



## President's Message

by Betty McMillen



We had a nice write-up in the Union Tribune about the Lakeside Historical Society trying to save the old caretaker's cottage at the El Monte Pumping Plant.

Helix Water District is not interested in preserving the house at its present location. They did offer to **give** it to us if we want to move it at our own expense. I have been busy contacting property owners in Lakeside's Historic District, trying to find a location for the structure, which was built in 1927. The Lakeside Optimist Club has offered to restore it if they can use it for their club house. My dream is for Lakeside to have a Heritage Park (similar to Old Town in San Diego) where our unique old buildings could be brought together, preserved and used by the community. Does anyone have thoughts of what we can do with this old cottage? If you have any ideas, or a possible location for this historic building, call me at 443-1133.

**A big thank you to the Spring Valley Historical Society!** With their help, we received an offer from Mr. and Mrs. Zabel of Roswell, New Mexico. They wished to donate two antique parlor tables to our Historical Society. These tables were purchased in the 1950's from Lakeside's original historian, Flossie Beadle, at her antique shop. Flossie told them that the tables came from the old Lakeside Inn which was built in 1887. Cecil Carrender and Bob Alvord have offered to drive back to New Mexico to pick them up for us. Way to go, Guys! This will be a wonderful acquisition for our building.

## Woman of Distinction

The Lakeside Soroptimist Tri-Cities East hosted their annual Women of Distinction awards banquet on March 4 at the Lakeside Community Center. The Lakeside Historical Society's nominee for this honor was Janis Shackelford. She has been a member of our society for eight years. Janis has been a member of the Lakeside Planning Group since 1987, and now serves as secretary. She is also the chairman of the Lakeside Design Review Board. She was instrumental in the selection of the County consultant and helped develop and write the Lakeside Design Guidelines. She is concerned about historical and environmental preservation and spends a great deal of time attending the Board of Supervisor's hearings, and represents Lakeside at various design and land use meetings. Janis is a biochemical research associate at San Diego State University. She is a member of Sigma XI, a national research society, and has co-authored eighteen scientific publications. Every year she serves as a judge at the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair. Janis is truly our "Woman of Distinction".

## Calendar of Events

### MARCH

19 Board Meeting  
9:30 a.m.  
*Everyone Welcome!*

22 Regular Meeting  
7:00 p.m.

17 St Patrick's Day



19 Women's Club  
Quilt Show

27 Palm Springs Follies  
*(Spaces still available)*

### APRIL

17 Western Days  
*(Country Breakfast  
& Craft Show)*

24 Ramona Pageant

WESTERN DAYS  
SATURDAY - APRIL 17

HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
SERVING  
"COUNTRY BREAKFAST"  
7:00 A.M 'TILL ???

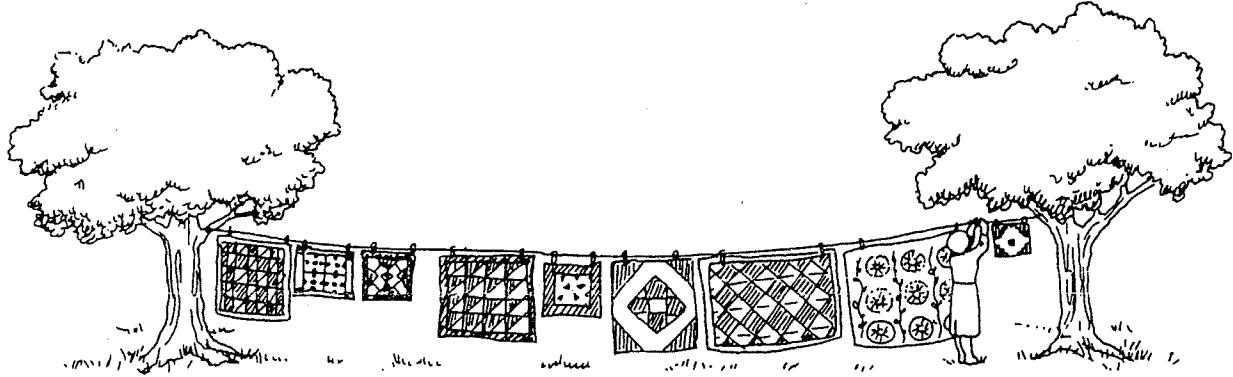
SCRAMBLED EGGS  
HAM & BISCUIT

\$3.50



# Quilt Show & Boutique

The Woman's Club of Lakeside will be holding their Annual Quilt Show and Boutique on Friday, March 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and on Saturday, March 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Olde Community Church. Admission is \$3.00. The Historical Society will be serving soup, sandwiches and dessert. Hope to see you there!



