



# HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEWSLETTER

SPRING — SUMMER, 1983

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

## VOLUNTEERS — THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S CAMPESINOS

The Historical Society of Southern California simply could not function without the ongoing, regularly scheduled hours of work contributed by a small corps of dedicated volunteers. You should know who they are and what they are up to.

The Lummis Home Docents are charged with the responsibility of interpreting El Alisal, the Society's temporary quarters (since 1965), to visitors who drop in individually or descend in busloads. The Docents have undertaken an intensive course in the history of the house and the Lummisses who lived there, and are knowledgeable and gracious representatives of the Society's commitment to community and curatorial services. The Docents are Mary Givan Jones, Margarete Lewis, Mary Anne Barber, Earleen Kay, Grace Coffin, and Kenyon DeVore.

The Lummis Home Garden is becoming widely — indeed, internationally — known, largely through the efforts of botanist Betty Southam and plantsman Jim Seaman, who supervise the planting and maintenance and publicize the garden's resources. Suzie Chamberlain and Suzie Deal will fill the void left in the garden by Jim Seaman's imminent retirement to Arizona.

Betty Marsh and Doctor Elinor Ives keep regular hours as curators of the Society's photographic collections.

(Betty has also become a part-time salaried employee.) Millie Haberlin has long been our authority on genealogy, responding freely to queries the Society receives. Marian Parks is deep into cataloguing and research in the Society's records and library resources. Bob Scherrer does al fresco work for us in many, many categories from bibliographic research to emergency plumbing. He is irreplaceable. Barbara Paul, with twenty-five years of paralegal-management experience at Warner Brothers has exercised her skills in the Society's office.

Everett and Anna Marie Hager generously contribute their bibliographic and lexicological skills to the Society's publishing accomplishments. The editor of the Society's Newsletter and its contributors are volunteers.

Dr. Doyce B. Nunis, Jr., the Editor of the Society's journal, the SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA QUARTERLY, is, of course, unpaid, as indeed are the Officers and Directors of the Society.

Volunteers, you should know, are not recognized as such by the Internal Revenue Service or the Franchise Tax Board. Their services are truly donated. We will expand on their individual stories in the Newsletter (beginning with the Jim Seaman Story, in this issue).



Volunteers and friends gathered in El Alisal garden to honor Jim Seaman on his retirement, June 9, 1983. From the left: Betty Marsh, Jackie Wilson, Margarete Lewis, Don Balch, Kenyon De Vore, Bob Scherrer, Mary Givan Jones, Jan La Moree, Betty Southam, George La Moree, Peg Cassidy, Helen Lawton, Jim Seaman, Suzie Chamberlain.

Photo by Ellen Conried Balch (a volunteer)



## AFIELD IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ETHNIC HISTORY — PROGRAM NOTES

### WELLS FARGO'S WEST

On January nineteenth, members of the Historical Society of Southern California were escorted through a private showing of the new Wells Fargo History Museum, on the ground floor of the Wells Fargo Bank's Flower Street building. Joan Salz, Curator of the museum (and a Director of our Society) hosted the event. Among the treasures exhibited, one remembers particularly sitting in the tight accommodations of the Concord Coach, listening to a taped voice from the seat opposite, and daydreaming of what that gritty, exciting trip West must have been like for a pioneer—ante airconditioning and plumbed comfort stops. The Wells Fargo History Museum is open every banking day from nine to four.

### THE JEWISH PIONEERS

Doctor Norton Stern and Rabbi William Kramer entertained and edified the joint membership of H.S.S.C. and the Southern California Jewish Historical Society on February sixteenth with a lively illustrated lecture on "Our Ethnic Heritage: The Jews of Los Angeles." The team of Stern and Kramer was in characteristic fettle, which made for a good-spirited evening of hearty historical fare. Dessert, served by our hostess Pauline Hirsh and her staff, topped off the reception, which was held in the Board Room of the Jewish Community Building. Copies of the Society's publications, including Norton B. Stern's fine book *The Jews of Los Angeles: Urban Pioneers*, are available at the Jewish Community Building, 6505 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90048, (213) 852-1234. Incidentally, Dr. Stern's article on Louis Phillips in the Summer 1983 Southern California Quarterly sheds some interesting light on the development of the Pomona Valley.

