



# ECHOES

**A Publication of the Crest Historical Society, Inc.  
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## Renewals Update

Thanks to Bill Rinder for staying with us another year. Bill has been a member since 2006.

We also received a renewal from Howard Thom who grew up here in the 1940s and 1950s, now living in Utah. Thank you Howard for this enclosed note. It is a typical Suncrest "episode" from the 1940s.

*"Beverly Jenkins and I were swimming in the Jenkins' pool. Bev said she had to deliver some bags of fertilizer and asked if I wanted to help fill the bags at the dairy. When we had them filled, she told me to find a fresh cow pie. I did, and it was still wet. We put it right on top and closed the sack. Then we delivered that sack to the old guy that always complained that the manure was too dry. He opened the sack and stuck his hand in it. We kept straight faces until we were a half a block away. You could hear us laughing clear down in Suncrest."*

*Howard Thom  
1945-1950*

## Turkey Day



With Thanksgiving arriving soon, it seemed appropriate to give you a few facts and figures about Thanksgiving during the Great Depression

from a newspaper article written by Arthur Ribbel. These are local so are of interest to many of us who remember the places and the times.

The Bay City Market on Fifth and G Streets advertised turkeys at 28¢ a lb. delivered to your door. Safeway offered Leg of Lamb and Beef for the Pot Roast in 1933 for 18¢ a lb.

Some San Diegans had wild rabbit for their Thanksgiving dinner; rabbits possibly bagged on Kearny Mesa in one of the city canyons, or in Mission Valley. Hunters who weren't lucky could buy domestic rabbit at Bay City Market for 25¢ a lb. or rock cod at 15¢ or swordfish for 22¢ a lb.

Hurtburd's Grove in Descanso charged \$1.25 for its turkey dinner. The Pullman Cafeteria on Fifth St. charged 35¢ for dinner and the Casa de Mañana in La Jolla, \$1.50.

San Diego was a horn of plenty in the 1930s. Chula Vista was noted for celery; Ramona for turkey and turkey eggs; Poway was famous for peaches; Vista for avocados; Lemon Grove for lemons and oranges; Julian for apples. Encinitas grew flower and truck-garden produce, and beautiful Mission Valley was famed for milk and vegetables. Honey was produced in various parts of the county, fish from the sea and beef from the back country.

San Diego was a great place to live in those depression years—in fact, it's still pretty nice!

## The Suncrest Pool

The Suncrest pool was built in 1928 and 1929 by volunteer labor – men who were members of the Suncrest Resort. The leader of the work force was William Jenkins, Sr. The pool was located near the corner of Juanita Lane and Park Drive.



Picture of the Suncrest Pool donated by the Hoover family.

YEAR 1936 NO. 4

**THIS CARD ENTITLES**  
Clinton Hunt

TO 76 SWIMS IN THE SUNCREST POOL.

HOLDER'S SIGNATURE Clinton Hunt SECRETARY W.S. Jenkins

AM \_\_\_\_\_  
PM \_\_\_\_\_  
NITE \_\_\_\_\_

No. 1 Date June 12-27

Swimming Pool Membership Certificate

**THIS CERTIFIES THAT**  
Mr. + Mrs W.S. Jenkins  
has paid the sum of Five Dollars to be used in the construction of a swimming pool at "Suncrest" and is entitled to use said pool, subject to the rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors of "Suncrest, Inc."

Board of Directors of Suncrest, Inc.

THIS PERMIT GOOD FOR EACH MEMBER OF THE FAMILY

## Crest Historical Society Members Remember

### William Jenkins, Jr.



Bill Jenkins, long time resident of Crest, passed away at home September 24, 2015 at the age of 94. Bill had been a resident of Crest for 87 years. He moved to Crest (Suncrest) in 1929 with his parents, William and Ethel, brother Lewis, and sisters, Grace and Helen. His parents homesteaded 120 acres in the southeast portion of Crest which they aptly named Echo Ranch.

The family owned Echo Ranch Dairy where Bill worked until he entered the army in 1944. He served in the Pacific as a member of the Combat Engineer Corp. until 1945.

In 1946 Bill met his wife Dewey Laughlin, also a resident of Crest. They dated for three weeks before marrying and were happily married for 69 years. They remodeled a cabin on the ranch property where they raised their four children – Tommy, Linda, Peggy, and Donna. Many longtime residents of Crest will remember happy times spent at the Jenkins' swimming pool and picnic grounds.

