



EL CAJON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HERITAGE

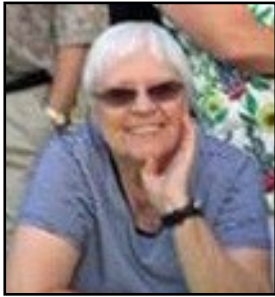


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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I remember my first message as President of the El Cajon Historical Society, I recall stating that it was the relationships formed with Board members prior to assuming the presidency that drew me in-not my abilities as an historian. That sentiment still rings true. Your board members continue to amaze me in their faithfulness to the idea of preserving the history of El Cajon.

Vice President, **Colleen White**, has lived through a serious health issue but wants to continue coming up with speakers for our quarterly meetings. (That is when we are able to have them again!) She has been a great help to me and

to you.

Linda Garity has been an invaluable support. She has been Secretary, stepped in as Vice President when Colleen was ill, and now is our Office Manager and involved in the process of digitizing our records.

Becky Taylor has been docent coordinator, covering school tours of the Knox House for third grade students. This past year she has been our Secretary, a docent, and attended a plethora of area meetings on our behalf.

Yvonne Paris has served as our Corresponding Secretary as well as spearheading fund-raising ideas.

Joe Klock is our Treasurer who attends board meetings and liaisons with **George Dall** who is our de facto Treasurer. We are extremely grateful for George's help. He's a CPA and keeps us legal! Joe also collects mail from the Post Office each week and delivers it to me with heads up as to what needs immediate action and what does not.

Christy Klock has been our Membership Chairman forever. She keeps track of membership and dues-paying, corresponds with members regarding dues and membership and maintains a database of membership information.

Rick Hall has been (since I have been involved with ECHS) our Maintenance guy. While that is important and necessary (especially when the heat or air-conditioning is not working), he represents us to present awards when we have the Essay or Art Contest, he chairs various committees voluntarily, docents, and is constantly thinking ahead and coming up with ideas to benefit the society.

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Eldonna Lay, our Curator for as many years as I can remember, has been invaluable as an answerer of questions no one else can answer. Her health precludes her from coming to the Knox now, but she continues as our Curator Emeritus. Her book, *Valley of Opportunity*, remains the most comprehensive history of our city.

Mike Kazsuba is our archivist and liaison with those seeking information about our history. He has also represented us at Congress of History and other area meetings.

Michelle Braun has been our webmaster for which we are extremely grateful.

At present, we have some Members-at-large. **Carroll Rice**, former president is one of them. He regales us with a story from El Cajon's early history at each board meeting. **Jack Dickens** is a Saturday docent and also a repository for stories of early El Cajon and San Diego. **Fran Hill** has probably served in every possible position on the board. Her ill health is now keeping her away from us physically, but her contributions to ECHS are immeasurable. **Linda Foltz** edits our Heritage newsletter. That is not an easy job. We frequently are late getting our articles in or remiss in writing them at all. I am extremely grateful to her. I save the newest member of our board for last.

Andrew Alegria is our Docent Coordinator. Since his first meeting with us, we have been amazed at the ideas for new and wonderful things he has. Right now he is working with a young neighbor to produce video snippets about artifacts in the Knox House for use on Facebook.

My hat is off to them all!

Carla Nowak, President



The Mother Goose Project

By Carla Nowak

Some months ago we were approached as a repository for the Mother Goose Parade memorabilia. We accepted, considering the parade is an important part of the history of El Cajon. Nearly fifteen boxes of varying sizes appeared on our doorstep. We had no idea what all was in them, but in the last month we have begun to explore the boxes. It appears upon first look that the office that housed these materials before was not given much time to decide what to save. They saved everything!!! There are post-it notes with a name and phone number on them. There are yellow legal tablets with nothing written in them. So the project has begun with sifting through and trying to determine what is truly of historical value. I've purchased Access (a relational database software) for my computer and am now working on box number 4. These items will eventually be stored at our Raleigh storage facility. So far, I have found multitudes of photos, many of which have no identification of who the people are. If I recognize faces, or if bands are identified in the photo, I am labelling as I can. I've found advertisement mock-ups, names of sponsors, programs, contracts, and many other items. I am including a photo with this article of author Mary Engelbreit, Grand Marshall of the parade in 2006 (because I worked in the library, and it caught my attention). If you have memories of the parade that would be useful to store with this memorabilia, please let us know.



Blast From the Past...City Mail Delivery Started 1943

By Carla Nowak

Considering all the press devoted to how the Post Office is working, or not, this article from the City of El Cajon 50th Anniversary brochure of 1961 caught my attention.

