



Orange Preserves

To preserve and enhance the unique Old Towne Orange area through education, communication and community involvement.

2005

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Preservation Awards On the Way

May is the date for the Old Towne Preservation Association to celebrate its annual Preservation Awards Dinner, where residents and businesses are honored for their painstaking efforts to preserve their little piece of Orange history.

Join in and place your nomination for the neighbor(s) you feel have done the best job in one of these five categories:

1. **Sweet, Sweet Orange Award** - recognition for outstanding restoration and

preservation of a residential building.

2. **Pitcher Park Award** – recognition for outstanding landscape or garden enhancement on an historic site in Old Towne.

3. **Plaza City Award** - recognition for outstanding restoration, preservation or enhancement of a commercial, industrial or public use property which sustains the life and vitality inherent in the original Orange township.

4. **Spirit of Old Towne Award** – recognition of a

person or group who has contributed to the goals of Old Towne Preservation Association.

5. **Good Neighbor Award** - recognition for a structure built in Old Towne which demonstrates outstanding compatibility and harmony with the existing historic structures in neighbors.

This year, in addition to the awards, we are also honoring the longest living residents and business The

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President's Message

By Jan Chomyn
OTPA PRESIDENT

Here it is—another new year, another chance to break all our resolutions and be depressed by February! Just in time for chocolates on Valentine's Day!

However, your OTPA Board is making some great resolutions for this coming year and we think they are

“do-able.” We are looking forward to the City of Orange selecting it's steering committee to rewrite the General Plan, which means we will hopefully have input regarding preservation issues including downzoning to R1.

We are planning a Preservation Event in early May with a twist: we are going to honor the City's

longest-living residents and businesses along with our usual preservation awardees.

We are beefing up the ranks of our Preservation Committee and will welcome any new people interested in joining us. It is, indeed, the most vital activity of OTPA and we need our voices to be heard in order to educate

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Preservation Committee Report

By Janet Crenshaw
OUTGOING PRESERVATION CHAIR

The Preservation Committee continues to attend biweekly Design Review Committee meetings on Wednesdays. These meetings are preceded by a visit to the library to study plans for projects in Old Towne that are to be presented. Occasionally, we follow a project on a required Planning Commission review and vote.

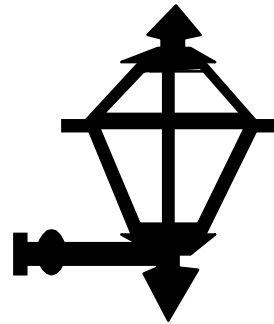
In addition, we have had two meetings with the Olsen Company who are contemplating a project on the north side of Maple at Pixley to replace a one-story industrial complex with a “transportation

friendly” condominium project. They are presently doing one near the train station in Fullerton and were the builders of the lofts in the Santa Ana artist zone. This proposal would be just to the west of the depot, train tracks and depot parking lot. So far we have agreed that the general style should be an industrial look. We have cited the beautiful brick cordage building at Palm and the railroad tracks. What we haven’t agreed on is a height of three stories — one for parking and two for loft-type dwellings. At this point we don’t know when or even if the application will come before the city planners.

Anne Siebert, Jeff Frankel, and Janet Crenshaw attended an opinion-gleaning forum in January regarding the city’s general plan review. Our forum focusing on preservation, history, and the arts included representatives from the Orange Historic Society and the Orange Barrio Historic Group and was one of many

forums that met with city representatives over a period of two or three days. Anna Pehoushek led the discussion. Our trio emphasized rezoning all of the Old Towne residential quadrants to R1, code enforcement to solve parking problems, mitigate traffic, and promote preservation.

Under the Porch Light:



Jan Chomyn

overnight guests but then subsequently moved to Villa Park. They missed Old Towne so much though that they had to come back and get into an old house once again. Jan’s professional career in recycling management must have taught her a few things about taking something old and making it useful again!

While the Chomyn home started as a Prairie design it has had modifications over the years that leave it as a Prairie influenced home. Jan, a Washington state native, says, “What we are left with is a lot of light, which we love and a lovely enclosed courtyard.” Asked what other projects are in store, Jan reports, “We recently updated the kitchen

OTPA Membership News

OTPA would like to welcome its newest members: Albert & Debora Arellanes, Edward Breckenridge, Steven & Christie Dunbar, Daniel Ebeling, Art & Sandra Fiebing, Jennifer Gonzales, Cyrus Jovan, Emily Ludwig, John Mahler, John Meifert, Gary & Lisa Miller, Vanessa Nesbit, Vicente Rodriguez, Ken & Alexis Roy, Richard & Jennifer Schaefer, Derek Smith, Wayne & Judith Taylor, Jonathan & Jenny Thomas, Jade Trinh, Philip & Jaelyn Turner, and Tony Ung.

