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Huntington Acquires Painting By Famed African American Artist Charles White

A painting of a World War II "Soldier" by famed African American artist and longtime Altadena resident Charles White has been acquired by The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens in San Marino.

The 30-by-25-inch tempera on Masonite painted in 1944 was a gift to the museum from San Diego collectors Bram and Sandra Dijkstra, along with African American artist Robert S. Duncanson's 19th century oil, "Landscape with Ruin."

"Both men are considered among the most important African American painters of their era," The Huntington announced.

Both paintings are on display in the Huntington's Virginia Steele Scott Galleries of American Art.

"'Soldier' will mesmerize visitors with its expressionist power and heartbreaking symbolism," said Kevin Salatino, director of The Huntington's art collections. "Strengthening our representation of works by African American artists has been a longstanding goal..." he said in thanking the donors.

When drafted into the Army in 1944, Charles and his segregated unit were assigned to ditching and sandbagging duty when the Ohio and Mississippi rivers flooded, and,



"Soldier" by artist, Charles White

Photo Courtesy of The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens

working in waist-high water, Charles contracted tuberculosis, which hampered him for the rest of his life.

He was given a medical discharge, also in 1944, and treated at an upstate New York veterans' hospital for two-to-three years. The

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President's Letter *by Jane Brackman, Ph.D.*



I recently heard some sad news: An Altadena woman who had been an enthusiastic supporter and decades-long volunteer of Altadena Historical Society had passed away. She had left a major bequest in her will to an area non-profit. Her passing saddened me. She was a lovely, delightful person. But I was also saddened that she had not remembered AHS in her will, as well.

As I reviewed AHS's financial history, I was stunned to find that we have never received an estate gift. Not even a small gift from one of the many life-long Altadenans who have dedicated themselves to maintaining AHS since 1935. I'm not sure if it's because the community thinks we don't need funding, or perhaps they think we have no plans for growth. Or maybe it's simply

because we never asked. So we're asking now. Please take a moment to remember AHS in your estate plan.

My own estate gift is simple - "an unrestricted gift from Jane Brackman to Altadena Historical Society." It's money for anything the organization needs that's within the boundaries of our charitable mission. Ten years from now, as AHS matures, I may decide to fund something more personal or specific, such as expanding a certain program or improving our physical facilities. But for right now, I know whatever I leave will be used to help AHS preserve Altadena's identity. As a repository for the combined memories of the entire community, Altadena's historical archive remembers who we were and contributes to our understanding of what we want to be in the future. We need AHS now more than ever.

There are many ways you can help:

● First, don't discard your boxed-up Altadena-related memorabilia, photos and collectibles. Rather, donate them to AHS. We've received some significant historical records recently. When Bill Webster retired he gave AHS hundreds of Chamber of Commerce letters, circa 1925-1955, revealing the town's founders' vision of Altadena as a bustling foothills community in competition with Pasadena and even Los Angeles. Besides the mundane topics you'd expect, like street repair, sewers, garbage pickup, and church

socials, the letters also reference the beginning of Christmas Tree Lane, every detail about Altadena's Rose Parade floats, and how Theatre Americana ended up at Farnsworth Park. There are plenty of documents addressing more serious issues such as traffic fatalities, fires and floods, missing persons, crimes and even Altadena's shameful race restriction policies.

● Second, renew or become a member. Memberships account for almost half of our annual income. With only three months left in the year, you can purchase a 2014 membership now and get 2015 free. Go to our website and join on line or send a check. (See page 12.)

● And finally, support Altadena Library. We feel that the district's two libraries - the Mariposa Street main library and the Bob Lucas Branch on Lincoln Avenue - are important community resources that bolster and support the AHS mission of preserving and communicating Altadena's rich history. Joining with more than 40 other Altadena organizations, the AHS Board unanimously endorsed the Nov. 4 ballot question of continuing the parcel tax that supports the Altadena Library District. The 1994 tax, which provides the library district with about one third of its funding, is about to expire, so look for it on your Nov. 4 ballot.

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What's Up at AHS?

As 2014 comes to a close, our to-do list gets a little shorter, too. We've finished old projects and started new ones.

