

Santee Historical Society

Historical Happenings

Volume 9, Issue 3

July, August, September 2017



Santee Historical Museum at the Barn

9200 Magnolia

Open every Tuesday

except the 2nd one of the month,

from 10 to noon...

and the 3rd Saturday of each month
from 10 to 2 pm.

**Come visit...
everyone is welcome!**



P.O.Box 710636, Santee 92072



www.SanteeHistoricalSociety.org



Santee Historical Society



TheSanteeHistoricalSociety@gmail.com



619.449.2024

President's Message



Carol Crafts

Summer arrived bringing an extended heat wave. Be safe – drink lots of water – wear hats and sunscreen and come visit the Barn.

We look forward to hearing your stories and hope you will bring photos. The Barn isn't air-conditioned, but we do have fans.

The Student Garden has produced zucchini and bell peppers. The corn and tomatoes are growing. During school vacation we are watering from our rain barrel storage.

We have special events planned for every 3rd Saturday. See the calendar in this issue. The museum is also open during these events.

We are grateful to the many volunteers who helped with the events, filing, research and giving tours over the past 3 months. We NEED more help. (see page 4 in this issue).

We will be closed July 4th and 11th (2nd Tuesday of the month) but look forward to seeing you Saturday, July 15th.

Carol

**You can now pay your dues,
or donate, by credit card.**

Just go to our website at:

<http://santeehistoricalsociety.org/join/>

Click on the appropriate box,
and pay by the credit card
of your choice.

Easy!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carol Crafts, President
Robin Neece, Vice-President
Arli Wolfson, Secretary
Gary Strawn, Treasurer
Alan Thompson, Facilities
Irene Holstein, Sunshine

Upcoming Events

July 2017

Barn Closed	Tues 4	
Barn Closed	Tues 11	
Military Display	Sat 15	10-2
Barn Open	Tues 18	10-12
Barn Open	Tues 26	10-12

August 2017

Barn Open	Tues 1	10-12
Barn Closed	Tues 8	
Barn Open	Tues 15	10-12
Quilting in America	Sat 19	10-2
Barn Open	Tues 22	10-12
Barn Open	Tues 29	10-12

September 2017

Barn Open	Tues 5	10-12
Barn Closed	Tues 12	
Fire Safety Faire	Sat 16	10:30 - 1:30
Barn Open	Tues 19	10-12
Barn Open	Tues 26	10-12

October 2017

Barn Open	Tues 3	10-12
Barn Closed	Tues 10	
Barn Open	Tues 17	10-12
Zovargo	Sat 21	10-2
Barn Open	Tues 24	10-12
Barn Open	Tues 31	10-12

November 2017

Barn Open	Tues 7	10-12
Barn Closed	Tues 14	
City Tree Lighting	Fri 17	
Congress of History Mtg...	Sat 18	
Barn Open	Tues 21	10-12
Barn Open	Tues 28	10-12

December 2017

Christmas with Santa	Sat 2	10-2
Barn Open	Tues 5	10-12
Barn Closed	Sat 12	
Barn Open	Tues 19	10-12
Barn Closed	Tues 26	10-12

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS



**AZTEC & BARON
INSURANCE AGENCY**
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8860 Magnolia Avenue
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619-596-9686
www.omelettefactory.com



PETAL VISION DESIGN
EVENT PLANNING & FLORALS
Santee, CA 92071
619-823-3833
www.petalvision.com



SANTEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
10315 Mission Gorge Rd.
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SANTEE SCHOOL DISTRICT
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May /June Events at the Barn



Monarch Butterfly Event and Planting of the Milkweed Butterfly Garden

We had a successful Butterfly & Milkweed Event for River Days this May 2017. Over 100 total visitors came to the Barn and learned more about Monarch Butterflies and how to save them. Visitors and Exhibitors helped plant our new Butterfly Garden and released a grown butterfly into the wild.

