


Ocean Beach Historical Society
P.O. Box 7895, San Diego, CA 92167

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Sea Scrolls

Notes from the
Ocean Beach Historical Society


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Beauty Contest

February - March 2012 • President: Pat James • Editors: Susan James & Stephanie Greenwald • Creative Director: Kathy Blavatt

COMING



**AUTHOR
DIANA LINDSAY
MARSHAL SOUTH
AND THE
GHOST MOUNTAIN
EXPERIMENT**
THURS., FEB. 16, 7 PM
at P.L. United Methodist Church
1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., O. B

Please join our OB Blog to tell your favorite OB stories, facts and memories. Visit:
www.obhistory.wordpress.com

OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**“BEACH TOWN”
Reprints
NOW Available!**

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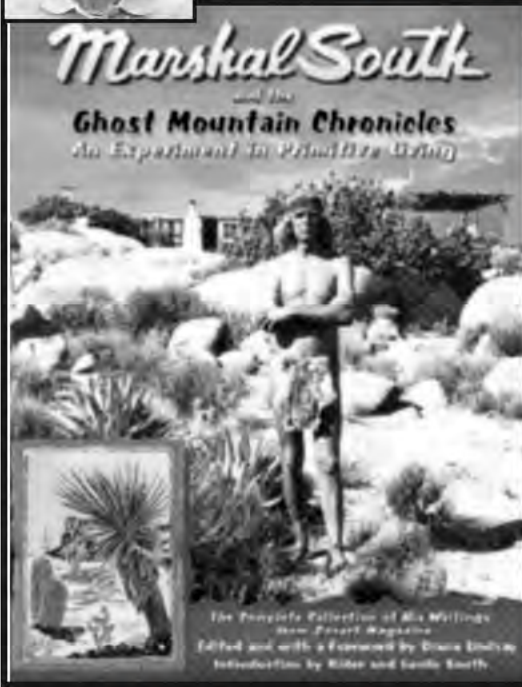
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ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY?
We are a 501 (C) 3 Nonprofit, DONATIONS MAY BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.
Join and receive our newsletters & announcements.
Fill out the form below and mail it with a check to:
OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 7895, San Diego, CA 92167

Individuals-\$12/yr. Business, 2 Adults, or Family-\$20
 Sustaining Member-\$100 Life Member-\$500/1 payment
 Special Friend of OBHS (includes Life Membership) - \$1,000/1 payment

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The Ocean Beach Historical Society Presents
**AUTHOR DIANA LINDSAY
MARSHAL SOUTH AND THE
GHOST MOUNTAIN EXPERIMENT**
Thurs., Feb. 16th, at 7 PM
P.L. United Methodist Church, 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., O.B.



For 17 years, from 1930 to 1947, poet, artist, and author Marshal South and his wife Tanya lived on Ghost Mountain—a remote, waterless mountaintop that is today within California’s Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. They began their homesteading adventure when the Great Depression left them few options to survive. They turned to nature and began an experiment in natural living that included raising a family under the most primitive conditions.

Over a period of nine years, South chronicled his family’s controversial lifestyle through popular monthly articles written for Desert Magazine. South wrote with lyric quality, painting word pictures that only a poet or artist could. His articles reflected his passion for the desert and emphasized its beauty and natural history while praising its early inhabitants and their lifestyle.

South advocated a return to simplicity and a close relationship with nature. His articles were also the reality entertainment of the day—an early version of Survivor with thousands of readers awaiting the next installment.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Ocean Beach Historical Society Presents:
THE WISTERIA PARTY
Sunday, March 25th, at 1 PM
4761 Niagara Ave., 92107 (Ocean Beach)



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*Photo Right,
Last year's
Rose Three.*

*This year
Rose Three and
Antonio (T.J.)
Johnson
will perform
with other
Ocean Beach
musicians
at the
2012 Wisteria
Tea Party,
Sunday
March 25th.*



This year's event is a tribute to Ned Tilow by his daughters and the Ocean Beach Historical Society.



NEW MEMBERS

December - January:
Robert Cenko; Joe Ewing; Freda J. Guess; Allen Litten; Vivian & Tim McCardle; Alice Rogow; Anne & Rikio Shiosake; Christine Sterns. Welcome Back: Maureen & Tom Roeber.

THANKS FOR DONATIONS:
Lyle Beller; Claire & Lester Bois; Maureen & Tom Roeber, Fran & Paul Galo.

THANKS TO BLUE VASE DONORS

**CONGRESS OF HISTORY
of San Diego & Imperial Counties
2012 History Conference**

Who should attend?
Anyone interested in history, education, or learning more about the Congress of History!



FRIDAY, MARCH 2, & SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2012
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., both days (First speaker at 9:30 a.m.)

