

Santee Historical Society

Historical Happenings

Volume 12, Issue 1

January, February, March 2020



Santee Historical Museum

at the Barn

9200 Magnolia

**Open every Tuesday
from 10 to noon...**

and one Saturday of each month
from 10 to 2 pm.

**Check our website for dates
and come visit...**

everyone is welcome!



P.O.Box 710636, Santee 92072



www.SanteeHistoricalSociety.org



Santee Historical Society



TheSanteeHistoricalSociety
@gmail.com



619.449.2024

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alan Thompson, President
Robin Neece, Vice-President
Arli Wolfson, Secretary
Gary Strawn, Treasurer
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At Large -
Chuck Brack

President's Message



Alan Thompson

We are well into the new year and it is expected to be one filled with many special events that highlight the exhibits that we maintain at the Santee Barn.

First, Happy 40th Anniversary to the City of Santee. It seems like only yesterday that the citizens of Santee voted to approve the incorporation of Santee as an independent city in San Diego County (or maybe I am just too old). My early memories of the Santee area were when I was a student at San Diego State University in the early 1970's and we used to go swimming in the San Diego River. We have on display at the barn two photos showing other people enjoying the river play area. The City has asked us to be a major participant in their anniversary events and we will happily coordinate with them.

We are a local historical association that operates with the help and support of volunteers. All the members of the Board of Directors are volunteers dedicating their time to bring the history of our area before, and after, this area became the City of Santee. I would like to recognize some of our volunteers for the great effort they have made. Jason Kevane of Santana High School and his Special Education students who help maintain the landscaping and pick up the trash. Larry Stevenson who has helped every Tuesday with landscaping issues (and loves his morning coffee). Lynda Marrokal working with the archives and being a walking encyclopedia on all things Santee. Gracie Lancaster and Denise Gullstrand who help set each special event up and running smoothly. Jennifer Hill and daughter Sierra have also helped with our special events (it takes a teenager to set up high tech devices and hopefully she will fix my VCR from blinking 12:00 all the time).

A special recognition to American Legion Post 364 for their support of the 1st annual Flag Retirement Ceremony which returns this year on Sunday, June 14th.

Alan

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS



PADRE DAM MUNICIPAL WATER DIST

Amy Pederson
9300 Fanita Parkway
Santee, CA 92071
619-448-3111
apederson@padre.org



CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING

Cynthia Whitney CPA
619-971-0733
Cynthia@cpacynthia.com



SANTEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Kristen Dare
10159 Mission Gorge Road
Santee, CA 92071
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SANTEE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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



TDT CONSTRUCTION

Dustin Trotter
9435 Wheatlands Ct Suite D
Santee, CA 92071
(619) 448-2353
www.trotterdoorandtrim.com

Santee Historical Society

Upcoming Events

February 2020

Museum open Tues 4 10-12

Museum open Tues 11 10-12

Museum open Sat 15 10-2

TBA

Museum open Tues 18 10-12

Museum open Tues 25 10-12

March 2020

Museum open Tues 3 10-12

Museum open Tues 10 10-12

Museum open Sat 14 10:30-1

River Kids Discovery Days

Seed Balls & Archeology Dig

Museum open Tues 17 10-12

Museum open Tues 24 10-12

Museum open Tues 31 10-12

April 2020

Museum open Tues 7 10-12

Museum open Tues 14 10-12

Museum open Sat 18 10-2

TBA

Museum open Tues 21 10-12

Museum open Tues 28 10-12

It is Membership Renewal Time

We'd like to thank all of the members who have renewed their memberships.
We rely on your support to keep our museum open and the Society running.

If you have not yet renewed, please mail the following form with your check, or renew online at
<https://squareup.com/store/santee-historical-society>

Contact Name _____ Business Name (if applicable) _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Our Sunshine Committee will send a birthday card... please provide the month and day you were born _____

Please select your membership level

- ☐ \$25 Individual
- ☐ \$20 Student - or - Senior 62 and above
- ☐ \$40 Family
- ☐ \$50 Small Business
- ☐ \$150 Business with over 50 employees

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Check # _____ Date _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp Date _____

Security Code (CSC) _____ Zip Code _____

Accepted _____ Received by _____

Fill out the requested information and mail it with your check to:
Santee Historical Society • PO Box 710636 • Santee, CA 92072



Open a new door in 2020!

Looking for a good time?

Join the SHS family as a volunteer.



The Santee Historical Society's been busy with new acquisitions, new displays, and continuous research. We are a fun group and enjoy the camaraderie that comes with working for a worthy cause.

