

La Mesa Historical Society LOOKOUT AVENUE



Volume 18, Number 2

Spring 1997

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Restoration of the Children's Bedroom is underway. The cracked ceiling has been repaired and a bid from a painter accepted. We have discovered that one of the windows needs major repairs before the painter can proceed, and we are waiting for our wonderful restoration handyman, **Robin Elder**, to find time to reglue and otherwise repair the window. Once that is done, the painting can proceed. Thanks to Society member **Dennis Tuttle**, the historic colors for this room have been discovered and chosen.

In the next few months, we will hold our Annual Meeting and luncheon on Saturday, May 3rd, at the Nan Couts Cottage. At a future date, when the roses are in full bloom, we will dedicate the Memorial Rose Garden at the McKinney House. The heritage roses so carefully planted by **Ed Blackman** and pruned with the assistance of **Brenda Neill** are thriving. I hope everyone will attend both of these events.

We do need some extra help with the yard and anyone who can pitch in, please call me at 463-1029.
Karna

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, May 3rd

Membership Luncheon, Annual Meeting. Nan Couts Cottage. 12 - 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 14th

Ice Cream Social. McKinney House. 1 - 4 p.m.

SPRING LUNCHEON AND ANNUAL MEETING PLANNED FOR MAY 3

This year the Annual Meeting and accompanying Spring Luncheon will be held on Saturday, May 3 from 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. at the Nan Couts Cottage, 5045 Memorial Drive (just above the Community Center in MacArthur Park).

The luncheon will be a buffet featuring sliced meats and cheeses, a selection of rolls and breads, a variety of condiments, seafood pasta salad, anti-pasto salad, a fresh fruit and vegetable platter with poppy seed ranch dip and for dessert, cake. The meal will also include choice of hot and cold beverages.

Following the luncheon the Annual Business Meeting will be held with a special program and the election of officers and members of the Board of Directors. Registration is \$12.00 per person which includes the cost of the luncheon and one ticket for the gift drawing. Additional drawing tickets will be available for \$1.00 each. We will also have baby quilts and other gift items available along with our publications.

Seating is limited, make your reservations early!! You can use the form on page 7 or call Mary Kelley at 463-5667.

MEMORIAL ROSE GARDEN DEDICATION

We had planned to dedicate our Memorial Rose Garden of heritage roses in early April, but the roses didn't cooperate.

The La Mesa Woman's Club Garden Section and individuals have donated funds, in memory of loved ones and friends, for this garden.

Here is our record of individuals who have had roses dedicated in their name:

Beverly Decker
Florence McKinney Drury
Nova Lee Judy
Henrietta Schupbach
Richard Teague
Steve Whitcomb
Claude Williams

If we have omitted any names, please contact Karna Webster at 463-1029 as soon as possible.

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS — 1997-1998

President: Open
1st Vice President: Open
2nd Vice President: Donna Regan
3rd Vice President: Mary Lou McClellan - Membership Chair
Treasurer: Open
Secretary: Open
Directors: (3)
Carol Lockwood - Docents
Jim Orsborn
Dorothy James

Additional nominations will be made from the floor at the May 3rd meeting.

1997-1998 Nominating Committee:
Brice Lockwood
May Ann Ehlers
Pat Kettler
Donna Regan

ICE CREAM SOCIAL at McKinney House SATURDAY JUNE 14TH — 1 - 4 p.m.

Please note the change in day. This year the Social will be held on Saturday instead of Sunday. Nothing else changes. We will still have Bryce Lockwood starring on the ice cream scoop, pies from our favorite pie shops, and Ed Blackman selling his portable garden while giving expert advise to customers one and all.

Anyone with questions, ideas or and interest in volunteering to help at the Social, please call Jo Coffey at 462-5692 or Dorothy James at 465-5617.

There will be more details in a future flyer, but you can start admiring the wonderful prizes we have obtained for our summer fundraiser now.

