

Model Colony News



Upcoming Heritage Events

July 31, 2022 (Sunday): Our quarterly dinner potluck meeting will be held in the Historic Jack Anderson House located at 231 Armsley Square in Ontario from 4PM-6:30PM. To ensure sufficient seating RSVPs are mandatory as this is a private residence. Please see the potluck flyer on page 16 of this newsletter for all the details.

October 8, 2022 (Saturday): Mark your calendars for our 12th annual historic cemetery tour at Bellevue Memorial Park in Ontario, CA.

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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

J. Awdry Armstrong Home

307 W. 6th Street

In May 2022, the John Awdry Armstrong house located at 307 W. 6th Street, Ontario was offered for sale. Originally built in 1922, the home includes land containing the last remaining orange grove on 6th Street as well as 21 historic Armstrong AARS (All-American Rose Selections) rose bushes believed to be planed by J. Awdry. Many of the roses are no longer propagated, so will be lost to history unless action is taken to save cuttings.

Ontario City Councilmember Debra Porada, who lives nearby and has a keen interest in Ontario history, searched and found a rosarian who agreed to help save the roses. Burling Leon of Burlington Rose Nursery in Visalia arrived on June 8, 2022 and worked with Councilmember Porada and a 3-man crew from the City of Ontario maintenance department to secure the cuttings. It will be several months before the roses can be identified and catalogued, but they are now safe from extinction.



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Heritage Corner (continued from page 2)

John Awdry Armstrong, known as J. Awdry, was the son of John Samuel Armstrong, founder of Armstrong Nursery. He was born in Ontario on January 24, 1899, one of six children of John and Charlotte Armstrong and the only son to survive past the age of 26. He graduated from Chaffey High School in 1917 and UC Berkeley in 1922, where he was a member of Alpha Zeta agricultural fraternity. Immediately following his college graduation, he returned to Ontario to join the family business.

He built the house at 307 W. 6th Street in 1922, and in 1923, married Ruth Harrison. The couple had three children: John Jr., David L. and Janetha.

J. Awdry devoted his entire career to Armstrong Nurseries. He was named general manager in 1928 and executive vice president in 1932 when Armstrong Nurseries incorporated. That same year, at his father's urging, he established the research department and began breeding roses, which became the company's signature product. When his father retired in 1957, J. Awdry became the president of the company.



Aerial view of J. Awdry's home



Front view of his house



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Heritage Corner (continued from page 3)

Adding to his business responsibilities, J. Awdry was a founding member of the All-American Rose Selections in 1939 and served as its first president (1940-1935). He remained active with the organization until 1974. For many years, he was involved in scoring and selecting the annual rose selections.

Some of the AARS roses developed by Armstrong Nursery include Sutter's Gold, Pinkie, High Noon, Garden Party, Double Delight (called "The World's Favorite Rose"), Joseph's Coat, Eiffel Tower, Mr. Lincoln, Helen Traubel, Montezuma and the Charlotte Armstrong rose. This was named for J. Awdry's mother Charlotte, who died in a 1948 automobile accident. John S. Armstrong claimed to have sold over 3 million of the pink Charlotte Armstrong roses. In 1962, the City of Ontario named the Charlotte Armstrong rose its official flower.

J. Awdry was also involved in state and national professional associations. He served as a director of the California Association of Nurserymen, becoming president in 1929-30 and 1933-34, and the American Association of Nurserymen, becoming president in 1947-48. He was executive chairman of the California International Flower Show from 1956 to 1958 and chairman of the agricultural committee for the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce from 1959 to 1962.



