LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

LOOKOUT AVE.

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 3 MAY, 1984

General Meeting

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 1:15—4:00 P.M.

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH'S HILL CHAPEL

8360 LEMON AVENUE

. This year our annual meeting will be held in one of La Mesa's earliest remaining buildings, the Central Congregational Church's Hill Chapel, constructed in 1911 as the Congregationalists' first sanctuary. The church will be celebrating its 75th anniversary in November, and the Society invites members and friends to learn about the church and its two historic buildings--the 1911 chapel designed by Emmor B. Weaver, and the 1925 sanctuary and Sunday School designed by Louis Gill--as well as the early La Mesa citizens who made the construction of these buildings possible. Names such as Porter, Light, Upp, Russell, and Finley will be among those featured.



Central Congregational Church

We will be meeting in the Hill Chapel at 1:15 p.m. for fellowship and refreshments. Please bring a dessert that will serve six to eight people; beverages will be provided. An exhibit of photographs and other materials will trace the development of the church, and docents will give tours of the sanctuary, pointing out some of its outstanding features such as the memorial stained glass windows and the organ.

A brief business meeting and election of the 1984-1985 Board of Directors will then be held, followed by a slide presentation by Dr. George Holland. Dr. Holland will be showing slides of some of Colorado's old gold mining towns of the late 1800's and will highlight two of the state's most famous millionairesses of that period--Baby Doe Tabor and the Unsinkable Molly Brown. Besides being a member of the Society, Dr. Holland is Deputy Sheriff of the San Diego Corral of Westerners, an organization devoted to researching and writing about people and events in the history of the west. He has traveled extensively throughout Colorado with his wife and family and is most knowledgeable about many of its old mining towns and the characters who lived, struck it rich, went broke, and died there.

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The Nominating Committee has submitted the following slate for the 1984-1985 year:

President	Patricia Kettler
1st Vice-President	Donna Regan
2nd Vice-President	Mabel Perrapato
3rd Vice-President	Edith Olmstead
Secretary	Kay Kester
Treasurer	Clifford Asay

Directors 1984-1986:

Henrietta Schupbach
Anita Underwood
Nadine Washburn

Nominating Committee: Donna Regan (chairman), JoAnn Knutson, James Orsborn, Mabel Perrapato, and Henrietta Schupbach.

John Ahern will serve as Associate Treasurer.

Directors 1983-1985: JoAnn Knutson, Brice Lockwood.

DONATION FROM JOYCE AND RUTH MCKINNEY

The La Mesa Historical Society again became the recipient of an exceptionally generous contribution from the McKinney family in April of this year when Joyce McKinney and his wife Ruth canceled the balance of the Society's promissory note to them. This note formed one-third interest in the first trust deed on the McKinney House and at the time of cancellation the balance was $7,240.27. The Society has made payments on a second trust deed since the McKinney House was purchased in 1975 and began to make payments on the first trust deed in May, 1981, when Donald McKinney was no longer able to live in the house. In June of 1983 Mrs. Marie McKinney, the widow of Joyce's older brother Cromwell, canceled the balance of the Society's note to her. The Society continues to make payments to Donald McKinney on the remaining one-third interest in the first trust deed. The Society is deeply appreciative of this gift and of the continuing support shown by Joyce and Ruth McKinney and the entire McKinney family.



Preservation is taking care of America.

Preservation Week May 13-19, 1984
National Trust for Historic Preservation

HISTORIC PRESERVATION LOAN PROGRAM

A new program offering low interest rate restoration loans for owners of historic and architecturally significant buildings in La Mesa may be available as soon as July 1st. The anticipated funding source for the pilot program is the City of La Mesa's tenth year Community Development Block Grant allocation. On April 10, 1984, the La Mesa City Council approved a list of community development objectives and activities which included $25,000 for restoration and preservation of properties of special historic, architectural, and aesthetic value.

