



EL CAJON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
**HERITAGE**



Volume 39 Issue 4

[www.elcajonhistory.org](http://www.elcajonhistory.org)

October 2018

## President's Message



Dear Friends,

I am including a portion of a letter I received from someone interested in the 16 boxes and 1 plastic tub of Mother Goose Parade memorabilia that was recently brought to us for storage. She said:

*"Today I was deeply disappointed to learn my offer to begin my Mother Goose Parade project will not be going forward. I realize this project is not a high priority for the historical society and these records were essentially thrust upon the society with the closure of the Mother Goose Parade Association offices. My concern is there do not appear to be volunteers available to pursue this project at the Knox Museum."*

Her frustration comes through loud and clear. I share her frustration and told her so in my reply:

*"I sense and understand your frustration! You are correct in assuming that there are no volunteers available to pursue the project."*

Would you be part of the solution to this problem? It would require a slow and steady inventorying of the 16 banker boxes and 1 plastic tub – a listing of each item with a description – a categorizing. This could be done on Wednesday mornings when Linda Garity and I are already at the Knox House and are available to answer any questions you might have. Please contact me at [clnowak77@gmail.com](mailto:clnowak77@gmail.com).

Carla

# 2019 ECHS Budget & Slate of Officers

El Cajon Historical Society-- Budget 2019

## Income

Book Sales	\$ 500.00
Donations	\$ 500.00
Dues	\$2,200.00
Investment Income	\$ 20.00
Opportunity Drawings	\$ 450.00
Quarterly Meetings	\$1,000.00
Special Events	<u>\$2,660.00</u>
	<b>\$7,330.00</b>

## Expenses

Building Maintenance	\$ 50.00
Insurance	\$2,200.00
Membership	\$ 25.00
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 100.00
Newsletter/Publications	\$ 300.00
Office Expense	\$ 250.00
PO Box Rental	\$ 100.00
Postage	\$ 250.00
Quarterly Meetings	\$1,000.00
Safe Deposit Box Rent	\$ 135.00
Sales Tax	\$ 50.00
Security	\$ 500.00
Storage	\$ 820.00
Special Events	\$ 50.00
Telephone/Internet	<u>\$1,500.00</u>
	<b>\$7,330.00</b>

### 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

# Change to Bylaws of the El Cajon Historical Society

Approved at our September Meeting

Article VIII (Officers)

Section 6. (Treasurer)

6.c.

Prepare and present, or arrange for the presentation and approval, of financial statements ~~at each meeting~~ **quarterly** ~~of~~ for the Board of Directors and ~~of~~ the Corporation. **(Treasurer would supply answers to any questions on demand from the Board of Directors in the interim).**



## MEMBERSHIP DUES

Thank you for responding to our plea to pay your dues! Your membership keeps us going. Be sure to read G. Carroll Rice's article on the next page for more information on this and your important role in the ECHS.

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!

# Historical Society is Deeply Troubled

by G. Carroll Rice

Your society is on its way out. Without the coordinated help of its membership, there is doubt that it will last another year. I'm not crying "Wolf!"

In short, we need money, volunteers, and a wider membership . . . not necessarily in that order.

At present, there is a core of dedicated, hard working, enthusiastic volunteers who regularly fill the officer slots, spend time and effort as docents, catalog documents and maintain the facility. Those fifteen or twenty members can't last forever; they can't decorate the Knox House, catalog artifacts, digitize documents, greet visitors, etc. all by themselves, and have any life left over.

Recruiting younger members and volunteers of any age could give us a significant turnaround. (Example: Our current digitization project will occupy many hours and could create a host of new studies and articles – but will require volunteers to perform the work.

We should establish much closer relationships with high school museums, other historical societies, and such sites as *You know you're from El Cajon* . . . (on Facebook) and make it clear that their participants are welcome at the Knox. It also appears that many of the members of the *You know you're from El Cajon* site were students or active in the Valley in the late years of the last century – a period we should cover in our files . . . and others have historical photos and files that are valuable resources for all of the Societies.

The Knox House must be open longer hours if visitors are to be attracted – more visitors mean more donations and new members.

