LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

LOOKOUT AVE.

Volume 11, Number 1 November, 1987



Scene from the Grossmont High School Christmas Pageant in the 1960s.

The Grossmont Christmas Pageant

A Tradition Continues

On December 15 and 16, Grossmont High School will again present its annual Christmas Pageant, a community tradition since 1925. The performances will be held Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 8:00 p.m. in the school auditorium. No admission fee is charged, but donations are welcomed.

For a time, school officials feared that the lack of curtains for the auditorium might force cancellation of this year's Pageant. The curtains, along with the cyclorama which stretches across the back of the stage, had been found to be too deteriorated for repair or further use and had been slated for replacement. In October, word was received that the Grossmont High School District did not have the necessary $7,500 in its maintenance budget. A solution was found

(Continued on next page)

when the district allowed Grossmont to spend $5,500 of its $11,321 land sale use funds, together with $1,000 each from Associated Student Body monies and from the Pageant reserve fund, for replacement costs.

Grossmont High School, the only school in the district until Helix High opened in 1952, was completed in 1922. The Pageant as it appears today had its beginnings as a program created by teacher Eva Quicksall which consisted of Christmas music, readings by speech department students, and a Christmas play by drama department students. After several years of experimentation, the Pageant emerged in the 1930s with the three main sections presently seen: an Old English feast scene, a Madonna scene with the procession of candlebearers, and a series of living pictures illustrating the Christmas story. The number of student participants, including those in the orchestra and choir, grew in the 1930s from 36 to approximately 300, where it stands today. Through the years, the Pageant remained a popular and well-attended community event.

In recent years the Pageant has been threatened by lower attendance and by some concerns about the appropriateness of religious themes in a school setting and about student class time lost to rehearsals. Newspaper reports that the 1986 Pageant might be the last, however, brought supportive crowds of students, alumni, and other members of the community to the performances last year. Following this demonstration of enthusiasm and appreciation, the decision was made to continue the Pageant.

Now in its seventh decade, the Pageant has been a Christmas tradition for three generations of La Mesa area residents. As creator Eva Quicksall has said, "Though leaders change, actors change, of course, the Pageant remains much the same - truly Grossmont High School's Christmas gift to the community."

NOTE DETOUR: The bridge over the railroad tracks to Water Street and Murray Drive in front of the school is closed for construction. Alternate routes must be used. Please call Grossmont High School, 1100 Murray Drive (460-5510), for information.

1922, 1923, 1936 GROSSMONT HIGH SCHOOL ANNUALS SOUGHT

Due to the recent generous donation from Eva Quicksall, the La Mesa Historical Society now has nearly all of the early Grossmont High School annuals from 1922 through 1963 - except for 1922, 1923, and 1936. If you have any of these years and would like to donate them, we would be most appreciative. The Society would then have in its archives a complete record of the people who attended Grossmont and of the related school activities during this period. Later annuals would also be welcomed. Please contact Pat Kettler (463-0197) if you can help in this matter.

LA MESA HISTORY BROCHURE PUBLISHED

In commemoration of La Mesa's 75th anniversary as an incorporated city, the La Mesa City Council voted to fund the design and printing of a La Mesa pictorial history brochure. Fifteen photographs, dating from the 1890s to the present, were selected from the La Mesa Historical Society archives, and a condensed history was compiled and written by Society members May Ann Ehlers, Dennis Tuttle, Pat Kettler, and Donna Regan. The design and initial layout work was executed by Dennis Tuttle. These attractive 5½ by 10¼ inch brochures (which open out to 17 by 21½ inches) are available for $1.00 at the McKinney House, the La Mesa City Hall, and the Chamber of Commerce. They are also on sale at two businesses in downtown La Mesa - Good Taste gift shop and La Mesa Camera and Sound; at Wheeler Tile (across from Silo); and on the mall at Grossmont Center in the lottery ticket booth.



The La Mesa Historical Society operates the Rev. Henry A. McKinney House, a 1908 house museum located at 8360 University Avenue (corner of Pine Street),La Mesa. Hours are 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. Saturdays, or by appointment. For information call 460-3726 or 463-0197.

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Contributing to this edition were Donna Regan, Pat Kettler, Henrietta Schupbach, Karna Webster, and Beatrice Acers.



Seated on the front steps of the McKinney House after the wedding ceremony, August 21, 1921 (from left): Rev. Henry McKinney, youngest son Donald, Florence McKinney, Ruth and Joyce.

JOYCE AND RUTH McKINNEY WED 66 YEARS

Joyce and Ruth McKinney celebrated their 66th wedding anniversay on August 21, 1987. Joyce, the second of three sons of Rev. Henry A.McKinney and his wife,Florence, married Ruth Huntington in 1921. The young couple stood together in the front room of the McKinney House as Rev. McKinney performed the ceremony. Joyce and Ruth settled in the Los Angeles area, where Joyce worked as a chemist for an oil company and Ruth taught school. After their retirement they returned to the San Diego area. In 1983 they moved to the Northern California town of Magalia to be near their daughter, Anne.

CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH FEBRUARY 21

The La Mesa Historical Society's annual Champagne Brunch will be held on Sunday, February 21, at the American Legion Hall in La Mesa. Please put the date on your calendar now.

CALENDAR

December 12	Christmas Open House at the McKinney House
February 21	Champagne Brunch

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The La Mesa Historical Society extends a warm welcome to members who have recently joined and thanks to those who have renewed at a higher level:

Jesse Bailey (Life)
All Things Bright & British
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Carter
Eleanor Doerr (Life)
Catherine Ellis
Joyce Felch
Beth Goertz & Ed Blackman
Diana Wallis Hinck (Patron)
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Johnson
Diane Lapp, Ph.D. (Life)
Robert McKinney
Ruth Angell Purkey
Shaari Rogacs
Roger Seek
Fred Thompson
Cecile M. West (Life)
Dorothy Wright

May Ann Ehlers (Individual to Patron)
Videlle C. Gray (Individual to Patron)
Dr. & Mrs. Jerome Heard (Family to Patron)
Gladys Johnston (Individual to Patron)
Vern Kettler (Individual to Patron)
Ruth Papendieck (Individual to Patron)
Marty Peinemann (Individual to Life)
Mr. & Mrs. B. James Polak (Sponsor to Patron)
Ruth Raush (Individual to Sponsor)

