



# La Verne Historical Society

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

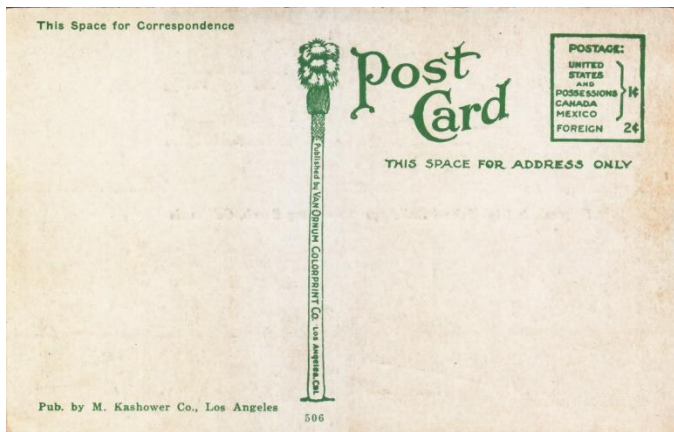


PO Box 7761, La Verne, CA 91750 909-596-4679 [lvhs@lavernehistoricalociety.org](mailto:lvhs@lavernehistoricalociety.org) April 2019

## Every Picture Tells a Story

By Bill Lemon & Sherry Best

Continuing to explore our recent trove of vintage postcards through a feature entitled “*Every Picture Tells a Story*”, the LVHS presents these images from a time past that is of personal interest or has a connection to La Verne.



Long Beach Polytechnic High School (c. 1915)

What is the connection between Long Beach Poly High School and La Verne? None other than Spike Jones, self-described as “dandruff in the long hair of music.” Jones influenced musical satirists including Stan Freberg, Ernie Kovacs, Tom Lehrer, Frank Zappa, and Weird Al Yankovic. Although widely imitated, he was

never equaled in popularity, originality, and raucous hilarity.



Lindley Armstrong “Spike” Jones was born in Long Beach on December 14, 1911 and graduated from Long Beach Poly High School in 1929. Soon after, his father was transferred by the Southern Pacific Railroad to La Verne to become the depot agent for the Southern Pacific and Pacific Electric railroads, where the family lived in an apartment above the depot. Jones was enumerated in La Verne in the 1930 United States Census as an 18-year-old orchestra musician.

Jones began his musical career as a studio drummer and percussionist. His band, the “City Slickers”, started as a Dixieland group that amused themselves by creating satirical arrangements of popular songs and classical pieces. The City Slickers recorded from 1944 into the 1950s and toured with what they called their “musical depreciation revue.”

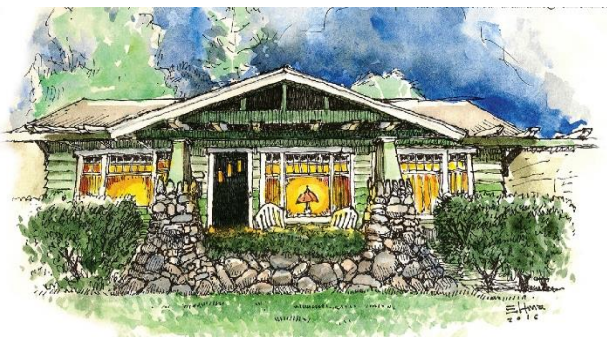
Jones and his fellow band members frequently replaced musical notes with noises such as belches, hiccups, sneezes, coughs, and wheezes. Other sounds used for comic effect included auto horns, gunshots,

"sputts" (fast passage of air through the mouth), bird calls, chicken clucks, dogs barking, washboards, tubas, cowbells, slide whistles, kazoos, and fire sirens. At any given moment, Spike's band would add to the hilarity with sound effects from their unique musical creations, including the "latrinophone" (a toilet seat strung with catgut) or a "crashophone" (bags of metal balls dropped into a metal washtub to make the sound of breaking glass). Jones' final recording was made in 1955 and he died on May 1, 1965. Read more about Spike Jones on:

<http://www.bigbandlibrary.com/spikejones.html>

### April Home Tour on the Horizon

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am-3:00pm. The LVHS is re-visiting Third Street for tours of the Green Home, which received a bronze marker on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Its owners, Ed and Susan Hume, have been lovingly restoring different rooms and are in the middle of a kitchen project. Ed's watercolor of the house is shown below and compares with a photo on the September 2017 dedication day, where relatives of the original owners pose with Ed and Susan. Tours are free of charge but bring a few bucks to purchase raffle tickets.



### Peggy Redman Joins LVHS Board



Peggy Redman has stepped in as the LVHS Member-At-Large. She has been in the field of education for 54 years, beginning as a middle school math and history teacher, moving to teaching gifted students, and concluding as a teacher of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. You could say teaching is in her blood.

Peggy brings a long history with the University of La Verne. Her parents both graduated from La Verne College, as did she. Her three children have degrees from the University along with over 60 family members. Peggy was director of Alumni Relations at La Verne for nine years. She completed her EdD at La Verne, and went on to become the Director of Teacher Education, a position she held for 22 years. While in this position she was honored by the University with the appointment as The La Fetra Family Endowed Chair for Excellence in Teaching and Service.

For the last three years before retirement, Peggy served as Director of The La Verne Experience, a program for all students at the University from the four colleges on eleven campuses.

