

Model Colony News



Heritage Events

2018 Upcoming Events

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 located at 315 East 4th Street Ontario. Event begins 4:00 pm. Guest Speaker: Maura Graber

August 1: Monthly Board Meeting

September 5: Monthly Board Meeting

October 3: Monthly Board Meeting

October 13: Our 9th Annual Historic Cemetery Tour at Bellevue Memorial Park located at 1240 West G Street Ontario. Day of event ticket sales will begin at 9:30 am at Bellevue Memorial Park.

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volunteer your time at our
events, please contact us at:
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info@ontarioheritage.org

Heritage Corner

In this 3rd Quarter newsletter for 2018 we continue with our series of articles highlighting endangered historic places in Ontario. The sixth installment features the historic Akey Building: Historic Landmark #19. It is the home of the Commercial Hotel and Yangtze Restaurant.

HISTORIC BUILDING: COMMERCIAL HOTEL & YANGTZE RESTAURANT

D. Howard Akey was an early Ontario resident who became a wealthy businessman. In 1900 he was employed as a janitor but became a plumber in 1903. In 1907 he was thinking of expanding his plumbing business to a second location in Upland. He also built two houses near Euclid Avenue and E Street.

Akey owned three lots on the east side of Euclid Avenue between A St. (Now Holt Blvd.) and B St. The lots were located next to property owned by Dr. Idris Gregory. Akey bought three feet of her property to give his lots more frontage than the Ostran building located on the west side of Euclid.

Construction of a two-story brick building covering the three lots began in December 1909. (Coincidentally, Dr. Gregory had recently completed a garage on her property at the rear of the Akey property. She discovered that the garage was located on ground that would be covered by Akey's building, so she had to move her garage by seven feet.) Typical of the time, the ground floor had three storefronts and 25 hotel rooms on the second floor, each with a bath—or as Akey put it, “60 pieces of modern plumbing”. Before the building was finished, he added a third story, making 50 rooms for the hotel.

Construction was rushed because of the demand for more storefronts from local businesses. Consequently, all three storefronts in the Akey building were leased before construction even started. Akey's first tenant was Mrs. Gribbin, who moved her millinery (hat) shop into the north storefront. Mr. and Mrs. George W. Bryant, who owned a restaurant, negotiated a lease for one of the storefronts and all the rooms on the entire upper portion of the building so they could operate a “first-class restaurant” and a hotel. The hotel was the most modern one in the city until the Orange Hotel was built in 1927 at the corner of Holt Blvd. and Lemon Ave.

The summer of 1910 brought disaster to Akey. He was arrested for a “statutory offense” (rape) against Ludti Valentine, a 14-year-old girl. But he was so sure of acquittal that he went ahead with remodeling his home on East Transit Street. The trial was sensational, with one of the witnesses admitting that Akey owed her money, and the girl's family situation described as “not a good

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Heritage Corner

one." The trial lasted until December 30. After only 14 minutes of deliberation, the jury returned a guilty verdict. Akey was sentenced to 25 years in San Quentin State Prison by Judge F.F. Oster.

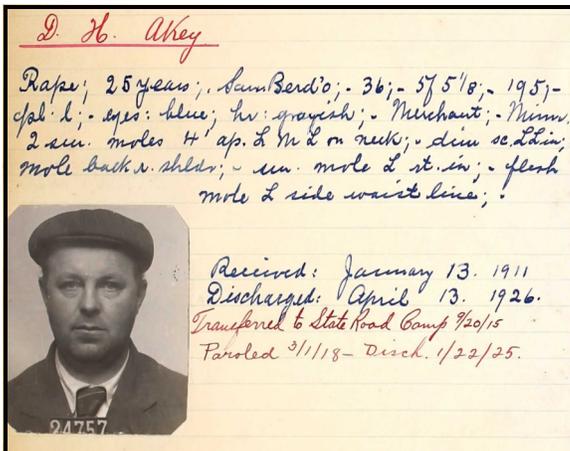


Photo and information on the left:

Source: Ancestry.com

California, Prison & Correctional Records, 1851-1950

D. H. Akey Prison # 24757

San Quentin Prison received on January 13, 1911.

