LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

LOOKOUT AVE.

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 2 FEBRUARY, 1986



Lyons House Moved to Safety

On January 22, the Henry M. Lyons House was carefully moved on large wheeled dollies to its new location on the lot adjacent on the south to its original site. A few days prior to this, supported by heavy steel beams, it had been slowly lifted from the foundation where it had rested for over 50 years. Now further back from the street, out of the way of Bancroft Drive realignment, the house waited on blocks until its new foundation could be reconstructed beneath it. Due to the configuration of the newly created lot, the Lyons garage did not have to be moved from its original location.

The Lyons House is the first of three historic houses threatened by Caltrans construction to be moved to safety. The move is part of a plan in which the City of La Mesa is acting as an intermediary between Caltrans and the private citizens who have purchased the structures at public auction. This plan ensures that the owners will be able to buy adjacent or nearby excess right-of-way land for relocation purposes. The owners have agreed to preserve the architectural integrity of the houses and to allow the city to designate them as local landmarks.

(continued on next page)

(Lyons House, continued)

The Lyons House, built by Henry and Maude Lyons about 1935, is a small, charming bungalow which has remained remarkably intact over the years. Even the interior has escaped change: small white hexagonal tiles still cover the kitchen counter, the bathroom fixtures are original, and the honey pine woodwork has never been painted.

New owner John Lienert, President of Olde La Mesa Paint Company, plans to live in the house. He has been interested in the home for several years and once painted it while Mrs. Lyons was still living there. At present Mr. Lienert is acquiring furnishings of the late 1920s and early 1930s to complement the interior; he already has a beautifully restored 1937 Pontiac all set to roll into the garage.



The La Mesa Historical Society operates the Rev. Henry A. McKinney House, a 1908 house museum located at 8369 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.

1985-1986 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

INTERNATIONAL HISTORY FAIR MARCH 14-16

The fourth International History Fair, jointly sponsored by the San Diego Historical Society, San Diego State University and the University of Baja California, will be held March 14, 15 and 16 at the Cultural Center in Tijuana. The Fair gives junior and senior high school students from San Diego County and Tijuana the opportunity to compete for prizes in community and family history projects. These projects may be in the form of exhibits, papers, audio-visual presentations, and group/individual performance (music, dance, poetry, or drama). For more information call Cindy Eddy, San Diego Historical Society, at 239-2211.

McKINNEY HOUSE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE TO FORM

"Basic Interpretation of Historic Sites," an independent study program from the American Association for State and Local History, will be the basis for a committee now forming to improve the interpretation of our own historic site, the McKinney House. The AASLH program shows how to define the importance of a site, to decide what the visitor should understand --for example, what the visitor should learn about the McKinneys, early La Mesa, and life at the time--and how best to communicate this understanding.

The kit includes a selection of interesting reading materials and two slide/tape presentations. Among topics covered are planning for interpretation, selecting themes and goals, writing a storyline for a basic tour, training interpreters or docents, school group tours, and exhibits and printed materials.

Historic sites do not speak for themselves; someone must provide the communication. Please join us in this informative project. If you wish to participate or find out more, call Donna Regan, 460-3726.

CALENDAR

March 2	LMHS Champagne Brunch
March 7-8	Congress of History Convention
March 14-16	International History Fair
June 14	Ice Cream Social
1987	La Mesa's 75th Anniversary Year-long celebration



PETE PALERMO'S LEGACY

In November 1985, the La Mesa Historical Society was notified that it would receive $1,000 from the estate of Pete Palermo, a well-known La Mesa resident who passed away on September 20, 1985, at the age of 91. When the funds are received the Board of Directors will decide the best way for the historical society to use the money in Pete's memory.

Pete Palermo, a native of Naples, Italy, came to the United States with his family when he was only four years old. He moved to California before 1916 and settled in La Mesa in 1923, when the population of the town was only 1800. He and his first wife, Grace, opened a confectionery and sold ice cream, candy, soft drinks, sandwiches, and light lunches. They later operated a restaurant-bar at the corner of La Mesa Boulevard and Spring Street. Pete was known and respected throughout the community. On May 16, 1982 Pete Palermo was honored by the La Mesa Historical Society as one of La Mesa's important pioneers.

IN MEMORIAM

The La Mesa Historical Society extends its deepest sympathy to the family of member Tony Swarstad.

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 upgraded their membership categories:

Marybelle S. Bigelow
Brent General Contracting
James Nugent
Clara Vivian

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Girard (upgraded to Family)
Mr. & Mrs. Evert Hodges (upgraded to Family)
Anna Mineo (upgraded to Life)

ORAL HISTORY

In the month of November oral interviews were completed with the following people: Mrs. Ada Kuhlken, Mrs. Olive Mannen, and Mrs. Eva Quicksall. Prior to these interviews I attended a special one-day workshop on preparing for and conducting oral interviews, which was presented by the San Diego Historical Society in September of 1985. The fee for attending this class was provided by the La Mesa Historical Society and was, I feel, money well spent as the program was very informative and gave me the needed confidence with which to help in gathering important information about our community.

I want to thank these three ladies for allowing me and my tape recorder into their homes.

- Pat Kettler



PHOTO COLLECTION: RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Photographs were recently donated to the Society by:

-Eva Quicksall - photos of herself and Carl Quicksall, 1920s,30s.
-The estate of Annie Self (daughter of Christina Macquarie who was the La Mesa Dam's keeper around 1912) - photos of the dam and the Macquarie family
-Carlotta Alexander (nee McCutchen) La Mesa Elementary School and photos of classmates, 1916-1920s
-Maria Freeman-early views of La Mesa; council members 1930s.
-Connie Kuhn-Alta Ranch

Photographs were also loaned to the Society by the following people to be copied:

-Carole Stout - early views of La Mesa
-Andy Smith - Dr. Parks
-Barry Worthington - Grable House, 1910-1914
-Ruth Hanson - Warren Ranch, early 1900s
-Ed Zacavich - view of Harry Park house on Lemon Avenue, c.1915
-Lloyd Donahoo - Donahoo family, c.1903
-Gladys Busch - Busch garage, c.1930s
-Ada Kuhlken - Garfield family, c.1920s
-Elmer Drew - La Mesa Boulevard and Grant Street, c.1915

Many thanks to these people for their generosity.

