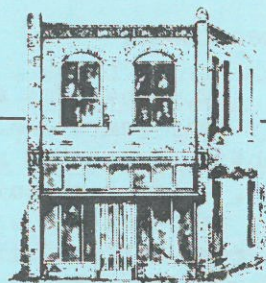


# The WHITTIER GAZETTE



WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WHITTIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 7

August 1981

Number 3

## Once Upon a Time

..... a man named Weiss had a shoe store on Greenleaf. I went barefooted until I was about twelve years old. Then my oldest sister got around my mother and insisted that daddy take me up and get a pair of shoes at the Weiss store. That was the first pair of shoes I ever had. Daddy drove a spring wagon and all the girls were in it and mother and, of course, they had to see me when I put on my first pair of shoes. We got about a block or so up the street and I began to complain about my feet hurting me. Daddy told me to hold up my feet so he could see the bottom of my shoes. And I had two shoes for the same foot. Then we hurried back and put the right shoe on my right foot. Boy, did I hate to wear shoes.

My feet were as tough as a buffalo's hide. I could have walked on crushed rock, although we didn't have crushed rock in those days, but it wouldn't hurt my feet, they were so tough. And I wore knee pants until - Oh, I longed for the time that I would get my first long britches. And when I did get them, boy, was I proud. You don't see kids in knee pants any more. Even little tykes wear long pants. Oh, I look back on my childhood days and I had lots of fun.

(So reads the oral tape transcription of Paul Wesley Smith made at the Hoover Hotel on August 24, 1976, one day before his 97th birthday.)

You've heard of the Gunn and Hazzard tract haven't you? A.C. Hazzard was my grandfather - my mother's father - Augustus. They bought a good share of a section of land, several hundred acres. Gunn had the east side and Hazzard had the west side.

cont.



Once - cont.

My mother was a widow. I lost my father, earthly father, when I was only four years old. My grandfather was a Methodist minister and so was my father. He served a circuit of several churches and he taught school week-days. Riding circuit he caught cold and it went into pneumonia and it went into tuberculosis and he died when I was four years old. That was in a little town called Colfax where I was born.

My mother moved to San Jose with myself and three daughters. Then my grandfather gave her ten acres and built her a house on south Painter where Sierra High School is now. My mother was awfully poor. Some things happened that would make me ashamed like when she sent me to school with woman's shoes on and I ditched them in the weeds before I got there. I was ashamed of them. Then, she sent me to school with a woman's coat on that had those little things stuck out in back. I ditched it before I got to school too. I knew the kids would make fun of me.

When I was about ten years old Mother married again. She married a man from Michigan - W.T. Brokaw. He was good to Mother and good to the children. He used to gripe to my mother about we kids. That was the first time he was ever married and so sometimes I guess he felt kind of imposed on. But, you know, I thought I was imposed on.

Papa Brokaw chewed tobacco, he was a tobacco chewer. For a long time after my mother married him, he kept that a secret from my mother. He wouldn't chew around the house. Course, I was a Meddlesome Mattie, I guess, and he got a new supply of tobacco. It came in plugs, you know. I found out where he hid it up in the rafters in the barn. I hid that thing. He took to looking around and around. He knew who to blame for that, but I never said anything and he never said anything to me about it. Of course, he never spoke to Mother about it. Several days I watched him looking and looking for where that tobacco was. I finally took pity on him and I brought it out. He didn't abuse me for it, but he knew what I was like.

Pio Pico drew in our yard when I was about eight or ten. He had a horse and buggy. It was a pretty nice horse and buggy for those days. He drove in our yard one day and he pulled out one of these chain link purses and he opened it. He handed me out ten cents. Boy, did I think that was something. They told me later, when I grew up, who he was. I felt quite honored. I don't know why he pulled in there. Just visiting. Maybe just coming to see me.

He lived right on the edge of the San Gabriel River. Along the eighties and nineties we used to have heavy rainfalls here. I remember different years you could hear the booming of that river. It would wash out all the rivers from the mountains clear to the ocean. One year half of his house - a



Once - cont.

good share - caved off right into the river. The bank caved off, you know, and the house caved in the river. You take houses and stock and trees, everything would come cown those rivers when they got wild. You could hear them at night when the air was clear - we didn't have smog in those days - you could hear that river boom.

