

A Historian's History: The OC Archive's Chris Jepsen

For Chris Jepsen, his job is never the “same old, same old.” Jepsen, assistant archivist at the Orange County Archives, is surrounded by an accretion of aged leather-bound ledgers, assessor’s logs and other County artifacts. But thanks to other County agencies’ requests for information or those from the public, there’s always something new to discover.

“I love the fact that I arrive at this job every day never knowing what’s coming. I never know who’s going to walk through the door or call about what,” Chris says.

Jepsen joined the Archives 11 years ago, a dream job for a guy who got hooked on history in his high school days in Huntington Beach.

“For a photography project, I started shooting some of the older houses and buildings in town, and some owners would come out and talk to me about the history of their place. One suggested I talk to the city historian, and I ended up doing a lot of photography work for her.”

From that point on, he involved himself in other history projects around the county. It was all volunteer work as he pursued a career in public relations and marketing.

“I was doing that, sitting in a cubicle in Irvine, and learning to enjoy it less and less, when I got a call from the then-county archivist, Phil Brigandi,” Jepsen recalls of being asked to join the County staff. “I did not even ask how much it paid; I just said, ‘When do you need me?’ I’ve been here ever since.”



The OC Archives' Chris Jepsen holds an old Record of Survey volume. Historic County property records and other materials are preserved for future generations at the Archives, a division of the Clerk-Recorder Department.

This year, the work of the Archives is featured on the County website as Orange County celebrates its 125th birthday year. The County officially came into being on Aug. 1, 1889.

The Archives was created in 1984 by the Board of Supervisors to preserve County government history and records, as well as county history in general. County agencies call for help when they need a glimpse into the past to make decisions for the future. Some public requests come from those looking to trace their family genealogy or the geology of their neighboring hills, or wondering about the history of their home.

“People generally think of archives in a university setting, a hands-off, hard-to-access, hushed-tone place where you have to know exactly what you want and how to ask for it. Here, we belong to the people of Orange County,” he says. “Some

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people walk in here unable to articulate what they're looking for, and we try to help them figure it out."

Surprisingly, Chris isn't much of a collector, insisting, "I'm not that interested in old things per se. But if there's a story that goes with it, *that's* what I want. History is digging out the story behind things. It's kind of like detective work."

Some things he's learned surprised him.

"For one thing, we're *not* named for orange groves," he says, debunking a common myth. "There was no commercial citrus production here when the county was breaking away from LA County in the 1870s. There were a lot of names tossed around-- Anaheim County was one-- but they settled on Orange because in those days citrus was kind of exotic and was almost a shorthand for the Mediterranean paradise that California was advertised to be. It's only later that growers realized, 'Hey, this *is* a great Mediterranean climate for growing oranges.'"

Another surprise came researching the early days of the County hospital. "When it outgrew

the house it was started in, they found a perfect location in Santa Ana, with lots of small rooms and a lobby up front. It turns out it was a brothel. The county cut a deal with the Madame-- a woman named Glass-Eyed Molly—who stipulated that they had to set aside a room so her father--named Mysterious Bill--could continue to live there until he expired. We hadn't expected to find that story," he says with a chuckle.

Most of the Archives' countless documents, and over a million photographs and other items reside in the Old County Courthouse, which opened in 1901. Though it's an effort fitting everything in, Chris says, "This is where all the old county records started out."

Away from work, Chris' chief pastimes still involve history. He's president of the Orange County History Society; he writes the OC History Roundup blog, and pens a monthly Ask the OC Answer Man column for Orange Coast magazine. Other than that, he says, "I like photography, and I like to go hiking in the back country, but even then I always have an eye out for the history of a place." ■

County Organizations E-ducate About a New "E-diction"

Youths tend to embrace new technologies quicker than parents, and electronic cigarettes have been no exception. "Our high schools and middle schools are flooded with e-cigarettes, while a lot of parents haven't figured out what they are or if they're a good or bad thing," says Sgt. Mike Pixomatis of the Orange County Sheriff's Department. "Our purpose is to give them the facts they need to make an informed decision."

Toward that end, the Sheriff's Department partnered with the OC Department of Education, OC Health Care Agency and other organizations to present a series of talks around the county in March titled "Electronic Cigarettes, the New 'E-diction'."



