



La Verne Historical Society

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



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A Century of La Verne: 1917-2017

In 1917 the city of **Lordsburg** changed its name to **La Verne**. Celebrate a Century of La Verne with the LVHS. If your 2017 membership is current & you bring a new member to join us the LVHS will give you ½ off your 2018 membership!



**LVHS
Board
Member
Marv
Weston
Receives
2016 Jack
Huntington
“Pride of La
Verne”
Award**

Mr. Marv Weston, Board Member of the La Verne Historical Society, received the 2016 “Pride of La Verne” Award for his unstinting and generous contributions to the city and its residents. The Jack Huntington Award is named in honor of a La Verne resident with a legacy of community service.

Mr. Weston is the current Treasurer of the La Verne Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP), a group of citizens who assist the La Verne Police Department by checking on homes of vacationing citizens, patrolling parking lots, assisting with traffic control, and engaging in other activities that keep La Verne safe and secure.

Besides his many activities with RSVP, Mr. Weston states that photography is something he can do for others that provide lasting value. He attends

community events and shares his photos with participants. His photos have been posted on the Pasadena City College Rose Parade Honor Band, the National Hotrod Association Youth and Education Services, and the La Verne Police websites and Facebook page.

Mr. Weston, a retired teacher from Whittier High School with 33 years of service, has called La Verne home since 1992 Its citizens are pleased and grateful that he is such an active and committed member of the community. Mr. Weston will receive his award on Tuesday, February 21st, at the 6:30pm City Council meeting.

Congratulations Marv!

Commendation Goes to LVHS

The LVHS was recently recognized by Mr. Ralph Thomas, 2nd Vice President of the Consortium for California Historical Societies (CCHS) and its Regional Vice President for Region 29 (the East San Gabriel Valley). Mr. Thomas instituted an activity to reflect the CCHS 2017 vision statement that shares successful strategies that benefit other historical societies in Region 29 and throughout the state. This month the LVHS was recognized by Mr. Thomas for its success in attracting and retaining members. In her interview with Mr. Thomas, LVHS President Sherry Best stated, “Our growth has come by connecting with people in several venues in a personal way and adding new members a few at a time. Also, personal face-to-face contact, repeated information, a varied calendar with ‘something for everyone’ and new postings on our webpage and Facebook make the difference in membership. This is labor intensive but effective.”

The LVHS is proud of its growth and the value it brings to the city of La Verne and surrounding

community. Members of the Board are especially to be thanked for their ongoing efforts to support the LVHS. And, of course, there would be no value in LVHS activities without member and community participation. THANK YOU.

Continue valuing our community by visiting the downtown Cultural and Natural History Collections highlighted in the following article....

A Cultural & Historical Gem in Downtown La Verne



Hopi Kachina dolls from Edna P. Sutton Collection.
Courtesy: Cultural and Natural History Collections

Did you know that the San Gabriel Valley was once located under the Pacific Ocean? The Cultural and Natural History Collections (CNHC) at University of La Verne houses many fossilized remains of marine life that lived nearly 10 million years ago in the exact location of the modern-day Raging Waters Recreation Park. Imagine that! A water park built above an ancient ocean that was once swarming with fish and marine life!

The Cultural and Natural History Collections started nearly 125 years ago, with the founding of Lordsburg College. The first collections were part of the educational tools of the college, used in both science and art classes. Over the years and through the generous gifts of Lordsburg/La Verne College/University of La Verne alumni, Brethren missionaries, prominent scientists, and cultural explorers, this study collection has grown into significant museum holdings that cover the history of the world. Today, La Verne's Cultural and Natural History Collections might best be described as representing the eclecticism of a miniature

Wellcome Collection, bridging local and global history from the view of the individual, with each collection providing a snapshot of the era in which it was donated.

