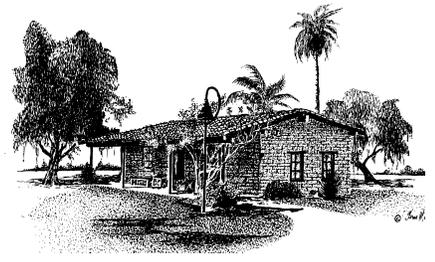


# Fairview Register

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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Phil Brigandi is presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by the Costa Mesa Historical Society at Early California Days. L-R: Historian Phil Brigandi, Society Director Cynthia Humphreys, Society President Dave Gardner, historian Eric Plunkett

## Join us for Concerts in the Park

The historical society doesn't host speaker events during the summer, but that doesn't mean we aren't busy! This July we'll be at Costa Mesa's annual Concerts in the Park series. Stop by our booth and say hi, and maybe learn a little bit about Costa Mesa's diverse and significant music history.

Concerts run on most Tuesdays in July from 5-8 p.m.

- **July 9:** DSB "Journey Tribute Band"
- **July 16:** Stone Soul "Motown Band"
- **July 23:** Flashback Heart Attack
- **July 30:** Tijuana Dogs

Concerts in the Park started in 2000 under the Parks Department. At first, the series roamed from park to park, but in 2003, it found its permanent home in Fairview Park. The beloved festival has been run by the Costa Mesa Foundation since 2010.

### STILL WANTED: HISTORY LOVERS AT THE ADOBE

Would you like to learn more about the 2nd oldest building in Orange County – and share that knowledge with others? We're looking for part-time volunteers to set up the adobe for visitors and to conduct tours of this historical treasure. It takes only a few hours per month and we'll train you on everything you need to know. Join us!

## Portola's Expedition: Phil Brigandi brings a fresh perspective to Early California Days

Imagine being a member of Captain Gaspar de Portola's expedition in 1769 through what is today Orange County. That is the journey the Society went on with speaker Phil Brigandi and fellow historian Eric Plunkett during Early California Days in Estancia Park. Retracing the journey through original source material from 1769 and comparing it to today's terrain well-documented through Google Earth brought a new look at Por-

tola's trek.

As part of this event, the historical society awarded Phil Brigandi a Certificate of Appreciation for all his work on behalf of local history.

This year's event also included Adobe tours, music by Sweetwater Creek, food & drink from Coffee Bean and El Toro Bravo, and activities for the kids.

— Cynthia Humphreys, Society Director

### JULY CALENDAR

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	27	28	29

Museum	Adobe	Concerts
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Promoting and preserving Costa Mesa's history is our mission

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

# THE SOCIETY'S DIGITIZATION PROJECT MAKES HISTORY MORE ACCESSIBLE

Every week it gets a little bit easier to uncover a bit of history thanks to the Costa Mesa Historical Society's digitization project.

As part of the project, the society's vast newspaper collections will be converted into word-searchable computer files.

Some people imagine the allure of researching comes from rummaging through long-hidden stacks of musty newspapers in the hope of discovering an unexplored solution to an unsolved mystery. While there is a touch of romance to this, it's a very tedious process.

With digitization, by contrast, long stretches of time and multiple publications can be queried simultaneously. Not sure when the Coral Reef restaurant had its grand opening? Run a search and get an answer in minutes.

The digitization project has two major components: newspapers and clippings. Each aspect aids research in its own way.

Newspaper digitization is exactly what it sounds like. Art Goddard and his son Andrew prepare, scan, and process full-paged historic newspapers. Recent accomplishments include digitizing the society's holdings of the *Newport Ensign*, the *Newport Balboa Press*, and the two newspapers produced at SAAAB during and after WWII. They are currently embarking on their most ambitious project yet: scanning 25 years of the *Globe Herald* from 1936-1961.

Other societies have taken notice. Art reports the Orange County Public Library, and the Tustin and Dana Point Historical Societies expressed interest in the project during June's OC History Roundup. The society's methods have also been published in the *Society of California Archivists Newsletter*.

Much of the society's newspaper collection has been scanned in the past. However, advances in technology now allow for better, more useful versions to be produced. For example, the society's older files are browse-only. Most photographs are inked out and hard to interpret. Plus you need to know the exact paper to look for. Altogether, it's not much different from the old style of researching, except it's got a little less romance and 100% less mustiness.

