

HERITAGE

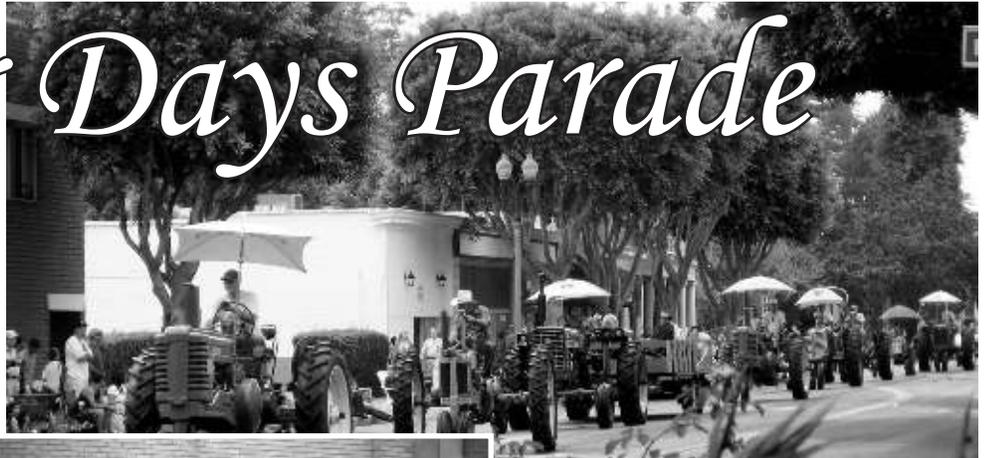
Volume 35 No 5

A Publication of the Tustin Area Historical Society

November/December 2010

Tiller Days Parade

If you think Tustin has lost that small town feel, you didn't take in the annual Tiller Days Parade on October 2nd, where we certainly showed off our small town credentials. The Historical Society was amply represented with a number of vintage cars, this one driven by local vintage car expert and enthusiast, Randy Ema. For those who remember Tustin as it was many years ago, our heritage was displayed in all its agricultural glory, as you can see from the wonderful parade of tractors. The *coup de gras* was the tractor with wagon carrying the 500-pound pumpkin (don't ask how they weighed it), grown in the back yard of the Vance House on Main Street by the home's present owner, Ed Johnson. If you missed it but would like to admire it, you'll find it still on display in the house's front yard. Drive by and take a look, but don't wait too long – you know what happens to pumpkins after a few weeks of warm weather.



We Were Overwhelmed

The Tustin Art Walk was a blast, and downtown was bustling on what began as a gloomy Saturday morning. By noon, the sun had broken through, and the streets were crowded with art shoppers, wine tasters, and more importantly to us, Museum visitors. It was the most exciting day the Museum has had in a long time, and it was all we could do to keep up with the questions, tours, and – yes, even sales! Books, both new and used (don't forget, we sell gently-used history books for next-to-nothing!) were flying out the door along with vintage postcards and shirts, and we even took several orders for our wonderful Art Deco Packing Crate Labels. It seemed to be mostly a Tustin crowd, many of whom

didn't know their town had a museum, and they were enthusiastic learners about Tustin's history. With so many new businesses plus a new restaurant recently filling the buildings on Main Street, Tustin and the Museum shone as brightly as the wonderful works of art lining the sidewalks.

General Meeting Date Changed

Please note the date change for our November meeting. We're featuring musical entertainment that evening, and to accommodate it, we needed a room with more sound technology. That meant reserving the Multi-purpose room, which was only available on Wednesday, November 17th. Hope to see you there.

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The Tustin Area Historical Society
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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

Let The Holiday Revelry Begin

Join us in the multi-purpose room at the Senior Center on November 17th, Wednesday, for an evening of celebration and fun that will take you back to the days of Spanish land grants that once dotted so much of Southern California. Families were large, travel slow and difficult, so when these extended families got together, they threw themselves wholly into the party atmosphere.

Bernardo Yorba (played by Jim Cortese) in “The Passions of the Rancho Period” will entertain us with storytelling, laughter and song in a highly interactive, entertaining and educational program designed for history buffs. It will be a wonderful kick-off to the holiday season!



Jim and his wife, Marci, have been performing together since 2001, and are not newcomers to history. Jim received his Bachelor's Degree in history from Sacramento State University, and Marci, a celebrated artist, earned her BFA from Ohio University. They both volunteer as docents at the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana and are founding members of the community choir, Voices of Tustin. Marci also volunteers in the Master Art Program for Peters Canyon Elementary School in Tustin, and Jim is a five-year member of the Santa Ana Elks Lodge.

Come celebrate Orange County's history with the “Yorbas” and us. It won't be a party without you!

