



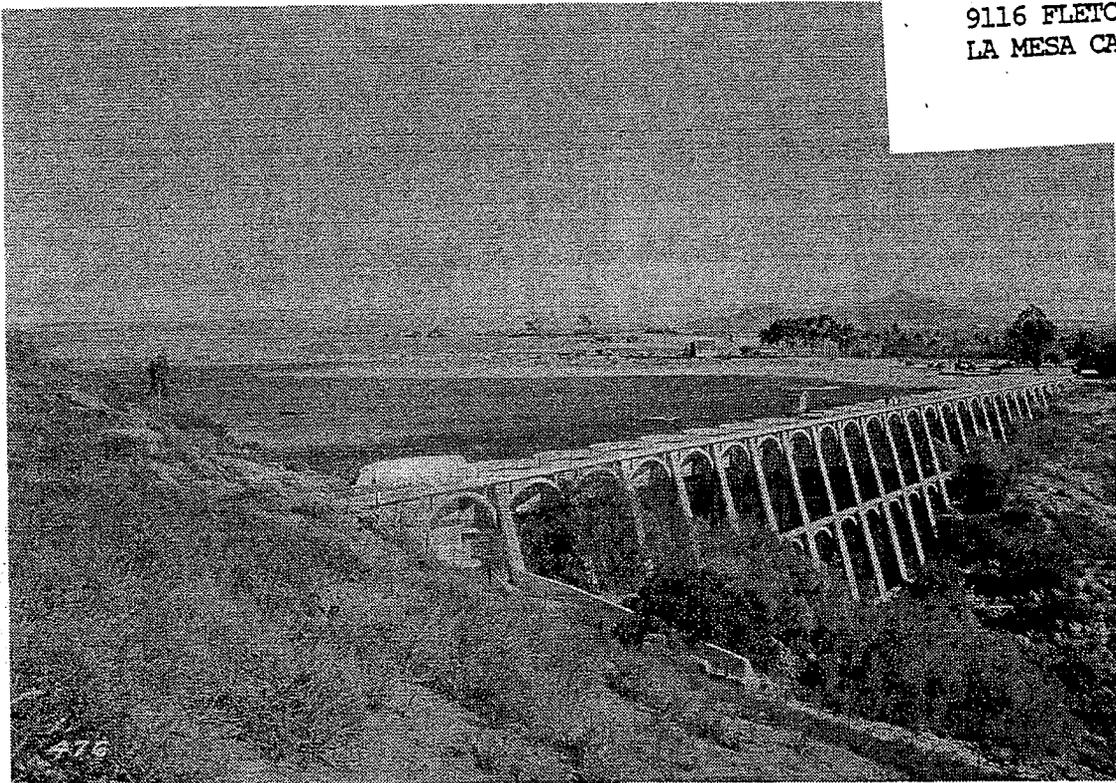
La Mesa Historical Society  
**LOOKOUT AVENUE**



**VOLUME 16, NUMBER 1**

**MARCH, 1994**

MR & MRS ROGER COFFEY  
9116 FLETCHER DR  
LA MESA CA 91941



Murray Dam, circa 1929

## **EARLY PHOTOS OF LAKE MURRAY AND DAM**

Several photographs have been donated to the Society by the grandson of Christina Macquarie, keeper of what was originally known as La Mesa Dam.

First constructed as an earthen dam, it was rebuilt beginning in 1916 and renamed Murray Dam, according to Ed Fletcher's

Memoirs. He stated in his book that the dam was built with money from James A. Murray, himself, and William G. Henshaw.

Prior to financing the dam, Fletcher and Murray bought the San Diego Flume Company in June of 1910. They changed its name to Cuyamaca Water Company.

