



The Grapevine

Published by the San Marino Historical Society

FALL 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

October 2015

Autumn marks the beginning of the San Marino Historical Society's 2015-2016 membership year. With your copy of the Grapevine you will find the familiar blue envelope. Please fill out all the requested information and enclose a check to keep your membership current.

On Monday, October 28, the San Marino Historical Society Fall program at the Crowell Library will feature Eugene Moy from the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California. Join us that evening to hear about the early history of the Chinese in the San Gabriel Valley. This is a program that will appeal to all San Marino residents.

Summer was a quiet time for the Historical Society. Work on the archives proceeded even while Lacy Park closed for scheduled renovations. John Ryan and John Morris continued to welcome visitors to the Thurnher House for tours on the first and third Sunday of the month. The cool interiors of the 1929 house were a respite from the double digit temperatures of August and September. Our entry in the July 4th parade was an attention grabber once again. Board member Carolyn Chapman drove her red Cadillac convertible for the second year and was joined by your president and board members Skylar Kaufeldt-Lira and Ed Tom.

The historical essay in this issue tells the story of L. J. Rose owner of the 2000 acre Sunny Slope Ranch on the eastern edge of San Marino. Historian Linda Mollno has tied the history of this important early figure in the history of this area to the present by connecting the current drought with his non-irrigated vineyard.

On Monday, May 18, our spring speaker Lyle Umenhoffer entertained a full house at the Crowell Public Library. Many people expressed an interest in hearing him again or recommending him to friends. Monterey Park Library is planning to schedule him as a speaker in the near future. When the date is set, we will inform you of the date in the next Grapevine.

Judith Carter

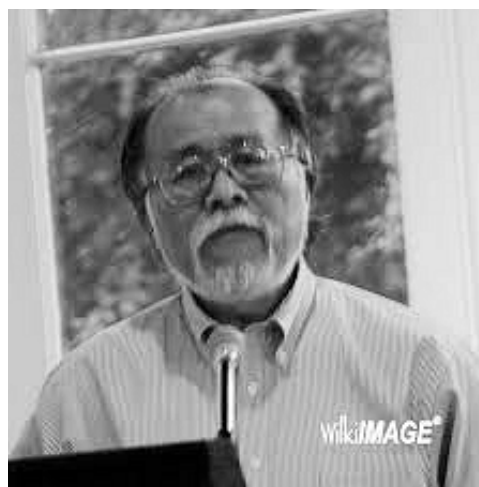
SAN MARINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROUDLY PRESENTS

The Deep Roots of the Chinese in the San Gabriel Valley

By

Eugene Moy

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California



Eugene Moy is a retired urban planner, lives in Alhambra, and is a native-born fifth generation Chinese-American and is past president of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California. Moy's passion for local Chinese history comes from his love of Los Angeles' multi-ethnic composition. His has a strong desire to reflect on

Monday, October 26, 2015, 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
2015**

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Lillian Campbell 1993
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John Morris 2010

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(626) 304-9375
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

September 2015
Judith Carter

Alice Tsay, an intern in The Huntington Library's Education Division visited the archives his summer. She was looking for information on members of the household, collections, and garden staff while attempting to present a more inclusive account of the changes that took place as the Shorb Ranch became the San Marino Ranch and, eventually, The Huntington. We were able to give her contact information on two people with ties to the development of the gardens at the Huntington Library.

Two original construction drawings of the fireplace details of the Lacy House were given to the archives by Betsy Felix who recently sold the home on Avonrea Road. These drawings will be added to the Richard and Maud Lacy material currently held in the collection.

Several students from San Marino High School working on an exhibit on Henry E. Huntington visited the archives to gather material that will help them focus on Henry Huntington's legacy as an art and rare books collector and how his name lives on in name, image and spirit. More than a dozen students have worked on this project for over a year in conjunction with the education staff at the Huntington Library.

