Summer in San Diego!

Del Mar 1915 (SDHS #4189)
In early June, the Board of Trustees met to discuss and define the focus of the Society’s programs over the next five years. We all recognize the importance of seeing this year’s reorganizing efforts as a short-term revitalizing process that will allow us to emerge with finances intact and a new sense of direction to fulfill our mission, but we have not lost sight of the need to aim for long-term stability.

The Board identified key areas on which to focus our resources as we look forward. First, our Collections — Photographs, Archives, and Curatorial — were defined as vital to who we are and what we do. Our educational programs, particularly the HELP program, School in the Park, and the Serra docent program, were given strong support, as were our publications, including the Journal of San Diego History and the Times, and our website. The Board also renewed its belief that both the Serra Museum and the Marston House are vital to the identity of the Society.

We also recognized the importance of an exhibition that communicates San Diego history to the public. A permanent exhibition about San Diego history has been a goal of the Society for many years, although numerous obstacles have delayed its development, including the planning and financial complexities associated with a project of this size. Nonetheless, the Board has renewed its support for a permanent exhibition of this nature, and has urged me to recommence the planning process. Indeed, our staff have already made a start and a way must be found to fund the project.

The Society has much to be proud of. We are anticipating growth in our innovative educational programs and we are once again publishing the Journal of San Diego History, in an exciting partnership with USD under the editorial guidance of Iris Engstrand and Molly McClain. Our Collections continue to grow, and our service to the public in the Photograph Archives and Research Library has no peer. We are also aiming to find new ways to support our sites.

I am very pleased to be a part of the planning and development process that is taking place within the Society and, as always, the Board’s support has been invaluable. We also very much appreciate the members’ continued support of the Society and its mission to tell San Diego’s story to all.

From Ron Urich, Outgoing President

It’s been an interesting two years for me as President, witnessing much positive progress here at the Society.

We developed the HELP program (History Learning Education Partnership) in conjunction with the San Diego Unified School District to aid their third and fourth grade teachers to teach local history to their students.

We embarked on a number of new exhibitions, including Wedding Belles, Romp!, Corridos sin Fronteras: A New World Ballad Tradition, and, most recently, Developing San Diego: Making History Every Day.

We enjoyed Showcase Houses at the Naval Training Center and the Alfred Haines House, a History Maker’s Dinner celebrating the Heart of San Diego, the Costume Council’s Oscar Night Party, and our own Serra Museum’s 75th Anniversary celebration.

Perhaps, in retrospect, we were too ambitious at a time when our expenses have escalated while revenue from private, corporate, city, and state have decreased. A Union-Tribune article in March gave a discouraging, albeit accurate, view of our financial situation. However, we now have a new Executive Director, David Watson, who is charged with taking our organization in a new direction, capitalizing on our strengths, and redefining our mission. In this, he has the full support of the Trustees, the staff, and our many volunteers, and we are confident in our ability to move forward in the coming months.

On July 1, Hal Sadler will take over as President and I wish him well; the Society will be in good hands.

I thank you for your support over the last two years; it has been my pleasure serving this fine institution.

Comings and Goings at the San Diego Historical Society

David Watson has been confirmed as permanent Executive Director of the Historical Society. Congratulations, David!

Ron Urich has come to the end of his term as President of the Board of Trustees. We thank him for his hard work and dedication over the last two years.

Hal Sadler has succeeded him as President of the Board and we wish him a successful term of office.

Lynn Mooney, Tom Carter, and Nell Waltz are all leaving our Board of Trustees. We thank them for their support and hope to still see them as members and friends.

Helen Kinnaird, Kenneth Golden, and Michael Morgan are joining us as new members of the Board. We welcome them and hope they enjoy their time with us.

John Panter, Assistant Executive Director, has left the Society as he is relocating to New Mexico. There is too much to say thank you for, John. We will miss you.

Last, but not least, we have to say farewell to long-time volunteer and former staff member, Bee Knott, who has had to leave us for health reasons. It won’t be the same without you, Bee!
REPORT FROM THE COSTUME COUNCIL
by Elisabeth Bergan, President of Costume Council

This year the San Diego Historical Society received some wonderful donations to its Costume and Textile Collection. The Costume Council is most grateful to Mr. Maurice Kawashima for his wide-ranging gift of men’s clothing from some of the greatest designers of the twentieth century. Also, an anonymous local collector has promised gifts of vintage Hermes scarf dresses, Armani suits, and Celine accessories. These gifts, along with their stories, are a mirror of history and further strengthen the Costume and Textile Collection.

