



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

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A Look at Archiving, Artifacts At June 13 Meeting

Ben Jenkins, Archivist at the Wilson Library, University of La Verne, is slated as our featured speaker at the next meeting of the Historical Society will be held on **Monday, June 13, at 7:00 p.m.**, in the Citrus Meeting Room at Hillcrest, located at 2705 Mountain View Drive.

Ben, now a member of your Historical Society, has indicated that the library is available to accept collections of historical books, magazines and artifacts which anyone would like to donate. About a hundred books on Church of the Brethren and other religious histories, used in writing of *The Brethren of La Verne*, were recently donated by Galen Beery.

More details? Contact us at (909) 596-4679.

Historical Society Activities for 2016

In the past few months, the Historical Society has become very active. Our motto is "Preserving Old La Verne's Environment: Making History for the Future" and we're interested in getting engaged with our community. Consider participating with us.

Unless you were there, here's what you missed:

April 9 – The Brydon Ranch House tour had a good turnout, with a visit from Brydon family relatives and a visit from Supervisor Michael Antonovich's Field Deputy who presented owner Bob Kress with a scroll.

April 16 - Members of the Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP) toured La Verne, courtesy of organizer Marv Weston and tour guide Bill Lemon.

May 20 - Members enjoyed a tour of the Sam Maloof House. Maloof was recognized by the Smithsonian as "America's most renowned contemporary furniture craftsman." His famous rocking chairs have been purchased by President's Kennedy, Carter, and Reagan and belong in many museum collections.

Mosaic Restoration

Have experience or skills in restoring mosaics? We have this damaged mosaic (photo at right) that needs some restoring. To help or if you know someone who can, call Galen at (909) 593-5014.



Bits'n'Pieces of History

BONITA BEARCAT 80 YEARS AGO WAS CREATIVE MIMEOGRAPHING

Students at Bonita Union High School had to be creative in 1936. The austerity of the Great Depression was waning, but funds for education were still a bit tight.

School newspapers of the 1920's, the *Bonita Bearcat* at BUHS and the *Campus Times* of La Verne College had been printed locally, but by the 1930's the newspaper articles had to be sent to the *La Verne Leader* to be seen in print. The *Leader* editor was happy to accommodate as he often scratched for stories to fill the pages of the weekly.



Cartoonist David Miller, son of Grace Miller, drew the cover of the Feb. 28 issue of the *Bonita Bearcat* on a mimeograph stencil.

By February, 1936, the high school paper had two advisors, an editor and assistant editor, feature editor, a cartoonist, eleven reporters, and five typists.

Page 2 listed staff: Editor-in-Chief Paul Lansdale, Assistant editor Beverly Benson, Feature Editor Gale Reedy, and Cartoonist David Miller. Reporters were E. Holden, H. Hylton, A. Sheely, J. Hill, D. Way, R. Flader, E. Speer, D. Morrison, E. Hatfield, D. Harbin and S. Gally. Typists: E. Brooks, R. Williams, R. White, P. Flader, B. Westlake. Advisors: Miss Holmes and Miss Carpenter.

The first article advocated political activism:

ON BEING AWAKE

"Mr. or Mrs. High School Student, what do you know about the political campaign that is to be fought, with battle fronts on every city street corner, and every hamlet or cross road in our fair land? Do you know anything about the TVA, WPA,

Townsend Old Age Pension Plan, or other vital issues which are so constantly before the public?

“If you don’t know what’s happening all around you, it is time you found out. Even though you may not be a voter yet, you will be before so very long, and it is up to you to learn what America’s problems are, to study them, so that when the time does come for you to decide which way your vote shall go on any issue, you will be able to decide intelligently. ...

THURSDAY ASSEMBLY

“With the hum of three bells the doors of all occupied classrooms swung open and the students noisily swarmed out and entered the auditorium where class yells started the program off with a bang. The meeting was brought to order by Vice-President “Sid” Russell and the minutes were read and approved in the usual manner. Sid turned the program over to radio station ECHO which put on a “buy an annual now” program. It was cleverly done even though Reedy did have a hard time getting in his “little dears.”

“A few snappy yells by Jack Bowden led us to the next part of our program which was a talk by Mr. Fischer and John Price who spoke about their respective teams, plus a great big plea to come see the game with the Cowboys.

