



Los Angeles City HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XLIII

ISSUE 1

February 2011

ELSINORE!

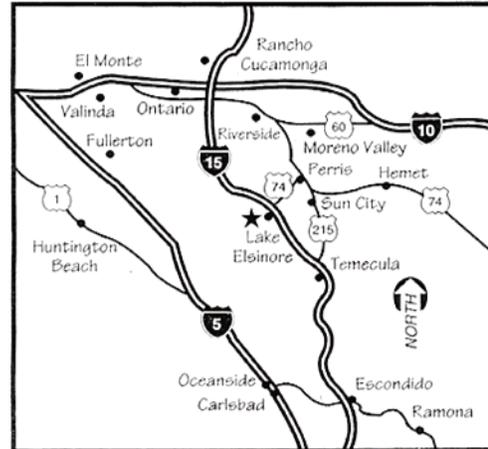
by G. K. Hoppe

In 1883, Los Angeles attorney Donald Graham and his associates bought the 13,000-acre Laguna Ranch. Graham was married to Margaret Collier Graham, a published writer of short stories based in Southern California.

Their investment proposal came from Franklin Heald, an enterprising 26-year-old they had hired to prune trees in their orchards in and around Pasadena. Heald talked Graham into riding a horse and buggy with him into what is now Riverside County, where the old Rancho La Laguna was up for sale.

A San Francisco bank held title to the 12,838-acre site after it foreclosed on the \$24,000 mortgage. Graham came up with the minimum \$1,000 down payment, and he and Heald traveled to San Francisco to deliver it. One-third of the \$24,000 was due within a few months. Graham raised the cash by bringing in a partner, his brother-in-law, Will Collier, from Iowa.

Margaret quit teaching school to work in the new



A subdivision of the Laguna Ranch, 20 miles south of Riverside, in Blocks D, E, F, G and H, lots of 4 to 40 acres; good fruit, grain, alfalfa and general farming land, close to the

RAILROAD STATION

In Block A, lot of 20 to 80 acres, rich corn, dairy and fruit lands. Good water everywhere abundant.

DO NOT FAIL TO SEE IT ALL.

We offer here a fine opportunity to rich and poor alike to take hold now and make here a repetition of Pasadena and Riverside, which were once selling cheap, and have been made valuable mainly by the intelligence and energy of families of limited means. We now have a STORE, SMALL HOTEL, MEAT MARKET, HOT SPRINGS AND BATH HOUSE, RAILROAD STATION, POSTOFFICE WITH DAILY MAILS, carpenters, teamsters, orchardists, Notary Public, etc. We want a LARGE HOTEL, FOR WHICH WE OFFER THE MOST LIBERAL AND VALUABLE INDUCEMENTS: blacksmith, more teamsters and more settlers. Now is the best time to buy, while prices are very low.

**Price, \$25 per acre and upward.
Town lots, \$45 and upwards.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

2011

NORTHROP LECTURES

Saturday, February 19

Kevin Roderick
L.A. ARCHITECTURE
1781-1900

Saturday, April 16

Dr. Thomas S. Hines
L.A. ARCHITECTURE
1900-19550

Saturday, June 18

Dr. Kenneth Breisch
L.A. ARCHITECTURE
1950 to Present

(Continued on Page 13)

**Los Angeles City
Historical Society
Founded 1976**

OFFICERS

Todd Gaydowski, President
Charley Mims, Vice-President
Kathy A. Kolnick, Rec. Secy
Helene Demeestere, Corr. Secy
Don Sloper, Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Eddy S. Feldman
John E. Fisher
Tyson Gaskil
Catherine Gudis
John Jackson
Diane Kanner
Giao Luong
Clark Robins
Paul Workman

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Joseph Northrop
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LACHS

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MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

Active	\$35
Senior/Student	\$25
Dual/Family	\$50
Sustaining	\$85
Life (individuals)	\$500
Corporate	\$100

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings. I hope 2011 is going well for all of us.

As I write this we have completed our first Marie Northrop Lecture, by Kevin Roderick, which was very well received, and by the time you read this we will likely have finished our second lecture, by Dr. Thomas Hines. Please don't forget to attend our third and final Marie Northrop Lecture of the year on June 18 in the Mark Taper Auditorium of LAPL, by author, historian, and Professor of History at USC, Dr. Kenneth Breisch.

I was saddened by the passing of Dr. Doyce Nunis in January. Doyce was a good friend to LACHS and has provided invaluable expertise to our publication efforts. He will be missed.

I am however pleased to announce a new contributor to this newsletter. Hynda Rudd, past president of LACHS and the City's first Archivist, will be writing a regular article, each to feature a unique aspect of the collection at the City Archives. Look for her first article in the August newsletter.

*I am also proud to announce that the Los Angeles City Historical Society is being recognized for publication of our two volume history, *The Development of Los Angeles City Government: An Institutional History 1850- 2000*. We will be honored by the Historical Society of Southern California with the Jack Smith Award, during their April 2nd conference on "LOS ANGELES RENAISSANCE: REDEFINING THE SOUL OF A CITY, THOUGHT, MUSIC AND IMAGERY OF A MOMENTOUS QUARTER CENTURY" at the Austry National Center. (Tickets are available through HSSC at (323) 460-5632)*

We also hope to bring you more tours and events in 2011, look for a repeat of the tour of the LAUSD Art and Artifact Collection in May or June, details to be announced.



Todd Gaydowski,
President

NEWEST LACHS MEMBERS

Several people joined LACHS since the previous Newsletter; welcome to all!

Kurt Deetz

Tyson Gaskill (also a new board director)

Hugh Hefner (Honorary Life Member)

Amy Inouye

Stuard Rapeport

Marje Schuetze-Coburn

Greg and Susan Sylvis

2011 BOARD DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

The current LACHS Board of Directors is as follows:

Directors retained or elected to the second of their three-year terms:

Helene Demeestere	Kathy Kolnick
Eddy S. Feldman	Giao Luong Baker
Todd Gaydowsky	Charley Mims
Catherine Gudis	Clark Robins
Diane Kanner	Don Sloper

Directors resigned:

David du Mars moved to Germany during 2010 for a new job. Todd Gaydowski appointed John E. Fisher in September to finish the three-year term.

