



SPECIAL EDITION JULY 1981

"DEARIE...do you remember...chowder parties down by the seashore...every 4th of July...? If you remember, well, Dearie, you're much older than I!" * Dearie, do you remember...

- ...the man from Shrout Photo in Long Beach, who came to take the panoramic shot of the La Mesa Grammar School Gang from K-8th grade?
- ...or Friday nights at the movie theater on the northeast corner of La Mesa Blvd. and Palm? The squeaky wicker seats?
- ...how about the old train depot, when there was a real-live train and you had to have your ticket in your hot little fist at 7:45 a.m. for the trip to the Big Guy..San Deigo? And, if you missed the homebound train in the afternoon, 'oops, Dearie, you stayed overnight, picked up a jitney, or got the train the next afternoon?
- ...and that bus in the 20's and 30's from San Diego...those overstuffed and/or straw seats? It stopped at Blue Rock, corner of La Mesa Blvd. and El Cajon Blvd. ..before hitting beautiful downtown La Mesa?
- ...or classmates at Grossmont High...like the Nettles Twins--one of whom is the dad of Craig Nettles of the New York Yankees?
- ...and the super truck garden on the present site of Kaiser Hospital and the marvelous strawberries...Strawberry Hill?
- ...Mr. Pierce, night watchman, who walked his beat in the usually quiet town? If you remember...then you are fortunate, indeed, Dearie...Good days gone by...good days happening... here.

Eckoe Ahern

*(Dearie...words and music by Bob Hillard and Dane Mann--heaven knows shen. Memories by Marion Forte.)

LA MESA DEPOT RESTORATION PROJECT UPDATE:

The washbasin and toilet are not yet installed, most of the light fixtures are not yet in place, and there's some touchup painting to do. Other than that, restoration of the Depot is now complete. Congratulations to PSRMA Project Director Larry Rose and his staff.

There are some tears, too. The light fixtures should be in place. But in early June Al Barnier, PSRMA member, who is doing most of the electrical work, had his truck stolen. In the truck were the light fixtures which had been donated by Norm Hill.

Restoration includes the beautiful office counter and woven-wire protective barrier which sits atop the counter. Design was Larry's work; construction was by PSRMA member, Richard (Dick) McIntyre.

DEPOT Cont.

City-sponsored Linear Park landscaping, now underway, includes the tree-planting in the area from La Mesa Blvd. to Fresno, and from Allison to I-8. Landscaping between La Mesa Blvd. and Allison awaits the next redevelopment building phase.

Other equipment needed for the station will take some time to acquire, but it is expected by summer's end the Depot will be officially opened. At this writing, there are no further details about the rolling stock exhibit.

At the dedication ceremony thank yous will be in order. For now, let us say that restoration has been the responsibility of PSRMA and its workers. However, contributions of money, materials and/or services have been many. Included are individuals, agencies, and firms from all over Southern California. City of La Mesa/Federal Funds, plus those mentioned above have been invaluable. But, there remains the need for funding of acquisition of Depot furniture, not to mention the financing needed for the placement of a rolling stock exhibit.

For those interested in a program on the Depot-Museum or if you would like to serve as a docent in the future please call me.

Eric Sanders 469-1288

ORAL HISTORY:

Did you know that there is to be a massive taping of pioneers all over the U.S. this year? It is getting to be the "in" thing. The following is a list of those people who have been recorded on tape for the La Mesa Historical Society. Also, we have tape of a speech by Lt. Col. William A. Anders, in a talk to Grossmont High School students at a civic luncheon. (Large tape, cannot be played on our recorder)

Rose Barnett	* Jeff Leheuw
* Nan Coutts	* Rube Levy
* Clair McCarthy Duermit	Olive Lott Mannen
Inez Dufford	Mr. & Mrs. Leo McCarthy
Mrs. Luther Gordon	Joyce McKinney
Mr. & Mrs. John Haslam	Marie Maxwell McKinney
Austin Hinck	Jack Mercer
* Mrs. Johnson (Parks Family)	Nell Parks
Teresa McCarthy Kane	

* Indicates persons recorded by others than present chairman.

