

The Grapevine

Published by the San Marino Historical Society

WINTER, 2018

**SAN MARINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PROUDLY PRESENTS**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February 2018

I hope that all of our members are doing well and having a happy new year. The San Marino Historical Society has had an eventful fall and winter. The docents continue to provide many visitors and groups with tours of the Thurnher House at Lacy Park on Sundays. Both visitors and docents alike gain more knowledge about local and San Marino history from their communications. Archivist Judy Carter and the volunteers are working on many projects every other Tuesday. At our October program, speaker Ed Andersen gave an informative and fascinating account on John Muir's life as well as his travels to southern California and San Marino. We are appreciative to Ed and the Arcadia Historical Society for his exceptional contribution to our society that evening.

As we move into the winter season, our society will provide you with what should be another interesting program on Monday, February 26th. The speaker will be San Marino High School freshman Hunter Modean. His lifelong interest in the Michael White Adobe will be the topic of the program that evening.

I want to express my gratitude to the members who contribute to this organization. They do this by volunteering their time and energy by serving on the board or performing many other necessary duties. I also would like to thank the members who have so generously donated to our society financially. The San Marino Historical Society appreciates its membership for these contributions.

The Thurnher House at Lacy Park is open to visitors for tours from noon until 3:00 PM on the first and third Sunday of every month and by appointment on Tuesdays. This is the former Park Superintendent's home and the docents look forward to having visitors.

If any member is interested in volunteering with our organization, please contact us at 626-304-9375 or info@sanmarinohistoricalsociety.org

I hope to see many of you at our next program or at the Thurnher House.

John Ryan
President

Preserving the Michael White Adobe by Hunter Modean



Hunter Modean is a fourth generation San Marinar, and is a freshman at San Marino High School. He has always been very interested in the history of San Marino and he has taken a particular interest in the Michael White Adobe. His grandfather, Gene Dryden, has influenced Hunter's interest in the history, as Gene was a former San Marino mayor and President of the Historical Society. Gene was appointed by the School Board to head up a committee to help preserve the Michael White Adobe, now known as the "Friends of the Michael White Adobe". The group had to decide if the Adobe would be moved or kept at the current location at San Marino High School.

Hunter has been immersed in some of these discussions to preserve the Adobe in elementary school. As a Cub Scout at Carver, Hunter presented to his fellow scouts information on the Michael White Adobe with his grandfather's assistance. This presentation board is still on display at the Adobe.

(Continued on page 2)

Monday, February 26, 7:00pm

Crowell Public Library

Barth Community Room

1890 Huntington Drive, San Marino

Public is Welcome, Admission is Free

**San Marino Historical Society
Executive Officers and Members of the Board
2017**

Officers

President.....	John Ryan
Vice-President.....	John Morris
Secretary.....	Pat Salvaty
Treasurer	Bob Houston
Immediate Past President	Judith Carter

Committee Chairs

Archives	Judith Carter
Historian	Linda Mollno
Membership	Wayne Carter
Newsletter	Chris Datwyler
Programs	John Morris
	Wayne Carter
	Judy Carter
Publicity.....	Ed Tom
Thurnher House Docents	John Ryan
Community Liaison.....	Issac Hung
Advisor	Ken Veronda

Emeritus Board Members

Robert and Graziella Almanza
Jim Elliott
Marilyn Peck
Peggy Winkler

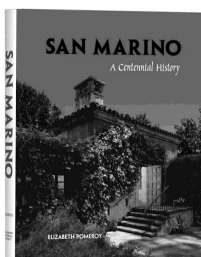
Society Presidents (1974-2015)

Midge Sherwood	1974
Mary Smith	1976
Jack Sherwood.....	1978
Ed Ford	1980
Graziella Almanza	1982
Laverne Smith	1985
Jeanne Imler	1989
Gary Fleming.....	1991
Lillian Campbell.....	1993
Marilyn Peck.....	1995
Paul Crowley.....	1999
Gene Dryden.....	2004
Benjamin Salvaty	2008
Ave Maria Bortz.....	2008
John Morris	2010
Judith Carter	2014

Order San Marino Centennial Book Now

\$55 per copy + 4.95 tax = \$59.95. Add \$7.50 if you wish the book to be mailed to you for a total of \$67.45.

Order on-line at:
www.sanmarinohistoricalociety.org or by stopping by the Thurnher House on the first and third Sunday from 12-3 or on Tuesdays from 9:30-3. Books are also currently available for sale at San Marino Toy and Books, Julienne, A Stitch in Time, The Old Mill, The Huntington Store, Vromans, and the Pasadena Museum of History



Hunter Modean—Preserving the Michael White Adobe

(Continued from page 1)

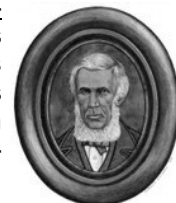
Hunter has been interested in building Legos from the age of six. Since the Adobe was such an interesting piece of history for Hunter, he decided to build a scaled Michael White Adobe replica out of Legos. This project has been ongoing for a couple of years and Hunter recently finished it. He will be talking about the reasons why he built the Adobe, why it's important to him, and how he will be donating this structure to the Adobe as "A testament to the impact that the Adobe has on San Marino and him personally".

