Charles F. Lummis Centennial
The Celebration

Charles Fletcher Lummis, born in Massachusetts, graduate of Harvard, adopted the Southwest in general and Southern California in particular as his home, following a 3,507 mile walk from Ohio in 1884-85. He settled in Los Angeles, built a home, raised a family, participated in the affairs of the city, and was considered a leading citizen until his death in 1928.

His home, El Alisal (place of the sycamore) is a testament to the many facets of his life as editor, author, folklorist, librarian, newspaperman, preservationist, crusader for Indian rights, founder of the Southwest Museum, and builder. To celebrate the arrival in Los Angeles in 1885 of Charles Lummis, the Historical Society of Southern California, the Southwest Museum, and the Los Angeles Public Library sponsored a series of events in February and March.

An all-day Symposium on February 2 at the Southwest Museum attracted over two hundred persons who came to listen to assessments of Charles Fletcher Lummis' busy and productive life. The Museum itself is a testament to Lummis; its outstanding collection of Indian pottery and baskets came, in part, from him, and a current exhibit reflects on Lummis as a photographer of the Southwest. Participants assessed Lummis' various roles and his contributions to different areas of the humanities.

Grace Ellen Stiles and Don Thompson reminded us that Lummis' subsequent career spent in extolling the virtues and values of the American Southwest had its beginnings in his celebrated tramp across the continent in 1884-85 and his exposure to a different way of life.

His writings on early Spanish and Mexican contributions to the Southwest earned him an honored place in the literature of Spanish speaking nations, remarked Marc Simmons, and his efforts to call attention to that heritage gave a new dimension to American history.

His somewhat unconventional approach to librarianship changed the image of the Los Angeles Public Library, according to Romaine Ahlstrom, and established it as a leading collector of Western History.

As a preservationist, Lummis and the Landmarks Club succeeded in stabilizing and halting the decay of four California missions, noted David Cameron, and he consistently championed the use of Spanish names for streets and areas in Los Angeles.

Above all, Lummis was a writer, according to Dr. Edwin Bingham, and his prolific pen never ceased in its espousal of causes (Indian rights, anti-imperialism, landmarks), promotion of the Southwest and its cultures and history. He published the work of new writers and artists in his magazine, making it one of the leading literary journals of the day.

He founded the Sequoya League “to make better Indians by treating them better” and was a lifelong crusader in the effort to preserve Native American culture and way of life. According to Dr. Theodore Jojola and Jaynn Kushner, the policies advanced by Lummis and the Sequoya League — fostering native crafts, retention of native languages and religious practices, preservation of Indian home life — became part of the Indian policy followed by John Collier in the 1930s.

Over 5,000 glass plate negatives testify to Lummis' interest in and practice of photography, and, according to Dr. Patrick Houlihan and Carolee Campbell, as a photographer, Lummis' references were historical preservation and communicating information to the public. He used the camera to record scenes of Southwestern Pueblo life and culture and to document archaeological findings. His photos capture a way of life and a landscape at the turn of the century and provide a valuable research tool for current scholars.

Following this intellectual presentation, many of the participants and speakers met at El Alisal for wine and cheese and to hear Keith, Lummis' youngest son, and Rod Hutchinson, historical hiker who followed Lummis' route from Denver to Los Angeles. The convivial atmosphere and simpatico groups would have pleased Don Carlos who always welcomed kindred souls to his home on the Arroyo.

The Lummis Centennial Celebration continued into March with a two day open house at the Lummis Home and special events at the Southwest Museum and the Casa de Adobe March 2 and 3, 1985. Actors from the American Living (Continued on page 2)
The Celebration
(Continued from page 1)

History Theater presented a dramatic interpretation of persons who influenced and who were influenced by Charles Fletcher Lummis. Theodore Roosevelt, Mary Austin, and Francisco Amate, Lummis' resident troubadour, spent the day at El Alisal, recreating a festive gathering they shared with Don Carlos. The birthday party was a fitting climax to the month of celebrations at El Alisal.