The proposed loan program would provide restoration loans to owners of designated historic landmarks and contributing structures within designated historic districts. Under the proposed program, restoration work would be performed in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings. The $25,000 program allocation could generate as much as $45,000 in loans, making possible partial restoration of four significant structures during the program's first year. For further information please call Rachel Hurst, La Mesa Planning Department, 462-0171.

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

La Mesa Scout

Section Two 1912 "Progress" Edition

VOL. VI, NO. 3. LA MESA, CALIFORNIA, FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1912 $1.50 A YEAR

LA MESA SCOUTS MICROFILMED

The La Mesa Historical Society is continuing its long-term project of having past years of the La Mesa Scout newspaper microfilmed. The discovery of missing years of the Scout and recent contributions from community organizations have combined to make possible new progress toward the completion of this important work.

The microfilming project was begun in 1968 by the La Mesa Junior Woman's Club, which provided sufficient funds to film the earliest existing years, 1916 through 1936. The first issues of the Scout published, 1907 through 1915, were missing at that time and may have been destroyed in a fire. In 1978 the La Mesa Soroptimists donated money to the Society to have the years 1945 through 1949 filmed and in 1983 again made a substantial contribution.

In January of this year the Society learned that the California State Library in Sacramento had in its collections bound issues of early Scouts, beginning in the 1920's, which had apparently been sent there by the county library at the time of publication. These issues included the years 1936 through 1943, which were not available in La Mesa and were feared lost. The State Library has now donated the original newspapers from the missing years to the Society, requesting in exchange a microfilm master and a copy negative of these years.

The Society has contacted community groups to ask for support in the microfilming project and the response has been generous enough to provide for a few extra years in addition to the ones received from the State. The work could not have been completed without the financial assistance of several service organizations and a La Mesa business. Our sincere thanks and

Soroptimist International of La Mesa (1983, 1984)	$550.00
La Mesa Rotary	140.00
La Mesa Lions	140.00
American Legion, La Mesa Post #282	50.00
American Legion Auxiliary, La Mesa Post #282	70.00
La Mesa Woman's Club	10.00
Native Daughters of the Golden West, Illa M. Knox Parlor # 320	10.00
McClellan Buick	142.00

Newspapers are an excellent record of a community's growth and development and good resource material for historians, students, and those interested in genealogy. Since 1968 microfilm copies of the Scout have been available for use at the La Mesa Library, where they may be viewed on a reader/printer. When the most recently completed copies are placed there, the library will have the years 1916 through 1949, plus 1957 and some miscellaneous issues prior to 1916. A subject index prepared by the Society for the years 1916 through 1935 is on file at the library; inquiries should be made at the reference desk.

The microfilming of the Scouts will be an on-going project of the Society until the rest of the newspapers have been filmed. The remainder of the 1950's, the 1960's, and the 1970's are yet to be microfilmed and it is estimated that the cost per year will be $85.00.

Ice Cream Social

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 11 A.M. TO 3 P.M. AT THE MCKINNEY HOUSE

Our annual Ice Cream Social is just around the corner and plans are moving along for what should be another successful event. Each year the Society holds this event to raise money to continue its work of preserving La Mesa's history through such programs as collecting photographs, documents, and artifacts, presenting slide programs for schools and other groups, research, preparing exhibits, and maintaining the McKinney House.

Entertainment this year will be provided by Fred Hart and his band, which was organized in the summer of 1982 and is made up of businessmen from the ages of 43 through 75. Most have played professionally in their younger years but are or have been in other professions such as real estate, the telephone company, and piano tuning, all the while maintaining their interest in music. The band will be playing familiar tunes from past years and will be entertaining us from 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

For lunch, there will be barbecued chicken, cole slaw, baked beans, potato salad, chili, hot dogs, and of course lots of Swensen's ice cream. Baked goods, white elephants, plants and items made by the Quilters will also be sold.

