



EL CAJON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HERITAGE

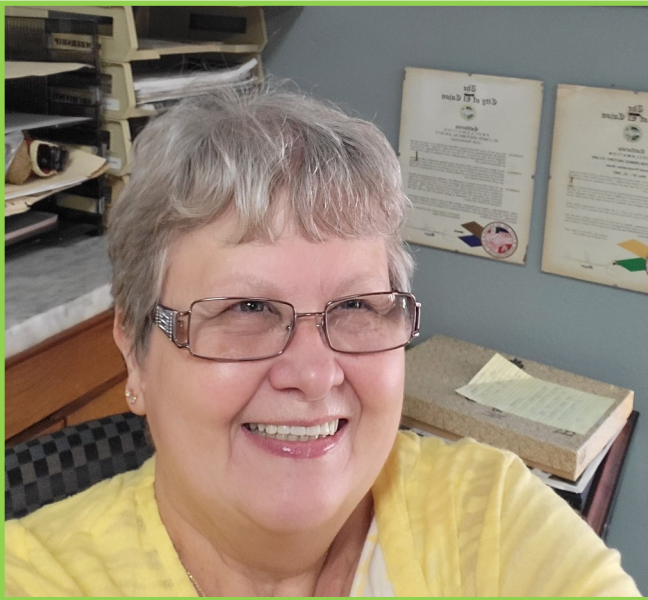


Volume 45 Issue 2

www.elcajonhistory.org

April 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello to all,

We are very excited to announce our 50th Anniversary this year.

A banner has been hung at the Knox House Museum to commemorate this event. We are planning an Open House on June 24th from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Cookies and punch will be served. We hope to see you all there!

It has been a busy time for us. The Third Grade Contest was held. Trophies will be given out the last week in March. We are very excited as we have tours scheduled for March and April.

This brings me to the next topic....We need Docents. I am begging you if you have time on your hands, please volunteer. You get to meet amazing new people. It is quite fun. You have a book to follow as well as captions on the wall in each room. You would be able to follow a Docent around the first few times. Please let us know if you are interested. We also have 2 vacant spots on the board... Curator and Docent Coordinator. We would love to fill these positions!

We are very fortunate to have had all our computer hardware in the office updated. I give a special thanks to Bud Neely, Allen Garity and Tom Garity. Thank you so much from all of us.

We now have a Twitter account thanks to Todd Hall. You can find us at:

<https://twitter.com/ElCajonHistory>.

As a reminder you can also find us at:

<https://ElCajonHistory.org>

Facebook....ECHS Knox House Museum

I can never say this enough.....Thank you to all Board members. Your devotion and time are so appreciated. You all are amazing.

50TH ANNIVERSARY BANNER

We are happily displaying our new 50th Anniversary banner on the Knox House Museum.

As our President, Linda Garity mentioned, we are planning an Open House on June 24th from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

We hope you will stop by and help us celebrate 50!



IN MEMORIAM



We are saddened to report that one of our long-time members and El Cajon resident, Jean Landis, passed away December 13, 2022 at the age of 104. Jean came to El Cajon as a young child and lived a remarkable life. She was a physical education teacher and a pilot who was chosen for the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) to fly non-combat missions during WWII.

In her recent retirement years, Jean shared her experiences with various historical societies and organizations. ECHS is so grateful to have had Jean's participation and support in El Cajon's rich history. You can read more about her and her amazing life in her obituary found online at:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/sandiegouniontribune/name/jean-landis-obituary?id=38407594>

2023 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dear Members of the El Cajon Historical Society;

Annual dues are past due. We appreciate your continued support by renewing your membership for this year and ensuring that you receive the Heritage newsletter.

We rely on this to stay operational and keep the doors of the Knox House Museum open.

Our sincere thanks to those of you who have already paid, helping us to fund our mission of preserving and sharing our local history.

We are also grateful for donations in any amount.

