



THE POPPY PAPER



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

May 2009

The Gardens Are Blooming!

by Deanna Turton



This past month, the garden committee has been busy weeding and planting the three gardens that we care for (the Machado-Stewart garden, the Silvas garden, and the four elevated pods near the McCoy House). This month, in the process of taking out a wild rose bush, we accidentally broke the main timer in the Machado-Stewart garden, but Guy Raffeto and his staff soon had it repaired after Gary Turton purchased the required replacement at Home Depot. Since the new plants were already in the ground and needed water to keep them going, many thanks for remedying this problem so quickly.

As of this writing, the loveliest garden is the circular pod behind the McCoy House. Adrian Fernandes has adopted that garden, and it currently looks lovely with both rose bushes in full bloom, as well as smaller flowering plants around the perimeter. Of course, the square pod with white roses and purple lavender is also beautiful, so be sure to take a closer look as you walk past it behind the Robinson-Rose Visitor Center.

Somehow sweet peas got mixed up with green peas, so both are growing together! And of course, the biggest garden is the Machado-Stewart with all its herbs, roses, and vegetables. If the snails do not eat the little plants, and our water supply is not cut back too much, we should have a great harvest!



The ultimate measure of a person is not where they stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where they stand in times of challenge and controversy.

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

Cinco de Mayo

by Jeanne Ferrell

May in Old Town means Cinco de Mayo to many people. Do you know what organization puts on the Celebration? The Historical Old Town Community Foundation (HOTCF). The Co-sponsor is The Old Town Chamber of Commerce. All of these people are volunteers committed to continuing this wonderful event, first started by Diane Powers and the Bazaar del Mundo. The money needed to put on this big party comes from many sources: The City of San Diego, County of San Diego, Local Restaurants, Merchants, Vendors that supply Old Town, Sponsors and others.

This family event features music, including a couple of bands with members that work in Old Town. "Radio Silent" is a band featuring Victor from the Whaley House. From Café Coyote, Lonnie and Charlie are back again with their band.

The Children's Area is truly amazing. We have Inflatables, a Face Painter, Magician, Juggler, a Music Stage with great entertainment and much more. **We have a BOOT Booth in this area with items for sale. Deanna Turton is our Storytelling lady, and BOOT volunteers are staffing the booth.** Jalapeño pepper eating and ice cream eating contests; as well as a limbo contest hosted by a local radio station. Hope you are (were) able to join us on Harney Street.

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Rebuilding the Courthouse

by Ellen Sweet



Recently an obituary in the *San Diego Union* for June Moeser reminded me that I knew very little about the reconstruction of the First San Diego Courthouse in Old Town. June was one of those ground breaking women. She was the first policewoman in Chula Vista and the first forewoman for the county grand jury. It was her role on that grand jury that led her to research San Diego's first courthouse and help form a volunteer organization to raise money to reconstruct that courthouse.

Efforts to reconstruct the First San Diego Courthouse began about 1979 when members of the Mormon Battalion, who included descendants from members of the original Mormon Battalion, approached the State about rebuilding the courthouse. Their plan combined research and archaeology to find out about the site. A partial dig was conducted in 1981, with University of San Diego Professor James Moriarity scheduled to do the report findings. But the State Attorney General rejected the plan due to the required separation of church and state. Despite protests that their group was not part of the Mormon Church, the Battalion plan was stopped.

That's when June Moeser and others took up the project. They worked with the Mormon Battalion to produce pamphlets on the history; they recruited others in the legal profession like retired Judge William Yale to form a board of directors; and they collected funds for their nonprofit organization, including a large donation from the Mormon Battalion. Their group began to take shape about 1984. Finally, in 1986 the State of California entered into an agreement with the First San Diego Courthouse, Inc., and plans were made to raise \$100,000 for the construction, furnishings, and future maintenance.

The 1981 archaeological dig uncovered the foundations of the north wall and of an interior room-dividing wall. A military button was also found.

Continued in next column ↗

Rebuilding the Courthouse, continued...

In order to make way for further archaeology, the existing Mexico Shop located on the site was demolished in early 1987. More artifacts like pipes, drinking glasses, a door knob, coins, buttons, and bottles were found.

Ground breaking was held in January 1988. After further delays, the First San Diego Courthouse was dedicated in September 1992, one hundred and twenty years after the big Old Town fire destroyed the historic structure.

Treasurer's Notes

by Deanna Turton

March was a month of much frustration! In transferring our checking and savings accounts in to a business account format, the bank made many errors. However, now that all is once again humming along smoothly, I can report that March was an evenly balanced month for we spent about the same as we earned....with the exception of coming out ahead \$102.38, after everything was balanced and added up.