Mildred Bryan, Chairman

Also Programs of the Annual Dinners and Meetings for 1979, 1980 and 1981.

MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM:

Glenn Adams	Owen Acers
Jack Barnes	Rose Barnett
Ed Kane	Mable Knudtson Lyle
Ray Lyle	Von Marshall
Rose Park	Lila Polak
Lenora Porter	Jean Sinclair
Horace Upp	George "Gat" Watson

FUND RAISING COMMITTEE:

I wish to thank the Fund-Raising Committee for all their help, support and hard work given to me the past two years. Lillian and Emery Grant for their generous donations of Jewelry, plus numerous other items for the Ice Cream Socials and Christmas Open House. The Quilters, who are always there and always ready to produce and promote. It is most graciously appreciated.

The cooperation and help of other committees is not to be left out, for without them we would not have had anything to promote our goal. I need not mention by name or committee, as it is the working together by all that succeeds.

The following is the unofficial financial report of our 6th Annual "Ice Cream Social". I thought the General Membership might like to see the results.

Receipts:	Bake Sale	\$212.62	
	Books, Pictures, Songs	25.10	
	Donations	22.25	
	Drawing Tickets	699.00	
	Food and Ice Cream	671.26	
	Membership	211.00	
	Plant Booth	50.80	
	Quilting Items	245.85	
	White Elephant	256.25	

		\$2394.13	Gross
		- 560.65	Expenses

		\$1833.48	Net Profit

Thank you all for your cooperation in making this year the biggest one yet!

Jean Guy Third Vice President 1979-81
Fund-Raising Chairman

THE QUILTERS:

The purpose of this group is to raise money for the La Mesa Historical Society, by selling their hand-made items. Since the group began they have participated in two sales at Grossmont Center, one Down Town La Mesa sale, two Christmas sales at the McKinney Open House, and three Ice Cream Socials.

This year our "Dresden Plate" Quilt helped to sell over 650 raffle tickets. This year we also made and sold six baby quilts, among many other items.

Meeting Locations since the group began have been the home of Gail Chance, North bedroom of the McKinney House, home of Thelma Todd, and now we will meet in the East bedroom of the McKinney House for two hours each Wednesday morning. Call one of the members for more information.

Active members are Bea Acers, Ruth Adams, Mildred Bryan, Julie Bras, Gail Chance, Barbara Copeland, Jane Field, Barbara O'Neil, Margaret Pearson, Thelma Todd, Nadine Washburn.

Special thanks to Roy Swearingin for building our "custom" quilting frame.

Julie Bras, Chairman

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

This is my final note to you as President. In reminiscence I think of the first time I saw the McKinney House. I was a Realtor showing it to my client who was looking for an antique shop location. At that time it was owned by Forrest McKinley. Then later I met Joyce McKinney and his wife Ruth, and sister-in-law Marie McKinney, and thru the generosity and cooperation of all these people the House came to be the home of the La Mesa Historical Society. That was in the fall of 1975.

It was my pleasure to serve from that time until 1979 as the Fund Raising Chairman, a position I really enjoyed. We originated the Old-fashioned Ice Cream Social, which has become traditional and more successful every year, especially the last two under the leadership of Jean Guy. We had the first Christmas Open House, a gift to the community, now also a tradition. We formed the Quilters with help from Dawn Stanley and Gail Chance, and now Julie Bras. We produced the first Directory thanks to the expertise of Hubert and Jean Guy.

It has been a privilege to serve as President, but I cannot honestly say it was a pleasure at all times. The complexities of having the Restoration of the House in progress, precluded advancing in too many other directions.

However, much has been accomplished in our committees and I have enjoyed the fellowship and cooperation of working with many of you personally.

