

The Echo

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Rose Queen and Court to Open Historical Society's New Exhibit Space on Sunday Dec. 6

"Altadena in the Rose Parade" Launches New Mini-Museum in the Community Center
Bicentennial Altadena Quilt Hung in Custom Box-Frame

"We were stunned and then thrilled when the Tournament of Roses informed us that the 2016 Rose Queen and Court would appear at 3 p.m. Sunday Dec. 6 to help inaugurate the Altadena Historical Society's new exhibit space in the Community Center," said AHS President Jane Brackman.

"All AHS members and the public are invited to attend this landmark event that celebrates our 80th anniversary with the opening of a modern, new showcase for our archives that tell

the story of this interesting community," Brackman said.

"Our first exhibit will be 'Altadena in the Rose Parade,' and will display photos, documents and artifacts of the community's 100-year participation in the internationally-known event."

"The exhibit in AHS



**2015 Queen
Madison Triplett**



**2014 Queen
Ana Marie Acosta**



**1985 Queen
Kristina Smith**

archives and office space, as well as in the lobby, will open at 2 p.m., there will be a program with the Rose Queen and Court in the big Community Room at 3 p.m., and the exhibit will remain open until 5 p.m.," Brackman said.

AHS has added weekend hours through December and January to its regular weekday hours of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays

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PHOTOS ABOVE COURTESY OF THE TOURNAMENT OF ROSES

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President's Letter *by Jane Brackman, Ph.D.*

As 2015 winds down, so do some long-awaited projects.

- Renewed efforts by AHS and Los Angeles County staff have resulted in the installation of the historic Echo Mt. Trail signpost in the Community Center's



The 100 year old directional sign was originally located on the Mt. Lowe railroad right-of-way near Maiden Lane and Mt. Curve Ave.

courtyard - a project 12 years in the making.

Altadenan Jack Stiver found the concrete sign after the Mt. Lowe Railway was discontinued and dismantled, donating it to AHS in 2003 with the wish that it be erected at the new Community Center.

- It's taken 39 years, but finally Altadena Library Friends Bicentennial Quilt is permanently displayed at archives. Thanks to a discount from Aarnun Gallery and Framing in Pasadena, we purchased a UV-protected plexibox to protect the fabric. Completed in 1976, the 6'x6' quilt features 36 blocks each telling one part of Altadena's story. For more, see pages 4-5.

New Volunteers

AHS is fortunate to have eight dedicated volunteers who have

guided the growth of our collection and helped us become a valuable community resource: Laurie Kinsinger, Marlane Forsberg, Mary Gandsey, Rob Hallwachs, Jean Phillips, Nancy Lambrecht, Kathy Hoskins and Minna Adams.

Now we welcome four new volunteers. Pam Wright, Jim Benson, Peter Vasquez and Dina Zambrossa.



Front row, left to right: AHS president Jane Brackman, Mackone Development superintendent Raymond Gonzalez, Community Center staff Lorraine Contreras and Community Center and Senior Center Director Liliana Garcia; back row: county workers

From our Readers

We welcome feedback from our readers, both positive and negative. Here's a letter from a reader with a different point of view.

I read with great interest the article in the Echo as to how the liberal Democratic Club helped change California in the 1940s and 50s. (The Echo, Spring/Summer 2015) I found this article biased and based on a false premise that a group of liberal (Democratic) Altadenans who didn't like the status quo organized to change things. Change things really? I had to respond!

In the 1930s, it was the Republicans that passed California's anti-lynching laws, at a time when the U.S. Congress, dominated by Democrats, refused to do so. Under Franklin Delanor Roosevelt's watch, Japanese were put in concentration camps without due process. Was that the liberal Democratic way?

In the Echo article, the author gave the liberal Democratic Club credit for defeating an attempt by Pasadena to annex parts of Altadena. This is a false narrative. I have lived in Altadena over 50 years on both the west and east side. Pasadena failed in its attempt to annex parts of Altadena not because of the opposition of small group of liberal Democrats consisting of a feisty group of painters, scientists, musicians, intellectuals, writers, etc. It failed because most everybody was against annexation because annexation would have increased taxes on Altadena residents and there was concern that the community would change.

