Senator Frank Putnam Flint was said to have discovered the area that was to be known as Flintridge while vacationing in Pasadena with his family. In 1912, he began to purchase this undeveloped land in the Linda Vista/San Rafael hills, a section of the Turner Ranch that had itself once been part of the old Spanish Rancho San Rafael. His holdings extended into that part of the La Cañada Valley south of what is now Foothill Blvd. Joined by other investors, he gradually acquired 1,700 acres. It was subdivided and immodestly named “Flint-Ridge” (later re-written as one word).

Forty-five years ago, the communities of La Cañada and Flintridge incorporated as the new city of La Cañada Flintridge. The following articles by former Lanterman House archivist, Tim Gregory, explore the fascinating history of Flintridge and its founder.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF FLINTRIDGE

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

A phrase that I keep hearing is “2020 has been a year for the history books!” With that in mind, I’d like to urge residents to not just think about national events, but remember and preserve history on a local level as well. There are many stories to tell from La Cañada’s history, not just stories about the Lanterman family. The Lanterman House is committed to being the keeper of stories from our entire community.

To do this, however, we need the support of the community. We need you to think of us when you come across an interesting artifact or hear a tidbit of information. We need you to remember that your lives, your words and deeds, your photos and ephemera may have significance to the generations after you.

If you can think you have items of interest for our archives, please reach out! You can always reach us at lantermanhouse@gmail.com or leave a message at (818) 790-1421.

~Laura Verlaque

FALL 2020 HAPPENINGS AT THE LANTERMAN HOUSE

The Strapazon family pose with their first place entry in the 2020 Lanterman Gingerbread House Contest, titled A Child’s Country Christmas.

Dedicated community volunteers have continued to care for the Lanterman House’s outside spaces. We are so grateful for you! Scout Josh Fung built redwood benches and installed a privacy screen outside the Visitor Center as part of his Eagle Scout award.

The Lanterman Archives has begun to preserve photos from the local Black Lives Matter protest, which began in June 2020 in response to the George Floyd killing in Minneapolis. The protestors have demonstrated almost every Sunday since then.

In October, the Lanterman House & Archives participated in the 15th Annual Los Angeles Archives Bazaar - which was virtual this year! We created a short video introduction to the house and archives, and contributed to an online exhibition. Over a thousand virtual guests attended the event.

www.lantermanhouse.org
From the Archives...

We are pleased to announce that the California State Library has awarded the Lanterman Archives a grant to catalog and prepare for digitization its La Cañada Flintridge Historic Buildings Photograph Collection. This fourth consecutive grant through the California Revealed program, will make one of the Lanterman House’s most frequently-used image collections freely available online. Researchers, local residents, realtors, architectural historians, as well as journalists all use this collection on a regular basis.

The collection contains examples of homes built by many significant 20th-century Southern California architects, including Paul R. Williams; Wallace Neff; the firm of Marston, Van Pelt, and Maybury; Austen Pierpont; Julius Davidson; Reginald Johnson; Jack Simison; and Arthur Haley. Of current interest are photographs of homes designed by Paul R. Williams that are shown in the process of being built in the Flintridge Development. Due to the recent interest in Williams research, these photographs have already been used in at least one documentary.

Renewed interest in 20th century architecture has also brought with it more physical wear and tear on the photo collection. There is currently no catalog or finding aid for this 1,200-item collection. Intellectual control and digitization will do much to preserve this collection and make it available to a much wider audience.