### THE SAN PEDRO YUGOSLAVS

The March and April meeting brought to a conclusion our year-long exploration of the ethnic diversity to be found in Southern California. Previous meetings had explored the Italian, Japanese, and Jewish contributions to our community.

To hear about the Southern California Yugoslavs, H.S.C.C. members and friends met on Saturday, March 19, at Ante's, a well known local eatery run by a long established San Pedro family. There, over mostaccioli and



*Southern California Jewish Historical Society dignitaries with their counterparts of the Historical Society of Southern California at joint meeting, February 16. From the Left: Joseph Newmark, V.P., S.C.J.H.S.; Dr. Norton Stern; Lois Markwith, V.P., H.S.S.C.; Dr. Harry Kelsey, Pres., H.S.S.C.; Pauline Hirsh, Pres., S.C.J.H.S.*

assorted Yugoslav delicacies, we listened as Anna Marie Hager told the tale of that ethnic group in the port city.

A short hike down the hill to the water brought us to the Los Angeles Maritime Museum housed in the old Terminal Island Ferry Building. There, where cars and their passengers once began the short trip across the water to the island, is a splendid collection of photographs, paintings, navigational aides, machinery, tools, ship models and other memorabilia of a bygone era. Volunteer docents filled us in on the background of the ferry service, the fight to save the building, and the efforts of interested citizens to establish a museum. The results are well worth a trip to the harbor to view another one of Los Angeles's saved landmarks and to learn a bit about its history. If you have a bright sparkling, sunny day such as we had, you will be doubly rewarded, and may we suggest lunch at Ante's.

### AND FINALLY

### A DOUBLE-HEADER AT CITY HALL

Thanks to Judson Grenier's foresight in arranging parking for our April meeting we didn't have to worry about the elements on the night of the twentieth. A short ride in escalators and elevators and a walk across Spring Street via an overhead walkway found us in the Rotunda of City Hall with nary a drop of water on us.

The screening of "The Ethnic Diversity of Los Angeles," produced by the Department of Planning under the supervision of its Director, Calvin Hamilton, provided a brief introduction to the wide variety of peoples living in Los Angeles. The constantly changing screen and the strategically placed projectors made for a broad and lively view of the complex ethnic composition of our city.

To hear Dr. Miriam Matthews talk always is a treat. She brings depth and perspective, as well as a bright sense of humor, to a survey of the Black contributions to Los Angeles.

Her collection of old-time photographs, which she has transferred to modern slides, gave us a clear look at the historic and continuing Black presence. From the forty-four founding pobladores, more than half of whom were Blacks, through Biddy Mason, Ralph Bunche, Charlotte Bass, Norman Houston, Loren Miller, and countless others, she made us aware of this very important group's part in the development of the city.



*From the Left: Dr. Judson Grenier, V.P., H.S.S.C.; Gene Caper, Treas., S.C.J.H.S.; Jacquelyn Wilson, Exec. Dir., H.S.S.C.; Dr. William Kramer; Mary Lou Harnagel, Dir., H.S.S.C. Photos Courtesy of Pauline Hirsh, Southern California Jewish Historical Society*



**KUDOS TO DR. JUDSON GRENIER** for planning a year of great program interest and variety, giving us the opportunity to share in the diverse histories of the people who make up the cities of Southern California.

## THANK YOU, DOYCE NUNIS

A very special dinner meeting at the Athenaeum of Caltech on Friday evening, May twentieth, rounded out our program year. Drinks on the terrace and dining in the splendor of the 1930 Faculty Club building were pleasant preludes to the main events of the evening.

Monsignor Francis J. Weber gave a moving introduction and tribute to Dr. Doyce B. Nunis, Jr., for his twenty-one years as editor of the Southern California Quarterly. An emotion-filled response from the honoree moved all of us. Harry Kelsey, President of the Society, presented Dr. Nunis with twenty-one bound volumes of the Society's Quarterly, the contents of which Dr. Nunis has edited for as many years. To cap the tributes, a commendation signed by Mayor Tom Bradley was presented to Dr. Nunis by Lois Markwith, aided by Mrs. Fletcher Bowron, wife of the former Mayor. Judson Grenier presented a scroll from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. To say Dr. Nunis was overwhelmed would be an understatement. Our gesture was small appreciation for his longstanding dedication and outstanding efforts for the Society. Congratulations to him, and we hope he stays on nearly forever.

