

# HERITAGE

Volume 36 No 1

A Publication of the Tustin Area Historical Society

January/February 2011

## A NEW LOOK AT

# Tustin

As you may already know from either our website or flyer, the Tustin Area Historical Society is pleased to announce a new Arcadia Publishers book written by Guy Ball.

The Arcadia series is known for its photo-laden series of paperback books showcasing hundreds of towns across the country, written by local historians in cooperation with local museums.

Arcadia Publishers has an exhaustive set of criteria for their series, and while many towns around us already have these books in print, we hadn't found anyone anxious to tackle one for Tustin. We were thrilled when Guy offered to research and pull together this book, as we couldn't think of anyone more suitable. As the author of Vintage Postcards of Santa Ana, and co-author of Early Santa Ana (both published by Arcadia), he was already well acquainted with Arcadia's format. As a long-time resident of Tustin, TAHS member, and webmaster for our TAHS website, he was certainly familiar with our history.

Guy and his wife fell in love with Tustin while enjoying one of our home tours many years ago, and he finds the

feel of the community to be much like the small town in New Jersey where he was raised. A senior technical writer for an Irvine company, he says he enjoys using his skills to bring the history of small towns to life, although with his career, his wife, and two boys in high school, it's hard to imagine where he finds time for these projects. History is obviously his passion, though, as along with his Arcadia books, he's heavily involved in the Orange County Historical Society, and helped edit and design a series of books for the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society. He was the recipient of that Society's 2010 Preservation Award, their highest annual award.

If you missed the Book Signing on February 5<sup>th</sup> at the Museum, you'll have another opportunity during our spring Promenade on May 14<sup>th</sup> to meet Guy and buy a personalized copy of the book. If you already own a copy, bring it with you to the Promenade where he'll be happy to sign it for you.

## STORIES FROM MEMOIRS

We are pleased to welcome back for our Tuesday meeting Maralys Wells, well-known local author and speaker. Her books spring from what she knows best - her own life - and the books she'll touch on for our meeting are both humorous and lighthearted. You may already be familiar with *A Circus without Elephants*, but her newest publication, *A Clown in the Trunk*, has only recently been published.



She will also read a short section from her latest memoir, *Higher than Eagles*, that is sure to stick in your thoughts. Imagine yourself soaring upwards to 2000 feet in a tandem hang glider and you'll feel something of what Maralys, a self-described Devout Coward, felt during her adventure.

Please join us for an uplifting (sorry) evening with Mrs. Wells, as we start the new year off on a high (sorry again) note!

## NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday,**  
*(Different day due to holiday)*  
**February 22, 2011**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Tustin Senior Center  
LOUNGE  
200 South 'C' Street,  
Tustin**

**PROGRAM  
Speaker Maralys Wills**

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

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Newsletter Editor	Joyce Miller
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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**

## HENRY LOMAKIN, A GOOD AMERICAN BOY

Since we're carrying an article about the Tustin Food Center Reunion in this issue, it reminded us that the owner of the store, Ed Cox, ran a weekly column in The Tustin News in the 1950s, filled with the week's activities, commentary, and considerable opinion. In a conversation at the Museum with our new president, Bill Teter, about last fall's Tustin High School Reunion, the name of Henry Lomakin came up. Henry's story was something that would have appealed to Ed Cox to include in one of his articles – as perhaps he did, but we don't have ready access to all of them. It did appear in the December 20, 1956 Tustin News. It's a nice American story.



HENRY LOMAKIN  
English Three Years  
Civics  
Audion Dedication

Henry Lomakin was born in Rostov, Russia in 1937. From there, he fled with his family to Germany, then immigrated to Orange County, sponsored by the First Baptist Church of Santa Ana. He attended Tustin schools from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade on and was looking forward to entering the Army in February, 1957, when he turned 18. The reason for the The Tustin News story was that Henry, a TUHS senior, had just passed his exams to become an American citizen, and the school was anxious to point to him as an excellent example of American youth. Although language was still a struggle for him, he was liked by everyone. He managed the high school's varsity football team, and worked in the school's cafeteria for extra money. When asked why he came to the United States, Henry replied, "I had to have a country, and I had to have the United States". He was impressed by the freedom here and said he thought "the U.S. was the greatest place in the world". Ed Cox would have loved that.