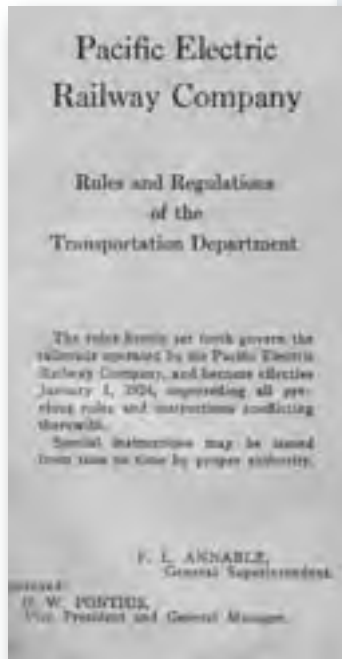
We've upgraded our computer system, to provide more disc space and create a more efficient work environment.

Our collection has increased thanks to several people who have donated to AHS:

● **Debby Hemela** gave us a box of Benziger family artifacts, including books written or published by the family, as well as photographs of the family and its home. The Benziger family built a Roman Catholic book publishing empire founded in 1792 in Switzerland. They lived in the shingle style transitional house on the southwest corner of Mariposa and Santa Anita.



- **Connie Nardini** gave us images of Altadena pioneers Zanita and Jimmy Elm and a postcard of the Edison School Rose Parade Float from 1921.
- **Doris Finch** provided an archival plexibox to protect a wall hanging donated in 2003.
- **Heinz Ellerseik** continues to give us gifts from his wife Astrid's collection of Altadena memorabilia. His current gift includes a 1924 book



of rules and regulations for Pacific Electric Railway employees - a fascinating look at how the railway operated.

● **Marc Striegel** donated a book of



John Stoddard lectures, which includes an interesting section on Southern California and Mt. Lowe.

The Mt. Lowe digitization project is nearing an end, giving us an opportunity to share many of the images from our collection through our new website, "Mt. Lowe, a Digital History" (see page 6).



Andrea Banuelos

We owe a special vote of thanks to PCC intern, **Andrea Banuelos**, who came to us to enhance her digitization skills. Her help scanning and cataloging our images of Mt. Lowe has been invaluable. We are happy to welcome her as a regular volunteer, now that her internship is completed.

Thanks, also, to **Jeanina Quezada** and **Mary Gandsey**, two recent volunteers. Jeanina is revising our finding guide (the notebook that helps us locate information) and Mary is sorting and cataloging items in our collection.—*Jean Phillips*

Help Wanted

Right now we are looking for a "desk volunteer" who would welcome visitors, answer the phones, and handle basic clerical work. We are open from 9-1, Monday, Tuesday and Friday. If you have those hours free and would be interested in helping us preserve Altadena's history, please call 626-797-8016, or send us an e-mail at altadenahistorical.society@yahoo.com.

AHS exists because volunteers give generously of their time and expertise. You, too, could help us fulfill our mission - and learn more about Altadena as well.

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Huntington dates the despairing portrait of “Soldier” to that year.

White was born in Chicago in 1918 and moved to Los Angeles in 1956, teaching at the Otis Art Institute from 1965 until his death in 1979. He is best known for his powerful and evocative paintings and drawings that focus on African American subjects and the social issues they portray.

Soon after White and his wife Frances arrived at Pasadena’s Santa Fe railroad station, they used a \$500 gift from their friend, singer Harry Belafonte, to help buy a car and a two-bedroom home on north Summit Avenue in Pasadena.

There they entertained friends such as the Sidney Poitiers, Ossie Davis and Miriam Makeba, according to a frank, loving, often shocking and



Ye Shall Inherit the Earth, 1953, charcoal on paper. A print of this drawing can be seen at AHS.

Courtesy of the Charles White Archives



Charles, Frances, Ian and Jessica White at their home on Rising Hill Road.

Photo Courtesy of the Charles White Archives

always moving 1994 biography, “Reaches of the Heart,” by his widow Frances Barrett White, with Anne Scott.

