

Carlsbad Time Lines

Q4 2021

Carlsbad, California, Historical Society

President's Letter

Dear Friends, we've come to the end of 2021 and while preparing for this final newsletter, I took a moment to reflect on this past year. Almost two years now into the global pandemic, and finally some return to a sense of what we've always thought of as normal. As our understanding grows on how this disease transmission occurs, we've learned what we can do to prevent the spread, and we are moving forward with protections because we are getting vaccinated. Nonetheless, as I look back and think of what we as a community have experienced, I realize that my biggest loss during this time was a loss of community connectedness.

Going through old photos of our historical society activities, I look back on so many times through the years that we as individuals joined together as volunteers, spreading the understanding of local history, or visiting other historic sites to be better informed on the surrounding areas of local history and our interconnectedness. Just as our community organizations are interconnected, I hope that some of the images you see in the following pages bring back your sense of connectedness to Carlsbad, and to our historical society members and friends.

Following along on this theme, I hope you have taken the opportunity to read the bio pieces in the latest Carlsbad Magazine. The community of the women-run businesses with the history of our little town are important reminders of the value of locally run and owned businesses.

Speaking of which, one family in town started a family owned business in the 1940s. The Detwiler Photography studio provided invaluable insight into our past with the many photos taken of local development. When Janet Detwiler married Johnny McKaig also known as Johnny the Barber, a new connection was made to Carlsbad history. Johnny and his wife were in the forefront of local Carlsbad Society and civic involvement. Now the third generation is carrying on through his son.

(Please see his story in the newsletter.) Multigenerational businesses are not unusual in Carlsbad, and continue our sense of community, something even the pandemic of Covid-19 has not been able to diminish.

Board Officers Reelected

Marvin Sippel and Ken Langen were reelected to serve on our board for two more years. Most of the votes we received came in by email, with just a few by paper mail. All the votes received were for the incumbents.

Annual Meeting Lecture



Isle of Man

Our president, Susan Schnebelen Gutierrez, gave a Zoom lecture on the history of the first Kelly immigrants and their descendants. New material was discussed regarding the town in the Isle of Man where they came from. She traced the first family as they separated and settled in different parts of the country.

The journey out West involved many choices and challenges. It is amazing to think of people like the Kellys crossing the country before there was a railway. When some of them got to California, it had just become part of the United States. So by far, most of the population were Spanish speakers. The farming and ranching work force were either Native American or Mexican mestizos.

On the other hand, European immigrants often left very crowded and poor conditions. For example, the Kellys missed the Irish potato famine, which had started in 1845, by a few years. America was totally the opposite: excess of unexplored free land, healthy water and air, and no limits to what an immigrant could do.

Here is a link to watch the [lecture](#). The lecture is also available at the Magee House, on the display monitor.

Scanning of Our People-Files Completed

Our docent, Nolen Hoeft, has completed scanning all of our physical files for people in Carlsbad. Previously, and with a lot of time available during the dark days of the pandemic, he scanned all the photo collections from the Blade Tribune Newspaper. This was thousands of black and white photo negatives.

Next, we will organize these resources, select the best pieces, and make them available to researchers. Also, some of the best photographs will be offered for sale.

Resources Available on our Website

If you have browsed our website lately you may have noticed that the opening page has the same information that is available under the tabs on the left side. This is so that Google robots (bots) can more easily read the information. It is said that depending on time and interest level, "bots" will only go so deep in their reading of websites.

Under the [History](#) tab you will find historical sequence documents and webpages that try to tell the history of Carlsbad from the beginning of Earth. We also include family histories and reprints of classic books on Carlsbad History. For example, we have included the history of the Wilson ranch. One subpage deals with the large collection of books, journals and papers left behind by [Allan O. Kelly](#).

