

## GARDEN NEWS

Recently a white rose was planted in the Lummis Home Garden in memory of Turbese Lummis Fiske, daughter of Charles Fletcher Lummis. Turbese grew up in the home and visited it often in later years. Her brother Keith and his wife sponsored the planting by the tower area where Turbese's ashes are interred. They wanted an old rose with a connection to California.

After consultation with Clair Martin, rosarian at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, a perpetual white moss rose, 'Quatre Saison Blanc Mousseux,' was chosen. It was planted in July and is thriving.

This rose was first grown in 1835 and is a sport of an Autumn Damask. The Lummis plant is the result of a cutting that Mr. Martin took from a bush that was planted in 1880 in the cemetery at Fiddletown, a northern California gold rush town.

Thanks to the Huntington Botanical Gardens and Keith and Hazel Lummis, there now is a little more California history at El Alisal. Thanks also to Betty Southam who supplied the background information on the rose.

The Lummis Home Garden has been in the news lately, and the publicity has increased the number of visitors. Robert Smaus, Gardening Editor of the Los Angeles *Times Sunday Magazine*, featured the home and garden in the July 5, 1987 issue, calling attention both the builder of the home and the new water-conserving garden. Garden Volunteer Tom Engler's photography illustrated the article.

## OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1987-88

President . . . . . George A. V. Dunning  
Vice President . . . . . Denise Martin Campbell  
Vice President . . . . . Denver Markwith, Jr.  
Secretary . . . . . Michael Dougherty  
Treasurer . . . . . Henry F. Lippitt, 2nd.

Mrs. Gerhard (Elna) Bakker  
Dr. Larry Burgess  
William W. Escherich  
Jack L. Moore  
Joseph S. O'Flaherty  
Standish K. Penton  
Raymond Ziegler

Richard H. Brill  
Suzie Chamberlain  
John H. Kemble  
Edward Moreno  
Marian L. Parks  
Philip V. Swan  
James Zordich

200 East Avenue 43  
Los Angeles, CA 90031

Historical  
Society  
of



Southern  
California

Founded 1883

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #559  
Pasadena, CA

# HSSC CALENDAR NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 1987



Mr. William T. Huston, President, Watson Land Company, hands check to HSSC Vice President, Denise Martin Campbell, for the underwriting of the Summer 1987 Quarterly.

Photo courtesy Joe Friezer



## NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY

With the Summer 1987 issue of the *Southern California Quarterly*, the Historical Society begins an important relationship with some of the great, historic corporations of southern California who have agreed to sponsor individual issues of the *Quarterly*. The first to do so is the Watson Land Company, one of the pioneer land companies in the Los Angeles area. The company's historical roots go back to the granting of Rancho San Pedro to the Dominguez family in 1784, and to the marriage of James Alexander Watson, an American adventurer, and Maria Dolores Dominguez in the 1850s. An attractive photo-essay on the company's accomplishments by historian-member Judson Grenier will be found among the articles in the Summer issue.

Under the leadership of William T. Huston, President, the Watson Land Company celebrated its 75th anniversary this spring with the publication of *California Legacy: The Watson Family*, by Dr. Grenier. Copies of this handsome volume may be ordered from the Society's bookshop. The cost is \$45.00 which includes postage and handling. The Historical Society congratulates the Watson Land Company on reaching this significant milestone.

A busload of members and guests journeyed to Santa Barbara in late June for definitive tours of the newly-restored Presidio and Chapel and the Mission and its Archives. With Drs. Norman Neuerburg and Doyce B. Nunis, Jr. as guides for the two Historical sites, we were given a "behind the scenes" look into the restoration of the former and the holdings and function of the latter. Hugh Tolford, Trek Chairman, coordinated activities and arranged for a catered lunch served on the inside Mission patio.

A day trip to Santa Cruz Island on August 1 found sixty-six Society members and friends gathered at the Santa Barbara Harbor for the boat ride across the Channel. Conditions were perfect — sunny skies, slight breeze, calm seas, large boat, congenial company. Dr. Stanton extended his usual gracious hospitality, and the travelers enjoyed lunch under the trees or by the pool and explored the Island. We listened to a talk on the history of the settlement of the Island and,

regretably, made our way back to the boat for the return trip. Thanks to Dr. Stanton for his hospitality and the opportunity to visit a special place.



The 88-foot "Condor" as it left the harbor for Santa Cruz Island.

Photo courtesy Morgan Sinclair

After nearly six years of service with the Society, Betty Marsh has submitted her resignation effective September 1, 1987. Betty, a long time "history buff," volunteered to help in the organization of the Society's photograph collection. After eighteen months, of two days a week work, most of the loose photos were cataloged, placed in storage boxes, and indexed. Later, as a member of the staff, she worked in the office handling a myriad of tasks: membership, bookkeeping, programs, telephone, correspondence, and direction of the Docent program. She provided continuity during the search for an Executive Director to replace

Jackie Wilson and has continued as a valued member of the staff. She leaves to pursue other endeavors. We shall miss her and wish her well.

The Society is looking for volunteers to help with the activities at the Lummis Home and Garden. People are needed to staff the bookstore and answer questions during the week on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m. Docents also are needed to give tours of the house on those days as well as on the weekends. Hostesses for meetings, garden volunteers, office assistants, program planners, committee members are other activities which welcome a helping hand. Short training programs are offered for touring docents, and anyone who helps in the house will be given information to help in meeting visitors. As a previous editor of this newsletter wrote, "Involvement of members in day-to-day Society business strengthens the Society and the member also. You will be freeing your staff to pursue long-range projects and expand programs and activities. And, you will be getting yourself out of the house and involved in the nitty-gritty of the things that interest you, as a Historical Society member."

Currently, volunteers are involved in a number of projects. Eleanor Chandler staffs the bookstore on Wednesdays; Helen Molenaar is the Wednesday house docent; Jack Moore spends Tuesdays cataloging photographs; Elinor Ives continues to organize the photos from the Herald-Express collection; Eleanor Boba and Linda Zinn are actively seeking grant funding for the garden; John Spalding works regularly at the Lummis Home on the weekends, opening and closing the house and assisting the docents.

In addition, of course, there are volunteers in both the house and garden who have been coming regularly for a number of years: Jean Bacon, Rose Marie Chavez, Grace Coffin, Barbara Corry, Kenyon DeVore, Bruce Little, Ruby Moore, Elna Baker, Mary Brooks, Betty Burnham, Harry and Suzie Chamberlain, Bill Chandler, Kevin Connelly, Bob Cornell, Tyrone Dunn, Tom Engler, Rick Fisher, Erica Goebel, Kent Houser, Lois Kern, Mike Woodward, Jack McKelvey, Cynthia and Becky Null, Gordon Nunnally, Stan Penton, Betty Southam, Ray and Bonnie Walsh.