



The Southern Californian

The Historical Society of Southern California Winter 2008 Volume 20 Number 1



LEFT: Dr. Paul Gray, vice provost for academic affairs and dean of the Azusa Pacific University libraries welcomes guests to the awards reception in the Darling Library Rotunda. RIGHT: Four of the recipients of Keeping History Alive grants with Eric Nelson, secretary of the Historical Society.

Keeping History Alive Update:

A Little Money Helps A Great Deal by Thomas F. Andrews, PhD

Thomas F. Andrews is Research Historian in Special collections at Azusa Pacific University and served as Executive Director of the Historical Society of Southern California for 19 years, 1986-2005.

GIVEN ALL THE FINANCIAL CONCERNS in the news today, including the California State budget, it may be encouraging to realize that a small amount of money (\$200-\$850) can be of real help to K-12 teachers in Los Angeles County.

I was reminded of this fact while evaluating and awarding a small grants program for K-12 teachers of history and social science, entitled "Keeping History Alive," for Azusa Pacific University and the Historical Society of Southern California.

With help from foundations such as Ahmanson, Bannerman, and Wells Fargo, \$47,500 in "Keeping History Alive" grants were awarded to 74 K-12 teachers at APU on Saturday, January 26. The average grant was \$642; not a large sum at all. (Incidentally, 109 teachers sent in applications.)

Therefore, at a time when the teaching of history, social science, the arts, and humanities, are being shortchanged by the emphasis of "No Child Left Behind," this small amount of grant money purchases much needed classroom supplies, pays the transportation costs of field trips to museums and historical sites, and provides opportunities for the teachers' professional development.

It is difficult to excite students about history if their maps and globes are out of date, if they have no posters, books, artifacts, music, and videos to supplement the textbook, and if they never leave the classroom to ride a bus to a museum, a historical site, or to see a historical reenactment.

This is the third year for the Historical Society of Southern California and the first year for Azusa Pacific University to be involved in securing foundation support

Grants
totaling
more
than
\$120,000
were
given to
171
teachers
through
Keeping
History
Alive

A Little Money

continued from page 1

and in administering the "Keeping History Alive" grant program. Partnerships like this between a private nonprofit and a university can benefit both while reaching out to an even larger audience within the greater Los Angeles community.

With the grants that were distributed on January 26, 2008, more than \$120,000 has been given to 171 public, private, and parochial K-12 teachers in Los Angeles County during the three years of the program.

Each time I visit these teachers and observe the difference the small grant makes for their students, I am reminded of Luis Nizer's comment that "a good teacher's influence affects eternity." These grants help good teachers acquire the tools that make history come alive for their students. And although the grants are small, as you can see, over time the total amount can grow quite large.



Top to Bottom: Dr. Michelle Herzcog, consultant for history and social science, Los Angeles County Office of Education who with Tom Andrews seated behind her were the two who developed the grant program. Keeping History Alive grant recipient Joel Rothblatt poses with Eric Nelson for a photo by Joel's son, Win, who turned 7 years old that Saturday. Guests enjoyed music provided by the Azusa Pacific string quartet.

Photos by Michele Clark

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Research Grant Announcement

Dear HSSC Members and Friends:

HSSC IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE the application guidelines for the Historical Society of Southern California's small grants program for Summer 2008. The grants, known as HSSC/ Haynes Research Stipends, are designed to support scholars who have short-term financial needs.

The Historical Society particularly encourages younger scholars, doctoral candidates at the dissertation stage, scholars in smaller local institutions, faculty from out-of-state institutions working on projects that would benefit from a brief visit for research, secondary school faculty who need summer awards to do research, retired scholars who no longer have ties to their former institutions, and unaffiliated scholars who need modest financial support for their research so they can continue to publish.

The grants are for a period of one to four weeks at a stipend of \$300 per week. The grants may be used to supplement other grants and to pay for a variety of expenses related to research on Los Angeles and/or southern California.

The deadline for applications is April 21, 2008. A committee of five will review the applications. The Historical Society of Southern California thanks the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation for recognizing the need for such a program. Awards will be announced on or before May 30, 2008.

If a grant of this type will further your research and writing on Los Angeles and southern California, I encourage you to apply.

John O. Pohlmann, Ph.D.
President
Historical Society of Southern California

APPLICATION GUIDELINES:

Eligibility:

Ph.D. or equivalent;
independent scholar;
doctoral candidate at the
dissertation stage.

