



EL CAJON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HERITAGE

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www.elcajonhistory.org

OCTOBER 2015

Meeting to feature former Navy officer

ECHS will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, October 21, featuring guest speaker Edward R. Murphy, former executive officer aboard the spy ship, the USS Pueblo, when it was captured by North Korea in 1968.



Although traditionally held in the evening, this year's annual meeting will be held at lunchtime due to the rising cost of the dinner meal.

The meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m. at Coco's Family Restaurant, located at 1324 East Main Street in El Cajon.

There will be a brief meeting for the election of officers and approval of the budget followed by a special presentation by Murphy. He was second in command on the ship and the officer in charge of navigation during the USS Pueblo incident when the U.S. spy ship and its crew were seized by the North Korean military on January 23, 1968.

Murphy accepted a commission in the US Navy in 1960. His service included the USS Guadalupe (AO-32); the US Naval Base Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines; the USS Twining (DD-540); the US Naval Destroyer School, Newport, RI; the USS Robison (DDG-12); the US Naval Facility, Centerville Beach, CA; and Executive Officer of the USS Pueblo (AGER-2) that was hijacked in international waters by the North Koreans in 1968.

Lt. Murphy and his crew were held hostage for 11 months as prisoners of war and were repeatedly tortured for information during their internment. As Lt. Murphy was held in Pyongyang which provided him a rare and valuable perspective of North Korea during the late 1960s. He was one of the few Americans to have been inside the country and to have observed military operations.

Following his release from captivity in December 1968, Lt. Murphy resigned his commission, and in 1971, his book "Second in Command" was published. Shortly thereafter he opened an RV dealership, Coach 'N Camper, which he owned and operated until 1996.



USS PUEBLO (AGER-2)

Murphy was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries sustained during the USS Pueblo incident and the Prisoner of War Medal. He was also awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal in 1966 for rescuing three men from a fishing boat.

He and his wife Carol recently celebrated 50 years of joy-filled marriage by cruising to South America. Their travels have taken them to all seven continents including two visits to South Korea.

See the back page of this newsletter for lunch information and the meeting reservation form. The deadline for reservations is Monday, October 19.

Calling all members...

Do you like to talk on the phone? If so, ECHS needs your help.

ECHS is reinstating its "telephone tree" to remind members of upcoming meetings and volunteers are needed to make the calls.

Calls are made only four times a year. Volunteers will be given a list of local members to call and simply remind them of the upcoming meeting and the reservation deadline. The volunteers are only asked to provide information about the meeting and are not responsible for taking reservations or providing transportation to the meeting.

If you'd like to volunteer for the telephone tree, please call Christy Klock at 619-442-8515.

President's Message

A Heartfelt Thank You

by G. Carroll Rice

This is my last 'President's Message' and it reflects my feelings after two terms as President of the Historical Society. Its theme is 'Thank you!' My tenure has been marked by constant help and welcomed advice from a remarkable Board of Directors – men and women dedicated to maintaining, expanding, and improving our Society.



During the past two years there have been some exciting changes, new programs, and public events that required special cooperation and planning. Breaking new ground, we joined the Congress of History of San Diego and Imperial Counties in the celebration of the centennial of Balboa Park and hosted their representatives with a short tour of the Knox House. Costumed members attended the dedication of restored buildings at Grossmont High and Eldonna Lay led the movement to have a historical marker installed at the site of El Granito Springs. Our members and Directors have been involved in celebrations such as America on Main Street, where the booth for our display was generously paid for by Fran Hill.

Individual committees are always at work, maintaining the Knox Museum, assigning greeters, coordinating the Third Grade Essay Contest, producing the newsletter, acquiring new display and educational materials and keeping the records. This year we have even had a committee revising the Bylaws and Standing Rules of the Society. Each of these activities is carried on by volunteers, and if you aren't already enjoying the pleasure and satisfaction of participation, please join us . . . you'll be glad you did.