“The citizens of El Cajon petitioned Postmaster Jackson C. Roether to initiate city delivery throughout the city, Bostonia and several other areas in the vicinity. Roether took the matter up with officials and was able to establish three routes. Route 1 would cover Bostonia and the north side of Main Street. Route 2 was to be that area covered by the business area as well as several side streets. Then there was Route 3 which covered most of the area south of Main Street, from Pierce Street to the west and out to South Second Street to the east.”

Board Business

EL Cajon Historical Society Proposed Officers 2021

**BARRING ANY OBJECTIONS, THE SLATE OF PROPOSED OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
WILL BE ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION.**

OBJECTIONS ONLY may be sent to the El Cajon Historical Society either by email:

echs0997@att.net or by mail::

ECHS, P.O. BOX 1973, EL CAJON, CA 92022-1973

Objections must be postmarked no later than October 29, 2020.

President..... Rick Hall

Vice President.....Colleen White

Recording SecretaryRebecca Taylor

Corresponding Secretary.....Yvonne Paris

Treasurer.....George Dall

Continuing Directors whose term expires December 31, 2021

George Dall
Mike Kaszuba
Jack Dickens
Rebecca Taylor

Continuing Directors whose term expires December 31, 2022

Colleen White
Fran Hill
Eldonna Lay
Rick Hall

Continuing Directors whose term expires December 31, 2023

Linda Garity
Yvonne Paris
Carla Nowak
Christy Klock

Proposed Appointed Directors

Linda Foltz
Joe Klock
G. Carroll Rice
Andrew Alegria

Board Business

PROPOSED 2021 BUDGET

Income			
	Book Sales		\$200.00
	Donations		\$500.00
	Dues		\$2,000.00
	Investment Income		\$50.00
	Opportunity Drawings		\$450.00
	Quarterly Meetings		\$1,000.00
	Special Events		<u>\$2,880.00</u>
			\$6,930.00
Expenses			
	Building Maintenance		\$50.00
	Insurance		\$2,200.00
	Memberships		\$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		\$40.00
	Security		\$500.00
	Storage		\$820.00
	Special Events		\$50.00
	Telephone/Internet		<u>\$1,300.00</u>
			\$6,930.00

REMEMBERING THE COWS AND ALL THAT MILK

By G. Carroll Rice

The El Cajon Valley was still somewhat rural until after World War II, and farm animals were not uncommon. (I, myself, was milking goats for friends when the car horns began to blow, celebrating the announcement that Japan had surrendered.) While many families had pleasure horses, probably just as many kept a milk cow. There were at least three dairies in El Cajon, but the family cow was a firmly entrenched tradition – particularly for families with children.

I was probably about five years old when my father bought our first cow. She was a brown Jersey-Guernsey mixed breed (known to produce rich and tasty milk) named Daisy.

Morning and evening, my father milked Daisy and carried the foaming bucket to the kitchen. The milk was strained into white milk pans, covered with a cloth to cool and allow the cream to rise. A childhood memory recalls whole milk being poured into a plump teal-blue pitcher and put in the refrigerator – for our table, of course. Skimmed milk went to the cats, dogs, chickens and, later, pigs.

With an abundance of milk and cream over the years, my mother produced an array of desserts, yeasty-smelling bread and flavorful baked goods. Frequently, there was a cloth sugar sack of curds and whey draining on the clothes line transforming into cottage cheese.

The golden cream not only flavored coffee and enriched recipes but was churned into sweet butter. Our churn consisted of a large square glass jar fitted with a metal lid supporting a crank mechanism to turn the paddles that stirred the cream. As I became a little older, I was allowed to help and proudly turned the crank, often singing a churning song my grandmother taught me:

Come, butter, come!
Come, butter, come!
Peter's waiting at the gate,
Waiting for a butter cake.
Come, butter, come!



(Library of Congress Image)

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In a couple of years, I was trusted with carrying a half-gallon glass jar of milk over to 'Uncle Elmer's house' on a regular basis. Our house was in the center of a ten-acre orange grove on the southeast corner of Third and Lexington Streets in El Cajon; and my mother's uncle, aunt and widowed mother lived in the house now 525 S. Third Street (currently owned by Tom and Linda Garity). Over half of the path led through the orange groves and along a line of irrigation standpipes. Sometimes, when the trees were watered, the soil around the pipes was wet, and passing shoes got muddy. When I wrote this verse for *Inside Grandma's Notebook* I remembered a day when I delivered the milk. This is Grandma's view:

UNDERSTANDING

I love to see my grandson come
From just across the way.
Sometimes the path is muddy though,
Just like it is today.

It's hard, you know, for me to keep
These floors and carpets neat,
So I remind the little man
To always scrape his feet.

He came to see me just at noon,
He'd walked through mud and ooze.
"Young man," I said, as my face turned red,
"You didn't clean those shoes."



(Library of Congress Image)

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

To: