



THE POPPY PAPER



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

October 2011

Fiestas Patrias- 200th Mexican Independence Celebration!

by Joe Vasquez, Volunteer Coordinator

Fun-filled activities abounded during the Fiestas Patrias (Mexican Independence Day) celebration at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park on September 17, 2011. Thanks to the enthusiastic volunteers, staff, and performers, who revealed the unique traditions, activities, and music of early San Diego.

The “Changing of the Flags” play told Juana Machado Alipas de Wrightington’s recollection of Mexico’s independence from Spain and other important events during San Diego’s early years. Arline Perez portrayed Juana Machado under Victor Contreras’ artistic direction. Soldados y Californios de Alta California provided the ambiance, while Mabelle Reynoso provided the script as part of Playwrights Project’s “Lifestages” program in collaboration with the Old Town Descendants.

The Key Note Address was given by California State Senator Juan Vargas. Mexican Consulate of San Diego Alberto Diaz gave the official “El Grito” celebration, while Benita Gray represented the Old Town Descendants Group during her eloquent speech.

Thanks to the following lead individuals who coordinated over 70 volunteers and staff:

- Parade: Angela Garcia Sims
- Escaramuza and Las Golondrinas: Araceli Ortega
- Los Bailadores: Lucy Thorpe
- Quilting Guild and Fiber Arts Guild: Frances McMeeken
- Cooking Demonstrations: Maria Bolin, Blanca Garcia, and Minnie Tafoya
- Grito Contest: William Virchis
- Children’s Games: Rita Conaty-Riccio
- Pinata Breaking: Bert Randlett
- Craft Booth: Becky Halliburton, Zulema Franco, and Vanessa Jones
- Information Booth: Mary Ellen Young
- Entertainment: Eric Minella, Carlos Santoyo, and Luis Ocegueda
- Master of Ceremony: Victor Contreras

Continued on pg. 2...



Fiestas Patrias Parade 2011

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President's Notes

by Jeanne Ferrell

October, and Fall is officially here! This is the month with Columbus Day, National Boss' Day and National Library Card Month. It is also the month of Halloween and Octoberfest!!!

The Old Town Chamber of Commerce presents the Annual Art Festival. Fine arts will be shown on Saturday, October 1 and Sunday, October 2 on the streets of Old Town and in the State Park. **BOOT** will have a booth at the Festival. Park Concessionaire **Hacienda De Las Rosas** will be an integral part of the Festival with a Wine Garden. It is so important for the community, which includes the State Park, to support all activities. This event shows how the State Park and the local businesses and concessionaires work together for the good of the whole community.

Check Page 5 in this issue, to see the activities in the Park, including "Trick or Treat" for the children.



Ballet Folklorico Tapatio de Oceanside



Treasurer's Notes

by Deanna Turton

Guess what? Last month, I told you there would be no Treasurer's Report, but I managed to balance the month of August before I left town on Labor Day - so you **DO** get to read a financial report this month☺

Once again, the summer of 2011 has been very kind to the **BOOT** treasury because we showed a profit of \$2894.93. Most of this income was generated by the **BOOT** Store and donations...although there was one **BOOT** tour which generated \$50.

The daily average for donations was also high this month at \$82.98 - another all-time high for **BOOT**. In addition there was income from the "Cow Contest" project which earned \$254.24. Although the **BOOT** cow did not win the contest, it was very humorous, as Gary Turton named it *Cashia* (picture on pg. 3) - the cash cow!!! I especially liked its long eyelashes and friendly smile!!! Everyone who saw it smiled right back at the wooden construction.

Expenses were:

- Liability insurance - \$1023.00
- **BOOT** Store inventory - \$1044.00
- Crafts Committee inventory - \$448.80
- Descendants' Day Workshop- 4281.66
- Burros - \$792.69

There were eleven other spending categories at \$200 or less.

...Fiestas Patrias (continued from pg. 1)

There were many "behind the scenes" workers including stage management under Doug Zimmer and Alexander Kraft, decorations by Mayela Cervantes and Celia Moody Sotomayor. Kudos also go out to the Old Town Merchant Marketing Committee, Julia Simms Public Relations Firm, Karen Mastaglio, and Nancy Tobar for their publicity efforts.

A special THANK YOU to the following sponsors and supporters of Fiestas Patrias:

Boosters of Old Town
 Cold Stone Creamery
 Descendants of Old Town
 Early San Diego Regional History Collaborative
 Eta Nu
 Fiesta de Reyes

El Fandango Restaurant
 Guitierrez Andalusians
 Teatro Mascara Magica
 The San Diego House
 Viva el Cafe

Cows, Pumpkins, etc.

