

NEWSLETTER

The Historical Society of Southern California

This issue edited by MRS. STAFFORD L. WARREN

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Doyce B. Nunis, Jr., Editor of the Society's *Quarterly*

By action of the Board of Directors at their February 13th meeting, Doyce B. Nunis, Jr., was elected to succeed Society president, Gustave O. Arlt, as editor of the Society's *Quarterly*. At the same time, the Board voted Mrs. Stafford L. Warren as Associate Editor, a post she has held since 1958, and a Director since January, 1962. Mr. Nunis was elected to the Board in the 1962 election.

Mr. Nunis, born in Cedartown, Georgia, moved to Los Angeles in 1937. A graduate of John C. Frémont High School, he received his B.A. from the University of California at Los Angeles. After several years of teaching in the public schools, he pursued graduate studies at the University of Southern California. From that institution he earned three advanced degrees: M.S., M.Ed., Ph.D. (in History). His doctoral thesis was on "The Diplomatic Defense of the Old Northwest, 1781-1789: America's Quest for Empire."

In 1951 he was appointed a Teaching Assistant in the Department of American Civilization and Institutions at USC; was promoted to Lecturer in 1953, and was Guest Lecturer in 1957. He taught the basic undergraduate courses in American history and political science, and offered the first undergraduate course in California State and Local Government, 1953-1956.

In 1956, he accepted appointment to the faculty of El Camino College, a position he held until 1959. There he taught the basic undergraduate survey courses in American and Latin American History, with occasional courses in American State and Local Government.

At the behest of Lawrence Clark Powell, then University Librarian at UCLA, now Dean of the School of Library Service, Mr. Nunis accepted an appointment as Assistant Research Historian to the UCLA Library staff, to inaugurate a program in Oral History and field acquisition. The purpose of the UCLA Oral History Program is to tape record the recollections of individuals who have made a meritorious contribution to Southern California, the state, and the nation. Since few people have the opportunity and leisure to keep diaries or write autobiographies, the idea of the Oral History Program envisioned at UCLA is to emulate Hubert Howe Bancroft's policy of sending out qualified interviewers to take down the recollections of significant people who had shared in shaping the course of history on the local scene by their actions and endeavors. The only

difference in the approach is that Oral History relies on modern technology and research methodology. Heading the faculty committee guiding the implementation of this program was the late Martin R. Huberty, a California native son and devotee to the history of his state and region.

In 1960, Mr. Nunis was appointed by UCLA to the dual post of Assistant Professor of Education and History. The following year he was designated Head, Office of Oral History, to continue his labors in the field of collecting tape recorded memoirs and manuscript materials for the University Library. This is his current position.

Mr. Nunis has been the recipient of two research awards. In 1956, the Del Amo Foundation granted him an overseas award to pursue research germane to his doctoral thesis. That grant made possible researches in both England and Spain. The Henry E. Huntington Library awarded him a summer grant-in-aid, in 1960, for the completion of his projected biography on Benjamin D. Wilson, a project made possible by the cooperation of Miss Ann Wilson Patton, B. D. Wilson's granddaughter.

Various scholarly articles written by Mr. Nunis have appeared in the *California Historical Society Quarterly*, *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, *The Historian*, *Mid-America*, *California Librarian*, and *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*. In 1960, he was joint winner of the Louis Knott Koontz Memorial Award, given annually by the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association for the best contribution to the *Pacific Historical Review*. His winning article was entitled, "The Enigma of the Sublette Overland Party, 1845," which appeared in the November, 1959, issue.

Glen Dawson published Mr. Nunis' first book, *Andrew Sublette, Rocky Mountain Prince, 1808-1853*, in 1960. That work was selected by the Rounce & Coffin Club for inclusion in its exhibit of *Western Books* for 1960. The University of Texas Press will publish Mr. Nunis' second book this fall. An edited volume entitled, *The Golden Frontier: The Recollections of Herman Francis Reinhart, 1851-1869*, the book presents the memoirs of a miner who participated in the many gold rushes centered in the Pacific Northwest, and includes Reinhart's recollections of his overland trip to California and his early days in the gold fields of Siskiyou County.

