

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN

Published by the Historical Society of Southern California

Summer 1996 Volume 8 Number 2



Ed Carpenter at the New York Public Library in 1954.

HSSC Is Beneficiary of Carpenter Estate

n May the Historical Society received a major gift from the Edwin H. Carpenter estate. The estate, divided among three beneficiaries, provides a generous \$100,000 to the Historical Society.

Ed Carpenter was a member of the Society from the 1930s. During the 1990 holiday open house, the Society paid tribute to Ed Carpenter, acknowledging the support of a valued friend.

Passionate about books, Ed Carpenter surrounded himself with them. When he died in January 1994, he had collected more than 5,000 rare and signed books, association items and ephemera.

Ed Carpenter's love of books and history dominated his life. In 1939, he earned a master's degree in history at UCLA. Later he served as historian and archivist for the United States Army. Shortly after leaving the service, he earned a Ph.D. in history, also at UCLA. The following year, at USC, he was granted a degree in library science. With it, Ed Carpenter became the first archivist on the staff at UCLA. That same year he went to the Huntington as the publications secretary. There he was often described as one of its "treasures."

The 1997 Southern California Quarterly will be dedicated to Ed Carpenter's memory. His gift will help to continue the Society's ambitious publications program and its education programs for history teachers.

"Over the years the Society has received welcome gifts from the estates of members," says Executive Director Tom Andrews. "Recently members and friends have expressed interest in making this kind of gift," he adds. If you are interested in learning more about remembering HSSC in your will or giving a planned gift, contact Tom Andrews at (213) 222-0546.

Angels Flight: To Read and to Ride

ater this summer, Virginia L. Comer's much anticipated book on Angels Flight becomes available. A comprehensive history of the beloved funicular and its famous hill has long been needed. In Angels Flight: A History of Bunker Hill's Incline Railway the story is fully told for the first time.

Comer weaves the story of Angels Flight and Bunker Hill into the rich fabric of Los Angeles and Southern California local history. It is the story of beginnings, of decline and demise, and of dramatic rebirth—for the Flight, the hill and the city below.

The author provides something for everyone: for railroad enthusiasts it is the technical "Inside-Out Look at the Incline Railway," for urban planners it is the reconfiguration of Bunker Hill; for preservationists it is the detailed account of the Flight's restoration, and for turn-of-the-century historians and history buffs, it is the account of the hilltop mansions and the building of the railway.



Look for a special pre-publication offer in the mail.

GENTLE READER



WHEN 75,000 people attended the first annual Los Angeles *Times* Festival of Books in April at UCLA, someone commented that Los Angeles had finally discovered and embraced the book.

Not so! Fifty years before there was a "Festival of Books" at UCLA, there was an international "Writers' Congress" at UCLA in October 1943. In the midst of World War II, over 1,200 people from around the world attended to affirm their faith in the vitality of the free word.

Dr. Gustave Arlt of UCLA, who would later serve as president of HSSC, addressed the concluding session on the partnership of the writer and the scholar.

Before the "Writers Congress" at UCLA, however, book culture had become a leading characteristic of Los Angeles. Ernest Dawson, Jake Zeitlin, Odo Stade, Louis Epstein, Lawrence Clark Powell, Ward Ritchie, Saul and Lillian Marks, and Grant Dahlstrom, among others, made the book pre-eminent in Los Angeles in the Thirties.

Consequently, the book, which helped Los Angeles come of age and define itself, remains vibrantly alive. This year at HSSC, for example where we have an unbroken record of publishing scholarly history since 1884—we will publish our 25th book since 1990.

You and I are heirs of an important legacy that carries a responsibility for extending it into the future.

10m Audrews

The Year of the Book in L.A. and HSSC

by Tom Andrews

There must have been moments prior to last April 20th when Lisa Reale and Narda Zacchino of the Los Angeles *Times* wondered, "What if we give this big party for books—and nobody comes?"

Well, not only did "somebody" come, but 75,000 attended the two-day "Festival of Books" at UCLA. It was a party for books beyond all expectations and it established 1996 as "the year of the book" in Los Angeles.

