



March 2022

HISTORICALORANGE.ORG

VOL. XLX ISSUE VI

President's Message

I'd like to thank you for your continued support and patience during these unrepresented times. We are excited to welcome you back to our regular meetings. You've been sorely missed! The Historical Society is all about providing you with great learning experiences and exciting programs and we are looking forward to doing it again in the months ahead.

As we transition into our new normal, we've had to make a few adjustments to our traditional schedule in order to utilize the Library Community Room. Our meetings will now begin on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 PM starting with our next program on March 15. We will do our best to communicate any future changes through our newsletter, social media, and our website.

For those of you who attended our January 29th library event, you met Aida Cuevas, the new Local History Librarian/Archivist responsible for preserving and cataloging historical artifacts. She asked us to remind you that the library is always looking for items of historical significance. Before you trash anything that might be considered historically relevant, contact Aida at: 714/288-2409. She'll be happy to help decide whether your heirloom is worth preserving and possibly donating.

We are very excited to welcome you back this year and look forward to bringing history to life for our devoted members and guests.

Jane Owens

OCHS President 2022

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

5:30 PM

Al Ricci, Chairman Orange Chamber of Commerce

Orange Public Library, Community Room

The Orange May Parade, originally called the May Festival Parade, was a fixture in the City of Orange from 1933 until its last march down Chapman Avenue in 1991. Originally, the parade marked the beginning of the Valencia orange packing season. It later evolved into a showcase of the many fine organizations that call the City of Orange home. Thousands of spectators lined the parade route to cheer on participants such as local schools, churches, businesses, and philanthropic organizations, instilling a sense of community and civic pride.

The Orange Chamber of Commerce revived this decades-old tradition for the City of Orange in 2019. Al will talk about the history of the parade, the Plaza Paseo and all that is unique and happening in the City of Orange.

The Society's general meetings are free and open to the public.



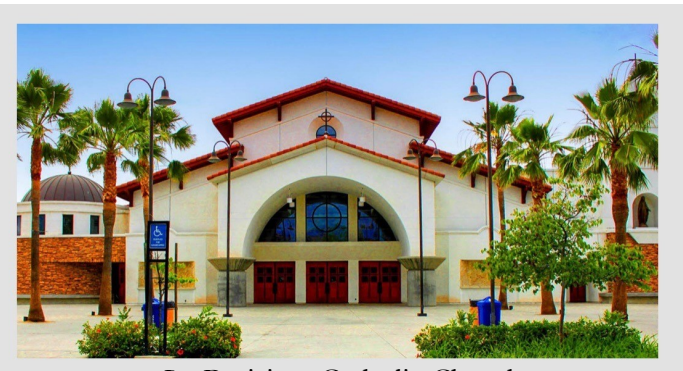
Under the Orange Peel

Rev. Nathan Riley

Bob Torres, a good friend of my brother Dave's from Orange High School, writes of his recollections of La Purisima Catholic Church. With his permission we share the following:

Well, I finally made it to 77. How time flies! I have spent many pensive moments reflecting on my lifetime as a member of La Purisima Church.

As many of you may know, La Purisima was founded in 1925 on a plot of land on Center Street, in El Modena, donated by Mr. Remedios Mares, who had emigrated to the U.S. from Michoacan, Mexico sometime early in the 20th century. As other immigrants fled Mexico during the brutal Mexican Revolution and arrived in El Modena, the need for a place of worship was met, with religious services provided by a number of itinerant priests, many, who themselves, had fled the oppression of the Mexican government. If you didn't speak Spanish, the closest Catholic Church with English services was Holy Family, at the northeast corner of Chapman Ave. and Shaffer Street in Orange.



La Purisima Catholic Church

At an early age, my parents would take my brother Tony and me to Mass on Sunday. Mass was celebrated in Spanish by Father Jose Oregel,

a Franciscan who had fled Mexico and was the resident priest at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in south Santa Ana. Louis Holguin, whose family attended Our Lady of Guadalupe, tells me that he used to drive Father Oregel to La Purisima for weekday Rosaries and Mass on Sunday. Louis was doing this, starting at the tender age of 12.