New life members include Dennis & Cathie Caldwell, Regina Mundekis, and Vincent Pollmeier.

March membership dues renewals will be mailed out shortly. If you joined OTPA between December 2003 and May 2004, your annual membership dues are currently due by the end of March. These may be paid by mail or at the next General Meeting.

In each edition of The Orange Preserves we will feature an OTPA Board member so that residents and friends of Old Towne may know a little more about the folks volunteering their time.

Jan Chomyn is the recently elected president of OTPA; with her husband, Miron and their two cats, Fred and Ethel, they reside in a 1921 Prairie influenced home on S. Orange St.

Jan and Miron first came to Orange in the early 90s and opened the French Inn on South Batavia as a B&B. They catered events, teas, receptions and hosted

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**President, cont. from page 1:
Looking Forward to 2005**

people and ensure adherence to design standards. We have come a long way and plan to continue to be a strong presence representing preservation within the City of Orange.

Remember when you joined OTPA and they had all those little boxes on the application for you to check if you were interested in serving in various capacities? Well, give some

thought to letting one of us know if you would be willing to donate some of your time this year. We will need docents for the Home Tour in October, as well as volunteers for all OTPA activities and events – everything from baking cookies, to scooping ice cream to writing articles. So, if someone calls you to volunteer, please say, “Yes!”

I look forward to seeing all of you during the year around Old Towne and serving as your President.

We Are Who We Are

The Community Involvement Committee does what its name says: we are involved in events concerning the community. We arrange the always-fabulous Preservation Event with the Preservation Committee. Set up the Ice Cream Social at Pitcher Park, bake homemade goodies for Treats in the Streets and drive around Old Towne looking at all the beautifully decorated houses during December.


Since we like to bake so much, or rather eat cookies so much, we also arrange the Presidents’ Day Bake Sale at the Antique Fair down town. The money from both Bake Sales goes in a fund ear marked for scholarships to aid students studying historic preservation, an area dear to all of us. We are always looking for volunteers for these fun events so let us know your interest!

Here is information on the upcoming events for the Community: The Antique Fair Bake Sale will be on Saturday, February 19. The Preservation Event will be on Sunday, May 1. This year’s theme is Orange’s oldest resident. If any one knows a likely person, we would love to hear from you. Contact Patty Ricci.

**Awards, cont. from page 1:
OTPA Needs Your Help to
Recognize Old Towners**

owners in Old Towne,” says Vickie Laughlin, the Preservation Committee member who works on this annual event. “We need your help finding those people as well. Our committee is looking for input from anyone who may know someone who has lived in Old Towne or

operated a business in Old Towne since before 1950.”

The deadline for submitting your nominations is April 1, 2005. This includes those submissions for longest living residents and business owners. You may contact OTPA either through our website, www.otpa.org or by calling our hot  (714) 639-6840.



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Old Towne Orange?
Call the
Old Towne Preservation Association Hotline:
(714) 639-6840*

Signs of the Times

By Russ Barrios

EDUCATION/ RESEARCH

There are old store and advertising signs on the sides of building all over Old Towne Orange that go virtually unnoticed and unpreserved. Over the last year a small group of Old Towne supporters has been developing methods to preserve (not redo or repaint) these signs of times gone by. The committee is ad hoc and is chaired by Chapman professor Ken Tye. The goal of the committee is to preserve these signs and add brass plaques at street level to describe the sign and tell a little about its history.

The sign shown here is one of many. This one is located in the alleyway on South Glassell. Is it a White Owl Cigar sign? We don't know yet.

Have you ever noticed the "Bank of Italy" sign on the top of the Masons' building on North Glassell? The Bank of Italy, which is now the Bank of America, has a long history in California. In 1906 the great quake hit San Francisco and left many people homeless and without resources. The next day Bank of Italy reopened for business working from an old table on the sidewalk, giving out loans and helping locals.



There are plenty of other signs around town such as Hobbs Batteries, Kogler Hardware, A1Flour (which was bought up by Pilsbury in the late 1940s) or Rexall Drugs (Watson's), just to name a few. If you would like to help or have old photos or know any of the

history of the signs contact any of the committee members (Elisabeth Deffner, Diana Gentry, Scott Parker, Al Ricci, Judy Schroeder, or me).

The next time you're downtown, look up and take a look at Old Towne's signs.

Walkin' Around Towne

The Orange Community Historical Society is offering a free training session for those interested in becoming docents for its popular walking tours.

These tours wouldn't be possible without the help of enthusiastic docents, who lead visitors from the historic Ainsworth House near City Hall, north through the Plaza to the depot, and then south through the Plaza. The docents share the story of how Orange came to be, the significance of some of its downtown buildings (like the

old opera house and the theater), and the fascinating evolution of Orange, once a small town known as Richland.

