



COUNTY COURIER

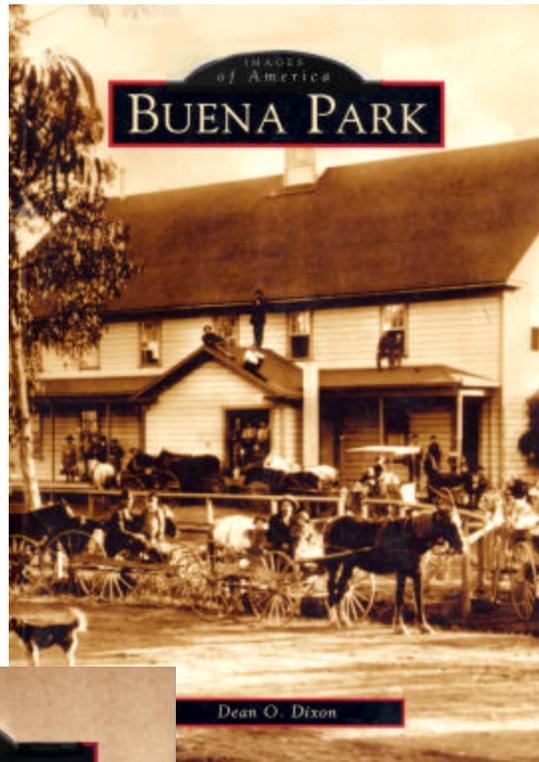
Official Publication of the Orange County Historical Society

www.orangecountyhistory.org

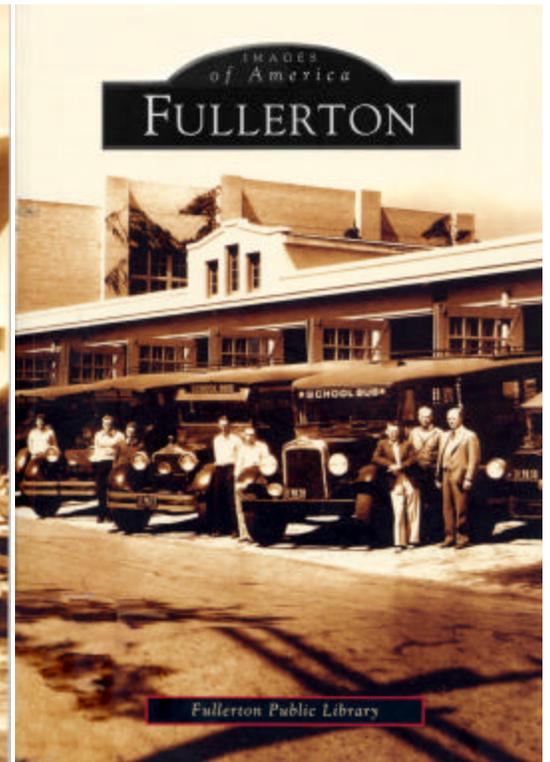
Authors Put the Spotlight on Buena Park, Fullerton and Huntington Beach in Images of America Series

Welcome to another Authors' Night for the year 2005. These three books and possibly a fourth not confirmed at printing deadline are all published by Arcadia Publishing. They are publishers of regional and local history books such as, *Vintage Postcards of Santa Ana* by Guy Ball [our Feb. 2001 program]

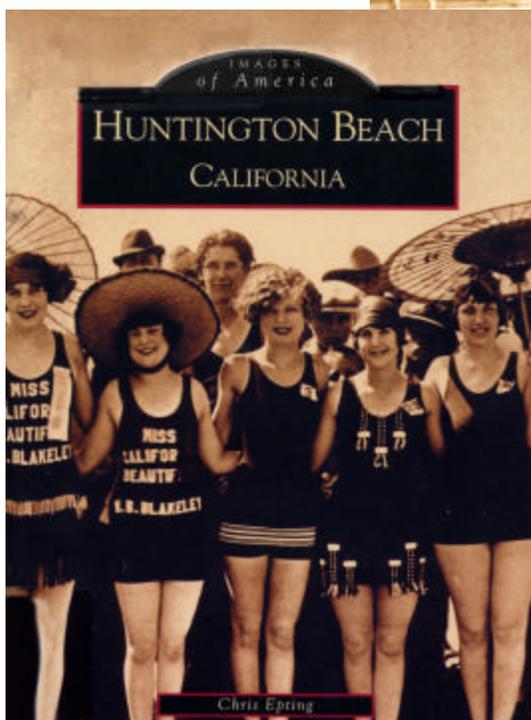
The popular Images of America series, chronicles the history of communities.