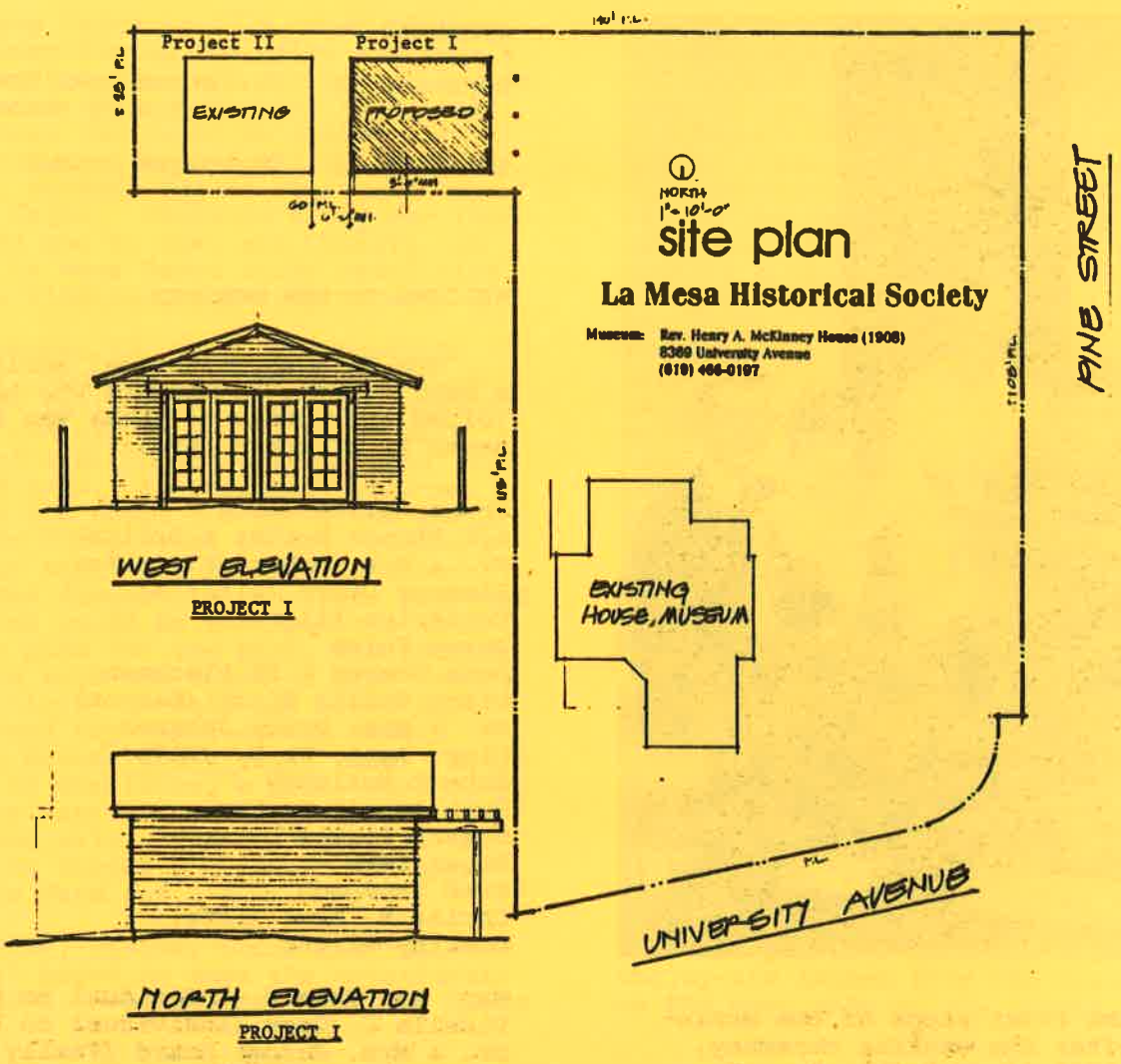
IN MEMORIAM

The La Mesa Historical Society extends its deepest sympathy to the families of:

Mary Atkinson
Ruby Donahoo Bougher
Lily Shaw Bowers
Ralph Lockwood
Vera Baldwin Meyer
Julia Powell
Elsie Roberts

LILY SHAW BOWERS MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION

The La Mesa Historical Society gratefully acknowledges a contribution in memory of Lily Shaw Bowers from her daughter, Hazel Shaw Ogle.



LMHS Building Fund Reaches $9,600

Generous contributions by members and others have brought the La Mesa Historical Society one-third of the way toward its goal of raising $27,000 for its planned building project. Since the beginning of the fundraising drive in August, the Society has received approximately $9,600, $7,000 in donations and the remainder in pledges. Further assistance is needed now so that the project can begin.

Initial contributions were the result of a number of personal contacts made to explain the Society's needs and plans, an activity still continuing. An encouraging response is being received from mailings sent to the membership and to community organizations in November. In addition, a grant proposal has been submitted to the City of La Mesa requesting a contribution of $7,500, specifically toward the preservation of historical records and artifacts.

In 1975, the Society purchased the 1908 Rev. Henry A. McKinney House for use as a house museum and headquarters. The house has been restored and furnished to interpret life in La Mesa from 1908 to 1920, as exemplified by the McKinney family. The Society also collects photographs, artifacts, and records of local significance and conducts educational programs. Over the years, spcae in the house which should be devoted to exhibits has been lost to storage of these historical materials and of supplies, as well as to work space for a variety of activities.

To find a solution, a Building Committee consisting of Pat Kettler, Lloyd Donahoo, Beatrice Acers, Donna Regan, Nadine Washburn, and architects James Hart and Dennis Tuttle was formed in February. Three goals were identified:

I. Further develop and improve the McKinney House as a museum by expanding exhibit space to provide a more educational and interesting experience for the visitor.

II. Provide needed work space for the Society's programs and for the fundraising activities which support them,

such as the work of the Quilters, a major source of income.

III. Create a safe storage area for the Society's collections, which include photographs from the 1880s to the present, La Mesa Scout newspapers from 1916 to 1985, furnishings, costumes, and maps.

Two combined building projects were conceived to meet these goals. Dennis Tuttle and Jim Hart have drawn the necessary plans and a contractor has been selected.

Project I. Construction of a workroom/storage accessory structure. An 18 x 22 foot structure, designed to match the McKinney garage, will be built at the rear of the McKinney House lot to provide a workroom plus storage for supplies.

Project II. Conversion of the garage to storage for archival/artifact collections. The existing McKinney garage is an 18 x 20 foot structure with an unfinished interior. The conversion will include replacing the sliding garage doors with double-door entry and installing insulation, dry wall, a heating/air conditioning unit for climate control, and security and fire protection systems.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

The Society wishes to thank those whose generosity has enriched its collections of photographs, records and artifacts.

