



The Grapevine

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The San Marino Historical Society
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WINTER, 2004

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

In pondering this - my last - "President's Message", I have wisely reviewed the last message of my predecessor, Marilyn Peck, 4 long years ago. Her two major wishes were to find a new permanent home for our society and to address the future location of our Old Adobe.

We've finally achieved the first goal, by saving and acquiring the Thurnher House in Lacy Park, as our headquarters and museum. Occupation & decoration will begin in mid-year. The Old Adobe status is still unresolved but is being constantly reviewed. In the meantime, the house remains in fine shape.

While the Thurnher House project has been our main concern, other activities have continued as usual. In addition to the quarterly Grapevine (which documents the history of one civic group per issue), we have presented three excellent programs per year, issued annual Historical awards at both San Marino High School and Southwestern academy, maintained membership totals, updated our corporate status, and greatly improved our financial health.

Credit for all of the above belongs to our great Board, the members of which are listed on page 2. (Please look). I'll remain on the Board and look forward to helping our new leadership.

In the meantime, I can't thank all of you enough.

Paul Crowley
President

SAN MARINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROUDLY PRESENTS

"Old San Marino Golf Courses"
by Gene Dryden and John Holmstrom

This program will explore the histories of our old long-forgotten golf courses. When they started, where they were and what became of them over the last century. The Pasadena Country Club on Oak Grove Avenue, established in 1898, and the Wentworth (Huntington) Hotel golf course by Lacy Park, with the Old Mill as its' clubhouse, are prime examples. Even the still operating San Gabriel Country Club will have its' 100 year history covered. Photos and slides of the old days will be shown.



Clubhouse-Pasadena Country Club



1900-From the 8th hole tee, looking toward the Clubhouse of the Pasadena Country Club (Clubhouse and Oak Grove Avenue at top center)

Monday, February 23, 2004, 7:30 P.M.
Southwestern Academy
2800 Monterey Road, San Marino
Public Invited - Admission is Free

**San Marino Historical Society
Officers 2002-2003**

*President	Paul Crowley
*VP, Membership	Bill Ferry
*VP, Programs	Ave Maria Bortz
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*Corresponding Secretary	Marlene Elliott
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Adobe Restoration and Preservation
Paul Crowley, Eugene Dryden, James Elliott

Assistants (General)
Vera Wrobel, Sander Peck, Laurie Barlow, Bob Almanza, Graziella Almanza

Scholarship Committee
Ave Bortz, Paul Crowley

Shirts and Totes
Marilyn Peck

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*Board Officers

Society Presidents (1974-2003)

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

OLD SAN MARINO



The Old Van de Kamp Windmill

The Old Windmill at the southeast corner of Huntington Drive and Chelsea Road was a landmark of San Marino until 1975. It was the site of the Van De Kamp Bakery for 40-plus years and is the current location of Citizens Business Bank.

**Wilson Lake Vineyard I,
1856-1910**

Located near the corner of Euston Road and Patton Way, Lake Vineyard was Victorianized after Wilson's death. Seated on the front yard in the photo above are his grandchildren, Annie Patton, left, and George Patton, right (who later became the famous World War II General). Between them is Norbert Newland Shorb, another grandchild and son of James De Barth Shorb, who lived at the San Marino Ranch located on the knoll northeast of Lake Vineyard.



Celebrating San Marino's 50th

Mr. and Mrs. William Hertrich are pictured here in 1963 celebrating the 50th anniversary of San Marino's founding. Hertrich, working with Armin Thurnher of Thurnher home notoriety, designed Lacy Park in the mid-1920's.

History of Saints Felicitas and Perpetua Church

By Michael Moran

Original research by Ray J. Cusick, for dedication of new church, July 18, 1948

Few Catholic parishes can lay claim to the color and romance of its past as can Saints Felicitas and Perpetua. The building, which served as chapel and rectory, had been known for over a century as "The Old Adobe" or "Casa Blanca". This traditional landmark dated back to the days when this great empire of the west was ruled by the Mexican government. Those were the words of parishioner Ray J. Cusick in the dedication booklet for the new church of Saints Felicitas and Perpetua, July 18, 1948.



