

UCSD and San Diego Historical Society press search for plaque

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The University of California, San Diego and the San Diego Historical Society are searching for a bronze plaque that belongs on a monument honoring pioneer San Diegan Louis Rose.

The plaque has been missing from the face of the large stone monument for about a month and UCSD and the Historical Society are concerned that if it is not located quickly, it may be lost forever.

The monument sits on the new John Muir College Campus which is nearing completion at UCSD. The area, for a great number of years, was the location of U.S. Highway 101, the main, high-speed artery between San Diego and Los Angeles. The Rose monument, placed in the dividing strip between the north- and south-bound lanes, was dedicated May 30, 1934, at the place where old 101 began its decent into Rose Canyon.

The spot became La Jolla Junction, one of the busiest intersections of vehicle traffic in the world, and, consequently, few persons ever stopped to view the monument. With the completion of Interstate 5 and the construction of Muir College, the monument has suddenly come into its own in a location easily and safely available to visitors.

In the confusion of bulldozers, heavy construction and new students, the plaque has disappeared. Officials don't know if it was taken off the stone base for safe keeping or if it was taken by a souvenir hunter.

In any event, the time has come for the Louis Rose Monument to finally get some decent public viewing. Anyone having knowledge of the plaque's whereabouts is urged to call UCSD or the San Diego Historical Society.