



LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

LOOKOUT AVE.



VOLUME NUMBER 4, ISSUE NUMBER 1

JULY, 1980

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President's Report should be informative and inspirational. Information we have; inspiration may take a bit more effort.

About five years ago, at a Bicentennial Committee meeting, it was my pleasure to meet the members of the McKinney family, former owners of the property located at University and Pine in La Mesa. It was then in the hands of a real estate broker, Forrest McKinley, and I had shown it to a prospective client. The McKinney's held the first trust deed from the recent sale. My comment that their former home would have made an excellent museum and headquarters brought an enthusiastic response. The present owner (McKinley) was generously cooperative and the McKinney's most gracious with terms and financial assistance; so we were able to successfully negotiate the property acquisition.

The two loans on the property now have a balance of approximately \$30,000 payable at the rate of \$175 per month with low interest rates.

Because I felt great personal responsibility, it seemed proper to serve as Fund Raising Chairman for the terms of the first two presidents. That work is now chaired by a very capable successor.

Perhaps the most important event was receiving a Grant in the amount of \$25,000 for restoration of the McKinney House. This work progresses slowly, but much attention to detail is needed. However, under terms of our contract it must be completed by February of 1981.

We have moved from a group of six people making plans around a dining table to an organization of more than 400 members. One thing has not changed. We are still dependent on volunteer help. Please consider serving on one of the committees listed in this issue. Your assistance is needed in many ways.

Since this is our First Annual Report, please read it carefully and you will realize how many volunteer hours are represented. It would be nice to mention all those who give so generously of their time and talents, but space does not permit.

If you have any suggestions for ways to improve your Society, or wish to volunteer your help, please call me at 469-9988.

6/23/80
Helen Linke
Pres. L.M.H.S.

Helen "Woody" Linke
Pres. L.M.H.S.



BANG

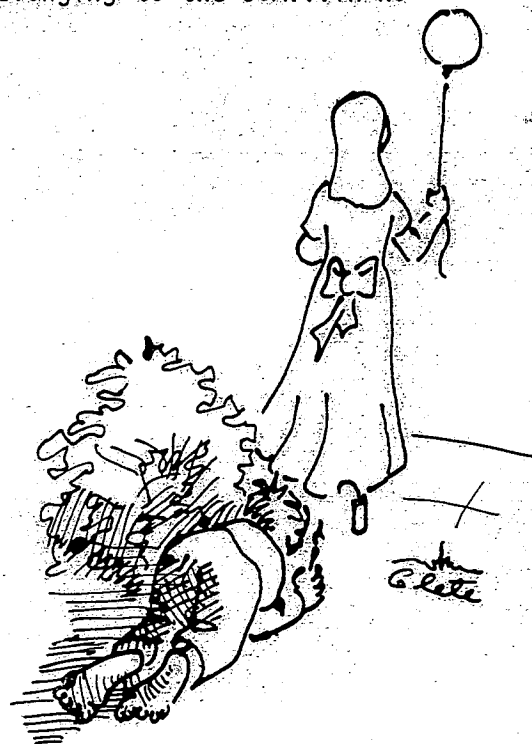
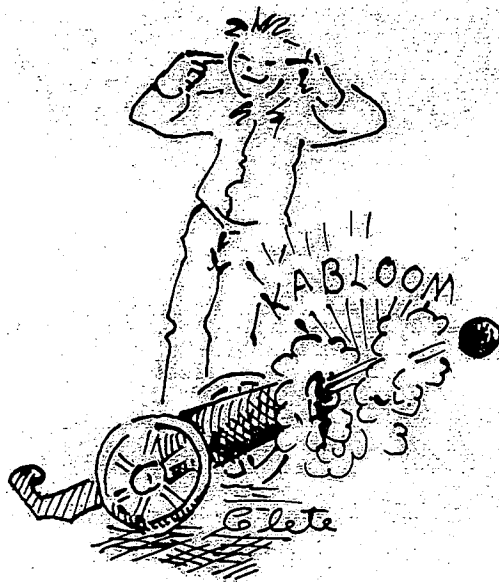
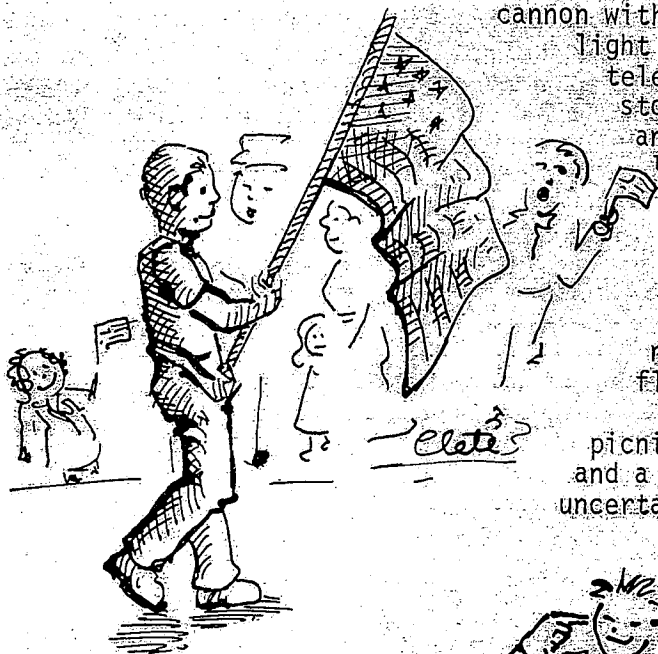
HOORAY FOR THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE!