This month, the BOOT store and BOOT tours were once again our main stay of income....with donations at a daily average of \$52.41. BOOT also received two gifts of in-kind donations amounting to \$1291.00 from Delaware North Corporation and the estate of Jeanette Marlene. Memorial donations in Jeanette's name are still arriving but so far, \$520 has been received.

On the expense side of the ledger, the biggest cost category was the BOOT store because we bought several items from the Delaware North Corporation as they closed down operations in the park. Although not all funds were used to buy inventory from DNC, the BOOT store spend \$5515.46 during the month of March. The office category also went a bit over \$200 because Gary Turton purchased and installed some new photographic software on the BOOT computer. All other eight spending categories were \$200 or less.

As of this date, the computational work for the Federal and State taxes is done. When I return from Maryland and playing with our granddaughter, I will complete the annual report and supporting documents for the above mentioned taxes. Do not worry, all deadlines will be met!



Memorial Day Monday May 25, 2009

San Pasqual volunteers will participate in the annual Memorial Day services at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery on Monday, May 25. We will fire the cannon and place our Company guidons over the San Pasqual graves.

BOOT member are invited to participate in the program. Old Town residents Albert B. Smith and Richard Kerren are also buried there.

There is also a monument honoring the Mormon Battalion.

VIP Corner by Karen Mastaglio

“Thank You” to the interns from SDSU for speaking at the April VIP meeting. Joe Vasquez began National Volunteer Appreciation Week with refreshments and prizes for the volunteers at the meeting. Joe opened the meeting by asking those present “what is a unique or unusual thing about you that people don’t know.” On Wednesday, April 22nd, Joe had more refreshments and prizes for the volunteers.

Special Thanks to those that made it happen!

- Doubletree Hotel San Diego Mission Valley - One Night Stay for Two
- Ultra Star Cinemas - Tickets
- Ralphs Grocery
- Henry’s Marketplace
- Food 4 Less

Lydia and Luke Mastaglio, who helped with donations, shopping, set up, and food preparation, and to Melissa Hoff who helped with set up.

Mark Your Calendar

Cinco de Mayo

Sat. & Sun., May 2nd & 3rd

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Sat., May 23rd, 3pm

Descendants Workshop

Sat., May 30th, 10am-3pm

Ladies Day

Sat., June 6th, 1-6pm

Descendants’ Day

Sat., June 27th, 10am-3pm

Stage Coach Dinner

June 28th, 1-5pm

4th of July

Sat., 11am-4pm

Fiestas Patrias

Sat., Sept. 12th, 12-4pm

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

WANTED!!!!

Storekeepers...We need people to work in the BOOT Store on Thurs., Fri., and Sun. You can make you own hours, any time between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm.

Great benefits, friendly customers, fun atmosphere. Don't get left out!!

Call Mary Jones
619-460-1470



Ladies Day is Getting Closer...

Since telling you about Ladies Day in last month's Poppy Paper, there have been lots of new developments in the planning phase of this event. First of all, many thanks to everyone I called or emailed...most have said they were coming with an enthusiastic "Yes...that sounds fun. I am coming. What do you want me to do?" Such a generous sharing of time and effort makes my job as the lead person much easier.

Deanna Turton
deanna@turton-ent.com
(619) 222-0042

Reminders:

*If you need period attire, you must make an appointment with either Vanessa Jones or Gregg Giacopuzzi well ahead of the event to make arrangements to borrow clothing from the period attire bank.

*Please bake or buy a batch of cookies for our refreshment table. It is our tradition to serve lemonade and cookies to park visitors on Ladies Day. Winnie Adams will make the lemonade with fresh lemons from her tree.

*Please make sure your volunteer paperwork is up to date with Joe Vasquez.

*Please make sure you have enough supplies for the demonstration that you are doing. If you are using park supplies, please get in touch with Gregg Giacopuzzi to make sure all supplies are in the park closet! This is especially true for the games and corn husk doll booth... If you have ANY doubt about supplies, please e-mail me or call.

Announcements:

Mr. Chuck Ross of the newly opened Barra Barra restaurant has promised discounted prices after the Ladies Day event. It is our hope that all volunteers can remain in the park after the booth demonstrations are over at 4pm so they can participate in our Mexican wedding reenactment. Here is the plan for the latter part of the afternoon.

After the materials in the booths are stored and secured, we ask that all volunteers gather behind the Machado-Stewart where Vanessa Jones will say a few words of introduction and then the bride will come out and get on a horse with some of her family members. Yes, we have been promised at least three horses! Then we will ALL process over to the Casa de Estudillo for the wedding. After that, we will again process to the Barra Barra restaurant for dinner and historic dancing. This part of the event is an attempt to recreate the fandangos that traditionally happened after weddings in historic times. Although historic weddings normally carried on for three days, our event will be confined to one evening of fun and festivity.

