



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA *NEWSLETTER*

SPRING 1981

200 E. AVE. 43, LOS ANGELES, CA 90031

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

Spring 1981 has sprung with a variety of HSSC activities designed for most every historical interest, with more to come.

Close to 200 HSSC members and their guests attended the March 15 dinner meeting held at the Hong Kong Jade Garden Restaurant in Chinatown. Following a nine-course Chinese dinner, the meeting heard an address on "The Chinese in Los Angeles—The Almost Forgotten Story," presented by David R. Chan, a director of the Southern California Chinese Historical Society.

April brought two notable events—HSSC held its first spring cleaning, as eager volunteers took time out from their own housekeeping chores to lend a hand at brightening up the Lummis Home and grounds. Katie Ainsworth, Helen Lawton, and Betty Southam hacked away at weeds, while Bill Warren defeated a strange spiny plant that the day before had made an unwarranted attack on Hugh Tolford. Bill's victory came at the cost of Betty's shovel, split in two by the evil plant (perhaps he should have used a light saber). Peg Cassidy provided sustenance from the Kitchen. Bob Scherrer found some photographs tucked away in the City gardener's house; and other volunteers made equally interesting discoveries. Jud Grenier photographed the occasion for posterity.

Also in April, and in perhaps a less hectic vein, Dr. Leonard Pitt, professor of history at California State University, Northridge, addressed HSSC members meeting at the County Museum on "Documenting Urban Los Angeles." Dr. Pitt is director of CSUN's Urban Archives Project, an archive recently established for the collection of materials from social service agencies, labor organizations, and certain businesses. Students and scholars alike will benefit from the research possibilities of this new archive.

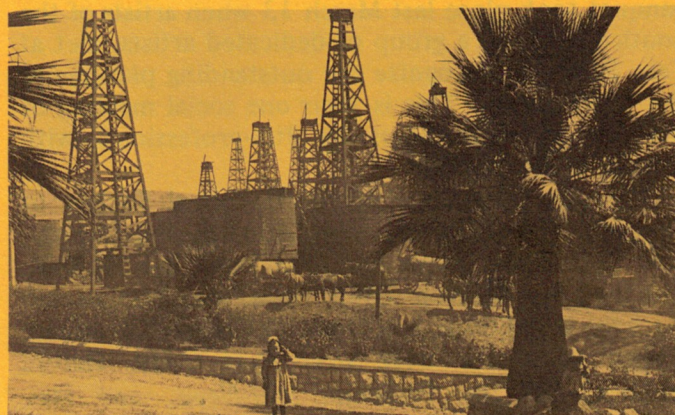
Quite a different approach was taken by HSSC members who left indoor meetings in May in favor of a hike up Mt. Williamson, led by Bob Colvin with commentary by John W. Robinson. About thirty intrepid hikers joined the guides of this expedition for a 2½ mile ascent that came to about 1,000 feet up for each mile covered. Not content with this modest

effort, John and Bob proceeded for another 10 miles! The view was scenic, the air bracing, the historical comments worthy of note, and everyone's appreciation acknowledged for the pioneering efforts of Lt. R. S. Williamson who surveyed the area back in 1853.

A few days after the hike, over 160 HSSC members were treated to *Los Angeles Times* columnist Jack Smith's presentation, "Los Angeles, Our Wonderful Cuckooland," at a dinner meeting held at the County Museum on May 20. Smith, author of a column that is required reading at the breakfast table for thousands of Angelinos daily, shared his views on the uniqueness of the city. As an added attraction, two Area 7 Alternative School students delighted the audience with their talks on how their school has been involved with HSSC in developing local history projects.

Finally, June 6 offered the Annual Spring Trek, this year to Santa Clarita Valley, heartland of so much that is Southern California's history, from Pico Canyon's oil wells to Beale's Cut, the Oak of the Golden Dream in Placerita Canyon, and the site of the St. Francis Dam tragedy.

Did you miss any of these fine activities? Hang on—there'll be more to come in the rest of '81, and plenty to do in '82.



Bunker Hill west of Temple Street has changed a bit since this photograph was taken around 1895. Photo courtesy of History Division, Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History.

FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

It has been a good year for the Historical Society of Southern California. Under the guidance of our Executive Director, Jackie Wilson, and with the generous assistance of many members and friends, we have begun restoration and beautification of the gardens of the Lummis Home where the Society makes its headquarters. Already well along in the planning stage is the development of a museum-gallery of California history within the Lummis Home itself.

Our monthly members programs have been very well attended this year, and we have broadened our outreach to school children through special programs for them at the Society's headquarters. And *Southern California Quarterly* under the editorship of Professor Doyce Nunis added another volume to this very fine series of historical studies.

We have welcomed many new members this year (and we thank their sponsors). We wish we could welcome several times as many. If each of you would pass this issue of the *Newsletter* to a friend with an invitation that he or she become a member, perhaps this could be achieved. An application for membership appears on the back page. If you save your newsletters, the HSSC would be glad to give you another copy. Inflation and added costs have driven up our expenses faster than the income from members' dues has increased, and an increase in membership will spread expenses over a larger base. But more important than the benefit to the Society would be the benefit to the new members themselves. You will be doubly thanked.

