

If the label on your newsletter has dollar signs (\$\$\$), it's a reminder to

## PLEASE PAY YOUR 2012 DUES

You can still get these four postcards with a \$50 premium membership. More information on the back page.



## Scripps Memorabilia Back in Altadena

*The Scripps Home, an Altadena landmark that was located on North El Molino Avenue between Calaveras and Alameda Streets, was purchased by the Episcopal Home Communities in 2007, and then torn down to make way for a modern 278-unit retirement community. Residents were relocated to another senior housing facility in Alhambra, The Kensington. In 2010, independent investors purchased the Kensington and the residents were again dispersed to other facilities. The collection of Altadena memorabilia accumulated by the Home during its century long history moved with the residents, but has finally made its way back to Altadena. On Tuesday November 22, 2011, the Episcopal Homes Community donated multiple boxes of documents, and pictures to AHS. ... And oh the treasures. Mary Lou Langedyke tells part of the story here. Look inside for Kathy Hoskins article on what remains of Scripps and Tim Gregory's piece on the collection.*

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Every house has one special little someplace – perhaps a box in the basement, or an attic trunk, maybe a shoebox tucked away in a little-used dresser drawer. Well organized or not, more often it is started then forgotten. I refer to the scrapbook - that ubiquitous catchall we use to collect the importance of our lives and record our stories.

Organizations often had a scrapbooks made up of newspaper clippings, documenting meetings, events and fundraisers that were put together by the group's historian. The history of our community and others has long been preserved by the simple act of snip and glue.

While Tim Gregory was unpacking the Scripps archives recently donated to the Altadena Historical Society, he found a treasure - the scrapbook of the Altadena Historical and Beautification Society

(AHS) documenting its history from 1937 to 1942. A lot of this story was the meticulous work of Mrs. Leigh Guyer and Mrs. Stuart G. Barnes who were elected to the office of "Book and Press Clippings" With scissors and glue they collected every story of Altadena and the Altadena Historical and Beautification Society which appeared in the local papers of the day - *The Altadenan*, *The Pasadena Star News* and *The Pasadena Independent*. The pages are brittle with time, some almost in shreds but what emerges for the researcher is a source that adds volumes to our understanding of events in the 30's and 40's.

Of course, newspaper stories were the primary news source of the day, written with so much detail the reader feels almost present at the event. One news story found in the scrapbook tells of the 1937 automobile accident that claimed the life of Zayde Ives, sister of Sara Noble Ives, who was on her way to a meeting of the Forty Planters. Zayde was crossing the street at Maiden Lane and Mendocino when she stopped briefly indicating to the driver that she saw him and then kept walking into the path of the oncoming car. Her family noted that her glasses were found in her purse. The story continues with a complete biography of Ms. Ives and information about her funeral and burial in the Mountain View Mausoleum. All of this information is new and adds so much to AHS files.

(article continues on page 7)

The AHS budget for 2012 is \$15,000 plus an additional one-time expense of \$4,000 to professionally archive Scripps Home memorabilia, probably the single most important collection of documents, photos and records we have ever received. This year we'll be asking you, our donors, to establish a special Scripps Home Archive Fund by contributing an extra donation in addition to your dues. More details coming soon.

## President's Message

*By Jane Brackman*

	2007	2011
Visitors	94	190
Research Requests	36	57
Volunteer Hours	206	522
Archivist Hours	593	385
New Accessions	25	75
Income	\$12,296	\$16,738
Expenses	\$17,016	\$14,495

At the beginning of the fiscal year, we take a serious look at where we are and where we're going. The numbers in the above table, comparing 2007 to 2011, measure our efforts and progress over the last four years.

A lot of visitors come into archives with questions about the community. Although some are simple, like obituaries, others are complicated and take quite a bit of time to research. When it comes to questions about houses, our researchers team up with Altadena Heritage. We have six excellent volunteers - Jean Phillips, Laurie Kinsinger, Marlane Forsberg, Kathy Hoskins, Mary Lou Langedyke and Terence Kratz, but we always need more, so give us a call.

New accessions are donated items relating to Altadena history, anything from books, photos and journals to Mt. Lowe memorabilia and family scrapbooks. Donated items are reviewed once a month, and recommendations as to how they should be handled and stored are made by our archives committee.

In 2011 we raised \$16,738 as follows: memberships \$6,875; donations \$3,365, events \$4,580, book sales \$1,344, and misc \$574. (We have a very limited number of books left. Get yours before June 1, 2012 when the price will go up, from \$34 to \$49.)