Grandfather Hazzard used to take Mother and her family down to Long Beach. We'd stay for a month to six weeks. As I told you we were all Methodists, and there was a big Methodist camp down there and a tabernacle. And that was several miles back from the beach. Mother rented one of those tents. I would, naturally, attend many of those tabernacle meetings and get acquainted with the people in the camp ground. Those were high days for a kid like me.

I remember when I got enough money together and I bought one of those little red express wagons. I'd go down in the morning to Long Beach and those little bits of clams sometimes would be piled up a foot high on the beach. And they would just make the sweetest, loveliest clam soup. Those big clams weren't in it at all. And I would take cans and buckets and put them in my wagon and fill them up with those clams and I would come back to the camp city and I would sell those clams for ten cents a quart. Boy, I was riding high for a kid. But, believe me, everybody who ate that clam soup wanted more of it. It was awfully good.

There was one day that I went down bathing one morning on the beach and I stepped on a stingeree. See, they'll come right up with the tide when the water is only a few inches deep. Well, I stepped on the stingeree and it stung me under my big toe and I crawled and hobbled all the way back to the camp. It was a long ways, too. I got back home and Mother put my foot in hot water, as hot as I could stand it, to draw the pain out. You know, a stingeree is flat, just as flat as the floor. And the barb is on the tail. It is just like the barbs on a saw. They tear the flesh when you pull the stinger out.

Those days you could drive on Long Beach for miles with a horse and buggy. Now Long Beach you can hardly walk around without stepping on somebody.

(In the next episode we will hear about Old Dolly and Paul growing up and the people and places he knew.)





# Letter to the Editor

FROM T.C.(Bud) Landreth

I continue to read the Gazette from cover to cover with great interest and education. While there are other things I've wanted to write you, the piece on the Avocado Show prompted this dual purpose letter.

Following are some excerpts from History of Whittier by B.F. Arnold and Mrs. A.D. Clark, All Whittier Productio, 1932, Printed by Western printing Corporation, 1933, Library reference 979.493 A 75:

## THE PROGRESS CLUB

A service club composed of Whittier business men and chartered 9 April 1924. As of 1932, for six consecutive years they sponsored the Avocado Show.

I recall these shows well, with the excitement of a carnival and the education of the avocado being a fruit of many sizes and shapes. My cousin, and Connie's, Clifford Cole was president of the Progress Club at one time. His first wife, Vera Cole, remembers those days well and advised me that there may be two members extant; Cliff Scarf (son of the barber, I think) and Clare Long, the latter of Alhambra.

In 1979 I met a USC professor of journalism and literature who is writing about avocados. Through mutual friends, I have sent him some information about the early days of avocados in Whittier, particularly, as I recall, dealing with Rideout's work developpoing the Lyon and Haas.

Now for a more personal inquiry. During research pertinent to my family, I ran up against some unanswered questions. My grandfather, Lewis Landreth, started the L. Landreth & Co. The first advertisement in The Whittier News is December 21, 1906. The first address noted in the advertisements is 115 No. Comstock. I think the eventual store probably covered 111-115 No. Comstock, although other advertisements have 113, 135, etc. At some point, when my father, Chart Landreth, took over the business, the name was changed to The Landreth Feed Company, or some such. We only referred to it as "the feed store". Now for the question, unanswered by inquires at city hall, the fire department, family, friends, etc., when did the old store burn down and when was the new one erected.

Another enigma for me is the building behind the feed store facing on Milton. The high brick building which still stands was the feed mill, the place where grain was milled to make the various cracked grains, mash, etc. that were sold. This was later Cole's Garage, rented to Clifford Cole before he moved to the place just north of it. The other big question is what



was just south of the mill facing onto Milton in the early 1920s. The Stodys started there business there in a shop that abutted the sidewalk. My childhood recollection is that there was another brick building abutting the alley between Comstock and Milton that belonged to my father.

Any light you can throw on these would be much appreciated.

