

# El Toro Memorial Park

Presents



## The History of Us

HOW THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE  
SHAPED HISTORY  
AND  
WERE SHAPED BY HISTORY



## **El Toro Memorial Park**

### **A Property of the Orange County Cemetery District**

Spanning 25 acres of gently rolling hills, El Toro Memorial Park was founded in 1896. It is one of three public cemeteries managed and operated by the Orange County Cemetery District, a special district of Orange County. The other two public cemeteries are the 16 acre Anaheim Cemetery and 29 acre Santa Ana Cemetery.

El Toro Memorial Park offers casket and urn interments, urn niche placements, infant interments, and direct cremation burials in the rose garden. El Toro Memorial Park also serves as home to the Orange County Cemetery District's main office.

## **Our Mission**

*The Orange County Cemetery District manages and maintains Orange County's public cemeteries in a manner that preserves their beauty, dignity, historical and cultural value, and offers affordable interment services for County residents.*

## **Why Do We Offer Historical Tours?**

Of course, our primary purpose is to help grieving families make interment arrangements for their loved ones. However, our secondary mission is to preserve our history and the heritage of those who came before us. These grounds represent who we are as a community, as a nation, and as a society.

The remains of over 17,000 people have been respectfully placed in this park. This booklet highlights only a handful of them. But as you walk the grounds, remember that each grave is a life that made a difference. Whether they were rich or poor, famous or infamous, educated or illiterate, young or old, every grave is a piece of our past and a bridge to our future.

# Tour Highlights

## Table of Contents

The Orange County Cemetery District.....	1
The History of El Toro Memorial Park.....	2
El Toro's Community Programs .....	3-4
The Saddleback Area Historical Society.....	5-6
Heritage Hill .....	5-6
El Toro's Early History – The Serrano Family.....	7
Dwight Whiting's Vision for El Toro .....	8
<b>FEATURED INTERMENTS</b>	
Florence Griffith Joyner .....	9
Brigadier General Leonard Fribourg.....	10
Cleofas Romero.....	11
George "Catfish" Metkovich.....	12
The Keating Family.....	13
The Whiting Family.....	14
The Prothero Family.....	15
Andrew Wesley Thompson (Civil War Veterans) .....	16
The Stevens Family (Farming the Oso Lease).....	17
Warren Foster .....	18
James & Louisa DeLong & Maud Simmons.....	19
Olif Fairchild.....	20
Carl Juul.....	21
Christian Kent Nelson.....	22
More El Toro Memorial Park Interments .....	23
Notable Orange County Interments.....	24
Using the Walk-To-Site Feature .....	25
Acknowledgements.....	26
Source Citations.....	27

## **The Orange County Cemetery District (OCCD)**

The OCCD is a special district of Orange County created for the specific purpose of providing dignified and affordable interment services for County Residents. Special districts are autonomous government entities, accountable to the voters they serve, although the State of California does maintain oversight authority. To supplement revenue earned from the sale of interment rights, OCCD receives a portion of the 1% of Proposition 13 property tax revenue allotted to special districts. Any Orange County resident is eligible to purchase interment rights at any of the three public cemeteries

### **What is a public cemetery?**

Unlike private cemeteries, public cemeteries are managed by government entities, usually a city, a county, or a special district. As a Public Cemetery District, the OCCD must comply with the California Health and Safety Code which limits the products and services that may be offered by public cemeteries. The OCCD cannot operate mortuaries, conduct funeral services and related activities, build or operate crematoriums, construct mausoleums, or sell caskets, memorial markers, benches or flowers. This is to minimize competition with private cemeteries.

### **The OCCD Governing Board**

The District is governed by a five-member board of trustees. A trustee is appointed to a four-year term by the Orange County Supervisor of his or her district and may serve multiple terms. The major functions of the Board of Trustees are to set policy, define strategic goals and objectives, adopt rules and regulations, and act as legal custodians for District property. The Board employs a General Manager to carry out policy, direct District operations, provide day-to-day supervision of staff and control and administer District expenditures.

## **The History of El Toro Memorial Park**

Founded in 1896, El Toro Memorial Park was originally owned by El Toro Land and Water, a company that built wells and distributed water. To entice prospective buyers to purchase stock, the company offered cemetery plots for \$1 each.

The earliest cemeteries in California were generally small plots developed by churches and fraternal organizations. By 1900, many had fallen into disrepair and neglect. In 1909, the State of California created an enabling act allowing the formation of cemetery districts. In 1926, the State further allowed counties to form cemetery districts for the preservation and maintenance of abandoned cemeteries. For Orange County, this resulted in the establishment of four separate, independent districts.

It was a fortunate turn of events, since by 1923 El Toro Cemetery had, itself, fallen into severe neglect. In fact, the community even staged a play called "The Lion and the Mouse" to raise money to clear away the weeds. In 1927, El Toro Land and Water sold El Toro Cemetery to the Orange County Cemetery District #1 for only ten dollars.

Orange County Cemetery District #1 operated El Toro Cemetery for the next five decades, changing its name to El Toro Memorial Park in 1983. Then, in 1984 the Orange County Board of Supervisors agreed with the State's Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) and consolidated the four districts into a single Orange County Cemetery District. The newly formed district included: El Toro Memorial Park, Anaheim Cemetery, Santa Ana Cemetery, and the small, 6-acre Magnolia Memorial Park. Magnolia was later sold to Rose Drive Baptist Church in Yorba Linda.

Today, the District is actively looking for approximately 20 acres within Orange County suitable for the development of a new, fourth cemetery.

# El Toro's Community Programs

## Honoring Our Veterans



Over 1,000 veterans have been laid to rest in the grounds of El Toro Memorial Park. To honor our Veterans, the District holds free annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day Programs. Our special thanks go to American Legion Post 862, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6024, and the Daughters of the American Revolution – Mission Viejo Chapter, who take the lead in planning and participating in these special programs.

Local Boy Scout Troops place an American flag on the grave of every Veteran interred just prior to each program. If you have never visited the park at this time, it is an inspiring sight. Visitors can walk from flag to flag and appreciate the staggering variety of service reflected by the number of marked graves.

Beginning in 2017 El Toro Memorial Park also began participation with Wreaths Across America. This organization works with local groups such as American Heritage Girls and other Scouting groups to place beautiful, fresh wreaths on the graves of veterans during the holidays.

