LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

LOOKOUT AVE.

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 1 NOVEMBER, 1984

La Mesa Historic Preservation Commission Appointed

ROACH-PORTER & McKINNEY HOUSES NOMINATED AS FIRST LANDMARKS

A dream that started with Barry Worthington and other members of the La Mesa Historical Society has come true. The La Mesa City Council has created an Historic Preservation Commission to monitor the cultural resources of the city, assist owners of significant properties, and advise the City Council on historic preservation. The appointment of such a commission by the city has been a major goal of the Historical Society for nearly six years.

The ordinance creating the commission called for members to be appointed from three categories. Karna Webster, Barry Worthington, and architect James Hart received appointment as La Mesa Historical Society members. Dennis Tuttle and Wanda Brent filled the design professional category, and Donna Regan and Helen Odom became members as City of La Mesa residents.

The commission held its initial meeting on July 31. During the first year the commission members will review the nearly three hundred structures selected as significant by an historic site survey conducted in 1981 and 1982 by Dr. Ray Brandes of the University of San Diego. The commission will recommend to the City Council that certain buildings of exceptional merit be named La Mesa Landmarks if the owners consent to such designation. At the October meeting, the commission nominated the Roach-Porter House and the McKinney House as landmarks.

The 1890s Roach-Porter House appears to be one of the most important structures in La Mesa. The commission plans to fill out additional papers and nominate the house to the National Register of Historic Places, with the consent of the owner.

At the present time commission members are studying sidewalks in historic areas of the city to determine where the original two-by-two foot pattern should be retained when repair work is done. Historical Society members who know the location of historic curb and sidewalk imprints such as "Lookout Avenue" can assist the commission by contacting the chairperson, Karna Webster, at 463-1029, or one of the other members.



CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE DECEMBER 8

Mark your calendar now for the Christmas Open House, which will be held Saturday, December 8, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the McKinney House. The house will once again be decorated for the holidays in turn-of-the-century fashion. Spiced cider, coffee, tea, home-made cookies and gingerbread will be served. Christmas music will be played on the parlor organ by Evelyn Estabrook.

The San Diego County Clock Club will present an exhibit of nineteenth and early twentieth century clocks. Don Mathis, a Society member who is also a member of the Clock Club, will coordinate the exhibit.

WHO DONATED THE PILLOW COVERS?

One of the sacks of items left at the McKinney House for the White Elephant Sale at the Ice Cream Social this past June contained two embroidered pillow covers which button at the back, dresser scarves, and other household textiles. As some of these pieces appear appropriate for use in the McKinney House, we would like to find out about them and identify the donor. When any items are retained for our permanent collections, we need such information for our records. Please call Donna Regan, 460-3726.

LOOKOUT AVENUE is the official publication of the La Mesa Historical Society, P.O. Box 882, La Mesa, California, 92041. Published quarterly.

CHRISTMAS DRAWING

The lucky first prize winner in the drawing at this year's Christmas Open House will receive a beautiful William Gilbert mantle clock, patented in 1870, with a round top rosewood case. The second prize is a pair of pillows made in the Nell Cherry Spider Web pattern by the LMHS Quilters. Third prize is luncheon for two, donated by Christina's, located at the corner of Pine Street and Allison Avenue in La Mesa. Jamar Restaurant, at 7777 University Avenue, donated the fourth prize dinner for two.

Drawing tickets will be on sale on scheduled days at Imperial Savings and Crocker Bank in downtown La Mesa and at Wells Fargo Bank at Grossmont Center. Anyone wishing to help staff our table set up in the banks should contact Beatrice Acers, 466-5812. Those who would like to take a book of ten tickets to sell, please call Donna Regan,460-3726.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The La Mesa Historical Society extends a warm welcome to members who have recently joined and thanks those who have upgraded their membership category:

Mrs. Martha Bice
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Briscoe
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Chisholm
Mr. & Mrs. Robert DeBurn
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Gauger
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Larsen
Mrs. Janet Laws
Mr. & Mrs. Lonnie McBride
Mr. & Mrs. Art Madrid
Kathryn B. Stewart
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Tipple
John Morgan Twyman
Fern Griswald Walter

Mr. & Mrs. Roger Coffey (upgraded to Family)

GASLAMP QUARTER TOUR NOVEMBER 17

A walking tour for twenty people of San Diego's historic Gaslamp Quarter, which was donated to the La Mesa Historical Society by Diane Roberts, has been scheduled for Saturday, November 17. Participants will meet at 11:00 a.m. at the Gaslamp Quarter Association Office, the William Heath Davis House, 410 Island Avenue. The oldest remaining wooden house in San Diego, the Davis House was built in the 1850's and has been recently restored. The Gaslamp Quarter, which was New San Diego's first business area, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Gaslamp docent will point out architectural and historical highlights along the one-mile route and discuss restoration and revitalization activities within the district.