If you look at the Board of Directors listing that appears on page 7, you will see the names of people who are making a mark in preserving the history of our valley and deserve special thanks from all of us. Others, whose contributions will not be soon forgotten, include Mary Saxton, our Office Manager for many years who arranged for the photocopying of our newspaper collection. Yes, some members have retired or moved away, but newer members such as Ralph and Pam Speake, Tom and Linda Garity, and Colleen White have stepped up to take their places . . . they, too, deserve our appreciation.

El Cajon is unique. I look forward to many more years together celebrating and preserving our exceptional heritage. And, to each and every member and friend of the El Cajon Historical Society, now and in the future, I say THANK YOU!

Carroll

ECHS Profit and Loss Budget Overview

January through December 2016

Income

Book Sales	\$ 500
Donations	350
Dues	2,250
Investment Income	7
Opportunity Drawings	420
Quarterly Meetings	1,150
Sale Items (misc., photos, copies)	1,600
Special Events	1,500
Total Income	\$ 8,127

Expense

Building Maintenance	\$ 150
Insurance	2,200
Membership	80
Miscellaneous Expense	60
Newsletter/Publications	450
Office Expenses	600
P.O. Box Rental	90
Quarterly Meetings	1,015
Safe Deposit Box Rental	135
Sales Tax	82
Security	320
Storage	750
Special Event Expenses	50
Telephone/Internet	1,475
Third Grade Essay Contest	400
Total Expense	\$ 8,127

Renewal time fast approaching

The new year is fast approaching, and with it, the time for most ECHS members to send in their dues. Members who send in their dues early help their association by saving billing costs. This cost savings enables ECHS to make better use of its funds.

Membership dues for 2016 remain the same: \$12 for Individual, \$20 Family, \$30 Organization, \$40 Business, and \$500 Enhanced Life. Please make checks payable to ECHS and send to P.O. Box 1973, El Cajon, CA 92022-1973. Thank you for your support of ECHS!

ECHS to conduct annual elections

ECHS's nominating committee has prepared the proposed slate of officers and Board members shown at right to be presented to the membership and voted upon at the annual meeting October 23 along with ECHS's budget for 2016 that appears on page 2.

This year's nominating committee consisted of Fran Parsons Hill, Joe Klock, Becky Taylor, Jack Dickens, and Anita Tinsley.

ECHS depends on dedicated volunteers to conduct the activities of the organization and to maintain the Knox House Museum as a service to the community. Whether it's welcoming visitors to the Knox, scanning fascinating old photographs, or reading essays written by local third-grade students, all ECHS members are encouraged to get involved and help preserve the legacy of our region for future generations.

ECHS Proposed Officers & Board Members for 2016

President	Carla Nowak
Vice President	Colleen White
Recording Secretary	Linda Garity
Corresponding Secretary	Sharon Jarboe
Treasurer	George B. Dall, CPA
Continuing directors – term expires Dec. 31, 2016:	
Fran Hall	George Carroll Rice
Anita Tinsley	Colleen White
Continuing directors – term expires Dec. 31, 2017:	
Linda Garity	Christy Klock
Dick Lay	Carla Nowak
Proposed directors – term will expire Dec. 31, 2018:	
George B. Dall, CPA	Sharon Jarboe
Mike Kaszuba	Rebecca Taylor
Appointed directors for 2016:	
Jack Dickens	Rick Hall
Joe Klock	Eldonna Lay
Pam Speake	Ralph Speake

Cuyamaca State Bank & Its Many Incarnations

by Mike Kaszuba

The raisin industry boomed in the El Cajon Valley throughout the 1890s and into the new century, and the reputation of the Valley's fertile soil for growing not only grapes, but also a wide variety of fruits and nuts, spread nationally. The San Diego, Cuyamaca & Eastern Railroad had reached El Cajon by 1890 and provided an easy, practical means of transporting large quantities of produce to the coast. By 1902, over 1,000 tons of raisins were being produced annually. Potential farmers, settlers, and speculators began to increasingly view El Cajon as the place to seek their fortune. The 1900 census revealed a Valley population of 563 people, with a little less than half of them living in El Cajon.

