

# 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



VOL. 48 NO. 2 • FEBRUARY 2018

Phone: 949-631-5918 Mail: P.O. Box 1764, Costa Mesa, CA 92628 Web: [costamesahistory.org](http://costamesahistory.org) Email: [cmhistory@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cmhistory@sbcglobal.net)



## Costa Mesa Sanitary District Commends Historical Society

Dennis Holland, Jr sits in his 1909 Buick beside the pump station at 2449 Santa Ana Avenue. In 1913, the auto was entered in the Cactus Derby race, driven by the Ellis brothers.

The Costa Mesa Sanitary District (CMSD) recently commended the historical society for 50+ years of preserving and promoting local history. At their December 12, 2017 board meeting, the CMSD



Mike Scheafer presents the proclamation to Art and Mary Ellen Goddard.

Directors presented a proclamation to historical society representatives Art and Mary Ellen Goddard. In part, the proclamation noted the society's years of voluntary community service, our museums and research capabilities, and our partnership with the Sanitary District for wrapping the District's utility boxes with historical images. Thank you, Costa Mesa Sanitary District!

You can see the Pump Station historical images at: [cmsd-ca.gov/index.php/wastewater/pump-station-art-history](http://cmsd-ca.gov/index.php/wastewater/pump-station-art-history)

## Bring a Friend February 18, 2018, 1-4 p.m.

Join the Costa Mesa Historical Society February 18<sup>th</sup> for its second annual **Bring a Friend** event. This free event is being held at the Costa Mesa Historical building at **1870 Anaheim Avenue, Costa Mesa** in Lions Park near the Donald Dungan Library. Last year's offering was well-received and considered a great success. On sale will be rare local history books and other printed materials, framed historical pictures, vintage clothing, and dozens of picture frames of all sizes – including panoramic sizes, most with glass. Locals will love the large collection of yearbooks from the **Newport-Mesa intermediate and senior high schools** and **Orange Coast College**.

Everyone is welcome to browse and will surely find books and other items of interest at prices from 50 cents to \$75.

At the same time, you will be able to present and record stories about Costa Mesa's unique past. Seating will be provided to those who wish to listen to these interesting tales. As always, everyone is invited to browse the museum, relax, and have refreshments.

There is free parking next to the historical society building. For more information, email [cmhistory@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cmhistory@sbcglobal.net) or call 949-631-5918.

Promoting and preserving Costa Mesa's history is our mission

FAIRVIEW REGISTER, FAIRVIEW, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, MARCH 2, 1889

# BRANCHING OUT:

## A TIMELINE OF THE MESA VERDE LIBRARY

**1950s.** After a series of annexations and subdivisions, the north side of Costa Mesa grows rapidly.

**1960.** The city purchases a 1.35-acre lot on the corner of Mesa Verde Dr. and Baker from developer Walter Gayner for the express purpose of building a library. The location is chosen for its proximity to schools and 10,000 homes.

The Friends of the Costa Mesa Libraries forms. Volunteer groups like the Friends and Mesa Verde Home Owners are vocal advocates for the new branch.

**1961–early 1962.** The city and county deadlock over funding. The city considers establishing its own library system, following the example of Newport and Huntington Beach, but ultimately rejects the “library business.”

**February 1962.** In a meeting with MVHO, OC Supervisor and library committeeman Cy M. Featherly tells Mesa Verde residents their library must wait until after the needs of other communities are met. He also claims the county’s library district is already spending more money in Costa Mesa than taxes warrant.

**March 19, 1962.** Thomas Thompson, president of MVHO, presents a compromise plan to the city council. Under this plan, the city would pay to construct the building while the county would lease it back, stock it, and staff it. The city council approves the plan.

Featherly also likes the plan, saying cities should shoulder library costs “wherever possible.” He warns, however, the city may have to pay higher operating costs than before.

**Summer 1963.** It is announced the library will be built within 3-4 months for \$78,000. “Complications arise” with the county and ground is never broken.

