



President’s Message

At our last program meeting Al Ricci, President of the Orange Chamber of Commerce, local real estate tycoon, and generally man about town gave us the latest word about some of the coming attractions in Old Town Orange.

We all know that Orange County’s favorite downtown is located right here in Orange. With over 40 restaurants within a short walking distance from the Plaza we are blessed with unlimited culinary choices. Because of our central Plaza, it’s been a natural gathering place for residents and visitors for more than a century. Al reminded us that Old Town contains the largest Nationally Registered Historic District in California and the second largest in the nation. Only New Jersey surpasses us in number.

We love the idea that downtown is constantly changing and 2022 promises several ambitious projects, bringing new dining options to our already eclectic mix. Across the street from Bosscat, on the southwest corner, we can expect a new brewery and restaurant offering tap beer and modernized classic cuisine. Famous chef Dee Nguyen has big plans for his new restaurant off north Cypress Street, near Chapman Crafted, and the old Potting Shed location will soon become a fabulous new Baja Mediterranean dining concept with live-fire cooking and a curated wine selection. These are just a few examples of what we can expect in the coming year. If you’re like me, I look forward to seeing what this next generation of business attractions has to offer.

Jane Owens - O.C.H.S. President 2022

Please Note

MAY PROGRAM POSTPONED

JULY PROGRAM SCHEDULED

We had hoped the new Fire Department Headquarters construction would be completed in time for our OCHS -VIP tour slated for Tuesday, May 10. Instead we will have to wait until September for our exclusive visit to the new facility. Because of the last-minute cancelation, we were unable to schedule a quality replacement program that meets our particular requirements so we decided to postpone the meeting instead of scheduling something you might not enjoy. Looking ahead, we ask that you mark your calendar for our annual outdoor “wine and hors

d’oeuvre” event at Park Plaza on **Tuesday, July 19**. There will be some new food and wine pairings along with an exciting new program.

2022 Membership Meetings

May 10 – Canceled

July 19 – Park Plaza with food

September 20 – Pitcher Park Fire

Museum and tentative Fire H.Q tour

November 13 (Wednesday) – Speaker to be announced.

January 26, 2023 – Annual Dinner at “The Villa“ on Katella Avenue with speaker, Andrew Carroll, Historian at Chapman University.



