



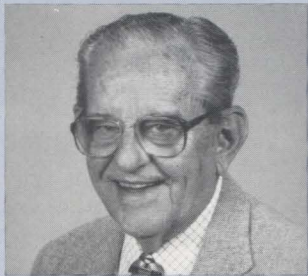
THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN

Published by the Historical Society of Southern California

Spring 1996 Volume 8 Number 1



Jane Apostol



Arthur H. Clark Jr.



Norris Hundley Jr.



Gloria R. Lothrop



Robert A. Skotheim

FELLOWS Gala to be Celebrated at The Huntington

HSSC will honor five individuals for their uncommon lifetime achievements in the pursuit of history on Thursday evening, March 21 in the Friends Hall at The Huntington in San Marino. The FELLOWS Award, inaugurated in 1988, is the flagship of HSSC's awards program and is the highest honor the Society bestows.

The 1996 FELLOWS are: Jane Apostol, Arthur H. Clark Jr., Norris Hundley Jr., Gloria R. Lothrop and Robert A. Skotheim.

Jane Apostol has earned a lasting reputation as a prize-winning local historian. She is the author of seven books since 1987, including centennial histories of South Pasadena, the Historical Society of Southern California, Vroman's of Pasadena and the South Pasadena Public Library. She is currently working on a centennial history of the Judson Studios. In addition to her books, Apostol has contributed two dozen articles to scholarly journals and serves as a volunteer in the historical photograph collection at The Huntington. Jane Apostol's outpouring of scholarship has sharpened our sense of place and personal identity as Southern Californians, particularly in the historically important region known as the Arroyo.

In 1934 **Arthur H. Clark Jr.** joined the company his father had founded in Cleveland in 1902. He quickly assumed responsibility for manuscript selection, editing and the production of The Arthur H. Clark Company's publications. Under his

direction, the company averaged six new titles a year for fifty years until his retirement in 1984. Working closely with authors such as LeRoy Hafen, Juanita Brooks, Clifford Drury, Charles Outland, Sheldon Jackson, Gloria Lothrop, Janet Fireman and Iris Engstrand, Art Clark exemplifies the publisher as historian, making history attractive and available to the general public as well as to the specialist.

Norris Hundley Jr. has tackled one of the more complex and controversial issues of California history—the supply and use of water. In three books, including his comprehensive *The Great Thirst*, Hundley both documents the history of water in the west and projects a vision for its future in California. As author of more than 65 books and articles—including co-author of *California: History of a Remarkable State*—teacher, administrator, and editor of the *Pacific Historical Review* from 1978 to 1995, Norris Hundley has deepened our understanding of our state's rich historical heritage with his productive and exemplary scholarship.

Gloria R. Lothrop has enjoyed an active and productive career as teacher, scholar and civic professional. She has taught the history of California and the American West since 1970. Currently she holds the W.P. Whitsett Chair in California History at California State University, Northridge. Specializing in women's history, the history of European minorities and the cultural clash between the missionary and the American Indian, Lothrop has

Continued on page 3

Californiana 50 Years Ago This Decade

The 1940s produced a number of important books about the Golden State. Research must have flourished during the Depression Decade, because it flowered during World War II and immediately after.

John Caughey launched the impressive parade of published works in 1941 with his one-volume text, *California*, a year which also brought us *Farewell, My Lovely* by Raymond Chandler.

The other headliners of 1941 include Robert G. Cleland, *The Cattle on a Thousand Hills*; Adele Ogden, *The California Sea Otter Trade, 1784-1848*; George R. MacMinn, *The Theater of the Golden Era in California*; Henry R. Wagner, *Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo*, and Budd Schulberg, *What Makes Sammy Run?*

In 1942, Helen S. Giffen and Arthur Woodward combined their talents on *The Story of El Tejon*, which was followed by Sherburn F. Cook, *The Conflict Between the California Indian and White Civilization* (1943), Glenn Dumke, *The Boom of the Eighties in Southern California* (1944), and Myrtle M. McKittrick, *Vallejo: Son of California*, (1944).

The middle years of this war-disrupted decade produced four classics of the state's gold rush literature: Irene D. Paden, *In the Wake of the Prairie Schooner* (1943); John H. Kemble, *The Panama Route, 1849-1869* (1943); Georgia Read and Ruth Gaines (eds.), *Gold Rush: The Journals, Drawings and Other Papers of J. Goldsborough Bruff* (2 vols. 1944), and David M. Potter (ed.), *Trail to California* (1945).

