

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: 164 No. 28 EDITOR: Annette Watson 949-631-5918 DATE: August 2016
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President's Message

by Dave Gardner

Note: This is our "Step Back in Time" article for this month.

I mentioned in my last article that I would describe the forming of the Costa Mesa Police Department and the small part I played in its formation. The city became incorporated on June 29, 1953. The first city hall was at 111 East 20th Street. The building was a vacant auto accessory and appliance store. The Police Department took up about 20% of the space. On October 1, 1953 Arthur R. McKenzie, a medically retired police sergeant from the Los Angeles Police Department, was hired. The first of three officers hired was Lee Laster because of his prior experience as a lieutenant with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department. Lee and I rode together on many occasions. Dave Gregg was from the Maywood Police Department and Roger Neth was from the Newport Beach Police Department. (Roger went on to be the city's second Police Chief). Roger and I were in school together.

I do not remember when, but Chief McKenzie contacted me by phone. We had never met in person. He had heard about me and asked if I would be interested in helping him in creating the Police Reserves. I replied that I would be honored and we met shortly afterwards. As I remember, there was an article in the newspaper seeking reserve officers. The initial department consisted of one Police Chief, three regular officers and six reserve officers. The reserves later grew to about 12. The department had two police cars. One for the Chief and one patrol car. However, soon after, we got a third car which was a tan color. I liked to drive that one because it did not look like a police car. When the department first started, the officers were on duty from 8:00 am to Midnight. The Orange County Sheriff's office was in charge from midnight to 8:00 am.

Going back to the reserves, I lived less than a block from the City Hall and I would work two or three times a week. (I received no pay). I had the privilege of being the first President of the Reserves, plus had the honor of having Badge #101, which was the lowest badge number in the Reserves. There was a small building in back of the Police Department where the Reserves met once a month. As time went on and the department expanded, some of the Reserves became regular officers. I made a lot of friends in the Police Department. I run into Roger Neth on occasion, and others, but unfortunately the ranks are thinning.

Once in a while someone (see "President's Message" on page 2)

Mark Your 2016 Calendar

Sunday Speaker Programs

There will be no Sunday Speaker Program in August. The next Sunday Speaker Program will take place on September 18th.

Special Events

Sunday August 28th 2016 from 1 to 4pm the Third

50th Anniversary Celebration
Event will take place at the Diego Sepulveda Adobe, at Estancia Park, on the corner of Adams and Mesa Verde Drive West. This milestone celebration will feature **Early**

California Days, a much loved Costa Mesa tradition. This is a **free family event**: Fun and Activities for people of all ages; Tours of the Adobe; and, **food will be available for purchase**. See more details on enclosed flier. **Please Save the Date!**

Our latest book "Costa Mesa 1940—2003" arrived July 6th and is currently on sale for \$21.99 + Tax. There are many historical images and some took key permissions to use, for example, (see "New Book" on page 3)

Oct. 15 & 16, 2016, 10am—3pm, The Scarecrow & Pumpkin Festival will take place at Fairview Park at Goat Hill Junction on Placentia Ave. between Adams and Wilson. **Again Please Save the Date!** (See details on page 3.)

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.

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

“President’s Message” *continued...*

will ask me if I ever arrested anyone. The answer is yes. I assisted in the arrest in regards to a domestic situation. The Chief did not want us to get too involved so that we would not have to go to court. One time I was coming back from Newport Beach, about 10:30 at night, and a lady was on a side road heading toward Pacific Coast Highway. She was driving erratically and I got her to stop. I took her car keys, went to the corner and called the Newport Police. They told me since I arrested her, I had to go to the station and make the report. I did my civic duty. I was a Police Officer, both in the Sheriff’s Department and the Costa Mesa Police Department as a Reserve Officer with full police powers for a total of 11 years. I have many memories and my next month’s article will be about my experiences as an ambulance driver.

Costa Mesa Historical Society News

Students’ Achievements Inspire



At Orange Coast College’s 2016 Honors Night, held on May 11th, the theme super heroes was cleverly carried out everywhere: ice sculptures, college district board members donning capes, and it seemed like we were protected everywhere we looked “they had our backs”...Super Man, Wonder



Woman, and Spiderman. However, once the program began the real super heroes of the night came forth as they received over \$400,000 worth of scholarships. These young people have served their school community as well as performed high achievements academically. The Costa Mesa Historical Society contributed \$750 to Kyle Don Lawson with “The Henry ‘Hank’ Panian and Helen Humphreys Scholarship”.