Photographs donated:

- Lloyd Donahoo - Three formal portraits of Lloyd and his brother, Dexter, 1919, 1921.
- Eva Quicksall - Hand-tinted photograph of a scene from the Grossmont High School Christmas Pageant, 1940s; three costumed Pageant cast members, 1960s.
- Dr. George Holland - Four-foot-long panorama of "Camp of U.S. Troops on the Mexican Border near Calexico," c. 1914.
- Sherman F. Grable - Photo of the La Mesa Women's Reunion, 1948.
- Bill Orsborn - Photos and negatives of La Mesa Elementary School in 1978 prior to its demolition; negatives of the buildings on the north side of La Mesa Boulevard between Acacia Avenue and Nebo Drive before they were torn down for redevelopment; copy negatives of photos of former La Mesa mayors.

Photographs lent to be copied:

- Bill Orsborn - Formal portrait of William T. Orsborn and his four sons, 1890s; portrait of Thomas McCarthy and family, 1906; the eight children of Thomas and Olivia McCarthy, 1920s.
- Kenneth McKinney - Simeon McKinney; Maggie McKinney, 1920s; Kenneth, aged five,and his mother Maggie McKinney, c. 1910.
- Harriet Silvernail - Nathan and Audley Cross, c. 1913; Charles C. Park and other Park relatives; Audley and her father, John Park.
- Ruth Angell Purkey - John S. and Evalena Angell, c. 1900; Ruth and her brother, Ted Angell, C. 1910; the Angell house at 4630 Date Avenue, c. 1910; Olive Lott, aged three, c. 1910.
- Mabel Perrapato - Dan McNulty and his son, Edgar, 1933; Grossmont High School girls at the depot; Grossmont High, c. 1922; Charles Wakefield Cadman seated at the piano in his La Mesa home, 1932.
- Dawn Stanley - View of Walter Moore house at 4874 Palm Avenue, c. 1911; Duane and Ted Oliver, c. 1908; Ted, Duane, and Henry Oliver, c. 1910.

Other donations:

- Eva Quicksall - Grossmont High School annuals, 1924 through 1962; a script from the 1955 Grossmont High School Christmas Pageant; programs from the Grossmont Christmas Pageant, 1930, 1941, 1984.
- Richard Sayer - San Diego Directories (San Diego Directory Co. and Polk's) 1941 through 1973, non-inclusive - 20 volumes total.
- Lloyd Donahoo - Handmade razor with ivory handle - "The Donahoo"; made by his grandfather Thomas Donahoo (a La Mesa blacksmith), c. 1910.

EARLY GROSSMONT BRIDGES TO BE DEMOLISHED

The construction of the San Diego Trolley line and the desire to make access changes in the area spell the end for two early concrete bridges crossing the railroad tracks to Water Street in front of Grossmont High School. The trolley line will require two tracks in place of the one currently there. The motor traffic bridge, with its graceful arched balustrade, has the 1928 date of its construction prominently stamped on its west side. This bridge, scheduled for demolition in December, will be replaced. The earlier tunnel bridge to the east, used by pedestrians, will be torn down and not replaced. The bridges are now closed for construction.

REMINISCENCES OF THE GENERAL MEETING & PIE FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 20, 1987

Our September gathering at the United Methodist Church was a rousing success, with over 120 people in attendance. To celebrate La Mesa's 75th Anniversary, the program commemorated those families which were living in La Mesa at the time of its incorporation in 1912. Special invitations were sent to 48 people representing these early families. Represented at the meeting were:

Family	Representative
Andrew C. Baldwin	Mildred Crosby
John S. Angell	Ruth Purkey
Nathan Cross	Harriet Silvernail
Thomas Donahoo	Lloyd Donahoo
	Clara Schock
Linus & Mary Fellows	Margaret Pearson
Sherman C. Crable	Lornelle Jeffers, Sherman F. Grable
George Hawley	Ruth Kabler
Claus Hinck	Bob Hinck, Al Hinck
Homer Hurlburt	Bernice Alspaugh
	Sheldon Hurlburt
Alfred Livett	Loretta Cox
	Carolyn Hayes
William Orsborn	Bill Orsborn
Thomas McCarthy	Bill Orsborn, Roy Wheeler, Michelle Wheeler, Tom McCarthy
Rev. Henry A. McKinney	Robert McKinney
	Lisa McKinney
Simeon McKinney	Kenneth McKinney
William Maxwell	Robert McKinney
	Lisa McKinney
Henry Oliver	Dawn Stanley, Joan Greeno, Carrol Stout
Charles C. Park	Kenner Park
	Harriet Silvernail
Dr. Henry D. Porter) Edwards W. Porter)	Christine Trigeiro
Lorenzo Sperbeck	Larry Upp, Lornelle Jeffers, Sherman F. Grable
Mme. Ernestine Schumann-Heink	Hubert Guy
Edward C. Upp	Larry Upp
Peter Watts	Dawn Stanley, Joan Greeno

It was my intention to mention a few additional things after discussing the families and introducing the representatives, but I forgot to do so. I hope to cover these bases now. Loretta Cox, whose father, Alfred Livett, was station master at the La Mesa Depot from 1910 to 1936, came to La Mesa with her parents in 1909, at the age of six. Of those attending the meeting, she had the distinction of living in the La Mesa area the longest, followed by Kenneth McKinney, who came here in 1910 with his family when he was seven. The earliest represented families to settle in what was to be called La Mesa were: Linus and Mary Fellows (1886 or earlier); Claus Hinck (1886); Henry Oliver (1893); and William Orsborn (1898).

Those who were sent letters, but were unable to attend are:

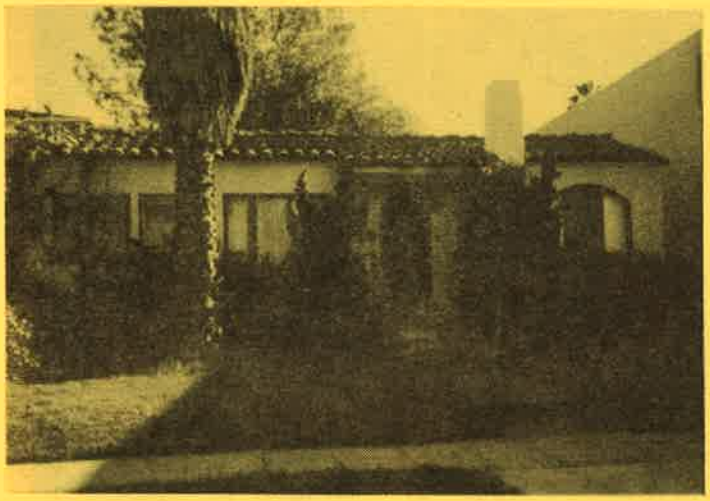
Family	Representative
Ed Fletcher	Ed Fletcher, Jr.
Henry A. Hall	Dorothy Daggs, Marjorie Brown
Harry Hill	Larry Hill
William Jones	Grace Wilson
Edward B. Light	Richard E. Wilken
Albert E. Lott	Olive Mannen
W. Ernest Lyon	Dorothy Feys
Benjamin Lyster	Elva Weisiger
	Azalia Young
Charles C. McCutchen	Carlotta Alexander
Howard Worth	Leslie Girard
Arthur Wright	Roland Wright

It is very possible that we may have missed some early families, and we apologize if your name was not mentioned or if you did not receive a letter. Please let me know if this has happened and I will attempt to make amends. Remember, these are families which were in La Mesa by 1912.

