



**La Verne Historical Society**  
**S.O.L.V.E.**  
**Save Old La Verne's Environment**

PO.Box 7761, La Verne, CA 91750 909-593-5014 LaVerneHistoricalSociety.org

January 12, 2015

## ***Election of Board and Officers Slated for January 12 Meeting***

The Historical Society of La Verne begins the new year of 2015 with a general meeting on January 12, a Monday, to elect and install Officers and Board.

Officers nominated for 2015 are President, Galen Beery, Vice-President Craig Walters, Secretary: Doris Beery, and Treasurer: Clark L. Palmer.

Bill Lemon, known for his outstanding knowledge of Lordsburg/La Verne and family genealogy, remains as Genealogist and Researcher.

Those nominated as Board members are Sally Cardenas, Sherry Best, and Richard Davis. As the Board consists of five members, two more capable persons are being sought to serve on the board.

Our thanks go to Carolyn Cockrell, outgoing vice-president, and Marga Loncar, Don Charles, and Al Eisenwinter who have served on the Board for 3 years.

Meetings are held on the first or second Mondays. To get to the Jan. 12 meeting, drive on Bonita to A, turn north. The street curves left and north. Park along the street: Pinecrest is the 2-story building to the east. The entrance is on the north side.

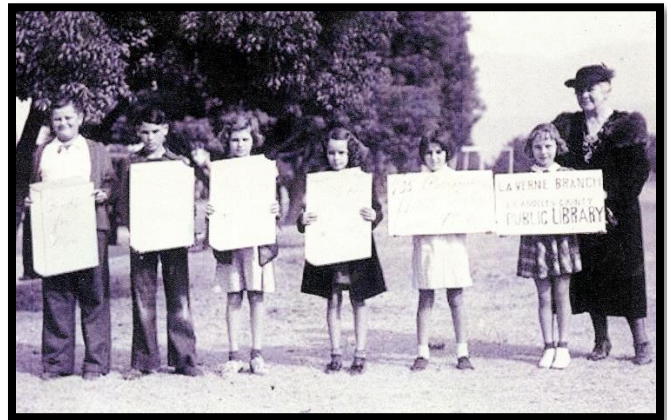
## ***Membership Dues, \$15 per Year for Individuals and Couples, Include a March Historical Home Tour***

A major decision made in the December meeting was to reinstate dues at \$15 per year for individuals and couples.

Funds will go to maintain our website, and miscellaneous costs such as printing, postage, computer and programs, photo copying, and go towards securing, inventorying, and preserving items from Lordsburg-La Verne history for display cases and, eventually, a museum

Members may choose to receive our newsletters thru Postal Service or by email. Those without internet will receive the mailed one.

A membership form and mailing envelope are enclosed with this letter. To pay dues, fill out the form and mail it with your check to La Verne Historical Society, P.O. Box 7761, La Verne, Ca. Questions? Contact us at (909) 593-5014, or [dgbeery@aol.com](mailto:dgbeery@aol.com)



In 1937 six students marched in a city parade with Librarian Elsie Rager. The placards in the shape of a book read Books for Men, Books for Boys, Books for Women, Books for Girls. Signs at right read 735 Borrowers, 19,069 Books read in 1936, and La Verne Branch, Los Angeles County Public Library

## ***Our La Verne Library Celebrates 100 Years!***

Just behind our City Hall stands our La Verne Library, officially created in 1914, when La Verne was still the small rural town known as Lordsburg.

There was no library in 1887, but residents loaned books to each other. Eventually an "Emerson Club" was organized, located on the west side of D Street. By 1897 a local newspaper reported that books were being brought here from Los Angeles.

Lordsburg Founder I.W. Lord, currying favor with Lordsburg residents, said in 1912 that he would donate \$100 to buy books – but he never got around to it.

In 1913 what was now the Lordsburg Library was moved to a building at 126 East 3rd. Miss May McCoy, the 'Custodian,' reported circulation of 10,551 books.

The Lordsburg Library's Board of Trustees voted to join the county library system in 1914. On October 1, the library became part of the Los Angeles County library system.

After Lord died in 1917, it was voted to change the name Lordsburg to La Verne, after the area known as La Verne Heights. The library's name was also changed.

In 1928 the library moved into a small, square stucco building of 1,320 square foot at 2225 "E" Street. The Great Depression caused more people to seek out books for comfort, reassurance, and inspiration.

Librarian Elsie Rager served 24 years until she retired in 1944. Gladys G. Fischer took her place.



After World War II, returning servicemen came to the library for information on veterans' problems, home building, and career guidance. Over 500 homes went up, and La Verne's population doubled.

The fourth move of the library was in July 1952, with a relocation to 2322 "D" Street, now the luncheon room of Roberta's Village Inn. The library had only 1,156 square feet, and as readers continued to contribute books, the librarian began to run out of shelf space.

