

Carlsbad Time Lines

Q2 2021

Carlsbad, California, Historical Society

President's Letter

Crossing our fingers and knocking on wood, but it looks like we have finally turned the corner on this pandemic. As more people are vaccinated and our infection numbers are dropping, it appears we are on the path to normalcy, and part of that process is enabling us to open the museum for more hours and on more days.

Our museum is now reopened for the first and third Friday of each month and every Saturday and Sunday from 11-3 pm. Masks are still required, and we are following all safety requirements. We do hope you decide to visit and see some of the newest acquisitions.

This past weekend we received a donation from our very own Marvin Sipple. Marvin generously donated his time in building a beautiful cabinet to display many items on loan from the Kelly Family. The display cabinet and items are located in the north conference/library room. We have decided to use this space to highlight the many contributions and achievements of the Kelly Family. This family is truly remarkable, and the cabinet is a treasured work of art as well as a work of love. Please see the story below for more details.

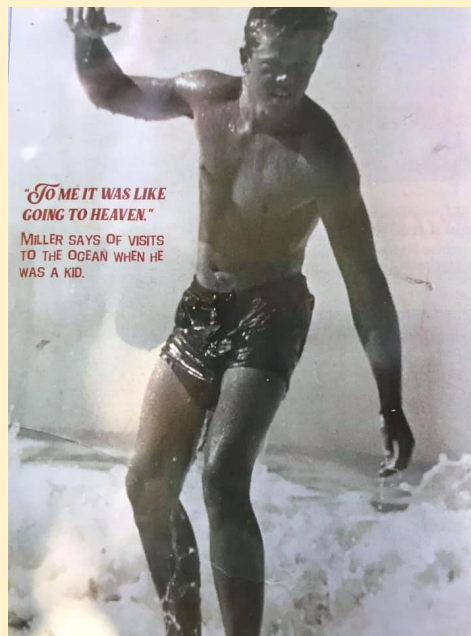
You may remember that last March 2020 we received a donation of town founder Gerhard Schutte's watch from his great granddaughter. Now would be a great time to see it in person. All items pertaining to the Schutte Family are located in the west bedroom. Included in this area you'll find their furniture and a variety of smaller objects such as autograph books and paintings.

As reported in earlier newsletters, our docent has been busy during our pandemic shutdown scanning photos, slides and paper file items. We're sharing 3 slides from his most recent work, one of the "newly

built" circa 1960s City Hall and 2 aerials overlooking the 1970s Flower Fields and Agua Hedionda Lagoon area, pre construction of Cannon Road.

Lastly, a huge thank you to City of Carlsbad staff who facilitated the installation of a new fire alarm system at Magee. We are fortunate to have such dedicated staff such as Mick Calarco and Charles Balteria.

Sue



Carl Miller

Carl Miller

As many of you may know, one of the activities the historical society participates in is documenting our history by interviewing residents, creating an oral history. In 2004, one of our members, Marge Howard Jones, conducted interviews for the project "Oral Histories of the Highway 101." She interviewed many Carlsbad residents, two of whom were Carl and Pat Miller who moved to town in 1958.

Carl recently passed away. He taught at Carlsbad High school and was known as "my favorite teacher" by many of his former students. Anyone who was fortunate to have known Carl (and his wife Pat) know that, in addition to being a favorite teacher, Carl was an avid surfer. Wonderful people, they were dedicated to their family, church and to the community.

Reading their memories of Highway 101 just highlights the importance of us as an organization as we continue to actively participate in the oral history program. Below, you'll find an excerpt from their interview that mentions a time before the construction of the power plant.

Carl:

I might comment, I was thinking of this, one thing that came to mind, which is significant, there wasn't much going on on the 101. Carlsbad was very quiet. There was a dirt bluff during the 1950s. It was very quiet and I remember before Terramar and the Power Plant were there, I can remember us surfers referred to what is now referred to as Terramar a, we called it, "Guayule". They had raised a grass there during the Second World War, that they made an oil out of evidently. And only the guys that have been here for years remember that terminology. I just remember fields down there, no houses.

Marvin Sipple Donates Cabinet for Kelly Collection

Long time member, and CHS Vice President, Marvin designed and built a beautiful cabinet and donated it to us. He says it kept him busy during the pandemic. It will contain documents, letters and physical objects that belonged to the late Allen Oscar Kelly and are now part of the A. O. Kelly trust. The cabinet is made of oak and glass and is internally illuminated by strings of light emitting diodes (LEDs). Marvin's grandkids, Patrick and wife Charlene, Catherine, and Julia helped complete the project. Also, great-grand daughter Michaela.



Marvin Sipple

HEAR YE --HEAR YE --HEAR YE --HEAR YE

It's that time again for catching up on our annual dues to the Carlsbad Historical Society. The Board gave us a reprieve last year due to Covid health concerns. The Magee House is up and running again with normal expenses and open to the public on Friday afternoons, Saturdays and Sundays.