Charles F. Lummis Centennial

Early in 1984, a man dropped by the Lummis Home, introduced himself, and said that he was interested in reenacting part of the 3,507 mile walk of Charles Fletcher Lummis in 1884-85. The Centennial of the walk was near, and he asked if we would like to sponsor him financially or otherwise. We couldn't provide funds, but we did provide names for contacts, our enthusiastic sponsorship, and a letter of support. He said he would be in touch.

Thus began our friendship with Rod Hutchinson, historical hiker, historian, carpenter, teacher, and amateur actor of Bisbee, Arizona. During the next few months, we heard from Rod regarding his departure date from Denver, his timetable, returns to Bisbee to replenish funds and energy, and expected arrival in Los Angeles. We wondered if all would work out as planned, and we looked forward to his arrival.

All did work out as planned, and Rod Hutchinson arrived at the old grapevine at San Gabriel Mission on January 31, 1985, exactly one hundred years after Charles Fletcher Lummis' arrival. A small welcoming committee from the celebration committee and the symposium committee was there to greet him, and we were introduced to the old grapevine, a remnant of Lummis' old home. We were shown around the grounds, and Rod spent time with Don Carlos, the Lummis Home resident troubadour, before returning to Bisbee to continue his journey.

Notes From Lum's Walk

(Continued from page 1)

In the winter of 1884-85, Charles Fletcher Lummis walked from Cincinnati, Ohio to Los Angeles, California — 3,500 miles. He followed the railroads most of the time, passing along a swath of civilization newly hammered through the raw American frontier. He was a journalist and adventurer, footloose and searching out his career. He found it as a champion of the scenic wonders and mix of cultures through which he made his walk.

On every stretch of earth and ice mankind has walked. The stories of others remain. Lummis recorded his and published it as A Tramp Across the Continent. I read this book, took it as a centennial challenge, and set out from Denver on the Western half of his trek — 1400 miles. I record some of my impressions here but reserve another version for the campfire or theater stage, where, as in walking, contact is direct.

Why walk? Lum answered he wanted to see every foot of the country. I answer with a Johnny Mercer song, "Oh, give me land, lots of land, under starry skies above, Don't fence me in." Other songs come to mind. A medley from my childhood in Lummis country — Sierra Madre, Southern California, the 1940s.

I was walking home.

In the course of this experience, I would toughen up, learn of Lummis and his route, think of being in middle life.

Lummis arrived at Denver in late October. He came as a tramp and tourist, trout fisher and mountain climber. He explored the Pike's Peak region from Denver to the Royal Gorge of the Arkansas River and declared it should be seen by all, and sure enough, it has been seen by many. I followed in his wake, elbowed in among the crowds of tourists doing likewise, and saw the wonders that he saw and the many more developed since — the Pike's Peak Cog Railway, Manitou Incline Tram, the narrow gauge at Cripple Creek, aerial tramway, suspension bridge and cable incline at the Royal Gorge, cities of a million people, 500,000 automobiles, and, yet, some quiet wilderness between.

The Lummis trail breaks away to the south along the now abandoned Denver and Rio Grande road bed, across the high plains toward Huajatolla, Breasts of Mother Earth, the twin Spanish peaks that traditionally signalled the northeastern frontier of New Mexico. He was almost home. I scrambled over the Sangre de Cristo Range at La Veta Pass on his heels, into the San Luis Valley where the Rio Grande rises for its journey south to the pueblo Indian lands two hundred miles away.

In this valley also lies the trail of Zebulon Pike. In 1806-07 he explored the southern Great Plains and Rocky Mountains to ascertain Spanish vigilance at her border, built a winter stockade on the Conejos Creek near the Rio Grande, and was arrested by vigilant Spaniards. I camped at the site of his fort on a stormy night and fancied I saw his ghost. I camped most of the nights on the trail.

About an hour before sunset I would begin looking for the proper site — a grove of low trees on a rise above a creek, a flat ledge on a rocky hillsides the open prairie on a fair and starry night. Roll out the light weight one man Goretex tent

Puff a little air into the self-inflating foam sleeping pad

Shake out the comfy down bag

Relax and rub our sore feet by a juniper tree

Beans a-bubbling in the can

tortilla, beer, or notebook close at hand

Up before dawn and away to warm up

It will take hours for the sun to do the same.

