

Model Colony News



Upcoming Heritage Events

January 29, 2023 (Sunday): Our 1st Quarter Dinner Potluck Meeting with Lydia Henry as guest speaker. Time of event 4:00 pm—6:30 pm. See event flyer on page 10 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 11 of this newsletter.

April 30, 2023 (Sunday): Our 2nd Quarter Dinner Potluck Meeting with Joe Caskey as guest speaker. Time of event 4:00 PM—6:30 PM. Location will be the historic Christ Church at 1127 N. San Antonio Ave., Ontario, CA 91762.

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Ontario Heritage
P.O. Box 1
Ontario, CA 91762
Phone: 909-984-6558

Website: ontarioheritage.org
Email: info@ontarioheritage.org

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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

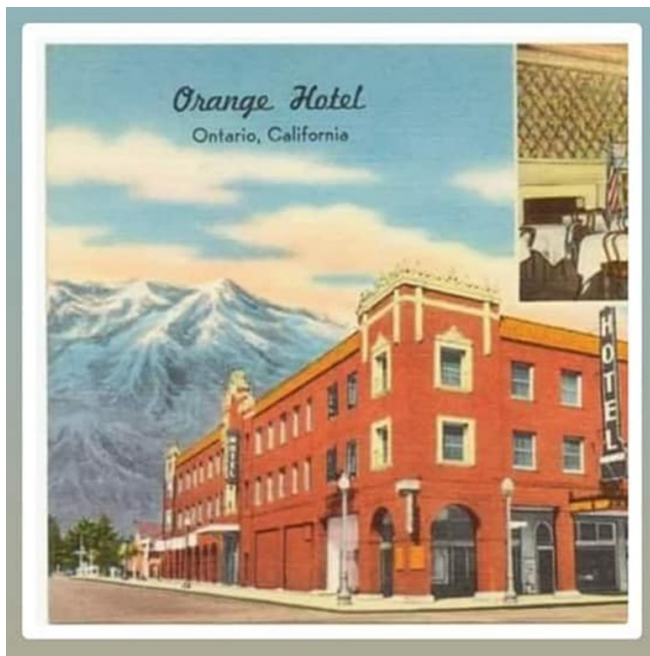
Heritage Corner

Electric Lights for Ontario

By Bernice Bedford Conley

Ontario had its first electric lights on September 23, 1885. There was a gala party on the Ontario Hotel to raise money for the building fund of the Congregational Church, and the Chaffey brothers decided to add to the brilliancy of the affair by lighting the hotel grounds and surrounding country with four electric arc lights.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wilding, managers of the Ontario Hotel, sent out invitations to friends in Pomona, Riverside, and Ontario and about 200 attended. "The whole interior of the hotel, its spacious verandas and handsome grounds were filled with a gay and happy throng," the Los Angeles Times reported.



The Chaffey brothers had promised arc lights for Euclid Avenue at the time of Ontario's founding in 1882. The arc lights were to run on direct current from a dynamo powered by water from San Antonio Canyon, which was at least seven miles away – too far for direct current to be carried.

Arc lights in Etiwanda run by a water-powered dynamo had been in operation since 1883, but the water was only a short distance away there. Because of George Chaffey's success in Etiwanda, he was named as a director of the Los Angeles Electric Light Company in November 1883. Some historians have gone so far as to give him credit for founding the company.

He was working with electricity in Los Angeles during 1884-85, for there he and Professor Weisendanger built the dynamo for Ontario. It was a modification of what was known as the Brush dynamo.

The electric light apparatus for Ontario was received about the first of September 1885 and the power to run the dynamo for the lights at the hotels must have come from Waddingham's steam mill, across Euclid Avenue.

"The complete success of the electric light and the rapidity with which the machinery was placed in working order were due to Charles and W.B. Chaffey, W.J. Waddingham, under the direction of James Warren of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Times said.

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Heritage Corner (continued from page 2)

The article went on to exclaim: "Electricians say that nothing could be more perfect in its working. No one quite expected that without a check or hindrance of any kind, the light would shine in perfect steadiness and brilliancy from the moment of its first production.

