

# Fairview Register

Monthly Publication of the Costa Mesa Historical Society, a non-profit 501(c)(3)  
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## President's Message

Like any other non profit organization, we rely on the support of our members. People usually join an organization because they believe in it's cause and want to support it. There are a number of ways members support the organization they belong to. Below are three of the most common.

### Membership Dues

A non-profit like the Costa Mesa Historical Society is not subsidized by local or state governments. We rely solely on **dues, donations** and **sales** of items and services. However, dues are the only constant source. Therefore, our members' dues are a major part of our budget. One of our future plans is to make our exhibits interactive so that it will be easier for visitors to the museum to access our historical information. So you can see how important it is that members pay their dues and on time because that will enable us to expand our services. If you're not sure when your current membership expires, see **Are Your Dues Overdue?** on page 3.

### Volunteering



Whether it's one or two times a week or periodically, we can always use some help. We have projects that are one time activities as well as those that are ongoing. Think you don't have the skill to help? There are jobs for

many skill levels. We could always use more help at the historic Estancia Adobe. Docent training is available.

### Participation

Taking part in our special events, monthly programs and fund raisers helps to create a better understanding of who we are and what we're about. It also provides the opportunity for you to meet and get to know us.

**Bob Palazzola**

## Mark Your 2015 Calendars

### Sunday Speaker Programs

#### Sunday, February 15th Speaker: Jan Harzan



Former IBM executive, founder of the Orange County Chapter of MUFON (MutualUFONetwork) and now national director of MUFON, will speak on the organization—its goals and mission statement—and his personal interests in UFO's and experiences which started at the young age of 8.

### New Requirement

#### For Attending Sunday Speaker Programs

**Reservations now will be needed for attending our popular Sunday Speaker Programs.** For reasons of safety, we need to limit how many people can be in our museum at any one time. So please call the Society anytime at 949-631-5918 and leave your name, number and the total of how many will be attending. Or call Thursday or Friday between the hours of 10am and 3pm and talk to one of our volunteers who will register you for the program. We will then hold your reservations until 2:20pm the day of the program.

**Sunday speaker programs are held at the Costa Mesa Historical Society Museum, 1870 Anaheim Ave., Northwest Corner of Lions Park Complex. Doors open at 2pm; Program begins 2:30. Please arrive early as seating is limited. Free admission and refreshments. Any questions: Call 949-631-5918, email us at [cmhistory@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cmhistory@sbcglobal.net), or find us on Facebook.**

**Adobe Schedule: On the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month the Diego Sepulveda Adobe at 1900 Adams Ave is open from 12 to 4pm. Individuals and groups can make appointments to tour the Adobe by calling 949-631-5918.**

**The Costa Mesa Historical Society Museum is located at 1870 Anaheim Avenue in Costa Mesa; this is a non-mailing address. Museum hours: 10-3 Thursdays and Fridays and by appointment. Our mailing address is: Costa Mesa Historical Society P.O. Box 1764, Costa Mesa, CA 92628. Questions? Call 949-631-5918, email us at [cmhistory@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cmhistory@sbcglobal.net) or find us on Facebook.**

**Promoting and preserving Costa Mesa's history is our mission.**

# Costa Mesa Historical Society News

## Kudos to Plaque Dedication Team

On November 15th the Native Sons of the golden West presented the Adobe with a plaque; this was an event that took months in the planning and collaboration with the Native Sons, the Costa Mesa Historical Society and the City of Costa Mesa. Here is what the Native Sons Chair Stephen J. Faessel had to say in a letter to our president, Bob Palazzola: "...please accept this note of our most sincere thanks and appreciation for the success of our recent event. Your membership as well as yourself can be very proud of the result of all the many planning sessions and countless emails we had together over these last many months. I was personally very appreciative of the very high level of cooperation between the CMHS and the City of Costa Mesa as the planning and final execution of the Native Son's Dedication of the Diego Sepulveda Adobe Estancia unfolded. Your attention to detail and your willingness to offer constructive suggestions made for a very enjoyable event. We were very pleased and honored that you were able to arrange for Supervisor Moorlach's attendance and participation in the event and the following banquet. Our State Level Officers were very taken by his knowledge of the local history and his willingness to share his own experiences as covered in his banquet speech." ...Again our heartfelt gratitude to the Costa Mesa Historical Society and its President, for making this a very memorable event."

