

# THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN

Published by the Historical Society of Southern California



Mary Catherine Hall



Janice Harbin

# O'FLAHERTY TEACHING AWARDS PRESENTED

our deserving teachers received the O'Flaherty Distinguished Teaching Award during the annual Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 9 at El Alisal. The award, named in honor of Joseph S. and Louise O'Flaherty, recognizes excellence in the teaching of history among elementary and secondary school educators. The winners were: Mary Catherine Hall, Janice Harbin, Abraham Hoffman and Angie Sims.

The award consists of a certificate, a one-year membership in the Historical Society and a check for \$500. The award recipients also receive a copy of Joseph S. O'Flaherty's two-volume history of Los Angeles: An End and A Beginning: The South Coast and Los Angeles 1850-1887 and Those Powerful Years: The South Coast and Los Angeles 1887-1917.

### Mary Catherine Hall

Mary Hall is a fifth grade teacher at Montemalaga Elementary School in Rancho Palos Verdes. Mary has taught at the elementary level since receiving her bachelor's degree in 1966. She works energetically to inspire her students to become historians and has incorporated history into her core curriculum. Mary is a model for other teachers, giving presentations and continuing her own education in history.

### Janice Harbin

Janice teaches second grade at Lakeland Elementary School in Norwalk. She is an enthusiastic supporter of history in the classroom and includes it in every aspect of her teaching: in literature, art and language. Janice focuses on local history. Her students were among those who performed train songs at the dedication of Heritage Park Train Depot in Santa Fe Springs. Janice continues her own growth in child development and the teaching of literacy skills. Janice also lends her expertise as a resource teacher and facilitator to local and regional institutions.

### Abraham Hoffman

Abe Hoffman has taught history at Taft High School in Reseda since 1974. In addition to teaching advanced placement and honors courses in U.S. history and government, Abe has conducted workshops, served on the state curriculum committee revising the 11th grade U.S. history course of study, served as a consultant on KCET's Los Angeles History Project, and written a high school level textbook on California history. He is currently revising *Adventures in United States History*, a series of remedial U.S. history booklets published by the Los Angeles Unified School District in 1965.



Winter 1995 Volume 7 No. 4

Abraham Hoffman



Angie Sims

### Angie Sims

Angie Sims has been an instructor/ consultant for the Los Angeles County Office of Education since 1992. Angie designs materials for live interactive television and uses these materials to teach civic values, rights and responsibilities to students as well as their teachers and parents.

Angie also developed a popular classroom program she shared at last year's History Fair which uses photographs and household artifacts to teach a very personal kind of history. By using this program teachers help families learn their own stories, engendering pride and fostering a sense of local history.

The Historical Society proudly joins the O'Flaherty family in honoring these outstanding teachers.

#### GENTLE READER



How would you evaluate a president who has a high tolerance for contradiction and ambiguity, who has struggled over appointments and dismissals, who cuts deals, wastes time and who takes forever to make up his mind? How would you rate a president whose personality and character is a mix of ambition and passivity, who can be both awkward and very poised, who has outwitted the more sophisticated politicians yet has been thwarted and villified during most of his presidency? Would you take time and pay money to see an exhibit about his life? "No," you say, "he obviously was a failure or near-failure as president." It sounds that way, yet others thought differently as they lined up in record numbers last year to view the

Lincoln exhibit at The Huntington. "Wait," you ask, "what does Lincoln have to do with the man described above?" *He is that man!* This is the complex portrait of Lincoln painted by prize-winning historian David Donald in his recently-published biography of the man we generally consider to have been the greatest of the American presidents. The lesson here is that the judgment of history is not always the same as contemporary opinion. Over time, the perspective provided by careful research and critical scholarship enters our collective memory and allows us to see

individuals differently than did their contemporaries. The value here is that history as shared

memory (not selected memory) tempers our rush to judgment, makes us wiser in our public choices—and, in the view of Thomas Jefferson, remains the only way for a free people to look to the future.

Iom Andrews

### LOS ANGELES HISTORY: OLD VENUES - NEW VISTAS

The secret is out—research and writing about Los Angeles history is alive and well and undergoing an exciting transformation! The aim of this 1996 History Conference is to investigate these recent interpretations and present the best of the current research on the City of the Angels.

