



Community Award Luncheon Warmly Remembers Jack Smith and Honors Recipients

More than 240 people arrived at the Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles on September 24 to honor the legacy of Jack Smith and to pay tribute to four recipients of the Society's Community Enrichment Award named for Jack.

Retired chairman of the board of Times Mirror and honorary chair of the luncheon, Robert Erburu, said Jack Smith was the one person who truly captured the unique spirit of this city.

Photos - pages 6 and 7

Los Angeles *Times* columnist Jack Smith loved the city but pulled no punches exposing its frailties and foibles. He wrote about them with humor and acceptance. His was the voice that made Angelenos aware of their humanity and connectedness. And his spirit permeated the luncheon.

Denise Smith, Jack's widow, said afterward, "The glow still lingers from that lovely awards luncheon....All of the remarks about Jack were so generous and heartwarming."

LUNCHEON continued on page 10



Photo: Suzanne Huddleson

HSSC President Martin Ridge and Executive Director Tom Andrews join Denise Smith at the Jack Smith Community Enrichment Awards luncheon.

Ahmanson Foundation Makes Gift of \$200,000

The Ahmanson Foundation, in awarding the Historical Society a grant of \$200,000 for its publications endowment, emphasized the substantial gains the Society has made.

"Clearly, the Society has grown in many valuable capacities over the past decade," writes Lee Walcott, vice president and managing director of The Ahmanson Foundation. In his letter to Executive Director Tom Andrews, he stressed the importance of the Society having developed a "clearly defined financial plan designed to meet future needs through multi-purpose endowments."

Walcott commended the Society for having established "a prudent and responsible position" which has "the potential for ensuring the Society's perpetuation well into the next century."

Since 1990 the Historical Society has published 25 books with the 26th

appearing next month. Read by the general public and academic scholars, placed in schools and given to teachers, these books have helped bring about a resurgence of interest in Los Angeles and Southern California history.

"The amount and timing of the Ahmanson grant is of great significance to the Society cannot be over-emphasized," states President Martin Ridge. "It meets the challenge of the Weingart Foundation's July grant, gives the endowment campaign momentum at the start of its second year, and underwrites two-thirds of the proposed Publication Endowment!"

Pledges to the five-year endowment campaign now total more than \$900,000 with more than \$500,000 received in cash. Year One of the campaign has ended on a very strong note, to which the Historical Society enthusiastically offers its thanks and appreciation.

GENTLE READER

"ARE YOU STILL THERE?" After ten—and now eleven—years, the question is asked of me as if staying on the same job for more than ten years is some sort of malady.

But it has caused me to try to answer the question for myself, and the answer is tied to **how one defines history**.

To some, history is the "good old days," an attractive **nostalgic collectible**, to be kept for display purposes, especially on certain **anniversaries** or **holidays**—Pioneer Days, Old Fashioned Days, July Fourth, etc.

To some, history is a type of **trivial pursuit**, the art of knowing thousands of **names, dates** and **facts** about explorers, battles, presidents, heroes and celebrities, etc.

To some, history is like a **picket fence**. It has **gaps** in it and it is periodically in need of the brush of **political correctness** to keep it properly maintained and attractive.

To some, history has **structural significance**. It is the erection of **monuments**, the placing of **plaques**, the saving of **buildings**, and the creation of **historic sites**.

There is something from each of these areas in what we do at HSSC and in why I am still here, but the **whole of history** is greater than the sum of these parts.

My answer is that I have stayed here in order to make a difference in how people see history, in how they look at the past, and in how they view themselves as historical beings. It is exciting when individuals recognize the power of history in their own lives, when they become participants rather than tourists of their own heritage.

It is in these moments when history offers the opportunity to create understanding, build consensus, and provide direction and hope for the future that I realize why I am still here.

Tom Andrews

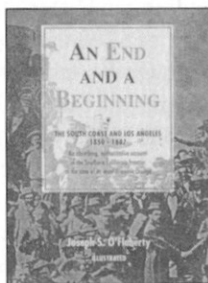
Rare Book Auction Raises \$17,000

An enthusiastic crowd of interested bidders greeted auctioneer Stacey Roman as he opened the bidding on the first of 81 items at HSSC's 7th annual auction. An hour and a half later, the last item was sold, and a record \$17,000 had been raised for the publications program of the Society.

Items ranged from the historical panoramas to commemorative souvenirs of important Los Angeles events; from signed Ward Ritchie and Larry Powell books to a complete set of the *California Historical Quarterly*, and from signed baseball photos and books to early Auto Club maps of Southern California.

All told, the seven auctions have brought in more than \$70,000, skillfully guided by auctioneers Hugh Tolford, Jerry Selmer and Stacey Roman. HSSC is grateful for the support of both donors and bidders.

O'Flaherty Book Brailled



The Historical Society
of Southern California
publication

An End and A Beginning

by Joseph S. O'Flaherty
has been translated into Braille.

It is now available at the
Los Angeles Braille Institute
(213) 660-3880
or (800) 808-2555



Meet Director Pat Adler-Ingram

It's hard to imagine the gentlemanly Pat Adler-Ingram wearing a hard hat. But construction supervisor is only one of the many roles she has played.

When Pat's children were older, she continued her education, taking classes at USC where she was inspired by Doyce Nunis. Switching from city planning to history, Pat received master and doctorate degrees from USC.

While working at first toward a degree in urban history, she worked as a consultant for the city of Los Angeles. Cultural Heritage Foundation. Later she was persuaded by her boss and eventual husband, city planner and architect Charles Ingram, to write the history of Watts and South Central Los Angeles.

She went on to write histories of other city neighborhoods scheduled for rebuilding and, while in this job, was introduced to the development of affordable housing. She and Charles Ingram formed a partnership to design and build apartments in depressed areas, which she continues to manage.

Her published studies include "The Bunker Hill Story," "Mineral King Guide," "Walker's R.R. Routes, 1853," as well as "Poems and Songs," a fine-press book designed by Saul Marks.

Today she operates a small construction company as well as a management service for inner-city properties. She is a long-time collector of the wood engravings of Paul Landacre.

The HSSC welcomes her on board.

1998 History Conference Scheduled

The Historical Society of Southern California will present its third annual history conference at the Autry Museum, Saturday, January 17, 1998, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. This year's conference theme is "The Arts: The Soul of the City."

Speakers & subjects

The presenters include: Nancy Moure, speaking about the arts of the area; David Fine discussing Los Angeles in literature and its writers; Jane Apostol telling the story of William Lees Judson and the Judson Stained Glass Studio; Carol Merrill-Mirsky covering the history of the Hollywood Bowl; Robert Winter showing how architecture defines the city; and Sydney Berger illustrating how fine printing is a vehicle drawing the arts together.

Virtual walk through LA

During the lunch periods, Mike Eberts will present an illustrated walking history of the city. In addition, there will be a panel discussion of the Brand Fine Arts Library and the newly developed Chinese American History Museum. The day will conclude with a wine-cheese reception hosted by the Center for California Studies at California State University, Northridge.

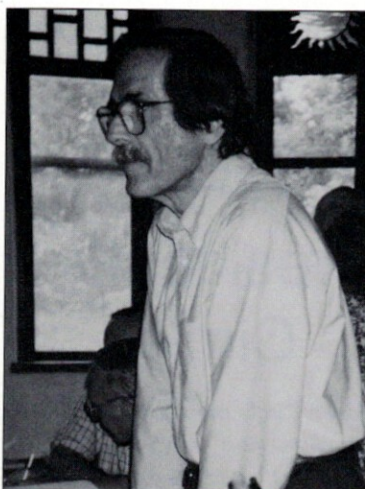
Registration & sponsors

The \$50 registration fee (\$40 for members of HSSC and the Autry Museum and \$30 for teachers) will include all sessions, admission to the Museum, a box lunch and the reception.