Without question, the books of the 1940s are worth reading and worth collecting. How many are your favorites?

Garden Fair Features Vignettes

Join the celebration of the Lummis Garden's tenth year on Sunday, April 14.

Vignettes created by garden designers and landscape architects will dot the grounds illustrating waterwise ideas and products.

See what Toyon Design, Hortus and Matilija Nursery do with fountains, pavers, potted plants, hammocks and native plants. Be tempted by the garden gifts offered by Sheridan Gardens Nursery. Come and enjoy the artistry of these and other Southern California garden designers.

The popular garden walk/talks led by experts, including Bob Perry and Lili Singer, will return. And in the afternoon, during a brief program, HSSC will honor the original volunteers



Water garden by Toyon Design.

who helped install the garden.

Although the Garden Fair is free, a donation of \$3.00 per person is suggested. Proceeds will benefit the garden.

Artists Show and Sell at Museums Day

Southern Californians are invited to celebrate the rich artistic and cultural history of the Arroyo Seco on Sunday, May 19, 1996.

The Lummis Home and Garden will feature more than thirty local artists and craftspeople who will display as well as sell their work. Because of the record attendance and success of last year's premiere event, more artists than ever are participating.

HSSC will also celebrate the debut of *Museums Along the Arroyo*—a combined book and video guide



about the five museums. Noted author and historian Jane Apostol will be on hand to sign copies of the book. Both book and video will be available in the El Alisal Book Shop.

The Southwest Museum, Heritage Square Museum, Pasadena Historical Museum and the Gamble House join the Lummis Home in sponsoring Museums of the Arroyo Day.

Each museum will be open free to the public and each will provide unique activities and entertainment. Be sure to take advantage of the free shuttle between each location. For more information, call the Lummis Home. (213) 222-0546

History Conference Draws Capacity Crowd

More than 200 people attended the 1996 History Conference at the Autry Museum of Western Heritage on January 20.

The conference—which has been the dream of Tom Andrews for more than nine years—was designed to bring together historians and history enthusiasts, public and private school teachers.

"History is inclusive," says Andrews. "It is not the exclusive do-

main of Ph.D.s and scholars. Neither the professional nor the layperson should be isolated. They should interact."

Conference Coordinator Robert Blew notes this year's conference reflected this concept in the makeup of both the audience, and the speakers and panelists.

Next year's conference on January 18 will continue exploring the essence of Los Angeles as a community.

Meet HSSC Director Peter Mauk



Peter Mauk

Until his retirement in 1986, Peter Mauk was a popular teacher of dramatic arts at Valley College where he taught from 1959, serving as department chair the last twenty years. Although Peter's specialty is the history of theater, he also taught the technical aspects of theater, including lighting, set design, acting and direction.

Each semester Peter's classes staged three or four shows, putting into practice their classroom experience. Many of his students went on to successful careers and include singer Viki Carr, actor and director Victor French, designer Bob Mackie and actress Jill St. John.

Along the way, Peter established cinema and theater awards—"Oliviers" he calls them. Nominees and finalists

received special certificates designed by Peter which were printed in the school's graphic arts department.

The certificates were Peter's first introduction to the art of printing. In 1983 he offered to assist ailing master printer Richard Hoffman and began an involvement in the intricacies of fine printing. Eventually Peter bought hundreds of cases of type and four hand presses. Today the *Peter's Press* imprint on keepsakes is highly prized by his fortunate friends.

Peter is an outstanding cook and grows a bountiful garden—his 'mums and roses are legendary. Peter Mauk brings to the board of the historical society his love of history and an enthusiasm for working in its cause.

HSSC FELLOWS Gala Continued from page 1

published more than seventy books, articles and reviews. In demand as a speaker, and consultant, Gloria Lothrop has used her scholarship in the service of the community at large, thus bridging the gap between the academic specialist and the educated laypublic.

Historian **Robert A. Skotheim** is a man of distinguished accomplishments as teacher, scholar, and administrator. While professor of history at the

University of Washington, he wrote *American Intellectual Histories and Historians*. This seminal work was followed by four others, including *Historical Scholarship in the United States and The Historian and the Climate of Opinion*. In 1988 Skotheim came to the Huntington Library. Under his leadership as president, The Huntington has increased its outreach to the schools and the number of its exhibitions, including cooperative

efforts displaying privately held materials. As cultural leader, historian Skotheim has been able to reach an even larger audience for history.

