

Model Colony News



Heritage Events

2018 Upcoming Events:

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

May 9: Monthly Board Meeting

May 16: Ontario Heritage will have a booth at the annual Ontario Showcase & Heritage Celebration. This event will be held in Ontario Town Square from 5 pm to 9pm. See www.ontarioca.gov/ontarioshowcase for further information.

June 6: Monthly Board Meeting

July 4: Ontario Heritage will have an entry in the Independence Day Parade

July 11: Monthly Board Meeting

July 22: Our 3rd Quarter Dinner Potluck Meeting will be held on the front lawn of Graber Olive House 315 East 4th Street Ontario. Maura Graber will be our guest speaker.

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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

Walking tour April 2018 La Deney Drive Historic District

Historic preservation, a distinctive feature of Ontario, became a city focus in the 1980s, the result of a grass roots movement to identify and preserve historic resources. At that time, an historic preservation consultant and approximately 50 volunteers identified and documented nearly 2500 properties for historic significance. The resulting Ontario Landmark Society — the predecessor to Ontario Heritage — became a community organization dedicated to promoting the value of historic preservation.

In 1998, the Ontario City Council formally adopted an historic preservation program, complete with regulations to safeguard historic buildings, neighborhoods and places throughout the city. An Historic Preservation Commission was established as a part of the city's Planning Commission to safeguard historic areas. Any infill project (i.e., construction of a residence or business) in an historic neighborhood or area requires a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Preservation Commission before construction can begin. This ensures the new construction will be compatible with the existing historic area.

Each year Ontario Heritage holds a walking tour of an historic district in Ontario. Over the years, these have become very popular. The subject of this year's tour, held in April, was the La Deney Drive Historic District. It includes 18 homes in the 100-200 block of East La Deney Drive and the home at 304 East 6th Street.

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Heritage Corner

The land now comprising the historic district was originally known as Lot 732, Ontario Colony Lands. Around 1895 James C. Snodgrass, a prominent Ontario pioneer and rancher, purchased the lot. It passed through several hands before 10 acres of orange groves were purchased by Robert J. and Sylvia L. Kideney for subdividing into a tract of 20 lots in 1927. Subdividing groves for residential homes was a common practice that reflects the early development of Ontario residential neighborhoods. Later, the Kideney family bought another 10-acre parcel to the east where they built a stately two-story Mediterranean Revival style home for themselves.



Photo on the left:
Kideney House.
Photo on the right:
La Deney Drive
looking west.



Today the district contains a cluster of excellent examples of the Mediterranean Revival architectural style, as well as several post-World War II homes typical of those built in the 1950s and 1960s. A distinguishing feature of the street is the curve to the south off Euclid Avenue, which then straightens as it nears Columbia Avenue.

The street takes its name from the Kideney family, who named it using part of their last name and Sylvia's middle initial: L. Robert Kideney made his fortune in Buffalo, New York as the founder of the Wildroot Hair Oil Company (1910). He developed his formula for hair tonic while working as the manager of a hotel barber shop. Early advertising, aimed at women, claimed the hair tonic would cure dandruff, prevent balding and produce thick, lustrous hair.

After moving to Ontario, Robert and Sylvia formed Ar-Jay Laboratories, Inc. which specialized in shampoos. Besides the commercial business, the couple owned a citrus grove and four commercial buildings on Euclid Avenue.

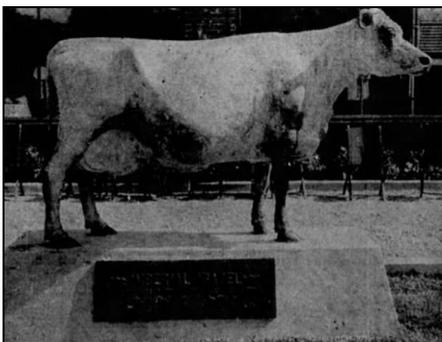
Four architectural styles are represented in the La Deney historic district. The most prevalent is Mediterranean Revival, followed by Vernacular Wood Frame, Early Post-WWII Tract, and Monterey. Two homes in the neighborhood have won Model Colony awards from the City of Ontario. Two homes in the neighborhood are non-conforming, meaning they are not considered part of the historic district.

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Heritage Corner

Many of the lots in the district were originally purchased from the Kideneys by Alfred C. and Lulu Switzer, who later sold them to others who built homes. Many prominent Ontario citizens owned homes on East La Deney Drive. Some residences changed hands several times, and many of the owners are buried in Bellevue Memorial Park. Among the notable residents are:

