



Lookout Avenue



Sherman C. Grable*

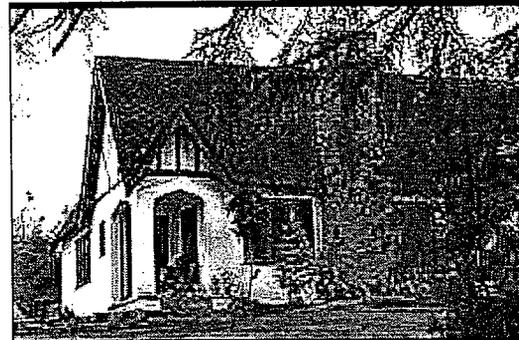
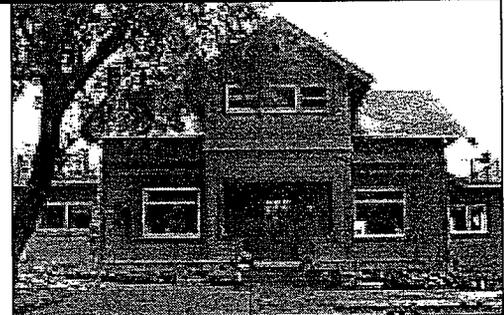
Volume 26 Number 2 Spring 2004

La Mesa's newest Historical Landmarks



No. 19 – Martin Christopher House. This Mission Revival-style home was built for Martin and Joyce Christopher in 1938. The Dennstedt Building Company constructed this handsome, well-preserved residence, which was featured in the San Diego Union upon completion. The house remains essentially unchanged. Today, the house is owned by Thomas Hurner and Brenda Potts.

No. 20 – Garfield House. Built in 1908, this home is an example of Craftsman-style architecture. Ben Lyster bought the property from his employer, the Park-Grable Investment Company, and built the house for his father. In 1921, Wade and Mary Garfield purchased the property. Wade Garfield is a cousin of President Garfield. Mary Garfield is credited with coining the term "Jewel of the Hills" to describe La Mesa. Today, the house is owned by David and Holly Fields.



No. 21 – Clifford Sawyer House. This 1929-built home is one of the few Tudor-style residences in La Mesa. It was originally part of a three-acre Fuerte avocado ranch established by Clifford and Jennie Sawyer. Clifford Sawyer was a pioneer avocado rancher in Mt. Helix area. The property today belongs to Michael and Susan Mullert.

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* *Sherman C. Grable* came to La Mesa in 1906. He wanted to purchase a small portion of land to build a house, but D.C. Collier would only sell him 100 acres or more. Grable, a pioneer developer, bought the acres and subdivided it. Not long after, Grable and Charles C. Park formed a partnership – the Park-Grable Investment Company – which was instrumental in La Mesa's development. Grable was instrumental in installing the first sewer system in La Mesa, planted date palms along Date Avenue and founded La Mesa's first bank – Bank of La Mesa. He is known as a "founder of La Mesa."

A note from the LMHS president

by Gordon Jones



First, I must recognize **Ruth Contino** and her committee for another most enjoyable Holiday Open House attended by so many LMHS members.

Marilyn Webb's scones are still some of the most delectable anywhere (see her recipe on page 3).

I was thrilled to open the house for a special visit in early November by **Annie (nee McKinney) and Bill Robinson**. Annie visited and stayed often with her grandparents, Henry and Florence McKinney, and she is a wealth of information which assists our updating our information on the house and the McKinney family. Bill and Annie were married in the house in September, 1979.

You'll see a picture of two young Native American dancers (page 5) **Donna Niemeier** and I chanced to meet at the annual Fall-Back Historic Festival in the Gaslamp Quarter, presented for children and their families in October. The LMHS booth was next to theirs in a day drastically cut short by the horrendous wildfires that rapidly developed that day.

