



WHITTIER GAZETTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WHITTIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY, WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA

Vol. 2

November 1976 - 77

No. III

ONCE UPON A TIME

..... there was an eighty year old lady named Mrs. Susan Johnson who lived in the big house at the corner of Friends and Bailey. She was a tiny chipmunk of a person, very alert and active and with a delightful sense of humor. Since the house was large and she lived alone, she housed girl students from the college. There was room enough too, for other guests on special occasions.

One such time came when a conference of ministers was being held in Whittier. Mrs. Johnson volunteered her house and had as guests a very young minister and his wife. He was new enough in his ministry to be very filled with the importance of his calling. As dishes were being cleared after dinner one evening, Mrs. Johnson suggested they all take in the movie being shown at the local theater - an innocent and family musical of the Alice Faye and Don Ameche variety.

The young preacher drew himself up to his full height and announced in sober tones that God had taken all such worldly desires away from him. Mrs. Johnson cocked her head and eyed him for a moment, then she too assumed her full height and by reaching way up was able to place her hand on his shoulder. Then in the same sober tones said, "Well, maybe if you are a good boy, He will give them back to you." Turned, donned her coat and was off to the show.

Needless to say, the college student clearing the table barely was able to get the stack of dishes safely down in the kitchen before she collapsed in gales of laughter.

Exerpt from an oral history
by Lynn Thompson Jesson

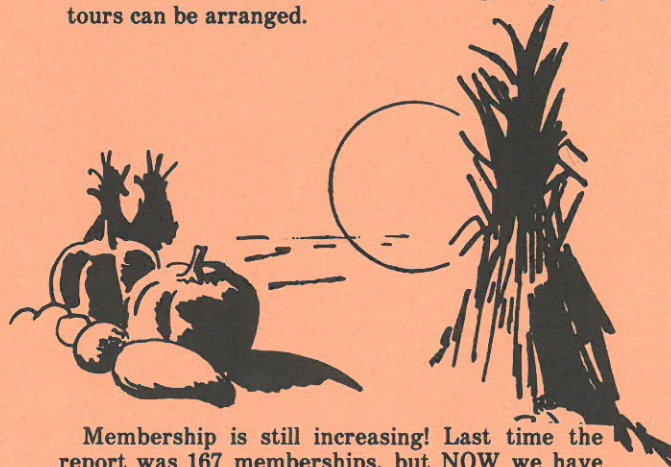
Neighborly Visit

ARE YOU OVER THE HILL YET?

We hope you will be soon, because the John A. Rowland house is between Hacienda Blvd. and Stimson at 16021 E. Gale Ave. over in Puente.

John Rowland was the co-leader with William Workman of the first American wagon train of settlers into Southern California. He built this second house for his family behind the original adobe in 1855. It is the first two story brick house built in Southern California and the oldest brick house now standing. It boasts much of the original furniture brought from Maryland.

Docents are on duty every Wednesday from 1 - 4 and the 1st Sunday of the month. The donation for adults is 50¢ and 25¢ for children. Special group tours can be arranged.



Membership is still increasing! Last time the report was 167 memberships, but NOW we have 188!!! These additions include four institutional memberships and one life membership. How about that?



HISTORY IS TODAY

The Whittier City Historical Commission is on the job. They held their first meeting on October 6th when they were sworn in by City Clerk, Eugene Romig. Again, as so often happens, the busy people have again volunteered for another job.

Temperance Bailey needs little introduction to anyone who has kept track of Whittier happenings across the years. Working on the Commission is merely a continuation of her years of service to her city and church communities.

Elna (Sue) Johanson, after helping revive this Society and getting Pico and Bailey Docent programs rolling, cannot help but have historical preservation in her heart. She will see that good things happen, even though she is a full time teacher.

Walter Wood has spent nearly his whole life here and we are fortunate that he will take time from his active retirement to continue keeping close watch on our history. He, too, is one of the Society charter members.

And speaking of charter members, Ed Perry is also one of our commissioners. Ed has been plugging away at saving our story for years now, even when nobody else seemed to care.

Phyllis Pearce is a new name to some of us and a newcomer to Whittier, but she has already learned more about our past than most of us remember. An instructor at Rio Hondo, she has been spending her spare time working on the Historical Sites book committee. Her husband is retired (?) and works in real estate.

Bobbie Bollinger leads a busy life, too. She and her husband run a very active business, United Decorators. An A.A.U.W. member, she also belongs to the National Charity League and was instrumental in obtaining the services of this group to aid the docent program at the Bailey House.

The name House can be found in the records of the infancy of Whittier and Doctor William House's wife June will be continuing the intertwining of the history of that family with Whittier's history.