We need people to help with Historical Society activities such as archiving newspaper articles about Santee, painting benches and display cabinets, and greeting people at events. We can match up our needs to your special interests and we welcome new ideas and energy. Your help will allow us to continue participating in Santee community events.

Please volunteer some time... even a few hours a month would be a big help.

Call us at **619-449-2024**, leave a message, and we will return your call,
or email us at thesanteehistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Come on by... we're open every Tuesday 10 to 12, and the third Saturday of the month.
Check www.SanteeHistoricalSociety.org and Facebook: Santee Historical Society
If you see the OPEN flag flying, we are here!



A Gift from Gene Chubb for our Historical Archives

At Wednesday, January 22nd's Santee City Council Meeting, Gene Chubb presented the Santee Historical Society with a binder containing the history of RCP Block & Brick's long-time connection to Santee.

Gene, a longtime Santee resident, co-founded the building materials firm with Marvin Finch and moved it to Santee in 1956. For 60 years RCP mined the sand along the river near their plant off Magnolia Avenue until it was depleted.

Today, the firm has more than 200 employees and annual gross revenues of approximately \$50 million.

No job was too big or too small... Petco Park, the Padres' ballpark, as well as Santana High School's Stadium and Edgemoor Hospital are just a few.

The company even built dugouts for the local Little League and donated its massive trucks for newspaper drives and parades.

Gene has a solid reputation, not only for his company's concrete products but also for his stature in the Santee community. He served as president of the Chamber of Commerce in 1987 and 1991.

When he isn't tending to his beloved blocks and bricks, Gene donates his time and talents to the Santee Lakeside Rotary Club, and serves on the Board of the East County Boys and Girls Club.



President Alan Thompson holds the RCP binder...

*Gene Chubb,
Councilman Ronn Hall,
Arli Wolfson Yuraitis,
Ken Yuraitis.*

*Seated:
Mell Schaer,
Gary Strawn*



Photos courtesy of Laqueta Strawn



Santee Historical Society

River Kids Discovery Days at the Barn

Saturday, March 14th - 10:30 to 1 pm

Bring your children to the Santee Barn to make seed balls composed of native plants that do well in riparian and sage scrub habitats. Seeds are embedded in mud to help them stick together, to help speed germination and protect against birds and insects that might want to eat the seeds before they start to germinate. Native plants in the seed mix:

California Poppy	Saltbush	Coyote Bush
White Sage	Goldenbush	Deer Grass
Evening Primrose	Seaside Heliotrope	Western Ragweed
Succulent Lupine	Deerweed	Toyon
Black Elderberry	Beach Primrose	Laurel Sumac
Sugar Bush	Broom Baccharis	Common Yarrow
Lemonade Berry	California Buckwheat	Branching phacelia



Do your children like to dig in the dirt?

Enjoy looking for clues?
Wonder what life was like for our ancestors hundreds of years ago?
If they get excited about uncovering the secrets of the past,
then come to the Santee Barn for a day of archeology!
Kids will learn about the people and artifacts of
ancient times by digging for archeological
treasures in the 107 year old barnyard!

MARCH 13 & MARCH 14 2020

RIVER KIDS
DISCOVERY DAYS!

FUN, FREE NATURE ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES!

6th Annual River Kids Discovery Days

Friday, March 13th and Saturday, March 14th, 2020,

a free two-day celebration of the San Diego River
featuring fun in nature for youth and their families!

Kids and adults from across San Diego County can take part in service projects
and outdoor education opportunities, giving kids a leading role
in protecting our natural resources and creating green spaces for the community!

Events will take place all along the 52 miles of the San Diego River, from the mountains
to the ocean and everywhere in between, engaging kids in caring for and celebrating their River!

For more information on events, check out <http://riverdiscoverydays.org>

The Incorporation of Santee

Rita M. Lee, Historian

In commemoration of the Anniversary of the Incorporation of the City of Santee this year, I thought I would tell you a little about the beginning of our Incorporated City.

In 1976 the residents of Santee rejected cityhood with a 3 to 1 margin. The proposal was rejected because people feared that property taxes would go up to pay for the services cityhood would incur. However, with the passing of Proposition 13, and the freezing of property taxes, the way to cityhood was cleared.

In 1980, to the joy of Perry Shipman, Chair of the Santee Incorporation Committee, people of Santee overwhelmingly voted for cityhood. Santee became the 15th city in San Diego County and the 8th community with the most population. The new city had 18.5 square miles with 45,000 residents and was given a cap of \$5.1 million for the first year's budget.