A nostalgic look at yesterday's Yosemite was provided by our speaker, Rodman Paul, Professor Emeritus of History at Caltech. Ever the goal of adventurers, Yosemite over the years has drawn hikers, campers, painters, naturalists, politicians, photographers, and just plain tourists. The beauties have not changed, but nearly everything else has — paved roads instead of mountain scrambles, hot and cold running water for streamside camping, luxury hotels for canvas tents, car-bound tourists for the hardy biking sightseer. Thank you, Dr. Paul, for a look backward at a beautiful place.



*Doyce B. Nunis, Jr., accepts Mayor Bradley's commendation from Mrs. Fletcher Bowron at the Annual Meeting Dinner.*

— Frank Q. Newton Photo

## HSSC TREKKERS

Bright and early on Saturday morning, June 4, Society members gathered at the San Pedro Air-Sea Terminal for the 1983 Trek, a day-long excursion to Santa Catalina Island. Before boarding for the boat trip, everyone donned a big, bright yellow badge proclaiming him<sup>1</sup> an "H.S.S.C.TREKKER." The badges attracted a lot of attention. (See "Etymological Note," following.)

The weather was friendly, and the crossing was glassy smooth — not a foregone expectation, as seasoned channel crossers will testify. At eleven the hardy band gathered at the Catalina Island Museum to enjoy a well illustrated talk on "Avalon Then and Now." From then on, it was a no rush, unregimented day, with plenty of action available but, thank the planners, fully optional. A Glass-Bottom Boat Tour was offered, and a Scenic Terrace Drive. Many trekkers made their own trek. At five P.M., as the sun sank slowly over lovely Avalon,<sup>2</sup> tired, sated trekkers boarded the boat for San Pedro and lay back for another soft, smooth channel crossing. (Does anyone else remember those fine old Fitzpatrick Travelogues on the Saturday matinee bill at the movies, when you got two features, the newsreel, a serial chapter, and "Selected Short Subjects" for a dime? The Catalina Trek brought it all back, for at least one Trekker.)

1. I am not going to write "him/her" in a sentence like that. It's clumsy. I think women should do as I do — simply assume that the impersonal "him" belongs to us all. It's a sex-blind pronoun and the sooner that home truth gets around the better. Join me in spreading the word. Incidentally, I suppose nobody noticed the little problem I had with the word "campesinos" on the first page of this newsletter. Most of our volunteers, of course, are "campesinas." Perhaps "obreras" would have been better, but it doesn't have a California ring. "Braceras"? Maybe. I even thought of "descamisados," for a political touch. But "descamisadas" wouldn't have done at all. Thank heaven I'm a feminist, not a feministo. Spanish gender problems could drive a non-sexist crazy. What do the rest of you think?

2. Actually, the sun sank about three hours later. But you wouldn't want to blunt my travelogue, would you?

— D.B.

## ETYMOLOGICAL NOTE:

The big yellow "H.S.S.C. Trekker" badge proved not only an open sesame for the various tours; it got the attention of the general public, too. The inscription aroused much curiosity. If someone asked you what it meant, how did you reply? Of course the initials were no problem for us, although a young man, who had just asked what they stood for, was overheard explaining them to his group with a distinct note of perplexity in his voice as he repeated the words "Historical Society." But what about "trekker?" One member speculated that it had a South African origin. Reference to *Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language* confirms that speculation. "Trekking" comes from the Dutch "trekken," which means "to draw." The reference here is to the drawing of a wagon by oxen, hence, to slow or laborious traveling. Given that definition, the Society may want to reconsider the use of "trekker" to apply to those who take our fascinating field trips. On the other hand, those who trudged up the hot and dusty road in Avalon Canyon to reach the Wrigley Memorial and Botanical Garden may feel that the word positively hits the nail on the head!

