



History Conference set for January 23 at Autry Museum

On Saturday, January 23, 1999, the Historical Society of Southern California will host its fourth conference on Los Angeles history at the Autry Museum of Western Heritage. In the past, we have explored new research, resources for research and the arts of the city.

The conference will focus on the groups and forces that shaped the city during the years 1900-1950 under the theme, "Los Angeles: The City for the Future."

Doyce B. Nunis Jr., editor of the *Southern California Quarterly*, will discuss the cultural, economic, political and social forces that helped shape and influence the city.

Groups, of course, have been a major influence on the history of the community. **Lawrence De Graaf**, professor of history, California State University, Fullerton, will present an overview of the life of the African American

in the city, and **Bette Cox**, director of the Beem Foundation, will present the music and musicians of Central Avenue until 1950 when the Avenue lost its role as a major music center. **George Sanchez**, professor of history at USC, will explore the relationships of the Mexican American and the community at large.

Women are an underestimated but powerful force in the city. **Clark Davis**, professor of history at La Sierra University, will look at the Friday Morning Club as an inroad into the business community for women.

Los Angeles and the automobile seem to be boon companions. **Scott Bottles**, author of the award-winning *Los Angeles and the Automobile*, and **Matt Roth** will discuss the city's love-hate relationship with its cars.

To help picture the pre-World War II city, **Michael Dawson** will make an illustrated

presentation on the photographers of Los Angeles, 1900 to 1940, and their images.

To continue the concept of resources for research on the history of the city, **Sarah Cooper**, Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research, and **Robert Marshall**, CSUN Urban Archives, will evaluate their collections.

Sponsors of the conference include the Auto Club of Southern California; Autry Museum; Center for Southern California Studies, CSUN; L.A. County Office of Education; Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University; Southern California Social Science Association; Wells Fargo; and the W.P. Whitsett Foundation.

Registration for the conference for HSSC members is \$40 which will include admission, a box lunch and a resource packet.

By Robert Blew



Tom
Andrews
salutes
teachers
who
inspire

GENTLE READER

IMAGINE that you are a junior high student in a middle school at 93rd and Hoover. Imagine you have a teacher who challenges you to enter a "Create the Ideal School Contest" to win a trip to Disneyland in Paris.

Imagine that your team produces the winning essay. Together with your teacher you are flown to San Francisco where a reception in your honor is hosted by Mayor Willie Brown.

Then it's on to Washington D.C. where you meet the Secretary of Education at the White House and are given a grand tour of the nation's capitol.

Finally you arrive in Paris, parade down the Champs Elysee with 600 other students from forty countries, cruise on the River Seine, and enjoy a variety of other activities courtesy of Disney.

Imagine the impact this would have on you for the rest of your life. It can happen, and did, to three stu-

dents in Helen Booker's 8th grade U.S. History class at Bret Harte Middle School.

And this is just one of many reasons Helen Booker was selected a **Joseph O'Flaherty Teaching Award** winner for 1998.

Teachers can have a life-changing impact on their students as evidenced also by the three teachers who joined **Helen Booker** as

O'Flaherty Award winners.

Remember their names:

Phyllis Fick
and **Virginia Harrington**,
5th grade teachers at Ocean View Elementary (Whittier) and Arroyo Vista

Elementary

(South Pasadena) respectively, and **Kathleen Henke**, a high school teacher at Vail High School in Montebello.

Under their guidance, students enter the magic realm of history, with its ability to astonish and to transport the students beyond classroom walls.

"They truly are the heroes who inspire our young."



Tom Andrews

Tom Andrews

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN

is published quarterly by the
Historical Society of
Southern California
a California non-profit organization
(501)(c)(3)

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The Lummis Home
is open to the public
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Group Tours
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HSSC Endowment Grows

The endowment of the Historical Society has grown by over \$100,000 in 1998. Cash received now totals \$650,000 with \$1.1 million pledged towards the five-year goal of \$3 million.

At the end of this year, happily, three awards will be fully endowed: The **Doyce B. Nunis Award** for the best article in the *Quarterly* by a junior scholar (\$25,000 endowment); the **Carl I. Wheat Award** for the best article by a senior scholar (\$25,000 endowment), and the **Donald Pflueger Local History Award** (\$50,000 endowment).

And \$14,000 has been raised this year towards the **Joseph O'Flaherty Award** (for teachers) endowment goal of \$50,000.

Endowing all six awards is the goal of HSSC so as to ensure their permanence and the ability to increase the award stipend in future years.

