

Fairview Register



Monthly Publication of the Costa Mesa Historical Society, a non-profit 501(c)(3)
Member: Conference of California Historical Societies, National Trust for Historic
Preservation & American Association for State and Local History

VOLUME: 165 No. 30 EDITOR: Annette Watson 949-631-5918 DATE: February 2016
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President's Message



Thank you for allowing me to be your president for 2016. My thanks to the Costa Mesa Historical Society Board of Directors and other members for their hard work.

We have an exciting year planned. I have been a resident of Costa Mesa for 76 years. I arrived when I was 10 years old. How old am I? In view of our 50th Anniversary, I have many stories to tell of the old days and I look forward to sharing these with you in the coming months.

At our first Board meeting of the year in January, we have already put together some goals for 2016. It's going to be a good year and a special one. We invite our membership to be part of it, so stay tuned in.

Sincerely, Dave Gardner

(Pictured above from left: Dave Gardner and past president Bob Palazzola at the Society's Annual Installation Dinner.)

50th Anniversary Celebrations

Sunday, May 22nd, 2016
from 1 to 4pm at the Neighborhood Community Center; and,

Sunday August 28th 2016
from 2 to 6pm at the Diego Sepulveda Adobe.



Mark Your 2016 Calendar

*Sunday Speaker Programs

Sunday, February 21st: the presentation will be on the Volunteer Cemetery Angels of Yorba Cemetery where many Rancho Period pioneers are buried. Ann Nepsa and her daughter, Melanie Goss, will describe their experiences from being tour guides at the Yorba Cemetery for the last 15 years. (See enclosed flier for details) **A projector is needed to show a PowerPoint presentation.** Please call the Society at 949-631-5918 if you can bring one. (Also, See New Requirement article on page 2.)

Sunday, March 20th, Speaker: to be announced next month.

Special Events

The 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 **at other times** by calling 949-631-5918. On regular open days, no appointment is necessary because the docents are there already.

**Sunday speaker programs, unless otherwise noted, 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, or find us on Facebook. (See "New Requirement" on page 2)*

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 or find us on Facebook.

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

“New Requirement” *continued*

Now reservations will be needed for attending our popular **Sunday Speaker Programs**. For reasons of safety, we need to limit occupancy in our museum at any one time. So please call the Society anytime at 949-631-5918 and let us know 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.

Costa Mesa Historical Society News Major Events and Accomplishments for 2015

2015 was a very busy year for the Society. It included the following achievements: **Held Flashback Celebration** to kickoff 50th Anniversary of Historical Society; **Outreached** to the public at Fish Fry, Concerts in the Park, and Scarecrow Festival; **Supported Preservation of SAAAB Building and Establishment of Heroes Hall**; **Provided 9,000 Hours of Volunteer Effort** to promote Costa Mesa history; **Authored New Book, *Costa Mesa 1940-2003*** - in production for Spring 2016 release; **Gained New Business Members**; **Provided Monthly Programs and Operated Two Museums** to benefit the community; **Continued** as a leader in **Digitizing** our historical collections; **Produced a Photo Exhibit** that ran at OCC for 6 weeks; and, **Continued Community Partnerships** with City, news media, OCC, and Lions Club.

Goals and Objectives for 2016

As you can see by this list, 2016 will also keep the Society’s members and volunteers busy as well with the following goals and objectives: **Celebrate 50th Anniversary** with Grand Finale at Adobe in August; **Continue Public Outreach and Membership Growth** as a priority; **Introduce and promote sales of New Book: *Costa Mesa 1940-2003***; **Consolidate Storage Areas** in downtown building; **Expand Active Collection** of historical materials; **Introduce major New Exhibit** on boat building in Costa Mesa; **Recruit new Treasurer and Additional Volunteers** for Adobe museum; and, **Establish Credit Card Payment option and Updated Web Site**.

