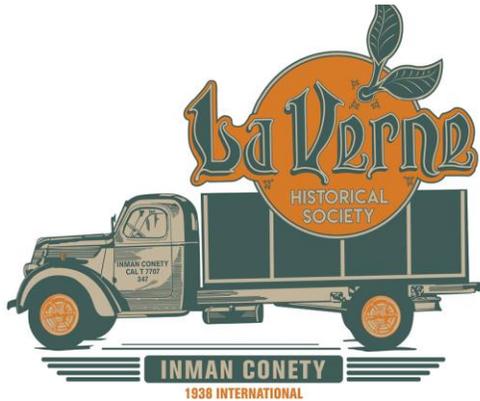


# Legacy Links



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

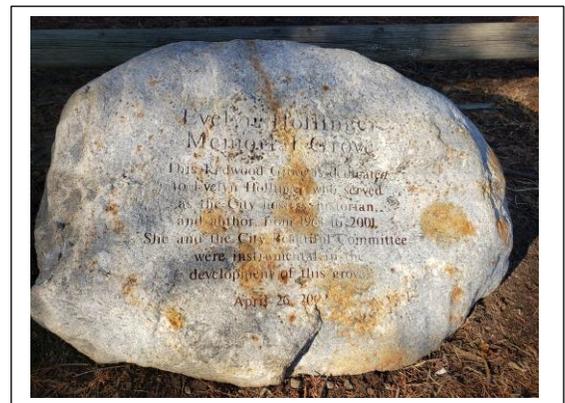
**LA VERNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
PO Box 7761 La Verne, Ca 91750  
909-596-4679 lvhs@lavernehistoricalsociety.org

## Every Picture Tells a Story



A hidden treasure lies at the northeast part of La Verne in Las Flores Park. This treasure is a grove of approximately 30 redwood trees, planted in 1976 to celebrate the nation's Bicentennial. Evelyn Hollinger, La Verne City Historian and a driving force in the City Beautiful Committee, solicited donations and letters from descendants of families who lived in Lordsburg between 1887 and 1917, when the city was re-named La Verne. She received over 100 responses with monetary donations accompanied by stories from family members of those early Lordsburg pioneers. Other contributors included students at Roynon Elementary and Ramona Middle Schools, who donated proceeds from their recycling program.

Donations from the La Verne Rotary Club and private citizens contributed to this collaborative city-initiated effort. Originally named the De Anza Bicentennial Memorial Redwood Grove and dedicated on May 31, 1976, the grove was re-dedicated in Evelyn's memory in an Arbor Day celebration on April 25, 2002. Now known as the Evelyn Hollinger Memorial Grove, the stand of redwoods is partially enclosed by a wooden fence. The original bronze marker that was inscribed with names of the honorees was stolen from the park and replaced by an inscribed granite boulder.



Although stained with residue from iron deposits in the rock, the writing on the boulder is very readable from a close distance.

The La Verne Historical Society has several copies of notebooks that contain local newspaper articles describing the original redwood grove dedication, correspondence from Evelyn Hollinger to prospective donors, program materials from the re-dedication ceremony, an index to the persons and families honored with redwood trees, and a precious set of letters to Evelyn Hollinger by descendants with shared memories of their ancestors.

The Evelyn Hollinger Memorial Grove has deteriorated over time. Numerous trees have become diseased and been removed, the enclosing fence has been pushed out of place in several spots, the picnic table within the area has been vandalized beyond repair, and the inscribed boulder needs to be cleaned.

The grove faces an uncertain future. After several years of study and evaluation, a new Teen Center has been proposed to be located in the grove space, with mixed responses from residents. Please read the following President's Message for details. In the meantime, visit the grove and think about when 100 redwood trees were planted there in 1976.

### **President's Message/ Making History Today**

I imagine we are all happy to put 2020 in our rearview mirrors and look forward to a happier future. I was ready to embark on a new year but was then challenged by the most difficult decision I have yet made as LVHS President.