Length of Grant:

One to four weeks.

Amount of Grant:

\$300 per week.

Deadline for Application:

April 21, 2008 postmark.

Application Procedures:

(1) Send a **one-page** cover sheet with your name, address (including e-mail), telephone and fax numbers, present status (from eligibility list above) and institution, title of project, number of weeks you are requesting, and a list of financial support you have received for this project to date.

(2) Send a **one-page** description of your project. Indicate when and how you plan to use this grant support.

(3) Send a **one-page** curriculum vitae of your research, writing, and/or teaching **related to this project**.

Notification:

Applicants will be notified on or before
May 30, 2008.

Please mail the application materials to:

Historical Society of Southern California
P. O. Box 93487
Pasadena, CA 91109
Attention: Grants Coordinator

Telephone: (562) 596-2634

E-mail: jpohlcat@roadrunner.com

On October 17, 2000 the Los Angeles City Council designated the Pascual Marquez Family Cemetery a Los Angeles Cultural-Historic Monument by a unanimous vote. Although it is located in an affluent residential neighborhood in Santa Monica Canyon, its existence is barely known by the general public.

By Ernest
Marquez and
Monica
Marquez

Ernest Marquez is a retired commercial artist and local historian. He is the author of *Santa Monica Beach: A Collector's Pictorial History*. Monica Marquez is an attorney who, like her father, treasures her family's history.

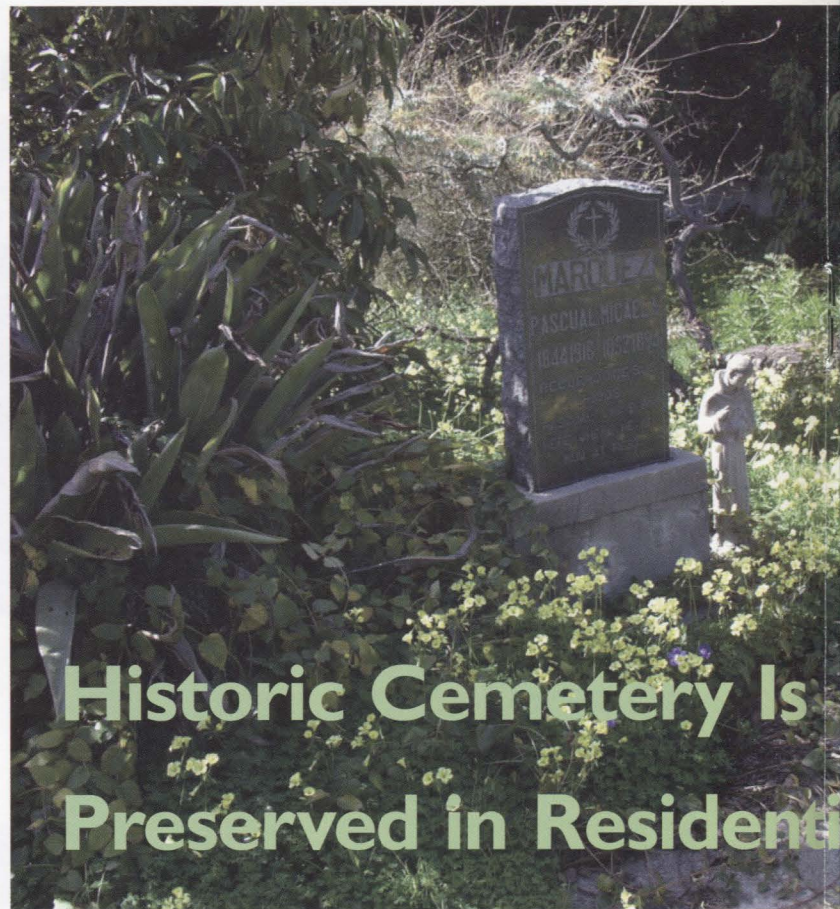
The Marquez family traces its roots in California to 1771 when Francisco Reyes, then 22, left his home in Mexico to join the Spanish army and to accompany Fr. Junipero Serra on his journey to establish the California missions. Francisco Reyes was stationed at Mission San Antonio during its construction.

To further its settlement of California and to compensate its soldiers, Spain offered land grants to a small number of soldiers who had served ten years or more. The Spanish land grants, first known as *permisos* were a right to occupy the land, not an outright grant of ownership.