The timelines section is interesting because it compares local history to that of the rest of the country and the world. It is divided in large groups:

- [20,000 BC - 1896: Prehistoric - Mission - Rancho](#)
- [1896 - 1924: Town - Agriculture](#)
- [1925 - 1951: Community Growth](#)
- [1952 - Present: Cityhood](#)

The Historic Resource Inventory of the town (this last one is popular) can be found under the [Resources](#) tab. Here you will also find a scan of a Kelly family history, and several Finding Aids.

For sale items are photographs from our private collection and books. The [photographs](#) can be bought as reprints (in

two sizes) or for those that need to use them multiple times, the price is considerably higher. We currently list only 43 photographs for sale, but we have thousands more.

There is a separate tab for the Barrio Museum that we collaborate with and have had Annual Meetings at their location. Here you will find links to their timeline, and to the video [Barrio Voices](#) which was produced by Daniels Cablevision.

Our section on Videos of Carlsbad is very popular too. We have a link to the videos that the City of Carlsbad has made public:

* [Stitches in Time](#)

* [Videos of Carlsbad History](#)

* [Videos by City of Carlsbad CA](#)

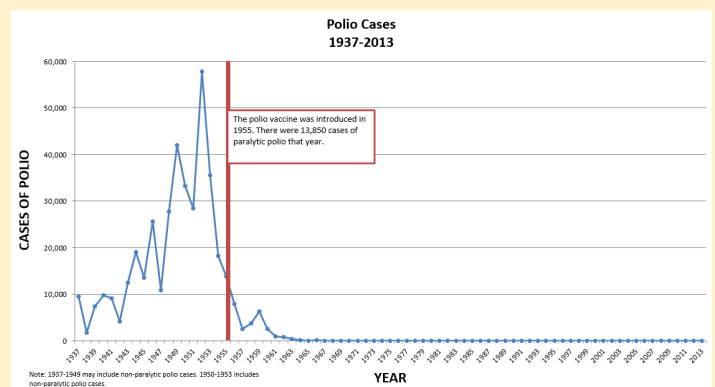
* [The Story Of The Kelly Family](#)

* [The Story of El Corazon](#)

* [The Cave Painting Chumash Indians](#)

Our [Newsletter](#) collection online dates back to 1983. We publish every quarter and most of our members get their copy electronically. We also send copies to other Historical Societies in North County.

Finally, we offer [links](#) to many historical societies and other historical organizations.



Vaccine stopped the polio disease quickly

Remembering the Polio Epidemic

In 1953 Dr. Jonas Salk announced that he had successfully tested a vaccine against poliomyelitis. This was tremendously good news, because the disease had been

killing and paralyzing tens of thousands of people every year. It is estimated that "at polio's peak in the 1940s and 1950s, it would kill or paralyze more than half a million individuals **every year**..." around the world.

There was a recent report on NPR about one of the last people that still relies on an iron lung; he uses it at night. This man recalls that in 1956 people were not going anywhere in the New York area, for fear of contracting polio. But he insisted on having his birthday celebrated outdoors at a park, and this is likely how he got infected.

Unfortunately, the Salk vaccine had to be pulled back after a bad batch resulted in many infections and fatalities. "The incident delayed production of the vaccine, but new polio cases dropped to under 6,000 in 1957, the first year after the vaccine was widely available. In 1962, an oral vaccine developed by Polish-American researcher Albert Sabin became available, greatly facilitating distribution of the polio vaccine." - history.com

Delay in Power Plant Demolition



Section of power plant not yet demolished



Remaining Encina Power Plant

You may have noticed that during last summer the dismantling of the power plant seemed to stop. In the last months the building was divided in two, and the south end totally dismantled to the ground, as seen in the recent picture above.

Below is a partial reprint of an article from the Union Tribune that talks about asbestos removal and disposal of material.

...The process includes the removal of the exterior panels on the power block building, all exterior structures and equipment, and the generation equipment from inside the building, including some materials containing the hazardous material asbestos. Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that was widely used for insulation in the 1950s. Years later, it was banned after doctors learned the airborne fibers were easily inhaled and can cause cancer and other diseases. Any asbestos found at the plant will be packed in containers and shipped off for disposal under mandated guidelines, a process called abatement, before other work can begin.

