

Author Mike Heywood Explores the Life of Walter Knott

Local historian and Museum Society board member Mike Heywood will examine the life and career of Walter Knott in a presentation at our upcoming Annual Meeting. The meeting takes place on November 14 at 11:45 a.m. in the third floor exhibit gallery at the Old Courthouse Museum. All are invited. The purchase of a lunch is optional.

Walter Knott grew up in Pomona. But he enjoyed his first success as a farmer in Buena Park. He nursed several abandoned berry plants back to health. The resulting berries, named for an Anaheim farmer named Rudolf Boysen, became a huge hit. The Knott family

sold Boysenberries, preserves and pies from a roadside stand. In 1934, Knott's wife, Cordelia, began serving fried chicken dinners, and within a few years the lines outside the restaurant were often several hours long.

To help entertain the patrons who were waiting, Knott built a ghost town in 1940 with buildings he collected from the West. This was the nucleus of the theme park we know today.

A graduate of CSULA, our speak-

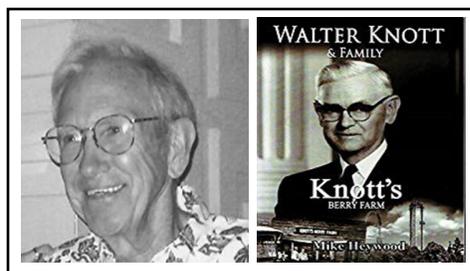
er Mike Heywood has lived in Orange County for almost fifty years. Mike's lifelong fascination with Knott's Berry Farm began with his first visit to the park in the mid-fifties. Many people flocked to enjoy Cordelia's chicken dinners and berry pies. His extensive research on the Knott family is reflected in his recent book Walter Knott and Family, Knott's Berry Farm. Mike Heywood has written a number of local history books that are available on Amazon.com.

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Join Us For the Museum Society's Fall Lunch and Lecture



Walter Knott and Family

Presented by Mike Heywood

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

11:45 a.m.

Old Orange County Courthouse, Third Floor

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings: This last year we made great progress in our efforts to reach out to the community at large. With the infusion of new board members, who possess great enthusiasm, we moved ahead in a number of areas. Joseph Bahash is chairing our Essay Contest Committee. Our Awards Program held in May now offers a \$1,000.00 scholarship for the best essay submitted through Junior Achievement. This is a \$500.00 increase over previous years. The Artistic Renderings awards program available to students enrolled in the Orange County School of the Arts now offers 8 scholarships - up from 6. This provides an equal opportunity for students enrolled in either the drawing or the painting classes in either the fall or the spring semesters.

Mike Heywood has put us on the internet at www.oldcourthousemuseumociety.org. Mike is also working with a travel agency and the staff at the Waffle House to establish joint tours of both facilities for senior citizens. This will bring more people to the Old Courthouse – one of our goals.

Finally Marshall Duell has become our newsletter editor. This has reduced the load on the president. In conclusion, I want to thank all of our board members for their efforts and look forward to more progress in 2019.

One event of particular interest to me is the upcoming restoration of the artillery pieces in front of the building. The oldest one is a famous French 75mm. This gun was put into production in 1897. It had several advanced features for the day including a recoil system which

kept the gun from jumping out of position when fired. Fixed ammunition and a sliding breech block for more rapid firing – easily 10 rounds per minute. Over 21,000 guns were produced and it served, with modifications to the carriage, as the main artillery piece in the US Army until WW II.

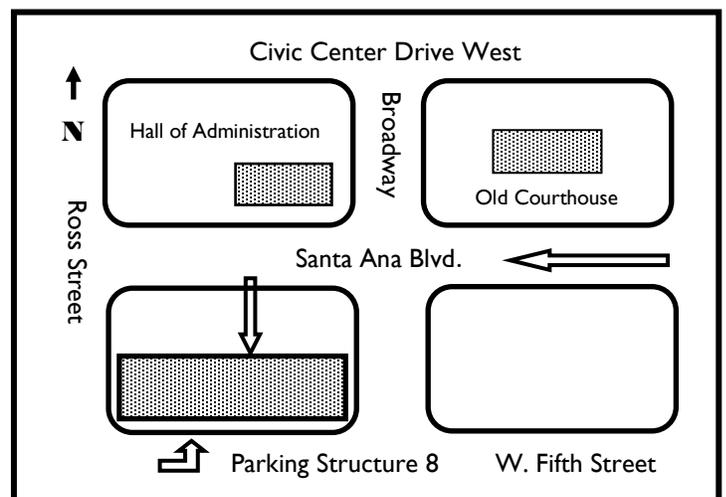
The second piece is a 75mm pack howitzer designed to replace the 1899 Vickers purchased for use in the Philippines. Designed in 1923 and standardized by the Marine Corps in 1930. Its greatest asset was that it could be broken down and moved in pieces and reassembled in a field environment. Also, when assembled it could be moved by manpower alone without the need for a motor vehicle. Over 8,500 were produced.

