

NEWSLETTER

The Historical Society of Southern California

This issue edited by MRS. ELIZABETH I. DIXON

VOLUME II

SPRING 1963

NUMBER 1

IN MEMORIAM

It is with the deepest regret that we announce the passing of the Society's Vice-President and Treasurer, Frank Bishop Putnam, who succumbed after a brief illness on October 25, 1962.



Mr. Putnam, who retired in 1960 after more than forty-eight years of service with the Security Bank and the Farmers and Merchants Bank, was well-known in historical circles. As an authority on California history, he organized the bank's historical library, recognized as one of the outstanding collections of this type in the United States.

Born and raised in El Paso, Texas, Mr. Putnam moved to California in 1912, and at once assumed his duties with the Farmers and Merchants Bank. During his long tenure, he held the posts of Personnel Officer and Assistant Cashier, and following

[1]

the merger of the bank with Security in 1956, he was named Bank Historian, which post he held until his retirement.

Always an active participant in historical work, he served as president of the Sons of the Revolution, California Society, as well as vice-president and treasurer of the Historical Society of Southern California. In addition, he served as secretary-treasurer of the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Association of California, and was a member of the El Paso Historical Society.

Among his other activities, he was a member of the executive committee of the Los Angeles County Museum, director of the Optimist Home for Boys since 1926, and a member of the American Legion, Hollywood Post, and the Del Mar Club of Santa Monica. He was an honorary member of the Los Angeles Downtown Optimist Club.

Mr. Putnam is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Helen Marshall of Lake Arrowhead, and Mrs. Edith Jorgensen of Santa Barbara; a brother, Henry C. Putnam of Boulder, Colorado; a stepdaughter, Mrs. Robert Macey, and three stepgrandchildren, all of Troy, New York.

Few men possess the rare combination of great capabilities coupled with sincerity, devotion, and thoughtfulness for which Mr. Putnam was known. His many friends in the Society will always remember him for his selfless service and his many accomplishments in preserving and perpetuating the history of Southern California.

Society Activities

The November 21st meeting of the Society was cancelled because of conflict with the Thanksgiving holiday.

The stimulating tenor of the 1962-63 year continued with the December meeting. On December 19, Miss Ruth I. Mahood, Chief Curator of History at the Los Angeles County Museum, delighted us with an illustrated slide talk on "Christmas on the American Frontier." Miss Mahood's talk was based on a book by John E. Baur.

Refreshments were served after the meeting by the Hospitality Committee. Pouring at the urns were Miss Mahood and Mrs. Robert L. Borland, Sr. Hostesses for the Social Hour were Mrs. Everett G. Hager and Mrs. Joseph M. Northrop.

At the January 16th meeting, Mrs. Maida B. Boyle, Historical Curator of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, enchanted her audience with an illustrated slide talk on the Baldwins and the Arboretum entitled, "A Rancho Revisited."

Following Mrs. Boyle's address, the Society paid a memorial tribute to Frank B. Putnam, Vice-President and Treasurer of the Society until his death on October 25, 1962. The speakers for the occasion were Mr. Joseph M. Northrop, Mr. J. F. Holland, and Mr. Joseph H. Jenkins.

Refreshments were served after the meeting by the Hospitality Committee. Pouring at the urns were Mr. Putnam's sisters, Mrs. H. Irving Marshall and Mrs. Peter Jorgensen. Hostess for the Social Hour was Mrs. Robert L. Borland, Sr.

At the February 20 meeting, devoted to American History, the membership was treated to splendid talks. Mrs. Fawn M. Brodie spoke on "Lincoln and Lee and

Slavery," and the Honorable William L. Shaw, Deputy Attorney General, State of California, delivered an address on "The Impact of Napoleon III upon the Pacific." Both presentations were stimulating and well-received.

Mrs. Vera H. Dunning and Mrs. Joseph Brown, Jr. presided at the urns, and Mrs. M. George McMannus and Mrs. Daniel Siemens were the hostesses for the Social Hour which followed.

Dr. Merlin Stonehouse, Assistant Professor of History at Occidental College, was the guest speaker for the March 20 meeting. He delivered an excellent talk on "Judge John W. North and the Riverside Colony."

Hostess for the Social Hour was Mrs. Cecil Otho Dale and Miss Ruth I. Mahood and Mrs. Marcius Curtis Smith presided at the urns.

As has been the custom at recent Society meetings, drawings for the gift books, Jackson A. Graves, *California Memories* and Marco R. Newmark, *Jottings in Southern California History*, were won in January by William S. Blumenthal and Victor Nightingale; in February by James W. Bellah and Daniel P. Balkin; in March by Mrs. Emma Kittell and her son, Wade Kittell.

Membership

Each member of the Society is urged to continue to recruit new memberships. GET A NEW MEMBER TODAY!

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.

