



Norman Neuerburg

Endowment reaches \$1 million!

HSSC has reached a milestone in the 118th year of its existence—**one million dollars in cash in the endowment!**

At the same time the total assets of the Society have increased from \$127,000 (1987) to over \$1.1 million. In the view of the Board of Directors, this growth is absolutely critical to the Society's ability to maintain the high quality of its publications, programs, and educational outreach to teachers and the general public.

Three years ago, with the assistance of consultant Denise Martin, the Society launched a five-year, \$2.1 million endowment campaign with generous pledges from the Board of

Directors. This was followed by major grants from The Ahmanson Foundation and the Weingart Foundation, and a substantial bequest from the estate of Norman Neuerburg.

"Norman's gift" (the largest bequest in the history of HSSC), "dramatically put us over the top in terms of passing the \$1 million mark," notes President Sig Demke, "and reminds us of the importance of including organizations like HSSC in our wills."

Norman Neuerburg contributed much to the scholarship of history and art history, especially in two areas, antiquity and the California missions. Now, as a result of his generous bequest to institutions such as the Huntington Library and HSSC, he will continue to

contribute to the scholarship of history for many years to come. [More about Dr. Neuerburg in the next newsletter.]

Executive Director Tom Andrews reminds the board, staff and members that "even as we celebrate reaching \$1 million we must remember we are one-half of the way to our goal with two years remaining.

"Celebrating is appropriate," he adds, "but there is still much to be done."

The Historical Society of Southern California thanks each one who has contributed to the endowment, and pledges anew its commitment to be an effective steward of the investment and trust that has been placed upon it.

Photo: Suzanne Huddleson

History Conference looks at LA's last 50 years

HSSC's FIFTH ANNUAL HISTORY Conference was held at the Autry Museum of Western Heritage on Saturday, February 26. This year's event was scheduled a

month later than usual to accommodate the semester breaks of teachers and students.

The history conferences have analyzed the forces that shape Los Angeles as a city and a community. A different aspect of the city's history has been explored every year since 1996. Last year examined Los Angeles from 1900 to 1950. This year the theme "Los

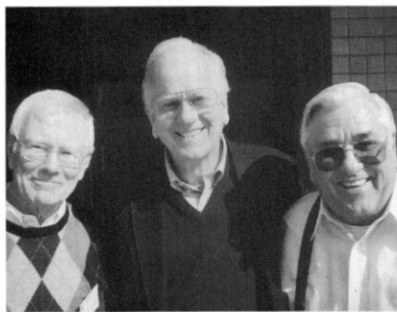
Angeles: City of the Future" focused on the second half of the twentieth century.

Martin Ridge, senior research associate at the Huntington Library and past president of the Historical Society, set the tone with his keynote address, "Revisiting Eden: Los Angeles 1950-2000." To round out the morning sessions, Arthur Verge traced the history of sports in Los Angeles, Phillip Goff examined L.A.'s role in the shaping of modern religion, and Dace Taube presented an overview of historical resources available in

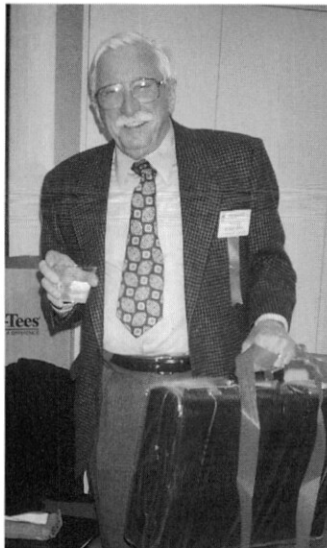
the archives of Los Angeles.

The once acclaimed flood control system in Los Angeles has in recent years fallen into disrepute. Jared Orsi traced the decline of its popularity in the first of the afternoon sessions. This was followed by a panel discussion by James Allen and William Flores on the third ethnic transformation this city has experienced. Raphael Sonnenshein then gave fascinating insights into the politics of Los Angeles, past, present and future.

As usual the conference ends with a wine and cheese reception hosted by the Whitsett Foundation. This year's celebration presented a special opportunity to honor Dr. Robert Blew who has been the key individual creating the conferences, securing the speakers, and seeing to every detail to assure the success of the events—all of this done as a HSSC volunteer. *Michele Clark*



Jerry Prescott, HSSC board member, Tom Andrews, HSSC executive director and Bill Coate, O'Flaherty Teaching Award recipient enjoy a sunny lunch break.



