An Orange County CHRONOLOGY (1769-present)

1769 First Spanish expedition crosses Orange County, led by Capt. Gaspar de Portolá. They pass several native village sites and perform the first baptisms in California.

1776 Mission San Juan Capistrano founded.

1778 Mission San Juan Capistrano is moved to its current site.

1781 Los Angeles is founded. It would be remain the seat of local government until Orange County broke away in 1889.

1784 Manuel Nieto granted grazing rights between the Santa Ana and San Gabriel Rivers; the first private rancho in Orange County.

1801 Juan Pablo Grijalva given permission to establish a rancho south and east of the Santa Ana River; later granted to his heirs, the Yorba and Peralta families, as the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana.

1806 Great Stone Church at Mission San Juan Capistrano is dedicated after nine years of construction; destroyed by earthquake, 1812.

1821 Mexico gains independence from Spain; California becomes a Mexican territory.

1825 Severe flooding changes the course of the Santa Ana River.

1834 Secularization of the missions begins opening more land to be granted as ranchos.

1837 Rancho San Joaquin granted to José Sepulveda; later becomes the core of the Irvine Ranch.

1845 Juan Forster is granted Rancho Mission Viejo.

1846 California captured by the United States during the early weeks of the Mexican War; formally ceded in 1848 by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

1848 Gold discovered at Sutter's Mill; the gold rush creates a huge market for cattle from the local ranchos.

1850 California admitted to the Union as the 31st state. Los Angeles County formed; includes what is now Orange County.

1857 Anaheim founded as a co-operative farming colony; first settlers arrive in 1859.

1863 Two-year drought begins, devastating local cattle ranches.

1864 Anaheim Landing established on Alamitos Bay.

1864 Flint, Bixby & Co. (including partner James Irvine) buy two old Mexican ranchos and a part of third for a sheep ranch. Becomes the Irvine Ranch when Irvine buys out his partners in 1876.

1868 Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana partitioned among the Yorba and Peralta heirs and other owners. Several new towns soon founded.

1868 Stearns Ranchos west of the Santa Ana River placed on the market, opening that area to settlement. Other new towns soon follow.

1869 Santa Ana founded by William Spurgeon.

1870 Tustin founded by Columbus Tustin.

1870 Rev. Lemuel P. Webber founds Westminster.

1870 First attempt to form a separate county to be known as Anaheim County; passed the State Assembly but died in committee in the State Senate.

1870 First local orange trees planted; first English walnut trees planted.

1870 First local newspaper, the Anaheim Gazette, founded.

1870 First commercial vessel enters Newport Bay.

1871 Orange founded by Alfred Chapman and Andrew Glassell. The town was originally known as Richland, but was renamed in 1873.

