



Martin and Sally Ridge relax in the elegant foyer of the University Club in Pasadena before the luncheon honoring teachers and authors.

Teachers and Authors honored

Much of the news this past year regarding our schools has been negative, resulting in a tendency at times to blame the teachers. But blaming teachers is not the answer; they already have too much with which they must cope. As Martin Buber once said, "All real living is meeting, and teaching is end-less meeting." Teaching is a daily exercise in vulnerability.

O'Flaherty Teaching Award

What teachers need is *encouragement, support, and*

recognition. HSSC is working to provide that encouragement, support—and recognition. We celebrate and reward good teaching. Good teaching cannot be reduced simply to technique. Good teaching comes from the identity and integrity of the teacher.

In establishing the historical society's K-12 teaching award, Joseph O'Flaherty asked us to find teachers in the public, private, and parochial schools of Los Angeles County who make students aware of the power of history in their own *lives, who make students*

conscious of themselves as historical beings, and who see history as something to be experienced, not simply read about in textbooks. History is to be sensed, entered into, absorbed. He asked us to find teachers who awaken students to the extraordinary richness of historical texture that surrounds them every day.

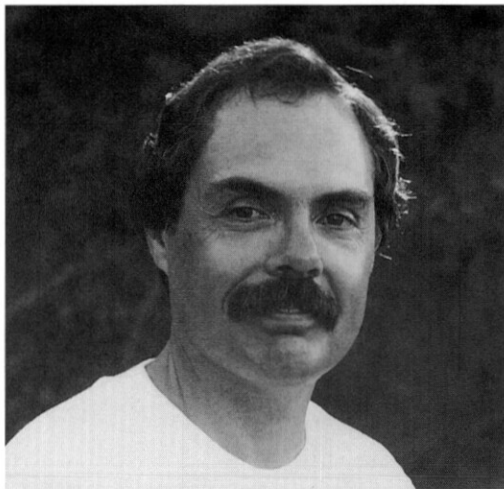
Pflueger Local History Award

In the 1980s the writing of local history came into its own, especially here in Southern California. Today it is alive and well and—in terms of histories of Los Angeles—it is exploding on the scene.

Donald Pflueger was a historian who deeply loved and promoted Southern California local history every chance he had. In fact he led the way with his histories of Glendora and Covina. And at the time of his death he had completed a history of Cal Poly, Pomona, scheduled for publication this spring.

Don believed that local history is the best history, the history with more of ourselves in it than other kinds. It is immediate and personal. It is the record of human living in its daily complexity, and the sense of place is strong in it. It's about "roots," and it answers our hunger to know more about who we really are. Don rolled up his sleeves and worked tirelessly in the trenches of local history.

Photo: Jon Wilkman



Mike Eberts

GRIFFITH PARK, with its 4,000+ acres and its more than 12 million annual visitors, is one of the great urban parks. As the park turned 100 in 1996 it received a most appropriate birthday present—its own definitive history, written by Glendale Community College professor, Mike Eberts.

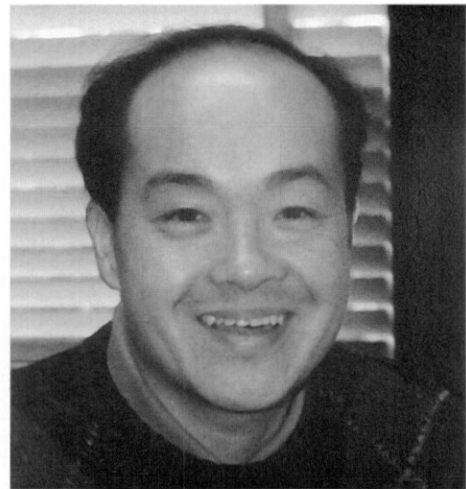
LA's outdoors

Here the complete story of Griffith Park is told for the first time, from the days of the picturesque Rancho Los Feliz, to the controversial Colonel Griffith J. Griffith and his sensational gift to the city of Los Angeles, to the building of the observatory, the Greek Theatre, the zoo, Travel Town, and more recently the Autry Museum of Western Heritage.

Here we are shown Griffith Park as the center of Los Angeles' outdoor lifestyle—its use by joggers, hikers, equestrians, golfers, tennis players, picnickers, wedding parties, school children, urban adventurers and the homeless.

