

# Fairview Register



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## President's Message

As I stated in last month's President's Message, I would like to do some reminiscing. I was born in Santa Ana, March 9, 1929 at the Santa Ana Valley Hospital. I will again refer to that hospital in future articles. At the age of 6 months, the family moved to Buffalo, New York, then to Gulfport, Florida, then to Claremont, CA, and then back to Santa Ana. Finally, our family moved to Costa Mesa in the summer of 1937. My folks bought two acres of land at 2028 Newport Blvd. The lots were long and narrow, going back to Fullerton Ave. The cost was \$1,000.00 per acre. At that time no one bought land to make money in real estate.

I was in the second grade going to the Lindberg School on Orange Ave. One of my school mates was Bob Nettles. After all this time, we still see each other almost every week for lunch.

My parents had a chicken ranch with about 3,000 to 4,000 chickens. I was an only child, so I have done a lot of shoveling in my day. We also had three goats, named Tillie, Sally and Peggy. At age 38, I married a lady named Peggy who had six children. I've told many humorous stories about our marriage, not all of which my wife was happy with, but she went along with the humor.

In the next issue I will talk about Costa Mesa in those days.

Sincerely, Dave Gardner

## 50th Anniversary Celebrations



Sunday, May 22nd, 2016 from 1 to 4pm at the Neighborhood Community Center; and,

Sunday August 28th 2016 from 2 to 6pm at the Diego Sepulveda Adobe.

## Mark Your 2016 Calendar

### \*Sunday Speaker Programs

#### Sunday, March 20th, Speaker: Lynne Miller



will speak on Route 66, also known as the Will Rogers Highway and colloquially known as the Main Street of America or the Mother Road, one of original highways within the U.S. Highway system. See "New Requirement" on page 2. (See the enclosed "get your kicks on Route 66" flier for all of the details.)

#### Sunday, April 17th, Speaker: To be Announced in April Newsletter.

*\*Sunday speaker programs, unless otherwise noted, are held on the third Sunday of every month at the Costa Mesa Historical Society Museum, 1870 Anaheim Ave., northwest Corner of Lions Park Complex. Doors open at 2pm; Program begins 2:30. Please arrive early as seating is limited. Free admission and refreshments. Any questions: Call 949-631-5918, email us at [cmhistory@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cmhistory@sbcglobal.net), or find us on Facebook.*

## Special Events

### The Adobe Schedule

On the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month the Diego Sepulveda Adobe at 1900 Adams Ave. is open from 12 to 4pm. Individuals and groups can make appointments to tour the Adobe at other times by calling 949-631-5918. On regular open days, no appointment is necessary because the docents are there already.

*The Costa Mesa Historical Society Museum is located at 1870 Anaheim Avenue in Costa Mesa; this is a non-mailing address. Museum hours: 10-3 Thursdays and Fridays and by appointment. Our mailing address is: Costa Mesa Historical Society P.O. Box 1764, Costa Mesa, CA 92628. Questions? Call 949-631-5918, email us at [cmhistory@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cmhistory@sbcglobal.net) or find us on Facebook.*

Promoting and preserving Costa Mesa's history is our mission.

## “New Requirement”

Now reservations will be needed for attending our popular Sunday Speaker Programs. For reasons of safety, we need to limit occupancy in our museum at any one time. So please call the Society anytime at 949-631-5918 and let us know how many will be attending. Or call Thursday or Friday between the hours of 10am and 3pm and talk to one of our volunteers who will register you for the program. We will then hold your reservations until 2:20PM the day of the program.

## Costa Mesa Historical Society News Cemetery Angels are Divine!



Cemetery angels, mother and daughter team—Ann Nepsa and Melanie Goss, amazed the audience at the Society’s Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday Speaker Program. While cleaning up gravesites at the Yorba Cemetery they preserved historical information which saved the site from complete vandalism. Today the cemetery is operated by Orange County Parks and the team gives tours imparting the information they have gathered as they mapped the cemetery, painted and installed crosses to designate unmarked graves, and studied the history and genealogies of the families buried there. Ann started her own families’ genealogy thirty years ago, loving the historical aspect and sharing this with her family. “I was raised on history and I love it,” said Melanie.