Time to Renew Your Membership

The San Marino Historical Society fiscal year is October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016. We depend on the support of our members to continue to provide programs, publish the Grapevine and maintain the archives. Please use the blue envelope to provide updated information to us and as a way to renew or join the Society. Think about increasing your membership level this year. You may use the traditional blue envelope or pay on-line via PayPal on our website. You also may choose to receive the Grapevine via e-mail if you prefer. Please indicate that when you renew or join us. We appreciate all the support we receive.



The Stoneman Monument on Montroble marks the location of General Stoneman's 400 acre estate. This California State Historical Landmark is in need of restoration.

Water & Wine: L. J. Rose & Dry-Ranch Farming

By
Linda Mollno, PhD.

As Californians struggle to survive a 5-year drought, the parched suburban landscaping is a constant reminder of our water dependency. It seems improbable that over a century ago thousands of acres near San Marino were covered with lush green grapevines grown without irrigation, using a system known as dry ranch farming. The man behind this seeming miracle was Leonard John Rose.

Early agricultural success in the San Gabriel Valley encouraged new migrants and when Rose started Sunny Slope Vineyard in the early 1860s he grew his grapes without irrigation. Rose believed the area a perfect location for dry ranch farming. Although he attracted many skeptics his success lasted for decades. Debates over irrigated versus non-irrigated farming have long been important to grape growing throughout the state and it is certainly ironic that this one region, so suited to non-irrigated farming gave way eventually to people, pets, lawns, and automobiles, all thirsty for water to survive. While Rose grew his grapes without water it appears he did not hesitate to water his lawn.

During the 1880s Sunny Slope played host to many notables, including former president Rutherford B. Hayes and author Helen Hunt Jackson. Countless commentaries exist on the beauty and opportunity of Southern California, owing to the emergence of boosterism in the region. In 1889, Frona Eunice Wait, journalist from San Francisco described Sunny Slope:

About eleven miles down the San Gabriel Valley from Los Angeles are the ranch, vineyards and winery of L. J. Rose ... Thousands of acres in extent, situated in the very heart of the prettiest valley on the coast, bathed in the sunshine of summer the year round, laid out in grand avenues, shaded by lofty eucalyptus trees, with hundreds and hundreds of acres in grapes, with orange and lemon groves loaded with fruit, with beautiful houses and picturesque lawn ... set off by a background of bare and rugged mountains, snow-capped and wreathed about with fleecy clouds, it forms ... a veritable masterpiece by nature. ...

The Rose property lay east of Rancho San Pasqual, in an area known as La Presa. According to Rose's son, he paid just over a dollar an acre, immediately planting sixty acres in Mission grapevines. He believed these hearty vines, prolific producers for the padres, well suited to non-irrigated cultivation; they did not disappoint. Rose quelled initial skepticism with an abundant first-year harvest. In subsequent years he planted hundreds more acres.

L. J. Rose, Jr.'s memoir of life growing up at Sunny Slope credits his father with pioneering non-irrigated vine cultivation. However, Sunny Slope was not alone, and not the first California vineyard to grow grapes without water. Credit for the first superior wines produced from



*Wine maker's cottage – Sunnyslope
Carleton Watkins, 1880, Courtesy of the California History Room, California State Library, Sacramento*

non-irrigated vineyards in California belongs to Hungarian immigrant Agoston Haraszthy in Sonoma County a decade before Sunny Slope. Whether Rose knew of his belief. Rose claimed, "the advantage...[of non-irrigated vines] was manifest as the grapes were of deeper color and much sweeter than those on irrigated lands, both qualities very essential to the best results in wine making."

The success of Sunny Slope influenced American migrants, Daniel Milliken and George Havens to begin dry ranch farming in Rancho Cucamonga.

Although pleased with his first planting of Mission grapes Rose experimented with other cuttings from Europe and at one point grew as many as 35 different varieties. Eventually Sunny Slope included 1,000 acres of vineyard and a half-million gallon capacity winery. However, since Rose possessed many interests, including horse racing, and sold the property in 1887 to English investors for over one million dollars.

