

The Southern CALIFORNIAN

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Immigrant Students Visit El Alisal

When Mary King of Foshay Junior High School called to ask for a tour of the Lummis Home and Garden for a group of especially motivated 15- and 16-year-old students, the answer was an enthusiastic "Yes!"

On Friday morning, August 4, HSSC welcomed 38 Spanish-speaking immigrants and refugees from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua. The students are taking part in an innovative program (Emergency Immigrant Education Assistance Program) sponsored by the Los Angeles Unified School District and voluntarily attend summer school to improve their English.

House docent Carmen Duran, who is fluent in Spanish, gave tours of the Lummis Home, while garden volunteer and teacher Lois Kern and garden education chair person Cynthia Null gave tours of the garden.



Lummis Home Docent Carmen Duran explains Lummis' admiration of Indian and Mexican cultures to student visitors.

PHOTO: Sue Huddleson



HSSC Program Chairman Jim Zordich, Wells Fargo History Museum's Historical Officer, Beverly Smith and Assistant Curator, Alexandra Fanning hitch a ride to "Best in the West" night.

HSSC and Wells Fargo Team Up for "Best in the West" Night

Get out your Stetson, your chaps, and your ten-gallon appetite. Wednesday, September 27th will be known far and wide as "BEST IN THE WEST NIGHT" when HSSC and the Wells Fargo History Museum team up for an evening of history and old-fashioned fun.

All HSSC members and their sidekicks are WANTED ALIVE! at sundown (7:00 - 9:00 p.m.) when the historic collection of the Wells Fargo History Museum will be open for browsing.

Surrounding the authentic 1890s stagecoach at the Museum's entrance will be a collection of another sort, silent and live auction items.

This ain't no ordinary auction, pardner! A gourmet dinner prepared by Doyce Nunis (with historic commentary); private, behind-the-scenes tours of The Huntington, the Natural History

Museum and other historic sites; rare books and collectibles, historic photographs and a strongbox full of "Gold Rush Auction" treasures will go to the highest bidders (gold dust, cash and checks accepted!).

Throughout the evening there will be the "Best Dressed in the West Contest" for those pioneers brave enough to dress in western attire. Or the "Stagecoach Treasure Hunt," to test your recollection of western history and win a Wells Fargo stagecoach pin.

Tickets are \$20 for HSSC members and \$25 for non-members and guests. A no-host bar will offer saloon specials to wash down deluxe Bar-B-Q fare from our gourmet chuckwagon. And toe-tappin tunes may set your feet to shufflin'.

Look for your invitation in the mail.

PHOTO: Tom Engler



GENTLE READER:

Remember the water beetle in Hilaire Belloc's *The Moral Alphabet*. Remember how the beetle glided "on the water's face:"

"But if she ever stopped to think of how she did it, she would sink."

It's often quoted to illustrate the moral, "DON'T ASK QUESTIONS." As an Historical Society, however, I believe we need to *think* about *how* we're *doing it*, and we want *your* involvement in that process. We want your questions, your suggestions, etc.

Why? I think it's evident now that one of the necessary requisites of an effective Historical Society in the 1990s is an interested, informed and involved membership — people willing to invest their time, energy and resources in the cause of History.

We are 106 years old and we exist today because of people who made that type of investment. As a recent arrival on the scene — I am completing my third year as Executive Director — I have a deep sense of gratitude for the significant contributions made by those individuals.

It has also been my good fortune during this time to work with an involved and generous Board, a dedicated and talented staff and an active and appreciative membership. I am encouraged by what we have accomplished and I am excited by what remains to be done.

I hope you sense in your contact with us the difference people can make in the promotion of History. I invite you to be part of that difference at HSSC. Call me (213-222-0546) and let's talk about this.

Thomas F. Andrews

Thomas F. Andrews
Executive Director

PHOTO: Henk Friezer



Donald H. Pflueger is presented an Award of Merit by the Historical Society of Southern California. Executive Director Thomas F. Andrews congratulates Pflueger for his many contributions to the writing of local history.

History Award Named for Don Pflueger

An annual award for excellence in the writing of local history has been established by the Historical Society of Southern California. At a meeting of the Society's Board of Directors on May 16, an Award of Merit was presented by Executive Director Thomas F. Andrews to Donald H. Pflueger of Claremont for whom the yearly award will be named. The first award will be made in 1990.

