



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA *NEWSLETTER*

WINTER 1982-1983

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

CHARLES F. LUMMIS PHOTOGRAPHS — A CENTENNIAL EXHIBIT

The Museo and other rooms of El Alisal, the Lummis Home, will be occupied from January for an indefinite period by an exhibit of historical photographs uniquely related to their setting. The pictures are prints taken from glassplate negatives made by Charles Fletcher Lummis himself from 1895 through 1910, the period during which El Alisal was being built. Together, they make a fascinating pictorial record of the house and its developing neighborhood at the turn of the century.

Lummis had chosen the Arroyo Seco site deliberately and, because he was as much interested in the area as in the building itself, his photographs are doubly attractive to a present-day observer. The exhibit offers an opportunity to view particular Los Angeles scenes as they appeared eighty years ago and then to step outside and compare the same scenes as they look today, an experience

in nostalgia that is not wholly ungratifying. (Some things have *not* changed for the worse.)

The exhibit, prepared jointly by this Society, the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, and the Southwest Museum, is designed to be both flexible and portable. A total of some forty pictures will be rotated in the home exhibit and plans are for selected items to be made available for loan to interested community groups, schools, and institutions for satellite exhibits. (What would Lummis have made of that phrase?)

Charles Lummis, editor, librarian, publisher, indefatigable booster, carpenter and mason, was also a pretty fair photographer. Come by and see his work. The exhibit will be open, at the Lummis Home, 200 East Avenue 43, Wednesday through Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. until further notice.



Charles F. Lummis at work in the "Zaguan" (vestibule), El Alisal, about 1902. Note green corduroy jacket hanging on the chair.

- Lummis Self-Portrait

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the last issue I asked for ideas from members regarding the future of the Society. Most of the responses seem to indicate a real interest in finding a suitable building where we can operate with all the programs traditionally associated with historical institutions.

One intriguing suggestion involves the establishment of a service center and clearing house to provide information about historical sites, about meetings of local history organizations, and about problems encountered in the preservation and operation of historic buildings, museums, and collections of historical materials. Such a center could provide offices, meeting rooms, display and storage spaces, and telephone and meeting facilities for all sorts of organizations involved in the movement to preserve and interpret our history. The Society would also present regular historical tours, seminars, workshops, and conferences for individuals and organizations actively involved in the preservation and interpretation of Southern California history.

Another suggestion would involve the establishment of a historical reference library to provide research and reference facilities for students, laymen, and professional historians interested in the historical development of Southern California. Although there are many good historical collections in this region, there is no single place that has material of this broad scope freely available for public use.

Moreover, members seem to think the Society should operate its own public historical museum, displaying its own rich collections as well as those collections held by the many local historical societies in the region.

Our Society already has an enviable record in the field of California history. We have been publishing and otherwise encouraging the study of California and western history for a century, longer than any other historical society in the West. Our Society played leading roles in the movements to build and staff the great structures that now house the Los Angeles Public Library and the County Museum of Natural History. Now it seems that in our second century the members want us to build and operate a major public institution under our own name.

Harry Kelsey



President, among Peers: Harry Kelsey, President, H.S.S.C.; William W. Escherich, Past President, H.S.S.C., and Sheriff of the Westerners, Los Angeles Corral; and Robert J. Banning, President, California Historical Society, at a recent Westerners meeting.

- Frank Q. Newton, Jr. photo

CHARLES HENRY DANA VISITS

On Sunday, September 16, members of the Society gathered in the patio of El Alisal to meet our newly elected 1982-83 officers and board members. It was also an occasion to meet Richard Henry Dana, introduced to us a remarkable one-man tour de force by actor Daniel Trent. Trent presented himself as a mature Richard Henry Dana, flashed back to the young apprentice seaman of *Two Years Before the Mast*, dramatically recreated scenes from the book, then grew back into the elder Dana, who deftly answered questions from the audience. Then, in his own persona, Trent fielded more questions.

The performance was another in the presentations offered by the American Living History Theatre. (Remember Bob Boyd's "Teddy Roosevelt" at the September, 1981, reception?) The American Living History Theatre is an association of professional actors, directors, writers, and educators who recreate actual moments in United States history in live dramatic performances. They work in locations of all sizes and types—Daniel Trent, as an example, in the Lummis Home patio, hanging over the Pasadena Freeway. (Richard Henry Dana, answering a question from the audience, commented wryly on the intrusive music of the Arroyo Seco.) The A.L.H.T. actors have given more than a thousand performances to schools, conventions, clubs, charities, and societies like ours. Their address is P.O. Box 2677, Hollywood 90028; (213) 876-2202. Those of us who were entertained and informed by the performances of Daniel Trent and Bob Boyd do not hesitate to recommend their offerings.

