



Abe Hoffman, teacher and author of *Vision or Villainy: Origins of the Owens Valley-Los Angeles Water Controversy*, delivered the well-received keynote address at the conference.



Dr. Sandra Kamusikiri, dean of graduate studies, CSU, San Bernardino portrayed Biddy Mason, a slave who became a major philanthropist.

Mark your calendar
for next year's conference:
"Lives Worth Knowing:
The 20th Century,
1900-WWII."

History Conference 2001

ON SATURDAY, March 3, 2001, the Historical Society held its sixth Los Angeles History Conference at the Autry Museum of Western Heritage. This year's theme was "L.A. Lives Worth Knowing: History as Biography," in which the lives of 19th century individuals were explored.

Dr. Sandra Kamusikiri, dean of graduate studies, CSU, San Bernardino, portrayed Biddy Mason, a slave who won her freedom in the courts and went on to become one of the city's wealthiest women and a major philanthropist. In an afterword, Dr. Kamusikiri explained that since Biddy Mason was illiterate little is known about her directly, and her life had to be recreated by bits and pieces from other works and lives.

Abraham Hoffman set the tone at the conference in his keynote speech when he looked at several important individuals who have never had a biography, have had a very inadequate biography or a biography so old it should be updated. He spoke of Harris Newmark whose *Sixty Years in*

Southern California is one of the best known autobiographies of late 19th century leaders. The book tells what happened to Newmark and the city, but it tells very little about Newmark himself. We know of Antonio Coronel's public service and many have seen photographs of him playing his guitar—but not much else.

Another speaker, Paul B. Gray—an attorney and author of *Forster vs. Pico: The Struggle for Rancho Santa Margarita*—delved into the life of Francisco P. Ramirez. Ramirez in his teens was the Spanish language editor for the city's first newspaper, *The Star*. He went on to become the editor of Los Angeles' first Spanish language newspaper and an attorney. But why did he disappear so completely in Mexico?

Mike Eberts, professor of mass communication at Glendale College and the author of *Griffith Park*, explored the life of Griffith J. Griffith whose name is one of the best known in town. In spite of name recognition little is

known about him by the average person. Dr. Eberts examined many of the myths about the man and clarified them or exposed them as frauds.

During a panel discussion, Cecilia Rasmussen, author "L.A. Then and Now" a weekly column in the *Los Angeles Times* and the author of *Curbside LA* and *LA Unconventional* and Ron Woolsey, instructor at Bishop Amat High School, Citrus and El Camino colleges, explained how to find these lesser known individuals and how to go about researching them. Marva Felchlin, manager, Research Services, Autry Museum of Western Heritage, helped broaden the audience's understanding of research by taking them on a virtual trip through the Autry's archives.

Next year's conference is a natural follow-up, covering lives worth knowing in the 20th century from 1900 through World War II.

by Robert W. Blew
Photos: Margaret Dickerson

Internet Site Offers Info and Boosts Membership

THANKS TO JON WILKMAN, Historical Society of Southern California Board Member, we launched our website, www.socalhistory.org, in 1999. Executive Director Tom Andrews describes the site as "furthering HSSC's mission to share history not only with the people of Southern California, but with others across America and the world."

As HSSC's volunteer webmaster, Jon designed, created and maintains the site. But volunteers such as Al Greenstein made major contributions to the content. Al, husband of Board Member, Sandra Burton, an early enthusiast for a HSSC web presence, wrote a number of original biographies. Board Member Stephen Kanter was also an early HSSC Internet activist.

Since its launch the site has accumulated 14,000 "hits," representing people who have logged on to learn about the Historical Society and take advantage of the valuable resources which it offers. On the website users can find biographies of significant Southern Californians, lists of Historical Society publications, recommendations for books on Southern California history, a calendar of HSSC and other history related events taking place in the area. And a detailed chronology of Southern California is also only a mouse click away, as are links to other history-related websites.