HSSC thanks our cosponsors Autry Museum, Wells Fargo, CSUN, LA County Office of Education and the Southern California Social Science Association.

Registration forms will be available in December. For more information, call the Historical Society of Southern California at (213) 222-0546.

Photo: Margaret Dickerson



Leonard Pitt answers question.

Book Signing Draws Crowd

On Saturday, August 16, 1997, the Historical Society sponsored a double book signing of books devoted to Los Angeles. James P. Allen and Eugene Turner, both geography professors at California State University, Northridge, and Leonard and Dale Pitt (Leonard is a former CSUN history professor, now at UCLA, and Dale is a writer, indexer and playwright.) were present to sign their recent works.

Trials and anecdotes

Both pairs of authors gave a short introduction to their books and told several anecdotes about the trials and tribulations of writing. The book signing followed. While the authors were busy signing, members of the audience enjoyed a delicious reception.

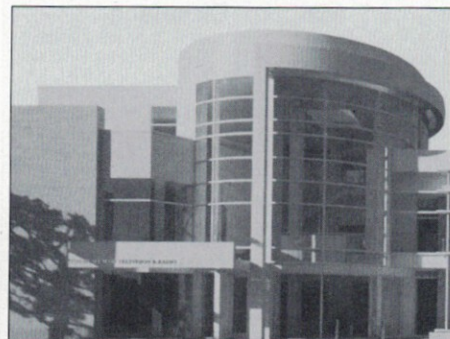
Generous illustrations

Allen and Turner's book, *The Ethnic Quilt: Population Diversity in Southern California*, is a collection of maps and essays discussing the distribution of Los Angeles's ethnic groups. The Pitt's work, *Los Angeles A to Z: An Encyclopedia to the City and County*, covers the history of the area with entries on individuals and institutions. The book is generously illustrated with photographs and charts. Both books are available at the El Alisal bookshop.

Hollywood History Tour Is A Smashing Success

No one does it better. HSSC's Hollywood Archives Tour on October 25, planned and led by Nancy and Jon Wilkman was extraordinary.

From the description of the UCLA Archive's conservation, preservation and restoration of film, to the screening of vintage clips of early Los Angeles television, to a behind the scenes tour of the Star Trek and Fraser stage sets at Paramount studios, the day provided an in-depth look at the film, history, archives and resources here in Los Angeles. The collections are second only to those at the Library of Congress.



The Museum of Television & Radio in Beverly Hills designed by Richard Meier.

Bob Rosen, director of the UCLA Film and Television Archive, says films and newsreels are cultural artifacts dating from the beginning of the 20th century. These moving images make the past relevant to the present. Since many are on unstable nitrate film, preserving them is urgent.

The Museum of Television & Radio holds 90,000 hours of television, radio and advertising tapes. Director Steve Bell illustrated how much in the vanguard early Los Angeles television was. It was KTLA that pioneered live coverage of news events, developed the telecopter and presented the first live telecast of an atomic bomb explosion by creating a signal relay system between Los Angeles and Las Vegas.

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN

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

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Watch for HSSC's Website
coming soon

Office Hours
Monday-Friday 9-5

The Lummi Home
is open to the public
Friday-Sunday 12-4pm

Group Tours
Fridays by appointment



President's Circle

President's Circle members are individuals, families and family foundations whose annual, unrestricted support of \$1,000 or more ensures the longevity and quality of the Society's most prestigious programs including the Southern California Quarterly, the FELLOWS Award, educational programs and books published by the Society. The Society thanks those who support HSSC at this significant level with an association that is socially stimulating and intellectually invigorating. Members will receive advance copies of Society publications and have special opportunities to meet with HSSC FELLOWS, noted scholars and community leaders.

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Architecture and Art Tour Set

On November 22 and 23, nearly 100 artists will open their homes and studios in the north-east neighborhoods of Highland Park, Mt. Washington and Eagle Rock for the fifth annual Discovery Tour. Sponsored by HSSC, the Arroyo Arts Collective and Highland Park Heritage Trust, the tour will include guided tours of homes with architectural and historic significance.



