

CLIPPINGS REGARDING EFFORTS TO
ACQUIRE & RESTORE WHALEY HOUSE
AS A MUSEUM - BEGINNING OF THE
HISTORICAL SHRINE FOUNDATION

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Fiesta Visitors Swarm Carrier

Fiesta visitors from 47 states, Alaska, Hawaii, the District of Columbia and eight foreign countries were counted in one-hour spot checks aboard the attack aircraft carrier USS Shangri-la during public visiting last Saturday and Sunday.

Fiesta del Pacifico ship visiting will continue this weekend with the attack transport USS Henrico, the destroyer USS Floyd B. Parks, the submarine USS Red-

fish, and the attack aircraft carrier USS Bennington, all open on Saturday and Sunday, August 11 and 12.

The submarine USS Ronquil will carry on with general visiting every day through Friday, August 17.

All ships are at piers at the foot of Broadway. Visiting hours are from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Some 75,000 people have visited Navy ships thus far during the Fiesta. Well over 10,000 of these were visitors to submarines.

In last weekend's spot check, visitors from every state but Delaware were tallied. Visitors from England, Canada, Mexico, Panama, Greece, Germany, Scotland and the Netherlands were counted also. Of all the visitors, a majority were non-Californians.

Historic Shrine Group's Prexy

Newly formed Historical Shrine Foundation of San Diego County has elected James Reading as its first president.

The nonprofit group dedicated to preserving and restoring historic buildings and artifacts, will have as its first project the restoration of the Whaley House at the corner of San Diego Avenue and Twiggs Street in Old Town. Reading said the house was built in 1858 and served as the town's first courthouse.

Restoration Action Asked

'Williamsburg of West' Visioned for Whaley House

Restoration of the 100-year-old Whaley House by the county could be the first step toward making Old San Diego into "the Williamsburg of the West," the Board of Supervisors was told yesterday.

James Reading, president of the County Historical Shrine Foundation, which saved the old landmark from razing July 1, recommended that the county develop the property at San Diego Ave and Harney St.

Supervisors asked for reports next Tuesday from the Public Works Department, on estimated restoration costs and from county counsel on best methods of development.

Notes Delay Razing

Reading said 10 foundation members signed notes totaling \$10,000 toward the current purchase price of \$25,000 in order to postpone the razing. He suggested the county either could buy the property outright or give the foundation financial assistance.

Reading said the foundation, a new nonprofit corporation, believes Whaley House could be a self-supporting tourist attraction. Original furnishings might be obtained from descendants of Thomas Whaley living in this area, he added.

Served Many Purposes

Since it was built in 1856, the red brick structure has housed a courthouse, supervisors' chamber, school, general store, and San Diego's first

theater and Sunday school, as well as the Whaley family.

"The county should own this property," said Supervisor DeGraff Austin. "It could be developed within the county park system. I believe we made a mistake by not acquiring the Whaley House two years ago, when the price was only \$20,000."

As a member of the Army Quartermaster Corps in the 1870s, Whaley raised the American flag over Sitka, Alaska, when that territory was purchased from the Russians.

Save S.D. Landmarks, Mayor Asks

Butler To Request Report On Costs From City Planner

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Action to preserve San Diego's historical landmarks was urged yesterday by Mayor Butler and councilmen at a City Council conference.

Butler said he would ask Glenn Rick, city planning director, to determine the cost and number of such buildings and report his findings to the Council within two weeks.

Butler suggested that historical buildings be moved to one location, perhaps Presidio Park, as a tourist attraction.

JOINT ACTION SOUGHT

Councilman Vincent Godfrey said, "It would be a tragic mistake to let our historical buildings disappear. However, we shouldn't preserve them piecemeal. Let's get together with the planning commission and the Board of Supervisors on a program of preservation of landmarks."

Frank Gibson, county supervisor, told the council that San Diego's landmarks will be obliterated unless local government does something to stop it.

Councilman Clair Burgener said the council was definitely interested in preserving landmarks and suggested that the state might maintain historical buildings if they were razed, moved, and rebuilt at one location.

DAR STARTS MOVE

The discussion followed a request by the La Jolla chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for city purchase of the Whaley House.

W. D. Willis, executive assistant to the mayor, said the present owner of the 98-year-old building was asking \$25,000 for the building and land.

Butler said, "Perhaps the

Investor Would Girdle History With a Motel

A private investor is interested in buying the historic old Whaley House in Old Town, but not to perpetuate it as a museum.

An attorney for the estate of Miss C. Lillian Whaley, owner of the house, said that before his client died recently, an offer was received from a Santa Barbara man. He gave no details of the offer, but said it would have to be renewed when probate of the estate starts.

The man would convert the structure, at 2482 San Diego Ave., into an arts and crafts school, for rental, and build a motel around it, the attorney

said. The 97-year-old structure, built by Miss Whaley's father, Thomas Whaley, is reputedly the first red brick building to be built in California south of San Francisco.

The County Board of Supervisors has been asked to appropriate funds to maintain the place as a museum. A study is being made by the county chief administrator and the county public works department. Another suggestion has been that the State Beaches and Parks Department buy it, possibly with oil royalty funds.

The old Thomas Whaley house, 2602 San Diego Ave., where the first issue of The San Diego Union was published, may be purchased by the county for preservation as a landmark. The house, which also once served as the courthouse, is for sale for the first time in its 97 years.

Whaley House, S. D. Landmark, Offered for Sale

Request that the county purchase the old Whaley house, where the first issue of The San Diego Union was printed, was made of the Board of Supervisors yesterday by H. DeGraff Austin.

The historic old building at 2602 San Diego Ave., in Old San Diego, was erected by Thomas Whaley, an early-day merchant in 1856.

Whaley built it to serve both as a county courthouse and as his own residence. It had 11 rooms at that time and was built of the first red bricks made in San Diego, at a kiln near the house. The woodwork was brought around Cape Horn from the eastern seaboard.

GROUPS INTERESTED

Until the Whaley house was erected, county officials maintained headquarters in their own homes. Sessions of the court and of the board of supervisors have been held for three years in a small structure across the street.

Austin, speaking for the Native Sons of the Golden West, the Native Daughters, and other groups interested in preserving historic landmarks, said the house is being offered for sale for the first time in its 97 years. Until recently Miss C. L. Whaley, daughter of the builder, occupied it.

A guardian to care for her property was named recently after she had taken up residence in a rest home. The guardian has obtained permission of the court to offer the property for sale.

APPRAISAL SOUGHT

Supervisor Frank Gibson moved that the county obtain an appraisal of the property and consider plans for the purchase. He said he would propose that the county seek to arrange with the Native Sons or other

passed through his money a year

County Eyes Historic House For Museum

The Board of Supervisors yesterday asked the County's administrative officer, T. M. Heggland, to determine whether the 97-year-old Thomas Whaley house, at 2482 San Diego Ave., Old Town, should be purchased and turned into a museum.

The request for such action was placed before the board today by DeGraf Austin and John Davidson, curator of the Serra Museum.

They reported that the owner, Miss C. L. Whaley, daughter of the builder, is in a rest home. Her guardian has obtained permission to sell the historic, stone house.

The estimated price would be \$20,000 to a private purchaser, but Austin said he thought the house could be bought by the County for public purposes "for much less."

Davidson estimated cost of converting the structure to a museum at about \$2,000. He said the building was San Diego County's courthouse during the 1860s and 70s, and was used for San Diego's first Sunday School and first theater.

national officers of the Navy League.

HARLEY KNOX
Succeeds Walter Stitt

Whaley House Sale Proposed to Court

Sale to a private buyer of the historical 96-year-old Whaley House, one of San Diego's landmarks, today was proposed in Superior Court.

Public bodies have debated too long on a decision to buy it for a museum, according to the attorney for the estate of its last owner, Miss Corinne Lillian Whaley, pioneer daughter of San Diego.

Miss Whaley, 89, a retired city library worker, died in September. Her father built the house in 1857. It has 11 rooms and

four fireplaces. She lived alone there before going to a rest home shortly before her death.

Since then, the old mansion, built of bricks brought around the Horn, has stood vacant.

"The house must be sold," said Cecil F. Holley, attorney.

Leopold Kalish, 3945 Alameda Dr., Mission Hills, has offered \$20,200 for it. He plans to build a motel on the site at 2482 San Diego Ave., Old Town, repair the historic structure and rent it for an art center. If Superior Judge L. N. Turrentine approves the sale.

The money will go to a niece, Mrs. Mabel James of Hemet, and a nephew, Bruce Whaley of Los Angeles.

The lawyer said the heirs have deferred to their aunt's desire to preserve the home as a museum by giving its furnishings of historical interest to Serra Museum.

Don't Let

Editorial Comics Financial Classified

The San Diego Union

THURSDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER, 30, 1954 PAGE B-1

Historic S.D. Home Sought As Shrine

A group of San Diego women yesterday in a letter to Mayor Butler requested an appointment to discuss plans for saving the historic Whaley House.

The letter was signed by Mrs. Jane A. Strudwick, chairman of the La Jolla Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The City Council is expected to discuss the matter today in conference.

The Whaley House, at Harney St. and San Diego Ave., is 98 years old. It was built in 1856 by Thomas Whaley, a gold rush immigrant.

It has been used as a county courthouse, a theater and a meeting place by the Board of Supervisors. Unless purchased, it will reportedly make way for a motel. The DAR group wants the city to buy it; the organization would operate and furnish it as a museum.

UNION - 12-25-54
SAN DIEGO
75, 50 AND 25
YEARS AGO

FROM THE UNION DEC. 25, 1879—Merry Christmas to all the readers of The San Diego Union.

We had the pleasure yesterday of shaking hands with our old friend, and one of San Diego's oldest citizens, Mr. Thomas Whaley, who has spent the last few years in New York.

Yesterday was a cold and chilly day. The forecast is for rain today and that means there will be snow in the mountains before nightfall.

The San Diego Union will not be published tomorrow as everybody is going to stay home to enjoy the holiday.



OLD CONDIMENT SET—Mrs. Margaret Gerlach, great-granddaughter of builder of Whaley House, displays china condiment set used in serving meals and other social events at the old San Diego residence.



GILDING THE PAST—F.D. (Ted) James, great-grandson of Thomas Whaley and born in historic Whaley House, brushes gold-leaf frame of portrait of house's builder and his granddaughter, Mrs. Mabel James.