In addition to the special events in which we are participating, and mentioned elsewhere, we'll keep you posted regarding a couple of other special opportunities we are planning, and unique displays we're creating for the display spaces in the McKinney House. Please stay tuned.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find a note from a member and active local archivist who is providing new enthusiasm and energy for the updating of our collections and their documentation. Jocelyn will be augmenting the efforts of **Karna Webster** who has led our efforts and **Bob Freeland**, who has volunteered his skills and abilities. This has been a prime desire of ours and what you will see coming out of

the project should be eye-opening.

Reserve the date of Saturday, April 24 for our annual Tea and Roses Celebration. You'll be receiving an invitation in the mail for this special event enjoyed over the years by so many.

Our annual meeting is pending and with that comes the opportunity to nominate a member for a position on the LMHS Board of Directors. Should you be interested, or know of someone who would be an asset, please let us know by calling (619) 466-0197. You can make a difference.

La Mesa Historical Society.

Board of Directors

July, 1, 2003-June 30, 2004

President: Gordon Jones

1st Vice President: Donna Niemeier

2nd Vice President: Ruth Contino

3rd Vice President: Leslie Tonkinson

Secretary: Sharon Crockett

Treasurer: Donna Niemeier

Past President: Karna Webster

Directors at Large:

Stephanie Glazer

Ed Blackman

Kathy Tinsley

Bob Freeland

Virginia Hill

The La Mesa Historical Society archives and collections

The records and memorabilia the LMHS has accumulated over the past many years are rich and varied. To facilitate access to these archives for scholars, researchers and ourselves, and to evaluate the nature of what we possess and its relevance to the society's purpose, it's necessary, and time, to inventory and catalog our collection.

*"I'm very pleased to be involved in this venture," said archivist **Jocelyn Zimmerman**. "If anyone has any list, partial inventory, a bit of knowledge or just a scrap of information concerning our holdings and would be kind enough to let me know, I'd be most grateful." You can reach Jocelyn at (619) 462-9645.*

Marilyn Webb's Famous Sultan Scones

Preheat oven to 425-degrees.

2 cups of flour	2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt	2 oz butter (1/2 stick room temperature)
1 tablespoon salt	3/4 cup of raisins (soak in water 1/2 hour)
1 large egg	3 oz milk (more or less)

Baking key : Use a gentle touch and do not overmix or over-knead. Batter should remain soft and fluffy.

Glaze: Small amount of butter, 1 or 2 tsp. and 1 egg.

Topping: 1 jar of jam or preserves and heavy whipping cream



Marilyn Webb

1. **Glaze** . Beat one egg. Add a small amount of melted butter. Set aside to brush on scones.
2. **Sift** the flour. Mix together the flour, baking powder and salt. Add sugar and mix. Cut in butter with a pastry brush. Batter should look grainy.
3. **Drain** the raisins and pat with a paper towel to remove excess moisture. Add raisins and egg to batter. Make a well in the center of the bowl. adding the milk as well. mix all ingredients by gentle stirring with a fork approx. 8-9 times--do not over mix, batter should look wet and lumpy. Turn batter out on a lightly floured board and gently knead--turning the batter over, kneading, approx. 8-10 times-- (do not over-knead). Shape into ball and place batter in a bowl, cover with slightly damp dish towel and let res about one-half hour.
4. **Gently** pat batter out on a floured board until approx. 1-inch thick. Batter should be soft and puffy. Cut into desired shape with a knife or biscuit cutter. Put scones on a lightly greased pan about 1/2 inch apart, cover with a damp dish towel and let rest about 15 to 30 minutes depending on size of scone.
5. **Brush** the top of each scone with the egg/butter glaze, place in oven. Bake about 15 minutes or until light golden. Remove from pan to wire rack and let cool.
6. **Beat** the whipping cream until foamy, add 1/2-1 teaspoon of sugar, whip until cream forms soft peaks and then add 1 teaspoon of vanilla.
7. **Slice** in half, add strawberry jam/preserves or other filling and top with whipped cream.

