

## Escondido Timeline

- 1000 BC - 1700 AD** First people in area were the Kumeyaay Indians
- 1769** Missions established by the Spanish
- 1822** Mexico won its independence from Spain
- 1843** Governor Micheltorena granted Escondido Valley to Juan Bautista Alvarado. He named the 12,653 acres El Rincon del Diablo.
- 1846** Battle with Mexico at San Pasqual, Dec. 6, 1846
- 1847** Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
- 1850** California became a state
- 1855** After Alvarado died his defendants started selling the land. Judge Oliver Witherby of San Diego began buying portions of El Rincon del Diablo. It took him 10 years to purchase the entire ranch. Witherby established a gold mine southwest of the present intersection of El Dorado and Bear Valley Parkway.
- 1868** Witherby sold Rancho Rincon del Diablo to John, Josiah and Matthew Wolfskill and Ed McGeary for \$8,000. They raised grain and sheep.
- 1868** Nate Harrison, a free slave, homesteaded on the side of Palomar Mountain.
- 1870** Zena Sikes built adobe home (across from today's Westfield Shoppingtown, North County)
- 1874** Peter Cassou bought 320 acres in the valley.
- 1875** Major G. F. Merriam homesteaded 160 acres.
- 1883** Valley purchased by the Stockton Company, a group formed by 15 men from Central California. They planted grapes next to the Escondido Creek. It rained 50 inches which was too much for the grapes.
- 1884** Post office name changed from Apex to Escondido.
- 1885** Many people came to California. Among them were the Thomas brothers. Five of the brothers, Jacob Gruendike and 7 others formed the Escondido Land and Town Co. and purchased the 12,814 acre valley for \$102,042. The sale was completed March 1.
- 1886** Construction began on the Escondido Hotel, a 100 room hotel on the east end of Grand Ave. University of Southern California with its Methodist backing was given land to build a church on Grand Ave and a seminary at 3rd and Hickory. Graham & Steiner opened the first store in town. *The Escondido Times*, a local newspaper, began weekly publication.
- 1887** Escondido Land & Town Co. invested in the railroad. Construction was started in March 1887 and completed January 1888 of the Oceanside to Escondido line. A load of wheat was the first freight to leave Escondido. The Lime Street School, in what will later become Grape Day Park, opens. The first stage trip between San Diego and Escondido.
- 1888** The city of Escondido was incorporated on October 8. It consisted of 1854 acres.
- 1890** Population was 541. Escondido Irrigation District proposed a \$450,000 bond issue to build a reservoir.
- 1891** Grand Avenue downtown had at least 12 oil lights. The Advocate, the second newspaper in town, started publishing.
- 1893** 50,000 fruit trees were planted.
- 1894** Construction of Bear Valley Dam began. USC's seminary became Escondido High School.
- 1895** Bear Valley Dam completed. Water became available. City's first library built.
- 1898** Escondido Land & Town Company packed 262,000 lbs. of raisins.
- 1900** Population: 755