Henry had planned to attend the 2010 TUSD reunion last fall and Bill Teter, along with many others, was looking forward to seeing him again. Sadly, he was involved in an accident aboard his boat only a couple of days before the reunion, and passed away the day after it. He was missed.

## Welcome New Members:

Jewell Martin  
Prakash Bhulani  
Al & Zaporá Shifberg-Mencher  
Stuart Smith, Law Office of Smith & Behling  
John & Erin Nielsen  
Paul Schulz  
Laurie Sherwood  
Thomas & Doreen Barker  
Al Corfield

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to 2011 and a new year full of great plans and ideas for the Tustin Area Historical Society. I am honored to serve as president this year. My family history in Tustin began with my grandparents in the 1920s, followed by my parents' move here in 1940. My wife, Sharon, is a native-born Orange County girl, so we both have lived most of our lives in and around Tustin – a city that is near and dear to our hearts.

Grateful thanks to Acorn Naturalists and all our other members who so generously donated to the fundraiser for purchasing new office equipment. Two new computer systems have been installed in the office, and we were also able to purchase a projection unit and large screen for making presentations at our programs and other events.

We are pleased to welcome the following new board members: Wendy Greene, David Buckingham Smith, Al Corfield, and returning member Margaret Pottenger. They join our current board members Gretchen Whisler, Joyce Miller, Sindi Corwin, Pete Beatty, A.J. "Tony" Coco, George Jeffries, Erma Zwirner, and Joe Sprekelmeyer. I'm looking forward to working with this fine group as a team.

Committees have been appointed and plans for future events are under way. The Promenade Home and Garden Tour is Saturday, May 14, and the date for the Chili Cook-Off is Sunday, June 5. We always need and appreciate VOLUNTEERS – the Heart of America and Tustin!

Hope to see you at the General Meeting, Tuesday, February 22, 7:00 p.m., at the Tustin Senior Center.

*Bill Teter*

## Accessions:

Linda Jennings	Photographs of MCAS(H) from Claude Makin Phyllis Schildmeyer – Household items from Porter
Luther Family	Peggy Braun – Book "California Rich" by Stephen Birmingham
Guy Ball	Miscellaneous books on local history
Mary Dayhoff	1889 Copy of "The Sunday Bulletin" – In Memory of Stine Family
Joan Harkins	Toy Victorian Baby Buggy with doll
Nancy Bascom Crosby	Photos of Tustin Grammar School Students – 1945
Jeannie Strader Allen	Legal papers re McCharles House sale
Joe Shepherd	Toy Horse-Drawn Wagon
Del Pickney	Tustin PD – Ephemera
Arv Bollesen	Photos taken of David Hewes display at Union Pacific Railroad Museum

## 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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Obituary :

*Bette Wilcox*

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P.O. Box 185  
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## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## TUSTIN FOOD CENTER REUNION

A town without a grocery store is scarcely a town at all. Over its history, Tustin has been home to several independent groceries, beginning in 1874 when Lysander Utt acquired a two-story building on the southwest corner of Main and "D" Streets and opened the L. Utt Pioneer Store on its first floor. That was soon followed by Columbus Tustin's store and Post Office, just north below "C" Street. Shortly following both of those were Carter's Grocery on "D" Street between Main and 3<sup>rd</sup> (see photo), and the Mercantile Store (now Rutabegorz Restaurant). While none in Tustin can remember any of these stores, almost all the "old timers" in town will remember the Tustin Food Center at the southeast corner of Main and "D", owned and operated by Ed and Leola Cox. Tustin Food Center supplied most of Tustin and its outlying farm lands with canned goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, and freshly cut meat from its meat counter, and provided a place to catch up with the local gossip.



Ed and Leola's son, Phil, is planning a celebration on March 27, 2011 to honor the Food Center's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He continues to own the store site and building now known as Cox's Market Plaza, home to several businesses, and is also responsible for the historical site signs on buildings around town. If you have any stories as a customer, supplier, or employee, he'd like to hear from you. If you'd be interested in attending the March reunion, he would like to hear from you about that as well. He can be contacted with information or questions about the event at: Philip K. Cox PO Box 6069, Brookings, OR, 97415 or [philindacox@charter.net](mailto:philindacox@charter.net)