

Carlsbad Time Lines

Carlsbad Historical Society

History of the Carlsbad Historical Society

The Carlsbad Historical Society was founded in late 1975 to celebrate the bicentennial of the US independence. Members of the city government asked prominent citizens, some of them ex mayors, to help organize it. The initial membership was composed of people of established financial, political, educational and philanthropic standing. The founding members of the CHS were B.M. Christiansen, Allan O. Kelly, Manuel Castorena, Ray Ede, and Dolores Hutflex. In celebration of the bicentennial, the Society arranged for a time capsule to be built in front of the Magee house.

One of their first important contributions to the community was to get the train depot in the historic preservation priority list. Money was obtained from the Federal Government and the State, as well as from local donations, to restore the train depot. Before the society had any offices, they used to meet at coffee shops monthly. Then, once renovation was completed, the City allocated space in the back of the depot for the CHS.



Heritage Celebration at the Santa Fe Depot in Carlsbad

In 1987 CHS organized the Heritage centennial celebration of Carlsbad, commemorating the original layout and

construction of the first streets in downtown Carlsbad.



Mayor Lewis accepting the Depot Plaque purchased and installed by CHS

CHS Member B.M. Christiansen was instrumental in convincing Florence Shipley Magee to donate her home to the City as a historical and recreational park; upon her death the City renovated the property for public use.



Magee House

CHS asked the City Council for space in the Magee house, with the idea that it should be refurbished and operate as a museum of local history. Its office moved to the East bedroom in Magee house and it found period furniture and decorations for the front of the house. This included the living room, dining room, bedroom and the kitchen. The City maintained planning offices in the back of the house, where the main meeting room, working kitchen and office are now. About 5 years ago the society was able to utilize the entire house and used the additional space for interpretive presentations, clothing displays, meeting room, audio visual

Carlsbad, California

equipment, book shelves and additional furniture and a player piano.

One of the most important activities of the society has been the collection of oral histories. We have several dozen videotapes and some audiotapes taken of people that had in their memories very significant details of the history of Carlsbad. The local cable TV company aided members of the Carlsbad Historical Society in producing several professional videos. For example, they made the videos "End of an Era", "The Train Does Not Stop Here Anymore", "Barrio Voices", and "What We Did For Fun".

The third grade historical school tours have been a traditional element in the education of our young citizens since the early 1990s. The CHS not only shows the house and barn at Magee Park, but in the past it was responsible for providing docents to show the historical highlights of downtown.



The Magee Barn getting a new roof

Members of our society have volunteered their time in many ways to help the City document local history. Our members wrote two adult history books about Carlsbad, two children's books, and compiled a historic cookbook.

Although our society has been through different modes of operation, starting with a preservation idea, then becoming more a social activities organization and

more recently running a museum and holding educational tours and teas, all along the interest and support by our members in the preservation of history is what has kept the society going.

Here is a list of many of the activities carried out by the CHS:

- Time capsule in 1976
- High school essay contest
- Art contest and paint-ins
- Sold hot-dogs and snacks for many years at Jazz in the Parks.
- Victorian Christmas celebration
- Quilt shows
- Fourth of July play
- Magee letters play
- School trunk show
- Took control of the Magee house to increase museum
- Self guided tours and posters
- Coordination of Magee gardens
- Web site
- Paid for part of barn fixing, twice.
- Took control of barn as museum for the buggy, safe, Twin Inns chicken, tools, etc.
- Started historic Teas and tour
- Ran the third grade tours of Magee house and barn for years. Also walking tours of the city.
- Collects books, letters, newspapers and other writings
- Collects clothes, instruments, house wares and furniture
- Prepares lectures on historical subjects
- Prints outside posters to educate visitors to Magee Park and gardens
- Documents architectural changes taking place in Carlsbad



Selling Hot Dogs at Jazz in the Parks

Art in the park
Coaster station suggestion to look like old depot

Publishes newsletters
Published several books: Becket walking tours and cookbook
Started archive of photographs
Helped celebrate Carlsbad High School's 50th anniversary
Placed Plaque at Carrillo ranch to recognize Kelly family

CINCH

On July 28th we attended the Cinch meeting held at the Las Flores Adobe, just off of the Las Pulgas exit on I-5. The house was just recently opened again as a site for visits- since the early 2000s it has been in serious rehab.