Photos of J. Awdry Armstrong courtesy of Model Colony History Room

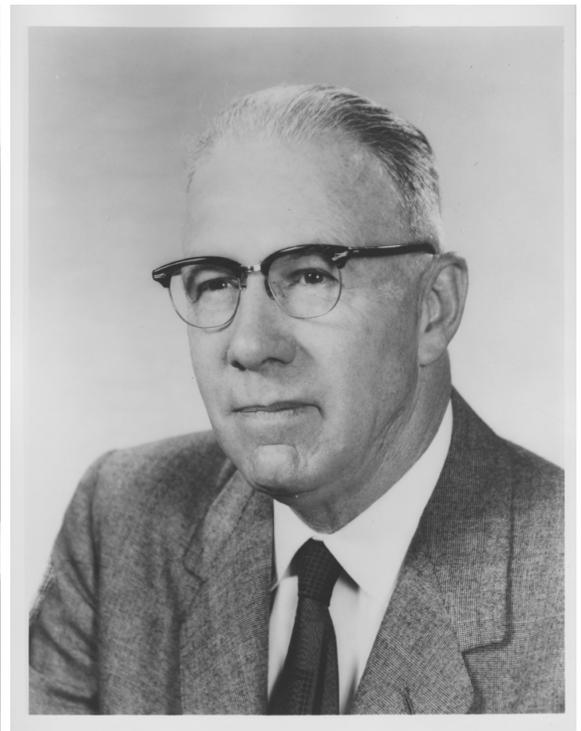
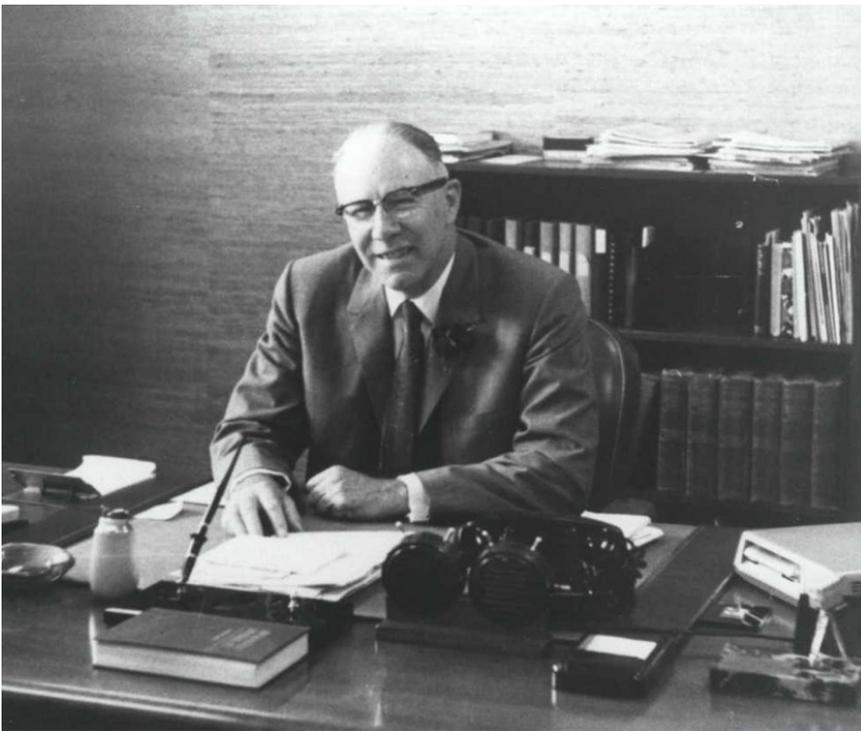
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Heritage Corner (continued from page 4)

Locally he was a board member of the San Antonio Community Hospital, the Ontario City Library and was active in many other local organizations. He and Ruth continued living in the 6th Street house until he retired in 1967, then moved to Mt. San Antonio Gardens where J. Awdry served for several years on the board of directors. Ruth died in 1987 and J. Awdry two years later at the age of 90.

The original Armstrong Nursery business no longer exists. After J. Awdry retired in 1967, his son John Awdry Armstrong, Jr. took over until in 1988, the business was sold to employees and renamed Armstrong Garden Centers. Headquartered in Glendora, it has 31 retail stores in California. It no longer breeds roses or sells wholesale.



Photos of J. Awdry Armstrong courtesy of Model Colony History Room

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Model Colony News

Heritage Corner (continued from page 5)

