Oceanside Historical Society
P O Box 125
Oceanside CA 92049-0125

Winter 2021 Newsletter

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Membership Application

Please make checks payable to the Oceanside Historical Society and mail to:

OHS, P O Box 125, Oceanside CA 92049-0125

Donations & memberships may be made through our PayPal account

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND CHECK THE LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP

PLEASE CIRCLE: NEW MEMBER RENEWING MEMBER

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State & Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

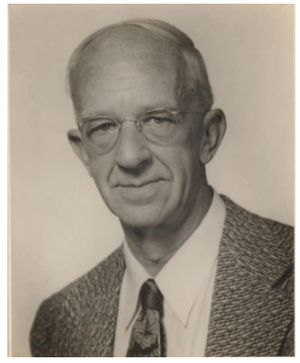
Email: _____

____	Student	$15.00
____	Individual	$25.00
____	Family/Dual	$50.00
____	Friend	$75.00
____	Benefactor	$150.00
____	Patron	$250.00
____	Life Member	$500.00
____	Bronze	$750.00
____	Silver	$1,000.00
____	Gold	$1,500.00
____	Platinum	$2,000.00
____	Sustaining Partner	$5,000.00

HISTORY
OCEANSIDE
Historical Society

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2021

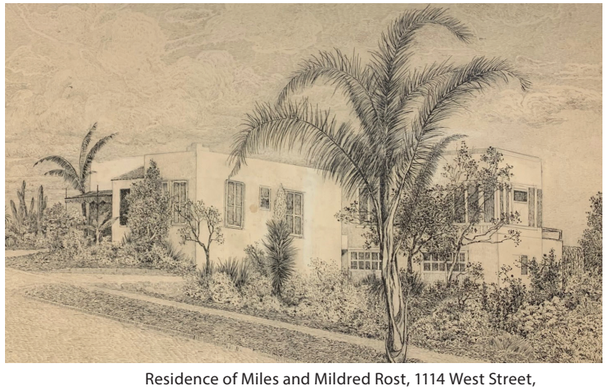
Miles Ernest Rost



Jeanie Betancourt recently donated several original art works by famed local artist Miles E. Rost and that of his father, Ernest C. Rost. Jeanie's grandfather was Norman Rost, an "adopted" son of Miles Rost and his wife Mildred.

Miles Rost was born in Washington, D. C. in 1891 and came to California as a young boy prior to 1920, living in Alhambra with his family. In 1936 he married Mildred Kinney and they soon made their home in Oceanside, living at 1114 West Street, where Rost had an art studio.

Described as a "pen and ink artist", his numerous drawings were beautifully intricate, using delicate strokes of contrast and shading. His etchings were done using up to 30 different colored inks, which he mixed himself. He used a very fine steel pen with which he dipped into the various inks. Each drawing was original, unlike an etching which is duplicated.



Residence of Miles and Mildred Rost, 1114 West Street, Oceanside by Ernest Rost, Miles' father.

One of several framed pieces donated by Jeanie Betancourt. Drawing by Miles Rost.

Rost's drawings included southwestern subjects and scenery, as well as Torrey Pines and scenes around San Diego County, including the Mission San Luis Rey. He is also noted for his detailed drawings of fish.

A third generation artist, Miles' grandfather Ernest Christian Rost, a New York banker, designed the eagle for $20 gold certificates issued by the US government and portraits of US presidents for various currencies. Miles' father Ernest Rost was a copper engraver, photographer and artist. He etched his son's home on West Street.

Miles Rost died in 1961. His widow Mildred Rost remained active in the community as a member of the Oceanside Historical Society, Friends of the Carlsbad Library, and served as President of the Oceanside Braille Society. She died in 1991.

Board Members:

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Visit our website: OceansideHistoricalSociety.org
Visit our Facebook page: Facebook.com/OceansideHistoricalSociety
Follow us on Instagram!
Do you have history questions?
Email us at info@OceansideHistoricalSociety.org

Office Closed

Due to County and State COVID-19 restrictions, our Office is closed until further notice.

Dues Increase and New Membership Levels

You may notice that we have recently made a dues increase. We have not raised our membership dues for nearly ten years. We still have a very affordable annual membership fee but have also added additonal levels for those who may wish to support us on another level.

Thank you

Louise Vance sent in a $100 donation via paypal.

NEW MEMBERS

David and Karyn Frazee, Life Members

Ardis Zander, Life Member

Macy Steiner, Life Member

Janice and Tom Frankum, Patron Level

Welcome and thank you for your support!

Memoriams

Shelley Hayes Caron

Shelly Hayes Caron died December 6, 2020 at the age of 71. She was a longtime member of the Oceanside Historical Society. Shelley was the only direct descendant of an original early California land grantee living on the original property, owned by her great-great-grandfather Silvestre Marron.

Caron's great-grandfather John Chauncey Hayes, married to Silvestre's daughter, Felipa Marron, was the land agent for development of downtown Oceanside.

