



# THE POPPY PAPER



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

August 2010

## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Old Town Style

By Becky Halliburton

This year brought us a rip-roaring 4<sup>th</sup> of July! Mother Nature decided to give us a cool cloudy day, but that didn't stop the visitors. We had one of our biggest crowds ever! From the exhibits and activities to the political rally, we showed the public how to party 1800's style!

The parade went off without a hitch this year. Zulema Franco did a great job writing the parade line-up, and Beverly Durcan and her team made it flow with precision. Contests filled up early and everyone was having a great time. Our pie eating contests filled up in the first hour, with many returning winners hoping to keep their titles for another year. (I think we will need more pies next year.) Kyle Connors had a challenge at the games when he came up short-handed on volunteers. But, with his usual calm demeanor, he made it work, providing old-fashioned fun and giving lots of ribbons and prizes.

The crafts table made over 70 cloth dolls! I would like to extend a special thank you to our new volunteer, Charlyn Earp for staffing the crafts booth for the whole day! Shirlee Rodriguez and her team had a very successful cake walk, running out of cakes, and having to resort to a "cookie walk." The food booth sold almost all of their food. The pie slices went quickly, and we had challenges getting the popcorn going, but it was a big hit! A special "thank you" also goes to Zulema for heading up the food team. (She spent most of her day behind the scenes covered in oil and popcorn kernels!!!!)

Overall it was a great day and provided a whole bunch of fun for a whole bunch of people! Thanks to everyone who made this great celebration possible!!!!



*Raising "Old Glory" – July 4, 2010*

### BOOT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Jeanne Ferrell	(619) 543-9057
Vice President:	Gary Turton	(619) 222-0047
Secretary/		
Treasurer:	Deanna Turton	(619) 222-0047
BOOT Store:	Mary Jones	
Membership:	Shirlee Rodriguez	
Historian:	Bob Wohl	
Poppy Paper	Ruth French	(858) 583-1269
Editor:	ruthfrench@earthlink.net	
Board Members:	Mary Ellen Young	
	Tom Young	
	Cindy Furlong	
	Bob Jones	
Website:	<a href="http://boostersofoldtown.com/">http://boostersofoldtown.com/</a>	



## Treasurer's Notes

By Deanna Turton

June was a very good month for BOOT! Not only was Ladies Day a fine success, but the checking account showed a \$1537.50 gain! That was really great news because we had some heavy expenses in June which were easily covered by BOOT store sales, BOOT tours, and a daily average of \$54.50 in the Park's donation boxes.

This year, we decided to try something new on Ladies Day in order to help defray expenses - a minimal fee for crafts AND a silent auction. Not only did we cover our expenses, but we came out a little over \$270 in pure profit. That is very unusual for a living history event. Once again, many thanks to everyone who participated in *Daring, Delightful, and Determined Women of Old Town!*

Expense categories over \$200 for June were: \$400.00 for the treasurer's stipend (I forgot to pay myself the normal \$200 stipend in May), \$1540.65 for BOOT Store inventory replacement, \$1623.40 for Descendants' Day, \$494.85 for Ladies Day, \$259.80 for pies for our July 4th event, and \$1304.46 for care and vet bills for our two donkeys.

On July 4th, we earned a total of \$1751.45 cash gain in all the booths. This is a HUGE jump from prior years! So, although all of the bills are not yet turned in, Joe Vasquez and his loyal team of helpers should be greatly congratulated for a successful event. We are still trying to figure out why so many more people came to the event this year. Perhaps it was too chilly to go to the beach! Whatever the reason, we hope this year's visitors learned what fun we have in Old Town on July 4th and pass the word on to their friends! As the day wore on and parents came back to the ticket booth, I asked them if they were having a good time. Everyone exclaimed with a joyful YES!!!!

And finally, the second quarter sales taxes are paid, as well as the bill for our liability insurance. Although these bills were not due until the end of the month, I paid them early because I was out of town July 10-23. Next month, I will tell you about the northern woods of Minnesota if the financial news is not too exciting.

