



# La Verne Historical Society

Preserving Old La Verne's Environment: Making History for the Future



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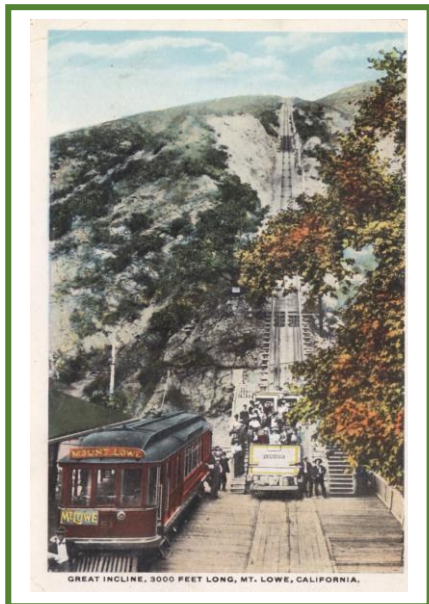
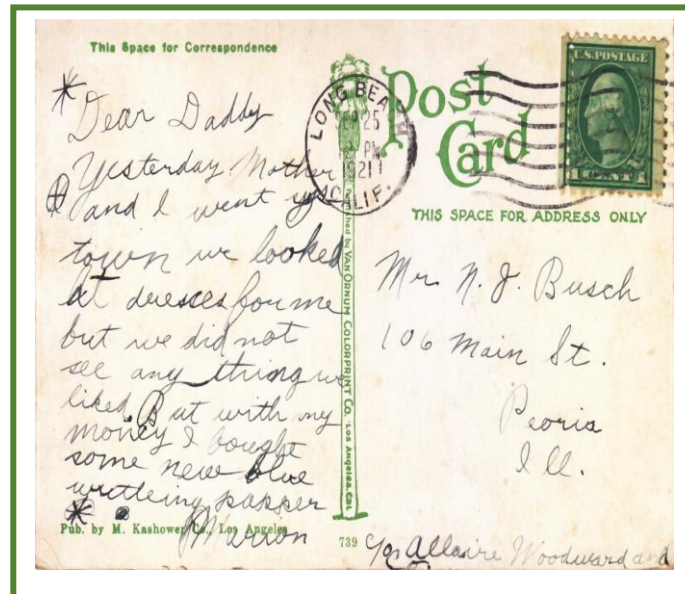
## Every Picture Tells a Story

By Bill Lemon & Sherry Best

Who remembers Ralph Story, the actor, newscaster, and storyteller? Mr. Story taught us interesting local history with *"Ralph Story's Los Angeles"* and his documentaries for KCET entitled *"Things That Aren't There Anymore"* and *"More Things That Aren't There Anymore."*

The LVHS had a feeling of deja vu with Ralph Story's legacy when it recently received a donation of many vintage post- and greeting cards. The postcards reflect the travels of their original owner and include about 30 cards from California. They are a reminder of times now past that showcase places with which many of us are familiar and remember.

Bill Lemon is scanning the collection and we will include some images in upcoming issues of the *LVHS Newsletter* entitled *"Every Picture Tells a Story."* This edition's images depict the 1921 Mount Lowe Incline and Pine Avenue in Long Beach.



The LVHS wishes to thank Peggy Redman for donating this collection.

## Logan's Shares Candy Cane Secrets with LVHS Visitors

On October 30<sup>th</sup> members of the LVHS visited Logan's Candies in Ontario to watch candy canes being made the original, old-fashioned way. Logan's has been open since 1933. Jerry Rowley, the current owner of Logan's

Candies, demonstrated candy cane making from start to finish. First, he heated the candy ingredients in a huge copper kettle, cooled the mixture on a marble slab, added color and peppermint oil flavoring, then pulled the candy on a giant hook to turn the candy white and smooth.



Above, Jerry adds peppermint flavoring to the cooked candy on his special marble slab while fascinated children watch through the observation window. The flavoring costs **\$500 a gallon** so Jerry is very careful with this step of the process.



Above, Jerry shows off the block of candy with smaller red stripes. The following photo shows the underside of the block which becomes the large stripe in each candy cane.

The liquid candy was draped on a giant hook and “pulled” to add air and cool the mixture, turning the candy white. Portions of candy were separated and dyed red. The red candy was rolled into stripes and added back to the large white block.

Jerry “pulled” the block into sticks, then passed them along to be shaped into traditional cane shapes. Cans were individually wrapped and cooled. LVHS members

sampled pieces of fresh, warm candy and a shaped their own candy sticks to take home.



Jerry “flips” the block to show viewers the large red stripe

During the demonstration, Jerry told about the symbolism of candy canes. He makes 3-4 batches every day during the holiday season. Each batch of candy makes more than 300 small candy canes. Candy canes come in several sizes and also specialty shapes for other holidays. Jerry even makes a blue and white LA Dodgers shape!



Logan’s Candies is a family-run business that makes delicious treats the old-fashioned way.

The visit was a wonderful step back in time and so successful that the LVHS plans an encore visit for 2019. Thanks go to LVHS member Thom Osborn for supplying the photos. Watch a video of candy cane production at Logan’s Candies by clicking on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWwqriTU7rA>



## Bike Tour of La Verne Murals a Success

On Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, the LVHS teamed up with the La Verne Bicycle Coalition and Bike San Gabriel Valley for a tour of selected murals in the city. Several artists were present to talk about their work. About 35 bicyclists attended and further bike tour events will be planned for 2019.



Getting Ready for the Bike Tour



On the Road to View La Verne Murals

## President's Message: Time for Holiday Cheer!

The LVHS is well into its calendar of events and I want to invite you to a potluck celebrating our organization at **5:00pm on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**, at the Veterans Hall. Bring a potluck dish to share and enjoy the company of your LVHS friends. We will raffle off some vintage and contemporary items so bring cash to buy raffle tickets. Look for a potluck flyer.

Our winter member/community meeting is at **7:00pm on Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup>**. Paul Spitzzeri will entertain

us with *"Shoot Away, Damn You! Judges of Los Angeles, 1850-1875."* This entertaining saga of Los Angeles wild west heritage is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

*Sherry Best,*  
LVHS President

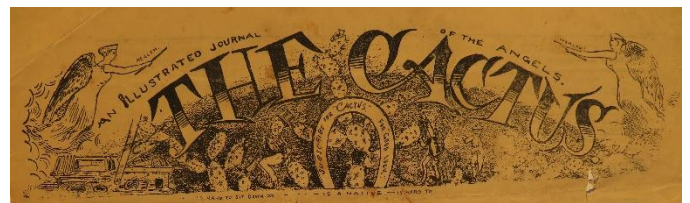
## Rare Gift to LVHS



Michigan resident Elaine Semanik stopped in La Verne to donate several editions of *The Cactus* to the LVHS.

The LVHS received an incredible gift in the form of several editions of *The Cactus*, a pre-1900 political newspaper about people and activities in Los Angeles. Elaine Semanik, whose great grandfather George Leonard Ensign donated the newspapers. George Ensign registered to vote in Los Angeles County in 1890 at age 38 and taught in public schools in Lordsburg and Spadra until 1892, when he returned to Ohio.

According to research conducted by the late LVHS Board member Marlin Heckman with the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, they are considered to be rare documents.



The image above is the masthead of the September 14, 1889 edition of *The Cactus*. The angels flanking the newspaper title are labeled "Health" and "Wealth". The newspaper is highly illustrated with charming cartoons and portraits. The LVHS has plans to scan the fragile pages and conduct further research on this piece of California history.