I would also like to thank our members for their outstanding generosity. Lois Olson has again renewed her Couture membership, and we would like to extend special thanks and welcome to Christine Gordon-Dill, a new Patron. Warmest thanks also go to the following ladies for their continued Patron support: Sue K. Edwards, Mary Lou Fox, Martha Gafford, Barbara Gerber, Mary Ann Ginnow, Barbara Kjos, Bess Lambron, JoBobbie MacConnell, Peggy Matthews, Virginia Napierskie, Sandra Nichols, Patty Levaux Rome, Lois Roon, Joy Urich, and Nell Waltz. Thanks to you all.

This year we took the first, long overdue step toward cataloguing the collection, and began the exacting and expensive work of examining each piece and putting it into its proper environment. This work is being done by Laurie Egan, Curator of Collections, and her superb volunteers. Please call Laurie at 619-232-6203 ext. 121 if you are interested in volunteering. It is an extraordinary, inspiring hands-on opportunity to learn about costumes, textiles and museums.

We look forward to an exciting, enjoyable year of programs and to opening up more of this fine collection to both students and museum visitors.

SUMMERTIME . . . AND THERE’S YARD WORK TO BE DONE!
We are looking for yard maintenance equipment for use at the Villa Montezuma. We need:

- hedge trimmers
- hand clippers
- shovels
- edger
- pruners
- lawn mower

Are there any donations out there?
Contact: Laurie Egan 619-232-6203 ext.121
egan@sandiegohistory.org

Costume Council Visits FIDM in Los Angeles
by Devan McGirr, Curatorial Assistant

On April 20th about 20 members of the Costume Council and curatorial staff visited the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (FIDM) in Los Angeles, a private college that prepares students for careers in the fashion, graphics, interior design, and entertainment industries. The visit began with a tour of the innovative and ultra-modern campus. Situated in a 15-acre grassy park, the campus feels like an oasis amid the noise and bustling activity of downtown Los Angeles, while the imaginative design of the campus offers an environment conducive to creative thought. Metal sculptures are displayed on the lawn of the park, and water fountains and arched arborways provide students with relaxing spots to study.

Next, the group toured the school’s new state-of-the-art design studio. Designed by award-winning architect, Clive Wilkinson, the studio is a functional work of art. The studio includes more than one hundred computer workstations, numerous drafting tables, and conference rooms. Students can work by a faux swimming pool in sleek lounge chairs designed especially for laptop computer use; or they can work on their laptops while kneeling or sitting cross-legged on short, furry chairs surrounding sushi tables.

After a tasty lunch in the student lounge, the group enjoyed a docent-led tour of the FIDM museum’s The Art of Motion Picture Costume Design Exhibition. The exhibition features exquisite costumes from such recent Hollywood films as Lord of the Rings, Troy, and Phantom of the Opera. All of the costumes are displayed out in the open, so visitors can lean in close (under the watchful eyes of gallery guards) and appreciate the intricate craftsmanship that went into the making of these garments. The group’s visit concluded with shopping in the museum store and receiving complimentary goodie bags from FIDM.

After a tasty lunch in the student lounge, the group enjoyed a docent-led tour of the FIDM museum’s The Art of Motion Picture Costume Design Exhibition. The exhibition features exquisite costumes from such recent Hollywood films as Lord of the Rings, Troy, and Phantom of the Opera. All of the costumes are displayed out in the open, so visitors can lean in close (under the watchful eyes of gallery guards) and appreciate the intricate craftsmanship that went into the making of these garments. The group’s visit concluded with shopping in the museum store and receiving complimentary goodie bags from FIDM.

This fun outing was one of many organized by the Costume Council, a group that supports the needs of the Historical Society’s Costume and Textile Collection. For more information or to become a member, call Carolyn Waggoner at 619-462-6617.
Got Stuff?
How to Donate Items to SDHS
by Therese James, Registrar

So, you have some items that you think the San Diego Historical Society would like for its collection. What do you do next?

Thank you for considering the San Diego Historical Society as a repository for your family’s treasures. If you have an item you would like to donate to the Society’s collections, please first contact the appropriate department head to discuss the donation. We are no longer able to accept any donation without prior arrangement, even if it is only very small. The Society may also only accept items from donors who can assure a clear and legal title and therefore are unable to accept drop-offs or donations by mail without prior arrangement.