In 1784, Francisco Reyes received the Spanish land grant, Rancho Encino (oak), which comprised what is now the San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles, California. He used the land for cattle ranching. In 1795, however, the Spanish mission founders decided that Rancho Encino would be a favorable location for the Mission San Fernando. Reyes returned Rancho Encino to the Spanish government, and was awarded another rancho in Lompoc, 130 miles north. Reyes also maintained an adobe house in the pueblo of Los Angeles. A prominent citizen, Reyes served as mayor of Los Angeles from 1793 to 1795.

Ysidro Reyes (1813-1861)

The Marquez Family cemetery story picks up with Ysidro Reyes, Francisco Reyes' grandson. Born in 1813, Ysidro Reyes lived in Los Angeles and owned one of the largest vineyards in the area. He also had a business transporting brea (tar) from the tar pits at Rancho la Brea to homes in Los Angeles for use as roofing material. In 1839 Reyes, along with his friend Francisco Marquez, jointly received ownership to the Mexican land grant Rancho Boca de Santa Monica.



Historic Cemetery Is Preserved in Residential





Unlike the Spanish land grants Mexico granted outright ownership of the land.

Francisco Marquez (1798-1850)

Francisco Marquez was born in Villa de Leon, Guadalajara, Mexico in 1798. In 1820 Marquez came to Los Angeles, which was still under Spanish control. Marquez set up a blacksmith and harness shop on *Calle Principal* (now known as Main Street) in downtown Los Angeles.

Marquez and Reyes Receive Title to Rancho Boca de Santa Monica

In 1838, Ysidro Reyes and Francisco Marquez applied for title to Rancho Boca de Santa Monica, a 6,656 acre tract of land comprising what is now Santa Monica Canyon, the Pacific Palisades, and parts of Topanga Canyon. To obtain a land grant, an applicant had to be a Mexican citizen of good character, Catholic, and agree to build a house, plant fruit trees on the land and stock the rancho with at least 150 head of cattle. Their application was approved, and they received title a year later in 1839.

The trapezoidal shaped Rancho ran along the shore of the Pacific Ocean from Topanga Point (a short distance west from the mouth of Topanga Canyon) to the first gully in the cliffs where the present Montana Avenue meets the sea. The border then made a gentle turn toward the northwest, and proceeded to a place called *Cañada de la Iglesia* which was a spot near the intersection of the present Sunset Boulevard and Sullivan Canyon. The northern border extended through the rough terrain of the Santa Monica Mountains to what is now the town of Fernwood in Topanga Canyon. The western border began at Fernwood, and extended down to the Pacific Ocean to where the survey started.

Marquez, along with his wife, Roque Valenzuela, and their young son, Manuel, moved to Santa Monica Canyon. He built an adobe house in the upper mesa of the Canyon—the first permanent structure built in the area. They had eleven children, only five of whom survived to adulthood. Marquez built another blacksmith shop and continued to live and work the rancho until his death in 1850.

For their home on the new rancho Ysidro Reyes and his wife Maria Antonia Villa built a house in

Today the Pascual Marquez Cemetery is surrounded by houses in an affluent residential area. Not many people living here are aware of the cemetery's existence because a high fence covered with ivy blocks the view of the cemetery from the street. The cemetery is in the upper right corner of the photo. San Lorenzo Street borders the cemetery and Kingman Avenue, the broad street toward the bottom parallels San Lorenzo.



what is now the Huntington Palisades. He later abandoned that location in favor of a place near what is now 7th and Adelaide Streets. Reyes complained that he was losing too many of his chickens and small animals to wild animals that came down from the mountains. Reyes and his wife had eleven children.

In 1879 Francisco Marquez's youngest son Pascual married Ysidro Reyes' daughter Michaela. Marriage as well as their common interest in their land united the families. Pascual and Micaela had ten children.

Francisco Marquez Establishes a Cemetery on the Rancho

Rancho Boca de Santa Monica was more than a day's trip from the nearest Catholic cemeteries at the San Gabriel Mission and at the Plaza Church in Los Angeles. The distance made funerals and burials a difficult proposition. To ease that burden, Francisco Marquez set aside a portion of land for a cemetery within view of his adobe house.

