La Mesa Historical Society

LOOKOUT AVENUE

VOLUME 14 , NUMBER 3 *SPRING 1992*

ICE CREAM SOCIAL JUNE 14th !

The La Mesa Historical Society's annual Ice Cream Social will be held on Sunday, June 14th. This year the menu will include hot dogs, chili, baked beans, salads, and beverages; and of course ice cream sundaes. The Quilters will have baby quilts for sale in the Thelma Palermo Building.

PLANT SALE

This year we will again feature a Plant Sale. This is your chance to look around your home (inside or outside) for plants you might wish to donate. Clay or plastic pots would also be appreciated. You can leave your donations on the back porch of the McKinney House, bring them to the Social, or call Ed Blackman (460-4405) and he'll pick them up.

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

We can use dishes, glassware, older linens, small appliances, jewelry, and other small items (no clothing or furniture, please) for our White Elephant Sale. Items can be left on the back porch of the McKinney House until Friday, June 12th. For more information or pick-up assistance call Henrietta Schupbach (466-4384).

MUSEUM EXHIBIT: THE FIFTIES - A LOOK BACK

If you have any 1950's artifacts (such as televisions, radios, small furnishings, appliances, or toys) or 1950's photographs of La Mesa's people and places that you would be willing to lend to the exhibit, we would be most appreciative. Please call Nancy Neffson (469-8731) or Donna Regan (460-3726) by June 10th.

We invite you to share in the atmosphere by wearing 50's apparel to this year's Ice Cream Social.

* *

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS !

Robert & Maryjane Apostolos
Mrs. Warren E. Bliss
Elaine Y. Burden
Donald H. Criswell
Jeff & Patricia Godfrey
Maythel Hawley
Lloyd Hawley
Robert & Mary Hicks
Jeanette Jones
Eleanor Hicks Kidder
Olga Marriatt
K. Elaine McAlpin
Janet Neeb
John Jr. & Patricia Tyson
Marilyn Webb
Louise M. Whitlock
Scott & Becky Wilkins

For Your Information

FROM THE QUILTERS - The first prize in this year's Ice Cream Social drawing is a hand-quilted New England Fish Block Pattern quilt (pattern at left) in colors of black, cream, white, and peach. The Quilters recently received an order for a pair of baby quilts to be sent to Oregon for twins expected in June! Bettie Burns will be replacing Gay Tulp as Quilter's Representative.



* *

NEW BOARD MEMBERS - At the March Brunch meeting, the following officers and directors were elected to the Board for the new term:

President - Ed Blackman
1st Vice President - Beth Blackman
2nd Vice President - Doug Neill
3rd Vice President - Bev Decker
Secretary - Brenda Neill
Treasurer - Patricia Godfrey

Directors - Betty Teague Norrie West Ruth Kramer

* A special thank-you to our outgoing Treasurer Beverly Dostal for her contribution of time and expertise over the past few years!

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LANDMARKS & PRESERVATION - Significant progress was made in preserving La Mesa's historical and architectural heritage as the City Council designated three new historic landmarks in February. Added to the Landmark Registry were the Frank Oliver House at 4657 Fourth Street, the James Morrison House on Grant Street (now a medical office), and the Todd House at 8069 Vista Drive. Look for further information on these properties in the next issue.

In recognition of National Historic Preservation Week, at its May 12th meeting the La Mesa City Council presented certificates to the owners of the eleven designated La Mesa Historic Landmarks. Beth Blackman accepted on behalf of LMHS for the McKinney House (the city's first landmark in 1985). Other landmarks recognized were the Sherman C. Grable House, Lucius C. Miles House, Henry M. Lyons House, Harry Park House, Albert W. Gray House, Frank Oliver House, James Morrison House, Todd House, La Mesa Depot, and Collier Park and the Spring House.

* *

Contributing to this issue were Ed Blackman, Donna Regan, and Doug Neill. The next issue will be published in September. Submissions from all members are welcome, and must be received by the end of August.

IN MEMORIAM

The La Mesa Historical Society extends its deepest sympathy to the families of Gladys Johnston, Jue Lo Monaco Kern, Maryjane Rundell, and Ruth McKinney.

* *

RUTH McKINNEY 1892 - 1992

Ruth Huntington McKinney passed away on March 24, 1992. The widow of the last surviving McKinney son, Ruth had celebrated her 100th birthday only a few days before.

Ruth Huntington was born in Stuart, Iowa on March 18, 1892, to Fred and Harriet Huntington. She met her future husband, Joyce McKinney, when they were both staying at the Dillon Boarding House in Los Angeles. At that time, Ruth had begun her career as a kindergarten teacher and Joyce was a student at the University of Southern California.

Ruth and Joyce were married on August 21, 1921 in the front room of the McKinney House, with Rev. Henry McKinney performing the ceremony. The couple returned by steamship to Los Angeles, where they settled in the Long Beach area. Joyce went to work for the Richfield Oil Company as a chemist, and Ruth continued to teach kindergarten in the Los Angeles school system. Here they also raised their two children, Ann and Carl.

After retiring in 1952, they moved to the San Diego area, living in Jamul until 1967, then moving to Normal Heights.

In 1975, Ruth and Joyce were among the members of the McKinney family whose generosity helped the newly formed La Mesa Historical Society purchase the McKinney House for use as a museum.

On 1983, they moved to the northern California town of Magalia to be near their daughter. They celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary before Joyce's passing on October 15, 1988.

Ruth had a variety of interests. Sha always believed in the cause of world peace. With her husband she shared a love of reading and weaving. She collected bells from many nations, and played the handbells. Ruth also wrote poetry, calling her verses "More truth than Ruth".

Ruth McKinney is survived by her daughter, Ann Robinson, six grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, four great-great-grandchildren, and many others who will miss her.

LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT	Betty Teague
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT	Ed Blackman - Membership
THIRD VICE PRESIDENT	Beth Blackman - Publicity
SECRETARY	Brenda Neill
TREASURER	Beverly Dostal
PAST PRESIDENT	Pat Kettler
DIRECTORS	Beverly Decker - Hospitality
	Charlaine Halgren
	Mary-Em Howard
	Doug Neill - Newsletter
	Donna Regan
QUILTER'S REPRESENTATIVE	Gay Tulp

REV. McKINNEY HOUSE MUSEUM
(619) 466-0197

LOOKOUT AVENUE is the official publication of the La Mesa Historical Society. The newsletter is published quarterly. Articles, photos, and letters are welcome from all members. Submissions may be edited due to space limitations. Contact Doug Neill at 697-7765 or 463-2230 for submissions.



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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