



Poway Echoes

A NEWSLETTER OF THE POWAY HISTORICAL AND MEMORIAL SOCIETY

Preserving Poway's Past for the Future

Jeff Frye, President

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Joye Davisson, Editor

THE POWAY HISTORICAL AND MEMORIAL SOCIETY - HOW WE CAME TO BE

The beautiful Heritage Park that now houses our museum was created from the dreams and efforts of many people. The main dream was to create a space where Poway history could be viewed and understood by everyone. Thus, the Poway Historical and Memorial Society was created.

The Society was started in August 1964. At the charter meeting, officers were elected on a one-year basis. Ray Stock became the President, Robert McFeron the vice-president, Pauline McFeron the Second Vice President, Ralph Powers the Treasurer, and Mary Van Dam the Secretary. They called themselves the "old-timers." At this charter meeting, bylaws and a constitution were also drafted. The constitution stated the society's main purpose was "the discovery, collection, and preservation of artifacts and memorabilia pertaining to Poway."

By September of 1964 there were 53 members, and by January 1965 membership rose to 90 members. The newly created society needed a place to meet. Many places were considered, even the cemetery. Eventually, Shepardson Realty Company allowed them to use an empty building on Pomerado Road as a temporary workshop. But the society realized that they needed a more permanent location in order to create the museum they truly wanted.

Around the same time, retired Army Colonel John S. Porter started to dream about an Old Poway where people could come and enjoy the old west. He established a ranch that came to be known as Poway Village. He purchased a 1907 Baldwin Number 3 Steam Engine and a half-mile train track. Porter later called this track "The Poway Village and Rattlesnake Creek Railroad" which operated during the sixties.

Colonel Porter died in 1979 before he could see his dream of the historical village that stands today..

The newly created Poway Historical Society needed to establish a permanent location for the start of a museum. In 1967, Mary Van Dam and Gordon Stuart are photographed with a sign that read "the future home of the Poway Museum." This photograph was taken near Lake Poway. This was not the only site that the society considered. Between 1978 and 1979 the society requested leasing a portion of the Poway Community Park for the museum. By 1980, Community Park and Los Arbilitos Park were the two main sites suggested. In May 1981 the city of Poway approved the leasing of half an acre of land near Lake Poway for Poway Historical and Memorial Society. This land was priced at approximately \$8,000. In order to raise the funds, the non-profit Historical Society distributed 100 contribution boxes to Poway businesses.

In 1986 the City of Poway bought the 4.75-acre Porter estate and the Poway Village and Rattlesnake Creek Railroad in order to complete Colonel Porter's dream. The City named this village Old Poway Park. The city brought historic buildings from Poway to the park and restored them. Among the buildings were the International Order of Good Templars Hall (Poway's first assembly hall) and the Nelson House. The two buildings that were already in the park, the Porter House and the Hamburger Factory, were also refurbished in order to enhance the "turn-of-the-twentieth-century" setting. Poway built the Overshiner's Blacksmith Shop and a Gazebo. A two-acre green park, influenced by the Teddy Roosevelt National Park system, completes Old Poway Park that officially opened in 1993.

Before the City of Poway took over Poway Village the buildings housed many different things. When Porter first started creating the Village his wife Helen opened a sandwich shop that later became an Ice Cream Parlor. The building became an Elk's lodge with the usual bar and pool table. Finally this building became the Hamburger Factory. Next to the restaurant, where the museum is now, was once a gun shop with barred windows.

With the completion of Old Poway Park, Poway Historical and Memorial Society (PHMS) finally found a place where their dedication to preserving Poway's history belonged. And in December 1995 PHMS took part in the dedication of the museum.

The museum is much different than the one that the founders of PHMS dreamt about. First of all the schoolroom, with the 100-year-old floor and original desks, has replaced some of the bulky items like the printing press, that were once housed there. An abundance of local artifacts show Poway's history and correspond to the timeline along the wall. Other walls

have maps and photographs that show the changing city of Poway from the 1800's to the present. In the center of the museum are display cases with changing themes that often reflect holidays and events occurring in the park.

To this day the Poway Historical and Memorial Society continues to preserve the past so people in the future will understand Poway's history.

~Allison Provenzano

This article is the first in a series about the museum's history leading up to the 50th anniversary in September 2014. We hope that members will come forward with more information, photos, genealogy, and memorabilia that would be pertinent to the event. The series will continue with articles about Poway Old-timers and the founders of the Poway Historical and Memorial Society.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy spring time to all! The breezes and the blustery winds are coming up Penasquitos Canyon from the coast to our valley, trees are starting to bud, and the grasses are green again.