Dean O. Dixon



Fullerton Public Library



Chris Epting

With more than two hundred vintage black-and-white photographs, each book celebrates a town or region, telling the story with pictures, bringing to life the people, places, and events that define the community.

Our authors will be Dean Dixon, Buena Park book; Kathy Morris, Cathy Thomas, Fullerton book; Chris Epting, Huntington Beach book. They will talk about the making of their books, the images chosen and experiences with readers since the release of their books. There will be books available for sale, \$19.99. More about the authors on page two.

We will meet on Thursday, March 10, 2005, at 7:30 p.m. at Bower's Kidseum, northwest corner of Main and 18th Streets in Santa Ana. Free parking in back with entrance to building in back and to the side.

AUTHORS

Dean Dixon has been writing about local history since 1974. This is his fourth book. He wrote the chapter on Buena Park for *100 Years of Yesterdays*. Dixon is past president of the Buena Park Historical Society and a member of the Orange County Historical Society.

Kathy Morris is retired after 35 years working in various capacities at the library in special collections and information consultant.

Cathy Thomas is curator of Launer Local History Room at the Fullerton Public Library.

Chris Epting is a professional writer having articles in publications such as *Westways*. Two recent books of his with local interest are *Roadside Baseball* and *James Dean Died Here —Locations of American Pop-Culture Landmarks*

COUNTY COURIER DATABASE

The question was asked at the last meeting, "When did the Society focus on an individual city at the general meeting?" After looking through back issues of the *Courier* it appears it began when Esther Cramer was president in 1971 when there was a Town Board dedicated to photos from a particular city announced beforehand so members could bring in their contributions. The next year different cities were the program focus or a portion of the program for that meeting. It may have been repeated in recent years which wasn't located.

Recently when asked for an article on the El Camino Real Bells that was in a past *Courier*, it was not easy to find. We are now in the process of continuing what Linda Herman began and that is an index to the *County Courier*, entering the information into a database where search for topics and articles will be made simple.

Santa Ana Journal

By John Sorenson

From May 01, 1935 to December 06, 1938, the *Santa Ana Journal* served Orange County as an alternative to the *Register*. These issues are located in the county archives for all to enjoy. Founded by Mr. John Scripps, the newspaper was eventually sold to the *Register*. This was available at \$0.02 a copy or \$0.50 per month. In part one, I plan to introduce the subject and to look at the nature of advertising in the *Journal*.

The newspaper's plant was located at 117 East 5th Street with nearly 50 people on the payroll. The initial edition included letters of support on the front page. These were from President FDR, Governor Frank Merriam, and Representative Samuel L Collins. On May 3, 1935, The *Journal* announced that 6013 copies of the first edition had been sold on that eventful Wednesday.

At Horton's Furniture Store, an entire bedroom set was available for \$39.50 – a \$50.00 value according to the ad. Living room sets of a sofa and chair were offered at \$48.00 on a variety of easy payment plans.

Refrigerators were offered from a variety of dealers. Westinghouse models were starting at \$95.00. A Sears Coldspot was available at \$144.50. This top of the line unit had 6.2 cubic feet of capacity. Dimensions like 24" wide by 37" high by 12" deep were in order. These would meet family needs for any occasion! In reality, the cost of the refrigerator was the electric motor running the unit.

The costs of appliances and power tools have come down in some cases in absolute and in all cases in real terms since the 1920s and 1930s.

Electric motors are throwaway items today. In the past, motors were salvaged from appliances for potential future use by many a father or son.

Top of the line Philco Radios (all wave) were available for \$185.00. With 11 tubes, it was a sure sign of quality - and heat. In reality the trend was to do more with fewer tubes. Improved technology allowed fewer tubes to do more work more efficiently. By 1945, the standard radio had 5 or 6 tubes. By 1955 or 1960 transistors had replaced tubes in the western world. Some of the last tube radios were manufactured in East Germany. At the time of unification @ 1990, West German officials found the lost art of vacuum tube radio production in non-tunable sets. The sets were factory tuned to the government station. In the East German mind, there was no need to listen to any other station but the government one.

L. D. Coffing, Dodge and Plymouth Dealership located at 311 East 5th Street offered free rides that coming Saturday. You just may want to trade in your old 20 hp Model T for a new Dodge pick up for \$480.00 F.O.B. Detroit. With your new straight 6 and 80 hp under the hood, you will be the master of the road. All the power you need to do the hauling you need to pay for the "new beast".