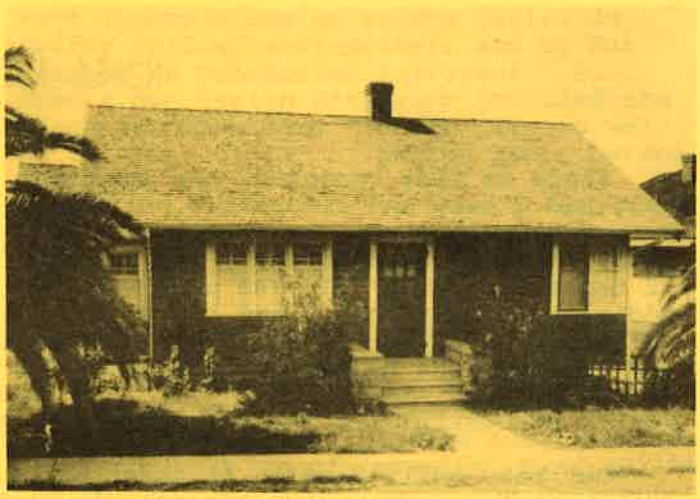
The day's events were quite enjoyable and the La Mesa Methodist Church was most accommodating. A special thanks to the staff at the church and one also to one of its members, Virgina Wurzburger. She really pulled all the final details together, both in the kitchen and in the meeting hall. A wonderful team helped Virginia get the tables looking lovely, so thanks to Mildred Crosby and the others. Members brought a varied selection of pies which were served up deftly by Brenda Neill and Margaret Barksdale, assisted by Jo Coffey. May Ann Ehlers was guest book attendant, Mabel Parrapato greeted everyone and gave out name tags, and Susan Taylor and Anita Underwood took care of our sales items.

A family photograph with a biography was on display for each family represented at the meeting. It was a special afternoon of fun and the renewing of old friendships, and I am happy that the Society had a part in bringing these people together in celebration.

- Pat Kettler



The Irma Rombauer House on La Mesa Boulevard, built in 1928.



The Alfred Livett House on Lemon Avenue, shown here circa 1920, was built circa 1910.

ROMBAUER, LIVETT HOUSES TO BE DEMOLISHED

Two early La Mesa homes on the city's Historic and Cultural Resources Inventory will soon be demolished. The Irma Rombauer House at 8419 La Mesa Boulevard and the Alfred Livett House at 8436 Lemon Avenue are scheduled for replacement by a two-story dental office building. The new structure will be built on the Rombauer House site, while the Livett House lot will be used for parking.

An example of the Mission style of architecture popular in La Mesa in the 1920s, the Rombauer House is a one-story stucco structure with a flat roof and a red tile shed roof section sloped toward the street. The front door and a large fixed window are set in arched openings. The home was built in 1928 for Irma Rombauer, one of La Mesa's best known teachers and school principals. Miss Rombauer, who came to La Mesa in 1924, spent 41 years as a teacher, supervisor, or principal in the La Mesa-Spring Valley School District. In recognition of her contributions, Mayor Ray Fellows declared May 24, 1964, Irma Rombauer Day.

The Livett House is a Crafstman bungalow with a side-facing medium gable roof and redwood finish siding. Set on a lot which slopes away from the street, the house has a partial lower story. Wooden windows contain six smaller panes in the upper portion. Low walls of stone-faced concrete block, widely used in La Mesa at that time for retaining walls and foundations, border the small front porch. The house was probably built in 1910 for Emma Fraelich. Early residents included Dr. Albert Golder, an optician. In 1916, the house became the home of Alfred Livett and his family. Livett, station master at the La Mesa Depot from 1910 to 1936, lived in the house until shortly before his death about 1940.

LA MESA HISTORY SLIDE PRESENTATIONS & McKINNEY HOUSE TOURS

Slide presentations were given in November to two third grade classes, one at Christ Lutheran School and one at Murdock Elementary. The 24 children in the class at Christ Lutheran also visited the McKinney House on November 6.

LMHS AT OKTOBERFEST

Staffers braved temperatures which rose to over 100 degrees to work at the La Mesa Historical Society table at this year's Oktoberfest from October 1st to 4th. The Chamber of Commerce has estimated that attendance was down by one-third from last year's due to the heat. Members answered questions about La Mesa and the Society and sold brochures, post cards, and drawing tickets. The panorama photograph of La Mesa circa 1909 which was on display attracted the interest and appreciation of passers-by. Profits for the four days totaled $83.00 in sales and $70.00 in tickets.

Thanks to the hardy troupe of helpers; Mabel Perrapato, Beverly Dostal, Jo Coffey, Anita Underwood, Dorris Palley, Susan Taylor, Henrietta Schupbach, Dennis Tuttle, Donna Regan, Eileen Berg, Jane Donahoo, Pat Kettler, Brice Lockwood, Harriet Lockwood, Mary Kelley, Beth Goertz and Ed Blackman.

NOTES FROM THE QUILTERS

Since we last reported, the Quilters have had a busy and productive period. Many baby quilts were made and sold to happy parents, grandparents, and friends of those expecting "blessed events." In addition, we have completed bed-sized quilts for a number of satisfied customers and provided the beautiful blue-and-white Single Wedding Ring pattern quilt for this year's successful Ice Cream Social drawing.

Our baby quilt drawing at this year's Oktoberfest was also very successful, with 139 one dollar tickets sold. The prize was won by Roger Seek, a La Mesan who is a gardener at Little Flower Haven.

Anyone having a pieced or appliqued top to be made into a quilt is invited to bring it to our workshop at the McKinney House on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for an estimate, or to call and make an appointment for another time. Please contact Nadine Washburn, 469-7358, or Beatrice Acers, 466-5812.

