



Volume 42 - Number 8E

August/September 2022

50th Anniversary

1972—2022

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Gary E. Mitrovich

LHS usually runs dark in the summer months, but we held a rare August event this year. The Museum Committee sponsored their Vintage and Boutique Sale within our air-conditioned walls on the first weekend of the month. Though it was a scaled down version of our other similar sales, it still took a lot of work from our dedicated volunteers – and we thank them all! The result of the three-day sale was good enough to have us considering a repeat for next year.

Though not well publicized, El Monte Park celebrated its 100th anniversary in August. Thanks to Pennie McMahon, Rob Harding, Billy and Michelle Ortiz, Barbara Hogue, and Cal Bowman for representing LHS at the event.

Fall is our busiest time of year. It starts with the Maine Avenue Revitalization Association (MARA) annual "9/11 Memorial Walk" on Sunday, September 11 (see poster on page 4).

Our next General Meeting will be Monday, September 26. Fred Wills of the Mountain Empire Historical Society in Campo will speak on early stage and wagon roads of southeastern San Diego County (See poster at right). We will serve pizza and salad and would appreciate an RSVP – call us at (619) 561-1886.

In October we will host our annual Heritage Day event on Saturday, October 22. Arrive at 11:00 a.m. or so for visiting and conversation with friends. Lunch will be served at noon and will be supplied by Cupid's Catering. The menu will include chicken marsala with mushrooms, BBQ pork ribs, green salad and fresh fruit tray, red potatoes with rosemary, green beans amandine, and – for dessert – apple pie and pineapple upside down cake. Donation is just \$20 per person and an RSVP will be needed about a week in advance. We'll be celebrating our 50th Anniversary as an organization! There will be a few awards of recognition, then Andrew Hayes will speak on the history of our historic Lakeside Second School.

Finally, the Board has been working on an exciting project to bring some trees back to our little corner of Lakeside. Don't worry—we're not going to block the view; the new trees will frame the old church on the parkway strip. Coleen Owens and others have been working with the County since early in the year and we should see some new green sometime in the fall!

I hope many of you can make some or all of these events.

Lakeside Historical Society
Fall Welcome Back Dinner
General Meeting & History Presentation
Monday, September 26, 2022
6:00 PM
9906 Maine Avenue * Lakeside
*** Reservations required * Call (619) 561-1886 ***

Guest Speaker
Fred Wills (Mtn Empire Historical Society)
"From Tecate to Jacumba: Early Stage and Wagon Roads of Southeastern San Diego County"



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING LHS EVENTS

MUSEUM MEETING: Thu, Sep 1 @ 10am

BOARD MEETING: Thu, Sep 8 @ 10am

MARA 9/11 Walk: Sun, Sep 11 @ 6:30pm

(SEE POSTER PAGE 4)

GENERAL MEETING: Mon, Sep 26 @ 6pm

Pizza & Salad Dinner—**PLEASE RSVP!**

Fred Wills speaks on Stage & Wagon Routes of Old SD
COMING IN OCTOBER

MUSEUM MEETING: Thu, Oct 6 @ 10am

BOARD MEETING: Thu, Oct 13 @ 10am

HERITAGE DAY: Sat, Oct 22 @ 11am

Catered Lunch @ NOON

Andrew Hayes talks about the Old Second School @ 1pm

\$20 Donation per person—**PLEASE RSVP!**

Trick or Treat on Maine Av: Mon, Oct 31 @ 5-7pm

MUSEUM, GIFT SHOP & ARCHIVES

OPEN: Tues, Wed, Thu & Sat from 10am - 1pm

CLOSED: Sun, Mon & Fri

Meetings & events are held at LHS History Center unless noted

LAKESIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BITS AND PIECES

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: If you know of a member or a member's family who is having a rough time with an illness or the loss of a loved one, please contact Donna Swink. Donna will reach out on behalf of LHS with a card to extend our best wishes and condolences. Donna can be reached at (619) 443-4176 or email swinklksd@aol.com.



