

# The Southern CALIFORNIAN

PUBLISHED BY THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1993 YEAR IN REVIEW, VOL. 5, NOS. 2, 3, 4



PHOTO: Suzanne Huddleson

*Local History Award winners from left, back row: Robert Winter, Sylvester Klinicke, Roger Berry and Abraham Hoffman with Don Pflueger; front row, Jane Wilson, Shirley Stephenson and Louise Booth. Missing: Virginia Comer and David Gebhard.*

## Third Pflueger Award Luncheon Honors Local Historians

Nine people received the Donald H. Pflueger Local History Award at a luncheon in their honor on October 23 at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

The Historical Society created this award in 1991 to honor distinguished accomplishments in the publication and production of local history. Historian Don Pflueger established the benchmark for such work with his histories of Glendora and Covina.

The 1993 award winners represented a broad spectrum of historical inquiry from corporate history, to regional and family histories, to architectural history. Roger Berry, Louise Booth, Sylvester Klinicke and Shirley Stephenson shared the award for the *Centennial Bibliography of Orange County* (1989). In presenting the award, Esther Cramer called it

"exemplary in its design, organization and exhaustive detail. It is a model for all future historical bibliographies." Virginia Comer was recognized for *In Victorian Los Angeles: The Writings of Crown Hill* (1988). Presenter Carolyn Kozo Cole complimented the beautifully illustrated volume by noting that "the book stands out as an excellent example of what can be accomplished in local history when focusing on a family or a neighborhood area—and, when using a superb collection of photographs."

Michael Dougherty, former president of the Historical Society, presented the Pflueger Award to David Gebhard and Robert Winter for their indispensable *Architecture in Los Angeles: A Compleat Guide* (1985). "Your guide has filled an enormous void, and has

(Continued on page 5)

## History Fair a Success at Heritage Square

On Sunday, October 17, the Historical Society of Southern California joined with other members of "The Museums of the Arroyo" at Heritage Square to present the First Annual Southern California History Fair.

For the first time, people who write, print, paint, publish and collect southern California history gathered together to share and enjoy our rich historical legacy.

It was a spectacular fall day as fairgoers enjoyed slide presentations, book talks, Dixieland music, postcard and printing exhibits. The first 250 arrivals received free door prizes of Californiana. Many others bought raffle tickets for a chance to win a seven volume set of Bancroft's *History of California*.

(Continued on page 12)



PHOTO: Henk Friezer

Carole Dougherty welcomes "California's Gold" producer Huell Howser to the History Fair.





## GENTLE READER

I suspect you've heard the radio advertisement which states "We do more, we cost less, we pay now!"

In a very real way, at HSSC we have tried to make that *our* method of operating as a historical society. And 1993, a tremendously productive year for HSSC, illustrates the point.

"WE DO MORE." Last year we offered members the most programs and publications in the 110-year history of the Society: two awards luncheons, ten author's receptions, two President's Circle events, Garden Open House, Museums of the Arroyo Day, Linda Vista/Annandale Day, book sale and auction, History Fair and Holiday Open House.

Among the seven publications last year were two important anthologies, a history of Linda Vista, and two practical garden books.

"WE COST LESS." Our basic individual membership has remained at \$35 for the past ten years—at a time when many individual memberships start at \$50 or \$60. Ticket prices for our events are also among the lowest.

"WE PAY NOW." In addition to providing sizable prepublication discounts on all of our books, we offer attractive, optional premiums for the prompt renewal of membership.

In these economically tough times we believe stewardship should be a two-way street. And, in 1993, we tried to honor your commitment to history with a cost-conscious effort to offer you more for less. Indeed, that makes the year worth celebrating in this issue of our newsletter!

*Tom Andrews*

Executive Director



Councilman Mike Hernandez, standing next to Tom Andrews, admires "A Companion and Guide to the Waterwise Garden."

PHOTO: Henk Friezer

## HSSC Achieves Seven Year Goal of \$700,000 With Record Grants in 1993

Corporate and Foundation grants totaling \$136,300 helped HSSC reach the 7-year goal of \$700,000 set by its executive director Tom Andrews early in 1987. Over \$500,000 of that total has come in during the last four years.

