

The Southern CALIFORNIAN

PUBLISHED BY THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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All Signs Point To Garden Celebration September 30th at Lummis Home

Which way to the dry streambed? How can I find the Yarrow Meadow? What are Mediterranean plants anyway?

Visitors will find answers to these questions and more as they enjoy the handsome new signage recently installed throughout the Lummis Water-Conserving Garden. Designed by Sanchez-Kamps Associates, and constructed by SignDesigners, the garden's signage will be officially presented to the public on Sunday, September 30, from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

"We wanted these signs to be beautiful as well as functional and informative," noted Executive Director Tom Andrews, "so the Board invested in top quality design and the best materials, in this case porcelain enamel."

From the visitor's point of view, the new signs make self-guided tours much easier. An orientation map located near the entrance presents the garden's

entire layout. Area signs define thematic subgardens such as the Citrus Garden or the Regional Plant Garden.

Six large educational panels, the result of a generous grant from The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, present the history of the Lummis Home and Garden, an overview of waterwise plants, the latest irrigation techniques, and information about how plants conserve water.

During the next garden-enhancement phase, the Society will focus on individual plant identification.

You Are Invited
to a Garden Celebration
Sunday, September 30
12:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Lummis Home & Garden
Garden & House Tours
Plant Sale Prizes
Lemonade & Balloons



HSSC Vice-President, Denver Markwith

Meet Director Denver Markwith

Vice President Denver Markwith has been a board member since 1984. Among his responsibilities, he has chaired the Finance Committee the past four years and is responsible for much of the improvement the Society has made in the area.

Denver also assisted with the administration of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's grant which began the garden renovation. He evaluated and analyzed bids for construction and supervised work done by contractors.

This involvement came naturally from Denver's experience as president of Buttress, McClellam & Markwith, Inc. a Los Angeles firm engaged in the design and construction of commercial, industrial and institutional building projects.

Denver and his wife of 51 years, Marjorie, live in Glendale.



One of the area garden signs designed by Sanchez Kamps Associates.



GENTLE READER:

The excitement is building at HSSC and we've tried to convey some of it for the first time in this newsletter.

Take, for example, the opening of the new bookshop and the dedication of the garden education panels on September 30, or the program with Abe Hoffman at the Hart Ranch on October 20.

Take, for example, the launching of the Noah Levering Centennial Lecture Series on October 27, or the current publication of *Letters From the Orange Empire*, or Msgr. Weber's new book to be published at the end of this year.

Or, take, for example, the presentation of the first Don Pflueger Awards for excellence in the research and writing of local history, to be given at a special luncheon on February 9.

These are just a few of the ways we've started the celebration of our "Centennial of Incorporation" 1891-1991, leading up to the Centennial Gala in October 1991.

In addition we've established a "President's Circle" level of membership for individuals, and created a "Century II Founders" level of support for corporations and foundations.

At the same time, we've started an extensive publications program that will result in six new and exciting publications between 1990 and 1992.

Isn't it time you tell a friend about HSSC or give that friend a gift membership? I have a special gift for you if you do.

Tom Andrews

Ralph M. Parsons Foundation Supports Educational Component of Garden

A generous grant from The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation has underwritten the completion of six educational sign panels located in the California Native section of the Lummis Garden and the initial printing of visitor brochures for adults and children.

Together the panels and brochures will enable visitors to learn about water-wise plants and irrigation methods while touring the garden, and to take with them information for use at home. The Society thanks The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation for its support of the garden educational component.



HSSC Executive Director Tom Andrews admires newly installed Lummis Garden orientation map.

HSSC Celebrates New Additions To Lummis Waterwise Garden

The Historical Society of Southern California will celebrate a project that was five years in-the-making and supported with \$175,000 in grants when it formally dedicates recent additions to the Lummis Water-Conserving Garden on Sunday, September 30, 1990.

During the ceremony attended by major donors, government officials and friends of the Historical Society, Executive Director Tom Andrews will unveil new signage throughout the garden and six educational panels

located in the California Native section.