The newly digitized files, by contrast, have much more legible text, rich poly-tone imagery, and, critically, the ability to be word-searched.

The clipping digitization project, by contrast, rather than scanning full newspapers, scans individual articles and compiles them into searchable subject files. The society maintains about 137 separate subjects, many of them further subdivided into sub-categories.

The clipping digitization project owes its success to the tireless efforts of three people: Kathy Bequette, who has clipped articles for 10 years, and the mother and son team of Hope and Karl von Herzen, who has pre-processed and scanned the clippings for the past 8 years.

Clipping files have proven to be an invaluable asset for researching articles in this newsletter, for example in recent articles like Fairview Park, Betty Jean Beecher, and Roy E. June. When a topic has already been curated into a clipping file, it's the fastest way to get all the major facts. You just need to read.

So, yes, one could say these projects have taken some of the romance out of researching, but they also represent an exciting advance that makes research much faster, more thorough, and, one hopes, more accurate.

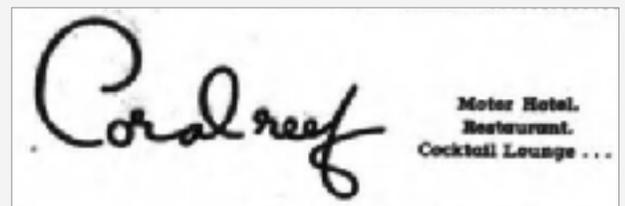


Digitization project leader Art Goddard poses with a massive stack of newspapers that will be converted to searchable computer files

## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY



On July 20, 1953, the newly incorporated city of Costa Mesa chose its **first city seal**. Before we were the City of the Arts, we were the Hub of the Harbor Area. The council chose this seal by L.W. Pierce to represent the city's present and its aspirations of the future.



The **Coral Reef Motor Hotel, Restaurant, and Cocktail Lounge** opened its doors on July 17, 1959, 60 years ago this month. The motel featured a modern decor and a pool terrace "complete with lounging furniture that invites lazing in the sun." Meanwhile, the restaurant offered "superb cuisine and fine wines", and the cocktail lounge provided a "friendly, quiet, and refreshing atmosphere, whether you're conducting business or enjoying a social hour." The cocktail lounge was later known as The Chalet and, today, Patrick's Pub. The motel is now the Super 8.



### An Exciting Visit from a SAAAB Serviceman's Family

In early June, a phone call from Chicago let us know that 9 relatives of Chester Sobiski, who had served in the 833 Guard Squadron Military Police at the Santa Ana Army Air Base, would soon be visiting us to see what we had about him. We had a number of photos and other material to show them, which made it very exciting for both them, and us. The family (from not only Chicago, but Pennsylvania and Virginia) had come west to a wedding in Riverside, and this was a nice side-trip for them. – *Mary Ellen Goddard, Archivist*



L-R: Art Goddard, Mary Ellen Goddard, and Cynthia Humphreys. Photo courtesy OC Historical Society

### Representing Costa Mesa at the this Year's OC History Roundup

Thank you to everyone who came out for this year's OC History Roundup at the Heritage Museum of Orange County. It was a great opportunity to share our city's history with a new audience. We also got a chance to make and renew contacts with other local historical societies. We hope to see you here next year!

### Shop with us on Amazon

Every time you start your order with Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate to the Costa Mesa Historical Society – at no cost to you. Visit [costamesahistory.org/smile](http://costamesahistory.org/smile) before making your next purchase. You can use your existing Amazon account.

### Temporary Parking Instructions

Entry to the historical society parking lot is currently limited to Anaheim Avenue, but this is subject to change. If Anaheim is closed, try Park Avenue. The project should be completed by spring 2020.

### Make a Difference – Volunteer

We're looking for part-time volunteers to set up and conduct tours of the **adobe**. We'll train you on everything you need to know. We're also looking for a volunteer to sit on two committees: the **News-letter Assembly Committee** prepares the news-letter 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](http://costamesahistory.org/volunteer). Isn't it more fun to work as a team?

### 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](http://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.

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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

Digitization Project • An Exciting Visit  
Early California Days & History Roundup Recaps  
Concerts in the Park & More!

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**— Membership Form —**

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	<b>Annual</b>		<b>Lifetime</b>	
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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.