The tour will conclude at approximately 1:00 p.m. at Colombo's, 401 G Street, where those who wish may remain for lunch. The price range for the luncheon menu is from $3.00 to $7.00. The cost of the tour alone is $2.50 and reservations are limited. For information and reservations for both the tour and lunch, please call Anita Underwood, 698-4320 (evenings and weekends).



The Nesmith-Greely Building in the Gaslamp Quarter.

ORCHIDS TO DON MATHIS

A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Don Mathis by the La Mesa Historical Society at its May Board of Directors meeting. Don and his wife Tess have been very supportive of the Society over the years, and for the 1983 Christmas Open House drawing they sold over 160 tickets. Don has also been responsible for locating the beautiful clocks which we have offered for first prize in the Christmas drawings the last two years, and he has found an exceptional one for us this year. In 1980 Don donated a classic 1959 Chrysler Imperial which we used as the prize for the Ice Cream Social drawing that June.

RECENT APPOINTMENTS

Recently appointed to La Mesa Historical Society chairmanships were Anita Underwood, Publicity, Nadine Washburn, Requests and Memorials; and Edie Olmstead, Historian. All are currently serving as members of the Board of Directors.



MC KINNEY HOUSE REPAINTING

From April through the beginning of June, passersby on University Avenue could see painters at work on the exterior of the McKinney House. The task included extensive preparation, due to the deteriorated condition of the paint in many areas, plus the application of a primer, undercoat and finish coat, all hand brushed. The house was repainted in the colors which evidence had indicated were originally white with dark green trim and black window sash and screens. The garage and outhouse were also painted. Painter Bob Berardinelli had previously worked on other restoration projects, among them Heritage Square in La Jolla. Earlier in the spring restoration carpentry and repair work had been completed on the kitchen roof and window casings and siding on the south wall by Rurik Kallis.

Both the repainting and carpentry were paid for by a $5,000 restoration grant from the City of La Mesa, which was allocated from federal Community Development Block Grant Funds. The Society deeply appreciates the support given by the City in the restoration of the McKinney House.

NOTES FROM THE QUILTERS

The La Mesa Historical Society Quilters continue their regular weekly sessions at the McKinney House. At present, they are completing work on a quilt which will be the first prize in the drawing at the Ice Cream Social in June. They have contributed a pair of pillows, pieced and hand quilted, to the drawing at the Christmas Open House. At that time gift items, ornaments and childrens' and baby quilts will be offered for sale as in the past.

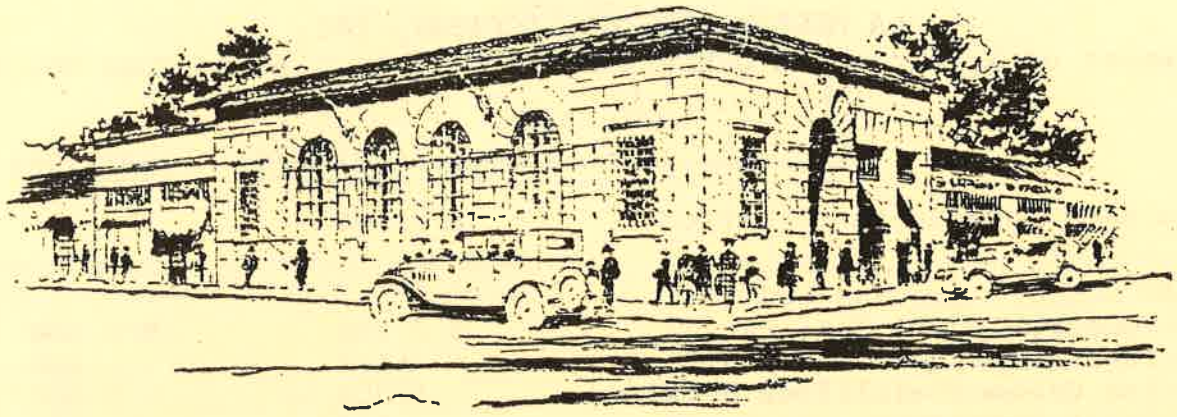
Recently, the group embarked on a new venture: offering quilting services to other people for a reasonable fee. This past summer a quilt was completed for the local D.A.R. Chapter, arranged through the kind services of Woody Linke. Soon another one is to be quilted for a member of the Society.

