



Poway Echoes

A NEWSLETTER OF THE POWAY HISTORICAL AND MEMORIAL SOCIETY

Preserving Poway's Past for the Future

Jeff Frye, President

DECEMBER 2010

Joye Davisson, Editor

CHRISTMAS DISPLAY AT THE MUSEUM

This year we have on display a collection of beautiful dolls on loan from Melissa Woodruff Ward.

Her collection came about thru her step-grandmother who was employed by a doll company. Every year at



Christmas and Birthday, Melissa received a doll.

Her grandmother also designed custom dolls for the family for special occasions.

After designing them, she

traveled to the Orient where they were manufactured.

On both these occasions, Melissa received a different doll – even one named the “Melissa Doll”. There are approximately 30 dolls in her collection now but many, many more have become lost. At one time there were about 100 dolls. There were also many one of a kind dolls, especially those made for the family, which were never manufactured.

Please visit the museum and enjoy the beauty of these dolls during this wonderful season of the year

~Jean Woodruff

I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all year.

. . . Charles Dickens

MAKE YOUR OWN DOUGH ORNAMENTS

3 cups of flour
3/4 cup of salt
3/4 teaspoon powdered alum
1-1/4 cups water

First, mix all the ingredients together. The dough will be very stiff. Knead until smooth, adding some flour if dough becomes too sticky.

Coat rolling pin with light dusting of flour and roll out dough on large board. Take cookie cutters and cut into desired shapes. With a straw, make a small hole in the top of the cookie for hanging the ornament. Bake in low oven and let set for 24 hours.

To Decorate. You can paint ornaments with watercolors or other type of paint, or use colored markers. Be creative. Coat ornaments when dry with a clear protective coating. (Ornaments are not edible.)

When dry, insert ribbon, yarn, cording or string through the hole to hang on tree.

PINE CONE TREES

Take pine cone with the wide part on the bottom. Glue to cardboard base or add ribbon to hang. Then glue tiny beads and buttons on to its petals. Take a cardboard star which has been painted in gold and glue to the top.

(This information was found on a Victorian Christmas website.)

POWEGIAN HOLIDAY

Note: Unfortunately I was unable to find anything pertaining to how the early Powegians spent the Christmas season. I suspect that they kept a low profile--visiting with family and neighbors, perhaps going to services at the Community Church, if a minister was available, or having a Holiday program at the school or Templars Hall.

Andy Kirkham in his journals does not mention the Holiday at all, except the time some of the young lads of his acquaintance spent New Years Day rolling boulders down Iron Mountain. That sounded very dangerous. Apparently there was one close call when Andy mentions being pinned under a large boulder. Apparently he escaped with only minor bruising.

Gordon Stuart in his San Diego Back Country book mentions beach parties in Poway. Apparently going to the beach in Del Mar was an annual event. Here's how he describes the event:

"In the summer of 1902 I went with a beach party from Poway to Del Mar. An uncle took three of us in a light spring wagon pulled by two mules, named Jewel and Kate.

There was a road that started at Merton Church (near the corner of Pomerado and Poway Roads) and went down through Penasquitos Canyon to Del Mar. It was the most direct route. I never understood why the road was abandoned.

There had been weeks of preparation and planning for the party. All transportation was by wagons; as there was much food and equipment to carry. How they provided for the mules and horses I do not recall; but wherever there was food for man there would be food for the animals. The drive was twenty miles; with wagons loaded with supplies and people.

Del Mar was a ghost town. During the boom years Easteners came and bought lots and built houses, leaving them vacant when the boom failed.

The Poway party selected a vacant house and moved in. The party stayed one week. No rent was paid. There were many houses in town and most of them were vacant.

Long before the day of departure the Poway ladies had spent much time constructing bathing suits for themselves. Those suits were made of wool; heavy wool, and they were opaque. With these heavy suits the ladies wore black wool stockings and caps. If the ladies had gone into the water they would have drowned. The ladies sat on the beach or went wading."

Gordon made the comment that a Bathing Beauty Contest in 1902 would have been useless."

~Cecilia Burr

"POWAY ECHOES" NEW FORMAT

Joye Davisson is the new editor of "Poway Echoes" and has joined our board of directors. Welcome and many thanks to you, Joye.

Many of you probably already know Joye as she has been a member of our society since 1990. Actually Joye has more than likely welcomed most of us!

Joye moved to Poway in 1983 from Crystal Lake, Illinois where she was active with the local Woman's Club. While she and her family were looking for a home, her realtor checked with the chamber of commerce for information about our Woman's Club.

By May, 1983, she was working with Poway Woman's Club.

Joye has been instrumental in much of our city's doings. She served on the Poway Library Advisory Committee and the Library Design Committee discussing and suggesting design for our beautiful, and efficient library. Joye started volunteering at the library as a "Monday Volunteer" and has steadily evolved into a major contributor in the libraries operations.

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**Dolls from the collection of
Melissa Woodruff Ward**



Photographs by Carol Crafts

HOLIDAY DISPLAY AT THE MUSEUM

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to "Old Jack Frost"! and what a beautiful Fall we have enjoyed here in Poway. Last week the temperature read below 40 degrees, and in October, my gauge registered 2 and 1/10 inches of rainfall.