The general public is invited to tour the garden and home from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Initiated by former Executive Director Jackie Wilson and the Lummis Garden Volunteers, the garden is a two-acre model site that demonstrates the latest in waterwise landscape design for residential property. The Lummis Garden has received widespread publicity and recognition for its practical solutions to saving water.

Lummis Home Bookshop Takes On New Look

Looking for the history of South Pasadena? Or an illustrated edition of Raymond Chandler's *The Big Sleep*? How about a practical guide to waterwise gardening? Or maybe some elegant botanical notecards or a handsome artistic print?

If you have been searching for worthwhile books on the history and culture of Southern California, you may find exactly what you need at the Historical Society's expanded Lummis Home Bookshop.

Volunteer bookshop manager Cheryl Cooper has increased the inventory and turned a quiet little room with a few books into a bona fide bookshop for history and garden enthusiasts.

"We want to continue the tradition of emphasizing the local history of Los Angeles and surrounding communities," comments Cheryl, "but now our goal includes offering a variety of titles and complementary items so that all our visitors can find something meaningful to take with them from the Lummis Home and Garden."

Cheryl, who has her Masters Degree in literature from California State University at Northridge, always wanted to run a bookshop. An avid outdoorswoman and history lover, Cheryl looks forward to the day when the Lummis Home Bookshop will be known as one of the most complete museum bookshops in Southern California.

The Lummis Home Bookshop is open to the public Thursday through Sunday, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.



Bookshop Manager, Cheryl Cooper

Lummis Home Bookshop

You are invited to visit the refurbished bookshop on Sunday, September 30 from 12-4 p.m.

- 10 % discount to members
- Free prizes every half hour
- Autographed books available
- Meet the authors
- Meet the booksellers

Copies of
Letters From the Orange Empire
by G. Harold Powell
edited by Richard G. Lillard
afterword by Lawrence Clark Powell
are still available.

Of the limited, signed edition of 100 copies, 30 remain and may be purchased for \$45.00 each.

Copies of the regular edition (350 printed) also may be purchased for \$30.00 each.

For the first copy ordered, add \$5.00 for tax, postage and handling. For each additional copy add \$3.00.

Handsomely printed at the Castle Press, *Letters From the Orange Empire* offers a rare personal glimpse into the Southern California citrus industry at the turn of the century.

HSSC Receives Grant From Haynes Foundation

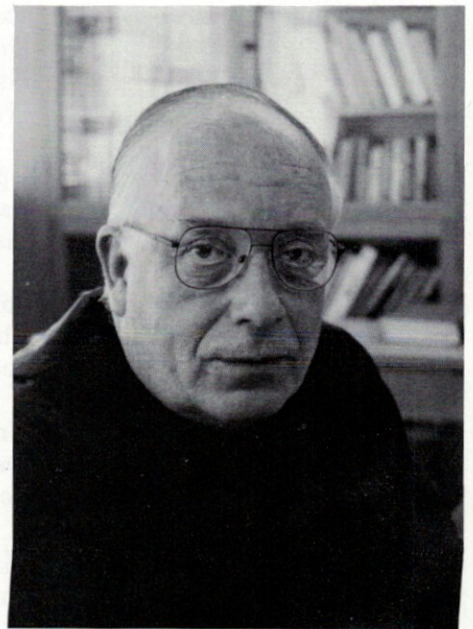
The Historical Society has been awarded a grant from the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation of \$9,307 to support the publication of Msgr. Francis J. Weber's comprehensive research guide, *California Bibliographies*.

Introduced by Dr. Doyce B. Nunis, Jr. and handsomely printed at the Castle Press in Pasadena in an edition of 500 copies, this valuable reference work lists and annotates 292 California bibliographies. It is scheduled for publication in December.

"There is a great deal of interest in California bibliographies at present," states HSSC Executive Director Tom Andrews, "with the major complaint being, 'There's no master key to unlock that first research door.'"

The Historical Society is grateful to the Haynes Foundation for recognizing that Msgr. Weber's *California Bibliographies* provide that "master key."