One year from now the Historical Society hopes to report significant progress in endowing the publication and editorship of the *Southern California Quarterly*.

The current success of the endowment campaign is of great encouragement to the board, staff, and—we hope—the general membership of HSSC.

Scholars Receive Grants

In April of this year, the Historical Society of Southern California announced the second round of the HSSC/Haynes Research Stipend.

One month later, a committee of five reviewed the 38 applicants' research projects on the history of Los Angeles and Southern California. In June, 15 tenured professors, Ph.D. candidates, and independent scholars from around the country were awarded stipends.

Encouraged by the response and success of the first round of grants given early in the year, the Haynes Foundation generously supported this second round through an additional \$10,000 grant.

The following list of awardees illustrates the depth, diversity, and dynamics of study on Los Angeles and Southern California history:

Eric Boime: "Fluid Boundaries: Southern California, Baja California, and the Conflict Over the Colorado River"

Virginia Comer: "In the Hills of Los Angeles: A History of the Stairways"

Louis Fiset: "Health Care of Southern California Japanese Americans during WWII"

Douglas Flamming: "African Americans and the Making of Los Angeles, 1890-1940"

Michael Gonzalez: "Searching for the Feathered Serpent: Exploring the Origins of Mexican Culture in Los Angeles, 1821-1846"

Gabriel Gutierrez:

"Mexican and U.S. Gender and Land Value Conflict: Josefa Moreno de la Guerra vs. the City of Santa Barbara"

Daniel Johnson: "A Serpent in the Garden: Institutions, Ideology, and Class in Los Angeles Politics, 1901-1911"

Ronald Lopez: "The Battle for Chavez Ravine: Mexican Americans and Public Policy in Los Angeles, 1945-1962"

Natalia Molina: "Contested Cultures and Medical Practices: Mexican-Americans and the Los Angeles County Health Department, 1915-1950"

Josh Sides: "Working Away: African-American Migration and Community in 1940's Los Angeles"

Tracy Smith: "Social History of Santa Ana Canyon, California"

Arlene M. Sanchez Walsh: "El Aposento Alto: Searching for a Mexican-American Pentecostal Identity"

Mark Wild: "Urban Development and Citizenship in the Immigrant Districts of Los Angeles, 1900-1940"

Michael Willard: "Popular Culture, Youth, and Racial Formation in Los Angeles, 1945-1965"

David Yoo: "Politics, Religion, and Independence: Korean Americans in Twentieth-Century Los Angeles"

by Peter Mendenhall

Thanks to
a grant
from
the Dan
Murphy
Foundation,
HSSC has
provided
\$10,000
worth of
books
to the
Archdiocese
of
Los Angeles

Glendale Community College



After the 1933 Long Beach earthquake, classes were held in tents on what was known as the Harvard Campus.

by Mike Eberts



During the fall 1930 semester, Glendale Junior College, which had opened three years earlier with 139 students, was engaged in class warfare.

It began when three freshmen lifted a bed sheet from the Glendale YMCA and painted "Frosh" on it in bold letters. Under cover of darkness, one of them climbed up the campus flag pole and hoisted the banner to the top, carefully greasing the pole on the way down to ward off upper classmen.

When dawn came, "There was a riot at the flag pole," claimed a student account. "Classes were discontinued for two days as fire hoses and all available and unavailable equipment was put into use. The faculty wailed at the empty class rooms."

The sophs' revenge was swift: a group of them kidnapped the freshman vice president and held him hostage for several hours in Griffith Park. At the pleas of the administration, a

compromise was reached: the freshman leader was released, and the flag was removed.

At the end of the semester, the lingering grudge was settled amicably enough—even though sophomores eventually stole the flag, ripped it to shreds and hoisted the rags up the flag pole. The students held a Class Day, where each class defended its honor with, among other things, a tug-o-war over a campus mud hole.

Glendale Junior College, which later came to be known as Glendale College and eventually as Glendale Community College, started small and simple. Established by local voters in 1927, it operated for two years out of the west wing of Glendale Union High School on East Broadway. In 1929, the college moved to the corner of Harvard and Louise—the site of today's Glendale Central Library—where it occupied a campus that had served younger students since 1908.

The gray stone buildings of

the Harvard Campus were perhaps a little too historic. The 1933 Long Beach earthquake damaged the main buildings so severely that state inspectors ruled that classes could no longer be held in them. From spring 1934 to spring 1937, classes were held in 15 tent bungalows.