This has been a short ride into the past when things were cheap including wages. For those who had jobs, \$ 20-25 per week was the norm for many and opportunities few

Santa Ana Journal to be continued next month

From Earl Nickles on Tuesday, February 01, 2005



Over the years close friends and family have kidded me, and I admit I am a pack rat, that I should take all my railroad stuff and open a museum. It was always good for a laugh. That is until about three months ago.

Two years ago I joined the Yorba Linda Historical Society and

they are responsible for the Susan Bixby Bryant Ranch House Museum. To us old timers it is the old Rancho Santa Ana Ranch House. The dining room of the ranch house is used for guest exhibits that are installed for six months each. The last exhibit was 100-year-old wedding dresses of special interest to the ladies. In November the board mused about what sort of exhibit to put in that would interest the gentlemen. Somebody said; let's ask Earl if he could put in a railroad exhibit. I was asked and I said I think I can do it. At the time I was thinking of leaning heavily on the rail organizations I belong to.

Three good friends came through: Cliff Prather, Mark Effle and Steve Donaldson. My thanks to them, their input and contributions made a big difference.

We spent over six hours on Saturday, January 15 installing the display. Sunday the 16th was the grand opening and we wanted to be ready. All that week I went about the house, garage, barbershop and wherever I could think of anything else, gathering stuff off the walls, out of boxes in the closets, under the bed, etc. By Saturday I had more Railroad stuff gathered up than I would have ever guessed. When we finished the display I still had stuff left over. About that time I started remembering what I had been told about having a museum full of stuff. You know what? They were right !!!

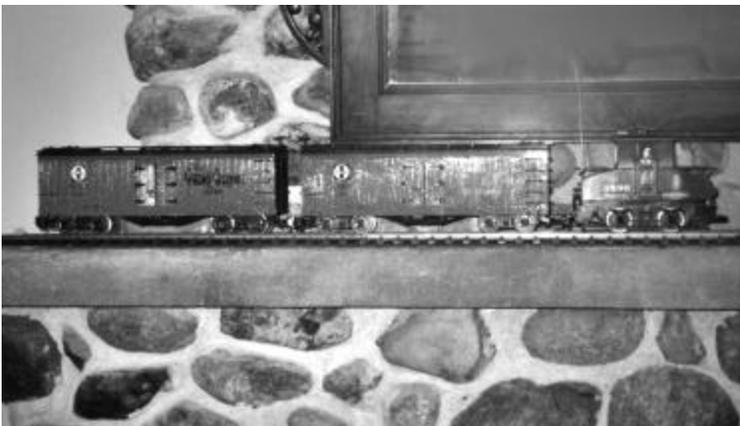
During the next two weeks I pondered the display and started thinking of better ways and additions I could make it. So the last two Sundays I returned and made additions and changes. I believe I can now say it is finished.

I will tell you some of the stuff I have in there. In one display I have six locomotives side by side. On looking closer you will

see a clock, bank, radio, lighter, flashlight and a toy. In another you will see four locomotive Avon bottles. There are two crosscut sections of railroad track lying there. Track is measured by pounds to the yard. One piece is 63 lb. from 1880. The other is 138 lb. from 1970. There is also a three inch long piece of 75 lb. taken from the P.E. in Yorba Linda. That one belongs to the museum. There are lots of maps and pictures on the walls. On the fireplace mantle I put a six foot stretch of "G" gauge track with a P.E. Big Red Car and also a P.E. electric freight motor pulling two Santa Fe fruit reefers. [See photos below.]

For any of you who live close enough to visit, the museum is open Sunday only, 1:00 to 4:00. Take La Palma Blvd. east through Anaheim and Yorba Linda till it dead ends half way through Santa Ana Canyon. At that point make three quick left turns and you are there. Hope you enjoy it. I hope to get up there with someone who is good with a video camera and video the display while I point out the highlights. I want the master copy of that to keep for my memories after we have to remove the display. Someday I can show my Grandkids, once upon a time Grandpa really did have his railroad stuff in a museum. How about that? Hope I didn't bore you with this. It has been fun. GOD Bless.

Earl Nickles the Rail Barber



AND SPEAKING OF RAIN

[As printed in *County Courier* April 13, 1978. Donna Minick, Editor]

Two news items culled from the *Santa Ana Standard*, Jan. 4, 1889 issue:

"The late rain caused the Hickey Moesser and Franklin block to settle so much that one of the large plate window glasses in the building owed by Mr. Moesser has cracked from top to bottom."

And from the same issue:

"the mud on Fourth Street is not drying up very rapidly, but it is getting thicker. The Board of Health is considering the question as to which would be most expedient to remove the mud or the town."

The Board must have chosen to remove the mud because at press time Santa Ana was still here.

