

HERITAGE

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August/September, 2015

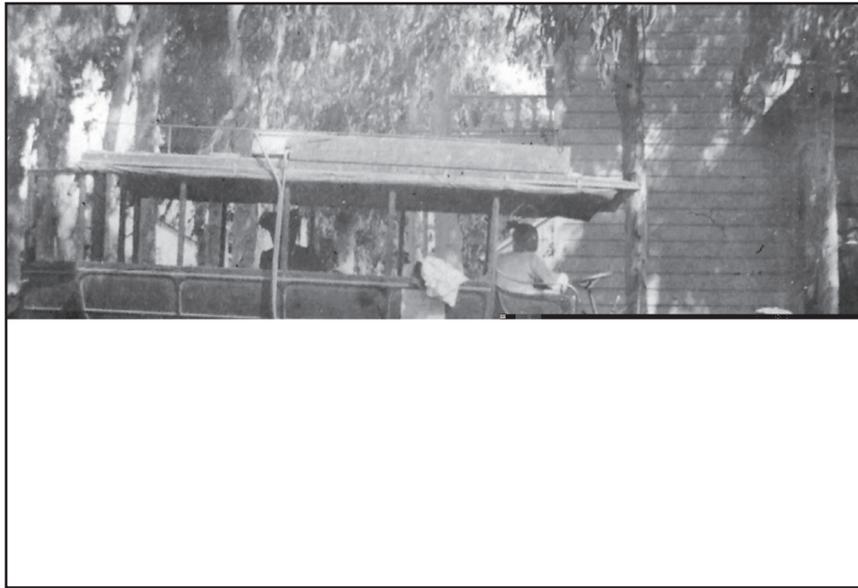
SCHOOL DAZE

Would it surprise you to know that students wishing to continue their educations beyond the customary 8th grade, despite living in

Laguna Beach, attended the newly constructed Tustin Union High School from 1928 until 1935? Laguna didn't have a population large enough to warrant its own secondary school, but what was wrong with Newport Beach High School just up the road from them? Wouldn't that have been closer and easier than a trip inland through the canyon? Well, yes, but

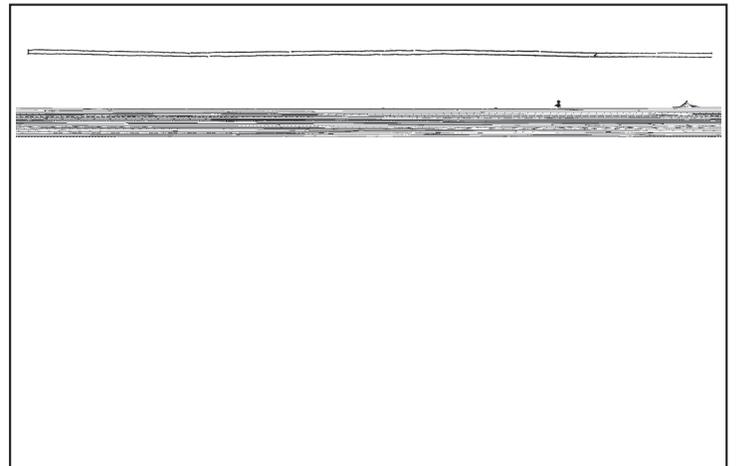
as Phil Brigandi may point out in his presentation at the General Meeting, at that time there was no road to Newport Beach from Laguna, which leads to a side note about Tustin's pivotal role in SoCal motoring history. Highway 101, otherwise known as El Camino Real, wound its way through Orange County, doglegged through the metropolitan hub of Tustin, and became Laguna Road as it crossed Newport Road before wending its way south to San Diego. As the convergence of those roads suggested, Tustin residents could easily get to both Laguna Beach and Newport Beach, but to get to Newport from Laguna or vice versa, the only choice was to come inland to Tustin first. Consequently, Tustin High became the destination of Laguna students along with those from the eastern canyons, Irvine and El Toro. The high school district was only too happy to invest in transporting students from far-flung areas, because, just as today, a classroom seat filled is a classroom seat subsidized by the government, so they invested in and converted Ford touring cars. These "buses" were suitably housed overnight

and on weekends in the communities they served, then driven to and from TUHS daily (at a contracted top speed of 30 mph) by those communities' locals for an accumulated



weekly credit of \$12.50, which included operating expenses and upkeep. The contracts also stated that when a credit totaling \$625 was reached, titles to the "buses" were transferred to their drivers in full payment for their services and expenses, while the District continued to provide insurance for liability and property damage.