As a board member and retired teacher, I am eager to put on my jeans and boots and meet third graders once again on their local history field trip. I introduce them to the days of saddles, ropes, barbed wire, branding irons and hay hooks. They practice herding themselves out on the open pasture with stick horses. I tell them a true story of a 10-year-old boy of the historic Kelly family who had the responsibility for tending and guarding lambs and calves from mountain lions. His father was gone 18 months herding 400 horses for sale to Salt Lake City.

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Dues are payable on July 1st and cover the fiscal year to June 30th .

Individual \$25; Family \$35; Student \$5;

Business \$50; Lifelong \$250

Please remit to: Carlsbad Historical Society
P.O.Box 252
Carlsbad, CA 92018-0252

Your support is needed and you will enjoy being a part of the Historical Society family promoting history here in Carlsbad. Come and see the new display cabinet in the Magee House showing historical Kelly family ranching artifacts, items, photos, etc. Come try on a horse collar and see if it fits you to pull the wagon or plow. One of our third graders will learn how to be the horse on their field trip.

HELP SUPPORT OUR CARLSBAD HISTORY. YOU ARE NEEDED NOW

Most sincerely, Marvin Sippel (Note: I married into the Kelly family)

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(We are resetting our membership due date to June 30th, as required by our By-Laws. Recall that last year we waived membership fees because of the pandemic.)

Dismantling of Encina Power Plant Continues

The last few weeks have seen an acceleration of the removal of the smokestack and the removal of the concrete panels of the main building down to the ground. The stack used to be more than twice the height of the power plant.



Power Plant History

In the late 1990s, our CHS ran a contest for graduating Carlsbad High Seniors. Choose a topic relating to Carlsbad's history-and write 500 words . The winner was Jeremiah Cornthwaite and his essay "Desert to Paradise". We're sharing parts of it here as a reminder that the power plant indeed contributed to Carlsbad's history.

Desert to Paradise

"Carlsbad has been my home all my life. My father and grandfather are employees of the San Diego Gas and Electric Company. Yet, not until I began researching old newspapers for a topic for this report, did I realize what a profound effect SDG&E has had on the very existence of this community. It all began

with a front page ad in the Carlsbad Champion, 1926, which talked about the development of the power company, saying "Thousands of acres of previously unproductive land have been placed under cultivation. Cactus covered wastes of a few years ago are now dotted with orange groves. Water pumped by electric power is to a great degree responsible for this transformation." This made me realize for the first time, how electricity provided for the pumping of large amounts of water into this desert region, transforming it into the beautiful agricultural community it has become."

Bill Baldwin who chaired the committee that pushed for our city's incorporation confirmed, "If it hadn't been for SDG&E there never would have been a city of Carlsbad."

Early Carlsbad growers such as Paul Ecke and Bill Cannon depended on power from SDG&E for irrigation to develop their businesses> Power provided for community growth.

Not only did the supply of electricity provide for our village, but the construction of the Encina power plant in 1952 had a tremendous effect on our community. "Construction of the Encina Power Plant did more than anything else to get Carlsbad incorporated into a city "Locals recognizing the benefits of the power plant as a tax base, incorporated the area into the city of Carlsbad." (Charles Wesley Orton).

Magee House Alarms

In the last weeks the fire and smoke sensors at the house were replaced and a new control panel was installed. The alarm now has a 4G wireless cell telephone line, with a 24-hour battery backup. It is considered a more reliable system all around.



La Posada Helps The City With Homeless

Last year saw a large increase in the number of people needing housing in North County. La Posada was asked by the City of Carlsbad to take an additional 50 men, and they provided additional money. In addition to providing temporary housing, La Posada has been providing towels, masks, hand sanitizer, condiments, shelving, TV, basketball hoops, board games, and many more items. They also have held Thanksgiving and holiday dinners, with gifts. Also, La Posada helps men to get work by providing collared shirts, haircuts, and bus passes.

Please consider donating to this very important cause. La Posada de Guadalupe is located near the [Safety Training Center](#) of the City of Carlsbad, 5750 Orion St. CA 92010.

Magee House Homeless make the news again

In the Local Section of the Sunday, May 2, Union Tribune newspaper, there is an article about the City of Carlsbad having approved a plan to give vouchers for housing to the homeless residents of our town. The money (about 3 Million dollars) will be reimbursed by the Federal Government. A picture of the back porch of Magee house was selected, showing two of our night time visitors.



Shipley-Magee House back deck



Circa 1960s The completion of I-5 meant a realignment of Pio Pico and construction of a new Carlsbad City Hall

New Historic Pictures



Circa 1970s Flower fields and Agua Hedionda Lagoon area- before Car Country Carlsbad

New Members

Debra L. Lee

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Shipley-Magee House  
 258 Beech Avenue Carlsbad CA 92008  
 Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11 to 3 pm  
 Private Tours with Tea are given Monday through  
 Thursday BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

[www.carlsbadhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.carlsbadhistoricalsociety.com)