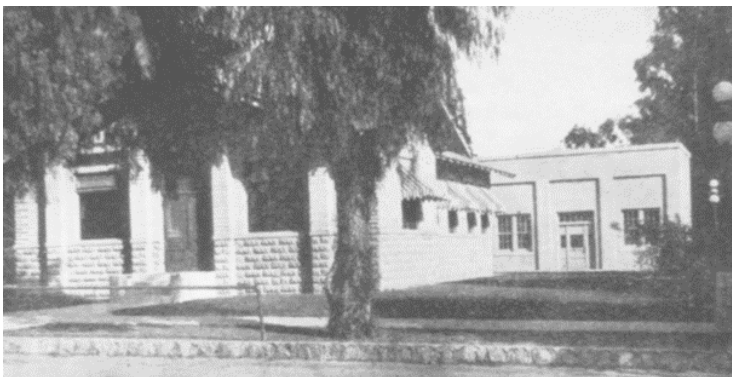
Following these first very successful lights, the story is the equipment went into storage at Waddingham's mill. George Chaffey, Jr., left shortly after for Australia, and his brothers William and Charles followed a little later.

There were no more electric lights until October 14, 1895 when the "epoch in the history of Ontario" was reported in the Ontario Record on October 14, 1895 in this way: "We would have been more joyous had a dozen arc lights cast a gleesome glimmer over all he busy bustling burg, and our joy might have been fatal had these lamps illuminated Euclid Avenue a quarter of a mile apart along its lightless length."

Certainly Ontario had waited a long time for these lights. Pomona had lights since November 1892 from hydroelectric power from the San Antonio Canyon water, developed by the San Antonio Light and Power Company. This company offered to sell 16 candlepower incandescent light for commercial purposes in October 1891. Ontario did not buy, but the city of San Bernardino did. Ontario did build its power house in the summer of 1895, and by fall the necessary equipment to turn on the street lights was completed.

The Ontario Electric Company was organized on February 16, 1895 to operate an electric light plant, an electric railway and generate and sell power, both arc and incandescent. The incorporators were Mrs. Elizabeth Jenkins, Godfrey Stam and his two sons, George and F.B. Charles Frankish and C.W. Foote. By December 14, 1895 the electric railroad was in full operation and the arc light in the Ontario Hotel yard was in full operation by December 25. From the spectacular beginning to the final accomplishment of electricity for Ontario seems a long time.

Sources: Dreamers and Dwells: Ontario and Neighbors by Bernice Bedford Conley, April 1982, p. 149).



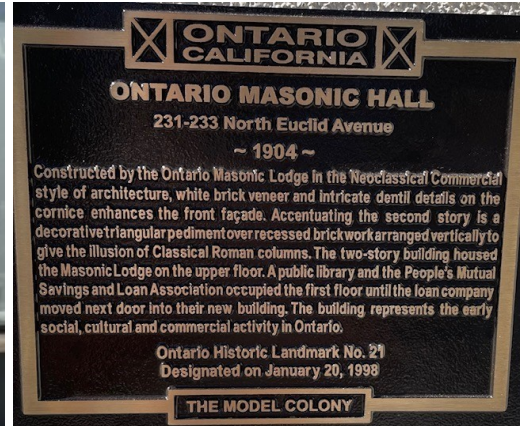
Office San Antonio Water Co. and
Ontario Power Co.



Watercolor of CCMA's building painted
by artist member Bob Dickson.

Historic Plaque Program

Ontario Masonic Hall Plaque Ceremony



Phoebe Xu, Property Owner on the left and Sean Wang, Assistant

The latest building to receive an Ontario Heritage plaque is Ontario Historic Landmark #23, the 1904 Masonic Hall located at 231-233 N. Euclid Avenue. The plaque was installed on February 15, 2023 and reads in part, "The building represents the early social, cultural and commercial activity in Ontario."

The May 28, 1904 issue of the Ontario Record, the city's newspaper, had a notice to contractors to bid on construction of a two-story brick building to house the People's Mutual Building and Loan Association and the Masonic Fraternity. The contract was won by W.I. Hobbs and work was underway by July with a completion date by November 15, 1904. The contract cost was \$12,000 for the Masonic Fraternity and \$5000 for the Building and Loan Association.

The building was anticipated to be "a great credit to the city". When complete, the building would be occupied by Masonic Lodge #301 on the second floor and a public library as well as the People's Mutual Building and Loan Association officers on the first floor. The Masonic Lodge remained in that location until June of 1965.