History Conference Coordinator Robert Blew beams with delight over the briefcase presented to him in thanks for his work on the conference.

Photos: Margaret Dickerson

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Year End Appeal receives record donations

The 1999 year end appeal, focusing on HSSC's educational outreach to teachers and schools of Los Angeles County, brought in a record \$26,000. The Society wishes to thank all who contributed to this important program.

A commitment to K-12

"The significance of our outreach to teachers," notes Tom Andrews, "cannot be overemphasized." Quoting the late Hazel Hertzberg of Columbia University, Tom agrees that, "There is nothing we can do that is more important than to develop within the historical profession a renewed and lasting commitment to the K-12 schools."

Partners with teachers

This year's donations enable HSSC to continue its work on building a partnership between teacher-historians from elementary school through graduate school. The History Conference at the Autry Museum, the O'Flaherty Teaching Award, and sponsorship of L.A. County History Day are examples of this partnership at work.

The Decline of the Californios

A SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE SPANISH-SPEAKING CALIFORNIANS, 1846-1890

by LEONARD PITT



The book jacket of the first edition of *The Decline of the Californios*. Leonard Pitt, the author, is the first recipient of the Martin Ridge Retrospective Award.

Martin Ridge Award winner announced

The first winner of the Martin Ridge Retrospective Award is Leonard Pitt for his pathbreaking 1966 book, *The Decline of the Californios*, published by the University of California Press.

The award carries a \$500 cash stipend together with a specially bound copy of the book. It will be presented in May at the Society's Awards Luncheon.

Moving history of California

Inspired by Carey McWilliams' 1949 book, *North From Mexico: The Spanish-Speaking People of the United States*, Pitt, according to historian Ramon Gutierrez, wrote "one of the most moving

histories of California" and the first "from the point of view of the Californios."

Recently republished

Now a classic of California's ethnic history, *The Decline of the Californios* was republished last year in a new paperback edition—"a testament to its enduring scholarly legacy" and to "the importance of the questions Pitt posed" in 1966.

Len Pitt is professor emeritus of history at California State University, Northridge, and is the coauthor, with wife Dale, of *Los Angeles A to Z: An Encyclopedia*, published in 1997.

Join us
Saturday
May 6
at noon
for the
Awards
Luncheon
at the
University
Club
in Pasadena

Alice Coleman

Women of the Arroyo

When Alice Coleman married Ernest Batchelder in 1912 she moved into the bungalow he built at the edge of the arroyo in Pasadena. Usually dry, the arroyo is a streambed that runs from the San Gabriel Mountains in La Canada to the Los Angeles River at the southeastern end of Griffith Park.

ON JULY 27, 1873 ALICE EMMA COLEMAN was born in Beatrice, Nebraska, to Jennie and Theodore Coleman. Her family moved to California, first to Santa Clara, and then in 1886 settled in Pasadena where her father got a job at *The Pasadena Weekly Star*. Her mother became a teacher of English literature at the newly founded (1891) Throop Polytechnic Institute. Theodore later became the school's business manager.

Alice had two brothers, Frank and Charles, and a sister, Sarah. Both Alice and Sarah were attracted to music, an art in which women had considerable freedom at the turn of the century. Sarah became a pianist and teacher of piano as well as a minor composer. Alice also was a pianist (and organist) who, after studying with local teachers, decided to go to Boston for expert training.

Accomplished pianist

She stayed in Boston for ten years. Her teacher was B. J. Lang whom she described as "the foremost musician of Boston." She was also acquainted with the American composer and Harvard professor, Arthur Foote. In fact he and Lang played a four-hand piano arrangement of the orchestral accompaniment for Brahms' Second Piano Concerto with Alice as soloist at what may have been the first public performance of that work in America—which is to indicate that she was an excellent pianist and recognized as such in the Boston area.

