

Joseph O'Flaherty and Donald Pflueger for whom two awards are named.

Education, Local History Featured at Awards Luncheon

There was a time when writers of outstanding books on local history and excellent history teachers went unthanked for their contributions. But no more. Over the last twelve years the Historical Society of Southern California, with the aid of a few generous benefactors, has been developing an awards program to fill this void.

The Joseph O'Flaherty Teaching Award, the Donald H. Pflueger Local History Award, and two awards for the best articles in the *Southern California Quarterly*, the Carl I. Wheat Award and the Doyce B. Nunis Jr. Award will highlight a luncheon at the Pasadena University Club on Saturday, September 26.

Ten awards in all will be presented to deserving teachers and scholars at this second annual combined awards luncheon. The Historical Society is pleased to announce that endowments have been started for all four awards, thus ensuring their continuance into the 21st century.

Teachers recognized

The Joseph O'Flaherty Teaching Award recognizes excellence and innovation in the teaching of history and related subjects in the public, private, and parochial schools of Los Angeles County. The award was started by former HSSC president, Joseph O'Flaherty, and is maintained by his widow, Louise.

The O'Flahertys believe that an understanding of history is a vital part of education, and that the elementary, intermediate, and secondary teacher can make history an exciting part of the daily experience of students.

The O'Flaherty Award carries a cash gift of \$500, a certificate, a one-year membership in HSSC, and a two-volume set of Joseph O'Flaherty's history of Los Angeles.

Writers of local history

The Donald H. Pflueger Award recognizes excellence in the research and writing of Southern California local history,

including biographies, generational histories, community and corporate histories, regional, and specialized histories. The award is named for the individual who tirelessly promoted an understanding of our local history—Donald Pflueger, former professor at Cal Poly, Pomona.

Certainly the 23 Pflueger Awards handed out since 1991 testify to the vitality of research and writing on Southern California's local history. Don would be pleased.

The Pflueger Award, made possible by an endowment started by the family and friends of Don Pflueger, carries a cash gift of \$500, a certificate, and a hand-crafted, leather-bound copy of the author's book.

Best articles in *Quarterly*

The Carl I. Wheat Award is given for the best article published in the *Quarterly* by a senior scholar. Frank and Nancy Wheat have endowed the award, which carries a cash gift of \$500 and a certificate.

The
1998
Joseph
O'Flaherty
Teaching
Award
Recipients

Helen Booker

Bret Harte Middle School, Los Angeles

Helen Booker teaches seventh- and eighth-grade history and is dubbed "teacher extraordinaire" by her principal. She motivates at-risk as well as gifted students to stretch themselves, set high goals and work to achieve those goals. One of her major efforts is to instill a better understanding of other

cultures while enhancing her students' self-esteem through an awareness and appreciation of their own history and heritage. Last year, a team of students from her class comprised of one Latino and two African American males won the Disney-sponsored "Create the Ideal School" contest with their essay.



Phyllis Fick

Ocean View Elementary, Whittier

Phyllis Fick sets high standards in the classroom while pursuing a comprehensive approach to teaching. She recognizes the contributions parents can make. During Colonial Day, a program developed by Fick for the school's fifth-graders, parents assist with hands-on activities. On her own time,

Fick volunteers as choir director and as director of two stage productions each year, again welcoming the assistance of parents. A mentor and master teacher, she shares her enthusiasm and expertise. A teaching unit she developed on medicine in the colonial period will be published soon by the Williamsburg Institute.

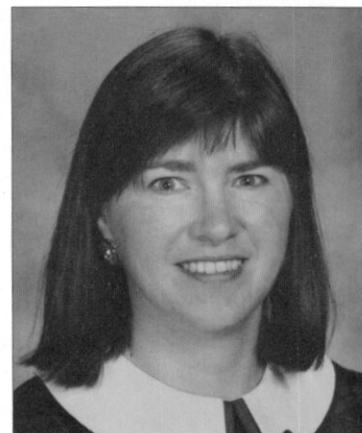


Virginia Harrington

Arroyo Vista Elementary, South Pasadena

Virginia Harrington captures her students' interest by focusing on America's colonial period, integrating all fifth-grade subjects into the history/social studies curriculum. Using literature, music, archaeology and modern technology, Harrington teaches with innovation and a variety of tools. Students learn about colonial Amer-

ica—its food, customs, and government—from the internet, electronic field trips, primary sources and people in the community with expertise. In turn, the students present an annual colonial music program, complete with authentic costumes, to their school and then take it out into the community during the holidays.



Kathleen Henke

Vail High School, Montebello

Kathleen Henke teaches at an alternative school for high risk youth in Montebello where there is a waiting list to get into her classes. She stresses the self-worth of each student and challenges them to become participating citizens in a diverse society and interdependent world. Former students testify to

her success in empowering them to become self-directed and life-long learners. Her students come to appreciate and understand diversity and the democratic process, the unlearning of prejudice, and the importance of contributing to the betterment of the community in which they live. She has taught at Vail since 1978.



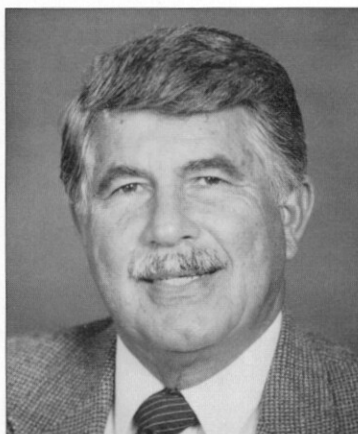


Scott L. Bottles

Los Angeles and the Automobile: The Making of the Modern City (1987)

Bottles provides a balanced and careful examination of the public debate over transportation issues in Los Angeles prior to 1950. He details the complex and competing city interests that compounded the difficulty of decision-making on transportation issues. In the process Bottles directly confronts the widely-held theory that a conspir-

acy led by General Motors killed the region's rail system of mass transit. *Los Angeles and the Automobile* shows how the advent of the automobile transformed Los Angeles "from a centralized city with a single primary business district to a decentralized metropolis with several important commercial centers."