Douglas F. Richardson
President

HSSC INVOLVED WITH ART AWARDS

In the art world, an interesting annual awards banquet took place last March 13 when artists of the Southwest, Inc., a group of dedicated artists, met at Taix Freres to recognize the outstanding pictures of the 1980 season. This is their one social meeting of the year, as the members are ultra-professional, with little time for frivolity.

The Art Committee of the Historical Society of Southern California was represented by Peg Cassidy, Mrs. Sam Hyde Harris, Joe O'Malley, Tom McNeill, and Dorothy Gleason. Other HSSC members attending were Bob Cowan and Don and Eleanor Grossman. Guests of Honor were Iron Eyes Cody, Harold Hubbard of the Pasadena *Star-News*, and Mrs. Hubbard. Awards were presented by Hubbard and by Diane Clinton, granddaughter of noted painter Duncan Gleason.

HSSC AUCTION ACTION ANNOUNCED

Saturday, July 11, is a special date to mark on your calendar, for on that day the Historical Society of Southern California will be holding its first annual Auction, at the Lummis Home from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. There are two ways in which every HSSC member can help make this event a success. The first is to show up, pay the modest one dollar admission price, and *bid on something!* The \$1 admission will be applied to your first purchase.

The second way of helping the auction is to donate your auctionables. From June 15 to July 10, items can be brought to the Lummis Home. You get a receipt for the item which can be used as a tax deduction. "Auctionables" and "items" are weak terms for the miscellaneous array that can make for an exciting auction—consider such collectibles as oil and water color paintings; old glass, crystal, and china; pamphlets and rare or semi-rare books; bubble gum cards (have you priced what a Fernando Valenzuela is currently going for?); book cases, chests, chairs, sculptures, and any other item you can spare but someone else can't do without.

Parking will be outside the fence on the east, south, and west side of El Alisal. The auction will also feature entertainment and libations. Remember—why let those old photographs or rocking chairs go for nickels at a garage sale when you can get in on the action at the first annual HSSC Auction? And bring a friend.

NEWSWORTHY NOTES

Will Meyers is the author of "Los Angeles and Palos Verdes: A Bicentennial Celebration," in *Vantage Point*, the quarterly publication of Very Important Properties Realty.

The San Fernando Valley Historical Society reports that no less than 50,000 artifacts were retrieved from the old Encino tavern site across Ventura Boulevard from Los Encinos State Park. John Elliott, historian for Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc., addressed the Society at its April meeting on the importance of environmental impact reports for developers.

Robert G. Colvin has been named vice president and chief financial officer at Kirkhill Rubber Company.

William T. Hardy, teacher at The Desert Sun School in Idyllwild, brought several of his students together with students from our Area 7 School, with HSSC acting as catalyst, to present a multi-media program on the "California Experience." This program with beautiful and sensitive slides of Southern California scenes, was enhanced by an accompaniment of classical and popular music. Mr. Hardy's students produced the program, and the meeting was an enthusiastic linking of public and private school under HSSC auspices.

The Los Angeles County Natural History Museum's 1981 **Craft Heritage Fair** takes place on

Sunday, June 7, with exhibits of scrimshaw, paper-making, quilting, puppet shows, music, and tours of museum galleries, including California History Hall.

Abraham Hoffman is the author of *Vision or Villainy: Origins of the Owens Valley-Los Angeles Water Controversy* published in June by Texas A & M University Press.

Send news of your own individual doings to Abraham Hoffman, Newsletter Editor, 19211-1 Haynes Street, Reseda, CA 91335. Your modest activities deserve notice in our *Newsworthy Notes!*

HSSC RECEIVES IMPORTANT GRANT

The Historical Society of Southern California is pleased to announce that a \$2,500 grant has been awarded the Society by the J. B. and Emily Van Nuys Charities. The grant will aid HSSC in the development of future projects.

In 1979, a \$5,000 grant from the J. B. and Emily Van Nuys Charities made possible the publication of the *Cumulative Index, 1958-1976*, to our *Southern California Quarterly*. The *Index* is an indispensable resource for students, scholars, and researchers of the American West and particularly California and its neighboring regions. Hundreds of libraries and universities throughout the country now offer the *Index* as a working tool in history, a key to locating the many fine articles which have appeared in the *Quarterly*.

SOCIETY RECEIVES HISTORICAL RECORDINGS

Through the courtesy of former Supervisor John Anson Ford, the Society has received a donation of an important album of phonograph recordings commemorating the 84th birthday of the late Joseph Scott, a prominent legal luminary, HSSC member, and foremost civic leader. Among his many cultural activities in his adopted city were his valued services as member of the Board of Education, trustee of the Southwest Museum, and as a highranking officer of the Knights of Columbus.