Because our space is provided almost free of charge by LA County (we pay property tax, insurance, phone, etc.), more than 95% of every donation we receive goes into supporting our mission: to gather, preserve and make available information about the people, places and events that have shaped Altadena in the past. These costs include maintaining archives, employing an archivist part time, computer support, supplies and event expenses.

I also want to welcome new board members Mary Lou Langedyke and Marlane Forsberg. In addition to board duties, they helped with the newsletter, as did Kathy Hoskins, Tim Gregory, and Sherry Cavallo. And while I'm at it, our other board members, many whom have supported AHS for more decades than they would like me to mention deserve a thank you as well: Sara Carnahan, Paula Wegner, Minna Adams, Jerry Sutton, Brian Marcroft, Joanne Rolle, Mary Smeritschnig, and Bruce Spears.

And finally – you can now make donations to AHS and renew your membership on-line. Simply go to <http://www.altadenahistoricalsociety.org/membership.htm> and follow directions.

Jane Brackman, Ph.D.  
President  
Newsletter Editor

## Archiving the Scripps Collection – A Treasure Hunt in Progress

By Tim Gregory

When the Altadena Historical Society asked me to process their newly-donated Scripps Home material to make it a part of the Society’s archives, I was faced with a number of very large, daunting cardboard boxes filled to the brim with assorted documents and photographs (photo lower left). However, over the last few weeks I have been able to sort the materials sufficiently to uncover some real gems of history, both of the Home and of Altadena in general.

One of the biggest finds was a scrapbook that had originally belonged to the Society but somehow wound up “living” at Scripps—full of never-before-seen photographs of such subjects as the old Altadena School and pioneer Altadenans, and news-clippings of Society activities, including documentation of the publication of Sarah Noble Ives’ original history of the community in 1938.

Although I’ve only so far scratched the surface of what the Home’s collection includes, I have already discovered the original legal papers from the Kellogg family establishing the “Home for Aged Women” (as Scripps was originally called) in 1911, photographs of the original facility (a Victorian house formerly owned by Thaddeus Lowe, Jr. with the first Scripps residents posed in front of it), and a wonderful “panorama” of the Home’s activities revealed in scrapbooks meticulously and artistically compiled over almost 100 years by volunteer residents (long before scrapbooking became a recognized hobby).

Contradicting the idea held by some that both the buildings and services offered to residents had become decrepit in recent years, more recent photographic documentation of construction and retrofitting projects, dedication ceremonies attended by local dignitaries, and of activities, like “Roaring 20s” parties and summer picnics, prove that Scripps Home remained vital right up to its last days. I look forward to sharing more discoveries with you in the future as this “treasure hunt” (AKA an archiving project) progresses.





## Archives Notes

By Sherry Cavallo

Memorial donations to AHS are a good way to remember loved ones.

Call for more information.

The AHS collection includes local cookbooks with recipes to tantalize your taste buds, along with others that make you wonder, “What were those people thinking?”

Book titles range from *Cooking with Class, Taste and See* to *Recipes from Republic Federal Bank* (the bank was a stalwart of the community for many years) full of recipes from bank employees. The oldest cookbook we have was published in 1939. In 1953 AHS published its own cookbook titled *Altadena Cooking* and included recipes that might raise a few eyebrows these days:

### *Chocolate Sausage* By Helen Butchta

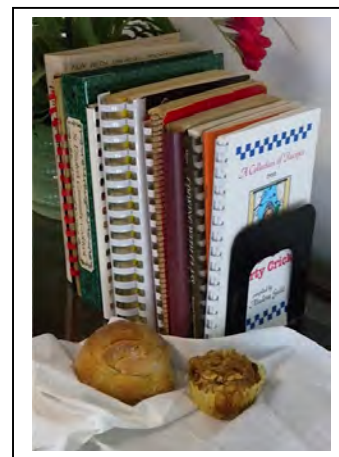
- ½ lbs. grated Baker’s chocolate
- 6 T. sugar
- ¼ lb. peanuts
- 2 egg white, beaten
- 1 tsp vanilla

*Put egg white in a pan. Heat. When warm, add chocolate, sugar and nuts. Stir until thick. Add tsp of vanilla. Put granulated sugar on board and roll above mixture into sausage shape. When stiff, cut into slices. This will stiffen in ½ hour. Fry in peanut oil.*

The Benziger sisters, who lived most of their somewhat reclusive lives in a mansion on Mariposa Street, published *Try It Cookbook*. (Their family’s business, Benziger Publishing, was a Roman Catholic book publishing house founded in 1792 in Switzerland. The sisters wrote and published several books.) Their modest cookbook includes a recipe called *Pickled Nasturtium Seeds* with serving suggestions - fish, mutton or salads.

