



HAPPY BIRTHDAY LAKESIDE! 140 YEARS: 1886 - 2026



One of the earliest known photographs of the newly established town of Lakeside, dated 1892. There were only seven buildings in the downtown area, including the Lindo (Lakeside) Hotel (far left) and the Lakeside Inn (far right). (LHS Archives)

On March 3, 1886, the El Cajon Valley Land Company filed “articles of incorporation” with the San Diego County Clerk. Newspapers referred to that group as a “Boston syndicate.” The original directors were Ephraim “E.W.” Morse and his brother, Philip; Isaac Merrill of San Francisco; Joseph Dexter of Portland, Maine; and George Mansfield of Canton, Massachusetts. Initial stockholders included all of the directors, as well as William H. Bovee and Edward Dexter, Joseph’s brother and a civil engineer.

On March 26, 1886, the El Cajon Valley Company (having dropped “Land” from its original official name) filed their purchase with the San Diego County Assessor’s Office, paying \$25,000.

In April 1886, Edward Dexter made his first survey map of the company’s planned town, which they appropriately named “Lakeside.” In May 1886, Dexter created another “Map of El Cajon Valley Company’s Lands,” which included the outlying areas of Moreno (then Dexter) Valley, El Monte, and Los Coches. Both maps were filed with the County Recorder on December 30, 1886.

Dexter laid out a fairly standard grid pattern for the “downtown,” with numerous, smaller lots to the south and west and larger plots to the north and east of the planned downtown. Newly christened Lindo Lake was at the center of the development. Hugging the lake was a series of trails throughout a planned parkland. The only actual building included on the map was simply labeled “hotel.” It was set on an enlarged lot at Maine and Woodside avenues. This would be the first Lakeside Hotel, more commonly known as the Lakeside Inn.

The earliest appearance of the town’s name in print seems to have been in the *San Diego Union* of May 12, 1886. The article informed that managers of the El Cajon Valley Company were “pushing development of the noted Benedict Tract with commendable speed.” The ensuing story contained several historical firsts.

1. The lake had been named Lindo: “The beautiful sheet of water upon the tract has been named Lindo Lake.”
2. The town had been named, logically, Lakeside: “A town site called Lakeside has been laid off ...”
3. A hotel had been started straight-away: “... upon the lake shore is an eligible part of which a neat hotel is nearly completed.” That “neat hotel” would become the famous Lakeside Inn.

And the rest, as they say, is history!

Member Spotlight:
JANIS SHACKELFORD



Janis Shackelford is a long-time and cherished volunteer not just for LHS but for the town of Lakeside! If you are a member of LHS, you know Janis and her work. Here's a little background that you might not know:

Janis graduated from San Diego High School and San Diego State University. She received her Master's in Biology from SDSU in 1975 and remained at the university for a 30-year career as a Biochemical Research

Associate. She is a member of the SDSU Foundation. She met her husband (Gordon) at SDSU and married him 52 years ago. They moved to Blossom Valley in 1984. In 2006, she became a Lifetime Member of LHS and has served on the board and numerous committees since then.

A list of her activities would be quite lengthy, but her current involvement includes the board of Lakeside's River Park Conservancy, the San Diego Iris Society (as treasurer), and the American Iris Society (as Registrant-Recorder). For many years she served on the Lindo Park Subcommittee (as the chair), the Lakeside Community Planning Group (for 21 years), and the Lakeside Design Review Board (as the chair and LHS representative).

In 2018, Janis received the Citizen of the Year Award from the Lakeside Chamber of Commerce.

Breakfast before the parade!
Lakeside Historical Society
 Once again proudly presents its
Western Days Breakfast
AT
Lakeside's 130-year-old Community Church
9906 Maine Avenue
Saturday, April 25, 2026
7:00 am to 9:00 am
Featuring THE TRADESMEN Live Band
Have a cowboy breakfast then watch Lakeside's Western Days Parade!

SERVING:
 Ham & Eggs
 Hash Browns
 Biscuits & Sausage Gravy
 Coffee & Juice
 Hot Cocoa & Milk for the kids
STILL ONLY \$5 DONATION PER PERSON
For more information call (619) 561-1886

Lakeside Historical Society

9906 Maine Ave. lksd

www.lakesidehistory.org



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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING LHS EVENTS

Meetings & events are held at LHS History Center unless noted

GIFT SHOP / MUSEUM HOURS

OPEN: Tuesday - Thursday & Saturday: 10 am - 1 pm *** CLOSED: Sunday, Monday & Friday
 ARCHIVES OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY *** MUSEUM OPEN UPON REQUEST OR APPOINTMENT

Coming in April

MUSEUM COMMITTEE: Thu, Apr 2 @ 10 am

BOARD MEETING: Thu, Apr 9 @ 4 pm

Lakeside Rodeo: Apr 23-26

Rodeo Stadium & Grounds

WESTERN DAYS BREAKFAST: Sat, Apr 25 @ 7-9 am

Western Days Parade: Sat, Apr 25 @ 9:30 am

Woodside & Maine Avenues

NO GENERAL MEETING IN APRIL

Coming in May

MUSEUM COMMITTEE: Thu, May 7 @ 10 am

BOARD MEETING: Thu, May 14 @ 4 pm

GENERAL MEETING/PICNIC LUNCH: Sat, May 16 @ 11 am

Historical Presentation: Gordon Shackelford

"Electricity on the Farm: Lakeside's 1st Hybrid"



