

Model Colony News



Upcoming Heritage Events

May 21, 2022 (Saturday): Our Walking Tour of the *Euclid Avenue Historic District*. Tour begins on the west side of Euclid Ave on the front lawn of the Iron Skillet restaurant. We will walk north to 5th Street then crossover Euclid to walk south on the east side of Euclid Ave back to H Street. (See flyer on page 14 for details.)

June, 2022 Potluck Meeting: Date and Location TBD

Reminder:

July 4, 2022 (Monday): The City of Ontario will hold the Independence Day Parade. For additional information go to: <https://www.ontarioca.gov/IndependenceDay>

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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

El Camino Real Mission Bell Markers

Editor's Note: In 2014, former Ontario resident Max Taylor and 1964 Chaffey High School classmate of then-Ontario Heritage president Richard Delman contacted Richard about an El Camino Real Mission bell in Ontario. Max remembered seeing it in front of the home of his paternal great aunt, Grace Dodge, who lived with her husband John in the 1000 block of East Holt Boulevard. Max claims it was one of the 450 original mission bells, spaced about a mile apart, that marked the El Camino Real trail connecting all the missions. Ontario Heritage decided to investigate; here is the result.

California's Historic Mission Trail (State Historic Landmark #784) is a 600 mile long trail that connects 21 missions, four presidios (military forts and the seat of government) and two pueblos (small towns) stretching from San Diego to Sonoma in Northern California. It roughly traces El Camino Real (Spanish for The Royal Road), named in honor of the Spanish monarchy that financed empire-building expeditions into California.



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Heritage Corner (continued from page 2)

Early Spanish Presence in California

Spain, which had a considerable presence in Mexico, claimed California as territory in 1542 but didn't try to occupy the land until the late 1700s. In June 1769, as the American colonists were preparing to rebel against the British monarchy, the Spanish king ordered land and sea expeditions to depart from Mexico to California. The coalition of Spaniards and Mexicans (64 men and 200 animals) established outposts (called missions) along the California coast as part of a military campaign to secure Nueva California and extend New Spain.

The earliest and primary missions and presidios were near good natural seaports like San Diego and Monterey Bay. The emphasis of the campaign and future settlement of California was conversion of the native indigenous people by Franciscan monks into devoted Christians and Spanish citizens, and to prevent Russia and Great Britain from occupying California.

The first mission was established in 1769 in San Diego. In 1775, hundreds of local Tipai-Ipai Indians who occupied the region and were resistant to the Spaniards incursion, attacked and burned the mission. The missionaries rebuilt the mission to include a presidio (fortress).

El Camino Real is Established

General Gaspar de Portola forged the first leg of El Camino Real (then only a footpath) as he journeyed from San Diego in search of Monterey Bay. Later, missionaries, colonists and soldiers traveled the dusty trail and established missions in areas where large populations of Indians lived and where the soil was fertile enough to sustain a settlement.

Each outpost along El Camino Real was primarily the church and an agricultural center for interaction with the Native Americans. The road became identified with the missions because the padres maintained the road and offered hospitality and lodging to travelers. As more missions were built, the footpath became a roadway wide enough for horses and wagons. When the last mission in Sonoma was completed in 1823, the original pathway had been transformed into a real road.

At that point, a series of small self-reliant religious missions were established, each about 30 miles apart -- a day's travel via horseback -- with El Camino Real linking them. This explains why the missions weren't established in strict geographic order along the route.

The mission system lasted until about 1833, through the dissolution of the Spanish kingdom in 1821 and the subsequent takeover by Mexico. Following the Mexican-American War (1846-1848) and California's statehood in 1950, the El Camino Real served as a north-south stagecoach route.

