

## NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MAY 2023 MEETING NOTES

**DATE: MAY 18, 2023**

**TIME: 6:00 PM**

These notes summarize information that would have been presented at the May 18, 2023 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 May 31, 2023. The following Board members attended: Jody, George, Claudia, Michael, Randy, Sharon, Katherine and Steve. Also, members and friends Turner, Kit, Allison, Lynn, Jeff, Linda, Kristin, Bill, Tera, Brandon, Lauren and Jeffrey attended. This meeting featured a special presentation by San Diego County Archives staff, so no other business was conducted.

We are hopeful that the public health crisis due to COVID-19 has passed. Therefore, our meetings scheduled for the third **THURSDAYS of the month starting at 6:00 p.m.** in a meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church **WILL BE** open to the public. Our next meeting will be **June 15 at 6:00 pm.** If you are interested in attending this meeting, please email Katherine at [khon@honconsultinginc.com](mailto:khon@honconsultinginc.com) or leave a phone message on her land line at 619-294-8990 so we will have enough chairs.

### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

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

### **2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The May 2023 issue of the Pacific Beach Historical Society newsletter presented Part 3 of a History of Crown Point.

### **3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE**

The notes for the April 20, 2023 meeting have been posted on the website.

## **BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING**

### **4. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The financials for this meeting are for April 20 to May 17, 2023 and were sent to Board members on May 17, 2023. In this time period, two members renewed (thank you, Bill and Randy!), and one member gave a donation (thank you, Bill!). The total income was \$120.00. Expenses in this time period consisted of \$199.98 for a 2-year renewal of the SSL certificate for our website hosted by GoDaddy.

## **ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING**

### **5. WALKING TOURS**

***Morley Field Walking Tour*** On May 30, the Tuesday after Memorial Day, Steve led a walking tour of the Morley Field Recreational Area for 24 members of the Continuing Education program in the San Diego Community College District's "Rediscovering San Diego" class. Bob and Katherine helped show photos. In the Fall we may do a "North Park Now and Then" PowerPoint lecture for them.



On a related note, the Balboa Tennis Club in Morley Field celebrated 100 years on May 21 with fun events, including tennis exhibitions, food, music, tee shirts and history lectures. Their souvenir brochure summarized their history with a timeline and photos of famous coaches and players. Tennis Pro Geoff Griffin was one of the speakers about their history.

### Balboa Tennis Club History – Born June 19, 1922

- 1922** – Six courts erected by War Memorial Building in Balboa Park, close to the SD Zoo.
- 1924** – San Diego Tennis Association receives lease to operate for the public.
- 1925** – Small clubhouse with locker rooms was built close to courts.
- 1933** – Morley Field completed with eight tennis courts, a pool and other sport courts.
- 1939** – Articles of Incorporation written recognizing BTC as a public, non-profit corporation.
- 1940** – Courts 9 & 10 were built.
- 1966** – Courts 11-18, 19-24 built. Stadium 6 months later.
- 1967** – BTC officially moved from SD Zoo parking lot to current location. BTC Clubhouse designed and built by famous architect Sim Bruce Richards.
- 1969** – Hiroko and Bob Ray, currently Rays Tennis, took over as Pro Shop tenants at BTC. Bob Ray taught with Wilbur Folsom on courts 1 & 2.
- 1980** – New tenant took over the Pro Shop. Tennis pros teaching at the Club included Robert Lansdorp, Ed Collins, Brian Turner, Jim Ferrari and Mark Tappen, amongst others. Various managers ran the club for several years including Judy Bushnell and Don Henson.
- 1983** – The Club assumed all operational responsibilities. This is the time period when the Club started charging court fees and memberships were sold.
- 1988** – Geoff Griffin was hired as Tennis Director and Pro Shop operator. Courts 1-6, 11 & 12 were rebuilt at this time due to the efforts of President Bill Stack.
- 1999** – Club operating at a deficit. City was about to pull the charter. Club needed increase in revenue. Robin Rodger met with City and asked for another chance.
- 1999 – 2007** – Robin Rodger served as President. Along with Treasurer Ron Celeste and CPA Joe Campbell, they turned the financial situation at BTC around in a positive way.
- 2005** – Colleen Clery Ferrell hired as Club Director and is currently in her 18<sup>th</sup> year.
- 2007 – 2015** – Dwight Van Slyke served as President. Video Security System installed and many other physical improvements.
- 2016-2021** – Janene Christopher served as President and along with a solid base of board members, put BTC on a good fiscal and operational path. Janene helped implement incredible structural improvements at Balboa Tennis Club during this time period.
- 2022** – Geoff Griffin retired as Tennis Director after 34 years. Hiromi Sasano hired as Tennis Director and operational owner of the Pro Shop.
- 2022-2023** – Dr. Gary L. Smith is the current President. Membership boomed during COVID. The Club continues to thrive under his leadership.



