

## Ice Cream Social well attended

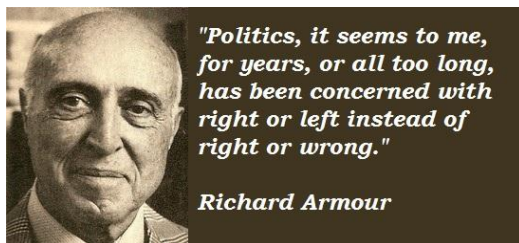
Our annual ice cream social was a great success, providing us a chance to visit the house, see old friends and enjoy the late summer weather. We also had a surprise free musical concert of Reggae/Ska music in the Magee Park, providing background entertaining, and bringing visitors to the house. Thank you, **Jerry and Tina Colling**, for taking care of this event.

## Lecture on Historic Route 395

This lecture was very well received and the efforts of the organization behind it got the full support of the audience.

Thank you Jeffery Harmon for a great presentation on the significance of Route 395. This road has the potential of becoming as popular as Route 66. People or organizations can put their name on a sign for \$80. Hundreds of signs are still needed.

## Late Richard Armour in the news



The Union Tribune had an article on the discovery by our treasurer and long time board member, **Geoff Armour**, of two unpublished books by his late father Richard Armour. He found them in the family garage after the passing of his mother at age 102. Richard was a prolific writer and had been a guest on the Tonight Show seven times.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard\\_Armour](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Armour)

## Garden History

The front and east side gardens of the Magee house have four themes: herbal, commercial, historic, and California Native. They are part of the tour we give to school children and other groups. In the middle of the historic garden there is the time capsule that was closed in 1976, the year of the bicentennial, and the year of the foundation of the Carlsbad Historical Society. These gardens are maintained by dedicated volunteers who have many skills in gardening. More hands are always welcome; not only to help but to learn about plants and how to care for them.

## Annual membership meeting and election

Two positions on the board are up for reelection: 1st and 2nd vice-presidents. The ballots are going out with this newsletter. Please return your ballot by mail, or bring it into our **Barrio Museum** Membership meeting that will take place on Sunday November 17 at 3pm, at the museum on the corner of Walnut and Roosevelt streets, across from Lola's Store.

## New Members

Jay and Diana Klopfenstein  
Mr. and Mrs. Nick Melillo  
Jo Ellen Guthrie (Life membership)

## Life Memberships Upgrades

Glen Boodry  
Virginia Murphy  
Ellen McGrath-Thorpe

## Honorary membership

We welcome suggestions for persons in our community that we could recognize by making them honorary members of our society. Please send in your suggestions to our email or P.O. Box address.

## Research on Nurseryman Luther Gage

Jo Ellen Guthrie, who lives in Gilbert, Arizona, has just become a new Life Member. She has also informed us that she has been doing a lot of research on Carlsbad's pioneer bulb grower and nurseryman, Luther Gage. Luther Gage built a home in 1935 on Lincoln near Oak and had a major role in developing the flower industry in Carlsbad. Jo Ellen is currently working on a book about Luther Gage and would like to make a presentation at one of our scheduled lectures.



Luther Gage House  
Monterrey condominiums

## Robert Kelly historical excerpts

(From the "little green book", A History of Carlsbad, by John Harmon)

...Robert Kelly, who was born on Christmas Day, 1825, on the British Isle Man in the Irish Sea, was literally working his way cross-country in search of his fortune in this Great Land of Opportunity. A farm Boy, Robert had learned carpentry at age 14. This talent he brought with him at age 16 when his parents brought him to America. He carpentered in Louisiana, graduated to cabinet-making in St. Louis and attended night school to achieve rudimentary education. His wanderings took him to Galena, III; to Wisconsin's pineries and to carpentering in Hancock County., before striking out in the summer of 1850 for California. At Yuma, on the Colorado River, Robert went to work for the government. He whipsawed

cottonwood to build a Ferry boat. A few months later he made his move to San Diego.