The Society plans to make the volume available to the teachers, coordinators and school libraries involved in the History Day/L.A. program. Copies will also be available for sale. Watch for a future announcement.



Msgr. Francis J. Weber

Announcing the Noah Levering Centennial Lecture Series, 1990-1991

The Historical Society of Southern California is pleased to launch the year-long celebration of its Centennial of Incorporation (1891-1991) with seven outstanding lectures coordinated by Dr. Gloria R. Lothrop.

Presented in unique historic settings around Southern California, The Noah Levering Centennial Lecture Series will feature noted historians whose recent scholarship sheds new light on selected topics in Southern California history.

The lectures are named for Noah Levering who founded the Historical Society in 1883 and sought its incorporation eight years later.

Seating is limited, and tickets are available on a first-come first-served basis. All lectures are on Saturday.

There is a nominal charge of \$5.00 per lecture to defray direct costs. Because the May 18 lecture includes breakfast the charge is \$6.50. We are currently taking reservations for **ONLY** the first three lectures. For more information see the series brochure in this newsletter.

"I was thoroughly convinced that this was a grand field for historical works and that steps should be taken at once to gather up and preserve the unwritten history which would be prolific with interest to those who should come after us."

Noah Levering
Founder of the
Historical Society of
Southern California



Dr. Gloria Lothrop, coordinator of the Noah Levering Centennial Lecture Series, and her husband Dr. David Levering, great-grandson of HSSC founder Noah Levering.

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|-------------------|--|
| October 27, 1990 | "Highlights from Southern California's Musical Heritage, 1850-1950," Lance Bowling The Brand Library, Glendale |
| November 17, 1990 | "The Tradition of Fine Book Printing in Southern California" Dr. Doyce B. Nunis, Jr. Mission San Fernando, Mission Hills |
| January 19, 1991 | "The Legal and Illegal in California's Past" Dr. Gordon Bakken Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Appeals (Vista Del Arroyo), Pasadena |
| February 23, 1991 | "Up in the Air Over L.A.: Early Aviation History in Southern Skies" Carolyn Kozo Hale Solar Laboratory, Pasadena |
| March 16, 1991 | "Foreign Visitors and the Mementos They Took with Them" Thomas Blackburn Southwest Museum, Los Angeles |
| April 20, 1991 | "Under the Sea with Ships" Darren Douglas Los Angeles Maritime Museum, Los Angeles |
| May 18, 1991 | "Men Who Changed the American Breakfast" Donald H. Pflueger Kellogg Mansion, Pomona |

THE HISTORIC ONE HUNDRED

The HISTORIC 100 is a group of Southern California businesses committed to the preservation, interpretation and promotion of local history through their investment in the Historical Society of Southern California.

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William S. Hart On Location— October 20

Join us for a day at the ranch—the William S. Hart Ranch—that is, in nearby Newhall. All HSSC Members and guests are invited to tour the Hart hacienda, enjoy refreshments and dinner and hear Dr. Abraham Hoffman share facts and fancies about William S. Hart on Saturday, October 20, 1990 from 4:00 p.m. to sundown.

William S. Hart changed the Western movie genre making it more realistic, exciting and alive. His success enabled him to build *La Loma de los Vientos*, his Spanish Colonial home and ranch in the Santa Clarita Valley.

Dr. Abraham Hoffman, Assistant Editor of the *Southern California Quarterly* and respected historian, has made a close study of the life of William S. Hart and his impact on the Hollywood of the early 1900s.

The Hart Ranch is located on San Fernando Road in Newhall, California. Invitations will be mailed shortly. Reservations for the day at the ranch are \$17 for HSSC Members and \$22 for non-Members without bus transportation; \$25 for Members and \$30 for non-Members including bus fare.

HSSC will provide bus service leaving the Lummis Home in Highland Park promptly at 3:00 p.m. There is ample parking at the Lummis Home. For those driving to Newhall, shuttle service is available from the Hart Ranch parking lot to the hacienda.

