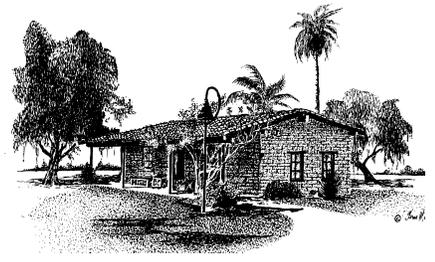


Fairview Register

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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The shuttered Metro Car Wash on a drizzly February morning.

Harbor Boulevard's Changing Landscape

After 55 years, Metro Car Wash in Costa Mesa is no more. The lease terminated on January 31 with no chance of renewal.

The blue and white building at Harbor and Baker has been a local icon since it opened in 1964. Inside, the hallway showcased many photos from the historical society's collection.

From its opening to its closing, Metro Car Wash continued under original family ownership. Many of its employees worked there for over 30 years. Along the way, the business hired thousands of local workers and built relationships with generations of customers.

Also closing is Costa Mesa's Crown Ace Hardware, ending over 60 years of a hardware store at this location. (Do you remember Kerm Rima?) The Artist Loft Studio, which has been above the

hardware store for 50 years, will also need to find a new home. The property owner is selling the land.

Nearby, Pier 1 Imports declared bankruptcy on February 16. The home furnishing company plans to close 450 of its outlets. The future looks uncertain for the Harbor and Adams location, which has been open since 1969.

Finally, farther down the road, Albertson's was forced to close its Harbor and Wilson location on February 22 after two decades. Spokeswoman Melissa Hill offered a familiar explanation: the lease had not been renewed.

If you would like to suggest a historic business to profile in this newsletter, please call or write us. Historic businesses are a part of our city's heritage. Let's try to keep them as living places, and not just memories.

SPEAKER SERIES

March 15 Program Double Feature: Our Sun - The Living Star PLUS A Historical Look at Orange Coast College

This event will take place at the Orange Coast College Planetarium.

First, the program *Our Sun - The Living Star* will be presented by Scott Mitchell, Director of the Orange Coast College Planetarium. The sun is our nearest star and our planet's powerhouse, the source of energy that drives our winds, our weather, and all life.

Second, right after the planetarium show, Doug Bennett, Executive Director, Orange Coast College, will cover the history and future of Orange Coast College.

Tickets to the planetarium show will be limited to members who have called in. No tickets will be required for the presentation on Orange Coast College.

It is **strongly** advised that you review the instructions on the enclosed flier. This is a truly special event that you won't want to miss.

MARCH 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	1	2	3	4

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

Memories of Mildred Matthews

By Mary Ellen Goddard

This year we're celebrating the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment, which gave women the right to vote. Costa Mesa has always been home to strong women, as this story shows.

Costa Mesa's history is full of stories of strong women, busy women, women who helped to make our city what it is today. One of those women was Mildred Mathews.

Mildred was born in 1908. She married Vernon Mathews, and they came to Costa Mesa shortly before WWII with their two young girls, following her parents who had come a short time earlier. She and Vernon wanted a place to "put down roots".

Her mother told her the corner next to her was for sale for water taxes and assessments, etc. Mildred went to see Judge Dodge, who at that time was president of the water board, offered him \$25.00 down and \$10.00 a month until they sold their property in Santa Ana. Not long after, they were owners of the property on the corner of Anaheim and 19th Street, stretching to Plumer Street.

When her oldest daughter started in the first grade, Mildred became active in the PTA. Lucy Pinkley was president of the PTA Association in town.

"I told her that I would help her on anything she needed help on," Mil-

dred said. "And believe me, she found something for me to do."

Mildred found other things to do, too.

"In the meantime, I was carrying the mail route for Costa Mesa, substituting for the regular mail carrier, Harry Schick who had the original long route in Costa Mesa. I remember the first day. I think I came in about seven and I was about ready to give up. But things worked out. Then one day I was working on PTA work and happened to see Mr. Rea (the superintendent of schools) driving a bus because the head bus driver Harry King was very ill and in the hospital, and eventually died. I kiddingly told him that whenever he wanted to hire a woman bus driver, to look me up. A month later he came down and said he was in a bind and thought he would start hiring women bus drivers."

