

## President's Message

At last month's program we were excited to introduce Jamie Hiber, Executive Director of the Orange County Heritage Museum located in Santa Ana. Jamie, was born and raised in Orange, and started her road to success in our very own Library where she spent countless hours of research while on her path to becoming a historian and preservationist. She said returning to the Orange library was most definitely a full circle moment that she will cherish for a very long time.

Jamie spoke about the gorgeous historic H. Clay Kellogg House that is the centerpiece of the Heritage Museum and grounds located at 3101 Harvard Street in Santa Ana. Hiram (H. Clay) Kellogg was born in Northern California in 1855 and moved to Anaheim in 1868 where he and a brother opened a sundries shop. He eventually attended college and distinguished himself as an engineer working on various projects throughout the area including the Santa Ana Valley Irrigation Company. His home originally stood at the corner of South

Orange and Walnut Street in Santa Ana until 1980, when it was purchased and moved to its present location.

*Jamie Hiber - speaking to O.C.H.S. members and friends at the July 19th membership meeting in the main library.*



I hope you enjoyed learning about the Kellogg House and Mr. H.C. Kellogg who played such important role in the construction and development of Orange County. We look forward to seeing you next month at Pitcher Park as we uncover more stories and events that helped shape our community.

Jane Owens - OCHS President 2022

**Next Meeting – September 24<sup>th</sup> – Saturday at 10:00 A.M. in Pitcher Park – Southwest Corner of Cambridge St. and Almond Avenue**

Doug Mochizuki, retired City of Orange Fire Department Battalion Chief will host our membership at the City of Orange Fire Department Museum in Pitcher Park. He has been the museum's docent for many years and will present his knowledge on the history



of the City of Orange Fire Department with artifacts from the museum's collection. - In addition, we'll have donuts and juice following the presentation for everyone.





# Under the Orange Peel

Rev. Nathan Riley

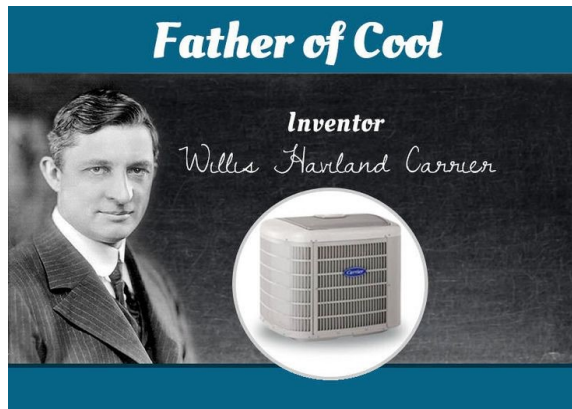
William Carrier’s air conditioning invention hadn’t reached our classrooms yet. It was the 1950’s and hot, record breaking hot. I don’t know. You just tried to get used to it. A few open windows, but no shorts allowed those days and mostly collared shirts, too, as I recall. We were over-dressed certainly. Only respite from our hot classrooms were those three a day recesses we were generously allowed— mid-morning, high noon, and 2 PM. We’d use these, don’t you know, to generate MORE internal body heat, running and jumping and doing what kids do on playgrounds.

Then it was back into the classroom—no AC, no electric fan either that I recall! We were simply instructed to fold our arms on our desks and lay our dripping heads on our

sweating arms while pools of perspiration would paint our desktops wet with our schoolyard excesses-true that day especially! As I said, hard to find respite or relief. Then something new happened— something unprecedented! As a charitable act of mercy our teacher left our room briefly to head over to the church to reclaim for our relief a few funeral-home-gifted, enormous wicker fans. Thank you Ralph Shannon! Smiles



all around, and it did help a bit, but mostly I remember just how much fun it was on that long-ago hot autumn school day simply to use them. Ah, such swelteringly sweet recollections!



## Watson’s

In 1899 Kellar Watson acquired an existing drug store, founded in 1875 on Glassell St.. He renamed the business K.E. Watson’s. In 1901, his new store was one of the first new tenants in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows building (IOOF) at 112-20 East Chapman. It would remain in that building for the next 121 years.

Quoting Phil Brigandi in his 1997 book, *Orange, The City Around the Plaza*, “The original Watson’s Drugs was a smaller storefront next to its present location.” By 1907, Watson’s had opened a soda fountain in the store with

1907 - Watson’s first soda fountain with various flavorings for fruit-flavored phosphate sodas. Visible flavors are vanilla, coffee, lemon, strawberry, raspberry, root beer and ginger.



with ice cream, soda, sundaes and phosphates. “Watson Sr. ran the business until 1928, when Kellar Watson Jr. took over. In the mid-1930s, Watson Jr. was the first west coast surfing champion, but Watson’s Drugs took precedence. Watson Jr. expanded the business in the late 1940s when Alpha Beta market – the third one in the

## Watson's - Continued

chain – relocated to south Glassell Street. Watson's moved into the adjoining space and expanded the soda fountain.”