This generous commitment on the part of individuals and the business community to support the cause of history has allowed HSSC to increase the quality and the quantity of its services to the general public. And the results of this new partnership between HSSC and the corporations and foundations of southern California are impressive:

- greater variety of programs
- increased activities at the Lummis Home and Garden
- stronger educational outreach
- cooperative ventures with other non-profits
- improved services to members with new state-of-the-art technology
- more special publications

HSSC is proud and pleased to acknowledge the following 1993 corporate and foundation donors, and to publicly express its thanks and appreciation for their support.

THE AHMANSON FOUNDATION  
ARCO  
ASSOCIATED FOUNDATIONS, INC.  
AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
GEORGE A.V. DUNNING FUND OF THE CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
THE JOHN RANDOLPH HAYNES AND DORA HAYNES FOUNDATION  
LAWRY'S FOODS, INC.  
LOS ANGELES DODGERS, INC.  
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
DAN MURPHY FOUNDATION  
WILL J. REID FOUNDATION  
SPRING STREET FOUNDATION  
TIMES MIRROR  
J.B. & EMILY VAN NUYS CHARITIES  
WATSON LAND COMPANY  
WEINGART FOUNDATION  
THE WESTERNERS, LOS ANGELES CORRAL



# MEMBERS

## President's Circle Enjoys Evening of Architectural Perspective

On Saturday, November 6 the President's Circle shared a private evening with architectural photographer Julius Shulman at the home of Elaine Jones, wife of the late pioneering California architect Quincy Jones.

Affectionately called The Barn, Elaine's home is a noted example of her husband's work. The unique remodeled interior provided a special setting for Julius Schulman's illustrated lecture.

Julius Shulman, a FELLOW of the Historical Society and internationally renowned architectural photographer, shared his personal insights on architecture and life. Combining a wide range of images from all over the world along with his own brand of philosophy Julius delivered an exceptional program.

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



PHOTO: Suzanne Huddleson

*Elaine Jones hosts President's Circle.*

## President's Circle 1993

Sandra J. Burton Christopher & Thomas P. Carson Siegfried G. Demke  
George A.V. Dunning Billie & Powell Greenland Janice & George La Moree  
Marjorie & Denver Markwith Louise O'Flaherty Barbara & John Osborne  
Ione B. Paradise Donald H. Pflueger James W. Robeson & Stephen A. Kanter  
Christine & William Shirley Esther & Morgan Sinclair Jean Stone  
Margaret Ann Storkan Alix & Terry E. Sullivan

## New Members 1993

Jane Adler Mike Aguilar Paul W. Allen John M. Allswang Elna Bakker  
Elisabeth Becker Joseph J. Bernard Roger B. Berry Fred Beshic  
Book Alley Books Plus Steven Born Ann Brown Lee Brown  
Richard Buchen John F. Burns Nancy & Richard Call Paul G. Chace  
Mahlon Chinn Paul F. Clark Donald Covington Mary & Gilbert Cutler  
Holly & David Davis Jeanette & William T. Davis Mary & Robert De Pietro  
Fernando A. Diaz Joy Dickson Lynn A. Downey Donald Duke  
Lois S. & Robert F. Erburu Martha Feutz Janet R. Fireman Anne Frank  
W. Stanley Gordon Roberta S. Greenwood Paul Gresham Valerie &  
Ross Guidry Michael Haines-Orella Theresa Hanley Myrtle &  
William N. Harris Kathleen & F. Kirk Helm Elizabeth Hera  
Alan Herrnberger Sasha Honig David Hornbeck Michael Imlay  
Nancy J. Jackson Steve Karolyi David W. Kimes Arthur C. Klein  
Janes Lare Julian Lesser Lorson's Books and Prints Virginia Mathony  
Thomas C. McLurkin, Jr. Richard V. Meadows Harry Medved Paul Melzer/  
Fine Books Roy Minnick Carol Misraje Dona Munker James D. Newland  
Joe Northrop Michael O'Flaherty Abe Ohanian Hazel E. Olson  
Patricia Ooley Janet Ostashay Merry Ovnick Don Parson Ken Pauley  
Carol Polanskey Mike Post Ron Quinn John A. Reed Peter Reich  
Margaret & Lawrence R. Rice Shelia M. Riddell Stacey Roman Yvonne &  
Joe Rouleou Hynda L. Rudd Jim Hofer Brian Coburn Ann Scheid  
David Sloane Bill Smith Shirley E. Stephenson Mena Storrs  
William Swindell Norman E. Tanis Jeri Taylor Tom Techentin  
The Book Shop John G. Tomlinson Vicki Valentine Jay Van Werlof  
Fred W. Viehe Richard E. Voelkel Cristi Walden Patricia & Lewis Walker  
Diane Waters & Charles Braun Joemy Wilson & Jon Harvey Bob Wolfe  
Ernest F. Woodward