2017 Santee Street Fair



2017 Composting Event



The City of Santee, and Waste Management held a composting event at the Barn on June 17th . Although the participation was low, we learned some fascinating information on Composting.

Quilting in America



In August we are having an exhibit on Quilting in America, and we need your help! We will have an exhibit of quilts. If you have a quilt you would like to loan us for the exhibition, we would love to display it. We also need to have people to show these quilts and talk about the quilting process with visitors. Please let us know if you can help.

- You can call the Barn/Museum at **(619)449-2024** and leave a message
- Or call our Volunteer Co-coordinator—**Jason Kevane at (619) 248-3697**
- Or email us at volunteers@santeehistoricalsociety.org

Are You Part of The New Era ?

The Santee Historical Society is ushering in a new era. Jason Kevane has taken on the position of Volunteer Coordinator.

Our volunteers range in age from pre-teens to retired people. We have individuals who volunteer a couple hours a month to groups that come in for a specific project. We are a fun group that enjoys the camaraderie that comes with working on a worthy cause.

Our volunteer opportunities range from sanding and painting, archiving newspaper articles about Santee, transcribing tapes and newspaper articles, to taking photos and greeting people at events.

We also need people to help at various Santee activities such as the Santee Street Fair, the Santee Concerts and the Tree Lighting, and the monthly events that take place at the Barn.

Please volunteer some time... even a few hours a month. We welcome new ideas and energy. You can contact Jason at Volunteers@SanteeHistoricalSociety.org or call 619-449-2024 and leave a message.

Come on by... we are open 3 Tuesdays a month and at least one Saturday. If you see the 'Open' flag flying, we are here!



Santee's Fire Houses

Originally, all Santee firefighters were volunteers. They served about 10,000 residents in the mostly rural city, which was just beginning to see its first subdivisions.

The first fire station was an 'out building' or shed behind Floyd's Shell Station on Mission Gorge Road. The 'fire station' had an old washing machine on top that was modified with an air raid siren that would alert the volunteers of an emergency in the area. The volunteers would race to the station and respond in the fire engine. If the engine was already out, a note would be left to indicate where the emergency was, since there was no 911 service.



Eventually, 10 volunteers had a radio system installed in their homes to quicken response times.

In 1959, two firemen were hired at \$350 a month. They worked out of the station on Mission Gorge Road, built in 1957.

As the city grew, a three-bedroom house on Carlton Hills Boulevard was purchased for \$12,700 and converted into Fire Station Two.



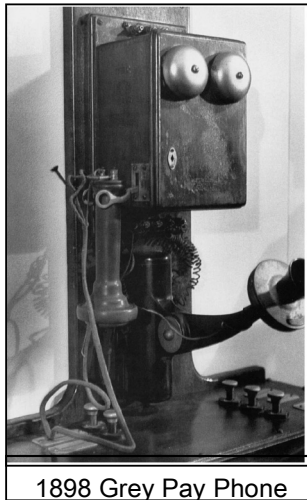
The Cottonwood station opened in 1972.



The newest station on Carlton Oaks replaced the converted house in 2000.



History of the Pay Phone



1898 Grey Pay Phone

There has been a need for public telephones as long as there have been telephones.

Phones were expensive, and most people could not afford to have one installed in their homes. Before the invention of pay phones, and as early as 1878, 'Pay Telephone Stations' existed.

'Telephone Attendants' would collect the money due after people made their calls, sometimes locking customers in a booth so they couldn't leave without paying.

Making a secure and reliable pay phone turned out to be tough to do, and in 1889 William Gray got a patent for an innovative coin payment mechanism. Gray's first prototype device involved a box that covered the mouth of the receiver and would slide away when a coin was deposited. However, it was rejected on the grounds that one coin could buy several phone calls and that if another station was called, the receiver would also have to pay.