## From the Editor's Desk...

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!**

Since BOOT President Jeanne Ferrell has taken an extended vacation with her husband to Alaska...I seem to be afforded a little more space than usual! Actually, we miss regular communication with her and are eagerly anticipating her return.

Bob and Mary Jones coincidentally went to Alaska at the same time. Since Bob usually takes many pictures of our special events, we have few to include this month due to his absence. Thanks to Shirlee Rodriguez for sneaking her camera out, while dressed in period attire, to snap a few shots. Sometimes the "rules" have to be broken!!!

Deanna Turton and Shirlee Rodriguez also spent some time out of town visiting friends and family; and I had houseguests for much of last month.

However, the summer months have been full of activities and special events in the Park, and I would like to take the opportunity to speak on behalf of the BOOT Board. We cannot say thank you enough to ALL of the people who have made contributions, both in monetary goods and volunteer time, to make Old Town come alive!

On Ladies Day, Deanna Turton hand-delivered personally written thank-you notes to volunteers and concessionaires for their contributions. She also wrote a lengthy article in last month's Poppy Paper, thanking all who contributed. This month's Poppy Paper is loaded with thanks to the many folks who contributed to the annual Descendants Day Luncheon and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration in the Park. We certainly hope we didn't leave anybody out!

The members of the BOOT Board extend their sincere apology if at any time a name of a contributor has been inadvertently overlooked.

**WE TRULY APPRECIATE ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT!!!**

**Happy Reading!**

Send Poppy Paper Submissions to [ruthfrench@earthlink.net](mailto:ruthfrench@earthlink.net)

Deadline is the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month

(handwritten deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> -

in my volunteer folder in the Robinson-Rose Building)

# Friends of Alice

By Deanna Turton



*Alice Nodes*

Many of the more experienced volunteers at Old Town will remember Alice Nodes and her wonderful historic cooking at the Machado-Stewart Casa on Wednesdays. Well, Alice is still a member of BOOT and she lives just over the hill from me in Ocean Beach/Point Loma. A few days before July 4th, she called to ask if I would stop by and pick up her baked goods on July 3rd because she is no longer driving. Naturally, I said, "**Of course!**"

When I got to her home, she was wrapping gifts, but on the dining room table she had several plates of cupcakes, peanut butter cookies, and a freshly baked pan of brownies. It took me three trips to the truck to carry everything!

If you happened to be lucky enough to win one of her baked goods at the Cake Walk, I am sure you marveled at how good they tasted! (Her cupcakes had white frosting with red, white and blue sprinkles on top.)

Alice says, "Hello," and she would appreciate hearing from her old friends in Old Town.

*PS. I guess I should also confess - the peanut butter plate was missing two cookies by the time I got it to Old Town on Sunday.*

## Los Californios of Old Town

By Monica Rudy

In case you have not heard, there has been a new addition to our historic interpretation programs: **Los Californios of Old Town**, a living history event that takes place on the fourth Saturday of every month. Los Californios of Old Town discuss historic events that occurred during the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, conduct research and demonstrate traditions such as cooking, period attire, family home life, socialization and recreational activities. This is all possible thanks to funding from the Boosters Of Old Town (BOOT) and donations, as well as significant volunteer time and effort from everyone who is dedicated to the program.

We invite anyone and everyone to come join us every fourth Saturday to participate, or simply just to enjoy watching our presentations and experiencing the ambience. Volunteers are always welcome to join. If you would like to participate and are not yet a volunteer, please fill out an application located in the Robinson-Rose Visitors Center or contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Joe Vasquez. We will be sure to welcome you with a smile!

## **A Fabulous 2010 Fourth of July Celebration!**

By Shirlee Rodriguez

We all know that nothing happens without planning, cooperation, patience, and dedication, and we had it all on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July this year! Thanks to Joe Vasquez, our tireless Old Town San Diego State Historic Park Volunteer Coordinator, and to Mary Ellen Young, our dedicated BOOT Special Event Organizer. They made it happen with the help of BOOT members, volunteers, Park staff, and concessionaires. A visitor was quoted as saying “this event was better than the one in Colonial Williamsburg.”