“In 1965, Kellar Watson Jr. retired. The store went through several changes of ownership until Scott Parker bought Watson's in 1971. Parker, a resident in Orange and a pharmacist by trade. He grew up in Utah, but came to Orange County and after visiting Orange, fell in love with the small town feel of the city”. Both he and his son Steve managed the business.”

“The restaurant was usually crowded for breakfast and lunch, but they closed down the Pharmacy side in 2011. Customers would greet each other, and the employees were on a first name basis with many patrons.”



“The Orange (Union) High School class of 1943 met there for breakfast the first Saturday of the month, while the class of 1945 met the second Saturday. Former residents stopped by whenever they came to town – an ongoing tradition for more than 50 years.”

“It's a little like Mayberry,” said Scott Parker. “This area feels homey. It's real comfortable.”

But, after 50 years and struggling to pay the \$14,000 monthly rent, along with other business' expenses, Parker was glad to sell the

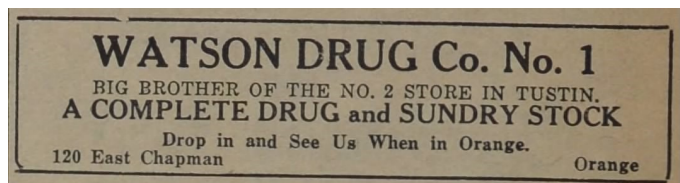
business to Bill Skeffington in 2015.

A major interior remodel ensued, with a more modern, upscale take on the diner was what Skeffington envisioned. The expanded liquor license with specialty cocktails and a swanky new menu weren't enough to build a customer base over the ensuing years and the business folded in July 2022.

*Hector's on the Circle*, a Mexican restaurant, is now open in Watson's vacated space with a few changes to wall coverings, some potted plants and no structural alterations.

The last paragraph of Phil's 1997 article on Watson's said: “Orange County may have changed, but there's still a piece of the past lingering in Orange – at Watson's Drugs.”

Watson's Drug and Soda Fountain, 1899-2022.  
Thanks for the Memories!



Did You Know? Watson's Drug Store, for a time in the 1930s to early 1940s had a sibling on the north-east corner of “D’ Street (El Camino Real) and Main in Tustin. November 4, 1938 Tustin News

1907 --

CANDIES	KODAKS	FILMS	PAPER	PERFUMES
	<b>WATSON'S DRUG STORE</b>			
	Best Place In Town To Trade } <b>Why?</b>			
	K. E. WATSON, PRESCRIPTION DRUGGIST, POSTOFFICE BLOCK, ORANGE, CALIFORNIA.			
SODA		STATIONERY	CIGARS	

P.S. If you're ever in Palo Alto, California check out the Peninsula Dairy Store and Grill or the Palo Alto Creamery. These two locations grew out of a family ownership from 1932 and have a lease clause that states, “there will always be an old-fashioned soda fountain restaurant at that address.”



**1910 Street Fair** - Not very crowded in the Plaza area during the 1910 edition of the Orange Street Fair. Crowds of 4 - 5,000 people each day during the 3-day run, September 22-24. James Fullerton's poultry exhibit seen and not a beer stand in sight. At the time and direction of this photo, there was no building on the northwest corner of north Glassell. The Fischer Brothers store had been torn down in 1909, but the two-story Campbell Opera House (later the Masonic Building) wouldn't be completed until 1912. So you have a view of some beautiful, tall cedar trees in the background. An image from the Orange Public Library's Digital History Collection.

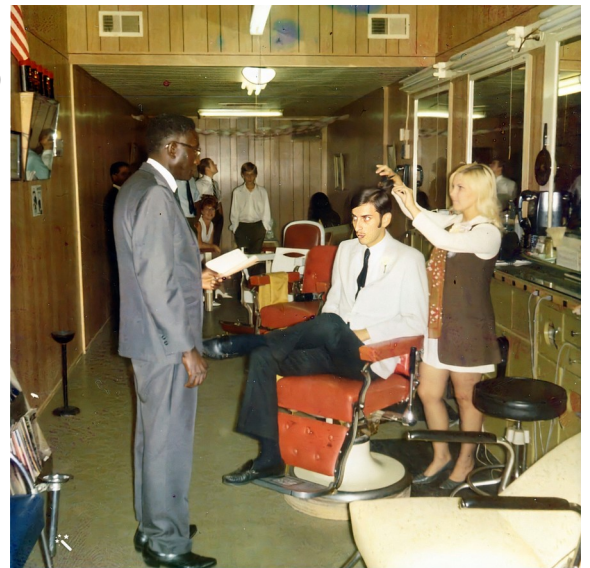
**115 North Glassell** in 1903 was a grocery store in a wooden building. By 1913 its barber shop time began with Edgar T. Latimer's shop in the 1905 brick Edwards Building. In 1916 it was Paul A. Ristow's - *Metropolitan Barber Shop*. T.C. Parks and A. J. Butler held court in the Metropolitan from the 1920s through the mid-1940s when Garland Coltrane took the reigns of the shop. Norm Pargee recalled "Coalie" was on the first chair, then Burl Wing, Bill Loubke and Wilmer Mein had chairs down-the-line.