Paroled March 1, 1918. Discharged April 13, 1926

After his sentencing, Akey's wife Florence sued for divorce. One of her attorneys was Assistant District Attorney R. F. Goodcell, who prosecuted Akey. Akey used the hotel building to establish a trust fund for his wife and four children (Isal, Vernon, Mildred and Kenneth) to ensure their financial stability while he served his sentence. Mrs. Akey also sought control of the family home, valued at \$4000. On January 5, 1911, Akey deeded the remainder of his property in Ontario to his friend Gypsy S. Collins and began serving his sentence at San Quentin on January 13, 1911.

After five years in prison, Akey applied for parole which was granted in March 1918. He was formally discharged from San Quentin in April 1926.

Despite his domestic troubles, Akey's storefront spaces were always rented. When Akey went to prison, the milliner Mrs. Gribbin took over managing the hotel, first advertising it as "furnished rooms" and later as the Victoria Hotel. In 1915, Mr. and Mrs. B.W. Budde took over management and changed the name to the Commercial Hotel. After their tenure, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Olson became managers, continuing through the Depression until 1931 when the hotel was closed.

The hotel reopened in 1932 under the management of Charles F. and Ella Mae Linck who had moved to Ontario from Douglas, Arizona. Charles worked for General Electric; Mrs. Linck had some experience in the hotel business. They bought the Commercial Hotel, but not the Akey building. (Their son, 9-year-old Charles "Chuck" Linck, Jr., grew up in Ontario, graduated from Chaffey High

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Chuck Jr. recalled that most rooms in the hotel had hot and cold running water. Some had connecting baths and closets. Four small rooms had no water but were supplied with pitchers and commodes. Chuck remembered four air shafts for ventilating the inside rooms and skylights to allow light into the third floor hall. The building was fireproof with a fire escape on the back leading from the third floor. It was well wired and well-built and withstood the high wind and earthquake of 1933 with no damage.



Photo at left shows the 3-story Akey Building which had storefronts on the ground floor with the 2nd and 3rd floors having a total of 50 hotel rooms.

Photo circa 1929

Photo credit:
Model Colony History Room

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Chuck remembered that during the time his parents managed the hotel, the Akey building was owned by Major W. D. Llewellyn of Long Beach. Chuck also remembered several businesses that occupied the storefronts during his parent's tenure: Wickersham's Home Appliances, owned by Sam Wickersham (also Ontario City Councilman 1954-58) and P. J. Van Wert; Dorothy Gregg's gift shop (front) and her father's plumbing business (in back); the California Barbershop owned by Albert D. "Red" Wellborn.

The Lincks sold the hotel business in 1962 to Mrs. Terry. By then the hotel rooms had fallen into disrepair. The restaurant in the building then was Euclid Café. Mrs. Edna Gin remembered visiting the Euclid Café on a rainy day. The restaurant was empty and the roof was leaking. Nevertheless, her husband Raymond wanted to buy the building and run the restaurant—which they did. They opened the Yangtze Restaurant in April 1961.

Ray was born in China in 1920 and came to California in 1936. After the restaurant opened, with Ray as cook, Edna kept her job at the Los Angeles County Health Department to help the family finances. But in 1967, she quit her job and joined her husband. The family, which included three teenaged children, relocated from the Los Angeles area to Upland. The children grew up helping in the restaurant. Later, Gary Gin, who started working at the restaurant at age 11, became the manager. The restaurant business started to pick up in 1972 when the Gins purchased the bar next door and could offer full bar service to their restaurant customers. Business continued to improve until the 1990s when Chinese fast-food restaurants became popular.

The opening of Montclair Plaza, Ontario Mills and Victoria Gardens had an effect on the restaurant's business. So did citations by the San Bernardino County Health Department. The restaurant

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126 N. Euclid Ave., Ontario

HOURS: Daily 11:30-10:00
FRI.-SAT. 11:30-11:00

986-8941



Above Photo Credit: David Allen (Continued on page 6)

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Heritage Corner

was closed for two weeks in 2013 “due to excessive roaches in the food preparation area” and again in 2015 for multiple violations including dirty food preparation tables, rat droppings, raw chicken in a bowl stored over strawberries and celery, and rat infestation.