Hunter's is currently involved in the San Marino High School Robotics Team, Los Angeles Children's Choir, and the Apollo Men's Choir, as well as plays tennis. Hunter is an avid reader and he will also have some Michael White Adobe books on display at the meeting. His main passion is building and designing Lego models from scratch and hopes to one day become a Lego designer, and study mechanical engineering. Hunter is currently building a replica of a B-26 bomber from scratch using loose pieces from his vast Lego collection. Hunter will be displaying some of his Lego builds and the replica of the Michael White Adobe at the next Historical Society meeting on February 26, 2018.

San Marino is fortunate to have preserved a piece of its history for the benefit of future generations. Hunter is a testament to the impact that the Adobe has on this next generation and how important it is to preserve our local history. The Historical Society has played a vital part in this process.

Michael White Book

The Story of Michel White a California Rebel Pioneer 1801-1885 by Dorothy Jenkins Ross is a fascinating story which provides a unique view of the San Gabriel Valley's development during this notable period in California history. The book may be purchased at the Crowell Public Library, San Marino Toy and Books or by contacting the San Marino Historical Society. The price of the book is \$27.20 for a hardcover copy including sales tax and \$19.57 for soft cover.



WEBSITE

Visit our website to learn more about your Society's programs and activities as well as viewing current and past issues of our newsletter – the "Grapevine":

<http://sanmarinohistoricalociety.org/>

THE SAN MARINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 80222

SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA 91118-8222

(626) 304-9375

info@sanmarinohistoricalociety.org

<http://sanmarinohistoricalociety.org/>

Pasadena Country Club: A Forgotten Part of San Marino's Past

by John Holmstrom

(Reprinted from the Grapevine, October 1994)

There are now many lovely golf clubs in our area, but one of the first fully organized golf clubs in Southern California was the Pasadena Country Club which opened in 1898 in what is now San Marino. The beautiful clubhouse, built for the then-princely sum of over \$5000, was located on the bluff overlooking Wilson Lake, now Lacy Park. The nine hole golf course covered an area of approximately 70 acres of what is now known as the Oak Grove Area with boundaries extending from the clubhouse north about one-half mile, west to about Keweenaw (Mill) Canyon and east to Shenandoah Road.

Membership in this club was a "Who's Who," not only of this area but of the country since many of the members were Easterners who only wintered in Pasadena. Some of the prominent members were Henry Huntington, George S. Patton Sr., Adolphus Busch, L. V. Harkness, Arthur H. Fleming, John S. Cravens, W. M. Garland, W. R. Staats, John B. Miller, and Hancock Banning. The club had one honorary member, Miss May G. Sutton, a world-class tennis player. There were over twenty members who lived on Orange Grove Boulevard, known as "Millionaires Row." One of the members was John S. Cravens, part of whose former estate is now occupied by the American Red Cross. John S. Cravens began his famous Cravens Cup Tournament at the Pasadena Country Club prior to 1902. At the closing of the club, the tournament moved to the Midwick Country Club in Alhambra, and then to the San Gabriel Country Club where the tournament is still played annually.

The Pasadena Country Club was one of the original members of the Southern California Golf Association and was one of the six country clubs in the attendance when the S.C.G.A. had its first meeting in 1899. Also, the first Women's Golf Championship of Southern California under the auspices of the S.C.G.A. was played at the Pasadena Country Club.

Some of the other firsts for the club were of a different nature, as reported by the Los Angeles Times on Sunday, July 24, 1898: "The many members of the Country Club are in a peck of trouble. The caddies, as the boys are called who carry the golf sticks and hunt up the balls, struck on Thursday for higher pay. They claim that fifteen cents a round is too little money to run all over the lot chasing golf balls and carrying the sticks."

The Times reported another innovation on December 31, 1899: "A band of 1000 sheep has taken possession of the golf links of the Pasadena Country Club. The sheep are clearing the grass from the links, and it is said will put the club's battleground in splendid condition. The Los Angeles Country Club, not to follow Pasadena's lead, has turned 300 goats on its links for the same purpose."

Some time prior to 1910, the Pasadena Country Club sold the golf links property to the Huntington Land and Improvement Company for subdivision into estates. By 1915, they sold the clubhouse complex to James B. Martin, who converted the clubhouse into a private residence, which is still in existence today. The gate house and carriage house, connected in 1926 to form a single residence and split from the clubhouse property in the 1930s, still stands in essentially its original condition.

