



# Lookout Avenue



*Reverend McKinney\**

**Volume 24, Number 1 Spring 2003**

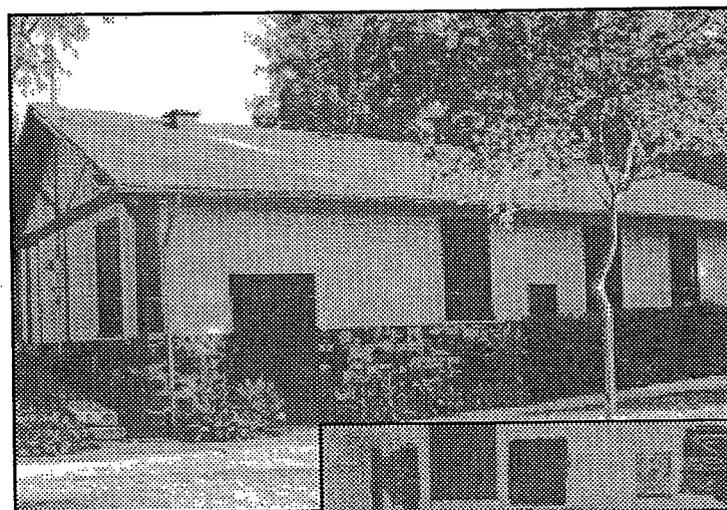
## ***Spring member's event March 23 mark your calendars now!***

We are hosting a spring membership meeting at 4 p.m., Sunday, March 23, in Collier Park, at the southernmost reaches of Palm Avenue.

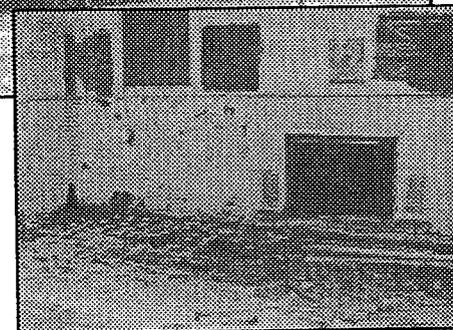
This is the site of La Mesa Historic Landmark No. 3, the Spring House and Collier Park. The Spring House, built by Colonel David C. Collier in 1907, served as a bottling works for the spring water piped to it from the hillside to the north. Kumeyaay Indians were known to camp here from time to time.

We will serve light refreshments next to the historic drinking fountain that once stood near the La Mesa Railroad Depot and have access to the interior of the Spring House.

We assume that many of you have never had the opportunity to visit the site and see where some of our area's first "designer water" was bottled. We will be sending you an invitation in early March.



*Pictured above is the outside of the Spring House, built in 1907. Right is the inside of the Spring House.*



### ***I n s i d e :***

***Page 2***

A note from the president  
Board of directors  
What's to come  
Collecting the 40s, 50s & 50s

***Page 3***

Holiday open house round-up

***Page 4***

Calling new board members  
Annual report  
Fall Back Festival  
Newest LMHS members

***Page 5***

Excerpt from walking tour  
LMHS vs. HPC  
Raffle winners

*\* Rev. McKinney, for whom the McKinney House is named, was one of the first ministers of the La Mesa Methodist Episcopal Church and was an early business man, lemon rancher, librarian and school trustee.*

*McKinney and his family lived for many years in what is now the La Mesa Historical Society's headquarters and La Mesa Historical Landmark No. 1. The McKinney family moved to La Mesa, then known as Allison Springs, in 1899.*

## A note from the LMHS president

by Gordon Jones



This is shaping up to be a very good year, indeed. Again, we have so many volunteers to thank for making it so. The Christmas Open

House saw more than 100 visitors coming to taste superb scones, see and smell a marvelous tree and our house decked out in the style of almost 100 years ago. Thanks to chair **Ruth Contino** and her committee: **Leslie Tonkinson, Sharon Crockett** and **Karna Webster**.

Meeting so many kids at the special Gaslamp District historical event in October was so rewarding, that we want to do it again. Thanks, **Donna Niemeier**.

I should note here and now, that without Donna's being so involved in our organization, I would have given up long ago.

Thank you, **May Ann Ehlers**, for your efforts in putting our mailings together, dealing with the post office and ensuring that our members know what we're doing.

We also thank **William Davies** of La Mesa for his donation of 52 oil paintings of the East County area by Cora "Code" Brunaugh, who, with her husband, Harry, moved to La Mesa in 1927. She passed away in 1977 at age 92. We are also

grateful to **Penny Halgren** who donated La Mesa Memorabilia including a fishing reel once owned

by Rube Levy. We hope to exhibit a few at a time in the coming months. We want to especially recognize and thank **Donna Regan** for the long service she has given in dealing with our telephone answering machine and responses.

We'd also like to welcome our newest members: **Allison Dossett, Jim and Janis Schlundt, Bruce and Daisy Johnson, Marlene Robershaw, John Linden** and **Hugh Burdick**.

We have volunteer chairs and dates for events in 2003, so keep these dates in mind.

