

The Grapevine

Published by the San Marino Historical Society

SPRING 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May 2014

We began 2014 in February with a program titled "The Sacramento and San Joaquin Delta and its Importance to California in the Past and Future." The Barth Room at the Crowell Library was filled to capacity for this timely topic. At that meeting, we honored Marilyn Peck, Peggy Winkler, and Jim and Marlene Elliott for their many years of service on the board and presented a plaque inscribed with their names that now hangs in the Historical Society office. Graziella and Robert Almanza will be honored at our next program meeting.

In March, twenty members and friends gathered at the San Gabriel Cemetery for a walking tour of the grave sites of many of the founding families of San Marino and the surrounding area. The Wilsons, the Pattons, Lacys, Mayberrys and many others were among those we visited. This proved to be such a popular event that we will repeat it in the fall. If you were unable to attend the first tour, you will have another chance.

The Historical Society board has expanded by four members. Two are students. Deborah Kaufeldt-Boardman a student at Southwestern Academy and Skylar Kaufeldt-Lira from San Marino High School are our first student members and we are grateful for their willingness to serve. In addition, Isaac Hung, past president of Rotary Club of San Marino and Jennifer Allan Goldman, Curator of Manuscripts and Institutional Archivist at the Huntington Library have agreed to serve. All four will add to our efforts to bring you meaningful insights into the history of San Marino.

One goal for this year is to cooperate with other organizations in the community to sponsor activities that reach beyond our membership. On April 10, we joined with the San Marino branch of Union Bank and the San Marino Chamber of Commerce to celebrate the first anniversary of the opening of the bank's branch and the 101st anniversary of the incorporation of San Marino. Fifty people gathered and sampled delicious food, wine and birthday cake. We even had balloons and sang happy birthday.

The Historical Society is grateful to its members for their support. Your membership makes these activities possible.

Judith Carter, President

SAN MARINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROUDLY PRESENTS

IT'S SPRING 1914, OUR CITY'S A YEAR OLD, SO WHAT'S HAPPENING?

By Ken Veronda



In the Spring of 1913, our city of San Marino incorporated, partly to avoid being taken over by our neighbors with their higher property taxes. Now it's Spring of 1914, a year later. What's happening? How is our new little city working? What's going on at home, around us, and all over the 48 states of our republic? Come hear what's happened since San Marino City was organized a year ago, how the farms and towns of our San Gabriel Valley are doing, and how our great country's people are responding to the social and political changes swirling around.

Please join us for this exciting program featuring popular speaker and historian Ken Veronda whose knowledge of the history of San Marino is deep and wide.

Monday, May 19, 2014, 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
2014

Officers

President Judith Carter
Secretary Pat Salvaty
Treasurer Wayne Carter
Parliamentarian Lee Mothershead
Immediate Past President John Morris

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Archives Judith Carter
Historian Linda Molino
Membership Bill Ferry
Newsletter Chris Datwyler
Oral Histories Ave Bortz
Carolyn Chapman
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San Marino High School Student Rep Skylar Kaufeldt-
Lira
Southwestern Academy Student Rep Deborah Kaufeldt-
Boardman

Emeritus Board Members

Robert and Graziella Almanza
Jim and Marlene Elliott
Marilyn Peck
Peggy Winkler

Society Presidents (1974-2013)

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

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info@sanmarinohistoricalsociety.org

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.

From the Archives

January 2014
Judith Carter

Two projects are underway in the archives at the Thurnher House. Julie Fedde has begun work on a box of photographs contributed by the Crowell Public Library. These include a wealth of old scenes of San Marino. She will be recording information on source and date, inserting photos into mylar sleeves and filing each one by subject. We are pleased to announce that the second project, mentioned in the last Grapevine, has been funded by a grant from the Rotary Club of San Marino. The funds from this grant will allow us to purchase archival supplies to preserve the photographs, letters, books and ephemera from the Rotary collection. Two long time Rotarians, Ken Veronda and John Harris will help identify the people in photographs.