To Benefit the La Mesa Historical Society

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FIRST PRIZE: Spider Web Quilt
with Decorator Pillow
by La Mesa Historical Society Quilters

SECOND PRIZE: "The Tunnel"
Framed watercolor by Clarence Attridge
donated by K. Ruth DeLay

THIRD PRIZE: Deluxe Ticket Package (2 each)
SD Zoo and Wild Animal Park
by San Diego Zoological Society

FOURTH PRIZE: Cupid Bird Bath
by Angels Among Us

Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social, 1 - 4 p.m.
Saturday, June 14, 1997, at the McKinney House,
8369 University Ave., La Mesa



June 14th is Flag Day. If you have a flag you
would like to share, bring it along!



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Steve Conner (Life)
Dr. Donald Converse
Jane Donahoo
George & Nadine Elwers
Peter & Kathy Gevanthor
Elizabeth Montgomery
Bud Shackelford
Leslie B. Tonkinson
Lillian J Upp (Patron)
Ray & Gloria Martin Weeter



PLEASE CHECK YOUR LABEL

If your mailing label on this newsletter is marked '95-'96, it means we have no record of receiving your dues for the '96-'97 membership year.

If this is our error, please call Mary Lou McClellan, 287-1617.

If it was an oversight on your part, please consider catching up on your dues now and we will be happy to continue sending you the newsletter and other news of Society activities.

As a special one-time incentive, if dues are paid now, membership will be extended through the '97-'98 membership year.

DOCENTS

A small group of dedicated docents are continuing to open the McKinney House on Saturdays from 12 - 3. Pat Kettler, Donna Regan, May Ann Ehlers, Betty Teague and Carol Lockwood spend one afternoon a month in its sometimes lonely, sometimes lively, interior.

There have been some 100 plus Saturday visitors in the past year and most recently, an adult extension class whose comments were genuinely enthusiastic and complimentary.

We would be delighted to welcome new volunteers to our group on a regular or irregular schedule. The best training can come from the assigned docent on any Saturday.

Please drop by to say hello and get acquainted. For more information, call Carol Lockwood, Docent Chair at 463-5648.

QUILTERS

The La Mesa Historical Society Quilters would appreciate any and all donations of fabric scraps and sewing supplies. They also have an urgent need for a sewing machine that sews.

Donations can be left at the Quilting Room on Wednesday mornings or call 697-9126 to make other arrangements.



Jim Kritz entertains on the flute at the Christmas Open House

ABOUT THE GROSSMONT HIGH SCHOOL DISPLAY AT THE MCKINNEY HOUSE

The display of Grossmont High's history begins at the turn of-the-century and includes many photos found in the school's annuals of the 1920's, 30', 40's,

50's, 60's, and some from the 1980's and 90's. This display consists mainly of photos and some text and includes information about where east county high school-age students went before Grossmont was built, campus scenes of the new school, some of the academic challenges of those time periods before the 1970's, sports over the years for boys and girls, and the social scene from the 20's to the 90's. There is also a small display covering the Christmas pageant.



Grossmont Alumni Reception Display

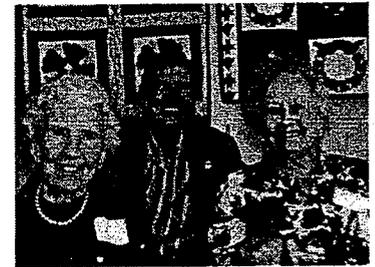


Grossmont Alumni Reception Display

The complete display will be available to see until the first part of May. Some of it will be taken down to make way for a new display which will include photos and artifacts relating to the history of the La Mesa Fire Department, and will feature "Blaze", the wonder dog!



Karna Webster with Lillian Upp, class of '25 and Larry Upp, class of '45 at the Grossmont Alumni Reception



Lillian Upp, class of '25, Principal William J. Ashman, and Carmelita Swartz, class of '27 at the Grossmont Alumni Reception

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE A GRAND SUCCESS

Thanks to Chair **Kathy Tinsley** and the many society members who helped, the Christmas Open House was a grand success.

Elizabeth Montgomery from E1 Cajon played Christmas music on the McKinney organ. She was followed by **Evelyn Estabrook** and her students. **Jim Kritz** played his flute, while **Sandy Campbell** and her family served refreshments in the Quilters Room.

