

## President's Message

**The Orange Community Historical Society wishes you a happy and healthy new year! We are looking forward to a very good 2024 and hope that you will be able to join us for our upcoming events.**

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Our next meeting is on **Saturday, January 27 at 10:00 am** at the Elks Lodge in Old Town Orange. The Elks Lodge is celebrating 100 years in Orange. Please join us for this event. The Elks will be serving us a light breakfast for only **\$5 per person**. More information on this meeting is noted in the newsletter.

At the meeting on January 27 we will hold elections for the 2024 Board of Directors. Please come and meet your Board members.

We are changing things up this year for our annual meeting. Our Celebration Event will be held on **Thursday, March 21** at the Hilbert Museum. The new Museum will be open and we will be treated with an exclusive talk with Mr. Mark Hilbert and Ms. Mary Platt and then you can tour the museum. Heavy appetizers will be served.

This meeting will have limited space, so when you receive your invitation don't delay in sending in your reservation form.

**Silent Auction** – If you have any Orange memorabilia or something else that you would like to donate for our silent auction, please let us know as soon as possible.

Please e-mail [csummo@socal.rr.com](mailto:csummo@socal.rr.com) and let us know what you have to donate.

Be sure to renew your membership. You will note that the cost of membership has been increased for individual and family memberships. Our dues have not been increased for many years and with the cost of everything going up we needed to make a small increase in membership dues. If you look at your mailing label and the date by your name is in **red**....it's time for you to renew your membership. This can be done by mailing in the membership form, or you can go on line to our website: [www.historicalorange.org](http://www.historicalorange.org). You do not want to miss out on our future meeting information.

We look forward to seeing you on January 27.

Carol Summo - President



**100 Years of Orange Elks - Historical Society meeting on Saturday, January 27th at 10 A.M. - We will meet in the Elks Lodge at 211 East Chapman Avenue, Orange**

Please note: free parking is available on Chapman and side streets, the Library and City Hall parking lots. The lot immediately behind the building is a private lot NOT owned by the Elks, and offers parking for a fee. **(See Page 5)**



## Under the Orange Peel

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Rev. Nathan Riley

Today I got to thinking about the way automobiles have changed over the years and about those cars we grew up with here in Orange in the 1950's. My how things have changed.

Hudsons, Plymouths, Studebakers, Nash Ramblers, Metropolitans etc. Yes, indeed, how things have changed. My wife and I just bought a new Hyundai equipped with key fob control to start and to move the vehicle backward or forward w/o anyone inside the vehicle at all! With a dedicated app you can start the engine from inside your home, lock and unlock doors, adjust the climate, as they call it, blast the horn and blink your lights. It has lane assist to keep me from straying into your traffic space and smart cruise control to apply the brakes or give it a little gas when necessary to maintain a pre-selected speed, etc. But as a kid I remember a different time and different cars, For example, I remember a Buick dad owned with port holes on the side of the hood to ventilate the engine and to look cool.



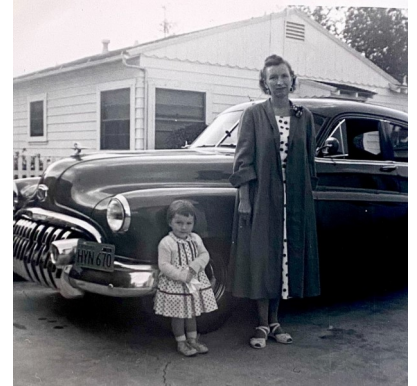
This was a car with no air conditioning at all inside, just two triangularly shaped small windows toward the front of the car on either side called wind wings to draw in hot air (bees, wasps, etc.) from the outside to make a difference inside. If it was 90° F. out, you can imagine how refreshing that may actually have been. Oh, yes, some cars also had ventilator knobs that opened a panel beneath the dash to let in that problematic outside air.

But no real relief there either.

