

NEWSLETTER

The Historical Society of Southern California

This issue edited by MRS. ELIZABETH I. DIXON

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YOUR NEW PRESIDENT



It is with a great deal of pleasure that we introduce to you your new president, Mrs. Everett Gordon Hager. Mrs. Hager, a Society member for more than twenty years, has long been a familiar figure among those interested in the history of our State, and particularly in Southern California.

Mrs. Hager, known more familiarly as Anna Marie, was educated in the Los Angeles public schools and obtained her first position after graduation from Ernest Dawson, founder and owner of Dawson's Book Shop. She was later employed at the Los Angeles County Library and in the Index Division of the Los Angeles City Clerk's Office, where she was a professional researcher and indexer of the City's archives.

Always keenly interested in Californiana, she holds membership, together with her husband, in the Historical Societies of El Monte, Long Beach, San Diego, and Ventura, as well as the California Historical Society. She is also a member of the New Mexico Historical Society. In addition to this impressive list, she is affiliated with the various Friends groups of the UCLA Library, the Bancroft Library, the Henry E. Huntington Library, the Southwest Museum, and the Charles F. Lummis Memorial Association.

Always one of the Society's more active members, Mrs. Hager has served as a member of the Board of Directors, a position to which she was nominated to fill the office of the late Grace Stoermer. More recently, she has served as Second Vice-President and Program Chairman, following the demise of the late Frank B. Putnam.

The team of Anna Marie and Everett G. Hager is well-known for its outstanding work in the fields of bibliography and indexing. Among the volumes published by this husband and wife duo are the *Annotated Bibliography* and the *Topical Index of all Published Works of the Historical Society of Southern California, 1884-1957*. In addition, the *Cumulative Index to Westways-Touring Topics, 1909-1959*, appeared in 1961.

In 1959, the *San Pedro News Pilot* published an Anniversary Edition marking the fiftieth anniversary of the annexation of the township of San Pedro to the City of Los Angeles. In honor of their harbor homesite, the Hagers compiled a forty-seven page resume entitled *Highlights of Harbor Area History*. They have continued their interest in the port city and are currently compiling and preparing background materials for their proposed history of San Pedro.

Other activities in the busy life of Mrs. Hager include book reviews and indexes for the Society's *Quarterly* and that of the California Historical Society, as well as a twice-weekly column in the *San Pedro News Pilot*, entitled "San Pedro Yesteryears."

It is of little wonder that, with such a record of devotion to the cause of history, the Hagers were presented with an Award of Merit in 1962 by the California Historical Society.

The Society is indeed fortunate to have the dynamic Mrs. Hager at its helm during the forthcoming months.

OUR EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY

The Historical Society of Southern California was founded on November 1, 1883. To celebrate the occasion of our 80th Anniversary, a dinner meeting will be held at the Automobile Club of Southern California, Headquarters Building, 2601 South Figueroa, Wednesday, November 6th at 7:30 p.m.

The speaker at this important event will be John Walton Caughey, Professor of History, University of California, Los Angeles. Dr. Caughey, editor of the *Pacific Historical Review*, is the author of seventeen books and over a hundred articles. He serves on the Executive Council of the American Historical Association and is Vice-President of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association. Teacher, author, editor, and literary critic, Professor Caughey holds a place among the distinguished historians of America. His topic at the Anniversary Dinner will be "Young Californians and Their History."

As an extra treat, two special Keepsakes depicting Los Angeles in the 1880's will be presented to those attending the Anniversary Dinner.

The Anniversary Dinner is priced at \$4.50 per person. Checks should be made payable to the Society. For reservations, send your check to Miss Margaret Cassidy, 815 South Hill Street, Los Angeles 14. Parking is available at the Automobile Club. *Let's make this a memorable celebration!*

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

The first regular fall meeting of the Society was held at our usual meeting place, the Los Angeles County Museum's Delacour Hall, Wednesday, September 4th, 8:00 p.m. The speaker of the evening was George H. Whitney, President of the Friends of the Huntington Library. In a memorable illustrated lecture, Mr. Whitney took his audience on the trail of "Ruxton of the Rockies." Following Mr. Whitney's excellent presentation, Miss Eleanor Gerdine and Mr. Stanley Malora won the book drawings.

