

The Southern CALIFORNIAN

PUBLISHED BY THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

SPRING 1993, VOL. 5, NO. 1

HSSC Director Martin Ridge Honored

Martin Ridge, member of the Board of Directors of the Historical Society, has a lot to celebrate this year. In addition to turning 70, he is retiring from a prestigious career as director of research for The Huntington Library.

To acknowledge his many years of service, The Huntington hosted "Frontier and Region: Conference on the American West" during mid-April. Scholars from throughout the country (yes, even from the east) gathered for three days in Friends' Hall for a program of topics as diverse as "Annie Oakley: Creating the Cowgirl" to "The Frontier Journalist as An Agent of Change."

Given Martin Ridge's reputation for de-mythologizing the American West, the conference was a fitting tribute. With sixteen books to his credit, Martin Ridge is not likely to *really* retire any time soon. In fact, in March, Pasadena City College invited him to make three presentations as distinguished visiting scholar in its Social Sciences Department.

The Historical Society of Southern California congratulates Martin Ridge on his lifetime achievements and looks forward to his continuing contributions to western history and the Society.



Martin Ridge



PHOTO: Suzanne Huddleson

HSSC salutes Women's History Month with first Community Enrichment Award winners: from left, Carolyn Kozo Cole, Margaret Bach, Peggy Funkhouser, Gloria Lothrop and Jean Bruce Poole.

HSSC's Community Enrichment Award Inaugurated by Five Women

In recognition of Women's History Month and to launch its new Community Enrichment Award, the Historical Society honored five women whose community leadership has been exemplary. The special awards luncheon was held at Pasadena's Doubletree Hotel on March 6th.

In keeping with the focus of the Community Enrichment Awards, each recipient was acknowledged for a single achievement, although it became readily apparent during the luncheon that each could claim an outstanding record of service over many years.

The honorees were: Margaret Bach, founding president of the Los Angeles Conservancy; Peggy Funkhouser, executive director of the Los Angeles Educational Partnership; Carolyn Kozo Cole, coordinator of "Shades of L.A.:

A Search for Photographic Ethnic History;" Gloria Lothrop, author of *A Guide to Historical Outings in Southern California*; Jean Bruce Poole, museum director of El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Park.

One hundred sixty-two friends and HSSC members attended the luncheon at which citations delivered by colleagues of the awardees recounted their exceptional achievements.

The HSSC Community Enrichment Awards will be an annual event. The recipients and their achievements are intended to represent the broadest possible spectrum of historical endeavor and the most creative contributions to the Southern California community. To nominate individuals for this award, contact Tom Andrews, HSSC Executive Director at (213) 222-0546.



GENTLE READER

Forty-six years ago, historian-bibliographer Henry R. Wagner wrote to a friend saying, "There is no doubt that Southern California needs to be more history-minded than it is at present, but I cannot do anything about it."

Southern California still needs a greater historical consciousness, but much has happened since Mr. Wagner's comment. And, HSSC has been in the vanguard of that surge of historical awareness.

Since 1962, the *Southern California Quarterly*, under the editorship of Doyce Nunis, has thoughtfully and accurately documented the past 224 years of this region's history.

From 1984 and the publication of *A Southern California Historical Anthology*, to this year's publication of *Southern California's Spanish Heritage*, a number of books on Southern California have been published which have added to our understanding of the region.

They are, for example, Lawrence Clark Powell's *Land of Fiction* and *Land of Fact*; his father's correspondence, published as *Letters From the Orange Empire*; Joseph O'Flaherty's *An End and a Beginning* and *Those Powerful Years*; Gloria Lothrop's *A Guide to Historical Outings in Southern California*, and the forthcoming collection of W.W. Robinson's writings, entitled "A Gathering of Southern California Local History."

We want to do even more. We want this decade to end with Southern Californians more "history-minded" than ever before. By *your* interest, *your* involvement and *your* investment in the cause of history, you can help make that happen during the next six and one-half years.

