



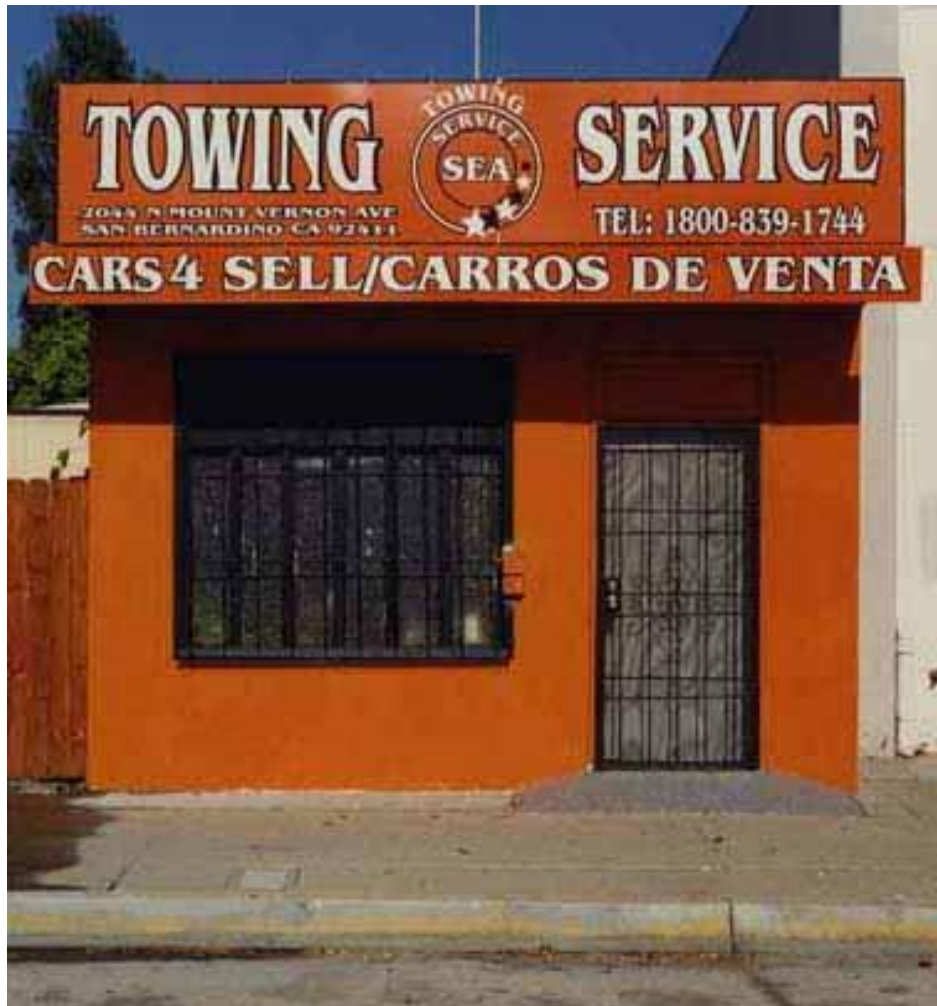
City of San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society P.O. Box 875, San Bernardino, CA 92402

LIBRARY NEWS November 2007

By Richard D. Thompson, Librarian

Tom McGovern's Photography Class at Cal State

This past summer Cal State San Bernardino Professor Thomas McGovern contacted the Historical and Pioneer Society concerning a program he had in mind for an autumn class he was planning. The idea was to have his students photograph historic places of San Bernardino and, at the end of the quarter, prepare a portfolio of their photos and give them to the Society. Our part was to write a letter describing the program, and to encourage property owners to cooperate in the photography of their historic properties. We drove around town and identified some possible sites. The professor gave us a CD with some of the photographs he had taken, which he titled "Hand Painted Signs and Murals of Old San Bernardino." Here are a couple of examples:



Cars 4 Sell is just a great photo. The sign is wider than the tiny little building. From a percentage standpoint, this had to have been a major investment for the business owner. Also, I wonder if that wheelchair ramp meets handicap standards and if it has been OSHA approved? Of course the sign makes explicit the dark side of the business.

