

# HERITAGE

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## HONORING TUSTIN'S MILITARY CASUALTIES

by Donna Peery

Did you ever wonder how your street name came to be? In the late 1980's and early 1990's, as Tustin Ranch was being developed into a residential area, the property developers had the option to decide the names of the streets in their tract of homes. Some developers chose golf themed names (Ternberry, Tequesta, Trent Jones, Trevino), others chose rivers in Texas, New Mexico and Colorado (San Jacinto St., San Saba St, San Simon), and some chose Tustin area pioneers or farmers (Borum, Penman, Nitta). One developer chose Tustin area military heroes or casualties of World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

A Street Naming Committee was formed to review the names and establish criteria for each category (could not be a living person, had to have been a Tustin resident or operated a business here, known for agricultural or geological significance to Tustin, or lost his life in defense of our country). The Committee consisted of Tustin residents Ed Pankey, Frances Logan, Gwen Ferguson, and Jerry Feldman, as well as an Irvine Company representative and Tustin City staff.

In all, eighteen streets were named after Tustin military heroes, and this month Donna Peery, Board member of the Tustin Area Historical Society, began placing flags on those streets to honor their sacrifice.

Costello Drive is named after Petty Officer Ernest "Rick" Costello, Tustin High Class of 1940. Rick joined the United States Navy in November 1942, attending Recruit Training School in San Diego where he trained as an Aviation Radioman. In April 1944, he was assigned to the USS Enterprise for combat duty in the Pacific Theater. During his service, the USS Enterprise participated in the Hollandia landings, the Truk Atoll, the Marianas Island Landings, Bonin Island Battle, Palau Landing and the Battle of Peleliu.

On October 12, 1944, Pilot Lt (jg) Henry Murphy, Aviation Ordinance 2nd Class Francis Skeffington and Aviation Radioman

Rick Costello took part in a bombing of Takao Harbor, Island of Formosa. The Japanese shot down their plane and the three were reported as Missing in Action. Sometime after, their remains were recovered and they are buried, together, at Fort Scott, Kansas.

Churchill Place is named after Lance Corporal Lawrence J. Churchill, United States Marine Corps and Class of Tustin High 1966. Larry entered the Marine Corps in March 1967 as an Antitank Assaultman. He was a member of H Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines



*P.O. Ernest "Rick" Costello*



*L.Cpl. Lawrence J. Churchill*



*1Lt. Charles E. Mueller*

On October 18, 1967, two battalions embarked on Operation Medina in the Hai Lang Forest, in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam. A Marine from another platoon triggered a boobytrap and was killed, alerting a Viet Cong platoon of the Marines position. When the fight had ended, twelve Marines and one Navy

Corpsman had been killed, including Lance Corporal Churchill.

Mueller Court is named after First Lieutenant Charles E. Mueller, Tustin High Class of 1936. Charles entered the Army Air Corps on February 6, 1943 and was trained in Pullman, WA, Santa Ana Army base, Texas, Nevada, New Mexico and Virginia. He departed for war in the European Theater on June 16, 1944.

He was a bombardier on a B-17 and member of the 423rd Bomber Squadron, 306th bomber group. Lt. Mueller was killed in air action on October 22, 1944 in the European Theater. He was reported as Missing in Action. His name is listed on the Tablets of the Missing at the Cambridge American Cemetery in Cambridge, England. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Purple Heart and the Presidential Unit Citation.

(As Donna' research continues, the Tustin Area Historical Society will make it our goal to place flags on each street to honor the remaining military servicemen from Tustin who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.)



2013 Man of the Year Robert W. Ammann



2013 Woman of the Year Gretchen Whisler

Fall is finally here! With Thanksgiving right around the corner, I am taking time—before things get hectic—to do a gratitude check. And after being thankful for everything in my personal life, the next category is naturally the one that has taken up a large portion of my life these past few years and that is the Tustin Area Historical Society and Museum and all the people I encounter nearly every day while I am carrying out my duties as board member and president. Thank you—to our wonderful office staff, Barbara and Bill, for all you do, above and beyond; to my fellow board members, for your dedication and hard work; to the various committee members for your commitment to maintain and help improve on what we are doing; to all the members—your financial, as well as your emotional, support is so appreciated!