Anyone interested in purchasing copies from the Society's collection can do so by contacting Pat Kettler (463-0197). Early panoramas of La Mesa are also available.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Local History Makes Good

At the turn of the century, Charles Eliot Norton, professor of art history at Harvard and very much a man of the world, was discussing the works of his colleague, the historian John Fiske. Norton said that Fiske "began with the history of the Universe; went on to the history of the United States; and may yet advance to the history of Cambridge."

For too long, an interest in local and regional history was considered provincial—a mark of the boastful, logrolling, narrow-minded booster for whom the home team had all the skills of the Yankees and none of the vices. Now we are coming to realize that neglecting the history of your native grounds is perilous. If you don't have a precise and accurate understanding of your immediate environment—and a decent pride in both its people and landmarks—your opinions on how we should govern ourselves on a national or world level are suspect. To know how you and yours arrived at this point in time and space is your essential heritage; indeed, it is the only true measuring rod and touchstone of the world you will ever have. Americans know this: that's why they have made Garrison Keillor's *Lake Wobegon Days* a best seller and why Lake Wobegon is sure to be designated the nation's landmark hometown once the government surveyors can find it.

Unless you live there, to learn American history by starting at Plymouth Rock or Bunker Hill is starting at the wrong end of the telescope. What you see is diminished in size and seems very far away. Looking with your own eyes and listening with your own ears to the life and local history around you has to be the way to begin. Although educators have given lip service to this idea for seventy-five years —and it can be traced back to Emerson—only recently has it begun to be put into practice in our public schools.

But it is not too late for those of us who grew up, as I did, with no sense of local history at all. The growth of regional historical organizations and societies represents a great awakening. There are now close to seven thousand historical societies in the country and hundreds of historical publications. As the editor of a national magazine of history, I envy the editors of the regional journals who in aggregate have so much space to tell the stories of their communities and peoples. There are so many stories to tell that any one publication can convey only a few of them. But put them all together, and what a grand historical chorus this makes.

As a first step in recapturing your past, read *Lake Wobegon Days*. While the laughter and tears are still fresh, proceed to your nearest state or local historical association. As Professor Norton knew, it's a mark of true worldliness to embrace the fact that we are all provincials.





Elizabeth Chapin Porter as a bride, 1879.

ELIZABETH CHAPIN PORTER WEDDING DRESS DONATED TO SOCIETY

Wearing a two-piece dress of cream figured silk, Elizabeth Chapin recited her marriage vows to Dr. Henry Dwight Porter on an April day in 1879 in Beloit, Wisconsin. Later that year she would accompany her new husband when he returned to China to resume his work there as a medical missionary. Their sons -- Lucius, James Tank, and Edwards Chappell -- would be born in China. Then in 1904 the Porters would settle in La Mesa, at that time a small lemon-growing community.

In December, 1985, Elizabeth Chapin Porter's wedding dress was given to the La Mesa Historical Society by her granddaughter, Anne Porter Hall, and great-granddaughter, Christine Hall. This lovely dress is an important addition to the Society's collections.

Elizabeth "Bessie" Chapin was the daughter of Dr. A. L. Chapin, President of Beloit College, which Henry had attended. After she and Henry arrived in La Mesa they acquired the lemon ranch and home built in the 1890s by Major Henry Roach, naming it "Ping·An Shan," or Hill of Peace. Following Henry's death in 1916 and Elizabeth's about 1931, Ping An Shan remained the home of middle son James Tank Porter, a noted sculptor, his wife,Lenore, and daughter, Anne. Today the Porter House is cherished by the third and fourth generations of the family to live there.

La Mesa also became the home of three other members of the Porter family. Henry's brothers, Edwards and James W., and sister, Mary, moved into the adjoining Rose Hedge after the death of its original owner, Col. James Randlett, in 1916. Mary Porter (1846-1929) had spent 43 years as a missionary in North China, beginning in 1868. Edwards Porter (1841-1928), who had come here with Henry in 1904, was active in civic affairs, serving as La Mesa's mayor from 1920 to 1924. James W. Porter (1836-1934) gave to the City of La Mesa Porter Park and Porter Hall, which was the community's library from 1932 to 1957.

CONGRESS OF HISTORY CONVENTION, MARCH 7 - 8

The Congress of History of San Diego County will hold its 22nd Annual Convention, THE FUTURE OF THE PAST, on Friday and Saturday, March 7-8, 1986, at the Ballroom, Cafe Del Rey Moro (House of Hospitality) in Balboa Park in San Diego. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Raymond Starr, Professor of History, San Diego State University.

Topics to be explored by various speakers include: the Osuna Adobe, Ft. Guijarros, Battle of San Pasqual, Cemetery Preservation, Historic Gardens, Convair 1935-1970, Balboa Park - The Second Exposition and New History in Old Town. The Friday luncheon speaker, Anna McPherson, will discuss the Preservation Primer being published by Save Our Heritage Organisation.

The La Mesa Historical Society will participate in the program with a showing of our silent film "Three Million Dollars" filmed in Lakeside in 1911.

For further information, please telephone Karna Webster at 463-1029. She will be happy to answer any questions and will send you a complete program and reservation form upon request. The registration fee for the convention is $5.00 per person.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Popcorn and paper chains, gold walnuts and wishbones, bells and cornucopias festooned the Christmas tree; carolers sang as Evelyn Estabrook played the McKinney parlor organ; and the welcome aromas of baking gingerbread and hot spiced cider filled the air--it was Christmas time at the McKinney House.

Mary Kelley was chairman of the December 14 Open House, assisted by Henrietta Schupbach in the kitchen; Brice Lockwood, Sandia Tuttle, and Karna Webster as greeters; and Jo Coffey, May Ann Ehlers, Brenda Neill, Helen Odom, Marty Peinemann, and Nina Reed as refreshment hostesses.

The Quilters netted $192.45 from the sale of baby quilts, handmade Christmas decorations, and other gift items which were attractively displayed in the office.

This year's drawing made a profit of $1149; the cost of printing the tickets was donated by Round Table Pizza. Of the many people who took tickets to sell, Don and Tess Mathis were again wonderfully successful, with a total of 188 tickets sold between them.

