



A Publication of the Associated Historical Societies of Los Angeles County—No. 22—Winter 2011-2012

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Daniel Munoz*

Spring is coming and we are getting off to a good start. We are working on some exciting Mini-Conferences for 2012.

Our last Mini-Conference in 2011 was sponsored by the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society. We thank our hosts for their warm hospitality, great food, and guest speakers. (see page 3) Maurice Orme and Jay Whitcraft. Tours were given of the Richardson House, Lizzies Trail Inn by

Stan Hutchinson and Jay Whitcraft. If you missed this event, you must visit their museums and its serene surroundings. We also thank the Los Angeles Railroad Heritage Foundation, Alhambra Historical Society, and Pico Rivera History and Heritage Society for making our 2011 Mini-Conferences a success.

Our Spring Mini-Conference will be sponsored by the Artesia Historical Society on Saturday, January 28, 2012. We will visit their museum and old Fire Station #30.

Please make copies of the enclosed registration form, distribute, and encourage your Society to attend. Bring brochures, newsletters, and any other items to promote your group. If you are looking for new members, this is one way to get them.

Please don't forget 2012 memberships are due. Our Treasurer John Shea will be on hand to accept them.

We wish a successful 2012 to all our organizations and we'll see you in Artesia.



## OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

2012

President – Daniel Munoz  
Vice President – Art Almeida  
Secretary – Ann Shea  
Treasurer – John Shea  
Membership – Arlene Bernholtz  
Newsletter Editor – Paul Rippens

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*Arlene Bernholtz*

#26 Santa Monica Bay –  
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#27 Central Los Angeles –  
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*Rosemarie Markus*

#29 East San Gabriel Valley –  
*Vacant*

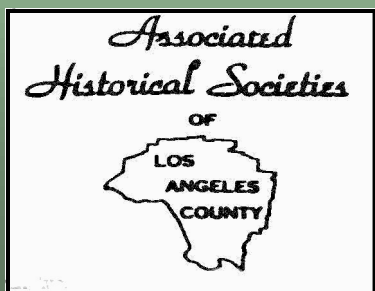
#30 San Gabriel River –  
*John Shea*

#31 Rancho San Pedro –  
*Mary Stanley*

#37 South-west Los Angeles –  
*Vacant*

#39 Long Beach –  
*Alison Bruesehoff*

#40 Arroyo Seco –  
*Mary Lou Pozzo*



## Editor Information

Please mail copies of your society's newsletter to this address.

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Information can be sent by E-mail to:

[AHSLAC@aol.com](mailto:AHSLAC@aol.com)

Newsletter Deadlines: April 1, 2012,  
September 1, 2012 & December 1, 2012

## Conference of California Historical Societies

[www.californiahistorian.com](http://www.californiahistorian.com)

### February Symposium—Pasadena

#### Featuring tours of:

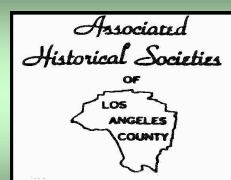
*Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)*  
*Craftsman Architecture*  
*Pasadena Museum of History Exhibitions*

#### Lectures on:

*Pasadena "Sharing Community Stories"*  
*History of the Rose Bowl*

**February 23-25, 2012**

Contact the CCHS at (909) 480-3964 or  
their web site for further information



Check out our web  
site at  
[www.AHSLAC.org](http://www.AHSLAC.org)

## Mini-Conference in Sierra Madre

On Saturday, October 15, the AHSLAC held their Mini-Conference in Sierra Madre and were made welcome by members of the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society. Members of the AHSLAC enjoyed the meeting in a small park located next to the historic Lizzies Trail Inn.

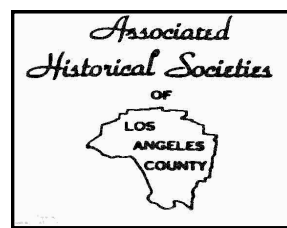


Jay Whitcraft (shown above) welcomed our members to Sierra Madre and was the perfect host. Following the usual business meeting led by President Danny Munoz, the group enjoyed a brief talk by Maurice Orme who had grown up on the property we were meeting on and who had worked at Lizzies Trail Inn.



Maurice Orme and Jay Whitcraft

Following lunch, the members were taken on a tour of Lizzies Trail Inn and the adjacent Richardson House. Everyone seemed to enjoy the day and we thank the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society for hosting the meeting.