- 1900s** Grove owners formed the Citrus Union.
- 1901** Street lights changed from oil to gas.
- 1905** The water bonds were paid off October 31. Grand Avenue got sidewalks.
- 1907** It snowed 2" in February and again in April. A movie theater opened. Escondido High School students hand dig plunge, or pool.
- 1908** The first official "Grape Day" was held on Admissions Day, Sept 9.
- 1909** Giant eucalyptus tree planted in what will become Grape Day Park. *The Escondido Times* and *The Advocate*, local newspapers, merge into *The Times-Advocate*.
- 1910** The first electric service in town was available on March 5 from sundown to 10:00 p.m. The Lime Street School, the city's first, is torn down. Escondido Women's Club organized. Carnegie Library replaced city's first library.
- 1911** Gas was available. In December, William Alexander bought the Escondido Land and Town Company.
- 1912** Grand Avenue was paved by 1912.
- 1914** Palm trees were planted on Grand Avenue from the train station to Maple.
- 1915** Hotel Charlotta opens. Escondido Humane Society organized.
- 1916** "Hatfield's Flood", 24.1 inches, ruins railroad tracks. No trains in or out of Escondido for a month.
- 1917** San Diego Gas & Electric purchased the Escondido Utilities Company and provided 24 hour service.
- 1920** Prohibition-thousands of acres of grapes are being grown in Escondido.
- 1921** First service station in town.
- 1923** Escondido Hotel, built in 1886, is torn down. Escondido Hospital, the first in town, opened on Grand Avenue by six doctors.
- 1924** Escondido Dam and Lake becomes Lake Wohlford. Kiwanis and Rotary clubs form.
- 1927** Escondido High School moved into new building, at the corner of Hickory and 4<sup>th</sup>. Masons erect a flag pole in the middle of the street on Grand at Broadway. The Felicita Pageant debuts.
- 1928** Escondido Fruit Growers divide into Escondido Lemon Association and Escondido Orange Association. First commercial avocados planted.
- 1929** A. L. Houghtelin constructed a 50' diameter wooden tepee, a local landmark for nearly 50 years. First Escondido High School burns down. Lemon packing house opened.
- 1930** Many street names change. Post office began home delivery of the mail. The city's Board of Trustees changed their name and became City Council.
- 1931** Lake Hodges overflowed for the first time.
- 1936** WPA built a band stand in Grape Day Park.
- 1938** Escondido celebrated its first 50 years. The second City Hall, built of adobe, opened at Grand and Valley.
- 1941** Troops camped in Grape Day Park.
- 1944** Flagpole on Grand Ave at Broadway was removed.
- 1945** Local lemon production reached a peak, with 1,159,039 field boxes. Railroad passenger service to Escondido from Oceanside discontinued.
- 1947** Escondido High School had its first night football game.
- 1948** Palomar Observatory completed. Palomar Hospital District formed.
- 1949** Highway 395 opened through town.
- 1950** Highway 395 to San Diego opened. Palomar Hospital opened with 10 patients. Population: 6,544. Cora Swingle was the first woman elected to serve on City Council.
- 1951** The first annexation added 8.7 acres to the city.

- 1955** After discovering a construction flaw in Escondido High School, the student body is divided with some attending a new campus on North Broadway. The rest were educated in temporary classrooms on the original campus.
- 1956** New library at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Kalmia replaced Carnegie Library. Escondido Historical Society established.
- 1959** Entire student body attends Escondido High School at North Broadway site.
- 1960** Lemon packing house closed.
- 1962** Orange Glen High School opened.
- 1964** Escondido Village Mall built on East Valley Parkway.
- 1966** Medians added to Grand Avenue.
- 1967** It snowed 4” in December. Patio Playhouse opened.
- 1969** Kit Carson Park dedicated.
- 1971** Dixon Dam and Lake dedicated. City’s first library building was moved from Grand Avenue to Grape Day Park.
- 1972** San Pasqual High School opened. San Diego Zoo’s Wild Animal Park opened.
- 1974** Lorraine Boyce was the first woman to be elected Mayor.
- 1976** Heritage Walk established in Grape Day Park.
- 1977** The tepee, a large wooden structure and local landmark for nearly 50 years blew down.
- 1981** Escondido Auto Park opened. Escondido National Little League All-Star team played in the Little League World Series in Pennsylvania.
- 1982** Rube Nelson’s Country Corner grocery store closed.
- 1984** Santa Fe Depot purchased from the Santa Fe Railroad Company and moved to Heritage Walk.
- 1986** North County Fair Shopping Center (currently Westfield Shoppingtown North County), a regional shopping center, opened.
- 1988** City government moved into a new City Hall, at the corner of Broadway and Valley Parkway. Escondido celebrated its centennial. Street Faire begins.
- 1989** Downtown Farmer’s Market began in October
- 1994** California Center for the Arts, Escondido opened.
- 1995** East Valley Community Center opened. First Night began December 31, 1995. Escondido Arts Partnership established.
- 1996** Grape Day Festival and Parade revived. City purchased Daley Ranch. Lights installed on Grand Ave palms
- 2000** Cruisin’ Grand started.
- 2001** Escondido Humane Society in Kit Carson Park burnt down. Escondido Children’s Museum opens on Grand Ave.
- 2003** Queen Califia’s Magical Garden by Nikki de Saint Phalle opens in Kit Carson Park. October firestorms. Mingei International Museum Satellite opens downtown. Escondido Humane Society opened facility on East Valley Parkway.
- 2004** Escondido Children’s Museum moves to Studio One at the California Center for the Arts Escondido. “Vinhenge” a new playground in Grape Day Park opened.
- 2006** Historical Society celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with name change to History Center
- 2007** Witch Creek fire destroys homes, President Bush lands at San Pasqual High School to tour burnt areas and talk to firefighters at Kit Carson Park.
- 2009** Final stage of the Amgen Race of California brought thousands of bicycle enthusiasts downtown.