DONATIONS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS ARE NEEDED:

Plant Table

Well-rooted plants--trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, house plants, herbs, vegetables, etc.--are needed. Unless they are huge or an unusual variety, please keep the spiders, jades, and Charlies. Pots, garden tools, gardening books and magazines, citrus, avocados, and other garden fruits and vegetables, seeds, labeled epiphyllum slips, etc. are also wanted. The plants and related items may be left on the McKinney House back porch on Saturday, June 9, or they may be brought the day of the Social before 10 A.M.

Henrietta Schupbach will pick up some plants. Phone 466-4384.

Baked Goods Table

We need all kinds of baked goods plus home-made jams and jellies and candies. No cream fillings or cream frostings, please. Items may be left on the back porch of the McKinney House on Saturday, June 9, or brought the day of the Social before 10 A.M.

Mabel Perrapato will pick up some baked goods--466-7819.

White Elephant Table

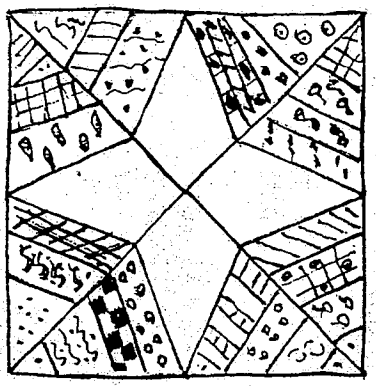
We need many small items. If your friends or other groups you are affiliated with have a sale and have good leftovers, please ask if they will donate some to us. No clothing, please, except accessories. The following is a list of the kinds of things we'd like:

Books, magazines, maps, post cards, records, stationery, office supplies
Accessories--hats, purses, wallets, ties, jewelry, gloves, furs
Collectibles, knickknacks, novelties, decorative items
Dishes, kitchenware, small appliances
Sewing and craft items and supplies
Games, puzzles, toys, sports equipment
ETC.
(We also need large bags for purchases.)

Please leave donations on the back porch of the McKinney House as soon as possible because pricing and sorting take a long time.

Helen Odom--hm. 463-3397, bus. 466-3227

WORKERS IN ALL AREAS WILL BE NEEDED-- baked goods, white elephants, plants, food service, setup, and take down. Please help. Volunteers may call Pat Kettler at 463-0197.



Spider Web or String Pattern

SPIDER WEB QUILT FIRST PRIZE FOR DRAWING

Dresden Plate
Flower Basket
Goose-in-the-Pond

The above-named quilt patterns were used in the quilts made and donated by the La Mesa Historical Society Quilters for the drawings at the last three Ice Cream Socials.

Quilt patterns have many descriptive and intriguing names. Sometimes the same design may be known by different names; for instance, Texas Star, Lone Star and Star of Bethlehem are very similar.

This year the pattern chosen for the quilt made for the June drawing is Spider Web or String. It has been put together by a method devised by a quilter, Nell Cherry. Gold is used for the back, and as the chief color in the top, with small pieces of varied prints. The design and colors combine to make a striking quilt.

In addition to the quilt for the drawing, the Quilters will offer for sale a youth or single quilt of the Windmill pattern, as well as a Mickey Mouse youth quilt and four baby quilts, each different. Parents and grandparents: Keep these items in mind for the young sprouts on your family tree!

P.S. The Quilters will offer for sale a variety of items at their Ice Cream Social booth: pillows, holders, aprons, book covers, toddler's dresses and more.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL DRAWING

The first prize in the drawing at this year's Ice Cream Social is the striking Spider Web or String quilt made by the LMHS Quilters. Beatrice Acers has donated the second prize, a man's Seiko digital quartz alarm wristwatch. The third prize winner will receive dinner for two, courtesy of Bobby McGee's restaurant at Grossmont Center, and Piret's, also of Grossmont Center, will give the fourth prize winner a basket of imported wines and foods for a gourmet meal for two.

For the past several years some of the banks in La Mesa have allowed the Society to sell tickets in their lobbies on selected days during the weeks preceding the drawing. This also provides an opportunity to introduce the community to the Society and its programs. Those wishing to help in the banks should call Beatrice Acers at 466-5812. Those who would like to take one or more books of ten tickets each to sell on their own should contact Donna Regan, 460-3726.

