



EL CAJON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# HERITAGE

Volume 36, Issue 3

[www.elcajonhistory.org](http://www.elcajonhistory.org)

JULY 2015



*Tom Garity, left, and Dick Lay, second from left, tell visitors about El Cajon's history at ECHS's booth at the America on Main Street event held in May.*

## July meeting to feature encore presentation

"I should have brought..." was voiced by many ECHS members after jewelry appraiser Erik Johannesen spoke at our meeting last year.

So to give you an opportunity to bring those items, our next quarterly meeting will again feature the jewelry appraiser.

Using the items you bring in as examples, he will explain how antique jewelry is appraised and give you an estimate of their value. He has 30 years of experience in estate and collectible costume jewelry.



**ERIK JOHANNESSEN**

The quarterly meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, July 23, at Nicolosi's Italian Restaurant, 221 East Main Street, El Cajon (next to the Promenade).

See the back page of this newsletter for lunch information and the meeting reservation form. The deadline for reservations is Monday, July 20.

## New directors fill vacancies

The Board of Directors approved the appointments of three new members to fill recent vacancies: Pam Speake, Ralph Speake, and Linda Garity.

Pam and Ralph Speake joined the Board as our new office managers. As such, they will be responsible for maintaining office supplies and equipment to keep ECHS running smoothly. Raised in El Cajon, Ralph and Pam are graduates of El Cajon Valley High School – Ralph in 1962 and Pam in 1963.

The Board also welcomed back Sharon Jarboe as corresponding secretary, a position that was temporarily filled by Linda Garity. The Board then appointed Linda to the position of recording secretary. Linda docents at the Knox House and helps with the essay contest. She and her husband Tom are transplants from The Midwest who purchased the Van Atta home.



*During World War II, this Honor Roll board stood in the empty lot east of the two-story building – then a Rexall Drug Store owned and operated by step-brothers Larry Russell and Harry Hill – on the northeast corner of Main and Magnolia. The huge billboard bore the names of local men and women in the military serving in Europe and Asia. Blue stars were posted beside those who were living. For those who died, the blue stars were replaced with gold ones. At the end of the war, the board was taken down and stored. Soon a single-story store filled in the space on Main Street. Over the years, that store has been used by many different merchants.*



# **The Knox: a 'cool' place this summer**

**by G. Carroll Rice**

Summer is here and I'm happy to report that thanks to the efforts of Rick Hall working with the City, the air conditioning is now capable of cooling the Knox House. You'll recall that at the end of last year, both heat and air systems failed, forcing the closure of the museum.

'Greeters' is the new name for the volunteers at the Knox House. The title best reflects the duties of those guides who make our guests welcome and point out the significance of the various displays. If you've been considering joining the staff at the Knox, now is an excellent time to do it. It amounts to as little as three hours a month. You'll meet interesting people, chat about the fascinating history of our Valley, and you'll be teamed with an experienced greeter. We also need people to assist in cataloging and sorting photographs. Think about it! It's fun, educational, and an opportunity to add your special expertise to benefit your Historical Society.

The America on Main Street celebration joined the efforts of the Society to the display of the accomplishments of the City. Fran Hill donated funding for the double-wide booth tents that housed our exhibits, and Society volunteers acted as greeters, welcoming the many visitors to our booth. The chief attraction was a 4' x 8' photograph of El Cajon's Main Street in 1927. Tom Garity displayed his antique tools and Mike Kaszuba's assemblage of c1900 Corona Hotel antique bottle artifacts completed the displays. Reprints of Mike's article about Camp Grossmont gave visitors a sample of the coverage of El Cajon history in our Heritage newsletter.

Our annual Third Grade Essay Contest was a great success with over 400 students participating. Special 'thank you's' are due to co-chairs Becky Taylor and Alice Rodriguez. Alice is retiring from the contest after 17 years of organizing, judging, and coordinating related activities with the schools.

In preparation for the contest, Becky presented a series of short programs about the history of El Cajon at selected schools. Using slide shows, artifacts and printed materials, she advised students to choose subjects of interest for their essays and offered additional support to their teachers. Gratitude is due, as always, to all of the volunteers who manned the check-in/certificate desk, greeted parents and students, and assisted with the awards ceremonies. Rick and Sharon Hall contributed the cookies and beverages to complete the celebration.