Chester Lynch in his 1987 history of the college wrote: "Going to classes in tents had advantages. If you were not particularly interested in what your instructor was saying, you could listen to the instructors in the tents on either side two or three over if you wished."

A contemporary account was a little less charitable, however, saying that "Tent City" featured "unbearable heat in the summer months, with equally unbearable cold and dampness in winter."

It wasn't all grim, though. The tents were linked by a network of boardwalks which apparently encouraged some students to roller skate from class to class.

Clearly, though, students and faculty wanted to get back into real classrooms. That yearning was channeled into a 1935 bond measure to build a new campus on North Verdugo Road with local and federal Works Progress Administration money.

According to a 1939 account, the student body "displayed more school spirit ... than any year before or since. Every student worked to put the bonds across, and it is to every member of this class that all succeeding classes owe the Verdugo Campus."

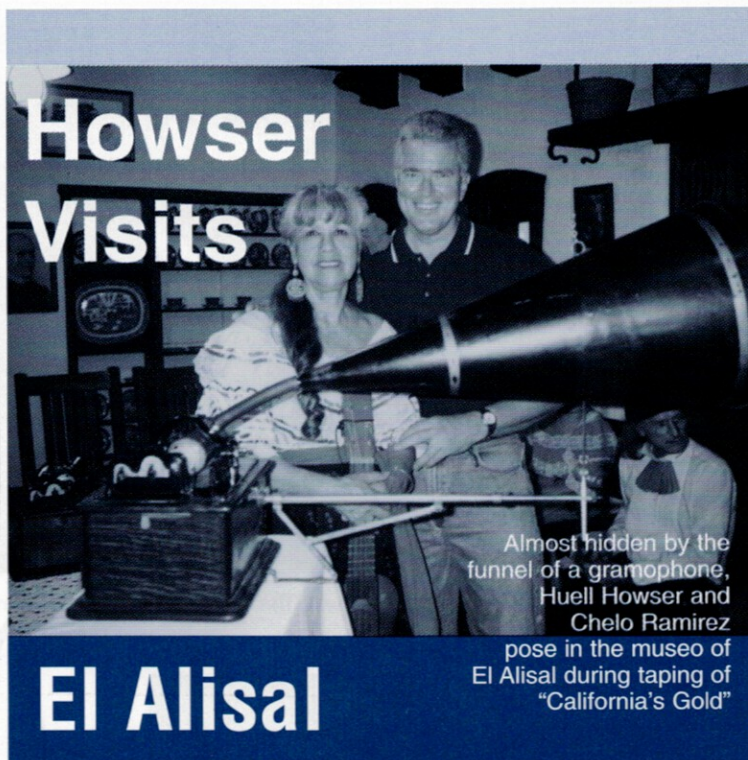
When the measure carried by a citywide vote of 7705-1848 on October 5, 1935, the students staged a gigantic snake dance through the main streets of Glendale, followed by a bonfire on the campus which over one thousand townspeople attended.

The new campus prompted changes. In keeping with its Spanish architecture, the Buccaneer mascot was keelhaunched in favor of the Vaquero. The student newspaper and yearbook, the *Galleon* and *Log* respectively, were renamed the *El Vaquero* and *La Reata*. School colors were changed from orange and black to maroon and gold by vote of the student body. Songs, yells and names of clubs were changed.

But the war between the freshmen and the sophomores continued on. They clashed on the new campus for the first time in January 1938 in an event called "The Big Brawl."

Mike Eberts teaches journalism and mass communication at Glendale Community College. He is the author of *Griffith Park: A Centennial History*.

Photo: Margaret Dickerson



Almost hidden by the funnel of a gramophone, Huell Howser and Chelo Ramirez pose in the museo of El Alisal during taping of "California's Gold"

