

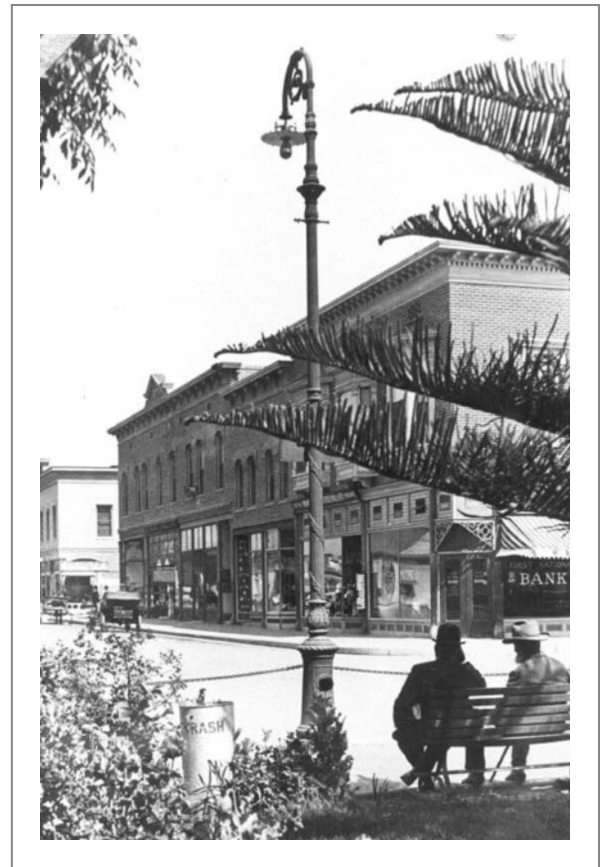
**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Our Forefathers really planned ahead by starting with a plaza and building out to create a vibrant city center. Since 1871 when William T. Glassell platted our town, the Plaza and its surrounding buildings have created a social and commercial hub not generally found in today’s communities. For those present at our May meeting, you heard our local historian Phil Brigandi chart the evolution of the buildings surrounding the Plaza and a later failed movement to replace the slow-moving roundabout with a more conventional intersection.

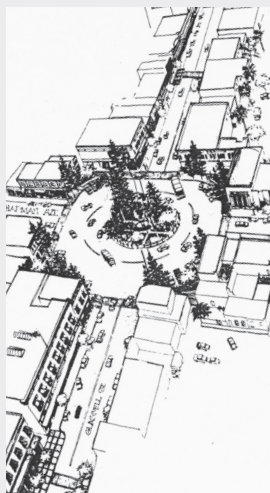
“Orange is the largest historic district in California and is still considered the best downtown in the county for its carefully restored architecture and old town Norman Rockwell feel.”

Most of the early structures that faced Plaza Park were simple storefronts of wood and metal. Those early buildings were replaced with the current buildings during the economic boom from 1905 to 1920. Starting with the southeast corner of the Plaza, Phil gave us a pictorial tour of

*(Continued on Page 3)*



**THIS MONTH: THE PLAZA HISTORIC DISTRICT AND THE MOVEMENT TO PRESERVE A GREAT PLACE IN CALIFORNIA**



Following Phil Brigandi’s presentation on the buildings surrounding the Plaza, it is fitting for our July meeting to tell the story of the preservation campaign started in the mid-1970s to protect and achieve national recognition for the historic Plaza – one in which our historical society played a key role. This story will be revealed by past society president, Paul Clark, assisted by former Orange planner, Fred Buss and current city Community Development Director, Anna Pehoushek. Memories and background related to the effort to identify the Plaza Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places in

1982 will be told. To update this, the district’s most recent recognition as one of the “Great Places in California” will cap off the program.

**July 26  
6PM @  
PARK  
PLAZA**

Paul Clark is a life member and the society’s president during the 1970s. He grew up in Orange and has had a book and a number of articles published on local history. Fred Buss was the city planner most responsible for coordinating the historic preservation efforts from 1979 to 1982. Our city chief planner, Anna Pehoushek, will speak about her successful effort to have the Plaza placed among California’s planning landmarks.



