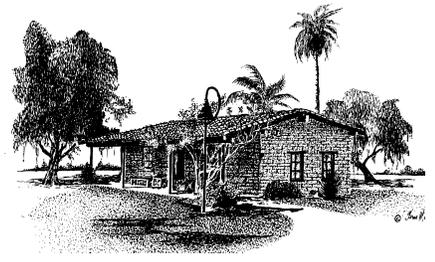


# Fairview Register

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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Mary Ellen Goddard works at home on a collection of historical negatives that will add to our understanding of Costa Mesa history during its formative years.

## COVID-19: Making Lemonade out of Lemons...

Faced with the shutdown of their volunteer work at the Historical Society, Art and Mary Ellen Goddard took action to make lemonade out of lemons. Remembering a collection of thousands of city photo negatives that had sat unprocessed for “quite a while,” Art and Mary Ellen loaded up 3 boxes of negatives and headed to their home in Costa Mesa.

During their “stay at home” period, the couple will organize the negatives by date and subject matter, create a finding aid for the negatives, and transfer the

negatives from paper packets to archival negative sleeves. When this work is done, the Society and its visitors will have access to several thousand more images of Costa Mesa during its formative years.

One practical consideration: What happens if, heaven forbid, Art or Mary Ellen contract COVID-19? Good question! In that case, the negatives (and the lemonade) will have to wait a few more months in quarantine before being returned to the photo vault at the Society.

### SOCIETY NEWS

#### Coronavirus Shuts Down Historical Society Events, Museums

The Costa Mesa Historical Society's museums have closed and its events indefinitely postponed as the world shuts down in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the crisis grew at the beginning of March, the Society board was forced to make hard decisions to protect its volunteers and members at a chaotic time when most cancellation decisions were left in the hands of individual organizers.

The Society announced the cancellation of the March 15 OCC double feature program at the new campus planetarium on March 12. The following Sunday, the board decided to close the society's museums and cancel the upcoming board meeting.

The following week, the Trump administration released updated social distancing guidelines limiting groups to ten people or less, and Governor Gavin Newsom issued a stay-at-home order for the state of California, thereby ratifying the protections the society had already put in place.

The Society will continue to be closed through April. Visit us @CostaMesaStory on Facebook for updates on this rapidly changing situation.

### APRIL CALENDAR

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	31	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	1	2

**All Events through April are Cancelled**

Promoting and preserving Costa Mesa's history is our mission

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

# Our Historical Moment

When we think about history, too often we think history is what happened a lifetime ago to someone else in some other place. We're too busy being carried along by the currents of time to see our lives in context. Every so often, though, something shakes us so hard we are forced to look up and see that this — this is history. And this is one of those times. Today — now — is history.

As you know, the Costa Mesa Historical Society loves to share stories about our past. And our favorite stories honor those heroes whose sacrifices raised them above the crowd.

We celebrate Sergeant Nat Rochester, the first Costa Mesan to die for his country. We celebrate Alice King Eastman, who risked her life tending to the ill in the influenza epidemic of 1918-1919. We celebrate officers Dave Ketchum and John Libolt who died in the line of duty.

Likewise, we celebrate the tireless philanthropists who put their community ahead of themselves, people who treated their neighbors like their own family. We celebrate people like Fanny Bixby Spencer, Lucille Pinkley, Willard T. Jordan, and Betty Beecher, each of whom has a resume that reads more like a catalog of public service.

Every day, whether we realize it or not, we ask a lot of heroes like this. We ask firefighters to go into a burning building, police officers to confront an active crime scene, doctors to enter an infectious ward, and volunteers to donate their lives to their community. And yet we never question the ethics of whether it's right of us to ask them for so much. We know they have made a choice to serve others.

While it's natural, of course, for us to focus on extraordinary people in exceptional circumstances, this habit also conceals a very important fact: *every* moment is history. And every life in it is history. Every restaurant we eat in, every school we attend, every employer we work for, every neighborhood we call home — history is there, too. It's history because it's made up of people. And it doesn't matter who it is. It doesn't even matter what we accomplish. Every one of our lives — whether rich or poor, great or small, seen or unseen — are letters in the story of our community, our nation, and our planet — even in the most ordinary of times. We just don't always realize it.

