

## President's Message

Have you been by the Shipley Magee House lately? If not, you should take an hour to do a tour. There are some wonderful new exhibits, including the restored Twin Inns Registers that contain such signatures as Richard Nixon, Clark Gable, Joan Crawford, and Babe Ruth.

As usual, the house contains exhibits of what it was like living in Carlsbad in the 1890's, and also some modern day items. If you haven't yet taken advantage of watching some of our archived videos, you're missing out on a treat.

Better yet, schedule a private tour with tea in the Victorian dining room for just \$15/per person. It's a wonderful way to spend a few delightful hours, steeping yourself in our history, while your tea is steeping in the kitchen.

## Save the Date – Annual Meeting October 14, 2pm to 4 pm, at the Saint Michael's by the Sea Meeting Hall – Lecture on the legacy of Allan O. Kelly

Our annual meeting will be held at the Saint Michael by the Sea Meeting Hall. Marvin Sipple will give a presentation on his father in law, Allan O. Kelly, including displays of his various collections. The results of our annual elections, plus an update on our society will be presented. Ice cream and refreshments will be served. Parking will be provided for members at the church's parking lot.



Allan O. Kelly

Allan O. Kelly, one of the founders of the Carlsbad Historical Society, was born in 1900 in Carlsbad. Members of the Kelly family at that time still owned most of the Mexican land grant called Rancho Agua Hedionda. As a child, he assisted on the family ranch, rode horses and attended the one room Calaveras school house.

He served as a director of the Costa Real Municipal Water District, as representative of the San Diego County Water Authority, and as president of the San Luis Farm Bureau and Cattleman's Organization. Allan also served as a Board member of the Oceanside-Carlsbad High School District and on the County Planning Commission. In addition to belonging to the Carlsbad Historical Society he was active with the Toastmasters, the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary and his church.

Allan had an avid interest in geology and traveled around the world doing his own research. He published several books on the subject. He lived to be 100.

## Annual Elections

This year we need to elect candidates for the positions of president, secretary and treasurer. The appointments are for a two-year term. If you are interested in running for one of these positions please contact us. Below are the positions' duties, as described in our current By-laws:

*"The President shall preside at all meetings; appoint all committee chairs; and generally coordinate all Society business.*

*The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the organization; shall conduct correspondence of the organization as directed; and shall insure that a record of all meetings is kept available in the archives.*

*The Treasurer shall collect all dues from the Membership Chair, manage the Society's bank accounts, sign checks, pay all authorized bills, make fiscal reports at the Board meetings, pay all necessary insurance and taxes, and file all necessary forms with the state and/or federal government."*

## CHS Citizens of the Year

Bob Nielsen, Susan Schnebelen Gutierrez, and Germán Gutierrez were named citizens of the year for 2017. Susan and Germán serve on our board. It is interesting to note that for the last fifty years, since the start of this award,

**one third of all recipients have been members of the Carlsbad Historical Society.**

During her acceptance speech, Susan remembered the work, and words of Ede Westree. Ede lived a long life of 104 years and made numerous contributions to Carlsbad. When things needed to get done, she got the neighbors to get things started.

Quoting from Susan S. Gutierrez speech:

*"For Germán and I, one person in particular was able to articulated the Carlsbad volunteer spirit. Some of you might remember Ede Westree. For those of you who never knew her and her husband, Nelson, they moved to Carlsbad in the 1940s and became volunteers extraordinaire, involved in every aspect of Carlsbad, from parks, to schools, to library and the Fire Department. They owned a Macadamia nut grove, and Nelson worked part time as grounds keeper at the Carlsbad Hotel. When asked why she and her husband volunteered Ede replied, 'I simply believe that you have to figure out your own good things in life, maybe money isn't as important as we think it is; maybe happiness and satisfaction in the job are equally important. We owe something to life. We shouldn't take up space, we should make a contribution to where we are living.'"*



Ida "Ede" Westree

**From John Kelly's book: "Life on a San Diego County Ranch" circa 1925**

"In 1872 Uncle Robert decided that he had far more horse stock on his range than he needed, and tried to sell off several hundred head. The best offer he could get for them was nine dollars per head. And that offer was from a man who had a U.S. Government contract to furnish meat to feed the Apache Indians in Arizona. Those Indians would just as soon, or a little rather, have horse meat than to be furnished with beef of any kind. Uncle Robert refused to

take this man's offer of nine dollars per head, and decided to drive a band of horses and mules out to Sale Lake City, in Utah, where he had been told there was a ready sale for them among the Mormons.

