



Meet HSSC President Larry E. Burgess

THE NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT of the Historical Society of Southern California, says he would like to “carry out [Executive Director] Tom Andrews’ dream—expanding the permanent endowment.” Larry Burgess would also like to see our website add excerpts of articles from the *Quarterly*.

Larry’s parents settled in Redlands in 1949 when Larry was 9 and he has been there ever since, although he left long enough to earn a master’s and doctorate from the Claremont Graduate University in 1969 and 1972. Larry has always identified with local and regional history. He knew early on that he would make a career in the field, “Nothing deterred me from that,” he says.

The Impact of a Visit to Smiley Library

One fateful day Larry went to the A. K. Smiley Public Library to check out a book and learned there was a part-time opening. He applied, was hired and within a year was appointed archivist. There as head of special collections, he supervised the California and local history collections and the extensive Civil War collections of the Lincoln Memorial Shrine. In 1986, he was appointed library director.

Today, in addition to his work at the Smiley Library, Larry teaches and writes. And he is prolific: A compilation of his writing runs five pages long. In 1995 *The Hunt for Willie Boy*, which he co-authored with James Sandos, was named the outstanding book on human rights in North America by the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Human Rights.

Larry lives in an 1890 Redlands grove house with Charlotte, his wife of 30 years. She is vice president and dean of student life at the University of Redlands.



Meet Board Member Marilyn F. Solomon

AS A CHILD MARILYN SOLOMON may not have realized the lively topical conversations around the dinner table were preparing her for the future. Both parents were activists: Her father was a member of the international staff of the United Auto Workers and a friend of Walter Reuther; her mother was a civil rights campaigner.

In 1968 Marilyn joined KCOP Television. Once there, Marilyn changed the format of an interview program she hosted by inviting minority groups to co-host the shows. Her goal was to present cross-cultural issues.

Awards and Community Involvement

Marilyn eventually became director of corporate relations and executive producer of information programming at KCOP. During her 25 years there she has won five Emmy awards for documentaries, news analysis, and children’s programs. She also received the du Pont award. She sits on the Board of Governors of both the L.A. County Natural History Museum and the City Club on Bunker Hill. With her husband, Allen, she operates a consultant company, the Solomon Group.

Right now, Marilyn is involved in two major endeavors: She is leading the selection of an executive director for the Julian Dixon Institute for Cultural Studies at the Natural History Museum. And she is researching the life of Biddy Mason, LA’s first successful black businesswoman, who will be honored by a room named for her at the City Club.

Marilyn says she is delighted to be part of an organization committed to exploring the history of Los Angeles and Southern California. In turn, HSSC heartily welcomes Marilyn Solomon to the board of directors.

Vroman's and HSSC: A Partnership in Books

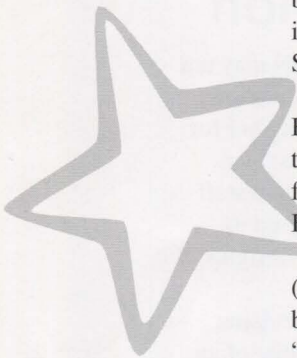
TO PARAPHRASE THE LATE AUTHOR and UCLA Librarian Larry Powell, "A community sleeps better at night with good book stores in it."

Certainly this has been true of Pasadena and its environs the past 100 plus years because of the presence of an independent bookstore like Vroman's.

Vroman's, for example, has promoted and sold all of the books published by HSSC since 1990. In addition Vroman's has co-published three important books with HSSC: *Pasadena Sketchbook* by Joseph Stoddard, *The St. Francis Dam Disaster Revisited*, edited by Doyce Nunis, and *Man-Made Disaster* by Charles Outland. HSSC is proud to partner with Vroman's in publishing the local history of Southern California.

But that's not the whole story. Vroman's also launched its "Gives Back" program in 1998 and as of June 30, 2003, has returned \$1,790 to HSSC. This is the one percent Vroman's donates to non-profits from book sales to those who designate that non-profit for the "Gives Back" donation.

HSSC is honored to be listed in Vroman's "Gives Back" program (we are number 6 on the list of non-profits). When purchasing your books from Vroman's please indicate HSSC as your choice for the "Gives Back" 1% donation. And remember, you are not only helping HSSC, you are helping an ever-enlarging community sleep better at night!



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The Historical Society of Southern California
presents the 2003

Awards Luncheon

JOIN US
Saturday, October 4
at The Huntington Library
as we honor authors
who have researched and written
exceptional books on Southern California history.

