



THE POPPY PAPER



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

August 2009

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

To reduce costs and to allow our members to receive the Poppy Paper in a more timely fashion, BOOT will soon be sending the monthly publication as an e-mail attachment. We have been busy gathering as many e-mail addresses as possible.

For this issue **ONLY**, you will receive the Poppy Paper via USPS **and** e-mail. Starting in September, only active BOOT Members will have the option of receiving the Poppy Paper via U.S. Mail.

YOUR OPTIONS ARE:

To continue receiving the Poppy Paper via U.S. Postal Service, you MUST:

- Be a current member of BOOT **and**
- Notify the editor no later than August 15, 2009 (by phone or e-mail below)

If you are a current member of BOOT and do not have e-mail access:

- You will continue receiving the Poppy Paper in the mail (as long as your membership is active)
*We will be giving you a courtesy call to make sure that your address is up-to-date.

If you are not a BOOT member and wish to receive the Poppy Paper via e-mail attachment, you MUST:

- Notify the editor no later than August 15, 2009 (with a current e-mail address)

Courtesy copies of the Poppy Paper (in limited numbers) will be available in the Robinson-Rose Building/Visitors Center.

The Poppy Paper is now available on-line at
<http://www.ot-boot.com/>

A Great Day to Remember!

by Shirlee Rodriguez
Assistant BOOT Volunteer Coordinator
2009 Fourth of July Celebration

Special thanks go out to all Old Town San Diego State Historic Park volunteers, staff, and participating concessionaires for making our 4th of July celebration a HUGE success.

I was honored this year to be walking in the shoes of Mary Ellen Young, who could not attend, but who shared her ideas and experiences from many years of organizing the event. I was exhausted when it was over, but was so fortunate to have Joe Vasquez, Volunteer Coordinator, helping me every step of the way, receiving ongoing encouragement and direction from Mary Ellen, and having wonderful support from everyone who participated.

From what I observed, our park guests experienced a step back in time, complete with games, contests, food, political events, horses, music, a colorful parade, great weather, and dedicated people in period attire. It ALL made for a memorable 4th of July!

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	
Descendants:	Vacant	
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
	E-mail:	oldtownstatepark@juno.com

President's Notes

by Jeanne Ferrell

Happy Summer Everyone! Old Town is full of people discovering and enjoying the things we love about our community.

This is the time to remind ourselves of the mission and purpose of the Poppy Paper. The Poppy Paper is the "Official Monthly Publication of the Boosters of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, A Non-Profit Organization." We want to inform, educate and entertain our readers.

We want to give you information about what BOOT is doing in the Park. We want you to know what activities are going on in the Park; we want to tell you about meetings and upcoming events; we want you to know what we have in the works for the future, and what we want to accomplish to make our Park the "Best of the West!"

We want to educate with stories of the history of Old Town and the surrounding area, as historical interpretation is a major goal of our organization. We want to share resources for those who are interested in interpretation.

And, we want to entertain you with narratives about BOOT members and volunteers who do **SO** much to keep our Park alive. We want you to laugh with us about our adventures – and our mis-adventures! We love to tell you about events just past, and show you pictures, too!

So, to summarize, we want you to enjoy the Poppy Paper. Maybe you will learn something new about the Park; maybe you will decide to come down and join us; maybe you will have a laugh or two. We hope you do!!!!

Poppy Paper Monthly Submissions:

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

Treasurer's Notes

by Deanna Turton



Although the month of June was normal in many respects, BOOT did experience a loss of \$1049.96 in the checking account when all the bills were added up. This can be explained by a decreased daily average in the donation boxes, as well as increased expenses in the BOOT store budget.

Let's talk about the income first! Like most months, the BOOT store and tours brought in the lion's share of BOOT income...with tours bringing in \$1035.00 of pure profit --- as the only expense we have for tours is the hard work of our tour coordinator and tour guides. June is also the month that the Descendants gather to hold their annual meeting, which earned \$740.00 from ticket sales and donations. And, finally the daily average in the donation boxes was \$43.55, which is unusually low for one of the busiest months of the year.

Expenses, on the other hand, were also somewhat unusual. In preparation for being away for an extended vacation with her husband Bob, Mary Jones ordered more inventory than normal. Hence, the expenses for the store totaled \$4422.02. In addition, there were expenses for the annual Descendants Day luncheon - \$599.12, Ladies Day - \$638.61, and some early July 4th charges - \$234.18. The care of the burros also rose this month to \$1165.02. All other ten categories were \$200 or less.

In early July, I am happy to say that I paid the second quarter sales tax online! For someone who is computer challenged, this is an accomplishment! Of course, I should also add that a lovely lady at the State Board of Equalization helped me through some rough spots along the way. Perhaps I will be able to do the whole thing by myself in October when the third quarter taxes are due.