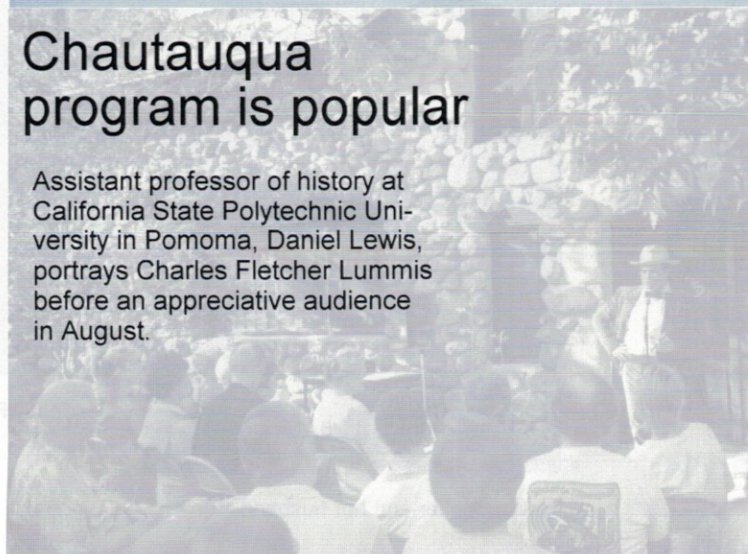
Members of Isleta Pueblo visit El Alisal

Twelve members of the Isleta Pueblo in New Mexico, including the 2nd lieutenant governor of the pueblo Emil Jojola, religious elders and an archeologist visited the Lummis Home on June 17. To commemorate their visit during this year's centennial of the construction of the Lummis Home, each received a gift of the Lummis Home centennial poster. Lummis's friends from the Pueblo helped him in the arduous building of El Alisal.

Chautauqua program is popular

Assistant professor of history at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, Daniel Lewis, portrays Charles Fletcher Lummis before an appreciative audience in August.

Photo: Michele Clark



Watch for Huell at the Lummis Home on PBS in early 1999



Market Day at Isleta Pueblo, mid 1920s. Photo by Charles Lummis.



Donald Pflueger's son, David and his wife, Margaret, with Tom Andrews at the luncheon.



Donald Pflueger Local History Award



The whole Bottles family pays tribute to author Scott. Left to right: Scotts' wife, Catherine Kelly, daughters Julia and Justin, and Scott.



Joseph O'Flaherty Teaching Award recipients: Phyllis Fick, '98



Helen Booker and her husband, Tony.

Photo
Highlights
of the
1998
Awards
Luncheon



recipients: Powell Greenland, John Robinson, Scott Bottles and Merry Ovnick.



nia Harrington, Helen Booker and Kathleen Henke.



Powell Greenland, author of *Port Hueneme* at the podium.

On Saturday,
September
26

at the University Club
in Pasadena,
the Historical Society
honored
those often unsung
heroes of history:
its writers
and teachers.
All the honorees
received cash gifts.
Teachers also
received a
two-volume
history of
Los Angeles
and authors
received
their own book,
handsomely
bound in leather.





Switzer's Camp Hike

The Historical Society was blessed with one of fall's most spectacular days for its trip to Switzer's Camp and Falls in Angeles National Forest. A party of enthusiastic hikers followed the lead of John Robinson down into the shady canyon to the site of the first resort built in the San Gabriels. John and friend, Paul Rippens, entertained the group with stories of the rise and fall of "Switzer-land," the camp buildings, chapel and early visitors to the mountain retreat. After a leisurely lunch by the stream, most took the extra trip down to view the falls from below.



Frank
Wheat
talks about
the fragile
desert
Sunday
November
15
2-4 pm
Lummis
Home



John Robinson and hikers rest.

Photos and text by Michele Clark

President's Circle

President's Circle members are individuals and families whose annual, unrestricted support of \$1,000 or more ensures the longevity and quality of the Society's most prestigious programs including the *Southern California Quarterly*, the FELLOWS Award, educational programs and books published by the Society. The Society thanks those who support HSSC at this significant level with an association that is socially stimulating and intellectually invigorating. Members receive advance copies of Society publications and have opportunities to meet with HSSC FELLOWS, noted scholars and community leaders.

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Louise O'Flaherty

George A.V. Dunning

Barbara and John Osborne

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Ione Paradise

Billie and Powell Greenland

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Sixth Annual Discovery Tour

Celebrate the Centennial of El Alisal
Save the Date: November 21, 1998

One hundred years ago in 1898, Charles Fletcher Lummis began to build his home, El Alisal, on three and a half acres of "country land" north of downtown Los Angeles.

Lummis used stones from the Arroyo Seco, adding design details to reflect the Southwest culture he enthusiastically promoted and preserved, such as a ladder to his tower study that was reminiscent of Hopi architecture.

