



Las Angelitas del Pueblo Newsletter - Fall 2018

El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument
www.lasangelitas.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Las Angelitas Events

2018 Holiday Party

Saturday, December 1, 5 pm
Taix Restaurant
1911 W. Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles 90026
(See Below)

Winter General Meeting

Monday, January 14, 10 am – noon

Docent Training Class (tentative dates)

Five Saturdays, February 2 – March 2, 2019
10 am – 12:30 pm

Spring General Meeting

Monday, April 8, 10 am – noon

Pueblo Events

El Pueblo Tree Lighting Ceremony

November 30, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Tree lighting program at 7 pm

Las Posadas

December 16 – 24, 6 pm – 9 pm nightly
Children's Piñata 6:30 pm (in the plaza)
Procession 7:15 pm (begins in front of Avila)
Pastorela 8: 16 pm (Methodist Church)
Rondalla del Sol Performances 6:30-8:30pm

MOVING FORWARD

Last month, the Angelitas Board requested El Pueblo Historical Monument and the El Pueblo Park Association (EPPA) to assist while Las Angelitas addresses a leadership transition. We are pleased to announce that your Board approved former Angelitas President Kate Probst to serve as Treasurer. I am also working in partnership with EPPA and your Angelitas Board to ensure that the organization is in good standing with the State of California and the Secretary of State.

Please be assured that Las Angelitas docent tours will continue. However, commencing November 5, 2018, El Pueblo staff will be assuming the responsibility for scheduling tours. We want to continue to provide a streamlined process for booking tours and scheduling confirmations with volunteer docents.

I want to thank Carl McCraven and Chris Roten, who both recently stepped down from the Board of Las Angelitas, for their service to the organization. We appreciate their time, effort, and dedication to the historic monument.

As the holidays draw near, I hope you will be able to join us for El Pueblo's annual "Holiday Tree Lighting" event on Friday, November 30, 2018. Live music and performances will start at 5:30 p.m., with the tree lighting program at 7:00 p.m.

I will be sharing updates in future newsletters on our collaborative work with Las Angelitas and other projects developing in and near the historic monument. Thank you for your commitment and contributions to the City's birthplace.

Chris Espinosa

General Manager, El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument



HOLIDAY PARTY



WE'RE GOING TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS AT TAIX FRENCH RESTAURANT ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2018. WE'LL HAVE A PRIVATE ROOM WITH A SIT-DOWN SERVED DINNER AND OF COURSE, LOTS OF DOOR PRIZES. THE INVITATION AND DETAILS WILL BE COMING SOON. PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

237th Los Angeles Birthday Celebration



This year, for the first time, Las Angelitas was part of the City's Birthday Celebration. 15 Docents took turns at the Las Angelitas table in the Plaza and we spoke to about 200 people about our free tours! We handed out our new flyer with information about walk-ins and booking a scheduled tour. The new flyers are on display on the counter in the front office. Thanks to Dave McMenam, Rozanne Gallegos and Michael Fujita for creating the flyer. We plan to have a table again next year; please plan to join us!

LA Plaza Cultura Village



The construction west of the Plaza is La Plaza Cultura Village, which consists of five- and eight-story buildings with apartments, retail and restaurant space, cultural facilities and public open space. The residential living units (20% of which are reserved for affordable housing) will include studio apartments, one-, two- and three-bedroom units, together with live/work lofts.

The development is centered on a Historic Paseo providing passage from Union Station to the Fort Moore Memorial on Hill Street. The plaza will include a large California

sycamore, reflective of the El Aliso Sycamore that served as a meeting place for the Tongva and others over its 400-year life.

Field Trips



We didn't start out well with our field trips since the last newsletter. The July trip to The Rancho Los Alamitos was cancelled due to the excessive heat at the time. While some of us showed up to the Disneyland memorabilia exhibit in August, the line was over two hours long, so we moved on (there was a large *Los Angeles Times* article on this exhibit that morning).

Fortunately, our September field trip to El Molino Viejo (the Old Mill) in San Marino was a success. This is the oldest commercial building in Southern California, and was constructed two years prior to our own beloved Avila Adobe. It was designed by Father Jose Maria de Salvidea as a grist mill for the nearby Mission San Gabriel. It was bequeathed to the city of San Marino in 1962, afterwards serving briefly as the Southern California headquarters for the California Historical Society. Since 1995, it has been administered by the Old Mill Foundation.

For those of you who missed the field trip. El Molino Viejo is open daily except Mondays and holidays from 1 pm to 4 pm.



Spotlight on the Pueblo

The Hellman/Quon Building



The Hellman/Quon Building, formerly called the Old Chinese Store, is located on the site of Pío Pico's adobe, which was sold for non-payment of taxes in 1880. The adobe was occupied by Chinese tenants (stores, a barber shop and two brothels) until it was razed around 1897.

