

# The Southern CALIFORNIAN

PUBLISHED BY THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

VOL. 1, NUMBER 1.

PHOTO: Harry Chamberlain



*HSSC Board Member Suzie Chamberlain explains the Lummis Garden to Mayor Tom Bradley.*

## Mayor Bradley Attends Garden Open House '88

No one suspected that Mayor Tom Bradley would be a surprise visitor to HSSC's Second Annual April Garden Open House. But there he was, arriving at 2:00 p.m. graciously accepting a glass of lemonade and some popcorn before he toured the garden with Suzie Chamberlain, board member and chair of the Garden Committee.

The mayor, who has been a strong proponent of water conservation, was impressed with the Lummis Garden which requires only fifteen minutes of water once a week. Speaking to the crowd assembled in the north patio, he commented on the beauty and efficiency of the Lummis Garden. He said if Angelenos used only ten percent less water, our water crisis would be greatly reduced. And since the model Lummis Garden is one way to send that message, he pledged to help raise the \$30,000 necessary to complete the second phase of the garden.

## LA's Own: Five Fellows Debut

Times Mirror was the elegant setting for the presentation of HSSC's first five FELLOWS. One hundred forty-five members and guests attended the Awards Gala on June 2, 1988.

Following dinner, Tom Andrews and Doyce Nunis shared the introductions while George A.V. Dunning presented each FELLOW with the newly cast FELLOWS Medallion.

The FELLOWS Program recognizes uncommon lifetime achievements in the pursuit of history. It honors those individuals who have made history more immediate, personal and compelling, including those who have sharpened our sense of place and personal identity as southern Californians, and have brought distinction to the region.

The 1988 FELLOWS are: Glen Dawson, the bookman as historian; Miriam Matthews, the librarian as historian; Ward Ritchie, the fine printer as historian; Jean Stone, the editor as historian, and Irving Stone, the writer as historian.



*L.-R.: Ward Ritchie, Jean Stone, Irving Stone, Miriam Matthews & Glen Dawson.*

PHOTO: Joyce Walker





## Gentle Reader:

I hope you sense the excitement we feel as volume one, number one of THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN goes to print. The new format is designed to improve communication with our members. You are a vital part of California's oldest, continuously-operating Historical Society.

As you read the articles in this issue, you will see that our statement of purpose is more than an empty slogan. "TO PRESERVE THE PAST AND PARTICIPATE IN THE PRESENT FOR THE HISTORY OF THE FUTURE" is a challenge we take seriously at HSSC. Thus we are actively involved in the pursuits of education, culture and the arts, preservation and the environment.

We want our programs, our publications and our presence to reflect this. Our goal is to make History come alive — to make it more exciting and attractive for both the general public and the specialist. We want our example to encourage Angelenos and Southern Californians to become participants in our rich historical heritage.

Many of you have watched this Historical Society grow and develop during the past decade in some very satisfying ways. I believe, however, the best is still to come! So join me in making HSSC a Society relevant to the needs and opportunities of the Nineties. *Happy Reading!*

*Thomas F. Andrews*

Thomas F. Andrews  
Executive Director



PHOTO: Henk Friezer

*For the 1988 Garden Open House, garden volunteer and elementary school teacher, Lois Kern designed an activity especially for our younger visitors. Wearing trash bags as aprons and using fern fronds and twigs as paint brushes, the children produced a mural.*

## HSSC Commemorates Two Important Centennials

Members and guests walked down memory lane on November 12 when the Society celebrated 100 years of business operation in Los Angeles by the Fowler and Clinton families.

Amid the stacked shelves at Fowler Brothers Bookstore on Seventh Street, over 100 HSSC members sipped wine and heard Sieg Lindstrom tell about the early years of the book business in Los Angeles. Lindstrom, grandson of founder W. J. Fowler has been president of Fowler Brothers since 1965.

Later, a block and a half away, at the Silver Spoon Cafeteria in the historic Brock Building, members were served Clifton's traditional limeade from a silver punch bowl by Jean Roeschlaub, executive vice president and granddaughter of the food service founder, David H. Clinton. While making selections from the full dinner cafeteria bar, members enjoyed live music from the 1930s and 1940s.

On the second floor, surrounded by cases displaying memorabilia from both the Brock Jewelry Co. and Clifton's Cafeterias, many HSSC members shared experiences of dining at Clifton's.

One member told of taking his girlfriend to Clifton's for dinner and realizing during the meal he did not have enough cash left for streetcar fare. Not wishing to borrow from the girl he was trying to impress, he took advantage of Clifton's policy of "Dine free unless delighted."

This evening he cheerfully offered to pay for the meal somewhat belatedly. Donald Clinton, president of Clifton's Cafeterias, just as cheerfully accepted the offer.

Donald Clinton closed the evening answering questions about Clifton's name and the origins of Clifton's depression era "free meal" policies.

Free parking for the evening was provided by the Los Angeles Athletic Club.