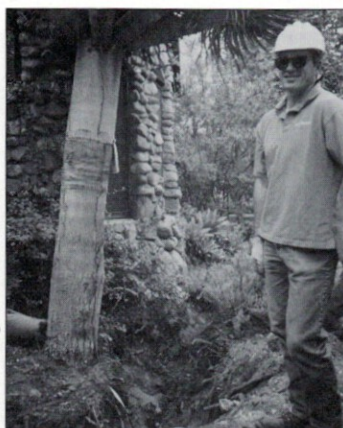
Photo: Irene Fertik

Blacksmith Heather McLarty at her home, the Hiner House.

Each day will end with a reception: Saturday, at the Judson Studios and Sunday at the Lummis Home.

Tickets may be purchased on the day of the tour at the Judson Studios and Lummis Home or at a discount in advance. Call Kate Burroughs at (213) 550-8000.

Photo: Margaret Dickerson



Steve Dunlap stands next to trench before the dragon tree is moved.

Bright and early one September morning, Steve Dunlap and the city's forestry department crew arrived at the Lummis Home with a backhoe, crane and flatbed truck.

With great expertise and care, the garden's 20-foot tall dragon tree was moved from next to the tower to the Carlota Boulevard entry gate in preparation for the herb garden renovation.

Last spring, garden volunteer Kathy Crown made a donation toward the herb garden's renewal in memory of her husband.

Work will begin soon. If you have a green thumb (or even a brown thumb) and would like to dig in call Jane Frimodig at (213) 222-0546.

HSSC Plans Lummis Home Centennial

Plans are underway to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the construction of El Alisal in style.

In September 1898, Charles Fletcher Lummis began erecting the south wall of the *museo*. By November, he was able to photograph a handsome free-standing wall.

Docents and high tea

HSSC will inaugurate the centennial in March when the Society will honor docents who have so graciously served as guides to the Lummis Home. Angelenos can look forward to making reservations for high tea served in the *comedor* of the Lummis Home.

Contests, cookbooks and more

Other events planned include:

- Local artists will be invited to submit designs for a poster commemorating the Lummis Home Centennial. Submissions will be judged by a panel of experts from various disciplines. Winners will be announced at the Museums of the Arroyo Day in May.
- Grade school students will be invited to enter a coloring contest.
- HSSC is exploring the possibility of reprinting Charles Lummis's Landmark Cookbook, one of the first to recognize the cuisine of the southwest.

Look for details in the next newsletter.

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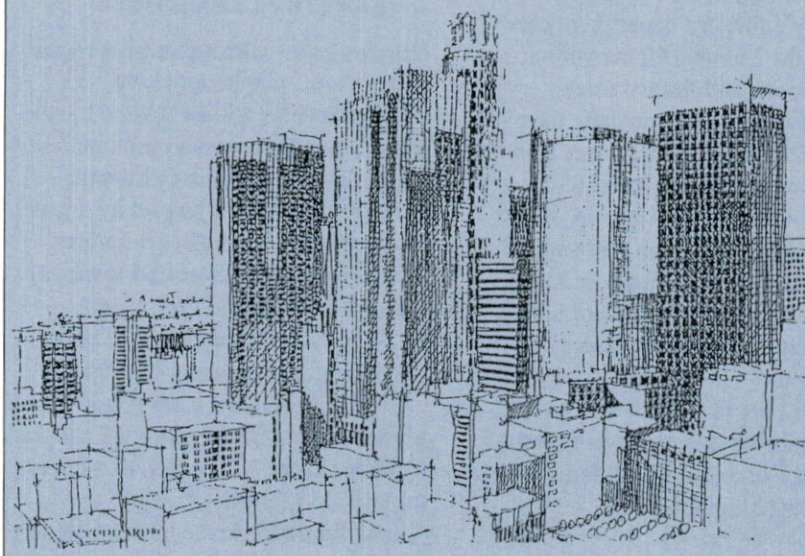
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\$1,000 President's Circle
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Jack Smith

