



November 2022

HISTORICALORANGE.ORG

VOL. XLX ISSUE IX

President's Message

If you passed up our on-site visit to Pitcher Park in September, you missed a chance to experience one of our most unique treasures in Old Town. This peaceful pocket park is located at 204 South Cambridge, on the corner of Cambridge and Almond, in a quiet residential neighborhood. It's always been known as one of the City's best kept secrets. The site was the former home and farm belonging to the Pitcher family who donated the property to the City in 1988. The Pitcher's barn and honey house were rebuilt before the park was officially dedicated and open to the public in December 1992.

One of the park highlights is the fire museum located inside the restored barn. Retired City of Orange Fire Battalion Chief Doug Mochizuki proudly spoke about the 1907

hand-drawn fire wagon and other original farm implements including a mousetrap designed by Laurence Pitcher himself. Besides the museum, everyone had a chance to see the old-style street lamps, stone tables, 33 kinds of plants such as cherimoya, guava, coffee, olive, loquat and even a 100-year-old pomegranate located on the property. Our neighborhood green parrots love feasting on the park's avocados and pecans.


If you want to re-visit the Orange Fire Museum it is open to the public the first Sunday of each month from noon to 3 PM. The park is open everyday during daylight hours.

Jane Owens

OCHS President 2022

Upcoming Meeting: Wednesday November 16, 2022 at 5:30 P.M. -

Note the Day Change for this meeting only -

Please join us for a presentation by Cliff Prather on "**A Look at Railroads in the Orange Area**". Cliff will provide us with an overview of railroad operations including key developments and interesting operations. He is currently a member of the Orange County Railroad Historical Society where he's the editor of that organization's newsletter - "*The Merry-Go-Round*". Cliff is also an Orange resident *and* a member of our organization. 

Thursday, January 26, 2023 O.C.H.S.

Annual Dinner Meeting at The Villa, 510 East Katella, Orange. Mark your calendar for what will be one of our best programs in years.

Andrew Carroll our speaker, is a best selling author, historian, playwright and public speaker. He is a 1993 magna cum laude graduate from Columbia University. He has given keynote speeches at numerous prestigious venues nationwide including several presidential libraries, more than 100 local historical societies and museums, the Library of Congress, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, the U.S. Navel Academy and the Pentagon. Continued on page 2 - bottom



Under the Orange Peel

Rev. Nathan Riley

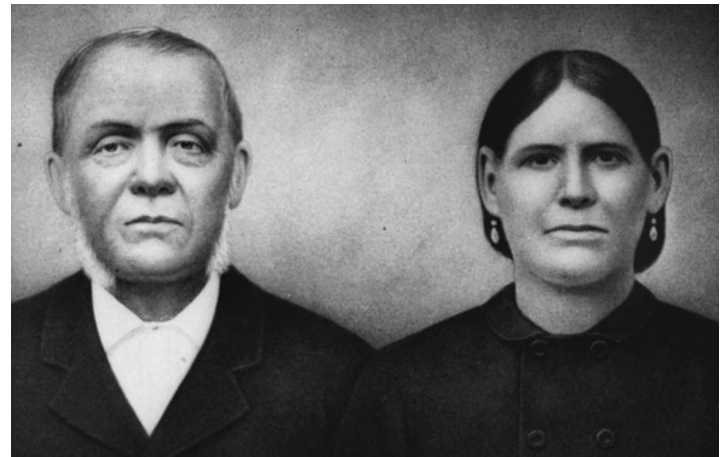
“Juan Pacifico Ontiveros (1795 - 1877)”

In 1814, a young "Californio", Juan Pacifico Ontiveros, who followed his father's and grandfather's footsteps and enlisted in the Spanish Army. Eleven years later, he decided to marry and chose as his wife Maria Martina Osuña of Santa Barbara. He was thirty, and she was nineteen. They had thirteen children. In 1837, Juan Pacifico fulfilled his father's dream when he became the first owner of Rancho San Juan de Santa Ana (35,970 acres). Juan Pacifico became a prosperous rancho and was well known for his hospitality.

When California became an U.S. state, Don Pacifico had problems proving the authenticity of his land title. Some years earlier, he had misplaced documents that defined the boundaries of his rancho. In 1854, Ontiveros' claim was rejected. It took three more years to prove the claim with the help of one the most successful attorneys in the area. However, it wasn't until 1877 that the final documents were signed by President Hayes.

In 1857, Juan Pacifico moved to Rancho Tepusquet in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. He would subsequently sell all of his original rancho property in Orange

County, but the first sale was with a group of German immigrants who planned to raise grapes and make wine. That colony gave birth to the city of Anaheim. The decision to sell the land to the German colonists may be connected to his eldest daughter, Petra, who married a young German, August Langenberger, in 1850. The couple resided in an adobe near Ontiveros' home until Anaheim was founded. In Anaheim, Langenberger established himself as its first merchant. The family of Ontiveros intermarried also with another famous family of Orange County, the Yorba family. A daughter of Juan Pacifico, Dolores, married Prudencio Yorba, a son of Don Bernardo Yorba.”