DAM - Continued from Page 1

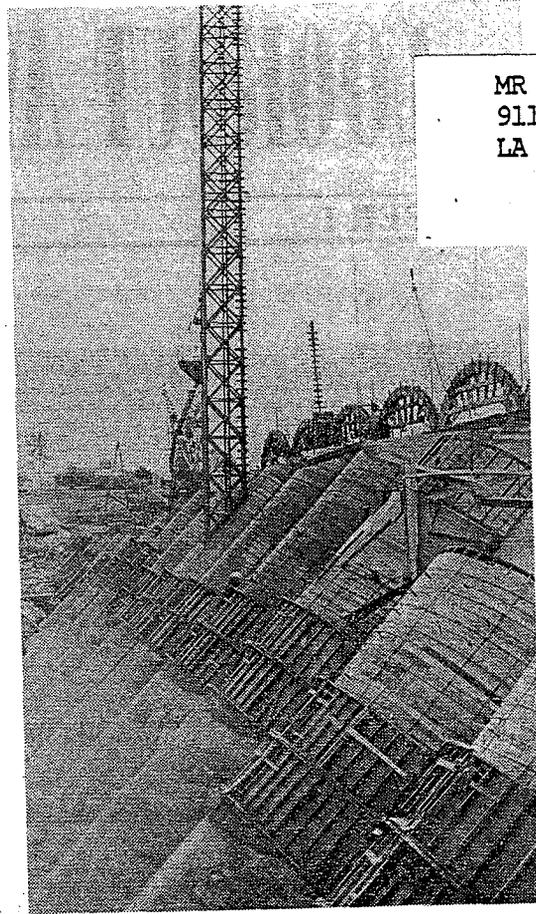
Murray, who was Canadian born, had become a banker in Butte, Montana, after moving to the United States. He later came to California, and purchased a home in Monterey.

On the front page of the 1916 La Mesa Scout newspaper, an article appeared about Christina Macquarie along with a photograph of her. Following is an excerpt from it:

*Mrs. Macquarie is on the job every day in the year as custodian of the La Mesa Dam. It was during the height of the recent rainstorm (1916) that her prompt action saved the structure from flood waters that rushed down it. Mrs. Macquarie's husband was drowned at Cuyamaca Lake during a rainstorm three years ago. He was dam keeper there. She has always one eye open for the safety of the dam. "I feel safer with Mrs. Macquarie on the job at La Mesa than if a man were there", said Colonel Ed Fletcher, who employs her.*



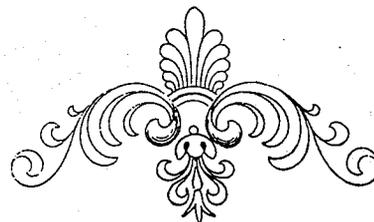
Dam keeper, Christina Macquarie (center) and two of her three daughters. (l) Nora; (r) Annie.

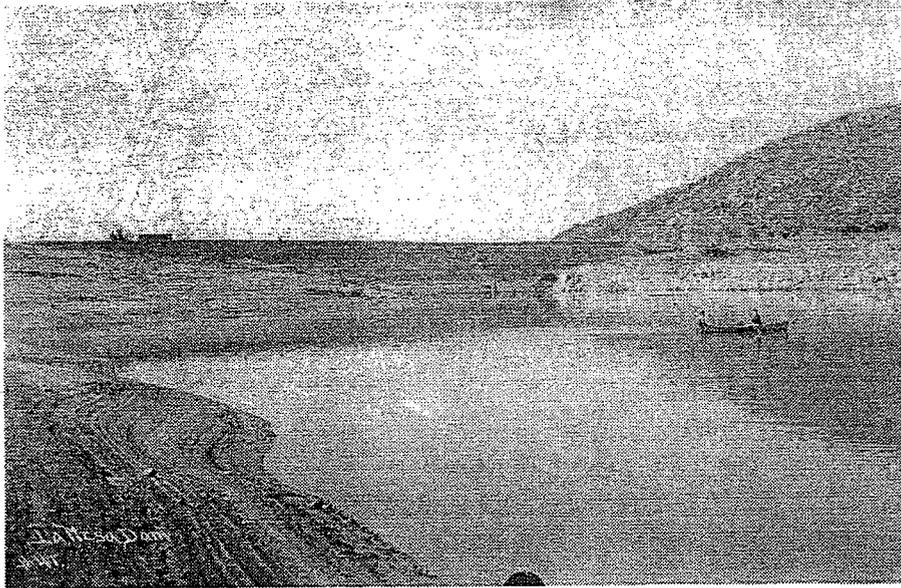


Murray Dam Under Construction, 1917.