The authors say that that after Poitier landed the lead role in the film “The Defiant Ones,” he and his wife rented a red brick home in Altadena and encouraged the Whites to relocate to Altadena, also.

With the help of a friendly, Pasadena realtor, the Whites “blockbusted,” or integrated, Kent Street, a block-long cul de sac street ending at the arroyo in West Altadena. The arrival of the mixed-race couple caused many white neighbors to put their homes up for sale, according to author Michele Zack in “Altadena, Between Wilderness and City.”

But the couple soon made friends with other, remaining neighbors, Zack related.

“We were enthralled by the beauty of the Arroyo and the charm of the house,” Frances wrote in “Reaches of the Heart.” “We were constantly enriched by our belief that we could always find decent, good people to share our lives.”

And the Kent Street house had another attraction: a two-car garage that Charles made into his studio, the site of much important artwork in

the time they resided there.

Later, through their widespread circle of friends in the arts and activist circles, the Whites met Academy Award-winning Hollywood screenwriter Dalton Trumbo, who was blacklisted by the major studios. In 1962 Trumbo sold them at-cost a one-acre hillside lot in an artists-writers-activists enclave he owned in Los Angeles' Highland Park community, Frances White relates.

Building into the hillside on that property, the Whites constructed their two-story dream house including a library and large studio for Charles on the second floor, and a bedroom, kitchen and dining room on the first.

In the mid-sixties the Whites adopted two children, a girl they named Jessica Francis, in 1963, and, two years later, a boy they named Charles Ian, always called Ian. (Ian White, an Altadena resident, spoke about his father to a quarterly meeting of the Altadena Historical Society in Jan. 2013.

Francis says Jessica wrote in a sophomore-year essay, "My three month old Chinese and Black brother was entering a family of ethnic diversification with a Creek Indian and Black father, an Irish mother and an Ethiopian sister. Our own petite United Nations was created."

"Our wonderful, architecturally designed home was simply too small," Frances recalled. "Jessica and Ian shared the one bedroom, and we had been sleeping on the sofa bed for four years."

"On weekends we began driving around Altadena again, but this time looking for homes in the remote foothills where many artists and scientists had gravitated.

"We felt at home in Altadena. It was a small town with family-owned restaurants, drugstores, and three local supermarkets [probably referring to the Lincoln and Fair Oaks corridors].

"Our stops at the market or gas station found

people friendly and apparently uninterested in our color differences."

With the help of a friendly realtor, they located and eventually purchased a "perfect" home with a backyard studio on Rising Hill Road in the Meadows, the isolated development of modest, mid-century homes adjoining the Angeles National Forest and Millard Canyon in farthest northwest Altadena.

In 1980, a year after White's death at age 61, the County of Los Angeles named a park just west of Fair Oaks Avenue, between Mountain View and Ventura streets, in his honor. He is buried at Mountain View Cemetery, near the grave of another historical figure, Professor Thaddeus Lowe.

White's artworks are in the collections of scores of museums, universities, colleges, galleries and private collections across the country and in Europe and Asia.

He was also a muralist, and one of his works is at the Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Branch library on South Western Avenue in Los Angeles' Exposition Park neighborhood.

The Charles White Elementary School on Wilshire Boulevard, directly across from Los Angeles' McArthur Park, was named in his honor.

—*Rob Hallwachs*



LA County park located at 77 Mountain View St. in Altadena was named in honor of Charles White.

AHS to Launch Mount Lowe Website



Famous Circular Bridge

In the spring of 1890, two extraordinary visionaries got together to create what some say was the one of the most amazing engineering marvels ever built, a scenic mountain

railroad and resort intended to be the grandest tourist attraction of its day.

Inventor and business promoter Thaddeus S.C. Lowe and civil engineer David J. Macpherson formed a company, The Pasadena and Mt. Wilson Railroad, to make their vision a reality. Thus was born the Mount Lowe Railway.

Altadena Historical Society will soon be launching “Mount Lowe: A Digital History,” a web site that features the many documents, images and objects related to the Mount Lowe Railway. It covers the beginning, growth and

decline of this iconic part of Altadena’s history, with a special focus on its creators, workers and visitors.

