

History Comes Alive!

~ Tales From the City Archives ~



by Hynda Rudd
City Archivist
(Retired) and
Club Member



William Lacy in 1927.

The Lacy Legacy, Continued

The vastly influential and pioneering Lacy family of Los Angeles is charted from 1887 to the present.

PART 2 By Nicholas A. "Nick" Curry

Photos courtesy Security Pacific National Bank and Herald Examiner collections, Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collection, Christina Rice, Acting Senior Librarian; and courtesy the author

As stated in the first part, the William Lacy family of Los Angeles began in 1830 with the birth of William Lacy Sr. He was an architect, farmer, retailer, innkeeper, banker, manufacturer, oil pioneer, gold miner, volunteer fireman and founder of Lacy Manufacturing Co., which in 1887 began its original business of sheet metal manufacturing and building steel pipes and tanks. It expanded into building heavy plate metal, boilers, petroleum refinery stills, storage tanks, water work appliances and the like. William Lacy was a "mover and shaker." He had two sons, William Jr. and Richard Henry.

Part I ended in 1908, with son, Richard, and his wife, Maud, a niece of Sir William Sullivan of the famed English comic operas, Gilbert and Sullivan, living in South Pasadena with their family of one son and five daughters. The 11-acre estate has since been subdivided into an upscale single family residential neighborhood with the original mansion of approximately 7,000 square feet still intact and maintained as a single family residence currently facing 1460 Avonrea Rd. in San Marino.

In June 1932, William Lacy Jr., mentally distraught and in greatly diminished health, took his own life at age 67. Richard assumed the presidency of the company. William Jr. was an important leader in business and a man committed to the building up of early Los Angeles. He was involved in numerous issues affecting the growth of the City. His last contribution led a drive for the building of the Colorado River Aqueduct, which became a reality in 1941. He did not live to see his dream come true. As a matter of interest, William Jr. and his family lived in an English Tudor mansion in the Hancock Park section of Los Angeles, and in 1949, the family sold it to the renowned entertainer, Nat "King" Cole.

In January 1940, Richard's beloved Maud died of breast cancer at age 68 and was interred within the Lacy family burial plot at San Gabriel Cemetery along with their only son, Richard William Lacy (a mechanical engineer), who died in 1927 at age 33.

Due to declining health, Richard Lacy stepped down as San Marino's first mayor in early 1942. His last public appearance was at the June 1945 gala homecoming of Gen. George S. Patton Jr. (1885-1945) on the front steps of the San Marino City Hall. Richard died of a heart attack at his last residence, the Huntington Hotel, on July 3, 1945, and is buried in the family plot at San

Gabriel Cemetery.

Richard Lacy was president of the Appleton Land and Water Company; director of Security First National Bank; vice president and director of Holly Development Co.; director of the Electrical Products Corp.; and, at the time of his death, director of the Oceanic Oil Co. His clubs and associations included the California Club, the Los Angeles Athletic Club, the Nidwick Country Club, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and The Merchant and Manufacturers Association. In politics, he was a Republican. He was survived by his five daughters: Helen Fitzpatrick, Marjorie Williams, Florence Smith, Constance Hayes and Eleanor Hanna.

The Lacy legacies are reflected in Lacy Park within the city of San Marino, which was once first known as Wilson's Lake and later as Lake Vineyard and subsequently named Lacy Park in April 1940, following the death of Maud Lacy.

Along the same line, Richard's father, William Lacy Sr. built a vacation home in 1888 in Pacific Grove, California on the Monterey peninsula. The house is now called the Green Gables Inn and currently used as a bed and breakfast inn.



Partial view of William Lacy's residence, a two-story Queen Anne-style home on Broadway near Griffin Avenue in Lincoln Heights. It is believed the house no longer exists. (Photo undated.)

