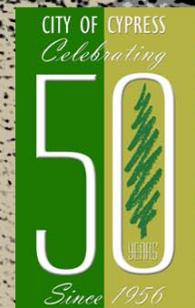


CYPRESS . . . *a dairy city*



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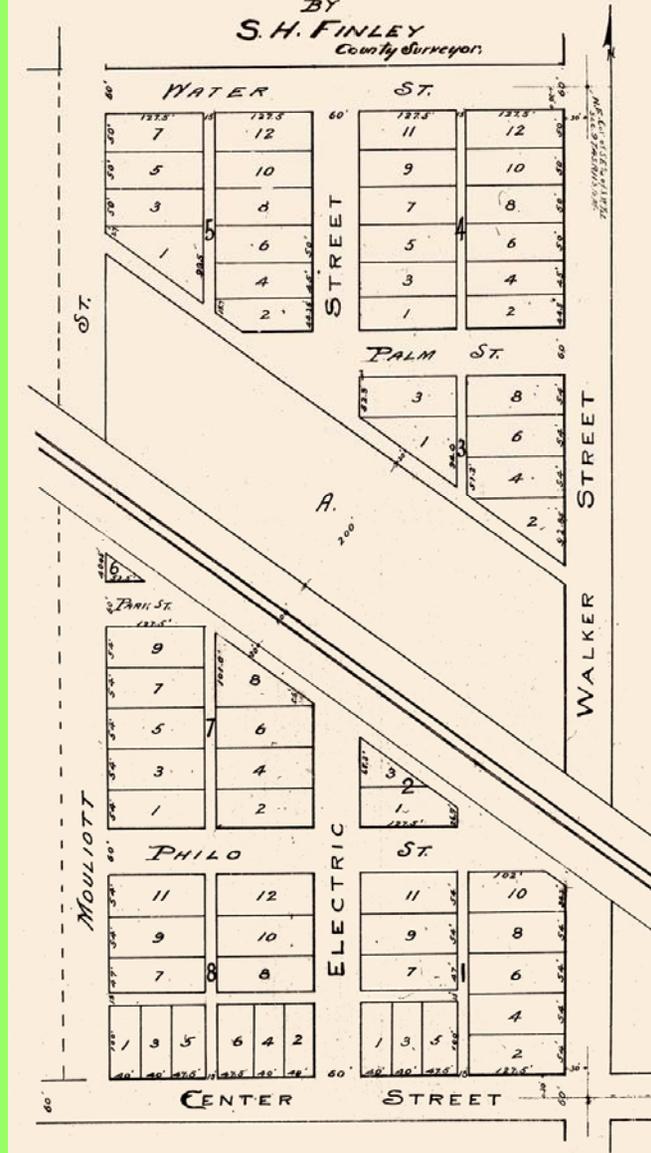
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Presented by Archivist Phil Brigandi
to the Orange County Board of Supervisors
August 1, 2006
The Orange County Archives

- The summer of 2006 marks the 50th anniversary of the City of Cypress, a community with a long and interesting history.
- The Cypress community began forming in the 1890s, as settlers moved to the area on the western edge of Orange County.
- By 1896, there were enough families to support a school district and the Board of Supervisors formed the Cypress School District.
- Cypress trees were a popular ornamental trees during that time partly because they grew well in the dry climate and were green year-round. The boughs were often used for Christmas decorations during the 1890s -- before Christmas trees were shipped hundreds of miles!
- The Cypress area was also known as Waterville because of all of the Artesian wells

Map of CYPRESS

BY
S. H. FINLEY
County Surveyor.



- The town of Cypress was founded in 1905 by S.O. Walker, a big landowner in those days and a political player. In fact, he was said to be Southern Pacific's man in Orange County back when the railroads played a major role in our state politics.
- Like a number of Orange County communities, the new Pacific Electric "Red Car" line prompted the founding of Cypress. The town became one of the original stations on the line from Los Angeles to Santa Ana.
- On the previous slide you can see where the Pacific Electric right-of-way cut through Cypress with Walker Street on the east and what is now Lincoln Avenue on the south.
- But Cypress didn't really begin to grow until the 1920s when the county began building a modern highway system through the area – in this case, when they extended Lincoln Avenue west toward Long Beach.
- In 1923 Cypress got a new schoolhouse and newspaper; in 1927, they got a post office and a new bank. However, as evidenced in the next slide, Cypress remained a pretty rural place on into the 1950s.



