



# 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!

## They Say that April in Paris is Lovely... But La Verne Had April on Third Street



Pictured above: The Detter House

It was a very hot day for some very cool homes! The LVHS sponsored its spring 2017 home tour on April 22 with its "Third Street Beauty Pageant." Three beautiful homes were visited, each boasting its unique family history and architecture. Visitors started with a history lesson by Bill Lemon, the LVHS Family and Local History Researcher. Bill told of the home builders, the families who had lived at each spot, and explained changes in house numbering that makes his research fascinating and at times exasperating. After the introduction, visitors received docent-led tours of each house, where they saw original space-saving built-in desks,

buffets, and even a pull-out bed. The LVHS will visit Third Street again in spring of 2018.

## Update: the Galen & Doris Beery Collection

As we know, Galen and Doris Beery passed away in a tragic car accident in October 2016. Since that time, members of the LVHS have been involved in a collaborative effort with their family, members of the City of La Verne, and the Hillcrest community to preserve and showcase some of the many items that Galen collected during his years as "Mr. La Verne." Many hours have been devoted to sorting through the Beery house and its two garages, full of memorabilia of La Verne's history.

Before his death, Galen was active in a group that continues to meet regularly at Hillcrest to plan a gallery exhibit of La Verne artifacts at the Hillcrest Meeting House. Organized around seven themes of Education, Arts & Culture, Community Life, Commerce, Technology, Transportation, and Faith & Family Life, the exhibit will cover the development of pre-La Verne to the present. When completed, the exhibit will provide enrichment for community members and local school children who participate in "Hands on History" as part of their third grade social sciences curriculum. We hope to have the exhibit available for the 2017-2018 school year. Representatives from the LVHS are carrying on Galen's work with this group.

Galen and Doris' families have worked tirelessly with LVHS members to sort out artifacts of the Beery's varied collection to be showcased at Hillcrest. Additional items are being stored by the City of La Verne until such time as they can be catalogued and perhaps find a permanent home. Watch our newsletter for further developments.

## Two 1927 City Ordinances Changed Street Names and Numbers in La Verne

On January 3, 1927, the Board of Trustees of the City of La Verne passed two ordinances (106 and 107) that not only affected most residents of La Verne at that time but have reached into the lives of many 21st century citizens as well.

Before talking about the specifics of the major changes in the numbering system for the buildings in La Verne, I want to give some background on the mail system in Lordsburg/La Verne:

June 15, 1887 The Lordsburg Post Office was established

1903 RFD began in La Verne, the rural area near Lordsburg

1912 Address numbers first appeared in the City Directory. These were three-digit numbers

August 24, 1917 Lordsburg officially changed its name to La Verne

May 20, 1918 Lordsburg Post Office became La Verne Post Office

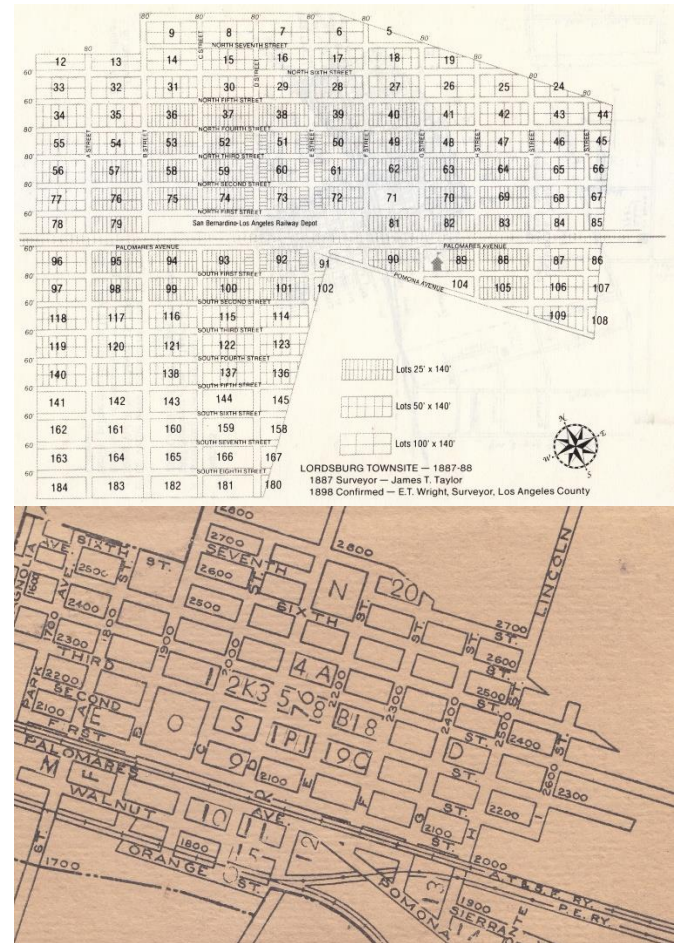
April 1, 1924 Carrier mail delivery began in La Verne