## OBITUARIES

### Douglas McClain

Doug passed away on February 11 and took with him a vast store of Lakeside history. He was always available to answer questions and provide us with memorabilia about the area. Born in 1901, he came to Lakeside when he was about three years old with his parents, his brother, Bill, and two sisters, Elizabeth and Josephine. A brother, George, was born in Lakeside in 1907. They grew up on the McClain Ranch on Woodside, attended local schools and learned the dairy business from their father. Doug married Fanny Birdsell of Julian and they became the parents of Betty, James and Marjorie. He and George formed a partnership, The McClain Brothers Dairy. They were both involved in the early organization of the Lakeside Rodeo. Upon his retirement from the Dairy business here, he moved to Arizona and farmed for several years before returning to this area. Masonic services were held in El Cajon. Survivors include two daughters; Betty Carr of Idaho and Marjorie Reeves of Rancho Santa Fe, and one sister, Josephine Dupuis of Lakeside,

### Dorothy DeVonne Bellante

Dorothy was born in El Cajon on August 15, 1929, on her Grandfather Benjamin Tripp's property, located between Washington and Chase, on what was then Orange Avenue, but is now Avocado Avenue. She was delivered by Dr. Matthewson, whose office was on Second Street in Bostonia and Mrs. Kanady, a Lakeside mid-wife. Dorothy's parents, Ben and Elsie Strange, were founding members of El Cajon's

Christian and Missionary Alliance Church. In 1932 Dorothy, her parents, her brother, Dean, and her sister, Doris, moved northeast of Lakeside to take up a homestead near Barona Valley Ranch. She attended Lakeside elementary and middle schools and graduated from Grossmont High School in 1947.

In 1951 she married Bob Bellant. In 1958 they moved to Lemon Grove, where she made a home for him, her three children, two grandsons, and anyone in need of one for over forty years.

She was active in Lemon Grove Little League and Sky-Grove Pony League, serving as head scorekeeper for many years. She was interested in genealogy, and was a member of the Lakeside Historical Society.

Dorothy died on February 2, 1999. She is survived by her husband, Bob; her sons, Lonnie (who resides with his family on the Barona homestead) and Ron of La Mesa; her daughter, Debbie, of La Mesa; grandsons, Tim and Jeremy; granddaughters, Melanie and Lindi; her brother, Dean Strange, of Spring Valley and her sister, Doris Strange of Atwater, California.

Contributions may be made to the Lakeside Historical Society Memorial Fund.

## MEMORIALS

The Lakeside Historical Society Memorial Program has received monetary gifts in the memory of: **Douglas McClain, Les Kephart, Anna Goodman and Dorothy DeVonne Bellante.** Their names will appear on our memorial board.

# APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- |    |                                   |    |                                |    |                                |
|----|-----------------------------------|----|--------------------------------|----|--------------------------------|
| 1  | 15th - Bill Signs Trucking        | 13 | 59th - Elinor ♥ Ralph Kephart  | 23 | La Donna Roethler              |
| 1  | 20th - Lakeside Muffler & Welding | 14 | Margie Reeves                  | 24 | Bob Carlile                    |
| 3  | Virginia Flor                     | 16 | Elaine Brack                   | 24 | Earleen Tehan                  |
| 5  | 29th - Terry ♥ James Callen       | 16 | 27th - Marijane ♥ Bruce Fuller | 25 | Michael Brandon                |
| 5  | Helen Carpenter                   | 16 | Florynce Kluka                 | 25 | Loy Flor                       |
| 6  | Francis Cooper                    | 17 | 39th Dorianne ♥ Jerry Fair     | 25 | 51st - Betty ♥ Richard Held    |
| 6  | 25th-Janis ♥ Gordon Shackelford   | 19 | Carol Kursave                  | 26 | Joann DuFloth                  |
| 7  | Alice Johnson                     | 17 | Simone Llerandi                | 26 | 7th - Marcy ♥ Greg Gjerde      |
| 7  | Janis Shackelford                 | 17 | Gerald Roethler                | 26 | Ann Johnson                    |
| 8  | 20th - Elaine ♥ Dick Draper       | 18 | Colleen Hayes Anderson         | 26 | 48th - Nell ♥ Thomas Winburn   |
| 9  | Pat McHugh                        | 19 | Lora Peterson                  | 27 | Tina Hall                      |
| 9  | Vaughnie Swearengin               | 20 | Andrea ♥ Dennis Canfield       | 27 | Edward Hayes                   |
| 9  | Jim Williams                      | 20 | Dorothy Scidmore               | 27 | Kathryn Paddock                |
| 10 | Shirley Curo                      | 21 | Janet Conant                   | 28 | 53rd- Josephine ♥Michael Danna |
| 10 | Leona Wilcox                      | 21 | 43rd - Mildred ♥ Ken Whaley    | 28 | Bob Leja                       |
| 11 | 63rd - Harriett ♥Frank Claycomb   | 22 | 10th - Kimberly ♥ Daniel Evans | 28 | Jack McLean                    |
| 12 | Sally Merrill                     | 22 | William Tagney                 | 30 | Diane Cooper                   |
|    |                                   |    |                                | 30 | Jack Partington                |



## DID YOU KNOW...

By Chris Herzog

Big Jim McCoy had a "sure-fire" approach when he rode the "San Diego Trail" through Viejas and Jacumba Indian country. He had more firepower than the Indians, and a tough attitude. As the story goes, this fighting Irishman along with fourteen other men fought off 500 Indian attackers at the mail fort he built by Jacumba Springs. You had to be a gunslinger to deliver mail in 1853. Two other early express riders were Joe Swycaffer and Johnny Hinton. In those days, Army express riders carried dispatches and general mail on a more or less biweekly basis to the forts from San Diego and Fort Yuma. Sometimes they disappeared. Jacumba served as a kind of pony express relay station and depot, since the distances were rough on the men and horses. Later, the Army abandoned the little fort and kept well north of the springs, more toward the present interstate.

The first transcontinental mail came through in 1857. This was the San Antonio and San Diego mail line, dubbed by envious Los Angelenos the "Jackass Mail", although only horses and mules were used. McCoy worked on this line, too. It followed a northerly route from \*Vallecitos Stage Station, with stops for feed, fresh animals and water at Lassator's. Grub for passengers was also available at stops, a welcome change from dried beans and jerky.

McCoy's throat got mighty dry on that trail, and he looked forward to quenching his thirst at the "Jolly Boy" in Old Town. He was high-spirited, and often annoyed people with his rowdy parties. It was in that saloon that Charles Rathbun gave him three near-fatal wounds.

Changing his ways, Jim recovered in the sobering solitude of Cuyamaca, where he built up a herd of 500 sheep and 125 goats, and now herded his own flock along the Jackass Mail Trail, instead of riding it. He was not the first to graze sheep there. The Osunas,

family of San Diego's first mayor, had grazed sheep in Cuyamaca and Descanso as early as 1843. Further down the trail, the Osunas had owned the Rancho Valle de las Viejas y Mesa del Arroz. This trail was by no means new. According to the late Hero Rensch, historian of Cuyamaca, this was the "Yuma Trail" used by Indians since time immemorial. Governor Fages pursued Presidio deserters on this "Camino de San Diego" in 1772, and it was recommended for official mail to Sonora in the Mexican period. This now forgotten trail of many names has a rich history and bleached bones, too.

\* The Vallecitos Stage Depot, a historical landmark rebuilt in 1934, is located at Agua Caliente Springs. It was an important stop for the Butterfield Overland Stage Line and the southern emigrant caravans who settled in the west.

(Information courtesy of Velma Carr, California History/Landmarks Chairman, El Cajon Woman's Club.)

