

ORANGE COUNTY PIONEER NEWSLETTER

"SAVE APRIL 23rd, 2003 For the Annual Dinner at the First American Corporation"

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Mid-Winter February 4, 2003

The new year upon us, your Pioneer Council Board is busy planning our annual activities and preparing to launch some exciting new aspects to the organization. These include the Annual Dinner, the Annual Picnic and the Oral History Program. Our Membership Program continues to receive important attention and under the guidance of Janet Tonkovich, our vice-president in charge of Membership, is taking a great leap forward with the addition of our own web site, which is detailed in this newsletter.

A look at recent past events includes our Annual Picnic, which took place at Huntington Beach Central Park. Perfect weather and a terrific setting made this get together fun for all ages. We were treated to an introduction of local west county history by board member Esther Cramer, followed by a fascinating antique post card collection, explained by its curator and a long time county resident, Tom Pulley.

With the continued efforts of Terry Brennan, our vice-president in charge of Activities we are preparing for the Annual Dinner on Wednesday, April 23, 2003. The generosity of the First American Corporation in providing a perfect setting and outstanding dinner will be just part of a great evening and interesting program we have planned.

As I mentioned, Membership and its support continues to be a vital part of our organization. Please take a few minutes to update our records and submit your annual dues. We ask that you consider a gift to our Oral History Program, as it is the cornerstone of our organization.

We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you at the Annual Dinner!

Gary Ball , President January 29, 2003

The 22nd Annual Orange County Pioneer Council Dinner will be held at the First American Corporation on April 23, 2003. It is set for a Wednesday this year! Our program will include the well known Writer/ Publisher, Douglas Westfall of Orange. He will discuss his book ' Prisoners of the Civil War '. This is a fascinating local history of Glassell and Chapman who were prisoners of war during the Civil War. One imprisoned by the North and the other by the South. He will have books to autograph.

Please walk the halls and take time to view the great collection of Orange County historical photographs that First American has gathered and preserved. It is a great tribute to our Pioneers by First American.

Invitations will be sent early in March 2003. The reception will be at 6:00 and dinner at 7:15 pm. The address is #1 East First American Way in Santa Ana, California.

Terry Brennan, Vice-President- Activities

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

For the first time since starting our Oral History Program we will present the new books at the Annual Dinner. Kathy Frazee and her associates at Cal State Fullerton are working on several interviews from the La Habra.

Esther Cramer's interviews of the Claude Ridgeway family are complete. The interviews of Albert and Lulu Launer will be presented. The 3rd volume of the La Habra Oral Histories begun in the 1960' by Esther Ridgeway have been finished. These will include the Oral History of: Jean Pierre Arrovues, Manuel Corona and Ross Hodson. The book on Jean Gregory will be presented. Kathy Frazee hopes to complete the work on Ruthmarie L. Gruber in the near future.

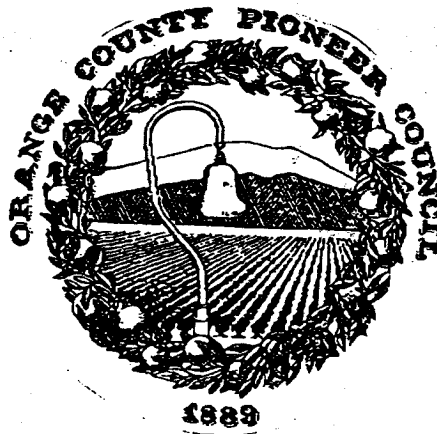
Increasing the number of Oral History books and to find and record all the stories of our earliest pioneers is our primary goal. This year's presentation will bring the total of our interviews to approximately 100 volumes. Without volunteers to do the interviewing there are many stories that may never be told. We need many more Pioneers to be involved. No experience is necessary. You need an appreciation of Orange County's heritage and a desire to get involved to save these precious records. The Oral History Department will be glad to train anyone who is interested. Please help us continue this valuable project. The number for the Oral History Program is 714-278-3580. Please ask for Kathy Frazee.

Eileen DeCair, Oral History

MEMBERSHIP

Membership has a new innovation. With the newsletter and bill for dues is an enclosed envelope to make it easier for you to renew. There is another membership form enclosed in the newsletter for you to give to a friend. We have 438 members currently and are always looking for new members. Please contact Janet for any membership concerns. Her email is: janet@tonkovich.com or call her at 714-544-4377

WEBSITE: Watch for OCPB's website which will be up soon-www.OCPioneer.org. For additional information about the website or if you have articles or photos to add, Please email them to janet@tonkovich.com . Our thanks and appreciation to OCPC members Greg Tonkovich for designing the website and Doug Miller of Vertical Web



Ventures, Inc. [www.vwventures.com] for hosting the website.

Janet Tonkovich, Vice-President
Membership

The Board needs at least two new members. Please consider this a great volunteer job. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at noon at the Santa Ana Country Club. We strive to keep the luncheon meeting to one hour.

We are very pleased to announce a new Board Member: Anne Marie Moiso. Anne Marie is the daughter of Tony Moiso and she is the Marketing Manager for Rancho Mission Viejo. Please welcome her and her family into the Pioneer Council.

REMEMBER TO SEND IN YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL DINNER

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

To acknowledge the years of service by Stan and Esther [Ridgway] Cramer and Betty [West] Pinkston to the County of Orange through the Orange County Pioneer Council, the Board recently granted them Honorary Life Member status.

Stan and Esther met in grammar school and are both long time La Habra residents. Esther's Uncle settled there in 1897 and the families followed in the early 1900's. Esther's father, Claude Ridgeway, married her mother, Ida Leutwiler in 1914. Claude served as Orange County Deputy Assessor from 1921 to 1943.

Esther has served on the OCPC for 15 years. She was one of the first Oral History writers and has been an interviewer all this time. She has had numerous offices including the presidency. She has written several books about La Habra, including the award winning "La Habra", the Pass through the Hills.

Stan played for USC in the Rose Bowl in 1948. After many years as head football coach at Mt. San Antonio College, he switched to administration and retired with special presidential honors in 1985.

Esther will always be remembered for the punch she and Stan always brought to the Annual Picnic. As with everything Esther tackled it carried a 'Punch.' !

Betty has been a member of OCPC since it formed under the auspices of Bowers Museum and held the office of First Vice President –Membership for 12 years. She became co-president when OCPC was reorganized as an independent council in 1985. Later she served as Corresponding secretary.

A native of Santa Ana, she was married to Fred Pinkston, who passed away in 1979. Betty traces her Orange County ancestry back to Zephanian B. West, her paternal grandfather who arrived in 1887 and her maternal great grandfather, Silas Yarnell who came in 1870. Her father Z. Bertrand West was a lawyer as was her grandfather who became judge of Department #1 of the Superior Court at Santa Ana.

Betty has always had great support from her family and is accompanied by her daughter, son and grandson at all Pioneer events.

Juanita Lovret

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE THREE FINE PIONEER MEMBERS!

News update on the Grijalva Park! The dedication is set for sometime in April of 2003. It is located on Prospect and Spring in Orange. At the dedication Eddie Grijalva will present his most recent book "Rancho". You can keep informed on this and other pertinent news on the OCPC' website.

Shirley Parker reports there are only 20 cook books left. Anyone wishing to buy one should contact her at 949-644-2023.

REMEMBER THE ANNUAL DINNER IS WEDNESDAY APRIL 23 at First American Corporation. It will be a great event so send in your reservations as soon as you receive your invitation.

Hoorah for all you Pioneers. You are special!

Margery Cole, editor