The opening ceremonies included Lt. Colonel David Morgan, USMC who gave the keynote address. The City Guard Band played before and during the festivities. Benita Gray, a descendant of the first Spanish settlers in San Diego, gave a short speech on the ancestors’ contributions to the local community.

Prior to the raising of the American flag, the parade ran very smoothly thanks to the coordination efforts of Zulema Franco and Beverly Durcan. The Historic Letter Writing Booth, Craft Booth, and Fiber Arts Guild Booth also attracted numerous visitors. The Food Booth was quite busy with volunteers Judy Parent, Caryn Zimmer, Susan Cohen, Allison Knight, Catalina Leon-Jimenez, and Ray Tafoya feeding the masses.

Fun games were played by young and the not so young, thanks to Kyle Connors who coordinated historic games such as the sack races and tug-of-war. People showed their competitive side during contest such as the Cow Chip Throwing Contest, coordinated by cow chip expert Dick Miller and his assistants Bert Randlett and Camilo Marquez.

Twice during the day the ever popular Los Bailadores, under Lucy Thorpe’s leadership, danced on stage. The famous Pie Eating Contest was a hit, coordinated by Gregg Giacopuzzi (Master of Ceremony) and staffed by volunteers from Jeanne Ferrell’s Cold Stone Creamery. The San Pasqual Battle Field volunteers conducted cannon firings, and the blacksmiths demonstrated anvil firings during the day. Our own Kevin Burns was very busy in the Wood Wright Shop all day! And, our fabulous Parlor Singers performed in La Casa de Estudillo, let by Harry and June Goldenberg.

Vanessa Jones and Roseann Cook, as always, demonstrated their versatility, helping wherever needed; Guire Cleary coordinated the Political Rally; and Francis McMeekan and the San Diego State University interns assisted with games and logistics. Volunteers Doug Zimmer and Michael Relph, under Park Aide William Rohde’ leadership, assisted with the stage and microphone set up. There are so many more people who contributed to the success of the day...and our sincere thanks go to each of you who helped make this a 4<sup>th</sup> of July to remember!

**My special thanks go to the cake walk team...**it just wouldn’t be so successful without their enthusiasm and dedication. Charlotte Perry didn’t take a break all afternoon as she played appropriate tunes on her accordion. Pat Law, Pat Shook and Nelda Harris kept the excitement going. There are also those behind-the-scenes volunteers who work so hard. This time we couldn’t have done it without our new volunteer, Catalina Leon-Jimenez, who refilled our cake table throughout the day, and Caryn Zimmer, who helped get everything ready for display.

***TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED BAKED GOODS: YOU ALWAYS COME THROUGH WITH PERFECTION!*** I want to thank each of you who provided such fabulous baked goods this year. We had delicious cakes, cupcakes and cookies to the delight of the children and families who participated in this truly fun activity. We look forward to having a great cake walk again next year, and thank each of you who played a part in making it so successful this year.



# August 2010



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Garden Group	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Garden Group	10	11	12	13 9am Crafting behind Rob-Rose; Sewing upstairs McCoy	14 10:30am-4pm Descendant's Research Workshop – McCoy House
15	16 Garden Group	17	18 1 pm BOOT Board Meeting, Café Coyote	19	20	21 10am VIP Mtg. McCoy House  11am-5pm "Twain Fest"
22	23 Garden Group	24	25	26 5:30-8 pm Fiestas Patrias Fundraising Dinner – El Fandango Restaurant	27	28 1-4 pm California Living History – Corner South of Johnson House
29	30 Garden Group	31	<b>Stagecoach Days</b> <b>August - 7, 14, 28</b> <b>12:00pm - 4:00pm</b>  <b>TWAINFEST: August 21, 11:00am-5:00pm</b>			

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Notes:  
 Every Saturday – Actor's Workshops  
 10am-Noon – Meet at the McCoy Museum

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



## Laughter, Levity and Literature

August 21, 2010, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm

WRITE OUT LOUD, FIESTA DE REYES AND OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO STATE HISTORIC PARK TEAM UP TO PRESENT "TWIN FEST" - A ONE DAY FESTIVAL CELEBRATING THE LITERATURE OF MARK TWAIN AND OTHER POPULAR 19TH CENTURY WRITERS.

