

Poway Echoes

Poway Historical and Memorial Society

March 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone had a wonderful "Holiday Season"! "Christmas at the Park" was a success again this year and was accompanied by music, song, and the gentle patter of rain. (7.5 inches since Jan.1 by my rain gauge). The Board of the P.H.M.S. wishes everyone a "Happy and Prosperous New Year".

The museum has started 2010 with a new display entitled: "Quilts and Feedsacks". Mr. and Mrs. Polk of Poway have loaned their 40-year-old collection of flour sacks and quilts for the display. Mr. and Mrs. Polk can usually be found at the museum during our weekend hours answering questions, so stop by and meet them. Jan Rubacky in concert with appraiser Julia D. Zgliniec hosted a "Quilt Appraisal" Saturday Feb.13.

The museum hosted the quarterly meeting of C.I.N.C.H., Communities Interested in North County History, On Monday Jan.25. We were happy to share our facilities with the many enthusiasts from around the North County.

The museum has acquired two new donations so far this year. Thanks to

Mr. and Mrs. Fahey for their donation of a "player piano" circa 1918 along with approx. 100 player rolls. Thanks also to Mrs. Boccio for her donation of two " Victorian upholstered chairs" circa 1900-20.

P.H.M.S. welcomes two new members this month, Mr. and Mrs. Greg Payne of Poway. Welcome also to a new volunteer docent Jeff Carr also of Poway! We hope you all will stop by to have a look at the displays. Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Polk and Julia D. Zgliniec for their generosity and enthusiasm for our "Quilt and Feedsack" project!

April 17 P.H.M.S. will host an "Antiques Road Show". On May 15 we will hold our annual "rummage sale" so if you need to clean out the storerooms remember this date! Come on out and support P.H.M.S. and the Community Park at "Old Poway"!

Stay well everyone and tell a friend about our "Society".

Jeff Frye, President.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mr. and Mrs. Greg Payne

TREASURER'S REPORT

Income \$ 848.68
Expense \$ 1032.62
Checking Balance &9812.99

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

Since our newsletter came out before the event on December 12 here is an update on the event.

It rained and pretty hard at times. Lo and behold, it was surprising to see how many came out in raincoats to bring their children to meet Santa Claus and enjoy a rainy evening.

The Museum offered hot apple cider that was enjoyed on this cold and rainy night. Lots of people visited the Museum and enjoyed our guest pianist, Lisa Klopp, who was dressed in Christmas attire. Lisa played Christmas music for about 2 hours and some spectators even sang along with her. Lisa is a long time Ramona resident where she taught piano, voice and guitar for 18 years. She is a graduate of the San Diego State University School of Music and Dance". Lisa plays guitar and mandolin and sings with the Poway Folk Music Circle, Bluegrass Circle and the San Diego FaSoLa Scared Heart Singers. We were fortunate to have her play our old grand piano

that is over 100 years old. Also in the park was Bob Meyer who played the organ grinder at the train station. The Nelson House was open with all its lovely Christmas decorations and docents in period costumes.

It was a busy evening in spite of the rain and everyone was enjoying the festivities. If you missed this one be sure to come in 2010 for a grand evening.

Jean Woodruff

Before Plastic Bags

The Museum has an unusual display of feed sacks and items made from feed sacks thanks to Alice and Buck Polk and Julia Zgliniec. The display has a range of sacks from food items including a whiskey sack. There is even a doily made from sack string.

Feed sacks started being used in the middle 1800's when a sewing machine was invented that could sew a strong double seam that would not come apart under the pressure of the heavy grain. Canvas was the original fabric but in the late 1800's inexpensive printed fabrics began to be used. Our pioneers never wasted anything. Farm women made clothing, dish towels, curtains, tablecloths and quilts from the sacks. Since several feed sacks were needed to make a dress and other items farmers were induced to buy more sacks from a single manufacturer. Companies even began publishing patterns using feed sacks. The manufacture of feed sacks was discontinued in the

1950's. Of course, now we have our re-usable grocery bags that we carry into the store to avoid the overuse of plastic and paper bags. The Polks began collecting feed sacks about 40 years ago. Their specialty is making quilts from the sacks. Alice does the designing and Buck does the quilting due to Buck's color blindness. The couple is well known at quilt shows in the North County. Now they have so many that they no longer have room for them. Their children, grandchildren and 17 grandchildren have been lucky recipients of some of these quilts but they are also selling some of these quilts to downsize the collection. In their 80's, they continue to piece the quilts but send them out for quilting on a long arm machine.

We thank the Polks and Julia Zgliniec for their generosity in loaning these home made items for the first time to the Poway Historical and Memorial Society. This is an exhibit not to be missed,

Jan Rubacky

How About That Chimney

Have you noticed the chimney east of Sycamore Canyon Road? If you drive south from Garden Road about 1/2 mile and look to the east towards a box canyon, there stands a lone, stone chimney. Checking the information contributed and gathered by "Poway Historians" like ourselves, and preserved at the museum, we find that the chimney belonged to a home built in the 1880's. The corner property south of Garden Road and east of Sycamore Canyon. Road

was known as the "Winfree/Smith" Homestead in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Winfree's had the original home which was located near the corner of Garden Rd. and Sycamore Cyn. Rd. Around 1884 a Rev. Smith moved to the Poway Valley and married a Winfree daughter. Rev. Smith then built the home belonging to the chimney. Rev. Smith called this home "Longview" according to the view back west of the Poway Valley. The Smith's and Winfree's left Poway in the early 1900's. "Longview" burned down in 1907-08 and today the chimney remains. Legend says that Bank Robbers held up at "Longview" and the resulting siege burned the house down! Joe Sylvester purchased the property in 1913. Mr. Sylvester planted citrus and owned the property until 1940. As of 1993 the property was still referred to as "Swanner Ranch". Charles Swanner, an attorney from Santa Ana, purchased the property in 1940!

Jeff Frye

Antiques Road Show May Rummage Sale

Information and appointments for the "Road Show" can be obtained by calling Jan Rubacky 858-679-0625

Donations for the Rummage Sale can be dropped off at the Museum on Saturdays and Sundays when the Museum is open. For questions regarding donations and pick-up please call Cecilia Burr 858-485-0106 or Jean Woodruff 858-748-1814.