



## The Importance of Accurate and Documented Historical Research

Preserving history one source at a time is the Carlsbad Historical Society motto. As an organization we are committed to keeping accurate historical records, and presenting that information to the public through our interpretive museum displays, writings, and interactions with the public when answering questions, giving lectures, or tours. Often we come across erroneous information, assumptions, interpretations, or understandings of things past. Sometimes it is something simple such as a mix up in dates, or family relationships. Other times it is more involved, and takes time to research, and correct a mistaken understanding. When this occurs we strive to correct and inform our membership, and the public in general.

On July 7th an article was printed in the San Diego Union on a "secret hidden speakeasy" discovered in the former Twin Inns basement. The last two living children of former Twin Inns owners Eddie and Neva Kentner, born, and raised in the Twin Inns, Edward (Bup) Kentner Jr. and Jacquelin (Jackie) Kentner Miller clarified, and set the record straight regarding a Twin Inns "speakeasy". After receiving their email, the editors at the San Diego Union were quick to correct this misinformation. Please read the condensed version of their clarification.

*"First of all, you must remember that the original building that our father purchased from Mesdames Whiting and Reed on November 5<sup>th</sup> 1919 has undergone significant changes through the years, and scarcely resembles the current Twin Inns building. Going back to 1919-1920 there was only one small basement under the building that was open to the street and faced what is now downtown*

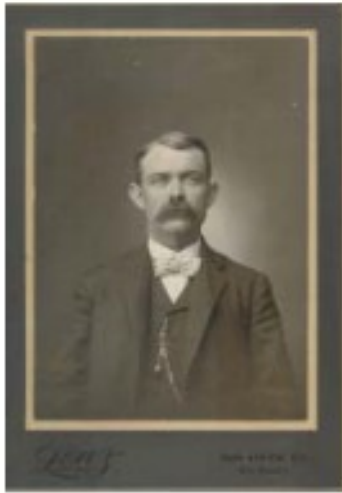
*Carlsbad. One of the first things our father, and grandfather, did in the early 1920's was to add the large rotunda salon or main dining room which exists to this day (and is now the Sun Diego surf shop). The space under that room became the "first" basement. Several years later our father enlarged the kitchen, and the space beneath the kitchen became the "killing room" where every Thursday chickens were slaughtered and skinned (the Twin Inns NEVER "plucked" a chicken!). Incidentally, the "killing room" has four large windows facing the garden, not a single window for a "look out"; and all sinks and tables were galvanized steel or stainless! In the early 1930's, the front lobby was added to the building and the space beneath the lobby became what we called the "second" basement. Our grandfather, a carpenter by trade, had his shop located there in the early years.*

*The entire second story, including the twin gables facing Carlsbad Boulevard, was re-built and modified by our parents in the 1920's. This obliterated much of the original Victorian building only the original lower tower remains. The larger upper tower, our sister's bedroom, was first built as an anchor point for hoisting the main support beams of the rotunda dining room that are enormous.*

*Now for the speakeasy myth. In all of the 65 years of ownership of the Twin Inns by the Kentner family and our own 50 plus years of living in the building (we were both born **in** the Twin Inns) we never heard or saw any evidence of any "speakeasy" in the basement! There was a path leading from the gardens, past the "killing room", and into the second basement that was amply decorated with Egyptian paintings, hieroglyphs, and such. The path skirted the outside of the 8 foot tall cement foundations supporting the main dining room. Our dad was a promoter, and he took advantage of the public's fascination with King Tutankhamen's tomb. Perhaps traces of those decorations still exist, they were there in 1984 when the Inns was sold. It is possible that he had thought he would finish the second basement for another attraction, but it never happened. The second basement was unfinished, a low ceiling, and a 6 or 7 foot square cement ash dump near the entrance for the lobby fireplace above. The second basement was "finished" in 1975 when the Twin Inns Cellar Shop was opened. Access to the shop was from the south eastern end of the restaurant lobby. The circular stairwell leading from the upstairs living quarters to the restaurant lobby terminated in a low landing before continuing to the lobby floor. This landing was converted to*

*an entrance point, and stairs were constructed to access the 2<sup>nd</sup> basement below. The basement was an attractively finished gift shop with shelving, counters, wine storage, and air conditioned. Robert Burke removed all the lobby stairways, and sealed lobby access to the Cellar Shop when he purchased the restaurant in 1984. We presume this marks the birth of the "Speakeasy Myth"?"*