With meat in low supply during WWII, The Altadena Grocery, located on the north side of Mariposa west of Lake, issued a meat cook book that offered recipes, cooking tips, and pointers on conserving and using kitchen fats. The book states that “fats were considered highly nutritional, and fats supply glycerin which is essential in making explosives.” Anyone for blowing up the kitchen?

Well, that’s what’s cookin’ in Altadena. Hope you stop by to see our delectable collection soon!



Thanks to all who have donated Altadena memorabilia. This is just a partial list.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Steinbacher -Victorian costume worn by Cue Mackenzie in the Rose Parade

Sara Carnahan – books and miscellaneous documents

Karen Becker – Welcome Wagon Minutes and Scrapbook

Ruth Judkins - Altadena League of Women’s Voters booklet

Donald H. Way -1985 Pac Bell phone book

Dan MacPherson- Images of Altadena Airport

Jane Brackman -Scrapbook of newspaper clippings and photos of the Keyes Bungalow

Charles Seims – Research papers used in the writing of his book, *Mt. Lowe – The Railway in the Clouds*

Jerry Sutton - Three water resource maps

### COOL STUFF ON OUR WEBSITE

## From our Files

We find the most interesting things in our files. And we're good at sharing, too. Once a month we send out a brief email attachment with a photo and history. You can see all these history bites sent highlighting different topics of community interest if you go to our website:

<http://www.altadenahistoricalociety.org/echos.htm>

This is some of what you'll find:

- Alpine Tavern
- Altadena Press
- Altadena Town and Country Club
- Boulder Crest
- Carriage House Mural
- Fires
- 1969 Flood
- George Gardner Symons
- Charming Altadena Homes
- Altadena Hospital
- Paul Johnson & Sagemont
- Modern Car
- Patent Medicine
- Rabies
- Woestman's
- Harmon Studio
- Webster's
- Miniature Golf
- Sarah Noble Ives

## Mystery Photo Blog

About six months ago we recruited volunteer Marlane Forsberg to start a Mystery Photo Blog to enlist the community's help in filling in the details of the big picture of Altadena's history. AHS has many thousands of photographs chronicling Altadena's past. We also archive and store artifacts such as pottery, glass and metal objects as well as many paper records such as newspapers, pamphlets, music, books, etc. For many of these items, all or parts of their stories are missing.

Each month we post a new mystery image in the hope that readers can fill in the missing bits. We cross post to altadenablog, too. Already readers have provided us with the identity of people and buildings in old photographs, and with the identification and use of metal objects. One reader has provided a plethora of new information on the Altadena airfield. We'll be updating the blog with the new information.

Recently the AHS received the Scripps' Home Collection. When this collection is curated, we will be posting its mystery pictures. Below is an example. All we know is from what it says on the back - "Early volunteers at Scripps." Let us know if you can identify either of the two women.

We encourage all readers to comment on the postings to the blog. Check it out at <http://www.altadenahistoricalociety.org/blog.htm>



## WHAT'S LEFT – HISTORY OF THE SCRIPPS HOME

By Kathy Hoskins

Anyone who has driven by the large vacant lot on the south side of Calaveras Street between El Molino and Crawford remembers the former Scripps Home that stood on the site for 100 years.

Two artifacts are left of the home. The first is a small craftsman cottage that still stands in the middle of the lot. The second is the Scripps Home sign that hung for years at the corner of El Molino and Calaveras. It now hangs from the ceiling of the Altadena Historical Society archives.

The story of Scripps Home began when William A. Scripps, a British-born newspaperman, moved his family from Detroit to Altadena in 1904. Mr. Scripps became very involved in his new community and took a particular interest in the Pasadena Emergency League. This organization was helping to house a number of elderly people. In 1911 Mr. Scripps purchased a home on the southeast corner of Calaveras and El Molino that had been built by Prof. Thaddeus Lowe (of Mt. Lowe Railway fame) for his son Thad Jr. In 1913 Mr. Scripps gave this property along with 8 acres of land and an additional wing to the community to be called "The William A. Scripps Home for Aged People." The original buildings were designed by the architectural firm of Buchanan and Brockway.

