



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

LIBRARY NEWS JANUARY 2008

By Richard D. Thompson, Librarian

“Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear” January Tour: Base Line and E Street

I’m thinking of using the above introduction from the Lone Ranger’s radio and television series as a heading for our historic tours of San Bernardino section here in the Library News. This might not last too long because it is so hokey that it probably won’t wear well. Any suggestions for an alternative heading?

Most people in San Bernardino remember – or at least have heard of – Sage’s Complete Market at the northwest corner of Base Line and E Streets. Milton Sage was quite the innovator. His store grew from a farmer’s market type store in the 1930s to a modern “big box” store in the 1940s and 50s – a store type that we are all familiar with today. Early on he put in a coffee shop and bakery, and later added the liquor, jewelry, gift, pharmacy and camera departments, and probably a lot more that I’ve forgotten. All of this in a store of about 88,000 square feet, according to neighboring businessman Doug Rickert. Oh yes, there was also a toy department that completely occupied a building, separate from the main store. All of those L. A. folks coming to spy on what the McDonald brothers were doing two blocks up the street must have picked up on Sage’s secrets while they were at it, because the competition became pretty fierce, driving poor Sage’s into bankruptcy in 1973. Well, the San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society is going to be conducting a tour of Base Line and E at 9:00 a.m. on January 12th, beginning at the Heritage House at Eighth and D. The public is invited.



Sage’s – 1939

Although we could probably spend a lot of time at Sage's, we won't because we have many other businesses to visit, maybe two or three dozen. Right next to Sage's is the world's first Taco Tia. Here is a picture of the building as it appears in the book *Taco Titan*, by Debra Lee Baldwin. Glen Bell's high school buddy Neal Baker gave our society a couple of these books when he gave a talk several months ago.



San Bernardino, 1954. Mariachis and Mexican dancers transformed the grand opening of Glen's first Taco-Tia into a colorful fiesta. Glen (top center) and his partner, Al McDonald (far left, back row), wear two of the free hats given away that day. Two tacos and a drink cost forty-eight cents.

Some of the businesses, of course, are better known than others. Famous singer Frank Zappa, for instance, performed at a local watering hole on our tour. He even did a song about "San Ber'dino." Here's some lyrics:

ZULCH is the auto works
I'm telling you
That's where they take
All the cars that they hurt

Too bad Zulch's isn't on the tour. We do have Scotty's Mufflers though, and there were some historical garages at Base Line and E even before Scotty's.

Board member Jim Valdez is going to be our tour director, and he is very knowledgeable about San Bernardino history. He will be ably assisted by several other people who have ties to the area such as 95-year-old Maxine Moomau, who lived in the family home until her father sold it to Milton Sage. She remembers when the area was mostly residential. We have Doug Rickert, who practically grew up in the vicinity. His father founded Bud Rickert's Art Supply in 1952, originally located on E Street a block below Base Line, now located on E about a block north. Sue Payne's father owned a business at the corner of 13th Street in the old Auto Club building, and she has many memories of businesses in the area, including the old La Paloma Restaurant. Board member Dick Molony's grandfather used to have a barbershop near where the Studio Theater was, and I'm sure many others on our tour will also have memories to share.



Studio Theater – 1946



Mack and Puthoffs – 1938

December Tour: Stained Glass Window Tour

A group of about 20 gathered at the Heritage House on the 8th of December for an excursion around San Bernardino to inspect the stained glass windows of several churches. This was the idea of Suzie Earp, who had been working on the details of the tour since last summer. The whole thing flowed effortlessly from church to church, which is the sign of good planning. Suzie supervised the tour, got maps out to everybody, and guided us all from place to place, which meant prying us away from one church because the schedule called for being at another by a certain time. At each stop, the tour was turned over to a member of that church, who then took us around, showing off their artistic windows, and answering a host of questions.

