

Santee Historical Society

Historical Happenings

Volume 11, Issue 2

April, May, June 2019



Santee Historical Museum

at the Barn

9200 Magnolia

Open every Tuesday

except the 2nd one of the month,

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

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At Large -

Chuck Brack

President's Message

Spring has arrived, and with the abundant rainfall this past winter, our Native Garden is exploding with new growth and colorful flowers. We welcome the return of hummingbirds and honey bees feasting on the spring blossoms. Spring is also the ideal time to visit the Museum and the surrounding gardens.



Alan Thompson

The Santee Historical Society is planning special events this spring, including the return of the Monarch Butterflies in May. The past two years, in conjunction with the San Diego River Park Foundation for their River Days, we have hosted the butterfly celebrations... a great family event.

In June we will host the first Flag Retirement Ceremony in the Elaine Murphy Memorial Garden. We have built a special fire oven where the retired flags will be incinerated. The date for this ceremony is Saturday, June 15th which is the day after the Flag Day Holiday on June 14th.

On a sad note, one of our long term Board of Directors members and our Sunshine Committee, Irene Holstein, has passed away. Look for the article on Irene and photos in this issue as a tribute to her dedication to the Santee Historical Society, and to the City of Santee. She will be greatly missed.

A special thank you to all the volunteers who have made a difference in the smooth operation of our winter special events. The Museum at the Edgemoor Barn is open to everyone, and is an important historical landmark in the City of Santee.

Stop by and say hello.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS

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Certified Public Accounting

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SANTEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Santee, CA 92071

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santeechamber.com

SANTEE SCHOOL DISTRICT

9625 Cuyamaca Street

Santee, CA 92071

619-258-2300

www.santeesd.net

Upcoming Events

April 2019

Museum Open Sat 13..... 10-2

Museum Open Tues 16 ... 10-12

Museum Open Tues 23 ... 10-12

Museum Open Tues 30 ... 10-12

May 2019

Museum Open Tues 7 10-12

Museum CLOSED Tues 14

San Diego River Days Sat 18 10-1:30

Museum Open Tues 21 ... 10-12

Museum Open Tues 28 ... 10-12

June 2019

Museum Open Tues 4 10-12

Museum CLOSED Tues 11

Flag Retirement Ceremony Sat 15..... 10:30-11:30

Museum Open 10-2

Museum Open Tues 18 ... 10-12

Museum Open Tues 25 ... 10-12

July 2019

Museum Open Tues 2 10-12

Museum CLOSED Tues 9

Museum Open Tues 16 .. 10-12

Museum Open Sat 20..... 10-2

Museum Open Tues 23 ... 10-12

Museum Open Tues 30 ... 10-12



We Need You!

The Santee Historical Society has lots of exciting projects in the works for 2019... and we would love your help!

We are currently seeking volunteers to help with:

- Event staffing
- Collecting Oral Histories
- Assisting with historic site research
- Writing genealogies of historic families
- Archiving
- Transcribing and data entry
- Staffing the museum during open hours
- Assisting with curating displays

We can match up our needs to your special interests.

Please volunteer some time...

Get in touch with us at thesanteehistoricalvolunteers@gmail.com

or leave a message at

619-449-2024

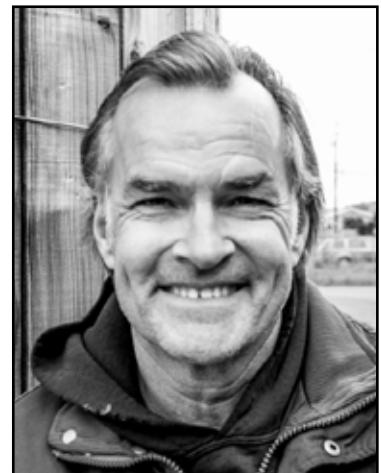
Meet Our Team **Mell Schaer**

Mell Schaer has been a Santee citizen since 1996 when he bought his first home in order to raise his family here. His Family consists of his wife Terry Schaer, his four children, and two grandkids.