Ray passed away in 1998 at the age of 77. Edna was 91 years old when she closed the restaurant in March 2015. She also sold the Akey building and other property on the block (a vacant shop along B Street, a kiosk on Lemon St., and the parking lot connecting them) to the City of Ontario for \$965,000. The city had wanted to buy the property in the early 2000s as an ambitious redevelopment project on the east side of Euclid Blvd. to D St.

The final chapter of the Akey building is yet to be written. It could be demolished and the land redeveloped as part of downtown Ontario’s master plan. Or it could be brought up to current building standards and continue its historic use as retail storefronts and hotel.



Chinese Family Style Dinners		Authentic Cantonese Family Style Dinners	
\$1.25 per Person	TWO PERSONS SOUP FRIED SHRIMP BARBECUED RIBS FRIED RICE FRESH VEGETABLES ADD CHICKEN EGG ROLL FOUR PERSONS ADD PINEAPPLE SPARERIBS TEA, FORTUNE AND ALMOND COOKIES	\$1.75 per Person	TWO PERSONS SOUP BARBECUED RIBS PORK FOO YOUNG FRESH SHRIMP FRIED RICE THREE PERSONS ADD YANGTZE FRIED CHICKEN FOUR PERSONS ADD PINEAPPLE PORK TEA, FORTUNE AND ALMOND COOKIES
\$2.00 per Person	TWO PERSONS SOUP FRIED SHRIMP BARBECUED RIBS FRIED CHICKEN THREE PERSONS ADD SHRIMP WITH LOBSTER SAUCE FOUR PERSONS ADD ALMOND DUCK TEA, FORTUNE AND ALMOND COOKIES	\$3.00 per Person	TWO PERSONS WON TON SOUP BARBECUED RIBS CHICKEN EGG ROLL YANGTZE SPECIAL CHOW MEIN LOBSTER CANTONESE THREE PERSONS ADD WALNUT CHICKEN FOUR PERSONS ADD BEEF WITH OYSTER SAUCE TEA, FORTUNE AND ALMOND COOKIES

SINGLE DINNER		APPETIZERS	
A. Pork Chop Mein or Pork Chop Suet, Fried Shrimp, Egg Foo Young and Fried Rice	1.15	FRIED JUMBO SHRIMPS (6)	90
B. Chicken Chow Mein or Chicken Almond, Fried Shrimp, Egg Roll, Pork Foo Young and Fried Rice	1.50	BACON WRAPPED SHRIMPS (6)	1.25
C. Chicken Chow Mein or Chicken Almond, Fried Shrimp, Barbecued Ribs, Fried Chicken and Pork Fried Rice	1.75	CHICKEN YOU GOW (4)	1.25
		CHICKEN EGG ROLL	60
		BARBECUED PORK	90
		BARBECUED SPARERIBS (4)	1.00
		YANGTZE FRIED CHICKEN (4)	1.20
		PAPER WRAPPED CHICKEN (4)	1.00

CHOW MEIN		CHOP SUEY	
(SERVED WITH CHOP NOODLES)		(SERVED WITH RICE)	
PORK CHOW MEIN	80	PORK CHOP SUEY 80	90
BEEF CHOW MEIN	85	SHRIMP CHOP SUEY	90
SHRIMP CHOW MEIN	95	CHICKEN ALMOND CHOP SUEY	1.10
CHICKEN CHOW MEIN	1.00	WATER CHESTNUT CHOP SUEY	1.10
ALMOND CHICKEN CHOW MEIN	1.20	CHINESE GREENS WITH PORK	85
CHICKEN MUSHROOM CHOW MEIN	1.00	CHINESE PEAS WITH BARBECUED PORK	1.25
SUBGUM CHOW MEIN	1.00	MUSHROOM CHOP SUEY (Meatless)	1.10
MUSHROOM CHOW MEIN (Meatless)	1.00	BEEF TOMATO	90
CHOW MEIN CANTONESE STYLE 15c Extra		90 PEPPER BEEF	1.25

