



THE POPPY PAPER



OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
BOOSTERS OF OLD TOWN San Diego State
Historic Park

April 2009

Ladies Day is Coming!

Dear Ladies and Any Gentlemen who wish to participate,

Ladies Day is coming up on June 6. Do you want to participate this year and, if so, what do you want to do? The hours will be demonstrations from 1-4 pm, as usual. After that, we will re-enact a Mexican wedding themed skit. As wedding guests arrive, Vanessa Jones will describe their period attire, which will take the place of the fashion shows from years past. The wedding will be based on a wedding described in the San Diego Journal of History. Following the wedding, our historic dance group will entertain and encourage guests to participate in the festivities. (The dancers are willing to stay late to accommodate this plan.)

I have also asked both restaurants/concessionaires on the plaza if they would be willing to prepare a fandango buffet or menu that night so that the festivities can continue, and we can all eat and relax together. However, that is still in the planning stages.

On Ladies Day, we showcase the skills and crafts of women in our historic time frame. There will be booths on the plaza and demonstrations behind the Machado-Stewart, as well as garden tours. Other highlights will be storytelling, and gambling in the Commercial Restaurant/Silvas Casa. As of this writing, several outside groups will be joining us to add to the color and excitement of the day.

Many thanks to Karen Beery and her staff for preparing a lovely publicity flier and approving the press release in a timely manner.

If some of you are new volunteers, I have jobs for everyone. This is a day of fun for all of the volunteers...so we hope all can participate. Please feel free to call or e-mail me if you have questions:

Deanna Turton
619-222-0047
deanna@turton-ent.com

VIP Corner

by Karen Mastaglio

March's VIP meeting guest speakers were, Bob and Nancy Munson from the Old Point Loma Lighthouse. Topic, Old Point Loma Lighthouse affect on Old Town San Diego. Bob and Nancy stressed the dedication and sacrifice families gave towards the profession and maintenance of the lighthouse. In addition they brought excellent display boards depicting the families and the history of the lighthouse.

Joe asked volunteers present what they would like to see happen at the park. He was given great responses! Now Joe has his work ahead of him to make it happen.

Bob Jones will add vendors of historic attire to the BOOT website.

Joe Vasquez and Mary Ellen spoke lovingly of Jeanette Marline who passed away recently. She will be greatly missed.

BOOT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Jeanne Ferrell	(619) 543-9057
Vice President:	Gary Turton	(619) 222-0047
Secretary:	Estelle Lauer	(619) 463-9069
Treasurer:	Deanna Turton	(619) 222-0047
BOOT Store:	Mary Jones	
Membership:	Tom Young	
PP Editor:	Ruth French	(858) 583-1269 (ruthfrench@earthlink.net)
Board Members:	Mary Ellen Young	
	Cindy Furlong	
	Bob Wohl	
	Bob Jones	

Website: www.ot-boot.com

Treasurer's Notes

by Deanna Turton

This month, your loyal treasurer came down with her husband's bad cold ...so while she worked on the March financial report wrapped in a blanket with tissues near at hand, she accidentally transposed two numbers in BOOT's total assets' bottom line. As a result, BOOT earned \$300,000! However, Bob Wohl and Gary Turton, financial aces that they are, quickly spotted the error and I corrected it! Morale of the story - do not do math when you are sick!

However, March was a good month for BOOTnot quite as good as my error, but no red ink nevertheless! When all the bills were paid and income totaled up, BOOT came out ahead \$1076.14. Many kudos to our hard-working park aides who sold lots of BOOT store guides, books, and crafts. In fact, \$1091.25 of books were sold at the Robinson-Rose desk alone by the park aides! BOOT tours also brought in nearly \$500.00, so that was also a lot of hard work on the part of our tour guides.

Although the daily donations were down this month to \$39.21, the good news is that Madeleine Marietti has offered to take the place of her sister, Jeanette Marline, as my donation collection assistant! She was on duty the week after our beloved Jeanette's unexpected death, and she easily mastered all the locks and procedures of collecting the donation money. She calls herself "Deanna's Slave" and, in many ways, this is true....she does whatever I ask or need her to do. MANY, MANY THANKS to Madeleine for her generous gift of time.

