
La Mesa Historical Society



LOOKOUT AVENUE



VOLUME 13

OCTOBER

1990

NUMBER TWO

HISTORIC MOUNT HELIX CROSS REPAINTED

The cross atop Mt. Helix now gleams more brightly in the sunlight, thanks to LMHS member Sean Carroll's Eagle Scout project. On July 31st, 13-year old Sean and fellow Boy Scouts repainted the 35-foot high concrete cross.

The Mt. Helix Nature Theatre, including the cross and the winding access roads, was designated a County Historic Site in January, after Sean had presented his extensively researched report to the San Diego County Historic Sites Board and the Board of Supervisors. The Nature Theater was originally dedicated on Easter Sunday in 1925.



Together with other members of Boy Scout Varsity Team 6369 and Scout Troop 369, Sean began work at 7:30 am. By late that

afternoon, the cross had been scraped, washed, and given two coats of white paint.

To provide assistance, San Diego Gas & Electric sent a high-reach crane and Dixieline Lumber donated paint and materials. Also helping were Sean's parents, Dr. Clement and Margie Carroll; his scoutmaster, Ray LeBlanc; and

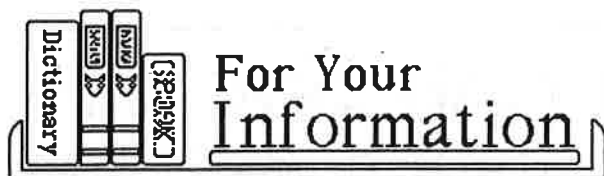
Gary Clasen, former president of the La Mesa Rotary Club, which oversees the annual Easter sunrise service.

PICNIC AT MT HELIX AMPHITHEATER

The Grossmont-Mount Helix Improvement Association, a non-profit organization made up of residents of the unincorporated area around La Mesa (north of Hwy 94), has invited the LMHS to provide a special display of early photos of La Mesa and the Grossmont-Mount Helix area during a picnic at the amphitheater atop Mt. Helix on Sunday, October 14th, from noon to 3 pm. The Society will also have copies of old *La Mesa Scout* newspapers on hand for viewing. Members will be available to

answer questions and also to gather information from anyone with historical data about the Grossmont-Mount Helix area.

Much can be learned from the long-time residents of our community, and collecting information on our local history is one of the things that we're all about! All LMHS members are welcome to attend. Passengers can be dropped off at the top, and parking will be available nearby. Refreshments will also be available.



McKINNEY HOUSE FACELIFT

The Society has selected contractor Bob Berardinelli to paint the exterior of the McKinney House. The outhouse and the south wall of the archives building (the former garage) will also be painted. Work is scheduled to begin this month.

HELP NEEDED !

We need assistance in cataloging -- identification, description, and dating -- the artifacts in the Society's collections. Included are furnishings, tools, kitchen utensils, and decorative items. If you would like to help, please call Donna Regan at 460-3726.

Anyone willing to help sell Christmas Drawing tickets at our local banks can call either Pat Kettler at 463-0197, or Donna Regan at 460-3726.

Do you have an early Nativity scene, made prior to 1940, somewhere among your possessions? The Society would like to include examples in its exhibit for the December 8th Christmas Open House. The scenes may be of different materials, and either domestic or foreign origin. Large scale figures for outdoor displays are also appropriate. If you have something to lend for this exhibit, or know of a potential source, please call Donna Regan at 460-3726 or Nancy E. Neffson at 469-8731.

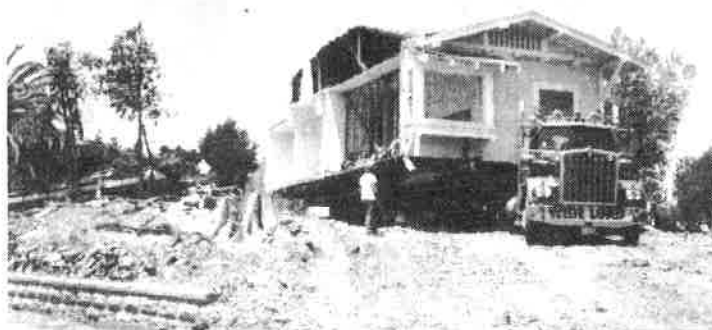
NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Board has three new members: Betty Teague as 1st VP, Brenda Neill as Secretary, and Mary-Em Howard as Director.

