



EL CAJON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HERITAGE



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July 2018

President's Message



Dear Friends,

We are embarking on an important project at the Knox House. Our intent is to digitize all of our loose-leaf print materials. We have 90 library storage boxes full of articles about people, places, and things in El Cajon history.

As it stands now, if we have a fire, those materials would be lost. That would be catastrophic. If we are able to get them digitized, then they can be loaded onto our computer and protected by our off-site back-up system.

We have approved the purchase of a digital camera and stand and other necessary paraphernalia for the project. When the equipment arrives, we begin the project. That is where you come in!



We could use people who are willing to be trained to do this work along with us. We think that we could use your help on the first and third Saturdays of each month (not August) between 11am and 2pm when our docents are there anyway. You wouldn't need a key to the museum and someone would be there to "show you the ropes". There's also opportunity to help on Wednesday mornings each week between 8:30am and 10:30am. Linda Garity and I will be happy to help you.

If you're interested in the project, please let me know by calling 1-619-442-2398 (home) or emailing me at clnowak77@gmail.com.

Carla



Have you tried out Amazon Smile yet?

Remember, your purchases can benefit the El Cajon Historical Society at no cost to you!

Here's how...

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Every item available for purchase on www.amazon.com is also available on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) at the same price. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.

How to sign up:

On your first visit to **AmazonSmile** (smile.amazon.com), you are prompted to select a charitable organization from our list of eligible organizations. You can change your selection at any time.

Slate of Officers for 2018:

President.....Carla Nowak
Vice President.....Colleen White
Recording Secretary.....Rebecca Taylor
Corresponding Secretary.....Ruth Cope
Treasurer.....George Dall/Joe Klock

Continuing Directors whose term expires December 2018:

George Dall
Mike Kaszuba
Jack Dickens
Rebecca Taylor

Continuing Directors whose term expires December 31, 2019:

Colleen White
Fran Hill
Eldonna Lay
Joe Klock

Proposed Directors whose term expires December 31, 2020:

Linda Garity
Ruth Cope
Carla Nowak
Christy Klock

Proposed Appointed Directors:

Rick Hall
Carroll Rice
Linda Foltz

Telephone Messages: 619-444-3800

ANATOMY OF AN HISTORIC MARKER...

The story began when DAR member Kathy Fiedor (also a member of ECHS) suggested the Knox House Museum as a site for marking. A group of representatives from DAR visited the Knox and met with Eldonna Lay and Carla Nowak.



It was decided that the Knox House was worthy of such an honor and the process began. Research from ECHS website and various print resources helped Kathy Fiedor to prove the authenticity of the wording decided on for the plaque.

The plaque was then ordered and cast. It is gorgeous, made of bronze, and very heavy. It was decided to affix the plaque to a framework and then mount it on the wall.

Thanks to Chris Nowak for making the frame and to Bob Nowak and Rick Hall for mounting it on the wall.

On Saturday, April 21st, the marker was dedicated and DAR and ECHS members were invited to the Knox House Museum for tours and viewing the marker.

A short celebration with cake and drinks was held at the Wieghorst Museum.



My Mother, School and a Lamb

by G. Carroll Rice



I was six years old in February 1935 and had seldom been away from my mother. My grandmother, great aunt, neighbor, or close friend had always been available to take care of me when she had to be away for a short time. She had taught me to read some, print my name, count, tell time, and other first grade skills, but playmates had been scarce in my pre-school years. Sometimes my mother took care of Malcolm Ellis, who was my age, while his mother worked part time during the orange packing seasons. This, and a weekly visit to a Baptist Church Sunday School class brought me in contact the other children my age, but our two neighbor boys were considerably older than I.

When the time came to go to school and the Cajon Valley Union Grammar School beckoned, I was naturally excited but really not too sure as to the details. My mother, recognizing that I would find the transition difficult, rode the school bus with me the first two days. The legendary first-grade teacher, Mrs. Josephine Vacher welcomed me and assigned me a desk. It was fun and I quickly recognized some of my Sunday school friends in the crowded classroom. Scotty Embleton was acting up and my mother laughed when the teacher called him by the names of his father and uncles . . . and Mrs. Vacher laughed too. She had been teaching for a long time.

My mother rode the bus with me again the next day, making sure I knew where my classroom was and what bus I was to ride, Again school was fun, but the third day, knowing that I was familiar with the routine, she slipped away leaving me crying at my desk. I felt abandoned by my mother and wept bitterly. Mrs. Vacher, God bless her, was familiar with situations like mine and just let me cry my misery away.

Although my mother walked me down the driveway to the bus stop, the daily school bus departure still left me tearful and apprehensive. Would I remember the right bus? Would I find the right restroom? Would that big bully threaten me with words I didn't understand?

Still I forced myself to take the steps up into the school bus suffering a haunting feeling that I was leaving all that was familiar behind. The other students on the crowded bus seemed hostile or indifferent, but my wise mother saw the situation and determined to see to it that I was 'singular.'

