

WHITTIER GAZETTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WHITTIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY, WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA

Vol. 6

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1980

Number 3

See that empty Penney's store over there? Well

ONCE UPON A TIME

. . . . the old Carnegie Library stood on that corner. It was one of the 2,000 edifices donated by the steel tycoon to small towns across America.

In my mind's eye, I can still see this one in all its ivory, Doric-columned splendor, sitting four-square in its own little park at the corner of Bailey and Greenleaf Streets. In those days it was a temple.

I remain loyal to the memory of that upright bastion of books bequeathed us by our favorite 19th century robber baron. Carnegie libraries in their neo-classic style were upright, literally. None of this low, sprawling architecture which confuses the outside with the inside and which wouldn't know what to do with a facade if it had one. Mushy modernism! A proper foundation, and the walls were substantial in separating the vitality within from the humdrum without.

You walked **up** to enter such a library even if an earlier part of the trip required a vehicle. In the Carnegie library's heyday, automobiles were consigned to the street; the only parking spaces provided were for books and readers. Today's libraries have had to accommodate themselves to cars and parking lots, and something has been lost. (I like the idea of having to go up a flight of steps to reach the entrance of a library. It fits.)

As with most temples, the tools used in these mysterious places have a peculiar fascination. The Whittier library's reading tables remain substantial in my memory and as indestructible as ever. Had war ever come first-hand to my home town, those

tables could have served as parts for emergency bridges. Neither Hannibal's elephants nor Patton's tanks would have fazed them - nor did generations of wiggling elbows.

And then there was the inner sanctum: the reference room where one found books about books and where the customary library hush deepened into profound silence.

The stacks were in the back of the building, with the librarians' quarters cagily opening on both the reading room and the stacks. There was to be no hanky-panky in the stacks, thank you. I loved the closed-in feeling the narrow aisles created. Carnegie was a thrifty provider, and one had to squeeze against the cases when a book cart was pushed through.

The children's library was in the basement - a hierarchical arrangement still to my liking. I remember the exact location of the desk, with its built-in trays for the narrow little cards that kept our borrowings in order. Behind that desk was a lady named Miss Groves, the only person I have ever known who wore a princenez without affectation. (Children's librarians must be among the most benign creatures on earth.) I am quite sure that whatever sense of manners I may now evince is owed in part to Miss Groves and her fellow librarians.

Today librarians have "come out of the stacks" and seem rather more natural than Miss Groves did to me as a child.

This is no doubt a step forward; indeed, I am afraid that library work, and we fledgling readers, played a disproportionate role in Miss Groves' life. Still, she rather typified the spinster lady as librarian, and I will always honor that spirit for its single-mindedness.

Hers was a therapy of precision. "Try this book," she would say, deftly flicking out just the right volume for one's mood or purpose. Instinctively helpful, she brooked no nonsense, and was as much guardian as mentor. She demanded silence, and even if we violated her dictum, few among us did not finally come to regard the hush of the reading room with the same sanctity as that of any church.

Then came that momentous day that I walked up the back basement stairs, out of the children's library, up the wide staircase, through the columns, and into the antechamber facing the central desk where three librarians were on duty. It was no small step in my life.

The library had become a central part of me, and remains so to this day.

So it is no wonder that the universal brotherhood and sisterhood of readers is a conservative lot that clings fondly to its foundations, whether neo-classic or crypto-Egyptian. We readers know libraries must grow up and move out - just as we have grown - but do not expect us to be first in line to favor it.

By Gordon Hazlitt
as adapted from the
Pomona College Alumni Mag.
by the
Whittier Daily News

Contributed by
Temp Bailey

Library building on N.E.
corner of Greenleaf Ave.
and Bailey St., built in
1907, demolished in 1959



OUR FAMILY

It was with great regret that the board in their June meeting accepted the resignation of board member Walter Wood. Walter has been having some health problems that make it prudent that he relinquish some of his volunteer responsibilities. In the last few years Walter has served as a member of the City Historical Commission, helped research **Founders and Friends** and acted as board Historian. Now it is time he take care of his health rather than our heritage.

Unfortunately, two faces will be permanently missing from our midst - members Mary Wyatt and Mary Hepp. Our group is not the only one that will feel the loss of these good friends and active volunteers. Both spent countless hours working at worthwhile projects that benefitted all of us.