ITALIAN EVENING

On October twentieth Society members enjoyed an evening of Italiana, with dinner at the San Antonio Winery and a slide lecture on Our Ethnic Heritage: The Italians of Los Angeles, by Dr. Gloria Ricci Lothrop, herself a descendant of Italian settlers.

A tour of the winery provided a real glimpse into the world of wine making. Founded in 1917 by Santo Cambianica, the San Antonio Winery is the oldest producing winery within the city of Los Angeles and is operated now by nephew Steve Riboli and family.

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Daniel Trent as Richard Henry Dana, El Alisal Patio, September 16, 1982.

- Ellen Conried Balch photo

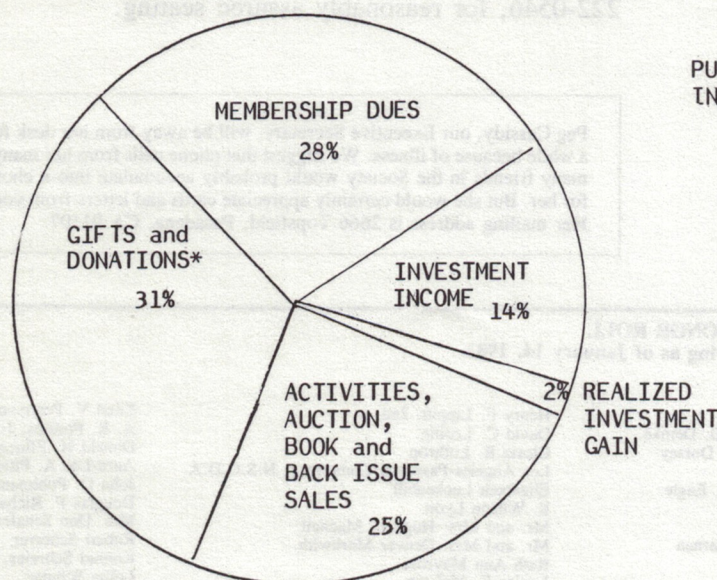
TWO IMPORTANT PIES

The Society's Annual Report is prepared at the end of the fiscal year, June 30th. Copies of the report for 1981-82 are available to interested members from the Society of office. We intend to publish the essence of the 1982-83 report in our September, 1983 issue of the *Newsletter*. But we think it appropriate, at this resolution-making time of the

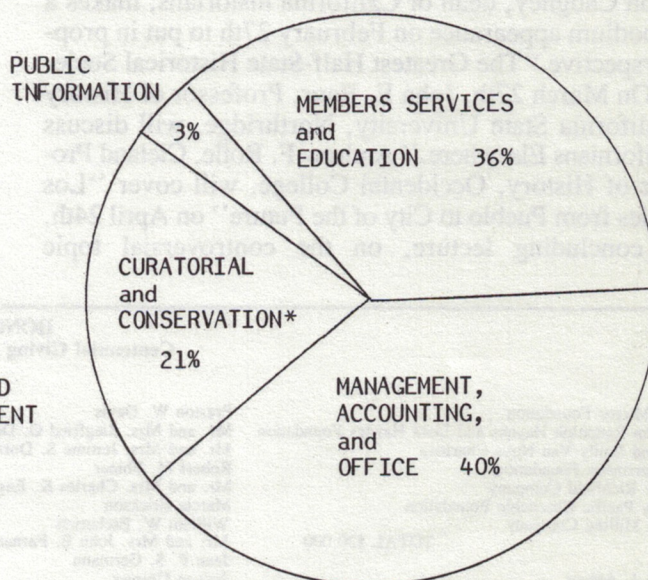
year, to let our members know something of the Society's financial affairs. Here then is a two-pie explanation of how the money—your money—was gathered and how it was spent in fiscal 1981-82. We hope it instructs, entertains, and stimulates you in, roughly, that order.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

1981-82 INCOME - \$87,445



1981-82 EXPENSES - \$73,207



*Includes value of contributed time spent on photo archives valued at \$11,478

WHERE IT COMES FROM: (The following figures do not all refer, of course, to the 1981-82 fiscal pies above. The Society's fiscal year ends on June 30.)