The total cost of the gift at the time was \$50,000. In its early years the home was always free from debt and supported by contributions, gifts and legacies as well as the Community Chest.

In 1914 "Gloria Cottage," designed by architect C. F. Driscoll, was added as a gift from prominent Altadenan, Mrs. A.F. Gartz (nee Crane; heiress to the Crane Plumbing fortune). It was named after



*Above: William A. Scripps and his daughters  
Florence and Winifred.*

Mrs. Gartz's daughter and was used as a small hospital. In later years it became the caretaker's cottage. In 1922 a new building was completed and additional wings were added, financed by the Scripps family and friends. The name was changed to "The Pasadena Home for the Aged." The buildings were updated over the years and newer additions were built. In 1962 the name changed again to "The Scripps Home."

Today the land is vacant but the rich history of The Scripps Home is documented in the archives kept by a series of dedicated residents of the home. The Altadena Historical Society is in the process of having this collection organized and catalogued. The Gloria Cottage is the only visual reminder of one of Altadena's finest and oldest institutions.

*Below: The only building left on the property,  
"Gloria Cottage" awaits its fate.*



(article continued from front page)

In addition to stories of meetings, speakers and fundraisers, AHS now has in depth articles about the building of the Altadena library on Lake Street, the Altadena Community Church on Altadena Drive, the funeral services for Zane Grey, the writing, publication and sale of Sara Noble Ives history of Altadena and the reflections and memories of Mrs. and Mrs. William L. Schuman, a founding family of Altadena. The task ahead is to preserve this fragile artifact for future use and ease of access.

The Altadena Historical Society has also recently acquired the scrapbook of the Altadena Welcome Wagon Club founded in 1948 at meeting in the Venetian Restaurant on Lake Street.

Altadena Historical Society welcomes any of your journals, scrapbooks, letters or collections that tell Altadena's story. Once preserved, archived and catalogued, our shared sense of the past is more alive and more complete.



*Above: Scrapbook of the Altadena Historical and Beautification Society (AHS) found in the Scripps Home material recently donated to AHS.*

*Below: AHS members look through Scripps Home memorabilia donated by the Episcopal Home Communities. From left: former Scripps resident Jeanne Guernsey, Mary Lou Langedyke of AHS, Martha Tamburrano, president and CEO of the Episcopal Homes Communities, AHS Archivist Sherry Cavallo, and Kathy Hoskins of AHS. (Photo courtesy of altadenablog)*



## Tours and Talks

Altadena Historical Society will be hosting three separate Sunday afternoon events from 2 to 4 PM at historic properties. Each will include an informal tour and a brief talk followed by tea. Tickets to each function are sold separately. Because seating is limited to 30 people per event, we expect tickets to sell out quickly. Reservations will only be secured by receipt of a check or money order mailed to AHS, 730 E. Altadena Drive, Altadena, CA 91001. Or visit us Monday, Tuesday and Friday between 9 AM and noon to purchase your tickets.

**Tickets Prices per event**  
**\$25 for members**  
**\$30 for non-members**

**Sunday, June 3, 2012**

2- 4 PM

### **The Chamberlain House (1912)**

Similar to some of Pasadena's ultimate bungalows in style and individuality, the custom designed house is accentuated with fundamental arts and crafts style details. The architect is unknown, however, there is speculation that it may have been designed by one of the numerous architects who apprenticed under Charles and Henry Greene.

### **Speaker: Barbara Brackman**

Barbara writes about quilt history online and in books. She also designs fabric for quilters and has based several lines on William Morris designs. Her next collection will be called *The Morris Apprentice*, featuring designs of John Henry Dearle. She has a book coming in July with a new version of a 1930s quilt. *The Garden Quilt: Interpreting a Masterpiece* includes a pattern for a quilt by Arts & Crafts designer Rose Kretsinger.

### **Lecture: Patchwork & Embroidery for the Arts & Crafts Home**

Barbara will show examples of Arts & Crafts designs adapted for modern techniques and reproduction cottons. She'll discuss quilts for walls, beds and tables adapted from London and Glasgow to Paris and Vienna.

*Photo upper right: Chamberlain house in 1914*

*Lower right: Appliquéd wall hangings for the craftsman home designed and made by Barbara Brackman.*

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Tickets: \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members





## Tours and Talks

**Sunday, July 15, 2012**

2-4 PM

### **The Andrew McNally House (1887)**

Built by the founder of the Chicago based Rand-McNally publishing company and designed by Frederick Roehrig, the McNally house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2007.

