

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
JULY 2015 MEETING NOTES**

**DATE: JULY 16, 2015**

**TIME: 6:30 PM**

The first part of this meeting was a Business Meeting of the North Park Historical Society (NPHS) Board of Directors, and the second part was the activities discussion for the organization. These notes include updates as of August 9, 2015.

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY** August 20, 2015 at 6:30 pm in a second floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Boulevard.

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The following members of the NPHS Board of Directors were present:

Katherine Hon	Hilda Yoder
Steve Hon	Paul Spears
Michael Thornhill	Randy Sappenfield
Sharon Turner	Bob Bauer

The following members of the NPHS Board of Directors were absent:

Bill Vivian	Jody Surowiec
George Franck	

Members Claudia, Sue, Charlie and Juliet joined us. Welcome!

**2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Katherine announced that North Park Main Street has put up new banners on the street light poles along University Avenue and 30th Street. Two of these say "North Park Historical Society" and feature photos we sent. The 1947 pony picture of Don Taylor is on the north side of University Avenue just east of Texas Street. The 1949 picture of the streetcar going under the Georgia Street Bridge is on the south side of University Avenue near Villa Terrace. Both photos are from our new Arcadia book, *Images of America: San Diego's North Park*, and you may recognize the streetcar photo is on the cover.

Many NPHS members attended the grand re-opening of the Villa Montezuma on June 27. The ornate High Victorian "Palace of the Arts" in Sherman Heights was built in 1887 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The non-profit organization Friends of Villa Montezuma (FOVM) have been diligently restoring this enchanted museum and conducted some excellent tours, which are expected to occur quarterly. If you want to help support FOVM, which is a 501C3 local non-profit, their website is [VillaMontezumaMuseum.org](http://VillaMontezumaMuseum.org).

**3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE**

The minutes from the June 18, 2015 NPHS meeting have been posted on the website.



## BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING

### 4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The financials were sent to the Board in advance of the meeting. In the period from June 14 to July 13, 2015, the following numbers of books were sold: 3 original North Park history books to Amazon, and 4 Arcadia books. Six NPHS members renewed and we received \$57 in donations. The car show action continues with five more entries and two more \$100 sponsors. We had five walk-ups for the July 11 Dryden Walking Tour. The total income in this time period was \$616. Expenses of approximately \$1,158 included our annual insurance cost of \$1,156 and approximately \$2 for Square fees on Arcadia books that were charged.

## ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

### 5. CAR SHOW PLANNING

Vince finished the poster and A7D has generously printed 75 for no charge as an in-kind sponsor. This year, Vince picked the theme of 1928, with Randy's beautiful Ford Phaeton the poster car and the North Park Theatre in the background. Thank you to Sue and Randy who are helping Steve to place posters! We have nine \$100 sponsors this year, many of them new businesses. We only have about a dozen cars registered at this time, so if you know someone with a cool car, please tell them about the Car Show on September 12 and send them the registration flyer (email [info@northparkhistory.org](mailto:info@northparkhistory.org) or call 619-294-8990 if you would like a paper or electronic copy).

Steve is working on borrowing the no-parking signs that will need to be posted in the parking lot, and will contact the police to get community officers onsite in the early morning on the day of the event to help close off the lot to through traffic. Thank you to Paul and Hilda who have volunteered to get exhibitors parked in the right spots. We talked about how we might change the numbering to make it more continuous. Hilda suggested putting even numbers on one side and odd numbers on the other, which may help organize the location of various types of cars. Great idea!

**NORTH PARK  
CAR SHOW**

PRESENTED BY  
 NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HOSTED BY  
 BALBOA TENNIS CLUB

SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2015

10AM TO 2PM

FREE TO  
ATTENDEES

FOR MORE INFO GO TO  
[NORTHPARKHISTORY.ORG](http://NORTHPARKHISTORY.ORG)  
OR CALL (619) 294-8990

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THE BALBOA  
TENNIS CLUB  
COURTS IN MORLEY  
FIELD

TROPHIES FOR  
1ST, 2ND, AND  
3RD PEOPLE'S  
CHOICE, PLUS  
OTHER PRIZES

DOZENS OF OLD  
CLASSICS

SPONSORED BY



## 6. WATER TOWER RELATED ACTIVITIES

At meeting time, we were still waiting for news about the County grant. **Update:** We are excited to report that our application for a County grant was approved for \$3,000. The grant will enable NPHS to hire the very experienced public art consultant Gail Goldman to help us initiate planning for an educational public art installation at the Water Tower. Steve and Katherine will have an initial meeting with Gail to figure out what can be done within that budget.