This image is from a sign at the Heritage Museum of Orange County

Andrew Carroll - (Continued from front page)

Andrew's first New York Times bestseller, *Letter of a Nation: A Collection of Extraordinary American Letters*, was published in 1997. A year later and inspired by the war letters he found while researching the book, Andrew created the Legacy Project, an all-volunteer initiative to honor veterans, active duty troops, and their

family members by preserving their correspondence. Since then he has collected an estimated 100,000 letters and emails from every war in U.S. history. This collection offers vivid accounts of famous battles, fierce declarations of love, reflections on the nature of warfare and expressions of fear, loneliness, humor, patriotism and anger during time of war. (See Page 5)

Orange Fire Department – 1906

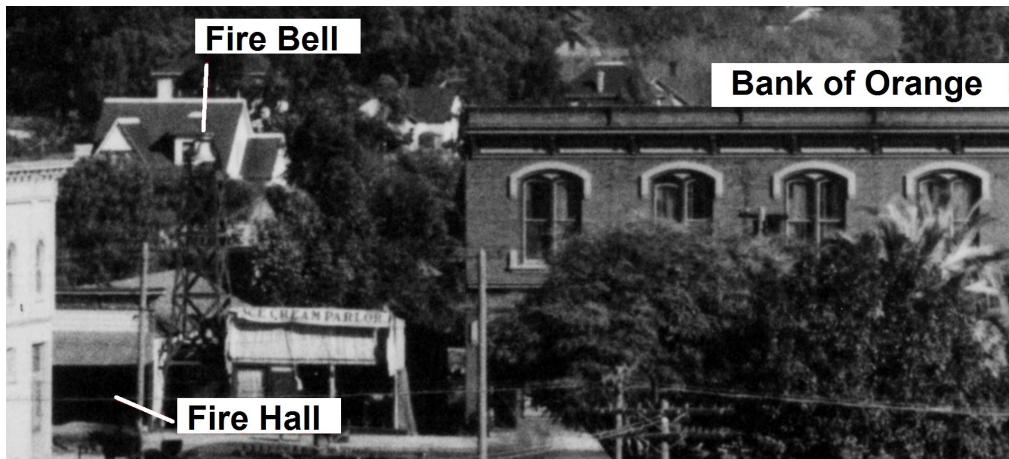
The First Station

The Orange Fire Department's first fire hall was in the northeast corner of Plaza Square. While the 29 members of the all-volunteer fire department officially organized on December 14, 1905, they needed a structure to house their equipment. That equipment mainly being two hose carts with 800 feet of hose.

Construction of the N. T. Edwards Building on the eastside of north Glassell (101-123) necessitated moving or tearing down the wooden buildings that occupied that space. The 1874 commercial building built by Robert Crowder was moved east, ending up behind both the Bank of Orange and the aforementioned Edwards Building. Crowder's building was the second dry-goods store built in Orange, after the 1873 Fischer Store, across the street.

It was Crowder's old store that became the fire department's first fire hall in early 1906. They added a fire bell on top of a 30-foot wooden tower in early May which was used to call the volunteers to an alarm. In 1907, a hand-pulled ladder wagon was purchased and housed in the fire hall. As luck would have it, one of the other buildings moved behind the bank became an ice

cream parlor. Ice cream has always been a favorite of firefighters. That little fire hall served the community until the first purpose-built fire station was completed in July 1910 at 122 South Olive Street.



Looking northeast in Plaza Square - Bank of Orange building was razed in 1927 and replaced with the Orange First National Bank building by 1928. Wells Fargo Bank has occupied the building since 1977.

Simon's Drug Store – 106 N. Glassell St.

Max Simon operated a drug store in one of the commercial spaces below the Masonic Lodge from 1928-1938. He worked prior at Watson's with Kellar Watson Sr. for 17 years, before leaving for a firm in Tustin. After two years, he returned to work for the Harms Drug Store in Orange for seven years. In 1928 he went into business for himself on north Glassell. Max sold the store in 1938 to Elmer Swift, a former employee at Simon's, who changed the name to the Orange Pharmacy. Later, under another owner, it was Marsh's Drug Store.

A promotional toothbrush holder from Simon's - found inside a wall in an Olive home in 1978.



1907 Orange Directory

Fire Department

N. E. Cor. Plaza Square. Phone Main 794

E. T. PARKER, CHIEF.

Ed. Cope, 1st assistant
K. E. Watson, president
G. L. Cosart, secretary

H. O. Warner, 2nd assistant.
C. O. Heim, vice president.
H. Moberly, treasurer

Early Saloons in Orange

by Margaret Gardener

From a series of articles appearing at regular intervals in the Orange Daily News beginning April 13, 1930.

“A saloon (Oriental Saloon) owned by the Reuter Brothers, who later went to Santa Ana, was closed by them in 1878. It stood on the westside of South Glassell Street, about in the middle of the first block. It had a back room for gambling. Afterward one of the Reuter brothers (Fritz) was killed in front of the blacksmith shop across the street by a citizen of Orange who was acquitted on the ground of self-defense.

