



OLDE COMMUNITY CHURCH MARKS 125 YEARS

First services held in Lakeside's original community church on February 9, 1896



One of the earliest photos of the Lakeside Community Church, circa 1896. Note the absence of the manse (which would be built in 1911) and the social hall (coming in 1914). Pastor George C. Butterfield led parishioners in the church's first service on February 9, 1896. The building still stands today as the home of the Lakeside Historical Society. (LHS Archives)

Our historic Olde Community Church has reached an impressive milestone: 125 years standing, making it one of the oldest buildings in Lakeside.

When E. Dexter surveyed the first official map of Lakeside in April 1886, there was little to see downtown. Dexter filed the map with the County the following December 30. Soon thereafter, the Lakeside Hotel (later called the Lakeside Inn) took shape in its preplanned location at the corner of Maine and Woodside Avenues. With the addition of another downtown hotel (the Lindo) and a few business buildings and residences sprinkled about, the town slowly started to grow into a destination to be visited and even lived in.

Surprisingly, the town was without a local church until the Presbytery of Los Angeles stepped in. The First Presbyterian Church of Lakeside was duly organized at a public meeting held in the Lakeside Schoolhouse on March 12, 1893 at 3:00 p.m. Worship services were held on the front porch of the Lakeside Inn, as there was no building yet to call home. Reverend D.E. Ambrose served as the first pastor, called in from the

El Cajon church to lead the 13 charter members.

Three years later, the parish had grown to 30 people. The church received a \$500 donation from a Mrs. Hattie French of San Diego toward the purchase of land for a new building. The group bought two lots from the El Cajon Valley (Land) Company for \$10. Located on the northwestern corner of Parkside and Maine, construction began there in 1895 on **Lakeside's first community church. The total cost of construction was \$2,500.**

San Diego architect Moses Frick designed the little church. Born in Philadelphia, Frick worked as a paper boy for the San Diego Union once he got to San Diego. He was a draftsman, deputy city assessor, and contractor before forming the architectural company of Large and Frick in 1896. He chose a Colonial/Greek Revival style for the new community church.

On February 9, 1896, George C. Butterfield led the first services in the newly completed Sanctuary. The official dedication was held the following March 29th. For many years, the Lakeside Community Church was the only church in town and served as a focal point for social and spiritual events in the area.

(More on our Olde Community Church in next month's newsletter issue.)

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING LHS EVENTS

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING: Thu, Feb 11 @ 10am
(Tentative)

GIFT SHOP & MUSEUM: CLOSED

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES & MEETINGS
(To Be Announced)



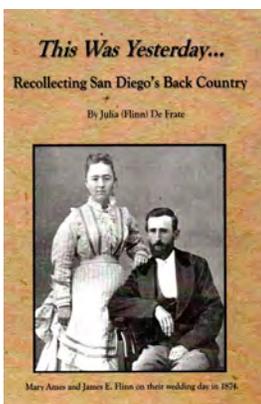
From the 1940s, the photo above left shows Woodside Avenue looking west, with the J.R. Morris Chevron station at the corner of Riverview Drive. Lakeside Grammar School was just beyond the large tree grove. (LHS Archives). At above right, a 2021 photo of the same view. (gem)

DUSTY RHODES: THEN & NOW

(Friend and historian Dusty Rhodes shares many a great tale of Lakeside’s rich history on his Facebook page, usually accompanied by some wonderful photographs. In this issue, we begin to reprint some of those stories. Thanks Dusty!)

Lakeside school students helped create the first gas/convenience store stop in Lakeside! Jerry Morris bought the Chevron station on Riverview and Woodside (then Highway 67) during or around WW2. Also called the Julian Highway back then, Lakeside was like a weekend boomtown filled with traffic. All the affluent city people who had mountain cabins would stop here for fresh eggs, melons, citrus and other fruits in season, or forgotten coffee, bacon or bread. But best of all was “Mom” Morris, as she was known to the kids. She really catered to the students at Lakeside Grammar School (now the middle school) by creating a mini-mart with gum and candy and pop and other things that students wanted, including fruits in season and garden stuff she grew herself for them. “Mom” even made and sold homemade sandwiches for the kids.

