PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

Renewal time has arrived – per enclosed letter and envelope! Please don’t delay! If ever an exciting and challenging year looms ahead, 2002 will be it.

The Thurnher House at Lacy Park (photo opposite) is ever closer to becoming our Museum / Hqtrs. The Council has, understandably, been delayed by recent overall Lacy Park evaluations but is now in a position to move forward with us on execution of our Lease Agreement. The City will also make certain necessary structural repairs, after which we will embark on the occupying, furnishing and decorating of the building. Please look closely at your signup envelope and check off a category of participation!

Our quarterly programs continue to be very popular. The huge turnout for the Mt. Lowe Railway talk prompts the Pacific Electric Railroad show we have coming up. (see page 2). Southwestern Academy and Ken Veronda are to be thanked for providing an ideal facility for our programs.

As always, our “Grapevine” features the history of a San Marino Volunteer group. We’ve done 6 so far and, sooner or later, will cover all of them.

Paul Crowley  
President

Thurnher Home in Lacy Park

This house, built in 1929, stands at the Virginia Road entrance to our beloved Lacy Park.

It was built for our first park superintendent, Armin Thurnher. He and William Hertrich worked from the house to complete the design of the park in 1932.

The Thurnher family was raised here and the flagpole plaque includes the name of his son, Erwin, who was killed in WWII, in Belgium.

The 1500 sq. ft. 3-bedroom house, with 2 car garage and 4 private, walled gardens, presents an innovative opportunity to serve as our Museum / Headquarters and also as a possible unique meeting place for other community groups.
San Marino Historical Society
Officers 2000-2001

*President                                      Paul Crowley
*VP, Membership                         Bill Ferry
*VP, Programs                              Ave Maria Bortz
*Treasurer                                     Greg Thompson
*Corresponding Secretary           Marlene Elliott
*Recording Secretary                  Emile Ferry
*Parliamentarian                          Marilyn Peck
*Librarian                                       Judy Carter
*Historians                                     Kenneth Veronda
Newsletter                                     Chris Datwyler
                                                  Gene Platz
Curator, White Adobe                 James Elliott
City Representative                     Betty Brown, Vice-Mayor
City Liaison                                   Eugene Dryden
Docents                                         Peggy Winkler
Communications                          Carolyn Holmstrom
Stoneman Mural                           Marilyn Peck
Social                                             Katy Benton, Dorothy Ohlson
Advisory                                         Ben Salvaty

Historical Collections and Architectural Survey
John Holmstrom, Sander Peck, Marilyn Peck, Gene Platz, Alan Weirick

Adobe Restoration and Preservation
Paul Crowley, Eugene Dryden, James Elliott

 Assistants (General)
Vera Wrobel, Sander Peck, Marlene Elliot, James Elliot, Gene Platz, Alan Weirick (Membership)

Scholarship Committee
Sander Peck, Bob Almanza, Emile Ferry

Shirts and Totes
Marilyn Peck

Docents
Graziella Almanza, Katy Benton, Mary Payne, Lillian Campbell, Beth Yale, Dorothy Ohlson, Veronica Palma-Romero, Vera Wrobel, Sandy Morris, Marilyn Peck, Peggy Winkler, Ave Maria Bortz, Jim Elliott, Bea Hutter, Carolyn Holmstrom

*Board Officers

Society Presidents (1974-1999)
Midge Sherwood.................................1974
Mary Smith ......................................1976
Jack Sherwood.................................1978
Ed Ford........................................1980
Graziella Almanza..............................1982
La Verne Smith .................................1985
Jeanne Imler.................................1989
Gary Fleming...................................1991
Lillian Campbell..............................1993
Marilyn Peck.................................1995
Paul Crowley.................................1999

SAN MARINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PROUDLY PRESENTS

“PACIFIC ELECTRIC RAILROAD”
BY
JACK FINN
Monday, October 22th, 2001, 7:30 pm
Southwestern Academy
2800 Monterey Road
San Marino

Jack Finn is the President of the Pacific Electric Railroad Historical Association. He will present a slide show of the old “PE Red Car” system that was the lifeblood of Southern California for the first half of the 20th Century. Views of our own local Red Car routes will bring back memories.

PUBLIC INVITED—ADMISSION IS FREE

“Red Car” taking San Marino students over to South Pasadena/San Marino High School between 1920 and 1952.