Masonic Lodge #301 was chartered on October 16, 1890 with 37 members. The first meeting place was Ensley Hall on the northwest corner of D Street and Euclid Avenue. The annual rental fee was \$37.50. In 1894, the Lodge moved to the International Order of Odd Fellows Hall and the annual rental fee rose to \$72 annually. The two fraternal organizations shared space until 1904 when the Masons moved to the second floor of the 231-233 N. Euclid Avenue building.

It wasn't until 1965 that the Masons moved to their present location on North Vine Avenue across from Vina F. Danks Middle School. The new building was on a 2.5 acre site and housed six

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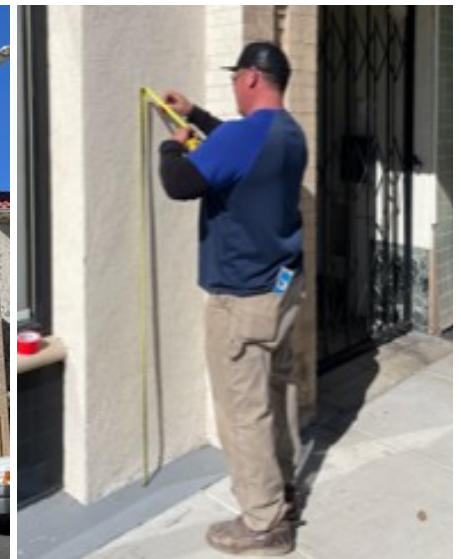
1st Quarter 2023

Historic Plaque Program (continued from page 4)

Masonic bodies with a total membership of 1300. The building was constructed primarily with volunteer labor. The cornerstone was laid on January 27, 1962.

The 1904 building, which has often been vacant, was last occupied by Yeast n' Flour pizza restaurant. It is now being renovated for an Asian American restaurant called Unique Café. The second floor area previously occupied by the Masonic Lodge has been transformed into an event space with exposed bricks and ductwork, strings of lights, a stage and settings for photos.

Source: Inland Valley Daily Bulletin columnist David Allen (February 16, 2023 column), Ontario Record, May 23, 1904, July 9, 1904, July 16, 1904; Daily Report July 11, 1916 and Daily Report October 1965.



Historic Local Organization

American Legion Post 112 Has a New Home – and a New Cannon



Ontario's American Legion Post 112 was chartered on February 10, 1921 with 125 members and has been continuously active in the 102 years since. During that time it has been led by 81 post commanders, including two a few well-known Ontario names: John Galvin (1923) and Archie Mitchell (1934-35).

Post 112 is known in the community for its practice, since 1933, of placing crosses and flags on the graves of veterans buried at Bellevue Memorial Park in Ontario. In 1976, Post 112 assisted with building and placing the Veterans Memorial Marker in the veteran's section of Bellevue.

Post 112's first meeting place was the Hotpoint factory clubhouse before moving to a house donated by John Armstrong, founder of Armstrong Nursery. In 1953, Post 112 built a 10,000 square foot clubhouse designed by well-known Ontario architect Jay Dewey Harnish. Harnish, a founder of HMC Architects which is still operating today, was known for building hospitals in Upland, Pomona, Covina, Whittier and Fontana. His wife, Jerene Appleby Harnish, was the publisher of the Ontario Daily Report from 1936 to 1965.

The new clubhouse was located at 310 W. Emporia Street, a block south of Holt Boulevard. For the next 70 years, Post 112 has called this home. During the 1950s and 1960s, the building was the site of many activities including monthly dinner dances and its fish fry – still popular today. Post 112 sponsored Little League and Pony League baseball teams. By 1969 its membership had grown to 1400, making it the second largest post in California.

But with an aging building in need of repair and old kitchen equipment, Post 112 was receptive when the City of Ontario offered to trade their building for one in an industrial area near Vineyard Avenue and Mission Boulevard, about three miles from the Emporia Street location. Ontario needed the Post 112 property and five others for Phase 2 of its Emporia Family Housing development, which will bring 50 affordable apartment units to join the area.

The new facility is located at 1400 S. Vineyard Avenue and was dedicated on February 18, 2023. The building has energy-efficient air conditioning and LED lighting operated by motion detectors. The kitchen has two ovens, a grill, a stove, two deep fryers a walk-in freezer and cooler and a dishwasher. A new bar is a big upgrade from the Emporia Street building. All these improvements make things much easier for the Post 112 members who prepare weekend breakfasts and the fish fries.