The pair shared many interesting stories from their fifteen years of volunteer service, but the most important one was about Bernardo Yorba, a man who donated land for the cemetery and a church. He had been kind to the Indians, paid them when no one else in the area did that and taught them how to farm. When he died the Indians left and went off because they had the skills to get jobs and salaries to go along with them.

The last burial in the cemetery was in 1939 and for many years the cemetery was not protected and much vandalism took place. Many headstones were stolen and broken up. Now the cemetery is fenced in and safe from vandals. *Tours are given on the first Saturday of every month; for more information or to arrange a tour for your group please call (714)973-3190 or visit <http://ocparks.com/historic/cemetery/>. (Pictures: Top from left: Ann Nepsa and Melanie Goss; next 2 pictures: the audience members are chatting before the program; and, Evie Johnson Taylor, Dolores Minerich and Sue Lester are happy that the program is about to begin.)*

## HEROES HALL Update

The Orange County Fair and Event Center (OCFEC) Board has approved the creation of the Heroes Hall Veterans Foundation to lead in fundraising for ongoing maintenance and operation of Heroes Hall. The Foundation recently received its non-

profit 501(c)3 status making any donations tax-deductible.

Generous members who would like to contribute to Heroes Hall are encouraged to email [heroeshall@ocfair.com](mailto:heroeshall@ocfair.com).

The exhibit is expected to encompass more than 12,000 square feet with indoor/outdoor exhibit space. The former Memorial Gardens building will include memorabilia and tributes to California Veterans.

Crews are expected to break ground in March with an expected completion date of Veteran’s Day, November 11th, 2016. For periodic updates on the Heroes Hall exhibit, visit [ocfair.com/heroeshall](http://ocfair.com/heroeshall).

## 50th Anniversary Committee Update

**Save the Date: May 22nd**



Do you research family history? Or have you been trying to find out about the origins of your house? Are you interested in local history? If you say yes to any of these, you are probably familiar with the way this research has been done in the past, and the records that were used.

While the Costa Mesa Historical Society has been planning its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we reviewed the way we had been collecting and saving information during that time. Then we got to thinking about when we might have another celebration—in 20 or 50 years from now—and what we would say about how we collected and recorded that information then. The result of this is our **“OC History Exposition” on May 22<sup>nd</sup>**, when we will have keynote speakers to talk about how information will be collected and saved in the future as collection methods will change as new digital technologies are developed. The event will definitely direct us all into a “Future Forward” mindset.

We hope you will be interested in this, too, and will join us. We will have a number of local history groups, museums, authors of local history books, and more, bringing exhibits about themselves, books written, etc. **It is a free event from 1 to 4pm on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the Neighborhood Community Center, 1845 Park Avenue, Costa Mesa.** We think you will be glad you attended!

## Calling all OC History Exposition Exhibitors

**Save the Date: May 22nd**

The second flier and attached sheet in this month’s newsletter “packet” provides detailed information about the **Society’s OC History Exposition Event on May 22nd**. Page one is the informational sheet and page two is the registration form for those who want to participate by having a table with their organization’s brochures, displays and perhaps some items to sell. For participants it is very important that you **respond by May 9th** so that the Society can begin preparing to include you in

this event. Space is limited and reservations will be on a first come, first served basis. We at the Society welcome the opportunity to make your experience with us phenomenally amazing!

## Garrett's Furniture Store is Closing



This "step back in time" article came about as "Going Out of Business" signs appeared in the store's windows on Friday, February 12th. One of Costa Mesa's oldest businesses, H. J. Garrett Furniture, located at 2215 S. Harbor Blvd., will soon be closing its doors and showroom for good as brothers, John

Garrett and Jim Garrett have announced their retirement. Garrett Furniture has been in business for 55 years providing fine furnishings for the City of Costa Mesa and surrounding communities. The store's founder was Jentry James Garrett, who moved his family to California from Michigan after retiring from running his furniture business. He didn't like retirement so he decided to open another furniture store.

Garrett Furniture originally opened in 1960 in a little shop on Park Avenue in Costa Mesa. H. J., John and Jim's father, along with his two sons started the small furniture store before moving to their big store on Harbor in June of 1963. When they first began, the trio rented a delivery truck and made deliveries in the morning before work and in the evenings after work. As the business grew, they hired local designers, delivery men and built connections with other local business owners for upholstery, wallpaper, painting, and finishing services.

