La Mesa Historical Society

LOOKOUT AVENUE

Volume 17, Number 1 Summer 1995

Ice Cream Social Report

The afternoon of June 11 was quite warm, but the ice cream was cold and delicious.

Food contributors included **Price Club Santee, Smart & Final El Cajon, Smart & Final Lemon Grove, Baker's Square Restaurant and Pie Shop La Mesa, JC's Natural Bakery El Cajon** and baked goods from **La Mesa Historical Society members**. The balloons were furnished by **Party Savers**. The popcorn machine was loaned by the **Maryland Avenue PTA**. Prizes for games were donated by **Dr. Tom Olinger** (our neighbor.) The **La Mesa Chamber of Commerce** loaned the Ticket Drum. Tables and chairs were loaned by **La Mesa Second Ward LDS Church**.

Prizes were contributed by: **J&J's Garage Sale Store**, a $100 Gift Certificate won by Sandy Campbell — **Good Taste**, a Norman Rockwell Collector Plate won by Mary Em Howard — **Time Wise Jewellers and Watchmakers**, a $50 Gift Certificate won by Linda Michael — **Por Favor Restaurant**, Two dinners won by Pat Kettler — and the Grand Prize, a quilt made by our own **Quilters**, won by Kody Kettler.

The old fire truck that provided us with rides and another engine came from our own **La Mesa Fire Department**. Entertainment was provided by **Eric Brashers** on the banjo and by the **El Cajon Music Masters**, and, of course, our own **Evelyn Estabrook** gave us musical numbers on our organ.

Ed Blackman once again had the flower sale in tip top shape, and **Brice Lockwood** kept the ice cream scoopers going.

To the organizations and people above, we give our most heartfelt thanks. To the many members and guests that helped in one way or another, we extend great appreciation for your support.

To those who did not come, you missed a good time.

President's Message

As we begin another year, let us reflect on our accomplishments of last year.

We had quite a time getting the bathroom going. We had the old pull chain toilet cabinet to hang on the wall, but it needed internal parts, leaks repaired and refinishing. The tub was temporarily removed and the old linoleum taken out and the floors underneath repaired and refinished. The tub was painted on the outside and reinstalled. Some new pipes all around, a new paint job, new curtains, some linens, nick-knacks and, voila, it looks great! Thanks to Ernest Matteis, Jack Frates, Roger Coffey, Mary Em Howard, Jane Donahoo, Kathleen Holowach and many more (whose names don't come to mind right now) all under the direction of Chair Betty Teague.

Next, we started on the grounds. First, the house next door was sold and a Dentist's office was built on the lot. A survey determined that the hedge and the mulberry tree on the east side of the McKinney House were on the Doctor's (Dr. Tom Olinger) property. The City building code required that he place his parking lot at the back of his lot, so Dr. Olinger had to remove the mulberry tree and part of the hedge to make room for the driveway.

Kim Stillson volunteered to plan and oversee the work of renovating the McKinney House yard. She provided a plan which was approved by the board and we were off to a fast start. In the front section of the yard, on the left of the sidewalk as you enter, the grass was so bad that it had to be totally removed and re-sodded. A sprinkler system was installed in all the yard areas. It is on a timer and will solve a lot of the yard problems.

A sidewalk was put in going from the Palermo building to sidewalk at Pine street. A lattice fence was built on the South side and snap beans are growing along the lattice. The area between the sidewalk and the fence is an orchard consisting of lemon trees and a mulberry tree. A banana tree will be added in the future. A drip irrigation system was installed around the plants.

All through the yard, plants were removed and replaced with plants appropriate to the McKinney era. Under the old pine tree, impatiens are planted among the roots. Along the East side, next to the Dentist's office, there is a memorial rose garden planned.

Thanks to Dieter Fischer, the La Mesa Woman's Club, the Garden Section of the La Mesa Woman's Club, Mary Pollock, the Sprites, and the Grounds Committee — Ed Blackman, Betty Teague and the new Chair, Brice Lockwood, and many more I may have failed to mention.

Kudos to Kathy Tinsley

— for coordinating a fine Ice Cream Social. Once again the McKinney family showed support by coming — Mike and David Drury and Bob McKinney. Thank you , it is nice to have family come.

EXHIBITS FUTURE

"Knock, Knock" "Who's there?" "The Exhibits Chair for LMHS. I'm going to the homes of all local members to borrow items for the upcoming exhibit."

Fortunately it has not come to this, but almost. Because of storage space, the number of items in the archives is limited. Due to the economy and the longer exhibit times, antique stores are less willing to lend items than in the past.

Now that the LMHS buildings are protected by an alarm system, exhibits are left up for a much longer period. I'm trying to coordinate the timing with the bulk of school tours and have them ready several weeks before each open house. We have tried over the years to make each exhibit better and I do not wish to be involved in a poorly executed exhibit.

The Winter/Spring exhibit will be "Woman's Work." It will go up sometime before Christmas, but I am starting a list of items now. We will need items related to child rearing, cooking, cleaning, sewing, manners, volunteering, "butter & egg money," etc. I would especially like an old pram, and we could use house dresses prior to 1950. The Summer/Fall exhibit will deal with cameras and photography.

I am sure many LMHS members have suitable items and know friends and relatives with collections and knowledge in various areas that would help us in preparing a quality exhibit and in identifying and dating items.

Please let me know what applicable items you have. If you need an item returned before the exhibit is over, that can be arranged. You can call me at 469-8731 or you can leave a list at McKinney House. Please mark it " ATTN: Nancy" and include your name and phone number.

