LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

LOOKOUT AVE.

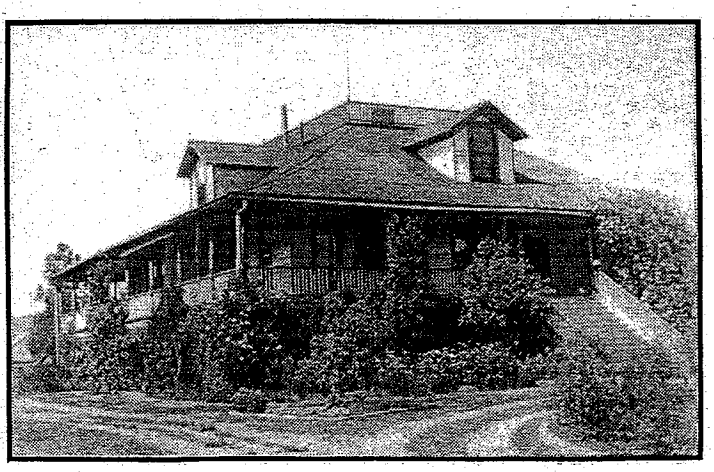
VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2 MARCH, 1984

La Mesa Adopts

Historic Preservation Ordinance

The culmination of substantial study and effort on the part of City officials, citizens, and the La Mesa Historical Society was realized on January 24, when the La Mesa City Council approved an ordinance adding Title 25 - Historic Preservation to the La Mesa Municipal Code.

Citizen interest in a local historic preservation plan and program has been growing in La Mesa over the last several years. In October 1980 a draft Historic Preservation Element and ordinance was submitted to the City Council by the La Mesa Historical Society and the La Mesa Citizens' Advisory Committee. As a result of this proposal, the City Council authorized the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and Dr. Raymond Brandes to undertake a Cultural Resources Inventory and prepare a Historic Preservation Element for the City's General Plan. To provide citizen input and project direction, the City Council appointed a ten-member Historic Preservation Citizens' Advisory Committee in August, 1981. Identifying goals and opportunities, the Historic Preservation Element was officially adopted in May, 1983. The Citizens' Advisory Committee continued to work with City staff in drafting a historic preservation ordinance to implement the goals set forth in the Element.



Roach/Porter House, circa 1910. Built circa 1897, this house is considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as well

The ordinance approved by the City Council allows the Council to designate historic landmarks and districts and creates a Historic Preservation Commission which will review proposed exterior alterations to designated historic structures. The Council amended the ordinance to require owner consent for landmark and district designation and to expand the Commission from five to seven members, with three to be selected from a list submitted by the La Mesa Historical Society. It is hoped that the City's historic preservation efforts will encourage the conservation of architecturally and historically significant structures which contribute to the character

"DISCOVER HISTORIC LA MESA" BROCHURE PUBLISHED

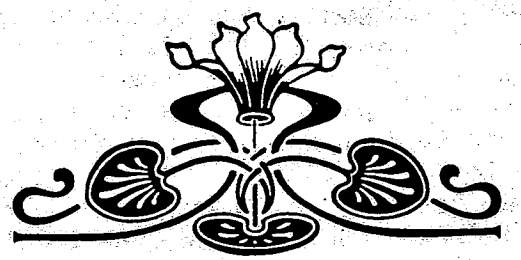
A brochure featuring twenty-four significant sites and structures selected from La Mesa's Cultural Resources Inventory has been prepared by the City's Planning Department. The brochure, entitled "Discover Historic La Mesa," is available at the McKinney House, City Hall, or by mail. Requests should be directed to the Planning Department, City of La Mesa, 8130 Allison Avenue, La Mesa, CA 92041 and must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

After three years of outstanding work as Membership Chairman, Beatrice Acers is turning the job over to Nancy Neffson. At the 1983 Ice Cream Social Nancy was chairman of the White Elephant Sale, which was organized very efficiently under her capable leadership. Thank you, Bea, for all of your dedication, and welcome, Nancy, we are looking forward to working with you.

Also retiring, from her job as the Society's Historian, is Eva Quicksall. Eva has been gathering photographs, articles, and other material about the Society since its beginning in 1975 and has effectively arranged them in albums in chronological order. Thank you, Eva, for all of your hard work and devotion.