Vanessa Sandoval resigned during 2010 due to conflict with other responsibilities. Tyson Gaskil was appointed in November to finish the term.

Todd Gish resigned at the end of his three-year term to take on responsibilities on another board. John Jackson was elected to fill the vacancy.

Gerda D’Nino was re-elected for her second three-year term, but was forced to resign due to heavy work responsibilities. She received special thanks and applause from all present in recognition of her outstanding job as treasurer and her ability to get along with everyone.

At the January 10 joint meeting of the outgoing and incoming boards, the following officers were elected:

Todd Gaydowski, President
Charley Mims, Vice-President
Kathy A. Kolnick, Recording Secretary
Helene Demeestere, Corresponding Secretary
Don Sloper, Treasurer

Congratulations to all!



LACHS ADDRESS CHANGED

Many of you may know that LACHS’s mail has been received at an Eagle Rock post office for many years. For most of that time, it has been convenient for several board members to pick up mail at that location.

The situation has changed, and so has the site of the P.O. box. It is now at the Terminal Annex Post Office near Union Station. Don Sloper, the new treasurer who made the arrangements, points out the advantages:

“... more centrally located. In addition to free parking, it’s convenient to the trolley line from Pasadena, the subway with its connection to North Hollywood, Long Beach, Redondo Beach and Norwalk, the dash buses downtown, regular bus service and train service from points as diverse as Burbank and Norwalk.”

For those who received a self-addressed return envelope to mail your 2011 dues, PLEASE MAKE THE CHANGE. If you have already used the envelope for its purpose, it will still reach LACHS. Provisions have been made for forwarding mail for a period.

If another organization to which you belong sends newsletters and announcements to the Society, please alert its president to this change.

Editor’s Note: Material that does not cite an author is written by the editor.

GALA TO END ALL GALAS!

The December 14 Annual Gala lived up to all expectations, and then some!

Diane Kanner, Membership Chair, and her committee deserve our thanks for producing an event that was obviously enjoyed by all the 100 or more who attended. We regret that a few people had to be turned away for lack of space and because they indicated interest too late to accommodate them.

The Pilgrim School connected with the First Congregational Church on Sixth Street was a nice setting for the reception which included hosted wine and hors d'oeuvres. The room had been decorated for the occasion by the school. Katrina Alexy, the Pilgrim School's art instructor, contributed her expertise prior to the event to direct assembly of the 10 interesting centerpieces for all dinner tables by LACHS volunteers, who are new Society members.

The dinner was held in the church building itself. The room was decorated for the occasion, setting the tone for the Gala dinner and the awards presentation by Todd Gaydowski, president, which followed.

The speaker, Suzanne Muchnic, gave an interesting talk on her many years as art critic, primarily with the Los Angeles Times.

Presentation of the annual awards was a highlight of the evening.

Christy Johnson McAvoy (Historic Resources Group) accepted the David G. Cameron Preservation Award, which had special meaning to her since Cameron had been a close friend, and a colleague for many years with the Los Angeles Conservancy.

Kevin Roderick, journalist and author, and J. Eric Lynxwiler, graphic designer and researcher, received the J. Thomas History Award for their collaborative work on *Wilshire Boulevard: Grand Concourse of Los Angeles*.

Hugh Hefner, publisher and founder of Playboy Enterprises, was given the Honorary Life Member Award for helping save the Hollywood sign by donating the final (and essential) \$900,000, following this up with \$100,000 for its maintenance.

An unexpected "plus" was that Tom LaBonge, Los Angeles councilmember, and Stacy Brenner, California Assemblyman Mike Gatto's District Director, each presented a city or county resolution to the four awardees.

Be sure to attend the 2011 Gala!



J. Eric Lynxwiler (far left) and Kevin Roderick (3rd from left) Receive Awards from Todd Gaydowski, Stacey Brenner and Tom LaBonge. Photo by Michael Locke.



Christy Johnson McAvoy receives plaque from Todd Gaydowski. Photo by Michael Locke.

L. to R.: Tony Gardner (Archivist, Special Collections, Cal State Northridge), Todd Gaydowski, Catherine Mulbolland (Author, Daughter of William Mulbolland, Once Head of Dept. of Water & Power), Cindy Ventueth (Director of Development, Cal State Northridge), Scott Colglazier (Photo by Michael Locke. Muchnic (Speaker), and Tom LaBonge. Photo by Michael Locke. and Attorney), Todd Gaydowski (LACHS President). Photo by Michael Locke.



L. to R.: Scott Colglazier (Senior Minister, First Congregational Church), Charley Mims (Vice-President, LACHS), Adrienne Crew (Blogger and Attorney), Todd Gaydowski (LACHS President). Photo by Michael Locke.



Hugh Hefner Receives Honorary Life Member Award Plaque from Todd Gaydowski. Photo by Michael Locke.



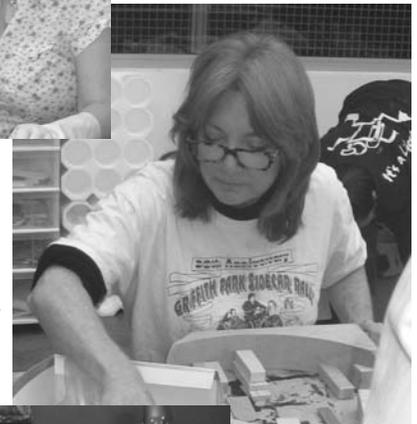
Giau Luong Baker (LACHS Director) Lends Glamour to Reception Preceding Dinner. Photo by Michael Locke. Photo by Michael Locke.



Four LACHS Members Congratulate one Another on a Successful LACHS Gale. Far Left, Bob Knox, Diane Kanner, and John Welborne. Photo by Michael Locke.