Return to Pasadena

With prospects of a successful career before her, it is at first difficult to understand why in 1901 she would decide to return to Pasadena. The reason is embedded in her somewhat stilted prose: "In spite of a growing class of pupils and a promise for the future in the concert field, youthful aspirations for achievement in the larger field of the East were gradually replaced by a desire to be identified with the musical growth of my childhood home, Pasadena." Obviously Alice had a sense of mission that went beyond her devotion to music. She saw a small town that had aspirations for high culture

but little evidence of the fulfillment of its dreams. It boasted that it had more millionaires per capita than any other community in the United States, but wealth does not necessarily guarantee artistic excellence. She would fix that.

Founded Coleman concerts

What she never tells us is how she became so deeply involved with chamber music, at that time almost unknown to American audiences. There were many singers and singing societies and a few good orchestras but few string quartets or public concerts of chamber music. Whatever her inspiration, in 1904 she founded the Coleman Concerts, later the Coleman Chamber Music Association, devoted to ensemble playing. With only one interruption it has given a series of concerts each year since then.

Persuasive

Alice was a born manager. After establishing her concerts she wrote that "Long sessions at the telephone ensued, explaining chamber music to the uninitiated, encouraging the reluctant subscriber, and rejoicing in the frequent cordial responses." Her first concert was in the old Elk's Hall and featured Bedrich Smetana's string quartet, "Aus Meinem Leben" played by the Krauss Quartet, a group of first-chair players from the recently formed Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra (the Philharmonic would come later). With an evident desire to please the crowd with even more accessible music, she next presented a quartet of singers in Brahms' "Liebeslieder Waltzes" accompanied by herself and one of her most accomplished students. Finally the Krauss Quartet played Robert Schumann's Quintet in E-flat Major with Alice taking the fifth part.

Thus began a tradition lasting until her retirement in 1939 of her performing in at least one concert a year with a visiting ensemble.

Batchelder

by Robert Winter



A 1918 portrait of Alice Coleman shows her with knitting needles instead of at a keyboard.

Move to Pasadena Playhouse

The concerts that followed continued the policy of pursuing variety. There were no official Coleman concerts in the years between 1914 and 1921. When they were revived, the programs continued to be snippets rather than the major chamber music literature, but by the late twenties, the quality of ensembles and their programs, perhaps invigorated by a change of venue from people's homes to the new Pasadena Playhouse, greatly improved. Alice was able to bring the Pro Arte,

London, Flonzaley and Roth quartets to Pasadena. By the mid-thirties the great Budapest Quartet appeared almost every year—significantly, considering the conservatism of the early programs, the Budapest played Bartok.

It was in this period that Alice began to share her stewardship with others. In 1932 the concerts were incorporated as the Coleman Chamber Music Association and Leon Ettinger was employed as manager. As a kind of benediction Alice and her husband Ernest Batchelder, the designer and tile-maker, jointly received the 1936 Arthur Noble award, Pasadena's highest honor for civic virtue.

In fact since the twenties she and Ernest with their friend George Ellery Hale led a drive to create a Pasadena Art Institute which would not only have the usual galleries but would also include a recital hall for Alice's chamber music. The Great Depression intervened and the building designed by Clarence Stein, one of New York's best architects, was never constructed. It

may however be significant—or perhaps just coincidence—that when a new Pasadena Museum (now the Norton Simon) was finally built in the late 1960s it had a hall seating about 450 people, just about the size of the Coleman audiences in the thirties.

Alice Coleman Batchelder died June 17, 1947. Her Coleman Concerts live on.

Robert Winter, who lives in the Batchelder bungalow, is the author of a recently published book on Alice Coleman's husband entitled *Batchelder: Tilemaker*. The companion book, *Coleman: Musicmaker*, will be out soon. In 1993 Winter and co-author David Gebhard received HSSC's Donald H. Pflueger Local History Award for their book *Los Angeles: An Architectural Guide*.

Elizabeth Flemming Rhodes

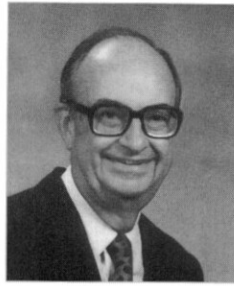
ELIZABETH FLEMMING RHODES DIED at age 84 on January 15, 2000. A long time member of the Historical Society of Southern California, she served as president of the Pasadena YWCA board and on many advisory boards including CalTech.