Pat Kettler



LOOKOUT AVENUE is the official publication of the La Mesa Historical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 882, La Mesa, CA 92041. Published

NEW TWO-WAY REMITTANCE ENVELOPES FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Members who did not renew for the 1983-1984 year in response to the notice in the newsletter were sent our new two-way remittance envelopes. These seem to work quite efficiently and will be mailed out as renewal notices to all members for the 1984-1985 year. Our present membership total is 344.

Have you considered giving a membership as a gift? Membership dues are tax deductible and will help further preservation of our local history through the collecting of photographs and documents, museum restoration, slide presentations on local history, and research. If you are giving gift memberships and wish to receive the renewal notices yourself, please contact the Membership Chairman at 469-8731. Thank you for your support.

Individual	$ 7.00
Family (2 adults)	12.00
Sponsor/Organization	15.00
Patron	25.00
Life (single)	100.00
Student (under 18)	1.00



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The La Mesa Historical Society extends a warm welcome to members who have recently joined and thanks those who have upgraded their membership category:

Jodie Appelhans
Jo Coffey
Barbara Faurote
Cheryl Grimm
Crane Johnson
Chris Murphy
Elizabeth O'Neill
Mr. & Mrs. Myles Peinemann
Mr. & Mrs. Fred W. Smith
[illegible] (upgraded to Life)

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

Money is always helpful, but so are donations of time, special skills, and items.

The special exhibits at events such as the Christmas Open House or the Ice Cream Social often call for the loan of articles not in the Society's collections; for example, early toys usually form part of the Christmas exhibit. If you have access to any individual items or collections predating 1930 which you would be willing to lend for use in these exhibits, or any artifacts or small decorative items circa 1900-1920 which could round out the household furnishings at these times, please let us know.

The Society could use the help of anyone with typing skills and access to a word processor or typewriter with changeable elements, and someone with skills in graphics. We would also appreciate the use of a plain paper copying machine and the loan or donation of a telephone answering machine.

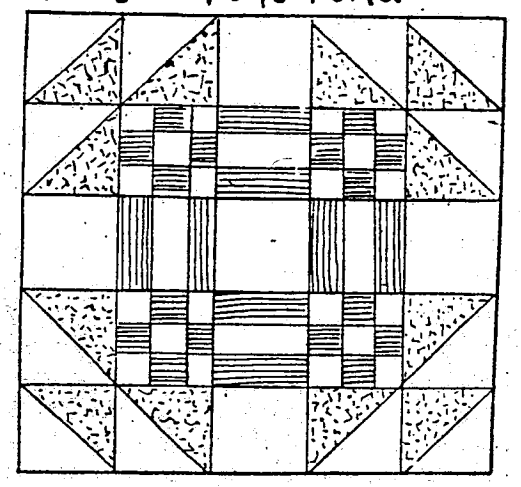
The Ice Cream Social will be June 10th this year. Please remember to put aside things for the White Elephant Booth, and if you are starting cuttings and seeds grow a few extras for the Plant Sale. If you do crafts (woodwork, ceramics, etc.) we would like very much to have your items. We will need lots of helpers before and during the Social and afterward for cleaning up. More details on this will appear in the next issue.

Other help we would like:

Docents
People to research and write historical articles for the Newsletter
House cleaners
Help with mailings
Raffle ticket sellers
Someone with a truck or van and a strong back
Anyone with free time

To respond, please call Pat Kettler at 463-0197 or Donna Regan at 460-3726. Thank you.

Goose in the Pond



NOTES FROM THE QUILTERS

The Historical Society Quilters are at work each Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon. For a number of years we quilted in the sun room of Thelma Todd's home. We were welcome there and enjoyed our hostess' hospitality. However, last summer we were able to contralize our activities at the McKinney House when the east bedroom became available for our use. Now our supplies and both finished and current projects are all in one place.

On January 4, after our work meeting, we adjourned to the chairman's home for lunch and a planning session (with a bit of socializing as well).

As a result of our successful Christmas sale at the Open House, our supply of baby quilts is exhausted. We now have four baby quilts and two youth quilts started or planned.

Over the years, we have acquired more expertise, so we are venturing into quilting for others for a fee. We hope to be able to add to the Society's funds through this effort. If members have quilt tops needing quilting, or know people who do, we welcome the opportunity to give estimates for the work.

We still hope to interest more people in our activities: sewing and handwork of all sorts as well as quilting.