Recent Grants to HSSC Support Publications, Education

Recent grants totaling \$79,700 will enable the Historical Society to expand its publication and education programs during 1993. The roster of prestigious corporate and foundation funding sources includes several who have supported HSSC in the past, as well as new donors.

THE SPRING STREET FOUNDATION is underwriting a special, fall/winter issue of the *Southern California Quarterly* to commemorate the centennial of Title Insurance Corporation with a grant of \$35,000. The amply illustrated issue will focus on the land heritage of Southern California, including land policy, titles and real estate promotion and development.

THE WHITSETT FOUNDATION, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY AT NORTHRIDGE (CSUN) and HSSC are forming a partnership to publish the annual Whitsett Lecture. The foundation and university are launching this new relationship with a grant of \$10,500 to publish five of the first seven lectures in an expanded spring, 1994 issue of the *Southern*

California Quarterly. HSSC will continue to publish the Whitsett Lecture each spring.

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT is funding a second, expanded edition of Kevin Connelly's *Month by Month in a Waterwise Garden* with a grant of \$10,000. The second printing, scheduled for late summer, has been completely re-designed and expanded with more illustrations, tips and gardening sources.

THE JOHN RANDOLPH HAYNES AND DORA HAYNES FOUNDATION has provided \$4,200 to distribute over 4,000 copies of Gloria Lothrop's *Guide to Historical Outings in Southern California* to the 1,700 schools of the Los Angeles County and Los Angeles Unified School Districts. Teachers and administrators who had seen the guide requested its wide distribution because of the book's value as a resource in the classroom and for field trips.

THE DAN MURPHY FOUNDATION will also support HSSC's educational outreach with a grant of \$6,000

(Continued on page 3)



HSSC Executive Director Tom Andrews, Professor Gloria Lothrop of Cal Poly, Pomona, and Los Angeles County Office of Education history and science consultant Tom Gibbons share the news that 4,200 copies of Gloria's *A Guide to Historical Outings in Southern California* have been made available to schools throughout Los Angeles County.

PHOTO: Suzanne Huddleson

DONORS

GRANTS (Continued from page 2)

to reprint Msgr. Weber's *California Bibliographies* and distribute it to the 2,500 public, parochial and independent schools in greater Los Angeles.

THE AHMANSON FOUNDATION has provided \$14,000 toward the publication of *El Alisal: Where History Lingers*, the story of the Charles F. Lummis Home. Written by Jane Apostol, the author of HSSC's *Centennial History*, this readable, illustrated book will be accompanied by docent training materials also funded by the grant.

HSSC is deeply grateful for this support and the encouragement it brings to the task of promoting history in the public arena.

FOR LOVE OF HISTORY TRIBUTES

In Memory of A. Maxson Smith
Tom Andrews

For Love of History: HSSC's Honor and Memorial Program

What better way to pay tribute to someone who has loved history than to enable HSSC to broaden its outreach to Southern California through publications and programs.

Donations of any amount are welcome, and each donor will be thanked publicly in this newsletter. HSSC will send a greeting card with an appropriate message to your honoree or to a loved one of the individual whom you wish to remember.

You will find "For Love of History" the perfect way to acknowledge special achievements, birthdays, anniversaries, or holidays as well as honoring the memory of a loved one.