**Editor** - "Coalie" cut my hair in the early 1960s, but later he retired and the shop became Mary's

Barber Shop with an all female crew. In the 1970s I was in the shop a few times before moving up to Ray Wade's shop, "Ray's" at 446 north Glassell. Ray's Barber Shop is another story, so I'll stop here.

Move ahead to the Covid Pandemic of 2020 and I'm looking for a barber that doesn't work inside a shop and O.C.H.S. board member Lyle Drinkgern recommends a barber who comes to his house to cut hair. That barber was Linda Brooks Nagel who has been cutting hair since she started in Mary's Barber Shop at 115 North Glassell in 1970. It was where she was married to Tony Nagel by the Reverend Lofton Thomas of the New Jerusalem Baptist Church of Santa Ana. A last minute decision with limited options they chose the barber shop as the most convenient and affordable location for the wedding.

**September 1970**  
- Linda & Tony Nagel wed at 115 N. Glassell Street - Mary's Barber Shop.



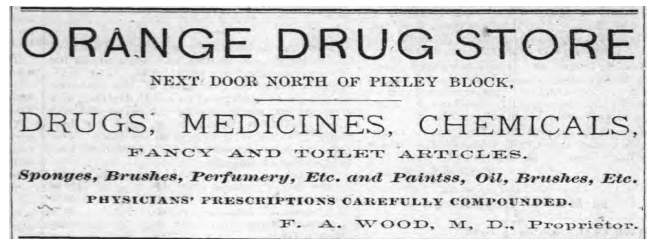
2022 - Linda Nagel worked at Court Barbers on north Tustin for over 30 years before semi-retiring. She still drives to my house once a month and cuts my hair and we talk about the "old days" and 115 North Glassell.



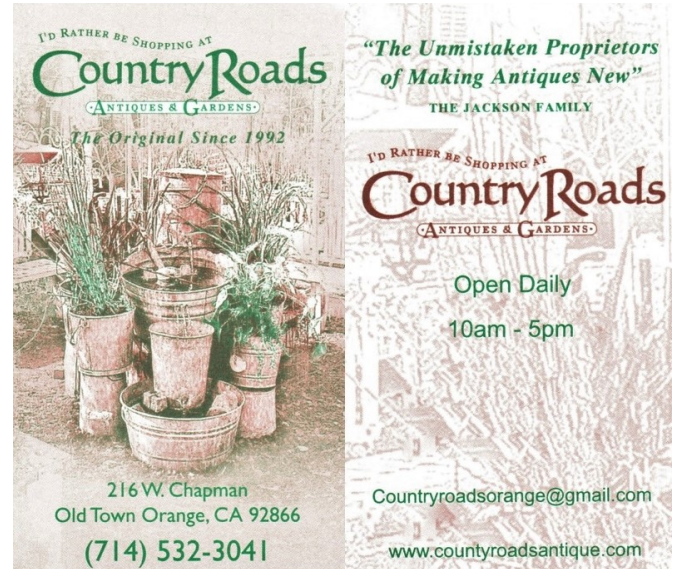
*Orange Public Library Archives* - Donations are extremely important in building the library's collection. We welcome gifts of pertinent materials from the city's earliest years to the present day, including photographs, manuscripts, scrapbooks, community brochures, postcards, diaries, dedication programs, city directories, school yearbooks and maps. To discuss a donation, please call 714-288-2465 or email [history@cityoforange.org](mailto:history@cityoforange.org).

**Circumnavigation** - The Orange Library's archivist, Aida Cuevas will soon have a new oral history available about Jim Cornett, who I've heard holds the record for the most laps around the Orange Plaza. Jim is the brother of Lee Cornett, one of the Historical Society's newest board members. Lee will replace outgoing member Lyle Drinkgern at audiovisual. I'm also aware that making one or more revolutions around our downtown landmark is or was also used by others to mark some event. I personally recall victory laps on the team-bus following away football victories at Orange High in 1963. Unfortunately, we didn't get to make the trip around often that season. My dad, Pete Fitschen, told me that during a particular hot spell in the mid-1950s that he and Jim Klaustermeyer were tasked with removing a large number of dead chickens from a chicken ranch that had succumbed to the heat. They were driving them to a landfill in Huntington Beach, but decided that a truck load of smelly chickens shouldn't be wasted and with feathers flying made a couple circumnavigations of the Plaza to share their farm work with the downtown folks.

Do you have a story about going around the Plaza to mark some event or maybe attempt to best Jim Cornett's record? If you would like to share it for history, contact archivist Aida Cuevas by email at: [history@cityoforange.org](mailto:history@cityoforange.org) or (714) 288-2465. She's compiling a list of "Around the Plaza" events.



1889 - Orange Weekly Tribune / 10 years prior to K.E. Watston



## 2022 OCHS Board Members

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

Leave a Message (714) 202-7514  
 OCHS Website - [www.HistoricalOrange.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.OrangePublicLibrary.org/home-library)*

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