Come by the McKinney House some Wednesday morning. We welcome visitors.

"ROBERT E. PEARY" NOW AT LA MESA DEPOT

Have you been aboard the private car, the "Robert E. Peary?" This elegant railroad car, a mansion on wheels, would be a major attraction at any museum. The Peary is now on site at the La Mesa Depot Museum.

Built in 1927 by the Pullman Company as the "Robert E. Peary," the car was available for charter. Celebrities including opera stars and presidents used the car. In the 1936 compaign, President Franklin D. Roosevelt rode in the car and probably spoke many times from the rear observation platform.

In 1944 the Peary was sold to the Burlington Railroad for use by Chairman of the Board Ralph Budd. At that time the car was air-conditioned and renamed the "Blackhawk." In 1962, roller bearings were added but by that time railroad presidents often used air transport so the car was sitting in the railroad yards most of the time.

S. Steve Sourapas and John Cuchna, San Diego area businessmen, purchased the car in 1966, restored and redecorated it, and renamed it the "Victoria," the name reflecting its new decor. Eight years later, on August 20, 1974, Sourapas and Cuchna donated the car to the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association (PSRMA).

In 1976, the "Victoria" and other equipment were placed on exhibit on Santa Fe (Harbor Department) track on the Embarcadero--right across from the Star of India. The car was given back its original name and during the years thousands of out-of-towners and residents visited the exhibit. Last fall work began on the Santa Fe redevelopment project area and it was necessary to vacate the exhibit site. The "Robert E. Peary" came to La Mesa and the La Mesa Depot Museum, where it is expected to remain for at least a year.

The Peary has four bedrooms which can accomodate two passengers each. Accomodations are also available for a crew of two. The dining room seats 10 and the solarium-lounge seats 12.

The car is available for parties and PSRMA will consider requests for charter use on Amtrak trains. On one occasion the car (plus a locomotive and Car 1509) was used for a scene in the movie, "MacArthur" with Gregory Peck.

Have you been aboard the Peary? Come any Saturday or Sunday afternoon, between 12 noon and 5 p.m., and visit or revisit the Peary, the Gift Shop, the "Red Car' and the Depot. Bring your neighbors with you.