COLLECTIBLE SALE PLANNED

The La Mesa Historical Society is currently planning a collectible sale to be held at the end of June. Donations of any type of collectible, including furniture, would be appreciated. For further information please call Helen Odom at 463-3397 (home) or 466-3227 (business).

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The La Mesa Historical Society extends a warm welcome to members who have recently joined:

Mildred Baldwin Crosby

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH--THE EARLY YEARS

This year Central Congregational Church of La Mesa celebrates the 75th anniversary of its founding.

On May 19, 1909 a small group of La Mesa residents met at the Palm Avenue home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Smith to discuss the advisability of organizing a Congregational church in La Mesa. La Mesa was at that time experiencing a period of rapid development which, beginning in 1906, was to transform it from an agricultural area to a small residential community. By 1912, when it was incorporated, the town was to have over 700 residents. A Methodist Episcopal church had been organized in La Mesa as early as 1895 and had recently constructed its first church building. Congregationalists were already meeting at La Mesa Heights (near 70th Street and El Cajon Boulevard) and Spring Valley. The group concluded that conditions for organizing a Congregational church here were now favorable and voted unanimously to do so.



Rev. Charles W. Hill, pastor of Central Congregational Church 1910-1925.

The first Sunday morning service was held on July 11, 1909 at the Baldridge Opera House, with the assistance of Rev. J.L. Maile of the Home Missionary Society and the choir from the La Mesa Heights Congregational Church. At a service and meeting in Masonic Hall that evening, the Central Congregational Church was organized with nineteen members. The name "Central Church" was chosen because of its location between the Congregational churches in La Mesa Heights and Spring Valley.

The nineteen people who organized Central Church were: Mr. and Mrs. Kellogg B. Finley, Mrs. Sara Upton Edwards (Mrs. Finley's sister), Mr. and Mrs. Ernest J. Luff, Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Light, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Young, Mrs. Henry L. Russell, Rev. and Mrs. Henry D. Porter, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Claus Hinck, and Mrs. Rosannah Edgerly.

Rev. Henry D. Porter, whose family was to be so supportive of the church in its early years, had come to La Mesa in 1904 after serving as a medical missionary in China. Edward B. Light, a retired businessman from Denver, was one of those most actively involved in the organization of the new church and was among the first trustees elected. Pioneer La Mesan Kellogg B. Finley, for whom Finley Avenue is named, later served as church clerk.

The new church sought a pastor and in August extended a call to Rev. John W. Doane of Angels Camp, California, offering a salary of $900.00 per year, a parsonage, and one month's vacation. Although in ill health, Rev. Doane remained with the church for one year, assisting in its early development and the preparation of Articles of Incorporation, which were filed on May 12, 1910.



Architect Weaver's drawing shows both the 1911 chapel and a church to be built later; San Diego Union, October 3, 1910.

