

Legacy Links



**PRESERVING OLD LA VERNE'S
ENVIRONMENT:
MAKING HISTORY FOR THE FUTURE**

LA VERNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Every Picture Tells a Story

A real treasure was found on April 23rd when the LVHS participated in the Chamber of Commerce-sponsored Community Yard Sale. LVHS Membership Chair Kathy Kalousek donated a copy of the *History of Pomona Valley California with Biographical Sketches*, published in 1920 by the Historic Record Company in Los Angeles. The author, F. P. Brackett, was a Professor at Pomona College, and compiled this 818-page, fully indexed volume in consultation with experts from the Los Angeles Public Library, the Historical Society of Pomona Valley, and the Pomona Public Library. Persons who were directly consulted included Ramon Vejar, his son and daughter Frank and Estella and Kewen Dorsey (grandson of Billy Rubottom) of Spadra.

Reading through this text is like sitting down to a 20-course meal; the first part of the book contains descriptions of the early days of Rancho San Jose, in-depth chapters concerning Pomona's founding, its industries, social, intellectual, and spiritual life, and descriptions of cities along the Santa Fe rail line (in La Verne). Pages 203-818 are devoted to biographical summaries of persons in the Pomona Valley, none of which were written by F. P. Brackett.

Several sketches will appear occasionally in *Legacy Links* as a reminder of life in former times. Today's selection is about Colonel George Heath and his wife Emma (Colvin) Heath. The sketch will appear exactly as it did in Brackett's book.

One of the early pioneers of California, and among the very first settlers in the Pomona Valley, Col. George Heath lived there throughout the decade of wonderful advancement for this section of the equally wonderful mother state, and during that time took an active part in the development work that has made the Valley a veritable "land of milk and honey." He was born near Batavia N. Y., October 9, 1828, and when but a lad of ten years the family moved to Michigan, where they settled on a farm near Flint.



In 1852 Colonel Heath made his first trip to California, crossing the plains by ox teams, and returned East via

Panama; he made two or three trips before settling in the West, and mined for a time in Yuba City, for gold, and he also had silver mining interests in the state. He decided to devote his time to agricultural development, however, and in 1878 settled in the Pomona Valley, and bought a 100-acre ranch on the site of Lordsburg, now the thriving city of La Verne. After his marriage, in 1879, which united him with Emma A. Colvin, born in Oakland County, Mich., Colonel Heath brought his young wife to his ranch and began farming operations. A Mr. J. W. Brim and Mr. Goodhue had also bought 100 acres each, and later he bought Mr. Brim's holdings and farmed the 200 acres. He fenced the land, putting up the first barbed wire fence in the Valley; built his house and barns, and a windmill, and farmed to barley and wheat. In 1881 he planted a family orchard of 100 trees. In April 1887, when the Santa Fe Railway built their road through, Colonel Heath sold his ranch to the Townsite Improvement Company for a good price; and also gave to them a long strip of ten acres through his property, and a depot was built on this part, with sidetrack for grain shipments.



The Santa Fe Railroad Station depot was torn down in 1952

The railway built their road through his ranch, and after its sale Colonel Heath moved to Pomona, where he retired from active work. He was later appointed councilman to fill out an unexpired term. Though never seeking office he held himself at all times in readiness to give of his time and substantial help toward advancing the best interests of his district and was

recognized as a man of wise counsel and efficient execution. His passing, on August 29, 1901, was sincerely mourned by his devoted family and many friends in the Valley, who held him in high esteem.

Four children blessed the marriage of Colonel and Mrs. Heath; Mary Emma, wife of Maurice C. Ludden of Pomona and mother of one son, Richard; George L. of Pomona, Ella, wife of Fred A. Link of Claremont, and Lieut. Colvin E., graduate of Pomona College and a member of the Twelfth Infantry, Co. E, U. S. A. The Heaths are one of the representative pioneer families of the Valley and have taken their place as such in the life of the community. Mrs. Heath is a member of the Eastern Star and Ebell Club, and in religious faith she joins with the Methodist Church.



The Colonel Heath House on First Street in La Verne

Remember the land given by Colonel Heath to the Lordsburg Townsite Improvement Project, which was the site for the Santa Fe Depot? Besides the depot, the Palomares District School was built on this property, located near the northwest corner of what is now Arrow Highway and White Avenue.





A photo of the Palomares District School, built in 1897 after the original schoolhouse burned down.

The deed to this property stated that if the town abandoned the site for “school purposes”, the property would revert to Heath’s widow. Fortunately, she offered the school district clear title so the land could be sold and the funds used to purchase property for a new school.

Just Ask Bill

Bill helps with our financials in La Verne by answering this question about the image on a passbook from the First National Bank of La Verne, then asking a question of his own.



Tim Asked:

I was doing some cleaning and came across this bank. Have you seen one of these before? Do you have any background on it?