Membership renewal time is here—please answer your renewal letter and continue your wonderful support this coming year!

As you know, we are preparing our Tustin News collection (over 50 years of weekly issues) to be scanned and digitized so that they can be forever preserved, and also names and items over the years can be looked up and read with a few strokes on the computer keyboard. TAHS Vice President Al Corfield and I are collating and page-counting each year's box of

issues (complete from 1951, with other precious issues going all the way back to 1922), and when we're done there will be approximately 40,000 pages ready to be scanned. In doing this project, the overall growth of this wonderful town of ours is especially evident—we see articles about sidewalks being built; traffic signals being installed; freeways with Tustin on-ramps being constructed, shopping areas and businesses being developed; children growing up as they participate in academic and sports activities; school district unification; local political campaigns and election outcomes; parents' and other residents' involvement in various clubs and organizations; couples getting engaged and married; pioneers passing away.... quite an enriching experience!

We hope you will all come out to our last General Meeting of 2014, when the Voices of Tustin will again entertain us on Monday, November 17, 7 p.m. at the Tustin Library. The turnout at our general meetings, by the way, has been wonderful—it is a great opportunity to mix and mingle with old friends and meet new ones.

Happy Thanksgiving to all—and thank you again for everything you do!

*Gretchen Whisler*  
President

### Accessions:

- Del Pickney** – Tustin PD Ephemera
- Mark Eliot** – 2014 TUSD Yearbooks
- Helen McCabe** – Currie MS Yearbooks – Newspaper articles
- Mary Ann McKinney** – 1906 Sanborn Map of Tustin Area Museum
- Anthony Bustos** – Bench Wringer circa 1898, Carpet Sweeper, circa 1908
- Joyce Miller** – Photo album of Museum window displays
- Jeff Lyngaas** - Book "Los Angeles – Two Hundred, 1980"
- Del Patterson** – THS Grad Nite ephemera
- Bruce Andren** – Vintage coffee grinder, circa 1950s
- Dean Capalety** – Brass fire alarm, circa 1950s
- Jerry Doris Harwood** – Bissell carpet sweeper – 1946 "War Model"
- Dan Newkirk** – 1928 TUHS Audion Yearbook
- Jeanne Brown** – Vintage household items
- Margaret Pottenger** – Commemorative coffee mugs, 1983 and 1987
- Tony Coco** – 1989 brochure regarding Tustin Area Senior Center opening
- Erich Figley** – 1963 Tustin Area Map; Pamphlet from Livingston's Carpets
- Ernie Brown Collection** – Books, brochures and newspaper articles
- Jim Vance** – 1880 newspaper article regarding sale of Tustin property and Notes from 1881 journal about Advent Church opening
- Bob Gray and Joyce Miller** – Black Derby and Straw Hats belonged to Charles Arthur Vance
- Kim & Carl Teissere** – 1970 map of Tustin

# THE LIGHTS OF OFF (FAR, FAR OFF) BROADWAY

**The Bell Theatre**  
**EVERYTHING NEW!**  
**Moving Pictures**  
**TAKEN**  
**IN SANTA ANA**  
of all of the pupils of the Roosevelt School and the  
laying of the cornerstone of  
**SANTA ANA'S \$200,000 NEW SCHOOL**  
And of the great assembly there. Pathe Weekly, and  
many others. 4 Reels and a big Vaudeville Act.  
**SPECIAL, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 10,**  
Big Matinee at 2:30. Great Sensational Picture  
**"THE LION TAMER'S REVENGE"**  
in two reels. Twenty lions in the tragedy.  
Santa Ana School Pictures.

Everything lately seems to serve as a reminder that the holiday season cometh: ads for electronics we didn't know we needed, Christmas trees clogging the aisles in Home Depot, shopping lists for meals we don't want to cook, and holiday traditions being planned for. We at the Museum got yet another reminder with the recent accession of Jim Sleeper's 1980 book, "Great Movies Shot in Orange County That Will Live Forever (or at least until 1934)", courtesy of Jeanne Brown. Leafing through it reminded us of how we once spent our spare time in the buildup to Christmas. The Santa Ana of our youth didn't lack for movie theaters, so while our mothers shopped the holiday sales at Penney's and Rankin's, we kids spent Saturdays ingesting popcorn and the never-to-be-forgotten history of the Old West.