The article forgets that liberal Democrats and their supporters were not always on the right side of history. Hypocrisy can be found in all politicians, even in Altadena.

—from Paul Von Lutzow

Editors Note: The article in question is a summary of documents donated to AHS and was not intended to espouse a particular point of view.

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What's Up at AHS?

New Look/New Hours

AHS archives is taking on a whole new look, thanks to designer Hugo Arteaga and installer Tony Ruffalo of Vital Signs. Our cover story gives you details and a glimpse of what's coming next. Mark your calendars for the opening of our museum space on December 6, and make note that we'll be adding weekend hrs.

New Donations

Several items have come our way recently. Walter Dominguez, who inspired us with his talk about the

Mexican immigrant experience, gave us a DVD of his feature documentary, "Weaving the Past, Journey of Discovery"; Dan McPherson compiled a scrapbook for us about the Altadena Airport; and Meredith

McKenzie donated a history of local equestrian trails. Board member Sara Carnahan contributed a cookbook published in 1930 by the Women's Association of Westminster Presbyterian Church; Roger Burke sent us a notebook of sketches by his aunt, Altadena artist Mildred Scott Townsend (several of her paintings hang in the Bowers Museum); and Charles Hains gave us a Mt. Lowe Railroad track spike found north of Macpherson Parkway. And finally, volunteer Mary



**Dedication Day, Altadena DeMille Field, Sept. 1919
C.B. DeMille, Gloria Swanson, front row 2nd and 4th person.**

Gandsey purchased a new desk for our archives in honor of her mother, Mary Louise Gandsey.

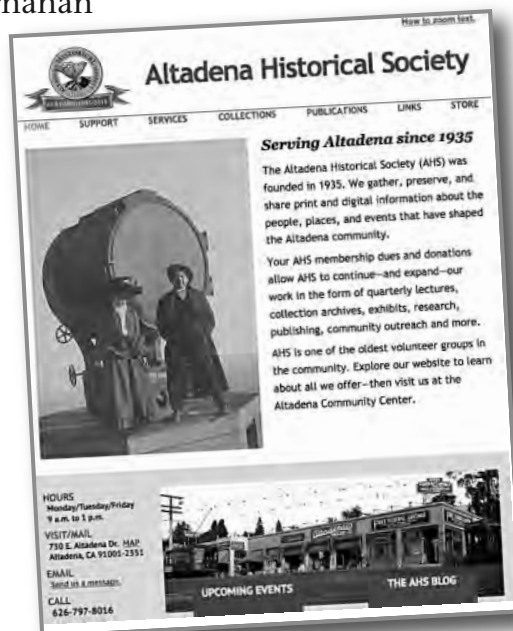
New Storage Space

To make room for these and other pieces of Altadena's past, Mountain View Cemetery has generously provided storage space in the basement of their columbarium and chapel. In August we transferred part of our collection, giving us more room to grow. We're grateful for the opportunity to store documents conveniently nearby.

New Website

Visit our new and improved website at altadenahistoricalociety.org designed by Paula Johnson. We've put lot of thought into making it user friendly. You can find out what we do, what services we offer, what's in our collection, and how to join, donate or volunteer. Plus you can send comments and questions with a simple click of your mouse.

—by Jean Phillips





**Altadena's 1905 Rose Queen
Hallie Woods**

invited is Kristina Smith, the Tournament of Roses' first African-American queen in 1984, who is still an Altadena resident.

The seven-member Royal Court was announced Oct. 5 at Tournament House, and the Queen announcement and coronation will be Oct. 22 at the Pasadena Convention Center.

The Historical Society has had its office and archives in the Community Center at 730 E. Altadena Drive since the facility was built by LA County with the strong support of Supervisor Michael Antonovich in 2003.

"We had long had an assortment of unrelated and unlabeled photos of historic Altadena people and places covering our walls," Brackman said. "We

and Fridays, and by appointment for school classes and other groups.

In addition to the yet-named 2016 Queen and Court, the society has also invited 2015 Queen Madison Triplett, an Altadena resident, and the 2014 Queen Anna Marie Acosta, also of Altadena. Also

decided that in this 80th anniversary year we would create a new, modern exhibit corridor to present semi-annual exhibits about facets of Altadena history."