Donald H. Pflueger Local History Award

Clark Davis

*Company Men: White-Collar Life & Corporate
Cultures in Los Angeles, 1892-1941*

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Martin Ridge Retrospective Award

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The Water Seekers

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Norman Neuerburg Award

Rose Marie Beebe

Robert Senkewicz

*The History of Alta California: A Memoir of
Mexican California* by Antonio Maria Osio

Doyce B. Nunis Jr. Award

Clark Davis

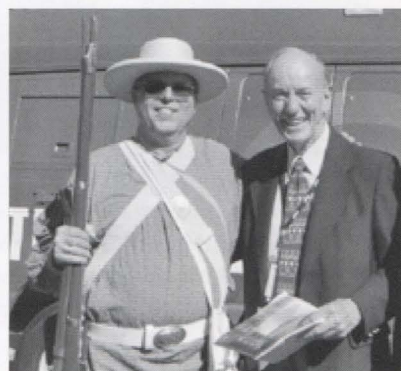


LA Councilman Antonio Villaraigosa and HSSC board member Jon Wilkman stand in front of the Pico House.

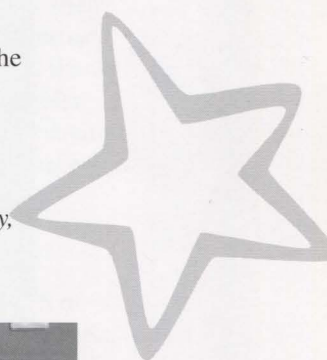
HSSC Receives Award from LA

ON JULY 4, 2003 Los Angeles reenacted its first 4th of July celebration which took place in 1847 at Fort Moore, overlooking today's El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Park. There was a parade, a flag raising at Fort Moore, the firing of muskets, music by a fife and drum corps and Aztec Indian ceremonial dances. The event was capped by a Mexican luncheon in the courtyard of the 1818 Avila Adobe on Olvera Street.

HSSC was honored by the city because our journal, the *Southern California Quarterly*, was the source of research underlying the reenactment.

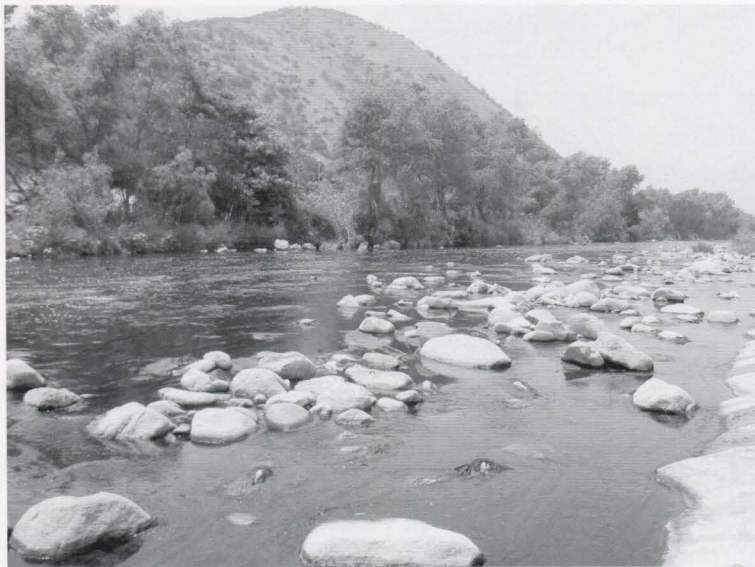


Channel 5's Stan Chambers, right, covers the event.