Although Ordinance No. 106 only affected a few blocks, it did help to remove some confusion that existed since the town site was laid out in 1887. There were eight east-west streets north of Palomares Avenue (now Arrow Highway) but they were not the problem. The problem was the two east-west streets (eight had been surveyed) below Palomares: South First Street and South Second Street. Mail to these streets could easily be delivered to the wrong address. And, of course, if a stranger was looking for an address, they could easily find themselves on the wrong street.

What Ordinance 106 did was to change South First Street to Walnut Street and South Second Street to Orange Street. These were appropriate names because they represented two crops that were grown in the area. Walnut Street still exists but Orange Street is no longer there. At one time, it was occupied by a thriving packing house (Randolph Fruit Company), a train depot (Southern Pacific/Pacific Electric), and several homes.

This first map shows the layout of the town site that was done by the surveyors in 1887. The second

map, from the 1950s, shows what the area looked like after the 1927 changes.



Ordinance 107 was more far-reaching. It caused every building in town to be changed. To illustrate this change, here are two ads for the well-known contractor, William Moomaw. The first one is from the 1926 La Verne College Orange Blossom yearbook. The second is from the 1928 issue, after the ordinance went into effect.

**W. O. Moomaw**  
*Contractor and Builder*  
 Phone 1377  
 333 East Third Street      LaVerne, Calif.

**W. O. MOOMAW**  
*Contractor and Builder*  
 Phone 1377  
 2869 THIRD STREET, LA VERNE, CALIF.



An article from the La Verne Leader, dated February 24, 1927, is an excellent summary of Ordinance 107 and what residents needed to do to comply with it. The only errors that I see in this item are in the sixth paragraph. It should read that the east side of the streets will be even numbers and the west side will be odd. The article is re-printed in its entirety on the right column.

What does this mean for us today, 90 years later? If you are researching a home that was built before 1927, you may have trouble finding it in older records if you don't know its original address. If you are lucky, you may find something like the above ads for Moomaw's business. But you also might find that the home changed ownership during the time of the ordinance and you lose continuity.

There are several sources that you can use to look for the information you want. My favorite is the Index to Register of Voters, published every two years. Of course, if the occupant didn't register to vote, they were not listed. Other sources are the U. S. Census (every ten years); City Directories and Telephone Books; Church or other organization directories; College and High School Yearbooks; Newspapers (takes a lot of digging); and even locating former owners or their relatives.

I am compiling a sort of cross-reference guide to addresses in Lordsburg/La Verne, using as many sources as I can find, to help in my research and to share with others. It is not complete and I'm sure there are errors. Here is a sample, what is now the south side of the 2200 block of Bonita Avenue:

#### 2200 Block, South Side of Street

202 E. Fourth St.	2210 Fourth St.
206 E. Fourth St.	2220 Fourth St.
210 E. Fourth St.	2230/2234 Fourth St.
214 E. Fourth St.	2240 Fourth St.
220 E. Fourth St.	2250 Fourth St.
226 E. Fourth St.	2256 Fourth St.
230 E. Fourth St.	2264 Fourth St.
232 E. Fourth St.	2272 Fourth St.
236 E. Fourth St.	2280/2284 Fourth St.

