming little industry there isn’t something left behind as a remembrance.

If you have any information regarding this or know of someone who does, please call or drop me a line. Mrs. Pat Kettler (463-0197)
9146 San Juan Place
La Mesa, CA 92041

LOOKOUT AVE. LOOKS AT A BIT OF FEBRUARY NOSTALGIA

A good deal of excitement broke out at the Cooley and Rumsey homes on that February Tuesday morning in 1916. The wedding of Rhoda Cooley and Lieutenant Dexter Rumsey in the Central Congregational Church was set for noon, but because they had to catch the steamer YALE to San Francisco long before that, their wedding ceremonies took place at 8:00 A.M. The lieutenant had been stationed at the Exposition Cavalry Center but had just received orders for Honolulu, and the bride and bridegroom were to sail from San Francisco Saturday.

The La Mesa Scout supplies details: "The bride and bridegroom were unattended, and the lovely young bride, who is only 18, wore a gown of white chiffon and had a wreath of orange blossoms in her hair. Her traveling suit was of white broadcloth trimmed with midnight blue leather. We can guess she"...did La Mesa proud."
HE HISTORIAN'S BOOK can be greatly enlivened by YOUR contributions. Please donate pictures, snapshots, news articles, etc. Identify these by place, names and dates. Your contributions can be picked up by calling Eva Quicksall or Lucile DeWaide.

LECTION. In accordance with our By-Laws, two members of the nominating committee and their alternates will be elected at the business meeting during the February 9 Dinner. Just a reminder that it is a courteous gesture to obtain prior consent of the persons whose names are placed in nomination for this committee. Betty Teague, Parliamentarian.

ISTORY ON TELEVISION. "Twelve Who Shaped San Diego" with Dr. Clare Crane will be presented in a series of eight one-hour programs on KPBS-TV Channel 15 on Thursdays, beginning January 22 from 1:00 to 2:00 P.M. The series is based on the award-winning KPBS Radio series of the same name broadcast in 1978. The program is sponsored by TEGO, Televised Educational Growth opportunities, on the "Talkback" program. Talkback gives viewers an opportunity to interact with program participants via telephone call-in during the program. Call 296-2044 for more information.


THE LITTLE FOXES" by Lillian Hellman. Matinee 2:00 P.M. March 1, and

HE GOODBYE PEOPLE" by Herb Gardner, 2:00 P.M., May 17. These special Sunday Matinees are being given for the benefit of the Community Center Fund.

ES REMINDER. Be sure to fill out your Directory Information Form when it comes in the mail, and send your dues to Vicki Willis (460-0748). Everyone's membership is important. You will feel a part of the Society and the Restoration if you belong.

ERVATIONS are necessary for the February 9 dinner. The deadline is February 5.

ELP WANTED. Telephone committee (Call Gladys Johnson to volunteer - 466-4125.) LOOKOUT AVE. newsletter (Call Lucile DeWaide to volunteer - 463-6886.) Other positions - (Call Woody inke - 469-9988 to volunteer.)

LA MESA DEPOT MUSEUM UPDATE

Expect to see the fence protecting the La Mesa Depot removed in early February because then or soon thereafter, the City of La Mesa linear park landscaping project will get underway, that time most exterior work on the depot, other than painting, should be completed.

Hopefully, by midyear all depot reconstruction and restoration will be complete and attention will then be given to furnishing the building in a style reminiscent of that of 1920. Before we talk about the railroad rolling stock display, let us take a look at the world of Co-Sponsor, Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association. As most of you know, the railway museum group a few weeks ago purchased from the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, 3.59 acres of land in Campo, including the old Camp Lockett Gym, for the headquarters of its planned operating and static railway display. Lease or purchase of additional land, a one-mile right-of-way and an additional parcel of land, has not yet been finalized.

PSRMA's rolling stock includes four small steam locomotives, a small diesel locomotive, seven passenger cars, a troop kitchen car, a locomotive crane, nine freight cars, a street car body and line repair truck, a gasoline-powered rail bus, the depot building, a railroad crossing guard house, a water tank, section cars, baggage carts, tools, models and a library collection.
On February 11, 1921, the Helix Rebekah Lodge ladies gave a bridal shower in the Odd Fellows' Hall for Miss Hazel Johnson (Mrs. Fleming) who was "...delightfully surprised. Gifts were concealed in a large sunshade suspended from the ceiling and decorated with smilax. Hostesses served coffee and four kinds of cake." The guest list included thirteen ladies and five babies and appeared in The Scout in its entirety.

Also in the hearts and flowers department is an advertisement in The Scout on February 18, 1916. "Now on display, our big stock of Valentines--La Mesa Drug Store."

On February 15, 1921, members of the Kinnikinnik Club were to meet. Members, girls over 16, were urged to bring their friends, and "...each will please bring a Valentine and a stick of wood or kindling." The Scout leaves us cliff-hanging on the kindling matter.

