



The Grapevine

Published by the San Marino Historical Society

The San Marino Historical Society
Thurnher House at Lacy Park
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SPRING, 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

Spring is here, and its time for our Spring edition of the Grapevine. Volunteers are continuing their project to organize and preserve San Marino Historical Society's collection at the Thurnher House. Judith Carter, Julie Fedde, Judy Newell and Bonnie Tamkin work each week on the documents and historic items which depict significant past events in the history of San Marino, its residents or its organizations. If you have, or believe that you have, such items, please contact Judith Carter, send email, or leave a message on the Thurnher House answering machine at the addresses below.

Progress on the Memorial continues, with selection of a contractor and initiation of fabrication and construction. The statue has been on order since February. The highest priority has been placed on quality, a ranking which may have an impact on completion schedule.

The recording of oral histories of long term residents has been started. We have completed one interview with a resident who was working in the San Marino/San Gabriel area prior to World War II, and are scheduling interviews with persons having historic recollections.

Ave Bortz continues planning for the compiling of a History of San Marino for the Centennial of San Marino in 2013. She would welcome members who would be interested in being involved in that project.

Our email address is smhistorical@earthlink.net. An answering machine is also connected to the telephone number, 626-304-9375; please feel free to leave messages at that number, or to send email.. Also, we will be posting information bulletins, as appropriate, on our web site. The Thurnher House is open most Tuesdays, from 10am to 3pm, and by appointment. Please call ahead, if possible.

We hope to see you at our May 14th meeting.

Gene Dryden, President

SAN MARINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROUDLY PRESENTS

EVERY HOUSE HAS A HISTORY *Travels in San Marino with the Building Biographer* by TIM GREGORY

Tim Gregory is a Biographer of Houses. He will provide for us the biographies and historical tidbits concerning ten to fifteen San Marino homes.

Mr. Gregory has master's degrees in Library Science and Public History/Historic Preservation. He is a nationally certified archivist and a registered public historian. After a career in the public library field, Mr. Gregory established his own firm, known as The Building Biographer, in 1992. Since then, he has completed over 1,500 property histories for leading real estate firms and historical significance studies for public agencies, private owners, environmental consulting firms, and real estate developers. He has also prepared nominations for listings on the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources. Mr. Gregory has worked as an archivist for such organizations as the Pasadena Museum of History, the Lanterman House, the California State University system, and the Avery Dennison Company. He was the founding chairman of Altadena Heritage.



The Rose House

**The Meeting will be held at
Southwestern Academy
2800 Monterey Road, San Marino
Monday, May 14, 2007 at 7:30 PM.
Public Invited -- Admission is Free**

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

*President	Gene Dryden
*Vice President, Membership	Bill Ferry
*Vice President, Programs	Ben Salvaty
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Newsletter	Chris Datwyler
	Gene Platz
Newsletter Assistants	Judy Carter
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Curator, White Adobe	James Elliott
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	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

Docent Chairmen

Mary Payne, Peggy Winkler

Docents

Graziella Almanza, Mary Payne, Dorothy Ohlson, Marilyn Peck, Peggy Winkler, Ave Maria Bortz, Jim Elliott, Carolyn Holmstrom

General Assistants

Gene Platz, 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

From the Archives

Judith Carter, Archivist

Tim Gregory, the House Biographer, visited and donated a list of the houses in San Marino of which he has done "biographies." He is our speaker for our May program meeting.

The San Marino Historical Society has rejoined the Historical Society of Southern California. Their offices are now in Pasadena.

Vounteers Julie Fedde and Judy Newell are dedicated to the Tribune photos and have decided to continue processing the photos. Rather than undertake a new project, they will tackle two additional boxes of photos that are now being stored in one of the closets.

The third grade teachers at Valentine selected the Thurnher House as one of the historical buildings in the city for their students to study. Two students and their mothers visited, asked questions and were able to complete their assignments.

The Huntington Library Preservation Lab donated twenty-five picture frames to the Historical Society.

They will be used to frame some of the unframed pictures and photos in the collection.

A committee continues to meet with Jennifer Goldman from the Huntington Library to work out the details of the Oral History project. The Project guidelines and a San Marino History Timeline are nearing completion.

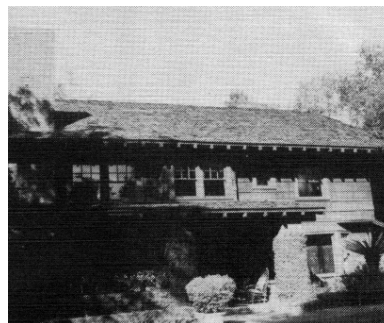
A representative of METRO (MTA) visited the Thurnher House, searching for photos of types of early public transportation to be displayed on the walls of their new building. We referred her to the Huntington Library Photo Archives.

We have looked at Past Perfect Software that is used by many small museums and historical societies.

We have a one-month demonstration version to evaluate.

Barbara Millar and Maria Hein, San Marino Garden Club, spent one afternoon going through materials donated to the San Marino Historical Society in September 2005. These objects, scrapbooks and files have not yet been processed.

Tours of the Thurnher House may be arranged by calling the San Marino Historical Society at 626-304-9375 or Judith Carter at 626-795-0357. The Thurnher House is open most Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please call the above phone numbers to confirm.



