

Annual General Meeting Wednesday May 30, 2012

Concurrent with and before our President's Recognition Dinner beginning at 7:00 p.m.

the Arcadia Historical Society will be holding their Annual General Meeting.

When: Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Where: Lutheran Church of the Cross, 66 W. Duarte Road, Arcadia, Ca.

Time: 6:30 p.m. Business Meeting and Board Elections (all members welcome; no charge)

7:00 p.m. Past President's Recognition Dinner (Buffet-\$20.00 per person)

Board of Directors

Gene Glasco
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Sho Tay
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Karen Hou
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Treasurer

Carol Libby
Director / Programs

Scott Hettrick
Director /
Chairman - Historical Markers

Sandy Snider
Director / Historian

Gene Glasco
Camino Editor

President's Message by Gene Glasco

In Honor of Our Predecessors



Dear Members and Friends,

The Arcadia Historical Society's General Meeting and "Past President's Appreciation Dinner" is slated for Wednesday evening, May 30. Our repast is in honor and appreciation of former Arcadia Historical Society presidents whose legacy of leadership has contributed to the prolongation of our organization for the past sixty years. We hope you attend this meeting and the celebration dinner that follows in honor of the Society's past presidents.

It's interesting to note that the Arcadia Historical Society was founded on November 16 in 1952. Formation was under the sponsorship of the California History and Landmarks Department of the Woman's Club of Arcadia at the suggestion of the Department's chairman, Mrs. J.E. Hutton of Los Angeles, who also served as the Arcadia Historical Society's first President from 1953 to 1954. While researching our past presidents for this piece, I became fascinated with a feature article that appeared in a First Anniversary May 1954 edition of Camino (Vol.1, No. 1). The submission, entitled: "Pioneering With The Paynes 1907-1947", is a captivating tale of Dee M. Payne and his young wife who moved to the little "dusty town Lucky Baldwin had seen fit to name Arcadia" in the first decade of 20th century 1907. This three page perspective depicts forty years of living in a town that "greeted the eyes of new arrivals with the Oakwood Hotel where the Santa Fe tracks intersected First Avenue, now the site of a lumber yard". And,

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where “there was the Santa Fe depot just across the tracks that still identified Arcadia to the world of travelers passing through”. “These two buildings were the hub of a scattering of wooden buildings which housed, for the most part, fourteen thriving saloons.” The early Arcadia reminiscences of this pioneering couple, along with the first edition Caminos-- complete with illustrations by Mrs. Justine Wishek and Mrs. Edna Lenz-- will be posted on the Society’s website for your reading enjoyment. Your Society continues to make history and has been very busy with many recent and future planned activities. Our Open House held last March was a striking success. Members, guests, and city officials stopped by our new offices and enjoyed seeing an interesting display of artifacts along with a reproduction of “History Lives Here” signs representing the many permanent markers that dot various historic locations around our cityscape. The 1959 classic police cruiser the Society has “adopted” always draws a crowd and continues to be a great recruiting tool for new memberships at many of the community events we attend. Recent outreach activities

See Gene on page 3

Rare Arcadia Artwork to be Given Away **at President’s Dinner**



Edna Lenz was a prolific and notable artist of the sixties and seventies known for her spectacular watercolor paintings of historic Arcadia. Your Society has a few of her masterpieces and will be giving away a reproduction of Edna’s works to the lucky raffle winner at our President’s Dinner event on May 30. Don’t miss out on possibly winning this treasure! Please complete the reservation form in this newsletter and return it in the enclosed self addressed envelope to be received no later than May 25.

Edna Lenz was born in Indiana in 1893. She graduated from the Chicago Art Institute and worked as a silver and art engraver for Marshall Field’s of Chicago before moving to Arcadia around 1946.

Lenz served as President for the Arcadia Historical Society for six consecutive terms and is probably most known for championing the cause to save the Depot. Thanks to efforts of Lenz and other members of the Arcadia Historical Society, the Depot was saved and relocated to the Arboretum where it stands today.

In 1953, Lenz began a joint painting project with her friend Justine Wishek. While Wishek preferred to paint houses, Lenz enjoyed focusing on the adobes of San Gabriel Valley. They painted more than 100 watercolors of San Gabriel Valley landmarks, immortalizing the area’s history.

Lenz passed away in St. Louis, Missouri in 1981.