The need for money is critical; our expenditures keep rising as we struggle to keep up with current needs. The Board avoided raising annual dues as long as possible and then raised them only three dollars, beginning next year. New members have been fewer than expected in 2018 and the work has increased. We must recruit and maintain active members. Perhaps an influx of younger members will produce new programs to raise money and attract more community interest.

Our Historical Society has a sound foundation and history; if we plan and cooperate, we can overcome the challenges time has given us. Who knows? One of those new, bright, and enthusiastic members has a suggestion that will turn things around . . . or why not you?

The following article is from the Mountain Heritage Newsletter.

# Mountain Heritage

## THE BACK COUNTRY'S HISTORICAL DIGEST

Voice of the Mountain Empire Historical Society, Campo, CA



Volume 30 Number 2

Spring 2017

50 Cents

### History of U.S.-Mexico Boundary Monuments in the Mountain Empire Area

By Fred Wills

Arizona Landowner: *"Who cares about those monuments?"*

David Taylor: *"People who care about history."*

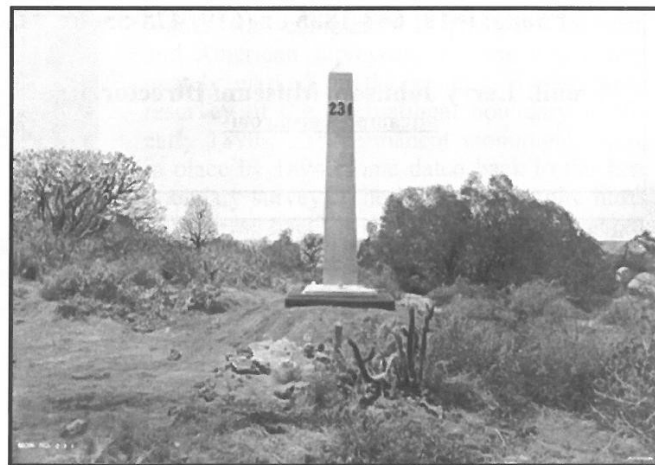
Arizona Landowner: *"Nobody cares about those monuments."*

David Taylor: *"I care about them; it's important to make a (photographic) document at this moment since there's been so much change along the border over the last decade."*

When the United States and Mexico signed the peace treaty at Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2, 1848, ending the war between the two nations, a new phase of their relationship began. Mexico had lost a huge chunk of its land and the U.S. had gained its southwestern quarter, later to be divided into six large states. It was critical for both countries to define the limits of their territories. The United States wanted to firm up the outline of its conquest, and Mexico needed to insure that no further losses of land and dignity would ensue.

The boundary between California and Baja California was jointly surveyed by parties from the two nations beginning July 6, 1849. This part of the boundary survey was completed in 1851. The Rio Grande boundary was surveyed in 1851 and 1853. The Gadsden Purchase agreement of December 30, 1853 changed the land boundary and required a new survey. Field work on the boundary between El Paso and the Colorado River was completed by December 18, 1855. The final boundary maps were signed on September 21, 1857 in Washington, D.C. This official action brought the first boundary survey to a close, but it did not solve all the problems of separating the two countries, as the line between them was poorly marked on the ground. Most of the original survey monuments were little more than large rock cairns, and these were sometimes destroyed by Indians and settlers. There were only 52 or 53 monuments placed along the entire land border. Many of these were farther apart than they should have been, and sometimes not even where they should have been. The problems of a poorly defined boundary festered for years. On July 29, 1882, a bi-national commission recommended a resurvey of the entire border and in 1883, a preliminary reconnaissance survey was made by Lt. Thomas W. Symons without the participation of Mexico. Political wrangling in both countries delayed the definitive resurvey of the boundary until 1892.