After a few more failed attempts, Gray found the surprisingly simple solution: a 'coin-controlled apparatus' that used a small bell to signify the operator when a coin was deposited (*patented Aug 13, 1889 (US 408,709)*), and, a couple years later, a more elaborate "signal device for telephone pay stations" (*patented June 23, 1891)(US 454,470)*.

In 1891, Gray set up the Gray Telephone Pay Station Company and began installing phones on posts and in cabinets across America.

The Western Electric No. 5 Coin Collector, the first automatic "prepay" station, went into use in 1898. The depositing of coins before placing a call would gradually become the norm in pay phones until the introduction of 'dial tone first' service in 1966.

By 1902, there were 81,000 pay telephones in the United States. These payphones were all indoor telephones. The first outdoor Bell System coin telephone, installed in 1905, was a tough sell. People were reluctant to make private calls on a public thoroughfare. But people quickly overcame their shyness, and pay phones proliferated.

It was in 1966, 'dial tone first' service was introduced turning coin phones into emergency call stations because such calls could be made without first depositing coins. 1898 Grey Pay Phone History of the Pay Phone

Pay phones had a run of about 113 years. On Feb. 2, 2001, BellSouth announced that it was getting out of the pay phone business. That made it the first major phone company to do so. Now pay phones are rarely found. With so many people carrying phones in their pockets, that number has dwindled dramatically.

Pay phones have now become a part of our history.

If you have an old or antique phone, please consider donating or loaning it to the Santee Historical Society. We would like to create a display focusing on telephones. Thank you.

Spotlight SHS Business Member

In 1981 Santee had yet to be developed. Jimmie Johnson, the famous home grown NASCAR champion, first learned to ride dirt bikes along with many others in Santee's empty land yet to be developed. Three wheeler accidents in the Santee sandpits, now the trolley center, were a consistent cause of chipped front teeth.

That same year, Douglas Fossett DDS opened his dental practice in Santee. It was a family business with his wife working in the Office dealing with the numerous jobs that an office manager handles with a family practice.

Remarkably, their son, David decided he also wanted to become a dentist. David Fossett graduated from USC Dental School and started working with his father. David must have liked it, because David continues to practice at the same location. He now treats the same patients who watched him grow up, coached him in sports, taught him in school, and are the parents of his childhood friends.



This is indeed a family practice. Just as husband and wife worked in the office in the office of Douglas Fossett, husband, David and wife, Lauren, work in the office Fossett, D.D.S. This is definitely still a family practice.

For over 35 years the Fossett office is known in the community as a comfortable 'family dentist' type of practice. It still has the same family atmosphere where the patient comes first, but with the addition of David came the addition of new state-of-the-art equipment along with specialties such as Implants, Root canals, Invisalign, and Cosmetics.

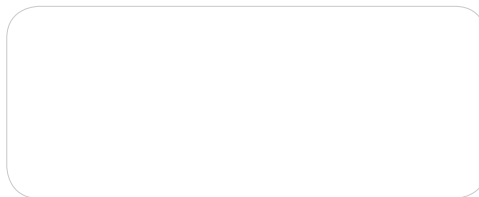
This is a truly home grown local Santee businesses that continues to do business as they always have; with a personal touch, a little humor, and roots to the community.

Santee Historical Society

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Carol Crafts, President
Robin Neece, Vice President
Arli Wolfson, Secretary
Gary Strawn, Treasurer
Alan Thompson, Facilities Engineer
Irene Holstein, Sunshine Committee

*Printing courtesy of Bob Newton
of Town & Country Printers*



Santee Historical Society

**is focused on being
an integral part of the Santee community.**

With the help of our volunteers, our goal is to provide the residents of Santee with events that offer entertainment and education, as well as an appreciation of Santee's heritage and history.

Save these Dates!

July **Military Display** Sat 15, 10-2
August **Quilting in America** Sat 19, 10-2
September **Fire Safety Faire** Sat 16, 10:30-1:30
October **Zovargo** Sat 21, 10-2
December **Christmas with Santa** ... Sat 2 , 10-2