



The Echo

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Fall/Winter 2016

Fifty-One Famous and Fascinating Altadenans

New Exhibit at Altadena Historical Society Showcases Scores of Accomplished Altadenans Then and Now

Fifty-one famous and fascinating Altadenans—movie stars, artists, authors, scientists, athletes and more—are highlighted in a new exhibit at the Altadena Historical Society.

“We’ve had great fun researching and producing this exhibit,” said Jane Brackman, Society president. “The trouble has been choosing those to include, as we have far more than our gallery can accommodate.”

The show is in both the Historical Society’s gallery and the lobby of the Altadena Community Center, 730 E. Altadena Drive, just west of the Sheriff’s Station.

It is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, and by appointment for

groups and others, (626) 797-8016. The exhibit is free of charge, but donations toward the Society’s work are welcomed.

“Some of the people featured are our current neighbors and gave their kind permission for us to include them, while others have passed on,” Brackman said. “In fact, we didn’t include several Altadena residents who

are major stars in their fields, but cherish the privacy they have by living here.”

The most frequent comments overheard from



What’s Inside:

President’s Message

What’s Up at AHS?

Featured Altadenans

From Our Readers

Vintage Advertisements

Book Notes

● *Kate Crane Gartz*

Fall Program

people previewing the exhibit are “No kidding!” “Oh, really!” and “Come look at this!” which is our invitation to the public: “Come look at this!”

See pages 4-6 in this issue for a sampling of the accomplished Altadenans included in this exhibit.

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



As president of the Board of Directors, it is my privilege to work with a team of volunteers and consultants that has built on our 81-year legacy of preserving Altadena's history.

Our collection expresses Altadena's identity, from the 19th century to the present. We provide on-site access to images, documents, films, artifacts and personal histories of our community.

Much of this material is collected from organizations, schools,

Altadenans, and former residents. Examples of donated items may include: albums, audio visual media, books, brochures, business records, clippings, diaries, letters, maps, and yearbooks.

It was recently brought to our attention that the methods we use for accessioning donated material were in need of revision. Consequently, the AHS Board of Trustees moved to create a committee of outside professionals to analyze our current policy and make recommendations.

Thank you to Laura Stalker, Avery Associate Director of the Huntington Library, who is responsible for the operations and services of the Library; Ann Scheid, archivist at the Huntington Library's Greene and Greene collection; and Dale LaCasella, former member and chair of the Altadena Library Board of Trustees and founding member of the Altadena Library Foundation.

As a result of their review, we've revised and clarified part of our policy. One change: although donors are asked to transfer all rights to the donated

material to AHS, we will now give them the opportunity to request return of any items we cannot accept. Our complete collections policy will soon be available on the Donations page of our website.

Our partnerships with local organizations are continuing to grow. We're happy to report that AHS' 2016 exhibit, "Altadena in the Rose Parade," will be traveling to MonteCedro in late fall. And part of our new exhibit, "Interesting Altadenans," will be featured at Webster's Community Pharmacy.

This year we've spoken at the Altadena Town and Country Club, Kiwanis, and MonteCedro Senior Living Facility. We would be happy to schedule a presentation about Altadena at your club or organization.

We are also working with area schools including St. Mark's Elementary, Altadena Elementary, and Eliot Arts Magnet Academy as well as local Cub Scouts, to promote students' understanding of Altadena's history and its relevance to our world today.

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What's Up at AHS?

