



COUNTY COURIER

Official Publication of the Orange County Historical Society
www.orangecountyhistory.org

OCHS First General Meeting at Sherman Library and Gardens

Celebrating its 92nd year, the Orange County Historical Society will begin its General Meetings on Thursday, September 9, at the Sherman Library and Gardens in Corona del Mar. After a Summer hiatus, the programs resume at our traditional location with a pot luck dessert and appetizers buffet offered for members and guests in the Gardens at 2647 East Pacific Coast Highway. The time will be around 6:30 p.m. If you can attend, please bring a dessert or appetizer for six as your entry.

What better location for our first program than the Newport Coast. Dick Metz is our speaker and will talk about the early days of surfing with emphasis on the Laguna Beach and Corona del Mar areas. Mr. Metz helped form and fund the Surfing Heritage Foundation by donating his surfboard collection and leaving his estate to the SHF. He grew up in Laguna Beach and learned to surf there while palming around with surfers who later became legends - Hobie Alter, Reynolds Yater, and Hevs McClelland.

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ORANGE COUNTY'S FORGOTTEN TOWNS

By Tom Pulley

Editor's Note: This article by Tom Pulley is part of a series that the Orange County Historical Society has been publishing periodically concerning "Orange County's Forgotten Towns." Due to its length, it had to be serialized. This is the sixth and last installment of the series. Mr. Pulley deserves our praise for pulling together these old places and towns.

Seawood – In the early 1900s, the Woods Cove area in Laguna Beach was planned to be developed as a seaside resort. The property was owned by Clemma E. Woods. The site was surveyed and a tract map filed with the County on February 19, 1907, but the project never came to fruition.

Silverado – Hank Smith and William Curry were hunting in 1877 in Madera Canyon (now Silverado Canyon) when they

discovered an outcropping of blue quartz sparkling with silver. They had it assayed and it totaled \$60 a ton. They quickly staked a mining claim for the site. Los Angeles newspapers got word of the strike and the news led to a herd of prospectors riding in to file claims. By Summer, the Santa Rosa Mining District was formed and 250 claims were filed by some 500 prospectors in the area. Town lots were selling for \$75.

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Surfing off Corona del Mar

Tom Pulley Collection

SURFING *continued from pg 1*

Metz was also a pioneer in the sport and industry of surfing with ties to Surfline Hawaii and the Hobie Sports chain. He was a traveling surfer who publicized the South African surf scene with Hobie and Gordon Clark. He suggested that Bruce Brown film "The Endless Summer" in South Africa. Now that he is older, he wants to preserve the history of surfing.

Parking for the Library and Gardens is located in Lot A at Dahlia and Pacific Coast Highway or Lot B at Dahlia and 3rd Avenue. The Gardens botanical collections span the globe as you can visit the museum of living plants, displayed amidst fountains, sculptures and seasonal flowers. There is also a Cactus and Succulent Garden, a Tropical Conservatory, a dozen Koi, a Rose Garden, a Japanese Garden, and an Herb Garden.

An informal tour of the beautiful gardens will be offered during our desserts. Then we will have our first program, which will be held close to 7:30 p.m. with Mr. Metz as our guest speaker.

Cowabunga - hope you can catch this wave!



Gerald Vultee, Owen Hale, Bill Herwig, and Duke Kahanamoku, circa 1925 (most likely at Corona del Mar).

Photo: Pete Peterson Collection at the Surfing Heritage Foundation
Their web site is www.surfingheritage.org

FORGOTTEN TOWNS *from page 1*

In early 1878, Pharez A. Clark of Anaheim acquired the flat at the end of the Canyon where he platted a town-site called Silverado. Clark petitioned Washington for a post office and on August 27, 1878, the Silverado post office opened with Clark as postmaster. The town had three hotels, three stores, seven saloons, two blacksmith shops, two meat markets and a school. Lumber was costly, so most people lived in tents. During the boom, two stages ran to Los Angeles and three to Santa Ana daily. The population of Silverado grew to 1,500, but in 1882 the silver got harder to find and by August only one mine was in business. The post office closed on January 22, 1883. By 1887 all that remained was a cabin and a few shacks. The silver town disappeared, although some mining lasted until 1907. The remaining Silverado Canyon residents resumed their bee keeping, stock raising, and woodcutting lifestyle.

Smeltzer – In 1890 Michigan celery grower Daniel E. Smeltzer came to Orange County to find site for winter celery. He bought peat-rich property south of Westminster and introduced celery to the county as a commercial crop. By 1896 Smeltzer had celery growing in Huntington Beach on 200 acres near Gothard and Edinger, now the Golden West College site.