In 1957, the Los Angeles Archdiocese contracted the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity, of Silver Spring, MD, to minister to the good folks of La Purisima, thus relieving Father Oregel from his arduous and protracted service. Father Oregel's replacements were a couple of young Irish-American missionaries named Rafael Toner and Gabriel Hannon. These priests from Silver Spring came to be known as the **Trinitarians**. El Modena was actually made up of three distinct communities: North of Chapman Avenue was **El Pirripe**. South of Chapman Avenue was **Hollywood** and at the base of the hill in the southeast corner along what is today, Hewes Street, was **La Paloma**.

Fathers Rafael and Gabriel wasted no time in rallying the three communities to worship and work together. Father Gabriel celebrated the 8:00 a.m. Mass in Spanish and Father Rafael, the 10:00 a.m. Mass in English. Collections were very meager initially, totaling around \$7.00 to \$9.00 per week. A far cry from today's typical \$15,000 to \$20,000.

It wasn't long before, at Rafael and Gabriel's urging, fundraisers such as menudo breakfasts and tamale sales began, eventually leading to bi-weekly fiestas during the summertime. After a couple of years of the bi-weekly format, the annual La Purisima Fiesta was born. (*Next Page*)

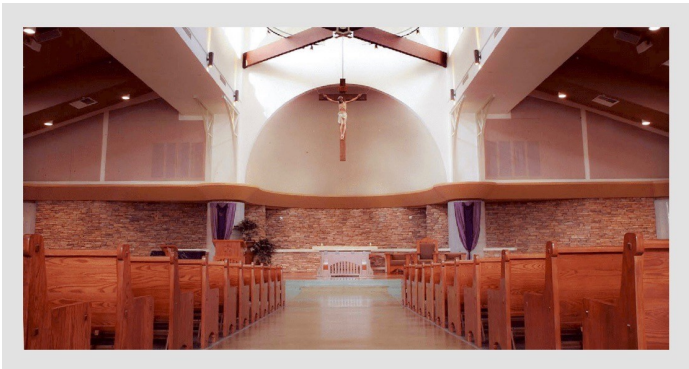
and continued each July until around 2002, when the planning for the construction of our wonderful new church began in earnest. The **Trinitarians** had been reassigned after almost 24 years at La Purisima and were replaced by the Missionaries of St. Anthony Claret, known as the **Claretians**, who were eventually replaced by today's **Diocesan** priests.

Many folks have moved, while a large number have gone from this life.

Time marches on.

I love La Purisima and the vibrant community it has become over the years.

I am gratified to see so many newcomers step up and become involved in so many of the ministries that are available.



Thank you for taking the time to read my recollections. Enjoy! – Sincerely, Bob Torres.

In memory of Robert W. Torres
- December 29, 1944 - February 19, 2022 -

My Dad Robert W. Torres is the reason I'm such a big Panther fan and contributor. I've been going to OHS sports events since I was a little baby in the early 80's. My parents never missed a football game in 30 or so more years. My Dad has an amazing scholarship for the football team named The Tom Ruiz Memorial Scholarship, this scholarship has also been around for over 30 years.. He's a legend that many would say had the kindest heart a person could have, there must be some amazing rewards in heaven being the most liked and loved man on Earth, one of a kind. Lord just let me be just a sliver of what my dad was. Rest in Peace my Papa I will carry on your legacy and we will never forget you ever, you are my true hero and " ONCE A PANTHER, ALWAYS A PANTHER" - Excerpts from the full tribute by Tommy N. Torres on 2-19-2022

Big "O" Day at Orange Union High School



Above El Modena Grade, Orange, California - 1923

Just below where the Orange Hill Restaurant is today. The image shows several students with hoes cleaning off the "Big O" hillside. Leona Rodieck is identified in front left. Orange Union High School was located on North Glassell Street in Orange, California. According to Roch Bradshaw in the 1917 Orange and White Orange Union High School annual, "it was the Class of '17 that gave the school its first successful and civilized Rube Day." This event was also called "Ditch Day" and "O-day" as it included the tradition ditching school and painting an enormous "O" onto a local hillside. Wearing some odd costume was also was part of the event, as seen in the photo. The tradition survived off and on into the 1960s.



