



SAN CARLOS

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA *NEWSLETTER*

WINTER 1980-81

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

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

As fall and winter head towards spring, the Historical Society of Southern California continues to offer a variety of interesting programs in different settings, along with service to the community in renovating the Lummis Home and in outreach programs such as the Pilot History Project described elsewhere in this issue.

October's big event was a program jointly sponsored by the Historical Society of Southern California and the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. The opening of the Maximilian N. Lando Gallery, the California History Hall, attracted hundreds of people for a fascinating preview show of the exhibit. Many old and familiar items, such as the famous diorama scenes, which date from the early 1930s, have been placed in new cases and surroundings. The historical collection, probably the best of its type anywhere, offers maps, books, photographs, costumes, models, vehicles, paintings, and other materials that cover almost 400 years of California history.

The Museum of Natural History and the Historical Society of Southern California have long enjoyed a special relationship. The HSSC was one of the founding institutions of the museum, and shortly after the museum opened on November 6, 1913, the Society donated a large collection of California historical materials for exhibiting and research use. On hand to greet guests were Society President Douglas Richardson and Vice President William Escherich, along with Executive Director Jackie Wilson and many helpful volunteers.

In November, Dr. Richard Lillard, professor emeritus at California State University, Los Angeles, addressed a capacity audience at the DWP building on the uniqueness of Los Angeles history. His description, as much autobiography as historical, delighted the audience and brought a sense of nostalgia for the Southern California that was.

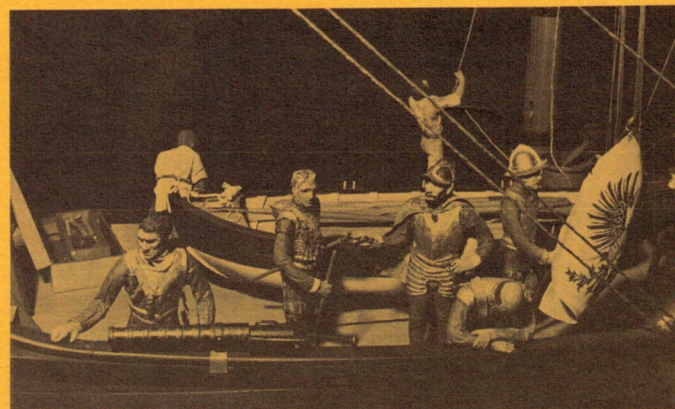
December offered the traditional HSSC Christmas reception at El Alisal, the Lummis Home. Those attending the reception could see the improvements under way in and around the Lummis Home, some of

which are described here and there in this issue.

Dr. Robert Winter addressed the January meeting which was held at Occidental College. Dr. Winter, a noted architectural historian, is professor of the history of ideas at Occidental College, and his topic, "Los Angeles, the Magnificent," provided another bicentennial perspective on the city's history. The meeting also featured watercolor paintings by Dorothy Rice on "Colorful Los Angeles."

February's meeting place gave HSSC members an opportunity to see at first hand the creation of one of the Bicentennial celebration's most exciting projects. The Merced Theater in El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park is headquarters for Spectrum, a photomural exhibit containing more than 200 rare and historic photographs illustrating the history of Los Angeles, taking in a wide range of social, political, and economic events. The meeting served as a preview for the exhibit, which opened to the public a week later.

With spring weather fast approaching, we can look forward to more exciting programs of interest to all who share the excitement that can be found in appreciating the often unusual and rarely dull history of Southern California.



No, they aren't going whale-watching, and the fellow leaning over the side may or may not be seasick. This view of a hardy crew is a closeup of the ten-foot, built-to-scale model of Cabrillo's ship "San Salvador" which is one of the many exhibits at the new California History Hall at the Natural History Museum in Exposition Park.

FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

Our Society has enjoyed a long and eventful past, and now we are looking to our future as an important cultural and educational resource for Southern California.

To improve our programs and outreach to the community, we are expanding our base of financial support with particular emphasis on corporate and foundation groups. I am pleased to report that all Board members have made contributions over and above their regular dues.

Special congratulations for "Extra Giving" are also extended to the following members, in the order in which they were received:

Otis H. Wade

Vivian E. and Siegfried G. Demke

John and Jane Martin

Roberta Johnson

Barbara E. Paul

Lucille O. Potter

Dorothy G. Farr

Christopher J. Cox

B. W. McGarry

George M. Sturtevant

Warren C. Sherman

Joan Hotchkis

Earl C. Adams

James H. and Eleanore E. Cremin

Dr. Vilma Proctor

Roberta D. Stewart

Dorothy V. and R. C. Gillingham

Robert J. Stahl

Preston Davis

Dr. Gloria R. Lothrop

Mrs. George E. Fullerton

Douglas R. Black

Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Stewart, Jr.