If your donation consists of
Photographs, negatives, film, photo albums, or other image related items call Chris Travers at (619) 232-6203 x116
Documents, oral history, ephemera, reports, books, maps, blueprints, or other printed material call Dennis Sharp or Jane Kenealy at (619) 232-6203 x117
Clothing, accessories, textiles, objects, art, or any other type of material call Laurie Egan at (619) 232-6203 x121

After an initial discussion, if it is decided that your donation is potentially suitable for our collections, we will arrange an appointment so that it can be examined by a staff member. It is essential that we evaluate the appropriateness of any item for the Society’s collections. Before accepting any donation, our staff must consider several issues, including:

• Does the item support the San Diego Historical Society’s mission?
• What is the relationship of the item to San Diego?
• When, how, and by whom was the item used?
• Can the donor provide assurance of clear and legal title?
• What is the condition of the item?

Following this preliminary review, if it is considered that the donation satisfies these criteria, we will ask you to fill out and sign a temporary receipt. This form grants temporary custody of your items to the Society while our staff further evaluates the item. Frequently more research is required before full acceptance of a donation can be granted, as Staff must review our catalog for duplicate items or conduct research to determine if the item fills a gap in the collections. Due to limitations in storage and staff time, every item offered for donation must be carefully reviewed before being accepted. Not all items are accepted into the collections if they do not meet these standards.

If a potential donation is worth over $1,000.00 in value, or will require over $1,000.00 in Society resources for processing, storage, preservation, etc., approval for the donation must be made by the Collections Committee. The Committee meets quarterly to discuss potential donations. For items or collections under $1,000.00 in value, authority to accept donations is delegated to the appropriate department head.

Once the item is accepted for the Society’s collections, the Registrar will send you a Deed of Gift, which transfers title of the item from you, the donor, to the Society. Upon receipt of this Deed of Gift, it is very important that you sign and return the document in order to complete the donation. Once we get the Deed of Gift back from you, we will send you a copy of the document and a thank you letter for your generous gift.

This may all seem like a long, complicated, and unnecessary procedure, but we do have legal and ethical obligations to fulfill. The selection process is very important because every item the Society accepts presents a real cost to us in terms of staff time to process the item and purchase of supplies to care for it. We always appreciate any help in providing funds to accompany a donation that would go towards the cost of caring for and preserving it.

“What types of items does the Society wish to collect?”

The Society primarily collects objects, photographs, documents and other items that illustrate the social, political, economic, and cultural history of San Diego. An extensive “wish-list” can be found on our website, www.sandiegohistory.org.

“Will my donation be automatically put on exhibit?”

We do our best to rotate the items on display so that the majority of our collections receive public exposure; however, we are limited to the number and type of items we can display. Many items are also accepted into the collections for their research value rather than their display value. For example, the Curatorial department’s holdings include a permanent collection and a study collection, while the collections of the Photograph Department and Archives are, primarily, of research value.

Donating items to the Society’s collection is just one of the many ways you can support the mission of the San Diego Historical Society. We are also always looking for volunteers to help us process these items once we receive them! If you are interested in volunteering in any one of our collecting departments, please see our website for more information, www.sandiegohistory.org.

A Farewell to Old Friends

We are very sad to learn of the passing of two very dear friends and long-time members of the Historical Society.

Dr. Douglas D. McElfresh, 1921-2005
Past member of the Board of Trustees

Frederick (Fritz) Kunzel, 1933-2005
Past President of SDHS 1989-1990
Past member of the Board of Trustees

We send our sincere condolences to Betty, Klonie, and their families.
by Rebecca Gerber, Assistant Project Archivist

In 2003, the San Diego Historical Society received a two-year matching grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) to describe, preserve, and make accessible a portion of the San Diego Union-Tribune photo collection. We are pleased to announce that this Newspaper Photograph Cataloging Project is finally complete and available for viewing on the Online Archive of California (OAC), making accessible the San Diego Union-Tribune Photograph Collection, 1910-1957. Many thanks go to the project’s dedicated volunteers, who worked hard to preserve and rehouse the major part of more than 150,000 negatives in the collection.

This collection is a vast resource of historical images and information for students and scholars of California history. It is particularly strong in the areas of culture and immigration, the military, industry and labor, transportation, and other aspects of city development. Especially well represented are images of the Panama-California Exposition (1915-1916) and the California Pacific Exposition (1935-1936), as well as visits to the city by a host of celebrities, including Albert Einstein, Babe Ruth, Cary Grant, and public figures, politicians, governors, and U.S. presidents. Also prominent are images of well-known San Diego landmarks and locations, including the downtown Gaslamp District, San Diego Zoo, Balboa Park, Hotel del Coronado, and various San Diego beaches.

