

---



# WHITTIER GAZETTE

---

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WHITTIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY, WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA

---

Vol. 6

MARCH - APRIL 1980

Number 1

---

## ONCE UPON A TIME

. . . . people came to our little town and started businesses, got married, had children and their children had children and . . . .

"The wrench was where it had always been. Because of the gradual build up of dust, it was becoming hard to distinguish the wrench from the other tools scattered around the same area. The wrench appeared to be the size I needed, so I reached out to take it. Just before my fingers disturbed the fine layer of dust, I drew back my hand. That wrench, I knew, had not been moved in well over twenty years. I'd grown accustomed to seeing it there, just lying there waiting to be used on the lathe that had broken down years ago and somehow had never been repaired. It struck me rather strange that the lathe was still in such a state of disrepair. I went to ask my father why it was that, in a family that prides itself on getting a job done and doing it right the first time, this one had been overlooked. My father explained that it was my grandad who had been working on it one day twenty years ago. When he had gotten to the point at which the lathe now sits, the phone had rung bringing the news of his first grand-child. He dropped what he was doing and rushed over to the hospital to see and welcome the new addition to the family. That broken down lathe and dust covered wrench are reminders to them of the day that I was born.

The shop to me is what the old family Bible is to other families. It's a place where I've been able to learn about the history of my family and the people who shaped that history. Inside its walls the story of my progenitors virtually unfolds. The account of their lives is told not only in the ar-

tifacts they left behind, but also in the notes written by and to themselves on whichever wall was closest at the time. Scrawled onto the metal with silver pencils and scratched into the paint are orders long since filled, shopping lists, crude blueprints of ideas for welding jigs, birthdates, wedding anniversaries and other special dates associated with the people in their lives. In addition there are also notes concerning doctor appointments and telephone numbers.

In the beginning, the family business was blacksmithing. In the rear of the shop, still hanging on the wall where they were left, are the tools of the trade. In the center rests the anvil upon which the horseshoes and working implements were hammered into perfection. Not far from this, against the back wall, is the old furnace that was used to heat the metal before working it into the desired form. I've always been impressed with this area, especially when I've considered how hard it must have been to get things just so.

When the days of the blacksmith became numbered, and automobile tires were in higher demand than horseshoes, wrought iron became the mainstay. Throughout the shop, each and every window is adorned with the graceful shape of this iron, not only because of its beauty, but also for the protection it offered against burglary. Some of the pieces that for one reason or another weren't up to standard are still scattered here and there imparting a subtle touch of elegance to the twisted piles of junk in which they lie.

The shop is a symbol of my family and of the values inherent in that family. It's a school where the younger members of the family go to learn

what hard work is, what respect is -- a place to be taught discipline, the value of a dollar, honesty, integrity, and, most importantly, character. It is also a place where we can learn the history of our family and share in the triumphs as well as the disappointments. This is because, in essence, it is a diary of the generations before us, with the stories told in iron and steel rather than in words. The shop is a testimonial to what was, a tribute to what is, and a beacon to what will be that we enter as boys eager to learn, and leave as men, determined to carry on our family's tradition.

By Bob Rassmussen  
For an English Theme  
at College of The Redwoods

Our thanks to  
Temp Rassmussen Bailey  
for sharing her nephew's story.

## THE CASE OF THE MISSING ISSUE AND

. . . . the present new members. What a way to greet 80 memberships to our organization - with no January-February **Gazette**. So, regular members, if you were blaming your mailman, you were aiming at the wrong person. If it will be any consolation, you are welcome to come over and see the editor's remodeled kitchen, and the catalogued pictures of the Society, in lieu of the missing Gazette.

It is customary for our little blab sheet here to print new member names as a very token welcome. Virginia Mathony sent out an invitation letter to many people who had attended our functions and the result has been outstanding. Please forgive the Gazette for not listing all your names as it would occupy nearly a whole issue. In a couple of months the roster will be printed and special note will be made of new members in that. You have no idea how encouraging it is to realize that our group has been doing things that are right and that have been noticed by so many.

## HELP WANTED

Do You Have

a picture of the old Standard Oil Building? Remember - this building served for many years as Newlin Hall of Whittier College so you may have a photo of it as a dorm. The company which now owns it wants all the reference material they can get about it. Call Nadine Wood - 696-0743 -with any information you have.

