

HERITAGE

Volume 43 No 1

A Publication of the Tustin Area Historical Society

Jan-Feb, 2018

TAHS CELEBRATED 90TH ANNIVERSARY

The City of Tustin celebrated its 90th anniversary this past September 24th. I'm sure many of you enjoyed the day by attending the celebration on El Camino Real. The highlight of the event, of course, was the unveiling of the bronze bust of Tustin founder Columbus Tustin on a pedestal in front of the Tustin Area Historical Society.

Along with the bust of Columbus Tustin, attendees to the event also got to view the restored oil portrait of Columbus Tustin, temporarily displayed in the window of the Museum. The portrait, painted by M. Vander Velde probably in the early to mid-1900s, has been on permanent loan from the City since March of 1976 when it was accepted in a deteriorating condition which worsened over the years.

The base surface of the painting was masonite rather than canvas which may, at least partially, explain the lifting of the pigment and subsequent flaking of the surface. It was certainly not in suitable condition to put on exhibit, at least until now.

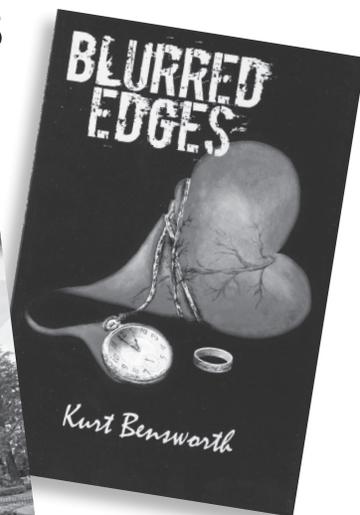
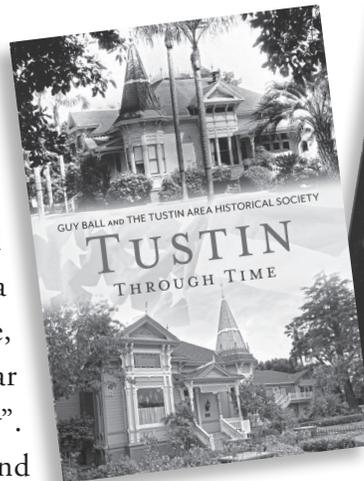
Local Tustin plein air artist, Linda Rogers, agreed to look at the painting to see if she could prevent any further deterioration and perhaps even restore the image to one that could be proudly displayed as an historical image of Tustin's founder. Since the image itself was not totally complete - parts of it had lifted off and fallen away - the museum provided her with an old photo of Columbus Tustin to use as a guide. In fact, it is strongly suspected by Linda that the original painting may have been based on the same photograph.

After completing the restoration, Linda also contributed the beautiful gold frame that now holds the portrait that was displayed in the Museum window.

Our heartfelt thanks to Linda Rogers for the time and effort she contributed to this wonderful restoration. If you haven't already done so, please take some time out to view the painting of our founder that now hangs in the Museum and also the bust of Columbus Tustin at the corner of El Camino and Main Street.

WE'RE NOTHING IF NOT LITERATE AT TAHS

We're pleased to tell you that among our very active members are two authors, one with a relationship novel with ties to Tustin already available on Amazon and at Barnes and Nobel, and the other with a soon-to-be-published book on Tustin and how it has changed. Kurt Bensworth, our Treasurer, has written his second novel, *Blurred Edges*, which was a popular selection of our Board when it came to holiday gifts. *Tustin Through Time* is also a second book, this one by Guy Ball, our Webmaster extraordinaire, again in collaboration with TAHS. In it are photos of familiar places and buildings, and what they looked like "back in the day". We'll let you know when it becomes available, and keep it in mind for holiday gifting in 1018!



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P.O. Box 185
Tustin, CA 92781

Tustin Area Museum
395 El Camino Real (at Main Street)
Tustin, CA 92780
(714) 731-5701
E-mail: tustinmuseum@att.net
Web Site: www.tustinhistory.com

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Sandy Sage

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

Dear TAHS Members,

Happy New Year! With a successful year behind us, 2018 looks like it will be just as exciting!

To start, we moved our **Volunteer Thank You Party** — usually incorporated with our December holiday party — to **Saturday, January 13** at the Museum, where we acknowledged, thanked, and celebrated our Museum volunteers, outgoing Board, and staff members—and we also welcomed our incoming Board for 2018.

Susie McIntosh, Steve Sauers and John White have joined our 2018 board, and while Gary Siegel is termed out for this year, thankfully he agreed to continue as our Program Chair and is currently planning our **Tuesday, February 20 General Meeting**.

Again this year, we will participate in the annual **Paper Football Challenge** on **Saturday, January 27**, and also on the annual **Sip and Stroll** event in Old Town on **Saturday, February 24**. Both of these events are sponsored by the Tustin Community Foundation, which we gladly support.

