



# The Grapevine

Published by the San Marino Historical Society

The San Marino Historical Society  
The Michael White Adobe  
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**FALL, 2004**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Your Historical Society is converging towards the moving of the Michael White Adobe and the occupancy of the Thurnher House as a headquarters. We also look forward to a variety of interesting and inspiring evening programs, and the gathering and compiling of histories of a wide range of San Marino area organizations and locations.

We will shortly be moving towards a test to assess the feasibility of moving the Adobe. We have received a commitment from both the City of San Marino and the San Marino School Board to each fund approximately 1/3 of the cost of this test, along with the funding from our Society. The test will consist of measuring the compressive strength of the adobe blocks to determine the feasibility of partially lifting the walls, as a part of the moving process..

The City continues the process of rehabilitating the Thurnher house, thanks to grant funding, and is currently abating the former lead based paint and inadequate power facilities. Completed foundation repairs have been highly successful, and progress is such that we can begin to lay detailed plans to move in sometime next Spring.

We continue our excellent program series, as you see on this page. In addition, we look forward to programs concerning local railroads, airports, local churches and a history of electric power in the area. Your suggestions will be welcomed.

Lastly, we look forward to a rejuvenated docent program, which can bring interest and education to you, to the local residents, and to schoolchildren.

Gene Dryden  
President

## SAN MARINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROUDLY PRESENTS

"Before the Colors Fade V: The Vietnam War"

Panel Participants

Paul Bataglia and Ed Blecksmith

Gulf of Tonkin, Ho Chi Minh Trail, Saigon, Hanoi, Danang, MekongDelta.....

Memories of the longest war in American history.

The San Marino Historical Society begins its 2004-2005 lecture series with a new installment of the popular "Before the Colors Fade" series. This time the focus is the Vietnam War. Featured speakers are Paul Battaglia, Class of 1963 San Marino High School, and Ed Blecksmith, long time San Marino resident. Paul Battaglia served in Vietnam with the US Army from 1968-1969. Ed Blecksmith served with the US Marine Corps in Vietnam in 1967-68. Mr. Blecksmith and others from his company have recently returned from a trip back to Vietnam to visit former battle sites.



*Vietnam Memorial*



*Helicopters 30 miles south of Hanoi-1965*

Monday, November 1, 2004, 7:30 P.M.

Southwestern Academy

2800 Monterey Road, San Marino

Public Invited - Admission is Free

**San Marino Historical Society  
Officers 2004-2005**

*President	Gene Dryden
*Vice President, Membership	Bill Ferry
*Vice President, Programs	Ave Maria Bortz
*Treasurer	Greg Thompson
*Corresponding Secretary	Marlene Elliott
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*Artifacts and Resources	Marilyn Peck
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*Historians	Peggy Winkler
	Kenneth Veronda
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	Gene Platz
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John Holmstrom, Sander Peck, Marilyn Peck, Vera Wrobel

**Docent Chairmen**

Mary Payne, Peggy Winkler

**Docents**

Graziella Almanza, Katy Benton, Mary Payne, Lillian Campbell, Dorothy Ohlson, Vera Wrobel, Sandy Morris, Marilyn Peck, Peggy Winkler, Ave Maria Bortz, Jim Elliott, Carolyn Holmstrom

**General Assistants**

Gene Platz, Vera Wrobel, Sander Peck, Marlene Elliott, James Elliott, Alan Weirick

**Adobe Restoration and Preservation**

Dennis Kneier, James Elliott, Paul Crowley

**Website**

Chris Datwyler, Gene Dryden

\*Board Officers

**Society Presidents (1974-2004)**

Midge Sherwood.....	1974
Mary Smith.....	1976
Jack Sherwood.....	1978
Ed Ford.....	1980
Graziella Almanza1.....	1982
La Verne Smith.....	1985
Jeanne Imler.....	1989
Gary Fleming.....	1991
Lillian Campbell.....	1993
Marilyn Peck.....	1995
Paul Crowley.....	1999
Gene Dryden.....	2004

## OLD SAN MARINO



*Susie Trotter, Frannie Brossy and Char Wachtel, "Founding Mothers" of the San Marino Tennis Foundation-1969*



*The Mayberry House-1922. Located at the corner of Oak Knoll Avenue and Monterey Road, it was San Marino's first City Hall and school from 1913-1923*



*Historic "Twin Palms", moved from the Palm Springs area to Wilson Ranch 100+ years ago. Still located at the rear of the 1541 Cambridge Road home.*

# A History of the San Marino Tennis Foundation

By Peggy Hamlin and Don Scott

San Marino Tennis Foundation was established because, in 1967, three San Marino mothers saw the need for more tennis courts in the community. When Char Wachtel, Frannie Brossy and Susie Trotter started the afternoon tennis program at Huntington School they realized the three courts never accommodated all the students who were interested (over 100 signed up for the program). These three ladies called a meeting of other interested parents to discuss the building of additional courts of better quality. There was great support and enthusiasm shown at this first meeting, called by Char Wachtel, President of Huntington PTA. Doris Clark suggested her husband Stan might be interested in giving leadership to this idea. Stan was a natural, being former NCAA Tennis Champion and a local attorney. Stan's knowledge of the law was helpful in writing the Articles of Incorporation, and forming a non-profit organization in 1968.

