

Model Colony News



Heritage Events

2018 Upcoming Events:

January 3: Monthly Board Meeting

January 28: Our 1st Quarter Dinner Potluck Meeting with Board elections and Guest Speaker, Jack Ingram from the Drake Family Goat Farm. Location: Frankish Building at 200 S. Euclid Ave, Ontario. Time: 4pm-6:30 pm.

February 7: Monthly Board Meeting

March 7: Monthly Board Meeting

March 16: Ontario Heritage 2nd Annual St. Paddy's Golf Tournament at Whispering Lakes Golf Course Ontario.

April 4: Monthly Board Meeting

April 8: Our 2nd Quarter Dinner Potluck Meeting. Time: 4:00 pm -6:30 pm. Location: 119 E. Princeton St., Ontario.

April 28th: Annual Historic Walking Tour. Location: La Deney Drive Historic District. Time: 10:00 am—12 Noon.

Inside This Issue

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Heritage Events | 1 |
| Contact Information | 1 |
| Heritage Corner | 2 |
| Other News & Info | 8 |
| Board Members | 10 |
| Membership Form | 11 |

Ontario Heritage
P.O. Box 1
Ontario, CA 91762
Phone: 909-984-6558

Website: ontarioheritage.org

Email:
info@ontarioheritage.org

Like us on Facebook at
[www.facebook.com/
ontario.heritage](http://www.facebook.com/ontario.heritage)

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

If you would like to volunteer
your time at our events, please
contact us at: 909.984.6558
or email us at:
info@ontarioheritage.org

Heritage Corner

In this 1st Quarter newsletter for 2018 we continue with our series of articles highlighting endangered historic places in Ontario. The sixth installment features historic Guasti:

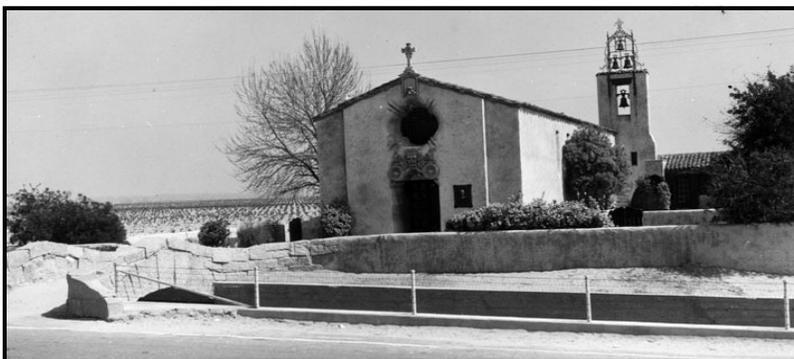
GUASTI VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Secondo Guasti, Sr. was born in Asti, Italy in 1859. In 1883 he arrived in Los Angeles without a penny after a short sojourn in Mexico. His first job was shoveling coal in the Southern Pacific freight yards. After that he became a cook working at Hotel d'Italia in Los Angeles where he met Louisa Anna Amillo, daughter of the hotel manager. They married in 1887. He gradually saved enough money to start a small vineyard in Los Angeles, buying grapes from private vineyards. Secondo had learned about wine from his father who was a prominent vintner in Italy. In 1900 he started the Italian Vineyard Co.

He and Louisa took many trips to a part of south Cucamonga that was still uncultivated; a land considered practically valueless that was frequented by terrible sandstorms, filled with tumbleweeds and overrun by the biggest jackrabbits they had ever seen. He saw great possibilities for a grape-growing industry in this desert land. Skeptical investors and field laborers dubbed him the "crazy Italian" but he was able to convince some investors to go in with him and purchase 1500 acres of the land. He began the construction of a winery, found water, sunk wells and brought in cuttings from his native Italy and from France. Included in this area of south Cucamonga was a large frame hotel built in 1885 by the Southern Pacific Railway. He made this structure his ranch house and headquarters.