## GARDEN DOCENTS

### Training Program Begins

The new garden docent training program began February 15, 1989. The program which consists of six consecutive Wednesday sessions from 1:00 to 3:30 in the afternoon will be repeated periodically. The training focuses on the history of the Lummis Home and Garden, landscaping for water conservation and identification of plants. Those interested in becoming a garden docent should apply by calling the office (213) 222-0546 or by stopping at the Lummis Home at 200 East Avenue 43.

### "Through the Smog Darkly" Predicts Future L.A.

As a preview to our programs for 1988-89 — designed around the theme, OUR LOS ANGELES — AND WELCOME TO IT!, noted author, speaker and urban analyst, Christopher Leinberger, presented a provocative lecture entitled "The Future of Los Angeles: Through the Smog Darkly."

In his presentation, Mr. Leinberger shared some of the vast changes in the way we live, work and transport ourselves that he predicted will be a part of life in the megalopolis called Southern California during the 21st century. A spirited question and answer period followed.

The program, underwritten by ARCO, began with a reception in the Yukon Pacific Room on the 37th floor of ARCO Tower. Since seating was limited, the program was offered as a special benefit of membership at the \$100 or higher levels.



*Diane Cornwell of the Haynes Foundation and HSSC Board members Richard Brill and Henry Lippitt enjoy the Spring 1988 Quarterly under the watchful eyes of John Randolph and Dora Haynes.*

PHOTO: Henk Friezer

### A Salute to 1988 Sponsors of the Southern California Quarterly

You may have noticed a new trend with your last several issues of the *Quarterly*. Each issue has had a sponsor whose name is printed on a special colophon inside the front cover. A number of the issues also included a photo-essay about the sponsor, often to commemorate a special anniversary.

These sponsorships have had a significant impact not only on the Society's budget, but also on the development of greater community awareness of historic Southern

California corporations and foundations. Together, we have a stake in the future of History.

The 1988 sponsors of the *Quarterly* were: The John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation (*Spring*), Alamitos Land Company (*Summer*), Department of Water and Power, City of Los Angeles (*Fall*), and noted California naturalist Elna Bakker (*Winter*). The Society is most grateful for this generous support.

### The 20th Century Office GAVD/CCF Funds Computers

Through the generosity of George A.V. Dunning and the California Community Foundation, the Society has purchased computer equipment to track members and serve them better. We are now able to communicate with our members and donors in both a more personal and more professional way.

In addition, our mailing labels have a new look — with the

month and year of membership billing printed in the lower right-hand corner. This device, we think, will help us correct membership renewal errors and avoid future ones.

We are most grateful to Historical Society President Dunning for his leadership and vision in creating the equipment fund.



## Holiday Open House

With music of the holiday season in the background, the Board of Directors of HSSC welcomed over 250 guests to the Lummis Home December 4 for the annual Holiday Open House. Friendships were renewed around the giant fir tree and tables laden with festive hors d'oeuvres and mulled cider.

Guests enjoyed music by Natividad Vacio in the Museo. A handbell choir from Glendale High School playing in the courtyard drew the attention of guests prior to a program honoring five special people of the Society.

As a house docent, Grace Coffin has been giving one Sunday a month to the Lummis Home since the early 1940s. From the early days of the garden, Lois Kern and Mike Woodward have spent *many* hours planting, pruning and weeding as volunteers. Jean Bixby Smith, President of Bixby Land Company and Vice President of Alamitos Land Company, was recognized for sponsoring two issues of the *Southern California Quarterly*.



PHOTO: Henk Friezer

Concluding the program was a special celebration of Robert Cowan's 93rd birthday. Mr. Cowan, author and former HSSC Board Member, helped to establish the Society's offices in the Lummis Home in 1965. The Society paid tribute to his long involvement by presenting him with two framed certificates and a leather bound copy of his *California Ranchos*.

## Special Sunday Programs

In September '88 the Society inaugurated a special series of free Sunday programs at the Lummis Home.

The first program featured guitarist Natividad Vacio who played the songs of old California collected by Charles Lummis. Mr. Vacio's wife, Enriqueta, joined him and together they sang and answered questions about the music, thus educating and entertaining at the same time.

In October, landscape architect Bob Perry gave a garden tour and talk on water-conserving landscaping. Mr. Perry, designer of the Lummis Garden, pointed out how the garden complements the historic residence at the same time it incorporates a diversity of plant material with low water needs.

When Anne Lummis Mayers, who grew up in the Lummis Home, gave an informal tour and reminisced about her grandfather in November, the audiences were delighted. She spoke of both her

grandfather's accomplishments and his notoriety.

In December artist Susan Berger was the featured attraction. Ms. Berger signed copies of her Lummis Home prints in time for the purchasers to have a very special Christmas gift for giving.

A slide program which featured blossoming plants from the Lummis Garden was a special treat in January. Presented by garden volunteer, Rick Fisher, the program is available to other organizations.