"Demolition wastes are managed as recyclable and non-recyclable materials," Rimel said. "An estimated 34,000 tons of scrap metal will be recycled at a scrap metal facility, and 50,000 tons of concrete will be used onsite."

Most of the crushed concrete will be used as fill to restore the site to its original grade before the plant was built.

"Batteries, used oils, and other wastes will be recycled when possible at approved facilities," Rimel said. "Approximately 2,700 tons of abated asbestos and 1,500 tons of non-recyclable materials will be disposed of at approved landfills."

The project's contractor, Brandenburg Corp., Inc., is a 50-year-old Midwest-based company that specializes in demolition and environmental remediation... [Phil Diehl](#) October 2020 -San Diego Union-Tribune

Latest Carlsbad Magazine article

The latest issue (Nov/Dec) has a series of write ups on Carlsbad restaurants that are run by women. Going further back in time, one could add Madames Josephine Whiting and Pollyana Reed, who bought the Schutte house in 1914 and ran it as a boarding house and the original Twins Inn

restaurant; they later sold it to Eddie and Neva Kentner in 1919, at the start of prohibition.



Madames Whiting and Reed

Joyce West Smith

Late last summer we were notified that Joyce West Smith had passed away on January 14, 2021. For those that knew Joyce, she was a treasure. For those who didn't know Joyce, well, you just missed out on a wonderful person. Joyce was actually born on State Street, on October 24, 1929 in what was known as the Mother's Hospital--two little cottages where Carlsbad women had their babies. Joyce was the daughter of an English immigrant father. She grew up in Carlsbad, in a little house off of Carlsbad Village Drive, known at that time as Elm. After her father passed away, Joyce and her mom lived in the garage and rented out the house.



Joyce Smith

She attended Carlsbad schools, and after graduation from Oceanside-Carlsbad High, married and started work for the Carlsbad School District. She had 2 children, divorced, and continued working and supporting her son and daughter. She eventually married Hubert (Hubie) Smith. Together they raised Joyce's children and were married for 57 years. Both were active participants in the Carlsbad Community/ Union Church. Joyce served in the choir for decades.

Joyce and Hubie were long serving members of their church, all civic endeavors (Carlsbad Historic Preservation Commission) , and especially the Carlsbad Historical Society. Joyce will be deeply missed for her kindness of heart, her love of community, and her effervescent spirit.

Vigne Donation

Every so often we receive a donation that is just incredible. This past summer the Vigne family gifted us with several boxes of Schutte/Reece/Stromberg Family memorabilia and photos. The Schutte Family (town founder Gerhard and his wife Bertha) arrived in San Diego in the late 1880s, and were part of the Carlsbad Land and Water Company that established the town of Carlsbad. Their son Alfred married Hattie Reece, one of Carlsbad's earliest teachers, and their daughter Delene married William Stromberg. The donations included a porcelain baby doll of Hattie Reece's, small items of costume jewelry, and numerous photos. One in particular we want to share. This image is of the Thum farm lands that Alfred Schutte farmed. The Thum lands were once part of the Kelly Rancho lands and the first area sold off in 1894. For more details, please read about the area in [Seekers of the Spring](#) by Marge Howard Jones.



Alfred Schutte farm - Thum lands

Ginny Krepps Unanue remembers the Kelly Barn

"I remember visiting a Kelly ranch when I was in high school, having Dorothy Kelly invite us who were in the church choir. She was the organist and choir director at St. Michael's Episcopal Church back then. In those days, the barn was still standing, and was not fenced in. We loved traveling down El Camino, and pointing out the Ranch as soon as we saw the barn. It was a standard historical site in Carlsbad back then, in the mid-to-late 50s. It broke my heart to see it eventually sagging, and aging so badly that it had to be fenced to prevent anyone entering and being hurt. And then, one day, I drove by and saw it collapsed inside the fence, an end to part of early Carlsbad history."