Bill was a "jack of all trades" kind of guy and could work at almost anything. Over the years he worked for San Diego County Road Dept., Ryan Aeronautical Co., Motor Machine and Supply, Southwest Onyx and Marble Co, Consolidated Vultee, G.H. Hurst Studebaker, and more. He retired after 10 years with the Crest Public Utility District.

After retirement, Bill and Dewey became very involved with their black labs in the San Diego Retriever and Field Trial Club, winning many ribbons and trophies.

A Celebration of Life was held on October 3.

### Ima Jean Huntamer

November 17, 1929 – September 5, 2015



Jeannie was born in Wyonna, Iowa in 1929 to Alta and Emmett Holcomb. The family moved to California during the Great Depression and settled in Crest.

In 1947 Jeannie married her high school sweetheart, Bob Huntamer who was also a long time resident of the "hill." They made their home in Crest for many years, raising their children, Stephen, Marilyn, and David here before moving into town.

While still members of the community, Jeannie and Bob were very active volunteers, working for the Crest Volunteer Fire Department, PTA, church services, or anywhere they were needed. While raising their family, they built a very successful insurance business which is still in the family.

When they retired, they spent years in their motorhome touring the United States and Mexico. Jeannie lost Bob in 2003. They were best friends to the end.

## Suncrest

*The following is portions of a chronicle written in 1951 by the late Fred W. Sick, retired City Clerk for the City of San Diego. His father built a house on Crest Dr. in the mid-'20s. He was extremely active in the Suncrest Club, even though he resided in San Diego. He could be found in Crest every weekend and summers. He was secretary/treasurer at Suncrest, Inc. for over 20 years.*

Suncrest came into being as a result of a transaction whereby Barney and Dollie Cornelius, original owners, sold a considerable parcel of property to Mr. Ray T. Coats whereupon Mr. Coats established the real estate subdivision of Suncrest in 1924. The first lots were sold and a weekend resort was in the making. The subdivider installed a water system, consisting of a well, two water tanks, and pipe lines with spigots at 200 foot intervals in the streets. It was not permissible under the regulations to pipe water into buildings. Water had to be drawn from the public spigots and carried to the point of use. In March 1926, the Suncrest Club was incorporated and by-laws were adopted; as a result the club took over the water system and clubhouse. Thereafter, it became necessary for a person to be a property owner in Suncrest in order to be eligible for membership in the club, and to be a club member in order to be entitled to water service. Prior to 1929, the subdivider (Coats) paid the real estate taxes, as no official subdivision was recognized. In that year the County Assessor filed what is called the Assessor's Arbitrary Map, which was practically the map of the subdivider. From that time on, the individual lots were assessed and each property owner paid his own taxes.

Ray Coats was advertising manager for the *San Diego Sun* Newspaper. As an incentive to increase circulation, he sold one lot 25x100 for \$25 with a coupon out of the paper and the promise of a subscription. (In 1932 my family came armed with a coupon and purchased four lots.) Cabins began to spring up and the first cabin was built on Eucalyptus Dr. in 1926 by William Jenkins, Sr. for his mother, Mrs. Outcault.

During the depression years, more and more people moved into their "weekend" homes as permanent homes. Then came the problem of their using more than their share of the water. As a result, there were many weekends when there just wasn't enough water to go around. The original well was deepened and gave relief for a short time, after which a second well was dug to give temporary relief. The third well was a five foot hole dug to a depth of approximately 80 feet. This well held 50 feet of water for about three years, but when the drought set in, the well practically dried up.

In 1944 the Crest Public Utility District was formed, after which the water systems of Suncrest and La Cresta were turned over to the District for operation. In the very late '40s, a new pumping plant, water line, and reinforced concrete reservoir were installed and put into operation. Eventually, Crest became affiliated with the Padre Municipal Dam District.

Because of the fact that the subdivision map of Suncrest was not approved by the Board of Supervisors of San Diego County, cabin sites were sold by metes and bounds, and for the same reason the various streets did not become a part of the county road system. It took a number of years of hard work to get some of the Suncrest roads in to the County Road System. The first successful result came when the County took in Suncrest Blvd, Albatross, South Lane, and Crest Drive. The County improved this circle with county funds. Several years later, the Club spent \$1200 in oiling portions of Lento Lane, West Drive, and Eucalyptus Drive between South Lane and its southerly termination in what the old-timers used to refer to as the south forty. When this improvement had been accomplished, the Board of Supervisors was approached with a petition and after due process through the County Planning Commission, these roads were also taken into the County Road System.

The only means of reaching the Suncrest area in the early days was by wagon roads through private property. In 1931, through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius, a right of way was given to the County for the present road, and it was thereafter constructed by the County.