Lacy Park was inspected as a possible site for the new courts, as this tiny northwest corner of the park was vacant, only being used as a dump, and not really an integral part of the park. This area seemed to be perfect, and after many meetings with the San Marino City Council, approval was finally granted. The Concession agreement with the city was signed on June 26, 1968. Only residents in the San Marino school district could be members but the courts were available to all for a daily fee. The steering committee called prospective members in the community offering memberships for \$350 a family. Harry Booth, the first Treasurer of the Foundation, collected these funds (approx. 210 families joined). Their monies, plus loans from a friend of tennis and the bank, allowed for the six professional courts to be built, plus a small pro shop. Under superb leadership of Don Scott, Chair of the Building Committee, the land was graded, the courts laid out in a perfect angle to the sun and the Pro Shop built from local resident Bob Millsap's design. The total construction costs totaled approximately, \$112,300. It was not long before the loans were completely repaid thru membership fees as well as guest fees.

The opening day was held on Saturday afternoon, June 14, 1969 and was a gala affair! Stan Clark presided as the first President of SMTF, the Boy Scouts posted the colors with a flag that had flown over our U.S. Capital, a gift from our Congressman Glen Lipscomb. Allan Laws, the Mayor of San Marino, cut



*Lacy Park Tennis Courts-2003*

the ribbon with a large pair of shears and the dedication of the new facilities to the city was completed. Next was an exhibition match by the new Pro at SMTF paired with Stan Clark against Pancho Segura (for many years the number two ranking player in the world) and Hugh Stewart, (ranked number one in the 35 years age group in 1965). It was a great doubles match-no one remembers who won!

Mention must be made of Paul Dobbins, San Marino's Park Superintendent. Paul and his wife lived in the Thurnher house on Virginia Road in Lacy Park and all the way through the process from before the concession agreement until he retired from the City was very helpful in every way to the tennis facility and the San Marino Tennis Foundation. He helped with the design of the landscaping, sprinklers, planting and care of the trees, shrubs and flowers. He was truly proud of the tennis facility which was part of "His" park.

Interest in tennis was at an all-time high; everyone wanted to play tennis, or thought they did, so there was much action on the courts in these early years. From the beginning, children's tennis clinics were offered at Lacy, as well as private lessons for all ages given by the pro or his assistants.

*(Continued on page 4)*

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The first Pro was Dick Leach – a perfect choice. He was a teacher at Arcadia High School and a coach of the Varsity Tennis Team. After seven years at SMTF, Dick Leach moved on, eventually becoming Varsity Tennis Coach at USC in 1980. Ted Eisenhardt, who replaced Dick Leach in 1976 as head Pro, continued the Junior program very successfully. Andrew Thurm succeeded Ted and ran SMTF from 1991 to 1998, being followed by Sam Lizzul, our present Head Pro. All have been excellent teachers & leaders in every way.

Ongoing activities over the years have included such traditions as Saturday morning men's doubles. This started when the club started and was basically open mens doubles on all 6 courts, using San Marino Tennis foundation's unique racking rules. There were up to 50 men playing tennis on a given Saturday morning, talking and drinking coffee from about 7AM to 11AM. Another event held 3 or 4 times per year was an inter club day with the Valley Hunt Club, Flint Canyon, Live Oak, Irvine Tennis Club, Balboa Bay Club or some other club. Current activities include the East-West trophy match, Mixed Doubles on Sunday afternoon, and Ladies Costume play on Halloween.

The SMTF continues to give excellent lessons for every age group and ability. The Foundation has almost always managed a profit and these excess funds have been returned to the community in the form of lights and new nets for the courts at Huntington School and the High School. The Foundation has also paid for the resurfacing of the courts at these schools as well as at Carver Elementary. Because of the fine quality of our courts the CIF finals have been held at Lacy. The San Marino community, as well as the Foundation members, have found good use of the courts. Both the Chinese Club and the City Club hold their tournaments at the courts and the USTA Junior Tournament is an annual event. Also, a close working arrangement exists with the San Marino Recreation Dept.

We are very proud of the founders of SMTF who



Mayor Allan Laws on opening day-June 14, 1969

built these fine tennis facilities and we are very proud of our contribution to tennis in this wonderful community.

**Past Presidents**

2004-05 Bill Payne	1986-87 Michael Blaylock
2003-04 John Whiting	1985-86 Bernard LeSage
2002-03 Bill Hildeburn	1984-85 Tom McNulty
2001-02 Paul Crowley	1983-84 Laurie Zeh
2000-01 George Stewart	1982-83 Sandy Bode
1999-00 Dan Nixon	1981-82 Robert Raney
1998-99 Tom Martin	1980-81 Bill Hunefeld
1997-98 Roger Johnston	1979-80 Lawrence Henrickson
1996-97 John Rossiter	1978-79 Wesley Poulson
1995-96 Chuck Stephens	1977-78 Webb Coulter
1994-95 Paul Johnson	1976-77 Ben Hammon
1993-94 William Daegling	1975-76 Steb Chandor
1992-93 John Connell	1974-75 John Austin
1991-92 Janet Sebenius	1973-74 Don Clark
1990-91 Wayne Carter	1972-73 Ray Pentz
1989-90 Vince Tricarico	1971-72 Robert Koenig
1988-89 Tita Johnson	1970-71 Carl Lieber
1987-88 Allan Wolff	1969-70 Stan Clark

**Please Sign Up!!!**

If you want to receive these quarterly "Grapevines", see the old photos, learn of our programs and help to perpetuate the history of our wonderful town, then return the blue envelope quickly. A membership card will follow. Chances are your name will appear somewhere in our 2013 Centennial book!

Thank you.

**WEBSITE**

Visit our web page to learn more about your Society's programs and activities:

[www.smnet.org](http://www.smnet.org)

(Click on "Community Resources" and then on "San Marino Historical Society")

or go directly to:

[www.smnet.org/comm\\_group/historical/](http://www.smnet.org/comm_group/historical/)