A New Feature Article - What you always wanted to know about Historic Fabric!

by Deanna Turton

There is a new book in the BOOT reference library entitled *Textiles in America: 1650-1870 - a dictionary based on original documents, prints, and paintings, commercial records, American merchants' papers, shopkeepers' advertisements, and pattern books, with original swatches of cloth.* Rather than have everyone try to read it, I thought I would select excerpts from the book for each issue of the Poppy Paper. Then everyone could have the benefit of the information.

In modern fabric stores, the old names for fabrics can no longer be heard....must less be purchased! This can be a difficult nut to crack if one has read the fabric requirements on a historic pattern and/or seen the name of a suggested fabric that no longer exists! This new book provides a good solution for this problem because fabrics are listed both ways.

However, this month, I have chosen a relatively familiar fabric in modern terminology – corduroy! The name derives from "corde du roi" or the king's cord. Defined as a "kind of coarse durable, cotton fabric, having a piled surface, like that of velvet, raised in cords, ridges or ribs," corduroy is made with an extra weft for the pile. Furthermore, the character of corduroy has not changed greatly since the late eighteenth century. It is made either twilled or plain in several qualities - "olives, drabs, slates, fawns, and white." The dictionary even includes a quote from an ad in the *Providence Gazette* in 1789, advertising for skilled workers who could "weave, cut and singe corduroy." The prospective employee also had to know how to weave "velverets, twilled or plain thichsetts, denims, fustians, jeans, royal rib, cottonet, and ribbed sattin{sic}." The ad goes on to say that, of course, only specimens of "HIS" work can be the recommendation for employment!

Anyone think you could handle the job?

Corsets Anyone?

by Deanna Turton

Everyone who knows me realizes....I LOVE BOOKS! So, when I saw two books advertised on-line, I could not resist. One book is entitled *The Basics of Corset Building - A Handbook for Beginners*. The other book, *Corsets – Historical Patterns and Techniques*, contains a bit more advanced images of corsets in historic collections.

As a seamstress, I have often made historic reproduction garments for park staff and volunteers, but rarely, if ever, do those individuals wear the underlying corset that gives the dress definition and correct fit, as it would have given in the 1800s. So, I ask, "Why is this?"

Perhaps the most common answer is - most of us do not own a corset. Perhaps our body type has a few extra lumps and bumps, and ordering a standard size would be troublesome. Perhaps buying one is just too expensive, and having one custom-made is even more expensive. Perhaps we have never worn a corset and are afraid to try.

A solution to this dilemma might be - we could make our own! Is anyone interested in learning how to make a corset, and having hands-on workshops for everyone to make their own garment (where we could help each other do the many fittings)?

Since my husband is recuperating from surgery this summer, it will be a good time for me to study these books. So, perhaps by the fall, if enough of you are interested, we might hold a workshop and all learn how to do this together!

If interested, please call or e-mail Deanna: 619-222-0047 or deanna@turton-ent.com

Welcome to our new Supervising Ranger!

By Richard Dennison
Historic Sector Visitor Services Superintendent

It is a privilege to announce Wendy Aoki-Radley as the new Supervising Ranger in San Diego Coast District, Historic Sector, which includes Old Town San Diego and San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Parks.

The Sector is very complex with public safety issues, education & interpretation, natural and cultural resources, seasonal staff, volunteer programs, two cooperating associations, concessions, partnerships with the community, administrative functions, and other generalist responsibilities.

The selection process was very challenging, with the candidates having to demonstrate possession of the knowledge, skills, and personal characteristics necessary to be in a leadership role. Wendy successfully demonstrated that ability, not only in the interview, but during her career.

Wendy graduated from the University of Iowa with a Bachelor's of Science degree, and has a variety of work experience in related fields. After attending the State Parks Peace Officer Academy, she worked at Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park. Her most recent assignment has been at the North Sector, in the busy units of San Elijo and South Carlsbad State Beaches, where she was involved in a variety of generalist ranger functions, including lead person for seasonal employees, volunteers, and development of cooperating association.

Tentatively, her effective start date is 7/31/09, but there will be a transition period that will include covering shifts and completing projects and assignments (including the Ranger Field Training Program) in her current location.

The addition of Wendy Aoki-Radley to the team expands the opportunities to fulfill the mission, values, and Strategic Initiatives of State Parks in the Historic Sector, the greater San Diego Coast District, and the Department - WELCOME!

EVERYONE INVITED!

The Craft Committee, led by Deanna Turton, and the Sewing Committee, led by Roseann Cook, will meet on Friday, August 14, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. The crafters meet behind the Robinson-Rose Building – because their chores can be a little bit messy at times! The sewing group meets upstairs in the McCoy House. Bring your sewing machine, if it's portable, and enjoy the company while crafting and stitching necessities for BOOT and the VIPs. There's a job for everyone!

Afterwards (around noon), join in on Mary Ellen's famous "Taste and Tell." All staff and volunteers are welcome to join together in an Open Forum for discussion, sharing ideas, and of course, GREAT FOOD!

Thank You!

Many thanks go out to everyone who attended SOHO and Old Town Chamber's 240th Birthday event. It is always a good day when our Mayor Sanders and Councilman Falcouner come to Old Town to help us celebrate!