To celebrate and promote the collection, a small exhibition of Union-Tribune Collection photographs has been arranged. With limited exhibition space and resources, Project Archivists Jessica Silver and Therese James, Chris Travers, Director of the Booth Historical Photograph Archives; and myself, were given the nearly impossible task of selecting just eight images to represent this immense and diverse collection of photographs. We decided to choose a sampling of images with a common theme that we found personally arresting — images of women in post-war San Diego.

While working with this collection, I was fascinated with the wealth of images representing daily life in San Diego in the post-war era of the 1950s to the 1960s. These images show a marked shift in cultural and social mores through these pivotal years, illustrating changes in fashion, labor, and politics. Especially fascinating was the way women were represented in the media during this changing time as they were more often portrayed as stereotypes: the gracious hostess, homemaker and mother, beauty queen, or sex symbol. The majority of women seemed to be represented in articles about parties, club meetings and events, fashion shows, or beauty contests. By the mid-1950s, when women had become a more driven labor force, we noticed that few images in this collection represented this. The rare images of women doing activities beyond the perceived social norm were significant and exciting. In choosing images for our sample exhibition, we were drawn to these images that we thought better represented the true groundbreaking spirit of women of the 1950s.

Some images featured in the exhibition are representative of the era, such as women working in factories, banks, the military or with the Red Cross. Other images were chosen because they are unique to San Diego, including students at the Museum of Man and an animal psychologist at the San Diego Zoo. Additional images show women in extraordinary occupations, including San Diego’s first woman judge and a female bullfighter in Tijuana. This exhibition, Changing Times for San Diego Women: Images from the Union-Tribune Photograph Collection, 1950-1955, will open in front of the Research Library in July and remain throughout the fall. It is an intriguing peek at just a sample of the wealth of images in this diverse collection and I hope all of our members will come to see it.

The San Diego Union-Tribune Photograph Collection, 1910-1957, is currently accessible onsite at the Historical Society’s Research Library. An extensive finding aid is also available on the Online Archive of California. For further information, please contact the San Diego Historical Society Research Library and Booth Historical Photograph Archives, 619-232-6203 x127.
Exhibitions

ROMP! Children Discover Balboa Park

This fun children’s exhibition is a walk through time, exploring the fascinating history of Balboa Park from its beginning. The exhibition tracks the spectacular development of Balboa Park for the 1915-16 Panama-California Exposition, through to the technological “wonders” of the 1935-36 California-Pacific International Exposition. Children are encouraged to explore the interactive exhibition components, while learning about the people, the cultures, and the city that created Balboa Park.

Designed for the young and young at heart, the exhibition guides the visitor on a journey filled with fascinating examples of lifestyles, architecture, and technology. Its activities allow you to see how the Park has changed and to visit the two Expositions. You are also invited to create your own design for the Park of the Future.

Children take home several projects that they will create within the exhibition: an origami swan, a rubbing from a 1915 souvenir medallion, and a personalized computer-generated certification as a Junior Historian. In addition, a printed Discovery Guide will enable parents, teachers and visitors to extend their learning into the Park as architectural features and buildings are identified.

Exhibition Sponsors: The J. W. Sefron Foundation; The Hans and Margaret Doe Charitable Trust; The Thursday Club.

The Men, Their Clothes, the Legends: Chalino and Adán Sánchez

From now until October 2005, visitors to the Museum of San Diego History in Balboa Park will have the opportunity to view the performance suits of the famous father and son corrido singers, Chalino and Adán Sánchez. Chalino, known as the father of the contemporary corrido, died tragically, murdered on May 16, 1992 at the age of 31. Chalino’s only son, Adán, known as El Compita or “Little Buddy,” was killed in a car accident on March 27, 2004 at the age of 19. Their music, their corridos, provided the Mexican community with the opportunity to reconnect with their heritage in the modern world.

Chalino dressed like his audiences and his fans and this style of dress became known among the barrio youth as the Chalinarro. Carrying on in his father’s footsteps, Adán wore his hat tilted, but with a shaved head like his Chicano peers, and he dressed similarly to the Chalinarro style — a fashion trend mirrored in today’s fans of the genre.

On loan from the Sánchez-Vallejo Estate, their suits are reminders of the lasting influence that Chalino and Adán Sánchez have on their fans and contemporaries.

Funded by the San Diego Historical Society’s Costume Council.

From Blueprints to Buildings: San Diego Architecture

This exhibition of San Diego architecture traces the region’s rich architectural history from early Indian bark huts to Modern and Post-modern buildings. The exhibition draws on the Historical Society’s extensive archives to showcase the most significant examples of various architectural styles and types of structures.

