



The Grapevine

Published by the San Marino Historical Society

The San Marino Historical Society
The Michael White Adobe
Post Office Box 80222
San Marino, California 91118-8222
Tel. 626-449-2037

FALL, 2005

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

We are moving to a new phase of our activities! With the opening of the Thurnher House, we have moved all of our documents and records from the Adobe to our new quarters, where a more favorable climatic environment for storage and archiving of these valuable items is present. Judy Carter and her associates are hard at work cleaning, preserving and archiving our old records, and adding new items to the collection. We are adding Garden Club archives, as well as artifacts and furnishings from the days of Henry Huntington and his family. We welcome donations of historic items and documents for preservation and display to the community.

We have been vigorously investigating the potential and cost of moving the Michael White Adobe from its current location within the High School grounds to another location near the Thurnher House. Such a move would provide greater accessibility, as well as releasing the current location for School use. The key is the ability to physically move the Adobe. While our earlier estimates of the ability to move the structure indicated success probabilities of over 75%, recent studies by reputable structural engineers drop this probability to the order of 50%. The concern for the cost of the move (over \$300,000), together with the likelihood of its resulting in a pile of adobe dust, and the ability to archive materials more successfully in the Thurnher House, have led us to rethink the move issue, and to lean in the direction of restoring the Adobe to a "showplace" of its original grandeur, staffed for periodic visits by interested parties. School is still out, however.

The Historical Society is also participating in the re-design and updating of the War Memorial in Lacy

(Continued on page 2)

SAN MARINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROUDLY PRESENTS

"SCHOOL DAYS.....SCHOOL DAYS....."

By
Dr. Jack Rose
Superintendent of the San Marino Schools



Do you know where the first school in San Marino was located and what was its name? Although Huntington is a well known name, who were Carver, Stoneman, and Valentine? And why do our schools bear their names? And why were the drinking fountains at SMHS at knee cap height before the recent reconstruction of the campus? And where do the Titans come from? And what about the Stoneman mural? For the answers to all of these questions and more, please join us on October 24th when Dr. Jack Rose, Superintendent of the San Marino Schools, will give us the inside story on the rich and colorful history of our neighborhood

Monday, October 24, 2005, 7:30 pm
Southwestern Academy
Lincoln Hall
2800 Monterey Road, San Marino
Public Invited - Admission is Free

**San Marino Historical Society
Officers 2004-2005**

*President	Gene Dryden
*Vice President, Membership	Bill Ferry
*Vice President, Programs	Ave Maria Bortz
*Treasurer	Greg Thompson
*Corresponding Secretary	Marlene Elliott
*Alternate Secretary	Emile Ferry
*Parliamentarian	Paul Crowley
*Artifacts and Resources	Marilyn Peck
*Librarian	Judy Carter
*Historians	Peggy Winkler
	Kenneth Veronda
Curator of the Michael White Adobe	James Elliott
Newsletter	Chris Datwyler
	Gene Platz
Newsletter Assistants	Judy Carter
	Paul Crowley
Curator, White Adobe	James Elliott
City Representative	Betty Brown
Project Development	Dennis Kneier
Legal and Bylaws	Shahen Harrapedian
	Ben Salvaty
Architectural Issues	Laurie Barlow
SMHS Scholarship Committee	Sander Peck
	Robert Almanza
	Emile Ferry
Communications	Carolyn Waldo-Holmstrom
Stoneman Mural	Marilyn Peck

Historical Collections and Architectural Survey
Sander Peck, Marilyn Peck, Vera Wrobel

Docent Chairmen
Mary Payne, Peggy Winkler

Docents
Graziella Almanza, Katy Benton, Mary Payne, Dorothy Ohlson, Vera Wrobel, Marilyn Peck, Peggy Winkler, Ave Maria Bortz, Jim Elliott, Carolyn Holmstrom

General Assistants
Gene Platz, Vera Wrobel, Sander Peck, Marlene Elliott, James Elliott, Alan Weirick

Adobe Restoration and Preservation
Dennis Kneier, James Elliott, Paul Crowley

Website
Chris Datwyler, Gene Dryden

*Board Officers

Society Presidents (1974-2004)

Midge Sherwood	1974
Mary Smith	1976
Jack Sherwood.....	1978
Ed Ford.....	1980
Graziella Almanza1	1982
La Verne Smith	1985
Jeanne Imler.....	1989
Gary Fleming.....	1991
Lillian Campbell.....	1993
Marilyn Peck.....	1995
Paul Crowley	1999
Gene Dryden	2004

GIRL SCOUTS VISIT THURNHER HOUSE

On a warm August afternoon, the walls of the Thurnher House echoed with the sounds of young voices as 22 San Marino Area Girl Scouts toured the new home of the San Marino Historical Society. As part of their work for the "local lore" badge, the Scouts learned about Armin Thurnher and the early days of Lacy Park. Historical Society Board members Ave Bortz and Paul Crowley made history come alive as they regaled the girls with anecdotes about the Park and the various photos and maps mounted on the walls. San Marino resident Debra Spaulding was responsible for organizing the event.



(Continued from page 1)

Park. The Committee is gathering the names of those persons of San Marino residence who were killed in wars since City Incorporation in 1913. Your inputs will be welcomed.

We hope to see you at our October 24th meeting.

