

Santee Historical Society

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

Volume 10 Issue 4

October 2018



The Barn, 9200 Magnolia, which houses the Santee Museum, is open every Tuesday (except the 2nd one of the month) from 10 to noon, and also the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10 to 2 pm.



P.O. Box 710636
Santee, CA 92072



SanteeHistoricalSociety.org



TheSanteeHistoricalSociety



619.449.2024
(please leave a message)



Info@SanteeHistoricalSociety.org

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At Large -	Chuck Brack, Rae Swiech, Rachel Kert

From the desk of

the President



Santee Historical Society has had a busy summer with upgrades to our facility including several solar lights and new doors to improve safety and security, a new rail fence built by as an Eagle Scout project that replaced an unsightly chain link fence, construction of the Elaine Murphy Amphitheater, and improvements inside the barn. We also had the El Cajon Historical Society visit in July bringing twenty-four members for their quarterly meeting and lunch. They had a great time and were impressed with our collection of historical artifacts. September saw the 2nd annual Fire Safety Fair in conjunction with the Santee Fire Department where the youngsters of our community interacted with fire fighters and saw some historical fire equipment on display was a huge success. We hope to make this an annual event.

The upcoming quarter may be our busiest this year. The Santee Chamber of Commerce returns for an evening of fun with scary ghosts and goblins (not including our resident poltergeist) in early October. This social event was such a success last year, they can't wait for this year's event. We are working feverishly to complete the construction on the Elaine Murphy Amphitheater in order to host an event on November 10th as we honor the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. Please check our website later this month to see if we will be ready. Other events this quarter includes the Santee Tree Lighting Ceremony, Friday, November 16th and the return of Santa Claus on Saturday, December 1st. For times and more information about our events check our website at www.SanteeHistoricalSociety.org.



I want to introduce the newest member of our team, Eloise Dowd, who is our new Events Coordinator. If the recent Fire Safety event is any indicator of Ms. Eloise ability, she will make a great addition to our team. She is also working toward a Masters Degree in History and what a perfect setting to gather historical information. Welcome Ms. Eloise.

As we reach out to our community with these various events, we need your support to help promote the Santee Historical Society. If you can, you could volunteer your time, suggest themes for upcoming events, encourage others to visit and participate, or donate historical artifacts that were used in the early days of Santee. Together, we can bring history to all members of our community, especially the youngsters.

Alan

2nd Annual Fire & Safety Fair



Meet Our Team

The newest member of our team is Eloise Dowd. She is our new **Outreach and Events Associate**, working in collaboration with the Santee Historical Society and the San Diego River Park Foundation.

Originally from Australia, Eloise now lives in San Diego, and will be working with us to organize events and presentations at the Edgemoor Barn.

If you would like more information about an upcoming event, want to organize a group tour, or if you have any general questions, please reach out to her by email at

thesanteehistoricalvolunteers@gmail.com.

Eloise is looking forward to working with the community and helping people learn more about Santee's history.



Do you have a story about Santee to tell? The Santee Historical Society now has two individuals interviewing residents and former residents of Santee. We want to hear your stories about the way life used to be in Santee.

Stories of living in Santee need to be preserved for the next generation. What was a typical summer's day? What was the street you grew up on? What did it look like? Who were your neighbors? Who did you play with? What did you do? What was your first car? Who taught you to drive and where did you practice driving? What grade school did you go to? Who was your favorite teacher? Who was your best friend? How did you get to school? What was your favorite place to go to in Santee?

*Please email us at **SanteeStories@gmail.com** or leave a message at 619- 449-2024 to set up an appointment for your interview. We want your story to be a part of the history of Santee!*

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CYNTHIA WHITNEY CPA

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SANTEE SCHOOL DISTRICT

9625 Cuyamaca Street
Santee, CA 92071
619-258-2300
www.santeesd.net

Upcoming Events

Oct 2018

Barn Open	Tues 2	10-12
Barn CLOSED	Tues 9	
Chamber Event	Thurs 11	
Barn Open	Sat 13	
Barn Open	Tues 16	10-12
Barn Open	Tues 23	10-12
Barn Open	Tues 30	10-12

Nov 2018

Barn Open	Tues 6	10-12
Barn CLOSED	Tues 13	
EVENT	Sat 10	
Barn Open	Tues 13	10-12
Barn Closed	Tues 20	
Barn Closed	Tues 27	

Dec 2018

Christmas Party—Sat 1st		10—1
Barn Open	Tues 4	10-12
Barn CLOSED	Tues 11	
Barn Open	Tues 18	10-12
Barn Closed	Tues 25	10-12

Jan 2019

Barn Open	Tues 1	10-12
Barn CLOSED	Tues 8	
Barn Open	Sat 12	
Barn Open	Tues 15	10-12
Barn Open	Tues 22	10-12
Barn Open	Tues 29	10-12

Preserving Forester Creek

Forester Creek, El Cajon

The San Diego River Park Foundation is beginning a project along Forester Creek, which starts in Crest, flows through El Cajon, and converges with the San Diego River in Santee, near the intersection of the 125 and Mission Gorge Road. The organization will be working with community members to study and develop a mitigation strategy for trash entering the River from the Creek as well as create a Recreational Access Plan for the El Cajon portion of the creek.



El Cajon was incorporated in 1912. As El Cajon's population grew in the first half of the 20th century, there were increased concerns about seasonal flooding along the 10.4 mile-long creek, especially in neighborhood areas. This caused the creek and its three major tributaries to be channelized and concreted some time after 1964. Today, the creek can be seen as a concrete ditch running through the city. Community members will be exploring ways to help reconnect this concrete channel with its natural past and allow people ways to recreate on or near the historic waterway.

