



Orange Preserves

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

2006

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OTPA Birthday Bash a Success

A sold-out crowd was on hand to celebrate OTPA's twentieth birthday at the twelfth annual Preservation Awards Dinner, held at the Citrus City Grille in Old Towne.

This annual event provides the opportunity to recognize individuals for their commitment to the preservation of the

wonderful homes and buildings of the Historic District, and for the embodiment of the core values of OTPA. In addition to the award nominees, the group had the distinct pleasure to have four of the Founders of OTPA on hand.

Mayor Mark Murphy and Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Cavecche, as well

as many prominent members of the business community, also honored the Association with their presence.

While a continuous slide show of historical homes played on the screen, and huge numbers of raffle tickets were sold, the

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President's Message

By Tom Loughrey
OTPA PRESIDENT

As we celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the founding of Old Towne Preservation Association, it is clear to me that the reasons the organization was founded still persist.

A while back a homeowner here in Old Towne obtained a permit to add on to their home and at the same time received permission to demolish a small shed roof on the side of the existing house. The addition was done but

instead of demolishing the shed roof, the entire house was demolished with the exception of the front door frame.

A "stop work" order was issued by the city, but it was too late to prevent the loss of a contributing structure to the historic district. It is a loss which can never be replaced. Even if the exact same structure is created it is not the historic structure; it is only a replica. Our special community has one fewer structure that makes it unique and nothing else replaces it.

Does one house really make a difference? Well, I think it does. I can only hope that this does not happen again. It serves as a reminder that our mission of preservation, community involvement and education has made the difference in preserving and restoring many other structures over the years. In the process we have seen Old Towne home values steadily increase and more important, we have come to appreciate the precious gift of truly rare

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May/ June 2006

The Naturalized Parrots of Orange

By Loretta Erickson

The plight of the parrot is well known and widely regarded as one of the most pressing conservation issues of our time. With numbers decreasing at alarming rates, wildlife organizations worldwide have struggled to save parrots' natural habitats and do everything possible to stop the trade of wild-caught parrots. While this struggle continues, in a most unlikely place thousands of miles away from their native land, some species of parrot have (not so quietly) made their presence known.

Throughout California, naturalized parrot populations of various species have been documented as far back as the 1960s and have established themselves in Orange, Santa Ana, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Temple City, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Riverside, San Bernardino, Bakersfield, and other locations. It is estimated that more than 7,000



Red-crowned parrot.

parrots of various species are flying free in California.

The most common question is, "Where did they come from?" While some believe they have the answer, the same stories always seem to surface wherever parrot populations have established themselves. The most likely scenario is that simultaneous events occurred and wild-caught parrots that were imported before importation was banned, or those smuggled across the border, somehow escaped or were intentionally released. The wild flocks have undoubtedly been joined by some escapees, but in general, companion parrots do not possess the survival skills to make it in the wild. Much like humans, adult wild parrots spend a great deal of time teaching and training their young. As a result, young parrots may stay with their parents for up to a year

or more before venturing off on their own.

Among the Amazona parrot flocks frequently seen in Old Towne Orange are Red-crowned Parrots (an endangered species), Lilac-crowned Parrots (recently categorized as

CITES Appendix I), Red-shouldered Parrots, White-fronted Parrots, Yellow-headed Parrots (an endangered species), and Blue-fronted Parrots.

The Amazon parrots are easily distinguished by their stocky body and short, squared tails. Another common sight in Orange is the Mitred Parakeet flock. The Mitred

Parakeets have a much more slender body and longer tails. There are even those that, for now, are one of a kind: a Blue-crowned Parakeet, Rose-ringed Parakeet, and an Orange-winged Parrot.

Endangered Species

The Red-crowned Parrot (California's most abundant parrot) was designated a threatened species in 1988, and by 1994 was upgraded to the IUCN Red List of Endangered Species. Still declining in its native range,

only small populations of Red-crowned parrots remain in their native areas of Mexico. On July 31, 2001, the California Bird Records Committee added the Red-crowned Parrot to



Mitred Parakeet

the official list of California birds as an introduced species.

Sadly, the Lilac-crowned Parrot is also declining in its native Mexico and could ultimately join the status of the Red-crowned Parrot in the near future.

The Yellow-headed Parrot is equally as endangered as the Red-crowned Parrot and has remained on The Endangered Species List since 1988. Though only a few presently exist in

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OTPA HOTLINE
(714) 639-6840



Preserves

Membership News

OTPA extends a warm welcome to its newest members:

Melinda Boyd
Lawrence Frodyma
Jorge & Jerogina Juardo
Aaron McCants
Daniel Saltman
Dale & Rosalia Smart.

New life members include **Marli McGraw.**

Did you know that you may now pay your dues online? We are using PayPal on our website to accept major credit cards for dues payment. Visit us at www.otpa.org.

