

OFFICIAL BALLOT
SPECIAL ELECTION
INCORPORATION OF CITY OF STANTON
 COUNTY OF ORANGE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 TUESDAY, MAY 15, 1956

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: To vote "For Incorporation" or "Against Incorporation," 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.

MEASURE SUBMITTED TO VOTE OF VOTERS	Vote for
FOR INCORPORATION	+
AGAINST INCORPORATION	+
MEMBER OF CITY COUNCIL	
HERBERT COOK	+
EDWIN V. EVANS Experimental Div.	+
FRANK KOHL General Contractor	+
HENRY MENDEZ	+
JESSE E. PHILLIPS	+
DELBERT C. RIDER Minister	+
VICTOR ZUNIGA Radio Technician	+

STANTON:

Two Incorporations, One City



**Presented by Archivist Phil Brigandi
to the Orange County Board of Supervisors
May 23, 2006
The Orange County Archives**

- Depending on how you look at it, 2006 is either the 50th anniversary of the City of Stanton, or its 95th anniversary. You see, Stanton incorporated twice. The first time was clear back in 1911. Then they did it again in 1956. And both times, it's an interesting story.
- The story of the original City of Stanton starts early in 1911, when the City of Anaheim secretly obtained an option on the J.M. Gilbert Ranch, southwest of town along Cerritos Avenue. Anaheim was looking for a location for what was politely known in those days as a "sewer farm" – an open-air spreading ground for the city's, ah, *outfall*.
- Well, when the word got out, the folks who lived around the Gilbert Ranch weren't very happy. (Mr. Gilbert didn't care, by the way – he had moved to Compton by then).



Phil Stanton

- Anaheim argued that, with modern technology, septic tanks and all, a sewer farm wouldn't be a menace at all.
- “Then why don't you have it in your town?” the ranchers asked.
- Well, it happened that one of the biggest landowners in the area was Phil Stanton. Stanton had just finished a term as Speaker of the California State Assembly, and had just lost the Republican nomination for governor to Hiram Johnson.
- Phil Stanton was one of our major developers in those days. He already had helped in the founding of both Seal Beach and Huntington Beach.
- It was Phil Stanton who came to the ranchers' aid. He felt that no city had the right to impose something like a sewer farm on an area that didn't want it.
- But what to do about it?
- First, Stanton met with the Anaheim city officials and tried to talk them out of it. He even offered them part of his ranch up on Brookhurst as a site. He said he could handle the loss of property value it would bring, but these farmers couldn't.



Phil Stanton Ranch house

- The earlier slide shows Mr. Stanton's house that he later built on his ranch, up where Brookhurst meets the Santa Ana Freeway.
- But Anaheim was adamant. They wanted the Gilbert Ranch.
- So Phil Stanton came up with another plan. If the area would incorporate as a city, they could block any sewer farm plans.
- It's helpful to understand that there was no town of Stanton at the time – just a couple of small, crossroads communities. Places you've probably never heard of like Benedict, Clair, and Magnolia. On the next slide, you can see Benedict just west of Beach, and Clair over at Magnolia and Cerritos, and the Magnolia School up at Orange Avenue. And there's the Gilbert Ranch, right in the middle. At that time, there were no stores or businesses in the area, just a couple of churches, and a school or two. The area didn't even have a name.

LINCOLN

ORANGE AVE

BALL RD.