Community Enrichment Award 1997

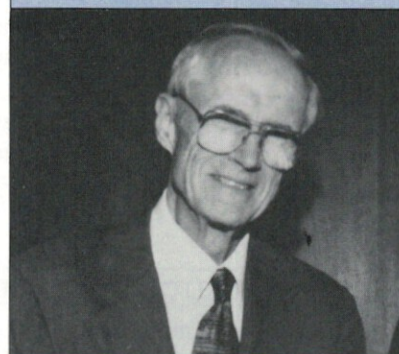


Above: Linda Murray and Denise Smith
Right: Dr. Thomas Maddux



Sr. Aline Marie Gerber and Community Enrichment Award

Below: Presenter Frank Wheat



Below: Presenter Stephen. Kanter, M.D.



Jack Sr





ent MaryAnn Bonino.

Community Award recipient Myrtle Harris.



Community Enrichment Award recipient Jim Murray hefts his painting of the L.A. Times building with the help of John Argue.



Rod Dedeaux and Vin Scully show friends his watercolor painting of Dodger Stadium. The Community Enrichment recipients receive a painting by Pasadena artist Joseph Stoddard, of a site with special meaning for them.



Former governor George Deukmejian greets friend at luncheon.

Photos: Suzanne Huddleson



Doña Maria Inocenta Pico's *Reminiscences of California*

by Patricia Adler-Ingram

The book in my library that I find most interesting at the moment is not really a book. It is a photocopy of a translation of one of the accounts dictated to interviewers sent out by Hubert Howe Bancroft in the 1870s to gather material for the research that went into his massive *History of California*. It's not something to treasure for the beauty of its production—the type is grainy, there's a background shadow on every page, and it's bound with a single staple. The translation was made as part of the New Deal program to give employment to more or less starving artists and academicians. It is, in fact, a poor substitute for the original Spanish text and the Spencerian script of the interview document. The real beauty, however, is in the clarity with which the voice of the narrator speaks across more than a hundred years.

Maria Inocenta Pico, the widow of Miguel Ávila, welcomed Bancroft's field assistant, Thomas Savage, to her Rancho San Miguelito in the spring of 1878. He had interviewed many other pioneers before he reached the San Luis Obispo area, soliciting old letters, journals, price lists, ship schedules—every scrap of paper that might afford a broader base for the *History*. It was part of Bancroft's endeavor to "save to the world a mass of valuable human experiences which otherwise would have dropped out of existence."

At their meeting she presented for inclusion in the Bancroft repository the only documents remaining after a fire which had destroyed most of a collection made by her husband. And she gave the interview that recorded her own insight into some of the events which moved California from Spanish

*"Señor Gutiérrez
asked me which
I preferred:
that they
finish my husband
off
with five rifle bullets
or
that he be banished
to Guadálajara . . ."*

Doña Maria Inocenta Pico

to American control.

At this point Maria Inocenta comes to life. She says, "I quickly had a great supply of provisions gotten together for the general and his officers, such as chicken, mutton, cakes, cheese, enchiladas, good wine, excellent whiskey, etc. All this, richly decorated, along with fine napkins, I dispatched loaded upon two mules. I also secretly sent for aid for my husband."

Her effort to intervene with the general on her husband's behalf was successful. As she modestly admits, "I must say that he let himself be conciliated to the point of giving heed to my supplications."

Miguel was imprisoned again very shortly. He had the misfortune of coming upon three ladies of the town bathing in the pool from which Monterey drew its water supply. They were making the water very soapy and Miguel, in his role as *sindico*, reprimanded them. He was haled into court, to answer to the ladies and their husbands, the most vindictive being Ar-

tillery Captain Muñoz, one of Gutiérrez' staff officers. As soon as Maria Inocenta learned her husband was again in prison, "although," she says, "it was only fifteen days since I had given birth to a girl child, Josefa, and it was raining heavily, I had myself taken to the Government house . . . Señor Gutiérrez asked me which I preferred: that they finish my husband off with five rifle bullets or that he be banished to Guadálajara for several years . . . Angered at hearing such brutality, I replied that if he found it just, he should go ahead and give my husband the five rifle bullets. . . . I was determined that he should not detect in me any lack of courage." As before, Maria Inocenta had not neglected to summon aid and her brother, Francisco Pico, had alerted the *Ayuntamiento* of Monterey.