The family bouquet this time goes to Jan Ewell who stepped in and carried through on the last Gazette issue from proof reading to mailing. The editor just turned it in and waltzed off to Alaska, so Jan had no consultant to fall back on. For the first time, the phone didn't ring to help our "truth in print" cause by correcting an error. She must have the knack that the regular editor doesn't. Everybody say "thank you" to Jan the next time you see her, -O.K.?

Nellie Counts has retired again! Yup. After spending a good share of her life teaching she retired -but - took on the chairmanship of the Bailey Docents (among other things). That was four - yes - four years ago. The group has done so well under her leadership. Frances Pedretti will now take the helm and we all wish her a fruitful tenure.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

News From Associated

Ann Weidel, president of AHSLAC sends us the dates of Oct. 11 in Torrance and Jan. 17 and May 16 for the regular mini-conferences of this group this year. Also our area will host the June 18-21 annual meeting of the Conference. If you feel you want to broaden your knowledge of what is going on historically in the surrounding areas, get into the habit of attending these meetings. Pearce, Radford, Mathony, Schallenberger or Rummel usually have the information you need about times, places and programs.

As an update - the Santa Clarity Valley Historical Society got its 93 year old Saugus RR station moved to Wm. S. Hart Park!

Come Holler Down A Rainbarrel

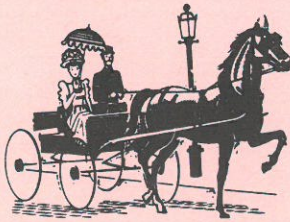
We can even play at their house because we are all invited to five historic Whittier homes for the Fall meeting of our Society. You should have received a flyer regarding this, but in case it wandered off, the date is Oct. 19 beginning at 2 at the Fletcher House and ending at 5:30 at the Bailey House with the Strong House, The Baldwin House and the Johnson-Harrison House in between at scheduled times. The Bailey Docents will have an ice cream social to round out the day and \$1.50 per will be collected there. There will be a reservation list for admission so you must call either Jean Randall - 696-3684 or Adele Nederburgh - 693-6276 by Wed., Oct. 15. If you mis-place this also, you will miss what will be one of our all time high-light meetings.

Second Annual Heritage Ball

Somewhere in mid-Oct. the mailing of invitations will begin to get this great party started. Everyone had such a marvelous time last year, all who were there will certainly be repeaters. The date is Nov. 14 from 8 - 12 in the Whittwood Mall. Les Brown and His Band of Renown will be back again. And there will be Schirmer snacks and a bar available for very nominal charges. You will find the price a bit higher this year, but not from inflation. After all, we do have a museum building right in the palm of our hand, but we need the means to close our fingers around it. This is probably the most enjoyable way you can find to make a donation.

Last year, everyone went away raving and telling all their friends about the Ball - and the friends were mad 'cause they didn't know about it. This year the mailing list has been expanded, but, to be on the safe side, you had best tell everyone you meet about the Ball so you won't be faced with that "Why didn't you tell me" growl later.

The Whittwood Association is donating their premises and paying for the band. If they can be that generous, so can each member. Each one of you is asked to give one hour of your time that night to take care of the numerous jobs necessary to keep the affair running smoothly. It might be taking door tickets or selling food tickets or delivering ice to bars or anything in between. You could even help sooner by working with the response mail. The phone committee will be calling to set a time for you, so why don't you call Nadine - 696-0743 or Sylvia - 693-5751 now and save them the trouble.



History is today . . .

14E With No Bill

The Whittier Historical Society is a member society of region 14E (NE L.A. County, generally) of the Conference of California Historical Societies whose home base is at the University of the Pacific in Stockton. The whole group of 14s comprises the organization called the Associated Historical Societies of Los Angeles County. It is through this network that our group keeps informed about happenings all over the state including those legislative conditions that need our attention in some way. The parent group has meetings in the Spring and Fall - one in the North and one in the South - and the local group has four area mini-conferences a year. Both groups also offer symposiums and workshops throughout the year aimed at special interests or problems. We usually have one or more representatives at these meetings, sharing our experiences with others and bringing back ideas.

Now! That long explanatory paragraph was leading up to the announcement that Bill Burkhart of Pacific Palisades has moved out of the presidency of Associated to become president of the Conference as of last June. One never knows whether to offer congratulations in a case like this. First of all our local groups will miss his fine leadership and, second, there he goes to accept a huge responsibility on a volunteer basis. Certainly only a person devoted to historic preservation would make such a move. Rather than our congratulations he deserves our blessings and encouragement.