President's Circle

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Mr. Thomas P. Carson Siegfried G. Demke George A.V. Dunning
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Stephen A. Kanter, M.D. Christine & William Shirley
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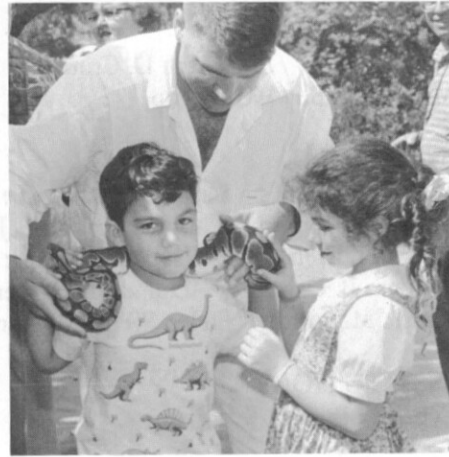
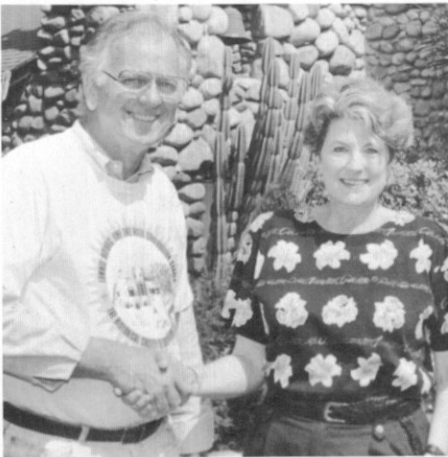


Annual Garden Open House Salutes 9,000th Visitor

It wasn't gardening as usual for Josie Corning this April 4th when the Historical Society and the Lummis Water-Conserving Garden Volunteers sponsored their Seventh Annual Garden Open House. As the 9,000th visitor since the event began in 1987, Josie Corning was showered with gifts and plants galore.

"We wish that we could honor all 9,000 visitors to our annual garden open houses," quipped HSSC Executive Director Tom Andrews. "Anyone who says that Southern Californians are not committed to conserving water should stop by the Lummis Garden in April. Our guests are eager to know every detail of waterwise gardening. Our irrigation, landscaping, and gardening experts are exhausted but exhilarated by the end of the day."

The event featured short talks on garden and landscape topics, gardening experts, drawings for plants and books, and activities for children.



PHOTOS: Henk Fritzer

Doheny Mansion is Perfect Backdrop for Lecture on Estelle Doheny

The magnificent Pompeiian Room of the Doheny Mansion was the opulent setting for Msgr. Francis Weber's May 1st lecture "Carrie Estelle Doheny: The Lady." Nearly 80 guests gathered to learn more about the colorful Doheny legacy and to support the educational outreach programs of the Historical Society.

Msgr. Weber, Director of the San Fernando Mission and Archivist for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, was introduced by long-time friend and fine printer Ward Ritchie.

Carrie Estelle Doheny (1875-1958) is regarded as a pioneer of Southern California philanthropy and culture. The Doheny Mansion bears elegant witness to the entrepreneurial paradise that was turn-of-the-century Los Angeles.



Descendants of Edward and Estelle Doheny gathered at Msgr. Weber's lecture in the Doheny Mansion: from left, Pat and Patty Doheny, Ryan Doheny and Edward Doheny V.

PHOTO: Suzanne Huddleson



PHOTO: Suzanne Huddleson

Tom Andrews, The Honorable Carlos Fernandez-Shaw, former Ambassador to the United States from Spain and The Honorable Eduardo Garrigues, Consul General of Spain in Los Angeles, celebrate the publication of the ambassador's book at El Alisal.

Reception for Spanish Ambassador Held at El Alisal

A touch of diplomatic class was in the air at El Alisal this April 30th when the Spanish Consul General hosted a reception for the Spanish Ambassador in the courtyard. The occasion was the publication of *The Hispanic Presence in North America* by Carlos Fernandez-Shaw, former Ambassador to the United States from Spain.

The Honorable Eduardo Garrigues, the Consul General of Spain in Los Angeles, introduced the guest of honor and thanked the Historical Society

staff for the warm welcome to the Lummis Home. Among those attending were: Beba Fernandez-Shaw, wife of the Ambassador, and Pilar Munoz, wife of Sr. Garrigues; Dr. and Mrs. Robert Skotheim, Director of The Huntington; Ginger Barnard, Deputy Chief of Protocol for the County Board of Supervisors; Miguel Comenge, Spanish Commercial Attache and Miguel Lahoz, Education Attache; historians Janet Fireman, Harry Kelsey, Gloria Lothrop and Msgr. Francis Weber.