Perhaps the most telling evidence of the website's effectiveness so far is the impact it has had on membership. One third of the new mem-

bers the Historical Society added last year through non-marketing methods came from the website. HSSC Membership Manager Tara Fansler said, "Not only has the website helped us boost our membership, but it is helping to create the geographic diversity in membership that we have been striving for. We are starting to see that a

large percentage of those who joined online last year live outside L.A. and Orange counties, as well as out of state, adding members from Nevada, New Hampshire, Colorado, and Georgia."

The website may be helping us take HSSC's mission to

people further afield, but it is designed with you in mind. Log on to review up-to-date itineraries and announcements, see the photo gallery from recent events, or send us your comments and concerns. The biographies, time lines, and history links will definitely enhance your enjoyment of Southern California history, and its up-to-date information will help you make the most of your HSSC membership.

"As we continue to enrich the content of our site," said webmaster Wilkman, "I hope HSSC members will 'click on' regularly for the latest news. And even better, I hope they consider contributing to its content. We're always looking for additions, corrections and opinions, but also for more biographies, articles and suggestions for new links to other sites. I'd love to see the HSSC website become a true community gathering place for lovers of history."

"I'd love to see the website become a true community gathering place for lovers of history."

Jon Wilkman
Board Member &
Volunteer Webmaster

"Our website is helping to create the geographic diversity in membership that we have been striving for."

Tara Fansler
HSSC Membership Manager

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Phone: (323) 222-0546
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Office Hours Mon-Fri 9-5

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La Puente Valley Historical Society: The Beginning

*When I read the minutes of the first meeting of the La Puente Valley Society, I smile. When I read the list of names of those who attended, I **have** to smile, I know almost everyone mentioned; many are my relatives, some I have known from birth. I know that those few paragraphs of minutes, typed, single-spaced, do not begin to describe that gathering.*

Cecilia Lower Victor

The first meeting of the La Puente Historical Society took place at the home of George and Carrie Lower, my parents. Both of them were avid amateur historians. They collected antiques and they gathered family histories. George grew up in Kansas hearing his grandfather's tales of the Civil War. Carrie, born Carolina Rowland, was a great-granddaughter of pioneer John Rowland. She had grown up absorbing the family stories, stories that included the names of many other early California families. My father found this fascinating, and, once he became part of the family, he became quite an

authority on local history.

This first meeting took place on October 9, 1960. The timing was determined by events at the end of 1959 and early 1960.

When Lillian Hudson Dibble, granddaughter of John Rowland and his second wife, Charlotte Gray, died in December of 1959, Lillian willed her home, the stately, two-story brick house built in 1855, to the school district. But for many reasons, the school district was unable to care for a historic building filled with furniture, old documents, and artifacts from the three generations of Rowlands who had lived there.

So, with the formation of a historical society, an arrangement was made whereby the historical society would tend to the care of the home, restoring and preserving what they could and exhibiting it to the public. Lillian Dibble had requested in her will that the property be used for educational purposes. The society could fulfill her wish.

The nineteen people to come to the Lower's house that evening in 1960 had their work cut out for them.

LA PUENTE continued on page 4

The Rowland Home, circa 1910, now the home of the La Puente Valley Historical Society, where Cecilia Lower Victor is curator.



My
Brush
with
History
by
Cecilia
Lower
Victor

"My Brush with History" is a feature that occurs on an irregular basis in the *Southern Californian*. Members are invited to send stories about their "brush with history" for publication.

Five of them were first cousins. They were great-grandchildren of John Rowland and his first wife, Encarnación Martinez, whom he had married in New Mexico. They were Carrie Lower, Leonore Rowland, Ruth Pilaria, Zenobia Hernon and Raymond Sanchez.