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Historic Local Organization (continued from page 6)



Dick DuPlain, Commander of American Legion Post 112 and Jim Melton, Director, ALR Chapter 112



Post 112 bar in the new building



A full size replica of a 12-pound mountain howitzer previously used in Civil War re-enactments.

Another notable feature of the new building is a Civil War cannon donated by Ontario Heritage President Petrina Delman. Her late husband Richard, a cannon enthusiast, originally bought it for the lobby of Otto Instrument Service where he was a partner.

The move to the new building has generated renewed interest in Post 112, and membership is growing. The American Legion is open to anyone who served in any branch of the U.S. military and their families and descendants (like a father or grandfather).

Sources: American Legion Post 112 website, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin columnist David Allen (February 16, 2023 column).

A Historic Visitation

Teddy Roosevelt's Pomona College Tree

By Joe Blackstock, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Almost a century ago, President Theodore Roosevelt helped plant a small tree that came to be known as the Roosevelt oak, a tree that would live for eight decades in front of the Science Hall at Pomona College. Longer-living, however, is a secret about that tree that few on the campus have ever known about.

The tree-planting came after a speech by the president on May 8, 1903, to an estimated 10,000 Inland Valley residents, including 2,000 school children from Azusa to Ontario. On that Friday morning, nearby schools and businesses closed in order to see the president, who only 20 months before had taken office following the assassination of William McKinley.

"It was certainly a great day," wrote the Daily Progress of Roosevelt's visit, "the most notable on point of importance and popular visitation in the history of Claremont to which all roads seem to lead for the time being." That was no exaggeration. The newspaper said people came in "carriages, bikes, tally hoes, automobiles and farm wagons" to hear the president. Not a horse was available for hire anywhere. "For a good two hours, San Antonio Avenue (from downtown Pomona) was a black moving trail from Holt to Cucamonga avenues, so incessant was the travel."



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A Historic Visitation (continued from page 8)

Unaided by any sound system, Roosevelt boomed out a 25-minute message to those on the college lawn. He offered a philosophy urging each person to embrace high moral standards and be as prepared physically as mentally to tackle the problems of world. He told of the need for strong character, both in terms of living a decent life and being righteous. "In addition to decency, morality, virtue and clean living, you must have hardihood, resolution, courage, the power to do, the power to dare, the power to endure, and when you have that combination then you get the proper type of American citizenship," he said.

At the close of his speech, Roosevelt then turned over the symbolic shovel of dirt where the tree would be planted, returned to his train at the Claremont station and headed for more pomp and circumstance elsewhere. Decades after the president left the lawn, things began to happen to the tree, according to Lee Harlan, who for many years was Pomona College's director of alumni affairs. About 20 years ago gardeners at the school determined the venerable oak was dying and needed to be removed. Harlan said college officials were concerned over the potential public relations problem of eliminating a revered campus landmark. So it was decided it would be best to have a crew remove the tree in the dead of night in hopes to avoiding complaints. "They made it look like there had never been a tree there, and nobody seemed to miss it," he said. At least for a while. About two weeks later, he got a letter from a very old alumna who had driven past the campus and noticed the Roosevelt oak was missing. We've been caught, thought Harlan. But she really didn't seem very upset and even related her own curious story about the oak. She said her husband, while a student at Pomona, worked as a gardener on the campus at the time of Roosevelt's speech. Only two weeks after it was planted, she said, college officials were horrified that Mr. Roosevelt's tree, the symbol of that most glorious day in the school's history, appeared to be dying. So they did what seemed the most logical thing to do under such circumstances -- in the dead of night, they pulled out the original Roosevelt oak, and replaced it with a substitute, one that would last at least 80 years.

Bully.

Source: Inland Valley Daily Bulletin, article by Joe Blackstock, December 23, 2002

1st Event 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

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

• 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

Joe Caskey, Vice President

Randi Campbell, Treasurer

Charlene Wissing, Secretary

Gloria Jones, Membership Chair

Devela Bemowski, Historian

Rita Nelsen

Margot Cardona

Wendy Roldan

Cynthia Duran

Alan Wissing

Randy Del Turco

Ex-Officio Member

Diane Ayala, Ontario Planning Department

City Council Liaison

Debra Porada



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1st Quarter 2023

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.