Year by year he added to his acreage until he owned 5000 acres, approximately 8 square miles. He brought in Italian vintners and field laborers and paid out of his own pocket to build a village to house them. Italian immigrants, for the most part, lived in clapboard houses on dirt roads north of the tracks. Both local Mexican Americans and migrant workers lived first in tents and later in cinder-block buildings in the "camp" south of the tracks. Guasti often worked alongside his men, speaking fluent Italian and Spanish and bringing a jug of wine to share. Eventually the colony would line both sides of the Southern Pacific tracks. By 1910 the winery was considered to be the largest in the world, the village had been named Guasti and the U.S. Government assigned it a post office.

Secondo Guasti Sr. had very strong religious beliefs and after he built his town he decided a church was needed. Construction on the Church of San Secondo d'Asti began in 1924 and was completed in 1926. It is a replica, although smaller in size, of a 17th century structure in the village of Asti, Italy where Secondo was born. The Guasti church is 29' wide and 115' long and has walls that are 20" thick which are made of red brick covered with cement.



It has a Spanish tile gable roof with capped edges at each gable. Tall stained glass windows in each end gable are recessed and depict various religious scenes. The woodworkers and stone masons came from Italy and Mexico at a cost of \$30,000. The work of these artisans can be found

(Continued on Page 3)

Heritage Corner

in the cement and fieldstone. All of the woodwork was done by hand. The bells in the wrought iron tower were forged in Italy. In 1935 the Guasti family, through the Italian Vineyard Company, donated the church to the Diocese of Los Angeles and San Diego. Since 1978, it has been in the Diocese of San Bernardino.

The original ranch house was moved to another site and in April of 1923 construction (at the cost of \$110,000) began on what became known as the Guasti Mansion. The architects were Morgan, Walls & Morgan of Los Angeles. The architectural style is Italian Renaissance Revival. The Campbell Construction Company of Ontario was awarded the principal contract for the mainly brick building which contained twenty rooms including six baths, a spacious club room, living room, dining room, domed ceiling, porcelain sinks, and a wine cellar. There were three great fireplaces. The interior finish had wall niches for the figures of Spanish saints. Wood beams were brought in as logs and hand hewn by craftsman of the colony. All bedroom doors opened into the center courtyard. The roof is Spanish Tile. The interior courtyard of the mansion had an elaborate fountain on one end and a huge fireplace at the other end. The mansion retains most of its original historic fabric including purple hewed stucco that was actually stained with grapes skins during construction.

(Continued on Page 4)



Photo Credits: Ontario Heritage and the Model Colony History Room



Model Colony News

Heritage Corner

The home was built around a central courtyard with an aviary for Secondo Guasti Jr's exotic bird collection. All gate and light fixtures were made by the Guasti blacksmith. There was also a swimming pool and a tennis court added.



