



THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN

Published by the Historical Society of Southern California

Spring 1995 Volume 7 No. 1



Joanne D. Hale



Irene Y. Hirano



William T. Huston



Albert C. Martin



Christine Shirley

Photo: Atkinson Photography

Photo: Suzanne Huddleson

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT AWARDS

HSSC will honor five Southern California Community Enrichment recipients at a luncheon in the Emerald Room of the Biltmore Hotel on Wednesday, March 29. Five noted southern Californians will introduce the honorees with a citation written especially for the occasion.

The recipients are: Joanne D. Hale, chief executive officer and director of the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum; Irene Y. Hirano, executive director and president of the Japanese American National Museum; William T. Huston, chairman of the board of the Watson Land Company; Albert C. Martin, past chairman of the Los Angeles Bicentennial Committee; and Christine Shirley, First Century Families, the Banning Residence Museum and the Hale Solar Laboratory.

The awards have been given annually since 1993 to southern Californians who have made a difference for history in our community. This year's recipients' contributions range from developing museums and historical sites to developing programs for them; from nurturing southern California's written history to providing resources for researching it.

Joanne Hale has successfully blended the presentation of serious history about the frontier and the American West with the history of movie westerns. Her commitment to history is reflected in the museum's docent training program, in the new research center developed for use by scholars and historians, in the changing exhibits which bring an exciting new dimension to the history of the West and in sponsoring teachers' conferences. Joanne will be introduced by USC Professor Emeritus Doyce B. Nunis Jr.

Irene Hirano has given visionary leadership to the creation, growth and development of the Japanese American

National Museum. She has brought together the various divisions within the Japanese community and united them toward this goal. She has interacted with other groups to create a whole that is larger than its component parts. As its director and president, she has given the museum's thrust a multicultural cumulative history. Irene will be introduced by Mayor Richard Riordan's Chief of Staff William Ouchi.

William Huston helped preserve a pioneer southern California family's history by committing resources to telling its story. He was the guiding force behind the restoration and preservation of the Dominguez Adobe. He is as dedicated to education as he is to community-building. As chairman of the board of the Watson Land Company, he spearheaded the development of an industrial park which has become a national model. Bill will be introduced by the Honorable George Deukmejian.

Albert C. Martin directed, coordinated and gave leadership to the Los Angeles Bicentennial bringing Los Angeles' history to the forefront of public consciousness. He brought an academic community and a lay public together in ways that produced many practical aids for teachers. The networking process developed during the Bicentennial later paved the way for revitalizing volunteer support which contributed to a successful Olympics in Los Angeles. The momentum generated then is still with us. Al will be introduced by former Mayor Tom Bradley.

Christine Shirley has filled several roles which highlight her love of southern California history. She has worked diligently on the historical interpretation of the Banning Residence Museum, implementing a docent training program with a strong historical component. She has

Continued on page 2



The growth and development of an historical society does not happen by accident. Indeed, there are only two choices: historical societies either grow or decline.

The growth of an historical society is **cumulative**. Regardless of whether it is a time of prosperity or of recession, historical societies wage a constant battle with problems of **membership, programs and finances**.

Even in the best of times, membership and program revenue is rarely sufficient. Historical Societies need **friends and endowment**: friends to provide enthusiasm, support, and to hold the society accountable; endowment to undergird the entire operation.

Certainly the size and strength of an historical society is important, but that is not what makes a society impressive.

What makes historical societies impressive is their usefulness to the general public. An impressive society has its feet firmly planted in two camps: the academic, scholarly community and the educated, lay citizenry. To ignore the first is to emphasize **nostalgia and antiquarianism** at the expense of history; to ignore the second is to **narrow your specialization** until you cut yourself off from a wider, more diverse audience.

Over a century ago, one of HSSC's founding principles was a commitment to the **exacting scholarship of history and to civic professionalism**. Today, we are finding new and exciting ways to adapt those basic principles to the extraordinary needs of the 1990s—without compromising them to passing fads or political pressures.

With your support we will continue to do so!

Tom Andrews

A TREK TO REMEMBER



Photo: A.R. Phillips

Three granddaughters of Don Adolfo welcome HSSC members to the Camarillo mansion in the gracious and high-spirited traditional rancho manner.

Former HSSC board member Albert Raborn Phillips Jr. sent the following charming story in a letter accompanied by several slides recording "one of the most exciting moments ever to happen to a group of HSSC members."

Many years ago, so long ago that I forget exactly when, the Society had a trek of two bus-loads and several cars to the Ventura area. We went up highway 99 and turned west through Piru, stopping at historic spots. At the Ventura Mission we turned south and then east on 101.