One night was very sore

failed at a fire in the pouring rain

infected by an unkept blister on a little toe,

foiled by a food store closed at my passing,

camped on sticky rock hard pine cones,

delirious from bad water and discomforted by diarrhea

What's this? Ants in my sleeping bag to boot!

And many nights were the sleeps of kings and happy, careless pioneers.

As Espanola the Rio Grande slows into a broad valley many centuries inhabited by aboriginal farmers. The Spaniards found their first settlements

(Continued on page 3)
Lummis found welcome and a beginning sense of his destiny. I found the invasion that is twentieth century American mass culture — four lane, fast food, and, happily, a laundromat.

While Lummis was repeatedly delivered from peril by a dim candle in yonder lone adobe, I took comfort in the distant neon glow of roadside services.

Lum and I reached Santa Fe. We entered the southwest. I went back home to Southeast Arizona to heal and work. Lum stayed in the capital and made friends.

In October I resumed the tramp. Santa Fe to Albuquerque I had as companion photographer Tom Vaughan. Two tramps are more fun than one. We took pictures. We visited the old mining camp of Golden where Lummis made a mark. We made stealthy camp amid the outlying Albuquerque suburbs. We were indistinguishable from the many transients heading for the sunny climes. We hiked into the city past the mobile home lots, used cars, sexy hookers, and drunks. I saw Albuquerque as an Anglo phenomenon. Lummis saw the same. We both fled south. At Isleta, where Lummis later had a home, I turned west across the volcanic plains, again alone and heading for the coast.

I next came to the pueblo of Laguna. Here, Lummis had watched the Christmas dances now closed to non-Indians. Then south to the sky city of Acoma. Lummis lied that he visited here on his walk. I took a bus tour to the top of the once impregnable rock and got caught in an early winter blizzard.

The weather flurried and threatened for the next two hundred miles. I reoutfitted in Gallup — wool pants and shirt and leather boots to give my Converse tennis shoes a break. I had seen the satellite picture on a motel TV. The weather ahead looked grim.

Westward stretched the Colorado Plateau, Navajo country, and a host of ancient trails — aboriginal, Spanish, and railroad. This road, the Atcheson, Topeka and Sante Fe, is basic to the Lummis trail. In later years he wrote promotional material for the line and earned a free pass through Mesa, Canon, and Pueblo. For many miles this road west skirts the southern edge of the Navajo tribal lands, and they have modified their economy according to the traffic. First, raiding and warfare, then silver work and wool weaving, followed by a growing trade with passing tourists. Today that trade continues — rings and trinkets and blankets and tax-free cigarettes. Old Route 66 — an Indian-White contact zone ever evolving. Many are the relics left for dead along the road. Crumbling service stations, the once famous Harvey Houses, now derelict or turned to mundane use, warped and splintered groupings of plywood tepees so popular as tourist traps of the 1940s.

I passed through the Petrified Forest where Lum broke his arm and set it himself, along the Little Colorado River where Mormon colonists secured strong footholds before Lummis and the railroad. The high country of the San Francisco peaks came visible on the Western horizon. A long, rough walk ascending a gradual slope and crossing the spindly railroad bridge spanning the awesome Canyon Diablo, brought me to Flagstaff's vast pine forests.

Now it was time for another break. I would return in January to experience some of the winter weather that challenged Lummis in his passing.

And it was challenging! Twelve inches of new snow and 5 degrees above zero, but wintry beautiful. So, I packed from motel to motel until Peach Springs where Lum's trail descends into the Grand Canyon along the old stage coach road of his time.

From this point to his destination, Lummis had little good to say of landscape and adventures. For me it was some of the best of both. Now the route entered the deserts flanking the Colorado River. Beyond Kingman, now sprawled outside the well protected valley of its original siting, Lummis was forced to kill his dog Shadow who had contracted rabies. With his faithful companion gone and his arm still quite sore from the break, he entered upon the stark Mojave Desert with flagging spirits, determined to push on quickly through bitter cold nights and unexpected daytime heat to his new home.