On December 21, the La Verne City Council voted 3-1 to locate a new Teen Center at the Evelyn Hollinger Memorial Grove. More than half the remaining trees would be removed to make way for this project, which is dependent on state grant money to move forward. The previous Wednesday I attended a virtual workshop that provided a timeline, plans, and justifications for the proposal. At first, I was completely opposed to the idea, based on knowledge of the grove's history and feedback from La Verne residents. I spoke to city staff who had been involved with the proposal from its beginning. And I pondered

the pros and cons of what this newest change to La Verne's history would mean for all its residents, especially La Verne's teen residents.

In the end I supported the City Council decision. In my written statement, I made the following stipulations: 1) As many redwood trees as possible should be retained at the Teen Center site; 2) A new grove should be planted and dedicated as a "Heritage Grove" at another La Verne city park, using trees purchased as per our city municipal code; 3) The salvaged redwood would be used to create benches, interior embellishments, a carved door, and a "little free library"; and 4) The current proposal should be amended to eliminate the proposed new access road and parking lot.

The vote was restricted to approving or denying a grant proposal; there is no requirement that City Council members adhere to my written conditions. However, I believe they represent opportunities for all stakeholders to give a little to get a little. The city would gain a much-needed Teen Center but give up an access road and parking lot which is designed to accommodate fewer than 20 cars. Residents next to Las Flores Park would need to accommodate the Teen Center but not have an access road built immediately adjacent to where they live. The LVHS would lose heritage trees, but gain a new grove of trees that are better acclimated to our climate (maybe deodar cedars, which are all being lost from Arrow Highway to make way for the Gold Line and represent trees contributed to the city by pioneer resident Scubie Mills). Children in the middle and early high school years would benefit from a critically needed Teen Center and receive adult supervision and programming, in a park with many existing recreational amenities.

I confess to being heartsick about this decision, which felt like an option to shoot myself either in the gut or in the head. Personally, much depends on whether city staff personnel amend the proposal so that everyone retains some satisfaction. I am especially

concerned for nearby residents, whose daily lives will be changed by a new road and parking lot. I have examined the current parking lot at Las Flores Park, which I believe can be expanded to include new spaces.

In the end, it came to the belief that if we all sacrifice a little we will still co-exist and even flourish, but if one group is asked to do all the sacrificing, part of our community suffers disproportionately.

**Sherry Best, LVHS President**

### **Just Ask Bill**

Sometimes seemingly simple questions require detailed responses. Other times an answer remains elusive. In his column, Bill Lemon teaches us about two hotels in La Verne's history, explains how street numbering changes add complexity to his "detective" work, and asks for readers' help with a puzzling question about a boxer.



Jeff asked:

What ever happened to the La Verne Hotel? Was it torn down? If standing, what is the address?

Hello Jeff: There were two hotels built about the same time and since I'm not sure which one you are addressing, I will write about both of them. Neither of them ever had paying guests and each of them was repurposed to serve their communities in different ways. Both of them were torn down.

The area originally named La Verne covered quite a lot of territory. It was bordered on the West by San Dimas Canyon and on the East by San Antonio Avenue (now Towne). Everything in between, North of Foothill Blvd., was also included, as was the area South of Foothill between San Dimas Canyon and a short distance East of Moreno, running down to approximately where Arrow Highway is now. The La Verne Land Company was formed and they laid out the town site of La Verne, centered at Grand (now Damien) and Gladstone. They built the hotel, a company office, three stores,

a blacksmith shop and a planing mill. About twenty homes were also built. The first school district formed in this area was called the San Dimas school district, named after the canyon. The first school was built just East of the present La Verne Heights School. At the time that the town was being built there was a land "Boom." But the boom soon went "Bust." This, and the fact that the railroad did not go through town as was proposed, led to the town's demise. Most of the homes were moved to Lordsburg, San Dimas, or Pomona. By 1910, Henry L. Kuns, a wealthy Lordsburg resident had acquired the hotel which was not finished inside and had never had a paying guest. He and his wife had the interior fixed up and gave it to the Women's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Church to be used as an orphanage. A new David and Margaret Home was built in 1925 on land also given by Henry Kuns, on 3rd street at the present location. The old site was sold in 1930 and the building was no longer there.