Here we are shown Griffith Park as a reflection of Los Angeles—big, spectacular, profane, and multicultural. Here Eberts skillfully uses Griffith Park as a mirror for understanding Los Angeles. He finds in both the park and the city a remarkably complex, living, evolving mosaic. His examination of the people, events, problems and attitudes responsible for shaping that mosaic during the past 100 years is one of the strengths of the book.

With an engaging writing style, Mike Eberts pulls you into this compelling work of local history.



Timothy Fong

IN HIS BOOK, TIMOTHY FONG traces the social, cultural, economic, and demographic changes that took place in Monterey Park in the 1970s and 1980s, and the political reactions to those changes. This was the period when Monterey Park went from 85 percent white and 3 percent Asian to 12 percent white and 56 percent Asian. It may still be the only city in the continental U.S. with a majority Asian population.

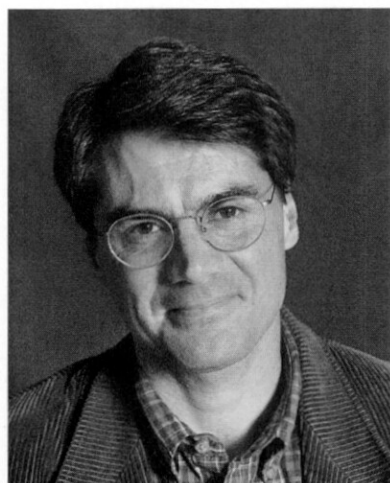
The *First Suburban Chinatown* is a marvelous case study in how this change came about. Fong provides important perspective on the forces that contributed to the surge of Asian immigrants into Monterey Park, the factors behind the rise of anti-Asian sentiment and violence, and the differences between Monterey Park and other Chinatowns.

Absorbing history

This is an extremely readable narrative history that takes you through a series of complex political events in Monterey Park—the English-only sign ordinance, the slow- or controlled-growth movement, and several sharply contested city elections.

Combining ethnography, oral history, and sociological imagination, Fong captures the range and fullness of human experience, the diversity and conflict of ideals, and the internal complexity of the community's situation.

Painstakingly researched, absorbing to read, this case study of new Asian immigrants versus the appeal of nativism is timely for our understanding of changes that are taking place around us today.



William Friedrichs

WILLIAM FRIEDRICKS' exhaustive research into Henry E. Huntington's "business triad"—his enormous control over electric railways, real estate development, and utilities (electric power generation and distribution)—is indispensable for understanding Southern California between 1900 and 1928.

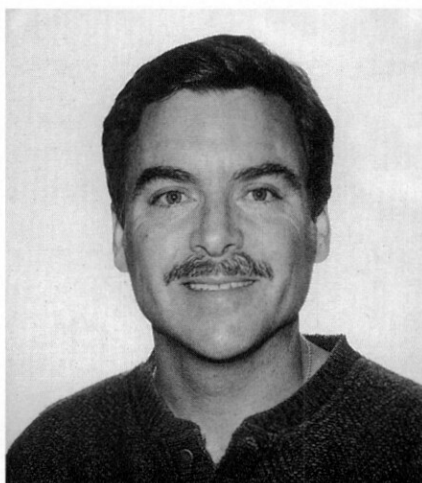
This is an impressive business biography as well as an important regional history. To learn how Los Angeles evolved into a major 20th century city, Friedrichs' book is a mandatory starting point.

The man who made things happen

In *Henry E. Huntington and the Creation of Southern California* we find the entrepreneurial Huntington who had the capital and the capabilities to make things happen. Here we find the creative risk-taker who was audacious and future-directed, and who by 1910 had built the largest interurban railway system in the world.

During these first three decades of the 20th century, in the absence of powerful local planning commissions, we find Huntington in effect becoming "city planner plenipotentiary" for all of Southern California. His solitary decisions about electric trolley routes certainly had a tremendous impact on determining the physical layout of the area. As a large-scale subdivider, he further dictated the socioeconomic mix of many of the suburbs.

In short, the vast outlays of capital he thrust into these industries propelled Southern California into a leadership position in the 20th century.



William McCawley

WILLIAM MCCAWLEY has produced the definitive history of the Gabrielino Indians, the first full-length treatment of them in more than 30 years, and certainly one destined to be the standard work for many years to come.