NOODLES		EGG FOO YOUNG	
PAN FRIED NOODLES	25	PORK EGG FOO YOUNG	70
CHICKEN NOODLES	80	SHRIMP FOO YOUNG	70
CHOP SUEY NOODLES	80	CHICKEN FOO YOUNG	90
PORK NOODLES	70	HAM FOO YOUNG	80
WOR NOODLES	1.00		
70 BEEF NOODLES	80		
WOR WON TON	1.25		

RICE		SWEET AND SOUR	
PORK FRIED RICE	.70	ALMOND DUCK	1.40
SHRIMP FRIED RICE	.80	PINEAPPLE DUCK	1.45
PORK FOO YOUNG	.80	PINEAPPLE SPARERIBS	1.10
FRESH SHRIMP	.75	PINEAPPLE PORK	1.40
CHICKEN FRIED RICE	.75	PINEAPPLE SHRIMP	1.40
HAM FRIED RICE	.50	FRIED WON TON WITH SWEET AND SOUR SAUCE	.80
PLAIN FRIED RICE	.15		
PLAIN STEAMING RICE	.15		

SOUP		SEA FOOD	
EGG FLOWER SOUP	.35	SHRIMP WITH CURRY SAUCE	1.45
CHICKEN RICE SOUP	.35	SHRIMP WITH LOBSTER SAUCE	1.45
CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP	.65	ABALONE WITH OYSTER SAUCE	1.45
CHICKEN MUSHROOM SOUP	.75	SHRIMP WITH TOMATO SAUCE	1.45
STRAWBLED SOUP	.75	FRESH LOBSTER CANTONESE	1.95
CHINESE VEGETABLE SOUP	Large 60; Small 35		
WON TON SOUP	Large 85; Small 35		

Delectable Cantonese Delicacies		American Dishes	
YANGTZE SPECIAL CHOW MEIN 1.75 Stead Broast of Chicken with Chinese Mushrooms, Snow Peas, Barbecued Ribs, Water Chestnuts, Cauder and Almond with Pan Noodles		Fresh Ground Round Steak	1.35
YANGTZE CASHW NUT CHICKEN 1.75 Stead Broast of Chicken with Water Chestnuts, Chinese Mushrooms, Bamboo Shoots, Heart Celery, Chinese Peas, All Sauted in Rich Chicken Broth, Topped with Toasted Cashew Nuts		Breaded Veal Cutlet	1.45
WALNUT CHICKEN 1.75 Stead Broast of Chicken with Water Chestnuts, Chinese Mushrooms, Bamboo Shoots, Heart Celery, Chinese Peas, All Sauted in Rich Chicken Broth, Topped with Toasted Walnuts		Eastern Pork Chops	1.60
HONG SUI GAI 1.75 Brazed of Chicken (Fritter), Mushrooms, Water Chestnuts, Chinese Mushrooms, Bamboo Shoots, Heart Celery, Chinese Peas, All Sauted in Rich Chicken Broth		Chinese Barbecued Spare ribs	1.55
BO LO GAI KEW 1.65 Slices of Chicken (Fritter) Temperingly Combined with Golden Cubes of Pineapple, Bell Pepper, Sliced Onion, Blended in Sweet and Sour Sauce		Fried Jumbo Shrimp Dinner	1.35
BEEF WITH OYSTER SAUCE 1.60 Sliced Tender Beef, Bamboo Shoots and Mushrooms, Enriched with Savory Brown Oyster Sauce		Special Fried Chicken Dinner	1.50
LOBSTER CANTONESE STYLE 1.95 Fresh Lobster Cooked with Garlic, Pure Soy Bean Spices with Egg Sauce		Roast Turkey with Dressing	1.50
GAI GUNG HAR 1.65 Chicken Liver with Shrimp, Mushroom, Bamboo Shoots, Water Chestnuts, Chinese Vegetables, All Sauted with Rich Chicken Broth		Chicken Fried Steak	1.45
PINEAPPLE DUCK 1.65 Young Duck Steamed with Delicate Spices, then Boned and Dressed with Water Chestnuts, Figured and Fried, Blended with Pineapple in Sweet and Sour Flavor		Roast Beef	1.55