Sincerely,  
T.C. Landreth  
General Delivery  
Cereal, Alberta  
Canada TOJONO



## Foltz Quotz

A continuing project of the Whittier Historical Society is the designation of historical homes and buildings in our community by means of plaques or signs. A new committee is now being formed to continue this work. If this is in your field of interest and you would like to serve in this capacity, please call me at 693-5751.

If you are bored during these last few days of summer, grab yourself a child, yours or a neighbor's, and visit the Children's Museum at 310 N. Main St. in Los Angeles. This creative museum is designed for activity and fun. Where else can a child ride a real police motorcycle, dress up like an honest to goodness fireman, participate in a television show, chose from numerous craft workshops or jump and tumble in the "stick room"? For parent's information, the "sticky room" is filled with nothing but bolsters, cushions and pillows which provide all kinds of outlets for children. Admission is \$1.75 for children and \$3.50 for adults.

Many exciting events are being planned for this year by Program Chairman, Marygene Wright and Ways and Means Chairman, Virginia Boles. Watch the Gazette and Membergrams for announcements of dates.



## By The Way

Remember the Hellman House story? Well, someone was left out. Seth Pickering recalled delivering groceries there. This paper was not informed whether Seth would still deliver groceries to you if you are president of an oil company and have a chauffeured limousine.



# What's Happening?

## *Genealogy*

Classes by Gladys Muller will be beginning in mid-September both in Whittier and Covina. The new WAGS (Whittier Area Genealogy Society) meets each month and also sends a monthly newsletter. If this is an area of your interest, you can use the help they offer and they could use your help as a member. Call 698-2972. This might also be one of the first numbers you add to your new roster for future reference.

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## *House Tour*

Last year's house tour was so popular that Virginia Boles has arranged another one for Sunday, October 18 from 1-5. The four houses which the owners are graciously opening for us are the Haendiges (Holton) on Mar Vista, the Batson (Batson) on Painter, the Kimble (Loftus) on Comstock and Beverly and the Ward (Coppock) on Haviland and Beverly.

The volunteers who will be stationed to show a house also want to see the other houses, so need alternates. If you would help, please contact the Bailey Docents, Pico Docents, Alice Newsom or Bobbie Myer. For help with refreshments call Connie Bailey or Harriet Twycross.

A flyer will reach you in late September for your use in making reservations for the limited number of tickets.

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## *Bailey*

On Wednesday, September 16 at 10AM there will be a "New Docent Coffee" at the Bailey House. Anyone interested in joining this group is invited to come - and bring a friend. There is a real need for additional docent help at the house. Husband and wife teams are very welcome and make the house seem more lived-in to visitors.

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## *Founders*

There is still a good supply of Founders and Friends that is now stored at the Museum. There are usually some available at Pico Pico and the Chamber of Commerce. They are \$8.

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cont.



### *General Meeting*

November 1, Sunday afternoon, Dr. Harry Nerhood will be the speaker at the First Friends Church. His subject isn't announced yet, but that really doesn't matter. Anything the good doctor (historian and mainstay at Whittier College) offers us will be entertaining and informative. This will be a meeting to which you will want to invite a friend - so reserve the date.

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### *Docent League*

The Fall meeting of the Docent League is scheduled in Pasadena for Sept. 30 and will tour through the Neighborhood Church, Gamble House and Pasadena Society Headquarters after the morning meetings. The Docent League is a group sponsored by the L.A. Natural History Museum to allow representatives from all types of docenting groups to meet and discuss their problems and successes. Both the Bailey and Pico Docents usually send representatives. This sounds like an especially interesting one, so you might like to join those going and also discover what interesting people docents are and what varied kinds of work they do. Call either docent group (phone numbers on page 34 of your new roster) by Sept. 20 to get in your reservation. There is no charge.

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### *Santa Susana*

The Santa Susana Mountain Park Association is still alive and well. Through their efforts the 1860 Stagecoach Trail is on the National Register of Historic Places and a portion has been declared Historic-Cultural Monument #92 by the L.A. City Cultural Heritage Board. The land is still in private hands and they are raising funds to keep it from development.