Marilyn Webb again baked delicious scones in the McKinney kitchen. Santa Claus greeted guests and helped with the drawing. **Bill Hastings** and **Mary Kelley**, who had just returned from a trip to England and were both suffering from jet lag, pitched in at the last minute. **Pat Kettler** prepared a special exhibit of antique dolls for the Children's Bedroom.

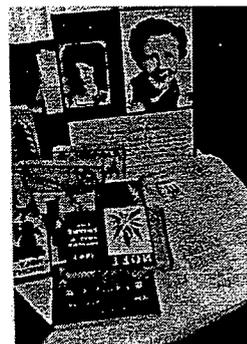
To **Mary Lou McClellan**, **Donna Regan**, **Dorothy James**, **Ruth Kramer**, **May Ann Ehlers**, **Carol Lockwood**, and all of you who helped guide visitors through the house a very special thanks!



A linoleum block print



Carol Lockwood demonstrated linoleum block printing at the Christmas Open House. Carol used blocks carved by Dorothy Smith, who was an Historical Society member and Grossmont High School teacher. Mrs. Smith died in 1995 at the age of 92.



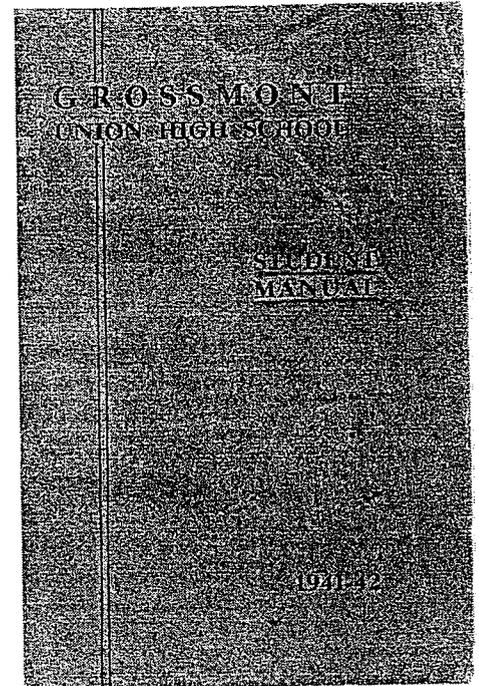
JACK MASHIN

Beloved Grossmont High coach from 1923 until 1960, Ladimir "Jack" Mashin loved both teaching and sports and often expressed his conviction that "a player is only as good as his ability to think". He never gave up on any boy, and never cut anyone from a team for lack of athletic ability just as long as the student was willing to work at it. Education was first and athletics second. He was given the title of "Fox of the Foothills" by Grossmont students, and helped the school to achieve 143 league championships in all sports, and to win 121 football games over the years he coached. He went on to coach at Grossmont College and in 1966 was inducted into the California Coaches Hall of Fame.



Coach Mashin died in San Diego in June of 1987 at the age of 90 years. His life was an outstanding example of giving and inspiring.

**GROSSMONT UNION HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENT MANUAL
1941-42**



On the following pages are articles sampled from the G.U.H.S. Student Manual for 1941-42. Students of that era will find it interesting to reminisce about the way it was. Students in more recent years will find it interesting to compare their school's traditions, curricula, requirements and rules to those of 50+ years ago.

While you are reading, see if you can find the answers to the following questions.

1. Where did East County high school-age kids go to school before Grossmont High School was built?
2. What year was Grossmont High School completed?
3. What is the tradition of the "Daisy Chain"?
4. Did Grossmont High School ever have a dress code?

(Answers are provided at the end of the articles.)

**EL RECUERDO
DEDICATIONS**

"El Recuerdo", or "a souvenir", is the name of Grossmont High School's annuals. The following dedications give us a feeling as to the emotions of students during and just after those difficult WWII years.

1943

Bombs ... explosions ... destruction of the lives and peace we love so dearly ... now as before ... the call to arms ... to you who have answered it ... to you who have known these halls of Grossmont ... to you who have given your zeal and inspiration to this school and who are now giving the same for our Flag, we dedicate this annual.

1946

We stand at the threshold of a new era, the Atomic Age. In dedicating the 1946 El Recuerdo to the Future, we do so with the prayer that our generation shall lay the foundation that will make it a blessing rather than a curse to mankind.