SANDWICHES		EGGS, ETC.	
GROUND SIRLOIN	45	AMERICAN CHEESE	35
CHICKEN	45	FRIED EGG	35
HAM AND EGG	75	HOT BEEF OR PORK	75
BACON AND TOMATO	60	HOT TURKEY	75
CHINESE BAR-B-Q PORK	65		
FRENCH FRIED POTATOES	25		

DRINKS AND DESSERTS	
MILK	15
ICE CREAM	15
COFFEE	10
FORTUNE COOKIES (6)	15
POT OF TEA	15
ALMOND COOKIES (2)	10

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We Cater to Parties

Who's Who in Historic Ontario

Meet Thomas Theodore Craig Watercolor Artist (1907-1969)

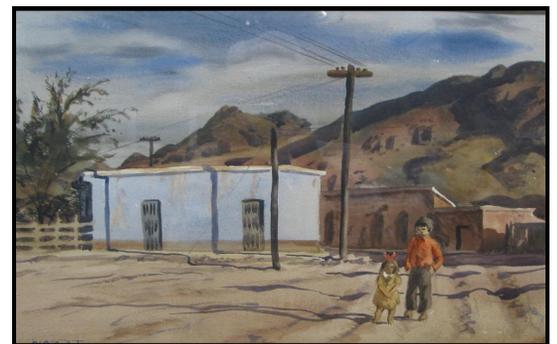
Thomas Craig was born in Upland, the youngest of eight children. His physician father William had a medical office in downtown Ontario where he practiced with Tom's older brother John and sister Mary. Tom graduated from Chaffey High School in 1925, then studied botany at Pomona College for two years. But after contracting tuberculosis at age 21, he left college and moved to Palm Springs for several years. There he pursued painting as a form of therapy. After two years, he returned to the Los Angeles area and studied painting.

He enrolled in Pomona College for a second time and studied both botany and fine art. There he met artist Milford Zornes, and the two of them studied under Millard Sheets. Tom and Milford traveled around the California coast, painting and working together. Tom graduated from Pomona College in 1934 with a degree in botany,

Needing to support his wife Frances Stack and their five children, Tom began teaching at Chouinard School of Art and the University of Southern California. He received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1941 that allowed him to travel throughout the Southwest (Nevada, Texas and parts of Mexico) painting mine towns. During World War II he worked for Life Magazine, spending 18 months in Italy as an artist-correspondent. Later in his career, Tom traveled in the South to paint African Americans and the realty they lived in, using oil rather than watercolor.

Tom Craig was an award-winning painter for two decades. He was known for his mastery of wet-into-wet technique. He wrote, "a landscape is not so much a place as a moment of time in a place." Watercolor was his favorite medium, and he was one of the first artists to paint in the California Style of watercolor that emerged from Scripps College in the 1930s and 40's. Two of his paintings—Blue House and Louise (Negro Head) are among the nine paintings in the Barbara Line Memorial Collections of the Chaffey Community Museum of Art. Blue House is a good example of the California Style of watercolor, with free, bold brush work and strong, dark, rich colors.

Tom only painted for 20 years. He retired from painting in 1950, moving his family to Escondido to a 250-acre farm, returned to botany by cultivating irises and raising hybrid flowers. He painted only occasionally. Tom died in 1969 in Upland and is buried in Bellevue Cemetery.



Non Profits in Historic Places

Chaffey Community Museum of Art in Ontario Power Company 217 South Lemon Avenue, Ontario

The Chaffey Community Museum of Art is located at 217 South Lemon Avenue in Historic Landmark No. 36. The Ontario Electric Company, established in 1895, constructed a power house building on the site in 1907, followed by offices in 1919. The Company shared the site with the San Antonio Water Company which was developing hydroelectric power. In the 1920s, the Ontario Water and Power Company became the main office for Southern California Edison. In 1954, SCE relocated and the Ontario Police Department moved its headquarters into the building and built an overflow jail (now used for storage by CCMA). From 1967 to 1978, the building was home to the West End Symphony Orchestra, followed by several city departments (Housing, Engineering, Museum of History & Art, Model Colony Room, and Fire Safety). In 2013, CCMA relocated here from the J. Filippi Winery in Rancho Cucamonga.

