

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OCTOBER 2019 MEETING NOTES**

DATE: OCTOBER 17, 2019

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 October 22, 2019.

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY November 21, 2019 starting at 6:30 p.m.** in a second floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Boulevard, corner of Park Boulevard and Lincoln Avenue. This will be our last meeting of the year, as we do not meet in December.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

Steve Hon	Claudia Watts
Katherine Hon	Jody Surowiec
Paul Spears	Randy Sappenfield
Sharon Turner	Michael Thornhill

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

Hilda Yoder	George Franck
Bob Bauer	Judy Ciampoli

Welcome all!

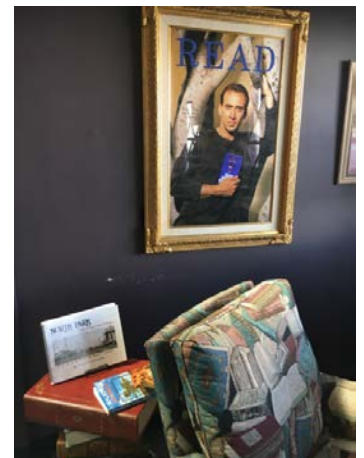
2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The latest Pacific Beach Historical Society newsletter was circulated for viewing. The October 2019 PastMatters column was about the early years of the Granada Building on University Avenue (see the last page of these notes). The University Heights Community Association newsletter reprinted an article written by Katherine about the pattern of street names in the 1888 development of University Heights. Yes, there really was a theme to the order of presidents (for east-west streets) and states (for north-south streets).

A new Maintenance Assessment District has been proposed by some property owners in the Morley Field area to fund and maintain the installation of historic style street lights. The proposed boundaries are Alabama Street on the west, 28th Street on the east, Wightman Street on the north, and Upas Street on the south. NPHS is not involved in this project or taking a position on it, as half of our Board members live in the proposed area and would be assessed, but half of the Board are outside the proposed area and would not be affected. The website for more information is www.morleyfieldhistoricstreetlights.org.

Paul noted that although a full historic report was required and prepared for 3829 Texas Street — an intact Craftsman bungalow proposed for demolition — the house was not deemed eligible for historic designation, so the demolition can proceed. This is a shame, and another example of the steady erosion of North Park's authentic historic character.

Katherine announced that Verbatim Books at 3793 30th Street is now selling the North Park history book. See photo at right — even Nicholas Cage wants people to read about North Park! Michael noted that Verbatim would allow us to meet in their space if we needed an alternative to the church.



Michael announced that the 100th anniversary of the completion of John D. Spreckels' **San Diego & Arizona Railway**, *The Impossible Railroad*, is on November 16, and several special events are planned. See <https://www.psrn.org/centennial/> for more information.

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The minutes from the September 19, 2019 meeting have been posted on the website.

BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The financials for the period of September 19 through October 16, 2019 were sent to Board Members before the meeting. During this period, four members renewed (thank you, Sharon, Jody, Claudia and Michael!), and two renewing members gave us donations that totaled \$90 (thank you, Sharon and Jody!). We sold one Arcadia book and one spiral-bound North Park book to a generous neighbor. We sold 10 spiral-bound North Park books wholesale to Verbatim Books. We received a royalty payment of \$136.95 from Arcadia Publishing for the period of January to June 2019. This means our Arcadia book, "Images of America: San Diego's North Park" is still in print. Total income in this period was \$485.29. Expenses in this time period consisted of the fee to march in the Toyland Parade (\$20), the prize wheel (\$43.05), and a wearable, wireless amplifier (\$62.00) approved for purchase via email, for a total of \$125.05.

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

5. ADVISORY SERVICE MARKETING

Paul and his team have conducted a total of 15 evaluations since starting this free service in 2018. They have conducted seven evaluations this year.

At the September 19, 2019 meeting, the Board approved a flyer to be mailed to new owners of homes that have the potential to be designated in order to increase community awareness of this service NPHS is offering. Paul prepared a list and photos of the first 11 homes, and Katherine prepared and mailed the flyers for each homeowner.