With five published books this year, 1996 is also "the year of the book" at HSSC. Three have arrived from the printer—Letters From the Orange Empire, Women in the Life of Southern California, and Museums Along the Arroyo, and I want to tell you about them in more detail. Two are going to the printer—Angels Flight: A History of Bunker Hill's Incline Railway and Griffith Park: A Centennial History, and they will be available this fall.

Letters From the Orange Empire (\$12.95) makes an important contribution to Southern California history because no comprehensive monograph on the citrus industry exists. First published in a limited edition in 1990 and out of print, it is now published in an attractive paperback edition with cover art by Pasadena artist Joseph Stoddard.

The letters were written by G. Harold Powell, U. S. Department of Agriculture pomologist, who was sent to California in 1904 to help the state's citrus farmers solve the problem of

spoilage in long distance shipping of their crops. His letters catch a Southern California in transition between the Victorian and modern eras.





Women in the Life of Southern California (\$50 and \$100) is a collection of writings compiled from the Southern California Quarterly. Edited by Doyce Nunis with Jennifer Watts as pictorial editor, introduced by Iris Engstrand, designed by Ward Ritchie and printed by Dana Cordrey, this handsome anthology is truly a collector's item.

Caroline Severance, Kate Douglas Wiggin, Helen Hunt Jackson, Mary Austin, Helena Modjeska, Olive Percival and Helen Gahagan Douglas are among the featured subjects.

Museums Along the Arroyo (\$13.95) is Jane Apostol's engaging history and guide to five institutions known collectively as the "Museums of the Arroyo": Southwest Museum, Lummis Home, Heritage Square Museum, Pasadena Historical Museum and Gamble House.

Apostol skillfully tells their story within the context of Los Angeles in the 1870s and 1880s and early twentiethcentury Arroyo culture.

These and other books may be ordered from HSSC by calling (213) 222-0546.

HSSC Produces Three Hits in April and May

Tenth Annual Garden Fair

On April 11, the annual Garden Fair brought more than 500 visitors to the Lummis Home. Colorful was the operative word of the day. Some visitors said more wildflowers were in bloom in the Lummis Garden during the Fair than in the Antelope Valley.

Landscape designers and architects

produced cheerful garden vignettes, including Mark Bartos' whimsical arrangements of plants around wash tubs and aluminum garbage cans.Tom Engler's photos showed the garden before and after its waterwise renovation.



Making a bagel bird feeder

HSSC thanks those who helped make the day a success: Hortus, Pasadena; Los Angeles Department of Water & Power; Matilija Nursery, Moorpark; Robert Perry; Quick'r Print'r; Roth Family Foundation; Paula Savett; Sheridan Gardens Nursery, Sun Valley; *The Southern California Gardener;* Dr. Arie Wallert, Getty Conservation Institute; Richard Fisher, Toyon Design; Jane Adrian, Environmental Interests; Mark Bartos, Hortus Garden Design.

Harbor Tour

On May 11, fifty-four people boarded a motor coach in Pasadena or a van at Ports O'Call and joined Nancy and Jon Wilkman for a tour of the Port of Los Angeles.

Highlights included a tour of the Fort MacArthur Military Museum, where portions of gun emplacements dating from before World War II are still in place, and a cruise around the harbor with commentary by WorldPort LA representative Bill Siegal.

Museums of the Arroyo Day On May 19, more than 1,100 Southern Californians enjoyed the work of 32 artists at the Lummis Home. Many visitors took advantage of free shuttle



buses which provided carefree transportation to the other four Arroyo museums. *Museums Along the Arroyo* made its debut that

day and author

Artist Anna Pomaska

Jane Apostol was on hand to sign copies of the book. Visitors were also treated to a first-time look at the beautifully filmed companion video by Wilkman Productions.

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		Group Tours	Friday morning by appointment	



Meet Director Stephen Kanter

Southern California in 1973 fresh from a residency at Harvard's Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston. Here he discovered Pasadena and never left.