The Big "O" above the El Modena Grade and Chapman Avenue. The Orange Hill Restaurant will occupy the white patch above the letter almost 50 years later.

We specialize in cakes for weddings and all occasions . . .

Reasonable Prices

FRANKIE'S BAKERY

18651 E. Chapman Orange 8722-J-5

Frank Robles bakery in El Modena. My birthday cakes in the 1950s - editor

1941 Fall - Roosevelt School – El Modena

by Roger Fitschen

A photo of the 7th and 8th grades on the front steps of El Modena's Roosevelt School at the start of the school year. My mother, Julia Armstrong is in the front row, with her leg bent. On the far left, also in the front is Tomiye Murikami. She was in the same 8th grade class as my mother.



There were two schools, standing not far apart from each other in El Modena. El Modena had its own school district at that time and maintained mostly segregated schools. According to historian Phil Brigandi, "Roosevelt was for Anglo children, a few Hispanic students that were judged able to keep up with the curriculum and some children of Japanese American farmers leasing land from the Irvine Company in Peters Canyon". Mom said, Steve Nieblas, later owner of Steve's Canvas Shop on Cypress Street, was also in her class. Lincoln School next door, was for Mexican Americans.

Mom told me she would often trade sandwiches with Tomiye at lunch, as they each received the

same sandwich every day, a fried egg for Tomiye and peanut butter for mom, so switching broke the monotony.

Things changed for the Murikami family following December 7th, 1941. On February 19th, 1942 President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which ordered removal of those of Japanese ancestry from all of California plus western parts of the states of Washington, Oregon and Arizona, except

those held within internment camps. By early March 1942, the Murikami family received an order to vacate their home and leased property in Peter's Canyon in two days' time. The last time my mother said she saw Tomiye was when "Tomi" was using a telephone at the service station at Prospect and Chapman. As the family had no phone in their house, Tomiye was advising the authorities that she, her parent's and siblings were ready to be picked up by a transport bus.

As my mom was in her 90s, she could still recite all Tomiye's many siblings. She never knew what happened to the Murikami family. Well, that was until February of 2017, when I received a message on Ancestry.com, the genealogy website, asking me to contact them about my posting the Roosevelt School photo with the story about "Tomi".

The Ancestry message reply I received: "Roger, thank you for contacting me. My late husband, Tak (Takeo), was one of Tomi's younger brothers. She was his favorite sister, and like a second mother to him. Your mom's recollections of her jibe with everything I know about her. The family had an older brother already in the army and distant cousins living in Colorado. The family was given two days' notice to sell everything and move. They ended up in

“Big Cone” - Ice Cream Stores

California and especially Southern California architecture over the years has seen some unusual structures along our roadways. In the 1920 and 30s, imaginative business owners trying to catch the eye of motorists speeding down the road would build structures that told you what you might expect to find inside. Some structures took on forms without any rhyme or reason such as dogs, airplanes, zeppelins, pumpkins or ships, just to attract the attention of the driver. These seemly oddball buildings of yesteryear are collectively referred to as memetic architecture. Nonconformity was in abundance back in those days, but very few of those often-fanciful structures still exist.

I had seen a stand, shaped like a giant orange, selling fruit in front of a grove along Lincoln Avenue at the Santa Ana River through the early 1970s. Maybe a camera-shaped building for dropping off photographic film somewhere in town, but that’s all I could recall in Orange.