Up until now it was nice, but predictable. A "drive-by" was scheduled for the Camarillo mansion. As it was getting late, a decision to skip the mansion *was considered*, but not executed. As the buses turned off the highway for the mansion, the surprises began.

Five lovely ladies, who turned out to be Don Adolfo's granddaughters, in red dresses and riding white horses with silver mounted saddles met the buses and escorted them into the grounds. Scattered around the lovely front lawn were umbrella tables and chairs. Long tables held everything possible that was good to eat, including mounds of ice covered with fresh shrimp. Waiters in red jackets and black trousers served bottle after bottle of champagne, while a Tipica orchestra played, and one of the granddaughters sang for us. Don Adolfo, a small but erect man in his nineties greeted every guest.

At that time, Don Adolfo was considered the last of the old-time California dons, and he showed an awe-struck group just what the California hospitality of earlier days was like.

It was an experience that none of us who were there will ever forget.

Community Enrichment

Continued from page 1

worked within the First Century Families creating programs to preserve the histories of these early families. And, with her husband Jack, Christine has been devoted to the intricate restoration of the Hale Solar Laboratory guaranteeing its status as an educational site. Christine will be introduced by Whitsett California History Professor Gloria Lothrop.

To ensure the Southern California

Community Enrichment award is memorable for the recipients, HSSC has commissioned Pasadena artist Joseph Stoddard to paint watercolors of buildings treasured by each. "For most of the honorees the choice of building was clear," says Tom Andrews, "But for architect Al Martin whose firm has a tradition of designing landmark buildings, the answer was not as obvious." To learn of Al Martin's choice you will have to join HSSC members and friends at the Biltmore on March 29.

HSSC MEMBERSHIP



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 Jeri Taylor
 Cristi Walden
 Vieve Weldon
 Michael Wheelden
 Virginia D. Whitney
 Lisa Wright
 F.C. Young

...and a warm Thank You
 to our renewing members

MEET DIRECTOR DOROTHY DUMKE

A native Californian, Dorothy brings to the HSSC board an impressive understanding of education issues—not surprising since most of her life was spent at educational institutions as the wife of a respected educator and historian.

Dorothy met her future husband, Glenn, at Occidental College. With a twinkle in her eyes, Dorothy says, "I was the wife of the dean of the faculty of Occidental College, the president of San Francisco State College and the Chancellor of the California State University system—all the same man!"

After serving on the boards of several organizations, Dorothy became a charter member and the second president of The Muses of the California Museum of Science and Industry. She is now on the board of the newly-formed Los Angeles



Photo: Suzanne Huddleson

Child Guidance Clinic and Les Dames de Champagne.

Dorothy studied piano at the Los Angeles Conservatory of Music and still enjoys playing the piano. Gardening both at her home in Encino and her beach house on Lido Island continues to give her much pleasure.



HSSC

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

Executive Director **Thomas F. Andrews**
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 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 • (213) 222-0546

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HELEN HUNT JACKSON'S *RAMONA*

by Nancy Wilkman

It would not be an overstatement to argue that Helen Hunt Jackson's *Ramona*—the first novel set in southern California—is the only work of fiction that changed the course of southern California history.

When *Ramona* was published in 1884, Angelenos were too busy transforming the former Mexican pueblo into a modern American city to pay much attention. The great Spanish land-grant ranchos had all but vanished. Few people knew the name Junipero Serra. The missions Serra helped establish had been left to ruins. And as the *Los Angeles Times* boasted in 1883, Indians had been reduced to an insignificant "curiosity."

Ramona changed all that.

Jackson wrote her novel as a passionate plea for the rights of Native Americans. But the book was also full-blown romance, a tale of forbidden love between an Indian and a "half breed" that enthralled readers across America. Loosely based on actual events, the novel created a mix of fact and fiction that generations would accept as a true image of southern California history.



In the end, Jackson's social protest was swamped by the appeal of her romantic passion. The portrayal of violence, racism and injustice she had hoped would lead to reform quickly became secondary to the sun-drenched glow of a love story, set in a uniquely southern California landscape, where once stately missions stood as symbols of a rich and deeply-rooted culture presided over by kindly Franciscan padres and an elegant Spanish (never Mexican) aristocracy.

Jackson's bestseller gave the distant, little-known land of southern California an exotic, yet gently appealing past. Even better for the region's uncertain future, newly-completed transcontinental railways made it possible for Easterners to visit *Ramona*'s fabled land for themselves. The tourists came, by the thousands, and southern California's population and economy exploded with the incredible Boom of the 80s.