Above photo is of the Aviary



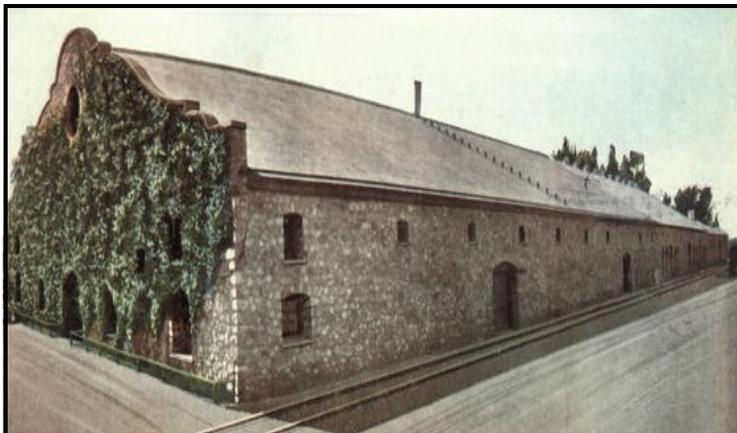
Guasti Vineyards 1937 Photo

Eventually, the Guasti town grew to have fifty-one resources (buildings, houses, etc.) which included the following: a post office, a firehouse, a market, a gas station, a scale house, a coopersmith building (where wine barrels were made), winery buildings constructed of stone and concrete, a major warehouse, a fortifying and spirits building, a fermenting and storage building, five other warehouses, two garages, two office buildings, a bunkhouse, a recreation hall, an elementary school named after Louisa Guasti, and the church along with twenty-seven vernacular wood framed houses. Arrangements were made to have doctors come visit the town every two weeks.

During the latter years of Secondo Guasti Sr's life, he and his wife traveled extensively in Europe. He died in 1927 having been known as a hard working, passionate, gruff yet generous man.

During the Great Depression the winery sold what grapes the market would take, manufactured wine for sacramental and medicinal purposes and awaited the return of wine as a legal beverage.

(Continued on Page 5)



Storage Cellars, capacity 5,000,000 gallons



Above photo not dated

Model Colony News

Heritage Corner

Secondo Guasti Jr. took over as President of the Italian Vineyard Company upon his father's death. He was a socialite, not a business man like his father and kept company with movie stars and political officials in Los Angeles. He was a sickly man, plagued with a variety of ailments and died in 1934. His mother, Louisa Anna Amillo Guasti died in 1937. The winery at Guasti went through several ownership changes. In the 1950s, it passed into the hands of the Biane family who had established the Brookside Winery near Redlands. With the Biances, the Guasti winery took on the name Brookside and they owned it for many years.

The 1960s and '70s kicked off the decline of the wine industry in Southern California. Many factors were to blame: higher costs to maintain and harvest vineyards, tax laws that made it more profitable to sell farm land to developers and urbanization as housing complexes, factories and roads began to spring up where verdant vines once grew.

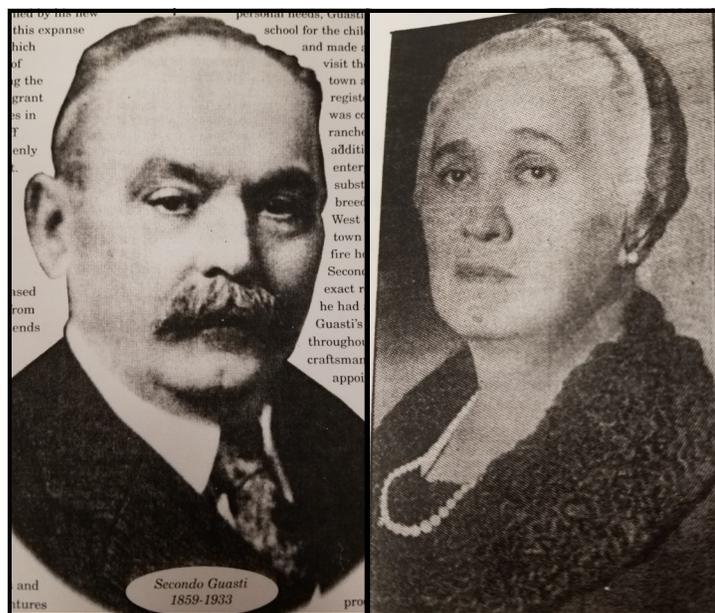
Over the years some of the buildings were destroyed by fire, floated away by flooding or were destroyed by winds. The Guasti Mansion and site were used as an events venue and catering facility for about 11 years and the Homestyle Café occupied the adjacent party hall.

In 1997 the City of Ontario adopted the Guasti Specific Plan to help guide the planned redevelopment of this site for a mixed-use project. The vision for this project was an urban development that included retaining and adaptively reusing a minimum of 15 of the existing on-site structures.