This is the first of several conferences planned for historians, teachers and the general public which will focus on the larger theme of

#### "LOS ANGELES: THE ESSENCE OF A COMMUNITY."

HSSC is pleased to join with the Autry Museum of Western Heritage, California State University, Northridge, Los Angeles County Office of Education and the Southern California Social Science Association to present these insights into the 200-year history of Los Angeles.

With exciting presentations, discussions, resource packets and door prizes, this promises to be a rewarding day spent with history.

Kicking off the conference is keynote speaker Arthur Verge, author of *Paradise*  Transformed. His subject "World War II as an Agent of Change for Los Angeles" will show how a world-wide war impacted L.A.

Following the opening presentation, Merry Ovnick, author of *Los Angeles: Beyond the Rainbow*, will reveal how residential architecture provides clues to L.A.'s history.

Next, Steve Loza, author of *Barrio Rhythm: Mexican American Music in Los Angeles* will demonstrate how music serves as an introduction to ethnic groups in L.A.

Gloria Lothrop, author of Los Angeles Profiles: A Tribute to the Ethnic Diversity of L.A. and Jim Allen coauthor of An Atlas of Population Patterns in Metropolitan Los Angeles and Orange Counties, team up to discuss demographic and ethnic changes in L.A.'s history.

Two panels—one chaired by Michael Engh, S.J. and the other by Matthew Roth—will review recent research in L.A.'s history. Serving on the panels are the young historians doing the research: Miraslava Chavez, William Deverell, Alicia Rodriguez, Tom Sitton and David Yoo.

Please join us at the Autry on January 20.

## **1996 FELLOWS ANNOUNCED**

The FELLOWS Award, inaugurated in 1988, is the flagship of HSSC's awards programs and the highest honor the Society bestows.

The 1996 FELLOWS are: JANE APOSTOL, the historian of the Arroyo; ARTHUR H. CLARK JR., the publisher as historian; NORRIS HUNDLEY JR., the historian as scholar and editor; GLORIA RICCI LOTHROP, the historian as scholar and civic professional; and ROBERT SKOTHEIM, the historian as cultural leader.

Be sure to save March 21 for a gala evening at the Huntington Library's Friends' Hall when the FELLOWS medallions will be presented to these five individuals who have sharpened our sense of place and personal identity as Southern Californians.

Each guest attending the Gala will receive a special keepsake celebrating HSSC's honoring of its 25th FELLOW. Plan to meet and mingle with past and present FELLOWS on the patio and enjoy the sounds of a string quartet. Watch for the next newsletter for profiles of the 1996 FELLOWS and for details about the March 21 Gala.

Past FELLOWS include: Nancy Banning Call Glen Dawson Neal Harlow Robert V. Hine John Kemble\* David Lavender Richard Lillard\* Miriam Matthews Esther McCov\* Doyce B. Nunis Jr. Joseph S. O'Flaherty\* Lawrence Clark Powell Martin Ridge Ward Ritchie Andrew Rolle Florence C. Shipek Julius Shulman Irving Stone\* Jean Stone Francis J. Weber

\*Deceased

### SPANISH GOVERNMENT HONORS DOYCE NUNIS



Doyce Nunis

A t a private reception on Sunday, October 8, 1995, the Honorable Victor Ibanez Martin, Consul General of Spain in Los Angeles presented the Order of Isabella the Catholic to Doyce Nunis in recognition of his distinguished contributions in promoting the scholarship of California's Spanish heritage through publication.

The Orden de Isabel la Catolica is Spain's highest ranking Order of Merit. Previous HSSC members honored with this award include Msgr. Francis J. Weber, Harry Kelsey and Maynard Geiger, O.F.M. An even earlier recipient was Charles F. Lummis.



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Christine Shirley

### Meet Director Christine Shirley

Final ven though Christine Shirley graduated from Stanford *cum laude* with a degree in economics, history is the subject she has pursued in both her professional and private life.

After receiving a general secondary teaching credential, Christine taught U.S. history at Los Angeles High School for 11 years, eventually serving as department chairman.

In 1971, she earned a master in arts degree from UCLA and soon generously volunteered her talents at the Banning Residence Museum. There, Christine initiated an interpretive program, beginning with the development of a curriculum for docent training. Her involvement was many-fold. From producing a docent manual, to giving lectures; from designing an examination to contributing a monthly article for the docent newsletter, Christine gave of herself wholeheartedly. Today, Christine continues her work for the Banning Museum by serving on the board of the Friends of Banning Park.