Other highlights of this year's event are participation by members of the *San Diego Creative Weavers Guild*, who will do hands-on weaving demonstrations; the *San Diego Herb Club*, who will lead garden tours; and new this year...the *Misty Ward Gourd and Basketry Guild*. Seven new volunteers will join us from that group, and they have even promised to repair some of Martha's old baskets for us! They also might be willing to hold some basketry classes for all of our new volunteers...and experienced docents as well.

Two interns from San Diego State University are also participating this year, and have volunteered to do children's games. **AND** finally, our traditional booths will be up and running: Gregg Giacopuzzi's cargo display, Ursula's historic hair arrangements, Gary's photographic equipment, cascarone eggs, corn husk doll making, tussi-mussie making, Shirley's gambling area, Lauralee's laundry and butter churning, Donna's candle making, the Fistere's letter writing booth, and Karen's period attire display. Madeleine will also be there with her Ingle loom, and other ladies will join her with various types of hand sewing.

So, it should be a fun day for everyone! I hope you can stay for the whole thing so we all can relax together at the end. If you have questions or can pass out publicity fliers, do not hesitate to call Deanna at 619-222-0047. Publicity fliers can be obtained at the Robinson-Rose Visitor Center.



Create a Persona

by Gary Turton

Adopting a persona has almost become a lost art among park docents. Most dress in period clothing, but have only a vague notion of who they may be trying to portray. They have not quite reached the “living museum” status. In fact, wearing the clothes before being the person is somewhat backwards. If a docent has a persona, the clothing, accessories, and public interpretation can be much more consistent and thereby is much more believable. It’s probably true that most docents avoid this step because: 1. They have already acquired some period attire, and 2. They are too insecure with acting the part in 1st person. However, even if one chooses not to attempt to verbally imitate that person, simply knowing who you might believably be will help with the confidence you have in your interpretive presentation. You can even do it in secret, and people will begin to marvel at your presentation. How does one come up with a persona?

A docent can either choose to play the role of an actual person of our historic period, or they can invent a person who could have been present in that period. The first alternative is perhaps the more authentic of the two, but it demands much research into that person’s life and character. It would certainly be insulting to the memory of that person to invent imagined or untrue important aspects of his/her life. Occasionally, unpleasant arguments erupt between two docents wishing to play the same historic person. This is especially true if one of them is significantly off the mark. The second alternative is perhaps safer, in that one cannot insult an imaginary person. It still does, however, require a good deal of research to get the persona in sync with a particular time and place. Imaginary composites of two different actual persons, may sometimes work, but care is required to not be too transparent. A brutal mixture of clothing, accessories, and life circumstances stretching from 1821 to 1872 would hardly qualify.

Here are some questions to be addressed in the process of choosing a persona:

Continued in next column ↗

Create a Persona (continued)...

(Write out the answers, you can edit as time goes on.)

1. What are you? Real or imaginary?
2. What is your name? Very important, even for imaginary, as it personalizes you.
3. How old are you at the time in history you are portraying as compared with your real age? Don’t let wishful thinking overcome you!
4. What is your background? Where were you born - here, or did you immigrate? Who were your parents? Are there any memorable events or turning points in your life that would give you an interesting story? What special skills do you have, i.e. sailor, seamstress, teacher, horse wrangler, blacksmith, rich Californio landowner, etc.? The more you fill in here, the better.
5. What were the historical events happening in your portrayed time period of which you would be expected to have had some degree of special knowledge or involvement? Indian uprisings, “the hounds,” the Mexican /U.S. War and annexation, gold rush era, etc.
6. If you’re playing a person of different ethnic background, do you think you can reasonably pull it off, i.e. if playing a Mexican persona, what if someone says something to you in Spanish? Can you answer them without embarrassment?
7. If you wish to portray a personage that requires expensive clothing and accessories, e.g., military uniforms, weapons, and accoutrements, often costing hundreds of dollars, can you afford it?
8. Compare your photograph with an actual photo of the person you portray if that person was an actual person. Or, compare your photo with a photo of a real person of similar character if you opt for imaginary. Is the comparison believable? Your photograph, attempting to imitate photographs of the period, can often point out even small but glaring items that significantly detract from your portrayal. Personal items such as hairdo, cosmetics, inappropriate jewelry, eyeglasses, shoes, etc. can be very problematic. The desire to be physically attractive and comfortable in today’s world, rather than realistic for the period, is one of the most prevalent problems in this regard.

Some docents and employees dislike dressing in period attire. For them, the above may be an unwanted added burden. But, if you fancy dressing for a good interpretive presentation, try the above and see what happens.

Research on the Information Highway

by Estelle Lauer

Joe Vasquez has been conferring with the new trainees who are preparing to participate in Old Town's special events. One of the most crucial factors in proper readiness is Period Attire.