~Julie Yamashita, Archivist

The home at 4243 Chevy Chase Drive was built in 1925 for Joseph A. Nadeau. Photo by AD Photo Service, Los Angeles. This photo is an example of the types of photos which will be catalogued in the most recent Archives grant.
Eventually, Flintridge was to include all the land east of Chevy Chase to Oak Grove Park and into the northern fringes of the Linda Vista hills in Pasadena. Characterized by large lots and winding streets (said to have been laid out by Senator Flint on horseback), it was designed to attract the many affluent buyers who were flocking to Pasadena in the late 1910s and 1920s. The California Southland magazine of February 1920 characterized Flintridge as being "the largest of all the restricted tracts ever opened in the Southland. Every kind of site, every description of beautiful outlook, hill and dale, ridge and canyon, invite to the building of the house of one's desire." The rustic landscape, convenient to the San Gabriel Mountains, was also attractive to horse-fanciers and other lovers of the outdoors. Advertised right from the start as "horse country"-Senator Flint laid out bridle trails at the same time he planned the streets. He also donated ten acres for the establishment of the Flintridge Riding Club in 1922.

In 1914, Flint built for himself an exact replica of a Southern governor's mansion-a 12,000-square-foot Colonial, sitting on fifteen acres at 800 Flintridge Avenue, above its intersection with Hillcrest Avenue. In 1914, he built the Dutch Colonial house at 700 Flintridge as a wedding present for his daughter Katharine and, in 1922, the English Revival-inspired 734 Flintridge for his son William.

Several well-known architects were commissioned by the Flintridge Company to design model homes or were recommended for custom work to new lot-buyers. Flintridge has many fine, still-surviving examples of the work of such architects as Wallace Neff, Ray Kieffer, and John W. Byers. But perhaps the most renowned architect who got his start under the patronage of Senator Flint was Paul R. Williams who was later to gain fame as the first African-American member of the American Institute of Architects. The March 22, 1924 issue of the Pasadena Star-News published an article on Flintridge which quoted architect Williams at length:

> When a man builds in the city, he is beset by rules, precedents, and customs to such an extent that he has little liberty in his choice. His house must conform to what has been built in that block. But in the suburbs or country one can, and nearly every man does, give vent to his own individual ideals. Ernest Seton has said: 'Show me his country home, and I will tell you what manner of man he is.'

> Great possibilities for individual ideas exist in Flintridge. There are sections of this wonderful, rolling country, heavily wooded with oaks that give one the impression of England, where one would wish to build one of those rambling English homes so often associated with the counties of Surrey and Kent. There are other sections with an occasional clump of eucalypti, where one would want to see an old Spanish or Italian farmhouse, surrounded by orange groves and vineyards.
All of these environments are being assimilated in Flintridge. The English houses have been given a Southern California atmosphere by using materials similar to those in Spanish houses, such as rugged shake roofs, and plaster walls, with the irregular hand finish and heavy hewn beams, all of which are details quite typical of our section. This assimilation in type of architecture, and the use of materials most accessible, will in time cause the development of a distinctive type of domestic architecture in Southern California.

Houses were never meant to be a blot on the landscape; they should be individually beautiful and grow out of the natural shrubbery and trees. Flintridge has the natural possibilities, and it is through the proper selection of the type of home and the surroundings, that tend toward a homogeneous character of the house and garden.

Despite the protest of some local pioneers, a postal address of Pasadena was secured for Flintridge since Pasadena was one of the most desirable addresses in the nation at that time. As the area grew, zoning, building, and safety requirements were established by Los Angeles County for the unincorporated La Cañada, Alta Canyada, and Flintridge communities. Gas was brought into the valley through the efforts of Senator Flint. Electricity and telephone lines were also readily available. The La Cañada Irrigation District was established by vote in the early 1920s to bring in water from wells and the nearby mountains.

The Flintridge area also became known as a resort when, around 1919, the Flintridge Country Club was established just down the hill from Meadow Grove Street. A 1926 advertisement for
A BRIEF HISTORY OF FLINTRIDGE

Although the southeasterly fringe of Flintridge was eventually annexed into Pasadena, the bulk of the community maintained its unincorporated independence until 1976 when residents voted to join with La Cañada to form a new city with the rather unwieldy name of La Cañada Flintridge, neither community wanting to give up its previous identity.