A physician who specializes in diagnostic radiology, Dr. Kanter has practiced in many environments academic, private and governmental.

Because of diminished corporate and governmental support, he says, he has become a strong supporter of music and the arts—serving on the boards of the Southwest Chamber Music Society, the Los Angeles Baroque Orchestra, the Fellows of Contemporary Art and the Armory Center for the Arts.

It was Dr. Kanter's love of chamber music that led to his involvement in the Historical Society. After attending performances at historic sites, he visited the Lummis Home and found his curosity in local history and appreciation for fine printing overlapped with HSSC's publications program.

His keen interest in fine printing has expanded to include contemporary artworks on paper. Refusing to call himself a collector, Dr. Kanter says he has managed to accumulate "all sorts of little things that take up much space."

Dr. Kanter, always alert to introducing others to HSSC, is welcomed as a Board member for his enthusiasm and commitment to history.

Back in the Saddle Again

fter a virtual dry spell in the 1970s and 1980s, Hollywood again has revived the once popular genre of the western, which nearly dominated television in the 1950s and 1960s. Indeed, between 1958 and 1959 television gave eager audiences as many as thirty-one different western series. In February, 1989, the debut of the miniseries "Lonesome Dove" almost single-handedly revived popular interest in the Old West. Such recent TV series as "Walker, Texas Ranger" and "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman" have sustained that interest. In addition, contemporary popular films like "Dances With Wolves," "Unforgiven," "Tombstone," and "Maverick" have captured loyal audiences in the 1990s.

Perhaps this is poetic justice since virtually a hundred years ago in 1893 at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, a young history professor Frederick Jackson Turner delivered a then remarkable paper on "The

Before Turner, American civilization had been interpreted largely as an extension of Western Europe, and our New England past was regarded primarily as the major source of what it meant to be an American.

Significance of the Frontier in American History." Before Turner, American civilization had been interpreted largely as an extension of Western Europe, and our New England past was regarded primarily as the major source of what it meant to be an American. For Turner, the abundance of "free land" and interaction with a new environment helped to determine the nature of American character. Despite scholarly by Richard H. Peterson



Fredrick Jackson Turner

criticism, his so-called "frontier thesis" virtually became the interpretive core of American history for several decades.

What has stimulated this renewed interest in the West or the frontier in popular culture and the mass media? It is difficult to say, but several possible explanations come readily to mind.

Certainly, the current concern with protecting the environment is consistent with the open spaces, scenic landscapes, clear air and clean water pictured in many modern westerns. The complexity and stress of living in the nineties finds a useful antidote in vicariously reliving a simpler era in a period of now-lost innocence. When contemporary lifestyles seem standardized and responsive to changes in what is fashionable or politically correct, the West offers the ever-intriguing character of the rugged individualist and the freedom to do his or her thing without social or welfare-state constraints.

In a society growing older, but still obsessed with looking younger or starting over, the frontier process provides a sense of renewal in a land of new beginnings. As Turner noted, society was reborn on each successive frontier as the nation geographically expanded through three centuries. The western thus appeals to the kid in all of us and to that endlessly elusive, symbolic search for the fountain of youth.

The West also is associated historically with an image of economic opportunity, whether in fur trading, mining, ranching, farming, banditry, or even gambling. As the state and particularly Southern California recover slowly from the worst recession since the Great Depression, the once maligned "Great American Desert" of the West presents the possibility of discovering the proverbial pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

For all these reasons, Americans find the western too attractive to abandon. The West ideally offered hope, opportunity, unspoiled nature, individualism, freedom and simplicity. The dream lives on in our reborn fascination with film and television westerns, especially those that evoke the romance, adventure, nostalgia, and dime-novel heroism of the last frontier when our ancestors, in the moving words of the late historian W.H. Hutchinson, still imagined California to be "the golden shore by the sundown sea."

Adapted from "The Western Rides Again" Journal of the West, XXXV, No. 1 (January 1996), 54-58.