The exhibition chronicles San Diego’s architectural history and includes residential, religious, educational, scientific, commercial, and recreational buildings as well as bridges. It features examples of Mission, Victorian, Spanish Colonial, Italian Revival, Arts and Crafts, Art Deco, International, Modern and Post-modern architecture.

In addition to illustrating the progression of San Diego’s architectural styles, the exhibition highlights architects who helped create signature styles, including Irving Gill.

William Templeton Johnson and Bertram Goodhue. It also features images of notable buildings that no longer exist and examples of adaptive re-use of some historic structures.

Exhibition Sponsors: County of San Diego Supervisors Ron Roberts and Greg Cox; William Turnbull Jr. Environmental Education Grant; California Architectural Foundation; San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.

Now through September 5

Corridos sin Fronteras: A New World Ballad Tradition

The Museum of San Diego History is excited to host this Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition. This exhibition takes visitors on a musical and visual journey with stories that have been sung in communities in Mexico and in the United States since the nineteenth century. Corridos are vital in representing an unofficial history that differs significantly from those presented in textbooks of Mexican peoples. Corridos explore a wide range of themes as they celebrate courage and creativity in the face of injustice, oppression, and danger. Corridos embody the values communities admire most: bravery, loyalty, respect, spiritual devotion, charisma, compassion, and generosity. In the early years corridos were an oral tradition, but, today, technology allows the corrido to reach far beyond its original audience. Old and new corridos are as popular as ever, enjoyed by millions as live and recorded music in many different settings.

Developing San Diego: Making History Every Day

This photographic exhibition has been described as a “now and then” style view of San Diego. It might be more accurately described as “from then until now” as it illustrates the changes to our built and natural environments over a long period of time.

Every day we can look around us and see change, sometimes large and dramatic, sometimes gradual and subtle. When a building that was standing one day is gone the next, we are suddenly aware of our rapidly changing world, and when a new building goes up to take its place, we reminisce about the old building. Photographs capture a moment in time and encourage us to say “remember when…”

In this exhibition, there are historical images of buildings, street scenes and landscapes, from the Booth Historical Photograph Archives next to contemporary images, taken in late 2000 through 2002 by Chris Travers, Director of the Booth Historical Photograph Archives. There is also informative text written by Will Chandler.

Looking at a number of the images today, such as the view of Cuyamaca Reservoir (which was taken before the devastating fires of 2003), one should be reminded that the present becomes the past with every passing moment — and not to take those moments for granted.

Exhibition Sponsors: The Heller Foundation, Pratt Memorial Fund, WD-40 Company.
The Photograph Archives Broadens its Horizons

The San Diego Historical Society has teamed up with the San Diego Union-Tribune to sell photographs on-line. Just click Buy Prints Online on our website home page to see a selection of images from the San Diego Historical Society as well as color, contemporary images from the San Diego Union-Tribune. Color ads have been running for the past four months in the San Diego Union-Tribune in different sections of the paper. Sales on our website have increased dramatically since the ads began.

Prints ordered from this site are produced digitally by Printroom.com. The website only contains a fraction of images from the collections of the San Diego Historical Society and there are millions more available at the Booth Historical Photograph Archives in Balboa Park.

Also, keep an eye out for our 15-second public service announcement on KPBS that airs before and after selected Full Focus programs at 6:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. The ads will air before and after shows that contain images from the Booth Historical Photograph Archives.

We welcome both of these great partnerships.

LSTA Grant for Digitizing Historical Photographs

Last year, the Historical Society completed a Library Services Technology Act grant to catalog and digitize historical photographs relating to the California Border Region. The 2,498 historical photographs are now available for viewing through the Online Archive of California (OAC) website. The addition of these images to the OAC website provides a valuable resource to researchers throughout the world. Please visit the SDHS website for a direct link to the images, or go to: http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt0290182t.

New opening hours for the RESEARCH LIBRARY

The Research Library and Booth Historical Photograph Archives are making changes to their opening times.

As of July 1, hours are:

THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY
10 A.M.-4:30 P.M.
Closed
AUGUST 1-17
Re-opening
THURSDAY, AUGUST 18

Tour News of the San Diego Historical Society

Are you a member? If you are a member of the San Diego Historical Society, tours are a privilege of your membership.

