

# Fairview Register



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Website address: [www.costamesahistory.org](http://www.costamesahistory.org)

949-631-5918 DATE: April 2014  
E-mail address: [cmhistory@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cmhistory@sbcglobal.net)

## President's Message

### The Untold Stories

Early in March I visited Balboa Park in San Diego. I have been there quite a few times and have never lacked for something to see and do. On this trip, I decided to check out the Automotive Museum. While touring the museum, I came across an exhibit displaying a 1928 Studebaker with a flathead 6 cylinder engine. It was unkempt and covered with dust. Some of its parts had been removed and were laying under the chassis. An article on the wall nearby furnished an explanation. It stated "The Studebaker sat in a shed in Imperial Beach for 40 years. The original owners parked it in 1966 and, with the exception of a few rare trips around the fields, it was never moved." **For some time**, I just stood there looking at this old automobile wondering what stories it had connected with it. It made me think about some of the things that many of us have around our household that were handed down by a relative. We may know who they came from, but don't always know the story connected to them. For instance, that wooden ironing board in the attic that was used by your grandmother when she was first married or that old saw that belonged to your great uncle who used it to build his first house. **Things like** this have history and each of us should make sure that when we pass an item on, we should include its story along with it. For it's the stories and history that give an item value. **At the Costa Mesa Historical Society**, not all of the items on display have a story. This is where our visitors can be so helpful. So come by and share your knowledge and experiences with us.

Bob Palazzola

*Because items don't have a voice of their own, we can give life to them by telling their experiences in our own words. What family history could be passed along this way!*



## Mark Your 2014 Calendars



**Sunday, April 13:**

**Speaker: Craig Macdonald  
Historian, Speaker & Journalist.**

Craig is the author of 18 books on the West. He will speak on "Gold Rush Glimpses-Back to the Future," how the California Gold Rush is still very much with us today in our daily lives. (See flier for more information.)



**Saturday, May 3rd**

Early California Days and Arts in the Park will be a very special event which will take place at the Adobe in Estancia Park from noon to 3pm.



**Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 11, 12 & 13**

**Imaginology Youth Expo**, will take place at the OC Fair & Event Center April 11 (9-3), 12 & 13 (10-5). The Scarecrow & Pumpkin Festival will have a booth which will feature a photo exhibit by



The Costa Mesa Historical Society. The OCME (Orange County Model Engineers) will also have a booth. Come out to the booths for a "step back in time" and see Costa Mesa in the early days as well as a variety of train models. **The emphasis of this free Expo is on S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math).** Parking is free on Friday; \$7 on Saturday and Sunday. For additional information regarding the Expo's many activities and competitions see: [www.ocfair.com/steam](http://www.ocfair.com/steam)

**Sunday, June 22nd: To Be Announced**

Sunday speaker events are held at Costa Mesa Historical Society Museum, 1870 Anaheim Ave., Northwest Corner of Lions Park Complex. Doors open 2:00; Program begins 2:30. **Please arrive early as seating is limited.** Free admission, refreshments for all. 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.

## Alvin and Lucy Pinkley: Part 1

*This “He Said, She Said” story complements its subjects perfectly and tells a vast panoramic view of how Costa Mesa evolved from 1933 to 1978. It is taken from two interviews by Mary Ellen Goddard conducted as part of the Oral History Project of the Costa Mesa Historical Society to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> or Silver Anniversary of the incorporation of Costa Mesa. The “He” was Alvin Pinkley of Pinkley’s Drug Store, a famous institution that opened in our fair city in 1933, and the “She” was his lovely wife Lucy Pinkley. Together they raised two children, Virgil and Lucy, and with their civil and community service they helped establish Costa Mesa from a one street town to make it a community oriented city and an interesting destination in itself rather than what it was known as from the beginning—“the place you drive through” on to the beach..*

### Background

Alvin was born the middle of three boys in Guanajuato, Mexico around 1910, because his father volunteered to become a medical missionary with the Methodist Church. He was only four pounds when he was born, and he had yellow jaundice, but his father was able to save his life. Later his father came down with infantile paralysis (*today we call it polio*). The family left Guajajuato as his father came out of his illness and became an Indian doctor which took the family to Indian Reservations in Arizona, Wyoming, New Mexico, Oregon and the last one near Oceanside California. “I didn’t go to school until I was in the fourth grade. My mother taught us, because there were no schools,” he said.