Every Wednesday morning, holidays excepted, a faithful group of stitchers can be found upstairs in the McKinney House. If you come in the back door, the sound of chatter and laughter will guide you to the right room. Some arrive at 9 A.M. but 10 A.M. will always find someone there. Visitors are welcome, but so far Dr. Andy Smith is the only "regular" visitor. (He is really on his way to a lunch meeting but his call is enjoyed, nevertheless!)

Members of the group are Beatrice Acers, Ethel Allen, Julie Bras, Mildred Bryan, Margaret Pearson and Nadine Washburn. When their teaching work permits Barbara Copeland and Carol Lockwood join the group.

An old-fashioned handcraft, growing in popularity in this automated age, has brought these people together and made them good friends.

- Mildred Bryan



The Bank of Southern California was built in 1927 at the northeast corner of La Mesa Boulevard and Palm Avenue.

LMHS EXHIBIT AT CALIFORNIA FIRST BANK

As part of a week-long celebration commemorating the fiftieth anniversay of the opening of its La Mesa branch, California First Bank asked the La Mesa Historical Society to present an exhibit in the bank's present location on Spring Street. The exhibit, which ran from July 2 to July 6, used photographs and a few other materials to show the development of La Mesa from the 1890's to the 1920's. Separate panels tracing the history of the bank in La Mesa included photographs loaned to the Society by Mrs. Marion Marshall, whose husband, Von Marshall, was branch manager from 1944 to 1961. Following the exhibit, which was planned and mounted by Pat Kettler, Henrietta Schupbach, Donna Regan and Lee Griner, the Society received a contribution of $25 from the bank.

In 1927 the newly established Bank of Southern California opened for business in its handsome Italian Renaissance Revival building on the northeast corner of La Mesa Boulevard and Palm Avenue. In 1934 this bank was acquired by the First National Trust and Savings Bank of San Diego, which continued to use the same building until it constructed a new office at 4757 Palm in 1942. Both the 1927 building and its successor, with its striking terra cotta facade, are listed in the City of La Mesa's inventory of historic resources. A second move in 1974 brought the branch office to its present location, and in 1975 acquisition by the Bank of Tokyo resulted in a new name--California First Bank.

LMHS AT OKTOBERFEST

As it has for the past several years, the La Mesa Historical Society participated in the Oktoberfest with a table set up on La Mesa Boulevard on Saturday and Sunday, October 6th and 7th. The occasion provided a good opportunity to make people aware of the Society and its programs and to distribute information on La Mesa's historic resources. Passersby were especially intrigued with the five-foot-long copy of a 1910 panorama of La Mesa which was exhibited. The sale of tickets for the Christmas drawing brought in $104, and $20.75 was made on the sale of postcards. Helping to staff the table were Kay Kester, Mabel Perrapato, Anita Underwood, Henrietta Schupbach, Pat Kettler, Donna Regan and Beatrice Acers.

LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements July 1, 1983 to June 30, 1984