Each week we field telephone calls, e-mails and personal visits from people doing miscellaneous research or seeking genealogical information. A woman who grew up in San Marino but moved away as a teenager was able to find photos of herself as a middle school student at Huntington School, find the addresses of the homes of her parents and grandparents. Our collection of city directories were of help to her. We have directories in paper format as well as on microfilm.

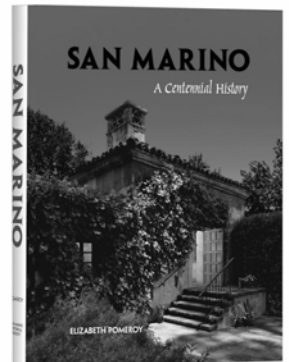
Perhaps the most unusual telephone request we received this month was from a caller who remembered seeing a woman dressed in a Wonder Woman costume walking around San Marino. He thought it was about 25 years ago and he saw the woman more than once. He indicated that the costume was well made and professional looking, not the plastic Halloween type. If anyone has a memory of seeing this woman, please contact the Historical Society.

We welcome people to tour the Thurnher House on Tuesdays by appointment. Please telephone or e-mail to set a time. We will be closed on Tuesday, May 12.

Order San Marino Centennial Book Now

\$55 per copy + \$4.81 tax = \$59.81. If you wish to have the book shipped to you please add \$7.50 per copy for a total of \$61.33 per copy.

Order forms are available from the Historical Society office at 626-304-9375 or on the website www.smcentennialbook.org.



E. J. MARSHALL - "THE LAST OF THE GREAT CATTLE BARONS"

by Ave Maria Bortz

For more than 60 years, scores of San Marino girls and their families have traveled the short distance from their homes to Mayfield Senior School in Pasadena. There the girls have attended classes in the magnificent mansion built by Edwin Jessop Marshall overlooking the Arroyo. Few knew much about him but they all learned to appreciate the beauty of the home Marshall had built for his family.



E. J. Marshall

One thing they may not have known was that Marshall was a personal friend of Henry E. Huntington. Marshall's grandson Ned enjoyed recounting stories of accompanying his grandfather to Huntington's new home and of sitting on Mr. Huntington's lap out on the terrace, while the two friends visited. Another connection with San Marino was part of the SM Historical Society's recent field trip to the San Gabriel Cemetery. After stopping at the grave sites of Pattons, Lacys, Kecks and other well-known local names, the group came to the Marshall family grave. And so the question was - who was E. J. Marshall?

Marshall was born in 1860 and died in 1937. Between these dates, he amassed a fortune in real estate. At one time, he was known as the single largest landowner in the US. He owned over 180,000 acres of real estate in the US and another 3.5 million acres in northern Mexico.

His initial fortune was made in the wild days of the first great Texas oil boom. However, due to family health concerns, in 1904 he sold his oil holdings and moved to southern California. Here he began to buy land - lots of land. Some of his properties have their own stories, such as the 42,000 acre Jesus Maria Ranch north of Santa Barbara. That property included 16 miles of prime ocean front and is now the home of Vandenberg AF Base. As owner of the Grand Canyon Cattle Co, Marshall controlled the north rim of the Grand Canyon.

His acreage in northern Mexico was in the states of Sinaloa and Chihuahua. In fact, the northern boundary of his Palomas Ranch actually formed the southern border between the state of New Mexico and Mexico, the country. Although at his time American property was at risk from Pancho Villa's raids, the Marshall properties were never touched.

In 1937, E.J. Marshall died. At that point, the banks began to foreclose on his highly leveraged properties. Edwin Jessop Marshall was recognized by the NY Times as the "last of the great cattle barons", while the LA Times called him "one of the most colorful figures remaining in the West".

In Memoriam: Midge Sherwood



We at the San Marino Historical Society mourn the death of Midge Sherwood, the founder of the Historical Society who passed away recently at 98 years. In the mid 1970s, as the bicentennial of the United States approached, Sherwood spearheaded the celebration in San Marino. At the same time she was the moving force behind the establishment of an organization to preserve the history of the city.