Coordinating bank ticket sales were Jo Coffey and Nova Lee and Gilbert Judy, aided by staffers Beatrice Acers, Julie Bohnsack, Julie Bras, Lucile DeWaide, May Ann Ehlers, Pat Ketter, and Donna Regan. Thanks to Crocker Bank and Imperial Savings in La Mesa and Great American Savings at Grossmont Center for their participation.

This year's winners were: (First) David Keller--Seth Thomas mantel clock, c. 1890; (Second) James Bartlett--lunch for two, donated by the Dansk Tea Room, La Mesa Boulevard; (Third) Bill Pruden--two dozen truffles, donated by San Diego Truffle Works, Allison Avenue; (Fourth) Elizabeth Haynes--hand-painted Italian angel, donated by Good Taste, La Mesa Boulevard.

McKINNEY HOUSE TOURS & LA MESA HISTORY PRESENTATIONS

On December 6, forty-six third and fourth grade students from Rolando Elementary were introduced to local history by a bus tour which visited the McKinney House, the La Mesa Depot, and the amphitheater on Mt. Helix. The students later viewed the La Mesa history slide presentation given by Pat Kettler.

The slide presentation was also shown the same month at the Regency Park Retirement Residence on Lake Murray Boulevard.

1985 CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

RECEIPTS

*Drawing for clock. (1149 tickets @ $1.00)	$ 1149.00
Quilters' sales.	192.45
Donations.	8.00
Gross Profit:	$ 1349.45

EXPENSES

Christmas tree	$ 7.41
Printing of fliers	34.93
Postage for fliers	22.20
Xeroxing of ½ sheets (advertising)	10.53
Food expenses.	33.75
	$ 108.82
Gross:	1349.45
Expenses:	-108.82
Net Profit:	$ 1240.63

*The $150 cost of the first prize clock purchased in February,1985, came out of 1984-1985 budget.

GEORGIA PARRISH CAMPBELL MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The La Mesa Historical Society gratefully acknowledges contributions in memory of Georgia Parrish Campbell received from:

Mr. & Mrs. Roger Beatty
Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Coates
Mr. & Mrs. R. R. Crane
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Drew
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Eaker
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Jones
Portia F. Hodges Family
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Judy
Minerva Le Sage
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Salome W. Rothenberg
Dr. & Mrs. Andrew Smith
Terra Nova High School, Pacifica, California
Mr. & Mrs. John Vogt

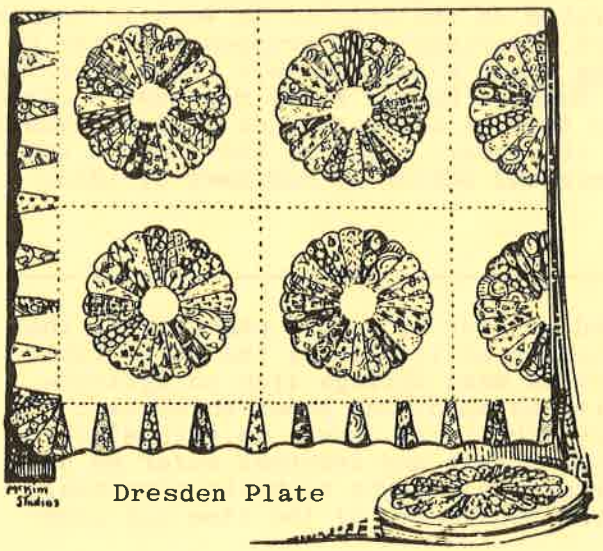
VISITORS ENJOY CHRISTMAS QUILT EXHIBIT

Visitors to the Christmas Open House were treated to a fascinating selection of more than 20 quilts which ranged in date from the 1870s to 1985. The exhibit was coordinated by the LMHS Quilters under the direction of Beatrice Acers.

Among the examples with local historical interest was a floral applique quilt made in 1940 by Nellie Marker, wife of early La Mesa builder David Marker. Dating from the 1930s were Dresden Plate quilt squares made by Lenna Allen of Grossmont and her friends, each square bearing the embroidered signature of its maker. Also on view was a Double Wedding Ring quilt owned by Mme. Ernestine Schumann-Heink, who had purchased it about 1912, the year she built her Grossmont home. Two spectacular silk and velvet quilts from the 1870s and 1880s were lavishly embellished with embroidery. Recent examples were represented by the work of Quilters Ethel Allen, Julie Bras, and Gay Tulp. In addition, the Dresden Plate quilt the Quilters are currently completing for the drawing next June was displayed, and members of the group were on hand to explain their activities to visitors.

Also part of the exhibit were sewing artifacts of different periods, including an eighteenth century tailor's box, a Chinese sewing basket, needle books, crochet hooks, silver thimbles, stilettos, a glove darner, and turn-of-the-century needlework magazines.

The Society thanks those members whose generosity in lending quilts and artifacts made this exhibit possible: Ethel Allen, Julie Bras, Mildred Bryan, Jean Guy, Anne Hall, Celeste Haslem, Evert Hodges, Mary Kelley, Nancy Neffson, Donna Regan, Gay Tulp, Henrietta Schupbach, and Nadine Washburn.



Dresden Plate



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.

La Mesa Scout

Section Two 1912 "Progress" Edition

VOL. VI. NO. 3. LA MESA, CALIFORNIA, FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1912 $1.50 A YEAR

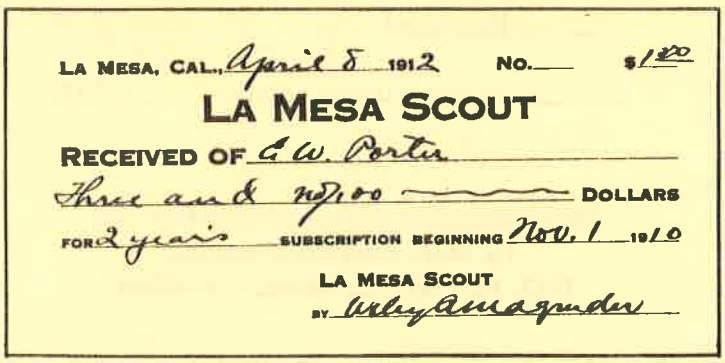
A HISTORY OF THE LA MESA SCOUT

Pat Kettler

With the demise of the La Mesa Courier (formerly the La Mesa Scout) in November of 1985, La Mesa lost an old friend - a friend that had chronicled the growth and development of this community since 1907 and has left a wealth of information about the times and the people who shaped our city into what it is today. It was sad to see this old friend die; it will be greatly missed.