### **Easter Celebration, Sat., April 19,**

Chairperson, Kathy Tinsley;

### **High Tea, Rose Celebration & Annual Meeting, Sat., May 17,**

Chairperson, Donna Niemeier;

### **Summer Lawn Party, Sat., July 12,**

Chairperson, Leslie Tonkinson;

### **Christmas Open House, Sun., Dec. 7,**

Chairperson, Ruth Contino.

In addition to the Spring members' event, we are also planning a mid-September members' event with historical substance.

### **La Mesa Historical Society,**

#### **Board of Directors**

July, 2002-June, 2003

**President:** Gordon Jones

**1st Vice President:** Donna Niemeier

**2nd Vice President:** Carol Lockwood

**3rd Vice President:** Ruth Contino

**Secretary:** Sharon Crockett

**Treasurer:** Donna Niemeier

**Past President:** Karna Webster

#### **Directors-at-Large:**

Leslie Tonkinson

Stephanie Glazer

Ed Blackman

Kathy Tinsley

## **Collecting the 40s, 50s and 60s**

Though we are a bit short of storage space in our archives for any large collectible or antique items, we ask you to begin to discover and save items from more recent years for the Society's collections. It's rather remarkable that so many things that many of us remember from our growing years are now so collectible and harder to find. Keep us in mind when you come across something you believe we might like to keep!

You can contact us at (619) 466-0197.

## *Holiday open house round up*

More than 100 people attended the Holiday Open House festivities on Dec. 8 at the historic McKinney House.

Visitors were entertained by the sing-along group from the La Mesa Senior Center and flute music of **Jim Kritz** as they gazed at the beautiful display of quilts and antique toys created by **Donna Niemeier**. Delicious scones, made by **Marilyn Webb**, were served with cider and other refreshments. **Amanda Bingham** had storytime for the kids and even Santa Claus made an appearance.



A big thank you to the following LMHS members who helped with the open house: **Gordon and Carol Jones, Donna Niemeier, Carol Lockwood, Ruth Contino, Sharon Crockett, Leslie Tonkinson, Ed and Beth Blackman, Kathy Tinsley, Stephanie Glazer, Karna Webster, Norrie West, David Kievit, Dennis Tuttle, Clark Mires, France Dodson, Duane Jackson and Marilyn Webb.**

### *Nominees for Board of Directors*

It's not long until we will again have elections for board positions. If you believe you or someone you know has some time, some creativity and real interest, please let us know in the near future. You can contact us at (619) 466-0197.

### *Do you have a collection that you would like to share?*

We are always looking for collections and displays for the House.

If you have a small or large collection you believe our members would find interesting and relates to history, please let us know.

We would like to explore with you the possibility of our creating an exhibit around your collection.

You can contact us at (619) 466-0197.

## **LMHS, Annual Report FISCAL Year**

**July 1, 2002-Dec. 31, 2002**

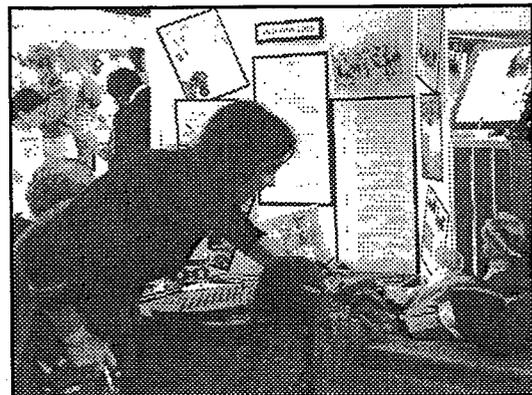
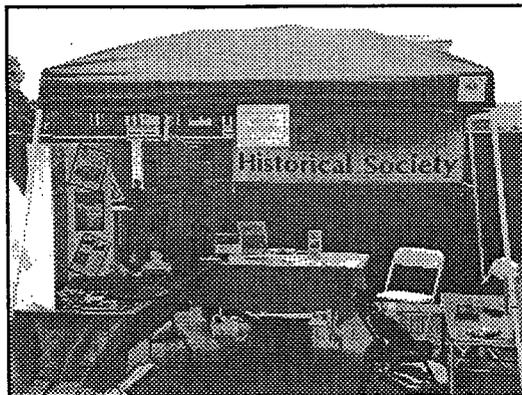
### **BUDGET SUMMARY**

Income	
Membership	\$2,885.00
Interest	\$165.78
Contributions	\$296.50
Fund-Raising	\$1,645.00
Sales	\$3,061.41
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$8,053.69</b>

Expenses	
Fund-raising	\$521.54
Sales	\$463.00
Promotions	\$928.66
Utilities/Maintenance	\$5,239.11
Preservation	\$624.29
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$7,776.60</b>

If you would like a copy of the line item spreadsheet showing specific income and expense in each general categories listed above, contact LMHS Treasurer **Donna Niemeier** at (619) 461-2419.