At about the same time as La Verne was being laid out, Isaac Wilson Lord was laying out the town site of Lordsburg about two miles to the Southeast. It consisted approximately of the area bounded on the West by Park Avenue, on the North by 8th Street and on the East by a line somewhat East of "J" Street. The eastern part of town went South about two blocks below the railroad, but the western part was laid out to go South about eight blocks. Very little development went more than two blocks South in that portion either. Lordsburg also suffered from the collapse of the boom and their hotel was without a paying guest. That hotel was in the block bounded by 2nd and 3rd Streets, and "D" and "C" Streets. It faced South, fronting on 2nd Street. The main business section in town was around the intersection of 3rd and "D" Streets. The hotel was, however, purchased by a group of German Baptist Brethren (now Church of the Brethren) men to be used as a school. It eventually became La Verne College and is now the University of La Verne. The school opened in 1891 and over a period of time other buildings were added. The old hotel was torn down in 1927. Over the first 30 years of Lordsburg's existence there were attempts to rename the city (it was incorporated in 1906), but Mr. Lord was always successful in preventing any

changes. However, Mr. Lord died in 1917, and no time was wasted in deciding on a new name. The citrus growers' organizations were already named La Verne, the people of La Verne used the Lordsburg Post Office, and the two communities got along well together. Petitions were drawn up and a vote was taken. Lordsburg became La Verne by an overwhelming majority. There was even a mock wedding, marrying Miss Lordsburg to Mr. La Verne. The former La Verne community then took the name La Verne Heights. Most of it is now part of the city of La Verne, but some was incorporated into Claremont and Pomona. The school is named La Verne Heights and is part of Bonita Unified School District.

Mary Asked a Family History Question:

I am related to several La Verne families. My grandmother, Mary Ellen Minnich, was born at 312 East 4th Street which is now 3223 Bonita. Her father LeRoy married Sarah Franklin, who lived across the street at 223 East 4th Street. Do you have an idea what the Franklin house number would be now? I am also related to the Bowman family and was wondering why, on this site, house #6 is listed as, "The Bowman House". I am working on my family history and would love to include a map of Lordsburg with the original street names. Do you have any idea where I could get one? Please help with any information that you have access to. Thank you so much.

Dear Mary: In 1927, a couple of city ordinances changed either the names of some streets or the numbering system of the entire city. I am creating a document based on those changes. It is a work-in-progress and may contain errors but it can be a helpful guide. I will send you what I have so far. Here are two of the homes you asked about:

- 223 E. Fourth St. = 2259 Fourth St.  
(Now Bonita Ave.)
- 312 E. Fourth St. = 2332 Fourth St.  
(Now Bonita Ave.)

You asked about the Bowman House. Jonas Bowman brought his family to La Verne from Illinois in 1924 and built the home at 2309 Third Street in 1927. Bowman is a common name among the

Brethren and the families may or may not be closely related. My mother was a classmate of Elizabeth Franklin in the Third Grade (1919–1920) and graduated from Bonita Union High School with her in 1929. Elizabeth's father was W. K. Franklin, a music teacher at Lordsburg/La Verne College.