Brackman said the new gallery space was made possible by the generous donations of AHS members, who responded to challenge/matching grants by several supporters, raising a total of approximately \$10,000 for the project.

With the addition of gallery-grade partitions that face the south wall and tell the Altadena story with script and photos, the south side of the room has been converted into a 50-foot-long corridor for rotating exhibits on facets of the community's often colorful history.

The show will include 12 large vintage, color photos of Altadena floats in gold frames topped by carved roses, a gift to the society from the late Rosa Johnson.



Installation of new exhibit space

Bicentennial Quilt Hung

A major, permanent installation has been made on the west wall of AHS with the framing and hanging of the 1976 U.S. Bicentennial quilt depicting 36 Altadena scenes, assembled and stitched by members of Friends of the Altadena Library.

"This in itself is a major addition to our offices," Brackman said, "and is already fascinating our visitors and staff. You just have to admire the beauty and craftsmanship while your eyes move over the 36 scenes."

The large, colorful quilt has been hung in a custom-made UV-Ray protected 80"x80" box-frame.

Marcia Nunnery who owns Aarnun Gallery Fine Picture Framing in Pasadena, generously gave AHS a \$1,605 reduction in price, which then came to \$2,891.

Quilt scenes include the Zane Grey mansion, the Christian Science Church, Professor Lowe's hot-air balloon, the Altadena Library and the Mt. Lowe Observatory.

Also the red-brick Pacific Electric power plant on Lake Avenue, the McNally house, a California poppy, a Pacific red car, and Christmas Tree Lane.

The four-month-long project began in early 1976, with a public invitation to those with



**McNally House
by Geri Gauthier**

“some experience with needle and thread” to join an “early American craft project” at the library. Weekly meetings covered design, applique and other needlework techniques; layout and piecing into strips; quilting; and binding and finishing.

By April the quilt was far-enough along that they held an “old-fashioned quilting bee” in the library, where they worked around a large



**Sara Carnahan and Mary Smeritschnig
admiring the new quilt installation.**

(Actually, it was rolled along the route in a wheeled, vertical frame.)

Quilters were Janet Bockus, Jan Reiz, Ann Craig, Barbara Swanson, Mildred Hamilton, Mia Parry, Betty Caughlin, Lois Greenjack, Marge Nichols, Cathy Andrews, Lynda Green, Carmonde Cochran, Peggy Spear, Mildred Markmann; Phyllis Lewis, Jamie Reiz, Marlene Wilson, Irene Struthers, Mary Dalton [now Smeritschnig], Betty Brill, Joan Turner, Jean Miller, Geri Gauthier, Janda Ferris, Cynthia Null, Jennie Brown, Patricia Marks, Betty Smith and Kathy Peterson.



**Christmas Tree Lane
by Mildred Markmann**

table, dressed in colonial-era garb, for newspaper photographers.

Lifelong Altadenan Ninarose Mayer has pledged \$1400 in matching funds for the quilt installation if we can raise the other half from the community. So far we have \$900. Please consider joining other donors to reach our goal.

The completed quilt was proudly carried by its creators in Altadena's May 8 Bicentennial Old Fashioned Days parade.

— by Rob Hallwachs

Historical Vignettes from Sara Noble Ives' 1938 "Altadena" Book



Most of Ives' research is primary source material, meaning she interviewed local residents who had actually witnessed the events she referenced in her book.

relics which have been found in ploughing the land. There was an old Indian trail leading up from Millard Cañon to the mesa, traces of which can still be discerned.

change of climate and he came to Los Angeles. As an outdoor life was imperative, he came to Altadena in 1907. About 1910, aided by Mr. A.T. Welles, he established a nursery known as West India Gardens, and from then on, he and his sons played an important part in the

Las Casitas

"The land known as Las Casitas is a small shelf or plateau lying between the Arroyo Seco and Millard Cañon at their confluence. Before the coming of the white man the whole mesa was timbered with great live oak trees. This oak grove used to be a pow-wow meeting ground for the Indians, and a place where the finest acorns were gathered for their food. This accounts for the Indian



The trees were gradually cut down and sold in Los Angeles for beams in building houses and for firewood."