By Karen Beery

During the summer our Saturday living history focuses on *Stage Coach Days: Celebrating the West on the Move*. This year we had our first “round up.” Evelyn Honea, Old Town House of Root Beer and Jerky, proposed the idea and helped coordinate the event.

Business owners, staff, and Boosters of Old Town were asked to create a steer or cow out of a wooden saw horse. On August 27, the participating cattle were “rounded up” and displayed in front of the Robinson Rose building on the plaza. Voting buckets collected the votes that cost \$1.00 each. The funds went to Boosters to support the interpretation and education programs in the Park. The Fiesta de Reyes steer was the winner. We hope to have an even larger “round up” next year so start thinking how you can create a memorable bovine!



BOOT's Cow - "Cashia"

Because of the popularity of the cattle contest we are planning on working with the concessionaires at Halloween on a pumpkin carving contest and door decorations for December. For Halloween, pumpkins, winter squash, gourds, or other natural vegetables may be used. Originally, it was a turnip – not a pumpkin—that was used. The entries may be carved or constructed, but only out of natural materials! Keep an eye on the Old Town San Diego State Historic Park website for more details about the judging and information about the door decorations contest. Evelyn and the Old Town Merchants' Marketing committee will be helping to coordinate these activities.

Along with the door decoration contest, we will be encouraging everyone to have a gingerbread structure/display in their business to draw people to the park and into their businesses for Holiday in the Park. Evelyn will be working with Toni and Jonathon of Rust General Store to coordinate the gingerbread display. Details on all of these fun activities will be available soon on the Park webpage and posted on the bulletin board in the Robinson Rose.

You may contact Graham Kirkham in the Visitors Center at (619) 220-5422 or e-mail Karen Beery at kbeery@parks.ca.gov if you have any questions.



More Entries in the Cattle Round-Up Contest

Mark Your Calendar!

SMITH FAMILY REUNION PICNIC

Saturday, October 22, 2011, 10 am – 3 pm, Lindo Lake Park in Lakeside, CA

Descendants of Thomas Hugh Smith and James Wilcox Smith are invited to an information-gathering picnic. In addition to their own food and drink, attendees are encouraged to bring old photos, family charts, and any other Smith Family information that they are willing to share. For more information, please contact:

Lois Farnsworth, 619-303-4374, farnsworthlo1@hotmail.com

Dorothy Cota, marryjanne619@yahoo.com

Carole Galvez Salazar, 619-957-5926, chula.mcs@cox.net

READ MORE ABOUT THE SMITH FAMILY ON PAGE 10...

2011 EARLY SAN DIEGO REGIONAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 5, 2011, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
6401 LINDA VISTA RD., SAN DIEGO, CA 92111

Please note that we will be awarding prizes to teachers this year. Teachers of history, regardless of the time period or age of students, may send in a short description of a history lesson that engaged their students and increased their enthusiasm and learning of history. They should also include pictures of their students demonstrating their enthusiasm and learning. Every teacher who submits a lesson and photos will get an award and three will get cash prizes. Two teachers will win classroom visits by living history presenters from Cabrillo National Monument or Old Town State Historic Park.

Free registration!

Questions?

Angela García-Sims, Ph.D.

Conference Facilitator/Board President

Early San Diego Regional History Collaborative

Cellular: 619-709-2062

Land Phone: 619-423-7248

agarciasim@aol.com

Or sallyfox@cox.net

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES IN OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO STATE HISTORIC PARK

Get a good fun scare and a bit of history with the lineup of spooky events this Halloween season at one of the most haunted areas in San Diego, Old Town San Diego State Historic Park and Fiesta de Reyes.

“WHOOO’S THE WICKEDEST GHOST? A SPOOKY TRIAL”

Oct. 14, 15, 21, 22 at 7:30 p.m. On Oct. 28, 29, 30, and 31 two performances will be held: the first at 6 p.m. and the second at 7:30 p.m.

Old Town State Historic Park will hold an evening of scary, funny and tragic stories of people who once lived in early San Diego during the 1800s. Spirits will answer to the comical judge Oliver Weatherby with the audience as their jury to determine “Whooo’s the Wickedest Ghost.” An hour-long walking tour will be given with the performers. For reservations, visit www.brownpapertickets/event/195947 for more information call 619-220-5422.