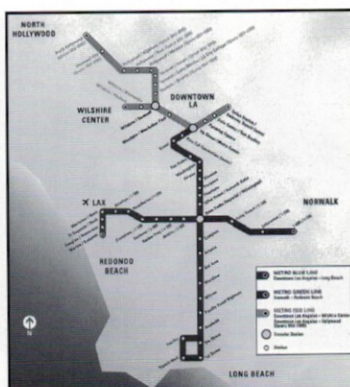
His house grew without an overall plan and took him about twelve years to build. Lummis's adventurous spirit continues today with the local contemporary

architects working in the arroyo. This tradition of innovation and creativity will be the focus of the 1998 Discovery Tour.

The tour, cosponsored by the Arroyo Arts Collective and HSSC, celebrates the Lummis Home Centennial and contemporary artists.

The self-guided tour to artists' homes and studios will start at the Lummis Home on Saturday November 21 from 10 am to 4 pm.

For more information, call Laurie Arroyo at 323.258.5292



The North Hollywood line will be complete by mid 2000.

LA's Transit Explored



On November 7, a large group of HSSC members and friends passed up fall football in favor of participating in another very special tour led by Jon and Nancy Wilkman. With the gracious help of MTA personnel, the Wilkmans treated participants to a tour of Union Station, the Gateway Center, the yard where cheerful little robots help with bus maintenance, and the MTA board room to hear Steve Brye speak on MTA history and view historic Pacific Electric films with comments by Bill Myers. Thanks to the board of the Electric Railway Historical Association and its vice president John Heller for making the films available. A delicious lunch at Traxx restaurant was followed by a trip on the Red Line to Angels Flight and a Blue Line excursion to Central Control, the heart of Los Angeles' rail transit system.

Meet
Julius
Shulman
at the
Lummis
Home
Sunday,
December
6
2-4 pm

All Members Receive...

Annual subscription to the SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA QUARTERLY
Annual subscription *The Southern Californian*
10% Discount in the El Alisal Book Shop
Free Museums of the Arroyo Day and December Holiday Open House

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\$50 Regular Members

Discounted program and event tickets for family members

\$100 Contributing Members

All of the benefits above plus ...
One special publication

\$250 Patron Members

All of the above plus ...
Two special publications

\$500 Benefactors

All of the above plus ...
A Docent-led tour of the Lummis Home and Garden for four

\$1,000 President's Circle

All of the above plus ...
Lectures and receptions for President's Circle members featuring noted Southern California historians



by Michele Clark

HSSC
extends its
sympathy to
Keith Lummis
on the death of
his wife Hazel.



Hazel Lummis

HSSC is
saddened
by the
passing of
Mayor
Tom
Bradley
We are
grateful
for
his help
raising
funds
for the
Lummis
Garden

Hazel Lummis, wife of Keith Lummis, the last living child of Charles F. Lummis, died in San Francisco after a year and a half long struggle with cancer. She outlived by over a year the time the doctors allotted her, and—to her triumph—completed her memoirs in that period.

Earlier, she'd helped Keith with the writing of his award-winning biography, *Charles Lummis: The Man and his West*, University of Oklahoma Press, 1975.

Hazel was born in Montana to a newspaper family, but she resolved early to get out of the tiny town and have some adventures. It was wartime when she showed up at an office in San Francisco with a letter of introduction and was hired on the spot, making her the third woman ever employed by the United States Secret Service.

Fifty years later she reflected on Keith Lummis the Secret Service agent she was to marry, "I think there was always something electric about you, Keith."

When she died Keith was at her side, as were her children, Suzanne and James, and her siblings.

Thanks to Suzanne Lummis

Mary O'Flaherty Horn

Dr. Mary O'Flaherty Horn, daughter of the late Joseph O'Flaherty and his wife Louise, died on August 10.

Dr. Horn, 45, continued practicing medicine and teaching during her struggle with Lou Gehrig's disease. Brought up on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, Horn studied at the Washington University School of Medicine and was chief resident at St. Luke's Hospital in St. Louis.

An internist, she returned to Southern California to become director of ambulatory teaching clinics and assistant academic chief of medicine at St. Mary Medical Center in Long Beach. She also taught at UCLA School of Medicine.

Horn continued her work although her illness, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, stripped her of speech and put her in a wheelchair. She communicated with students and patients by sign language with an interpreter voicing the words she could not speak. Because of her own testing and treatment for the disease, she emphasized to her own residents the need to become more caring doctors.

She also wrote an article on doctor-patient relationships which will be published by a medical journal.

HSSC sends its sympathy to the O'Flaherty family and Dr. Horn's husband, Darwin, for their great loss.