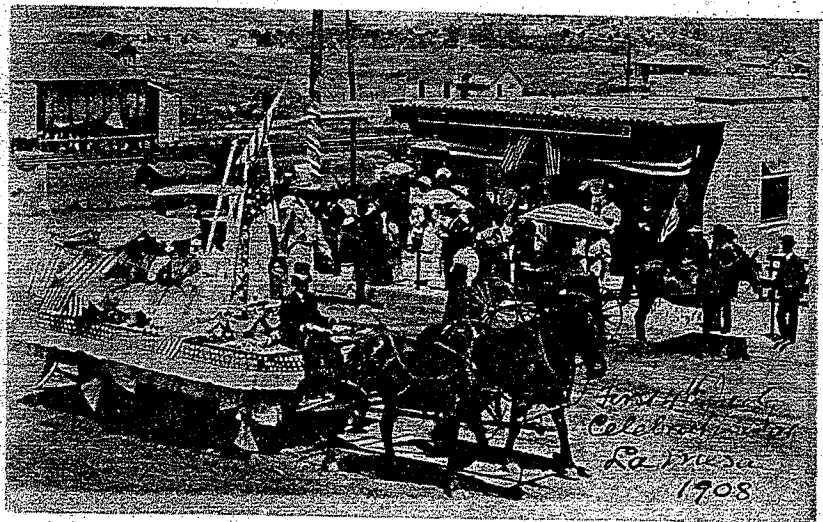
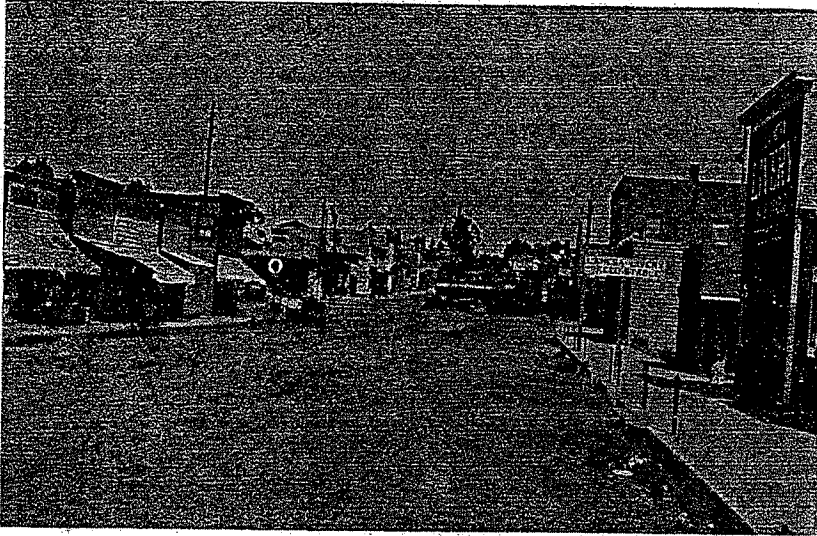
By Eckoe Ahern

Fourth of July, 1910 in La Mesa. Bunting decks the buildings on Loomout Avenue from Spring Street to Third. A band toots away, and citizens with motor cars are part of the parade. Marchers carrying flags, step lively. Among those watching is little Clare McCarthy (Duermit), with her folks. She is wearing her white Easter dress and tiny white shoes. She's alarmed because some daring boys toss lighted firecrackers recklessly into the line of the parade. Though not outlawed, firecrackers are a no-no until one is at home at the family picnic.