All-America Rose Selections Developed in Ontario, California

<u>Year</u>	<u>Name of Rose</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Hybridizer</u>
1940	The Chief	Hybrid Tea	Salmon red	Walter E. Lammerts
1941	Charlotte Armstrong	Hybrid Tea	Cerise red	Walter E. Lammerts
1945	Mirandy	Hybrid Tea	Crimson red	Walter E. Lammerts
1948	Taffeta	Hybrid Tea	Carmine	Walter E. Lammerts
1948	Pinkie	Floribunda	Light rose pink	Herbert C. Swim
1948	Nocturne	Hybrid Tea	Dark red	Herbert C. Swim
1948	High Noon	Climbing HT	Yellow	Walter E. Lammerts
1949	Tallyho	Hybrid Tea	Two-tone pink	Herbert C. Swim
1949	Forty-Niner	Hybrid Tea	Red & yellow	Herbert C. Swim
1950	Sutter's Gold	Hybrid Tea	Golden yellow	Herbert C. Swim
1952	Helen Traubel	Hybrid Tea	Apricot pink	Herbert C. Swim
1954	Mojave	Hybrid Tea	Apricot orange	Herbert C. Swim
1956	Circus	Floribunda	Multicolor	Herbert C. Swim
1960	Garden Party	Hybrid Tea	White	Herbert C. Swim
1961	Duet	Hybrid Tea	Salmon-pink & orange-red	Herbert C. Swim
1961	Pink Parfait	Grandiflora	Dawn pink	Herbert C. Swim
1962	John S. Armstrong	Grandiflora	Deep red	Herbert C. Swim
1963	Royal Highness	Hybrid Tea	Clear pink	Swim & Weeks
1965	Camelot	Grandiflora	Shrimp pink	Swim & Weeks
1965	Mister Lincoln	Hybrid Tea	Deep red	Swim & Weeks
1966	Matterhorn	Hybrid Tea	White	D.L. Armstrong/Swim
1967	Lucky Lady	Grandiflora	Creamy, shrimp-pink	D.L. Armstrong/Swim
1969	Angel Face	Floribunda	Lavender	Swim & Weeks
1969	Comanche	Grandiflora	Scarlet-orange	Swim & Weeks
1971	Aquarius	Grandiflora	Pink blend	David L. Armstrong
1972	Apollo	Hybrid Tea	Sunrise yellow	David L. Armstrong
1973	Gypsy	Hybrid Tea	Orange-red	O. L. Weeks
1974	Perfume Delight	Hybrid Tea	Clear pink	O. L. Weeks
1975	Arizona	Grandiflora	Bronze-copper	O. L. Weeks
1977	Double Delight	Hybrid Tea	Red & white bicolor	Herbert C. Swim
1979	Holy Toledo	Miniature	Orange/yellow (ARS-E)	Jack E. Christensen
1979	Paradise	Hybrid Tea	Lavender & pink	O. L. Weeks
1981	White Lightnin'	Grandiflora	White	Swim/Christensen
1981	Bing Crosby	Hybrid Tea	Orange	O. L. Weeks
1982	Mon Cheri	Hybrid Tea	Red blend	Jack E. Christensen
1982	Brandy	Hybrid Tea	Golden apricot	Swim/Christensen
1983	Sweet Surrender	Hybrid Tea	Silvery pink	O. L. Weeks
1986	Voodoo	Hybrid Tea	Yellow-peach-orange	Jack E. Christensen
1994	Midas Touch	Hybrid Tea	Bright yellow	Jack E. Christensen
1995	Brass Band	Floribunda	Orange/yellow	Jack E. Christensen

Sources: Ontario City Library, Robert E. Ellingwood Model Colony History Room;
David Allen/Inland Valley Daily Bulletin April 10, 2014.

An Old Mining Town

Eldoradoville: A Gold Mining Town Close to Home

We usually associate gold mining with northern and central California. But right here in our own San Gabriel Mountains there was a short-lived mining town located on the East Fork of the San Gabriel River, a few miles west of Mt. Baldy Village and north of San Dimas. Originally called Prospect Bar and later known as Eldoradoville, the place had no shortage of alcohol and gambling dens. Shootings and stabbings were commonplace. And it was the gem of the little-known southern California gold fields, following a few years after the gold discovery at Sutter's Mill in northern California.



The San Gabriel River East Fork, located between Mt. Baden-Powell and Mt. Baldy, drains the western and southern slopes of Mt. Baldy and, during El Niño-like conditions, can be a dangerous, formidable force. For years it has cut through and pounded the rocks of the San Gabriels, loosening flakes of gold from quartz veins and depositing them in the river's sands. At one time, the San Gabriel River was one of the major gold producers in southern California.

The East Fork witnessed a gold rush between 1859 and 1862. Hundreds of gold miners came to the canyon, and a shanty town, called Prospect Bar, was built four miles up the East Fork. It featured a boarding house, two or three stores, blacksmith shop, butcher shop, saloons and gambling houses.