That got me to thinking about the other things we “enjoyed” in those early days—things like choke controls and manual shift on the

steering column and horn rings on the steering wheel designed so that both hands could remain on the wheel and just a stretch of a finger or thumb would be able to beep a warning

sound. There were headlight dimmer switches on the floorboard to the left of the gas and brake pedals. Automobile visors in front of the windshield were an accessory on some cars to block out the sun. No one seemed to care in the days of cheap gasoline that these visors actually caught the wind and slowed the car. There were side windows that literally rolled up and down. What does it mean nowadays when we say, “Roll down the window, son”? I remember spare tires crowding out trunk space, hub caps and fender skirts, and don't forget, curb feelers to let us know we were about to scuff our new whitewall tires. There were those bench seats good for snuggling real close to your special girl at the drive-in, but, of course, equipped with no seatbelts to curb injury. Some old trucks had just one windshield wiper on the driver's side only. The other passenger(s) apparently didn't need to see. Multiple cigarette lighters and ashtrays front and backseat supported the smoking culture of the day and then there were those flimsy felt headliners that so easily tore. There were external radio antennas...At OHS I remember hearing of an auto shop student up on the front fender of the car he and his classmates were working on—pulling an engine—and this student accidentally slipping. I heard he was tragically skewered on one of those omnipresent





**ORANGE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ANNUAL CELEBRATION  
MARK YOUR CALENDAR -THURSDAY, MARCH 21**



**Chapman University’s NEW Expanded Hilbert Museum of California Art**

Don’t miss this exclusive tour of the newly expanded Hilbert Museum especially arranged for the Orange Community Historical Society! The Hilbert has become one of Orange County’s top museums since its opening in 2016, earning rave reviews on Yelp and Google and attracting more than 30,000 visitors per year. Enjoy a sumptuous reception and a welcome presentation by museum founder Mark Hilbert and director Mary Platt, before you set off to explore the North and South Wings of the expanded museum. You’ll enter a portal topped by a spectacular 40-foot-wide glass mosaic by Millard Sheets and then experience the stunning building, designed by architects Johnston Marklee of Los Angeles. Explore the nine opening art exhibitions – including galleries devoted to the history of California art, works by Norman Rockwell, Disney’s Mary Blair, Navajo “eye dazzler” blankets, Modernism in California art and much more.

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Free parking in the Metrolink/City of Orange structure at 130 N. Lemon Street, across the street from the museum. Free street parking as available on the museum side of Cypress Street. The event starts at 5:30 P.M.

## Mark Hilbert

Mark Hilbert was born in New York City and arrived with his family in Pasadena at the age of three months – he has been a proud Californian ever since. Mark and his wife Janet began collecting California Scene paintings in 1992 when they bought a house together in Palm Springs and wanted to decorate it with original art. They found their first California Scene painting at a consignment shop in Palm Springs and it was “love at first sight.” After buying that first one, they developed an appreciation for the style. Since then, They’ve educated themselves and continued to collect, and have now moved into collecting oil paintings and lithographs as well as watercolors.

Among the world’s most prolific collectors and exhibitors of California art, Mark and Janet now own more than 3,000 watercolors, oil paintings, and prints that depict everyday life in the Golden State – along with major collections of animation and movie production art, and American illustrations. Committed to the concept of art as a storytelling medium they establish the Hilbert Museum of California Art at Chapman University.

“The setting here in the historic City of Orange, with its Old Towne district right in the heart of Southern California – all this combines to make Chapman the perfect home for our collection and the new Hilbert Museum of California Art.”

## Mary Platt

Mary Platt is director of the Hilbert Museum of California Art at Chapman University and has guided the museum to its current position of high visibility and critical acclaim. Since its opening in 2016, Mary has overseen the unique assemblage of art that has made the Hilbert Museum a major cultural attraction in Southern California. The museum under Mary’s direction has achieved top visitor ratings on Yelp, Google and TripAdvisor, and has been named to “Best of Orange County” lists by the Los Angeles Times, OC Weekly and other publications. The Hilbert regularly attracts more than 30,000 visitors a year. Mary holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in art history from Michigan State University.



Dear Friend of the Orange Community Historical Society,

The mission of the Orange Community Historical Society is to commemorate the rich heritage of our community. Our purpose is to collect photographs, written materials and related ephemera, promote research, events, activities, conduct programs celebrating Orange history and sponsor local history endeavors while remaining self-supporting through memberships, donation bequests and special projects. We welcome everyone. Orange Community Historical Society Members enjoy: Programs and Newsletters as well as opportunities to support and contribute to the preservation of Orange History and be in contact with members of the Community knowledgeable about Orange history.