To learn more about this project or get involved, please contact Laurel Kelly at laurel@sandiegoriver.org.



It isn't very often you get to celebrate the 100th birthday of a good friend. On November 18th, Chuck Brack will be 100 years old. Chuck does not have email or Facebook, or any electronic signature. But he is usually at our barn on Tuesdays. Please feel free to send him your special birthday wishes in care of the Santee Historical Society, PO Box 710636, Santee, CA 92072

Memories

Charles Vernon Brack

Interview Conducted By Tricia Lukes—2016

After greeting me cordially and offering me a seat, Chuck begins by telling me that he is not the old-time Santee person that his wife, Elaine was. Chuck came out from the East Coast in 1982 and married Elaine. She had lived in San Diego County most of her life, and she did not want to go back East. They lived in Lakeside from 1982 or '83, and Elaine became very involved in the Lakeside Historical Society. Eventually she left that organization and got involved in the revitalization of the Santee Historical Society.

Chuck told me that the Santee Historical Society started many, many years ago with Ms. Wade. She had all the old documents from the beginning and wasn't sure what to do with them. About 20 years ago, as he recalls, Elaine Brack and Elaine Murphy resurrected the Santee Historical Society. He believes that it has just gotten better over the years, and although the membership is small, it is a well-functioning group.

It became a non-profit, tax-free organization, and the first few years were very tough financially as there was no income to speak of. Looking through the documents, they discovered that the original Santee Historical Society had a defunct bank account, so they decided to go looking for it. They went to the local banks and to the state, and they uncovered a couple thousand dollars that had been lost over the years. That gave them enough money to get their feet on the ground, and since then things have gotten better.

Chuck reiterated that it was Elaine who was most involved. He accompanied her to meetings and listened to the discussions and planning

Chuck enjoyed helping Elaine in the roles she took within the Santee Historical Society. He told me that she was a doer and a networker. She held most of the offices with the exception of president, because she wanted to do things, and not manage them.

Chuck also talked about the acquisition of the Barn. In the early days, the Society had a lot of documents from the Wade family, but no place to store them. They went to the County and asked if they could use the Barn. At the time, the County was using it for a storage shed. Eventually the County let them in, however, they still used the upper floor for County storage, and they had an office there for recordkeeping. The Santee Historical Society started with sharing the bottom floor,



Chuck Brack



which was in pretty bad shape.

For the next few years the Society was involved with going through the things and organizing them. Then the County gave them the Barn, but they had to hire painters and electricians to bring it up to code. The barn still had the old "tube and wire" type of wiring, when wires were passed through insulated glass tubes. After much hard work, the Society finished the renovations enough to open a current historical museum for

the Santee community.

Now some personal information about Chuck...

Charles Vernon Brack was born in Buffalo, New York, November 19, 1918. His father was born in Chicago but his Grandfather was from Germany. His mother was born in London] England and emigrated with her mother and his aunt when she was about 12 years old. The Aunt lived across the street with her two girls. While playing with pea shooters about 1926 his eye was injured.

Chuck attended Alleghany College for 1 year. And then Purdue University from which he graduated in August 1943.

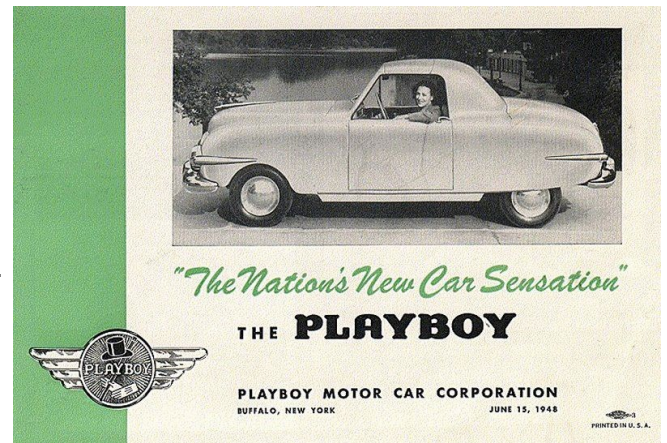
He returned home to Gowanda, N.Y. and worked for the Sterling Engine Company, in Buffalo, N.Y., from 1943 -1947. He was working on large, diesel engines.

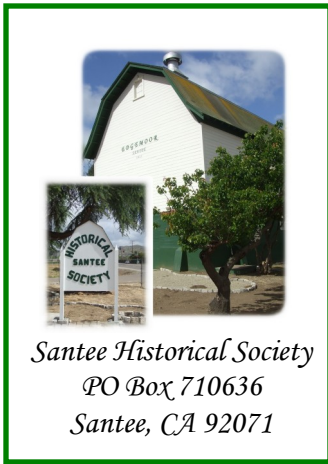
His friend Charles Thomas asked him to come work with him designing motor cars. The Playboy Motor Company built about 100 prototypes - a 2 seater with steel convertible top. This company eventually went bankrupt.

In 1949 a friend at Bendix, Sidnev, N.Y. invited him to work with him in a division making diesel fuel injectors in the Magnito section. He retired as the engineering manager in 1980 but stayed on as a consultant for 6 months enabling him to travel in Europe.

Throughout these past 30 years he visited a cousin, Sally Merrill, here in Santee, Ca. He got to know the neighbor, Elaine. Chuck and Elaine married in 1982 at the Presbyterian Church in Lakeside and helped raise her two teen-aged girls. (They now have 4 grand children) Chuck enjoyed playing golf and played most of the courses in San Diego,

He still lives in the house they bought in Lakeside about 1983.





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