Below is an example of adding some nice artwork to an otherwise drab building side:



On September 26th, students from Professor McGovern's class met with Steve Shaw, Tom Marek, SB City Parks Project Manager Dan Ustation (Pioneer Cemetery is managed by the Parks Dept.), and myself. Steve had written a letter, in English and Spanish, explaining the program, who was involved, and what our joint goals are. Each student is to have a copy of this letter so that if they were approached during fieldwork, a written explanation could be shown to interested parties. Professor McGovern told of some run-ins he has had with landowners, businessmen, police, etc., who were dubious about the motives of someone crawling about a property while taking copious photographs.

Tom Marek, in charge of IT for the City of SB, is a real fan of presenting history with the use of photographs, maps and visuals, and he gave the professor some booklets showing historic sites of San Bernardino. He also presented him with a copy of the Donaldson Report. I have described this report in a previous *Library News*, but briefly, Donaldson was an architect hired by the City in about 1990 to survey the historic districts of the city, and make recommendations as to which buildings might be considered historically important. Part of the report contained certain historic districts such as the 17th and 18th Street residential area just west of SB High School, the Mission Revival architecture of the 1920s north of Marshall Boulevard, the railroad depot, industrial and commercial areas, as well as the older downtown sections.

We'll have to wait ten weeks to see what the students come up with, but this program has great promise and is a serendipitous project by this resourceful professor.

New York Times is Now Searchable

The New York *Times* recently opened its archives and made them searchable on line. The newspaper was launched in 1851, and stories from that year clear up until 1927 can be downloaded for free. Later articles can be copied for a fee (I think \$3.95 in most cases). This is a pretty remarkable site, and there are many stories about our local area, even though we are far removed from the island of Manhattan. A search for San Bernardino comes up with 2692 hits. This link takes you to an article that has to do with the aftermath of the Willie Boy manhunt, and it does not appear in any book that I have read on the subject:

<http://query.nytimes.com/mem/archive-free/pdf?res=9A0DE4DF1F39E333A25755C1A96F9C946196D6CF>

Acquisitions:

This little creamer has a very nice picture of San Bernardino's Carnegie Library. It came up on eBay recently, and it was decided that the Historical and Pioneer Society should have it so that everyone could view it. There was competition for the creamer, but we won the bid, and not cheaply. The down side of having this where we can see it all the time is that it reminds us of what short-sighted community leaders did in the 1950s when they allowed, even pushed for, the destruction of the library. Earthquakes, phooey!! Colton still has their Carnegie, and what a great edifice it is, although not as good as San Bernardino's was. Ours would be over 100 years old had city fathers spent a little money to reinforce it.



Another item we acquired via eBay is an original photograph of the 1917 Cajon Pass Monument dedication. This also turned out to be pricey. We do have several scans of the dedication ceremony in the computer, but there is nothing like having an original. Since this monument was probably the most significant one built and dedicated by the Pioneer Society, we felt we should have this picture.



Cajon Pass Monument Dedication 1917

This photograph has some writing on the back, part of which identifies the man standing with his back to the camera, and whose hat is partially blocking out the lower part of the plaque. The man is Silas S. Stanley, who was Byron Waters' chauffeur at about this time. John Brown, Louisa Brown Waters' brother, is also identified (at the right, hatless). These references to the Waters family make it likely that the source of this photo was somebody in that family.

Book acquisitions:

The family of Gerald A. Smith has been quite generous in recent months in providing a quantity of artifacts for our library and museum. Pottery and facsimile petroglyphs created by Smith himself have graced our display cases for many months, and about two or three months ago they gave us 35 sets of manos and metates, although a couple of manos are missing. I enjoy the differing types of rock used in these tools, many of which are matching. Kind of like expensive cookware. A month ago we received a few cartons of books. These had been donated to Redland's Smiley Library first, so there were no rarities, but there were a couple of books which were missing from our local collection:

Moore, William G. *Redlands Yesterdays: A Photo Album...1870-1920*. Moore Historical Foundation, Redlands, 1983. This is the most desirable book in the Moore Foundation series and is a valuable addition to our collection. Donated by the Smith family.