She was a poet and the author of three books, *Call Me Margaret*, *On the Fringe of Fame* and her autobiography, *Getting There*.

Betty, as she liked to be called, was born in Pittsburgh but came to Pasadena in 1929 and graduated from Westridge School. She attended Scripps College for two years and graduated from Wellesley College with honors as a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

We will miss her enthusiasm for getting involved in her community and her gift for sharing her life.

Taken from the Los Angeles Times



Doug Richardson

DOUGLAS RICHARDSON DIED peacefully at his home in Glendale, California on December 17, 1999, following a courageous battle with cancer. He was 70 years old.

Doug was president of the Historical Society from 1980 to 1982. He attended the University of California at Los Angeles, where he graduated with honors in English and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He also attended Harvard Law School, receiving his law degree in 1953.

Following graduation from law school, Doug joined the Los Angeles law firm of O'Melveny & Myers and later was a partner until his retirement in 1986.

Taken from the Los Angeles Times

George H. Whitney

GEORGE H. WHITNEY, THE OLDEST retired partner of the venerable law firm Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, who was dubbed "professional philanthropist" by his colleagues for his civic and community work, died on January 15, 2000 at age 85.

An Upland pioneer, Whitney lived on a citrus ranch in that city from 1916, when he moved there with his parents as a toddler, until his death.

A bibliophile and avid reader, Whitney served as president of the Friends of the Huntington Library and the Zamorano Club.

He was educated in private schools in Switzerland and at Claremont's Webb School. He earned an economics degree from Williams College in Williamstown, Mass., and a law degree from Stanford.

Over many years, he was a good friend to the Historical Society of Southern California.

From an article by Myrna Oliver in the Los Angeles Times

For Love of History Tributes

The HSSC Tribute Program to honor or remember family and friends.

**In Honor of
George A.V. Dunning**

Francine & William Baker

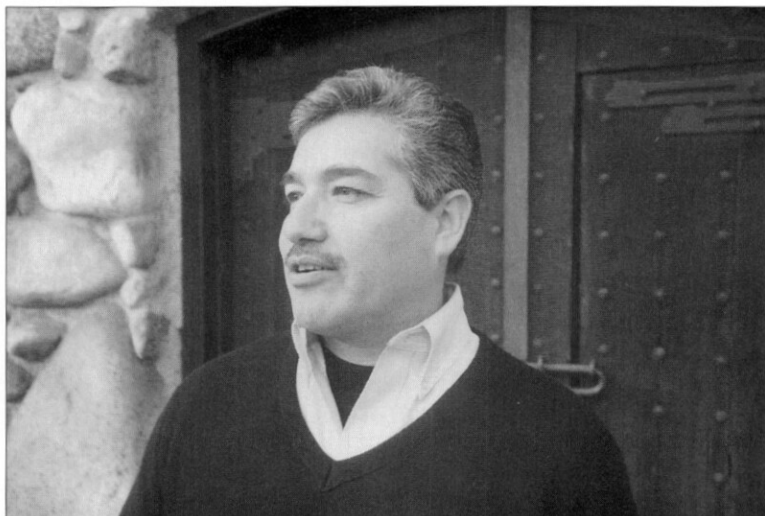
**In Memory of
Doug Richardson**

Mary & Bill Escherich
Tom Andrews
Margaret Dickerson
Carole & Michael Dougherty

**In Memory of
Bruce Lloyd**

Carole Dougherty

Meet Daniel Munoz



Daniel Munoz

Danny Munoz' collection of books, photos and ephemera on the history of Los Angeles is so extensive he is listed in the Getty Research Center's recent Los Angeles resource guide—an exhaustive listing of collections focusing on the history of Los Angeles. As might be expected, the guide lists many well-known public collections. But the highlight is its identification of little-known private collections—like Danny's.

Parents were avid readers

Both of Danny's parents were avid readers and instilled in their children the joy of reading. Danny's father always brought home his favorite newspaper, the *Herald Examiner*. Early on, Danny "got hooked" especially on the stories about the history of Los Angeles. He began putting some of his favorites in a scrapbook. Today Danny has 16 years of worth of articles from *The*

Herald Examiner—the Hearst-owned Los Angeles paper that closed its doors in 1989.

