



THE POPPY PAPER



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

March 2018

Colonial Dames of America Visit Old Town San Diego State Historic Park

By: Gregg Giacopuzzi, State Park Interpreter I



The National Society of Colonial Dames of America (NSCDA) held their annual regional conference in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park on January 25-26, 2018. Our partnership with The Colonial Dames dates back to 1978 when the “Dames” assisted the newly established state park of Old Town San Diego with furnishing *La Casa de Estudillo*. NSCDA continues to provide funding, support and furnishings, as well as research toward improving the interior spaces at *La Casa de Estudillo*, *La Casa de Machado y Stewart*, and *La Casa de Machado y Silvas*.

On January 25th Amy Lew, State Park Curator, conducted a one hour house tour of the recent renovations in *La Casa de Estudillo*. This special tour included ADA improvements the casa has been undergoing, as well as new additions to the interpretive exhibit renovations and the challenges of caring for a historic house museum in an “open air” environment. After the tour, the Colonial Dames proceeded to have a lovely early evening dinner at the *Cosmopolitan Hotel and Restaurant*.

The following day Gregg Giacopuzzi, State Park Interpreter, delivered a one hour interpretive presentation, in period attire, at their hotel breakfast gathering. Overall, the Colonial Dames have supported the efforts of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park from its inception and continue to be an active partner in the future restoration and interpretive efforts in our historic structures and museums throughout the Park.

CRAFT COMMITTEE NEWS

By Deanna Turton



The Craft Committee would like to introduce our new volunteer - Helen Putman, a native San Diegan. She retired after 30 plus years of working at Eye Physicians Medical/Surgical Center. She enjoys camping in the mountains, where she loves to fish and hike every fall. She also enjoys desert camping. She has one daughter who teaches high school Special Education P.E., a 7-year-old grandson and a 3-year-old granddaughter...the loves of her life. After two weeks working with the Craft Committee, she said that it makes her heart at peace.



Treasurer's Notes

by Deanna Turton

Fiscal year 2018 surely started out in the right direction because BOOT earned \$7,581.67 more than what we spent in January! With an average of \$65.55 per day in the donation boxes, that was also a good omen. January is normally a slow month with respect to park visitors, store sales and donations. So, we are off to a good start!

BOOT also received several large donations in January:

- \$750.00 - **ASM Affiliates** and \$100.00 from **Stephen Van Wormer** for a planned archeology exhibit
- \$500.00 - **anonymous donor** for piano tuning and repairs
- \$150.00 - **Karen Beery**
- \$100.00 - **Bob and Mary Jones**
- \$137.53 - fountain coins that the **park staff** collected for BOOT. I rolled all those coins so that was also somewhat of an effort!

Many thanks for all of those gifts. The BOOT Board is currently completing the budget for FY2018 and we promise to put this money to good use.

And can you believe it...there were no expenses over \$300.00!?! That must be a record for BOOT. However, Mary Jones tells me that big bills are coming because she is restocking *The Park Store*. She said she was waiting for her suppliers to complete their inventory.

Guide Book Sales Up-Tick

After several months of low guide book sales...January saw \$24.00 in sales. Although that is only eight books, it is much better than in the recent past. So many "thanks" to the **Park Aides** who are selling these books. It is a great way for Park visitors to get good information as they walk around the museums and tour the Park.

From the Editor's Desk...

When you read about all of the wonderful work that the Volunteers in the Park and BOOT are doing these days, have you ever wondered about when these organizations began? Well, back in 1979 Mary Ellen and Tom Young were founding members of a new volunteer group in Old Town, **Las Amapolas de Oro** (The Golden Poppies), and the Park's nonprofit cooperating association **Boosters of Old Town (BOOT)**. They involved themselves in every aspect of the organizations, became "Old Town Ambassadors" and continued their work for over 30 years to develop our Park's "living history" programs.

Sadly, Mary Ellen passed away in December 2014 and Tom's active involvement in Old Town has understandably declined since then. However, we recently heard from Mary Ellen and Tom's son-in-law, Jim Kramer, reporting on Tom's well-being. We're so pleased to hear that BOOT's patriarch is, "Still sharp" and will be "turning 97 on March 31."

So, in honor of Tom's upcoming birthday and his significant contributions to Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, we are republishing an article, originally written in May 2010. All of the opportunities offered to our volunteers and visitors today are the culmination of the vision and dedication of two fabulous volunteers, Tom and Mary Ellen Young!

Happy St. Patrick's Day...and Happy Reading!
Ruth French, Editor, popypapereditor@gmail.com

(Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.)

THANK YOU, TOM!

(Originally published in *The Poppy Paper* in May 2010.)

by Ruth French



In 1979, after four years of service in the U.S. Air Force and 37 years as a planner and estimator for the U.S. Civil Service at North Island Naval Air Station, Tom Young decided to embark on his carefully planned retirement. At the same time, his lovely wife, Mary Ellen had become involved in Old Town and was embarking on a new venture to set up a docent program. In those early days, there was much to be done to gain support from Sacramento to form a volunteer/docent program, as well as a nonprofit organization. “He was my front man,” Mary Ellen explains. “It was Tom who did all the research and got all of the paperwork together to form a contract with the State Park system. It was his expertise behind the development of LADO (Las Amapolas de Oro) and BOOT (Boosters of Old Town). He has been a real trooper!”

Many of us already know about Tom’s dedication and commitment to Old Town; however, here are some little known facts about this fascinating man...

