

Buy Your Tickets Now

On October 23, 2011, our annual tour will feature the history of Mariposa Street, between Lake and Maiden Lane, including a docent-led tour of the magnificent craftsman Chamberlain house (pictured below), and also the home of Altadena's first historian, Sarah Noble Ives. The sidewalk tour includes the histories of the Markham house (now Sahag Mesrob school) built by Col. G. G. Green for his daughter, Altadena, and her new husband Robert Neustadt. Across the street is the McClintock house, built for Robert's mother. On the southeast corner

of Mariposa and Maiden Lane is a cottage built by architects Greene and Greene.

Check out the inside of the newsletter to find out more about these Altadena landmarks. And mark your calendars for a **special presentation on October 17** that covers all the research our hotshot volunteers have discovered about the street in preparation for the tour.

Tickets are \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members and \$25 for everyone the day of the event. So buy your tickets early. You can send a check to AHS (our address is on the back of the newsletter), or call us for more information 626-797-8016.

Altadena Historical Society presents a

Tour of East Mariposa Street Sunday, October 23, 2011, from 10 am to 4 pm

The walking tour includes docent-led tours of this fully restored craftsman home and that of historian and artist Sarah Noble Ives. Tickets: \$15 for members, \$25 for non-members and \$25 at the door.

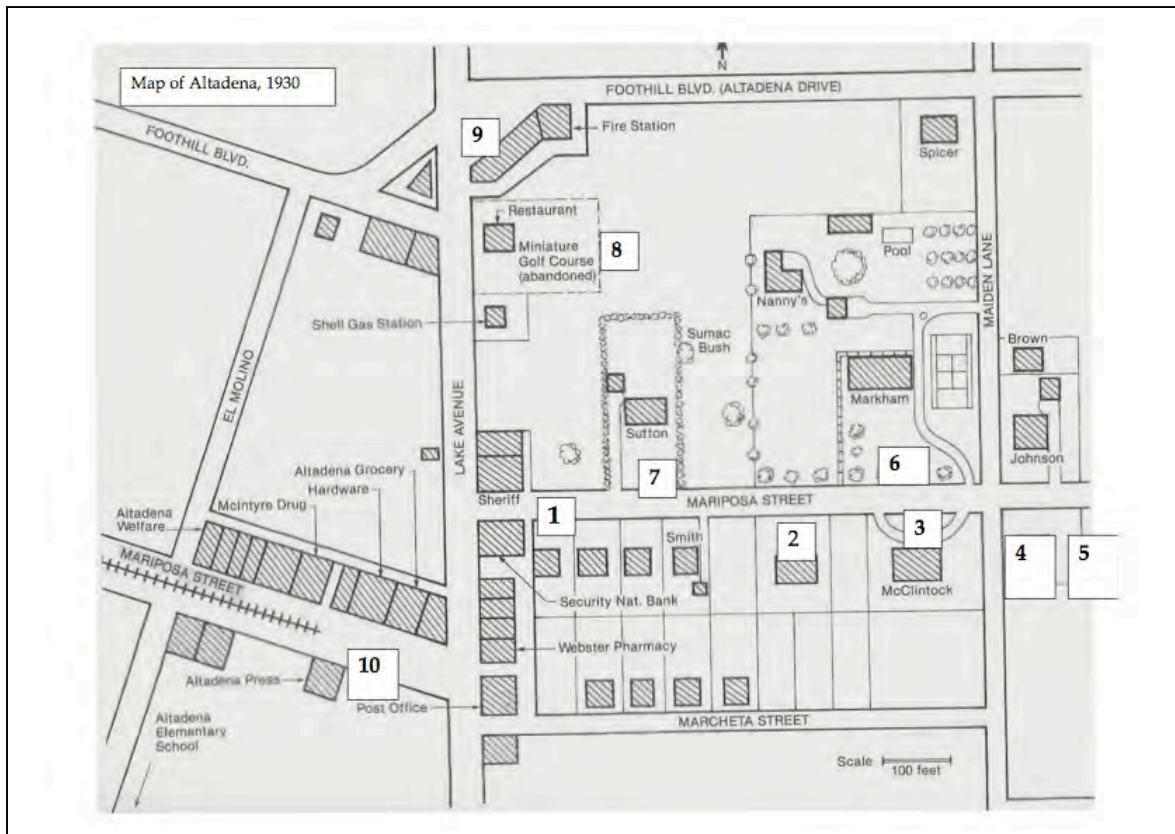


To purchase tickets go to <http://altadenahistoricalsocietytour.eventbrite.com/> or call 626-797-8016 or visit our website www.altadenahistoricalsociety.org