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have included: L.A. History Day at Azusa Pacific University (March); Public Schools Recognition luncheon (April); Los Angeles Heritage Day at the Pico House and Plaza (April); and the Arcadia Fire Department Pancake Breakfast earlier this month. On May 19th, the friends of the Society Garden Party will be held at Director Carol Libby's house. And on May 27, Society staff will be attending the "Honoring Our Veteran's" event in the county park with the mid-century police cruiser and two interesting display tables. At yet to be determined dates, we will be commemorating the installation of two new "History Lives Here" markers; one at the L.A. County Arboretum, and another at a new statue of Elias J. "Lucky" Baldwin on Huntington Drive. Information about Society activities can be found on the Society website at: www.ArcadiaHistoricalSociety.org.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Caminos and the enclosed submissions by board members, Carol Libby, Scott Hettrick, and Sandy Snider. These gifted people along with our other hard working officers and directors make up a dynamic team who continue to distinguish the Arcadia Historical Society and honor our predecessors with their notable achievements.

Respectfully,

Gene Glasco

Arcadia Historical Society Calendar of Activities

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|---------------|--|
| May 19 | Friends of the Society Annual Garden Party
438 W. Norman Avenue, Arcadia- (626) 447.1422 |
| May 26 | "Remembering Our Veterans"- Arcadia County Park
From 10 A.M to 3 P.M. |
| May 30 | President's Recognition Dinner-Church of the Cross
66 W Duarte Rd. 6:30 P.M. Business Meeting/Elections Dinner 7:00 P.M. |



**Join, Renew, your Membership,
or make a Donation
without envelopes or stamps!**

Log on to our website at:

www.ArcadiaHistoricalSociety.org

and click on the "Membership" tab.

You can easily pay by check, credit card, or Pay Pal."

"Past Presidents Recognition Dinner" Wednesday, May 30

The Arcadia Historical Society will be honoring past presidents of the Society at a gala dinner being held in their honor Wednesday evening, May 30, at the Lutheran Church of the Cross' Friendship Hall located at 66 West Duarte Road. Social hour with entertainment begins at 6:30 pm with dinner to follow. A raffle will be held after dinner, followed by a short program recognizing our past presidents. Ample parking is available in the large lot situated behind the church. Lutheran Church of the Cross is just east of the Masonic Center on Duarte Avenue in Arcadia.

President's Recognition Dinner Reservation Form

Name _____ Number in Party: _____

Phone # _____ e-Mail _____

Dinner is \$20.00 per person. Please make your check payable to: Arcadia Historical Society. Send this coupon and your check in the enclosed self addressed envelope. **Reservations to be received no later than May 25.**

Historical City Photos On Display In Several Area Businesses

By Scott Hettrick

What a valuable historical resource we have at the Arcadia Public Library in the Arcadia History Room (available for research and viewing by appointment only - call Yvonne Ng at 626-294-4808). Among the treasure trove of materials in the archives is a vast collection of valuable historical photographs.

Several area businesses have copies of many of these fascinating photos on prominent display, including Rod's Grill next to Rusnak Mercedes across from Arcadia Park; Hyper Coffee at 203 S. First Avenue in Downtown Arcadia, and the Albertson's grocery store east of Second Avenue on Live Oak. Albertson's has intriguing and nicely framed photos hung in two sections, including five on the wall along the backside of the Starbuck's kiosk near the magazine rack by the check-out, and two on the wall next to the pharmacy behind the blood pressure machine, one of which is a photo of a vintage pharmacy (photos here).

Society Historical Marker Committee Chairman Scott Hettrick, who is also chairman of the Library's Board of Trustees, recently gained permission from the proprietors of each of the businesses to post labels informing the public that the photos are courtesy of the Arcadia Public Library, and noting the Library web site (<http://www.ci.arcadia.ca.us/home/index.asp?page=1328>) where others may find and request copies of these delightful pictures.

The Society encourages the public display of historical artifacts as a way of enlightening and engaging the community in the rich history of Arcadia.



WELCOME NEW LIFE MEMBER!

Mrs. Julie Harris of Oceanside, CA-- granddaughter of celebrated musician Tony Antista, who wrote and composed the Arcadia High School Fight Song, has joined the Society as a Life Member. Thank you Julie, we look forward to seeing you and your family at upcoming events!

Friends of the Historical Society Support New Historical Marker

by Sandy Snider

History Lives Here marker #8 (highlighting The Derby restaurant) was dedicated last August, and now thanks to the financial support of our ever-active, always-thinking Friends group, the Marker Committee is busy preparing text and searching photo archives for History Lives Here #9! Committee members Carol Libby, Bev Street, Scott Hettrick and Sandy Snider had a productive meeting with Arboretum CEO Richard Schulhof, and we are happy to report that #9 will feature the historic underpinnings of a City jewel, the Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden.

