

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,
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Historical Society Holds Installation Dinner



Installed Board Members, left to right: Estelle Hughes, Secretary; Susan Weeks, Treasurer; Terry Shaw, VP Programs; Dave Gardner, President; Bob Palazzola, Director; Tess Bernstein, VP Membership; Mary Ellen Goddard, Director; Cindy Humphreys, Director; Dave Rusher, Director

Your historical society held its annual Installation Dinner on January 26. Attended by nearly sixty society members and friends, the evening event was held at a new venue — the famous Newport Rib Company. After President Dave Gardner's welcome, attendees enjoyed a buffet dinner which included BBQ tri-tip and chicken. Following the meal, speaker David Whiting took the audience on a "Race for the Wall," a heart-warming tour of Vietnam vets riding motorcycles from Rancho Cucamonga, California, through America's heartland, and on to the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Washington, DC. According to Whiting, a columnist for the *OC Register*, riding with the vets was "the best thing I've ever done."

The final order of business was the installation of society officers and board members for the 2018 term. Experienced "installer" and former mayor Mary Hornbuckle conducted the ceremony with



Speaker Dave Whiting captivates the audience

warmth and wit. Not leaving anything to chance, Hornbuckle also "installed" the audience to support the officers and board members throughout their 2018 terms.

After the installation, President Dave Gardner closed the meeting with his humorous monologue honed through decades of experience with Toastmasters International. — **ART GODDARD**

Sunday Speaker Program

March 18, 2018

Pulitzer Prize nominee Craig MacDonald will tell the amazing story of "Charley," the person he wrote about 45 years ago in the first nationally-published book on this incredible California stagecoach driver. It's a sensational, true story he pieced together. The historian lived on Charley's stage route and his father taught English near where Charley is buried today. He also will reveal new information about this largely unknown character. This is a talk you don't want to miss! See flier for more details.



Entrance Gate Change

The Anaheim entrance to the Costa Mesa Historical Society Museum will be closed due to construction. Please use the entrance on Park Avenue.

This change will remain in effect for about 8 weeks.

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Promoting and preserving Costa Mesa's history is our mission

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



1918-9 Flu Hits Southland, Patient Hits Bottle

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the 1918 influenza, one of the worst pandemics in history, which claimed the lives of up to 100 million people and infected 500 million worldwide. About 300 died out of Orange County's population of 30,000. While the mortality rate here was lower than elsewhere, the demand for nurses still outstripped the supply, leading the chairman of the Santa Ana Red Cross to plead for volunteers to "meet the call of humanity" and tend to the sick. Alice King (later Eastman), a young philanthropist from Costa Mesa, answered the call. But it didn't turn out the way she expected. Decades later, she told the story to our own Mary Ellen Goddard:

In 1919 I went in to sign up for – they were short of nurses at the Santa Ana hospital – I went in and signed that I would come the next day and help out as an aid. And guess what happened. That night I wakened my mother with a violent headache and I couldn't swallow. I had the flu and I had double pneumonia to boot. Dr. Block wanted to give me whiskey and my mother said, "No, we don't believe in these things and I would rather she would die than become an alcoholic."

Dr. Block could see that I was going to die if she didn't do something. So she gave Mama a prescription and said give me two tablespoons of that and two tablespoons of hot water with a teaspoon full of sugar every two hours. Well, Mama did and I quit vomiting and I quit coughing and I just got almost immediately better.

And Mama was real provoked and she said, "Doctor, what do you mean? Why didn't you give this to her before?" And she said, "You wouldn't let me. You go down to the liquor store and buy a bottle of whiskey and you will have the same thing and it won't cost you as much as a prescription did." So then the Blocks, because I had done their laundry all the time, Dr. Ray said I must have wine as a body builder. And after the whiskey had helped me so much, Mama let me have the wine. And they furnished it all to me. They made their own wine, white wine. And she furnished all that I needed, because my folks couldn't afford it. My father at the time was making \$50 a month. ■



New Exhibit Explores Costa Mesa Boatbuilding

Although boatbuilding has played a critical part in Costa Mesa's economic history, it's a chapter that's largely been overlooked.

"I find it hard to believe that my husband and I are old enough to have lived through one of the largest industries in Costa Mesa only to have it disappear."

So says Nancy Pedersen, the curator of "The Hull Story," a new exhibit at the Costa Mesa Historical Society Museum, which Nancy hopes will bring renewed attention to this forgotten story.

