

Carlsbad Time Lines

Q4 2019

Carlsbad Historical Society

President's Letter

Dear Members:

I want to thank everyone who participated in our recent 2019 Annual Meeting held at the Langen Home on Carlsbad Blvd. Over 50 members attended, and were entertained with music, sampled refreshments, toured the home and had a special viewing of the 1953 aerial painting of Carlsbad.

A huge thank you to the Langen Family for opening their family home to our membership; with special thanks to Ken and Patti Langen for their hospitality and musical entertainment along with their daughter Catalina, friends Janie Rossall, Dave Kirkman and Max Isbell. Joan Langen Fessenden gave us a very informative and fun talk on their family cross country trip and arrival in Carlsbad.

And of course I'd be remiss if I didn't mention all the prep work and event set up done by Germán Gutierrez, Ken Langen, Marvin Sippel and Ginny Unanue. I feel so privileged to volunteer with such a great group of people.

Ken Langen and Marvin Sippel were both re-elected unanimously. We are so pleased they were willing to serve for another 2 years.

This is our last newsletter of 2019 and we are winding down the year with several upcoming activities that we hope you will be able to attend.

Kumeyaay Ethnobotany: Shared Heritage of the Californias by Michael Wilken- Robertson.

This will be on Wednesday, November 13 at 6:30 pm in the Georgina Cole Community Room located at 1250 Carlsbad Village Drive.

This book is written for the general audience and preserves important indigenous plant knowledge for present and future generations. The Carlsbad Historical Society and the Carlsbad City Library are co- sponsoring the event. We hope that you will all be able to attend, and if not, please promote the event through your friends.

St. Michael's 125 Years in the Village: A neighborhood Celebration

NOVEMBER 17, 2-4 PM

You're invited to celebrate the first church in town and learn about Carlsbad history! Join Carlsbad Mayor Matt Hall, Bishop Susan Brown Snook, and the Carlsbad Historical Society for a special presentation and English afternoon tea.



Ginny Krepps Unanue, Ken Langen, Germán and Sue Gutierrez, and Marvin Sippel - Board of Directors

The Carlsbad Historical Society Board wants to thank Gina Danner, Maribeth Rodriguez, Janie Rossall, Colleen Matsubura, and Laurie Boone, who volunteered their time this year. We've had an outstanding year with several thousand visitors to Magee House Museum, and we couldn't have met the community needs without your help.

As always, we look forward to seeing you at some of these events. And please contact us at cbadhistory@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.

See you in 2020!

Sue Gutierrez

Florence Magee Presentation and Visit to Greenwood Cemetery

One part of the St. Michael's 125th Anniversary Community Celebration will include a history of the Shipley-Magee Family and their contributions to the parish. This talk and exhibit will be presented by the Carlsbad Historical Society. While doing some background research in order to firm up birth and death dates we fell down a rabbit hole! It's an expected norm that there will always be some errors found when researching transcribed records. So those who do research always look at ways to confirm through a variety of sources any factual information.

When looking at "official" death dates for Alexander Shipley, using the California Death index, listings on Ancestry, and trying to locate an obituary record in the newspaper, we found three different death date years listed; 1923, 1925, and 1927. Sloppy handwriting can account for all of those years as possible different death dates. What did we know for certain? Alexander Shipley, his wife Julia, daughter Florence and Florence's husband, Hugh Magee, were all buried at Greenwood Cemetery in San Diego. So after a phone call to Greenwood to confirm where they were buried, they were located in the Cathedral Mausoleum, the oldest at Greenwood, we went on a field trip to visit their graves and hoped to find the correct dates.



Shipley-Magee graves

But what we found was even more interesting than confirming a date. So please take a very close look at the photo above. We found confirmation in the engraved crypt for Alexander, listing his death as 1925, but surprisingly, we found that the only one other engraved crypt listed for Alexander's cousin, Minnie Steele, who lived with the Shipley's until her death in 1938. No engravings were included for Alexander's wife, Julia, whose death was in 1943, nor his daughter Florence, whose death was in 1972, though it did have a label maker label stuck to her crypt. There was none for Florence's husband, Hugh Magee, whose death was in 1941. The mystery of who stuck a label maker label on Florence's crypt still remains.

Tate Museum in England

We received an interesting email that pointed out how similar the famous Tate Modern Art Museum, in London, is to the Carlsbad Power Plant. The main difference is that the English stack is rectangular and ours is circular. The Tate foundation purchased the Bankside Power Station, after it was decommissioned, removed all the generating equipment, and renovated it. It opened in 2000.



Tate Modern museum on the River Thames

The Langen Brothers Band - By Kenny Langen

Our family's musical history, in modern times, can be traced back to my great-grandfather, August Julius William von Langen (1835-1919). Accused of sedition several years after the 1848 student rebellions in the states of the German Confederation, he was compelled to leave the city of Rottweil (in present-day Germany). August brought his wooden clarinet aboard ship and eventually settled in Pfeffer Valley, near Hokah, Minnesota. After a short stint with the Union troops toward the end of the Civil War, he and my great-grandmother, Maria Pfeffer von Langen (1848-1883), started a family that fostered music in the lives of their five children (four of their nine children did not survive infancy).

My grandfather, William Joseph Langen (1869-1960), played several instruments in the local community band. One of the musicians asked if anyone in the band could give his daughter, Katie Von Arx, guitar lessons. William, seizing the opportunity to spend time with Katie, told Mr. Von Arx that he could teach her (even though he did not know how to play the instrument). William sought out a guitar-playing friend for some quick lessons for himself, as the family legend goes.