Opened in 1893, the railway climbed more than 2000 feet above Altadena, a sleepy town nestled in the foothills above Pasadena. The attraction featured seven miles of track and four hotels, with tourists boarding the train in Altadena. A cable car funicular

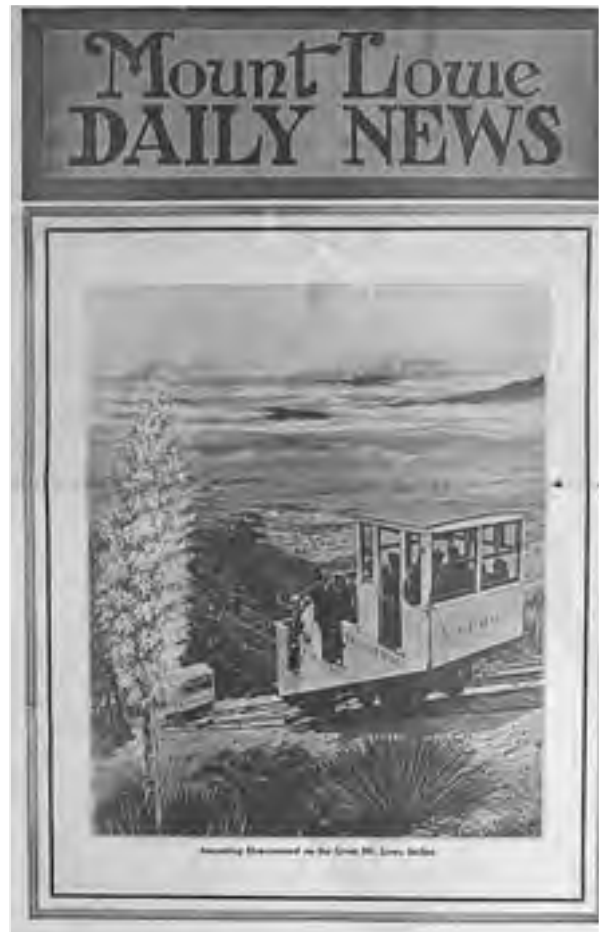


Rubio Pavilion—Rubio Canyon Mount Lowe Railway



Well dressed ladies at Echo Mt. prepare for trail ride c.1896

climbed a 60 degree incline to the top of Echo Mountain promontory. Here stood the magnificent Echo Mountain House, a 70-room Victorian hotel. The tourist destination included an observatory, casino, petting zoo, dance hall and numerous other amenities. Two years later and four miles up the line, construction of the Alpine Tavern began, a two story, granite and wood structure styled like a Swiss chalet.



Searchlight on Echo Mountain

The engineering marvel was carved out of a narrow portion of the front range of southern California's San Gabriel Mountains. The inventors were likely unaware that the San Gabriel's are the steepest, fastest growing mountains in the world. Accelerated by the San Andreas fault that defines the north side of the transverse range, erosion is bringing the mountains down almost as fast as nature can push them up. Floods, fires, wind and earthquakes put immense pressure of the range. Every few years, rock-strewn muddy debris rages

Don't miss Altadena Historical Society's newest exhibit at Webster's Community Pharmacy, 2450 N. Lake Ave., Altadena. It includes an overview of the Mt. Lowe Railway told in vintage postcards from our collection. Located in Webster's "back door gallery"(enter from the parking lot), the show will be up until mid-December. While you're there, use your AHS membership card to get a 10% discount on non-pharmaceutical items in the gift section of the store.

through Eaton Canyon and the Arroyo Seco, further carving out Altadena's east and west borders.

It's no wonder then, that the Mount Lowe Railroad, said by some to be the 8th wonder of the world, lasted only 43 years. Beginning in 1900, just seven years after opening day, fires, floods, and winds destroyed one building after another. By the mid 1930s all the structures were gone and in 1938 the Mount Lowe railway was officially abandoned.

But the memory of the site is still alive

today, thanks to the efforts of many collectors, authors and historians including Charles Seims, Michael Patris, Paul Ayers, Ron Jasinski, Bryan Marcroft, Mike Manning, Trent Steele, Jake Brouwer, Lowe family descendent Lance Ferm and many others, plus organizations like the National Forest Service, the Scenic Mount Lowe Historical Committee, the Mount Lowe Preservation Society and our own Altadena Historical Society. For further reading, the Resources section of our site will list a number of other excellent sources of information.