The desert was nice to me. Five long

(Continued on page 4)
days, mostly pleasant, brought me to Barstow. Here I faced the Daggett cutoff which had given Lummis and a companion much difficulty. Here I gathered a companion, John Chalikian, southwestern photographer. Here, too, I was joined by my wife with the support vehicle. Together, we launched into the parched, lonely desert toward Victorville and the home stretch, along with several hundred weekenders and their motorcycles, dune buggies, and RVs.

Past Victorville, another town swollen beyond the comfort of its riverside location, the desert rises south toward the snow peaks of the San Gabriels — almost there! The weather a chilling, wet gale of the mountains. We take to a motel and send out for pizza.

There dawned a beautiful day, and we dropped over the desert's rim at Cajon Pass and down the canyon along abandoned remnants of 1960s freeway. Route 66 was almost home.

The rest you know — Etiwanda, Rancho Cucamonga, Cucamonga, Upland, Montclair, Claremont, La Verne, San Dimas, Glendora, Azusa, Irwindale, El Monte, Monrovia, Arcadia, Temple City, San Gabriel. Was it worth it? YES!

A Warm Welcome

... to the following new members. We look forward to your participation in Society activities.

Active Members

Harvey F. Bennett
Lance Bowling
Mark Cullingham
M. V. Fredrick
Rene Gomez
Neal Harlow
James Kingman
La Canada Flintridge Historical Society
Sylvia Levine
Mr. and Mrs. H. Ross MacMichael
Ruby W. Moore
Pattee Library, Pennsylvania State University
Antonio Rios-Bustamante
Mrs. Francis E. Shine
Utah State Historical Society

Recent Gifts To The Society

- First edition of "Spanish Songs of Old California" (1923) Collected and translated by Charles F. Lummis, piano accompaniment by Arthur Farwell
  Mrs. Francis E. Shine

- Sheet music (1912) "The Star", words by Charles F. Lummis, music by James H. Rogers
  MRS. NANCY BENNETT COSBY

- Calling card listing members of HSSC Board of Directors, 1950
  ROBERT SCHERRER

- One copy each of Westerners' Brand book numbers 15 and 16
  WESTERNERS

- Thirty Books in the Library of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, a compendium of Medical History, copy number 111, published by the Friends of LACMA Library, Los Angeles 1984
  DENVER MARKWITH, JR.

- Lummis memorabilia, including letters to and from Gertrude Redit Lummis and Panchita Amate
  LT. DANIEL N. COOKE

- Two photographs of Southwest Museum, 1929
  BRYCE M. ELLIOTT

- Four photographs of Hollywood, 1892
  GEORGE W. HUBER

- Book of poems, Idiosyncrasies, Suzanne Lummis
  KEITH LUMMIS

- Photograph of officers and men, World War I
  C. H. ROE

- Booklet, Olvera Street, Its History and Restoration, Christine Sterling, 1933
  CHRISTOPHER B. LEINBERGER

- Fifty-one postcards of the Pasadena area
  MAYNARD KELLY
Society Activities

Since the last newsletter, the Society:

• held a dinner meeting in January at Les Freres Taix,
• celebrated the arrival in Los Angeles in 1885 of Charles Fletcher Lummis, builder and architect of the house in which our offices are located, with an all day Symposium at the Southwest Museum followed by a reception at the Lummis Home. In March we enjoyed two days of dramatic representations of Lummis, Theodore Roosevelt, Mary Austin, and Amate by actors of the American Living History Theater,
• participated in History Day /LA, a competition for junior and senior high school students at USC on April 13th,
• visited the Workman Temple Homestead on Saturday, April 20th.

Future activities include:
• Annual Dinner meeting at Bullock's Wilshire on May 15, Attorney General John Van de Kamp, speaker,
• a trek to Redlands and environs on Saturday, June 1st,
• HSSC Auction — June 29, 1985
• a trip to Santa Cruz Island on Saturday, July 13, 1985.

Mark your calendars and plan to join your fellow members.