“Red Cars” in San Marino at the intersection of Huntington Drive and Sierra Madre Boulevard.
April 1999 the Republican Women's Club of San Marino celebrated its 60th anniversary. At the urging of the President of the County Republicans, who stressed the need of a club in San Marino, twenty women met for tea at the home of Mrs. Hector McNeil of Winston Avenue...on April 20, 1939. The San Marino Republican Women's Club was formed that day) electing Mrs. Charles Oscar Comwell as president. In 1980, after years as a member of the National Federation, which dictated policy, the club chose to become an independent club changing, its title to Republican Women's Club of San Marino. With a Bylaws change in 1999, the club became the Republican Club of San Marino, welcoming any person who is a registered Republican.

Reviewing the Historian's books from the beginning of the club to now is a fascinating look back in time. Yearly dues for members in 1939 were fifty cents, rising gradually in twenty years to three dollars, in 1977 to five dollars and today twenty dollars. The price for lunch and speaker in 1953 was two dollars, in 1977 four dollars and fifty cents, in 1990 fourteen dollars and fifty cents, and in 2000 eighteen dollars. As the price of the meetings rose, the club found itself moving from one location to another, always considering the cost. The meetings have been held in member's homes, the Woman's Club, the Huntington Sheraton, Bullocks Garden Room, Almansor Court, the Arcadia Golf Club and now back to the Huntington Ritz Carlton. The membership has grown from the original forty women to as high as seventeen hundred and seventy-six members in 1968, providing us with an award as one of the largest clubs in the Federation. In 2001 there are approximately five hundred members.

Throughout the years this club has presented speakers of local, state and national prominence. In the past in September the club held well attended picnics in Lacy Park featuring such speakers as Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, George Murphy, Joe Shell and John Rousselot. With the exception of December the club has held monthly meetings from October through May. The programs for the meetings have always been on timely subjects of local, state, national and international concerns. Speakers have been presented from as far away as the east coast along with state and local speakers. With the goal to reach as many people with political education the monthly bulletin has gone from one page originally to twelve pages. Besides the monthly meeting and bulletins letter writing session is held once a month—resulting at times of over 150 letters written to representatives in Washington and Sacramento.

In the past the club has held Membership teas, sponsored a trip to a Dodger game, held a fund raising dinner dance, a fashion show and a bake sale. It has sponsored Republican Headquarters in national election years and Board members have attended National and State Federated conventions. The San Marino Chamber of Commerce Fourth of July has seen the club participating in decorating the bandstand at Lacy Park.

Many women who serve on the Board of Directors of the club have served in one capacity or another for many years...some for over thirty years. They have given their time because of their love of America.
SAN MARINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
HELP US PRESERVE OUR SAN MARINO HISTORY

UPCOMING SPECIFIC TALENTS NEEDED

The prospect of acquiring the Thurnher House for our new Museum/Headquarters, while delightful, presents us with some new, urgent challenges.

In approximate order of priority, they are:

☐ 1. Establish # 501-C3 corporate status for our Society.
☐ 2. Work with City and engineers on structural repairs.
☐ 3. Coordinate lease agreement with City.
☐ 4. Initiate a major fund-raiser to augment city costs.
☐ 5. Coordinate the physical move from the Old Adobe.
☐ 6. Organize the interior arrangement and décor of the Thurnher House.
☐ 7. Handle new purchases – copier, telephones, display boards, etc.
☐ 8. Work with other City groups on sharing of patios and facilities.
☐ 9. Inventory all Historical Society possessions.
☐ 10. Refurnish Old Adobe for display purposes.
☐ 11. Work with City Library to retain a part-time archivist.

Numbers 1, 2, and 3 already being handled by Betty Brown, Gene Dryden and Paul Crowley. The rest need big volunteer leadership and help. If you want to pitch in (and record your name for posterity) just check off your item(s) of choice and mail this page to Paul Crowley at 750 Winston Avenue, San Marino, California 91108. Please pick one! Thanks.

Note: This a repeat form the last issue-we got one response! (which we may frame)

WEBSITE
Visit our web page to learn more about your Society’s programs and activities:

www.smnet.org
(Click on “Community Resources” and then on “San Marino Historical Society”)
or go directly to:
www.smnet.org/comm_group/historical/

SHIRTS ‘N TOTES
We are still selling sweatshirts, T-shirts and tote bags with the colorful map of San Marino. They make wonderful gifts or souvenirs of our city. Profits go to ours services to the community. If you wish to purchase them call Marilyn Peck at (626) 449-4572.