



Sierra Madre  
Historical  
Preservation Society  
Newsletter

**Summer 2009**

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**The UUT and the Library**

One would think that finding a million dollars the city didn't know it had would be good news. It seems, however, that reaction to this discovery threatens Sierra Madre's financial stability. Somehow the issue of what appears to be a onetime windfall has gotten tied in with anger over the UUT and there are calls for its repeal.

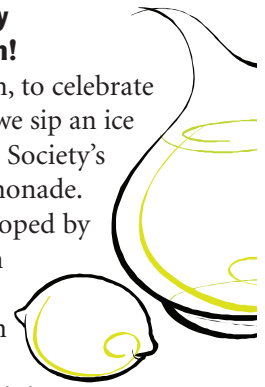
Folks seem to have lost sight of the over all situation that led to the passage of the UUT. Sierra Madre did not have enough money to meet all of our obligations. One of these obligations, the Sierra Madre Public Library, is of particular concern to the Society as we are partners with them in the archives. We share ownership and the collection is housed in the Library. Should the UUT be repealed we would once again be facing the prospect of the closure of the Library and the loss, not only of a home for our archives and the conservation, cataloging, and digitizing that the library does, but the loss to our community of all the services provided by the library.

The library serves everyone, from preschoolers to senior citizens, providing not only printed books and periodicals, but audio books, CD's and more, computer classes, reading programs for young and old, and computer access on PC's in the library and via free wi-fi inside and in the landscaped patio in front of the building. In addition, there are writing workshops, travelers and collectors presentations, lectures, book discussions, poetry readings, and musical performances. This year the Library brought author Ray Bradbury to a nearly full house at the Sierra Madre School auditorium.

Society members need to be informed and involved in this and other issues of direct concern to our organization. Please take the time and effort to participate in the current discussion.

**Famous Historical Society  
Lemonade Available Soon!**

It's that time of year when, to celebrate the warm days of Spring, we sip an ice cold cup of the Historical Society's famous Sierra Madre Lemonade. Made from a recipe developed by Sierra Madre's own Helen Obazawa, our lemonade is a combination of lemon juice and, the "secret" ingredient, Rangpur lime juice.



What are Rangpur limes? According to the Sunset Western Garden Book and an article in the April 2009 Sunset Magazine, Rangpur limes are actually a hybrid acid mandarin, originally from Rangpur, in what is now Bangladesh. The flavor is fruity and bracingly sour, like a mix of tangerines and limes but less acid than a lemon. These flavors make it a rich and interesting base for punches and mixed drinks. The trees are ever bearing and prolific, but heaviest in winter. The fruit is a beautiful orange. Several of us are lucky enough to have Rangpur lime trees in our own backyards, thus allowing us to enjoy Sierra Madre Lemonade throughout the year!

If you're not one of those lucky Sierra Madreans, by all means you must visit the Historical Preservation Society Booth at the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library Art Fair the week-end of May 16 & 17. Look for our red canopy where we will be selling our famous lemonade for only \$3 a glass. For hand-squeezed, locally made "gourmet" lemonade, this is a steal of a deal!

Come by & give it a try – your taste buds won't be sorry! We'll see you there!



**Squeeze and Freeze**

The Society is still accepting donations of frozen fresh lemon juice and Rangpur lime juice for the Art Fair on May 16 & 17. If you have a prolific lemon or a Rangpur lime tree and will squeeze and freeze the juice for the

Society's use, please call Dane at 626-355-3905. Most of this year's rangpur lime juice, our "secret" ingredient, was provided by the Obazawa Family and the Society thanks them for their generous donation.

Sierra Madre

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## Historical Preservation Society

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Lizzie's Trail Inn, ca. 1937.



Maurice Orme at Lizzie's Trail Inn, ca. 2006.

Since about 1890 there has been an eating place at the foot of the Mount Wilson Trail. It was used as lunch stand and a supply store for trail hikers. In 1913 the structure was relocated on the east side of the trail. Lizzie Stoppel McElwain purchased the trailside business on her birthday in 1925. Lizzie's was known all over southern California for its delicious portions of ravioli, coleslaw, and special recipe fried chicken. The restaurant closed in 1948.

In 1970s the Sierra Madre Historical Society began to raise money to complete the restoration of the Trail Inn. In July of 1976 Lizzie's Trail Inn and the Richardson House were dedicated as historical museums. The Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society has continued to maintain these important historic structures. Our volunteers can share some fascinating Sierra Madre stories. In the photo on the right SMHPS volunteer Maurice Orme sweeps the wooden floor at Lizzie's. Maurice remembers Lizzie's as a boy for his mother Elsie used to cook the chicken and make the raviolis.

Although Lizzie's no longer serves its famous chicken and ravioli dinners, it is open on Saturdays from 10 am to noon and you're sure to get a good serving of hospitality. Group tours are available upon request; call Jay Whitcraft at 626-355-5987.

Notice how much the road has risen or how much Lizzie's has sunk.