Although no official records were kept, it is believed that the cemetery was established in the late 1840s. The first burials at the cemetery might have included six children of Francisco Marquez and Roque Valenzuela who died as infants.

Rancho Boca de Santa Monica survives the transition from Mexico to the United States

Mexico ceded California to the United States in 1848. Although the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo guaranteed the property rights of the rancho owners, pressure from American settlers to have the land declared public property by right of conquest grew. The U.S. government yielded to the pressure and in 1851 formed the Board of Land Commissioners. They opened their office in San Francisco and the Mexican land grant holders had to travel there to file their claims. Its stated purpose was to determine the validity of the Spanish and Mexican land claims. In reality, however, the Board imposed far more stringent requirements for proof of ownership than had the Mexican government, with the inevitable result that many rancho owners lost their land.

In 1854, Ysidro Reyes as spokesman for himself and the heirs of Francisco Marquez, who had died in 1850, appeared before the Board of Land Commissioners, when they came for a brief stay in Los Angeles. With the help of one of the few honest attorneys, Ilishia Oscar Crosby, they presented their claim to the rancho. However, in an odd result, the Board approved the claim of Ysidro Reyes, but denied the claim of Francisco Marquez's heirs because they had failed to show

visual proof of his death. They appealed to the Superior Court and the judgment was reversed two years later. The final step to obtain title was to apply for a patent from the United States Government. However, since a survey by a government surveyor had to be completed to determine the exact outside boundaries of the rancho, and since they felt no pressing need to do so, the families did not pursue the matter.

Rancho Boca de Santa Monica is Partitioned

Ysidro Reyes died in 1861, leaving his undivided one-half interest in the rancho to his widow Maria Antonia. In 1872, Maria Antonia sold that interest to entrepreneur Col. Robert S. Baker for \$6,000. Baker had come to California during the gold rush, and had made a fortune selling supplies to miners. He came to southern California intent on founding a town and a railroad.

In 1874, Baker filed suit to partition the land among himself and the heirs of Francisco Marquez, who jointly held the other one-half interest. A survey of the boundaries was completed. With the survey complete, the patent, which had languished for over twenty-five years, was finally issued.

A Decree of Partition was entered in 1881. Under the Decree, each of the six owners (Col. Baker and the five Marquez children) received their share of the land in three allotments, one for residential use, one for grazing land, and a smaller portion at the mouth of Santa Monica Canyon for business use.

Pascual Marquez Inherits the Cemetery

Pascual received the allotment of land in Santa Monica Canyon that included his home, the remains of the family adobe, where he had been born in 1844 and the cemetery. Over the years, members of the Marquez and Reyes families, along with their close friends, were buried there. The early graves were marked with wooden crosses, all of which have long since disappeared.

Marquez Family Tragedy

On December 31, 1909, Maria Donicia Valdez, the daughter of Francisco Marquez's widow Roque Valenzuela and her second husband, hosted a family gathering to celebrate the New Year. The menu included home-canned peaches. The peaches turned out to be infected with botulism. Over the next five days, thirteen family members died, including an infant who had not eaten the peaches, but who had instead died of exposure when left by a window unattended in the anguish and confusion. One long grave was dug at the family cemetery in Santa Monica Canyon, and the family members were laid to rest side by side.

The cemetery also holds the remains of many other members of the Marquez family, along with those of Indian servants and friends who lived on the rancho. One notable



The adobe wall of the cemetery facing the street. The wooden gate has long since rotted away but the wooden statue of San Lorenzo still stands in the niche in the wall. c. 1937

friend was Sam Carson who said the famous scout Kit Carson was his uncle. He lived alone in a small cabin located in Rustic Canyon and was befriended by Pascual Marquez. Both he and his dog were found dead one day. Pascual brought the bodies of Sam and his dog to the family cemetery and buried them both in a common grave. Ramona Marquez Enriquez, sister of Pascual, rests in the family cemetery. Later a small coffin with her grandchild was placed in the same grave. When the North Broadway Cemetery in Los Angeles was being disbanded the bodies there were taken to Calvary Cemetery. Bonifacio's wife Maria Antonia Oliveras, who was buried at the North Broadway Cemetery, was brought to the Canyon and buried in the family cemetery. Though no formal records of the burials have been found, it is estimated there are at least 30 persons in the tiny cemetery.

