At the regular December OCHS General Meeting we will hold our annual Orange Countiana Meeting. This program will be held Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011, at 7:30 pm, at the Trinity Episcopal Church, 2400 N. Canal St., in Orange. That night will also be our annual holiday gathering.

The program will feature the contributors to the 2011 edition of our historical journal, Orange Countiana. They will speak on their topics, plus be available to sign journals afterwards. This year’s featured articles and writers are:

• “The Silent Cannon: The Spanish-American War Memorial at Irvine Park,” by an Orange County favorite, historian Jim Sleeper.


• “The Rise and Fiery Fall of the Pacific Beach Club,” by Chris Jepsen of the Orange County Archives, and

• “Fools Rush In: Politics and Gambling in 1930s Orange County,” by historian Phil Brigandi, who also was the editor of our journal again this year.

All OCHS members receive a free copy of Orange Countiana, which they may pick up at this meeting. Additional copies or copies for non-members are available for $20 each.
President’s Message:

WHERE DID 2011 GO?

This has been quite a year for OCHS! We’ve had record numbers attending our meetings, a new History Hikes program, expanded marketing efforts, growing membership, several changes on the board, a new website, the introduction of the Friis-Pioneer Press Award for young historians, our own laptop computer, and a Strategic Plan to lead us into our second century. One of our meetings also led to a movement to save the historic Furuta/Wintersburg Japanese Presbyterian Church complex in Huntington Beach.

This year also marked the first time since the early 1930s that we’ve successfully published historical volumes two years in a row. (And we’re already soliciting submissions for the 2012 edition of Orange Countiana VIII!)

Thanks to all of you -- our members -- for a great 2011. I think next year will be even better.

A cheerful Christmas, happy Hanukah, joyous New Year, and festive National Bouillabaisse Day to you and yours,

Chris

OCHS Needs Library/Office Space

Does your business have some vacant space? Does your church or school have a room it is not using?

For the past few years, the contents of OCHS’ research library and office have been in a storage unit where it was mostly inaccessible. Now we’re searching for a new location for both.

Ideally, we’re looking for something with little or no rent that’s secure, and preferably located in or around our traditional locations in Central Orange County (Tustin, Santa Ana, Orange, etc.). It would be a bonus if it also had space available for board and committee meetings.

If you can help or have suggestions, please contact any OCHS board member.
Strategic Plan Approved by Board

Where are we going? How do we get there? When will we know when we arrive?

These were just some of the questions a handful of historical society members were asking themselves back in January 2011. With not too many years before the society’s centennial, the board approved the formation of a committee to draft a strategic plan. In addition to answering the above questions, the plan would focus on our mission, identifying goals—and the strategies to achieve those goals—and lastly, who would do what and by when.

The committee, Chris Jepsen, Betsy Vigus, Carolyn Schoff, Cynthia Ward, Phil Brigandi, and Stephanie George, met multiple times during the following months and by June, a comprehensive strategic plan had been prepared and presented to the board, who voted their approval unanimously.

While the full plan will be posted on the society’s new website (itself, an important goal currently in production), here’s your preview of what that plan will look like:

• Increase membership, that includes, but isn’t limited to, special outreach to youth

• Develop marketing and promotional activities, institutional awareness, and augment publicity

• Introduce additional activities beyond monthly programs, such as history hikes, Mystery History Tours, and lecture series

• Reinstitute the Orange County History Conference

• Secure physical space for meetings, collections, and research.

The hope is to have all of these in place (along with the other goals) by our centennial year, 2019. In addition, a special committee will be formed in a few years to plan just what that centennial year will look like. Until then, committees are working behind the scenes to make some of these goals happen.

Doing local history isn’t always easy, but having a plan for the historical society, and dedicated volunteers who are willing to help implement it, provide the means by which we can succeed.

Local historian Doris Walker-Smith died of injuries received in a fire at her home the day before Halloween. Her husband, Jack P. Smith, also died in the fire. Doris was a member as well as a former board member of the Orange County Historical Society. She contributed to our Orange Countiana journals, including a 2010 article about bootlegging along our coast.

For some 30 years, Doris was the go-to historian for South Orange County. A resident of Dana Point since 1963, she was co-founder of its historical society. She served as an Orange County Historical Commissioner since 1994 and as a director in the Dana Point, San Juan Capistrano, and Orange County Historical Societies. Doris also taught California history at Saddleback College.