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Heritage Corner (continued from page 3)

The Route of El Camino Real Missions (North to South)

1. 1823, Sonoma County: San Francisco de Solano (Sonoma Mission)
2. 1817, Marin County: San Rafael Arcángel)
3. 1776, San Francisco County: San Francisco de Asís [also known as Mission Delores]
4. 1797, Alameda County: San José
5. 1777: Santa Clara County: Santa Clara de Asís
6. 1791, Santa Cruz County: Santa Cruz
7. 1797, San Benito County: : San Juan Bautista
8. 1770, Monterey County: San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo, also known as Carmel Mission
9. 1771, Monterey County: San Antonio de Padua
10. 1791, Monterey County: Nuestra Señora de la Soledad
11. 1797, San Luis Obispo County: San Miguel Arcangel
12. 1772, San Luis Obispo County: San Luis Obispo de Tolosa
13. 1787, Santa Barbara County: La Purísima Concepción
14. 1804, Santa Barbara County: Santa Inés
15. 1786, Santa Barbara County: Santa Bárbara
16. 1782, Ventura County: San Buenaventura
17. 1797, Los Angeles County: San Fernando Rey de España
18. 1771, Los Angeles County: San Gabriel Archangel
19. 1776, Orange County: San Juan Capistrano
20. 1798, San Diego County: San Luis Rey de Francia
21. 1769, San Diego County: San Diego de Alcalá



Source: www.flickr.com/photos/10632426@N05/5540781815/

Pueblos:

1. 1777, Santa Clara County: El Pueblo de San Jose de Guadalupe
2. 1781, Los Angeles County: El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de Los Angeles

Presidios:

1. 1776: San Francisco County: El Presidio de San Francisco
2. 1770, Monterey County: El Presidio de Monterey
3. 1782, Santa Barbara County: El Presidio de Santa Barbara
4. 1769, San Diego County: El Presidio de San Diego

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Establishing El Camino Real Route Markers

The rise of the automobile in Southern California created a need for a well-maintained state highway to promote tourism and commerce. El Camino Real was a logical candidate for this purpose. In 1892, Miss Anna Pitcher, Director of the Pasadena Art Exhibition Association, proposed a project to the Women's Club of Los Angeles to mark the route of the El Camino Real. Unsuccessful with the Women's Club, she next approached the California Federation of Woman's Clubs and the Native Daughters of the Golden West. They combined to support the project, forming the El Camino Real Association with a charge to mark the historical route, promote tourism along the road, and lobby for government support.

Mrs. A.S.C. Forbes, who with her husband owned the only foundry west of the Mississippi River, proposed a marker for the road consisting of a cast iron bell hung from an 11-foot bent guidepost in the shape of a shepherd's crook. Her design was accepted and the California Bell Company (which exists today) began casting the bells. The first bell was placed in 1906 in front of the Old Plaza Church in downtown Los Angeles near Olvera Street. By 1915, at least 158 bells, and perhaps as many as 400, had been placed.

After installation, the bells had to be maintained. When the El Camino Real Association fragmented, the Automobile Club of Southern California and other groups took over, caring for the bells from the mid-1920s through 1931. In 1933, the State of California took over bell maintenance. But by 1960, only 80 of the original 450 bells remained. The rest were lost to vandalism, theft or relocation following rerouting of highways and roads.



April 15, 1906, the first commemorative El Camino Real mission Bell was raised near Olvera Street in Los Angeles. Source: The Los Angeles Times, August 11, 2019, page B3

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In 1959, the California Division of Highways was legislatively mandated to maintain the marker system. The State began replacing the bells, first using concrete then iron from a design produced in 1960. In 1996, CalTrans began a restoration effort. Using an 85-pound metal bell cast from the original 1906 California Bell Company molds, CalTrans installed 555 El Camino Real bell markers in Southern California in 2005. They hang from a shepherd's crook attached to a concrete foundation. A second and final phase in Northern California was completed in late 2012.

Today the El Camino Real route is an amalgam of interstate and state highways, city streets and county roads. It begins in San Diego in Presidio Park and roughly follows US 101/I-5 in Southern California, then goes through Cahuenga Pass to Calabasas, Camarillo, Ventura, Santa Barbara and points north.

The 15-foot high bells, which are placed on both sides of the roadway at approximately 1-2 mile intervals, are now located in the counties of Los Angeles, Ventura, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, San Mateo and Santa Clara. In San Diego County, bell markers are mostly located on local streets outside the State's jurisdiction.