Carrie Lower was the eldest daughter of William Ygnacio Rowland and Rafaela Yorba. Leonore Rowland and Ruth Pilaria were sisters, the daughters of John Rowland III, and Alice Karstens, of San Francisco. Ruth was married to Gratian Pilaria, the handsome, out-going son of a local French Basque family. Leonore Rowland was considered the family historian. She had written and published several Rowland histories long before anyone else thought to do it. The three cousins were very much alike—small, soft-spoken, smiling and gracious.

The other first cousins—Zenobia Hernon and Raymond Sanchez—were brother and sister, the children of Margarita Rowland Sanchez and Francisco Sanchez, the son of Juan Matias Sanchez. Zenobia was well known for her sense of fun. Her anecdotes were usually a cause for laughter. Married to the steady Byron Hernon, Zenobia was as gregarious as her brother, Raymond Sanchez, was calm and quiet. His eyes twinkled and his voice was soft. He and his wife, Carrie Cota, were the parents of identical twin girls.

The history of La Puente is the story of the Rancho La Puente's two pioneers: John Rowland and William Workman. How appropriate, then, that two great-grandsons of William Workman, with their wives, could attend this formative meeting. Thomas Workman Temple II, was, of course, THE authority on early California families. Historian and genealogist, he seemed to have every family's history at his fingertips. Beyond his wide knowledge in the field, he was wonderful company. Thomas and Gabriela, a member of the old Quiroz family, lived in San Gabriel. Walter P. Temple Jr., and his wife, Nellie, lived in La Puente. Walter was our town's favorite artist, best known for his paintings of old buildings, most of which no longer exist. His wife, Nellie, was a part of the distinguished Didier family, one of several French groups in this community. Conversation with the Temples was always entertaining, full of amusing anecdotes and subtle humor.

Two ladies, not related to the Rowlands or the Workmans by blood, could have been considered "family." Each was born here, schooled here, worked here and died here. They knew everybody and everyone knew them.

Miss Emilienne Rambaud lived all her life in the house her father, Emile Rambaud, built just before the turn of the century. For years she taught at La Puente's Central School, at the elementary level, in the program of "Americanization" of non-English speaking children. In her later years, she dictated a reminiscence of her visits to the Reed home, which was the home of John Rowland's daughter, Nieves, and her husband, John Reed. When Emilienne went to this home it was occupied by Nieves' brother, William R. Rowland, who had served several terms as sheriff of Los Angeles County. This tiny lady, mighty in the strength of her character, was feisty to the end of her days.

Nellie Cross was another independent, out-spoken lady. She was the widow of George Cross, one of the most respected men in the community for his business acumen and his integrity. Nellie delighted in telling why her mother was named "Nieves." In 1842, Nellie's maternal great-grandfather, Santiago Martinez, came to California from New Mexico with John Rowland. This was Rowland's second trip from Taos, when he brought his wife, Encarnación, and his children to the rancho. Once here, the son of Santiago Martinez, Demetrio, married Concepción Vejar. They built an adobe home in Walnut, east of La Puente. There Nellie's mother was born and baptized "Nieves." The godparents of the new baby were Nieves Rowland Reed and John Reed. Nellie was so proud of this connection to the Rowlands. Six others attended the first meeting of the founding of the La Puente Valley Historical Society. They were Mr. and Mrs. Edward Werkman, the editor of the local newspaper; Mr. and Mrs. John Guest, both teachers; and Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Morris, whose address is given as "Avocado Heights," that area now known as Hacienda Heights.

The business conducted at the meeting was to choose officers.

The group agreed to name George Lower, president; Walter Temple, vice president; Leonore Rowland, secretary; John Guest, treasurer.

Today, next-generation members of these same old families are still with the La Puente Valley Historical Society. Taking care of the Rowland home is still the focus, even though the situation has changed and the old house needs more care today than was needed forty years ago.

Sometimes our meetings are quite lively. Sometimes there are moments when laughter goes ricocheting around the room, as it must have at that first meeting. Laughter is a wonderful legacy.