Our annual **Home & Garden Tour** committee is hard at work, searching for homes & gardens, as they plan a fun, 1950s-themed, **“Shake, Rattle, and Stroll...In Old Town Tustin!”** scheduled for **Saturday, May 5, 2018**. Mark your calendars now! **Pre-sale will start in late March/early April**, so look for the event

brochure and emails to follow.

We are at that time of year where we request and welcome your TAHS membership renewal—your renewal letter arrived last month. Thank you to everyone who has renewed—if you haven't done so already, please respond today! For your convenience you may renew online at www.tustinhistory.com (or let a friend know so he/she can join online as well). As always, we need and greatly appreciate your financial support in order to maintain our Museum, pay our two wonderful staff members, and continue to provide the history of this wonderful community to our visitors and school children.

If you missed the City of Tustin's 90th Birthday Celebration of its incorporation last September, we have been provided the entertaining and informative DVD that was created and shown by the City—it showcases milestones in our city's history starting in 1927, right up to the present day, and we'll gladly play it for you on your next visit to the Museum!

And finally, if you have an interest in being a Museum docent it is easy and fun! Give the Museum office a call (714-731-5701)—it is a great way to meet new people and learn more about our Museum's archives.

Gretchen

Gretchen Whisler, TAHS President

Bill & Jan Hezzlewood	Flag display case
Michael McGlynn	Photos of Tustin Grammar School
Jennifer Chirco-Coker	Photos of Businesses on 6th St
Cherrill Cady	Collection of Miss Tustin ephemera
Steve Sauers	Book – “The Grove”.
Larry Williams	THS Yearbooks – 1935-1942
Ken Horn	Miscellaneous tools circa 1920/1930
Kathy Hansen	PFF Orange Crate Label Calendars (2)
Carolyn Wood/Ceil Kirby	Thomas Bros Maps
Mark Eliot	1998 FHS Yearbook
Lin Holland	Super 8 Film (3) – 1964. 1968 and 1973 local events
Gloria Myatt	Tract map near Columbus Tustin School circa 1955
Scott Daniels – On Loan	WWII Scooter
Phil Cox	Map: Rice's Addition, July 1887
Marilyn Lugaro	Photos: Irvine Sunkist Packing Plant
T.J. Maloney	Uniform patches from OC Parks
Dortha Jean Kiernan	Ephemera: J.R. Harbour, first City Clerk; Photo of Tustin School First Grade circa 1929
Clifford Prather/Susan Honaker	Prather Family Ephemera
Penhall, Ron & Shari	Silver Spoon/Cup from Rice Family Collection
Angie Kardashian	Pioneer bonnet, Tustin maps and directories
Linda Francis	1937 TUHS Audion Yearbook

Accessions:

FORMER TAHS PRESIDENT TAKES ON A NEW CHALLENGE

Robin Fry, one of our earliest members and still a committed one, has taken on the position of Community Relations Manager for Americana Getaway, located at 111 Fashion Lane in Tustin. Many of our TAHS members are either currently, or may find themselves in the future, caring for the welfare of an aging parent or close relative while still juggling busy lives. Robin feels they might benefit from becoming acquainted with Americana Getaway's services, designed to offer some daytime space to both parties. They have a website: www.americanagetaway.com, should you wish to look further into the program details.

GO-TO? GOT TO

Heading home after dark last month, discouraged by a frustrating day in the malls and hoping to recapture some seasonal spirit, I made a point of circling Orange's Plaza to enjoy the lighted tree and street decorations that I remembered from childhood Christmases. The Plaza proved to be as wonderfully retro as ever, hitting all the right notes with festive displays of red and green, the epitome of a "go-to" Christmas destination that reinvigorated me. On a nostalgic roll, I debated also detouring through Tustin but decided against it, since if anywhere in Old Town had been a "go-to" destination for the holidays, I couldn't recall it. The only "go-to" about Tustin in any season had been when my mother needed to "go to" the doctor, the drug store, the bank, the beauty salon or the grocery store.

