



THE POPPY PAPER



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

November 2009

OUR DONKEYS ARE BACK!

by Gary Turton

The Park donkeys, Don Quixote (aka Donkey-Hoté) and Dulcinea, have returned to the Park! They are now living in their former enclosure next to Seeley Stable, which has been completely refurbished. Both seem to be in good health and will be on display in the near future. They have always been very popular with the school children who visit the Park daily.

Don Quixote



The donkeys have been absent for nearly a year, housed near Ramona under the care of Roslyn Proffer at her equine training and boarding facility. Roslyn is the daughter of a former Park docent, Lynn Proffer, who passed away some years ago.

We would like to thank Roslyn for the fine care and attention she has provided - well above and beyond the contractual agreements. We would also like to thank all of the Park Staff and volunteers who contributed their time and talents to the refurbishment of the enclosure.

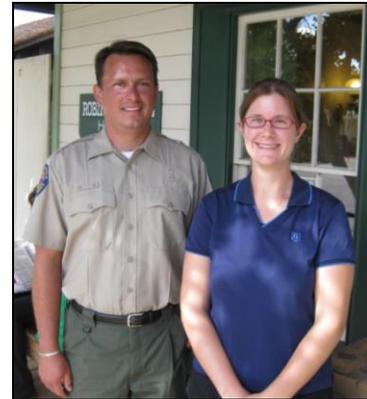


Dulcinea

Continued in next column ↗

Our Donkeys Are Back (continued)...

Two new Park aides, Bob Henley and Erin Hill, are tasked with Don and Dulci's daily care, public display, and interpretive programs that will involve the donkeys. Any staff or volunteers wishing to see the donkeys should contact Bob or Erin prior to going into the corral area.



Welcome Bob and Erin!

BOOT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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	Cindy Furlong	
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President's Notes

by Jeanne Ferrell

The BOOT Board has received the Budget requests for FY2010. It is obvious that we need more money than we have, which is true of almost all elements of our society now. So the Board will look at the priorities and make decisions. Our CAL, Rich Dennison, did a terrific job putting the State Park Staff requests together. We'll work with him to provide the Park with items not available from the State Budget. BOOT has historically provided the funding for the donkey program, the blacksmith program, and thousands of dollars for events. We also buy needed equipment and subsidize the period attire bank. I could go on and on with all the things BOOT has provided for the Park. However, I will just tell you it is a labor of love. We do love our State Historic Park, and many of us give of our time and money to make it a better place for the people of California.

Thanks to all in the State Park who helped make the Art Festival in Old Town a huge success. You are the best! It was a great event and one that, once again, lets San Diego know we are the place to come for History, Culture, Entertainment, Food and Fun.

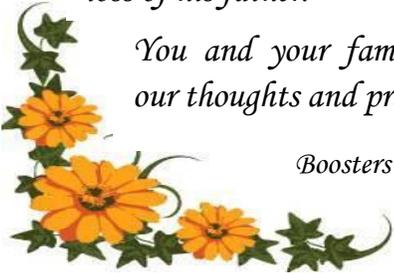


An Expression of
Sympathy

*We express our sincere condolences
to Richard Dennison for the recent
loss of his father.*

*You and your family are in
our thoughts and prayers.*

Boosters of Old Town



Treasurer's Notes

by Deanna Turton

Just when everything was going along from month to month as nicely as can be expected, September came along and showed us not to count our chickens too quickly! Even though the BOOT Store, BOOT tours, and the daily donation average were good for September, expenses proved just too high for things to balance in the positive direction. So, BOOT showed a deficit of \$1817.29 between income and expenses this month.

Major expense categories were as follows:

Jeanette Marlene Memorial Benches-\$1,968.39

The BOOT Board authorized monies to supplement the memorial contributions of \$680.00 for the construction of ten historically-correct Park benches.

BOOT Store-\$635.03 to replenish inventory.

Stagecoach Days-\$641.49 Invoices not submitted until September.

Halloween Tours-\$461.06 The Park interpretive team is giving fee-based tours, and costs were incurred for supplies and props. Since the Park is tasked with raising funds in these troubled financial times in Sacramento, the funds generated from the tours will go directly to Sacramento. However, the Park staff can draw on the funds to finance interpretive programs and salaries.