### **Speaker: Tim Gregory**

With master's degrees in Library Science and Public History/Historic Preservation, Tim Gregory is a nationally certified archivist and a registered public historian. In 1992, following a career in the public library field, Tim established his own firm, *The Building Biographer*. Since then he has completed over 2,500 property histories for leading real estate firms and homeowners. He has also prepared historical significance studies for public agencies, private owners, environmental consulting firms, and real estate developers, as well as Mills Act applications and nominations for listings on the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources.

### **Lecture: The History of the McNally House**

Tim will talk about the life of Andrew McNally, co-founder of one of the largest map publishing companies in the world. He'll also share the history of the house along with the steps he followed and hurdles he faced in successfully nominating the McNally House to the National Register of Historic Places.

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Tickets: \$25 for members  
\$30 for non-members



*Above: The Andrew McNally house about 1900*

*Below: The Turkish Room in 1898 (Watters, S., Houses of Los Angeles, 1885-1919 Vol. I, Acanthus Press, NY: 2007, p. 38)*



## Tours and Talks

**Sunday, August 12, 2012**  
2-4 PM

### **The Keyes Bungalow (1911)**

Although the architect and builder are unknown, the house is significant as a near perfect example of an airplane bungalow - a complete bungalow home on the bottom floor with an additional room raised above the roof like the cockpit of an airplane. The house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

### **Speaker: Jane Brackman, Ph.D.**

The owner of the home and author of two books about pets in 19<sup>th</sup> century America, Jane was a guide dog school CEO and also Executive Officer for the California State Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind. Today she lectures and writes exclusively about the history and science of canine domestication and her articles appear regularly in popular publications.

### **Lecture: The History of the Companion Dog in America, 1900-1920**

Owning a purebred dog was strictly upper-crust in the Victorian era, but the esthetic was claimed by the middle class when ready-cut bungalows from companies like Sears meant regular folks could have a single family dwelling, a garden and a *purebred* family dog. Jane will explain why Yorkies were considered dogs of the lower class, Labrador Retrievers were not recommended as pets, and why the U.S. dog population grew four times faster than the general population between 1900 and 1920.

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Tickets: \$25 for members  
\$30 for non-members



*Above: The Keyes Bungalow about 1927*

*Below: Made in America! The Boston Terrier was the first truly American breed (photo 1907)*



Altadena Historical Society

# Quarterly Meeting and Lecture

Historian and Author Elizabeth Pomeroy  
and  
Arroyo Foothills Conservancy Executive Director John Howell

## The Past and Future of Millard Canyon

Millard Canyon is a gem in our foothills -- a densely wooded area with a perennial stream at the northern edge of Altadena. Home to the Hahamonga people, Altadena pioneers, and more recently a favorite destination for outdoor enthusiasts, Millard Canyon is an integral part of the Altadena story. A local landowner is willing to sell 13 acres in the canyon for conservation. AFC is raising awareness and funds to purchase the canyon. Doing so would complete the preservation of the entire canyon north of Canyon Crest Road, leaving only two major unprotected canyons in Altadena. Elizabeth and John will provide a brief history of the canyon and bring you up to date on its future.

A former board member of Altadena Foothills Conservancy, **John Howell** is the organization's first Executive Director. He is an attorney and represented The Nature Conservancy in acquiring 14 open-space properties, and the Trust for Public Land in acquiring three. He was a founding member of Open Space Now, an advocacy group for natural open space in Pasadena, and is a member of the Arlington Garden Advisory Committee.

**Elizabeth Pomeroy**, Ph.D., has pursued a career in teaching and administration. She is a passionate Sierra Club hike leader, writer and editor and teaches English at Pasadena City College. Her recent books include *John Muir: A Naturalist in Southern California*, *Lost and Found: Historic and Natural Landmarks of the San Gabriel Valley*, and *Pasadena: A Natural History*.

**Monday, May 14, 2012**  
**7:30 PM**

Altadena Community Center  
730 E. Altadena Drive  
Altadena, CA 91001

*Programs are free and open to the public*



Altadena Historical Society  
730 East Altadena Drive  
Altadena, CA 91001-2351

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## The Echo

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SOCIETY

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FIND US ON THE WEB:

[altadenahistoricalsociety.org](http://altadenahistoricalsociety.org)

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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 4 limited edition vintage postcards featuring Altadena scenes (back of cards are blank).

You can now join on line <http://www.altadenahistoricalsociety.org/membership.htm>