



THE POPPY PAPER



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

May 2021

Time Almost Lost Forever

By Sgt. John Anderson, Supervising Ranger, San Diego Coast District

It's not the value of an object, but the stories interpreted by it that find value within Old Town San Diego State Historic Park (OTSDSHP). One such item is a 5.5 ounce gold pocket watch (*pictured right*), which was on display at the Colorado House Building, also known as the Wells Fargo Museum. The object itself, a gold pocket watch valued at \$10,000 (2021 market value), was a gift to a Mr. Thomas W. Davies in appreciation for his integrity when he found a treasure box worth \$10,000 of gold on October 1, 1873. He found the box somewhere between Julian and San Diego, CA; and he insisted on returning the valuable box to Wells Fargo, only asking for \$10 for his time and the service of his horses.



Although the Wells Fargo Museum has closed its doors, there is still one more story about its time in OTSDSHP that must be told...

As Mr. Davies was in the right place at the right time in 1873, so was an MTS Trolley Station security guard on February 20, 2021. On that night, a person broke into the Wells Fargo Museum, taking the gold pocket watch, as well as two other items, with a total value of over \$14,000. The security guard, making rounds, observed something that seemed out of place and called San Diego Police Department. Officers responded and recovered the gold pocket watch and other objects just stolen from Wells Fargo Museum. Upon further investigation and cooperation with the California State Parks Rangers, the stolen artifacts were returned to the Museum.

Whether it was a game of chance, a stroke of luck, or being at the right place at the right time, the integrity to do the right thing from each professional involved, returned the gold pocket watch to its rightful owner. The true value of the pocket watch lies within its enduring history within the interpretation of our past, told at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park.



Treasurer's Notes

By Deanna Turton, Treasurer

YIPPEE! For the first time in many months, BOOT has had a month without any red ink! This happy news is mainly due to the fact that Becky Halliburton is collecting donation money at three Park sites - La Casa de Estudillo, the Blacksmith demonstration area, and the burro corral. So, after a few bills were paid, BOOT showed a gain of \$1,013.10. In fact, the only major expense this month was a subscription to ZOOM, so the BOOT Board can meet safely during the COVID pandemic.

During the worst of the epidemic, the BOOT Board only met once outside on top of Presidio Hill. Board members were masked and sat at least ten feet apart on their own folding chairs. In the early part of 2021, we also met behind the Mormon Battalion Museum in Old Town. However, it was determined that perhaps meeting via ZOOM would be safer. So, after some initial difficulties, we managed to navigate the complexities of ZOOM quite well, thanks to Tim Downing managing the ZOOM invitations and showing financial documents on the screen. Since most Board members are retired, we were most proud of ourselves for managing the new technology!

March also was a busy month because it was the time to work on the tax forms and Annual Report. In addition, Kimberly Weinstein and I have also been meeting on a regular basis for her to learn the complexities of being the BOOT Treasurer. As of this writing, we are going over every line of the four required documents so she can learn how to do them. So far, we have completed the Federal 990EZ form and report to the Attorney General. At our next meeting, we hope to do the State form and begin the Annual Report. Actually, I have completed all those forms, but Kimberly needs to learn how to break out income and expenses because each one has to be done differently. She also has to learn how to file the sales tax document online which we also plan on doing next week. And finally, once *The Park Store* opens, there will be bookkeeping and a host of other things to teach her. But, Kimberly has been a treasurer before, so she is a quick learner. I am confident the BOOT funds will be in good hands!



From the Editor's Desk...

Thank you to staff and volunteers for their contributions to this month's edition of The Poppy Paper!

Unfortunately, we did not receive the news about the virtual Earth Day (*page 3*) for last month's edition, so the event has already passed. But, we are fortunate that it was "virtual" and the press release includes the links to most of the programs that were presented.

Megan Suster shared that in May the Park staff will be presenting interpretive materials for Jewish American Heritage Month and Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Check out the Park's website for more info - coming soon!

Please remember, you do not need to be Park staff or a BOOT Board member to submit an article. If you have news that is related to the Old Town San Diego community, present or past, please share it with us. We would love to hear from you, as we look forward to the future reopening of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park and the surrounding community!

Happy Cinco de Mayo, Happy Mother's Day, and Happy Reading!