On the expense side of the ledger, office needs totaled \$674.31, mostly for new checks and deposit slips. Due to the Patriot Act's new rules for banking, we had to change to a regular business account which required all new paperwork. The BOOT store also spent \$1335.84 in new inventory, and I spent \$538.38 in historic fabric at Rosie's Quilt Shop. All other five expense categories were \$200 or less.

I should also report that I am currently in the middle of doing the end of year balancing in preparation for taxes. This year, the accounts came out a little over \$4 ahead at the end of the year. I always seem to end up with a little extra money on one side of the ledger....and that is because when I check the rolls of bundled coins, if there is a mistake, I just add to the roll with my own money. In addition, there are always a few errors getting Susan B. Anthony coins mixed up with quarters as the year progresses.

BOOT Store News

by Mary Jones

The store is still operating in the black. In other words we're still making money.

We have several new items for sale:

Sheriff's badges - \$5, Christmas ornaments made from the ficus tree that was removed from the Plaza del Pasado - \$10, Parchment posters - \$1, and bagged and stick candy.

New books:

Ishi's Journey: From the Center to the Edge of the World - A novel about the last Yahi Indian who wandered into Berkeley and was befriended by the Bancrofts. Much was learned from him about how his people lived and the sad ending to his tribe.

VOLUNTEERS - ONE AND ALL

With the depletion of the work force, and lack of funds for civic projects, many agencies depend on volunteers to carry on their work. Volunteers clean the beaches, feed the homeless, work with the Red Cross, police and firefighters, help out in hospitals, schools, libraries, museums and parks.

Here in Old Town we have been very lucky to have so many talented and dedicated volunteers. We want them to know how much we appreciate them for all they do to make Old Town San Diego State Historic Park one of the major tourist attractions in our area.

Our thanks go to the craft group, gardeners and blacksmiths who stock our book store, and to the storekeepers who operate and maintain it as one of our main sources of income. Thanks to the musicians, entertainers and tour guides who bring history to life on the streets of Old Town to the delight of our many visitors.

Thanks also to our retired teachers who plan and conduct training programs for tour guides, and who schedule tours for the children's school tour program.

Thanks to all our volunteers for their help in making our fund raisers successful community events, and to our volunteer BOOT Board for their judicious use of our funds. We are very grateful for your service.

Hats Off to Old Town's Very Important People (VIPs) - the Volunteers in the Park. We salute you one and all!!!

A Tribute to Ruth French

by Karen Mastaglio and Joe Vasquez

Ruth is one of those positive, upbeat persons who, when you meet her, you feel you've known her all your life.

She came to San Diego from Kansas in 1975. Packed in her VW Beetle with all of her worldly belongings and two cats, she headed West.

After working as a teacher for several years, Ruth came to Old Town in 2003 to get volunteer hours for her credential renewal criteria. She volunteered, helping Deanna Turton pull weeds in the garden. She assisted the Boosters of Old Town with their fundraising efforts, crafts and sewing, training programs, and administrative tasks. Ruth also honed her skills as a well-versed tour guide.

Shortly after becoming a volunteer, Ruth became a Park Aide. But, in the Spring of 2006, she took on another role as an Historic Interpreter for Plaza del Pasado, and in 2008 was promoted to the position of Education Coordinator. Unfortunately, the recent layoffs at PdP have forced Ruth to accept employment outside of the Park. Although she won't be here on a daily basis, she promises to continue her work as the Poppy Paper editor and volunteer for special events.

After meeting Ruth, you're grateful to know someone as remarkable as she is. Thank you Ruth for all your help, excellent work, and enthusiasm.



From the Editor's Desk...



What a wonderful surprise to receive a submission about me! I sincerely thank Karen & Joe for their thoughtfulness.

The kindnesses that have been extended to me in this special place called Old Town will remain in my heart forever. I cannot mention everyone's name, because there are so very many, but a special few are worth mentioning.