September 18-25, 2005 – CHOCOLATE

Unpack for seven nights at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Visit the sweetest place on earth: Hershey Chocolate World and the Hershey Museum. Tour the town founded by Milton Hershey, the Hershey School Campus, and Founders Hall. Other nearby attractions include the Pennsylvania Capitol (one of the most beautiful), State Historic Museum and National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site, and America’s oldest brewery at Pottsville. Members price: double - $1350; single - $1650. Deposit: $300 payable to SDHS Tours. Escorts: Dan McPherson 858-453-3950 and Rita Levy 858-618-1717.

Thursday, October 13, 2005 – KING TUT RETURNS

We will return to LACMA to view some of the treasures found in King Tut’s Tomb. This is not the exhibit that you saw with us a quarter century ago, only the title is the same. Members price: $55 payable to SDHS Tours. Escort: John Ellis 619-223-1419 after 7 p.m.

October 29-November 1, 2005 – VISIT TO THE LAND OF ‘AHR-NOLD’!

We fly to Sacramento, the city of trees in their seasonal colors, where the Old Sacramento Historic District looks glorious decorated for Fall. Here on the banks of the Sacramento River, the city was born as it was the prime trading center for miners of the gold rush. After touring the old buildings, we’ll visit the California State History Museum. On Sunday we’ll relive the gold rush, traveling to the Ironstone Vineyard, stopping at the old gold rush towns of Sutter Creek and Murphys. Monday we tour the California State Railroad Museum and then on to the State Capitol for a guided tour. After touring the State Capitol, we are invited to visit the offices of Jay La Suer, California Assembly, and Christine Kehoe, our State Senator. We then have a guided city tour. On Tuesday we visit the 1877 Victorian Governors’ Mansion before our flight home. Our hotel is the Hawthorne Suites with full breakfast buffet each day and it is close to a path along the American River. Members price: double - $895; single - $1,045. Deposit: $200 payable to SDHS Tours. Jeanne Shupala will lead this tour. Please call between 7 and 8 a.m. 858-481-8278.

Contact Us: You can usually reach one of the following members. Ken Harvey 619-224-2866; Dan McPherson 858-453-3950; or Walt Shaffer 619-660-0889.

TO DOWNLOAD A TOUR APPLICATION FORM GO TO:
www.sandiegohistory.org/tours/toursform.htm
Students Bring History to Life at the Museum of San Diego History

by Rebecca Lawrence, Education Coordinator

On Saturday, May 7, students from across California displayed original exhibits and presented dramatic performances at the Museum of San Diego History. They were competing in this year’s annual California History Day Competition, which took place at the Marriott Hotel in Mission Valley from May 5-8. The theme this year was “Communication in History: Key to Understanding.” State winners move on to the national competition in Maryland in June.

The 32 students who came to MSDH on May 7 had applied to participate in the first ever “San Diego Museum Experience” where they would leave the hotel in between judging sessions and display their work in a Balboa Park museum. The San Diego Museum experience was modeled after the annual National History Day competition, where students display their projects at Smithsonian museums on the Mall in Washington D.C. The San Diego Historical Society was one of six museums participating that day. Other students, whose project topics were relevant to other museums, displayed them at the Veteran’s Museum and Memorial Center, the Museum of Photographic Arts, the Japanese Friendship Garden, the Hall of Champions, and the Museum of Man. Proud teachers, family members, and friends came to see their work.

“We are here at the Museum Experience to learn to be docents,” explained one student — and they were very impressive docents! Each one was an articulate expert on their topic, which is to be expected because, by the time they reach the state level of History Day, they have already been interviewed by several panels of judges.

Ninth-graders Arianna Sanders and Liz Ahern of San Diego, whose project was titled “A Nation Listens: FDR’s Fireside Chats,” told me, “You dedicate yourself to one topic for six months, use the Internet, the library, and learn how to give interviews. These are skills that will stay with you the rest of your life.”

Titles of projects appearing at MSDH during the Museum Experience included:

- The Quilt Road: The Secret Communication of the Underground Railroad
- Titanic: Flaws in Communication
- John Brown: Martyr or Madman?
- The Lynching of Emmett Till: How the Press Helped America Understand Racism, Sparking the Civil Rights Movement

Before making it to the state level, students competed at their schools and counties. San Diego County’s History Day competition was held on March 12 this year. SDHS presented seven projects with our special award for “Best Use of Primary Sources.” Winners received a monetary award and the opportunity to display their projects in the museum for two weeks from June 3-17.