Well, until I recently saw a post on Facebook with a photograph of giant ice cream cone someone had posted with the caption of it being the first “Big Cone” store of the Chapman’s Ice Cream chain in



Orange. The building had an awning with Chapman’s imprinted on it. The story also said it was named Chapman’s because it was on Chapman at Main Street. I found that same story repeated on another site with many historical photos of mimetic architecture. Was there really a “Big Cone” ice cream in Orange? Or, Santa Ana, as the article stated.

Well, yes and no, the story has parts of two facts intertwined.

There was one of Orange County’s six “Big Cone” ice cream shops in Orange from 1928 until around 1938. However, it wasn’t at Main and Chapman and it didn’t sell Chapman’s ice cream.



In the spring of 1927, the first of two “Big Cones” was erected in Santa Ana near the ice cream manufacturing location at 5th and Broadway and the second was at 348 S. Los Angeles Street (Anaheim Blvd. today), Anaheim. Three Santa Ana businessmen, led by Frank E. Jackson incorporated the next year with the **Jackson’s Fancy Ice Cream Company** supplying ice cream to independent owners of the cone stores. The next year they had gained a patent on the up-side-down steel-cone structure with plans to expand across the country. Four more “Big Cones” were erected in Fullerton, Orange, Tustin and Laguna Beach by the summer of 1928. In June, one of the cones was shipped to Nashville, Tennessee and opened there on September 14th.
(Continued - Next Page)

That same June of 1928 the Jackson Ice Cream production needed larger quarters and they moved to a building near the intersection of Chapman

WE HAVE MOVED

Thanks to the people of Orange County after having been in business a little over one year, we found our manufacturing business crowded out of our old location at 5th and Broadway and have installed new and larger facilities at our new factory located at North Main and Chapman streets, Orana. Our new factory is now most modernly equipped in order to take care of our increased volume through the Big Cones as well as our Ice Cream Catering.

Our aim more than ever before will be to continue to manufacture that high quality of Ice Cream famed for its deliciousness.

Jackson's
FANCY
ICE CREAM

THE SYMBOL OF HIGH QUALITY
All Over Orange County

We Keep Our Old Telephone Number—Santa Ana 920

BIG CONE LOCATIONS
1004 So. Main St., Santa Ana
348 S. Los Angeles St. Anaheim
722 North Spadra, Fullerton
644 West Chapman, Orange
305 D Street, Tustin

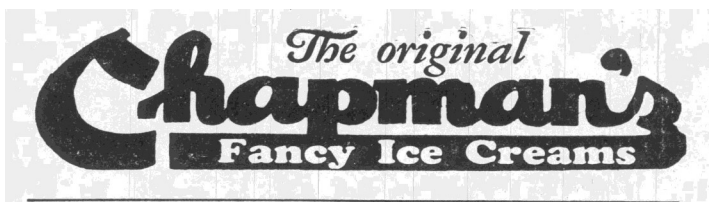
West Ocean Blvd.,
Laguna Beach

DOWN TOWN SANTA ANA
RETAIL STORE AT
313½ W. Fourth St.

Avenue and North Main Street in Orana. That area was called Orana, because of its location **between** Orange and Santa Ana. It was later incorporated into Orange. Some reports referred to that area of North Main as Santa Ana, which it wasn't.

So, the Jackson's ice cream plant, that produced 400 gallons per day, was on Chapman at Main. Likewise, the "Big Cone retail store but was on Chapman Avenue, east towards the Plaza (*Editor: I look for any place I can work Plaza into the story*) on the southeast corner at Parker Street.

Meanwhile, Eugene Chapman had started the **Chapman's Ice Cream Company** using his father's recipes in Los Angeles about 1919.



His father, Ralph Chapman Sr., had been a grocer since 1890 in Minneapolis, Minnesota and developed his ice cream recipes to become one of the favorite treats from that town. Eugene would sell the name and business to F.C. Stevens, who would in turn sell in 1928 to A.A. Comey who had extensive business

knowledge in ice cream sales and promotion. It was the Chapman's brand ice cream that was sold in the 33 Chapman Stores in the SoCal-Los Angeles stores. These included "Big Cones" and in a couple instances buildings constructed to look like icebergs and igloos.