Carter, Kate B., *Our Pioneer Heritage, Vol. 4, Daughters of Utah Pioneers*, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1961. I think of this as the "San Bernardino" volume, even though only 143 of 582 pages are entirely devoted to our town. Donated by the Smith family.

Gerald Smith was a school principal in San Bernardino, and ultimately the superintendent for the Bloomington School District. There are several books pertaining to the administration of that district. There were also two copies of his college thesis: Smith, Gerald A. *A History of the County School Administration of San Bernardino*. 1954. I've read through portions of this work and find it useful and accurate. It's good to have a couple of extra copies for our Library.

Ord, Edward O. C. *The City of the Angels and the City of the Saints*. Huntington Library, San Marino, 1978. Steve Shaw picked up a copy of this book for the library. It is clothbound in dust jacket, both book and wrapper are in fine condition, and, because there were only 200 copies printed of the hardbound edition, it is eagerly sought by collectors. We already had the soft cover version.

Society acquisitions include some artifacts from the Waters family. James W. Waters was quite an interesting individual. He spent his youth and middle age as a Rocky Mountain fur trapper: a Mountain Man. He was one of the charter members of the Pioneer Society of San Bernardino and, in fact, was a charter vice-president. When he came to San Bernardino he settled down, married and had a family, and dealt in real estate. He bought and sold property, subdivided tracts in the downtown area of San Bernardino, and built business blocks. He also built the first opera house in Southern California:

http://www.pe.com/localnews/sbcounty/stories/PE_News_Local_C_opera25.3f59b94.html

Donaldson Report Searchable

Tom Marek has come up with the Rosetta Stone for the Donaldson Report (*Historic Resources Reconnaissance Survey*). This report was published in 1991 and consists of photographs of 7,700 historic San Bernardino buildings and places. According to the California Room staff, the report is well known to historians and has been in demand since its publication. However, it has several drawbacks. One problem is that properties were located by Assessor's Parcel Number instead of by street address. The street addresses were there, but the listing was in numerical order by APN so that the addresses were scattered about and hard to find. The information existed on old-style floppy disks, but thanks to Tom's talented techs, we now have a modern CD where information can be searched by address, by architectural style, by historic district, or by year of construction, plus there are 163 "Historically Significant Places" identified and searchable by name (the Colliver House, e.g.).



One thing we found out from the new disk is the number of buildings and sites located in the report. Nobody has ever bothered to count them up before. Tom took the information and had them plotted on a map of San Bernardino. Plotted in green are all 7,700 sites, and in red are plotted the 163 “Significant” sites. Historians now have a resource that has been significantly improved to the point that information can be readily accessed. Great work Tom! I should add that Steve Shaw is beavering away at scanning the photos, and he estimates he is about 10% complete. Not bad considering he has just recently completed a new Arcadia publication, *Postcards of San Bernardino*.

San Bernardino in 1910

One other thing Tom has done is to place my August *Library News* article entitled “San Bernardino in 1810” on the History Index web page. It can be found here:

http://www.ci.san-bernardino.ca.us/about/history/san_bernardino_in_1810.asp

Tom and his crew found some nice graphics, which is hard to do for 1810.

Many of the local historians of the last 25 years have gotten involved in the minutia of the story and have neglected to lay out the basic facts. There was an expedition from San Gabriel to San Bernardino in 1810 – in fact there were four expeditions. During one of these, San Bernardino (Guachama) was scouted as a possible site for an inland mission, with the result that the location was recommended to Father Estevan Tapis as a suitable spot. Father Tapis replied that the time was not right, that Indian trouble was too great. One author, M. Lerch, believes that the first expedition led some of the Indians (the leaders who would lose their prestigious standing in the community) to resist Spanish intrusion, and this may be what caused the problems later in the year. The photo below comes from the Beattie collection, and shows a brush *enramada*, which he believes is similar to what probably was built on that first expedition. This photo was taken at Santa Ynez some 80 or 90 years later (1890-1900). Note the altar in the background.