By the end of June, 1894, 256 of the 258 permanent monuments marking the land boundary between Mexico and the United States had been installed, and the remaining two (Nos. 255 and 258) were in place by August 1894. While a few were made of stone or masonry, most of the monuments were cast iron, either solid or cast in sections to make transporting them in difficult topography easier. These obelisks which were 6 1/2 feet tall and bolted to a 3 feet by 3 feet concrete base, weighed about 800 pounds and were cast in a foundry in El Paso, Texas. Each was photographed in place by D. R. Payne of Albuquerque, New Mexico. During the early 20th century, an additional 18 monuments were placed along the border to better define the line in some urban areas. These were given numbers that fit into the sequence by adding a letter to the number. Some new monuments were even put on railroad bridges across the Rio Grande at the middle of the river. By 1975, 442 small concrete markers had been added between the monuments to further refine the international boundary.



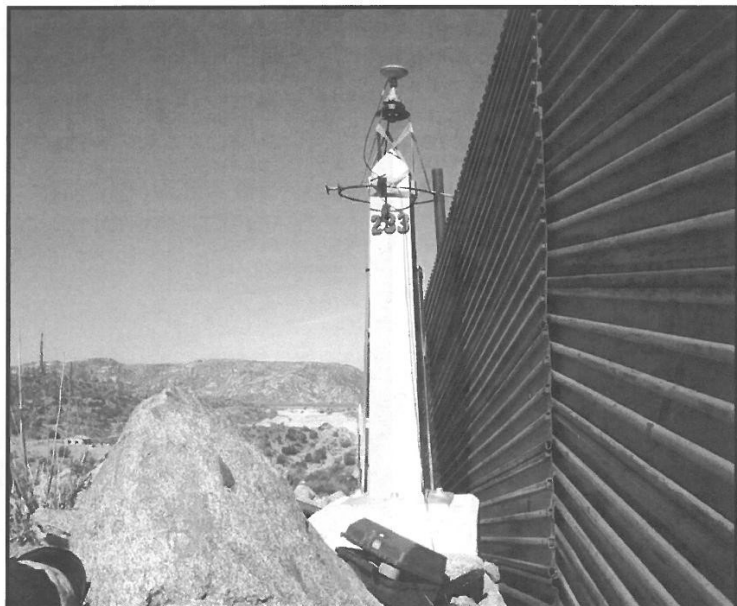
A west view of Monument 231 as photographed by D. R. Payne in 1894. It is located 5.5 miles east of Jacumba.

Boundary Monuments...continues on pg. 3

## Boundary Monuments in the Mountain Empire Area...continued from cover

For most of its history, the U.S.-Mexico border had been delineated by nothing more than livestock fencing. In 1990, the Border Patrol began putting up 14 miles of solid metal fencing between San Diego and Tijuana to deter unauthorized crossings. Passage of the Secure Fence Act of 2006, partly a response to the terrorism committed against the United States on September 11, 2001, extended this approach to much more of the boundary. By May 2011, 652 miles of authorized vehicle barriers and pedestrian fencing were 99.5% complete. These structures were unilaterally put in place by the United States on its side of the border, thus isolating many of the monuments on the south side of the barrier. The once obscure monuments had become literally invisible from the U.S. side, and their fate more uncertain.

The monuments along the California-Baja California Norte boundary (Nos. 206-258) were erected between March 20 and June 30, 1894. Those within the Mountain Empire area are numbered 231 to 251. In the vicinity of Tecate, 244A and 244B increase the total to 23. In 2007, as the U.S. moved to install more barriers, the monuments were re-photographed by Mexican survey crews working under the auspices of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC). The IBWC is the agency responsible for maintaining the monuments. At the same time, the survey crews also collected GPS locations for all of the monuments. An American artist, David Taylor, also re-photographed all the monuments during the years 2006-2015 (those in the Mountain Empire were photographed in 2009, 2010, and 2014). These two sets of photographs document changes in border landscapes along the boundary and changes in the condition of the monuments over about 113 years.



Monument 233 as photographed on June 26, 2007. It is located 0.6 miles southwest of Jacumba. West view courtesy of IBWC. The device on monument is a GPS antenna used by surveyors.

Potential topics of interest to historians, archaeologists, and others are the condition of the monuments themselves, the state of the landscapes they occupy, and environmental change over more than a century. The toughness of the monuments' iron construction and their enormous weight offer some protection against the elements and vandals. Nevertheless, many monuments have been used for target practice, and some numbers and flag sockets have been pried off. In 2007, five of those in the Mountain Empire are missing one or more numerals. Twelve of the 23 monuments are marred by graffiti.