CINCH at the former entrance to the Las Flores Adobe (towards the sea)

Cinch is a consortium of North County Historical Groups that meet 4 times a year to share information, tips and brainstorm on the best ways to preserve and promote our local history and historic sites.

For those interested in touring the Las Flores Adobe, see the upcoming events listed at the end of the newsletter.



The current front of the Adobe

Some background on our connection to Las Flores-
Our Florence Shipley Magee married Hugh Magee in 1912. Hugh was in his 40s

and Florence in her early 30s. Hugh's father was Henry Magee from NY who came to California in the late 1840s as part of the American Military forces taking control of SD. Henry came with his brother John also in the U.S. Army. Henry after some time married a Pedorena de Estudillo from Old Town- an original Californio Family- this was a family of Spanish decent that became Mexican after Mexico gained Independence in the 1820s. At any rate, his wife had property in the hills above Pala, at Condor's Nest. They had their family, and she taught school.

They were close friends with the family O'Neill that owned Rancho Santa Margarita- when she died the O'Neill's invited Henry and his children to move from the back country to the coast. Henry died shortly after the move- His two eldest children Jane and Hugh along with their first cousin Luisa who was Henry's brother Johns daughter and half Pala Indian who was raised with Hugh and Jane- raised the rest of the kids- Jane became known as the Queen of Lima Bean growers - Jane and Luisa stayed at Las Flores - never marrying- Hugh met Florence and married her in 1912 and they moved back to Pala and reopened the Los Condors ranch where they lived until the 1940s. They added on to this property, buying land that ran along side with money lent by Alexander Shipley- Florence's dad.



Historic photograph of Las Flores Adobe - 1912

As a side note- Henry and John's sister Amelia married the founder of Fallbrook- "Reche". He was in the U.S. Army with Henry and John and when he saw a photo of their sister he went back to New York and looked her up- the rest is history.... John married 2 different

Indian women from Pala. He had one child, named Luisa, with the first wife, whom his brother Henry raised as his own, and about 8 children with the second wife. Those descendants are still living, many on the Pala reservation. So as you can see our Florence and her husband are connected in many ways to Fallbrook, Camp Pendleton- Pala- it is part of our goal as an organization to recognize these connections and make it known- Carlsbad History is not an isolated island.



Hugh Magee at Las Flores - 1912

ORCHESTRION COMES TO CARLSBAD - Dr. Jerry Colling

A stunning addition made to period furnishings and music at the Magee House in Carlsbad is an orchestrion. Appearing at first glance like the familiar player piano, the orchestrion is much more. According to AMICA (Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors' Association), "Orchestrions" are the one-man bands of the automatic music world. They are player pianos, with other musical instruments built in, and everything plays automatically. When the price was a nickel to play, they began to be called nickelodeons." AMICA'S website shows an orchestrion strikingly like the Magee instrument whose stained glass across the front reveals seven band instruments: a xylophone, snare drum, bass drum, Zildjian cymbal, "Cosmic Percussion" wood block, and tambourine.

Wikipedia's definitions of different instruments were somewhat different from those I found on AMICA.org, the web site of the Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors' Association. I chose to go with those definitions by AMICA since that collectors'

association would be aficionados who live and breathe these instruments. I also seem to recall the term "orchestrion" used for the player pianos with instruments added that Tina and I saw at the large collection at San Sylmar in Sylmar, CA. Also, a photo on the AMICA website labeled "orchestrion" was almost a dead ringer for the one at Magee House. "Nickolodeon" describes all those instruments that require a coin to operate. So the Magee instrument is at once a nickolodeon orchestrion.



Magee House's new Orchestrion

Recently donated by Eckert Van and Storage Company, the Magee House orchestrion has a slot for a coin, but now bangs out peppy songs at the flip of a switch. The age of the instrument is uncertain, but 1920 through the 1930's was the heyday of their popularity. New ones are still made, but the wood case style and condition of this Magee House gem could suggest those dates clear on up into the 1950's. It was made by Kohler & Campbell, Inc. of New York under the title of Ragtime Player Pianos. They have been contacted to estimate the age of the orchestrion.