The Scout's beginnings . . . . .

Wiley A. Magruder, founder and editor of the La Mesa Springs Scout, published his first issue along with his co-publisher, Henry M. Oliver, on March 15, 1907 for 25 cents a year (in advance). What began as a monthly paper quickly grew in popularity, and it wasn't long before they were publishing the Scout semi-monthly. The Scout's first office was in a small wooden building just south of the two-story brick La Mesa Store at the corner of La Mesa Boulevard and Nebo Drive.



LA MESA, CAL., April 5 1912 No. $1.00

LA MESA SCOUT

RECEIVED OF C.W. Porter

Three and no/100 DOLLARS

FOR 2 years SUBSCRIPTION BEGINNING Nov. 1 1910

LA MESA SCOUT

BY Wiley Magruder

In 1909 Magruder apparently bought out The Eagle, a recently established La Mesa area newspaper owned and published by Frank Schroeder, since its name was temporarily incorporated into the Scout's banner. Guy Magruder, Wiley's brother, replaced Frank Oliver in 1909, and by 1911 their father, William B., had become the paper's editor, replacing Guy. By this time the La Mesa Springs Scout had become a weekly paper published every Friday at a subscription cost of $1.50 per year.

Not a great deal is known about Wiley Magruder except that he probably arrived in La Mesa Springs with his parents about 1906, and that his father was an early land developer and rancher. Wiley attended San Diego High School for only two months, beginning in August, 1906. Since he was listed as 16 years of age when he entered, he would have been no more than 17 when he started the Scout. In 1931 the Scout printed a letter written by Wiley "upon returning after long years to the scene of his childhood." At that time he was editor of the Roseville Tribune in Roseville, California (north of Sacramento). He died in 1959 in Riverside County.

After the growing community was incorporated as the City of La Mesa in February, 1912, "Springs" was dropped from the La Mesa Scout's name as well. That year Thomas M. Hancock became Wiley Magruder's partner and took on the duties of business manager of the paper, becoming the Scout's sole owner and editor by February of 1913.

RIGHT: The first edition of the Scout consisted of four 8½" x 11" pages. When the Scout began publication, the real estate development activities of the Park-Grable Investment Company had just started to transform La Mesa Springs from an agricultural area to a residential community. The early issues of the paper which have survived cheerfully promote rapid growth and describe local assets in enthusiastic terms: "that majestic sentinal, Mr. Nebo;" "the purest and sweetest water we have ever tasted;" "If you own a lot in La Mesa Springs, you ought to build something on it." Such exuberance may reflect not only the boosterism of the time but also the youthfulness of the editor.

La Mesa Springs Scout

Vol. I. La Mesa, California, March 16, 1907 No. 1.

LA MESA SPRINGS

SAN DIEGO'S PASADENA

The ideal location for a suburb, away from the water. The South Park electric line is being extended to La Mesa Springs. The electrification of the Cuyamaca will surely come, or the use of electric or gasoline motor cars will make rapid transit practicable over this line. Then these two lines will form a loop for an exceptionally pleasing trip out El Cajon Avenue to to La Mesa Springs, a carriage ride to top of Lookout Park and return to San Diego by the Cuyamaca

If you live in San Diego you need a rest home on **Lookout Park, La Mesa Springs,** back from the water, where the drier atmosphere, 850 feet altitude, and tempered sea breezes will benefit you in case of rheumatic trouble or cough

If you think of building a **Home, La Mesa Springs offers exceptional facilities,** only ten miles from San Diego, 35 minutes by rail, three trains daily now, 11c commutation fare, and more frequent communication only a matter of time.

$280.00 will now buy large lot on graded street, shade trees set out, near Public Park on Lookout Park, from which the view is unexcelled of Ocean, City and Mountains, almost a birdseye view. Water system with pumping plant for higher levels is now being established.

$150.00 will buy level lot, 50x140, with water-right in Park's Addition, one to the business center.

$1250.00—Ten acres one-half mile from La Mesa Springs, one-fourth inch of flume water. Unimproved.

$2,500—Five acres, trees, house and barn, ¼ inch water, joins La Mesa Springs.

EASY TERMS ON ALL THESE

LARGE LIST OF OTHER PROPERTIES

Park-Grable Investment Co.

Office: 689 Logan Avenue

W. L. MAXWELL, Agent
La Mesa Springs, Cal.

San Diego, California

tiful contour roadway leading up Mount Nebo.

As we near the summit of the lofty though seemingly very low hill we are shown the mountains, standing forth in a clear outline against the cloudless sky. Arrit the first rise, however, an even greater surprise greets us; we are shown the city of San Diego, its beautiful harbor, including fifty miles of the Pacific ocean, and the surrounding islands. After being allowed to feast our eyes upon the wonders of our own city, San Diego, the driver bids us turn and look in the other direction and as a result view the whole of La Mesa Heights, the surrounding hills, the beautiful snow-capped Cuyamaca mountains, the Sweetwater and La Mesa reservoirs.

Having enjoyed the scenery as long as they will allow us, we pick out a building site and begin the descent of the hill. When we arrive again at the business center of La Mesa Springs we ask for a drink of water, and receive one of the purest and sweetest water we have ever tasted. Then, fully content to live the remainder of our days in La Mesa, we sit down on the bench at the station and wait for the San Diego boud train.

WILEY A. MAGRUDER.

LA MESA'S BUTCHER'S SHOP.

A new business in La Mesa is that of the meat market, which is now being started by Mr. S. G. Pennoyer. A butcher shop is a thing that La Mesans have long felt the need of, since the El Cajon wagon only visits us three times a week. Mr. Pennoyer has not spared any money or work in making the La Mesa butcher shop the best this side of San Diego, and it is the hope of the Scout that the people of La Mesa, Spring Valley and Lemon Grove will appreciate his work and patronize the La Mesa Meat Market altogether. In connection with the butcher shop, Mr. Pennoyer will operate the central office of the Home Telephone Company here.