The 1996 FELLOWS reflect the variety of roles that generate a more immediate, personal and compelling sense of history. Join us in honoring these individuals who have honed our sense of place and brought distinction to Southern California in the process.

Staff Promotions

MARGARET DICKERSON, a staff member since 1987, has been appointed Assistant Director of Operations. She will be responsible for the day-to-day functions of the Historical Society.

MICHAEL SANBORN who has been promoted to Assistant Director of Marketing will develop programs for membership and publications. Drawing on his experience in historic preservation, he will also oversee conservation of the Lummis Home.

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HSSC Office Hours Monday - Friday 9-5

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

Group Tours Friday morning
by appointment



Pacific Coast League on Tour

by Christopher Morales

There was a time in the history of baseball when only umpires called strikes, grass and flannel were the norm, and just movie stars hired agents. There was also a time when major league baseball existed only east of the Mississippi.

Shortly after the turn of the century, the West Coast harbored the best kept secret in baseball. From its inception in 1903, until the migration of the Dodgers and the Giants to California in 1958, the Pacific Coast League was baseball's "third major league." The PCL combined a high level of play, intense rivalries, loyal fans and a unique blend of skilled veterans and promising youngsters. "It was," remembered former player Chuck Stevens, "the greatest minor league of them all."

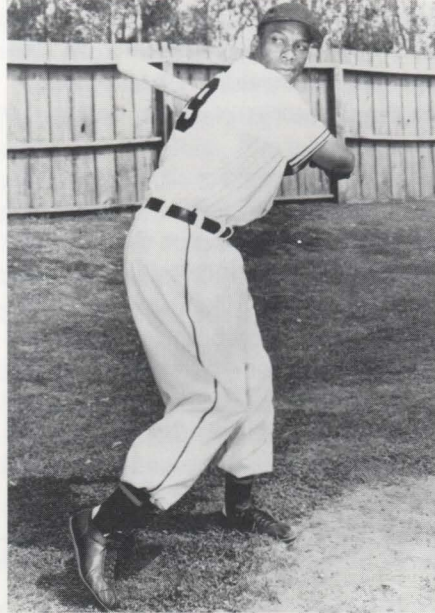
**"Runs, Hits and an Era:
The Pacific Coast League
1903-58"**

**The Autry Museum of Western
Heritage**

**February 17
to
May 12**

Eight teams comprised the league: the Los Angeles Angels, the Hollywood Stars, the San Diego Padres, the San Francisco Seals, the Oakland Oaks, the Sacramento Solons, the Portland Beavers and the Seattle Rainiers. Excellent weather, intimate ballparks and devoted fans produced a prestigious and competitive Coast League circuit.

The glory days of the PCL produced some of the greatest talent in the history of the game. Joe DiMaggio, Ted Williams, Bobby Doerr, Tony Lazzeri were but a few of the players who began their careers in the Coast



In 1949, at age 34, Luke Easter joined the San Diego Padres. He was considered the greatest natural hitter the Pacific Coast League had seen since Ted Williams.

Photo: Dick Dobbins

League and went on to Hall of Fame careers in the majors. Legendary managers like Casey Stengel, Billy Martin and Lefty O'Doul all learned their craft on the coast.

The years from the mid-1920s to the early '50s were a high point for West Coast baseball. Baseball was the only professional sport at the time and attracted the best athletes. Most of the PCL teams were independents and therefore not controlled by a major league parent club. The PCL tended to develop and retain its players. In addition, the salaries were often higher than the American or National Leagues' and travel and scheduling were much better.

Many Southern Californians remember the rich and varied characters who distinguished the teams. Lou "The Mad Russian"

Novikoff played for the Angels in the early '40s, and was famous not only for his bat, but for installing his wife in a box seat close enough for him to hear her taunts and jeers during his at-bats. He claimed her taunts inspired him to win the Triple Crown in 1940.

Hollywood Stars manager-catcher Bobby Bragan was legendary for outrageous showmanship. Frustrated with one ump's calls, Bragan slammed his chest protector into the dirt. Then ignoring the umpire's order to retrieve it, he instead removed—one at a time—his mask, glove and shin guards before being ejected. Bragan continued his striptease from the dugout, tossing garments onto the field in Gypsy Rose Lee fashion—much to the delight of fans.