The dues are:

INDIVIDUAL: \$15.00 FAMILY:\$25.00 ORGANIZATION/BUSINESS: \$45.00

ENHANCED LIFE = \$500.00

New Member _____ Renew Membership _____

Individual _____ Family _____ Organization/Business _____ Enhanced Life _____

Name _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Changes to your address, phone or email:

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

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

You can now follow us on Twitter @elcajonhistory and on our Facebook page

Historic El Cajon

FLOODS AND WEATHER OF EAST COUNTY

Researched by Todd Hall, Meteorologist

Recent rains and flooding in the state have raised many questions about historical rainfall in the region. Indigenous people have records going back as far as 1605, then early settlement in the state completed a record for meteorologists to reconstruct the weather timeline. The earliest record we have of flooding in the state was the "California Flood of 1605". The state probably received an estimated 25 days straight of rain causing a "megaflood" in the state. As much as two inches of sediment has been identified in the Santa Barbara Channel, indicating that rivers were flowing at great rates out to sea. In the San Diego area, meteorologists have been able to reconstruct records that show a hurricane landfall in 1858. The "San Diego Hurricane" produced heavy rain across the region, and many homes collapsed or lost their roofs as strong winds raked the area. Trees were uprooted, fences destroyed, and three schooners blown ashore and damaged. Even better records existed by 1862. As much as 43 days of rainfall caused flooding in the "Great Flood of 1862". Part of central and southern California were submerged in up to 30 feet of water. There was so much water in the Sacramento Valley that the capital was temporarily moved to San Francisco. In the local area, the orientation of the San Diego Bay was changed due to a change in the flow of the San Diego River due to the flooding that occurred.

Weather records began in the El Cajon Valley in February 1899. The US Weather Bureau (now known as the National Weather Service) established a weather station in the El Cajon area- the valley was primarily an agricultural area at the time. The station was located near Dehesa Road and Granite Hills Drive. This station recorded the first of many floods in over the next two decades, including the El Cajon Valley Flood of 1916. On December 16, 1915, the City of San Diego hired and contracted Charles Hatfield "The Rainmaker" to bring relief from the drought. Mr. Hatfield erected a series of towers at Lake Morena. Less than a month later in January 1916, the valley saw its wettest month on record. El Cajon received 16.68 inches of rain (about 66% of the rainfall for the year) in a two week stretch. Much of the El Cajon Valley was flooded as Forrester Creek overflowed. In Mission Valley, homes floated away, and it is estimated that 22 people died in flooding, In an unlucky circumstance, Charles Hatfield was never paid for his services and run out of town due to public uproar from the amount of rain.

In the climate record, the wettest water year (October 1st-September 30th) was 1940-1941 when 30.43 inches of rain fell in the valley, but the water year for 1915-1916 (25.14 inches) ranks second since records began in 1899. Rounding out the top three, the water year of 1921-1922 ranks third in the period of record for El Cajon with 24.93 inches. During that water year, the El Cajon Valley received 11.68 inches of rain in December 1921. This still ranks as the third wettest month in the period of record. One other notable water year was the 1926-1927 year. While the year only ranks fifth in the period of record with 23.40 inches, more than half of it fell in 5 days & during the month February. Elsewhere in East County, Lake Cuyamaca received 25.44 inches of rain on top of 13.5 inches of snow on February 17, 1927.

Today, February 1927 ranks in the climate record as the second wettest month.

