



HERITAGE

Volume 33, Issue 1

www.elcajonhistory.org

January 2012

Our Mission Statement:

To gather, preserve, and protect historical records and personal publications about those living in and around the El Cajon Valley. As part of our stewardship we will promote the gathering, display and appreciation of the region's history.

President's Message:

*“LOOKING FORWARD WHILE REMEMBERING
AND PRESERVING THE PAST”*

Dear Members and Friends of El Cajon Historical Society,

I chose the theme “Looking Forward While Remembering and Preserving the Past” for the year 2012 as it represents what the historical society members do.

I especially want to thank Past President Jonna Waite for leading the Society the last two years. She has done a wonderful job of promoting the Knox House Museum. She will continue on the Board as Co-Vice President with Joe Klock I am very fortunate to have a great Board of Directors to work with.

You will have the opportunity to meet Board Members and other Society Members at the Quarterly Meeting on Thursday, January 19, 2012. There may be a surprise guest speaker. You won't want to miss it. Be sure to register early. I am looking forward to seeing and meeting everyone!

Interested in spending some time at the Knox House Museum? We do need volunteers to Docent and work on other projects and we'd love to have you.

See you in January,
Fran Hill



2012 Board - L – R Joe Klock, Jonna Waite, Fran Parsons Hill, Kristie Klock, Carla Nowak, Mary Saxton, Bonnie Fredensborg, Rick Hall, Eldonna Lay, Dick Lay

Happy New Year! 2012

Welcome New Members:

Victoria Jones, Ken Gallo, Toni Blake, Liz Ann Roney, Megan Lay, Melissa Fazio, Betty & Carl Sparks, Edith Paul, Jim George

Dates to Remember:

Now through Jan is the exhibit Children's Toys of the Frontier, from the collection of Eldonna and Meghan Lay.

January 19 – Quarterly Meeting – Sizzler – 11:30 – 1:30.

February is Museum Month – Knox house is open every Sat. from 11 – 2. Come on Down!

IN RETROSPECT

The past couple of years have been challenging for us and our activity level has stepped up mightily. A minimum of **1,137** volunteer hours were provided in 2011 by about 15 people. Kudos to our hardworking board of directors and volunteers! However, we need more helpers.

There have been 8 great quarterly meetings in local restaurants with guests who have enlightened us, i.e., Bryon Harrington, Regis Rosner, Todd Hall, Carroll Rice, Richard Crawford, Anne Krueger, and Noah Tafolla.

Our outreach to students via the Third Grade Essay Contest celebrated its 30th year – dressing in costume was so much fun.

A book club was formed with an emphasis on history: local, state, and national, with a total of 16 books read so far. Some subjects were the Civil War, World War I, the founding of New York, science and history, as well as memoirs and fiction novels. Anyone is welcome to join the Knox Readers. |

Some surplus collection items were for sale through the Silver Creek Gallery on Main Street and there was great exposure, especially during nights of the Downtown Gallery Walks. |

The past year a Salon Series was presented on the first Friday night of each month. Guests were guitarists, a vocalist/harpist, a San Diego currency expert, an author, a Native Alaskan, a descendant of El Cajon's first Federal marshal, and a former editor of the Daily Californian newspaper.

Great progress is being made on imaging our collection of bound newspapers going back as far as 1892. We are grateful to Bob Carroll of Carmel Business Solutions for undertaking this project at no charge to us. Easily, this is worth thousands of dollars. Some of the poor images are now being re-shot and will replace microfilm images. These images are available on our research computer in the Museum office.

Our website has been updated frequently and historical articles have been added. Hopefully, folks will see value in the information and give a donation. In the future we may charge for access to the materials.

Newspaper notices have increased listing our events in local print and online publications; this has helped increase foot traffic into the museum greatly.

Research at the Museum increased as members worked on personal books and used the newspaper collections for gathering pertinent information. This activity was ongoing for many months of the past year. One important gem is member Carroll Rice, a professional writer, who researches and writes articles for the *Heritage*. His articles are posted on our website: www.elcajonhistory.org. He also has novels available on Amazon.com.

The historical society is a partner with the City of El Cajon in preparation for the Centennial. We have a representative who has given many hours compiling facts and pulling historical photos.

