



# THE POPPY PAPER



Official Monthly Publication of the  
Boosters of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park  
A Non-Profit Organization

March 2009

## A Fond Farewell

by Ruth French

Old Town has lost a dear friend, dedicated volunteer and long-time BOOT Board Member. Jeanette Marline passed away in her sleep last week. It is with sincere sympathy to her family that I write this personal tribute...

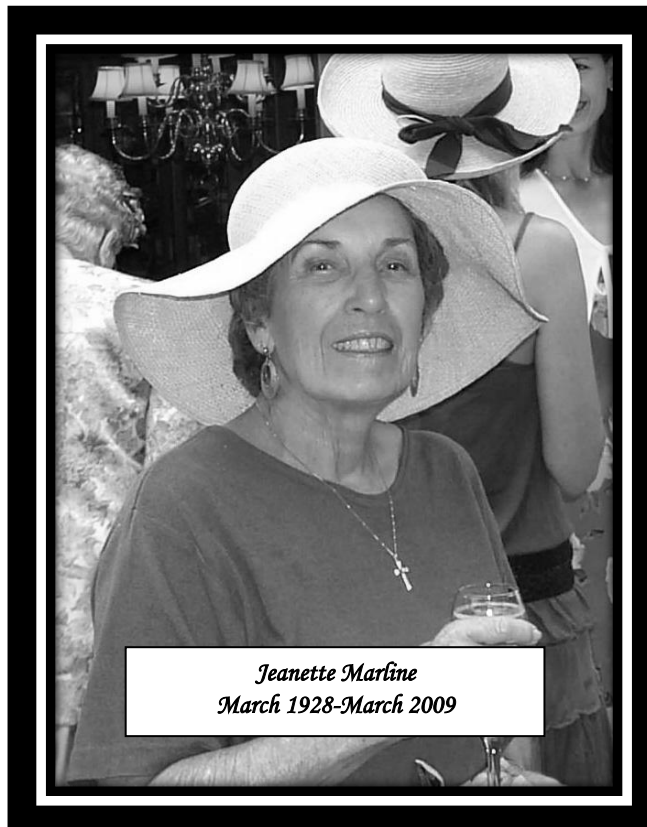
On my very first day as a Park Aide in 2003, I was sitting in the BOOT office waiting to complete my paperwork, when I met the indomitable Jeanette Marline. I introduced myself and told her why I was there. She replied, "Do you have any idea what you are getting yourself into?!?" Wow, what an introduction!

Since that time, I have had the great fortune to become a friend, and to share many special moments with Jeanette. I will miss our Wednesday chats, her phone calls about her Field Trips, and that wonderful sense of humor.

Recently, I was sitting next to Jeanette at the February VIP meeting. We were asked to write something on a piece of paper, which Therese Muranaka promised would be placed in a time capsule. As I pondered my contribution, I glanced down at Jeanette's paper, and I saw the word "Peace." She jabbed me in the side, and said, "Stop cheating off of me!" We giggled, enjoying the moment like a couple of schoolgirls.

Those of you who have had the privilege to know Jeanette have undoubtedly had similar joy when being around her. She had a no-nonsense, spunky attitude that invited you to play along. She would approach you with a scowl on her face and very seriously demand your attention. Then she'd break into that fabulous smile, with a twinkle in her eye, assuring you that she regarded you as a friend.

Farewell, dear Jeanette. I know that you have found that "Peace" you were looking for.



*Jeanette Marline*  
*March 1928-March 2009*

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*Note from the editor:*

*This article was submitted over a month ago, and was ready to go to the printer when we heard of Jeanette's passing. It is printed as written, as we know she is still with us...in our hearts. Our sincere sympathy is extended to Jeanette's family. We, too, will miss her very much!*



*Madeleine*

## Volunteers of the Month



## *"Sister Act"*



*Jeanette*

Some twenty odd years ago two sisters, Jeanette Marline and Madeleine Marietti, appeared at the Machado-Stewart casa in a full scale interpretive Living History production featuring life in the early days of Old Town San Diego. Also appearing with them were Jeanette's son, Kelly, and daughter, Leslie and an all star cast of volunteers. And, thus began one of the longest playing "Sister Acts" in the history of our organization.

