“HISTORY ALIVE” FREE LECTURES WILL RESUME SOME TIME IN 2021. MEANTIME, WE’LL BRING YOU DELIGHTFUL ONLINE CONVERSATIONS WITH THESE NIFTY SPEAKERS:

ALBERT FULCHER, “A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A NEWSPAPER EDITOR.”
CANDACE VANDERHOFF, CEO of “SOLO BEE” IN LEMON GROVE (PUTTING THE BUZZ BACK IN AMERICA).
ROBERTA FORD BULLING, CHAIR OF EDUCATION FOR LGHS ON THE STORY OF OUR TOWN.

Stay tuned for email and snail-mail messages about online links to these great virtual gatherings.

MILLER DAIRY REMEMBERED

The glory days of Lemon Grove’s famous dairy are back in a great exhibit on view in the Parsonage Museum through Dec. 19, 2020. The pandemic has affected visiting the museum, where virus rules are in force. Please call 619-460-4353 to reserve a visit for no more than four people, Monday-Saturday, between 9:30 am and 1 pm. You must wear masks and be free of fever, coughs, shortness of breath or other virus symptoms, or associated with a virus patient. Children 12 and under are free and must be accompanied by an adult. A $2 donation is requested from others.

See page 3 of this issue for a special memory of Miller Dairy by Harry Towler, who found us “Mrs. Bell.”

Christmas is coming! We have beautiful, thoughtful gifts for your loved ones on page 7. Please call us at 619-460-4353 or email our prez, ahoyohook@gmail.com.

MEET TEAM GARDEN!

LGHS VP for Membership Sarah Lewis (below left) assembled students from Helix High School and Lemon Grove’s Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Led by LGHS Chair of Buildings & Grounds Gary Elbert, (below right) the team slaved in record heat to restore the jasmine ground cover behind the museum, weed the front garden, remove invasive growth, power wash sidewalks—and they’re on the job in November! Take that, coronavirus!

Many thanks to Hunter’s Nursery for generously donating new jasmine plants, and to Roberta Buling, Laura “Mulch” Hook, Andres Romero and Barbara Soto for sharing the load.

20 years ago Gary helmed AmeriCorps to transform Lemon Grove’s first church into the Parsonage Museum, which won us a 2001 Governor’s Historic Preservation Award. Our Sarah also works in the archives, got us a CaliCentric phone in the museum, and overhauled our membership records. This, and all that you see in this “Lemon Tree” means we are staying on track. Take that, coronavirus!
The “Backroads Memories” collection described at right originated in Lemon Grove. We've seen it and can attest to its high quality, originality and historical interest. All of you fans in eBay Land, move fast as these beautifully crafted items are sure to sell out. Ed

Katy Wilson, key LGHS member, at

THE LEMON TREE

MENTION THIS AD WHEN PURCHASING AND RECEIVE 20% OFF REFUND!

BACKROAD MEMORIES
MODEL COLLECTIBLES
BACKROADMEMORIES.COM

NEW & USED ITEMS POSTED WEEKLY!


THE KATY WILSON STORY AND WHY WE LOVE HER

recorded by Roberta Bulling, Chair, Education/Oral Histories

Dorothy Catherine “Katy” Latimer Wilson was born on July 7, 1923 at Colorado Springs to Dorothy and Charles Latimer. Charles taught French and Italian at Colorado College. He met Dorothy, an expat Brit, when both were in Italy. Dorothy’s mother (Katy’s grandma) brokered this by saying Charles looked lonely at his table and shouldn’t they ask him to join them for breakfast. The die was cast. They wed and along came Katy.

Our Katy was a very shy child. In fifth grade her friend, Helen Ann, said they should take different names in order to conquer the world. Thus did Katy become Katy and Helen become Ann. Eureka! Katy made lots of new friends and became the extrovert we know today—the perfect older sister to little Margaret, born 1927, who grew up to earn a degree in Library Science at Mills College and later settle in New Zealand.

