

# Southwest Museum to Celebrate 50th Jubilee

## Art Exhibit Sent to Europe Will Cap Half Century of Service to Southland

BY ED AINSWORTH

This dream came true upon a hill.

It is known as the Southwest Museum.

And now it is ready this week to celebrate 50 years of free service in culture and science to the people of Southern California.

The Southwest Museum's golden jubilee date will be Dec. 31. It was on that day just 50 years ago, when Theodore Roosevelt was President and the American people were in the grip of a severe depression, that the museum came into being. Its courageous founder was Charles Fletcher Lummis, first city editor of The Times, historian, Indian authority, and the inventor of the term "Southwest" as applied to the great region running from California to Texas through New Mexico and Arizona.

### Improvement Program

In observance of its anniversary, the museum has just completed, under Director Carl Dentzel, a three-year program of expansion and improvement—both internal and external.

Despite the fact that it never has received a cent of tax money and is entirely supported by private donations, the museum is finishing its first half century "in the black," even after its recent major face liftings. All its services—including tours and lectures for 50,000 school children each year—are without admission charge.

The huge building, on many levels atop its hill off Marmion Way in Highland Park, has been repainted outside and in; new cases

have been installed; an auditorium has been refurbished; a huge parking lot has been created by cutting off the top of the hill; memorial steps have been built, and plantings of native California shrubs and flowers are under way.

Even more important than the physical changes, however, have been the vastly stepped-up tempos of the museum's activities for the public.

Under the guidance of Di-

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**DIRECTOR AND DOLLS**—Carl Dentzel, director of the Southwest Museum and the man in charge of its 50th anniversary activities, displays two large Kachina dolls from the museum's collection of Southwest Indian arts and crafts.

Times photo

# MUSEUM JUBILEE

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rector Dentzel and with the support of the board of trustees headed by President Homer D. Crotty, Los Angeles attorney, the cultural sphere of the Southwest has been tremendously enlarged.

Its chief fields, of course, are archaeology and ethnology.

These general terms have been translated into living, breathing programs for the public.

For instance, the museum is joining now in plans to send to Europe for the first time a major traveling display of American aboriginal art. These will include examples of designs going back hundreds of years before the first white men set foot on this continent, and yet appearing as modern and challenging as anything that might emerge in 20th century America.

## Publication Program

The museum has stepped up its publication program, and has just announced three notable achievements in this realm.

One of these is the publication by the Book Club of California of a magnificent work edited by Dentzel on the drawings of John Woodhouse Audubon, son of the great ornithological painter, made on a trip through Texas, Mexico and California in 1849-50. The originals are in the research library of the museum.

Another is an addition to the scientific books sponsored by the museum, "A Pinto Site at Little Lake, California," by Dr. Mark Raymond Harrington, curator and distinguished archeologist.

## Indian Music Book

The third is being produced with funds of the Frederick W. Hodge Fund and is "Music of the Maidu Indians of California," by the late Frances Densmore, authority on musical forms of American Indians. Dr. Hodge, who recently died in Santa Fe, N.M., in his 90s, was for many years director of the Southwest Museum.

During the three years of its expansion program, the museum has presented many notable civic events both in the museum itself and in its "hospitality house," the famed Casa de Adobe on N Figueroa St., which it operates. These have included a reception and presentation to Gov. Braulio Maldonado of Baja California and an exhibit of paintings of Mexican desert scenes by John W. Hilton, which marked the first use of the newly decorated auditorium.

## Pottery Design Art

The exhibition of pre-Columbian items which will be sent to Europe will include examples of Hohokam, Mimbres and California desert Indian art in pottery design and weaving.

Much of this is on display in the Charles F. Lummis Hall of Prehistory, dedicated to the museum's founder. In this hall the beginnings of man's uses of tools are traced contemporaneously in Europe, Africa and Asia, as well as in America. Over the door is the famed couplet written by Lummis in commemoration of man's learning the use of fire:

*"A casual savage cracked  
two stones together—  
A spark—and man was  
armed against the  
weather!"*

"We not only have repainted the museum and installed new equipment," said Dentzel yesterday, "but we have embarked upon a greatly accelerated program of

changing exhibits so we can use the vast storehouse of material we possess. We are creating a dynamic force here in the community to dramatize the culture and achievements of the Southwest region.

"And, as we say here on the staff, we work every morning for the school children of Southern California who are brought here as part of their cultural training. We are so booked up with school classes now that we can't take any more until next September."

The museum's golden jubilee year has been marked by many social events in honor of the occasion.

Assisting President Crotty and Dentzel with these affairs have been the other directors, Garner A. Beckett, Preston Hotchkis, Jonathan Bell Lovelace, John O'Melveny, Joseph Scott and Dr. Norman Sprague Jr.