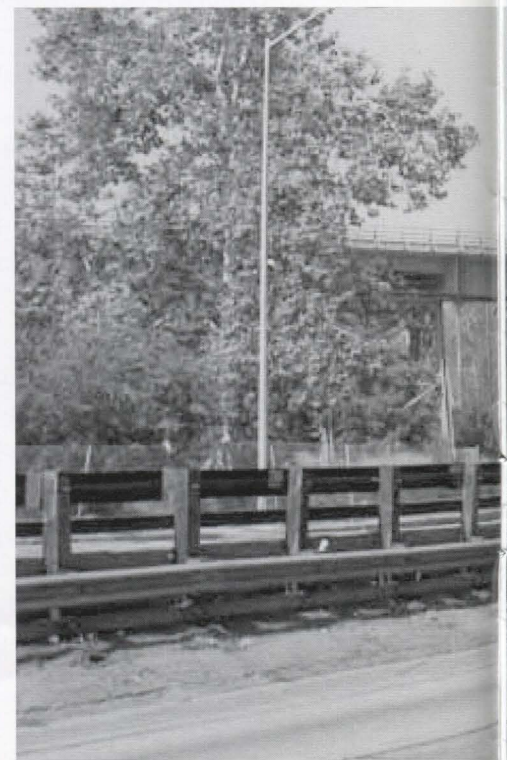
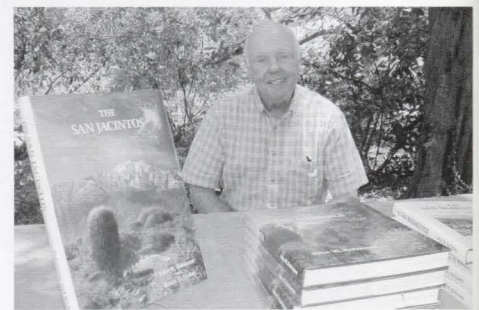
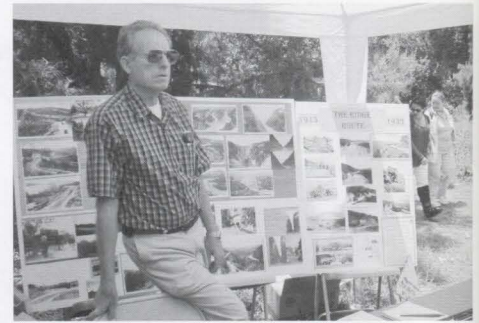
ANOTHER SPECTACULAR outing was produced for the Historical Society by Jon and Nancy Wilkman on Sunday, June 8, when a busload of adventurers toured the Los Angeles River. The excursion began in the Sepulveda Basin at the Balboa Wildlife preserve where guests viewed the river wetlands and had a chance to experience what the area might have been like before agriculture and urban settlement forever changed the valley floor. A tour of the Tillman Water Purification Plant and Japanese Garden followed. After lunch, the group made its way along the river to Cornfields Park in downtown Los Angeles, stopping at various points of interest along the way.

LA RiverTour

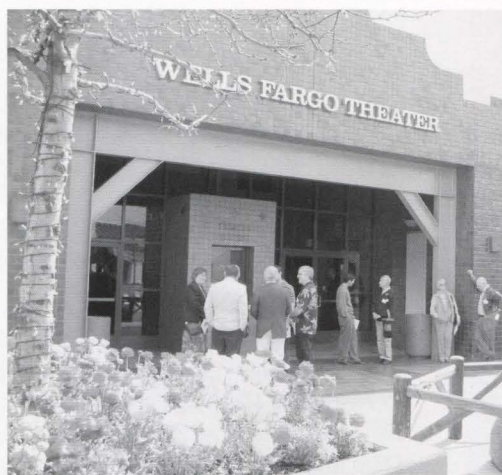
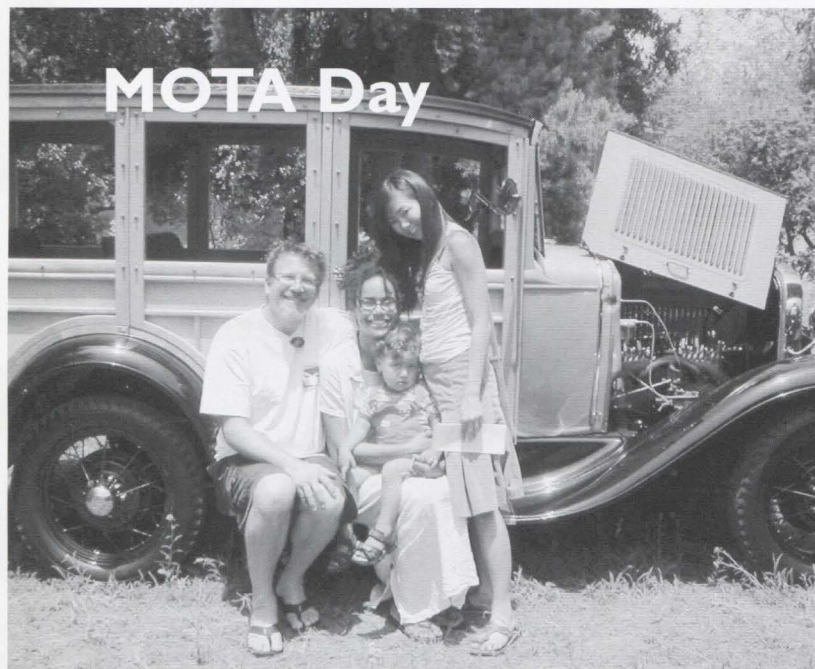


Our guides for the day were writer, environmental historian, Princeton and Yale graduate, Jennifer Price, PhD, and Alan Loomis, senior urban designer and graduate of the Southern California Institute of Architecture. Everyone left with an understanding of the important part the river plays in Southern California life.

THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL Museums of the Arroyo Day took place on Sunday, May 18. This is the day when five unique history-based museums along the Arroyo (the Lummi Home and Garden, Southwest Museum and Heritage Square in Highland Park and the Gamble House and Pasadena Museum of History in Pasadena) open their doors free of charge. Shuttle bus service provided

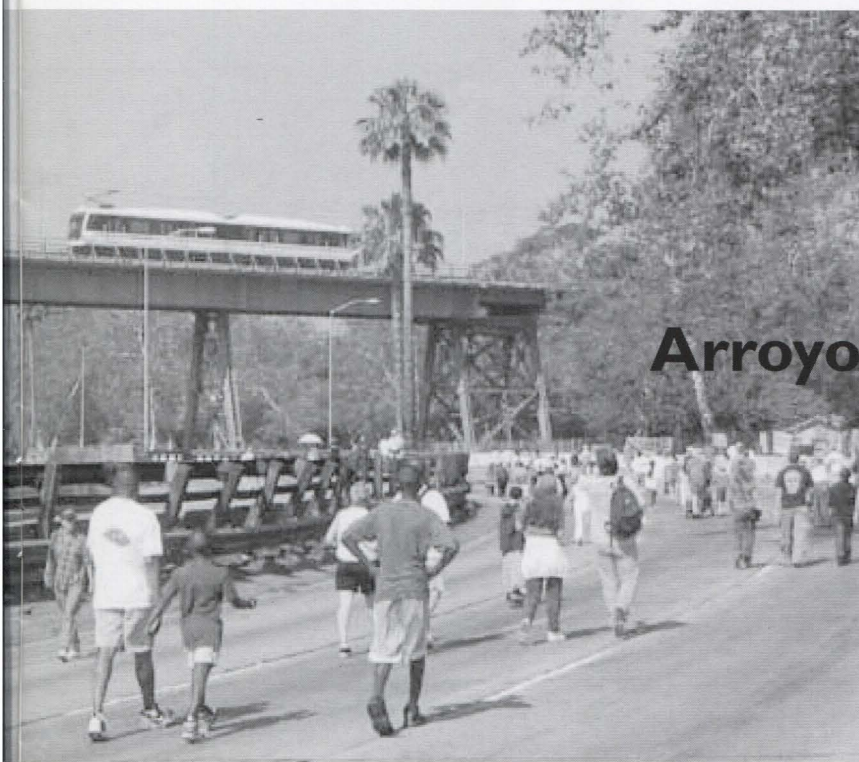


access to the venues and each museum provided special programs celebrating early Southern California life. This year, MOTA celebrated "100 Years of Transportation." In addition to touring the house and waterwise garden, MOTA visitors admired two of Mike Kniest's vintage Model As and heard tales of the exploration of the San Gabriel Mountains by historians, hiking experts, and authors Paul Rippens, John Robinson, and Willis Osborne. Harrison Scott, Ridge Route historian and author, joined us with a special display of his Tejon Pass treasures. And historian Daniel Lewis again delighted guests with his presentation of "Charles F. Lummis in Chautauqua."



History Conference

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL HISTORY Conference, "History as Biography: L.A. Lives Worth Knowing," was presented at the Autry Museum of Western Heritage on Saturday, March 1. This year's event featured speakers Becky Nicolaides of the University of California, San Diego, Greg Hise of USC, Elisabeth Orr, Long Beach City College, Regina Freer from Occidental College, Suzanne Muchnic, writer for the Los Angeles Times, and Karen Ishizuka and Robert Nakamura of the Japanese American National Museum. One of the highlights of the day was the presentation of O'Flaherty Teaching awards to Norm Heldwein of Crescenta Valley High School and John Ring of La Salle High School. Both were honored for their dedication and creativity in making history come alive for their students. HSSC thanks all the presenters as well as Los Angeles historian, Denise Spooner, who coordinated and directed this year's extremely successful conference.



ArroyoFest THANKS TO THE EFFORTS of countless volunteers, the Historic Arroyo Seco Parkway (also known as the Pasadena 110 Freeway) closed for pedestrians and bicyclists on Sunday morning June 15, 2003. Thousands biked and hiked their way down the freeway during ArroyoFest, an event that focused attention on the quality of life in communities linked by the Arroyo Seco. It took ten years of planning to persuade the state to allow the three-hour closure. Participants spoke of it as "a magical day."

My Brush with History: Memories

Kay E. Kuter is an actor who lives in North Hollywood. Mr. Kuter has performed in Shakespearean Repertory and Off Broadway "The Seventh Coin" and "The Hollywood Sign." He has also appeared in 435 television productions including stints as a guest

PERHAPS THESE MEMORIES will explain how delighted I am to know that HSSC has published books on the St. Francis Dam and Duncan Gleason.