Now take a look at Lloyd Donohoo and his foot-long brass cannon with red wheels! Fill the thing with black powder, light the fuse, and let'er go! Shoot telephone poles along El Capitan, all the other kids stomping and cheering. Hooray for the Red, White and Blue....

In 1929, Walt Barnett, just home from his first year in college and all duded up in white flannels, went to Eucalyptus Park for music, games, races, food...the works. Including fireworks. Ray Lyle, fire chief, was in charge of that game, and somehow, he and his crew managed to set a local and very nearby hill on fire. The brave men who subdued the flames included Walter and his no-longer white flannels. So...Spirit of the Fourth in La Mesa...parades...picnics...bands...fireworks...cannons...plenty of flags...and a dear little town belonging to the USA...in no uncertain terms.





ANNUAL REPORT

From the Photo Archive

A number of photos from the La Mesa Historical Society's collection have been on display in several places in July. Gibraltar Savings in La Mesa borrowed nine photos of old La Mesa and of past La Mesans to display at the bank for several weeks. There was a photo display of the La Mesa depot ca. 1895, 1908, 1916 and 1938 at the McKinney house during the June Ice Cream Social. On August 3 and 4 there will be a LMHS photo display at the "Home Town Days" in downtown La Mesa. The depot photos will also be on display along with some recent acquisitions, so if you missed the display at the social, you can catch it in August. The LMHS will also have a display of photos at the La Mesa Library for the entire month of November.

Do YOU have old snapshots, postcards and /or photographs of La Mesa and La Mesans from the past? If you wouldn't consider a donation, would you let the Society make copy prints of your photos? In this way many people can enjoy looking at La Mesa as it once appeared. Even the 1940's and the 1950's are interesting to compare with today since the rapid growth of our area in the 1960's and 1970's. Call me at 463-0107. Pat K...

From the La Mesa Historical Society-Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association
La Mesa Depot Museum Project Chairman, Eric Sanders

The La Mesa Depot Museum project is increasingly attracting the attention of pedestrians and motorists.

On July 24 several trucks and a crane pulled in to unload and place rail and ties on an adjacent area graded for a temporary display track. On July 25 news media were invited to see the project and learn about the plans for the museum. That same day the track work was completed. Within two weeks a Santa Fe caboose will roll in, to be followed later by two small steam locomotives. Hopefully, in time, a permanent spur connecting to the main line will replace the temporary track.

Want to do some paint stripping for the depot project? Call Donna Regan (460-3726) or Eric Sanders (469-1288) immediately! Depot rebuilding and restoration is the responsibility of members of the maintenance and restoration crews of the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association, supervised by Larry Rose. Members of the La Mesa Historical Society are also participating in the project with particular responsibility for local contacts, historical research and all-important fund raising. The La Mesa Depot Museum is a joint project of both organizations. Lee Lourenco, LMHS member and former building inspector for the City of La Mesa is assisting and is responsible for contacts with the City of La Mesa.

Major funding for the project is being provided by the City of La Mesa through an allocation of Community Block Development Grant monies. Other funding will also be needed by the two sponsoring organizations.

Interior depot room arrangements and furnishings were gleaned from some of the files of the San Diego & Eastern Railway Company obtained recently by PSRMA.

When completed, the La Mesa Depot Museum will house a collection of photographs and memorabilia featuring the history of La Mesa and of San Diego County railroading. The museum will be open to school classes, youth organizations, adult groups and the general public. Organized presentations and tours through the depot and the railway rolling stock are planned.

Report from the Docent Committee

The docents have met quarterly for training and to hear interesting, informational speakers. We have taken turns serving at the McKinney House for three hours each Thursday afternoon from one to four, keeping the House open on a regular basis in order to fulfill legal qualifications. More docents are needed. With more docents being trained, it is hoped that each will be serving only one Thursday every six weeks. It is fascinating to learn of La Mesa History and share it. There is a growing interest on the part of the community. Thanks are due to Dorothy Griner and Donna Regan who have on occasion prepared the McKinney House for visitors and met the special groups coming for tours at other times than the Thursdays when docents were not scheduled. A number of Scout troops, both Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, have been met and given tours which have been enthusiastically received by the young people. A Saturday morning tour of La Mesa was scheduled for July as part of the East County Tour of The Save Our Heritage Organization.