**** SPONSORS NEEDED ****

The Lakeside Western Days Breakfast, hosted by the Historical Society is coming up on Saturday, April 25 (see poster on page 2). We are again looking for members to help sponsor the event. Hilliker's Ranch Fresh Eggs will generously provide the eggs for the breakfast. The remaining items needing sponsorships are:

- One half of Ham: \$80
- One half of Ham: \$80
- Biscuits: \$91
- Sausage Gravy: \$84
- Orange Juice: \$70
- One half of Potato Patties: \$44
- One half of Potato Patties: \$44
- Hot Chocolate & Milk (for kids): \$27
- One half of Sm. Water Bottles: \$29
- One half of Sm. Water Bottles: \$29

Would you please give us a hand and help us out in this fundraiser event? Please call Gordon Shackelford at (619) 561-6323 to become an official Lakeside Western Days Breakfast Sponsor.

CHICKEN POT PIE DINNER SPONSORS 2026

We changed the date of the Chicken Pot Pie Dinner from September (hot weather!) to February (cool weather), which is much better suited for a Hot Chicken Pot Pie! This placed Pot Pie and Western Days, our two major sponsored events, just two months apart, with a very short notice of the change. To avoid asking members for help with both events on such short notice, Janis Shackelford, who has stepped down as our Kitchen Chair, made a donation covering all food costs for the 2026 Pot Pie Dinner. Thank you, Janis!

2026 Event Sponsors

- Janis Shackelford
- Mary and Bernie Tewalt
- Anonymous

In Loving Memory

Donations have been made in the loving memory of:

Russell Kanady

When you make a monetary donation to our Memorial Fund for your friend or loved one, a brass plaque will be made with their name, date of birth and death, and then placed on the Memorial Wall in our History Center. The family receives a written notification; the donor receives a written thank you, which can be used for tax donation purposes.

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

The official publication of the Lakeside Historical Society since 1980

Gary E. Mitrovich, Editor

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*Articles, stories, emails & photos welcome * Deadline: 2nd Friday of the month*

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE: Darlene Aceves * Barbara Hogue

Pennie McMahon * Gordon Shackelford * The Newsletter Mailing Crew

Printed by College Copy Center

APRIL MILESTONES

NEW MEMBER

J. Shannon Scott

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Tim Avazian
- 1 Lilyana Chandler
- 1 Cassie Kouns Larson
- 4 Bernard Tewalt
- 6 William Forbes
- 6 John Mendez
- 7 Alice Webb Johnson
- 7 Gordon Shackelford
- 8 Paula Granzow
- 10 Shirley Stewart Curo
- 10 Mary Giyer
- 13 Ann Gilbert
- 13 Tim Kanady
- 14 Mike Rakowski
- 15 Mary Beth Hayes
- 17 Lynne Forbes
- 17 Fran Gibbs
- 18 Colleen Anderson
- 18 Patricia Barnes
- 19 Linda Cowle
- 20 Edward Wilson
- 22 Tina Rakowski
- 23 Sharon Armstrong
- 24 Katie Martens
- 24 Jim Pavlik
- 24 Earleen Barker Tehan
- 26 Cindy Kelly
- 26 James Scott
- 27 Scott Granzow
- 27 Kathryn Angus Paddock
- 30 Jack Partington

ANNIVERSARIES

- Donald & Carolyn Kuhner – 68
- Terry Lee & James Callen – 56
- Wyatt & Dottie Allen – 54
- Gordon & Janis Shackelford – 52
- Marie & Tim Macrorie - 52
- Daniel Morgan & Kimberly Evans – 37
- Karen Mitrovich & Daryl Dotson – 35
- Cathy Savage & Robert Wolpers – 35
- Linda Hughes & David Rung – 26
- Charles & Lenore Kephart – 20
- Richard & Jean Cabanilla
- Dennis & Andrea Canfield
- Robert Dart & April Langill
- Cassie Kouns & Michael Larson



LAKESIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Lakeside, CA 92040
(619) 561-1886
www.lakesidehistory.org

APRIL 2026
EMAIL EDITION



An incredible photo by Darlene Aceves (friend and employee at Payton's Hardware). She stepped outside this past February 19th to see a stunning double rainbow event over our olde community church. Anyone see that pot-of-gold lying around?

In Remembrance



Thomas "Tommy" La Madrid
Lakeside Legend
1950—2026

Shay Smith
Lifetime Member & Past Co-Vice President
1971—2026

LHS General Meeting—March 23, 2026



(Left)

Author Cherry Diefenbach from the Mountain Empire Historical Society was our guest speaker for the March General Meeting. She spoke about Elihu Granville “Granny” Martin, a well-known local cowboy who lived his entire life all over East County (1895-1991), including Lakeside. “Granny” spent many years in the saddle, moving cattle from inland ranges to mountain valleys and to the desert. Her book, “Vaquero,” is a fascinating look at an incredible man. It will soon be available in our LHS Gift Shop.

(Right)

A number of Granny’s ancestors, including his granddaughter (center of the group) and great granddaughters, were also in attendance, making it an extra special event.



(Left)

Desserts for the evening were provided by our own Lee Bost, who prepared a number of delicious sweets for us. Thank you, Lee!