

Addendum to The Ojai Valley: An Illustrated History – Ojai Valley Museum Edition

Alphabetized by Subject - Updated January 2019

The following notes update the book with new information. New information arises as a result of continuing historical research and material submitted by descendants and other readers. New text added is in italics.

HOW TO BEST USE THIS ADDENDUM

1. **FIND THE PRINT DATE/VERSION OF YOUR BOOK.** The print/version date of your book is located on the last page at the bottom. Starting with Version 4, beginning November 9, 2017, the version number and date is also printed on the title page.
2. **SELECT THE PRINT DATE/VERSION LIST IN THE DOCUMENT BELOW THAT FITS THE TIME FRAME FOR WHEN YOUR COPY WAS PRINTED.**
3. **USE THE SEARCH FEATURE IN ADOBE READER TO FIND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IN THE PDF OR SCROLL TO PREUSE THE ENTIRE LIST.**

Version 1: Books purchased from April 21 to May 26, 2017

(Note: some of the changes may have been made if you purchased your book on Amazon.com.)

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Page 71, 1st paragraph, 2nd sentence – The high school gymnasium (now the Matilija Junior High gym) was built in 1940 (not 1949).

2nd paragraph – The original Matilija Junior High School on Maricopa Highway was built in 1955 (not 1959).

Page 81, 2nd paragraph – architect was Wallace Neff (not Wallance Neff).

Page 81, World University – The World University permanently closed on September 30, 2017.

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2nd paragraph - sentence added at end: *When the cottages were built is unknown.*

BOWLING

Page 358, 2nd paragraph under Bowling section: the bowling alley was opened in the former Andruss Ford dealership by a Mrs. Miles Strand in 1944. Schroff’s harness shop had been a previous building at this site.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Page 156, 3rd paragraph – The Ojai Valley Chamber of Commerce was incorporated in 1956.

CHURCHES

Page 88, 1st paragraph, 2nd sentence under Nazarene Church – Text changed to: *Ed Keith, owner of the service station across the street at the City Garage, bought the lot...*

Page 90, 4th complete paragraph – St. Thomas Aquinas Church was designated an independent parish in 1919.

DISASTERS - WEATHER

Page 405 – 1932 fire: Changed to read: *A large fire that began September 7 burned 210,000 acres.*

Page 406, added at bottom of page: 2017 The Thomas Fire burned 281,893 acres in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

FIRES

Page 189, new paragraph added after 2nd paragraph – *In July 1925, two buildings burned down just west of the City Garage and three stores burned at the east end of the Arcade the following year in March.*

Next paragraph changed to: *In 1932, an eleven-day forest fire burned 219,000 acres of brush.*

Text added at end of the page: *The Thomas Fire, the largest in California history, broke out December 4, 2017 near Thomas Aquinas College and burned 281,893 acres in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.*

FORDYCE HUNTING PHOTO

Page 360, caption under photo – there is no evidence that the hunting party photo was taken at the Robinson ranch. Caption changed to: *Postcard photo of a hunting party from Jim (Stubby) Fordyce (on left) to W.H. Robinson, 1911.*

GIRL SCOUTS

Page 174, 1st paragraph – text added: *In February 1944, Ojai Valley Girl Scouts marked their 15th anniversary with a party.*

GRANGE

Page 164, 1st paragraph – The Ojai Grange was formed in March, 1874 (not in 1875).

HEINO, VIVIKA AND OTTO

Page 256, photo credit belongs to Cindy Pitou Burton (not the Ojai Valley Museum).