Update: On October 20, our first homeowner emailed us to request an evaluation. He said: *"My family and I recently purchased 2733 29th Street, a 1914-craftsman home from the golden era of San Diego home-building. We are interested in the possibility of the house qualifying for the Mills Act. Along those lines, I am attaching a few photos of the property taken from the street and sidewalk. Please let me know if you require any further information for your assessment. In the meantime, thanks so much for providing this service!"*

6. WALKING TOUR OF MORLEY FIELD

On October 15 and 17, we conducted tours of the Morley Field Recreational Area for the "Rediscovering San Diego" class of the San Diego Continuing Education, San Diego Community College District Emeritus Program. There were about 30 attendees on each day. Steve and George were our guides. Michael accompanied Steve on Tuesday, October 15, and Sharon was Steve's photo notebook assistant on Tuesday. Jody was George's photo notebook assistant on both days. We set up our table on the grass under the trees just to the north of the pool.



The weather was perfect, and attendees said they enjoyed the tours very much and learned a lot. We also received \$27 in donations. A Park Ranger asked us about the tour, and he may be interested in having us conduct a tour for park employees.



Steve, Sharon and Michael review tour photos.



George, Katherine, Steve and Jody

7. WALKING TOURS FOR 2020 - IDEAS

We will have more time and resources for walking tours in 2020 since we will not be organizing a car show. Ideas for tours included the following:

- Hamilton Street neighborhood emphasizing bungalow courts on January 18 for a group attending a conference about the Tiny House movement
- Burlingame Historic District in the spring
- Dryden Historic District in the summer, and maybe next October for the Rediscovering San Diego class
- Morley Field Recreational Area in September (offered for free to previous car show exhibitors)
- Develop a new walking tour featuring parts of Pauly's Addition.

8. PRIZE WHEEL AND QUESTIONS

At the September 19th meeting, Steve asked the group if it would be useful to pursue getting a "prize wheel" for our booth to get people's attention. A motion was made and approved unanimously to acquire a prize wheel, which was purchased from Amazon and arrived in time to be on the table for the Morley Field walking tours. We offered candy as a prize for the correct answer. The attendees were excellent test subjects, and enthusiastically spun the wheel. However, we quickly realized that the questions were too difficult for people new to North Park, and we have been working on simplifying the questions. We consequently gave candy for trying.

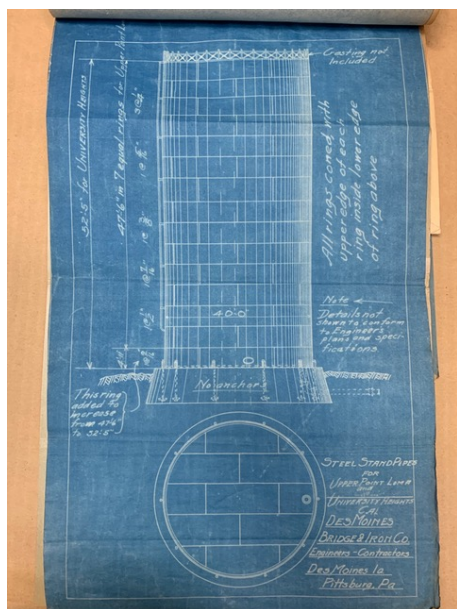
We learned that some people did not want candy as a prize. Alternative prizes were discussed at this meeting. Michael had the brilliant idea to offer the note cards we have from many years ago that have photos of historic houses and the water tower, among other scenes. We will make sure to have some of these on hand the next time we use the prize wheel.

9. CITY CLERK ARCHIVES MONTH PRESENTATIONS AND ARCHIVE TOURS

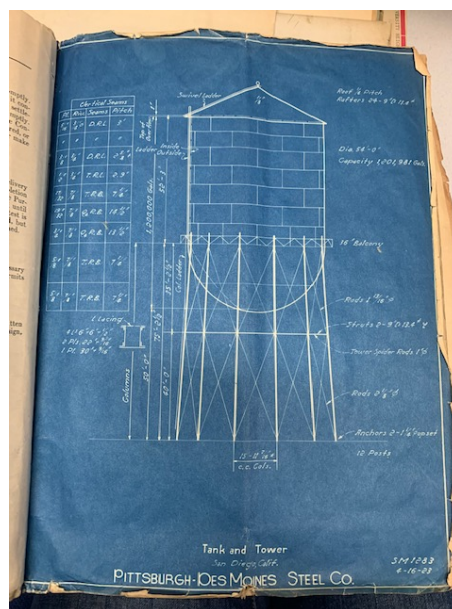
The City of San Diego Office of the City Clerk is celebrating their third annual Archives Month in October with the theme of "Hidden Treasures" and asked for volunteers to present free lectures to the public about the history of places in San Diego prior to the 1920s. On October 3rd, Katherine presented a "North Park and How It Grew" PowerPoint lecture based on photos

