

The Southern CALIFORNIAN

PUBLISHED BY THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

SUMMER 1989. VOL. 1, NO. 2.

130 Guests Enjoy “Maps, Books, Buildings and Trees”

A Celebration of History

HSSC welcomed 130 guests to the classic setting of The Athenaeum at Caltech on May 9 for the third annual gala. With chamber music by the Idyllwild Arts Foundation Trio in the background, conversation turned to this year's group of FELLOWS.

The 1989 FELLOWS of HSSC are: Neal Harlow, the librarian as cartographer/historian; David Lavender, the writer as historian; Richard Lillard, the historian as environmentalist; Esther McCoy, the architectural historian, and Lawrence Clark Powell, the literary historian.



1989 FELLOWS: (L.-R.) David Lavender, Lawrence Clark Powell, Neal Harlow and Richard Lillard.

PHOTO: Sue Huddleson

With centerpieces on the tables in the dining room arranged with water-conserving flowers, members of the Society and friends of the honorees displayed appreciation for the welcoming remarks by President George Dunning and Martin Ridge of The Huntington Library, and the presentations by Tom Andrews, Executive Director. George Dunning bestowed the Medallions on each FELLOW.

Esther McCoy, as architectural historian, laid the foundation for

“I never thought of myself as an historian. I simply recorded what my contemporaries were doing — and they made history.”

Esther McCoy,
1989 FELLOW

the recognition of modern residential architecture in Southern California.

Neal Harlow was recognized for his skillful demonstration of the importance of early California maps as historical evidence.

David Lavender was honored for his more than two dozen history books on the American West — characterized by his commitment to accuracy, balance and a lively writing style.

Richard Lillard in thanking the Society for this honor reminded us that “geography and ecology without the movement of historical events lacks human meaning. Conversely, he said, “history without geography and ecological perceptions is a homeless vagrant.”

Lawrence Clark Powell concluded the acceptance remarks by acknowledging his respect for the labors of his colleagues being honored: “We FELLOWS know how much a writer owes to those who have preceded us.”



PHOTO: Jean Porter



GENTLE READER:

By now you are familiar with the phrase, "membership has its privileges" — we are too. Only we think it should apply to your membership in HSSC as well as to its intended commercial sponsor.

How do we extend that sense of privilege to you? Here are some of the ways. First, we want you to come away from our PROGRAMS feeling privileged to have been with friends and colleagues in the exciting process of making history come alive.

Second, we want you to enjoy a privileged relationship with the LUMMIS HOME AND GARDEN. We're as near as your phone and we can set up special times for you and your friends to come and visit us.

Third, we want you to feel privileged to be part of our PUBLICATION outreach, especially the nationally-acclaimed *Southern California Quarterly*. Our commitment to *you* is to make scholarly history more interesting and attractive.

In our PROGRAMS and in our PUBLICATIONS *we* feel privileged to have your involvement and support as a member of California's oldest, continuously operating historical society.

We want to acknowledge this mutual benefit of privilege by offering *you* a premium each time you renew your membership in HSSC. It's our way of saying that we do not take your support for granted — that "membership" in HSSC also "has its privileges."

Thomas F. Andrews

Thomas F. Andrews
Executive Director



PHOTO: Mike Oddou

Executive Directors Nate Sumner (CHS) and Tom Andrews (HSSC) share in the presentation of special awards to speaker Glenn Dumke at the jointly sponsored program on February 16.

Dumke Places Land Boom in Perspective

On February 16 at the Huntington Library, noted educator and historian Dr. Glenn Dumke shared his knowledge of the beginnings of the real estate mania in southern California and reflected on the meaning of its 100 year legacy.

Dr. Dumke not only educated but entertained his appreciative audience of 220 members and guests who attended the joint program of the Historical Society of Southern California and the California Historical Society.

His book, *The Boom of the Eighties in Southern California*, published in 1944, remains the authoritative statement on this important subject. It is a southern California classic.

A keepsake from the 1880s was given to each one present. The Society thanks California Federal for its generous support which made the successful evening possible.

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Balloons, books, native plants, rare birds, exotic bugs, unusual reptiles, ice cream, popcorn and lemonade, a children's art activity — there was something for everyone at the third annual Lummis Garden Open House on Sunday, April 9.

Generously underwritten by Carnation Company, the open house attracted over 2,200 people. And although visitors enjoyed the exhibitors and refreshments, the main attraction of the day was our water-conserving garden.

Tours led by the garden's designer — landscape architect Bob Perry, and by naturalist Elna Bakker, landscape architect Rick Fisher, botanist Betty Southam and garden education chairman Cynthia Null were filled to capacity and were extremely popular.

During a brief program at 1:30 p.m., Executive Director Tom Andrews introduced two representatives of the four major donors to the Lummis Garden: Carole Stevens of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and Richard Baird, Assistant General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District.

Dr. Andrews also publicly thanked the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the Stanley Smith Horticultural Society for generous grants. He introduced James Hadaway, General Manager of the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks and thanked him for the department's ongoing commitment to the Lummis Home and Garden.

Both Deputy Mayor Mike Gage and Councilwoman Gloria Molina



PHOTO: Henk Friezer

Councilwoman Gloria Molina speaking to visitors at the Garden Open House.

participated in the program with Mrs. Molina making closing remarks about the importance of the Lummis Home and Garden to the people of her First Council District, of Los Angeles and of Southern California.