Celebrate your family's love of literature at Twain Fest, a **FREE** all day festival in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. Included will be readings by professional actors, music, activities for kids, games, fun and food for the entire family...all tied to the literature of the beloved author, Mark Twain.

This is a first-time event in the Park, and the organizers would greatly appreciate the help of Park volunteers and BOOT members to make this festival come alive in Old Town.

To learn more, or to volunteer, please contact: Joe Vasquez, Volunteer Coordinator, 619-523-3897

jvasquez@parks.ca.gov

Walter Ritter, Write Out Loud, 619-297-8953

writeoutloudsd@gmail.com

# Mark Your Calendar!

### FIESTAS PATRIAS FUNDRAISING DINNER

El Fandango Restaurant  
Old Town San Diego State Historic Park

**AUGUST 26, 2010**

**5:30 PM COCKTAILS**

**6:00 - 8:00 PM DINNER**

Dinner includes:

Salad, Entrée, Dessert, Coffee or Tea

Cost: \$25

Reservations: 619-298-2860

***For more information call Joe Vasquez  
at 619-952-3897***

***Proceeds will fund the Fiestas Patrias Celebration  
(Mexican Independence Day) on September 11,  
2010 at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park.***

### Fiestas Patrias

**Saturday, September 11, 2010**

Fiestas Patrias celebrates the most important day in Mexican history. It commemorates the beginning of Mexico's independence from Spain in 1810. The 2010 Fiestas Patrias in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park is an event that showcases the rich traditions and history of San Diego during Mexico's rule. Musical entertainment, dancing, food, and fun for the kids make this event an experience for the entire family to enjoy.

The event is scheduled to start at noon in the Plaza. A Fandango is scheduled at 4 pm, hosted by "Governor Jose Echeandia" in the Casa de Estudillo.

Volunteers are needed to commemorate the celebration of the first Mexican Independence Day which took place in San Diego on September 16, 1827! Contact event coordinator Joe Vasquez at 619-952-3897 if you are interested in helping with the planning or participation in this special centennial celebration.

Joseph Christopher Toigo was born March 26, 1919, in Clinton, Ind., to Italian immigrants Angelo and Giacomina Toigo. He grew up in Highland Park, outside of Chicago, and joined the Marines in 1939. He was stationed at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot when a friend talked him into going to a dance at the Church of the Immaculate Conception. There, he met Carmen Cerda and married her at the church in 1941. The World War II veteran was in one of the first Marine divisions to land at Guadalcanal.

After the war, he and a brother opened an auto body and paint shop in Little Italy. In 1965, he started building a model of his "honeymoon cottage." In a 1972 interview with the Union, Mr. Toigo said he never intended to build a whole town; he just wanted a way to relax. "I know most people would like to pick up a hammer and pound on a fender to let off steam," he said. "It's just the opposite with me. I do that all day and it relieves tensions to work on something little and delicate."

*Gonzalez, Blanca.* "Old Town resident dedicated to church, preservation of area," June 29, 2010. <http://www.signonsandiego.com>



# In Memory of Joseph C. Toigo

1919-2010

## Master Model Maker of Old Town San Diego

Will we ever see Old Town San Diego as a visitor might have seen it from the top of Presidio Hill in the latter part of the nineteenth century? Probably not, for that is a task too bold for even the State Park System to fully contemplate. Then what are we to do, be satisfied with looking at old photographs, drawings and other representations of the past? Perhaps, but thanks to the art and craftsmanship of one man, Joseph C. Toigo, today we can stand in the Visitor Center here in Old Town and look upon a scale model of the town as it would have looked from that nearby hill over one hundred years ago.