PHOTO: Morgan Sinclair

*Kathleen and Kirk Helm, Siegfried Demke and Don Pflueger prepare for Holiday Open House as Mike Dougherty welcomes Richard Montgomery.*



## A Southern California Classic Revisited

by Abe Hoffman

In 1881 Los Angeles would celebrate the centennial anniversary of its founding. The occasion prompted one resident to write down his recollection of the city in its heyday during the gold rush as a frontier town. Few would have been as qualified as Horace Bell in undertaking the task for Bell had personally experienced many of the exciting events or else knew many old timers who could share their recollections. Bell found the task he had set for himself a bit more than expected, for it took him three years to write the book. When he was finally done, just in time for the 1881 anniversary, the manuscript ran to 450 pages.

Bell looked for a printer in the city but found no one really able to publish a book of such size. Yarnell, Caystile and Mathes agreed to print the book but said they didn't have enough type. They printed the first half of the book, took down the type, and then set the second half. Bell intended that the book be hardbound, setting a challenge for the bookbinder. Three different colors of cloth had to be used to bind the book, so some copies came out blue, others red, and the rest green.

When it was all done, Bell had a book that was controversial, vivid, and larger than life. He called it *Reminiscences of a Ranger*, drawing the title from his service in the California Rangers in the 1850s. Every page of *Reminiscences* leaped with liveliness and danger. The way Bell remembered it, Los Angeles was an exciting place in which to live in the old days, if you could survive the card sharks, vigilante mobs, and stray bullets.

Horace Bell was a survivor. Born in New Albany, Indiana, in 1830, he caught gold fever and came to California in 1850. He soon learned that digging up dirt in search of the elusive mineral was not for him. Bell visited his Uncle Alexander in Los Angeles and quickly became a part of the town's social life. Frequently the life became dangerous. Few people in backwater Los Angeles

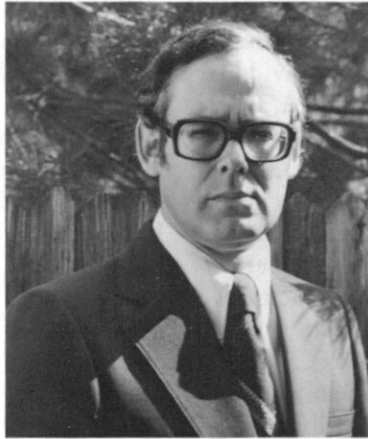
felt it was necessary to be on their best behavior at all times, or very much of the time. Bell attended fandangos where fist fights were common. The most notorious dustup occurred on February 22, 1853, at a ball given by Abel Stearns in honor of Washington's birthday. Some 200 Americans, hurt at being left off the guest list, tried to crash the party. They used a battering ram to knock down the door, only to confront guests firing pistols at them.

Bell recalled these events with relish in his chapter "The Washington's Birthday Ball" in *Reminiscences*.

Bell filled his life with adventure and controversy, finding the time somehow to cram marriage (and 11 children), filibustering in Nicaragua, helping out Benito Juarez in Mexico, service as a Union officer in the Civil War, plus farmer, lawyer, journalist, newspaper publisher, and author in one lifetime. In fact, *Reminiscences of a Ranger* couldn't hold it all. He continued writing about frontier California in his weekly newspaper *The Porcupine*. Many of his stories, including unpublished writing, were included in *On the Old West Coast*, published posthumously in 1930.

Bell had that rare fortune of outliving his enemies, making it to age 88 when he died in 1918. For many years copies of *Reminiscences* were easily available in secondhand book stores or public libraries. A new edition was printed in 1927, and in 1965 Ward Ritchie issued a three-volume version. The book is not without its faults. Bell carried many of the prejudices of his time, and certainly history must be a more sober affair than the excitement, exaggeration, violence, and adventure that characterized Bell's account of frontier Los Angeles. But then, where Los Angeles is concerned, you just never know.