## Something To Think About

That Old Railroad Station

The Southern Pacific Railroad has given the old Saugus Station to the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society. It, like ours, is one of the four wooden 1880s stations left in the state. They are having to move the building off the right-of-way, but have had an offer of a free site and will use the station as their Society Office. Hmmmmm . . .

## OUR FAMILY

Congratulations are certainly in order for three of our members who have also involved themselves in City government. Delta Murphy will get a chance to sit around for a while (betcha she won't) after what have been probably some of the busiest and most productive years a councilman or mayor could have been in office. Now member Vic Lopez will have the mayorial duties resting on his shoulders for the next year and we wish him no problems and only solutions to old ones. New to the council will be Myron Claxton, a member certainly not new to us.

We all lost a friend recently even if we didn't know her personally. Dorothy Dalton did so much for our Public Library that most of us have benefited from her service, but can not miss her as much as her good friends do.

There is something a bit more devastating when a child of people in their mid-years passes on - it is something that does not fit into the accepted pattern of the older die and the younger grow old. Our great condolences to Ken and Delores Ball on the loss of their son Don, and to Charles and Louise Coulter on the loss of their son Kent.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### AN UNMENTIONABLE EVENT —

The busy ladies working with Ways and Means still have some of the 100 tickets to the brunch they are hosting at the East Whittier Womans Clubhouse on June 5th - Thursday - at 11 A.M. Those attending are promised a delightful repast along with prizes and favors. The unmentionable part will be the program presented by Delores Heller of the Bakersfield Museum who will show, to try to put it delicately, what women wore beneath their outer attire, and what she calls "Historical Underpinnings". The tickets are \$10 each and Jean Arbuckle will be happy to accept your reservation - 698-3534.

### GENERAL MEETING TIME ALREADY?

May 22 - Thursday - at 7:30 should find all our membership in Hinshaw's Auditorium. We do have only four meetings a year together you remember. The program will probably be as educational as entertaining for most of us. We become so preoccupied with the last century that we sometimes forget to look closely at this one. Kathleen Simons will present a program on Southern California Architecture of the 20s and 30s - all those sleek, streamlined edifices with art-deco trim that we spoke of as "moderne". Sounds interesting!

### WHO'S HAVING A 93rd BIRTHDAY PARTY?

Whittier! And who gets to come to the party? Everyone! The Annual Founders' Day Picnic will be held on Saturday, May 10 this year - one day before the real birthday. It will be held as it has been for several years now in the Gym of the Community Center at Washington and Mar Vista. You need not have "founded" anything - or even

have a City Founder in your family. If you find yourself in this community now, this celebration is for you, too. Just bring along your family and an old fashioned picnic lunch and join in (and even get free coffee and ice cream). The fun starts at 11:30. The speaker this year will be Virginia Stody telling about the history of the family and Stody Company.

The Bailey House Docents will have the house open after the Picnic for visitors. Their special display now is one of Deeds and Official Papers pertaining to Whittier. They will not be open Sunday the 11th - Mother's Day.

### ALL OVER —

May 17 - Sat. Associated Historical Societies of L.A. Co. will be meeting at the Old Mill in San Marino

May 23 - May 27 - Memorial Day - Pacific Railroad Society is planning a train trip to Arizona with side trips to see sights by bus. Fun people - fun trips.

June 19, 20 and 21 - The Conference of Calif. Hist. Societies will be meeting in San Juan Capistrano.

June 28 - Sat. Noon - The L.A. City Hist. Soc. will have the dedication of the third of four cornerstone plaques of the original Pueblo in East L.A. followed by a tour of historic cemeteries.

For further information on any of the above call Mary Ann - 696-7850.



## WE ARE GIFTED

### Our Curators Report:

Mrs. Lawrence Dise (Mary). Hand-made lace double bedspread and pillow sham. Spread is very old and luxurious. Once belonged to the Pickering family in Spiceland, Indiana. (Bailey House).

Mrs. Carl C. Wendell. Small glass nasal inhaler. Old. (Bailey House).

Michael and Valerie Fry. Volume of John G. Whittier's Poems. Leather bound. (Bailey House).

Mrs. Mary H. Johns. Authentic old Quaker bonnet. Grey silk. (Bailey House).