Come and join us. This important work will be increasingly interesting as the restoration reaches completion and more groups are scheduled to visit. Please call for information and attend some meetings. We need YOU. Carol Lockwood. 463-5648.

Summary of Fund-Raising Activities

5

The Fund Raising Committee reports the following unaudited results of its various activities during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1980:

1. The 1979 Fourth Annual Ice Cream Social netted \$1,557.14 (including membership revenues).
2. "Days of Wine and Roses" held in August at La Mesa Springs Shopping Center netted \$48.23.
3. The "Yard Sale" at the McKinney House in October brought \$309.05.
4. The Bazaar at Grossmont Shopping Center in October brought another \$262.50.
5. The sale of photographs and stationery at the Oktoberfest totalled \$23.00.
6. "Grapefruit Daze" grossed \$180.00.
7. The Christmas Open House provided \$796.80.
8. The raffle at the General Dinner totalled \$88.50.
9. Participation in the Merchants Easter Parade brought \$82.00 in raffle ticket sales.

The 1980 Ice Cream Social (including membership revenues) grossed \$2,643.05 with certain expenses still to be determined and deducted.

During the fiscal year 1979-80 activities of the Quilters brought \$716.20 to the La Mesa Historical Society. The sale of photographs and stationery added another \$287.75. Proceeds from various raffles and drawings totalled \$1,790.75. Jean Guy, Chairman.

From The Garden Group

We collect your plants for sales at occasions such as the giant garage sale and the ICE CREAM SOCIAL and for decoration at the Days of Wine and Roses. If members continue to pot their cuttings, we shall always have a supply of plants for fund raising. Invite neighbors to come and select from our high quality plants. They might stay for chicken dinner! Thank you. We thank Bruce Lockwood, too, for assistance at the ice cream social sale of plants. Beatrice Acres and Dawn Stanley. 466-5812.

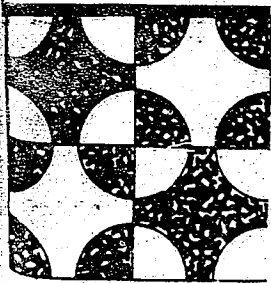
From The Historian

As far as I am able with the material I have been able to find, I have kept the Historian's Book up to date. Most welcome from you are the clippings of news of the Society and its members (i.e., profiles from the Scout, etc.)

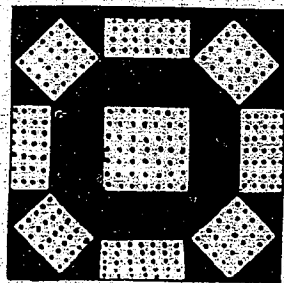
Please continue to send me your snapshots of LMHS activities, too, but always note names of those pictured, occasion of the activity, and dates. Thank you. Eva Quicksall, Chairman.

Report from The Oral History Chairman

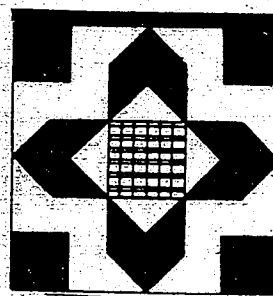
I have conducted interviews with the following people: Theresa McCarthy Kane, Austin Hinck, Olive Lott Mannen, Nell Parks, and John and Celeste Haslam, whose daughter, Jean Murrell, joined them for part of the interview. I have organized the tapes so they are easily accessible, and I am in the process of running the tapes in order to keep them in good condition. I was told this should be done annually. Although I found the people very interesting to meet and visit with, I can no longer continue as chairman owing to family health problems. I suggest that my successor be a person who has lived in La Mesa from youth so he or she may be more familiar with "old timers" than I. I am very grateful to Thelma Todd and Marie McKinney for their suggestions. Mildred B. Bryan, Chairman.



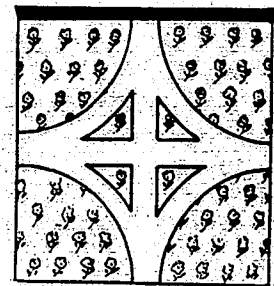
MILL WHEEL



ROLLING STONE



AUNT SUKEY'S CHOICE



COUNTRY CROSSROADS

Report from The Chairman of The Quilters.

The Quilters began meeting at the McKinney house in March. They finished the donated quilt and would like another so the group can begin a new quilting project. The group made \$182.50 on sales of handmade items at the Ice Cream Social.