Accessions:

Fred Gill, Jr. Commercial Butter Churn ca 1900s
Bob & Vicki Gray Scrapbook of 1956 Tustin Little League
Linda Dempsay Books and photos from estate of Margaret Finley Blower
Betty Bullock Tustin Union HS ephemera and photos
B.J. Etcheberria TUHS photo ca 1930; THS Yearbooks, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1934
Carol Jordan Book: “Gee, Our Old LaSalle Ran Great”, 2010
Del Pickney Tustin PD Ephemera
Jack Woodward Photo: Tustin Primary 2nd Grade Class 1934; Article and photo of demolition of TUHS 1966; Article re Norman Veeh, 7-23-1987
Verla Jean Hayes Photos: Agriculture – 1889
Meier Leetch THS Newspapers “The Broadcaster” late 1940's
Doug Manning Reproductions of Ruth Harmon's artwork of the Mitchell and Stevens houses
Jean Eisemann
Richard Barker Books: “Citrus Roots our Legacy” Volumes 1 through IV by Richard Barker
Timothy Zierer Books for our “Used Books for Sale” collection
Purchase Books: “History of the Citrus Industry” by Richard Barker
Bill Cook Books: “Forestry Follies” by Louis Robinson, 1934
“An Interview with Weldon Field – CSUF Oral History, 1978

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been a good year for the TAHS and Museum. We have added a number of events to our schedule, and our Letter of Donations for funds to replace worn and out-dated office equipment yielded a pleasant surprise.

Both the Promenade and Chili Cook-Off were successful, garnering many compliments. The JoAnn Bollesen Art Contest had some exciting entries and the winners received tickets to Knott's Berry Farm and to the Broadway in the Park production of "Guys and Dolls".

Adding to our list of events was the English High Tea held at Wilcox Manor with the TAHS receiving a substantial share of the donations from our sale of tickets to the event.

The most recent event was the Chamber of Commerce Mixer held in the Museum, where guests were treated to a historical look into Tustin's past.

Our Letter of Donation, created by Mark Adamson, was well received. The goal was to collect at best \$5,000. As of this writing, we have hit that mark and then some, so a team of Board Members has immersed itself in the technology world to determine what would be most useful for the museum. Many "thank yous" for the people who donated!

This President's Message will be my last, as Bill Teter will be taking over the office of President next year. I have enjoyed the experience, as I have met and made many new friends. The Board, Staff, and volunteers have worked hard, and with dedication, to maintain the preservation of Tustin's history.

Joe Sprekelmeyer

Can You Help?

A lovely woman came into the museum on Saturday, hoping we might have a picture of the two-story house that was once located on the northeast corner of 17th Street and Hewes in North Tustin. The home belonged to the grandmother of her childhood friend, and she had many happy memories of the times the girls visited there. She's lost contact with her friend but hopes someone associated with the Historical Society might have a photo of the house, which was razed many years ago.

Sadly, many of Tustin's great old homes – both one and two-story - have disappeared over the years, leaving no trace behind, so this isn't only a plea for this particular home, but for any other of the old houses that you might have a photo of. Maybe the house was in your family; maybe you went to a birthday party there and it's in the background of a picture. Regardless of the source, if you happen to run across a picture in a box or an album of one of our 'absent' homes, please bring it into the Museum and let us scan it.

Welcome New Member: Jewell Martin

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
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Vic Zuniga

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WHO ARE YOU?

We have a mystery at the Museum in the form of a woman's portrait, possibly dating from the late 1800s. Occasionally, something acquired in the past appears in the depths of our basement archives with no information attached, and during the basement reorganization, this portrait was found tucked among other accessioned ones. We know the Museum's hours aren't convenient for everyone, and we do occasionally find 'orphans' left on our doorstep - perhaps this was one of them. We would love to know this lovely lady's story.

As you can see, we have displayed the portrait in front of an enormous photo of a well-dressed crowd riding on the "Orange Dummy", the trolley that once ran between Orange, Santa Ana, and Tustin. Sometimes these passengers were potential land buyers touring the area, and we'd like to think this woman and her husband were early settlers here. In fact, we and several recent visitors to the Museum think the woman in the portrait bears a striking resemblance to one of the trolley's passengers. Can you help us identify our Mystery Lady?



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

On behalf of the TAHS Board and our office staff, we would like to acknowledge and thank the following members and friends for their donations to our Special Projects Fund. We would also like to thank those who asked to remain anonymous. Your continued support is sincerely appreciated!

Dorothy Ahern; James Beans; Pete Beatty; Melida Canfield; Betty Cannon; Blanche Chilcote; A.J. "Tony" Coco; Perry Cook; Barbara Cox; Phil and Linda Cox; Doug Davert; Doctor's Ambulance; Enderle Center; Jean Eiseman; Brent Ferdig; Altha Gardner; Ida Gildone; Bob and Vicki Gray; Wendy Greene; Margaret Greinke; Kenneth Hannegan; Kathryn Hansen; Frank and Evelyn Hicks; Chuck and Barbara Hillman; Susan Honaker; Chester and Patricia Horton; George Jeffries; Carol Jordan; Doris Lindsey; Barbara and Bob McCalla; John and Darla Mitchell; Judith Moore; Ceil Kirby Morgan; Theron and Arva Moss; Mrs B's Consignments; Jeanne Mulligan; Barbara and David Myers; Eligia Nicolai; Alice Nisson; Jack Northrup; George Oswell; Vivien Owen; Donna Marsh Peery; Virginia Pettengill; Kent, Patricia and Penelope Ponterio; Merry Powers; Glenn Pyeatt; Ted Rischard; Maury and Gloria Ross; Barbara Schmitz; David B. Smith; Joe and Dee Sprekelmeyer; Robert Stopher; Cindy and Mike Sweeney; Gary Teter; Tustin Awards; Tustin Community Bank; Tustin Community Foundation; Tustin Conservation Conservancy; Tustin Host Lions; Jim and Lee Vibber; Glenna Weatherman; Gretchen Whisler; Jerry and Roberta Wiley; Jack Woodward.