Either alone or together, they appeared in every major Old Town production for the past 20 years. Together, they worked with Diane Powers on her Cinco de Mayo celebrations, served tea and cookies at Deanna Turton's Ladies Day events, and appeared in countless other park events. On monthly Craft Days you will find them in back of the Robinson-Rose filling sachets with herbs or painting gourds with the Craft group.

In separate appearances, Jeanette sold tamales for Holiday in the Park events, while Madeleine handled ticket sales for the Candlelight Tours. They have both staffed the popcorn and lemonade stand at many Fourth of July celebrations. On Wednesday Living History days, Madeleine demonstrated her weaving technique with Martha Rosenberg on the porch of the Robinson-Rose, while Jeanette worked behind the scenes on her award-winning bus tours to historic places.

Did you ever wonder how all of the donated bills and coins get into the BOOT treasury? Thanks to Jeanette, the donations are collected, sorted, and counted every week and delivered safely into the treasurer's hands. At one time, Jeanette was Membership Chairlady of the Boosters, and she is presently serving on the BOOT Board.

For their long-time and prestigious "Sister Act," we salute Madeleine and Jeanette for their steadfast commitment and dedication. We hope that they will continue to occupy center stage at our Volunteer productions for many years to come.

## President's Notes

by Jeanne Ferrell

Those of you who missed SOHO's first "Third Thursday Author Series" of the season missed a really good one. The Book was "**Ranchos of San Diego County.**" Authors Lynne Newell Christenson and Ellen L. Sweet presented the very interesting program to a sold out crowd at the Old Adobe Chapel. Next presentation will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in March. Speakers will be Authors Katrina Pescador and Mark Aldrich who wrote "**San Diego's North Island.**"

Things are picking up in Old Town. This week has been picture perfect San Diego weather, 72 degrees, sunny and a very slight, but delightful breeze. We have had many international visitors in town and many snowbirds escaping the cold and snow of the North land.

BOOT wishes to thank Joe Vasquez for his help with our BOOT Tours. Mary Ellen Young, Mary Jones and Shirley Rodriguez are taking on the responsibility until Estelle Lauer's return. We will continue to work with Joe as the Volunteer Coordinator. We love working with Joe, he is professional, talented and supportive of our work in the Park.

BOOT has given tours in the park for many years. This is, as you know, a large part of our fund-raising activities. As we have always done, we cooperate with the Park to provide the best Historic Tours.

In this time of economic difficulties, we feel privileged to be able to help the Park. As many of you know, we fund many of the extras in the Park, like the Blacksmith Program. Those of you, who don't know about us, join BOOT today!



## Treasurer's Notes

by Deanna Turton

Roses are red, violets are blue,  
BOOT showed a profit in January... It's true!

Yes, it is really true! Despite the red ink in our nation's economic system, BOOT continues to march along solidly in the black. This is once again due to good sales in the BOOT store, \$935 from tours, and a \$42.74 daily average in the donation boxes. Furthermore, almost \$2700 in profits was due to very little spending during the month of January. The only account that showed expenses over \$200.00 was the BOOT store account which spent \$937.14.

## BOOT Store News

by Mary Jones

Business has been good, considering the state of the economy. There have been many visitors to the Park recently - perhaps due to our FREE entrance fee.

The store has several new books, some courtesy of Plaza del Pasado's 75% off sale:

- General Store Items
- Old Time Toys
- Ranchos of San Diego County - a collection of photographs from the major ranchos of the period with text about each rancho and photo

The plants in the garden are being hard pressed to keep up with the needs of our Craft Committee. Our herbal products are selling well.

Remember to bring your BOOT membership card to the store to receive your 10% discount.

## From the Editor's Desk...

This is my last week of employment for Plaza del Pasado. I will continue in my role as Editor, so keep those articles coming! I will truly miss seeing all of the "regulars" in the Park, but will volunteer, as time permits. Thank you all for making Old Town such a special place for me!