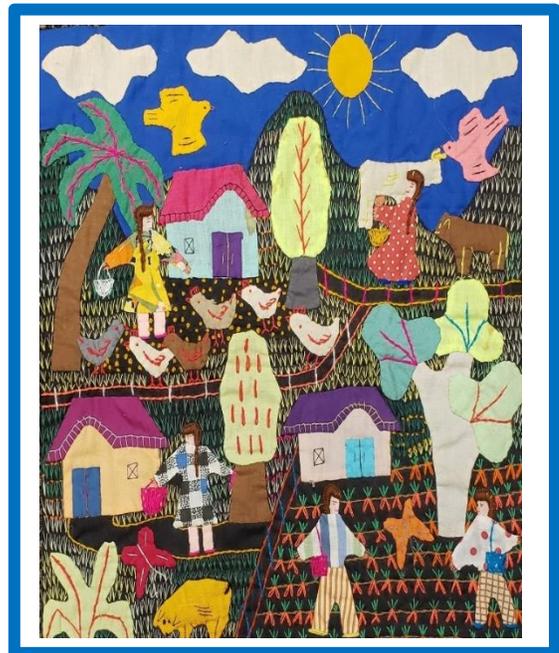
Bob's Puzzling Question:

I lived in David and Margaret Home for Children. In La Verne in 1960-62 we had a Boxer that jumped off a 2nd story balcony. We were in the newspaper; would you be able to find it for me?

Dear Bob: I searched for a report of this incident in the newspaper databases that I am able to access for stories about both boxer dogs and human fighters, since I wasn't clear about the status of the subject. I could find nothing. I am hoping that some of our readers may remember the story and let us know about it. It sounded very interesting.

If you have the answer to Bob's boxer question, we'd like to hear from you and will feature your response in the next edition of "Just Ask Bill."

**Hillcrest Presents "Lives of Service"**



The "story cloth" shown here is from the Hmong, Chinese refugees living in Laos. Since they had no written language until late in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, these story cloths preserved their history and culture. This one is of daily life on a farm. The hand-stitchery and composition are remarkable.

The Gallery at Hillcrest has an inspirational new exhibit entitled "Lives of Service", available to the public through the end of January. The exhibit celebrates those who choose to serve others in an effort to promote peace and justice in the world. Their work demands they adapt to the various cultural, political, and geographic requirements of the people they serve. They return with stories, art, and cultural memorabilia to share with us. Their experiences have changed their lives and inspire us to serve others in some way. We are grateful for this opportunity to learn more about them and the people they served.

To physically visit the exhibit, call 909/392-4000 for availability. If visiting is allowed, check in at the Concierge Desk in the Lobby. Your temperature will be checked, you can sanitize your hands, answer some health questions, get a color-coded dot for the day, and proceed to the Gallery either by stairs or the elevator. While in the Gallery wear a mask and practice a six-foot social distancing.

An alternative to a physical visit is a virtual tour via Vimeo. This entertaining and informative video can be watched by clicking on the following link... <https://vimeo.com/490448068>. After an excellent introduction by Barbara Smythe, Manager of the Gallery at Hillcrest, virtual visitors follow a guided narrative featuring curator Anne Collier of the ULV Cultural and Natural History Collections. Featured speakers include Yvonne Belcher and Jerry Davis, residents at Hillcrest who constitute "living treasures" in La Verne.

The virtual tour will be available at Hillcrest through the end of January. Of special interest to LVHS members are the items from the collections of LVHS Past-President Galen Beery from his volunteer service in Cambodia and Laos.

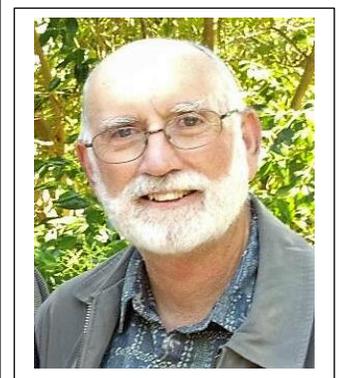
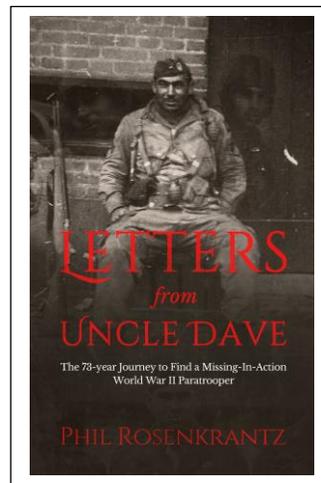
Bravo to Barbara Smythe and Anne Collier for developing this collaboration and bringing it to fruition for viewers. Thanks also to Shirley Turner for making this excellent video.