The "Old Poway Park Rendezvous" was a great event. Our members Blanche Gunther, Nancy Higbie, Jan Rubacky, Carol Crafts, and Cecilia Burr dressed in "era costume" and presented brief historical dissertations for the school tours. The kids enjoyed it, and we agreed that it gave good balance to the "Rendezvous" experience.

Did everyone watch "The 46th Annual Poway Days Heritage Parade"? Our own Greg Payne and his son Todd Saffiotte drove Greg's 1917 Model T and his 1929 Model A representing our society. P.H.M.S. acquired four new magnetic signs for the event through a generous donation from the Payne's. Much thanks to Greg, Cheri, and Todd for their thoughtful efforts.

We had a beautiful day for our annual "Train Song Festival". For those who enjoy Folk, Bluegrass, and Bluesey melodies, it featured some fine acts. Ann Garcia and Cecilia Burr counted well over 100 visitors through the museum, and the railroad sold 1,530 tickets.

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Before 2000, the Friends' bookstore was located at the Nelson House in Old Poway Park. Joye has many tales of these earlier days of not only the Friends, but of Nelson House and early O.P.P.A.C.

We are so glad that Joye is our new editor. She has also been the editor of "Paguay Chatter" the Poway Woman's Club newsletter for a number of years. An interesting fact, she was the Historical Society newsletter editor from 1992 through 1994.

Joye Davisson, a wealth of knowledge and experience for O.P.P.A.C. and our community. We all thank you and hope we can follow your examples as contributors to our community.

~Jeff Frye

OPPAC hosted "Halloween in the Park" on the 31st from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM. Joye Davisson, Jan Rubacky, and myself help operate the different activities for costumed children (and parents). I think we all agreed that the "treats" were ours as we watched princesses and princes, fairies and pirates etc. generate all that enthusiasm for a spooky evening.

We will host "Christmas in the Park" on Saturday December 11 from 3:30 PM till 8:30 PM. This years event will combine "Candy Land" with our annual festivities. If you have not attended "Christmas in the Park", you might enjoy it. The city does a great job with lighting and the many other details. The train operates, Santa is here, hay rides, a snow mountain, all contribute to a "magical event".

Thanks to all of our members for their interest in Poway and its history. The city and OPPAC are committed to providing this great service to our members and our community.

"Happy Holidays"

~Jeff Frye

DID YOU KNOW?

It could be said that the Victorians "invented" Christmas, at least in the sense as it is celebrated in the 21st century. They are credited with --

- ☆ having revived an old and jovial Viking winter figure and named him the "Spirit of Christmas" and later, "Father Christmas"
- ☆ reviving the ancient pagan custom of bringing evergreens into our homes
- ☆ creating the first Christmas card
- ☆ having brought back caroling
- ☆ turning a once riotous free-for-all into a family-oriented celebration.



CHRISTMAS AT THE NELSON HOUSE

Visit the Nelson House and experience an old-fashioned Christmas. We try to recapture the spirit of Christmas long ago.

Christmas of 100 years ago was a much simpler and less commercial holiday than today. The tree is trimmed with fruit, cookies, popcorn and candles (and we'll cheat a little with some electric lights). Under the tree will be some simple toys. All of the windows will feature candles.

During Christmas in the Park, the Nelson House will have docents (in costume) in every room to play games and demonstrate different types of needle work. There will be a story teller in one of the front rooms. The dollhouse has been moved to the playroom along with some additional toys from yesteryear.

And this year for the first time, there is a player piano that people may play. Also, see how Christmas cards have changed as there is a display of cards

~Jan Rubacky

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Marie Halbert
Scott and Laura Kopperud
Simon Koval, Sr.



I heard the bells on Christmas day.
Their old familiar carol play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men

...Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

CHRISTMAS IN THE MUSEUM

As described earlier in this newsletter we are displaying some very special dolls and celebrating a Victorian Christmas.

In the large showcase, models are dressed in some of our beautiful 1900s costumes. The baby buggy features a doll wearing the 100 year-old baptismal dress. In the other case is the Moby tin horse. The background is a snow scene. The Museum tree is decorated in a simple country style similar to the Nelson House tree.

~Jan Rubacky

WISH LIST

Rocking chair that can be left outside.

Antique toys: roller skates, hoop, wood rocking chair, ball and cup, Johnny jump up and Jack in the box.

If you have any of these items please call Jan Rubacky @ 858-679-0625.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Jeffrey Frye
Secretary	Cecilia Burr
Treasurer	Jean Woodruff
Nelson House Coordinator	Jan Rubacky
Library	Carol Crafts
Newsletter Editor	Joye Davisson
Computer Input	Brian Bazzeni

The Board meets the second Monday of the month at 8:30 AM in the Museum.

POWAY HISTORICAL AND MEMORIAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

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NEW

RENEWAL

Complete form and send with your
check to PH&MS

P. O. Box 19

Poway, CA 92074-0019

\$500 LIFE

\$75 BUSINESS

\$20 ORGANIZATION

\$17 FAMILY

\$15 INDIVIDUAL

\$10 STUDENT

Optional: I would like to help with: Artifacts

Docent in Nelson House

Library

Special Events

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