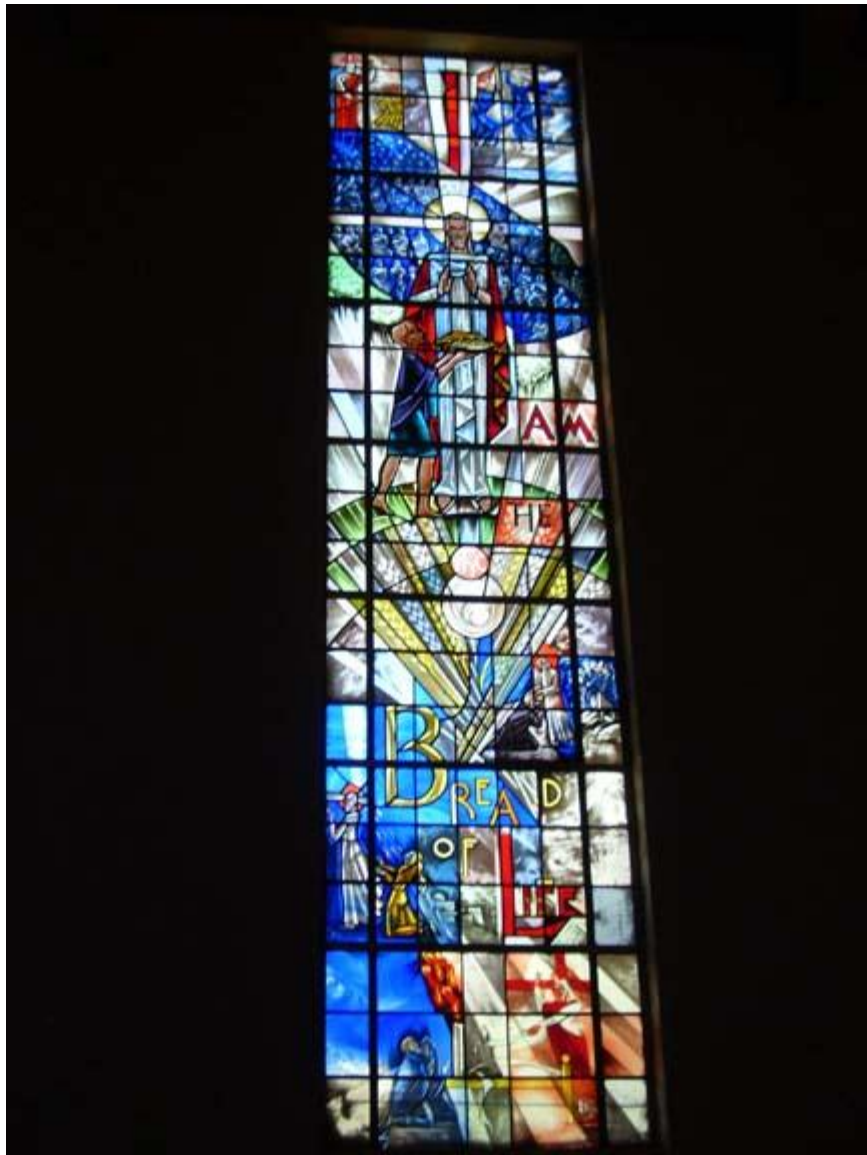
We began at Suzie's own church, First Presbyterian (19th and D), where retired pastor Jim Huffstuttler was our guide. Huffstuttler has made the study of his church's windows a major avocation. He came to the church in the late 1960s, about the time the upper tier of windows, the largest ones, were going in. The church was originally located downtown at Church and E, and the current building was built in 1952. A stained glass window from the early church has been retained, and is known as "Jesus in the Temple." Of course, it is entirely different from the later ones. Pastor Jim knew the name of the company who built the windows, the name of the artist who designed them, and even the name of the builder.

Below are several examples from a collection of photographs of stained glass windows. The pictures were taken by Barbara Marnell, whose husband John is currently president of the Mohave Historical Society.



"Jesus in the Temple" – Circa 1920

This window was salvaged from the previous First Presbyterian Church, and is now on display at the current church.