The Gallery at Hillcrest is open Monday-Friday from 8am to 4pm and Saturday/Sunday from 9am- 3pm.

## Letters from Uncle David

On **Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**, the LVHS is hosting its first Member/Community meeting of 2021. Our featured speaker is Dr. Phil Rosenkrantz, Professor Emeritus in Engineering at Cal Poly Pomona. Dr. Rosenkrantz will tell us about his Uncle David, a WWII paratrooper who was lost for many years and finally brought home through the efforts of his nephew Phil and many others in the United States and in Europe. The La Verne Historical Society is proud to sponsor this Zoom presentation as we remember the sacrifice made to ensure freedom around the world.

Phil Rosenkrantz is an avid volunteer with many years of service to the San Geronio Wilderness Association (U.S. Forest Service), Boy Scouts, Eastside Christian Schools, the American Society for Quality, and Special Olympics. Prior to teaching, Phil worked for General Motors for ten years in engineering and management. Phil and his wife, Judy, have four children: David, Julia, Sarah, and Debi. His other passions include World War II history, bluegrass, and Disneyland. Phil and Judy now divide their time between Southern California and Central Arizona.



website: <https://philrosenkrantz.com>

email: [rosenkrantz@copp.edu](mailto:rosenkrantz@copp.edu)

The LVHS meeting will be conducted at 7:00pm via Zoom. Join by clicking on the link that was sent

electronically with the presentation flyer and the current President's message. Zoom is free but you must download the app to your computer or tablet prior to signing in. Getting ready for Zoom only takes a few minutes.

### **A Message from "Old Georgie Boy"**

George Streit, a 99-year-old living at Hillcrest Retirement Community, likes to write short stories about his life. Hillcrest residents regularly get email messages from "Old Georgie Boy," as he refers to himself. The following thoughts seemed especially appropriate for 2021.

#### **Pleasure v. Happiness (Written in 2018)**

Here I go again, with my hang-up about happiness, but I just can't help it because I just thought of an excellent way to explain happiness, once and for all.

Everyone seems to agree with the philosophers and scientists that the purpose of life is to seek happiness. But there are many different opinions of what happiness really is. If I ask someone what makes them happy, they will usually tell me the pleasures that they enjoy. We all know that money can buy pleasures but money can never buy happiness. So, what is the difference between pleasure and happiness?

Well .... I've thought about this a lot and come to the conclusion that pleasure has nothing to do with happiness. It's completely irrelevant to happiness. My Dear Helen always said that she was having as much fun and pleasure as she could possibly have, but never, never, hurting anyone and I think she did very well at finding both pleasure and happiness. Some people seek pleasure and care nothing about happiness. Our jails are full of them.

So exactly what is this happiness that we are all seeking? ... I've written so much about it on the Happy Stories page but to put it simply... For me, it's just having a Good opinion of myself. You can call it a

feeling of self-worth or self-esteem and of course I must do good things in the world to get that opinion of myself. I must make others happy.

How can anyone be happy without feeling that they are of some value to others? There are many happy people here at Hillcrest and I understand how they got that way.

Now at 97 years, and having lost most of my senses and abilities, it's difficult for me to contribute anything of value, but I'm doing the best I can to join the happy crowd.