Cost/Registration: \$25 per person (covers both days); seniors (65+) \$20; students w/ student ID \$15. *same price for attending 1 day or both days*

Register at: www.congressofhistory.org/events.html

Please register, Walk-ins welcome, depending on space.

Lunch on your own (try the student food court or bring your own lunch).

Location: University of San Diego, Warren Auditorium, in Mother Rosalie Hill Hall Building, San Diego, CA 92110 (Building No.5 on the campus map; see map). Free parking on campus.

Sponsored by the Congress of History of San Diego and Imperial Counties, and the History Department of the University of San Diego (USD). Additional sponsors: the California Retired Teachers Association (CalRTA), Area XI; the Ocean Beach Historical Society; Anita Peterson; and Jack and Helen Ofield.

This 47th Annual History Conference will explore the history of learning in the San Diego region, with over a dozen exciting presenters over two days. Some of the historians, authors, and presenters scheduled to speak:

- Local Education History Overview, by Pilar Khder
- Traditional Kumeyaay Educational Methods, by Richard Carrico
- Mary Chase Walker: Early Educator in Old Town San Diego, by Gabe Selak
- Learning Challenges of the First Chinese Immigrants to San Diego, by Murray Lee
- The History of San Diego High School, a video presented by Don King
- An Auspicious Opening: San Diego State Normal School: 1897-1921, by Alexander D. Bevil
- History of the Founding of the University of San Diego, by Sister Virginia Rodee
- The Lemon Grove School District: From Barn to Cyberspace, by Helen Ofield
- Francis Parker School, by Kevin Yaley
- Speech and Language Classes at San Diego Naval Hospital, by Darlene Davies
- East County Unites: The Development of the Grossmont Union High School District (1892 -1922), by James Newland
- The Nation's First Women's Studies Department (at SDSU), by Dr. Gloria Harris... *And Others*

Start Clicking Photos— OB Exposed! Coming in May!

Continued from page 1

His knowledge of native ways helped his family survive and made him less dependent on civilization. The articles he wrote detailing his lifestyle and philosophy provided the income he needed to maintain his experiment in primitive living. South's controversial lifestyle has been both praised and criticized.

An acrimonious divorce ended the "experiment in primitive living" in 1947. Tanya and the children left the mountain while Marshal moved to Julian where he died a few years later.

Interest in the South family and their experiment in primitive living continues to this day. The ruins of their home on Ghost Mountain are a popular destination for hikers in the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The articles he wrote in *Desert Magazine* continue to fascinate as well as South's own personal story that was hidden for many years.

Historian and biographer Diana Lindsay wrote the foreword for Marshal South and the Ghost Mountain Chronicles: An Experiment in Primitive Living. Her research provides details never before known about South and his family. The results of her research led to the creation of a documentary film in 2005 entitled "*Ghost Mountain: An Experiment in Primitive Living*" that now plays regularly at the state park Visitor Center.

Please join us Feb. 16th, 2012.

PRESERVE OB's HISTORY!

OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES

WE NEED: • HISTORICAL PHOTOS, ITEMS & DOCUMENTATION
• CASH DONATIONS • HISTORICAL INTERVIEWS • ARCHIVAL SUPPLIES

GIVE A GIFT THAT HELPS PRESERVE OUR COMMUNITY'S HISTORY

ARCHIVES

The Ocean Beach Historical Society Archives were founded to preserve the history of Ocean Beach and the peninsula. The Archives Room is housed in space rented from the PLUM Church in O.B., where the OBHS programs are held. The collection includes:

Photos, maps, books, papers, newspapers, letters & artifacts. Also, there is an extensive biography index and San Diego City Directories from 1926 to 1984 which lists people, their spouses & occupations. Residents are also listed by street address.

Dedicated volunteers assist with the processing.

DONATIONS TO THE ARCHIVES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

Many people believe that their lives are of no interest to others, but they are!

Unfortunately, photographs, house plans, business & organization records, and family papers end up in the trash after a death in the family. Photographs, especially, depict people, their activities & customs, homes & buildings, and dress.

Some OB buildings vanish or functions change almost overnight and new ones appear.

The cliffs erode and scenery changes. The OBHS Archives provide an invaluable window into OB's past.

PLEASE when donating photographs to the Archives, remember to date and identify the people and places in them.

Reluctant to give up your photos or papers? The Archive's staff would be happy to copy and safely return items to you, with your permission to use the materials.

Preservation work often needs support & supplies.

GIFTS MAY BE DONATED AT MONTHLY MEETINGS OR



**OBHS ARCHIVIST
MARY ALLELY
TO SCHEDULE
A MEETING OR PICKUP:
(619) 223-7784**

It's important to preserve our history and maintain the archives.
OBHS is a 501 (C) 3 Nonprofit, DONATIONS OF ITEMS & CASH MAY BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.