

Model Colony News



Upcoming Heritage Events

January 29, 2023 (Sunday): Our 1st Quarter Dinner Potluck Meeting with guest speaker. Time of event 4:00 pm—6:30 pm. See event flyer on page 21 of this newsletter.

March 17, 2023 (Friday): Our 5th Annual St. Paddy's Day Golf Tournament to be held at Whispering Lakes Golf Course. See event flyer on page 22 of this newsletter.

April 23, 2023 (Sunday): Our 2nd Quarter Dinner Potluck Meeting with Guest Speaker. Time of event 4:00 PM—6:30 PM. Location and name of speaker TBD.

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Model Colony News

Heritage Corner

Ontario Heritage 12th Annual Richard D. Delman Historic Cemetery Tour

A beautiful sunny day greeted participants for the 2022 Richard D. Delman Historic Cemetery tour on October 8, 2022. The 12th annual tour drew a good turnout of over 125 people to visit historic gravesites and hear from five historic Ontario residents – some familiar, some new.

All historic figures are portrayed by the Ontario Heritage Acting Troupe – all volunteers and each an excellent actor. Appropriately costumed and with props to further enhance their stories, the actors bring the historic figures to life.

Behind the scenes, Ontario Heritage does extensive research and provides the actors with scripts for their use. Veteran actors often add to the scripts. On cemetery tour day, volunteer tour guides escort groups of about 20 visitors to each gravesite, providing background material about each historic person.

While waiting for the tour to begin, participants enjoyed coffee and snacks provided by Ontario Heritage, learning more about Ontario from staff members from the Model Colony Room library staff and viewing the restored automobiles driven by members of the Pomona Valley Model A Club.

Bellevue Memorial Park provided logistics support by erecting canopies and chairs, as well as allowing Ontario Heritage access to the gravesites.



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Heritage Corner (continued from page 2)

Here are the historical figures portrayed during the 2022 cemetery tour.

Adda Bradford Manker

1875 - 1957

Ontario's First Librarian

Portrayed by: Jayne Sjodin

Adda Manker was born in 1875 in Marengo, Iowa to Martin Van Buren Bradford and Elle Keyes Bradford. One of six children, she grew up on a farm. Adda and her sister Alice suffered from “lung fever”, a form of pulmonary inflammation, that prompted her parents to relocate to a different climate. In 1884, when Adda was nine, her parents sold the family farm and moved to Ontario, along with her father Martin’s brother Jim. They made the journey via train, arriving first in Los Angeles, then Ontario in April 1884.

The family made their home on the west side of Euclid Avenue between E and F Streets. Martin Bradford found work as a zanjero (an official in charge of water supplies) for the San Antonio Water Company. He patrolled irrigation ditches to keep them repaired so that citrus growers received their water allotment on time.

Ontario was largely undeveloped, with no automobiles and very few horse buggies. When the wind blew from the east (the Santa Ana winds), the Bradford children chased tumbleweeds. The family moved to a new location on the east side of Euclid just below F Street, then later built a house at Vine and I Street – a stone house on the southeast corner.

Adda attended school through eighth grade. She met her husband Fletcher Manker while he was a student at the Chaffey College of Agriculture. They married in October 1894 when Adda was 19 and moved to 603 Second Avenue in Upland. Fletcher and Adda’s brother Jim Bradford jointly owned a livery stable; later Fletcher and Adda’s brother-in-law Melvin “Charlie” Sikes were partners in a painting, wallpaper and decorating business.



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Heritage Corner (continued from page 3)

Fletcher was Upland's first fire chief of the volunteer fire department, for which he was paid \$10 a month. The fire department's first piece of equipment was a hose cart that was pulled for the first available volunteers to get to where the cart was stored. In 1913, the first serious fire to occur in Upland destroyed all the businesses on the east side of Second Avenue near 9th Street. Two years later the first station on D Street was built and the first motorized fire engine purchased. The same year – 1915 – Fletcher and Charlie Sikes built the Sikes-Manker Block (the east 100 block on the south side of 9th Street) that was one of the earliest fireproof buildings in the city.



Fletcher H. Manker holding a miniature fire engine.