St. Francis Dam

At the age of not quite three, possibly my earliest recollection of any event is a nighttime visit (why at night I have no idea) to a point near the dam site while crews were still at work under floodlights trying to clear debris and restore the washed out roads. My parents and I were prevented from going closer to the site by the authorities simply because there was no road on which to travel.

But that stark icon of horror pictured in the photo on the cover of *Man-Made Disaster*, as it darkly loomed in the background beyond the glare of the floodlights, is an image that has been etched forever in my memory.

Father: A Pioneer Art Director

My late father, Leo "K" Kuter, was a pioneer motion picture art director, a founding member and first secretary of the Cinemagundi Club whose membership was comprised of artists and art directors engaged in the movie business. (He was also a founding member, and president before his death in 1970, of the Society of Motion Picture Art Directors—now titled The Art Directors Guild).

Meeting Duncan Gleason

It was as a member of the Cinemagundi Club that he first came to know Duncan Gleason. Later, he and Gleason became members together of The Cape Horners, an organization founded by silent star Hobart Bosworth, all of whose members had either sailed 'round The Horn or had extensive marine experiences either in art or in actuality. In my father's case, as in Gleason's, it was both: as art director and having designed the ship for the John Robertson MGM silent film, "Captain Salvation" starring Lars Hanson, and designing the ships for the first "The Sea Hawk," coming perilously close to death in a fire on the boat carrying him and Duncan Gleason to the mainland from the film's Catalina Island location, off the coast of which the ships did battle.

Gleason at Warner Brothers in the '30s

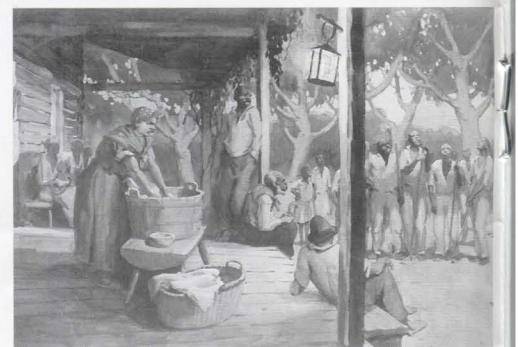
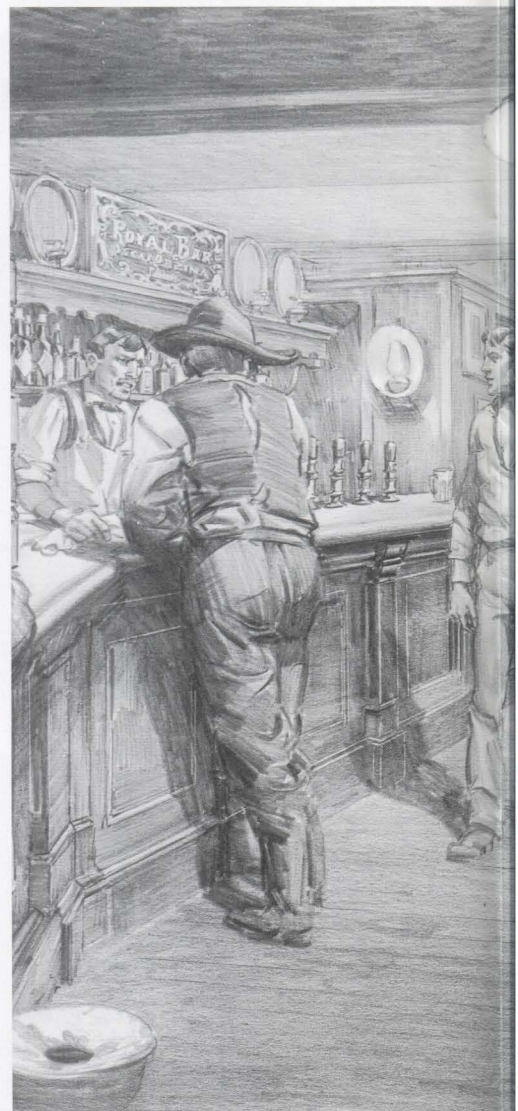
My father and Gleason continued their friendship and artistic association at Warner Bros. Studios where, in the 30s, my father was associate art director with the celebrated Anton Grot on many films, and for which Duncan Gleason was a set illustrator, including "Green Pastures," "Anthony Adverse," Errol Flynn's "The Sea Hawk," and "The Sea Wolf."

Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

In 1991 I donated to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences my father's 120 feet of

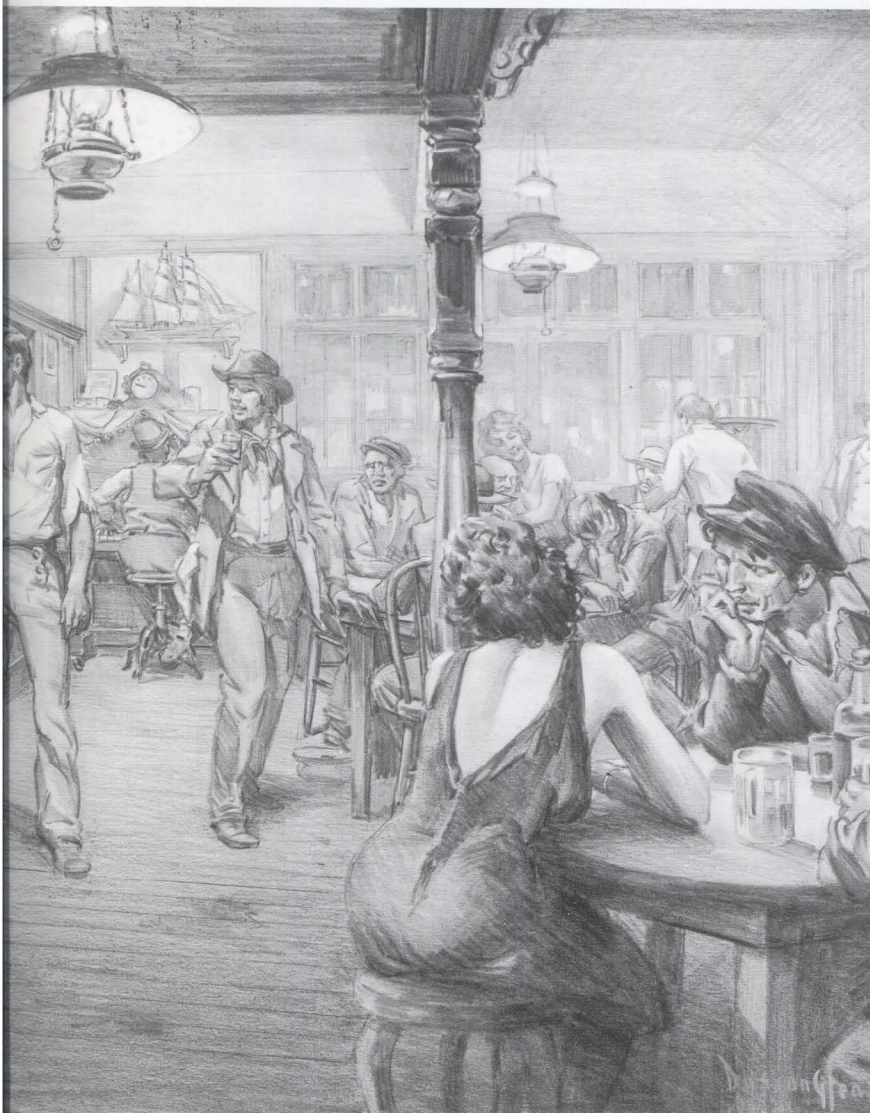
"My Brush with History" is an occasional feature of the Southern Californian. Readers are invited to submit their stories.

A photograph of the author and one relating to the story would be welcome but not necessary.

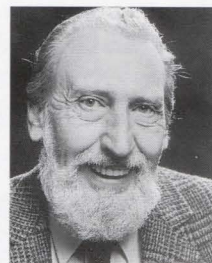


of St. Francis Dam and Duncan Gleason by Kay E. Kuter

down. His 50 feature films, starting with the original "Sabrina," have included "Guys and Dolls," "The Last Starfighter," "The Star in "Seinfeld," "Frasier," "The X-Files" and "Baywatch." This article is based on his letter to the Historical Society.



shelf-space collection of his work and that of his other colleagues and friends (1920-1970) as well as movie scripts, production schedules, breakdowns, still photographs, sketches and set illustrations, now known as "The Leo "K" Kuter Collection," a Special Collection of the Academy. Among its several hundred set illustrations are included numerous ones by Duncan Gleason for the above-named and many other films. Two that I kept for myself, however, and now hang in my home, are a Duncan Gleason moonlit gouache illustration from "The Green Pastures" and a marvelously detailed pencil drawing by Gleason of a waterfront saloon interior for "The Sea Wolf."



Kay E. Kuter

IN THE LATEST ROLE of his 60-year career, Kuter plays the character Yawn, a thousand-year-old man. Yawn wakes every hundred years or so to impart important news to the current bigwig of the era—if he can remember it. The film called "Forbidden Warrior" has just finished shooting and is, Kuter says, "a rather delightful fantasy."

ABOVE: Duncan Gleason produced this 14" by 20 1/2" illustration for the 1941 Warner Brothers film "The Sea Wolf." The central figure in the white shirt is meant to represent John Garfield, but Kuter says he looks "a little more like Alan Ladd." This pencil drawing on smooth showboard is one of two illustrations by Duncan Gleason Kuter keeps in his private collection.