Their monthly hikes are one way of letting the public know what a beautiful and unique area they are helping to protect. The second Sunday there is a moderate hike, fourth Sunday a singles hike and, also fourth Sunday is the day for the family nature-history walk.

For further information call 998-7231 or 885-8479.


cont.



What's - cont.

### *Chinatown*

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California presents ..... Chinatown Los Angeles: Yesterday and Today. Two tours are being given. One gives you an opportunity to walk backwards in time through some 200 years of local history. The other covers the Chinatown we know. There is a slide show that is given with either tour. For additional information or reservation forms call Mary Ann - 696 7850. These are Saturday tours and Nov. 21 is the last scheduled tour.




## History Is Today

### *Bailey*

Through the efforts of Mary Fae Pickering the Bailey House will have on permanent display a trousseau dress worn to the Lincoln White House before 1865 by Judith Ann Crenshaw, a great grandmother of the donor, Mrs. Virginia Pavelko.


After the presentation by the Bailey Docents of a certificate of appreciation for her devoted service in the decoration and maintenance of the Bailey House, Virginia Schallenberger presented a Limoges covered dish from the Jonathan and Rebecca 50th Anniversary set and a dough tray to the Bailey collection.

At a City Council meeting the Docents of that City Park received a commendation from Mayor Lopez.



## Acquisitions

Our list of artifacts continues to grow. Added over the last few months are: a Victorian 'swooning' couch, 30 pieces of depression glass and other pottery and china, a box of clothing and lacework and the Bailey School clock.





# Museum Articlefacts

We have a telephone number!!! It is 945-3871.

The alarm system is in and aonnected to the fire and police departments so we have ample protection.

Lee Owens has generously contributed many pieces of office equipment. Also Don Moore was able to obtain some desks and filing cabinets.

Bob Bates is the liaison between the Society and the Museum Board. The latter has hired Bob as an interim designer so we can proceed with design, display exhibits, etc. He has been most enthusiastic about the Museum.

Virginia Mathony and Mary Ann Rummel have contributed their time in suggesting where different pieces of office equipment should be placed. Also Lee Owens and Myron Claxton with other volunteers have moved the furniture in various places upstairs and downstairs. Earl Myer, Tom Boles and Earl's grandsons, Pete and Tom helped move all the items from the UC Bank vault.

Doug Brown has contributed his time in suggesting color scheme and carpet suggestions for the main gallery. We are grateful for his assistance. We will begin the painting in a few weeks, perhaps by the time you receive this news.

Aren't we lucky to have raised enough monies to purchase the building and future parking lot!! Much praise should go to the finance committee. It has to be an on-going thing to raise money for the Museum in order to maintain this large (15,500 square foot) building so we need your support monetarily and as a worker. The telephone committee will be calling you in September to ask for your help with the Museum in some way. One way men, and, perhaps some women too, can help is to participate in a "Museum Buff Club". This is to be a fixer-upper-and maintain-the-building club that will probably meet a couple of Saturdays a month.

We are looking forward to seeing each one of you using your talent in the Museum.


Nadine Wood  
Museum Foundation Chairman






# Our Family

A certificate, designed by Doug Brown, for a Life Membership to the Museum Foundation was presented to Virginia Schallenberger. Virginia has contributed time, effort and material goods to the Museum and Historical Society and has recently moved to Sedona, Arizona. Will we all miss both she and Jack? Oh, Min!




## Special Collections

If you are cleaning out a cupboard, closet or garage perhaps you can pass on a few items to your Museum. We are in special need of: a hot plate, slide viewers, paint brushes, trash bags, magnifying glasses and office supplies like; pencils, pens, scissors, typing paper, carbon, erasers, tape and dispensers, envelopes, liquid paper, file cards and folders, labels, staplers, staples and removers, paper clips. Next month there will be another special needs list, but start thinking about refreshment service and general housekeeping needs.