Adda Bradford Manker



Above photo is of fire fighters on a fire truck posed in driveway of the Upland Fire Department located at 159 East D Street, Upland (Calif.) year 1915

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Heritage Corner (continued from page 4)

Fletcher and Adda had five children. To finance their college education, Adda accepted a position as Upland's first librarian. She started a special service for children called story time that was held every Thursday at 4 pm. This was the start of the current Children's Services at the library.

Like Fletcher, Adda became very active in the community. She was the first president of the San Antonio Library Association, first president of the Upland PTA, a clerk on the Upland Grammar School Board for 11 years, a member of the Upland Business and Professional Women's Club and chairman of the Red Cross.



Upland Grammar School. Image Circa 1907—1915

In 1937, a three-story fire lookout station was built on Red Hill to serve the San Bernardino National Forest. The ground floor housed the garage and service facilities; the second floor was the kitchen; and living quarters with a glass-domed lookout observatory was on the third floor. The lookout's design was radically different from most lookouts.



Adda's husband Fletcher died at home in 1939. He had been very active in pioneering watershed conservation in the San Bernardino mountains for the last 25 years of his life. In his honor, the Red Hill lookout was renamed Manker Lookout, and a tract of 60 acres of flat land surrounded by pines, first and tall timber at the head of San Antonio Canyon was renamed Manker Flats. Adda survived for another 18 years, dying in 1957.

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Heritage Corner (continued from page 5)

John Awdry Armstrong

1899 - 1989

Ontario Rosarian

Portrayed by: Shawn Thrasher

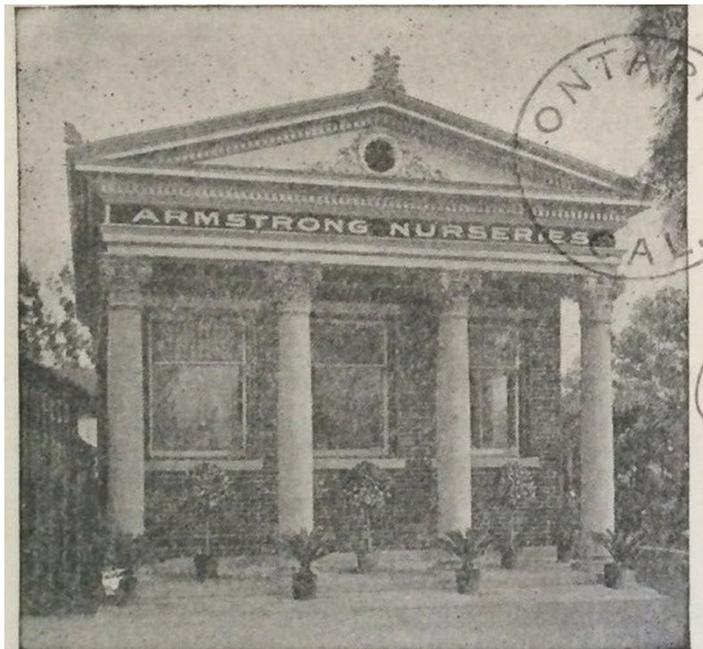
John Awdry Armstrong, better known as J. Awdry, was the oldest son of John Samuel (J.S.) and Charlotte Ann Armstrong, who founded Armstrong Nursery in 1898. J. Awdry was born in 1899 in Ontario. He attended Central School and Chaffey High School where he was student body president. After graduating from CHS in 1917, he continued his education at the University of California College of Agriculture in Berkeley, earning a B.S. degree in pomology (the scientific study and cultivation of fruit) in 1922.

During summers, J. Awdry worked at Armstrong Nursery, then joined the staff after graduating. He was drafted in October 1918 during World War 1, but was honorably discharged in December because the war had ended.

J. Awdry met his future wife Ruth Harrison while they were students at CHS. (Ruth's family had moved to Ontario from Missouri.) They married in November 1923 and raised their three children in a house at 307 West 6th Street in Ontario.