Animal Life

"The larger animals that once roamed through the chaparral of Altadena lands, or in the canons and on the mountains of the San Gabriel Timberland Reserve (now Angeles Forest), have mostly disappeared. The last Grizzly was killed in 1912; the brown bear with its inconvenient taste for honey, was disposed of by the early settlers; the mountain lion, bob-cat, and coyote, with a bounty on their heads, have gone. Deer, once plentiful, faced extinction until protected by the law."



introduction of sub-tropical fruits into California.

Visioning the possibilities of date-growing in Southern California, Mr. and Mrs. Popenoe taught their son Paul to speak Arabic, and in 1911-1912-1913, Paul Popenoe, aided by his brother, Dr. Wilson Popenoe, traveled to Arabia, Iraq, Persia and North Africa, and succeeded in bringing back sixteen thousand rare date palms. These were planted in the Coachella Valley near Thermal, and are the parents of much of the stock in that region."

Popenoe

"To Mr. Frederick O. Popenoe is ascribed the honor of introducing into California, on a commercial basis, the avocado and the date. He was born April 1, 1863, at Towanda, Illinois. In 1904 his health failed, necessitating a



Altadena Hospital

"In 1924 Dr. John F. Bremerton came to Pasadena from New York state. He was a practicing physician and graduate of Des

Moines, Iowa Osteopathic College. He saw need in Altadena for a small local hospital and decided to build one.

With his own independent funds and without help from contributions, he organized a private establishment, called the Altadena Hospital. In 1927 the main building was erected on Lake Avenue, between Boston Street and Morada Place, with accommodations for fourteen patients. The laboratory and X-ray department were added later. The cost of the whole was about \$32,000."

Post Office

"Until 1895 there was no post office in Altadena. Residents west of Lake Avenue went to Pasadena for their mail, and Lamanda Park was the delivery station for the dwellers east. In 1895 an independent post office was installed in a corner of the little Altadena Railway station at Lake Avenue. Mail was brought up by train twice a day."

Fire Station

"For thirty-seven years of her existence Altadena had no fire protection of her own. With Pasadena's equipment three miles away, and country roads,

much help could not be expected. The building of the fire house at Lincoln Avenue and Harriet Street, was begun May 7, 1928, and was completed in July."

Marengo Avenue

"First opened from the south by B.D. Wilson. H.D. Bacon owned the Marengo ranch at the southern end of the street; the name was taken from one of Napoleon's great battlefields in northern Italy, where on June 14, 1800, the Austrians were defeated. On a small map made in 1883 there is no trace of this street above Woodbury Road."

Lincoln Avenue

"Lincoln Avenue was originally a wagon road leading down from the Giddings ranch and Millard Cañon to North Pasadena. Its southern limit in 1883 was Dakota Street (now Howard). Later it was extended to Hammond Street. After Fair Oaks Avenue was straightened, in 1886, the abandoned portion above Walnut Street was renamed Lincoln Avenue. A map made in 1895 shows this part of Lincoln Avenue running northwest from



MARENGO 1800

Fair Oaks and Walnut to Hammond Street."

Lake Avenue

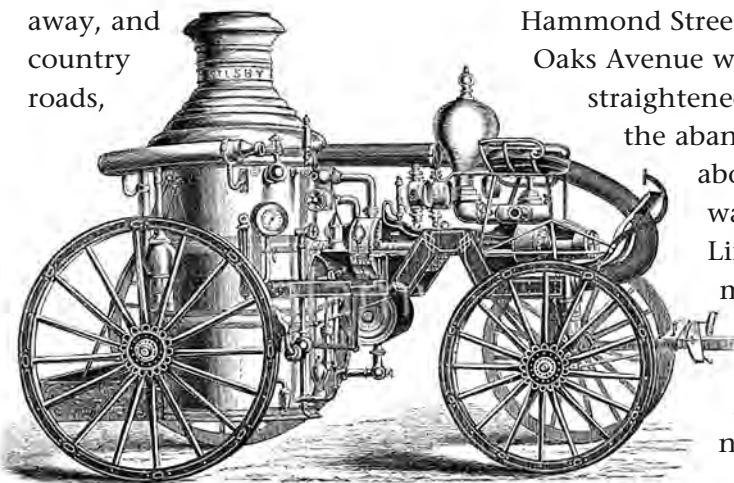
"Originally named Lake Vineyard Avenue by B.D. Wilson, because it led from his property of that name, and because of the old Mission lake that was partly on his place. Afterwards the name was shortened to Lake Avenue. On a map of 1883, North Lake Avenue is depicted as extending to about New York avenue. In Boom times it was opened up as a wagon road to Las Flores Canon, and an effort was made to call this new part Prospect Avenue.