Volunteer Activities

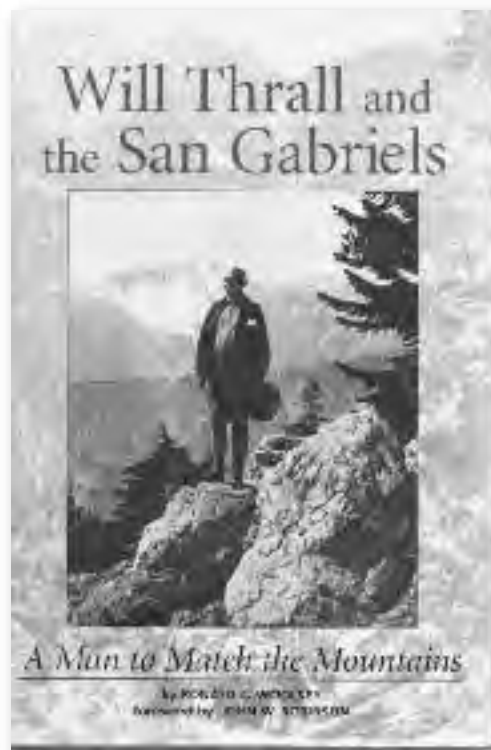
The last several months have been very busy at AHS, as the launch of our new museum exhibit has required many hours of volunteer time. We are especially grateful to Jim Benson, who is responsible for the exhibit images, to Pam Wright, Kathy Hoskins, Rob Hallwachs and Nancy Lambrecht for the biographies of our interesting Altadenans, and to Rob Hallwachs and the Forsberg family for their generous support.

We're pleased to welcome a new volunteer to our organization – Ann Elias. After a career as a paralegal, Ann is now focusing on digital imaging and collection documentation. She is a history enthusiast and a great asset to our digitization project.

Donations

Our collection of Altadena documents and memorabilia continues to increase. We now have several new items related to Altadena, some by Kate Crane Gartz, donated by Marie Zondler, whose relatives were close friends of Mrs. Gartz. Thanks to a tip from Charles Seims, we have acquired a collection of original documents,

including blueprints, describing the construction of the Davies Building at Farnsworth Park. Sara Carnahan contributed a 1945 Pasadena Junior College yearbook; Joanne Rolle provided photographs from the 1994 celebration hike to Echo Mountain; Roger Burke gave us a cd with a



biography of his aunt, artist Mildred Scott Townsend; Friends of the Altadena Library brought us the original chart displayed with their bicentennial quilt; and a biography of San Gabriel Mountains trails expert Will Thrall can now be found on our library shelves.

Ralphs reminder If you shop at Ralphs and haven't yet signed up for Ralphs' Community Contributions Program, we hope you'll do so now. Just register your rewards card at Ralphs.com and choose AHS as the community organization you want to support. If you have already signed up, you will need to renew your participation each fall, so please renew now at Ralphs.com. If you have questions about how this program works, call AHS at 626-797-8016.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ALTADENA COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

This project will provide work for the following:

Class	Man-days	Man-hours	Rate	Labor Cost
General Foreman	61	363	\$1.10	\$ 396.00
Carpenter Foreman	40	240	1.10	264.00
Concrete "	30	180	1.10	198.00
Mason "	20	120	1.10	132.00
Laborer "	124	744	0.80	595.20
Carpenters (Finish)	350	2100	1.10	2,310.00
Electricians	30	180	1.10	198.00
Mason	200	1200	1.10	1,320.00
Painters	40	240	1.10	264.00
Plasterers	60	360	1.10	396.00
Plumbers	20	120	1.10	132.00
Tile Setters	20	120	1.10	132.00
Concrete Workers	60	360	1.10	396.00
Misc. Skilled Labor	40	240	1.10	264.00
Truck Drivers	180	1080	0.80	878.40
Carpenters (Rough)	250	1500	0.80	1,200.00
Concrete Workers Helpers	60	360	0.80	288.00
Electrician	30	180	0.80	144.00
Mason	200	1200	0.80	960.00
Painter	20	120	0.80	96.00
Plasterer	60	360	0.80	288.00
Plumber	20	120	0.80	96.00
Tile Setter	20	120	0.80	96.00
Laborers	3800	22,800	0.50	11,400.00
Total Labor Cost =				\$ 22,443.60

Projected labor cost to build the Davies Building submitted to WPA.

Finally, a correction. In our last issue, Debbie Heap was identified as a 1978 Altadena princess. The year should have been 1968.

Now on View at AHS

Who are the fascinating Altadenans who make up our new exhibit? Here's a sneak peek at four of them.

Horace Dobbins

Horace Dobbins (1868–1962) was a wealthy businessman, active in Pasadena politics and civic affairs, who envisioned an elevated bicycle tollway from Pasadena to downtown Los Angeles.

Called the California Cycleway, this innovative project was to be nine miles long and run from the Green Hotel to the Plaza near Union Station. Constructed of Oregon pine, the first mile-plus portion of the cycleway opened in 1900. Cyclists paid a 10-cent toll one way, or 15 cents round trip.