Forward to the Future!

GROSSMONT HYMN

Hail to thee, dear Grossmont
Hail, blue and gold!
Thy praise, thy faith, thy honor
Shall in our lives be told!
In thee our heart shall ever
Find inspiration's mold ---
To thee, our highest striving -
All hail, blue and gold!

**A GROSSMONT HIGH
SCHOOL YELL (1926)**

When you're up, you're up,
When you're down, you're down,
When you're up against Grossmont
You're up-side-down!

Spring 1997

TRADITIONS

ALUMNI DAY

The first Alumni or Homecoming Day was held in 1927 under the guidance of Lester Penry, '21, then president of the Alumni Association. The tradition continued, with Washington's Birthday as the occasion for former students to revisit previous haunts. However, a change in the tradition is now contemplated, and Alumni Day in the future is planned for a football game day in early fall.

Features of Alumni Day have been a special alumni luncheon at which the organization's business has been transacted and officers elected; an assembly program of alumni talent; an alumni edition of Foothill Echoes with news of graduates; and an evening dance which entertained graduating seniors and welcomed them into the ranks of the organization.

In the past, ten successful full evening plays have been presented by the alumni, under the direction of Mrs. Eva McCarthy Quicksall.

Also, the alumni have awarded three scholarships to three Grossmont seniors who are now attending San Diego State college.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Christmas Pageant is the impressive dramatic, musical program given annually during the Yule season by Grossmont High School, free of charge. The first formal program was presented in 1926, with the desire of giving a really worthwhile Christmas gift to the public from the school. Due to the ever-increasing attendance since 1934, it has been found necessary to give the performance on two successive evenings.

JUNIOR PROCESSION AND DAISY CHAIN

Like the Senior Ditch Day this tradition has been with us "always." The juniors have charge of the decorations for the baccalaureate services and for commencement, and form the escort, carrying a daisy chain for the graduating class at commencement. This chain, symbolic of the transference of duties from the graduating seniors to the juniors, is carried by eight girls and eight boys. These bearers are the most representative citizens of the junior class.

SOME RULES

PROGRAMS AND TEAMS:

Participation in school games and programs is to be regarded as an honor and a privilege, in return for which the pupil should ask no special favors or reward. Absence from school or the neglect of classroom work merely because of such activities is inexcusable and unsportsmanlike.

TRANSPORTATION:

Bus transportation is furnished by the school as an accommodation to pupils. It is not required of the district, but is a free service. Pupils are permitted to ride on these buses **on good behavior only**, and there is no legal reason why the privilege may not be withdrawn at any time from any pupil.

BOOKS, TOOLS, AND FINES:

Books are lent to pupils for use during the year. Their loss or abuse, or the loss or breakage of other materials, or of library books is punishable by a fine, which must be paid before the pupil may receive grades or credit for courses taken, a transfer of record to another school, or a diploma.

LEAVING THE GROUNDS:

It is at no time permissible for a pupil to leave the school grounds during the school day without the permission of the principal or vice-principal. A pupil is legally under the control of school authorities from the time he leaves his home in the morning until he returns in the evening.

SITTING IN CARS:

Sitting in any automobile at any time during the school day is strictly forbidden.

PENALTIES:

Penalties or restrictions for offenses are given according to the individual, the offense, and the attendant circumstances. In general there are no fixed penalties. Truancy or habitual tardiness, for example, may mean transfer to study-hall, the visit of a parent, suspension, or resort to the juvenile authorities. Forgery of excuses and permits is an extremely grave offense. Smoking and theft always mean suspension.

PROGRAM:

Freshmen are required to take 5 subjects in addition to physical education. Others take 4 subjects and physical education, and may take 5 if their previous grades are satisfactory and remain so.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

The California School Code requires every pupil to take part in the physical education program, unless excused for physical disability. The excuse for disability must be given in this district by a registered physician alone.

JUNIOR-SENIOR PROM

The "Prom" is a dance which occurs about two weeks before the close of school. At the time the school was consolidated in 1920 the tradition of a banquet, given by the juniors in honor of the seniors, was carried on for two years.