J. Awdry Armstrong



OFFICE OF THE ARMSTRONG NURSERIES
No. 404 EUCLID AVENUE, ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA

Image circa 1925

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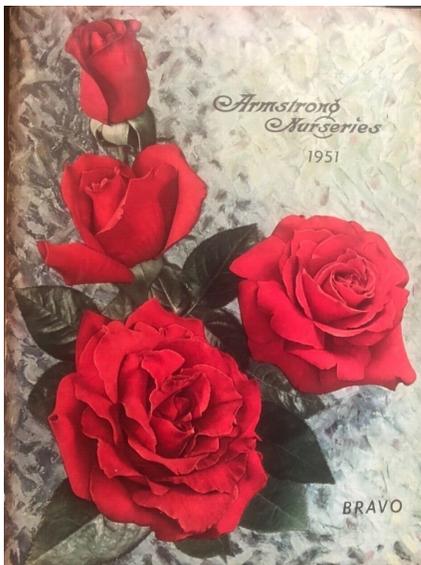
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Heritage Corner (continued from page 6)

J. Awdry and Ruth's home was just one street north of Armsley Square, a 20-acre housing development built by John Samuel Armstrong. The Armstrong mansion, the first house on Armsley Square, was built in 1924 at a cost of \$150,000. He sold the mansion for \$25,00 in 1948 after his wife Charlotte's death. The mansion was razed in 1959.

In 1930, J. Awdry initiated a program at plant breeding at Armstrong Nursery with emphasis on fruit varieties and roses. Eventually, roses breeding became the company's signature product. The first Armstrong variety, developed in 1941, was the Charlotte Armstrong rose, named for J. Awdry's mother.



1951 Nursery Catalog



The Charlotte Armstrong rose

It is the official flower of the City of Ontario and is planted in the rose garden on the south side of the Ontario Museum of History & Art and on the Euclid Avenue median. It remained a popular rose variety for over 70 years.

Over 80 rose varieties were developed at Armstrong Nursery, including Brandy, Candy Apple, Century Two, Charlotte Armstrong, China Doll, Double Delight, Duet, Eiffel Tower, Fragrant Plum, Garden Party, Gold Medal, Helen Traubel, High Noon, Houston, Ink Spots, Joseph's Coat, Midas Touch, Mister Lincoln, Modern Magic, Mojave, Montezuma, Pinkie, Nancy Reagan, Night 'n' Day, Oklahoma, Old Smoothie, Ole, Origami, Paradise, Royal Highness, San Antonio, Summer Sunshine, Sutter's Gold, Sweet Surrender, Voodoo and White Lightnin'.

J. Awdry became very active with both the American Association of Nurserymen and the California Association of Nurserymen, and was a co-founder of the All-American Rose Selections (AARS). He served for three years as executive chairman of the California International Rose Show, three years as a member

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Heritage Corner (continued from page 7)

of the Agricultural Council of the University of California, four years as chairman of the Agricultural Committee of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and three years as its director.

In Ontario, J. Awdry was vice president then general manager of Armstrong Nursery. He and Ruth were active in the Methodist Church. J. Awdry was a charter member and president of the Ontario Host Lions Club, active in the Ontario Chapter of the American Red Cross, on the Ontario Library Board and the San Antonio Community Hospital board of directors, and a member of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce.

The Armstrong tradition was that the leadership of the company passed from father to first son. By the 1980s when J. Awdry was ready to retire, there was no obvious heir. His older son David Armstrong had bred roses and peach trees, but left the company to become a doctor, while John A. Armstrong Jr. professed no interest in taking over. Consequently the company was sold to employees in 1988. The last Ontario location at Mountain Avenue and 4th Street, a striking 1956 Googie-style building which had once served as the company headquarters, was demolished sometime after 1992.

George Theodore Stamm

1872 – 1947

Ontario Businessman and Citrus Rancher

Portrayed by: Joe Caskey

George Stamm was one of Ontario's earliest pioneers. Born in 1872 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, his family consisted of parents were Godfrey T. Stamm and Louise Stamm and brother Frederick "Fred" B. Stamm. Godfrey Stamm, who worked in Milwaukee breweries, patented a beer pasteurization process that he sold for \$125,000. He invested the money in Calico silver mines, a furniture enterprise and land and water companies, including the Ontario Land and Improvement Company.

