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# La Mesa Historical Society

 LOOKOUT AVENUE 

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VOLUME 13

DECEMBER 1990

NUMBER THREE

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On behalf of the La Mesa Historical Society Board I want to thank the membership for your generous support of this year's Christmas Drawing for the antique clock.

As you may be aware, the Society is very fortunate to own the McKinney House free and clear, due in part to the generosity of the McKinney family. Ongoing expenses such as insurance, mailings, upkeep of the photo and artifacts collections, general maintenance of the house and grounds, etc., keep the Board on its collective toes and membership dues alone will not take care of everything.

Much has been accomplished since the Society purchased the McKinney House in 1975, thanks to hard-working Board members, and a caring and supportive membership and friends:

1979-81 Restoration of the McKinney House exterior to its 1908 appearance. This included reroofing, repairs, and moving the garage to the back of the lot. Rewiring and restoration of the interior's bedrooms, kitchen, parlor, and entry was completed. (In 1979 the Society applied for and received HUD community block grant funds through the City of La Mesa for this work.)

1984 McKinney House exterior was painted.

1985 McKinney House is La Mesa's first local historical landmark.

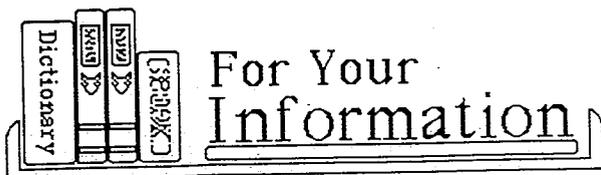
1987-8 Building Fund Drive, the completion of the Thelma Palermo Building and remodeling of the garage to store the Society's historical collections of photos, artifacts, newspapers, and other La Mesa memorabilia. A security system was also installed.

Other accomplishments of the Society include:

- Preparation of a history of La Mesa for use by the history curriculum of La Mesa Middle School.
- Formation of the LMHS Quilters to promote the art of quilting and to help the Society financially by making quilts for our drawings, and for sale to members and the public.
- Submitted a proposal for an historic element and ordinance to the city to protect the cultural resources of La Mesa. The city allocated funds for a committee to develop an ordinance and create a register of La Mesa Historic Places.
- Designed and wrote a pictorial brochure of La Mesa's history, which was funded by the city.
- Through donations, microfilmed *La Mesa Scout* newspapers and presented copies to the La Mesa Library.
- Provides slide programs and photo exhibits to schools and groups.
- Supports the San Diego/Tijuana History Fair by providing prize money to students with winning projects pertaining to La Mesa.
- Provides a resource library of photos, newspapers, maps, etc. to those doing research on La Mesa's history.

As you can see, your continued support through membership and other ways is very much appreciated and needed. In this rapidly changing world a sense of place is essential, and preservation of our unique part in San Diego County's history and development is important to all of us, as well as to future La Mesa generations.

Pat Kettler, President



## For Your Information

### THANK YOU!

To all of the members who volunteered to sit at our table during the recent Oktoberfest: Coralie & Jim Blasy, Beth & Ed Blackman, Brice Lockwood, Betty Teague, Mae Kraemer, Mary-Em Howard, Jo & John Pearson, Doug Neill, Jolene & Dillard Harwell, Dennis & Alex Tuttle, JoAnn Gonzales, Donna Regan, Mabel Perrapato, and Vel Landi.

Also to the quilters who staffed their own table across the street from the Society's.

To our members that have been selling tickets for our Christmas Drawing at local banks: Beatrice Acers, Nina Kiefhaber, Donna Regan, Vel Landi, Mary-Em Howard, and May Ann Ehlers.

Finally, to Bill & Beverly Decker who graciously donated the printed materials (letters, tickets, envelopes) relating to the drawing!

### McKINNEY HOUSE PAINTING

If you've driven by the house recently, you probably noticed the "Facelift" had not yet begun. The work should begin soon -- possibly by the time you are reading this. The contractor will also stain the picture molding that was made for the Palermo Building so that it can be installed.

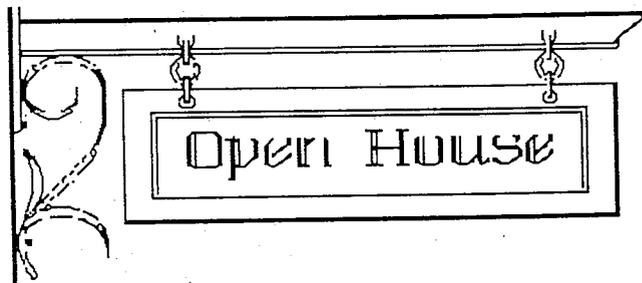
### NEWSLETTER

Contributing to this issue were Pat Kettler, Mabel Perrapato, and Donna Regan. The next issue will be published in February 1991. Deadline for submissions is January 21, 1991.