The Murray House

Clairbourn School – Its Roots and Evolution in the San Gabriel Valley

By Robert W. Nafie, Ph.D. - Headmaster

Clairbourn School is currently celebrating its eighty-first year of operation since 1926. It all began with the Bourne family comprised of prominent San Marinans with a special vision of how they wanted their children to be educated. Arthur K. Bourne (1877-1967) was the second son of Frederick Gilbert Bourne (1851-1919) who is widely credited with the dramatic growth and world-wide success of the Singer Sewing Machine Company. When the elder Mr. Bourne died in 1919, A.K. Bourne inherited a large portion of the company fortune.

her Sunday school friends who received instruction, but that soon changed as more students expressed an interest in attending the classes. All the early students attended the Christian Science church which was a requirement until 1968. Today, the school is open to students of all religious backgrounds, although it still maintains a Christian Science faculty, staff, and educational philosophy in harmony with the teachings of Christian Science.

In 1927, the informal, new school moved to the home of Mr. and Mrs. William W. Butterfield at 1273 San



The above picture shows the various locations of Clairbourn school which have included the A.K. Bourne estate at 1861 Lombardy Rd. in San Marino (top left), the William M. Butterfield House at 245 West California St. in Pasadena (bottom left), 1273 San Pasqual St. in Pasadena (not shown), the George L. Platt estate at 8451 Sunnyslope Dr., San Gabriel (top middle) and the adjacent Nathan Thompson estate (top right) which included orange groves and the beautiful manor house which still stands today. This aerial photo of the entire eight-acre site from 1958 (bottom right) shows the two adjoining estates which now comprise Clairbourn's campus.

Although A.K. Bourne was from New York and Connecticut, he loved the San Marino area, and in 1923, he chose the young Wallace Neff as the architect of his new home at 1861 Lombardy Road. It was in that home, in January of 1926, that Mrs. A.K. Bourne (Emily), began holding classes in the "conservatory" for a handful of students. From that small beginning, Clairbourn has grown to more than 425 students today. It is interesting to note that Wallace Neff designed and built two additional homes for Mr. Bourne, one in Glendora and another in Palm Springs.

Mrs. Bourne was an active member of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Pasadena (at the corner of Oakland and Green Streets), and it was her desire to provide school instruction for her daughter Claire that recognized and appreciated their Christian Science beliefs about man's relationship to God. At first, it was just Claire Bourne and

Pasqual in Pasadena. Mrs. Butterfield became the teacher/director for the enterprise, and the number of students grew to twenty-three. This home was taken down some years ago when the property was acquired by Caltech to become a part of their main campus.

Mrs. Butterfield continued as the teacher/director when the school moved to larger quarters at 245 West California Street, Pasadena, in 1928. The school was now given the more official name of, "The Claire Louise Progressive Elementary School" named after A.K. Bourne's daughter, Claire. That same year, 5th and 6th grades were added to the school.

In 1931, the school moved again and leased a three-acre site at the corner of Huntington and Sunnyslope Drives in the unincorporated section of Los Angeles County. The land was owned by Mr. George L. Platt of Los Angeles. Mr. Platt was a successful dairyman, and

Clairbourn School

his daughter, Mrs. Edwin L. Gardner (Ethel), a devoted Christian Scientist, was eager for her two daughters to attend the school. Mrs. Gardner's subsequent involvement with the school would span the next thirty-six years.

Coinciding with the school's relocation, Mr. and Mrs. Bourne's marriage ended in divorce. Although Claire and her brother, John, continued in the school, this event marked a gradual lessening of the personal involvement of the Bourne family in the life of the school. A.K. Bourne remarried and moved to Glendora. He was an avid golfer and was an active member of Annandale Golf Club. He divided his time between Glendora and the properties he

was one of the early leaders in designing the statewide regulations governing preschools.

In 1958, Clairbourn had just over 100 students, all of whom were attending area Christian Science churches. Later that year, the school had an opportunity to acquire the adjoining five-acre Thompson family estate complete with an orange grove. Mr. Nathan Thompson was an executive with Seaboard Finance Company in Pasadena and was selling the property and moving to the beach. Clairbourn was the successful bidder for the estate, and in the years that followed, the school expanded its enrollment to more than 300 students.

Beginning in 1980, Clairbourn embarked on a master-plan to replace, modernize and unify the structures on the



A newspaper clipping from 1953 (left) documents the modernizing of the expanded campus with a cutting-edge preschool building. (Right) A view of Clairbourn's campus as it looks today.

owned in Lake Tahoe and Reno, Nevada. Mrs. Emily Bourne continued to live in San Marino.

The school, under the leadership of Mrs. Gardner and others, established the name Clairbourn by combining Claire Bourne's two names, dropping the "e" in both cases, and assigned to it the meaning "Clear View." The school also adopted the French motto, "Vérité Sans Peur" (Truth without Fear).

In the mid-1930's Clairbourn briefly included high school grades, but by the end of that decade, the school returned to its focus on the primary grades. Throughout its history, instruction at Clairbourn has ended at a variety of grade levels ranging from 6th, 8th, 9th, and 12th. During WWII, the school expanded its educational activities in the other direction opening a nursery-kindergarten and

eight-acre campus. The project included new underground utilities, walkways, lighting, signage, and buildings. During this time, the school added a music building, a new library, an art studio, a gymnasium/multi-purpose building, and new classrooms for the 4th and 5th grades. In the last six years, the school has added new 1st through 3rd grade classrooms and a developmental play yard (Randall Hall), new Kindergarten classrooms (Victoria Andrew Hall), and new reception and transportation facilities. Now in 2007, the modernization of Clairbourn's campus continues with the building of a state-of-the-art preschool (the Seiter Family Early Childhood Center) to replace the preschool built in 1953. In the past 81 years, Clairbourn has evolved to become one of the finest independent schools serving the San Gabriel Valley. Today, the school enrolls 425 students in grades Pre-K through 8th.

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/