## Installation Dinner a Huge Success



The Costa Mesa Historical Society held its annual Installation Dinner on January 16th at

OCC's Captain's Table. The delicious chicken dinner was enjoyed by all and, of course, the chatting and camaraderie in the room was humming with everyone enjoying each other's company.



After guests returned to their tables with their plates full, the program began. First the Flag Salute, then the Invocation by Hank Panian followed by a Moment of Silence honoring Jack Hammett and Art Lambert, both recently passed away.

Former mayor and current Coast Community College District Board member Mary Hornbuckle installed the Society's officers and directors.



(Pictures above: Enjoying the dinner and good company; second row from left: Helen Humphreys, Hank Panian —both

founding members of the Historical Society—and Cindy Humphreys; The Panians—son and father—chatting away); third: Sarah Moss, Gladys Refakes, Eric and Dana Kelsen)

Gladys Refakes was presented a special Excellence in Volunteering Service Award which said "With deep appreciation



and gratitude for her years of dedicated service to the Costa Mesa Historical Society with special recognition



for her ongoing service." She was very surprised and everyone gave her a standing ovation. It was a very poignant moment for all in the room.

Then Phil Brigandi, historian and author, spoke in a very entertaining manner as he presented "The Quasquicentennial of Orange County: Where We've Been and How We Got



There." The road to county-hood took twenty years and seven attempts



to pass the bill to come up with the perfect name—Orange County. From 1869 to 1889 possible county names changed, potential county seats changed and finally it took Mr. McFadden and Uncle Billy Spurgeon, founder of Santa Ana, working together to get out the vote of the people to agree to



this new "Orange County." And, since 1907 no more counties have been created. Phil Brigandi very assuredly said, "The name Orange County was proposed in 1872 and it had nothing to do with orange groves because oranges were nothing in those days. It was the color orange that was associated with Mediterranean climate that the county was named for and also that name sounded good."

(Pictures: top: from left Terry and Marilyn Shaw, Mari and Bob Palazzola, Mary Ellen and Art Goddard, Susan Weeks and Nancy Pedersen, Cindy Humphreys, Tess Bernstein and Nancy Pedersen; 2nd row: Bob Palazzola, Terry Shaw, Dana Kurzbard-Kelsen, Susan Weeks, Gladys Refakes, Mary Ellen Goddard, Dave Gardner, Dave Rusher, Tess Bernstein, Ed. Baume, Cindy Humphreys and Mary Hornbuckle; Gladys being sworn in, surrounded by the Society's officers; 3rd: Gladys Refakes with her Award; Susan, Mary Ellen and Dave gather around our honoree as she receives a bouquet of roses; the program featuring Phil Brigandi and Phil in the midst of his presentation; Phil continues informally chatting with Society members after his formal presentation—from left Tess Bernstein, Mary Ellen Goddard, Eric and Dana Kelsen and Art Goddard

## In Memoriam

### Jack Hammett

On December 13th Jack Hammett died in his home at the age of 94. He was a person who was well-respected in our community and especially our Society as can be attested to by the following tributes. Our condolences go out to his family.

**Gladys Refakes** had known of Jack Hammett for many years before she got to know him personally; that time came in 1993 when committees were formed to celebrate the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of World War II**. For two years from 1993 to 1995 the county prepared for this big celebration which eventually took place at the Fairgrounds' Amphitheater in the summer of 1995. "People from all walks of life, not just former servicemen, gathered together to organize this big event," said Gladys. South Coast Plaza became involved with the Celebration and the Historical Society presented a series of programs devoted to World War II. After the Celebration event, the group still got together figuring that it would be a shame for all these people to disappear; they got together to hold meetings here at the Historical Society and Jack Hammett assumed a leadership role. "If he believed in something he worked towards a goal to achieve it. At first it took the group some time to figure out exactly what they would do, but they all realized that there were lots of stories that needed to be told and eventually they decided to be called **The Freedom Committee of Orange County,**" continued Gladys. This county-wide group contacted various schools because they felt there was a lack of history being taught in the schools, and that there were lots of history that must be told. They started out with just 2 or 3 speaking engagements and then continued not just to local schools, but to other counties too, mainly addressing school children. As Jack mentioned at the Society's November Veteran's Program, "Since then our veterans have spoken to over 200,000 students." Gladys was in charge of the refreshments and later Kathy Bequette joined to help out; they became known as the "Cookie Girls." The Committee met at the Historical Society for about 8 years before the Fire Department made them relocate due to the large size of the group; they moved to the Community Center. "Jack was very devoted to his family; he was also devoted to the City and to his Country," Gladys said.