No doubt the opportunity to become best friends with a Laguna Beach resident had its advantages, and many of these friendships lasted 60 years and more. Although Laguna built its own high school in 1935, Tustin was still educating high school students from the canyons well into the 1960s, and many 'long distance' friendships were forged just as in earlier times.



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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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone has had a good summer so far in spite of the heat and the drought. Our Museum is finally getting some relief from the heat. Loews in the Marketplace has contributed a ceiling fan to help circulate and cool the air in the Museum, and members Judy Kuykendall and Lindburgh McPherson have split the cost and contributed a second fan. Our thanks to all three. It should be a big help during these hot summer months.

There are several big events approaching over the next few months. First is our General Meeting on September 21. The main speaker will be Phil Brigandi, well-known OC historian, who will be speaking on early highway systems in Orange County. Within two weeks after Mr. Brigandi's visit will be the annual Tiller Days celebration on Oct 2, 3, and 4. The Historical Society is planning to have several cars in the annual parade and also planning to sponsor a hot dog and bratwurst booth during the fair. Everyone loves dogs and brats so we are hoping the booth can be a profitable fundraiser for the Society. If it all works out, we will need volunteers to man the booth on all three days. Please give the Museum office a call if you are willing to serve.

The Tustin News digitization project is moving ahead. Many of the issues have been converted to digital format and have been transferred to Newspapers.com. We are presently working on resolving technical issues regarding communication between our in-house computers and Newspapers.com but the converted issues should be available for viewing at the Museum in the very near future.

Finally, the annual Old Town Tustin Art Walk will be held in Old Town on Oct 17. It is always an interesting event with music and lots of creative artwork by local artists. The Society, led by Joe Sprekelmeyer, will be assisting children with chalk art creations outside of the Library and there will be refreshments available in Mrs. B's parking lot next to her consignment shop.

So, as you can see, it will be a busy month ahead and we hope to see many of you at the upcoming events. As always, anyone willing to participate by volunteering to help at any event or to just become more active in the running of the Museum, please contact us at 714 531 5701.

Al Corfield
President

Accessions:

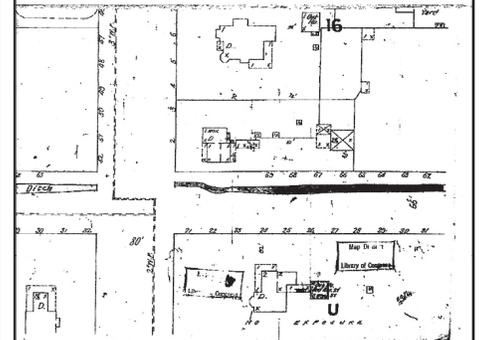
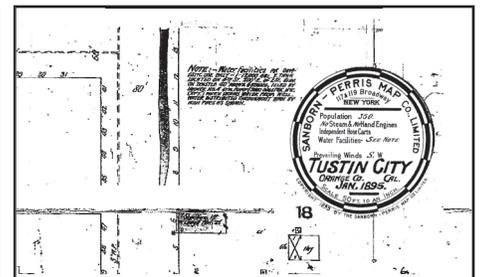
Jack Woodward: Clipping and photos
Martha Bevington: Music Contest Plaques, 1923, 1924 and 1926
Mark Eliot: TUSD 2015 Yearbooks
Nancy Moses: 1945 TUHS Audion
Margaret Greinke: Clippings and photos
Tony Coco: Audio Files; business ephemera
Sydney VonKoerber: Ladies Victorian Boots
Unknown Donor: Valve for irrigation system standpipe
Bryant Roskelley: Milk Bottle "Friendly Quality Dairies"
Rick Rogers: Photo and Negative of Tustin Garage
Tom Maloney/Dave Hihalik: Fragment of El Toro MCAS Runway
Sharon Teter: TUHS Yearbooks – 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928 and TUHS Diploma 1928
Del Pickney: Tustin PD – Helmet, breathalyzer, radar gun and lab kit
Peter Smith: List of USMC members from Tustin MCAS(H) killed in Action during Vietnam War.
Ronald & Sharilyn Penhall: Collection of books owned or written by Rice Family

WHERE'S THE FIRE?