By 1907, as plans were advanced for community development and town incorporation, local farmers, businessmen and ranchers began to realize the

need for a bank. To satisfy this need, 19 investors pooled their money and purchased stock in the new bank. This effort was formulated and lead by El Cajon newcomer William Smythe, an author and authority on farming and irrigation. The Cuyamaca State Bank was incorporated on October 17, 1907, and opened for business one month later. Hollywood banker Horace Candee was the largest stockholder, and he was in charge of bank operations. Local landowner Allen Hawley became the first president, and Charles Nichols (owner of Bostonia Ranch) the first vice-president. Also on the board of directors were familiar El Cajon names like John Burgess, Thomas Ballantyne and William Smythe, and E.A. Hornbeck, a San Diego businessman. Other investors included El Cajon familiars like George Sears, D.S. Bascom, James McKinnon, Charles

Graves, W.D. Hall, and Charles Van Houten.

Cuyamaca Bank started out with only \$25,000 in capital stock, and would serve as the lone El Cajon financial institution for 40 years. Its first home was on the ground floor of El Cajon Hall (SW corner of Main & Prescott), where it would remain for five years. After only its first year of business, the bank had amassed over \$70,000 in deposits, and had provided \$42,000 in loans to local interests. From this point on things moved quickly for the bank and the town, each supplying what the other needed. The original "redistribution of wealth" allowed for local investment and capital improvements, which in turn encouraged frequent talks of incorporation, led by Ed Fletcher, a major proponent of cityhood. The 1909 formation of his El Cajon Improvement and City Club was instrumental towards this goal. Such talk bolstered real estate sales and home building. The 2/28/09 *El Cajon Valley News* reported the City Club's

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Cuyamaca State Bank

(continued from page 3)

hiring of the County surveyor to plan for sidewalks, curbs and potential boundaries for the soon-to-be “city.”

In October 1910, bank leaders purchased the SW corner of Main and Magnolia from Charles Van Houten (El Cajon Hotel owner at the time) to build a more substantial and enduring edifice to house the ever-expanding and successful Cuyamaca Bank. The new single-story Mission style building boasted a steel-reinforced concrete vault and cage style teller booths. It opened for business in early 1912, and later that year the City of El Cajon incorporated by a vote of 103 to 35. The city and the bank continued to grow and prosper together, and in 1923 then bank president Godfrey Strobeck (a major Valley landowner) oversaw the construction of a more substantial two-story building on the same site. This is the building we see in the Pennock Collection photo. It is

interesting to note that demolition of the 1912 bank vault required the import of “two expert powder men from San Diego” who used 60 sticks of dynamite to bring down the 24” thick reinforced concrete vault walls. The vault floor, however, was 15” of the same concrete further impregnated with several hundred pounds of scrap iron, and no drill or explosive would touch it (*El Cajon Valley News*, 7/13/1923). The crew resorted to washing away the dirt below the vault floor with high-pressure water hoses so that the floor could be dropped far enough to build over, and it very well might be lying there yet today!

This latest incarnation had three storefronts which opened onto Magnolia Avenue (one of which housed the *El Cajon Valley News*), and the bank itself which opened onto Main Street. The bank must have looked magnificent with its marble floors and wall panels, highlighted with mahogany fixtures and matching

furniture. The second floor had seven office rentals and a large community meeting room, banquet hall and kitchen, which were sorely needed since the 1920 Corona del Cajon conflagration. These rooms were leased to the Valley’s newly formed Masonic Lodge for a period of five years, but in fact the Masons remained for over 30. Nearly all construction materials, furnishings, and even labor were locally supplied at the insistence of Mr. Strobeck. In 1925, the bank installed its final president, Charles Sterling Judson, who bought out Strobeck. Judson’s family had settled the Valley in the 1890s, and Charles grew up in El Cajon. The Cuyamaca State Bank survived and flourished in this new building, even through the Depression and WW II, until it faced what were likely to become insurmountable modernization costs necessitated in 1946. The bank was sold to First National Bank of San Diego, which only retained the building for a year, having decided to build a new bank a little further north on Magnolia, and they sold it back to Judson. He retained and continued to rent it until 1954, when he sold it to El Cajon developer Chester Hardin.