Also, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) San Diego Section is celebrating their 100th anniversary and as part of their activities proclaimed the Water Tower to be a Local Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. NPHS is going to purchase a plaque. ASCE wants to have a dedication ceremony for the plaque in November so the dedication occurs in the centennial year of the San Diego Section, even though we will not have the actual place for the plaque to be mounted until a public art installation is built. Katherine is exploring possible interest and dates for attending the ceremony with the offices of Councilmember Todd Gloria, Mayor Kevin Faulconer, County Supervisor Ron Roberts, and State Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins. Katherine is also exploring having the plaque made by the business that the ASCE San Diego Section uses for their awards. The plaque may be similar in appearance to the one shown below for the Sweetwater Dam (which is an even more prestigious National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark; the Water Tower plaque will say "Local Historic Civil Engineering Landmark"), and will measure about 19 inches by 13 inches, per ASCE regulations. Katherine will draft the text for approval by NPHS and ASCE.



## 7. DRYDEN WALKING TOUR JULY 11 FOLLOW UP

We conducted a Dryden Historic District tour on Saturday, July 11 at 9:00 am. Thank you to Michael and George, our tour leaders, and to their assistants Sharon, Randy, Jody, and Claudia. Linda also helped us get organized as participants arrived. Katherine and Steve also conducted a tour for three late arrivals who had signed up in advance but got lost finding the meeting place. Use of Brown Paper Tickets for advance sign-ups was deemed highly successful, with 12 advance paid sign-ups. With five walk-ups, we had a total of 17 attendees. Michael's group got the special treat of getting to go inside the house on Pershing that had severely burned and has been completely restored to its original Craftsman beauty by its dedicated owner.

At the meeting, Michael proposed we conduct a Burlingame Historic District tour in late fall, after the car show is done. October may be a good month for that.



## 8. PLANNING ISSUES

George and Paul continue to monitor planning issues. Paul presented a thorough and well conducted review of the new maps and zoning proposed by the city for the North Park Community Plan Update. He is very concerned about the Incentive Zoning Program, which offers changes in zoning to developers who propose "amenities." Paul noted and the group agreed that zoning should stay consistent with what was decided and mapped in the updated community plan when it is finally approved, and should not be subject to change with future developers' plans. Paul also had detailed comments on how certain areas were mapped erroneously. He will draft a letter of comment for the NPHS Board to review. These are serious concerns and we sincerely appreciate Paul's time and architectural expertise in helping to preserve our irreplaceable Craftsman residences.

NPHS is very concerned. about the Wink's historically designated neon sign that used to be above the door of the Chitos Shoe Repair store at 2911 University Avenue (now a coffee shop). The sign was apparently removed without a permit, which is a code violation because the sign was an official Historic Resources Board site. However, getting anyone in Code Enforcement at the City to actually address this appears to be problematic. Katherine has spoken with HRB staff person Jodi Brown and with a Code Enforcement staff person who had the issue in his in-basket but has gone to a different position. Bob moved and Michael seconded that NPHS declare a position when we can find out what has happened to the sign. Katherine will try contacting City staff again.



### Have You Seen Me???

The "Wink's" neon sign is a designated historic resource that was removed during facade changes to the building at 2911 University Avenue.

## 9. ARTICLES IN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

*Uptown News* continues to feature historical articles from NPHS. The latest article Katherine submitted is about the youth marching band that was practicing at Morley Field, and some of North Park's historical private bands. This article appeared in the July 17-July 30, 2015 issue of *Uptown News*. A scan is on the next page. Several very nice comment letters about Katherine's Pear Pearson article are also on the next page. The next article for *Uptown News* was written by Bob Bauer about cars and history, and will appear in the end of August issue.

## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY** August 20, 2015 at 6:30 pm in a second floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Boulevard, corner of Park and Lincoln Avenue.

Prepared by

Katherine Hon  
Secretary, North Park Historical Society

# And the bands play on



The horn section of Gold Drum and Bugle Corps play it loud and proud at Morley Field as they prepare for their upcoming national competition. (Courtesy of Katherine Hon)

By Katherine Hon

Did you hear the distinctive horns and drums of a marching band in the Morley Field area of North Park last month? That sound came from the Gold Drum and Bugle Corps, an enthusiastic and diverse group of young people from Los Angeles, San Diego and Orange counties.

Donald Flaherty, the executive director, formed the Corps in 2005 to provide a positive youth activity for local students in Hawthorne, California. The group relocated to Oceanside in 2010 to expand its service to the entire Southern California region.