Historic Home Awaits Restoration or Ruin

After 97 years of historic existence, one of San Diego's proudest buildings faces a fork in the future—restoration or demolition?

The Old Whaley House, which stands abandoned, but not forgotten, at 4668 San Diego Ave., in Old San Diego, may be refurbished as a historical building or torn down and the property sold to the interests.

As part of the estate of Lillian Whaley, last resident of the house, who died last month, it will remain intact at least 3 months, while probate proceedings are completed.

The State Division of Beaches and Parks meets here tomorrow and will discuss acquisition of the house by the state as an historical monument, Assemblyman Frank Luckel said today.

Four descendants of the Whaley family are living. Mrs. Mabel James, granddaughter of the builder, Thomas Whaley, resides in San Jacinto. She and her son, F.D. (Ted) James, who lives in Escondido, were born in the south parlor of the old residence.

Mrs. Margaret Gerlach, sister of James, lives at 4668 Esther St. Although she lived in the house many years, she was born in Modesto. Bruce M. Whaley, Mrs. James' brother, once lived in the house and now resides in Los Angeles.

A native New Yorker, Thomas Whaley built the house in 1856 from bricks he made in his own kilns near the building. It is reputed to be

the first red brick building erected south of Monterey.

After a career in the Army, as a prominent San Diego merchant and a holder of real estate, Whaley died in 1888.

Mrs. James was born there in 1883; her son in 1916. James grew up in the two-story structure and lived there until 1939. He now is married, the father of two daughters and works for the telephone company.

Lillian Whaley maintained residence in the Old San Diego home until a year ago, when she entered a sanitarium. Mrs. Gerlach recalls her great-aunt loved the house and pleaded to be allowed to live out her years there.

Mrs. Gerlach thinks it would be wonderful to restore Whaley House, but is skeptical about the possibilities.

Behind the 18-inch walls, county court once held session. It has been headquarters for Civil Defence groups, was one of San Diego's earliest churches, served as a polling place, housed a bakery and carpenter's shop and once was used as a dance hall.

Fixtures and hardware were shipped around Cape Horn. A veranda once skirted the building's second story and a 12-foot adobe wall once fenced the entire property, James said.

Today, only dusty trunks, worn furniture and old personal belongings still are there. Mrs. Gerlach plans to refinish an ancient, red, overstuffed piece from France, which she calls the "Granny chair," because it was the favorite of three grandmothers.

Eleven big rooms make up

the house and it features four fireplaces, three of which are usable. A sturdy bannister, made slick by sliding children, leads to the second floor.

From the front, the house actually appears as two buildings. The main portion is reminiscent of New York brownstones. The adjoining one-story section is in the fashion of California ranch homes and is thought to have been added later as a Whaley concession to his adopted state.

Where rush-hour traffic now passes at the house's doorstep, a siding of the La Jolla Railway once shuttled cars.

Heirlooms from the Whaley House are being distributed among survivors. Ted James

plans to refinish a bedroom set and Mrs. James is urging him to regild a portrait of Thomas Whaley and James' mother.

In three years, the old home will pass the century mark. During that time only three persons have held its deed—Thomas Whaley, its builder; Anna Whaley, his wife, and Lillian Whaley, his daughter.

The fourth owner may be the state, historians of which are scheduled to visit the house tomorrow; the county, which has a policy against maintaining property in incorporated cities, or a private party.

Whatever the disposition, its residence days, it seems, are over.

S.D. Shrine Sentiment Is Growing; Historic Site Reservation Wins Favor

(Continued from Page a-29)
again went over the possibilities and, on Feb. 16, the committee called in Arthur Marton and Glenn Rick of the City Planning Commission for discussion of the subject. The meeting was significant for several reasons.

For one thing, favorable discussion was heard on the possibility of the state taking title to the Presidio Park area from the city, using its appraised value as matching money to acquire and improve Old Town property.

For another, it was learned that a movement was afoot in Los Angeles to create a historical shrine as the birthplace of California, a claim entirely without basis.

MEETING HELD

As a result, considerable sentiment was expressed that the community should seek state aid.

A meeting was scheduled for March 2, which was attended by representatives of the Old Town Chamber of Commerce, San Diego Historical Society, the Tourist Committee of the chamber, State Parks Commission, Division of Beaches and Parks, City Planning Commission and others.

Neasham, again representing the state parks, told the group that his organization would work with city planners on the project after a local master plan had been developed.

He said a proposal for matching funds by city and state offered possibilities but that impetus for the plan must come from the city.

Any restorative measure must be approved by the State Parks and Beaches Commission. It would require inclusion on the priority list of all fund money on a matching basis, as provided for in current legislation.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

Neasham also felt that Old Town property in question should be placed in public

shrine. The result of this might be considered the single most important step in the project since the days of Thomas Getz.

Through the San Diego delegation at Sacramento, Assembly Concurrent Resolution 21 was introduced on March 25 and, on March 30, Assemblyman Luckel (R-San Diego) notified the chamber that the resolution had passed both houses unanimously.

The act laid a stronger foundation beneath the project in a number of ways.

Essentially, it bound the California State Park Commission to make a study of the Old Town area to determine its suitability as a shrine and to cooperate with the city of San Diego in formulating plans for such preservation.

But that wasn't its most important influence, as was shown by the reaction of Old Town residents.

LOOK WITH FAVOR

On June 8 Neasham and Wardwell attended a meeting called by the City Planning Commission and attended by various factions, including those of Old San Diego. Neasham reported that the State Park Commission had begun a study of the situation and threw the meeting open to discussion.

It immediately became apparent that the Old Town people were looking upon the development with more favor and the reason was obvious.

They felt that, in the past, many plans had left them without representation. They were asked to present their ideas and plans at a later meeting.

The next meeting, in which the Chamber of Commerce participated, was held Aug. 31. It included the City Planning

Commission and the Property Owners Association of Old San Diego.

While these two groups expressed somewhat divergent ideas of what constituted Old Town historical landmarks, much of the ice had been broken.

The property owners did insist that private property remain in private hands but admitted that such property should be subject to control necessary to preserve historical buildings.

Moreover, they felt that owners restricted in their use of these buildings should be allowed tax abatement and that architectural control should be established in the area of the shrine.

SOME CONFUSION

Their final recommendation was that a public or semi-public corporation should be established to acquire and preserve the currently unrestored buildings.

While there seemed to be some confusion in the minds of some Old Town residents about the advisability of calling on state or city funds, many agreed that the city could safely take title to some properties.

This turn for the better, of course, has since been amplified. Following formation of the Historical Shrine Association of San Diego County in Old Town Nov. 17, a participation vote was called for by J. Francis Mergen, president of the Old Town Chamber of Commerce.

The vote also included the proviso involving city participation. The meeting was attended by about 100 persons, and all hands were raised.

Primary purpose of the association is to restore the old

San Diego Ave. and Harney St.; the Emmett House off Congress street; and the Stewart House, on Congress near Mason street.

The association wants the county or city to buy the old homes from the present private owners, rehabilitate them and hand them over to an accredited organization to run as museums.

Backers of the restorative movement agree unanimously that such action must be prompt.

The Whaley establishment, first brick structure in Old Town, is slowly crumbling to a ruin. A grass fire recently burned the small lawn and also blackened the porch.

The Emmett House, a frame building covering some adobe, is very nearly past restoration.

The Stewart House, originally of adobe, is encased by planking, much of which is rotting away, leaving the old adobe exposed to the elements.

Perhaps the answer, or at least an encouraging segment, will be forthcoming at the next meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Committee representatives and the Board of Supervisors. No date has been set but it is expected to occur within two weeks.

"We've been working," Rear Adm. Wilder D. Baker, USN, ret., said recently.

"We won't announce, our plans until we've tested every facet of our planning. We want to present something that will be acceptable to everyone, if possible."

POWER OUTPUT GAINS

OTTAWA, Nov. 27—Canada's central electric stations produced 65,469,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity in 1953, a new record high and 6 per cent above the previous peak of 1952.

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PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

Neasham also felt that Old Town property in question should be placed under public ownership as soon as possible. He stressed that state cooperation did not mean state operation. This sentiment was echoed by Gullford Whitney, San Diego state parks commissioner, who attended the meeting.

Neasham then tossed down more meat to chew on. He told the group that, since the movement was steadily gaining ground, it could be even further accelerated by getting a resolution from the State Legislature declaring Old San Diego a historical point of interest.

It was at this point, however, that the Old Town Chamber of Commerce representatives asked for a master plan with cooperation and participation of local citizens.

TWO SUGGESTIONS

In brief, residents of Old Town demanded that their personal and property rights be considered from the plan's beginning, a point that was considered reasonable. The meeting terminated with a high degree of enthusiasm on both sides.

On March 10 of this year, the Metropolitan Planning Committee made two recommendations, which were passed by the Chamber of Commerce's board of directors.

The first was a recommendation that the California State Legislature be asked to designate the Old San Diego area as a historical shrine area, to be known as the "Birthplace of California," or some similar title that would convey the basic idea.

The second was that the city consider formation of a committee to develop a plan for the

dation beneath the project in a number of ways.

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S.D. SHRINE SENTIMENT GROWING

LOCAL POLITICS

Voting Roll Purge Started In S.D. County

By HENRY LOVE

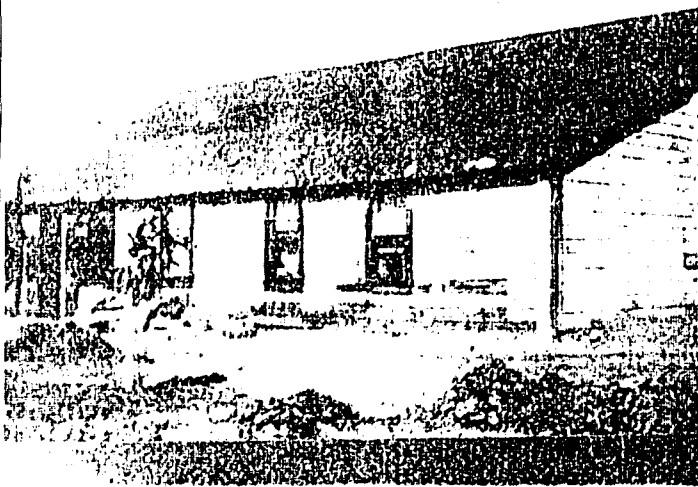
The biggest purge of San Diego County voters in local history was started last week by Lex Lord, registrar of voters. He estimated that by early next year at least 65,000 names would be stricken from the voting rolls. This would mean that the Nov. 2 general election registration of 325,000 would shrink to not more than 260,000.