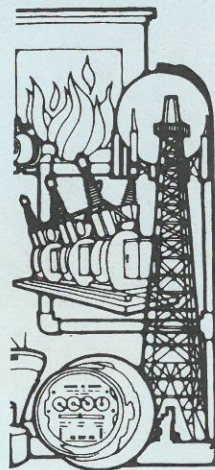
Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Nederburgh. Adding to the numerous lovely and appropriate items they have given to the Bailey House: Two piece, tin. Formerly belonged to Frances Combs of Combs' Iris garden on College Ave. — Children's books. "Flower Children", 1910 and "Bird Children", 1912, by Elizabeth Gordon. Drawings by M.T. Ross.

Simmons, Mr. and Mrs. C.A. **Whittier College Cook Book**, brown cover. Published 1906 by Women's Auxiliary of Whittier College. (Bailey House).

Mrs. Harold McCoy. Antique wash bowl. "Semi-granite". White.

We are still at the disadvantage of having little space to store larger items - the UCB vault can

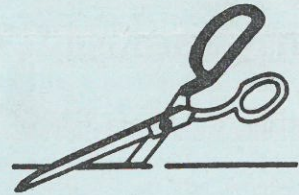
hold only sooooo much. However, one area of our collections that we can expand with relatively little problem is the picture file. If Spring fever has gotten to you and you feel the time has come to pass on some of your old photos, we are in a position to accept and catalogue them. You may just want to lend them for copying and this is very appreciated, also.





### MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

It will be RED DOT time in the next issue to notify any member who have failed to renew that their dues have not been paid. If you have taken care of this, you should have a membership card that reads 1980 - 1981. Or perhaps you are one of the members who needs to use the blank below.



### WHITTIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY Membership Application

Name ..... Home Telephone .....

Address ..... Business Telephone .....

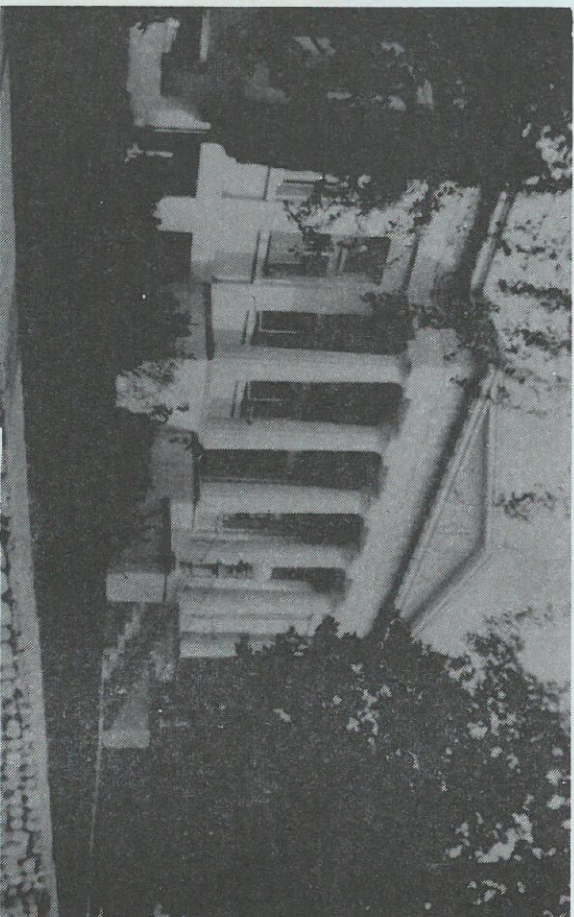
If you would like to serve on a committee, please indicate in which area(s) .....

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

- Single - \$5, Family - \$7.50, Institutional - \$25,
- Sustaining - \$50, Individual Life - \$100, Husband &
- Husband & Wife Life - \$175

.....  
Signature

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



Carnegie Library — Whitlitter  
1907 - 1958

## PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

As our society concludes its ninth year, we can look back on another busy and productive year. Most of our efforts were directed towards planning for a museum. We hope this long cherished dream will become a reality by 1987, Whittier's centennial year. There is a growing need for a building to house our historical collection and to make Whittier's history both visible and available.

A press conference was held in June to announce plans for a fund drive to acquire a museum. At this conference, both the city and the Chamber of Commerce promised support for the project. In addition, the city has made the society custodian of its collection of historic memorabilia.