In 1887 the Stamm family oved to Ontario where Godfrey financed the construction of Ontario's first financial center, the Ontario State Bank. It was the first commercial brick building of its type in San Bernardino County. While George's brother Fred was a cashier at the bank, he was the victim of a robbery. The bandits attacked Fred, then locked him in the vault. George had to be summoned from a work site on the Frankish-Stamm tunnel in San Antonio Canyon to open the vault and release Fred.

Another business financed by Godfrey Stamm was the Los Angeles Automobile Company, a well-equipped repair shop employing ten skilled machinists. George's brother Fred became an expert on gasoline engines after working for six weeks in the Ford automobile plant in Detroit. While he was living in Los Angeles George met Myra Stelle, a talented assistant music teacher at Westlake School for girls. They married in

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Heritage Corner (continued from page 8)

1898 when both were 26 years old.



After retiring from the Los Angeles Automobile Company, George became a citrus rancher. He developed two machines for the industry. The first, patented in 1911, was an orange packing machine that reduced bruising on the fruit. The second was an orange dryer. It tumbled the oranges over an absorbent surface and blew warm air from a converted furnace over them as they rolled along, replacing the old method of drying oranges in the sun. The slightest bit of moisture on an orange would cause it to decay during shipment.

George was active in community organizations. He coached football at the Chaffey College of Agriculture, was a volunteer actor in a group called Community Players who performed in the Chaffey Auditorium. He and Myra first live in Ontario, then moved to 1291 N. Euclid Avenue in Upland. He lived there until his death in 1947.

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Heritage Corner (continued from page 9)

Capt. Ray R. Delhauer
1885 – 1952
Pigeon Breeder and Trainer
Portrayed by: Joe Blackstock

A native of Ohio, Captain Ray Delhauer came to Ontario as an infant of four months and resided here for the rest of his life. During World War I he served in the Army, training pigeons for the Army Signal Corps. Known as the pigeon man, he was one of 16 officers that developed the carrier pigeon program of the Army Signal Corps at the beginning of World War II.

The wartime role of the pigeons was to facilitate communications on the front lines when radio transmission could not be trusted for fear of interception, or where radios were not available. Delhauer developed a specially-bred bird with high speed, long distance endurance and positive coloration to serve as camouflage. The birds were bred from the Black Bovyn which used to fly over the Swiss Alps; a famous German pigeon, Spyke, captured by the Allies during the war, and a strain of Red Putnam whose colors blend with the soil. Delhauer paid \$1700 for the first pair of Bovyns he used to develop his new breed.



Unknown Soldier guarding pigeons, WWII

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)

SERIAL NUMBER U 1685	1. NAME (Print) RAY RYAN Delhauer (First) (Middle) (Last)	ORDER NUMBER
2. PLACE OF BIRTH (Print) 603 No. Lemon Ave. Ontario San Bern. Calif. (Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)		
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]		
3. MAILING ADDRESS Same (Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same)		
4. TELEPHONE 622538 (Exchange) (Number)	5. AGE IN YEARS 57 DATE OF BIRTH Jan. 10 - 1885 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	6. PLACE OF BIRTH Hicksville Ohio (City or county) (State or country)
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mrs. Flora Delhauer - 603 No. Lemon Ave Ontario, Calif. (wife)		
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Chaffey Union High School		
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS Ontario, Calif. (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.		
D. S. S. FORM 1 (Revised 4-1-42)	(over)	16-21630-2 Ray Ryan Delhauer (Registrant's signature)

Delhauer knew there were hundreds of young men throughout California who were trained pigeon fanciers, with expertise in dispatching the birds, training them for flight and building their lofts. He and the other 15 officers trained 800 pigeon handlers, who had 150,000 pigeons stationed in 110 lofts throughout the United States. The heaviest concentration of messenger birds was along the Mexican border.

The pigeons were equipped with bamboo whistles. Made of feather-weight bamboo,

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Heritage Corner (continued from page 10)

the whistles were attached to the pigeon's tail to protect them against wild hawks and other predatory birds, and against trained hawks or falcons in war time. Pigeon whistles are a Chinese invention used by the Manchu Emperors who would send a whole block of pigeons, each bearing a whistle with a different note, into the air at once, calling the result "music".