Home insurance is one of life's necessary evils, and it's a foolish homeowner who doesn't make plans to protect the value of his property against the unexpected. It isn't just individuals who must think about these things, though, as cities also own valuable properties. Imagine being a city manager with multiple civic buildings to insure against unexpected loss. Tustin over the years has constructed and owns several civic buildings, all of which require periodic insurance appraisals. But what if there were no inspectors available to assess the value of the city's holdings, as was the case when Tustin was experiencing its heyday during the late 1880s land boom? The town and its investors, in a bid to attract new residents and assure them of the town's prosperity, had made quite an investment in fire-prone wooden structures they couldn't afford to lose, so insurance underwriters needed to set values. Just how did they do that in a time before aerial photos and Google Maps?

Enter the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company which furnished detailed scale maps to municipalities. In the 1800s, employees of the Sanborn Company were sent out to cities and towns across the nation to measure each and every building within a defined area. Nothing was too large or too humble for these employees who meticulously measured and then drew to scale the footprint of each structure, making note of the number of stories and the building materials, the street addresses and the structures' uses, the width of the town's streets and the buildings' setbacks from it. The result was a hand drawn bird's eye view of the economic structure of a town in black and white – the trolley barns, municipal stables, commercial facilities and restaurants, outhouses, henhouses..... well, you get the picture. Anything, in short, that could be lost to fire within the city limits that individual insurance wouldn't be expected to cover. Lest you think this is simply too, too archaic, you might be surprised to learn that Sanborn still updates about 50 maps each year, including San Francisco's and those of other large cities. Small towns such as Tustin, of course, were lucky to get one map made, and many small towns had none at all.

While once important mainly for insurance purposes, those maps have now, a hundred-plus years later, become indispensable tools for historical researchers. Sanborn maps provide valuable information not only about the commercial makeup of a town, but also about the population which can be surmised from the kinds of businesses and transportation available to them. Our Museum has a copy of Tustin's 1895 Sanborn Map hanging on the wall within our Fire Department display, and it is definitely worth a look-see by visitors. The map encompasses a 12-block square of Tustin's commercial district from 'B' St. to 'E' St. (Prospect), and 4th St. (Main) to 1st St., and drawn on it are the original Presbyterian Church whose floor plan is clearly visible, the Utt Pioneer Store, the wooden two-story Victorian school house, horse corrals in the middle of what was often called the bank block, a trolley barn, etc. The map and a good magnifying glass can keep an interested amateur historian occupied and fascinated for hours. And something else to keep in mind for a rainy afternoon, if you are from any number of other historic towns in Orange County – our copy's source was the Santa Ana Historical Collection in the SA Library where it was stumbled upon by one of our members doing unrelated research. There are many more of these maps there from other OC cities, and it's a short trip to the Santa Ana Library where you may be able to lose yourself in a turn-of-the-century map of your own hometown.



New Member:

Chuck Cruikshank (TUHS '55)
Dan Fischer
Babs Hawks (TUHS '55)
Nancy Moses
Karen Reed
Jeanne Sprague

Obituary:

Earl Rowenhurst
Hans Vogel

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P.O. Box 185
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Museum Hours

Every Tuesday and Thursday

9 am – 2 pm

First and Third Saturday of each month

12 pm – 3 pm

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395 El Camino Real (at Main Street)
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E-mail: tustinmuseum@att.net
Web Site: www.tustinhistory.com

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Monday, September 21, 2015
7:00 p.m.

Tustin Library Community Room
345 E. Main Street, Tustin

Program
“Early Highways in Orange County”
Speaker: Phil Brigandi

ARE WE LOST, DEAR?

You won't want to miss the speaker for our September 21 General Meeting. Phil Brigandi, always in demand and sure to pack the house, is not only an excellent speaker who can entertain his audience with either prepared topics or deliciously off the cuff tidbits, he also has a command of Orange County history which can't be equaled and he loves to share the wealth. Recently he's written a series of articles for the Orange County Historical Society's newsletter, County Courier, about the barely remembered roads whose influence shouldn't be forgotten, how they came to be in the first place, and historical sites along their routes. We look forward to seeing you there. Your memory will be jogged, you'll learn things you didn't know, you'll be entertained, and our cookies are great!