Amazing collection

When Danny, now 51, had to leave school at the age of 18 to help support his family, he first worked as a bus boy. For the last 15 years, Danny has been a waiter at Ed's, a restaurant in the middle of "Designer's Row" on Robertson Boulevard. At the same time he continues to indulge his interest in the history of Southern California.

He collects books on Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. He has early Los Angeles newspapers and telephone directories. He has menus and photographs—including panoramas. And, he collects historical society newsletters.

"I would like to have every newsletter from every historical society in Southern California,"

says Danny.

You'll find hundreds of obituaries, LA Central Library's card catalog, architecture books and magazines in his well-organized collection. Of course, you'll also find the *Southern California Quarterly*—except for some issues from the 1920s.

Friend of Leo Politi

Danny lives in a small cottage built in 1895 on Angelino Heights that he owns with his friend David Hiovich.

Among their neighbors was the artist and author of children's books, Leo Politi, with whom they became friends. In fact they were such close friends that Danny was with Leo Politi the evening before he died.

"He filled people's hearts with his paintings," Danny says. So it is no surprise to learn Danny has a nearly complete collection of Politi's books and many of his water colors from the 1930s and '40s.

Other commitments

Danny is one of the founders of the Echo Park Historical Society and was recently elected president of the Los Angeles City Historical Society. He is an advocate for preservation issues and has served two years on the commission reviewing exterior renovations in Angelino Heights' historic preservation zone.

HSSC salutes Danny and his passion for the history of LA.

Photo: Margaret Dickerson

**HSSC
salutes
Danny
Munoz**

Danny Munoz welcomes any historical society newsletters HSSC members and friends may wish to pass along to him. Contact Danny at (213) 250-2214

HSSC Awards Luncheon

Join us on Saturday, May 6 as we honor authors who have written accurate yet engaging history and teachers who are making history come alive for their students.

DONALD H. PFLUEGER
LOCAL HISTORY AWARD

Mike Eberts
*Griffith Park:
A Centennial History*

Timothy P. Fong
*The First Suburban Chinatown:
The Remaking of Monterey Park,
California*

William B. Friedrichs
*Henry E. Huntington and the
Creation of Southern California*

William McCawley
The First Angelenos

JOSEPH O'FLAHERTY
TEACHING AWARD

Naomi Calof and
Sandra Kligman
*Abraham Joshua Heschel Day
School, Northridge*

Merrell Frankel
*Berendo Middle School
Los Angeles*

Adria Metson
*Welby Way Magnet School
West Hills*

Linwood Thompson
*Bellflower High School
Bellflower*

Herman Ronald Vandermeij
*Toll Middle School
Glendale*

Museums of the Arroyo Day

The Museums of the Arroyo consortium (MOTA), the Lummis Home, the Gamble House, Southwest Museum, the Pasadena Historical Museum and Heritage Square Museum will celebrate the 11th annual MOTA day on May 21, 2000 by opening their doors free to the public from 11am-5pm.

The early Spanish and American settlers of the arroyo forged a distinctive and enduring culture. They were craftsmen, artists, and scholars from all walks of life who created a community based on an appreciation of art and nature, and a love of life along the arroyo. The Museums of the Arroyo preserves that sense of community by celebrating their art, architecture and history.

Join us on May 21 and learn about the spirit of the arroyo. Free shuttle buses connecting all five museums will allow you to park once and ride from one to another.

Each museum will feature different programs and exhibits, with food and entertainment at selected sites.

At the Lummis Home volunteers will lead tours of the house; art work from local elementary school children will be displayed in the courtyard; and visitors can enter drawings for books and prizes. Three hands-on garden workshops will be held where children and adults can learn about native and water-conserving plants, and even take home a transplant from the Lummis Home garden. *Tara Fansler*

Save These Dates

Saturday, May 6
12 noon

HSSC AWARDS LUNCHEON
*The University Club
Pasadena*

Sunday, May 21
11-6

MUSEUMS OF THE ARROYO DAY
*Lummis Home
Gamble House
Heritage Square Museum
Pasadena Historical Museum
Southwest Museum
Los Angeles & Pasadena
HOTLINE: (213) 740-8687*

Saturday, August 27
4-11:30pm

Tour, dinner and performance
PAGEANT OF THE MASTERS
LED BY
NANCY & JON WILKMAN
Laguna Beach

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