CECILIA LOWER WICTOR grew up in La Puente, but in 1957 she went to Venezuela to teach in an oil company school. There she met Iwan Edward Wictor. They married and lived in Venezuela—where all five of their children were born—until 1972. Before coming back to California in 1984, they lived in Texas, the Netherlands, Norway and England. Cecilia is curator of the La Puente Valley Historical Society, following in the footsteps of her mother, who was the first curator.





HSSC ANNUAL REPORT

Published by the Historical Society of Southern California

1999 Annual Report

To HSSC Members

THE YEAR 1999 WAS AN outstanding year for the Historical Society.

Four important books were published, including biographies of John Stroud Houston and John Rowland and William Workman, a history of the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation, and a photo essay of the turn-of-the-century photographs of Charles Francis Saunders.

A new website (www.socalhistory.org) was created providing links to other historical sites, and the first of two history conferences on Los Angeles as a 20th Century city was held at the Autry Museum. The educational outreach program to K-12 teachers of history was strengthened by the endowing of the teaching award in honor of Joseph O'Flaherty.

Research and publication about Los Angeles continues to flourish. In this, HSSC plays an important role with the HSSC/Haynes Research Stipends, distributing \$40,000 in small grants during 1998 and 1999.

In addition, the endowment continues to grow towards the \$2 million goal. History is alive and well in Southern California where HSSC welcomes your involvement!

Siegfried G. Demke
President
March 31, 2001

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CASH FLOW ANALYSIS JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1999

	January 1, 1999 through December 31, 1999
Beginning cash	54,963
Membership dues	73,090
Investment income	52,443
Donations	193,406
Book sales	42,715
Quarterly publication donations	49,160
Events and programs	41,409
Administrative fees	4,894
Increase in reserve and fund accounts	279,626
Increase in payables	-
Prior period adjustment	-
Stock sale proceeds	-
Receivables collected (incurred)	-
Decrease in book inventory	10,078
Charges to reserved funds	0
CASH RECEIPTS	746,822
Cash available	801,785
Operating expenses	(419,170)
Securities purchased	-
Increase in book inventory	-
Increase in investments	(252,011)
Decrease (increase) in payables	(9,447)
Decrease in reserve and fund accounts	-
CASH EXPENDITURES	(680,628)
Ending cash balance	121,157

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET (unaudited)

ASSETS		
*Cash, checking & money market		December 31, 1999
Other current assets		\$ 121,157
**General investment		47,398
Restricted assets		15,335
		<u>856,861</u>
		\$1,040,751
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		\$ 1,340
Unrestricted net assets		113,731
Restricted funds		<u>925,680</u>
* Cash in bank, checking. Cash, Charles Schwab		\$1,040,751
**Inventory, book inventory, quarterly.		

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The following donors have contributed over \$257,795 during 1999 in support of the publications, general operations and special projects of the Society.

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Al Greenstein and his wife Sandra Burton Greenstein at the reception for Pflueger Award recipients.

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Jon Wilkman, above, and his wife Nancy led the Asian experience tour which included a visit to the Japanese American Museum.



Betty and Dick Brill with Caddie Grenier celebrate the state's Marino. After dinner Caddie's father, Judson Grenier, author of a lecture on the life of California's first state controller, John St.

HSSC Board Support

The Board of Directors has proudly reported 100 percent participation in its annual Board Giving Campaign. The following members of the Board have collectively given over \$95,128 to the operations and special projects of the Society.

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Corrections welcome

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Sesquicentennial at the Old Mill in San
 r of Golden Odyssey, gave an illustrated
 oud Houston.



Dee Ulrich, Robert and Pat Magrill enjoy a cup of hot mulled cider at the
 Society's annual Holiday Open House at the Lummis Home.

Photos: Michele Clark

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IN MEMORIAM

KIRK HELM, MEMBER of the Board since 1991, died on December 7, 2000 at age 84. During his forty-year career as an architect, Kirk left his mark on the local histories of communities from Syracuse, New York, to Knoxville, Tennessee to California. In each of these, Kirk designed buildings and facilities of every type—schools, stadiums, manufacturing plants, homes libraries, churches and hospitals.