MR & MRS ROGER COFFEY  
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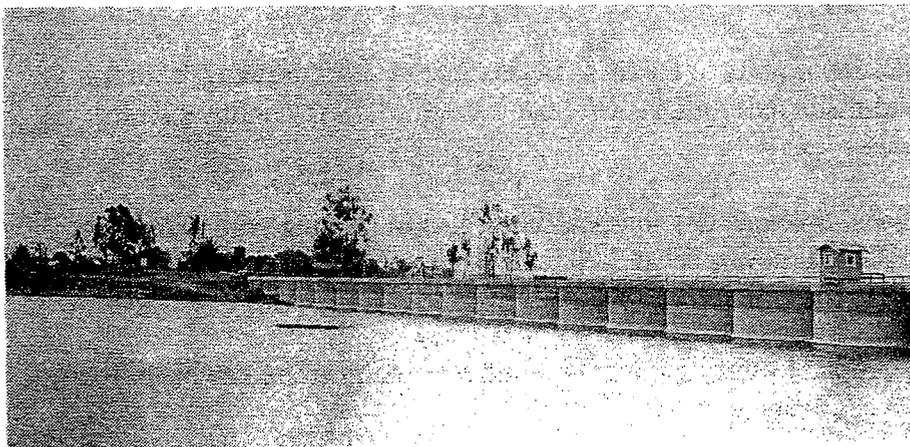
According to her obituary in the April 25, 1941 La Mesa Scout newspaper, Mrs. Macquarie was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1859. She and her husband immigrated to America on their honeymoon in 1888. They moved to La Mesa from Chicago in 1902. She and her husband were the parents of three daughters, Annie, Nora and Alma. She died in La Mesa at the age of 82.





**LA MESA DAM, CIRCA 1915**  
The earthen dam that preceded the present one

**LA MESA DAM, 1913**  
Present day Lake Murray.  
(l-r) J. Campbell, A. Goodfellow,  
Christina, Annie and Nora Macquarie.  
Cowles Mt. seen in background



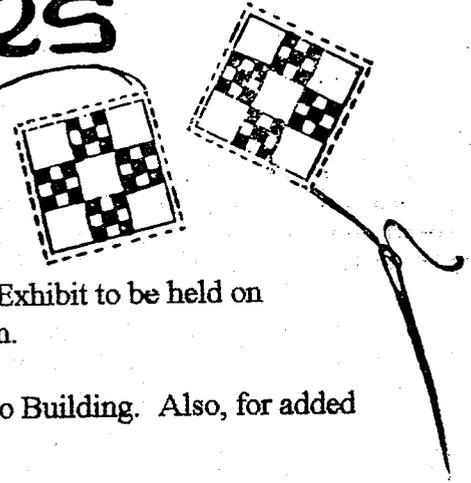
**MURRAY DAM, CIRCA 1918**  
Construction on the dam began in 1916

## Welcome New Members

DEENA ARCHER  
 SCOTT & MARGARET BALLY  
 SANDY CAMPBELL  
 MARJORIE CRAY  
 DUANE & CAROL DUBKE  
 KIRSTIN HALL  
 ROBERT & PAMELA JONES  
 KATIE BOTTORFF & JAMES LAURENT  
 DR. & MRS. J. R. MALEY  
 SARAH MEGLING  
 MARY LOU McCLELLAN (Life Member)  
 DOROTHY NOTTINGHAM (Life Member)  
 LEE PACKARD

News From The

# QUILTERS



The Quilters have been busy preparing for their Second Annual Quilt Exhibit to be held on Saturday, March 19 and Sunday, March 20, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Quilts will be exhibited in the McKinney House as well as the Palermo Building. Also, for added interest, there will be a display of new and antique teddy bears.

Invitation was extended to anyone interested in displaying up to three quilts in this year's exhibit. For information, call Irma Wiley at 466-5705 or Sandy Campbell at 461-3919.

The exhibit will also provide a nice opportunity to purchase tickets for a special drawing, with the prize being the Quilters' latest hand-made quilt (a Dresden Plate variation). Baby quilts and other handmade items will also be on sale.

The Quilters have added an additional time and day for those interested in quilting with a group, or desiring lessons on how to quilt. We will now meet at 7:00 p.m. on Monday evenings, in addition to our regular Wednesday morning sessions at 9:00 a.m.

Individuals having an unfinished quilt and wanting it hand-quilted may make arrangements to bring it by to show the Quilters on any Wednesday morning.

# HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE ENJOYED BY ALL

With a Christmas tree, yule decorations throughout the rooms, an interesting toy exhibit, and holiday music heralding the season, the La Mesa Historical Society held its annual open house.