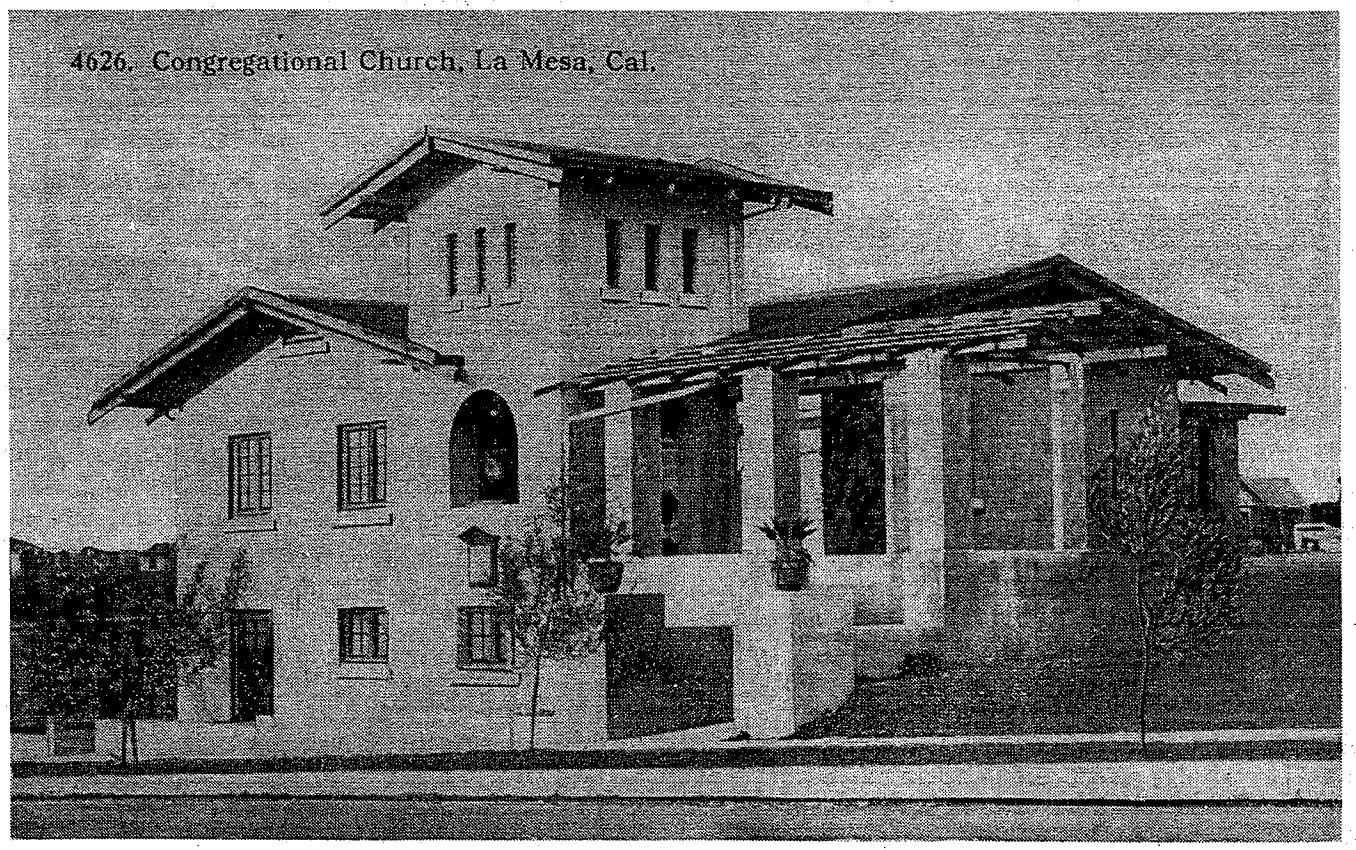
To replace Rev. Doane the church called as pastor Rev. Charles William Hill, who was to shepherd the congregation through the next fifteen years. Rev. Hill, born in Maine in 1848, was a graduate of Bowdoin College and the Yale Theological Seminary. Pastorates in Utah and California were followed by fifteen years as pastor and agent of the Board of Missions in Hawaii. During his years in La Mesa Rev. Hill's sincerity, kindliness, gentle humor, and concern for his fellow man were to make him much loved.

At first the church held services in Allison School and the opera house, but members were eager to have a building of their own. In March, 1910 the church accepted the recommendation of the Building Committee to purchase, for the sum of $665.00, lots 17 and 18 in Block 4 of Park's Addition--the northeast corner of Lemon Avenue and Third Street. On September 21 the Committee presented the plans for the new building to the congregation.

