

HERITAGE

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A Publication of the Tustin Area Historical Society

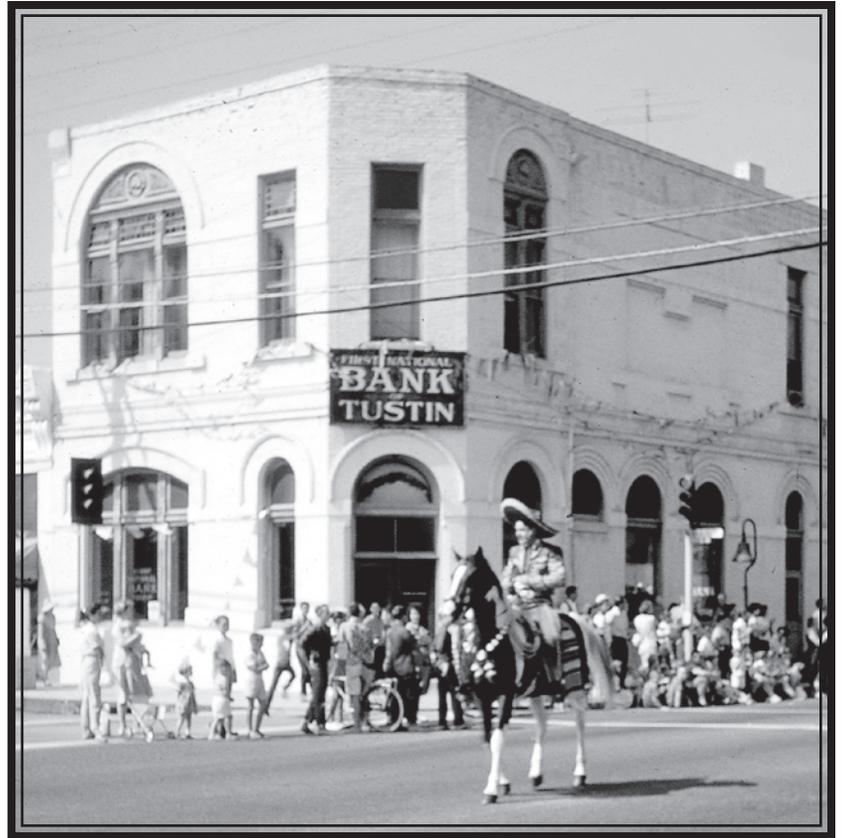
November 3, 2011

TILLER DAYS – A DOWN HOME HOE-DOWN

Tiller Days has come a long way since its humble beginnings in 1957, a time when Tustin was severely lacking in entertainment venues but was rapidly filling up with families. Houses were gobbling up acreage, formerly set out in citrus trees, at an alarming rate, and what were those children to do with their spare time? These were not the offspring of farm families, kids who could happily amuse themselves for hours in the orange groves, and about whom, looking back, the parents seemed oddly unconcerned. It wasn't that they didn't care; it was more a matter of the area being so small that everyone knew everyone else. What real harm could the children come to? If a child got into mischief, an adult was sure to see it, and no one ever hesitated to call the parents.

With the influx of new families, however, such oversight could no longer be taken for granted, and the city felt that it would be good to have a place kids could call their own, a place that would offer recreation and a venue for teenage dances. Paying for it was the problem, and it was finally decided that Tustin would hold a street dance and kiddie carnival, with the proceeds going to kick off the \$15,000 Youth Center building fund.

The entire town got into the swing of this festival, which was a decidedly hometown affair. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, downtown merchants offering deep discounts draped their buildings with bunting. On Saturday, booths and Tinkertown rides for the children filled Main Street. Parade entries made up largely of locals marched the entire length of 'D' Street (now El Camino Real) from 1st Street to the Market Basket shopping square and back again, led by the Marine Corps Marching Band. Teenage girls in custom fitted bathing suits from Rankins Department Store in Santa Ana vied for the title of Miss Tustin, and The Firehouse Five + Two, which played at Disneyland, provided the music for the street dance. Heralding the start of the beauty pageant was a combo assembled by Tustin school Superintendent Bill Nelson. At 7:00 PM, as the booths and rides departed, the beauty contest began, and Main Street east of 'D' was barricaded off by high sheets of plywood to create a dance hall effect for the evening. The dress was casual – blue jeans and sports shirts for the males, and parallel apparel for the females. Dancing by both adults and



NEXT MEETING

**Monday
November 21, 2011**

7:00 p.m.

**Tustin Senior Center
LOUNGE
200 South "C" Street
Tustin**

Don Saltarelli

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A Publication of
The Tustin Area Historical Society
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 Tustin, CA 92781

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FROM SMALL TOWN TO SMALL CITY

During Tustin's recent past, no name was more ubiquitous than that of Don Saltarelli. As a four-term Tustin mayor, and a 15-year councilman, he shaped our town into what it is today with his foresight and determination.