Mary Ellen Young took my hand and introduced me to the Old Town community. Deanna Turton took me under her wing, nurtured and supported me in every endeavor. And, Estelle Lauer taught me all the stories of Old Town. Thanks to them for showing me the depth of true commitment to volunteerism.

And, for those who have passed on – Jackie Perkins, Martha Rosenberg, and Jeanette Marline...three beautiful women whose lessons on life and laughter I will always cherish.

I will continue as the Poppy Paper editor – so keep those articles coming!

With Sincere Gratitude, Ruth French

ruthfrench@earthlink.net - deadline is the 25th
(handwritten deadline is the 20th - in my volunteer folder)

Pictured to the Left, March 13, 2009 – A Farewell Happy Hour at the Acapulco for Ruth French and Shirley Storrs, with Mayela and Gely Cervantes; Karen, Luke and Lydia Mastaglio; Dick Miller, Joe Vasquez, Estelle Lauer, Elizabeth Burrell, Lydia Tena, and Elizabeth Allancorte

Signatures

By William F. Menell

With the exceptions of the roof, porch retaining walls, and first floor stucco, the removal of non-historic fabric portion of the project at the Cosmopolitan project is nearing a close. The underground archaeology is also close to completion in the larger sense.

What has happened thus far: a very skilled team of dedicated archaeologists from ASM and State Parks, supported by an architect from IS Architecture, has been very carefully excavating and completely documenting everything. The construction crew from Soltek Pacific, used to doing demolition, has transformed into a team of removal, not destruction, with craftsman-like precision.

The overcoats of labors of the 1930s, 1950s and 1970s are not being ignored. The 1930s threaded brass and steel pipes, the 1950s doors and ironwork, the festive paint of the 1970s all tell part of the story of the survival of this magnificent building. Examples of each have been archived, and recorded.

What has been exposed underneath is a priceless collection of “signatures.”

The names and life stories of an overwhelming majority of the generations of craftsmen, laborers, women, and children involved with the construction of the Casa de Bandini, and later the Cosmopolitan Hotel, are lost to history. But their work, their signatures remain.

Here is a cobblestone foundation, here lime plaster--the lime made in a kiln, not purchased in a bag. Above a door opening a lintel cut with a pit saw, here adobe blocks hand-turned and dried in the sun.

Here are “square” nails, driven with a hammer that may have been passed down for two or more generations. There are floor joists cut in a steam powered mill. Paint here from 1869.

Exposed for only this short time, like internal organs during an operation, these deceptively simple components are perhaps our only insight to the labor and lives of the people that made them. This patient, lovingly called The Cosmo, has been undergoing an operation that has taken hundreds of hours; and the lab work, analysis curation, and recordation will require hundreds more.

The skills the teams are using today have been developed in large part to understand those that were once used traditionally, but now are so transformed they have become unfamiliar.

Every part of this building was made by someone or a team of people, and took hundreds, if not thousands of hours of their lives. In their time, and “all people live in modern times,” these were the products of their life that day. Written in sweat, pride, fire, and thought, the components of the Cosmo are all witness to those lost names, and their stories.

And perhaps challenges. Hand plane a piece of trim. Write a materials order with a quill and ink. Get steam to power a saw. Navigate a sailing ship. Pump a forge bellows. Feed over 100 workmen every day from an horno. Turn 50,000 adobe bricks. Find, cut and deliver logs to San Diego. Do it all without electricity, or internal combustion engines. These challenges, and more, they met, like it was just another day.

TRAINING FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS:

Saturday, May 9, 2009

Contact: Joe Vasquez (619) 688-3308; jvasquez@parks.ca.gov

SPECIAL VOLUNTEER DATES:

Volunteer Appreciation Week, April 19th – 25th

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, Saturday, May 23, 2009 - 3pm

Upcoming Special Events Volunteers Needed!

