



Winter, 2020

SD Heritage Ranch
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Special Delivery to the Heritage Ranch in Time for the Holidays!

~Museum Hours~

Friday—Saturday
1:00 - 4:00 pm

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Executive Director
Barb Grice

We are very excited to announce that the 135-year-old Dunham House will arrive at the Heritage Ranch in time for the holidays! This charming beach cottage, built by Del Mar founder Jacob Taylor in 1885, is one of only three surviving Jacob Taylor houses in Del Mar, and is an excellent example of the Folk Victorian style of architecture.

This gem of local history was in danger of demolition as the property owner planned to construct a new home on the site at 119 10th Street, Del Mar. The Del Mar Historical Society had endeavored to find a permanent home for this local treasure in Del Mar and, with time running out, they approached the SDHM in an effort to find it a permanent home. In a special meeting in October the SDHM Board of Directors, recognizing the importance of preserving this important piece of local history, unanimously voted to accept the Dunham House and provide it a permanent home, thereby saving it from the wrecking ball.

Once the decision was made to save the house, the SDHM was under pressure to raise the \$130,000 needed to move the Dunham House to the Heritage Ranch. Property owner Chris Huber got the fundraising underway with a generous pledge of \$55,000 toward the cost of the move. (cont. on page 2)

Message from the Director

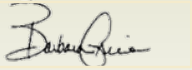
Dear Friends,

In reflection on this year, I am truly amazed at the compassion of my fellow human beings. Yes, I think we would all agree that this year is one for the record books but, in the midst of all the uncertainty and fear has come hope for the future. You have truly stepped up and come together to help one another. I would like to thank you for your generosity and support.

We have accomplished a lot this year – despite the global pandemic! Eagle Scout projects have given us plenty to be proud of. Drew Nance built a brand-new Heritage Ranch sign that hangs proudly on the side of the Museum. Jack Ek built a shade cover for the stagecoach so that we may now restore it back to its glory. Nick Sylvester and Troop 776 built a new stage for our events and the first event to be held will be his Court of Honor ceremony. And last, but certainly not least, our 1950's lifeguard dory has been restored by 14-year-old Eagle Scout Ethan Huntington. And with extreme gratitude to Encinitas Rotary, Fred Bruns & Rich Witesman, we now have a new carriage house for our postal carriage. And, led by Ralph Stone, our beautiful deck has been repaired with the help again, of Encinitas Rotary. (cont. on page 2)

So, despite being closed most of the year, great projects have been completed by wonderful service groups and volunteers. The best is yet to come. We have had a special delivery to our property. The 1885 Dunham House from 10th Street in Del Mar has been preserved and transported to its new home at the Heritage Ranch. This is an exciting new addition to the San Dieguito Heritage Museum and completes the first phase of our newest project of restoring this wonderful house and creating a new event space for the whole community to enjoy. We will continue to fundraise in order to move ahead to phase two. This is where you can help. Without being able to hold any of our fundraising events this past year, we are in critical need of funds just to keep our lights on. Would you consider a donation? We are dedicated to our mission of preserving the history of the San Dieguito region and need your continued support. Thank you in advance - we couldn't do this without you!

Looking forward to a fresh exciting New Year and wishing all of you good health and happiness.



Barbara Grice, Executive Director

Introducing SDHM's New Board President, Edgar Engert



Edgar Engert was born in the small farming town of Kreimbach, Germany. He grew up and was educated in Germany. While at a high school ballroom dance, Edgar met Renate and fell in love. They married and had their daughter, Liane. When Edgar was 22 years old, he moved to Long Island, New York to live with his uncle. Later the same year, Renate and Liane joined him. During the days, Edgar worked for a flower grower repairing and building greenhouses, and in the evenings he studied horticulture at night school. Edgar and Renate built a greenhouse at home and grew flowers to sell. While in New York, they had two sons, Ronnie and Jim.

When Paul Ecke, II was visiting the New York greenhouse, Edgar mentioned that he was interested in moving to California. Ecke later wrote Edgar offering him a job with the Paul Ecke Ranch in Encinitas, California. In 1968, Edgar and Renate packed up their children, along with the family dog, and moved to Cardiff-by-the-Sea. Edgar first worked at the Paul Ecke Ranch as a growing production manager and later as operations manager. For 20 years, he worked in sales, which gave him opportunities to travel throughout the United States and to parts of Europe and Asia. Also, Edgar organized and produced the Flower and Garden Show at the Del Mar Fair for 15 years. Renate studied floral design at San Diego State University, and for the past 15 years, she and Edgar have owned and operated the Del Mar Floral (flower shop) at two locations in Del Mar.

Edgar has a strong civic commitment to the Encinitas community. He has served on the YMCA Board for 20 years. He was a director of the Encinitas North Coast Chamber of Commerce for seven years, including two years as president. He was responsible for two of the Chamber's major fundraisers—Oktoberfest and Cinco de Mayo. Edgar also helped with the "Clean and Green" project in downtown Encinitas and implemented a beautification project of hanging fifty flower baskets along the Coast Highway in historic downtown Encinitas to acknowledge Encinitas as the "Flower Capital of the World."

Special Delivery, cont.

A fundraising campaign was announced on our website, and within weeks the necessary funds had been raised, thanks to the generosity of our members and members of the Del Mar Historical Society.

The SDHM proposes to develop an exhibit space and community event venue centered on the Dunham House. To accomplish this, the interior of the house (which was completely remodeled in 1977) will be opened up to produce an 800-square-foot exhibit and event space. We plan to add an addition to one side of the house in a style that is in character with the beach cottage to expand the available interior space. The covered porch will be widened to accommodate tables expanding on space available for indoor-outdoor events. The area to the front and back of the house will be landscaped so that the Dunham House sits within attractive gardens. The Dunham House will be used for community events such as concerts, weddings, family celebrations and classes. The SDHM is excited by the potential of the Dunham House to capture and represent the history of our coastal cities from the 1880s to the present.

