

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
JUNE 2020 MEETING SUMMARY**

DATE: JUNE 18, 2020

TIME: XX PM

These notes summarize information that was planned to be presented at the June 18, 2020 Business Meeting of the North Park Historical Society (NPHS) Board of Directors, and the activities discussion for the organization. These notes include updates as of June 28, 2020. The meeting was canceled in advance due to concerns about the novel coronavirus and resulting state and local restrictions on gatherings.

The next meeting scheduled for **THURSDAY July 16, 2020 starting at 6:30 p.m.** in a second-floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church **WILL NOT OCCUR**. We will monitor state and local guidance, Grace Lutheran Church, and the opinion of the NPHS Board regarding when it might be appropriate to resume our public meetings this year.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

We hope all our members and friends are staying safe and healthy.

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The latest Pacific Beach Historical Society newsletters will be circulated for viewing at the next possible meeting. The June 2020 PastMatters column in Uptown News was Part 2 of a series about historic street names in San Diego (see the last pages of this summary).

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The meeting summary from the canceled May 21, 2020 meeting has been posted on the website.

BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The financials for the period of May 23 to June 16, 2020 were sent to Board Members on June 16. During this period, three members renewed (thank you Bill, Luvonne and Beth!). One renewing member gave a generous additional donation (thank you, Bill!). Total income in this period was \$160. Expenses in this time period totaled \$1,000 for our annual organization insurance premium.

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

5. UPDATE ON PLAQUE FOR WATER TOWER

Coordination with City Public Utilities Department staff regarding the feasibility of placing the plaque in a boulder or some kind of low wall next to the two-story building at the Water Tower site is pending return to some kind of normalcy.

6. UPDATE ON COUNTY COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Coordination with County staff regarding the question of if we can apply the remaining \$1,250 from the 2019-2020 grant for water tower art to placement of the plaque is pending return to some kind of normalcy.

7. PLANNING FOR PAULY'S ADDITION WALKING TOUR

The team has developed a route, photo notebook and draft guide notes focusing on the southern part of Pauly's Addition from Dwight to Upas and Alabama to Texas streets. All walking tours are pending return to some kind of normalcy.

8. EVALUATIONS OF HISTORIC HOMES

In May, we sent an information flyer to 12 recently sold properties that the NPHS evaluation team thought could qualify as individually significant historic resources, and we evaluated the Mission Revival home of one new owner who contacted us. This month, Katherine provided some information on the origins of a Spanish Revival house for a neighbor who is considering pursuing designation.

9. COMMUNITY COORDINATION

Gregg Schloss of A&B Sporting Goods shared some photos and brochures from Toyland Parades during the 1960s, which Katherine scanned. We sent a few of the photos of the Toyland Parade queen and court (see below) to Ken Kramer, host of the KPBS TV show, "About San Diego." He replied:

"Just a quick note of thanks for the photos from the 1960 North Park Toyland Parade. Right now, with virus restrictions, I don't know when I might be getting off the porch to do any new programs, but I'm wondering when that time comes, if it's ok to show them on the air? I really appreciate it and will definitely advise if they're going to be broadcast. Meantime, I hope you are staying safe and healthy!"

These two photos may be seen on TV, if Ken Kramer uses them in a future show.



The 1960 Toyland Parade Court and other VIPs.



*Queen Janice Hillis and Jay North
AKA "Dennis the Menace"*

Last month's meeting summary featured the brochure for the 1965 Toyland Parade. Following are a few more photos courtesy of Gregg Schloss of A&B Sporting Goods.



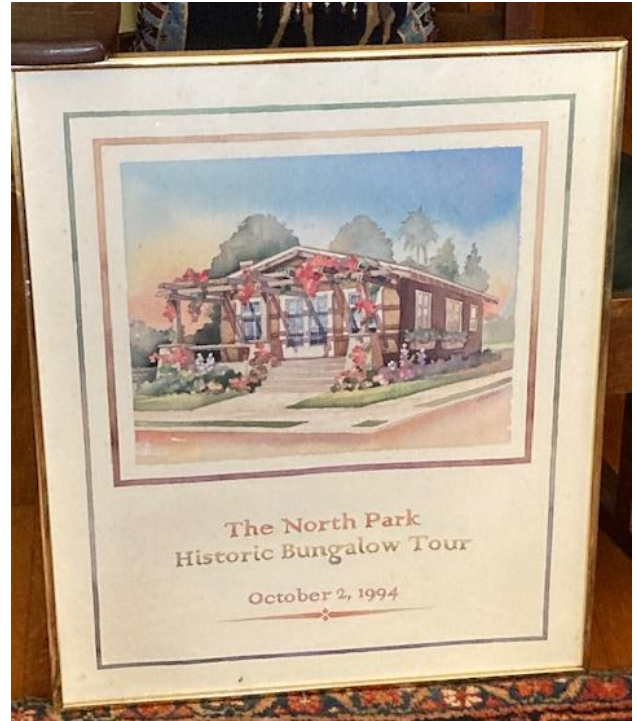
Brochure for the 1964 Toyland Parade



A flying Santa Claus in the Toyland Parade (year unknown)

One of our members offered his framed poster from when his house was part of a tour of North Park in 1994. Another member whose house was also on the tour (and as it happens is a neighbor) was the first to ask for the poster. Everyone is happy the poster got a great new home.

