

Model Colony News



2nd Quarter 2014



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ONTARIO HERITAGE BOARD

Petrina Delman

Richard Delman

Randi Campbell

Louise Melton

Wendi Hafner

Diane Ayala
(ex-officio)

Debra Porada
City Council Liaison

2014 Heritage Events

Here's What We Are Planning

April 26—2nd quarter meeting & potluck, open to all. This will be held at a private residence. RSVPs are necessary. Call 909.984.6558 to RSVP.

May 15—Join us at the Museum of History & Art in Ontario for their baseball-themed fundraiser. To find out more call 909.395.2510.

May 17—Ontario Heritage will be participating in Upland

Heritage's 25th anniversary celebration. For more information: www.uplandheritage.org

June— is "Renew your Ontario Heritage Membership" month! Renew or become a member on our website or use the form attached on page 3.

June 3—Model Colony Awards ceremony. Begins 6:30 pm at City Hall. Join us in congratulating the winners and visit our information table.

June 7—Kiwanis Annual Pancake Breakfast & Rotary Club Car Show. Bring your family & friends to this fun event. Drop by our display booth to learn more about Ontario Heritage.

July 4—Ontario Heritage will again accept donations for bottled water, canned sodas, prepackaged individual snacks before & during the Independence Day Parade at our booth located at 1007 N. Euclid Ave. Ontario. All

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President's Message

NEWS AND UPDATES!

On Saturday, March 22, 2014 we held our annual historic walking tour in the beautiful Armsley Square District.

The First Church of Christ, Scientist was kind enough to lend their Sanctuary to kick off our tour. Armsley Square contains a rich variety of architectural styles ranging from Georgian to Colonial Revival. On the tour we not only learned about the history of the District, but we also got a glimpse into the lives of the people who built the homes and those who originally lived in them.

Some of the details include the fact that Richard Nixon was a guest at one of these homes and one of the homes had the first swimming pool in Ontario. A few of the original homeowners included a WWI vet, a WWII bomber pilot, and early business owners such as J.B. Draper, founder of Draper's Mortuary.

Several current homeowners are past recipients of the Model Colony Awards.

In addition to our walking tour Erin Reid graciously allowed us to tour the inside of her wonderful 1928 Mediterranean Revival home.

A big thanks to Kelly Zackmann from the Model Colony Room, to Rudy Zeledon and Diane Ayala from the City of Ontario, to Erin Reid, to the Church of Christ, Scientist, and to our wonderful volunteer tour guides. Thanks to all of you who turned out for this great event!

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Twitter: @Ontario_heritag

HERITAGE CORNER

Some of you already know the history of Ontario's citrus industry. You also might remember the unmistakable smell of fresh orange juice that was served freely years ago during the Independence Day parades on Euclid Avenue in Ontario. You know that the former Sunkist Fruit Packing Distribution Center was at the corner of Sunkist and Campus Avenues in Ontario. You can still see the Sunkist water tower, a historic landmark. Rest assured that water tower will definitely be preserved!

But some folks reading this newsletter may not know Ontario's citrus history or may just want to be reminded of how it all began.

While citrus had been growing in Southern California since first introduced by the Spanish missions in the late 1700s, the planting of the first Washington Navel orange trees in 1873 by Eliza and Luther Tibbets in Riverside set the stage for

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2014 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 beside us as we move 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 Tour, 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!

Volunteers Always Needed!

If you would like to volunteer your time at our events, please contact us at:

volunteers@ontarioheritage.org or call 909.984.6558

2014 Heritage Events (Cont. from Page 1)

donations will go towards our historic plaque program.

July—3rd quarter meeting & potluck open to all.

October 11-Ontario Heritage's 5th annual historic cemetery tour at Bellevue Memorial Park. Actors & tour guides are needed. Please call 909.984.6558 to volunteer.

November—We have accepted the invitation to

decorate the historic Ontario Mule Car landmark for the holidays. More information to follow.