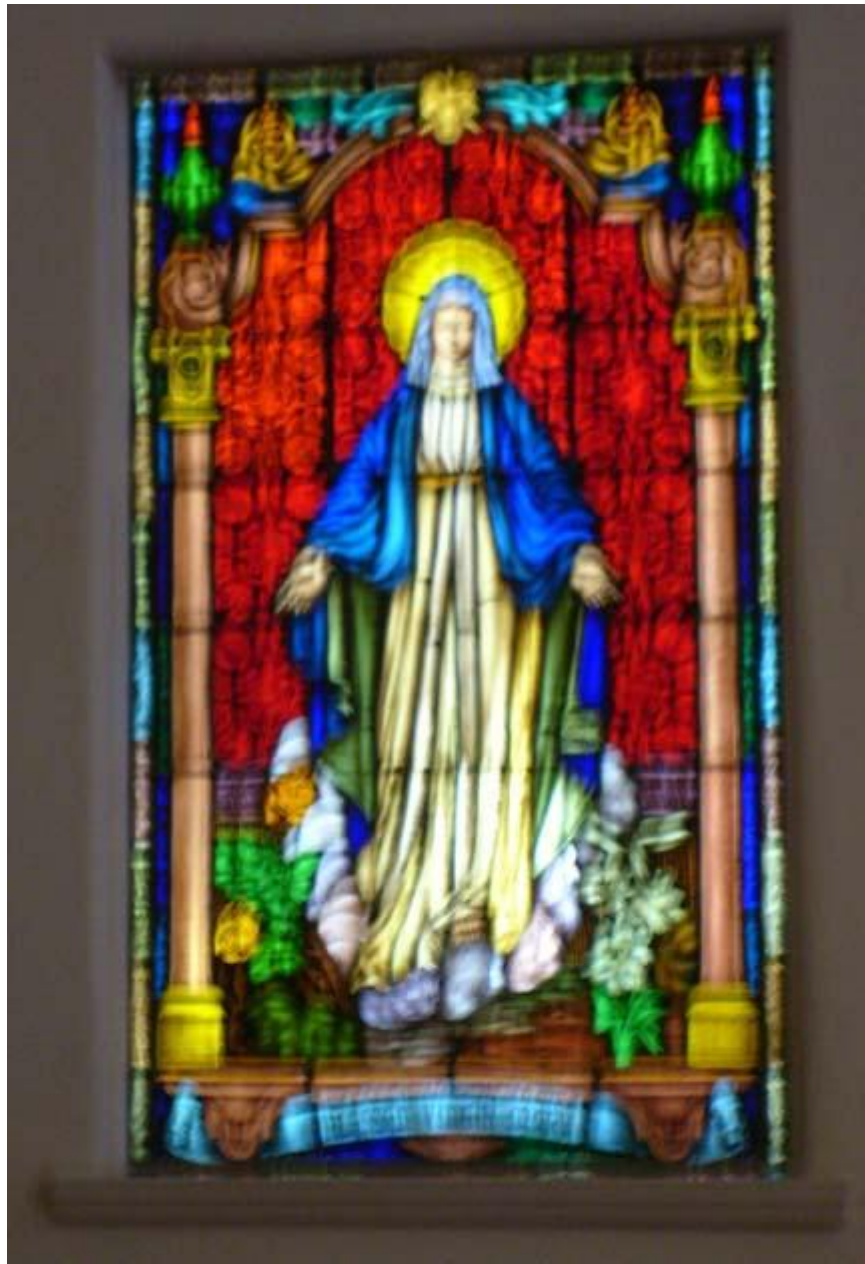


“I Am The Bread Of Life” – 1969

Above is one of seven tall windows (about 15 feet) at First Presbyterian. Under these windows is a second row of smaller windows, maybe six feet tall. We have the entire collection of Barbara Marnell’s photographs, around 60 pictures altogether, available on the library computer and anybody wishing to view them all is welcome to do so. These include the Catholic churches that we couldn’t get permission to see because of scheduling problems on Saturday mornings.

Next, we went to St. John’s Episcopal Church, where we received an interesting talk by Maggie Foss, who is a member of our society. She gave a brief history of the church, which originally was located downtown at Fourth and F. The building was destroyed in the great planing mill fire of 1897 (see the September 2007 Library News for a description of that fire). The church was rebuilt on the same site. In the early 1920s, the congregation relocated at 14th and Arrowhead, “way out in the country” at that time, according to Maggie. She obviously had spent a lot of time in preparation for her talk, and did a wonderful job. It is worth mentioning that St. John’s has some wonderful trees which must have been planted, lo, those many years ago. There are some magnificent redwoods, which some experts during that period said could not survive the heat of our semi-tropical summers. I know, because this was a challenge taken up by the gardener at the courthouse at about the same time (1926-27), and the redwoods are still part of the courthouse grounds today.

This photo taken at St. John's is a bit blurry, but it shows one of the best examples of the art in the sanctuary.



Window at St. John's Episcopal Church – 1960s

Our third stop was St. Paul's Methodist Church, located at 8th and Arrowhead. In addition to its windows, St. Paul's has some of the most outstanding architectural features of all of the churches. It was built in a mission style, and its wings form a square with a large quad, or grassed area, in the interior. Our tour guide at this location was Willard Moninger, also a member of the historical society. All three of the churches mentioned so far have pamphlets explaining their windows dating back to the time of installation, which in all cases was the late 1960s/early 1970s. All three donated copies of their booklets to our library, and I wish to thank them for doing so. The publications are 30-plus years old and are now quite scarce. Willard did a nice job of guiding our tour around the sanctuary and into the chapel, the latter also having stained glass, but of a different design. Below is a picture of two windows in the sanctuary.



