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WHITTIER GAZETTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WHITTIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY, WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA

Vol. 2

January 1977

No. V

ONCE UPON A TIME

..... movie stars and crews came to Whittier! Bud Mautino (related to President Phil by way of being his father) was a cameraman for the 20th Century Fox company that came. It seems that the old George Cole ranch at Slauson and Santa Fe Road was the perfect location for some scenes for the picture "Checkers". No less than Jane Withers and Stu Erwin were the stars.

Now around 1934 Uptown Whittier was a mighty quiet place at night for these Hollywood folks staying at the Wm. Penn. One night Rudy, the camera car driver, decided to have some fun. He put on a drunk act. He shouted and stumbled around the hotel and, eventually, was carried to a couch in the lobby to "sleep it off". There he proceeded to snore loudly.

The hotel clerk failed to see the humor of the situation and had Rudy arrested and carted off to jail. Rudy was, actually, a teetotaler, and just pretending, but this failed to impress the local police. Finally, the studio lawyer had to be called to arrange for Rudy's release the next morning and the local authorities made it clear they had no tolerance for "wild movie people".

Whittier didn't have to worry, though, because word got around the studios that this town wasn't the greatest place to choose for location shots. The movie makers preferred to leave our "friendly" town unfilmed.

As told to Phil Mautino
by
Bud Mautino

(who is still active as a cameraman for the studios on such shows as Adam 12 and Phyllis)

Neighborly Visit

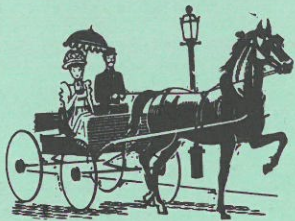
WAY UP NORTH

..... close to the Sierra Madres is a race track called Santa Anita. That's fine if you like to play the ponies - but - we historians should rather be across the street. Right next to the south end of the County Arboretum parking area is the new pride and joy of the Arcadia Historical Society. Piece by board the old building was taken down and the Santa Anita Railroad Station was re-assembled and furnished to reflect the local history of that area.

The community became enthused about the project as plans got under way and a committee assigned as curators were swamped with memorabilia offered by residents to outfit the building. The local newspaper published lists of items the historical people wanted. Unfortunately, space made it necessary to turn away many things that should be preserved.

The Santa Anita Depot is open from 9 - 12 and 1 - 4 on Tuesday and Wednesday and is in the 300 block of North Baldwin in Arcadia. The Arboretum, itself, is open from 9 - 5 daily and maybe it is time to go up there by yourself - without out of town visitors - so you can browse as long as you want. If you haven't been up there for a while, you will find the Hugo Reid Adobe on the grounds well restored and furnished. Of course, Lucky Baldwin's Queen Anne Cottage and carriage house are as lovely as ever. And, golly, it isn't that far away up north.





HISTORY IS TODAY

LAS POSADAS AT THE MANSION

What a fantastic day and the weather matched. At noon on December 5th a 93rd birthday party was hosted in the dining room for Celestino Pico. There must have been at least 30 Picos all around sharing the cake and punch and presenting gifts to 'Grandpa'. Nora Hartnell joined the party, too. Celestino's granddaughter danced for him to start a musical afternoon.

The children from West Whittier School acted out and sang Las Posadas under the direction of their teachers and principal, Mr. Oliver, who also supervised the Pinata activity. The script for this presentation had been requested by the committee in charge of Las Posadas at Olvera Street for their use as it is considered to be most authentic. As in previous years the accompanying music was done by Mr. Harold Chilton who continued to play his accordion after the play to help maintain the festive mood. What would the docents do without these two men organizing this activity?

Pioneer High Expanded Horizons parents had the hot chocolate and pan dulce ready for the children after their performance. Their delicious food kept the rest of our tummies happy for the afternoon. And Whittier High kept our eyes happy. You would not have known from the excellent dancing they did that the Folklorical Dancers of the New Horizons were giving their first performance for the year. They were just beautiful to watch.

After closing up, the docents could snuggle into their family Christmases with a warm glow. The old adobe is coming alive again and that's what these three years of working is all about. Bienvenidos a todo el mundo.

BAILEY CHRISTMAS TO US

The housekeepers scrubbed and polished and the decorators decked and rated and the house was ready. Then, on December 12th, 200 guests toured at the open house. The docents on duty - all eighteen - must have really felt like it was all worth while with such a turn-out. And if you missed it, mores the pity, because you didn't get to see the prettiest holiday house in all of Whittier.