Visitors can learn about World War II's impact on the industry, the technological innovations that popularized the pastime, the unique vessels of the harbor's vibrant characters, and the manufacturing — right here in Costa Mesa — of some of Disneyland's most iconic crafts.

The exhibit holds a personal connection for Pedersen, whose love of boating dates back to the earliest days of her marriage. Her husband, Dave, a third-generation local, has always been obsessed with boats. As a child he rode his stingray all over town, peeking through the fences of boatyards to see what was going on. After he and Nancy married, Dave convinced the Noreks, makers of Crystaliner boats, to sell him one of their search and rescue hulls.

"The rest is 'history' and we've been a

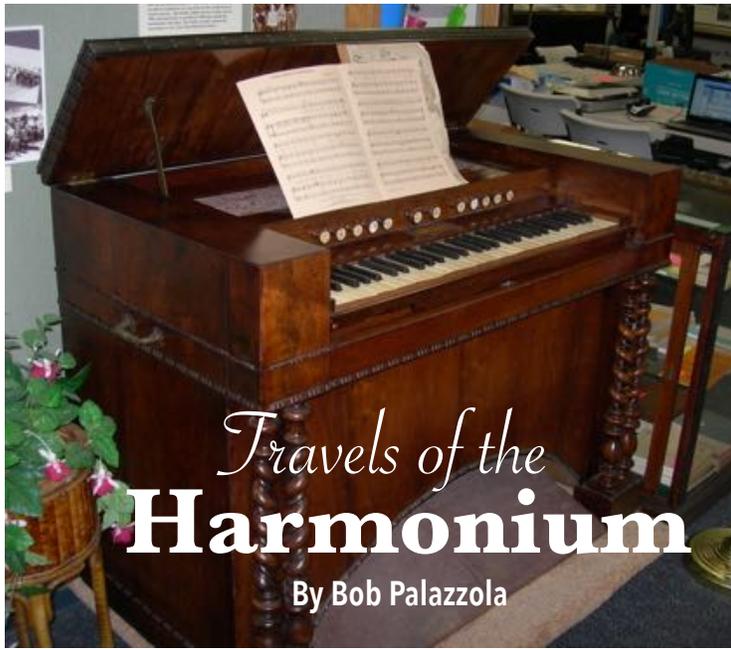


boating family ever since," Nancy says.

Although the exhibit is open now, there's still more work to be done. "This will be an ongoing project," Nancy says, "and we hope that visitors will add to our knowledge and share their part in the industry that first put Costa Mesa on the map."

Whether you're a boater, a Disney fan, or a lover of history, you will find something interesting at this unique exhibit.

"The Hull Story" is now on view at the Costa Mesa Historical Society Museum, 1870 Anaheim Ave., 10am-3pm Thursdays and Fridays or by appointment. ■



Travels of the Harmonium

By Bob Palazzola

is now the northwestern part of Costa Mesa. The harmonium traveled to California on a ship via Cape Horn at the southern tip of South America. The Stanleys moved to Santa Ana in 1901 and much later to Northern California, taking the harmonium with them.

Let us now fast forward 110 years. One of our research and cataloging volunteers is Dave Rusher. His

Those of you who have visited our museum may have seen our harmonium reed organ. However, of those who have seen it, only a percentage have read the story posted above it explaining how we obtained it. Even if you did read it, there is still part of the story you haven't heard.

The harmonium was built in the mid 1800s in Paris, France. It was purchased by the Stanley family of Worcestershire, England. In 1889, the Stanley family moved to the town of Fairview, in what

wife Louise just happens to be a cousin of the Stanleys. It was through that connection that the Stanley family decided to donate the Harmonium to the Historical Society.

Arrangements were made to have the harmonium transported the 440 miles via a trucking company from Fiddletown to Costa Mesa. In September of 2010, the harmonium was finally back in Costa Mesa after some 120 years.

So come down and see a really old piece of Costa Mesa History. ■

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Every time you start your order with Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate to the Costa Mesa Historical Society. Visit 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. 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 two months, please enter the parking lot serving our society, the Donald Dungan Library and the Recreation Center by entering from Park Avenue only, not Anaheim. The Anaheim entrance is completely blocked off.

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!

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— *Membership Form* —

Name: _____ Address: _____

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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 | | |
| 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.