SHERIFF VISIT (From Barbara Hogue—photo left): On July 14, Lieutenant Shawn Wray of the San Diego Sheriff's Department made a surprise visit to LHS and introduced himself. He was walking the town asking people about problems, etc. Really a nice local guy (he grew up in Santee) who wants to help make things better for Lakeside. He will be scheduling an appointment to bring more of his co-workers for a tour of our facility. He was so impressed with us ladies.

LAKESIDE LIBRARY: We are all very excited and cannot hardly wait for the new library to open up to the public. You will be happy to know that library staff has already reached out to LHS and will carry a number of our local history books in their inventory, as well as some photos from our archives.

FAREWELL JULIE! Copy Corral has been our official publications printer for many years now. They have been dependable, friendly, and helpful—a perfect (and typical) local company. Julie Walker has been one of our favorite people to work with. Her generosity and support will be greatly missed. We wish her well on her retirement!

GOODBYE ROBIN! We have another goodbye (belated) to share—it's always hard when we lose good people. Robin Rierdan retired earlier this year from her role as Executive Director of Lakeside's River Park Conservancy. Robin has worked at the River Park for the past 21 years. After a prolonged vacation, she plans to come back and work half time. Former Assistant XO Julie Turko has stepped in as the new woman in charge.

50th Anniversary

LHS History

THEFT OF ARTIFACTS NEARLY CRIPPLED LHS EARLY ON

LHS now boasts an extensive archives, filled with photographs, documents, newspaper clippings, family narratives, and more. But, in the beginning, the collection was small yet nearly priceless—and it was just the start of something big that has grown impressively in the past 50 years. But imagine if we lost all that, in one fatal blow. That almost happened in 1973.

The Lakeside Historical Society was incorporated in March 1972. Lakeview School Principal Gene Claussen organized the first meeting, held at the school; Dr. Sam Sloan was elected its first president. The Society had no physical location of any kind at that time, so the initial collection of photographs, documents, and news clippings was being temporarily stored in Mr. **Claussen's office, in a steel chest. The items were considered** priceless by those early LHS members, so when they were discovered missing after a break-in, the new organization was certainly disheartened.

"100 years of history vanishes," was the headline in the *Back Country Trader* on March 21, 1973. According to the newspaper, the school office was broken into on the preceding Sunday, sometime after 4:00 p.m. President Sloan said the loss would be "felt keenly by the many who had worked so hard during the past year to compile this information and material which is so vital to the community." Principal Claussen said the collection had been used several times by groups and individuals doing work in historic research, including high school and college students locally and even out of the country. The day the crime was discovered, the collection was scheduled to be organized and cataloged, to serve as the cornerstone for the fledgling group's archives.

The crime was reported to the Sheriff's Department. The following week, the *Back Country Trader* announced a reward totaling \$250 offered by a number of Lakeside community groups, including the Friends of the Library, the Chamber of Commerce, the Kiwanis Club, and even a private citizen. A plea was made for its return and a few "safe" locations identified—the post office, the library, the school, the newspaper office—along with a condition that no questions would be asked upon the collection's return.

The collection was returned; however, there are no details in our current archives, just a copy of the newspaper article about the reward with an ink-stamped message on it: "Historical Records Have Been Found." Anyone with further information is asked to contact your newsletter and give us the scoop.

LIVING HISTORY DAYS - RECAP

By Stacy Hensle

Photos by Mikki Balicki

Lakeside Living History Days was a great success this past June. The Historical Society was finally able to hold this event after two years. I am thankful for all the volunteers that worked and shared their many skills. All the stations were covered: button sewing, button on a string, braiding, clothes washing, farm equipment demonstrations, "cow" milking (thanks to Oma's!), crocheting and quilting, foot powered sewing machines, Lakeside's history, schoolhouse, bell ringers and especially the cooks: Pennie McMahon and Barbara Hogue. Our volunteers made this day so memorable for the students of the Lakeside Union School District! Students from Lakeside Farms, Lindo Park and Lemon Crest Elementary schools received a warm welcome as they arrived at our event. Our special guests included Dr. Rhonda Taylor, Superintendent of the Lakeside Union School District, and Andrew Hayes, LUSD Board President - and he also represented Senator Brian Jones office. A huge THANK YOU to all who volunteered—looking forward to next year!!

