La Mesa Historical Society

LOOKOUT AVENUE

VOLUME 30 , ISSUE 15 | SPRING 2008

RESTORATION: FROM A TO Z

BY: MARK L. GUNDERT– PART 5 OF 5

You may have to touch up with more chemical paint remover, some of the painted areas that are especially hard to remove the paint. Be sure to follow the directions of the paint stripper on the back of the can. I use old plastic cottage cheese containers to pour the paint stripping compound into during the application process. Use any container that you do not want to keep when you are done. It is easier to just throw the used container away. I use throw away brushes of one and two inch widths at Harbor Freight. I buy these brushes by the box. Buy these brushes on sale-cheap!

Your next step is the most important. The light to medium sanding that you do determines how the exposed wood will look when you are done. If you leave any paint specks, these paint specks will show up and make your whole project look like a rookie did the job. You may need to get an x-acto knife or a dental pick to cut away just the very edge of the wood or around a nail hole. If you are stripping a baseboard you will probably find a bunch of nail holes that are filled with paint and will need to be dig out these nail holes with a mini screwdriver, a dental pick or a razor knife. I found a dental pick works best. You can fill in the nail holes with wood putty or leave the holes open. Sometimes it is easier to leave holes open then trying to match the wood putty with the wood.

"You may need to get an x-acto knife or a dental pick to pick away just the very edge of the wood or around a nail hole."

This is a difficult process to make a match and the wood putty will usually stand out the same way any paint left in these nail holes.

Now stand back and look for any specks of paint that have to be removed. The sanding will take any dark stain off to a certain extent. The idea is to brighten up the wood to a point where you can match a wood stain to the darkest color you want to use. You can use a 60 grit sanding paper but end up with about a 100 grit to bring the wood back to a condition that does not show sanding swirls. Once you get the wood to the correct smoothness and paint-free, you are ready to stain.



One good trick to use with a wood door is to take it off the hinges and place the door on two saw horses. Pad the door on top of the saw horses with a heavy cloth or something to keep from gouging the wood. Then use a belt sander with ninety grit or even less course sanding belt. This will speed up the paint removal after the heat gun and the chemical paint stripping. Of course you will need to be outside or the dust will be going everywhere. A particle mask is appropriate to use when using a belt sander on a wood door.

If your doors are paneled like most of the older doors, you will need to hand sand with some special sanding equipment. I have found that you can buy these hard rubber sponges that have a coat of grit on the outside to get into hard to access grooves and ornate wood work. These rubber hand sanders are cheap and fit right into the grooves with a little hand pressure. Get about three or four, fine, medium and course sanding sponges for each door at Harbor Freight or any of the home improvement centers. You are done with the preparation when the paint or wood stain is gone and you have bare wood.

Most good wood stains come with a polyurethane base that will cover the wood with a protective coating and stain the wood to your specification. There are gel stains and liquid brush on stains. I prefer the gel but be sure you have a lot of extra cotton rags to spread on the stain and take off the extra stain. The longer you leave the stain on the darker the wood. Stain a small section of wood and decide what darkness you want. Again, follow the directions on the can. The hardware and home centers have a variety of stains. (continued on page four)

La Mesa

Historical Society

8369 University Ave. La Mesa, CA 91941

LAMESAHISTORY.COM

Fall 2007

Vol. 30, Issue 15

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Gordon Jones

1st Vice President

Donna Niemeier

2nd Vice President

Ruth Contino

Secretary

Sharon Crockett

Directors-at-Large

Ed Blackman

Tom Hart

David Kievit

Aaron Landau

Linda Rankin

Kathy Tinsley

Newsletter Publication

Mark L. Gundert

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY GORDON JONES

President's Notes

It's been a very good year, indeed!

We conducted another very successful Historic Home Tour in November, 2007, and this year's tour is scheduled for Saturday, November 8, 2008. It will include at least five historic homes in styles ranging from Spanish eclectic to Craftsman. Several hundred attended and more than sixty volunteered, enjoying the Old Town Trolley shuttle buses, the working artists and the warmth of the homes and their owners.

Thanks again to Bob and Laura Duggan, we have the microfilm reader/printer in our archives building now and it's been getting a thorough workout. It's easy to get immersed in reading the hundred years of *La Mesa Scout* newspapers we have on microfilm. You likely read about the *Scouts* in the *Union-Tribune* recently. To that end, we are enclosing a reprint of a February, 1986 article about the *Scout* written by our own Pat Kettler, who is responsible for our having the originals of the newspapers in the first place.

The third grades of La Mesa schools we very much enjoying hosting, our special events and history roundtables are ongoing and drawing nicely, our High Tea is at capacity, our membership is solid and our volunteer numbers are growing. The last roundtable about the Kumeyaay at Mission Trails Regional Park was wonderful!

