

HERITAGE

Volume 40 No 1

A Publication of the Tustin Area Historical Society

March/April, 2014

PROMENADE ALONG OUR YELLOW BRICK ROAD Saturday, May 3, 9:00 – 4:00

Shake the dust out of your spring bonnet, put on your fashionable, low-heeled shoes, tuck an antique you're curious about into the back seat, and take a day to enjoy wonderful homes, gardens, gift venues, and history along our Yellow Brick Road. The theme this year is "Tustin... There's No Place Like Home", and an early start will get you to the center of Tustin in time to enjoy the Opening Concert and to learn about Libby Pankey, who will be front and center there as the Historical



Society's Special Honoree this year. If you don't already know Libby, you have missed one of the most generous, involved women in town. After college in 1939, she married Edgar Pankey, son of an area Pioneer family, and they moved onto the family ranch where she was as at home as she is now in her lovely residence on Main Street. When it was decided that every May celebration should feature a May Pole, it was obvious where it belonged, but we hesitated to ask Libby if we could dig a huge hole in her lovely front yard to sink the pole, and then allow "spring sprites" from Tustin High School to trample her lawn while dancing and weaving ribbons around it. When we asked, however, she didn't think twice before graciously agreeing, just as for a number of years she's generously welcomed Promenade visitors into her backyard to enjoy her lovely garden from the shade of a sycamore tree hundreds of years old. Libby is remarkable, strong with a wonderful sense of humor, which is evident in the book she and Edgar wrote called "Love of the Land" in which they talk about their early married lives in Tustin, and the agriculture that enveloped them. We hope you'll make an effort of come out and see her.

The Promenade day will begin with an Opening Concert at the intersection of El Camino Real and Main Street. At 10:00, you will want to be at the ticket venue in the courtyard of the Presbyterian Church, where you can pick up your ticket, perhaps purchase Opportunity Prize tickets for a chance at one of the wonderful gifts, and even do some shopping in the Courtyard Marketplace before catching one of the two trolleys to ferry you to the homes. Of course, there is also a Marketplace in the parking lot of Jamestown Village, where Dianne White of Whimsey

has hand-picked vendors who are compatible with our Promenade.

This year, we are reintroducing a feature we haven't included for a number of years – Antique Appraisals courtesy of Guilt-Free Complex. There will be no cost to you for this venue; your Home Tour wristband will be your admission ticket. If your antique is especially unwieldy or doesn't travel well, perhaps you'd just enjoy admiring the quilts at the Flying Geese Quilt Show in the Fellowship Hall of the

Presbyterian Church. For the antique car buffs among you, there are two separate venues – one at Stevens' Square, the other at the Advent Christian Church. If you're not already aware, Tustin is designated an official Cities of Trees by the state, and do we have the walking tour for you! Guy Stivers, area landscape specialist, will lead a morning walk through Tustin to acquaint you with a number of unique specimen trees, some of which were brought home and nurtured by Tustin's worldly travelers of the 1880s.

Promenade tickets for the pre-sale price of \$20 are already available at three places in Old Town: the Museum, Fred & Daffy's Antiques and Collectibles, and Mrs. B's Consignments, and they are also available the day of the Promenade in the Presbyterian Church Courtyard for \$25. The PayPal feature proved so successful last year that it is available again in the Promenade window of tustinhistory.com. Not available through PayPal, however, are tickets for the Opportunity Prize drawing. As in years past, we have some incredible prizes donated by local merchants, including the Grand Prizes; \$300 for a purchaser of Promenade tickets during the Pre-sale, and \$300 for a purchaser of Promenade tickets on the day of the event.

The Promenade is the Historical Society's only major fundraiser each year and plays a huge part in the Museum's ability to continue educating visitors and students about Tustin's history through our outreach programs. Of course, we also maintain many collections which the public is welcome to access, present four yearly programs relating to history and open to the public, and publish five newsletters containing historical topics and current events. We hope you agree with this year's theme that there is no better place to live than in Tustin.

