

Model Colony News



2nd Quarter 2017



Heritage Events

2017 Upcoming Events:

May 3rd—Monthly Board Meeting

June 7th—Monthly Board Meeting

June 11th—Our 2nd Quarter “Afternoon” Potluck Meeting at historic Bellevue Memorial Park. Time: 1:30pm-3:30pm. Guest speaker will be Dave Hepburn, General Manager, who will share many interesting facts, projects that have been completed and upcoming events to be held the remainder of the year at Bellevue. Tables, chairs, canopies for shade & water bottles will be provided. Bring your favorite dish & bottle of wine to share. Event will be held behind the office building just inside the entrance. Congrats to Bellevue for their 2017 Model Colony Award from the City of Ontario!

July 4th—Ontario Heritage will have an entry in the Independence Day parade. Look for a 1930 Ford Model A.

July 5th—Monthly Board Meeting.

July 16th—Book signing with David Allen followed by a potluck with the Chaffey Community Museum of Art.

August 2nd—Monthly Board Meeting

August 27th—3rd Quarter Dinner Potluck Meeting with guest speaker, Joe Caskey who will share the history of the Royal Tahitian. Time: 4:30 pm-7:00 pm. Location: on the front lawn of Graber Olive House 315 East 4th Street in Ontario. Tables, chairs & water bottles will be provided. Bring your favorite dish & bottle of wine to share.

September 6th—Monthly Board Meeting

October 4th—Monthly Board Meeting

October 14th—8th Annual Historic Cemetery Tour. Pre-sale tickets will be available the beginning of September.

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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

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Heritage Corner

In this 2nd Quarter newsletter for 2017 we continue with our series of articles highlighting endangered historic places in Ontario. The fourth installment features the historic Granada Theater/Emmons Building located at 301-303 N. Euclid Avenue in Ontario.

Historic Building: Granada Theater/Emmons Building

Dr. Calvert L. Emmons was born in Dawson, Nebraska in 1882. He attended the University of Nebraska, did two years of pre-medical work and spent two years in medical school. He came to California in 1903 and in 1906 he entered the University of Southern California where he received his M.D. degree two years later. In 1909 he married Miss Minnie Lundgren of Iowa and they had three children. Dr. Calvert was known to “possess skill of high order successfully performing many delicate operations.”

During the time that Calvert Emmons was attending USC, an Ontario doctor by the name of Dr. Christopher Sheppard bought a house on the northwest corner of “C” and Euclid Ave. He remodeled it to accommodate his practice. Dr. Sheppard passed away in 1924. (http://www.ontarioca.gov/sites/default/files/Ontario-Files/Library/bessie_sheppard_collection_finding_aid.pdf)

In 1925 a building permit for \$85,000 was issued to Dr. Emmons for erection of a 22,000-square-foot 3 story reinforced concrete store, office and theater building at “C” and Euclid Avenue (Daily Report, October 10, 1925, page 1). At the time Dr. Sheppard’s residence was still on that lot along with another building. According to a Daily Report article dated September 24, 1925 (page 1) Fred H. Clapp, swim instructor at Chaffey High School, bought Dr. Sheppard’s dwelling and had it removed to clear the way for the construction of Dr. Emmons building.

Architect, Lewis A. Smith of Los Angeles and contractor, Frank W. Edwards were hired by Dr. Emmons to design and construct a Moderne/Art Deco commercial building in Ontario, incorporating the latest technological innovations in its construction. He didn’t want an ordinary structure for the presentation of theatre, Vaudeville productions and the new “moving picture shows”. It was given a mottled stucco finish facing both Euclid Avenue and “C” Street. The roof line was to be primarily a parapet with plain entablature highlighted by a decorated pediment centered on the Euclid Avenue frontage. The highlight pediment carries down the front of the building with a French-doored ornamental balcony on the 3rd floor and the Theater marquee above the main entrance. Additional ornamentation in the form of two plaster coats of arms also face Euclid Avenue. The ground floor store fronts were changed later to reflect current marketing styles and shaded by a metal canopy supported by rods.



Above photo is from the 1940's

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Heritage Corner (Continued from Page 2)

Along with the Granada theater, the Emmons Building had the medical offices of Dr. Emmons including one of the fully functional surgeries located on the 3rd floor of the building. Local politicians, judges and professionals rented the other beautiful office spaces.