HSSC Inaugurates President's Circle

The Society's Board of Directors is pleased to announce the inauguration of a new support level, President's Circle.

Members are individuals, families and family foundations whose annual, unrestricted support of \$1,000 or more ensures the longevity and quality of the Society's most prestigious programs including the *Southern California Quarterly*, the FELLOWS Award, educational programs and books published by the Society.

"The time has come to thank those who support the Society at this significant level with an association that is socially stimulating and intellectually invigorating," notes Joe O'Flaherty, current HSSC President.

HSSC will acknowledge the President's Circle on the cover of the

Quarterly and in *The Southern Californian*. Members will receive advance copies of Society publications and have special opportunities to meet with HSSC FELLOWS, noted scholars and community leaders.

The Historical Society is pleased to welcome the following new members of the President's Circle:

Dr. and Mrs. Richard Call
Mr. and Mrs. Powell Greenland
James W. Robeson, M.D. and
Stephen A. Kanter, M.D.
Mr. and Mrs. John Osborne



William S. Hart

PHOTO: Seaver Center, Natural History Museum of L.A. County



Docent Coordinator Sheryl Thompson

New Docent Coordinator

Docent Sheryl Thompson in her new volunteer role as docent coordinator welcomed eight prospective docents during an orientation at the Lummis Home on August 25th.

Sheryl, who has a Masters Degree in Business Administration from Pepperdine and a Masters in Arts from California State University at Northridge, came to this role in a round-about-way.

Like many of us, she vowed to visit the Lummis Home each time she drove past its historical marker on the Pasadena Freeway. She finally acted on that promise to herself when she responded to an invitation in the Los Angeles *Times* to become a docent at the Lummis Home. That was a year ago.

Now, Sheryl coordinates a training and enrichment program for the Lum-

mis Home docents. An instructor in English composition and literature at California State University at Northridge for the past six years, Sheryl is well-prepared for the task.

Among her innovations are a new docent manual and a mentor-student approach to docent training. Since becoming a docent, Sheryl is fascinated with Lummis as a person. "His real life was more interesting than anything anyone could devise," she says. "As people learn about Lummis, they also learn about the history of L.A."

It is in this sharing of Lummis and the Arroyo Culture that Sheryl feels history comes alive for visitors to *El Alisal*.

Sheryl invites anyone interested in becoming a docent to call (213) 222-0546.

Welcome New Members

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INSTITUTIONAL

Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum
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A Miscellany of Five Books I Remember

By Ward Ritchie

Ward Ritchie is a distinguished Southern California fine printer and a FELLOW of the Historical Society.

Although I was born in Los Angeles and grew up among the orange groves which enveloped the small town of South Pasadena, my knowledge of California history was limited to what I had learned from John Steven McGroarty's *Mission Play*, a yearly event at nearby San Gabriel.

When I began collecting books as a freshman at Occidental College, my primary interest was poetry. It wasn't until my senior year, however, that I first acquired a copy of a book by Robinson Jeffers, a poet whose works had a very important impact upon my eventual career as a printer.

Although he had graduated from Occidental College, the themes of some of Jeffers' poems were considered too sensual for immature undergraduate minds and his books were restricted. Eventually I was given a copy of Jeffers' *Roan Stallion, Tamar and Other Poems* and was captivated by his poetic descriptions of the California coast.

My enthusiasm was such that when I began to print I asked Jeffers for permission to produce some of his poems, which he kindly allowed. My first commercial commission upon launching the Ward Ritchie Press in 1932 was the printing of "First Book" by Robinson Jeffers for *The Colophon*.

Subsequently I printed more than a dozen books either by or about him. Jeffers' book is not only an important addition to California literature but it is especially important to me in the launching of my printing career.

In the early 1930s the bookseller, Jake Zeitlin, introduced me to Sarah Bixby Smith, whose poems I had read and admired. She, in turn, introduced

me to her daughter whom I married.

