



EL CAJON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# HERITAGE



Volume 40 Issue 2

www.elcajonhistory.org

April 2019

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear friends,



Hooray!, Linda Garity has begun our long term digitizing project. It is extremely time consuming and detail oriented – but satisfying when entries are completed.

It is our plan to hire a grant writer (highly recommended to us) to secure funds for more help on the digitizing project, furnace repair, and operating funds. The money for the grant writer will come from unrestricted bequest funds. I will let you know quarterly of progress in this regard.

Again, we owe our gratitude to Friends of East County Arts. Eldonna wrote a grant application for funds to transport students from CVUSD schools to the Knox House and Wieghorst Museum, and “Friends” granted us \$500. If you know a “Friend”, express our gratitude.

We instituted a modified version of our Visual History of El Cajon Art Contest for this year. Deadline for art to be turned in was March 29<sup>th</sup>. We will let you know about the winners and prizes in the next Heritage.

Fondly,  
Carla

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# DO YOU REMEMBER THIS?

by Eldonna Lay, Curator



***Photographed in 1987 by Russel Stockwell, the archivist of El Cajon's Knox House Museum, from El Cajon's then-new City Hall window overlooking Rea Street directly below, and Main and Douglas Streets and Lexington Avenue.***

When Prescott Street was first formed in horse-and-buggy days, then periodically lengthened and paved, it started on Main Street and ran incrementally south to Chase Avenue. Change came when the mayor, city council and city manager in the early 1990s voted to build a City/County government compound as shown in an earlier Society newsletter. This required, however, removal of the portion of Prescott Street between Douglas Street and Lexington Avenue.

On the cleared and scraped area between Claydelle and Magnolia, work began on a new and badly needed multi-storied senior citizen apartment tower on Lexington Avenue, a one-story brick City Hall and a small fire station. The County Board of Supervisors replaced the tiny old library facing Lexington with the much larger and attractive one we use today. Additionally, at the corner of Lexington and Magnolia Avenues, the County also added a one-story brick courthouse. All this was meant to reassure and encourage the public to return to downtown's failing shops during a time when fast new freeways and the glamorous new malls alongside them were luring Main Street shoppers away.

# KNOX HOUSEKEEPING

## MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

**Hard to believe it is already Spring!**

**Unfortunately, that also means that we are well into 2019 and still have some memberships with unpaid dues.**

**If you haven't had a chance to renew your membership yet, please take a few minutes to "spring" into action and send in your dues!**

Your membership keeps us going. Most memberships are on a calendar year basis.

Membership dues are: \$15 for Individual, \$25 Family, \$45 Business & Non-Profit, \$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.

Your membership keeps us going and we are so very grateful!



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

**To:**

## April Quarterly Meeting

New Century Buffet  
868 Jackman  
El Cajon, CA  
(corner Fletcher Parkway/Marshall)

Thursday, April 18 at 11:00am.

Cost \$15

Our speaker will be Eldonna Lay,  
speaking on:  
"El Cajon in 1998-1999"

Membership cards will be available  
for current members.

Deadline for registration:

April 11, 2019

Turn in your reservation form early!

*Bring something to add to our  
auction selection!*

Looking forward to seeing you there!

## April Meeting Reservation Form

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

### RESERVATION DEADLINE

**April 11, 2019**

Mail reservations/checks to:  
ECHS, P.O. Box 1973, El Cajon, CA 92022-1973

*Reservations not kept become a donation.*