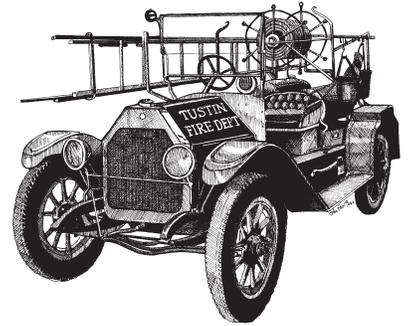
Then I remembered one December day when, as a child with a near-empty piggy bank but high hopes of finding a great Christmas gift for Dad, I came into town with my mother, prepared to do some serious shopping! Ralph Lindsay was Tustin's Fire Chief from 1951 through 1959, as well as our local shoe repair man, and his shop burst with the pungent aroma of leather and shoe polish. Lindsay's Shoe Repair faced Main Street, the end of a line in the Knights of Pythias building (where the alley still cuts through to Third Street), and while my mother ran errands in that block, I often wandered into Ralph's. Hanging in his shop were beautiful hides - black, brown, some splotted with white - and I'd seen what Ralph created with

the leftover scraps. This day there must have been an unusual urgency to my entrance because Ralph actually looked up from his huge leather sewing machine to greet me. When I explained what I'd come for, he laid out a colorful selection of those small furry scraps, making me feel as though I were a valued customer. He handed me a clear plastic square about three inches across that I placed on each scrap, pondering with him the relative merits of various animal silhouettes. We settled on a Scottie dog, similar to Dad's beloved but now departed dog Gypsy, and Ralph cut out a sleek black silhouette, leaving a tab on which he attached a key ring. We agreed on a price commensurate with my budget, and I hurried off in search of my mother. Lindsay's became my go-to place in town, and being horse-crazy, by the end of the next year I'd put together a fine herd of them in a variety of shiny coats.

With the memory of that long ago Christmas shopping trip, I changed my mind about driving through Tustin. Somewhat to my surprise, people were strolling, the restaurants were full, and I realized that while Tustin doesn't adorn itself in seasonal reds and greens as the Plaza does, Old Town is now radiant all year, thousands of tiny white lights encircling each tree lining the intersection. The year-round glow heralds not only the holidays but celebrates every month throughout the year; December promised a sparkling 2018 to one and all. Old Town Tustin, a legitimate go-to "go-to" destination for all seasons!

NOW YOU CAN DO IT IN YOUR EASY CHAIR

Function by function, we creep into the 21st century. No longer do you have to mail a check to renew (or even join) our membership, but can instead use PayPal, just as so many of you already do when ordering Home Tour tickets. Guy Ball, our Webmaster, has added a membership button to our Tustin History website, so don't rummage around for that seldom used checkbook any longer. You can hold onto your morning mug of coffee and click the link at the same time!



Join the Tustin Area Historical Society and keep your newsletter coming. Please send your dues or an additional gift today. Ask a friend to join!

ANNUAL DUES:

January to December

- Individual (\$25 or more)
- Household (\$35 or more)
- Business/Organization (\$100 or more)
- Special Donation (\$150 or more)

New Renewal

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:

Gerald Aust	Robert Gray
Percy Browne	Marsha Lundin
Shirley Cook	Lowrey
James Cortese	Vivien Owen
Mary Jane Dalen	Donald Pieper
Wallace Enderle	

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FEBRUARY MEETING

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

7:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall, Tustin Presbyterian Church
225 W. Main Street, Tustin

“History’s Mysteries”

A presentation of relics from the past. Our presenters may know their purposes; maybe they won't, but an audience member will. In any event, it will be an enlightening evening, and a lot of fun.



VIVIEN OWEN

As you can see from the list of obituaries, TAHS lost a number of dear friends late last year, many of whom we depended on not only for their good company and great stories, but also as resources for times that are quickly fading from memory. One of these sorely

missed friends is Vivien Owen. Although not a Tustin native, with the U.S. Bicentennial approaching, she threw herself and her considerable talent for organization into preserving Tustin's history with a singlemindedness that defied description. While the Society's other two founders, Carol Jordan and Mary Etzold, were engaged in mastering the nuts and bolts of museum and historical society operation, she, in typical Vivien fashion, undertook the physical requirements, tackling the painting and refurbishing of Tustin's original Police Station and turning it into our first museum, whose charms included Vivien-led tours of its former jail cells, much to the delight of visitors! When TAHS moved to our present location, Vivien was front and center creating displays, volunteering her time, docenting, and sharing stories from her very active life. During her forty-plus years of involvement with TAHS, she touched many of our lives, and while at 88, she may have earned a rest, we will miss her greatly.



CALLING THE WRITER THAT LURKS IN YOUR SOUL

First let me tell you that I love to write. I also love history, and especially Tustin's. Being the editor of “Heritage” for the past nine years has been more fun than I can tell you, but life changes, and the time has come to step away. I'm sure among our membership are any number of people who've read “Heritage” and wished I would've written about something historical that's near and dear to you, some special event, or a wonderful memory of a place or person. This is your opportunity to make our newsletter what you'd like it to be! Please don't keep your writing talent or love of history hidden away.....I'd love to talk to you and answer your questions, and I'll be happy to stay on to assist you until you feel comfortable. Being the editor is easier than you would think, keeps you “in the know” about Museum happenings, and increases your sense of belonging to the community. Please shoot me an email: woodbwrkn@gmail.com. We'll talk. — Joyce Miller