President's Message

By Jane Brackman

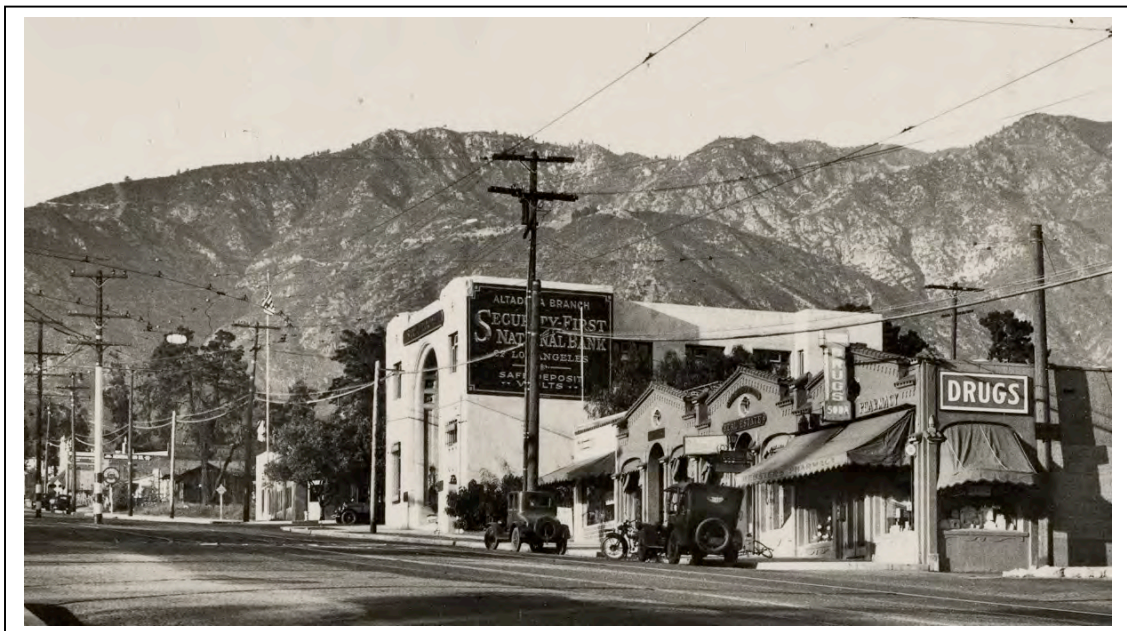
Our tour includes a look inside a fully restored, grand, craftsman bungalow, accompanied by a walking sidewalk tour of the 900 block of Mariposa Street. With stories to tell, mysteries to solve, and yes, I guess a little gossip to spread, we couldn't help but focus this year's event on the lives of the individuals who called E. Mariposa Street home. John Markham who grew up in the neighborhood wrote an autobiography describing 1930s Altadena in detail. Sarah Noble Ives, writer, painter and someone who could throw a good party, is still talked about by children (now grown up) who, with their parents, socialized at her home on the 1940s. AHS member Shirley Burt told us, "I lived on Marcheta Street (pronounced Mar-kee-ta) from around 1926 to 1943. The people who lived on Marcheta were merchants while the people on Mariposa were the rich folk. Because my backyard adjoined the Schmitz property, which fronted on Mariposa, I was able to play with their grandchildren Frances, Barbara and Ben Tepper. Thus when they got invited to go to play at the Markham house I would get to go along. Such a grand place to play - every toy you could imagine!" So relax, take a stroll down history street and enjoy life the way it used to be lived in Altadena.



You can also support AHS by purchasing ad space in the tour program. Business card ads are only \$50. Quarter page ad: \$75 Half page ad: \$100 Full page ad: \$150 The deadline is October 12. And we still need volunteers! Call us at 626-797-8016 or 626-794-0700.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