951 Westwood Blvd., Los Angeles

By 1930, Chapman's became a national brand, expanding to Florida. The local Jackson's Ice Cream seems to have faded away sometime in the mid-1930s as Chapman's stores began popping up in Orange County.

The last mention I found of Jackson's Fancy Ice Cream was a February 11, 1932 advertisement in the Orange Daily News. A sale of

**Ice Cream
Prices Reduced**

Pints 15c Quarts 30c

This is not a cheap grade of
Cream—it is

Jackson's Fancy Ice Cream

Watson's Drug Store
The Rexall Store
Orange, Cal.

PHONE 60, 120 EAST CHAPMAN AVE.

pints and quarts of Jackson's at Watson's Drug Store, 120 East Chapman Avenue. (Next Page)

The “Big Cones” stores adopted whatever ice cream they could reliably buy in the area in which they were located. Using aerial photographs, the Orange “Big Cone” structure at 644 W. Parker was still there in 1938, but likely not much longer. The



Laguna Beach “Big Cone” (above) at Main Beach was removed by the mid-1930s. . Some others lasted a bit longer. The Fullerton “Big Cone” on



Helen Eldred of Helen's - Fullerton 1938

Spadra (Harbor Blvd.) since 1928 was moved a block north on the same street at East Glenwood in 1934 and operated as a small café.



Helen's - Cone interior

The former “Big Cone” was just named - “Helen’s” from 1938-1940 when it was removed to make way for a new McAulay and Suters Mortuary.

Those fanciful buildings weren’t as esteemed as they had been just a couple decades earlier and judged not a fit for some modern municipalities.

The Laguna Beach photo is courtesy of the Laguna Beach Historical Society and the two photos of “Helen’s” in Fullerton are courtesy of the Fullerton Public Library’s Local History Department.

Nuts - “There were enough walnuts growers locally to support two packinghouses. The cooperative Richland Walnut Association (formed in 1919) and the Rosenberg Brothers, a private packinghouse. The Richland Association was a member of the California Walnut Growers Association and marketed its crop under the Blue Diamond label. In 1919, Richland’s members owned 650 acres of walnuts; by 1940 most of the local groves were gone.” - Phil Brigandi

Right: A 1912 Orange News ad by Frank and Gus Harman and John E. Coltrane (Garland’s dad) 145 N. Glassell Street.



(1941 -Roosevelt School -El Modena - Continued)

Brighton, Colorado, working as truck farmers on the relative's farm. Tak moved to Chicago in 1952, and most of his family moved back to LA region. Tomi married a kind, friendly man whose first name I cannot remember, and they had, I believe, three children. I met both of them in 1991. Their business was a mom-and-pop grocery store in LA (Montebello), called Tomi's (named after Tomi). I only met her one or two times, but found her to be warm and loving. I hope your mom will be reassured that Tomi thrived after they lost touch”.

sjmurikami123 on Ancestry.com – 20 February, 2017

I was able to finally tell my mother what had happened to her friend and that “Tomi” had sadly passed away on June 30, 2004. Knowing this brought some closure for my mom.

The El Modena school’s segregation is another story and **that** story will be addressed this April by the **Orange Public Library’s** look at the Mendez v. Westminster case. April 14, 2022 will mark the 75th anniversary of this landmark decision.



1960s - Dale Watt’s Union 76 Station at 648 South Glassell Street - opposite the Orange City Hart Park.