Orange County Sheriff's Deputy Clay Cranford illustrates some of types of electronic cigarettes, which use a heating element to turn a liquid, usually nicotine, into an inhalable vapor.

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E-cigs, also called vapes, range from the size and shape of a cigarette to larger, hookah-like devices. All use a heating element to turn a liquid into an inhalable vapor. They are most typically used as a nicotine delivery system, providing a chemical rush without combustion smoke, leading some to claim it is a safer alternative. Other e-cigs uses range from the seemingly innocuous practice of vaporizing liquid flavor mixtures—such as “bubble gum” or “lemon meringue pie”—to using the devices with hash oil or other drugs. Since the vapor doesn’t carry the way smoke does, their use can be hard to detect. Some are even shaped like asthma inhalers to further disguise their use.

“One of the appeals of e-cigs is that kids like to feel they’re putting one over on their teachers and parents. We’ve had tips about kids using them in the back of classrooms, and recharging them via school computer USB ports,” drug liaison officer Deputy Clay Cranford told the audience at a Lake Forest “E-diction” event.

While actual cigarette use has long been on the wane on campuses, e-cigs have “become a huge issue for all of the 27 school districts we support,” says Stacy Deeble-Reynolds, prevention coordinator for the OC Department of Education. “Nationally, e-cig use by minors doubled between 2011 and 2012, and it’s continuing to trend that way.” Orange County in particular is a hub for the vaping industry, with shops locally averaging 11% higher sales than other parts of the state.

Deeble-Reynolds said e-cigs’ popularity raises numerous concerns. Regardless of the delivery system, nicotine raises the heart rate and blood pressure, and it remains one of the most addictive substances. Concentrated, as it is in the cartridges that feed e-cigs, it is a potent neurotoxin. The New York Times recently reported 355 cases of e-cig mishaps resulting in hospitalization, with many of those being infants poisoned by exposure to the cartridges.



Stacy Deeble-Reynolds, prevention coordinator with the OC Department of Education, discusses the popularity of e-cigarettes.

HCA’s deputy health officer, Dr. Helene Calvet, addressed other concerns about e-cigs during the Lake Forest presentation. The industry is presently unregulated, she said, so there is no control over the concentration or purity of the nicotine. Lead and other metals have turned up in the vapor. The liquids used to suspend the nicotine or flavor agents are typically propylene glycol or glycerol, both approved for eating but unstudied as inhalants.

It is a misdemeanor to sell e-cigs to minors, but that hasn’t proved much of an impediment, OCSD’s Cranford said. Kids buy e-cigs off the street, online using a parent’s credit card, and some parents even buy them for their teens, assuming the devices to be harmless because celebrities tout them as safe.

Parents aren’t the only ones in the dark. Another “E-diction” participant, Sheriff’s Deputy Brian Gunsolley, said law enforcement has been given little direction regarding e-cigs because laws are directed toward tobacco products.

“We’re not saying that electronic cigarettes are bad or that they shouldn’t be out there, because that hasn’t been proven yet,” Gunsolley said. “But there are a lot of safety issues with them, particularly for children. It’s still nicotine, still nicotine addiction, and it’s still training kids’ minds to smoke. There are things parents and kids need to know. That’s what we’re here for.”

County Experiences Measles Outbreak

Orange County is currently experiencing an unprecedented increase in measles cases. With 22 measles cases confirmed so far this year, it is the most reported by any county in California. By comparison, the average cases-per-year over the last five years was less than one.

Five of the 22 cases have been children, none of them immunized. Five have been healthcare workers who became ill after exposure to measles cases.

All County employees are being asked to review their status of immunity against measles in order to protect themselves and to prevent potential exposure to their families if they were to develop measles. The Health Care Agency expects that the measles outbreak will continue to spread, and reminds the public that the best way to prevent the measles is by getting vaccinated.

Measles is a highly contagious and potentially severe disease that causes fever, rash, cough, and red, watery eyes. Measles spreads very easily by air and by direct contact with an infected person. People are contagious

from approximately four days before the rash appears through four days after the rash appears. Anyone suspecting they have measles should CALL their medical provider BEFORE arriving at the medical office to avoid exposing others to the measles virus.

