



Sierra Madre  
Historical  
Preservation Society  
Newsletter

**Winter 2007**

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**Annual Meeting, January 16, 2007**

**7:00 PM**

**Woman's Club, Essick House  
550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.**



Laron "Terry" Terrell

Local historian Laron "Terry" Terrell will be the special speaker for the Historical Preservation Society's Annual Meeting on January 16. Terry's talk is titled "Trails, Tall Tales and Timber: The Story of the Mountains Once Called Sierra Madre."

The story starts in 1841 with the arrival of trapper/trader Benjamin Davis Wilson to Mexico's California. The saga deals with the more or less true tales of his exploits, adventures, ranchos and family stories. Wilson's workers widened an old Indian trail in 1864 to retrieve timber from the mountain top. This trail to Wilson's Peak would become the crack in the wall of the wilderness for the settlers in the Indiana Community and other towns in the area. The gold rushes, the disasters, the speakeasy, the Revenuers, the horse thieves and cattle rustlers are all part of the story of the mountains. Local history is filled with the shenanigans of the characters that inhabited the mountains and the legends left behind in their dust. Please join us for a wonderful evening of historical anecdotes and slides presented by Mr. Terrell. There is no charge for the evening's program and complimentary refreshments will be served.

**Look for the Historical Society Booths at Local Events**

The Historical Society had a booth at the Sierra Madre Christmas celebration "Dickens Village" held November 18, 2006. Our featured item for sale was hot spiced apple cider. This menu item proved to be a hard sell as the temperatures were hovering around 90 degrees. This didn't stop our members from having a good time talking about the Historical Society and our coming book, selling reproduction copies of the *Dictionary of Sierra Madre*, originally published in 1906.

March 26 is the date for the Wistaria Festival and the Society will be selling publications, broadsides, posters and post cards. May 19 and 20 brings the annual Friends of the Library Art Fair. Along with our regular booth the Society will be selling our famous lemonade at the Art Fair. We hope everyone will squeeze lemons and Rangpur limes for juice again this year. Making the lemonade is a sticky job (thanks, Teresa and crew) but everyone looks forward to this annual treat. Only in Sierra Madre!

**President's Message**

Thanks to the hospitality of Dr. Paul and Louise Neiby, the Historical Society's Book Committee recently had a productive luncheon meeting in the Ramada room of the Neiby's home. The room boasts a massive fireplace built by Gutzon Borglum, Mt. Rushmore sculptor and former Sierra Madre resident. We had as our guest Michele Zack, the author of our forthcoming book. There was much discussion about subject matter, layout and design and use of images in the book. A curriculum for area schools is in the works with help from some local teachers. Michele has completed drafts of four chapters of the proposed eight chapter book. She expects to be finished writing in June or July, 2007.

Jeff Lapides has been chosen to be our book designer. Jeff was the designer on the last two books written by John W. Robinson, Sierra Madre's Old Mount Wilson Trail and Gateways. With more than half of the money raised and completion of the book draft expected this summer, the committee is pleased with our progress, but we realize we still have more work ahead. Help is still needed with research and finding photographs and images to illustrate the manuscript.

More funds are still needed as publishing costs continue to rise. The Society is in the midst of a fundraising letter campaign and we hope you will consider a donation either in your name or **In honor of** or **In memory of** someone you care about. We are committed to making this book something we will all be proud of.

Dane Lenton

**Membership**

It's time for membership renewal, memberships expire December 31, 2006. Many of you have already renewed for the year 2007-2008. Please check your address label on this newsletter, it will show the year your membership expires. Renewals can be made for two, three or more years in advance. Enclosed membership renewal form envelope.

**Season's Greetings from Sierra Madre**

During the month of December, the Library display case will feature holiday cards sent from Sierra Madre. These include hand made cards, photographic cards, and cards designed by artists Margaret Cash, Alfred James Dewey, Catherine Snell Tuttle, and Marvin Weese. Photographs depicting Sierra Madre holiday traditions such as Santa's visit to City Hall and the Noble Jefferson tree are also displayed for the community to enjoy. All materials are from the Sierra Madre Historical Archives Collection. Special thanks to Jeanne Frederick for helping to select materials and install this joyful display.



Sierra Madre

## Historical Preservation Society

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### The Missing Half Century in the Archives



**Violin Spider Monument, which was stolen from Memorial Park**

The Sierra Madre Historical Archives is actively collecting materials, especially photographs, from the 1950s to the present. These historical items are greatly needed to complete our local history information. While at a glance more recent materials may not appear to have historical value, it is imperative that we collect materials from the last half century so that we

may tell the Sierra Madre story more fully and accurately.

We hope to find materials documenting a variety of Sierra Madre events over the years (Rose Float construction, 4th of July Parade, Easter Egg Hunt, Art Fair, Mt. Wilson Trail Race, Huck Finn Fishing Derby, Aqua Fair at the canyon pool, etc.). Images of the effects of the Sierra Madre earthquake (June 28, 1991) are also wanted for the collection. Every day Sierra Madre photos from 1950 to the present are also welcome. We are interested in the image of the kids washing the car in the driveway and of them climbing the citrus trees in your back yard.

When you clean out your garage, attic, or closets, and find Sierra Madre stuff, think of the Archives before you toss. If you would like to donate or lend documents, images, or artifacts from this era, please contact Debbie Henderson at the library at 626.355.7186 or by e-mail at [dhenders@sierramadre.lib.ca.us](mailto:dhenders@sierramadre.lib.ca.us).

#### Errata

Several members have kindly contacted the Archives to report a caption error. The 1961 flood image published in the last newsletter is

an image of the intersection of West Carter and *Auburn*, not Lima. Thanks to everyone who reported the error! We need all the help we can get in the Archives.

#### Shopping a little out of Down Town

Don't forget gift shopping at the Society's museum in Lizzie's Trail Inn. Available items include most of John Robinson's books including his Mount Wilson Trail book, the reproduction of the 1906 Dictionary of Sierra Madre, a perfect hostess gift at \$5, historical note cards and postcards, walking tour maps, reproductions of the Bird's Eye View of Sierra Madre ready for framing in black and white and a beautiful colorized version. **The museum is open from 10 am to noon on Saturdays** and is located at the corner of Mira Monte and Mt. Wilson Trail. After the first of the year construction on the reservoirs behind Lizzie's will begin. Plans are to fence around the Richardson's House and Lizzie's during construction, but in such a way that access to Lizzie's Museum on Saturday will still be possible. Thanks to Jay, Maurice and Stan for singing "Don't Fence Me In" loud enough to be heard at City Hall.