This was to be the final incarnation of Cuyamaca State Bank. Hardin had moved to El Cajon in 1932, and was a pharmacist at the time, having purchased Crabb’s Drugstore, the pharmacy in the building just west of Cuyamaca Bank. Hardin owned much real estate on Main Street, and the corner bank building became known as the Hardin building. Hardin and his family owned it for 40 years, renting out space to many different enterprises, including the Marquis Tailor Shop, a dance studio, a blood bank, thrift stores, and the Bonanza Western Shop (owned by Hardin’s daughter Pat and her husband who used the old bank vault to store cowboy boots). The Hardin building was sold to the City of El Cajon in 1994 to be razed so as to accommodate the widening of Magnolia Avenue.

THE RON PENNOCK COLLECTION

Bonnie Pennock, wife of the recently deceased El Cajon civic leader Ron Pennock, presented the El Cajon Historical Society with a wonderful collection of photographs. One of those photos is showcased below. Upcoming issues of the Heritage will contain more photos from the collection as space permits.



Cuyamaca State Bank was located at the southwest corner of Main and Magnolia in El Cajon in this photo taken in June 1924.

NEW AT THE KNOX

by Mike Kaszuba, Curator

WHITE TREADLE FR SEWING MACHINE

Donated by: Zoe Tom

Description: This beautiful example of domestic finery represents the state-of-the-art in home sewing machines at the turn of the century. American inventor Elias Howe developed the basic sewing machine design, and acquired a patent in 1846. The up-and-down stitching mechanism was patented in 1851 by Isaac Singer, who lent his name to the machine that swept the country in the 19th century. Carter's Publications notes that "It is generally held that the sewing machine was the first domestic mechanical aid to be mass-produced."

The White company was Singer's strongest competitor and was highly regarded as a producer of machines of the highest quality. The company was founded by a Cleveland craftsman named Thomas White in 1876. White released the Family Rotary (FR) model in the 1890s, and it proved to be so popular that it continued to be manufactured all the way up to World War II. The early FR machines (of which this is one) were commonly constructed of beautiful quarter-sawn oak and were a source of pride for the well-to-do housewife of the period. The highly-efficient treadle mechanism was a revolutionary development for the textile industry. A rocking movement of the foot-powered treadle turns the large treadle wheel, and power is conveyed via drive belt and pulley to the sewing machine. The art was easy to learn, and a proficient seamstress of the time could out-produce 15 of the best handstitchers.



The provenance of this donation is only partially known. The low serial number, gorgeous, fancy woodwork and intricate decaling indicate 1890s manufacture, and it is known to have resided for many decades within a Pomona Baptist church, and then acquired some time ago by a Santee neighbor of Zoe Tom. Zoe (an inveterate antique-lover) purchased it from the neighbor at a yard sale and contacted us when she needed more room and was seeking a good home for this treasure. ECHS is fortunate to assume stewardship of this outstanding machine. Thank you so much, Zoe.