You are considered immune to measles if you fit into one of the following groups:

- Have documentation of two doses of MMR (at least 28 days apart).
- Have laboratory evidence of immunity -- physician-confirmed diagnosis of prior measles is not considered as evidence of immunity.

Those who are uncertain if they are immune should contact their health care provider, and ask them to check your respective medical records. The MMR vaccine is widely available from medical providers throughout Orange County. Additional information can be found at www.ocaliforniahealthinfo.org.

Thanks to all employees for their attention to this important matter. ■

Unveiling of OC Crime Victims' Monument Design Set for April 12

Supervisor Todd Spitzer encourages everyone to visit William R. Mason Regional Park in Irvine on Saturday, April 12, at 10 a.m. for the unveiling of the winning design selected for the OC Crime Victims' Monument, to be built at the park.

"Victims' rights are civil rights, and the level of interest from designers from around the world is a huge statement of how victimization is an issue that affects all walks of life," Supervisor Spitzer said. "The Crime Victims' Monument serves to pay tribute to all crime victims and those touched by crime while providing a feature that complements the landscape of the park."

Speakers at the April 12 program, held in conjunction with National Crime Victims' Rights Week, include Orange County Sheriff Sandra Hutchens; Monique Jackson, representing victims of sexual assault; advocate Erin Runnion speaking about crimes against children; and Paul Wilson, representing families of homicide victims.

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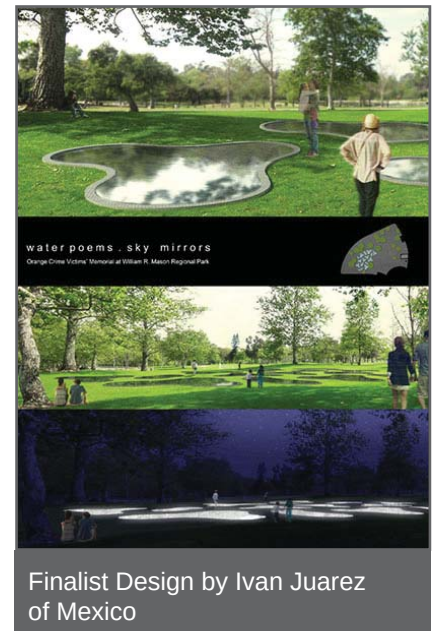
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The design contest was announced in April 2013. There were 59 entries submitted by the September 30 deadline. A judging panel selected five finalist designs, which were then revealed in November by Supervisor Spitzer.

The finalists provided more detailed designs that were displayed at the Old County Courthouse, where the public could vote there or online for their favorite. Public comments were accepted online and in person as well during the viewing period.

The judging panel selected the final design for the monument. The winning design will be announced at Mason Regional Park immediately following the Crime Survivors 5K Run/Walk, all part of National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Mason Regional Park is at 18712 University Drive, Irvine, CA 92612. The event and parking are free. You can find more information at www.ocparks.com/about/projects. ■



County's Defined Contribution Program Wins International Award

The County's Defined Contribution Program, also referred to as the O.N.E. Program (for Orange Nest Egg), has been recognized with a Platinum Award by the MarCom Awards for 2013.

The MarCom Awards is an international competition for marketing and communications professionals, honoring excellence and creativity related to the concept, writing and design of print, visual, audio and web materials and programs.

The O.N.E. program is administered by Great-West Retirement Services and provides employees tools and resources to help them build their retirement nest egg. The O.N.E. Program makes it easy to save by allowing employees to automatically have before-tax contributions deducted from paychecks. Employees can decide how much to contribute and what investment options to select, when contributions can start and end, if they should change and whether to increase or decrease contribution amounts.

The O.N.E. Program not only provides an opportunity to save for retirement but also

provides tax benefits that can add up over time. The program offers a variety of tools and resources, including investment planning consultations, managed account services, on-site educational presentations, in person consultations and a variety of on-line tools and resources.

"We are honored that the O.N.E. Program has been acknowledged by this prestigious group of professionals," Chief Human Resources Officer Steve Danley said. "We encourage every employee to investigate how the program can help them enhance their retirement planning."