The advent of the automobile culture, combined with opposition from Henry Huntington, who saw the project as competition for his trolley line cars, spelled the end for the cycleway and it was never completed. The right of way purchased by Dobbins and his investors eventually became the Arroyo Seco Parkway.

The cycleway was only one of Dobbins' many interests. He served as mayor of Pasadena in 1900–1901, was active in Republican politics, the Pasadena Board of Trade and the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. He served as president of the Pasadena Hospital Association, the forerunner of Huntington Memorial Hospital. A member of the Valley Hunt Club, he was also active in the Tournament of Roses



Horace Dobbins on his Cycleway in a steam-powered Locomobile, circa 1902-1904.

organization.

Dobbins' visionary ideas were also in evidence when he built Casa Roca, his Altadena home, on Canyon Ridge Drive, near Millard Canyon. It was built of steel-reinforced concrete and included a dome for water capture and storage as well as solar water heating.

Horace's daughter,

Florence, married Professor Thaddeus Lowe's son, Thad Jr., uniting two influential families. Their granddaughter, aviatrix Florence "Pancho" Barnes, was one of the many visitors to Casa Roca.

Octavia Butler

Author Octavia Estelle Butler (1947–2006) is known for blending science fiction with African-American spiritualism. Her novels include "Patternmaster," "Kindred," "Dawn," and "Parable of the Sower." She broke new ground as a woman and an African-American in the realm of science fiction, a field dominated by white males. She lived and worked in Altadena in a home on Morada Place, later moving to Seattle, Washington.

She was born in Pasadena, lost her father at a young age and was raised by her mother, who worked as a maid to support the family. She was dyslexic, but did not let this deter her



Author Octavia Estelle Butler

from a love of reading, deciding to make writing her life's work when she was 10.

During 1969 and 1970, she studied at the Screenwriter's Guild Open Door Program and the Clarion Science Fiction Writers' Workshop, where she took a class with science fiction master Harlan Ellison (who later became her mentor), and which led to Butler selling her first science fiction stories.

For Butler, science fiction largely served as a vehicle to address issues facing humanity. It was this passionate interest in the human experience that imbued her work with a certain depth and complexity. "I wanted to write [novels] that would make others feel the history: the pain and fear that black people have had to live through in order to endure," she said.

In the mid-1980s, Butler began to receive critical recognition for her work. She won the 1984 Best Short Story Hugo Award for "Speech Sounds." That same year, the novelette "Bloodchild" won a Nebula Award and later a Hugo as well. In 1995, Butler received a "genius" grant from the MacArthur Foundation—becoming the first science-fiction writer to do so—which allowed her to buy a house in Altadena for her mother and herself.

In 1999, Butler, struggling with writer's block and ill health, left California to move

north to Seattle. There she wrote her last novel, *Fledgling* (2005), an innovative take on the concept of vampires and family structures, the latter being one of her works' prevailing themes. The literary world lost a great storyteller when she died at age 58. Her archives went to the Huntington Library.

Hildegarde Flanner

Hildegarde Flanner (1899–1987) was the youngest of three daughters brought up in a progressive and intellectual household with strong appreciation for the arts. In 1912, their father committed suicide, leaving the family a large sum of money, and, in 1919, she entered the University of California, Berkeley.

In her first year there, she wrote "Young Girl," which received a prize for best unpublished poem. Shortly after, her first volume of poetry, "Young Girl and Other Poems," was published, as was her one-act play "Mansions." A poem titled "Communion" appeared in "Poetry" magazine in 1921, with a cover designed by Frederick Monhoff, an artist and graduate of Berkeley, whom Flanner married in 1926. He illustrated nearly all of her publications throughout her career.

After experiencing a devastating Berkeley fire in 1923, she wrote a memoir, "Wildfire: Berkeley, 1923," published in "The New Yorker." She also wrote a sonnet, "To My Books Who Perished by Fire," published in "Poetry" in 1927. Following the fire, they moved to Altadena. As Flanner became more rooted in California, she



Hildegarde Flanner
author of "At the Gentle
Mercy of Plants."



increasingly drew upon nature and her home environment, often writing of flowers, plants and the landscape.