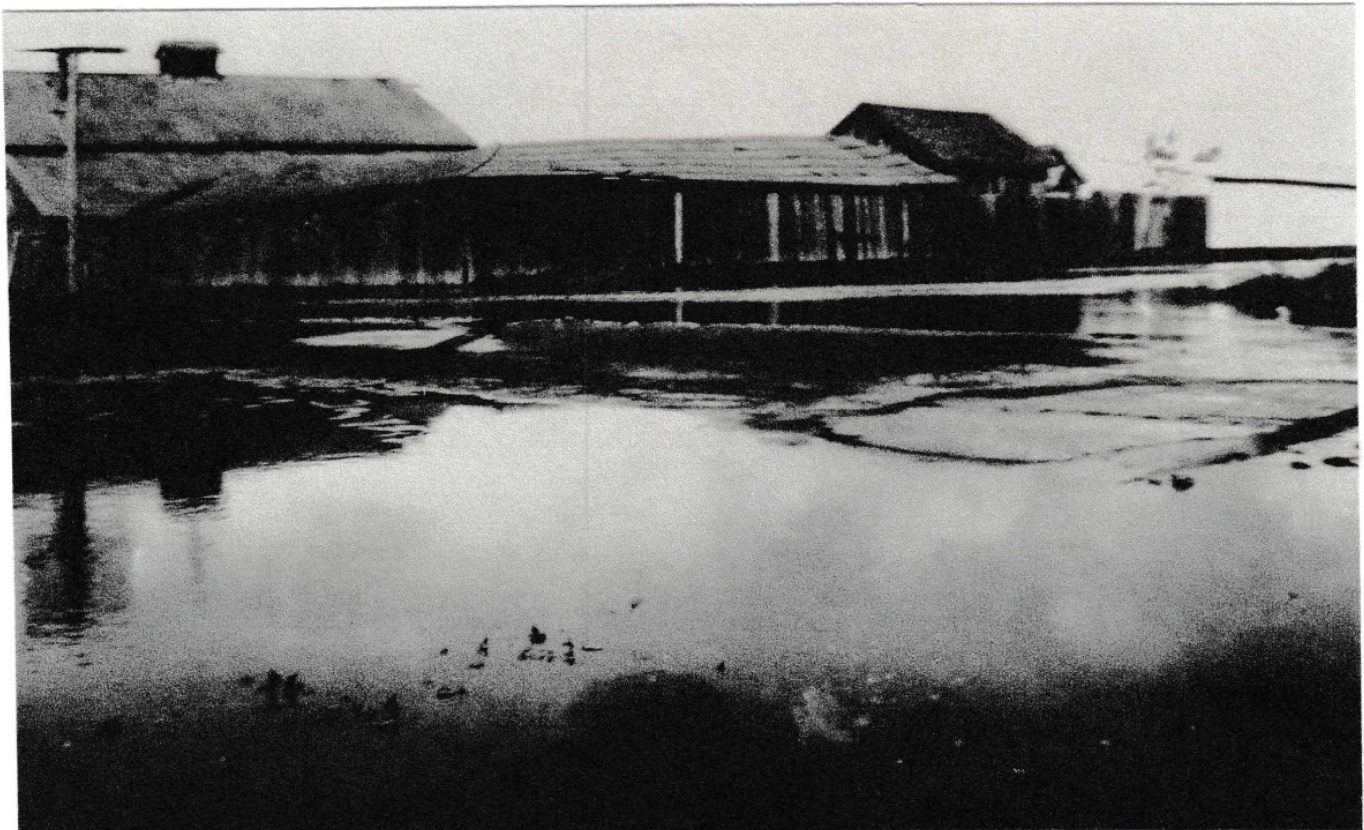
In 1939, the citrus industry in El Cajon was decimated due to heat, pests, winds and rainfall (5.03 inches) as a tropical storm made landfall in the Long Beach area on September 20, 1939. This storm is responsible for killing at least 90 people in the southern California region. Palm Springs received 4.63 inches of rain in a 24-hour period and two to four feet of flood waters roared through the Coachella Valley. With a humid air mass, temperatures still reached 109 degrees at UCLA in the West Los Angeles area, 106 degrees in San Diego, and 105 degrees in El Cajon. The storm caused \$2 million (\$42.1 million in 2022) in damage to structures and crops.

As previously mentioned, the wettest water year (1940-1941) the El Cajon weather station recorded 30.43 inches of rain. In this year, many locations in southern California saw record snowfall. On January 10-11, snowfall was recorded in the Los Angeles area, San Diego and El Cajon. These areas received a dusting to 1 inch of snow. Elsewhere in southern California, Burbank and Pasadena received between two and six inches of snow. In our local mountains, Lake Cuyamaca received over 5 feet of snow and Palomar Mountain at almost 7 feet.

One of the East County's wettest days on record is January 31, 1979. For the calendar day, La Mesa received 4.25 inches of rain, Gillespie Field 3.30 inches, and Alpine 2.99 inches of rain. In each city's period of record this day ranks ninth for Alpine, eighth for El Cajon, and the wettest day on record for La Mesa.

