



Looking Back... and Looking Forward

The La Verne Historical Society has had a busy and active year. Led by a dedicated band of Board members, many changes characterized the LVHS in 2015-2016, with more changes to come. The following sampling of activities is a reminder of the value that the LVHS brings to its members as we "Preserve Old La Verne's Environment and Make History for the Future."

Picnic Pleasures

In August 2015, Randy and Carolyn Cockrell hosted us their wonderful Third Street home for our annual Old Timer's Potluck picnic. This August the picnic moved next door to the equally wonderful Moomaw House owned by Jeff and Donna Dye. The LVHS extends a sincere "THANK YOU" to our gracious hosts and to all the attendees who made this social event such fun!

Home Tour Treats

I love to tour houses and this year we had two excellent examples of La Verne's past carefully restored for our visiting pleasure. The Moomaw House on Third Street was the focus of the October tour, followed by the Brydon Ranch House in April. I remember the fact that the Moomaw House was actually dragged by a team of horses approximately 11 feet to its present location. Descendants of the Brydon family came to our tour of their former property, now owned by La Verne City Attorney Bob Kress. We were treated to some wonderful historical photos and these have been archived in our digital collection.

Getting Educated

Who knew about the Lordsburg Hotel? I certainly didn't but all of us who attended the presentation by Dr. Marlin Heckman received a detailed and enthralling account of this structure, including the fact that it never had a paying guest! After purchase and use as a dormitory for the Lordsburg College, it was demolished in 1927. Our education was further enhanced through presentations by Zoe TeBeau, a professional appraiser, and Dr. Ben Jenkins, the University of La Verne Archivist. My take-away message from these two: What you think is trash might just be treasure!

LVHS Gets Going

Our February "Get on the Bus" tours of La Verne were so successful that we were unable to accommodate all those who wanted to participate. Galen Beery regaled attendees with interesting stories, snippets of history, and tidbits about the people who made history in La Verne. Hillcrest provided transportation on their spacious, air-conditioned bus. The LVHS was

invited to conduct a private encore tour for members of the La Verne Volunteer Patrol group that supports our police department. This civic-minded group, led by LVHS member Marv Weston, was treated to a slightly different tour route and information provided by Bill Lemon, the LVHS Family and Local History Researcher. We plan to bring back these tours in 2017!

Exploring our Surroundings

The 1973 LVHS Articles of Incorporation states that a primary purpose of our organization is to “encourage and promote the history and culture of La Verne and surrounding environs.” Our explorations of “surrounding environs” in 2015-2016 took us to Lizzie’s Trail Inn and the Richardson House Museum in Sierra Madre, the Ontario Museum of History and Art, and the Sam Maloof House and Garden in Alta Loma. These activities reminded us of the history and culture of cities like La Verne that have proud roots in the citrus industry and are actively preserving their past. Transportation to the Sam Maloof House and Garden was provided by Supervisor Michael Antonovich and we thank him for this gift to his constituents.

Civic Engagement

The LVHS was civic-minded this year with participation at the Cal Poly Strawberry Festival. Having a table at the festival gave us an opportunity to engage with other historical societies in the San Gabriel Valley and interact with visitors. We were active participants in the La Verne 4th of July Day parade. Members of the LVHS Board demonstrated their pride in the parade with an award-winning entry (Best Adult Spirit Award). I am told that this was only the third entry by the LVHS in the parade and I say, “Good for us!”

What’s Next??

There is plenty ahead for the LVHS in 2016-2017. Check the calendar is in this newsletter. Program Committee members are busy finalizing dates/times for events and I will send email reminders with flyers. Begin your fall season by attending the 10/10/16 membership meeting at the Hillcrest Meeting Room. Paul Rippens of the Associated Historical Societies of Los Angeles County will tell us about the St. Francis Dam Disaster and that is just the start of an exciting year of events.

The commitment of the LVHS for the 2015-2016 year has been to create value for its members. There is a catch to our enhanced activity, however. With increased membership and more events comes a need for active member participation. We NEED committee participants, tour docents, newsletter writers, volunteers to promote our events, and the creativity, energy, and civic pride that brought you to the LVHS in the first place. There is no pay for this work, but the rewards are without price. Contact me at sbest@lavernehistoricalsociety.org with your questions and suggestions about the LVHS and its events.

Look for the next President’s message in October and hear about our exciting plans.

Sherry Best, President
LVHS