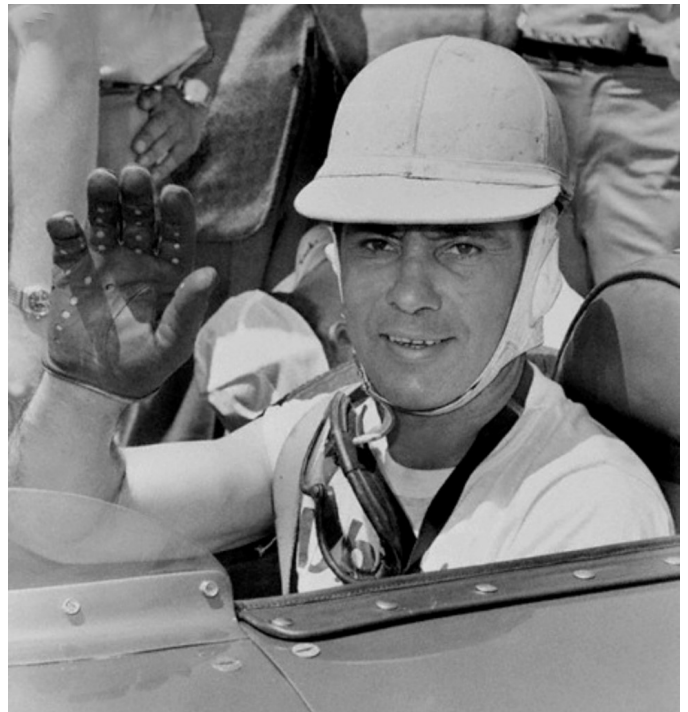
Under the Orange Peel

Rev. Nathan Riley

Car Radios, Pearl Harbor and Billy Vukovich

80 years ago, on a Sunday morning like today (Dec 7, 1941) our parents had been married just over a year and were headed after church to grandmother's house (Mom's mom) in Olive when the news came over the radio that Pearl Harbor had been bombed. I remember Dad saying he listened to that news on their car radio. That got me to thinking about how for a few years when we were children, we would gather in the driveway to listen to the Indianapolis 500 on our family's car radio. Apparently, we either didn't own a home or portable radio or else Mom didn't care to hear the roaring race sounds in her kitchen and so it was the car's radio or nothing at all. In 1955 I was standing in our driveway by the open front door of our family's car rooting for two-time Indy winner Billy Vukovich to three-peat when he perished suddenly in "a chain-reaction crash while holding a 17-second lead on the 57th lap...He was exiting the second turn, trailing three slower cars—driven by Rodger Ward, Al Keller, and Johnny Boyd—when Ward's car hit the backstretch outer wall and flipped, resting in the middle of the track as a result of a broken axle. Keller, swerving into the infield to avoid Ward, lost control and slid back onto the track, striking Boyd's car and pushing it into Vukovich's path.

After his car went over the outside wall and become airborne, it cartwheeled through the air multiple times landing on top of a group of parked cars before coming to rest upside down and bursting into flames..." Sad day for this young fan and for his family gathered around our car radio listening to the tragic details of the crash on one Memorial Day weekend back in 1955 here in our hometown...



William John Vukovich Sr.



The **Orange May Parade - Saturday, May 7th, 2022 - 10 A.M.** in Historic Old Towne. Sponsored by the Orange Chamber of Commerce. - www.OrangeMayParade.com. The O.C.H.S. will participate again this year.

Presbyterians and Methodists

Excerpt from *The Community of Orange* by Margret Gardner – 1930

“Among the early churches in Orange, the Presbyterian Church of Orange and the Methodist Episcopal Church here, were founded in 1874. For a time, they held a joint Sunday School in Orange’s first one-room school house. In 1874 or ’75 the entire community co-operated to build a church building on the eastside of Orange Street, the third lot south of the corner lot on Chapman Avenue. It was planned that the building should be used by all Christian sects, but after it had been dedicated for their use by the Methodists, they found it to be a rule of their church that a building once consecrated to its use could not be used by any other sect. So, the Presbyterians went back to holding their services in the schoolhouse until building of their own church, which was dedicated in 1881. It was on the site of the present (1930) Presbyterian church, the southeast corner of Orange and what is now Maple Avenue (the Walnut Street of the original map), a lot given them by

Chapman and Glassell. After the dedication of the Methodist church, it was blown from its foundation by a Santa Ana wind, and there not being enough Methodists in town to put it back, it remained so for some time. It is interesting to note, as quite characteristic of the best of the early West, that part of the material for the new foundation was hauled for them free of charge by a man whose upbringing had been “High Church” and who was at that time an agnostic with a strong leaning toward atheism.”

“The first church building was moved around on the lot and is still standing (1930), incorporated in the present Methodist Church building. A limestone foundation under another part of that building is probably the one which replaced the redwood blocks off which it was blown.”



1907 - First Methodist Episcopal Church of Orange at 133 South Orange Street. Curbing with dirt street.

“Do not complain about growing old. It is a privilege denied to many”

“Nothing spoils a good story like the arrival of an eyewitness”

“There is nothing to be learned from the second kick of a mule” - Mark Twain



1907 - First Presbyterian Church on the Southeast corner of Orange Street and Maple Avenue

1st Orange Aircraft Flyover – Friday May 9, 1913

A little after 7:30 A.M the whir of an engine broke the early morning stillness over Orange. Flying just under the overcast and following along the Santa Fe Railroad tracks, a small single engine Curtiss biplane flew over the City of Orange – the first such craft to do so. Piloted by United States Army Lieutenant, Joseph D. Park, who greeted several residents with a wave as he continued his progress north.

Lt. Park left the Curtiss airfield at North Island, San Diego at 5:17 that morning heading to Los Angeles. The pilot was meeting with Glenn L. Martin, the constructor of a new type aircraft that was being considered for army work.