Mr. Pflueger, emeritus professor of history at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, wrote his first local history as an undergraduate honors thesis at Pomona College in 1949. Entitled *Glendora — The Annals of a Southern California Community*, it was published in book form in 1951 by the Saunders Press of Claremont. The foreword to the book was written by Robert Glass Cleland of the Huntington Library. At the time of publication the history was widely acclaimed and is now a collector's item.

A decade later Professor Pflueger's *Covina — Sunflowers*,

Citrus, Subdivisions was published by the Castle Press of Pasadena. The foreword was authored by John Walton Caughey, professor of history at UCLA and widely respected for his many volumes on California history.

In the Fall 1988 issue of the *Southern California Quarterly*, editor Doyce B. Nunis, Jr., professor of history at USC, stated that the Pflueger volumes established "the benchmark for judging outstanding local California histories [which are] achievements of historical excellence and quality." Mr. Pflueger's other books include a textbook on California government and a biography of Charles C. Chapman, pioneer citrus grower for whom Chapman College is named; Chapman sold his fledgling Bank of America to A.P. Giannini. Pflueger is currently working on a history of Cal Poly Pomona and has returned to serve on the Board of HSSC.

Guidelines and criteria for the local history award will be announced later this year.

VOLUNTEERS GROW WITH HOUSE AND GARDEN



PHOTO: Sue Huddleson

Sporting an "I ♥ HSSC" tee-shirt, Executive Director Tom Andrews meets with Frieda Johnson, Virginia Fredrick, Elinor Ives and Barbara Corry for a special docent-only "book talk."

the road to identifying the plants in the garden. I realize this is just a beginning. The common names led me to want to be able to rattle off genus and species, and family and country of origin as well."

"With each garden tour I give now, I notice different plants in the garden, as they come into bloom or as they are pointed out by a member of the group. Most visitors, however, do not come to the garden for a string of names. I would like to be able to relay plant anecdotes to them, such as the Native Americans wore a leaf of the California Bay tree under their hats to treat a headache, that they wove the rootlets of the Joshua tree into patterns in baskets, or that Oregon Grape leaves can be chewed for acne."

"It is very rewarding, growing with the garden, and seeing other people discover its attractions."

Docent Class Answers Quest

The first class of docents trained to lead tours of the Lummis Home garden has graduated and is passing on its knowledge about the exemplary drought-tolerant landscape. The public's desire to learn how a garden filled with blooming flowers and shrubs can exist on only a third of the watering required by a conventional garden attracts many visitors to the garden. Mary Brooks, a resident of Echo Park, completed the garden docent training, and has this to say about the program.

"I wanted to learn more about gardening with native and drought tolerant plants which grow well in the Los Angeles area. Luckily, in answer to my interest, I stumbled across the Lummis garden. I worked with the garden volunteers on Sunday mornings once a month and had a wonderful time, but discovered there was even more I needed to know about the hundreds of species in the garden. So, I attended five two-and-a-half hour sessions at the Lummis Home in February and

March, which was the docent training course organized by Cynthia Null."

"This course armed the participants with facts about plant adaptation, climatic characteristics, garden design and plant associations. It also started us on

New Garden Docent Training Scheduled

A new four week garden docent training program will begin Saturday, September 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00. For more information call 213-222-0546.



PHOTO: Henk Friezer

Before attending a docent enrichment program, Lummis Home docents smile for the camera. Counter clockwise, from bottom, left: Kenyon DeVore, Helen Molenaar, Eleanor Watson, Ellen Kempler, Roger Kempler, Jean Bacon, Carmen Duran, Ruby Moore, Docent Coordinator Carole Dougherty, and Julia Huddleson.

Keith Lummis
will reminisce
about his
famous father,
Sunday,
September 10,
at El Alisal.



PHOTO: Julia Huddleson

Keith Lummis to Visit El Alisal

Local history buffs are in for a treat on Sunday, September 10, when Keith Lummis, youngest son of Charles Fletcher Lummis, will visit El Alisal. Lummis will share anecdotes about his father while taking visitors through his childhood home at 2:00 and again at 3:00 p.m.

Joining Lummis for the afternoon will be guitarist Natividad Vacio who will play the songs of old California Lummis recorded and put to paper. Natividad plays and explains the songs, performing as both entertainer and teacher. He will play at 1:30 and again at 3:30 p.m.

DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT...

