



La Mesa Historical Society LOOKOUT AVENUE



Volume 17, Number 2

Spring 1996

Christmas Open House A Success

The McKinney House looked beautiful during the Christmas Open House. The Co-Chairs for the event, **Mary Lou McClellan and Ruth Kramer**, thank the many people that contributed time, effort and elbow grease.

Evelyn Estabrook and student **Janet Franey** played Christmas Carols beside the period decorated tree in the living room. They were ably accompanied by flutist **Jim Kritz**.

May Ann Ehlers and Carol Tinsley attended the front door and were in charge of drawing tickets.

Carol Lockwood arranged for docents to help with the crowd, and **Mrs. Parnell Thoene** recruited Sprites and mothers - **Jenny and Denise Moore, Bev Powers and Kelly Test**, and **Debbie and Allie Leto** to help also.

Karna Webster presented a wonderful display of Mt. Helix in the office.

Ed and Beth Blackman made sure the coffee and cider pots were full. The ginger bread (topped with whipped cream made by Ed) and scones were plentiful. Our guests were served by our distinguished cider and coffee pourers **Anita Underwood, Donna Regan, Betty Teague, Mary Kelley and Beth**.

The delicious scones were prepared right in our kitchen by **Marilyn Webb** — right after the gas was finally turned on with the help of **Jim Kritz** and several others.

Sandy Campbell greeted guests in the Quilters Room, and her family helped out in many areas.

As usual, the knowledge and experience provided by **Donna Regan** and **Pat Kettler** were indispensable.

President's Message

Have you visited the McKinney House lately, or gone by and looked at the yard? The lemon trees are full of fruit. The Memorial Rose Garden is becoming a reality against the east fence and will be blooming all the way to the Quilters when it is finished. Ed Blackman has researched and done the planting. Anyone wishing to donate a rose bush for someone please call Brice Lockwood, 463-5648.

The Board voted to make our museum more diversified — That is rather than being just a semi-memorial to the McKinney family, it will truly reflect the life-style of a middle-class home in the early 20th Century. In addition to McKinney belongings, we will be adding items that could have been used in a La Mesa home up to 1920. The east bedroom has been designated for a children's bedroom. Contents will be appropriate for children up through the teenage years for both boys and girls. This is a new project just getting started, so any donations of items and/or money will be greatly appreciated.

I hope you will make your reservations early to share in the membership brunch on Sunday, April 14th. I will see you at the Nan Coutts Cottage. Please come and cast your vote for future progress in our Historical Society. Jo

Trash or Treasures

Come join us for a day of fun. The long awaited McKinney House yard sale will be May 18th, 9 - 3. We need any of your treasures (except clothing - unless it is vintage.) Call 466-0197 to arrange for your donation to be picked up or to make arrangements for delivery to McKinney House.

If you can help in sorting, pricing, selling or making good conversation, we need you!

**Spring Brunch and Membership Meeting
April 14 11:00 a.m.
Nan Coutts Cottage**

Chairman, Chairwoman, Chairperson or Chair

Call it what you like, but we need members willing to put their ideas and suggestions to work — We need a Chair for the Ice Cream Social and a Chair for the Christmas Open House.

There are complete notebooks and many people to help someone willing to take the lead for either of these events. Call Jo Coffey 462-5692.

Inventory Underway at McKinney House

On Saturday, January 27, 1996, LMHS members began an inventory of society holdings. **Beth Blackman, William Hastings, Mary Kelley, Pat Kettler, Donna Regan and Karna Webster** started listing everything contained in the McKinney House and made great progress. **Betty Teague** came at noon with a Sprite volunteer to take care of any visitors.

Among the surprises was the discovery of a tiny blue medicine box found in a closet with the name of the pharmacist NOYES - one of the first at La Mesa Drug. The box will be kept with the La Mesa Drug Store collection.

The inventory will continue in March and volunteers are welcome. The inventory is necessary for legal, insurance and other reasons. **Pat Kettler** has volunteered to make a video of the contents of the house.

**Please see "Wish List"
page 2**

Wish List

During the recent house inventory it was found that many items on display in McKinney House are on loan. We would feel better if more items belonged to the Historical Society as that would allow us to make more changes and keep the displays interesting.