Member In The News

Member Fred W. Viehe, PhD, has assumed the position of Command Historian for the 463rd Tactical Airlift Wing, Dyess Air Force Base, Texas. He also has received a grant from the John R. and Dora Haynes Foundation to continue his research concerning the impact of the petroleum industry on the growth and development of metropolitan Los Angeles.

Continuing Attractions


WHITTIER MUSEUM, 6755 Newlin, Whittier 90601. Operated by the Whittier Historical Society. Permanent exhibit, “Main Street, 1900”. Photographs and newspapers of early Whittier. Also changing exhibits, Sat. and Sun., 1-4PM, weekdays by appointment. $1.00 adults, .50 seniors. (213) 945-3871.


California Historical Society operates two facilities in Los Angeles.

HISTORY CENTER, 6300 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 90048 (213) 651-5655. Photographic exhibition and archives. Ticor Title Insurance and Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce collections of historical photographs. Copy prints available to the public. Open Mon.-Thurs. 9AM-5PM. Free.

EL MOLINO VIEJO, 1120 Old Mill Road, San Marino 91108 (818) 449-5450. Southern California’s first water-powered grist mill. Interior and gardens open Tues.-Sun., 1PM-4PM. Docent tours by appointment. Free.

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**Books**

**BELLOFLOWER: A PICTORIAL ESSAY.** A history of Bellflower from its beginnings in 1900 to the present. $8.50 includes tax and postage. Order from: Bellflower Heritage Society, 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower 90706.

**LINKING OUR LIVES.** Chinese American Women of Los Angeles. Chinese Historical Society of Southern California. $12.09 includes tax, postage, and handling. Send order to: CHSSC, Book Dept., 4205 S. La Salle Ave., Los Angeles 90062.

**THE ARTISTS' BARN A Twenty-five Year Pioneering Adventure in Art.** Mildred Hinkley. The story of one couple's efforts to promote art in Ventura County through the Artists' Barn. $10.49 includes tax and postage. Order from: Ventura County Historical Society, 100 E. Main St., Ventura 93001.

**THIS LAND WAS OURS: THE DEL VALLES AND CAMULOS.** Wallace E. Smith. Story of the rancho and the family, both prominent in the development of Southern California. $14.25 includes tax and postage. Order from: Ventura County Historical Society, 100 E. Main St., Ventura 93001.


**SIXTY YEARS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1853-1913.** Harris Newmark. Pioneering account of life in Los Angeles. $27.95 includes tax and postage in Los Angeles County; $27.82 elsewhere in California. Order from Dawson's Book Shop, 535 N. Larchmont Blvd., Los Angeles 90004.

**Southern California Calendar**

February 1 through May 19, 1985

**Charles F. Lummis Centennial Exhibition.** A retrospective of Charles Lummis' life and his contributions to the humanities. Photos, books, manuscripts, artifacts. Southwest Museum. Call (213) 221-2164.

**January, 1985 through January 16, 1986**


**March 30 through May 26 “Simi: Past Views and Present Visions”.** Hoffman Gallery, Ventura County Historical Museum, 100 E. Main Street, Ventura. Exhibit traces the development of Simi Valley from a Chumash village to its present position as the county's leader in high tech and light industry. Call (805) 653-0323.

**April 17 through November 17, 1985**


**May 18, 1985**

Chatsworth Historical Society hosts a mini-conference sponsored by the Associated Historical Societies of Los Angeles County at Homestead Acre, Chatsworth. Tours, lectures, slide show, box lunch. 9 AM to 3 PM. $7.00 includes lunch and tours. Deadline: May 15. Call (818) 341-3447.

**May 18, 1985**

From China to California: A Day Symposium in conjunction with the current exhibit at the Riverside Municipal Museum, “From China to California: Riverside’s Chinese Heritage 1885-1985”. Scholars from the humanities will shed new light on the subject of the early Chinese migrant population in California and will analyze the bridge that formed from China to “Gold Mountain” in the nineteenth century. 9 AM to 5 PM, Universalist Unitarian Church of Riverside, 7th and Lemon, Riverside. $20 includes registration and Chinese lunch. Deadline: May 3. Call (714) 787-7273.