When she was three Katy’s dad introduced her to hiking and walking in his tours of historical homes in several cities. Another die was cast. As an adult Katy joined Walkabout, the international walking club, and formed “Exploring San Diego on Foot” in 1990. Katy earned an M.A. in Education at Colorado State University/Greeley and yearned to teach in a one-room schoolhouse, where she could teach many subjects to different grades. Along with this dream was training as a ballet dancer—inspired by a touring performance of, probably, the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo.

Fate took a hand. The superintendent of a Colorado district offered her a job teaching Physical Education at West Junior High School. For 14 years, Katy taught games and dances, and became an expert square dancer, which led to a fateful moment in a local square dance club. Her “side corner partner” was dashing George Wilson. Die #3 was cast. Their wedding even aired on the popular radio show, “Bride and Groom,” which preceded a TV series of the same name. George and Katy hopped into their 1941 Ford, drove to Hollywood with her parents driving behind them, and tied the knot on June 2, 1950. They got a TV set as a wedding gift, but never used it. Oh, vintage TV, where art thou?

The Wilsons were world travelers, which informed Katy’s Walkabout tours to every continent but Antarctica, and inspired a lifelong interest in history. When her dad died in 1979, the Wilsons urged Dorothy to move in with them; she lived with the family until her death in 1994. For a time Katy’s parents lived on Boundary Street near the site of the famously awful PSA crash in 1978 (memorably recreated on LGHS “History Alive” by historian Alexander Bevil). But the Boundary Street home remains in the family.

Katy got a job at Colorado Springs Junior High, while George worked at the post office. Three sons, Steve, Kevin and David, were born and more $$$ were needed for the household. They moved to Utah, where the multi-talented George worked as a production controller for Radiological, Biological and Chemical Warfare until 1966. In 1967, after

continued on page 3
The Katy Wilson Story cont'd from p. 2


Katy for a job at Colorado Springs Junior High while George worked at the post office. Three sons, Steve, Kevin and David were born and more $$$ were needed for the household. They moved to Utah where the multi-talented George worked as a production controller for Radiological, Biological and Chemical Warfare until 1966. In 1967, after moving to Solvang, San Diego County, George became a wine consultant for Anderson's Split Pea Restaurant and Katy taught at Santa Isen High School, where “everyone goofed off,” irritating Katy no end. They left for La Mesa, but in 1968 landed in Lemon Grove (Yay!) on Costada Court. La Mesa’s loss, our gain. The indefatigable George became a U. S. Navy computer programmer in Point Loma while Katy taught in National City.

The Costada Court house had a swimming pool, which the boys loved as did legions of Red Cross ‘kiddies, who learned to swim in the Wilson pool. Eldest son Steve attended Helix High School, while Kevin and David went to San Altos School. The latter attended Mt. Miguel High and retain friendships made in those halcyon days. Of course, their parents joined a local square dancing club and have fond memories of the caller, Dell Lake. He founded DellRon Trophy Shop (Ron East was a partner), thriving today on Broadway as Dell Awards. Arthritis in his hands ended George’s square-dancing career, so they took up round dancing instead.

In 1982 Katy retired from a 38-year career, the last 15 teaching PE at Granger Junior High, National City. Earlier, in 1975, they had looked at a new housing development in eastern Lemon Grove in the Camino de las Palmas area. Die #4 was cast. But in 1977 the Wilsons and neighbors found their slab foundations cracking. The developer hadn’t properly compacted the fill dirt. [Some of you will know the havoc that wreaks.] Some sued, the Wilsons didn’t. Adding to the excitement was Caltrans’ construction of State Route 125. This six-mile extension was in everyone’s backyard in eastern Lemon Grove. The Wilsons got a generous settlement from Caltrans to remove their swimming pool, lawn and plantings, then install a retaining wall and a new pool and plantings. Katy terms this marathon “an interesting time.”

By the time the neighborhood settled down, the Wilson boys had married and grand babies were on the way and the H. Lee House was moved to a City lot between Main and Olive Streets [thank you Mayor Mary Sessom for herculean work on that deal. Ed.]