Kay Tornborg and Donna Locke working on Centerpieces for Gala

Susan Roberts making centerpieces for Gala.



Councilmember Tom LaBonge congratulates chair Diane Kanner on a Job Well Done. Photo by Michael Locke.



L. to R.: Todd Gaydowski, Stacey Brenner (District Director, Assemblyman Mike Gatto, 43rd Distr.), Susanne Muchnic (Speaker), and Tom LaBonge. Photo by Michael Locke and Attorney), Todd Gaydowski (LACHS President). Photo by Michael Locke.

Rocha City Hall

by Herb McNeely

For over a year the cannon and guns against Mexico had been silent. California was becoming a part of the United States, all the while moving toward statehood.

Since 1848, adventure seekers from around the world flocked to California's rich gold fields, transforming the region and nation forever. However, in due time, the beauty and charm of the sierra captivated the hearts of many newcomers resulting in scores of people settling here, and migrating south to Los Angeles.

Boasting a population of 1,610, Los Angeles became an incorporated city on April 4, 1850. In July, voters elected a mayor, Alpheus P. Hodges, a common council (David W. Alexander, Cristobal Aguilar, Alexander Bell, Julian Chavez, Morris Goodman, Manuel Requena, and Juan Temple), Francisco Figueroa, city treasurer, and Antonio Coronel, city assessor. After elections, a central location for official meetings to conduct the city's business was needed. Temporarily, the homes of prominent citizens were used.

After months of preparation, on September, 1850, California became the 31st state to join the Union. With government in place, a permanent location was now important for the city's administrative offices. In August, 1853, a contract was signed for a single-story adobe south of the Plaza, on the west side of Spring Street at Franklin Alley.

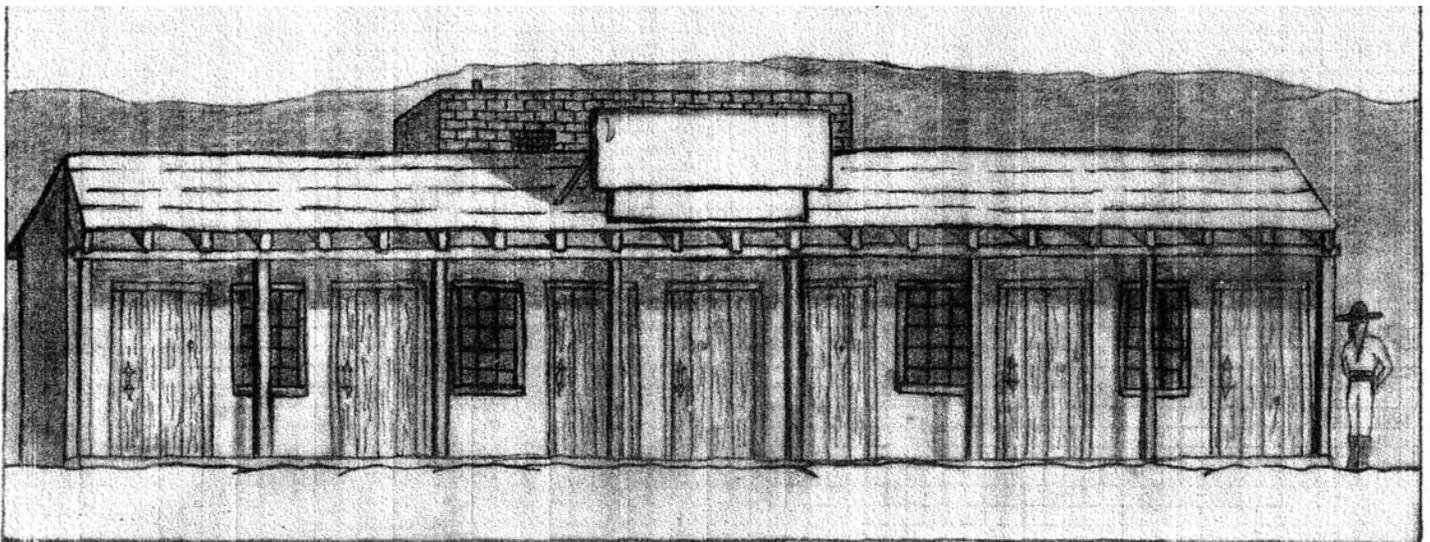
The rugged little adobe home was owned by José Antonio Rocha, one of the first immigrants to arrive in the Pueblo. The structure was typical for its day: long and narrow, with a row of equally-spaced wood supports across the front holding up an extended roof over the porch. Facing southeast, a series of windows and doors along the front caught the early-morning sun. Minor repairs inside and out were made by the city as office space was provided for the tax collector and city treasurer, and a dimly-lit room served as council chamber.

The humble little "city hall" was enclosed by patched-up adobe walls. There was a small bench for visitors and guests. The council members probably sat behind a roughly-carved table. A tobacco-stained floor provided relief from the dirt and occasional mud created by the leaking roof.

Once the city secured the use of the adobe, a new brick two-story building was erected behind the city hall, between 1853 and 1854. Serving as the city jail, it may have been the first fired red brick structure built in Los Angeles.

Modest and humble as it may have been, the little Rocha House became the first official Los Angeles City Hall under the American flag.

NOTE: Herb McNeely is a former member of the L.A. City Historical Society Board of Directors and designed the poster of five city-owned City Halls.



Architectural Drawing of Rocha City Hall by Herb McNeely.

PORT OF LOS ANGELES ARCHIVES PROJECT

When Geraldine Knatz, Executive Director of the Port of Los Angeles, made a presentation on the history of the port a few years ago at one of the Marie Northrop Lectures, she spoke of a dream she had to install archives for the department. She has mailed us an exciting report on the project:

Taking advantage of bad luck for the Banning Museum, the Port was able to hire Tara Fansler, caught in the city lay-offs, who is now its director of archives and collections. The very ambitious plan now underway includes:

Scanning the one and only copy of 100 years of board minutes and putting them on line this year in a searchable format. In Gerry's words, "These early minutes are so fascinating!"