## The Angel of Hope

The Angel of Hope statue, located in the Infant Section of the park, is the gathering place for the annual Angel of Hope Memorial Candlelight Service that takes place every December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

Since its dedication in 2002, the statue has been a source of support for anyone who has lost a child of any age for any reason. The statue was inspired by Richard Paul Evans' national bestseller, *The Christmas Box*, which is the story of a grieving mother who mourns the loss of her child at the base of an angel statue. Bricks around the base of the monument are inscribed with the names of dearly missed children who have left us all too soon. If you are interested in learning more about the Angel of Hope organization or purchasing a brick, please visit [www.careandkindness.org/angelofhope](http://www.careandkindness.org/angelofhope).



## The Garden of Innocence

Adjacent to the Infant Section is the Garden of Innocence – a final resting place for unidentified and abandoned deceased children. The non-profit group, Garden of Innocence, works with the county and local area hospitals to receive the remains of unidentified and abandoned children and provide them with loving and dignified burials. Services include a processional by the Knights of Columbus, a short message, special music and a dove release. Each child is given a name and a donated marker is placed on the grave. For more information visit their website at [www.gardenofinnocence.org](http://www.gardenofinnocence.org).



## **The Saddleback Area Historical Society and Heritage Hill Historical Park**

The Saddleback Area Historical Society got its start back in 1974 when a local real estate agent, Jeanne Gagnebin, discovered that plans were in the works to demolish the first schoolhouse in El Toro. The schoolhouse had been built in 1890, turned into a church in 1913, but in 1974 sat vacant. Gagnebin gathered the support of more than one hundred community members to save the school and the Saddleback Area Historical Society was born.

The society succeeded in convincing the Orange County Board of Supervisors and park officials to move the schoolhouse to a county-owned property a few miles away. That 4.1 acre parcel, which already featured the original Serrano Adobe built in 1863 by Don Jose Serrano's family, was in the process of being turned into the county's first historical park. We know it today as Heritage Hill Historical Park near the corner of Serrano Rd. and Lake Forest Dr.



**Photo of the old El Toro Schoolhouse provided by Jane Norgren to Chris Jepsen, appearing on his O.C. History Roundup blog on November 10, 2009. (Photo dated late 1960s or early 1970s.)**



After two years of fundraising efforts, the Saddleback Area Historical Society not only acquired El Toro's first schoolhouse, but also St. George's Episcopal Mission. Built in 1891 through the efforts of Dwight Whiting and his in-laws, the Keating Family, St. George's Mission was constructed in memory of the Keating's son, George James Keating, who passed away unexpectedly on June 22, 1888.



This photo, taken in 1976, shows the transportation of these two historic structures from their original locations near El Toro Road to Heritage Hill.

**Photo Source: Calisphere and the Orange County Public Libraries**

About a year after these two buildings joined the park, the Society was able to acquire the 1908 Harvey Bennett Ranch House, which calls to mind the citrus farming days of Orange County's early twentieth century.

All four structures in the park are now fully restored and furnished to represent distinct eras in the early development of the Saddleback Valley and the town of El Toro. The park offers free tours weekly for individuals and groups of seven or less. Just show up Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 2 p.m., or Saturday at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Volunteer docents meet visitors at the front porch of the Serrano Adobe and give a guided tour of each building, offering an interpretation of Saddleback area history through artifacts, events and people associated with each building.

Heritage Hill has something to offer people of all ages, all year round. Mark your calendar for Rancho Days Fiesta, Victorian Christmas, and Autumn Harvest Festival. Please visit [www.ocparks.com/heritagehill](http://www.ocparks.com/heritagehill) for more information.

## **El Toro's Early History – The Serrano Family**

In 1799, Don Francisco Serrano served as the Chief Executive Officer of the pueblo of Los Angeles. His son, Jose Antonio Fernando Serrano was granted the original Mexican land grant in 1842 and was enlarged by a second grant in 1846. That land was called Rancho Cañada de los Alisos and included what is now Lake Forest and the Great Park site in Irvine. In Spanish it means Glen of the Alders after the native White Alder Trees growing in this area.

After California was ceded to the United States after the Mexican-American War, the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ensured that the Mexican land grants would be honored. Jose Serrano and his family raised crops to sell, but their principal industry was cattle.

Unfortunately for the Serranos, in 1863, about the same time the Serrano Adobe was built, a series of droughts hit this area. For the Serranos, it was catastrophic. In the first two years of the drought, their herds died and eventually forced the ranch into foreclosure to the Los Angeles Banker J.S. Slauson. He divided the land and Bostonian, Dwight Whiting, purchased most of the Rancho in 1884.

In 1991, when the community of El Toro incorporated as the City of Lake Forest, a Los Angeles Times Staff Writer, Davan Maharaj, tracked down the great-great-grandson of Don Francisco Serrano. Reyes Serrano, who was 90 at the time, was still living in Trabuco Canyon with his wife of 61 years, Dora Serrano. Like his forefathers, he had spent his life working on cattle ranches and was considered by local historians to be California's oldest vaquero (cowboy). The Serranos spoke of how El Toro had been named after a white-faced prized bull owned by the early Serranos. They were greatly saddened and angered to learn that the community their family had started would now be known as Lake Forest.

## Dwight Whiting's Vision for El Toro

After acquiring most of the Rancho Canada de los Alisos in 1884, Whiting envisioned transforming the area into an English Colony of gentlemen fruit farmers. He set about developing his own 8,500-acre ranch, planting it with prunes, apricots, Bartlett pears, chestnuts, pecans, and soft shell walnuts, among other things. He even authored the book "Fruit Farming for Profit in California" as an aid in recruiting English immigrants to purchase parcels from him along Aliso Creek, in a development he would call Aliso City. Despite his efforts, only a few followed Mr. Whiting to El Toro.

Whiting was instrumental in bringing in the Santa Fe rail line through the region, where previously El Toro had been nothing more than a stage coach stop between San Diego and Los Angeles. It's also interesting to note that the Eucalyptus trees flourishing in Lake Forest were planted by Dwight Whiting, who had hoped to use the fast-growing trees as lumber for railroad ties. He did not know at the time that the trees would yield an inferior lumber not suitable for the railroad.