LEFT: This 10" by 14" illustration was painted in tempera on art board by Duncan Gleason for the 1936 Warner Brothers film "The Green Pastures." Both illustrations were gifts from Duncan Gleason to Kay E. Kuter's father. Kuter has donated scores of illustrations and movie memorabilia from his father's collection to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

HSSC and The Haynes Foundation Award 12 Research Grants in Spring 2003

IN ITS FIFTH YEAR of awarding stipends for research on Southern California and Los Angeles history, HSSC is proud to announce that twelve grants were awarded during May of 2003, bringing the total number of grants given since 1998 to one hundred twenty-nine.

HSSC has definitely seen the demand for such grants grow the last five years especially on a national level. Seven of the twelve researchers receiving awards this spring are working or studying outside the state.

This year's winners includes such wide ranging topics as, *Movements in Chicano Music 1965-1979*, *Women on the West Coast During World War II*, *Science and the City*, and *Culture, Community and Politics in Black Los Angeles*.

Congratulations to this year's Awardees:

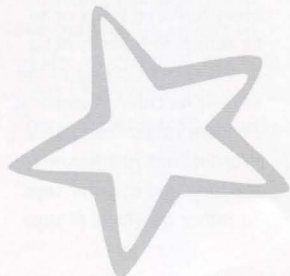
Estevan Cesar Azcona (DePauw University), Daniel Cady (Claremont University), April de Stefano (Rutgers University), Donna Graves (Independent Scholar), Abraham Hoffman (Independent Scholar), Jennifer Koslow (Newberry Library), Jennifer Light (Northwestern University), Christopher Sellers (SUNY Stony Brook), Emily Straus (Brandeis University), Eileen V. Wallis (University of Utah), Daniel Widener (University of San Diego), Romý Wyllie (Independent Scholar)

For a complete listing of Awardees with their subjects, check the HSSC website, www.socalhistory.org

HSSC Announces New Editorial Assistant

CSUN STUDENT, Lydia Balian, has been appointed editorial assistant/intern for the *Southern California Quarterly*. She replaces Kirsten Marie Clemens who is pursuing her doctorate in English at Duke University.

CORRECTION:
HSSC treasurer
Tom Carson's
MBA is from USC.



HSSC/Whitsett Student Fellow Receives Grant

THE EMERITI of California State University Fullerton are pleased to announce that Trangdai Tranguyen, a graduate student in history, has been awarded one of the two scholarships they grant each year.

Trangdai intends to pursue a doctorate in cultural and social anthropology, and eventually to do social science research to promote understanding of cross-cultural heritage.

Among her extra-curricular activities are: She has been a presenter at many conferences of the Asian Pacific Student Association (president 2000-2001). She has also been a program director, talk show director for the Vietnamese Association, and has participated in oral history projects documenting Vietnamese-American experiences.

Watts Curates Weston Exhibit at Huntington

AN EXHIBIT OF California photographer Edward Weston's work at The Huntington is receiving high marks.

Weston printed nearly 1,000 negatives after receiving a Guggenheim grant. He then negotiated with The Huntington to preserve his work as a body. The exhibit includes about 150 of his black and white prints.

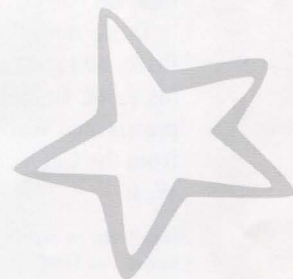
Entitled "Edward Weston: A Legacy," the exhibit was curated by Jennifer Watts. HSSC members will remember Jennifer was a docent at the Lummis Home while she attended Fuller Theological Seminary.

The exhibit—at the Boone Gallery of The Huntington—continues until October 5. For more information call: 626 405-2100

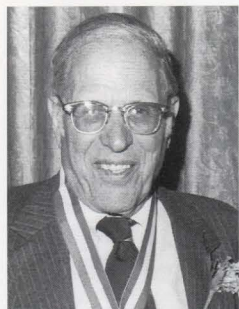
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The Martin Ridge Endowment has been established in honor of Martin Ridge, a historian and esteemed member of the academic community. He has been an invaluable supporter of the Historical Society.

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In Memoriam



DAVID LAVENDER, who was elected a FELLOW of HSSC in 1989 died April 26 at age 93.

He was a prolific Western historian who rode the range and mined for gold before crafting more than 40 meticulously researched volumes.

