

# HERITAGE

Volume 33 No 4

A Publication of the Tustin Area Historical Society

September/October 2008

## It's Time!!! Back to School!

*Tustin Grammar School,  
Built in 1914*



### **Tustin Grammar School, Built in 1914**

Columbus Tustin established a grammar school almost as soon as his wife and five children joined him in Tustin City from Petaluma, California, in 1870, but 50 years passed before Tustin had a high school.

### **Tustin High School, Built in 1921**

When Tustin's first high school opened in 1921, fewer than 100 students were enrolled, even though they came from as far away as Laguna Beach, with a faculty of 14. The present day Tustin High School replaced the original high school when

it was torn down in 1966. It has now multiplied into four high schools: Tustin, Foothill, Beckman, and Hillview. The 2008-2009 school year expects to open with a record enrollment of high school students.

The Tustin Museum's collection of high school yearbooks, including the first Tustin High Audion in 1923, is one of the most graphic illustrations of this tremendous growth.

*Tustin High School, 1921*



## A Journey Through American Music



*Lee Staton*

Our September program features Lee Staton leading us on a Journey through American Music. Lee, a member of the Tustin Area Historical Society, discusses the history of American Music Entertainment from 1820 to 1950, starting with music of Stephen Foster and ending with popular songs of the 1950's. During the course of the program, Lee will also play several popular songs on the piano.

Lee was born and raised in Santa Ana, graduating from Santa Ana High School in 1952. He later graduated from UCLA Law School and in 1960 he joined the staff of the Los Angeles District Attorney's office and transferred the next year to the Orange County District Attorney's office. Lee retired in 1995 as a Supervising Deputy District Attorney. In retirement, he has had time to renew his interest in piano. From that interest grew a program that he presents to local organizations

discussing the history of musical entertainment in the United States. He accompanies this program with musical pieces popular during the nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth centuries. Lee and his wife, Mary, enjoy traveling and visiting family in Northern California now that they are both retired. Be sure to mark your calendar and join us for this interesting and entertaining program-meeting. Bring your friends and join us at the Tustin Senior Center on Monday, September 15 at 7:30 pm. Everyone is welcome and refreshments are served. Erma Zwirner is our Program Chairman.

### **NEXT MEETING**

**Monday, Sept. 15, 2008**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Tustin Senior Center  
LOUNGE**

**200 S. 'C' Street, Tustin**

• **PROGRAM** •

**Speaker**

**Lee Staton**

**(TAHS Member)**

***A Journey Through  
American Music***

**Everyone is Welcome!**

## President's Message

Congratulations to Don Ropele and Jeanne Brown for being voted 2007 Man and Woman of the Year for the Tustin area. It was announced at a dinner, hosted by the Tustin City Council and held at the Tustin Ranch Golf Club, Don and Jeanne, nominated by TAHS, received their awards to standing ovations. I am proud to say that both of them are active members of the Historical Society.

Many thanks to Don Ropele and the Chili Cook-Off Organization for the generous donation of \$5,000 to TAHS. The Historical Society provided many volunteers to help sell tickets and serve beer the day of the event. It is estimated that the attendance was over 37,000 people, and is considered to be the world's largest one day Chili Cook-Off. Congratulations to you and your committee, Don.

A reminder about the September 15th General Meeting at the Senior Center. Our guest speaker will be Lee Staton and he will be leading us on a Journey Through American Music. It will be a special evening. Please join us.