**July 6, 1964.** The city council unanimously approves architectural plans for a 6,500-sq. ft. library and a 250-seat auditorium. Building both at once is estimat-

ed to save \$1 per square foot. The architects estimate the cost at \$169,500.

**September 29, 1964.** The county finally agrees to lease the library for \$738 per month.

**December 1964.** A “lengthy pause without comment” fills the chambers when the city council learns the lowest construction bid is 25% over the initial estimate. The council quickly eliminates the auditorium along with \$27,000 worth of “frills”.



The original full-moon circulation desk. Photo courtesy OC Public Libraries.

**February 9, 1965.** Ground is broken for the library in a ceremony attended by city and county officials. The building is projected to be finished by September, but construction delays ensue.

**November 20, 1965 — Opening Day.** A dedicatory luncheon organized by the Friends and the OC Book Club is held at the Mesa Verde Country Club. *LA Times* literary editor and columnist Robert Kirsch is guest speaker.

A formal ceremony is held at 2:30 pm. Robert Wilson, mayor of Costa Mesa, calls the library a “milestone in the city’s effort to provide worthwhile public facilities. It is the first one the city has constructed, but I assure you there will be more.” An optimistic Featherly predicts a third library will be built at the Costa Mesa Civic Center. “It is not definite yet, but it probably will happen,” he says.

Thompson, now a city councilman, delivers the keynote address. He reflects

on the 5 years it took to build the library and declares it “well worth the effort.”

Alvin Pinkley presents the library with an American flag that had flown over the US Capitol. 83-year-old Richard W. Katerndahl, a former lieutenant governor of Idaho, receives the first library card. MVHO and the Bridgettes present \$400 in checks to the Friends for the purchase of more books. At opening, the library carries around 12,000 volumes, roughly half of which are children’s books. Esther Branch serves as the first librarian.

Following the ceremony, the library begins a long tradition of art exhibits with a tour of 40 serigraphs by pop artist, nun, and social activist Sister Mary Corita.

**December 1965.** The library begins its preschoolers’ story hour with readings from Dr. Seuss’ *Green Eggs and Ham* and Sesyle Joslin’s *What Do You Say, Dear?*

**1966-1970.** The library becomes a community gathering place. Programs include social coffee days for “listening, questioning, and sounding off,” a Bruce McIntyre closed-circuit TV art course, and great books discussions for adults and teenagers. In 1967, a 4-meeting course “designed for women who hate to keep house and want to find faster, easier ways to do it” draws hundreds of attendees.

The library earns attention for its rotating exhibits, many of which are drawn from members of the Costa Mesa Art League (now OC Fine Arts). The works display a wide variety of media and styles, ranging from landscapes, seascapes, and abstracts in oil to mosaics, collages, stitchery-weaving, and even bread sculpture. Other popular exhibits include collections of flags, Mesa Verde resident Richard Bale’s handmade model trains, and 100 Hopi kachina dolls.

Summer reading programs draw hundreds of participants each year, enrolling 600 children in 1967 alone. ■

## "BOLD ARCHITECTURAL BEAUTY"



The Mesa Verde Library was designed by architects Schwager, Desatoff & Henderson, the firm responsible for the Costa Mesa Civic Center, the former Edwards Theater on Adams, and Fire Station #4 on Placentia.

"Modern" was the most common way to describe the branch on opening day. Commentators praised the "lofted solar reading room," the four patios, the dumb waiter, and, surprisingly, the fact it was carpeted. While some things have changed — the full-moon circulation desk has disappeared and the patios are more or less inaccessible — the basic structure remains intact. Even the dumb waiter still works!

A 1972 pamphlet states, "The bold architectural beauty of the Mesa Verde building is still noted by new residents in the community." Indeed, from its distinctive folded-plate roof to its elegant low-slung base and geometric colonnades, the mid-century modern library still feels fresh after 52 years. The open tri-level interior is brightened by dozens of windows which bring the "park-like setting" in and lend what the pamphlet describes as "an air of cheerfulness and friendliness to all who enter its doors."