Bancroft mentions the interview in his *Literary Industries*. "On a fearful stormy night, at the risk of his life, . . . Mr. Savage, accompanied by José de Jesus Pico [one of her brothers], visited the rancho of Señora de Ávila in the interests of history, and there received every kindness."

She began the interview, as she felt befitted a lady of her position, by giving Savage an account of her late husband's family. She spoke of her husband's uncle, Francisco Ávila, whose adobe house still stands in picturesque Olvera Street, relating how Francisco had taken charge of him and his brothers after their father's death, bringing young Miguel to Los Angeles to be his assistant. It was soon discovered that, "he lacked a great deal, in the field of accounting, of being able to keep

Continued on page 10



El Alisal Celebrates Its Centennial

by Jane Apostol

Charles Fletcher Lummis boasted that El Alisal, the home he built by the Arroyo, would last a thousand years. Time may yet prove him right. El Alisal will celebrate its centennial on September 6, 1998.

Today the Lummis Home is surrounded by a thoughtfully planned water-conserving garden. When Lummis bought his three-acre parcel "it was covered with brush, gravel, granite boulders and thirty noble sycamores." A magnificent tree with a fourfold trunk inspired the name of El Alisal: the local Spanish for Place of the Sycamore.

Photo: HSSC Photo Archive



The Lummis Home under construction in 1898.

Physical labor as respite

Building around the great tree (which since has died and been replaced), Lummis erected an L-shaped house made of concrete and faced with arroyo boulders. He did most of the construction work himself. As a first step, with the help of a young boy from Isleta Pueblo, he hauled ten tons of boulders to use in the facade of El Alisal. Lummis enjoyed manual labor as a respite from his intellectual labors as author, editor, ethnologist, preservationist, city librarian, and founder of the Landmarks Club, the Sequoya League, and the Southwest Museum. "The heavy work outdoors keeps me sweet and fit," he told Frederick Webb Hodge. "I go to sleep without a thought & wake by myself at the hour fresh as a sea breeze."

It takes a man to build a house

Lummis worked with hammer, saw, chisel, adze, and broad axe. "Amigo," he once told a friend, "any damn fool can write a book. It takes a man to

build a house." He was proud of his craftsmanship: the careful dovetailing, the cabinetwork with a "moonlight finish," and the hand-hewn timbers for the magnificent double-doored entrance. For the great doors Lummis designed decorative ironwork inspired by his expeditions to Bolivia and Peru.

Interests incorporated in design

Within the house are other examples of Lummis's interest in archaeology, anthropology, and South America, as well as in the California missions and the Southwest (a term he apparently was the first to use, along with the phrase "See America First"). Among the historic artifacts incorporated in the house are small clay heads brought back from Teotihuacan; a figurine from Pachacamac, where he worked with Adolph Bandelier; tiles from the ruined Mission San Juan Capistrano, whose roof and adobe walls were repaired by the Landmarks Club; and a plank from

the Mission San Fernando—the gift of Bishop George Montgomery. In the *museo* of El Alisal, Lummis displayed his outstanding collection of Indian baskets, blankets, and pots—most of which now are in the Southwest Museum.

Always a work in progress

El Alisal was always a work in progress. Asked by a friend when he expected to finish, Lummis replied: "Never, I hope." The house was

Continued on page 11



Jane Apostol is the author of *El Alisal: Where History Lingers* published by the Historical Society of Southern California and available at Vroman's Book Store and the El Alisal book shop.