McKinney House Rose Garden Commemoration

Each spring, the La Mesa Historical Society conducts a special ceremony at the Rose Garden at the McKinney House. The Commemorative Rose Garden's purpose is to recognize designated persons by the addition of their names on the Rose Garden plaque. Anyone may designate a friend or relative for inclusion on the plaque by the donation of \$50 towards the Rose Garden fund of the La Mesa Historical Society.

If you wish to honor an individual, please send your check for \$50 along with information below, to the La Mesa Historical Society, P.O. Box 882, La Mesa, CA 91944. The information and check must be received by April 1, 2004.

If you have any questions, contact Donna Niemeier, La Mesa Historical Society, (619) 466-0197.

Name of honoree: _____ Today's date: _____

Donor name: _____ Donor telephone: _____

Donor address: _____

Reason for commemoration:



— *The hometown newspaper*

By Pat Kettler

From 1907 until November 1985, La Mesa had its own hometown newspaper. For most of its history the paper was called the *La Mesa Scout*; near the end of its existence it was the *La Mesa Courier*. The newspaper served our community well, recording most of La Mesa's events and keeping track of its growth and development with articles about local government, town celebrations, school activities and even several murders. Informative and interesting, articles were about the city's founders, business people and other La Mesa residents.

Did you ever wonder how La Mesa prepared for and dealt with the dark days of World War I and World War II? What living during the depression years was like? It's all there in the *Scout*. How about the news of the building booms during the post depression years and the years following the world wars? Prior to the 1960s, the paper listed most of the new homes and stores with names and addresses. Have you ever wondered where La Mesa's first sewage disposal plant was located? (Sure you have.) According to the *La Mesa Scout*, it was located on University Avenue, near the western border of La Mesa, until the late 1940s – where Helix High School is now.

In 1963, I became aware of the existence of

the older *Scouts* and began a regular trek to the *Scout* office's second floor, where the old issues were stored. I was able to learn more about my community's past and filled up notebooks with what I read. At the time I was a member of the La Mesa Junior Woman's Club and it was through this organization that a book sale was held to raise money to have the earliest *Scout* newspapers microfilmed.

After the La Mesa Historical Society was formed in 1976, it carried on the microfilming project and enlisted the help of other La Mesa civic organizations who donated money toward completing the microfilming of the newspapers – Soroptimists International, La Mesa Lions and Optimist Clubs, and the La Mesa Women's Club. Thanks to their help, all of the *Scouts* in our possession, and a number of other La Mesa newspapers have been microfilmed and are available at the El Cajon Library for researchers to use. A partial index of information is also available.

The collection of original newspapers resides in the La Mesa Historical Society's archives, wrapped in brown paper and hopefully preserved for many years to come. Many of the issues are fragile and not available to read, so we are truly grateful for the microfilms.

LMHS Holiday Open House bring cheers and smiles to all

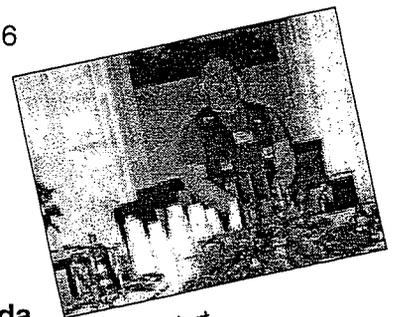
More than 100 people attended the Holiday Open House festivities on Dec. 6 at the historic McKinney House. **Marilyn Webb** baked her delicious scones while visitors were entertained with carols, displays, handmade crafts, stories and even a visit from Santa Claus.



Mary-Em Howard

The raffle was a tremendous success. In addition to the quilt won by **Al Platt**, and the Victorian Santa-themed area rug donated by The Carpet People – and won by **Jean Keating** – several beautiful baskets were donated by LMHS Board members and awarded to **Dorothy Gaspar, Myra Zimmerman, Linda Michael, Gail Lowe, Amy Sanders, Alexandra Cauldwer and Marlene Robershaw. Carol Lockwood and Pat Johnston** won La Mesa Lamplighters Theatre tickets, while **Nancy Ewin and Andy Phemister** won Johnny B's Burgers and Brew gift certificates.