William, on zither, and Katie, guitar, made beautiful music together. They married and had nine children, all of whom were musicians. Their family orchestra played occasionals in and around La Crosse, Wisconsin and La Crescent, Minnesota. The playlist from 1934 has over 300 songs. Their sons, Rudy (trumpet/vocals) and Norb (trombone/vocals), as well as Rudy's son Tom (tuba), played on albums with Syl Liebl and the Jolly Swiss Boys, a well-known polka band.

My father, Raymond Joseph, the youngest of William and Katie's children, played many instruments and

encouraged his seven children to play. He loved tunes. When he tired of hearing my brother Dave practice scales on his trumpet, my father would say, "Don't practice! Play!" To this day, when we get together to practice before a gig, we will practice some of the songs we feel need improvement. At our engagement, we likely will not play the songs we practiced. Rather, our set list changes based on how we read the audience.

In the late Fifties and early Sixties, family car trips back to our mid-western roots provided hours of family singing, time to work on harmonies. We sang a diversity of tunes: "In My Adobe Hacienda," "Harvest Time in Peaceful Valley," "You Are My Sunshine," "Let Me Call You Sweetheart," "Du, Du, Liegst Mir Im Herzen," "You Were Mine at the Time," "White Coral Bells," "Que Sera Sera," and "Cool, Clear Water," to name a few. We younger siblings would try to match harmonies of the older ones.

We gravitated toward Folk Music (hootenannies), Surf Music, and top 100 Rock and Roll (youth dances). By the mid Sixties, my sisters Ann and Judy were singing with local bands. Brothers Dave and Richie were playing surf music with Bruce and Fred Huntington in the Megatones. Brother Gary (guitar/keyboard) and I (drums) formed "The Outcasts" with Joe Saunders (guitar) and Jody Calcara on Bass. We played at the grand opening of Poinsettia Plaza (True Value/Smart and Final) in the early Sixties. Brothers Dave and Rich, along with my sister Judy and others (Larry Neff, Frank Leidt, Jeff Stacey, and Kenny Bennett) formed "The Rivals."

All of the above morphed into "The Langen Brothers Band," from the early Seventies to today. For the past 25 years, Patti Langen (Vocals/Guitar), Rich Langen (Guitar/Vocals), Gary Langen (Bass/Vocals/Keyboard), Jay Weseloh (Guitar/Vocals/Keyboard), and I (Drums/Vocals) have been our consistent group. Joe Saunders, "Bassic Joe," performed with us for several decades. Terry Weseloh performed with us throughout the Seventies and early Eighties.

Our gigs--weddings, birthdays, memorials, bar mitzvahs, school parties, proms, military club dates, reunions, retirements, family parties, company parties, and anniversaries-- have taken us everywhere from The Crystal Ballroom of the Beverly Hills Hilton to the Hotel Del Coronado, from SeaWorld to the Disneyland Hotel, from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to the University Club in San Francisco, from Anza Borrego Desert to the Cuyamaca Mountains, from every major hotel in San Diego County, to the Moose Lodge in Oceanside (and many points in between).



Gary, Ken, Richie and Dave Langen

Items on Sale at the Shipley Magee House

If you are looking for a unique holiday gift, visit our museum gift display. We're open Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11-3. You'll find Carlsbad High School Yearbooks, copies of historic photos from our Detweiler Collection and local history books. Only cash or checks are accepted.



Royal Palms Inn

Grand daughter of an early Carlsbad Police Officer

Janie Rossall, one of our newest volunteer docents had a pleasant surprise when she discovered her father in law's, Captain W. D Rossall, photo on the wall of our Carlsbad Police Department display. Captain Rossall was one of the very first city hires after incorporation. So this summer when granddaughter Abigail was visiting from Texas, Janie was sure to capture the image of great grandfather and great granddaughter Abigail. We love when these serendipitous events happen!



Abigail Rossall at the Magee House

Carlsbad Allocates \$674,500 to Build Strawberry Fields Trail

In 2006, Carlsbad citizens approved Prop. D, which designated a large plot of land as permanent open space. This area is located on the south shore of Agua Hedionda Lagoon. *“Under the plan, much of the land designated as open space under Prop D, plus an additional 21.6 acres for a total of 176.7 acres of open space, would become accessible to the public through trails, picnic and scenic view areas, agriculture, farm to table dining and an outdoor classroom and amphitheater. The only open space that would not be directly accessible to the public is the sensitive habitat areas.” Measure D excerpt from Carlsbad City website.* Additionally, the sensitive habitat areas would be restored and managed “in perpetuity.”

On September 2019, it was announced that the trail will finally begin construction. It is to be 8-foot wide and covered in decomposed granite. It will run around the strawberry fields.

SANDAG Unveils Plan for Buena Vista Lagoon Restoration

On related news, the lagoon on the north end of Carlsbad, Buena Vista Lagoon, will begin restoration, after decades of complaints. The closure of the mouth of the lagoon has impeded the normal movement of salty water in and out of the area. The dominant freshwater content has allowed invasive vegetation to grow out of control.

SANDAG, after a lengthy review, has decided to remove the dam separating the lagoon from the ocean. The western end will be made deeper and a pedestrian bridge will be removed.

Volunteer Opportunities

We desperately need volunteers for the following areas, and these can be done from your home: newspaper clipper; cursive handwriting translator. Please contact us if you are available to volunteer.

Welcome New Members

- Becky Noel
Mike Curtin
Joan Langen Fessenden
Terry and Holly Hart

Life Member

- Jack Morgan

Golden Honorary Members

- Molly Acuña
Fidel and Susan Chavoya
Mario Monroy
Joyce Smith

Painting by Edward H. Burns, 1953-54. Displayed at Annual Meeting



Red arrow indicates site of Langen’s Beach House

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Shipleigh-Magee House
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Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11 to 3 pm.

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