Winners of the MarCom Awards receive well-deserved recognition and validation of their efforts from veterans in an industry organization with a reputation for fairness, consistency and timelessness. Other winners are listed on the MarCom Awards website at <http://marcomawards.com/winners/>

For more information about the O.N.E. Program, go to www.countyoforangedcplan.com. To work directly with a Great-West representative, call (866) 457-2254 or (714) 834-6765. ■

A Focus on Aging Well at the South County Senior Summit

On March 21, 5th District Supervisor Patricia Bates hosted an audience of more than 700 guests at the 7th Annual South County Senior Summit. Organized in collaboration with the Orange County Office on Aging, Age Well Senior Services and Laguna Woods Village—where the event was held-- the program was titled, "Are You Prepared to Age-in-Place?" The three-hour event offered information and advice on how best to age on one's own terms in one's own home.

It is a subject of growing importance, as the ranks of the county's seniors continue to swell: The number of Orange County residents aged 60 and older is anticipated to be 685,337 by 2020, a 56% jump over the 2005 benchmark of 437,972 seniors.

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Supervisor Patricia Bates and Karen Roper, director of the OC Community Services, speak to about 700 guests at the 7th Annual South County Senior Summit last month at Laguna Woods Village in Laguna Woods.

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An expert panel of speakers addressed the subject from a variety of perspectives, ranging from finances to health care. Speakers included Nora Eisenhower, Assistant Director of the Office of Financial Protection for Older Americans; Dr. Laura Mosqueda, Associate Dean of Family Medicine, UCI; Lisa Gibson, Registered Dietician, Age Well Senior Services; Dr. Marilyn Ditty, Chief Executive Officer, Age Well Senior Services; and Karen Roper, Director of OC Community Services. ■

The Central Orange County Job Fair Gets the Job Done



Eager job applicants line up to meet potential employers at the 3rd Annual Central Orange County Job Fair.

The 3rd Annual Central Orange County Job Fair was hosted by 1st District Supervisor Janet Nguyen on March 19 at the Fountain Valley Recreation Center. It attracted 960 potential employees, resumes in hand, there to meet 41 employers looking to fill 1,300 job positions. The major employers present included Kaiser Permanente, Schools First Credit Union and the County of Orange.

Job seekers were given a free resume critique and an opportunity to interface with employment experts from the Orange County Workforce Investment Board. The initial results of the job fair were impressive: 239 prospective employees were designated as potential hires or were asked for second interviews. ■

Get the 411 on OC Public Libraries

- **Celebrate literature!** Literary Orange is Orange County's premier literary event, bringing authors, readers and libraries together for a celebration of literature. Literary Orange 2014 will feature keynote speakers Ann Hood and Marlo Thomas, along with 15 panel discussion sessions featuring authors covering a variety of genres.
- **We'll show you how!** Library staff taught more than 3,000 people how to download free eBooks and use their electronic devices at eReader Open Houses. At OC Public Libraries you can find downloadable books for just about everyone, Pre-K to Adults, and material in various languages, including Spanish and Chinese.
- **Download popular magazines!** The library offers Zinio, an online magazine service allowing card-holding library patrons to download popular magazines to computers and e-devices including Apple and Android devices.
- **Get ready for summertime reading!** More than 32,400 kids, teens, and adults signed up for OC Public Libraries' Summer Reading Program in 2013. Did you know that participants often return to summer library programs in successive years, which help children build reading into their summer routine?
- **Want to make a difference?** An estimated 23% of adults in Orange County do not read and write well enough to meet their needs as family members, workers and member of the community. YOU CAN HELP! Whether you want to become a volunteer or get help with reading and writing, there are many ways to get involved with READ/OC. Together, we can create a more literate Orange County!

To learn more about OC Public Libraries, please visit <http://ocgov.com/gov/occr/lib/>



Blood Drive

Thursday, April 17, 2014

9:00 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Bloodmobile

OC Hall of Administration

333 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana

Please sign up online at redcrossblood.org and enter Sponsor Code: OC1

All participants will receive a Buy One Get One FREE Sub from Quizno's, a voucher for 2 tickets to an LA Galaxy game (\$20 processing fee), 2 discounted tickets to select LA Kings Hockey games and 2 complimentary VIP tickets to the Laugh Factory!