He enjoyed many interesting assignments, but perhaps his most historical was that given him by the US Civil Service to design support buildings for the famed Manhattan Project to develop the Atomic Bomb.

Between 1957 and 1983, Kirk was a principal in the Pasadena firm of Neptune & Thomas, from which he retired to lead an active volunteer life with numerous service organizations, including the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics Committee.

When Kirk joined the Board of the Historical Society, he brought invaluable expertise to the care of the Lummis Home and an abiding interest in the history of Southern California.

At the same time he served as a docent at the Lummis Home, giving tours to hundreds of adults and students. We will miss his cheerful presence.

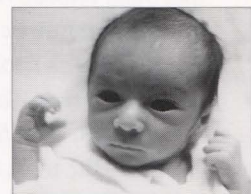
Denise Martin

ELINOR RANDOLPH IVES, M.D., passed away at age 95 on January 29, 2001. She served on the board of directors for several years, but is most fondly remembered for being a docent. Tom Andrews, with a grin, refers to her tours as an aerobics exercise. With a winsome directness and a lively pace, she delivered the full scoop on Charles Lummis.

At the same time she was professor emeritus in neurology at USC and was widely recognized for her pioneering work in the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy and other neurological disorders.

She will be missed.

Carole Dougherty



The Newest Lummis

Kai Fluru Chinen Lummis, Charles Fletcher Lummis's great grandson, was born on December 24, 2000 in Okinawa to Douglas and Yukino Chinen Lummis. Douglas tells us 'Fluru' means gentle rain. It is a name given to his son by his father Keith Lummis and who in turn was given the name by CFL's friends in the Isleta pueblo, New Mexico. Kai's great grandmother in Okinawa takes pleasure in giving him the nickname: 'Taruu' (Willful One). "It fits," says Douglas.

For Love of History Tributes

The HSSC Tribute Program honors or remembers family and friends. Thank you to the following who have made donations to HSSC. Donations help underwrite Society programs and publications.

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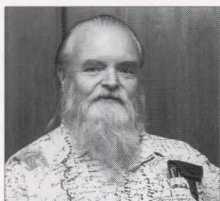
NEAL HARLOW, a distinguished librarian, historian and author who published five volumes on the history of California that are greatly prized by collectors and archivists died at the age of 92 on July 13.

HSSC named Harlow a FELLOW in 1989 in recognition of his lifetime work. At that time, Executive Director Thomas Andrews cited Harlow's 1982 book, *California Conquered: War and Peace on the Pacific, 1846-1850*, as "the most complete, balanced and readable account of the conquest yet published in a single volume."

Harlow earned a master's degree in library science at UC Berkeley where he was a junior librarian in the Bancroft Library. It was there he first became intrigued with historical maps.

Before he retired as dean of the Rutgers University Graduate School of Library Service, he headed the California section of the State Library in Sacramento and special collections at UCLA's Powell Library.

Excerpted from an article in the Los Angeles Times by Myrna Oliver



WILLIAM MASON, California historian and author, told us what our little pueblo was like when the 13 colonies of the Atlantic coast created the United States of America.

He told us what developed over the seven decades before and the century and a half after that village joined the new nation.

But most important, he told us long before the word "multiethnic" came to be intertwined with "Los Angeles" that the pueblo-cum-megalopolis had been multiethnic from its very first encampment in 1781.

Mason, long the curator of Southern California history at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, died on November 15, 2000 in the city he worked so long to explain. He was 69.

His untimely death is a loss for history.

Excerpted from an article in the Los Angeles Times by Myrna Oliver

MARGARET STORKAN, M.D., who often joined HSSC excursions, will be remembered as the diminutive, intrepid and cheerful lover of the history of Los Angeles. Dr. Storkan, a longtime HSSC member and a 50-year resident of Redondo Beach passed away on December 3 at age 81.