HIGH VALLEY THEATER

Page 251, caption – sentence added: *This structure [High Valley Theater] burned in the 2017 Thomas Fire.*

HISTORIC LANDMARKS

Page 410 - Three landmarks added:

23. 2017, Smith-Hobson Estate, 401 N. Signal St
24. 2017, Nordhoff Grammar School, 414 E. Ojai Ave.
25. 2017, Westways, 700 San Antonio St

HOBSON-SMITH FAMILY

Page 349, 5th paragraph – re-written as follows: *In 1925, the Hobsons had the outside of their home converted to a Spanish style to match the architecture of the town center. The inside remained Craftsman style, as it is today. At the same time, a guest house was built west of the main house. In 1928, Grace, her husband Fred Smith, and their three children, Rodney, Barbara and Helen Margaret, permanently moved from their home in Ventura to the guest house in Ojai.*

Page 350, caption re-write – *In 1926, the Spanish-style conversion of the Hobson home and the work on the guest cottage were complete. Robert Winfield was the designer and builder. (Mead & Requa were not the architects.) Fred Smith and his two daughters donated the estate to the City of Ojai in 1973. City offices opened there in 1976.*

2nd paragraph – re-write: *Grace passed away in 1968 and Rodney three months later. Fred Smith and his two daughters gifted the estate to the city in 1973. Ojai architect Zelma Wilson and architects Fisher & Wilde remodeled the homes into municipal offices and City Hall moved there in 1976. ...*

2nd paragraph, last sentence – Fred Smith died December 18, 1981 (not in 1982).

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Page 34, 1st partial paragraph – former Ojai Police Chief Vince France stated in a 1984 video that the Ojai jail was used as an overflow facility for the last time in 1984.

LIVERIES

Page 195, 5th paragraph, last sentence – the Hunt Livery was located at 110 North Signal Street (not South Signal).

Page 196, 3rd paragraph, 1st sentence - the Hunt Livery was located at 110 North Signal Street (not South Signal).

MALLORY AND ROWE

Page 196, 2nd paragraph – Mallory and Rowe opened a new Chevrolet dealership at 423 East Ojai Avenue in 1950 (not 1952). Mallory continued to operate the auto livery on North Signal and Rowe managed the auto dealership on Ojai Avenue. The tow men dissolved their partnership in 1952. In 1956, Mallory built a new service station at 201 North Signal Street (where a convenience store is now).

DAVID MASON

Page 399 – Added to end of 3rd paragraph: *David Mason died July 22, 2017.*

MATILJA HOT SPRINGS

Page 120, 5th paragraph (Matilija Hot Spring section) – sentence added: *The structures at the hot springs burned down in the December 2017 Thomas Fire.*

MEINERS RANCH - PHILANDER SOPER

Page 262, bottom photo caption – Philander Soper managed Meiners' ranch in the 1890s (not 1990s).

MONTGOMERY FAMILY

Page 43, 1st paragraph under John Montgomery section – John Montgomery's wife's first name was Jacoba (not Jacobita). John and Jacoba Montgomery's four children were: Jacobita (Robinson), Juanita, Oton (not Otan) and Tomas. (Helen was John and Jacoba's granddaughter.)

Page 44, last paragraph of the John Montgomery section – John Montgomery was often seen at his daughter and son-in-law's home, Jacobita (not Helen) and Charles W. Robinson. Sentence added: *Jacobita and Charles W. had two children Helen and Charles John.*

Pages 355 (2nd paragraph) & **356** (2nd paragraph) – name spelling is Oton Montgomery (not Otan).

NORDHOFF CEMETERY

Page 37, 1st paragraph, 4th line – Added: *...deeded 2.7 acres to the citizens of Nordhoff.*

4th paragraph –Added to the last sentence: ...chosen in behalf of the little memorial park *by the Ventura County board of supervisors.*

Page 38, 2nd paragraph – the rock wall on the east side of the Nordhoff Cemetery (along Del Norte) was financed through funds raised by a *committee called Friends of Nordhoff Cemetery.* The Ojai Valley Garden Club had the cemetery gate built.

3rd paragraph, the name spelling is Del Pozzo not DelPozzo.

NORDHOFF HOTEL - WIGGINS

Page 95, Added at end of 2nd paragraph - *Wiggins died in 1878.*

OJAI FLASHBACKS

Page 380, the City Garage opened on the southwest corner of Ojai Avenue and Montgomery in 1922.