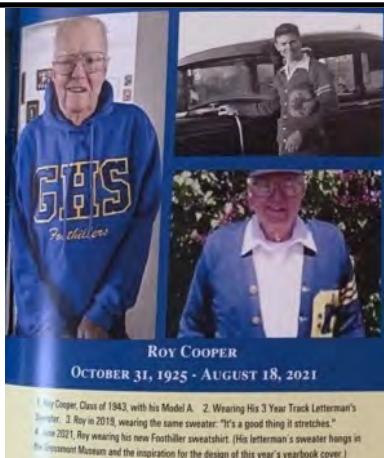


GROSSMONT HIGH HONORS ROY COOPER

From Cathy Wolpers & Allene Savage

The late Roy Lee Cooper's daughter, Coleen, sent us some pics of her dad's entry in Grossmont High School's 2022 yearbook. They used his letterman sweater as the cover (photo left), plus a great little write-up on him inside (photo right).

Roy was a longtime Lakeside resident who graduated from Grossmont in 1943 (where he set a school record as a track star). He was a WWII veteran and a charter member of the Lakeside VFW. Roy passed away in 2021.



ROY COOPER
OCTOBER 31, 1925 - AUGUST 18, 2021

1. Roy Cooper, Class of 1943, with his Model A. 2. Wearing His 3 Year Track Letterman's Sweater. 3. Roy in 2018, wearing the same sweater. "It's a good thing it stretches." 4. June 2021, Roy wearing his new Foothiller sweatshirt. (His letterman's sweater hangs in the Grossmont Museum and the inspiration for the design of this year's yearbook cover.)

A 9/11 STORY: SIX MONTHS LATER

By John Swink

Six months after the attacks on the World Trade Center, Donna and I visited New York City for the first time. They were pleading for tourists and we figured rightly that the small crowds would be a good thing.

We are kind of “seat-of-the-pants” tourists. We pick up maps and guides from the hotel and head out. We eventually visited many must-see sites, but delighted in “discovering” places like the Radio City Music Hall (only blocks from our hotel) and big NYPD horse barn.

We were surprised to be thanked by so many people for visiting and many were eager to tell their 9/11 stories, like the cabbie talking about people finding women’s shoes among the Twin Towers debris that fell on Staten Island.

When we arrived at Ground Zero, we found a big viewing stand with information boards, pictures, and hundreds of flowers and candles. All of the big building material had been removed and we looked down into a hole about a city block square and three stories deep. Workers gingerly picked through piles of debris before it was hauled out in dump trucks. There were many firefighters among the workers. We later learned there were always firefighters in the pit to ensure that no remains of their own were overlooked.

We circumvented Ground Zero but couldn’t get within two blocks of the pit. There were few businesses open in that area and few people about. It was cold and eerie. While walking around the south side we saw an ambulance quietly driving toward the pit. We watched it stop by several big black cars and men in black suits. We continued our clockwise route to the Hudson River and to the west side of the pit. We noticed a guarded gate that led to another viewing stand close to the pit and a guard checking ID’s. I asked him if this was for cops and learned that it was for first responders and victims’ families. We were admitted to a large, covered platform right on the edge of the pit. There was a large wall covered by hundreds of law enforcement and fire department shoulder patches, including one from the San Diego Sheriff’s Department. There were a couple dozen people there, but no one was talking except the docent, a retired FDNY firefighter. He was describing what we were watching. The ambulance was at the top of a long ramp as well as and several bigwigs from FDNY in black uniforms. All work had stopped in the pit.

The remains of a firefighter had been found.

The dozen or so firefighters in helmets and coveralls lined up along the edge of the ramp below us and removed their helmets. A gurney was slowly pushed up the ramp to the ambulance. The sheet on the gurney covered something very small. This ceremony was repeated whenever firefighter’s remains were recovered, even though sometimes it might only be a helmet or a coat found.