On our new website funded through a grant from Southern California Edison, you will be able to delve deep into the history of this famed railway. Most of the images you'll see are primarily from the AHS collection, many of which came to us from the individuals listed above. In cases where other images are used, we've made every effort to give credit to their owners. If you see an error, or have other information to share, please let us know.

Then visit the Altadena Historical Society archives to see the documents, photos and artifacts up close. Mount Lowe is an integral part of Altadena history, and we are proud to be custodians of its heritage.

—Jane Brackman

Altadena Stories

At AHS we have been listening to and learning from our collection of over forty oral histories. What have we learned? Here are a few interesting Altadena memories:

From artist **Jirayr Zorthian** we learned the story behind Altadena's last Rose Parade float in 1969, depicting the Tournament's theme "A Time to Remember."

Zorthian felt that the best representation of the theme was the creation of man in the Garden of Eden. The Tournament committee accepted his float design, which consisted of girls dressed in short bird-like costumes in a garden setting.

A few weeks later, however, Zorthian received a call from the Tournament president. The artistic concept was fine, he said, but he was afraid that the title, "Garden of Eden," was too religious and that "500 ministers would be calling." A new title, "When the World was Young," was accepted. However, the final title and design changed again at the direction of the Forest Service, which provided funding for the float.

Jim Hull, a longtime Altadena resident, also shared his memories of early Rose Parades. On Jan. 1, 1928, a young Jim Hull and his friends decided to decorate their horses with holly wreaths and join the Rose Parade. Entry into the parade was that easy in 1928, which ended at Orange Grove and Lake. Each

participant was given two tickets to the Rose Bowl game. Jim said he and his friends promptly rode over to the Rose Bowl and sold their tickets for \$2 each.



Virginia Bagnard never forgot a 1932 trip to Mount Lowe with her aunt. As an employee of Pacific Electric, her aunt rode for free. Virginia's fare was a little over \$1. They began their journey at Fair Oaks and Glenarm, then traveled across Mariposa and Poppyfields to Rubio Canyon. Here they took the cable car to Echo Mountain and then boarded the trolley to Mount Lowe Tavern.

Virginia describes the trip as "scary, but very beautiful." The trolley was open with no sides. They hiked up to Mt. Lowe Summit, then back to Mount Lowe Tavern for hot chocolate before their return trip. She describes the tavern as rustic on the outside, but was awed by the linen tablecloths and napkins in the dining area.

Do you have stories to tell about your life in Altadena? We are all ears! Please give us a call at 626-797-8016 or e-mail us at altadenahistorical.society@yahoo.com. Thanks to an anonymous donor, we'll be collecting new oral histories very soon and would love to know what you can share.

Most of the people who made this trip had money, Virginia said, and many were visitors who came from all around the United States specifically for this attraction. Locals did not often go to Mt. Lowe because the \$2 round trip fare was too expensive or because they took the attraction for granted. (They planned to visit their local spot "someday.")

—Mary Lou Langedyke



Virginia Bagnard shares her memories.

Architecture in Altadena

Charles W. Eliot Middle School

Eliot Middle School has been a landmark in Altadena since its completion in 1931. It was planned as a junior high school for 600 students and was the first school in the area erected without a bond issue. In addition to being a junior high school, Eliot was conceived as a civic center for the Altadena community.



Several parcels of land were purchased in 1929 for the purpose of building the school. The center lot on Lake Avenue was the site of the George E. Meharry home, one of Altadena's early landmarks. The northwestern corner of

the future school campus was property purchased from John C. and Edith Loef. The southern corner at Lake and Boston along with the entire strip on Maiden Lane was the former property of Robert Vandegrift Cruickshank.

In 1930 the Pasadena architectural firm of Marston and Maybury were hired to prepare plans for the new school. This firm also designed Altadena Elementary School on Calaveras in 1915 as well as several other Pasadena schools and library branches.