Facts About the Bell Markers

- The bells are 18" diameter at the bottom and weigh 85 lbs.
- The pole or standard holding the bell is 3" diameter pipe that stands 15' tall (the originals in 1906 were 11' tall).
- The bent shape of the post is symbolic of the crook or crozier of a Catholic bishop, the shepherd of souls in his care. The crozier is itself a copy of a tool that sheep herders use to capture an individual sheep out of a flock for some sort of attention or assistance.
- Along the El Camino Real the spacing of the bells is generally every one to two miles, based on the conditions along the roadway;
- The common sign seen on the post reads: "Historic El Camino Real";
- Bells along state highways are installed and maintained by the California Department of Transportation. Where the El Camino is now on local roads, the local county or city is responsible for them.
- The original bells were made by the [California Bell Company](#), and which still makes the bells today, and offers them for sale on their website.



Image source: The Los Angeles Times, July 07, 2003, Page 32

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El Camino Real Bell Marker in Ontario

But what does all this mean for Max Taylor's recollection of an original bell marker on Holt Boulevard in Ontario? The first clue is that El Camino Real was never in San Bernardino County, as seen from the list of 21 California missions. But we found the definitive answer in an article by Bruce Thonrton published in the Daily Report on November 8, 1972:

"Two replicas of the bells that were situated along El Camino Real in the golden days of California history centuries ago will be dedicated in special ceremonies at Mariposa School in Ontario. Principal Ray Schroeder said the replicas, manufactured in the 1920s, were given to the school by Miss Rose DiBella of Upland, who owned a replica which was located at a winery on East Holt Blvd, and Caleb L. Serrano of West Covina."

The article explains that Principal Schroeder had the replicas sandblasted and painted at his own expense. They were then installed at the school – one in the front, and one in the school patio.

In the 1950s, Rose DiBella owned Grande Cheese Co., located in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, which was later sold to Ontario Importing. John DiBella, Rose's brother or uncle (the relationship is unclear) loaned his nephews, Francesco and Angelo Terranova, money to start F&A Cheese of Grand Rapids, Michigan, which had a second office in Upland.

The building Max Taylor remembers is located at 1101 East Holt Blvd in Ontario. The single-story, concrete bloc warehouse building was constructed in 1929 by Paul Walker, a poultry rancher, to serve as storage and warehouse for his chicken and egg business. Established in 1914 in Ontario, the business was the largest dealer of poultry and eggs in San Bernardino County.

The 6,792 sf. Art Deco building is rectangular with a flat roof and arched parapet on the primary façade. There is a small addition attached to the east portion of the building that is flush with the building wall. The primary façade has six symmetrically placed vertical concrete columns that are capped just beyond the top of the bays. There are a total of five bays; four windows and one recessed entrance with two windows. Three equally sized windows are symmetrically placed along the building façade and one smaller window is placed on the addition. The building is most likely constructed of concrete block and finished with a coat of stucco.



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In 1933, the building served as a winery and distillery for the Cucamonga Valley Wine Company, which had been established by Italy native Giovanni (John) Vai of Los Angeles. Vai's high-quality wines and brandies were known by the El Camino Real and El Camino Rancho labels. Vai was also vice president of Padre Winery (established in 1912) in Cucamonga, which is now the Biane winery. In 1940, the building received \$250,000 worth of improvements to expand capacity.

The building is still standing, though is now vacant.

Source: Max Taylor e-mail January 28, 2014; Conejo Valley Guide; California Department of Parks and Recreation; Wikipedia, History.com, California Highways.org, Daily Report, November 8, 1972, City of Ontario Historic Preservation Commission Historic Preservation Subcommittee meeting agenda for March 9, 2017; California Bell Company.



Photo Credit: Model Colony History Room

Heritage Corner

Look closely within the yellow lines to see the El Camino Real Mission Bell replica that used to be in front of the Cucamonga Valley Wine Co. building. *Photo source: Max Taylor.*



El Camino Real Mission Bell at 1107 East Holt Blvd, Ontario, California, Circa. 1957

1st Quarter Potluck Meeting

January 30, 2022

Ontario Heritage kicked off 2022 with a potluck and meeting on January 30, 2022. The location was the historic John P. Robertson house, 907 N. Euclid Avenue, now owned by John Aylyng and Dianne Fife. Dianne is a dairy veterinarian who works in the Chino, San Jacinto and Barstow dairy areas. Together, John and Dianne operate a dairy supply business that has about a dozen customers. They place orders, and John arranges for delivery to them.