<p>PREPARE NOW FOR SUMMER DRIVING</p> <p>TUNE UPS ● BRAKES ● LUBRICATION</p> <p>Play It Safe With Your Motor and Your Life</p> <p>REDWINE SERVICE</p> <p>504 N. Tustin KE 8-6512</p>	<p>Car Washed</p> <p>Regular \$1.50 Complete Wash Job for your car. Using soap. 1.00</p> <p>Special for \$ DAY Only</p> <p>Don Gullledge</p> <p>HANCOCK SERVICE</p> <p>242 East Chapman Ave. Phone 1153</p>
--	--



26th Annual Orange Plaza Car Show - Sunday, April 10, 2022

Presented by Rotary Club Orange Plaza

Open to all pre-1976 vehicles Old Towne Atmosphere Restaurants, Unique Antique Stores, Art Galleries Drawings and Giveaways Over 30 Trophies.

DJ Thumper Spinning the Oldies + 30 Specialty Vendors.

Show Hours 8 am to 3 pm

Orange Plaza Rotary is the proud host of the Annual Orange Plaza Car Show. Money raised will help fund community outreach programs, youth education, and literacy programs.

Nearly 400 pre-1976 Street Rods, Custom and Classic vehicles will be on display. The show is estimated to bring out 9,000+ spectators to the beautiful Plaza area in the City of Orange. It is a wonderful event for the entire family to enjoy. Local restaurants and shops will welcome all in attendance. There is no admission fee for spectators. The show will run from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.



Are your
O.C.H.S.
DUES
Current ?



Join the Ranks of Orange Historians



The Historical Society recently received a \$500 donation from the Anderson Family Foundation in the name of longtime O.C.H.S member, **Shirley Perkins.**

Shirley Mae Edwards Perkins was born on February 6, 1926 in Orange, California

where she lived her entire life. She was a lifelong member of Immanuel Lutheran Church and a proud graduate of Orange High School Class of 1943. Wife of Robert L. Perkins It's been



1984 Street Fair - Shirley in the OCHS booth
2021.



Headstone in Fairhaven Memorial Park. "It's the Plaza, Not the Circle".

Woman's Club of Orange

INVITES YOU TO OUR



WCO 83RD ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW
Thursday, April 21, 2022
12 Noon to 4 PM

FREE ADMISSION!

OPPORTUNITY PRIZE DRAWINGS HOURLY!

OPEN TO ALL AMATEUR GARDENERS - NO ENTRY FEE TO EXHIBIT

- **Enter** your prized plants, flowers, or flower arrangements in our professionally-judged show.
- **Shop** vendors' booths, including our Sweet Shoppe and Plant Booth.
- **Enjoy** the plants and floral arrangements on display from local gardens.
- **Pause** and refresh at our Garden Cafe. Pick up a light luncheon or a beverage & dessert.



Information & Entry Forms Available at:
The Woman's Club of Orange 121 S. Center St.
More Info: www.womanscluboforange.org or call 714-836-5919



All net proceeds benefit WCO Charities

The O.C.H.S. will be at the Women's Club event above, offering our historical full-color City of Orange afghans for sale

2021 OCHS Board of Directors

President - Jane Owens - towens46@aol.com

Vice President, A/V, Programs -
Lyle Drinkgern - drinkgern@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer - Bill Utter - bill.utter@hotmail.com

Secretary - Mary Noguera -
marysellsoc@gmail.com

Membership - Jan Drinkgern -
drinkgern@sbcglobal.net

Website - John Russo - russo@johnrusso.org

Hospitality- Carol Summo -
csummo@socal.rr.com

Newsletter - Roger Fitschen -
fitschen@roadrunner.com

Marketing/Promotions - Jerrica Knight -
jerricasknight@gmail.com

OCHS MEMBERSHIP

Application for Membership Year 2022 (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 - \$20.00

Family - \$25.00

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 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.

LOCAL HISTORY QUESTIONS?

(714) 288-2465 | history@cityoforange.org

Check out the Orange Public Library's
Local History and 24/7 Reference Service
www.cityoforange.org/library

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.

ORANGE HISTORIC AFGHANS

Red & White or Green & White Afgans:
\$45.00 with Membership, \$55 without

If undeliverable please return to:

ORANGE TRIBUNE
Orange Community Historical Society
P.O. Box 5484
Orange, CA 92863-5484