LUNCHEON *Continued from page 1*

Honorees pleased by association

The first recipient to receive the Community Enrichment Award, MaryAnn Bonino, set the tone by saying how honored she was to receive an award named for Jack. Myrtle Harris agreed, "In a small way I hope that I can carry on his influence of caring." Jim Murray fondly recalled his early days working the Hollywood beat with Jack. Vin Scully, too, said he was proud to be involved with anything associated with Jack Smith.

MaryAnn Bonino

Dr. Stephen Kanter, secretary of the Society and classical music connoisseur, told of MaryAnn Bonino's accomplishments. Prime among them is her creation of Chamber Music in Historic Sites, a program that combines music, architectural history and a sense of place. Sponsored by The DaCamera Society of Mount Saint Mary's College, the program is now in its 17th year. Dr. Bonino also initiated a program that provides concerts and instruction to students, introducing the joys of jazz and classical music to

thousands of young Los Angeles area students.

Myrtle Harris

Long-time HSSC member and retired partner of the law firm of Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, Frank Wheat, presented the Community Enrichment Award to Myrtle Harris. Mrs. Harris has pioneered in forging partnerships between private philanthropy and education. In 1986 Mrs. Harris, along with other members of the Whitsett Foundation's board, successfully negotiated the first endowment at Cal State Northridge, carrying it through to final implementation in 1994 with the establishment of the W.P. Whitsett Chair in California History, the only endowed chair in California history in the nation. Her vision sets a mark for others to attain.

Jim Murray

John Argue, an attorney with the firm of Argue Pearson Harbison & Myers, presented his friend Jim Murray with HSSC's Community Enrichment Award. Jim Murray is in his fourth decade as a prize-winning sports columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

As a journalist, Murray writes the first draft of history. Murray knows we may live by journalistic headlines, but we survive through seeking historical perspective, significance and wisdom. His columns are an antidote to the excess, mushiness and sophomoric humor we find in articles today. Jim Murray has enriched us as a community by his professionalism.

Vin Scully

Presenter Rod Dedeaux, USC's award winning baseball coach for 44 years, said Vin Scully showed America that the romance of baseball was universal at the same time that he was establishing the strong bond that exists between Los Angeles and the Dodgers. He singlehandedly educated millions of Angelenos about the Dodgers, the National League and the national pastime. He has educated the heart as well as the mind of his listener, and Los Angeles is the richer for his having done so.

Congratulations

HSSC congratulates this year's Jack Smith Community Enrichment Award recipients.

REMINISCENSES *Continued from page 8*

books." His uncle Francisco sent him back to Monterey for more schooling. Apparently this second attempt at schooling was a success because Miguel became a *síndico* responsible for public funds in Monterey.

By 1836 there was a growing belief that California was neglected and wronged by the government in Mexico and that local leaders could furnish better governors from their own number. The colonial governor who acceded to both the civil and military commands at this time was Nicolás Gutiérrez. It was not long before he was threatening the young *síndico*, Miguel Ávila, accusing him of helping the insurrectionists scheme to intercept funds coming from Mexico for the support of the troops. Thirty armed men, according to Maria Inocenta, came to their rancho at midnight to arrest him. At dawn she sent to inquire where he was being taken and learned he would be tried at Pismo. To her it seemed he was on his way to an early execution.

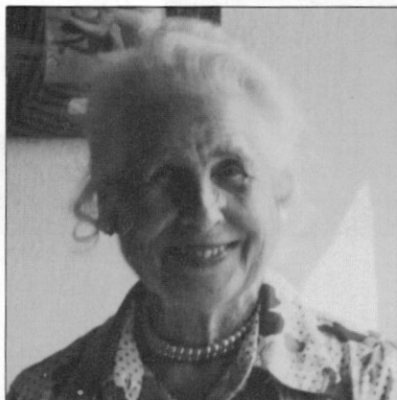
"The truth of the matter," she concludes, [Gutiérrez] "saw that the civil authorities were determined. . . . I returned home and found my husband had been liberated."

A few days after Miguel's release, citizens of Monterey joined the forces of Castro and Alvarado in besieging Gutiérrez in the presidio. Maria Inocenta took advantage of the situation.

