

HERITAGE

Volume 34 No 2

A Publication of the Tustin Area Historical Society

April/May 2009

“Historical Tustin’s Parade Of Homes”

Saturday, May 2 • 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

We hope you will join us May 2 when the Tustin Area Historical Society and Museum presents its annual Promenade Home and Garden Tour, featuring five homes with some interesting Old Town histories. We have lovely gardens for you to stroll through, and a spot at the Refreshment area to sit and chat while you rest in the shade. The ticket table opens at 9:00 a.m. in the patio of the Presbyterian Church, where you can either pick up your previously reserved tickets or purchase more on the spot. The always-popular Architecture Walk, led by Brent Ferdig of the Tustin Preservation Conservancy, will have two tour times this year, one in the morning and one



in the afternoon. Don't forget the Tree Walk, again led by Guy Stivers at 10:30 a.m. You'll learn some amazing things. Reserved pre-sale tickets are already available at the Museum during our regular hours, and also every day during the week leading up to the Tour. For more

information, please call the Museum at (714) 731-5701, or check our website www.tustinhistory.com, where you can enjoy our photo link to Tustin's history as well. This yearly event helps the Tustin Museum maintain its collections, and move forward with programs to preserve the history of Tustin. We look forward to a wonderful day and hope to see you and your friends there. Please remember, our Home Tour depends on many volunteers to make it the success it's always been, so if you would be interested in being a docent in either a home or a garden, please contact Doreen Corwin (714) 838-1446. We're saving a spot just for you!

Abraham Lincoln Rediscovered



Dr. Ronald Rietveld

Join us on April 20th in the Senior Center Lounge at 7:30 p.m. and meet the man who, in a sense, rediscovered Abraham Lincoln. Ronald Rietveld, Professor of History at California State University, Fullerton, was a boy of 14 when he made history himself with the almost unbelievable discovery of a photograph of Abraham Lincoln, one which was never released to the public and was thought to have been intentionally destroyed. Already an avid Lincoln enthusiast at the time, Dr. Rietveld, through his love

of Lincoln and Civil War history, began corresponding in 1951 with a well-known Lincoln scholar, a relationship that led to his find – the last, and only, photograph known to exist of Lincoln, taken at his 1865 funeral in New York. The story of the find was soon splashed across the nation in newspaper headlines, and even appeared in the September 15, 1952, issue of Life Magazine. This year marks the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth, and Dr. Rietveld, advisor to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, will be with us to tell about his discovery and to speak on his favorite subject. You won't want to miss this one!

NEXT MEETING

Monday, April 20, 2009
7:30 p.m.
Tustin Senior Center
LOUNGE
200 S. 'C' Street, Tustin

• **PROGRAM** •
Speaker
Dr. Ronald Rietveld,
Abraham Lincoln Scholar

Everyone is Welcome!

Fond Memories Permanently Cemented

On Tuesday, February 24th, Glen Pyatt, Phil Cox, friends, and the merely curious gathered outside the Chamber of Commerce office at the corner of Main and El Camino Real. They were there for the unveiling of a permanent visual reminder of the Tustin Drug Store, the business that for decades occupied that same corner but now exists only in the memories of many a Tustin old-timer. Phil Cox,



owner of Tustin Plaza, is dedicated to keeping Tustin's past alive with signs located on buildings throughout the downtown, and he recently commissioned an artist to do a rendering of the drugstore and its interior, soda fountain and all. At the ceremony, as Phil permanently bolted the artwork to the south wall of the building amid flashing cameras, former customers swapped tales with Glen, because, you see, Tustin Drug Store wasn't just a drugstore – it was once the social center of Tustin. Local farmers and business owners gathered at the soda-fountain's counter for coffee and crop talk in the early mornings; high school students vied for space in the late afternoons, calling out orders for shakes, sodas and malteds, hamburgers and fries. Between these two groups came the women,

picking up prescriptions, dropping off film, browsing the Variety Store, and trading chitchat. Glen, as the longtime owner/pharmacist after purchasing the business from Bert Muller in the 1950s, was doubtless privy to most of Tustin's gossip, but being the gentleman he is, he kept it all to himself. Come downtown and take a look at the colorful sign – it's sure to take you back to your youth, whether your youth was in Tustin or in another small town.