Installation Dinner

The Society’s Annual Installation Dinner was held Jan. 22nd at OCC’s Captain’s Table Restaurant. The enthusiastic group became inspired by the invocation led by John Moorchach, member of the Society and the California State Senate, 37th District, and then enjoyed the very charming installation of



officers and board members ceremony conducted by Hank Panian who demonstrated by a mock tug of war how important it is for everyone to “pull together” in order to continue making progress throughout the year.

Guest speaker Chris Epting began his presentation by acknowledging our Society which he considers “*the gold standard of local historical societies*.” He said he has noticed this throughout his speaking engagements around the area. He said he loves to come and speak to us. Chris is always very entertaining, and this time he focused mainly on his book on the history of Orange



County Fair, which began in 1889 on the corner of Edinger and Bristol and was very much centered around Silkwood and the nearby racetrack. There was no Fair during World War II and when it came back in 1949 it was held at the SAAAB where it doubled its attendance and continues to draw huge crowds every year. Chris sees the Fair as a teaching vehicle with a



small town sensibility. He loves to wander around the Halls that hold the collections and he especially likes to visit Centennial Farm. Chris is a prolific author of books and articles and his side stories

about rock music history in Orange County and Theodore Roosevelt were equally informative and interesting. Chris recently wrote a book, “Teddy Roosevelt in California: The Whistle Stop Tour That Changed America,” which told about a three day camping trip in Yosemite when Roosevelt and John Muir laid the groundwork for our National Park Service. His anecdotes about this President—especially about his adoption of a badger—had everyone at attention.

Special dignitaries, besides John Moorchach, included the following: Representatives Sheri Morrison and Kuz Tsukamoto for Matthew Harper, California State Assemblyman, 74th district; Mary Hornbuckle, Board of Trustees - Orange Coast College, Wendy Leece, former Council Woman -City of Costa Mesa, and Helen Humphreys and Hank Panian - The two remaining founding members of the Costa Mesa Historical Society

The event concluded with humorous remarks by Dave Gardner, our new president, especially as he thanked Bob Palazzola for his dedication and hard work during the last four years as president. (*Side Note: Bob doesn’t get a new car, but he does have everyone’s gratitude; he and his wife Mari have contributed so much of their time and energy for the betterment of the Society...Thank you Bob and Good Luck to you and Mari in your future endeavors.*) (Pictures: Col. 1 from left: Bob Palazzola, Dave Rusher, Dave Gardner, Terry Shaw, Nancy Pedersen, Tess Bernstein, Mary Ellen Goddard, Cindi Humphries Dana Kurzbard-Kelsen and Hank Panian; above clockwise from left: Chris Epting, the audience enjoying the evening; and, Chris Epting, John Moorchach and Hank Panian)

In Memory of Rachel Perez Hamilton

Our “step back in time article this month” was inspired by the life of this extraordinary woman who passed away on Nov. 30th at the age of 78.

Rachel Perez Hamilton was practically a lifelong Costa Mesa resident, moving here from Garden Grove when she was four months old from Garden Grove where her family lived in an adobe house built by her father. She stated in her auto-biographical articles for the Fairview Register that in 1937 her father wanted to move to a



farm in Costa Mesa “so that he could have land to farm and his family would not grow up in a barrio situation.”

From growing up on that farm in Westside Costa Mesa she achieved so much throughout her lifetime and made a big difference in our community. Her mother, who did not speak English, learned about Orange Coast College and encouraged her two daughters to find out more so that they could attend there too. “Somehow her mother knew that this school was important and she wanted her girls to go there so they could have better futures,” said Evelyn (Evie) Taylor Johnson, who grew up with Rachel and has known her since their Kindergarten days.

Rachel’s awards included: The OCC’s Alumni Hall of Fame (this prestigious award includes such notables as T. Jefferson Parker, Randall and Terry McCardle, Mary Hornbuckle, Brad Gates, David Emmes Clive Cussler, Terry Cole-Whittaker, and Dan Quisenberry), the Athletic Hall of Fame Award, and the Coastline College Humanitarian Award. Her civic activities included: Share Our Selves, the Costa Mesa Historical Society, Mika (a community building organization helping impoverished areas of the city) and St. Joachim’s Catholic Church. Her career was based at Orange Coast and Coastline Colleges.