Anniversary, continued from page 3:
Celebrating 20 Years of Preservation Efforts

OTPA would like to thank the many volunteers and contributors to the outstanding success of the event:

The 2006 Preservation Award Dinner Committee

– Tony Trabucco, Vickie Laughlin, Patty Ricci, Cathie Caldwell, Suzi Shappel, Marcella Ketteringham, Nancy Hiser, Darlene Anievas, Michele Morris, Chris Glos and Danny Morris.

Champagne Donated

by – David Anievas, Coldwell Banker, Al Ricci, Ricci Reality, Dan Slater, Orange Reality, and Tony Trabucco, First Team Real Estate.

Award Plaques – Craig Williams, hand made Craftsman style wood frames; Shirley McNiel, Imprinted Memories; and Judy Schroeder, Schroeder Studio Gallery.

And a big “thank you” to the following Merchants for their donations: A & P Collectibles; P.J.’s Abbey; Armstrong Garden Centers; Batavia Garden Nursery; Chapman Antique Mall; Citrus City Grille; Home Depot; Imprinted Memories; Maggiano’s; M & M Nursery; Plaza 42 Antiques; Sideboard; Smith’s Nut House; Starbuck’s Coffee; Watson’s Drug and Soda Fountain.

About to do work on your home?

If you are in doubt or have any questions about a project on your historic property, please contact the Old Towne Preservation Association at (714) 639-6840 or info@otpa.org.

We will be more than happy to advise and help guide you through the process. We will also be glad to meet with you concerning your project.



Mark your calendars:

It’s time again for the annual OTPA Ice cream Social!

Once again, Pitcher Park will be the site where everyone can enjoy the serene environment while enjoying free

ice cream from Watson’s and Black Cows (vanilla ice cream awash in ice-cold root beer)!

What a great way to meet your Old Towne neighbors and enjoy a classic summer evening with friends. Don’t forget to bring the kids.

The date is Wednesday, June 14, at 6:30 P.M. This event has become a real Old Towne tradition, so don’t miss it.



President, continued from page 1:
OTPA’s Mission Still Vital

homes and the vast majority of home owners who appreciate these rare gems and work everyday to restore and preserve.

So, no “mission accomplished” here. OTPA

members continue to work on our mission, stay informed and hopefully, we can enjoy our next twenty years and beyond with no more loss of our historic heritage.

www.otpa.org

www.otpa.org

Now added to OTPA’s website are:
 * Old Towne Design Review Standards: if you’re wondering what you can, can’t, should, or shouldn’t do to your home, here’s an overview. As usual, though, you should go to the City Planner’s desk first for approval or clarification of any work being done to your home.

*Orange Old Towne District map.

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Anniversary, continued from page 1: *OTPA's Twentieth a Big Success*

evening's festivities began with a cocktail hour followed by dinner. Guests enjoyed the award-winning cuisine and gracious hospitality of the restaurant. Following dinner, Rob Boice offered a champagne toast with glasses specially designed for the occasion. OTPA President Tom Loughrey introduced four of the Founding Members: Dale Rahn, Rob Boice, Tita Smith and Russ Barrios. Mr. Rahn, founder and first OTPA President, accepted the honor of blowing out the

had happened in 20 years and memories were put to the test! The excitement grew as the first of two door prize drawing took place. Was it just our imaginations, or did one young couple win nearly every time?

Our attention now turned to the main reason for the evening, the presentation of this year's awards. The five categories and their winners are:

The "Sweet, Sweet Orange" Award for outstanding restoration, preservation or enhancement of an historic site in Old Towne. This year's award went to **Robert and Ursula Imboden** for their

meticulous restoration of their West Palmyra home.

The "Good Neighbor" Award is given for a project that demonstrates outstanding compatibility and harmony with existing historic structures it neighbors, this year's award was presented to **Sandy Quinn** for his fantastic creation of a guesthouse at the rear of his North Shaffer residence.

The "Special Merit" Award, given to a person, group, program, process or building that has contributed to preservation in Old Towne, was presented to **Joanne Coontz** for her many years of dedication to the cause.

The "Spirit of Old Towne" Award is given to a person or group who has contributed most to the mission of OTPA, which is to preserve and enhance the unique Old Towne Orange area through education, communication and community involvement.

This year's award was shared by Judie Owens and Jacky Wenglein (her husband Tom accepted the award on her behalf).

The "Dale Rahn Volunteer of the Year" Award is given each year to an individual who



Sandy Quinn accepting the "Good Neighbor" Award.



City Councilwoman Tita Smith presents Joanne Coontz with the Special Merit Award.



Former City Councilman Dan Slater presents Bob Hitchcock with the Dale Rahn Volunteer of the Year Award.