The Quilters are now meeting at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday mornings. Please call for location. 698-0833 - Julie Bras, Chairman.

Report of Historic Sites Committee.

The Historic Sites Committee has been developing an historic preservation element to be included in the General Plan of the City of La Mesa.

This element, if adopted by the City Council as part of the General Plan, will enable a city-sponsored historic sites board to designate certain sites and buildings as local historic sites.

A list of over twenty-five potential historic sites in La Mesa has already been compiled and these sites are in the process of being photographed. Barry Worthington, Chairman.

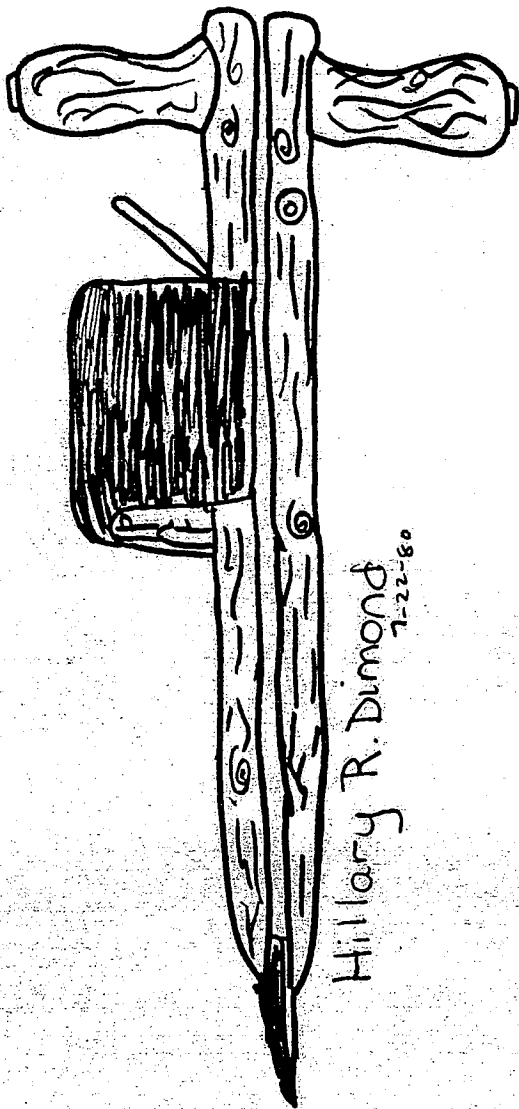
Hospitality Committee Report

The committee was responsible for three general meetings this year. These meetings were held in the La Mesa Senior Center. We were responsible for dessert in October and planned the potluck in May. The February meeting was held at Anthony's Fish Grotto with 159 people attending. A delightful program was carried out, augmented by a seafood menu. Decorations of donated camellias added beauty and color. The cooperation of the general membership was greatly appreciated by this committee in these meetings.

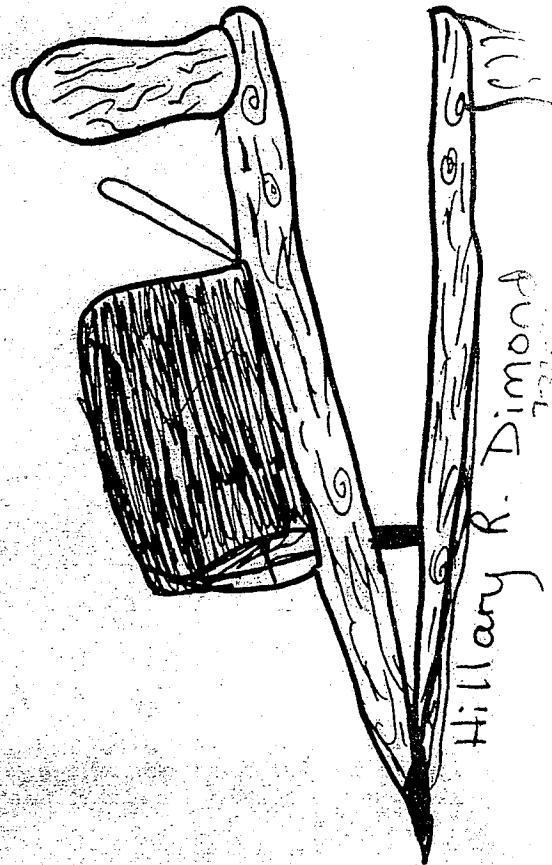
For the monthly LMHS Board meetings the committee provided light refreshment. There are about 29 people when in full attendance. Eleven of these are elected voting members. These meetings are valuable in that reports are given as to plans and activities, thus tying together the work accomplished and bringing about an understanding of the Society's objectives. As a committee we are grateful to Thelma Todd, since these meetings are held in her home. Vivian Higgins, Chairman.