in our Arcadia book, *Images of America: San Diego's North Park*. The lecture was attended by staff and a few visitors. The following week, Steve and Katherine attended an Archive tour and lecture, which was extremely interesting and highly recommended if you are a fan of history. The last Archives tour will be offered on October 29 at 10 am. The tour is in the City Clerk Archives room located in the basement (Floor B) of the City Administration Building at 202 C Street. There are also a few more lectures being offered. See the schedule on the next page of these notes, and contact Samantha Ely, Archives Supervisor at 619-236-6924 or SEly@sandiego.gov to RSVP for a lecture or tour.

A volunteer helping to organize materials in the Archives contacted NPHS about some materials she saw related to North Park's history. She took pictures of these items with her phone and sent them to Katherine. The items pictured included a blueprint of the plan for the standpipe built in 1910 that preceded the Water Tower, and the plan for the 1924 tower. Stay tuned to Uptown News for more items related to North Park that are hiding in the city's basement — this will be the topic of Katherine's next PastMatters column.



Plan for the 1910 standpipe.



Plan for the 1924 Water Tower.

10. UPCOMING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The events NPHS is participating in this year include the following:

- Toyland Parade: Sunday, December 8, 2019.

The entry fee for the Toyland Parade is \$20, which has been paid.


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Prepared by

Katherine Hon

Katherine Hon
Secretary, North Park Historical Society

2019 Archives Month Lecture & Tour Schedule — 202 C Street

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<p>September 30</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Opening Event! CAB Lobby "San Diego History Center" Acknowledgement in Partnership</p>	<p>October 1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Lecture (Archives Basement) Tommy Giaquinto & Steve Willard "The SDPD's First's and Wyatt Earp"</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Lecture (Archives Basement) Katherine Hon "North Park & How it Grew"</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>7</p> <p>9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. WORKSHOP: (Silver Room) "Basics of Archives" Presented by Jerry Handfield & Aditi Worcester (noon-1:30 p.m. break)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Lecture (Archives Basement) Helen M. Ofield "Dr. Amorita Tregan- za: A Renaissance Woman"</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Lecture (Archives Basement) Gary E. Mitrovich "East of San Diego – The Lost History of the East San Diego Police Dept."</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Archive Tour (Archives Basement)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Archive Tour (Archives Basement)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Movie (Archives Basement)</p>
<p>14</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Movie (Silver Room)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Archive Tour (Archives Basement)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Archive Tour (Archives Basement)</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Movie (Silver Room)</p>
<p>21</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Lecture (Silver Room) Andrei Lucas "The 1st Hundred Years "</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Lecture (Silver Room) Dr. Sandra Bonura "San Diego's forgotten empire, the legacy of John D. Spreckels"</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Movie (Archives Basement)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Archive Tour (Archives Basement)</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Lecture (Silver Room) Karl Zingheim "William Kettner"</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Lecture (Silver Room) Beth Autin, MLIS "The Founding of the Zoo: Hidden Treasures from the Archives"</p>
<p>28</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Lecture (Silver Room) Vincent N. Rossi "The Lost Town of Bernardo"</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Lecture (Silver Room) Laurel Schwartz "San Diego Jews, WWI and the Growth of Benevolence"</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Archive Tour (Archives Basement)</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Lecture (Cooper Room) Maria Garcia "Growing up in Logan Heights"</p>	

RSVP for Lectures and Tours contact: Sam Ely — 619-236-6924 or SEly@sandiego.gov

Early years of the Granada Building

PastMatters

KATHERINE HON

Historical photos of the Granada Building from the 1920s reveal that the structure has not changed much since its construction. The two-story building at the southeast corner of University Avenue and Granada Avenue has retained its parapet roofline, large display windows, white glazed brick veneer, and mosaic tile trim for nearly 100 years. The elegance of its gleaming facade built over a framework of steel and concrete tile is unique on University Avenue. The building has been identified by the city of San Diego as a contributor to the future 30th Street/University Avenue Commercial Historic District set for processing in 2022.