## SAVANNAH MEMORIAL PARK

(AKA El Monte Cemetery)

The Savannah Memorial Park is one of the most historic cemeteries in California! While Native American burials and Catholic graves at the missions preceded Savannah, this was the first cemetery in Southern California established for Protestants. The cemetery is, however, available to all religions, races, and ethnicities.



The oldest documented burial is from 1853, but there are stories of unknown burials dating back to 1846 or 1847. In fact, there are many unknown graves in the cemetery. Most of the earliest markers were wood and have been destroyed by age and fire. There are also stories about impoverished families secretly burying their loved ones at night.

Savannah owes its existence to Henry Dalton, owner of Rancho San Francisquito, a huge land grant he received in 1845 or 1846. In the early 1850s, American settlers began arriving by wagon train. Over half of the founding families settling El Monte in 1851-53 are buried in the Savannah Cemetery.

Why are the El Monte settlers buried in Rosemead? El Monte was settled by farmers who admired the lush lands along the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo Rivers. While the land was lush, burials were impossible because the water table was less than eight feet deep.

One of the most important early settlers in the San Gabriel Valley was Ira Thompson, who is buried at the cemetery (no headstone). His family traveled in a wagon train from Iowa, arriving here in July of 1851. He established the Willow Grove Hotel about one mile east of the park. It was the first public accommodation in Southern California east of Los Angeles and became a stage coach stop, post office, and the center of much of the public life of El Monte.

Other notables buried in the Savannah Memorial Park include a state legislator, four Los Angeles County Supervisors, a county treasurer, a county coroner, and two mayors of El Monte. The cemetery also includes many veterans of American wars, ranging from the War of 1812 through World War II. Among them are winners of the Distinguished Service Cross and two Silver Stars.

The cemetery is privately owned by the El Monte Cemetery Association and is maintained by a volunteer board, most of whom are descendants of the original settlers who have cared for it for over 150 years.



## CENTENNIAL OF THE FIREHOUSE-JAIL MUSEUM—COVINA

On June 11, 2011, the Covina Valley Historical Society celebrated the centennial of their Firehouse-Jail Museum.



A crowd of about three hundred people attended the formal ceremony in the City Council Chambers. A retired Covina Fire Chief was honored and a presentation of Jim Mortensen's grandfather's firefighter badge and uniform jacket from retired

Covina Police Department Chief Jim O'Day was made to the society.

On display were a fully restored 1915 fire engine, courtesy of the Los Angeles County Fire Museum, a Hazmat Unit, a SWAT Unit from the Covina Police Department and antique vehicles from the Southern California Antique Car Club.

Food was provided by several local restaurants including Claro's Deli, Millies, Giovanni's, Sweet Savory, Sandwich City and the Sugar Bowl. The food was great and all who attended had a great time.

The Centennial also served as the launching of Dr. Barbara Hall's new book, "Covina Valley Citrus Industry." The book is a comprehensive history of the industry that put the City of Covina on the world map.

Proceeds from the book, which is \$24.00, go to support the Covina Valley Historical Society.

**"Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example" - Mark Twain**



## ANGELS GATE LIGHTHOUSE

The weather-beaten lighthouse that has stood sentry at the entrance to Los Angeles Harbor for nearly 100 years is getting a fresh start.

Starting in October, 2011, more that \$1.8 million will be spent repainting the Angeles Gate lighthouse and shoring up its eroding exterior. The lighthouse, which continues to blink out warnings to passing boaters, has been in decline for years, its paint peeling, iron gates rusting and damage cornice hanging limply.

The remodeling is designed to shore up the lighthouse by metalizing its base and repairing the holes in its stucco tower.

The renovation is an affirmation for a lighthouse that the Coast Guard had considered tearing down as age and salty ocean breezes took their toll.



Angeles Gate was built in 1913 for the modest sum of \$35,000, a studier version of the wooden structure that hugged the coastline at the time.

The lighthouse was last painted in 1989. Ray Olson, a member of the Cabrillo Beach Booster Club, which is managing the project said the workers "are willing to work six days a week, 10 hours a day if the weather's good to make up for the days we won't have good weather. We're kind of praying for a dry winter."

Portions of this story were taken from a Los Angeles Times article by Matt Stevens dated October 8, 2011



## THE SUFFRAGETTE LEGACY IN GARVANZA GROWS

*By Charles J. Fisher*

Garvanza has always been a hotbed of new ideas and forward thinking from its inception. Originally a staunch Methodist community, the community believed in the equality of all people before God. Wilbur F. McClure, one of the original founders of the town, sold land to two nationally known Suffragettes in 1886, who then built a house on Cooper Avenue (now N. Avenue 66) that they were to use for women's activities for the next decade.