Ruth French, Editor, poppypapereditor@gmail.com

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

Kumeyaay Relationships with the Land – Earth Day Virtual Event

California State Parks celebrated Earth Day on Thursday, April 22, 2021 with a virtual event highlighting Kumeyaay relationships with the land. Although the event has passed, there are several website links to the virtual presentations listed below:

[Old Town San Diego State Historic Park](#) presented a collaborative interpretive program with Kumeyaay elders, leaders, cultural specialists, and scientists. The Kumeyaay have nurtured a relationship with the land of San Diego since time immemorial. Embedded in their culture and practices today are the tools to restore balance to our environments, communities, and ecosystems.

Visit [our website](#) for more information! These programs were designed for the public, as well as for teachers and students who are learning either virtually or in-person. So, whatever your learning environment, we are here to meet you where you are!

Zoom Webinars and PORTS YouTube Channel:

- [Ecozones & Native American Scientists](#), geared for 3rd-8th grades, presented by Laurie Egan-Hedley, Director/Curator at the Barona Cultural Center & Museum.
- [The Brown Family Kumeyaay Creation Story](#), geared for 3rd grade, presented by Elder Sam Brown from the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
- [Cultural Burns](#), geared for College/Adult, presented by Dr. Don Hankins, Professor at California State University Chico, followed by a Q&A session with Richard Bugbee, Plant Specialist/Instructor at Kumeyaay Community College.
- [Kumeyaay Traditional Ecological Knowledge](#), geared for all ages, presented by tribal elders & leaders from Jamul Indian Village.
- [California State Parks PORTS Program - YouTube Channel](#)

Subscribe to California State Parks News online at www.parks.ca.gov/news or email us at newsroom@parks.ca.gov.

California State Parks provides for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation. Learn more at www.parks.ca.gov.

Submitted by Megan Suster, Historic Interpreter II

Descendant's Corner

by Linda Jacobo, Descendant Liaison



Descendants of Early San Diego sharing news, histories and biographies of San Diego's earliest residents. It is through these stories that we acknowledge, experience and remember the events that make up our rich, local legacy.

The early days of San Diego were filled with hard work, daring adventures and times of unusual experimenting. This 1857 San Diego Herald newspaper ad was one of those experiments:

WIFE WANTED

The Advertiser wants a Wife and avails himself of the columns of the Herald to find one. On the score of personal appearance, he is considered by his friends and acquaintances as passable. In a pecuniary point of view he is unexceptionable and can support a wife and children, (if so blessed) in a comfortable manner if free from those extravagant notions and airs so peculiar to a large portion of females of this part of the country.

He is of good disposition and feels that he deserves a good wife, who must be of not less than 25 nor over 32 years of age, of fair personal appearance and education and of sound healthy body. If of a prolific family so much the better. Although aware of the natural delicacy of a lady answering a matrimonial advertisement, he pledges his honor to the sincerity of his intentions, and trusts to an equal sincerity on the part of any lady who may feel disposed to respond to this notice. And he hopes it may be one in whom 'The graces of form to the features impart...The sweetness that lies in an innocent heart.'

Address: Wm. Williams, San Diego Post Office. 5 September 1857

And so it was, on 04 Oct 1857, William Williams married Ramona Alipas Machado de Curley (widow of Curley), the "admired of all admirers."

VIRTUAL WALKING TOUR

Click on this link to take a virtual walking tour of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park: https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30468

This virtual walking tour was created through the generous support of the Boosters of Old Town San Diego (BOOT) and NWB Imaging. If you have questions about this program, please contact Megan Suster at megan.suster@parks.ca.gov.

Please enjoy your "walk" around Old Town San Diego State Historic Park!



THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS!

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 Please refer to the back cover page for more details.

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"Located in Old Town State Historic Park"

An Easy Way to Support Old Town

Do you and your family use Amazon or PayPal? If you do, it's easy to support Old Town...just identify **Boosters of Old Town** as your charity to allocate donations when you buy things.

AmazonSmile is a program developed by Amazon to match a percentage of your purchase as a donation to a nonprofit. It costs you nothing, the money comes from the company. *Paypal* allows you to make a donation, as small as \$1.00 (more would be great), to a nonprofit. All the money **BOOT** raises goes to Park programs and activities. Please consider adding **Boosters of Old Town** as your charity when you make Amazon or Paypal purchases!

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