Two windows at St. Paul's Methodist Church– 1960s

The fourth and last church on our tour was the former Trinity Lutheran, now an apostolic church. It is the oldest church on the tour and was built by board member Allen Bone's great-grandfather in 1908. Unfortunately the church directors would not allow us to have access, so we had to view the church from the outside. Allen gave us a talk on its history, but the windows had to be viewed from without, and as everybody knows, stained glass windows seen from the outside are nothing to brag about. However, when we were first planning the tour several months ago, we were allowed access and Barbara Marnell got some photos.



Window From Trinity Lutheran Church – 1908



Trinity Lutheran's Main Windows – 1908

Steve Shaw and Tom Marek speak out at Library Board Hearing

On December 13, 2007, the local newspaper announced that the City of San Bernardino's Library Board would be meeting that afternoon to hear a proposal to rename the library's California Room after long-time historian and benefactor, Arda M. Haenszel. Some members of the San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society had written to the board stating their support for the idea. The ones who wrote that I know about are Sue Payne, Nick Cataldo, and myself. My tribute to Arda is in last month's newsletter. Surprisingly, to me at any rate, there was opposition to the proposal. Some people thought that there were others just as deserving. I won't go into the names that were proposed because there are many people whose work is deserving of praise, but none that could hold a candle to what Arda did for the library. Fortunately the board knew the facts of the case and unanimously voted to name the room "The Arda M. Haenszel California Room."

The Historical and Pioneer Society was represented by President Steve Shaw together with Tom Marek, the man responsible for creating our website:

http://www.ci.san-bernardino.ca.us/about/history/historical_n_pioneer_society.asp (This site is so great that it has to be the envy of all other historical societies. Thank you, Tom. The society is grateful, and appreciates the work you do.) It is good to send in letters on behalf of a proposal, but it is even better when reinforced by attendance at a hearing, especially by high-ranking members such as Steve and Tom. The library board can now say that it has the backing of the local history community, and it has the proof both in writing and by personal attendance. I would also like to thank the board for its decision. Now the person responsible for the creation of the California Room will be better remembered for her activities.

1823 map with San Bernardino (actually “Bernardino”) on it

Tom Marek was requested by S. B. Mayor Pat Morris to find the earliest map in existence with the name San Bernardino on it. He began his search and found an 1839 map. A little later he found the 1835 map drawn by English botanist Thomas Coulter. In the course of his search he found in John Robinson’s latest book, *Gateways of Southern California*, a reference to an 1823 map, which, Robinson wrote, was located in the David Rumsey Map Collection, <http://www.davidrumsey.com/>, one of the largest private collections of maps in the U.S. After a couple of frustrating telephone calls, it appeared that Rumsey did not have the map, or the staff was not aware of its location if they did.

Then, while attending a marriage in San Diego, Tom found some time on his hands, and he visited a bookstore in which he found a recently published book of maps of California. In flipping through the book, there it was – his 1823 map. The book is by Derek Hayes and is entitled *Historical Atlas of California*. Tom discovered that each map has a paragraph in the back locating where it was found, and this one was at the Library of Congress website. <http://www.loc.gov/index.html> Type in “1823 map of California” in the search box and click on the red GO. Scroll down to “see more results,” where the map is identified as “carta esferica de los territorios de la alta y baja California y estado Sonora by Jose M. Narvaes, 1823.” I entered the map title on a translator page, <http://dictionary.reference.com/translate/>, and this is what came back: “spherical letter of the territories of the discharge and Baja California and Sonora state.” Yes, that translation leaves a little to be desired. My own version would be, very loosely, “chart of the territories of upper and lower California and the state of Sonora.” Your guess is as good as mine as to the translation, and I’m open to suggestions.

Below is an enlarged view of the area in which we are interested. Bernardino appears next to a triangle, which the legend informs us is a rancheria. The Rio Santana is shown as well. Lots of early information on this map. Tom says he is still not satisfied and wants to find an 1811 map. Well, good luck Tom; maybe one of those Indian fighters of 1810-11 carried a surveyor/mapmaker on the back of his horse.



Portion of 1823 California map by Narvaes

Dave and Donna Rutherford organize photographs

Dave is one of those faithful docents in the California Room who donate their time to keep that wonderful institution open and available to the general public. Being a docent in the California Room means that one is versed in the history of San Bernardino, and Dave is one of the knowledgeable cadre that caters to the type of specialized questions that are endemic with a local history organization. Dave and his wife Donna have been coming into our historical society library on Saturdays for the past year. Donna retired from the SBPD about a year ago. The two of them have taken on the job of organizing the society's photograph collection. Nobody knows how large it is for sure, but it has grown greatly in the recent past. Steve Shaw continues working on the Donaldson collection, which constitutes thousands of photos, and we recently received hundreds more from Professor Tom McGovern's students at Cal State. I'll have more on that in the February issue of Library News.