WORKSHOP**INTERESTING HISTORICAL LANDMARKS
IN ORANGE COUNTY**

Ages 16 yrs & up

3 hrs/\$25

There are many very interesting historical places in Orange County to visit. This workshop will introduce you to many of these places. You will learn interesting trivia, where these places are located and when they are open to the public. Come join this stimulating and interesting class

Instructor: Diane Ryan

Location:

Santa Ana Main Library, #26 Civic Center Plaza,

History Room (714) 571-4262

Saturday March 5 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Peggy L Calvert

Program Coordinator, Cultural Arts, City of Santa Ana
Parks, Recreation & Community Services

714) 571-4262, office 714) 571-4235 fax

714) 720-2614 cell

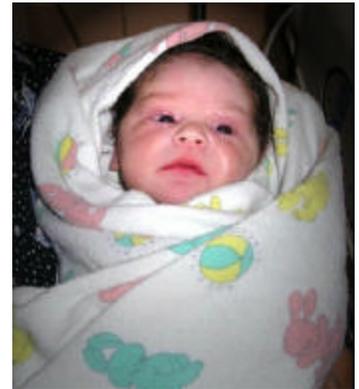
pcalvert@ci.santa-ana.ca.us

Congratulations to Bob and Tracy Falk !

**Daniel Joseph
Falk**

January 16, 2005

7 lbs. 5 oz.



Born at Lakeview Hospital in Santa Ana Canyon along the banks of the Santa Ana River.

Tracy says, "which is pretty cool as I love the river's history."

Hey, I am brand new. Grandma is holding me for the photo shoot but I am looking for my Mom.

CORRECTION!

Editing a newsletter is a humbling experience. Last month's article on the 1976 Menu Guide of Orange County named some restaurants that are still in business and some I reported as no longer in business.

Hof's Huts and The Quiet Woman are still thriving eating establishments here in Orange County. A thank you to loyal readers of the *COUNTY COURIER* for their help.

The disadvantage of men not knowing the past is that they do not know the present. History is a hill or high point of vantage, from which alone men see the town in which they live or the age in which they are living.

**G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936),
British author**

OCHS Calendar

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- Board Meeting
- Thursday Mar. 3, 2005 at 7:00 PM
at Kidseum
March Meeting
- **Thursday, Mar. 10, 2005**
- Opening at 7:00 p.m.
- **Bower's Kidseum**
- 18th and Main Sts., Santa Ana
- **7:30 p.m. Program:**
Images of America series
Buena Park, Fullerton and
Huntington Beach
Authors:
Dean Dixon,
Kathy Morris, Cathy
Thomas and Chris Epting
- **APRIL Program**
- to be announced



Where will you find books on local history? Your best source is your Orange County Historical Society.

Books listed below in BOLD are pictured and described on our website: www.orangecountyhistory.org

Don't see the book you are looking for? ASK US. If we don't have it we will help you find it.

PLACE A DOLLAR AMT. OPPOSITE EACH ITEM YOU WISH TO ORDER		County History 1988	\$11.00	
		1989	\$11.00	
		Fruit Box Labels An Illustrated Guide to Citrus Labels by Gordon McClelland & Jay Last	\$35.00	
Bawdy Balboa by Judge Robert Gardner	\$25.00			
Cañada de la Brea by Virginia Carpenter	\$10.00			
Centennial Bibliography of Orange County	\$70.00			
House of Bernardo Yorba by Don Meadow	\$4.00			
José Antonio Yorba by Arnold Dominguez	\$4.00			
The Portolá Expedition 1769	\$3.00			
Orange Countiana II	\$12.00			
Orange Countiana III	\$12.00			
Orange Countiana IV Architecture: soft cover	\$32.00			
A Window on the Past hard cover	\$40.00			
Orange Countiana V Early Businesses soft cover	\$22.00			
In Orange County hard cover SOLD OUT	\$00.00			
Orange County Through Four Centuries By Dr. Leo J. Friis	\$15.95			
The Orange Blossom 50 Years of Growth in Orange County	\$40.00			
ORANGE COUNTY The Golden Promise by Pamela Hallan-Gibson 2002 edition	\$37.00			
Proceedings of the Conference of Orange				

All prices include sales tax

MERCHANDISE TOTAL _____

Postage and Handling (\$3.00 first item, \$1 each additional)
Orange Blossoms is \$5 per book, \$1 each additional
Orange County The Golden Promise is \$5 per book, \$1 each additional

TOTAL DUE _____

PHONE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

QTY.STATEZIP _____

Make checks payable to OCHS

^ **MAIL TO:** John Sorenson, 14932 Gainford Circle, Irvine CA 92604