“The rally was completed with a stunt by the Pep club, consisting of songs, laughter, spit-wads and marble rolling included. With a song or two to start the singing off, we tried out the new song “Rhythm in our Basketball.” The assembly was adjourned with announcements and the singing of the Alma Mater.

ALUMNA WINS PRIZE

Patricia Tillman, ‘35, of Bonita Union High School and now a freshman at Pomona College, has been awarded a second prize of \$25 for progress during the semester from the F. S. Jennings’ Memorial prizes in English.

AN INTERVIEW

“Do you know Robert Werkman? He’s really a nice fellow, although a trifle bashful. He is one of the “Strong silent types” who seldom tells of his secret sins. He loves his Math class and enjoys doing “logs” in Trig nometry— oh yes, he dislikes radicals and the Townsend Plan very greatly. ...asked if he liked girls his answer was “Yes, I like the girls—especially brunettes—the wise and witty ones.”

“Robert is good at clinching arguments in debate and is a star member of the Scholarship Society.

ANNUAL PROGRESS, ETC.

“The Annual sales definitely closed last Friday in so far as the actual campaigning was concerned. Slightly over 200 were sold, thus making a full-sized book possible, instead of the half-sized one that it seemed likely would be necessary. However, any one wishing an annual may still get one, upon making the necessary payment to Mr. Smith.

TUESDAY ASSEMBLY

“A WPA Negro chorus directed by Mr. Scott, presented a program to Bonita, Tuesday, February 25. The entire chorus opened with the songs “This is the Lamb,” and a special arrangement by Edward Jones of “Swanee River.” Then a group of all-male voices sang “Four-and-Twenty Elders Down on their Knees,” and “Little David Play on your Harp.” ... “The spirit “Joy, Joy, Joy” as sung by this chorus presented a good

example of the intense rhythm and feeling that the Negroes put into their songs. This was undoubtedly the song most appreciated by the students.

SEA SCOUT BALL

“Alan Ferguson, John Gilman, Ed Holden, Bob Groendyke, Harry Holden and Gale Reedy were awarded the rating of the Ordinary Sea Scout at the Annual Old Baldy Council Sea Scout Bridge of Honor and Ball held at Red Hill Country Club on Friday evening, Feb. 21. ...

Other articles included “Stuff & Nonsense,” by ‘Anon, a tongue-in-cheek ode to the Championship “A” Basketball team in the spirit of old Greek poets who wrote poems to commemorate victories at the Olympic Games, a short notice that the alumni would present “Charley’s Aunt” on March 5 - student tickets 25 cents, adults 35 cents, and a corny put down of dancing headlined UNMASKING THE DANCING RACKET.

And of course, students eagerly read a column entitled GOSSIP which gave details of who was dating whom, who was left at the Orange Show by accident, and names of the couples that went to a basketball game on Friday.

The EARLY CALIFORNIA HISTORY CLUB met and enjoyed hearing from guest speaker Mrs. Harry Walker, who told of the San Jose Rancho and the old oak tree in Pomona registered as a historic tree of our country.

A part of the back page of the Bearcat was ripped away, leaving only a few details of a basketball game.

“...ball with Cottle scoring 8 for second honors and Rothrock 2. “Lankey” Maurice Smeltzer came into his own and scored 5 points from his guard position and proved to be a real threat to the Cowboys throughout the game. For the Cowboys Jack Ketchell was the outstanding player scoring 6 points and turning in an excellent floor game.”

“The Bearcat varsity is expected to enter the Tri-County league Tournament next week and the Southern California Playoffs the following week.”

SPEEDBALL

“The game we have been waiting for so long, girls, is here at last. Speedball! The round of sports.

“We have had to delay the game on account of our field (It wouldn’t be easy to play speedball in rubber boots.)

“Everyone be sure and turn out for speedball practice, especially the Freshmen. They will enjoy it, we’re sure.”

In short, the Bonita Bearcat of Feb.28, 1936 shows that students back then were like students are now, the kids you read in the comic strip, *Freckles and his Friends*.

In five years, the students of 1936 would be involved in a conflict that we know now as World War II, and become “the Greatest Generation.” – GB

The Historical Society of La Verne was organized in 1969, dedicated to Lordsburg - La Verne history and saving our environment. We have a summer picnic. Have photos, letters, or artifacts from our past? We’d like to hear from you!