Of course the granddaddy of all San Bernardino photograph collections is that of Walter Steele, owner of the former Steele's Photos. The Historical and Pioneer Society has many 8 x 10 photos from Steele's, and I noticed that some of them have a number penciled on the back. I asked Dave about it and he said that the numbers were a code that Steele used, and each of his historical photographs had the letter S followed by a number. The California Room has an index for all of the photos in the Steele collection, and Dave was nice enough to run a copy for our library. My idea was to write the code on all of our own photographs, find out how many we had and which ones we were missing. Well, it turns out that the index lists 773 photographs, and the job was going to be a little larger than I originally thought. One problem is that many of our photos have a name, for example "California Hotel in 1945," and, because Steele did not alphabetize his collection, it meant having to go through pages and pages of his list to match a photo with the index number.

Of course the answer to this problem was to digitize the index, put it in the computer, and when you had a photo that was captioned "California Hotel in 1945," finding it on the list would be a snap. The only problem was that entering the entire list into the computer would be a lot of work. To our good fortune, Donna volunteered for the job, and the historical community now has a searchable list of the entire collection of Steele photographs. Now all we need to do is find out which ones we have, and which ones we don't, and fill in the missing links. A multitude of thanks to Donna and Dave for all their work.

Alice Eby Hall's New Book Just Out: *Devore – A Scrapbook*

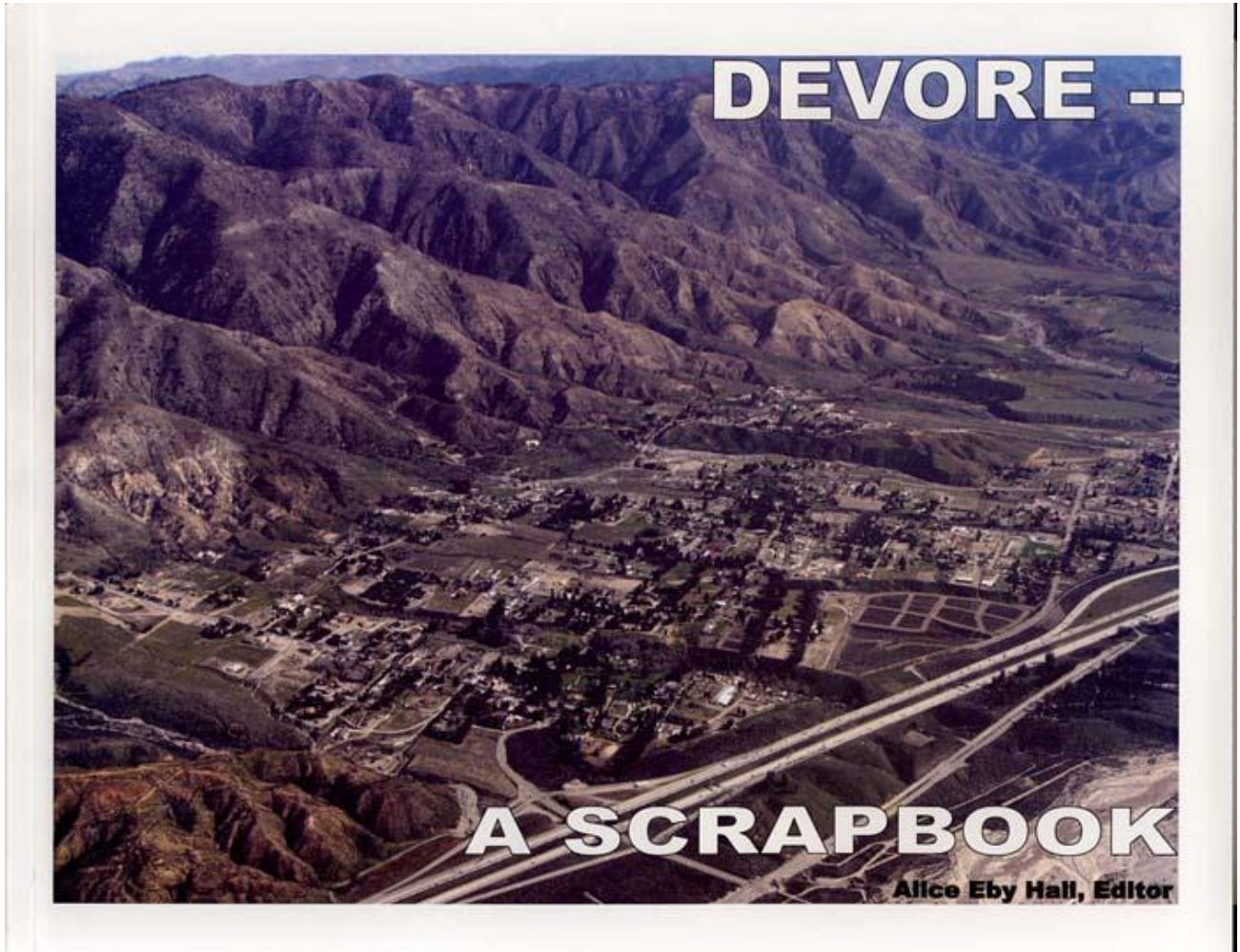
Alice came by the Library recently with a box load of her new book, *Devore – A Scrapbook*. Just taking it out of the carton I could see it was a beauty, very professionally bound with a nice pictorial cover. She very generously donated a copy to our library. We already had a draft copy of the book, which she had given us a while back, plus we have two other titles she has written. She said she only did 500 copies of *Devore* because that was all the people that lived there, but after reading the first 40 or 50 pages, I predict that this book will go out of print within a couple of years. Of course, it is a companion piece to John Hockaday's recently published *Tales and Trails of the Cajon Pass*. She said she modified her manuscript to keep from overlapping too much with John's book. Alice modestly lists herself on the cover as "Editor," and that is because the book contains stories by many other Devore residents. Nevertheless, much of it is written by Alice.