As the classes grew larger, a banquet became difficult to finance, so the junior class of 1924 honored the graduating class of 1923 with a dance, instead. This first "prom," held at the Bostonia Sunshine Ballroom, was a decided success, and the custom grew in favor steadily from then on. For the past several years, it had been held in the school cafeteria or auditorium, but in 1939 the juniors engaged the ballroom at the El Cortez Hotel for the affair and the American Legion Hall, Balboa Park, in 1940 and 1941.

The juniors have complete charge of the annual "Prom," which is usually of a semi-formal nature, and looked upon as the most important dance of the year. Only juniors and seniors are admitted, excepting a few especially chosen sophomore girls who serve refreshments.

Minimum Requirements For Graduation

SATISFACTORY WORK IN AT LEAST FOUR UNITS IN THE NINTH GRADE AND TWELVE UNITS IN THE TENTH, ELEVENTH AND TWELFTH GRADES AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION UNLESS EXCUSED FROM PHYSICAL EDUCATION BY A DOCTOR'S EXCUSE.

Of these units there must be:

1. Three units of English (Business English or journalism may count for 1 unit).
2. One unit of United States history.
3. One unit of civics.
4. One unit of laboratory science. This unit of laboratory science must be taken in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade. The laboratory sciences are: biology, chemistry, physics, agriculture II, III, or IV, homemaking science II or III, advanced science, boys' foods.
5. Physical education for four years, unless pupil is excused by a written statement from a physician.
6. A major, consisting of three units in one of the following departments:
 - (a) Mathematics: The following will count toward a major: algebra I, algebra II, plane geometry, solid geometry $\frac{1}{2}$, trigonometry $\frac{1}{2}$, mechanical drawing 1 unit.
 - (b) History and Social Science: Subjects that count are: United States history, civics, economics $\frac{1}{2}$, business law $\frac{1}{2}$, world history.
 - (c) Physical and Biological Science: Subjects that count are: agriculture, general science, biology, chemistry, physics, homemaking science, advanced science and boys' foods.
 - (d) Foreign Language: Three units in one language, or two units in each of two languages.
 - (e) Agriculture: Three years of agriculture.
 - (f) Music: Subjects that count are: music 1, instrumental music 1, music appreciation 1, harmony 1.
 - (g) Stenographic: Typing 1, shorthand 1, business English 1, (unless offered as part of the English requirement).
 - (h) Commercial: Bookkeeping I (required), and two units of the following group: business English, (unless offered as part of the English requirement), economics $\frac{1}{2}$, business law $\frac{1}{2}$, typing 1, and shorthand 1.
 - (i) Art: History and appreciation of art (required) 1, freehand drawing 1, design 1, costume design 1, commercial art 1, crafts 1, photography 1.
 - (j) Shop: Auto shop, general mechanics, woodshop, sheet metal and welding.
 - (k) Agriculture and Shop: Agriculture, 2 or 3 units; 1 unit of either: woodshop II, auto shop, or sheet metal and welding.
 - (l) Homemaking Science: Homemaking science 3.
 - (m) Speech: Public speaking 2, dramatics 1.

DRESS REGULATIONS

The sentiment of Grossmont girls has always been overwhelmingly in favor of some type of uniform or dress regulation to encourage simplicity, economy, and suitability of dress on the campus. The girls themselves, through their Girls League, have adopted regulations which from time to time have liberalized the details of what constitutes correct dress at Grossmont.

The enforcement of these regulations is the responsibility of the Dress Regulation Committee and is accomplished by means of a daily check and trial by jury conducted under student control.

Every week a jury of seven girls is chosen which meets daily except Wednesday in the League office (Room 23). Before this jury are brought by checkers all girls not in regulation dress. Any girl whose excuse is not considered acceptable by this jury is voted guilty of an offense and given a warning. If declared guilty at a later time for a second offense, she is brought before the entire Dress Regulation Committee for a hearing.

All girls are expected to conform to the following rules concerning dress from October first until May first.

I. Skirts

A.—Material—Any non-silk goods.

B.—Style—Any style suitable for schoolroom wear except slacks which are not permissible at any time.

C.—Color—Any plain color, no stripes, plaids, or salt and pepper mixtures.

II. Shirts

A.—Material—Any non-silk goods.

