



THE POPPY PAPER



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

July 2009

With Sincere Gratitude

Ladies Day is a fond memory, as we move into the summer months with July 4th and Stagecoach Days right around the corner. Along with those fond memories of days gone by, we reflect back to earlier times and earlier places with friends and family. We must not let our busy lives interfere with those memories, nor keep us from remembering with humble gratitude those who have made Old Town San Diego State Historic Park the special place that we all know and love.

It has become a tradition to dedicate Ladies Day to deserving individuals, and it was in that spirit of gratitude that many of us gathered to pay honor to Martha Rosenberg and Jeanette Marline. We lost both of these lovely ladies in the past year, and their presence was dearly missed.

We also have three active volunteers who deserve our recognition...Mary Byrne and Jack & Joann Cannon have been working steadily as Park volunteers since the inception of the program in the 1970s! How many of you know Mary, or Jack, or Joann? Well, don't feel ashamed if you don't – because they have been behind the scenes, keeping the membership list organized, labels printed, Poppy Paper delivered, and so much more before any of us were ever here (except for Mary Ellen and Tom Young, of course). They did all those magical things that nobody sees, but are sure appreciated by all! Did you know that Mary Byrne was the first Poppy Paper Editor? Jack and Joann have also been very active volunteers at Torrey Pines State Park for all of those years.

Coincidentally, all three of them have decided that it is time to “retire” from their usual duties as longtime volunteers. They will still be able to join us for special occasions, but they won't have to work so hard anymore. Perhaps each of us should challenge ourselves to GIVE as much as Mary, Jack and Joann have given to our Park – and find the time to THANK THEM for how much they have done to enrich the lives and memories for others.

Happy Independence Day!

We hope to see you in the Park for this fun-filled day of activities and celebration (please see to the enclosed flyer on 6).



Don't forget your donations of homemade cakes, cupcakes or cookies for our 4th of July Cake Walk event. Please deliver baked goods to the upstairs offices of the Robinson-Rose house on July 3rd or before 10 AM on the 4th.

Also – get your tickets for the opportunity drawing that will be held on July 4th. You can get your tickets ahead of TIME for the opportunity to win that great bench on display in the Robinson-Rose Bldg. Stop by and buy a ticket!

Poppy Paper Submissions:

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

BOOT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President's Notes

by Jeanne Ferrell

I love deadlines. I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by!
- Douglas Adams

Many people worked to make Ladies Day a success. But it always takes a great General to pull it all together. Our General was Deanna Turton. She had a vision a few years back and every year it gets bigger and better. I remember her saying "I believe the public would like to see how ordinary women spent their days in Old Town." She was right. Every year she puts her heart and soul into this event. And the comments I heard this year confirm it, this event is a shining star!

Kudos to the Volunteers and Park Staff that worked so hard to make this day extraordinary. What great co-operation...what a great accomplishment.

Next up, is the 4th of July. Cake walks, games and contests, horses, music and dancing and so much more. You will find information in this issue about our Old-Fashioned Fourth of July. For a great family adventure, see our flyer in this issue.

One more fan letter. This is to our Editor, Ruth French. She is amazing; Ruth is doing a fantastic job with the Poppy Paper. We appreciate her many hours of volunteer work to make the Paper possible (especially since she has a very demanding full-time job elsewhere). Just getting us to make the deadline takes great patience and perseverance.

**Have a great summer everyone,
see you in Old Town!**



Basket Making – Ladies Day 2009

Treasurer's Notes

by Deanna Turton



May was really a busy month for your treasurer! Besides doing the normal chores of paying the bills and keeping track of the money, the dreaded tax deadline on May 15th required extra effort. However, as reported last month, all deadlines were met and the annual report was submitted to Superintendent Richard Dennison on time to meet Sacramento's May 31st deadline.