Doris was best known for her writing. Besides her countless newspaper articles and public relations items, she also wrote at least 12 books, including Dana Point Harbor/Capistrano Bay: Home Port for Romance (four editions), Orange County Then & Now (2006), Images of America: Dana Point, (2007), Orange County: A Natural History (2009), and Mission Viejo: The Ageless Land (2005). Many of her books are the first and/or most important ones on their respective topics. Doris was recently working on another history of Dana Point, plus gathering material for a book of essays on the history of Orange County’s coastline.

Kind, intelligent, and enthusiastic, Doris was a friend to many and an important part of Orange County’s historical community. She will be greatly missed.
Coming January 12th will be another of the interesting “Show and Tell” programs. That means it’s time once again to rummage around your house and garage to try and find a choice artifact or bit of ephemera that tells us something about Orange County’s past. These items can run the gamut of historical significance.

Maybe you have a handbrake from a Pacific Electric car or maybe grandpa’s branding iron is stored in your attic. Your search may find an outstanding photo of early Orange County that hasn’t seen the light of day in years. Now’s your chance to trot out those curiosities that you’ve stashed away - if you can remember where they are.

There will be more details in next month’s Courier. But if your storage is anything like ours at the OCHS, we wanted to give you a head start.

If you have lived in Orange County for a long time, you may have a story inside you that is historical. The OCHS is open to receiving some good stories with a personal touch. You know the one about your aunt giving her neighbor Mrs. Knott that recipe about the jam. That time you meet the Righteous Brothers at Bob’s after a concert. Maybe you remember that skinny girl in your fifth grade class who was later Miss Anaheim or Miss California.

The OCHS is looking for stories with a personal touch, because we are confident you have them. They are in your yearbook, in the scrap book in the closet, in your collection of postcards, or maybe just a memory in the back of your minds.

If you have an Orange County story, write it and send it to the OCHS, c/o the Courier Editor or any member of the Board of Directors that you may know and we will consider it. The articles can be up to two pages double-spaced and about any aspect of the County’s history, cities, towns or people. The subject should be written for our general audience. Footnotes and bibliographies are welcome, but recollections are welcome as well. Any pictures you may have can be returned after publication. To submit for consideration or for more information contact either John Bushman at bushbaseball@sbcglobal.net or Betsy Vigus at vvigus@pacbell.net.

In advance, thanks for the memories.

Recollections of Charles D. Swanner from his book Those Were The Days

Prior to the date that Colorado River water was brought to Santa Ana by the Metropolitan water District of Southern California the domestic water was pumped from wells in the city and the waterworks was located on the southeast corner of First and Flower Streets.

When a fire occurred the whistle at the waterworks would indicate by the number of times the whistle was blown the ward in which the fire was burning and would be heard all over the city.

The fire station for a number of years was on Sycamore Street, adjacent to the Masonic Temple and “Dick” and “Dan,” two faithful horses, were on duty there day and night. When the fire bell rang at the fire station the chains would drop from the front of their stalls they would trot over in front of the fire wagon and stand there until “Monty” Jackson, their driver attached the harness around their necks and away they would go on the Gallup. . . .

The fire whistle was also notice to everyone in the city to turn off the water, if they were sprinkling or running water for any purpose, so there would be sufficient pressure in the hoses to extinguish the fire. One long blast from the fireworks whistle was notice that the fire was out and the citizens could again proceed with their sprinkling or other use of the water.
The Tustin Packing House was founded in November, 1905 by three business partners: E.E. Wilson of Orange, Arthur E. Bennett of Tustin, and A.H. Lyons of Santa Ana. They leased a warehouse at the Southern Pacific Depot in Tustin on the West side of Newport Avenue, opposite of Walnut Street. They soon converted the building into a citrus packinghouse. A year later they added a 53 by 90 foot lemon house on the north side of the original building.

In January, 1908 Wilson bought out his two partners. Then in October, 1909 he sold the citrus business to George B. Shattuck and moved to Pomona.

Shattuck (in the black suit on the left of the photo) operated the business until the Fall of 1917 when he closed the business in the Tustin Packing Company. He did not stay idle for long and soon formed the Golden West Citrus Association. Shattuck was the Secretary and General Manager of the GWCA for 16 years before retiring in 1934.

As one of the founders of the Santiago Country Club in Peters Canyon, he was also known as the “Father of Orange County Golf.” When he died in August, 1935, he was President of the Santa Ana Country Club. He had also served as President of the Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce at one time.
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**NON-VOTING MEMBER**

**OCHS MEMBERSHIP FORM   Dec. 2011**

NAME/S  ________________________________________________________________

ADDRESS ______________________________________________________________

CITY ___________________________STATE, ZIP ________________

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E MAIL  ___________________________________________________

☐ .Send meeting and special event notices to my e mail.

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