THOMAS BAILEY

Claire Radford and Lois Joyce attended the recent meeting at Domingues Ranch of the State Historical Resources Commission. The Bailey House had been submitted to this body by the Whittier Heritage Association to be nominated by the state for acceptance on the National Registry. The Thomas Ranch-Bailey House was one of the seven that met with the approval of the Commission. Now we keep our fingers crossed and hope for acceptance at the national level.

AND LAS POSADAS AT THE MANSION

Each year the Pico Mansion gives you a choice. If you can't get to the Historical Society Las Posadas, you can attend the one sponsored by the Governor Pico Mansion Society. This year that group held a 'cute' one on December 12th. Perhaps that is a strange adjective to use for such a celebration, but you had to see the Folklorico de Los Ninos from the Pico Rivera Parks and Recreation to understand. Under the direction of Arlene Rincon, these dolls from five to ten years in their beautiful costumes performed authentic dances for a delighted audience. There was this little five year old boy banging his boot heels into the porch and moving in and out of his figures and - oh - you had to see it.

The story of the search for housing for Mary and Joseph was done by the Pio Pico School under the direction of Isabel Escauriza. When they finished with the song of refreshments, Leola Butler and Mildred McGee had the cocoa and sweet rolls ready and Troy Botello and Dick Arena manned a wicked pinata rope until the candy spilled.

As the guests drifted away the signs of fun were still around. Mrs. Arthur Botello, Jaymie, the president of this group, makes sure there are cascarones for all. She fills empty eggshells with confetti and seals them with crepe paper. The fun comes when you smash one on the head of a friend and cover him with bits of paper. Mrs. Botello should be pleased that her plans resulted in such an enjoyable afternoon for everyone.

History Is Today (cont'd)

WHITTIER REDEVELOPMENT

Information continues to come in at City Council study sessions to be filtered out and pave the way for more plans. On December 14th a presentation was done by the firm of Anthony and Langford. Mr. Noble and Mr. Fender of that firm have been involved in business area development especially in Alhambra. They showed slides representing the various categories to be considered when making plans to uplift an old commercial area. It was truly the old story of "a picture is worth a thousand words" and an education.

The first slides were those concerned with assessing what an area has to work with. It was pointed out that along Greenleaf and Philadelphia we have an abundance of great old brick buildings, some not recognizable because of false exteriors that have been added. We also have buildings that vary our skyline, which is an advantage.

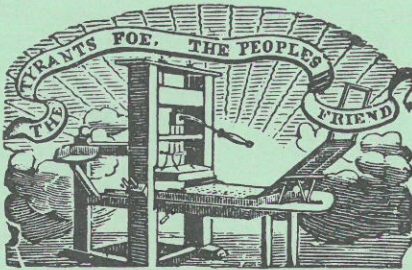
Street furniture was a large segment of the presentation. One automatically thinks of bus benches, but it was pointed out that this meant also fire plugs, direction and traffic signs and signals, street lights, waste containers, newspaper dispensers, mail boxes, planted areas and even outdoor eating areas near restaurants. Ideas of all sorts of combinations of these were shown from inexpensive to costly.

One of the most outstanding thoughts that came

out of this was that spending lots of money is not the key to a unified area. Design - good design - is the important factor in creating an area to which people want to come. This design plan can be the use of color, the shape or size of signs, the additions of things like awnings or the more ambitious idea of alterations to buildings to fulfill a theme.

Another segment of the discussion was what to do with the cars and people or how do you make an area a pleasant and accessible place for both. Paving styles, straight sidewalks and those that meander around obstacles, rest areas and crossing situations were shown. How cars are to be directed and where they park are obvious concerns, but this also brought up ideas like improving alleys and the backs of buildings, not only for a more pleasant atmosphere, but for display or commercial purposes.

There were so many ideas to be derived from this that space here is insufficient. A good sized crowd attended, but it would have been so much better had all Historical Society members, uptown businessmen and concerned redevelopment residents been there. Had more citizens seen the slides, the feed-in to the future planning committee would be more complete and helpful. These slides showed that there is a good deal of potential for the revitalization of uptown.



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

If you find mistakes in this publication, please consider that they are there for a purpose.

We publish something for everyone, and some people like to look for mistakes.

TID-BITS



Whittier is a reforming kind of place. Just think . . . one of the Crooks turned to the Parsons. You can see the proof of this by checking with Doris (Crooks) and her husband Edson Parsons who live just ¼ mile from where he was born on Valley Home. In fact, his dad, George, was one of the farmers out there who moved the old East Whittier Friends Church and made it into the first Lowell School.