— Robert D. Wayne





Jim Seaman in (his) garden at El Alisal; "Jim Seaman Day," June 9, 1983.

— Ellen Conried Balch Photo

### ANOTHER GOOD MAN GONE

Jim Seaman is leaving us. After nearly twenty years of interest and down-to-earth hard work in the Lummis Home garden, Jim is retiring from his avocation as El Alisal "plantsman" — the title he prefers. He has moved to bachelor quarters in a Sun City, Arizona, condominium where, all indications are, he will continue to be about as "retired" as he has been in his too-few years with us.

Seaman is a transplanted Eastern hardy perennial. He was born, on June eleventh, 1898, in Oyster Bay, Long Island, N.Y. He remembers the town turnouts when

Teddy Roosevelt came home to Oyster Bay to cast his vote on Election Days. Later memories are of his days at Tilton School in New Hampshire, where Charles F. Lummis's father had served as superintendent, some few years before Seaman's matriculation.

After a year (1919) in a lumber camp in Quebec, Jim entered Columbia to study history. In 1925 he left college for other interests — he took a wife. They were together for the next forty years. In 1936 Mrs. Seaman persuaded Jim to leave the banking business in which he had been engaged in New York, and move to California. They never returned, and Jim has lived here as a widower for the last twenty years.

His work in banking continued to occupy him in California. But Jim had always been a plantsman, from his earliest days on Long Island. In 1940 he bought some land above Descanso and tried to raise exotic plants. The venture was not a success. But later that year he met Theodore Payne. Soon the two plantsmen became fast friends (they discovered early on that they were both Quakers.) Jim began to spend his Saturdays with Payne, raising native and exotic plants.

It is Jim's recollection that Payne began planting in the sadly neglected Lummis Home Garden in the early 1960's. After Payne's death Jim and Sandy Turner tried to interest the Department of Parks and Recreation in the project, without success. Finally, in 1979, Jim Seaman and Turner made a master plan and planted a garden which is substantially what it is today. The effort was purely voluntary, though not without friendly help. Jim recalls that Marion and Dutch Holland in particular were involved in the work. Soon Agnes (Betty) Southam, a graduate in Botany from UCLA, was active in the garden.

Jim plans to continue lecturing in Sun City and environs. He has delivered at least 450 lectures, from Berkeley to Chula Vista, on his favorite subject. He will join a historical society, a horticultural group, and music organizations as soon as he is oriented, pursuing lifelong interests. He will live alone, as he has for twenty years. But he does have an extra bedroom for old friends who may drop in. Do — if you think you can stand the pace.

#### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

#### MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

|                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| ACTIVE MEMBER .....       | \$25.00 |
| FAMILY MEMBER .....       | 35.00   |
| SUSTAINING MEMBER .....   | 50.00   |
| CONTRIBUTING MEMBER ..... | 100.00  |
| PATRON MEMBER .....       | 250.00  |
| LIFE MEMBER .....         | 1000.00 |
| STUDENT MEMBER .....      | 10.00   |

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 Number.....

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.



## HSSC CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AUCTION

Coming Soon  
El Alisal (The Lummis Home)  
Saturday, October 15, 1983

To those of you who have already sent things for our Centennial Celebration Auction: thank you. Your early response has helped greatly to get our annual sale off to an unflurried start.

We need — at least — two kinds of help from our members and friends. Last year's affair enlisted and gratefully used the services of ninety-two volunteers. There will be work to do: preparations of many kinds; getting items to the warehouse; wrestling, evaluating, tagging, and otherwise preparing items for sale; manning silent-auction and sale tables; dispensing libations; and being generally useful. Please call the Society office (213) 222-0546 if you have some time you can devote to the cause in the next few weeks and especially on October fifteenth, the day of the auction.

Our biggest need, of course, is for auction items. Some suggestions: books, periodicals, documents, pictures, memorabilia, ephemera in Los Angeles, Southern California, or Southwestern history — or nostalgia; antique furniture; runs of magazines like Master Key, California Journal, Westways; publications on artifacts, from street lights to manhole-covers to railroads; artifacts themselves (who wouldn't love to bid on an old Los Angeles man-hole cover, or streetcar?). But let not your thinking and imagining be confined to history. Theatre tickets make for lively bidding. As do restaurant meals; a weekend in the country; baseball, football, basketball tickets; Olympics event tickets; butler-for-a-day offers — or, it occurs me, gardener-for-a-day.