Gene Dryden
President

South Pasadena San Marino YMCA History

by Julie Halverson

Few organizations in this community can date their founding further back than our YMCA. The constitution was adopted and the work officially organized and started on December 4, 1913. But the movement had its beginnings several years before that date. The first record is of a mass meeting, held on December 4, 1905, "for the purpose of discussing ways and means of providing a program under YMCA leadership for the boys of our community". Subsequently, in June 1906, quarters were secured in the Magonagle Block, on El Centro Street near Meridian, providing an office, reading and game rooms under volunteer supervision. According to the records of the YMCA, many plans including serious consideration of providing a "Y" building were discussed between 1905 and 1913. One of the early locations was 1106 Fair Oaks Blvd, the building shown below. In 1946, the Y started construction of its current building at 1605 Garfield Ave.



Old Y Office Building



Current Y Building

Finally in December 1913, it was decided to organize a community, non-equipment YMCA program. With the cooperation of our then State Department of the YMCA, a secretary was employed and the work started that has continued down to the present date. The Article of Incorporation is dated January 14, 1914.

South Pasadena has the distinction of being the first to have a community YMCA type of program, operated without building or physical equipment in the State of California. Whittier followed a few years later, followed in turn by many other communities and small cities in the state, usually culminating in a community type, or the more or less standardized city association building, with adequate YMCA program facilities and equipment within a

few years.

As indicated, this local YMCA movement was originally started as a South Pasadena project. But as our neighboring city of San Marino developed, our YMCA seemed to just naturally expand to include the youth of both communities. Starting in 1921, South Pasadena High School, then a four year school, was opened to students of San Marino and became South Pasadena-San Marino High School. Naturally the Hi-Y program in the High School, and later, starting 1938, the Tri-Hi-Y clubs for girls, included the boys and girls of both communities. The Community Chest, started in this community in 1923, was for several years operated as a South Pasadena-San Marino Community Chest with San Marino helping in the financial support of the YMCA. Later, when San Marino elected to have its separate Community Chest, it continued to include the YMCA as a beneficiary.

During WW2, (summer of 1943) the YMCA recruited 50 boys from So. Pas/San Marino High School to pick oranges for 10 weeks in Covina. They were bussed out every Sunday night to Covina High School where they lived under the football bleachers and ate in the school cafeteria until Friday night. A German POW camp was adjacent to them and the POWs picked alongside the Y boys.

In 1948, the local YMCA officially adopted the name South Pasadena San Marino YMCA and began to expand its work more into the San Marino community. In 1952, when San Marino separated from the South Pasadena High School District and developed its own high school system, the YMCA immediately followed the new plan and started the

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Hi-Y and Tri-Hi-Y programs for boys and girls in the San Marino expanding school system. At about this time, another full time YMCA secretary was added to the local staff and the Y program was further expanded, particularly in San Marino, to include the club work program for boys of younger, elementary school ages, as well as for the high school youth.

Thus, through the years (1913 to date), the YMCA has been privileged to work with the youth and leaders of the two communities, South Pasadena and San Marino, endeavoring always to expand its program commensurate with the growth and needs of the community which it serves. This brief historical sketch would not be complete without mention of the splendid spirit of cooperation and support which the YMCA has received from the citizens, from the churches, schools and other important institutions of the two communities. Only in this friendly, cooperative spirit, can a truly lay movement, such as the YMCA, successfully operate.

Throughout the years, the Y has been extremely active in summer camps. The first South Pasadena summer camp was conducted on Santa Catalina Island, in the summer of 1914 under the leadership of Edwin M. Cooper. Thirty-two boys attended this first camp. Noteworthy is the fact that our local Y camps were continued, without interruption, to the present time. The South Pasadena San Marino camps were held at the original site of White's Landing on Catalina Island from 1914 through 1955. Subsequently the site was moved to Bluff Lake in the San Bernardino Mountains, then later to the camps owned by the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles (Green Valley, Round Meadow, Camp Whittle, Base Camp at Mammoth, etc.) The first strictly South Pasadena Camps, not part of Pasadena and Glendale, were operating in 1925. The first day camp was held in the summer of 1949.

Recognizing the growing need for after school child

care in the early part of the 1980's, the South Pasadena San Marino YMCA, working with both School Districts, started three child care sites.

The Y is currently conducting four State Licensed Child Care sites within these two communities. Still recognizing the growing need for quality care; we are exploring new avenues for growth.

Charter members of the Board of Directors of the South Pasadena YMCA, organized in November of 1913, were as follows:

George W. Lawler, President	E. L. Eldridge
Charles E. Carver, Vice President	John C. Jacobs
E. M. Cooper, Treasurer	Ralph G. Johns
Don F. Gates, Secretary	Norman F. March
Leon E. Berry	Z. L. Parmalee
George C. Bush	F. C. Wadsworth
Frank Collier	George W. Wilson

The San Marino Historical Archives Project Is on The Move

During the past summer, the collection of materials which makes up the archives of the San Marino Historical Society were transferred from the Michael White Adobe to the Thurnher House at Lacy Park. Students from Southwestern Academy and employees of the San Marino Public Works Department helped move the books, letters, audio tapes, video tapes, DVDs, photographs and other materials that make up this important collection. The archives now occupy the two end rooms in the Thurnher house adjacent to the Historical Society Office. Archivist Judith Carter has begun to process and organize the collection and will be contacting members who indicated that they would like to help with this project. If you would like a tour of the new home, please contact Judy Carter at jthrush@socal.rr.com or 626-795-0357.

Please Sign Up!!!

If you want to receive these quarterly "Grapevines", see the old photos, learn of our programs and help to perpetuate the history of our wonderful town, then return the blue envelope quickly. A membership card will follow. Chances are your name will appear somewhere in our 2013 Centennial book!

Thank you.

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/