Conference of California Historical Societies

Members of our Society were much in evidence at the Eighth Annual Conference of the California Historical Societies at the Huntington-Sheraton Hotel in Pasadena, June 28, 29 and 30. Ruth I. Mahood was Chairman of Local Arrangements, and her capable committee included Mrs. Preston Ackerman, Miss Margaret Cassidy, Mrs. Kate Chapin, Mrs. Ella Cole, Paul Galleher, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Hager, Mrs. Dorothy Hassler, Frederick Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Northrup, and Mrs. Frances Muir Pomeroy.

Frank B. Putnam presided at the gay and colorful fiesta on the opening evening; the big banner of the Historical Society of Southern California welcomed the participants to coffee in the patio on the second day; Glen Dawson auctioned books in distinguished and successful fashion that evening; Mrs. Stafford L. Warren spoke for our Society in a panel on Saturday; Frank B. Putnam was chairman of the Saturday luncheon; and W. W. Robinson spoke at the final session on "An Important Primary Source of History."

Mark Your Calendar

Society meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month, at 8:00 p.m., in Delacour Hall, Los Angeles County Museum.

November 21, 1962

Because Thanksgiving falls on November 22, the scheduled meeting for this date has been *cancelled*.

December 19, 1962

Ruth I. Mahood will read John E. Baur's paper on "Christmas on the American Frontier." Mr. Baur, a member of the staff of the History Department at the County Museum, will be unable to be with us in person.

January 23, 1963

Mrs. Maida Boyle, Curator at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, will speak on "A Rancho Revisited," and show her collection of slides.

February 20, 1963

February is American History Month, and an appropriate program will be announced.

Frank B. Putnam, *Program Chairman*

Two Good Meetings Launched the 1962-63 Year

On September 19, Doyce B. Nunis, Jr., Editor of the *Quarterly*, read a scholarly paper on "Kate Douglas Wiggin: Pioneer in California Kindergarten Education." This brave lady started her kindergarten teaching in Santa Barbara and in Los Angeles and went on to revolutionize the education of children and to write distinguished children's books. Mr. Nunis made us proud of the creative courage and ability of "one of our own."

A surprise addition to the program was provided by President Turner who told of his researches in connection with *el Grito*, Mexican Independence Day on September 16. One of Mr. Turner's collection of documents concerning the Mexican Revolution will be published, through his great courtesy, in the December issue of the *Quarterly*.

Refreshments were served after the meeting by the Hospitality Committee. Pouring at the urns were Mrs. L. Van Horn Gerdine and Miss Catherine Carr.

At the October 17th meeting, J. Thomas Owen, a graduate student in history at USC and a member of the History Division of the Los Angeles Public Library delighted us all with an illustrated talk on "Theatres of Los Angeles."

Refreshments were served after the meeting by the Hospitality Committee. Pouring at the urns were Mrs. Alfred S. Chapman, and Miss Patrice Manahan.

The El Camino Bells

We are indebted to Grannis F. Parmelee, Manager of Sign Services for the Automobile Club of Southern California, for some interesting information about the mission bell markers on *El Camino Real*.

A plan for marking the route of *El Camino Real* was presented before the General Federation of Women's Clubs, in Los Angeles, in May of 1902. The Native Daughters of the Golden West endorsed the plan one month later, but the crusade was carried from there by an individual, Mrs. Armitage S. C. Forbes, a member for forty years of the Historical Society of Southern California.

Mrs. Forbes called a meeting in Santa Barbara in April of 1904, to form an El Camino Real Association. In 1906, the Executive Committee of this organization approved Mrs. Forbes' design of the mission bell as an appropriate marker for the route. Mrs. Forbes secured a design patent and copyright, and the casting of the iron bells was begun.

Each bell weighed a hundred pounds and they were mounted on iron pipes at eleven feet above the ground, each pipe set in concrete. Mr. Armitage Forbes conducted a campaign for financing the project by county, city and private donations, and he erected most of the bells by his own labor, using one helper, a team of horses, and a wagon.