Both the Rev. Anna Howard Shaw (she was to take over the suffragette organization a year after Susan B. Anthony's death, in 1906) and Cora Scott Pond (creator of the "National Pageant" plays that highlighted the role of women in American history) lived in Boston at the time and remained there. Pond married her publicist, John T. Pope in 1891 and joined him, living in Chicago, at that time.

Census and City Directory records show that Cora Scott Pond Pope lived with her husband, three stepsons and her mother in the old Andrew Glassell Jr. Residence on Roble in Garvanza from about 1906 until around 1920.

The Glassell House was originally built in 1886 and was the home of one of the earliest post-rancho landowners of the area. Glassell retained the home and the surrounding land when he sold

the surrounding land to the Garvanza Land Company that same year. A second story was added to the house in the 1890s. The estate was subdivided into the "Park Bluff" tract in 1897 and most of that was subdivided again into the "Arroyo Vista Tract" in 1905 with the Glassell House being located on Lot 2 of the 13 lot tract. The following year, Cora Scott Pond Pope bought the entire tract from several owners and the Pope Family moved into the only house on the land.

John T. Pope and one of his sons set up a real estate business while his wife continued her activism on behalf of woman's rights. She trained others in dramatic arts to help send the message out to the land. In 1914 she wrote her autobiography for a history of Eau Claire County, Wisconsin, where she grew up, writing this about her life in Los Angeles.

*"Since 1886 I had been investing in real estate in Los Angeles, and in 1905 we permanently located in that beautiful city. I have had a European trip since coming here. The Los Angeles Examiner invited me to chaperon four of its young women contestants to Europe. We were gone two months, visited twelve cities in America and twelve in Europe, France, Belgium and Holland, boosted for the Examiner and had the best of hotels, guides, service, meals and tours in all these cities at the expense of the Examiner, one of the most remarkable publications in the country.*

*I returned to Los Angeles and to real estate. If I win out in my real estate deals I hope to spend many years yet in the service that I love, urging greater justice to the mothers of our race; to help to better the development of children; to urge the moral safeguardings of young girls and boys in order to abolish vice and to raise the "one standard" of morals for men and women, in marriage and out of it; to give justice to the great army of labor that creates all our necessities and comforts of life, and to give equal laws and equal suffrage to men and women-equality for all alike before the law for every race and clime and color.*

*Only by so doing, as god gives me light, shall I hope for life eternal."*

*continued on page 8*

## A PEEK INTO THE TURBULENT WORLD OF 1800S CALIFORNIA

In Whittier, tucked between the concrete channel of the San Gabriel River and the roar of the 605 Freeway, there's a little adobe house you might like to visit.

Pio Pico's ranch, purchased in 1848, has the quaint warmth of a long-departed era. There's a horse corral, fruit trees, grapevines and an old wine cellar. The canopy of an enormous ash tree shades the old porch.



Pico was the last governor of Mexican California. He led the state during a period of intense ethnic conflict whose divisions are a mirror image of those today, when the words immigrant, illegal and Mexico can get the California blood boiling.

"The North American nation can never be our friend," Pico wrote in an official gubernatorial proclamation, drafted as U.S. troops headed toward California in 1846. "She has laws, religion, language and customs totally opposed to ours."

Pico was a man of African roots, born at the San Gabriel Mission without wealth or status, who rose to become the defining figure of 19th century California. His ranch on the San Gabriel River was the smallest of the many he owned—a mere 8,880 acres—so he called it "El Ranchito."

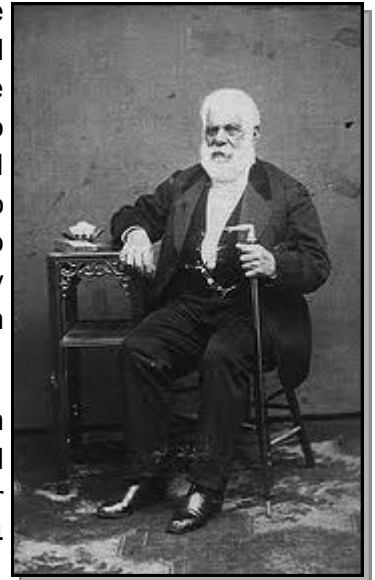
After the U.S. victory in the Mexican-American war, Pico became famous for the genteel manner with which he treated Anglos, who remained a minority in Southern California for decades. The early Times, then with openly Republican sympathies, always referred to him

with the honorific Spanish title of "Don."