John and Dianne currently live in Upland. They purchased the Robertson house in June 2019 as a 30th anniversary gift to themselves. Since then, they have been working steadily to prepare the house for move-in, with John serving as the general contractor in addition to running the dairy supply business. He says it sometimes feels like he has two full-time jobs.

The Robertson house is within the Euclid Avenue Historic District. It is 3,044 square feet with four bedrooms and two bathrooms. It was built in 1896 by John P. Robertson (1842-1925), a banker (he was vice-president of the First National Bank) who was born in Missouri. During the Civil War he attained the rank of Captain, and so became known as Captain John Robertson.



Photo Credits: Ontario Heritage

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1st Quarter Potluck Meeting (continued from page 10)

Captain Robertson died in 1925 at the age of 83 after suffering from failing health and paralysis for the previous two years. The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) took part in his burial services as honorary pallbearers. He was a member of the First Methodist Church.

At the time of his death, Captain Robertson and his wife no longer lived in the Euclid Avenue home, residing instead at 216 W. H Street in the Villa Park historic district. Eventually their home on Euclid Avenue became the property of the Latimer family, probably Wilbur Hugh Latimer. Wilbur's younger brother Charles Robert Latimer lived nearby in an historic Craftsman house at 945 N. Euclid Ave. That home is now owned by Margaret Latimer and was once on an Ontario Heritage home tour.

The Robertson house was next occupied by Jack and Shirley Lundquist, who rented the home for 40 years before purchasing it from the Latimers in 1997. (Like the Aylings, as an anniversary gift for themselves).

Over the years, few changes were made to the Robertson house. While honoring the historic architecture of the house, the Aylings are incorporating many changes into the house. Some are modern upgrades: rooftop solar located atop the rear carriage house so as not to be visible from Euclid Avenue and converting the home to all-electric with underground utility connection.

John and Dianne love antiques. When they learned of a bank building in Seal Beach whose interior fixtures and furnishing were being liquidated, they took a look. The 8000 square foot building had what John describes as "several oddities"

- All the fixtures and paneling in the bank was oak.
- The décor of the walls and ceiling was what John described as "overdone 1980s heavy-handed".
- A reading room adjacent to the teller gallery was surrounded by bookcases and had a fireplace.

The bank had been through many name changes and ownership through its operating life, which probably explains the oddities. John relates that they did find a dime when clearing the building, but kept it because they didn't know where to return it.

John and Dianne rescued 90% of the material from the bank and adaptively reused it. For example the fireplace and bookshelves from the bank reading room are now in the Ayling's library. Besides the bank furnishings, the Ayling's have incorporated salvaged stained glass, bathroom fixtures and artwork into the home. They hope they can move in shortly.

Sources: 1940 U.S. Census; Bellevue Memorial Park, City of Ontario Historic District description, John Ayling and Dianne Fife.

In Memoriam

Carolyn Sue Bigg Damaske

December 29, 1945 – March 11, 2022

Sue Damaske, a dedicated Ontario Heritage member and owner of an historic Ontario home, passed away on March 11, 2022 following a decline from illness. Sue was quick to volunteer and share her talents, which included making beautiful gift baskets used as raffle prizes at the annual St. Paddy's Day Golf Tournament. The baskets, which she fashioned from provided items, always showed creativity and style.

She made many beautiful floral arrangements for special Ontario Heritage occasions; helped every year as a volunteer for the annual cemetery tour, and was a regular attendee at Ontario Heritage quarterly potluck dinners.

Sue's daughter Amy Damaske Julian told us that Sue was born in Pomona and raised in Ontario. She attended Euclid Elementary, Vina Danks Junior High, and Chaffey. Besides her creativity and helpfulness to others, Amy says Sue always put everyone and what they needed ahead of herself. She adored her grandchildren and loved her dogs. She was funny and could talk to anyone for hours. She was the "best gift wrapper ever", a great cook (especially chocolate chip cookies and potato soup), and a selfless, loving person.

Sue loved historic homes and lived in Ontario's College Park Historic District. Lydia Belle Ford subdivided the College Park Tract into 48 lots on September 11, 1914. The original tract went from Euclid Avenue east to Columbia Avenue, and from Fourth Street north to Princeton Street. The tract was one of the first to have underground telephone, water, gas and electrical lines; ornamental street lighting; and paved and curbed streets and alleys.



