



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
**San Diego Public Library**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Tuesday, November 15, 2011

**CONTACT:** Marc Chery  
619-236-5817

**SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY AUTHOR TALK FEATURES ONE OF  
THE CITY'S LEADING HISTORIANS**

*Newly Published Book Chronicles San Diego's Colorful Past*

**SAN DIEGO** – The San Diego Public Library will host an author talk featuring area historian and archivist Richard (Rick) Crawford, who will discuss his new book, *The Way We Were in San Diego*, on Wednesday, December 7, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor auditorium of the Central Library, located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego. This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments provided.

San Diego, known for its perfect weather, naval ties, and landmarks, like the San Diego Zoo and Balboa Park, has a history as incredible as its stunning shoreline. In this collection of articles from his Union-Tribune column "The Way We Were," Rick Crawford recounts stories from the city's early history that once splashed across the headlines. Read about Ruth Alexander's aviation feats, the water pipeline carved from Humboldt County redwoods, the jailbreak of a man facing ten years in San Quentin for cow theft, a visit from escape artist Harry Houdini and the Purity League's closure of the Stingaree red-light district. These stories and more highlight San Diego's progress from a humble frontier port to the stylish city it is today. Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the event and online at <http://www.sandiegoyesterday.com>.

Rick Crawford is the Supervisor of Special Collections at the San Diego Public Library. He is the former Archives Director at the San Diego Historical Society, where he also edited the *Journal of San Diego History* for nine years. In his thirty-year career as a historian and archivist, Crawford has written extensively on local history, including the book *Stranger than Fiction: Vignettes of San Diego History*, and over 170 articles for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources (including those for local authors), or search for materials online in the Library's catalog at [www.sandiegolibrary.org](http://www.sandiegolibrary.org).

*The City of San Diego Public Library – Your Link to the Past and Gateway to the Future*  
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