Immediately after the announcement, Pearl Spear, of PMS Litho, arranged for a miniature San Francisco Victorian house to be given to the society and used as a fund raising project. Sincere thanks to Pearl and to all of you who sold and bought raffle tickets on the doll house. The winner, in the drawing held July 15 at the Whittier Quad, was our Mayor and Society member, Delta Murphy.

The Whittier Community Theatre board of directors offered to stage a benefit performance of William Inge's Pulitzer prize winning play *Picnic* for the museum fund. A good sized crowd enjoyed this outstanding performance on September 20. Our thanks to Gary Kupp who acted for the Community Theatre players and made all the arrangements. Also, we do appreciate the support of all of you who purchased tickets and made donations to the museum fund.

The major fund raising event of the year was in conjunction with the Dick Combs' grand opening of the Whitwood Mall. Our first annual

Virginia Stooddy has again chaired our Hospitality Committee, assisted by Corinne Stooddy. We all thank both of you and members of the board, for the delicious refreshments enjoyed by all of us during the social hour preceding the general meetings.

We start our tenth year with a membership of over 300 individuals. Virginia Boles was our membership chairman this year. She, along with Virginia Mathony represented the society at Awareness Day, held last spring at the Whitwood Center. Keeping the membership roster current and making sure that cards are mailed is a time consuming task. Thank you, Virginia Boles, for this and your many other contributions in making the community aware of the society and its activities. Virginia Mathony conducted a special membership drive in January and February which added 80 new names to our society. This Virginia, too, deserves plaudits for her continuing contributions.

Seth Pickering has so ably kept our books straight and our feet on the ground as Treasurer. As the society grows and the museum fund becomes larger, our financial structure becomes more complex. Seth's care, concern, and prudent management of our funds have made him a great asset to the society. He is retiring from the Board of Directors this year to take a well earned rest. We will miss you, Seth.

Corresponding Secretary, Virginia Schallenberger, has been my "right hand" in taking care of our correspondence so capably. In addition, she receives and documents all of the artifacts at the Bailey House. Her help is truly appreciated - many thanks for many tasks well done, Virginia.

Francesha Dinn, Recording Secretary, lends a hand whenever we need

Heritage Ball. Held at the mall on the evening of November 10th, the ball was the culmination of countless hours of work, and planning by members of the society under the able direction of co-chairman Nadine Wood and Sylvia Foltz. Working on the committee were Earl and Bobbi Myer, Doug and Ruth Ferguson, Lucille Fields, Nancy Claxton, Bill and Millie Harlan, Audrey Heninger, Ray and Peg O'Connor, Bob and Jeanne Randall, Nadine Wood, Jean Arbuckle, Linda Chesnut, Virginia Boies, Sally Coppock, Sam Guyan, Mike Kovac, Virginia Mathony, Vic and Jan Lopez, Nancy Lee Owens, and Phyllis Pearce. Representing the Lusk Company were Doris Pawlak, Jack Gebhardt, and Bonnie Myers. Extra special credit goes to Doris Pawlak for her efforts on our behalf and to John and George Lusk for their generosity for providing Les Brown and his band of Renown, the Mall, and other things too numerous to mention which made the evening such a successful one. The 1200 guests all had a marvelous evening and the Lusk Company has volunteered to help us put on the second annual Ball this coming November. A round of applause to all the society members who helped and an ovation for Nadine and Sylvia for guiding this venture. Our museum fund was enriched by close to \$10,000 as a result of the dance.

A museum Foundation has been formed to take over much of the work of achieving the museum. Organizational meetings were held last summer and the group is now established; officers will be elected in April. Foundation directors are Fred Bewley, Malcolm Farmer, Doug Ferguson, Sylvia Foltz, Wayne Harvey, Nadine Hathaway, Julia Hockett, June House, Frances King, Olive Marshburn, Oscar Marshburn, Jack Mele, Delta Murphy, Frank O'Kelley, Lee Owens, Phyllis Pearce, Klane Robison, Virginia Schallenberger, Mynatt Smith, Virginia Stoodly, and Nadine Wood. Finance and site selection committees have been formed.

Our **Gazette** editor, Mary Ann Rummel, has presented her slide show "A Lot in Whittier" to eleven different organizations, with the proceeds going to the museum fund. When Mary Ann's other obligations prevented her from responding to requests, Nadine Wood stepped in and presented the show. Nothing we can say will adequately express our admiration and gratitude for what you both have contributed to this society over the years.