Remember: we accomplishing all this by our own earned income and dues and donations by members. We do not rely on any governmental funds. That is why we need your support.

For your calendars

March 30 – Antique Street Faire, La Mesa Village

May 3 – High Tea, Rose Celebration and Annual Meeting

May 31-Annual La Mesa Flag Day Parade

New Members

Margaret Holburn	Debbie Caringi	Sharon Smith & Steve Bovee	Shannon O'Dunn
Mr.& Mrs. Robert Dugan	Laura Lothian	Eldon and Darlene Vogt	Kathleen McLaughlin
Nancy Leon	Patti Garfield	Claire Canaris	David and Gwen Warburton
Sharon Konz	Mary Lynn Lawton	Ann and Barry Tarvin	Linda Williams

RECENTLY DESIGNATED AS LA MESA HISTORIC LANDMARKS



Porter Hall (1929) Landmark No. 27 **4910 Memorial Drive**

Used for many years as the La Mesa Library, it sat on the site of the present Adult Enrichment Center. It was moved across the street and now serves as the home of the Foothills Art Association. It is owned by and landmarked by the City of La Mesa.

Porch was truncated to its present configuration



Staples-Orcutt House (1910) Landmark No. 28 **4576 Acacia Ave.**

Built by one of the leading citizens of La Mesa, it is a fine example of concrete block veneers used like cut stone in a Craftsman style home. It is owned and landmarked by Sabel and Ruby Aguiar.

MCKINNEY HOUSE ROSE GARDEN CELEBRATION

Each year, in the Spring, the La Mesa Historical Society conducts a special ceremony at the Rose Garden of the McKinney House. This year our celebration will be held Saturday, May 3, 2008.

The Commemorative Rose Garden was initiated in 1996 with start-up monies from the La Mesa Women's Club. Its purpose is to recognize designated persons by the addition of their names on the Rose Garden plaque. Anyone may designated a friend or relative for inclusion on the plaque by the donation of $50.00 towards the Rose Garden fund of the La Mesa Historical Society. LMHS member Hal Doerr designed and constructed the plaque. LMHS board member Ed Blackman presently maintains the garden.

If you wish to honor an individual, please complete the following, and send it with your check for $50.00 to the La Mesa Historical Society, P. O. Box 882, La Mesa, CA 91944. The information and check must be received by April 15, 2008.

Name of honoree _____ Donor name _____

Donor address _____

Donor telephone _____ Date _____

Reason for commemoration and information about honoree:

Restoration for A to Z (continued from page one)

I have had good luck with Minwax. You can go on the Minwax site and see the various types of stains that they offer at:

http://www.minwax.com/

You can finish a window frame or a solid core wood in one week-end of you want to. A week-end is just the time necessary for sanding and the preparations. Your hands, arms and shoulder will probably be sore after this project if you are not use to doing this kind of work. It will take another day for a one coat stain but an extra day for each coat of polyurethane for exterior doors.

If you do not want to stain or your door is an exterior door, use a good, polyurethane clear or satin protectorant. The satin stain is not as shinny and will give the wood a more nature appearance. If your door or window is exposed to the elements, you will need a minimum of three coats of polyurethane with a light sanding with some **fine** steel wool, between coats. I use sticky pine tar rags to pick-up the steel wool after each light sanding. These sticky rags are also readily available and inexpensive

If you have any questions about this subject or the Dillon House, please contact me by writing or via email at:

Mark L Gundert
9151 Dillon Dr. La Mesa, CA 91941 or email at:

firecapt181@yahoo.com

I will be glad to talk to anyone that has my same passion for old homes.

ROSE GARDEN CELEBRATION AND ENGLISH TEA

The Rose Garden Celebration, English Tea and Annual Meeting will be held on May 3, 2008 Please join us at the Rev. Henry McKinney House to smell the roses and sip tea.

The Rose Garden Celebration will begin at 2:00 PM. Those people who have been selected for addition to the Rose Garden plaque will be honored. The celebration will be followed by the Annual Meeting and Tea. It is a wonderful time to visit with friends, enjoy the house and grounds while partaking of scones, sandwiches and sweets.

A bit of History you may have forgotten or did not know

Dr. Sampson's House will be on the 2008 Historic Tour. It was in 1912, that La Mesa was incorporated as a city, with Dr. Chares Sampson appointed to serve as its first chief executive. His title was Chairman, rather than Mayor, since the governing body was actually a Board of Trustees. The offices of Mayor and Council came into use in 1927. The Mayor was appointed to the office by fellow council members, until it became a elected position in 1962, with the term of office extended from two to four years. Since the incorporation of La Mesa in 1912, 22 citizens have served as Mayor.

Our web address is now lamesahistoricalsociety.com



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

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

WWW. LAMESAHISTORY.COM

Change Service Requested

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.