A graduate of University of Missouri School of Journalism, Sherwood had a long career in journalism. After moving to San Marino, she dedicated herself to researching and writing about the early families of San Marino. Among the books she published are San Marino: From Ranch to City, Days of Vintage, Years of Vision (three volumes) and Fremont: Eagle of the West.

We are are grateful to Sherwood for her contributions to the preservation the history of our community. The board of the San Marino Historical Society has made a contribution in her honor to the Huntington Library where she did so much of her research. If individual members would like to honor her memory, contributions should be sent to The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108, attention Chris Lutz.

Michael White Adobe Update

The Friends of the Michael White Adobe (FoMWA) are planning for the adobe's rehabilitation and future use. Adobe experts Anthony Crosby and Roy Tolles assessed the building's architectural and structural condition and provided recommendations for its rehabilitation. This information will be used in a Historic Structures Report (HSR) that will guide the FoMWA in our goal of housing a Hall of Fame for the 4-A's—Athletics, Arts, Academics and Alumni of the San Marino school district in the adobe. We identified this potential use in a 2010 feasibility study that like the HSR was funded with grants from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Los Angeles County Preservation Fund and generous donations.

Studies concluded the Michael White Adobe is in fairly good condition considering it is over 160 years old, but repairs and upgrades are needed to ensure its continued existence. Some lower courses of adobe blocks have suffered moisture damage and are deteriorating. FoMWA have identified and removed the source of moisture that caused the deterioration and is seeking to repair approximately 40 linear feet of damaged blocks as a first phase of rehabilitation. The repair work will replace deteriorated blocks with new adobe blocks up to three feet high in limited areas.

The first phase work will take 8 to 12 weeks. Given the school schedule, the project will likely occur during the summer break, which will coincide with the dry season. FoMWA has received some funding from the SM Historic Society, SM Rotary Club, Pankow, and community members for the first phase. We are continuing to raise funds for the repair project, as well as for subsequent phases of the rehabilitation.

If you would like to find out more about the project, visit the adobe, or help us with our plans, please contact Marla Felber at 626-614-8160.

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://sanmarinohistoricalsociety.org/>

Membership Renewals

We thank 259 members who have renewed their memberships in the San Marino Historical Society for the current fiscal year October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014. We especially thank our members who have joined at the patron level since February 1, 2014.

Bonnie and Mustapha Baha
 Deloris Barker
 Ann and Gene Dryden
 John and Kate Harris
 Isaac Hung
 Scott and Cindy Jenkins
 Nelson D. Jones
 Bill Ferry
 Dr. and Mrs Patzakis
 Melinda Rogers
 Sue Spence
 The UPS Store
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Warren

2014 Calendar of Events

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|--------------|--|
| May 19 | Program Meeting 7:00 p.m.
"It's Spring 1914, Our City's a Year Old, So What's Happening?" Ken Veronda speaks at the Crowell Public Library |
| June 23 | Board Meeting..... 5:30 p.m.
Southwestern Academy |
| Summer | Party TBA |
| September 10 | Grapevine Deadline |
| September 22 | Board Meeting..... 5:30 p.m.
Southwestern Academy |
| October 27 | Program Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Randy Shulman, Vice President of Advancement at the Huntington Library will speak on "Five Treasures of the Huntington" at the Crowell Public Library |
| November 24 | Board Meeting..... 5:30 p.m.
Southwestern Academy |
| December | Holiday Party TBA |
- Additional tours and joint programs will be added to the calendar as dates become available.

Thank you, Thank You!

A special thanks to Floyd and Associates for keeping an eye on our financial obligations and to Matt Morris for sharing his computer expertise. Hats off to the staff at the San Gabriel Cemetery for providing information we used on our recent tour. Thanks too to the San Marino Recreation Department for its maintenance of the Thurnher House. And to Union Bank and the San Marino Chamber of Commerce for their part in the April Mixer/Birthday Party.