Bill Lemon, Family & Local History Researcher

If you have any questions about this article, please contact me at [lemonwh@aol.com](mailto:lemonwh@aol.com)

## NEW NUMBERING SYSTEM FOR CITY

The City of LaVerne is now supposed to be operating under the new system of house and block numberings, adopted by the city council, and new numbers are being given out by City Marshal O. J. Fuller. All residents must have their numbers installed before the expiration of 30 days from the time which was fixed, which was Monday, Feb. 14.

According to O. W. Clemmer, who worked out the system for the city, one block in the center of town has been designated as the 2000 block, and numbers ascend and descend in blocks of 100 from that point, eliminating duplicate sets of numbers on the same street, and doing away with the need for north, south, east and west designations.

The block bounded on the east by D Street, on the south by Palomares, on the west by C Street and on the north by First has been settled upon as the central block.

Numbers run in the ascending series to the east of D and on the north of First; they descend to the west of C and to the south of Palomares.

Each 12½ feet constitutes a house number, and the line starts at the central point of the intersection of the streets, with one exception. That exception is on the blocks between B and C where the property line starts the demarcation.

Numbers on the north and east sides of the streets will be odd, and those on the west and south will be even.

All applicants for their numbers should measure the distance from the west or south property line to the center of their doorway. The numbers run west to east, or south to north, and the distance is necessary so that the city marshal can determine the new number of your building. Also be sure to have the number of your lot and block before making application.

## Kellogg House Tour a Great Success

On Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 43 members of the La Verne and San Dimas Historical Societies filled a bus for a tour of the Kellogg House and Arabian Horse Center at Cal Poly Pomona. Here is our group photo after we returned from this event. It was great!



## Summer with the LVHS

Our next membership meeting is **Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017** at the Hillcrest Meeting House. Eric Scherer, the La Verne City Planner, and Arlene Andrew, the former La Verne City Planner, will tell us about the Mills Act and the LVHS bronze marker program. Don't miss the surprise event planned for this final meeting.

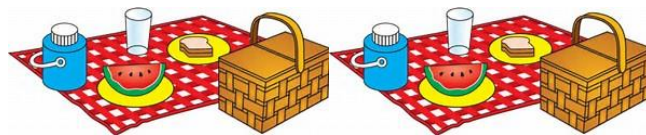
On **Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>**, the LVHS is sponsoring an ice cream social at Kuns Park. Festivities begin at 2pm with a tour of bronze marker homes surrounding the park. LVHS members will start scooping ice cream at 3pm. Choose from several flavors and as many scoops as you want at \$1 a scoop. Come learn a little history and enjoy a sweet treat. This is a "kid friendly" event for everyone!



What will the LVHS do for the **4<sup>th</sup> of July** parade? Hint: it involves equestrian participants, oranges, and marchers. Come join us!



On **Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>**, the LVHS will hold its annual Old Timer's Potluck Picnic. This year we will meet at Heritage Park, located at 5001 Via De Mansion Starting at 5pm.



## Coming Up.....

What part will you play in the future of the LVHS? Planning our calendar for 2017-2018 is under way and your input is welcome. What did you like about this year and what would you change? What new adventures await us? When the LVHS has its October membership meeting we will present a tentative calendar for your approval. Please contact Sherry Best at [sbest@lavernehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:sbest@lavernehistoricalsociety.org) or 909/596-4679 with suggestions.



### Welcome New LVHS Members!

Jenn & Billy Elftman

Lisa & Ernie Dorado

Jacqueline Pineda

Edward & Merly Padgett

Terry & MaryAnn Kistler

Jonathan & Anette Chaus

Dawn Seyarto

Kristi Karns

Neil & Karen Conrad

Lorie & Gerald Wright



*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.*