“In the Fall of 1880 when Mr. Fife came to Orange and stopped at the hotel (Plaza Hotel aka Orange Hotel) it had a bar downstairs and a gambling house upstairs. It is probably that, under the next proprietor, who took over shortly afterward, this was discontinued, though several young fellows who worked in the McPherson Brothers Packing House, which at that time employed a good many men, had rooms on the second floor and used to play there. About 1884 the building on the eastside of North Glassell, where the drugstore had been, was opened by one Mr. Middlestitch as a saloon. A rival to it ran for a very short time almost directly across the street, about 1886. These were unpopular with many people in the town, and the former drugstore building mysteriously burned down one night. It was the last saloon in Orange. “

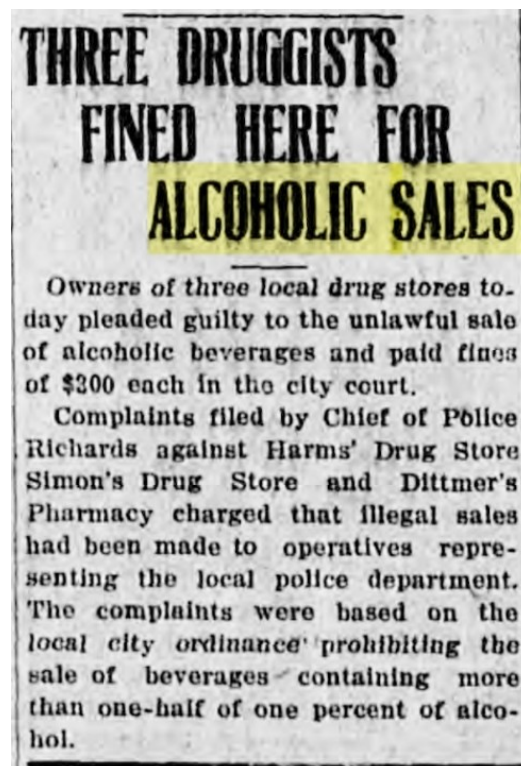
Editor's Note: The punctuation of this piece is printed as Ms. Gardner wrote it in 1930. Saloons within the city limits were banned in 1888.

Prescription Alcohol - During 1920-1933 Prohibition

Excerpt from Phil Brigandi's – Orange, The City 'Round the Plaza

“Kellar Watson, who took over Watson's Drug Store from his father in 1930, also felt the pinch (of the Great Depression) like many downtown businessmen. He had to expand his regular inventory with 'all sorts of junk' to try to increase sales..... Watson's also sold prescription liquor for a while. “Then we realized that it was hurting our business with the church people who were violently against it.”

Watson went on to say, “At least one of the other local drug stores sold bootleg whiskey.” In college in Los Angeles in the '20s Watson had worked for a store that sold hooch. “They'd buy these regular whiskey bottles by the case and put in four ounces of prescription liquor, six ounces of rot-gut alcohol.... And distilled water to top and then add caramel coloring and shake it. It tasted real good.”



March 5,
1930 -
Orange
Daily
News

Preserving Our Heritage

– *Oral Histories*

Spotlight On Orange – And You!

Oral histories have been described as ‘the first kind of history’. They’re the passing on of knowledge, memory and experience by word of mouth, and a way of gathering, recording and preserving a diverse range of personal experiences that generally are not well-documented in written sources or traditional history in Western society. Their personal nature makes them a great primary source for people wanting to discover more about a certain event or era, providing an insight into the impact events had on the people alive and involved.

Orange Public Library is committed to preserving the history of our communities, and we’d like your help! If you or a family member grew up in Orange, we’d love to hear from you. Oral histories are a wonderful way of preserving our past, and we are happy to consider donations of old letters, family photographs, yearbooks, or other relevant memorabilia as well. Contact the History Center today to participate or request more information at (714) 288-2465, or email us at history@cityoforange.org.

Andrew Carroll’s presentation of “War Letters” - Thursday January 26, 2023 - 5:30 P.M. Invitations will be mailed in late December. Tickets may be purchased on our website - www.HistoricalOrange.org.

Those wishing to donate items for the silent auction please contact Carol Summo at (714) 289-1018 prior to January 15, 2023. Items to be donated should be Orange history related and in reasonably good shape. No items will be accepted the night of the dinner.



Thursday December 1, 2022 - Our Historical Society will lead a group of 50 people from Thousand Oaks on a tour of Old Town. Following, they’ll visit the Huell Howser Collection at Chapman University.



2022 OCHS Board Members

President – Jane Owens
Vice-President, - John Russo
Treasurer – Bill Utter
Secretary – Mary Noguera
Membership – Jerrica Knight
Website – John Russo
A/V - Programs - Lee Cornett
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

OCHS MEMBERSHIP

Application for Membership Year 2023 (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