*Hugh Tolford (Right) introducing Speaker Rodman Paul at the Annual Meeting Dinner.*

Do delve into your attic and imagination — and those of your friends and neighbors. If you need help getting things to us, call. Or bring your donations to the Society office in the Lummis Home, 200 East Avenue 43, Los Angeles 90031. And I remind you, all contributions are tax-deductible, at your valuation.

The annual auction has become a major fund-raising event for our society. And this year's is not just our Annual Auction; it's our Centennial Celebration.

Join us,  
Hugh Tolford  
Chief Auctioneer

### NEW MEMBERS

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

#### LIFE

Mrs. Harry J. Van de Kamp

#### CENTENNIAL PATRONS

Chevron U.S.A., Inc.  
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Phillip F. Bagenski  
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|   | Donald Balch                       |

### BICENTENNIAL OF CALIFORNIA'S FIRST RANCHO

To mark the Bicentennial of Rancho San Pedro, the first Spanish land grant in California, two outstanding events are planned. Each is an historical musical Pageant with an original script and music by the Roger Wagner Chorale from the Los Angeles Music Center.

On Friday evening September 30, 1983, there will be a gala fiesta dinner at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills. The Pageant which follows the dinner is entitled "The Romance of the Rancho — Viva España!" and features Ricardo Montalban as narrator.

On Sunday afternoon October 2, at 3:00 p.m., the Pageant, "The Romance of the Rancho — Viva Mexico," will take place at the Dominguez Adobe home on the homestead acres of the Rancho. The narrator will be Lorne Greene. Various arts and crafts and antique carriages will be on display. Tours through the Adobe Museum will start at 1:00 p.m. and continue after the presentation of the Pageant.

The Dominguez Rancho Adobe is located just South of Freeway 91 at 18127 South Alameda Street between the cities of Compton and Carson, California. For further information on admission charges and tickets, phone (213) 636-6030 or (213) 789-2307. Ask for Father Pat (Rev. Patrick J. McPolin, C.M.F.).

### RARE VOLUMES BADLY NEEDED

The Society would very much like to acquire copies of these rare issues of its Annual and Quarterly publications:

*Annals* — 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1906, 1917, 1928, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934.

*Quarterlies* — March, June, September, December 1935; March, June, September/December 1936; March, June 1937; June/September 1939; March, June, September, December 1940; March, June, September/December 1941; March, June/September 1944; December 1945; June, September 1946; March, September/December 1947; March, June, September 1948; March/June 1949; March, December 1950; and March 1959.

### GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY

The Historical Society of Southern California accepts with pleasure for inclusion in its permanent collections and for help in continuing its work:

- \* Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Barry, Jr.  
World War I Navy uniforms of Arthur A. Barry and commemorative silk scarfs
- \* Louise O'Flaherty  
"Those Powerful Years, the South Coast and Los Angeles, 1887-1917," by Joseph S. O'Flaherty
- \* Susan E. Barrett  
Two books of poems
- \* Mrs. John W. (Ricki) de Kramer  
Dudley Gordon, "The Birch Bark Poems of Charles F. Lummis," signed
- \* Mr. Robert C. Lesser  
Run of the American West, I, I (Winter), '64, through XIX, 2, (Spring) '82
- \* Wayne V. Masterson  
Photographs, biography of Thomas Vandal Masterson
- \* Barbara E. Paul  
Twenty-one photos of Mt. Washington and Pershing Square
- \* William W. Escherich  
Twenty-one photos of Mariposa Club 1880s — 1900s
- \* Jim Seaman  
Seventeen books on native plants
- \* First Century Families  
Money
- \* Mrs. Chester W. Ott  
Memorabilia — Manual Arts and environs
- \* Mr. Nicholas J. Kockler for Automobile Club of Southern California  
Portion of ACSC's library
- \* Tom La Belle  
Photos of Southern California, early 1900s
- \* Tina Hinderscheid  
Post card album, early Los Angeles, 1900s

We are deeply grateful to these generous donors.