The Chaffey Community Museum of Art was founded in 1941 as the Chaffey Community Art Association by Helen and Frances Line in memory of their daughter Barbara who died of leukemia at the age of 8. The Lines donated the first nine paintings of the museum's collection, which now numbers more than 215 works of art.

That same year, the Lines established the annual Invitational Purchase Prize Exhibit of Contemporary American Painting. (A Purchase Prize exhibition means that one or more paintings from the exhibit will be purchased for the collection.) The exhibit, featuring artists invited to participate by Mr. and Mrs. Line, was held for one week in October 1941 in the Girls Gymnasium at Chaffey High School and drew over 5000 visitors. Over the years, it developed the reputation of being the best regular show of national scope held in Southern California. From purchase prizes, awards and gifts, the museum acquired a valuable collection of paintings including oils, watercolors, serigraphs and

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Ontario Police Department Headquarters



Photo dated 2014

Non Profits in Historic Places (continued from page 8)

sculpture from celebrated regional artists.

In 1963, following the 23rd annual exhibit, Chaffey High School stated it could no longer provide the gymnasium for exhibits. This caused the exhibition to be discontinued due to lack of a venue. Until 1979, the museum held periodic exhibitions in public buildings and homes, until the Ontario City Council invited it to supply the “art” cultural mission of the newly-formed Ontario Museum of History & Art. Exhibitions were held in the North Wing of the historic Mediterranean style former City Hall building. In 2000, having outgrown the gallery space at the OMHA, the museum moved to the J. J. Filippi Winery in Rancho Cucamonga to explore the synergy of fine art and wine.

CCMA returned to Ontario in 2013 at the invitation of the Ontario City Council to occupy the historic 1919 Ontario Power Company building. After six months of work to transform the offices into gallery space, CCMA held its first exhibition in September 2013. From that time to the present, CCMA has presented 26 exhibits per year in four galleries — one devoted to works of art from the museum’s collection, and three devoted to showing work from artists living and working in the inland regional area. The museum is open Thursday-Sunday from noon to 4 pm and admission is free. For information on current exhibitions, visit www.chaffeymuseum.org.

Introducing the Arts District

Mark Your Calendar!
September 15, 2018 (11 AM to 6 PM)

**ONTARIO
FESTIVAL
OF THE
ARTS**

The City of Ontario will host
the inaugural Ontario Festival
of the Arts in the Arts District
*(the area between and around the Ontario Museum of
History & Art and Chaffey Community Museum of Art)*

FREE ADMISSION

The Festival of the Arts will celebrate visual and performing arts with artist booths, art demonstrations and instruction, maker machines, display of historical artifacts and ephemera, mini walking tour of Arts District historic buildings, and live musical performances.

Historic Business Spotlight

C. C. Graber Company (Graber Olive House)

315 East 4th Street, Ontario

The C. C. Graber Company is Ontario's oldest continuously operating company and the oldest olive packer in the United States. Clifford C. Graber, better known as C.C., arrived in Ontario in 1892. He and his brother Charles bought a 10-acre plot of land (located in the College Park Historic District) from George Chaffey and began growing and selling oranges, lemons and vegetables.

C.C. noticed thriving olive trees being used as wind breaks and discovered what he considered a fine food delicacy in the olives cured by early California ranchers. After much research and study of their methods, C.C. began experimenting with curing himself. He founded Graber Olive House in 1894, and planted olive trees along Fourth Street and Grove Avenue where John Galvin Park is today. In the 1920s and 1930s, Graber added additional acreage in Hemet, and later in Lindsey, California in the San Joaquin Valley. Today all groves are in the San Joaquin Valley. Olive harvest, grading, curing and canning take place in October through December in Ontario. The olives are delivered by truck to Ontario at night to avoid the fruit shrinking in the central California heat.

