

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NOVEMBER 2022 MEETING SUMMARY**

DATE: NOVEMBER 17, 2022

TIME: 6:00 PM

These notes summarize information presented at the October 20, 2022 Business Meeting of the North Park Historical Society (NPHS) Board of Directors, and the activities discussion for the organization. These notes are current as of November 23, 2022. The public meeting was canceled in advance due to concerns about the coronavirus. The Board met in the church meeting room this month. Attending were Steve, Katherine, George, Randy, Sharon, Jody, Bob, Paul, Claudia, and Michael. Board member Judy was absent.

We will not meet in December 2022. However, in January 2023, we plan to re-start public meetings on the third **THURSDAYS of the month starting at 6:00 p.m.** in a meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church. We are still providing information to all who contact us with questions about North Park history and including documentation of those communications in monthly meeting summaries.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pacific Beach Historical Society newsletters will continue to be collected for viewing at future meetings. The November 2022 issue was shared with the group. This issue presented a walking tour of six historic homes in Pacific Beach that John Fry compiled for a 5th grade class at Kate Sessions Elementary school, with information provided by historian John Webster. We encourage anyone interested in Pacific Beach history to support the Pacific Beach Historical Society and receive John's very interesting monthly newsletter published by North Shores Printery. Annual dues are \$30 and a check can be sent to John Fry, PO Box 9444, San Diego, CA 92169-0444.

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The meeting summary of information intended to be shared at the October 20, 2022 meeting, which was not held in person, has been posted on the website at [NPHS Board Meeting Agendas and Minutes | North Park Historical Society \(northparkhistory.org\)](https://northparkhistory.org/NPHS-Board-Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes).

BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The financials for this meeting are for October 14 to November 16, 2022 and were sent to Board members on November 16, 2022. In this time period, there were no items of income or expenses.

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. PLANNING FOR PAULY'S ADDITION WALKING TOUR

The team has developed the route, photo notebook and draft guide notes for the southern part of Pauly's Addition along Mississippi and Texas streets from Upas to Landis streets. George noted that the tour could be enhanced by researching some information about people who lived in some of the homes, like information we have for the Dryden District tour. George and Katherine will work on this. George and Michael were interested in getting the link to the City Clerk Digital Archives website, which includes pdf files of scanned City Directories from 1926 to 1958. This link is: [Digital Archives | City of San Diego Official Website](#)

The directories are under the "Collections" tab. Directories starting in 1926 have a "reverse" portion in the back where addresses are listed in alphabetical order by street name with the homeowner's name, so you can find out who owned a property. Residents in the front part of the directories list people's occupations. We will plan another test tour of Pauly's Addition when revisions to the guide notes are complete and perhaps after the time changes in March.

7. DRYDEN DISTRICT LECTURE AND TOUR FOR OSHER

On October 20, George presented a PowerPoint lecture on North Park history for Osher, the senior adult education group associated with UCSD, on campus to about 10 people in the room and 20+ people on Zoom. On October 29, George led a walking tour of the Dryden District for a group of about 15 attendees, and Claudia led another group of 15. Jody assisted George, and Sharon assisted Claudia. People seemed to be most interested in the photos of the interiors. Thank you, Paul, for providing those photos! One attendee followed up with us, requesting an evaluation of her bungalow for designation potential.

8. MORLEY FIELD TOURS FOR REDISCOVERING SAN DIEGO CLASS

We will conduct a tour of the Morley Field Recreational Area for the Continuing Education program in the San Diego Community College District's "Rediscovering San Diego" class early next year. All their students are seniors. The tour dates are January 10 and January 12, with about 25 to 30 attendees each day. We think the time will be late morning. Steve will be the guide. We do not think we will have to split up, as there should be plenty of room for attendees to spread out while walking and gather around at the stops. Helpers to show photos and "shepherds" to keep people from lagging will include Jody, Sharon, Katherine, George (one of the two days), Michael (Tuesday tour), and Bob (Thursday tour). We will set up a table under a canopy in the park by the pool, and one helper will staff the table during the whole time. This will be a good opportunity to ease back into public events after the hiatus due to covid.

Related to tours and other public events, the Board unanimously approved Steve investigating a new canopy that would have our name and logo printed on it, so we do not have to hang our banner under the canopy, which is awkward to do. The Board also approved Steve investigating higher quality individual amplifier systems for our guides. Our current headset microphones get in the way of the guide being able to read notes, and the amplifiers did not have adequate volume on the Dryden tour. Steve purchased a new amplifier and accessory clip-on microphone online. We will test it out at the Morley Field tour.