If one were putting a monetary value upon devotion to historic preservation, the Houses would stand high on the list, because their names appear on the plaque of \$1,000 donors for the restoration of the Bailey House.

Actually, several of these people never stopped meeting, because they were members of the Historical Committee which held its last meeting in September. The new Commission will be seven instead of nine members and has a few other official differences from the old Committee. These are the people we can contact with our concerns and suggestions concerning things historical in our city. We extend to them all our good wishes in carrying out their important function.

Camille Goulet, Pico Docent, has passed along the totals from tours at the Mansion for August and September. In August there were 73 tours given and 372 people went through including 3 groups. September includes the Fiesta, so, a total of 624 people went through including 2 groups. Financially these tours brought in \$202.25.

The Docents are happy to find that Frank Chandler is coming around to help them out. Varlie Gordon has been our sole male guide, since Bob Camp found it necessary to stop docenting because of other commitments. Visitors like to see a man in the house, especially the Cub Scouts and school groups. Not all the Docents are guides. Bill Petersen has been active with the committee from its beginning and finds it enough of a job being treasurer and prefers not to do tours. Some of our ladies like Lucille Collins, Mary Carroll and Esther White are "desklers" and run interference for a single guide by greeting guests, collecting money and answering that interrupting phone. Frank is sure to find it most enjoyable, because the people you work with and the visitors who come are so interesting and nice.

History Is Today (cont'd)

WHITTIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING - SEPTEMBER 30, 1976

(At the Historical Society meeting of September 30th, Pat Jackson, last year's Tour Director for the Bailey Docents, gave such an enlightening speech at the presentation of the certificates for service for that group, that it deserved a special place in this issue rather than getting lost in the last.)

First, as a representative of the Docent Committee for the "Friends of the Jonathan Bailey Ranch House", I would like to take this moment to thank the Historical Society and their President, Mr. Phil Matino, for their time and efforts in honoring us here tonight.

The Jonathan Bailey House is truly a success story from its beginning until now.

I was told a story once. Raymond Hunnicutt, the great grandson of Jonathan and Rebecca Bailey, had dreamed of restoring and preserving the Bailey House as a historical site. He never achieved that dream. After his passing, his sister (Lois Joyce) and another great grand-daughter (Virginia Schallenburger) took up his quest. With the help of other family members and generous citizens of our community, that endeavor was fulfilled.

Two of the greatest and most dedicated contributors of that undertaking were Mr. and Mrs. Carl Johanson. Over the many months of restoration, Carl and Sue labored past all expectations. At times literally reconstructing parts of the house. Their dedication did not end there. After completion of the house and its presentation to the City of Whittier as a Park . . . Sue went on to co-ordinate our Docent Program acting as our Director and Guiding light over this past year. Through their efforts we docents are proud to be a part of a dream fulfilled.

Now I would like to share with you some of our accomplishments over the past 15 months.

Since our official opening June 25, 1975, the Bailey House has been open for tours 163 days. We have conducted 319 formal or guided tours. Open House tours have numbered 5 and admitted 496 guests.

They were:

A Night of Appreciation and Recognition on September 9, 1975.

A Christmas Open House featuring hand made decorations of the 1890's on December 7, 1975.

A Tea Honoring \$1,000 or more Donors on March 28, 1976.

May 15 & 16, 1976 for Founders Day and the Bicentennial.

Total guests touring the House were 2,460 - coming from all over the United States and Canada. We were pleased to also find that we had become international when two guests arrived from our Sister City of Freiburg, Germany. They toured the House with the aid of an interpreter, which was most interesting.

It's interesting to note that our adult and children guests were just about equal, 1,243 adults and 1,217 children.

We conducted 65 school tours and 44 scout tours.

The grand total of docent hours worked at the Bailey House was 850. It's estimated at three times that total away from the House. 186 of those total hours were contributed by the Tick Tockers of the National Charity League who were generous enough to work as docents two Sundays a month and for which we are eternally grateful.

In conclusion I would like to express my appreciation by paying tribute to those individuals who have silently given their time, talents, support, patience and understanding for the success of our Docent Program. They have truly helped make the Bailey House "A Dream Come True". Those unsung heroes are our husbands . . . thank you guys.

The Pio Pico Mansion has been registered as a National Historic Monument, thanks to the efforts of Claire Radford. At their last meeting, the Docents voted to expend the monies (actually they just told Bill to write a check) for the official plaque denoting this honor. Where it should be mounted was discussed at the meeting, also. At the next meeting a decision will be made, because the plaque has already arrived. Perhaps it can be in place for the Posadas. That would make three unveilings in five months: the Greek George Grave Marker, the oil portrait of Pio Pico and the National Plaque.