### H.S.S.C. BOOKS IN PROGRESS

The Historical Society of Southern California is proud to announce gratifying progress toward the publication of two Centennial commemorating volumes. *A Southern California Anthology* is being typeset and hopes are high that it will be ready for distribution in our Centennial month, November of this year. The Anthology is a collection of the best articles that have been published in the one hundred years of the Society's *Annals* and *Quarterlies*. It is thus the crown — to date — of our Society's continuous dedication to scholarly research and publication, as well as the fulfillment of its original commitment to "the collection and preservation of all material which can have any bearing upon the history of the Pacific Coast in general and of Southern California in particular" (from the Constitution and Standing Rules, 1884). The book will be an example of Ward Ritchie's artistry in design and, incidentally, the result of more than a year-long stint of hard work by the Centennial Publication Committee, Jackie Wilson, President Harry Kelsey, Everett and Anna Marie Hager, Abraham Hoffman, and the volume's editor, Doyce B. Nunis, Jr., of whom you have read, elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Look for *A Southern California Anthology*, around November fourth, and a second Society volume, of which more anon.



## NEW OLD LUMMIS WINDOWS INSTALLED

The Society's Annual Reception on September eleventh will be the occasion for unveiling the newly restored Lummis windows in El Alisal's *Museo*. Charles Lummis, when he built the house, enlivened the windows overlooking the garden by glazing them with photographic plates that he had made in his trips through North, Central, and South America in the nineties and early 1900's.

Information International, Inc., a Culver City company with expertise in photo handling techniques, has donated the complete restoration of the famous photo windows. Since their installation at the turn of the century, the photographs had gradually faded and some of them had been replaced with window glass. Each of the photographs taken by Lummis has been painstakingly re-created from the original negatives and exposed on new glass with added protective materials. The photo windows now appear just as they did many years ago, a unique depiction of life in another era, exactly as chronicled by Charles F. Lummis. The work has now been preserved for many generations to come.

The windows are being installed with the kind cooperation of Walter Judson. The City of Los Angeles has helped with the necessary reframing. Walter Judson operates the old Judson Studios at 200 South Avenue 66, Los Angeles, just up the road from El Alisal, in a neighborhood that was bursting with artistic activity in the early years of this century. It is fitting that this workshop, contemporary of Charles Lummis and El

Alisal, should be involved in the restoration of the historic windows.

The Judson Studios, a beautiful, historic working glass manufactory, is open for tours by appointment. Call (213) 255-0131.

## THE GARDEN—A CHASTE NOTE

The Lummis Garden as this is being written, in mid-August is for the most part dormant. A few emerging blossoms on the cacti — and a couple of yuccae. The Mexican Palo Verde sports a pale yellow halo. Many California poppies persist. And that's it for spectacle. Which leaves a fine opportunity to tell you about the Chaste Tree, standing at the Southwest corner of the Lummis Guest House (if a New England sense of direction is to be trusted).

The Chaste Tree's full name is *Vitex agnus-castus*, "chaste lamb vine." "Chaste lamb" brings to mind Saint Agnes, the Lord's Lamb. Now, Jacobus de Voragine, in *The Golden Legend* (thirteenth century), tells us that Saint Agnes's persecutors determined to drive her through the streets, naked, to a bawdy house. "But God made her hair to grow in such abundance that it covered her better than any garment." So the long lavender-blue tassels of the Chaste Tree must represent Saint Agnes's miraculous crown of chastening hair. What a lovely story. Alas, there's not a word of truth in it. The Chaste Tree was named by mistake. The Greek name of the plant was mistranslated from Latin into English. The whole sorry story may be pieced out from a close reading of the Oxford English Dictionary's entries for "Chaste Tree" and "Agnus Castus." The original name had nothing to do with lamb or chaste. But this note cannot end on such a bitter truth. The earliest use of the name in English that the O.E.D. could find was a 1398 observation: "The herbe Agnus castus is always grene, and the flowre thereof is namly callyd Agnus castus, for wyth smelle and vse it makyth men chaste as a lombe." We'll go with that.