**Dwight Whiting with his experimental banana grove.**

Photo from Orange County Register, "Revisiting Dwight Whiting's El Toro" by Janet Whitcomb, Aug. 9, 2013

# Florence Griffith Joyner

**Gravesite Location:**

**Los Alisos, Block 34, Lot 4, Space 4**

## The World's Fastest Woman

Florence Griffith Joyner, or as she was better known, Flo Jo, stunned the world of track and field at the 1988 Seoul Olympics by winning three gold medals and one silver. Flo Jo still

holds world records in the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes. She set the 100-meter record of 10.49 seconds at the Olympic trials, and the 200-meter record of 21.34 seconds at the Olympics.



**Image Source:** Getty

Florence was the 7th of 11 children and grew up in the Jordan Downs public housing complex in the Watts section of Los Angeles. She started running at the age of seven and by the time she was a teenager she was a star athlete, as well as a straight-A student. She attended college and, at one point, dropped out to support her family, but eventually received a bachelor's degree in Psychology from UCLA.

Florence Griffith Joyner radiated personality. She was famous for her unconventional track outfits, many of which she designed herself, her flashy painted fingernails, and her beautiful flowing hair. She excelled in fashion design, acting, writing, sportscasting, as well as being a wife and mother. Her husband was Al Joyner, also an Olympic Gold Medalist in the triple jump. During her career she received numerous awards and was appointed as co-chair of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

Florence Griffith Joyner died in her sleep on September 21, 1998 in Mission Viejo from an epileptic seizure. It was found that she suffered from a congenital vascular brain abnormality that made her prone to seizures. She was only 38 years old.

## **Brigadier General Leonard Fribourg**

**Gravesite Location:  
Los Alisos, Block 34, Lot 23, Space 3**

Leonard Earl Fribourg enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1942 during World War II and served in the South Pacific as a member of the "Raider Regiment." The "Raider Regiment" was a new military concept and the beginning of America's Special Operations

Forces. While on Guadalcanal, he played in the famous furious pick-up football game known as the Mosquito Bowl on December 24, 1944.



He went on to serve as an officer in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars and received 14 medals and decorations, including the Legion of Merit for service in all three conflicts. In 1969, while serving in Southeast Asia, he was the first Jewish Marine to be promoted to the rank of Brigadier General while on active duty in over fifty years. In 1970 he took command of the Marine Reserves. For a time, he was acting commander at Camp Pendleton until his retirement in 1974.

As an interesting side note, Fribourg was a technical advisor to filmmakers for "Sands of Iwo Jima," the classic John Wayne war film, as military historian Lawrence H. Suide wrote in his book "Guts and Glory: The Making of the American Military image in Film."

Brigadier General Fribourg was also one of the founders of Toys for Tots, a national campaign orchestrated by the Marines to provide toys for needy children at Christmas.

He passed away August 14, 1993 at the age of 72 from complications of a staph infection.

## Cleofas Romero

**Gravesite Location: Southeast, Block 20, Lot 10, Space 10**

What little we know of Cleofas Romero, comes from historians Judy Deeter and Joe Osterman who reported that Cleofas Romero was hired long ago by local families to dig graves at El Toro Cemetery. He would often come at night to dig by moonlight. His nickname was Pi/Pie because he liked pie for dessert.

Perhaps that is where he encountered “The Blue Lady,” a ghost that is said to haunt the grounds of the cemetery. According to Southern California Spooks, Cleofas Romero was the first person to have seen her, and in 80 years up until his death, never wavered from his original account. According the Orange County Register, “The Blue Lady” is most likely linked to the site of the famous Irvine Ranch House, where Kathryn Helena Irvine, daughter of James Irvine II, died in 1920 of complications from childbirth at the young age of 26.

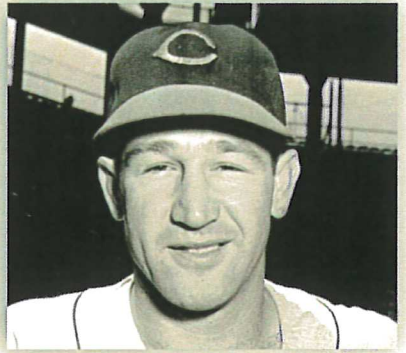


**This photo of El Toro's Meat Market, circa 1900, is what El Toro would have looked like to the teenage Cleofas Romero. It was located kitty-corner from the train depot.**

## George "Catfish" Metkovich

**Gravesite Location: Southeast, Block 21, Lot 9, Space 10**

George Michael "Catfish" Metkovich was an American Outfielder and first baseman in Major League Baseball for the Boston Red Sox (1943-46), Cleveland Indians (1947), Chicago White Sox (1949), Pittsburgh Pirates (1951-53), Chicago Cubs (1953), and Milwaukee Braves (1954).



He threw left-handed and helped the Boston Red Sox win the 1946 American League Pennant as the team's semi-regular right fielder. He appeared as a pinch hitter twice in the 1946 World Series against the St. Louis Cardinals.

Metkovich's playing career spanned 19 years from 1939 to 1957. In his ten Major League Baseball seasons he played 1,055 games, batting .261 with 934 hits, 47 home runs, and 373 RBI's. He managed the San Diego Padres of the Pacific Coast League from May 1957 to July 1960.

He got the nickname "Catfish" because of a bizarre fishing accident. After catching a three-foot catfish, he put his foot on its back while removing the hook. The catfish raised a sharp fin that cut through the crepe sole of Metkovich's shoe and through most of his foot. The fin was removed by surgery. Casey Stengel, manager of the Braves, said at the time, "I've got a young first baseman by the name of Metkovich who's in the hospital. Do you know how? He was attacked by a catfish!"

Metkovich also appeared in several Hollywood movies between 1949 and 1952 including "Three Little Words" in which he performed in several slapstick scenes with Red Skelton. He died in Costa Mesa at the age of 74 in 1995 and was inducted posthumously in the Pacific Coast League Hall of Fame in 2013.

## The Keating Family

Gravesite Location: Old Section, Block 11, Lot 11, Spaces 1 & 2



**Pictured above Judge William Keating and his wife Eliza**

William and Eliza met and married in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia in 1837. William had been admitted to the bar in 1828 and was ultimately appointed judge of probate and later, master in chancery extraordinary and American consular agent.