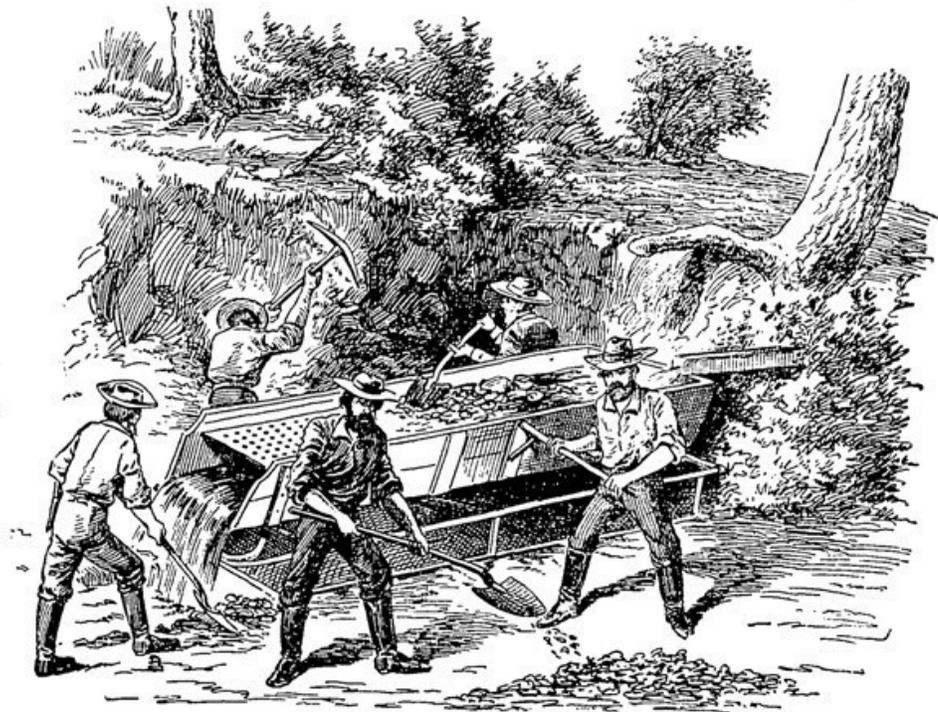
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An Old Mining Town (continued from page 7)

What is known about the town comes from contemporary Los Angeles newspapers (the Los Angeles Star, the Southern Vineyard, and the Semi-Weekly Southern News) and the 1860 federal census report. The exact date when gold mining began on the East Fork has not been established, but it appears to be 1854. For several years, miners did placer mining (separating gold from sand or gravel), yielding \$6 or \$7 per day per miner. Water scarcity in the mid-1850s hampered the miner's efforts.

Rain came in the winter of 1858-59. The mountain peaks were covered with snowpack; by early spring the San Gabriel River and its tributaries were running full of water. Miners arrived and used pans or sluices to extract gold. By May 1859, the East Fork was being prospected along its entire length, yielding rich new gold discoveries. In July 1859, a correspondent for the Los Angeles Star reported that 300 men were working in the canyon and finding up to \$10 per day in gold.



Los Angeles merchants who served the miners did very well. It was reported that three or four merchants earned \$2000 in gold in ten days.

Stagecoach service to the East Fork began in early July 1859. Before that, it was difficult to reach the mines – it required crossing the river 90 times during a 27-mile trip. Stage coaches left Los Angeles on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7 am and returned Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The fare was \$7.



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An Old Mining Town (continued from page 8)

Mining continued at a brisk pace during the summer and fall of 1859 and bred the formation of mining companies who employed five to 20 miners, either for wages or a split of the profits. Using technical know-how such as flumes, waterwheels, pumps and derricks, these companies found efficient methods to remove the gold.

One very rainy November night in 1859, a tremendous flood washed away all the mining works erected on the river – dams, water wheels, sluices, everything. But within a month, the miners were back at work. They rebuilt their dams, water wheels and sluices and continued taking out as much gold as before the flood.