The olive variety grown by Graber is called Manzanilla, and they have always been allowed to ripen on the trees before being picked by hand. The soft consistency of the ripened olives means the pits are not removed. The olives are cured in a brine solution which remains a secret family recipe. The brine is changed every day during the curing process which causes the ripe olives to turn from a purple color to the familiar greenish-brown.

CC. invented an olive grading machine, powered by a Ford Model T motor, and became the first in the olive industry to standardize olive sizes. Some of C.C.'s original equipment is still being used today. C.C. ran the olive canning business and his wife Georgia typed labels and handled mail order sales. In the early years, local shops got their olives in large wooded kegs. Customers scooped out what they wanted and took home their olives in their own buckets.

C.C. and Georgis ran the business until 1943 when their sons Robert (Bob) and William (Bill) and son-in-law Donald Curry purchased the business. C.C. retired but continued his involvement in the business until his death in 1955. Eventually Robert (Bob) took over the Ontario Graber operation, while William founded Graber Old Ranchers olive operation on Eighth and Sultana in Upland. Robert's son Cliff and his wife Maura are the current owners and managers of Graber Olive House.

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Historic Business Spotlight (continued from page 10)

Members of the Graber family have lived in Ontario in homes located on the original 10-acre parcel. C.C. built the Craftsman bungalow home to the west of Graber Olive House for Georgia in 1907. The home is unaltered except for the front porch which was enclosed before 1934. C.C. was a long-time trustee of the Chaffey Joint Union High School District. The athletic field at Chaffey High School is named Graber Field in his honor.

In the 1940s and 1950s, C.C.'s son Bill resided in a house around the corner on Columbia Avenue. Bill was a track star at Chaffey and attended USC. He was a member of the U.S. Olympic team (1932 and 1935) and at one time held the world record in pole vault.

An old olive mill sits in the yard of the Graber Olive House and a portion of the original packing shed has been converted into a small museum.



Upcoming Event

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



Businesses in Historic Places

Euclid Loan & Jewelry in McCann Building

108 South Euclid Avenue, Ontario

Historic Landmark #26

Ontario Heritage recently installed its third plaque on an historic downtown Ontario building. The McCann building was constructed in 1917 by Campbell Construction for Lewis E. McCann to house his hardware store. Some of the features of the two-story building, constructed of reinforced concrete, include a recessed, double door entrance, large plate glass windows, a band of transom windows, and a steam lift elevator in the basement. The building was sold in 1923 for \$30,000.

Over the years, the building has been occupied by several businesses and many alterations were made, compromising its historical significance. The current owner, Dave Puscizna, made extensive restorations and renovations when he purchased the building in 2007 for his business, Euclid Loan & Jewelry. For that, he received a Model Colony Restoration award in 2009.

Euclid Loan & Jewelry, which dates from the 1950s, was originally located diagonally across Euclid in the 1913 Lerch building at 122 N. Euclid which Dave owned. When that was taken via eminent domain as part of the downtown Ontario redevelopment project, he bought the McCann building as a replacement.

Dave spent 1 1/2 years cleaning up the building façade and main floor. He uncovered and replaced windows and decorative bricks, but was able to save the original tin ceiling on both the first and second floors. Like many historic downtown buildings, the McCann building was originally built with a storefront on the ground floor and residences or offices on the second floor. They are currently unoccupied and could be configured as offices except that the city fire code requires two entrances and there is only one.



Photo: Model Colony History Room

Photo Credit: above and to the right by David Allen

Other News

Jasper the Picnic Ant—Mascot of the All States Parade July Fourth All States Picnic Euclid Avenue Regular event

Jasper the Ant is an iconic symbol of the fabled Ontario All States Picnic that was held annually on the 4th of July. According to the Ontario City Library Model Colony staff, the idea for the picnic was taken from the Ontario Chamber of Commerce first Dinner of the States banquet when diners were seated in state groups.

From 1916 to 1939 the Federation of All States held a picnic at John Galvin Park during the summer. In 1939 the picnic was moved to Euclid Avenue's parkway. The All States Picnic was incorporated in 1949 and by 1951 was a permanent community event held on the 4th of July.

