



La Verne Historical Society

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



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Trails End Ranch: A Jewel at the End of the Road

By Ed Hume

High above La Verne and Claremont up three miles of a narrow, twisting, single-lane road lies a jewel of local history that few are familiar with: Trails End Ranch, a 53-acre parcel at the top of Webb Canyon. Currently owned by Pomona College, Trails End was originally purchased by John Barnes Miller, first president of Southern California Edison (SCE) around 1916. Desiring a location to use as a business and hunting retreat, Mr. Miller built a rambling hacienda-style home perched on a hillside with views of Los Angeles thirty-five miles away. Unlike other homes from the period in remote locations, Trails End featured advanced technology from the beginning, as Mr. Miller had electric lines installed from Foothill Blvd. to power lights, refrigeration, and other appliances.

Following his death in 1932, the Miller family continued to use the property as a getaway from their homes in Pasadena until 1949 when it was sold to Orange County rubber magnate Thomas Kirk Hill. Other owners followed, until the sale of the property to Pomona College in 2012 for use as a retreat for private events.

Although the structure was used as a primary residence since the late 1940's, with parts of the wraparound porch enclosed to create additional interior rooms by later owners, the original design was clearly intended for entertaining groups. The living room, roughly 800 square feet of dark-stained Douglas Fir planked walls, heavy exposed beams, and a massive local stone fireplace, would have been the perfect place for a group to relax after a day of roaming the foothills hunting quail or deer. In addition, the home also boasts an oversized kitchen



with original cabinetry, Pomona tile, and an exceptional copper sink.

Mr. Miller was truly a "captain of industry" in the early part of the 20th Century in Southern California. In addition to leading SCE for over 30 years during the most intense period of mergers and acquisitions in the company's history (including the merger with Henry Huntington's Pacific Power and Light), he was the Grand Marshall of the Rose Parade in 1906, founded the First National Bank and the Los Angeles Trust and Savings Bank, other gas, water, and electric companies in Long Beach and Santa Barbara, and was a director of the Pacific Mutual Life Insurance company.

In an interview with Alice Strub-Herrin, John Barnes Miller's great-granddaughter, she recounted how her mother Elizabeth had enjoyed time spent at Trails End with family and friends into the 1940's. Trails End was an ideal getaway - reasonably close to home but as ruggedly wild as any place in the Sierras - an outpost totally surrounded by natural beauty. And it still is.

Visit Trails End Ranch with the La Verne Historical Society on Saturday, June 2. For more information, contact Sherry Best at 909/596-4679 or email her at sbest@lavernehistoricalsociety.org.

President's Message:



It was 90° in the shade but the La Verne Historical Society was at CicLAvia on April 22 from 9am-4pm. With the LVHS table piled high with picture albums, membership forms, and handouts of upcoming events, Society members visited with participants and enjoyed the spectacle of people on foot, riding bicycles, pushing strollers, and using all other manually-powered forms of transportation as they traveled La Verne on a route that stretched from Claremont to San Dimas.

Members of the LVHS worked hard in 2017-2018 to raise our visibility and two special activities are the subject of my message.

1. In January the LVHS came into possession of 10 glass-front display cabinets and folding stands. The cabinets had belonged to a local gem and mineral society that closed and donated its display materials. We heard about this windfall from the local representative of the Conference of California Historical Societies (CCHS) and were first on the scene to claim our share. The folding stands were beyond restoration so we asked Mr. Leroy Lapp of Hillcrest to build ten beautiful wooden replacement stands. The cases are being repainted and outfitted with locks and interior display pads.

What will happen to our new acquisitions? The cases will be used to develop "Pocket Museums" of artifacts of La Verne's history and display them at locations around the city. Look for displays to appear in the next six months.

2. The second ongoing project is another example of collaboration to benefit La Verne citizens. Members of the Cultural Arts Society of La Verne, The Wilson Library Archives & Special Collections of ULV, The Cultural and Natural History Collections of ULV, the LVHS, Hillcrest residents, and the Bonita Unified School District, worked together for over a year to develop "The Story of La Verne" exhibit, which is currently on display at the Gallery at Hillcrest. Drawing on the artifacts of Galen Beery, the gallery exhibit tells La Verne's story in the context of the themes of Art & Culture, Family & Community Life, Education, Commerce, Faith, and Transportation. Third grade students from every elementary school in La Verne are scheduled to visit the exhibit and receive lessons in "living history" from docents. This experience is sure to become a permanent part of the curriculum and help young La Verne residents to learn about their city and its history.



Gallery docent Daryl Brandt instructs third grade students from La Verne Heights Elementary School about commerce in La Verne from pre-1887 to the present.

We hope that third graders who tour "The Story of La Verne" exhibit will re-visit with their family members and become the future culture bearers of our history.