How about some Rex Brand sauerkraut at nine cents a can at the Right Grocery in 1916? And the La Mesa Drug was pushing aspirin at 20¢ a dozen. Over at Skinner Grocery, the ad promised quality; their slogan: Once a customer, always a customer. They delivered groceries. Remember? Their phone number was Pacific Phone--La Mesa 23-W. (Two phone systems existed for some time, you know.)

A George Washington Evening (no lie) was the project of the Ladies of the Methodist Church at the IOOF Hall on Tuesday, February 22. Supper at 6:00 P.M. cost 25¢. Music and readings followed and everyone was invited. A couple of nights later, the Women's Guild at the Central Congregational Church had a "do." Their program was a representation of exhibits in Mrs. Farley's Wax Works. Admission was 15¢--and that handsome sum included refreshments, and Heaven knows how many kinds of cake!

Seems all was not rosy in 1916 for the new school house. The Scout says, "A number of people have had occasion to call up the school house since the new telephone has been installed and have experienced considerable trouble in getting the right number. So here it is: La Mesa-31WK.

In February of 1916, the Annual Banquet of the La Mesa Merchants Association took place at Maxwell's Restaurant. The secretary, Mr. Noyes, didn't have his speech copy ready for The Scout, so they published it a week later. Mr. Noyes said, among other things, "A merchants' association is not a new thing in La Mesa. The first was brought into existence when La Mesa had fewer merchants and the little city was at the beginning of its growth. The second was organized about two and a half years ago with Mr. H. A. McKinney as president." The associations served as a sort of chamber of commerce and board of trade.

An ad in The Scout of February 11, 1921, advises readers they can get a Buddy Bug free. (Retail price...$3.50) Eleven of the Bugs were to be given away. WHAAAAAT is a Buddy Bug?

Of course, you will be glad to know the following bits of news: Mr. J. T. Donohoo left Wednesday for Los Angeles after a visit of several days at the home of his brother, Mr. Roy T. Donohoo...Miss Irma Rombauer, who recently returned from St. Louis, accepted a position with the new La Mesa Bakery (Joy of Cooking, indeed!)...and a deputy collector of the Internal Revenue Service was at the Bank of La Mesa all day Thursday, February 21, to assist those who needed assistance in making up their income tax reports.

This is only the tip of an iceberg which shows in each Friday edition of the local newspaper the way things were in other days than these. One is amused, touched, and perhaps a little wistful...appreciative, too, for the record on film in the La Mesa Library. (Begun by LMHS.) Eckoe Ahern.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECENTS provide a very great service by helping keep our tax-free status. Without that a lot more money would have to be earned. More volunteers are needed. It is hoped that a docent would only have to serve one afternoon per month. The day could be changed from Thursday if the group wishes. Some people have had to drop out. We need YOU. If you can join us, call Bea Acres - 466-5812.
From this array, equipment and other exhibits will be selected alternately for display at La Mesa.

Railroad rolling stock presently is stored at Miramar N.A.S., Oxnard, Poway, the Embarcadero, Escondido, City of Commerce, Campo, Jamashia and backyards here and there.

The needs of the La Mesa Depot Museum display track are intertwined with the future needs of the operating railway museum in Campo. Both the La Mesa Historical Society and PSRMA were actively involved in the planning stages and continue the general supervision of the project through the Joint Committee. Almost all of the restoration has been carried on by PSRMA. However, as the museum nears completion and afterwards both organizations will be actively involved.

Next--a look at the future of the La Mesa Depot Museum.

SPRINGTIME IN THE VALLEY

This photograph, taken for a postcard circa 1905, reveals a barren El Cajon Valley, with a dirt Main Street running through the center of the Valley. My! How times change! (Lanette Wray.)
Did you hear us giggling? It was fun as we put together Gingerbread Men and Thelma (Todd) wondered about the size of the noses on Santa's Helpers. Combing out beards on the Christmas tree decorations were Jean Guy, Earline Lourenco, Jane Field, Woody Linke, Vivian Higgins and Thelma Todd as we worked on Mondays to produce sales articles for the Open House. Filling the boxes with your good contributions at McKinney House brought the Christmas Spirit right along, too, as only group participation can do. Vivian.

CHRISTMAS TOY EXHIBIT AT THE MCKINNEY HOUSE

In the bedroom at the top of the stairs an exhibit of children's toys awaited the guests attending the Christmas Open House at the McKinney House.

Books, dolls and other toys dating from 1880 to 1925 illustrated what children could have found as presents on Christmas morning. Many of the articles were from the San Diego Historical Society; the remainder were privately loaned.

Pieces dating from the 1880's included a mechanical Bulldog Bank and a "Little Daisy" treadle sewing machine. A lace-trimmed white cotton child's dress from 1880 drew comment since its original wearer was a little boy, as small children of both sexes were then clothed in dresses. A little golden-haired doll with a porcelain head was an actual 1885 Christmas present to a girl named Dot Moffat when she lived "way out in the country" on San Diego's 16th Street.

Also part of the exhibit were an illustrated 1890's copy of The House That Jack Built, printed on cloth; a stereoscope; a folding doll go-cart, c.1915; a Craftsman-style oak storage seat, c.1905; and a child's pink ceramic tea set from the early 1920's. Christmas postcards, colorful Christmas issues of magazines, and tinsel and paper garlands from the same period complemented the display.