William Patrick McCloskey, a plumber by trade, developed the building in the early 1920s. He bought the lots in West End from Michael B. Murphy in January 1921 and pulled multiple permits for the address of 2867-75 University Ave. in the summer of 1924. In December 1924, McCloskey advertised "Two or four-room flats, private bath, second floor, Granada Building, furnished or unfurnished" for rent in the Evening Tribune. In January 1925, the tax assessment for McCloskey's property improvements in the City Lot Books jumped from \$350 to \$4,100, indicating a major building had been completed onsite.

McCloskey lived with his wife Josephine Adella and their three children in the building upstairs at 2875 University Ave., and he



The Granada Building at the corner of University Avenue and Granada Avenue has maintained its elegant and unique glazed brick facade since its construction in the early 1920s. (Photos by Katherine Hon)

operated a plumbing shop in the building at 3875 Granada Ave. — the current location of The Windsmith — from about 1926 until he died unexpectedly on March 25, 1936. His obituary noted that he had been in the plumbing business in San Diego for 21 years. But he was far more than a simple plumber.

He was a member of the National Association of Plumbers and San Diego Merchant Plumbers Association as well as the Al Bahr Temple of the Shrine, Normal Heights Masonic Lodge and Normal Heights Eastern Star. He was listed as a director of San Diego State Bank along with important North Park businessmen like Jack Hartley and George and Emil Klicka in 1928. That same year, McCloskey organized a unique enterprise to benefit all types of builders.

The San Diego Union's Nov. 11, 1928 issue announced on page two, "A New Venture for

San Diego by San Diego Business Men" — the "Architects' Building Material Exhibit." A new building with 15,000 square feet of floor space and 200 lineal feet of 16-foot-high plate glass windows had just been completed at 210 G St. The newspaper article noted, "Mr. McCloskey plans an exhibit that will include the leading building firms of the city, creating an institution where the home builder may go to have ideas turned into plans, and where he personally can select the materials that will go to build his home."

The accompanying advertisement for the new venture stated, "We will furnish plans, drawn to suit your ideas, build and finance your home." Architects, contractors, sub-contractors, material men and manufacturers were encouraged to "make your application now for desk room or space to display your goods. We will furnish light, heat, phone and janitor service ... Address all

inquiries to William McCloskey, 2875 University Avenue."

McCloskey initiated this venture at a time when the future seemed bright. On the same page as his advertisement, a realtor declared, "Prosperity Straight Ahead! Never in the history of Southern California, San Diego or San Diego County has there been a time when one should look forward with such an absolute degree of certainty to prosperity as at the present moment."

Unfortunately, a year later the stock market would crash, bringing on desperate times for many throughout the country. In the 1931 City Directory, the building at 210 G St. was listed as vacant, and it has since been replaced by Horton Plaza.

Although McCloskey's ambitious Downtown plans did not survive the Great Depression, his Granada Building remained occupied through the hard times. The upstairs offices provided living space for various renters and office space for doctors and dentists. A notions shop and a restaurant occupied the downstairs spaces.

In 1936, physicians Dr. James Macpherson McColl and his younger brother Dr. William Frazer McColl moved their offices to 2867 University Ave. — the downstairs corner space of the Granada Building where A7D Creative Group is now — and in the mid-1950s, the building became known as the "McColl Building." James retired in 1955 and William retired in 1962. They died in 1968 and 1969, respectively, and are buried at Glen Abbey Memorial Park in Bonita.

Both men had sons who became doctors. James' younger



The mosaic tile trim below the display windows of Hunt and Gather at 2871 University Ave. and A7D Creative Group at 2867 University Ave. was recently restored.

son, Douglas, became the 11th medical doctor in his family when he received his degree from the University of Southern California in 1957. He was the chief of staff at the Alvarado Hospital Medical Center for many years. He married Gloria Demers in 1953. Gloria McColl became well known to North Park, serving as the city of San Diego Council member for District 3 from 1983 to 1989.

William's younger son, William F. ("Bill") McColl, Jr., also became a doctor after playing football at Stanford University — being selected twice as an All-American player in 1950-1951 and third runner up for the 1951 Heisman Trophy — and playing professionally for the Chicago Bears from 1952 to 1959. He became an orthopedic surgeon and served in Korea as a Presbyterian missionary doctor from 1962 to 1964.

— Katherine Hon is the secretary of the North Park Historical Society. Reach her at info@northparkhistory.org or 619-294-8990. ♡