- Edwin P. and Catherine Clements, owner of Clements Lumber Company.
- Sidney and Beatrice Herzberg. Sidney and Harold Latimer founded Ontario Fertilizer Works and Western Products Company (previously California Cooperative Canneries).
- Thomas and Elizabeth White, owner of Ontario-Upland Creamery that was located at 711 West "A" Street in Ontario.
- S. Earle and Florence Blakeslee, both musicians and teachers at Chaffey High School and Chaffey Junior College. The Blakeslees built three homes altogether — one on East 4th Street (currently owned by Ontario Heritage member Sue Biggs Damaske); and two on East La Deney.
- Carl J. Hase, Ontario Postmaster for 12 years and City Treasurer.
- Lester Stroh, WWII Army hero, Director of the Southern California Kaiser Permanente Medical Group, and a founder of Vineyard Bank.
- Albert and Gladys Holmer, owners of Elite Cleaners and Dryers and Holmer Business Service.
- Marius and Marceline Biane. Marius was a winemaker and eventual owner of Brookside Winery (still operating today).
- Maurice and Esther Grossman, owners of Bestile Manufacturing Company.
- Robert Minkell, affiliated with the Hollywood Casket Company.
- William and Maxine Sidenfaden, owner of an appliance store on West A Street (now Holt Blvd.) and president of Suburban Gas Service.



1931 picture of the concrete statue of the famous Jersey cow named Imperial Isabel. It was in front of the Ontario-Upland Creamery.



The Bestile Manufacturing Company started in 1928 and was located at 419 S. Sultana Ave in Ontario. They manufactured plastic wall panels and aluminum wall tiles. Above picture from 1949.

Model Colony News

Heritage Events

Historic Home in Ontario: Benton Ballou Residence

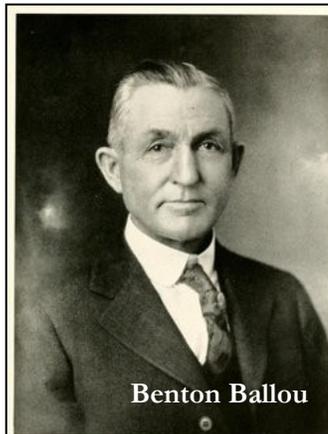
Location for Ontario Heritage 2nd Quarter Potluck Meeting April 8, 2018

A recent meeting of Ontario Heritage members was held on April 8, 2018 at the home of Dr. Stephen and Edith Wierzbinski, current owners of the historic Benton Ballou residence. The meeting included a potluck, a tour of both floors of the residence, a presentation about the Ballou family, and a talk by Dr. Wierzbinski (who prefers to be called “Dr. Steve”) on his early days as a physician at the Kaiser medical facility in Fontana that served Kaiser Steel employees and their families.

Located at 119 E. Princeton St. in the College Park Historic District, the residence of Benton and Alice Jenkins Ballou was built in 1920 by prominent Ontario builder Campbell Construction Company. Built in the Prairie architectural style, the 4379 sq. ft. house has four bedrooms, three baths and two fireplaces.

The Prairie style is most often associated with Chicago architects Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Sullivan. The style was popular from around 1900 to about 1915 and reached its fullest expression in residences. It is a distinctly American architectural style that celebrates the long, low landscape of the Midwest with emphasis on the horizontal rather than vertical. Characteristics of the style used in the Ballou house are a flat roof, a decorative parapet (a low, protective wall along the edge of the roof), projecting flat eaves with curvilinear brackets underneath and rows of windows banding the front of the house. The house also features a balcony over a large porch. Other structures on the property include a garage and a small second house in the back. Built at the same time as the main house, it served as living quarters for the Ballou’s housekeeper.

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Peach Orchard

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Benton Ballou was born on May 3, 1865 in National, Iowa. His parents, Sanford and Sophia Phillips Ballou, had two children — Benton and his sister Anna Sophia. In 1882, Sanford purchased 10 acres of land in Ontario sight unseen for a ranch. After he and Benton built a barn on the property in 1898, Benton began living at the ranch and managing the fruit growing operation. The ranch's main house was built in 1905 by significantly adding on to an old school building on the property. Benton bought additional contiguous acreage which eventually became a ranch estate of 1000 acres growing fruit (grapes, peaches, apricots, quinces) and cotton and including pasture land.

In 1900 Benton married Alice Ferris Jenkins. Their only child, a son, was born in 1903 and named Sanford II after his grandfather. In 1913, according to the medical journal of Ontario physician Dr. Christopher Sheppard dated June 10, Benton Ballou was 48 years old, 5'8 ¾" tall and weighed 143 lbs.

By 1921, Benton was president of the California Growers Association, one of the largest and most important organizations of its kind in the United States. Because of his extensive peach orchards, Benton owned a patent on a peach-pitting machine which he eventually sold to Norton Simon, the American billionaire industrialist and philanthropist whose significant art collection is housed in the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena. Besides the Ontario ranch, Benton had extensive land holdings in Texas cotton and was known as the Cotton King.

Benton's wife Anna died in 1940 at the age of 75. Benton, who lived to be 100 years old, resided in the East Princeton Street house until his death in 1965. Both Benton and Anna are buried at Bellevue Memorial Park.