The Society's monthly Activities, with the exception of the Annual Auction, are not intended to be fund-raising affairs. Sometimes an event for which members are asked for donations is financially profitable. Italian Night at the San Antonio Winery, for instance, netted \$435.34. The "Go-for Broke" reception brought in \$21.25 over expenses. The affairs for which members are not asked for contributions do not, of course, produce revenue. The Richard Henry Dana afternoon was a \$354.34 net expense. The Christmas party cost \$71.30. The October and November San Gabriel hikes were enjoyed at an expense of \$116.73. Much of the cost of these affairs is for printing and mailing announcements, an expense that is easily overlooked or undervalued by those of us who wonder where all the money goes.

Sales of Society publications and of back issues of the Southern California Quarterly brought in nearly two thousand dollars last year, and the auction netted five thousand dollars. The year-end special appeal for funds for our Centennial Commemorative Publications has brought in \$5,811 in a little over a month since it went out to our membership. Bless your hearts!

In 1981-82 we got 14% on our invested money. Good management does it.

Much of the Society's work "is made possible by a grant

from . . ." corporations and foundations whose leaders share our interest. We could not operate without such gifts and donations and we are grateful for them. Notice that their slice of the 1981-82 pie is about equal to the revenues from general membership dues—for which, Heaven knows, we are equally grateful. An honor roll of Special Centennial Commemorative Giving as of January 18, 1983, will be found on Page 6 of this *Newsletter*.

WHERE IT GOES:

"Management, Accounting, and Office" covers what we pay for Jackie, Peg, year-end financial statements, paper, pens, postage, and paper clips. It is money very well spent.

In return for housing, the Society is charged with "Interpreting the Lummis Home" to visitors. This pleasant chore involves expense for printing brochures, labels and some plants for the garden, paper towels, etc., etc. "Curatorial and Conservation" expense also includes supplies and shelving to catalogue, store, and preserve the Society's photographic collection.

What "Curatorial and Conservation Expenses" does not cover is hours and hours of volunteer work by dedicated docents, photo curators, and people like Bob Scherrer, who drops in several times a week to take care of matters from informed research to informal plumbing. Believe us, friends, you could not do without him.

(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 2)

Grapes for the wines are bought and crushed at vineyards in Northern California, and the juice is shipped to Los Angeles for fermenting and aging. Huge oak and stainless steel casks line the walls of the fermenting and aging rooms, and the smell of the grape is much in evidence. The aged wine then is bottled at the plant and shipped out.

Steve Riboli's children also are involved in the wine making process. Steve Junior is a graduate oenologist from the University of California at Davis, a third generation descendant carrying on the fine wine-making tradition of the family.

The original winery buildings now house the restaurant where members partook of a scrumptious Italian repast, washed down, of course, with much wine.

Absolutely satiated, we listened to Dr. Lothrop as she detailed the Los Angeles Italian story and the many contributions the members of that ethnic group and others have made to the development of the City. The City continues to reflect its multi-faceted cultural heritage, and on this evening we were grateful to Professor Lothrop for sharing some of it with us.

- Betty Marsh

"GO FOR BROKE!" NIGHT

The Historical Society gathered for its second 1982-83 celebration of Southern California's ethnic history at the County Museum on November tenth for a reception and private tour of the Museum's "Go For Broke" Exhibit. "Go For Broke" is a battle cry symbolizing the exploits of Japanese-American soldiers who made up the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and who served in the Military Intelligence Service and other units during World War II. The doubly heroic service of these little known and still unappreciated Americans is documented in the exhibit by photographs, dioramas, maps, artifacts, and other wartime memorabilia. The exhibit, organized by the United States Army, was first shown at the Presidio in San Francisco. Eric Saul, Curator of the Presidio Museum, and the coordinators of the exhibit presented a fine dramatic program on these very special wartime experiences. In honor of the occasion, Japanese tea and refreshments were served to Society members.

The "Go For Broke" Exhibit will be on display at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History through July. By all means, go, with the family, and absorb some of the history of these neighbors of yours.

LANELCH (The Los Angeles Network for Education in Local and California History) sponsored a bang-up conference on LCH (you work that one out) at CSULA (getting tired?) in October. Of the twenty-two fine workshops which were the meat of the conference, eleven were conducted by members of HSSC (that one should give you no trouble). To a veteran of many, many educational conferences, some more so than others, the affair was a good cut above the norm for such events. The opening and closing sessions were meaningful, as well as entertaining, and the workshops, if the ones we attended were representative,

were outstanding.

LANELCH members are teachers, historians, representatives of historical societies and interested citizens. Besides sponsoring the October conference which it is hoped, will become an annual event, the group publishes NETWORK four times a year. The publication carries general articles on local and California history, news from historical societies, a calendar of events, and articles of special interest to teachers.

If you would like a copy of NETWORK, if you would like to know more about LANELCH, if you would like to help in planning the next annual conference (yep—the old cry—Volunteers are needed), call the HSSC office, (213) 222-0546.