The Garrett Family has many fond memories of being part of the Costa Mesa business community. They have had the unique opportunity to furnish multiple generations of families' homes throughout the local community. "What we will miss most is our customers and being a part of the Costa Mesa business community," shared John Garrett. The brothers, both residents of Costa Mesa, look forward to their upcoming retirement. "We want to thank our customers for the friendship and business over all of these years," said Jim Garrett, "we are appreciative of the support." Their future plans include pursuing business interests unrelated to furniture. (*Information for this article came from the Garrett business and the Daily Pilot.*)

## Special SAAAB Collections Closeouts: Don't Miss Out!

Our gift store has some very interesting SAAAB (Santa Ana Army Air Base) items for sale.



You may want to have tape copies of the SAAAB Band from 1944 with Lt. Frank Kirby and M. Sgt. Alex Hyde conducting...\$7.00 plus tax.

And, don't forget that we still have copies of the SAAAB Story as well as a few other books on SAAAB.

## Reminders

**New Display features Prolific Costa Mesa Author and a Relic from a Favorite Iconic Part of Costa Mesa History.** Our latest exhibit combines some selections from Costa Mesa's prolific writer Nell Marburger's collection

of books, diaries, scrapbooks and other literary works in a display case that was originally in Costa Mesa's iconic Pink's Drug Store on Newport Blvd.

**Information Please!** *Nancy Pedersen is currently working on a project about Costa Mesa boat building.* If you owned a boat building business or worked in one, please contact Nancy. She would like to find photos of the businesses as well as of the employees building the boats. She already has found extensive businesses for the following: sail boats, fishing boats, speed boats and war vessels and others; **however, she needs much more.** You can call the society at **949-631-5918**, say your message is for Nancy Pedersen, and leave your phone number--she will promptly return your call.



**Limited Edition Bookmarks:** Special limited edition bookmarks have been made to commemorate our Society's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They are priced at \$2 a piece. No more bookmarks will be made once these are sold out...so don't miss out on this keepsake memorabilia for our 50th Anniversary celebratory year.

Marc and Denise Dionio  
Independent Owners/Operators  
Costa Mesa Grocery Outlet  
1835 Newport Blvd., Ste C140  
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

**Grocery Outlet**  
*bargain market*

(949)642-5800 Office      costamesa@groceryoutlet.com  
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facebook.com/CostaMesaGroceryOutlet

## Thank You, Copy4Less

Our newsletter printer, Copy4Less at 4360 Campus Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660 near the John Wayne Airport, is discounting our printing costs throughout our 50th Anniversary Year. Their phone number is (949)252-8960. Thank you so much for this; we appreciate this very much, Copy4Less.

## In Search of More Sponsors

Our Society is looking for sponsors to help us create our very special events throughout the year. If you or a business you know would like to help us with donations and discounts, please let us know. As a non-profit our budget is very limited so additional financial assistance will be greatly appreciated.

## Are Your Dues Overdue?

**Your dues are important** because they help to support the Society's major programs and projects. You can locate your Dues Expiration Date by looking on **YOUR NEWSLETTER LABEL**...it is there to the right of your name... as a reminder. If your dues are due, just send a check to our Museum (see **mailing address below**); Attention: Susan Weeks. Or drop by in person on a Thursday or a Friday from 10am to 3pm. **Changes to Annual Membership Dues:** *As of January 1st, membership fees will be changed as indicated in Membership Information Box on page 4. Editor's Note: Life Membership to the Costa Mesa Historical Society has been changed to \$500.*

COSTA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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**P.O. Box 1764**  
**Costa Mesa CA 92628**

*— Membership Form —*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**New Member**

**Renewal**

**Membership Categories**

<b>Annual</b>		<b>Special</b>	
Individual	\$ 20.00	Historical Society Life Member	\$ 500.00
Individual Senior (60+)	\$ 15.00	SAAAB Wing Annual Member	\$ 10.00
Family	\$ 25.00		
Student (under 16)	\$ 10.00		
Contributing	\$ 50.00		
Business & Professional	\$100.00		
Public Agency	\$100.00		
Benefactor	\$250.00		

Make your checks payable to the Costa Mesa Historical Society.  
The Society, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, operates under the Corporation Laws of the State of California.