

# HISTORY COMMITTEE HAS HISTORIC MONTH

BY STEVE HON

May is National Historic Preservation month and it certainly was an historic month for the NPCA History Committee. After 19 years, the History Committee published their long awaited book on the first 50 years of North Park. The book is entitled "North Park: A San Diego Urban Village, 1896-1946," and was written by Don Covington. Don passed away in 2002; his widow, Karon, and my wife, Katherine put the book in its final form. The book was printed in May 2007 and unveiled at the NPCA General Membership meeting on May 23, 2007. In the first two weeks of publication, over 200 copies have been sold. With a suggested retail price of \$19.95, the book is available for sale at North Park Main Street (3076 University Avenue), Lost Your Marbles Too (3819 Ray Street), the Museum of San Diego History Store in Balboa Park, or through Sunbelt Publications by calling 1-800-626-6579 or online at [www.Sunbeltbooks.com](http://www.Sunbeltbooks.com). The book will also be on sale at the NPCA Summer Concerts in Bird Park.

In addition, on May 25<sup>th</sup>, the History Committee submitted the application for the designation of the North Park Dryden Historical District to City of San Diego Planning Department staff. This has been a committee project since the 1996 Donaldson historical survey recommended the creation of an historical district in the area of 28<sup>th</sup> Street and Pershing Avenue between Upas and Landis Streets because of the large number of significant craftsman bungalows in that area, including 22 homes designed and built by David Owen Dryden, a master craftsman/builder. The History Committee's Dryden District workgroup documented the historical and architectural significance of the homes in the proposed district, and conducted an intensive community education and outreach effort within the district boundaries. As of June 11<sup>th</sup>, 77 property owners of a total of 134 had signed statements indicating support for the creation of the historical district with only 7 statements marked opposed. The next step in the process will be review by City staff and then submission to the City's Historical Resources Board for consideration and approval.

Congratulations to everyone who contributed to the success of these projects! But the History Committee is not resting on its laurels. New projects, including walking tours of the commercial and residential areas, are already being developed.