Richard H. Peterson, a longtime HSSC member, is professor of history at San Diego State University. He has contributed regularly to the Southern California



Quarterly and other journals, and is the author of three books on the West, including an updated paperback edition of The Bonanza Kings (1991) and its sequel, Bonanza Rich. LOCAL HISTORY



The University of San Diego: Modern University with a Renaissance Flavor

The Most Reverend Bishop Charles Francis Buddy, first bishop of the immense diocese of San Diego (36,000 square miles), planned construction of the University of San Diego complex soon after his appointment in late 1936. From the beginning, he worked with Mother Rosalie Clifton Hill of Lone Mountain College in San Francisco.

In 1946, Mother Hill and a group of Sacred Heart nuns came to San Diego and took up residence in Old Town where they could supervise the planning, design and construction of the university's college for women. By 1949 Bishop Buddy had carefully acquired 167 acres on a mesa overlooking Mission Valley, and in that year, the private coeducational Roman Catholic university received its charter from the state of California.

The architectural style for the university buildings was determined in its early years by Mother Hill. She had been favorably impressed by the University of Alcalá de Henares near Madrid, Spain, where San Diego (St. Didacus) had performed his work, and therefore, chose Spanish Renaissance architecture for the University of San Diego. The first unit of the liberal arts division—the San Diego College for Women—opened in 1952. The College for Men, sponsored by the Diocese of San Diego, began classes in 1954. The School of Law, inaugurated in 1954 in

Iris H. W. Engstrand, Distinguished Professor of History at the University of San Diego, has authored more than a dozen books including a history of her own university.



by Iris H. W. Engstrand



Repeating arches characterize the Spanish Renaissance style that appealed to Mother Rosalie Clifton Hill who planned and supervised the construction of the University's San Diego College for Women.

temporary quarters, opened on campus in Thomas More Hall in December 1957.

The university received many of its elegant tapestries, paintings, silver and furnishings through a bequest from the James Flood estate in San Francisco to the Sacred Heart. The College for Women, designed by architect Frank L. Hope Jr., represented an investment by the Sacred Heart of more than \$4 million and today houses the Helen K. and James S. Copley Library, the university chapel, the 1,000-seat Shiley Theatre, classrooms, offices and dormitories.

The colleges functioned separately until the late 1960s when joint academic operations began. Plans for a merger were completed in 1972, and the College of Arts and Sciences, and Schools of Education and Business Administration were established to meet increased enrollment. In 1974 the Philip Y. Hahn School of Nursing was initiated. During the 1980s, the School of Law developed an enviable record throughout the West because of the services of its legal clinics to the community. The modern Katherine M. and George M. Pardee Jr. Legal Research Center was dedicated in 1990.

Throughout the years, additional university units have been constructed, financed by private donations, gifts from parishioners and funds raised by the community. In 1984 Olin Hall, home for the School of Business Administration, was funded by a grant from the Olin Foundation of New York. January 1987 witnessed the opening of the spectacular 75,000square-foot Ernest and Jean Hahn University Center, which serves as the hub of student activity. The Douglas and Betsy Manchester Child Development Center, completed in 1989, provides care and education for the pre-school children of the university community.

The University of San Diego is liberal in its outlook and encourages students of all denominations to participate in its programs. Its major goal is to help individuals develop a positive set of values and a sense of personal integrity to enable them to have fulfilling lives. In 1994 student enrollment reached 6,381 and full- and part-time faculty numbered 513.

LOCAL HISTORY



California Citrus State Historic Park

CARTON SPECIAL ALBERT

Packing crates are a small part of the citrus industry to see and enjoy at the California Citrus State Historic Park

The California Citrus State Historic Park was dedicated in Riverside on August 29, 1993. The park commemorates the state's largest industry between the last decade of the ninetheenth century and the Second World War.

Visitors can wander among the Sunkist Activity Center, Orange Court, Agave Garden, amphitheater, and interpretive display center.

Picnic areas in the 400-acre park are surrounded by interpretive trails winding throughout the park and offer a truly educational experience that everyone will enjoy.