We want some one to furnish a better expression than "unexcelled views" to describe the scenery from the Lookout Park addition. Our own vocabulary was exhausted long ago in the vain searching for an expression that will carry what we mean. To the person or persons who will send in such an expression as will convey something of the feeling one has when he stands upon the summit of Mount Nebo in Lookout Park, we will give a free year's subscription to this paper and also publish the expression in our next issue of the Scout, with the writer's name.

* * *

The La Mesa Mutual Water Co. has ordered about $5000 of new pipe to replace the old one which is beginning to wear out. The Lookout Park Water Company invested $1000 in a pumping plant. The plant has been ordered of Mr. Hall of El Cajon, and will be installed as soon as possible.

* * *

Mr. F. M. Oliver returned Tuesday afternoon from Riverside, after an absence of four days. His brother-in-law, Ewing McGuire accompanied him to La Mesa.

* * *

Miss Anna Michaels left Wednesday morning for Denver, Col., where she will reside for some time.

* * *

The La Mesa Dramatic Club will give a very interesting entertainment at the La Mesa Springs Hall.

* * *

The property situated on the corner of Lookout and Date avenues was purchased last week by W. B. Magruder.

* * *

A very delightful surprise party was given Monday evening of last week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Grable in honor of their son Francis.

A question that is being asked by La Mesans is, "Does La Mesa deserve a station agent?" This question ought to answer itself. Surely La Mesa has gained enough during the past year to make it safe for the Cuyamaca railroad to establish an agency here.

During the past six months La Mesa has furnished as many passengers as any other station along the line; and La Mesa's contributions of freight are not to be at all overlooked. It is the belief of the editor of this paper and others that if the number of passengers and amount of freight shipped to and from La Mesa La Mesa would not allow the company to pay an agent, the additions to the lists that would would naturally come when an an agency is established would more than make up for the deficiency.

The Park-Grable Investment Co. will begin building two new cottages in Lookout Park at once.

* * *

La Mesa Springs will soon need additional school room. The building is already about full, and the families that move here every month will cause the pupils to be greatly inconvenienced if something is not done before the opening of the school next year.

* * *

Just as we go to press we learn that the La Mesa Lumber Co. will be ready for business next week. Home phone, La Mesa, 23.

* * *

Another rock crusher is being constructed in Spring Valley.

* * *

Mrs. Rodgers is investing in La Mesa lots now. She has purchased several tracts lately.

Home 1087 — PHONES — Sunset 762

C. C. Valle, M. D.

County Health Officer

Suite 10-11, 4th St. San Diego, Cal.

LA MESA SPRINGS SCOUT

Published Monthly by Magruder & Oliver

WILEY MAGRUDER, Editor HENRY OLIVER, Business Mgr

Subscription Rates, 50c. per year in advance

An Acknowledgment of Our Thanks

The management of this paper is very deeply indebted to the following advertisers who have very generously contributed their advertisements and money in helping start this paper: Park-Grable Investment Co., Mr. F. M. Oliver, The La Mesa Press Co., La Mesa Store and all the many others whose ads appear on the last page of this issue. It is earnestly hoped that the readers will patronize them as much as they possibly can, so that when we call upon the persons next month, they will respond willingly and readily.

ELECTRIC CAR LINE TO LA MESA SPRINGS

Construction to Begin in Four Months—To Maintain Hourly Service

The following is a synopsis of the franchise for the car-line between San Diego and La Mesa Springs, as published in the San Diego Union:

"The application describes the franchise as follows:

"Sec. 1. Route: A franchise to construct, maintain, and operate a line of railway commencing at a point where El Cajon avenue intersects with the eastern boundary of the city, running thence in a general easterly direction along El Cajon avenue to and into La Mesa Springs townsite. Said track to be constructed on the north or south portion of said avenue.

"Sec. 2. Motive Power: That the cars upon said railroad shall be propelled by electricity used thro' the overhead system, electric storage batteries, gasoline motors, electro-gasoline motors, or other vapor motors. * * *

"Sec. 3. The grantee or his assigns shall have the right to lay either a single or double track.

"Sec. 4. That the track shall be four feet, eight and one-half inches within the rails, and all side tracks shall be at least five feet, three inches from the main track, being sufficient to allow the cars to pass each other freely.

"Sec. 5. Rail Specifications: That good and substantial rails shall be used in the construction of said tracks, to weigh not less than sixty pounds to the yard.

"Sec. 6. THAT AT LEAST AN HOURLY SERVICE SHALL BE GIVEN ON SAID TRACK, FROM TERMINUS TO TERMINUS DAILY BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 6:30 A. M. AND 11 O'CLOCK, P. M.

"That work on the construction of said railway shall commence within four months after the granting of the franchise, and shall be completed within not more than three years thereafter.

"Sec. 8. Said franchise to grant authority to operate said track for the purpose of carrying passengers and freight and receiving compensation therefor.

"Sec. 9. Said franchise to run and exist for a term of years from the time of the granting of the franchise.

"Sec. 10. In case the said railway be built on private rights of way, no portion of this franchise will be forfeited.

"Sec. 11. That within five days after the granting of the franchise, the successful bidder shall file with the Board of Supervisors a bond running to the county of San Diego, with at least two good and sufficient sureties for the penal sum of $5000, conditioned that if the grantee and his assigns do not fulfil every condition of the franchise the said franchise shall be forfeited, together with the penal sum.

"Sec. 12. After the first five years from the granting of the franchise the operators of the road shall pay to the County of San Diego two per cent of the gross annual receipts of said road.

"Sec. 13. Sealed bids in writing for said franchise shall be received by the clerk of the Board of Supervisors until 2 p. m., April 5, 1907. Each sealed bid must be accompanied by cash or a certified check for the full amount oof the bid, otherwise it will not be considered. * * *

Granite Quarry Being Developed

The development by Mr. Evans of the granite quarries about a mile east of La Mesa Springs is giving La Mesa another business. Already two carloads of fine stone have been shipped out, one to Los Angeles and the other to San Diego, to be used for making tombstones. When the granite works are developed a little more, they will attract a few more people to this healthful spot.

D. C. Collier will make his country home at the Springs one of the show places of Southern California. Fine park, fancy poultry yards, swimming pool, etc., will be included in the improvements; work has commenced.

A TRIP TO LOOKOUT PARK.