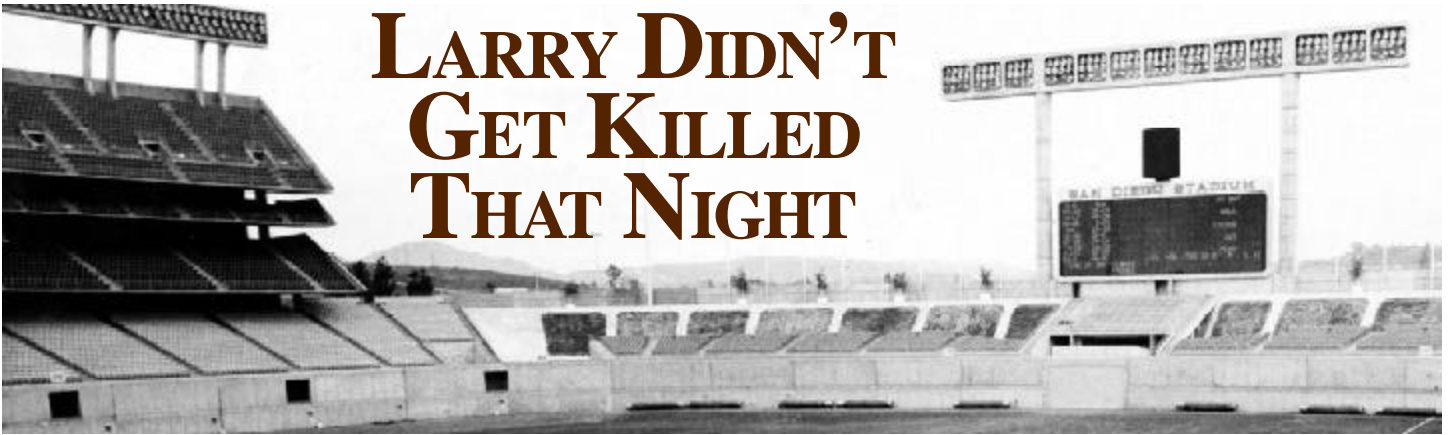
A White Fable

Compliments of Richard 'Captain Dick' Wightman

Once upon a time, there was a young English lord named Prince. He was a bit of a wastrel and was in serious danger of losing the family fortune. While traveling in America, he noticed a White sewing machine. "This machine," he said to himself, "is magnificently designed and made, and very attractive. I believe that if I were to import these to England in large numbers, I could market them at a tidy profit."

He decided that he wanted to be in complete control of his operation, which he viewed on a very large scale. He contracted with the White company for a tremendous number of machines and purchased his own fleet of ships to transport them to England. He even purchased land and built seven new docks in a port on the English Channel.

It is quite possible that Lord Prince's plans might have worked. Unfortunately, the ships with the first load of machines ran into a terrible storm just as they were making port and were thrown up on the steep shores at a spot ever after known as "the White Cliffs of Dover". All were lost. All of the unfortunate entrepreneur's money had been invested in the scheme, and he lost almost everything...even the family estate. All that was left was the land and docks, and thereafter, he was known as the Prince with no Whites and the seven Wharves.



LARRY DIDN'T GET KILLED THAT NIGHT

Some of the unknown history about Jack Murphy, err, Qualcomm Stadium

by Jack Dickens, inspired by Bill Tollefson

Most El Cajon baseball fans have followed the San Diego Padres for years. We have seen them grow in importance from the days of the old Pacific Coast League to today's honored position in Major League Baseball's National League (Western Division). Over the years, the team has played in venues from downtown Lane Field to Petco Stadium in the East Village. They have had their stops and adventures along the way.

Way back in the 1960s the San Diego Padres played at a field owned by C. Arnold Smith – Westgate Park. It was situated where Westfield Plaza is now. In those days it was near the intersection of Highway 80 and Highway 395. Agitation had begun to bring a professional football team to San Diego, and the charge was led by the Union-Tribune sportswriter Jack Murphy. What was needed to make this happen was a new stadium to host this venue.

And sure enough, it wasn't long before a site for the new stadium was found along with the financing to get it built. But wait! Can't a stadium be built that would host both the new football team PLUS the old baseball team? Sure it can! We can build a new state-of-the-art stadium that will do both! Just move the bleachers to accommodate the two venues. It's amazing what sharp minds can do when there's a problem to be solved. Most cities had to have two stadiums – one for each team. San Diego would make do with one!

So there you have it – a new stadium would be built on vacant land in Mission Valley. A technical innovation would make it state-of-the-art. Sections of the bleachers would move. In one position baseball would be played with the fans close up to the home plate. In the other configuration the bleachers would be equal on each side of the football field. So how do you do that?

The Innovation

“Why not make some of the stands easily moveable so that they would be in one place for baseball and in another

for football?” was the problem presented to the designers of the new stadium.

So here's how they solved the problem: they put the moveable sections on giant tires so that they could be rolled easily to the new location. The bleachers were set on the ground for stability during the game, and then they were raised up with large air bags when it became time to move them. The air bags were in line with the frame above the tires. Pick up the bleacher section – inflate the bags. Set the bleacher section down – deflate the air bags. The tires were giant aircraft tires more than waist high to most people with two to each air bag lifting apparatus.