Some pigeons suffered war wounds during their service. Three in particular – President Wilson, Mocker and Spike – were true heroes of the war. President Wilson, one of the most powerful birds in the service, lost a leg carrying messages in the Meuse-Argonne drive. Carried by the tank corps, President Wilson suffered his injury on November 5, 1918 when impenetrable fog covered the battlefield and telephone lines were shot out. After taking off, the bird was hit by a piece of white hot shell that severed one leg. Despite this injury President Wilson continued on to his loft to deliver the message. He had traveled more than 20 kilometers in 21 minutes, a remarkable flying record for a homing pigeon.

Another pigeon, Mocker, left the Beaumont front in the early morning of September 12, 1918. Light field guns were raking American lines and heavy artillery batteries were advancing. The message carried by Mocker gave the position of the advancing artillery and lighter field pieces. During his flight to the rear, Mocker lost an eye and took shrapnel to his head, but kept flying to deliver the message. Within 20 minutes, the Americans began firing on the German position and causing their retreat.

Spike holds the greatest flying record of all the pigeons of the war, making 52 trips from the front lines to the rear.

Captain Delhauer kept four pigeons from his military service. Two – a male and female – were captured German pigeons and two others flew 300 miles out to sea off the coast of England, landing exhausted on the deck of the steamship Somme. A leg band revealed it had come from London, England.



Images of two war pigeons: Spike on the left and President Wilson on the right

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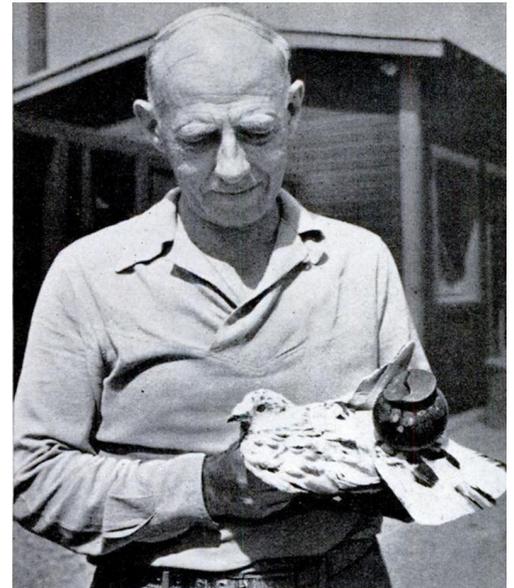
Heritage Corner (continued from page 11)

After retiring from the Army in 1925 with the rank of captain, he became an instructor at Chaffey High School and College where he continued breeding, raising and training pigeons as part of the school's agricultural program. He also supervised study hall classes and taught hygiene Courses. He retired from the Chaffey faculty in 1946.

Active in the community, he was a member of the Ontario American Legion post and the Ontario Masonic Lodge. He was a 32nd degree Mason and had a great interest in the Lodge's DeMolay program for boys. On Memorial Day, he released pigeons over the graves, a tradition that continues today as part of Memorial Day services at Bellevue Memorial Park.



Ray Delhauer with Chaffey High School students



Ray Delhauer holding one of his pigeons



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Isaac W. Whitaker

1840 - 1925

Ontario's First Resident

Portrayed by: Rick Gage

Isaac Whitaker was born in Maine. During the Civil War he served in the Union Army. After the war ended, he and his wife Hattie relocated to San Francisco. Isaac suffered from asthma and was advised by his physician to relocate either to Southern California or Arizona. After first moving to Los Angeles in 1882, the couple became disenchanted with the city in part because of the high real estate prices.

The Whitakers "discovered" Ontario in an unusual way. While waiting at the railroad station in Los Angeles for a train to Redlands, Riverside and San Bernardino, he struck up a conversation with John Calkins and casually shared his intention of finding a new place to live. Calkins suggested stopping in Ontario, where Calkins had purchased 20 acres of land. His instructions were to take the train to Cucamonga where a stage would take them first to Etiwanda then on to Ontario.

When the Whitakers departed from the train, they discovered that the stagecoach was already full of passengers. Rather than wait for the return, the Whitakers decided to walk the two-and-a-half miles to Ontario. The Whitakers took the stagecoach to North Ontario, where it proceeded without them to Etiwanda.