In 1986 Christine's historical focus became more personal when she and her husband Jack bought the Hale Solar Laboratory. Although the meticulous restoration of the building—listed on the National Register through Christine and Jack's efforts—is complete, the research and restoration of the scientific instruments continues.

Christine is a founding editorial board member of *The Californians* magazine and an avid supporter of the First Century Families, the Huntington Library and the Caltech Libraries. For most, this record of accomplishment would be complete, but *luckily for history Christine's involvement* goes on. As an HSSC board member she now shares her considerable talent in new and ever-widening historical circles.

#### A SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CLASSIC REVISITED



# CHARLES FRANCIS SAUNDERS' THE SOUTHERN SIERRAS OF CALIFORNIA

by John W. Robinson



Charles Francis Saunders in Yosemite Valley comfortably set up to write among the pines around 1910.

hen does a book become a classic? According to Lawrence Clark Powell when it possesses the quality of excellence that causes it to transcend time and be read beyond the author's own generation.

Such a writer was Charles Francis Saunders, and his classic lives today as *The Southern Sierras of California*. Within its pages, Saunders does for the Southern California mountains what John Muir does for the Sierra Nevada. He, like Muir, is able to evoke the spell of nature and make the mountains come alive in timeless, vibrant prose; literature and landscape blend in perfect harmony.



John W. Robinson also writes about the mountains surrounding Los Angeles. His book, The San Bernardinos, has received the prestigious Pflueger Award. Hikers will know him for two guides: Trails of the Angeles and San Bernardino Mountain Trails. In Saunders' time, 70 years ago, the Southern California mountains were mostly primitive enclaves rising sacrosanct above the populated lowlands. "Though at the very edge of one of the most highly cultivated and most populous sections of California," wrote Saunders in his 1923 classic, "the Sierra Madre is still a very wild land."

Alas, the old Sierra Madre (yesteryear's name for the San Gabriels) has changed much since then. Ribbons of asphalt now snake their way across the range and into its most isolated recesses. Mystic fingers of urban haze engulf the canyons and lap against the ramparts of the higher peaks.

And yet, much remains the same. Away from the highway, often just a few minutes walk, one can still delight in woodsy canyons and bubbling little creeks. Hillsides are clothed in velvet-green chaparral and pines are the stately monarchs of the high country. Saunders captured this timelessness in his faithful interpretation of the mountain landscape, the flora, and the enriching experience of wilderness travel and camping.

Who was this writer who used the English language like an artist's brush? Charles Francis Saunders was a self-taught botanist born in Warminster, Pennyslvania in 1859 and educated in Quaker schools in Philadelphia. Until he was well into his thirties, he led an uneventful life as a clerk in a Philadelphia import-export firm. He seemed destined for obscurity until, on his way home from work one night, he dropped in on a lecture on the plant world. The talk introduced Saunders to a world of beauty he hadn't known. His life now had renewed purpose. After several years of intense study and field work he became one of the premier amateur botanists in the East. In 1897 he began his literary career by writing a series of articles on flowers and plants for a Philadelphia paper.

Nineteen hundred and two was a watershed year in Saunders' life. He married Elisabeth Hallowell, an accomplished artist who shared his interest in nature, and together the two made their first visit to California. Their journey west was an eyeopener. He and Elisabeth were completely captivated by the fascinating flora of Southern California.

In 1906 Saunders moved permanently to Southern California-ostensibly for Elisabeth's fragile health but also because they were enthralled with the region and its flora. They bought a home in Pasadena, and wasted no time exploring and enjoying their new state.

Saunders now entered his most prolific period of writing, with Elisabeth illustrating several of his early books. Between 1913 and 1923, Saunders wrote Under the Sky in California, a descriptive guide to outdoor travel in the Golden State, With the Flowers and Trees in California, a delightful guide to the flora of the state, and with J. Smeaton Chase The California Padres and Their Missions.

But Saunders' best single work remains The Southern Sierras of California. What led him to write about these mountains so close to his Pasadena home? He tells us in chapter two: "For ten years I had been looking from my back door at the long, dark line of the Sierra Madre, when one summer a dominating desire to learn something of what lay within led me to tramp a hundred miles or so over some of its less frequented trails."