	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5	6
Nov.	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1976	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30				

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Have you marked the calendar for December 5th? The plans for Las Posadas at the Pico Mansion to date include asking the West Whittier School children to perform the traditional story as they did last year. The Docents are hoping to have some interesting displays of art and handcrafted work. If you know of some group or person who would like to help us in this, let us know. There will be food and dancers. Society members will be asked to identify themselves when they sign the guest book so they may be tagged. This way we can all get to know each other better. The Docents are also working on a surprise. A time schedule of events will be in the next Gazette.

Sunday, December 12th, is the date chosen by the Governor Pico Mansion Society for their Las Posadas. They will ask the Pio Pico School of the Ranchito district to perform as is their tradition. Mrs. Jayme Botello, the president, and her membership hope you will stop by to take part in what is always a friendly and happy occasion.

Since there seem to be no dates for November, let's use up the space for some unknown ones. At the Whittier City Council study session on October 12th some proposals were presented by the council members. These ideas have been developed over a long period of time and after many conferences with the knowledgeable persons and agencies and concern future development of the Uptown area. Mayor Mele called it recycling and it not only pertained to businesses, but included street maintenance, housing and cultural changes, improvements and additions.

This is a broad plan and will need cooperation between the City, business community, college and, not least, the people. The October 13th edition of The Daily News gave a good accounting of these proposals and, if you can scare up a copy, it is worth reading and re-reading. There is nothing about this plan that is fixed or permanent at this time. There will need to be much discussion and the Council needs input from the community. All Society members who care about a museum

and about how their city develops and represents our heritage should be watching the Daily News closely for announcements of meetings pertaining to these plans. **THEN TAKE PART!**

(One of the most heard complaints of long time residents is that the old library was torn down. Yet, in talking to people who were involved in City government at the time, it is felt that no outcry was made by people to halt such a project. Without our ideas, the City will do what it thinks best. Let's help them do what is **right**, too. Ed.)

Last year the Bailey House Docents decorated the house with old fashioned decorations and had an open house. This year the decorations will probably go up the last week in November and can be seen through December 15th, when the Bailey House closes for the holiday season. Watch the Daily News for announcements, then, go take a peek at what the ladies have done.

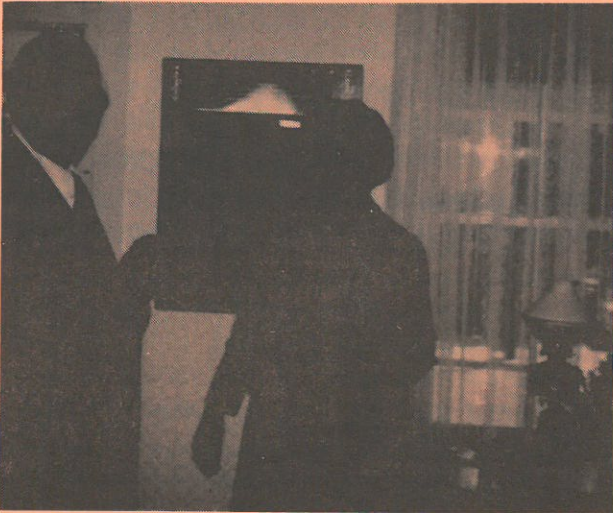
The book committee meets every Wednesday at the Mansion. The 1 o'clock one on October 13th was not a usual one, however, because of some welcome guests who joined the discussion. Ruth Lasse came to tell about the Cole family and houses still in the area. Mrs. Eleanor Comroe joined in with information about the Hazzards and Wheatlands. Frank Chandler was there, too, and added ideas and answered questions that had not been considered as yet.

It will be too bad if this research group does not remain together as a permanent committee after the book is published. It has been so interesting and so much has been recorded. For a long time, Volume II has been almost a forgone conclusion, because it was evident that there was too much material to fit in the confines of the page limitations of this present book. So much is being preserved that might otherwise have been lost, that the work involved is time well spent.