In 1970 a grocery store at 2125 Bonita Avenue closed and the library moved into the building (now the Lutheran Thrift Shop) to serve the 17,545 people in the community.

Our citizen support group, 'Friends of the La Verne Library' was created in 1979, with Catherine Fugitt as first president. The need for a new, modern library was a primary goal. In the next five years, steps taken led to the construction of La Verne's first permanent library.

Funding came from a Federal construction program and from donations raised by the Friends. A 'Buy a Brick' button went to each donor. In all, a total of \$266,000 came from the city budget.

In January, 1986, the first shovelful of earth was turned by Supervisor Pete Schabarum, for a building constructed with the same floor plans used in the Walnut Library. The final cost: \$1,650,500.

The new library opened in July, 1985 and several hundred residents and guests toured the building for the first time. Many immediately checked out books.

Ruben Guajardo, a La Verne craftsman, used wood from an ancient oak tree near La Verne Heights School to create the two magnificent oak doors through which you entered the library today. These doors, designed as "The Tree of Learning," were dedicated in 1987 and crown the focal point of our reading community.

The Friends of the Library periodically held a number of sales of donated books to raise funds – first to build the library, then to provide financial assistance for library needs, speaker programs, books for the US military, and children's activities.

Donated books and magazines are now sold on the honor payment system from a small room directly behind the library check-out desk. DVD's, book bags and candy are sold from the desk: the Friends handle the finances.

Our library now boasts a modern building of 10,347 square feet, five public computers with internet access, around 98,410 items in the building and access to 10,883,308 items held by the Los Angeles County Public Library System. The total circulation (check-outs) from January through November was 139,299: the average checked out each quarter has been 34,825 – the monthly average is 11,608 items checked!

It's been a good hundred years. Look forward to our library being a continuing presence in our community.

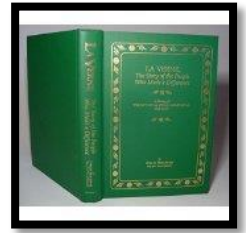
### ***Reissue our History Book?***

Between 950 and 1200 copies of our official history, *La Verne - the Story of the People Who Made a Difference*, by City Historian Evelyn Hollinger, were printed and sold between 1989 and around 2003, when supplies were exhausted. Current price on Amazon.com is \$108!

We're looking at the possibility of correcting some minor errors found by researcher Bill Lemon and others, and reissuing it as a PDF work on a CD.

This edition would update the intriguing marital career of dour-looking Aunt Mary Shively whose five marriages, relating her to dozens of people in La Verne, were detailed in the Sept. 2013 Newsletter and include the index, which written years after the book came out.

Interested in this? Would you be able to work on such a project? Email us with your interest and ideas!



The La Verne Historical Society provides historical details on our town's past and present so we can plan for the future. We guarantee – absolutely – that there are more details about Lordsburg and La Verne's history than you will find in *Time*, *Life*, *Newsweek*, *Coronet*, *the Economist*, or *The Saturday Evening Post*!

Since 2008 over fifty articles on La Verne history provided by your historical society to the monthly *La Verne Community News* can now be accessed online by going to the website, [www.LaVerneCommunityNews.com](http://www.LaVerneCommunityNews.com)

### ***Historic Route 66 Service Station Saved***

An ancient stucco gas station, built around 1915 in what is now Rancho Cucamonga, is being restored and preserved by members of Route 66 Inland Empire California. The structure was probably around eleven years old when Route 66 was made official. The building will open next year as a museum after work is completed by volunteers aiding historical preserving and building professionals. For details, visit [www.route66ieca.org](http://www.route66ieca.org)

### ***Rancho Cucamonga Arrests in Thefts of Bronze***

Having placed over thirty bronze plaques in La Verne, we are pleased to note that police have arrested men suspected of thefts in bronze statuary and markers.

In 2000 the Historical Society initiated a program to mark historical homes in La Verne with markers. A listing of those already sited is on our website, and we have just ordered another one for a home on Bowdoin.

Nationwide, markers have gone missing due to economics: and the rising price of recyclable metal. Little medallions on graves of fallen soldiers were the first to go. A bronze sword held by a statue on a Pomona park has disappeared. Bridges in northern California with aluminum rails are stolen as soon as replaced. Wires and plumbing are stripped from empty homes.

In La Verne, several bronze plaques at the entrance to Evergreen Cemetery were stolen last year, together with a marker at Kuns Park paying tribute to late councilman Robert Rodriguez and a plaque at Las Flores Park.

As far as we know, home markers are still intact. In response to an article in the *Inland Valley Daily Bulletin* about arrests of suspects, we plan to go to Rancho Cucamonga and look over broken bronze scraps to see if we can identify any as being from La Verne.

For more details, Google "*Stolen Bronze Elks*."