Wilbur Folsom's 1967 retirement party.  
Courtesy of Ben Press



The Big Four in person.  
Dianne Kostial, Marion Vernon,  
Mo Connolly, Patsy Zellmer



Louie Mack, Paul Smith,  
Harper Ink Jr., Howard Nagel



Wilbur Folsom and sons with Kristien Kemmer 1962



Ben Press & Mo Connolly





**Pauly's Addition Walking Tour** The team has developed the route, photo notebook and guide notes for the southern part of Pauly's Addition. We have tentatively set July 22, a Saturday, for George and Claudia to lead small groups starting at 10:30 am. The Board liked the idea of simply asking for donations instead of charging a set price for the tour. We will use our new personal amplifiers with clip microphones, as traffic noise is a bit of a problem, especially along Texas Street.

## **6. SLIDE AND PHOTO SCANNING PROJECT**

We are in the process of scanning slides and notebooks with photos and notes from the Covington Family. At the end of these notes is a "cartoonized" map of the 1935-36 California Pacific International Exposition at Balboa Park, noted as "Copyrighted by Shell Oil Company." How many buildings and other features can you identify that are still there, perhaps with different names? Hint: The Ford Building in the lower right corner is now the San Diego Air & Space Museum.

## **7. SIGNS FOR DRYDEN DISTRICT**

There are no street signs marking the North Park Dryden Historic District as there are for other districts like Burlingame. Since 2021, NPHS has been contacting various City staff about putting up demarcation signs for the Dryden District. We hope Council District 3 staff will come through for us.

## **8. COMMUNITY COORDINATION AND ACTIVITIES**

In May 2023, we responded to requests for information (and received interesting information) and participated or arranged to participate in community activities as summarized below.

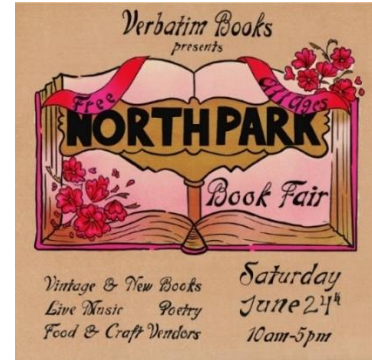
1. North Park Main Street's new Executive Director, Mark West, has offered NPHS a table at an occasional Farmer's Market to show our books and posters about North Park history. We originally proposed June 8, but we are going to postpone until August, as we don't have our branded canopy yet.

Also, NPHS attended the North Park Main Street Business Forum on May 11 at the Haven, located at 3381 30<sup>th</sup> Street. The event space is very bright and open and there were several presentations on resources for local businesses.



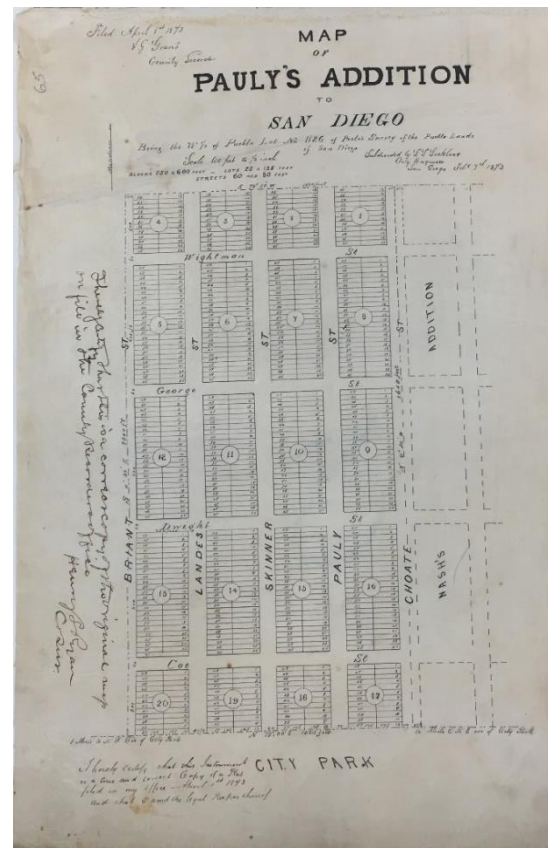
2. The Old Spanish Trail Centennial Celebration Association will be focusing their Centennial Convention at the Alpine Community Center on November 2 through 5, 2023. Information is available on their website at [Old Spanish Trail Centennial Homepage](#). George sent them some information about the location of the road in San Diego. He noted: "The western end of the Old Spanish Trail (OST) has two, time-related routes, both ending at a monument in Horton Plaza park in downtown San Diego. The initial route dates from 1923, located in the State Route (SR) 94/Imperial Avenue corridor. The eastern terminus of this route (and of SR 94 itself) is adjacent to Interstate Route 8 at Historic U.S. Route 80 in the community of Boulevard. East of Boulevard, the OST is located on Route 80 into Imperial County. Beginning in 1931, the second route is completely located in the Route 80 corridor within San Diego County." The OST Centennial Celebration Association was very appreciative of George's information.