The Hellman/Quan Building was built by Isaias Hellman, the founder of the Farmers and Merchants Bank, whose main building was located at 4th and Main Streets. It is possible that Hellman constructed a building on the Plaza because of the bank's many Chinese customers. A year following Hellman's death in 1920, the building was bought by Quon How Shing, a long-time tenant. Mr. Shing sold the building, along with some other properties, to the State of California in 1954. The building was renamed the Hellman/Quon building in 1985 to recognize its two major owners.

The building was originally divided into several different stores that opened either onto Plaza Street or Sanchez Street. It had interconnecting passages in the rear and was used continuously for shops and lodging by large numbers of Chinese people, many of them single men, and later, families. Mezzanine floors were added to many of the units over the years. A button concealed under a window ledge operated a bell which was said to have been used to alert the occupants of the building to the presence of (possibly unwelcome) guests.

After it was purchased by the State, the building was slated for demolition under a plan to rebuild Pío Pico's adobe in its place. However, the "flow of history" concept prevailed and the building is now regarded as significant to the history of the Chinese in Los Angeles.

It is possible that gambling took place in the rear of the building, while the rooms facing the Plaza were used for regular businesses. During excavations on the site, glass bottles, pieces of opium pipes and shreds of Chinese Porcelain and ceramic jars and bowls were found.

In 1977, the Los Angeles Parks and Recreation Department started a rehabilitation of the building, but at that time only the eastern side of the building was completed (the section currently containing the Las Angelitas Tour Office and the Office of the California State Parks and the National Park Service).

In 2016, the Gateway to Nature was opened in western portion of the building by the Western National Parks Association in conjunction with the National Park Service, the U. S. Forest Service, the City of Los Angeles and El Pueblo de Los Angeles.

Olvera Street "Water Trough"



The Olvera Street "Water Trough" is located at the northern end of Olvera Street (near Cielito Lindo restaurant). It is a sandstone trough originally created by the Schweikand family on their horse ranch in the San Fernando Valley for grinding acorns and feeding them to the horses. It was moved to Olvera Street after the ranch was bought by the City of Los Angeles for the Chatsworth Reservoir, and placed in its current location with the following bronze plaque:

WATER TROUGH HEWN BY THE MISSION INDIANS IN THE YEAR EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY. PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES. 1930

When the actual origin of the trough was pointed out, the plaque was changed to the following:

SANDSTONE-TROUGH USED FOR FEEDING ACORNS TO LIVESTOCK, HEWN IN 1897, BY THE SCHWEIKAND FAMILY ON THEIR SAN FERNANDO VALLEY RANCH. PRESENTED, IN 1930 BY THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES.

Romance of the Ranchos—A Radio Take on California History

By John Hendry

What if I told you there was a 35-episode treatment of California history—and it was done without Huell Howser, even before he was born? And it's available, on the internet for free (such as www.archive.org/details/OTRR_Romance_Ranchos_Singles), from Amazon, etc. That's the odd discovery I made online: the archives of a 1940s radio show, *Romance of the Ranchos*, also heard from time to time on SiriusXM radio's *Old Time Classic Radio*.

The program ran in the 1940s—the suburban boom was coming to Los Angeles. Title Insurance and Trust Company of Los Angeles was tied inextricably to the idea of how the Californios “proved up” their “Spanish rancho” titles after the American occupation, so that 100 years later, Los Angeles could be cut up into two million lots—thousands of 50' by 150' lots, like the one I have.

Title Insurance created a 30-minute program with 35 episodes running from 1941 to 1946, dramatizing “local California history.” It was the end of “Old Time Radio,” there was time to fill—easy production--and Title Insurance had the archives. Surprisingly well done, dramatized a bit, of course, flag-waving at times, but trying to be perceptive, 30 minute programs that attempted to characterize those characters I learned about back in 1960s elementary schools: Jedediah Smith, first Yankee trapper to cross the desert to California in 1926; Tiburcio Vasquez and Joaquin Murietta, the Californio banditos; Benjamin Wilson and Phineas Banning, the Yankee ranchers and builders; and even the unique Joseph Chapman, who went from pirate to adopted citizen and craftsman, builder of the Plaza Church, and more.

Dramatized? Well, yes, if there's a “story” about a native American named Juan Roderigo who wouldn't wear clothes when he went to the Plaza, and scandalized the women of Los Angeles; in that sense it's a dramatization of a “real situation” we can imagine through a fictional character. Flag-waving—perhaps (it's the 1940s)--trying to be perceptive about Hispanic and native American culture. But the care in which over 17 hours of historical material was brought together and reworked is quite obvious. Like reading an old newspaper in the library for “color,” it adds to what you know.

Equally unique was the care to bring the “story” up-to-date to that golden suburban time of the late 1940s. If the

announcer can say “The Ex Mission San Fernando's lands became the cities of (announcer's voice gets louder) Van Nuys, Reseda, Sylmar, Roscoe (now Sun Valley)” how can you blame him if he gets “Roscoe” wrong—it's a 1940s historic tape reflecting still another history.

It's a great discovery—one I had never heard about. While you're there, try sampling the radio version of *Dragnet*, an equally valuable presentation of “another Los Angeles.”