As we leave the Spring Valley station on the Cuyamaca railroad, our attention and admiration are attracted by the wonderful scenery; the beautiful low hills and valleys carpeted with an elegant covering of green verdure are one magnificent piece of grandeur to us. The trains whirls on through the terrestial paradise of San Diego county. At last we stop, and alighting from the train we are conducted to a carriage bound for the summit of that majestic sentinel, Mount Nebo.

The atmosphere is grand, and continues to grow more splendid as we are driven along the beau-

What you get for your money, is as important as what you pay.

..The..

La Mesa Store and Post Office

The recollection of quality remains long after price is forgotten.

Try a sack of "Rose of Kansas"—made at Great Bend, Kansas.

F. M. OLIVER

Special Agent

$780.00—5 acres of good land, with small house. Suitable for poultry.

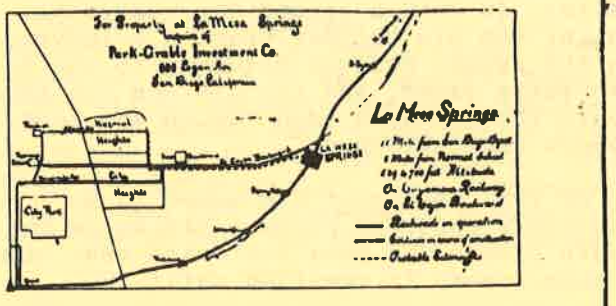
$10,000.00—A beautiful home place on boulevard. All improved; no house.

SEE

F. M. OLIVER

LA MESA SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

La Mesa Camp, No. 7414, M. W. A.—Meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month in the hall over La Mesa Store.



Eggs for Hatching

for sale White Rocks and White Leghorns at $1 per 15.—Mrs. M. L. Knudtson, La Mesa Springs, California.

Wanted

Lemon glammers at Mohnike's packing house, La Mesa Springs. None with wooden legs or glass eyes need apply.

Special Reduction This Summer

On the following papers:

SATURDAY EVENING POST
YOUTHS COMPANION

HENRY M. OLIVER, La Mesa Springs, Cal.

I have five Special Discount Scholarships to award to ambitious men and women in this locality. The first five who calls, secures them. Apply today and secure one.—Mrs G. A. Oliver, La Mesa, California.

CARDS, ENVELOPES LETTERHEADS

PRINTED AT CHEAP RATES

Leave orders with
WILEY A. MAGRUDER or
CROMWELL McKINNEY
La Mesa Springs Cal

La Mesa Press Co.

Chauffeur

with three years' experience in shop and driving wants position in private family or rent car. Address J. E. McGuire, La Mesa Springs, P. O. Box 326

La Mesa Springs

Lots and ranches bought and sold. LOOKOUT PARK lots a specialty. Take a look. $50 lots above are level.

W. L. MAXWELL, Agt. La Mesa Springs, Cal.

Recently Completed I. O. O. F. Hall and Scout Building



La Mesa Scout April 5, 1912. The Scout's first home was in a one-story wooden building just south of the 1894 brick La Mesa Store located on the southwest corner of La Mesa Boulevard and Nebo Drive. By early 1912 the wooden building was gone and this two-story addition had been built to house the International Order of Odd Fellows Lodge and the Scout office. The building, covered with stucco in the 1920s, still stands on this site.

In 1912 C. O. Smith purchased the El Cajon Valley News, and by 1915 he and his son, Preston, had become the Scout's sole owners and publishers after Mr. Hancock sold out to them and moved to Imperial Valley. In 1919 a second son, Carroll, bought out his brother Preston's interest in the paper. Preston returned to the Scout two years later, and for sixteen continuous years the masthead read "Smith and Sons," owners and publishers.

By 1917 the Scout had moved to a one-story concrete block building on the south side of La Mesa Boulevard near Acacia Avenue, where it remained until 1945.

In March, 1921, the La Mesa Scout was renamed the La Mesa Independent, a month later returning to its previous name. That year the Smiths expanded their newspaper ownership to include the Lakeside Journal and the Ramona Sentinel, which they continued to own and operate until 1933.

In 1927 Raynor DeBurn assumed the position of managing editor with Smith and Sons, replacing Carroll, who had moved to Sacramento to take up his new duties as State Printer of California. In 1933 Carroll sold his interest in the paper to Mr. DeBurn who then became a one-third partner with C. O. and Preston. In February of 1937, the Smiths sold their interest in the Scout to Onie M. Phelps and retired from the newspaper business. C. O. and his two sons owned, edited and published the La Mesa Scout for over twenty-two years - the longest of all of its owners.

Onie M. Phelps' interest in the Scout was to be brief for in October of that same year, at the age of 46, he was hit by an automobile while crossing University Avenue in La Mesa and died shortly after.

In June of 1938, Raynor DeBurn was joined in partnership by veteran newspaperman Henry C. Reed, and his son, Carlyle. That year they expanded their newspaper business to include the El Cajon Valley Press (incorporating it into the El Cajon Valley News), the Lemon Grove News, and the Encanto

HITS and Errors By R. D.

