



La Verne Historical Society

S.O.L.V.E.

Save Old La Verne's Environment

P.O. Box 7761, La Verne, CA 91750 (909) 593-5014 LaVerneHistoricalSociety.org Sept. 20, 2014



At the official opening of the transformed Kuns House, Mayor Don Kendrick, congratulates Ray Adamyk for his work.

SPECIAL TOUR OF HISTORIC KUNS HOUSE SCHEDULED FOR ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER

We are pleased to note that those who attend the annual get-together will be able to tour the venerable Kuns House! The home is so well known in La Verne that it requires little in way of introduction. But in brief, it dates back to 1911 and Henry L. Kuns, realtor, mayor, and benefactor.

Brothers Henry and David Kuns came to Lordsburg in 1889 and joined two other men to buy the unused Lordsburg Hotel. The academy founded there has become our present day University of La Verne.

David's son Henry L. settled in the San Joaquin Valley but around 1902 brought his family to Lordsburg to help his aging parents. He bought land, subdivided it and sold lots, organized the First National Bank and served as mayor.

In 1910 Kuns bought the La Verne Hotel, built north of what is now Damien High School. He gave it to a Methodist Womens' Association to use as an orphanage named the David and Margaret Home after his parents and son, David.

The next year he contracted for a \$5000 home to be built on Magnolia, and built a second home at the south end of the block for his daughter and her husband.

He later offered city officials the block across the street to be used as a park. They were uninterested, so he did the work himself. After his death, his heirs were not interested in paying the taxes on the park, so in 1939 lawyer Walker Downs, on behalf of the city, secured it for only \$180!

After his death, his home passed into other hands. The last occupant was the late Don Hauser, owner of the Coin Depot. Restorer Ray Adamyk, President of the Spectra Company acquired the home and put it in tip-top condition. For several months it was slated to become the home of the incoming president of the University of La Verne, but another home was acquired.

The tour will take place soon after we get setup. For more information on the home, Google "Kuns House" and read numerous articles from the La Verne Magazine and Inland Valley Daily Bulletin.

The Historical Society of La Verne/Save Old La Verne's Environment (SOLVE) is a non-profit organization which meets periodically and holds an 'Old-Timer's Picnic late in the summer each year. There are opportunities to participate: elections for 2015 will take place this fall.

'Old-Timers' Potluck-Picnic Slated for September 20, 5:00-7:00 pm

September is a rather nice month as the heat of the summer is decreasing and the evenings are long and cooler. And in a few days, your Historical Society will meet at 5:00 p.m. in pleasantly grassy and shaded Kuns Park.

Many of us will have returned from vacation travel throughout the U.S. You'll have the opportunity to tell of your relaxation, family gatherings and historical discoveries. Bring photo memories. Our agenda is informal – traditional togetherness, sharing, and food.

Please **RSVP** right now – telephone 593-5014 and leave a message for our secretary, Doris, giving your name and letting us know how many will be attending.

Plenty of curbside parking is available on streets around Kuns Park. Guests are welcome, but please **RSVP**.

Around 6 p.m. we hopefully will be getting into a cool of the evening. You might bring a light jacket.

Ohh...the **eats!** Each person or couple should bring a casserole or chips and dips or corn or hot dogs or potato salad, watermelon or whatever. Also, **bring your own plates and utensils, and your own chairs**. Need help deciding what food to bring? Telephone Gaynel at 593-5353. Questions? Call Galen or Doris at 593-5014.