From the Los Angeles Times

Albert Shumate

Albert Shumate, a longtime HSSC member, died on September 30 in San Francisco—where he was born—after two years of declining health. He was 94.

Although Dr. Shumate was a highly respected dermatologist, becoming a Fellow in the American Academy of Dermatology early in his career, his avocation was history. He was an avid collector of Californiana, steeped himself in the history of his native city and state with passion, and became a self-taught authority recognized by the scholarly community.

His published books and articles earned him the sobriquet, "the doyen of San Francisco historians." Dr. Shumate will be missed by northern and southern Californians alike.

Thanks to Doyce Nunis

For Love of History Tributes

In Memory of

ANNA MARIE HAGER

Siegfried Demke
Gloria Ricci Lothrop

MARY O'FLAHERTY HORN

Tom Andrews
Carole & Michael Dougherty

HAZEL LUMMIS

Carole Dougherty

JACK MOORE

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Moore

RAYMUND WOOD

Siegfried Demke



Pat and Bob Magrill

Meet the Magrills

It's a story made for a novel or at least a chuckle. A racetrack novice places a bet and picks the winning horse. But the twist here is that this novice goes on to learn about racehorses including the history of the business and buys the horse.

In 1966, Pat Magrill visited Santa Anita Race Track with her husband, Bob, and some friends. The horse she bet on, Sweet Paprika, came in second. Eventually the two bought the horse and amid silks, trainers, stalls and veterinarians, the Magrills found they had a fine racehorse who later proved to be a prolific breeder.

Pat and Bob Magrill are wonderful examples of two people whose lives have been enriched by pursuing history wherever it leads them. "I've always been interested in history," says Bob. "Yes," Pat chimes in, "and he remembers it all."

Medical career

While he was at the University of Michigan, Bob minored in history. He later received a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania, interned in New York City and served a residency at County General Hospital in Los Angeles, where he decided to practice pediatrics. Bob recently retired after 40 years of practice, but throughout his career he has enjoyed history—as student, traveler, docent and collector.

Garden history

Pat, too, was a history enthusiast early on. After receiving a liberal arts degree from the University of Chicago, marrying Bob and settling in San Marino, she became a docent for the Huntington Gardens and used that avocation as a springboard for learning about the history of plants and gardens.

Love of Asian art

The couple's travels have included visits to gardens recommended by Huntington botanist Fred Boutin. After several

trips to China and Japan in the late 70s and mid-80s where they visited some of these gardens, they became enchanted with Asian art. Eventually they put together two outstanding collections, one of Chinese paintings, the other, ceramics. Because the Magrills appreciate both the beauty and the potential for teaching that art provides, they have donated one collection to Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Greek myth and opera

The couple's children also have developed interests in history, each in a uniquely different way from their parents.

In February their son Samuel, who is a professor of composition and theory and composer-in-residence at the University of Central Oklahoma, conducted the premiere performance of the one-act opera "The Gorgon's Head" for which he composed the music and co-wrote the libretto. The story is based on a Greek myth as told by Nathaniel Hawthorne in his *Wonder Book* and *Tanglewood Tales*.

British Museum

The Magrills' daughter Pamela is an archaeologist on the curatorial staff of the British Museum. As Pat says, "It's a long story." But, in short, Pamela's introduction to cataloging at the Southwest Museum under the tutelage of Carl Dentzel and registrar Dee Ulrich eventually led to a position at the British Museum where she has catalogued 30,000 of the 60,000 artifacts recovered from the dig at Lachish, Israel. Lachish was a large city that was besieged by the Assyrian king Sennacherib in 700 BC.

HSSC salutes the Magrills

Bob and Pat Magrill, enthusiastic members of the Historical Society of Southern California, are living proof that history enhances life in many ways.

SAVE THESE DATES

November 21

Saturday
10-4 pm

Discovery Tour

Self-guided tour to artists' homes and studios
Tickets available at Lummis Home
(See page 9)

November 22

Sunday
2 pm

Book Talk & Signing

Charles Johnson
1898: Charles F. Lummis, Building El Alisal Before the Turn of the Century
Lummis Home
Book available for \$5.95

December 5

Saturday
2-4 pm

Holiday Open House

Lummis Home

December 6

Sunday
2-4 pm

Book signing by Julius Schulman

*Julius Shulman:
Architecture and Its
Photography*
Lummis Home

January 27, 1999

Saturday
8-4:30

History Conference

Los Angeles:
The City for the Future
Autry Museum
Space is limited.
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