*Joe Sprekelmeyer, President*



### *Tustin Man and Woman of the Year!*

*The Tustin Area Historical Society nominated Don Ropele and Jeanne Brown as 2007 Tustin Man and Woman of the Year and they were chosen on June 20. Among five women and seven men, all very deserving to be recognized with this honor, Don and Jeanne were chosen. Don was also nominated by Tustin Pride and Councilman Lou Bone. Jeanne was also nominated by The Tustin Area Woman's Club. They were voted to receive the Awards by the Past Men and Women of the Year winners and it was a secret until the June 20 Awards dinner held at the Tustin Ranch Golf Club, when the winners were announced. What an Honor for us!*

## Membership Drive

Join us by becoming Members of the Tustin Area Historical Society and Museum. We welcome new Members and invite you to encourage your friends and neighbors to join. We offer the Heritage newsletter five times a year along with entertaining and interesting programs. The History of Tustin is foremost on our Agenda and the Tustin Museum has a wealth of information and displays to interest you and your families. Please help us in our Membership Drive for 2009 by calling the Museum (714) 731-5701 for membership information. Or send us a note of interest to TAHS, P.O. Box 185, Tustin, CA 92781 and we will send a packet right off to you. Thanks!

### **Ice Cream Social!**

TAHS will be hosting an Ice Cream Social on Sunday, September 14, 2008 from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm. We will be having ice cream and various toppings so you can make your own Sundaes, as well as lemonade and water. Co-chairmen are Joe Sprekelmeyer and Joyce Miller.

Location will be the downtown Pocket Park at 450 El Camino Real (across the street from the Assistance League Thrift Shop).

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

Tustin Area Museum  
395 El Camino Real (at Main Street)  
Tustin, CA 92780  
(714) 731-5701  
FAX (714) 731-7691  
E-mail: [tustinmuseum@att.net](mailto:tustinmuseum@att.net)  
Web Site: [www.tustinhistory.com](http://www.tustinhistory.com)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>President</b>	Joe Sprekelmeyer
<b>Vice President/ Membership</b>	Denese Menard
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tom Schramer
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Margaret Pottenger

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Juanita Cluster	Dennis Hayden
Bill Finken	Joyce Miller
Marge Flamme	Don Ropele
Mike Flamme	Erma Zwirner
Bill Leinberger	

<b>Parliamentarian</b>	Don Ropele
<b>Museum Office Manager</b>	Barbara Hannegan
<b>Facilities Manager</b>	Bill Finken
<b>Museum</b>	(714) 731-5701

### Committee Chairmen

<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	Barbara Hannegan
<b>Program</b>	Erma Zwirner
<b>Museum Directors</b>	
<b>Displays</b>	Joyce Miller
<b>Facilities</b>	Bill Finken
	Barbara Hannegan
	Doug Manning
<b>Volunteer/Docent</b>	Bill Finken
<b>Coordinator &amp; Scheduling</b>	
<b>Hospitality</b>	Juanita Cluster
	Bill Finken
	Don Larson
<b>Special Events</b>	Margaret Pottenger
	Erma Zwirner
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Jeanne Brown
<b>Production</b>	Anchor Printing
<b>Amenities</b>	Peggy Braun

## 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**



*Huell Howser and Denny Hayden at the Tustin Museum*

# Hangin' out with Huell

*By Linda Jennings*

July 31, 2008—My afternoon with Huell went very well and was actually a lot of fun. He's every bit as energetic as he appears on his show and he runs the taping at his rapid-fire pace using the info he finds interesting. It was just Huell and one cameraman and the rest of us running after him as he crisscrossed El Camino, ignoring the stoplight and traffic.

He was late getting to the museum but took great care in setting everything up, including the opening remarks with me. As we stood chatting in front of the camera out on the corner of Main and El Camino, just about everyone who drove by waved and yelled hello to him. He was equally as friendly, waving and smiling.

First shot was inside the museum, taking in the fire truck and Utt Juice display, then on to the Blacksmith Shop and Victor Anderson. It was perfect. Huell loved the place and Vic kept exclaiming about how no one knew all this was hidden away in Tustin—his theme for the day. I must have said five times that we are the best kept secret in O.C. Victor got his fire going, banged out some metal for a branding iron (I'm not kidding!!!), made funny machines run and thrilled Huell.