NEW MEMBERS

The La Mesa Historical Society extends a warm welcome to our new members:

Michael Andrisiani, M.D., Inc.
Aztec & Baron Insurance Agency
James B. Boyd, Public Accountant
Ann Blakefield Catlin, Attorney
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Cox
Dieter Fischer's Mercedes Service
Mrs. Anna L. Discenza
Jonathan Eckhardt
Nancy A. Ellingson
Joanne Gonzalez
Grossmont Bank
Mr. & Mrs. Dillard Harwell
Win Heiskala, Attorney
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Koehler
Kyle Krueger
La Mesa Lumber Company
Spencer Ross Luke
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Manderson
Sandra McNulty
Ken Reigle
Lisle E. Shoemaker
Lisle F. Shoemaker
Silvergate Thrift & Loan Co.
Jack Swulius



COUTS HOUSE MOVED TO NEW SITE

The Nan Coutts House no longer sits atop its knoll overlooking La Mesa Boulevard as it had for 80 years, but the historic structure escaped demolition.

On August 7th & 8th, new owner Colleen Riggs had the house moved (in two sections) to a site on Poppy Street in La Mesa. Mrs. Riggs said that the cost of moving the house was about \$20,000. She wishes to retain the basic style of the house, widening the two sections with a six-foot extension. Much of the original concrete block wall will be re-used as well.

UPCOMING

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

The Society's next General Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 21st, in the afternoon from 1 - 3 pm. The meeting will be at the Palermo building on the McKinney House grounds.

The program to be presented will be a SANDAG preservation slide show, followed by LMHS member Karna Webster speaking on researching the historic home. Pie & refreshments will be served following the presentations.

Because of the nature of this program, we are opening the meeting to non-members by inviting residents of homes on the Historic Inventory to come and learn more about the unique features of their properties.

Please join us for the first general meeting to be held at the new building -- an informative program, an opportunity to welcome new friends, and wonderful pie!

COMMENTARY

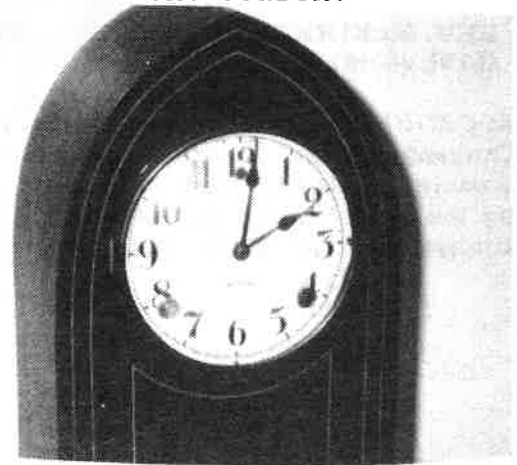
The Coutts House controversy again underscores the vulnerability of La Mesa's historic areas and structures to loss and destruction. The Historic Preservation Commission will soon recommend to the City Council a package of incentives -- including property tax reduction, waiving of permit fees, and conditional use permits -- to encourage owners to have their properties landmarked and thus provide a measure of protection. La Mesa's historic core and early neighborhoods help define the city's identity and character and are among the reasons why people decide to visit and live here. These resources must be recognized and preserved.

- Donna Regan -

EVENTS

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

The annual Christmas Open House will be held on Saturday, December 8th, from 1-3 pm. The traditional gingerbread, spiced cider, cookies and coffee will be served in an atmosphere of Christmas in La Mesa at the turn of the century. A special display will be set up for viewing, and holiday music will add to the festivities. Join us at the McKinney House for an afternoon of traditional food and music of the season!



The Gilbert "Bee-Hive" clock (c. 1895 American) pictured above is the first prize for this year's drawing. Other prizes are:
2nd- \$20 Buffums gift certificate
3rd- 6-piece cutlery set
4th- Vel Landi silhouette cat
5th- Bath fragrance set

"SCHOOL DAYS" EXHIBIT CONTINUES

The LMHS exhibit "School Days 1890 - 1940" installed for the recent Ice Cream Social, will continue at the McKinney House through November. Illustrating La Mesa schools during this period, the exhibit includes photographs, school desks, textbooks and costumes. The exhibit was coordinated by Nancy E. Neffson and Donna Regan; materials were lent by Jo Pearson, Nancy Neffson, and Judy Rinder.

**LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OFFICERS and DIRECTORS**

PRESIDENT	Pat Kettler (463-0197)
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT	Betty Teague
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**REV. MCKINNEY HOUSE MUSEUM
(619) 466-0197**

LOOKOUT AVENUE is the official publication of the La Mesa Historical Society. Current publication months are February-April-June-August-October-December. Articles, photos, and letters are welcome from all members, and must be received by the editor by the third Monday of the month prior to publication. Articles, etc. may be edited due to space limitations. Contact Doug Neill at 697-7765 or 463-2230 for further information.



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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