

HERITAGE

Volume 34 No 3

A Publication of the Tustin Area Historical Society

July/August 2009

They Came, They Toured, They Enjoyed

Enjoyed what, you ask. Why, our May Home Tour, of course. We hope you were among our visitors, as it was a wonderful day with lovely homes, great vendors, and beautiful quilts on display. After weeks of keeping our fingers crossed that the weather wouldn't deteriorate into fog or, worse yet, drizzle, the day dawned not exactly sunny, but at least dry. Of course, in these times of economic turmoil, we weren't sure what sort of turn-out to expect, so we were more than pleasantly surprised when a slow trickle of people in the morning turned into a deluge during the afternoon. Everyone seemed very pleased with the home and the garden selections this year, and it seemed there was something for everyone to enjoy.



Do You Remember Ruby's?



It wasn't all that long ago when Tustinites had a casual spot to grab a quick cup of coffee with a plate of eggs and bacon,

or a stack of pancakes for breakfast. And breakfast wasn't all they served. Locals knew Ruby's, located on the corner of El Camino Real and 2nd Street, was a good place to get a sandwich or a burger for lunch, and going there for dinner wasn't out of the question, either. Going back to the late 1920s, truckers using busy State Highway 101 knew Ruby's,

too. As Tustin grew, thanks to heavy usage of the 101 through Tustin's downtown, businesses sprang up along the highway to cater to that traffic. Before Ruby's Café, the same site accommodated a series of restaurants between 1932 and 1949, most of which had either 'auto court' or 'truckers' in their names. Although a bit *de classe*, these terms might have been a relief to some, as the rooms for rent behind the building during the years of WWII had a decidedly seedy reputation. Truckers' Inn became Ruby's in 1949, with the rooms turned to a more legitimate purpose. Ruby's was, as Carol Jordan described it, 'pure diner' – no candle light and violins here! It was razed in June of 1990 after falling prey to the city fathers' desire to rid Tustin of buildings having what was termed 'serious code infractions'. 'Serious' was a relative term, but in any event, Tustin has missed its 'no frills' diner ever since its demise.

Historical HAPPENINGS

Summer is a slow time on the history scene – no home & garden tours, no lectures, and in most cases, no newsletters. Just because summer stops us, though, don't let it stop you. Use these lazy, warm days to explore other Orange County history societies' permanent collections, some of which are housed in historical buildings. Yorba Linda's history is on display at the **Susanna Bixby Bryant Ranch Museum** located at the mouth of the Santa Ana Canyon. If you haven't been there, put it on your list - it's absolutely full of memories, and the ranch house is furnished with some lovely antiques. Visit Garden Grove's past at the original **Stanley Ranch**, owned and operated by the Garden Grove Historical Society, where you'll find several historic buildings open for tour. Anaheim has its history on display at the vintage **Andrew Carnegie Library** in what was once the bustling center of town, and Fullerton's **original downtown** is a great destination for lunch and a little shopping. Another 'must see', if you haven't been there already, is the **Howe-Waffle House** in Santa Ana, across from the old Court House. It's a wonderful Victorian home which houses the collections of the Santa Ana Historical Society. Speaking of the Court House, do you know that they have rotating exhibits on their 3rd floor? If it gets a little too hot for you this summer, it might be a good time to sashay on down to Costa Mesa, catch a cool ocean breeze, and tour their museum. It's filled with history of all the beach communities, including small towns that sprang up in the 1880s and quickly disappeared. Pick a town, contact its Historical Society for details, then get out and GO. In all your summer jaunts, though, don't forget about us – we're close-by, and our museum is open all summer, as well!



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P.O. Box 185
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

The selection of houses for the 2009 Promenade was outstanding. Joyce Miller is to given a lot of credit for putting together a fine selection of homes. We had many favorable comments, and the attendance was good; not great, but good. The economy is having its effects. I want to thank Doreen, Ed and Sindy Corwin for organizing the many needed docents and volunteers; everyone did a great job. My thanks go out to Margaret Pottenger, Erma Zwirner and Gretchen Whisler for helping to organize the booklet, selling ads, and putting together the many Opportunity Prizes. Don Ropele is to be complimented for securing the vendors, and Sharon Teter and Arv Bolletsen for planning the fine after-tour party. Barbara Hannegan and Bill Finken, our tireless office staff, were again a great help.

We participated in this year's 2009 Chili Cook-Off with a booth of our own, selling drinks, hotdogs and bratwurst sandwiches. The committee for the Cook-Off, Bill Teter and Gregg Bunch, ran a 'well-oiled machine', as the cooking and selling went like clockwork. Our 'worker bees', including a large contingent of enthusiastic teenagers, all enjoyed themselves, and we are already making plans for next year's cook-off.

It's a few months off yet, but mark September on our calendars for both our second annual Ice Cream Social and our General Meeting with speaker Randy Ema, an expert on vintage cars..

Joe Sprekelmeyer,
President

Got photos?

As you might already be aware, Arcadia Press publishes an extensive series of books on small – and not so small - towns across America. They're written by local historians who work closely with local museums, gathering facts and photos (the emphasis is on photos) to offer a comprehensive view of these towns. As there is little money to be made from writing these books for Arcadia, and many hours of research involved, we feel lucky that Guy Ball, the mastermind for our website, is in the process of writing one for Tustin. While we're able to provide him with all of the really old history he needs, he'd like to include some more recent history, and he's hoping some of our members might have photos of the Tustin Tiller Days parade from the late 1950s when it began, or of the street dances where we were entertained by school Superintendent, Bill Nelson, and his band, Fire House Five Plus Two. If you have any of these gems stuck away, we'd really appreciate it if you'd contact the museum. We won't keep them, just scan and return them to you.

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!

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

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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 _____

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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

Sharon Teter	Book: OC – A History and Celebration
Unknown	Sepia tone photo of President Benjamin Harrison's visit to CA in 1891
Linda Andrews	Remington Rand Adding Machine, circa 1930
Lee & Mary Staton	Electric coffee grinder, circa 1930
Byron Jones	Two swords – one Civil War period and one Knights of Pythias
Randy Goodwin	1921 Victrola – Talking Machine with Records
Tustin Pres. Con.	Fine Art Photography Book by Emet Martines, "A Modern Look at Old Tustin"
Kathryn Hansen	Kodak 35mm projector 1958-60 and roll up screen
Tomoko Kitasake	Score sheet from typing tests dated May 13, 1939
CSUF Book	Interview with Ray Carney
Vivien Owen	Map of Tustin area – 1965

In Memoriam

Gwen Burrus
Paula Gurrera
Warda Mauro
Dorothy Sellers

Welcome New Member

Robert Stopher
Jim & Lee Vibber
Melanie Plunkett
Robert Lindquist
Sindi Corwin
Frank Sellers, Jr.
Karen Robert
Gary Teter