	7/1/83-6/30/84	1983-1984 Budget
Cash Balance, beginning of period	$ 2,198	
Receipts:		
1. Membership	$ 2,755	$ 2,500
2. Fund Raising	(41)	600
3. Ice Cream Social(Food & Sales)	1,003	1,000
4. Quilt Drawing	844	650
5. Quilter's Sales	421	750
6. Yard/Collectible Sales	604	400
7. Photo Sales	56	
8. Christmas Drawing	721	350
9. Donations	617*	50
Total Receipts	$ 6,980	
Transferred from Savings	1,000	
Total Receipts & Transfers	$ 7,980	$ 6,300
Disbursements and Transfers:		
10. 1st Mortgage(cancelled 5/1/84)	$ 430	516
11. 2nd Mortgage (JM)	1,440	1,440
12. 1st Mortgage Payable (DM)	540	540
13. Postage	283	300
14. Supplies & Miscellaneous	689	400
15. Printing & Xeroxing	239	400
16. Newsletter	422	500
17. Museum Restoration	15	200
18. Preservation of Photos	260	50
19. Preservation of Collection	49	50
20. Oral History	35	50
21. Insurance	705	750
22. Yard Maintenance		100
23. Utilities	677	700
24. Quilters		300
25. Contingencies		4
Total Disbursements	$ 5,784	
Transfer to savings	$ 2,114	
Total Disbursement/Transfers	$ 7,898	$ 6,300
Cash Balance, end of period	$ 2,280	

* $11 in restricted funds - microfilming of La Mesa Scouts

Statement of Financial Position

Assets:			
Cash in bank, checkings($11 restricted*)		$ 2,280	
Cash in bank, savings, reserved		1,557	
Cash in bank, savings, restricted*		1,134	
Certificate of Deposit, restricted*		2,733	
Museum Building		59,333	
Organization Costs		33	
Total Assets			$67,070
Liabilities:			
1st Mortgage Payable	$ 6,159		
2nd Mortgage Payable	6,025		
Total Liabilities		$12,184	
Equity:			
Restricted*	3,878		
Unrestricted	51,008		
Total Equity		54,886	
Total Liabilities & Equity			$67,070

MEMBERSHIP IN THE LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society depends upon membership dues, contributions, bequests, and fund-raising activities to support restoration and preservation of local history.

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

Membership categories:

_____ Life (Single) $100.00

_____ Patron 25.00

_____ Sponsor/Organization 15.00

_____ Family (2 adults) 12.00

_____ Individual 7.00

_____ Student (under 18 yrs) 1.00

Please complete and return this form to:
La Mesa Historical Society
P.O. Box 882, La Mesa, CA 92041

_____
Name

_____
Address

_____
City State Zip

Telephone: _____

_____ I am interested in being involved in the society's work. Please call me.



JUNE ICE CREAM SOCIAL A SUCCESS

Our sincere thanks to Society members and friends for making our 1984 Ice Cream Social another successful event. As our costs for maintaining the McKinney House grow, and the ever-present expenses involved in collecting and preserving our local history continue, we are deeply appreciative of all the volunteer work that is done to help raise the necessary funds to accomplish these tasks. Over 300 people attended the social and a net profit of $2,087.15 was realized. Special thanks to the following people:

Helen Odom & Nancy Neffson - White Elephant Sales
Brice Lockwood - Ice cream sales
JoAnn Knutson & Karna Webster- Food sales
Henrietta Schupbach - Plants
Vern Kettler - Barbecuing
Donna Regan - Docent, exhibits
Shirley Holtz - wedding dresses, exhibits
Mabel Perrapato - Bakery sales
Lloyd Kitzman - Pie sales
La Mesa Historical Society Quilters - Quilt they made to be first prize in our drawing and their handmade boutique items
Beatrice Acers - bank ticket . sales
John Ahern - Ticket sales at the social
Fred Hart and his band - music
Dorothy & Tom McCarthy - providing a truck and hauling tables and chairs to and from the house
Chuck Levy, Chuck Bras, Cliff Coates, Phil Radcliff - hauling tables and chairs, setting up and cleaning up
American Legion, La Mesa Post 282 - providing tables and chairs

There are many more who should be mentioned, but lack of space prevents me from doing so. Please know that your contribution of time and talent is very much appreciated.

- Pat Kettler

1984 ICE CREAM SOCIAL REPORT

RECEIPTS

White Elephants	$ 218.60
Bakery	102.60
Pies	178.50
Plants	112.05
Drawing	892.00
Ice Cream	208.35
Food	775.66
Sales (post cards,etc.)	19.90
Quilters Sales	155.00
Donations	55.50
Gross Profit	$2,718.16

EXPENSES

Ice Cream	133.20
Chicken	97.40
A-Rental World(tarp,tables)	77.17
Food & paper supplies	187.35
Printing(fliers,etc.)	42.69
Printing (drawing tickets)	47.91
Mailing of fliers	18.04
Exhibit materials	27.25
	$ 631.01

Gross	2,718.16
Expenses	- 631.01
Net Profit	2,087.15

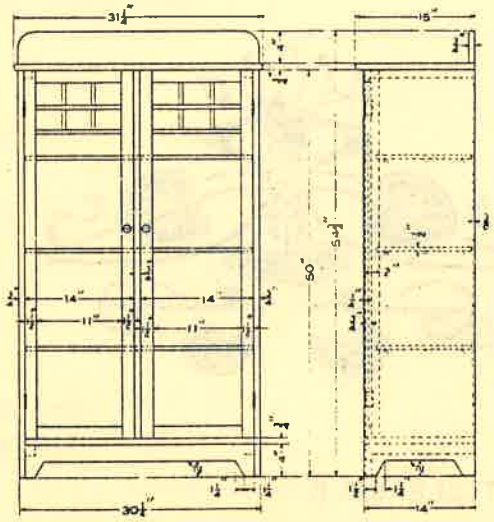


WEDDING EXHIBIT AT ICE CREAM SOCIAL

To celebrate June as the traditional month for brides, the McKinney House was the setting for an exhibit of wedding fashions from the 1860's through the 1920's at this year's Ice Cream Social. The house was decorated with flowers, smilax, and asparagus fern, mentioned in turn-of-the-century wedding accounts. The dining room was arranged for a home wedding reception circa 1910, with bridal dresses from that period. In the front room, two wedding gowns from the 1920's commemorated the ceremony that took place there in 1921, when Joyce McKinney and Ruth Huntington were married by Rev. McKinney. Upstairs in the exhibit area, elegant wedding gowns from the 1860's through the 1890's were complimented by photographs, invitations, and other mementos relating to the weddings of early La Mesans. All of the fashions and accessories were from the collection of Shirley Holtz, whose generosity in helping with this and other exhibits is much appreciated.

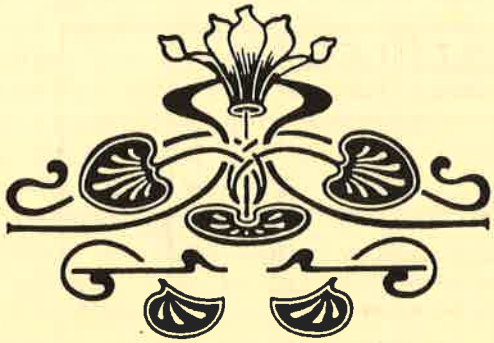
ICE CREAM SOCIAL DRAWING

Thanks to the efforts of many people, this year's Ice Cream Social drawing made a net profit of $844.09. The first prize, a Spider Web pattern quilt made by the LMHS Quilters, was won by Pete Palermo. The other prizes were: second, a man's Seiko wristwatch, donated by Beatrice Acers; third, a dinner for two, donated by Bobby McGee's, Grossmont Center; fourth, a gourmet picnic lunch for two, donated by Piret's, Grossmont Center; fifth, dinner for two, courtesy of Christopher Courtney's, La Mesa Boulevard. Beatrice Acers coordinated the ticket sales in banks, assisted by Edie Olmstead, JoAnn Knutson, Pat Kettler, Dorris Palley, Mabel Perrapato, Donna Regan, Louise Frankey, Mildred Bryan and Julie Bras.



THELMA TODD MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Several members of the Society have wished to make donations in memory of Thelma Todd which would be used for the purchase of a bookcase and an organ stool or bench for the McKinney House. The Society has needed a bookcase in the office where books, pamphlets, and other materials on local history could be placed. One of the goals of the Society has been to establish a small research library on La Mesa history, plus information on such subjects as the care of artifacts, restoration, and historic preservation. The Board of Directors has voted to purchase, as a memorial, a bookcase with locking glass doors, either original or reproduction, which would be appropriate for the period of the McKinney House. A bookcase of this description is currently being sought. It is estimated that the cost would be at least $250, of which $120 has been donated to date. Another need for the house is a stool or bench for the McKinney parlor organ, which probably dates to the 1880's, since the original one is missing. The Board has also voted to purchase a suitable bench or stool in memory of Thelma. Contributions may be earmarked for either of these projects and sent to the La Mesa Historical Society, P.O. Box 882, La Mesa, CA 29041. For information please call Donna Regan, 460-3726.