Of course in the '50s, movies were enjoyable but not remarkable, unlike the early 1900s when Edison's invention of the Kinetoscope made them nothing short of miracles. Any Santa Ana building with a room large enough to set out a few dozen chairs, and money enough to run ads in the local newspapers, was suddenly in the moving (though silent) picture business. And because of Orange County's varied landscape and remarkable weather, many of the movies being shown had been shot in recognizable locations here, increasing the thrill for O.C. locals. Undoubtedly when the upstairs "opera house" of 4th Street's Spurgeon building opened, its owners never envisioned entertainment so declassé as electric vaudeville filling its seats, but a buck's a buck, and you've gotta keep the lights on somehow; likewise for French's Opera House and the Richelieu Hotel, not to mention a host of other smaller venues scattered around Santa Ana. This trend was small potatoes, though, compared to a decade later and the advent of talking pictures, when the town became awash in theater construction. No longer were picture-goers stuffed into makeshift buildings and rooms – now every empty corner was a REAL theater. The Airdome, an outdoor theater at Third and Main rumored to seat a thousand people, soon offered competition to the "opera houses". The corner of Bush and Third where the City Fathers had burned out a Chinese settlement under the pretext of communicable disease was no longer an embarrassing monument to unbridled racism, but instead a place the city could point to with pride – home of the two-story Temple Theatre, whose chief competition was the Bell Theatre (remember that whiff of "declassé" wafting through Santa Ana as movie houses shouldered opera and musicals aside? Note the British spelling of 'theater' on every establishment – take THAT and stuff it in your top hat, Los Angeles!). Popular The Bell certainly was, but apparently not the sort of establishment a man could take his wife to. Oh, no, it wasn't the content of the burlesque, it was the smell of the formaldehyde, the theater having taken over the former Mills and Winbigler Mortuary. Realizing they could sell twice as many tickets, The Bell pulled up stakes and upgraded its image in the former Blue Front Livery Stable on the west side of Main Street between Third and Fourth, its new ad boasting that "Now you can take your wife".

Thankfully the theaters of the 1950s lacked the unforgettable aromas of formaldehyde and livery stable, but they nevertheless thrilled us as much as earlier generations were thrilled by moving pictures and "talkies". And while Jim Sleeper's book didn't mention it, it would be a safe bet that it wasn't unusual for a harried mother during the holidays to send her children to spend a couple of quarters on popcorn and a movie while she shopped along Fourth Street.

**ELECTRIC VAUDEVILLE**  
Under the direction of T. Z. Tally  
of the Electric Theatre, Los Angeles  
**SPURGEON'S HALL**  
**Thursday, Friday and Saturday**  
**June 4th, 5th and 6th.**  
The Greatest Reproduction of  
Comic, Mysterious and Miscellaneous  
Events of the present age, sur-  
passing anything of the kind in  
MOVING PICTURES ever before  
given to the public. Absolutely  
the grandest.  
MELIES' LATEST AND GREATEST  
FANTASTICAL PRODUCTION.  
**A Trip to The Moon**  
Positively the most wonderful and be-  
wildering sensation ever produced on a  
screen.  
**MT. PELEE DISASTER**  
and many other exciting and thrilling  
Events. Performance lasting 2 ½ hr.  
Admission 25c. Children  
under 15, 10c.

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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\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Donation:**  
Cox's Market Plaza

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**New Members:**  
Douglas & Sherrie Boutwell  
Karen Johnson

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**Obituary:**  
George Edward Trotter Jr.  
*(born 1922)*  
Wintford Lewis Tadlock  
*(born 1917)*

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## JOIN IN AN EVENING OF TOE-TAPPING MUSIC



We hope you'll join us for a delightful evening of entertainment (and COOKIES!) with the Voices of Tustin under the direction of Tustin High School's David Peay. It's becoming a yearly ritual that we highly anticipate, as everyone leaves with a smile and a little more spring in their step. The music is a mix of holiday, contemporary and show tunes, familiar to all and eminently hummable on the drive home. We look forward to seeing you there.