The Final Burial

In 1916, Pascual Marquez was the last person to be buried at the cemetery. By this time, the cemetery had grown to encompass the ruins of his father's adobe. In tribute to Pascual's love for his home, his casket was placed inside the outline of the remains of the family adobe at the same angle and in the same place as the bed in which he was born. His marble headstone is one of only two remaining.

The Marquez Family's Plans for Preservation of the Cemetery

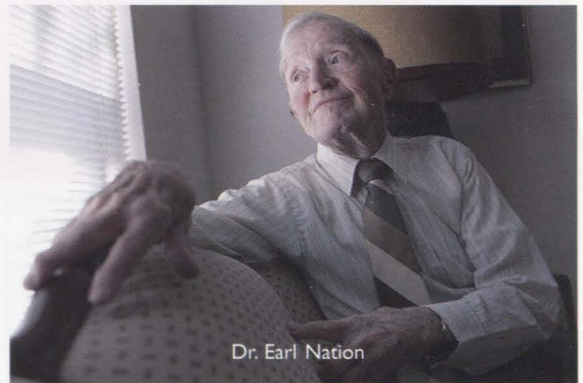
Preservation includes the use of ground penetrating radar to pinpoint the location of the graves, environmentally sensitive landscaping, repair of adobe walls and entry gate. Long range plans include obtaining designation as a historical landmark by the State of California.

Bits and Pieces

Now—*That's* a Long-time Member



GLEN DAWSON, whose father Ernest Dawson was the founder of Dawson's Book Shop the long-term business profiled in the fall issue of the SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN, tells us he may hold the record for having been a member of HSSC the longest. Glen became a member of HSSC when his father turned over his own membership to his son at the time Glen took an active role in the bookshop. Glen was about 25 then; today he is 96.



Dr. Earl Nation

Correction: Jerome Kern

IN THE SPRING/SUMMER 2007 issue of the SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN an article on the Kasimoff's Bluthner piano showroom in Larchmont Village stated that Jerome Kern died in Los Angeles in 1945. Although Kern lived in LA, he died in New York City where he was working with Oscar Hammerstein on a revival of "Show Boat." Kern died November 11, 1945 two months before a successful opening of "Show Boat."

Helga Kasimoff tells us people still come to the showroom to touch Kern's Bluthner piano on display. *Thank you to Helga Kasimoff for this correction.*

Spring 2008 Quarterly Articles

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| WILLIAM DEVERELL | <i>Convalescence and California:
The Civil War Comes West</i> |
| MAURICE HODGEN | <i>Riverside's Mission Inn:
The Beginning of a Landmark</i> |
| W. BENJAMIN PIGGOT | <i>Radicalism in the Cradle of the New Right:
The University of California's Irvine Campus
in 1960s Orange County</i> |

Passing: Dr Earl Nation

From an obituary in the Los Angeles Times by Mary Rourke

HSSC WILL SAY "Farewell" to long-time member Dr. Earl Nation at a memorial service on March 2 at the University Club in Pasadena.

Dr. Nation, a urologist and medical historian who was also the great-great-nephew of temperance crusader Carry Nation died on January 1, 2008 at his home in Sierra Madre.

His scholarly bent often led him to the Huntington Library in San Marino, where he researched his articles and attended lectures. In 1997, he created a fellowship for scholars to study—at the Huntington—the history of medicine.

For more information on the celebration of Dr. Nation's life and reception, call Jill Nuccio at (626) 795-4343 or email at jnuccio@hmri.org

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\$10 Future Historians Ages 5-12

A book
Invitation to ice cream social and more

Save the Date

May 18, 2008

Museums of the Arroyo

Check Out History Day L.A.

ON MARCH 15 we will participate in Los Angeles History Day, a sort of science fair for K-12 history and social science students at which they compete for ribbons and small prizes in categories such as dioramas, murals and posters, reenactments and website designs dealing with people and places of history.

For this event we welcome volunteers to help judge the presentations. We also welcome HSSC members interested in sponsoring one of the \$25.00 prizes we plan to award to the students. If you would like to consider participating, call Pat Adler-Ingram at
(213) 382-4415 or
e-mail patadler@sbcglobal.net.

Remember

VROMAN'S Gives Back

REGISTER AS A SUPPORTER of HSSC and VROMAN'S Bookstore will give back one percent of your purchases directly to the Historical Society. At the time of purchase make sure to let the cashier know you want to support HSSC.

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