Gloria Ricci Lothrop Delivers 1993 Whitsett Lecture

Gloria Ricci Lothrop has joined the distinguished roster of historians who, since 1987, have participated in the W.P. Whitsett California Lecture Series at California State University, Northridge (CSUN).

Gloria chose as the topic of her March 26th lecture "Rancheras on the Land: Women and Property Rights in Hispanic California." Doyce B. Nunis, Jr. offered the introduction, and the lecture was preceded by a reception and dinner.

Gloria has taught California history at Marymount College, Loyola University, USC and UCLA. She is currently on the faculty of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. An acknowledged leader in the teaching, writing, and promotion of California history, Gloria has specialized in American women's history, the history of European minorities, and American Indian history.

Gloria Lothrop's 1993 lecture will be published along with four of the previous six in a special issue of the *Southern California Quarterly* next year. This issue and the future publication of each Whitsett Lecture is made possible by a grant from the Whitsett Foundation and in cooperation with CSUN.

(Continued on back page)

President's Circle Tours Historic Orange County



Selecting from among the hundreds of historic sites recommended in her book *A Guide to Historical Outings in Southern California*, Gloria Lothrop led HSSC

President's Circle Members on a fascinating all-day tour of historic Orange County on June 5th.

Cautioned to wear comfortable

shoes, the "historical tourists" set out from the Parsons Company in Pasadena by luxury coach for points south. Along the way, the tour stopped at the Whittier Historical Museum, Heritage Park in Santa Fe Springs, the Old Orange County Courthouse Museum and the George Key Ranch in Placentia.

"Historic Orange County" was the third in a series of special programs for HSSC's President's Circle, whose members give \$1,000 or more annually to the Society. An evening with Jean

Stone, biographical editor, at the Los Angeles Athletic Club, launched the series, followed by a tour of historic Redlands and the A.K. Smiley Library with Larry Burgess, library director.

On November 6, the President's Circle will spend an evening with architectural photographer Julius Shulman at the home of Elaine Jones, wife of the late architect Quincy Jones.

For more information about joining the President's Circle, call HSSC at (213) 222-0546.



Michael Dougherty

Meet HSSC Director Michael Dougherty

Michael Dougherty, HSSC President from 1984-87, has lived a life immersed in Southern California history. Growing up in an historic Greene and Greene house in Ojai fed his love of architectural history. Today, Michael and his wife Carole live in a Lloyd Wright house in Glendale.

Michael Dougherty received his doctor of law degree from the University of Southern California and, from 1966 until his retirement in 1986, was an assistant county counsel for Los Angeles County. In one notable case, he investigated a handwritten will made by Maximillian N. Lando, which stipulated that a million dollars should go "to anything that will benefit the good people of Los Angeles." Michael put in a claim for awarding the money to either of the Los Angeles County museums, and the gift went to the Natural History Museum for the California history gallery known today as Lando Hall.

Michael has been newly elected to serve on the national board of the Society of Architectural Historians. He has also served on several State Bar committees. He published the annotated checklist "A Guide to Books on Los Angeles" as a special edition of the 1988 HSSC Newsletter.

HSSC Photo Archives Transferred to The Huntington Library

The HSSC Photo Archives have found a new home among the collections of The Huntington Library. In an effort to better protect its vast collection of 15,000 historical photographs and make them more accessible to researchers, the HSSC Board of Directors voted to transfer the photos and negatives to The Huntington's Photo Archives earlier this spring.

According to Jenny Watts, photo archivist, at The Huntington, "The

images document the growth and expansion of communities in Southern California from the late nineteenth through the mid-twentieth century and serve as a valuable complement to The Huntington's existing collections."