TEAM M.A.R.A.
MAINE AVENUE REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION
9.11 MEMORIAL WALK
Presents
STORYTELLER
Ted Tomaszewicz
9/11 THE SECOND TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE WTC. YES, I WAS LITERALLY
AT THE SAME DESK WHEN THE FIRST WTC ATTACK OCCURRED

SUN | 11TH 2022
SEPTEMBER

Gather at 5:30
MARY'S DONUTS
10101 MAINE AVENUE
LAKESIDE, CA. 92040

WALK STARTS AT 6:00
PROGRAM STARTS @ 6:30PM
LAKESIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
9906 MAINE AVENUE
LAKESIDE, CA 92040

**PLEASE STAY SAFE &
FOLLOW THE LAW**

**WE WALK TOGETHER
WE WALK TO REMEMBER
WE WALK TO NEVER FORGET**

THANK YOU LAKESIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR YOUR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT

**POSTER
MAKED**



MEMORIALS

By Barbara Hogue

Generous donations from family and friends have been made in the loving memory of:

FRED PUHN * BETTY MCMILLEN * LEON HERZOG

With a monetary donation to our Memorial Fund for your friend or loved one, a brass plaque will be made and placed on our Memorial Wall. This Fund is used for special LHS projects. Donations are tax deductible.



AUGUST MILESTONES

BIRTHDAYS

01 Martha Jo Head Kerr
 03 Jane Barrons
 04 Helen Zeidler Magida
 05 Camille Barker Nielsen
 05 Robert "Bob" Tea
 07 Esther Schmidt Croteau
 07 James Morgan
 08 Thomas Klippele
 08 Cheryl Chelius
 10 Diane Canfield Angus
 11 Frederic McNabb
 11 Linda Robuck
 11 Barbara Stallings Hogue
 12 Danny Buckel
 12 Paul Johnson
 14 James Mueller
 14 Donald Kuhner
 16 Yrene Woods
 17 Nancy Kulinski
 17 Leanne Prindle Markle
 17 Tamie Webb
 18 Barbara Whitlock
 19 Darryl Jensen
 22 Barbara Donahoo McCauley
 22 Edward Stewart
 23 Donna Bridgeman
 24 H. Lynette Doherty
 25 Lisette Marquez
 25 Janet Prindle (Kemp) Trump
 26 Dr. Bronwin Anders
 27 Steve Grieshaber
 27 Shawn Milton Wettig
 27 Lottie Cook
 28 Denise Holmes Wettig
 29 John Fisher
 30 Rod McMillen
 31 Leeann Evans Silvis
 31 Bethany Herzog
 31 Edward Hayes, Jr.

ANNIVERSARIES

Dr. Joseph & Catherine Hansen – 70 yrs
 Roger & Patricia Howes – 70 yrs
 John & Patsy Miller – 64 yrs
 Robert & Connie Reis – 54 yrs
 James & Lisa Sharp – 49 yrs
 John & Barbara Manion – 48 yrs
 Russell Plumbing – 43 yrs
 Dan & Anita Moody – 42 yrs
 Mike & Sharon Rudin – 38 yrs
 Rex & Michele Hall Anderson, Jr. – 36 yrs
 Tim & Lynn Kanady – 35 yrs

In Memoriam

FRED PUHN (1939-2022)

By Gordon Shackelford

The Puhn family—Herman, Olga, Fred, and sister Judy—moved to Lakeside when Fred was 7 years of age. He attended elementary school in Lakeside, then Lakeside Junior High, and went on to graduate from Grossmont at age 16. He became an Aztec Engineer, receiving his BS and MS in Mechanical Engineering from SDSU. His career included 40 years at General Atomic which included groundbreaking work on fusion reactors and serving as part of the design team for the **lunar landing gear of the lunar lander "Eagle."** On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong and **Buzz Aldrin landed the "Eagle" on the moon** as the whole world watched.