Isaac Whitaker

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Heritage Corner (continued from page 13)

The Chaffey brothers had an office and boarding house on 14th Street. The Whitakers arrived just in time for dinner. Will Chaffey greeted them, invited them to stay for dinner, and offered to show them around after dinner. Isaac purchased 20 acres on 5th Street between Euclid and San Antonio Avenues on that day, December 27, 1882, just a few hours after L.S. Dyar purchased property in Ontario.

Isaac bought a team of horses, farming implements and other supplies in Los Angeles and returned to Ontario. However, he couldn't remember where his lot was because all the land looked like prairie and the lots weren't marked. He drove around for a while before returning to 14th Street and finding Will Chaffey. Chaffey tied a white rag on the wheel of his wagon and led the way straight down the road, counting the number of wagon wheel revolutions to indicate when Whitaker's lot had been reached.

Initially Isaac and Hattie lived on their land in a tent while they built their home. Mrs. Whitaker sat in the shade of the tent and cried for hours, asking him repeatedly why he had brought her to such a place.

After about a year, when Isaac he had made some improvements to the property, he received an offer to purchase his land. Thinking this would please his wife, he told Hattie about the offer. She replied that if it was worth something to someone else, it was worth more to the Whitakers and declared her intention to stay in Ontario for the rest of her life (she did).

The Whitakers weren't the first residents to complete their house. Mr. Dan Nichols finished building his house before the Whitakers, but didn't occupy it right away, giving the Whitakers the distinction of truly being the first residents of Ontario.

According to Isaac, pepper trees were planted in the parkway on Euclid Avenue during the first season. Eucalyptus trees were planted along the border of the street from A Street to 4th Street. In each subsequent year, the trees were extended up the avenue for about a mile. It took several years before all the trees were planted to the head of Euclid Avenue. The trees were purchased from John Calkins, a nurseryman who had persuaded the Whitakers to get off the train in Ontario.

Isaac recounted two other stories of early life in Ontario. The cornerstone for the Chaffey School of Agriculture was laid on March 17, 1883, and Hattie was offered a lot in town if she would climb up on the cornerstone and deliver a speech. She did but was not given a lot. On July 4, 1884 all the residents of Ontario – the Whitakers, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Nichols, Captain and Mrs. Gill and a man who boarded at the Whitaker home -- went to San Antonio Canyon for a picnic. The Whitakers sold their home in 1902 and moved to 125 West D Street.

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Archives of Ontario History

The Bank Block: Ontario's Oldest Commercial Building

An important element of Ontario's early growth was the development of a downtown business center, anchored by the Ontario State Bank. The bank, which opened in 1887 just five years after Ontario's founding, was located at 300 South Euclid Avenue (southwest corner of Euclid and Main Street) in what is now called the Bank Block. (Note: the term block refers to a building with multiple units and is different from a geographical city block.) It is the city's oldest commercial structure.

The Ontario State Bank was organized by the board of directors of the Ontario Land and Improvement Company, the entity that took over building Ontario when founders George and William Chaffey sold their land interests and left for new projects in Australia. The Ontario Land and Improvement Company was led by Charles Frankish, President.



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Archives of Ontario History (continued from page 15)

The bank building consisted of four stores with 65 feet of storefront on Euclid and 65 feet on Main Street. As other buildings were constructed, all adopted the exterior appearance of the Ontario State Bank building, resulting in a uniform appearance of one large block of a brick building. Some residents felt the building was ostentatious for the community, which had the time had a population of less than 1000.

Ontario State Bank opened on September 1, 1887. Designed by architect George Fyfe in the Queen Anne and Eastlake architectural styles, the interior featured a teller's cage with brass, lyre-shaped windows and counters of antique oak trimmed in bronze. The manager's office had a paneled ceiling, marble fireplace and cathedral windows.



The Ontario State Bank was originally intended as a national bank. However, restrictions on how national banks handled real estate transactions would have crippled the business. State banking laws were more liberal about handling real estate securities important to a new community.