As Uncle had a large number of stock to look after and quite a number of men in his employ, it was impossible for him to go with this drive to Salt Lake. So he got my father to go in charge of the drive.

I think it was in April, 1872, that they started with four hundred head of mares, mules, and young stock. They planned to make the drive in three months, and to be back in four months at the most. But they had all sorts of trouble, with lack of feed, and the stock getting poor and run-down. They had to stop several times where they found good pasture and let the stock feed up for a while. When winter came on they were up in central Nevada, near the town of Austin. The winters are very cold up there and lots of snow. They built a log cabin and went into winter quarters at that place. In the spring the stock was so poor from going through the hard winter, and feed was so late coming, in the cold, bleak part of the country, that it was summer before they could start on. Of course they knew there would be no sale for poor stock, and they must get them to their destination in good condition if they hoped to sell them. The result was that Father did not get back until the fall of 1873, being gone eighteen months, instead of four, as was expected.

Mother was left at the ranch all that time with the children and no man to help with the ranch work. My oldest brother, Matt, was riding for Uncle Robert, and then about sixteen years old. Brother Charley was the oldest boy she had with her, and he was about ten years of age. Uncle saw to it, as he had agreed to before Father left, that the family had enough to eat, but I know it was a great hardship on Mother to be left in such an out-of-the-way place, with such a big family to look after.

Father came back as far as San Francisco by rail, then by steamer from there to San Diego. (There was no railroad in this part of the State at that time. There was a stage-line between San Diego and Los Angeles, and the road ran about a mile and a half west of our house. Father would come out from San Diego on that stage-line, and it passed by our place somewhere along about ten o'clock at night. Mail was very uncertain in this part of the world in those days, and Mother did not know just when Father would start back home. I remember just as well as if it were yesterday, of a neighbor, a Mr. Johnson, coming to our place one morning, and showing Mother a San Diego paper in which there was a list of names of passengers coming from San Francisco by steamer. And among those names was the name of Matthew Kelly. I remember how Mother cried with joy at the good news. And of how we planned to

all walk down the mile and a half to the stage road, on the evening on which we thought he would get home. There we built a big fire of dry wood, and sat down around it to wait from about six in the evening until ten that night, when the stage came along. And Father leaped off that stage before the driver could bring it to a stop. It was a happy family that walked back up that valley that night, with Father carrying my little sister (who was born the year after we arrived in this country)."

**New book by Langen Family**  
Wartime Letters of Ray and Rose Rita Langen



Ray and Rose Rita Langen

While going through some boxes from the back closet of our family home on Carlsbad Boulevard, my sister, Joan (Langen Fessenden), found our parents' WWII letters. These letters chronicle the day-to-day trials of a young family separated by war. From our father's time in the U.S. Navy and our mother's days on the family farm in Minnesota, the letters give tremendous detail-- Navy life at Great Lakes, Illinois, the military train west, Victory over Japan Day in San Diego, a typhoon aboard the USS Kent, shore liberty in post-war Pearl Harbor, engine room watch on the USS Hamul, first-person descriptions of decimated Okinawa, life on the open ocean, and the victory train ride home.

Through the eyes of a loving, homesick, 22-year old father of two, Ray Langen wrote two or three letters a day to Rose Rita, expressed his feelings, and described his daily routine. The letters provide glimpses into the connectedness of Ray's brothers sent to war, the relatives' eagerness for positive news, and insights into how they coped on the homefront in the German/English/Irish/Swiss farm town of Hokah, Minnesota.

In September of 1945, just days after VJ Day, my father rode up the coast from San Diego in a fellow sailor's

1941 Pontiac. They passed through Del Mar (where they witnessed a fire at the stables), Carlsbad, Oceanside, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, Lake Elsinore, and Fallbrook.

Eight years later, in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, my father was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. The doctor told my father that he would fare better in a warmer climate. The doctor suggested Southern California, far from the molds of the Mississippi River valley. Thanks to his wartime experiences, my father was familiar with coastal Southern California.