GHOST TOURS: All October Long!

Michael Brown leads San Diego’s only real ghost tours. During his 90-minute walking tours, guests will get to visit various paranormally active places in Old Town such as the Whaley House, a park that used to be cemetery and a haunted brothel located on the Whaley House property. He shares tips, tricks and techniques to find ghosts and other paranormal happenings in Old Town. Each tour includes photos, voices of the dead and a video vortex. His tours are every Thursday through Sunday in October. Walking tours begin at 9 p.m. in front of the Fiesta de Reyes fountain and no reservations are necessary. Adult tickets are \$19 and children 6-12 are \$10. Kids 5 and under are free. For more information, visit <http://www.oldtownsmosthaunted.com/>.

OLD TOWN’S FALL FESTIVAL: Saturday, Oct. 29

Fall crafts and children’s activities a la San Diego in the 1870s will be held from noon to 4 p.m. in the central plaza at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. Many merchants surrounding the park will have activities as well. For more info, visit www.fiestadereyes.com.

OLD TOWN THEATER: DANSE MACABRE BY WRITE OUT LOUD: Monday, Oct. 31

Write Out Loud will present “Danse Macabre” in the Old Town Theatre on Monday, Oct. 31 at 7 p.m. Danse Macabre will feature stories of magic and mystery brought chillingly to life by professional actors. Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$13 for students, seniors and active military. For more info, visit <http://writeoutloudsd.com/>.

TRICK-OR-TREAT: Monday, Oct. 31

Trick-or-treaters are invited to come out Monday, Oct. 31, from 4 p.m. to 6:30 to collect goodies from participating shops and museums throughout Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. Admission for this is free.

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS: Nov. 1 and 2

The premier Day of the Dead event in San Diego County, Old Town’s Dia de los Muertos is designed to celebrate the history, culture and heritage of the region. Old Town’s predominantly Mexican, Spanish and Native American and legacy makes it the best site in San Diego to hold this special and beloved celebration. There will be a tour of more than 30 altars, a candlelight procession and live music. At Fiesta de Reyes in the state park, five life-sized Catrina dolls in historic dress will delight visitors as well as altars in nearly every store. Face painting and an after party are also planned for Nov. 1. This two-day-long activity will also feature workshops, performances and lectures. For more information, visit facebook.com/DiaDeLosMuertosOTSD or call (619) 297-7511.

For More Information Contact:

Suzanne Anderson
Client Services Manager
J Simms Agency
858-689-9909
406 9th Ave. Suite 310
San Diego, CA, 92101





October 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>SEE PAGE 5 FOR A DETAILED LIST AND DESCRIPTIONS OF THE OCTOBER EVENTS IN OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO STATE HISTORIC PARK!</p>						<p>1 Old Town Art Festival</p>
<p>2 Old Town Art Festival</p>	<p>3 Garden Group</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 9am Crafting/ Sewing Committee</p>	<p>8 1-4pm Californios de San Diego Machado y Silvas Museum</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>10 Garden Group Columbus Day</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 10am VIP Mtg. McCoy House</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>17 Garden Group</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 1pm BOOT Board Mtg. Café Coyote</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p>	<p>24 Garden Group</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Old Town's Fall Festival</p>
<p>30</p>	<p>31 Garden Group Halloween Trick-or-Treat</p>	<p>Dia de los Muertos – November 1 & 2</p>				

For updates and press releases of upcoming events:
www.parks.ca.gov

California State Parks and The Friends of Pio Pico
Present FIESTA de PIO PICO

Saturday, November 5, 2011

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Pio Pico State Historic Park, 6003 Pioneer Blvd., Whittier, CA 90606



Join us for a celebration of Hispanic heritage and the history of the Californios.

- Entertainment
- Food
- Historical Displays and Activities
- Children's Activities
- Costumed Docents
- Local Family History and Genealogy Information**
- Don Pio Pico himself (portrayed by Roberto Garza)
- And More!

Admission is FREE! Onsite parking is limited. Free parking and shuttle provided from:

A Mi Hacienda Restaurant - Whittier Blvd. in Pico Rivera

Guirado Park - Whittier

Uptown Senior Center - Whittier

Friends of Pio Pico, Inc., P.O. Box 5798, Whittier, California 90607, 562-695-1217, ext. 104

Visit our Website at www.piopico.org

Garden Views

By Edna Nerio

Nelda Harris was born in Glendale, California where she lived as an only child with her parents and grandmother in a Tudor style cottage built by her grandmother. Her parents and grandma read to her from an early age, and also shared their love of plants. Grandma taught her both common and Latin names of everything in their Verdugo Woodlands garden.