## Missing

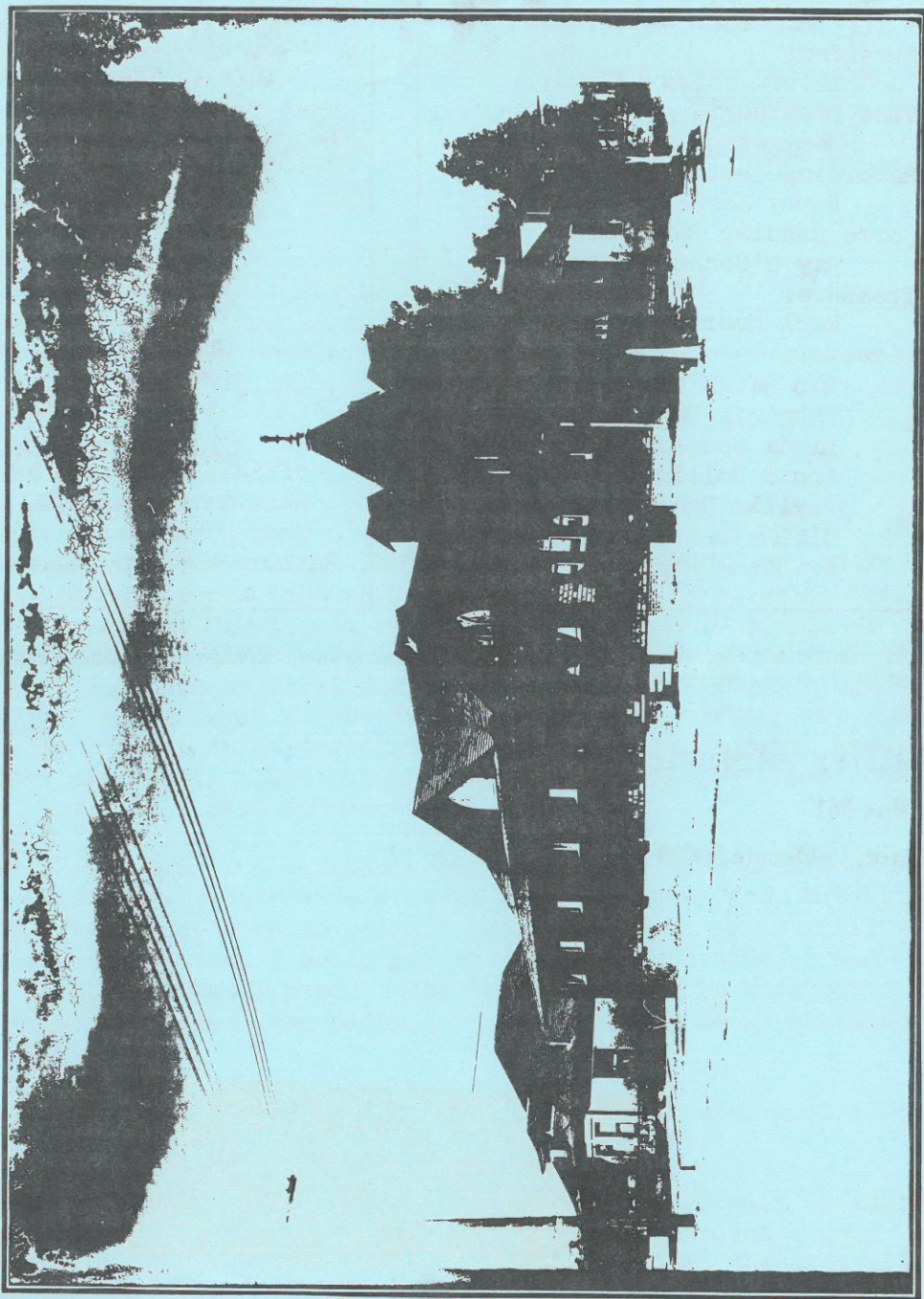
Does anyone know Norma Niells? We need her address to thank her for her donation to the Museum. Please call me if you can give me information.  
Nadine 696-0743



## Tell us about...

..... the picture on the next page. What church is it and where was it? And some of you know a great deal more about it than just such bare facts.







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Membership year is April 1 to March 31 and open to all persons interested in the history and future of the Whittier area. Dues -\$5 individual, \$7.50 family, \$25 institutional, \$50 sustaining, \$100 individual life, \$175 life for husband and wife

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