When the Society needed someone to fill the position of Recording Secretary, Colleen White enthusiastically volunteered. Colleen admits to a special love of the El Cajon Valley. She is a descendent of the Pedorena family, the 1845 grantees of Rancho El Cajon. (See story page 9.) Now, a variety of issues have forced Colleen to resign the position but she has chosen to remain on the Board. Linda Garity has volunteered to become Recording Secretary. Linda has been substituting for Sharon Jarboe during her absence. Happily, Sharon has returned and will resume her duties as Corresponding Secretary. These three women, who have showed their concern and sense of responsibility to the Society, deserve our heartfelt thanks and admiration.

We have a vital and comprehensive historical organization and I, for one, am proud to belong. We have a dire need for more of our members to become truly active and make their personal contributions. Come share with us. You'll be glad you did.

**Carroll**

## **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



*Paul Barnes, president of Shea Homes in San Diego, presents El Cajon historian and author Eldonna Lay with a check for his firm's lifetime membership in the El Cajon Historical Society.*



*Richard Hall, left, presents the Rexford L. Hall Memorial Trophy to the first place winner Julianna Inouye from Avocado Elementary.*

## Kids' essays reap awards

The 34th Annual Third Grade Essay Contest awards were presented June 8 in the Greenfield Middle School Theater to the cheers of family and friends.

ECES would like to thank the Cajon Valley Union School District (CVUSD) for their support, co-chairpersons Alice Rodriguez and Rebecca Taylor for coordinating the contest, and the many other helpers who contributed to a successful event.



*Christy Klock, left, checks in students at the awards ceremony.*



*CVUSD Superintendent David Miyashiro, left, awards Aiden Criscenti the second place trophy.*



*Deputy Slim, aka Bob Callen, right, from the Olaf Wieghorst Museum welcomes guests to the awards ceremony.*



*William Somers, aka Carroll Rice, left, presents the third place trophy to Margot Chammas.*



*City Council Member Star Bales (second from right) poses with the top three winners who were given special proclamations from the council.*

# 2015 Third Grade Essay Contest Winners

AWARD	STUDENT	ESSAY TITLE	SCHOOL
1st Place	Julianna Inouye	The Cloud Family	Avocado
2nd Place	Aiden Criscenti	Gillespie Field	W.D. Hall
3rd Place	Margot Chammas	The Grand Sundial of El Cajon	Fuerte
Heritage Award	Adrianna Margo	My Parents	Meridian
Virginia Stead Award	Odin Goebel	The Water Conservation Garden	Avocado
Nettie Kersten Award	Illy Bezio	The El Cajon Valley Speedway	Flying Hills
Kumeyaay Culture	Nico Valstar	Sycuan's of the Kumeyaay: Games	Crest
Olaf Wieghorst Award	Emily Olson	The Artist Olaf Wieghorst	Vista Grande
Neatness	Leila Kinslowe	Home Away From Home, The Knox Hotel	Flying Hills
Originality	William McCann	My Magnificent El Cajon Adventure	Fuerte
Honorable Mention	Ken Wolf	The Pedrorena Family	W.D. Hall
Honorable Mention	Jamie Ash	El Cajon's Toy Story	Fuerte
Honorable Mention	Jamie Jackson	My New Home, El Cajon	Flying Hills
Honorable Mention	Mina Atto	The History of the El Cajon Fire Department	Fuerte

## Best of School Awards

(SCHOOL / STUDENT / ESSAY TITLE)

### ANZA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Kimberly Navarro  
The Heritage of the Americas

### AVOCADO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Julianna Inouye  
The Cloud Family

### BLOSSOM VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Carena Tanson  
A Day At El Cajon Speedway



Deputy Slim aka Bob Callen, left, poses with the Olaf Wieghorst Award winner Emily Olson.

### CHASE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Samara Gaytan  
Elizabeth Ackles

### CREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Evan Harper  
Knoxville

### FLYING HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Issac Vang  
The Knox House

### FUERTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Lucy Holenstein  
The El Cajon Oktoberfest  
and The G.A. Society

### JOHNSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Joshtyn Hurtado  
El Cajon History Ice Age

### MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Cadence Jach  
The Story of the Mother Goose  
Parade

### MERIDIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Halley Napieralski  
The Story Behind the Streets  
of El Cajon



Theodora Birdseye aka Eldonna Lay, left, presents the Kersten Award to Illy Bezio.