BAILEY HOUSE

\$1000 Tea

MARCH 28, 1976



Carl and Elna (Sue) Johanson



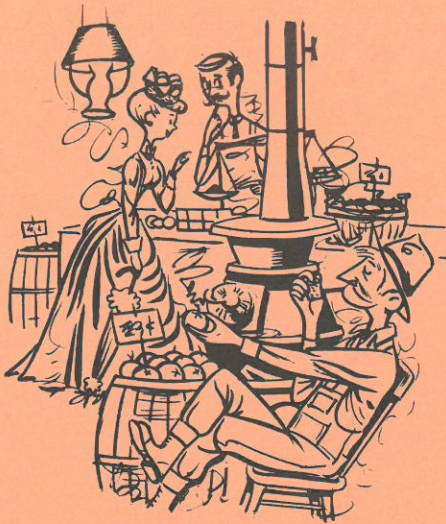
Foreground —

Mrs. Leona Meyers and Catherine Phelan



Clint Harris and Jack Schallenberger





TID-BITS

When I was about 5 years of age living at the corner of N. Friends and Camilla with my aunt and my grandfather (who had married Uncle Jonathan Bailey's sister), I would, occasionally, go up to the Bailey House to play on the very high swing that was hung in one of the big pepper trees in the yard.

I seldom came home without having enjoyed some cookies, which had been given to me by Mariana Hunt (Uncle Jonathan's daughter), and a drink of cool water from the cistern in the backyard, which was kept filled with water from pipes that came down Turnbull Canyon.

Walter Cammack

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hat's Off to Councilperson Delta Murphy. She has come forth with a tremendous plan for Uptown Whittier.

She has suggested an historic "T" with Philadelphia anchored at Greenleaf at the top and Whittier College at the bottom. Philadelphia would be closed off at the college and a museum constructed there. All the buildings and streets along the "T" would be decorated in a turn of the century motif.

Let's get behind Delta and start the letters and personal words of encouragement.

Hat's Off to the Whittier Daily News. Not only have they done an outstanding job on the bicentennial reporting, but now they are starting a weekly series on the historic sites in our forthcoming book. This weekly series will greatly enlarge the awareness in our community of our fascinating heritage. A thank you, also, to the Daily News for becoming an institutional member of the Whittier Historical Society.

Phil Mautino

Remember when the old library was historical itself? And the little old house north of the old library was adorable and lovely?

Remember when the sidewalks uptown were clean and inviting?

Remember when ladies wore dresses and were feminine?

Remember when you could walk uptown and have friendly chats all the way, instead of now getting smashed in the turmoil [dog-eat dog]?

Remember when you could take a drive and smell orange blossoms?

Remember when one could look forward every spring to the largest horse parade and show in the world? It was wonderful.

Harold F. Hall

Had you thought about sending a gift membership to one of our seniors who is living in one of the retirement homes or someone who might enjoy reading the Gazette?

Your input to the Gazette will be out-put in the next issue if you have the information in by the 15th of November.

INFORMATION PLEASE

What was the downstairs of the Lindley brick used for when Mrs. Lindley lived upstairs or any time before it was Hazlitt's market?

Has anyone any information about the McFadden family who lived at 13585 Flomar?

Do you know anything about the builders of either of the Sucksdorf houses on Catalina?

Who were the people who lived in the house at 8826 Laurel between the Stubbs family and the Latson family?
Nadine Wood - 696-0743

What happened to Loftus Park? Did it become part of Broadway Park?

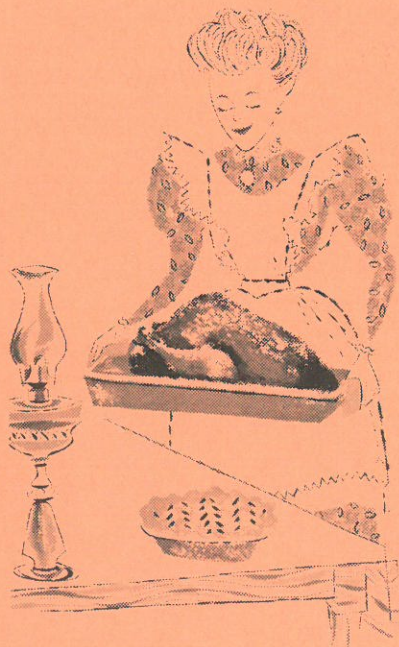
Phyllis Pearce - 695-2105

Do you know of any homes that were built before 1887 in the area? We may have missed some.

Claire Radford - 691-0468

There is a copy of the original cloth bound book **Water of Gall** by Dorothy Fargo published in 1955 for \$21.20. This is a novel about the Baileys and the Pico Mansion, the Quakers and the Mexicans. One of our groups should want it for a reference library.

Sue Johanson - 693-2512



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1976 — 1977

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EDITOR: Mary Ann Rummel

Membership in the Whittier Historical Society is open to persons interested in the history and future of the Whittier area. Membership year is from March 1 — February 28. Dues are \$3.00 for individual membership — \$5.00 for family membership — \$25.00 for institutional membership — \$100.00 for life membership

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