

Neighborhoodscan

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News from all around town

Fullerton News Tribune

Nov. 8, 2001

BORETTUM

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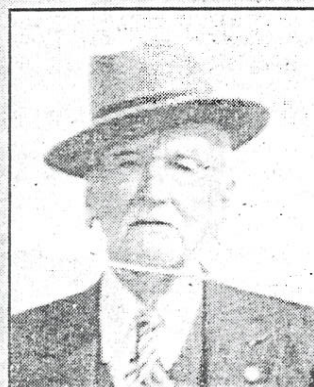
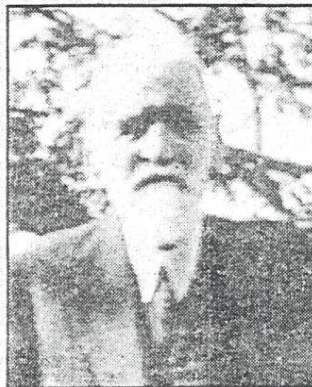
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Photos from GAR records in the Launer Local History Room, Fullerton Public Library

CIVIL WAR VETERANS: The banner of the local chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic sits between Frederick Stuelke (left) and William Crandall.

Veterans of civil strife

This 14th day of October 1942 marks the end of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic."

Thus reads the first sentence in a history of the GAR, spelling an end to a 56-year existence in north Orange County, all but five of that with headquarters in Fullerton.

Post 131 of the GAR, a Civil War Union veterans' organization, was formed in Anaheim with 20 members on Sept. 17, 1886. It moved to Fullerton on April 25, 1891.

The first post commander was Alexander McDermont, an 1882 pioneer who was later instrumental in developing the downtown area and forming the high school district.

The stories of the post's members relate to major elements of U.S. History. Here are some examples:

William Burton Crandall, then 94, was called the last living Union veteran when introduced at that final meeting in 1942. After being wounded in battle, President Abraham Lincoln "stood at his bedside and asked, 'How old are you?'" When Crandall replied that he was 14, Lincoln reportedly responded, "I didn't know babies were fighting this war." Then the president "ordered Crandall's immediate and honorable discharge."

Frederick Stuelke died at the age of 93 on Dec. 15, 1938, at his home, 311 N. Balcom Ave. after falling ill while returning from a

Civil War veterans reunion at Gettysburg, Pa. He was on the scene at the siege of Vicksburg and joined (Gen. William T.) Sherman's army on its "march to the sea." Seriously wounded in battle at Tupelo, Miss., he was left in the field for dead and was captured by Confederate soldiers. He survived imprisonment at the Andersonville, S.C. prison until war's end.

Juan de la Guerra was born in 1847, a son of the Alcalde (mayor) of Santa Barbara. "In 1863 he became a sergeant in the only company of Spanish Californians to enlist in the Civil War" and, after service, was journal clerk of the state Senate and clerk of the Assembly from 1866-1869. Married to Ramona Yorba in 1896, he served as commander of the post in 1938 and died in 1940.

J.W. Edwards resided in Fullerton at 138 E. Glenwood Ave. He enlisted in the Union Army in May 1861 and saw action in 36 engagements, being wounded three times and then nursed by Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross. He later served as sergeant of the guard at the prison where the Lincoln conspirators were confined.

These are a few stories from the annals of the Fullerton GAR, where the final log entry signed by secretary Mona Shay Tannar, read: "No further business. Post Closed."

— Bob Ziebell

(Charter GAR members listed/Page 6)

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RAYMONI

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Additional Fullert
bers include Ann Pat
Parrish and Jobi Har

dinator, said it's becoming
more difficult to recruit and
retain principals and vice principals
because of the complexity
and pressures of their jobs.

"All the research on school
reform and raising academic
standards points to the importance
of having school leaders
focus on improving education."

Sheri Childers was sorting
through a box of genealogy
books she received from her
aunt's estate and found a year-
book from Fullerton Union
High School.

The 1938 issue belonged to
Dale Gilfry, who graduated
with the Class of 1939.

"The book is falling apart

use the book. I'm only asking
the cost of shipping."

Information: 704-3762.

JACARANDA

There's no generation gap
for Tracey O'Sullivan and
Naomi Freidrich, who were
best friends growing up in Ful-
lerton



JACK E. HANCOCK
Fullerton News Tribune

The council indicated remaining funds be used to start roadway and circulation improvements before considering pond and fountain restorations.

City Engineer Bob Hodson said that although the reconstruction of the reservoir at the top of the park affects the priorities, work won't begin until 2003-2004. He said the three water rate increases previously approved were sufficient to cover any bond debt.

Considering other park improvements, Hunt said residents want less parking in the park's interior and more perimeter parking.

"I would not support increased traffic in the park," Flory said. "It's a 1940s park that has charisma."

Councilman Chris Norby disagreed.

"We don't want that memorial on Harbor messed with."

MARILYN HARRIS
Resident

"People experience parks in different ways," he said. "There should be more traffic. The park's lonely and wants people back like in the 40s and 50s when there were large groups of picnickers."

