



In the Mission Grove

SAN GABRIEL HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Museum: 546 W. Broadway, San Gabriel, CA 91776 ~ Tel: (626) 308-3223 ~ WWW.SGHISTORICAL.ORG

GENERAL MEETING & DINNER



John and Ida McGroarty

Tamale & Chili Relleno Dinner

(Catered by Lunas Mexican Restaurant)

Cost: \$15.00

Menu: Tamale & Chili Relleno - Rice & Beans - Salad - Drinks - Dessert

PLEASE R.S.V.P. by calling Bill Williams at 626-282-0749, Mary Cammarano at 626-286-0565, or by sending an emailing to
SG.HISTORICAL@GMAIL.COM
by Wednesday, September 14th

PROGRAM

The Story of John and Ida McGroarty

Speaker: Regina Clark - McGroarty Arts Center

When: Monday, September 19, 2011

Dinner Starts at 6pm

Program Starts at 7:15pm

Open to the Public

For transportation, call

(626) 282-0749

Where: Grapevine Room - San Gabriel Senior Center
320 So. Mission Drive San Gabriel, CA

Regina Clark is on the board of the McGroarty Arts Center and is the Programs Director for the Little Landers Historical Society, both in Tujunga. She will talk about the life of John & Ida McGroarty Starting with John McGroarty's humble beginnings in Foster Township, Pennsylvania to the hustle and bustle of Los Angeles, His life was interesting and somewhat unusual. He was a teacher, journalist, editor, Justice of the Peace, County Treasurer, attorney, author, California's Poet Laureate and a US Congressman. Many powerful men knew him and liked him. And Ida.... She was the woman behind the man. Quiet and logical, she kept him grounded.

"The story of Junipero Serra and the Missions for dramatic purposes has been lying around since 1833, at least, for anybody to grab. But no one grabbed it until I did so in 1912. Now it is mine." — John McGroarty to Charles F. Lummis regarding The Mission Play, 1916.

P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

As we work towards the City's Centennial in 2013 we have a new exhibit on *The Mission Play* by John Steven McGroarty. Camila Lopez & Karen Cranston have done a wonderful job on the Museum renovations and the new exhibit. During most of the spring and summer months the Museum was closed for renovations. The renovations to our Museum are almost complete and the Museum is back in business. It is open the first Saturday of every month. We invite you to stop by the Museum and see all the changes.

On Monday, September 19th, following a scrumptious dinner by Luna Mexican Restaurant, Regina Clark from the McGroarty Arts Center in Tujunga, CA will talk about John & Ida McGroarty. John McGroarty is the author of the *Mission Play*, and the builder of the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse. It should be a great talk. Please RSVP by September 14th.

The Association has a wish list for the Museum: a scanner and a shredder are just a couple of things we need now.... If you have either collecting dust, the Association can put them to good use. Call or email if you have an item to donate to the SGHA.

We are asking our members to donate three hours a month and become a docent to help us open the Museum every Saturday.

Please join us for Dinner and our Program on John and Ida McGroarty. Invite your friends, family and neighbors to hear about their connection to the San Gabriel Playhouse!

Mary Cammarano, President & Bill A'Hearn, Vice-President

IN MEMORIUM**Marilyn Bonneberger**

A Dear Friend of the SGHA, Marilyn Bonneberger passed away on Saturday August 27, 2011. She was a dedicated and loyal member of our Association.... she will be deeply missed...

Upcoming SGHA Meetings

Location: 324 So. Mission Drive San Gabriel.
Meeting time: 7:30pm

Board Meeting - Monday, September 12, 2011
General Membership Meeting - Monday, September 19, 2011
Board Meeting - Monday, October 10, 2011

MUSEUM NEWS

Our museum is "looking good". We have accomplished some important upgrades like our new work room, rewiring our telephone system, grids on walls to hang photo's, etc. This has been a labor of love by the volunteers who have donated many hours. We are not finished so anyone who would like to help out please call Camila Lopez at 626-287-8482.

We have a new display just in time for the Fiesta weekend. Come by and enjoy our rich historic artifacts which tell the story of our San Gabriel City.

Camila Lopez, Museum Chairman

Work is underway at La Laguna Playground!

Thanks to funding from the Annenberg Foundation, California Cultural and Historic Endowment, Pasadena City College Foundation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and in partnership with the City of San Gabriel, work has begun at Dinosaur Park – La Laguna Playground. The grant monies funded construction documents for the entire playground and the rehabilitation of the wooden dock and the central "Lookout Mountain" dragon slide. The wooden dock had deteriorated to a dangerous point and students from the Pasadena City College Industrial Arts program donated hundreds of hours dismantling and restoring the dock. It is wonderful to see it with the four staircases functional once again! California Waterproofing and Restoration has done an amazing job stabilizing the foundation of Lookout Mountain and repairing the cracked concrete on the rock surface. Their work will continue through the fall as they work to further stabilize the slide structure and to restore the original colors. While the playground is still an active construction site, we are looking forward to the day when the community can enjoy the playground again. Visit <http://friendsoflalaguna.org> for more information and pictures of the work being done.

Children of the Savannah

"Little Charlie," Baby Turner, and Alice are just three of over seven hundred children buried in Savannah Memorial Park - A Pioneer Cemetery, since the 1850s. Baby Turner died at birth after his mother was shot during an 1874 robbery at the family's general store on La Puente Creek. Unlike the beautiful headstone for one-year-old Alice Guess, the Turner baby is one of many laid to rest in unmarked graves in, what was then known as, El Monte Cemetery. Brace Gibson lost both his nineteen-year-old wife, Luty Velmar, and his four-month-old child, Luty Etta, in 1888. Children ranging in age from stillborn to their teens died from accident, or diseases and epidemics of the time - pneumonia, typhoid fever, smallpox, influenza, or measles. Luty Velmar Gibson died of consumption (known today as tuberculosis).

A descendent of San Gabriel Valley pioneers, Jerry Lynne Treinen, is currently researching documentation for a story about the Children of the Savannah. If you have any knowledge surrounding either the life or death of one of these children, she would be interested in hearing from you. Whether from events told by word of mouth, or information written in a family bible or journal, what you know of family history is important. Please contact her via the addresses below.



J. L. Treinen is at jltreinen@gmail.com or PO Box 5399, Eugene, OR 97405.