Fiestas Patrias-\$1513.25 for entertainment.

Burros/Stables-\$971.80 Many repairs were needed in the stable area before our donkeys could return. In addition, Don, the male burro, needed two visits from the vet due to skin problems from fly bites. We are delighted that our donkeys were returned to the Park on October 19th.

All other of the eleven expense categories were \$200 or less.

Third Quarter sales taxes were paid in mid-October, and I can confidentially say that I have mastered paying the taxes online without assistance! Of course, we still send in a "paper" check, but the actual filing is done online sitting here at my computer!

Fabric Facts: Bolting

by Deanna Turton



"Bolting is a fine cloth used for sifting meal. The stiff, transparent fabric made of silk in the gum was used for fine sifting in flour mills, for making stencils, and for wig foundations."

The term is derived from "bolter" which means a sieve. Candice Wheeler used the material for bed hangings commissioned by Lily Langtry:

"I suggested a canopy of our strong, gauze-like creamy silk bolting cloth, the tissue used in flour mills for sifting superfine flour. I explained that the canopy would be crossed on the under side with loops of full-blown, sunset colored roses and the hanging border heaped with them. That there might be a coverlet of bolting-cloth lined with the delicatest shade of rose-pink satin, sprinkled plentifully with rose petals fallen from the wreaths above.....The scattered petals were true portraits done from nature, and looked as though they could be shaken off at any minute."

Textiles in America, 1650-1870, pp. 171-172

NO MORE SHOT GLASSES?!?!?

by Mary Jones

Our booth at the Art Festival brought in \$250.00. Thanks to Estelle Lauer for coordinating the volunteers to staff the booth for the two-day event. Assisting Estelle were the following volunteers: Susan Cohen, Sharon Hodges, Caryn and Doug Zimmer, Charlotte Perry, Nancy Kelleher, Pat Law, Karen, Luke and Lydia Mastaglio, Deanna Turton, Ruth French, and Mary Jones.

All of our shot glasses were sold!!! Many of you know about our HUGE supply of "San Diego" shot glasses, which we have been trying to get rid of for several years. They were given to BOOT, so whatever money we made was pure profit. Well, we put the last of our supply on the table in our booth and sold them for \$.25 each - or five for \$1.00. On Saturday morning, Susan was "barking" like a seasoned "carny," clearing out nearly 40 shot glasses in less than two hours! Then, early on Sunday, a lady asked why the price was so low and Mary told her our story. She bought the last 15 or so of them. HURRAY!!!! We also sold a number of lighthouse key hangers (which were also donated), ornaments, gourds, and cookbooks.

Good sales keep me busy ordering new toys and books, and the Craft Committee busy making more of *everything!* The cookbooks are literally flying off the shelves! Our crafts are selling very well and rapidly...so we are always looking for new people to help! Even if you can't devote ONE Friday a month in the park, **YOU CAN ALWAYS WORK ON A CRAFT AT HOME.**

Beginning in January, we are planning to teach specific craft skills, such as doll making, crocheting, rug making, etc. If you have any ideas for crafts we could produce, feel free to bring your ideas and a sample or instructions to a Friday craft day.

A warm welcome goes out to Becky Halliburton who has volunteered to work in the BOOT Store on Sundays. We can always use help in the BOOT Store – it's fun and rewarding!

Happy Thanksgiving!



Please...Be Seated!

by Bob Jones

As volunteers for the cooperating association with Old Town, we often see opportunities to enhance the Park experience for visitors. The BOOT volunteers and State Park volunteers work hard to raise funds to augment what the Park can do with its budgets. For many events within the park, seating has been a problem. BOOT has rented chairs for events and purchased bales of hay for seating. Both are recurring costs and have not been the best solution to an ongoing need.

Earlier this year, an opportunity arose. After the death of long-time volunteer, Jeanette Marline, many friends contributed to BOOT to honor her memory. More than \$600 was received in memorial donations, and it was decided that appropriate, period benches for the Park would be the perfect project for the memorial contributions. With Gary Olson's help, Park benches were measured, and plans were drawn and reviewed by Park staff for compliance with period-appropriate design. The Board allocated additional money to the memorial contributions in order to fund the construction of ten sturdy benches. Dixieline was very supportive of our non-profit organization, supplying the special-order Redwood lumber at cost. We very much appreciate that gesture!