In 1897 the Santa Ana and Newport Railroad (later the Southern Pacific) laid tracks from Newport Beach up the coast and northward through Huntington Beach toward Westminster. One siding was on the Smeltzer Ranch, and a Company town, named after Smeltzer, grew around the siding. The town had a post office from May 23rd to September 15th 1900 when Santa Ana took over the service. Smeltzer

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died in December 1901 and the Golden West Celery and Produce Company, which farmed 610 acres of celery in the area, bought his property. Smeltzer village had a packinghouse, a company office building, a small hotel, a blacksmith shop, a merchandise store, a telephone office, a barn that housed 50 teams of draft horses, a bunkhouse, 12 homes and many shacks.

South Santa Ana – On May 19, 1909, Fred and Henry W. Hinze filed a tract map for a new township named South Santa Ana. The brothers worked for the Case, Hinze Company (CHC), which was in charge of constructing Santa Ana's first sugar factory - called the Southern California Sugar Company. It was on South Main Street below Delhi Road (Warner Avenue). Henry was in charge of building the factory and was also the plant's first superintendent.

South Santa Ana was located on a 25-acre site opposite the sugar factory on the southeast corner of Delhi Road and South Main Street, probably as a housing area for sugar factory workers. On July 26, 1909 the factory opened, but South Santa Ana did not progress as CHC wrestled with litigation from James Irvine and other stockholders who alleged that CHC made an excess profit in building the factory. The lawsuit dragged on for three years and the settlement cost the CHC interests some \$100,000 for improvements to the factory.

Talbert – The Talbert family moved to Long Beach from Illinois in 1891. In 1896 they purchased 322.5 acres of land in the Fountain Valley District. In 1899 John Corbett erected a building and opened a merchandise store at the present intersection of Talbert Avenue and Bushard Street. The crossroads community added a blacksmith shop and a school after Corbett sold the store to 21 year old Tom Talbert.

With the settlement growing, a post office was needed, as the nearest mail delivery was Bolsa, an 11-mile round trip by horse and buggy. The Talberts petitioned the Post Office Department to establish a new office named Fountain Valley. When the POD stated that a two-word name was unacceptable, they changed the name to Talbert and on November 15,



Talbert, California Kushing Bros. building on the left.

from First American Title Corp

1899, the Post Office opened in a corner of the Talbert store with Talbert as postmaster. The Talbert post office closed on August 15, 1907 when mail service was taken over by Santa Ana.

The Community of Talbert continued to survive and in 1957, when the city of Fountain Valley was incorporated, the city offices were located near the site of the village of Talbert.

Talega – The native people used a San Juan Canyon hot springs for medicinal purposes and in 1776, when Mission San Juan Capistrano was founded, the Indians introduced the padres to the therapeutic waters. The padres soon had a 13 mile road built up the hill to the springs. By 1873 the waters, then called San Juan Hot Springs, were popular. An August 11, 1882 Los Angeles Times article stated that 140 to 200 people would camp there.

There were no facilities until 1885 when Miguel Kraszewski leased it from Rancho Santa Margarita and built a ten room bathhouse. By 1887 you could arrive in San Juan Capistrano on the Central California Railroad (Santa Fe) and then take a wagon up the hill. In 1889 a stagecoach made daily trips to the springs. With more visitors Kraszewski opened a dance hall, boardinghouse, store, and some cabins. By 1895 it was so popular, Kraszewski needed a post office, but he was not a U.S. citizen. So Mrs. Marietta Morris, who lived where the present Lazy W Methodist Ranch is, applied for a P.O. The Post Office Department rejected San Juan Hot Springs as too long and changed the name to Talega. It opened on February 2, 1895 in the Morris home. Mrs. Morris drove 26 miles roundtrip to get the

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San Juan Capistrano mail and deliver it to the springs and get their mail. As there was no salary, it was costing Mrs. Morris time and so the Talega post office closed on March 14, 1896.

The Hot Springs lasted until 1936 when the Health Department required improvements to get the springs up to code. The operator had no funds and the springs were abandoned. The 75 buildings, including 58 cabins, the store and dance hall, were sold, moved or torn down. The dance hall was moved across from the mission and became a senior center. In the 1960's and early 70's. The closed hot springs were hippie havens or hangouts for motorcyclists and rowdy youths. In 1974 the county bought it as part of Caspers Regional Park. In 1982 the hot springs were reopened by Russ Kiessing who leased it from the county. Kiessing and his wife spent about \$1 million to improve the site, including a 98 x 40-foot swimming pool where the old pools were. Open 24 hours a day, the Hot Springs were popular, but the Kiessings went bankrupt and the site closed. The 1992 Ortega fire burned most of the resort. It is still closed except to a few hikers that make the six miles trip from Caspers Wilderness Park.