In the past three or four years a futile attempt has been made to change the name to Atlantic Boulevard."

Sheriff's Station

"Until 1927 Altadena's only policing services was handled by the constable's office in Pasadena. One or two deputies were assigned for this duty, and called when needed. On August 1, 1927, a county unit of the sheriff's office was installed, known as Altadena Sheriff's Station Number 7."

—Compiled by Paula Wegner



Book Notes

Altadena Historical Society has a reference library (non-lending) available for your browsing, research and entertainment. You're welcome to visit, read, ask questions and seek help from our expert volunteer staff. Stop in and take a look.

Included here are reviews of a few of the books on our shelves, including photographs from the books.

"Date Growing in Old and New Worlds" by Paul B. Popenoe, Geo. Rice & Sons....1913

Paul Popenoe grew up in a family of horticulture. His father developed West India Gardens, an avocado and date-growing industry in early Altadena.

As a young man, Paul must also have had a love of travel, since he undertook a research venture in Africa, Arabia, Persia and Iran. He hired a camel and rode for hundreds of miles, gathering horticulture tips to found a California date-growing business.

Along the way (as travelers do,) he learned many interesting facts. For example, according to the Quran, the first date tree sprang up, fully in fruit, from the buried hair and nail clippings of Adam himself. Satan, seeing this benevolence, wept bitter tears, which created the sharp spines on date fronds.

Thanks to the author, we learn that failure of trees to thrive is due to the temperament of the planter. Planting must not be done by "a mean person or one

with a bad mouth and melancholy humor."

Furthermore, one must "not simulate joy as the seed will see through such a hollow mockery at once and refuse to germinate.

Also, "your enemies might tie a crab leg (on a tree) to make fruit fall." If this happens, you must "put a sheep skull on a pole, as an antidote, or tie various Quranic verses onto the fronds."

Popenoe provides volumes



One way to prevent fruit fall.

of data on various methods of cultivation, pollination, fertilization and benefits of the many varieties of dates.

He also mentions tips for eating dates with cucumber, butter, buffalo cream, camel milk or (in India) with onions. The use of male blossoms in a salad with lemon juice is recommended as an aphrodisiac.

Medicinally, dates can cure back pain, "invigorate the loins," cure foul mouth and thin thick blood. Make them into a beverage and wash the ventral cavity of a mummy or....rid your hen coop of lice. Europeans used them to cure tuberculosis.

All these benefits explain why, in 1913, more date stock was

imported than in the entire history of the U.S. Arizona, New Mexico and California developed many growing techniques, including mesquite leaf mold, camel manure and even a "tea" made of fallen dates.

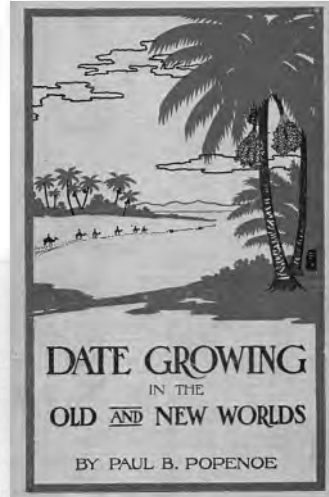
If you're interested in the horticulture of a rapidly expanding

Southwest, this book will enlighten and entertain you.

I can't close without one more fact...it was said that bananas can be grown from date seeds introduced into a colocasia root. However, "You must be careful not to let the root see what you're doing, or it won't succeed." — *by Pam Wright*

"Zane Grey: The Man and His Work. An Autobiographical Sketch, Critical Appreciation and Bibliography," 1928.