LA MESA SCOUT

LA MESA LIBRARY FUND DANCE MAY 12 BUY A TICKET

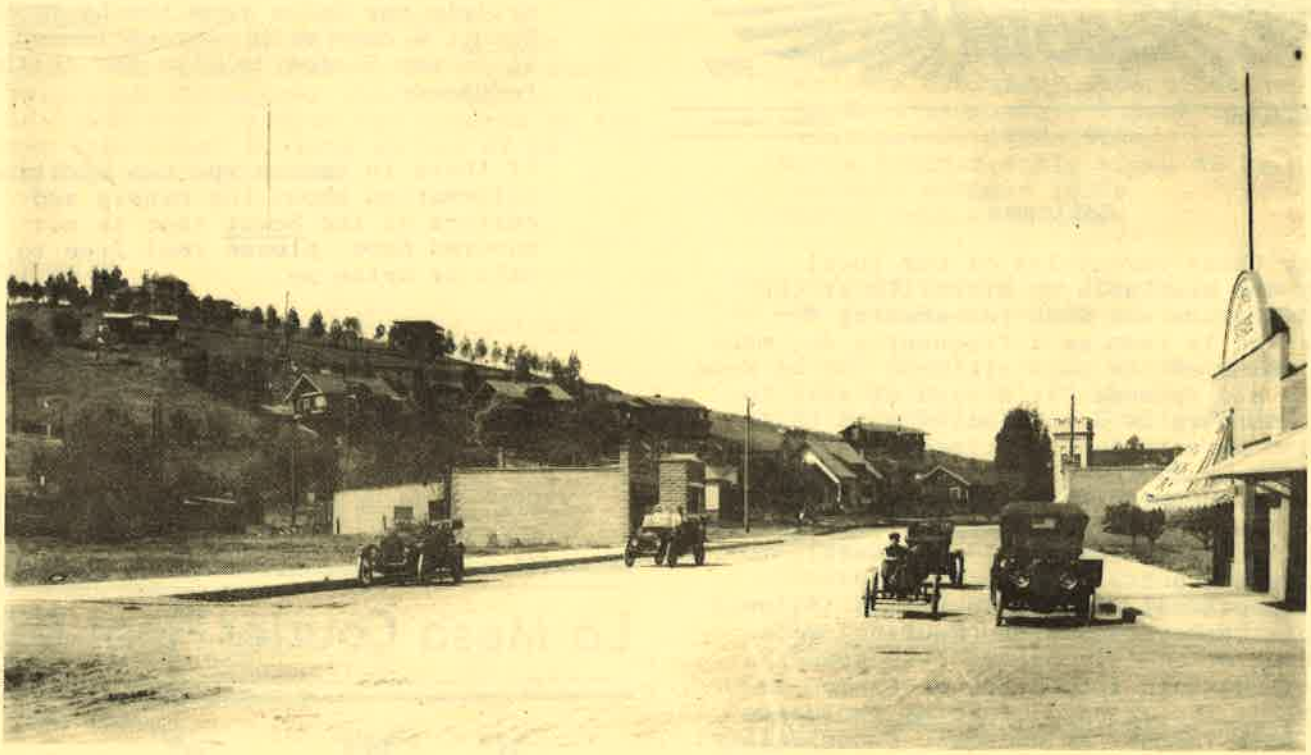
VOL. XXXII. No. 18. LA MESA, CALIFORNIA, FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1939 YEAR, $2.00. COPY, 5 CENTS

Beacon. Due to poor health Mr. DeBurn sold his interest in the publishing company to the Reeds in 1943 and retired from the newspaper business. The Reeds continued their ownership until 1950 when H. C. died of a heart attack at the age of 74. In 1952, after fourteen years of ownership, Mrs. Reed sold the La Mesa Scout to Browen Industries of Richmond, California.

Browen briefly published the Scout as a bi-weekly but that proved to be unfeasible both in terms of news and finances. In 1956, after 11 years on the south side of La Mesa Boulevard between Nebo Drive and Date Avenue, the newspaper office moved to the northwest corner of La Mesa and Nebo. Here it remained until 1979 when the building was torn down to make way for the City's Phase IIa Redevelopment.

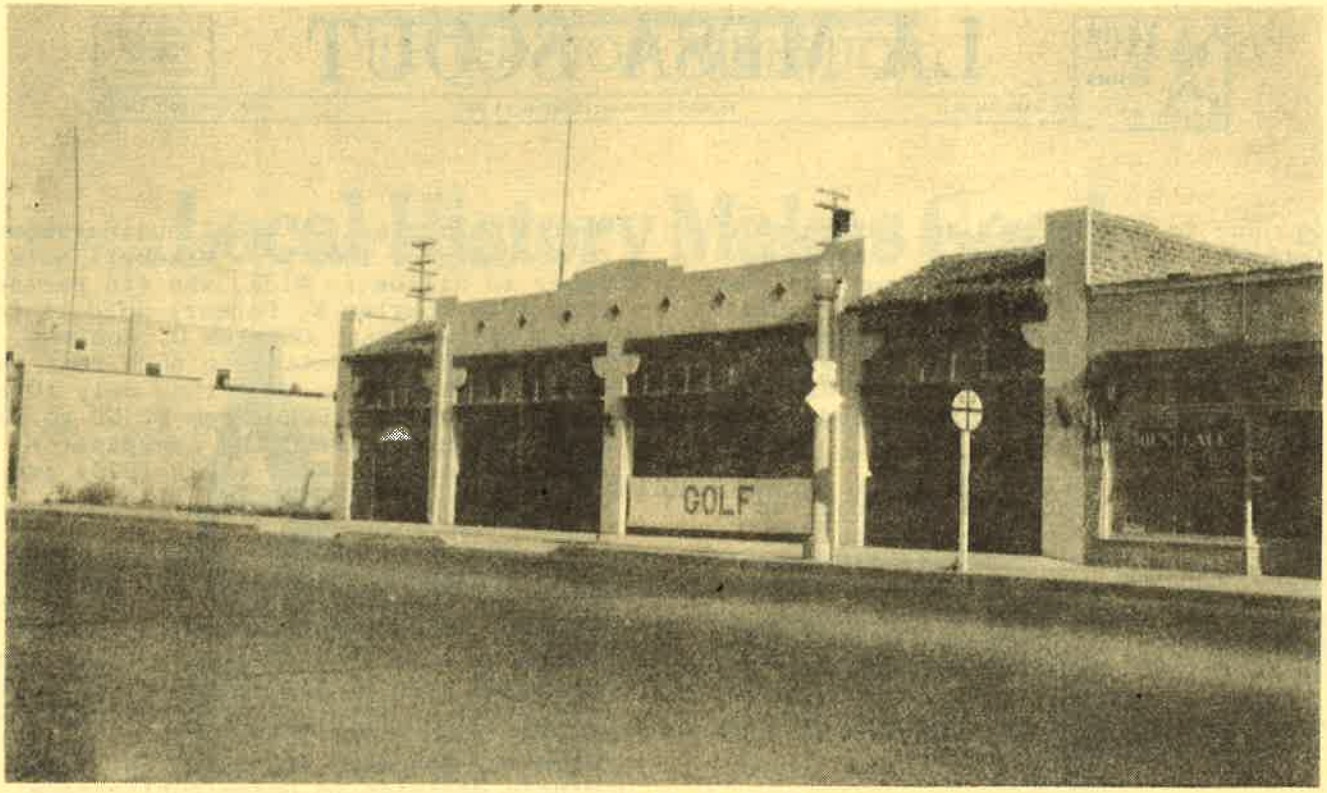
In 1962 Virginia Mitchell, who had been associated with the Scout since 1950 and who had been its editor and publisher since 1959, became the newspaper's co-owner with Gloria Carmichael, a local businesswoman. In November of 1963 Mrs. Mitchell sold the paper to Milton I. Wick, who (in partnership with Douglas K. Parker) sold it to a local businessman, Charles O. Robison, in 1971. It is interesting to note that the yearly subscription cost rose only 10 cents between 1947 and 1962, from $3.50 to $3.60. From 1973 until 1980, the newspaper's owners were Allan Kaye (1973-1976) and Robert Elledge (1976-1980).