Mailing Committee

A new chairman and committee are needed. This committee usually only functions once each quarter to mail the Newsletter, an easy but much-needed task. Nadine Washburn, Chairman.



Hillary R. Dimond
7-22-60



Hillary R. Dimond
7-22-60

CORN PLANTER.

Report of the Memorabilia Committee

In the 1979-80 period the La Mesa Historical Society's Memorabilia Committee received a number of varied and interesting gifts--all greatly appreciated. To mention a few--a hand-quilted quilt (Dresden Plate Pattern) dated 1854, a hand-quilted quilt (Dresden Plate Pattern) dated 1930, a bird's eye maple chest, dated the turn of the century, seven antique chairs, an oak Master's chair from the first Masonic Lodge of La Mesa, books of songs, records, a silver collector's spoon, tea sets, a divided glass plate, handmade lines, a corn planter and many interesting pictures of old La Mesa.

A partial list of donors follows: Mr. and Mrs. Julius Acevez, Mrs. Mia Gilman, Mr. Dale Nash, Mrs. Vivian Higgins, Valerie Halverson, Mrs. Hazel Porter, Mrs. John Haslam, Mr. Irvine Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Joyce McKinney, Mrs. Robert McKinney, Mrs. Peter Girard, Mrs. LeRoy Bailey, Mrs. Ruby Machado, Mrs. Verne Kettler, Mrs. Margaret Cauthen, Mrs. Murray Kellock, Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Rulette, Mrs. Marion G. and Mrs. Alma Boeing. Thelma Todd, Chairman.

Editor's Note: We welcome new talent. Hillary Dimond is granddaughter of LMHS member, Phyllis Sprung. As do several other young people, she takes interest in the McKinney House and Old La Mesa. We're glad for their membership and their interest. Let's have more, Hillary. L. De.

From the Bequests and Memorials Committee

Gifts in memory of Ila Hubbard and Fanny Judy were given in memory of Mabel Perrapato and Marion Goode. Gifts in memory of the Harry Grogin family and the Jessie McCarthy family were given by Lena Kasitz.

These gifts are recorded in a book appropriately reserved for the purpose. All gifts, bequests and memorials are welcomed and may be designated for any of the various purposes of the LMHS. Jane and Lloyd Donahoo.

By-Laws Review Committee

Joan Wilken and Betty Teague. This committee is in the process of reviewing and updating the By-Laws for Standing Rules.

Restoration Committee Report

The past year has been a busy one for the Restoration Committee. Volunteer work has continued and major projects have been undertaken as part of the work funded by HUD Community Development Block Grant money approved by the City of La Mesa.

In August the Committee completed the task of removing the paint from the dining room and entry woodwork. Volunteer Roy Swearingen then finished the woodwork and hung our 1909 reproduction wallpaper in the dining room. Later the Committee removed the paint from the woodwork in the office.

In October the LMHS signed the contract with the City of La Mesa concerning the work to be done with the Community Development Block Grant funds. The first project under the \$25,000 restoration grant was the fumigation of the house, garage, and outhouse.

For safety purposes, the two McKinney House chimneys were taken down to below the roofline and rebuilt using the original brick. The kitchen chimney was lined so that a wood-burning stove could be installed later. The front room chimney was then cleaned by a chimney sweep in a silk top hat.

Following the recommendations of the Restoration Committee the LMHS Board in February approved the hiring of Roy Houston and Sons as general contractors for reroofing the house, plumbing, rehangng windows, and relocating the garage. Detailed specifications were drawn up by Committee architect Jim Hart and approved by the Committee.

When the spring rains were finally over, reroofing was begun, and the McKinney House now has a roof of cedar shingles as it did in 1908. Various added gas vent pipes were removed from the exterior and repair of the siding was started. The water heater was removed from the kitchen and replaced by a new electric water heater in the back porch closet. The pull-chain toilet removed from the closet has been stored so that it can eventually be put back in the upstairs bathroom. Work was begun on the rehangng of the double-hung windows, most of which had broken sash cords.