Get this: Back in July, 2003, Katy’s 80th birthday was celebrated with her Walking group at the Parsonage Museum. Gifts, singing and cheering marked this lovely occasion.

Katy lost her George in 2005, but continues her historical and travel associations with friends locally and worldwide, all made during their long and happy marriage. Their three sons and families visit her often. And we love seeing Katy and her friend, author Evelyn Kooperman, at “History Alive” lectures — may the latter return soon.

Katy is a vegetarian, has a great sense of humor and retains the trim figure of one who has walked and danced her way into so many hearts of all ages for so many years. Thanks for the memories, Katy!

HARRY TOWLER RECALLS MILLER DAIRY, MRS. TOWLER AND MRS. BELL

As Noted by Roberta Bulling

“I volunteered to help Pete Miller at the dairy by filling the wooden water troughs in the pasture—but one day I forgot to turn off the hose and flooded the entire pasture. Pete was kind. Then I helped him load crates of milk bottles onto the 1943 Chevy when he got his leg stuck between the bumper and the back of the truck. Another time there was milk all over the street the day Pete overturned the truck near the corner of Mt. Vernon and Cypress Streets. Never a dull at the dairy.

“I met Barbara [Towler] when our families belonged to the First Congregational Church of Lemon Grove [built 1913 in what is now Treganza Heritage Park. Ed] on Main Street. Barbra grew up on Golden Avenue. Miller Dairy delivered in that area, too.

“While teaching metal shop at SDSU, I was acquainted with Albert Van Zanten, who taught Shop and Math at Lemon Grove Junior High School. He rescued the original school bell in 1976 during renovation of the campus and stored it for 25 years at his home in El Cajon. At the 2003 Old Time Days I gave his name to Helen Ofield. She tracked down Albert’s widow; then, with Pete Smith, retrieved the bell and brought it to Lemon Grove and stored it in the Treganza garage on Kempf Street. Today it hangs in the bell tower at the Lemon Grove Library with an explanatory plaque at eye level. “Mrs. Bell” is back home, where she began.”

[It’s tough to retrieve a 250-pound, cast iron school bell in one piece. Such great artifacts almost never “come home.” But thanks to Albert and Harry, this one made it back. Even the sandblaster in Santee was struck by the story and donated his services in honor of “Mrs. Bell.” Thanks to Roberta Bulling’s oral history project, you can expect more from Harry and Barbara Towler in future editions. Ed.]

Photo of his parents by Tim Towler
ROBERT "BOB" TURNBULL IV LOOKS BACK
Son of Dr. Amorita Treganza and Robert Turnbull III, he grew up in Lemon Grove, wrote columns for The Lemon Grove Review, graduated in 1954 from Helix High School.

"During my ministry in Hawaii throughout the ’70s, I officiated at hundreds of weddings held in churches, country clubs, backyards, parks, Diamond Head, on beaches, and even in a tourist submarine underwater and the military Punchbowl Cemetery.

"The photo below shows my congregation on the beach at Waikiki. [Bob stands right of center in preacher attire Hawaiian style. Ed]

"In Hollywood I played right field on the Jerry Lewis Clowns Softball Team, Entertainers League (photo above right). Jerry bought uniforms and equipment, and played several times as first baseman. He stole the show with his wild antics and one-liners.

"I enjoyed the experience. All of the teams had members from professional entertainment—actors, singers, writers, crew. The public never knew about this as we just wanted to enjoy the game and the company.

"Elvis Presley played sometimes. Once during practice one of his friends muttered unGodly swear words. Elvis casually motioned him to step aside. I was within earshot and heard Elvis say, ‘I’d appreciate it if you wouldn’t take our Lord’s name in vain. He means too much to me. Okay?’ The guy apologized promptly. What hit me was Elvis pulling his buddy aside and making his request privately—thoughtful, classy move.”