With cityhood, the residents elected a five member Board out of a field of 25 candidates. Elected were – Jan Claussen (4,667 votes), Jim Bartell (4,036 votes), Roy Woodward (4,019 votes), Gene Ainsworth (3,836 votes), and Ellwood (Woodie) T. Miller (3,671 votes). The two top vote getters were to serve four years and the other three for two.

Council Members selected from among themselves a Mayor and Vice Mayor and set their salaries at \$200 a month. 1984 started the direct election of the Mayor with a term of 4 years, giving residents exclusive power to appoint the Mayor

It took 3 votes for the city council members to decide who would be our first Mayor. The first two votes cast were: 2 for Roy Woodward, 2 for Jan Claussen and 1 for Woodie Miller. After the third set of votes, Gene Ainsworth was elected as the first Mayor of Santee. He was a bit surprised, as he had not voted for himself.

Gene was not a stranger to public service. He had been Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Santee Fire Protection District for 18 years. At the time of his election, he was a 59 year old grandfather of two and a retired civilian Navy employee. He had lived in Santee for 20 years. Gene served one term before being defeated at the polls. Gene Ainsworth died Mar 20, 1989.

Jan Claussen was a 48 years

old homemaker. She was active in various community organizations including serving as Vice President of the Friends of Santee Library. She also served on the county Flood Control Commission in 1977-78. In 1983 the City Council Members voted her to a one-year term as Mayor.

Woodie Miller was 59 and a defense contract administrator for General Dynamics, and former County Planning Commissioner. He also served a term as Chairman of the Santee Incorporation Committee. He only served one term on the City Council due to his pro-development stand, but continued his role as a city activist on various committees until shortly before his death. He was president in 1986 of the Santee Chamber of Commerce and remained active on its Board of Directors. Mr. Miller's role as co-chairman of the Citizens for State Highway 52 led to a resolution commending him in the State Senate. The county Board of Supervisors honored him for his work on the Heartland Paramedic District board, and the former Daily Californian newspaper recognized him as "Citizen of the Year" and the "Father of Cityhood for Santee." Woodie died in 2001 and a bench outside of the City Council building at City Hall was dedicated to him.

Roy Woodward was a 51 year old real estate agent who served as vice-chairman of the Santee Incorporation Committee. He was a graduate of SDSU, and a World War II and Korean War Veteran. He owned his own real estate company and died in 2017.

Jim Bartell was Administrative Assistant to county supervisor Jim Bates. He had a Master's Degree in Public Administration. In 1982 the Santee City Council voted him Mayor for a term of 1 year. He served on the City Council until 2002. Jim Bartell was chief of staff to a United States Congressman from San Diego for eight years prior to becoming a partner with a San Diego public affairs agency.



Jan Claussen, Jim Bartell, Gene Ainsworth, Woodie Miller and Roy Woodward being sworn in as Santee's first City Council, December 2, 1980

What Happened to The Lost City of Webb

Mell Schaer

Somewhere where RailRoad Avenue intersects Highway 52, and as it extends the other side heading into Gillespie Field, under the concrete is the train stop known as Webb. One member having done a fair amount of research believes it to be very near the existing Gillespie control tower. We would love to interview someone to help us pinpoint the exact location for our video documentaries.

What happened to the Lost City Of Webb?

Sounds like an interesting production?

Join the fun!

Coronado Street Looking Westward

This is the probable route of trains going into Lakeside. This is the first street off of Woodside as you pull into Mission Del Magnolia Mobile Home Park in Santee. This is RailRoad Avenue in Santee looking west. Coronado runs directly into RailRoad Ave and thus would make some sense that the two at one point were connected avenues.



Anyone from that era have any information to debunk this hypothesis?



**Do you enjoy writing and
want to see yourself in print?**

***Become a Contributor
and Write for Us!***

**We'd love to publish your ideas
and stories relating to Santee's past.**

Call us at (619) 449-2024

or email us at

info@SanteeHistoricalSociety.com

and let's talk!



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Carol Crafts, Past President
Robin Neece, Sunshine Committee

Happy Birthday, Santee!

**It's the 40th anniversary of
Santee's incorporation as a city.**

The Santee Historical Society

is planning to participate in several celebration events
with the city throughout the year.



To see events as they are announced,
follow our website at:

www.SanteeHistoricalSociety.org

and Facebook:

Santee Historical Society