In 2006 a major developer based in San Diego purchased the property with plans to construct a mixed-use, people-place featuring major entertainment, food service and recreational, retail and office uses.

In 2007 a Planning Area Plan (File No. PPAP 06-001) was approved that designated the retention, possible rehabilitation or relocation of the remaining 15 vacant historic structures. The site was fenced and is monitored by security guards.

(Continued on Page 6)



Images to the left:
An advertisement from
The San Bernardino
County Sun newspaper
dated January 26, 1935.

Images of Secondo
Guasti Sr. and his wife,
Louisa Anna Amillo
Guasti from the Model
Colony History Room.

Model Colony News

Heritage Corner

In 2011 the seismic retrofit of the unoccupied Mansion was completed and included the reinstallation of the original clay barrel tile roof. The smaller structures that have been retained were all mothballed to help arrest ongoing deterioration from exposure to weather. Mothballing is a method used to protect historic vacant buildings from the weather as well as to secure them from vandalism. It is an effective process used to protect the buildings from demolition while planning the property's future, or raising money for a preservation, rehabilitation or restoration project.

According to the San Bernardino County Tax Records Guasti Mansion Development LLC took 100% ownership of the property in April 2014.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if the property owner found a developer who had the financial ability and the vision to help keep the history of Guasti alive. A portion of the property could be turned into a large wine museum showcasing the amazing wine-making history of Guasti, Brookside, San Antonio Winery, Galleano Winery, etc. There could be large vintage photos and winery labels on the museum walls, a harvest-time display of mannequins dressed as field laborers standing by wooden crates filled with grapes, another display of a portion of a coopersmith shop with one or two mannequins, another display of a mannequin dressed as an Italian chef making a dish using wine, some barrel displays, etc. etc. A documentary movie could be shown in the museum. There could be an amazing gift shop with an area for wine tasting. The Guasti Mansion could be completely restored, furnished and tours given. An Italian family restaurant would be perfect on this historic property. Shops and other restaurants could also be built there.

As you know the City of Ontario now has control of the Ontario International Airport plus an already successful Convention Center, Citizens Bank Arena, Museums and the Town Square Park events. Our city is becoming even more of a destination spot. A wine museum in Guasti? With the incredible history and authentic structures already in place—why not!



Above: mothballed structures at Guasti, an unprotected home and the original Guasti market building

Below: winery buildings



Model Colony News

Page 7

1st Quarter 2018

President's Message

With this new year we are excited and ready to continue our journey forward in our mission of preserving, protecting and promoting our Model Colony. Our 1st Quarter Dinner Potluck Meeting on January 28th was a great success. Many thanks to all who joined us and shared their yummy potluck dishes in the beautiful historic Frankish building. Our guest speaker, Jack Ingram from the Drake Family Goat Farm in Ontario gave a very interesting and informative presentation. He also shared samples of their award-winning goat cheeses and several of us in attendance had the opportunity to purchase the cheeses. We thank Pitzer College for allowing us to use their Community Engagement Center for this event.

This year (upon approval from the property owners) we will continue our plaque program adding more bronze plaques to downtown Ontario landmarks. These plaques commemorate the historic significance of these enduring structures and by having them installed, we are helping to promote Ontario's rich history.

On March 16, 2018 we will hold our 2nd Annual St. Paddy's Golf Tournament at historic Whispering Lakes Golf Course in Ontario. A copy of the flyer with all the details is in this newsletter. Please help us by sharing this news with any golfers you may know.

Mark your calendars for April 8th which is our 2nd Quarter Dinner Potluck Meeting. This will be held at the historic home located at 119 E. Princeton St. in Ontario. Event time will be 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm.

April 28th will be our annual historic walking tour. This year it will be in the beautiful La Deney Drive Historic District from 10 am to 12 noon.

If you have not already renewed your yearly membership with us, you can do so by going on our website and pay via PayPal. Click on this link: <http://www.ontarioheritage.org/membership-renewal.html>. Or you can mail your check to us at P.O. Box 1, Ontario, CA 91762. See page 9 of this newsletter for the membership fees.