—More from Bob in our next issue—

THANK YOU, GENEROUS DONORS

Gale LaGace continued her great legacy, the Gale LaGace Endowment for the Parsonage Museum & Exhibits. Cynthia Doyle and the Ofield Family Trust supported tree trimming in Treganza Heritage Park. Ms. Doyle is doing major research into the life of her great grandfather, Alberto Treganza. (more news to come.)

WILLIAM "BILL" TRASK LOOKS BACK
recorded by Sarah Lewis
Vice President for Membership
At 99, Captain William "Bill" Trask is our second oldest member (see Judy Smith below). But he didn’t retire from his busy, adventurous life until age 90.

Born in 1821 in Lambertville, Ohio, war hero Bill Trask is our second oldest member. He worked at many jobs from a young age. When his family moved to Canton, Ohio, he sacked potatoes at 13 in a local store for 8¢ an hour. He later apprenticed as a sheet metal worker, which led directly to his military career.

At 20, he proposed to his wife, Rita Marriott Francis, then 19, through the mail (no dates!). They wed and moved into a $5-a-week apartment in Trenton, New Jersey.

At the onset of WW II, Bill’s sheet metal skills sent him to an airplane factory. This exempted him from the draft, but when more men were needed, he joined the Army Air Corps as a private. En route to Europe they outran attacking German U-boats. He fast became a navigator and flew 17 missions as a 1st lieutenant. When his B22 crashed and caught fire in Liège, Belgium, the crew bailed out while he struggled to land without a nose wheel. He was pulled from the blazing nose in the nick of time and French Resistance fighters got him safely to England.

Bill was promoted to captain and spent 20 years in the Army Air Corps. Stateside in the 1950s the Trasks adopted two sons, William and Brian. They moved to Lemon Grove in 1962 to the house Bill lives in today. He served on the Committee to Incorporate Lemon Grove, a success in 1977.

Bill worked first for General Dynamics and then spent 24 years in security at the Timken Museum, retiring at age 90. While at the Timken, he met an eyewitness to that plane crash in Liège. He lost his Rita six months after their 65th wedding anniversary and lost Brian at age 46. He has six grandchildren and 6 greats.

Bill was a soldier’s soldier—brave, intrepid, skilled, loyal. He memories are precious to all of us, who have inherited the story of those who fought to save democracy. We also are proud that Bill is an LGHS member, who helped to incorporate our town.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!
Judy B. Smith and her descendants, Joe and Sandra Smith, all of Ramona, joined recently. At 100, Mrs. Smith is our most senior member.
José Jesus Lopez, Jr. and family are Lemon Grovians and warmly welcomed.
Doherty’s Four Corners of Lemon Grove

We owe this regular column to the expert research of Jack Doherty, member of the first Lemon Grove City Council in 1977, long-time member of LGHS, author of our Facebook page, and fountain of good ideas. Jack is indebted to Mary Noon Kasulaitis, niece of Fred Noon and a writer, for the beautiful photographs and family memorabilia shown below.

If Roberto Alvarez, at the tender age of 12, was the designated standard bearer in the courtroom of Judge Claude Chambers in 1931, then attorney Fred Noon of Noon & Noon, San Diego, was the hero who argued and delivered the first Mexican-American, court-ordered, school desegregation case in the nation. We refer, of course, to Alvarez v. Lemon Grove School Board of Trustees, which predated the great 1954 Brown case by 23 years. Justice!

The family of Dr. Adolphus H. Noon and Mrs. Emma Slaughter Noon seated center. Fred Noon stands far right next to his brothers.

Samuel Frederick Noon

Fred Noon as a young lawyer.

Fred and his wife Natalie Bonsall Noon with their baby son.

But Who Was Fred Noon?

Samuel Frederick Noon was born November 3, 1879 at San Jose, California, to Dr. Adolphus Henry Noon and Emma Slaughter Noon. Fred had four brothers and a sister. His father was born in 1838 in London, England and was a physician, mine developer, politician and mayor of Nogales, Arizona, 1910-12. He died in 1931, age 92 and is interred in the Nogales Cemetery. Emma Noon, also a British native, married Adolphus in 1864. Adolphus began his medical training in South Africa and completed it in San Francisco, in practice there until 1878 when they moved to Arizona. The Noons were among Arizona’s earliest pioneers when the future state (1912) was a U. S. territory. The family worked hard and achieved much.