Putting all records, photos and films into past perfect, to be placed on a new public website.

A new collections policy has been developed.

The department is digitizing its collection of over 100,000 photos.

And to house all this, they have taken over an old cannery building that had been used as the College of Oceaneering. A new sign states: Port of L.A. Archives. They will move their records there, and there even will be space for researchers who want to use the collections.

MEMBERS' NEWS

Hynda Rudd's column, *History Comes Alive in the City Employees Club of Los Angeles, Alive!* usually covers the lives of OTHER people. But in the special January issue, you can learn about Hynda herself, and how she came to be records management officer for the City of Los Angeles. . . . Tom La Bonge, councilmember for the 4th District and LACHS's first honorary life member (1997) was named Local Legislator of the Year by UCLA last fall. . . . Danny Muñoz continues as president of the Associated Historical Societies of Los Angeles County. Other LACHS members are also loyal officers of the association: Ann Shea, John Shea, and Paul Rippens.

OF INTEREST TO OUR MEMBERS

After six years as Director of Development and Communications at Heritage Square Museum, Brian Sheridan is leaving to take a new position with the L.A. and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed. Many LACHS members have known him through various contacts at Heritage Square events.

If you've never been to Heritage Square you have missed a glance at Southern California's Victorian era as seen through the eight buildings that have been moved there over its 40-year existence. Some are totally restored, others need a bit of work here and there.

The Associated Historical Society of Los Angeles County will have its semi-annual Mini-Conference in Alhambra on January 29, with the program under direction of the Los Angeles Railroad Heritage Foundation. For details, call Danny Muñoz at 213/250-2215, after 5:00 p.m.

COMMITTEES FOR 2011

The following committee chairs were appointed at the January 10 meeting by Todd Gaydowski, president, for 2011. If interested in being a member of any committee, please contact Todd.

Archives, Kathy Kolnick
By-laws and Standing Rules, Charley Mims
Home Site, Paul Workman
Hospitality, Clark Robins
Membership, Diane Kanner
Merchandising, Giau Luong Baker
Newsletter, Irene Tresun
Marie Northrop Lecture Series, Irene Tresun
Programs, Tyson Gaskill
Public Relations, to be filled
Website, John Jackson

SPECIAL NOTICE: LACHS will be honored by the Historical Society of Southern California on April 2, 2011, with its Jack Smith Award for the publication of our two volume history of LA City government, "*The Development of Los Angeles City Government: An Institutional History 1850-2000*." For details, check hssc@socaljhistory.org.

We Get Mail

By Anna Sklar

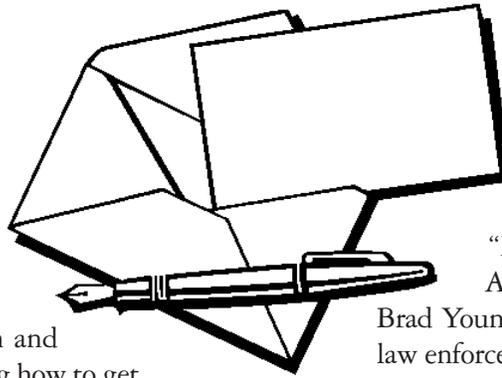
Most of the incoming email falls into one of three or four categories: the ubiquitous requests for obituary information (usually replete with names, date of birth and death); people interested in learning how to get, remove, or find out historical significance of either their own building or that of one they are thinking of buying; requests for photos; offers of donations of significant (to the offerer) pieces of L.A. ephemera; requests for in-depth research; and, of course, the inevitable, and continuing-to-surprise me requests from graduate students here and beyond wanting us to essentially do their research for them. For some reason, the Los Angeles Aqueduct continues to be a source of inquiry from these intrepid students:

“My name is Laura Arrington and I am currently a graduate student researching a Master's Thesis on the construction of the Los Angeles aqueduct in 1905.... I am hoping your offices might have some documents that could be useful to my research, anything that pertains to William Mulholl [sic] and Fred Eaton and their involvement with the aqueduct.... if there is anyway that relevant documents could be mailed to me at my expense or else scanned and emailed to me as pdfs.... thank you.”

With tongue firmly in cheek, I suggested she read any one of the several books about the Aqueduct and check the bibliography and citations for location of primary documents. As with others of her ilk, we received neither a response nor further inquiry.

During the past holidays, we've had requests also from students wishing to speak with individuals, visit archives, or any organization that can help them with their research during the holiday weekend; i.e., Thanksgiving, and the recent Christmas and New Year's period. They usually make their request a day or two before their school holiday break, when most local university and college libraries and our own City Archives have limited hours and access. Nevertheless we offer suggestions. A few of the more esoteric inquiries:

“Would like to know what Colleges and Universities were operating in Culver City and/or Los Angeles in the 1920's.”



“I'd like to speak with someone regarding Amelia Earhart's youth living on 4th Street L.A. Curious to know because my son Derek lives @7927 W. 4th Street.”

“Information on the All-Police Rodeo Association. It was a non profit ran [sic] by Brad Young starting in 1983 that had a lot of LA area law enforcement competing in it.”

For all inquiries I either suggest the likely source for an answer to their questions or I query our board members, who almost always rescue me and provide additional direction and assistance.

Often people want help locating childhood memories. One example: a gentleman who asked for current site of a specific address in Hollywood. I referred him to the Los Angeles Public Library's collection of maps, suggested he might query the City Archives and also try Google Maps, he responded, “when I first e-mailed I did not realize that your main focus was on early, early Los Angeles history. The early Spanish missions and all that. So I really appreciate your remarkably fast and most helpful answer to my question...I first visited LA as a child in the 50's, and actually stayed in the house on Argyle in the Hollywood Hills...Thanks again for all your help.”

Although he completely misunderstood my answer, he was appreciative. Many, if not most, are not.