- Like a lot of areas in western Orange County, a number of dairy farmers began moving down to Cypress from Los Angeles in the 1940s as they were pushed out by new subdivisions.
- Cypress encouraged the dairy farmers to settle there and by 1954, nearly half of the county's 165 dairies were located in or around Cypress.
- But it wasn't long before the dairies started getting squeezed out of Cypress as well, as Orange County began to grow.
- In 1955, you get the City of Dairyland – now La Palma. Then in April 1956 you get the City of Dairy Valley, what is now Cerritos. And finally in June of 1956, you get Dairy City – the place we know as Cypress today.



Cows in Cypress in June 1969

- The incorporation drive for Dairy City actually followed an earlier plan to incorporate all the area around Los Alamitos, Cypress and Stanton into one big city.
- That idea never got very far , so in 1955, the local ranchers went to the Board of Supervisors with a petition to form Dairy City. Pat Arnold – a longtime member of the Orange County Planning Commission and an old-time resident in the area, was one of the big proponents and was later elected to the first city council. There is even a school named for him!



Aerial of area dairies

- The curious thing about Dairy City is that even though it eventually became the City of Cypress, the new city didn't originally include the old town of Cypress.
- Dairy City was actually south and west of Cypress, and didn't include the business district at Lincoln and Walker, or the residential neighborhoods north of there.
- But Dairy City did take in most everything else – about four square miles. There weren't the sort of boundaries battles we've seen in the incorporation of some of the other west county cities.



Hall's Grocery on Walker Street in Cypress in the 1950s

- When the city's incorporation finally came to a vote on June 26, 1956, the measure passed pretty easily – 217 to 73.
- The city did have a tie in the race for city council; Jacob Van Leeuwen and Martin Olsthoorn both got 134 votes each. The Board of Supervisors brought them both in and flipped a coin to decide the winner – and Van Leeuwen got the job.
- The board also took a straw vote about the name of the new city. While they had been using Dairy City all through the incorporation process it dawned on them that having Dairy City, Dairy Valley and Dairyland all right next to each other might get a little confusing.
- The board decided to leave it to the voters and they gave residents four choices: Dairy City, Los Coyotes (after the old Mexican Rancho), Lincoln City (after the street) or Cypress. The residents overwhelmingly chose Cypress. Second, by the way, was Lincoln City. Dairy City got only eight votes!

ROSTER OF VOTERS

Special Election
OF THE
Incorporation of City of Dairy City
ELECTION

HELD IN
Cypress Precinct No. 3
IN
Cypress
Orange County, California

ON THE
26 day of June, 1956

OFFICIAL BALLOT
SPECIAL ELECTION

INCORPORATION OF CITY OF DAIRY CITY

COUNTY OF ORANGE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 1956

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS—To vote for or against the measures, stamp a cross (✚) in the voting square next to the right of the answer you desire to give.

To vote for a candidate of your selection, stamp a cross (✚) in the voting square next to the right of the name of the candidate. Where two or more candidates for the same office are to be elected, stamp a cross (✚) after the names of all the candidates for that office for whom you desire to vote, not to exceed, however, the number of candidates who are to be elected. To vote for a person not on the ballot, write the name of such person under the title of the office in the blank space left for that purpose.

All marks, except the cross (✚) are forbidden.

All distinguishing marks or erasures are forbidden and make the ballot void.

If you wrongly stamp, tear or deface this ballot, return it to the Inspector of Election and obtain another.

On absent voter ballots mark a cross (✚) with pen or pencil.

MEASURES SUBMITTED TO VOTE OF VOTERS		MEMBER OF CITY COUNCIL	Vote for Five
FOR INCORPORATION	✚	ALFRED E. ARNOLD	✚
AGAINST INCORPORATION		WALTER JAY ARROWOOD Poultryman	✚
FOR CITY MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT	✚	THOMAS A. BAROLDI Dairyman	
AGAINST CITY MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT		JOHN CARDOZA LEAL Dairyman	✚
		MARTIN OLSTHOORN Dairyman	✚
		JACOB S. VAN DYKE Dairyman	✚
		JACOB VAN LEEUWEN, JR. Dairyman	

- So, Dairy City remained the official name of the city for more than a year until another election could be held in 1957 to rename the city Cypress.
- About that same time they finally annexed old downtown Cypress. Unfortunately, by then the downtown had lost many of its buildings when Lincoln Avenue was widened a couple of years earlier.
- Soon after, the city also annexed most of its residential neighborhoods.
- Where Dairyland held out for ten years against the subdividers, Cypress only waited four years before changing its zoning to allow new residential tracts in the city.
- I might add, not everyone was happy about that.



- As Cypress celebrated their 50th anniversary, it had grown from a population of about 1,600 to nearly 50,000.
- But, I'm afraid, the cows are long gone.

CITY OF CYPRESS

Celebrating

50

YEARS

Since 1956



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Orange County Clerk-Recorder Dept.

Tom Daly, Clerk-Recorder