But what we're going through now, this is something different, something most of us have never seen before. History is happening now, to every one of us, and we can't ignore it.

One day this moment will be recorded by the historians. And in those histories, doctors, firefighters, and other public servants will, of course, take their rightful place among the heroes of this crisis.

At the same time, we can also see that our definition of who is a hero has been too narrow. Heroes are all around us.

They are the grocery workers who every day must confront the pandemic face-to-face. They are the drivers risking their own health to deliver food to the most vulnerable. They are

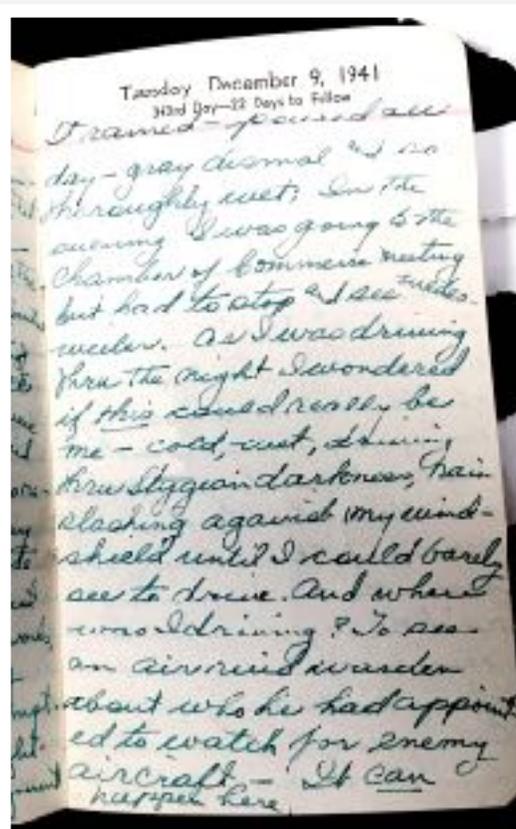
the small business owners who have closed their shops to keep their employees and customers healthy even though it might cost them their livelihood. They are the parents dealing with the stress of working from home to keep the economy going while juggling childcare and ten million other responsibilities.

Heroes are heroes because they sacrifice their private interests in the service of others.

Today we're in a crazy time where we're asking people to be heroes who never wanted to become them. Suddenly history is not something out there far away. History has come to us and it's making demands. And you know what? People are answering the call.

It will be a long time before the events of today make sense. For now, it's just too surreal. But maybe one thing we can take away from this experience is the awareness that heroes don't only wear uniforms. Heroes are all around us, making history.

Heroes are people like you.



The above text is taken from the diary of Costa Mesa local Nell Murbarger, one-time editor of the *Globe Herald* and a widely-read author on ghost towns. It records her feelings just a couple days after another catastrophe shook our nation: the bombing of Pearl Harbor. We're living in historic times. Please consider keeping a journal to record your experiences. Future historians will be grateful.



Founding member of the Costa Mesa Historical Society Helen Humphreys has owned a Cinderella home since the 1950s. She poses here with the designer of the whimsical tract homes, Jean Vandruff, at the society's February 23 talk featuring author Chris Lukather. The event was a resounding success that drew a huge crowd. Thank you to everyone who came out!

## Now That I Have the Time

BY BOB PALAZZOLA

While the historical society is closed, some of us board members and volunteers are doing whatever we can to pass the time of day while the “stay at home” orders are in effect during the coronavirus threat.

I don't know about my colleagues, but I'm using this time to take care of the “To Do” list. You know, those things you set aside to do later on because you don't have the time. Well, I've got the time now.

I know you've heard the expression “out of sight, out of mind”. That's the way it is with the those things we've set aside to do at another time. So you begin to think, should I go through the attic and garage getting rid of the stuff that's just taking up space? Maybe go through the closet and give away those clothes that don't fit anymore? It might be a good time to put those pictures together of our family history for the grandkids. What about those things that need repair or a paint job? And then there's those old documents that need shredding. There's also those friends or relatives that I haven't spoken with in a while. Or I could write an article for the *Fairview Register*.

Yes, there's plenty I can do on that To Do list, now that I have the time.

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I N S I D E

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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.  
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