In *The First Angelinos* McCawley shows that the Gabrielino were more than just the first peoples of Los Angeles, for they ranged throughout Orange County and out to the Channel Islands. Here their range and cultural varieties are clearly delineated. They were a people of the inland valleys, the coastal plains and the Channel Islands.

Refreshingly accessible work

While not compromising his thorough research and scholarly documentation, McCawley has chosen to write in clear, non-technical language, producing a work that is refreshingly accessible to the general reader. The index, the many illustrations, and the comprehensive appendices will prove invaluable to the scholar as well.

Religion, ritual, life cycle, stories, songs, dances, and games contributed to a rich cultural mix within Gabrielino society. McCawley makes clear that this hunting and gathering tribe was advancing their culture substantially, without the benefit of agriculture, at the time of European contact. Diseases wiped out villages, crushed culture, and weakened resolve.

Chapter ten is an impressive synthesis of the "Gabrielino World in Transition," from the earliest outside contacts through the mission, rancho, and Anglo-American periods.



*HSSC
salutes
O'Flaherty
Teaching
Award
recipients*



Sandra Kligman & Naomi Calof

OUR FIRST WINNERS of the Joseph O'Flaherty Teaching Award are two third grade teachers from Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School in Northridge. Each is responsible for her own class of 26 students. The classes, in adjoining classrooms, make interaction and teamwork possible.

Together, Sandra and Naomi have developed a remarkable, integrated social studies unit on "Native American Cultures of the Southwest." The unit encompasses reading, geography, geology, history, anthropology, art, and science. It begins with the Chumash way of life which is then compared to the cultures of the Anasazi, Navajo, Zuni and Hopi.

Correspond with pen pals

An important ingredient in this unit is the year-long correspondence their students have with third grade pen pals in Chinle Primary School in Arizona. They exchange five letters each year thereby gaining personal knowledge of a fascinating culture

whose rich environment is brought into the classroom. Taking educational advantage of this electronic era, the students also use e-mail and websites to communicate and learn.

Students meet

Then in May the Heschel students visit sites in New Mexico and Arizona that they have studied. The highlight of the trip is meeting their pen pals at Chinle Primary School. (In fact the students and their teachers left for New Mexico the morning after the awards luncheon!)

Certainly the social studies unit and this hands-on cultural exchange is a life-changing experience for the students.

But it is made so by the high quality of teaching that goes on daily in the classroom, where the individual attention the teachers give their students and the variety of work their students accomplish is remarkable by any standard of excellence. Sandra Kligman and Naomi Calof create an exciting atmosphere for learning.

Photos this page: Jon Wilkman



Merrell Frankel

MERRELL FRANKEL is a 7th and 8th grade social science teacher from Berendo Middle School in Los Angeles where she has taught since 1981—a school, by the way, "adopted" by ARCO, one of the sponsors of the Award luncheon.

History, a living process

From the start you notice Merrell Frankel's tireless dedication to her students, her exemplary teaching skills, and the way she brings humanity back into the social sciences. A history lesson in her classroom is always a living process in which the students are active participants.

On her own initiative, Merrell is constantly mentoring other teachers, helping them secure grants, arrange for a field trip, locate resource materials. Her room is stockpiled with resources for teaching, which she generously shares with others. She is a model of how to bring the joy of good education into the classroom.



Adria Metson

ADRIA METSON is a fifth grade teacher at Welby Way Magnet in West Hills.

You notice in Adria Metson's class that her assignments are designed to develop critical thinking skills as she works to immerse all of her students in an integrated curriculum core of literature, history, geography, arts and crafts, music and math.

Variety of projects

She pulls a great deal from each student, being careful to concentrate on any areas of weakness. Her students do a variety of projects which keeps the learning process exciting and fun.

Every year her students create an American history quilt reflective of their study which goes on display and wins prizes at the Los Angeles County Fair.

Every year Adria also organizes a week's trip back east to a place of historical significance.

Adria is unassuming and unselfish in her determination to touch the life of each student.



Linwood Thompson

LINWOOD THOMPSON is a tenth grade world history teacher at Bellflower High School.

A 1997 California State Teacher of the Year, he is also a member of the Screen Actors Guild. These are his two loves and he combines them as a multi-talented educator when he lectures in costume as one of sixty plus historical figures.

Superior content

He brings to his lectures a masterful grasp of the subject matter, presenting superior content, making connections historically, but does not overteach—he allows time for the student and for learning to take place. His energy and enthusiasm for teaching history is contagious. There is great rapport between teacher and students.