Various types of constructed features are evident in the 2007 photos. Eight monument sites show livestock fencing. Ten have solid metal barriers or other types of walls. Sixteen have buildings in the view. Powerlines and street lights are often present. Roads or streets are visible from 21 of the monuments.

Landscapes seen in the 2007 photos have been remodeled by human action. Topography has been radically altered by road cuts at two of the monuments. Vegetation loss or change is evident at 11 of the monuments.

Differences between the landscapes of 1894 and 2007 are dramatic. Clear evidence of roads and buildings is seen only at Monument 243 in 1894. By 2007, roads and buildings can be seen from at least 16 of the 23 monuments.

The U.S.-Mexico boundary was first surveyed between 1849 and 1855. Though the border was completely mapped by Mexican and American surveyors, the line was inadequately marked on the ground. Following a resurvey of the international boundary in the early 1890s, 258 permanent monuments were in place by 1894 (some dated back to the first boundary survey). The Mountain Empire hosts 23 of these obelisks. Photographs of the monument sites taken in 1894 and 2007 can be compared to assess the condition of the monuments, the current state of the landscapes around them, and the amount of environmental change over a period of about 113 years. Major changes in the boundary area have taken place, and more are likely in the coming years.

(See pg. 4 for sources.)

Boundary Monuments...concludes on pg. 4

## Boundary Monuments in the Mountain Empire Area...continued from pg. 3

Sources cited for Boundary Monuments in the Mountain Empire area:

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Introductory Quote: <https://www.kcet.org/shows/artbound/the-journey-to-border-monument-number-140>.

Minnich, R. A. and C. J. Bahre. 1995. Wildland fire and chaparral succession along the California-Baja California boundary. International Journal of Wildland Fire 5(1): 13-24. [their date for the photographs is wrong]

Payne, D. R. 1898. Report of the Boundary Commission upon the survey and re-marking of the boundary between the United States and Mexico west of the Rio Grande, 1891-1896: Album. Views of the monuments and characteristic scenes along the boundary between the United States and Mexico west of the Rio Grande. 55th Congress, 2nd Session, Senate Document No. 247.

Taylor, D. 2015. Monuments: 276 views of the United States-Mexico border. Radius Books, Santa Fe, New Mexico. 335pp.

*(Editor's Note: We greatly appreciate this article by MEHS member and retired biologist, Fredrick H. Wills. A published amateur historical author with an interest in the Southwest, Wills is the author of a forthcoming book on Agua Caliente State Park.)*

## EVER HEAR OF THE HORSELESS CARRIAGE FOUNDATION?

October is your opportunity to learn about this unique non-profit organization, as D. A. "Mac" MacPherson, the current executive director of the Automotive Research Library of the HCFI will be the speaker at our October meeting. Among Mac's many duties are scanning, editing and cataloging what amounts to nearly three million pages of automotive periodicals. Most are from the early 1920's and even older. The library does have operating hours during which it is free to come in and read, and they also conduct research requests for a fee. Mac recently helped a member find a caster, camber and toe-in specs for a 1917 Hudson!

If you would like to learn more, be sure to attend our quarterly meeting on October 18.

The library is located in La Mesa.

Their phone # is 619.464.0301,  
email: [research@hcfi.org](mailto:research@hcfi.org), website: [HCFI.org](http://HCFI.org).



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

**To:**

## October Meeting

The October quarterly meeting is Thursday, October 18 at 11am at the New Century Buffet Banquet Room.

Located at 868 Jackman Street, the Buffet serves Chinese, Japanese and American cuisine.

The cost for lunch is still only \$15!

Our speaker will be Mac MacPherson, the Executive Director of the Automotive Research Library of the Horseless Carriage Foundation (HFCI).

So, make your reservations early.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

## October Meeting Reservation Form

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15 Each

Name

Address

City, Zip

Phone

E-mail

**RESERVATION DEADLINE – October 15, 2018**

Mail reservations to:

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

*Reservations not kept become a donation.*