Lord is operating under a section of the law requiring the cancellation of all registrants who failed to vote here at a state election in 1951.

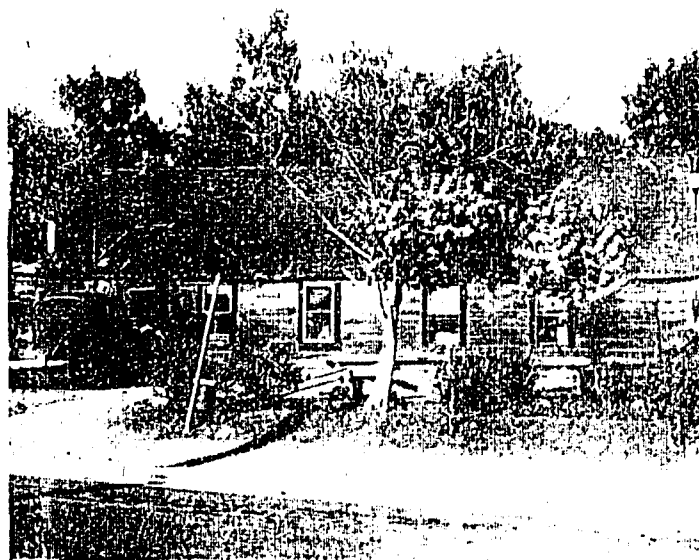
Lord says he is expediting the cancellation job to have the rolls cleared for the city elections, and to let purges register if they wish. He said the last day to register for the March 8 city primary is Jan. 13. The last day to register for the April 19 city general election is Feb. 24.

The registrar is required to notify those whose names are purged, but in practice this has proved difficult in the case of those who have moved and failed to leave any forwarding address. He estimated that about two-thirds of more of those who will be purged from the registration rolls are now listed in city precincts.

The registrar said it is difficult to make a close estimate of the number to be purged. There were 67.4 per cent of the registrants voting Nov. 2, which might offhand create the impression that the purge total



—From Union Title Insurance & Trust Co. Historical Collection
Casa de Stewart, built about 1825, once was restored by planks.



—San Diego Union Staff Photo
Planks now are rotting, exposing historic old adobe to elements.



Historic Site Preservation Wins Favor

Official, Resident
Interest Spurs Plan;
State Aid Likely

By JOHN SPRINGER

Current developments in efforts to preserve San Diego's Old Town area as a lasting memorial to the birthplace of California are entering the showdown stage. If public opinion is a criterion,

Boosters of the movement to preserve this remnant of American heritage say key elements of a bill might be responsible.

They are the continued interest of the County Board of Supervisors and of the City Council. The state's cooperation, the extensive office of the Chamber of Commerce Metropolitan Planning Committee; the formation Nov. 17 of an organization known as the Historical Shrine Association of San Diego County, in the Old Town Chamber of Commerce building; and the pressure from citizens.

GETZ PROMOTER

Cooperative action on the project has cropped up sporadically since 1910. At that time the late Thomas Getz, unofficial mayor of Old Town and a former showman, drummed up an association for the purpose.

Off and on, until his death in 1934, he stumped for action and even headed several interested groups, but nothing came of it. He also was the first to propose a Ramona Pageant, to be held in Old

some of those who failed to vote Nov. 2 may have voted at the June primary and thus cannot be scratched from the list.

Efforts in Interest Councilman Chair Buzenberger in a mayoral race next Spring will be in vain, the councilman said.

Buzenberger hastened to add this does not mean he has abandoned his interest in politics or that he would not seek office again in due time. Buzenberger said the demands that the mayoralty make on an incumbent are such that it is virtually a full-time job. The pay of \$5,000 annually, which the people several times refused to raise, makes it virtually impossible for anyone to handle the mayoralty without an independent income.

Buzenberger, so it is said, has an eye in the direction of Sacramento, came about 1956. He said he thinks a state assembly job could be attractive at that time. Under the new scale apparently voted for assemblyman Nov. 2 the pay is \$500 a month — \$920 monthly during legislative sessions — and there is not a full-time demand on a senator's time.

So far Harry L. Foster, retired engineering contractor, is the only candidate to announce for the mayoralty. But reports are current that a mysterious "they" are anxious to have representation in the campaign and have made approaches to other prospective candidates.

From reports in political circles the "they" seem to be primarily the group that came out in the last election as the "Third Taxpayers." This group publicly was led by Stuart Lake, with Roscoe E. Hazen as one of the leading spirits. Its campaign literature against the charter amendment to permit revenue bond financing of water projects, took various pot shots at incumbents in City Hall.

Foster said his candidacy is independent of the "Third Taxpayer" effort.

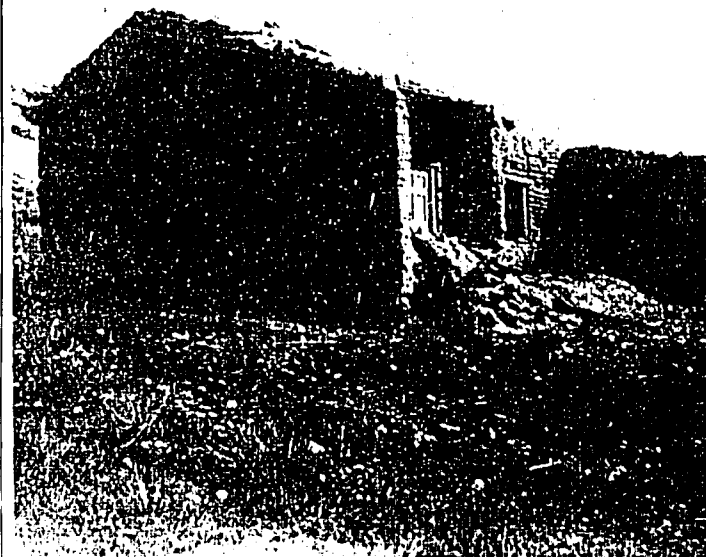
2 San Diego ROTC Members Promoted

Andrew W. Lewis, son of Mrs. Josephine W. Lewis of 7252 Monte Vista Ave., has been named a member of the battalion staff of the ROTC unit at Pomona College and Claremont Men's College.

Carvel H. Cartmell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hall V. Cartmell, 4811 Mansfield Ave., has been named leader of the third platoon in Company A of the battalion. Both men are cadet lieutenants.



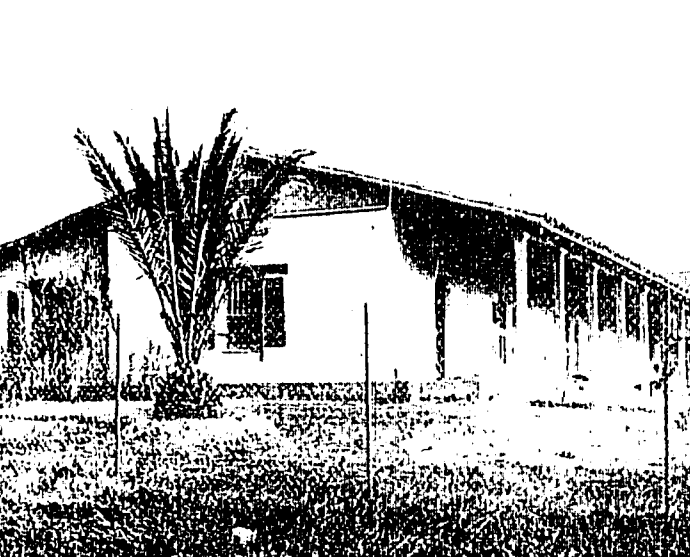
—San Diego Union Staff Photo
Crumbling brick, sagging shutters, mark slow ruin of Whaley House.



—From Union Title Insurance & Trust Co. Historical Collection
Casa de Lopez, built about 1838, was almost gone in 1890.



—From Union Title Insurance & Trust Co. Historical Collection
Estudillo House in 1890, now privately owned, fully restored.



—San Diego Union Staff Photo
Several restorations saved old home for future generations.

SPANISH - MEXICAN TOWN INFLUENCED NATION

Old Buildings Symbols of Important Era of U.S.

The historic buildings of San Diego's Old Town, the records agree, are symbols of an important and history-making era in the United States. Historians point out, and correctly so, that this era was unique.

The influence of Old Town on America, they point out, is not that of Abilene, Kan., scene of the Texas cattle drive feuds. It is no grave of Wild Bill Hickok or that of Calamity Jane of Deadwood, S.D.

The early residents of Old Town exerted a tremendous political, sociological and economic influence on California and the nation. From this quiet little village emerged some of the finest and most respected blood lines in the land.

The Bandinls, for example,

originated in Andalusia of high-born stock. Their home in San Diego, well-preserved and a hostelry, is at Mason and Calhoun Sts.

The family was in California by 1771. Capt. James Bandini was the first to raise the Mexican flag in the province. This was done on his ship Relna at San Blas in 1821.

His son Juan married Dolores Estudillo and, after her death, Refugio Arguella. The family, wealthy in ranches and livestock, was prominent here from 1823 to 1945. A San Diego descendant, Mrs. Arcadia Bandini de Brennan, is the wife of Judge John Brennan.

The Bandini home was the headquarters of Commodore Robert F. Stockton in the war with Mexico in 1846.

Rt. Carson, the scout, delivered his appeal for reinforcements here, during the battle of San Pasqual on Dec. 9.

Later, it was bought by A. L. Seeley, who named it the Cosmopolitan Hotel and also used it as a stagecoach station.

Here also Don Miguel Telesforo de Pedreana chose to build his home in 1838, at what now is 2616 San Diego Ave.

Wealthy, educated in Madrid and at Oxford, England, he came from noble stock. His wife was Maria Antonia de Estudillo.

Don Miguel, who sided with America in the war, saved the famous Spanish cannon El Jupiter by burying it in his patio. It now is mounted at Ft. Stockton.

At his death in 1850, he had attained the rank of captain and was active with William Heath Davis and others in founding New San Diego near La Punta de los Muertos, now one block from the foot of Market street.