The HSSC Board also voted to transfer funds from contributions made by Associated Foundations, Inc. in 1989. Thus, The Huntington will be able to continue the transfer of images

(Continued on back page)

On the Book Shelf

by Robert Blew, Manager
El Alisal Book Shop

For some reason, I have always found reference books fascinating; I have even read Winchell's *Guide to Reference Books* for fun!

The California Department of Parks and Recreation has recently reprinted *California Historical Landmarks* (State of California, soft back, \$11.95), a work that those interested in California history should have in the glove compartment of their car. All historical landmarks—public or private, present or missing—are listed by county. Each marker is described by content with directions to it. There is an index by number in the back of the book.

The major weakness is that there is no topical index. The short history of the Landmark Commission is full of interesting facts. Although Charles Lummis originated the Landmarks Club and was the main force behind marking our historical sites, Los Angeles County did not receive a plaque until after 126 sites in other counties had been marked.

Another important reference work for Californians is John D. Hart, *A Companion to California* (University of California, soft back, \$19.00). This paperback edition includes illustrations and has been revised and expanded. The topics run the gamut from ABAG

to Adolph Zukor. Just flipping through it, one spots articles on hotels, Johnny Longdon, Henry Fonda, Harvey Mudd College, Sacred Expedition (a term Jose Galvez used only once, but which became the accepted name of the Serra-Portola Expedition), Robert Glass Cleland, and hay. As stated in the preface, "this work is intended as a [sic] useful companion for anyone interested in a general or basic knowledge of the most populous state of the Union." In addition, the work includes a chronology of the state's history.

Young readers need to be introduced to history and reference books as early as possible. Harry Knill's, *Early California and Her Flags Coloring Book* and *The Story of California And Her Flags From 1849 To The Present* (Bellerophon Press, \$4.25 each) offers an excellent means to start. Weaving the story of individuals and events, Knill presents an outline of California history. Many illustrations make the books a visual experience, and the interweaving of primary sources introduces the reader to the historian's craft.

El Alisal Book Shop welcomes orders by mail, telephone or FAX. Members receive a 10% discount on the cover price. Please add 8.25% sales tax and postage/handling of \$1.75 for the first book and \$1 for additional books. Call HSSC before FAXing orders. Telephone: (213) 222-0546 FAX: (213) 222-0771.

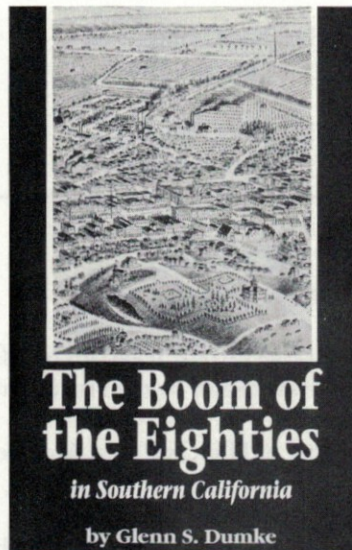
A Southern California Classic: Glenn Dumke's *The Boom of the Eighties in Southern California*

by Andrew Rolle

There is something wonderful about having one's work acclaimed a "classic." All too often, however, an author receives such an accolade after he is gone. This was the case with Glenn Dumke. His *The Boom of the Eighties in Southern California*, based on his doctoral dissertation at UCLA, was first published in 1944 by The Huntington Library when he was only 27 years old. Kept in print ever since, it was to be his major book.

Ordinarily such a first-time author can be little more than tentative, even unsure of his work. Not Dumke, who then intended to pursue a career as an historian. His administrative skills soon became so apparent, however, that he succeeded his first real mentor, Robert Glass Cleland (also a major historian) as Occidental's Dean of Faculty. Their careers were, indeed, similar. Cleland, my own role model as well, once told me that he filched time to work on his writing between student and faculty appointments, by keeping the manuscript of his next book in the bottom drawer of his desk. Dumke followed much the same procedure, mastering the use of odd moments for his writing.