*Abe Hoffman has been a member of HSSC since 1961 and is currently assistant editor of the Southern California Quarterly. He is a 1993 recipient of the Pflueger Award.*



Historian Abe Hoffman



## Pflueger Awards

(Continued from page 1)

been a tremendously useful tool for local history enthusiasts and scholars, commented Mr. Dougherty in his remarks.

Abraham Hoffman's *Vision or Villainy: Origins of the Owens Valley-Los Angeles Water Controversy* (1981) was praised as a "monumental achievement of research, organization and writing" by Professor Gerald Prescott. He emphasized that "it is the one book to be seriously reckoned with on the subject of the Los Angeles Aqueduct."

Jane Wilson received the Pflueger Award for her corporate history *Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, Lawyers: An Early History* (1990). Dr. Doyce Nunis, who presented the award, complimented the work and the author: "It transcends the firm to become a carefully crafted and important volume for understanding the early history of Los Angeles."

In his concluding remarks, Don Pflueger congratulated this year's winners and emphasized the influence that works of local history can have on a community's pride in its past and desire to shape its future.

The next Pflueger Award Luncheon will be held in the fall of 1995.

*The Pflueger Award winning publications (below) present a handsome display and offer a feast for the eyes as well as great reading.*

## Noted Authors Sign Works at Second Sunday Programs

Second Sunday Signing programs at El Alisal brought together a host of noted writers in 1993. The following authors shared stories about the joys and tribulations of writing their recently-published books.

**Gordon Bakken**  
*Practicing Law in Frontier California*

**Esther Cramer**  
*Brea: The City of Oil, Oranges and Opportunity*

**Michael Engh**  
*Frontier Faiths*

**Harry Knill**, publisher,  
*Rosie & the Bear Flag*

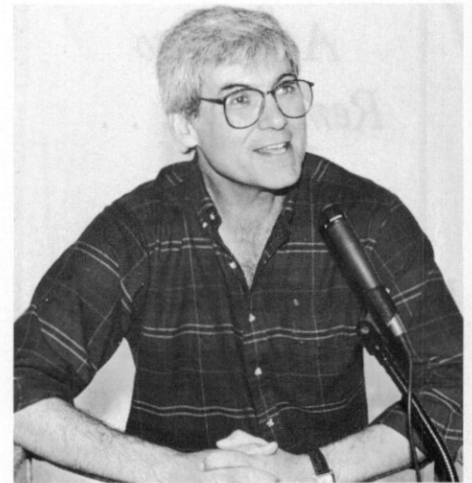
**Don McDowell**  
*Beat of the Drum*

**Robert Perry**  
*Landscape Plants of Western Regions*

**Martin Ridge**  
*Atlas of American Frontiers*

**Tom Sitton**  
*John Randolph Haynes: California Progressive*

**Raphael Sonenshein**  
*Politics in Black and White: Race and Power in Los Angeles*



Author Geoff Cowan speaks at the History Fair.

PHOTO: Henk Friezer

## 1993 PUBLICATIONS of the Historical Society of Southern California

*Southern California's Spanish Heritage: An Anthology*  
Edited by Doyce B. Nunis

*At the Arroyo's Edge: A History of Linda Vista*  
By Beverly Wayte

*A Companion and Guide to the Waterwise Garden*  
By Robert Perry

*Southern California Local History: A Gathering of the Writings of W.W. Robinson*  
Edited by Doyce B. Nunis

*Month by Month in a Waterwise Garden (2nd Edition)*  
By Kevin Connelly

*Manana Land: Irving Stone's Southern California*  
Edited by Jean Stone (Reprinted for distribution to the schools of Los Angeles County)

*California Bibliographies*  
Compiled by Msgr. Francis J. Weber (Reprinted for distribution to the schools of Los Angeles County)