1875 Southern Pacific railroad builds branch line from Los Angeles to Anaheim; extended to Santa Ana in 1877.

1878 Mining boom at Silverado.

1882 The first successful oil well in Orange County was drilled near the junction of Brea Canyon and Tonner Canyon.

1886 Mysterious disease begins to sweep through local vineyards, devastating local wine and raisin industry.

1887 Santa Fe Railroad arrives: real estate boom.

1887 Fullerton and Buena Park founded.

1888 Original Newport Beach Wharf built by the McFadden brothers.

1889 Orange County formed out of the southern third of Los Angeles County; Santa Ana selected as county seat.

1891 First successful celery crop in Orange County.

1893 Southern California Fruit Exchange (Sunkist) formed; citrus becoming major local crop.

1896 Sugar beet factory built at Los Alamitos.

- 1897 James Irvine donates Irvine Park to the County.
- 1901 Huntington Beach founded; originally known as Pacific City. Renamed in 1903.
- 1901 Old Orange County Courthouse dedicated.
- 1903 Brea founded; originally known as Randolph.
- 1904 Pacific Electric's "big red cars" reach Orange County, and extend down the coast towards Newport Beach. Santa Ana line opened in 1905. Line to Yorba Linda was completed in 1911.
- 1905 Cypress and Stanton founded.
- 1906 Balboa Ferry begins service.
- 1907 The Newbert Protection District is formed to help control the unpredictable Santa Ana River.
- 1908 The Trabuco Canyon Reserve is designated the Cleveland National Forest.
- 1910 First airplane flight in Orange County, built and flown by Glenn L. Martin of Santa Ana.
- 1913 Fullerton Junior College founded; now oldest in the state.
- 1913 First Fuerte avocado grove planted in Yorba Linda.
- 1914 Orange County Hospital and Poor Farm opens.
- 1916 The Joy Zone amusement park opens at Seal Beach.
- 1917 1,600 residents from Orange County enter the military for World War I.
- 1919 Orange County Historical Society founded.
- 1919 Orange County Free Library established.
- 1920 First oil well brought in at Huntington Beach.
- 1920 Knott family moves to Buena Park to go into the berry business.
- 1922 R. M. Schindler begins construction of the Lovell Beach House on the Balboa Peninsula, introducing European Modern architecture to the United States.
- 1925 San Clemente founded by Ole Hanson.
- 1926 Pacific Coast Highway opens.
- 1927 Orange County Flood Control District formed.
- 1929 Santiago Orange Growers Association in Orange ships over 820,000 crates of Valencia Oranges,

becoming the largest Valencia packing house in the United States.

1931 Santiago Dam built, forming Irvine Lake.

1933 Long Beach Earthquake causes serious damage and loss of life in several Orange County communities.

1935 First Pageant of the Masters in Laguna Beach.

1936 Newport Harbor is dedicated following an extensive dredging program.

1938 Serious flooding, loss of life and property damage throughout much of Orange County.

1941 Orange County Airport opens.

1942 With the start of World War II, the Santa Ana Army Air Base, Los Alamitos Naval Air Station, and other military installations are established in Orange County.

1942 Local Japanese Americans sent to internment camps.

1943 Lighter-Than-Air blimp base in Tustin and El Toro Marine Corps base established.

1947 Case of Mendez v Westminster forces desegregation of California schools.

1948 Orange Coast College opens on the site of the former Santa Ana Army Air Base.

1951 Municipal Water District of Orange County formed.

1952 Los Alamitos race track opens.

1953 Boy Scouts of America hold their third National Jamboree on land provided by The Irvine Company near Newport Beach.

1954 Chapman College moves from Los Angeles to Orange.

1955 Disneyland opens.

1958 Hughes Aircraft Co. opens Orange County's first major aerospace plant in Fullerton.

1959 Classes begin at Orange County State College (now California State University, Fullerton).

1961 Seal Beach Leisure World founded. Laguna Hills Leisure World follows in 1964.

1963 Orange County's population passes one million.

1964 University of California, Irvine dedicated. Opens for classes in 1965.

1966 Anaheim stadium opens.

1967 South Coast Plaza opens in Costa Mesa.

1969 Yorba Linda native Richard M. Nixon inaugurated as President of the United States.

1971 First section of Dana Point Harbor opens.

1975 After the collapse of the Vietnamese government, refugees flood into MCAS El Toro and Camp

Pendleton. Many later settle in Westminster and Garden Grove.

1978 The Los Angeles Rams football team moves to Anaheim.

1980 Crystal Cathedral is completed in Garden Grove.

1983 Donald Bren purchases a controlling interest in the Irvine Company.

1986 The Orange County Performing Arts Center opens.

1986 First homes in Rancho Santa Margarita go on the market.

1990 The Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace opens to the public.

1993 The Arrowhead Pond of Anaheim opens, home of the Mighty Ducks hockey team.

1993 First segment of Foothill Toll Road (241) opens.

1994 Orange County files Chapter 9 bankruptcy after a \$1.5 billion investment pool loss.

1996 Orange County emerges from bankruptcy after only 18 months.

1997 Knott's Berry Farm sold to Cedar Fair L.P. of Ohio.

1999 El Toro Marine Corps Naval Air Station closes.

2001 Disney's California Adventure theme park opens in Anaheim.

2002 The Angels win their first World Series title.

2006 Villa Park Orchards Association, Orange County's last citrus packing house, closes.

2007 Anaheim Ducks win the Stanley Cup.

2008 Sandra Hutchins becomes Orange County's first woman Sheriff/Coroner. Carl Karcher, founder of Carl's Jr. restaurants dies.

2010 The Irvine Company gives 20,000 acres of open space to the County of Orange. Crystal Cathedral Ministries files for bankruptcy.

The Orange County Archives www.ocarchives.com