[ruthfrench@earthlink.net](mailto:ruthfrench@earthlink.net) - deadline is the 25<sup>th</sup> (handwritten deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> - in my volunteer folder)

## **Craft and Sewing Day Luncheon**

by Jeanne Ferrell

On Craft Friday, February 13, 2009, Mary Ellen Young's "Taste and Tell" Luncheon was a huge success. The Attendees: Mary Ellen and Tom Young, Pat Shook, Winnie Adams, Mary and Bob Jones, Ruth French, Jeanette Marline, Madeleine Marietti, Gary and Deanna Turton, Karen Beery, Rich Dennison, Cindy Furlong and Jeanne Ferrell. Featured guests were Chuck Ross and Joe Kates from the Plaza del Pasado.

We were treated to an interpretive and incredibly wonderful meal. The Menu:

- Pueblo Stew with green chiles, beef, beans and wonderful aromatic flavors
- Greens from the mountains
- Griddle Cornbread
- Almond Cake, the almonds from the Chinese junk in the harbor
- Mexican Brownies with rich cinnamon from the last Yankee Clipper in port

After this resplendent feast, we heard from Chuck Ross and Joe Kates of the Plaza de Pasado. They are still in negotiations with the parties involved. The target date for taking over the Plaza is March 8<sup>th</sup>. Chuck stated they plan to close for a few weeks to re-organize. The plan is to open in early April.

Chuck and Joe outlined their ideas and vision for the plaza which will include new landscaping and an herb garden. The Shade cover in the Casa de Reyes will also be changed.

One of the changes will be a name. The Jolly Boy Restaurant will become "Barra Barra." There will be a new menu and new ambiance. Their vision includes a high energy, fun and exciting place to come for great food. There was a lively Q&A session following their presentation.

## **Snakes Alive!**

by Estelle Lauer

Rattlesnakes were around in early San Diego, but because they'd rather run than fight, there weren't many instances of snakebite.

Records from early communiqués issued a common treatment which must have produced positive results because the reports came from far reaching places.

Timing was everything. As soon as the snake had done its mischief, it was vital to slay a warm blooded animal, cut it open and place the still pumping capillaries on the bite. Evidently the pulsing flesh sucked the venom so that it didn't have a chance to take hold in the victim's body.

We've moved a distance from sacrificing hapless warm-blooded creatures. In Utah venom is milked from three types of live rattlesnakes. The fluid is then sent to Australia where it's injected into sheep. When these animals build up immunity to the poison, their blood is drawn and sent to Wales. The antibodies in the blood are processed into anti-venom which is then sent off to Maine for bottling.

A recent story in the San Diego Union described the international machinations that saved a woman's life. Mrs. Penner, after a rattlesnake bite, got herself to Pomerado Hospital where she received a dose of anti-venom. The next day she reappeared for a second dose. And a week later she received more of the combatant. Over a period of months she received 14 vials of the fluids. At \$5,000 a dosage, she had a very costly experience. But considering all the stages of development that were necessary to come up with a "cure," the money was well spent!

The early treatment for snakebite depended on pure luck. Mrs. Penner would have been hard put to handily find a sacrificial animal to help her out. So she reported that she didn't begrudge the soaring bill for treatment.

## **VIP Corner**

by Karen Mastaglio

February's VIP meeting was packed again! Therese Muranaka gave a PowerPoint presentation on What Archaeologists do. She asked the volunteers to write notes designated for a time capsule to be buried at the park. Cool!!!

## BOOT Membership

Effective March 1, 2009, the following membership fee schedule was established by the BOOT Board on February 25, 2009.

- Supporting membership \$20
- Family membership (2 or more) \$35
- One senior \$15
- Two seniors (couple) \$25
- Seniors (62 or older) may purchase a Lifetime membership for \$150
- Corporate Membership \$40

Membership incentives will include:

- membership card
- BOOT decal
- monthly newsletter
- 10% discount in BOOT store
- discounts from local Old Town businesses
- free "Behind the Scenes" tour (offered twice a year) with 2 for 1 dining coupons on tour days

Corporate membership will include:

- recognition letter, decal for window
- business card size advertisement, plus a write-up about their business in BOOT newsletter and on our website, 1st month after joining

Additional donations to support Old Town activities will be rewarded with discount coupons to be used in the BOOT store.