### NARANCA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Luznely Castillo  
(unknown)

### VISTA GRANDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Aidan Cornthwaite  
The Fastest 38 Mile Paved Oval  
in the West

### W. D. HALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Simon Qopi  
The Hall Family



# THE CLOUD FAMILY

by Juliana Inouye, Avocado Elementary School

John Cloud was born in 1894. He was the first black sergeant for the San Diego Police Department. He was married to Sarah Cloud and they had two children, Ben and Joel. He moved to El Cajon when he retired. They bought property in El Cajon that was a ranch of 30 acres. He called it Ben Joel Ranch after his kids. Their ranch used to be where Lexington Avenue now crosses Third Street. John passed away in 1947.

Ben Cloud was a Navy jet pilot that flew investigation missions over Vietnam before the war began. Later he was an executive officer for the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk.

Joel Cloud was two years old when he came to live in El Cajon in 1939. When Joel was young there was only one paved street and the rest were dirt roads. He has lived in El Cajon 76 years. Joel had bought the Hester's Granite Pit in 1978. It was 94 acres of land.

Joel worked as an equipment operator when he was younger for several years. He started his own company with a partner. The company was called C & H Construction.

Rita Cloud met Joel Cloud when she was 10 years old. Her aunt and uncle were Joel's godparents and that's how they first met. They got married and had three sons, Jon, James, and Joel Jr. They have five grandchildren from their three sons. Their names are J Brandon, Alexa, Jett, Joshua, and Jack.

Rita Cloud has lived in El Cajon 68 years. She has done many different jobs in the El Cajon area. She did substituting for 21 years at El Cajon schools and was a *sous* chef at Butler's Pantry and Bullock's Department Store. Rita also taught modeling classes at Montgomery Ward and May Company. She and four friends started one of the first parent-participation preschools at a Baptist Church on Third Street 51 years ago. She is still currently involved with El Cajon Friends of the Library.

The winning essays are posted on ECHS's website at [www.elcajonhistory.org](http://www.elcajonhistory.org) and will be included in upcoming issues of this newsletter as space permits. Since the third-graders conduct their own research, the El Cajon Historical Society cannot guarantee that all of the information is historically correct.



*Rita Cloud was memorialized in an oversized portrait painted by artist Mona Mills. The portrait was displayed as part of the County Library's 2013 celebration of East County Legends that honored those individuals who made our community a more interesting and pleasurable place to live and work. Rita is also a long-time member of the El Cajon Historical Society.*

Rita Cloud told me some of the biggest changes she has seen in El Cajon are the diversity of the people there are now. For example, she said that there were mostly white families, minimal African-American families, some Indians, and there were Mexicans, but she never saw them. She also says the thought process of people in the past has changed. The example she gave was that someone did not let the book *Harriet and the Promised Land* in the library because people thought that the pictures of the colored people were ugly.

Joel and Rita still own Hester's Granite Pit to this day. They are currently leasing the property to Robertson's. The family also started a recycled material business called J. Cloud, Inc., also known as J.C.I. This business is now operated and managed by their three sons, Jon, James, and Joel Jr.

It was interesting to learn about all the different dates when the Cloud family came to El Cajon. I have enjoyed interviewing Rita Cloud and having her tell me all her stories.

# NEW AT THE KNOX

by Mike Kaszuba, Curator

This quarter's acquisitions were highlighted by the addition of many new photographs to the archives.

## OLD 8X10 PHOTOS OF MAIN STREET EL CAJON

**Donated by:** ECHS eBay purchase from Dennis Toth

**Description:** Once again the generosity of an eBay merchant has allowed us to fortify our photo archive at a very reasonable cost. Our thanks go out to eBay seller (((ddt))) who allowed me to purchase these great photographs under a Buy It Now option at no increased cost, thus sidestepping the expected open auction price run-up from San Diego history buffs. How these two pictures ended up in Ukiah, CA, where they were discovered by eBayer Dennis Toth, we'll never know.

One of the photos is identified on the back as Corner of Main Street and Magnolia 1926. The picture depicts the Stell-Clark General Store, Weinstock's, Bascom's Meat Market, a corner Rexall Pharmacy, and a whole line of neat old automobiles. Check out the super-crude early street lighting!

The second photograph was identified as Knox Hotel 1885. It shows two horse-drawn buggies and three very dapper gentlemen in what certainly appears to be a staged photograph. For those who may not be familiar, the small, attached side building on the far right is the original 1876 Knox Hotel and today's Knox Museum. The rest of the "El Cajon Hotel" is what we call the Annex, backed by a sizable livery stable with buggies, drays and horses for rent. Our Museum is all that has survived. The reverse of this photo was stamped "Compliments of Ron Pennock, Stewart Title Company", and led to my becoming acquainted with



**CORNER OF MAIN & MAGNOLIA 1926**

Bonnie Pennock, wife of the recently deceased El Cajon civic leader Ron Pennock. Bonnie presented the historical society with a wonderful collection of photographs that will be showcased in upcoming Heritage issues.