-Eric Sanders

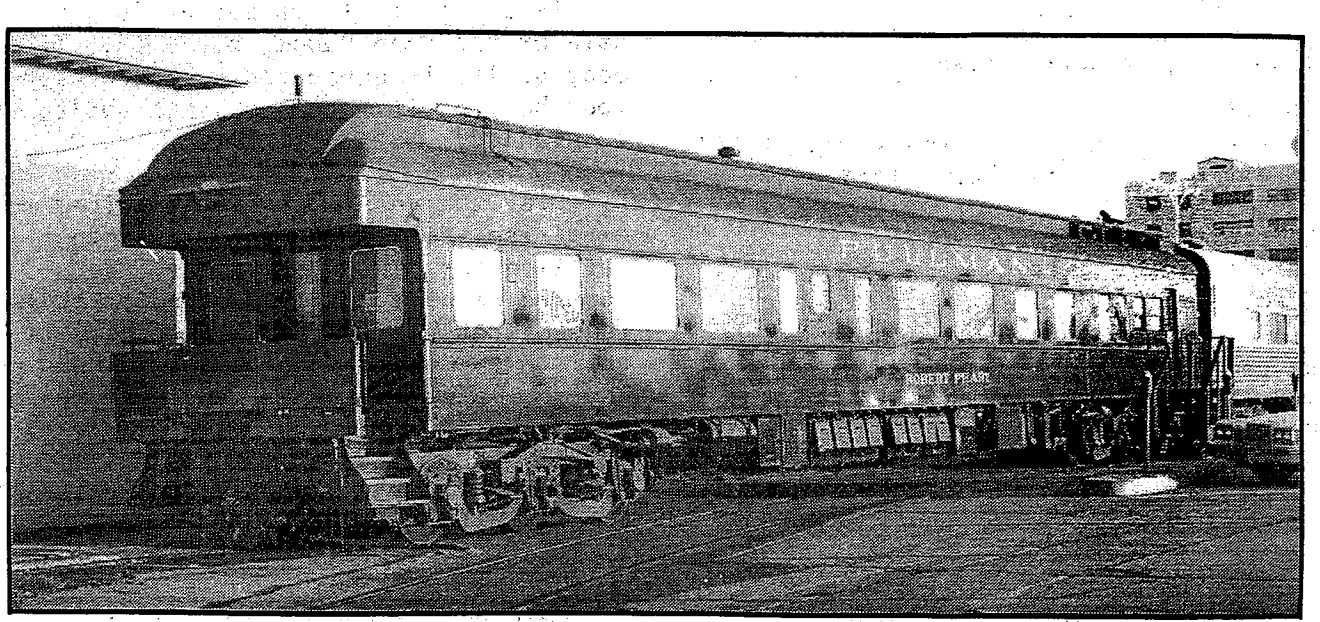


Photo courtesy Larry Rose, PSRMA

LMHS DOCENTS NEEDED AT DEPOT

The arrival of the railroad car "Robert E. Peary" and the extension of visiting hours have increased the need for docents at the La Mesa Depot Museum. Serving as a docent provides the opportunity to introduce visitors to the early history of La Mesa and the part played by the depot and the railroad as well as to acquaint them with the rolling stock and equipment on exhibit.

Although the rolling stock on the spur track and the depot building itself are the property of the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association, the depot museum is jointly operated by PSRMA and the La Mesa Historical Society. A joint agreement signed February 9, 1982 set up a Depot Museum Management Committee with equal representation from both organizations. Several members of the Society are currently working as docents, but more are needed.

One of the most significant buildings in La Mesa, the depot was constructed in 1894 and enlarged at least twice during the next twenty years. Extensive restoration by PSRMA has returned the depot to its appearance circa 1915. The waiting room and ticket office have been furnished as they were at that period, while the baggage room serves as an exhibit area interpreting the history of the depot, La Mesa, and the railroads of San Diego County. Current plans call for additional exhibit space to be made available in the refrigerator car on the north spur track. The rolling stock on the track north of Lemon Avenue is to remain on a long-term basis; the cars south of Lemon will be changed periodically. Joining the Robert E. Peary and the Amtrak car/PSRMA Gift Shop on the southern track within a few days will be the "Commandant," a 1915 observation car.

The depot is open on Saturday and Sunday from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m., and staffers are needed for both the depot and the Peary. The Peary is also open during the same hours on Thursday and Friday. In addition, docents are occasionally needed during the week to give tours to school classes and other groups. On recent weekends the daily number of visitors has ranged from approximately fifty to eighty. For further information please call Margaret Barksdale at 464-0061.



LA MESA COUNTRY CLUB PHOTOS SOUGHT

The La Mesa Historical Society is currently seeking photographs of the La Mesa Country Club, which was located on the hill just to the south of what is now the intersection of Spring Street, Campo Road, and Broadway. The Society has at present only one view of the country club in its collection, so it would be much appreciated if anyone who has such photos would be willing to lend them to the Society to be copied. Several people have contacted the Society wanting to know what the building and grounds looked like and there has been little to show them. Please call Pat Kettler at 463-0197 if you can help.

The La Mesa Country Club was developed by the real estate firm of Grable-Francisco-Bleifuss, which in 1921 purchased the 550-acre Bancroft Ranch in Spring Valley. The partially completed home which had been begun for Griffing Bancroft was adapted to serve as the club house, and a nine-hole golf course, later expanded to eighteen holes, was laid out. The country club soon became a center for social activity in La Mesa and the surrounding area. The club was finally closed in 1950 and the land was developed as a residential area with streets bearing such names as Par Drive and Turf Lane. The club house itself was used by the Trinity Presbyterian Church until it was torn down approximately two years ago.

REFLECTIONS ON THE CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Thanks to the efforts of many people, the Christmas Open House and drawing were very successful.

The McKinney House was decked out in greenery, berries, and candles, and Christmas music poured into every room of the house as Evelyn Estabrook played the McKinney parlor organ. Over 100 guests were greeted at the front door by Betty Teague, who invited them to partake of the delicious warm gingerbread with whipped cream, homemade German cookies, coffee, tea, and hot spiced cider which were served in the dining room by Woody Linke, Jane Donahoo, Pat Fordem, Harriet Acevez, Thelma Todd, and Eva Quicksall. Mabel Perrapato, assisted by Carol Skrip, prepared the food and drink which was that special touch that said welcome to everyone.