After talking it over with Vernon, who had joined the military at the Santa Ana Army Air Base and was going overseas for a year, Mildred decided to drive the bus while he was gone. She became the first woman bus driver in Orange County.

"As it was, I ended up twenty-four years later retiring from the bus-driving system and liking every bit of it. Of course, there were times when you wondered if you were going to get

Society Members, Tell Us Your Stories

A number of you out there have lived in Costa Mesa for a very long time.

You have seen and experienced a lot in your years here. We would appreciate it if you would share some of your experiences of growing up in Costa Mesa. You would be adding to the historical knowledge of the city. Please drop by and tell us your story or write it down and send it to us.

Costa Mesa Historical Society
ATTN: CM Memories
P.O. Box 1764
Costa Mesa, Ca. 92628

Or email us at:
cmhistory@sbcglobal.net.

Thank you for helping us tell not just your story, but Costa Mesa's story.

through a day or not, but it worked out."

After ten years she became Transportation Supervisor at the school. During that time she also represented the school on the City Traffic Commission.

Mildred also was secretary for the Civil Defense Board, and worked for the Red Cross, setting up disaster materials in schools and churches. She taught first aid to bus drivers and fire department volunteers and many teachers. She was active with the Girl Scouts for 40 years, active in her church, and active with the Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW. She pre-deceased her husband, who died in 1992, but throughout her life, she made every day count.

To Our Volunteers, Thank You

We would like to express a huge THANK YOU to the team of volunteers that made the Installation Dinner such a success:

Dave Gardner, Mary Ellen Goddard, Usurla Hartunian, Mary Hornbuckle, Estelle Hughes, Jean Nomura, Bob Palazzola, Jan Rovon, Terry Shaw, Pat Tompkins, Susan Weeks.

Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

The Board of Directors



Society volunteers Pat Thompkins, Tess Bernstein, Jean Nomura, and Estelle Hughes hold historic photos of Dick Church's. The photos show the old names of the restaurant: Baby's Beef Burgers and Bud's. The restaurant has been operating since 1947. Photo courtesy Nancy Pedersen.

Society Volunteers Visit Historic Diner

Last month society volunteers visited Dick Church's, one of Orange County's oldest continuously running restaurants. The "research" trip may or may not have involved sampling the diner's recently upgraded coffee. Dick Church's has been a Costa Mesa fixture since 1947, though it hasn't always been known by that name. Old timers may remember Baby's Beef Burger, Bud's Drive-in, or Art's Coffee Shop. But it got the name Dick Church's in 1972 and it's been that way ever since. The restaurant serves classic diner fare for breakfast and lunch in a warm, retro-cool atmosphere. Historic photos line the walls, providing endless fascination for customers who have been known to interrupt a conversation to ask, "Now, where do you think *that* one was taken?" For anyone interested in Costa Mesa history, Dick Church's is an essential "research" destination. *Dick Church's. 2698 Newport Blvd, Costa Mesa. Open daily from 6 a.m.-3 p.m.*



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 before making your next purchase. You can use your existing Amazon account.

Temporary Parking Instructions

Please note: entry to the historical society parking lot is currently limited to Anaheim Avenue.

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.

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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

A Very Special Event at OCC's Planetarium
Mildred Matthews • Harbor Boulevard
Visiting Dick Church's & More

COSTA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Phone (949) 631-5918

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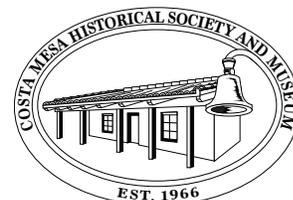
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— *Membership Form* —



Name: _____ Address: _____

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Membership Categories

	Annual		Lifetime	
Individual	\$20.00	Individual Life Member	\$500.00	
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Family	\$25.00			
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Business and Professional	\$100.00			
Public Agency	\$100.00			
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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.