From the editor's desk...

As we wish Ranger Elizabeth Allancorte our congratulations on retirement, and we thank her for her many years of dedicated service, we welcome new Supervising Ranger Wendy Aoki-Radley to Old Town. During this transition, remember the words of Abraham Lincoln...

"The best thing about the future is that it only comes one day at a time."



Ranger Elizabeth Allancorte (Retired)

Hello Everyone,

As some of you may have already heard, I have retired effective July 1st. So, this year, the 4th of July, INDEPENDENCE DAY, took on a whole new meaning for me for the first time in 34 cumulative years. I have been honored, privileged and humbled by being chosen to wear the Stetsons, Uniforms and Badges of the two most Premier Park Services in the world. I worked as a Park Ranger with the United States National Park Service for 5 years, both on the East and West Coasts, and 29 calendar years with the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). This 4th of July, I experienced a sensation of True Freedom and Independence.

In early June I received notification regarding age-based, compulsory retirement for Safety Members, which was recently being implemented by our department. This age-based, compulsory retirement was going to affect thirteen DPR employees. The "Baker's Dozen Boot," so to speak. I've heard that amongst those affected were a few high ranking Superintendents, a few middle managers, and a few field level State Park Peace Officers. So, I'm not taking it personally because I am in very good company.

Well, as you can imagine, at first it was like, "SHOCK," but no "AWE." Then, it was "ACCEPTANCE" and scramble, scramble, scramble to get all the retirement paperwork in on time.

Continued in next column ↗

Elizabeth Allancorte (continued)...

(I had a few "Fairy Godparents," both here and in Sacramento, who reached out to lend big helping hands). Then, as reality set in, it was, "OH, SANTA IS COMING EARLY THIS YEAR! CHRISTMAS IN JULY, YEH!!!"

I was here in Old Town for the 4th of July Special Event. As I listened to several people, on the stage, reciting parts of The Preamble to our Constitution, I realized that from now on, I will be in pursuit of Life and Liberty, because I already have Happiness.

For most of the last nine years that I have worked in the San Diego Coast District's Historic sector, I have been "The Lone Park Ranger," always doing my best to protect and serve.

I am very honored and proud to have served for 34 years with all of you VIPs, you Concessionaires, you co-workers and friends, and the general public, as well. I have always held paramount the trust and responsibilities placed upon me. I have been humbled and blessed by the great kindnesses of friends and strangers alike. I have made many wonderful and enriching life-long friendships, which I will always cherish. I have also been very lucky to have worked with those folks who have dedicated their lives, their knowledge, their talents and skills to these services.

I would like to thank every single one of you who have enriched not only my life, but the lives of everyone you have touched. It's a better world out there because of all of you.

May "GOD" and "The Force" be with ALL OF YOU ALWAYS!

**Adios, Arrivederci, Ciao, Au Revoir, Adieu...
Hi ho, Silver, away!!**



Very Respectfully,
Elizabeth Allancorte
The Retired "Lone Park Ranger"

“Saints and Sinners” Tours
Fridays and Saturdays, 6:00 p.m.
Through the Summer



The Actors (from left to right):

Gregg Giacopuzzi, Guire Cleary, Lisa Long, Frances McMeeken, Vanessa Jones, Eric Minella, and Sean Shiraishi

What is a saint and what is a sinner? Who are we to judge that age-old question? On Fridays and Saturdays at 6 p.m., Park Interpretive Staff, joined occasionally by volunteers and concession employees, conduct an entertaining romp through the State Historic Park for 60 minutes of fun and history, with a surprising conclusion.

Sean Shiraishi and Guire Cleary start the tour by discussing the best places in town to find choice entertainments. Sean, being the consummate “Nameless Degenerate,” appeals to the tour audience to witness the various pleasures they may encounter as they perambulate through town. Guire, as the self-appointed moral compass, Mr. Strawbridge of Philadelphia, consistently moralizes and badgers those who may stray to the “sinner” point of view. The jokes fly frequently as these two characters banter back and forth to the delight of the audience.

Along the way, the visitors encounter the Widow Jenkins, sympathetically played by Vanessa Jones, as she is thrown out of the Loveless Hotel by Bill Loveless, villainously portrayed by Gregg Giacopuzzi. Frances McMeeken is endearing as the ranch owner, Fiona McTavish, who is in town to get cattle brands, a new hat, and possibly a man! Eric Minella, an employee of park concession ‘Fiesta de Reyes,’ is the gambler with a heart, named Slim Ash. Lisa Long portrays a traveling madam on her way to New Town. The characters are composites based on fictional and actual persons, such as Cave Couts, the Alvarados, and the Estudillos. Their lives and stories have a common basis in a universal human experience of the western frontier. The cards and money fly as gun play takes center stage in a riotous ending!

The public has been enthusiastic with their response to this new tour, and attendance has ranged from 20-40 each night. For a free rollicking good time, come on down any Friday or Saturday evening at 6:00 p.m., all summer long.

by Lisa Long (submitted by Rich Dennison)