Here, too, the wealthy and influential Carrillos chose to build on Wallace street, between Juan and Chestnut streets. It now is a golf course clubhouse. Nearby was the Estudillo home, now preserved as the fictional wedding place of Ramona, of the Late Helen Hunt Jackson's novel: the Casa de Stewart, built by Cpl. Jose Manuel Marchado, the Spanish Leatherjacket, for his daughter Rosa and her husband John S. Stewart, a shipmate of Richard Henry Dana Jr.; the Casa de

Lopez, built in 1835 by Francisco Lopez and his wife, Prudenciana Lopez de Moreno, and another Marchado home, the Casa de la Bandera, House of the Flag, now a church.

Here their many children grew up, married and moved away to bring their fine blood to other parts of California and the nation. They married into the Castros, Pachecos, the Ortega who founded Santa Barbara, and the Vallejos, famous in history.

They shaped the State's architecture, its mode of living, its politics and its economies. They made a tremendous impression on history, yet today have nothing of that age to show for it but a few books, a few buildings.

Most of these, happily, are in good repair. Otherwise, aside from the Whaley House, the Funelet and Stewart structures, there is not much left to restore.

The old jail, located behind a motor court at Congress St. and San Diego Ave., is but a ring of cobblestones.

The old adobe chapel, on a roadhouse and now sponsored by the Catholic Church, is thuged with crumbling adobe.

The Casa de Altamirano, a residence on San Diego Ave., could stand some attention.

The first public school, a frame structure, currently is being restored by the San Diego County Historical Association.

traction.

Cynics say that, since Getz's death, a hundred and one plans for the restoration have been formed and discarded. They contend that the sole results have been effected by private capital, with an eye toward utilizing the colorful old homes for commercial enterprises.

CONSULTANT CALLED

Therein, they say, lies the most fateful elder, Alteration of streets, erection of replicas, and the purchase of plots by city, county or state could cause serious inroads on the community's prosperity. On this point, most Old Town businessmen are vehemently agreed.

They refer to 1906, when Charles W. Ellet, a Los Angeles consultant called in by the city to suggest restorative measures, submitted a report.

It called for purchase of a number of the old homes, new driving places, of houses; the removing of through traffic on San Diego Ave., around Old Town instead of through it; the construction of buildings along the southwest side and west corner of the Plaza; the narrowing of street openings at the corner by planting trees or permitting encroachment of buildings on the street space; and the establishment of parks and parking space.

WEDGE DRIVES

The report was adopted, in part, by the City Planning Commission but a petition carrying 27 signatures of Old Town residents asked that it be rejected for commercial reasons.

However, historians contend that from this meeting a wedge was driven in the seemingly blank wall of opposition to the restoration. The thought of state aid was voiced. Gradually the ball began to roll.

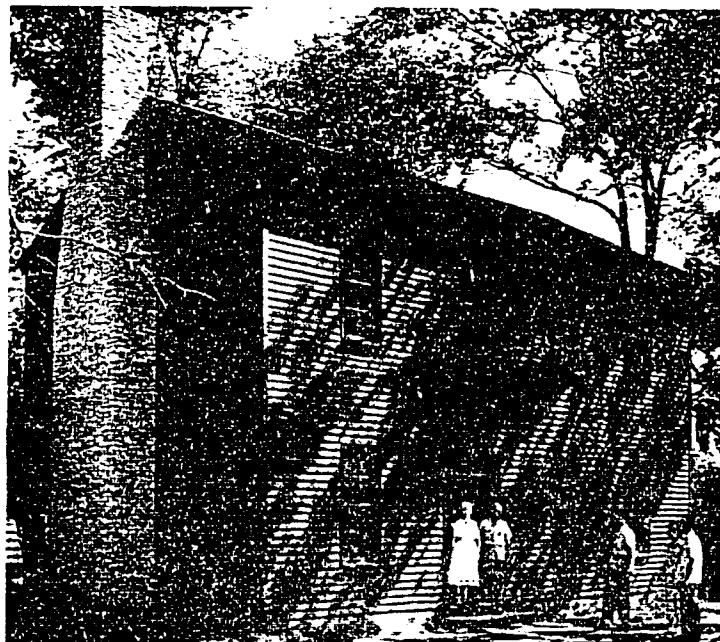
In September, 1933, the State Park Commission met in San Diego at the request of the Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Aubrey Newham, historian for the organization, asked for a restudy of the Old Town area.

PLANS STUDIED

Several days after the meeting, disbanded, the chamber wrote a letter to Newham, counseling him on the possibility of state aid in establishment of a community shrine at Old Town. The letter was answered by Newham B. Davis, chief of the State Division of Revenues and Parks.

Davis's answer was to send Newham and Stephen Wardwell, state senior landscape architect, to San Diego. They arrived Jan. 25, 1934, and were sympathetic regarding state aid.

On Feb. 2, 1934, the Metropolitan Planning Committee (Continued on Page A-37, Col. 1)



LINCOLN ARGUED HERE—Nearly one million tourists a year visit this historic building. It is the early-day Logan County, Ill., courthouse, where Abraham Lincoln argued and won cases when he was a lawyer. The actual

building was moved to Dearborn, Mich., where it is one of the exhibits at the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. The 200-acre site is outside Detroit.—Greenfield Village Photo.

Old San Diego Shrine Project Seen as Rival to Ford Village

Editor's Note—One of the country's outstanding historical restoration projects comprises Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum, located at Dearborn, Mich. American history from Colonial days onward has been faithfully recreated there. Facts at the Dearborn tourist mecca are made pertinent here by current plans for the restoration and enlargement of Old San Diego as the birthplace of California. This is the last article in a series.

The Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village combine to present a pocket-sized exhibit of America on 200 rural acres and Greenfield Village, located at Dearborn, Mich., 10 miles from downtown Detroit. The dual exhibit of actual buildings and other items from America's past, or their reproduction, attracts more than 850,000 visitors a year from all over the world. The original Logan County, Ill., courthouse, where Abraham Lincoln practiced as a

young lawyer, is on the village grounds. So is a full-size exact replica of Philadelphia's Independence Hall, "the birthplace of democracy."

Therein lies a difference between the project at Dearborn and the movement under way here to restore and enshrine Old San Diego.

San Diego is the actual site of the history that was made there. It's treasures of the past still stand and can be saved and restored at their original location or perhaps can be moved slightly to form a more compact group.

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This is to make history live again in tribute to the past and a day or more to their visits. Tourists can be accommodated at two cafeterias, a lunch and a coffee shop.

The Ford automotive firm, was the man behind Greenfield Village, which was dedicated in 1929. A legendary collector, he founded up buildings and other relics with zeal.

"Many times Ford would spot a few artifacts he wanted in an antique shop," recalls Lawrence P. Riddle, special projects manager at Dearborn. "He would purchase the shop outright and have its contents shipped to Dearborn."

Big and large, he was able to acquire almost any building or historic memento he sought, said Riddle.

The results are exhibits emulating several centuries of American progress, from the first American settlers to the present. Separate admission tickets are sold for the village and museum.

The average visitor devotes six hours to touring the grounds and buildings but many devote a day or more to their visits. Tourists can be accommodated at two cafeterias, a lunch and a coffee shop.

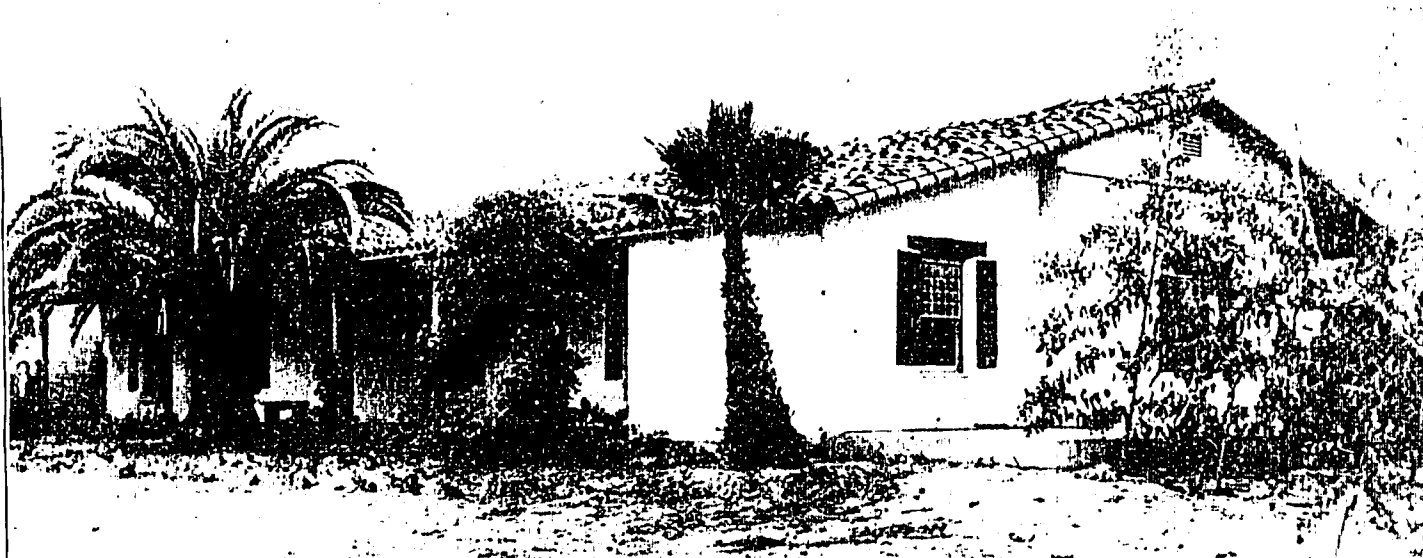


INDEPENDENCE HALL—This exact reproduction of Philadelphia's historic Independence Hall, where the signers of the Declaration of Independence drafted freedom's pact, towers above Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum at Dearborn, Mich. Mementoes of American history are restored and exhibited there. San Diego has similar plans to restore Old San Diego.—Greenfield Village Photo

Looking is available at an entrance bring many visitors in more than seven days a week. Few, and several models. More than 2,000 school groups, The admission fees charged tourists who visit Detroit fall visit the village and museum visitors provide an income to make the visit to the Dearborn, Mich., and ten and maintenance of the Detroit officials. Greenfield Village is a broad time of the Pilgrims to the delegates and tourists. Special enclosed Ford Museum a re dusty.