The Puente Hills oil interests, along with family's Chino oil refinery, founded in 1892, were sold to Shell Oil Co. during the mid-to late 1930s. The management of the Lacy Manufacturing Co. was assumed by the two sons of William Lacy Jr. (William and Walter) in 1942, and ultimately ended up in bankruptcy in 1966, due to overexpansion. In 1971, Fred Lacy, son of Walter Lacy and grandson of William Lacy Jr., revived the company in Wilmington under the new name of Lacy Oil Tools Company, which he continued to own and operate in 2010, at the age of 81. And, one last legacy is the wonderful residential community of San Marino that Mayor Richard Henry Lacy so effectively promoted during his long and successful tenure in that capacity.

About the Author

In part two, Nick Curry completes, for the time being, the monumental history of the William Lacy family.

Nick is a phenomenal Southern California historian. He loves chasing and compiling biographical family manuscripts of the following: the Dohenys; the Bixbys of Long Beach; the Spreckels; the William Randolph Hearsts; the Henry E. Huntingtons; the J. Paul Gettys; and the E.J. "Lucky" Baldwins.

Nick's publications with others include: *Rivers in the Desert; Dark Side of Fortune-The Triumphs and Tragedies of Edward L. Doheny; the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the Biltmore Hotel; Childrens Hospital of Los Angeles Centennial publication; Bullocks Wilshire publication; The Culture Broker: Franklin D. Murphy biography; and Privileged Son: The Chandler Family of the Los Angeles Times.*

Thanks, Nick, for your contribution to *Alive!*

— Hynda Rudd



Nick Curry

HOUSING

Family Day Picnic

Housing hosted annual summer picnic.



Story by Jackie Causillas, Club Counselor;
Photos by Angel Gomez, Club Member
Services Manager

On Aug. 11, Housing held its annual Family Day at the Park Picnic at Elysian Park. Employees brought their families and friends of all ages to celebrate the festivities.

General Manager Mercedes Marquez began the celebration by welcoming attendees and gave the blessing before everyone started to eat. Everyone had their fill and some even came back for seconds. The day started with a softball game in which players had the chance to represent their respected Divisions. Assistant General Managers Roberto Aldape and Greg Kung both cheered and played with their teams to show everyone that they, too, had the competitive edge and spirit!

As the celebration went on throughout the afternoon, there were numerous events going on. There was a chili cook-off and

a dessert contest, where numerous Housing staff members submitted their favorite recipes. The kids were occupied with lots of activities.

They had a potato sack race, water balloon and egg tosses, a three-legged race, a Hula Hoop contest, a dance contest, and a couple of *piñatas* to keep a smile on their faces!

Executive staff, Managers and Division Heads Rushmore Cervantes, Helmi Hisserich, Anna Ortega, Roberto Aldape and Greg Kung, along with fellow Housing personnel and family members, joined in on having a watermelon eating contest. All who participated quickly realized that eating watermelon with their seeds without using their hands is not as easy as it seems! GM Mercedes Marquez helped in determining who won the messy contest! But if you asked me, everyone was a winner! Thank you all – for being team players!

Special thanks go to Lorena Aguilar for her assistance in producing this story.



Manuel Bernal,
Director of Major Projects,
Club Member.



Ericka Peden, Housing
Systems Group.



From left: Vicki Thanaski, Phuong Pham, Liseth Romero, and Mary Arredondo.



From left: Nell Dizon, Management Analyst II; Roya Babazadeh, Director of Compliance Division; and friend.

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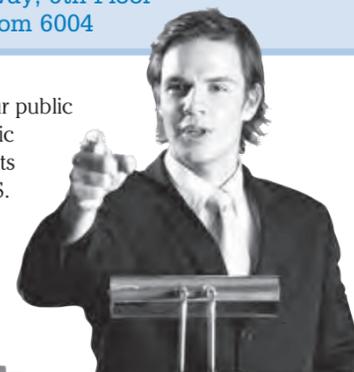
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Toastmasters International is a nonprofit, worldwide organization that helps its members develop their public speaking and leadership skills. The Public Works Pioneers Toastmasters Club belongs to Area 43 of Division D in the Downtown Los Angeles area.



TOASTMASTERS

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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