Donation	Discount
Level 1 - \$50. ....	\$5
Level 2 - \$100. ....	\$10
Level 3 - \$250. ....	\$25

## THANK YOU!

**Many thanks to those who have renewed their supporting membership!**

Joan Harshman	Bob & Mary Jones
Bob Wohl	Jack & Joan Cannon
Barbara Reilly	William & Susan Freman
Camilla Percival	David & Robin Lakin
Margo Bergen	Jeanette Marline
Mary Byrne	Kelly Marline
Patsy Hanibal	Mark & Miyun Turton
Inga Jodka	Gary & Deanna Turton
Estelle Lauer	Tom & Mary Ellen Young
Shirley Rodriguez	

## History Will Endure Budget Concerns

by **Richard Dennison**  
**Historic Sector Visitor Services Superintendent**

At a time when Poppy Paper readers are, or know someone who is, affected by our State's and Nation's budget crisis, it is important to evaluate personal, professional, and park priorities with the limited resources available. Park staff, volunteers, and community members are all stretched in terms of what we can do both in terms of dollars and time, and we hear more about cuts around us. I encourage you to take time out for yourselves and families to reconnect and do things you enjoy.

For the remainder of this fiscal year (thru June 30), the seasonal staffing budget is being reduced approximately 11%; this is somewhat manageable as it is being spread over five months. The cuts will be to museums closed a few days a month, visitor services support, interpretive planning, roving interpretation, and housekeeping. Next fiscal year will also see similar reductions. It is important to understand the San Diego Coast District, from Carlsbad to Border Field has a limited pot of seasonal funds - money that is also used to staff lifeguard towers, campground and day use entrances, clean restrooms, and trail maintenance, as well as museums.

Given all this, it is important that we not lose sight that Old Town San Diego State Historic Park will get through the budget concerns. But in the process, we continually strive for what we each can do. Three important relevant areas that visitors see regardless of budget cutbacks are period attire, tours, and museums. Briefly, the quality of appearance in attire reflects pride and dedication to representing the duties of the position. Tours can still continuously have clear goals, themes, and measurable objectives aligned with relevance to the audience. Museums can come alive with persons telling stories of those who lived in early San Diego.

Of course, continued commitment by existing and NEW park partners for advocacy, membership, and support are necessary. Parks are important for persons in this crazy world, a place where persons can learn, reflect, and enjoy. As persons stay closer to home for getaways or low cost family time, what a great time to wander Old Town San Diego. Let's reach out and introduce them to how they can get involved as a park Volunteer, new BOOT member, or just a person that comes away from the State Historic Park and tells their friends that they learned something interesting about early San Diego and also had a good time, and maybe even come back again!

# CALENDAR PAGE

NOTICE: If you have a friend who would like to learn more about San Diego History, enjoys meeting people, and likes to have a good time, give him/her this application form to fill out and send in. New members are always welcome. And, if you have forgotten to renew your membership...it's never too late to send it in. We miss you!

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

___ NEW or ___ RENEWAL	___ \$ 15.00 - Senior/Student Single
___ \$ 20.00 – Single Supporting Member	___ \$ 25.00 - Senior Couples
___ \$ 35.00 – Family (2 or more)	___ \$150.00 - Life Member (62 years or older)
___ \$ 40.00 – Corporate Membership	

NAME(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

I belong to the following group(s):	Docent ___ Military ___ Descendants ___ Californios ___
I am interested in the following:	Docent ___ Military ___ Descendants ___ Californios ___
	Historical Research ___ Other _____

Make check payable to: BOOT  
 Mail to: Thomas Young, Membership Chairman, 3268 Par Drive, La Mesa, CA 91941



**BOOSTERS OF OLD TOWN**  
 San Diego State Historic Park  
 4002 Wallace Street  
 San Diego, CA 92110

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