CERRITOS AVE

KATELLA AVE

ORANGEWOOD AVE

CHAPMAN

KNOTT

WESTERN

BEACH BLVD

DALE

MAGNOLIA

GILBERT

BROOKHURST

EUCLID

Magnolia School

Clair

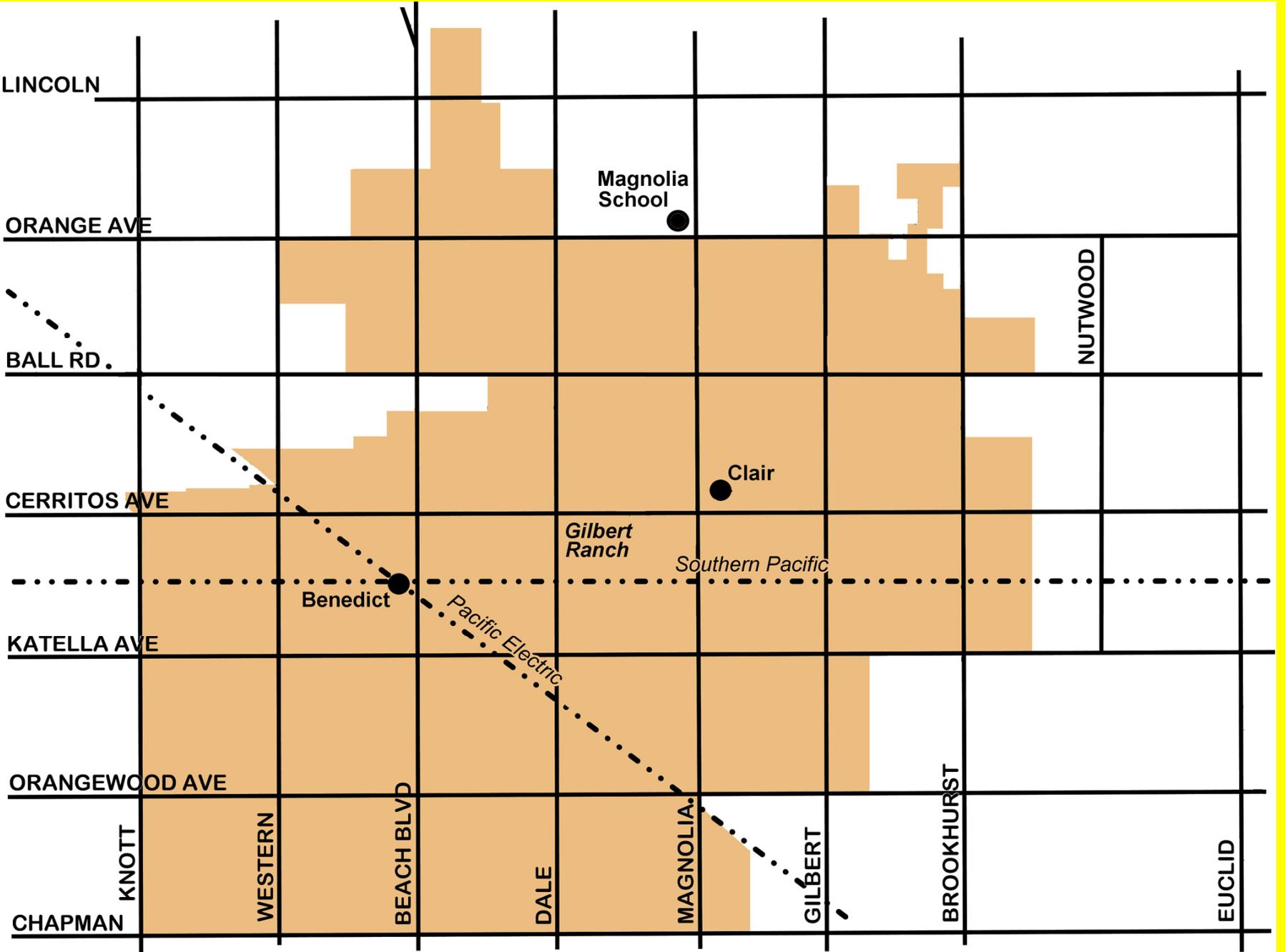
Benedict

Gilbert Ranch

Southern Pacific

Pacific Electric

NUTWOOD



- The ranchers had to pick a name for their new city – and they decided to name it Stanton.
- Interestingly, at that time, the Board of Supervisors approached the issue like any other incorporation proposal. They didn't favor Anaheim or Stanton. The Board allowed the process to move along pretty much without much interference.
- The City of Stanton's first incorporation election was held on May 23, 1911, with about a 90% turnout. And the measure passed –76 to 65.
- You can see the new city limits on the map on the next slide. At about 10 square miles, the new City of Stanton was the biggest city in area in all of Orange County, despite having a population of only about 750.
- They held a big barbecue to celebrate – some sources say it was actually held on the Gilbert Ranch – and as one of its first acts, the new City Council passed an ordinance banning all sewer farms.



ANNIVERSARY BARBECUE, STANTON

- Still, Anaheim wouldn't give up. Mr. Gilbert had gotten cold feet in selling to Anaheim by then, but the city forced him to complete the sale anyway. Anaheim also tried to have the incorporation election set aside by the courts. But it was all no use.
- The Benedict townsite along the Pacific Electric tracks changed its name to Stanton, and they started to make some improvements in the area. They finally got a post office, and even a newspaper – the *Stanton Optimist*.
- But once the threat of an Anaheim sewer farm had passed, there was little reason to remain a city. So the City of Stanton dis-incorporated in 1924.

The Stanton Optimist

VOL. 3.

STANTON, ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 1914

NO 21

WESTMINSTER

The children of the Presbyterian Sunday school gave a Children's Day program on Sunday morning, June 14, at the church.

Both the local Sunday schools took up the California Dry Campaign contest on a recent Sunday morning.

About thirty young people from the Christian Endeavor society gave Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Burley a surprise party at their new home. Music and games made up a very pleasant evening. Refreshments of cake and fruitade were served by the guests.