In September of 1980, the San Diego Daily Transcript purchased the La Mesa Scout and changed its name to the La Mesa Courier. The Transcript was to be the last in a long list of owners since the paper was sold by Mrs. Reed in 1952. After five years of superior news coverage, the Courier ceased operation with its final issue of November 14, 1985. The Transcript's decision to cease publication of the Courier was made on the basis of economics; there wasn't enough revenue from subscriptions and advertising to keep the newspaper operating in the black.



San Diego Historical Society - Ticor collection

Looking west on La Mesa Boulevard from Date Avenue with Mt. Nebo in the background, circa 1915. By 1917 the Scout office had moved into the furthest of the two small concrete block buildings seen at center (8109 La Mesa Boulevard), where it remained until 1945.



Shown here in 1931 soon after its completion, this building was later divided into four units, now 8211 to 8219 La Mesa Boulevard. From 1945 to 1956 the Scout office was located at 8217.

The La Mesa Scout
Since 1907

Number 16, April 15, 1976 — La Mesa, California

Epilogue

Today these chronicles of our local history are available on microfilm at the La Mesa Library and when researching for information in them as I frequently do, many of the names of the past citizens of La Mesa are like old friends. It's kind of neat to know that there is a continuity with those who lived here in earlier times - those who lived in many of the same houses we live in today, who shopped in the same stores as we do, and who enjoyed the charming village that was and is La Mesa today. I'm grateful, too, for Wiley Magruder, the Smiths, Raynor DeBurn, the Reeds and all those who followed and kept the La Mesa Scout (Courier) going as La Mesa's hometown paper. I suppose the death of this old friend can be blamed on the times - the expense of being exclusive once a week versus the economic practicality of one paper covering a wider population on a daily basis. I don't know about you, but I will truly miss the in-depth coverage of a hometown newspaper. I guess they are becoming like the buggy whip, extinct.

Most of the information in this article was taken from the La Mesa Scout. A copy with sources listed is in the Society's file for further reference.

If there is anyone who has additional information about the owners and editors of the Scout that is not covered here, please feel free to call or write me.

Pat Kettler (619)463-0197
9146 San Juan Place
La Mesa, California 92041

La Mesa Courier Final Edition

La Mesa Courier

VOL. 78 NO. 46 — La Mesa's Independent Community Weekly Paper Since 1907 — Twenty-Five Cents — THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1985

CLEMENT O. SMITH

Clement O. Smith was born on a farm near Lawton, Michigan in 1858, the third of eight children. In 1866, the family traveled by covered wagon to Kansas to take up farming near Emporia, where he grew up. He learned typesetting at the State Agricultural College in Manhatten, Kansas and after graduation from the college in 1876 remained in the printing business most of his life. In 1883, Mr. Smith purchased a newspaper business in Burlington, Kansas which he later sold. In October of 1911 he moved with his wife, Nellie, and family to El Cajon, settling on a citrus ranch in the eastern part of the valley.

In 1912, he purchased the El Cajon Valley News and by 1914 was co-owner of the La Mesa Scout with Thomas M. Hancock, consolidating the two printing shops into one in La Mesa. By 1915 C.O. and his elder son, Preston, had become sole owners of the Scout, soon joined by younger son Carroll. After the addition of two more newspapers in 1921, C.O. and his sons were to be sole owners of a chain of four east county papers until 1933. In 1937 the Smiths sold their newspaper interests, ending 24 years of continuous ownership which began with C.O.'s purchase of the Valley News. Mr. Smith died in a San Diego hospital September 8, 1944, after a long illness.

In addition to his participation in the family newspaper business, and two terms in the 1920s spent as State Printer in Sacramento, Carroll H. Smith later became Chief Trial Deputy for the San Diego County Counsel's office, serving 26 years there and in the Office of the District Attorney. He made his home in La Mesa, where he died in 1967 at the age of 72. Preston C. Smith, who went on to join the Union Tribune Publishing Company as a printer, was living in La Jolla at the time of his death at the age of 86 in 1977.

LA MESA SCOUT
SMITH & SONS, Owners and Publishers
MEMBER CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS' ASSOCIATION

Published every Friday at La Mesa, California, in the Scout building, 8109 Lookout avenue. Subscription, $2 per year, $1 for six months, payable in advance.

Entered as second-class matter at the postoffice at La Mesa, California, under the act of March 3, 1879.

The postal regulations require that subscriptions must be kept paid within the year, otherwise the paper will not be admitted as second-class matter.



Raynor DeBurn, 1930s

RAYNOR DEBURN

Born in San Diego on December 1, 1887, the year after his parents' arrival from Ohio, Raynor DeBurn grew up in the Logan Heights area. His father, Eugene DeBurn, served as Superintendent of San Diego City Schools from 1889 to 1896.

Raynor DeBurn was a graduate of San Diego High School and of San Diego State Normal School (now SDSU) and taught in the city schools for several years, at one time holding a principalship. In 1914, he changed careers, becoming a cub reporter for the San Diego Sun and rising steadily on the paper's staff. He held the positions of staff correspondent for the United Press and California Scripps-Howard newspapers, reporter, acting managing editor, city editor, and news promotion editor. In September of 1927, Mr. DeBurn accepted the position of Managing Editor of the La Mesa Scout, becoming a one-third partner with Smith and Sons in 1933.

By the time DeBurn became associated with the Scout, he and his wife, Constance, and children, Robert and Patricia, were already a part of the community, having made their home in La Mesa Heights since 1920. In June, 1938, he entered into a new Scout partnership with Henry C. and Carlyle Reed, and in November of 1943, after sixteen years association with the paper, retired from the business altogether due to ill health. He eventually joined his brother's ice plant construction business and later entered the real estate field in Lakeside, where he died September 25, 1965.

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