Dr. Storkan graduated from Creighton University School of Medicine exactly 30 years after her father had taken his degree there.

In the intervening years she served the poor and sick of Peru, Ecuador, Guinea, Nicaragua, Africa, Greece and Ceylon. She was a clinical instructor in the Department of Medicine and clinical professor of medicine at the University of Southern California.

She held consultant appointments to six institutions and agencies including the United States Public Health Service Clinic and the Los Angeles County Health Department and was on the staff of seven California hospitals. She will be missed

From the Los Angeles Times

FRANK WHEAT, a lawyer and avid environmentalist died in July 2000. He was 79.

In 1964, he was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson to serve on the Securities and Exchange Commission, an appointment that interrupted his service at the Los Angeles firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher until 1976 where he was respected for his work in securities law from 1948 until his retirement in 1987.

After his retirement, Wheat devoted his time to environmental causes and served on the board of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund. He was also active on the boards of the Center for Law in the Public Interest and the Alliance for Children's Rights, both of which he helped found.

He helped pass the California Desert Protection Act of 1994, which set aside nearly 3.5 million acres of California desert wilderness and created the Mojave National Preserve. It was the subject of his 1999 book, *California Desert Miracle*.

From the Pasadena Star News

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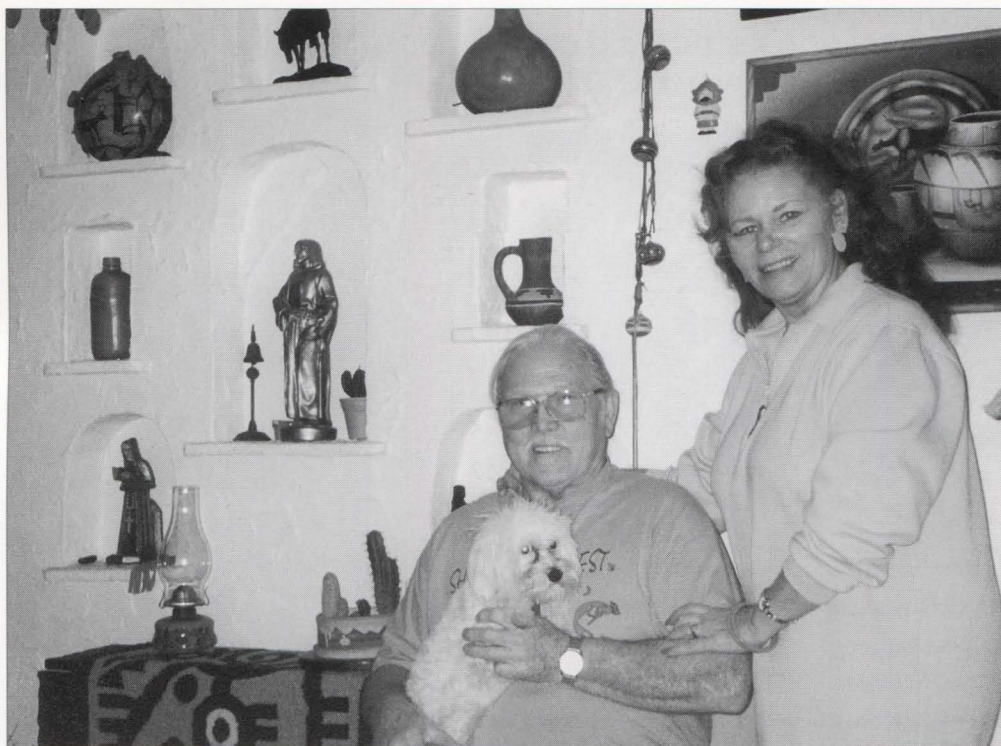
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Chuck Kane (holding Missy, their one-year-old Maltese) and Harriett next to the wall of niches Chuck designed and built.