A birthday surprise was given Mrs. O. B. Conaway by about twenty neighbors and friends at her home north of town. Progressive games were played and refreshments of cake, bananas and lemonade brought by the

Glimpses of Some of Our Candidates Something Their Friends Have to Say About Them

Those who have had anything to do with the official work of Theo. A. Winbigler during the three and a half years that he has been coroner and public administrator, have no averse criticism to offer. They have found him honest and fair in every particular. For him it is declared that, although the state law requires a bond of him, no bond is necessary except to fulfill the requirement of the law. Winbigler has lived in the county for years, grew up here, and he has a large number of friends who are going to put their shoulders to the

tine Whitney's friends have no hesitancy in urging her candidacy for county recorder. Miss Whitney is a woman of pleasing personality, of marked sincerity and conscientiousness in her work, and with her wide acquaintance over the county her campaign will be vigorous and given the backing of a host of friends. It is declared for Miss Whitney that she has fully demonstrated her ability to handle the work of the recorder's office, and that if elected none will have any doubt but that her administration will be satisfactory to the public.

Instant Death By P. E. Car

Death came instantly Thursday last week, to Mrs. Cassie J. Bodine of Brawley when she was struck by a P. E. passenger car at Cordonaiz.

The woman was attempting to cross the tracks to the north side when the tragedy occurred.

Andrew Bodine, husband of the woman who was killed, was with her. They lived at Brawley, where Bodine has a transfer business. Of their twelve children, the oldest is but 20.

The couple were near Cordonaiz station looking at a 10-acre ranch that they were thinking of buying. At the crossing on the south side is a small freight station, built for the convenience of shippers of milk. Mr. and Mrs. Bodine were standing on the west side of this station, and were not seen by the motorman who was driving a car approach-

We Believe That Talbert Is the Man

T. B. Talbert has been in office as Supervisor for about six years. In that time he has proven himself a capable business manager for this District. He has done well, we believe, with the facilities he has at hand. In saying that he will receive the support of this newspaper for re-election we are basing this conclusion upon one test of efficiency as a business man. He has had the years of experience which fit him to give us the best that can be had. The very fact that he is in office and that he is doing well is a point in his favor. If you hire a manager for your business and he proves efficient and does you good service, is not the very fact that he has done such service a tremendous argument in favor of keeping him. Would you discharge an efficient man just be-

to get results. It would take a new man some time to learn the methods of County business.

We believe Talbert has been fair to this end of the district. He has kept up all old work and improved seven miles never touched before. Many miles of highway have been improved by him. He is aiding us in working out the details of our street problems at this time. He secured for us funds for river protection. Months since he expressed himself favorably to having Garden Grove recognized on the County Board of Education. Last week Prof. Fitz was appointed. He has a reputation for being a sort of Tommy-on-the-spot when it comes to our needs. He helped Stanton in its incorporation problems.

So, taken all together, we believe he is the man for the place

THE EDITOR GETS "SASSY"

It was said to the editor the other day that the Optimist contained more Garden Grove advertising than it did advertising from Stanton, and that there should be more local news. Not long since a man "jumped all over" the editor because he did not carry four pages of strictly local news.

The reason there has been more Garden Grove advertising is because the Garden Grove merchants are enterprising. They are coming into this territory and getting trade of all sorts. They advertise because it pays them and they want to back up their goods by advertising them to the public.

As for local news, you can't expect to run big headed stories from a grave yard. Nothing happens in Stanton. The Optimist is a gift to Stanton. It helps keep Stanton on the map. It does ten

- Incidentally, this was not a unique story. In 1921, the City of Orangethorpe incorporated between Anaheim and Fullerton to block Fullerton's efforts to establish a sewer farm in that area. The City of Orangethorpe existed for only two years before dis-incorporating.
- Now jump ahead to the mid-1950s. Northwest Orange County was growing like mad, and annexation wars were breaking out all across the area. Incorporated cities like Buena Park and Anaheim were expanding rapidly, and unincorporated communities like Garden Grove, Cypress, Stanton, Los Alamitos were feeling threatened.
- Tract housing was beginning to move into Stanton, and the residents realized that if they didn't do something, they were just going to get swallowed up into one of the neighboring cities – or more likely, broken up into several neighboring cities.
- So in 1955, the residents of Stanton started circulating petitions for an incorporation election. The original proposal was for a six square mile city, to try and take in as much territory as they could. But the Board of Supervisors, in trying to balance the different incorporation efforts in the area, cut down Stanton's request to about one square mile, an area with a population of about 1,300.



Tract homes being built in the 1950s

- Stanton's second incorporation election was held on May 15, 1956, and it passed 185 to 126. Victor Zuniga, a longtime local businessman, became Stanton's first mayor. There's now a park named after him.
- Like most of the rest of Orange County – like all of Southern California, for that matter, in the years after World War II – Stanton experienced rapid growth over the next few years. The aerial in the final slide is looking down around Orangewood and Magnolia, on the edge of town, in 1959.
- By 1960, the city had tripled in size, and population had swelled by nearly 900% -- from about 1,300 to over 12,000 people. Today, the city is about the same size, but its population has grown to over 38,000 people.



The Orange County Archives

www.ocarchives.com

Orange County Clerk-Recorder Dept.

Tom Daly, Clerk-Recorder

