



Sierra Made Historical
Preservation Society
Newsletter
April 2002

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Dane Lenton, Viola Williams, and Phyllis Chapman pose for a picture in front of the Vine.
Photo by Marilyn McKernan.

Vee Visits the Vine

In March 2002, Viola "Vee" Williams returned to Sierra Madre to revisit the beloved wistaria vine. Her parents owned the wistaria house from 1913 to 1939 so she has some fond memories of growing up with the vine. Phyllis Chapman, Dane Lenton, and Marilyn McKernan were on hand to greet Ms. Williams during her enthusiastic visit. Ms. Williams has also lent some materials to the Archives for duplication.

May 18 & 19 — Art Fair Memorial Park

Visit our booth during the Art Fair. Check out the latest publications and have a glass of Helen Obazawa's famous Lemonade for just \$1.00 a glass! You will find us at the SW corner of the park.

Sunday June 30 — 2nd Annual Ice-Cream Social 1-4 p.m.

Mt. Wilson Trail Park, 167 E. Mire Monte
Step back in time, pack a picnic lunch, and bring family, friends and neighbors. Tables and chairs will be provided. Visit the Historic Richardson House and Lizzie's Trail Inn.

Enjoy music (records) of the 30's and 40's. Our booth will be selling lemonade, ice cream cones and sundaes with a choice of toppings.

March 24 — Wistaria Day

We had a great day and owe many thanks. Thank you Arlene Hollingsworth, Regional Manager of the Arcadia and Pasadena Marie Callendar's stores who donated 60 wonderful pies. Thanks to Isaac Reyes, Manager of the Arcadia store & Ruben Cardoza, Manager of the Pasadena store who baked them!

Thank you to Teresa Chauré, Booth Chair, Bill & Marilyn McKernan, Michael Hawkshaw, Stan Hutchinson, Tom Pendlebury, Bob Matheson, for set up & cleanup. Thanks also to Helen Conroy, Tom Heydahl, Rosa Prima Johnson, Leslie Ziff, Linn Cereno, Judy Tims, Bill & Laura Derrick and Maurice Orme for manning the booth.

Membership

Thank you to all of you who have renewed your membership. If you are not sure when your membership expires, check your mailing label. If you have lost your renewal notice, you may use the application on this letter. We have many requests from those who wish to be put on our mailing list, which we are always happy to do and will keep you on the list for one year. So, if you are not a member, or your membership has lapsed, this may be your last letter.

President's Message

The SMHPS was recently given several acquisitions for the Richardson's House. We would like to express our appreciation to David Kirkpatrick and Patricia De Vault for thinking of us. Thanks to both of you for your generosity.

David Kirkpatrick long time owner of Hartman's Pharmacy donated six apothecary jars dating from the early 1900's. Hartman's was located at 26 N. Baldwin and was established in 1910 by W. E. Bechtelmeier and purchased by Franklin H. Hartman in 1911. A year later it was moved across the street to 29 N. Baldwin. Mr. Hartman came to California on a visit and was impressed by the climate. He moved his family to Sierra Madre and started his pharmacy. Mr. Hartman's son Rudolph served an apprenticeship in his father's store and, in 1916, Rudy graduated from the USC School of Pharmacy and his name was added to the awning outside and the store was officially named "F.H. Hartman & Son, Drugs".

At the time of his father's retirement in 1937, he took over the pharmacy and was active in the business until 1977. Rudy sold the drug store to his competitor in early 1980 and they later sold out to Best Buy Drugs which is still located at 29 N. Baldwin.

An antique steamer trunk and a cast iron stove were donated by Mrs. Patricia De Vault from the estate of Kurt Gunther, M.D., a longtime resident of Sierra Madre. Mrs. De Vault is Dr. Gunther's daughter. Dr. Gunther was born in Koblenz, Germany on September 29, 1913, but lived in Hamburg, Germany where he received his degree to practice Internal Medicine. During World War II, he had to serve in the German Army as a doctor in the Luftwaffe. His personal loyalties were directed to U.S. allies, helping to get medical supplies to the Dutch underground, as well as making sure the key members of the Dutch underground didn't get sent to the German work camps.

After the war, Dr. Gunther came to live in the United States with the help of his British friends. He married Patricia Webb in 1950, lived in Santa Barbara, and practiced medicine at the Cottage Hospital. Dr. Gunther and his family moved to Arcadia in 1951, and then to Sierra Madre in 1977. He practiced medicine in El Monte serving the Greater El Monte Community Hospital, the Greater San Gabriel Community Hospital, and the Las Encinas Mental Hospital.

After the death of his first wife in 1965, Dr. Gunther re-married and his second wife purchased the trunk as an addition to her antique collection. The cast iron stove comes from a home purchased by Dr. Gunther in Vista, CA.

Dane Lenton

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Sierra Madre
91024
Permit No. 3



WANTED: VOLUNTEERS
FOR 2 HOUR BOOTH SHIFTS
Art Fair — May 18 & 19, 2002
Call 626.355.8129 to sign up

Sierra Madre
Historical Preservation Society
Post Office Box 202, Sierra Madre, CA 91025
626.355.8129

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Tel _____

MEMBERSHIP		SPECIFIC DONATION	
_____ \$10.00	Individual	_____	Archival Preservation Partner
_____ 15.00	Family	_____	Matching Grant
_____ 1.00	Student, Junior	_____	Richardson House
_____ 25.00	Contributing Member	_____	Lizzie's Trail Inn
_____ 50.00	Patron		
_____ 100.00	Supporter	\$ _____	Total

Make Check Payable To: S.M.H.P.S.

- VOLUNTEER PROJECTS**
- _____ Wistaria Day (booth 2 hours.)
 - _____ Art Fair (booth 2 hours)
 - _____ Richardson House Docent
(1 Day 4 Times a year)
 - _____ Lizzie's Trail Inn Docent
(1 Day 4 Times a year)
- _____ Home Tour Chairman
 - _____ Chair One House
 - _____ Docent for one room
 - _____ Work Crew
 - _____ Lizzie's
 - _____ Richardson House

Thank You

Muir Thompson delivered a substantial batch of photographs and documents from his mother's collection to Lizzie's Trail Inn. The Wandalee Thompson Collection has already been consulted by four mountain historians since its arrival in January 2002. We are truly grateful for this terrific addition to the Archives.

Thank you to Dick and Elva Johnson for donating a panorama photo of the Sierra Madre School from 1921 and for lending family photos and documents for duplication. Pickett family history will now be preserved in the Archives as well as that of the Bixby family who formerly resided in the Johnson home on West Montecito. The Johnsons generously lent us Lulu Bixby's photo album dating 1901-1903.

Detail from Pickett's Garage receipt, ca. 1950. Elva Pickett Johnson Collection.



New Photographs for the Archives

In January the Big Santa Anita Canyon Cabin Owners Association donated 32 original black and white photographic prints of cabins in the canyon. These original photographs were taken by E.B. Gray during the 1920s and many of the cabins featured in the prints no longer exist. Many thanks to the Association for this wonderful gift to the Archives.

The Smith brothers (Ben, Bruce, and Merrill) returned to Sierra Madre in February 2002 and kindly lent some family photographs to the Archives for duplication. The Smiths moved to Sierra Madre in 1924 and lived in the home at 609 West Central Avenue. A barn and cow came with the property. Dane Lenton, Donald Songster, Richard Trader, and Debbie Henderson met with the Smiths and learned a great deal about Sierra Madre during the 1920s and 1930s.

Smith residence, 609 W. Central Avenue, ca. 1924. Bruce O. Smith Collection.