Picnic tables with state signs were placed in the Euclid Avenue median from B Street to 6th St. Each state nominated a queen and princesses who rode in the 4th of July parade, which also included floats, equestrian riders and bands. (In 1959, Joyce Gage Magan, the older sister of Ontario Heritage member and former president Rick Gage, was the Connecticut state queen.)

In 1941, the picnic was featured in Ripley's *Believe It or Not* as the world's longest picnic table. The picnic was also featured in *Life* magazine.

Attendance peaked in 1948 and again in 1961 at 120,000. In the 1960s, the picnic was moved to South Euclid Avenue near De Anza Park, though the parade continued to be held on North Euclid avenue. Interest in the picnic waned and the event discontinued in 1981. It was revived in 1991 for Ontario's Centennial and continues today on a much smaller scale.

(continued on page 15)



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Other News (continued from page 14)

July Fourth All States Picnic Euclid Avenue Regular event

The drawing of Jasper was the creation of Tom Hicks, a Chaffey Junior College sophomore. A native of Alabama, Hicks resided for a time in Laguna Beach before coming to Ontario. He won first place awards in 1955 and 1956 at student art shows sponsored by the Chaffey Community Art Association (now Chaffey Community Museum of Art).

In 1971, a contest was held to find a girl, aged 8 to 13, to serve as a costumed Jasper and for three girls, aged 4 to 6, to be crown bearers in the queen's court.

The original image of Jasper drawn by Tom Hicks in 1956 has recently undergone a modernization. Dr. Chris Kueng, member of the Ontario Museum of History & Art governing board and an artist, redrew Jasper at the request of Ontario Councilperson Debra Porada. The new Jasper has more dimension and an updated appearance more likely to appeal to today's audience. Chris made a 3D model of the new version of Jasper, and Debra commissioned a Jasper costume, in keeping with the 1971 idea. The new Jasper costume will be part of this year's 4th of July parade.

Ontario Heritage has Jasper the Ant earrings and pins that you can obtain for a small donation at their meetings and other events, as well as during this year's 4th of July parade. And when you attend the parade, be sure to keep an eye out for the Ontario Heritage vintage automobile, driven by Joe Caskey with Rita Nelsen and Margot Cardona in the rumble seat.



Photo above from 2017

Board Members Etc.



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

For additional information including answers to many questions about the parade, copy and paste the following link:

ontarioca.gov/independence-day-2018

The City of Ontario's Mayor and City Council
invite you to celebrate

INDEPENDENCE DAY 2018

Wednesday, July 4th
Independence Day Parade
9 AM - Euclid Avenue, Fourth Street South to B Street

Blast at the Ontario Town Square
Following the Parade - approximately 10:30 AM
Ontario Chaffey Community Show Band - Patriotic Music
Ontario Town Square (224 N. Euclid Avenue)

All-States-Picnic
Following the Parade - approximately 10:30 AM
Bring Your Own Picnic, Euclid Avenue & C Street

Family Festivities
5 PM - 9 PM
Westwind Park - Gates open at 5 PM
No dogs allowed, Propane BBQ's only at Westwind Park.
Live Entertainment
Bouncers, games and food vendors (minimal cost)

Fireworks Spectacular
9 PM
Westwind Park
Westwind Park is located at: 2455 E. Riverside Drive (Between Archibald Avenue and Vineyard Avenue)
FREE parking & shuttles are available at the Ontario Police Department (2500 S. Archibald Avenue)

FREE Admission to all events

A photograph of a parade float. The float is decorated with American flags and has several people on board, including children and adults. The float is moving down a street with other parade participants visible in the background.

For more information call the Ontario Recreation & Community Services Department at (909) 395-2020.



Mayor Paul S. Leon • Mayor pro Tem Alan D. Wapner
Council Members Jim W. Bowman, Debra Dorst-Porada and Ruben Valencia



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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
Heritage

Your Check Payable To: Ontario

or

P.O. Box 1, Ontario, CA 91762
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.