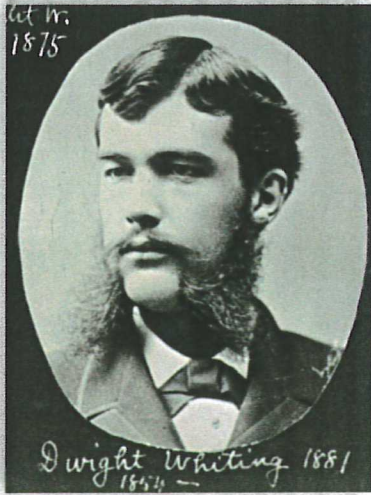
The Keatings had a large family. Eliza was pregnant 18 times, but sadly, seven of them died between the ages of six months and three years. An eighth child only lived to early adulthood. Of the ten surviving children, George James Keating became a highly successful businessman, establishing one of the world's largest companies dealing in farm equipment. George and his wife, Fannie, settled in a large Victorian mansion in San Diego in 1886 and were soon joined by William and Eliza.

But on June 22, 1888, George unexpectedly passed away. The Keatings moved to El Toro to be close to their daughter, Emily, and son-in-law, Dwight Whiting. They were largely responsible for the construction of El Toro's first church, St. George Episcopal Mission, built in memory of their late son.



## The Whiting Family

Whiting Monument & Family Burials: Old Section Block 11



### El Toro Founder Dwight Whiting and his wife Emily Keating Whiting

Dwight Whiting met Emily Keating at the opening of the Hotel Del Coronado in San Diego and they were married a year later in 1888. The couple had three children, a daughter, Nathalie and two sons, Dwight Anson and George. While Emily's parents were quite content to stay in El Toro and enjoy the country life, Emily saw it as too provincial. She persuaded her husband to move to a more sophisticated Los Angeles address.

Dwight and Emily became members of the social elite. Dwight joined several men's clubs while overseeing his El Toro investments and other real estate holdings. Tragically and ironically, Dwight Whiting died after sustaining head injuries when he and Mrs. Whiting were returning on the train from the El Toro Ranch with friends. The train gave a lurch as he was walking down the aisle and he fell, striking his head. At first it was not considered serious, but he died a few days later.

Emily would later remarry twice. Her second husband, Eyre Barrow-French died in 1910 and is buried near the Keatings. Dwight, Emily and their daughter Nathalie are all interred in Angelus Rosedale Cemetery in Los Angeles.

## **The Prothero Family**

**Gravesite Location: Southeast, Block 22, Lots 1 and 2**

The Prothero Family has lived in Orange County since John and Charlotte Prothero arrived in Santa Ana and set up a ranch sometime after the birth of their fourth child, John Moroni Prothero in 1875. Eventually, John Moroni Prothero moved to the El Toro area and worked share farming on the Moulton ranch for six years, where he broke open 700 acres for barley. The Moulton ranch was the area bounded by Aliso Creek, the railroad and the 5 freeway.

In El Toro in 1897, John met and married Josephine Buchheim. Their only son, Raymond H. Prothero was born in 1898. In 1908, John traded his farm outfit to A.C. Twist for the upper part of his El Toro holding and purchased additional land from the Cook and Victor tract, making his ranch 40 acres, which he planted with walnut and apricots.

When John M. Prothero died of lock jaw in 1913, Raymond dropped out of high school to work the ranch. He acquired more land and married Doris Bargsten in 1922 (pictured below). To those who use and enjoy the El Toro Library, a debt of gratitude is owed to the Prothero family, who donated the land on which the library now sits.



**Raymond & Doris with their four children:  
Eleanor, Ray Jr., Ted, and Earl**

## **Andrew Wesley Thompson**

**Gravesite Location: Southeast, Block 20, Lot 6, Space 8**

Andrew Wesley Thompson's ancestry can be traced back to the Commer family in Holland who arrived in America and settled in the Mohawk Valley in 1632. His grandfather served under General George Washington in the Revolutionary War.

When Andrew was ten years old, his parents, Andrew and Maria Thompson, settled in the frontier of Henderson, Minnesota in 1854 and planted some of the first hard wheat the area had ever seen. When he was 18 he joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Minnesota Cavalry's Company M and fought the Indians in the Dakota War of 1862 and fought for the Union in the Civil War.

Upon his return to Minnesota, he married Esther Tickner, began farming again and opened his own trading post at Big Stone Lake. He traded with the Sioux Indians and hunted the vast herds of buffalo to feed troops stationed in the territory.

In 1876, he pushed west with the frontier and settled his family on 300 acres north of Laguna Beach where he farmed and raised stock. In his later years, he traveled throughout California preaching for the Reorganized Church of Latter-Day Saints and served as Deputy County Clerk for fifteen years.



**The Wesley Thompson and Starkey families when they arrived in Laguna Canyon (Photo from Laguna Historical Society.smugmug.com)**

## The Stevens Family

**Gravesite Location: Southeast, Block 20, Lot 5, Spaces 1,2,9 & 10**

Milo B. Stevens and Ella May Cook were married in 1907 and began farming 2,000 to 3,000 acres of land called the Upper Oso Lease that same year. The lease was part of the 52,000-acre ranch known as Rancho Mission Viejo owned by the O'Neil Family. The site of Milo and Ella's original farmhouse now lies under the waters of Lake Mission Viejo. The lands where they harvested barley and black-eyed peas is all the property beneath and around the lake, bounded by the current landmarks of Alicia Parkway and Olympiad Rd. The Stevens worked the land for twenty years until 1928 when Mr. Stevens bought his own 60 acres in Simi Valley.

Ella's family had lived in the area since 1884, when her parents Andrew Jackson and Mary Barker Cook (pictured right) acquired 190 acres of land at what is now called "Cook's Corner." Ella's brother, Earl Cook, converted the original structure his father had built into a restaurant in 1926 for the local miners and ranchers. After Prohibition ended, the Cooks turned it into a bar.



Milo and Ella had four children. Their son, George, married Mae Swartz in 1929. Mae's family were also farmers who grew beans and apricots where Saddleback Valley Plaza is now located. George worked for 30 years in the oil fields, including Newport's first Whipstock Well. In 1956, he constructed El Toro's first domestic water system.

It's interesting to note the blending of North and South within this family, as Milo's grandfather was a drummer boy in the Union Army. Ella's father was a private in the Confederacy.

## Warren Foster

Gravesite Location: Old Section, Block 12, Lot 1, Space 4

“Warren Foster is responsible for writing many of the greatest cartoons ever made...” stated Stephen Worth, Director of Animation Resources.