Meet Harriett & Chuck Kane

HARRIETT AND CHARLES KANE'S LOVE OF western adobe interiors is obvious today. But it all started on a hot summer day in 1970. The two arrived at Los Encinos State Park to tour one of the adobes on the grounds before it was open and had to wait uncomfortably in the heat. When the Kanes finally were led inside, they were stunned by the coolness of the interior, a miracle achieved with no mechanical air conditioning.

It was then they began remodeling the interior of their West Covina ranch house, using thick stucco, rustic tiles and heavy beams—which Chuck (as he's usually called) gouged, sanded and aged—to capture the cool, early western way of living.

Today Mission-style furniture graces the rooms. A wrought iron arch—made by a friend—marks the living room entry. Clay pots and a collection of friar figures hang on walls or sit in niches. Books on western history fill shelves. It is surely a house that Charles Lummis would have loved.

Historic marker initiates searches

In 1969, the year before they joined the Historical Society, Chuck and Harriett's interest in the history of the West was piqued on a motorcycle trip through Death Valley. "A sign said, 'Historical marker 500 feet ahead,'" recalls Harriett.

That marker told of two emigrant parties separating and taking different overland routes, the Jayhawks and the Arcanes. Members of the Arcane

party survived while the Jayhawks perished. With this story of a fateful decision, the Kanes became hooked on western history.

After that for vacations Chuck and Harriett would choose a county, travel it north and south, east and west, looking for landmarks. Often they learned the landmarks were not where published guides said they were. Harriett kept notes, writing down the actual location, then sent corrections to the state Department of Parks and Recreation. The Kanes did this for 10 years. Eventually they met Knox Mellon, the state historic preservation officer, who thanked them. An irreverent Chuck sums up the story: "He got paid to do what we did for free."

"But we enjoyed doing it," adds Harriett.

Kanes have many other interests

Western history is only one of the Kane's interests. In 1963 Chuck founded a Harley Davidson Motorcycle Club. Today at age 72, Chuck is quite fit—he works out in his weight room five times a week—and still rides his motorcycle.

Both Chuck and Harriett love jazz (Chuck has an outstanding collection of records and compact discs, which Harriett organized) and both serve on the board of the Los Angeles Jazz Society. Chuck is second vice president and Harriett designs and makes the centerpieces for the jazz tribute and awards dinner each year.

*HSSC
salutes
30-year
members
Harriett
and
Chuck
Kane*



One of the several quilts with jazz motifs Harriett designed and made for the Los Angeles Jazz Society auctions

New
book
coming
soon

PASADENA SKETCHBOOK

by JOSEPH STODDARD



JOSEPH STODDARD who has become known for his charming watercolors of historic Southland sites has collected his sketches of Pasadena sites in a book called, appropriately, *Pasadena Sketch Book*.

Designed by Pasadena graphic artist Hortensia Chu, the book is co-published by Vroman's Bookstore and the Historical Society of Southern California. It will be available in early May.

"This is a book about Pasadena from an artist's point of view," says Stoddard. "It is a picture book and contains over 80 drawings, watercolors and colored sketches taken from my personal sketch books made during the last thirteen years. The images are very loose and informal and provide an intimate portrait of this historic city."

There is an illustrated map in the front guiding the reader through the city's neighborhoods in a logical progression from Old Town through the Civic Center, the Playhouse District, Caltech, the Huntington, then down to the Arroyo Seco, ending up at Eaton Canyon. Readers will want to take the book with them to explore the neighborhoods described.

The book is 112 pages long and printed in full color on premium paper stock. It is 8" x 10" in size in a horizontal format. Chapters are divided by a title page and a brief description of each area. The typography is elegant.

Support from The Ahmanson Foundation, The Ann Peppers Foundation, and a number of individuals has greatly assisted the publication of this book.

Historical Society of
Southern California
200 East Avenue 43
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Saturday, April 28, 2001

10 am-8:00 pm

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