Added under 1925 – The Drown subdivision opened for development in August

Page 381, 1944 – Added: Mrs. Miles Strand opened a bowling alley in the former Andruss Ford dealership (at what is now 335-337 East Ojai Avenue.

OJAI THEATER

Page 244, 1st complete paragraph – sentence added at end of paragraph: *In 2017, a judge ruled in favor of Al-Awar in a lawsuit.*

PEOPLES LUMBER COMPANY

Pages 201, 205 – Moved People’s Lumber Company on page 205 to page 201 under Businesses in 1895.

PIGGLY WIGGLY

Page 302, 5th paragraph under Lavender and Vegetables section – The Piggly Wiggly grocery store opened in Ojai in 1928.

ROADS

Page 40, 1st paragraph, 1st sentence – sentence was changed to read: *Until 1874 there was one route into the valley from the coast—Creek Road.*

4th paragraph – a sentence was added to the beginning of this paragraph: *In 1874, Ventura County supervisors approved funding for a grade road into Nordhoff.*

Page 42, 1st paragraph – the first sentence about Robert Ayers was deleted (proof could not be established). The sentence was replaced with: *Heavy rains in the winter of 1883-84 caused major damage to Ojai Valley roads. Casitas Pass Road didn’t reopen until late September 1884.* Continuing...High waters in the Ventura River during the winter of 1889-90 cut away a portion of the *Nordhoff Road* just below the Casitas Crossing.

ROBINSON FAMILY

Page 56, 3rd paragraph under Captain Richard Robison section – Mary Wentworth Robinson did not receive a Doctor of Education degree from Harvard. This was replaced with: *His wife Mary, who was raised in a shipping family and loved the sea, accompanied her husband on over thirty voyages.*

SCHOOLS

Page 65, 3rd paragraph – In 1927, an eight-classroom building was built, not seven rooms. (Note: The eighth classroom was a kindergarten room jutting out to the west under the tower.) Also the text was changed from “Three classrooms were added in late 1928” to *three classrooms were completed in 1929...*

Page 71, 1st paragraph, 2nd sentence – The high school gymnasium (now the Matilija Junior High gym) was built in 1940 (not 1949).

2nd paragraph – The original Matilija Junior High School on Maricopa Highway was built in 1955 (not 1959).

Page 81, World University – The World University permanently closed on September 30, 2017.

SCHROFF FAMILY

Page 216, 2nd paragraph – sentence added after 1st sentence: *L.B. Henry was his partner until he retired in 1927.*

3rd paragraph, last sentence re-written as such: *The bowling alley was located at what is now 335-337 East Ojai Avenue (where the Andruss Ford dealership had been, and previously Fidelis Schroff's old harness shop.)*

SERVICE STATIONS (early)

Page 191, caption – sentence added: *Selwyn Beaman opened the Ojai Garage in 1910. This garage was torn down and a new Spanish-style one built in 1936.*

Page 206, 7th paragraph – The information in this paragraph is incorrect. Selwyn Beaman opened the first service station at the southwest corner of Ojai Avenue and Fox Street in 1910. J.R. Thurmond opened a service station at the southwest corner of Ojai Avenue and Montgomery Street in 1921 (not the northwest corner). Paragraph was changed to: *The Central Garage on Topa Topa and Blanche streets opened in 1921. The City Garage opened for business in 1922 (see page 208). Rancher J.F. Reeves opened a service station on the northwest corner of Ojai Avenue and Montgomery Street in 1926. He sold the station in 1928 and the new owners called the business City Service.*

Page 206, 8th paragraph – A gas station and fruit stand opened at the bottom of the Dennison Grade in 1927 (now Boccali's Restaurant). David Mason's grandfather Robert Miller ran the gas station and a country store beginning around 1929 (not 1921) until he died in 1933.