A representative to the California League of Cities, the Inter-Governmental Coordinating Council, Tustin Re-Development Agency, and Tustin's Annexation Committee, he steered Tustin toward a secure financial future. When it became known that the Marine Corps Air Station was closing, he negotiated with the Navy to bring the base into Tustin's sphere of influence, and with the Irvine Company to annex 2,000 acres. Then, working with the City of Tustin and the developer, Tustin Ranch was carved out of that acreage, along with Tustin Ranch Golf Club, Tustin Auto Center, and Tustin Marketplace.

Come to our meeting on Monday, November 21, and listen to Don tell about what it took to shepherd Tustin into what it is today, a city to be proud of. As the Tony Coco-inspired sign at the city limit says, "Work where you must, but live and shop in Tustin".

Accessions:	Robin & Fred Fry	Miscellaneous items from Fry Collection
	Lin Holland	Vinyl Records from Tustin Memorial (1973) and THS (1961)
	Llyn Smith	Photos of 230 A Street House (1987)
	Dean McCormick	FHS Yearbooks, 1973-1981, Hewes Yearbook, 1978
	Carl Nelson	Book: "A History of Water Resources on the Irvine Ranch"
	Don Ropele	Book: "The Irvine Ranch of Orange County 1810-1950"
	Margo Gant	Books: "The Painted Ladies Revisited - 1989" and "Daughters of the Painted Ladies - 1987"

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

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teenagers continued on into the night, and anyone who was there surely remembers it to this day. For the little town of Tustin, that first Tiller Days was a real extravaganza!

Grace Leinberger, wife of Tustin Nat'l Bank cashier Bill Leinberger, entertaining the crowd with her calliope playing old favorites.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the holidays approaching, our thoughts often turn to chores: purchases to make, decorations to put out, greeting cards to write, and activities to attend. Too often, we crowd the season with lists, while more importantly, it should be a time of memories and traditions. The holidays reflect our own personal histories. As we rush through the motions this year, take a moment to think about the past. Perhaps bring back a tradition that you've neglected. Or consider why you celebrate the rituals that you do. History is not just something in a book or at the museum, but a part of your life. We create history with our actions. Make sure your history is memorable.

Sindi Corwin

OLD SPOTS? HERE ARE SOME SOLUTIONS

No, no. I don't mean THOSE old spots, although I wish the solution to removing them was as inexpensive! I mean the ones that have endured on those beautiful old linens handed down through the family. You'd love to use them on your table, especially at the holiday season, but really, do you want guests to know what slobes your forefathers were?

Last year, we had a display in the Museum of christening gowns from the late 1800s. Lovely and historical as they were, they were also sadly yellowed and more than a little spotted, though how spots arrive on a christening gown remains a mystery to me. As the display was being taken down, a woman, whose avocation is dealing in vintage linens, happened in just as they were coming out of the case, and she offered to spiffy them up for us. Taking a leap of faith, we sent them off with her, and we are really happy that we did. They came back looking like new – sparkling white and spotless!

In this day when our newspapers often arrive via computer, you might have missed the Register article about renewing old linens. We decided we would pass on these tips from English-born Anna Redgrave of Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, owner of Highland Lace, a vintage linen internet shop, and Jane Nicholson, also of Annapolis Royal.

Anna soaks yellowed or spotted pieces in warm, slightly soapy water overnight, then mixes up ¼ cup OxiClean, a stain remover, with 1 ½ gallons of water. After a few hours of steeping the garments in that mixture, she rinses them with warm water, pats with towels, then lays them out in bright sunshine to dry.

Jane, also a believer in the restorative powers of natural sunshine, uses Sunlight bar soap to gently rub soiled areas, then pours hot water through the stain before laying the articles out to dry.

If you're interested in reading the entire article, which also gave suggestions on alternate (if all else fails) uses for vintage lace trims and such, you can find it in the Home and Garden section of the Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011 issue of the Orange County Register. Good luck with all your spots!

MEMBERSHIP COUPON

Join the Tustin Area Historical Society and keep your newsletter coming. Please send your dues or an additional gift today. All dues and contributions are tax deductible. 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
Friends of the Museum*

\$ _____

Make your check payable to:
Tustin Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 185 • Tustin, CA 92781

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Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

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Welcome New Members:

Paul Schulz, Lin Holland, Kevin
Kidney, Jan Stuart, Brian & Sarah
Whitt, Vartkes & Samira Kassouni,
Kim & Mitch DeBenedetto, John &
Judy Davies, and Jeannie Allen

Obituary :
Frank Austin Harmon