The next time you're on the north side, take a trip to the recently remodeled Mesa Verde Library and check out one of Costa Mesa's unsung gems. ■

### Visit Us

#### Diego Sepulveda Adobe

1900 Adams Ave. • Open 12-4 p.m. the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month or by appointment.  
Costa Mesa's oldest building presents 200 years of OC history from its beautiful setting in Estancia Park, overlooking the Santa Ana River bed.

#### Costa Mesa Historical Society Museum

1870 Anaheim Ave. • Open 10am-3pm Thursdays and Fridays or by appointment.

The museum and society headquarters displays a mind-boggling array of artifacts from nearly 5,000 years of Costa Mesa history – from the first peoples to the City of the Arts.

### Share Your Story

History is made by people like you. We'd love to hear your Costa Mesa stories. Many changes have taken place and we want to hear from those who lived through them. Write the memories yourself or come to the museum and we'll transcribe them for you. It's that simple!

### Thank You, Copy 4 Less NB

Our printer discounts our costs throughout the year. Thank you so much for this, **Copy 4 Less NB** – we really appreciate it! Visit Copy 4 Less at 4360 Campus Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660 near the John Wayne Airport or call (949) 252-8960.

### Shop with us on Amazon

Every time you start your order with Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate to the Costa Mesa Historical Society. Visit [smileamazon.com](http://smileamazon.com) before making your next purchase, being sure to check "charitable organization" and selecting the Costa Mesa Historical Society when prompted. You can use your existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile.

### Support us – Donate!

Please consider making a donation to the Costa Mesa Historical Society. Either call 949-631-5918 during museum hours or send a check, c/o Susan Weeks, Treasurer, to PO Box 1764, Costa Mesa, CA 92628. PayPal users can also donate online at [www.paypal.me/costamesahistory](http://www.paypal.me/costamesahistory). The Costa Mesa Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) organization. **All donations are fully tax deductible.**

### Dues Overdue?

Your dues provide **essential support** for the society's major programs and projects. Make sure you're up to date by looking at your **dues expiration date** on the address label to the right of your name. If your dues are due, send us a check, c/o Susan Weeks, Treasurer. Or drop it off on a Thursday or Friday from 10am to 3pm. Membership dues are listed on the back page.

### Make a Difference – Volunteer

Help the society meet essential needs while meeting others who share your love of Costa Mesa history. We're looking for a volunteer to **set up refreshments** at our monthly programs as well as members to sit on two new committees: the **Newsletter Assembly Committee** prepares the newsletter for mailing, while the **Adobe Committee** recruits volunteers to plan an event, become a docent, or work on exhibits. Committees meet monthly and are chaired by board members. Interested? Call us at 949-631-5918. Isn't it more fun to work as a team?

### Temporary Parking Instructions

For the next year and a half, please enter the parking lot serving our society, the Donald Dungan Library and the Recreation Center by entering from Anaheim only, not Park. The Park entrance is completely blocked off.

## ROBERTO'S AUTO TRIM

In Costa Mesa Since 1964

Raul Jara

[ralndb@earthlink.net](mailto:ralndb@earthlink.net)

2033 Harbor Blvd. Costa Mesa, CA 92627

949.642.8113

Fax 949.642.7150

Alan Kumura

Independent Owner/Operator

Grocery Outlet • Bargain Market

## COSTA MESA GROCERY OUTLET

1835 Newport Blvd, #C140 Costa Mesa, CA 92627 (949)

642-5800 Office • (949) 642-5803 Fax

[costamesa@groceryoutlet.com](mailto:costamesa@groceryoutlet.com) • [groceryoutlet.com](http://groceryoutlet.com)

[facebook.com/CostaMesaGroceryOutlet](https://www.facebook.com/CostaMesaGroceryOutlet)

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

NON PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SANTA ANA,CA  
PERMIT NO. 4352

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

**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	\$ 20.00	Historical Society Life Member	\$ 500.00
Individual Senior (60+)	\$ 15.00	SAAAB Wing Annual Member	\$ 10.00
Family	\$ 25.00		
Student (under 16)	\$ 10.00		
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.