It is believed that he made the trek with the same Mexican Boundary Survey party that brought trader Hinton to San Diego. In San Diego, Robert Kelly assisted in Building the First Wharf for San Diego harbor near the Santa Fe wharf of more recent years.

From this point, the man who became more affectionately known to Carlsbadians as "Uncle Robert" began to carve out an illustrious career. In late 1851 he became a government mule driver, puling freight overland to Fort Yuma with a six mule team. Several trips as driver and he was promoted by appointment as wagon master. Later, Robert Kelly went into partnership with Colonel Eddy on the Jamacha Rancho, south of the El Cajon valley, in September, 1852. During the five years there, he raised cattle and farmed on the 8,876 acres, 12 miles east of the city of San Diego. On this acreage, it is said, the cattle grazed from the mountains east of El Cajon Valley to the edge of San Diego Bay where National City now stands.

"Uncle Robert" also became one of the "Judges of the Plains," appointed by county supervisors to settle disputed ownership of cattle that roamed the Southern California lands freely. These judges naturally drew the ire of the lawless, and one dark evening July 16, 1856 for Robert Kelly it drew gunfire.

He was just finishing a hard day's ride looking for cattle when he was attacked on The Cajon ranch by a gang of Mexican desperados, intent upon his death. He suffered severe wounds. The marks of three bullets that took effect were borne by him to the grave: the one that grazed the top of his head, the one that entered the back at his neck sideways coming out two inches above its entrance and the one that tore through the muscles of his left arm. His assailants are said to have died shortly afterwards in a revolution in Lower California, Mexico.



### Barn Work

We are reorganizing and improving the existing displays in the barn. If you are interested in helping with this please call us or send us an email. We are meeting on Saturday October 12, at 9am to move displays and paint. Please contact [cbadhistory@yahoo.com](mailto:cbadhistory@yahoo.com) if you are interested in helping, or just show up in working clothes.

### New Donations of Florence Shipley Magee Items

The Walwick family has generously provided us with more personal belongings of Florence Shipley Magee. When she passed, her will stated that the house and park went to the City, but the contents of the house went to Mrs. Walwick, a friend and wife of her lawyer. The Walwicks have donated back many items, and in some cases sold us some. This last donation is a nice group of Florence's hats and some sewing material and finished items.



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### **Early Carlsbad History Presentation Available**

One of our Spring Lectures given at the Carlsbad by the Sea featured early Carlsbad History. The PowerPoint file is available for anyone interested in giving presentations on our history.

### **Renew membership please**

This is the time of year to renew your membership. Please send your check to the PO Box listed at the end. Also consider becoming a Life Member. If you need, you can print a membership application/renewal form from our website. Individual membership is \$25; family, \$35; and Lifelong, \$250.

### **Upcoming Events**

October 28 CINCH meeting at Rancho Bernardo  
November 17 Barrio Museum Annual membership meeting  
December 8 Holiday Sing Along and Decorating

### **ONGOING PROGRAMS**

Volunteers welcome in any of these areas:

- \* Friday Docent
- \*Third grade tours
- \*School presentations with audiovisual display and trunk show
- \*Private tours with Victorian teas
- \* Carlsbad history research
- \*Photo collection management

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### **BOARD MEETINGS**

All members are welcome to attend our bimonthly Board of Directors meetings. Meetings are held in the Magee House meeting room at 4 p.m. on the third Monday of every other month. Meetings are held in the following months; January, March, May, July, September, and November

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### **CHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President: Germán Gutierrez  
1st Vice President: Dr. Jerry Colling  
2nd Vice President: Connie Trejo  
Secretary: Ginny Unanue  
Treasurer: Geoff Armour

### **Carlsbad Historical Society**

P.O. Box 252  
Carlsbad, CA 92018-0252  
(760) 434-9189

[cbadhistory@yahoo.com](mailto:cbadhistory@yahoo.com)

Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11 to 3 pm.

Private Tours with Tea are given on Monday through Thursday  
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

[www.carlsbadhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.carlsbadhistoricalsociety.com)

### **Magee House and Museum**

258 Beech Ave.  
Carlsbad CA 92008