CASA DE LOPEZ BECOMES A SHRINE

Civic Volunteers Save Landmark



LIVING HISTORY—The Historical Shrine Foundation of San Diego County cites Casa de Lopez as evidence of what can be done to preserve Old San Diego's

heritage as the birthplace of California. Once almost in ruins, the historic casa is shown in its restored state. The shrine foundation seeks the restoration of

all Old San Diego sites which are linked with the early-day pueblo's past. Casa de Lopez is open daily for free tours.—Evening Tribune Staff Photo

The veranda - shaded Casa de Lopez, at the foot of Twigg St., in picturesque Old Town, stands today as encouraging evidence of how Old San Diego's history - rich past can be revived.

The casa, which figured in the classic story of Ramona, once was threatened with loss forever through neglect. Willing workers pitched in to restore it.

Now, tourists and other visitors stroll through its long galleries and thick-walled rooms seven days a week to take advantage of the free exhibit which vividly recalls the days when Old San Diego was the birthplace of California.

The Historical Shrine Foundation of San Diego County points to Casa de Lopez as a striking example of what could be realized in the foundation's plans for the restoration and enshrinement of all Old San Diego's historic casas, buildings and sites.

The shrine foundation has invited county-wide participation by individuals and organizations in developing Old San Diego as a national tourist

attraction similar to San Antonio's restoration of La Villita, birthplace of the Texas Independence movement, and Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum project at Dearborn, Mich., foundation sponsors say.

Casa de Lopez is kept open for free public inspection by Joe and Ardath Flynn, 493 Lillian St.

Mrs. Flynn recounts the history of the early California home while showing guests through the casa's three main rooms, halls and porticoes walks.

Mr. and Mrs. Flynn, with the cooperation of the owner of the property, are members of a civic-minded group which helped rebuild Casa de Lopez when its adobe walls started to give way.

It included C. Arnhold, banker and industrialist, Kiwanis Club members, assisted Walter Anderson, sculptor, and Old San Diego residents. Members of San Diego labor unions donated time on days off to help reconstruction and a tile

work and Spanish pictures, and more such mementos of the past are sought for display, Mrs. Flynn said.

Casa de Lopez contains the sleeping quarters of Father Ubach, the early-day padre who reputedly told Helen Hunt Jackson the love story of Alessandro and Ramona, which the writer immortalized in the novel, "Ramona."

In the book, Father Ubach is Father Gaspara, the priest who married Ramona and Alessandro.

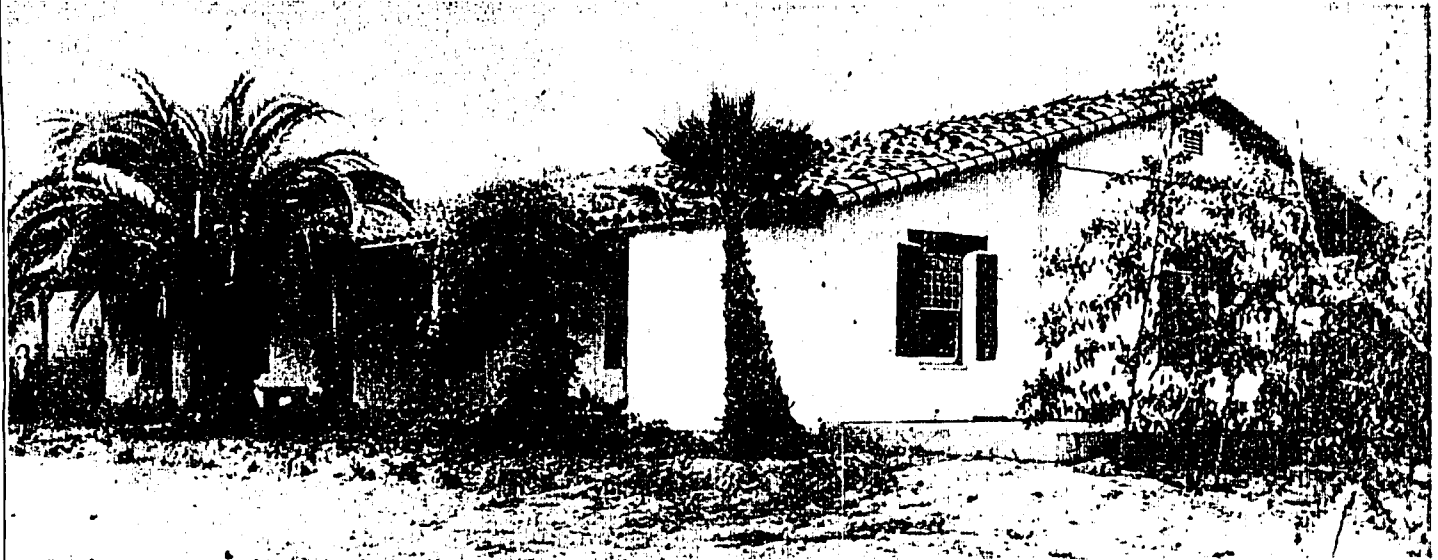
Historians relate also that Prudencia Lopez was first to alert the Old San Diego pueblo to the arrival July 29, 1846, of Gen. Fremont and his force of 100 soldiers.

Prudencia, who was later to wed the secretary of Gov. Pio Pico, was at the spring behind Casa de Lopez when she saw Fremont's vessel, the USS Cyrene, sail into San Diego Bay.

"Here comes the soldiers, there's a million of them!" she shouted in a shrill dash

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The development would be

similar to San Antonio's restoration of La Villita, birthplace of the Texas Independence movement, and Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum project at Dearborn, Mich., foundation sponsors say.

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Others included C. Arnholt Smith, banker and industrialist; Kiwanis Club members, who assisted Walter Anderson in landscaping, and Old San Diego residents. Members of San Diego labor unions donated their time on days off to help in the reconstruction and a tile man donated tile.

Other San Diegans have

lent such artifacts as handicraft work and Spanish pictures, and more such mementos of the past are sought for display, Mrs. Flynn said.

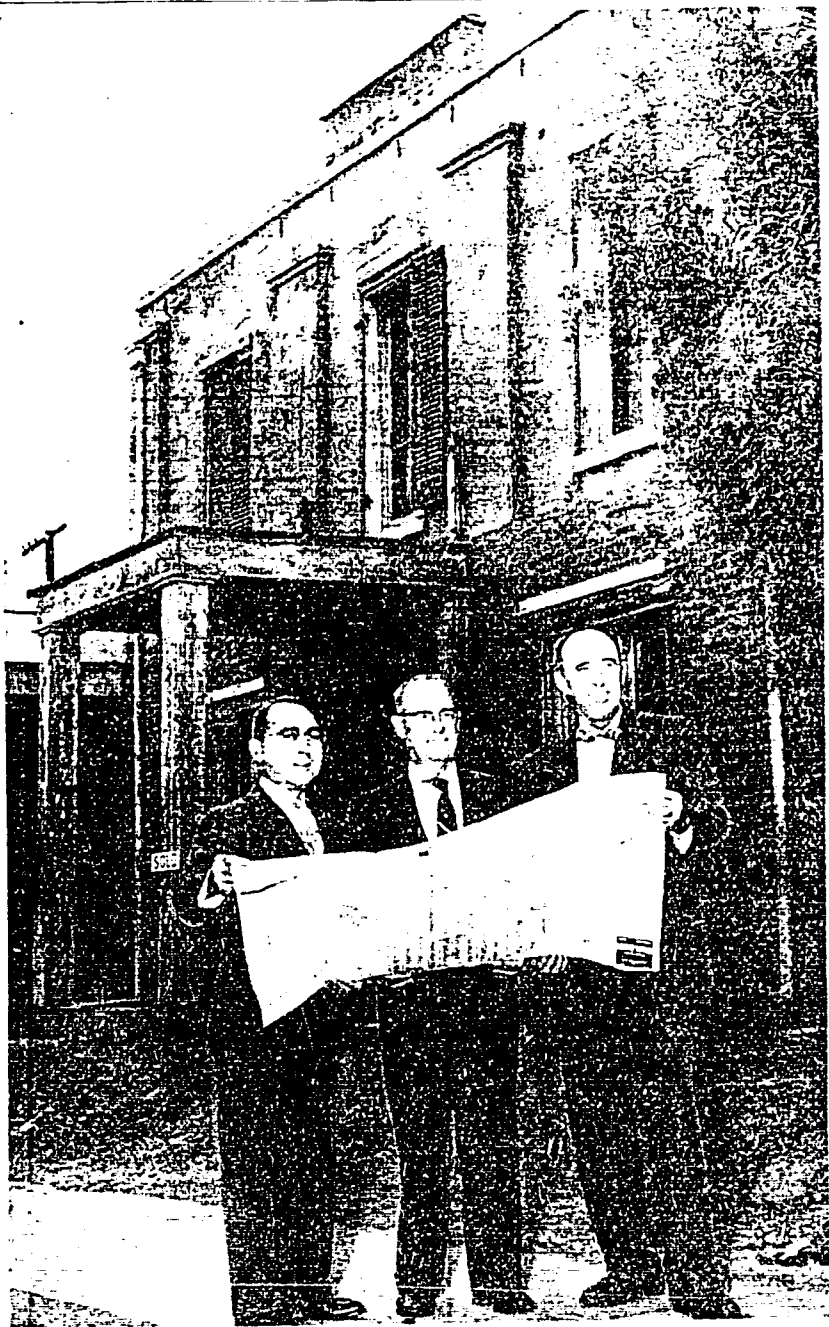
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"Here comes the soldiers, there's a million of them!" she shouted in a strident dash to the plaza, historians relate.



VISITORS' ATTRACTION?—Historical Shrine Foundation officials think the 100-year old Whaley House in front of which they stand can be rehabilitated

as a self-supporting tourist attraction. From left are J. Francis Mergan, James E. Reading, and Dr. J. White-shaw Birss. Reading is president.

Whaley House Seen As Tourist Mecca

By LEW SCARR

The County Historical Shrine Foundation thinks there's at least \$25,000 worth of history bricked up in the 10-year-old Whaley House.

That's what it is willing to pay for the tumbling, two-story building at 2482 San Diego Ave., Old San Diego.

Foundation officers hope the county Board of Supervisors will vote today either to buy the property outright or give the foundation financial assistance.

James Reading, president of the foundation, said Jean Vincenz, county public works director, will give the board an estimate of how much it will cost to rehabilitate the structure.

Legal Aspect Studied

He said, too, that the county counsel's office will give its recommendation concerning the county's legal responsibility.