Fred Noon was a product of country schools and grew up speaking fluent Spanish (Nogales is six miles from Mexico). His classmates and friends were both Anglo and Latino. He read law books in local attorneys’ offices to learn his profession; by 1899 he was appointed clerk of the district court in the Second Judicial District at Nogales. He served five years, then was admitted to the Arizona bar and practiced law in Nogales until 1925.

During this period he served three terms as district attorney for Santa Cruz County (AZ), two terms as county supervisor and was a member of the Nogales Board of Education. He was a commissioned officer for five years in the Arizona National Guard. In 1926 he moved to San Diego to practice law, ultimately becoming the “dean of San Diego attorneys,” his profession for 62 years. He and his wife, Natalie Bonsall, raised a son, Bonsall, who became a partner with his father in Noon & Noon for 33 years in offices in San Diego Trust & Savings Bank, and went on to become Superior Court Judge Bonsall Noon.

Fred Noon was a long-time friend of the Mexican-American community and was legal counsel to the Mexican Consulate. He often gave pro bono legal help to non-English speaking residents of San Diego County. When Los Vecinos (the parents’ committee in the Alvarez case) sought legal advice in 1931, the Mexican Consul, Enrique Ferreira, recommended Fred Noon. Fred knew he could win the case on this technicality in state law: while Native, African and Asian Americans could legally be discriminated against, Mexican-Americans could not, being an ethnic subgroup of Caucasian, as were Italian, French, Spanish and other groups. The mad dash to pass the the “Bliss Bill,” launched by California Assemblyman George Bliss two weeks after the Lemon Grove children of Mexican ancestry were shut out of the Lemon Grove Grammar School, ultimately failed—in large measure because of the success of the Alvarez case.

For an excellent description of school discrimination in California, Texas and the Southwest in the 1920s through the big year, 1931, see the web link, open.uapress.arizona.edu.

Fred Noon died of heart and kidney ailments in a San Diego convalescent hospital in September, 1966. He was 86. He had pursued the law almost to the day of his death. He was revered in the legal profession throughout the Southwest, and is a hero to this historical society. We are thrilled that his descendants have preserved their distinguished family history.
PILAGUES WE HAVE KNOWN

The Black Death (Bubonic Plague) of 14th century Europe began in central Asia, lasted four years and killed about 200 million people. The Plague was spread by rat fleas and recurved every decade during the 15th to 17th centuries. Smallpox exacerbated the nightmare.

The Great Plague of London, 1665-66, killed 100,000 Londoners and was the last outbreak of Bubonic Plague.

Russian Flu (Asiatic Flu), 1889-1895, began in Eastern Russia and spread through the Northern Hemisphere, killing a million people. The U. S. lost 13,000. It was the first pandemic to be covered by the press. Recent research indicates the cause may have been a coronavirus.

Cholera, 1899-Now, is caused by bacterial infections from contaminated water. It began in India and spread to Russia, North Africa, the Middle East, and parts of Europe, killing a million. It continues today in nations lacking sewerage, clean drinking water and basic hygiene.

"Spanish Influenza," 1918, did not start in Spain, but may have started at a military base in Kansas (or in France, Britain or China). The flu hit 40% of the globe, killing some 50 million, well over the 17 million who died in WW I. An H1N1 virus, it killed mainly those in the prime of life.

Spain was neutral in WW I and free to report on the flu in detail, while Allied and Central powers quashed the news to avoid lowering morale. When the news hit the Madrid papers in May, 1918, people assumed Spain was ground zero for the disease, hence "Spanish Flu."

Polio has been with us since 1894, peaking in America and the world in the 1950s when millions of children and young people, especially, were paralyzed by this disease of the nervous system. Drs. Bodian, Koprowski, Salk and Sabin defined the polio virus and the latter three, its vaccines. Now largely eradicated in the U. S., it is still a threat in India, African nations and Indonesia.