This book is a delight to read. Alice was a teacher, and it shows in how the book comes across. She writes as if she were talking to you. And she seems to anticipate what the reader wants to know. About the time a question popped into my head, she answered it, and did so without dawdling too much or excess wording. Just answer the (unasked) question and go on to the next topic. This is why I think the

book will be a success. All I know about Devore is what I saw the few times I drove through when the freeway was closed for some reason. Even so, I found the book to be informative and entertaining.

One thing does puzzle me. I am familiar with many of the maps that she has reproduced, and a lot of them are hard to find in decent condition, yet the maps in this book are all of a very good quality. How did she do that? Same goes for the photographs. There are scores of maps and hundreds of photos. I know many people are going to want this book just because of the eye appeal from the maps and photos, but I do hope more than a few dig into the text. Just read the first page or two and you'll be hooked.

This is a hefty book, 418 pages, and worth every penny of the thirty dollars that she charges for it. The cover scan below gives a pretty good idea of the quality of the book.



Christmas Party at the Arda M. Haenszel California Room of the Feldheim Library

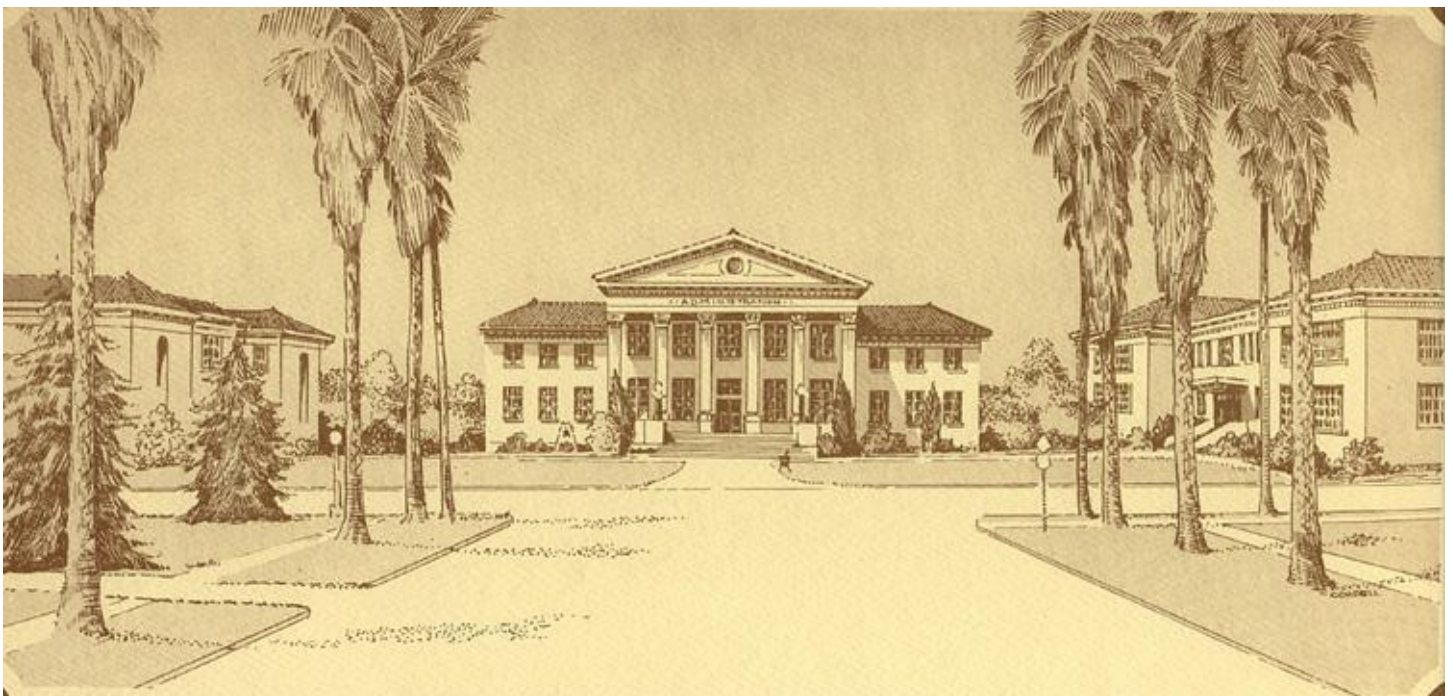
Twenty or more partygoers attended the annual Christmas party held on the 19th of December. Millicent was the organizer, I think; at least she looked like she was in charge. Millicent, Peggy, Sue, Jim Petrucci's mother and most of the rest of the staff all brought goodies for the party. Donna Rutherford wasn't there, but Dave brought in large quantities of her Christmas fare, which disappeared pretty fast. Also attending was a new docent and one other new fellow I didn't recognize, but the rest of the group were all members of the Historical and Pioneer Society. It was a festive party of book lovers and/or history buffs, so the conversation flowed on easily and freely. It was a great party, and our thanks go to Millicent and all the crew for including us in their holiday celebration.