3. Verbatim Books is coordinating a 2023 North Park Book Fair on Saturday, June 24, which will be an outdoor street festival including the North Park Mini Park, which has a built-in stage for poetry and author events. Katherine has requested a table where she can show NPHS books as well as her own North Park history book "History Snippets: PastMatters Stories of North Park".



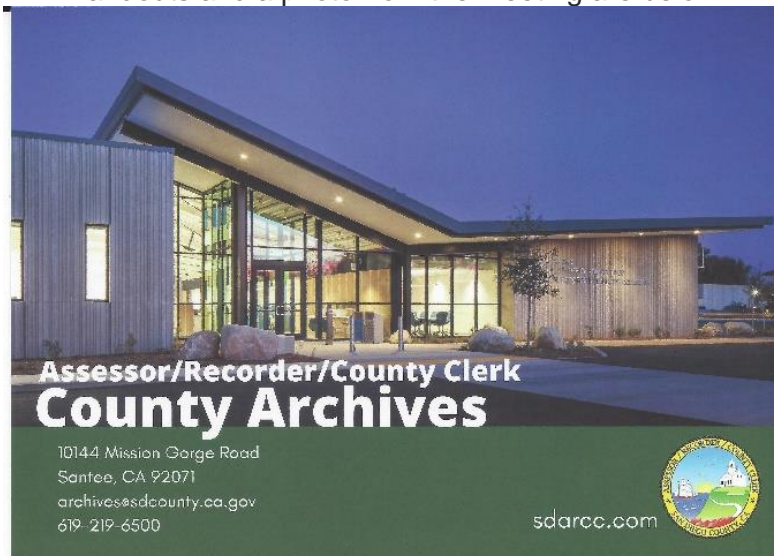
4. At our May 18, 2023 meeting, the San Diego County Archives staff Aditi Worcester and Kiera Sullivan talked about archival records in the County's new state-of-the-art Archives facility in Santee. Some of the information they shared included:

- They are the custodian of the historical record in the county, especially related to property ownership.
- They have 170,000 recorded map sheets, dating from 1850 to present. The types of maps they have include assessment districts (1964 to present), subdivision maps (1869 to present), parcel maps (1966 to present), Record of Survey maps (1891 to present), State Highway maps (1935 to present), and miscellaneous others that don't fit those specific types (1915 to present).
- If you want to conduct research at the Archives, they recommend phoning 619-219-6500 or emailing [archives@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:archives@sdcounty.ca.gov) to make an appointment so staff can be ready to help. Or you can visit to just look through the index of key words on their computer kiosks, which also have digital images of their maps. However, their data and maps are not online remotely. You have to use their kiosks at the Archives.
- Using the Grantee Index and Deed Books in their records, they showed us pages recording when Aaron Pauly filed his subdivision of Pauly's Addition on April 1, 1873 and the original map of the subdivision with street names identified as Briant, Landes, Skinner, and Pauly (now Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas). Why those names? Because David Briant, David Landes, Lewis and Morgan Skinner, and Aaron Pauly were the landowners in the subdivision, as documented on page 179 in Deed Book 20.



After the meeting, Aditi emailed, "Thank you so much for hosting us yesterday! Kiera and I had a wonderful time meeting with the members of the North Park Historical Society – it was such an engaged group."

Handouts and a photo from the meeting are below.





## 9. NEW CANOPY WITH LOGO, AND BALLCAPS

In investigating a new canopy personalized with the NPHS logo and name, we learned that local graphics firm A7D could help us with this purchase. We are coordinating with David at A7D, and hope to have a branded canopy this summer.

Steve and Katherine met with AKA, the printing company who made our tote bags, about possibly making branded ballcaps for NPHS. The Board approved coordinating with AKA for designs and cost estimates. Katherine and Steve met with Jason at AKA on May 15. He confirmed we can mix styles of “unstructured” all cloth (hat on left) and the “structured” style with mesh back (hat on right). AKA simplified our logo so it could work with an embroidered label and sent photos of possible designs. The Board liked the versions in the photos below. Steve and Katherine will pursue getting costs from Jason at AKA.