Kyle will attend the Denver Metro State Campus of the University of Denver; he will be playing basketball and majoring in history and sports industry operations with plans of going into teaching and coaching. OCC’s Culinary Program provided the light refreshments for the reception and, as always, the food was delicious and exceptionally displayed. (*Note: this scholarship is given, in alternate years, to a student majoring in Aviation (odd years) and a student majoring in History (even years).*) (*Pictures: Kyle Don Lawson and Dave Gardner; our own Super Man; a Swan cream puff!*)

The Real Ulysses S. Grant!



At our June Sunday Speaker Program Craig MacDonald dispelled myths and revealed many little known facts about Ulysses S. Grant, who became our 18th president when Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. We learned so much about Grant. As a young man he was clean-shaven and very handsome. He was an excellent horseman and set jumping records. He loved math. He was an excellent marksman and a fearless fighter. He married his wife Julia in 1848 and he was a faithful, loving husband. For

much of his life he was very poor until he published his highly acclaimed autobiography which was published by Mark Twain; this finally provided financial stability for his family. He was kind to the enemy as well as respectful to the Chinese and created a very fair



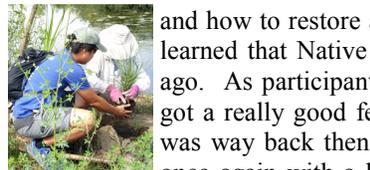
peace policy with the Indians. He achieved a reputation for being a very compassionate man who was loved all over the world. Lincoln trusted him but had others keep an eye on him because of Grant’s reputation for drinking; those that watched over Grant for this reason never found him a drunkard like many stories rumored him to be. Grant wanted the Confederate soldiers to be treated fairly; he even gave them their horses back and he was never happy to win because many of the “losers” had been his friends. “When seven hundred thousand slaves voted for the first time, they voted for Grant,” Craig said. Mark Twain praised Grant as the greatest man he ever met. Craig said that this book on Grant was very difficult to write because of all the corre-

spondence he had to investigate especially trying to find out Grant’s drinking habits. Craig said he couldn’t find a lot of evidence of alcoholism connected with Grant. (*Pictures for this article: Craig MacDonald, our June audience Ruth Levin and Richard Duree chat with Mary Ellen Goddard; Jerry Person, Terry Shaw and Chris MacDonald; Craig autographs a copy of his book for Ruth Levin.*)

City Sponsors Ecology Program



During the four Saturdays in June the City of Costa Mesa provided an ecology program regarding Fairview Park. Participants gained thorough knowledge about the habitat and how non-native plants and creatures are destroying the area’s once pristine site. Participants were taught how to collect seeds for future plantings



and how to restore areas with native plants. They also learned that Native Americans lived there a long time ago. As participants joined the various activities they got a really good feeling about how beautiful the area was way back then and how incredible it can become once again with a lot of hard work. The Institute for Conservation, Restoration and Education (ICRE) provided a very knowledgeable teacher and student volunteers to help with the program. Fairview Park has 208 acres with a high biological diversity; it is considered a bio-diversity hot spot. There is also a 40 acre riparian wetland within the Park. The I.C.R.E. analyzes geographic areas and then plans restoration projects with the plants so that the restored habitat will attract native creatures that originally lived there. Fairview Park has nice paths so that the habitat around the paths won’t be disturbed; it is important to stay on the paths so that the nesting and burrowing areas won’t be destroyed. There are vernal pools and six ponds. Wherever you see little red flags new plantings are taking root. The next program will take place on Saturdays in October. Call 714-754-5300 regarding enrollment in this free Fairview Environmental Workshop by the Costa Mesa Recreation Division.

In Memoriam

“It has come to our attention that long-time Costa Mesan Joan Pangle died July 7, 2016 at 87years of age. She was the widow of Bill Pangle, whose parents came to Costa Mesa in 1920.” Our (*See “In Memoriam” on page 3*)

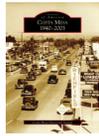
“In Memoriam” continued...

condolences go out to Joan’s family members and friends. A memorial article will appear in next month’s newsletter.