Eight mining companies were in full operation, populating the East Fork so densely that rules were needed. The Eldoradoville Mining District established an elaborate set of 27 mining laws to govern the district, and a new town, called Eldoradoville, sprang up. Because the rule of law stopped at the mines, Eldoradoville was a rowdy town. Lacking a peace officer, assaults with knives and pistols, often resulting in death, had no consequences.

Three or four stores provided the miners with the necessities of life (flour, sugar, bacon, coffee, tea, beans, new potatoes, onions, molasses, butter and tobacco) while six saloons and associated gambling and dance halls provided entertainment.

The federal census of 1860, taken in July, revealed the following: 80 miners and 30 laborers, the majority of which were foreign-born (largely Mexican, though also Irish and German) and Easterners from slave and free states.

Many of the miners had a strong interest in politics. Most were Democrats, split evenly between Union and Southern supporters. Federal officials saw Eldoradoville as a hotbed of Southern sympathy and kept an eye on what they thought were Confederate spies in the camp. Candidates for county and state offices made campaign

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An Old Mining Town (continued from page 9)

visits to the town. As the election of 1860 approached, political rallies reflecting all parts of the political spectrum were held.

There were four presidential candidates on the ballot of 1860: Republican Abraham Lincoln; Southern Democrat John Breckenridge; Constitutional Unionist John Bell and Democrat Stephen Douglas. In Eldoradoville, the miners voted as follows: Douglas 34; Breckenridge 23; Lincoln 14; Bell 8.

By mid-1860, the number of miners had decreased though that did not result in a decrease in the recovery of gold. Wells Fargo & Co. reported that shipments of gold averaged \$15,000 a month during the summer of 1861, the majority of it coming from Eldoradoville.

The town ended abruptly the last week of December, 1861. It rained every day for three weeks, causing the river to rise along its banks. During the night of January 17-18, 1861, a torrential rain hit the mountains, causing a flood that swept down the canyon, obliterating everything in its path. Eldoradoville was washed away, as were all the mining operations. Shacks, whiskey barrels, groceries, beds, roulette wheels, sluices, Long Toms and everything else was pushed from the mountains into the San Gabriel Valley floodplain.

Although Eldoradoville was never rebuilt, it did leave a legacy: \$4 million in gold extracted. There is no trace of the town or the mines, and apparently no photographs or other evidence of the town's existence. The only remnant of Eldoradoville is a shady picnic area maintained by the US Forest Service.

End Note: In March 1938, another massive flood struck the area, which now had a bridge that was part of a state highway project started in 1929. Also in the area was a Depression-era shantytown on the river, dubbed Hooverville because its down-on-their luck inhabitants. The flood wiped out Hooverville and destroyed much of the roadwork, causing the state to abandon the idea of building a road there. All vehicles are now barred from the area, now wilderness. A 5-mile trek takes you to the site of the bridge which hikers call the Bridge to Nowhere.

Source: Joe Blackstock column, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin, March 1, 1999; Los Angeles Corral, March 1979; KCET; Los Angeles Public Library



Ruins of Big Horn Mine above San Gabriel River, 2013, Photo: Daniel Medina

City of Ontario Model Colony Awards

22nd Annual City of Ontario Model Colony Awards

In 2000 the Ontario City Council established the Model Colony Awards Program to celebrate achievement in historic preservation within the community. Every May since, in conjunction with National Historic Preservation Month, the city recognizes outstanding efforts by homeowners and businesses who have restored, rehabilitated and preserved Ontario's historic places.

To be eligible for a Model Colony award, a property must meet the following criteria:

- Be a designated Historic Landmark
- Be a contributing structure or feature within a designated historic district, be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, or be listed on the California Register of Historic Resources.
- The restoration, rehabilitation or preservation project must have been completed in the previous calendar year and have secured the proper permits and approvals from the City of Ontario.

Nominations for each year's Model Colony awards are first submitted to the Planning Department/Historic Preservation Subcommittee for review and recommendation, then are forwarded to the Planning Commission/Historic Preservation Commission for action. If approved, the awards are presented by the City Council during a scheduled meeting in May.