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# Under the Orange Peel

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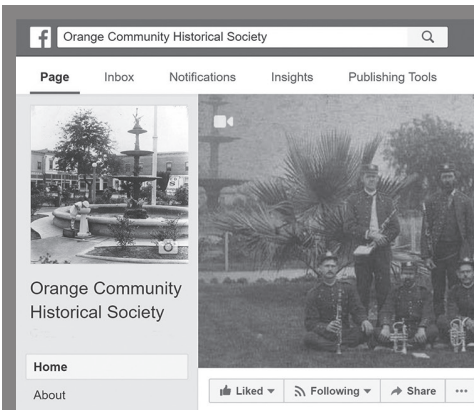
— Rev. Nathan Riley —

LIGHTS—From Benjamin Franklin’s four-sided, glass-enclosed candle lights in Philadelphia to William Murdoch’s gas lights which were copied and then introduced in 1803 to Pelham St., Newport, RI, here in America there came Thomas Alva Edison’s electric lights. Here’s what history says about those: “After Thomas Edison pioneered electric use, light bulbs were developed for the streetlights as well. The first city to use electric street lights was Wabash, Indiana. Charles F. Brush of Cleveland, Ohio wanted to publicly test his new invention the ‘Brush Light’ and needed a city to do so. The City Council of Wabash agreed to testing the lights and on March 31, 1880, Wabash became the ‘First Electrically Lighted City in the World’ as

a flood of light engulfed the town from four Brush Lights mounted atop the courthouse. One of the original Brush Lights is on display at the Wabash County Courthouse.” (Wikipedia, History of Street Lighting in the United States)



Here, in the the city of Orange, I’m not old enough to recall the very beginnings of electric lighting in our fair city, though I have seen, and been impressed by, some early (1907, 1914) photos of what must be some of our earliest lights (see OPL photos). Really nice! However, what I do personally remember are other wonderful old lights still on display in the older sections of our city. And whenever I see one of those, it brings back a warm, nostalgic feeling to this old heart. Do they do that for you, too?



## Want More Orange History?

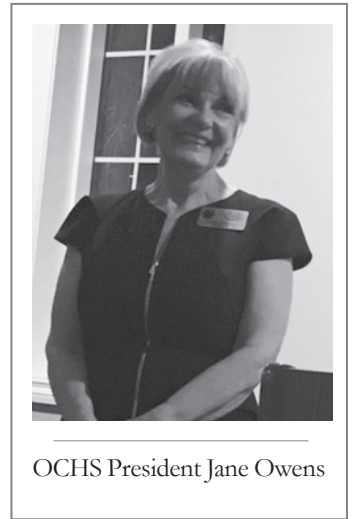
Follow the Orange Community Historical Society **FACEBOOK** Page to View and Share Photos, Facts, and Stories

A collage of historical photographs, including a man with a beard in a suit, a woman in a carriage, and a fountain with palm trees.

(Continued from Page 1)

the buildings opening with the Carpenter Bank Building that was the first location of the National Bank of Orange dating from 1905. Moving around the Plaza we learned about the Ehlen and Grote general store, Adolph Dittmer's Mission Pharmacy that survived until the 1930's, the two story Cuddleback Building, the Armor building where Louis Ainsworth operated his lumber company, the Jorn building built with a unique yellow brick veneer, the Campbell Opera House, the N.T. Edwards block that once housed the USO on the first floor and a bowling Alley in the basement, and finally the youngest building on the Plaza that once held the Orange National Bank built by noted LA theater architects around 1927.

In the 1940's parking meters were installed around Plaza Park and along spoke streets to create revenue to purchase property for parking lots. True to their word, the City removed the meters in the 1960's once the land was acquired and developed. Without these lots, today's parking situation would be far worse.



OCHS President Jane Owens

Orange is the largest historic district in California and is still considered the best downtown in the county for its carefully restored architecture and old town Norman Rockwell feel. While many cities have opted to redevelop their downtown's, Orange has taken steps to preserve and enhance its city center creating an exciting destination for meeting up with friends, date night, or simply a stroll through time. Please join us in July to hear Paul Clark talk about further steps being taken to preserve the Plaza.

*Jane Owens*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 26, 2018**

6:00 pm at Park Plaza

Program: See Page 1 for more detail on this month's event featuring Paul Clark discussing the efforts to put downtown on the National Historical Register

**August 25, 2018**

6-9 pm at Chapman University, 345 North Lemon St.  
3rd annual Orange Home Grown Farmer's Market to Table Dinner fundraiser -- \$150

Enjoy an al fresco meal under the stars at Chapman University. Featuring locally sourced, sustainably grown, and ethically harvested seasonal foods from local farmers and food artisans. Learn more at:  
<http://orangehomegrown.org/calendar/>

**September 27, 2018**

7:00 pm at Orange Public Library  
Program: Kris Olson on the architectural history of Chapman University

**November 15, 2018**

7:00 pm at Orange Public Library

**January 24, 2019**

6:00pm at TBD

## OCHS 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# OCHS MEMBERSHIP

Application for Membership Year 2018 (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

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](mailto:history@cityoforange.org)

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

Contact Katie Schroeder: (714) 742-9375

If undeliverable please return to:

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