

LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

LOOKOUT AVE.

VOLUME 5, ISSUE NUMBER 4

APRIL 1982

General Meeting & Pot Luck

May 16, 1:30 P.M.

LA MESA SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER, 8450 LA MESA BOULEVARD

Bring a casserole, salad, or dessert for eight people and join your friends for the afternoon as we observe the birthday of long-time La Mesa resident, Pete Palermo, view a slide presentation on San Diego's Gaslamp Quarter, and elect the Society's Board of Directors for next year.

A special invitation is extended to all members of the La Mesa Pioneers to participate in the celebration of Pete Palermo's birthday. Lloyd Donahoo, Bob Browne, Jim Orsborn, and others will be sharing their recollections about Pete.

Our speaker will be Nancy Rigot, a volunteer with the Gaslamp Quarter Association, who will discuss the revitalization of San Diego's oldest commercial area, now a designated historic district. The restoration of many of the Victorian buildings in the district will be illustrated.

The nominating committee has submitted the following slate for the 1982-83 year:

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| President | Dorothy Griner | Directors 1982-1984 |
| 1st Vice Pres. | Patricia Kettler | James Polak |
| 2nd Vice Pres. | Helen Odom | Nadine Washburn |
| 3rd Vice Pres. | Eric Sanders | Karna Webster |
| Secretary | Henrietta Schupbach | |
| Treasurer | Clifford Asay | |

Nominating Committee: Helen Odom, Chairman, Jean Guy, Gladys Johnston, Pat Kettler, Donna Regan.

Directors 1981-1983: Jean Guy, Donna Regan
John Ahern will serve as Associate Treasurer.

LEO McCARTHY

October 11, 1892

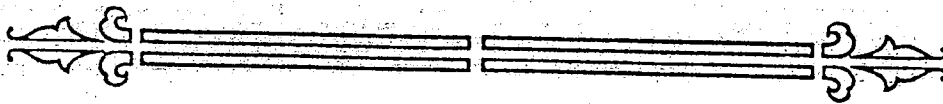
March 15, 1982

It is with regret that we report the recent passing of one of La-Mesa's early pioneers and foremost citizens, Leo McCarthy.

Leo McCarthy arrived by camp wagon in La Mesa in the fall of 1908 with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McCarthy, and his seven brothers and sisters. Mr. McCarthy soon acquired the corner of Lookout Avenue (La Mesa Boulevard) and Third Street and opened the La Mesa Mercantile Company. The family moved into their home at Fresno Avenue and Third Street. Tom and Leo, the eldest sons, entered business with their father. They not only helped in the store but took orders and delivered groceries with a horse and wagon. Every Sunday afternoon one of the boys drove the team and wagon to Chinese gardens in Sweetwater Valley and bought a load of fresh vegetables for the Monday market.

Leo married Jessie Faye Highfield, a La Mesa girl, at St. Vincents Catholic Church in San Diego in 1916. He worked for three years with his father-in-law who was wheat farming several hundred acres of what is now part of Fletcher Hills, also the lower slopes of Grossmont. In 1919, he began his trucking business and acquired his home on Alpine Avenue. When he retired, his son Tom assumed the operation of the McCarthy Transfer and Storage Company.

Leo and Jessie had four children and fourteen grandchildren. He was a quiet, modest man who will always be remembered for his generosity and his kindness to others.



DRAWING

The first prize for this year's drawing at the Ice Cream Social will be a "Flower Pot" quilt made by the Society's Quilters. The second prize will be an oil painting "Quito Market," donated by the artist, Betty Darby Meyer, a member of the Foot-hills Art Association.

The drawing will take place at 4 P.M. at the Ice Cream Social but tickets will be sold earlier in various locations in the community, mostly in local banks and savings and loan offices. If you would like to sell one or more books of tickets yourself, or if you would like to help the Society sell tickets in a bank, please call Dorothy Griner at 460-3726.



Ice Cream Social



SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 11 to 4 P.M. AT THE MCKINNEY HOUSE

La Mesa's 70th Anniversary will be featured at this year's Ice Cream Social. Photo exhibits will show the community at the time of incorporation, and special exhibits inside the house will include costumes from the period.