If anyone has an un-cashed BOOT check, PLEASE CASH IT. As reported in prior issues of the Poppy Paper, BOOT was required to open a business checking account early this year. Since then, funds are deposited into the new account. It is NOW time to close the old account. However, I cannot do that until everyone has cashed their checks. Since I have had to balance two accounts for six months, I am very eager to combine these accounts.

OK, now on to the very good news about the month of May, for when everything was added up, BOOT came out almost \$2500 ahead in the checkbook. As usual, the BOOT Store and BOOT Tours were the shining stars for revenue generation. Much of that was due to a very heavy tour schedule in the spring, which accounted for \$1190 from tours in the month of May alone. Donations also did well with a daily average of \$54.70 in the donation boxes, as well as \$364.00 from in-kind donations. Most of these in-kind donations were solicited by Karen Mastaglio for the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. Be sure to thank her if you won one of those wonderful prizes!!! And finally, another \$170 was donated in memory of Jeanette Marlene.

Expenses were: BOOT Store inventory - \$2393.93, Poppy Paper printing/ mailing - \$678.60, and office expenses -\$393.23. All twelve other expense categories were under \$200.

As mentioned earlier, the new checking account required us to buy new checks, as well as deposit slips and a new check endorsement stamp. Although all of those items are part of doing business, they normally are not ALL required at the same time. But, this year they were (due to stricter banking rules resulting from 9-11).

Craft Committee Surprise!

by Deanna Turton



At 9am sharp on June 12th, two new volunteers, Pam Ogdin and Linda Davis came around the corner of the Robinson-Rose Building to work on crafts. Deanna said, "Wow! Someone actually read my Poppy Paper article," to which they replied, "Sure, we can read!"

So, Deanna's got the ladies started on Mary Jones' wish list from last month. Pam was assigned car freshener bags; Linda was assigned herbal dryer bags. In no time at all they had that done, and when new volunteer, Judy Parent arrived for her second visit to Craft Committee Friday, it was time to assign everyone a new task. Judy had worked on spool doll kits last month, so she was paired up with Pam to continue that task. Linda, on the other hand, was asked to work on our Herbal Sampler Variety Packs. Meanwhile, Madeleine Marietti was blending spices (*according to Martha Rosenberg's recipes, of course*).

While all of that was going on, Winnie Adams arrived and was asked to make more fresh lavender bouquets. They were such BIG sellers last year! So, Winnie got busy cutting lavender in the garden, and she soon had enough flowers for **FIFTY** small bouquets.

By the time Mary Jones, our storekeeper arrived with her wish list we had already made most of the items on her list!

Deanna had time to strip several dried bunches of lavender, since Madeleine needed some for the sleep pillow recipe. Right about then, Pam and Judy were done with the spool doll kits, so they began filling lace-trimmed sleep pillow. (*Madeleine makes all of the bags at home with the leftover fabric from Deanna's various sewing projects.*) Finally, Winnie used the stripped branches of lavender to make bundles of herbal fire starters. (As you can see, we waste NOTHING!)

It was a full morning indeed! We were done by noon, and we arrived at Mary Ellen Young's wonderful luncheon ON TIME. The three new volunteers have resulted in a 50% growth to the Craft Committee! The best news is that they all said they had a good time and would come back next month. See you at 9am on July 10th, Ladies! Remember - bring a hat because June gloom will be over, and the sun will be shining again! ☼

North...to Alaska!

by Barbara Stewart

This past April BOOT had the opportunity to guide a tour for a group from Chignik Lagoon, Alaska. The group of 26 was the entire, regular education, student body and chaperones of Chignik Lagoon School. The group had saved for three years, we were told, to come to San Diego for a science focused, week long school trip. While the primary purpose of the trip was to enrich their science program, the visit to Old Town San Diego State Historic Park was their one glimpse into the history of California. The group found adobe brick making of interest, as they could relate to the need for building materials when there was no timber easily available. The garden was also of great interest, both for the medicinal herbs, as well as those used for cooking. They also got a glimpse of San Diego's variable weather, with record high temperatures set on the day of their arrival which stayed with them for the majority of their visit.