There was also a lengthy exchange of correspondence between Scarecrow Press and the Historical Society. Essentially, the editor wanted one or more of our members to write a 300-page reference book on Los Angeles with neither an advance payment, nor a particularly interesting royalty offer. He also wanted, in advance, a lengthy, and I do mean lengthy, outline of the proposed work, a list of sources, and a CV of potential contributors. I referred him at first to Leonard Pitt's book *Los Angeles A-Z*, noting that Dr. Pitt is updating his encyclopedia, and suggested that his interest in a short version might be unnecessary or inappropriate. The ensuing, often rude, extremely lengthy exchange got a tad testy, especially after he repeatedly requested Leonard Pitt's address. So, I sent a copy of our most recent exchange of emails to Leonard Pitt; and finally, heard no more from Scarecrow Press.

SEVENTH STREET AND BROADWAY

by John E. Fisher

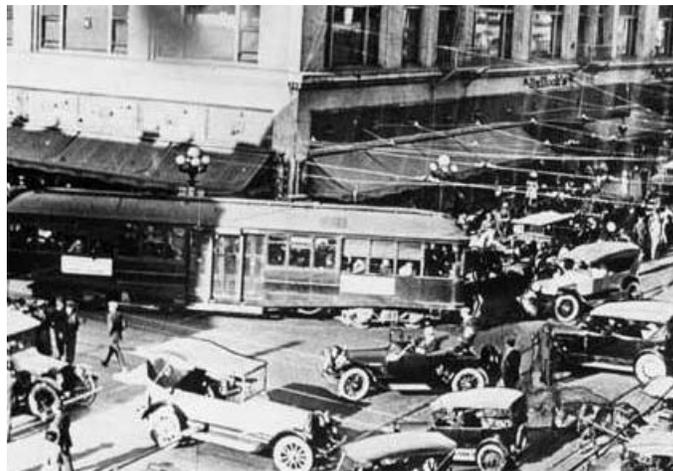
The intersection of 7th Street and Broadway in Downtown Los Angeles was the crossroads of the Western United States in the 1920s.

Broadway was the only direct route into Downtown Los Angeles from the north and northeast, while 7th Street was the only direct east-west route. Broadway was the primary entertainment center with 12 theaters between 3rd Street and 10th Street (now Olympic Boulevard) for vaudeville shows and the silent silver screen. It was also the primary retail district and home of the major department stores for Southern California.

In 1924 it was documented to be the most heavily-traveled intersection in the world with 504,000 persons crossing the intersection in 24 hours. This included 200,000 persons in streetcars, 35,000 persons in automobiles, and 269,000 pedestrians. This volume exceeded those of the most heavily traveled crossroads of the major cities of the world, including London (Hyde Park Corner – 478,000), New York (5th Avenue and 42nd Street – 460,000) and Paris (Place de l'Opera – 384,000). In 1930, this volume would reach an astonishing 750,000 persons passing through daily. In 1926, Broadway (ending at 7th Street) was designated as the most westerly segment of the original routing of US 66, while 7th Street was designated as part of the original routing of US 101.

By the end of the 1920s, the city's population would reach 1.2 million, a 12-fold increase in 30 years. The rapid rise in city population, the sharp increase in automobile usage and the challenging traffic situation at 7th Street and Broadway called for innovative and pioneering solutions which would be implemented at the intersection. In October, 1920, the first experimental automated traffic signals were installed on Broadway. Also, in January, 1925, the nation's first simplified ordinance regulating motor vehicles and pedestrians became effective in Los Angeles. In addition, by 1926 the nation's first traffic signal network timing strategies were developed in Downtown Los Angeles.

The innovative strategies in response to this unique traffic situation marked Los Angeles as being at the national forefront in traffic engineering, control and management.



Busiest Intersection in the World in 1924



Robinson's Downtown Department Store, 7th and Broadway



7th and Broadway

SOUTHLAND'S HIDDEN TREASURE: THE HALE SOLAR LABORATORY

A modest home on a quiet residential street in Pasadena holds a secret known to many: There is a functioning observatory in the backyard.

The 90 x 300-foot lot contains the Hale Solar Laboratory and a home built years after the former, both in private hands.

The story starts some decades ago when George Ellery Hale retired as director of the Mount Wilson Observatory in 1923. He was the father of three observatories, each of which, at the time of its construction, was the largest in the world: The 1897 Yerkes (40") in Wisconsin, the 1904 Mount Wilson (60") near Los Angeles, and the 1936 Hale (200") on Mt. Palomar, near San Diego.



George Ellery Hale

Hale, born in Chicago in 1868, dominated the field of astronomy almost from the day he graduated from MIT; in fact, he invented the spectro-heliograph to study the sun while barely out of school. He was successful in obtaining the financial backing of such magnates as Charles Yerkes, Andrew Carnegie (Mt. Wilson's 60" telescope), Los Angeles tycoon John Hooker, who financed the construction of the 100' Mt. Wilson telescope, the Carnegie Institute of Washington, sponsors of the 200" Hale.

Some of his other successes were enough in their own rights: Chairman of Caltech's observatory council; trustee of Caltech; convincing Huntington, it is said, to leave behind what became the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery; trustee of latter; influencing Throop Polytechnic Institute to raise its sights and become Caltech; as member of the Pasadena Planning Commission, mostly responsible for today's Pasadena Civic Center (Civic Auditorium, City Hall and Central Library); and was founder of the National Research Council. He received numerous honors from around the

world, too many to list here.

Once Hale retired from the Mt. Wilson complex, he decided to pursue his lifelong interest in the sun by acquiring the property for the Hale Solar Laboratory. Some publications state that Henry Huntington gave it to him, since the land had been part of the Huntington estate.

The Hale Solar Laboratory - which is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark - was his office and workshop. There was a dome housing equipment for viewing the sun, with a 78-foot pit below ground.

One of his most significant activities there, in addition to founding of the Hale Observatory on Mt. Palomar, was refinement of the spectroheliograph; the new instrument is called the spectrohelioscope. Once the building was completed in 1925, Hale donated it, along with the grounds and equipment, to the Carnegie Institution of Washington, while the Solar Lab became a permanent branch of the Mount Wilson Observatory. Hale continued working there until his death in 1938.