The Christmas exhibit upstairs included room settings of doll house furnishings dating from 1860 to 1940, courtesy of Rose Morris, and turn-of-the century toys, dolls, and doll furniture loaned by Jo Pearson. Women's fashions of the 1890's, from the collection of Shirley Holtz, were also displayed. The exhibit was coordinated by Donna Regan.

The drawing this year was the most profitable one to date, netting $721.18. Among the many members who took books of tickets to sell, special mention should be made of Don Mathis, who not only arranged for the Society to purchase the first prize clock at a greatly reduced price, but also, with his wife, Tess, sold 162 tickets. Helping to sell tickets in banks over a period of six weeks were Beatrice Acers, JoAnn Knutson, Julie Bras, Mildred Bryan, Pat Kettler, Louise Frankey, Dorris Palley, Donna Regan, Edie Olmstead, and Mabel Perrapato. The first prize, a Gilbert mantle clock made circa 1895, was won by John Schreibe; the second prize, a gold butterfly pendant donated by Beatrice Acers, went to Mr. Kalisky. Beth Brown won the third prize, a silk flower arrangement donated by The Added Touch, and Phyllis Lancaster received the hand-quilted pillow made by the LMHS Quilters as fourth prize.

The work done by Cliff Coates to make the grounds and hedges at the McKinney House look so neat and pleasant was much appreciated.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Receipts

Quilters' sales	$ 230.25	
Post card sales	9.25	
Christmas drawing	851.00	
Donations	20.35	
Gross Profit		$1110.85

Expenses

Clock for drawing	80.00	
Drawing tickets	49.82	
Open House fliers	33.18	
Postage for fliers	20.54	
Refreshments	25.96	
Christmas tree	6.35	
½ sheet fliers	4.24	
Xeroxing	4.06	
		-$ 224.15
Net Profit		$ 886.70

CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH

The American Legion Hall was the setting for the La Mesa Historical Society Champagne Brunch and General Meeting on Sunday, February 12. Approximately seventy members met to share reminiscences and enjoy a menu of ham, sausage, biscuits, eggs, rolls, fruit, and champagne punch and other beverages. Following the meal a selection of musical favorites was sung by a barbershop quartet whose members are part of the Red Robe Choir at Grossmont High School. Elected to the five-member 1984 nominating committee were Mabel Perrapato and Jim Orsborn, with alternates Anita Underwood and Gladys Johnston.

SILENT FILM FESTIVAL POPULAR

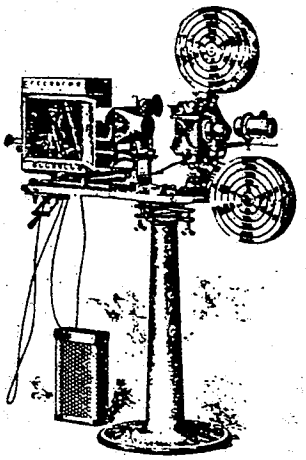
The Ben Polak Fine Arts Center was filled on September 18 as more than 130 people gathered for the La Mesa Historical Society General Meeting and Silent Film Festival. Excellent newspaper publicity drew early movie buffs as well as those interested in local history.

Following a brief business meeting at which the proposed amendments to the LMHS Bylaws were approved, the program of early silent films made in the San Diego area was presented. Of special significance to La Mesa was the 1911 western comedy, Three Million Dollars, made in Lakeside by the American Film Manufacturing Company, which was based in the Lakeside and La Mesa areas in 1911 and 1912. Also shown were excerpts from The Devil's Assistant, a film depicting the horrors of drug addiction, and The Pearl of Paradise, a South Seas island romance, both shot in San Diego by the Pollard Film Company, which was located in Balboa Park during the exposition of 1915 and 1916. Barney Oldfield's Race for a Life (1913) contained classic scenes of the heroine chained to the railroad track. Later information indicated that this film was made in the Los Angeles area rather than Lakeside, although the famous driver is known to have raced at the Lakeside track.

The program included scenes of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition, plus rare early footage, little more than one minute in length, which was shot in 1898 by the Edison Company in a downtown San Diego street. The favorite of the afternoon proved to be an excerpt from Play Safe, a 1927 Monty Banks comedy. Shot partly in Carrizo Gorge, this chase sequence on a moving freight train featured dramatic stuntwork which made the film as exciting as it was funny.