Entertainment will be provided by fifteen members of the City Guard Band, who will play the marches, waltzes, polkas, and patriotic airs popular in the early years of this century. The City Guard Band is a recreation of San Diego's original City Guard Band, which was formed in 1888. The band is sponsored by the Heritage Band Society, an organization dedicated to the preservation of traditional band music from 1830 to 1930. The City Guard Band will play from 12:30 to 2:30 P.M. with intermissions.

For lunch there will be available barbequed chicken, potato salad, cole slaw, baked beans, chili, hot dogs, and of course lots of ice cream. In addition, there will be sales of baked goods, white elephants, plants, and items made by the Quilters.

DONATIONS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS ARE NEEDED:

Plant Table Dawn Stanley 281-8660

Let's make this a really good plant sale. We need house plants, herbs, trees, shrubs, anything that is well rooted. We will also sell garden fruits and vegetables, fresh flowers, and dried seeds, flowers, herbs and spices. Please, no Creeping Charlies, Spider or Jade plants unless they are an unusual variety. The plants may be left on the McKinney House back porch on Saturday, June 12, or may be brought the day of the Social before 10 A.M.

Baked Goods Table Mabel Perrapato
466-7819

We need all kinds of baked goods plus home-made jams and jellies. No cream fillings or cream frostings, please. Items may be left on the back porch of the McKinney House on Saturday, June 12, or brought the day of the Social before 10 A.M.

White Elephant Table Woody Linke 469-9988
Thelma Todd 466-5970

We need small items, particularly jewelry. No clothing please. Donations may be left on the back porch of the McKinney House.

Quilters - Julie Bras 698-0833

Baby quilts and smaller items will be for sale at the Social. The Quilters are currently finishing the "Flower Pot" quilt which will be the prize for the drawing.

WORKERS IN ALL AREAS WILL BE NEEDED---white elephants, baked goods, food service, setup, and take down. Volunteers please call Dorothy Griner 460-3726, or Pat Kettler 463-0197.

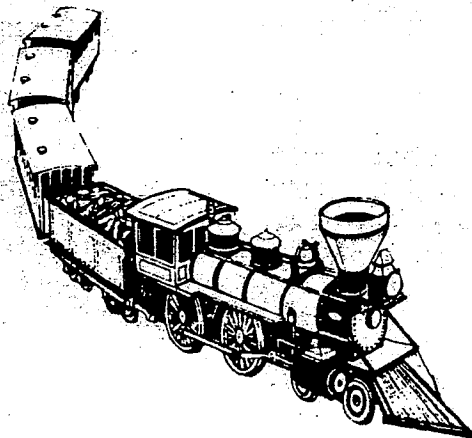
THE DEPOT OPENS AT LAST

The La Mesa Depot opened with a magnificent "toot" from the steam engine and ribbon cutting by Mayor George Bailey on Sunday, April 18th. A large crowd was on hand to hear the story of the little depot and its travels to Lakeside and back. Members of PSRMA thanked the workers who had spent so many hours turning the dilapidated depot into a restoration that won an "orchid" from the local chapter of the AIA. Honored also were major donors who had contributed thousands of dollars of redwood and other materials to the project. Dorothy Griner, LMHS president, thanked the city and everyone involved in the restoration.

Boy Scouts, members of LMHS and PSRMA, local dignitaries and others helped make this a memorable occasion. Eric Sanders, event chairman who planned and spent many hours and days putting the whole event together, finally saw his dream come true. It was truly a day to remember!

Under the bright afternoon sun, hundreds of children came with their parents to see the depot and a real live huffing, puffing steam engine. They climbed over and through the train cars, inspected the depot, clicked the telegraph key, and held their hands over their ears when the train whistle blew. It took half a day to get up steam on the engine and a generous donation of funds to pay for the fuel. But it was worth it.

Thanks to the efforts of PSRMA, the La Mesa Historical Society, and the help of the City of La Mesa in securing the site and some of the restoration funds, the La Mesa Depot is open on Saturday and Sunday afternoons for everyone to enjoy.



Jean Guy, co-chairman of the La Mesa Historical Society's reception committee for the Depot opening, wishes to take this opportunity to thank all the Society members who so generously contributed all the delightful goodies for the reception at the Chamber of Commerce.

The La Mesa Historical Society, Inc.
in cooperation with
The San Diego Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society
presents

GAYLORD CARTER

at the keyboard of
THE MIGHTY WURLITZER THEATRE PIPE ORGAN

and
S I L E N T M O V I E S

at the
CALIFORNIA THEATER
4th & C Sts., San Diego

Saturday, June 5, 1982, 7:30 p.m.