## MAY THE LUCK OF THE IRISH BE WITH YOU ON SAINT PATRICK'S DAY!



# FROM THE MAIL BAG....



A letter from Rosemary Strickler  
Los Banos, CA

All is well here in Los Banos. Spring is almost here!! What fun to see the fruit trees starting to blossom and jonquils popping up everywhere (along with the dandelions in our lawn)! It's a sure sign winter is coming to a close. I love it!

We still relive our visit in Lakeside and the unforgettable Hometown Reunion and mortgage burning. We cherish each of our memories. Also, please accept our memorial remembrance honoring Doug McClain. What a fine man he was. Such a good, kind man whom Clyde and I loved dearly. Clyde will miss his lunch dates with Doug, Bill Koppel and Charles and Don Foster. I will always remember Doug as the man who told me about my father, Ott Nelson. I still cherish those conversations.

Sincerely, Rosemary Strickler

## Treasurer's Report

By Elaine Brack

February flew by so fast. I have been so busy getting things caught up and now here it is....March! The Heater/Air Conditioner is now fully paid for. I can hardly believe so much has been accomplished in the last few years...all because of all the support that the membership has given.

You will be hearing in the near future of the next plan for the restoration of the building, but for now, take a deep breath and give yourselves a big pat on the back and say....YES!!!

## New Members

**Regis Rosner**

**Brian Bowman**

**Charles Brown, Jr. - Life #333**

**Charlene Brown Robinson - Life #334**

**Don Hickle - Life #335**

**Nelson Sloan - Bus. Life #32**

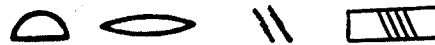
**Sally Merrill - Life #336**

**Linda Duffy**

## Aches & Pains Department.....

Our telephone chairman, Betty Dowers, will be taking a leave of absence. She's taking on the duty of nursing her hubby, Evan, back to good health. Seems he had a power struggle with his tractor. The tractor came out on top and Evan's leg was broken. Hope to see you both back in action soon!

## Shirley's Riddle.....



LOAF    MOUTH    2 STROKES    POOL

Figure out the name of the volunteer for the month of March. Answer next month!

Detach and return the application below to reserve a spot to sell crafts at the Olde Church during Western Days



## THE ANNUAL WESTERN DAYS CRAFT SALE

April 17, 1999 - Ye Olde Church Yard - 7:30 a.m.

Sellers: \$10.00 per space and your own table. Please sign and enclose fee. Make checks payable to the Lakeside Historical Society, P.O. Box 1432, Lakeside, CA 92040