9. SLIDE AND PHOTO SCANNING PROJECT

We are in the process of scanning slides and notebooks with photos and notes from the Covington Family. Don Covington obtained several photos from the Hartley Family, including this very early photo of what was until recently the Western Dental Building on the northwest corner of University Avenue and 30th Street. The building was constructed in 1913 and was first known as the Stevens & Hartley Building for William Stevens and Jack Hartley. This photo was taken before 1926, which is when the annex was built onto the west side of the building (left side of the photo).



Early photo of the Stevens & Hartley Building on the northwest corner of University Avenue and 30th Street. Note there is no annex on the west (left side) of the building at this time.

10. SIGNS FOR DRYDEN DISTRICT

There are no street signs marking the North Park Dryden Historic District as there are for other districts like Burlingame. NPHS is exploring the possibility of the City putting up demarcation signs for the Dryden District. Council District 3 staff promised to continue to follow up and keep NPHS updated but they have not done so. We emailed Senior Planner Suzanne Segur, but she has not responded yet.

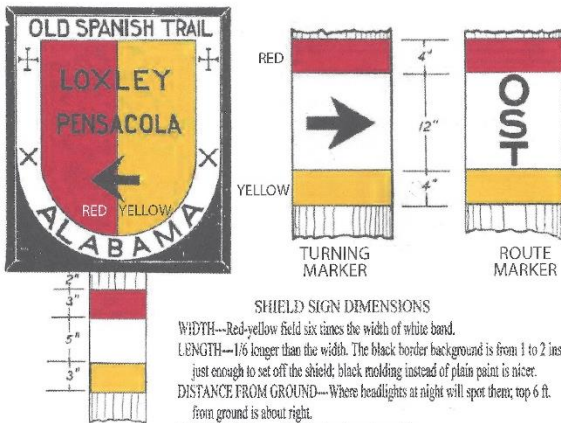


11. COMMUNITY COORDINATION AND ACTIVITIES

In November 2022, we responded to requests for information (and received interesting information) and participated in community activities as summarized below.

1. A group called the Old Spanish Trail Centennial Association (OST100) has formed in Texas to plan for celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the 1920's Old Spanish Trail auto highway between Florida and San Diego. This group held two meetings on October 24, 2022 at the Olaf Wieghorst Museum in El Cajon. George and Bob attended each meeting to represent NPHS. An informational flyer about the group and activities they plan is on the next page. Events scheduled for early November 2023 may include a walking tour along El Cajon Boulevard that George is developing. NPHS also may have a booth at the events held at the Alpine Community Center the OST group is arranging.

SIGNAGE AND TEXT BELOW ARE PORTIONS OF A 1923 FLYER PREPARED BY THE OLD SPANISH TRAIL ASSOCIATION FOR DISTRIBUTION TO GULF AND BORDER CITIES AND TOWNS.



SHIELD SIGN DIMENSIONS
 WIDTH--Red-yellow field six times the width of white band.
 LENGTH--1/6 longer than the width. The black border background is from 1 to 2 ins. just enough to set off the shield; black molding instead of plain paint is nicer.
 DISTANCE FROM GROUND--Where headlights at night will spot them; top 6 ft. from ground is about right.
 LETTERING--Heavy block letters deeper than wide.
 SIZE--Avoid oversize; big signs and big letters are not quickly read and look cumbersome. Above signs are 24x28 ins.
 THE SHIELD DESIGN is from old Spanish art works and heraldry.
 gloss white, chrome yellow, dragon red

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These designs are copyrighted. Members and friends are privileged to use them and urged to help make the route marking attractive. But any improper or illegal use will be prosecuted.

1920s Old Spanish Trail Association Directors suggested cities and counties place 0-mile stones at the city center, decorative OST monuments to mark city limits, county lines, and state borders. Restorations of these OST markers are beginning in San Antonio and Bexar County, Texas.



CITY CENTER
 100 S. Flores St.
 @ City Hall
 San Antonio

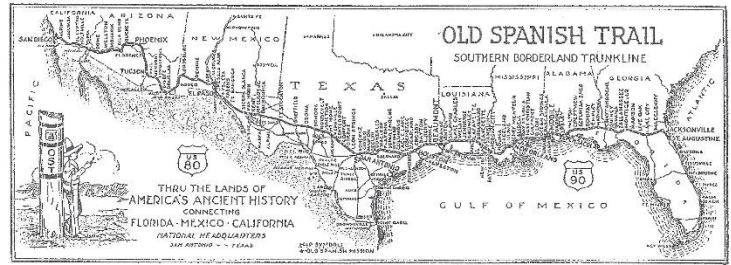


CITY LIMITS
 3400 Fredericksburg Rd.
 @ Vance Jackson
 San Antonio



COUNTY LINE
 29324 Boerne Stage Rd.
 @ Balcones Creek
 Bexar/ Kendall County Line

www.OLDSPANISHTRAILCENTENNIAL.com



Old Spanish Trail Basic History

Old Spanish Trail movement organized to promote a paved automobile highway across the southern United States connecting 6 centers of historical interest: St Augustine, New Orleans, San Antonio, El Paso, Tucson and San Diego