COLLECTIBLE SALE

The collectible sale, which was held Saturday and Sunday, June 30 and July 1, was a successful money-making project for the Society, resulting in a net profit of $604. Collectibles, furniture, reusables, and plants were on display at 4868 Cypress in La Mesa, which was then vacant awaiting sale.

A special thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Olmstead, Mr. & Mrs. William Olmstead, Mrs. Dora Marston, Elizabeth Yeatts of Elizabeth's Attic on La Mesa Boulevard, and Mr. & Mrs. Tom McCarthy, who all made this idea workable.

Special thanks also to Nancy Neffson, who was my co-chairperson and the following members who put in many hours. They include: John Ahern, Floyd Bell, Julie Bohnsack, Evelyn Estabrook, Lee Griner, Gladys Johnston, Pat Kettler, Alex Lupenko, Tom and Dorothy McCarthy, Edie Olmstead, Vincent Odom, Mabel Perrapato, Marilyn Ranney, Donna Regan, Phil Radcliff, Henrietta Schupbach, Mary Smith, Marie Tipple, Anita Underwood, Nadine Washburn, Karna Webster and Elizabeth Yeatts.

My appreciation and thanks to each and every one of you. Our Society has benefited from this undertaking. I would like to see this type of sale repeated as an on-going project.

Helen R. Odom, Chairperson

IRENE JUDY

Irene Judy, who passed on June 29, 1984, was, with her husband Gilbert, a very supportive member of the La Mesa Historical Society since its beginning.

Born in Chicago, Illinois in 1905, Irene Judy was the daughter of the Rev. Fred D. Finn, a Baptist minister. After living in Pennsylvania and Los Angeles, the family moved to San Diego where Irene attended San Diego High School, graduating in 1923. She attended the University of Redlands for two years and then worked for the San Diego Water Development Office.

On September 18, 1926, Irene married Gilbert Judy, a young man from Kansas who had just received his degree from San Diego State College. Gilbert's acceptance in 1927 of a job teaching social studies at Grossmont High School brought the Judys to La Mesa to live, and in 1934 they purchased the house on Date Avenue where they would remain. Gilbert taught at Grossmont until 1938, and after that worked as both teacher and administrator for the San Diego City Schools until his retirement in 1959. He was a member of the La Mesa City Council from 1936 to 1938, and served on the Planning and Parking Commissions in the 1940's.

The Judys had two children: Harold, born in 1930, and Dorothy, born in 1936. After the children were grown, Irene went back to work, employed part-time by the Helix Water District as a draftsman in the engineering department from about 1950 to 1962. Following their retirement the Judys spent considerable time traveling.



THELMA TODD

La Mesa lost a pioneer resident with the passing of Thelma Todd on August 13, 1984.

Born in the Northern California mining town of Dutch Flat, Thelma came to La Mesa in 1912 with her parents, Mr. & Mrs. William B. Jones, and her brothers and sisters. The family lived for a while in a house which stood near the lake at what is now Anthony's Restaurant, and later moved to Grossmont Boulevard, in an area then called Hawley Heights.

Thelma commuted by train to San Diego High School, graduating in 1916. After receiving her degree in 1920 from San Diego Normal School, which would become San Diego State College, she taught elementary school for two years in Calexico and one in Ventura. In 1924 she returned to La Mesa and began her career with the La Mesa-Spring Valley School District, teaching sixth grade at La Mesa Elementary with a starting salary of $140 per month. She was to spend a total of approximately 24 years with the district, as substitute and regular teacher, from 1924 to 1964.

In 1926 Thelma married Harry W. Todd, the elder son of Orien W. and Mary Waterman Todd. The Todds had come to La Mesa in 1911 from Elgin, Illinois, and had had their handsome home constructed on Mt. Nebo. Orien Todd was the owner of several millinery stores, including the Todd Millinery Company in downtown San Diego, and was also involved in real estate holdings in La Mesa. La Mesa's Orien Avenue was named after him.

Thelma and Harry at first lived in San Diego, but later shared the home of Harry's parents, remaining there after the passing of the elder Todds. They had one son, Thomas, born in the late 1920's. Harry's career included managing the Todd Millinery Company store in San Diego, working as a salesman, as a stock broker for the Walston Company, and involvement with an oil business in Louisiana. He passed on in 1970.