Morgan Sinclair

and the Security Pacific Charitable Foundation, which has contributed \$1,000.

The members of the Board of Directors and staff join me in thanking you for your continued interest in the activities of the Society and look forward to a year of exciting programs and activities.

Douglas F. Richardson
President

NEWSWORTHY NOTES . . .

Judson Grenier has written a two-part article, "They All Helped to Make Los Angeles" for the October 7 and 14, 1980, issues of *Student Outlook*, published by the Educational Services Department of the *Los Angeles Times* and distributed to teachers without charge for use in secondary social studies classes throughout California. His article profiles such notable figures as Tiburcio Vasquez, Charles F. Lummis, William Mulholland, and Aimee Semple McPherson.

Maurice "Bob" Hattem is the author of "Los Angeles Welcomes the Xth Olympiad" for *Olympic World*, a new magazine devoted to the history and future of the Olympic Games.

Walt Wheelock participated in the Congress of History of San Diego County's "Shaping the Local Historical Society: The Roots of Development," on November 15, 1980, speaking on preparing a manuscript and how to find a publisher.

Henry F. Lippitt II's letter to the editor on problems of trash disposal and suitable landfills was published in the *Los Angeles Times* of January 12, 1981. He is serving as chairman of the Solid Waste Subcommittee of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.

William Escherich wears a large number of hats. One of them is vice president of Los Angeles Beautiful, and in that capacity he was one of the organization's members who received a City Council Resolution commending Los Angeles Beautiful for "having so significantly enhanced the lives of all those who work and reside within the City of Los Angeles."

The Lummis Home has been turning up recently as an object of art and photographic interest. Artist Gaston Lokvig featured the HSSC headquarters in a "Cityscape" drawing in the *Los Angeles Times* on November 23, 1980. The November 1980 issue of *The Lens* featured a photo by Jud Grenier, along with a profile of Lummis and a description of the Home and the work of the HSSC. And the September 1980 issue of the Society of Architectural Historians Southern California Chapter *Newsletter* gave the Home a front-page spot, in a photo by Jack E. Boucher.

Harold Grieve, long-time HSSC member and an active member of the Art Committee, was honored February 4 by the Bob Hope USO Club for his efforts in renovating and decorating the facility. Jackie Wilson and Peg Cassidy attended the celebration.

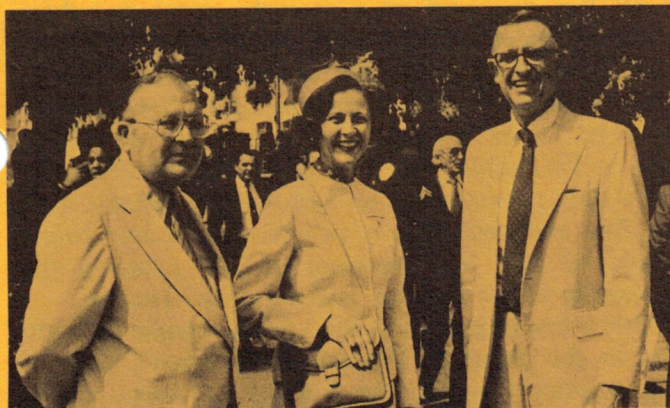
Mrs. John E. Kuhlman donated a quantity of historical material to the Society, including some rare items—35 *Annals* published by the Society from 1891 to 1934, and 67 *Quarterlies* ranging from 1935 to 1954. Also included were publications from the Title Insurance Company, scrapbooks, and miscellaneous papers.

J. P. Newmark has contributed \$50 to help with the restoration of the window paintings in the Lummis Home.



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*!





The large turnout of visitors to El Pueblo State Historic Park to help celebrate the start of Los Angeles' bicentennial year included many HSSC members, among them *Quarterly* editor Dr. Doyce B. Nunis, Jr., Dr. Gloria Lothrop, and Vice President Bill Escherich.

REACHING OUT WITH OUTREACH

Dr. Gloria Lothrop, who is Executive Vice Chair of the Los Angeles 200 Education Committee, asks that any HSSC members who would like to speak before school groups on local history to contact her at (714) 598-4601 or (213) 254-7962, to be placed on the Los Angeles 200 Education Committee Volunteer Speakers Bureau list. Speakers will meet students at schools in Los Angeles to highlight the historical significance of the Bicentennial.