Wintersburg – The town of Wintersburg sprung up in 1897 as a siding and celery shipping center on the Santa Ana and Newport Railway (later the Southern Pacific). It was named for celery grower Henry Winters who settled in the area in 1888 and donated the property for the rail stop. The 25-acre townsite was laid out next to the siding on the southeast corner of Wintersburg Avenue (now Warner Avenue) and Gothard Street. There was a celery packinghouse there as well as the Ocean View School, a Methodist church, the Wintersburg Japanese Presbyterian Church, a grocery store, four migrant labor camps and numerous residences. Later Wintersburg was annexed into Huntington Beach.

Yorba – There was a small farming community around the old Bernardo Yorba Adobe near the present intersection of Imperial Highway and Orangethorpe Avenue in east Anaheim. In 1879 the

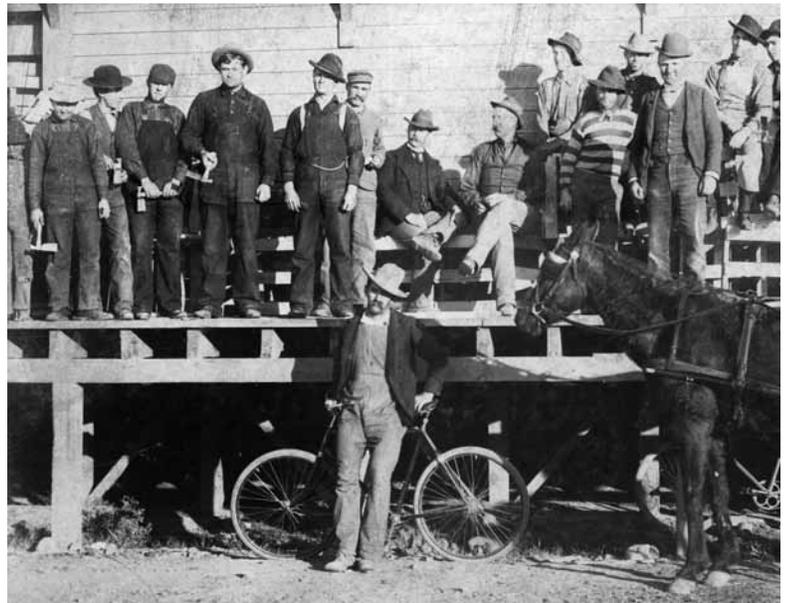


San Juan Hot Springs Hotel

Courtesy Security Pacific Bank
from "Turn The Rascals Out" by Jim Sleeper

area became known as Yorba when the name of the Santa Ana School in the village was changed to Yorba.

On June 30, 1880, a post office was established in the Yorba country store. Benjamin F. McDonald was the first postmaster and he was followed by David J. Yorba. When the California Central Railroad (Santa Fe) built a line through the Santa Ana Canyon in early 1887, they built a depot at Yorba. In addition to the depot and country store, the village also had a Catholic Church and cemetery, a blacksmith shop, a saloon and quite a few dwellings. In June 1888 a townsite was laid out south of the depot but it never progressed beyond the paper stage. The Post Office operated off and on nearly 15 years before finally closing on January 31, 1905.



Wintersburg celery pickers at the packing house. 1898
from Tom Pulley

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OCHS CALENDAR

- Board Meeting
Sept. 2, 2010 at Trinity

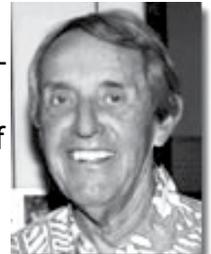
Sept. 9, General MEETING

Sherman Library & Gardens

6:30 p.m. Pot luck dessert

- **7:30 p.m. PROGRAM**

Dick Metz will present a Power-Point talk about the early days of surfing.



Dick Metz, Board Member and Founder of Surfing Heritage Foundation

	Price	
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	
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Orange Countiana II	\$ 10.00	
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Orange Countiana IV Architecture: soft cover	\$ 32.00	
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Orange Countiana V Early Business: soft cover	<i>sold out</i>	
Hard cover	\$ 22.00	
Orange County Through Four Centuries by Dr. Leo J. Friis	\$ 16.00	
Fruit Box: An Illustrated Guide to Citrus Labels by Gordon McClelland and Jay Last	\$ 35.00	

BOOKS FOR SALE

Orange Countiana I 1931 and 1973 ***sold out***

Postcard History Series 4th Printing
Orange County \$21.50

All prices include sales tax
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Bibliography of OC and Orange Blossoms are \$5.00 each, \$1 additional.
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