Kelly Barn on El Camino Real

Remembering our Community of Friends



Susan Gutierrez, Amelia Irvine, Margie Monroy and Geoff Armour



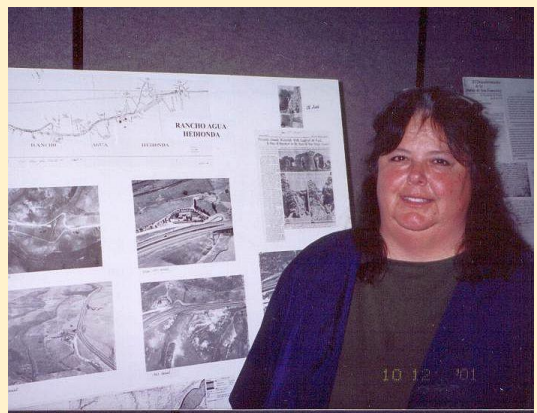
Mrs. Dorothy Krepps

New Life Members

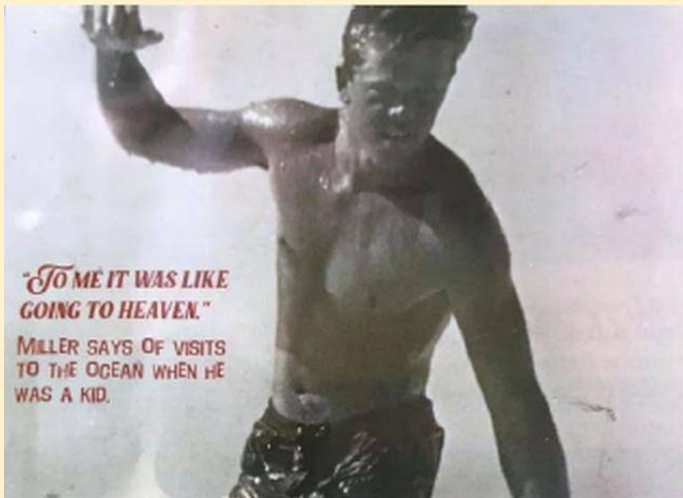
Gina Walters Danner
Susan Kelly

New Golden Members

Peter and Sue Ladoucer
Harry Schurr
Johan and Patricia Roberts
Jackie Wrench



Shelley Hayes Caron



Carl Miller



Carol Landes, Leonore Bourdas, Florence Welsh, Marje Howard-Jones, and Phyllis Demy



Margie and Mario Monroy



Hap and Ann L'Heroux with Carol Landes



Ann L'Heureux



Germán and Sue Gutierrez, Bill and Bonnie Dominguez, Barbara Launspach, Murray Levy, Rona Djeddah, Jerry Colling and Ralph Peterson



Hubbie and Joyce Smith, Marvin Sippel, Mary Scherr, Ofelia Escobedo, Germán Gutierrez, Tina Colling, Guest, Valerie and Jack Cummings, Jerry Colling, Don Miller, Marje Howard Jones, Peter Ladouceur, Laurie Boone, Connie Trejo, Sue Ladouceur

DETWILER MCKAIG FAMILY STORY - A COLORFUL PART OF EARLY CARLSBAD HISTORY -By Marvin Sippel

Recently the Carlsbad Historical Society received a donation of some of the photographic collection of Donald Detwiler, a prominent commercial photographer during the 1940's and later years. Don Detwiler was a talented photographer working from his studio on State Street. He took photos of Carlsbad as the downtown was being developed. The family, originally from Michigan and Escondido, had arrived in 1937, when Carlsbad's population was 3000.

His future son-in-law, John McKaig arrived 10 years later; and began cutting hair in 1947 after serving in the military during WWII. His grandson, John McKaig II is still cutting hair on State Street.

The town was then only 6700 people. Janet Detwiler caught the eye of this barber as he worked. The couple were married in the all-glass church in Portuguese Bend, known as the Wayfarers Chapel in San Pedro, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. They raised three children--Linda Louise, Lisa Ann and John Allan II.