Around 1913 Alvin remembered sleeping out in the desert away from his home. He reminisced, “Poncho Villa was raiding across the border at that particular point in time and that is the reason we would get in our 1913 Model-T Ford, go out into the desert after it would get dark and sleep in an arroyo where we couldn’t be seen for fear they would raid the settlement and burn the house down.”

Alvin credits his religious tolerance and compassion for his fellow man to his father. One especially memorable incident stood out in Alvin’s mind: When his father helped the Catholic Indians and Mexicans on the Southern Arizona Reservation receive a visit from the Sisters from faraway Tucson. Alvin’s father spoke to a priest who organized the visit. “When we got back my Dad spread the word that the Sisters were coming from miles away. They (*the Mexicans and Indians*) were on wagons, they were on horse, they were walking and the old people who couldn’t stand the jolt of the wagon were on Wickiups (*laying on a blanket between two sticks pulled behind a horse, thus preventing the bounce gotten from riding in a wagon with an iron wagon wheel*) I can remember them coming from miles and miles and miles and miles.” That is when Alvin remembered hearing his Dad say, “Don’t belittle anybody’s religion. We are all trying to get to the same place. Maybe in a little different way.”

Finally the Pinkleys got to San Bernardino and he got to go to school when he started fourth grade. In high school he became active in student government, becoming student body president in his senior year. And that is where Lucy

Pinkley gets to know him better when she becomes president of Girl’s League and they are thrown together to plan the year.

Lucy was born in Enid, Oklahoma and lived there for the first ten months of her life. Her father died about the month that she was born and her mother came to California. “My mother bought an orange grove and as a widow, started to raise my brother and I there. Then in about eight years she married and went to San Bernardino. It was there in grammar school that I met my husband.”

Alvin and Lucy went to the same grammar school together and knew each other just to speak to, and then to junior high together and never dated each other until they were seniors in high school. She said, “He dated my friends and we knew each other. And, at the end of our senior year we became engaged. He went on to USC to Pharmacy School and I went to L.A. General Hospital to nurse’s training.” They went back to San Bernardino when Alvin got his pharmacy license. They got married and had both children there.

**The Pinkley family moved to Costa Mesa on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> in 1933, when they were both 23 years old.** All there was to the town was one block on one side of the street (*the east side of Newport Blvd.*). The post office was three or four doors from the Pinkley’s drug store. TeWinkle Hardware Store was on one side of them, the Alpha Beta Market was on the other side, and the Safeway was about five doors down on the corner. There was a dry cleaning place, a little general “dry goods store” and a barbershop. Lucy said, “And that was the town.” She added that she said to her husband, “You have brought me to the end of the world and dropped me.”



Newport Blvd. around the early 1930’s and the Pinkley family around the late 1930’s. They stayed in the “one street town” and “made a difference.”

## The Pinkley Story continued from page 2

Prior to that moment Alvin had been deeply affected by the Great Depression; the man he was working for went broke and he had heard about a store for sale in Costa Mesa. He had driven through the town many times on his way to the beach and had remembered that "The town was nothing, period!" He had lost almost all the money he had in two banks and a building and loan that he had saved working most of the way through high school in a drug store. "So I came down here and because San Bernardino was so hot, and there was no air conditioning in those days, I bought the store. I had five hundred dollars and that is what I paid down on the store."