His teaching comes from the heart, from his life-long love of learning. He reaches out to the students and is a model for them to become life-long learners.



Ron Vandermey

RON VANDERMEY teaches eighth grade history at Toll Middle School in Glendale.

His classes are a mixture of lecture and group activities where his knowledge of the subject and his clarity of presentation convey his deep love for history. Ron creates a climate of hospitality as he works to motivate his students to also love the subject and to sense its relevance to their lives.

He has both limited-English proficient students and gifted and talented students. He connects with both as he is sensitive to the differing needs of students and allows for those needs to be met.

Outside the classroom

Outside the classroom he is academic coach for the school, he oversees "History and Geography Night" for parents and students, he started the "Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl," he is after-school coach for GATE students and for the debate team—all part of his commitment to excite students about history.

Photo: Jon Wilkman



Caryl Gillies

CARYL GILLIES, a long time member of the Historical Society of Southern California, died on February 13. She was 74.

Caryl was a substitute teacher in the San Gabriel school district for more than 20 years and was active in the San Gabriel Historical Association, the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce and the Pasadena Assistance League.

Caryl and her husband of 52 years, David Kirk Gillies, faithfully attended HSSC's special programs.

Katherine Hoffman Haley

KATHERINE HALEY died at age 80 on December 25, 1999 after a long illness.

She spent her childhood on her parent's ranch, Las Casitas, in Ventura. It was there that Katherine's passion for horse racing developed leading her to raise champion quarter horses at Rancho Mi Solar, her later home.

Without fanfare, Katherine was a supporter of the Historical Society of Southern California. We will miss her.

Jack McKelvey

JACK MCKELVEY died in Pasadena on May 5 at age 86.

Jack will be remembered by Historical Society members as a dedicated garden volunteer. He was among the original group who worked to complete the waterwise garden at the Lummis Home. With his hat set at a jaunty angle, Jack took on any garden task. None was too big or small.

For Love of History Tributes

is the HSSC Tribute Program to honor or remember family and friends.

Thank you to the following who have made donations to HSSC in memory of their friends.

IN MEMORY OF DIRK CABLE

Patricia Adler-Ingram

Tom Andrews

Marie Burns

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cable

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Chute

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Mrs. Edna Smith

IN MEMORY OF TOM OWEN

Tom Andrews

Carole Dougherty

IN MEMORY OF ANTHONY KROLL

Doyce B. Nunis Jr.

IN MEMORY OF TED WEISMAN

Tom Andrews



Harry Volk

HARRY VOLK, who was a good friend to history and the Historical Society of Southern California, died on May 12 at age 94.

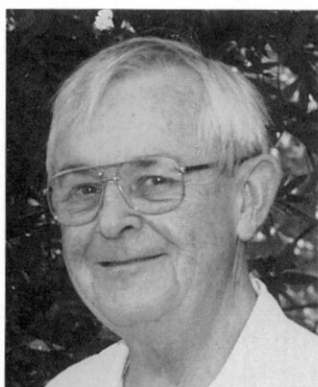
Volk earned business and law degrees at Rutgers University and divided his long career between two companies, Prudential Insurance Co. and Union Bank.

He came to Los Angeles in 1947, then 41 and the youngest vice president in Prudential history, to create the company's first regional home office as part of the decentralization of the mammoth company, which he helped engineer.

Because of his work with Prudential, which included originating the family life insurance plan and instigating the return of unclaimed funds to beneficiaries, Volk was recruited as chairman and chief executive officer of Union Bank in 1957.

After his retirement from Union Bank in 1980, Volk headed the Weingart Foundation, a wide-ranging charitable institution established after the death of millionaire businessman Ben Weingart, whose assets Volk had helped invest. During his tenure foundation assets increased from \$155 million to more than \$500 million.

From Myrna Oliver's article
in the *Los Angeles Times*



Dirk Cable

DIRK CABLE, 72, a longtime book dealer in Pasadena who was active in the close-knit community of Southern California book lovers died on April 2 in Pasadena of complications from surgery.

Born in Michigan, Cable grew up in Sierra Madre and graduated first from Pasadena City College and then UC Berkeley. After a lengthy career in the insurance industry, he opened his bookshop on Lake Avenue in 1972.

In addition to fine first editions, his store, Dirk Cable, Bookseller, carried maps and antique prints and was often a venue for authors to read from their works.