Luther Harvey Titus Adobe (Casa Blanca) circa 1885

On a strip of San Gabriel Mission land, between two great ranchos, Santa Anita and San Pasqual, the adobe came into the possession of Michael White (Miguel Blanco) in 1845, a sailor from Margate, England, who befriended the mission fathers, working as a carpenter. For this, White was granted the land and the adobe from Governor Pio Pico. At that time it was a one story rectangular shaped whitewashed adobe with a tile roof. Further research shows White did own the Casa Blanca adobe as well as the property, which he farmed, however, he did not reside there. White was granted two adjacent pieces of property. It was on his other property that Michael White built the adobe he lived in, still standing today on the campus of San Marino High School.

White eventually sold the Casa Blanca adobe, but kept the lands around it for his vineyards. The adobe house went through a succession of owners, until Luther Harvey Titus, a gentleman farmer from New York State, bought it in 1871. Titus added a second story of wood to the old house, with a decorative balcony built around it. In modernizing the old house, it was found that the adobe bricks had become so hard through all the years of their existence that it was necessary to blast them where changes were to be made.

In 1886 Luther Harvey Titus sold his ranch to the San Gabriel Valley Land and Water Company for a subdivision. But the San Gabriel Valley Land and Water Company became heavily indebted to an adjoining owner, L.L. Bradbury and it was eventually sold to him. In 1892 Bradbury died and his widow followed him in death in 1902. The Bradbury Estate Company was organized and the land was subdivided to form a residential area in San Marino to be called Gainsborough Heath. The two-story adobe house was altered; the bottom floor was converted to an indoor outdoor restaurant named "La Ramada Inn". No connection to the Ramada Inn hotels we have today. The second story became the administration and real estate offices for Gainsborough Heath. The outside of the adobe was returned to Spanish style architecture by adding eight archways, a curved outdoor stairway, a tile roof and a beautiful tile fountain. The Gainsborough Heath project was closed at the height of the Great Depression. For a short time after that it operated as a military school.

The parish of Saints Felicitas and Perpetua came into existence on the feast of Saint Luke, October 18, 1938, as it was on that day that Reverend William Fox arrived from Newport

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Beach to begin his pastoral duties. In the mission of Saint John the Baptist, located at 3104 Foothill Boulevard in Pasadena, the first parochial mass was celebrated. However, because it was not centrally located, the Pasadena Women's Club on Sierra Madre Boulevard was rented for divine services.

In 1939 the Archbishop of Los Angeles purchased three acres near the northwest corner of San Gabriel Boulevard and Huntington Drive with the Casa Blanca adobe and many oak trees on the grounds. The adobe was renovated and alterations made to provide for both church and rectory. Although the church was small, it fulfilled the needs of the parish until 1947. After the end of World War II, the parish had grown in numbers and the need for a larger church was apparent. Permission to erect the beautiful new church was granted and a groundbreaking ceremony took place on October 19, 1947. Construction took less than one year with completion in the summer of 1948. The church was built in the early Italian style of reinforced concrete with a tile roof.

Saints Felicitas and Perpetua grade school was completed and dedicated in 1950. A two-story structure consists of rooms for eight grades and a kindergarten. The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus came from the Ramona Convent in Alhambra, to staff the school and remained until 1981. That year the Carmelite



Saints Felicitus and Perpetua Church—July, 1948
Corner of Huntington Drive and Palomar Road.
(Casa Blanca Adobe on left)

Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart came as faculty and are here today. In 1956 a house on Palomar road was purchased for the sisters. They lived there until a convent on church property was built in 1963. That year a new social center was also built with kitchen, auditorium, meeting rooms and library. These buildings filled the requirements for a parish plant.

Over 66 years, the parish has had three pastors:

1938-1974	Monsignor William Fox
1974-2003	Monsignor Lawrence Gibson
2003-Present	Monsignor Richard Loomis

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/