Marker #9 will be right out front at the Arboretum, practically beneath the flag pole as it turns out. Those who have always suspected that HISTORY easily holds its own with Horticulture will be



pleased, we hope, and assuredly those who never even dreamed that HISTORY could possibly reside among the trees across the street from The Mall well, they too, we hope, will be pleased.

We hope to stage the dedication of Marker #9 early this summer, but all are welcome to come celebrate HISTORY at the Arboretum even earlier at an Open House at the Queen Anne Cottage on Sunday, May 27th

(Memorial Day weekend Sunday). Please spread the word about Open House, too! Special guest that day will be Lucky Baldwin's great great great granddaughter Margaux Viera who will be "unveiling" a recently commissioned portrait of Mayor Baldwin. Those who heard Margaux speak at a recent Society meeting may want to hear more family stories; those who missed that meeting should be sure to mark their calendars for a second opportunity. Add a chance to tour the Cottage interior, and what more could anyone ask for!

Arcadia: One Hundred Years Ago - 1912

by Carol Libby

April 15, 1912 was the day that marked the beginning of a new direction for Arcadia. A city election was held to vote on the question of whether the sale of alcoholic beverages be licensed in the City of Arcadia. The voters decided the issue with a vote of 115 to 66 to eliminate the sale and the saloons were closed. A new Arcadia was to immerge.



The Baldwin Ranch management was in Anita's hands following her father's death in 1909. photo c. 1912

The long battle to change the reputation of the town was a daunting one since most citizens were dismayed at the way city affairs were being conducted. They believed that too many matters were decided without their knowledge or input, and they resented it. In addition, month after month either Council meetings adjourned without a quorum, or no member of the Council was present. This was no way to run a city.

Trouble was brewing when the City Marshall and a Councilman were at odds with each other. The Citizens' League called on the Council to remove the Marshall from office. It refused. This led to the city's first recall election that was instituted against the Councilman.

Election results favored the Councilman 109 to 77 and he remained in office. A fledgling city was in the throws of turmoil.

The next two years were full of recall elections, political accusations, bickering and controversy. The April 1914 election resulted in an entirely new city council and new city clerk.

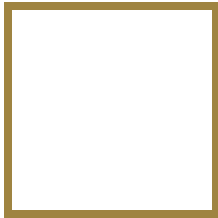
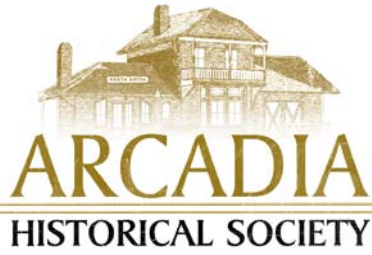
1912 was the beginning of a four-year active real estate market. It began with the sale of land known as Tract 808, about 300 acres, in southeast Arcadia. Located between First and Tenth Avenues and between Duarte Road and Camino Real, these two and a half to five acre parcels sold for \$700 to \$750 an acre. Much of this land had been planted in potatoes and a portion of it was uncultivated.

On a positive note, in 1912, a group of civic-minded women organized to improve the city's image and bring some pride into the community. They named their organization the "Cooperative Arcadians." First, they cleaned up the city park. In 1914 they pursued the formation of a public library and the idea of entering a float in the Pasadena Rose Parade. This small group was active for several years before becoming the core of the Arcadia Woman's Club.

Baldwin's elaborate racetrack grandstand burned to the ground in 1912. It was a sensational fire, lighting the area for miles around. The numerous stables and other buildings were saved, and because of their fine condition, were part of the Ross Field complex during World War I.



Home of William Millard, located on the corner of 6th Ave and Camino Real. Millard was a Arcadia Councilman from 1916-1920



Arcadia Historical Society
P.O. Box 661332
Arcadia, CA 91066-1332

Mailing Address:
Arcadia Historical Society
P.O. Box 661332, Arcadia, CA 91066-1332



We are on the WEB!
www.arcadahistoricalsociety.org

Name _____ Telephone (____) _____

Address _____

City and State _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail _____

Membership in the Arcadia Historical Society runs one year from date of renewal or new member application.

Individual	\$25	\$ _____
Family	\$30	\$ _____
Corporate	\$35	\$ _____
Life	\$400 (Life memberships are not transferable).....	\$ _____
	TOTAL	\$ _____

The Arcadia Historical Society is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization
Mail to: Arcadia Historical Society, P.O. Box 661332, Arcadia, CA 91066-1332