## **La Mesa Historical Society at Fall Back Festival**



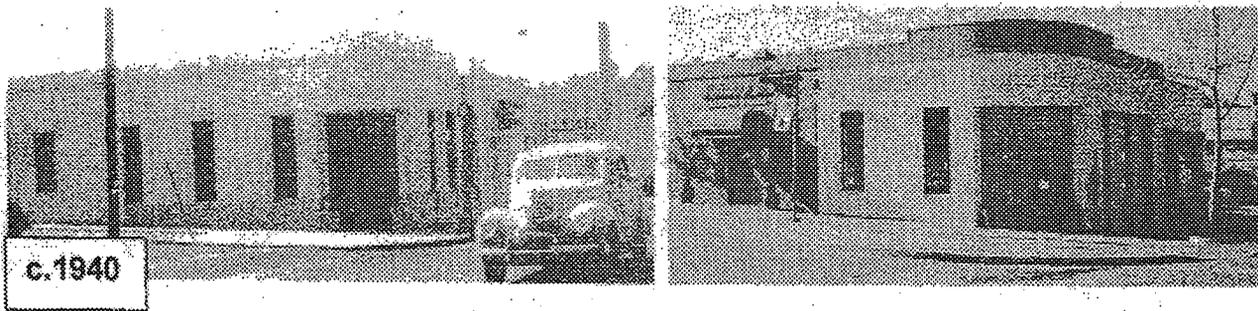
The La Mesa Historical Society participated in the Children's Historic Street Faire on Sunday, Oct. 27, 2002. The faire was a celebration of San Diego History and was held at Fifth and Island streets in the Gaslamp Quarter. The La Mesa Historical Society's booth had an antique toy display. Activities available for the children included coloring sheets, antique board games, and making a whirligig to take home. More than 800 children and their parents visited the La Mesa Historical Society booth.

## La Mesa Historical Society vs. Historic Preservation Committee

The La Mesa Historical Society is a non-profit, all volunteer organization. Their goals include: educating the public on the history of La Mesa, archiving historic documents and serving as an outreach for the public on historic matters via the museum (McKinney House) and special events.

The Historic Preservation Committee has seven members (three of whom are nominated by the LMHS) and are approved by the La Mesa City Council. They are responsible for maintaining and enforcing the Historic Resources Inventory list. They have the power to approve or disapprove any alteration, modification or removal of any exterior architecture features of a designated landmark or improvement within a historic district. They recommend to the La Mesa City Council the designation of a historical landmark or historic district.

## LMHS's self-guided walking tour of downtown La Mesa



(Corner of La Mesa Boulevard and 4th Avenue)

### *Excerpt from the walking tour...*

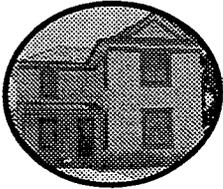
This former U.S. Post Office building is one of the few Modern commercial buildings in downtown La Mesa. It was constructed in 1939 on two lots owned by George Sheldon. The property was remodeled into offices in 1945, since the post office had, by then, moved to its Palm Avenue site. It has since been occupied by antique shops, upholstery and radio shops, taverns and others. Note the use of glass and bricks in the cutaway entrance corner, and tall, narrow metal-framed windows with transoms at the tops symmetrically spaced away on both sides of the building. The windows on the La Mesa Boulevard side are recessed while those on Fourth Street are not. An entrance has also been cut into the building on the Fourth Street side between the last two windows.

***On sale soon!***

## LMHS holiday open house raffle prize drawing winners:

**Mr. & Mrs. J. Polak**, LMHS Calculator donated by LMHS Friend; **Kathy Stone**, Old-fashion Santa doll donated by Sharon Crockett; **Sara Megling**, Mantel clock (grand prize) donated by LMHS Board of Directors; **Aileen Teague**, Pliers Set donated by LMHS Friend; **Nina Kiefhaber**, pair of theater tickets donated by Lamplighters Theatre; **Donna Niemeier**, pair of theater tickets donated by Lamplighters Theatre; **Marilyn Webb**, Holiday Centerpiece donated by LMHS Friend;

**Susan Mullert**, Haircut donated by Haircut Store; **Paul Carter**, 4-pack train tickets donated by San Diego Railroad Museum; **Carol Koehler**, 2 cheeseburger lunches donated by Johnny B's Burgers & Brew; **Louise Baker**, Computer Mini-Vac donated by LMHS Friend; **Tricia Townsend**, Crystal Vase donated by **Donna Niemeier**; and **Bob Palley**, Gibson Girl doll donated by Carol Jones



**La Mesa Historical Society**

Museum: Rev. Henry A. McKinney House (1908)  
8369 University Ave., La Mesa, CA 91941  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 882, La Mesa, CA. 91944

**Change service requested**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
La Mesa, CA 91941  
Permit No. 208

**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 Ave. (at the corner of Pine Street) in La Mesa.  
Open noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday 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**  
**P.O. Box 882, La Mesa, CA 91944**

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.

- \$500 Benefactor
- \$250 Patron
- \$100 Sponsor /Organization
- \$20 Family
- \$15 Individual
- \$5 Student

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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