



La Mesa Historical Society LOOKOUT AVENUE



Volume 18, Number 3

Summer 1997

PAST PRESIDENT EXPRESSES THANKS FOR A GREAT YEAR

by Karna Webster



Thanks to our hard-working board members, officers, and committee chairs, the La Mesa Historical Society has had another successful year. The Children's Bedroom has been painted and the ceiling cracks repaired; furnishing of the room is underway.

Pat Kettler, our Secretary and Exhibits Chair, produced two fascinating exhibits for the house: the "Grossmont High School Anniversary" display and "The History of the La Mesa Fire Department". Betty Teague continued her volunteer liaison with the La Mesa Depot, led our interesting tour of the San Diego Railroad Museum Library on Kettner Blvd., and gave me generous support and advice.

Mary Kelley chaired the New Accessions Committee and also arranged the Annual Spring Luncheon with speaker, Evelyn Kooperman. Bill Hastings brought order to our financial affairs and his fine treasurer's reports helped us stay within our budget. Mary and Bill also pitched in to help at all our events even when suffering from jet lag.

Mary Lou McClellan took care of our membership records and obtained the paintings used as prizes

at our drawings. Although she has resigned to do some traveling, she has promised to help with events this next year and return to the board in the future.

Ed Blackman, Grounds Chair, carefully nurtured our Heritage Rose Garden and managed the watering of the lawns and other plantings. With the help of a new gardener, who cuts the lawn and weeds, the grounds are looking great!

Roger Coffey, with his software, hardware, and talent produced exceptional issues of *Lookout Avenue*, our newsletter. Dorothy James arranged to have them printed and saved us lots of expense.

Kathy Tinsley brought Santa Claus to our Christmas Open House and planned the event, enjoyed by all. The delicious food, Christmas music, and the McKinney House decorations delighted everyone.

With docents Pat Kettler, Donna Regan, Betty Teague, and May Ann Ehlers, Docent Chair Carol Lockwood kept the McKinney House open to the public on Saturday afternoons and also organized tours of the house for school children and other groups.

We celebrated Flag Day 1997 with a grand Ice Cream Social, thanks to co-chairs Jo Coffey and Dorothy James. Jo Coffey also arranged for the City of La Mesa to donate a city flag flown on June 14th over City Hall.

Gay Tulp, Sandy Campbell, and the Quilters produced quilts large and small to

help us meet expenses. Sandy's family also pitched in as usual to help move equipment, doors, and serve refreshments.

Thank you, thank you, thank you every one. This year's success has been due to all of you.

NEW PRESIDENT PREVIEWS COMING EVENTS

by Donna Regan

As Summer draws to a close, our new year has just begun. We have been planning projects for the coming months which will reach out to and involve members and the local community:

Complete the furnishing of the childrens' bedroom;

Present a series of lecture programs, beginning with *Searching for Grandma* on September 10;

Expand school and other tours of the McKinney House;

Develop a McKinney House visitors' brochure.

Present traveling exhibits in the community;

Formally dedicate the Commemorative Rose Garden in the Spring.

Help is always welcomed. If you would like to volunteer your time and talents to the La Mesa Historical Society, please call me at 460-3726.



NEW CITY FLAG DONATED TO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At the La Mesa City Council meeting on July 8th, Mayor Art Madrid and the City Council donated a new official city flag to the La Mesa Historical Society. This flag, flown over city Hall on Flag Day, June 14, 1997, is the first time an official city flag had flown there.

In receiving the flag for the Society, Donna Regan, President, and Karna Webster, Past President, promised to display it on special occasions as well as preserve this now historic banner.

SEPTEMBER WORKSHOP SEARCHING FOR GRANDMA

The La Mesa Historical Society will sponsor an informative lecture, "Searching for Grandma", on Wednesday evening, September 10, 1997 at 7:00 p.m.

It will be held at the Thelma Palermo Building on the grounds of the McKinney House, 8369 University Avenue in La Mesa.

Speaker Karna Webster, genealogist and historian with many years experience, will discuss how to start searching for your roots, organization of records, computers in genealogy, genetics, and the genealogical resources of San Diego County.

Because seating is limited, those wishing to attend should telephone Karna Webster at 463-1029 to reserve a space. Anyone who comes without a previous reservation will be admitted on a space available basis. The program

is free and open to the public.

This lecture will be the first in a series of programs sponsored by the historical society. Other proposed lectures include: "History of the La Mesa Fire Department", "Historic La Mesa", "Researching Your House", and "La Mesa in the Silent Films".

Suggestions for additional topics are welcome.



McKINNEY HOUSE HERB GARDEN

New at the McKinney House is a small herb garden planted by the back porch steps, where it would have been convenient to step out of the kitchen and snip off a few pieces for cooking.

The herbs include sage, marjoram, mint, lavender (for sachets), and an exuberantly blooming basil.

Member Linda Michael began the garden in May and continues to care for it.

Membership Chair Needed by Board

We are looking for a willing volunteer with computer skills (Windows) to fill the important position of Membership Chair.

Duties include: sending out yearly renewal notices (in May/June), keeping current our membership files, mailing out membership cards, and printing out mailing labels.

This position requires only a small amount of time each month.

The volunteer will need a home or business computer running Windows 95 or Windows 3.1.

Membership records were originally kept on file cards, but most recently they have been computerized, using Word Perfect 7.0. Files can be converted to other Windows-based software as necessary.