Historians will quibble, rightfully so (I'll quibble at parts), but here's an extraordinary “take” at that California history we're all interested in.

Romance of the Ranchos Episode List

- 1 Rancho San Rafael
- 2 Rancho Santa Gertrudes
- 3 Rancho San Jose
- 4 Rancho Aguaje De La Centinela
- 5 Rancho Rodeo De Las Aguas
- 6 Rancho San Pedro and Rancho Palos Verdes
- 7 Rancho Paso De Bartolo Viejo
- 8 Rancho Ex-Mission De San Fernando
- 9 Rancho Los Cerritos and Rancho Los Alamitos
- 10 The Tale of Tiburcio Vasquez
- 11 Ranchos San Vicente y Santa Monica and Boca de Santa Monica
- 12 The Newhall Region and the Rancho del Valle
- 13 Rancho San Antonio and Don Antonio Maria Lugo
- 14 The Life Story of Benjamin D Wilson: Part 1
- 15 The Life Story of Benjamin D Wilson: Part 2
- 16 Christmas at Mission San Gabriel
- 17 Rancho San Jose De Buenos Ayres
- 18 The Story of Joseph Chapman
- 19 Henry Dalton and the City of Azusa
- 20 True Life Story of Jedediah Smith
- 21 Rancho La Puente
- 22 The Island of Santa Catalina and the Channel Islands
- 23 The True Story of Don Perfecto Hugo Reid
- 24 Rancho La Ballona
- 25 The True Story of Juan Flaco Brown
- 26 The True Story of Phineas Banning
- 27 Rancho San Francisquito
- 28 William Mulholland and the Southland Water System
- 29 Joaquin Murietta, Infamous Robin Hood of The West
- 30 Rancho San Pasqual
- 31 The Life Story of Don Juan Temple
- 32 Rancho La Brea and Major Henry Hancock
- 33 El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de los Angeles
- 34 Transportation--From Oxcart to Airliner
- 35 The Story of the Carrillo Family

Exhibits in the Pueblo

The following summarizes the exciting current and future exhibits in the Pueblo.

“Sacred Memories: Cultural Expressions of the Day of the Dead”: This art exhibit features artistic interpretations that explore the world’s rituals that venerate the departed, including Dia de los Muertos.

Through December 30, 2018, Friday—Sunday 10 am—3 pm, Biscailuz Gallery

“Italianità”: This art exhibit showcases the complex nature of the Italian Diaspora, and examines the beliefs, traditions, and defining characteristics connected to this movement. It features rarely displayed works highlighting 100 years of Italian history and culture.

Through January 13, 2019, Tuesday—Sunday 10 am—3 pm, Italian American Museum of Los Angeles

“Don’t Believe the Hype: LA Asian Americans in Hip Hop”: This art exhibit explores hip hop culture in Los Angeles as a space for connecting racial and ethnic identity, self-expression and innovation for Asian Americans. The exhibition includes site-specific murals as immersive environments by famed hip hop graffiti and mural artists as well as paintings, photographs, audio/video installations and historical ephemera.

Through January 13, 2019, Tuesday—Sunday, 10 am—3 pm, The Chinese American Museum

“¡Ya Basta! The East L.A. Walkouts and the Power of Protest”: A retrospective exhibition that celebrates the 50th anniversary of the East Los Angeles school walkouts.

Through January 14, 2019, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday noon—5 pm, Friday—Sunday noon—6 pm
LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes

Homeless Shelter Update



A Bridge Home, the transitional homeless shelter in Parking Lot 5 (corner of Alameda and Arcadia Streets), opened in September. It consists of five trailers, three for temporary housing of 30 men and 15 women, one with bathrooms and a laundry and one with a meeting room and office. The shelter is run by The People Concern and has security 24 hours a day, medical and other needs assessment and referrals, counseling, rehabilitation services and job training.

The shelter will temporarily house homeless from the immediate Pueblo area, with the goal of finding a permanent home for residents within six months to make room for others. It was quickly filled to capacity and had a sizeable waiting list, and has already had some success in moving residents to more permanent housing and finding them jobs.

As part of this program, tents are only allowed in the Pueblo area (bounded by Broadway, Cesar Chavez, Alameda and Arcadia Streets) from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. to allow for trash pickup during the day (this went into effect on October 10). Signs have been placed around the Pueblo explaining the policy and showing the area affected.

Join Las Angelitas on Social Media!

Please take a moment to check out our website, as well as our other online pages:



<https://www.facebook.com/lasangelitasdelpueblo/>



<https://www.instagram.com/lasangelitasdelpueblo>



<https://www.yelp.com/biz/las-angelitas-del-pueblo-los-angeles>



Search for [Las Angelitas del Pueblo](#)

Editor: Lindsay McMenamin

Contact me with history tidbits, news or notes, and interesting articles written by you:

news@lasangelitas.org

Deadline for next newsletter: January 21, 2019

Tour Statistics

Number of people toured, January through October:

2018: 6030

2017: 6692 (includes special tour in June, 2017, with 600 attendees)