The house lights dim and an anticipative hush falls over the crowd. Suddenly, a burst of brilliant light bathes the magnificent ivory and gold console and the unmistakable sound of the mighty Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ shakes the very foundation of the theater. Add to the above the fun and nostalgia of seeing silent movies with an appropriate organ accompaniment. You'll enjoy a fun-filled evening.

Acknowledged as the Dean of theatre organists, Mr. Gaylord Carter began accompanying films in the great movie palaces before the silver screen found its voice in the late twenties. For many years he introduced the radio show, "Amos 'n' Andy" with his still current theme, "The Perfect Song." Mr. Carter will play the ATOS-SD Chapter's own 3-manual 15-rank Wurlitzer in yet another San Diego concert.

Included in the program will be theatre organ accompaniment for ASK FATHER starring Harold Lloyd; WAY BACK WHEN, a Newsreel; classic screen clips from BEN HUR and INTOLERANCE; and a repeat of THE CHASE starring W. C. Fields.

The La Mesa Historical Society's group attendance program will be for the benefit of the recently-opened La Mesa Depot Museum, designated specifically for "startup and exhibit preparation" costs. Enjoy the organ concert, the silent film/organ accompaniment program, and help defray startup costs of the new museum facility.

Tickets for the event and suggestions about available auto parking will be forwarded about May 22.....The June 5 organ concert is one of about six programs offered each year by the San Diego Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society.

<u>Tickets</u>	\$5.00 for adults
group	\$3.00 for children, ages 13-18
price	Free, children 12 and under

Please send your ticket orders to the La Mesa Historical Society, Post Office Box 832, La Mesa CA 92041. For additional information, please telephone (714)-469-1283. Checks, please to LMHS.

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Adults _____ Children _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

Zip

Thank you!

THE LA MESA HISTORIC SITE SURVEY

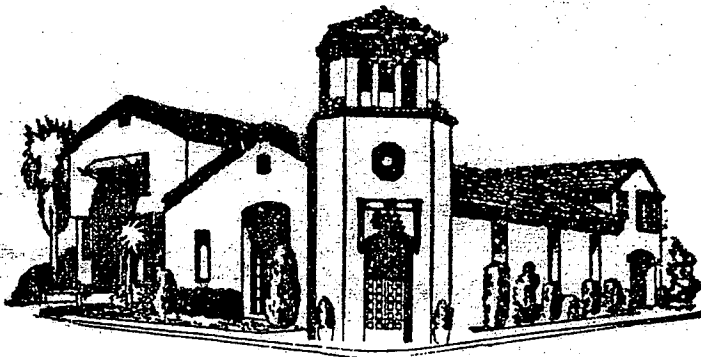
In case you have seen strange people with clipboards walking around your neighborhood, taking notes, talking to the neighbors, and perhaps photographing houses, chances are that they are working on the La Mesa Historic Sites Survey. For the past ten months, the survey team has covered the city and beyond looking for historic and architecturally important houses and buildings. They checked every house and building in the city. Approximately 350 sites were chosen for further study.

During the winter months, information was gathered about the sites: the legal description, ownership information, and any records pertaining to the properties. The survey is now in its final phase - writing an architectural description of each house and a short history of it.

Much interesting material has turned up in the survey - the old La Mesa Cemetery, a haunted house, and old timers with fantastic memories, old documents, letters, and diaries. The material should keep the historical society busy for ten years!

The information gathered in this survey will be recorded on special forms and sets of these forms will eventually be available for study. The survey is being conducted under a grant from the City of La Mesa by Rick Alexander of SANDAG and Dr. Ray Brandes of the University of San Diego. Several members of the historical society have worked on the survey team.

While the survey has been underway, a citizens' committee has met monthly to supervise the project and make recommendations to the city. Currently, the committee is creating a set of criteria to use in rating the sites discovered in the survey. The following historical society members have served on this committee: Pat Kettler, Barry Worthington, Helen Odom, and Betty Teague.



One of the oldest businesses in La Mesa, the Erickson-Anderson Mortuary has long been a landmark in downtown La Mesa. Research done for the Historic Site Survey established that this handsome Spanish style building was designed by noted San Diego architect William Wheeler, who was also the designer of the Balboa Theater and many other buildings. The mortuary was built in 1930 for Fred Erickson; Enoch Anderson was later manager and co-owner.