Born in 1904 in Brooklyn, New York, Foster was educated at the Pratt Institute and later joined the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

He started as a gag man on Fleischer’s Popeye series in New York, and moved West in 1938 to join Bob Clampett at Warner Bros. His first project there was on a Porky Pig short, *Porky In Wackyland*. His work for Warner Bros. totaled nearly 171 cartoons featuring such characters as Daffy Duck, Sylvester the Cat, and Bugs Bunny. Near the end of his career with Warner Bros., he worked on the Tweetie Pie short, *Tweety Dreams*, and was the composer for the Tweetie bird theme song, *I Tawt I Taw a Puddy Tat*.

Foster later left Warner Bros. studio and went to work for Hanna-Barbera. During his employment at Hanna-Barbera, he worked as a writer and cartoonist on many popular animated programs, including *The Yogi Bear Show*, *The Huckleberry Hound Show*, *Quick Draw McGraw*, *The Jetsons*, and *The Flintstones*, and the feature length, *The Man Called Flintstone*.

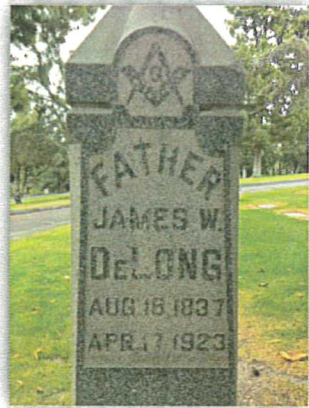
Friz Freleng of Warner Bros. once said of Foster that he was the best story man he had ever worked with. Warren Foster passed away on December 13, 1971 in San Clemente.

## James & Louisa DeLong and Maud Simmons

Gravesite Location: Southeast, Block 19, Lot 13, Space 2, 4, 7 & 8

The first interments to ever occur on the grounds of El Toro Memorial Park took place in May, 1896.

Two sisters, Maud Simmons and Louisa E. DeLong were buried side-by-side. Maud, who was only twenty years old at the time of her death, had actually passed away two years earlier on July 21, 1894. The cause of her death has been lost to history.



Her older sister, Louisa E. Simmons DeLong, was the wife of James DeLong and succumbed to tuberculosis when she was 37 years old. She must have been affectionately called “Lou” for short, because she is identified as such on both her own personal gravestone and the monument nearby that is dedicated to her, her sister Maud, and her husband, James.

James DeLong was born on August 18, 1837 in Illinois, where he married his first wife Elizabeth Emeline Campbell. Together the couple had two children, Mary and DeMarius DeLong, but it is unknown what became of this first family. James met Louisa in Missouri and they were married there on September 15, 1885. We don't know when the DeLongs arrived in Orange County or how much of the Simmons family accompanied them here, although clearly Maud made the trip from Missouri since she died here in Orange County.

James was the first section foreman for the Santa Fe Railroad and was in charge of workers who repaired the tracks between Irvine and San Juan Capistrano. He also purchased the first El Toro Store from Olif Fairchild. A few years after Louisa's death, he married a third time to Georgia A. DeLong who is also interred in the same plot. James died April 17, 1923.

## **Olif Fairchild**

**Gravesite Location: Old Section, Block 23, Lot 8, Space 1**

If Dwight Whiting's vision of an El Toro English Colony was to be realized, he knew he would have to build amenities that would attract his target audience. Whiting, thus, established a school and a church and brought the railroad through. But more was needed.

The first railroad station agent, Olif Fairchild, understood this as well, and constructed El Toro's first general store. It was a two-story structure located just across from the train station that he managed. The building (pictured below) is also visible on the front cover just behind the El Toro station. The building also served as a post office and hotel for newcomers and railroad workers.

When Olif Fairchild moved away, James DeLong purchased the store and leased it to several storekeepers over the years. One of them was Mr. Gail, whose daughter, Nellie Gail, would marry rancher, Lewis Moulton. The final proprietor was Mr. A. A. Avery, which explains the name "Three A Store" seen below. Sometime between 1917 and 1921 the structure burned down and would later be replaced by the Osterman family's store.

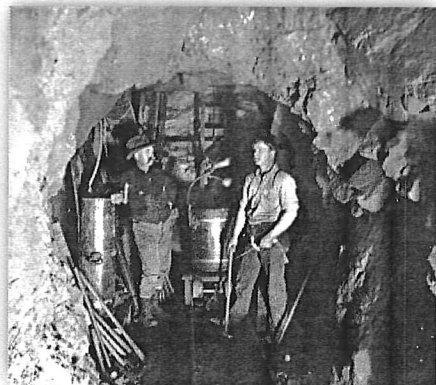


**Local teens pose for a photographer in front of Avery's general store, circa 1915.**

## Carl Juul and the Tin Mine of Trabuco Canyon

Gravesite Location: Southeast, Block 22, Lot 13, Space 2

Carl Juul, or as he was often called, the “Hermit of the Tin Mine,” came to the U.S. from Denmark. For 19 years he carried out the lonely job of guard and caretaker for the Trabuco Tin Mine.



The mine had been the brainchild of geologist J.A. Comer who, in 1901, located 54 claims that

**Photo taken 3/20/1903 (USC Library)**

supposedly held tin in Trabuco Canyon. Comer convinced New York dairy magnate, Gail Borden of the Borden Milk Company, to become part owner and, together, they formed the Santa Ana Tin Mining Company. Borden needed tin, since the U.S. health agency had just banned the use of wooden buckets to transport milk, instead, requiring containers that could be covered and sterilized. With the mine, Borden probably felt he had found the perfect answer.

Construction began in earnest with several buildings and more than 1,000 feet of shafts and tunnels. But after investing nearly \$1.5 million, Borden never extracted any tin. The mine was bought and sold over the years by various owners, but no one ever struck it rich.

As for Carl, he dutifully kept his post until 1944, when he suffered an appendicitis attack. In tremendous pain, he hiked four miles to the Trabuco Post Office for help. He was taken to Los Angeles for an operation but did not recover.

Up until the mid-1970's, the mine and its buildings stayed in remarkably good condition. Eventually, the County of Orange determined that the site was not worthy of preservation. All that remains today is a partial stone wall.



## Christian Kent Nelson

Gravesite Location: Live Oak, Block 27, Lot 26, Space 3

Born in Denmark in 1893, Christian Kent Nelson settled in Iowa and became a high school teacher. He opened a small confectionery shop near his school.