On Preservation

"It has been said that, at its best, preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future."

William Murtagh, first keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

"...the greatest glory of a building is not in its stones, nor in its gold. Its glory is in its Age, and in that deep sense of voicefulness, of stern watching, of mysterious sympathy... which we feel in walls that have long been washed by the passing waves of humanity."

John Ruskin, art critic, social thinker, historic preservationist

"Old places have soul."

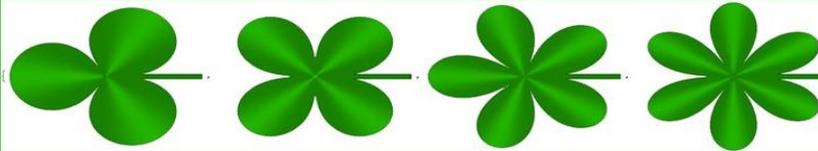
homeowner Sarah Anderson

Model Colony News

Page 8

1st Quarter 2018

Other News & Information



Ontario Heritage's 2nd Annual St. Paddy's Golf Tournament



Friday March 16, 2018

Registration 7:00 AM-7:30 AM

Tee Time: 8:00 AM Shotgun Start



Entry Fee Includes: Green Fees, Cart, Golfer Goody Bag, Banquet & Awards Ceremony

"Additional Ways to Donate to Ontario Heritage"

*Longest Drive *Putting Contest *Closest To The Pin *Raffle Prizes

Tee sign sponsorship and Mulligans

EARLY REGISTRATION \$75.00 Per Person | \$300 per 4 person team



Whispering Lakes Golf Course 2525 E. Riverside Ontario CA 91761

Any Questions or to RSVP please contact Joe Caskey @ (909) 732-6352

or JOECASKEY@ONTARIOHERITAGE.ORG

Please make checks payable to Ontario Heritage and mail to:

Joe Caskey 2732 S. Monterey Pl, Ontario, CA 91761

To Register Online go to: www.ontarioheritage.org



 Ontario Heritage is a 501c3 Non Profit Organization 



Other News & Information

Non Profits in Historic Places:

Southland Symphony at Bethel Congregational Church

Bethel Congregational Church, located on the south east corner of Euclid Avenue and F Street in Ontario, is also the home of the Southland Symphony Orchestra (SSO). The church was founded in 1885 and its building is City of Ontario Designated Historic Landmark #24.

The Southland Symphony Orchestra (SSO) is Ontario's community orchestra. Founded and directed by Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann, SSO presented its first concert at Bethel Church in December 2011. Since then, SSO has presented more than 25 free concerts featuring a full orchestra and soloists.

The orchestra is made up of internationally-renowned musicians from all over the globe. It is a volunteer, community orchestra that welcomes qualified musicians to perform live music. The orchestra performs music of the world's great composers, both historic and contemporary in three concerts per season held at Bethel Church.

Dr. Mann began her musical studies at the age of 4 and has studied viola and violin with a variety of notable teachers. She completed her undergraduate studies at Chapman College and did graduate work at the University of Southern California and the University of London. She serves as pastor and minister of music at Bethel Church, is a professor of music at California State University at Dominguez Hills, and a guest conductor of the Culver City, Coachella Valley, and Inland Valley Symphony Orchestras. She composes music for the concert stage, film, television and media outlets. She is a virtuoso violinist who performs frequently with the Chamber Orchestra of the South Bay, La Mirada and Rio Hondo Symphony Orchestras.