The May 2020 PastMatters column in Uptown News initiated a series about San Diego street names. More than 250 street names were changed by a single ordinance in 1900 to correct many name duplications (including where 15 subdivisions had numbered streets). Replacement street names in the ordinance were provided by Louis Jackson Davids, the relatively new city engineer who was discussed in the May 2020 issue of Uptown News. Part 2 of this series, which identified author names in Point Loma and solved the mystery of Missouri Street among gems in Pacific Beach, was published in the June 2020 issue. See the last pages of these notes for that article.



10. UPCOMING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Information regarding future events in 2020 is summarized below.

- Table in Lobby at San Diego History Center: August 2020. Before public health restrictions were implemented, the History Center offered us another opportunity to display in August, when Katherine was scheduled to give a Tuesday Talk on "North Park and How it Grew." Considering the latest surges in the number of COVID19 cases, it is doubtful we will do this.
- Festival of the Arts: At this time, North Park Main Street has postponed this event to October 2020. Due to reasons not related to the current pandemic, the NPHS Board decided at the November 2019 meeting to skip exhibiting at the Festival of the Arts in 2020.
- Presentations for the Community: We have typically arranged for an outside speaker to make a free presentation in May, and have a few people in mind who could be quite interesting. However, given the current public health crisis, we will wait until it is safe to gather in groups before arranging a community meeting. Such events may have to wait for a safe and effective vaccine, so may not occur until 2021.

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Prepared by

Katherine Hon

Katherine Hon
Secretary, North Park Historical Society

Authors and gems at the beach

San Diego street names: Part two the series

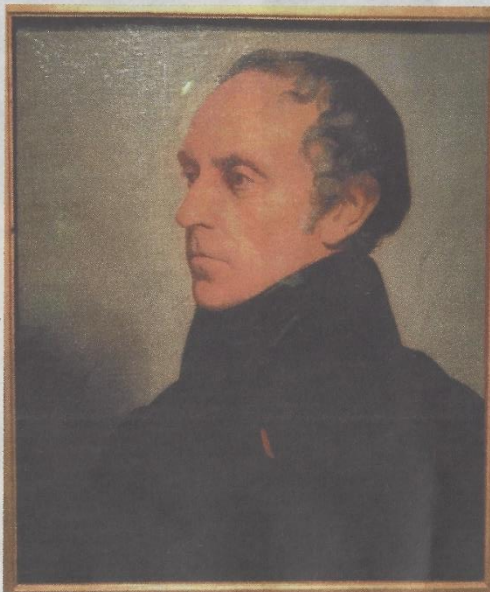
PastMatters

KATHERINE HON

As discussed in the previous PastMatters column, the original names of more than 250 streets in San Diego were changed by Ordinance No. 755 adopted May 21, 1900. This ordinance brought authors to Point Loma and gems to Pacific Beach, among many other changes implemented to eliminate duplication and achieve some continuity where street names changed from tract to tract.

The source of names in alphabetical order in Ordinance No. 755 was Louis Jackson Davids, the relatively new city engineer. He noted in his transmittal memorandum to the Board of Public Works that his suggestions for new street names were "taken from natural objects (trees, flowers etc.) or from men celebrated in Science, Literature, Statesmanship, War etc., care being taken to maintain alphabetical order."

Who were some of the celebrated gentlemen honored by street names that we still see today?



This portrait of historian François Guizot was painted by Paul Delaroche c. 1839 and is exhibited in Copenhagen, Denmark. Guizot Street in Ocean Beach honors him. (Courtesy Wikimedia Commons)

families based on their research of the author name of their street.

physical and mental disorders and remedies of the time.

Authors in Point Loma and Ocean Beach

Ordinance No. 755 gave Point Loma neighborhoods their alphabetical authors from Addison to Zouch (later changed to Zola). Joseph Addison (1672-1719) was an English essayist and poet, and Thomas Zouch (1737-1815) was an English clergyman and writer. These names and the authors in between replaced First through Twenty-sixth streets in Roseville. The alphabet started over with Alcott through Dumas for Twenty-seventh through Thirtieth streets in Roseville and continued with Elliott through Meredith for Thirty-first through Thirty-ninth streets in what was identified in Ordinance No. 755 as Mannasse & Schiller's Addition and is now Loma Portal.