The old building, built in 1856 by Thomas Whaley, has been many things, all of which the foundation thinks are historic enough for the county to help in its restoration.

In 1851, before the house was built, a tree on the property was used for the county's first official hanging (of a boat thief).

Court for Famous Judge

Judge Roy Bean, famous circuit jurist who rode West of the Pecos, tried cases in the house before he went to Texas.

It was the city's first Sunday school, a county court, headquarters for civil defense groups, a church, a polling place, a bakery, carpenter's shop, dance hall, general store, theater, and residence of the Whaley family.

It is said to be the first red brick building erected south of Monterey. Fixtures and hardware were shipped around Cape Horn.

As a member of the Army Quartermaster Corps in the 1870s, Whaley raised the Amer-

ican flag over Sitka, Alaska, when that territory was purchased from Russia.

The house has 11 rooms and four fireplaces.

Reading said 10 foundation members signed notes totaling \$10,000 toward the current purchase price of \$25,000. The transaction has entered escrow.

Held Self-Supporting

Reading said the foundation, a nonprofit corporation, believes Whaley House could be a self-supporting tourist attraction. He said many original furnishings might be obtained from descendants of Thomas Whaley living in the area.

Supervisor DeGraff Austin has said he thinks the county should own the property.

"It could be developed within the county park system," he said.

Luckel Studies Purchase of Whaley House

EDIT



TUES

DEA

Assemblyman Frank Luckel said yesterday he is "very interested" in the possible acquisition by the state of the Whaley House in Old San Diego as a historical monument.

An appropriation for the purchase could be made from tideland oil royalty funds, if and when they became available, Luckel wrote to Newton B. Drury, chief of the State Division of Beaches and Parks.

The assemblyman expressed similar interest in acquiring part of Ballast Point to be preserved as a monument.

"I am for economy," Luckel said, "but we haven't too many projects that qualify for these fiscal royalty funds, so we might as well get in line for them."

Historical interests here had asked county supervisors to buy the Whaley landmark, which is 97 years old. It served as a county courthouse before the earliest part of the present Broadway courthouse was complete.

Dean E. Howell, supervisors' chairman, said last week he had talked to Drury about the state acquiring the property.

San Diego County Library contains volumes.

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EVENING TRIBUNE

Section A

Wednesday, December 1, 1954

Page 15

Old S. D. Shrine Pusher

Move to Save Historical Area Urged

(EDITOR'S NOTE—A movement is under way to develop Old San Diego into a historic shrine. This article is the first of three describing this movement and reporting how similar restorations have succeeded elsewhere in the United States.)

By VINCENT DUNNE

Formation of the Historical Shrine Foundation of San Diego County today was breathing new life into long-considered plans to restore and preserve Old San Diego, the pueblo which gave birth to the State of California.

Old San Diego — the city's still picturesque "Old Town" — is a compact area just inland from San Diego's world famous harbor and beneath the bluffs of Mission Hills and the historic Presidio.

California's first dwellings and public buildings still stand there. A few have been kept up. But many are in danger of being lost forever through neglect and disrepair.

Ruins of Fort

Old San Diego also boasts the ruins of California's first fort, and it is the site of one of America's first schoolhouses, which still is there, as are Southern California's first palm trees.

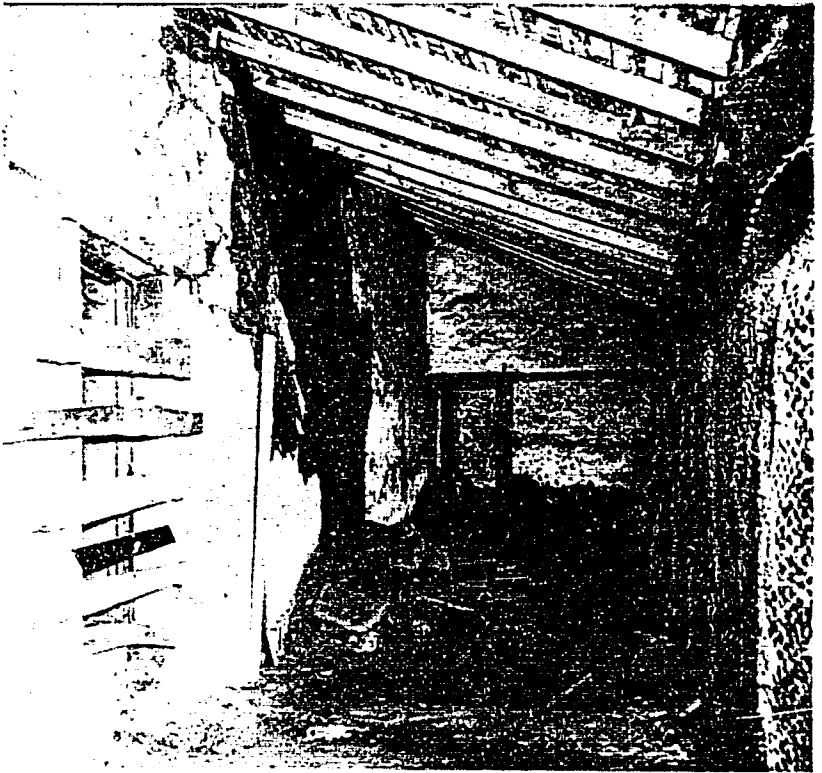
Many organizations and individual leaders now are directing renewed efforts to have Old San Diego formally proclaimed a shrine of California and of United States history.

The enshrinement will accomplish far more than bestow deserved historical recognition on it, the shrine foundation supporters declare.

The foundation cites the restoration of Old San Diego as a project of community pride which will not only save priceless historic landmarks but will make them national attractions.

Tourist Magnet

The perpetuation of the city's heritage as the birthplace of California, foundation backers declare, will make Old San Diego a magnet for more sight-seers than now visit the Cabrillo lighthouse on Point Loma. The lighthouse annually attracts more than a million visitors as the most popular national monument in the coun-



CRUMBLING 'HERITAGE' — Here's how time has dealt with Casa de Lopez, one of Old San Diego's historically priceless homes of California's early-day citi-

zens. The Historical Shrine Foundation now is pushing plans to enshrine Old San Diego and develop it as a national attraction and beauty spot.—Staff Photo

try, including New York's Statue of Liberty.

Enshrined Old San Diego, when developed, will be a new attraction for conventions and tourists in general, the foundation is convinced.

It supports this view by citing the success of other U.S. restoration projects. Among those listed by Old San Diego sponsors are "La Villita," a restoration of the early-day pueblo of the Alamo city of San Antonio, Tex., and the Dearborn, Mich., restoration of Greenfield Village.

What is the Historical Shrine Foundation, its purpose and plans, and who are its civic-minded supporters?

The foundation adopted its name and started organization plans at a meeting called last week by the Old San Diego Chamber of Commerce. J. Francis Mergen, acting chairman, presided, as president of the Old San Diego chamber. More than 100 individuals, city

and county officials and representatives of a score of organizations were present.

By-laws are being drafted for presentation at an organizational meeting in January, which officers and trustees could be elected and charter plans made.

Preliminary by-laws describe the shrine foundation as an organization dedicated to the preservation of all buildings, lands, furnishings and artifacts pertaining to the history of all San Diego County.

Membership shall consist of a group of people and established organizations banded together in a coordinated effort of rehabilitating and maintaining San Diego's historical heritage for posterity.

The by-laws declare the assign three delegates to the foundation shall not hinder or

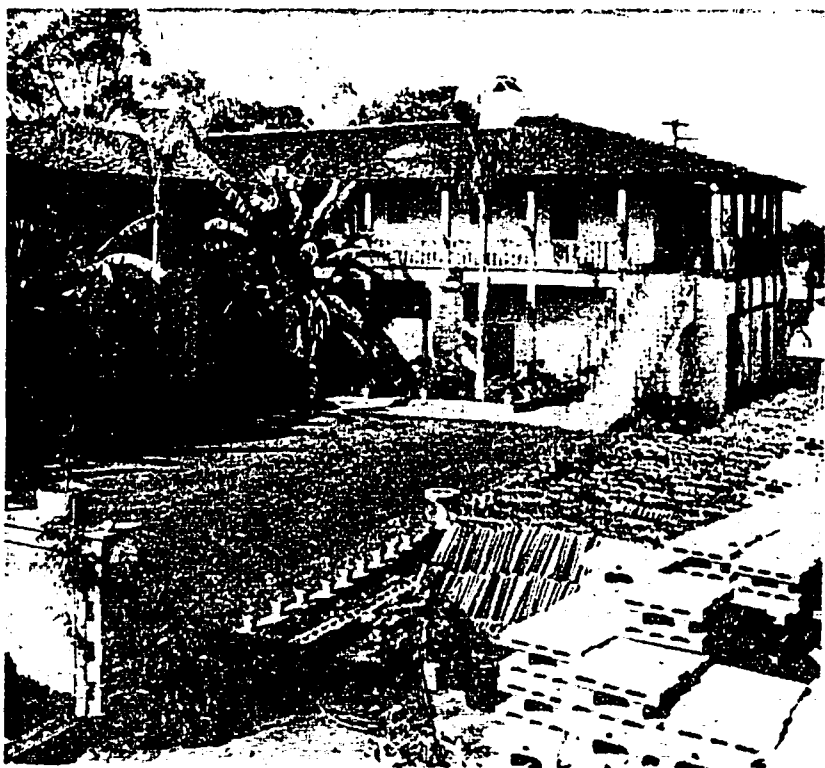
usurp in any way a private or government their rights to ownership or maintenance of property, "but to a greater extent, assist them toward their goal of preservation in the best possible way."

The foundation declares that if owners of historical property desire, the foundation can and will purchase or administer the property to guarantee its preservation.

Foundation sponsors said these provisions eliminated objections to some past restoration plans in which property owners feared state or municipal condemnations.

Each organization joining will assign three delegates to the foundation shall not hinder or

See It Tomorrow - - at WHI



PROUD LANDMARK—Here's Old San Diego's restored and preserved Casa de Bandini. It typifies the charm of the historic days when San Diego was the

birthplace of California. Preservation of this and a score of other Old San Diego places is the civic-minded goal of community organizations.—Staff Photo

Foundation Pushes Plans to Make Old San Diego Historic Shrine

(Continued from Page A-13) museum and Presidio, which would be a vital part of the shrine foundation, one of whom shall be elected to the board of trustees.