Asian Flu (H2N2), 1957-58 began in Singapore and spread to China, Hong Kong, UK, and USA, killing over a million, mainly children, elderly and pregnant women.

Hong Kong Flu (H3N2), 1968-69, began in Hong Kong and spread through China, Asia, Australia, Europe and North America. A million died, many 65 and older. Strains of this virus continue to circulate today.

Ebola, 1976-2020, originated near the Ebola River in Congo. Highly contagious and deadly, the virus (from bats) is spread among humans largely in Africa. There is still no cure, though vaccines are in development.

HIV/AIDS, 1981-2010. Tens of millions died of a disease that originated in Africa and targeted men, ages 25-44. New vaccines have largely solved the virus in developed nations.

SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), 2002-04, began in South China, then spread to North and South America, Europe and Asia. SARS was caused by a new coronavirus, SARS-Cov, but other infections may have played a role. Deaths were modest (156 in the U. S., 774 worldwide) despite the Communist Chinese regime’s refusal to report on the pandemic. Whistleblower Dr. Jiang Yangyang leaked statistics to Western media in 2004. He was arrested that year and "brainwashed." In 2019 at age 88 he was put under house arrest. Where is he now?

H1N1 Swine Flu, 2009-10 originated in Mexico in pigs. 60.8 million got it worldwide. Some 12,500 died in the U.S. It was a "novel" virus and still exists in seasonal flu.

Orthocoronavirinae, SARS-Cov2, commonly called COVID-19, 2019—? began in Wuhan, China, possibly as early as September, 2019. It is killing millions world-wide. Vaccines are in development by several U. S. drug companies, as well as companies abroad. Testing is well underway, including "drive-by testing." Without a safe vaccine available to all, our "new normal" will continue: masks, lockdowns, social distancing, virtual meetings, bankrupt businesses, closed schools, eyesight troubles and fortunes spent to counteract the economic misery.

IN MEMORIAM
Charlene Viereck 1932 - 2020
Charlene Lynn Viereck, longtime Lemon Grove resident and LGHS member, died this past June of heart failure at 87. This beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and wonderful neighbor was born in San Diego to Sheldon M. and Frances L. Brown. She married William "Bill" Carl Viereck in December, 1950. Bill passed away in March, 2008 of cancer at age 78. Their lovely home and garden was in one of Lemon Grove's most unique neighborhoods.

Charlene is survived by their children: son Dennis (Julia Royer) and daughter Judy (Mark) Bowen; four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. The family requested donations to the American Heart Association or the Family Search Library. A memorial is still pending.

DONATIONS OF PRECIOUS ARTIFACTS
Karen Skullerud gave a stunning collection of 19th and early 20th century patented mason canning jars in aqua and clear glass with lids, along with three adorable peanut butter jars. These domestic bools are an important addition to our collection on display in the Parsonage Museum. Thank you, Karen, for this wonderful gift.

Robert Turnbull IV gave a breathtaking trove of 33 bound volumes of his father's scripts for the radio series, "Family Theatre." Shows featured a who's who of Hollywood actors starring in such cliffhangers as "Double Cross," "Skull Valley" and "A Case of Libel."

Remember how wonderful radio was? Robert Turnbull III wrote weekly half-hour and one-hour stories adored by audiences. We are in discussions with the Helix High School Theatre Department (Turnbull IV’s alma mater) about possible use of Turnbull III's scripts restaged as plays. Though, in this Age of Coronavirus, radio is so current!

Lydia Romero, Lemon Grove's City Manager, made sure we got two reels dubbed to USB drives of the 1969 and 1970 Old Time Days events. Mighty fine viewing, folks.

OUTREACH
Loraine Moreno, descendant of Edgar & Nellie Beidleman, was in touch. She's researching the family and needed to see our painting, "Wild Mustard," by the gifted Edgar Beidleman, Jr. It stars in our Fine Arts collection.