Hello Tim: The building that is depicted on your passbook is the first location of the First National Bank of La Verne, originally built as the First National Bank of Lordsburg, at 303 N. “D” Street. In 1917, the city changed its name to La Verne, and it became the First National Bank of La Verne. In 1927, The address was changed



to 2307 “D” Street. In 1930, the building was remodeled and expanded. In 1954, the bank moved north one block to a newly constructed building, with the address of 2079 Fourth Street. In 1961, Fourth Street was changed to Bonita Avenue. The “D” Street site of the bank is now occupied by Aoki Japanese Restaurant and the Bonita Avenue building became the ULV bookstore and is now occupied by Chase’s Restaurant.



THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF LA VERNE

I have some questions about the passbook. Did this belong to someone named Poole and did they live at 1808 Third Street? What was the time frame of the entries in the passbook?

Maybe we’ll learn more about the owner of this passbook in another edition of Just Ask Bill.

President’s Message

The LVHS is back in full swing with programming. Following the very successful Community Yard Sale on April 23, the LVHS sponsored a well-attended workshop on April 30th about window restoration. Participants were treated to a two-hour presentation by Ric Reed of Minor Menders of Pomona and his assistant, who brought sample windows and showed

us many tricks for sanding and otherwise prepping windows prior to either painting or staining. Attendees came from Pomona, Riverside, Claremont, and Glendora to learn how to make their old windows good as new. It was an education, for sure. Ric sent a list of his favorite products which were posted on the LVHS website's Restoration Resource Directory. Click on the Publications and Resources page, then scroll all the way to the bottom to find the Directory button.



Ric Reed and Breana Crouch give a master class on vintage window restoration on April 30th

The LVHS was honored on April 12th at the Bonita Unified School District's annual "State of the District" luncheon in recognition of LVHS activities with the



BUSD. President Best posed with BUSD Superintendent Carl Coles and two students from teacher Rob Zamboni's advanced auto shop class.



Recognition continued when she received the 2021 Jack Huntington Pride of La Verne Award for volunteer contributions to the city. A special plaque, presented by Mayor Tim Hepburn at the April 18 City Council meeting, occupies an honored place in her breakfast room and reminds her that this award was earned by all members of the LVHS. President Best's acceptance speech can be viewed on the following link:

[Apr 18, 2022 City Council - La Verne, CA \(swagit.com\)](https://www.swagit.com/2022/04/18/city-council-la-verne-ca)



La Verne Mayor Tim Hepburn poses with Sherry Best, 2021 Jack Huntington Award winner, and Walter Marquez, President and CEO of the LA County Fair

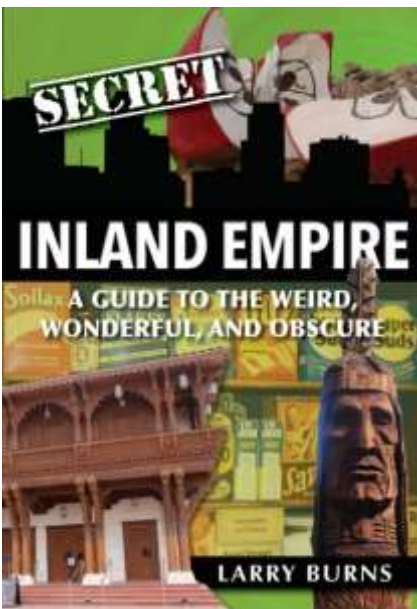
May 6th was sunny and warm, but not as warm as September when the LA County usually arrives in Pomona. This year the Fair began on Thursday, May 5th, and May 6th was La Verne Day at the Fair. LVHS President Sherry Best was honored at the Fair and received a beautifully framed picture. Participants enjoyed a BBQ lunch at tables on top of "Picnic Hill". Walter Marquez, CEO of the LA County Fair, grew up in Ontario and Pomona and is a graduate of ULV.

On May 7, the LVHS sponsored three "Get on the Bus" tours of sites in the old Lordsburg area of town. We

were able to collaborate with Hillcrest on this popular activity. Bill Lemon narrated and LVHS volunteers presented him with a lemon cake to celebrate his birthday. It is good to get back on our touring schedule.



What is in store for the summer? On June 13th, our Member/Community meeting will be held at the Hillcrest Meeting House at 7:00pm. Our guest speaker is Larry Burns, who teaches English at Riverside City College and Humanities at Southern New Hampshire University. Burns is a founding member of the Inlandia Institute, a non-profit literary organization. His topic is “Secret Inland Empire: A guide to the weird, wonderful, and obscure”. The presentation is free and open to the public. Attendees must adhere to Hillcrest’s attendance protocol, including a temperature check and masking. Join us for an entertaining and informative event.



The Inland Empire is the home of the first McDonald’s and Flaming Hot Cheetos, the place where more than 90% of the nation’s dates are grown, and site of Southern California’s only coal mine. Add to your Inland Empire knowledge on June 13th!