The Emergence of Modern Carlsbad - offered by Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Over the past five decades, Carlsbad has evolved from a sleepy coastal village into a vibrant economic center with wonderful living opportunities and more cultural and outdoor activities than most other cities of its size. It is generally reputed to be one of the best governed cities in the region.

Instructors:

- *Susan Schnebelen Gutierrez is author of *Windows on the Past: An Illustrated History of Carlsbad, California*.
- *Marje Howard-Jones is author of *Seekers of the Spring: A History of Carlsbad*.
- *Hap L'Heureux was President of the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce and has been prominent for many years in Carlsbad business.
- *"Bud" Lewis has been Mayor for longer than many Carlsbad residents have been alive.
- *Ofie Escobedo has long been the voice for the Barrio.
- *Gerald Kuhn is the author with Francis P. Shepard of *Sea Cliffs, Beaches, and Coastal Valleys of San Diego County: Some Amazing Histories and Some Horrifying Implications*, which details the natural history of the Carlsbad coast and that of adjacent locales.

Mondays: September 15 - October 20
1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Carlsbad by the Sea Retirement Community, Carlsbad
6 weeks (\$60)

Special for CHS Members (\$50)
Co-sponsored by the Carlsbad Historical Society

To register call 800-500-9377 or visit http://www2.csusm.edu/el/olli/course_registration.php?id=850

Our Annual Meeting will be held Sunday November 9 at 2pm. We will have a Victorian Tea and Dr. Jerry Colling will give a brief presentation and demonstration on our Orchestrion. More details to follow.

Annual election of officers will be held. If you are interested in running for a board position please call 760-434-9189 or email cbadhistory@yahoo.com by September 15, 2008.

Membership Renewal

Please renew your membership for the calendar year 2009 by January 30th.

BOARD MEETINGS

All members are welcome to attend our bimonthly Board of Directors meetings. Meetings are held in the Magee House meeting room at 4 p.m. the third Monday of every other month. Meetings are held in the following months: January, March, May, July, September, and November

CHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Susan Gutierrez
1st Vice President: Geoff Armour
2nd Vice President: Jack Cumming
Secretary: Lenore Bouras
Treasurer: Ginny Unanue
Members-at-Large: Dr. Jerry Colling and Sue Ladouceur.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

-Volunteers welcome in any of these areas

- *Third grade tours.
- *School presentations with audiovisual display and trunk show.
- *Private tours with Victorian teas.
- * Carlsbad history research
- *Photo collection management

STAGE COACH DAYS AT LAS FLORES

20 SEPTEMBER - Families welcome 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to visit the Las Flores Adobe National Historic Landmark along the Seeley Stage Line San Diego to Los Angeles route. Enjoy re-enactors in period clothing, candle making, historic crafts, art projects for children, music, period encampments, and guided tours. Period attire encouraged. For FREE access tickets

email erik.limbal@usmc.mil (760-725-5758) not later than 10 September. Sponsored by the Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores Docents.

11 OCTOBER - Western Hoedown at Las Flores Adobe 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. REAL WESTERN BBQ, music, Barn Dance, Silent Auction, period re-enactors, tall tales of the Seeley stage lines, guided tours. Mail your check for \$50 for each person in your group to: CPHS 10555 Meadow Glen Way East, Escondido, CA 92026. For more information, please contact Howard Blair at hgblair@cox.net, Steve Fisher at fishercs@aol.com, or Wayne Eggleston at heritage@marinemonument.com. All proceeds to complete Las Flores restoration. Sponsored by Camp Pendleton Historic Society: www.camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org

Carlsbad Historical Society

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cbadhistory@yahoo.com

Open Friday 10 to 4 pm and
Saturday 10 to 4 pm.

Private Tours with Tea are given
on Tuesday and Thursday
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

www.carlsbadhistoricalsociety.org

Magee House and Museum

258 Beech Ave.
Carlsbad CA 92008