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The Tustin Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 185
Tustin, CA 92781

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Museum Hours

Every Tuesday and Thursday

9 am – 2 pm

First and Third Saturday
of each month

12 pm – 3 pm

Open to Visitors
Admission is Free

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Spring! Volunteers of TAHS are busy these days, getting ready for our 18th Annual Promenade, and I know everyone who attends will have a wonderful day! We will feature five historic homes to visit and several beautiful gardens in which to linger. Don't miss this rare opportunity to enjoy the furnishings and passion that the owners display through their décor and collections. This year's theme, "Tustin...There's No Place Like Home," echoes how many of us feel about this wonderful community and how proud we are to live here! As further enticement to take advantage of our Pre-Sale (through Friday, May 2, at 3 p.m.)- -everyone who purchases a Pre-Sale ticket (only \$20 – compared to \$25 the day of the event) on-line, by mail, or in person will have a chance to win \$300, courtesy of Michael Demoratz and Lindburgh McPherson of Wilcox Manor. They are donating yet another Grand Prize of \$300 in cash to be awarded through the Opportunity Prize drawing - but even if you don't win the cash, there are many other lovely gift baskets and gift certificates available for the price of one of the drawing tickets. We can always use more help so if this delightful season has given you new incentive to get more involved, please let us know—we welcome the chance to get to know you better and definitely would appreciate extra hands to help make this popular event an even greater success! Either give the Museum office a call or drop by Tuesdays or Thursdays from 9 to

2 p.m. It's not too late to take advantage of getting behind the scenes as a house docent and you'll receive a free entry to tour the lovely homes & gardens we are showcasing this year!

If you'd prefer helping out at the Museum a couple of times a month, we welcome you there too! It is fun, and you never know who will walk through that door! And our friendly and helpful staff is always on hand to assist you with visitors' questions.

Volunteering not only makes our community better, it serves to lighten your spirit and enrich your life—guaranteed! What a win-win for everyone!

I hope to see you at our next general meeting, Monday, May 19, at 7 p.m. at the Tustin Library. We will be awarding the winners of our annual JoAnn Bollesen Art Contest for Tustin's 3rd graders, and also we will hear the latest on the City's potential plans for Old Town, presented by Elizabeth Binsack, Director of Community Development.

Whatever activities you choose, promise yourself you will get up and out to enjoy and enrich this beautiful place we call home!

Gretchen Whisler
President

ACCESSIONS:

Jason Love – Commemorative Plate Aldersgate United
Methodist Church

BeBe Radice – TUHS Class of 1930 Reunion Info, 1/17/1985

Creative Art Services – Reproductions of vintage photographs

Chuck Puckett – "I Did Not Plan That" book by Ron Hosterey

Arv Bollesen – Ephemera from the estate of Glenn Pyeatt

Mark Patton – CD of Patton family photos

Bruce Andren – History Book of Orange County dated 1963

TUSTIN FOOD CENTER



As we prepare to welcome visitors from around the area to our annual Promenade, it seems the right time to visit buildings that make up Tustin's history. Visitors frequently admire them, but most of the locals hardly notice that they're unique, much less wonder about the stories behind them. This is the story of Cox's Market Plaza, the OTHER two-story brick building in town, the one that takes up the entire southeast corner of Main and El Camino Real.

A year after the Knights of Pythias building on the northeast corner was finished in 1925, Sam Tustin, son of the town's founder, decided that a correspondingly large brick building on the opposite corner would convey an image of prosperity to motorists passing through town on the heavily-traveled 101 Hwy. The northwest corner was already covered by the bank, so Sam contracted with Ed Kiser, who had been involved in building the Pythian's building, to erect a similar building on the corner across Main. It consisted of three rentable units on Main, a large corner unit, and another rental unit on El Camino Real (Hwy 101).