Donald Newell, the Park's volunteer Master Woodworker, reviewed the plans, offered suggestions and workspace. The lumber was picked up and placed in the woodshop. Bob Jones took the legs home for cutting, pegging and gluing. When they were finished, Chuck Ferrell, Donald and Bob met in the woodworking area to decide the best approach for completing the benches. Chuck volunteered to take materials to his home workshop for an initial assembly. A week passed, and Chuck returned to the Park with a beautifully crafted, finished park bench.

Continued in next column ↗

Please Be Seated (continued)...

A decision was made to work on the benches at Chuck's home, as he had the appropriate woodworking tools and skills needed to produce the high-quality benches. Bob and Chuck have since been working on the benches, transporting benches and wood between the Park and Chuck's home. The construction is nearing the halfway point. Four benches have been fabricated. All legs and several other sections are cut and/or drilled and ready for assembly.

The blacksmiths are fabricating branding irons for the benches. After weatherproofing, the benches will be branded "JM" for Jeanette Marline and "MR" for Martha Rosenberg. It is our hope that, as you rest on these benches, you will reflect upon the good work of Jeanette and Martha in their MANY years of service to the Park, and upon the work of ALL of the volunteers who dedicated their time and talents to enhance the visitors' experience in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park.

From the Editor's Desk...

As my husband and I enjoyed dinner last night with our grown niece and her husband, they shared their joy of being expectant parents. I reflected back on the days not so long ago when our niece was just a *little* girl, learning to set the table for the holidays. How quickly the time has passed...and how much we have to be thankful for!!

With this Season of Celebrations approaching, may we all reflect on the *little* joys in our lives, remember those who have enriched our experiences, and give thanks for the reasons that brought us all together in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park.

Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Reading!

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

Dirt, Compost and Mulch!

by Deanna Turton

If you were a little bird flying high over the gardens of Old Town on two days in October, you might well have asked, "What on earth is going on down there?" Looking down, you would have seen two trucks loaded with compost and mulch, with humans scurrying here and there with wheelbarrows and shovels, moving all of that black stuff around the garden and orchard.



**Bob Jones, Don Mayfield and Adrian Fernandes
Hard at Work!!!!**

However, to us educated humans, this is just the annual compost project and renewal of the soil in the Machado-Stewart Garden and the McCoy pod gardens. This year, we began on October 6th at the back gate of the Stewart Garden. Bob Jones arrived first at 9:30 am, and when Deanna arrived shortly thereafter, the work began. In no time at all, Deanna found two wheelbarrows in the outside stage area and moved them over to the garden where Don Mayfield and Adrian Fernandes were already helping Bob unload the compost. The rich black material was shoveled and raked into the soil in the garden and around the trees in the orchard. About midway through the first truck load, four State Park workers arrived and the pace of the effort picked up. Some men helped shovel the compost onto the wheelbarrows, others wheeled the barrows, and others raked and shoveled the black stuff. In what seemed like a twinkling, the first truck load was done, and Chuck Ferrell arrived with a truck load of mulch.

Continued in next column ↗

Dirt, Compost and Mulch! (continued)...

So, then it was a repeat effort on that truck but most of the mulch was placed around the trees in the orchard. By 11:15 am we were all done! The State Park workers left about thirty minutes before and, in the meantime, we had cleaned up and watered everything really well so the compost would not burn the existing plants and trees.

The next Monday, October 12, we planted the Machado-Stewart Garden with winter vegetables and herbs. One could already see that the existing plants were feeling the effects of the newly applied compost. Everything was a rich shade of green and once straggly plants were now standing straight and tall.

On October 20, we did the same thing in the McCoy pod areas, except this time both Bob and Chuck's trucks were loaded with thick rich compost. This time, the only State helper that could be spared was Josh. His assistance was much appreciated because he brought over the wheelbarrows in his truck, and Deanna did not have to go fetch them! In addition, two new helpers showed up, Mary Jones and Jeanne Ferrell. Jeanne shoveled compost and Mary pruned any dead leaves on existing plants, for Deanna's rule is - prune anything that looks dead!