The Chaste Tree in our garden has just dropped its long lavender blossoms. Put the Palo Verde has a halo and the poppies persist.

Dear, dear friends,

I am at loss for words to describe my feelings toward all of you for the love and concern you showed me while I was ill. I feel privileged to have so many wonderful friends. Thank you for showing you care.

Peg Cassidy



Fiftieth Anniversary Dinner, Biltmore Hotel, November 21, 1935. Where were you?



## CALENDAR

### September 11 4 — 6 P.M.

Al Alisal Reception and introduction to new Officers and Directors. Unveiling of Lummis Windows.

### September 24 8 A.M. — Dusk

Lummis Garden Nurture Day. Down, dirty, and delightful. Wear tough clothes. Bring lunch. Libations will be poured.

### September 25 4:00 P.M.

Centennial Lecture. Southwest Museum. Ward Ritchie on "The Legacy of John Gutenberg."

### October 1 — 9

History and Fall Foliage New England Tour. Arranged in conjunction with the Los Angeles Community Colleges through Marcia Erickson. For Details: Los Angeles Community Colleges Community Services Educational Travel Program, 617 West 7th Street, Los Angeles 90017, (213) 628-7788 Ext. 2652. (Identify yourself as an H.S.S.C. Member.)

### October 15 1:00 P.M.

Centennial Celebration Auction. Lummis Home. (See Page Five.)

### October 22 All Day

Picnic and tour of restored Newhall Mansion, Piru, California. Details forthcoming.

### October 30 4:00 P.M.

Centennial Lecture. Southwest Museum. Leonard Pitt, "Government by the People? California's Initiative in Historical Perspective."

### November 4

H.S.S.C. Centennial Banquet at the Biltmore. A very special evening with Franklin P. Murphy introducing our Speaker of the Evening, Lawrence Clark Powell. Dr. Powell's Diamond Anniversary Address to the Society, "The Sense of the Past," delivered in November, 1958, is printed in the Society's Centennial volume, *A Southern California Anthology*. (And see the Fiftieth Anniversary Dinner picture, taken at the Biltmore in November, 1935, Page Seven.)

### November 10 — 13

"The California Mission Experience: San Antonio de Padua." Eat, sleep, and work in this beautiful, remote mission near Paso Robles. Historian David Weber and the Franciscan mission staff will create an experience of early mission lifestyle. A truly unusual opportunity planned by Marcia Erickson.

### November 20

Centennial Lecture. Southwest Museum. "Southern California: An Island in the Land," John Haskell Kemble.

## RARE VOLUMES FOR SALE

The Society has just found some extra copies of Volume II, Part 1, *Documents from the Sutro Collection*, published by the Historical Society in 1891. We are pleased to offer these to our members and friends. Price \$15 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling.

## A FINAL NOTE

We have been fooling around with the Newsletter again, you will have noticed. The new format is a good deal less expensive than our former shape. On the recommendation of Society Secretary Michael Dougherty, we have entrusted the printing to Glendale Rotary Offset Printing Company. We are pleased with the result and the saving. Are you?

It is our plan to publish a bi-monthly Newsletter perhaps in a four-page tabloid form on less expensive stock. In these hard times, we have noticed, many societies like ours have taken this austere route, without notable loss in the quality of their publications. We would prefer not to make such a heavy decision in a vacuum. What are your wishes and predilections? Would you like a more frequent Newsletter, at the sacrifice of some superficial niceties? Paradoxically, a more frequent Newsletter would mean a more regular schedule also. It's easier to put together a bi-monthly publication than it is to try to put three months (and often more) of news and observations into one package, usually delivered late. We would like to hear from you Members on this important matter, and any others that might be occupying your thoughts. It's your Newsletter — and your money. Please write; a bi-monthly paper will have room for some Letters to the Editor.

\* \* \* \* \*

Betty Marsh contributed most of the news of recent Society affairs to this Letter. Jackie Wilson has put (almost) as much into it as the Editor has. Egregious nonsense and outright mistakes, if any, are attributable solely to the Editor.

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