One other aspect of visibility comes to mind. In the past two months the LVHS has received two artifacts to add to our collections. The first is a United States Bicentennial Medallion that proclaims La Verne to be an "Official Bicentennial Community, 1776-1976." The medallion is in its original postal service packaging and dated September 12, 1975. Thanks go to **Suzanne St Pierre** for this addition to our collection! The second

artifact is a 6-inch cast iron water valve cover stamped "Lordsburg Water Works" that came to us from **Bob Monnich**, a former City of La Verne employee who contacted me from Arizona, sent photos, then shipped the cover to us. Aren't we lucky to have such civic-minded neighbors?



Sherry Best,
LVHS President

Ben Hines Shares Memories as Baseball Coach with ULV and LA Dodgers



COME JOIN THE
FUN, ENJOY CHIPS
AND A DRINK WITH
YOUR MINI DODGER
DOG, AND TALK
SOME BASEBALL
WITH BEN

Ben Hines, hitting coach for the 1988 World Champion Los Angeles Dodgers, and Head Coach of the 1972 NCAA Division III National Champion University of La Verne Leopards, will share memories of his remarkable career as well as selected baseball memorabilia on Monday, June 11th at 7:00pm at the Hillcrest Meeting House, 2705 Mountain View Drive. Join the fun and add to the festive atmosphere by wearing your favorite baseball regalia (cap, shirt, etc.).

Contact Hillcrest at 909/392-4375 to RSVP for this special event. Refreshments will be served.

Ruby, La Verne Historical Society mascot, models her "Dodger Dog" outfit for the Ben Hines presentation



Memories of "Mr. La Verne"

Ms. Carol Mishler read the recent article in the *Inland Valley Daily Bulletin* about Galen Beery's collection of La Verne memorabilia and sent these memories about an experience with Galen, as follows:

Back in the late 70's to early 80's my husband and I belonged to a small Lutheran church in Montclair and the church decided to sponsor two families from Laos. We volunteered to be the ones to oversee them. None of them spoke English and we didn't know one word of their language. I went to the bookstore and found a very small cross dictionary and that is all we had to communicate with them. We worked with them with the ESL books and after a while and many laughs between us we managed to muddle our way through.

I don't remember how we met Galen anymore but he was an angel sent to all of us. We asked Galen if he wanted to meet our families and he jumped right in. We took him to where they were living and I could tell by the apprehensive look on their faces they wondered who this stranger was. Galen immediately folded his hands, bowed and greeted them in their language. The happiness and joy on their faces is something I will never forget. They just started talking and laughing and enjoying the moment. At last they had someone they could converse with who could help all of us communicate with each other. He became good friends with our families and he was always there to help us when we needed him. After a couple of years our families found other people from Laos and decided to move, one family going to Houston, Texas and the other to northern California. The whole experience for us was such a blessing but Galen was the biggest blessing of all. I will always have fond thoughts of Galen Beery.

Carol, thank you for this wonderful story! You keep Galen's legacy to La Verne alive by sharing this memory. The LVHS would be honored to continue to share stories of Galen and Doris Beery.

Tour Historic ULV Buildings

Join docents Ben Jenkins and Anne Collier as they lead a tour of the historic buildings on the University of La Verne campus. The tour is on Saturday, June 9, 2018 and will begin at 9:00am in front of the Hanawalt House (pictured below) on 2058 Second Street. Points of interest will include Miller Hall, Founder's Hall, Woody Hall, and the campus "Super Tents." Enjoy a morning exploring the historic ULV campus.



2018 LVHS Home Tour Scheduled for June 30th in Historic Kuns Park Neighborhood

Many beautiful homes surround Kuns Park. Several homes, designated with bronze markers from the City of La Verne and the LVHS, will be on this year's tour.

The following description of the Calkins-Perrin House provides a small hint of the beauty you'll experience when you tour these homes.



On Christmas Eve, 2009 Bill and Karla Stahlman closed escrow on their 1912 Craftsman Bungalow. The home had been occupied for the last 60 years by beloved teacher Glenice Perrin, and now sat waiting for a new chapter to begin.

Bill and Karla have spent their lives together working on old and new homes. Bill is a flooring contractor (CCF Flooring Contractors) and Karla is a landscape designer (Karla Stahlman Garden Design); both have businesses based in La Verne, CA. Plans for this renovation began as the Stahlmans were *thinking* about the purchase of this home- a major undertaking, even for "seasoned veterans." A six-month long transformation began and in June of 2010 they moved in.

This modest home has a Prairie-style influence with strong longitudinal lines and oversized beams, giving the house a sense of grandeur. The staggered shingle exterior features a relaxing wood porch. Lighting fixtures are reproductions from local manufacturer Old California Lantern Company. The dash-coat stucco fireplace was the 'innovation' of the day; stucco was applied by *flecking* it on with a paint brush. Note the cross design, a detail that is repeated again in the window's muntin pattern.



The Calkins-Perrin House is shown (left) as it currently appears and above after the historic 1949 snow. Come appreciate the many renovations that make this home, garden, and garage truly memorable.

The 2018 La Verne Historical Society home tour will be June 30th from 11:00am-4:00pm. Look for the LVHS table at Kuns Park and check in for your tour. Bring your sweet tooth – the LVHS will sell root beer floats as a refreshing "after the tour" treat!



Welcome New LVHS Members!

Jay and Sandy Justice