In 1955 Nelda married Jim and moved to San Diego. After Jim finished his Navy hitch, they bought their first home on Montalvo Street, built by his parents next to the home where he was born. Their first three sons were raised in that house, but their present home on Tecoloté Canyon provided the necessary space for the addition of seven more children. The family enjoyed Old Town visits and camping in many California parks. You can imagine that most of Nelda's time was spent in childcare, housework, and taxi service to schools, sports, parks and museums.



Nelda is fortunate to have most of her 10 children and 14 grandchildren living within or near to San Diego County. She and Jim welcomed their first great-grandson just last month!

Nelda's interests and hobbies include art photography, crocheting, camping, hiking, music and collecting postcards. Nelda and Jim enjoy meetings and campouts with the San Diego Folksong Society and are members of Immaculate Conception Parish, where she likes to sing in the choir. Having amassed a large collection of books from family, friends, library and garage sales, Nelda recently became a Rolling Reader in order to share her collection. She also does a little tutoring because she said, "I love to work with children."

Nelda has been volunteering in the Park for several years and thoroughly enjoys working with such friendly people in the gardens. A little rain never dampens her enthusiasm, and she often volunteers during special events in Old Town. We are very fortunate to have Nelda as one of the members of the Garden Team.

From the Editor's Desk...

I very much enjoyed receiving the above article...as I, too, began my volunteer work several years ago in Old Town as a "weeder" for Deanna's famous Garden Team. We too often overlook ALL the hours put in by those who are "behind the scenes" tending to the gardens, baking goodies, making necessary repairs (*Chuck Ferrell and Bob Jones*), and even building wooden cows (*Gary Turton*)!!! It is time for us to start paying more attention to the "roses" among us and less attention to the weeds that get in our way!!!

Happy Fall, Happy Halloween, Happy Reading!
Ruth French poppypapereditor@gmail.com

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of Old Town!*



~ Thank you for all that you do for our community ~

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"Located in Old Town State Historic Park"



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Shirlee Rodriguez

Welcome to two new BOOT members, Dave and Teri Browne. They are interested in special events, and possibly the BOOT Store and Craft Committee. So, if you see them in "Town," please introduce yourself and extend them a warm welcome. Also, thank you to Tienda de Reyes for their corporate membership renewal. We appreciate your support!

Origins of the Smiths in Baja and Alta California:

By Carole Galvez Salazar



Many present-day San Diegans can trace their roots to the Smith brothers from New York. Upon arriving by ship in Baja California in the early 1800's, they each married Mexican women and started families that eventually spread northward from the Loreto/Comondu region to Monterey, California.

The stories of the migration of "Los Smith" have been the subject of several books and films, including "Last of the Californios" by local author Harry Crosby; "Familia" and "The Trail North" by Dr. Roberto R. Alvarez, Jr. (a Smith); and "The Lemon Grove Incident" by Paul Espinosa.

Thomas Smith is credited with being the first American citizen to arrive in Baja California Sur in 1808 from New York. Thomas took the name of his Godfather, Javier Aguilar, married Maria Meza in 1812, and raised several children in Comondu. This was probably the first marriage between an American and a Californian. The family is then found in the 1850 Federal Census of Monterey, CA. An excerpt from "Last of the Californios": "As a result of The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848 . . . 350 men, women, and children were taken aboard U.S. ships bound for Monterey."

Many families stayed in Monterey; others later returned to their homes in Baja California; and several settled in the wide San Diego area.

James Wilcox Smith arrived in Baja California later and married Maria Josefa Verdugo Lopez, thereby confusing many descendants in their genealogical quest.



Right - Wedding photo: July 28, 1907

Maria Nieves Beatrice Smith (b. 1881 in Comondu, Baja CA; d. 1955)

Leon Amos Farnsworth (b. 1884 in New York, NY; d. 1960)

Both buried at Holy Cross Cemetery in San Diego CA

Above: "Meet Your Smith Cousin" gathering held in July 2011, at the home of Carole Salazar in La Mesa, CA.

L-R: Richard Meza, Sr.; Gilbert Lopez Martinez, Carole Salazar, Lois Farnsworth Rattray, Dorothy Cota, Gay Rosamond Martinez.





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