A major decision concerning the restoration of the McKinney House was made in June when the Board voted to restore the front porch to its appearance when built in 1908. In 1922-23 the roof of the original one-story porch had been removed and placed at the back of the house to become the roof of the added kitchenette, and a two-story screened porch attached to the front. Since the 1922 porch tended to destroy the original appearance of the house when first built, was added later than the selected period of interpretation, and was constructed to provide space for roomers rather than the McKinney family, the Restoration Committee recommended

From The Telephone Committee Chairman



This year the Telephone Committee consisted of the chairman and sixteen callers. It was our privilege to contact members to remind them of the various events that took place within the Society during the year. My committee was very faithful and always willing unless ill health prevailed. At this time it is my pleasure to thank the Telephone Committee for their willingness to call whenever needed.

Mabel Perrapato, Chairman

Report of Tours Committee

Three tours were scheduled during BMS's 1979-80 fiscal year:

On February 2 members and friends traveled by bus to Riverside to view the Queen Anne Victorian style "Heritage House" built in 1891, and the famous and fascinating, and confusing, Mission Inn. This building, a National Historic Landmark, is being restored and renovated by the Riverside Redevelopment Agency for apartment, hotel and retail use.

In order to accommodate other members, a repeat trip was run on April 12.

Destination for the third trip on June 14 was the J. Paul Getty Museum, which houses one of the finest collections of Greek and Roman antiquities, Baroque and Renaissance paintings, and 18th Century decorative arts.

Tour director for all three trips was Dorothy Griner. Donna Regan assisted. All trips were profitable. Thank you, all. Richard Teague, Chairman.

NEW BOARD ELECTED

At the annual meeting of the La Mesa Historical Society, the following board members were elected:

Officers:



- President: Helen Wood Linké (Mrs. Howard)
- 1st Vice President: Patricia M. Kettler (Mrs. Vern)
- 2nd Vice President: William J. Pyper
- 3rd Vice President: Jean Guy (Mrs. Hubert P.)
- Secretary: Dorothy Griner (Mrs. E. Lee)
- Treasurer: Clifford Asay, Jr.
- Associate Treasurer: John T. Ahern

- Directors-at-Large:
 - Terms expire in 1982: Vivian Higgins (Mrs. Frank)
 - James Polak
 - Karna Webster (Mrs. Thomas)

Members of the elected Board of Directors who will continue in office:

- Directors-at-Large:
 - Terms expire in 1981: Robert Browne
 - Donna Regan
- Immediate Past-President: Joan L. Wilken (Mrs. Robert H.)

LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMITTEES

1979-180

- ARCHIVE--Pat Kettler, Chairman.
- BEQUESTS AND MEMORIAL GIFTS--Jane and Lloyd Donahoo.
- BY-LAWS REVIEW--Joan Wilken and Betty Teague, Co-Chairmen --Karna Webster and Eric Sanders
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS--Barry Worthington.
- DEPOT AND RAILROAD--Eric Sanders, Chairman. Members of the Joint LMHS-PSRMA
Committee: Brenda Baily, Jim Lundquist, Richard Pennick and Larry Rose, PSRMA;
woody Linke, Lee Lourenco, Richard Teague and Joan Wilken, LMHS.
- DIRECTORY--Jean and Hubert Guy.
- DOCUMENTS--Carol Lockwood, Chairman. Harriet Acevez, Eckoe Ahern, Elizabeth Blackwell,
Julie Bras, Mildred Bryan, Margaret Cauthen, Ruby Machado, Audrey Nash, Betty
Teague, Nadine Washburn, and Joan Wilken.
- FUND RAISING--Jean Guy, Chairman. Helen Browne, Robert Browne, Barbara Copeland,
George Felix, Jane Field, Vivian Higgins, Jo Ann Knutson, Earlene Lourenco, Andy
Smith, Mary Smith, Dawn Stanley, Thelma Todd.
- GARDEN COMMITTEE-- Beatrice Acers and Dawn Stanley.
- HISTORIAN AND SCRAP BOOK--Eva Quicksall.
- HISTORIC SITES COMMITTEE--Barry Worthington, Chairman. Louise Frankey, Dorothy Griner,
Jim Hart, Pat Kettler, Donna Regan, Thelma Todd and Karna Webster.
- HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE--Vivian Higgins, Chairman. Dorothy Benton, Marion Goode, Alda
Kirk, Ada Kuhlken, Mabel Perrapato, and Jean Twiss.
- MAILING COMMITTEE--Nadine Washburn. (This chairman will not continue. A new Mailing
Committee is needed.)
- MEMBERSHIP--Vicki Willis, Chairman.
- MEMORABILIA--Thelma Todd, Chairman. Pat Kettler, Eunice Pyper and Donna Regan.
- NEWSLETTER--Lucile DeWaide, Chairman. Eckoe Ahern, Clete Gress, Eric Sanders,
Lanette Wray.
- ORAL HISTORY --Mildred Bryan, Chairman. (This chairman will not continue. A new
chairman is needed.)
- PROGRAMS--Pat Kettler, Chairman. Eckoe Ahern, Lucile DeWaide, Lloyd Donohoo, Vivian
Higgins, Jim Polak, Dennis Tuttle, and Joan Wilken.
- PUBLICATIONS--Lucile DeWaide, Hubert Guy and Jean Guy.
- PUBLICITY--Margaret Cauthen, Chairman. (This chairman will not continue. A new
chairman and committee are needed.)
- QUILTERS--Julie Bras, Chairman. Mildred Bryan, Gail Chance, Margaret Pearson, Thelma
Todd, Nadine Washburn. Others have worked at home and contributed items.
- RESTORATION--Donna Regan, Chairman. Owen Acers, Lloyd Donahoo, Dorothy Griner, Jim
Hart, Pat Kettler, Alexa Luberski, Eunice Pyper, Bill Pyper, Thelma Todd, Karna
Webster and Joan Wilken.
- Landscape--George Felix, Chairman. Bob Browne, Howard Linke and Clarence Waters.
- TELEPHONE--Lena Authier, Helen Beamish, Elizabeth Blackwell, Beth Brown, Clare
Duermit, Fran Fahrman, Mia Gibson, Vivian Higgins, Gladys Johnston, Irene Judy,
Ada Kuhlken, Marjorie Rollins, Nanette Thompson, Jean Twiss, Irene Vita and
Jean Williams. Also assisting: Thelma Todd, Pat Kettler and Woody Linke.
- TOURS--Eric Sanders and Lloyd Donahoo, Co-Chairmen. Dorothy Griner, Donna Regan,
Richard Teague. Chairman--Dorothy Griner.



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Artist, Clete Gress.

LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Statement of Receipts and Disbursements
July 1, 1979 to June 30, 1980

| | June 1, 1980- June 30, 1980 | July 1, 1979- June 30, 1980 | 1979-80 Budget |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| <u>Cash Balance, Beginning of Period</u> | <u>\$ 435</u> | <u>\$1,211</u> | |
| <u>Receipts</u> | | | |
| 1. Membership Dues | 135 | 1,079 | \$2,400 |
| 2. Fund raising (net) | | | |
| Tours | 612 | | |
| Other | <u>194</u> | 806 | 4,000 |
| 5. Donations | | 351 | 100 |
| 6. Other | | <u>43</u> | |
| | <u>941</u> | <u>5,148</u> | <u>\$6,500</u> |
| <u>Disbursements</u> | | | |
| 10. Mortgage payments | 120 | | |
| 11. Donald McKinney | <u>55</u> | 175 | 2,100 |
| 12. Fund Raising Expenses | 618 | 618 | \$2,100 |
| 13. Postage | 11 | 187 | 150 |
| 14. Supplies and miscellaneous | | 393 | 100 |
| 15. Museum restoration | | 412 | 300 |
| 16. Insurance | 6 | 614 | 700 |
| 17. Preservation of collection | | 220 | 200 |
| 18. Loan | | 700 | 1,700 |
| 19. Interest | | 98 | 100 |
| 20. Membership | | | 25 |
| 21. Docents | | | 20 |
| 22. Printing | 32 | 464 | 400 |
| 23. Oral History | | | 30 |
| 24. Yard work & maintenance | | 19 | 160 |
| 25. Contingency | | | 515 |
| 26. Memorabilia | | | |
| | <u>842</u> | <u>5,825</u> | <u>\$6,500</u> |
| <u>Cash Balance, End of Period</u> | <u>\$ 534</u> | <u>\$ 534</u> | |

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
On June 30, 1980

Assets

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Cash in bank - available | \$ 534 |
| Museum building (assessor valuation \$45,000) | 34,333 |
| Organization costs | <u>63</u> |

Total Assets

34,930

Liabilities

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Mortgage payable - first (-0-/Month) | 22,127 |
| Mortgage payable - second (\$120/Month, 8%) | <u>7,995</u> |
| Total Liabilities | <u>30,122</u> |

EQUITY\$ 4,808