Nancy E. Neffson - Exhibits Chair

EAST COUNTY SPRITES ADD SUPPORT TO DOCENT PROGRAM

A small group of dedicated LMHS members served as docents this past year, keeping the McKinney House open Saturdays from 12-3. They included Donna Regan, Pat Kettler, May Ann Ehlers and Betty Teague, each serving about one day a month.

Special help was given by the East County Sprites, Class of '96 (Juniors in East County high schools.) Sprites is a mother-daughter philanthropic organization. In addition to volunteering their services, they donated two lemon trees and a dustbuster to the Society. We greatly appreciate their support and hope they will again choose us next year as one of their target philanthropies. Betty Teague serves as project coordinator.

Memorial Rose Garden

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

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

La Mesa Historical Society is in need of someone to serve as Membership Chair. Our current chair will be relocating to Florida and must give up the position. The task is easy. A computer is helpful but not necessary. All data is currently stored on a floppy disk using Word Perfect 5.0. There must be someone among you who will contribute a few hours a month (many months much less than that) to keep the ball rolling. Please call your president, Jo Coffey - 462-5692 - TODAY!

Saturday December 9th.

—Keep it open for the Christmas Open House. Volunteers are needed in all capacities and many surprises are planned. Call Co-Chairs Mary Lou McClellan 287-1617 or Ruth Kramer 469-6755.

COMPUTER DOODLER, WHERE ARE YOU?

Needed — someone that likes to play with their computer to make designs with information for the Christmas benefit and Ice Cream Social. These will be copied for flyers for our two fund raising events. Not very time consuming for the person that knows what they are doing. If you can help, please call Mary Lou McClellan 287-1617.

EXHIBIT PRESENT

We managed to assemble an interesting little collection of objects for the "Trades and Professions" exhibit. If you missed it at the Ice Cream Social, the exhibit will run a least through mid-October.

I want to thank everyone who assisted with the exhibit. In no particular order — Barry Worthington, Bill Graffin, Bill Cronan, Fran Schuch, Kim Stillson, Pat Kettler, Roger and Jo Coffey, Jo and Jonathan Pearson, Anne Porter Hall, Dennis Tuttle, Donna Regan, May Ann Ehlers and Judy Evans.

EXHIBITS PAST

If you have photos of past Ice Cream Socials or Christmas Open Houses, especially inside the house, I would appreciate copies. The date, if you have it, would be helpful. I am hoping to assemble an album — concentrating mainly on the exhibits. You may leave them at the McKinney House in the office on the desk - Attn: Nancy, or you may mail them to: Nancy E. Neffson, PO Box 2842, La Mesa, CA 91943.

Help Needed For Christmas Benefit

It seems impossible, but our planning for Christmas needs to get into full swing.

Help is needed to sell tickets! Would you be able to take a packet to sell at your place of work, Beauty Parlor, Barber Shop, Doctor or Dentist office, your bridge group or Club? It's really not too hard — remember we are a non-profit group trying hard to support the historical values of our community and, of course, we need money.

Also, people are needed to pass out flyers — at any of the above mentioned places. Could you take an hour or two to pass them out to the merchants in La Mesa, once in the middle of October and/or again the first week of December?

If you can help in any small way, or have any ideas to help with this event, please call Mary Lou McClellan 287-1617.

Quilters needed —

If you are interested in learning what is becoming a lost art, or are an experienced quilter, you are needed Wednesday mornings 9 - 12. Call Sandy Campbell 461-3919.

We are looking

for someone who wants to help with the Ice Cream Social June 1996. A complete notebook of advice from past socials is available and past Chair Kathy Tinsley will be available for help. Call Jo Coffey at 462-5692.

In Memoriam —
Beverly Decker
1932 - 1995

So sudden, so unexpected!
We miss you!

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/Oganization $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. 0. BOX 882, LA MESA, CA 91944.

Name: Phone:

Address:

_____ I would like to become involved in the Society's work.

WISHLIST

Dishes - glassware - see your dishes and glassware on display in the dining room. Needed up to the 1920's.

Mrs. McKinney kept the bottom drawer in the dining room full of toys to entertain the children — Please share yours with us, up to 1930.

In need of books suitable for boys up to and including the 1940's.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY SEEKING DOCENTS

Docent: n, a guide in a museum or art gallery.

The La Mesa Historical Society is seeking volunteers to join the Society's docent program at the McKinney House. The Society operates the Reverend Henry A. McKinney House as a museum interpreting early twentieth century life in the La Mesa community.

Anyone interested in becoming a docent for the McKinney House Museum is invited to call Carol Lockwood, Docent Chair, at 463-5648 to request more information on the program.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

MARK & CONNIE ALLAN
BERNICE L. ALSPAUGH
ELAINE BURDEN
HAROLD DOERR
ALEXANDRA GIORDANO
ELIZABETH GIORDANO
CARMELA KASPRZYCKI
DOROTHY KAUPE
ROBYN L NATWICK
THERRI NATWICK
ANDREW PHEMISTER
JAMES & ANNE-MARIE ROACH
BETTY SHACKLEY
REBECCA J SMITH
DIANE A SYPHER
SUZANNE TRELEASE
DARLENE TRENT
HELEN WILSON

In Memoriam —
J. Richard Teague
1916-1995

If Richard wasn't the father of the La Mesa Historical Society, he was at least the godfather. Richard and Betty were co-chairs of the Bicentennial Committee which wrote the history of La Mesa. The LMHS evolved from this committee. Richard, you are missed!

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

Address Correction Requested

La Mesa Historical Society
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1995-1996

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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.

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