November (Date TBA)—4th quarter meeting & potluck, open to all.

December 6—Ontario Heritage will again have an information booth at the "Christmas on Euclid" event.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR HOME'S HISTORY?

Ontario has a great resource: the Model Colony History Room located downstairs in the Ontario City Library. There you may find a plethora of information about your home's history, including architectural details of your home, information about the original owners, historic photographs, newspaper articles about your neighborhood, etc.

You never know what you might discover!

Ontario Heritage Webmaster: Paulette Melton

Model Colony News

Become a Member Today!!

Please know that you do not have to own or rent a historic home to become a member of Ontario Heritage. Maybe you grew up here and moved away but still have an interest in Ontario. Maybe you recently moved to Ontario and dream of someday owning a historic home or you have lived here for years and are just interested in historic preservation. You are all welcome to become members.

Below is a membership form you can fill out and mail to us or you can go to our website at www.ontarioheritage.org to complete the form and pay online with PayPal if you choose.

Additional positions for Associate Board members are still available!



Note on the picture above states: *Pruning experiment at the Chaffey Junior College of Agriculture.* These are peach trees. Chaffey Junior College was established in 1885 as an agricultural college.

*Advertise your
Preservation-minded
Business in our quarterly
Newsletter!*

Ontario Heritage Membership Form (June 30, 2014 to June 30, 2015)

*Name: _____

*Address: _____

*City: _____ State: _____

*Zip Code: _____

*Phone: _____

*Mobile Phone: _____

*E-Mail: _____

* Required Information

Membership Categories

- Individual \$25.00
- Senior (62 years) \$15.00
- Family \$40.00
- Family-Senior \$30.00
- 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

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

HERITAGE CORNER (continued from page 2)

Ontario's citrus success. William B. Chaffey had moved to Riverside with his father, George Chaffey, Sr., where they planted one of Riverside's earliest orange groves in the Arlington district, and W.B. Chaffey became active in the study of horticulture. His brother George (junior) arrived from Canada in 1880. The Chaffey Brothers founded Ontario in 1882 as an agriculture colony, and part of their plan was to ensure that land buyers would have access to water for irrigation. However, at the time citrus trees were somewhat scarce so deciduous fruit trees were planted instead, such as peach, apple, pear, almond, and plum, as well as grapes, which had already been growing in the Cucamonga area for decades. But citrus would soon follow.

The first orange tree was planted by Isaac Whitaker near Fifth Street and San Antonio Avenue, and the first orange grove was planted by L.S. Dyer on San Antonio Avenue between Fifth and Sixth Streets. The success of these early growers encouraged others in Ontario to try their hand at growing citrus, and by the end of the 1800s, Ontario had over 2,000 acres devoted to growing citrus, the 2nd largest citrus acreage in the state at the time!



[This picture gives you a good idea of how many citrus trees were grown in our area.](#)

In the mid-1880s Abraham Oakley purchased 10 acres on the northwest corner of "J" Street and Euclid Avenue and grew citrus. The Stewart brothers were especially well-known within the Ontario citrus industry. Lyman Stewart, cofounder of Union Oil and Biola University, was the second largest stockholder of the Ontario Land and Improvement Company. By the end of the 19th century, Lyman, along with his brothers William and Milton, were ranching over 800 acres of citrus in Ontario and in 1901 formed the Stewart Citrus Association. William Stewart and his wife Mary built the Stewart home on West Sixth Street in 1895 and the Stewart family remained prominent within the citrus industry until

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HERITAGE CORNER (continued from page 4)

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the 1980s. These are just two of the many “gentleman farmers” who decided to make their homes in Ontario and grow citrus. Soon however, they would find they needed help picking, packing, shipping, and marketing their harvests.

In our next newsletter we will share information about Ontario’s packing houses.



This is a copy of a color postcard, not dated. Notes state: Picking oranges in Ontario. Postcards were often used to draw visitors and potential settlers to the area.