OK, the bleachers are up; now what? A “winch wagon” was constructed that rolled about on giant tires. It consisted of the four tires, a motor with hydraulic pumps and a drive mechanism, a frame, a control panel and seat within a wire safety cage, and two giant winches – one on each end of the frame facing out with ample spools of heavy-duty wire rope.

Navy personnel that have served on aircraft carriers know the dangers of wire rope and what happens when one breaks. When the airplanes land on the carrier flight deck they snag a giant wire rope arresting cable. If the cable were to break, it does so with so much force that the flailing loose end can easily cut someone in half. Knowing the dangers of wire rope under tension, the winch wagon builders had installed what could be described as a very adequate safety cage around the operator.

Around the perimeter of the inner stadium wall were giant attachment eyes that were built in so that they were flush with the wall. All one had to do was attach a cable from one winch to the bleacher section and another cable from the other winch to the attachment eye and reel the cables in to move the section. Simple! The important thing was that the winch wagon and cables be in a straight line

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STADIUM *(continued from page 6)*

between the attachment eye on the wall and the hook on the bleacher section.

The Strategy

Say that a football game was going to be played on a Saturday night and a baseball game on a Sunday afternoon. After the football game the moving team came in with compressors, the winch wagon, and a crane. First, under the stands personnel turned the tires before there was any weight on them so that they were aiming in the direction that the bleachers were to move. Next, with the air compressors the air bags were inflated and the bleachers were lifted off of the ground, their weight now on the aircraft tires. Finally, the winch wagon hooked up and pulled the stadium section into place. Unhook the cables, deflate the air bags, and the moving job was done.

The crane was used to set the foul poles for the baseball game on the first base line and the third base line.

The baseball game was played. After the game was finished the procedure was reversed to move the stands back for the next football game. The crane removed the foul poles and stored them out of the way. Simple!

The Downfall

It was so simple that things went without a hitch for a couple of years. It was taken for granted that this was an easy task to accomplish. Then the bean counters got involved. "If this is so easy to do, and we haven't had any problems, why are we paying equipment operators premium overtime when lower paid groundsman/gardeners can do the job?" they asked. The stadium section moving was usually done between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. after the games. The pay was good. A grounds keeper named Larry was appointed to operate the equipment, saving the cost of heavy equipment operators.

Then interesting things began to happen. One of the most important considerations was that the winch wagon, the attachment on the bleachers, and the eye in the stadium wall were a straight line. One night they weren't. While pulling the bleacher section the cables on the winch wagon suddenly snapped into a straight line and flipped the operator out of the protection cage and onto the ground.

"Oh horrors! A safety violation! We need a seatbelt!" was the hue and cry. The winch wagon was brought to the auto shop and a super-heavy duty seat belt four inches wide, one used for bulldozer operators, was installed. For extra safety, the seat belt did not attach to the seat, but instead was fed through the wire safety cage and bolted into the frame of the back winch. (Make a mental note of this extra-safe installation.)

Well, what were the problems that contributed to this situation? For one, the tires on the bleachers were not correctly aligned before the pull, and extra pulling effort was needed for them to swing around into the proper direction. Secondly, the angle point in the cables at the winch wagon should not have been there. You know that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line, and when the cables suddenly became straight the wagon was flipped over.

How Larry Didn't Get Killed

Now, how could anything go wrong? Everyone learned their lesson – or did they? Things are safer now because there is a super-duty seatbelt for the operator. And, just as before, there was a period of calm before the storm.

Then it happened. One dark and stormy night the tires weren't properly aligned and there was an angle point in the cables at the winch wagon. Not only that, but when the bleacher section started to move it dug into the stadium wall. The solution to this was thought to be to pull harder to get the section to move. Bang! The rear winch broke its welds and pulled loose from the frame. When it did this, it tried to screen Larry through the safety cage before it broke the seatbelt. Remember that the seatbelt was attached to the winch? The belt, as heavy-duty as it was, separated around his waist as he sat in the operator's seat.