HSSC needs information about three past presidents: A.E. Yerex (1899); John E. Fishburn (1955) and Charles Fulkerson (1965). If you can help, please call (213) 222-0546.

THE HISTORIC ONE HUNDRED

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SPECIAL SUNDAY PROGRAMS AT 1:30 P.M.

Sept. 10

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

Oct. 8

Michael Rounds, historian for the Mission Inn Foundation in Riverside, will present a slide program entitled, "Charles Lummis, Frank Miller, Missions and the Mission Inn."

Nov. 12

Midge Sherwood will describe a little-known side of railroad developer Collis Huntington in her talk, "'Uncle Collis' and the Press." Mrs. Sherwood is the author of the history of Southern California's frontier years, *Days of Vintage, Years of Vision*.

Jan. 14

Regina Phelan, descendant of a circus family, will discuss methods for researching a family history. She is the author of *The Gold Chain; A California Family Saga*.

Law and Order in South Pasadena

The South Pasadena Police Department bought a bicycle for the chief in 1909. It also bought two motorcycles and launched a campaign against “automobile scorchers” — which meant anyone going more than fifteen miles an hour through town. In their first year of duty the two motorcycle policemen arrested 166 speeders and collected \$1,735 in fines, a sum almost equal to their combined salaries.

Reckless driving was one of the few serious problems faced by the police. As the local paper observed in 1909, South Pasadena enjoyed an enviable moral and social environment, free from the saloon, the pool hall, and the evils of gambling. The ban on pool halls and billiard parlors was only a year old. The ordinance outlawing them was debated all the way to the United States Supreme Court and declared constitutional in 1912.

The ban on saloons dated from 1888, when the city incorporated. South Pasadena Ordinance 4 made it unlawful to establish or maintain “any tippling house, dramshop, cellar, saloon, bar, bar-room, sample room, or other place where spirituous, vinous, malt, or mixed liquors are sold or given away; or any gambling room or other place of indecent or immoral character; or any slaughter house,



Wynyate, built by Donald Graham and Margaret Collier Graham in 1887, is now on the National Register of Historic Places. Donald Graham is the left-hand figure on the stairs. COURTESY OF HUNTINGTON LIBRARY.

powder house, or other place dangerous to the public health or safety of the inhabitants.”

Author Margaret Collier Graham, wife of the first mayor, recalled a meeting of the city trustees at Wynyate, the Grahams’ hilltop mansion, to draft the anti-saloon ordinance. “Mr. Graham was not a prohibitionist,” she

wrote, “but he was opposed to saloons, and after the board adjourned he came to me in great amusement and said, ‘It would have been well to remove the wine glasses and the whiskey bottle from the sideboard before meeting to organize a prohibition town.’”

Excerpted from SOUTH PASADENA: A CENTENNIAL HISTORY, by Jane Apostol.



South Pasadena’s first motorcycle policemen writing a ticket for the driver of a Franklin in 1910. The old Carnegie Library is the building in the background. COURTESY OF SOUTH PASADENA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

IN MEMORIAM

On Friday morning, June 30, DR. GLENN DUMKE died of a heart attack at his home. He was 72 years old. He left behind a sterling record of accomplishments as a visionary educational leader in the southland and throughout the state.

Dr. Dumke took time to be involved with historical societies such as HSSC, whether as professor of history and faculty dean at Occidental College or as chancellor of the state university system. In February he spoke to a joint meeting of HSSC and CHS members at The Huntington.

His book, *The Boom of the Eighties in Southern California*, published in 1944 by the Huntington Library, is widely regarded as a Southern California classic. In his role of "The Historian as Educator" he has served us all with distinction and will be dearly missed.

We thank the following individuals who have made contributions to the Historical Society of Southern California in his memory:

Associated Students
California State University
Northridge

Ms. Genevieve Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Benedetti
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Brakebill
Ms. Margaret Brock
Mrs. Ann Malcolm Brooks
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Cain
Mr. Roscoe C. Carroll
Mr. James Cleary
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Mr. Harry Volk
Mr. Donald Wallace
Ms. Annabell Westlake
Ms. Rosemary Willson
Mr. Wendell Witter

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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Thomas F. Andrews
Executive Director

Denise Martin Campbell
Consultant

Editors:
Margaret Dickerson
Carole Dougherty

Art Director:
Duane Toutjian

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

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

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

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

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