After that we shot my house (The Hewes House) from the outside. He had done a show on the golden spike and knew who David Hewes was. Then to the Wooden Indian, where he had Gordon Bean, the barber, pretend to trim his hair for the interview. Annette Bartolomucci (Mrs. B) wanted to be interviewed, so across Main we dashed, in the middle of traffic, to talk to her and her daughter Tiffany, the postmistress.

Final stop was the Beach Pit BBQ, the old Tustin Garage, and Tim DeCinces. Lots of outside shots and then a focus on a plate of BBQ. Tim was a great interview, as I knew he would be. Huell and the cameraman wolfed down the food and then took off for LA. He tells me it will air in two months. Good for Old Town Tustin!

## Books for Sale!

The following books are available for sale by mail from the Tustin Area Historical Society.

*If you prefer to purchase any of the books, they are available at the Tustin Museum, Ivy's, Mrs. B's, and Acorn Naturalists in Old Town Tustin or at Ace Hardware located on Tustin Avenue at Santa Clara Street, Santa Ana.*



*Juanita Lovret  
"Remember When"*



*Libby Pankey "Love of the Land"  
and Carol Jordan "Tustin: An Illustrated  
History" and "Landmark Trees of Tustin"*

### Mail Order Form

	Price	Sales Tax	Shipping	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Tustin: An Illustrated History by Carol Jordan</b> This is a landmark book on the history of Tustin.	\$29.95	\$2.32	\$4.00	<b>\$36.27</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Remember When by Juanita Lovret</b> A compilation of her weekly articles about growing up in Tustin, from the <i>Tustin News</i> .	\$10.00	\$ .78	\$4.00	<b>\$14.78</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>The Landmark Trees of Tustin by Carol Jordan</b> A booklet about the trees in the "City of Trees".	\$5.00	\$ .39	\$4.00	<b>\$9.39</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Love of the Land by Edgar and Libby Pankey</b> The story of the Pankey family and their successes and failures in Orange County.	\$20.00	\$1.55	\$4.00	<b>\$25.55</b>

Please indicate with an "X" which book(s) you wish to purchase and make out your check to Tustin Area Historical Society

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form and payment to: Tustin Area Historical Society, 395 El Camino Real, Tustin, CA 92780

### In Memoriam

Eva Blizzard

John H. Siegel

C. Arthur Nisson, Jr.

John Radice

### Notary Public

at the Museum

Tuesday and Thursday, 9am-2pm

*Appts. available after hours*

Bill Finken (714) 838-9861



**Tustin Tiller Days**  
Saturday, October 4  
Parade, 10am  
in Old Town Tustin

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Tustin, CA 92781  
P.O. Box 185

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# HERITAGE

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## • Coming Events •

**Saturday, Sept. 6, 12-3pm**  
**BOOK SIGNING**

*Santa Ana, 1940-2007* by Roberta Reed  
at the Tustin Area Museum

**Saturday, Sept. 27, 10am-4pm**  
**SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM DAY**

*(Civic Center Dr. West and West Santa Ana Blvd., Downtown Santa Ana)*  
Special programming for this event is planned by the Old O.C. Courthouse Museum with the Orange County Archives open within the Courthouse for tours and activities. Then across the street to the newly renovated Dr. Howe-Waffle House, which will be open for this event by the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society (SAHPS) Santa Ana.

**October 3, 4 and 5**  
**TUSTIN TILLER DAYS**

Saturday, October 4 – Parade, 10am  
in Old Town Tustin

**October 18**  
**OLD TOWN TUSTIN ART WALK**  
Sponsored by City of Tustin, TACFA,  
and Tustin Historical Preservation Society.



*The Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle House  
120 Civic Center West, Santa Ana*

## Welcome New Members

Sharon Nicola

Timothy & Catherine Zierer

Michael Mello (*winner of window contest*)

Greg & Linda Strickland (*winner of window contest*)

Gretchen Whisler

Sheryl Abbott