The Park has clothing gurus who will set the new recruits on the right paths. But with access to the Internet, it's easy for individuals to do their own research. Chris Ownby, the denizen of the Seeley Stables Theater, has spent years acquiring authentic clothing and supplies that set the tone for his performances. When he detaches his collar and his cuffs, he explains that these are the parts that get dirty so these are the parts that get washed.

It's enlightening to "Google" up a clothing interest because some of the descriptions and pictures are accompanied by historic information.

Because shampoo had yet to be invented, the easiest way to keep women's hair neat was to part it in the middle and pull it back into a braid or under a black triangle scarf. And because sanitation was wanting, head lice were an accepted part of life.

Chris has suggested some web-sites that can enlighten those who want to do their own research. An outstanding address is (<http://thesewingacademy.org>). You don't have to be a member of this group to use their search engine. He typed in "hair styles" and found lots of useful information for women who have short or fine hair.

A crucial point for authenticity is eye glasses. Ideally, contacts would solve any concern about lenses being historically correct. No matter how authentic are hair style and clothing, if the glasses aren't of the era the period attire becomes a "costume."

Although the site title indicates the Civil War era, "Authentic Campaigner" has illustrations for both men and women that are applicable for our time period from 1821 to 1872.

Here are some other possibilities:

<http://wwwcornerclothiers.com>

<http://robertlandhistoricsshoes.com/servlet/storefront>

A digital Newspaper Collection will supply periodicals from the years 1841 to 1911. The San Diego Herald is in this collection and the information would supply all kinds of stories with which to regale visitors. One such story describes when Señor Wrightington got drunk and fell off his horse. When he was found his body had provided sustenance for coyotes.

"The Information Highway" is here to stay. It behooves us to take advantage of the opportunities that are at our fingertips.

From the Editor's Desk...

I received a wealth of contributions this month...thanks to all! The Board is discussing whether it is time to get on the "Information Highway" and start transmitting the Poppy Paper via e-mail. Bob Jones has already been successful in downloading the paper to the BOOT website, available for anyone who has internet access.

However, we realize that many of you either do not have a computer, or you would rather read the paper the "old fashioned way!" If you prefer an e-mail version, let me know (via e-mail). We will spend the next few months reorganizing the mailing list for those who are ready to step into the 21st Century!

Happy Reading!

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

CREATIVE BAKERS NEEDED!



Donations of homemade cakes, cupcakes or cookies are needed for our 4th of July Cake Walk event.

This is such a popular activity at the celebration in the park, and families find the sweet prizes just the thing to keep the kiddies happy. This year we are urging that baked goods be small and convenient for sharing right on the spot.

Cakes are fine if they are not too large to be carried around, cupcakes (about 8 packaged together) are perfect because they can be gobbled up quickly, and packages (or paper plates) of one dozen cookies will be greatly appreciated by all. Please make them colorful, go all out with your 4th of July decorations, and wrap them in clear paper so the ants won't be tempted to taste them first.

Please deliver baked goods to the upstairs offices of the Robinson-Rose house on July 3rd or before 10am on the 4th.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING MAKE THIS A TASTY, FUN, PROFITABLE EVENT.

Questions? Contact Shirlee Rodriguez
Boosters of Old Town Member
Coordinator of 4th of July Cake Walk
Shir1909@cox.net

Thank You!
Adrian & Anne
Fernandes



A very special “thank you” goes out to Adrian and Anne Fernandes for graciously hosting our field trip to their restored 1916 California craftsman bungalow on Saturday, April 25, 2009. WOW! WHAT A HOUSE – IT WAS GORGEOUS!

Adrian and Anne shared with the group that they purchased the house only nine years ago, when Adrian retired from teaching. The house hadn’t been maintained well for many years, but Anne said that they knew it had “good bones.”

They worked for nearly a year – and Adrian said it was a “full-time” job – but the results were worth it. Every room, every window, every door, every nook and cranny displayed meticulous attention to detail and craftsmanship. And...Adrian did it all himself!!! (But, he did admit that when he was building the large deck on the second floor, overlooked the massive canyon below, his son carried the “heavy” stuff up for him in the morning, and then he would spend the day building it alone.)

After touring the house and learning about the special items and details that make the Fernandes’ house a home, we were treated to dessert, fruit, and beverages. The weather cooperated to provide us with a lovely afternoon, lazing in the shade of the welcoming back yard.

Present for this special day were: Madeleine Marrieti, Pat Shook, Nancy Kellerman, Mary & Bob Jones, JoAnn & Jack Cannon, Estelle & Ron Lauer, Nelda & Jim Harris, Gary Turton, Ruth French, Linda Davis, Pat Law, Mary Isbell, Chris Clark, and Don Mayfield.



Adrian and Anne Fernandes

Photos by Gary Turton

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!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

NAME(s)
ADDRESS
CITY STATE ZIP
PHONE

I belong to the following group(s):
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



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