By 1895, George Stamm was bank manager and his son Fred was cashier. The Stamm family resided on the second floor of the building. On January 4, 1985 two men robbed the bank, hitting a customer over the head and locking Fred Stamm in the vault. The robbers escaped with \$3000 in a buggy they had rented in Pomona. One of the robbers was subsequently arrested; the other was found dead in the Chino Hills – perhaps the victim of his partner.

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Archives of Ontario History (continued from page 16)

When George Chaffey returned to Ontario in 1902, he purchased a controlling interest in the bank and was granted a charter in the name of the First National Bank of Ontario. The bank was moved to the Ohio Block, located on the southwest corner of Euclid Avenue and A Street (now Holt Boulevard). The Ontario Record, Ontario's first newspaper and owned by George Chaffey, moved into the vacated space. It remained in that location 1910-11.



In 1903, the last store on Main Street housed a small factory for the Pacific Electric Heating Company whose owner, E.H. Richardson, invented the Hotpoint iron. The factory quickly expanded, occupying six ground floor stores. Richardson knocked out walls to make a doorway to the next store, creating a central hallway. The Pacific Electric Heating Company left the building in 1906.

Other businesses that have occupied the building include Daniel Taylor's Lemon Pie filling Factory, a cracker factory, grocery stores, a boot and shoe store, a dry goods, book and stationery store, Bowen Carriage Manufacturing and O.K. Soda Works.

Between the two World Wars, the Bank Block location fell into disfavor and was converted into a room/apartment house. Around 1919, the upstairs portion of the Southern Hotel became the Euclid Avenue apartments, which continued until around 1940. In 1931, the ground floor corner building was occupied by the Salvation Army, which established a dormitory for homeless men until 1938 when the relief shelter was relocated to another part of the Bank Block on Main Street.

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Archives of Ontario History (continued from page 17)

Perhaps the best-known business in the building was Howell's Hardware. Around 1940, Squire Howell opened a second-hand furniture and hardware store in the Bank Block. Howell added to his inventory by buying estates; eventually the business became known as the House of a Million Items. The store remained in business until the early 1970s.

By then, time had taken its toll on the building. The Bank Block quickly deteriorated and did not meet city code specifications. The upper floors were deemed too dangerous for occupancy and were boarded off after being condemned for residential use. The Bank Block seemed destined for demolition when Helen and Dick Liddell purchased the building in August 1973. They opened an antique store, the Grand Palace, on the ground floor and attracted other antique businesses. The ground floor of the Grand Palace became a pavilion of antique shops, bustling with activity. E.H. Richardson's central hallway enabled shoppers to pass from one end of the "antique mall" to the other without having to leave the building.



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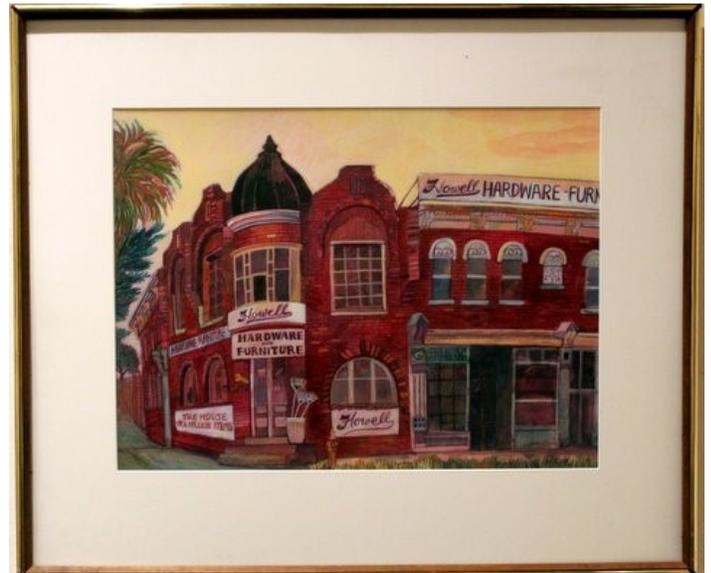
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Archives of Ontario History (continued from page 18)

In 1975, the Bank Block was in peril as the City of Ontario began considering constructing the Euclid Avenue underpass to bypass the Southern Pacific railroad tracks. The underpass would reduce traffic congestion at the railroad tracks and allow unobstructed movement of emergency vehicles. Mrs. Liddell and other shop owners feared that the underpass might mean the Bank Block had to be demolished, or that it would be cut off from Euclid Avenue traffic – the lifeblood of the building's businesses.