Rolling with the International

Work on the 1938 International is surging ahead. The Bonita High School students finished rubbing out the dirt from the cab and fenders (see partial job below),



then the truck went to the Old Anvil Speed Shop, a hot rod and fabrication business in the city of Orange that is owned by Paul and Jenna Bosserman. The truck will be outfitted with a new steering box, front end, rear end, drive shaft, and remote power system. The new engine will be hung after fabrication of motor and transmission mounts. The cab, fender, and grill, which had to be removed to complete the dismantling, will be re-welded onto the chassis. Brake lines will be fabricated and wiring put in.



Four members of the Steering Committee visited Old Anvil on April 25, 2022, to discuss “next steps” with the owner. Erik Chaputa, the LVHS

Project Director, made several trips from the Bonita High School shop class with truck parts that would be needed by the fabricators. The machine shop at Old Anvil is in a large warehouse building and is separated from their paint building by parking spaces. Paul and Jenna showed us photos of a 1938 Chevy that they

bought and restored, then used to haul a trailer on their move from Virginia (see below).



Project Director Erik Chaputa shows parts from the LVHS 1938 International to Paul Bosserman at the Old Anvil Speed Shop. The 1938 International will return to Bonita High School after it makes an appearance in the La Verne Fourth of July parade.



The LVHS Steering Committee members expressed hope that the Dayton wheels on the original rims could be retained because their look is so iconic. To keep this look while purchasing new tires in today's size, Old Anvil will fabricate new rims to hold the original Dayton wheels and new tires, the perfect combination of restoration and innovation.



New rims will be fabricated to carry the original Dayton wheels on the truck. The rims can accommodate more modern tires that are less expensive and easy to obtain, while retaining the original look. Win-win for the LVHS!

The goal of this work is to have the truck “rolling” by July Fourth, in time for the La Verne parade. Look for Sanders Towing Company as it pulls the International through the parade route. Once we celebrate on the Fourth, the International will go back to Old Anvil for any extra work before arriving back at Bonita High School, where teacher Rob Zamboni can use the truck as a teaching tool as his students practice pulling it apart and then putting it back together. Old Anvil has invited students from Rob’s class to tour their shop before the truck returns to BHS.



On their website, the Bossermans state that “Old Anvil prides itself on creating show stopping, one-of-a-kind pieces of art that can be passed down from generation to generation... Whether you want to restore a family heirloom or compete for the next trophy; our team will work to ensure no detail is left behind and our customers drive home with the car of their dreams.”

Sounds good to us!

The Pomona Concert Band Celebrates 75 Years

On May 1st, the Pomona Concert Band kicked off its 75th birthday with a 1½ hour open-air concert at the G. Stanton Selby Bandshell at Pomona’s Ganessa Park. Participants made good use of fans printed with the band’s 2022 summer concert dates and enjoyed musical numbers that included a medley of Star Wars melodies. Our conductor for this portion of the program was Denny Duran, a senior at Bonita High

School who will attend the University of Redlands in the fall as a music major.



Left: Fans display the 2022 summer show schedule, which begins July 7th. Below, Denny Duran takes a bow after guest-conducting the band. Attendees enjoy the music from the lawn, folding chairs, or amphitheater seats.



Above: Bonita HS guest conductor Denny Duran takes a bow after conducting the Pomona Concert Band. Below, concert attendees enjoy a perfect concert with perfect weather



In 2023, the LVHS will celebrate 50 years since it incorporated as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit. We are looking for multiple ways to celebrate our contributions to history and invite you to submit ideas to Sherry Best at 909/596-4679 or sbest@lavernehistoricalsociety.org.

Help with LVHS Fourth of July Parade Entry

The LVHS needs help with the Fourth of July parade entry. Sanders Towing will pull the truck through the parade route, accompanied by Bonita HS students and LVHS members. If you want to either march or decorate the truck, please contact Sherry Best at 909/596-4679 or sbeat@lavernehistoricalsociety.org. We will have a “truck beautification” party to decorate the day before at Sherry and John Best’s house at 11:00am. If you are willing to march in the parade, Sherry needs to get your name onto the application form ASAP. Put your shoulder to the wheel for the LVHS!

LVHS Membership Updates

The LVHS is adding new members and their support is much appreciated. Below is a partial list (in alphabetical order) of new members from 2021-2022. Please contact Sherry Best if your name has not yet been noted in *Legacy Links*. We want to celebrate you!

We love our renewing members too. Please submit your membership form (posted on the LVHS website) or sign up when you come to the June 13th meeting. We can accept credit cards on site.



NEW LVHS Members

- Yvonne Belcher
- Lily Brainard
- Mike Capps
- Susan Carson
- Connor Chick
- Muir Davis
- Leroy & Juanita Evans
- Joe & Cynthia Gabaldon
- Yvonne Gallegos
- Edra Goldberg
- Catalina Green
- Daniel & Cruz Levy
- Lois & Gary Offstein
- Joe & Megan Otto
- Debbie Viggers
- Stephen Wiard