If you would like to quilt with us, or learn to quilt, we will welcome you. Our group continues to grow, and we now have 16 members:

Beatrice Acers	Helen Jones
Ethel Allen	Eleanor Meyer
Julie Bras	Marie Parkhurst
Mildred Bryan	Margaret Pearson
Bettie Burns	Shaari Rogacs
Carol Delaney	Marie Taylor
Eleanor Doerr	Gay Tulp
Betty Fekete	Nadine Washburn

The Quilters were well represented at the prestigious San Diego Quilt Show held at the Masonic Temple in Mission Valley in September. We exhibited two large quilts and one baby quilt.

The Quilters look forward to the day when they can use the proposed new work-room. We are very cramped for work space," they all say!

- Beatrice Acers



Some of the Quilters at work in the McKinney House east bedroom, January, 1987: (from left) Julie Bras, Nadine Washburn, Mildred Bryan, Bettie Burns, Beatrice Acers, Gay Tulp, Eleanor Doerr, and Ethel Allan.



Lyons House, January, 1986. The shrubbery has been cleared away and holes broken in the foundation to prepare for the move later that month.

HENRY M. LYONS HOUSE DESIGNATED LA MESA LANDMARK

On July 14, 1987, the Henry M. Lyons House became the fifth local historic landmark to be designated by the La Mesa City Council. The Lyons House joined the Rev. Henry A. McKinney House, Sherman C. Grable House, Collier Park and Spring House, and Harry C. Park House on the landmark register.

The Lyons House, located at 4871 Bancroft Drive, is one of the three historic houses which were threatened by a freeway expansion project for the I-8/125 interchange. A plan developed by Caltrans and the City of La Mesa allowed those who had bought the houses at public auction to purchase adjacent or nearby excess freeway right-of-way property to which the houses could be moved. The owners were required to preserve the houses and to permit landmark designation. Designation of the remaining two houses - the Miles House and the Russell House - will follow when these project are more complete.

Henry Lyons and his wife, Maude, both born in Kansas, moved to San Diego with their son, Irvin, about 1924. By 1931, Henry had become employed by Mrs. Conkling's Bakery on El Cajon Boulevard, where he worked for almost 30 years, first as a route salesman and later as route manager. The bakery sold retail baked goods by truck to residential customers along scheduled routes.

The Lyons had their home on Bancroft Drive built in 1935. The house is a simple, handsome bungalow, representative of many of the homes constructed as La Mesa expanded in the 1920s and 1930s. The one and one-half story structure has overlapping wooden siding and a high-pitched gable roof. Paired double-hung windows on either side of the center front entrance give the house a neat, symmetrical appearance. A clipped gable roof supported by square posts shelters the front porch.

Henry Lyons died in 1962 at the age of 60. In 1977, Maude Lyons sold the house to Timothy Lea, who owned it until Caltrans purchased the property.

In January of 1986, the house was moved slightly to the south and east of its original site to escape Bancroft Drive realignment. The matching garage did not have to be relocated. New owner John Leinert has since made some interior alterations and added a rear dormer, but has preserved period interior details such as the hardwood floors, fireplace and mantel,bathroom fixtures, and natural pine woodwork.

MILES, LYONS HOUSES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Two La Mesa Historic Landmarks have recently been made available for purchase. Since both of these houses were rescued from a freeway expansion project by a cooperative plan developed by Caltrans and the City of La Mesa, restrictions require that present and future owners preserve the architectural integrity of these homes and obtain city permission for any exterior modifications. The La Mesa Planning Department (463-6611) can provide additional details on these requirements.

The Lucius C. Miles House at 9390 Urban Drive is a large, two-story stucco structure. Designed by noted San Diego architect John B. Stannard in 1909, this handsome Craftsman-style residence was built for retired Goodyear Tire Company executive Lucius Miles and his wife, Harriet. For further information contact Tony Dulawan, Century 21,440-6606 (office) or 440-4302 (home).

Built in 1935 for Henry M. Lyons and his wife, Maude, the Lyons House is located at 4871 Bancroft Drive. Details on the history and architecture of this house may be found in the separate article on its designation as a landmark in this issue. Enquiries should be addressed to Richard L. Moore, ERA, Brodie & Associates, 698-4000 (office).

LMHS ICE CREAM SOCIAL & CITY PICNIC

The La Mesa Historical Society Ice Cream Social at the McKinney House on May 30 was part of a day of festivities highlighting La Mesa's 75th Anniversary. The Social was held in conjunction with the City Picnic at MacArthur Park and the Craft Fair on La Mesa Boulevard.

At the McKinney House, visitors enjoyed ice cream, sundaes, lemonade, and Pepsi; the usual barbequed chicken lunches were not served since food was available in the park. Special exhibits throughout the house featured life in 1912. The Quilters had baby quilts and other craft items for sale. Entertainment included the Christian Youth Theatre, Stan Christman's Barbership Quartet, High Country, and the Pacific Tuba Quartet. The increased attendance kept Society workers busy all day long.

The golf course at MacArthur Park was turned into a huge picnic area, where local service organizations offered a variety of food and soft drinks. LMHS operated a Pepsi booth there and also sold drawing tickets and brochures.

With La Mesa Boulevard between Palm Avenue and Fourth Street closed to traffic, the La Mesa Village Merchants Association sponsored a Craft Fair which involved more than 50 exhibitors in booths along the street.

"LIFE IN LA MESA - 1912" ICE CREAM SOCIAL EXHIBIT

Special exhibits throughout the McKinney House depicted daily life in La Mesa at the time of incorporation.

In the exhibit room upstairs aspects of the home, school life, business, and leisure activities were examined. Photographs and illustrations of houses and their interiors were combined with household artifacts. Illustrating the use of leisure time were musical instruments, popular sheet music, novels of the period, and a woman's bathing suit such as might have been found on the San Diego beaches in 1912. (Visitors were surprised to find that it was a bathing suit rather than a dress!) Photographs, advertisements, and receipts documented the business community of the time.

In the dining room, the table was set with Blue Willow china for a luncheon to celebrate incorporation, and the cotton and linen summer dresses which ladies would have worn to such a function were on display. More elegant dresses of silk could be found in the front room. In the bedroom upstairs, visitors would see what was beneath the fashionable silhouette - the corset, petticoats, and other articles of women's underclothing. Appropriate floral arrangements in different rooms added a festive and welcoming touch. A series of photographs in the office showed La Mesa's development in the years prior to incorporation.

Attracting visitors to the house were two splendid automobiles parked at the curb - a bright red 1908 Reo two-seater and an impressive 1912 Packard touring car.