"Naturally incensed at the infamous conduct of Gutiérrez towards my husband, I communicated with José Castro, offering powder, saddles and other resources on behalf of the campaign. In fact, I sent to him at Huerta Vieja all that I had, some 20 saddles, 12 jars of powder, 15 saddle horses, ropes, many bottles of brandy, provisions, etc." Gutiérrez, in his turn, "gave orders that, in case the garrison was attacked, they should open fire upon my house, which was directly across from the fort."

She shows a fine sense of perspective, telling her interviewer, "Don José Castro, the godfather of my daughter Josefa, used to laugh heartily at the remembrance of the things which I did to promote the success of the revolution. It was really an unimportant affair, but it freed us of a group of men who desired to exercise a greater degree of despotism than was ever experienced under the absolute rule of the Spanish governors."

Throughout her narrative, Maria Inocenta speaks of members of the Pico and Ávila families, as their lives became interwoven with the political events in California. The family ties formed an enduring center, while governors came and went, Spanish control gave way to Mexican, local ferment brought rebellions and the ground was being prepared for negotiations with the Americans.



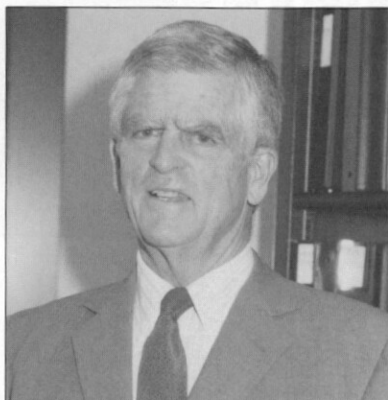
Grace Coffin

Grace Coffin, longtime member of the Historical Society and a loyal Lummis Home docent, passed away peacefully at her home on June 15, 1997.

Grace loved Los Angeles, nature and the Lummis Home. After earning a bachelors degree from UCLA in 1927, she was hired by the Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department. It was while working as a playground supervisor that she met Harwood Coffin. The two were married in a wedding ceremony at Switzer's Camp Chapel in 1929 and spent their honeymoon hiking in the nearby mountains.

In 1953 when the Lummis Memorial Association began making plans to preserve the Lummis Home, Grace—by then superintendent of the northern district—became the city's representative.

She never abandoned the mission and she will be much missed at El Alisal.



James Greene

James Coffin Greene, former chairman of the Los Angeles law firm O'Melveny & Myers and longtime member of the Historical Society, died on August 22, 1997, at his home in Pasadena.

James Greene joined O'Melveny & Myers in 1939 after graduating from Yale Law School. In World War II, he served as lieutenant commander in the Navy. At O'Melveny he was a key corporate lawyer for nearly half a century, heading the corporate practice division for many of those years.

He chaired Town Hall Los Angeles in 1969 and was a longtime member of the organization's board of trustees. He also headed the Los Angeles Committee on Foreign Relations.

Reflecting his interest in art, Greene also served as a trustee for the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art.

EL ALISAL *Continued from page 9*

essentially complete, however, by 1904. The dining room was one of the last rooms to be built.

Scene of lively parties

It was the scene of many lively parties. Noted guests included artists Ed Borein, Maynard Dixon, and Frederic Remington; naturalists John Muir and John Burroughs; actress Helena Modjeska; poets Joaquin Miller and Carl Sandburg; bookman A.C. Vroman; and humorist Will Rogers. One writer described the gatherings as "shingdigs of the intellectuals." Lummis called the parties "Noises" and defined them as an "informal Old California Good Time." They combined good food, good fellowship, and entertaining programs.

State of California landmark

Since 1965 the Historical Society of Southern California has had its headquarters in El Alisal, a building described by Lummis, with characteristic lack of modesty, as "not only unique in America, but an architectural landmark." The State of California agreed, at least in part, for the building has been named California Landmark 531.

In 1998 the Society will celebrate the centennial of the Lummis Home in proper Lummis style with "an informal Old California Good Time."

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