Thelma worked as a substitute teacher for several years during the 1930's and early 1940's, becoming a regular teacher again in 1943. She spent the 1950's at Rolando Elementary, finally retiring in 1961 at La Mesa Dale. She returned to substitute until 1964. Thelma was remembered as an energetic teacher who had a genuine interest in every child in her classroom, and a special concern for those with problems.

Her teaching career was combined with community involvement. Thelma was active during the 1930's and later with the La Mesa Community Welfare Association. She was awared the American Red Cross Gold Medallion for 50 years of volunteer service. Both she and Harry were members of the Central Congregational Church of La Mesa.

Thelma was a member of the La Mesa Bicentennial Committee's History Subcommittee, which oversaw the research for the brochure, La Mesa-A Brief History, published in 1976. She was involved in the La Mesa Historical Society from its founding in 1975, serving on the Board of Directors, the Restoration Committee, as Memorabilia Chairman, and as one of the Quilters. She was always a generous and gracious hostess, whose historic home atop Mt. Nebo was the setting for many LMHS Board, Committee and Quilters meetings.

EARLY LA MESA AND THE METHODIST CHURCH, 1895-1908

FLORENCE McKINNEY'S 1933 NOTES

Note: In 1933 Florence McKinney prepared a short talk on the beginnings of the Methodist Church in La Mesa, apparently for delivery to a church group meeting. Her untitled, handwritten notes were later edited by her daughter-in-law, Marie Maxwell McKinney, for inclusion in a booklet commemorating the eightieth anniversary of La Mesa's Methodist Church in 1975. The latter version is reprinted here.

Florence Cromwell McKinney and her husband, Rev. Henry A. McKinney, had come to the San Diego area from Illinois in 1897. With their two sons, Cromwell and Joyce, they settled first in National City. Florence, born in 1864, had worked as a school teacher prior to her marriage in 1891. When Rev. McKinney was first called to supply the pulpit in La Mesa in 1898, he commuted by train or by horse and buggy to preach. The McKinneys moved to La Mesa in 1901, living in a house on what was to become Date Avenue, where their third son, Donald, was born. Rev. McKinney last served as a supply minister in 1905, after which he preached when needed. In 1908 the McKinneys had their new house constructed on University Avenue. By this time Rev. McKinney had opened the furniture store on La Mesa Boulevard which he was to operate until about 1920. Henry McKinney died in 1930, but his wife continued to be active in the Methodist Church until a few years before her death in 1956.

Someone has said, "The process of growth in any sphere of life is interesting and inspiring -- one of the joys of living is to be able to look back and think and say that I was there when that institution was founded or that project was launched, and I watched it grow."

If you will sit with me a few minutes and look at the pictures as memory, facts, and records unroll them, we can realize the growth and change of the past 38 years. The first picture reveals a beautiful mesa with many citrus trees dotting its hillsides, with here and there a house sheltering a family who are caring for the trees. On Nebo Drive between Lemon and Lookout stood a commodious



The McKinneys in 1896: Rev. Henry Albert McKinney (1851-1930), Florence Cromwell McKinney (1864-1956) and sons Henry Cromwell (1891-1960) and Wilfred Joyce (born 1895.)



Looking northeast over La Mesa, circa 1896. Seen from the rear are the two-story brick general store and the lemon packing house on Nebo Drive at the corner of La Mesa Blvd. The McKinneys' first home on Date Avenue is in the right foreground.

packing house, to which the ripening fruit was brought to be made ready for shipping to markets. Running parallel with Nebo Drive is the Cuyamaca Railroad, with freight cars into which the fruit was loaded for shipment. This was the one industry of the little community of La Mesa.

A Mrs. Kendall lived in a house on the north side of University Avenue, and north of the schoolhouse where two old palms are growing. She told me that she stood in her front doorway and counted 13 houses, and she wondered if there would ever be another home built. She left La Mesa and now resides in Chula Vista.

Always where there are several families living near one another there must be a school house for children to attend. In a more prosperous day one had been built in this district and stood on the ground where the present school stands today on Orange Avenue.