Regards,
John Sorenson

PARKING

Parking is available for the November 14 meeting at Parking Structure 8, which is located at 405 W. Fifth Street in downtown Santa Ana. It is accessible from Santa Ana Blvd. or Fifth Street. Guest parking is available on the ground level. A door on the NE corner will allow you to exit on to Broadway. The Old Courthouse is a short walk away.

Parking validation for Parking Structure 8 only is available in the Old Courthouse.



JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT/OCMS ESSAY CONTEST

The following essay was written by Ashley Nguyen, the winner of our sixth annual Jr. Achievement/OCMS Essay Contest. The Museum Society proudly presented Ashley with a \$1000 scholarship in May 2018.

To a resident, a city is much more than a place where people live in. It is much more than the buildings that occupy it. It is much more than some land floating on the ocean. While it can be described in many ways, one particular synonym for a city is "hometown." The word, hometown, brings so much more connotation to the meaning of the word. In the word, one can see the word, "home." The meaning and depth behind that word describes the warmth, safety, identity, belonging, and a million other phrases that one can associate with "home." To me, Huntington Beach is my hometown.

Huntington Beach received its name through Henry E. Huntington in 1909. The "Beach" portion of the name originates from the city being so close to the beach and ocean. In its beginning stages, Huntington Beach was mostly used for agricultural purposes. At one point in history, land was being given away for free, or for multiple lots at a cheap price. The new land owners practically struck gold when oil was discovered underneath, and that began the boom and popularity of Huntington Beach.

Personally, I believe one of our city's most popular traits is our residents' charitable and volunteer efforts. We have thriving volunteer and non-profit organizations in Huntington Beach that all strive to help improve our community. This is very per-

sonal to me because I've been heavily involved in these services through my club, KIWIN'S. With our connections to Kiwanis, I've been able to be completely immersed in our community, as helping out is a passion of mine. One notable event is Shop for HOPE, where Kiwanis sponsors kids in need to buy supplies during Christmas time. Students, adults, and community members alike are all so fortunate with the efforts residents make in order to keep our community thriving through their own time, hard work, and efforts.

Despite the positives of my city, there are always things that could be improved in our community. Throughout my experiences with a variety of areas around my hometown, one thing I've wished is that there was more focus on the maintenance of parks. For example, some parks' equipment are run down and in need of updates. Trash and disposal is a problem at parks as well. Sometimes they get overfilled quickly, or they aren't emptied enough. While an all-inclusive playground being made on the beach, we have so many other parks that need love and care. These are places children and family go to in order to strengthen their bonds or even meet new friends in the community. As an important aspect of the city, this is one of my wishes to see improve.

At the end of the day, change can happen. All that needs to be done is to be instigated by one person. I plan and hope I can help make a change and impact on my hometown. In order to do this, I want to be invested and a part of the community, being part of community service

 **Annual Meeting Lunch Reservation Form**

Please indicate the number and variety of your lunch selection (s) from the choices listed below.

Beef: _____ Ham: _____ Turkey: _____ for a cost of \$ 10.00 each.

Enclose checks payable to OCMS. Museum Society luncheon is on November 14, 2018.

Deadline for reservations/luncheon selection is November 9, 2018.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Please mail to John Sorenson. Treasurer | 4932 Gainford Circle, Irvine, CA 92604-2361



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Old Courthouse Museum Society

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Visit us online at
www.oldcourthousemuseumsociety.org
and on Facebook.



OCMS Membership Application

Name: _____

Street: _____

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Membership Categories

Individual: \$10.00 Annually Family: \$15.00 Annually
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Life Membership: \$250.00

Please make check payable to: **Old Courthouse Museum Society (OCMS)** and send to:

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