

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



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New Fire Station to Exhibit Historical Society Artifacts

Costa Mesa's newest fire station, the Royal Palm station, will be dedicated Saturday, September 29 at 10 a.m. This modern facility will serve the Mesa Verde area with the finest in first-responder equipment, training, and personnel. Working with Captains Rob Gagne and Fred McDowell, the Society has loaned a fireman's turnout coat and helmet to be placed on display in the station's lobby. Opposite the display case is a wall-sized enlargement of a historical photo of the original Royal Palm Station, designed by former Costa Mesa Mayor Willard T. Jordan.

The turnout coat was rescued from the Baker Street station by — you guessed it — Captain Gagne back in 1994. Now, 24 years later, the Society is pleased to loan the coat back to the Fire Department for display. The lobby will be open to the public during regular business hours unless all FD staff is out on calls.



TOP: Fire Station #1, the Royal Palm Station will be dedicated Saturday, September 29 at 10 a.m.

MIDDLE: Fireman's turnout coat dating from the era of Costa Mesa's Volunteer Fire Department.

BOTTOM: This fireman's helmet belonged to Tom Hamilton.

SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES

Tony Burica's Five Year Quest for Freedom • 2 p.m. Sunday, October 21

Join us as Tony Burica, owner of Tony's Boat Shop in Costa Mesa, shares dramatic tales from his new book *Seeking Freedom: A Five Year Odyssey*. Burica was born in Croatia but fled the communist regime of Marshal Tito as a young man. The escape was just the start of a harrowing five-year journey that spanned three continents and countless tribulations, including refugee camps, jail, and life-threatening storms. Yet, traveling mostly by small boat or on foot, Burica eventually found freedom and success in America. Come to the talk to learn how!

Artistic License Fair

The Artistic License Fair returns to Estancia Park Friday, October 26 and Saturday, October 27 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Browse fine crafts from 50 artisans based in Orange, Los Angeles, and Riverside counties. Now in its 25th year, the annual event began as the Denwar Crafts Fair over fifty years ago. The Diego Sepulveda Adobe will be open for visitors on both days. For more information, go to artisticlicensefair.com.

Archive Seminar Schedule

Mary Ellen Goddard will offer free one-hour seminars on archival practice to society volunteers each Friday from September 28-October 19th at 10:30 a.m.:

- Session 1:** What is the Costa Mesa Historical Society and what do we do? What is our collection policy?
- Session 2:** Registering, accessioning, cataloging, and "boxing".
- Session 3:** What is in our collections? Helping our research customers. Ethics and collection security.
- Session 4:** Exhibits, from idea through installation, publicity and upkeep and de-installation.

New Society Website Is Live!

The Historical Society has a new website! The secure, mobile-friendly site features a fresh look and feel, a blog, email subscriptions, a gift shop, and more. Best of all, **you can now renew your membership online** with a credit card! Visit us online at costamesahistory.org.

Promoting and preserving Costa Mesa's history is our mission

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

The Costa Mesa Songbook

Did you know that over two dozen songs have name-dropped Costa Mesa? Over ten of them have appeared in the past five years alone. And in a variety of genres, too: rock, reggae, alternative, Christian, electronica. You name it. Everyone loves to sing about our town.

We've selected a few notable tracks below. If you'd like to hear them or purchase sheet music, come in to the Historical Society Museum, or visit us online at costamesahistory.org/songbook. Let us know if there's anything we missed!

Costa Mesa Plateau • June Hoadley • 1963

In 1963 the Chamber of Commerce sponsored a songwriting contest to celebrate the city's 10th anniversary. June Hoadley won with "Costa Mesa Plateau." The stirring anthem was the first composition of the magazine writer and mother of four. "It was a good song," remembered Barbara Whitacre, co-founder of the Harborlites, the choral group who performed the song. "The gals enjoyed doing it."

77 Fair Drive • Vina Harmer • 1966?

This ultra-rare homage to city hall was composed by local lounge legend Vina Harmer. You'll want to snap along to this luscious multi-movement piano piece. Sadly, it's out of print. Feel free to come down to the museum for a listen.

Costa Mesa California • Jerry Hall • 1969

The Chamber chose this as its new theme song in 1972. The dozen verses by tire dealer Jerry Hall praise the weather, the Chamber of Commerce, the police, and Firestone tires, and even take the time to ponder the height of miniskirts.