A few of the residents of this village felt the need of a service of worship. As the building of a church was out of the question, permission was granted to the trustees to hold Sunday services in this school building. Yesterday an acquaintance who has resided here longer than I told me that for a while the meetings were held in the packing house.

Living at La Mesa Heights was a retired minister of the Methodist faith, a Reverend D. Clingman, who called together a very few people (around 12) who desired to organize a church, and this was accomplished. Rev. William Sterling was the District Superintendent, and in 1895, Rev. R.C. Westenberg received the appointment to supply the pulpit. He carried on for one year before moving East. In 1896 Rev. J.B. Odin came, but ill health

forced him to resign, and Rev. D. Clingman finished the year. In 1897 Rev. Monroe was our minister, and in 1898 came Rev. C.W. Shaw. In eight months he was gone, and here is when the McKinneys came into the picture, finishing the year, and receiving the conference appointment in 1899. In 1900 La Mesa had three pastors: Northrup, Shaw and McKinney. In 1901 and 1902 Rev. McKinney was appointed again to La Mesa. In 1903 Rev. V.R. Bennett was sent, and the first real start was made toward having a church building by having a committee formed. Again, Rev. McKinney was called to finish out the year. In 1905 Mr. George Pearson was elected to go to conference, serving as the first lay delegate from our church.

You can readily see how hard such changes must have been on any church. These pastors did not even get to know the congregation in such a short time. I hear some ask, "Why such frequent changes?" This is the answer: These men were making a living by preaching, and the salary was not large enough to support them. With the salaries ranging from $100 to $150 a year, they had to find other pasturage.

In 1901 we moved to La Mesa for health reasons and were forced to remain. We added to the church salary by caring for an orchard for a man living in Illinois. This gave us our home. A cow was added, which gave us milk and butter. Also, 35 Minorca hens bought the groceries. Our



The McKinneys' home on Date Avenue, 1907. Florence McKinney is on the front porch with her son, Donald, born in 1906. The McKinneys cared for the citrus orchard which had been planted around the house.

QUARTERLY CONFERENCE MEETINGS.

Quar.	Year.	Month.	Day.	Place.	In the Chair.	Secretary.
1st.	1899	Nov	22	La Mesa	W. M. Starling P.E.	H. A. McKinney
2d.	1900	Mar	88	"	Pastor	"
3d.	"	June	2	"	W. M. Starling P E	Lot Pearson
4th.	"	Aug	37	"	"	Wm Orsborn

FINANCIAL RECORD.

SALARY ALLOWANCE.		SALARY PAID. 1899-1900	1st Quarter.	2d Quarter.	3d Quarter.	4th Quarter	Total.
Pastor in charge,	100.00	*Claims,..*	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	100.00
		Receipts,	11.25	21.53	14.81	52.41	100.00
Assistant Pastor,..		*Claims,..*					
		Receipts,					
Presiding Elder,..	6.00	*Claims,..*	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	6.00
		Receipts,	1.00	1.31	1.65	2.05	6.01
Episcopal Fund,..	1.20	*Claims,..*					
		Receipts,				1.00	1.00
Conference Claimants,.....	3.75	*Receipts, ..*					
Rent,.....		*Receipts, ..*				2.00	2.00
Traveling and Moving Expen.	24.63	*Receipts, ..*					

Entries in the Quarterly Conference Records for La Mesa in 1899-1900 show the minister receiving a yearly salary of $100.

conveniences were the brick store, which also housed the La Mesa Springs Post Office. There was also the railroad, by which we could travel to San Diego, and by which the boys later attended high school. So we stayed in La Mesa and held on.

All the time we still talked about building a church. The record says that dry years caused the moving of many people, and we dared not launch out and build. However, reports always closed with confidence: "The Lord of Hosts is with us...the God of Jacob our salvation." The building committee seemed to be a standing committee, with only a few new names added as the membership grew.

In 1907, under the pastorate of Rev. Gibbs, the building project was undertaken. Rev. Pitner was the District Superintendent. The record shows 45 members added in 1907. The village had begun to grow. Rev. Gibbs went to another field at the end of the year, and Rev. Buck was appointed. The church was finally finished. It is now the Vernon Apartments. Many church members deserve tribute--the Pearsons, the Orsborns, the Olivers, to mention a few families of the early days.

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