To each participant Dr. Andrews presented a drought tolerant plant and a hand-colored signed print of the Lummis Home.



PHOTO: Henk Friezer

Deputy Mayor Mike Gage and wife Leslie accompany Councilwoman Molina and Tom Andrews through the Lummis Garden.

The Hills of Los Angeles

By Virginia Comer

There is history in the hills of Los Angeles, history recorded and history being made. One must look into recorded history to learn about one of the four distinctive hills of old Los Angeles. In 1872 Pound Cake Hill, located at the southeast corner of Temple and Fort Street (Broadway), was the site of the first Los Angeles High School. Later, the school was moved by trestle across Temple and Pound Cake was leveled; not a crumb remained.

Fort Moore Hill, which did have a Fort in 1847 during the Mexican-American War, became the second site for the Los Angeles High School. The hill hosted an elegant hostelry, named appropriately "The Queen" by its owner, Emma Summers, Queen of the Los Angeles oil field strike of 1892. The Crown Hill piano teacher had invested \$700 of her savings and became a successful oil speculator. Today the school, the hotel and the Fort are gone. The site, which backs up to the 101 Freeway, currently houses the administrative offices of the Los Angeles School District. There is a plaque on what's left of the hill honoring Captain Benjamin Moore who was killed in the Battle of San Pascual.

Rich with nostalgia and redeveloped beyond recognition Bunker Hill is still in the process of change. Known as the Mott Tract in 1868, the hill became the city's first subdivision under the ownership of Prudent Beaudry. The look of the hill went from Victorian elegance at the turn of the century to rapid decay after World War II. Today Bunker bristles with civic silhouettes and changes in progress.

To the west across the Harbor Freeway, Crown Hill waits to make its mark one more time. In 1885 the Witmer Brothers, Hill residents, installed the first cable car in Los Angeles. The open-



Mary Agnes Lewis of Crown Hill at age 25. Photo taken August 5, 1894.

sided cars ran from Second and Broadway up and over Bunker Hill, the steepest grade in North America and the second steepest in the world. In 1892 Doheny and Canfield discovered oil at the corner of Second Street and Glendale Boulevard. Crown Hill, offering the last of Downtown's

long view elevations, maintains its original topography. However, that may be only momentary. As John D. Weaver observed in his book, *Los Angeles; The Enormous Village 1791-1981*, "Something deep in the municipal genes has always stirred uneasily at the sight of undisturbed land."





Enjoying conversation prior to the May Board Meeting are HSSC Director Powell Greenland, Bill Huston, Chairman and CEO of the Watson Land Company and Denise Campbell.

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HSSC Supports History Day/L.A.

Nearly 1000 energetic junior and senior high school students from the greater Los Angeles area brought their history projects to the campus of USC on Saturday, March 18, 1989 for judging. HSSC member, Mark Elinson, a teacher at Abraham Lincoln High School, has coordinated History Day/L.A. for seven years.

The theme for this year's competition was "The Individual in History." Students begin their research in the fall in anticipation of winning first or second place which allows them to go on to State History Day in Sacramento in May.

State winners participate in the national competition in Washington, D.C. in June. The greater Los Angeles area has three groups of students preparing for national competition. Two of the groups have projects on William Mulholland.

HSSC is proud to be one of the sponsors of History Day/L.A.

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SPECIAL SUNDAY PROGRAMS AT 1:30 P.M.

July 9

Executive Director Tom Andrews will discuss recently published books on Southern California history.

Aug. 13

Garden tours each half hour.

Sept. 10

Keith Lummis will reminisce about his father. Guitarist Natividad Vacio will play Lummis' *Spanish Songs of Old California*.

IN MEMORIAM

During the past nine months, four valued members of the Historical Society passed away. All four served on the Board of Directors, all four furthered the cause of history in Southern California, and all four will be dearly missed. We who remain are the richer for their presence among us.

Dr. ROBERT C. GILLINGHAM, author of the highly respected *Rancho San Pedro*, a member of the Historical Society since 1957, and a Director from 1966 to 1969, died on January 12. He was 92.

TONY LEHMAN, gifted high school teacher, book collector, author of several books, and a Director of the Historical Society from 1969 to

1972, died on October 25, 1988. He was 52.

Dr. E. WILSON LYON, President of Pomona College from 1941 to 1969 and author of a comprehensive history of the college, a specialist in French history and in the history of higher education in the United States, and a Director of the Historical Society from 1983 to 1986, died on March 3. He was 84.

STANLEY E. MALORA, civil engineer, book collector and avid Western history buff, member of the Historical Society since 1959, and a Director three times, including 1964 to 1967 and 1972 to 1975, died on February 1. He was 70.

SAVE THESE DATES:

Sept. 27	Western Evening at Wells Fargo History Museum
Nov. 9	Dinner/Art Tour Autograph Party— Los Angeles Athletic Club
Dec. 3	Holiday Open House
Apr. 1	Garden Open House

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The Historical Society of Southern California

Founded 1883 — Incorporated 1891

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- Annual subscription to the *Southern California Quarterly*.
- Discounts on programs and events
- 10% discount at Lummis Home bookstore.
- *The Southern Californian*, members' quarterly newsletter.
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