Each incorporated city and the county and state governments shall have a delegate on the shrine board. The general membership at large shall elect one member to the board for each organizational and government appointee to the San Diego and Mission Bay Association, the San Diego Convention and Tourist Bureau, La Jolla and San Diego Chapters of Daughters of the American Revolution and the Lakeside Chamber of Commerce.

Foundation plans call for it to be a non-profit and tax free organization. It is hoped that membership fees and endowments can be made deductible from taxes.

Suggested membership fees are annual membership, \$5; research, \$10; contributing, \$25; sustaining, \$50; and endowment, \$75 and up.

Old San Diego is bounded generally, by the Camino del Rio and San Diego River on the north, Ampudia St. on the south, Pacific Highway on the west, and the famed Serra Mu-

Besides the Old San Diego chamber of commerce and city and county governments, groups who are backing the foundation include the San Diego County Historical Days Association, the San Diego Chamber of Commerce, the San Diego Historical Society, the Old San Diego Property Owners Association, the San Diego Convention and Tourist Bureau, La Jolla and San Diego Chapters of Daughters of the American Revolution and the Lakeside Chamber of Commerce.

The foundation also has the support in Sacramento of State Assemblyman Frank Luckel (R-San Diego) who sponsored Senate and Assembly resolutions which proclaimed Old California.

Foundation efforts will be directed at obtaining state grants and matching funds to help in restoration financing. The foundation also seeks recognition and aid from the State Park Commission.

Tomorrow: What La Villite project meant to San Antonio.

Old Whaley House Important Feature In City's History

Brick Structure In Old Town Resists
Weather, Neglect For 97-Year Period

By WINIFRED DAVIDSON

Historian, San Diego Historical Society

The Whaley House in Old Town House!" A battle of words raged which, during its 97 years, has at the Whaley annex. W. E. Smythe's version of the court lect, cannot be ignored in the historical picture of San Diego. house assault has stood unchallenged for more than forty years.

For that number of years it not only served as a home for a single family but in the "adobe days" of Old Town was a social center and later a court house and theater. "With a party of two or three friends, he (lawyer Chalmers Scott, appointed by New Town leaders County Clerk and Recorder) went to Old Town one evening, loaded the records into express wagons, carried them to Horton's Addition, and the following morning was ready for business at the new place."

The two-story house is Pioneer Thomas Whaley's monument. It was built in 1857, and built to endure.

Whaley was 26 when he reached Old San Diego shortly after the California gold discovery. With Lewis A. Franklin he opened a dry goods and grocery store, La Tienda California, near what is now the corner of San Diego Ave. and Wallace St.

HONEST MONEY

First off, he made honest money where such money had been scarce. Then in 1853, he returned to Brooklyn, to marry. He safely escorted here his young bride, Mrs. E. W. Morse and others who, without him, could not have undertaken the hardships of crude steamboat and railroad travel.

He directed and took part in shaping and burning the first American type bricks made in southwestern California. the Whaley family claimed. He shared the work of converting local seashells into a hard plaster in building his house. It is said to need few repairs today. White cedar woodwork and metal trimmings of course, were bought with San Diego dollars in New York.

BUILDING CONVERTED

The San Diego Union of Nov. 21, 1868, announced: "The second story of the Whaley's brick building has been converted into a theater." T. W. Tanner, leading man, and his daughter Soledad, leading lady, headed "The Renowned Tanner Troupe" which gave at least one dramatic performance upstairs in the Whaley residence.

In 1932 the California Chamber of Commerce, after investigating the claims of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce and San Diego Historical Society, assigned residence No. 65 to the Whaley House Historical Landmark. It was placed in front of the house but strangely disappeared.

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The Whaley House at 2432 San Diego Ave., will be bought and preserved for its historical interest by a private individual. Formal approval for sale of the property from the estate of the late Miss Corinne Lillian Whaley has been given by Superior Judge L. N. Turrentine.

Leopold Kalish, of 3945 Alameda Dr., bid \$20,000 for the house and has agreed to preserve the historical structure. He plans to build a motel on a portion of the property and rent out the house for an art center or similar enterprise, Cecil F. Holley, attorney for the estate said.

Miss Whaley died in September at 89. The sale will mark the first time the deed has passed from under the Whaley name.

The Whaley annex, which in 1871 contained county and city records, was said then to have served as a court house for nearly twenty years.

It was a room wholly utilitarian. The furniture probably included a railing around a circular platform where the presiding judge sat. The inevitable canopy of the times was also round.

CANNON MOUNTED

When, with Alonzo Horton's coming, a feud broke out between New Town and Old San Diego, it was Judge Thomas A. Bush who from the Whaley annex in 1868, thundered his defiance and somewhere nearby, mounted one of the old cannons in preparation to stop a raid.

A crisis was announced in The San Diego Union. "The Secession of Old Town! Seizure of the Court

Plane Carrying 4 Dies In North

W.G. Man., Nov. 21 (AP)
"pped News

Ill-Georgia Case

On a pickup issued by Sheriff J. L. Futch of Valdosta, Ga., police late yesterday afternoon arrested a Valdosta truck driver in the 100 block of Island Ave. here, and booked him in the city jail.

Futch's message said he wanted the suspect, Early Moye, 24, on a felony warrant charging assault with intent to commit murder, violation of parole, and leaving after posting of bail.

The assault charge grew out of a fight in a tavern between Moye and a sailor, Futch reported. Police were alerted here yesterday after Moye telegraphed Valdosta relatives for money.

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San Diego Kindles Interest In Preserving Old Landmarks

THERE HAS BEEN A LAUDABLE quickening of interest in historic events and landmarks in San Diego County this summer.

Perhaps the first annual Fiesta del Pacifico had a lot to do with it. This month-long celebration, featured by "The California Story," laid great emphasis on the significance of this area's heritage.

Now various groups and individuals want to preserve some of the sites that figured in our early history.

ONE OF THE MOST INTRIGUING proposals envisions the restoration of Old San Diego.

As outlined to the County Board of Supervisors by James Reading, president of the County Historical Shrine Foundation, who is city traffic engineer, the project would turn Old San Diego into "the Williamsburg of the West."

This refers to the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg, Va., to its pre-Revolutionary aspect. This is the most comprehensive restoration of the American past ever undertaken.

AS A FIRST STEP IN RECREATING Old San Diego in the image of the past, the Historical Shrine Foundation proposed that the 100-year-old Whaley House be restored.

The foundation saved the landmark from razing July 1 when 10 members

signed notes totaling \$10,000 toward the current purchase price of \$25,000.

The red brick structure at San Diego Ave. and Harney St., since its construction in 1856, has housed a courthouse, supervisors' chamber, school, general store, and San Diego's first theater and Sunday school, as well as the Whaley family.

Reading believes it could become a self-supporting tourist attraction.

Another group of San Diegans is working toward a centennial celebration of the first Overland Mail to reach here in 1857 from San Antonio.

J. Francis Mergen, an Old San Diego businessman, is regional chairman for a committee planning to honor this historic service.

Among the committee's plans are the establishment of a wayside park at Horseshoe Bend, half way between Cuyamaca and Julian in the Laguna Mountains, and issuance of a special stamp.

COUNTLESS THOUSANDS OF SAN Diego County youngsters are "first generation Californians."

These efforts to preserve our history in vivid form for them, particularly, are commendable.

And for all, they provide a continuity with the past that solidifies the community.

Whaley House ... Landmark of Another Century ...

Once Social, Cultural Apex Of San Diego

A ornate brick mansion which a century ago was San Diego's social and cultural center now stands abandoned and crumbling in Old Town, a haven for hoboes seeking a free night's lodging.

Known to generations of San Diegans as Whaley House, the "Yankee-style brick" residence was built by Thomas Whaley for his vivacious bride, Lannay, whom he brought here from the east by way of Cape Horn.

"Yankee-style brick" is the way early residents described baked clay building bricks. Adobe was the customary building material at that time.

Whaley himself made the bricks from a clay deposit in Mission Valley. The house was the first one south of San Francisco of that type of construction.

No effort or expense was spared in building the house the way Whaley wanted it.

Doorknobs and other hardware was of brass or bronze brought around the Horn by sailing vessel. The interior was plastered with ground seashells.

Mrs. John Davidson, noted San Diego historian, said:

"The Whaleys were both educated, refined persons and their home immediately became the center of the city's cultural life. The first road show ever to play San Diego was presented on the second floor of the Whaley House.

"The family set an example for San Diego and the house should be preserved," Mrs. Davidson said.



FIRST eastern-style mansion built in San Diego as it appeared 75 years ago (top photo, from Union Title Historical Collection) and today (bottom photo, by Bob Hardee for The Independent). Once the cultural center of San Diego, Whaley House was built 100 years ago. Many individuals urge restoration of the dwelling as a historical shrine.

SAN DIEGO INDEPENDENT
DEC 26, 1954

Present S.D. Courthouse Dates To 1871 Move From Old Town



FIRST COURTHOUSE—In 1872 when this building was finished, it was modern up-to-date courthouse. After remodeling and 80 years later it is still courthouse for Metropolitan San Diego's government.

It was a tossup in the spring of 1871 whether San Diego County's courthouse would remain at Old Town or be moved to New Town. (Present downtown district).

But an alert and youthful county clerk settled the problem by taking the records from the Old Town courthouse in a midnight raid and transferring them to temporary quarters downtown.

The clerk, Chalmers Scott, had just been appointed to re-

place County Clerk George A. Pendleton, who died in office.

He staged the clandestine raid after irate Old Towners — determined not to lose the courthouse — had boasted they would use force to repeal any attempts to move the records from their courthouse.

But Scott worked quietly. He had two wagons driven to the Old Town courthouse, removed the records and took them to temporary quarters at the northwest corner of Sixth Avenue and G

Street. (Then Sixth and G Streets).

On Aug. 12, 1871, the cornerstone of the new and permanent courthouse at Front and D Streets, (now Front Street and Broadway) was laid. The building was opened June 1, 1872.

A small portion of San Diego's 3000 population turned out when the courthouse was dedicated. Today, that building, with some additions, serves an area population of 688,000.

Contains Jail

When the original courthouse was opened in 1872, it contained 12 rooms and a jail.

In less than two decades, San Diego had grown under the impetus of a land boom, to a bustling community of more than 35,000.

The community was outgrowing its central seat of government so in 1888 plans were started to enlarge and modernize the courthouse.

