

Newsletter of the Poway Historical and Memorial Society

June 2010

President's Message

Greetings to the members of P.H.M.S. The spring has been a great season for us at the museum. Our "Antiques Roadshow" was a great success. Much thanks to Jan Rubacky for orchestrating this unifying event. On that particular Saturday, 4/17, the "Garden Club" had their annual show, and the "Arts and Crafts Guild" sold their wares. It was an interesting combination of entertainment for the public and an eventful day. As you are aware we held our annual rummage sale Saturday 5/15. Your board members all did a fine co-ordinated effort to stage another successful event. Cecilia Burr and Jan Rubacky are busy this month with school tours of the museum and the "Nelson House". The kids and groups are thrilled with these tours, and it's a good thing for our society to contribute to their memories. Currently at the museum we are hosting "The Collection of Julia Zgliniec". Julia has so generously lent her elaborate collection of "Tatting", "Irish Crochet", and "Battenburg and Tape Lace" for the community to enjoy. Julia is a Quiltmaker, Instructor, and Appraiser certified by "The American Quilters Society". Our thanks to Julia for her enthusiasm and generosity. Remember the "4th of July at the Park"! Fun for all, this year's theme, "Old Fashioned 4TH". The museum will participate by "Honoring the Armed Services". Come by and view the displays and enjoy the festivities! Thanks to all of our members. Stay current with our society folks, and tell a friend

Jeff Frye, President.

Back To School in Poway

Very few of the many students who will be returning to school in the fall in the Poway District are aware of the long history of the district. The district formed in 1871 was the 11th district to be created in San Diego County. It was perhaps the largest in area in the County, including areas of Escondido to the north, Miramar and Rancho Santa Fe to the west, Lakeside and El Cajon to the south and Ramona to the East. In 1871 the County census revealed that there were approximately 60 children between the ages of five and fifteen in the area.

Where the first classes were held is not known but private homes would be a good guess. With the end of the Civil War in 1865, many Americans headed west and some of them ended up in San Diego County. According to Ray Stock author of "100 Years of Poway Education" published in 1971, there was still lingering bitterness between the new settlers from either the North or the South. For example, if classes were held in the home of a Southern sympathizer, Northern children would not attend. The same was true if classes were held in a Northern home.

In 1876 the location of a school building was recorded as being on Community Road Approximately across from where Wal-Mart is located. It is not clear who the first teachers were, but Stock mentions that John Overshiner took an examination for teaching purposes in 1871. The first year salary was \$55.00 a month. In 1874 a teacher's exam was taken by a Mrs. S.C. Watson from Poway. She was the wife of C.C. Watson, a veteran of the Civil War. Stock feels that classes may have been held in the Watson's home. Enrollment was 20 students but attendance was sporadic. Financing came from the State and the County.

Beginning in 1875 Poway school district started to be broken up. Bernardo to the north had established their own post office and now wanted their own school. Settlers in the southeast also had their own post office at Stowe and wanted their own school. In 1907 Merton (along Pomerado and Poway Roads) formed a school district. A school bond passed in 1885 for \$1,250 allowed for the first publicly owned school building. A photo dated 1890 in the Museum shows the Poway school, a two story building, standing west of the Community Church. The school was remodeled in 1906, removing the second story.

In 1920 the voters in Poway, Merton and Bernardo held an election and voted to form a union, resulting in a new district and the word Pomerado came into being. The "po" was taken from Poway, the "mer" from Merton and the "do" from Bernardo. Some of buildings from the other two sites at Merton and Bernardo were moved to the Community Road site. The Stowe school had been closed earlier due to lack of students. Many of the Stowe settlers had moved on during the "drought" years.

In 1925 a school was erected on Midland Road, replacing the old school on Community. It had two classrooms, an auditorium, kitchen, office, indoor toilets and a basement. Another classroom was added after the building was completed. The new school was named Pomerado but changed names in 1960 to Midland school.

In subsequent years as the enrollment increased a school was built on Pomerado Road(1960),Valley School and Garden Road followed in 1961 and Meadowbrook in 1965. A High School was built on Espola Road in 1961 also. Prior to this High School students were bused to Escondido High School. Since the 60s more schools elementary, middle and high schools have been added to the Poway District. This is a far cry from 1871 when classes were held in private homes.

Cecilia Burr. Poway Historical Society

Volunteers

The Poway Historical and Memorial Society was originally created by volunteers and continues to be run with volunteers. Most of these volunteers are from the original founding group. Guess what that means. Unfortunately with our busy lives, both partners in a relationship working and so many other activities claiming our time the number of volunteers has dwindled to a very few. Museum hours have been cut, the Nelson House is rarely open except on special occasions and there are few special programs. Only only two volunteers lead the school tours. When those two women are

not available there are no tours. Maybe some of you remember taking the tour when you were in the Poway school system. There are very few years left when this opportunity will be available if younger people don't don the mantle of service that has lead this group for so many years. The Historical Society is a great place for your scout or high school student doing community service to volunteer. This a wonderful place for adults, parents and grandparents alike to show the next generation what community service means and why it is important to both the individual and the community. Please call Jeff Frye or Cecelia Burr to volunteer to share your expertise with the Society.

Old Fashioned Forth of July Celebration

Don't forget to join your neighbors at the annual 4th of July celebration at Old Poway Park. The Museum and Nelson House will be open. There will be activities and games for the kids, band concerts, and dance demonstrations, food and more. The Museum exhibit honor the men and women who have protected our country and granted us our freedom to celebrate this, our most important national holiday.

Editors Note: My apologies to the Membership and the Board for the lateness and incompleteness of this newsletter. Two major family emergencies have taken my time and brain. I know that we have new members and welcome them. I also know that there was more information to convey to the members that I am just unable to find. I will include this information in the next newsletter. Have a wonderful summer and we'll see you at the Museum.