Back in 1935, Fletcher Hills was relatively unpopulated and the vegetation was kept in check by grazing livestock, including flocks of sheep.

Lambs are sometimes abandoned by their mothers and a sheep herder gave one such orphan to my father. The lamb thrived under my mother's care, and one morning she called him as we left the house. He came frisking and jumping, joining us on our morning walk to the bus stop. We played with the lamb until the bus came, laughing at his head butting and attempts at grazing.

When the bus arrived, the riders crowded the windows, fascinated by the lamb, his gamboling gait and happy tail-shaking jumps. Soon I was brushing back my tears and answering questions about the lamb. After a week or so, the lamb was no longer so fascinating; I was bravely meeting the bus by myself and had been accepted into a friendly band of bus riders.

Of course the time came when the lamb grew into an aggressive little ram and a positive nuisance. My father gave it to a friend who passed it on to Lakeside-Ramona writer Judy Van der Veer who made pets out of her livestock. I am told that she referred to that sheep in one of her many books about animals, so he probably lived to a ripe old age.

It was not long before I was enjoying myself at school and having fun riding the bus. A combination of my mother's compassion, love, and a lamb had set the foundation for a host of long, long-lasting friendships.



Our Thanks to Friends of East County Arts

Thanks to a grant from Friends of East County Arts we have a beautiful new sign announcing that we are open.

We also have additional money left for printing postcards and reprinting children's books.



We are extremely grateful for the help and support given to us by “Friends” now, as well as in the past.

A Visit To Edgemoor Dairy Farm

Edgemoor Family Dairy Farm was built as part of a Dairy Farm in 1913 in Santee.

Edgemoor was part of a Spanish land grant to Maria Antonio Estudillo who married Miguel de Pedronrena, a native of Madrid. By 1850, through a variety of ways, individuals obtained portions of the grant and began to farm.

Walter Hamlin Dupree purchased Edgemoor Farm in 1913 and built it into a national award winning dairy farm, polo pony ranch and early tourist attraction.

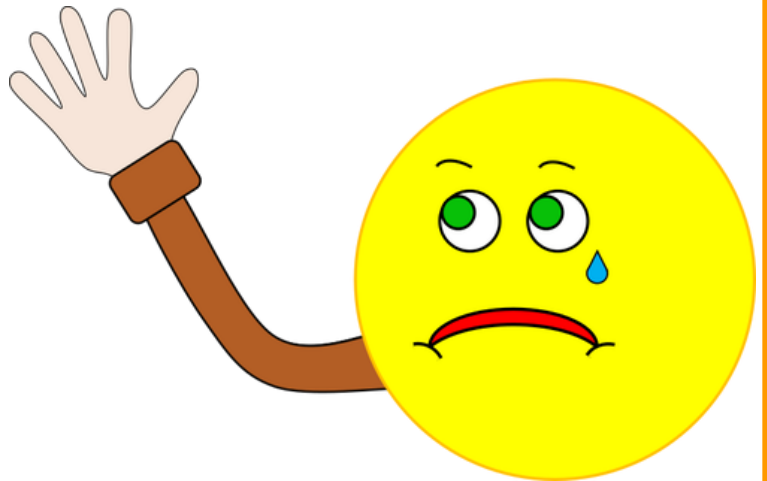


Our quarterly meeting this month will take place at the Edgemoor Farm. Please see the details on the back of the newsletter and get your reservations in early!

LAST CHANCE TO PAY OVERDUE DUES!

We surely don't want to see you go, so if you haven't paid your membership dues, please send them in as soon as possible. Unpaid memberships will soon be deleted.

We do make many attempts to contact our members before this happens, so if you haven't heard from us, please contact us to make sure we have the correct contact information for you.



Most memberships are on a calendar year basis.

Membership dues for 2018 remain: \$12 for Individual \$20 Family \$30 Organization \$40 Business \$500 Enhanced Life (Life members never need to renew).

Please make checks payable to ECHS and send to: P.O. Box 1973, El Cajon, CA 92022-1973.

Telephone Messages: 619-444-3800.

Thank you!

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

To:

July Meeting

The July quarterly meeting is
Thursday, July 19th at 11am at the
OLD Edgemoor Polo Barn in Santee.

The address is 9400 North Magnolia,
just north of Woodside at the lighted
intersection.

The famous Barbeque Pit will cater the
luncheon with a great menu of their
famous Barbeque, cole slaw, fries and
a beverage, all still for only \$15.

The tour of the old barn promises to be
rich in history and lots of historic items.

So, make your reservations and bring
your relatives and friends.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

July Meeting Reservation Form

Number Attending _____ @ \$15 Each

Name

Address

City, Zip

Phone

E-mail

RESERVATION DEADLINE – JULY 16, 2018

Mail reservations to:

ECHS, P.O. Box 1973, El Cajon, CA 92022-1973