

Carlsbad Time Lines

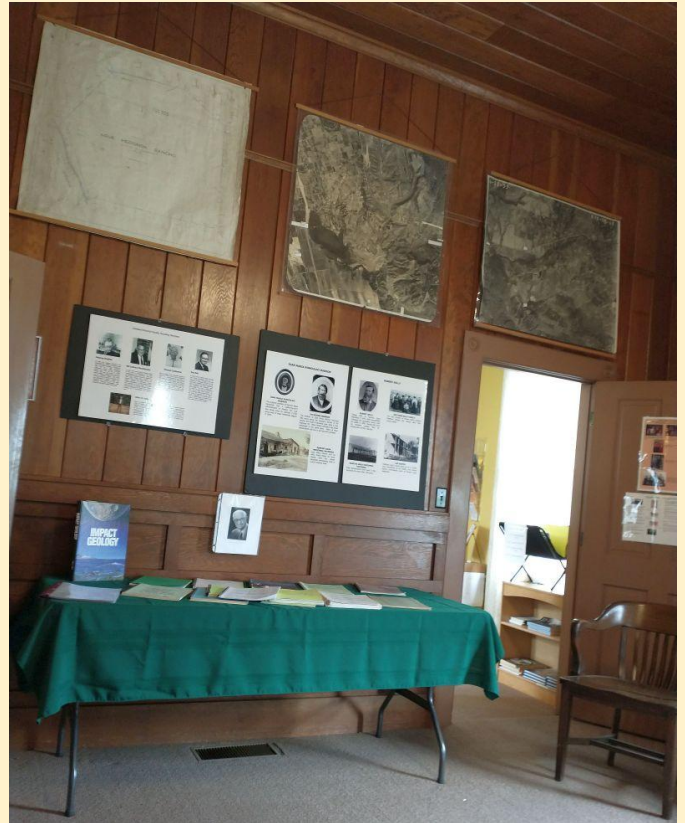
Q3 2021

Carlsbad, California, Historical Society

President's Letter -Third Quarter

To paraphrase; "It's summertime and the living is easy". This summer we are returning to a sense of normalcy and our museum is open every weekend on Saturday and Sunday from 11-3 and the same operational hours on the first and third Friday of each month. Warm summer days mean limited parking near Magee House and our museum, so plan to visit early in the day. It's a great little trip for you and your summer visitors; we've got lots of interesting new post pandemic displays.

One of our most recent exhibits features the pioneer Kelly Family. We've utilized the space in our conference room to create a unique and informative exhibit that highlights the entire Kelly Family from early pioneering settlement in the 1860s to the current generation and their civic contributions. Items on display are generously loaned artifacts from the Allan O. Kelly Family, and they create a unique opportunity for visitors to learn more about our history beginning with the Rancho period, and continuing to the establishment of the City of Carlsbad.



Maps and posters for the new Allan Kelly display in the conference room.



New Display for Allan Kelly's collection

Save the Date

Sunday, October 17, 2021 from 1-3 we will be meeting at St. Michael's Church Hall for our annual meeting and election. I'll present a brief talk on the Pioneer Kelly Family and the museum will be open for those interested in walking across the street and seeing the newest display.

Repairs

Carlsbad City Facilities is creating an action item checklist of needed repairs for all historic buildings located in Magee Park. This includes Magee House and Barn as well as the Granary and Heritage Hall. A contractor will be visiting each site later this summer and submitting their recommendations. Requests for funding of repairs will be included in the facilities budget requests to the city for next year.

Magee Park and Homeless

Carlsbad PD Homeless Outreach Team is creating a positive presence at Magee Park. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Annual Election

Please submit your name if you are interested in running for election. Positions of President, Treasurer and Secretary for the term 2022-2024 will be voted on this October at our annual meeting. Send your name to cbadhistory@gmail.com

Not so Very Different

Living in urban Carlsbad in 2021 you wouldn't expect to have a bobcat roaming your neighborhood, eating your house pets. But that is exactly what happened in my neighborhood in July. Drought, pandemic, global warming or encroachment on natural habitat could all be contributing factors to the recent arrival of bobcats living among us. John L. Kelly, the son of Matthew Kelly the Los Kiotes homesteader, and nephew of Robert Kelly the owner of the Rancho Agua Hedionda wrote in his memoirs "Life on a San Diego Ranch" about his encounter with one particular bobcat . Copies of this bound book are available for checkout at the Carlsbad Library, and of course members are welcome to borrow one of our copies.

Here's the excerpt as written by John L.