In February, author Virginia Comer gave a slide presentation on the history of Crown Hill, an area just west of the Harbor Freeway in downtown Los Angeles. The program chronicled the history of the area from the time of the Gabrielino Indians to today's multi-racial mix of residents.

Additional programs are being scheduled. For more information on these free programs, call (213) 222-0546.

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## Garden Renovation Underway

Since the mayor's visit and through his intercession, the Historical Society has received two major grants — a \$20,000 grant from the Department of Water and Power and a \$10,000 grant from the Metropolitan Water District. In December 1988 and January 1989 these funds were used to complete an irrigation system in the unfinished portion of the garden, to prepare the soil for planting, to purchase drought-resistant plants and to construct six educational display panels.

Many people have given generously of their time and talent

to complete the second phase of the Lummis Garden renovation. Board member and vice president, Denver Markwith supervised the contract work in the garden; landscape architect, Bob Perry in addition to designing the garden directed the planting operation by garden volunteers; Suzie Chamberlain organized the garden work days for the 25 garden volunteers; and Cynthia Null who chairs the garden education committee is developing the information to be included on the educational panels.



## Historic 100 Support Grows

The Society's roster of corporate and foundation supporters continues to grow. HISTORIC 100 members are partners with HSSC in preserving, interpreting and promoting the history of Los Angeles and Southern California. Many of these companies have been serving our community for 50 to 100 years or more.

HISTORIC 100 members have invested \$1,000 to \$5,000 or more annually in HSSC programs and publications that benefit both members and the general public. The Society is proud of its association with HISTORIC 100 companies.

### THE HISTORIC ONE HUNDRED

Alamitos Land Company

ARCO

Bixby Land Company

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The California Community  
Foundation

Carnation Company Foundation

Dept. of Water & Power,  
City of Los Angeles

Ducommon & Gross Foundation

George A.V. Dunning Fund,  
California Community Foundation

John Randolph Haynes & Dora  
Haynes Foundation

Tom & Valley Knudsen Foundation

Lawry's Foods, Inc.

O'Melveny & Myers

Security Pacific Foundation

Times Mirror

UNOCAL Foundation

J.B. & Emily Van Nuys Charities

Watson Land Company



PHOTO: Henk Friezer

*Denise Martin Campbell, HSSC member and Tom Andrews, HSSC Executive Director receive ARCO's HISTORIC ONE HUNDRED contribution from Betsy Bartscherer, Director of Community Affairs.*



PHOTO: Bill Meister

*Posing on the steps of Avalon's famous Casino are HSSC members who traveled to the island city in June, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of its incorporation. Members were greeted by Mayor Hugh "Bud" Smith who presented the Society with a plaque in recognition of the historic visit.*





L.-R.: George Dunning, Rick Caruso, President of the Board of Water and Power Commissioners and Catherine Mulholland share in the presentation of the plaque.

## HSSC and DWP Celebrate Historic Aqueduct Anniversary

On Wednesday, October 19, 1988, over 200 members of the Historical Society celebrated the 75th anniversary of the L.A. Aqueduct with a reception in the moat area of the Department of Water and Power building in downtown Los Angeles. With the building lighted, fountains splashing and the skyline of Los Angeles silhouetted by a setting sun, the evening was off to a spectacular start.

Greeted by a larger-than-life-size photo cutout of William Mulholland, HSSC members enjoyed special anniversary exhibits with tours by DWP docents before descending a spiral staircase for an elegant prime rib dinner.

The highlight of the evening was Catherine Mulholland's reminiscences of her grandfather. She shared little-known stories of William Mulholland's early life in Ireland and the United States.

## SAVE THESE DATES:

April 9	3rd Annual Garden Open House
May 9	FELLOWS AWARD GALA
June 2-4	Annual HSSC Trek
Nov. 9	Dinner/Art Tour Autograph Party - Los Angeles Athletic Club

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN is published quarterly by the Historical Society of Southern California which is a California non-profit corporation [501(c)(3)]

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### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- Calendar of Events with advance notice of programs and events.
- Invitations to special members' events.
- 10% discount on publications for sale at the Lummis Home.
- Discounts on programs and classes.
- Research privileges in the Society photo archives.

### MEMBER CATEGORIES

- ☐ \$1000 BENEFACTOR
- ☐ \$500 BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL
- ☐ \$250 PATRON
- ☐ \$100 CONTRIBUTING
- ☐ \$50 SUSTAINING
- ☐ \$35 ACTIVE
- ☐ \$25 STUDENT (full time with ID)

Please enroll me as a member in the *Historical Society of Southern California* in the category checked below.

☐ Check enclosed, payable to the *Historical Society of Southern California*.

☐ NEW MEMBER ☐ RENEWAL ☐ GIFT MEMBERSHIP

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Membership contributions are tax-deductible within the limits allowed by law:  
For further information call HSSC at (213) 222-0546.

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Los Angeles CA 90031

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