Caron once said Hayes bought 1,240 acres of Oceanside land at one time and was active in promoting the new city. He was a correspondent for The San Diego Union (1870-1890) and owner of his own newspaper, the South Oceanside Diamond.

Fred Hayes, Shelley's grandfather, refurbished and modernized the old adobe in 1947.

Five years ago, KOCT, Oceanside Community Television, undertook a six-part series on the adobes and ranchos of North County, and Caron was featured during the first half-hour segment.

"Shelley was always helpful and a big supporter of KOCT, local history and active in the community," said Tom Reeser, retired longtime executive director of the TV station.

Information provided by Lola Sherman of seaside-media-services.com

Monte C. Yearley

Monte Yearley was a fixture at the Oceanside Harbor. His sailboat shop was one of the longest running businesses, established the same year the Harbor opened to the public in 1963. Monte could be found most any day on a sailboat or in his shop at the Harbor. Monte died December 31, 2020 at the age of 90.

(The header photo on the front of the newsletter is of Monte in his sailboat.)

New History Book

We are excited to announce a new History of Oceanside that will be available this summer. This will be a LIMITED edition history of our City, with new stories and features, along with many new historic photos from our ever-growing photo collection. The history will be complete from Oceanside's earliest days through 2020.

This book is made possible by a grant from the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, donations from Walmart Store #2245, Smart & Final, and Peter and Linda Weseloh.

We will have more information about the newest history book, which will be designed by members of popular "The Osider" magazine, coming soon.

Robert Ernest Melboure

Bob Melbourne will be remembered by many. He was a Life Member of the Oceanside Historical Society and served for a time on our board. We wanted to share his passing with our members and friends.

Robert Ernest Melbourne passed away at the age of 91 of natural causes at his long-time family home in San Luis Rey, surrounded by his loved ones on Christmas Eve 2020. Bob was born on July 17, 1929, on South Horne Street in Oceanside to Dr. Thomas Powell Melbourne (beloved dentist with one of the original dental practices in Oceanside) and Helen Plausse Melbourne.

Bob graduated from Oceanside High School (then known as Oceanside/Carlsbad College) in 1947, where he played football, participated in Boys' League, Varsity "O", and Senior Council.

Bob served his country first as a private in the US Marine Corps Reserve with the 4th Tank Battalion in San Diego from 1947-1950, and then as an officer in the US Navy, in the Civil Engineering Corp (Seabees) with American Construction Battalion One (ACB-1) in Korea from 1951-1954.

Bob graduated from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles in 1951 with a BS in Civil Engineering. Upon returning from service in Korea, he attended Stanford University obtaining a Masters degree in engineering and construction management.

Bob joined the construction services company, Morrison-Knudsen (M-K) in 1954, where he worked on major dam and water reclamation construction projects in Boise, Idaho. He thoroughly enjoyed his work in the region. Additional M-K construction projects brought him back to southern California to work on various freeway infrastructure projects in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Seeing the opportunity to start his own civil engineering company, Bob filled a critical niche by working smaller road and water construction projects, while also expanding into the North County area. The opportunity to work on large scale water construction projects led him to join the San Diego County Water Authority in 1966, where for the next 28 years he worked on developing the water delivery systems (pipelines, dams, aqueducts), necessary to serve the growing population of San Diego County. He retired as Assistant Chief Engineer, but was also called upon at various times to serve as Chief Engineer in his last few years with the SDCWA. He was a life member and proud fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Bob's strong interest in history led him to earn a Masters in history from the University of San Diego in 1990, and a PhD in History from USC in 1996, with his dissertation on Advance Base Construction by Civilian Contractors in War Zones, which combined his military and civil engineering enthusiasms.

Bob loved to talk about the early years of Oceanside along with the associated history of the North County and the iconic San Luis Rey Mission. He contributed to articles and background research to the Southern California Quarterly, The Journal of San Diego History, and the Oceanside Historical Society. He served as President of the Oceanside Historical Society in 1990. He was proud to be a lifetime member of the First Marine Division Association, and Navy League. As a lifelong Oceanside Elk member, he enjoyed the distinction of being the first next generation Elk born to a founding member.

Bob took great pride in his family and loved them deeply. His sense of familial obligation was strong. For Bob family and extended family always came first, even over his professional opportunities and desires. He enjoyed various family trips both collectively and individually with his children to celebrate special occasions or professional milestones. He also enjoyed the challenge of researching and finding information on the family ancestry from both his father's and mother's sides.

Bob was predeceased by his parents, sister Jeanette (O'Leary), niece Reenie (Maureen O'Leary-Gross), and nephew Kevin O'Leary. Bob is survived by his wife Jeanne of 59 years, his children Ann Farley (Keith Farley, Glendale, CA), Maria Melbourne-Hayes (Ray Hayes, East Moriches, NY), Steven Melbourne (Barbara Melbourne, Bettendorf, IA), and Louise Vance (Rob Vance, Saratoga, CA), and eight grandchildren: Katie, Mary, Abby, Grace, Colette, Rose, Robert, and Trevor. He is also survived by extended family and a host of friends who will miss him dearly.