William Fletcher was down over the holidays and was kind enough to take the time to tape some memories of his family and friends and his life in East Whittier. He is still citrus ranching up in Orange Cove, California.

BULLDOZED INTO OLD AGE

I'll bet it happens to a lot of you. One day, one occurrence lets you know, mentally, you are **old**. Of course, the children had informed me regularly that I was old fashioned and the grey hairs came along with the wrinkles. And the bifocals went on because my arms wouldn't grow. But, the day the bulldozer flattened the old Market Basket at Painter on Whittier was crisis day for me. That building went up the year we moved here to East Whittier and what a marvelous thing it was to those south and east of town.

Sure, there was Ralph's up where the Crocker Bank is now and the mom and pop stores like Orcutt's and Hazalitt's and the R and H and Mr. Box had a good sized place across from Jack's Salad Bowl, but this was **our** market. If you were heading out to visit relatives in Santa Ana you stopped way out there at Nixon's. The Shopping Bag in the east part of Hinshaw's was still an architect's dream. The Co-op Market at the foot of Michigan came and went, but when the woven basket sign came down my age went up to one hundred and thirty-seven. Now I am really old.

WHO DONE IT?

IN S.F.S.

Nadine Hathaway of Santa Fe Springs done it. **It** is a book - a collection of remembrances from various residents of the area interspersed with some great pictures of the "good old days". The book is available at the Santa Fe Springs Library for \$2 a copy.

IN WHITTIER

The family of Gurney Maple done it. Gurney wrote out his memoirs and by adding the family pictures and genealogy records, the family created a book. This might be considered of family interest only, but those of us who love history, especially local history, find this kind of book as intriguing as any of his grandchildren will. The Whittier Library has a couple of copies for public use.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear and patient readers,

Now, after several issues under my typewriter ribbon, I have some information to pass on and requests to make.

We have an angel, you know. Pearl Spear at PMS Litho takes these ramblings and with her own time and at her own expense sets up the Gazette and prints it. Even an angel has limitations as we all do when it comes to volunteer work. Our livlihood and homes come first. Most months I try to get the articles to her by the 17th so she can start in working at the paper whenever she gets a break. So, if you don't get a Gazette until the 5th or 9th, be happy. That means our angel's business is booming. Incidentally, all that pretty art work is her doing.

By this time, I can see where help is needed with this publication. Some of you, when joining, checked the place that said you would like to get involved in this. Reporters I can use by the dozens. If you have enjoyed any of the articles you have read you can come up with something that would interest the rest of us. Maybe you would like to dig things out of old newspapers or interview long time residents or, perhaps, your own head is full of stories the rest of us don't know. Just think, doing an article every few months might fulfill that lifelong ambition you have had to be published. There are so many tales out there and I can't physically get to them all. Can you help?

Once a month Pearl calls and says, "It's ready." Then, I spend three or four hours assembling, folding, labeling and sorting for the mailing. It would be nice to have a list of people I could call to help on that morning, afternoon or evening once a month and get the job done in an hour. A proof reader would be nice, too. Someone to go down and check for our mistakes before the printer takes over.

Some of you have already been helping. Virginia Mathony keeps me up on the membership news and items from the Pico Mansion and Associated. Docents from both houses feed in information. Book reviews and questions for Information Please have helped make a more complete paper. And you notice how President Phil jumped in this month.

Thank you all for your good words, support and help. Please, some of you join me so we can make the Gazette better and better.

Mary Ann Rummel
696-7892

WHO'S LAUGHING?

Reflecting back on months of working together on the book committee, it appears that some members may owe an apology to two others. Many of us are what might be called "newcomers" with only 20 or 30 years of residence. Researching the book, for us, was like suddenly having the opportunity to read that whole stack of mystery stories, historic novels and adventure tales you always wish you had the time to read. We were like children having an exciting new experience or a blind person seeing, so the laughter bubbled out.

Someone would ask a question about a family and Francis King would say, "Oh, they are newcomers". Our heads would be automatically saying "1925, maybe?" She would continue, "They didn't come until 1882" and we would start to giggle. Of course, she would join us and we hope it was because she knew that it was our delight over being associated with a person with so unique a heritage in our area that made us sound rude.

And, Oscar Marshburn, there isn't one of us who wouldn't like to spend weeks with you recording all that lore that is in your head. Yet, when a problem came up about a house or a family you would lean back in your chair and say, "Well . . . now" and we would laugh, quickly check the recorders and pens and settle back, too. Then you would entertain and inform us with information that may have taken us months to dig out. However, after giving us so much, you would humbly apologize because you felt that you were taking too much of our time.