The recordings provide a glimpse into the celebration honoring a prominent citizen, featuring the voices of a range of influential figures in local and state political and social activities. The ceremony was held on August 13, 1951. Highlighting the occasion were laudatory speeches of commendation and appreciation by his legal peers, intimate friends, and admirers.

Especially noteworthy were the addresses by Homer Crotty, president of the Los Angeles Bar Association; Lieutenant Governor Goodwin J. Knight; Mayor Fletcher Bowron; Supervisor Roger W. Jessup; Judge Paul J. McCormick; Justice Emmett L. Wilson; Archbishop J. Francis McIntyre; and Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin.

Mark Cook, baritone, sang Scott's favorite songs, and Hugo Kerchhofer led the assemblage in hearty community singing. The ceremony closed following the delivering of an enthusiastic speech by the honoree.

... AND CAMPING OUT AND GOING OUT

Two new Automobile Club of Southern California publications will be of interest to HSSC members. "Two Hundred Treasures of Metropolitan Los Angeles" is a guide to places of historical, architectural, cultural, and scenic interest in Los Angeles, along with unusual commercial and industrial sites, plus a few surprises. The 84-page booklet features photographs of every site and guide maps.

Also recently published is "The San Gabriel Mountains," a compilation of historical and camping information that is as up-to-date as the mountains will allow.

CARL S. DENTZEL, 1913-1980

Dr. Carl S. Dentzel, long-time member of HSSC and director of the Southwest Museum, has passed away. During his notable career he helped make the Southwest Museum into one of the region's finest resources for the study and appreciation of Indian culture; helped establish the Cultural Heritage Board and Heritage Park; and wrote important books and articles on Indians of the Southwest. His guiding touch will be greatly missed.

THE OLD DAYS

Joshua Hoffman is 6½ years old, and anything older than he is, he considers "the old days." His father is trying mightily to teach him how history is a bit more complicated than that, but so far the measurement has been increased to what Joshua calls



This "Lummis Lineup" includes members of the HSSC Board of Directors, staff, and guests (with several people in dual and triple roles). The occasion was a meeting for the hatching of future HSSC projects and programs. Photo courtesy of Judson Grenier.

"the *old* old days"—whatever is older than his father.

There are many different ways to measure "the old days." One of the best known, if not exactly popular, is to compare how much something cost then as against what it costs now. My favorite is raisins. In my old days, raisins went for 30 cents a box. Now the price is about \$1.50—a five-fold increase in about 20 years. That's probably typical. Also typical is the way I remember those raisins—somehow they tasted sweeter in the old days. The continuity is still there, of course—the pretty girl on the box hasn't aged a bit, and I've yet to figure out how to open the waxy cardboard lid without damaging it beyond repair.

If you look down about two inches below this article, you will notice, in the Membership Classifications box, a slight dues modification in two of the

categories. Active and Family Member categories are up \$5.00 each. Like raisins, the cost of everything has gone up. Back in 1961, when raisins went for 30 cents a box, Active Members paid \$15 a year. Or, to put it another way, Active Members dues have less than doubled, while the cost of raisins has quintupled. Like raisins, the past is often sweeter in memory and appreciation; fortunately, the penalties of inflation have not been so severe for our Society as they have been for wrinkled fruit.

If the analogy between raisins and history seems a bit stretched, don't blame me. My son made the comparison. He likes raisins, and he likes to hear stories about the old days. We can help his generation by actively continuing our support of the Society and its activities.

—A. Hoffman

NEW MEMBERS

HSSC welcomes the following new members and encourages their participation in Society activities.

Sustaining:	Patricia Donahue	Mr. and Mrs. Harry R. Lubcke	Dr. and Mrs. Edward M. Pallette
James H. Kindel, Jr.	William E. Evans	Dolores M. Martin	Agnes B. Southam
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur C. Myers	Sharon Hart	Robert J. Moes, M.D.	Arthur J. Squires
Active:	Daniel M. Hooper	Daniel T. Munoz	Walter Wheeler
Robert A. Burchell	Dr. L. William Lawson	Stanley and Adah Nutter	Mrs. Elizabeth H. Yamaguchi
James Caswell	Dixie Hodges Luckenbill	Mrs. Lucy R. O'Shaunnessy	Student:
Mr. and Mrs. William Cornyn			David C. Burkenroad

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

STUDENT MEMBER	\$ 10.00
ACTIVE MEMBER	\$ 25.00
FAMILY MEMBER	\$ 35.00
SUSTAINING MEMBER	\$ 40.00
CONTRIBUTING MEMBER	\$ 100.00
PATRON or COR- PORATE PATRON	\$ 250.00
LIFE MEMBER	\$1000.00

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
200 EAST AVENUE 43 • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90031

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

Firm Affiliation (if applicable)

Address

City..... State..... Zip Code.....

Date..... Telephone Sponsor.....

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

Historical Society of Southern California
200 East Avenue 43
Los Angeles, Calif. 90031

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