THE GARDEN IN WINTER

A nice thing about a Southern California garden is that it has no off-season. El Alisal's Garden is presently (in mid-January) in winter flower. Christmas reds predominate. The toyon is in full berry. The modest little Mexican poinsettias are much more appealing than their strident American cousins, though they run no risk of being potted and paraded in indoor Christmas arrangements. The Western Redbud in the "Alisal" patio is now bare of bloom and leaf. It is, as a matter of fact, in one of its attractive phases, with its spidery branch pattern clearly outlined against the wall. In another month it will burst into profuse magenta bloom. (As we remember from last year, "magenta" is the right word. Come by and see.)

The California poppies will be out soon, as will the ceanothus and sages, in many subtle shades. Ceanothus, sages, and buckwheats are fine examples of chaparral, exactly the kind of planting you *don't* want in your backyard or on your hillside. Take an opportunity to enjoy them as they grow, carefully distributed, in the Lummis Home Garden.

CALENDAR

HISTORY OF THE JEWS, YUGOSLAVS, HARBOR AREA IN UPCOMING MEETINGS

The HSSC will offer two opportunities in February and March for members to visit quite different parts of Los Angeles County to hear programs on the area's ethnic heritage.

On Wednesday, February 16, the Southern California Jewish Historical Society will host a dessert reception at 7:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Building on Wilshire, followed by a program presented by Dr. Norton Stern and Dr. William Kramer, editors of the Western States Jewish Historical Quarterly. Their slides and comments will include the period when the HSSC was founded (1883).

On Saturday, March 19, members will meet for a Yugoslav luncheon at the well-known San Pedro restaurant, "Ante's." Anna Marie and Everett Hager will offer welcoming remarks, and Joseph J. Zaninovich, member of the Board of Harbor Commissioners, will depict the life of Yugoslavs in the harbor area. Following lunch, members will tour the Maritime Museum in the old ferry building.

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OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Vice President Dr. Judson A. Grenier
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Michael Dougherty Joan W. Salz
Mrs. Vincent N. (Marcia) Erickson Hugh C. Tolford
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Mrs. Scott (Ruth) Newhall William J. Warren
Mrs. Joseph S. (Louise) O'Flaherty Raymond Ziegler, FAIA

Executive Director Jacquelyn F. Wilson
Executive Secretary Margaret J. Cassidy

Editor of Southern California Quarterly Dr. Doyce B. Nunis, Jr.
Editor of Newsletter Donald Balch

APOLOGIES TO COLONEL GRIFFIN

In the September issue of the *Newsletter*, we charged Colonel George Butler Griffin with translating his own motto for our society, *Carpere et Colligere*, as "Together and To Build Together." We remarked, hastily and irreverently, that the Colonel's English "just doesn't make sense." It was not the Colonel's mistake. It was not wholly ours, either, as a re-reading of our September *Newsletter* article will make fairly clear. *Someone*, back in 1958, led us astray. But we have no great wish to apportion shares of blame at this late date. We state now, having carefully perused the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of July 20, 1891, that Colonel Griffin's words were, "To gather and to build together," a pretty fair rendering of *Carpere et Colligere*. (And, we may add, written in a pretty fair and perfectly legible hand in the 1891 Board Minutes.) The "very curious error, made many years ago," pointed out by Gustave Arlt in September, 1958, was made by person or persons unknown long after Colonel Griffin had gone to his reward. May he—and later Society commentators—and we now rest in peace.

(continued from page 3)

"Public Information" is a title which may puzzle you. The founders of our group chose to call it the "Historical Society of Southern California." One serendipitous result of that particular designation is that we are listed in the phone book under "Historical . . ." This means that the staff (Peg and Jackie) is kept busy with all manner of questions from people whose interests lead them to look for answers under "History" in the white pages:

"I'm writing my M.A. thesis on Greek George's relationship with Tiburcio Vasquez. Could you compile a bibliography . . .?" (No) "Did Charles Lummis's first wife leave him over Mary Austin?" (No) "Could you get from Long Beach to Mt. Lowe and back in one day on the Red Cars?" (Yes, if you got a good early start) "Could you find my grandmother? She came to El Monte from Odessa, Texas, in 1873." (Probably, but it'll take a minute) Three per cent of the "Expenses" pie for "Public Information" represents money, not time.

And the rest goes for "Members Services and Education": The Southern California Quarterly, the H.S.S.C. Newsletter, monthly get-togethers. The Society has a continuing close relationship with the city's schools, from K to post Ph.D. levels. Our participation in the October LANELCH Conference is an example. There are some stories about events and programs carried out with neighborhood school children. Another time, perhaps.