Her poems were published widely throughout the 1920s and '30s. Before WWII, her work expressed anxious

anticipation and fear of natural and human disaster. Later, her focus on the environment became more central.

To escape what she saw as rampant industrialization and urbanization of Southern California, she and Monhoff moved to the Napa Valley in 1962. She continued publishing and writing there until her death in 1987.

(Note: AHS has a copy of her book "At the Gentle Mercy of Plants." Take a look!)

Johnny Otis

If you were listening to music in 1958, you knew "Willie and the Hand Jive!" It was only one of Johnny Otis's contributions to pop music, both through writing/singing and discovering new artists. His career began in high school, when he purchased a drum set by forging his father's signature on a credit slip.

Born white to a family of Greek immigrants, Ioannis Alexandres Veliotes grew up in a predominately black neighborhood in Northern California. As a young man, he felt most at home in the black culture, which set him on the path to create the sensually pulsing R&B hits of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. "Yes, I chose," he said, "because despite all the hardships, there's a wonderful richness

in black culture that I prefer."

That deep connection helped him discover and feature such future stars of R&B and rock as Etta James, Little Richard, Jackie Wilson, Hank Ballard and Little Esther Phillips.

Among his many compositions were "Mambo Boogie," "Every Beat of My Heart" and "Pledging My Love." He created a record label and had his own radio show. He also opened the Johnny Otis Market – a deli-style grocery/cabaret, and played with his band at the legendary Monterey Jazz Festival. In the 1960s, he entered journalism and politics. He then became Chief of Staff for Mervyn M. Dymally, Democratic Congressman.

Johnny founded and pastored the New Landmark Community Gospel Church, which held weekly Sunday services in Santa Rosa, California. He preached and led



traditional-style performances of a vocal group and choir, backed by his rhythm section and an organist.

He and his wife Phyllis were married 70 years. They lived in Altadena in a home purchased from the family of AHS volunteer, Laurie Kinsinger. He died in 2012 at age 90.

From Our Readers

Shirley Burt sent us her recollections of some of the places mentioned in the Spring, Summer 2016 newsletter. Here are excerpts from her letter:

“I loved this last issue as there were so many things I was familiar with. The auto repair garage [owned by the Cobb family] was one. I grew up on Marcheta and remember fire engines in that garage. After the fire engines moved out it was



The old garage is now the Theosophical Library on the corner of Marcheta and Lake Avenue.

owned by a Mr. Paulsen who lived with his family in a very nice apartment above the garage. I spent many an afternoon playing there with the Paulsen kids.”

“During the war the building was used to make small parts like screws, etc. for the war effort. My father worked nights after his regular job sweeping up the parts that had fallen to the floor so the metal could be re-used.

“Another was the La Mariposa Hotel. The stores or offices on the ground floor were an interesting assortment. As kids we loved to slide down the tin slide behind the Model Grocery. I remember the shoemaker’s little shop and the N.M.V.V. Green Real Estate office.

“The hotel upstairs was a wonderful place to play in the hallways. I used to play with the grandchildren of Mr. Schmidt (who built the

*hotel), but that was after it was no longer operated as a hotel. I still have contact with the grandchildren, but no one knows where the hotel guest book went. It would be a historical treasure, as many famous people stayed there.” **

**Bill Webster donated the book to AHS and it is in our collection.*

Pamela Chavez answers our question about the maker of Nonat Salve:

In the Echo’s Spring/Summer 2016 Edition, Patti La Mar asked about NONAT and R.C. Miller & Co. of Altadena. I am happy you tell you that Rosalie Clementine (Nosek) Miller was my grandmother and she still has a daughter and grandchildren who remember Nonat very well and still use it! I have one box left.

Nonat Salve was a family recipe brought over from Czechoslovakia when they immigrated to Ohio in about 1886. My grandparents, Bernard & Rosalie Miller and their children moved from St. Louis to California by 1920 and eventually to McNally Street in Altadena. Rosalie’s aunt, Marie Mastny Leiblinger, gave her the recipe for the salve. Rosalie continued to make it until the 1960’s, when she sent a letter to all her customers that she was making one last batch and would fill any orders she received.

I have attached a photo of my last box. My cousins and I have many fond memories of spending part of our school vacations at our Grandmothers house on McNally.