### **Hello and Good-Bye**

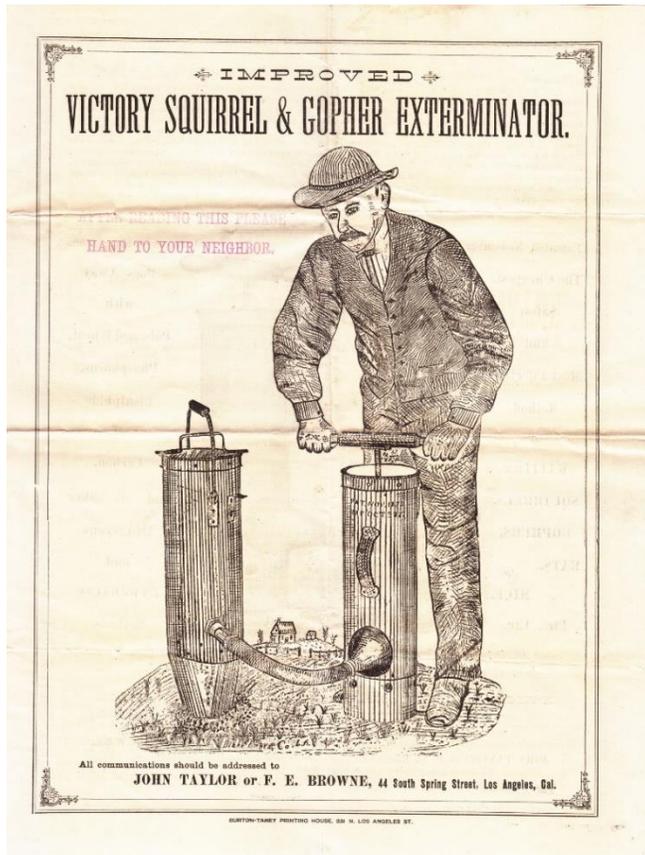
The LVHS is announcing changes to its Board for 2021. **Clark Palmer**, Treasurer since June 2014, is stepping off and is being replaced by **Marv Weston**. The LVHS benefitted from Clark's expertise in accounting and has enjoyed fiscal stability and strong growth during his tenure. Taking over the duties of Treasurer is Marv Weston, whose background includes instruction in accounting and bookkeeping. Currently, Marv serves as Treasurer for La Verne's RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol) organization. The LVHS is grateful for Clark's steady hand on our fiscal tiller and look forward to continued calm waters with Marv. Thank you, gentlemen!

**Betty Tracy** is joining the LVHS board to support our membership activities. With the damage to our programming brought about by COVID-19, we welcome Betty's commitment to re-building our membership numbers. Our yearly membership drive begins this month with 2021 forms mailed to your homes, but Betty will follow up with a personal thank you or reminder. We will send newly designed member cards and have a surprise for the first 50 new or renewing LVHS members. If you renewed your membership between October-December 2020, you are eligible for our "surprise."



## Social Media in 1885

Social media has become a much-used way of communicating, but it is not a new concept. This advertisement was mailed to Saturnino Carrion in the late 1800s, offering the "Improved Victory Squirrel and Gopher Exterminator." Who could resist this innovation?



Patented in 1879 and "improved" in 1885, the Victory Squirrel and Gopher Exterminator was manufactured by John Taylor and F. E. Browne on Spring Street in Los Angeles. It consisted of an iron furnace and air pump connected by a 20-inch hose. According to the advertisement, fine "manured" straw from a manger or corral was to be used as fuel, perhaps with a little sulphur or brimstone to add density to the smoke. The smoking furnace was then placed into the squirrel or gopher hole and the bottom filled with dirt to make a seal. The operator then began operating the pump, filling any holes from which smoke escaped. After 3-5 minutes, the furnace was removed and the main hole was filled with dirt.

Anyone who has contended with burrowing rodents knows that they make multiple tunnels and holes for entering and exiting their homes. Instructions for the Victory Squirrel and Gopher Exterminator state that the operator should watch all surrounding holes and, if smoke was not issuing from them during the pumping process, they should be treated as belonging to separate and unconnected tunnels and receive a new infusion of smoke with the pumping treatment. Once the furnace was removed from the hole there was a possibility that the smoking fuel would ignite, so the hose was to be detached from the furnace.

