

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
JUNE 2024 MEETING SUMMARY**

**DATE: JUNE 20, 2024**

**TIME: 6:00 PM**

These notes summarize information that was presented at the June 20, 2024 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 23, 2024. Board Members Steve, Katherine, Jody, Allison, Claudia, Paul, George, Randy and Michael attended. Welcome!

All future public meetings scheduled for the **third THURSDAYS of the month starting at 6:00 p.m. WILL BE** held in a meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church. In addition, we continue to provide information to all who contact us with questions about North Park history and document those communications in our monthly meeting notes. **Our next meeting will be July 18.**

**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 newsletter was shown.

**3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE**

The meeting notes from the May 16, 2024 meeting have been posted on the website.

**BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING**

**4. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The financials for this meeting are for May 16 to June 19, 2024 and were sent to Board members on June 19, 2024. In this time period, one member renewed and gave an additional donation (thank you, Judy!) and one new member joined (thank you, David!) for total income of \$70. Expenses in this time period totaled \$1,125 for our liability insurance for 2024-2025. We have received the policy verification paperwork from our provider.

It has been one year since Union Bank became US Bank and our NPHS bank accounts were transferred from Union Bank to US Bank. We have been successfully using the new debit card and can continue to use our old checks until they are used up.

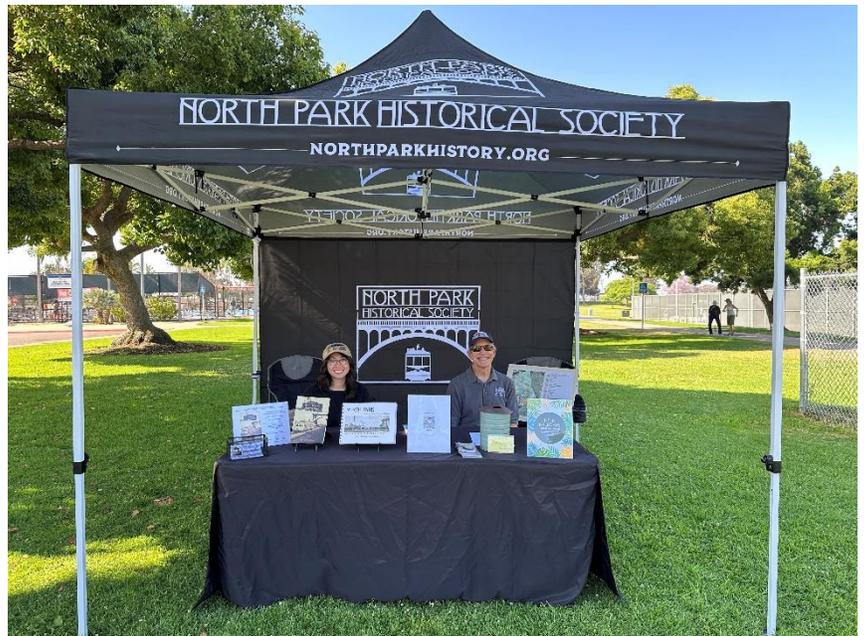
**ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING**

**5. SIGNS FOR DRYDEN DISTRICT**

Since 2021, NPHS has been pursuing signs for the North Park Dryden Historic District. Three of the four anticipated signs have been installed. The newest sign is on the east side of Pershing Avenue just north of Upas Street.

**6. WALKING TOURS AND OTHER NPHS EVENTS**

***Morley Field Walking Tour*** We conducted an advertised tour of Morley Field on Saturday, **June 22**. We put up our canopy in the park around 9:00 am, and helpers were there to answer questions. Steve conducted the 10:00 tour with George and Jody showing photos.



There were five attendees. Claudia conducted the 10:30 tour with Bob showing photos and Allison and Victor attending. Katherine stayed behind to staff the canopy. About 10 people besides tour attendees stopped by. We received \$14 in donations and sold one khaki hat.

**Other Walking Tours** We are still considering conducting an advertised tour of a focused part of the Burlingame Historic District for the general public later this year.

**Verbatim Pop-Up Book Fair in the Mini-Park**  
 Verbatim Books is holding a Pop-Up Book Fair on Saturday, June 29 from 10 am to 5 pm featuring 24 selected book and craft vendors at the Mini-Park behind the Observatory (North Park Theatre) at 29<sup>th</sup> Street and North Park Way. North Park Historical Society is one of the fortunate few! Come to the Mini-Park (or “plaza”) on June 29 and look for our canopy.