Following the completion of the Southern Pacific Railway to Los Angeles in 1876, population growth, the demand for housing and industry increased and agricultural acres in the San Gabriel Valley disappeared. Now linked the rest of the United States, progress could not be deterred. Soon land developers and speculators dominated where agriculture once reigned.

In the past century the trend to cover every possible acre with structures, both residential and commercial, produced remarkable communities like San Marino, but it has come at a cost. We have no guaranteed source of water to support lush landscaping, fill our swimming pools, and sustain our demands for laundry, bathing and more. It makes one wonder if L. J. Rose and others had a better idea for this region so many years ago when they lived and supported themselves and their families in style, without consuming large amounts of water.

Historical Society Scholarship Recipients

The Historical Society honored two students with its 2015 scholarships. On June 11, Thien Ha “Chip” Wu was awarded a \$200 check and a copy of San Marino: A Centennial History during the graduation ceremony at Southwestern Academy. Chip is now a senior at Southwestern and excels in many subjects. She is a talented and enthusiastic historian and was an outstanding student in the United States history honors class during the 2014-2015 academic year.

Lara Chakrian was selected as the history student at San Marino High School to receive the \$200 scholarship and a copy of San Marino: A Centennial History at the high school awards assembly in late May. Lara acted as a peer mentor and exhibited a strong capacity for compassion for others. She was cited by her teachers as “one who easily bonds with peers and adults alike due to her sincerity and authenticity.” She is now attending Azusa Pacific University..

Of Historical Interest

The Old Mill (El Molino Viejo) celebrates its 200th birthday in 2016. In preparation, Liam Gallagher, an intern from Cal State Northridge spent the summer researching the history of the mill.

The Alhambra Historical Society is looking for Alhambra High School yearbooks for the years 1936, 1941, and 1943. Call them at 626-300-8845 if you have one to donate.

The Huntington Westerners, founded by Midge Sherwood who was also a founding member and president of the San Marino Historical Society, have moved their monthly meetings to the Women’s City Club in Pasadena at 160 North Oakland. On Saturday, October 3, Peter Blodgett of the Huntington Library will talk about his book, Motoring West, Automobile Pioneers 1900-1909. Call 626-343-9069 for reservations.

2015-2016 Calendar of Events

October 18	Docent led tours of the Thurnher House
October 26	7 p.m. Crowell Public Library, Historical Society Program featuring Eugene Moy, Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
November 1	Docent led tours of the Thurnher House
November 15	Docent led tours of the Thurnher House
Feb. 29, 2016	7 p.m., Crowell Public Library, Historical Society Program, TBA
May 23, 2016	7 p.m., Crowell Public Library, Historical Society Pro

Carolyn Chapman and Oral History

Carolyn Chapman retires a co-chairman of the Oral History Project after interviewing more than two dozen members of the San Marino community. She has been tireless in recording all available members of the City Council, past and present. Many long-time San Marino residents have welcomed Carolyn into their homes to share their life stories with her. She took on this project several years ago as a tribute to her mother Florence Pollard Born, whose family settled in San Marino in 1895. Carolyn’s professional background as a television producer with LMNO Productions provided her with the skills to make this project such a success. Carolyn will stay on as a member of the Historical Society board and promises to continue to offer her red 1985 Cadillac convertible as the official Historical Society car in the San Marino July 4th Parade.



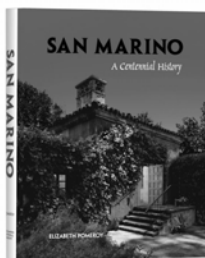
San Marino Historical Society Board members Judith Carter, Carolyn Chapman, Ed Tom, Skylar Kaufeldt-Lira in the San Marino July 4th parade.

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 via PayPal at www.sanmarinohistoricalsociety.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, Diana D’s, The Old Mill, The Huntington Store, Sweet and Savory, Fedde Furniture and the Pasadena Museum of History



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/>