Calendar Drawings Donated to Library

Four old (1970s) calendars with artwork signed “Cordell” were donated to the library in December. I used Mr. Cordell myself in illustrating *Pioneers of San Bernardino Valley*. He told me at the time that he had worked for Sage’s Complete Markets as an illustrator in the advertising department. I only met him a couple of times, and that was over thirty years ago, but I think his first name was Lloyd – or not. Anybody remember?



Arrowhead Springs Hotel – 1887



San Bernardino High School – built 1915

February's Tour: Buildings designed by Howard E. Jones and Associates

Howard Jones, a hometown architect, was born in 1885 and died in 1966 at the age of 81. His father Albert was a printer in early San Bernardino. Howard designed most of the memorable buildings constructed in San Bernardino during the 1920s through 1940s. Included are: Municipal Auditorium in Pioneer Park; Harris Co. building; Andreson building and adjacent Kress building; the Platt building and West Coast Theater; Union Ice Co. storage (Third and I); Central Fire Station and San Bernardino County Courthouse, the latter of which is now on the national register of historic places.

He designed most of the schools of that era. Lincoln, Eliot, Harding, Riley, Woodrow Wilson, and Marshal were all designed by him. Junior highs include Highland, Ramona and Muscoy. He also did the early buildings of San Bernardino Valley College. This was the San Bernardino I knew and grew up with. I went to Riley for three years, from kindergarten through second grade, and to Highland Junior High, and remember thinking at the time that these were substantial, well-designed structures. I also remember going to Warm Springs Elementary and thinking what tacky box-like buildings it had, sitting out on treeless, grassless fields that had a thin layer of asphalt over them. Highland Jr. High also had the tacky boxes, but the main building sat out front on a dominant portion of the site with nice, mature trees in a grassy area next to Pacific Avenue, all of which gave a good impression of a serious learning institution. It had a nice basement, which I once observed personally, that being the location where the woodshop teacher, Mr. Belanger, would administer well-deserved swats. Mr. Belanger had designed and constructed his own wooden paddle, sturdy enough for the most vigorous swatting – one which architect Jones would have approved as being well conceived and built for its intended use.

It has been 41 years now since Howard Jones passed, and memories of him and his work have dimmed. However, recently, in a serendipitous moment, Allen Bone brought up Jones' name while talking to Clare M. Day, an architect with whom Allen regularly has coffee. It so happens that Mr. Day went to work for Howard Jones in the 1940s. He knows the work of the Jones firm in its later years, and he designed some of San Bernardino's signature buildings, including the Temple Emanu El on E Street, and the residence of its spiritual leader, Rabbi Norman F. Feldheim. Clare Day is a renowned architect in his own right, and now resides in Redlands, where he is justly admired. Mr. Day has agreed to be the speaker for our February meeting, followed by a tour of Jones/Day structures on the following Saturday. Be sure and mark these dates on your calendar: The lecture will be at the Heritage House at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 7, 2008, and the tour begins at 9:00 a.m., February 9, 2008, at the Heritage House. The tour will be of existing structures – we will not be visiting vacant lots of what used to be.