Adjourning to the reception, Mrs. George H. Whitney and Mrs. John C. Wolfskill presided at the urns. A large gaily decorated cake marking the 182nd birthday of the City of Los Angeles was presented by Mrs. Wolfskill. Mrs. Ella Cole, Chairman of the Hospitality Committee, provided a beautifully decorated table for the occasion.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

First, remember the *Anniversary Dinner* meeting at the Automobile Club of Southern California, November 6th, 7:30 p.m.

The October meeting of the Society will be held at the Southwest Museum, October 9th, 8:00 p.m. Mr. Carl Dentzel, Director of the Museum and President of the Cultural Heritage Board, will speak on "Miguel Costanso, California's First Modern Man." A special exhibit will be presented by the Museum. Parking is available, and the Museum is easy to reach via the Pasadena Freeway.

The December meeting will be held at Delacour Hall, Los Angeles County Museum, December 4th, 8:00 p.m. Notices will be sent to members announcing the speaker in the near future. Please note that Society meetings will be scheduled for the *first Wednesday of each month* through May. Why not set that date aside now so you can attend?

NEWS ITEMS

On July 8th, His Eminence, James Francis Cardinal McIntyre blessed and formally inaugurated the Chancery Archives of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles as an historical collection. According to an announcement by the Right Reverend Benjamin G. Hawkes, Chancellor, the Archives will be available to qualified scholars whose work necessitates the use of Southern California ecclesiastical material.

Recently moved into a newly-constructed annex, the Chancery Archives are being classified into the record series system used by the Federal Service Administration at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and will eventually constitute the largest collection of ecclesiastical documents in the Western United States. The Reverend Francis J. Weber, frequent contributor to the *Quarterly*, and archivist of the Chancery Archives, estimates that the reorganization process will take about one more year.

Mrs. Anna Marie Hager (then Vice-President of the Society) represented the Historical Society of Southern California on "Agriculture, U.S.A.," a half hour program on Channel 4, NBC, on Saturday, June 15th. College students from four local institutions were quizzed regarding the contributions to Western History in the field of Agriculture.

Program Chairman, John Abel Stearns was in charge of the session. Nelson Crow, publisher of the *Western Livestock Journal*, gave a brief resumé of the new National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center being built at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

An article in the Los Angeles *Times*, September 2nd, by Ruben Salazar noted that the States of Chihuahua, Mexico, and California had joined together to pay tribute to Governor Felipe de Neve, controversial "founder" of the City of Angels. County Supervisor Ernest E. Debs headed a delegation of city, county, and state officials to the Chihuahua community of Colonia Ricardo Flores Magnon to place a plaque on the grave of Governor de Neve.

Mr. Salazar brought attention to the varying accounts concerning the ceremonies on the day of the city's founding. Included is the romantic account by C. D. Willard and its opposing counterpart as written by Father Zephyrin Engelhardt, O.F.M.

However, Mr. Salazar noted that, "The California and Mexican officials . . . will be honoring more than just a controversial figure in history.

"The festivities will be dedicated to the idea that men of goodwill, whatever their race, creed or religion, will someday live in harmony."

(Ed. note: The March, 1963, issue of the *Southern California Quarterly* contains an excellent discussion on the myth of the founding of Los Angeles, by W. W. Robinson, entitled "Myth-Making in the Los Angeles Area.")

"In all the world, no trip like this!" Many, many comments from members of the 35th Annual Trek agreed with this world-renowned slogan. From all sides one heard such remarks as, "Why, it must be over thirty years since we've been on this trip!" Or, "Wonder why we haven't done it before. How blissful to have an ocean voyage for a change."

So it was that over 160 Society members boarded the *S.S. Catalina* on June 1st, to mark the 35th Trek — this time to the "Magic Isle." Santa Catalina is the only island of the group of eight off the coast of Southern California which is accessible and available to the public.