That is a scandalously sketchy overview of the Society's fiscal activities. Money is a fascinating subject, and we'd like to make it a continuing story for you. Surely we have awakened some questions. Please ask them, and if you have some answers, please send them in. A Newsletter is no fun if the ideas flow in only one direction—from one viewpoint.

LUMMIS HOME AND GARDEN BEAUTIFUL DAY

On March 5th, from 9 a.m., join other HSSC members and friends with your favorite garden and house beautiful tools—and a brown bag lunch—at the Lummis Home, 200 East Avenue 43 (222-0546). Libations and sweets will be served. Casual dress is strongly recommended.

NEW MEMBERS

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

SUSTAINING

Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Stanton
John P. Wilson

ACTIVE

Orest Balaban
Mrs. Vernon Barrett
Kathleen R. Blodgett
Mrs. Markley C. Cameron
Mrs. Robert Case
Mary P. Chapman
Kent A. Chesney
Virginia Daily
Michael Dougherty
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Dunkelberger
Scott J. Fluke

Marian E. Gallaher, M.D.
Mr. and Mrs. William F. Garber
Joy and John Gault
Karen Grant
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne L. Haight
Kimball Hill
Prof. Sasha Honig
Samuel I. Iwasaki
Mrs. Joseph P. Kemp
Leonis Adobe Association
Mrs. Kenneth Leventhal
Gordon R. Miller, Ph.D.
Terrie L. Monaghan
Mary Lee Notaro
Eugene V. Parker
Edward P. Ripley

Mistee L. Roussel
Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Ruth
Joan W. Salz
Mr. and Mrs. F. William Schulte
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald L. Shue
Irene D. Tresun
Jane B. Wagg
Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Wohlfarth
Mrs. Shirley J. Wright
Bureau of Land Management, Riverside

STUDENT

Robert Elhamer
Christian Fritz
Kevin Lam
Michael Volberg

CENTENNIAL LECTURE SERIES

The Historical Society of Southern California is proud to announce a Centennial Lecture Series in honor of the one hundredth anniversary of the Society's founding. The monthly lectures will be presented on Sundays at 4 in the Auditorium of the Southwest Museum, 234 Museum Drive, Los Angeles.

Doyce B. Nunis, Jr., Professor of History at the University of Southern California and Editor of the Southern California Quarterly, inaugurated the series on January 30th with a talk on "The Historians of Los Angeles." John Walton Caughey, dean of California historians, makes a rare podium appearance on February 27th to put in proper perspective "The Greatest Half-State Historical Society." On March 27th, John E. Baur, Professor of History at California State University, Northridge, will discuss "Californians Elsewhere." Andrew F. Rolle, Cleland Professor of History, Occidental College, will cover "Los Angeles from Pueblo to City of the Future" on April 24th. The concluding lecture, on the controversial topic

"Bilingualism-Biculturalism - California's New Past" will be offered on May 22nd by Martin Ridge, Senior Research Associate at the Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino.

The lectures are free to the public. The quality of these presentations, however, and the Society's determination to dispense with pre-lecture chitchat in favor of a reception following each lecture suggest that reservations and prompt arrival will be well-advised. Make your reservations by mail to the Historical Society of Southern California, 200 East Avenue 43, Los Angeles 90031, or call (213) 222-0546, for reasonably assured seating.

Peg Cassidy, our Executive Secretary, will be away from her desk for a while because of illness. We suggest that phone calls from her many, many friends in the Society would probably accumulate into a chore for her. But she would certainly appreciate cards and letters from you. Her mailing address is 2666 Topsfield, Pasadena, CA 91107.

HONOR ROLL Centennial Giving as of January 14, 1983

Times Mirror Foundation
The John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation
J. B. and Emily Van Nuys Charities
The Ahmanson Foundation
Atlantic Richfield Company
Security Pacific Charitable Foundation
Capitol Milling Company

TOTAL \$30,000

Warren J. Abbott
Paul F. Allen
Jane T. Apostol
R. Stanton Avery
Robert J. Banning
William J. Barger
Dwight C. Baum
Robert W. Blew
Richard H. Brill
Mrs. George C. Brock
Ann Garland Brown
Jane Carruthers
Maureen R. Cates
Robert G. Colvin
Mrs. Marjorie F. Combs
Vera Cornell

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Mary Lou Harnagel
Edith W. Haught
Florence M. Hay
Historical Society of Pomona Valley
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Mrs. E. Cyril Holton
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Roberta A. Johnson
Charles and Harriett Kane
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TOTAL \$6,009

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