Larry was rushed to the hospital and survived. He eventually returned to work. Only now he had a really slim waist and a few missing organs through his midsection. Also, he was promoted to supervisor so that he could have a desk job.

2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President G. Carroll Rice
- Vice President Joe Klock
- Treasurer George Dall
- Recording Secretary Linda Garity
- Corresponding Secretary Sharon Jarboe
- Curators Mike Kaszuba, Eldonna Lay
- Archivist Mike Kaszuba
- Maintenance Rick Hall
- Office Managers Pam & Ralph Speake
- Membership Christy Klock
- Essay Contest Becky Taylor
- Heritage Editor Anita Tinsley
- Members at Large Jack Dickens, Fran Hill, Dick Lay,
Carla Nowak, and Colleen White

Telephone Messages (619) 444-3800

2ND PLACE

GILLESPIE FIELD

by Aiden Criscenti, W. D. Hall Elementary School

The reason why I decided to write about Gillespie Field is because my grandma and grandpa manage some of the hangars there. My grandpa is a pilot of a small plane of Gillespie Field. I have been flying with my grandpa since I was about three years old. I love to fly with my grandpa because I have been able to go to a lot of fun, different destinations with him.

During WWII, in the early part, the U.S. government made Gillespie Field in 1942. Gillespie Field was used as a Marine Corps parachute facility. The camp was about 688-acres long. It was also called Camp Gillespie after Lieutenant Archibald H. Gillespie. The training facility was only open 18 months. During that time over 20,000 Marines jumped from the towers. The three towers were each about 256 feet high. Not a single person lost his life in a jump over that time.

In 1946, Gillespie Field was changed to a regular airport and was leased by the County of San Diego. Gillespie Field is one of eight airports in the county. Then non-military airplanes were flying in and out of the airport at this point. The County of San Diego was given the airport by the federal government in 1952. The Air Traffic Control Tower was installed in 1962. This made the airport a much safer place. In 1971, a helicopter base was placed at the airport by the local county sheriff. The sheriff base is still at Gillespie Field to this day. The San Diego Aerospace Museum built an additional museum at Gillespie Airport in 1993. Gillespie Field today has three runways and is 758 acres. Between the runways, they allow airplanes to land from the

north, south, east and west directions, making it safe to land no matter which direction the wind is blowing. Gillespie Field is located at 1960 Joe Crosson Drive, El Cajon, CA 92020.



GILLESPIE FIELD

3RD PLACE

THE GRAND SUNDIAL OF EL CAJON

by Margot Chammas, Fuerte Elementary School

One day I looked out my car window and saw something strange. It was a big circle made out of steel. I wondered why it was there, who created such a thing, and what it was made of. I asked my parents to pull over so I could get a better look. We got out of the car at the corner of Chase Avenue and Avocado Boulevard in El Cajon. When I saw it up close, I realized it was a sundial.

I wondered what a sundial is. A sundial is the oldest way to tell time. It has markings for each hour of daylight. As the sun moves, it creates shadows, and these shadows help tell the time. The shadows are cast by a gnomon, which may be a long thin rod or other object with a sharp tip.

Sundials are different sizes – for example, there is one that can fit in your pocket called a “pocket sundial.”

Others are giant works of art like the one in El Cajon.

Why is the sundial there? I saw the name Don LeGrand, the maker, stamped on the sundial. With my parents help, I called him and asked him why the sundial was there. He told me that in 1978 he was a student at Grossmont College and took Astronomy and Sculpture classes. A representative from First Federal Savings and Loan went to Don’s class and said, “We have having an art and sculpture contest. The winner’s design will get to go in front of our bank. Don entered the contest and won! He made it at Carlson and Beauloye.

The Beauloye family owned the machine shop and has lived in El Cajon since the 1960s. It took a month to build. It was dedicated in a ceremony in 1978. *(continued on page 9)*

THE WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN

by Odin Goebel, Avocado Elementary School



GRAND SUNDIAL

(continued from page 8)

I think this sundial is special. It is made of stainless steel, brass pegs, and Roman Numerals. It is formed by two intersecting rings. One ring has 15 pegs. It is called an armillary dial. I went down and measured it, and it is over four feet in diameter. Surprisingly, it is taller and wider than me! It is over seven feet. It is registered with the North American Sundial Society as #214, and listed in the Smithsonian Institute's art catalog, control number IAS CA000691.