This slim volume, published in 1928, is a real find for anyone curious about Zane Grey, his life and writing, or the history of Altadena. Zane Grey lived in a beautiful Pueblo Revival house in Altadena for 19 years, from 1920 until his death in 1939,





“Monument Valley Where the Purple Sage Blooms”

to our Zane Grey first Western romance, which was published to great success. Despite that, he had great difficulty selling his second book, “Riders of the Purple

Sage.” He refused to give up, found another publisher, and the rest is history. The volume includes another essay by Grey, “What the West Means to Me,” as well as five short and very appreciative scholarly articles which expound on the huge popularity of Grey’s works in his time. He was a phenomenon. He was the most popular American writer in both the U.S. and Europe. A number of vintage photographs are also included. For anyone interested in writing or the West, particularly that part of the West where Zane Grey chose to settle with his family, this book is a real find.

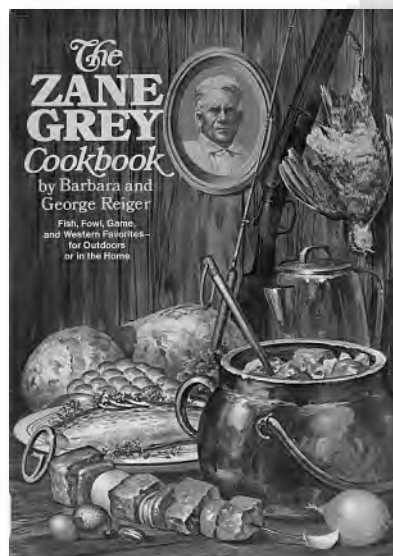
— *by Nancy Lambrecht*

while he wrote many of the best-selling Western classics for which he is known. He was one of the earliest and best boosters of Altadena, and is often quoted: “I have found in Altadena all of those qualities that make life worth living.”

This book has two short articles written by Zane Grey. “My Own Life” recounts Grey’s early unsuccessful struggles to make a living as a writer (instead of a dentist) and his first trip West to the Grand Canyon, which turned the tide for him. “That wild, lonely, purple land of sage and rock took possession of me.” He returned to his wife and young son in the east and wrote his



Zane Grey and Family in Altadena



inspired by Grey’s enviable life as a hunter and fisherman. Seafood recipes include steelhead trout and bluefish as well as “South Sea Specialties” from his extended fishing trips to Tahiti. Scattered throughout are anecdotes of Grey’s legendary life.

— *by Nancy Lambrecht*

“The Zane Grey Cookbook” by Barbara and George Reiger, 1976.

This is another recent addition



— *by Nancy Lambrecht*

LA County Historic Preservation Ordinance 30+ Years in the Making

I doubted I would ever see the day that Los Angeles County would adopt an historic preservation ordinance for its unincorporated areas—but that day has arrived. As of Oct. 1, the Department of Regional Planning will accept nomination applications to designate landmarks and historic districts in Altadena. The adopted ordinance, nomination forms, instructions, and flow charts of the process can be viewed and downloaded from: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/preservation>

When I was first Chairman of Altadena Heritage in 1985, our Board began discussing the possibility of some kind of official recognition and protection of the community's architectural and historical resources. We were amazed at the number of significant buildings and landscapes that were being discovered, thanks to a resources survey and the home tours we were undertaking at the time. Our proposal of an historic preservation overlay zone for



Scripps Hall was saved from the wrecking ball in 1979 by concerned Altadena preservationists. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1999 and today serves as the Waldorf School.

Altadena met with some interest from the Town Council and from Supervisor Antonovich's office. Two attorneys on our Board drafted up some legal wording and we met several times with the Supervisor's aides and representatives of Regional Planning. But we got hung up on just who would formulate and enforce the zoning process, since Regional Planning claimed they didn't have enough staff to do it.

As time went by, those of us on the Heritage Board who were the most enthusiastic supporters eventually moved out of town or on to other things and the idea languished. Altadena Heritage

turned its attention to conservation and cultural-type programming, with the result that architectural historic preservation was no longer its primary goal.