Following Hale's death, the Laboratory was used for many years as an observatory, primarily by astronomers at Mt. Wilson, until it was sold in 1985 to Christine and William Shirley. They added a home at the front of the property. For some time, Christine Shirley allowed organizations such as the Los Angeles Conservancy and historical societies to tour there and go down the pit, and she gave talks on the history of the facility and George Hale in the building's library.

The Shirleys no longer own the property. It now houses the Mt. Wilson Institute and tours are no longer available.

A LITTLE (?) LIST OF BOOKS BY LACHS MEMBERS

by Eddy S. Feldman

Readers of Dr. Abraham Hoffman's authoritative and interesting book reviews in each issue of the LACHS Newsletter are made aware that our City of the Angels inspires a breathtaking number of books – from the casual, like *city baby l.a.*, to LACHS' formal and scholarly, *The Development of Los Angeles City Government*.



books_3 www.fotosearch.com

The following books have been written, edited or contributed to by members of LACHS, but may not have been noted in these pages. This item is an attempt to assemble a complete record of members' publications and is only preliminary. Readers, please, help fill the blanks so that "none of them be missed."

Jane Apostol:

Duncan Gleason: Artist, Athlete and Author. Historical Society of Southern California. 2003.

The Historical Society of Southern California: A Centennial History. 1994.

El Alisal: Where History Lingers. 1994.

Museums Along the Arroyo: A History and Guide. Historical Society of Southern California. 1996.

Painting With Light: A Centennial History of the Judson Studios. 1997.

With Olive Percival, *The Children's Garden Book*, 2005. and Ward Ritchie and Lawrence Clark Powell, *South Pasadena: A Centennial History, 1888-1988*.

Brett Arena and David Hamlin, *Los Angeles' Original Farmers Market*. Arcadia Publishing. 2009.

John Buntin, *L.A. Noir: The Struggle for the Soul of America's Most Seductive City*. Three Rivers Press. Harmony Books. 2009.

Julie Lugo Cerra, *Culver City*. Arcadia Publishing. 2004

Virginia L. Comer:

Angel's Flight: A History of Bunker Hill's Incline Railway. Historical Society of Southern California. 2001.

Urban Details Los Angeles: Fountains. Balcony Press. 2000.

Urban Details Los Angeles: Stairways. Balcony Press. 2000.

Urban Details Los Angeles: Street Lights. Balcony Press. 2000.

Lawrence B. DeGraaf, Co-Editor, *Seeking El Dorado: African American Experiences in California*. University of Illinois Press.

Helene Demeestere, *Pioneer and Entrepreneur: French Immigrants in the Making of L.A., 1827-1927*. ICP-West. 2007.

Mike Eberts, *Griffith Park: A Centennial History*. Historical Society of Southern California. 1996.

Michael E. Engh, S.J., *Frontier Faiths: Churches, Temple, and Synagogues in Los Angeles, 1846 – 1888*. University of New Mexico Press. 1992.

Steven P. Erie:

Beyond Chinatown: The Metropolitan Water District, Growth, and the Environment in Southern California. Stanford University Press. 2006.

Globalizing L.A.: Trade, Infrastructure, and Regional Development. Stanford University Press. 2004.

William David Estrada, *The Los Angeles Plaza: Sacred and Contested Spaces*. University of Texas Press. 2008.

Eddy S. Feldman, *The Art of Street Lighting in Los Angeles*. Dawson's Bookshop. 1972.

Frances Lomas Feldman (dec.), *Human Services in the City of Angels, 1850-2000*.

David Fine, *Imagining Los Angeles: A City in Fiction*. University of Nevada Press. 2000.

Gil Garcetti:

Iron: Erecting the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Balcony Press. 2002.

Frozen Music. Balcony Press. 2002.

(Continued on Page 12)

Little List (?) of Books

(Continued from Page 11)

Dance in Cuba: Photographs by Gil Garcetti. Balcony Press. 2005.

Water Is Key: A Better Future for Africa. Balcony Press. 2007.

Greg Hise and William Deverell, *Land of Sunshine – an Environmental History of Metropolitan Los Angeles.* University of Pittsburgh Press. 2005.

Abraham Hoffman:

Vision or Villainy: Origins of the Owens Valley – Los Angeles Water Controversy. 1981.

Unwanted Mexican Americans in the Great Depression. 1994.

with Paul Soifer, *American Government.* 1997.

California: Then and Now. 1996.

Cliff Notes on United States History. 1998, 1999.

Diane Kanner:

Wallace Neff and the Grand Houses of the Golden State. Random House. 2005.

The History of the Los Feliz Improvement Association. 1991. 2000.

AC Martin Partners: One Hundred Years of Architecture. AC Martin Partners, Inc. 2006.

Gloria Ricci Lothrop and Joan M. Mensen: *California Women: A History.* Boyd & Fraser Publishing Company, 1987

Doyce B. Nunis, Jr., Editor. *The Founding Documents of Los Angeles: Bilingual Edition.* Historical Society of Southern California and the Zamorano Club of Los Angeles. 2004.

Leonard Pitt and Dale Pitt, *Los Angeles A to Z: An Encyclopedia of the City and County.* University of California Press. 1997.

Jean Bruce Poole and Tevvy Ball, *El Pueblo: The Historic Heart of Los Angeles.* The Getty Conservation Institute and the J. Paul Getty Museum. 2002.

Hynda L. Rudd:

Los Angeles and Its Environs in the Twentieth Century. The Los Angeles City Historical Society. 1996.

The Development of Los Angeles City Government. Los Angeles City Historical Society, 2007

Martin Schiesl, Co-Editor with Mark Morall Dodge, *City of Promise: Race and Historical Change in Los Angeles.* Bellwether Publishing, Ltd. 2008. *The Politics of Efficiency: Municipal Administration and Reform in America.*

Tom Sitton:

John Randolph Haynes: California Progressive. 1992. and William Deverell, Editors. *Metropolis in the Making: Los Angeles in the 1920s.* University of California Press. 2001.

