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Historical Society of Southern California

Founded 1883



## **NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1986**



Join us in celebrating the holidays at El Alisal

# THE DR M CONTINUES 1986-87 Events

December 7, 1986 Holiday Open House at El Alisal. Once again the home built by Charles Lummis on the banks of the Arroyo Seco will be decorated for the holidays. The traditional fir will be installed in the Museo, and members are invited to add an ornament. Long time members of the Society and volunteers will be honored at this festive occasion which is open to all. Invitations will be mailed later.

January 14, 1987 "The California Dream as Recorded in Photographs." Members will be able to enjoy a catered dinner and a tour of the extensive collection of O'Melveny and Myers, one of Los Angeles' oldest and largest legal firms.

March 14, 1987 "J. Paul Getty's Dream in Malibu." Tour and lunch at the Getty Museum. A bus will take members from the Lummis Home to this outstanding museum in West Los Angeles where we shall have a tour conducted by Dr. Norman Neuerburg, consultant for the building of the Museum. Details will appear in the March *Newsletter*.

### **NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY**

Nearly one hundred members and guests enjoyed an evening at the San Antonio Winery on October 22. Dr. Harry Kelsey introduced us to a new and different Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo and shared some of his research sources with us. Dr. Kelsey's book on Cabrillo is available at the Lummis Home. (See listing on back page.)

Member Robert Cates is the author of Joshua Tree National Monument: A Visitor's Guide. According to a review, the volume is "well reproduced . . . copiously illustrated in black and white . . . is salted with quotations from the desert masters. . . . It includes the natural and human history of the region."

Miriam Matthews is one of the "Women of Courage" whose stories are told in the exhibition at the California Afro-American Museum at Exposition Park. The exhibit is based on the Black Women Oral History Project of the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe College and opened early this month. Miss Mathews, a librarian in the L.A. Public Library for more than thirty years, has researched the history of California's black settlers. Society members viewed her slide show and talk at a meeting several years ago. The exhibition continues until November 30, 1986.

Member Chris Leinberger has co-authored the cover story of the October *Atlantic Monthly* on the "urban village" development phenomenon. Entitled "How Business is Reshaping America," the article attempts for the first time in a mass market publication to explain the forces shaping our cities in the late 20th century. Anna Marie Hager, when the husband Everett, has indexed countless historical publications including the *Southern California Quarterly*, is recovering from a stroke suffered several weeks ago. She is doing well and is at home now.

### **IN MEMORIAM**

Former Society President, Gustave O. Arlt, died in September of an apparent heart attack. He was president from 1956-58, after several years of service on the Board. He assumed the job of *Quarterly* editor in 1953 and continued in that post until he was succeeded by Doyce Nunis in 1962. He was Professor of German and Dean of the Graduate School at UCLA. He was active in numerous professional organizations, and his contributions to the Society and UCLA were many and lasting.

Long time member Rosario Curletti from Santa Barbara died during the summer. She was born and lived her life in that city, was interested in history, worked very hard to make the Santa Barbara Mission Archives a reality, and contributed in other ways to her community. She had been a member of HSSC for nearly thirty years.

## LUMMIS HOME GARDEN

The new plantings in the garden are thriving, and the pink and purple verbenas are bright spots of color. The berries of the toyons are turning their customary bright red, and the flowers of the Mexican purple sage flank the entrance on Carlota. Another spot of color is provided by the Strawberry Tree (arbutus unido) which can be seen at the entrance to the house.

The strawberry tree is a member of the ericaceae or heath family. Arbutus is an ancient Latin name, and unido is also of ancient classical nomenclature. It is one of the fourteen evergreen trees or shrubs which grow in North and Central America, Western Europe, the Mediterranean region, and Western Asia. The strawberry tree is very closely related to the madrone (arbutus menziesii) a native occurring from California to British Columbia.

The tree can obtain a height of 30 feet, but in cultivation rarely reaches fifteen feet. It has white or rosy urn shaped flowers in nodding panicles. In the autumn it produces warty, scarlet berries. The trunk and bark are brown and shreddy, tending to become twisted and gnarled with age. The bark also is used in tanning.

The species in the Lummis Garden is native to southwest Ireland as well as southern Europe, and in the latter area the fruit is made into wine. The berries can be cooked for preserves as well.

It is a useful ornamental because it can stand extremes from<sup>\*</sup>both climate and soil, providing it has good drainage. (Information supplied by Garden Volunteer, Betty Southam.) At our December Open House we all be honoring individuals, families, and institutions who have been members of HSSC for at least twenty-five years. We are listing the individuals/families in this *Newsletter*.

#### Members fifty years or longer

Mr. Leet Bissell Dr. Edwin H. Carpenter The Dawson Family The Newmark Family Mr. & Mrs. Jake Zeitlin

#### Members thirty-five years or longer

Mrs. Richard Bonelli Mrs. Daniel P. Bryant Dr. John W. Caughey Mrs. W. Thomas Davis Mr. & Mrs. Sidney K. Gally Mrs. Albert Gordon Mr. Harry Groman Mr. & Mrs. Everett Hager Mr. & Mrs. Clarence L. Johnson Mr. & Mrs. Peter B. Kuhl Mr. Don Meadows Mr. & Mrs. Donn B. Tatum Mr. George H. Whitney

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