Altadena Advertises

Anyone who's watched KCET will have seen Ralph Story's "Things That Aren't Here Anymore." Here are some advertisements for things that aren't here in Altadena anymore. Do you remember them?

These ads appeared in the *Altadenan/Pasadenan* newspaper, 1950s - 1970s; *The Altadenan* newspaper, 1928, and the *Mt. Lowe Daily News*.

3-13-66
AP

The juiciest, tenderest,
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HOTEL OR COTTAGE
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\$4.50 PER DAY AND UP
\$27.00 PER WEEK AND UP
Rooms \$1.00 Per Day and Up

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YOU CAN'T WASH MILK

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The containers that hold Altadena Dairy milk are the type recommended by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Their construction keeps foreign matter out and ensures with pads, used just once, are an additional part of the modern methods used by the Altadena Dairy to get milk to your table in its latest purest state. Modern scientific dairy methods produce you of consistently rich, pure, wholesome, natural raw milk, delivered to your door daily.

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WE ARE A NEW ADDITION . . .
BUY WE CLING TO HISTORY



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F—look much with great appearance
G—with—always dependable
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I—request our—sustainable stock
J—annual fall—shades and curtains
K—new up to the very minute
L—selling gifts for Christmas
M—like selection here for the whole family
N—need of going away from Altadena to buy
O—in prices always moderate
P—artistry shown to no one
Q—nick Sales—Low Profits
R—easy to serve and please all
S—shoppeople who will aid you in selections
T—taking pains with customers every minute of the day
U—up-to-date, up-to-the-minute service
V—items in commercial line
W—making for you to—
X—good
Y—our wants
Z—reality!

What You'll Find in Our Store
Notions - Candles - Toilet Goods - Stationery - Sewing Supplies - Ribbons and Laces - Men's Furnishings - Men's and Children's Hosiery and Underwear - TOY GOODS - Dress Goods - Carded Goods - Oil Cloths - Cosmetics, Bags - Handbags - Washers - Kitchen Goods - Aluminum and Enamel Ware - Fancy China Crockery and Utensils and a BIG LINE of T. O. V. S.



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Book Notes

Altadena Historical Society has a reference library (non-lending) available for browsing, research and entertainment. You're welcome to stop in to read, question and enjoy.

The Letters and Essays of Kate Crane Gartz

- "Letters of Protest"
- "A Woman and War"
- "European Impressions"
- "Off to the Antipodes"
- "Travel Diary"
- "Prophetic Letters"
- "Seventh Book"

(Publishing dates for most are unavailable but the assumption, based on their content, is the late 1920s and 1930s.)

A long-time area resident, featured in our current exhibit of interesting

Altadenans, Kate Crane-Gartz was a highly opinionated woman who had no problem whatsoever with sharing those opinions in letters to anyone, especially those who disagreed with her.

A self-described Bolshevik, passionate civil libertarian and atheist, she wrote to editors of many papers (including our own *Star News*.) She also wrote to district attorneys, prison wardens, judges, congressmen, the Attorney General, chief of

police, secretary of the Navy, various U.S. Presidents, Eleanor Roosevelt and even Louis B. Mayer.

Anyone who has ever fired off an opinion to the "Op-Ed" page can relate to her impulses. Fearless, sincere and forthright, she passionately (and frequently) defended the widespread use of contraceptives, American Civil Liberties Union and women's

six-month journey, sailing in privileged comfort around the world in 1929—on the very edge of world-wide financial disaster.)

Her European observations include a germ of respect for the emerging Nazi party and Mussolini. She often finds time to salute the Spanish rebels during that civil war and proudly notes that she refused a