The theatre opened on June 3, 1926 and ushered in one of the greatest transitions of modern equipment. It housed a Wurlitzer Pipe Organ with ornate organ grills aside the right and left presidium. There were originally 1486 theater seats: 800 on the main floor, 286 loge seats and 400 in the balcony. They were the latest type of air cushion upholstered opera chairs. The air conditioning was the very latest state-of-the-art system at that time. The interior has modest Moorish moldings. This historic building has a wood truss roof and wood floor construction with interior walls of lath and plaster. Its electrical wiring is run in metallic conduit. Its plumbing is steel and cast iron pipe. The central heating system is located in the basement.

Original admission prices in 1926 ranged from 10 cents for children to 50 cents for adults. Daily programs included a two reel comedy featuring the best comedians, news reels, novelty and educational subjects, and playlets. These varied several times each week with high class presentation acts.

The theater closed down in 1933 during the Great Depression. There was a speakeasy in the basement of one of the offices that faces "C" Street. It reopened in 1936 and was seen as another sign of Ontario's increasing prosperity and progress. There was a fire in the theater that destroyed an original curtain that had a picture of Mt. Baldy.

Performers such as Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and Ray Charles would stop here for a show or two before going on to Palm Springs.

The balcony is the only part of the theater with original seating with about 100 seats still remaining on the upper level.

In 1969 Dr. Emmons died at age 86 and his family took over the building eventually selling it in 1973. Since then it has had several different owners and been used by various entities.

Last year the Inland Conservatory for the Performing Arts (ICPA) moved into this building. It took them quite a while to clean up what squatters and lack of upkeep caused. They restored the original hardwood floors, painted offices, repaired holes from water damage, replaced broken windows, repainted the lobby of the theater as well as the corner café and brought it up to code to pass the fire inspections. All of the original art deco details and architecture has remained untouched.

The following information was provided by Diana Hernandez, ICPA Arts Council President: On May 27th ICPA held a Gala at which time they added red drapery to the entrances of the Granada and a new black skirt around the front of the stage. Their goal is to maintain the structural integrity of the building true to its original design, have new, red velvet seats on the floor level (the original seats were removed years before they moved in), and have the marquee repaired. They have campaigns in the works that hopefully, the community will want to take part in, to help with the renovations. They have put in a request to have the awnings put up and the City is looking into helping them achieve that.

ICPA provides rigorous training in music, dance and theatre arts from introductory to advanced levels to students from ages preschool through adult. Dance, drama and music performances are offered to the public throughout the year. Further information is available on their website at <http://www.icpa-ca.com/>. You can also email them at: granadatheatreontario@gmail.com or call them at 909.906.0571.



(1926 Newspaper Ad)

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Other News & Information

ONTARIO HERITAGE'S 2ND QUARTER "AFTERNOON" POTLUCK MEETING

When: Sunday, June 11, 2017

Time: 1:30 pm–3:30 pm

Celebrating their
125th Anniversary
this year!

Awarded the George
Chaffey Memorial
Award at this year's
2017 Model Colony
Awards Ceremony!



Tables, chairs,
canopies for shade
and water bottles
will be provided.

This event will be
held behind the
office building

Location: Historic Bellevue Memorial Park

1240 West G Street Ontario, CA 91762

Guest Speaker: Dave Hepburn, General Manager

Bring your favorite bottle of wine & a main dish, side dish or dessert

To ensure sufficient seating please RSVP: 909.984.6558
or email: prdelman@msn.com

www.ontarioheritage.org

www.facebook.com/ontario.heritage

Changes to the Board:

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Charlene Wissing as our new Secretary. Charlene graciously stepped up to take Louise Melton's place.

As many of you know, Louise passed away suddenly in March of this year. She will be greatly missed.

In addition, long-time Board member Barbara Hertz Chamberlain has relocated to the State of Washington. Her many volunteer efforts made a significant contribution to Ontario Heritage and we wish her well.

If you care about Ontario's rich history and are interested in helping to preserve it, become a member, join our Board and get involved!

Board Members

Petrina Delman, President

Richard Delman, Vice President

Randi Campbell, Treasurer

Charlene Wissing, Secretary

Joe Caskey

Associate Board Member: Rita Nelsen

Diane Ayala, Ex-Officio

Debra Porada, City Council Liaison

David Allen Book Signing

Sunday, July 16, 2017

Book signing: 2:30 pm to 4 pm

Potluck with Ontario Heritage

4 pm to 6 pm

Popular Inland Valley Daily Bulletin columnist David Allen will sign copies of his latest book, *Getting Started* -- a selection of columns from his first four years with the IVDB (1997-2000).

Book signing: 2:30 pm to 4 pm

Stay on after the museum closes for a potluck with Ontario Heritage and CCMA. During the pot luck, David will present a brief program including reading from his book.

All are welcome to both events, even if not a member of CCMA or Ontario Heritage

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2017 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.