Mrs. Liddell and others formed the Ontario Historic Landmarks Society and in 1977, the Society gained some protection for the building by having it designated as a California historic site. On January 8, 1982 the Bank Block was accepted into the U.S. Department of the Interior National Register of Historic Places. The new designation made it eligible for state restoration funds. Despite this, the eight-store antique mall came to an abrupt end in 1982 when the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) began construction of the underpass. The Bank Block was totally vacated and boarded up, its future in doubt.

In October 1986, Pat Olsen, owned of Upland's Matrix Development, came forward with a plan to buy the building, renovate it and open a restaurant on the ground floor with offices upstairs. That October, Matrix Development purchased the building for \$225,000 with the intention of embarking on the \$1.5 million renovation.



Painting on the left is by Anders Gustave Aldrin, the uncle of Buzz Aldrin the astronaut. Painting on the right is by Harold Martin. Both paintings are in Chaffey Community Museum of Art's collection. This museum is located at 217 S. Lemon Ave, Ontario, CA 91761. Visit their website at: <https://www.chaffeymuseum.org/>

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Archives of Ontario History (continued from page 19)

Disaster struck on December 28, 1986 when a fire swept through the building. Fire officials didn't believe that the fire started from natural causes. According to police officials, indications were that transients were using the building for shelter. Though arson was expected, it was never proven.



The Bank Block is still remembered as the oldest commercial building in Ontario and the first brick building of its type in all of San Bernardino County.

Sources: George F. May, Model Colony Room Library Assistant (1988); Vickie Alexander, president of the Ontario Historic Landmark Society.

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1st Potluck Meeting of the Year

1st Quarter Dinner Potluck Meeting!



Date: Sunday, January 29, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM—6:30 PM

Location: Ovitt Family Community Library—Conference Room

Address: 215 East “C” St, Ontario, CA 91764

Guest Speaker: Lydia Henry will speak on *Manhole Cover Arts: Documenting Industrial Design through Art with a Window into History*

Please bring a main dish, side dish or dessert.

Water bottles will be provided.

To ensure sufficient seating, please RSVP by calling Petrina Delman at (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 under the Internal Revenue Code

Ontario Heritage Annual Golf Tournament

ONTARIO HERITAGE'S 5TH ANNUAL

St. Paddy's

GOLF TOURNAMENT

FRI. MARCH 17, 2023

Whispering Lakes Golf Course | 2525 E. Riverside, Ontario

Please make checks payable to Ontario Heritage and mail to:
Joe Caskey 2732 S. Monterey Pl, Ontario, CA 91761 To Register
Online go to:
OntarioHeritage.org

REGISTRATION: 7AM - 7:30 AM
TEE TIME: 8AM SHOTGUN START

\$100 per person
\$400 per four person team

Entry Fee Includes: Green Fees, Cart, Golfer Goody Bag, Banquet & Awards Ceremony

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO DONATE TO ONTARIO HERITAGE

- Longest Drive
 - Putting Contest
 - Closest To The Pin
 - Raffle Prizes
- Tee sign sponsorship and Mulligans

Name/ Company Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Player #1: _____ Player #2: _____

Player #3: _____ Player #4: _____



For questions or to RSVP please contact Joe Caskey at (909) 732-6352 or JoeCaskey@OntarioHeritage.org

Ontario Heritage is a 501c3 Non-Profit Organization

Board Members

Board Members

Petrina Delman, President

Cynthia Duran, Vice President

Randi Campbell, Treasurer

Charlene Wissing, Secretary

Gloria Jones, Membership Chair

Devela Bemowski, Historian

Joe Caskey

Rita Nelsen

Margot Cardona

Wendy Roldan

Ex-Officio Member

Diane Ayala, Ontario Planning Department

City Council Liaison

Debra Porada



Model Colony News

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4th Quarter 2022

2023 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 2023 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.