In a multimedia exhibit entitled "Runs, Hits and an Era: The Pacific Coast League 1903-58," the Autry Museum of Western Heritage brings back memories of the Pacific Coast League—the legends Jigger Statz, Steve Bilko and Max West; a World War I era game in San Francisco's wild and woolly Rec Park; the infamous 1953 Stars-Angels brawl; and "recreated" games on radio.

Wrigley and Gilmore Field are no more, but from February 17 through May 12, baseball fans old and young will have a rare opportunity to experience baseball at its best, when it was a game played with only the fans in mind.

Christopher Morales is a Santa Barbara based free-lance writer. He is a graduate of UC Santa Barbara, and a member of the Pacific Coast League Historical Society.





Margaret Collier Graham

by Mary Helen Wayne

Margaret Collier Graham, Aunt Margaret, or even Maggie. What a host of images this name brings to me: author; free thinker; preservationist; founder of a library; women's rights advocate; charming hostess; friend of John Muir, Charles Lummis, Theodore Hittell, Ina Coolbrith; a resident of South Pasadena and the Arroyo—from all reports, a delightful person. My big regret is she died before I was born and I never got to know her.

Margaret, the youngest of the three Collier children, graduated from Monmouth College in Illinois in 1869—the same year as her older brother and sister. At Monmouth, she met her future husband, Donald Graham, who developed tuberculosis shortly after graduation. Following their marriage, the Grahams settled in Bloomington, Illinois, but Margaret realized that the climate was ill-advised for her husband and engineered a move to California in 1876.

"I have lived in California since 1876 and have, in consequence, no desire to go to heaven."

Margaret Collier Graham

Margaret, her sister Jane and Don set out by train for San Francisco. In July they sailed down the coast on the steamer *Ancon* to Los Angeles. Letters written by the sisters between 1876 and 1880 recounting their experiences in California have been published in the book *We Three Came West*.

Margaret and Don spent several years in Pasadena and later moved to Los Angeles, where Margaret taught school.

Don's real estate interests eventually realized enough profit for them to build a rather elegant Victorian home, Wynyate,



Wynyate shortly after completion in 1887. Donald Graham, Margaret's husband is standing on the left side of the stairs. Wynyate is listed on the National Register of Historical Places

Photo: The Huntington

on a hill overlooking South Pasadena and with a view toward the San Gabriel mountains. Margaret lived there until her death in 1910. The home still stands and is beautifully maintained by its present owners.

After settling in South Pasadena, Margaret became active in civic affairs. She helped found the South Pasadena Woman's Improvement Association—which later became the Woman's Club; and also was a founder of the South Pasadena Lyceum, which became the South Pasadena Public Library. She served as president of the Friday Morning Club in Los Angeles and as vice-president of the Landmarks Club, where she became fast friends with Charles F. Lummis.

After Don's death in 1890, Margaret began to write seriously. In 1895, Houghton Mifflin published *Stories of the Foothills* which today is widely acclaimed as a classic of early California literature. Other stories were published in the *Atlantic* and *Century* magazines, and a column, "The Angle of Reflection," appeared in the California publication, *Land of Sunshine*.

Margaret Collier Graham was years ahead of her time in her support of women's rights, her zeal in preserving California's heritage and her respect for non-traditional religious viewpoints.

The family was a bit in awe of her success in writing and of her contacts with famous people. She knew and corresponded with John Muir, Lummis, Caroline Severance, Charles Walter Stetson—who painted her portrait—and Mary Halleck Foote.

She maintained a Sunday afternoon "open house" and I still have the huge punch bowl used on those occasions. She established a tradition for Christmas celebrations at Wynyate which lasted long into my childhood. She loved the Arroyo and said: "I have lived in California since 1876 and have, in consequence, no desire to go to heaven."



Mary Helen Wayne, a former president of HSSC, was the city librarian of South Pasadena from 1972 until 1978.



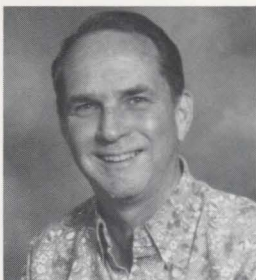
Hollywood and Vine . . . Once it Glittered

This is the first in a series called "Southland Chronicles"

written by HSSC member Willis Osborne for The Southern Californian.

