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Historical
Society of



Southern
California

HSSC CALENDAR NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1985



Photo courtesy of the Southwest Museum

"Would you believe — the Historical Society is
going to the "PITS"?!?!?
— The La Brea Tar Pits, that is!!!"

A NEW LOOK FOR OUR GRAND OLD SOCIETY!

Starting with this SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1985 CALENDAR-NEWSLETTER, the Historical Society will publish a bi-monthly Calendar of events and HSSC programs. This new format will allow us to get information to the membership in a timely fashion. Pictures used in the Calendar will be, for the most part, from the extensive HSSC photo archives. Photographs which appear with "tongue-in-cheek" captions will also have a historically correct caption featured in the Calendar.

"THE YEAR OF DISCOVERIES" 1985-86

Using "discoveries" as the theme, the program committee and Chairman Shirley McGurk have planned a year of discovering the "fun" in learning about the history of California. You won't want to miss any of these events - so mark your calendar.

OCTOBER 16, 1985 - "DISCOVER THE BEGINNINGS OF LOS ANGELES" The Historical Society will be treated to a special after-hours-tour of the Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries. The "La Brea Tar Pits," as they are known world wide, were given to the County of Los Angeles by the Hancock Family. The museum presents a fascinating meld of pre-history and L.A.'s more recent past. Our tour will be enhanced by an elegantly catered supper served with a variety of California wines! Invitations will be forthcoming - guests are welcome.

DECEMBER 8, 1985 - "DISCOVER OLD AND NEW HOLIDAY TRADITIONS AT THE LUMMIS HOME"

JANUARY 15, 1986 - "DISCOVER THE STORY BEHIND LAW AND ORDER IN LOS ANGELES"

Programs for the spring are in the planning stage. You will be sent a special notice before each program.

LUMMIS HOME HISTORIC SITE PROJECT

In July, the Board of Directors approved a two-year plan to renovate, restore and enhance the Charles F. Lummis Home and Garden.

We are pleased to report that the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has awarded the Society a grant of \$80,000 toward the redesign and renovation of the Lummis Home Garden. When implemented, it will be a unique demonstration garden of water-conserving plants. The project will show that native plants provide an excellent medium for residential landscaping.

Three students from California Polytechnic University Pomona, Cy Carlberg, Rick Fisher, and Woody Smeck, have developed an outstanding plan for the garden. Landscape architect Robert C. Perry, noted authority on California native plants, is the project architect. Denver Markwith, Jr. and Raymond Ziegler will be overseeing the site development for the Society.

The renovation of the Lummis Garden has been endorsed by Mayor Bradley, State Senator David Roberti, Assemblyman Richard Alatorre, naturalists and botanists. In the words of Suzette Chamberlain, Chairperson of the Garden Volunteers, "Not only would the garden demonstrate the latest concepts in landscaping with water-conserving plants, but it would, most importantly, provide an oasis of natural beauty in an inner city environment."

We invite the interest and participation of all HSSC members in the new Lummis Home Historic Site Project.

COVER PHOTO: Mary Garden, Scottish-American soprano, famed for her portrayal of French operatic roles. General Director of the Chicago Opera Association at the time this photo was sent and inscribed in her hand, "Hello Dr. Lummis, all my love to you, Mary, April 1921."



Lummis Home - view from patio

Photo courtesy Harry Chamberlain

DOCENT GUIDES NEEDED FOR THE LUMMIS HOME

Volunteers are needed to conduct tours of the Lummis Home and Garden. The home built by Charles Fletcher Lummis, author, editor, ethnologist, and founder of the Southwest Museum, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

A training program will begin September 14 at 10 a.m., and volunteers will learn about the life of Charles Lummis and his place in the history of southern California. Docents are asked to give two days a month after training. For more informaton call 222-0546.

NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS OF HSSC

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