The holiday event was held at the Rev. McKinney House, the Society's headquarters, on December 11 from 1-4 pm.

Thanks to the combined efforts of enthusiastic members, an afternoon of sights, smells, and sounds reminiscent of days gone by was enjoyed by all who attended.

The sale of drawing tickets boosted the Society's treasury by \$1,216, and the LMHS Quilters made \$380 from the sale of baby quilts and handmade items which were available at the open house.



Drawing winners were:

- 1st prize: **Jane Clune**, 1920's carriage clock
- 2nd prize: **Janet Penhall**, dinner for two at La Creperie Restaurant, La Mesa
- 3rd prize: **Don Criswell**, two movie passes to an Edwards Theater
- 4th prize: **Frances Lee**, velvet jewelry bag

Money derived from the drawing will be used in maintaining the Rev. McKinney House Museum and grounds, and preservation of the Society's collection of photos and artifacts.

Proceeds will also benefit programs to educate the community about La Mesa history, through slide presentations,

brochures, and other forms of information. Your support is very much appreciated and needed. The Society thanks all those who purchased drawing tickets.

A special mention is necessary to thank all those who lent a hand in preparing for the Christmas Open House, as well as those who helped the day of the event.

There is always a danger in forgetting to thank someone, but please forgive us if your name isn't found here. You know you have helped, and you are very much appreciated.

Sincere thanks to:

**Plaza Press and Beverly Decker** for printing the cover letter, envelopes and drawing tickets

**Donna Regan** for obtaining docents, beverage servers, and kitchen staff, and for taking charge of drawing ticket sales

**Hank Schupbach** and the Mailing Committee

**Jo Coffey** for obtaining the door greeters

**Ed & Beth Blackman, Pat Kettler and others** who worked in the kitchen preparing food, served beverages, or provided service as docents

**Evelyn Estabrook** for playing the McKinney parlor organ

**Scott & Becky Wilkens, Michele & Paul Cowdery** for handling the drawing, and sales item table

**Jo Pearson, Irma Wiley, Nancy Wormington, Donna Regan and Anne Hall** who provided the toy exhibit.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEEDS YOUR HELP

By the time you receive this newsletter, the 1994 Nominating Committee will have met to begin its job of finding willing members to serve on the La Mesa Historical Society Board of Directors.

If you haven't yet been called, please consider sharing some of your time and talents by helping the Society continue in its work of preserving and presenting our local history.

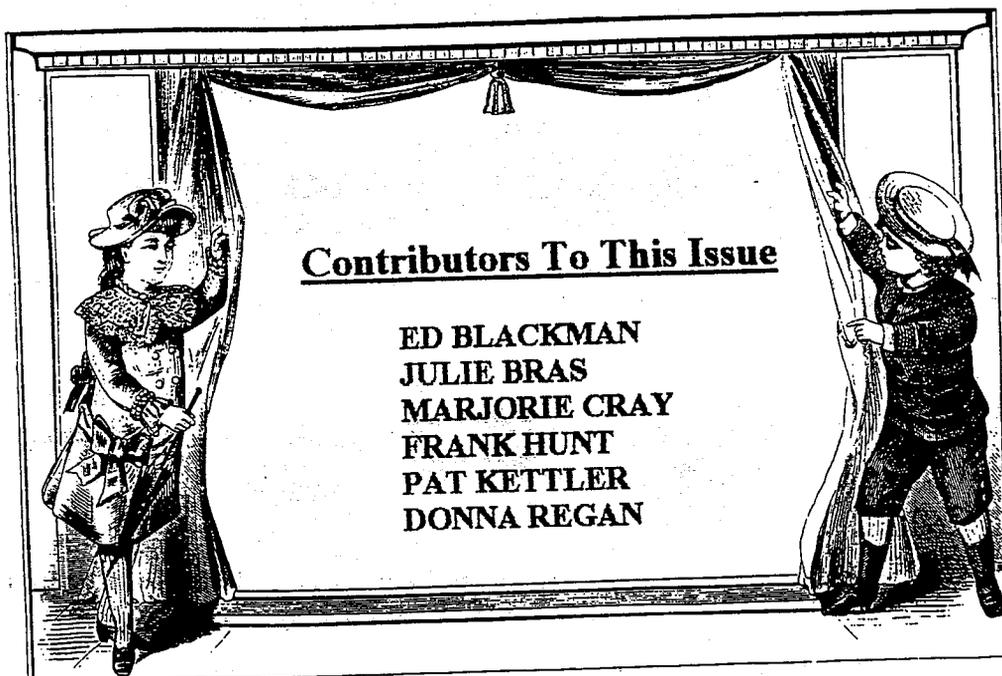
The old saying, "Many hands make light work" is so relevant. If we are to continue as a working organization, we will need your help.

