



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

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March 9, 2015

Pre Tour Planning on Monday, March 9

The Historical Society of La Verne will meet on Monday, March 9 at 7:00 pm, in the first-story meeting room at Pinecrest, at Hillcrest Homes.

The primary agenda in this meeting is to make final arrangements for the tour of the John Larimer House on Bradford, to take place on Saturday, March 21, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Docent led tours will be followed by refreshments in the garden. La Verne Historical Society members will tour for free. The cost for non-members is \$15, which will include a membership in the Historical Society.

Volunteers are needed as docents, to help with a raffle, and for manning tables. Donations of raffle prizes and refreshments are also appreciated. Local business partners are sought to sponsor the event. Several display tables will be provided for community business sponsors to showcase their businesses with cards, flyers, and other information. Suggested business sponsorship is \$100. This event and future fundraising events will work toward the goal of preserving artifacts and finding a permanent home for them.



John Larimer Home

New Officers and Board for 2015 were elected and installed in the general meeting on Jan. 12.

They are: President, Galen Beery, Vice-President Craig Walters, Secretary: Doris Beery, and Treasurer: Clark L. Palmer. Bill Lemon, known for his outstanding knowledge of historic Lordsburg - La Verne families, continues as Genealogist and Researcher.

Board members are Sally Cardenas, Sherry Best, and Richard Davis. Two additional positions for board members are still vacant.



Raising Chickens, Selling Eggs Was Secondary Industry in Lordsburg-La Verne

Given the rural nature of Lordsburg - later La Verne - it was natural for many families to raise chickens for their meat and eggs in their backyards.

The family of J. L. Miller, early merchant on D Street, lived at 2325 E St., just across from the church at the northeast corner of Third and E, and probably raised chickens in what is now downtown La Verne. He married Grace Hileman, who has become famous in our history as the well-remembered Grace Miller. The site of their home on E Street is still marked by two huge palm trees which face east, near the sidewalk.

J. L. Millers acquired a chicken ranch on 7th Street, at the north end of G, and left the grocery business to raise poultry and sell eggs and chickens.

When the family which now lives in a Craftsman home built at that address heard that their back yard had once been a large poultry ranch, the immediate response was "So that's it! We should have known. Our back yard has really fertile soil. We can grow anything!"

One of the notes kept by the late City of La Verne Historian Evelyn Hollinger came to light recently: she recorded that the article below, in *the La Verne Leader* for May 4, 1922 was "anecdotal material."

"Big Freak Egg"

"J. L. Miller, the well-known poultry man brought up to the *Leader* office a freak egg laid yesterday by one of his big leghorn hens. The egg is the largest we have ever seen, measuring 8 ½ x 9 ½ inches. The shell was fragile and is partly broken disclosing another egg of normal size inside the larger egg."

"Mr. Miller states that he found a similar egg several years ago, which was so large that it completely filled the abdomen of the hen, so that the hen had to be killed. The hen herself only weighed 3 lbs."

In those days the movement of eggs and chickens from the back yards of small producers was facilitated by middlemen who picked up the produce and took it to local grocery stores for retail sales.

A delivery was probably in progress on an ill-fated date several years earlier, when an unexpected mishap was immortalized on the front page of the *Lordsburg-LaVerne Leader* for Aug. 2, 1917. The headline reflected

the editor's interest in the national stock market:

EGGS TOOK A SUDDEN TUMBLE

"The most exciting runaway this city has seen in many a day occurred last Saturday afternoon, when the team attached to C. C. Huff's egg wagon went tearing down through the main street."

"On the wagon when it started were the two Frase boys, Donald and Stanley, and one hundred and seventy-five dozen eggs. The older boy was driving and the younger was sounding the alarm."

"The horses took flight in front of the butcher shop (where the present Warehouse Pizza is located) when the tongue slipped through the loop of the neckyoke and allowed the wagon to strike them. Had the boy seen the situation and applied the brake he might have avoided the trouble, but the more he pulled on the reins the harder the wagon crowded onto the team and the more frightened they became. The path south on D street was strewn with eggs in all directions."

(The runaway horses and wagon crossed the Santa Fe rail line and headed on to the present Metrolink track.)

"At the Pacific Electric crossing the tugs became unfastened and the tongue dropped to the ground. The team straddled the big fan palm at the intersection of D and South Second Street (which no longer exists) and the pole ran into the ground for a distance of four feet."

"It was here or just a little before this that the boys unloaded. Stanley was thrown to the ground but came up scarcely injured. Donald attempted to jump and in doing so he struck the brake handle and was thrown in front of the wagon, which ran over him. He was badly shaken up and bruised, but was able yesterday to be around on crutches."

"The team ran through the wire fence in front of the Crowther place and into another fence on the Long place, where they got tangled up and were thrown one on either side of an orange tree. It required considerable work to extricate them. Both horses were scratched up considerably. The wagon was a complete wreck."

"Of the 175 dozen eggs on the wagon 123 dozen eggs were recovered and there was a considerable number of cracked ones that can be used."

"Both the boys and the horses were extremely lucky in getting off as well as they did."

A membership form and mailing envelope are enclosed with this letter for those not yet members.

To pay dues, fill out the form and mail it to us with your check. Questions? Contact us at (909) 593-5014, or dgbeery@aol.com

We are always interested in your comments, suggestions, photographs and stories from Lordsburg-La Verne history, and leads to those who have them.



The delivery wagon which the Frase boys were using was probably much like this two-horse rig of the McClellan Brothers Grocery Delivery Service

THROWN FROM AUTOMOBILE

Fake news stories were often placed in local papers of hundred years ago, as a lead-in to advertising comparable to today's ads.

Here's one which appeared in the Pomona Progress in mid-August, 1906.

"While running his automobile at a terrific rate yesterday, Ike Cornjuice swerving his machine around a corner struck a post, throwing himself and his wife about twenty feet. He landed in a mud hole. Upon arriving home he threatened to throw his fine suit away, but Mrs. Cornjuice said "No! That's a Royal tailored suit ordered of Guilford W. Short's tailoring and ready made pant house on Garey avenue, and it will clean like new. Short makes your clothes so why not allow him to clean and press them in his new cleaning and pressing department opposite Salt Lake depot."

+ La Verne Locals +

The Aug. 2, 1917 edition of the Lordsburg-LaVerne Leader had two long columns of tidbits of local interest, several of which are given here.

The Wednesday Afternoon Prayer Circle held their weekly meeting of Mrs. John Roberts. The meeting was led by Mrs. D. B. Abbott.

Mrs. H. G. Hayes and little son Harold of Long Beach came out Monday and are spending several days here at the home of J. W. Hayes and other relatives in Lordsburg, Pomona and Claremont.

Mr. and Mrs. Luther Riley and two children of Los Angeles motored Out Sunday afternoon and were guests of the former's parents Mr. and Mrs. W. Riley until Monday.

Roger Cumberland attended the wedding of two of his college friends Wednesday evening, which was solemnized in the Highland Park Presbyterian church.

Miss Flora Rice, superintendent of the David and Margaret Home, goes to Huntington Beach Friday morning, where she will give a talk at the Home Missionary Society being held at that place.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Jalling and four children spent Wednesday afternoon in Ontario.