



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

## LIBRARY NEWS NOVEMBER 2009

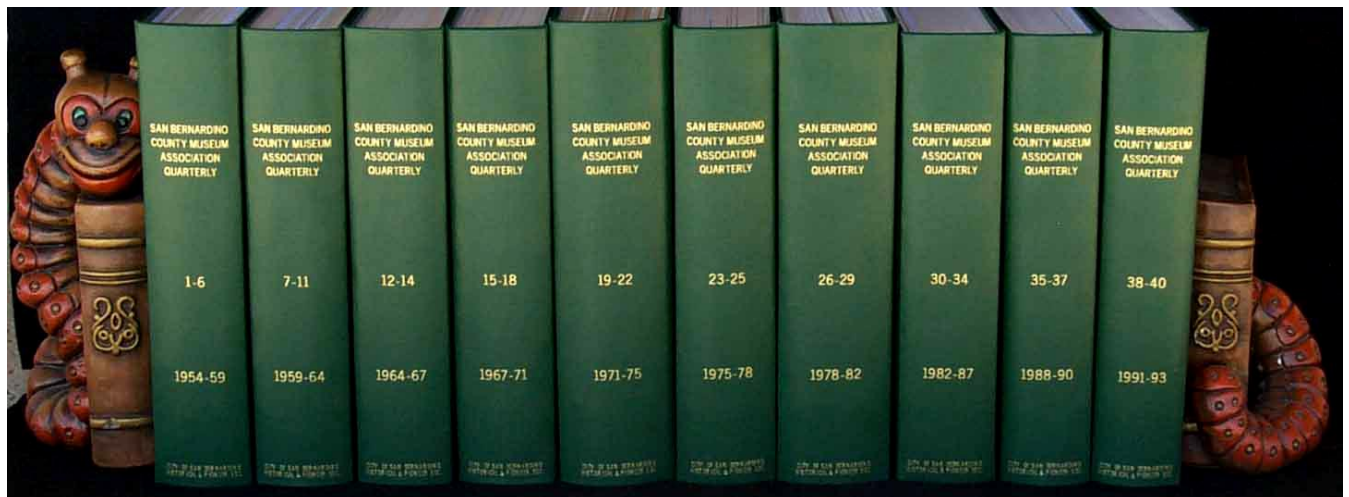
By Richard D. Thompson, Librarian

### LIBRARY ACTIVITY

#### BINDING OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MUSEUM ASSOCIATION QUARTERLIES

About 35 years ago I started collecting San Bernardino County Museum Association Quarterlies. I never went after them with a vengeance the way some collectors do; I ran hot and cold on the project, so there were many missing issues. Also, I stopped collecting somewhere after Volume 30 or so. Recently I filled some of the gaps with quarterlies we had in our Heritage Library, and Alan Bone bought a few back issues from the County Museum. Still, there remained about eight or so missing issues, and Dave Rutherford was nice enough to hunt these down and photocopy them. Thus was assembled a straight run of quarterlies, starting with Volume 1 in 1954, and continuing up through Volume 40 in 1993.