-Tim Gregory
Frank Putnam Flint was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1862 but in 1869 moved to California with his parents and younger brother Motley (born in 1864). The family settled in San Francisco. Frank and Motley relocated to Los Angeles during the land boom of the 1880s, both men investing heavily in real estate—something they would continue to do throughout their lives.

Motley was said to be the dominant brother and was evidently very charismatic. He became a prominent banker, but was also known for his charitable work, calling himself the “Santa Claus” of Los Angeles for having provided assistance to the poor and unemployed. He was also a champion of movie production in Southern California and cultivated friendships with a number of powerful Hollywood tycoons.

Frank was employed as Deputy U.S. Marshall in 1888 and clerked in the District Attorney’s office while studying law. Eventually he passed the bar and became a highly successful lawyer with his own firm. One of his biggest clients was the Southern Pacific Railroad which pretty well ran California’s state government at the time. By 1897 Frank had been appointed a U.S. District Attorney. Like his brother, he was also involved in the banking business.

An ardent Republican, Frank was elected to the United States Senate—serving one term from 1906 to 1912. He was the last Senator to be elected by the California Legislature and not by popular vote, just before the Constitution was changed. Frank was said to have gained the ear of President Theodore Roosevelt and because of his Washington contacts was instrumental in procuring federal backing for such controversial endeavors as the Owens Valley water project. He also helped to secure funding for (continued on next page)
The Flint Brothers

Fe Springs and founded the Julian Petroleum Company. Julian was a master of convincing people to invest in his company and soon had over 175,000 investors. As soon as prosecutors began to suspect he was cooking the books, he sold the company in 1924. Motley and his fellow bankers loaned the new owners $10 million and organized what they called a “Million Dollar Pool,” backed by fairly worthless Julian stock. They got big-name power brokers and very wealthy Hollywood people to invest first and, in a big Ponzi scheme, paid out dividends using the money that later, less affluent, investors had been paying in. Of course the whole thing eventually collapsed. In 1927, 40,000 small investors were left holding the bag, to the tune of $150 million.

Although Frank Flint had evidently not participated directly in the fraud, he was the attorney for many of those first wealthy investors and must have had an idea of what was going on when he advised them to cash out early. Motley and his cronies were indicted but were later acquitted of four of the five fraud charges.

Weighed down by stress from the scandal, Frank thought an ocean cruise might revive him, but he died aboard ship near the Philippines in February 1929. He was 67. Despite his tainted reputation, he was greatly mourned in Los Angeles: before his funeral his casket rested in state in the rotunda of Los Angeles City Hall. A local historian has said that the oil scandal at the end of his life “overshadowed the myriad accomplishments that would otherwise have left the name of Frank Putnam Flint in relatively high esteem, both historically and among his contemporaries.”

Motley Flint had a more dramatic end. Just before he was to be brought to trial on the last Julian scandal indictment, he was giving testimony in July 1930 during a trial on (ironically) an unrelated case.
As he descended from the witness stand, a man in the audience stood up and shot him three times. Motley died on the spot. His killer was a penniless real estate broker named Frank Keaton who blamed Motley for his loss of $35,000 in the Julian scandal. Keaton had just ten cents in his pockets, but when they moved Motley’s body they found his suit pockets stuffed with $63,000 in cash. It would appear that “Santa Claus” had been providing well for himself.

~Tim Gregory

Meet Kimiko Adler, a local resident and new volunteer at the Lanterman House. Kimi is a sophomore at Claremont McKenna College, majoring in Government and Classical Studies. For the past semester and a half, she has been doing “college from home” out of her parent’s dining room. Kimi will be creating a social media series on the history of Flintridge for us - make sure to watch our Facebook and Instagram pages for her work!
OUTSIDE-IN TOUR

*If you are interested in taking a tour, please email lantermanhouse@gmail.com or call (818) 790-1421. Tours can be arranged on Tuesdays or Thursdays between 1pm-4pm, and on selected evenings.*

Enjoy an socially-distanced “Outside-In” tour of the Lanterman House. The Lanterman family planned and built their house with unique features that allowed them to take advantage of the fine Southern California climate. The house is completely surrounded by a patio, which can be accessed by an astonishing number of French doors - thirty-two in total! This special tour has been developed to introduce visitors to the Lanterman family and their unique house while reducing the risk of exposure to Covid-19. The hour-long docent-led tour will remain outside the house and peek into the Lanterman House interiors.

SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS

- Face coverings required at all times.
- A safe distance must be maintained from your guide.
- If you are experiencing any symptoms of illness on the day of your tour, please stay at home and call (818) 790-1421 to cancel your tour. At that time, you may choose to donate the cost of your tickets to the Lanterman House or request a refund.

ONLINE EXHIBITION

*Emily Constance Lanterman: Grand Dame of La Cañada*

*Opening March 3, www.lantermanhouse.org*

This exhibit explores the life of Emily Constance Lanterman. In addition to being a wife, mother, and manager of the family home, she was an enthusiastic member of many social organizations. At home, Emily did most of the daily household chores herself, yet she still found time for her own personal interests. Her incredibly busy life speaks to her unwavering desire to learn and to improve herself as well as the world around her. Curated by Lanterman House Archivist, Julie Yamashita.

ONLINE EXHIBITION

*Mission of Mercy: Dr. Lanterman & the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake*

*Opening April 18, www.lantermanhouse.org*

The day after the San Francisco earthquake of 1906 struck, Dr. Roy Lanterman joined a relief mission of medical personnel from Los Angeles, sponsored by William Randolph Hearst. Upon arrival, Dr. Lanterman immediately set up the first emergency hospital in the devastated city. Over the next two weeks, he and his staff treated more than 2,000 patients. This exhibit draws upon a rare scrapbook in the archives of the Lanterman House to tell the story. Curated by Lanterman House Executive Director, Laura Verlaque.
MAKE YOUR OWN MUSEUM!
Submissions due May 16
For guidelines, visit www.lantermanhouse.org

Museums come in all types and sizes. There are large museums, tiny museums, museums that collect everything and museums that collect only one type of thing. But museums all aim to do the same thing: to use their collections and exhibits to educate, inform, and entertain.

We’d like YOU to make your own museum to share with everyone and fit it in a shoebox.

Think about what interests you. What kinds of things do you collect? What information do you want to share with others? You can research, design, and create your shoebox museum about ANY topic of your choice. When you’ve completed it, just submit photos of it to our online gallery by May 16.

You might even win an award! Flintridge Bookstore and Once Upon A Time Bookstore are partnering with us and will offer prizes in three categories: Adult (age 13 and up); Youth (age 12 and below) and Family. The Grand Prize winner will receive a $100 gift card and the first-place winners of each category will receive a $30 gift card. The winning entries will be put on display at the bookstores.

VIRTUAL HISTORY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
Summer 2021

The Lanterman House will be conducting its Virtual History Internship program again during the summer of 2021 for all local high school students. Students will attend training to learn to research and record oral history interviews with members of the community. The interviews will become a permanent part of the Lanterman House archives. The internship is worth approximately 20 hours of community service, completed over a six-week period.

Please follow us on social media or check our website for more details later this spring. We will begin accepting applications in early April.
PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL HISTORY!

The Lanterman Historical Museum Foundation, a non-profit organization, was founded to preserve, restore, operate and display the Lanterman House and Archives for the historic and cultural education and enjoyment of present and future generations of the City and State of California.

The Lanterman Historical Museum Foundation is eligible for Corporate Matching Gifts as a 501(c)(3) organization.

Contact our Executive Director at (818) 790-1421.

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!!

- Benefactor $250
- Associate $100
- Sustainer $60
- Sponsor $35

Please make checks payable to the Lanterman Historical Museum Foundation.

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EMAIL_________________________________________________

☐ Yes! Send my newsletter via email!