April 17, 1963

Dr. Alberto Francisco Pradeau, author of the noted work, *The Expulsion of the Jesuit Order from Sonora and Arizona* and the four-volume *Numismatic History Since Pre-Columbian Time*, will address the Society on the subject of "The Pious Fund."

Dr. Pradeau was elected to the very restricted membership of the Academies of History in Spain and Mexico. The total number of his publications, both books and articles, exceeds 180.

May 15, 1963

Dr. Andrew Rolle, Professor of History at Occidental College and member of the Board of Editors of the *Southern California Quarterly*, will address the Society on the topic, "Two Views of California: 1. Past, and 2. Present." Dr. Rolle is the author of numerous works on Western Americana and should add greatly to our understanding of our glorious state.

June 1, 1963

"In all the world no trip like this!" Remember the slogan and remember the date June 1, 1963—when the Society will make its annual trek. This year the tour will take us to Santa Catalina Island. Begin planning now for what should be one of the most memorable occasions in our Society's history.

Anna Marie Hager, *Program Chairman*

News Items

One of the most noteworthy of recent exhibits on display in Southern California, and for which several members of the Society devoted much time and effort to ensure its success, was the exhibit in the Jewish Community Building on North Vermont Avenue, "The American Jew in the Civil War." Our president, Mr. Justin G. Turner, served as chairman and was assisted by Society members, William S. Blumenthal, Dr. Harold Hyman, Miss Margaret Cassidy, and Mrs. Gertrude Turner.

The exhibit will tour throughout the United States and is well worth seeing. A most informative, illustrated brochure is available regarding this phase of Civil War history.

A joint meeting combining the Committee for Program Arrangements and the Committee to Encourage College Student Membership was held at lovely Las Colinas, the San Dimas ranch home of Mrs. Vera H. Dunning and her son, George. Lively conversation, good ideas, and many plans were the outcome of the meeting. Mrs. Joseph Brown, the honored guest, offered many scintillating ideas, as well as a down-to-earth approach to the problems of stimulating interest in Society programs and membership. Attending the meeting were, Miss Patrice Manahan, Miss Pamela Bleich, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Northrop, Victor Nightingale, William Temple, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Hager, Mr. Stanley Malora, and J. Thomas Owen. Watch for many of these ideas to be put into good usage during the coming fall and winter.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors marked the Fiftieth Anniversary of the filing of the County Charter on January 29th with special and appropriate ceremonies. Board members of the Society were invited, and singled out for special notice were former Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz and Miss Ruth I. Mahood. Present as observers and representing the Society were Secretary Margaret Cassidy, Mrs. Joseph Northrop, and Mrs. Everett Hager.

The Faculty Women's Club of Los Angeles City College, at a luncheon on January 31st, recognized fifteen outstanding businesswomen in the city as "Image Makers." Each received a certificate of appreciation for the fine image they have shown in the community. Two members of the Society were among those honored: Miss Ruth I. Mahood, Chief Curator of History at the Los Angeles County Museum and Miss Belle F. Siegel, past president of the Southern California Women Lawyers organization.

On January 5th, Mrs. Everett G. Hager spoke before a group of high school students who are attending the History Workshop sponsored by the Los Angeles County Museum. Mrs. Hager spoke to the group of the activities of the Society and of her experiences in indexing. The Workshop is under the direction of John E. Baur.

The Society can be justly proud of the number of authors in its membership list. Not only have favorable reviews noted their contributions to the field of Western Americana, but special mention should be given to the latest honor bestowed upon Board member, Dr. Andrew F. Rolle. Dr. Rolle has received a grant from the

American Council of Learned Societies and will pursue the study of "Immigration in the American West." His latest book is entitled, *The History of Occidental College*.

Robert G. Cowan has brought forth a valuable bibliography, *The Admission of the 31st State by the 31st Congress*. Two other contributions worthy of note are W. W. Robinson's *People vs. Lugo*, and Doyce B. Nunis's *Josiah Belden, 1841 California Overland Pioneer: His Memoir and Early Letters*.

From the Board of Directors

At the January 3rd meeting, the Board appointed a committee to work on a permanent housing site. The following members were given the authority to work out details for suitable quarters for the Society: Dwight L. Clarke, Alfred S. Chapman, and Charles E. Fulkerson.

It was with genuine regret that the Board of Directors accepted the resignation of Mrs. Viola Lockhart Warren from the Board and as Associate Editor of the *Quarterly*. Unanimously, the Board formally thanked Mrs. Warren for her devoted service to the Society. Mrs. Warren will be moving to Washington, D.C., in late March. Her husband, Dr. Stafford L. Warren, former Dean of the UCLA Medical School and Vice-Chancellor of Health Services, has accepted an appointment to President Kennedy's White House staff as a special assistant to work on the government's program for the mentally retarded. We wish them every success in this new and important assignment and look forward to their return to Los Angeles in the future.

To replace Mrs. Warren as Associate Editor of the *Quarterly*, the Board approved the appointment of Martin Ridge, Associate Professor of History, San Diego State College.

