



THE POPPY PAPER



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

September 2018

Building Fences

The California State Parks Foundation Park Champions Program

By Tim Downing, Volunteer Coordinator



Did you notice some new fencing around the McCoy House? On Saturday, August 4th, 27 volunteers from the California State Parks Foundation Park Champions Program were in our Park to do some much needed repair work on the existing white picket fence. This fence has been there since the McCoy House was built in 2000. The only things really holding the fence together were paint and the termites holding hands! The volunteers started arriving about 8:30 a.m., and were well under way on demo, rebuilding and painting of the new sections of the picket fence by 9:00 a.m. Park Maintenance Supervisor Chad Van Doren and members of the Park Champions program led these volunteers.

The California State Parks Foundation Park Champions Program hosts work day events in state parks throughout the state. The program was created to provide a consistent, sustainable volunteer workforce that can help with much needed labor within California State Parks due to the budget cuts. They do all kinds of projects from habitat restoration, fence building, painting and more. The program has found that volunteers like to do projects that are more long term during which they can really see what they have accomplished at the end of the project. The McCoy fence is perfect for this! The one they are replacing has been there for 18 years, and the new fence will be there for many more years to come.

For the McCoy fence project, not only did the Park Champions Program supply the volunteers, but they also paid for much of the materials and equipment needed to do the project. They also purchased several rechargeable batteries for use in the handheld drills. When items such as these are purchased by the program, the items are donated to the Park where they can continue to be used after the project is done.

The McCoy fencing project is not complete. The Park Champions Program will be back in early November to work on the next section of fencing.



If you would like more information on the California State Parks Foundation or Park Champions Program, visit www.calparks.org.



Treasurer's Notes

By Deanna Turton

Since I did not write my usual article last month, I think two months worth of data would make your eyes roll...and besides, it is just TOO hot to read a lot of financial data. So, I am going to try something new this month.

Since it will soon be time for the BOOT Board to once again go through the process of making tough budget decisions, I printed up a summary sheet of the various income categories and other pertinent data in preparation for the August Board meeting. So, from Jan 1 to July 31, 2018 here are some of the totals:

- Total income for The Park Store - \$43,318.41
- Total expenses for The Park Store - \$15,884.22
- Total expenses for crafts (sold in The Park Store) - \$1,940.94
- Daily average in the donation boxes - \$66.72 (above the projected rate of \$55.00 a day)
- Total income from all sources - \$ 77,738.47
- Total expenses from all sources - \$57,080.67

The year is obviously not over! BOOT still needs to pay \$5,500.00 for the Schoolhouse and \$5,000.00 for the Blacksmith/Animal Handler PCA accounts to cover staff salaries. BOOT voted to fund new signage in the Seeley Museum, which will amount to roughly \$4,000.00; and renovations in the Machado-Stewart casa are also planned. In addition, there are still outstanding bills from July 4th and Stagecoach Days; Fiesta Patrias special event is in September. So Poppy Paper readers should expect to see more big expenses as the year proceeds.

On the other side of the coin...excuse the pun...membership is up to \$1,275.00 and The Park Store is doing very well. When I first started as the BOOT Treasurer, I can recall volunteer Mary Isbell sitting in the store all day, with a total of \$8.00 in sales, some of which she bought herself so there was something in the envelope at the end of the day! We have come a long way since then, for in July the store sold almost \$9,000.00 worth of books and crafts. **MANY THANKS** to Mary Jones and JoBeth Hull for keeping the store up and running, to Bob Jones for helping Mary lug books and troubleshooting the credit card machine when things go sideways, and to the ladies of the Craft Committee for making all those crafts. Also, kudos to Susan Hector for doing a great job as Membership Chairperson.

And, just one tidbit of information from my trip to Maryland...Did you know that on the second floor of Montpelier, the home of James Madison, there is a small library that overlooks a vast front lawn and tree shaded acreage? The tour guide told us that is where Mr. Madison wrote the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. And did you know that after the death of James and Dolly Madison, the house passed to Dolly's son from her first marriage? Due to problems with alcohol and gambling, the house was soon sold and fell into disrepair.

After some years passed, the Dupont family purchased the property and added 22 rooms, but kept the historic rooms untouched. Since the Duponts were VERY fond of race horses, a race track was built off to the left of that wonderful front lawn - a track that they still use today. However, when the house was deeded to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, all those 22 room add-ons were removed, and the house once again looks like it did when James Madison lived there. I loved it there...less crowded than Mount Vernon. The guided hike through the forest was restful and an education on the various types of trees in the area. And, in the basement, there is a wonderful slide show on the enslaved people who did all the work.

Both presidential homes, Montpelier and Mount Vernon, are grand places to visit!

Volunteers in the Park

By Tim Downing, Volunteer Coordinator

Well, another summer is behind us and, once again, it was fantastic! From the 4th of July all the way through Stagecoach Days, we had the highest volunteer participation we've seen in a long time. As I've said so many times before, without all of you, our fantastic volunteers, these events would not be such a success. Each and every one of you gives up something that is more precious than most people think, your free time...especially during the summer months when many of us have family and friends in town or are working around family vacations.

I will stack our living history program up against any others out there. I truly believe that the passion you all show for your guilds and the programs you do is what really separates Old Town State Historic Park from other historic parks.

I heard a great comment again this summer. It's one that I have heard before, but I think it really helps put things into perspective. The comment was from one of our visiting sister parks. They were impressed with the number of living history events we do throughout the year. Not just the ones we do during the summer, but that we are doing a living history event just about every weekend all year long! Other parks are lucky if they do three or four a year! Just one more reason you all are the best volunteers out there!

We have just a few more events left for 2018 - Fiestas Patrias, Day of the Dead, and a few events for the holidays. I will be sending out requests soon. Thank you again for being the fantastic volunteers you are and thank you for all you do for our Park!

Native Plant Landscape Work Party **2nd Saturday of Every Month - 9:30 to noon**



WE NEED YOU! It is seen by more visitors than any other native plant landscape in San Diego. A few die-hard members have tended it for ten years. We hope more CNPS members will come help us and bond with it. After we hit the noon hour, some of us will go for a no-host lunch.

Please come help us grub out unwanted non-native pest plants. Bring water, sun protection, your own gloves and hand tools...or share ours.

The landscape is at the corner of Congress and Taylor Streets. Park for free in the lot off Calhoun Street, past the green dumpsters.

Questions? Kay or Peter OldTownLandscape@cnpsd.org

From the Editor's Desk...

Summer is over, most of the schools are in session...or will be shortly. The days are getting a little shorter and cooler, and we set our sights on fall activities and fun. Besides all of the wonderful interpretive activities and demonstrations in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, the greater Old Town community also has much to be enjoyed during the fall months. Ticket sales for Taste + Tequila go on sale September 1, 2018. The popular annual event will take place on Thursday, November 29, 2018. The annual *Dia de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead) will be celebrated on November 1-4, 2018. (For more info on these events, go to <http://www.oldtownsandiego.org/>.) So, mark your calendars, and come enjoy Old Town this fall!!!

Happy Reading!

Ruth French, Editor, poppypapereditor@gmail.com

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

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS!

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MONTHLY BOOT BOARD MEETINGS

BOOT Board Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday, 1:00 pm, at Café Coyote. Monthly Board Meetings are always open to the public.

BOOT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Jeanne Ferrell	(619) 543-9057
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 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***
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- _____ **Donation Enclosed (Or Gift in Honor of: _____)**

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