This is an open letter of thanks to those who worked so willingly at many tasks, some pleasant, some not. At first I planned to write each one of you an individual thank you note, but then I realized that you would be the only one to know I cared and appreciated, and I want everyone to know. So here goes:

First to Cliff Asay and his staff, and John Ahern, who lend invaluable assistance with our bookkeeping, etc. Bob Browne, who gave of his time, money and skills, and wife Helen. George Felix, our own "Chicken George" who slaved over the barbecue grills; Andy Smith, who donated many hours to fund raising, sales and financial aid, and Mary Smith who pinch hit whenever needed. Earlene Lourenco, whose handicraft talents are many, and husband Lee, who labored with those from PSRMA to make the Railroad Depot a reality. Vivian Higgins, who gave staunch support, advice and criticism, and was a great Hospitality Chmn. Eric Sanders (and Ellen) for the agony of rebirthing the RR Depot. The Orsborns, Bill and J.O., who early on gave strong support and assistance. Roy Swearingen, who made our first Dollhouse, and the replica of the McKinney House. Liz Blackwell our first Telephone Chmn., and Mabel Perrapato, who carried on. Jim Parker, a Charter Board Member and supporter and wife Anne.

LeRoy Knutson, for much needed Legal advice, and wife JoAnne. Lucille DeWaide our Editor-in-Chief, who developed our Newsletter to its present status. Vickie Willis, who served as Membership Chmn. Barry Worthington, who chaired the Historic Sites Com. and put together the slide program for the City Hall presentation, and wife Mary Dell wherever needed. Julius Acevez, our "special contact" and wife Harriet, a Docent. Eva Quicksall for creating our Historian Book. Mildred Bryant for important Oral Histories, some in the nick of time. Eckoe Ahern for charming stories in the Newsletter, and Donald McKinney, who until his illness, watched over our House, which had been his Home for years.

Lloyd Donahoo, our terrific First President, and wife Jane; Joan Wilken, our Second President, who launched the first History of La Mesa, and finally, my "right-hand" Lady, whose hospitality was both generous and gracious, and whose advice I usually had the good sense to take, Thelma Todd.

I could say at this point that there are too many others to mention them all-- not so! Please bear with me for additional thanks to Lloyd and Andy Kitzman, Jim Polak, Bea Acers, Norrie West, Margaret Pearson, Ruth Raush, Ragnhild Heath, Gilbert Judy, Jane Field & Cliff, Eunice & Bill Byper, Jean Twiss, Jim Hart, Julie Bohnsack, Nova Lee Dickinson, Helen Riley, Gladys Johnson, Dorothy Benton, Margaret Cauthen, our first Publicity Chmn, Richard Teague, Irvine Smith, Dennis Tuttle and Ruby Machado. At City Hall thanks to Pam Hamilton, George Bailey, Chuck Bras, Paul Fabares and George Pope. In business thanks to Ralph Hopkins, L.M. Camera & Sound, Frazee's Paints (Acevez), Priscilla Lister, of La Mesa (Scout) Courier, Artex Printing, McCarthy Transfer, Tri-Co Floors, Sportland, Vi Pleasants (Anthony's) and George Eckel.

Finally last but not least, my ever-loving Husband, Howie, whose patience passeth all understanding.

Under Unfinished Business:

Restoration Still to be completed. This committee under Donna Regan and Dorothy Griner has accomplished much, but lack of time and funds kept the project from those final touches that will spell finis.

Photo Preservation Collection under Pat Kettler has been organized in a book form for those who wish copies made, but still needs a permanent home.

By-laws Revision under Betty Teague, has been an arduous task, especially with new State "non-profit" status organizations, such as ours.

And now, dear friends, since there is nothing more past than a past President, I lay down my pen and gavel and retire, but not quietly, for I shall be watching. I hope you will support your new President as befits the position.

Helen Wood Linke, Pres. 1979-1981

"Woody"

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