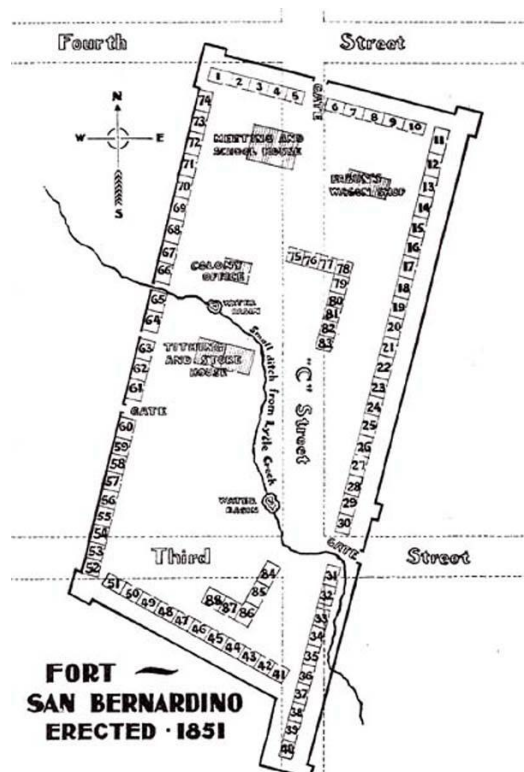


Brush Enramada With Altar in Back

Report on the October 11th “San Bernardino Underground Tour”

Well, were we ever spoiled by the County Flood Control folks! Not just one but four officials showed up to squire us about, with the chief spokesman being Annesley Ignatius, Assistant Director of Operations for San Bernardino County’s Public Works, and chief assistant to Director Vana Olson. This is one of the most difficult jobs in the county. I don’t know Annesley on a personal level, but I was well acquainted with one of his predecessors, Fred Contaoi. When the county was sued, which was and probably still is a very common occurrence, Contaoi was the one who had to go sit in court and fend off the lawyers who were lined up around the block looking for largesse from the county taxpayer. I think he was of Filipino ancestry, but he had the look of Gary Cooper at High Noon – tall and lanky, with the steely eyes and determined gait. Contaoi didn’t put up with any nonsense from anybody. And he was one of the most knowledgeable employees around. Annesley Ignatius has that same look. The contribution of the other three officials also is appreciated. If you add in the two bus drivers, that means six people were overseeing the entertainment and education of roughly two-dozen members and guests of the SB Historical and Pioneer Society. The Flood Control office supplied the tour members with a large (11 x 17) color map (see below) and a separate program on the history of Flood Control in San Bernardino. The Historical and Pioneer Society also gave three handouts: a 50-page autobiography of Jose Del Carmen Lugo as printed by the Historical Society of Southern California, a four-page history of the stockade built in 1852, and a three-page history of Town Creek written by Arda Haenzel.

Part of the initial presentation included a video showing a virtual trip down the Warm Creek Bypass facility. The county uses robot cameras for underground inspections, and the little vehicle traveled down this large pipe, rotating its camera around and up and down the sides of the pipe, looking for cracks and other anomalies. The video showed about six inches of water racing down the conduit, making it seem as though we ourselves were in the pipe in the midst of a small storm. When we left the Heritage House we stopped off for a while at Meadowbrook Park and then visited Warm Creek Bypass. As we stood at the outflow adjacent to the Orange Show grounds, the video was fresh enough in everybody’s mind for us to fully appreciate the robot technology.



Meadowbrook Park is at the heart of both Lugo's Rancho San Bernardino and of the Mormon Colony, which began there in 1851. This is the birthplace of both the ranch and the future city of San Bernardino. Town Creek, Garner's Springs and Warm Creek all converged to make this a desirable spot for pioneers. The park is where the Chemehuevi Indians wintered, and where the Cahuillas summered during the city's early period. The two tribes, which have always been closely allied, rotated with each other. After a terrible smallpox outbreak in the mid-1860s, a great number of the Indians left, and the vacuum was taken up by the Chinese – San Bernardino's Chinatown. At the corner of Third and Arrowhead, Bishop Crosby built the first inn, located on the southeast corner and within the fort itself. Several other hostelrys succeeded at this location, including one of the most famous pioneer hotels, that of Augustus Starke. As we walked around the park, signs placed by the City Parks Department warned us that the waters were very hot: 140 degrees Fahrenheit according to the signs.