Photo Credit: Ontario Heritage

Photo of Sue from 2019

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In Memoriam (continued from page 12)

The neighborhood has been altered very little since the 1920s, when most of the homes were built. Sue lived in the S. Earle Blakeslee home at 214 E. 4th Street. Built in 1925 in the Mediterranean Revival architectural style, the home is one of the best examples of the Mediterranean style. S. Earle Blakeslee was head of the music department at Chaffey High School and College and organist and choir director at Bethel Congregational Church. She had intended to offer her home for an Ontario Heritage home tour but COVID and her illness prevented her from realizing her plan.

When news of Sue's illness reached Ontario Heritage in February 2022, President Petrina Delman contacted Sue on behalf of the organization to express appreciation for Sue's help, thoughtfulness and talent, and gratitude for her friendship. Petrina also recalled that Sue, who graduated from Chaffey High School in 1964 with Petrina's husband Richard, often reminisced with Richard about growing up in Ontario.

Amy has advised that "any donations in Sue's memory can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Sue donated monthly to it for over 12 years.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
262 Danny Thomas Place
Memphis, TN 38105-3678
General Information: (901) 595-3300
<https://www.stjude.org/>

We love you, Sue. Thank you for your love and friendship through the years. God bless.



Upcoming Historic Walking Tour

Ontario Heritage Presents

A Walking Tour of the Euclid Avenue Historic District

**Saturday, May 21st,
beginning at 10:00 am**

Tickets are now available for purchase at Logan's Candies, and at www.ontarioheritage.org

Meet at 10:00 am at the Iron Skillet (805 North Euclid Ave.)

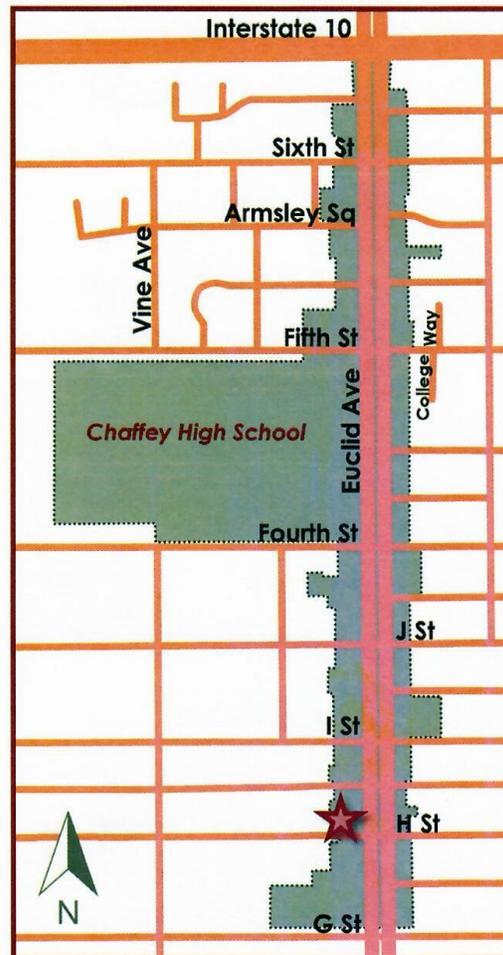
Morning of Event Ticket Sales begin at 9:30 am on their front lawn

Ontario Heritage Members - \$5,

Non-Members- \$10

Youth (12 and under) - Free!

Get ready to join us on a fun and fact-filled walking tour along National Register Euclid Avenue as we explore one of Ontario's earliest established neighborhoods. The Walking Tour will highlight homes, sites and features of this historic neighborhood and the Euclid Avenue Median, Ontario's stately centerpiece.



 Starting Point/Same Day Ticket Sales

 Euclid Avenue Historic District

FB Page: www.facebook.com/Ontario.Heritage.com

Official Website: www.ontarioheritage.org

Contact Us: 909-984-6558 or 909-238-5320, P.O. Box 1 Ontario, CA 91762

Board Members

Board Members

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Debra Porada



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2022 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 (one year renewal)

*Name: _____

*Address: _____

*City: _____ State: _____

*Zip Code: _____

*Phone: _____

*Mobile Phone: _____

*E-Mail: _____

* Required Information

Membership Categories (For the 2022 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 |
| <input type="radio"/> Benefactor | \$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.