A total of approximately 450 bells were erected between 1906 and 1913, on the 700 miles of *El Camino Real* between the twenty-one missions and on the branch routes to Pala and San Bernardino. Since no funds were available for the care, repair, or replacement of the bells, the two automobile clubs of San Francisco and Southern California took up the project of maintenance, cleaning, painting, and repairing and moving to new locations as highway rerouting took place. In 1933, the State Division of Highways assumed responsibility for markers on state highways, and thereafter no special care was given to the mission bell markers. Hundreds were lost, due either to relocation of highways, or to private vandalism. By May of 1959, only seventeen of the original bells were located and none was standing on the route of 101 as it was completed at that time.

A legislative act of 1959 required the Division of Highways to re-erect along the *El Camino Real* all available bells. Since that time, over thirty of the original bells have been recovered and erected, and a volunteer committee headed by Supervisor Edwin L. Carty of Ventura County is attempting to recover other bells and to solicit contributions for replicas. The California History Society is now conducting a fund raising campaign to further this work of restoration. Contributions toward defraying the costs of this worthy project will be gratefully received by the California Historical Society Bell Fund, 2090 Jackson Street, San Francisco. Gifts are tax deductible.

From the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors met at 2:00 p.m. on October 4, at the Society headquarters, 815 South Hill Street. Twelve members were present.

A treasurer's report listing receipts and expenditures since the April 11th meeting was presented. The members requested that henceforth the treasurer's report be compiled on a monthly basis and that both the minutes and the treasurer's reports be sent to members in advance of the Board meeting. It was moved, seconded and the motion carried, that the Society purchase a ditto machine. New members of our Board of Directors and were active contributors to the *Quarterly* to new members have been printed.

Mr. Nunis reported that the committee on permanent housing for the Society had met on September 19, in Dr. Friedmann's office at the County Museum, with all of the members present. The committee toured the library section of the Museum, where space might eventually be available for that portion of the Society's collections now housed at 815 Hill Street. A subsequent letter from Dr. Friedmann stated that office space and Board meeting space could be provided late in 1964. The possibility of permanent headquarters at UCLA and at the old Plaza were discussed, and the matter was left to the committee for further exploration.

The publications committee reported that the June issue of the *Quarterly* was now in the mail, that the September issue was at the press, and that the December issue would be out before the end of the year. The Editor asked for a policy decision on an exchange program for the *Quarterly*. By printing a hundred or two hundred copies in addition to those needed for our own membership, we could exchange with other historical publications so as to build a publications library. The Editor was asked to report at the next meeting of the Board on the list of publications that could be secured by such an exchange.

Methods of increasing the membership were discussed and it was suggested that new members be offered their choice of one book from a list of five publications now on hand in quantity: *Jottings in Southern California History*, by Marco R. Newmark, published by Ward Ritchie and donated to the Historical Society by Mrs. Newmark; *Fifteen Decisive Events of California History*, by Rockwell D. Hunt, published by the Historical Society of Southern California; *The Life and Death of a Quicksilver Mine*, by Helen Rocca Goss, published by the Historical Society of Southern California; and two California books by Jackson A. Graves published by the Times Mirror Press. The recommendation was left in the hands of the membership committee.

Mrs. Hager's report on the August 25 meeting of the committee on student memberships was postponed until the next meeting of the Board.

The meeting adjourned to meet on November 15 in Sheriff Biscailuz' office on the Plaza.

Wagner Centennial

On September 13, before the members of the Orange County Historical Society, Dr. Edwin H. Carpenter, a member of our Society who serves as a member of the Board of Editors of the *Quarterly*, spoke on "The Wagner Influence on the Culture and History of Western America."

This talk, along with many others planned throughout the nation, marked the Centennial of Henry Raup Wagner's birth. The works and contributions of Robert Ernest Cowan were also recognized, the year 1962 marking the centennial for both of these illustrious historians and bibliographers. Both men were members of our Board of Directors and were active contributors to the *Quarterly* of our Historical Society.

The California Historical Society, at its meeting of September 27, presented its annual Wagner Memorial Award to Thomas W. Streeter for his five volume *Bibliography of Texas History*.