Praised by Los Angeles Times book reviewer Jonathan Kirsch for writing history "with rhythm and gritty detail of a yarn told around a campfire," Lavender delved into a wide variety of Western themes. His books spanned the region, touching down in locales as diverse as the wilderness camps of the early fur trappers and the boardrooms of the railroad barons.

Twice nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, he received many awards for his work. In 1997 he received the prestigious Wallace Stegner Award from the Center of the American West.

Taken from an article by Steve Chawkins in the Los Angeles Times



MIRIAM MATTHEWS, a FELLOW of the Historical Society, the first black librarian for the city of Los Angeles—believed to be the first in California—who became an expert on preserving and describing black history died on June 23. Miriam Matthews was 97.

She was committed to preserving black history in California and began a pioneering effort in Los Angeles in 1929 to promote observation of what was then Negro History Week, now Black History Month. She had remained a key resource in the annual celebration.

Matthews was working at a city branch library early in her career when she discovered "a small collection of books on the Negro" and became intrigued. It was then she began researching ways blacks had put their stamp on the Golden State.

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

For Love of History Tributes

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Meet Ann Gray of Balcony Press

ADDING HER NAME to the roster of talented members of the Historical Society of Southern California is Ann Gray, publisher of Balcony Press. The tall redhead is a native of California with degrees in applied mathematics and a master of architecture, both from UCLA. The last eight of Ann's twenty years in the field of architecture were spent as studio architect of Paramount Pictures, building sound stages, parking structures and office buildings.

When Viacom bought Paramount, construction at the lot was halted and Ann began to search for another career challenge. Her husband Peter Shamray, owner of Pasadena's Navigator Press, encouraged his wife to pursue her dream of book publishing.

In 1994, Ann founded Balcony Press with her personal savings and Peter's help on the manufacturing end. She sent her first press release to the Society of Architectural Historians announcing the fledgling Balcony Press and inviting authors to submit manuscripts. Though there was only one reply, it was a fortuitous one. The book, *Los Angeles, the End of the Rainbow*, by architectural historian Merry Ovnick went on to win the Historical Society's Donald Pflueger Award for local history. Ovnick's book on housing styles, starting with the Native Americans to the 1994 Northridge earthquake, launched the Press to rave reviews. Architectural historian Robert Winter compared it to Carey McWilliams' classic *Southern California, An Island on the Land*. In less than one year the initial press run easily sold out.

Balcony Press had put its best foot forward and that early success confirmed Ann's belief that there would be a market for the books she wanted to publish. The success story didn't stop with Ovnick's book; *Bullocks Wilshire*, the history of LA's notable Art Deco department store, won a Western Book Association award for graphic design. Books like *The Last Remaining Seats*, *Movie Palaces of Tinseltown*, *Iconic LA* and *Cal Tech's Architectural Heritage* are indicative of the architectural perspective Ann Gray brings to her publishing.

Architectural critic Sam Hall Kaplan, in a review of three books on LA's architectural elements, said the books were "published with obvious love by Balcony Press, which is fast becoming a welcomed font for chronicling architecture and design in LA." Kaplan's comments could refer just as well to Julius Shulman's *Photographing Architecture and Interiors* or Gil

Garcetti's more recent *Iron*, featuring intriguing images of erecting the steel for Frank Gehry's Disney Concert Hall.

There's more to Balcony Press than beautifully designed books with stunning photographs; Ann Gray also publishes the magazine *LA Architect*, a provocative and eye-catching magazine which draws readers and advertisers nationally. *LA Architect* has been the recipient of the prestigious Maggie Award for Best Special Interest Trade Publication for two years in a row. This type of recognition has brought another honor to Ann; in 2002 she was elevated to the AIA College of Fellows for her contributions to advancing the profession of architecture.

Meanwhile Balcony Press is handsomely situated on Wilson Avenue in Glendale, an easy commute for Ann who lives in San Marino with husband Peter and their daughter, Abby. Even as a wife and mother Ann's transition from architect to publisher was not difficult. She always knew she wanted to go into publishing; it had been on her list of fantasy occupations. "This," she says, "is the perfect life."

by
Virginia Comer

Virginia Comer is the author of six books on Los Angeles, including *Angels Flight*. Her latest publication is a series on the steps, street lights and fountains of Los Angeles published by Balcony Press



Ann Gray

Save These Dates

Tuesday
September 9, 2003
6:00 pm
Admission's Day Dinner
The Old Mill
San Marino

Saturday
October 4, 2003
11:30 am
Awards Luncheon
The Huntington Library
San Marino

Sunday
November 2, 2003
2:00 pm
George A.V. Dunning Lecture
presented by Raphael Sonenshein
Millennium Biltmore
Los Angeles

Sunday
December 7, 2003
3-5 pm
Holiday Open House
Lummis Home
Los Angeles

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