"I am very proud to say that I knew Jack Hammett. I was introduced to him about 10 years ago, but became better acquainted with him in the last 5 or 6 years. I regret that I had not met him sooner. You don't meet and get to know someone of Jack's caliber very often. As a member of the Costa Mesa Historical Society, he attended our monthly programs. He was also a member of our Santa Ana Army Air Base Wing and participated in the SAAAB reunions. Jack would offer his assistance to veteran causes. When efforts began to save the former Memorial Gardens building on the Fairgrounds, Jack was there to support the action. I remember him saying to me; 'Bob, whatever help you need on this project, let me know.' I hold a great deal of respect for this man and I will miss him," **said Bob Palazzola**

"Jack was one of those guys who made things happen. He was a pillar in this community for decades both in public service and in business. As a Navy veteran and Pearl Harbor survivor, there were

probably none more patriotic than him and he exemplified a deep love for his family too. Both as chairman of the Freedom Committee of Orange County and personally he was very supportive of the Costa Mesa Historical Society over the years. It was an honor to have known him and to call him a friend," **said Terry Shaw**

**Kathy and Jesse Bequette** spoke very highly of Jack. Jesse, a Cold War Veteran, said, "He was a great guy and I will miss him. I enjoyed hearing **his experiences at Pearl Harbor**. For two days after **December 7<sup>th</sup>**, Jack worked round the clock taking care of the wounded and identifying the dead." Jack was staying in a hotel with his wife when he found out about the bombing. Being in the medical corps he rushed to help out. "He was a kind man. In an era when all service organizations scrambled for membership, Jack started The Freedom Committee in 1995 with thirty people. "Now there are well over 100 people attending these meetings at the Community Center. Jack touched this generation of men who had not been touched before by other civic organizations. It was like they now felt their lives meant something; and, they began to realize if they didn't tell these stories, who would," Kathy added. Jack was also part of the **Pearl Harbor Survivors**. The Saturday that Jack died was the group's last meeting," Kathy said. Jesse said, "Their official uniform was a Hawaiian shirt and a lei." Jack was an author too and wrote a book, "You Don't Know Jack."

"One of Jack's defining qualities was dedication to his community. Jack served in the Costa Mesa Police Reserves from 1961 - 1982, the Costa Mesa Planning Commission from 1963-1970, and the City Council from 1970-1978. Jack's leadership helped to ease the City's growing pains during a period of annexation and development. Some Jack's accomplishments were the 73 Freeway, beautification and signage along Harbor Blvd, lighting at TeWinkle Park, OC Airport noise, pollution and safety issues, and establishment of a Mayor's Office with set hours to meet with constituents. Never one to rest on his laurels, Jack was active in the Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce and formed the Freedom Committee of Orange County. And who could forget Jack's role as Master of Ceremonies at Harbor Lawn on so many Memorial Days? Still, Jack always was accessible, for example when we at the Historical Society needed help in ID-ing people and events in our Chamber of Commerce photo collection. Well done Jack! Rest in peace.," **said Art Goddard**



### Art Lambert

We are very sorry to report the recent passing of Art Lambert. Art was a longtime member of the Historical Society. He served as a Board Member in charge of The Santa Ana Army Air Base Wing. Our condolences go out to his family. More information regarding Art will be included in a Memorial article which will be featured in our March's Newsletter.

### Are Your Dues Overdue?

**Your dues are important because they help to support the Society's major programs and projects. You can locate your Dues Expiration Date by looking on YOUR NEWSLETTER LABEL...it is there to the right of your name... as a reminder. If your dues are due, just send a check to our Museum (see mailing address on page 1); Attention: Susan Weeks. Or drop by in person on a Thursday or a Friday from 10am to 3pm.**

COSTA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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**Costa Mesa Historical Society  
P.O. Box 1764  
Costa Mesa CA 92628**

**— *Membership Form* —**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Categories**

<b>Annual</b>		<b>Special</b>	
Individual	\$ 15.00	Historical Society Life Member	\$ 1000.00
Family	\$ 20.00	SAAAB Wing Annual Member	\$ 10.00
Student (under 16)	\$ 5.00	SAAAB Wing Life Member	\$ 50.00
Contributing	\$ 50.00		
Business & Professional	\$ 100.00		
Public Agency	\$ 100.00		
Benefactor	\$ 250.00		

Make your checks payable to the Costa Mesa Historical Society.  
The Society, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, operates under the Corporation Laws of the State of California.