## IMMEDIATE NEEDS:

- **Serve on the Board.** We need people to chair some of our fundraising events. While we do have a list of once-in-a-while helpers, we currently need the help of people who will also agree to be in charge of specific projects or events.
- **Serve on the McKinney House museum staff.** We need people who can help with the restoration of the bathroom and one bedroom. We also need help in the care and maintenance of the museum grounds.
- **Contribute your ideas** on how to make the public more aware of our museum, and how it could better serve our community.

PLEASE LET US HEAR FROM YOU. CALL US AT 463-0197 AND TELL US HOW YOU CAN HELP. Our Thanks.

The Nominating Committee  
 Betty Teague    Jean Murrell  
 Jo Coffey      Pat Kettler



## THELMA PALERMO BEQUEST

In December, the La Mesa Historical Society received a \$5,000 bequest from the estate of Thelma Palermo. During her lifetime, she generously supported the Society and its programs.

Thelma was a major benefactor of the Society's workroom. In October, 1989, following its construction, the room was named the Thelma Vandetta Palermo Building in honor of her contribution.



**Thelma Palermo Celebrates Her 90th Birthday with the Quilters**

Originally from Tennessee, Thelma came to the San Diego area in 1939, and later operated a bookkeeping business and an automotive exhaust shop. She married Joseph Durbin in 1954.

After the loss of her husband, Thelma married long-time La Mesan Pete Palermo in 1977, and moved across the street from the McKinney House.

A member of the La Mesa Historical Society for many years, Thelma Palermo enjoyed attending Society events, and visiting the Quilters.



## MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

For those who haven't as yet renewed your dues for the 1993-1994 year, it's not too late to do so. We want to continue sending you our newsletter, and are extending the original June 30, 1993 deadline.

Please look for the membership application in this issue of the newsletter, and send it in with your check today. Your interest in the La Mesa Historical Society continues to be very much appreciated.

Ed Blackman, Membership Chairman



## WELFARE ASSOCIATION GIFT FUNDS MICROFILMING

Thanks to the generous gift of \$2,500 from the La Mesa Community Welfare Association to the La Mesa Historical Society, microfilming of Scout newspapers was continued.

Anacomp Microforms of San Diego completed microfilming the newspapers from 1964 through 1983. The final two years, 1984 and 1985, remain to be filmed. The cost will be \$450.

The master microfilms will be kept in the Society's archives, and a copy of each will be provided to the La Mesa Library (as has been out usual practice when microfilming the newspapers).

When the filming is complete, the library will have available for public use the La Mesa Scout newspapers dating from its beginning in 1907 through its demise in 1985.



Florence in the 1950's

## FLORENCE MCKINNEY DRURY 1921 - 1993

The La Mesa Historical Society was saddened to learn of the passing of Florence McKinney Drury, one of the five grandchildren of Henry and Florence McKinney, on November 15, 1993.

Florence was born January 8, 1921, in the Bolivian mountain town of Arque, where her parents were serving as missionaries. Her father, Cromwell McKinney, was the eldest of three sons of Rev. Henry McKinney and his wife, Florence. Cromwell had come to La Mesa with his family in 1901 and moved into the newly-built McKinney House in 1908. In 1915, he married Marie Maxwell, who had settled in La Mesa in 1906 with her parents, William and Eva Maxwell.

After two years at the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, the young couple signed up for a 12-year term of missionary service and traveled to Bolivia. It was there that her three children

were born: Marjory in 1919, Florence in 1921, and Robert in 1925.

A 10-month furlough in 1922 brought Marie Cromwell and the two girls back to La Mesa in time for a large family Christmas at the McKinney House. They stayed at the house in the new apartment created by adding a kitchenette to the downstairs bedroom. While they were in La Mesa, Marie's parents completed the construction of the Maxwell Furniture Store on La Mesa Boulevard, which was to remain in business until the retirement of Marie's brother, Leonard, in 1969.

