



above: San Diego's Britt Scripps Inn

# Places with a Past

by Lester Sloan

Serendipity is the mother of adventure. My recent excursion from San Diego to Los Angeles included lodging that offered much more than a room. Intrigue, drama and a wealth of history came at no extra charge at these fascinating places with a past.

## **Britt Scripps Inn: San Diego's Grande Dame**

The afternoon sun was well on its way west when I arrived at the Britt Scripps Inn just two-blocks from the 1,200-acre Balboa Park, home of the San Diego Zoo and a wealth of top-notch museums. The 118-year-old, Queen Anne Victorian was originally the dream home of Eugene Britt. The water rights lawyer built it in 1887 for the "princely" sum of \$3,000. His family relocated to Los Angeles after the turn of the last century and sold the property to E.W. Scripps—founder of America's first newspaper chain—to be used as a "town house" during the construction of his Miramar ranch, north of San Diego.