Because there were no deliveries in the war days, Pop Morris had to get his own supplies from San Diego and he always had a pad of requests from customers. That’s the way it was back then – community. Can you imagine the little service station (as they all were) having a mini mart in the cubicle? All this happened here. The picture shows the big eave still hanging out over the two old gas pumps. Enjoy and think about our State Route 67 through town and this being the first gas stop as you entered Lakeside. At one time there were up to six gas stations before you hit the bridge to go to Ramona, before the 1970 freeway was put through. What a time back then. --Dusty



New Edition of “This Was Yesterday” now available in our Gift Shop – Cherry Diefenbach of the Mountain Empire Historical Society in our East County has completed her update of a local favorite history book. “This Was Yesterday...Recollecting San Diego’s Back Country” was written and self-published by Julia Flinn DeFrate from 1951 to 1953. Born in 1876, Julia was the granddaughter of Julian and Perfecta Ames, a prominent local family. Her book provides valuable insights about **San Diego’s transition from the Spanish ranchos period to an American settlement. It also describes** the day-to-day experiences and hardships faced by its early back country residents, covering such communities as Los Coches, Flinn Springs, and more. This new edition has been upgraded to include more than 130 historical photos and additional information about Julia and her family, as well as a more structured presentation. We are selling the book for \$25.



LHS MEMBER NAME BADGES AVAILABLE

Current members of LHS are eligible to purchase our new, official nametag for use at our gatherings and events (see photo to left). Your name will appear in black letters on white, with a magnetic backing. The tag costs \$7 per person. Contact Penie McMahon at (619) 561-1886 and order yours now!

FEBRUARY MILESTONES

NEW MEMBERS - WELCOME!

Robert & Connie Reis
Bob & Sandie Campbell
Derreck & Athena Bennett
Cherry Diefenbach

BIRTHDAYS

Betty Frizzell
Bonnie Clark
Curtis D. Clubb
Paul D. McMillan
Bessie L. Langley
Carol S. Clemens Ben-Judah
Beverly Miller
Ronald Oren Conley
Audra Parnell
Jay Quarles
Valentine Lance
Faye R. McFarland Anderson
Jerry L. Aiken Thompson
Wyatt L. Burger
Denise L. Washburn Banegas
Vincent Sullivan
Dick Denure
Robert Hewitt
Mary Jay Dunham Hockenberry
John W. Manion
Carol Vacin
Jennifer Shaffer Roczey

ANNIVERSARIES

John & Donna Swink - 63
Robert & Patricia L. Heger - 63
Fred & Margaret Puhn - 55
Leon & Christine Herzog - 54
Charles & Louise Savage Seibel - 48
David & Charlotte Kingston - 48
Larry & Jeanne Taylor - 43
George & Patsy Shaeffer - 39
James & Connie Morgan - 12
Riverview Water District - 5



MEMORIALS

From Barbara Hogue

Donations from family and friends have been made in the honor of Betty Hartung, Jean Angus and Gary Lansdowne.



**LHS
MEMBERSHIP FEES
REMINDER**

Thank you to all who have forwarded your dues for 2021!

We have a few folks who have not yet renewed their membership, so here's a gentle reminder to please help us continue to preserve and share the history of Lakeside.

Call us at (619)561-1886 if you have any questions.

We appreciate your support!

CORRECTION: In the last issue, we accidentally called Vivian and Bill Nelson by an incorrect last name. Our apologies!



HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

Official publication of the Lakeside Historical Society since 1980

Gary E. Mitrovich, Editor/Head Writer

Contact: garyemit@cox.net * (619)749-3630

Articles, emails, letters & photos are always welcome

Deadline: 2nd Friday of each month

Contributors to this issue:

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DOGS IN LAKESIDE HISTORY

Circa 1948: An oft-shared photo of some Lakeside kids looking (longingly) through the big front window of the Watkins Bake-Sweet Shop (the collie – Lassie? – seems much less interested in the internal goings on). A combination bakery, fountain and candy store on Maine Avenue, Watkins opened in August 1947 and became famous for its fruit cake, which they shipped all over the USA. Their mail order business grew so that they had to setup their own mailroom in the back of the store. It was a favorite gathering place for the youth of Lakeside, as well as adults (and dogs, apparently). That big window was also perfect for advertisements of all sorts – notice two posters for the Clyde Beatty circus in San Diego, another for something called the Barnyard Fun Frolics in Lemon Grove, a free movie on cancer hosted by town physician Dr. Carlile, and an ad for something called a Donald Duck “Kreami-Frost” (some kind of delicious ice cream, I suppose). If you look closely through the glass you can see a classic old soda fountain bar. The bakery closed in 1962, but that building is still in use. (Photograph from the LHS Archives)



THE PAST IN COLOR

Our friend and member Tom Isom is a native boy with a deep family roots in Lakeside. He has shared many a fascinating story and photo about town. His latest project makes it almost worthwhile to join Facebook. Tom has been colorizing old photos and the results are remarkable. Something about color really brings our history to life and adds detail to the lives lived in our old days. Take a look at Lindo Lake (left) in about 1900. Thanks, Tom!