## THREE ECHS-SPONSORED BOOKS, A BINDER OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH MATERIAL ON THE LIFFREING HOUSE, J.B. STANNARD, ETC., AND PHOTOS OF THE JAMACHA SCHOOLHOUSE

**Donated by:** ECHS life member Karna Webster

**Description:** I had been familiar with the history of the Jamacha schoolhouse, but had never seen a photograph of it and always surmised the structure was long gone. So imagine my surprise while assisting La Mesa's Jim Newland with archival material to learn that the schoolhouse not only still existed, but that an entire house had been constructed around it, with the original schoolhouse now serving as a living room!

I was informed that hearsay related the existence of some old photos, and that was all it took for me to get hot on the trail. After extensive talks with the home's current owner, Jack Doherty, and then on to local historian Karna Webster's house for some serious picture-hunting through several of Karna's many boxes of stored photos, Karna, my wife Michelle and I called it quits and made an appointment for a return visit to continue the hunt. However, upon walking through the door on the next occasion, Karna proudly presented Michelle and me with the photos she had discovered in the interim, a series of black and white 35mm shots and negatives showing the incorporation of Jamacha schoolhouse into Jack's new home, as well as an earlier Polaroid photo of the schoolhouse.



**KNOX HOTEL 1885**

*(continued on page 7)*

# W.D. Hall Elementary celebrates El Cajon history

Wanting to teach third graders about El Cajon's rich history in a fun and creative way, teachers at W.D. Hall Elementary School did just that.

Supported by their principal, Colleen Newman, the school community, and ECHS Docent Coordinator (and retired Cajon Valley teacher) Becky Taylor, the school's third grade teachers Vicki Jones, Brinna Van Slayke, Joy Tongzon, and Alison Esquivel designed and coordinated their first ever Third Grade El Cajon History Day, which was held March 13.

The students had been learning about El Cajon's history so they were primed to view a slideshow and presentation on El Cajon history by ECHS's Becky Taylor. Afterward, the third graders returned to their classrooms, where each teacher had prepared a different activity that reflected part of an El Cajon's pioneer child's life.

To add to the fun, the teachers, the principal, and most of the students dressed in pioneer costumes. Little girls in dresses and long skirts and boys wearing button shirts and jeans went from classroom to classroom and learned to write with ink and a quill pen, sing a 19th century American folk song, dance the Virginia reel, and decorate a wooden frame that will hold his/her "old-time" photo.



*Many of the students at W. D. Hall Elementary School dressed in pioneer costumes for El Cajon History Day.*

Every class spent approximately 30 minutes at each station (classroom). Many parent volunteers helped in the classrooms and manned the "old-time" photos and refreshment areas. The fun continued after lunch when the children played hopscotch, jacks, and other pioneer games. Throughout the day the children and adults voiced their eagerness and joy, and the W.D. Hall Elementary third grade teachers are already planning next year's El Cajon History Day!

ECHS salutes W.D. Hall School teachers and school community for their ingenuity and enthusiasm and encourages every Cajon Valley elementary school to hold its own El Cajon History Day.

---

## NEW AT THE KNOX *(continued from page 6)*

I will write an article on this little-known story for a future Heritage after more research and discussions with the aforementioned. The Jamacha School, named for the large Jamacha School District, was built in 1881 and closed circa 1923 with construction of the new El Cajon Valley (elementary) School. Thank you Karna for these great photo jewels I never realized existed!



*An abandoned schoolhouse transforms into a modern-day living room! (Photo circa 1978.)*



*Long before renovations of the 1960s and 1978, the little schoolhouse with its "lean-to" addition was variously known as Jamacha School, Spring Valley School and Jamacha Community Club. It served as a meeting and recreational venue for Spring Valley residents for over 60 years, beginning in the 1880s. (Photo circa 1950s.)*

# THE EFFECT THE 1836 TEXAS REVOLUTION HAD ON RANCHO EL CAJON

by Jack Dickens

In the April 2012 *Heritage*, G. Carroll Rice wrote: “It took an act of Congress and the signature of the president...” to secure the patent for Rancho El Cajon. He continued in a later conversation that a patent on a land grant was the highest form of authentication that could be obtained for that property. And, in spite of the extra work in Washington, D.C. by Levi Chase, the attorney for the landowner Isaac Lankershim, the patent for Rancho El Cajon still took 24 years to secure. It went before Congress in 1876, and the president that signed the bill was Ulysses S. Grant. As required by law at that time, the patent for Rancho El Cajon had been applied for in 1852. By the time Isaac Lankershim purchased the rancho, the patent application had been in the courts for 17 years.