For any questions, please contact Tricia Landquist at tlandquist@ochca.com

American Red Cross

Visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS today to schedule an appointment.

Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental permission in some states), meet weight and height requirements (110 pounds or more, depending on their height), and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. Please bring your Red Cross blood donor card or other form of positive ID when you come to donate. ©The American National Red Cross 2013 | APLORS 2141



Service Awards

For the Month of March

35 YEARS

Ines L. Lozano
Human Resource Services

Donald G. Singer
Sheriff-Coroner

30 YEARS

Melvalois Gipson
County Executive Office

Susana R. Ontiveros
Health Care Agency

Jay Hanson
Sheriff-Coroner

Philip A. Stoughton
Sheriff-Coroner

Melinda L. Luu
Social Services Agency

Stephen C. Schrieber-Smith
Social Services Agency

Jorge L. Sole
Social Services Agency

Rachel R. Cortez Najares
Social Services Agency

Richard B. Young
Social Services Agency

Lieu N. Le
Social Services Agency

Elliott A. Bubis
Social Services Agency

25 YEARS

Earl R. McManus
Assessor

Patricia M. Sanchez
Child Support Services

Raymond S. Armstrong
District Attorney

Toishe Merida
Employees Retirement System

Elsa R. Amezcua
Health Care Agency

Asuncion Vergara
Health Care Agency

Lance Malis
Health Care Agency

Mansour Katany
OC Community Resources

Sandra J. Hughley
OC Community Resources

Carlton L. Lindsey
OC Community Resources

Robert B. Hardwick
OC Public Works

Raymond A. Marcial
OC Public Works

Meynardo A. Sanchez
OC Public Works

Gary M. Johnson
Sheriff-Coroner

Timothy J. Keller
Sheriff-Coroner

Kim-Lien T. Cao
Social Services Agency

Lucina I. Montalvo
Social Services Agency

Charles J. Rambo
Social Services Agency

Cynthia E. Samson
Social Services Agency

Jeanne Slomanson
Social Services Agency

Sylvia L. Vuong
Social Services Agency

Sherrill E. Williams
Social Services Agency

Kathy E. Cortez
Social Services Agency

Kimberly M. Holland
Social Services Agency

Elizabeth L. Ortiz
Social Services Agency

Lien Pham
Social Services Agency

20 YEARS

Maria Teresa Ledesma
Auditor-Controller

Delia Murillo
Child Support Services

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20 YEARS CONTINUED

Maria R. Murphy
Child Support Services

Jose F. Aguilar
Child Support Services

Alicia Araujo
Clerk-Recorder

Cherie T. Pua
Clerk-Recorder

Eugene U. Corral
Health Care Agency

Lynn M. Einarsson Woods
Health Care Agency

My-Thuc N. Crisanto
Health Care Agency

Laurence J. Obaid
Health Care Agency

Kristen E. Clevenger
Health Care Agency

Barbara L. Rocha
Health Care Agency

Lisa C. Babilonia
Community Resources

Damon A. Bland
Probation

David L. Godinez
Probation

Edgar E. McKnight
Probation

Ivy S. Rodriguez
Probation

Enrique Braganza
Probation

Dana D. Chilecki
Sheriff-Coroner

Jerry W. Culp
Sheriff-Coroner

Barbara Granite
Sheriff-Coroner

Mihaela M. Mihai
Sheriff-Coroner

Tupou M. Prescott-Onodera
Sheriff-Coroner

Wendell W. Frye
Sheriff-Coroner

Rosa M. Cantu
Social Services Agency

Sandra L. Corona
Social Services Agency

Ana M. Garcia
Social Services Agency

Kibreab G. Ghede
Social Services Agency

Jose Gomez
Social Services Agency

Charles Ott
Social Services Agency

Silvia Pardo
Social Services Agency

Georgetta Vlad
Social Services Agency

COUNTY OF ORANGE

MISSION STATEMENT

"Making Orange County a safe, healthy,
and fulfilling place to live, work, and play,
today and for generations to come, by providing
outstanding, cost-effective regional public services."

Click [here](#) to read the full mission and values statement.

CONTACT US

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