Los Angeles Transformed: Fletcher Bowron's Urban Reform Revival, 1938-1953. University of New Mexico Press. 2005.

(Senior Editor), *The Development of Los Angeles City Government.* Los Angeles City Historical Society. 2007.

Grand Ventures: The Banning Family and the Shaping of Southern California. Huntington Library. 2010.

Anna Sklar, *Brown Acres: An Intimate History of the Los Angeles Sewers.* Supported by the Los Angeles City Historical Society and the John Randolph and Dora Haynes Foundation. Angel City Press. 2008.

Don Sloper, *Los Angeles's Chester Place.* Arcadia Publishing. 2007.

Raphael J. Sonenshein, *Los Angeles: Structure of a City Government.* The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles. 2006.

Josette Temple, *Gentle Artist of the San Gabriel Valley.*

Irene Tresun, Editor, *Newsletter of the Los Angeles City Historical Society* since 1996

Arthur Verge, Co-Author with Andrew Rolle, *California: A History.* Harlan Davidson. 2008. 7th Ed. *Santa Monica Lifeguards.* Arcadia Publishing. 2007.

Marc Wanamaker, *About 30 books as author or major contributor on the history of Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Westwood, Venice, Warner Bros., Griffith Park and the San Fernando Valley.* Arcadia Publications. 1984-2011.

Delmar Watson (dec.): *Goin' Hollywood.; Quick Watson, The Camera; The Olympic City; Babe, The One and Only.*

BITS AND PIECES OF HISTORY

Eagle Rock became incorporated 100 years ago. In 1922, a three-story city hall was constructed. The following year, residents voted for annexation to Los Angeles, the first city to do so, starting the trend that resulted in L.A.'s being a sprawling metropolis. Today, the structure still stands, used for a variety of civic services. . . . Another "institution" almost made it to the century mark: UCLA basketball coach, John Wooden, died in 2010 just months before his 100th birthday. The den of his condo, his favorite room, has been totally replicated in the UCLA Athletic Hall of Fame on campus. It is open to the public. . . . One of the 12 stone figures from the legendary Richfield Building is being "preserved" in the loft belonging to Eric Lynxwiler, co-author of *Wilshire Boulevard*. Eric and his co-author, Kevin Roderick, were recipients of LACHS's recent J. Thomas History Award for the book. The destruction of the gold-and-black structure in Downtown Los Angeles may have begun this city's determination to preserve worthwhile buildings. . . . Los Angeles County covered a vast area until some units seceded. What is now Ventura County did so in 1872. Orange County was also part of Los Angeles County at one time. . . . Seedless navel oranges were introduced to the U.S. (and Washington State, Florida and California) from Brazil. . . . The first recorded snowfall in L.A. occurred in 1881. . . . In 1997, L.A. had 500 oil wells. . . . This year marks the 60th Anniversary of the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards Air Force Base. It has been the world's leader in "first flights" since Muroc Air Base (now about 1/10th of Edwards) was used by the Army Air Corps for experimental flying beginning in the 1930's. . . . The Los Angeles Common Council, at its inception, consisted of two judges, four councilmen, and an attorney, all elected. . . . In 1870, a police commission was created for the then new department. . . . In 1902, Los Angeles' charter set the initiative, referendum, and recall procedures through the city charter. . . . Daily council meetings (except weekends and holidays) were prescribed by a charter amendment in 1913. To this day, the Los Angeles City Council may be the only city council in the nation to meet every day, though meetings open to the public are required only three days a week. On the other two, other duties are performed, such as committee meetings and other responsibilities.

LAUSD ART AND ARTIFACT COLLECTION AND ARCHIVES



More than a dozen members and friends visited Los Angeles Unified School District's Art and Artifact Collection. Most of them were surprised at the size and variety of items.

These collections were started in 1855, when the first district school opened, but organizing them did not begin until 2001 when a part-time collections curator and manager was hired through a grant received by the district. This collection, with more than 30,000 items, is located in many locations throughout the District's 700+ square miles, in schools, offices and at the archives at 1330 W. Pico Blvd. near Downtown Los Angeles.

The Art and Artifacts Collection includes:

- Paintings, murals, sculptures, prints and decorative arts.
- Photographs, negatives, slides and proof sheets of school activities, architecture and L.A. history from the 1910s to 1980s.
- Films.
- Carnegie, Dawson and Californiana rare books.
- Ancient Greek, Roman Etruscan and Mesopotamian antiquities (vases, coins, tools, tablets and jewelry).
- Antique schoolhouse furniture, memorabilia and instructional equipment.
- LAUSD Administrative and instructional publications and records.

Todd Gaydowski has announced plans for another visit in 2011.

ELSINORE! (Continued from Page 1)

firm's office in downtown Los Angeles, where she wrote the real-estate contracts, advertising and business letters. She named the subdivision Elsinore – an homage to Shakespeare's play Hamlet. Heald moved his family into the old ranch house, and by the beginning of 1884 the town's survey was completed and lots sold rapidly.

In 1885 Elsinore became solely Heald's subdivision. The Grahams and Collier retained investments in adjacent land, starting a new colony at the southern end of the lake. They named the new subdivision Wildomar, a combination of the beginnings of their three names, Will, Don and Margaret.

NORTHROP LECTURES: LOS ANGELES ARCHITECTS AND ARCHITECTURE

The 19th annual Marie Northrop Lecture Series will feature the gamut of architectural styles that have helped make Los Angeles the tourist attraction it is.

Within a comparatively short time, this city has covered what it has taken others centuries: From the primitive huts and adobes of the 1780s to the most modern high rises in a little over 200 years. In-between, one of the greatest collections of Art Deco designs, exemplified by such structures as the 1928 Los Angeles City Hall, the 1929 Bullock's Wilshire Department Store on Wilshire near Vermont and the Coca Cola Building near Downtown Los Angeles.

LACHS has been fortunate in assembling a group of speakers who are authorities in this field and are known for their interesting presentations.

