



LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

LOOKOUT AVE.



VOLUME NUMBER 4, ISSUE NUMBER 2

OCTOBER 1980

COMING EVENTS

La Mesa's OKTOBERFEST. October 3rd, 4th and 5th. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This three-day event has grown, not only in size, but in national recognition, listed in Sunset Magazine's Events of the Month.

"GIGANTIC" YARD SALE. October 18. Saturday. 10:00 to 3:00. This LMHS "Gigantic Yard sale to be held at The McKinney House.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. October 26, Sunday. 3:00 P.M. We will observe the fifth anniversary of the Historical Society at the General Meeting to be held at the Senior Citizens Center. As last year, you are asked to bring a pie of your choice.

DECEMBER 7. Sunday. 1:00 P.M. Decorating of The McKinney House for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AT THE MCKINNEY HOUSE. Secember 13th. Saturday. 11:00 to 4:00.

QUILTERS AND CRAFTERS are meeting Wednesdays at Thelma Todd's home. YOU are needed. 10:00 A.M. Julie Bras - 698-0833. Mildred Bryan - 466-2801.

LA MESA DEPOT MUSEUM

For the record...Santa Fe 1920's wooden caboos #1413 arrived in La Mesa by truck on August 7; the following day it was placed on the display track. The two small industrial tank-type steam locomotives, now located at the Orange Empire Railway Museum but scheduled to be part of the La Mesa exhibit, are being repainted. One locomotive and the caboose will probably be replaced by more suitable equipment sometime during the next four-year period. The interior of the depot will no longer be as open space; instead, there will be a waiting room, an office with ticket counter and a baggage room, all complete with the furnishings listed in recently obtained SD & AE station records. The City of La Mesa's CBDG (HUD) funds are financing site development and depot restoration with special consideration often being given by participating contractors and individuals. Fund drives will help support other related work. Visit the depot and the caboose during the Octoberfest. Some LMHS members will be there to greet you along with Railway Museum members.

Eric Sanders



VOLUNTEERS....are needed for several committees. If you have only a few hours each quarter and can work at home (no gas needed), choose the telephone committee. Here is a direct quotation from Woody Linke, our hard-working president: "This is good news! Our membership is growing so that we need more people to reach them all." woody asks that you select one of the committees listed in the last LOOKOUT AVE., call the chairman, and become involved. You are not getting the most out of your membership if you don't participate. For instance, the Publicity Committee needs one or two more people, the Telephone Committee needs ten! The Quilters, especially, need busy fingers on Wednesdays at Thelma Todd's and at home, before the bazaar and Christmas Open House. This is a real assistance to the Fund Raising of LMHS. Call one of us and get to know your fellow members better. Call Thelma Todd - 466-5970. See you at the October 26 PIE FESTIVAL.

Woody Linke - 469-9988

"GIGANTIC" YARD SALE

This year the Society's Yard Sale will be held at The McKinney House on Saturday, October 18 from 10:00 to 3:00. Please gather your goodies, plants, bric-a-brac, furniture; anything you don't have use for we would greatly appreciate. Please bring your items to The McKinney House by Wednesday, October 15 so that we might have everything tagged. We will be happy to pick up any articles that are too large for a car or if you do not have a way to get them to us. Just call Jean Guy at 466-7385 or Thelma Todd at 466-5870. We are also asking for volunteers to spend a few hours of your time to help make this a success.

466-5970

Jean Guy, Fund Raising Chairman.

BANCROFT RANCH HOUSE SUBJECT AT OCTOBER MEETING

One of the old California Ranchos is coming to life again in Spring Valley. Students and others are digging out there on Memory Lane to re-discover the Indian Village that was once there. At the LMHS FIFTH ANNIVERSARY PIE FESTIVAL, Karna Webster, LMHS Board member and hard-working member of the Spring Valley Historical Society, will speak about the archeological dig and tell of its meaning for us. She will show slides to illustrate her talk which will be at the La Mesa Senior Center, 8450 La Mesa Blvd., October 26 at 3:00 P.M. Hospitality Chairman, Vivian Higgins, invites members to bring a favorite pie to celebrate by sampling with friends.

MEMBERSHIP GOAL

LMHS membership stands at 423! The committee is pushing for all renewals in order to reach their goal of 500 on the FIFTH ANNIVERSARY. A bonus for members paid now is having YOUR NAME in the new DIRECTORY. Renew now and bring a friend into the society. A quotation from the Membership Chairman: "Remembering a friend with membership in LMHS is a lovely Christmas gift."