For many, a trip to the "real" landmarks of the *Ramona* story was southern California's most powerful draw. From San Diego to Santa Barbara, at missions, ranchos and adobes where Helen Hunt Jackson had gathered impressions and material for her novel, there were those all too ready to supply *Ramona* fans with what they wanted—"facts" from fiction.

Nancy Wilkman wrote the Emmy-nominated script for Ramona: A Story of Passion & Protest, an episode in The Los Angeles History Project series, produced for KCET by Wilkman Productions, a film and television company owned by Nancy and her husband, HSSC board member Jon Wilkman.



Helen Hunt Jackson from a painting by A.F. Harmer made while Jackson was studying the conditions of the Indians of southern California.

The appeal of Jackson's novel was used to sell oranges, real estate, hotel rooms and countless postcards, which brought more tourists and immigrants. The tale was also retold in a stage play, in four feature films and, beginning in 1923, an annual outdoor *Ramona* Pageant that remains a sold-out event in Hemet, the area where Jackson had set her story.

Ramona has also been credited with inspiring the birth of Mission Revival architecture, and a turn-of-the-century mission restoration and preservation movement that continues today. So, the next time you visit one of California's carefully preserved missions, hear the name Father Serra, attend an old-fashioned "Spanish fiesta," or take a bite from a *Ramona* brand burrito, remember, they all owe a debt to Helen Hunt Jackson's classic novel.



PORT HUENEME & ITS MARITIME TRADITION

by Powell Greenland

Although the City of Port Hueneme is nestled on the coast only 60 miles from Los Angeles and boasts the only deep-water seaport between San Pedro and San Francisco, most people outside Ventura County are only vaguely aware of its existence. Bypassed by the Pacific Coast Highway and the freeway system and surrounded by the sprawling city of Oxnard, few people have occasion to enter its borders. Yet this tiny and little-known seaside community has had a fascinating past.

It would be difficult to find a region in all of California more influenced by the tandem efforts of a father and son—in this case, Thomas and Richard Bard—whose lives left an indelible imprint on much of Ventura County.

Thomas R. Bard, a pioneer oil and land developer, philanthropist and community leader, brought in the first free-flowing oil well in the state, became the founding president of Union Oil Company and eventually a United States senator. He established a major wharf at Point Hueneme, platted the town and made it the greatest grain port on the southern coast.

Richard, his son, proved a worthy successor. When the wharf became obsolete, he labored to bring a harbor to Hueneme, donating 400 acres of land and spearheading a bond drive to make it a reality. Upon its completion Bard became known as the "Father of the Port of Hueneme." This hard-fought accomplishment prompted *Fortune Magazine* to comment: "Perhaps for the first time in American history a port has been constructed without one cent of government money."

The harbor was completed in 1940 just in time for World War II. Within months after the outbreak of hostilities, a major naval base was established and a massive expansion effort at the harbor was implemented. During the course of the



Photo: Courtesy Port Hueneme Museum

The Hueneme wharf about 1898. Notice part of the hull of the steamer Yaquina wrecked April 16, 1897.

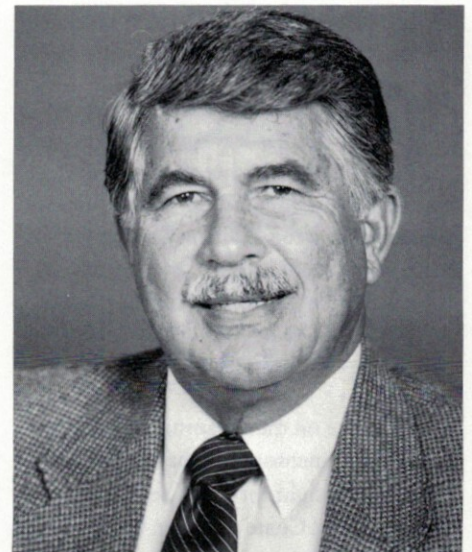
war, Port Hueneme shipped over 150,000 tons of cargo each month making it the second largest shipping point for war material on the Pacific coast.

In recent years the harbor has continued to expand. In addition to servicing the oil platforms in the Santa Barbara Channel it is a leading importer of automobiles and tropical fruit. Last year Sunkist Growers, the world's premier marketers of fresh citrus, and Cool Carriers USA constructed the largest on-dock refrigerated transit shed on the west coast

at Port Hueneme. From it, all their refrigerated carriers are launched for Pacific rim ports.

The maritime tradition established by the Bard-father-and-son legacy continues to influence the destiny of Ventura County today.

Former HSSC president Powell Greenland graduated Phi Beta Kappa from UCLA with a major in history. Instead of pursuing a teaching career, Greenland became a businessman serving as president of Superior Controls Co., Inc., manufacturers of automatic irrigation controls. Now retired and living on the shore in Port Hueneme, Greenland has written a recently-published history of the city which is available at El Alisal Book Shop.