The burdens of administration were to be even greater than Cleland's. Dumke went on to become President of San Francisco State College and subsequently was appointed Chancellor of the entire California State Colleges and University system. His writing career, thus, was cut off *in media res*, or in mid-life's passage. Indeed, he died before either the Historical Society of Southern California or the California



Historical Society could honor his many achievements. Yet, over the years, the study of history remained a central part of his life.

Why has Dumke's *Boom* come to be considered a classic? The answer has to do with enduring values. In our time the work "classic," like the term "great" or, even worse, "very great," is considerably overused. But not in Dumke's case. Since the appearance of his *Boom*, there has been little new published research on Southern California's vital transformation of society resulting from its real estate furor of 1887.

He was the first historian to show, systematically, how a massive advertising campaign carried knowledge of the local climate and resources to all parts of the world. The breakup of the great ranchos that Cleland's *Cattle On A Thousand Hills* had already described, also saw the emergence of a vine-and-citrus agriculture which replaced the old Spanish-Mexican ranching economy. The arrival of the Southern Pacific Railroad augmented the in-flow of settlers from the

eastern and midwestern United States as well as from Europe. With millions of dollars changing hands in realty transactions, Los Angeles became the very center of the boom. But many suburban towns were also incorporated—as were colleges, banks, libraries, and other permanent institutions.

Dumke's work has outlasted whatever has appeared in the interim. It should, however, be understood that he produced his book in an era when historians were little concerned with today's trendy attention to gender, class, and race. He, therefore, was entirely free to focus upon economic details, and to a lesser extent, political ones.

Scarcely any modifications of Dumke's conclusions have occurred. One professor recently pointed out to me that his figures concerning exactly how little it cost to come to California because of the railroad rate war between the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe needed updating, based on overlooked or new evidence. But, in the writing of history, such revisionism is an expected part of a process by which historians constantly improve their work, striving for perfection. Sometimes they are led astray by sources accepted in good faith that later are found to be in error. Such instances of misdirection due to a faulty source can be found in all of our books. But there is little to modify in Dumke's *The Boom of the Eighties in Southern California*. That is why some have called it a classic.

Andres Rolle, HSSC FELLOW and professor emeritus of history at Occidental College is one of California's distinguished historians. His text, California, A History, is in its fourth edition and is widely used in the state.

What's Your Opinion?

Someone once said, "The 19th Century was steeped in history compared to the 20th. Today, for all the preservation of landmarks and the show biz of centennials and bicentennials, we have become—as far as real interest and actual knowledge is concerned—an essentially historyless people."

Do you agree or disagree? Write us your brief response in 150 words or less, and the winning responses will be published in *The Southern Californian*. Winners also will receive a gift certificate to our El Alisal Book Shop.

SAVE THESE DATES:

July 11 Linda Vista/Annandale Day at the Lummis Home

Sept. 11 HSSC Book Sale Lummis Home

Sept. 12 HSSC Auction Lummis Home

PHOTO ARCHIVES

(Continued from page 6)

from unstable nitrate negatives to safety film that was begun by the Historical Society.

The core of HSSC's Photo Archives, now in The Huntington's collection, is the work of Charles Puck, a postal worker who recorded every imaginable aspect of life in Southern California between 1915 and 1957. Puck also collected the work of notable photographers of his time including C.C. Pierce and James B. Blanchard.

Puck was an ardent member of the Historical Society to which he began giving his photographs in 1948.

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WHITSETT LECTURE

(Continued from page 5)

The roster of Whitsett lecturers includes:

1987 Glenn Dumke, Inaugural Lecture

1988 Andrew Rolle

1989 Kevin Starr

1990 William Goetzman

1991 Doyce B. Nunis, Jr.

1992 Martin Ridge

1993 Gloria Ricci Lothrop

David Weber will deliver the eighth Whitsett Lecture next spring.

The offices of the Historical Society of Southern California are located in the Lummis Home, 200 East Avenue 43, Los Angeles, CA 90031.

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All of the above plus... Lectures and receptions for President's Circle members featuring noted Southern California historians.

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