Meredith Street is no longer, but might have honored George Meredith (1828-1909), an English novelist and poet. Elliott Street remains, perhaps for Ebenezer Elliott (1781-1849), an English poet who became a passionate advocate for the poor, inspired by his own experience of being homeless, facing starvation and contemplating suicide.

For more about some of these alphabetical authors, visit the website <http://readingbetween-thelampposts.com/Site/Welcome.html> which describes the 2013 book, "Reading Between the Lampposts: The Literary Giants of Loma Portal" edited by Elaine Fotinos Burrell and Karla Lopic. The book contains essays that highlight the lives of 26 authors memorialized by street names in Loma Portal. The essays were written by 26 neighborhood

The website notes that each biographical essay contains a photo or drawing of the author, list of works, excerpts of writings, and references for further reading.

Seventeen other tracts — including Ocean Beach, Pacific Beach, Morena, La Playa and West End — also had their numbered street names replaced with different names courtesy of City Engineer Davids in 1900.

Ocean Beach's First through Seventh streets became the alphabetical Abbott, Bacon, Cable, Defoe, Ebers, Froude and Guizot streets. These can be tied to historians and writers from various countries. John Stevens Cabot Abbott (1805-1877) was an American historian whose popular books included works about Napoleon, the Civil War and Frederick the Great. Francis Bacon (1561-1626), an English philosopher, statesman and patron of libraries, was considered the father of empiricism. A possibility for Cable Street is George Washington Cable (1844-1925), who was considered to be the first modern southern writer. Daniel Defoe (1659-1731) was an English journalist who wrote the widely popular novel "Robinson Crusoe." This street later became Sunset Cliffs Boulevard.

Georg Ebers (1837-1898) was a German Egyptologist and novelist of historical fiction. He became known for purchasing a papyrus scroll dating from about 1500 BC from another collector in Luxor (Thebes) in 1872. The Ebers Papyrus is one of the oldest preserved medical documents in the world and extensively details the Egyptian understanding of

James Anthony Froude (1818-1894) was an English historian who wrote a controversial and partly autobiographical novel entitled "Nemesis of Faith." Perhaps civil engineer Davids also wanted to honor James Froude's brother, William Froude (1810-1879), an engineer who established a formula now known as the Froude number to predict the hydrodynamic behavior of full-size ship hulls from small-scale tests.

François Guizot (1787-1874) was a French historian and statesman who served many roles in the French government — including as the Prime Minister from 1847-1848 — and wrote popular histories of France and England.

The Mystery of Missouri Among Gems in Pacific Beach

Ordinance No. 755 gave Pacific Beach its gem street names in alphabetical order from Agate to Horneblend [sic] to replace the names of states also claimed in University Heights. Agate was Illinois, Beryl was Georgia, Chalcedony was Idaho, Diamond was Alabama, Emerald was Vermont, Felspar [sic] was Massachusetts, Garnet was College, and Horneblend was California. Wait, you might be thinking — there is no California Street in University Heights. That is because California Street in University Heights was changed to Hamilton Street in 1899. Only California Street in Middletown was allowed to keep its name.

The complicated but fascinating story of other state street names in Pacific Beach

— including Florida (now Law Street), Nevada (now Wilbur Avenue), Kansas (now Loring Street), and still present Missouri Street — is told in the blog “Another Side of History” from March 17, 2015 at bit.ly/2Aab21o.

Apparently, those streets were shown on the development’s original 1887 tract map. But a different map with less dense development and some streets missing was actually filed with the County Recorder in 1892. Intervening streets that are now inconsistent with

the 1900 A through H gem pattern were not on the 1892 Pacific Beach map that City Engineer Davids would have had on hand for his name change recommendations.

Streets missing in 1900 include present-day Missouri Street, which was allowed to be named Missouri Avenue in Pacific Beach on maps of E.T. Scripps’ Ocean Front subdivision in 1903 and Hauser’s Subdivision in 1904 even though there had been a Missouri Street in University Heights since 1888. The duplication was fixed with Ordinance No. 5417 in 1914, when Missouri Street in University Heights and North Park was renamed 32nd Street, and

Missouri Avenue in Pacific Beach was renamed Missouri Street.