Located a few miles south of the city of Riverside, the park can be reached by taking the Van Buren Boulevard offramp eastward from the Riverside Freeway (91) and proceeding to the intersection of Dufferin and Jackson streets.

Set in the midst of a working orange grove, the park's hillside setting, complete with palms and pergolas, is near poster-perfect for those who would recall the days when the Orange was King.

And, yes, you'll see a smudge pot!

What's Your Opinion?

A century ago, Lord Bryce said of California: "No other American state would be so truly a nation in itself."

Is this California's **problem** or its **promise**?

Write us your brief response in 150 words or less, and the winning response(s) will be published in The Southern Californian.

Winners also will receive a gift certificate to our El Alisal Book Shop.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FOUNDED 1883

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\$1,000 President's Circle All of the above plus ... Lectures and receptions for President's Circle members featuring noted Southern California historians

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



FOR LOVE OF HISTORY TRIBUTES

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David Gebhard 1932 - 1996

Educator, architectural historian and preservationist David Gebhard died on March 3. Gebhard was a prolific writer, producing more than 50 books on architects and their work.

In 1993, Gebhard received the Society's Donald H. Pflueger Local History Award for the book he coauthored with Robert Winter, *A Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles*.

Gebhard taught architectural history at UC Santa Barbara for the past 35 years. For 20 of those years, he was director of the University Art Gallery.

Despite his criticism of Los Angeles and its flaws, Gebhard loved the city calling it "a delight."

Sanborn Takes Post at Banning Museum

Michael Sanborn, former assistant director of membership and marketing at HSSC, has been appointed curator for the Banning Residence Museum in Wilmington.

At the April board meeting, the Board of Directors passed a resolution commending Sanborn for his work at the Society and wishing him well in his new job at the Banning.

He will be missed at El Alisal.

Welcome Michele Clark

Michele Clark joined the Historical Society staff in June to direct our membership and marketing development. After six years with the Los Angeles Visiting Nurse Founda-

tion, Michele brings experience in a variety of programs including membership cultivation, direct mail campaigns, and development of memo-



rial and annual giving programs

"The Lummis Home is a delightful treasure," Michele says, adding, "and it's a very pleasant working environment."

Michele looks forward to learning more about HSSC's publications programs and developing marketing campaigns for them.

Dinos Gives Garden Tips

Mayita Dinos, a long time friend of the Lummis Garden, has joined the Family Channel as its garden expert. Tune in to the Home and Family show and learn about gardening the waterwise way.

For Love of History

The HSSC Tribute Program to Honor or Remember Family and Friends

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Save These Dates

SEPTEMBER 21 12 noon Celebrating a decade of service Honoring Tom Andrews *Biltmore Hotel*

OCTOBER 6 1 pm - 4 pm Sixth Annual Book & Art Auction *Lummis Home* Preview 1 - 2 pm Auction 2 - 4 pm Phone for auction catalogue

DECEMBER 14 2 - 4 pm Holiday Open House *Lummis Home* Members and their guests Presenting O'Flaherty Teaching Awards



main and the second executive director of the Historical Society of Southern California in September 1986 following a distinguished career at three colleges. During the past decade, he has given outstanding leadership to the Historical Society in the areas of publications, public programs, education, and scholarship.

Since 1986, HSSC has published 25 books, inaugurated four award recognition programs, sponsored tours, lectures and special public programs, and promoted the study of history at elementary, secondary and collegiate levels. The Board of Directors of the Historical Society of Southern California Invites You to Celebrate

A Decade of Community Service 1986 — 1996

With a Special Tribute to Thomas Andrews, Executive Director

September 21, 1996 12 O'Clock Noon Biltmore Hotel

With characteristic optimisim tempered by pragmatism, Tom enabled the Society to realize a decade of unprecedented financial growth, especially in corporate and foundation support, and membership. In partnership with five HSSC presidents, he has pursued strong leadership for the Board of Directors. Together with a small professional staff and a team of committed volunteers, Tom has placed all of HSSC's resources behind a renewed commitment to the promotion of Southern California's rich history and to community service.