### NEW MEMBERS

The La Mesa Historical Society extends a warm welcome to our new members:

Bob Evans  
Mr. & Mrs. Guy Halgren (Laurie)  
Ms. Lucy L. Killea  
Mr. & Mrs. John D. Mead (Cindy)  
Mrs. Gaynor Pates  
Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Pohle (Wanda)  
Andrew G. Smith, Ph.D.  
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Thomas (Elaine)



### HISTORIC MARIE GUY HOUSE

The Jelley Company will hold a special open house on Sunday, December 16, from 11am - 4pm at the Marie Guy House, located at 5310 Valle Vista (Grossmont area.) Music and refreshments will be provided. The home, which is currently for sale, is listed on La Mesa's Historic Resources Inventory. All LMHS members are welcome to attend.

The Craftsman-style house was designed about 1917 by noted San Diego architect William Wheeler, whose other works include the Balboa Theater. The striking redwood interior was featured in a California Redwood Association advertisement in the April 1918 issue of *House Beautiful* magazine.

Marie Schumann and Hubert Guy were married in 1915. The construction of the house was a gift from Marie's mother, famed opera star Mme. Ernestine Schumann-Heink, whose own house had been built nearby in 1912.

For further information please call Chake Balabanian at 456-3700.

Best Wishes for the Holiday Season and Happy New Year from "Lookout Ave" !



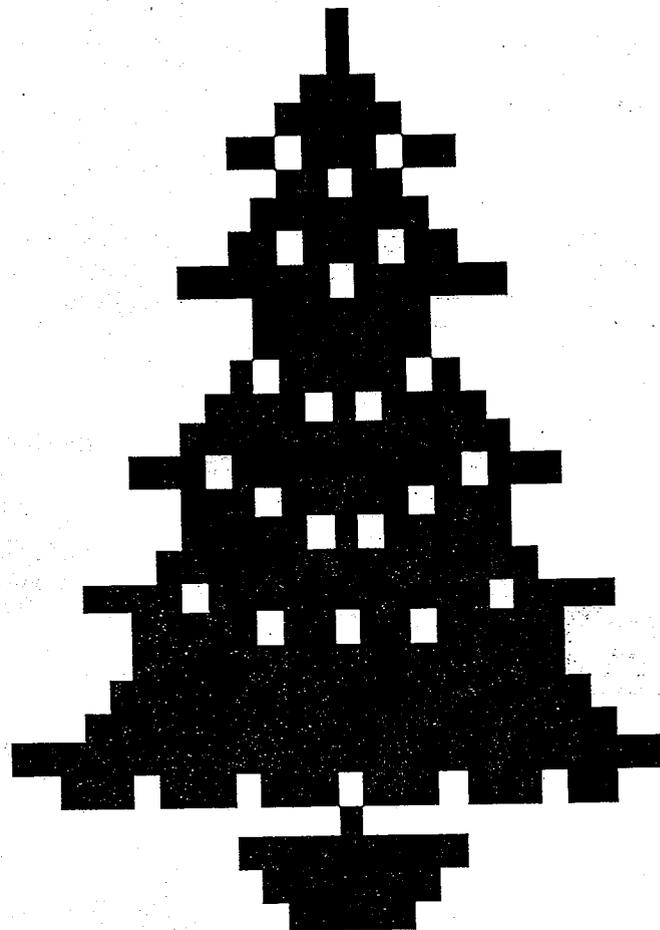
REMEMBER THE CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8th

1 pm - 4 pm

AT THE MCKINNEY HOUSE !

Come and enjoy hot cider,  
gingerbread, music,  
and museum displays  
with fellow members of  
the La Mesa Historical Society



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Upcoming in February will be the annual Brunch and  
General Meeting - details in the next "Lookout Avenue"

**LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OFFICERS and DIRECTORS**

<b>PRESIDENT</b> .....	Pat Kettler (463-0197)
<b>FIRST VICE PRESIDENT</b> .....	Betty Teague
<b>SECOND VICE PRESIDENT</b> .....	Mabel Ferronato - Membership
<b>THIRD VICE PRESIDENT</b> .....	Beth Blackman - Publicity
<b>SECRETARY</b> .....	Brenda Neill
<b>TREASURER</b> .....	Beverly Dostal
<b>PAST PRESIDENT</b> .....	Donna Regan
<b>DIRECTORS</b> .....	Ed Blackman
	Beverly Decker - Hospitality
	Mary-Em Howard
	Doug Neill - Newsletter
	Greg Truesdale
<b>QUILTER'S REPRESENTATIVE</b> .....	Beatrice Acers

**REV. MCKINNEY HOUSE MUSEUM  
(619) 466-0197**

*LOOKOUT AVENUE* is the official publication of the La Mesa Historical Society. Current publication months are February-April-June-August-October-December. Articles, photos, and letters are welcome from all members, and must be received by the editor by the third Monday of the month prior to publication. Articles, etc. may be edited due to space limitations. Contact Doug Neill at 697-7765 or 463-2230 for further information.



P. O. Box 882, La Mesa, California 92044

**La Mesa Historical Society**

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

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