## 10. 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.

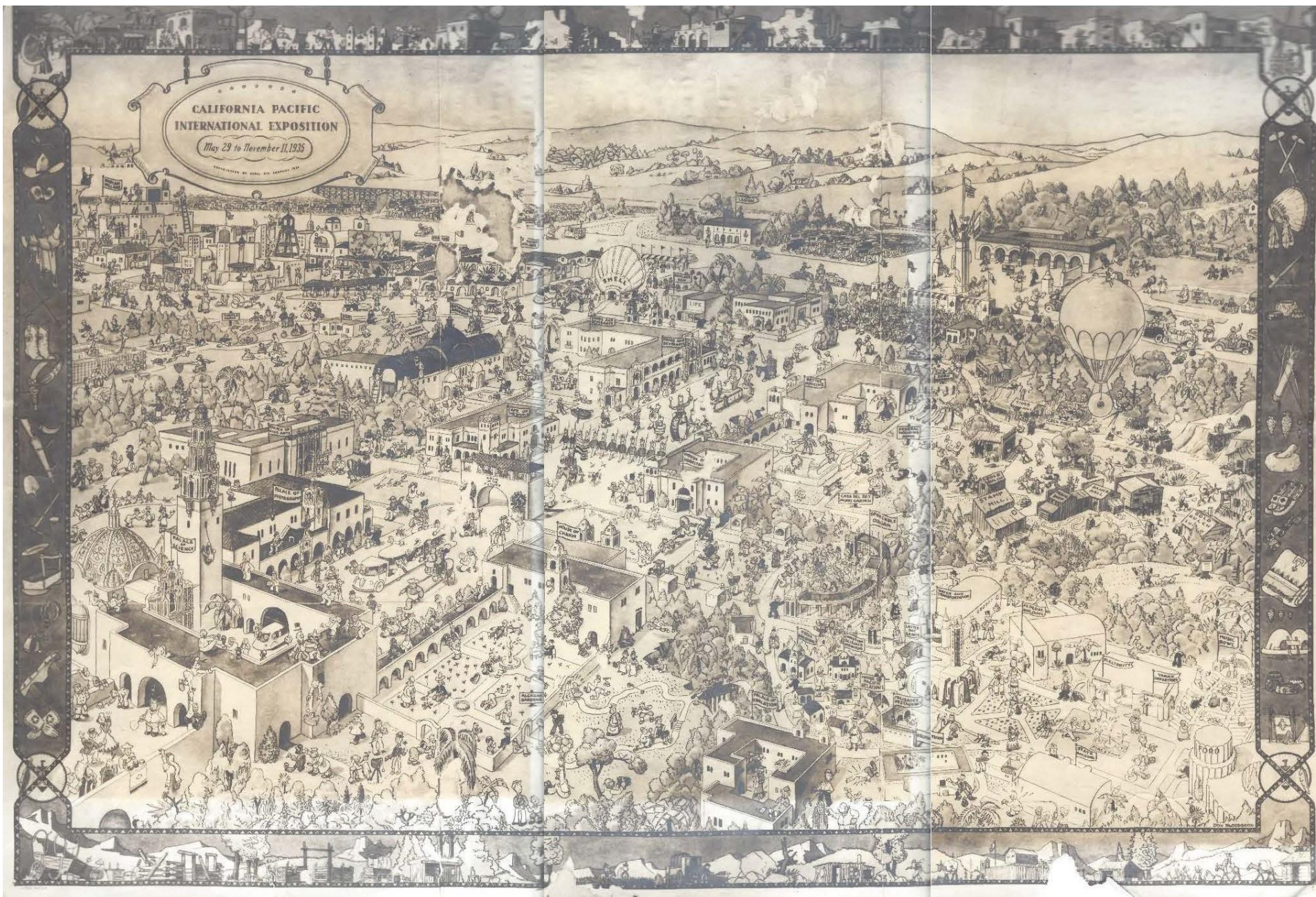
## 11. FUTURE MEETINGS

After three years, we have re-started public meetings, which will be scheduled for the third THURSDAYS of the month starting at 6:00 p.m. in a meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church. **Our next meeting will be on June 15.** Please email Katherine at [khon@honconsultinginc.com](mailto:khon@honconsultinginc.com) or leave a voice message on her land line at 619-294-8990 if you want to attend.

Prepared by

Katherine Hon  
Secretary, North Park Historical Society





"Cartoonized" map of the 1935 California Pacific International Exposition in Balboa Park (Courtesy of the Covington Family)