Appropriate piano accompaniment was provided by Evelyn Estabrook, who expertly matched the music to the mood of each scene. Eric Sanders served as projectionist; Donna Regan gave an introduction and background information for each film. Mabel Perrapato and JoAnn Knutson were kept busy serving popcorn and cider.

All of the films shown, with the exception of Three Million Dollars, were from the collection of George Mitchell, whose generosity made the program possible.



THREE MILLION DOLLARS PURCHASED

Donations from several members enabled the La Mesa Historical Society to purchase a copy print of the silent film Three Million Dollars which was shown at the film festival in September. This film is the only one which the Society has been able to locate of the more than 140 made by the American Film Manufacturing Company while it had a production company based in Lakeside and La Mesa in 1911 and 1912. Three Million Dollars was shot in Lakeside before the company moved to La Mesa in August, 1911. The American Film Company eventually went out of business in Santa Barbara in 1921, and only a small number of its total output of 1,228 films are known to exist.

Like the other films made by American in this area, Three Million Dollars is one reel in length (approximately fifteen minutes) and was written and directed by Allan Dwan. The simple plot of this western comedy concerns a rancher's attempts to get his daughter married after he learns that she will inherit three million dollars if she marries within one month. When the daughter refuses to cooperate, her father sends his ranch hands out with orders to kidnap a handsome man. The company's female lead, Pauline Bush--Allan Dwan's wife--plays the daughter, and male lead J. Warren Kerrigan is the handsome storekeeper. The film was shot entirely out of doors and the use of natural scenery adds much to its charm.

Since the film festival, Three Million Dollars has been shown to several groups in conjunction with the slide presentation on La Mesa history.

GIFTS TO LMHS IN 1983

The La Mesa Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the gifts received during the past year from the following donors:

John & Virginia Wurzburger: The McKinney parlor organ; Methodist Hymnal, 1906.

Joyce & Ruth McKinney: Kerosene parlor lamp with handpainted base, a wedding present from Henry McKinney to his wife Florence, 1891; two small purses with advertisements for the McKinney furniture store; books, dishes; other McKinney family mementos.

Norrie West: Oak wardrobe, c. 1905.

Don Mathis: Ansonia mantle clock, cast iron case, c. 1882.

Eric & Ellen Sanders: Gilbert mantle clock, black enameled wood case, c. 1904.

Harriet Grogan: Glass mouse trap; two chamberpots; glass shades for light fixtures; glass candlestick holders.

Guy B. Woodward: Election flier for Helen Stoddard of La Mesa, prohibition nominee for Congress, printed by the La Mesa Scout, 1912--"Only Woman Candidate for Congress in the U.S...A vote for Helen M. Stoddard is a vote for the home."

Charles Floto: Aerial photo of La Mesa, 1920's.

Carlota Alexander, Carmel, California: Photo of group of La Mesa Women's Club members, c. 1918.

Donna Frozio: Glass-domed anniversary clock, c. 1918.

Eleanor Kidder: Black silk parasol with folding handle, late nineteenth century.

Cindy Rittershofer: Two California State Series textbooks--Elementary Arithmetic, 1905; Arithmetic, Book Two, 1920.

Diana Hinck, The Habitat Book Store: Five children's books, 1900-1917.

Eunice Pyper: Three sets of books--works by Dickens, Thackery, and Hawthorne.

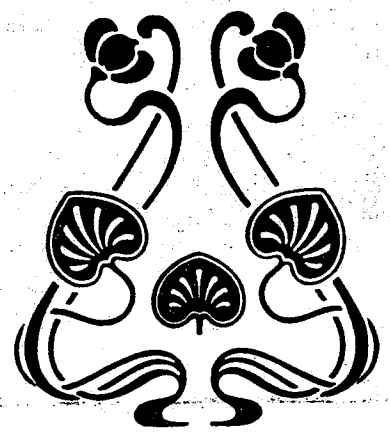
Pat Kettler: The Virginian (1904), by Owen Wister; A Dog of Flanders, 1908.

Julia Powell: Foundation Stones for Success (1910), three volumes; Crowned Masterpieces of Literature (1908) ten volumes.

Loretta Cox: Assorted La Mesa Scout newspapers dating from 1912 to 1917.

Jim Polak: Reprint of page from La Mesa Scout, April 17, 1947, discussing plans for new community center.

Karna Webster: Glass table-top exhibit case.