Cinco de Mayo
Sat. & Sun. May 2 & 3rd

Ladies Day
Sat., June 6th 1-6pm

Descendants Day
Sat., June 27th

Stage Coach Dinner
June 28th, 1-5pm

4th of July
Sat., 11am-4pm

Fiestas Patrias
Sept. 12th 12noon-4pm

Contact: Joe Vasquez (619) 688-3308
jvasquez@parks.ca.gov



HOUSE TOUR/FIELD TRIP

2128 Pine Street, San Diego
Saturday, April 25, 2009, 1:00 pm

Please join us for dessert and a tour of the historic home of Adrian and Anne Fernandes. Their 1916 California Bungalow was featured in SOHO's 6th Annual Arts and Crafts weekend!

RSVP: Madeleine Marietti (619) 583-9031



Optional:

11:30 am - Meet at Perry's for breakfast (across the street from the Rob-Rose near the corner of Taylor & Pacific Hwy.)

12:30 pm - Meet behind the Robinson-Rose Building to carpool

To: All Staff and Volunteers

From: Gary Olson
Supervising Ranger
Old Town San Diego State Historic Park

RE: Transfer to Calaveras Big Trees State Park

I have accepted a position as the Supervising Ranger at Calaveras Big Trees State Park, and I will be relocating at the end of April or early May.

I would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye and thank you to everyone I have had the pleasure to work with over the past 10 years while here in the San Diego Coast District. I have enjoyed my time in this District and my experiences in Old Town San Diego SHP, San Pasqual Battlefield SHP, Torrey Pines State Reserve, Carlsbad and San Elijo campgrounds.

I leave with fond memories, great experiences, and wonderful friends that I have met over the years. I can truly say that this district provides many wonderful opportunities for work locations, areas to explore, and an unlimited resource of things to interpret.

I would like to recognize and acknowledge all of the volunteers with whom I have worked, who have dedicated themselves to the parks in the San Diego Coast District, providing educational, interpretive, resource protection, and excellent customer service to our millions of visitors. Each of you have shared with me your love for the parks, excitement for what you do, and given me the support to help accomplish many of the improvements that we have made over the years. I value your commitment, dedication, and drive to help make our parks a great experience.

To all, my best wishes. May you enjoy good health, a happy heart, and an exciting long life full of love and compassion for others!

Sincerely,
Gary Olson

Popcorn, Peas and Pennies

A poem for Jeanette Marline
by Deanna Turton



Did you hear me the last time we spoke?
The peas are ready.
I planted extra vines just for you.
As I weed the garden, I remember how much you liked them last year.
How eager you were to pick them after you collected the donations.
I miss you dear friend.

Do you know that Madeleine now collects the bills and pennies?
She even mastered the lock on the safe ...I told her it was tricky!
The week you left us, I had to count the donations.
I had to learn the new combinations, and heard you laughing at my mistakes.
Did you know I even forgot to take the log book along with me?
Shirley had to remind me of that.
All the park aides told me how much they loved you
and enjoyed teasing you about taking "their money."
It took me two hours to do your job. Gary even helped!
After we finished, we went to the Alamo for lunch ...
just like we always did together on Wednesdays.

We toasted you and our friendship...
and remembered all the good times we shared.
I even had something stronger than ice tea.
But your chair was empty and your wit was missing in the conversation.
We missed you dear friend.

At the monthly craft meeting, it seemed as if you should come around the corner at any moment.
We all talked about how much we valued your friendship...how much you did to help us.
And we wondered how we would ever manage without you.
Who will help Winnie squeeze the lemons?
Who will pass out the cookies on Ladies Day?
Who will sell the bags of popcorn on the 4th of July?
And who will count all those pennies, nickels and dimes after all that popcorn is sold?
You were even willing to brave the wind to sell tamales on the cold nights of December...
And did so many other little things to make our lives easier.

We all miss you dear friend.
Were you watching when I left the prayer service at the cemetery?
I think I heard you laughing and heard you saying, " Got You" one more time ...
as the sprinkler spun around and got me all wet as I climbed into Ruth's car.
It was just the right thing to hide the tears in my eyes.

I miss you dear

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