"One very foggy morning, I was letting my flock of sheep and goats feed along through the bushes on a hillside, when suddenly I saw only a few yards ahead of me a large bobcat wrestling with a half-grown goat, and trying to drag down. I had my double-barreled shotgun with the one barrel loaded with thirty-six caliber pistol bullets, and the other barrel loaded with number seven shot for quail or rabbits. Instead of shooting at once as I suppose I should have done, which would have probably killed both goat and wildcat, I rushed in shouting at it, but with my gun ready to shoot it the instant it separated itself from the goat. At about this stage of the game, however, Leach rushed past me and leaped onto the cat. Before I had been afraid to shoot for fear of killing the goat, and now I could not shoot for fear of killing my faithful little dog.

The big wildcat was far bigger than Leach, but what has size got to do with it when a Scotch terrier sees a prospect

for a fight? All I could see was a rolling mass of dog and wildcat clinched in a deadly combat and before I could do anything they were rolling down the steep hillside under some thick brush. I thought the big wildcat would surely kill him. By the time I got down to where I could see the fight again, the wildcat had evidently had all the fight he wanted for just then he managed to break loose and dashed away down the hill with Leach in hot pursuit."

Former Carlsbad Resident; Murph the Surf- Heist Mastermind



Break in at the NYC American Museum of Natural History

In October 1964, the "Star of India", a 563 carat oval blue sapphire larger than a golf ball was stolen from the New York City American Museum of Natural History, as was a 100.32 carat "DeLong Star Ruby" and a 116 carat "Midnight Star" black sapphire. This was the largest jewel theft in NYC history. And the theft was pulled off by a former Carlsbad resident, Jack Murphy and two of his criminal cohorts Allan Kuhn and Roger Clark.

Born in Los Angeles, Jack Murphy, an only child, spent his childhood in Carlsbad. His family left town in the 1940s and moved to many other states before he eventually ended up in Florida.

At 27 years of age Jack "Murph the Surf " was living in Miami listed as a surfing champion in Florida and a Cocoa Beach surf shop owner, he and 2 friends also were thieves pulling off waterfront mansion robberies and escaping by speed boat.

After they stole the Star of India and 22 other gems, on October 29, they returned to Florida and hid the gems

underneath the boat. Two days later the police were tipped off and they were captured. A movie titled "Murph the Surf" was released in 1975 and provides a glamorized version of the theft.

Jack Murphy, "Murph the Surf" served two years jail time for the gem theft, and later returned to prison for several decades after being convicted for a brutal homicide in Miami.



"Star of India" sapphire



"Jack "Murph the Surf" Murphy sits in an outdoor lounge chair with his dog on his lap as he reads a Woody

Woodpecker comic book. Inscribed on the bottom border of the print; "Jack Murphy 8-1948. Later in life Murphy gained the nickname "Murph the Surf" as a professional surfer, and infamy as a jewel thief and convicted criminal, with his participation in "The Greatest Jewel Heist of the 20th Century" serving as the inspiration for the 1976 motion picture "Murph the Surf"." Photo from Carlsbad Local History Collection Archives

KELLY RANCH FAMILY

MUSINGS, MEMORIES, REFLECTIONS FROM

SON-IN-LAW MARVIN SIPPEL –LATER " OUTLAW"

In 1956 I married into the Allan and Katherine Kelly family which included daughter Lucia and son Wm. Allan. Allan was a cattle rancher, author and Katherine was a former school teacher at Pine School in Carlsbad.. Son Allan was a student at Davis UC campus.

Lucia and I met at Whittier College in January, 1954. She had returned to WC after spending a semester at UC Davis. She worked at the Campus Inn as a door checker where students ate. Before leaving for summer break I mused to myself that I will plan to date her in Sept. Our first date was attending the football game at Hadley Field and we began dating regularly thereafter.

We got pinned in January of our senior year, engaged in June after graduation and married in July 1956. I had been drafted into the army just at the end of the Korean War serving at Fitzsimons Army Hospital in Denver, CO. I worked with psychiatric patients there. We married midway through my commitment and settled into our apt in Denver .. Lucia taught elementary school.

After graduate school receiving my teaching credentials and MA degree, we moved to Escondido where I taught middle school physical education for 6 years. Our oldest son, Doug, was born in 1959, and in 1961 we moved into the old ranch house which Lucia's parents had built in 1920.s. They later built a Weir Brothers adobe in 1960. so their older house was vacant. It was single wall construction (no insulation) and had a fireplace and oil burner heater. One could see some light between the boards. It was located on a dirt road ½ mile from two-lane El Camino Real. Water was piped about one mile from Holly Berry Spring . It had a sulfur odor and taste. Hence, we got town bottled water for drinking. At

times the filter for the water line got clogged with small frogs which required cleaning regularly. It wasn't fancy living but the rent was cheap and we saved money to build a new home.