(Continued on page 6)

#### LOCAL HISTORY



# TRAINING SCHOOL TO UNIVERSITY A VIGNETTE OF AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

The year was 1899 when a group of nine Quakers dreamed of establishing an institution to train Christian workers, missionaries and pastors. Together with a Methodist evangelist, they met in a Whittier home and began the organization of such a school. The school opened the following March with a president and two students, meeting in a home. Growth in succeeding years forced moves to locations in Boyle Heights, downtown Los Angeles, and then to Huntington Park, where the school continued for three decades.

In 1934, the Training School became interdenominational and five years later reached a significant turning point with the appointment of one of its graduates as the new president. Cornelius P. Haggard entered the office of president as one of the country's youngest college presidents. Haggard proved to be a man of many talents.

In his thirty-six years as president, Dr. Haggard took the small Training School and developed it into a liberal arts college with an enrollment of 1,500 and an attractive campus.

The president's ambitious program of growth and development began with a name change. The school now became Pacific Bible College, with a new four-year program leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree. Next, a search for a campus with room for expansion led the board to an eight-acre site in the San Gabriel Valley— Highway 66 at Citrus Avenue. The move to this new campus in 1946 promised a "new era" in the history of the school and the name became "Azusa College." by Sheldon Jackson



The Wilden Hall of Business and Management houses state-of-the-art facilities, including classrooms, faculty offices, a lecture hall, a technology center, a lounge, and an atrium.

The postwar decades produced significant changes. In 1964 the Accrediting Association (WASC) granted full accreditation. A year later, Los Angeles Pacific College, a Free Methodist institution, joined Azusa College on the Azusa campus. The merged institution chose the name Azusa Pacific College. Three years later, Arlington College, a Church of God institution in Long Beach, joined the new organization. An explosive growth of enrollment and new buildings followed.

The year 1975 saw another turning point with the death of the president. In his thirty-six years as president, Dr. Haggard had taken the small Training School and developed it into a liberal arts college with an enrollment of 1,500 and an attractive campus.

In 1981, the school adopted the university structure to better organize its College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, School of Theology, School of Music, School of Nursing, School of Education and Behavioral Studies, and School of Business and Management. The Friends Church rejoined the list of sponsoring denominations of the institution it had founded. Azusa Pacific University had done well in music and athletics—the men's track team won its eleventh national title in 13 years in the recent National Athletic Intercollegiate Association's track and field championships.

Important developments in scholarly activities include an international program called "Operation Impact," a significant special collection of rare books on California and the West in the Marshburn Library, and a nursing school project in Russia.

With a current enrollment of 4,000 undergraduate and graduate students, APU truly has grown with Southern California and with the Twentieth Century.



Sheldon Jackson taught at Azusa Pacific University until his retirement in 1988. He is the author of A British Ranchero in Old California: The Life and Times of Henry Dalton which received the Pflueger Award in 1991.

# FIFTEEN RECENT CALIFORNIA GUIDES AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES

alifornia is a state richly endowed with many outstanding guides and bibliographies which serve as keys to unlock the treasures of its past.

Here are 15 recently published guides (since 1976) which form an important part of any reference collection. How many do you have in your library?

Roger Berry, Sylvester Klinicke, Louise Booth, & Shirley Stephenson, CENTENNIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ORANGE COUNTY (1989).

California State Department of Parks and Recreation, CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL LANDMARKS (1990).

William F. Kimes & Maymie B. Kimes, JOHN MUIR: A READING BIBLIOGRAPHY

(1986).

Gloria R. Lothrop, A GUIDE TO HISTORICAL OUTINGS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (1991). Marie E. Northrop, SPANISH-MEXICAN FAMILIES OF EARLY CALIFORNIA (2 vols., 1976, 1984).

Doyce B. Nunis & Gloria R. Lothrop (eds.), A GUIDE TO THE HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA (1989).

Lawrence Clark Powell, LAND OF FACT (1992).

Lawrence Clark Powell, LAND OF FICTION (1991).

Richard Quebedeaux, PRIME SOURCES OF CALIFORNIA/NEVADA LOCAL HISTORY (1992).

Roberts, George & Jan, DISCOVER HISTORIC CALIFORNIA (1994).



Land of Fact

Henry R. Wagner, Charles Camp & Robert Becker (compilers), THE PLAINS AND THE ROCKIES (1982).