Construction began in February of 1931. The building was built in the streamline moderne architectural

style blended with Spanish elements. On its completion, the school was published in *Architectural Record* in 1932 and received an AIA (American Institute of Architects) Honor Award in 1933.

The school was opened for students in September 1931. The dedication was held on Dec. 11, 1931.

The school was named for Charles W. Eliot who was the President of Harvard University from 1869 – 1900 and the “father” of the junior high school plan.

The most prominent feature of the school is its graceful tower. Long-time Altadena Historical Society board member and Eliot Alum, Sara Carnahan told the story of its origin. The students of the school were given a choice of having a tower or a swimming pool. After the choice was put to a vote, the students chose the tower.

Another story about Eliot comes from one of the oral histories that we have on file in our archives. Lucille Wopschall Annas was the niece of the owners of Wopschall Construction who built Eliot. In her interview recorded in 1993, she remembers that a workman fell from the tower during its construction and was killed. She also remembers that the school had many problems with bats and swallows nesting in the tower.

Through the years Eliot underwent several changes; manual training shops were built on the south portion of the campus in 1949, a gymnasium was added in 1950 and a band room in 1953. The



Charles Eliot (center) with Thaddeus Lowe on an 1892 trip to Mt. Lowe.

school received seismic retrofitting in 1959.

Currently Eliot is known as Eliot Arts and serves as a magnet school for music, dance and theater and visual arts. Area students in sixth through eighth grades are its pupils. Its newly remodeled and updated auditorium

welcomes large community meetings to continue its role as a community center.

Eliot often serves as a filming site for Hollywood. It served as “Rancho Rosa High School” in “The Mentalist,” “Haddonfield Elementary” in the movie “Halloween” and “Santo Donato High School” in “Apt Pupil” among others.—*Kathy Hoskins*

From Our Readers

The article on Altadena's Marcell Inn, later the site of Mt. Lowe Military Academy, in the Spring/Summer issue prompted this letter, edited for length, from Kenneth Veronda, headmaster of Southwestern Academy in San Marino:

Thank you for the good article on [the Marcell Inn]. I vaguely remember my parents talking of it as they courted between 1929 and the end of Prohibition.

My parents indicated the Marcell was overpriced for Southern Italian pastas with tomato sauces and meatballs, and didn't have good Northern Italian risottos and polentas, but thought it was fun to drive all the way into Altadena for [an] evening in the foothills.

As to Mt. Lowe Military [Academy], maybe others have

answered your question about their ending with the 10th grade--it was the Pasadena 6-4-4 plan, of course! [That is, grades 1-6, 7-10 and 11-14.]

This was the idea of Pasadena Superintendent of Schools John Sexson. Pasadena--including of course La Canada, Sierra Madre and Altadena--students, plus San Marino and South Pasadena public schools, and all the independent schools around here, followed this from 1928-29 until the end of the Korean War.

Southwestern, as all others locally, dropped 11-12 grades and started graduating [students from] junior high--10th grade--in 1928, with students transferring for four years at Pasadena Junior College, grades 11-14, after which they could attend either of the two Universities of California

(Berkeley or [UCLA] in Westwood) automatically as college juniors.

From all I've heard, that worked very well until the influx of veterans coming to Pasadena Junior College at the end of the Korean War and mixing with the 16-18 year olds.

But with the veterans coming to the campuses (you may know that the "West Campus" on Lincoln was taken over by the Army as a training center during WWII, and returned after the war to become Muir Junior College), the district split off the 13th and 14th grades and returned to 6-3-3 teaching.

*Kenneth Veronda
Headmaster
Southwestern Academy
2800 Monterey Road
San Marino, California*

Request for Rose Parade Memorabilia

The early years of Pasadena's famous Rose Parade were very different from the commercially sponsored parades we've come to know. Individuals, organizations, cities large and small – including Altadena – decorated cars and carriages, created floats, marched, rode or performed in a home-grown parade.

Although, as the event grew larger and more costly, Altadena no longer sponsored a float, we think Altadena's Rose Parade history is worth celebrating.

We are beginning to assemble an exhibit of Altadena's participation in the Tournament of Roses/Rose Parade.