*Edward [Bup] Kentner Jr. and Jacquelin [Jackie] Kentner Miller*



**John Lincoln Kelly – circa 1900**

### **Life on a San Diego County Ranch – by John Kelly**

*In the next few newsletters we will be excerpting passages from the John Lincoln Kelly recollections titled "Life on a San Diego County Ranch." John was one of homesteader Matthew Kelly's sons, and nephew of Rancho Agua Hedionda owner Robert Kelly. John's recollections offer a unique historical insight, pragmatic, and humorously presented documenting the arduous life in San Diego County, many years before trains connected our area to the outside world and much before Carlsbad itself was founded.*

"I was born in California, in Placer County, July 8, 1867.

My father came to San Diego County the following year with his family, which consisted of a wife and seven children, of which I was at that time the youngest.

I have looked the matter up and find that we landed in San Diego from the steamer "Orizaba", the third of November, 1868.

Being then only sixteen months old, I of course was not playing a very prominent part in the events that were taking place

*Carlsbad Time Lines*

My father rented some rooms in an old adobe house in "Old Town", owned by Father Bach, the priest in charge of the Catholic Church at that place, and left Mother and the children there while he was getting a house built out at the ranch.

Father's brother, Robert Kelly, was in the cattle business in partnership with Francis Hinton at the Agua Hedionda Ranch, and Father had been down to this county the previous year visiting his brother. At that time he had decided to bring his family down here and take up a homestead. Uncle Robert had shown him a piece of government land adjoining the Agua Hedionda Ranch, where there was running water, and also another place farther back in the mountains which Father liked very much.

He came down here the following year with the idea of settling on the place back at Bear Valley, but found that it was already settled on when he arrived. So he proceeded to build on the place adjoining the ranch on which his brother lived.

At that time this county was considered utterly worthless for any purpose except stock raising. And land without running water was not considered worth anything. Pumping water for stock was considered an impossibility.

The small valley where Father decided to settle was known by the Spanish name of "Los Quiotes" which is Spanish for "the Yuccas" – a beautiful flowering plant well known in this county and which grew plentifully on the hills around there.

The house that Father erected was a very crude affair. It was sixteen by twenty feet and a story and a half in height made of rough redwood lumber with battens over the cracks. As shingles could not be had at that time in San Diego, they made a roof by nailing rough redwood boards up and down over the sheeting. These boards had first had a channel about one-half inch deep and one-half inch wide cut along both edges with a tool that carpenters call a "plow". Then after they had been securely nailed up and down over the sheeting, and as closely joined as possible, one-half by three inch battens were nailed over the cracks, and these grooves or plowed channels were supposed to carry off the rainwater instead of allowing it to leak through into the house. Father had been advised by Mr. Hinton (Uncle Robert's partner) that this sort of a roof would turn water as well as a shingle roof, but it proved an utter failure, and had to be covered over with split Redwood shakes, as it leaked like a basket.

The house was divided upstairs into two rooms, but downstairs it was one room, except for a sort of pantry that was built under the stairs. There was a door at the northeast corner, a window in both the east and west sides

downstairs, and a half window in each of the east and west sides upstairs.

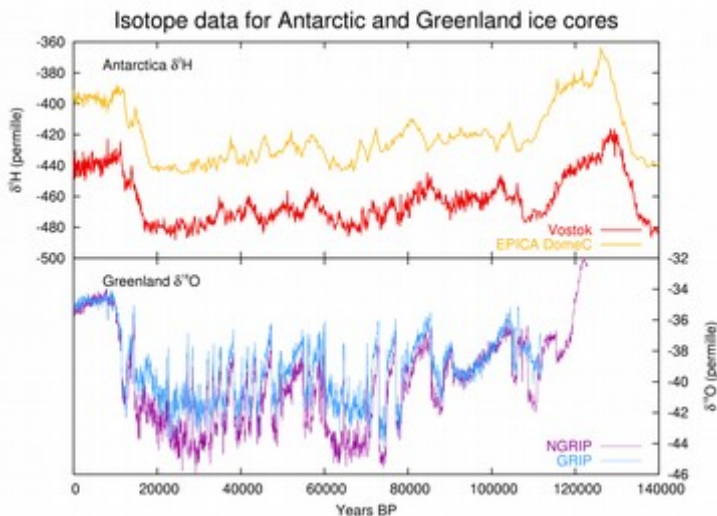
Father was a blacksmith by trade, and a very good one, but he was a very poor hand at carpenter work. The man he got to help him build was also a very poor workman, and as they had only the roughest kind of lumber to work with, the house when finished was a very crude affair. It was built upon a bench of high ground between two arms of the valley, and there was a spring just at the foot of the hill, and a little west of the house, where we got our drinking water.