In 2010 we again offered our Christmas Sale with wonderful donations, sales, and great attendance for tours.

In Retrospect, cont;

This past year we did it again with sales of donated new and gently used items, art work, antique items, a live band – The Broken Strings, and a visit by the 1942 Fordor restored police car – a replica of El Cajon's first police vehicle, provided by the El Cajon Police Officers Association.

Historical photos are part of the décor in the El Cajon Brewery which stands on the site where the old Corona Hotel was built. So, as you can see – we are a vibrant group interested in Historic El Cajon.

At our Board Christmas Party, Lady Bonnie Fredensborg

surprised us with Rumbledethump patties – not to be confused with Rumpstiltskin Pie or Belted Galloway patties – and she sent the recipe for them. Try 'em you'll like 'em - Enjoy!

Lady Bonnie's recipe:

5 large Idaho potatoes mashed
¾ cup shredded cabbage
2 beaten eggs
2 T butter
1 T flour
1 t finely chopped onion
¼ t salt
1/8 t dried tarragon
1/8 t garlic powder
½ cup sour cream
1 cup shredded white cheddar cheese

Cook potatoes, covered, in boiling salted water until tender. Drain & mash.

Cook cabbage, covered, in small amount of boiling water 5 minutes. Drain

Cook onion in butter until golden

In bowl combine eggs, butter, flour and seasonings. Add potatoes, cabbage & onions and ¼ cup of cheese; beat 'til smooth

Place in ramekins and top with white cheddar cheese.

Bake at 350 for 30 minutes.



SURPRISE PROGRAM!

(Translation: we couldn't book a speaker before the newsletter deadline)

Quarterly Meeting: Thursday, January 19, 2012

Begins: 11:30 a.m.

Ends: 1:30 p.m.



**\$15/person
Program,
of steak,
chicken, or
entrée,
cream, tax &**

**all inclusive:
salad, choice
lemon
shrimp
beverage, ice
tip –**

in private room at the Sizzler on Fletcher Parkway in El Cajon.

We need a count –

please leave a message at 444.3800 and pay at the door

Please Reserve My Seat (seats) at the Quarterly Meeting Dinner – Thursday, January 19, 11:30 AM

Be sure and send in your reservation early.

Number Attending _____ X \$15.00 Amt. Enclosed _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address: _____ City _____

Email _____

Please Renew my member ship: _____ Please Upgrade membership: _____

I'll bring a prize for the raffle _____

Mail Reservation checks to: ECHS, P.O. Box 1973, El Cajon, Ca 92022 See you there!

Curator's message...

Recent acquisitions:

Pen Pictures from the Garden of the World, a 898-page tome published in 1890 by the Lewis Publishing Company of Chicago, was donated by Jennifer Wassel from the estate of her grandfather, Eugene Vacher, *This Illustrated History of Southern California embraces "the Counties of San Diego, San Bernardino, Los Angeles and Orange, and the Peninsula of Lower California, from the Earliest Period of Occupancy to the Present Time; together with Glimpses of their Prospects; also, Full-Page Portraits of some of their Eminent Men, and Biographical Mention of Many of their Pioneers and of Prominent Citizens of today. They will be of continued use for local and visiting researchers."* Although not included in this introduction, El Cajon's Josephine Vacher personally edited the narrative – crossing out portions of some claims and noting in the margins the appropriate whos, whats, wheres and whens of happenings in San Diego County. For instance, in the pages dedicated to Douglas Gunn, who arrived in San Diego in 1869 to assume editorial charge of the *San Diego Union*. Josie added her father's name (Josephus M. Asher) to Gunn's credit for being a member of the editorial staff of the *San Francisco Times* before moving to San Diego. Gunn would become the city's mayor in 1890. Two years later, Josie was awarded the first prize by the Agricultural Board of the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago for her method of processing raisins! She has left many such insightful notes that will be of ongoing aid to today's local and visiting researchers.

El Cajon's historic photo collection

Twenty-some of the Society's greatly enlarged photos now cover the walls of the new El Cajon Brewery, built on the corner once dominated by the historic Hotel del Corona, and more recently the Hollywood Video store. The brewery restaurant was where the Society held its Annual Dinner. Fifty members and their guests attended and reported enjoying both the program and a three-course cordon bleu dinner. Gloria Chadwick's painting of Knox House was formally hung in the new downtown El Cajon Brewery on the evening of its Chamber of Commerce grand opening.