From 1924 to 1928, Marie, Cromwell and the children lived in La Paz, Bolivia, where Florence started school at the American Institute. While the family was living in the Panama Canal Zone in 1928 and 1929, Florence first took piano lessons, beginning her life-long love of music.

Florence's family returned to the United States at the beginning of the Depression, arriving in La Mesa just four days before the October 29, 1929 stock market crash. They lived first on Date Avenue, and then in 1936 built what would remain the family home at 4812 Palm Avenue. Both Marie and Cromwell found work teaching adult school.

Florence began piano studies with La Mesa teacher Meta Van Doran and took voice lessons with Margaret Neill. Florence, Marjory, and Robert were all members of Mrs. Van Doran's Cadman Junior Music Club, named in honor of noted composer Charles Wakefield Cadman, who had built his home on Mt. Helix in the 1920's. Cadman, who work includes "From the Land of the Sky Blue Water", would attend meetings and the concerts at La Mesa Women's Club.

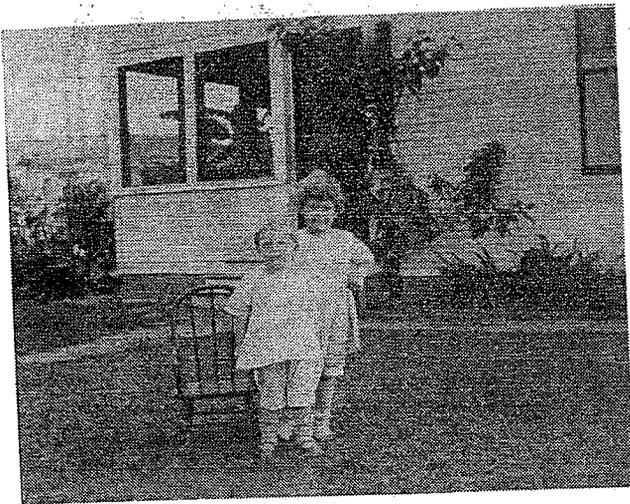
Florence attended La Mesa Grammar School, graduating in 1935. Her years at Grossmont High School prior to the 1939 graduation were

filled with a variety of activities, from orchestra and Schubert Club to the Foothill Echoes newspaper.

Continuing her music studies at San Diego State, she received her B.A. in 1944. While at State, she joined Sigma Alpha Iota, a national women's professional music fraternity, an association that would remain important to her. She was a member of Treble Clef, the Women's Quartet, and the school orchestra. She also taught piano, played for funerals at Erickson-Anderson Mortuary in La Mesa, and sang in USO shows.

Shortly after her graduation, Florence enlisted in the U.S. Navy Waves, serving as a chaplain's assistant at the Navy Hospital in Corona, California until 1946. Following her return to San Diego, Florence's life was devoted to work and family responsibilities.

Florence worked briefly for the City of San Diego. From 1957 until her retirement in 1980 (with the exception of two years), she was employed by San Diego County in a variety of clerical positions, eventually with the Welfare Department.



Home in La Mesa, 1923. Florence (left) and Marjory in front of McKinney House with its recently added two-story screen porch.

Florence raised her two sons, Michael and David, from her 1947 marriage to Edwin Drury. Through Sigma Alpha Iota, she continued to perform at different events, usually as part of a trio.

For the last 30 years of her life, Florence was an active member of Old San Diego Community Church in Old Town, and served as church organist. With the other members of the McKinney family, she was supportive of the La Mesa Historical Society and its efforts to restore the McKinney House.



McKinney Family, 1930. (l-r) Marie, Robert, Marjory (rear), Florence, and Cromwell.

Florence McKinney Drury is survived by her two sons, her brother and sister, and one granddaughter, Jennifer. Her graciousness and loyalty, dry sense of humor, and quiet cheerfulness will be missed by all who knew her.





P. O. Box 882, La Mesa, California 91944

# La Mesa Historical Society

Museum: Rev. Henry A. McKinney House (1908)  
8369 University Avenue

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## *La Mesa Historical Society Officers and Directors 1993 - 1994*

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 REPRESENTATIVE.....Irma Wiley

*LOOKOUT AVENUE* is the official publication of the La Mesa Historical Society. The newsletter is published quarterly. Articles, photos and letters are welcome from all members. Submissions may be edited due to space limitations. Contact Marjorie Cray at 469-5045 for submissions.