**May 18 Rancho Days 10 AM to 4 PM, Casa de Rancho Cucamonga Historical Society.** All day activities at Casa de Cucamonga (Rains House). Demonstrations of skills and crafts of the typical early California Rancho. Foods of the era will be for sale. Tours of the Casa, a 1859 home will be available. Free. Call (714) 987-2385.

**May 18 An Evening with Clark Gable, a one-man show starring Boyd Hollister sponsored by the Calabasas Historical Society. Hidden Hills Theater, 7 PM reception, 8 PM show, a fundraiser for the Society. $10.50 per person. Send checks to R. Loring, 4133 Meadowlark Drive, Calabasas 91302. Call (818) 347-1116.

**May 19 Creative Rancho Day.** Demonstrations and displays of crafts and skills of early California. 10 AM to 4 PM. Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach. $1, under 18 years 50 cents. Call (213) 431-2511.

**May 19 Architectural Crafts Fair.** 10 AM to 5 PM. Workman and Temple Homestead, 15415 E. Don Julian Road, City of Industry. Demonstrations of plastering, tile work, gold leafing, and stained glass by California artisans. Tours of the Homestead’s restored homes, musical entertainment, antique cyclists, children's craft activities and ethnic food. $1 adults, 50 cents teenagers, children free. Call (818) 968-8492.

**May 29 through December 30 China Trade Exhibition.** Concentrating on American trade with China, this exhibition features paintings and ship models from the 1840s to the 1860s. Pacific Asia Museum, 46 N. Los Robles, Pasadena. Wed. through Sun., noon to 5 PM. $1.50, Seniors $1. (818) 449-2742.

**May 30 Camera Day.** 10 AM to 4 PM. Contests, food, settings for photographers. Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach. $5 photographers, $1.50 students, $1.50 service personnel. Call (213) 431-2511.

**June 20-23 Annual Meeting, California Conference of Historical Societies.** Long Beach, Breakers Hotel, 210 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach. Call (213) 435-7511.
Special Requests

The United States Forest Service, Angeles National Forest, is looking for help in furnishing the West Fork Ranger Station, a one room log cabin built in 1900 along the West Fork of the San Gabriel River. It was the first ranger station built in California using government funds and cost $75.00. For many years it stood on the bank of the West Fork, a welcome sight to tired and hungry hikers.

In 1983 the Forest Service, concerned about increasing vandalism and deterioration, moved the cabin to the Chilao Visitors Center in the Angeles National Forest, is looking for old photographs, clippings, programs, souvenirs, and other memorabilia which relate to a former resort, Lake Enchanto, located in the Cornell area of the Santa Monica Mountains. The resort flourished from the 1930s to the 1960s and attracted visitors from all over Southern California. It offered swimming, boating, fishing, picnics, and rides and amusements for the children.

The property was acquired in 1977 by actor/producer Peter Strauss who maintained the property for seven years. In 1983 he sold it to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for parkland, and it was opened to the public. It will be transferred to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area in June, 1985, and will be known as the Peter Strauss Ranch (Lake Enchanto).

The friends plan a permanent exhibit on the history of Lake Enchanto. For more information please call or write to Penny Suess, Site Manager, Peter Strauss Ranch, 30000 Mulholland Highway, Agoura 91301 (818) 706-8380.

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Charles F. Lummis Centennial

(Continued from page 2)

Historical Society, the Southwest Museum, along with a reporter and photographer from the Los Angeles Times met him at the Mission on that afternoon. One hundred years ago Charles Lummis went to work for the Los Angeles Times. Rod Hutchinson, with his wife Judy and friend John Chalikian, who shared some of the miles from Denver, participated in the all day symposium celebrating Lummis' earlier arrival in Los Angeles. Rod's passage through the Southwest and his thoughts as he traveled the one hundred year old trail are summarized in the following piece.

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Active member .................. $35.00
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Contributing member .......... $100.00
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Gentlemen:
Please accept my application for membership as member in the Historical Society of Southern California.
I enclose my remittance in the amount of for annual dues.

Name _______________________________
Address _______________________________
City ______________________ State _______
Zip ________________________________

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