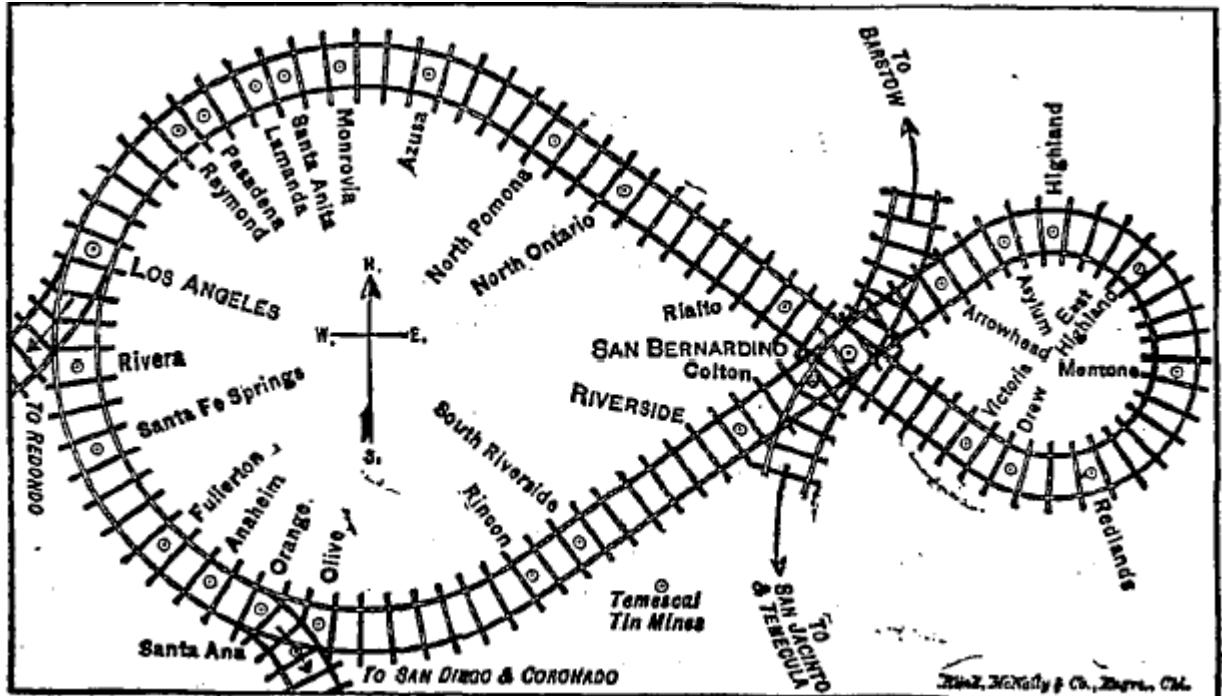
Future Tours: (1) Tail of the Kite, and (2) Pioneer Cemetery

While I'm at it, here are two more tours:

On March 8, 2008, Mark Landis will lead us on a tour I've called "The Tail of the Kite." This railroad route is usually referred to as the "Loop Line" or the "Redland's Loop." It is the old Santa Fe route that had two loops, one northern and one southern, which began in Los Angeles, crossed at San Bernardino, and extended out to Mentone and Redlands (see diagram below). We will be focusing on the part from San Bernardino to the east. Some of the tracks, stations and packing houses are still in existence. We may have to modify our "no visiting vacant lots of what used to be" rule a bit on the north loop (Highland Junction, which was at the intersection of 16th and I Streets, is now in the fast lane of the northbound I-215, and Arrowhead Station was at Mt. View where the crosstown freeway intersects), but there are still some things to see in both places.

The second tour will be at Pioneer Cemetery on April 12, 2008, and our guide will be Nick Cataldo. We will meet at the Heritage House, and from there we will begin our tour of the cemetery where the early

1850s pioneers were buried in unmarked graves. Several of these graves were uncovered accidentally in the 1990s. Some were examined scientifically before being reburied within the limits of the cemetery. Next we will proceed through the most historic sections. The idea is to weave in some biographical data on the city's founders together with a tour of the grounds. This will be tantamount to a history of the city as told through the lives of its inhabitants. Focus will be on members of our society, but others will be covered. This is a tough job, but if anybody can do it, Nick can.



March Tour – The Tail of the Kite

SAVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE
SINCE 1888