Father had rented the rooms at Old Town for a month, and at the end of that time he came back to town on horseback and hired a man with a big wagon and four horses to take the family and their belongings out to the ranch."



**San Diego holds oldest site of human activity in the Americas**

Mastodon bones dated to 130,000 years ago show scrapings that could only have been done by human tools, according to two researchers in San Diego. The last ice age ended about 12,000 years ago, but started around 130,000 years ago, so the global climate back then may have been similar to what we have today.



**Partitioning of City into Districts**

The proposed districting of Carlsbad to comply to the recent change is shown below. Each of the four districts would have a beachfront area. District 1 is old Carlsbad. District 2 includes NE Carlsbad, the airport area and some of Bressi Ranch. Districts 3 and 4 divide the southern part of the city.

Since there are 5 members in the City Council, including the Mayor, it has not yet been decided which member is going to represent each district, and whether one is not.



**Annual meeting and elections**

October 15, 2017, from 2 to 4 pm, at Carrillo Ranch, 6200 Flying Leo Carrillo Ln, Carlsbad, CA 92009

We'll have a private 90 minute Carrillo Ranch Walking Tour, including a show of the new displays.

We'll have to meet first at the picnic tables. Then we can all go to the Visitor Center to start the tour.

Tour will be led by Kevin Bender, former archivist at Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park and currently researching and writing the first full-length biography of Leo.

Annual meeting activities to follow. Refreshments will be provided. Please reply to [cbadhistory@yahoo.com](mailto:cbadhistory@yahoo.com)

[From the Archives...](#)

Since our last newsletter we've added several very nice donations to our collection. The most exciting are two china cabinets previously owned by Florence Shipley Magee. They are beautifully handcrafted, which include individually crafted shelf holders. Currently they are on display in the Shipley Magee House dining room, please stop in and take a peek. Donor Sharon Walwick Harlow recounted the following story about these beautiful handcrafted cabinets.



MAGEE CABINETS

Florence Shipley Magee attended St. Michael's Church with my grandmother Barbara Walwick, and my parents, Robert and Maureen Walwick. My father Robert was an attorney practicing in Oceanside from 1951 to his retirement in 2002. He also served on the Carlsbad Historical Society Board for many years.

Florence came to my father for estate planning services. In the course of that planning she decided to donate her home and the surrounding property to the City of Carlsbad to preserve as a historical venue. Not having children or other family surviving, she chose to leave her personal property to my grandmother Barbara. My grandmother gifted the "Magee cabinets", as we always referred to them, to my father and mother. For many years they were filled with china, glassware, and table linens used for our family gatherings (I am the oldest of six children). My father passed in 2004, then my mother passed in March

2017. Our family believes that the "Magee cabinets" should be returned to their original home. I have done so with pleasure.

Sharon

Display Cabinet

An additional donation is a very large display cabinet, offered by Jo Geary. We plan to use this cabinet to display the newly restored Twin Inns Guest Registries. Mrs. Geary is a member of the Questers group that were instrumental in obtaining restoration of the Twin Inns Registries. President Ginny Unanue's brother, Don Krepps, is in the process of safety checking (and repairing) the cabinet before we put the registries on display.

**New Mural in Carlsbad**

The City commissioned local artist Skye Walker to paint a mural titled "Great Futures Start Here," in a continuing effort to improve the Barrio neighborhood. The mural is 30 by 40 feet, and it features children, the ocean, nature, and having fun in Carlsbad since 1952. It was painted on the side of the Boys and Girls Club, at 3115 Roosevelt Street.

**Annual Dues**

Our annual dues are collected by the end of each year. Individual membership is \$25, family memberships are \$35, and business memberships are \$50. Please consider upgrading to a Life Membership for \$250.

**CHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- President: Ginny Unanue
- 1st Vice President: Connie Trejo
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Carlsbad Historical Society  
P.O. Box 252 Carlsbad CA 92018-0252  
(760) 434-9189  
cbadhistory@yahoo.com

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)