ROBERT OLSEN, NOTHING FLIGHTY HERE!

Bob and Virginia Olsen have lived in Toquerville about 36 years. The selection of property, along Ash Creek, is restful, full of trees and plants that bloom and blossom most of the year. Bob retired in 1991 from the position of Ground Superintendent at Dixie College. For 23 years he created landscape magic on the college grounds. Keeping busy was part of the reason he chose to become a builder of birdhouses to entice the feathered friends that took refuge in his yard.

In addition to the birdhouses, he started carving faces from knots in pine trees. He claims that the knots speak to him as to how the face should look. If you are lucky enough to enjoy a visit to their home you will see many of the works of art he has scattered about the property.

While the Washington County Historical Society goes dark during the summer months, Bob, who is very active with the organization, packs up the car, and Virginia, and off they go to the Cape Blanco Lighthouse on the southern Oregon coast. He and Virginia “babysit” the lighthouse for about a month, returning home refreshed and invigorated. It’s back to the matters of the Historical Society, building more birdhouses, and eyeing tree knots for further inspiration. Virginia is equally involved. The Toquerville Historical Society has elected to redo the Old Church, and Virginia and fellow quilters are putting their quilting talents to work to add further beauty to the historical building.

Washington County Historical Society looks forward to Bob’s year as President, which commences in January.

Days on Which to Display Your Flag
(Courtesy of Heideman Poulsen Mortuary pamphlet)

The flag should be displayed on all days and especially on all national and state holidays and on historic and special occasions.

SALUTING THE FLAG

When attending a ceremony in which the flag is raised or lowered, or when the flag is passing in a parade or in a review, all present should face the flag and stand at attention. Men should remove their hats and hold them over the left shoulder so that the hand is over the heart. Women should stand with their right hand over their heart. Those in military uniform should stand at attention and salute. The salute should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.

IN MEMORY

Wes Larson - April 29, 2004
A Good Friend
"Grow Cotton." Brigham Young issued the challenge in 1857 to 38 families. The Museum in the old school helps tell the story. Come, observe, learn how these Pioneers coped with adversity. The museum is open weekdays.

Names in Washington City’s History

- Samuel Jefferson Adair - Ten families under his direction arrived April 15, 1857.
- John D. Lee - scouted the area in 1852.
- Robert D. Covington led 28 more families to the area. As a plantation foreman he had experience growing cotton. He was the first leader of the branch of the LDS Church.
- President Isaac C. Haight, from Cedar City conferred with these pioneers and aided in laying out the City as well as the name of Washington City after the first President of the United States.

+++=+++ADAI++SPRINGS++135++No.+200++East+++==

Floods produced havoc - twice in 1857, twice in 1858, three times in 1859 and at least once each year until the building of the Washington Fields Dam in 1891.

Río Virgin was the offending body of water.

Malaria, dysentery, typhoid fever were common maladies, killing many babies and children. "Ague" was the name used to cover many of the illnesses.

Brigham Young directed the building of the Cotton Factory in Washington in 1865. He called 309 families in 1861 to come and augment the cities along the Virgin. In 1863 the Tabernacle was built and in 1871 the Temple became a reality. Several organizations promote year round activities: The Washington Chamber of Commerce, The Lions Club, The Sons and Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, Churches Schools and others.

The Washington City Historical Society helps others to preserve their legacy and to find and save the history of the city and its early Pioneers. (Won't you come visit the many noteworthy venues in Washington City? You will be enriched and enlightened.)

The Washington County Historical Society thanks Harold Cahoon for this information and representation on the Board of the Historical Society.
Thank you, Corporate Members, for your support. There's room for more! Call Joyce Whittaker, Fred Armbruster for information!
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We’d love to have you with us! Contact President Whittaker for information!


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Viki Lasswell
Loretta Adams
This mural is essentially in two parts. In an effort to conserve space we have chosen to show only the bottom portion. You are encouraged to visit this new and elegant library to enjoy the complete work of art.

"...The bottom left side of the mural depicts the Paiute chief Kwi-Toos (whose wickiup stood right where the St. George temple stands today) and his wife, reaching into the open bag as elements of the Native American culture escape like a Pandora's box filling the sky with Navajo Kachina dolls, pottery, native herbs, corn petroglyph carvers, and hidden animals whose names are written in the Paiute language. Models for the rug weaver woman and child circle dancer are Penny John and her granddaughter Maria Ayala (living descendants of the Shiwitz band of the Paiutes). Penny's husband Clarence is depicted on the right side of the mural in the section of 'modern pioneers' of Santa Clara, where he is painting a landscape of the view from the Shiwitz reservation. He actually came in and painted this segment of the wall, so we have some local original art represented!

"The center area holds images of the first Swiss-Mormon pioneers who arrived in 1861 to settle the barren flood plains and tenaciously attempt to cultivate cotton and sorghum. Next to the spinning wheel, which displays local herbs and crops grown in the region, is Jacob Hamblin. This Mormon leader was called to the area in 1854 as a missionary to the Indians. He learned their language and tried to improve their life styles. He became a mediator between the Indians and the settlers and travelers through the area. The small grouping of people trudging across the Virgin River is Jacob Hamblin rescuing a Swiss immigrant mother and baby from the fort that was flooded in 1862. That baby's daughter is Santa Clara resident Wanda Graff Frei. Many of the town's historic buildings are depicted as well as children of the predominant families: the Gublers, Toblers, Graffs, Hafens, Stahelis, Frei, Wittwers and Ences playing the favorite game of 'Town Bell.'

"The left side of the mural is a conglomerate of important sites and influential people of modern day Santa Clara. Local historian and naturalist Bart Anderson leads one of his hikes through the discovery of dinosaur tracks, the vistas of the red rocks of Snow Canyon and Red Mountain, Joshua trees, and indigenous animal life. Below, artist Clarence John, the great, great grandson of Chief Kwi-Toos paints his surreal landscape and Landon and Wanda Frei offer their famous fresh produce from Frei's fruit stand, and landmark in Santa Clara for over 50 years.

"Names of all the dedicated laborers, contractors, town officials, library staff and directors as well as other mystery images (maybe even your name!) can be found hidden in the mural. I hope you enjoy it, and thank you for the opportunity to research this amazing place through interviewing many of you wonderful and talented local celebrities!"

As Ms. Toronto notes "the smaller companion mural circling the reference desk contains images of petroglyphs found in the surrounding foothills (thanks to the locals who pointed me in the right direction)."
WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yearly Membership for Couples $15.00 (This will be phased out in 2005)
Yearly Membership for Singles $10.00
Corporate Memberships $100.00
Lifetime Membership $150.00
Other Contribution $______

Please mail this form with your dues to:
Washington Country Historical Society
P. O. Box 404
St. George, Utah 84771

DATE: _______________________________
NAME: _______________________________
ADDRESS: ___________________________
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"Darling, let's get out of here and head for the Washington County Historical Society meeting. I'll even buy you a membership!"