The history of the building's first ten years is a bit sketchy, although it is rumored to have contained a grocery store even then. More scandalously, following Prohibition it was home to the Hollywood Café, which was observed, by astute WCTU members and other business people in town, to be serving liquor to couples who arrived in "big-city" cars. Tustin was aghast at the thought of women drinking! Some of Tustin was, anyway.

Ed and Leola Cox bought the building in 1936, opening the Cox and Preston Market. Only half the size it eventually grew to, it still took up the entire corner. The availability of fresh produce and meat in a small-town grocery remained something of a novelty, so with Ed Cox running the grocery end, and Preston, a butcher, operating the fresh meat counter, all of Tustin shopped there. Preston's meat counter was eventually succeeded first by Martin & Amsel Shields, then by Louie Reihl, proving so popular that in 1943, the grocery, now Tustin Food Center, not only took over the Hollywood Cafe, it expanded next into two new units that Ed Cox added on El Camino Real. Meanwhile, the three Main Street-facing units were filled by Farnsworth Jewelry, Doctor Ed Ryan's office, and a dry cleaning business on the alley. The addition of these businesses to the already existing ones at that intersection (bolstered by an occasional foray into Santa Ana) made Tustin nearly self-sufficient for decades. Sadly, downtown Tustin outgrew its roots in the '60s, and as new residents demanded more than small-town businesses could deliver, the Tustin Food Center, along with a number of other businesses, eventually closed its doors. Tustin lost the personal touch it had enjoyed for more than half a century, and its residents lost their daily connection to it as well.

Join the Tustin Area Historical Society and keep your newsletter coming. Please send your dues or an additional gift today. Ask a friend to join!

ANNUAL DUES:

(Please check one)

\$20-\$34 Contributor

\$35-\$59 Explorer

\$60-\$99 Colonist

\$100-\$249 Settler

\$250-\$499 Frontier

\$500-\$999 Pioneer

\$1,000 Heritage

Renew

New

Special Contribution as
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\$ _____

Make your check payable to:

Tustin Area Historical Society

P.O. Box 185 • Tustin, CA 92781

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Address _____

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email address _____

Special Donation:

Red Hill Lutheran Church



New Members:

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Cheryl Lynn Gielow

Nathan Menard



Obituary:

Gloriah Enderle

HERITAGE

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MAY MEETING

Monday, May 19, 2014
7:00 p.m.

Tustin Library Community Room
345 E. Main Street, Tustin

Program

JoAnn Bollesen Art Contest Awards

Elizabeth Binsack

Director of Community
Development

OLD TOWN TUSTIN

— *Ever on the Move*

The May General Meeting should be an interesting one. First, there will be a short program introducing the Third Grade winners of the annual JoAnn Bollesen Art Contest. These cuties will be awarded their prizes while displaying their award-winning interpretations of the historic buildings in Old Town.

The Main Event will be our speaker, Elizabeth Binsack, Tustin's Director of Community Development. As you may be aware, Old Town waxes and wanes in a business sense, but if you've driven through it lately, you might have noticed that there is a handsome (and architecturally sensitive) new building about to be unveiled on El Camino Real and Second Street. The reincarnation of Margaret Pottenger's Jabberwocky that fell victim to a fire two years ago is almost completed as well, and the old transmission shop sharing a parking lot with Mrs. B's has already been demolished; the drawings for a two-story work/live business to replace it are impressive. Ms. Binsack will talk to us about the City's plans to promote Old Town as the historical, cultural, and business heart of town in such a way that enhances a strong business climate. We hope our TAHS members, as proponents of Tustin's history, will be excited to hear how the City proposes to make Tustin more vibrant and alluring to potential business owners. It takes an engaged community to help historical districts exist and prosper, and the more the public is aware of Old Town's charms, the more inclined they may be to support the efforts of both TAHS and the Tustin Preservation Conservancy. *Please join us on Monday, May 19, for coffee, cookies, and what should be a thought-provoking presentation.*