**7. SLIDE AND PHOTO SCANNING PROJECT**

We are in the process of scanning slides and notebooks with photos and notes from the Covington Family and other sources. Stuart Hartley, a professional photographer, has volunteered to help. Years ago, his cousin Sarah shared with NPHS a beautiful calendar she compiled with historic information about members of the Hartley family who were so important in the development of North Park. Below is her compilation on Jack Hartley.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 29**  
 10 AM - 5 PM FREE | ALL AGES



MYSTERIOUS GALAXY | LA PLAYA BOOKS | THE BOOK CATAPULT  
 THE COMICBOOK ARTISTS OF SAN DIEGO | LIBELULA BOOKS  
 JOYRIDE BOOKSHOP | THE LIBRARY SHOP | SDBOOKGIRL  
 BOOKSWORKS N SUCH | MR. RYAN'S MUSIC | BURN ALL BOOKS  
 NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY | NUCLEAR COMICS  
 PUNA PRESS | SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COMICS | COTTAGE CRAFT  
 STREET SMART BOOKSTORE | ELIZARRARAS ART | BOOKS FOR AGES  
 STAY STRANGE PUBLISHING | LITTLE FISH COMIC BOOK STUDIO  
 SENSITIVE CASSETTES | ADAM GNADE | BOOK BARN GALORE

**AT THE NORTH PARK MINI PARK**  
 3812 29TH STREET, SAN DIEGO, CA 92104  
 GO TO VERBATIMBOOKS.COM/EVENTS FOR MORE INFO

### John Charles Hartley, "Jack"

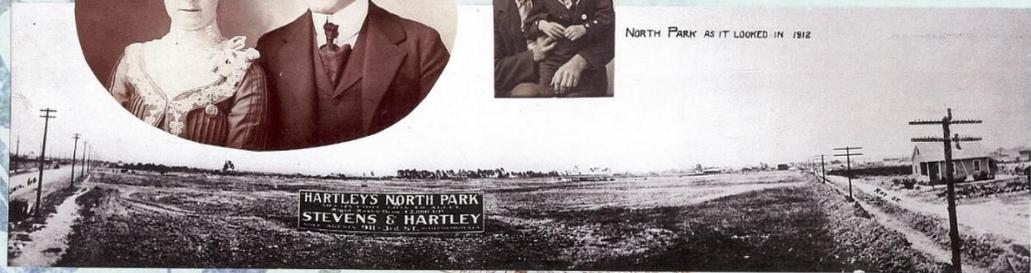
Born to James Monroe and Mary Jane Hartley in Iowa on 06/13/1876, Jack was 5 years old when the family moved to San Diego County. As a young boy, he helped his mother to haul wheat to the mill many miles from the Dehesa farm. He also earned money for the family by herding the neighbors' dairy cows. He attended San Diego High School, at the time called The Russ School. A gifted athlete, Jack played on several San Diego baseball teams including the 1907 Pickwicks. He was a very talented south paw pitcher, and was also used in center field because he could throw the ball so far. He married **Ella Stanton Dodge** on 12/26/1901 in San Diego. She was the daughter of John Mason "Jack" Dodge (manager of the Pickwicks) and his wife Louisa Birdsall Millsbaugh. Jack Dodge's father, Richard V. Dodge, was the first Presbyterian minister in San Diego, and was a friend of Abe Lincoln's.

Jack and Ella had a daughter, **Marian Dodge Hartley**, on 01/04/1904, a son, **Eugene Julian Hartley**, on 08/12/1905, and another son, **John Monroe Hartley**, born 01/06/1909. Jack was the developer of North Park along with his brother in law, Will Stevens. He also started an insurance firm in 1909 that is still in business and being run by his grandson, Richard Hartley. Jack was active in the San Diego Chamber of Commerce, was the first president of the North Park Lions Club, and was affiliated with the Red Star Lodge No. 163, and the Knights of Pythias. He died in San Diego on 11/5/1937. Grandson Richard recalls Jack's instructions on shaking hands: "Look them in the eyes and squeeze their hand!"



Far left: Ella Stanton Dodge Hartley & Jack Hartley. Middle: 1898 photo of Jack with his young brother, Paul.





**8. COMMUNITY COORDINATION AND ACTIVITIES**

In June 2024, we responded to requests for information (and received interesting information) and participated in community activities as summarized below.

1. Brian J., who owns a Craftsman house on Herman Avenue, was curious if his house could qualify for the Mills Act. We found the house in our online building permit database, and the permit information recorded by Donald Covington indicates the house was built during 1922. John Bellman, a carpenter who was living at 3692 Herman Avenue, and Charles H. Tifal — now designated as a Master Builder by the City of San Diego Historical Resources Board — pulled the building permit on February 8, 1922. The property is in the subdivision of McFadden and Buxton’s North Park, and the first time a value of improvements was listed for this property was January 1923. The first owner was Benjamin Overfield Lacey, who lived in the house from 1923 until his death in 1975 – for 52 years. He was a science teacher. He began teaching at Russ School (now San Diego High School) in 1902. He became the head of the science department and retired in 1942. One month before his death, he was honored as the oldest living graduate of UC Berkeley. We found his obituary and an article indicating he was an amateur magician. Brian replied, “Wow! This is amazing! Thanks so much! I wonder if there are any secrets to this house, owing to Mr. Lacey’s magic!”