One day in 1920, a boy began to buy an ice cream, but changed his mind and purchased a chocolate bar instead. Curious, Nelson asked why he didn't buy both. The young lad said, "Sure, I know – I want 'em both, but I only got a nickel." And with that, the idea for a brick of ice cream covered in a chocolate coating was conceived. For weeks, Nelson worked to find the best method of sticking melted chocolate on to ice cream and found cocoa butter to be the perfect adherent. He introduced the dessert, which he called the "I-Scream Bar" at the local fireman's picnic and it was an immediate hit.

On July 13, 1921, Nelson and chocolate maker Russell C. Stover entered into a joint agreement to market and produce the product, selling manufacturing rights to local ice cream companies for \$500 to \$1,000, plus royalties on each bar sold. Russell's wife, Clara, was said to have thought up a new name for the bar and it became known as the "Eskimo Pie." In 1922, they patented the idea and by that spring, 2,700 manufacturers sold one million Eskimo Pies per day and Nelson was earning \$2,000 per day in royalties.

Due to patent litigation, high salaried salesmen, and difficulties collecting royalties, Stover sold his share of the company in 1922, and in 1924 Eskimo Pie became a subsidiary of United States Foil Co., later known as Reynolds Metals Co. Nelson, a very wealthy man, retired with his wife, Myrtle, and moved to California. Out of boredom, he returned to Eskimo Pie as a vice-president until his official retirement in 1961. He passed away March 8, 1992. Today Eskimo Pie is owned by Nestlé.

## More El Toro Memorial Park Interments

### Hillside Section

**Marjorie Stapp Browne** (1-16-10) Television and film actress primarily from the 1940's to the 1960's appearing in such works as *The Kid from Brooklyn*, *Cheyenne*, *Dragnet*, *My Three Sons*, and *77 Sunset Strip*.

**Kimberly Hill** (2-1-12) Daughter of former Philadelphia Eagles tight-end Fred Hill. She was diagnosed with leukemia at the age of three and her battle against the disease led to the establishment of the Ronald McDonald House charities for children with serious illnesses.

### Centennial Section

**Gordon Jump** (90-5) Actor best remembered for his roles in WKRP in Cincinnati, Soap, and for being the lonely Maytag repairman.

**Dr. Robert Duncan Luce** (55-4) Mathematical psychologist and social reformer. Known as the founder of the Institute of Behavioral Science at the University of California.

### Evergreen Section

**John Harbin Rousselot** (26-46-8) U.S. Congressman elected to represent California's 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Districts in the United States House of Representatives serving from 1961 to 1963 and 1970 to 1983.

**Richard O. Spencer** (16-39-5B) Architect known for his modernist designs, including a cantilevered home on a Malibu hillside and other homes along the California coast and in the Hollywood Hills. He also designed the monorail for the 1962 Seattle World's Fair, still operating today.

### Live Oak Section

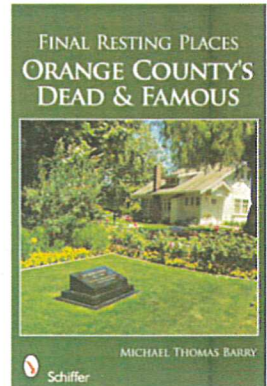
**Ralph Reed Freeto** (13-4-9) Television and film actor appearing in such works as *High Noon*, *North by Northwest*, *Wagon Train*, *Rawhide* and more.

## Notable Orange County Interments

If you have enjoyed learning more about the background of El Toro Memorial Park and the stories of some of those interred here, you may want to consider exploring other cemeteries located within Orange County.

In his book titled, *Final Resting Places – Orange County’s Dead & Famous*, award winning author, Michael Thomas Barry, has created an extremely helpful guide that details the gravesite locations and life stories of 200 personalities interred in Orange County.

Here is just a brief sample of some of Orange County’s notable gravesites included in Mr. Barry’s book:



**Richard Nixon Presidential Library** – Richard & Pat Nixon  
**Mission San Juan Capistrano** – Jose Antonio Yorba  
**Old Mission Cemetery** – John Forster  
**Anaheim Cemetery** – Vincenta Sepulveda Yorba y Carrillo  
**Santa Ana Cemetery** – Robert McFadden  
**Fairhaven Memorial Park** – James Irvine III  
**Pacific View Memorial Park** – John Wayne  
**Forest Lawn Memorial Park: Cypress** – Philip Ford  
**Melrose Abbey Memorial Park** - Rudolph Boysen  
**Westminster Memorial Park** - Stafford Repp  
**Loma Vista Memorial Park** - Walter & Cordelia Knott  
**The Crystal Cathedral Memory Gardens** - Marie Callender  
**Magnolia Memorial Park** – Dimitrios Speros “Jim” Baxes  
**Harbor Lawn Mt. Olive Memorial Park** – Ron Jessie  
**Holy Sepulcher Cemetery** – Carl Karcher  
**Ascension Cemetery** – William Hanna  
**Good Shepherd Cemetery** – Robert Burks

The book is available online from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Schiffer Books.

## Using the Walk-to-Site Feature

If you are visiting any of the three public cemeteries operated by the Orange County Cemetery District, which includes: El Toro Memorial Park, Santa Ana Cemetery, and Anaheim Cemetery, you can use our new “Walk-to-Site” feature on our website to help guide you directly to the gravesite you are trying to locate.

To use the feature, on your smart phone or tablet go to the District website at [www.occemeterydistrict.com](http://www.occemeterydistrict.com). Look for the “Search here for gravesites and services” option as shown below.

Search here for gravesites and services:



[Anaheim - Desktop Version](#) | [Mobile Version](#)

[El Toro - Desktop Version](#) | [Mobile Version](#)

[Santa Ana - Desktop Version](#) | [Mobile Version](#)

Click on the word “Mobile Version” for the cemetery you are visiting. It will open up a search field where you can enter the first and last name of the deceased person. As you are searching, remember that names must be entered as they are listed in our records. If you are unsure of the spelling, try typing just the first few letters and then use the “Next” and “Previous” buttons to scroll through possible matches. Their name will appear in the bar below the search field.

When you have the correct name, click on the bar and a map will open up showing the location of your phone as a blue dot and the location of the gravesite as a red dot. As you move in the park, you will see your blue dot move as well on the map. Just navigate to move your position towards the gravesite. Typically, the feature will get you within ten feet of the gravesite.

As with all technology, the feature is not perfect. If you experience problems, please contact the cemetery office for assistance during business hours, M-F from 8 AM to 5 PM.