In June of 1953, my parents and their seven children headed west to settle in Carlsbad. For over 50 years, the letters were stored in a bedroom closet. The Langen siblings are so grateful that our sister Joan, a retired high school English teacher, organized and edited the material. We hear the voices of our parents' era, the hopes, the opinions, and (for language lovers) even the idiomatic expressions of those gone live on in these missives. First published in 2012 as a digital book (available everywhere) by BookBaby Publishers, The Wartime Letters of Ray and Rose Rita Langen is in its second paperback printing. A few copies are for sale at Magee House (for \$15.00). - Ken Langen



Margie and Mario Monroy

**THE MONROYS LAND IN CARLSBAD**

First, picture a young sailor receiving a salute from a Japanese fighter pilot on a reconnaissance photo mission at low speeds and low water clearance. Location: Leyte Gulf --Philippines battle- South Pacific during WW II. While standing on the stern Mario Monroy waved as the plane approached; the pilot responded with his salute. Face to face this was an experience he had while aboard the frigate --The San Pedro-- as an apprentice gunnery seaman handling ordnance. He loaded 3 inch by 24 inch shells into a 40 caliber canon and other high powered guns. Over two years duty this ship shot down 4 enemy planes.

Mario, born and raised in San Diego and Tijuana, enlisted at age 17 with his mother's consent and served in five invasions from Australia to New Guinea under General MacArthur's leadership. Fluent in Spanish he interpreted



for surrendering soldiers when they waved a white flag and were picked up by the crew. They feared the natives who were rumored to be cannibals. (Note: Mario, a Spanish speaker, learned English at Belmont High School in Los Angeles). While on bridge guard duty he witnessed a P38 crash straight down into the ocean ahead. Later he was at the helm steering while the ship endured 40 foot waves, between troughs and peaks, during a typhoon. As a young man of nineteen years he had had his share of "Mario's adventures" and life's experiences. After the war he married and moved to Carlsbad and the Barrio.

Margie Monroy grew up in Grand Forks, North Dakota and she and Mario met as students at Los Angeles Junior College in a Spanish IV class. She was born early in the Depression. Her family worked hard, father an auto and farm equipment mechanic and mother managing a railroad hotel. Small towns, grain elevators, farms, and back yard privies provided experiences of that life style. In 1941 the family moved to Lincoln Heights, Los Angeles to be near relatives. Her father worked in graveyard shifts defense work. Both Mario and Margie went to Catholic schools. Later, in 1954, under the GI Bill, Mario completed his Petroleum Engineering degree at USC, while Margie worked at the Gas company.

Employed by Gulf Oil, which was later bought by Chevron, Mario spent his career in Bakersfield, Caracas Venezuela, La Habra, Midlands TX, Denver and Carlsbad. During this time the family of 7 "M" s added children: Melody, Michele, Mario, Marcos and Madeline. In 1978 the family moved to Carlsbad, and began their involvement in Barrio development and community service. By 1985 when he retired, Mario had served the oil business well in numerous high level positions of leadership, research, and development. In his own words, the oil business "has bin bery, bery good to me".

Margie served on the Carlsbad Historical Society many years, as president for some of that time. Active in the League of Women's Voters and local issues, she and Mario became a vital part of Carlsbad and the Barrio transition. They remodeled their first home located on Cherry and Carlsbad Boulevard. Later they bought property in the Barrio and lived there for five years. Mario served on the City Planning Commission and on various growth study plans in Carlsbad at that time. Margie also volunteered as a Grandparent Reader at Jefferson School, at La Posada de Guadalupe, and with the Friends of the Carlsbad Library.

### **New Members**

Tom & Linda Geldner – Life Members

Chad Majer

John and Carole Sanders

Jack Morgan

### **Our archives**

Please remember our lending library is available to our members. We invite you to explore our collection.



### **Volunteer Docents Needed**

Docent training will start in the fall. Please contact us if you are interested in helping out by showing the museum.

### **CHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President: Ginny Unanue  
1st Vice President: Kenneth Langen  
2nd Vice President: Marvin Sippel  
Secretary: Susan S. Gutierrez  
Treasurer: Germán Gutierrez

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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

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