Osborne earned MA and MS degrees from USC where

he nurtured a life-long love of his native city and state. Retired after teaching for 44 years, he now enjoys writing about California and the southwest.



Hollywood and Vine, one of the world's most famous intersections, is nondescript today, but it was not always so. In 1941, the WPA-sponsored Southern California Writer's Project Guide, *Los Angeles*, described the spot as Southern California's "Times Square, an inexhaustible source of comic and tragic material for columnists, romancers, debunkers, and serious novelists."

The description also related to the area's exciting night life. Today's unremarkable intersection was a center of activity during the '20s, '30s, and '40s. A pleasant walk around the

famous crossroads reveals what exists today as opposed to what used to be. Use your imagination and walk into the past.

On the north side of Hollywood Boulevard, just west of Vine, an X-rated movie theater sits on the site of Sardi's—a famous restaurant of the '30s and '40s. Next door, at 6321-25 was Henri's Cafe and Delicatessen, a Charlie Chaplin hangout of the 1920s. Today, it houses the Vine Street Theater.

Harry Houdini and his wife agreed to try to contact each other ten years to the day following his death. The seance, with many guests, was held atop the Knickerbocker Hotel on Ivar, just north of the boulevard. The attempt failed.

Just north of the intersection, the Hollywood Palace is a night club hosting special events. More famous stars have appeared here than at any other club in Hollywood. Originally the Hollywood Playhouse in the '20s, Ken Murray's *Blackouts* played here when it was the El Capitan. Television's Hollywood Palace also originated here.

South of the boulevard the famous Brown Derby was at 1621 Vine Street. It is now a parking lot. The Sea Food Grotto, popular in the 1930s, at 1652 houses World A Culture—a hard-to-

define shop. The Ship Ahoy, at 1634 ½ is a nail parlor. On Vine Street's west side, Clara Bow's It Cafe opened in 1943 off the lobby of the Hollywood Plaza Hotel, which today is a locked-residence hotel. Mike Lyman's Grille is a parking lot at 1623. Today's Huntington Hartford at 1615 opened as Wilke's Vine Street Theater in 1927.

Across Selma was the second floor Hollywood Roof Ballroom. Also on the same block were Club La Conga at 1551 and the Celebrity Theater at 1541—which later became Tom Brenneman's Lanes. The Tropics at 1525 Vine became the home of Brenneman's famous radio show *Breakfast in Hollywood*. All were located in buildings destroyed by fire earlier this year.

Also within two or three blocks of the Hollywood and Vine intersection were NBC studios, the Hollywood Palladium, Earl Carroll's, Al Levy's, and Coffee Dan's. West of Vine near the still-beautiful Pantages Theater were two popular eateries—The Toad in the Hole and Vallera Italian Kitchen. The former building no longer exists, the latter is empty. Hollywood and Vine—at one time certainly earned its fame.

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In Memoriam

Jack Smith

Members of the Historical Society joined southern Californians in sorrow on January 9 when Los Angeles *Times* columnist Jack Smith died.

On April 22, 1994 the Historical Society presented Jack with its Community Enrichment Award. Historian Gloria Lothrop said in tribute to Jack:

"We have come to treasure Jack Smith for so deftly holding up the mirror to nature, for frankly facing the plastic side of our existence, and then going beyond to capture the humanity, for mocking our foibles—our loss of memory, our illnesses, our impatience with garden blowers—but giving to all the redeeming common denominator of our endearing humanness."

We will miss his honest voice.



Dutch Holland

Elwood William "Dutch" Holland, former president of HSSC, possessed a dry wit, an unerring instinct for taking prudent steps and making haste slowly. We will miss him.

Dutch graduated from the University of Southern California in 1930 with a degree in engineering. He later recalled that his elective courses were all in the humanities, and the most rewarding course was California history. His first engineering job was with the Metropolitan Water District. Assigned to the Beaumont field office, Dutch mapped the topography and aqueduct construction. Later, as a Lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers Reserve he entered active duty with a survey company in the Colorado desert.

From his early experiences in the desert, Dutch developed an interest in lost mines and their legends—an interest that led to book collecting.