Editor’s Note: *We would like to thank Ruth Levin for her personal recollection sparked by the Route 66 presentation in March. We would like others to send in stories too especially as they relate to our programs or to Costa Mesa.*

Reminders

New Book continued...



the Old Courthouse Museum, OC Archives, UCI Special Collections and LAB/Camp anti-mall. The Society is open Thursdays and Fridays from 10am to 3pm. You also can call **949-631-5918** to reserve your copy before we run out.

HELP! HELP! HELP!

We always need help at the Museum. However, with our next big event coming this month we will need extra help. Please consider joining our August 28th team of volunteers as they get ready for the final event of the Society’s 50th Anniversary Celebratory Year.

Clean Up Party at the Adobe on Saturday, August 13th from 10am to 1:30pm to get ready for our third event on the 28th. We will be cleaning from 10am to 12pm, taking a short break from 12 to 12:30pm—you can bring a snack to enjoy if you want; and then we will be conducting a walk-through from 12:30 to 1:30pm to make sure that all plans will work out perfectly for our last event.

Helping the day of the event on Sunday August 28th at the Diego Sepulveda Adobe from 11am to 5pm. Here is the volunteer schedule for that day: 11am -1pm is Set Up; 1-4pm is the length of time of the event; and, 4-5pm is Take Down. Please call at **949-631-5918** and leave your name and number and we will sign you up for a shift.

Canvassing your neighborhood handing out fliers to promote our 3rd event on the 28th. Or, **posting our promotional fliers** in your businesses or friends’ businesses, your clubhouses, or your complex’s laundry rooms.

General Volunteer Tasks at the Museum: an opportunity for anyone who wants to help out, but especially for high school students who need community service hours and college students that want to volunteer. There are a variety of tasks that need to be done and will introduce volunteers to what it takes to run a historical organization.

Please call 949-631-5918 or email us at cmhistory@sbcglobal.net and leave a message with your name and phone number regarding which volunteer position (described above) you are interested in and someone will call or email you back.

Something to Check Out: A special **Newport Beach Historical Society Exhibit Room** has been opened at the Balboa Peninsula Branch Library. It is very interesting and informative.

The Scarecrow & Pumpkin Festival is a free community event providing fun and the following free activities for the whole family: train rides, face painting and racketeers. To enter the scarecrow contest costs \$10 and there are minimal fees for pumpkin picking, fire truck rides and food and treats. The Orange County Model

Engineers organize this event and the 2016 Supporters include the City of Costa Mesa and the Costa Mesa Historical Society.



Take a Piece of Costa Mesa with you wherever you go or **Give a Piece of Costa Mesa to friends and family members:** now you can buy one (or more) of our **Limited Edition Pens** which are available in our gift shop for **\$2 + Tax**.



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

Information Please! *Nancy Pedersen is currently working on a project about Costa Mesa boat building.* She would like to find photos of the businesses as well as of the employees building the boats. You can call the society at **949-631-5918** and say your message is for Nancy Pedersen, and leave your phone number--she will promptly return your call.

We Need Daily Pilots

If any of you are sitting on **old issues of the Daily Pilot from 1961 through 1994**, please let us know. We will be digitizing our run of old newspapers to save storage space and it would be best to have these missing issues before we begin the project. Come in, email to cmhistory@sbcglobal.net or call us to leave a message at 949-631-5918. Thanks!

Let’s Help Richard Out

Long time and life time Society member Richard Bagley needs some help. You can find out more about this by checking the following link: <https://rescuedfromrecycling.com/>

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Thank You, Copy4LessNB

Our newsletter printer, Copy4LessNB 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 really appreciate it, Copy4LessNB.

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.

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— Membership Form —

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Renewal

New Member

Membership Categories

Annual		Special	
Individual	\$ 20.00	Historical Society Life Member	\$ 500.00
Individual Senior (60+)	\$ 15.00	SAAAB Wing Annual Member	\$ 10.00
Family	\$ 25.00		
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Contributing	\$ 50.00		
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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.