1. 928 E. Mariposa: Pick up your tickets.
2. 1016 E. Mariposa: Walk east on Mariposa and take a docent led tour of the Chamberlain home.
3. 1050 E. Mariposa: Continue to the McClintock house. Walk down the circular driveway for an up-close look at completely original Elmer Grey designed house.
4. 1086 E. Mariposa: Stroll across Maiden Lane to learn the history of the cottage designed by Greene and Greene.
5. 1094 E. Mariposa: Take a tour of the home of Altadena's first historian, Sara Noble Ives.
6. 1045 E. Mariposa: Walk across the street to see the marvelous mansion on the northwest corner of Mariposa and Maiden Lane, and get the low down on Altadena's most intriguing crime.
7. 931-945 E. Mariposa: Continue west to the apartment complex then walk up the driveway to see the home of Mr. Sutton, who was convicted of Altadena's most intriguing crime. Wallace Neff designed his home.
8. The alley: Continue west and walk north up the alley to see the remains of Altadena's 1930s miniature golf course. (Yes! It's still there!)
9. Altadena Drive: Walk all the way up to Altadena Drive, go west and you'll see the location of Altadena's first police department and fire station.
10. South on Lake: Walk south along Lake, back to Mariposa to complete the tour. And don't forget to visit our community and support our advertisers, many with businesses on Mariposa west of Lake, and north Lake Avenue. (See photo of area below, circa 1920s)





Above, Lizzie in her front yard. That's the Markham's home in the background. Below, Lizzie on the front porch.



The Chamberlain House

The house at 1016 E. Mariposa Street was constructed in 1912 for Leon and Lizzie Chamberlain, who were semi-retired when they moved to Southern California from St. Paul, Minnesota. Mr. Chamberlain had been the City Attorney for St. Paul, and also legal counsel for the Northern Pacific Railroad. Upon arrival in Los Angeles, he established a legal practice with Mr. Benjamin Page of Pasadena, who was married into the Markham family (the same family who owned the home at the corner of Maiden Lane and Mariposa.) Mr. Chamberlain suffered from tuberculosis, (as did Mr. Markham) which was likely the reason that he moved to Altadena, and he lived here until his death in 1921.

Mrs. Chamberlain, featured in the two pictures at left, loved music and animals took part in local social organizations such as the Shakespeare Club, as well as her church. She loved music and animals. She passed away in 1939 while living in the home.

The present owners have a copy of the Chamberlain will that lists furnishings still in the house at the time of Leon's death. Descendents of the Chamberlain family have generously passed on a few of these mementos to the current owners.

The grand craftsman style house, one of three homes built on the street about the same time, is similar to some of Pasadena's ultimate bungalows in that it was designed and built exclusively for the family. The architect is unknown; Los Angeles County had not begun to issue building permits at the time the home was built. However, based on some similarities in the design, there is speculation that it may have been designed by one of the numerous architects who apprenticed under Charles and Henry Greene—perhaps Buchanan and Brockway.

The Markham Family

On April 2, 1932, the Lindbergh family paid a \$50,000 ransom to the kidnapper of their baby boy, only to find the child's body in a shallow grave a month later. Exactly one year later, Fred and Mazie Belle Markham (pictured in photos at right) who lived in the beautiful mansion that graced the northwest corner of East Mariposa Street and Maiden Lane received a similar ransom note, threatening the life of their ten-year old son, John. According to John Markham's autobiography, *My Life So Far*, the threat to life engulfed not only his family but his Mariposa street neighbors as well.

Several years ago, we received a copy of the manuscript in which John described the crime, the suspects, the culprits and the heroes. Along the way he recounts what it was like to live here as a child of privilege from 1923 to 1936. Here is a delightful excerpt from his story:

"Do and Kaydee Johnson ... lived immediately to the east, across Maiden Lane. The four of us would play... We climbed tree, sliding down supporting wires; played tennis, using old (mid-1920s) racquets from the closet beneath the stairway in the entrance hall; roller-skated using skates with steel wheels. The skates were held to our feet using an ankle strap and an adjustable clamp, which grasped the front of our shoes. Oh, the effort we exerted in tightening the front clamp with a key, making sure the clamp fit around the sole of the shoe."

And by the way, you can purchase a copy of the complete autobiography, [My Life so Far](#), the day of the tour.

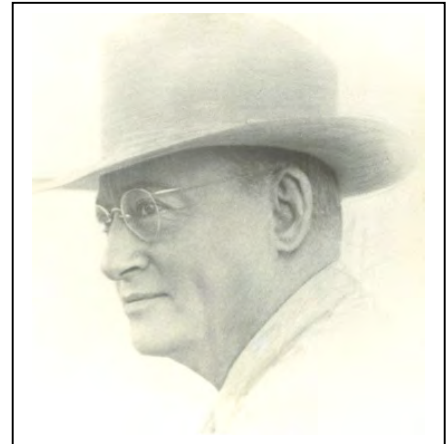


Photo of the family including John and his brother along with their father. Minta Shepard Rowan, the children's Nanny, is on the left. In 1931 a cottage was built for Minta, located northwest of the big house. Her home is historically significant because, due to stringent race restrictions, African-American people were not allowed to maintain a home in Altadena at the time. Minta lived there until her death in 1954. She is buried with the family in the Markham Mausoleum in Chicago, Illinois.