2. Jasper H. with a real estate group called to ask if we had any information about the garden apartment complex at 3933-45 Hamilton Street. The complex is in our Streetcar Suburb on Hamilton Drive walking tour booklet. It is pictured on page 3, and is described as “one of the grandest courts in North Park.” We mailed a booklet to him, and he emailed, “Thank you so much for sending me the tour map of historic North Park properties! I appreciate your help.”

3. The City HRB approved the designation of 3545 Mississippi Street on May 23. NPHS provided a letter of support for designation of this 1922 Craftsman home built by Master Builder Alexander Schreiber, which is a highlight on our Pauly’s Addition tour.



NPHS Meeting Summary 6-20-2024

**MAGICIANS HONOR CLUB PRESIDENT**

C. W. Fait, president San Diego Magicians club, is telling friends that, had it happened 40 years ago, he would have suspected that his birthday cake was only a trick of magic.

The club, composed of former professionals and a number of amateurs, meets once a month at members' homes where they put on an evening of magic, followed by refreshments.

Fait was 78 years of age Tuesday. The Magicians club met that evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Lacey, 3735 Herman ave. After all the tricks had been done there appeared before Fait a large cake, decorated with candles.

The 30 members of the club attended the birthday party. The next meeting will be March 19.

San Diego Union Feb. 23, 1934

**EX-TEACHER**

**B.O. Lacey Rites Set Tomorrow**

Services will be at 11 a.m. tomorrow in Merkley-Mitchell Mortuary for Benjamin O. Lacey, 99, a mathematics and science teacher for 40 years at the old Russ High School and San Diego High School. He retired in 1942 as head of the school's science department.

Burial will be in Mount Hope Cemetery.

Lacey, of 3735 Herman Ave., died Sunday in a hospital. A native of Binghamton, N.Y., and a San Diego resident for 73 years, he attended the University of Southern California and was graduated from UC Berkeley in the class of 1901.

The San Diego Teachers Association honored him last month as the oldest living graduate of UC Berkeley. Lacey also had been a mathematics teacher at the Boyden School.

A life member of the Good Sports Club and the oldest



**BENJAMIN O. LACEY ...succumbs at 99**

living member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Grand Lodge. Lacey also was a member of San Diego Elks Lodge 168, San Diego Retired Teachers Association, Old Timers Club of San Diego and the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 244.

Survivors include a grandson, Winfield Marvin of San Diego, a granddaughter, and six great-grandchildren. The family suggest contribu-

tions to the FOE Aerie 244 Cancer Fund

San Diego Union Mar. 24, 1976

## 9. NPHS WATER TOWER USED IN TOYLAND PARADE

Our valued member, Victor, who portrayed the dancing water tower in past Toyland Parades, has been storing the water tower “costume” in his garage. He graciously agreed to appear at our June 22 event at Morley Field and the tower looked nice sitting on the ground by our canopy. Victor said he is happy to continue storing the water tower, which we appreciate. Thank you also to George, who transported the water tower to and from Morley Field.



## 10. PAYMENT FOR NPHS MEMBERSHIP

We have activated Venmo for people to use for membership dues, and it has tested out as working. Our @ is northparkhistorical. We have modified the membership form to note that people can pay via Venmo, and Jody will use this version when she sends her email reminders to renew memberships.

## 11. CITY OF SAN DIEGO PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICIES

You can use the following link on the Planning Department webpage to sign up to get updates with the city’s info about the review process and timeline:

[Preservation and Progress | City of San Diego Official Website](#)

You can also request notifications of other city meetings, like the HRB, through this site.

George and Claudia reported that they attended a meeting presented by La Jolla Historical Society about the challenges facing historic preservation. George noted:

1. The City is considering changes to weaken the City’s historic designation program.
2. Assembly Bill 2580 currently being considered by the State Legislature would require historically designated buildings to be analyzed annually as part of each City’s Housing Element.
3. “Circulate San Diego” challenges nearly every new historic designation because they say designation:
  - benefits the wealthy,
  - rewards early racial discrimination and
  - limits housing availability by increasing value.

Claudia noted San Diego has already supplied more housing than required in previous versions of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment, and the housing crisis is related to affordable housing, not the kind of housing typically being built by developers.

Steve noted that in 1948 the Supreme Court found covenants restricting property on racial or religious grounds unconstitutional. The county is in the process of officially removing those covenants from all subdivision maps that had them, typically subdivisions formed in the early 1900s. Redlining is the practice conducted by lending institutions and realtors to keep segregation in place. It took Civil Rights legislation mainly in 1960s to outlaw such practices.

## 12. 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 completion of the city’s construction activities at the site.

## 13. FUTURE MEETINGS

All future public meetings scheduled for the **third THURSDAYS of the month starting at 6:00 p.m.** in a meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church **WILL OCCUR in 2024**, and we are still providing information to all who contact us with questions about North Park history. Our next meeting will be on **July 18**.

Prepared by

*Katherine Hon*

Katherine Hon  
Secretary, North Park Historical Society