## **Acknowledgements**

An event like this does not take place without a host of generous individuals and organizations who are willing to donate their time and talent. The Orange County Cemetery District would like to extend its deepest thanks to the following volunteers:

### **Janet Whitcomb and Her Legacy of Writings**

In researching this booklet, one name above all kept appearing time and time again – Janet Whitcomb. Although she passed away on Jan. 19, 2017, her invaluable knowledge lives on through her impressive body of work concerning the history of our community. We owe her a debt of gratitude!

### **The Orange County School of the Arts**

Special thanks to Donald Amerson, Director of Thespian Troupe 6826 and to all the student actors and actresses playing the different characters from history.  
You made our tour come alive!

### **The Saddleback Area Historical Society & Heritage Hill**

Our heartfelt thanks to SAHS for providing knowledgeable docents to be available to answer questions.

### **Our Docents**

Melanie Goss, Ann Nepsa, Cynthia Ward, Kim Eazell,  
Tim Deutsch and Mary Funk

### **The Huntington Beach Historical Society**

The District would also like to thank our Board Chair, Kelly Rivers and Darrell Rivers, for helping us with costumes for our actors and actresses. Don't miss the Huntington Beach Civil War Days which is Southern California's largest Civil War reenactment. Sept. 1-2, 2018 in Central Park.  
For more information visit: [www.hbhistory.org](http://www.hbhistory.org)

### **Author, Michael Thomas Barry**

For providing a wealth of interesting information on notable interments in Orange County.

## Source Citations

- Baldock, Maurita. "The Eskimo Pie Corporation Records, 1921-1996 #553," 1998. Revised Jan. 31, 2007. <http://www.amhistory.si.edu/archives/d8553.htm/> (accessed Feb. 23, 2018).
- Barry, Michael Thomas. Final Resting Places Orange County's Dead & Famous. Atglen, PA: Schiffer Publishing, Ltd., 2010
- Bevilacqua, Maj. Allan C. "The Football Classic," Dec. 2015. <https://www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/2015/12/football-classic> (accessed Feb. 21, 2018)
- Blacketer, Belinda. "Andrew Wesley Thompson – Laguna Beach History," July 20, 2009. <http://felderlaguna88.blogspot.com/2009/07/Andrew-wesley-thompson-andrew-wesley.html> (accessed March 3, 2018)
- "Catfish Metkovich," Dec. 16, 2017. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catfish\\_Metkovich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catfish_Metkovich) (accessed Feb. 22, 2018)
- "Cook's Corner," Feb. 8, 2017. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cook%27s\\_Corner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cook%27s_Corner) (accessed Feb. 23, 2018)
- DeLong, Roy. "Photograph – DeLong Marker," <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/113597286#view-photo=84134613> (accessed March 22, 2018)
- Dollman, Darla Sue. "The Minnesota Massacre, or Dakota War of 1862," Nov. 10, 2012. <http://wildwesthistory.blogspot.com/2012/11/the-minnesota-massacre-or-dakota-war-of.html> (accessed March 3, 2018)
- Dunning, Andrew. "Exploring and Informing: Trabuco Canyon Tin," Oct. 4, 2014. <http://dvexplore.blogspot.com/2014/10/trabuco-canyon-tin.html> (accessed Feb. 22, 2018)
- "Dwight Whiting," 1881. Web. 24 mar 2018. <http://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/rb68xh73f> (accessed March 19, 2018)
- Eschner, Kat. "The Weird, Brief History of the Eskimo Pie Corporation," Jan. 24, 2017. <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/weird-short-history-eskimo-pie-corporation-180961840/> (accessed Feb. 23, 2018).

## Source Citations

"El Toro Memorial Park," <http://socalspooks.com/haunts/el-toro-memorial-park.html> (accessed march 18, 2018)

"Eskimo Pie," Feb. 20, 2018. [http://www.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?Title=Eskimo\\_Pie&oldid=826734656](http://www.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?Title=Eskimo_Pie&oldid=826734656) (accessed Feb. 22,2018)

"Florence Griffith Joyner," <http://www.florencegriffithjoyner.com/bio.html> (accessed Feb. 15, 2018)

"Florence Griffith Joyner," March15, 2018. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florence\\_Griffith\\_Joyner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florence_Griffith_Joyner) (accessed March 19, 2018)

"Farming the Upper Oso Lease: The Milo B. Stevens Family" Aug. 13, 2015. [http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WMPDM5\\_Farming\\_the\\_Upper\\_Oso\\_Lease\\_The\\_Milo\\_B\\_Stevens\\_Family\\_Mission\\_Viejo\\_CA](http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WMPDM5_Farming_the_Upper_Oso_Lease_The_Milo_B_Stevens_Family_Mission_Viejo_CA) (accessed Feb. 23, 2018)

Gettemy, Robert M. "Tin Mine," May 13, 1974. [http://www.holyjimcanyon.com/history/tin\\_mine.php](http://www.holyjimcanyon.com/history/tin_mine.php) (accessed Feb. 23, 2018)

"Heritage Hill Historical Park," <http://www.ocparks.com/historic/heritage> (accessed March 17, 2018)

"Heritage Hill Historical Park/History," <http://www.ocparks.com/historic/heritage/history> (accessed March 17, 2018)

"Heritage Hill Historical Park/Park Brochure," <http://www.ocparks.com/Civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=18056> (accessed March 17, 2018)

Houghton, Mia (contributor 48151716). "Memorial page for James W. DeLong," July 9, 2013. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/113597286/james-w-delong/> (accessed March 4, 2018)

Jepsen, Chris. "Cook's Corner," Nov. 9, 2009. <http://ochistorical.blogspot.com/2009/11/cooks-corner.html> (accessed March 3, 2018)

Jepsen, Chris. "Old El Toro and Photographer Ed Cochems," Nov. 10, 2009. <http://ochistorical.blogspot.com/2009/11/old-el-toro-and-photographer-ed-cochems.html>