Pico was done in because he incurred enormous debts while trying to hold on to symbols of wealth and power he could no longer afford. That too is a story with many echoes in modern California.

"His phaeton (buggy) and sorrel horse were a familiar sight," read his 1894 obituary in the Times,

describing his final days in downtown Los Angeles after losing a legal battle to keep El Ranchito. "Don Pico was the courtly Spanish gentleman of the old school up to the last..."



In these days of austerity, the park's doors are closed more days than they're open. But the fact that Pico's home has survived at all is a bit of a miracle, given more than a century of earthquakes, floods and real estate booms.

"It's never going to be the Hearst Castle," said Carolyn Schoff, an Orange County anthropologist who is president of Friends of Pio Pico. The remaining 5-acre parcel of Pio Pico's old ranch is "the poor stepchild of the state park system," she said.

But it's worth visiting that small park, and learning about the man who lived there, just to see and feel the strange and often circular paths of our history.



Excerpts for this story were taken from a Los Angeles Times story by Hector Tobar—November 2010

# **Associated Historical Societies of Los Angeles County**

## **Events Calendar**

### **Ongoing**

#### **Claremont Heritage Walking Tours:**

Claremont Village & Claremont Colleges. Saturdays at 10 am. Information: Claremont Heritage at 909-621-0848 or heritage.91711@verizon.net

### **January 2012**

**15**—Re-enactment of the Signing of the Articles of Capitulation at Campo de Cahuenga. 1:00 pm to 2:15 pm. [www.campodecahuenga.com](http://www.campodecahuenga.com)

**26—12 noon**—*Park Moderne AKA The Bird Streets*. Learn the history of the first subdivision of Calabasas. Calabasas Library.

**26—7 PM**—"Pearl Harbor Survivor's Story". San Fernando Valley Historical Society. Andres Pico Adobe. 818-365-7810

**28— AHSLAC Mini-Conference**—Artesia Historical Society—see flyer inside this newsletter

### **February 2012**

**23—12 noon**—*California Cooking*. Explore recipes from the 1950-80s in cookbooks from the CHS collection. Cookbooks focus on California missions, hospitality and heritage. Calabasas Library.

**23-25—CCHS Symposium, Pasadena**—tours and lectures. See information on Page 2 of this newsletter.

### **March 2012**

**29—12 noon**—*The History of Gerard*. Learn the story of Gerard, the town that later became Woodland Hills. See pictures of plot maps and learn how developers enticed settlers. Calabasas Library.

continued from page 6

The family moved away in 1920, Cora remaining for a short time as a boarder in the house while she finished her work in Los Angeles, then moving on to parts we have yet to find. For some reason, she drops off of our grid about that time. Word is that her later years were spent in the early Civil Rights movement, passionately fighting the good fight for all after woman's suffrage became the law of the land with the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

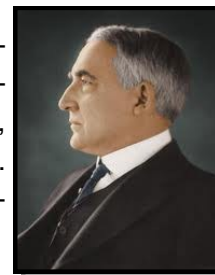
In 1921 the new owner reunited all of the land as one lot under the name of "Shadow Place." We do not know if this name was Cora's name for the home or not, but it seems fitting. Garvanza history is enriched by the contributions of many and the world is a better place for the role of those such as Cora Scott Pond Pope.

Reprinted from the Highland Park Heritage Trust "Our Cornerstone" newsletter—Fall 2011

### **U.S. PRESIDENT FACTS**

Warren G. Harding was the 29th President of the United States (1921-1923). A Republican from Ohio, Harding was an influential self-made newspaper publisher. He served in the Ohio Senate, and as a U.S. Senator. He was the first incumbent United States Senator and the first newspaper publisher to be elected President.

President Harding rewarded friends and political contributors, referred to as the Ohio Gang, with financially powerful positions. Scandals and corruption eventually pervaded his administration.



In foreign affairs, Harding spurned Wilson's League of Nations. Domestically, Harding signed the first child welfare program, and dealt with striking mine and railroad workers. The nation's unemployment rate dropped by half during his administration.

In August 1923, President Harding suddenly collapsed and died during a stop in California. He was succeeded by VP Calvin Coolidge.