"What distinguished Dirk Cable as a bookseller was his great desire to connect people with books, whether they purchased the book from him or not," says Tom Andrews, executive director of HSSC. "His was a learning library as well as a bookstore."

In addition to the historical society, Cable was active in the Zamorano Club and the Friends of the Huntington Library.

From the *Los Angeles Times*

Tom Owen

THIS IS WHAT the late David Gebhard and Robert Winter said about Tom Owen in the 1977 *Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles*: "Tom Owen of the History Department of the Los Angeles Public Library must never die, for he retains even more material in his head than in his excellent files."

But Tom did die—on April 4—from an infection that began in his ankle and, despite amputation of his leg, spread to his lungs. He was 65.

"He was the indispensable man, the un-supervisable wonder, the self-deprecating walking encyclopedia of Los Angeles history," says Central Library librarian Glen Creason, who worked with Tom for more than 20 years.

Tom and the late Huntington Library researcher Ed Carpenter replicated Huntington materials lost after two arson fires at the library. He built the library's trove of historic photographs, unearthed details about Los Angeles' early movie palaces and meticulously typed information on index cards for the California File.

He labored happily in the library's History, Art and Rare Books departments, and manned his assigned shifts on the hectic information desk, fielding telephone inquiries, validating parking tickets and directing lost visitors in the vast library.

Despite his studies at Pasadena City College and the University of Redlands and his contributions to Los Angeles history, Tom always referred to himself as a "humble clerk."

From Myrna Oliver's article
in the *Los Angeles Times*

HSSC
mourns
the
loss
of
good
friends

Save
August 27
for
Pageant
of the
Masters
in
Laguna
Beach
with
Nancy
and
Jon Wilkman

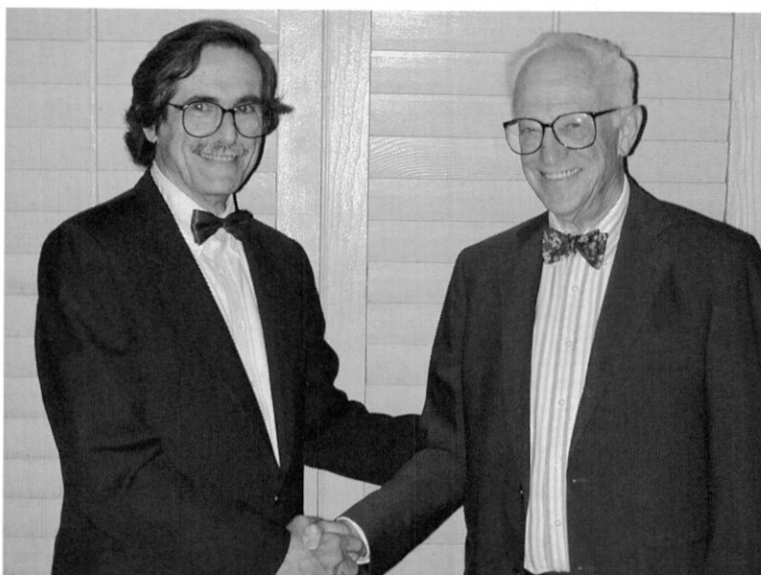


Photo: Jon Wilkman

Martin Ridge, right, congratulates Len Pitt on winning HSSC's first retrospective award.

Len Pitt adds bow tie to next Martin Ridge Retrospective Award

WHEN YOU THINK of Martin Ridge you think of his scholarship, his wit and, most likely, his bow tie.

Leonard Pitt, recipient of the first Martin Ridge Retrospective Award for his book *The Decline of the Californios*, takes no back seat in either the scholarship or wit department. While accepting the award, Pitt mischievously announced that he was adding a bow tie to the other prizes (which include \$500 in cash and the author's book bound in leather).

Len first paid tribute to his wife, Dale, calling her a wonderful editor who did a fine job of pruning words and straightening out ideas even as she raised their

young children.

"In the past 10 years we have witnessed a revival of interest in Southern California history," Len said. "It is reflected in the growing number of books, journal articles, and dissertations."

Over the last six years, he added, there has been an astonishing increase in the number of students enrolled in his upper-division Los Angeles history class at UCLA. This is an indication, he said, that "young people have a genuine hunger to learn about their city and its storied history."

Len graciously thanked HSSC for contributing to this awakening of Southern California history.

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