POST CARDS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

The Society now has a total of ten post card views of La Mesa dating from 1897 into the 1920's. These post cards, which have been reproduced from photographs in our collection, will be available for purchase at the McKinney House and at the forthcoming Ice Cream Social on June 10.

Copy prints from our collection of over 700 photographs are also available for purchase. An 8" X 10" print is $7.00 and an 11" X 14" is $9.00; larger prints may be obtained. Several businesses in La Mesa have purchased panorama views and smaller copy prints for their offices. The prints also make nice gifts. A complete xerox copy file of the photo collection is maintained at the McKinney House and may be seen by appointment or on Saturdays from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. when the house is open to the public. For further information please call 463-0197.

MARIE MAXWELL MCKINNEY

La Mesa lost one of its pioneer residents with the passing of Marie Maxwell McKinney on December 11, 1983, at the age of 91. Marie was the widow of Henry Cromwell McKinney, the eldest of the three sons of Rev. Henry A. and Florence McKinney.

Marie was born in North Baltimore, Ohio, on June 19, 1892. In 1903 she came to the Logan Heights area of San Diego with her parents, William and Eva Maxwell, and her younger brother, Leonard. William Maxwell went to work as a salesman for the Park-Grable Investment Company, which was to become responsible for much of the early residential development of La Mesa, beginning with the subdivision of Grable's Addition in 1906. In June, 1906, the Maxwells moved to La Mesa. Mrs. Maxwell's parents, Andrew Calvin (A.C.) and Sarah Baldwin, settled there soon after, as did her brother, Harry Baldwin, and his family. The La Mesa that fourteen-year-old Marie first saw was small, indeed--scattered lemon ranches surrounding a few houses and other buildings clustered near the depot, lemon packing house, and brick store.

Marie attended seventh and eighth grades at the Allison School, graduating in 1908. She recalled first seeing Cromwell McKinney when he and other students coming home from San Diego High School would stop at Allison School to visit. Cromwell graduated from San Diego High in 1909 and then worked for five years as a cashier and stenographer in the Park-Grable office in La Mesa.

About 1909 the Maxwells built their two-story house which still stands on Lemon Avenue near Grant Street. By 1914, however, they had moved to a house on Fourth Street.

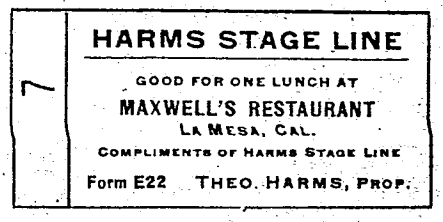
La Mesa students who attended high school had to commute to San Diego High, so Marie's days began by catching the 7:15 a.m. train from the depot, riding to N Street, and walking up the hill to the school. Many students with later classes did not return until the 5:15 p.m. train. Although commuting made the school day long, Marie remembered with pleasure the thirty-five-minute train ride with her friends from La Mesa and the neighboring communities. She graduated from high school

Social life for young people often centered around the church, and both Marie and Cromwell were active in the Epworth League and other Methodist Church groups. Picnics in Eucalyptus Canyon (now Eucalyptus Park) were popular; Marie and others would walk over there after church services. She also took part in the early community gatherings which were held in the second floor hall in the lemon packing house--dances, suppers, and celebrations for Christmas and other holidays.

(Continued on next page)



Wedding portrait of Marie and Cromwell McKinney, September, 1915.



During the 1914-1915 year, Marie taught fourth through sixth grades at a school operated by the Church of the Nazarene in San Diego. When her parents opened Maxwell's Restaurant on La Mesa Boulevard near Spring Street in December, 1914, she also began helping there on weekends. Marie recalled that the stages coming from Julian would sometimes stop at the restaurant so that the passengers could eat, the company having telephoned ahead to make arrangements. Complimentary lunch tickets might be provided by the stage company. Restaurant customers could order a roast beef or pork dinner for thirty-five cents, while a sandwich or a piece of pie could be had for a nickel. The Maxwells operated the restaurant for a little more than four years, selling it in April, 1919.

On September 11, 1915, Marie and Cromwell McKinney were married by Rev. McKinney in the Maxwell home, beginning a union strengthened by shared goals and commitments. The next two years the young couple spent preparing for missionary work at the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. Following their graduation in 1917, they joined the Bolivian Indian Mission, a British mission dedicated to helping the Quechua Indians in the Bolivian back country. Their first post was a three-day's journey on horseback from the nearest railroad. In the small towns where Marie and Cromwell stayed, their responsibilities included providing basic medical care as well as teaching and conducting religious services. During this period their two daughters were born: Marjory in 1919, and Florence in 1921.