Please contact Donna Regan at 460-3726 if you are interested in serving the La Mesa Historical Society in this capacity. Your efforts will be most appreciated.

LMHS BOARD FILLS VACANCIES

The La Mesa Historical Society Board has taken action to fill some Board positions resulting from vacancies remaining after the annual meeting and election in May. Officers elected in May included: President (open); First Vice President (open); Second Vice President, Donna Regan; Third Vice President, Mary Lou McClellan (who subsequently resigned); Secretary Pat Kettler; Treasurer (open); Director, Carol Lockwood; Director, Jim Orsborn.

We are pleased to report the Board has voted to elect the following individuals as officers and directors: Donna Regan as President; Karna Webster as First Vice President; Marjorie Cray as Third Vice President and newsletter editor; Scott Baly has been elected Treasurer.

Ed Blackman and Dorothy James continue to serve the second year of their terms as Directors.

The First Vice President and one Director position remain open.

A full list of Officers, Directors, and Chairs for 1997-98 appears on the back page of this newsletter.

Ice Cream Social and Flag Day Festivities Combine for Success

This year's Ice Cream Social on Saturday, June 14, was scheduled to immediately follow the City's first annual Flag Day Parade down La Mesa Boulevard.

Parade participants included local organizations, vintage car owners, marching bands, military groups, city officials, and equestrian units.

Representing the Historical Society was Karna Webster, riding in Jo and Jonathan Pearson's bright red Model A sport coupe.

The parade brought new visitors to the Social to enjoy sundaes and pies, tours of the house, and to see the new exhibit on the history of the La Mesa Fire Department, developed by Pat Kettler.

Food was served in the Palermo Building, festively draped in flags and banners. On display for the event were the fire department's Engine 45, and Model A Fords from the Pearson's and Judy Jo Rinder.

This year's Ice Cream Social was efficiently organized by chair Jo Coffey who was ably assisted by co-chair Dorothy James. Also assisting were Brice Lockwood (ice cream), Mary Kelley (pies), Ed and Beth

LA MESA FIRE DEPARTMENT EXHIBIT

The exhibit, "History of the La Mesa Fire Department", continues at the McKinney House through May, 1998. Researched and developed by Pat Kettler, it contains photos, uniforms and artifacts (c. 1908 to present). You will also be able to read more about this interesting aspect of La Mesa's history (including photos) in the Fall issue of our newsletter.

Blackman (plant sale), France Dotson (cashier), May Ann Ehlers (drawing tickets), Mary Lou McClellan (ticket sales), and Gay Tulp (Quilters).

Helping to set up were Scott Baly, Roger Coffey, Vern Kettler, and Scott Wilkens. Other helpers throughout the day were Bill Hastings, George Wildberger, Deanna Noriega, Kathy Tinsley, Jane Chianese, Betty Teague, and Mary and Quinn Campbell.

Inside the house, docents Karna Webster, Carol Kohler, Carolyn Wildberger, Carol Lockwood, and Donna Regan provided information. Pat Kettler was kept busy answering questions in the exhibit room upstairs. Playing period music on the McKinney parlor organ were Elizabeth Montgomery, and Evelyn Estabrook and her students

Several local businesses generously donated food, supplies, or funding: Marie Callenders, Baker's Square, Drew Ford,

Michael's, McClellan Buick, Henry's Marketplace, Smart & Final, and Party Savers.

Net profits from the Social totalled \$1792 (which includes the \$1118 net profit from the drawing.)

Drawing winners were: (first prize) Mark Evans - Spider Web Quilt by LMHS Quilters; (second prize) Carol Lockwood - "The Tunnel", framed watercolor by Clarence Attridge, donated by K. Ruth Delay; (third prize) Barbara Nichols - tickets to the San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park, donated by the San Diego Zoological Society; (fourth prize) G.E. Schatz - Cupid Bird Bath, donated by Angels Among Us.

Thank you to all who worked, donated prizes and supplies, and purchased tickets to make this social a great success.

LMHS is planning a Fall Yard Sale. Please start saving all those unwanted items for us, but no clothes please. Donations may be left on the McKinney House back porch, or call Karna Webster at 463-1029 if you need help bringing items. Sale date to be announced.

SAVE THE DATE: Annual Christmas Open House - Saturday, December 6 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

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:

- Benefactor..... \$250
- Life (Single)..... \$125
- Patron..... \$ 40
- Sponsor/Organization.....\$ 25
- Family (2 adults).....\$ 15
- 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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
La Mesa, CA 91941
Permit No. 208

Change Service Requested

La Mesa Historical Society Officers and Directors 1997-1998

- President DONNA REGAN
- First Vice President KARNA WEBSTER
- Second Vice President OPEN
- Third Vice President MARJORIE CRAY
- Secretary PAT KETTLER
- Treasurer SCOTT BALY
- Director ('97-'99) CAROL LOCKWOOD
- Director ('96-'98) ED BLACKMAN
- Director ('96-'99) DOROTHY JAMES
- Director ('97-'99) JIM ORSBORN
- Director ('97-'99) OPEN
- Past President KARNA WEBSTER
- Quilters Representative GAY TULP
- Mailing Chair MAY ANN EHLERS
- Publicity Chair KARNA WEBSTER
- Grounds Chair ED BLACKMAN
- Newsletter Chair MARJORIE CRAY
- Historic Preservation Liaison BETH BLACKMAN



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 Noon 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: Marjorie Cray, editor, 562-8617. Office Depot Business Services, La Mesa, 464-2900.