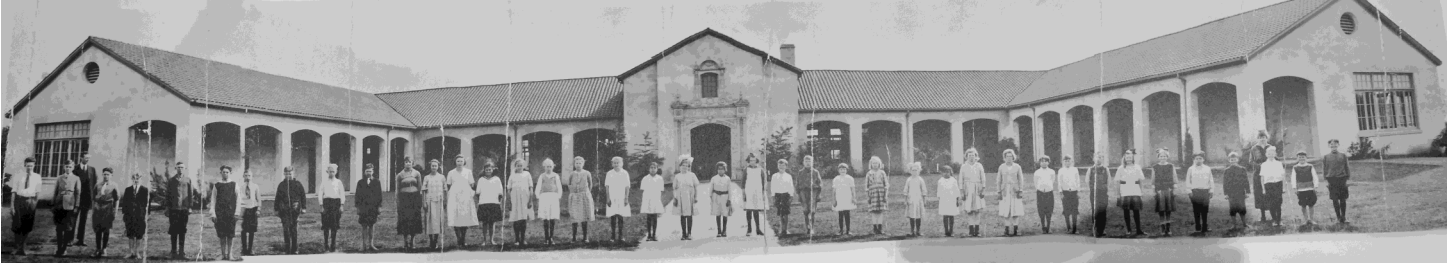
In 1911, the Pasadena Country Club bought 150 acres in Alhambra at the corner of Garey and Atlantic Boulevards to build an 18-hole golf course, a polo field and stables for 150 horses. The formal opening of this club, called Midwick Country Club was in October 1913. The board of directors was practically the same as that of the original Pasadena Country Club.

(Editor's note: John Holmstrom's collection was donated to the San Marino Historical Society by his family upon his death.)



Club House and Grounds of the Pasadena Country Club

HUNTINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL CELEBRATES!



Our own Huntington Middle School will be celebrating its centennial this February. The San Marino School District acquired a five-acre portion of the Cooper Ranch to build the city's first grammar school. Located on the south side of Huntington Drive, the San Marino Grammar School cost \$39,258 to build. In February of 1918, the school opened with four classrooms, an auditorium, library and rooms for sewing, manual arts and an auditorium. In the first year, 41 students attended. The school was later named Henry E. Huntington Middle School after San Marino's first citizen.

From the Archives

February, 2018 by Judith Carter

Activities were quiet at the Thurnher House during the holiday season. With the new year, we are resuming our Tuesday activities. After twelve years of holding the Historical Society archives open every Tuesday, we have reduced our hours to the first and third Tuesday each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. However the office will be open by appointment. Please contact us by email at info@sanmarinohistoricalsociety.org or telephone at 626-304-9375.

We cooperated with the Crowell Public Library as they prepare for the library's 10th anniversary celebration. We loaned them five framed photographs from the series, San Marino Then and Now. The historical photographs feature sites around San Marino as they were in the past paired with current views of the same location. Originally photographed by Edward William, a Crowell Library staff member and displayed at the library, the collection was later donated to the historical society. Visit the library to view this collection to see how San Marino has changed over the decades.

Before Christmas we received a request for a copy of an oral history interview of Marcia Neville which was recorded in November 2014. Carolyn Chapman, who was the interviewer, wished to gift the copy to the family after Neville's death. We were pleased to fill this request from our extensive oral history collection.

A recent donation the archives is a lucite paper-weight honoring Charles M. Martin, City Attorney of the City of San Marino upon his retirement. Fred Sohl is the donor of this item.

We look forward to welcoming Oskar Thurnher to his family home the first weekend in February. He has maintained an interest in the historical society and his family has continued to support our work.

Thurnher House Hours

The Thurnher House is open on the first and third Sunday afternoon of each month from noon to 3:00pm. It is also open for tours by appointment. If you would like to visit the house on Tuesdays, please call 626-304-9375 or info@sanmarinohistoricalsociety.org for an appointment.

Membership Drive

Each year the San Marino Historical Society begins its fiscal year on October 1. An invitation to join is sent with a copy of the Grapevine to all residents of the city and those who live outside the city but within the San Marino School District. From October 1, 2017 to December 31, the Historical Society yielded 169 memberships from that first mailing. Of those, thirteen were new members and twelve were previous members who had not renewed the in the 2016/17 fiscal year. They decided to rejoin and to support the important work of the society. We are pleased to report that forty families or individuals chose to join as Benefactors which means they contributed \$100 or more to support the preservation of San Marino history.

We thank each person who made the decision to join. We encourage those who have yet to make the decision to act now. Simply enclose a check the blue envelope included with this issue of the Grapevine or go to our website, info@sanmarinohistoricalsociety.org and join via PayPal.

2018 Calendar of Events

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| February 26 | Monday 7 p.m., San Marino Historical Society Program Presentation, Crowell Public Library, Barth Community Room, 1890 Huntington Drive, San Marino |
| May 21 | Monday 7 p.m., San Marino Historical Society Program Presentation, Crowell Public Library, Barth Community Room, 1890 Huntington Drive, San Marino, topic to be announced. |
| October 23 | Monday 7 p.m., San Marino Historical Society Program Presentation, Crowell Public Library, Barth Community Room, 1890 Huntington Drive, San Marino, topic to be announced. |