Vicki Willis - 460-0748

MEMORABILIA

The La Mesa Historical Society received from Robert Rapp of San Diego a couple of pictures of historical value. Robert grew up in La Mesa and his father was Postmaster for ten years beginning in 1922. The picture of the Post Office personnel standing in front of the Post Office when it was located behind the Bank of Southern California at La Mesa Blvd. and Palm Avenue is very interesting. Many of those people were then, and very much later, active in the life of La Mesa. Thank you, Mr. Rapp for identifying them on the back of the picture.

The identification of the other picture, "The Hartzel Gang" is not complete. Can you help? The very worn clipping printed Nov. 4, 1928, describes "The Hartzel Gang" as a gang of 100 "real good boys from ten to eighteen years of age whose aim is to be helpful--". The picture shows the drum and bugle corps of the "gang".

We also received a framed picture of Eucalyptus trees by Harold Taylor from Dr. Andrew Smith. Orchids to these donors.

Thelma Todd

RESTORATION NOTES

The restoration of the 1908 front porch is now complete. A decision was made to hire someone to complete the wood stripping in the office and kitchen and to strip the upstairs hall. For safety reasons, the ceiling in the west bedroom will have to be replaced. Major plaster patching is also needed in the upstairs hall and front bedroom. When the workmen have finished, the oak floors in the three downstairs rooms will be sanded and refinished. Ruth and Joyce McKinney paid a visit to The McKinney House to look over the progress of the restoration. They are very much pleased with the reconstruction and the improved appearance of The McKinney House.

LOOKOUT AVENUE

The quarterly of La Mesa Historical Society, Inc., P. O. Box 882, La Mesa, CA 92041. Editor, Lucile DeWaide - 463-6886. Reporters: Eckoe Ahern and Lynette Wray. Artist: Clete Gress.

QUILTING NEWS

La Mesa Historical Society will be represented at the current quilt show at San Diego Historical Society's Villa Montezuma Museum. According to Thelma Todd, enthusiastic member of the LMHS Quilters, two very knowledgeable young women, Gail Louis and Debbie Cusho, came out from the Villa and borrowed a quilt from our collection. Thelma had thought that she owned a "Depression" quilt, but upon examination, the women decided it had been put together in the depression but pieced much earlier of dark colors and older design materials such as were used for house dresses. It had apparently been donated to the women of The Congregational Church who were making quilts for the needy. It had been purchased by a member of Thelma's family as a donation so the church women could buy more materials to put together more quilts. Although not as colorful as recently made quilts, it is surely of more value!

The Villa chose to exhibit a Dresden Plate belonging to LMHS. It was donated to us by Gertrude Bailey who won it with a twenty-five cent ticket at a church fair. Sections I and II of the Villa show have now ended. Section III will run from September 25 to November 9 and will concentrate on quilts from 1910 to 1940 from the Amish, Mennonite and Depression collections. The Museum is also looking for quilts of the Sunbonnet Sue pattern to exhibit. Section IV from November 13 to January 15 will include modern quilts and quilted objects.

The women expressed appreciation for the cooperation and the hope that many of our members would see the exhibit. They expressed the wish that the two Historical Societies might continue to work together.

Ann Kantor of the Villa Montezuma Museum at 1925 K Street, indicates that everyone in the La Mesa Historical Society is cordially invited to the quilt exhibits, an excellent opportunity to study history!

The LMHS Quilters have started a very beautiful Dresden Plate quilt. They are also very busy making articles to sell at the various fund raising occasions. Wouldn't you like to join them?

Thelma Todd and Lucile DeWaide

LENORE BRANAM PORTER

October 19, 1887 -

August 1, 1980



The little book, its leather cover, long protected by an orange and yellow flowered fabric, frayed and shabby, is Lenore Porter's flower book. Among the pages are specimens she has gathered and pressed. Handle with care, lest the treasures slip out. Her daughter, Anne Porter Hall, says, "That book is Mother." It went wherever she did, became part of the inspiration which sent her grandson toward his doctorate in zoology, and is a symbol of what Nora Porter's life was.

Lenore Branam Porter was born in the State of Washington and came to La Mesa first in 1915. In 1923 she married James Tank Porter, sculptor. She, herself, painted sensitive land and seascapes which abound in her home, as do hundreds of books. Her family has moved into the old home, named Ping an Shan, on Porter Hill Road.

When Lenore's husband set up a sprinkling-head manufacturing business at home, she took over its management, this in the '30's when such a thing was unusual for a woman to do.

She traveled widely. At age 70 she packed up her flower book and her ten-year old granddaughter and off they went around the world!

La Mesa friends say of Lenore: "...brilliant...outspoken...witty...full of laughter...involved with the Fiesta de las Flores...hair always in a bun...sharp...caring...Women's Club president...collecting rocks, making music, watching birds...learning, growing."

The little book remains in its accustomed spot in the livingroom bookcase on Porter Hill...and in her way, Lenore Porter does, too.

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