His life-long passion was vintage automobiles, especially racing machines. In 2007, he proposed and led the **Lakeside Historical Society's 100 Year Commemoration** of Barney Oldfield setting a world record for the first **"mile-a-minute" or an average of over 60 mph** on a closed track at the Lakeside Racetrack around Lindo Lake **in 1907.** **Fred's contacts produced a superb display of restored vintage cars** in Lindo Park. It was a wonderful day for Lakeside.

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

The Official Publication of the Lakeside Historical Society since 1980

**Gary E. Mitrovich,
Editor/Head Writer**

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Articles, emails & photos welcome

Deadline: 2nd Friday of month

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 John Swink * Gordon Shackelford
 Cathy Wolpers * Pennie McMahon
 & the Newsletter Mailing Crew

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Check out our website @ www.lakesidehistory.org

SEPTEMBER MILESTONES

NEW MEMBERS

William Kern
 Sandra King

BIRTHDAYS

01 Jean Stanzick
 01 Linda Barnett
 02 Richard Lantz
 02 Judy Trussell
 03 Carol Boynton
 04 Andrew Kuhner
 05 Janice McMillan
 07 Marilyn Gander Jenkins
 07 Debbie Steck
 10 Ron Kasper
 10 Gene Claussen
 11 Patricia Henry Leja
 13 Karen Rae Melville
 13 Patsy Shaeffer
 16 Barbara Channell
 17 Shirley Wilson
 17 Marilyn Joann Head Groff
 18 Don Bright
 18 Patsy Miller
 19 Robert Harding, Jr.
 21 Vikki Grieshaber
 23 Robert Reis
 23 Meridith Bowman
 24 Bill Nelson
 29 Robert "Bob" Mentze
 29 Terry Lee Callen

ANNIVERSARIES

Robert & Patricia Henry Leja – 69 yrs
 Keith & Anne Dreher Van Atta – 59 yrs
 Paul & Janice McMillan – 58 yrs
 Bernard & Mary Tewalt – 54 yrs
 Danny & Cheryl Buckel – 44 yrs
 David & Brenda Wood – 43 yrs
 John & Carol Clemens Ben-Judah – 40 yrs
 George & Kathy Savage – 39 yrs
 Fire & Ice – 39 yrs
 Michael & Sharon Atkinson – 38 yrs
 Joseph & Deborah Horger – 31 yrs
 Theodore & Bette Sherman – 22 yrs
 Gary & Lynette Mitrovich – 10 yrs
 Gary & Patty Armstrong – 5 yrs
 Marty & Yessica Young





In July 2019, we printed this postcard (above) and asked for information on its location. Allene Head Savage responded: "The dim outline of the hills in the background places the site of this picture in the upper El Monte Valley, about half mile east of El Monte Park. The broad sandy run through the center of the picture is the dry San Diego River bed, and the vehicle is about to round a bend at the east end of what was known as Knowles Grade. In the early 1930s, in advance of construction of El Capitan Dam, the road was widened by blasting away part of the mountain. Then, going west, the road ran up an incline and crested a short distance from where the Fritz Hartung river crossing now is. As a sidenote, Captain Knowles was an early settler in the Capitan Grande-Chocolate Creek area and was much respected." Thank you so much Allene!



PHOTO BONUS: This photograph (at left) has been filed in our History Center Archives at the Lakeside Historical Society for many years. The accompanying documentation simply stated, "El Monte Park area, c. 1902." It also appears in 2002 *Images of America—Lakeside California*, by Richard White. While I was researching *Tales of the El Monte Valley*, I happened across the photo when Allene Head Savage was in the room. She told me that the carriage driver here was probably her grandmother, Milyan "Millie" Head! She was known to travel alone from her home in the El Monte Valley to downtown Lakeside on a regular basis. She always wore a white dress with a matching hat and drove a spring carriage! To quote Ernie Head (from



Tales of the El Monte Valley, page 44), "she took the buggy and Winnie and us to Lakeside to sell her butter and to get supplies for the ranch."