B.—Style—Any sport shirt with a complete front opening down the entire front.

C.—Color—Any plain color; no figured material.

III. Accessories

Such articles as scarfs and belts may be chosen as one wishes.

IV. Shoes and Hosiery—

No definite rules have been drawn up, but girls are expected to wear that which is comfortable and appropriate for the schoolroom.

HOME ECONOMICS

Home economics helps to meet the seven cardinal principles of education. The study of family relationships, child care, and home management contributes to worthy home management. The foods units make a definite contribution to health. All the courses contribute to vocational efficiency because they are the training for the profession of homemaking in which, as statistics show, about eighty-five per cent of the women of the country are engaged. Civic and social values are stressed in the various units.

Boys' Foods—This is a relatively new subject offered at Grossmont, and is a one-year course, open to senior boys only. It does not count towards a science major.

Homemaking I—This course is divided into two separate semesters' work: one semester emphasizing foods and the other clothing. It is not open to seniors.

Homemaking II—This course is likewise divided into advanced clothing and foods as major objectives.

Homemaking III—A newly organized course, pertaining to advanced clothing.

**SPRING LUNCHEON
RESERVATION
FORM**

To make your reservations either clip the adjacent form and mail with your check to:

La Mesa Historical Society,
P O Box 882,
La Mesa CA 91944

or call Mary Kelley at 463-5667. The deadline for reservations is April 26. Remember, seating is limited. Make your reservations early!!

I would like to reserve _____ tickets @ \$12.00 each for the **La Mesa Historical Society Spring Luncheon** on Saturday, May 3.

NAME _____ TELEPHONE# _____

ADDRESS _____

NAMES OF ADDITIONAL GUESTS: _____

Please mail with your check to the La Mesa Historical Society, P O Box 882, La Mesa CA 91944.

THE ANSWERS

1. San Diego High School and Bostonia High School in El Cajon until 1916 when Riverview High School in Lakeside became the official East County school.

2. Grossmont High opened its doors in Sept. of 1922 to approximately 350 students from La Mesa to Alpine, and Lakeside to Jamul. Land for the school was donated; construction cost was around \$110,000.

3. The "Daisy Chain" tradition was introduced to Grossmont High by Math and P. E. teacher Josephine Kollmyer in the 1930's. The chain consists of 20 Juniors who have achieved academic excellence, have given of their time and talents in school service, and have exemplary citizenship records. They are chosen by faculty vote. The chain acts as an honor guard for the Senior class. This guard assembles garlands of ivy and yellow and white daisies which they hold as a cordon and through which the Seniors enter to their graduation ceremony.

4. Yes. From about 1925 until around 1937, the standard dress for girls was white "Middy" blouses with long black scarves folded a particular way and pleated dark skirts. Boys wore dark colored pants, white shirts, and a tie.

Coming Soon!



Blaze, the Wonder Dog

MEMBERSHIP IN LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

An Invitation to Join

The Society depends upon membership dues, 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 include:

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor/Organization | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life (Single) | \$125 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family (2 adults) | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$ 40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$10 |
| | Student (under 18 yrs.) | | \$1 |

To join the La Mesa Historical Society, please complete and return this form with your check to:
LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P. O. BOX 882, LA MESA, CA 91944.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

I would like to become involved in the Society's work.



P. O. Box 882, La Mesa, California 91944

La Mesa Historical Society

Museum: Rev. Henry A. McKinney House (1908)
8369 University Avenue
(619) 466-0197

Address Correction Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
La Mesa, CA 91941

La Mesa Historical Society Officers and Directors 1996-1997

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- First Vice President* BETTY TEAGUE
- Second Vice President* MARY KELLEY
- Third Vice President* MARY LOU McCLELLAN
- Secretary* PAT KETTLER
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- Director ('96-'97)* ROGER COFFEY
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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) in La Mesa. Hours are 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoons or by appointment. Docent tours are available. Call 466-0197 for further information.

LOOKOUT AVENUE is the official publication of the La Mesa Historical Society, P.O. Box 882, La Mesa, CA 91944. Published quarterly. Production: Roger Coffey, editor, 462-5692, Positive Image, 584-8445