What makes a man spend more than two decades rebuilding in one-eighth inch scale a town that has been slowly decaying and changing for over one hundred years? According to the San Diego Union, it was a "love story." A story that began during World War II, the story of a young Marine, his bride, and the home in Old Town where they met and later married. Eventually they built a home one block away from their honeymoon cottage, and it was in the garage of this home in 1966, Joe Toigo began with a model of the home he and his wife Carmen had occupied during the war years. But the model making did not stop there. Soon Joe was recreating his neighbor's homes, and then the project naturally grew to encompass the entire area known as Old Town. What began for Joe as a simple hobby had now blossomed into a career as expert model maker, historian and chronicler of a time long ago when life was simpler and Old Town was the center of California's first settlement.

Today, take a moment and stand quietly on the imaginary hill. Gaze down at Joe Toigo's model of Old Town and reflect on the colorful history of San Diego, and of the dedication, craftsmanship and love of its Master Model Maker.

*Submitted by Richard Dennison  
Author Unknown*

*For more about this fascinating man, the obituary is available on-line at:  
<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/jun/29/old-town-resident-dedicated-church-preservation-ar/>*

# DESCENDANTS DAY 2010

By Victor Contreras

The annual Descendants Day was celebrated in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park this year on June 26 at the Barra Barra Restaurant. A networking and research session where attendees could share research and historical information and resources about the early settlers of Southern California started at 10 am. Special thanks are given to Mary Prewitt, sales manager for Fiesta de Reyes who helped make arrangements, and to Eric Minella and Lisa Long for providing technical support. Chuck Ross from Fiesta de Reyes and our BOOT President Jeannie Ferrell negotiated a special price for the event. The day's activities were orchestrated by the Descendant Committee which includes: Elena Orozco, Georgia Callian, Delia (Sam) Hayslip, Henrietta Contreras, Abel Silva, Corey Braun, Victor Contreras, Freddy Contreras, Benita and George Gray.

The people who came were the first to see the Interns from San Diego State University who are working in the park under the supervision of Frances McMeekan making presentations for the first time in the McCoy House Museum.

Karen Beery served as our M.C. for the formal presentation at the Fiestas de Reyes outdoor stage. She introduced guest speakers and the presentation of our scripting of two family stories. Presentations included guests from the Cabrillo Monument, Mary Ellen Young from BOOT, and a Descendants' Committee report on the year's activities and progress on the grants. There was also a presentation regarding the planned renovation of La Casa de Estudillo.

The scripting of family stories to be used within the presentation of the Park was a joint project between the non-profit organization, Playwrights Project, and the Descendants Committee. Two monologues were presented at the event, both of which are already scheduled into the summer's presentations during Stage Coach Days. The first was a monologue depicting Maria De La Encarnacion Ortega, who was an ancestor of Benita Gray. Benita collaborated on the script with Playwright Project writer, Mabelle Reynoso. The script was performed by actress, Sylvia Enriquez. The second story presented was created from the efforts of Corey Braun and Victor Contreras. It created a presentation of "El Rey," which is the nickname for Bonafacio Lopez. The monologue was performed by Victor Contreras.

Raffle prizes were donated and raffled off during the event to help support the activities of the committee. We would like to express our appreciation to the following for supporting our event and ongoing efforts with prizes: Rockin' Baja, Mexicraft, Beacon Artworks Gallery, El Fandango Restaurant, La Quinta Inn in Old Town, Fiesta de Reyes, Cosmopolitan Hotel and Restaurant and Toler's Leather Depot.



As we reflect on this year's luncheon, we would like to express our appreciation for all the park staff who helped with the mailings and activities, and for the support from The Playwrights Project, BOOT, the many friends of the committee and the descendants themselves.