As we cruised down the main channel and passed Angel's Gate, the sun came out to grace our trip and our day. A gay and informal grouping of members on board munched and lunched on sandwiches of all sizes and combinations before arriving at the island.

Members of the Island Museum Society met us at the entrance to the beautiful Casino, and we were greeted by some very choice console organ music, planned especially for our coming. Mr. Malcolm Renton, vice-president of the Catalina Island Company, touched briefly upon the forthcoming development plans for the Island proper. The Society's Museum on the ground floor of the Casino proved a most interesting and informative spot, and many members remained here for the greater part of the day. Others spent their time on the glass-bottomed boats or loitering in and out of the little gift shops. At 3 p.m., we boarded busses for the ride up and around Avalon — a scenic and hilarious trip, depending upon which bus driver you drew!

Coming home, all agreed that it had been a most happy and delightful Trek, and no reported cases of sunburned noses or mal de mer. There were only satisfied members approaching the Mainland, with happy memories of a gratifyingly successful excursion with the Historical Society of Southern California.

By the way, the May 30th issue of the *Catalina Islander* contained a fine article about our excursion to the Island.

(By Anna Marie Hager)

IN MEMORIAM

It is with a note of sadness and regret that we report the passing of three of the Society's most familiar members. Their physical presence will be missed, but they will remain with us in memory.

John C. Austin, a past president of the Society, 1951 to 1955, passed away on September 3rd in his home in Pasadena. As a senior member of the architectural and engineering firm of Austin, Field and Fry, Mr. Austin saw the erection of many of the finest buildings of present-day Los Angeles. Notable among his architectural works are St. Paul's Catholic Church, St. Vincent's Hospital, the Griffith Park Observatory, the first State Building in the Civic Center, and the Los Angeles City Hall. As one of a committee of seven named by the City of Los Angeles, he served in adjusting claims resulting from the San Francisquito Dam disaster of 1928.

In addition to his duties as the Society's president, he held the Number One membership card in the Jonathan Club, and was a member of the Lincoln Club and Town Hall. Always a genial host to all present on Society meeting nights, he was the epitome of graciousness, and an ardent supporter of the work and the interests of the Society.

Mr. Austin is survived by his wife Dorothy; two sons, five daughters, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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Native-born Mrs. Florence Moore Kreider passed away on August 18th. She was the daughter of Captain William Moore, who was a County Surveyor with George Hansen.

As a prominent clubwoman, Mrs. Kreider served her community faithfully and to the utmost of her energies during her 85 years. In 1924, she served as the first president in the present clubhouse of the Friday Morning Club, at 940 S. Figueroa, and in 1956, was named president emeritus of the organization. She always maintained an interest in the Historical Society of Southern California, the Southwest Museum, and especially in El Alisal, located directly across from her home on Avenue 42. One of her greatest pleasures was to see the establishment of the Charles F. Lummis Memorial Association, for which she had labored long and earnestly. Mrs. Kreider served as the Association's treasurer and "Guardian Angel" until her recent passing.

Samuel Lanner Kreider, her husband, preceded her some years ago. He had been active in the field of international shipping.

Those who were so fortunate as to have called Florence Kreider their friend shall miss her rare and vibrant personality.

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Professor Emeritus Waldemar C. Westergaard passed away in Pomona on June 4th. "Westy," as he was affectionately known by hundreds of his students and friends, served as First and Second Vice-President during the years 1917 through 1920. He also contributed five articles to the *Annual* during the period from 1917 to 1927, which remain among the most outstanding contributions to the field of Western Americana.

Professor Westergaard was a Phi Beta Kappa, a Fellow of the British Royal Historical Society, a life member of the American Historical Association, and Knight of the Royal Danish Order of Dannebrog. He was professor emeritus in the UCLA History Department from 1949 to 1961, when he retired. He was awarded the Medal of Liberation by the Danish government for his assistance to that country during World War II.

"Westy's" warm smile and genial personality will long be remembered by those of us who knew him.

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.