Peggy loves the city of La Verne where she has resided since 1956. She currently lives at Hillcrest where she has served on the Board of Directors, and was the President of the Residents' Association for two years. Her administrative, teaching, and interpersonal skills will be most appreciated as she adds her expertise to the LVHS Board.

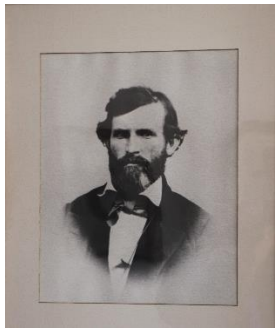
### Historical Sites in Rancho Cucamonga

On February 23<sup>rd</sup> members of the LVHS visited the John Rains House and the Route 66 Richfield station in Rancho Cucamonga. Participants were treated to an extensive tour of the John Rains House and outdoor

space after an informative history lesson about Rains' life, family, and business interests.



John Rains was a businessman who opened California's first commercial winery. He is pictured below with his wife, Maria Merced Williams Rains.



Living room in the Rains House. The house was built in 1860 of bricks made from clay dug on the property. An open flume carried spring water through the kitchen and under the house on its way to the orchards. This "water cooling" innovation helped maintain cooler indoor temperatures in summer heat.

Right: The Route 66 Richfield station on Foothill Blvd. Visitors enjoyed the station museum and restored exterior on a beautiful winter day.



The Richfield Station tour was arranged for by LVHS member Luana Hernandez. Thank you for supporting the LVHS with a great visit, Luana!

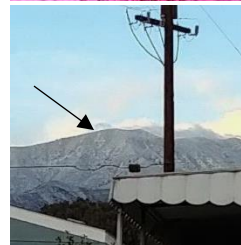


Participants enjoyed home-baked cookies stamped with "Route 66." Sadly, only one survived long enough for a photo.

### President's Message

March was the month for celebrating Huell Howser. Luis Fuerte, Howser's cameraman, editor, sound engineer, and lighting director, told an appreciative audience of over 150 about his adventures during filming around the Golden State with the iconic TV personality. Two consecutive Saturday visits to the Huell Howser Archives at Chapman University completed our Huell Howser explorations. You can watch videos of Fuerte's and Howser's adventures at <https://blogs.chapman.edu/huell-howser-archives/archives/>

Spring is a beautiful season that provides us with many reasons to be grateful. Abundant rain has brought out butterflies and wildflowers. They remind us of nature's unique beauty and fragility. We enjoy the views of Mt. Baldy and some of us saw the La Verne "L" faintly picked out in snow on Johnstone Peak.



Low snow levels allow views of the La Verne "L", created by La Verne College students 100 years ago this month, on April 7, 1919. The students braved rattlesnakes and dense brush to carve out the "L".

On April 13<sup>th</sup> we have a home tour, complete with great raffle prizes for visitors. On May 18<sup>th</sup> we will visit David & Margaret Family and Youth and Family Services, where we will learn about its history and current services. We'll finish our spring activities with our June 1<sup>st</sup> visit to Kimberly Crest House and Gardens, the A.K. Smiley Library, and the Lincoln Shrine in

Redlands. This event will include free bus service by Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger's office, entrance to Kimberly Crest, and a catered box lunch. Don't miss the summer LVHS Member/Community meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup> with a presentation by Al Clark about creating oral histories. We'll use his information to brainstorm about ways to create history for tomorrow by preserving it today. We are all historians!

We have more reasons to appreciate this season. All during April and May, the LVHS will collaborate with Hillcrest, ULV, the Bonita Unified School District, the City of La Verne, and the Cultural and Natural History Collections at ULV to present the exhibit *The Story of La Verne*, for third graders in our school district. If you want to help by providing docent support or by escorting student groups between venues at Hillcrest, contact Sherry Best at 909/596-4679. This is a wonderful way to teach our young La Verne residents about where they live and spark their interest in history and community service. Training will be provided for docents and group escorts.

Cultural organizations serve multiple purposes. They inform, educate, entertain, and act as the glue that bonds communities together. The LVHS motto, "**Preserving Old La Verne's Environment: Making History for the Future**", is a nod to the past and a pledge to continuing the values and practices that make La Verne such a beautiful place to live.

*Sherry Best,*  
LVHS President

### Pin-Ups for Vets Comes to La Verne

Founded in 2006, Pin-ups for Vets is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to supporting injured and ill American Soldiers, Marines, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen, and Sailors—and current active-duty troops deployed across the globe. The charity also supports homeless Veterans, military spouses, and Gold Star Wives. Pin-Ups for Vets has provided over \$60,000 of new therapy equipment for

rehabilitation programs at military and Veterans hospitals.

In 2007, Gina Elise, the organization's Founder, won the Outstanding Young Californian award from the Junior Chamber of Commerce and California Jaycees. Ten American flags have been flown on various military bases worldwide, in honor of the Pin-Ups for Vets calendar project. Gina Elise and her volunteer pin-up Ambassadors hope to eventually visit a VA hospital in every state. The ladies have, so far, visited 31 states and almost 13,000 hospitalized Veterans.

Pin-Ups for Vets is shooting on location in La Verne in May 2019 for their 2020 fundraising calendar, the organization's 14<sup>th</sup> annual edition. Watch the LVHS website for an announcement about dates and times of this event.



Pin-Ups for Vets 2019 Calendar



### Welcome New LVHS Members!

Jerry & Berkley Davis

Judy Greeran

Marie Julian

Leroy & Juanita Lapp

Peggy Redman

Marja Williams