We sincerely hope that you can help us with a donation for our silent auction at the **Annual Celebration to be held on March 21, 2024 at The Hilbert Museum at 5:30 P.M.** We hope that you can help us with a gift certificate or product which would be used for our silent auction. All donations will be recognized at the Annual Celebration.

**ELKS - From Page 1**

In November of 1923, ceremonies were hosted in Orange, California, forming the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks Lodge number 1475.

While the first members were 53 transferees from the Santa Ana lodge, there were 75 local residents waiting in the wings to take the Obligation in a large initiation meeting. Many early members were also leading citizens of our town, with names like Huff, Hirstein, McCandless, Mansur and Muench. The first Exalted Ruler was A L Tomblin.

Meetings were first held in the 1914 Smith and Grote Building (later Friedemann Hall) before moving to the Odd Fellows lodge above Watson's Drug. Later they moved across the street when the Odd Fellows were unable to meet their financial obligations for the lovely new building they built on the North side of Chapman.

OCHS will salute the Elks Lodge with our **Saturday, January 27th meeting in the Lodge at 211 East Chapman - 10:00 in the morning.** We will start with a light breakfast in the dining room, **(a nominal \$5 fee will be collected)** followed by a tour and program about the Elks. We will also hold our official annual voting meeting, as per our by laws.



Our speaker will be Leading Knight, J C Cortez, who will also be installed Exalted Ruler in 2024. (J C also served as the first Duke of Orange for the Chamber of Commerce May Parade.)

We hope you can join us for this great opportunity to learn more about this active fraternal lodge and their many ways they support our community



**Orange Peel - from Page 2**

external antennas. Speaking of those antennas who could forget the orange colored Union 76 balls we placed on the end of our antennas?



Heard one local boy, whose dad owned a Shell station, made a hand carved yellow and red shell symbol for his car out of Styrofoam and a little entrepreneurial jealousy. I remember fancy hood ornaments and gas caps hidden beneath tail lights. Of course it was all chrome bumpers and decorative side molding that would easily come loose and spear any unsuspecting shopper racing to make her purchases before school let out. People and vehicles change and sometimes with thankful hearts it's kinda fun to think back on both.



**2023 OCHS Board Members**

- President – Carol Summo
- Vice-President, - John Russo
- Treasurer – Susan Paulsen
- Secretary – Barbara Whittaker
- Audio-Visual - Lee Cornett
- Membership – Jerrica Knight
- Website – John Russo
- Hospitality – Jane Owens
- Newsletter – Roger Fitschen
- Programs --- Lisa Baldwin
- Member-at-Large - Bill Utter
- Archivist - Aida Cuevas

Leave a Message (714) 202-7514 or [info@historicalorange.org](mailto:info@historicalorange.org)

History Room at the Main Library  
Contact - (714) 288-2465, Hours,  
Digital History Collection Online,  
a virtual tour of Old Towne at  
[www.OrangePublicLibrary.org/home-library](http://www.OrangePublicLibrary.org/home-library)

# OCHS MEMBERSHIP

Application for Membership Year 2024 (Membership Year covers January-December)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



Please return application and check to:  
**Orange Community Historical Society**  
P.O. Box 5484, Orange, CA 92863-5484

OCHS is a 501(c)(3) organization, ID #33-0416234.  
Contributions are tax deductible to  
the fullest extent permitted by law.

## TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (check one)

NEW

RENEWAL

(See the mailing label for when  
your membership expires)

Individual - \$25.00

Family - \$30.00

Life - \$300.00

Business/Organization - \$100.00

Donation - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Orange Community Historical Society Members enjoy: programs and newsletters, opportunities to support and contribute to the preservation of Orange history, contact with members of the community knowledgeable about Orange history, and discounts on OCHS merchandise.

## Our Mission

The mission of the OCHS is to commemorate the rich heritage of our community. Our purpose is to collect photographs, written materials and related ephemera, promote research, events, activities and programs celebrating Orange history, and sponsor local history endeavors. We remain self-supporting through memberships, donation bequests and special projects.

- We welcome everyone -

The City of Orange website provides a brief history of Orange, as well as demographics and contact information for schools, businesses and organizations in the area.

*[www.OrangePublicLibrary.org/home-library](http://www.OrangePublicLibrary.org/home-library)*

If undeliverable please return to:  
Orange Community Historical Society  
P.O. Box 5484  
Orange, CA 92863-5484