Mrs. Everett G. Hager was appointed as Second Vice-President, to fill the unexpired term of the late Frank B. Putnam.

The following members were appointed to the Board: Glen Dawson, Publisher and Antiquarian Book Dealer; Dr. Glenn S. Dumke, Chancellor, California State Colleges; Miss Ruth I. Mahood, Chief Curator of History, Los Angeles County Museum, and George L. Swartz, Bursar, Los Angeles Pierce College.

Trees of the UCLA Campus

Many of the trees on the UCLA campus have special historical significance. They were contributed as seedlings, and often set in the ground as a gesture of friendship, by community groups and individuals.

The 384 acres of the campus were originally barren foothills, but over 5000 small trees were set out before the University moved to the site in 1929. As early as March of 1926, a row of trees was planted in front of Founders' Rock, as a goodwill gesture, by a group of students from University of California in Berkeley. Sometime in 1928, the Daughters of the American Colonists planted a double row

of oak trees, one for each of the original colonies, to form what they called "Colonial Oak Walk" and to lead from the faculty dwellings to the campus buildings.

In March of the same year, the first tree was planted in "Presidents' Row" by the State Society of Daughters of the American Revolution. "Presidents' Row," a name and plan officially accepted by the Regents of the University, was to commemorate the thirty-one presidents of the United States and was to extend the full length of what was then called "Stone Canyon Road" but is now known as "Westwood Boulevard" within the campus. The first tree, hand-planted by Regent Margaret F. Sartori at an impressive ceremony under the auspices of the State D.A.R., was a redwood tree honoring George Washington. The other "Presidents' Trees," still lining the central artery of the campus, are graceful, white-trunked eucalyptus of the *viminialis* variety. One hundred and twenty additional trees for other parts of the campus were contributed by the D.A.R., all fifty California chapters participating in the project under the chairmanship of Mrs. L. van Horn Gerdine, a member, also of the Historical Society of Southern California. The Hollywood Chapter of the D.A.R. made a special pledge of a grove of redwood trees, as large as the campus planners might desire, the seedlings to be sent from Humboldt County.

During Commencement week of 1929, the Shakespeare Foundation set out the first of what was planned as a "Shakespeare Grove" in the area that later saw the construction of the outdoor theatre, and later still, of the Medical School. The Janss Investment Company, before the University moved to Westwood, made available some rare trees from the estate of Arthur Letts in Hollywood. These were carefully moved from the old campus and then to the new. As late as 1935, a Japanese friend of the University donated twenty Japanese cherry trees. A large California live oak, and a hickory tree from the old home of Andrew Jackson, in Tennessee, were contributed by individuals and planted somewhere on the campus.

Most of the tiny seedlings planted in friendship so long ago are no longer identified as gifts or attributed to their donors. An exception is the George Washington redwood, which now stands on a traffic island at the Le Conte entrance of the campus. A brass plate set in cement near the base of the tree reads,

*Presidents' Row
These trees honor George Washington
and the
Other Presidents of the United States
Presented to the
University of California
at Los Angeles
by the
California Chapter
Daughters of the American Revolution
March 2, 1928*

The redwood tree has been moved several times, and it has suffered a series of botanical misfortunes including a siege of termites, but it still lives. Every Christmas it is decked with lights as a symbol to the community of the University's good will, and perhaps gratitude for the little seedlings that started the beautification of the campus.

(By Viola Lockhart Warren.)

NEW MEMBERS

The President and Board of Directors are Pleased to introduce the new members who have joined the Society as of March 1, 1963, and extend to them a cordial welcome.

Active

Barstow Junior College
 W. Roger Boedecker
 California State Polytechnic College
 Mrs. Verna E. Friesch
 U.S. Grant, IV
 Paul D. Holland
 Mrs. William Allen Johnson
 Louis J. Knobbe
 Mrs. Eric Lange
 Stephen N. Loew
 Mrs. S. T. Marshall
 Donald Meadows
 Miss Alicia R. Milich
 Rear Admiral Ernest M. Pace
 Mrs. Frank C. Rainier
 Frederick L. Rezler
 Mrs. Don Schafer, Sr.
 William T. Sesnon, Jr.
 James C. Sheppard
 Robert A. Weinstein

Student

Miss Ann E. Wiedel

Sponsor

Membership Committee
 Membership Committee
 Membership Committee
 William S. Blumenthal
 Norris Bostwick
 Elinor Ives, M.D.
 Mrs. John C. Wolfskill
 Membership Committee
 Miss Margaret Ann Kerr
 Mrs. Marco R. Newmark
 Membership Committee
 W. W. Robinson
 Miss Ruth I. Mahood
 Miss Margaret Cassidy
 Membership Committee
 Miss Margaret Cassidy
 Membership Committee
 Dwight L. Clarke
 Membership Committee
 Ward Ritchie

Sponsor

Sister M. Anita, IHM

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.