She is survived by Fred, her husband of 56 years, her daughter Kim and husband Steve, son Fred and wife Josie and grandchildren Mason and Cassidy Hawthorne and brothers David and Ruben Perez.

Cindy Humphreys remembers Rachel as a kind, thoughtful and inspiring person; she said “The visitors to the adobe very much enjoyed her tours.” Terry Shaw expressed sadness when he heard about the news, saying, “It was always good talking to her.” Evie Taylor-Johnson said, “Oh how she loved the (Newport Harbor) Class of 56 and the OCC get-togethers; what a beautiful lady she was.” Gladys Refakes said, ‘She was always willing to help with anything that came up. For over a year she helped with getting the newsletter out.’ Kathy Bequette remembered her work with Mika and how she always encouraged youngsters to study hard and go to college and that she established a scholarship for the OCC Foundation in her mother’s and sister’s names. Kathy recalled hearing Rachel discussing her years at Newport Harbor, the only high school available for students in this area at the time. Her anecdote explained how the students wore uniforms every day but Friday. On Fridays they could wear anything they wanted and suitcases would appear in the bathrooms so that the girls could change outfits every period. Jan Rovon said, “I thought she was just wonderful; she was history; it was such a thrill to know someone who had been here for so long.”

For a girl who grew up in a “house on West 17th St. at Monrovia in a Latino barrio known as the “panal” (beehive), with no running water or indoor plumbing,” Rachel must have had her eyes opened wide as she was being introduced to Life with a capital L. And, yet she worked hard and succeeded in spite of her very humble beginnings. An inspiration for sure for all of us. ***(If you go to costamesahistory.org and select newsletters you can find out more about Rachel’s life and early West Side Costa Mesa days in the November and December 2012 newsletters—did you know her father escaped from Pancho Villa and Rachel was born much later and lived to tell about it!)***

Reminders

New Display features Prolific Costa Mesa Author and a Relic from a Favorite Iconic Part of Costa Mesa History. Our latest exhibit combines some selections from Costa Mesa’s prolific writer Nell Marburger’s collection of books, diaries, scrapbooks and other literary works in a display case that was originally in Costa Mesa’s iconic Pink’s Drug Store on Newport Blvd.

Information Please! Nancy Pedersen is currently working on a project about Costa Mesa boat building. If you owned a boat

building business or worked in one, please contact Nancy. She would like to find photos of the businesses as well as of the employees building the boats. She already has found extensive businesses for the following: sail boats, fishing boats, speed boats and war vessels and others; ***however, she needs much more.*** You can call the society at ***949-631-5918***, say your message is for Nancy Pedersen, and leave your phone number--she will promptly return your call.



Limited Edition Bookmarks: Special limited edition bookmarks have been made to commemorate our Society’s 50th Anniversary. They are priced at \$2 apiece. No more bookmarks will be made once these are sold out...so don’t miss out on this keepsake memorabilia on our 50th Anniversary celebratory year.

Marc and Denise Dionio
Independent Owners/Operators
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Thank You, Copy4Less

Our newsletter printer, Copy4Less at 4360 Campus Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660 near the John Wayne Airport, is discounting our printing costs throughout our 50th Anniversary Year. Their phone number is (949)252-8960. Thank you so much for this; we appreciate this very much, Copy4Less.

In Search of More Sponsors

Our Society is looking for sponsors to help us create our very special events throughout the year. If you or a business you know would like to help us with donations and discounts, please let us know. As a non-profit our budget is very limited so additional financial assistance will be greatly appreciated.

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 below***); Attention: Susan Weeks. Or drop by in person on a Thursday or a Friday from 10am to 3pm. ***Changes to Annual Membership Dues: As of January 1st, membership fees will be changed as indicated in Membership Information Box on page 4.***

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— Membership Form —

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Membership Categories

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

Make your checks payable to the Costa Mesa Historical Society.
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