Urban Struggle • The Vandals • 1982

Costa Mesa has been featured in punk music since the early 1980s. In fact, one could argue the most popular song about Costa Mesa is The Vandals' "Urban Struggle". This NSFW punk standard pokes fun at the conflict between patrons of the Cuckoo's Nest and Zubies, two rival clubs that used to sit next to each other on Placentia Avenue. The track has over 1.5 million views on YouTube.

Costa Mesa • Nelson Riddle • 1983

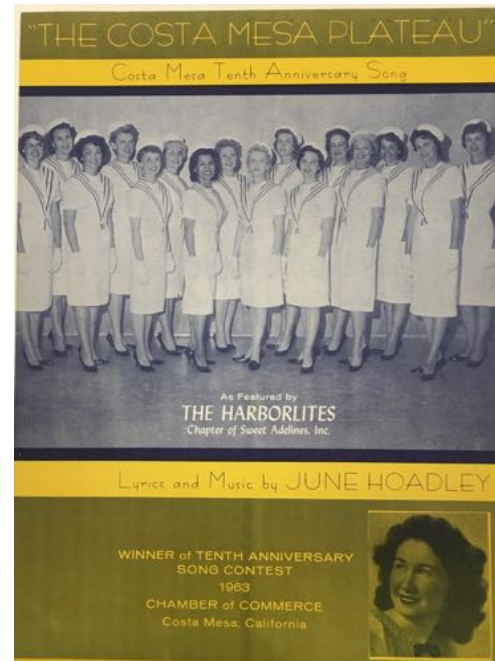
Riddle became famous in the 1950s after arranging many of Frank Sinatra's greatest hits. Late in life his career got a second wind thanks to a trio of platinum albums he recorded with Linda Rondstadt. He wrote this breezy jazz tune circa 1983 when the pair appeared together at the Pacific Amphitheater.

Costa Mesa USA • Floyd Levin (Lyrics) • 2005

The city council honored "Costa Mesa USA" with the title of official song in 2005. This lively little number, written for the dearly departed OC Classic Jazz festival, features lyrics by award-winning jazz historian and writer Floyd Levin. "This is sure the best place to hear hot jazz," it proclaims. "Stick around and listen to that razzmatazz!"

Costa Mesa, My Sweet Home • Dan Krikorkian • 2013

The city commissioned another song in 2013, when officials tapped Dan Krikorkian to write a song for the city's 60th birthday. Krikorkian's composition tried, as he said, to "capture the feeling for an entire city." The inspiring anthem blends past and present, from "humble farmlands" to "halls of symphonies."



Sheet music for "Costa Mesa Plateau."

Costa Mesa Dixon-Line • Patrick Brayer • 2015

Honestly, we have no idea what this song is about. But this Mellencamp-inspired roots rock tune is fun to listen to. And besides, you get to sing along to lyrics celebrating "our own native plants and history".

Costa Mesa, CA • Robert Shaia • 2015

Who doesn't love a song that rattles off "Harbor, Fairview, Bristol Street, Bear," and lists icons like South Coast Plaza, the OC fair, and "concerts in the park every Tuesday night"? Sadly, the ditty's rather unneighborly lyrics referring to "Newport brats" and the "Irvine Company joke" would seem to have doomed its chances of ever becoming official.

IMPORTANT: Society Elections of Officers and Board Members

November is fast approaching and so are our annual elections. This is where you, our members, have the opportunity to **become a candidate** or **nominate another member** for any of the following positions: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Board Director.

Our officers and board members can't leap tall buildings in a single bound, aren't faster than a speeding bullet, or more powerful than a locomotive.

They are just ordinary people from the community like you. If you're interested or need more information, please call or stop by. If you're not interested in any of the positions above, perhaps you would enjoy participating by being on one of our committees. Why not check us out? **We could use you.**

View the full list of songs and listen to our Costa Mesa playlist at costamesahistory.org/songbook

Inside the Society Archives: The Edrick Miller Collection

This is the first of a continuing series that will take a peek inside the society's rich archives. At any given moment, only a small fraction of the collection can be displayed. The rest, however, is of interest both to the researcher and the layperson alike. This month we look at the important Ed Miller Collection.