Dutch read all of the books he collected. He did not specifically collect rare books, for rarity as such had little appeal to him but rather he focused on out of print books whose subjects interested him. Along the way he developed an interest in fine printing.

Dutch enjoyed good company, conversation, and had an abiding appreciation for the intricacies and diversity of the history of Southern California and the west.

His wife of 62 years, and fellow book collector, Marion Louise Holland survives him.

by Larry Burgess



Ward Ritchie

Ward Ritchie, prolific and world-renowned printer, book collector, writer and historian of the book arts, who wrote nearly 100 books, designed about 750, published thousands, and spent his retirement meticulously printing more than two dozen volumes on an 1835 Albion hand press, has died.

All printers print, but Ward did more. He immortalized the history and beauty of printing by writing about it eloquently.

"Ward Ritchie is a marvelous writer and raconteur, especially of the history of fine printing and book making as a Los Angeles tradition. He opens the door to the past and invites us to step inside," Tom Andrews said in a tribute for Ritchie's 90th birthday last year.

Ritchie studied art, literature and poetry. He graduated from Occidental College and studied law for one semester at USC, but decided he would rather do "something creative."

"I didn't think I could write the Great American Novel," he told *The Times* in 1976, "and I didn't think I could paint as well as Matisse or Picasso—but I thought I could combine these two ambitions in printing."

In the last ten years Ritchie designed six books for HSSC. We will miss him for his joy in life and for his marvelous gifts to the art of printing.

From an article by Myrna Oliver for the Los Angeles Times

Victor Plukas

Victor Plukas, former HSSC president, died on January 24 in Santa Monica.

Plukas left Lithuania as a refugee and came to the United States after earning a bachelor of economics degree from the Swiss School of Economics and Business Administration.

Settling in California, Plukas joined Security Pacific National Bank where he administered its extensive early California and Los Angeles photo collection. His stewardship helped preserve an important visual record of Southern California history.

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IN MEMORY OF Elwood W. "Dutch" Holland

Tom Andrews
Gloria Lothrop
E. Peter Mauk Jr.
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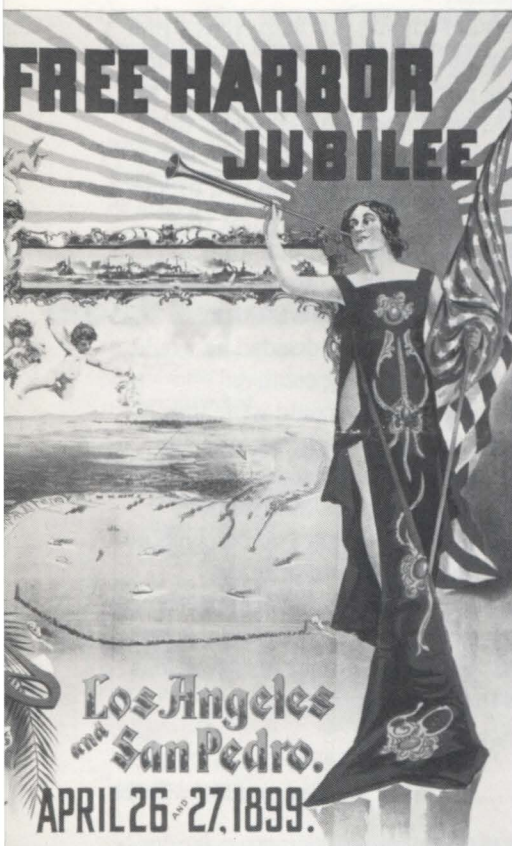
Save These Dates

MARCH 21 6 pm
FELLOWS Gala
The Friends Hall
The Huntington

APRIL 14 11 am - 5 pm
Tenth Annual Garden Fair
Lummis Home
Honoring the late Elna Bakker
Waterwise displays by garden
designers and architects

MAY 19 11 am - 5 pm
Museums of the Arroyo Day
Lummis Home
Displays by more than 30
artists and craftsmen

JUNE 1 10 am - 4 pm
Book Sale
Lummis Home



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A Victorian **Luncheon** on the Banning Mansion green.

Private tours of the treasure-packed **Los Angeles Maritime Museum**, with maritime historians and old harbor "salts."

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A lavish and leisurely **Dinner Cruise** through the harbor, with commentary by Maritime Museum director, William "Pete" Lee.

When: Saturday May 11, 1996
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