We have two costumes that Altadenans wore in Rose Parades, some photos of floats over the years, and some Chamber of Commerce correspondence that mentions participation, but we would be delighted to receive photos, costumes, memorabilia and memories of Altadena's participation in past parades.

Were you in an Altadena band, marching or equestrian unit? Did you ride on an Altadena float? Can you e-mail us your memories of building an Altadena float, marching or riding in the parade? We'd like to include snippets of those memories in our exhibit, and add your memories and donations to our archives.

Please e-mail us at altadenahistorical.society@yahoo.com. Or give us a call at 626-797-8016.

If you have photos of Altadena's Rose Parade floats, costumes, or other items to donate or lend, our offices and archives are in the Altadena Community Center, 730 E. Altadena Drive, open Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., or by appointment. We look forward to hearing from you!



Prof. Thaddeus Lowe and Wife Leontine Speak Oct. 27, at Altadena Historical Society

Steve Demory Presents Founder of Civil War Balloon Corps and Mt. Lowe Railway at Free Public Program

Prof. Thaddeus S.C. Lowe--founder of the U.S. Balloon Corps that was the forerunner of the U.S. Airforce and visionary builder and promoter of



Altadena's Mt. Lowe Railway--and his wife Leontine will appear at the Monday Oct. 27 meeting of the Altadena Historical Society.

The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. at the Altadena

Community Center, 730 E. Altadena Drive, and is free and open to the public.

The Lowes will be presented in period dress by Steve and Patrice Demory, Anaheim residents who

travel widely presenting the couple at Civil War re-enactments and roundtables, schools and history-related events.

In addition, there will be an exhibit of photos and memorabilia of the Lowes and the Mt. Lowe Railway presented by descendants of the Lowes, by the Demorys, and from the extensive archives of the Altadena Historical Society itself.

"When the Civil War broke out, Lowe was a young scientist, inventor, aeronaut, balloon manufacturer and patriot who offered his services to President Lincoln," Steve Demory said, "and Lincoln personally appointed him as the chief of the Aeronautic Department of the Army of the Potomac.

"In the first two-and-a-half years of the war, Lowe's innovations included:
First use of airborne telegraph
Built and operated first aircraft carrier
Developed mobile hydrogen gas generator to inflate balloons in the field Revolutionized map-making."

The Lowes also will cover their post-war residency in Pasadena and the building of the Mt. Lowe Railway, its hotels and tourist attractions.

Coming Attractions

● Saturday Nov. 8, we're holding a very special flea market at the Altadena Community Center, with lots of old history related items for sale. These items are being sold because they are unrelated to the AHS archives. Here's your chance to get old cookbooks, picture frames, scrapbooks, maps, postcards and more at rock bottom prices. Our special guest will be Jeff Moran, from John Moran Auctioneers, an Altadena-based antiques and fine art auction house. Jeff will discuss the appraisal process at 9:00 AM. and will then appraise one item each for 10 fortunate AHS members. **Call or email AHS before November 1st if you want to be in the lottery.** Winners will be randomly selected and notified of their appointment times.

● In December, watch for a new Webster's exhibit in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, featuring interesting documents from Chamber correspondence donated to us by Bill Webster.

● For local history buffs (and, if you are an AHS member, you probably are one), AHS friend and Mt. Lowe historian, Charles Seims and his co-author Alan Darr, have just published a new book - "Roar with Gilmore: the Story of America's Most Unusual Oil Company". From the roaring twenties until the end of WWII, the Gilmore Oil Company provided its 3,500 stations in California, Oregon and Washington with much more than gas and oil. The book features hundreds of vintage photos and color images of Gilmore's wacky promotions. For more information, contact Charles Seims at 503-635-0599.

● And don't forget our ongoing AHS blog (altadenahistoricalociety.blogspot.com). Every Monday we post a new piece of information about Altadena's past. Subscribe, and you'll automatically get each Monday's post in your e-mail.





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VISIT OUR NEW BLOG!
altadenahistoricalsociety.blogspot.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 DVD copy of 1912 silent movie, "What the Doctor Ordered," featuring historic Mt. Lowe)

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