The Society wishes to thank all those who graciously lent the items used in this exhibit: Anne Hall, Dan Vomhoff, Dennis and Sandia Tuttle, Pat Kettler, Tom Cox, Donna Regan, Nancy E. Neffson, Elizabeth Yeatts of Elizabeth's Attic, and Grossmont Antiques Mart. Special thanks to Shirley Holtz and Jo Pearson for the beautiful period clothing, to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Perry for their Reo, and to Allan Laughon for his Packard. The donation of flowers by Perennial Adventures Nursery was most appreciated. This exhibit was coordinated by Nancy Neffson and Donna Regan.

- Donna Regan

1987 ICE CREAM SOCIAL

RECEIPTS

Drawing	$ 1,530.00
Ice Cream	384.94
Pepsi & Lemonade	407.55
Quilters Sales	338.00
Sales - post cards & brochures	52.75
Total Receipts	$ 2,713.24

EXPENSES

Printing of drawing tickets	$ 53.00
Ice Cream	131.61
Toppings & Whip Cream	87.06
Cups, ladles, lids	47.07
Pepsi	131.04
Ice	50.00
Printing of flier	34.45
Postage for flier	29.50
Rental of ticket hopper	8.59
Exhibit materials	13.92
Rental of tables	10.97
Wine country tour (drawing prize)	29.00
Total Expenses	$ 626.21
Profit	$ 2,087.03



In the Classic Cat Saloon, left to right: (seated) Fred Nagel, Lloyd Donahoo, Wayne Beatty, Adolfo Villalobos; (standing) Bob Caesar, Carol Forcier (partially hidden), Jerri Lopez, Art Madrid.

THE WINNING OF LA MESA - 75th ANNIVERSARY MELODRAMA

Appreciative audiences watched as Good triumphed over Evil in the western melodrama The Winning of La Mesa, performed at the Ben Polak Theater on July 31 and August 1. As part of the celebration of La Mesa's 75th Anniversary,the melodrama was presented by Lamplighters Theatre in cooperation with the City of La Mesa.

The American Film Manufacturing Company, under director Allan Dwan, spent 11 months in La Mesa shooting movies in 1911 and 1912. The script for the melodrama was developed from brief synopses of these early films supplied by the La Mesa Historical Society. The story line of The Winning of La Mesa, created by Dwan in 1912, was adapted for the stage by Lamplighters' Paul Treske; direction was by Cleo Anderberg.

Members of the La Mesa City Council, city staff, and the community making their theatrical debuts included: Mayor Fred Nagel (saloon owner Tex Garvin); Councilman Art Madrid (Tex's sidekick, Shifty); Councilman Ernie Ewin (Rev. Alonzo Sweetworthy); Councilwoman Jerri Lopez (Pretty Peggy, queen of the saloon girls); and Janice Weinrick, Director of Redevelopment (Gregarious Ginger, saloon girl). LMHS was represented by Lloyd Donahoo (Lucky Lloyd, a cowboy), City Clerk Anita Underwood (Amorous Angie, saloon girl), Jo Coffey (Widow Sweetworthy), and by Pat Kettler as production assistant. La Mesa's own Evelyn Estabrook provided the piano accompaniment for the play as well as for the "olios" of period music between the acts.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL DRAWING

This year's Ice Cream Social Drawing was the most successful to date, with 1,530 tickets sold and a net profit of $1,439.41 realized. The first prize Single Wedding Ring pattern quilt was won by Bobbie Kotich of Lakeside. Hand-quilted by the Society's Quilters, the blue-and-white top had been pieced about 1920 by Grace Parrish, mother of Georgia Parrish Campbell, a long-time La Mesa resident. Elizabeth Rader of La Mesa won the second prize, a one-day bus tour and lunch for two to the North County Wine Country. The third prize, dinner for two at Carlos Murphy's, went to Julie Bras of La Mesa.

Faithful members and friends were again sitting in La Mesa Banks selling drawing tickets from March through May, and we wish to thank them for taking the time to do this. It is truly an important way to make contact with the general public and to let them know what the Society is doing, as well as to raise funds. Thank you to: Dorris Palley, Margaret Barksdale, Jo Coffey, Lucile DeWaide, Betty Burns, Beatrice Acers, Jane Clune, Clara Vivian, Pat Kettler, Susan Taylor, Martha Bice, Nina Reed Kiefhaber, May Ann Ehlers, Marge Webb (AAUW), Edith Hillis (AAUW), Eva Tanonis (AAUW), Mary-Em Howard and Lenore Gutgesell.

SDHS PRESENTS INSTITUTE OF HISTORY

The San Diego Historical Society will hold the 20th annual Institute of History on Saturday, April 9, 1988. The Institute is designed to encourage, recognize, and reward research on subjects of local significance. Students, non-professional and professional writers are encouraged to submit papers for prizes which range from $100 to $600. Prizes will be awarded in several categories of San Diego County history, including legal history, American period of San Diego history, art and artists, community history, medical history, photography and photographers, business and businessmen, religious history, and Native, Spanish and Mexican eras. Winning papers will be considered for publication in The Journal of San Diego History. The deadline for submission of papers is February 24, 1988. For further information call Sylvia Arden at 232-6203.

LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

	JULY 1, 1986 JUNE 30, 1987	1986-1987 BUDGET
Cash Balance, Beginning of Period	$2,632	
RECEIPTS AND TRANSFERS		
1. Brunch	$ 510	
2. Christmas Drawing	1,040	$1,150
3. Donations	210	250
4. Ice Cream Social (Food & Sales)	793	510
5. Membership	2,644	2,500
6. Miscellaneous Fund Raising	374	800
7. Photo Sales	474	100
8. Quilt Drawing	1,530	1,400
9. Quilters' Sales	2,369	1,500
10. Restricted Donations	74	
11. Sales	133	100
12. Tours	54	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	$10,205	$8,310
13. Transfers from Savings		
14. Prepaid Dues/1987-1988	234	
TOTAL RECEIPTS AND TRANSFERS	$10,439	
DISBURSEMENTS AND TRANSFERS		
15. Brunch Expenses	$ 535	$
16. Mortgage Payable	1,920	1,920
17. Christmas Drawing Expense	75	180
18. Contingencies		
19. Exhibit Expense	125	80
20. Ice Cream Social Expense	465	200
21. Insurance	1,097	1,100
22. Misc. Fund Raising Expense	175	150
23. Museum Restoration		200
24. Newsletter	404	800
25. Oral History		50
26. Photo Collection	270	350
27. Photo Sales Expense	350	50
28. Postage	391	350
29. Preservation of Collection	20	100
30. Printing & Xeroxing	673	600
31. Quilt Drawing Expense	90	80
32. Quilters' Expense	250	350
33. Restricted Donations Expended	25	
34. Sales Expense		100
35. Supplies & Miscellaneous	466	600
36. Tour Expense	27	
37. Utilities	992	950
38. Yard Maintenance		100
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	$8,350	$8,310
39. Transfers to Savings	49	
40. Transfer of Prepaid Dues	312	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS/TRANSFERS	$8,711	
Cash Balance, Ending of Period	$4,360	

*Clock purchased for 1986 Christmas Drawing in February, 1985 for $175.

LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
June 30, 1987

Assets			
Cash in bank, checking		$ 4,360	
Cash in bank, savings, reserved		1,311	
Cash in bank, savings, restricted*		4,732	
Certificate of Deposit, restricted*		3,611	
Museum Building		59,333	
Organization Costs		63	
TOTAL ASSETS			$ 73,410
Liabilities & Equity			
Liabilities			
Mortgage Payable		$ 1,676	
Equity			
Restricted*	$ 8,343		
Unrestricted	63,391		
TOTAL EQUITY		71,734	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY			$ 73,410

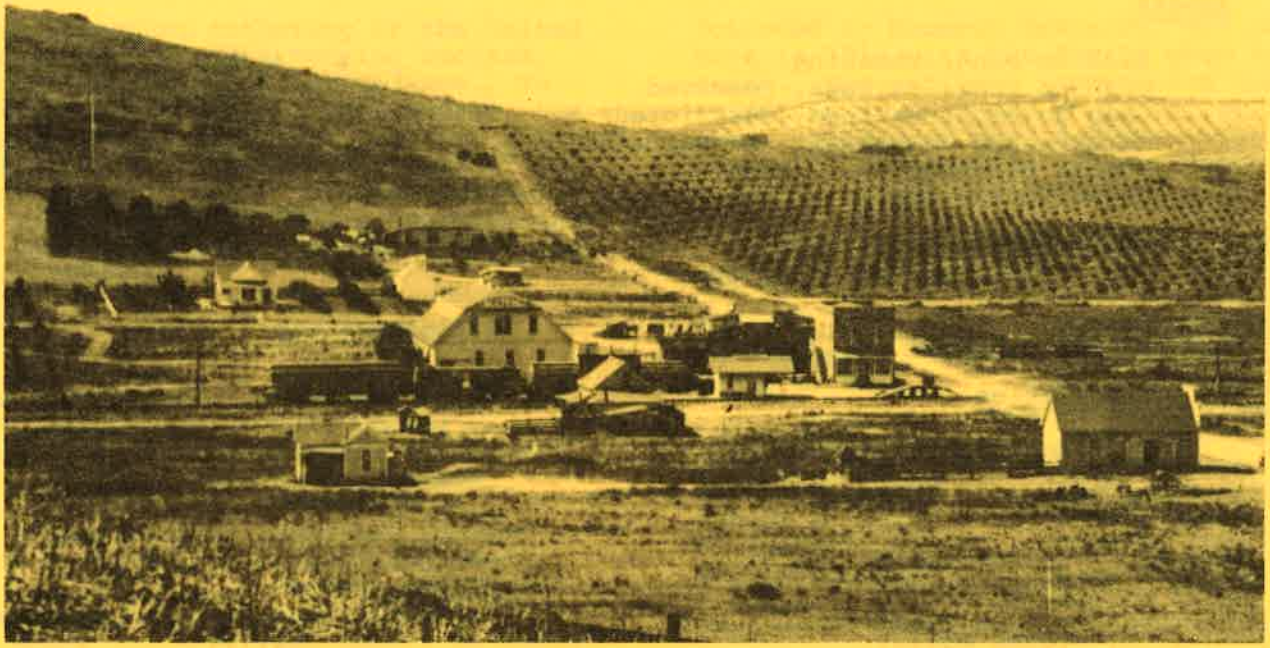
PSRMA RECEIVES CITY GRANT FOR LA MESA DEPOT

The fresh coat of paint on the La Mesa Depot is the first step in a planned program of work partially funded by the City of La Mesa.

In July of this year the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association received the $5,350 grant which it had requested from the City, half of the projected $10,700 cost of the three projects outlined. Project I, the exterior painting and refurbishment of the depot, has been completed. Project II, currently in progress, involves restoration work on the three pieces of rolling stock on the display track next to the depot; painting and repair of the refrigerator car exterior; touch-up maintenance of the steam locomotive; and window repair, exterior painting and relettering, and interior restoration of the caboose.

To supplement the tours of the depot given on Saturdays and Sundays or by appointment on other days, PSRMA wishes to install a visitor-activated display system which would make the depot accessible at other times. The system as presently envisioned would include the use of recordings and lighting to highlight depot activities; viewing would be through Plexiglas panels. Design and development of such a system is scheduled as Project III.

The construction of the San Diego Trolley line through La Mesa will have a major impact on the depot. Since the trolley will require two tracks instead of the one currently there, no room will remain for the display track south of Lemon Avenue. The railroad cars and locomotives formerly on this track have been taken to PSRMA's Campo museum. The display track north of Lemon will be moved a short distance to the west, so that it will probably be directly south of the depot itself.



Looking west over La Mesa, circa 1897. The small La Mesa Depot is at right center. To its right is the two-story brick La Mesa Lemon Company Store; to its left, the lemon packing house with community hall above.

The La Mesa Depot

On November 10, 1987, the La Mesa City Council designated the La Mesa Depot as the community's sixth local historic landmark.

The La Mesa Depot, one of the oldest buildings in the city, has a remarkable history. In conjunction with the railroad and the nearby La Mesa Lemon Company store and packing houses, the depot provided the transportation link and the economic stimulus that created La Mesa as a community. Although much of the original wood in the building has been replaced with identical pieces, the structure as it stands today has historical significance and also represents an immense volunteer effort in partnership with the City of La Mesa to save this important remnant of La Mesa's past.

When first constructed in 1894, this one-story, wood frame building had a rectangular enclosed section and an open covered porch with post supports. Over the years, the depot underwent a number of changes, but in 1980 and 1981, it was returned to its 1915 appearance. The depot features redwood board and batten siding, double-hung windows with a square bay on the track side, and a medium pitch gable roof with wide overhangs. The eaves are supported by corbels. The depot has several sections: a baggage room on the north end, next a ticket office and waiting room, and finally an open porch or shelter on the south end with square post supports. Cresting and a "La Mesa" sign grace the roof.