In winter we had to ford the creek which had running water after a storm. I put railroad ties in my pickup truck bed for better traction. Rural life location included many critters: coyotes, bobcats, rabbits, snakes, skunks and many sundry others. A rattle snake was found under my baby son's crib, and a skunk hid in a drawer in the stove. Many similar kinds of experiences occurred. Bobcats raided the chicken coop. Life in the country was eventful.



Lucia Kelly and Marvin Sippel

In 1964 we built our new home on 2 acres given to us by Lucia's parents. My father in law and I bought 25 head of Hereford cattle at the LA livestock market and he bought a bull named Uncle George-- Once again we were in the cow- calf cattle business. New pasture fences, corral with two catch pens and loading chute were constructed. All were located on a dirt road later to become Canon Road and then extended to reach the site of now Sage Creek High School.

Lucia's brother returned from Arequipa, Peru and resumed farming. We electrified the old windmill with a new pump, planted permanent pasture, and housed our kid's horses, steers, and eventually some friend's horses. At one time we had about 25 head of livestock to accommodate which were located in pipe corrals or pastures. We farmed our own oat hay, bought alfalfa and lived as country folk at the edge of Carlsbad. City kids loved to come out and experience horse riding and such events as creek wading and "tomato throwing contests" when Raul Sanchez's fields were done

harvesting. Our six Kelly and Sippel kids had lots of city friends.

Enumerated are some of the animals we had over the years" steers, horses, sheep, chickens, goats, dogs, cats, bulls, etc. In addition to the above animals I will briefly mention some of the experiences our families had over the years.

- foals being born; horses out at night on ECR when gates were left open; nightly sound of horses hooves on asphalt drive coming up to find some morsels of grain.
- calls from Carlsbad PD to come fetch horses again and again
- wire fences cut and animals out; cattle rustling with steer butchered in the field and stolen. No brand mark located on the hide so we couldn't prosecute.
- Trash of all types dumped on property needing clean up
- Mailbox vandalized by one of my former high school students who didn't graduate. Later kittens in the mailbox.
- Brush fires needing fire dept. assistance . (note;) during mowing weeds I accidentally started a fire requiring 2 helicopters and a dozen fire units to quell the fire)
- Flooding after deluge rainfall with benches and debris from Rancho Carlsbad Mobile Home Park. Our fences were wiped out with animals stranded on isles of land. The park was up-stream from our ranch. I remember the sound of roaring water all night long as it passed under the highway bridge on ECR. Agua Hedionda stream was a massive flood.
- Numerous birthday parties for our kids and their friends
- Hay rides pulled by our tractor starting at the Irwin Kelly barn on ECR.
- Beautiful spring wild flowers after a wet rainy season.
- Kelly family and Rotary club barbecues under the euc. trees.
- Our kids climbing into an old tractor tire and rolling downhill bumping into a haystack. Then watching Uncle Ning do the same but with greater speed.

- Driving the WWII Recon truck with a flat bed to haul hay from the fields and stacked in Kelly Barn.
- Acquiring a surplus military (mule) 4WH drive . One time our six kids drove it, tipped over, and rescued Susan Kelly from the water. We adults heard the story years later.
- Another time Susan was bitten by a rattler and GF Kelly used his pocket knife to treat here. She later was hospitalized. More examples could be mentioned.

Choose and Cut Christmas tree business: Having lots of land also had its tax problems. In the late sixties, the land was assessed as future homes and taxes increased by \$300 per acre. As a result, to pay taxes we began an 18 year business of selling trees to satisfied customers. Many remember coming early the Friday after Thanksgiving to select, tag and reserve a tree for later cutting. The old timers tell us their experiences still now. We had Ken Youngdale's Kelly School MGM classes and parents help over several years replant for a pay of \$1 per tree. This produced loyal future customers.



Katherine and Allan Oscar

The senior Kellys were a unique couple. Katherine was a master gardener, great cook, and helped raise her grandkids, as well as volunteering in many places. Besides ranching, Allan wrote on numerous subjects, in particular the subject of Impact Geology. He was Citizen of Year several times and a lifetime Rotarian.

Lastly, how Marvin temporarily was an outlaw from the family.

Son Wm. Allan served on the Carlsbad Unified School Board Many years. One year the Teacher Union had a dispute with the board regarding salaries and other matters. As a teacher I did not support his re-election. In a short time we "Mended our fences" and moved on with our lives.

Marrying into the Kelly family has been a truly wonderful, loving life which I wouldn't exchange. Rich experiences and unique people.

New Life Members

Sondra Curtin-Ttee

Joan Langen Fessenden

~*~

CHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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