On a sadder note . . . 14E has lost its regional vice president, Leona Bourdet, in a fatal traffic accident. Our condolences go to her husband, Louis, and to the La Puente Valley Historical Society. So much of what has been saved in the past few years for our neighbors over-the-hill has been due to the efforts of Leona. None of our historical community needed to lose a friend like her.

L.A. '81

Everyone must be aware by now that Los Angeles has launched into its bi-centennial celebration. Some of our own people were involved in one of the kick-off functions. The period clothing collections of Claire Radford and of our Society has not been a local secret, so when a fashion show was envisioned, she was contacted. She and the Jack Schallenbergers were part of the group of guests attending the gala opening night dinner on Sept. 13 of the artistic display erected at the L.A. Armory by Anthony Duquette.

The celebration was co-sponsored by the California Historical Society and the Broadway - so the Broadway people had charge of the fashion show. A lions share of those garments presented were from Claire's collection.

Everyone hesitates to try to describe the "area of art" constructed by Mr. Duquette. It involves metal sculptures and textiles and jewels and music. It is a whole environment that is experienced rather than described. The show will remain on exhibit through June and should be a must on everyone's viewing calendar. The Armory is in Exposition Park near the Coliseum and it should be well worth the trip to see this artist's three year project around the theme of Our Lady Queen of the Angeles.

The basics of the exhibit are ten 25' archangels made of iron, wood and gold leaf, a central 25' Madonna, 24 angel motif tapestries and a candelabra tree of 800 crystal votive lights. In all it involves 4 tons of steel, 1200 square yards of material and 10,000 square feet of space. It cost about \$500,000 without figuring any of the countless volunteer hours. Interested?

HELLO! HELLO!

This is your friendly Society telephone tree caller letting you know the latest news that needs to be passed personally and quickly. The news is that I have too many people on my list as do all the other callers, so we need more people to help us. Would you call Phyllis and give us a hand (or mouth)?

And while I have you, I want you to know that there are some people on the roster I can't even get ahold of. They had not listed their phone numbers on the membership form. If you haven't received a call from someone on the phone committee in the last month - it means we don't have your number, because everyone was called. Now I don't mean to be catty, but sometimes that Gazette just takes forever to get out to us and there are things we all need to know. So call Virginia Boles and give her your number so we can call you about important things - in time.

Dyla Foney

Greetings

The Whittier Historical Society Docents of the Pio Pico State Historic Park want to send good wishes to one of the newer Docent groups in the Park System. They send out a newsletter and it has been interesting to hear about their development of the Empire-Star Mine in Grass Valley. So many of our Society members have friends and relatives in that beautiful part of our state that it seemed a good idea to use the Gazette to invite our members to visit the mine and to pass on words of encouragement for the fine job that is getting done up there. Our salute to the volunteer members of the Empire Mine Park Association.

The Pio Pico Docents

§s = Museum

The Spring luncheon contributed about \$1000 to the Fund. That is good news to everyone and the gals who worked so hard on it should be proud of themselves.

The announcement about the acquisition of a museum building that you received in the mail was very encouraging and gives us all something really concrete to aim for. Not all of us have \$100 or \$1000 lying around but are capable in many other ways. Maybe some handy person can dream up a type of collection box to be placed throughout the community in stores and the time to circulate every so often to empty the containers. That is just one kind of idea. There should be 325 others out there among us. If you have a notion for a fund raiser, let the board know and get busy with it. The more people in our whole city that we can get involved in this project, the more everyone will feel that this is their Museum. Nickles are just as useful as Kuegerands.

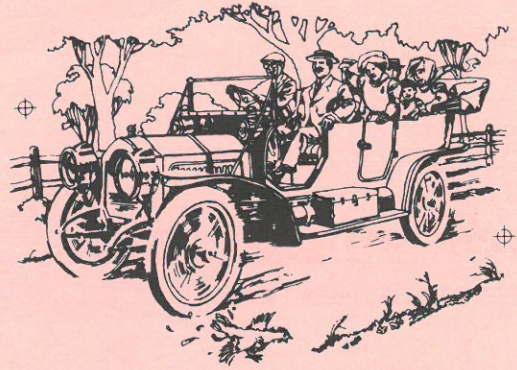
For Sale

. any number of copies of the reprinted edition of Founders and Friends. After talking about this for a year, the board moved and like lightning we had a new batch of books to meet all those requests that had piled up. Newer members might not be aware that in 1977 three of our members with the help of a couple of dozen more wrote a history of Whittier loaded with new and old pictures. The new edition has had the nasty errors corrected and has a sheet for correlating the new with the old addresses.