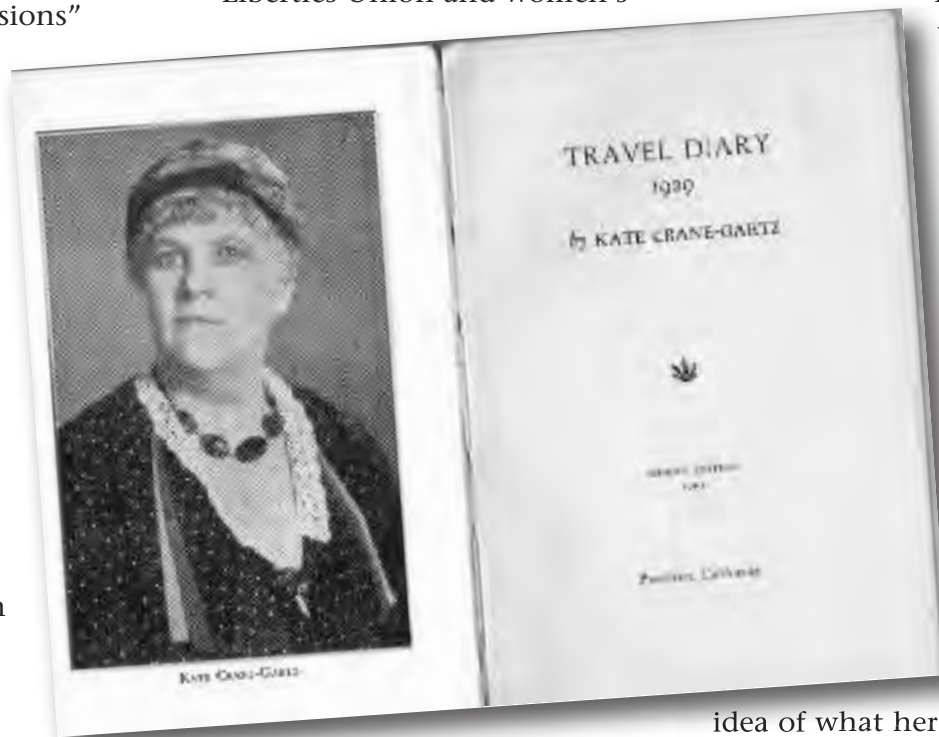
meeting with the Pope because she was expected to kiss his ring.

These books are all small, short and can easily be read in a few hours. They offer insights into popular (and unpopular) thinking of the time. And they give us an

idea of what her famous salons, attended by well-known progressive thinkers, must have been like.

Most of all, they give us the chance to observe the views of a genuinely remarkable woman. Whether we agree with her or not, her strong voice still resonates, humorously, sometimes angrily and always clearly. You'll have absolutely no doubt where her loyalties lay!

by Pam Wright



rights. (Her son once wrote, begging her to "Please take a little time off from muck-raking.")

She traveled to 43 countries during the 1920s and 1930s and, with her usual pointed impressions, penned several small volumes about these travels. Whether or not you've visited India, Singapore, China, Japan and other Asian nations, her insights during that remote time are fascinating. (Imagine a

FREE

"They Came For Their Health "

**October Program Focuses on Illness as
A Driver of Southern California Immigration**

AHS Fall Program:

Historian Michele Zack will speak on illness as a Southern California immigration driver at the 7:30 Monday Oct. 24 program of the Altadena Historical Society.

The program will be held at the Altadena Community Center, 730 E. Altadena Drive. The event is free and open to the public.

Zack, an Altadena resident and author of histories of Altadena and Sierra Madre, says



that her research shows "The importance of the illness legacy has been underestimated as an influence of how we think of Southern California today."

Indeed, many health seekers who suffered from tuberculosis and other respiratory diseases moved to California and other Western states in the late 19th and early 20th centuries for their then-dry, unpolluted air.

Altadena was home to a number of TB sanitariums and hospitals, as were other communities in the San Gabriel Mountain foothills.

Thanks to Our Members

AHS appreciates all you who've subscribed or renewed your memberships. And a special thanks to those who generously made donations above and beyond their membership fees. All our services are free to members and the public. Your support keeps our mission strong.

Another way to donate to AHS is through your estate giving plans. Please consider providing for the future of AHS by taking the time now to include AHS in your will. Even a small gift will enable us to continue our archival and educational work, newsletter publication and community programs. You can also list AHS as a beneficiary of a policy or retirement fund. Your attorney or financial advisor will have helpful suggestions.



Altadena Historical Society
730 E. Altadena Drive
Altadena, CA 91001-2351

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Echo

ALTADENA HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

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website:
altadenahistoricalsociety.org

VISIT OUR 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 hard-back copy of
"Altadena's Golden Years")

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