Page 208 – 1st paragraph re-written as follows: *J.R. Thurmond built a service station on the southwest corner of Ojai Avenue and Montgomery Street in January 1921—a cobblestone building. George Holsten purchased the property later that year and built a brand new garage in the Mission style. Chester D. Johnson acquired the lease and opened the City Garage in 1922. In 1930, it was sold to Frank C. and C.B. Johnson (no relation). Charles Quesnel and H.W. Butler bought it in 1933. Quesnel had been with Chester Johnson in the business from the beginning. For several decades, Quesnel ran the auto repair business there and Ed Keith ran the service station. It ceased being an automotive place in the mid-1950s. The Ojai Valley Cleaners opened there in the early 1960s.*

4th paragraph re-written as follows: *The seaside Oil Company opened the El Roblar service station on the southeast corner of Ojai Avenue and Blanche Street in 1928. Ten years later, Seaside moved to a new service station built by Fred Linder on the northwest corner of Ojai Avenue and Ventura Street (now a bicycle shop). This lot was the site of the Linder family home—John and Ellen (McKee) and later their son Fred and his wife, Bertha (Ayers) Linder. The house had survived the 1917 fire. Fred Linder moved this house to the northwest corner of Matilija and Ventura streets in 1938, where it later burned down.*

DANIEL SMITH

Page 156, near the end of the second paragraph – Daniel Smith was elected county road overseer for the Ojai District in 1889 and served for eight years, bringing many improvements to valley roads, including oiling the roads.

3rd paragraph under the Daniel Smith section re-written as – *In the early 1890s, Smith helped organize the Peoples Lumber Company (a county-wide business concern). He was a director and stayed involved in the business until his death. The company's Ojai yard was located at 108-114 South Montgomery.*

SOPER'S CAMP AND OJALA

Page 116, 4th paragraph, 1st sentence – Pop Soper sold the old camp to Rick and Eugenia Everett in 1939 (not 1929). When he built the new training camp on the other side of the creek in 1932, his wife Jessie Kellogg continued running the old camp until it was sold. At the new camp, Soper built cabins, a store, gas station and restaurant.

SOULE FAMILY

Page 46, 4th paragraph, third sentence – added: *(The family dropped the “s” at some point).*

WATER

Page 318, add to end of 2nd paragraph – *The actual lake capacity is 238,000 acre-feet.*

ROBERT WINFIELD

Page 152, 5th paragraph – text of last sentence changed to: *He built many homes and other buildings in the valley including the Sinclair and Preston homes, and the Royal Oaks Dairy ranch house [now in the Persimmon Hill development.]*

6th paragraph – two sentences added at beginning of paragraph: *Winfield was the designer and builder on some projects. The Hobson house, which is now City Hall, is one example.* **Deleted** from end of 6th paragraph: “However, Mead and Requa had drawn plans for the exterior of the Hobson house.” Mead and Requa were not the architects of the Hobson house.

Version 4: Books purchased between Nov. 9, 2017 and May 28, 2018

ANDRUSS FORD DEALERSHIP

Page 205, under Fidelis Schroff – 2nd sentence changed to: *In 1926, Ralph Andruss opened the first Ford dealership in a new building just west of the City Garage, in the vicinity of Schroff’s old shop.* Sentence added: *In 1944, this building became a bowling alley and later Western Auto.*

ARCHITECTS – Mead & Requa

Page 408, top of page Mead & Requa section – the Smith-Hobson house was deleted from the architects project list. Robert Winfield was the designer and builder of the Smith-Hobson house.

BAIRD MANSION

Page 273, 1st paragraph – Madeline Baird and her husband David commissioned John Roine to design Acacia Lodge in Meiners Oaks in 1927. David died before it was completed in 1929.

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Page 113, 1st paragraph, Blair Court-Evergreen Cottages – Text changed to: *A similar establishment appeared on the scene in the mid-1920s called Blair Court.*

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Page 164, 1st paragraph – The Ojai Grange was formed in March, 1874 (not in 1875).

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Page 256, photo credit belongs to Cindy Pitou Burton (not the Ojai Valley Museum).

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Version 5: Books purchased between May 29, 2018 and January 15, 2019

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Version 6: Books purchased after January 15, 2019