Eight dollars covers the tax and they may be found at the Pico Mansion, UCB, Quaker Savings and Calvins in the Uptown Village, and at the Chamber of Commerce on Painter. Phyllis can clue you into larger supplies and there will be a stack at the meeting in October.

Also printed for sale at the opening of the Uptown Village were packets of two series of old buildings in Whittier. They are Virginia Schallenbergers etchings of three houses and three business buildings and cost \$3 per package. These can be found at the Mansion and Bailey House.

REMEMBER WHEN?



The 174 bed Whittier Hospital and the 364 bed Presbyterian Hospital recently made the request that the City lend its backing to a giant bond issue to help expand needed facilities in both these places.

Was it only back in 1946 when we read:
Hospital Not Large Enough for Whittier
People Who Reside Inside City Should Be Allowed
80 Beds

If Murphy Memorial Hospital was used only by the people residing within the boundaries of Whittier City, it would still be 20 beds short of meeting the number of beds allotted generally for a city of 20,000 people it was learned by a News reporter today.

The general accepted practice endorsed throughout the nation is to provide four beds per 1000 population. This city's population is estimated to be 20,000 now and most authoritative persons predict it will grow steadily in the next 10 years just as it has in the past 10 years when it showed an increase of 5,000.

Under the slide rule advocated, Whittier should have an 80 bed hospital for its 20,000 population. However, Murphy Memorial Hospital is also used by a great many people residing outside the city - an estimated area including some 40,000 people dependent upon the municipally owned and

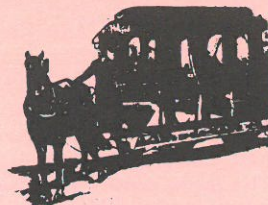
operated Whittier Hospital.

The normal capacity of the hospital is 60, but in emergencies this figure can be increased to 75 beds - still short of the 80 required for Whittier citizens alone. These facts are just a few of the reasons many local people have endorsed the \$350,000 hospital bond issue to be voted on at the Municipal election on April 9.

The hospital was erected 25 years ago when the population here was barely 12,500. It was enlarged in 1927 when the population was under the 15,000 mark. It is now time, many believe, to recognize the fact that Whittier has again outgrown the hospital, and additions are needed to make the institution efficient and adequate to care for Whittier's sick and injured.

Whittier Daily News
March 23, 1946

(Ed. No, the old Murphy did not get knocked down as we are so used to seeing happen. It was bought by Whittier College and is now called Murphy Hall. It is between Bailey and Hadley on Alta, east of Painter. It stands on the property originally set aside for Whittier College, which didn't get funded the first time around. The land became Alta Park until Simon Murphy of East Whittier gave the money to build the hospital.)



Message from the President

Dear Members:

IT'S TRUE! WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A MUSEUM!!!

By the time you read this, escrow papers will have been signed for the museum building at the corner of Philadelphia and Newlin, and a public fund campaign will be under way. For many years various groups and individuals have talked about the need for, and the benefits of, a museum in Whittier. Now we have the opportunity to put talk into action and actually get to work to raise the money to buy an outstanding building. Because of inflation and the rise in construction costs, this may be our one and only chance to acquire a fireproof, earthquake proof, secure building for a museum. This is not just a Whittier Historical Society project - it has

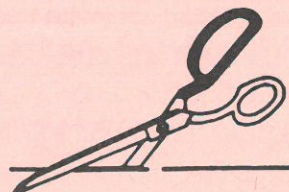
community-wide support and, therefore, an excellent chance for success. We also need your support.

At this time we have contributions and pledges amounting to approximately one-third of our goal of \$325,000. Escrow will close on February 25, 1981, so the time is short. We are asking each of you to make your contribution now. Please fill out the pledge card stapled to this issue of the **Gazette**, attach your check*, and send it along to the Whittier Historical Society, P.O. Box 561, Whittier, 90608. If you have already made your contribution, would you give the card to a friend, neighbor or relative for their contribution.

Working together we **can** make a dream come true - a museum for Whittier.

Phyllis Pearce, President

The Whittier Historical Society is a non-profit corporation. Gifts of money or securities are tax-deductible.



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.

**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

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.

Mrs. Anna W. Benson
6319-A Comstock
Whittier CA 90601