It has not been all about rain in the region, much of the history indicates drought due to our climate. In fact, drought is the never-ending story in California. In search of water in the late 1800's, the San Diego Flume Company was established and built a flume for \$ 1.28 million (\$42 million in 2022). This flume, an engineering marvel at the time, supplied water through a gravity fed six foot by four foot redwood trough. The flume ran for 35 miles from Julian in the Cuyamaca mountains through the El Cajon Valley emptying into the lake behind present-day Anthony's Fish Grotto in La Mesa. Street names such as Flume Drive, Flume Road, and Water Street give clues to the past placement of the flume. The flume had other uses. Businesses and residents farther east used the flume to float goods down into the El Cajon Valley.

El Cajon has played an important part in establishing a climate record for southern California. In fact, El Cajon weather records have a longer period of record than many larger cities along the West Coast and across the country.



Douglas Ave. and Magnolia Ave. 1927

OPPORTUNITY DRAWING

In our continuing effort to support other local organizations, the El Cajon Historical Society is sponsoring another opportunity drawing, which features a day trip to your own backyard in Rancho San Diego. This trip includes a family membership with (2) free passes from the Heritage of the Americas Museum, an individual membership to The Water Conservation Garden, both located on Cuyamaca College Drive, West. Also included in this package is a \$25.00 gift card to Jersey Mike's, a \$50.00 gift certificate to Hooley's Irish Pub & Grill and a \$100.00 gas card. This day trip is valued at more than \$275.00.

Requested Donation: \$10.00

HERITAGE OF THE AMERICAS MUSEUM

This museum is an educational and cultural center, which features (4) wings of Natural History (meteorites, minerals and fossils); Archaeology (artifacts made by early man in the Americas, Mexico and Peru); Anthropology (daily life and culture from early Native Americans) and Art (western art by Olaf Weighorst and Alfredo Rodriguez), as well as Chinese artifacts, including a 2,000 year old jade burial suit from the Han Dynasty.

The garden is a wonderful place to visit, stroll, relax, enjoy the sunshine and a picnic lunch in the gazebo. Get some great ideas for your garden from the many exhibits. Visit the Butterfly Pavilion, Nature Habitat garden and The Veggie and Succulent garden.

THE WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN

You may submit as many entries as you would like. Donation slips (\$10.00 each) must be returned by Saturday, April 22. The drawing will be held at our quarterly meeting on Thursday, April 27. Need not be present to win. The Historical Society would like to thank you in advance for your interest and appreciates your support. We are always grateful for donations in any amount.



Day Trip Opportunity Drawing Slip

Name _____

Phone Number _____

All proceeds to benefit the: El Cajon Historical Society
P. O. Box 1973
El Cajon, CA 92022

APRIL QUARTERLY MEETING RESERVATIONS

The El Cajon Historical Society's next quarterly meeting will be held on
Thursday, April 27th at 12:00 noon at the Water Conservation Garden,
12122 Cuyamaca College Drive W., in Rancho San Diego.

There will be a guest speaker from the garden who will talk about the garden and its history.
We hope that you will be able to join us to share food, fellowship and a stroll through their beautiful
garden. The cost is \$20.00 per person.

The lunch will be provided by Jersey Mike's Subs. Reservations must be in by Saturday, April 22nd.

April Quarterly Meeting Reservation Form

Number Attending @ \$20.00 per person _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Lunch Menu Choices: Select a Sandwich or Bowl

Turkey & Provolone ___ Sandwich ___ Bowl

The Super Sub ___ Sandwich ___ Bowl
(provolone, ham, prosciuttini & cappacuolo)

The Veggie ___ Sandwich ___ Bowl
(swiss, provolone & green bell peppers)

Reservation Deadline – Saturday, April 22nd.

Mail Reservations and checks to:

EL Cajon Historical Society

P.O. Box 1973

El Cajon, CA 92022-1973

Reservations not kept become a donation

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

To:

Quarterly Meeting APRIL 27, 2023

The El Cajon Historical Society's next quarterly meeting will be held on Thursday, April 27th at 12:00 noon at the Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive W., in Rancho San Diego.

There will be a guest speaker from the garden who will talk about the garden and its history. We hope that you will be able to join us to share food, fellowship and a stroll through their beautiful garden.

The cost is \$20.00 per person.

The lunch will be provided by Jersey Mike's Subs.

Please use the reservation form on page 7 of this newsletter to reserve your spot and make your lunch selections.

Reservations must be in by Saturday, April 22nd.