The street name of “College” for what is now Garnet may seem like an outlier. But that name referred to the San Diego College of Letters, which was built at the head of Kendall Street (originally Tenth Street) in 1888. The college failed, and the main building became a rooming house called the College Inn. The inn was refurbished by Wilbur and Murtrie Folsom to become Hotel Balboa in the early 1900s. In 1910, Thomas Davis established the San Diego Army and Navy Academy on the college grounds and greatly expanded the facilities. In 1936, that academy

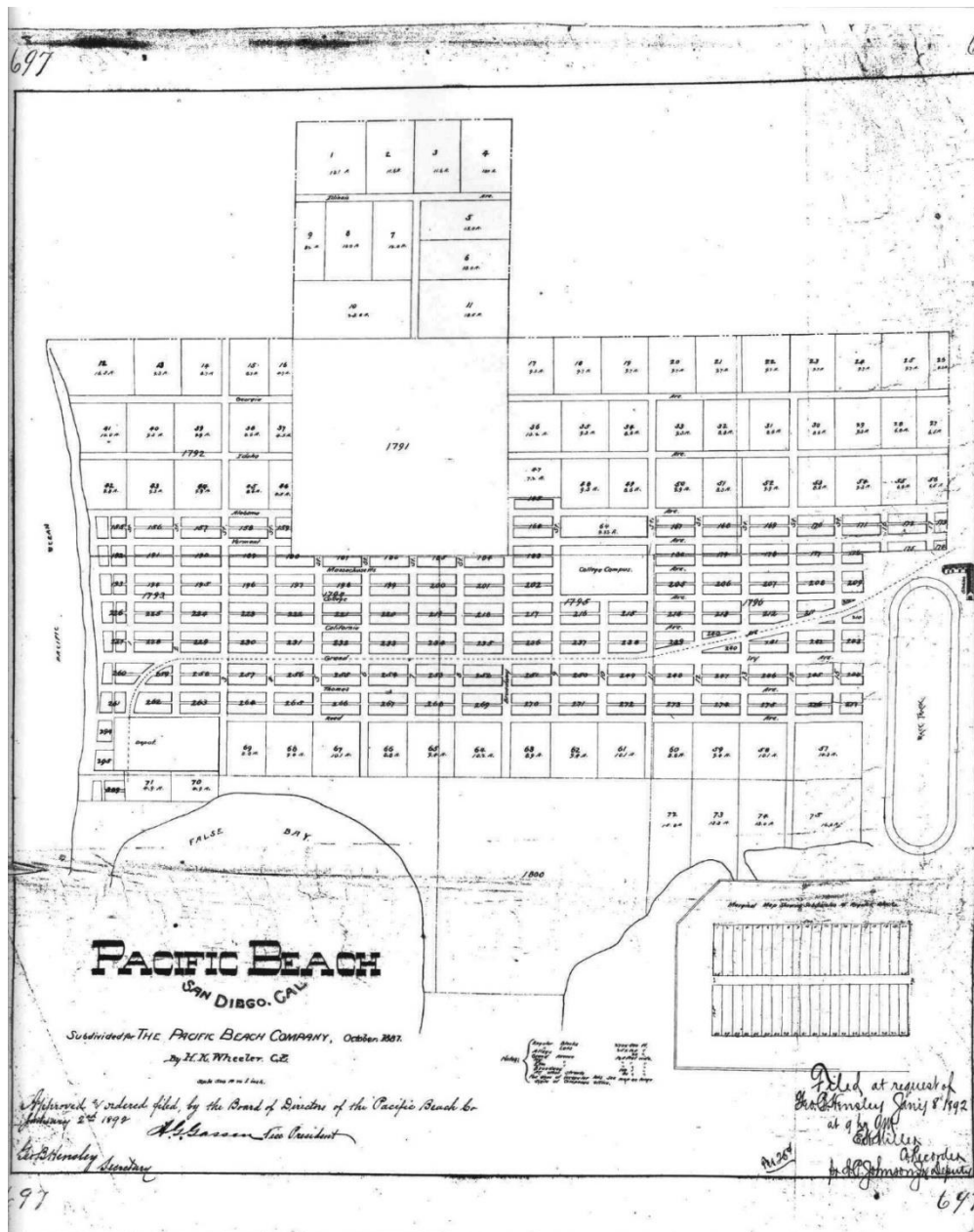
moved to Carlsbad; the following year Brown Military Academy began operations on the site. Pacific Plaza Shopping Center opened on the former academy grounds in 1961. Read all about this fascinating history in “Images of America: Pacific Beach” by John Fry, published by Arcadia Publishing Company in 2002.

The next PastMatters column will discuss streets named by City Engineer Davids for military heroes in La Playa and for scientists in La Jolla and Clairemont/Bay Park.

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



This is a page from the Ebers Papyrus, which was purchased from another collector by Egyptologist Georg Ebers in 1872. Ebers Street in Ocean Beach honors him. (Courtesy of Wellcome Trust, a global charitable foundation based in the United Kingdom)



This 1892 map was not published with the article but provides helpful information.