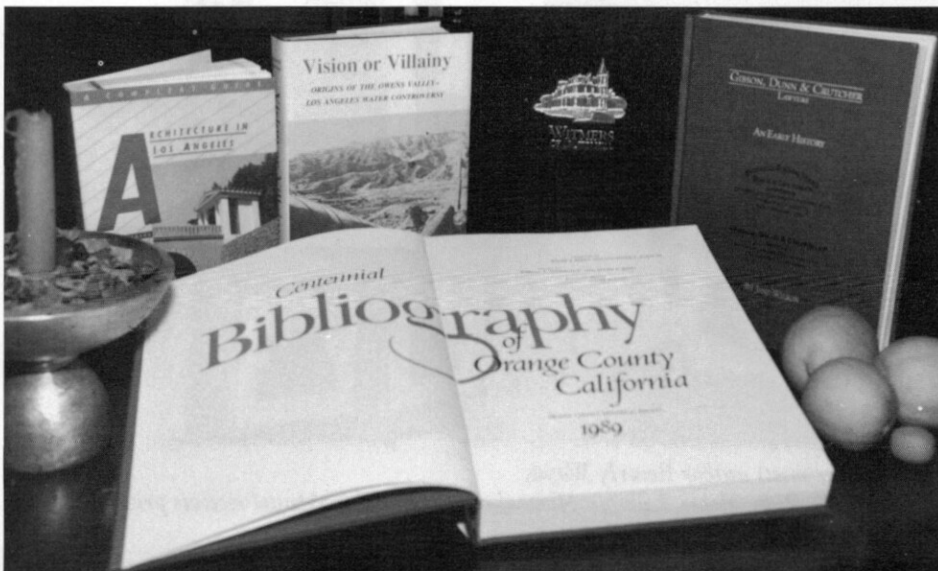


PHOTO: Suzanne Huddleson



## A Year to Remember. . .

History may linger at El Alisal, but there was nothing leisurely about the pace of activities sponsored by the Historical Society of Southern California during 1993.

Pictured here are some of the year's highlights from the April Garden Open House, to Second Sunday Book Signings, to the Fall Book Sale and Auction, to our Holiday Open House.

Tucked in and around a packed schedule of special events, were tours by school groups from throughout southern California, luncheons in Charlie Lummis' dining room, visits by garden clubs and architectural enthusiasts, and a steady stream of customers in the El Alisal Book Shop.

1994 promises more of the same. We'll be looking for you to stop by.



PHOTOS: Henk Friezer



Top: Visitor meets author Beverly Wayte.  
Center: Left, Ruby Moore, Lummis Home docent; right, Tom Apostol receives prize at Garden Open House from Margaret Dickerson.  
Bottom: Artist Ben Abril, left, displays his work at the History Fair.





Tom Andrews presents proclamation to "Los Cuatro Sonos."

## Fifth Annual "Museums of the Arroyo Day"—a Festive Affair

Southern Californians again enjoyed the yearly celebration commemorating the rich cultural history of the region surrounding the Arroyo Seco on Sunday, May 16, 1993.

The Lummis Home, Southwest Museum, Heritage Square and the Pasadena Historical Society were open free of charge to the public with each location providing their own unique activities and entertainment.

Activities at the Lummis Home included a short program to officially recognize Natividad Vacio and his quartet "Los Cuatro Sonos" for preserving and performing the songs of Hispanic California for the last 50 years. The group was presented with a proclamation from Mayor Bradley's office declaring May 16, 1993 as "Los Cuatro Sonos Day" at the Lummis Home. Free refreshments and docent-led tours of the house and garden were also ongoing throughout the day.

If you missed last year's event, be sure to mark Sunday, May 15 on your calendar to remind you when we will again present "Museums of the Arroyo Day."

## Arroyo Art Tours Stop at El Alisal

In November two tours included an important stop at El Alisal, the home of Charles Lummis.

On November 7, the Lummis Home was the starting point for a tour of the homes and studios of early twentieth century artists and architects of the Arroyo Seco.

The Historical Society joined forces with the Pasadena and Foothill Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the Highland Park Heritage Trust to sponsor the event.

Over 1,500 people participated in the tour. At the Lummis Home, docents focused on the architecture of the house and Lummis' promotion of western artists.

On November 28, HSSC and the Arroyo Arts Collective sponsored a tour of the homes and studios of artists working today in the Highland Park and Mt. Washington neighborhoods. Over 70 artists—some with international reputations—opened 50 studios for the tour. Visitors enjoyed seeing a wide variety of media and work-spaces, ranging from traditional painting to laser/video art and from converted garages to spacious workshops.

The enthusiasm generated by the tours has prompted the organizations to work together on future tours.

## Book Sale And Auction Reaches \$10,000 Goal!

Rare books, autographed copies, limited editions, fine printed volumes, historical panoramas and vintage postcards vied for the attention of the collectors who attended the Third Annual HSSC Benefit Book Sale and Auction on September 11 and 12.

The two-day event brought in a record \$10,778. In the words of Executive Director Tom Andrews, "This event, which is enjoyed by all, has become an important source of funds for the publication program of the Society."

A 1930s panorama of Westwood Village, an 1849 gold Rush map, a Paul Landacre engraving, 44 Mt. Lowe postcards, and a copy of J. Gregg Layne's *Annals of Los Angeles* were among the items receiving the most attention—and the highest bids.

Make a note on your calendar that the 1994 book sale will be held on Saturday morning, June 25, and the auction will take place on Sunday afternoon, September 11.



A small portion of books available at the Third Annual Book Sale.

PHOTO: Margaret Dickerson

PHOTO: Margaret Dickerson





Kirk Helm



Robert Ebinger

PHOTO: Suzanne Huddleson

## *We'd Like to Know. . .*

*The achievements of our members and friends of the Historical Society inspire all of us. If you are aware of someone deserving of recognition in our newsletter, please contact one of our staff members at El Alisal (213) 222-0546.*

## Meet HSSC Directors: Kirk Helm and Robert Ebinger

### Kirk Helm, Architect

During his forty-year career as an architect, Kirk Helm has left his mark on the local histories of communities from Syracuse, New York, to Knoxville, Tennessee to Pasadena, California. In each of these, and many other towns, Kirk designed buildings and facilities of every type—schools, stadiums, manufacturing plants, homes, libraries, churches and hospitals.

Over the years, he has enjoyed, and labored over many interesting assignments, but perhaps his most historical was that given him by the US Civil Service to design support buildings for the famed Manhattan Project to develop the Atomic Bomb.

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

The Historical Society is proud to have Kirk Helm on its Board of Directors. He has brought invaluable expertise to the refurbishment of the Lummis Home and an active interest in southern California's history.

Kirk and his wife Kathleen live in San Marino and enjoy traveling abroad and throughout the United States.

### Robert Ebinger, Cinematographer

Bob Ebinger has been an active member of the film/video community since his graduation from the University of Southern California's School of Cinema in 1970. His work as a director of photography includes documentaries, commercials, non-theatrical films and full-length features. His film projects have taken him throughout the United States and to most of the world's continents.

Reared in Columbus, Ohio, Bob spent his summers as a youth traveling the American West where he developed a lifelong interest in Native American culture and the settling of the West.

Since 1976, Bob has been actively involved with the formation and activities of the Highland Park Heritage Trust, which promotes the historic and cultural significance of this northeast Los Angeles community through media shows, walking tours and local awards.

Bob's commitment to Highland Park and its history led him to become involved with the Historical Society several years ago when the parcel of land adjacent to the Lummis Home was developed into apartments. He worked closely with HSSC to mitigate the development's effects on the Lummis Garden.

## Msgr. Weber Awarded Order of Isabella

King Juan Carlos of Spain awarded the Grand Cross of Isabella la Catolica to HSSC member Msgr. Francis J. Weber, Archivist for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, in recognition of his many books and articles about the Spanish heritage in California.

The honor was conferred on Columbus Day, 1993, by the Honorable Victor Ibanez-Martin, the Consul General for Spain in Los Angeles.



Msgr. Francis J. Weber

PHOTO: Suzanne Huddleson



# FOR LOVE OF HISTORY MEMORIALS

## In Memory of Robert G. Cowan

Tom Andrews  
Margaret Dickerson  
Carole & Michael Dougherty  
Mary & Bill Escherich

## In Memory of Wade Kittel

Mary & Bill Escherich

## In Memory of William Lorenz

May & Bill Escherich

## In Memory of Alden Miller

Mary & Bill Escherich

## In Memory of Jack Moore

Judy & Donald Moore

## In Memory of Joseph O'Flaherty

Tom Andrews  
Elna Bakker  
Carol & Peter Barrett  
Marie & Stephen Belgum  
Andrea & Michael Berger  
Denise Martin & Ken Campbell  
Chase, Rotchford, Drukker & Bogust  
Mildred & Samuel Clifford  
Joanne Core  
Harriett & Russell Crawford  
Hobart Cress  
Ian Cunningham  
Leonor Cunningham  
Argy Diamantides-Abel  
Kendra & Arthur Diamond  
Margaret Dickerson  
Donna & Anthony Di Rosario  
Carole & Michael Dougherty  
Mary & Bill Escherich  
Gustave Faust  
Brian Gibson  
Diane & Barry Gilman  
Lisa Golden  
Florence Goodman  
Billie & Powell Greenland  
Allison Hesnault  
Shirley & Darwin Horn  
Nancy & George Jeffrey

Deborah La Combe  
Marylee & Donald Lounsbury  
Michael Maloney  
Marjorie & Denver Markwith  
Dorothy & Al Martin  
Barbara & Edwin Mendenhall  
Beverly Menze  
Christine Mulcahy  
Northridge Hospital Foundation  
Doyce Nunis  
Barbara & John Osborne  
Frank Person  
Donald Pflueger  
Elizabeth Rake  
Helen & John Riper  
Paul Saffo  
Richard Schnute  
Kathleen & Stephen Schumm  
Sidney Shankland  
Barbara Sterns  
Union Bank  
Nancy Wanski  
Sumiko & Louis Warden  
Jane & H.W. Wright

## In Memory of John Urabec

Mary & Bill Escherich

## 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.

### For Love of History: The HSSC Tribute Program to Honor or Remember Family and Friends

\_\_\_\_\_ Memorial \_\_\_\_\_ Honor \_\_\_\_\_ (Occasion)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Send card to \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Donor's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send check payable to: HSSC, 200 E. Avenue 43, Los Angeles, CA 90031





HSSC staff left to right: Margaret Dickerson, Tom Andrews, Carole Dougherty, Michael Sanborn.

## HSSC Staff Celebrates 22 Years of Service

Making history at the close of 1993, the four members of the HSSC staff celebrated 22 years of collective service to the Historical Society.

Executive Director Tom Andrews (1986), office manager Margaret Dickerson (1987), program coordinator Carole Dougherty (1987), and membership manager Michael Sanborn (1992) have become a very effective team in directing the affairs of the state's oldest, continuously-operating historical society.

The staff's motto for 1994 is "We're Southern California and we've got history on our side!"

PHOTO: Suzanne Huddleson

"In Southern California," it has been said, "History represents the impact of the present on the past, rather than the other way around."

## What's Your Opinion . . .

Do you agree or disagree? Write us your brief response in 150 words or less, and the winning response(s) will be published in *The Southern Californian*. Winners also will receive a gift certificate good for any publications or merchandise in our El Alisal Book Shop.

Mail your response to:  
The Historical Society of  
Southern California  
"In My Opinion"  
200 East Avenue 43  
Los Angeles, CA 90031

## Are Americans Historyless?

*In the last issue of the Southern Californian, we asked you to agree or disagree with the comment that Americans have become "an essentially historyless people" in the 20th Century.*

*The winning response comes from Dr. Richard H. Peterson, Professor of History, San Diego State University. Professor Peterson receives a copy of Southern California's Spanish Heritage as his prize. His essay follows:*

"While the Civil War captures much popular attention, it is absurd to assume that 20th-century Americans are 'essentially historyless' when most have lived through such historically significant crises as the Great Depression, World War II, and the Cold War.

Public interest in genealogy and oral, local, military, and biographical history suggests that Americans are not historically illiterate. However, unlike in the 19th Century, American historical writing is fragmented by excessive specialization.

Historians write for their peers, not for a mass market the way Francis Parkman did in the previous era. As a nation we lack such sweeping interpretations of modern American history as Turner's "frontier thesis" or Beard's economic determinism to give meaning to our past.

If Americans seem 'historyless', it is because the concept of the nation state is yielding to global community, thus explaining the rise of college-level world history courses and perhaps the decline of the current 'American Century.'"



# An Argonaut Finds Two Universities

by Don Pflueger

The stereotypical forty-niner struggled to get to California, found little gold, returned East, and made little impact. No stereotype was Myron Angel, West Point dropout (gold was more alluring than the military), who joined a westward overland party.

At the Colorado River he abandoned his trunk containing his uniform and textbooks, left his party, and nearly lost his life getting to San Diego. Eventually, he reached San Francisco by ship, penniless.

There he quit a roofing job because of his ineptness and lack of practical experience, blaming his earlier education. Lt. Cave Coutts out of Fort Yuma discovered the trunk and forwarded it to Angel. Selling the books, Angel survived the bleak winter.

Discouraged with mining, Angel worked on a number of fledgling newspapers from San Francisco to Austin, Nevada, finally teaming up with publishers Thompson & West. For them he wrote a history of San Luis Obispo county, staying there as a local newspaper editor.