The story of the depot begins with the arrival of the railroad in La Mesa nearly a century ago. In 1888, the San Diego Cuyamaca & Eastern Railway laid tracks from San Diego through Lemon Grove and La Mesa (then known as Allison Springs) towards El Cajon, Santee, Lakeside and Foster. By March 28, 1889, construction had been completed as far as Lakeside, and on "opening day," March 30, 1889, three trains operated on the line. Although owners of the railroad at one time hoped to run the rails through the mountains to connect with a transcontinental railroad at Needles, the tracks never went beyond Foster.

According to several sources, the railroad built the La Mesa Depot in 1894. The depot, as constructed at that time, was a small rectangular building with a closed section and a covered platform. (There are some newspaper references to a previous station, but whether the earlier "station" was just a stopping place, or a platform or other struction is unknown.) The La Mesa Lemon Company store, which still stands today on the corner of La Mesa Boulevard and Nebo Drive, was also constructed in 1894. Developers laid out the La Mesa Springs subdivision just east and west of the tracks and graded the streets in the same year.

Soon after its construction, the depot became the center of considerable activity as freight and passenger trains traveled the rail line daily. La Mesa ranchers as well as those in surrounding areas brought their citrus, olives, tomatoes and other produce to the depot and nearby packing sheds for shipment, and a small community began to develop around the depot. By 1911, as many as 18 passenger trains traveled the line daily in addition to the freight trains. Passengers bound for places in the back country mountains rode the trains to Lakeside and Foster for connection with stage lines that carried them to Ramona, Julian, Alpine Tavern, the Willows, Pine Valley, Flinn Springs and Warner's Hot Springs. Some La Mesa businessmen and professionals commuted to their jobs in San Diego. Students rode the same trains to attend high school.

As the community developed and rail traffic increased, some changes in the depot became necessary. According to members of PSRMA (Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association) who researched the various structural changes in the building, the open shelter on the north end was filled in and an addition made to the south end around the turn of the century. The railroad also added a small freight building and a water tank. In 1915, the depot was moved to the east side of the tracks, turned around, a restroom added to the east side (current west side), a bay window for the agent built on the track side, and a covered shelter constructed on the north end (current south end). The building also received a new concrete slab foundation. Workmen painted the depot yellow with brown trim in the same shades it has today. A second freight building was constructed to complete the station facility.

Although passenger service on the railroad ended on March 4, 1928, the La Mesa depot remained in use for some years as a telegraph office and freight depot even though the number of trains decreased.



La Mesa Depot, circa 1910; north side of La Mesa Boulevard east of Spring Street in the background. The covered shelter on the north end has been filled in and an addition made to the south end. Early residents remember the depot painted red at this time.

Due to heavy rains in 1916, some of the track between Santee, Lakeside and Foster had been washed out, and service to Foster never resumed after that. By 1938, the line had been shortened to Santee. Then during World War II when Gillespie Field was built, freight trains went only as far as El Cajon. Stations along the line disappeared one by one, and finally, in 1954, the La Mesa Depot faced demolition due to the widening of Spring Street.

On November 26, 1954, the Lakeside Chamber of Commerce, at the instigation of Lakeside resident Mrs. Flossie Beadle, purchased the old depot for $1.00 with the idea of creating a "western town" in Lindo Lake Park. In December, workmen dismantled the depot and moved the parts to Lakeside for storage on Mrs. Beadle's property at Maple and Ashwood in Lakeside. After discovering that the proposed western town would be incompatible with the master plan for the park, the Chamber of Commerce sold the depot to Mrs. Beadle for one dollar. On July 11, 1959, Mrs. Beadle opened the depot as the Beadle Historical Museum and antique shop. After her death in the 1960s, a brush fire swept through the area and scorched the former baggage room wall. Then for a while the old building housed a chicken coop and even a worm farm for a time.

Meanwhile, history buffs and railroad buffs still hoped to save the deteriorating structure. One of Mrs. Beadle's heirs offered it for $1.00 to any non-profit organization that would move it, and in 1974, PSRMA accepted this offer in the hope of finding some way to preserve the old depot. At that time, however, there was no place to put it. Fortunately, due to a series of events which included damage to the railroad by tropical storm Kathleen, the City of La Mesa managed to acquire a mile-long, thirty-five-foot-wide strip of former railroad land alongside the tracks through the center of town. PSRMA then presented to the City Council a detailed plan to move the depot back to La Mesa and restore it on part of that strip at the depot's original 1894 location. PSRMA applied to the La Mesa City Council for a $15,000 grant of Community Development Block Grant Funds to restore the depot. When the city submitted the application to the federal government, the project received the requested grant funds.

Before the structure could be moved back to La Mesa, however, vandals stole hardware, windows and doors and set fires causing further damage to the building. PSRMA trucked the depot back to La Mesa on November 21, 1978 and placed it temporarily on the nearby police department parking lot, while the permanent site was being prepared. Three months later, the structure was moved to its present location and put down on a new foundation just thirty-six inches from its original site on the west side of the tracks. To retain



Looking south at the drinking fountain, depot, freight shed, and water tank, circa 1916. The depot has been moved to the east side of the tracks and a covered shelter added to the north end.



Photo courtesy of Larry Rose, PSRMA

The depot in 1982, returned to its original location and restored.

its 1915 orientation with the agent's bay facing the tracks, the depot was turned so that the covered shelter is now on the south rather than the north end. (PSRMA retained ownership of the building and leased the land it stands on from the city.)

Architect Larry Rose, a member of PSRMA, directed the effort to reconstruct the depot. After considerable discussion and study, PSRMA decided to return the depot as closely as possible to its 1915 appearance. The discovery by PSRMA members of drawings and other documents in a dumpster cleared up any problems about the construction of the building. During 1980 and 1981, volunteers donated thousands of hours of labor, additional funds and material. John Maxwell of the La Mesa Planing Mill was a major contributor.

According to architect Rose, most of the exterior material of the building including the board and batten siding, the doors, and the window sashes, was replaced with idential materials. The original porch support posts, corbels, and the ceiling boards were kept. Some of the interior paneling was also replaced.

The La Mesa Depot Museum opened to the public on April 18, 1982 and large crowds viewed the structure with its authentic interior furnishings which included the ticket counter and telegraph key. Since that time, thousands of schoolchildren and La Mesans have visited the museum and the PSRMA locomotives and rolling stock on the spur next to the depot.

Today, the restored La Mesa Depot is one of the few small railroad depots left in San Diego County. It represents an era of early La Mesa that no longer exists.

Note: This report was prepared for the La Mesa Historic Preservation Commission by Karna Webster.

P. O. Box 882, La Mesa, California 92044

La Mesa Historical Society

Museum: Rev. Henry A. McKinney House (1908)
8369 University Avenue

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