The Victory Squirrel and Gopher Exterminator cost \$15.00 and the weevil attachment cost an additional \$4.00. Satisfaction was guaranteed with a money refund.

How satisfied were customers with their purchase? The following testimonial would rate 5 stars by YELP standards today.

Dear Sirs: After using your improved VICTORY GROUND SQUIRREL EXTERMINATOR I am satisfied it is the best thing ever gotten up for the purpose. I have used phosphorus and prepared wheat and have found them to be very dangerous. In the use of phosphorus there is danger in the use of any combustible matter, such as dry grass, straw, or ripe grain fields, to be caught on fire from the dead carcasses of squirrels killed by its use. The use of poisoned grain is very dangerous to poultry, when spread near the hennery. I have found that in order to get rid of the disagreeable smell in the atmosphere, produced by the dead squirrels, it was necessary to gather them up. Poisoned wheat or phosphorus are also very dangerous to handle by any one, be he ever so careful. There is still fresh in my memory the death of one of my most intimate friends, and one of the best citizens of Los Angeles County, Mr. Pablo Prier, of San Juan Capistrano. His death was caused by using a glass tumbler in which he had poisoned wheat to distribute amongst the squirrel dens. Now, returning to the use of your EXTERMINATOR, when you have got through

killing squirrels you have got their dens or holes all filled up, consequently they are buried and no smell arises. The use of your machine in one hour will satisfy any one that it is a thing of high merit, and ought to be used by all who are bothered by squirrels, rats, mice, or gophers. Wishing you and your machine the greatest success, which you so richly deserve, I am yours truly,

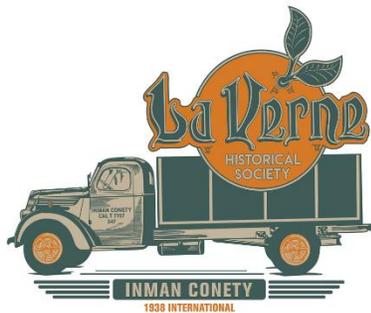
F.M. Slaughter  
Chino, California

## Tech Support Needed

The LVHS needs your help with maintaining its website. Bill Lemon, LVHS Vice President and Family/Local History Researcher, regularly posts on Facebook, maintains a column in *Legacy Links*, and pitches in to answer questions posed about everything “La Verne.” He has also maintained the website, but would welcome someone to help with this aspect of our organization. Bill will provide training for our GoDaddy based website.

## Rolling with the International

With \$2500 from the LVHS general fund committed to restoring the 1938 International, \$320 from the October Price House tour, and over \$1500 from t-shirt, jelly, and book sales, we are ready to move ahead with the International 1938 restoration.



Thank you for “shopping local in La Verne” to support our efforts, and remember that we still have plenty of stock. Donations continue to be deeply appreciated. Please call Sherry Best at 909/596-4679 or email her at [sbest@lavernehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:sbest@lavernehistoricalsociety.org) for details.



**NEW LVHS Member**

Spencer Schwetz



Sent on December 28, 1912, from Baltimore, MD, to someone in Lindsay, California, this New Year card implies that chance has a lot to do with having a happy year. Surrounded by symbols of luck, the image at the center is a secure and cozy home, suggesting that happiness is more self-determined than we think. Join the LVHS in deciding to be happy in 2021.

## Look It Up

Bill Lemon suggests that a great way to research family history is through a genealogical society. The Pomona Valley Genealogical Society will help you search obituaries; just click on the link below:

<https://www.pvgs.us/research-assistance>

*The Historical Society of La Verne was organized in 1969, dedicated to Lordsburg/La Verne history and saving our environment. Have photos, letters, or artifacts from our past? We'd like to hear from you.*