Two teachers, their students, grades Kindergarten through 11th Grade, and many family members comprise the group. Chignik Lagoon School is one of the 15 schools in the Lake and Peninsula Borough District on the Alaskan Peninsula. The district serves the educational needs of 419 students, pre-Kindergarten to 12th grade. Chignik Lagoon School is a rural/remote school servicing a student population that is 100% American Indian/Alutiiq Ancestry.

The three teachers provide classroom education to thirteen students in three grade clusters: K-6, 7-12, and Special Education. The village has no stores or doctors. Local lay-people provide clinic style medical care to residents. A dentist visits twice a year for routine dental care and treatment. Chignik Lagoon Village is a regional fishing center, with commercial fishing as the sustaining industry. During the summer fishing season the regular population of 103 swells to about 200!

I hope we gave them as much of a glimpse into a different way of life, in a different place and time, as they gave to us about their lives in the Alaskan Peninsula Village of Chignik Lagoon, Alaska.

*If the role of a teacher is what you've sought,
know that by your students you'll be taught!*

- Grant M. Bright

Ladies Day 2009

Photos by Bob Jones

Check out the web site to see many more great shots of the day - <http://www.ot-boot.com/>



Las Golondrinas



Los Bailadores



Historic Tug-of-War

Superintendent's Message

By Richard Dennison

Historic Sector Visitor Services Superintendent

It has been awhile since a last update was sent out, and there continues to be a lot going on!

If you know about "Facebook," become a Fan! The State Historic Park now has a Facebook page.

<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=101682&id=109383105816&saved#/pages/San-Diego-CA/Old-Town-San-Diego-State-Historic-Park/109383105816>; Events, pictures, comments, information can all be added to keep up with our community.

Summer activities are coming up. The SLOW Food / State Parks "Stagecoach Days - A Sunday Culinary Celebration of San Diego's Food Heritage" is Sunday, June 28, and get your tickets now. It will be a great afternoon in the Plaza.

http://www.parks.ca.gov/events/event_detail.asp?id=2506

Historic Old Town 4th of July annual tradition continues. Bring the family and friends for a fun time, 11am-4pm.

http://www.parks.ca.gov/events/event_detail.asp?id=2222

There are a variety of other living history programs in the park throughout the week. Additional daily tours, Blacksmith shop, Saints & Sinners Tours <http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/663/files/saints%20&%20sinners.pdf>, Wagon Rides, Storytelling on the Green, and more!!

The Boosters of Old Town (BOOT), the park's non-profit cooperating association dedicated to supporting the interpretive programs through fundraising and advocacy, has published an updated "Brief History and Walking Tour Guide". This guidebook has been years in the works, and is a concise overview of the State Historic Park. Pick one up at the BOOT Store on your next visit to the park!

Concessions continue to grow and improve throughout the park. Fiesta de Reyes has many new shops, as well as the popular Barra Barra Saloon and Casa de Reyes restaurant. Many stores have improved facilities including Cousins Candy with new period accurate, and efficient, lighting. The Theatre will be having their new production starting in July, "Noises Off". Wallach & Goldman Square will have their new restaurant and shops coming very soon!!

All in all, there are so many things going on this summer. So come down and take a stroll through and enjoy your State Historic Park.

Editor's Note: The above information was distributed via e-mail; it is printed here for those who do not have internet access.

Somewhere Over the Rainbow...

by Deanna Turton

"Somewhere over the Rainbow...skies are blue, and the dreams that you dare to dream really do come true."

It is not often that one can say that all her dreams for an event came true... but this year, I can honestly say that Ladies Day met that lofty expectation through the hard work and teamwork of many people. This year, the Plaza was once again filled with demonstration booths that excited the public and captured the interest of little children. Activities featured the creative pastimes and life skills of women in historic San Diego. Visitors could try their hand at basketry, weaving, quill penmanship, crocheting, and perhaps even watch a volunteer have her hair arranged in an historic hair style. Other areas of interest included photography, soap making, cascaroné making, period clothing, and a cargo display. Since children were also a large part of women's lives, activities for children were featured, from corn husk dolls to races and games on the Plaza.

For the more "wicked and adventuresome," there was historic gambling in the Commercial Restaurant. If that was not enough to round out the afternoon, demonstrations at the Machado-Stewart Casa included garden tours, "tussie mussie" making, butter churning, and a laundry demonstration.

While all of that was going on, greeters welcomed park visitors to inform everyone what Ladies Day was all about! Colorful fliers, lovely directional signs, and ribbon spinners marked the stations; and it was easy to see that something SPECIAL was going on! At 2:00 p.m., the color and excitement was turned up a notch by our dance group, Los Bailadores who arrived accompanied by the musical group, Los Californios. They entertained the public with historic music and twirling dancers. Soon, horses appeared on the Plaza, first in small groups - then in larger numbers. These skilled riders rode around and through the Plaza, prompting the question, "What is going on here today?"

It was not long before everyone was told, "We are going to re-enact an historic wedding today! Please come!!" And, come they did. The wedding ceremonies began at the Machado-Stewart Casa, where the bride's and groom's godparents wrangled over the dowry. After the negotiations were settled, the beautiful bride appeared and was greeted by her husband-to-be. She mounted her horse, and the masses of park visitors and volunteers proceeded to walk around the Plaza in a grand procession. While the bells rang with clear vigor from the rooftop, the procession was greeted by the Padre at the entrance of La Casa de Estudillo. **Over 300 people** entered the Estudillo Casa for the wedding vignette.

Upon entering the Estudillo, the guests saw the beautiful floral and paper decorations that had been prepared for the wedding. As the couple spoke of their undying love for each other, the audience responded with appropriate sentimental comments after each vow was spoken. Finally, the crowd formed a double line of well wishers as the newly married couple left the Estudillo, heading for their marriage dinner (*at the newly redecorated Barra Barra Restaurant*). Arriving at the restaurant, the wedding couple was greeted by the host, and appropriate customs were observed. Then it was time to eat and dance...volunteers, staff, and even some members of the general public entered the restaurant to relax and enjoy the evening together. Once again, the dancers and musicians entertained the guests with historic music and dances. There was even a special waltz for the bride and groom. It was the perfect way to end the day.

It is impossible to thank everyone who contributed to this wonderful day. To our guest volunteers from the Misty Ward Gourd and Basketry Guild, The San Diego Creative Weavers Guild, and to Cindy Christ, the soapmaker – many thanks! To Cate Gilman from the Herb Society, thank you for leading garden tours. To the Barra Barra Restaurant, our thanks for their hospitality and willingness to provide dinner at a discounted rate for all participants. To William Holtzhauer, Alfredo Viruegas, and the women of the Las Golondrinas – the horses and horsemanship added a very special ambience. And, finally THANK YOU TO ALL the volunteers and staff who worked so hard to make Ladies Day a huge success.

Perhaps these small stories will give you a warm feeling in your heart, and perhaps you will know that our efforts made a difference to many people. One lady said that she came back because of the lovely banner on the Robinson-Rose porch, and that she would come every year from now on! A young girl loved learning to crochet so much that her mother was planning to take her to the fabric store to buy a crochet hook immediately after the event!

As I was saying my thanks to Las Golondrinas, a young girl (*about the age of six*) rested her head on my hip and looked at me with happy eyes. She said that she had a good time, and her father promised that they would be back next year! So I promised that I would once again be the chairperson.

Many, many thanks to everyone for working as a team to make MY dreams for Ladies Day come true.

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

___ \$ 35.00 – Family (2 or more)

___ \$ 20.00 – Single Supporting Member

___ \$ 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):

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