December 11 & 12, 1915 Mobile, Alabama meeting to connect New Orleans to the east coast of Florida

Subsequent annual conferences held 1916 Pensacola, 1917 Tallahassee, 1919 Houston then San Antonio, 1921 Gulfport then Orange, 1922 New Orleans

July 1919 Houston, Texas conference held to ask San Antonio to lead movement across Texas - Harral Ayres chosen Managing Director; Günter Hotel headquarters

November 1919 San Antonio conference gathered pledges for Texas - Councilors appointed every OST city and town to advise travelers of conditions and accommodations

June-December 1922 Mr. Ayres in Washington DC. gathering signatures of majority of senators and congressmen to declare OST a basic trunk line of US system assuring every mile of OST included in Federal Aid mileage - J. M. Wainwright of the U.S. War Dept declared highway an essential element of U.S. defense

August 1922 OST placed on General of the Armies, John J. Pershing's "Development of National Highways" map

1923 OST Beautification Committee organized to provide architectural drawings of highway and bridge signage, native stone county line markers, and business and residential stone gateways - Also provided guidance for tourist camp construction and maintenance

November 17, 1923 A message from President Coolidge read at dedication zero-mile stone of OST in San Diego, California

March 27, 1924 Texas Gov. Pat Neff dedicated zero-mile marker of OST on San Antonio City Hall grounds

April 2,3 & 4, 1929 \$16,000 gala dedication of zero-mile stone St. Augustine, Florida

1923 to 1931 Travelogs published annually as construction of highway and bridges progressed

April 1929 first motorcade San Diego to St. Augustine - October 1929 return motorcade St. Augustine to San Diego

April 29, 1930 Don Pablo de Ubarri, representative of His Majesty Alphonso XIII of Spain presented Royal Order of Spain, the Confederation of the Royal Order of Isabel la Catolica to Harral Ayres (cross to be returned to Spain upon Ayres' death) for his 10 years of leadership

Commemorative stone bench placed at corner Fredericksburg Road and Vance Jackson, San Antonio, Texas by the Alamo Mission Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas

2002 Plans begun for decade-long highly publicized OST Centennial Celebration with 2015 Mobile organizational reenactment, annual conference reenactments in various cities, 2023, 2024 and 2029 zero-mile marker reenactments and grand 2029 historic motorcade reenactments

Charlotte Kahl 2004

(210)735-3503

OST100KAHL@AOL.COM

www.OLDSPANISHTRAILCENTENNIAL.com

2. NPHS was pleased to learn that the San Diego County Archives is reactivating after a hiatus due to the virus crisis. We received an email from the manager, saying:

“The San Diego County Archives is excited to offer a traveling lecture program in 2023. Our professionally trained archivists will visit host organizations from across the County to engage with community members about the value of local government records, the role of the Recorder in preserving official records and making them accessible to the public, and an overview of historic records at the County Archives. If your organization is interested in hosting a guest lecture, please reply to this email no later than Friday, 11/18/22. Please include a brief description of your organization, location, and the proposed date and time. Please feel free to reach out directly with questions. We look forward to hearing from you!”

The NPHS Board unanimously approved Katherine replying with our interest in hosting an archivist presentation, which Katherine did on November 18. The archivist manager promptly responded, and the **County has confirmed they will provide a speaker for a public meeting on May 18, 2023 at 6:00 pm in a meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church. Mark your calendars, because everyone is invited to attend!**

3. Holly contacted us through Facebook and then email. She said, “I had spoken with you briefly through Facebook. Thank you so much for, not only replying to me, but also willing to look up any history on my childhood home. The address of the house is 3638 Bancroft St, San Diego, CA 92104. I’ll attach a couple of photos I have from the house back when I lived there, as well as what it looks like today...I absolutely love historical sites, especially in North Park.” We found some information about the earliest residents of the house in records available online, and told Holly the following:

The house at 3638 Bancroft Street was built in the Mission Revival style during 1923. The first time a value of improvements appears in the tax assessor books is January 1924. The history of ownership based on City directories and tax assessor books includes Ralph W. Smith and wife Gladys, who owned the house from 1925 to 1935. He was a route foreman with the Union Ice Company. A very long-time owner was Albert J. Galloway and his wife Delphia, who owned the house from 1939 to at least 1980, which is the latest directory available online. They had a son, Albert James Galloway, Jr., born in 1926. Delphia lived in the house after her husband died in 1958 and was the owner listed in 1980. The Galloway family founded Galloway’s Pharmacy, which is still located at 2995 National Avenue. In the 1956 City Directory, the pharmacy is listed as “Galloway’s Pharmacy (Albert J. Galloway) A.J. Galloway, Jr., mgr. Day & Nite Service, Free Delivery, Prescriptions Our Specialty, Member San Diego Pharmaceutical Association, Same Location 31 Years, 2995 National Avenue.”