ANDREWS BEGINS 9TH YEAR AS HSSC'S DIRECTOR

Over a cup of Starbucks coffee, Executive Director Tom Andrews reflected on the challenges and opportunities of the past eight years.

"The challenge of promoting history in the public arena has been more exciting and more fulfilling than I ever anticipated," he said.

They have been exciting and rewarding ones for HSSC as well. The Society has benefited from Tom's leadership in creating

Photo: Suzanne Huddleson



The essential Tom Andrews: pencil behind ear, cup of gourmet coffee in hand and surrounded by books.

an awards program to recognize (1) distinguished lifetime achievements in history, (2) excellence in the publication and production of local history, and (3) significant community contributions which promote and preserve history.

In addition, HSSC—under the leadership of Tom, and Doyce Nunis—launched an aggressive publication program complementing the *Quarterly*.

The result—sixteen books in five years! Eight of the books have received awards for design and printing. The focus of the entire thrust is southern California history.

"I am thrilled with the success of our awards and publications efforts," Tom added, "but now we are working very hard to have the same impact in our educational outreach to the public, private and

parochial schools of Los Angeles County."

Tom points to HSSC's involvement in History Day L.A., to last year's teachers' conference and History Fair, to the new O'Flaherty Teaching Award and to publication of a resource guide on the ethnic groups of Los Angeles as important steps in that direction. "We cut ourselves off at the roots if we ignore K-12 education," he concluded.

THE MENTOR DEFINED

Last spring, Bill Coate and several of his students from the Salida Union School District met with USC Professor Emeritus Doyce Nunis, Jean Stone and HSSC Executive Director Tom Andrews at the Lummis Home. The following account is by Jean Stone, HSSC FELLOW.

Tom Andrews opened his talk by saying that it was a special occasion for him because seated nearby was his Mentor, Dr. Nunis, as Tom Andrews has been Bill Coate's Mentor: three generations, taking care of each other's development. Bill Coate said that he hoped that he and the Madera Method teachers would become mentors to their students.

I spoke on the meaning and importance of the mentor, and that it was indeed a wonderful sight for me to see Nunis, Andrews, and Coate together, because both Nunis and Andrews, as mentors, had each



Jean Stone and eighth-grader Jennifer Brubaker.

helped to create the very vital, productive Bill Coate, helped him to find his way into a wonderful work and self-satisfaction.

While our families provide us with the support of food, shelter, and clothing, and a daily habitat, the mentor does something else. He speaks to our mind, to our inner needs, speaks to the possibility of our growth, to knowledge and life-long learning. A mentor is the most important person to lead one to one's way of life, supporting the inner growth, while the family supplies the physical growth and perhaps, even a spiritual morality. It is natural for young people to grow away from their parents and to create families of their own, but a mentor is a

person who will be with you and grow with you all the years of your life. A voice in the back of your mind who helps you to lead that life. It has to do with one's separateness from support to one's concept of strength and purpose in one's self.

Again, it is very different from one's family, a caring family which supplies love, but which knows at a given point you must be on your own. The mentor sets

you on your own by helping you with the indecision about your own talents and your own road to where you want to be for the rest of your life. The mentor has no obligations except to become a person showing another a way to fulfill himself, and that generally includes serving his community and civilization as well.

The children listened to the men speak about their Mentors and, indeed, saw the excitement of Bill Coate, as he turned to Tom Andrews, his Mentor, with affection and appreciation.

For me, it was a wonderful thirty minutes.



EDWIN H. CARPENTER REMEMBERED

For over 60 years Edwin H. Carpenter had been a book collector, editor, translator, proof reader, advisor, and friend to history. He was also a member of HSSC since the 1930s; his death on January 12, leaves a void.

Ed's career includes graduation from Hollywood High School (1932), a stint as a page at the Los Angeles Public Library (1935), and graduation from UCLA with a double major and election to Phi Beta Kappa (1937). He went on to receive a Master's and a Ph.D. in history from UCLA (1939 and 1949).

He served in the United States Army in Morocco, Italy, France and Germany rising from private to master sergeant as a historian and archivist (1941-1944). He attained his library degree from USC and was the first university archivist at UCLA (1950).



Ed Carpenter at the New York Public Library in 1954.

That same year he went to work for the Huntington Library where he stayed until 1994. He served as publications secretary, bibliographer, lecturer and volunteer.

Over the years Edwin Carpenter was

involved in the making of several hundred important Western American books including the Baja California Travel Series published by Dawson's Book Shop.

Thanks to Glen Dawson for providing these milestones in the life of Ed Carpenter.

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