Doña Antonia Maria Estudillo de Pedrorena received the Mexican land grant for Rancho El Cajon in 1846 from California Governor Pio Pico. The grant was for 11 square leagues – 71.5 square miles or 48,800 acres. George Sutherland was the attorney who initially represented the Pedrorena family in the patent application in 1852 with the U.S. government. However, by 1869 Levi Chase was the attorney and Isaac Lankershim was the landowner. How did this situation come to pass?

The reasons for this may have begun back in 1836 with the Texas Revolution. A year before that in 1835 General Antonio López de Santa Anna dismissed the democratically elected legislature and declared himself the Supreme Dictator for all of Mexico. Several states withdrew from Mexico, including the state of Tejas, as it was known then. The Texians then drove out the remnants of the Mexican army from their state. After this Santa Anna and his army began a march of conquest to subdue the rebelling territories.

Santa Anna’s tactic to instill fear in the rebelling population was to kill all those that were involved in the revolution – the fighters, the captives and the combatants’ families that were in the towns and villages.

About 100 Texian soldiers were garrisoned at the Alamo, a former mission which had been fortified. During February 1836, Santa Anna’s army laid siege to the Alamo.

Santa Anna declared that the Texian defenders were the equivalent of pirates and should be shown no mercy. On March 6 the Alamo surrendered and all of the remaining fighters were killed. To further offend the people of Tejas, all of the bodies were cremated. This was an affront to their Christian belief that a body from the grave was needed to ascend to the Gates of Heaven. A week later the Mexican army attacked Fort Goliad. After the battle, 342 men who surrendered were marched out into a field and executed. And, as happened at the Alamo, all of the bodies were cremated.

But rather than instill fear into the population, Santa Anna’s actions created rage. The Texas Volunteers, led by Sam Houston, formed and continued to grow in number with each passing day. The Volunteers formed a rear guard operation to protect the fleeing families that were moving out ahead of the advancing Mexican army.

About a month after the massacre at Fort Goliad, the Texas Volunteers staged a surprise attack on the Mexican army at San Jacinto. The battle lasted 18 minutes. Seven hundred Mexican soldiers were killed, and 730 were captured, including Santa Anna. Sam Houston’s vastly outnumbered forces attacked at 4:30 p.m. during the afternoon siesta when the Mexican officers were in their tents with their girlfriends. The song “The Yellow Rose of Texas” is about Santa Anna’s girlfriend. Santa Anna was later taken to Washington, D.C. where he was the guest of the president for a week before being allowed safe passage back to Mexico. He promised to aid the new territories and the United States in the future.

James Knox Polk was elected President in 1845. He despised Mexico. He went out of his way to instigate a war with that country. The Mexican-American War, from 1846 to 1848, culminated with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The treaty ceded vast territories to the U.S. – about 525,000 square miles – and established the nation’s southern boundaries. This included the present states of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Nevada, Utah, and parts of Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas and Oklahoma. This new territory allowed President Polk to achieve one of his campaign pledges – that of “Manifest Destiny” – where the U.S. would extend from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. The treaty also contained a clause that the existing Mexican land grants would be honored. It

*(continued on page 9)*



GEN. SANTA ANNA

# RANCHO EL CAJON

*(continued from page 8)*

included a payment of \$15 million in gold and silver. Santa Anna clandestinely aided the United States' war efforts by placing his army in positions that were to the army's disadvantage ensuring defeat.

As an aside, the first stanza of the Marines' Hymn "From the Halls of Montezuma..." refers to the attack on Mexico by U.S. forces during the war, and to the Marines' advance on the capitol, Mexico City.

After the dust had settled, President Polk and Congress unilaterally rescinded the clause of the treaty that honored the Mexican land grants. Following that, in 1851, Congress passed the "California Land Claims Act." This act required that all of the Mexican land grants in California be patented. Any land grant that had not applied for a patent within two years of the act's signing would revert to the public domain. Each patent application would first be reviewed by the California Land Claims Commission, a court of three appointed justices. Any affirmative declaration of the court was automatically appealed by the federal government to the federal courts. Positive declarations in the federal courts were automatically appealed to the next higher level of courts. The patent applications could go all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court and take 20 to 30 years to resolve. Some of the problems that arose with the patent applications were that the land descriptions were imprecise, and that neither Mexico nor Spain issued deeds to the properties. Land records were not centralized, but instead they were kept in various government locations.