Of local historical interest was a wheeled horse pull toy from the Porter family of La Mesa. Anne Porter Hall remembers the toy from her own childhood here, and feels it probably belonged to her father, James Tank Porter. Donna Regan.

LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. BOX 882
LA MESA, CA 92041

3335
MR. & MRS. HUBERT P. GUY
9951 EL GRANITO
LA MESA, CA 92041
HISTORICAL SITES COMMITTEE

The meeting will be followed by "A La Mesa History," a slide program prepared by L HMS
the year.

Certificates will be awarded members who have performed special services throughout
Virgil Hight, James Pollock and Karen A. Webster.
Directors currently serving whose terms will continue until June 30, 1982, are

Other nominations may be made from the floor providing the nominee has given consent.

Dona Pegram, Director

Gary Wyand, Secretary

Pat Ketterer, Treasurer

Pat Ketterer, President

Eric Sanders, President

Dorothy Gittler

AUGUST 1980, LA MESA, CALIFORNIA

ANNUAL ELECTION MAY 12, 1981

ANNOUNCEMENT

Support and cooperation, sincerely,
My team of office is in the final months. I hope you will try to attend our Annual
Easter Mormon Services.

Terry, President,
Wooden

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

May 1981

Volume Number 4, Issue Number 4

La Mesa Historical Society
World War I and July 4th display planned for Mesa County Memorial and Historical Society.

Mildred Bryan, Orange History Chairman

that many will have the experience of ever riding in a caboose.

life styles call for retiring passenger trains to an死刑 again as changes in economy and

Now we find ourselves riding trains to San Diego again as changes in economy and

are different from earlier days, they touch a nostalgic note.

Palms and lavender, train cars pass through the same tracks and although their wheels

Today Mrs. Mockmeyer brings a few photos from her first home at

route the caboose.

forth, when they got out of early classes and came out on the moon train, they, too,

local school children attended San Diego High School and rode the train back and

enjoy trains provided seating for more riders, but mid-Atlantic passengers rode in the caboose.

Moffett, Errol T. provided seating for about twenty people. Moffett and

an engine around the rear end of the passenger cars. There is seating for

Marie Maxwell Mockmeyer, Palm Avenue Remembers that trip and their arrival at the little

The Maxwell family arrived in La Mesa in June 1910. From San Diego, riding a caboose.

Along that trip, rests a caboose, both bringing back special memories beside the tracks.

CABOOSSES THEN AND NOW

Director: Vicki Witt, Membership Chairman: 460-0748

Please respond promptly in order to be included in the new La Mesa Historical Society

regular news notices will go out soon to all members. If you haven't received this spring's

response from your door is good from the recent membership drive. You are needed to make 500

MEXICAN SOCIETY

opportunity to visit with friends and taste their favorites; a gourmet dinner is promised.

from past May dinners, this method of CHEF'S CHOICE seems to work. Don't miss the

Family is asked to bring a salad, a casserole or a dessert of his or her choice. Dining

After the dinner program, members will enjoy a chef's choice dinner. The chef in each

CHEF'S CHOICE DINNER

"See you there," says Pat Ketter, Program Chairman.

8:30, most of the 1920's will be on display.

. Recently, several photographs of La Mesa, mostly the 1920's, will be on display.

. The President: Questions and optionally answers will follow.

from the Optimist Club. This 30-minute program will take you from the time of the Indians to

December of 1930 and the story of La Mesa, with some changes, been enthusiastically received.

presentation on an element and on a diet at La Mesa, where they had prepared, since

ANNOUNCING ICE CREAM SOCIAL ON SUNDAY

At the LHS will be presenting a display of photographs.

June 14 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL AT OUR 1931 ICE CREAM SOCIAL ON SUNDAY
ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Our 6th Annual "Ice Cream Social" is going to be held on Flag Day, Sunday, June 14th. Our quilt woman, Thelma Todd, is the one in charge of putting the display together, with the help of the women of the church. The quilts will be on display, and we will also have ice cream, cookies, and other refreshments.

If you would like to help with the quilts, we need your assistance in getting them ready. The quilts will be on display from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. We hope to make it "bigger and better" this year, and we need all the help we can get.

EASTER SUNSET

Picture Prospect Park, La Mesa. The First One, as it must have been in 1916. There it was—lovely trees with sea and sky. A few scattered benches in the park. Not the ones who sit there now, in close together houses which block out the view, but a group of Sunday School children who live there. The singing and the music were wonderful, and the sun came up behind the worshippers, filling the air with its rays, and making the world look new.
to spin far enough around to let the Easter sun shine in. Easter means...

Although the earlier services in Prospect Park were arranged by hàngs of those trees...

...and Easter Day had arrived...

The sun burst through a million raindrops on trees and blossoms...and Easter marks this day.

Lucile Bellard, Reporter.

Published quarterly.

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Member of the Los Angeles Historical Society, Inc.