*Descendants Marching  
in the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade*



## Superintendent's Message

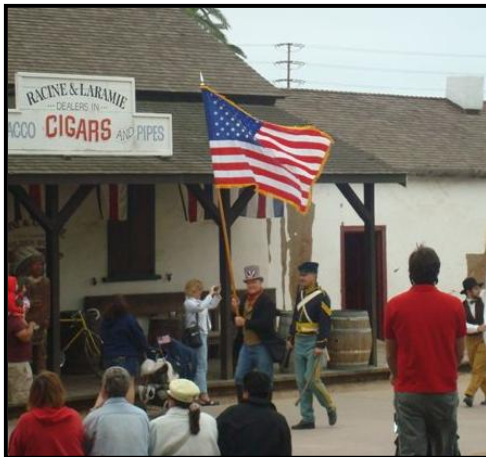
by Richard Dennison  
Historic Sector Visitor Services Superintendent



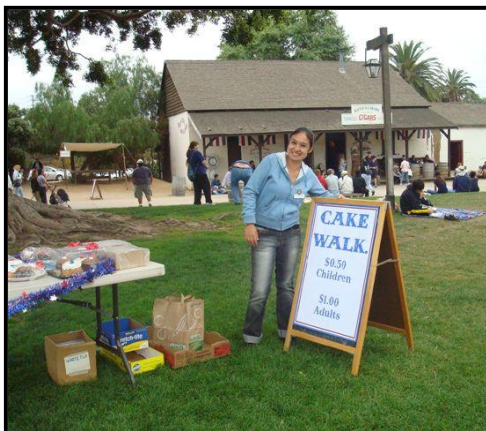
Hard to believe Summer is halfway gone, time goes by so fast! Park programs are in full swing, with Stagecoach Days consisting of enhanced living history, activities by concessions, and lots of visitors. Thanks to all the park staff - visitor services, interpreters, maintenance, volunteers, interns, and other partners such as concessions, for working together to provide the best service everyday to people enjoying the State Historic Park. Daily, there are stories and comments about people coming to the park having a good time. Recently Park Aide Rita Conaty received great feedback: A visitor to La Casa de Estudillo museum commented, "I was here 25 years ago and it looks well maintained, well kept;" a veteran visiting Seeley said he enjoyed seeing the authentic things; and a gentleman who used to live in San Diego, and now resides in Texas, called the McCoy House "well done and a pleasant surprise."

To capture more visitor feedback, the park is re-implementing a visitor survey, both online and a paper version (soon available at the museums) for people to let us know how we are doing. Both are also available on the park website. As we move into the new fiscal year, your support is greatly appreciated through sending in your membership, or contacting the volunteer coordinator to give a few hours. There are always plenty of opportunities.

**Thanks again!**



*July 4, 2010*



*Photos courtesy of  
Shirlee Rodriguez*

Where are you hiding that camera, Shirlee?!?!?





BOOSTERS OF OLD TOWN  
San Diego State Historic Park  
4002 Wallace Street  
San Diego, CA 92110

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**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ___ \$ 20.00 – Single Supporting Member          | ___ \$ 50.00 – Corporate Membership                 |
| ___ \$ 35.00 – Family (2 or more individuals)    | (includes business card sized ad in the Poppy Paper |
| ___ \$ 15.00 – Senior (62+ years)/Student Single | and on our website for one month)                   |
| ___ \$ 25.00 – Senior Couple (62+ years)         | ___ \$125.00 – Enhanced Corporate Membership*       |
| ___ \$150.00 – Life Member (62+ years)           | (includes business card sized ad in the Poppy Paper |
|  | and on our website for 12 months)                   |

\_\_\_ I am also interested in volunteer opportunities, please contact me!

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

I belong to the following group(s): Docent\_\_\_ Military\_\_\_ Descendants \_\_\_ Californios \_\_\_

Make your check out to “**BOOT**” and mail to:

**BOOT Membership Chairperson, Shirlee Rodriguez, P.O. Box 152676, San Diego, CA 92195**