- *Tom was just a little boy when Lindbergh accomplished his historic flight. Perhaps that was the spark that ignited his love for airplanes, which later led him to become a docent at the Aerospace Museum in Balboa Park. (However, Mary Ellen aptly points out that “they know his heart is in Old Town!”)*
- *He has always been involved in historic research, frequently staying up until 2:00 a.m. to work on research projects. In fact, Tom and Mary Ellen’s FIRST DATE was to the San Pasqual Battlefield. (Sure hope he got her home before 2:00 a.m.!)*
- *The first group of volunteer docents were a “bunch of women” – and Tom. The ladies fondly nicknamed him the “Rooster of Old Town” because he was the first male docent to dress in period attire. (He’s still mighty cocky as Señor Bandini!)*
- *And, besides being an avid historic researcher, he is also an accomplished artist, continuing to do pallet painting!*

*Old Town owes a world of gratitude to Tom for his support for the past 31 years! Thank you, Tom! None of us would be **HERE** without you!!!!*

Native Plant Landscape Work Party

Saturday, March 10, 2018, 9:30 am - Noon

Help Tend the Native Plant Landscape west of the McCoy House Museum. We’ll trim some tree branch tips, and carefully weed around flowering natives. Bring water, sun protection, garden gloves and your favorite weeding tools (or share ours).

Questions? Contact Kay or Peter at oldtownlandscape@cnpsd.org



VOLUNTEERS IN THE PARK

By Tim Downing, Volunteer Coordinator

I have learned many things in the last year and a half as the Volunteer Coordinator for Old Town State Historical Park. One of the things I am the happiest about is how great the volunteers are here in Old Town. You all never cease to amaze me with your passion, commitment and love for our Park. I see this in all the living history programs we do, all the events we put on and every time one of you talks with our Park guests. Most of all, I see it in the pride you all have for your guilds.

A great example of this is our first Saturday Contra Dance. Because it is winter right now (sometimes 83 degrees outside), they are dancing in the Seeley Theater. I went to check on everyone, and it was standing room only with live music from the piano, hammer dulcimer, fiddle, mandolin and a penny whistle! Volunteers, staff and park guests were **ALL** dancing! In the short time I was there, I watched people from China, New Zealand and Germany dance with the group. No one was worried about their ability to dance...they were learning as they went. The dancers were all smiles with lots of laughter, while clapping to the rhythm of the music. This is truly what our living history programs are about in Old Town San Diego. We take our Park guests back in time, immerse them into early San Diego history and create lifetime memories.

That particular Saturday's memories were created with dance, live music, blacksmithing, woodworking and *Threads of the Past*. However, it does not stop there! We have living history programs going on every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. Other State Parks talk about their living history programs and events...once a month or on special days. In Old Town San Diego State Historic Park we have living history programs at least 15 times a month! Now, add in all of our special events and the times that volunteers come in, just because they have the time. It all adds up and shows the passion, commitment and love from each and all of our volunteers.

Each guild, no matter how large or small, is part of our living history program and is important. Each guild brings its own unique piece of early San Diego History with it. Each guild helps tell a part of the larger story that is Old Town San Diego. Never lose sight of this. Please, never feel left out if your guild is not mentioned often or if you are not singled out. It takes each of us to make our living history program so successful. It's that sense of family and pride we share that makes our Park great!

Thank you all for letting me work for you and with you to make our Park what it is! Thank you for all your support, passion and hard work for California State Parks!

2018 VIP MEETINGS

Dates/Times	Location	Focus Area
March 24, 8:30-9:30 am	McCoy Museum	VIP Training: Period Attire. Why it is important and procedures for getting it and your stipend.
April 14, 8:00-10:00 am	Seeley Theater	VIP Appreciation
April 24, 8:30-9:30 am	McCoy Museum	VIP Training: Interpretation in Old Town
May 12, 8:30-9:30 am	McCoy Museum	VIP Training: Take Home Messages for our Park Guests
June 9, 8:30-9:30 am	McCoy Museum	VIP Training: Interacting with our Park Guests
July and August	Various Locations	Stage Coach Days
September 15, 8:30-9:30 am	McCoy Museum	VIP Training: Museums. What we need to know and what is expected of us.
October 13, 5:00-7:00 pm	Seeley Yard	VIP Meeting: Bonfire and Pot Luck
November 10, 8:30-9:30 am	McCoy Museum	VIP Training: Living History and our Guilds
December 1, 8:30-9:30 am	McCoy	VIP Meeting

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS!



Cold Stone in Old Town San Diego

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	~ ~ ~	
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BOOT Website:	http://boostersofoldtown.com/	
Park Website:	www.parks.ca.gov/oldtownsandiego	



BOOSTERS OF OLD TOWN

San Diego State Historic Park
4002 Wallace Street
San Diego, CA 92110

Membership Application or Renewal

- _____ \$20.00 Senior (62 yrs. or older)/Single Student
- _____ \$25.00 Single Supporting Member
- _____ \$30.00 Senior Couple (62 yrs. or older)
- _____ \$40.00 Family (2 or more individuals)
- _____ \$155.00 Life Member (62 yrs. or older)
- _____ \$55.00 Corporate Basic Membership*
(includes window decal and 1 month business card sized ad in *The Poppy Paper*)
- _____ \$130.00 Corporate Enhanced Membership*
(includes window decal and 1 year business card sized ad in *The Poppy Paper*)
- _____ Donation Enclosed (Or Gift in Honor of: _____)

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