The following projects were on display in the Atrium:

- The Pony Express: Key to Faster Communication, by Hannah Barkett, Grade 4
- Navajo Code Talkers: America’s Secret Weapon, by Carl Burdick, Grade 4
- Hully Gee! We Started A War: Yellow Journalism and the Spanish-American War, by Michael Weil, Grade 7
- A Nation Listens: FDR’s Fireside Chats, by Elizabeth Ahern and Arianna Sanders, Grade 9
- The Zimmermann Telegram: A Code That Meant War, by Kenneth Weil, Grade 10
- Navajo Code Talkers, by Ellie Keene, Grade 9
- The Committees of Correspondence: A Revolutionary Idea, by Kristi Bohl, Grade 8, which won at the State level and competed at the Nationals

SDHS is proud to participate in History Day each year and honored to display such fine student work, both on the morning of May 7 and over the longer period of June 3-17. For more information on History Day, visit the San Diego County Office of Education’s website at:

http://www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/ret/hss/historyday.asp
Marston’s Department Store was located on the corner of 5th and C in downtown San Diego from 1911 to 1969. The Tea Room, located on the sixth floor, opened in 1955, with Japanese themed décor featuring a series of antique hand-painted screens on the walls.

On Saturday, May 14, almost 70 people filled the terrace of the Marston House to share memories of Marston’s Tea Room and the Department Store. Roger Showley, staff writer for the San Diego Union Tribune, and Pat Kelly, former Food Service Manager of the Tea Room, led the lively discussion.

Many former employees gave accounts of their experiences, including one who began working there in 1920! Others were sales clerks working after school in the 1950s, and some were models who took part in the fashion shows in the Tea Room. Loyal shoppers also gave enthusiastic reminiscences about the fine quality merchandise and elegant service. It used to be said, “If you don’t buy it at Marston’s, it isn’t worth bringing home.”

Several members of the Marston family attended the event, and they brought along a giant mechanical clown, saved from the toy department in the basement of the store, that still worked perfectly!

The Tea Room was especially noted for its fine desserts (coconut cream pie was one of the favorites) and the Friends of the Marston House baked several pies for the occasion that were served after the discussion. A replica of the original Tea Room menu has been published in honor of the event, and it includes authentic recipes for several of the popular entrees and desserts served in the Tea Room, as well as the actual daily selections for September 22, 1959. Copies are currently available for $3.95 each in the gift shop at the Marston House and the store at the Museum of San Diego History.

THE MARSTON HOUSE ON PRIME TIME FOX!

All hell broke loose in a sleepy New Jersey town when a sudden violent storm washed in more than the tide in the supernatural drama series Point Pleasant. The peaceful existence of a small seaside community changed forever when Christina Nickson, played by Elisabeth Harnois, was rescued from the ocean by local lifeguard Jesse Parker, played by Sam Page, and brought to the home of local doctor Ben Kramer, played by Richard Burgi. The Kramer family took an instant liking to Christina and invited her to stay with them as she searched for clues to her past and attempted to find her mother, a Point Pleasant native whom Christina never knew.

Christina was unaware of the profound effect she had on the town’s inhabitants; her presence awakened repressed feelings, unlocked secret desires, and heightened emotions. The mysterious and charismatic agent of the Devil, Lucus Boyd, played by Grant Show, was the evil antagonist in Christina’s new life.

As Christina delved deeper into the history of Point Pleasant, seeking answers to her mother’s disappearance, she realized that she had never known her “real” father, either (Christina is the offspring of a mortal woman and the Devil). While Christina struggled to control the demon inside her and the powers that came with it, the fight for her soul began and the town of Point Pleasant became the ultimate battleground of good versus evil.

It may have been short-lived, but it was a hit with us! Twentieth Century Fox’s Point Pleasant television series filmed several episodes at the Marston House and site staff members enjoyed “working on the set” with the cast and crew. On the show, the Marston House was Lucus Boyd’s home in Point Pleasant. Although several episodes aired with the hopes of being picked up as a mid-season replacement series, it could not compete with other networks’ shows in the same time slot. The show was not picked up by the network, but the cast and crew finished taping a full season’s worth of shows to be sold to a cable station or overseas.
New Projects in the Research Library

In recent months, the Research Library has been involved in several new collaborative projects. We have just completed a newspaper microfilming project with the California Newspaper Project, have entered into an agreement with the California State Parks, and one of our volunteers has begun a new project with 19th century publications of San Diego history.

The California Newspaper Project recently finished microfilming the Society’s copies of the *Borrego Sun* and *East San Diego Press*. The two newspapers were only available in paper form at the Research Library and were selected for microfilming based upon their uniquely representing their respective communities. The microfilm will be available at several regional libraries and the Society has also received a free copy of the microfilm for our collection. The California Newspaper Project constitutes a major effort to identify and preserve the state’s history and heritage as reflected in its newspapers. The Organization of American Historians has described it as the “single most important effort to complete the history of this nation.” The project receives funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Office of Preservation and Access.