We will all bless the day that circumstances gave us the opportunity to work with you and know you both and that is no laughing matter.



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January

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30	31					



WHAT'S HAPPENING

DOCENT LEAGUE

The winter meeting of this group will be held on Monday, January 31st at the Arboretum. After coffee at 9:30, the morning meeting will discuss "How to Handle Touring Children". Bring your own sack lunch so you can stay for the afternoon tour of the gardens.

The Docent League of Los Angeles County is a loosely formed group whose purpose is to get the docents together to share their problems and solutions three times a year. Any docent is welcome and, if you have never attended one of these meetings, you will find it well worth your time. Pico please call Louise Coulter at 698-5454 and Bailey call Miriam Lillivang at 693-4859 before the 24th if you would like to go.

DON'T MISS THE PARTY

The Pico Docents want to invite each of you to a recruiting coffee on Saturday morning, February 5th at 10 o'clock. Each active docent has been asked to bring an inactive member or someone they feel might be interested in finding out what they do in the old adobe. They ask the help of all the Society members to do the same. This will be an informal gathering with time to wander through the house, be informed about duties and ask questions.

A short business meeting will be held somewhere along the line to elect officers for the coming year. Virginia Stooddy presented these nominations at the January meeting: Chairman, Virginia Mathony; Curator, Claire Radford; Secretary, Beverly Cox; Treasurer, Bill Petersen; Tour Director, Mary Ann Rummel. Nominations from the floor will be accepted prior to the election.

MINI-CONFERENCE AT RIO HONDO

Have you put a big red circle around January 22nd on your new 1977 calendar? Remember? That is the day our society and the college are hosting the Associated Historical Societies of L.A. County in an all day program.

- 9:00 - 9:45 Registration and coffee with exhibits by local societies
- 9:45 - 10:15 Business Meeting
- 10:15 - 12:00 Session 1 - Video taping (oral-video histories)
- Session 2 - How to apply for funding
- 12:00 Lunch - Campus Inn
- 1:00 - 2:00 Local History Presentation
- 2:00 - 4:00 Tour of Historical sites ending at the El Monte Museum and including the Pico Mansion and Sanchez Adobe

REGISTRATION/LUNCH \$5.50
HISTORIC SITE TOUR \$2.00

ANNUAL MEETING

While you have that calendar out mark March 24th for the annual dinner meeting. The social hour will begin at 6:30 at the Plymouth Congregational Church. The after dinner speaker will be Dr. Robert Winter from Occidental College who will speak on the architecture in the Whittier area.

MEMBERSHIP

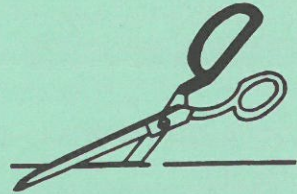
It's bargain time for membership. Any of you folks out there who have been thinking that maybe you should join the Whittier Historical Society can take advantage of the fact that when you join in January, you receive membership (and the Gazette) for a full 15 months or through March of 1978 for the same price. And all you old members might want to use the blank to renew now while you are thinking about it, instead of waiting until March or, worse still, around April 15th.

We are pleased to announce these people and places as having been institutional members this past year:

The Daily News
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Haworth
Jack Meler
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Owens
Oxford Mailing

Schirmer's
Stan's Glass and Paint Co., Inc.
Hinshaw's
George Lusk for John Lusk and Son
Dr. and Mrs. Breene Murphy

Rio Hondo Community College



WHITTIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Membership Application
1977-78

Name Home Telephone

Address Business Telephone

If you would like to serve on a committee, please indicate in which area(s)

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ Please circle type of membership you wish:

Single - \$3, Family - \$5, Institutional - \$25, Life - \$100.

.....
Signature

Mail this application with your check to the Whittier Historical Society, PO Box 561, Whittier, CA 90607.

WHITTIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1976 - 1977

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Dorothy Corcoran	Consulting Member For Finances

The WHITTIER GAZETTE is the official publication of the Whittier Historical Society. The name "Gazette" was chosen since this is one of the oldest names for official journals.

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

Mr. Philip K. Mautino
President, Whittier Historical Society
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Whittier, California 90601

Published by the Whittier Historical Society

Printing - Courtesy of PMS Litho/Graphics
11936 East Washington Blvd., Whittier

WHITTIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 561

Whittier, California 90608

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
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Whittier, CA

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77-12-31.001