This man John McKaig, later to be known as "Johnny the Barber" became very involved in this small town of Carlsbad during its formative years. He was well suited to observe the goings on about town from his front window view of his barber shop on Grand Ave. He contributed much to the growth and development of the culture and character of this sleepy little town. He was vitally involved in its history.

Impressive list of service --Carlsbad organizations:

- Chamber of Commerce Board--member 40 years
- Parks and Rec. Commissioner--4 years; chairman 3 years
- Rotary Club member --8 years board member
- Housing Appeals Board—chairman 2 years
- Volunteer fireman—4 years treasurer
- Boys and Girls Club board--10 years--2 years President
- Little League Board-- 2 years treasurer
- Pony League Board -- 1 year treasurer
- Spring Holidays Parade – chairman 2 years



Jack Morgan and Toni Morgan Bastien



Margaret Smith, Joe (Josephine) and Jim Geary

As Parks and Recreation chairman, Johnny challenged the City Council decision to cut down a very large eucalyptus tree lining a main street.

Johnny was not only a tree "hugger" but a tree planter. In 1959 he was the leader in getting trees planted along State Street, by the new high school along Monroe, and around Chase Field. He dug all the holes and planted all the trees at the baseball field. On other openings, he donated trees to Eternal Hills cemetery, airport and at various locations in town.

As a barber he provided haircuts and shaves when needed in person's homes. He gave free haircuts on customers' birthdays and called them to remind them. Also he went to funeral homes and provided free services for the deceased.

Johnny was a prankster, as were his friends.

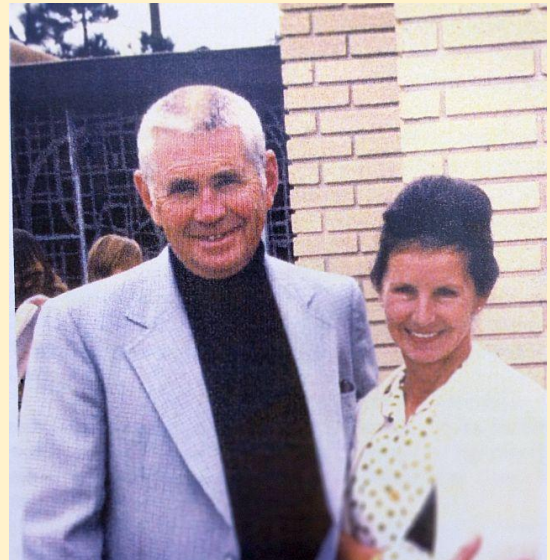
As stated earlier Johnny the Barber was very involved in the early growth of Carlsbad. With his outgoing personality he was a very colorful figure.

Activities include: constructing the city seal and mosaic located in the Council chambers, mosaic at Carlsbad High School (Lancer image on a horse), beach cleanups, organizing drag boat races on the lagoon, and he carved many Tikis out of palm stumps placed around town. He was on the search committee for locating the Carlsbad Raceway Drag Strip out on the Palomar Airport Road area.

Finally, Johnny wrote his version of Carlsbad History in his book, CARLS AIN'T HALF BAD in 1997, which he self published. It is most interesting reading with his humorous style of story telling about all the "goings on " in this sleepy little town of Carlsbad in earlier times of its history.

The third generation of this family, John Allan II, was born in Dr. Freiberg's office on Elm Ave (now CB Village Drive) as was his sister Lisa Ann. He went to cosmetology school to be a hairstylist. He worked for many years at Garcia's Barber Shop on State Street, but now has a different location. It's at 2673 State St. named "The Stylist Hair Studio". Having been born right in town, he feels right at home working in his new location. His birthplace is not far from his shop.

Enjoy your reading! (This is an excerpted version. For the [full article](#) please check our website.)



Author John McKaig with wife Janet

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CHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11 to 3 pm

Private Tours with Tea are given Monday through Thursday

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

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