Naturally, I soon read *Adobe Days*, the account of Sarah's girlhood in the still pastoral Southern California of the 1870s and 1880s. It is a charming story of ranch life when the Bixbys owned and operated the vast Alamitos and Cerritos ranches which encompass what is now Long Beach. It is a book I have cherished and have read through several editions.

Another book about early Los Angeles, different in character, but equally fascinating, is Major Horace Bell's *Reminiscences of a Ranger*. It came to my attention through the Primavera Press, a small local publishing company in which I was involved along with Jake Zeitlin, Phil Townsend Hanna, Carey McWilliams and Lawrence Clark Powell. I was fascinated with the flamboyant Bell's story of the rough and tumble Los Angeles scene during the 1850s.

The Lakeside Press of Chicago had reprinted the 1881 edition for Wallace Hebbard of Santa Barbara. Evidently there were some financial differences as Lakeside offered us a batch of five hundred unbound copies. I designed a new title page and binding and the Primavera Press published it.

Years later the Advertisers Composition Company printed a new edition in three volumes with colorful illustrations by Gene Holton for which I wrote an introduction.

During the 1930s there was an unusual gathering of local historians in Southern California, all of whom were involved with the Historical Society. They included Henry Wagner, Phil Townsend Hanna, Gregg Layne, Robert



Ward Ritchie

PHOTO: Suzanne Huddleson

Cowan, Frederick Hodge, W. W. Robinson, Robert Glass Cleland and Robert Woods.

For almost half a century the society had issued a scholarly *Annual*. The dynamic Carl Wheat had moved south from San Francisco in the early 1930s and upon being selected as the new editor convinced the board to begin issuing the publication as a quarterly in 1934. As the printer, I was quite involved and enjoyed working with Wheat and the editorial board of Hodge, Layne and Wagner.

In the second issue we began the publication of William Tallack's *The California Overland Express, the Longest Stage-Ride in the World*. Upon its conclusion it was decided to issue the whole as a book. We printed one hundred and fifty bound copies which were offered to members at \$2.00 and non-members at \$2.50. It has pleased me to have been the printer of the first special publication of the Historical Society of Southern California.

Of all the books printed during the last century in Los Angeles the most intriguing to me is the *Los Angeles City and County Directory* of 1872. It was the

Continued on back page.

BOOKS I REMEMBER

(Continued from page 7)

first local attempt at compiling a directory of the city's inhabitants and was quite successful, though fraught with delays and problems.

The book contains, in addition to the listing of inhabitants, the first printed history of the City and the County of Los Angeles.

But it is the fifty-six pages of advertisements that are particularly interesting. They are printed on several colors of paper with each advertisement an example of the printer's art. It is amazing what a varied accumulation of types and decorations were found in the local printing shop of a small and undeveloped western town. The advertisements are intriguing, ingenious and unbelievable.

It is a rare book with only three imperfect copies known. A facsimile edition was issued in 1963 using pages from the three copies to make a complete copy.

SAVE THESE DATES:

- Sept. 30 Celebration of Lummis Garden Completion; Grand Opening of Bookshop
- Oct. 20 A Day at Hart Ranch
Abraham Hoffman Lecture
"William S. Hart on Location"
- Oct. 27 Levering Centennial Lecture
- Nov. 17 Levering Centennial Lecture
- Dec. 2 Holiday Open House
- Jan. 19 Levering Centennial Lecture
- Feb. 9 Local History Award Luncheon

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Consultant

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Carole Dougherty

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IN ADDITION . . .

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- ☐ \$35 Individual Members receive:
Discounted program and event tickets for Member and one guest

- ☐ \$ 50 Dual/Family Members receive:
Discounted program and event tickets for family members.
- ☐ \$ 100 Contributing Members receive:
All of the benefits above plus . . . One special publication
- ☐ \$ 250 Patron Members receive:
All of the above plus . . . Two special publications
- ☐ \$ 500 Benefactor Members receive:
All of the above plus . . . A Docent-led tour of the Lummis Home and Garden for four.
- ☐ \$1,000 President's Circle Members receive:
All of the above plus . . . Lectures and receptions for President's Circle members featuring noted southern California historians.

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