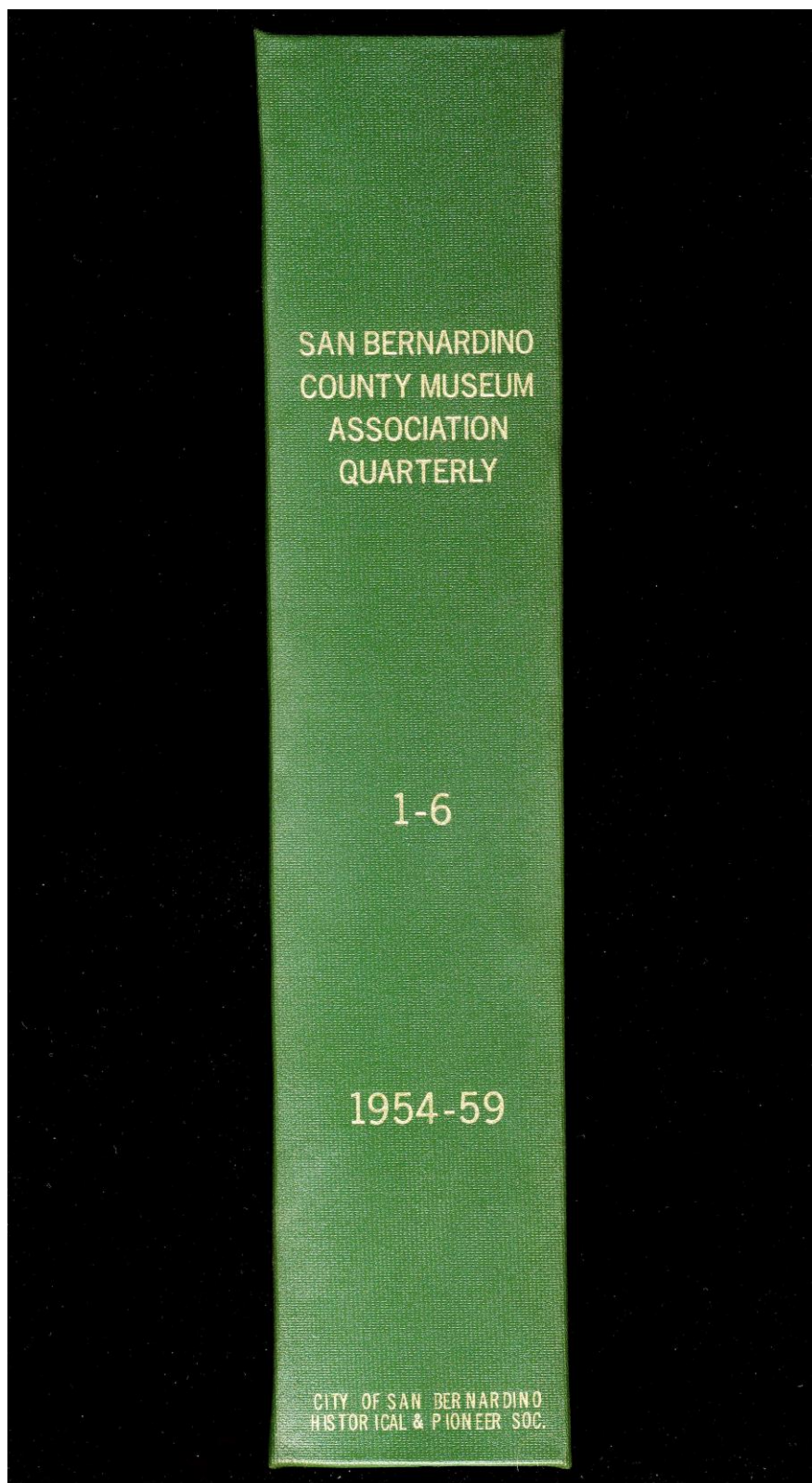
The trouble with having a full set of journals...is keeping a full set: a single journal can easily be put back in the wrong place, or even lost. The best way to avoid this, and to wind up with something that is attractive on the bookshelf as well, is to have them sewn up together in nicely bound volumes.



San Bernardino County Museum Association Quarterlies, Numbers 1-40, bound in 10 hardcover volumes

I had heard good things about the Golden Rule Bindery in Escondido and a few months ago I gave them a call. They were in the midst of moving to nearby San Marcos, so after an appropriate interval I drove

to the bindery, selected the material and color, decided on the maximum width of each volume, and that was it. A month later they arrived, and if I might say so, are a handsome addition to our library.



A close-up of the information on the spine

As for the spine arrangement, I fashioned it after a set of Annual Publications of the Historical Society of Southern California that the University of Redlands had bound many years ago.

## SCANNING PROJECTS

Gerry and Linda Brassfield have been involved with two massive scanning projects. I intend to describe in detail what they have been doing since the first of the year, which will be done soon in an upcoming newsletter. Suffice it to point out for now that since the first of the year they have donated their time nearly every Saturday to work on these two projects. This is in addition to their taping our guest speakers at the regular Thursday meetings. They have been recording our speakers for the past two years, and will provide a DVD copy of the event at a nominal cost.