Formal gardens surrounding the McClintock house extended south to Marcheta Street. The original roof shingles, now gone, were woven together very closely and irregularly to give the texture of a thatched roof, a prominent architectural feature. (The house was named the "Thatch Cottage") The ornate brick chimney (since damaged by earthquakes) gave the feeling of a cozy English bungalow that was suited to the Southern California environment.

One hundred years ago, when **Mrs. Effie Neustadt** hired Pasadena architect, Elmer Grey, to design her home on the southwest corner of Mariposa St. and Maiden Lane, her intent was to live out her remaining years across the street from her son, Robert Neustadt, and his new wife Altadena Green. The 12 room, super-sized English country cottage, with its sweeping mountain and valley views, was made accessible to the new resident, who was confined to a wheel chair, by large bay windows and covered porches. The upstairs master bedroom had an adjoining room for a nurse-companion as well as access to a sewing room and a screened area that could be used as an outdoor living room. Mrs. Neustadt died only four years after she moved into the house. Duluth, Minnesota attorney John McClintock purchased the property for \$28,000 in 1915, and he and his wife lived there until their deaths. Mrs. McClintock died in 1962. (Image courtesy of Alan Hedrick).



Sarah Noble Ives and her three sisters purchased two lots and a cottage "sight unseen" on the southeast corner of Mariposa Street and Maiden Lane in 1924. Originally from Grosse Ile, Michigan near Detroit, the Ives sisters retired to California. Like a lot of mid-westerners who migrated to the area in the 1920's, they enjoyed the mild climate and the beauty of our mountains. All of the sisters were active in community affairs, but Sarah, already a noted artist and published author, is best known because she was Altadena's first historian. Mrs. Frederick Marsh, president of Altadena Historical Society, founded in 1935, asked Sarah to compile our first history, which was published in 1938. It tells the story of the community as the orange groves and poppy fields gradually gave way to mansions and bungalows. Born in 1864, Sarah attended Mrs. Edna Chafee Noble's Training School for Elocution and Literature in Detroit. Mrs. Chafee, a suffragette and educator, became a mentor, foster parent, and role model for Sarah. After continuing her education in New York and Paris, Sarah returned to the U. S. and began her career as a free-lance illustrator and author, using the name Noble Ives. Her works were published in the *Sun*, *Herald Tribune* and *McClure's syndicate*. Landscape paintings were her specialty and two are in the collection of the Altadena Public Library. Sara Noble Ives died in November, 1944.

Quarterly Program on Monday, October 17, 2011 at 7:30 pm

Our annual October program will be two weeks early, the third Monday of the month rather than the usual last Monday, so we can share all the new research we've dug up in our efforts to flesh out the history of Mariposa Street. The program will include plenty of rare pictures, interesting facts and good stories, including – and we find this particularly intriguing - how most of the people who built the grand homes were interconnected either through business, relatives, friends or hometowns. So please join Altadena Historical Society and the hard working Tour Committee including Mary Lou Langedyke, Kathy Hoskins, Paula Wegner and Jane Brackman for a program about the Mariposa Street Neighborhood Tour:

Histories, Mysteries & Gossip Galore

7:30 pm, Altadena Community Center, 730 E. Altadena Dr., Altadena CA 91001
Programs are free and open to the public..

Raffle Painting

At the turn of the last century, citrus and olive groves, small ranches, working farms and dairies dotted west Altadena, from the Arroyo to Fair Oaks and Woodbury to Altadena Drive. Horse properties still remain as does the Altadena stables. On most any weekend, outside of Altadena's iconoclastic *George's Liquors*, on the corner of Lincoln and Altadena drive, you're likely to see horses tied up in front, reminders of Altadena's on-going connection to its agricultural roots. This year's raffle painting, "5:30 at George's" was donated by artist, Marv Wegner. Marv lives in "The Meadows" area of northwest Altadena, with his wife, Paula, where they raised three children, now all grown. To see more of his work go to his website CalArtWorks.com



One ticket for \$1
Six tickets for \$5
Thirteen tickets for \$10
Thirty tickets for \$20

Drawing is October 23, 2011 at 4:00 pm. Winner need not be present



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FIND US ON THE WEB:

altadenahistoricalociety.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 a copy of Altadena's Golden Years by Robert H. Peterson.

_____ Donation enclosed