The primary purpose of Corps is to enrich the educational, social, ethical and performing arts lives of young adults through the art of marching music instruction and performance.

Similar to a marching band, a drum and bugle corps group is composed of brass instruments, percussion and colorguard, but no woodwinds. Drum Corps International (DCI) is the nonprofit governing organization for all drum and bugle corps. Gold Drum and Bugle Corps is organized under Gold Youth Arts Organization, a 501(c)(3) organization that seeks to improve appreciation for music and marching band performance in accordance with the mission and objectives of DCI.

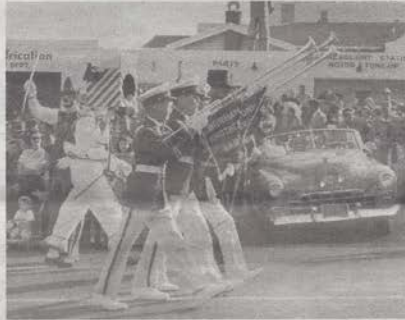
The Gold Drum and Bugle Corps has taken trips to Utah and Colorado and to championships in Indiana, where they hope to place in the top three this year. In 2012 they were rated one of the top five open class drum corps in the world. They have performed at competitions and other venues throughout Southern California including Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm and Universal Studios. Visit their website at [GoldDrumCorps.org](http://GoldDrumCorps.org) for more information about their current schedule and accomplishments.

North Park has a long history of supporting private bands, including the Bonham Brothers Band. Berma William Bonham and Harley Lewis Bonham, who founded the Bonham Brothers Mortuary in Nebraska in 1919, formed the band. They organized their first boys band at about that time.

The brothers established their San Diego mortuary business along with a boys band in 1926. A 2009 city of San Diego report based on a report prepared by Legacy 106 noted that "more than 2,000 boys graduated through the program between the formation of the band in 1926 and its final year 1962 ... Many graduates of the band went on to successful musical careers as a result of their early training."

The obituary for Berma Bonham, who died in 1981, stated that the band marched in 21 Tournament of Roses parades in Pasadena and represented the city in band competition around the country.

A 1955 San Diego Union article recognized the 1936 band for placing first in competition against bands from all over the nation during the Lions International convention in Oakland. This article pictures Howard Guy, long-time North Park resident and a former band member, preparing a form with his son Allan to enroll him in the 10th incarnation of the band. In the photograph, Howard's older son Jerry, a member of band number nine, looks on, dressed in his snappy uniform and holding his trombone. Allan and his younger brother Bruce both followed in their mother's footsteps by playing drums.



Three Aida horns carry the leading banners for the Bonham Brothers Band in a 1940s Toyland Parade. (Courtesy of Chris Wray)

The Guy family held fond memories of being in the Bonham Brothers Band. Howard played trombone as did his younger brother Roy. In a 1995 interview, 71-year-old Roy reminisced, "I want to step back to the age 10 years old, when my mom walked into the house with a slide trombone and announced that I was going to be a member of the Bonham Brothers Band. My older brother Howard C. Guy had been a member. I joined that band, and we would take our trombones over on Sixth Avenue to practice. I would walk from 28th Street to Roosevelt [Junior High School], then through some more canyons up to Sixth Avenue with my dear trombone, and I played in that band."

Another popular private band that performed throughout California and marched in the Toyland Parade was the North Park Boys Band. The North Park Historical Society salutes all members of past bands and encourages current bands to play on!

—Katherine Hon is the secretary of the North Park Historical Society. Reach her at [info@northparkhistory.org](mailto:info@northparkhistory.org) or 619-294-8990. \*

## Coverage about Pear Pearson

On "Pear Pearson: Master builder and master businessman" [Volume 7, Issue 13 or online at [bit.ly/1fAEduw](http://bit.ly/1fAEduw)].

What a great story. I enjoyed learning about the origins of the beautiful homes in my neighborhood and plan to walk the 'hood to check them out. Thanks to the family for saving all Pear's documents.

—Sarah W. Scalo, Uptown resident

Thank you so much to Katherine Hon and the Uptown News for the wonderful research and articles of our great-uncle, John Pearson, and our grandfather Pear Pearson. How exciting it is to see them brought back to life for a bit, and to relive their history and contributions to the North Park community and San Diego. They live on in the many fine buildings they constructed in many corners of San Diego. We are grateful to Katherine for the many hours of research and the crafting of the fine articles about the Pearson brothers.

Many thanks from the grandchildren of Pear Pearson.

—Kari Koskinen



The drum section of Gold Drum and Bugle Corps move to the beat during practice at Morley Field. (Courtesy of Katherine Hon)