Curator cont.

In January, six other large photos will be installed inside Westfield-Parkway Plaza along the hallway outside their main offices. These photographs, too, will be greatly enlarged and accompanied by explanatory verbiage. As photo sales are a source of Society funding, the extra income aids us in paying the ever-rising costs of maintaining and operating the museum

El Cajon Historical Society Board 2012

President: Fran Parsons Hill
Vice President: Jonna Waite – Joe Klock
Recording Secretary: Carla Nowak
Corresponding Secretary: Vacant
Treasurer: George Dall C.P.A.

The following persons are nominated for election to the Board of Directors for 3-year terms ending December 31, 2014:

Christy Klock
Joe Klock
Dick Lay
Carla Nowak

The following Directors will continue to serve with terms ending December 31, 2012:

George Dall
Bonnie Fredensborg
Eldonna Lay
Mary Saxton

The following Directors will continue to serve with terms ending December 31, 2013:

Rick Hall
Fran Hill
Carroll Rice



If you know of some fun El Cajon facts from the last 100 years - not that you're that old - please share them with us. We'd love to put them in the Newsletter!

Available now on our research computer:

El Cajon Valley News: 1899, 1909-1916

Once a Week: 1899

San Diego Advertiser: 1898

Semi Tropic Culturist: 1898

We are open for research Tuesdays. Please call Jenna at 619.540.6301 to confirm availability.

Historical Photos are available for purchase from the museum. Any photo owned by the San Diego Historical Society or Titor Title must be purchased from the San Diego Historical Society. Those funds go to preserve, catalogue and protect the photos.

Photo copy \$20.00

Scan Fee \$25.00

Research \$38.00 per hour



Time and Labor Saving devices of the 20's
Vacuum cleaner, electric coffee pot, and a dishwashing machine under the enameled top.
Just think of what our grandkids and great-grandkids will think of what we consider ultra-modern today! "The Home" 1923



Built-in bins and cupboards help keep the kitchen organized and more efficient. "The Home" 1923
I could really use those now!

Knox Readers Book Club:

We recently read the 1,000 page tome, *And Ladies of the Club*, a great overview of life in a small Ohio town. Currently we are reading *Killing Lincoln* by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard - a history book that reads like a thriller. All are welcome to join us at the Knox House Museum on Wednesday, January 11, at 2 p.m. for a discussion. A popular and highly recommended science and biography is *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, explains cells used in cancer research.

New Dues Rates – Just a slight increase.

The last increase was 1996 but our expenses continue to rise. i.e., insurance on the Knox House Museum, storage for old, bound newspapers, costs for internet/website, virtual tour, newsletter printing, postage, security system and telephone. The budget will show the costs of these items.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2012

Individual \$12.00

Family \$20.00

Organization \$30.00

Business \$40.00

Enhanced Life Member is still \$500.00

We appreciate your membership and your donations!

Please mail your check to: ECHS, PO Box 1973, El Cajon CA 92022-1973

El Cajon Historical Society
P.O. Box 1973
El Cajon, CA 92022

*Return Service
Requested*

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 154
EL CAJON, CA 92020

Money Saving Cleaning Secrets – from “The Home” 1923

Blood stains – 1. Mix common starch as for use in the laundry and lay on quite wet in a thick coat over the spot. 2. Apply freely a weak solution of soda or potash. Then apply a solution of alum.

Mildew – 1. Moisten hypochlorite of alumina with water, rub well into the cloth, moisten again with diluted sulphuric acid, 1 part to 20 parts of water and after half an hour rinse in thoroughly in soft water and then in water containing about 1 oz. to the gallon of sulphite or hyposulphite of soda. The hypochlorite may be applied with a stiff brush.

So this why pupils were so attuned to chemistry in the old days!

Knox House Museum
280 N. Magnolia
P.O. Box 1973
El Cajon, CA 92022

Museum Hours:
Currently Open

Saturdays from 11 – 2pm
Call first for specific hours
619 444-3800