The Society has also been working with the California State Parks, Colorado Desert District, to transcribe the Edward H. Davis journals (MS 075). The journals are very important for their unique description of the local bands of Native Americans. The journals date from 1884 through 1942 and offer insight into the people, ceremonies, activities, and practices of the Kumeyaay Indians. The project is expected to be completed later this year.

Another project of interest to local historians is the scanning and transcription of three local history books from the 19th century. Bill Parsons, a longtime volunteer and friend of the Research Archives, is scanning the texts of Van Dyke’s *The City and County of San Diego, 1888*, Gunn’s *Picturesque San Diego, 1887*, and *Elliot’s History of San Diego County, 1883*. The three texts will eventually be available for researchers on the Society’s website. The project represents a continuing effort upon the part of the Society in preserving and presenting the region’s history to researchers both local and afar.

**Developing San Diego:**

**Making History Every Day**

**OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION**

Photos: Natalie Fiocre
San Diego Historical Society

Where our history comes alive!

For over 75 years, the San Diego Historical Society, an educational and cultural institution, has been dedicated to preserving and sharing our growing historical collections and extensive archives with our members, visitors and the community. The Society operates the Museum of San Diego History and the Research Library in the Casa de Balboa building in Balboa Park, the Serra Museum in Presidio Park, the Villa Montezuma House Museum in Sherman Heights, and the Marston House Museum in Balboa Park.

Museum of San Diego History
Casa de Balboa
1649 El Prado, Balboa Park
619-232-6203
Open daily 10am - 5pm

Research Library and Booth
Historical Photograph Archives (lower level)
1649 El Prado, Balboa Park
619-232-6203 ext. 117
Thursday - Saturday, 10am - 4:30pm

Serra Museum
2727 Presidio Drive
Presidio Park
619-297-3258
Open daily 10am - 4:30pm

Villa Montezuma
1925 K Street
(corner of 20th and K streets)
619-239-2211
Friday - Sunday, 10am - 5pm
Tours begin on the hour; last tour at 4pm

Marston House
3525 Seventh Avenue
Balboa Park
619-298-3142
Friday – Sunday 10am - 5pm
Tours begin on the hour; last tour at 4pm

Events Diary

July
July 9, 1-3 p.m.
Book Signing in Thornton Theater
Bill Swank: Baseball in San Diego, From the Plaza to the Padres

August
August 4, 7 p.m.
Book Signing at the Museum of San Diego History
Iris Engstrand: San Diego: California’s Cornerstone
Leland Feltzer: San Diego County Place Names, A-Z
Donald Harrison: Louis Rose: San Diego’s First Jewish Settler and Entrepreneur

September
September 18-25
SDHS Tours: Chocolate, Visit to Hershey Lodge
(Contact: Dan McPherson 858-453-3950)

October
October 13
SDHS Tours: King Tut Returns, Visit to LACMA
(Contact: John Ellis 619-223-1419)

SDHS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President
Hal Sadler

President Elect
Robert Adelizzi

Vice President
Edward Streicher

Vice President
Robert Adelizzi

Past President
Ron Urich

Secretary
Susan Kalish

Treasurer
Laura DeMarco

Ex-Officio
Mimi McCoy
Robert McNeely
James Milch
Michael Morgan
Fred Mullins
John O’Brien
Drex Patterson
John Rush
William Whelan
Leon Williams

Executive Director
David Watson

President
Hal Sadler

President Elect
Robert Adelizzi

Vice President
Edward Streicher

Vice President
Robert Adelizzi

Past President
Ron Urich

Secretary
Susan Kalish

Treasurer
Laura DeMarco

Ex-Officio
Mimi McCoy
Robert McNeely
James Milch
Michael Morgan
Fred Mullins
John O’Brien
Drex Patterson
John Rush
William Whelan
Leon Williams

Executive Director
David Watson

Ex-Officio
Ellen Oppenheim
Bobbie Bagel
Elisabeth Bergan
Diane Canedo
James Dawe
August Felando
Kenneth Golden
Al Jacoby
Ardyce Jarvis
Peter Janopaul, III
Helen Kinnaird

Mimi McCoy
Robert McNeely
James Milch
Michael Morgan
Fred Mullins
John O’Brien
Drex Patterson
John Rush
William Whelan
Leon Williams

Executive Director
David Watson

P.O. Box 81825
San Diego, CA 92138