



**La Verne Historical Society**  
S.O.L.V.E.  
Save Old La Verne's Environment

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## ***Final 2014 Society Meeting Slated for Monday, Dec. 8***

Members of the Historical Society and guests are invited to the final meeting of 2014 on Monday, Dec 8, at 7:00 in the first-floor meeting room of the Pinecrest building, on the grounds of Hillcrest Homes in La Verne.

We will show antique clothing from the Palomares collection that have been in storage. Sherry Best started an "adopt a clothing article" by taking a 100-year-old



baby dress to a cleaners and paid for heirloom cleaning preservation. Two more members have offered to pay for cleaning other articles. After several articles are ready, they will be boxed together and sealed for preservation until they can be properly displayed in a museum.

Discussions have revolved around future possibilities to set up a museum for Lordsburg-La Verne history, utilizing donations acquired over the years plus items which had been stored in Founders' Hall of the University of La Verne. The ULV collection includes such items as the skeleton of a sabre-tooth tiger, fossils, miscellaneous antiques and a genuine human skeleton acquired and prepared by students in a rather bizarre episode of college history.

There are also numerous items stored in a garage on the alley between Bonita and 5<sup>th</sup> Street, a block north of the University. These include the Palomares collection of clothing, household items, books and farm equipment, a large oak kitchen table owned by the Kinsey Roberts family, bronze markers, a long grille from the former U.S. post office, and a collection of items from the La Verne chapter of the American Legion.

One possibility being buzzed about is to simply build a hall for a museum as an extension to the community center which was once the American Legion hall.

Of equal import for discussion is the role of the Historical Society in a modern world being shaped by the internet. Is student learning and appreciation of our history being skewed by a digital divide from those who helped create our history?

Given these factors, in what directions shall we shape



## ***Leaving a Legacy in Concrete: Hanawalts Laid Sidewalks and Curbs***

About eighty-five years ago, a crew of workmen using picks and shovels and a road grader poured cement curbs and sidewalks in front of the Lichtenwalter home. The street was then known as Lincoln Avenue but the name was changed when Pomona's White Avenue was extended to the north and the two connected with it.

Annie Catherine Nelson, wife of Contractor Harvey M. Hanawalt, may well have been the person who watched from across the street from 2147 White Avenue and snapped a picture of the work. She most probably used one of George Eastman's popular Kodak cameras. The pictures were printed on light cardboard to be used as postcards. On the back of this one she wrote a description and asked that it be sent "to mama and papa."

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the historical society for 2015? And what structure shall the organization reshape itself into?

**Membership dues** have not been collected since 2011, and that will now be reinstated. Our last meeting agreement was that a modest increase is justified in order to support expenses such as maintaining the Historical Society website, the computer, museum software and mailings. A decision will be made after discussion.

The meeting will begin at 7:00 on Monday, Dec. 8. Drive north from Bonita on A Street, curve left, and park. The Pinecrest building is on your right. Entrance is at the northwest corner of the structure. There will be refreshments. More details? We really need your input. Call (909) 593-5014 or contact us through our website at [www.LaVerneHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.LaVerneHistoricalSociety.org).

“This is the mixer,” she wrote. “The little fellow up on the machine is the engineer. The other one holding the wheel is Chester Strayer. Russel stands right behind the big wheel waiting to put in cement. Of course you can pick out my man Harvey. The fellow with the white hat and black shirt holding a wheel barrow is Harold Doolittle from Pomona. As far as I know, all the rest are Mex’s.”

Anne Hanawalt had reason to be proud of her husband, a member of the large Hanawalt family which literally built Lordsburg. The Hanawalt’s cement and gravel company provided the raw materials needed for construction. A hand-operated block machine turned out cement blocks used in construction of many residences. And the Hanawalt men built them.

This home was built by Harvey Hanawalt in 1912 for Myron and Anna Lichtenwalter.

At \$4,000, the price was a bit high but the four-bedroom home had a coal furnace that sent heat to all rooms through a series of ducts. It was quite adequate for the Lichtenwalters and their four children.

Myron passed away in 1922 and the house was sold to Henry and Eva Blocher, who also raised four children here. They then in 1929 sold it to Willard and Lila Butterbaugh, who first rented the house to families and college students. In 1936 they moved in. After ten years, they rented the home to their daughter Theda and her husband Willard Colburn: the couple later bought it from the Butterbaughs.

The house was one of eight homes on the 1984 Olde Home Tour sponsored by SOLVE (Save Old La Verne’s Environment, but was removed from the tour itinerary due to David’s death. It has since passed into other hands.

### ***Glenn Miller Lived in La Verne?***

La Verne once had a resident named Glenn Miller – and we hasten to state that he was *not* Glenn Miller of the Big Band era! Our Glenn Miller lived on 4<sup>th</sup> St. – now Bonita. In the 1920’s or ‘30’s he posed for a picture – shown to the right - in a narrow alley west of D, between 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Street. The brick wall on the south side of the alley is little changed in ninety years, except for a bricked up window and some electrical boxes and enclosed wiring. In recent years, an elevated area has been built on the north side of the former alley, to serve the Lordsburg Taphouse & Grill as a pleasant patio where patrons can relax and dine.

This photo and other Miller family photos, a few identification cards and fishing and hunting licenses were at a yard sale held at what had been Miller’s home on Bonita Avenue. New owners of the property found them in the garage and were happy to donate them.

Some years ago the Historical Society received a telephone call from a man looking for the other Glenn



### ***Saving Things Not Found Anymore***

Items from the days when La Verne was “Heart of the Orange Empire,” pictured above, include a hundred year old scythe, an ancient sickle, ‘lighters’ used to ignite oil in smudge pots, and some buckets to carry the oil to the pots.

Noel Gilbert of Fullerton received most of them from the late Ray Soper and was pleased to donate them to us. The scythe, however, is a bit special, curved and twisted wood with a sharp forged blade, a traditional design for an implement used for centuries to harvest hay. It dates back to at least the 1800’s. Noel’s grandfather brought it from Virginia when he migrated to California in 1903 to join German Baptist Brethren settling in this area. His father used the scythe to cut wild oats. The hand sickle could also date well back into the 1800’s. Our thanks to Noel for these items: he well remembers those days of smudging.

Miller. It seems that during Miller’s travels around the United States with his band prior to World War II, he saw property as a way to invest, and purchased homes here and there. The researcher had found such purchases. It would have been nice could we have had such a tie, but our Glenn Miller was not the same.



*The Historical Society of La Verne is a non-profit organization founded in 1969 and celebrating its 45<sup>th</sup> year. We’re dedicated to preserving the history of Lordsburg - La Verne and protecting our environment. An “Old Timer’s” picnic is held every summer. There are opportunities to help. We are always interested in writings, photos, and memorabilia of days gone by.*

*With this issue, we initiate sending our newsletter via the Internet. If you like this and wish to continue receiving it this way, please tell us what you prefer by email.*