ART NEWS

The Art Committee announces a new contribution to the Society collection of Southern California art. Twenty large drawings done in pencil, conte crayon, ink, and wash, depict prominent Los Angeles and Southern California landmarks of the early 1930s. The artist, Carl W. Heilborn, died in 1954 in Los Angeles. He was a noted painter and set designer. His widow, Mrs. Blanche Heilborn, now living in Santa Cruz, California, was the donor of the collection.

DUNCAN GLEASON EXHIBITION AT NEW MUSEUM

The paintings of Duncan Gleason are on exhibition until the end of March at the new Marine Museum of Los Angeles, located in San Pedro at the foot of Sixth Street. This museum is a well thought out project, transformed from the old Ferry Building that used to be the embarkation station for cars and passengers on their way to Terminal Island. The interesting lines and historical points of the building have been well preserved, with a view of the channel waters, a well-carpeted ramp, and division walls modified to a well-shaped area for the storing of memorabilia of San Pedro Harbor and the surrounding waters of the outer coast.

This is a fitting place to show the Gleason marine pictures, as he made a profound study of the historical ships of California. He published five books

on the subject, and three of them are now collector's items. Dorothy Gleason, widow of the artist, was so interested in the project that she donated a 6x15 foot mural (oil on canvas) with the heavy cruiser "Los Angeles" in the foreground of San Pedro Harbor. This will be framed in the teakwood from the deck of the now dismantled cruiser.

Take time to visit the museum. You will be interested in their ship models, marine paintings, and etchings, and some beautiful brass navigational instruments.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Life:

Roger Bixby Smith
Dr. Carey Stanton

Sustaining:

Anthony Shay's International Dance Theatre
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Small
Jack Smith

Active:

Marilyn Albertson
Donald Balch
Ursula H. Baltes
R. Priscilla Beattie
Mary Doris Beaumont
Jeanne C. Bennett
Linda J. Blackwell
Mrs. William J. Bogaard
Christopher J. Cox
Mrs. Brian Dockweiler Crahan
Mrs. Terri Davis
Margaret L. Fay
Henrik S. Frolich
Rex Heeseman
Marjorie Hoffar
Virginia Jordan
Anne S. and Edwin S. Keeler
Melissa W. King
Robert L. Kraus
Dorothy Kuhn
Scott S. Mabery
Bill Mason
Virginia Mollner
Patricia O'Brien
Margo O'Connell
Richard J. Orsi
Dr. Richard H. Peterson
Corazon T. Platon
Laura M. Ramirez
Ebba Rosenblad
Hynda Rudd
Mr. and Mrs. Forrest N. Scott
Mary Dockweiler Sooy
Robert B. and Janice M. Taaffe
Hans and Patricia Thormann
John G. and Marie B. Thorpe
Catherine Titus
David D. Watts
Workman-Temple Historic Landmarks
Student:
Stanley R. Yon

A HEADQUARTERS FOR HISTORY

The National Trust for Historic Preservation held a meeting last fall at the Lummis Home for area preservation groups. "The atmosphere and history of the house provided the perfect setting for bringing together groups and individuals concerned with preserving our architectural and cultural heritage," reported Diane J. Welter, NTHP field representative.

The Lummis Home has also attracted attention from community newspapers. The *Lincoln Heights Bulletin-News*, the *Highland Park News-Herald and Journal*, and the *Highland Park Journal* have all featured stories and photographs of the participation by Alternative School 7 in bringing history to life. Students have helped in refurbishing the Lummis garden, recreated recipes from the 1903 Landmarks Club Cook Book, and put on a historical puppet show.

All this was part of a recently concluded Pilot History Project which consisted of three five-week sessions, meeting on Friday afternoons. On January 30, the school held a History Day for primary students. Other features of the program were field trips to El Pueblo Park and the Children's Museum, and a slide presentation on Los Angeles history. This is a fine and positive way of encouraging our young people to gain an awareness of and pride in the heritage to which they are making a contribution.

Other meetings held at the Lummis Home recently include the Stanford Professional Women's Club of Los Angeles County, the Society of Architectural Historians, the Highland Park Chamber of Commerce, and the Lawyers' Wives of Los Angeles. The Lawyers' Wives group put a bit of the "Twilight Zone" back into the Lummis Home. The *Los Angeles Times*, in reporting the event, said the gathering was held "at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lummis." And you thought that sound was the wind in the trees!

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

STUDENT MEMBER	\$ 10.00
ACTIVE MEMBER	\$ 20.00
FAMILY MEMBER	\$ 30.00
SUSTAINING MEMBER ...	\$ 50.00
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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