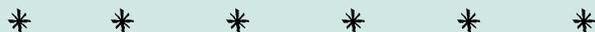
Benton's sister Alice married Andreas Franz Hofer, Jr. Their son, Paul Ballou Hofer, served in World War I. Upon returning home, he moved into his Uncle Benton's cookhouse at the ranch and became ranch foreman. Gradually Paul purchased the ranch land from his uncle and marketed fruit under the Hofer label. The ranch, located along the south side of Ontario Airport, is now in its 4th generation of Ballou/Hofer family ownership.



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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



On Preservation

"In the end, our society will be defined not only by what we create, but by what we refuse to destroy." (John Sawhill)

"Preservation is simply having the good sense to hold on to things that are well designed, that link us with our past in a meaningful way, and that have plenty of good use left in them." (Richard Moe, National Trust for Historic Preservation)

"If a building becomes architecture, then it is art." (Arne Jacobsen)

"Old houses are full with memories and that's why they resist to collapse!" (Mehmet Murat Ildan)

Other News & Information

ONTARIO HERITAGE'S 3RD QUARTER DINNER POTLUCK MEETING

When: Sunday July 22, 2018

Time: 4:00 pm—6:30 pm



Location: Graber Olive House 315 East 4th St. Ontario

We will meet on the front lawn in the shade.
Tables, chairs & water bottles will be provided.

Please bring a main dish, side dish or
dessert and your favorite bottle of wine.
Our guest speaker will be Maura Graber.

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



www.ontarioheritage.org
www.facebook.com/ontario.heritage



Other News & Information

Ontario Heritage Participates in Community Cultural Events

During the past three years, the City of Ontario has greatly expanded its emphasis on arts, culture and history within the city. Most recently, the city established a new agency called Community Life & Culture. The Recreation Department was spun off from Parks and Recreation to the new agency, and the city Arts & Culture Committee was added to form the new agency. Ontario Heritage is a member of the Arts & Culture Committee.

An important activity of the new agency is the inaugural Ontario Festival of the Arts, to be held September 15, 2018 from 11 am to 6 pm in the Arts District (the area on South Lemon Avenue between and around the Ontario Museum of History & Art and the Chaffey Community Museum of Art). The Festival includes visual and performing arts; art education and demonstrations; entertainment; food trucks; and a community mural to be created that day by festival attendees.

Festival activities include:

- * 30 artists booths featuring art for sale (functional, decorative and fine art)
- * Demonstrations of copper enameling and stained glass
- * Machines that make things: 3D printer and laser cutter
- * Artopia art classes
- * Display of historical artifacts and ephemera
- * Mini walking tour of downtown historic buildings
- * Peter and the Wolf and Carnival of the Animals presented by the Southland Symphony Orchestra
- * Instrument "petting zoo"
- * Performances by a Mariachi trio, jazz band and Masters of Harmony barbershop quartet chorus
- * Strolling a capella singers and magician
- * Special appearance by George Chaffey, Jr., the founder of Ontario (played by Ontario Heritage member and actor Joe Caskey)

Food trucks will be available throughout the festival.

Ontario Heritage is conducting the mini walking tours and contributing to the historic displays. Ontario Heritage members will be strolling, wearing period dress.

Mark your calendar now for September 15, and don't miss the Ontario Festival of the Arts.

Other News & Information

Ontario Heritage/Bellevue Memorial Park Partnership



For many years, Ontario Heritage and Bellevue Memorial Park have teamed up to present the annual October cemetery tour, featuring live depictions of historic Ontario residents. Bellevue is also the site of Ontario's annual Memorial Day celebration.

This enduring partnership kicked into high gear when Dave Hepburn became the CEO/General Manager in April 2016. Besides agreeing to depict a character in the 2016 and 2017 cemetery tours, Dave offered Bellevue as the site for a quarterly potluck meeting in 2017, and has been a strong financial supporter of the St. Paddy's Day golf tournament.

On May 2, 2018 Bellevue hosted a meeting of the Cemetery and Mortuary Association of California (CMAC) — the state trade association for cemeteries and mortuaries. CMAC has 150 members representing for profit and non profit cemeteries and funeral homes, both religious and fraternal. Around 100 association executives, directors and members attended the meeting.

To help make the meeting a success, Dave invited Ontario Heritage to participate. Ontario Heritage president Petrina Delman shared information about the annual cemetery tour, which Dave considers to be an important marketing tool for Bellevue. Several mentioned that they want to attend the October 13, 2018 cemetery tour.

Another innovative aspect of the partnership between Bellevue and Ontario Heritage is a tour of the cemetery by students from the Ontario-Montclair School District. OMSD Superintendent Dr. James Hammond, who is a member of Bellevue's board of directors, worked with Dave to develop a program for school children to learn about some of the historic people who are buried at Bellevue. The children were divided into groups and Ontario Heritage helped lead them to sites where they did "rubblings" of the information on a marker (tombstone) with tracing paper and crayons. Each child then shared information with their group about the deceased person buried at that historic tombstone. The program operated throughout the 2017-2018 school year and was considered a success. It will be continued next year.



May 2, 2018 CMAC Southern California Visit. Photo Credits: Jaye Steinbrick

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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.