An estimated \$4.9 million will be needed at a later date to complete the upper picnic area, Izaak Walton picnic plaza, bowl and trail improvements, interpretive signage and erosion control, Hunt said.

Nature preserve named for Robert E. Ward

By **BARBARA GIASONE**
Fullerton News Tribune

An impassioned request by Fullerton resident Chris Heusser on behalf of a citizens' committee helped convince the City Council Tuesday to rename the West Coyote Hills Nature Preserve in honor of former Mayor Robert E. Ward.

The 73-acre site, now owned by Chevron on land west of Euclid Street in the West Coyote Hills, has been earmarked for a nature preserve with plans for an interpretive center, habitat restoration, interpretive signage and trails.

Heusser stressed that Ward

had vigilantly monitored developments and open space in the east and west Coyote Hills for the past 21 years. Nearly 25 supporters in the audience agreed that Ward continues to work toward protecting the "fragile ecosystem" in the city.

Only Councilman Chris Norby opposed the name change, indicating the city should set a policy to name streets, parks and other developments only for people who are deceased.

"I would vote for the item if Coyote Hills Nature Preserve was part of the name," Norby

► See **COUNCIL**, Page 7

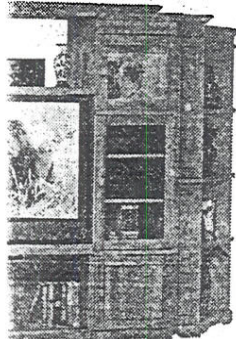
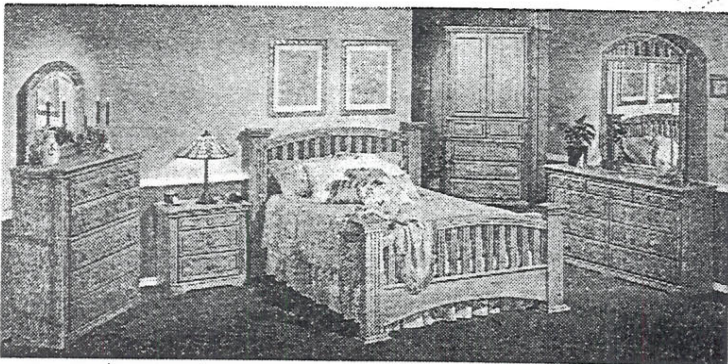
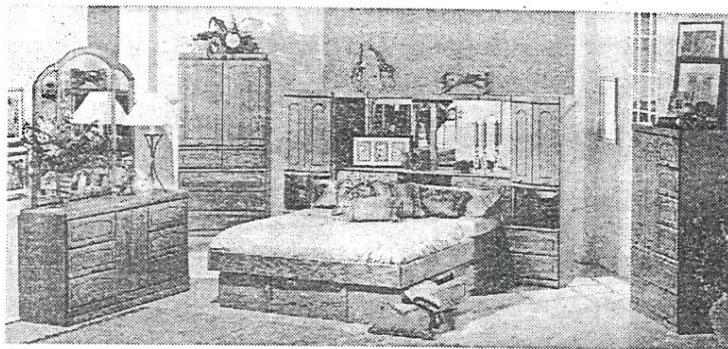
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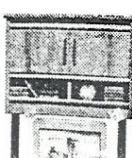
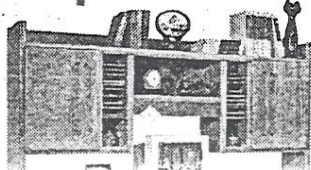
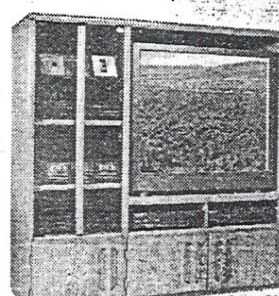
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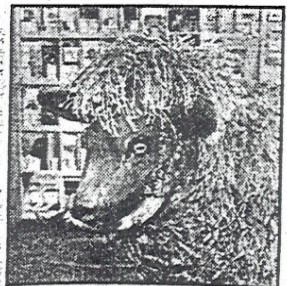


Illustrations shown are examples only, (we never know what we'll have, that's the fun of it!)

Charter members of GAR Post 131

The 20 charter members of Malvern Hill Post 131 of the Grand Army of the Republic, — formed from Union Army Civil War veterans in Anaheim in 1886 and moved to Fullerton in 1891 — were:

Alexander McDermont
Erwin Barr
John B. McCullough
Daniel B. Gray
Henry c. Gade
Samuel S. Woods
Alonzo V. Howard
George W. Sponable
William A. Witte
Rev. George A. Irvin
Delos Morton
Charles Baker
William A. Packard
T.K. McDowell
Peter A. Schumacher
A.E. White
W. H. Hounson
Benjamin F. Land
A.E. Hendricks
Frank S. Wallace



JACK E. HANCOCK
Fullerton News Tribune