SSO strives to enrich the community by providing great classical music to engage audiences and inspire a love of music. Concerts are free, though a donation of \$5 is gratefully accepted. A current schedule of performances can be found at www.southlandsymphony.com



Photo Credit: Ontario Heritage



1910 Postcard of Bethel Congregational Church in Ontario

Model Colony News

Page 10

1st Quarter 2018

Other News & Information

Board Members

Petrina Delman, President

Richard Delman, Vice President

Randi Campbell, Treasurer

Charlene Wissing, Secretary

Joe Caskey

Rita Nelsen

Margot Cardona

Gloria Jones

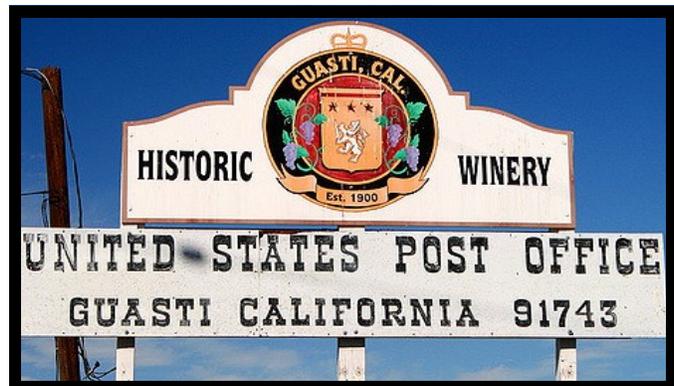
Wendy Roldan

Diane Ayala, Ex-Officio

Debra Porada, City Council Liaison

Because of our growth in the past five years and in order to continue our growth going forward, we had a need to fill a few Board Member positions.

We would like to welcome Gloria Jones and Wendy Roldan to our Board of Directors. They volunteered at our annual elections which were held during our January 28th potluck meeting. Gloria will be taking over the maintenance of our Excel membership list and Wendy will help represent Ontario Heritage conducting in-person outreach at community events plus plan and coordinate the annual membership drive etc.



Model Colony News

Page 11

1st Quarter 2018

2018 Ontario Heritage Membership

We are an all volunteer local non-profit organization and we need you! Is the ongoing process of preserving our historic downtown important to you? Or learning about the rich history of the Model Colony? Our Mission Statement is “Preserving, Protecting and Promoting Our Model Colony” not only for us but for our future generations. Having historic home tours, annual historic cemetery tours, being present at local events are all part of pursuing our mission and making the public more aware of our purpose. It’s an important goal but who says we can’t have fun pursuing it! If you are already a member of Ontario Heritage, we sincerely thank you! If you’re not yet a member, please consider joining us on this journey. Not only will you become more aware and knowledgeable of Ontario’s past history, you will be inspired to walk with us as we go forward in “Preserving, Protecting and Promoting Our Model Colony.”

Benefits of Membership:

- 1 Participation in Ontario Heritage events such as Home Tours, Annual Historic Cemetery Tours, potlucks, local community events, historic and educational programs.
2. Discounts to events
3. E-mail Newsletters
4. Advocacy for preservation of our historical environment and cultural heritage.
5. Access to information concerning restoration and renovation.
6. The knowledge that you are part of the effort to protect, preserve and promote the Model Colony



Ontario Heritage Membership Form (December 31, 2017 to December 31, 2018)

*Name: _____

*Address: _____

*City: _____ State: _____

*Zip Code: _____

*Phone: _____

*Mobile Phone: _____

*E-Mail: _____

* Required Information

Membership Categories (For the 2016 Calendar Year)

- | | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="radio"/> Individual | \$25.00 |
| <input type="radio"/> Senior (62 years) | \$15.00 |
| <input type="radio"/> Family | \$40.00 |
| <input type="radio"/> Family-Senior | \$30.00 |
| <input type="radio"/> Corporate | \$250.00 |

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

I am interested in:

- E-mail Alert Network
- Volunteering at Events
- Other (specify) _____

Mail with Your Check Payable To: Ontario Heritage
P.O. Box 1, Ontario, CA 91762
or sign up at: ontarioheritage.org

In an effort to keep dues low, most communication will be via email, so providing us your email address is vital.