There are six award categories:

- **Restoration Award:** for achievement in the preservation of a historic resource that is in keeping with the historic character of the resources, and an excellent example of using architectural styles, colors, detail, materials or craftsmanship
- **Rehabilitation Award:** for achievement in the rehabilitation of the exterior of a historic resource. The criteria are the same as the Restoration award.
- **John S. Armstrong Landscape Award:** for achievement in the restoration or preservation of landscaping to a historic resource. The type of landscaping used is reviewed to see if it is typical of the landscaping that would have been used with the particular style or time period when the landmark was built. The types and placement of plants and hardscape are also evaluated for comparability to the period of significance.
- **Award of Merit:** for achievement in the ongoing preservation of a historic resource. The resource must be an excellent example of an architectural style, and required continued preservation to remain an excellent example. The ongoing efforts must preserve historic character of the resource and show excellent examples of colors, details, material or craftsmanship.
- **George Chaffey Memorial Award:** for distinguished leadership in the preservation of Ontario's heritage.
- **Heritage Founder's Award:** for eligible Tier I or Tier II historic resources that have retained their historic authenticity through ongoing maintenance, preservation and exemplary stewardship.

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City of Ontario Model Colony Awards (continued from page 11)

Not all awards are presented annually. The 2022 awards were presented at the May 17 City Council meeting.

2022 Award Winners

Award of Merit, Percy E. Garrison House

404 East Rosewood Court

Award recipients: Wendell and Bonnie Grant



Built in 1925 by Willard D. Ball, the Percy E. Garrison House is a lovely Colonial Revival residence in the Rosewood Court Historic District. Percy Garrison lived in the house from 1938 to 1962. The current owners, Wendell and Bonnie Grant, have made sure that all interior changes were sensitive and compatible with the home's historic features. They have been excellent stewards of this historic resource for the past 15 years.

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City of Ontario Model Colony Awards (continued from page 12)

Award of Merit, Ralph Streano House

132 East Rosewood Court

Award recipient: Barbara Artunian



This classic French Eclectic Revival style house was built in 1938 by Ralph Streano, whose family lived in the house until 1960. Francis and Margo Jacobson bought the house and lived there until 1971 when Richard and Barbara Artunian bought the house. Barbara still lives there today, and makes every effort to maintain the unique personality of the home. The Artunian family has preserved and protected this beautiful home for over 50 years, ensuring that it remains a significant contributor to the Rosewood Court Historic District.

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City of Ontario Model Colony Awards (continued from page 13)

Award of Merit, Clifford M. Huston House

1232 North Euclid Avenue

Award recipients: Sean and Kristine McMillin



This home was constructed in 1929 in the Spanish Revival architectural style for Clifford M. Huston, a manager of a bank in Fontana. The home has a smooth plaster finish with a low pitched gabled red clay roof, recessed arched windows and recessed entryway on the ground floor and hung window on the second floor. It is designated Local Landmark No. 89 and is a contributor to the Euclid Avenue Historic District. The property owners have maintained and preserved this magnificent home for future generations to enjoy.

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City of Ontario Model Colony Awards (continued from page 14)

George Chaffey Memorial Award

125 West B Street

Award recipient: Logan's Candies, Jerry Rowley, owner



The George Chaffey Memorial Award is reserved for distinguished leaders that have made a significant contribution to Ontario's heritage. Logan's Candies has become a leader in the community and contributes to the preservation of Ontario's heritage, ensuring that future generations can continue to learn about and enjoy Ontario's history.

Sources: City of Ontario Planning Department Historic Preservation Commission staff report and City of Ontario Historic District description.

Upcoming Potluck

Quarterly Dinner Potluck Meeting



Date: July 31, 2022 Sunday
Time: 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm
Location: The Historic Jack Anderson House
Address: 231 Armsley Square, Ontario 91762

Guest Speakers: Ruben and Cynthia Duran, current owners

Please bring a main dish or side dish and you may bring a bottle of wine to share if you so desire. Water bottles will be provided.

As this is a private residence and to ensure sufficient seating, please RSVP by calling 909-238-5320 or email: prdelman@msn.com

Ontario Heritage P. O. Box 1 Ontario CA 91762 Phone: 909.984.6558

ontarioheritage.org
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Ontario Heritage is a 501(c)3 organization under the Internal Revenue Code

Board Members

Board Members

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Randi Campbell, Treasurer

Charlene Wissing, Secretary

Gloria Jones, Membership Chair

Devela Bemowski, Historian

Rita Nelsen

Margot Cardona

Wendy Roldan

Ex-Officio Member

Diane Ayala, Ontario Planning Department

City Council Liaison

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.