The Society is interested in items appropriate to a middle-class home in the early 20th century. Nearly any item of that era will be considered, but we have a particular need for:

- Linens
- Dishes
- Pre-1920 children's clothing, furniture and toys. (The society plans to furnish the east bedroom in the McKinney house as a children's bedroom.)
- Clothing
- Glassware

More wishes:

- A silver service (of any date) and a 36-cup coffee maker to use during special events .
- Acid free document boxes (to preserve written and printed materials) cost \$6.00 each. Would anyone like to adopt-a-box with a donation?
- White sheets to cover and protect items when not on display.

Directory of Interests

If you have questions, or knowledge to share, or would like to volunteer in any of the following areas, here are the people to call:

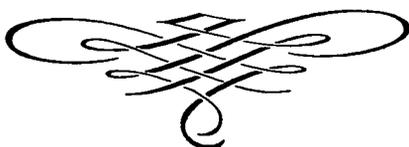
Accessions	Mary Kelley	463-5667
McKinney House	Karna Webster	463-1029
Membership	Mary Lou McClellan	287-1617
Docents/Tours	Carol Lockwood	463-5648
Photos	Pat Kettler	463-0197
Quilters	Sandy Campbell	461-3919
Depot Liaison	Betty Teague	463-5250
Grounds	Brice Lockwood	463-5648
Exhibits	Nancy Neffson	469-8731
Membership Brunch	Mary Kelley	463-5667
Newsletter	Roger Coffey	462-5692
Mailing	May Ann Ehlers	466-5017
Historic Preservation	Beth Blackman	588-5932

You can always call the McKinney House number 466-0197, or Jo Coffey 462-5692.

Real Winners

- Our Christmas drawing winners are:
- 1st - Antique Clock - **Marion Forte**, a long time La Mesa resident now living in El Cajon.
 - 2nd - Floral Arrangement by La Mesa Florist - **The Donald Olsens** of La Mesa
 - 3rd - \$50 Gift Certificate by Target - **Mr. and Mrs. E.P. Sable**
 - 4th - Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus by Sandy Campbell - **Lucille Dewaide** of La Mesa

(Mary Lou McClellan delivered the clock to Mrs. Forte. She resided on Guava St. in La Mesa for many years and recently moved to El Cajon for health reasons. She was born in a house in La Mesa on the corner of Colina and Orchard Sts. The house is still there. She graduated from Grossmont High School in 1935 and has many wonderful stories to tell about La Mesa and its early residents. She reports that her son, who lives in Solana Beach, is now enjoying the clock in his home.)



Centerpiece a Hit

Karen Smith of **La Mesa Florist** donated a beautiful live floral arrangement for our Christmas drawing. We "borrowed" it for use as a center piece on the dining room table before the drawing. It drew many oohs and aahs before the lucky winner arrived to take it home. Thank you Karen. (La Mesa Florist, 8747 La Mesa Blvd - 466-4151)

Thanks to Sandy Campbell

Sandy Campbell of the Quilters generously donated a Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus for the Christmas drawing. They were beautiful. Those that saw the size of the couple could tell that Sandy spent many hours making them. Thank you Sandy.

McClellan Buick Prints Tickets

For the second year in a row **McClellan Buick** underwrote the cost of printing the raffle tickets for the Christmas Fund Raiser and Open House. This thoughtful and generous gift saved us a great expense and increased funds available for McKinney House projects. Thanks to **Bob McClellan**. (McClellan Buick, 7675 University Ave., La Mesa - 469-0104.)

Nominating Committee Meets Thursday, March 14th

The Nominating Committee for the 1996-1997 Board of Directors will meet on Thursday, March 14 at 2:00 p.m. at the McKinney House to consider nominations. the committee will present the nominations for all six officers (President, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) and 3 of the 5 Director positions at the Annual Meeting held at the Spring Brunch on Sunday, April 14.

If you would like to suggest nominations for these positions, please contact any of the committee members listed below or attend this meeting.

- Nominating Committee:
- Mary Kelley, Chair - 463-5667
 - May Ann Ehlers - 466-5017
 - Brice Lockwood - 463-5648
 - Mary Lou McClellan - 287-1617

Kudos to —

Mary Lou McClellan and Ruth Kramer — for a successful Christmas Open House, and to **Ed Blackman** — for being our yard person.