Powell M. Greenland

Port Hueneme: A History (1994)

From the Chumash village of Quelqueme to Point Conversion to Rancho el Rio de Santa Clara ó la Colonia to Wene'me, today's city of Port Hueneme has undergone a number of significant changes now ably and fully told for the first time by Greenland. A thriving grain port, Hueneme faced economic de-

cline when lima beans became the dominant crop and sugar beets were introduced in 1897. World War II and the completion of a deep-water harbor in 1940 rescued the town. *Port Hueneme* is an informed and valuable community history, significant for both the study of Ventura County and Southern California.

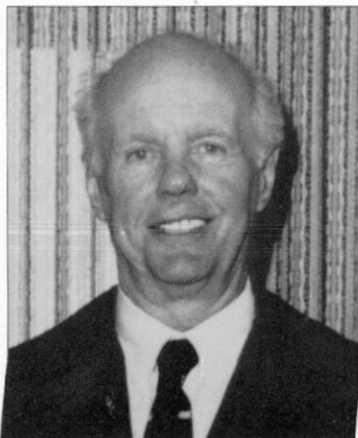


Merry Ovnick

Los Angeles: The End of the Rainbow (1994)

This book could be entitled, "Los Angeles: The Durable Dream," for in it Ovnick unveils in fresh ways a persistent theme in the social history of Los Angeles. Her exciting new approach is her emphasis upon residential architecture. Here she shows how images of homes and lifestyles have attracted waves of immigrants

who have interacted with the landscape to create new images which then attract more newcomers. One hundred eighty photographs document in graphic detail her innovative use of houses as historical artifacts in profiling Los Angeles's cultural history.



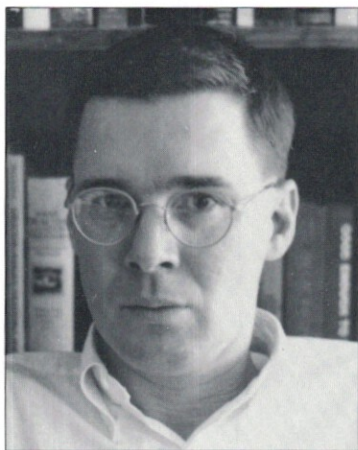
John W. Robinson

The San Gabriels: The Mountain Country from Soledad Canyon to Lytle Creek (1991)

Robinson is a "man to match our mountains," for he commands the field with publications on *The San Bernardinos* (1989) and *San Jacintos* (1993) among others. Two of his books have earned prizes. In each he details more than two centuries of mankind's use of the mountains of Southern California. The San Gabriels especially were a magnet for pleasure seekers,

from Switzer's Camp to Sturtevant's Camp to Camp Baldy, and from the Arroyo Seco to Lytle Creek. But none was more famous than the Mount Lowe Railway, which, along with the Mount Wilson Observatory, focused world attention on the San Gabriels, whose rich heritage is detailed in this book.

The
1998
Donald H.
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Local
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Blake Gumprecht

Doyce B. Nunis Jr. Award

Blake Gumprecht is the 1998 recipient of the Nunis Award for the best article in the *Southern California Quarterly* by a junior scholar. His article, "51 Miles of Concrete: The Exploitation and Transformation of the Los Angeles River," was published in the winter 1997 issue of the *Quarterly*. Gumprecht is a doctoral

student in the Department of Geography at the University of Oklahoma. His article is based on his master's thesis, completed at California State University, Los Angeles, in 1995. An expanded version of the study will be published by Johns Hopkins University Press next year.



Richard Steven Street

Carl I. Wheat Award

Richard Steven Street will receive the 1998 Wheat Award for the best article in the *Southern California Quarterly* by a senior scholar. His article, "The FBI's Secret File on Cesar Chavez," was published in the winter 1996 issue of the *Quarterly*. He wrote and photographed *Organizing*

for Our Lives: New Voices from Rural California, with an introduction by Cesar Chavez. Street was a Mayer Fellow at The Huntington Library and is presently completing a definitive history of California farmworkers, 1769 to the present, together with a companion photographic history.

SAVE THESE DATES

Saturday noon
September 26

HSSC AWARDS LUNCHEON
The University Club, Pasadena

Saturday 9-4
October 10

SWITZER'S CAMP HIKE & LECTURE
Look for more details
coming soon.

Saturday 9-5
November 7

TRANSPORTATION TOUR & PROGRAM
LED BY NANCY AND JON WILMAN

Saturday 2-4
November 14

FRANK WHEAT
BOOK SIGNING
Lummi's Home

Sunday 2-4
November 15

JULIUS SHULMAN
BOOK SIGNING
Lummi's Home

AWARDS continued from page 1

This year's winner is the eleventh recipient of the Wheat Award.

The Doyce B. Nunis Jr. Award is given for the best article published in the *Quarterly* by a junior scholar. In celebration of Doyce's 36 years as editor of the *Quarterly*, his friends and colleagues endowed the award in his name. It carries a

cash gift of \$500 and a certificate. This year marks the second winner of the Nunis Award.

These awards represent two-thirds of the awards program of the Historical Society, thus allowing HSSC to play an important role in promoting, evaluating, and disseminating an understanding of history to a wide and varied audience.

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