Legislation of Historical Significance

1. In April of this year the Los Angeles City Council passed an ordinance, effective on July 1, for the creation of a Cultural Heritage Board of five members, to be under the jurisdiction of and to assist and advise the Municipal Art Commission in the preservation of certain historical and cultural landmarks. Briefly, its powers and duties are as follows: it must compile a list of historic and cultural monuments and publicize the list to all interested parties and to the public; it shall recommend to the Art Commission any steps advisable for public or private acquisition and restoration of such monuments; no permit for the demolition or substantial alteration of any listed monument may be granted by any city department without notification to the Cultural Heritage Board, which then has fifteen days in which to file an objection; after objection has been filed, a six month wait, extendable to a year if necessary, is permitted to the Board in which to take such steps as it can, within the scope of its powers, to save the monument.

The Art Commission has appointed, with the approval of the City Council, the following members to the Cultural Heritage Board: William Woollett, Chairman; Carl Dentzel, Mrs. A. C. Riedel, Mrs. Francis Sullivan, Mrs. Edith Gibbs Vaughan. Three historic Los Angeles buildings have been earmarked for preservation by the Cultural Heritage Board: the Bradbury Building, 304 S. Broadway; the Andreas Pico home, 10930 Sepulveda Blvd.; and the Samuel Calvert Foy house, 633 S. Witmer St.

In December, 1961, Mayor Yorty appointed a committee to aid the city in the preservation of its history. Julian Nava, Coordinator of the committee, is on a year's leave of absence, during which time Doyce B. Nunis, Jr. is serving as Coordinator. Other members of the committee are: Andrew F. Rolle, W. W.

Robinson, Carl Dentzel, Ruth I. Mahood, Jack D. Forbes, Robert C. Catren, Harold Hammil, Mary Tinglof, Dudley C. Gordon, Manuel P. Servin, and John Hunt.

2. The State of California, on September 15, 1961, put into effect an amendment to its educational code requiring that all private and public schools in the State shall give instruction in the Constitution of the State of California and in California history and civics.

3. A proposed amendment to the State Constitution relating to the taxation of property within an historical landmark area will appear on the November ballot as "Proposition 11."

The amendment would direct the city assessor, in evaluating real property within a city area established by state law or city ordinance as an historical landmark area, to consider no factors other than those relevant to the particular use to which it will be devoted during the year for which the assessment is made.

VOTE YES ON 11

NEW MEMBERS

The President and Board of Directors are pleased to introduce the new members who have joined the Society as of October 4, 1962, and extend to them a cordial welcome.

Active

George T. Akin
Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society
Henry Attias
Maurice Lee Bandy
Cabrillo Historical Association
Mrs. James F. Flanagan
George E. Fullerton
Mrs. L. Van Horn Gerdine
Councilman Harold A. Henry
Wallace Hebbard
Salomon Jaeckel
W. Turrentine Jackson
Mrs. Hazel B. Johlfs
Francis J. Johlfs
John Haskell Kemble
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. McGlone
Chancellor Franklin D. Murphy
Mrs. Francis W. Sullivan
Dean Howard E. Wilson
Mayor Samuel Wm. Yorty

Student

Miss Margaret Fraser

Sponsor

Membership Committee
Membership Committee
Justin G. Turner
Membership Committee
Membership Committee
Flora Belle Houston
Mr. & Mrs. E. G. Hager
Eleanor Gerdine
Mrs. John C. Wolfskill
Mrs. Ana Begue de Packman
Doyce B. Nunis, Jr.
Doyce B. Nunis, Jr.
Membership Committee
Membership Committee
Mr. & Mrs. E. G. Hager
Doyce B. Nunis, Jr.
Doyce B. Nunis, Jr.
Margaret Ann Kerr
Doyce B. Nunis, Jr.
Doyce B. Nunis, Jr.

Membership Committee

The Historical Society of Southern California
815 South Hill Street
Los Angeles 14, California

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
The Historical Society of Southern California
815 South Hill Street, Los Angeles 14, California

Date _____

To the Board of Directors:

Please accept my membership as a _____ Member in the
Historical Society of Southern California. I enclose my remittance in the amount
of \$ _____ for dues for the fiscal year of _____.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Proponent (if any) _____

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

Active Member	\$15.00	Patron Member	\$100.00
Sustaining Member	\$25.00	Life Member	\$300.00
Contributing Member	\$50.00	Student Member	\$ 7.50

Dues include subscription to the Society's *Quarterly* and *Newsletter*. All dues, contributions, bequests are deductible under State and Federal tax provisions since the Society is a non-profit organization supported solely by membership dues and contributions.