Mell joined the Santee Historical Society in 2018, as history has always been one of his favorite subjects. "Talking with people is better than reading a book...ask a question and sit back and learn. Seeking and finding the people of days gone by is a true treasure as they continue to speak to us through their endeavors, struggles and accomplishments."

He is intrigued by Santee's history, which is largely defined by the railroads that extended from downtown San Diego at the will of John Speckles. So much of our existence is due to those that had strong wills and great ambitions.

Mell finds it a true pleasure being a member of the Santee Historical Society, keeping the city's history alive by learning about the past and sharing.



San Diego's Most Haunted Places

February's presentation by author Nicole Strickland



River Kids Discovery Days



Fun at the Barn
March 9th, 2019



It is with great sadness that we announce
the passing of our dear friend

Irene Holstein

1930 – 2019



We were privileged to hold Irene's Celebration of Life
at the Barn on Saturday, March 23, 2019.

Family and friends gathered to share stories and memories in a last goodbye to her.

She was surrounded by flowers, photos, and something very precious to her...
the crib which she used for Debra Lee, the daughter she lost as an infant.

Irene was devoted to the Santee Historical Society and proudly served as our Sunshine
Committee, sending out birthday, get well, and sympathy cards to all of our members.
She also took her job of processing and mailing out our quarterly newsletters very seriously.

She is greatly missed!



Irene Mae Rahn Holstein

A 2016 interview with Irene by Tricia Luke

Irene was born 9 March 1930, the only child of Ruth & George W. Rahn of Ohio. When she was 13, the family moved to Pasco, WA where her Dad had a job in government. The war brought the Manhattan Project, the United States' development of the atomic bomb, to the nearby Hanford Site.



Unfortunately, Irene's Dad worked in a building where they were bringing in Plutonium and other radioactive materials to make the atomic bomb. Irene feels this is what caused her Dad's tuberculosis and his early death at age 42. Her Dad's illness caused them to "follow the sun" and the family moved from Pasco to San Francisco, and then Phoenix.



Irene finished school in Phoenix, and married Billy Dean Holstein at the age of 19.

They had a daughter, Debra Lee, and two sons, Stephen and Gary. Sadly, Debra died before she was a year old.

The Holstein family, including her mother Ruth, moved to Santee in the early 1960's when Billy Dean took the job of Safeway store manager. Irene remembered the Safeway was where the GTM store is now. That was the first shopping center in Santee and there were only two stoplights in Santee on Mission Gorge Road, one at Magnolia and one at Cuyamaca.



Irene, Billy Dean and the two boys lived in their house on Oakbourne Road. purchased brand new for \$17,500. Her boys loved living near so much open space and would take off on their bikes for hours. She never worried about them, though they later confessed they would sometimes ride to Parkway Plaza. In those days, Fletcher Parkway was a 2-lane road, and there was not as much traffic.

Carlton Hills Elementary was being built so her boys first went to school in houses... one still exists in the neighborhood.

Irene was a stay-at-home Mom until her boys were older. Her first job was with the School District. She later went to work for the Welfare Department in La Mesa. When she heard there was an opening in Edgemoor Hospital she jumped at the chance as it was close to home. She worked in medical records and made appointments for central nursing for 12 years before she retired.

Irene became a member of the Santee Historical Society while working at Edgemoor Hospital in the 1980's. When she retired in 1993, an RV trip thru all 48 states put her Santee Historical activities on hold. In 2010, she rejoined the society and took on the responsibilities of the Sunshine Committee.



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



Join us for **San Diego River Days**

A celebration of our river and its incredible biodiversity

Saturday, May 18th, 2019

10:00 am - 1:30 pm

Help plant a **Monarch Butterfly Garden**
– bring your own gardening gloves –



- Hands-on activities for kids
- Meet a Project Wildlife animal up close
- Get information on gardening, composting and sustainable living

Tour the historic Santee Barn Museum

9200 Magnolia Avenue, Santee

RSVP encouraged at www.sdriverdays.org

For more information, go to <http://www.facebook.com/thesanteehistoricalsociety>

Watch for info on our June 15th event...
Flag Retirement Ceremony