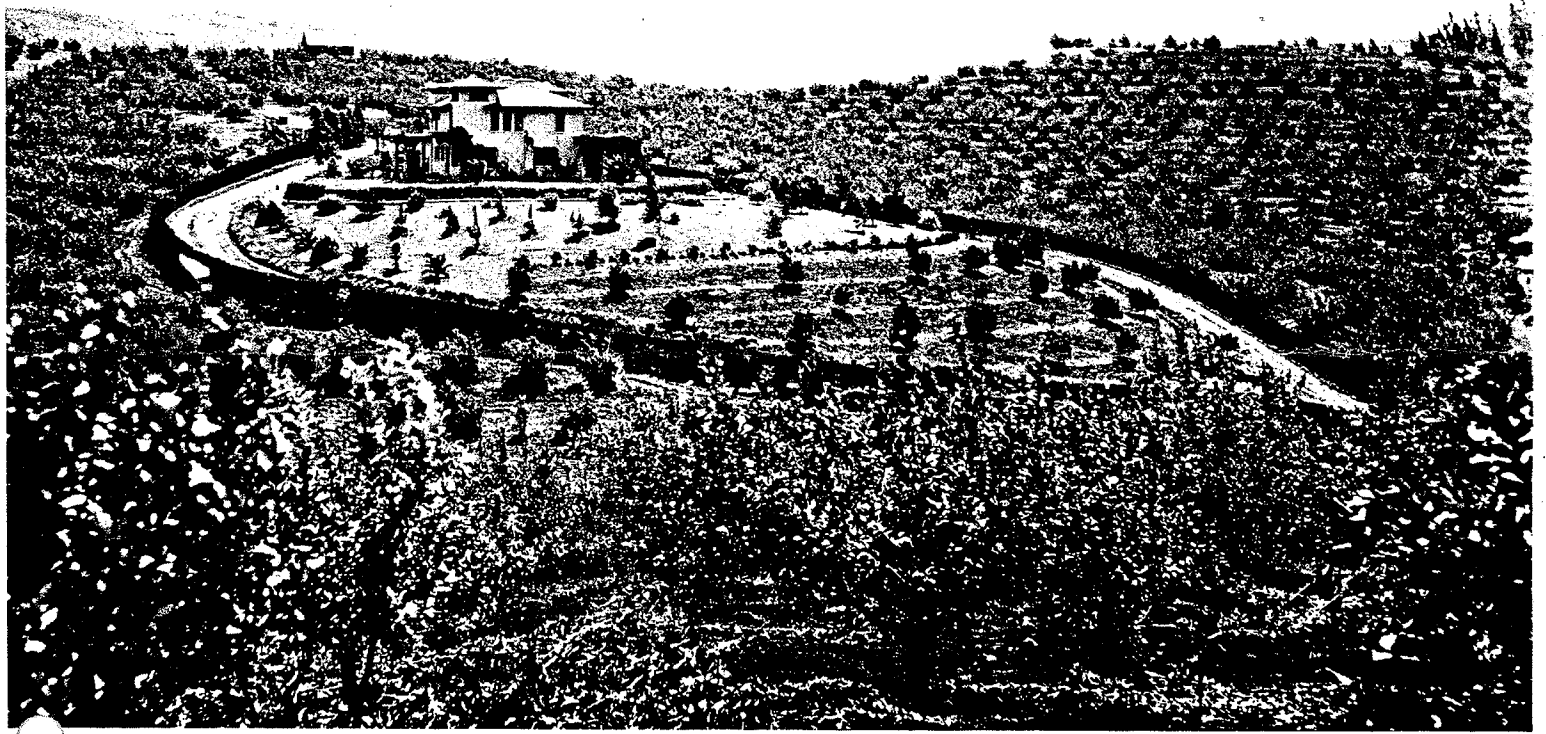
Seller's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Items: \_\_\_\_\_

The Lakeside Historical Society will not be responsible for any damage due to accident, fire, theft, vandalism or work during the one day event. The undersigned releases the LHS from all liability arising out of activities engaged in by the participant of this event.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



KLEIN RANCH — 1901

*(San Diego Historical Society - Ticor Collection)*

A historical Lakeside house was featured in the March issue of San Diego Home/Garden Magazine. According to the article, “**La Colina**” (the Hill), a onetime showplace, built in 1898 for the prominent John Kleine family by famed architect, Irving Gill, has been “rescued and restored in Lakeside.” Steve and Gail Cowen purchased the house ten years ago. The restoration has not been easy or cheap, but now, in its 100th-anniversary year, the house has been returned to its original elegance.

From 1898 through the 1940's La Colina was one of the county's residential landmarks. The house, barn and foreman's residence were surrounded by 48 acres of lemon, olives, oranges and grapefruit. (Many of these olive trees are still lining neighborhood streets). The estate was landscaped by the noted Kate Sessions.

The Lakeside Historical Society has had the privilege of showing La Colina on our Holiday Home Tour. Steve and Gail Cowen are to be commended for their hard work and devotion in restoring this wonderful showplace.

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**MOSEY ON DOWN TO LAKESIDE ON APRIL 17 AND JOIN US FOR WESTERN DAYS!**



**LAKESIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP**

\$12.00 PER PERSON                      \$20.00 BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION  
\$100.00 INDIVIDUAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP    \$20.00 FAMILY  
\$150.00 BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION LIFE MEMBERSHIP

NAME		TELEPHONE	
ADDRESS	TOWN	STATE	ZIP
NAME OF SPOUSE	WEDDING DATE	BIRTH DATE	

LAKESIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 1423, LAKESIDE, CA. 92040 - PHONE (619) 561-1886

92019-1137



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**MARCH 1999**

ROBERTA