



**Sierra Madre
Historical
Preservation
Society Newsletter
Spring 2006**

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Bonita Vista Ranch, ca. 1915.
Photo loaned by Andrea Harkness Barrett.
Sierra Madre Historical Archives (1.2006.1).

Historical Archives:

Thomas Edward Yerxa purchased 40 acres in Sierra Madre in 1906. The property was used to grow citrus fruit and flower seeds which were shipped to Minneapolis to be sold through Yerxa Brothers wholesale and retail grocery business. Around 1911 the Yerxa family came to Sierra Madre and built this beautiful Craftsman home on Lowell Avenue.

A descendant of the Yerxa family has generously loaned the Archives some of her family history materials including photograph albums, letters, and newspaper clippings. These materials provide an excellent insight into the family and their lives in Minneapolis and in Sierra Madre. The Archives is carefully copying many of the items for the local history collection and will return the original items to the lender. In exchange for the loan, Archives staff is offering information on how to preserve these important materials.

The current owners of Bonita Vista Ranch have been awarded Mills Act status. At the time of their application in 2005, there were no photographs of the home in the Archives. Because of the loan, the photographs may prove helpful to the owners by providing clues about the original home so that they may continue their restoration efforts.

Thank you to all our 2005 and 2006 lenders: Nancy Webster Allmond, Andrea Harkness Barrett, Regina Burhenn, Jeanne Frederick, John Holcombe, Julie Morez, Rachel Quick, Virginia Thomas, Jeff Ward, Dr. William White, and Elaine Wille. Your loans can make a big difference!

Upcoming Events:

Art Fair May 20 & 21

Our information table will be back with books, maps, postcards and ephemera. Stop by and purchase a glass of our famous lemonade or an ice cream bar. Or both!

Volunteers are needed to work the table, sell lemonade and ice cream both Saturday and Sunday. It's a great way to meet new people and greet old friends. You would be surprised how many people come to the Art Fair for the famous Historical Society lemonade made with Rangpur limes and lemon juice. Call and leave a message at 355-8129 if you can help.



Sourdough Slim June 16

June 16, 2006

7:30 PM to 9:30 PM

A Night with Sourdough Slim: All Hat and No Cattle

Sierra Madre Elementary School Auditorium

141 W. Highland Avenue

Sierra Madre, CA

Tickets: \$20



Totally retro. Hilariously entertaining. Sourdough Slim's free-wheeling, fast-paced comedy routines, award winning yodeling and ramblings of western lore are set to the loping

rhythm of a repertoire of catchy tunes. A one-man Western extravaganza! Join the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society for an evening of fun and hilarity with the Will Rogers-like Sourdough Slim.

Highlights of Sourdough Slim's career have been performances at Carnegie Hall, The Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, The National Cowboy Poetry Gathering and ABC's Good Morning America. For more information on Sourdough go to www.sourdoughslim.com

Proceeds from this evening will go to the Society's Centennial Book Publication Project. For information on ticket purchases please call 355-3905 or go to www.smhps.org

President's Message

A big thank you to Barry and Leslie Ziff. They graciously opened their lovely historic home, the William Deutsch House-1887, to thirty-five other Landmark Homeowners and guests on a recent April Sunday afternoon. Among those attending were Planning Commissioners John Hutt and Ron Brandley, Council members Tanya Torres and John Buchanan and Shirley Toy of the Los Angeles County Tax Assessors Office. Ms. Toy came specifically to address questions about the Mills Act. The role of the Historical Preservation Society is to share accurate information about the act with the goal of lifting the current moratorium on granting the status. City Hall is still accepting applications for the Mills Act and these will be reviewed. If you have plans to request a Mills Act, the time to do that is now.

Saving the Hawks Adobe- We are currently looking for help on a research project on the Hawks Adobe located on E. Montecito Avenue, once home to the Suman Pottery that produced Petalware. A comprehensive history and timeline of the building needs to be compiled as a first step in saving the building. Any help will be appreciated. Call me at 355-3905 if you are interested in helping on this project.

~Dane Lenton

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Historical Preservation Society

Sierra Madre



SIERRA MADRE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Box 202 Sierra Madre California 91025-0202

(626) 355-8129

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ TEL _____

Membership

- _____ \$15.00 Individual
- _____ 20.00 Family,
- _____ 1.00 Student, Junior
- _____ 25.00 Contributing Member
- _____ 50.00 Patron
- _____ 100.00 Supporting

Specific Donation

- Amount: _____
- _____ Archival Preservation Partner
 - _____ Matching Grant
 - _____ Richardson House
 - _____ Lizzie's Trail Inn
 - Total Enc. _____

Make check payable to S.M.H.P.S.



Donation to the Centennial Book Publication of the *History of Sierra Madre* \$ _____

My gift of: \$ _____ In Memory/Honor Of: _____

Please notify of gift: _____
Name Address City State/Zip

The Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society is a 501(c) (3) organization.
Your contribution is tax deductible within the limits of the law. Thank You.

Please contact me about volunteering at _____

Event Wrap-up:

The Wistaria Festival this year was a chilly reminder that spring was not yet here. We sold ice cream and had a total of 13 ice cream items sold. We did far better on pretzels and churros, possibly these were used as hand warmers. As always, we had our information table with interesting books, stationery and reproductions of old flyers, maps and other ephemera. It is always a treat to see and talk with our members, and others interested in preservation and history, in person. We appreciate all who stopped by.

Membership:

Our Membership Chair, Darlene Traxler, reports that renewals are coming in and she wishes to say thank you to all who have responded. A special thank you to the member who renewed until 2016!

SQUEEZE AND FREEZE!



Wanted: Lemon juice or Rangpur lime juice!
Teresa Chaure is calling on all members and friends to start squeezing lemon and lime juice to make our famous Historical Society

lemonade. Teresa asks that you squeeze the juice and freeze it in plastic zip lock bags until the May 20-May 21 Art Fair weekend. This year Teresa has no auxiliary freezer access and cannot hold onto the juice for us. If you have questions please call Dane at 355-3905.

Save the Date

May 20-21 - Sierra Madre Art Fair

June 16 - Sourdough Slim