CalTrans tore down part of Chinatown in 1923 or thereabouts, and built their headquarters there. This was in mid-block, and later they expanded up to where Starke's Hotel had been. The importance of this is that when the state moved their headquarters a few years ago, the subsequent environmental work called for archaeological investigation of the old site. Nothing was found relative to the Indians, but the Chinese left a lot of artifacts that were recovered. Archaeologists also found cow bones which, upon investigation, proved to be of cattle consistent with those of Mexican cattle of the 1840 period. They had found the *matanza* grounds, or slaughter fields, of the rancho headquarters located just across the street at the Court House grounds. I remember being impressed when I read about this, and I still am. Well, as you can imagine, there was just too much to cram into a few minutes' stop at the park. I blurted out most of the major historical points, but at the end I knew I was leaving something important out, and now I know it was the *matanza* story. Imagine, there is something left of Lugo's famous ranch found some 160 years later.

After Meadowbrook and Warm Creek, we traveled around to Lytle Creek, a huge channel capable of handling 88,000 cubic feet per second of flow during a storm. When I took a pre-tour trip with the bus drivers, we drove up this channel, and I thought, "This is great. This is what I want the tour members to see." From near the confluence with the Santa Ana River up to the Gate House is about three miles, and the drive is through some of the busiest parts of town: under the 215 freeway, through the Inland Center Mall, and on up to Fifth Street. Here's where you felt the solitude of being below the hurly-burly of the city. Fifteen, maybe twenty feet below the surface, there is very little noise and just the blue sky above. On the pre-tour I stuck my head out the window as we glided along, and thought, "This is going to make it all worthwhile to the tour participants."

Unfortunately there was a snag. At the end of the channel was a steep ramp that converged flows from the huge spreading grounds into the channel, and this ramp descended at about a 2:1 slope. It was okay for cars, although a little unsettling, but when the county got the buses, they wisely decided not to take these high-centered and unwieldy vehicles up such a steep slope. Instead, we drove about a mile up the channel, and turned around and came back and drove on surface streets instead. It was a big disappointment for me.

Lytle Creek Channel is a vertical walled concrete structure built by the Army Corps of Engineers in the 1940s. It handles all of the drainage from Lytle and Cajon Creeks, whose tributaries begin many miles up on the snowy peaks of the San Gabriel Mountains (and a portion of the San Bernardinos). At some point the Corps became aware of the inadequacy of the channel, or perhaps it was part of the plan, but in either case another channel was necessary to handle these flood flows, and in the 1970s the east branch of Lytle Creek was built. A large spreading grounds is located above the entrances to these channels, which are separated by just a few yards, where the flood waters are allowed to gather and lose most of the velocity built up from coursing down the steep mountainsides. Naturally it was beneficial to be able to direct the flows into one channel or another, and the answer to the problem was to build an enormous

metal gate at the entrance to the original concrete channel. This was the most impressive structure on our tour, and one which very few non-flood control people are aware of. The gate is not vertical, but is built circular, a half circle actually, with monstrous steel beams behind it which can raise and lower it during the raging floods. This gate must be about 20 feet high, and just moving it in the dry season, without the terrible force of storm waters, is probably enough to make the lights dim throughout that portion of the city. We were told that the gate had to be raised and lowered monthly but we didn't get a demonstration.

Our last few stops were in the east end of town. We checked sites where the rapidly flowing mountain tributaries were directed into stilling basins and then into channels, just as we had seen at Lytle Creek, but without the huge gate. On our return to the Heritage House, the tour members seemed to have enjoyed themselves. Many came up and said they had a good time and learned a lot. All in all, a successful venture.