## RUTHERFURD DONATION

Some time ago Dave Rutherford brought in several albums of his photographs so they could be scanned for our files. Dave is a collector of San Bernardino ephemera, particularly photographs, and he has several that are quite scarce, even rare. Steve Shaw did the scanning, but because there were several dozen of them there was not time for writing identifying captions. The scanner just issued numbers such as scan 1, scan 2, etc.

Recently Dave and Donna came in and titled all of the scans. Now, not only do we know what the pictures are of, but also the titles are searchable on our computer. Dave is a docent at the public library and can be found there on most Wednesdays. He is one of the best at identifying early San Bernardino buildings and street scenes.

Many, perhaps most, of Dave's photos are from the 19th Century, but there are a number of more modern ones too. The photo below shows a Sage's Market that many people do not remember. As can be seen, it was just south of the Harris Company on E Street below Third.



Rare photo of a Sage's Market (left) in downtown San Bernardino. Courtesy of the Rutherford Collection.

## PIONEER PHOTOGRAPHER

One of the earliest photographers to appear in San Bernardino was Amon Gilbert DaLee (1820-1879). DaLee moved about the country frequently, and was active in California in the 1850s. He learned the trade in San Francisco in 1855, and the following year he opened a studio in Los Angeles. It was in 1856, the same year he opened his business, that he came to San Bernardino and spent an unspecified amount of time taking photographs. A Mrs. Caroline Crosby was living in town at the time, and she had her photograph taken. Crosby kept a diary that has been published under the title, "The History of Caroline Barnes Crosby," and thanks to the excellent index compiled by Sue Payne, docent in the Arda Haenszel California Room of the San Bernardino Public Library, it is a simple matter to find Crosby's interactions with the photographer.

In her entry for "Thurs 21st" (August 1856), she wrote that she was not pleased with her own personal appearance for the sitting with the photographer:

I arose early, arranged my domestick affairs in good season, and at 8 oclock set out for the Ambrotype chamber, in Dr Burrows new building. Called to wait for sis P. I had previously felt quite unwell, and rather dreaded the task of preparing myself. Accordingly got Ellen to dress my head. She did it after her own taste, and was some time about it, which added to my already weary feeling, and by the time I was prepared to sit I looked like a person of 60 years. I did not feel pleased with it, but did not know that it could be mended.

On August 27th, she returned to the studio, but was still not satisfied with the results:

Mr. Dee Lee [DaLee] however offered to let me sit again and give me the picture if I would pay him one doll—for the case, which was quite a small one. He had previously been troubled with a lady and two children, and got his mind rather disconcerted, and when he came to mine he appear quite confused. I sat 3 times before he got one that satisfied himself, and that was far from satisfying me.

It is not known whether copies of DaLee's photographs of Mrs. Crosby exist somewhere, but there is a photo of a Mrs. Serrine and two of her sons, taken in San Bernardino in 1856, and DaLee was probably the photographer. The Serrine picture below is a second or third generation photocopy of the original photo. This photocopy was badly distorted with black lines, and has been touched up.



Mrs. Serrine and sons – 1856

Caroline Crosby mentions one other photographer in her diary, a Dr. McIntire. Her “Tues 2nd” [June 1857] entry reads:

...Dr. McIntire called, told us that he was getting up his apparatus for taking daguereotypes. Offered to learn Mr. C— if he had a mind to undertake it. My husband proposed having Alma learn.

There was another entry on McIntire, this one on Monday the 20th:

Washed, finished my letter to Lois. Mr. C— assisting Dr. McIntire to prepare a daguerian gallery or hall. This was his [McIntire's] birthday 50 years old.

Whether Dr. McIntire ever produced a photograph is not known at this time, but one can hope that there is a treasure trove somewhere of San Bernardino photographs waiting to be discovered.

Since Amon DaLee's photographs were taken in San Bernardino in 1856, they would almost entirely be of Mormons, and because Mormons are so family oriented, it would not be surprising if a good many more of DaLee's early work could be retrieved. A good project for somebody to tackle.