There are some interesting and fascinating stories attached to these collections. "Smiley," named for *Smilodon californicus*, a fully-articulated saber-toothed cat, was donated to the college in 1916 by J. Z. Gilbert, a former teacher at La Verne and the scientist responsible for the core collections at the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum. Smiley is one of the first saber-toothed cats recovered from the La Brea Tar Pits. As part of University of La Verne's 125th anniversary, and on its 100th year of donation, Smiley was permanently installed on the second floor of our Campus Center, where it can now be enjoyed by our community, our students and the general public.

The Cultural and Natural History Collections has installed other exhibits on campus, all of which are available to the public. An exhibit on the architecture of the original Lordsburg College, formerly housed inside a grand Victorian hotel, is featured in the foyer of the La Fetra Lecture Hall. It features an original window with remaining paint, providing insight into how colorful the grand old building once was. Graffiti on the window is a reminder that students never change! Here they have left their literal mark showing how they spent their time studying, musing and perhaps whittling away their free-time.

Other exhibits across campus are installed in the hallways of the Mainiero Science and Education Building and Founders Hall. These exhibits highlight the sustainable culture of the Tarahumara Indians of Mexico, the work of the naturalist Edmund C. Jaeger, and global warming as traced through the practice of dendrochronology (tree-ring dating).

Formerly known as the Jaeger Museum, the Collections continue the legacy of collecting, conserving and preserving materials donated to the University of La Verne. Materials housed in the Collections date from the Eocene epoch to modern times. Our goal is to create a digitized archive of all the objects, artifacts, specimens, and materials in the Collections, downloadable from anywhere in the world and at any time, and accessible to all. These

images, coupled with deep descriptions, finders aids and metadata, will be available free-of-charge for use by scholars, artists and the general public. We expect that the digitized archive will contribute to a new understanding of our cultural and natural heritage—from Pleistocene fossils and South American textiles to historical inland southern California.

If you are interesting in having us talk at one of your events, research opportunities, or donations, please contact Dr. Felicia Beardsley, PhD., Director of CNHC at fbeardsley@laverne.edu or 909-448-4717.



“Smiley” (right) and some friends. Smiley now makes his permanent home on the second floor of the ULV Student Center

This article was a collaboration between CNHC Director Felicia Beardsley and CNHC Curator Anne Collier.

Plan for These March-April LVHS Events & Activities

Mark your calendars for the following LVHS-sponsored activities in March through June:

On **Monday, March 13**, LVHS members will enjoy a presentation by Mr. Paul Spitzzeri about La Verne resident and citrus grower Valentine Peyton, owner of the Evergreen Ranch from 1900-1932. Mr. Spitzzeri, Director of the Homestead Museum in the City of Industry, is the author of many articles and essays on local, state, and western history. He is a recipient of an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History for his biography of the Workman and Temple families.

Come to Mr. Spitzzeri’s presentation at 7:00pm at the Hillcrest Meeting House for an evening of entertainment and enlightenment. The Meeting House at Hillcrest is located at 2705 Mountain View Dr. This event is free and open to the public.

On **Sunday, March 26**, visit the Palomares Adobe and La Casa Primera in Pomona. Meet at the Adobe at 2:00pm and then travel to La Casa Primera. This opportunity to enjoy local history is free and open to the public.

On **Saturday, April 22** the LVHS will sponsor its spring home tour, “Third Street Beauty Pageant,” featuring several beautiful homes on historic Third Street. This event is free for LVHS members and open to the general public at a cost of \$15.00.

On **Saturday, April 29** the LVHS will participate in the La Verne Community Yard Sale at Bonita High School. This is an opportunity for the LVHS to raise funds and for you to do some spring cleaning and downsizing. Donate to the LVHS for the yard sale and receive a tax receipt for reporting.



Welcome New LVHS Members!

Patty Carr
Jeremy & Melissa Conrad
Charles Davis
Jim & Mickey Gallivan
Betty Gamache
Kristen & Mike Garibay
Tim & Patty Hepburn
David & Lyvonne Hirabayashi
Linda Hughes
Evan & Tiffany Huie
Jay Jones
Keith Lentz
Barbara Smythe
Cynthia Sorbel



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.