A final note on the museum: to all of you who contributed to the fund this past year, a vote of thanks from the society as a whole is in order and is herewith extended.

Our general meetings this year have been enthusiastically received by the membership. In January, Maurice Joyce shared with us his slides and stories of early Whittier history, making an enjoyable nostalgic afternoon for us. Sandy Snider, Historian at the Los Angeles County Arboretum, gave a delightful illustrated lecture on "Elias Jackson (Lucky) Baldwin and his Santa Anita Ranch," in October. Claire Radford captivated her audience at the January meeting with a history of the Workman Temple families. Claire's presentation was, in part, an orientation for the conducted tours of the restored Workman Temple properties in the City of Industry which were enjoyed by 140 members. Vice President and Program Chairman, Virginia Mathony, is to be commended for the outstanding programs this year.

her and takes minutes with great determination at our Board meetings. Thank you, Franine, for your many unsung but not unnoticed contributions.

Museum Committee Chairman Nadine Wood, has continued her outstanding work for the society. She, along with Ways and Means Chairman Sylvia Foltz, merit the gratitude of the entire society for their work on the Heritage Ball and other events this past year.

Walter Wood, Historian, has faithfully maintained the scrapbooks, keeping them up to date with articles relating to the society and the history of Whittier. Thank you, Walter, for your help this year and for your years of service to the society.

Tolbert Moorhead, Parliamentarian, is also retiring from the Board this year. Only small by-law revisions were needed this year to put in what we all thought was there, but wasn't. Thank you Tolbert - you too will be missed.

Docent representatives Jean Arbuckle, Bailey House, and Varlie Gordon, Pio Pico Mansion, attend monthly Board meetings and keep us informed about docent activities. All the docents are volunteers who give their time and talents to looking after these historic homes and conducting tours for the public. They are part of the society and deserve the support of all of us.

Mary Ann Rummel continues to edit the **Gazette** which must be considered among the outstanding historical society publications in the state. We all look forward to receiving and reading the **Gazette**, and thank you, Mary Ann, for sharing your talents with us and "scrounging" for items of lasting interest for your readers.

Two other Directors are retiring this year - Virginia Stoodly and Virginia Mathony, leaving us with only two Virginias on our Board. Virginia Stoodly, a charter and life member of the society, has been a contributing member of the committee responsible for **Founders and Friends**, has opened her home to society functions, and always been ready to assist the society in any way she can. We are all the beneficiaries of her generosity. Thank you, Virginia, for the many things you have done for us the past nine years.

Virginia Mathony has served as Corresponding Secretary and Membership Chairman; for the past two years, Vice President and Program Chairman. We can mention only a few of her other activities for the society which include publicity, research and layouts for **Founders and Friends**, Pio Pico docent officer, and Heritage Ball committee. Your shoes will be hard to fill, Virginia, and all of us thank you.

To those whose names were not mentioned above but who were always ready to help when asked, we give a great big thank you and three cheers.

The newly elected officers being installed tonight look forward to another busy and productive year with your support. The strength of this organization lies in its members and we grow stronger every year because of you. Your continued support is gratifying and makes serving you worthwhile.

**WHITTIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Phyllis Pearce (79-82)	President
Sylvia Foltz (79-82)	Vice President
Marygene Wright (80-83)	Recording Secretary
Virginia Schallenberger (78-81)	Corresponding Secretary
Earl Meyer (80-83)	Treasurer
Virginia Boles (78-81)	Director
Linda Chesnut (80-83)	Director
Ray O'Connor (80-83)	Director
Claire Radford (79-82)	Director
Francine Rippy (78-81)	Director
Nadine Wood (78-81)	Director
Walter Wood (79-82)	Director

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 696-7850

Membership in the Whittier Historical Society is open to persons interested in history and future of the Whittier area. Membership year is from March 1 - February 28. Dues are \$5 for individual membership - \$7.50 for family membership - \$25 for institutional membership - \$50 for sustaining membership - \$100 for individual life membership - \$175 for husband and wife life membership.

Phyllis M. Pearce  
President - Whittier Hist. Soc.  
5110 Cantabrian Ct.  
Whittier, California 90601  
695-2105

Published by the Whittier Historical Society

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

**WHITTIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 561

Whittier, California 90608

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 202  
Whittier, CA

NON-PROFIT ORG.