## Source Citations

- Jepsen, Chris. "The Santa Ana Tin Mining Co.," April 22, 2009. <http://ochistorical.blogspot.com/2009/04/santa-ana-tin-mining-co.html> (accessed Feb. 23, 2018)
- "Lake Forest, California," Jan. 5, 2018. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake\\_Forest,\\_California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Forest,_California) (accessed Feb. 16, 2018)
- "Leonard E. Fribourg," <https://valor.militarytimes.com/hero/106919> (accessed Feb. 15, 2018)
- Maharaj, Davan. March 24, 1991. "Unwelcome Change: Renaming of El Toro Angers Feisty Descendant of Don Given Land in Mexican Grant," [http://articles.latimes.com/1991-03-24/local/me-1471\\_1\\_el\\_toro](http://articles.latimes.com/1991-03-24/local/me-1471_1_el_toro) (accessed Feb. 16, 2018)
- "Marine Corps General Leonard Fribourg Dies at 72," Aug. 17, 1993. [http://articles.latimes.com/1993-08-17/local/me-24507\\_1\\_marine-corps](http://articles.latimes.com/1993-08-17/local/me-24507_1_marine-corps) (accessed Feb. 16, 2018)
- Moulton, Charlotte. "El Toro and Its History" 1932. <http://www.orange-countyhistory.org/history/moulton-el-toro.html> (accessed Feb. 21, 2018)
- "Moving the El Toro School House and St. George Episcopal Church to Heritage Hill Park, El Toro 1976," Photograph by Saddleback Area Historical Society. <http://cdm16838.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/p16838coll1/id/2033> (accessed March 16, 2018)
- Nelson, Carl. "History and Heritage," April 2013. [http://www.asceoc.org/newsletter/article/history\\_and\\_heritage\\_april\\_2013](http://www.asceoc.org/newsletter/article/history_and_heritage_april_2013) (accessed March 17, 2018)
- "Orange County Haunts," Sept. 17, 2013. <https://www.oregister.com/2013/09/17/orange-county-haunts/> (accessed March 18, 2018)
- "Rancho Cañada de los Alisos," Aug. 23, 2017. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rancho\\_Cañada\\_de\\_los-Alisos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rancho_Cañada_de_los-Alisos) (accessed Feb. 16, 2018)
- "Sands of Iwo Jima," Jan. 18, 2018. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sands\\_of\\_Iwo\\_Jima](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sands_of_Iwo_Jima) (accessed Feb. 15, 2018)



## Source Citations

- Townsend, Adam. "Brigadier General Leonard Fribourg," Oct. 28, 2008. <https://www.oregister.com/2008/10/28/brig-gen-leonard-fribourg/> (accessed Feb. 15, 2018)
- "Warren Foster," Feb. 26, 2018. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warren\\_Foster](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warren_Foster) (accessed March 3, 2018)
- Warren, Lee. "1950 Pacific Coast League MVP: Catfish Metkovich," Dec. 11, 2013. <https://www.minorleagueball.com/2013/12/11/5191956/1950-pacific-coast-league-mvp-catfish-metkovich> (accessed March 20, 2018)
- Whitcomb, Janet. "1970s Real Estate Agent Sparked Area's Historical Society," May 1, 2014. <https://www.oregister.com/2014/05/01/1970s-real-estate-agent-sparked-areas-historical-society/> (accessed March 15, 2018)
- Whitcomb, Janet. "Coming Soon: A Celebration of the Prothero Family," April 3, 2011. <https://patch.com/california/lakeforest-ca/coming-soon-a-celebration-of-the-prothero-family> (accessed March 20, 2018)
- Whitcomb, Janet. "Dwight Whiting's City Wife, Emily," Aug. 16, 2013. <https://www.oregister.com/2013/08/16/whitcomb-dwight-whitings-city-wife-emily/> (accessed March 4, 2018)
- Whitcomb, Janet. "Historically Speaking: Keating House is Old El Toro's San Diego Connection," July 4, 2016. <https://www.oregister.com/2016/07/04/historically-speaking-keating-house-is-old-el-toros-san-diego-connection/> (accessed March 3, 2018)
- Whitcomb, Janet. "Old El Toro Business Was Hub of Activity," Aug. 22, 2014. <https://www.oregister.com/2014/08/22/od-el-toro-business-was-hub-of-activity/> (accessed March 22, 2018)
- Whitcomb, Janet. "Old General Store Kept Saddleback Valley Running," Jan. 17, 2014. <https://www.oregister.com/2014/01/17/old-general-store-kept-saddleback-valley-running/> (accessed Feb. 21, 2018)
- Whitcomb, Janet. "Revisiting Dwight Whiting's El Toro," Aug. 9, 2013. <https://www.oregister.com/2013/08/09/revisiting-dwight-whitings-el-toro/> (accessed March 12, 2018)

## Source Citations

- Whitcomb, Janet. "Starry, Starry Night: A Rendition of an Old El Toro Landmark," Aug. 28, 2012. <https://patch.com/california/lakeforest-ca/starry-starry-night-4d2486d6> (accessed March 20, 2018)
- Whitcomb, Janet. "The Sudden Demise of Dwight Whiting," July 29, 2012. <https://patch.com/california/lakeforest-ca/dwight-whiting-demise-the-strange-and-premature-demisc560d03841> (accessed March 19, 2018)
- Whitcomb, Janet. "What Ever Happened To El Toro's First General Store?," Sept. 29, 2012, <http://www.patch.com/california/lakeforest-ca/whatever-happened-to-el-toros-first-general-store> (accessed March 21, 2018)
- Whitcomb, Janet. "Wheeling and Dealing with Dwight Whiting," Feb. 28, 2012. <https://patch.com/california/lakeforest-ca/wheeling-and-dealing-with-dwight-whiting> (accessed March 18, 2018)
- Whitcomb, Janet. "Whiting's In-Laws: 18 Kids And Tons Of Tales," July 26, 2011. <https://patch.com/california/lakeforest-ca/whiting-in-laws-18-kids-and-tons-of-tales> (accessed March 3, 2018)
- Whitcomb, Janet. "Whiting's In-Laws Leave Mark On El Toro," Sept. 6, 2013. <https://www.ocregister.com/2013/09/06/whittings-in-laws-leave-mark-on-el-toro/> (accessed Feb. 23, 2018)
- Whitcomb, Janet. "Who Was Eyre Barrow-ffrench, And Why Is He Here At El Toro Memorial Park?," June 25, 2012. <https://patch.com/california/lakeforest-ca/who-was-eyre-barrow-ffrench-and-why-is-he-at-el-toro-2ee4e5bd0e> (accessed March 4, 2018)
- Whiting, David. "Whiting Ranch Offers Family Mystery," July 11, 2012. <https://www.ocregister.com/2012/07/11/whiting-ranch-offers-family-mystery/> (accessed March 5, 2018)
- Worth, Stephen. "The Greatest Cartoon Writer Of All Time," Nov. 22, 2016. <https://animationresources.org/category/warren-foster/> (accessed March 21, 2018)