The pilot intended to follow the railroad line to Orange, where the line branches off toward Los Angeles, with the other part continuing north. Dipping into the overcast briefly, the pilot failed to see the branch line and continued toward Olive. Arriving in Olive, he was unsure of his location and decided to land and get directions. (Lt. Park was using an old map, that didn't show the 1910 constructed, Santa Fe railroad "cut-off" toward Los Angeles, on the north-side of the Santa Ana River). After circling once north of the hill, he landed the aircraft about 100 yards north of the Olive school and in a field of barley.

With the engine still running, Lt. Park climbed out and was met by Herman Heitshusen and George Goetsch, book-keeper at the Olive Flour Mill. They told him that the rail-line again branched off north of the Santa Ana River and that he could follow the line west, at that point.

The pilot also asked the men to call Los Angeles and to tell them he was about 30 minutes away. Smiling and waving to the assembled children now gathered a short distance from the aircraft, Lieutenant Park climbed back into the aircraft seat. With a roar of the aircraft engine, he was off in a swirl of barley stalks. There was a slight rise to the field, falling away and downslope after about 100 yards. He had obviously thought that he could get the aircraft airborne near the ridge, but the barley growth seemed to not allow the aircraft to gain enough speed. The aircraft disappeared over the ridge and then hum of the engine stopped. The airplane had lifted slightly after the ridge but was unable to climb. Approaching two elder trees and not able to climb over them, the pilot was forced to try to go between them. A wing caught about 15 feet up into one tree and tore the wing off, sending the plane crashing down, nosing over and killing the pilot in a crumbled heap. The pilot's watch stopped at 7:44.



Crash site north of the Olive School

Lieutenant Joseph Dodge Park, age 31 years, U.S. Military Academy Class of 1904. He was posthumously promoted to the rank of Captain. Orange County's first aviation fatality.



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RE-OPENING
FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 1949 — 8:00 A. M.
IN OUR NEW LOCATION
105 WEST CHAPMAN AVE.

The additional floor space in our new building will give us a better opportunity to serve our many customers with the best in bakery goods, as well as that famous Franilla Ice Cream.



Public Invited We are proud of our new baking plant and extend an invitation to all in the Orange Community to come in and inspect our new modern bakery. We also express our appreciation to all our customers who have been so patient during the past three weeks while we were in the process of moving.

Perkins Bakery
"IF IT'S FROM PERKINS IT'S BETTER!"
105 West Chapman Avenue Phone 1466

Left to right — Bob Perkins, Mrs. H. R. Perkins and Jack Perkins, standing in front of the huge oven that bakes those fine pastries.

Continuing Exhibit at the Main Library

1947-2022

75 YEARS OF OC EQUAL RIGHTS:

Mendez et al. v.
Westminster et al.

EXHIBITS ON VIEW • APRIL 1 - JUNE 30

Orange Public Library & History Center
El Modena Branch Library

COLORING BOOK GIVEAWAY • MAY 2 - MAY 7
WITH OPPORTUNITY DRAWING! (AGES 5-10)

**FILM SCREENING &
DISCUSSION PANEL • JUNE 18**

Orange Public Library & History Center Community Room at 2:00pm
Screening of "Tales of a Golden State: The Mendez v. Westminster Story"
plus a Q&A with Dr. David-James Gonzales, Beverly Guzman Gallegos, and Mike Ramirez, moderated by Gustavo Arellano.

2022 OCHS Board Members

- President – Jane Owens
- Vice-President, - A/V and programs – Lyle Drinkgern
- Treasurer – Bill Utter
- Secretary – Mary Noguera
- Membership – Jan Drinkgern
- Website – John Russo
- Hospitality – Carol Summo
- Newsletter – Roger Fitschen
- Marketing/Promotions – Jerrica Knight

Leave a Message (714) 202-7514

OCHS Website -
www.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



Orange Public Library & History Center
407 E. Chapman Ave. Orange, CA 92866
(714) 288-2410
Mon.-Wed. 10am-8pm, Thurs.-Sat. 10am-6pm

El Modena Branch Library
380 S. Hewes St. Orange, CA 92869
(714) 288-2450
Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm



www.orangepubliclibrary.org
Community • Preservation • Innovation

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 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

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