In recent months Marie had written a description of her husband at this time: "...there was probably never a kinder, more understanding person to the poor. In Bolivia, when in Arque, he was loved by all, and I had a hard time to keep food we needed as he wanted to help all who asked for food....He was never too tired to get up in the night and go with some Indian to his house if there was sickness...there was a line-up at the corner door when he opened the street door to the meeting room (on) clinic mornings, and some came miles carrying a sick baby."

A ten-month furlough brought Marie, Cromwell, and the two girls back to La Mesa in time for a large family Christmas at the McKinney House in 1922. They stayed at the house in the new apartment created by adding the kitchenette to the back of the downstairs bedroom. While Marie and Cromwell were in La Mesa, Marie's parents completed the construction of the Maxwell Furniture Store on La Mesa Boulevard east of Palm Avenue. They had begun the business

---

Epworth League

Chapter No. 21507

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LA MESA, CAL.

REV. FRANK C. EDWARDS
Pastor

✦

CABINET

President—Marie Maxwell
1st V. Pres.—Eugenia Goold
2nd V. Pres.—Helen Hurlburt
3rd V. Pres.—Fern Sperbeck
4th V. Pres.—Earl Brooks
Secretary.—Cromwell McKinney
Treasurer—Frank Grable
Organist—Opal Edwards
Jr. Supt.—Miss Mary LaCount
Chorister—A. W. Golder

✦

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Preaching, 11:00 a. m., 7:30 p. m.
Sunday School, 10:00 a. m.
Epworth League, 6:30 p. m.
Jr. League, 2:00 p. m.
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7:30 p. m.

A seat and a Welcome Waiting for You

La Mesa Epworth League brochure, 1912.

by opening Maxwell's Brack Shop about 1920, with Mrs. Maxwell taking some furnishings out of her own home to complete the stock. The furniture business would prove more lasting than the restaurant had been; Leonard Maxwell was to continue to operate it until his retirement in 1969.

From 1924 to 1928 Marie and Cromwell served as missionaries for the Methodist Church in La Paz, Bolivia, where their son, Robert, was born in 1925. In 1928 they moved to Cristobal, Panama. There Cromwell was employed by the American Bible Society, translating portions of the Bible into the Bolivian Indian language of Aymara, a task he had begun in La Paz.

The Depression was beginning when Marie and Cromwell brought their children back to La Mesa to live in the fall of 1929. Both found work teaching in adult school, first in the county, then with San Diego City. Marie taught Americanization and English for the foreign born, while Cromwell taught Spanish. In 1936 they built their home on Palm Avenue, where they would remain.

Cromwell continued to teach some evening classes after finding employment with the County Welfare Department. Marie began teaching under a special credential, but returned to college when she was a grandmother, graduating from San Diego State College in 1949 and then getting her regular credential. She retired in 1957 after 21 years with San Diego Adult School. Cromwell retired only sixteen months before his passing in 1960.

Throughout her life Marie remained active in La Mesa's Methodist Church, which she had joined in 1906. In 1940 she became

(Continued on next page)



Marie McKinney's parents, William and Eva Maxwell, in front of their restaurant, c. 1914. The restaurant was on the south side of La Mesa Boulevard near Spring Street.

the first president of the Women's Society of Christian Service. Another association which continued to be important to her was the Schoolmates Club, a group of people with whom she had attended Logan Heights school in 1903 to 1906. In 1982 she was also present at the one hundredth reunion of San Diego High School.

Marie was a charter member of the La Mesa Historical Society and with other members of the McKinney family was most supportive of the Society's efforts. In June of 1983 she very generously canceled her portion of the first trust deed on the McKinney House, amounting to a donation of over $7300.

On Thursday, December 8, Marie went to visit her son, Robert, in the Los Angeles area, and while there passed on. She will be remembered with great affection by all who knew her.

-Donna Regan

LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. BOX 882
LA MESA, CA 92041

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
La Mesa, Ca 92041
Permit No. 208

8582
JEAN E. TWISS
8115 PASADENA AVE
LA MESA, CA. 92041

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED