

# The Southern CALIFORNIAN

PUBLISHED BY THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

SPRING 1994 VOL. 6 NO. 1

## History of Gardening in California: New Exhibit at the Lummis Home

An 1881 Germain seed catalogue, a frog-shaped sprinkler, a Flit spray gun, a hand-held, chain-driven crop duster and a whimsical garden troll—these are just a few of the artifacts that join blueprints, seed packets and early gardening books in the Robert Smaus Collection now on display at the Lummis Home through July.

The 150-piece exhibit is divided into four eras: "Early California, 1760s-1860s," "Americanization, 1860s-1900," "The Golden Age, 1920-1930," and "The Modern Garden, 1940-1950." Many early Los Angeles items are to be found among those displayed by the respected *Los Angeles Times* garden editor.

The Historical Society is honored to present to the public for the first time, the Robert Smaus Collection of 100 years of gardening history in California. This is a must-see exhibit for southern California history and garden enthusiasts. The Lummis Home is open to the public Friday-Sunday, 12-4 p.m.



A portion of Robert Smaus's gardening exhibit now on display at the Lummis Home



PHOTO: Suzanne Huddleson

Community Enrichment recipients from left, back row, Larry Burgess and Preston Hotchkis; front row, Jack Smith and Claire Bogaard

## Four Community Leaders Honored with Second Annual Enrichment Award

Continuing its focus on honoring community leaders who have made a difference in southern California, HSSC presented the Second Annual Community Enrichment Award to Claire Bogaard, Larry Burgess, Preston Hotchkis and Jack Smith.

The award luncheon was held on March 12, 1994 at the Los Angeles Athletic Club, itself a long-standing contributor to the life of downtown Los Angeles.

Over 125 HSSC members and friends of the honorees assembled to recognize the contributions of these extraordinary individuals: Claire Bogaard for founding and directing Pasadena Heritage; Larry Burgess for his direction of the A.K. Smiley Public Library and his service to the community of Redlands; Preston Hotchkis for his guardianship of Rancho Los Alamitos; and Jack Smith for forty one years of enlightened and entertaining commentary on life in southern California

through the pages of the *Los Angeles Times*.

Each recipient was introduced with a citation especially written for the occasion by a colleague particularly qualified to define the significance of his or her achievements. Presenting the awards were: Margaret Bach, founding president of the Los Angeles Conservancy, to Claire Bogaard; Don Pflueger, historian of several southern California communities, to Larry Burgess; William Huston, chairman of the Watson Land Company, to Preston Hotchkis; and historian (and special fan) Gloria Lothrop to Jack Smith.

The HSSC Community Enrichment Award celebration is 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 next year's award, contact Tom Andrews, HSSC executive director.





## GENTLE READER

Can we learn from poets and movie directors as well as from historians? I think we can.

In her inaugural poem, *On the Pulse of Morning*, Maya Angelou shared with the nation her thoughts about history:

*"History despite its wrenching pain,  
Cannot be unlived, but if faced  
With courage, need not be lived again."*

More recently, Steven Spielberg, who lost ten relatives in the Holocaust, told an audience of young German moviegoers that it was "essential to look history in the eye."

He then added these words: "Not as a way of paying penance or expressing guilt or shame, but as a way of understanding that we cannot put the present or future right until we make peace with our past."

Page Smith reminds us, however, that "history has to be experienced; it needs to be sensed, entered into, absorbed." It must "get out of the classroom and into the community," it must get out of the scholarly monographs—"read only by other historians"—and into the public arena.

What are the poet, the director, and the historian saying to us? They want us to look, listen and learn from the past—not to hide from our history, whitewash it or attempt to erase it, but to look at it squarely with courage, honesty and resolution.

One cannot face the past with courage, however, or make peace with the past, unless one understands the past. Join with us this year as we attempt to educate, inform, and celebrate the diverse dimensions of southern California's past. Let's make history together in 1994!

*Tom Andrews*

Executive Director



PHOTO: Robert Ebinger

HSSC members at Laguna Art Museum

## Two HSSC Tours Visit Laguna and Irvine Art Museums

Response to February's tour of the Laguna and Irvine Art Museums was so enthusiastic that HSSC sponsored not one but two trips for art lovers. Joining Society members for the second tour were members of the California Art Club. Each tour, on February 5 and 19, was treated to a full day of art, sightseeing and a seaside lunch at Las Brisas in Laguna Beach.

The Laguna Art Museum featured "*Loners, Mavericks & Dreamers: Art in Los Angeles Before 1900*." Curator Nancy Moure's exhibition displayed a wide range of work from Native Americans, Spanish missionaries, Mexican era- and turn-of-the-century *plein air* painters. One of the highlights for HSSC members was viewing the Society's painting by Alexander Harmer, which was on loan for the exhibition. From June 4 through September 18, the Monterey Peninsula Art Museum will host the "*Loners, Mavericks & Dreamers*" exhibition.

The Irvine Art Museum presented "*Southern California's Plein Air Painters (1890-1930)*." All of the art work for this exhibition was selected from Joan Irvine Smith's extensive collection of *plein air* paintings. Museum Director Jean Stern gave an enlightening lecture to HSSC members on the methods and history of this unique California art style.



PHOTO: Margaret Dickerson

Wisteria in full bloom

## Lavender: The Color of a Sierra Madre Centennial

A million fragrant, lavender petals blooming from one wisteria vine greeted Historical Society members and friends on Saturday, March 26 in Sierra Madre. The "world's largest blossoming plant," according to the Guinness Book of World Records attracts over 5,000 visitors once a year.

The bus tour first stopped at the Feeney and Solt homes which share the one-acre vine. HSSC Vice President Janice LaMoree presented each family with a certificate recognizing their contribution to the history of southern California.

Following the wisteria viewing, members enjoyed a leisurely lunch in downtown Sierra Madre with an opportunity to browse the craft and art street fairs afterward.

Ward Ranch—where the renowned Ward marmalade is made in the century-old tradition—proved to be a fascinating final stop. Owned and operated by the third and fourth generation of the Ward family, a surprising variety of products are produced, packaged and sold here. About 15 people are employed in preparing marmalades, preserves, jellies and olives for sale. The barn has a small museum containing equipment, utensils, etc. from past days.



### Bonus for Members: A Special Double Issue of the *Quarterly*

HSSC members were no doubt surprised when they received their copy of the Fall/Winter 1993 *Quarterly*. For one thing, it is nearly 300 pages in length; for another, it is handsomely dressed up with a fold-out 1891 bird's-eye view of Los Angeles on the cover.

Underwritten with a generous grant from the Spring Street Foundation to commemorate the centennial of the founding of the Title Insurance and Trust Company, it is the first volume to be devoted entirely to the theme of "Land Policy and Land Use in Southern California."

From Spain's "Legal Heritage" to the conflict of "Mexican and American Land Policy" to the "Boom of the Eighties" to the "Colorado River Project" and "Bunker Hill and Chavez Ravine," five articles explore this important southern California subject.

In the concluding 88-page article, Judson Grenier pays tribute to the Title Insurance and Trust Company, which has exercised a profound influence on land use in the southland, with a history of the firm.

According to Executive Director Tom Andrews, this double issue of the *Quarterly* "demonstrates what can happen when a corporation or institution takes seriously its historical presence in the community and works closely with an historical society in planning the celebration of a significant anniversary." It is a welcome partnership!

#### **Volunteers Needed for Los Angeles' Birthday Celebration...**

Los Angeles will celebrate its 213th Birthday on September 5 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park in downtown L.A.

Volunteers are needed to plan the celebration and to help with the various activities.

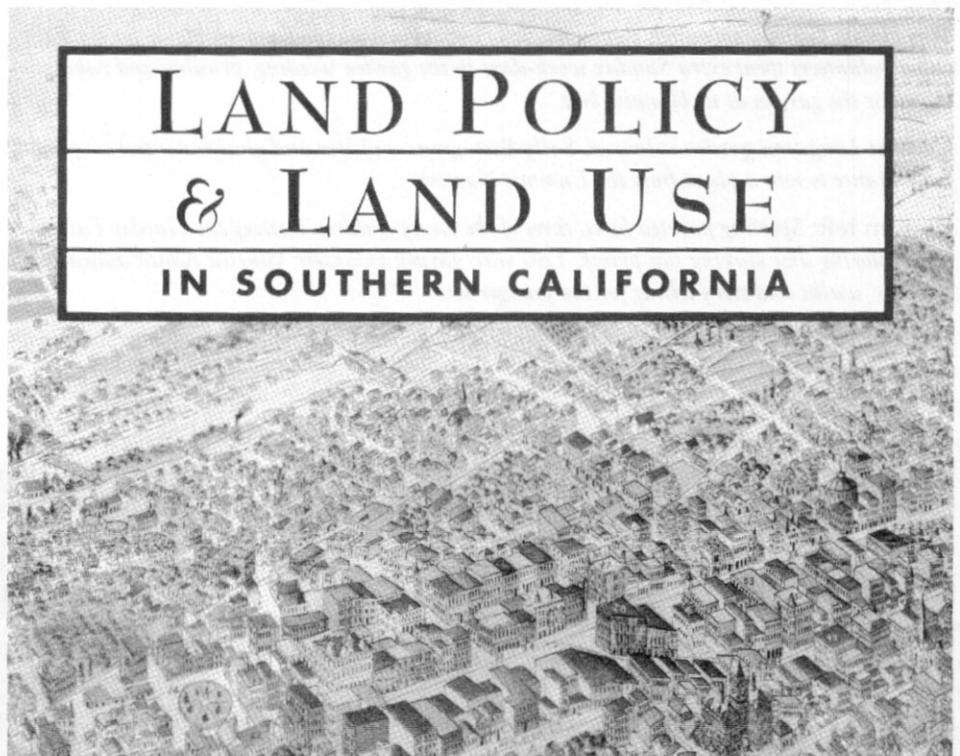
Call 213/680-2525 for more information.

### President's Circle 1994

Sandra J. Burton   Christopher & Thomas P. Carson  
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Billie & Powell Greenland   Janice & George La Moree  
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Barbara & John Osborne   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 1994

Virginia & Andy Andrews   Constance Andrews  
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Betty & John W. Andrews   Lori Andrews & Matt Wiebe  
Judith Barton   Elizabeth G. Bertch   Bixby Land Company  
Claire Bogaard   Marjorie Bryan   Marilyn B. Chandler  
Dixie & Don Cook   Harold B. Eaton   Mike Eberts  
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Alvin Simon   Louise Simonson



*The cover of the Fall/Winter 1993 Southern California Quarterly sponsored by the Spring Street Foundation to commemorate the centennial of Title Insurance and Trust*

# GARDEN FAIR



PHOTO: Tom Engler



PHOTO: Carole Dougherty



PHOTO: Margaret Dickerson

**Top left:** Colorful banners mark Tom Engler's photo exhibit of the Lummi's Garden. Engler's striking photographs chronicle the waterwise garden since its installation in 1985. Matted copies of the 11" x 14" photos are available from HSSC. Call for details.

**Top right:** Garden volunteer, Paula Block-Levor, spruces up the Lummi's Home for the Fair. Other volunteers spent extra Sunday work-days in the garden weeding, pruning and raking to showcase the garden at its bloomin' best.

**Center:** Long-time garden volunteer, Sally Beer, greets a visitor and gives her a free coupon for a chance to win a plant from the Lummi's Nursery.

**Bottom left:** Sporting painted faces, three of the many children visiting the Garden Fair enjoy coloring and making sun-prints. This year, garden volunteer Vanessa Acosta added toddlers' walks and story telling for the younger set.

**Bottom right:** Artist Joseph Stoddard strolls the Lummi's Garden, capturing it in charming watercolor vignettes.

## New Features of the Eighth Annual Garden Fair

This year 750 visitors to the Garden Fair picked up an exciting bonus: a free copy of Robert Smaus's *One Shelf of Garden Books for Southern Californians*.

The annotated list of 21 books designed by Smaus for the beginning gardener includes many books available at El Alisal Book Shop.

Be sure to drop by the Lummi's Home and pick up your free copy. Then browse in the book shop, make your selections and get a solid start on your shelf of garden books.

Also new this year, two special-subject tours added another dimension to the popular garden tours.

Gordon Nunnally gave a tour of the garden focusing on common garden pests and Melanie Baer Keeley illustrated her talk on Native Americans' use of local plants by pointing out some of these plants growing in the Lummi's Garden.

For the first time, author Kevin Connelly provided a display of wildflowers and answered questions about growing them. He also signed his book *Month by Month in a Waterwise Garden* for happy buyers.

For Angelenos wanting to learn the latest about waterwise gardening, this year's Garden Fair was the place to be on April 10. We hope you will mark your calendar and plan to visit the Lummi's Home on April 9, 1995.

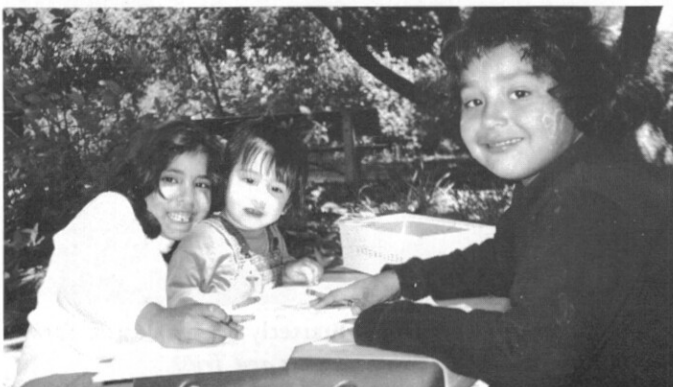


PHOTO: Carole Dougherty



PHOTO: Margaret Dickerson



## Eighth Annual Garden Fair Highlights

Before launching into his talk on irrigation techniques, Bob Galbreath pointed to his dark brown shirt sprinkled with red and yellow flowers and quipped, "This is as colorful as my talk gets."

Light-hearted but informative, the talks were a highlight of the Garden Fair: Noted Santa Barbara landscape architect Isabelle Greene fielded questions from the audience; Klaus Radtke spoke about erosion control on slopes and Rick and Becky Fisher, husband and wife, teamed up to discuss fire retardant planting.

Popular returning speakers Bob Smaus, Lili Singer and Bob Perry talked about southern California gardening history, garden books and garden design.

The experts at the Garden Fair once again demonstrated to Angelenos that gardens in southern California can be both waterwise and beautiful.

Robert Smaus has been telling Angelenos that since before he became garden editor of the *Los Angeles Times* in 1989. In honor of Smaus, a long-time supporter of the Lummis Garden, HSSC declared Sunday, April 10, Bob Smaus Day.

Executive Director Tom Andrews presented Bob with a framed color photograph of the Lummis Home by Tom Engler.

"Bob has taken the lead in promoting gardens designed with southern California's climate in mind," Andrews said.

Obviously pleased by the honor Smaus replied, "The Lummis Garden is where my interests in history and gardens come together."



PHOTO: Tom Engler

**Top:** Los Angeles Times garden editor, Robert Smaus, shares a story about his California gardening collection. The collection reflects a 100-year history of California gardening and will be on display at the Lummis Home through July.

**Bottom left:** Docent Cynthia Null leads a tour of the Lummis Garden.

**Bottom center:** This year HSSC welcomed the 10,000th-plus visitors to the Garden Fair by presenting surprised La Canada-Flintridge residents, Anne Tryba, John Hale and their children Katie and Jack, with a basketful of gardening goodies.

**Bottom right:** Bob Perry, landscape architect and designer of the Lummis Garden.



PHOTO: Margaret Dickerson



PHOTO: Tom Engler

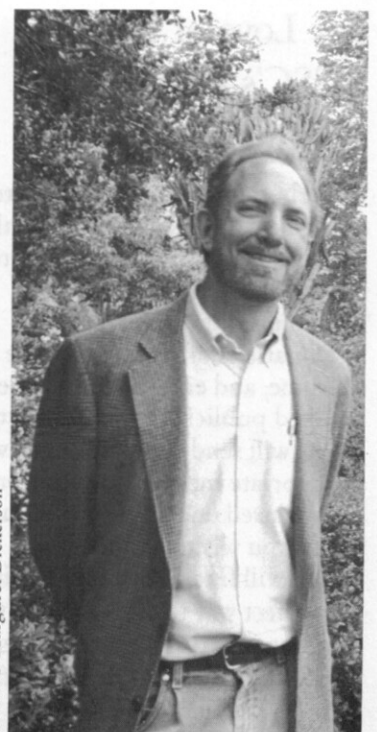
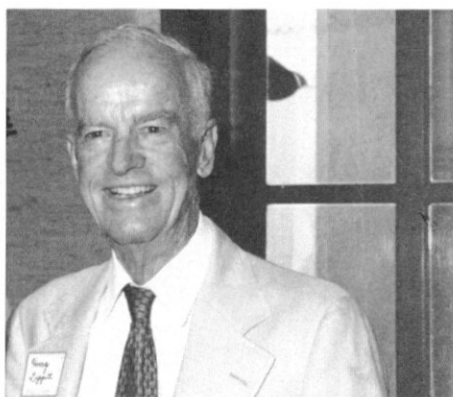


PHOTO Margaret Dickerson



Henry F. Lippitt, 2nd

## In Memory of Henry F. Lippitt, 2nd

Tom Andrews  
Warren Bostick  
Carole & Michael Dougherty  
Mary & Bill Escherich  
Lorna & Luigi Gentile  
Janet & Robert Gillette  
Ernest & Gunter Herman  
John Jensen  
Catherine Mulholland

## HSSC Director Henry F. Lippitt, 2nd 1915 - 1994

On the East Coast, Henry Lippitt was born into history, with roots going back to early 17th century Rhode Island. On the West Coast, Henry Lippitt made history, with his work in natural gas regulation.

It was, therefore, a sense of New England history that did much to shape the man, and, in return, it was the man who did much to shape the course of history 3,000 miles away from his eastern roots. Henry always carried with him a deep sense of the meaning, purpose and value of history.

It is understandable, then, that Henry would get involved with the oldest historical society in the state, the one in the city where he took up residence in 1957. He became a member of the board of directors of the Historical Society of Southern California in 1970 and treasurer of the board in 1976. He was serving faithfully in that capacity when he died.

Henry enriched all of us on the staff and board by the cheerful welcome of his presence—from Peg Cassidy and Betty Marsh through Jackie Wilson and myself. In the process we learned

certain important lessons from Henry Lippitt.

Henry taught us that a love of history comes from the heart and soul as well as from the head, that history and a sense of place do not have to be left behind when one relocates, that gathering and putting in order a tradition and a group memory give us a much needed personal and social identity—the necessary requisites for cultural growth, and that as participants in our own history, we can lend increased meaning to the culture in which we live.

More than anything, however, Henry showed by example what it means to make a commitment and carry through with it over time. In an age known for its mobility and rapid change, Henry Lippitt was a solidly anchored individual. In his eighteen years as treasurer, Henry made a vital contribution to the Society by managing its assets with a financial expertise and vision that remained fixed and sure. We at the Historical Society are deeply grateful for the commitment. It is Henry's legacy to all of us.

## 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

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## A Southern California Classic Revisited

by Michael E. Engb

Every book collector has special memories associated with certain authors and their works, and I will always link my twenty-first birthday with Harris Newmark and *Sixty Years in Southern California, 1853-1913*. Knowing of my interest in history, a group of friends presented me with a copy of the newly-printed fourth edition, a volume beautifully produced by Zeitlin and Ver Brugge in 1970. For weeks afterwards, I worked my way through the text so rich in detail and anecdote—where even the footnotes glistened with gems of commentary and personal information. Among my favorites is the story of Rosa Levy Newmark leading the first fund-raising efforts in 1865 for St. Vincent's College of Los Angeles, the predecessor of present-day Loyola Marymount University. Where else would one find such a tale of pioneer interreligious cooperation recorded and preserved by the author with obvious pride?

Those who peruse Newmark's tome can readily understand why this reviewer and other historians have long regarded this as a classic description of the growth of Los Angeles. Written from the perspective of one of the city's pioneer businessmen, this volume chronicles the evolution of the agrarian Hispanic *pueblo* into an American metropolis of over 400,000 people on the eve of World War I. Few events or leaders in those six decades escaped Newmark's discerning eye and candid assessment. The author introduces us to the world of dispossessed Native Americans, proud Hispanic families, and arriving settlers from Asia, Europe, and all corners of the United States. Repeatedly he shares insights and stories which enable the reader to understand the personalities and passions of these early residents of the "Queen of the Cow Counties."

Humorously, the well-remembered historian W.W. Robinson recorded in his introduction to the fourth edition that more than a few prominent Angelenos were disturbed when the book first appeared in 1916. No one questioned the accuracy of the straightforward descriptions

Newmark recorded, but many social leaders still winced when they found themselves mentioned in the text. Newmark's candid and folksy memoirs revealed that many of his contemporaries then listed in the city's social registry had begun their days in Los Angeles as "blacksmiths, butchers, peddlers of milk or saloon-keepers."

Few residents of nineteenth-century Los Angeles occupied

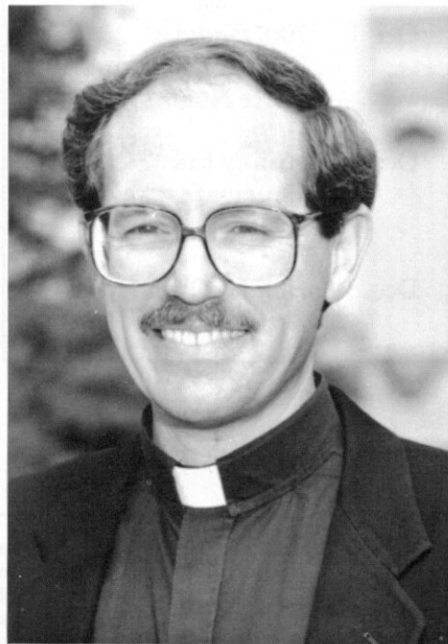
a position which enabled them to know so much of what had transpired in the community over three-score years. Newmark was born in East Prussia in 1835 and emigrated to the United States in 1853, the year he arrived in Los Angeles. His business transactions in hides, wool and dry goods enabled him to meet and to observe first-hand most of the prominent leaders of the community and the surrounding region. He was a son-in-law of Joseph Newmark, pillar of the Jewish community, and was thus related by marriage to other Los Angeles notables, including Myer J. Newmark, Kaspere Cohn, Maurice Kremer, Eugene Meyer, and Solomon Lazard.

In Newmark's old age, Charles Dwight Willard recognized the historical

importance of the octogenarian's storehouse of memories and urged him to set them to paper. In 1913 Newmark began to dictate his recollections for a few hours each day, which his sons, Maurice H. and Marco R., edited and researched further. They turned the project over to a trained historian, Dr. Perry Worden, for further research and final composition.

Newmark lived to see the manuscript completed in 1915, through he died before it appeared in print the following year. Later editions of the book appeared in 1926, 1930, and 1970 and each was supplemented and corrected by members of the family who have been as devoted to preserving Los Angeles history as the patriarch-narrator.

(Continued on page 8)



Michael E. Engb, S.J.

Michael E. Engb, S.J. is assistant professor of history at Loyola Marymount University and author of *Frontier Faiths: Church, Temple, and Synagogue in Los Angeles, 1846-1888*.

**SO. CALIF CLASSIC**  
(Continued from page 7)

In describing the commercial growth and local society of Los Angeles, Harris Newmark's memoirs still come alive with his accounts of personal encounters with both humble and great residents. Detailed descriptions allow the modern reader to walk the dusty streets of the *pueblo* and to hear the bells of the Plaza church, the hymns at El Monte camp meetings, and the cheers at the city's centennial in 1871. Civil War animosities emerge, as does the excitement of the arrival of the first train in 1876 and the real estate boom of the 1880s. Balanced and judicious in his commentary, Newmark did not hesitate to lament decreased "sympathy, tolerance, and good feeling" among Angelenos in the early twentieth century. For this reviewer, Newmark's inherent humanity, humor and care for his fellow human beings make consulting this book a rich and satisfying experience every time, a southern California classic worth revisiting again and again.

## SAVE THESE DATES:

- 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. - 4 p.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.

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

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