Francis J. Weber, CALIFORNIA BIBLIOGRAPHIES (1991).

Francis J. Weber, CALIFORNIA MISSIONS. A BIBLIOGRAPHY (1986).



ZAMORANO INDEX TO BANCROFT'S HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA (2 vols., 1985).

> "Bibliography is the geography of the book world" *Pierce Butler*

#### SAUNDERS Continued from page 4

Tramp Saunders did, through the verdant heart of the Sierra Madre, up such lofty summits as Old Baldy and San Gorgonio Mountain, across the desertinfluenced Santa Rosas to the San Diego back country, and into the chaparral-clad hills behind Santa Barbara.

Many of Saunders' descriptions are timeless. He describes a scramble up Strawberry Peak in the Sierra Madre: "So I started up once more, clutching carefully at every projecting hold and keeping steadfastly an upward look until finally, after fifteen minutes of tedious creeping, I scrambled out on the top, and lo! the kingdoms of the earth. Twenty-five miles eastward, 'Old Baldy,' genial giant of the Sierra Madre, blocked the view; but over one shoulder San Gorgonio peeped, revealing an arc of his smooth back outlined with a fringe of snow. Still farther on, San Jacinto's summit, lifted above the range, a yellow smudge marked the desert's whereabouts; and nearer, almost at my feet, the great gray basin of the Big Tujunga lay in clear-cut relief. Oceanward the Sierra sank gradually till its feet were sunk in a thin white fog that hid the great plain of San Gabriel; and beyond that, in the light of the evening sun, the sea gleamed like a shining platter, bearing twin-peaked Santa Catalina in its golden midst."

Saunders produced six more books in the 18 years remaining to him. Of the 18 books he wrote in a lifetime, only *The Southern Sierras* reached the high literary plane of a classic. It remains today the best book about the Southern California mountain country and a worthy complement to Muir's best works. If your library is to contain just a single volume on the local mountains, this should be the one.



Charles Francis Saunders about 1906.

#### TRIBUTE AND MEMORIALS



# REMEMBERING KENYON DE VORE

e was known as "Mr. San Gabriels", and he was a veritable storehouse of knowledge on the mountains he loved. Kenyon DeVore spent his whole life in and around the San Gabriel Mountains. He grew up at his parents' trail resorts on the West Fork of the San Gabriel River, first at Camp West Fork, then at Valley Forge Lodge. As a child he busied himself with camp chores; as a teenager he led a pack train that supplied resorts, forest stations, and campers throughout the mountains. Kenyon spent most of his adult life working for the old Los Angeles Flood Control District, most of the time in San Gabriel Canyon.

Being a dam keeper was no easy task. Many a cold, rainy night Kenyon had to make hourly descents into the dam to check guages, regulate water flow, and inspect for structural damage.

After retirement in 1971, Kenyon signed on as a Forest Service volunteer, and later as a part-time paid employee. For some 15 years he was a familiar sight almost every weekend at the Chantry Flat visitor information station, giving advice

#### by John Robinson

and imparting knowledge to hikers, backpackers, and picnickers.

Always interested in history, he was a weekly docent at the Lummis Home. For more than 20 years his tours on Thursdays and later on Fridays were highlights for hundreds of visitors.

He was a board member of the Big Santa Anita Historical Society, and a corresponding member of the Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners.

But Kenyon DeVore was much more than a fountainhead of information of the mountains he knew so well. He was a dear and loving friend to all who knew him. As a person he was unique. There was nothing artificial or temporal in his makeup. His intellect was straight-forward and captivating; his personality genial, with that spark of humor that so delighted those who knew him. He was a giving person, willing to go to almost any length to help or comfort a friend or acquaintance.

Those of us fortunate enough to have crossed Kenyon's path are forever enriched for having known him. Kenyon DeVore died on September 6.



Kenyon De Vore at El Alisal in 1983.

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### Save These Dates



**IANUARY 20 History Conference** Los Angeles History: Old Venues - New Vistas Autry Museum 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

MARCH 21 **FELLOWS** Dinner Gala Friends' Hall The Huntington Library

APRIL 14 Tenth Annual Garden Fair Lummis Home 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Look for an announcement of a spring Harbor Tour led by Nancy & Jon Wilkman.

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for the new sets of gas logs in the museo and commedor fireplaces at the Lummis Home.

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