Who donated the collection?

Edrick Miller is a retired city employee, aerospace worker, and army lieutenant from Tustin, California. Miller wrote three books: *A Slice of Orange*, *The Hayburners of Orange County*, and *The SAAAB Story*. *A Slice of Orange* is to this day considered the definitive history of Costa Mesa. Miller served as a director of the Historical Society and the city's Bicentennial Committee. In recognition of his contributions to the understanding of Costa Mesa history, he was recognized with the Historical Society's Living Memorial Award in 1982.

What's inside the collection?

The bulk of the sprawling collection consists of research materials for Ed Miller's three books. As such, the collection provides an essential resource for those interested in early Costa Mesa, Orange County transportation, and the Santa Ana Army Air Base history. The collection comprises newspaper clippings, city reports, property development records, oral histories, manuscripts, maps, and some 5,000 photos. Collectors of coffee and spice cans will also be interested in his *Ben Hur Memorabilia Check List* and other assorted artifacts.

When was the collection donated?

The collection's first major accession occurred around 1980, with additions being made to the present day.

Where do I find the Ed Miller collection?

The collection can be found at the Costa Mesa Historical Society Museum. The museum can be visited every Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. or by appointment. A volunteer or the archivist will be happy to help you research the collection.

Why is the collection important?

Miller's books on Orange County and Costa Mesa in particular remain landmark histories 40 years after publication. His works are lauded for their thoroughness and accuracy. There are few topics Miller did not cover. A researcher can use Miller's original sources and unpublished supporting documents as a springboard for further research. Above all, Miller's vast photo collection offers a rare and vital glimpse into the past. The photos form the core of the society's collection.

Shop with us on Amazon

Every time you start your order with Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate to the Costa Mesa Historical Society. Visit costamesahistory.org/smile before making your next purchase. You can use your existing Amazon account on AmazonSmile.

Donate Online

Did you know you can now donate online? The Costa Mesa Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are fully deductible to the extent allowed by law. Thank you!

Dues Overdue?

Make sure your dues are 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, renew online at costamesahistory.org/membership, mail in 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

We're looking for a volunteer to **set up refreshments** at our monthly programs as well as members to sit on two 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? Visit costamesahistory.org/volunteer. Isn't it more fun to work as a team?

Share Your Story

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!

Temporary Parking Instructions

Entry to the historical society parking lot is currently limited to Park Avenue, but this is subject to change. If Park is closed, try Anaheim Avenue. There is no estimated completion date at this time.

Thank You For Another Fun Lions Club Fish Fry!

Thank you to all who visited us at the 71st Annual Costa Mesa-Newport Harbor Lions Club Fish Fry this past September. We hoped you enjoyed watching *Echoes from the Fields* or purchasing gifts from the booth we shared with the Friends of the Library. This was a great partnership since we both share the parking lot at Lions Park.

Most of all, a big THANK YOU to the volunteers who donated their time and made the event such a success. We couldn't do it without you!

See you again next year!

ROBERTO'S AUTO TRIM

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V I S I T U S

Diego Sepulveda Adobe

1900 Adams Ave.

Open 12-4 p.m. Every 1st and 3rd Saturday*

Explore centuries of history when you visit one of Orange County's oldest buildings in its gorgeous setting at Estancia Park.

Costa Mesa Historical Society Museum

1870 Anaheim Ave.

Open 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Every Thursday and Friday*

View a mind-boggling array of artifacts from 5,000 years of Costa Mesa history – from the first peoples to the City of the Arts.

* Or schedule an appointment at 949-631-5918.

I N S I D E

Tony Burica's *Seeking Freedom*, The Costa Mesa Song Book, Society Elections, Fire Station Exhibits, Artistic License Fair, Ed Miller Collection, & more!

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— *Membership Form* —

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Membership Categories

	Annual		Lifetime	
Individual	\$20.00	Individual Life Member	\$500.00	
Individual Senior (60+)	\$15.00	Business Life Member	\$1,000.00	
Family	\$25.00			
Student (under 16)	\$10.00			
Contributing	\$50.00			
Business and Professional	\$100.00			
Public Agency	\$100.00			
Benefactor	\$250.00			

Make your checks payable to the Costa Mesa Historical Society.
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