Spring 1996

Tourmaline Gem and Mineral Society Donation

In January 1996 the Tourmaline Gem and Mineral Society of La Mesa disbanded and donated albums, written histories of the organization, a collection of their newsletters and publicity materials to the La Mesa Historical Society. In presenting these items, member Madeline Cody reminisced about the TGMS activities.

The organization was founded in La Mesa on September 26, 1948. Activities of the group included the Gem and Mineral Show held annually for many years at Helix High School. The show was free to the public, and rocks were given away to children in the hope of interesting them in the hobby or perhaps even as a career.

Historical Society Vice President **Karna Webster** thanked the organization for their donation and promised that the donated items would be kept in the climate-controlled archive building owned by the historical society. They will be available to the public by appointment.

The La Mesa Historical Society encourages the donation of La Mesa organization materials to be preserved as part of La Mesa history.

Vacuum Donated

We take pride in maintaining McKinney House as a museum appropriate to La Mesa's early days, but that takes work.

Thanks to **Fred's Sewing and Vacuum Service**, it doesn't take quite as much work as it used to. Fred refurbished one of his trade-ins and donated it to us. (Fred's Sewing and Vacuum Sales and Service, 7328 Broadway, Lemon Grove, 463-4668)

Quilting

Help keep the art of hand quilting alive — Come and learn from our LMHS Quilters, or, if you are experienced, come and visit with our friendly ladies. We look forward to meeting you any Wednesday morning 9-12. Call **Sandy Campbell** 461-3919.

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 | ___ Sponsor/Organization | \$25 |
| ___ Life (Single) | \$125 | ___ Family (2 adults) | \$15 |
| ___ Patron | \$ 40 | ___ 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.

Welcome New Members:

- ANNA NOAH
 STEVEN SMITH AND
 MEREDITH MORTON
 ROGER AND BARBARA SIMPSON
 SANDRA GIORDANO
 RICHARD AND JERRY TUFTELAND

Memorial Rose Garden

— Anyone wishing to plant a rose as a living memorial please call Brice Lockwood, 463-5648.

La Mesa Historical Society Spring Brunch

The Annual Spring Brunch will be on Sunday, April 14 at 11:00 a.m. at Nan Coutts Cottage, 5045 Memorial Drive, La Mesa (next to the Community Center in MacArthur Park).

The brunch menu will include a variety of fruit and vegetables and dips, scrambled eggs, potatoes, bacon and sausage and croissants with juice, coffee and tea.

Following the brunch the Annual Business Meeting will be held with a special program and the election of officers and board of directors for 1996-97. Registration is \$10.00 per person which includes the cost of the brunch and one ticket for the gift drawing. Additional drawing tickets will be available for \$1.00 each.

To make your reservation either clip the form below and mail it with your check to the La Mesa Historical Society, P O Box 822, La Mesa, CA 91944 or call **Mary Kelley** at 463-5667. The deadline for reservations is April 6. Since seating is limited, make your reservations early !!

I would like to reserve _____ tickets @ \$10.00 each for the La Mesa Historical Society Brunch on Sunday, April 14.

Name: _____ Telephone #: _____

Address: _____

Names of Additional Guests: _____

Please mail with your check to the La Mesa Historical Society, P O Box 822, La Mesa, CA 91944.



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
Permit No. 208

La Mesa Historical Society Officers and Directors 1995-1996

- President* *JO COFFEY*
- First Vice President* *KARNA WEBSTER*
- Second Vice President* *BRICE LOCKWOOD*
- Third Vice President* *RUTH KRAMER*
- Secretary* *PAT KETTLER*
- Treasurer* *BILL HASTINGS*
- Director ('94-'96)* *MARY LOU McCLELLAN*
- Director ('95-'96)* *NANCY NEFFSON*
- Director ('95-'96)* *KATHY TINSLEY*
- Director ('95-'97)* *CAROL LOCKWOOD*
- Director ('95-'97)* *BETTY TEAGUE*
- Past President* *DONNA REGAN*
- Quilters Representative* *SANDY CAMPBELL*
- Mailing Chair* *MAY ANN EHLERS*
- Publicity Chair* *KARNA WEBSTER*
- Grounds Chair* *BRICE LOCKWOOD*
- Newsletter Chair* *ROGER COFFEY*
- 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 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 822, La Mesa, CA 92044. Published quarterly. Production: Roger Coffey, editor, 462-5692; Barnes Printers, 466-7860.