



6755 Newlin Ave.
Whittier, CA 90601
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The Whittier Museum

GAZETTE

Volume 40, Number 9

September 2013

**Mark Your
Calendar!**

**New Magic
Exhibit
Coming this
September**

**Opening
Magic Show
Sept. 15**

Monthly Newsletter
of the
Whittier Historical
Society & Museum

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1 to 4pm

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One Man's Trash...

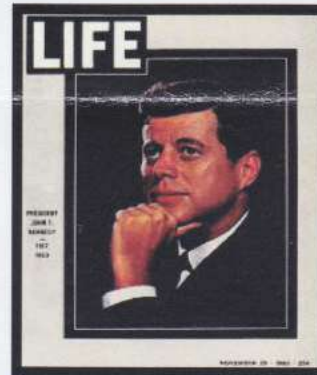
By Kellen Aguilar
Museum Intern

The Whittier Museum's Annual Flea Market showcased a variety of Whittier artifacts. Walking amongst the gimcracks, gewgaws, and knickknacks donated by Whittier residents was like strolling through the lanes of other people's memories.

A potpourri of literature was donated to the museum. Cook books were apparently very fashionable. From an entire series of "Best Of" recipe books to President Nixon's memoirs, the pages abound with what Whittierites from days past were reading. An older edition of the Orange County Register celebrates the "Top 100 People who Shaped Orange County." Who should be among that pantheon but Whittier's very own Richard M. Nixon. The article both lauds and laments the 37th President of the United States, his momentous foreign policy achievements and his staggering resignation.

Several vintage editions of Life Magazine were donated covering the years from 1960 to 1980, turbulent and groundbreaking years in United States history. Among the frontispieces were John F. Kennedy, Pope Paul VI, and the human body. Two issues in particular were in stark contrast: one giving a close-up

of President John F. Kennedy as a family man; the other commemorating his tragic death. We are left wondering if it was difficult for the donor of such a wealth and reservoir of history to

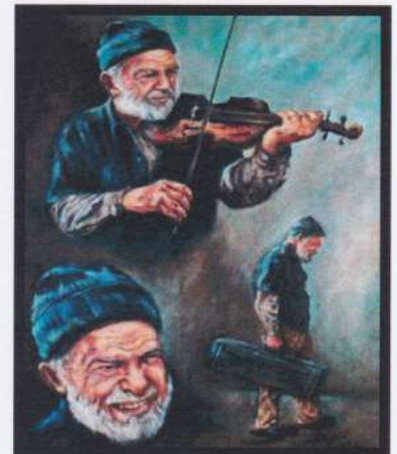


part with it.

Life, Nov 29, 1963

The literature was accompanied by a whole set of artwork, some remarkable, some less so. Some were truly majestic and stuck out from the fray: watercolors and hard pastels pictorializing pastoral scenes of nature. Some were curious curios to spark the imagination (we're specifically nodding towards a rather detailed portrait of a furry feline towering over the White House). Some weren't even veritable paintings; the owner had simply cut a page out of a magazine and framed it (although admittedly it would still have tied the living room together, fake or not).

Perhaps the most notable diamond in the rough came wrapped in plastic without a frame but with a clipped newspaper article riding passenger. Eons ago, back in 1983, Whittier native and local artist Wanda Riske painted some 800 portraits for the Whittier Museum of a man that became something of an urban legend – the so-called "Whittier Walker." The "Violin Man" would frequent the streets of Whittier fiddling a fado for anyone who cared to stop and listen (the LA Times actually wrote an article on "Mr. Johnson"). One of Ms. Riske's



portraits has wended its way back home.

Wanda Rilke, "Whittier Walker"

Art is art when it imitates life. The proof was in Whittier Museum's parking lot – Whittier is full of life.

2013-2014

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*The Whittier Historical Society
The Whittier Historical Society
&
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Presents...*

The Opening Act!

**Come and see this brand
new magic show to kick off
our new magic exhibit!**



Sept 15, at 2pm (doors open at 1pm)

Located in the WHITTIER MUSEUM

6755 Newlin Ave. Whittier, CA 90601



WHERE IN THE MUSEUM IS THIS?

How well do you know the Whittier Museum? Take a guess and find out where this book lies next month!

WANTED

DIRECTORS, DOCENTS,
AND VOLUNTEERS... YOU?



FOR UPKEEP AND OTHER
DUTIES APPERTAINING TO
THE MUSEUM OF WHITTIER

REWARD

~ A Chat with Rosalie ~

I want to take this opportunity to share with you my love of the Whittier Historical Society's Museum. It is the stronghold for the history of my chosen city, Whittier. As a youth, I did not live and enjoy one community, but many years ago I adopted Whittier as my city. I was blessed to have a wonderful family, but my father's occupation, as the head of iron foundries, had us moving to different locations. Having attended eleven different schools, it was difficult to be an active member of the community and develop friends. After graduating from college, I came to California to seek

my fortune. Needless to say, monetarily I'm still seeking, but wealth wise I have a wonderful group of friends and a community that I'm proud to be a part of. That being said, I now want to ask you how much you love your community, and how you think you can become involved in that community.

Whittier is a wonderful place and the Museum is a jewel in this city. I ask you, "How many of you have been to the Museum in the last few years, or ever?" Now is the time to do so, we need you. There are lots of opportunities for you to become involved. If

you like working with children then become a docent. Third grade classes visit the museum learning about their history and the history of where they live. You could become a committee member or even a chairperson - we have programs to plan, events to execute and general administrative areas that need volunteers. Please, won't you come share this outstanding Museum! You are so sorely needed. Step up, claim your place, and help maintain the history of Whittier, its forefathers, and what makes it such a great place to be a part of. Come aboard; we are waiting for you.



WHITTIER HISTORICAL
SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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Please follow us at twitter.com/WhittierMuseum for event updates and other info regarding the Museum.