To design the new building, the church selected Emmor Brooke Weaver of San Diego. Weaver, a graduate in architecture from the University of Illinois, had come to San Diego in 1903 and found employment with the architectural firm of William Hebbard and Irving Gill. There he was involved with some of Gill's them the George White Marston residence (1904). After beginning his own practice Weaver became best known for his finely crafted redwood houses, usually with shingled or board and batten walls. Prior to 1910 he had already designed two buildings in the La Mesa area--the B.W. McKenzie residence near Murray Dam in 1908 and the Grossmont Inn for Col. Ed Fletcher in 1909.

For the Congregationalists Weaver drew plans for a church complex which could be built in two stages. A small chapel would be built first on the northwest corner of the property, and when an increase in membership warranted the construction of a larger church, the earlier building would become the parsonage. The sketch published in the San Diego Union on October 3, 1910 shows a simple Mission-style chapel with stucco walls, a gable roof, and a small square tower with arched openings. Connected to it by a pergola is a larger church building with the same design elements.

The chapel was completed in time for the first preaching service to be held there on February 10, 1911, although the formal dedication did not take place until July 16. Church financial records show Weaver receiving payments totaling $91.50 for his work. A check made out to T.M. and H. L. Russell indicates



The 1911 chapel as it appeared on a color post card circa 1913.

husband of charter member Emma J. Russell, was probably the builder.

For the next fifteen years the chapel served the congregation well. In addition to the two large rooms upstairs where the services were held, the basement provided a place for meetings, dinners, and other social events for community groups as well as the church. The problem of living quarters for the pastor was solved when the church acquired 359 Third Street for use as a parsonage in 1916.

By the early 1920's, however, the congregation was beginning to outgrow the small chapel. At their annual meeting on January 9, 1924, members voted unanimously in favor of building a new church ediface.

The church selected a new architect for this task rather than completing Weaver's original plans. Louis J. Gill had arrived in San Diego in 1911 after graduating from Syracuse University and had joined the architectural coming a partner around 1914. Louis was thus working with his uncle while the elder Gill was refining his simplified Mission style in such buildings as the La Jolla Woman's Club and the La Jolla Playground. Louis Gill's work after he opened his own office following World War I included the Church of the Sacred Heart in Coronado and the Mission Hills Congregational Church.

Louis Gill's plans, dated February 2, 1925, show a Mission-style building in harmony with Weaver's original concept. The wings of the building form a U around a central courtyard. The new church sanctuary on the south has a gently pitched gable roof, twin towers, arched windows, and a graceful arcade with rounded arches along the Lemon Avenue side. The two-story Sunday School wing on the east incorporates small classrooms in a U-shaped balcony overlooking the meeting room below. The original chapel, with additions to the east end, forms the north wing. Linking chapel and church is a pergola similar to

The contract was awarded in June to the Consaul Construction Company of San Diego for a bid of $33,750, and by December the work was being completed.

Impressive services marked the dedication of the new building on Sunday, January 3, and Wednesday, January 6, 1926. Both Rev. Hill, who had resigned the preceding June and was now Pastor Emeritus, and the new pastor, Rev. William W. Scudder, participated. In honor of Rev. Hill's long and faithful pastorate, the original chapel was named "Hill Chapel."