After we were all done, we rested on the concrete wall surrounding the palm trees behind the Robinson-Rose Building. The best comment of the day can be credited to Bob Jones who said, "Look at all of us with advanced degrees. Here we are shoveling _ _ _ _ !" I think you can fill in the four letter word!!!

In the weeks that follow, we will plant the McCoy pods with winter vegetables and bring in another truck load of compost for the Machado-Silvas garden.

If anyone would like to join us on Monday mornings, we start around ten o'clock. Call Deanna Turton at (619) 222-0047 for more information.

Your Support is Appreciated!

by Richard Dennison
Historic Sector Visitor Services Superintendent

To those who are reading this edition of the Boosters of Old Town *Poppy Paper*, thank you very much for your continued support of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park!

We are so fortunate to have a group of supporters and advocates for the preservation and history of early San Diego. And what a great place to be involved - as I look out at the park, it is a sunny day...school kids on a tour, people interested in history strolling through museums, tourists with cameras, locals returning to restaurants for drinks after work, shoppers going into stores.

I am encouraged by the "State of the Park" ...great staff and volunteers, involvement and support of the greater community, and progress accomplishing interpretive initiatives.

I challenge you to work toward so much more as a supporter.

- Continue advocacy and talk with others about a visit to Old Town.
- Support the BOOT Store and concessions, especially during the upcoming holiday season as you search for gifts for friends/parties/family members.
- Be a volunteer on a project or a special need, or simply become a BOOT Member!

For those who can do more, we invite you to get involved in the Park or contact the BOOT Board with your desire to serve. Thanks very much for your support.

View from the Porch

by Pat Shook

The July Fourth celebration and Stagecoach Days left us all panting to catch our breaths and looking forward to a more relaxed fall season. It has been rewarding in several ways.

The Elderberry tree in the back yard of the Robinson-Rose has been heavy-laden with luscious fruit, waiting to be picked and whisked away to make wine or jam. The fruit is easy to work with. It literally falls to the ground if you brush against it. (Also, it scatters all over the kitchen floor, to every corner!) Used in making jam, the berries rise to the top, and the color is neutral...not the most appetizing! But it tastes good. The uncooked berries freeze beautifully, and the frozen berries can be used to wake up vanilla pudding when served on top. Introducing the elderberry to visitors at the BOOT Store has been fun and a surprise to most who had never seen them before. Who said it was no fun to volunteer in the Store?

In addition to the "*Squibob*" books that we acquired recently, another rediscovery we stumbled upon, literally, in the BOOT Shed, squirreled away in the shadows, were perhaps a hundred or more copies of the *1846 Mitchell* map of Texas, Oregon and California. It has been a much sought-after map, and so it was a true delight when discovered by accident, scrounging around for something else. (Organizing that shed is another story!) The map is especially dear to some of us, in that Dick Yale's Frontier Press printed it many years ago. For \$5.00 each, the map is a steal!



PLEASE JOIN US TO MAKE HOLIDAY DECORATIONS...

for the historic homes of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park,
on Wednesday, December 2, 2009, 9:00 a.m., Behind the Robinson-Rose.

Bring garden clippers, gloves, and any greenery you might have.

For more information, please call Madeleine Marietti at (619) 583-9031.



NOVEMBER 2009



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Garden Group	3	4	5	6	7 School Tour Guide Training 10am McCoy House Museum
8	9 Garden Group	10	11	12	13 Crafts & Sewing - 9 am Rob-Rose & McCoy House	14 School Tour Guide Training 10am McCoy House Museum
15	16 Garden Group	17	18 BOOT Board Mtg. 1pm Café Coyote	19	20	21 VIP Meeting 10am McCoy House Museum
22	23 Garden Group	24	25	26 THANKSGIVING	27 Fables, Friends, and Fruitcake! Performance tours begin. For more info , call the Visitor's Ctr. (619)220-5422	28 Performance Tours continue
29	30 Garden Group	Dec. 1	2 Make Holiday Decorations - 9 am behind the Rob-Rose	3	4 Performance Tours continue weekends into December	5 Performance Tours continue weekends into December