OTPA founding members display the first ever OTPA meeting sign.

candles on the birthday cake on behalf of the group.

The evening's entertainment included the Past Presidents competing in their own version of "Family Feud," with points scored for correctly recalling fascinating facts and trivia about the early years of the Association. It was hard to say which team really won, as a lot



Robert and Ursula Imboden, winners of the "Sweet, Sweet Orange" Award.

demonstrates a commitment to Old Towne Orange by volunteering their time in various community programs and concerns to support the goals of the Old Preservation Association. To the delight of all, this year's winner was **Bob Hitchcock!**

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Parrot, continued from page 2:

Get to Know Orange's Avian Guests Better

Orange County's flocks, the Yellow-headed Parrot and the Blue-fronted Parrot are the subjects of an intense research project currently being conducted.

Native Species

There has been no evidence that parrots pose a threat to native species. The parrots primarily survive on exotic plant life and do not diminish the food supply of native species. Most of our native birds obtain food from some ground source, whereas the parrots live exclusively in the trees. Parrots may actually help

some of our native species by knocking down food that would not ordinarily be available until later in the season. It is not uncommon to see native species following the parrots closely in order to clean up what the parrots have left behind.

Native species do not mind the parrots; parrots and crows can often be seen in playful aerial displays. Crows, doves, jays, mockingbirds, sparrows, other species and even hummingbirds can be seen sitting alongside the parrots.

In 2001, extensive research began on Orange County's wild parrot flocks and is continuing today. Much has been discovered that has never been seen or documented before. While these beautiful, entertaining, boisterous birds go about their daily lives, their existence may ultimately prove to be one of the most fascinating wildlife occurrences of our time.

For an "up-close and personal" look at the Wild Parrots of Southern

California, go to <http://amazornia.us>.

Research by the California Parrot Project is an ongoing effort in which we rely on public participation. If you have information or stories about the wild parrots in your area, please go to <http://parrotproject.org> or <http://amazornia.us> to report sightings.

You can contact Loretta Erickson at ocparrotproject@amazornia.us

OTPA Presence at 2006 California Preservation Conference

OTPA Board members Diana Zdenek and Jeff Frankel and preservation committee member John Murphy attended the California Preservation Foundation's 30th annual Preservation Conference held in Sacramento.

The hotel that hosted the conference is a beautifully restored, adaptive reuse of the Julia Morgan-designed Public Market Building.

This year's theme was "Finding Common Ground." Historic preservation is constantly changing, so we must form alliances and address the many challenges before us by finding common ground--as in our alliance with the Orange Barrio Historic Society.

The conference offered many relevant educational sessions as well as social functions and tours.

At the opening Plenary Session we were welcomed by Sacramento Mayor/ Preservationist Heather Fargo. The three-hour session was held in the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium, a meticulously restored 1927 Byzantine, Romanesque classical revival style building.

The session included keynote speakers Ruth Coleman, Director of California State Parks, and Mario Sanchez, the director of cultural tourism for the Texas Historical Commission.

Among the many award winners were Senator

James Mills (Mills Act), receiving the Lifetime achievement award; President's Award winner musician/songwriter Ry Cooder for his work related to the redevelopment of Chavez Ravine in L.A., and Enid Sales, who received the Preservationist of the Year award.

We attended as many educational sessions as time allowed in our two-day stay. These include: Legislative Advocacy (two sessions), Architectural Design Innovation in a Historical Context, Technology and Materials, Small Town Main Streets (Balancing Growth and Preservation), Making a Splash (Water Feature Preservation), Who Is Your Community? (Achieving

Relevancy in Changing Demographics), and "Field of Dreams" (So you preserve it...will they come?). We also attended an evening screening a documentary of the Greene and Greene Gamble House Restoration.

Unfortunately, the City did not take us up on our offer this year as they have in past years for financial assistance for City Staff, Officials, Committee, and Commission members to attend this Conference.

Next year's conference will be held a little closer to home, in Hollywood. Due to the close proximity of this conference there will be a greater opportunity for our members to attend and city staff as well.



Orange Preserves

FIRST CLASS MAILING

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| May 24 | OTPA General Meeting
Chapman Chapel (East Maple/ North Grand) at 7 PM |
| May 25 | Orange Community Historical Society General Meeting
“Remembering the Orange May Festival”
7 PM, Trinity Episcopal Church, 2400 N. Canal St. |
| June 14 | Ice Cream Social at Pitcher Park |
| June 21 - August 16 | Concerts in the Park
Wednesday evenings, 7 PM
Hart Park BandShell |
| July 19 | OTPA General Meeting
Chapman Chapel |
| September 1-3 | Orange International Street Fair |

www.OTPA.org

OTPA Hotline:
(714) 639-6840