When his Dad came down to see the store he looked around and saw that Costa Mesa didn't look like much. The railroad tracks still ran down Newport Blvd. Not being used so there were weeds, beer bottles, bags, whatever out there and it looked pretty bad. His Dad said, "I'm afraid I raised a son that is not quite bright. Why did you ever come down here?" And Alvin said, "Well, I will tell you Dad, there were no jobs left in San Bernardino and if I am going to starve to death, I don't mind starving, but I am not going to starve and roast both like I would in San Bernardino." His Dad replied, "Well, that makes sense." (To be continued)

## Costa Mesa Historical Society News Water District Tour



A large group of members from the Costa Mesa Historical Society and the Friends of the Library filled the bus to tour the Mesa Water facility on Gisler Avenue. Stacy Taylor, Public & Governmental Affairs Manager, greeted us and gave us a drought update and the steps taken by Mesa Water to minimize impact of the drought. Then we went to Demonstration Garden and Justin Finch, Conservation Specialist, gave a talk about how to maintain a garden in drought conditions. After that we entered the Nanofiltration Process area where Phil Lauri, Nanofiltration Tour Guide-District Engineer, gave us an overview about the filtration process and some statistics regarding the groundwater basin and volumes of water processed and he also explained the pre-treatment tinted water from the ancient redwood trees that once flourished along this coast. We even had the opportunity to taste this tinted water. Tasters admitted that it was not bad at all. The tour was very informative. Our group was the largest tour group of the day and all attendees received a wooden Mesa Water coaster as a souvenir.

For more about the MWRP/Mesa Water District, visit [MesaWater.org](http://MesaWater.org), or call 949.631.1201. Pictures: Above left: background: Barbara Steck, Mary Ellen Goddard; front: Gladys Refakes, Laurie Bushnell and Dave Gardner; above right: Mari Palazolla, Mary Ellen Goddard and Susan Weeks.

## Program Addresses Safety



CMPD Crime Prevention Specialist Kelly Vucinic spoke to an attentive group at the Society's Sunday Program on March 16<sup>th</sup>. She told how to stay safe around the house and when out and about. She addressed crimes

of opportunity and urged you to be aware of your surroundings. Some tips included: always keep your car locked and take out anything visible that may attract thieves: keep your doors and windows locked when away from home and even when asleep: review your landscaping, fencing and lighting at home and how it may encourage or discourage a break in; have keys ready when you go to your car; don't use an ATM at night; don't be out alone, especially at night; be alert to scams and fraud; don't give anyone any personal information over the phone unless you really know who they are; check your credit reports for possible identity theft; shred discarded mail; don't carry your social security card or give it out unless absolutely necessary and carry only one credit card if possible; when a telemarketer calls you don't have to act now, you don't even have to listen - hang up!; if it sounds too good to be true, it is. Those are just some of the tips offered and she is also available for residential inspections to help identify how vulnerable your home may be to break in. Kelly went on to discuss the Citizens Police Academy which is available twice a year. It's a great opportunity to learn about how our police department operates and it also qualifies you to do volunteer work at the department.



Kelly celebrated her 25th year with the police department last year. She likes her job "because I deal directly with the community. I just love reaching out to the community and educating them on how to stay safe and how to create a safe environment for everyone." Kelly has also written a series of newsletters, Kelly's Crime Corner, on crime prevention; these can

be found by clicking the following: <http://www.costamesaca.gov>, "police," "Crime Prevention."

## Dendel Books Available

Many fiction and craft "how to" books, written by Esther Warner Dendel, are available for purchase at the museum. Some are signed by her.

The Costa Mesa Historical Society Museum is located at 1870 Anaheim Avenue in Costa Mesa. Museum hours: 10-3 Thursdays and Fridays and by appointment. Questions? Call 949-631-5918, email us at [cmhistory@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cmhistory@sbcglobal.net) or find us on Facebook.

COSTA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O BOX 1764  
COSTA MESA, CA. 92628  
Phone (949) 631-5918

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**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		
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