Gold was discovered in California about a week before the conclusion of the Mexican-American War. More than 300,000 people came to California to seek their riches. Ranchers and farmers that provided for the necessities for this influx of population prospered greatly. One of these ranchers was Isaac Lankershim.

As the result of legislation by President Polk and Congress, Antonia Maria Estudillo de Pedrona and her husband and her father applied for land patents for their respective parcels in 1852. Antonia Maria had received Rancho El Cajon, and her husband had received Rancho San Jacinto Nuevo in Perris Valley, and her father had received Rancho San Jacinto Viejo, also in Perris Valley. All of the land grants were for 11 square leagues.

In 1869 Antonia Maria sold Rancho El Cajon through a proxy to Isaac Lankershim, a rich farmer and rancher, to escape the ongoing costs for representation by her attorney Thomas W. Sutherland in the appeals. They had been in the patent application process for 17 years. Her husband toughed it out in the courts for 30 years and received the

patent for his property in 1882. Her father's patent took 35 years to obtain. By the time the California Land Claims Court adjourned in 1857, 813 applications for land patents had been reviewed – 604 were accepted, 190 were rejected, and 19 were withdrawn.



ISSAC LANKERSHIM

(3 square leagues) of land and 40,000 head of sheep in Central California near Fresno.

When South America and Australia began raising sheep, the price of wool decreased. This encouraged Lankershim to begin growing wheat, and by 1875, Isaac Lankershim had the world's largest wheat growing operation on his combined properties.

As an example of how various situations influence each other, the Crimean War, 1853-1856, was fought with England, France, the Ottoman Empire, and the Kingdom of Sardinia versus Russia. To finance its participation in the war, England forced China to buy tons of its opium grown in India. China resisted, and this resulted in the Opium Wars, which China lost. The opium had a negative social impact on China, and soon there were widespread famines. As a result of this, Isaac Lankershim in California began selling wheat to China. As mentioned above, by 1875 he was the world's largest wheat producer.

Russia also needed to replenish its treasury due to the war. To help accomplish this, it sold Alaska to the United States on October 18, 1867 – Seward's Folly, after Secretary of State Seward who negotiated the deal – and also in retaliation for England's opposition in the Crimean War. This sale prevented England from expanding across the northern territories of North America.

Returning to the beginning of this article, Isaac Lankershim's attorney was Levi Chase. Among other things, Chase was promised about 7,624 acres of his choosing on the rancho. To circumvent the California Land Claims Act enacted after the conclusion of the Mexican-American War, Levi Chase went to Washington D.C. His strategy was to obtain the patent by appealing directly to Congress to approve a bill which provided for the land patent. After congressional approval, the bill needed the signature of the president. So that is why "...it took an act of Congress and the signature of the president..." which probably may not have occurred if it were not for the Texas Revolution and Gen. Santa Anna's capture.

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

### *Almost done*

The Centennial issue of “Valley of Opportunity” is still in production. The Heritage will contain information on how you can purchase a copy as soon as it’s available.

**To:**

### **Welcome New Members**

George Paul Family  
Shea Homes as a Life Member

## ECHS schedules repeat performance

ECHS members raved about the venue after our last quarterly meeting so we’ve scheduled another one at Nicolosi’s.

The July Quarterly Meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, July 23, at Nicolosi’s Italian Restaurant, 221 East Main Street, El Cajon. Lunch will be served at noon followed by an outstanding presentation on antique jewelry.

Parking is available behind the restaurant off East Douglas Avenue.

Four lunch options are available:

- Eggplant Parmigiano
- Baked Lasagna
- Torpedo Special, or
- Charbroiled Chicken Salad

The Eggplant and Lasagna entrees come with a dinner salad. All meals include coffee or tea and ice cream for dessert. The cost for the meeting, including lunch, remains \$15.

Reservations are required and must be received by Monday, July 20.

## July Meeting Reservation Form

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ (\$15 each)

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ *Reservations not kept become a donation*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Lunch Choice

*(if more than one person, indicate number of each)*

Eggplant \_\_\_\_\_ Lasagna \_\_\_\_\_ Torpedo \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Salad \_\_\_\_\_

## RESERVATION DEADLINE

**MONDAY, JULY 20, 2015**

Mail reservations and checks to:

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