4. Jill contacted us, saying, “I am reaching out because I recently was given a tour of wonderful historic homes in North Park. It was part of Osher Life time Learning. It was great and everyone enjoyed it. I have a bungalow at 2816 Dale St. built in 1924. The docents informed me that your group could come by and take a look to see if it was even possible to apply for the Mills Act. I would greatly appreciate it if you could. I don’t have any plans or paperwork on the home. The previous owner led me to believe that it could be possible. Please let me know.” The NPHS designation evaluation team found that the house should be able to qualify as an Individually Significant historical resource for its architectural integrity in the Craftsman style. We also provided information about previous owners, including the following:

The house at 2816 Dale Street was built in the Craftsman style in the Blair's Highlands subdivision during 1923. The first time a value of improvements appears in the tax assessor books is January 1924, and the owner is David Warren Higgins and his wife Emily. His occupation in the 1926 City Directory is listed as a carpenter for the San Diego Electric Railway Co. Emily continued to live at 2816 Dale Street after her husband died in 1933, until 1941, when Herman Hamby and his wife Kathryn Belle Hess Hamby bought it. Their son, Lester, and daughter, Myrtle Beatrice, are also listed as residing at the home in 1941. Lester is 29 at this time and Myrtle Beatrice is 27. Herman's occupation was a painter for the Dennstedt Co., a prominent local home builder. Lester's occupation was the same. Herman died in 1965; Kathryn died in 1966. Myrtle Beatrice married, becoming Mrs. Elmer Logue and moving to La Mesa. Lester never married and lived at 2816 Dale Street until his death in 1999. A Hamby lived at 2816 Dale Street for 58 years. An interesting story about Lester Hamby is that he served in the Army in World War 2, was captured by the Germans in North Africa during in 1943, and freed April 27, 1945, according to this May 15, 1945 San Diego Union article. His photo from 1942 and as an older man with his sister were available from Ancestry.com.

TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 15, 1945

FREED YANK PRISONERS SEND WORD HOME BEFORE ARMY DOES

Outstripping official war department cables, letters from American soldiers liberated from German prison camps are bringing joy into many San Diego homes. Among the latest such letters is one received yesterday from Sgt. Lester Hamby, captured at the battle of the Kasserine pass in North Africa, Feb. 19, 1943. "Freed April 27," he wrote on Red Cross stationery to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Hamby, of 2816 Dale st. "Feel like a little kid going to his first show. Have print-

ed my letters so long I can hardly write any more. Should be in the States within three weeks, they tell us. We are waiting for planes to pick us up here in Germany." He expected to go to France, and then back to the United States.

Hamby was one of the non-commissioned officers apparently moved westward to the vicinity of Luckenwald as the Germans fell back before the Russian advance.

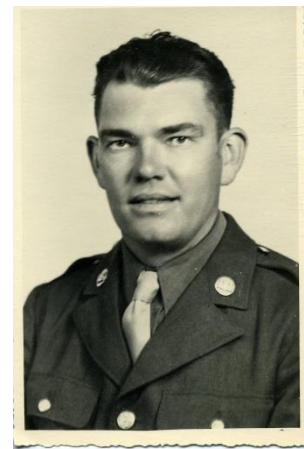
The Red Cross reports that field men try to contact liberated prisoners as soon as they are freed and supply them with stationery. Assembly camps for freed American prisoners have been opened at Namur in Belgium, and at Thion and Sedan in France. At Le Havre there is an evacuation transit camp through which freed Americans are being repatriated directly to the United States. The Red Cross has stocked the camps with release kits and food packages.

Because of confusion attending the release of thousands of prisoners, word is coming from many of them direct, well ahead of war department notifications.

Recess Called as Peete Case Prosecution Rests

LOS ANGELES, May 14 (A.P.)—The prosecution rested today in the murder trial of Mrs. Louise Peete, and court was recessed until Wednesday to let the defense prepare its case.

Mrs. Peete, paroled after serving 18 years of a life sentence for the 1920 murder of a wealthy miner, Jacob Denton, is accused of killing her friend and benefactress, Mrs.



12. FUTURE MEETINGS

We will not meet in December 2022. However, in January 2023, we plan to re-start public meetings on the third THURSDAYS of the month starting at 6:00 p.m. in a meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church. We are still providing information to all who contact us with questions about North Park history and including documentation of those communications in monthly meeting summaries.

Prepared by

Katherine Hon

Katherine Hon
Secretary, North Park Historical Society