Thanks to all of you for supporting the La Mesa Historical Society.



Susan Mullert



Chairperson Ruth Contino and vice mayor Ernie Ewin

A new special fringe benefit for LMHS members!

Joan Seifried of Angel Appraisers has agreed to provide to LMHS members a one-hour, in-home consultation to give verbal evaluations of art, antiques, heirlooms, and to discuss tax issues, insurance concerns and the like.

This is at a special rate of \$65. Joan is a respected and qualified professional with excellent credentials.

If you wish to take advantage of this offer, please call Joan directly at (619) 995-7015.



At the Children's Fallback Festival, held on Oct. 26, fancy shawl dancer Desiree (left) and jingle dress dancer Sierra (middle) received a history lesson from La Mesa Historical Society member Donna Niemeier (right).

La Mesa's 8th annual Flag Day Parade is Sat., June 5. We intend to have an entry, as always. If you know of someone – hopefully a LMHS member – we can honor by their riding in the rumbleshoot of the Model A Fords (provided by the Pearson family), please give us a call at (619) 466-0197. We will then draw for the name of the honoree.

Don't be shy – this is a fun, unique experience!

Calling all urns

...coffee urns that is

The LMHS is looking for a
60+ cup coffee urn
for future events.

If you have one
you would like to donate,
call us at (619) 466-0197

LMHS welcomes its newest members

The La Mesa Historical Society welcome its newest members.

The are: Dorothy and Donald Matson, Carol Yaremko, Robert D. Friedgen, Alexandra Caldwell, Russ and Ann Haberle, Ellen Briggs, Patricia B. Johnston, Amanda Bingham, Helen Givens, Mick Allensen, Percy M. (Pat) and Gail Lowe, Susan and Mike Mullert, Pat and Joann Stoker, Mike and Katherine Mascari, and Gary Heximer.

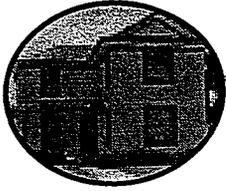
It's great to have you with us!

Antique Faire March 28 in the Village

Many of you know how delighted we are with the bridges we have built to the business community. Now we look forward to participating in the first La Mesa Village antique dealers Antique Faire, slated for all day, Sunday, March 28. It will feature antique booths (only genuine antiques and collectibles) by dealers from California, Arizona and Nevada.

Our presence will be very evident and if you would like to be involved, please give us a call at (619) 466-0197.

**This newsletter is created by LMHS
Newsletter Editor, Stephanie Glazer.
For information or suggestions,
contact her at (619) 466-0197.**



La Mesa Historical Society

Museum: Rev. Henry A. McKinney House (1908)
8369 University Ave., La Mesa, CA 91941
Mailing address: P.O. Box 882, La Mesa, CA. 91944

Change service requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
La Mesa, CA 91941
Permit No. 208

An invitation to join the La Mesa Historical Society

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The society depends on membership dues, bequests and fund-raising activities to support the restoration and preservation of local history.

The La Mesa Historical Society operates the Rev. Henry A. McKinney House, a 1908 house/museum located at 8369 University Ave. (at the corner of Pine Street) in La Mesa. Open 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday or by appointment. Group tours are available. Call (619) 466-0197 for further information. Lookout Avenue is the official quarterly publication of the

La Mesa Historical Society
P.O. Box 882, La Mesa, CA 91944

Lookout Avenue was the original name of La Mesa Boulevard from the 1890s until the city council voted to change the name in 1940. Lookout Avenue was La Mesa's main street.

- \$250 Patron
- \$100 Sponsor/Organization
- \$15 Individual
- \$50 Sustaining
- \$20 Family
- \$5 Student

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Ph (____) _____

Memberships and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.