Home Tour Sponsors Needed

We are always looking for sponsors for the homes and gardens on our Home Tour. Have you considered a sponsorship "In Memorium" of a friend or loved one who has greatly enjoyed our tours in the past?

If so, please contact the Museum at (714) 731-5701

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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

We hope you were able to join us at the February General Meeting at the Senior Center, where Dr. Stanford was our guest speaker. He related the story of his parents' escape from Nazi Germany during World War II, shared photos of them, and autographed his books. Thanks, Dr. Stanford – all present enjoyed your terrific talk.

Prior to Dr. Stanford, prizes and ribbons were presented to the third-grade winners of this year's JoAnn Bollesen Poster Contest. Super job, kids.

Our office staff and committee members are busy with the Promenade, set for Saturday, May 2nd. We are looking forward to taking a walk through "Historical Tustin's Parade of Homes". For information about tickets and times, call the Museum at (714) 731-5701.

We are again involved with Tustin's Chili Cook-Off, slated for Sunday, June 7th. We will have a booth this year, across the street from the Museum, selling food and drinks. We need volunteers, but mostly we need eaters! Please call the Museum if you're available to do either (volunteering includes sampling the wares, you know). It's always a fun day, and having you there with us will make it even more so.

*Joe Sprekelmeyer,
President*



They Have An Eye For Honest Abe

It's not often that our General Meetings, held bi-monthly at the Senior Center, echo with youthful laughter, but February's certainly did as we introduced the winners of our annual third grade JoAnn Bollesen Poster Contest, this year honoring Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday. The young artists are, left to right, 1st place, Nathan Jenkins; 2nd place, Ryen Diaz; 3rd place, Stephanie Suarez, and Honorable Mention, Justine Padilla. Both the students and their teachers are to be commended for this wonderful effort. First, second and third place contestants were awarded Disneyland tickets, while Honorable Mention scooped up tickets to "Broadway in the Park". Thank you to all the schools, teachers and students who enthusiastically participate in the contest each year. We love the artwork, every bit of it!

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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Day phone _____

Outreach Program

For our outreach program to Tustin's third-grade classes, we provide a trunk to each school filled with items from Tustin's past of interest to children of that age. We've been doing this for a number of years, and attrition has taken its toll, so we are hoping some of our members might have the items we are now short on. If you happen to have an old-fashioned button hook, a square nail or two, or a small school slate that you would be willing to donate, please contact the Museum at (714) 731-5701.

The Museum has spiral-bound copies, in limited quantity, of "Tustin Scrapbook", the memoirs of Helen Gulick Huntley and William M. Huntley. Their stories of Tustin begin before the turn of the century and make wonderful reading if you want first-person accounts of what Tustin was really like "way back then". A few copies will be on sale during the Home Tour, and are also available at the Museum.

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Accessions

Jack Woodward	Maps of Tustin City, circa late 1800's
Juanita Lovret	LA Times Front Page Sections with major events headlines;
	Copy of History of Tustin by Ray Dawson, 1938
Nancy Baker	Aerial Photographs – USGS Quad Map Photos 1974
St. Cecelia's Church	Book: 2007 "50 Years Jubilee"
Tustin PD	Ephemera
Ray Carney	Two Belt Lanterns used in orchards
Barbara Whitney	Child's christening gown circa 1890s
Chuck Hillman	Postcards of Tustin, circa 1950's
Janet Whitcomb	Royal Typewriter circa 1940s
Victor Bellaschi	Royal Portable Typewriter circa 1933
Purchase	Book: A Memoir – Lizzi & Fredl by Dr. Wm. B. Stanford
Leigh Robertson	Media: CD – Utt Family writings
Purchase	Book: Images of America – Orange by Phil Brigandi
Edward Wellman	Tools: Shovel used on Irvine Ranch

Calling All Volunteers

Don't forget that we can always use more volunteers the day of the Home Tour in both the houses and the gardens. Docents work either mornings or afternoons, so they are able to tour (for free!) the other lovely homes either before or after their shifts. If this sounds fun (and it is), call Doreen Corwin at (714) 838-1446. She'd love to hear from you.

In Memoriam

Don Schmid
Howard Selleck