Like the bees, things are buzzing at Nelson House and the museum. Gwenmarie Hilleary and Barbarann Parker have some interesting new features at the Nelson House including some new "exhibit boards". We have plans to rotate exhibits and photos on these boards through out the year.

The museum floor is also under reinvention. We are creating a new layout for our exhibit cases. Carol Crafts has consulted with Cindy Stankowski of the "San Diego Archaeology Center" and Cindy has generously appraised our "Indian objects".

New member, and long time Poway and North County resident, Jim Quiring has been instrumental in correcting, discovering locations, and labeling some of our vintage photos and maps. We are planning to add some interactive exhibits to our floor plan. These plans include an exhibit featuring early copies of "The Chieftian", and possibly a vocal response Post Office/General Store.

Jan Rubacky and Allison Provenzano are continuing the work with our collections. These collections exist and survive to bring Poway's history back to our community. Allison has worked with Jan for almost a year. She is a volunteer intern that has joined us from Cal State University San Marcos. Allison has handled many tasks working with Jan, and has generously shared her knowledge and skills.

It has been said, " Preservation of history is a gift; a bond with the past, present, and future generations". Our " Poway Historical and Memorial Society" is part of this "gift giving". We are so grateful to our members for their generosity and support in continuing this spirit of gift giving. Congratulations to all of us.

Thank you all for your continued interest and support. Come on out to "Old Poway Park" and enjoy the springtime and the upcoming events.

~Jeff Frye

The history of every country begins in the heart of a man or a woman

. . . Willa Cather, O Pioneers

REMEMBERING CECILIA BURR

We extend our sympathy to the family of Cecilia Burr, longtime Historical Society member and former officer of the organization. She passed away on January 30, 2013.

Cecilia was born in Canada and came to San Diego in 1957 where she became a registered nurse at Sharp Hospital. Her brother described her as a good sister, with a lifelong passion for new experiences, sights and meeting new people.

Her fourteen-year-old niece wrote this about her "auntie." "My aunt was a role model for me. She was good natured, loving, funny, sweet, adventurous and intelligent." For all her knew her, that portrays Cecilia to a tee and she will be missed.

Jeff reminisces:

I first met Cecilia in 1977. I was dating her soon to be "step daughter". It wasn't until thirty-five years later that I learned of the "adventurous spirit" our Cecilia possessed.

We all knew that Cecilia enjoyed her travels about the country and about the world, but the eye opener for me was learning of her early pioneering spirit.

Cecilia and friend made a leap of faith in the middle 1950's, left their homes in Canada and came to make their way in San Diego. Two young women, without

husband or escort, out to start careers and lives a couple of thousand miles from home. After all of these years Cecilia's independent spirit became clear to me.

Another "Cecilia Story" I like to share is when she lassoed her second husband. Seems that she and this second husband-to-be had been dating for some time. Well, this second husband-to-be was taking his time in making a commitment. During this time the deliberation was long and shall we say, "less than discreet". Well, I want to tell you that Cecilia had an anecdote to correct these issues.

On one particular sunny morning Cecilia backed her car into the yard of his work place, opened the trunk of her car and commenced to unload all of his properties unto the yard! With this profound statement the deliberations came to a quick conclusion. Another result of Cecilia's assertive and independent nature, she and her second husband had a long, happy, and well-traveled marriage.

So Cecilia, this toast is to you. We are all better folks for knowing you. And here is to your eternal and ever shining "adventurous and independent spirit".

Jeff, Cecilia's "stepson-in-law".



HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Jeffrey Frye
1 st Vice President	Carol Crafts
2 nd Vice President	Jan Rubacky
Secretary	Gwenmarie Hilleary
Treasurer	Jean Woodruff
At Large	Joye Davisson
At Large	Barbarann Parker

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

GRANNY'S ATTIC/RUMMAGE SALE

The Poway Historical and Memorial will host a Granny's Attic/Rummage sale on Saturday, June 8th, 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

Bring those "treasures" that you no longer need or want to the museum during open hours. Call Jean Woodruff at 858-748-1814 for futher information.

Please, no clothing.

Poway Historical and Memorial Society
P. O. Box 19
Poway, CA 92074-0019

POWAY HISTORICAL AND MEMORIAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

NEW

RENEWAL

\$500 LIFE

\$17 FAMILY

\$75 BUSINESS

\$15 INDIVIDUAL

\$20 ORGANIZATION

\$10 STUDENT

Complete form and send with
your check to PH&MS

P. O. Box 19
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Optional: I would like to help with:

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Docent in Nelson House

Docent in Museum Research