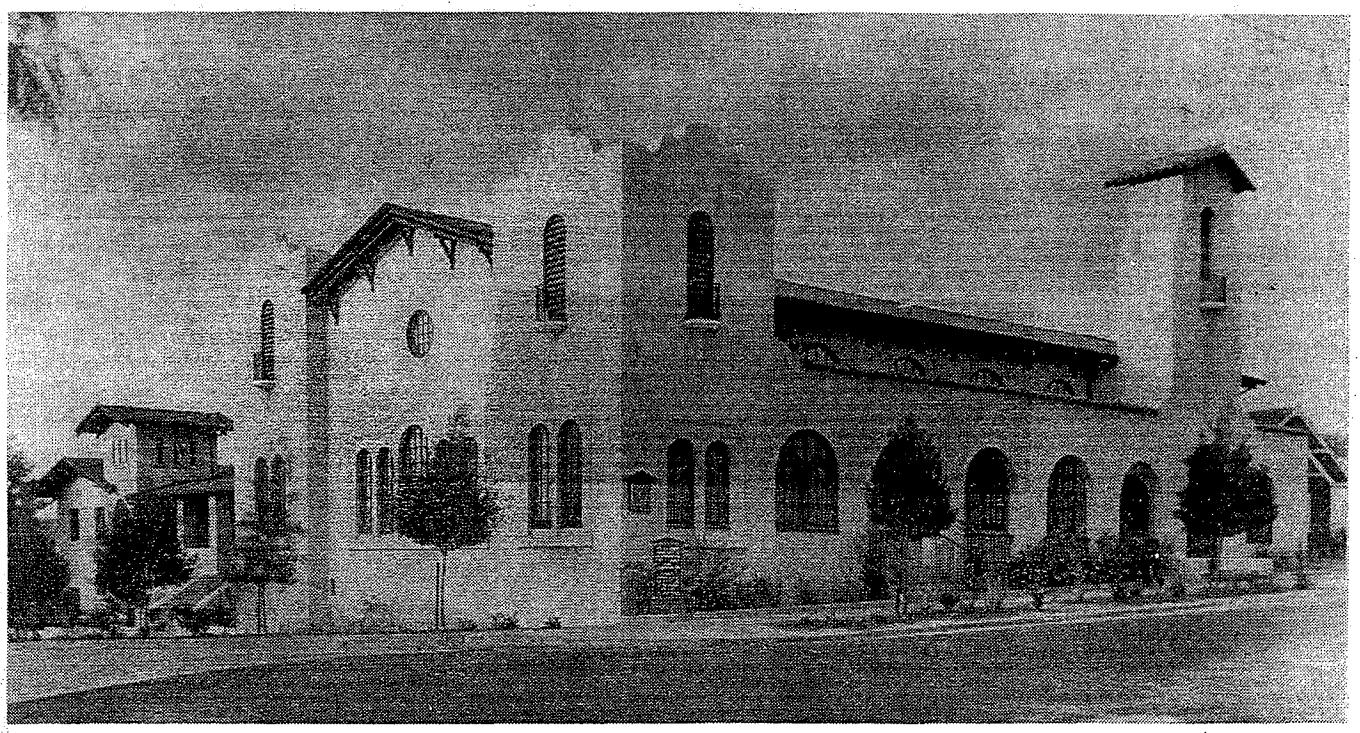
In April of the same year the congregation met to dedicate the new pipe organ, a gift from James W. Porter in memory of his brother, Rev. Henry D. Porter. Built by The Henry Pilcher's Sons of Louisville, Kentucky, the organ cost $6,500 installed. With paneling in solid oak and front pipes decorated with French gold bronze, the organ added to the beauty of the church as well as making music an important part of the services. After expansion in 1927, the organ was described as one of the finest of medium size in San Diego county.

An additional gift from James W. Porter was the lighted electric cross placed on the church tower in 1929, a memorial for another brother, Edwards W. Porter, who had been an active member of the building committee.

During the Depression the church was led by Rev. Earl Lindsley, who served as pastor from 1931 to 1939. Even in these lean years contributions made possible the further beautification of the church through the installation of the first of the opaque art glass memorial windows in the church sanctuary. In June, 1932 church trustees ordered, at $100 per window, the first six of a total of sixteen windows from Wieland Studios of San Diego. Windows designed by stained glass artist Fred Wieland, who began his San Diego career in 1923, may also be found in the Church of Christ in Coronado, the U. S. Naval Hospital, and in many other churches, clubs, and public buildings in San Diego and elsewhere in the country.

Four more pastors have succeeded Rev. Scudder: Rev. Roy Campbell (1939-1945); Rev. Alexander Milmine (1945-1957); Rev. John James Barbour (1957-1980); and the present pastor, Rev. Richard Goodhart. As it enters its seventy-sixth year, Central Congregational Church continues to serve the La Mesa community.

-Donna Regan



Central Congregational Church, circa 1928. The chapel appears at