It is still too early to tell how effective the County's ordinance will be and how staff will interpret such things as selection criteria, property-rights issues, and historical contexts, some of which

will probably be unique to Altadena. But it's a start. I know the Altadena Historical Society is committed to tracking the ordinance to see how it is working out and it is my hope that Altadena Heritage will also become as enthusiastically involved as it was thirty years ago.— *by Tim Gregory*

Tim Gregory, AKA The Building Biographer, was the founding chair of Altadena Heritage in 1985 and served in that capacity until 1990. A board member of Altadena Historical Society for many years, he is currently serving on the archives committee as an advisor.

Altadena Historical or Altadena Heritage?

Are you confused about the differences between Altadena Historical Society and Altadena Heritage? If so, you're not alone. It's a question we're frequently asked. Although both charities are volunteer-based non-profit organizations, we have very different missions. Whereas Heritage is an advocacy organization dedicated to protecting, preserving and raising awareness of Altadena's rich cultural, architectural, and natural heritage, Historical Society serves more as a museum. We gather, preserve, and make available information about the people, places and events that have shaped the community in the past. Historical societies like AHS collect images, documents, artifacts, memories and traditions, and also serve as public research facilities. Both organizations serve Altadena in important but different ways. We hope you will consider joining both.

FREE

Mount Wilson Observatory Under the Lens At Altadena Historical Society Program

Christopher Purcell Presents Free Program Monday, October 26

The history of the world-famous Mount Wilson Observatory will be given at 7:30 p.m. Monday Oct. 26 at the Altadena Historical Society by retired aerospace engineer Christopher Purcell, from the Mount Wilson Institute.

The program will be at the Altadena Community Center, 730 E. Altadena Drive, and is free and open to the public.

Founded by astronomer George Ellery Hale in 1904 with funding by the Carnegie Institution, the celestial observatory is located on top of 5,710-foot-high Mount Wilson, above Altadena in the San Gabriel Mountains.

It was at the Mount Wilson Observatory that famous astronomer Edwin Hubble was able to



prove that the universe extends beyond the Milky Way Galaxy, and to the subsequent view that the universe is actually expanding.

Chris Purcell spent nearly 40 years in the aerospace industry, much of it related to spacecraft launch, trajectory analysis, and

orbital control. He has a bachelor's degree in astrophysics from UCLA and a master's degree in aerospace engineering from USC.

He is a docent with the Mount Wilson Observatory, the non-profit organization that runs the observatory. His talk will be accompanied by slides, and be followed by a question-and-answer session.

AHS Exhibits Now On View

New AHS Exhibit at Webster's Community Pharmacy Features Mountain View Mausoleum

The glorious architecture and artwork of the Mountain View Mausoleum are celebrated in a new AHS photography exhibit in the back hall gallery at Webster's Community Pharmacy.

The one-dozen color photos of the landmark are part of a continuing cooperative program by AHS and Webster's to present Altadena's colorful history in a popular, accessible location.

The enlarged photos show the exterior and interior of the mausoleum, which is located at 2300 N. Marengo Ave., three blocks north of Woodbury Road.

The exhibit continues through November 30. Don't miss it!

Altadena Then and Now

This fascinating look at familiar places contrasts Altadena today with Altadena in the 1970s & 80s. Photographs taken by longtime Altadenan Leon Ricks are juxtaposed with photos of the same location today, taken by Rod Holcomb. We've moved this exhibit from Webster's Community Pharmacy to the lobby of the Community Center (730 E. Altadena Drive). If you missed your chance to see it or if you'd like to take a second look, please stop by.



Inside Mountain View Mausoleum



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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VISIT OUR NEW BLOG!
altadenahistoricalsociety.blogspot.com

Altadena Historical Society (AHS), a non-profit organization, was founded to gather, preserve, and make available information about the people, places and events that have shaped the community in the past. The Altadena Historical Society is proud of its history. Founded in 1935, we are one of the oldest volunteer organizations in the community.

Please join or renew today!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

_____ \$25 Membership

_____ \$50 Premium Membership (includes poppy seeds and vintage postcard of Altadena poppy fields)

You can now join online <http://www.altadenahistoricalsociety.org/membership.htm>