To benefit the community, Angel promoted the idea of a state school. Remembering his roofing experience, he touted a school offering the practical arts, agriculture and mechanics for boys and homemaking for girls. "The Polytechnic" was founded in 1901 in San Luis Obispo; Angel died a decade later.

The coeducational, vocational, secondary school changed form and direction, but did not thrive until the late thirties. In 1938, a branch was opened in San Dimas at the former Voorhis Boys' School. The first baccalaureate degrees were awarded in 1941 at San Luis Obispo.

On both campuses, the philosophical underpinnings were "learn by doing," "earn while you learn," and the "upside-down program."

Regarding the last feature, the lower and upper division courses were reversed. President Julian McPhee felt it made good educational sense to move from the practical to the theoretical; besides, if a student had to drop out he

would have some salable skills. These characteristics differentiated Cal Poly from other colleges.

Impressed by the successful program, cereal tycoon W.K. Kellogg in 1949 gave his magnificent 800-acre Arabian horse ranch in Pomona to the state. It eventually became the Pomona campus.

The three campuses were operated as a single institution until 1966 when the Voorhis campus was sold and two separate colleges within the state system were created—one in San Luis Obispo and the other in Pomona. With student and curricular growth, university status was achieved in the 1970s. By the nineties each institution enrolled nearly 20,000 students.

The only link between the two institutions today is the annual student-designed, -constructed, and -financed float in the Tournament of Roses. Both campuses have become typical state universities, offering courses in every imaginable subject—and some beyond imagination. Occupationally-oriented practical education, however, remains a Cal Poly hallmark.

*Donald H. Pflueger, professor emeritus, Cal Poly Pomona, is an authority on southern California local history and a member of HSSC Board of Directors.*

---

*On both campuses,  
the philosophical  
underpinnings were  
"learn by doing,"  
"earn while you  
learn," and the  
"upside-down  
program."*

---



## HISTORY FAIR

(Continued from page 1)

Artists Ben Abril, Pearl Beach and Nancy Grenier exhibited their work featuring southern California landmarks. Joseph Stoddard, besides exhibiting his work, strolled the grounds painting watercolor vignettes of Heritage Square's Victorian buildings.

Underwritten with a grant from the Associated Foundations, Inc., this initial effort was so successful that a second History Fair is planned for Sunday, October 16, 1994. Mark your calendars.



PHOTO: Henk Friezer

*Dixieland Band performs at the History Fair.*

## SAVE THESE DATES:

- Apr. 10 8th Annual Garden Fair  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- May 15 6th Annual Museums of the Arroyo Day  
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- June 25 4th Annual HSSC Book Sale  
10 a.m.
- Sept. 11 4th Annual HSSC Book, Photo & Art Auction  
1 p.m.
- Oct. 1 70th Birthday Luncheon honoring Doyce Nunis
- Oct. 16 History Fair Heritage Square  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Dec. 3 Holiday Open House  
2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN is published quarterly by the Historical Society of Southern California which is a California non-profit corporation [501(c)(3)]

Thomas F. Andrews  
*Executive Director*

Denise J. Martin  
*Consultant*

*Contributors:*  
Margaret Dickerson  
Carole Dougherty  
Michael Sanborn  
Robert Blew

*Printing & Mailing*  
Licher Direct Mail

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

**HSSC Office Hours**  
9-5 Monday - Friday

**Lummis Home**  
Open to the Public  
12-4 Friday - Sunday

**Group Tours**  
Friday morning by appointment

(213) 222-0546

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FOUNDED 1883 INCORPORATED 1891

### ALL MEMBERS RECEIVE...

Annual subscription to the *SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA QUARTERLY*

Annual subscription *The Southern Californian*

10% Discount in the El Alisal Book Shop

Free Lummis Garden Open House and December Holiday Open House

### IN ADDITION...

☐ \$25 Student Members and

☐ \$35 Individual Members

receive:

Discounted program and event tickets for Member

☐ \$ 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.

Please enroll me as a member in the *Historical Society of Southern California* in the category checked above.

☐ Check enclosed, payable to the *Historical Society of Southern California*.

☐ NEW MEMBER ☐ RENEWAL ☐ GIFT MEMBERSHIP

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

*The Southern Californian*  
200 East Avenue 43  
Los Angeles, CA 90031

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Pasadena, CA  
Permit #559

*Membership contributions are tax-deductible within the limits allowed by law.  
For further information call HSSC at (213) 222-0546.*