



La Mesa Historical Society LOOKOUT AVENUE



VOLUME 13, NUMBER 4

FEBRUARY, 1991

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE & DRAWING



Pictured at the left is LMHS member Fran Lee, winner of the 1st Prize mantle clock for our Christmas Open House Drawing on Saturday, December 12th. Fran, a life member of the Society, has been a friend of Joyce McKinney's daughter, Ann, since they were in the third grade together. Joyce was the middle son of the Rev. and Mrs. McKinney. Fran has remained in touch with the McKinney family since moving to San Diego a number of years ago.

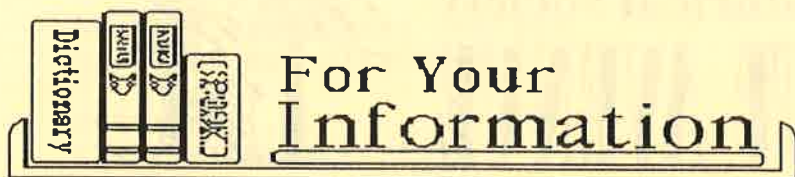
Other drawing winners were:

- 2nd - \$20 Buffum's Gift Certificate
Beverly Decker of El Cajon
- 3rd - Cutlery Set
Donald Cox of El Cajon
- 4th - Silhouette Cat
Ginny Thompson of Spring Valley
- 5th - Scented Bath Set
Grossmont Escrow of La Mesa

The Society's annual Open House was a great success. Over 150 members and friends joined us for freshly-baked gingerbread, cider, and cookies from 1-4 pm. The festivities were made even brighter with live organ music by Evelyn Estabrook and the voices of Lloyd Donahoo, Chuck Floto, and Lornelle Jeffers singing carols. Everyone joined in from time to time.

Nancy E. Neffson, Donna Regan, and Jo Pearson put together a very interesting display of children's toys and games from the turn of the century and later. Many thanks to those who helped as door greeters, docents, and beverage servers. The delicious aroma of cider and gingerbread was made possible by Mabel Perrapato and Brenda Neill who were busy in the kitchen preparing the tasty treats.

Thanks to the generous response by LMHS members to our ticket mailing, this year's Christmas Drawing was the most successful ever. A total of 1,694 tickets were purchased by members or sold at local banks and events. This drawing is one of our most important sources of income, and we appreciate your support. In addition to almost \$1,700 in ticket sales, we received over \$200 in Quilter's sales, and \$150 in donations at the open house. After expenses, we had a net profit of \$1,806.34 from this year's drawing!



RECENT PHOTOGRAPHS ACQUIRED THROUGH A DONATION

In November, 28 photographs were donated to the Society by James A. Roberts, the son of V. Earl Roberts. Earl was a resident of La Mesa from about 1922 until the end of the 1930's when he moved to Ramona.

Many of the photos are of the Egyptian movie sets that were built at the Grossmont Studio for an epic movie filmed in 1924-25. Earl Roberts and many other La Mesa residents were used as extras in this silent film. The remaining photos are of downtown La Mesa in the 1920's, La Mesa Police Chief Jack Mercer and his pet fox, the Roberts family, and Elmer Drew with a group of men standing around a motorcycle/sidecar with a sign on it that reads "Drew and Woolard Tire Service".

This is a wonderful addition to our collection, specifically to the collection of the 1920's movie period of La Mesa's history. Thank you, Mr. Roberts!

OUR SIGN FELL DOWN - BUT IT'S BACK UP

The large sign that stands on the front lawn of the McKinney House was found face down the early part of December, due to the continual gnawing away of the wood by dry rot in the support posts. Thanks to the handy work of a friend of the Society, Bob Bailey, and our own Cliff Coates, the sign was repaired. Thank you gentlemen for the quick response to our call for help!

MORE ON THE OPEN HOUSE

Thank You! to our Christmas Open House hostesses JoAnne Gonzales, Loah Carter, Vel Landi, Mary Kelley, Betty Teague, and Mary-Em Howard. Extra thanks to Vel Landi for making the silhouette cat for one of our drawing prizes.

MUSEUM NOTES

Painting on the exterior of the McKinney House and outhouse has begun, and will soon be completed.

Thanks to JoAnne Gonzales and Ken Ragle for assembling steel shelving for the archives building.

IN MEMORY OF . . .

Echoe Ahern Violet Drew Gene Hall John Haslam Grace Seaborg

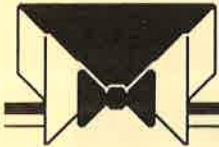
The Society extends its deepest sympathy to the families of these members.

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OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE OF LA MESA

The La Mesa Historical Society was asked by the La Mesa Chamber of Commerce to participate in this event for the Downtown Village. On December 14th we had a table set up on La Mesa Boulevard near Allison Avenue selling hot cider and gingerbread. Several board members got busy to bake the gingerbread and purchase whipped cream and cider. All of the gingerbread sold over the four hour period, and we had a ball doing it! The weather was appropriately crisp; the La Mesa Community Band's holiday music and the strolling carolers were outstanding. What a great idea for families to come to the village and enjoy the festivities, stroll about the town, take a horse and carriage ride, and just have fun. Lots of happy, smiling faces were seen. Special thanks to May Ann Ehlers, Mary-Em Howard, Pat Kettler, Donna Regan, Betty Teague, and Brenda Neill. We made a small but welcome profit of \$107 - not bad for 4 hours of pleasant work.

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CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH AND GENERAL MEETING - FEBRUARY 24th

The Society's annual brunch is coming up - February 24th at the La Mesa Woman's Club House on Wilson Street, from 11 am to 1 pm. The catered menu will include scrambled eggs, baked ham, fresh fruit, french toast, and hot beverages. The Society will provide the champagne and orange juice for our pre-meal social time from 11 to 11:30. The La Mesa Middle School Girls Chorus, under the direction of John Law, will provide entertainment. We will also highlight a long-time La Mesa family. More information will be coming in a flyer you'll be receiving soon.

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EDITOR'S NOTES:

Contributing to this issue were Pat Kettler and Donna Regan. Thanks also to Brenda for proofreading (this issue and earlier ones) and assistance in printing and mailing.

Nominations will soon be open for positions on the Board. If you, or someone you know of, would be interested in "getting involved" more with the activities of the La Mesa Historical Society, please let a current member of the Board know. The Nominating Committee for the upcoming term will be appointed soon.

PRESIDENT	Pat Kettler (463-0197)
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT	Betty Teague
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT	Mabel Perrapato - Membership
THIRD VICE PRESIDENT	Beth Blackman - Publicity
SECRETARY	Brenda Neill
TREASURER	Beverly Dostal
PAST PRESIDENT	Donna Regan
DIRECTORS	Ed Blackman
	Beverly Decker - Hospitality
	Mary-Em Howard
	Doug Neill - Newsletter
	Greg Truesdale
QUILTER'S REPRESENTATIVE	Beatrice Acers

LOOKOUT AVENUE is the official publication of the La Mesa Historical Society. Current publication months are February-April-June-August-October-December. Articles, photos, and letters are welcome from all members, and must be received by the editor by the third Monday of the month prior to publication. Submissions may be edited due to space limitations. Contact Doug Neill at 697-7765 or 463-2230 for details.



Mesa Historical Society

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