A bad thing happened to the sundial in the 1990s. Somebody broke the gnomon off and took it for himself. Don said that he would be willing to replace the gnomon.

I hope you enjoyed learning about the grand sundial as much as I did. Let's try to fix the sundial back to the way it was!

The winning essays are posted at www.elcajonhistory.org and are included in this newsletter as space permits. The first place essay ran in the July 2015 issue. Since the third-graders conduct their own research, the El Cajon Historical Society cannot guarantee that all of the information is historically correct.

I am writing about the Water Conservation Garden because I want to show you the importance of conserving water. People waste a lot of water. They waste water by having plants that take too much water to keep healthy. The Water Conservation Garden's purpose is to show people to conserve water by having plants that don't take as much water but still look nice.

The Water Conservation Garden is a nonprofit organization in El Cajon near Cuyamaca College. They opened in 1999. They built it because El Cajon did not have enough water and to teach people to conserve water. In the 1900's there were only about 500 people living in El Cajon. El Cajon was a farming town. They grew oranges, lemons, and grapes. They used the grapes for raisins.

In the 1990's, the Helix and Otay water districts began to think about making a Water Conservation Garden because of the severe droughts in Southern California. They joined with

Cuyamaca College to create the garden. The garden grew to nearly six acres with a donation from the college.

Why do people go there? People go there to get ideas to conserve water. They look at the exhibits and go home to do things that conserve water. For example, they get drought-resistant plants. If everyone in El Cajon got drought-resistant plants there would be more water when we need it. My family and I go there to get ideas and have fun there. In my opinion, kids should go there on field trips so they can get some ideas.

The biggest threat to El Cajon is the lack of water. The importance of saving water could not be more important today. The Water Conservation Garden is the best example that makes a difference in conserving water. I have learned from going there that you can have a nice yard and also use less water. That is the importance of saving water.



THE WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN

From: El Cajon Historical Society
P. O. Box 1973
El Cajon, CA 92022



EDWARD & CAROL MURPHY

Annual meeting set for Oct. 21

ECHS's annual meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, October 21, at Coco's Bakery & Restaurant, 1324 East Main Street in El Cajon (near North Second Street). Lunch will be served at noon followed by our guest speaker Edward R. Murphy, Jr.

Three sandwich options are available:

■ Three-Cheese Brioche Melt featuring smoked gouda, cheddar and swiss cheeses on gold toasted Brioche bread plus your choice of bistro salad, a cup of soup, or French fries.

■ Turkey-Avocado-Jack Croissant consisting of a flaky, fresh-baked croissant piled high with turkey breast, avocado, jack cheese, lettuce and tomato plus your choice of french fries, sweet potato fries, coleslaw, quinoa grain salad, or bistro salad.

■ Prime Rib Philly Sandwich featuring thinly shaved prime rib with sauteed peppers, onions and melted Swiss on grilled sourdough bread plus your choice of french fries, sweet potato fries, coleslaw, quinoa grain salad, or bistro salad.

All meals include coffee, tea or soda.

The cost for the meeting, including lunch, remains \$15. Reservations are required and must be received by Monday, October 19.

To:

October Meeting Reservation Form

Number Attending _____ (\$15 each)

*Reservations not kept
become a donation*

Amount Enclosed _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Indicate One Side for Each Sandwich Choice

___ **Brioche Melt** with ___ Bistro Salad ___ Soup ___ Fries

___ **Croissant** with ___ Bistro Salad ___ Coleslaw ___ Fries

___ Sweet Potato Fries ___ Quinoa Salad

___ **Prime Rib** with ___ Bistro Salad ___ Coleslaw ___ Fries

___ Sweet Potato Fries ___ Quinoa Salad

RESERVATION DEADLINE - MONDAY, OCT 19

Mail reservations and checks to:

ECHS, P.O. Box 1973, El Cajon, CA 92022-1973