Erickson-Anderson Mortuary

CITIZENS OF LA MESA VOTE TO INCORPORATE

Ante-Election Tactics of Opponents to Movement Have Little Influence.

Special to the Union

La Mesa Feb. 7 -- By a sweeping majority of 189 votes the citizens of La Mesa at a special election today decided to incorporate. The vote as counted tonight stands 249 for and 60 against incorporation.

Voting was lively at the polls in the morning, 180 having cast their ballots before noon. Not a few women took interest in the election and did their share of the voting.

Officers were elected as nominated at the mass meeting held a week ago. Following is a list of the new elects:

Trustees, E.A.D. Reynolds, Dr. Charles Samson, Dr. J.A. Parks, J.A. McRae, and S.R. Canon; city clerk, E.C. Upp; city treasurer, K.B. Finley; city marshal, Frank M. Oliver.

An attempt was made last night to win votes for the opposition and defeat incorporation by the calling of a meeting in the La Mesa opera house, but it proved a miserable failure. The previous day handbills had been distributed about the town, announcing that Judge S.D. O'Neal of San Diego would speak on "Incorporation," nothing being mentioned to the effect that it was in opposition to the movement. Judge O'Neal, who probably had not been fully informed of the situation, delivered an address, citing many reasons for and against incorporation. When he had finished, H. A. Marshall, who has bitterly opposed incorporation throughout the campaign, monopolized the stage and began flaying everybody and everything in connection with the movement. Before he had finished talking practically every one in the hall arose and walked out.

La Mesa has experienced a remarkable growth during the last few years, and now has a population of more than 1000. The incorporated district comprises about three square miles of territory, about two miles long and a mile and a half in width.

San Diego Union, February 8, 1912, page 13

70th ANNIVERSARY

This year the City of La Mesa commemorates the 70th anniversary of its incorporation, which took place on February 16, 1912. Mayor George Bailey has organized a committee of local community organizations to make plans to celebrate the birthday year. They will combine their efforts for a City picnic on July 17th, at Montecito Park. As part of its contribution to the picnic LMHS will sponsor a croquet match.

LMHS has been presenting a series of photo exhibits showing La Mesa at the time of incorporation. One of these has been at City Hall, the other at the Gallery of the Foothills Art Association.

The 70th Anniversary will also be the theme of this year's Annual Ice Cream Social.

"A DRAWING FOR A DRAWING"

On March 22nd the La Mesa Historical Society became the recipient of a generous donation from the Foothills Art Association when Association President Daniel Bosler presented Society President Dorothy Griner with a check for \$450.00. The Art Association, an organization of over 300 local artists, had decided to have a fundraising project to benefit the historical society by holding "A Drawing For A Drawing," selling tickets on a work of art with a subject from La Mesa history.

The prize for the drawing was "The Agnew House," a pen and ink watercolor work by Daniel Bosler. The Agnew House, built in the 1890's on what was to become Date Avenue, between La Mesa Boulevard and Lemon Avenue, was the home of post-master Sam Agnew. Photographs of this now demolished structure are in the collection of the LMHS, and artist Bosler found the simple Victorian cottage an appealing subject.

The Art Association also invited the historical society to exhibit photos of early La Mesa scenes in the Artist of the Month section of the Foothills Fine Art Gallery during the month of March. The Gallery, an 1981 addition to the Ben Polak Fine Arts Center at 8053 University Avenue, is used by the Association for showings of work by member artists.



McKINNEY HOUSE USED AS FILM SET

On Saturday March 6, the west bedroom of the McKinney House was transformed into a movie set as Tri-Productions shot the opening sequence of "The Magic Carousel."

Tri-Productions is a local company of young film makers. Associate producers are Tom Ingalls and Joyce Costanza. Tom grew up in the La Mesa/El Cajon area and Joyce, who grew up in San Diego, now lives in La Mesa. Daniel Bosler, current president of the Foothills Art Association, is the art director on the film and the one who suggested using the McKinney House for the opening scene.

"The Magic Carousel" is a very visual, 30-minute creative film using very little dialogue. The group believes the film will be aired on Cable television network. Theater distribution is also a possibility.

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2nd Vice Pres.	Helen Odom	Nadine Washburn
3rd Vice Pres.	Eric Sanders	Karna Webster
Secretary	Henrietta Schupbach	
Treasurer	Clifford Asay	

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John Ahern will serve as Associate Treasurer.