OCHS is offering a free training session for volunteer docents on Saturday, March 19, in downtown Orange, from 10 a.m. until approximately 12:30.

"It is so much fun! It just is a blast," says OCHS past president Barbara Resnick, who is a walking tour docent. "They hung on my every word--what an ego trip! I can't wait to go again."

This training session will include a discussion of Orange's historical high-lights by former OCHS president Adrienne Gladson. Each attendee will receive a packet of information including a timeline and map of Old Towne. The session will conclude with a walking tour led by Gladson, who

initiated the society's walking tour program.

Seating is limited at this training session. To reserve your space, call (714) 998-0330 or email tours@historicorange.org.

For more information about the Orange Community Historical Society, go to www.historicorange.org.

**For the latest news about
Old Towne and the OTPA,
check out
www.OTPA.org**

On the Lookout for Old Towne Old-Timers

How long have you lived in Orange? Do you know someone who has lived here long enough to have parked their brand new 55 T-Bird in front of Watson's on a hot summer day while enjoying a chocolate malt? Old Towne Preservation Association (OTPA) is looking for the longest living residents in the city of Orange. These people will be honored at the 2005

Preservation Awards dinner that will take place at Citrus City Grille on May 1, 2005.

Along with the longest living residents, we will also be honoring the oldest business in the Plaza or surrounding area. OTPA needs your help. We would like to hear from you if you know of anyone who has lived in the city of Orange since 1950 or before. Once

the list is compiled, we will conduct interviews and then honor these individuals and businesses at our upcoming awards dinner.

We are also accepting nominations in all five categories for outstanding restoration of a property or personal contribution by a group or individual all in the name of preservation. Details of these categories

are listed on the Old Towne Preservation Association's website.

For Preservation Award nominations and to let us know about a long time resident in the City of Orange, please call our hotline at (714) 639-6840 or log on to our website: www.otpa.org.

TOP 10

Reasons to Get Involved in Old Towne

- #10 You would like meeting other preservation-minded people.
- #9 You would like to see the interiors of other Old Towne homes.
- #8 You want to have some input into decisions affecting Old Towne.
- #7 One of your hidden skills is hawking Guinness Stout.
- #6 You like learning about the history of Old Towne Orange.
- #5 You need a venue to show off your baking skills.
- #4 You prefer to be part of the solution.
- #3 You want to be in Bob Hitchcock's memoirs, soon to be made into a major motion picture.
- #2 You want to preserve the value of your home.
- #1 Reason to get involved in OTPA: You love Old Towne Orange!

Chomyn, continued from page 2: New OTPA Prez Loves Old Towne

and downstairs half-bath. You are never really finished with an old house—it keeps needing all the T.L.C. you can give it and then some!”

Jan's passion for preservation has been her motivation to serve on the OTPA board. “That is why I am serving on the OTPA Board—there is a lot of work to be done to keep our historic district intact. Without a conscious effort to preserve this area, our district could become thoughtlessly overbuilt and eventually blighted as so many others have. We are blessed with such a vibrant and charming downtown area with all the attendant historic homes, it is incumbent upon us to preserve its integrity.

“My personal goals for OTPA are the organization's

goals,” she continues. “To preserve and enhance Old Towne. I like to think that preserving a neighborhood is about not only the brick and mortar but also about the people who choose to live here and be a part of the community. It takes special ‘pioneer stock’ to squeeze into houses too small for our families, with not enough closet space, tiny kitchens and sagging garages! We love it!”

What else should you know about Jan? “My devotion belongs to my two grandsons, Nicholas and Daniel, ages three and just over a year. My avocation is art and my adoration is for is for my husband and my daughter, who love me no matter what.”

Thanks, Jan and thanks for your willingness to serve Old Towne Orange.



Orange Preserves

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A Fountain and Roses

Plaza Fountain Restoration Project

The restoration of the Original Plaza Fountain is almost 90% complete. The next and last phase will be to install the necessary plumbing. I can tell you the Fountain looks great and will look even better when it is installed on the grounds of our new library. That's the good news! The rest of the Fountain news is that we still need to raise \$20,000 to complete the project. Many of you have already joined the "585 Club" and contributed to this worthy project. If you haven't and would like to contribute, please send checks to: Save the Fountain Fund. P.O. Box 828, Orange, CA 92856. For information, call Bob Hitchcock at (714) 639-0631.

*OTPA Hotline:
(714) 639-6840*

Hart Park Rose Garden

Hart Park is looking for volunteers to help with the Rose Garden, 2nd Saturday of each month, 8-10 am. Interested parties can email Andrea McCullough at: asdmccullough@aol.com

Hart Park's Rose Garden was planted by The Orange Woman's Club in the late 30's and early 40's. There are 375 roses there, some of them possibly original.

www.OTPA.org