The period from 1781 to 1900 will be covered by Kevin Roderick, who with collaborator J. Eric Lynxwiler wrote *Wilshire Boulevard: Grand Concourse of Los Angeles*, for which they received the J. Thomas Owen History Award at the annual Gala on December 14. In addition to being a writer, he is also a journalist of more than 25 years, a radio commentator and has shared in two Pulitzer Prizes for journalism while doing editorial work for the *Los Angeles Times*. Much of his time these days is taken up by L.A. Observed, of which he is the creator and publisher.

Thomas H. Hines, local dean of architectural historians, author and university professor. He recently retired from UCLA, where he continues to be active, and he is a frequent speaker on his subject. Dr. Hines will speak on the period between 1900 and 1950. Los Angeles moved closer toward being a world metropolis than ever before: The city overtook San Francisco in population, the structures mentioned in the second paragraph of this article and other, similar ones, changed the L.A. skyline, and the influx of G.I's and people from all parts of the country altered us culturally and in other ways.

The years from 1950 to the present will be discussed by Los Angeles-born Kenneth Breisch who spent 49 years as a journalist, 39 of them with the Los Angeles Times. Prior to that, he worked for Life Magazine, United Press International and the Riverside Press-Telegram. He covered such events as presidential campaigns (Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan among them), the 1984 Olympics, and other earth-shaking world happenings). Since his retirement from the *Times* in 2004, he has served as the director of USC's Graduate Program in Historic Preservation, which has brought to the school the Los Angeles Conservancy and the California Preservation Foundation awards. Professor Breisch brings another experience: He has traveled a great deal to all the continents except Antarctica; one trip took him around the world.

THE LAPD BADGE

Could you describe the badge that identifies LAPD officers of all ranks?

Today, it is a very striking oval (unique design for badges when adopted in 1940) of silver, gold and blue. Since then, it features the 1928 Los Angeles City Hall surrounded by symbolic rays of the sun to represent its location on the West Coast, the City Seal, and a border design based on an ancient Roman symbol of authority.

The badge has not always been so impressive.

When the department was formed in 1869, it was an eight-point star, with slightly rounded points. In 1877, it was a shield with an eagle on top. 1887 saw the return of the 8-point star, slightly altered. In 1889, the shield appeared. Starting in 1890, the pointed 6-point star took over until 1909, when a series of shields were the choice.

The oval badge came into being in 1923 and continues until today. For a while prior to 1940, a diamond-shaped shield was authorized but never issued. 1940 is also the year when the last Policewoman badge was issued.

W E A R E A B O O K R E V I E W

CALL OF DUTY: My Life Before, During, and After the Band of Brothers, by Lt. Lynn "Buck" Compton. New York: Berkeley Caliber, 2008. 275 pp. Illustrations, Index. Cloth, \$24.95. Order from Penguin Group (USA) Inc., 375 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014.

by Abraham Hoffman

The success of the HBO docudrama *Band of Brothers*, the ten-part miniseries about a company of paratroopers in World War II that aired in 2001 and, most recently, in 2010, brought an unexpected celebrity to aging veterans who had served in Easy Company. Stephen Ambrose's book on Easy Company was published in 1992. Since the appearance of *Band of Brothers* on HBO, a number of memoirs have been published, only one of which was written in the postwar period. The others have all appeared since 2001. Buck Compton's autobiography will be of interest to anyone interested in Los Angeles history; as Compton notes in his subtitle, his career after the war is as notable as his wartime experiences.

A native of Los Angeles, Lynn "Buck" Compton adopted his nickname as a seventh grader because he felt that his given name sounded too feminine. He attended Mount Vernon Junior High and Manual Arts High School in Los Angeles, coming of age during the Great Depression. Compton's parents were hard-working but poor. When Compton was 18 years old his father, unable to stop his craving for liquor, committed suicide. Compton took a number of odd jobs to help the family, even working as a child actor in the movies for several years. A natural athlete, he won an athletic scholarship to UCLA where he played on the varsity baseball and football teams. His fellow players included Jackie Robinson and Kenny Washington. Unlike the perks that college athletes receive today, Compton's scholarship covered only books and tuition, and he had to juggle studying, athletic training, and part-time jobs. He learned early on the values of a work ethic.

Compton had a semester left as a senior when he went into the Army as a commissioned officer, having served in the ROTC at UCLA. His first assignment was to play baseball on the

regimental team, and to get out of this he requested and received a transfer to the paratrooper school at Fort Benning, Georgia. After training he was assigned to Easy Company, 506 Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. Compton participated in the D-Day invasion, Operation Market Garden, other battles, and the siege of Bastogne. He was awarded the Silver Star and other medals, including the Purple Heart. The *Band of Brothers* miniseries describes him as breaking down at the sight of horribly wounded comrades, but Compton offers other reasons here for being taken off the line.

After the war Compton returned to Los Angeles and completed his studies at UCLA. Following a brief and unsuccessful marriage he remarried, became a Los Angeles Police Department detective, earned a law degree at night school, and passed the bar exam. He took a position in the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office and rose to the rank of deputy district attorney. Although he prosecuted hundreds of cases, he offers only four examples here, the most notorious being the trial of Sirhan Sirhan for the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy. In 1970 he was appointed to the State Court of Appeals, holding that position until his retirement in 1986.

Compton vividly describes how he and his family coped with the Great Depression and his hard work to secure the advantages of a good education. He is proud of his wartime service and believes it was a small price to pay for his ultimate success in law enforcement and the legal profession. Some readers may find his political views outspoken, as he does not hesitate in his support of the death penalty and in his criticism of left-wing politics; he is a conservative Republican. Politics aside, Compton offers an interesting example of an Angelino who rose from humble origins to playing an important part in the city's legal history. Readers of Ambrose's book and/or viewers of *Band of Brothers* will find Compton's life story equally as fascinating in peace as in war.

Abraham Hoffman reviews books for the newsletter. He teaches history at Los Angeles Valley College.