At a cost of \$200,000, wings were added on either side of the original structure, the front "face" was lifted and a third story was added to the structure by 1890.

Still Serving

In less than two decades, the building again was becoming inadequate for the size of the community. So a new county jail and hall of records were planned and completed in 1910.

The jail still is serving San Diego as its only county jail. It occupies the corner of Front and C Streets, while the Hall of Records is still in use on the corner of Union and C Streets.

On Feb. 16, 1949, placards were tacked on the walls of the courthouse declaring it unsafe and condemning it.

The condemnation was made jointly by the City Building Department and the Fire Department. The placards read: "This building is unsafe and unfit as a place of public assemblage."

New Work Comes

This was followed up by the installation of a fire sprinkler system throughout the entire building, certain doors were fixed to open outwards and outside fire escapes were constructed. This apparently satisfied both the fire department and the building department because the "condemned placards" disappeared.

A 10-million dollar bond issue for the new courthouse and hall of justice is now being sold.



VHALEY HOUSE—This structure in Old Town was the first courthouse in San Diego and was used until

records were moved away in 1871. (From Union Title & Insurance Co. Historical Collection.)

Writes Song For '83 Class



MISS LILLIAN WHALEY

Miss Lillian Whaley, the only living member of the first class to be graduated from Russ grammar school, forerunner of the San Diego high school, will be one of the many visitors to the Gray Castle today.

Those first graduation exercises were held at Horton's hall 8 p. m. on June 15, 1888. There were six members of the graduating class. Besides Miss Whaley, they were Myrtle Millard, Claudia Robinson, Mildred Strong, Clifford Hubbell and Clara Buckner. Words of the class song were written by Miss Whaley. She also read the class poem.

Later when taking the State examination for prospective teachers, she was the only one accepted from the group which took it with her. After teaching in San Luis Rey and National City, she turned to library work in which she was employed for 35 years, retiring four years ago.

Miss Whaley resides at the Whaley House, 2482 San Diego avenue, Old Town. This Whaley House, one of San Diego's historic landmarks, was made of bricks from Samuel Whaley's own kilns and its plaster walls were made of ground white sea shells.

The "big room" of this house has been used as the San Diego courthouse, a dairy, kindergarten, Sunday school and family living room.

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Near Whittier, Morrie Morrison did a double-take—at the sign outside the little bar: Half-way Social Club.

1958
Accountant Ed M. Lane's fascination in crossword puzzles has made an author of him; his "Rapid Crossword Solver," a puzzle dictionary, is being published next Wednesday by Vantage Press. . . . Charlie Anolero's trio is wooing the weekend dinner crowd at the La Jolla Hotel's Ship Room. . . . This was San Diego: The newly-found Whaley Papers include San Diego City Ordinance No. 7, dated 1869. It appointed Philip Crosthwaite as our city's first police chief, at \$60 per month. . . . Jimmy Littleton's definition of a bore: A man who is here today, and you're afraid will still be here tomorrow.

Courthouse Architects Ponder Window Issue

Architects for San Diego County's new courthouse today asked the Board of Supervisors for more time while they try to figure out what to do with some stained glass windows in the present courthouse.

The windows causing the problem show official seals of most of the states.

Superior Judge L. N. Turrentine, presiding in the Superior Court, has recommended the windows be saved and used in construction of the building.

But bids already have been called for on the plans, said Frank L. Hope, a member of

Associated Architects and Engineers, designers of the plans.

"It's too late to include the windows in the present plans," he said. "We'll have to make a separate job of it."

And this, Hope said, calls for a separate study, one which will determine how and where in the new building the windows can best be used.

In the meantime, Hope suggested, remove the windows when the old courthouse is razed and store them somewhere.

Area 'Too Complacent' About Tourist Industry, Expert Says

San Diego is "too complacent" about its tourist industry, Clifton W. Housley, manager of travel and recreation research for Holiday Magazine's publishers, told the Convention and Tourist Bureau annual meeting this week.

Some 500 persons heard Housley speak at the bureau's dinner meeting in the U. S. Grant Hotel.

Robert O. Peterson, 1958 president of the bureau also spoke, as did Mayor Charles Dail who presented an award to the zoo as the outstanding tourist attraction.

Housley said San Diego should increase its present \$186,000 bureau budget to at least \$500,000 to meet quickened competition for the tourist dollar.

San Diego received \$132 million from tourist last year. The amount could be doubled by aggressive action, he said.

"San Diego and its neighbor, Baja California, have much to offer the tourist—climate, sunshine, scenic beauty and the charm of foreign atmosphere," he said.

fit the city's whole economy, he pointed out.

Peterson envisioned the bureau's budget increased to at least \$350,000 this year to meet competition.

Phoenix, Ariz., with much less to work with, has done a wonderful job at giving meaning to its name, Peterson said.

"One of the most important projects for immediate attention should be development of a more definite and distinctive personality for our area, a clearer mental image."

Seven specific projects, in addition to raising the budget, were announced by Peterson for the coming year.

A convention hall must be acquired, he said.

"It is too early for an official announcement, but I can tell you tonight that concrete plans are well underway to build a 10,000-seat convention and general purpose hall with private financing," he said.

The bureau must cooperate with existing tourist attractions, such as the proposed Latin American Trade Show.

Improve Old Town—"which could become the single greatest historical attraction in California"—Balboa Park and Mission Bay, he told the group.

A study of San Diego's strong and weak points must be made, he said.

"We are hemmed in with live-wire tourist attractions such as Las Vegas, Palm Springs and Phoenix," he said.

Closer cooperation with servicemen stationed here and a more effective advertising campaign are necessary.

Peterson suggested that next year's annual meeting to be held in Tijuana. Leaders of Baja California attended this week's dinner.

Vincent Godfrey, a former president of the bureau, was master of ceremonies.

EVENING TRIBUNE



CROSSTOWN WITH NEIL MORGAN

WHEN IN LONDON: A recent wirephoto showed Mrs. Frank Les Tina of Point Loma on a tour of London in a wheel chair, along with our city's handicapped Wheeling Ambassadors. Startled friends here who knew she had been in fine health a few weeks ago, sought the answer from her husband: She had signed up as a non-handicapped member of the tour. Just before departure, a crippling attack of sciatica had put her in a wheel chair.

SAN DIEGO BEAT: Sue Carson and Roberta Lynn are due at the Guardian Club's charity ball next Sunday night at Mission Valley Country Club. It's a benefit for the Hebrew Home for the Aged. . . . **Anti-Recession Note:** Miss Eula Schantz of the National City Junior High faculty murmurs, "One place we never run out of business is in the schools."

Never, never does a woman dine in the Grant Grill before 5. Except last Saturday, when Manager Carl Lichty let down the bar for the first time. Ex-President Miguel Aleman of Mexico wanted lunch at the good Mexican hour of 3:30, and he wanted it at the Grill, and he wanted the ladies there.

The first of the new stereophonic records have gone on sale here. Only several titles are available so far; a large selection is expected by dealers within two months. The price is up to double that of conventional discs, and a special pick-up is required. . . . Allan Jones went in style to Hotel del Coronado last weekend to entertain Pacific Coast electrical men. He and his wife sailed down on their yacht.

COLUMNIST'S CAROUSEL: At a political meeting, Ray Blair reports, the discussion turned to signboards. This straight-faced query came from a woman in the crowd: "This fellow Boron — what's he running or?" . . . At a Pacific Highway trailer lot, Barbara Hutchinson saw the sign on a small model: "Sleeps Five—midgets." It only cost half a dollar to see "Around the World in 80 Days" when Thomas Whaley, San Diego's first city clerk, saw it at the Bowery Theater during a trip to New York in the 1880s.

On the edge of a 75-foot cliff at the San Diego State campus, Floyd Kilts noted the sign: "No Parking Beyond This Point."

Minnie Paddock used to be an Army Nurse. She started teaching school later — at San Diego Junior College — and now she's turned author too. Her book, "Basic Medical Terms and Techniques," has been introduced into schools in this country and in England. She's had good reviews from critics as remote as the one for the Medical Society Bulletin of the Union of South Africa.

This is San Diego: The menu at De Angelis restaurant out on University Avenue lists the names of half a dozen other San Diego restaurants — all separately owned — which the management recommends. . . .

Now that Dee Anne Flaming, a San Diego State beauty, has safely wrapped up the Miss San Diego title, another contest opens tomorrow on the campus. It's for the Ugliest Man, at a penny-a-vote, benefiting campus charities. . . .

At Bowlero, Robert Daley made the "impossible" split of 7-10-5. . . . Loma Palisades, a 1,060-unit apartment project, is scheduled to open on West Point Loma Boulevard this Sunday. . . . A chiropodist pulled up his trousers over Channel 10 to make a point, and saw to his horror that he had on one blue sock and one white sock. Since blue doesn't photograph, his audience was convinced he wore one sock only.

Don Juan Mystery Recalled

Noted Pioneer Rejected Offices

Editor's Note: Here is another of the Evening Tribune articles on historic facts in San Diego.

The first treasurer of San Diego County was elected April 1, 1850, unopposed.

He got 68 votes. He declined to qualify, never served.

The first assessor for the city of San Diego was appointed June 17, 1850. He declined the office.

It was the same man, Don Juan Bandini.

His reasons, 106 years later, are a mystery.

Hospitality, Daughters Bring Fame

Don Juan Bandini was unquestionably the most popular man of his time in San Diego. He was famed for his hospitality, his generosity and the beauty of his wife and daughters.

He was born in Lima, Peru, in 1820. He and his father came to San Diego to stay in the early 1840s.

Don Juan was active in politics and government while the Mexicans ruled California. But he was generally opposed to the powers in control.

Although he never was a pauper, his business ventures never seemed to flourish.

During the Mexican War Don Juan did all he could to help the United States.

Ancestry Traced to Early Princes

A few years after he declined the offices of California's first American county, San Diego, he won in Mexico and resumed Mexican citizenship.

This gentleman, who could trace his ancestry to the princes of the Roman Empire, returned to the United States in 1850 a sick man.

He died that year in Los Angeles.

Two Old Town streets are named for Don Juan Street and Bandini Street.

Casa de Bandini, his home, which Capt. George Brown destroyed, U. S. Army, said in 1851 was the only place in San Diego worth visiting, still stands at the southeast corner of Alhambra and Calhoun Sts. in Old Town.