Getting Poinsettias to Market was an All-Night Job

My name is Edgar Engert, and I started to work for the Paul Ecke Poinsettia Ranch in 1968. My first job was as a grower. Later I went into sales, and then a few years later, I was put in charge of getting poinsettias to the Los Angeles Flower Market during the Christmas season. The Los Angeles Flower Market is a very large wholesale market where flower shops and garden centers go to buy cut flowers and potted plants. The season starts before Thanksgiving and lasts until December 23rd.

The Los Angeles Flower Market opened at 4:00 am so our trucks had to leave the Ecke Ranch in Encinitas by 10:00 pm the night before. When we got to the market, we had to unpack and set up the plants to be ready to sell by 4:00 am. When the market closed at 2:00 pm, we had to pack up, drive home, and get ready again for the next day.

Of course, I didn't do all the work by myself. I had to hire about 10 people to help me. It was hard work and long hours, but I enjoyed my time at the LA Market.

The Ecke Ranch no longer grows poinsettias, but varieties of Ecke poinsettias are still being produced, and new colors and varieties are introduced every year. When you buy from a local garden center, you know your poinsettias are fresh from a local greenhouse. After all, Encinitas is the home of the famous Ecke poinsettias.

Now you know the history of getting poinsettias all the way from Encinitas to the LA Flower Market.

Today, the San Dieguito Heritage Museum is located on the same land where the poinsettias were grown. I still love poinsettias and treasure my years at the Paul Ecke Ranch.

Evelyn Weidner's Do's and Don'ts for Keeping your Poinsettia Happy

You just bought this beautiful poinsettia. Maybe it was red, white or maybe pink. It could be one of the new colors like lime green or a lovely mix of sunset colors. Now you want your poinsettia to stay as lovely as it was when you bought it.

Most important is watering. Don't let your poinsettia dry out to the point where the leaves are drooping and really wilting. If you do, they will soon fall off leaving bare ugly stems. Don't let it sit in water. The roots will slowly rot, which will shorten the life of your pretty poinsettia. If your plant is in one of those pretty pot covers, cut a hole in the bottom and set the plant on a saucer so it won't hurt your furniture.

So how do you know when to water your plant? The smaller the pot size, the more often you will have to water. The warmer the temperature, the faster it will dry out. In an average home, you should water a 4" or 6" potted poinsettia once or twice a week. A large 8" multi-plant combination can take longer between waterings. Here is the old-fashioned pinch of soil test: Go down just a little bit into the soil and take a pinch in between your fingers. If it feels warm and dry, it's okay to water. If it's moist and cool, wait a day or so. If you are really good, you can see that little tiny first beginning of a wilt. The old pinch-of-soil test works well, or you can buy an inexpensive water meter.

What about ice cubes for watering? Yes, you can, but you need to know how much water those 10 ice cubes really produce. Put the cubes in a measuring cup, and when they have melted, you can see how much water they equal. This works for all sorts of other house plants too.

What about fertilizer? You do not need to feed your poinsettia while it is in bloom. As soon as the leaves (bracts) turn red your poinsettia stops growing. (Just trust me and don't ask why.) If you want to make your poinsettia bloom for Christmas next year, look for instructions called "Making your poinsettia bloom again." You can do it—and it's fun! However, your poinsettia will never look quite as good as when Oliver the grower, grew it.

Did you know? The true flowers are the little tiny yellow things right in the middle of the poinsettia flower. If you did everything really well, your poinsettia will still look pretty good when March comes along.

Sometime after the holidays you should be tired of your poinsettias. You can throw them away without any guilt. It is just a plant, not your beloved Aunt Martha. If you live in warm coastal San Diego, you can plant your poinsettia in a sunny spot in your garden. Be sure you wait until March so the soil has warmed up.

Enjoy your poinsettias and remember that gardening is for pleasure, not worry. SDHM Board member Evelyn Weidner owns Weidners' Gardens in Encinitas.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOU MEMBERSHIP AND DON'T FORGET TO MAKE YOUR YEAR-END DONATION TO THE MUSEUM

We sincerely hope that you feel willing to donate financially, sponsor and attend our events, or join us as a volunteer and contribute your special talents. Your support has never been more important to the future of the Museum.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP - \$35.00 per person per year. Benefits: Free admission to Museum * Free participation in the Families Make History program * Quarterly newsletters * E-mail blasts * Invitations and discounts to educational programs & special events * 10% Discount at Museum Gift Shop

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP - \$60 per family per year. Benefits: Same as Individual Membership (includes all immediate family members (parents and children)

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP - \$150 per year. Benefits: VIP seating at our special events * Name of business and a link displayed on SDHM website * VIP seating/discounted tickets to music events

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP - You can choose the amount you want to contribute and how often. Benefits: Free admission to the museum, all museum events, & Families Make History program,* 20% discount at Museum Gift Shop * acknowledgement as a Sustaining Member on SDHM website.

TO MAKE A DONATION

By phone – (760)-632-9711 ♦ By check – Make check payable to San Dieguito Heritage Museum
Mail to: San Dieguito Heritage Museum, 450 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024



Board Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of each month, 2:00 pm
Docent/Volunteer Meetings: 3rd Friday of each month

The Heritage Ranch
Home of the San Dieguito Heritage Museum
450 Quail Gardens Drive
Encinitas, CA 92024

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Mission Statement

The mission of the San Dieguito Heritage Museum is to collect, preserve and interpret local history.