

Orange Public Library and History Center



Taft Branch



El Modena Branch



Untold Story of Legendary Benefactress Maxine Huber Finally Revealed

By Lawrence E. Tannas, Jr., Orange, CA,
Friend of Maxine Huber
November 29, 2017

A Short Biography

You may not have known Maxine Huber but if you live in Orange it is almost certain she has affected and is still affecting your life. She was always quiet, always self sufficient and always kind, considerate and unassuming. But in her trust she left perhaps the largest estate ever given to our community at large and few know about it. She lived most of her life in Orange, from age 15 until her death at age 94. Upon her death, Maxine Huber left in her trust, to the surprise of everyone who knew her, and in spite of her very frugal living style, approximately six million dollars for charitable purposes to 13 different civic organizations in the City of Orange.



Maxine V. Huber
June 4, 1918 – January 26, 2013

Continued on page 3

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Message from Orange Public Library Foundation President Kim Nichols Heroes among us:

The people who use libraries, who staff libraries and who support libraries are quiet heroes, doing those things that are the cornerstones of civilization, reading, writing, learning, thinking, and exploring. Where would we be without free access to books, programs, and the internet? Our literacy center transforms the lives of the adults who finally learn to read. The lives that are touched by library services and how those lives are touched are not headline news until something great happens. Philanthropist Andrew Carnegie is remembered for all of the public libraries he helped fund. Who will remember all of the people who matched those funds? We will remember our generous citizens. Our local history center is a thriving part of our library. Libraries are the foundation of what is possible. Our local history center preserves what we have done so far.

In this issue of our newsletter we give a nod of gratitude to two women, Maxine Huber and Joanne Coontz, whose support of our library is an outstanding example of making a commitment to our library as a cornerstone of our shared city culture. In addition we look forward to shining a celebrity light at our Library Legacy Awards & Gala, honoring our City of Orange Firefighters, who risked their lives in the Canyon 2 Fire, November 2017.

Your Donations at Work

Orange Public Library Foundation Annual Programs

FREE information @ oplfoundation.org or call (714) 288-2470



Visit our Free Seed Lending Library –
2nd Floor - Orange Public
Library & History Center

"I brought one of our zucchinis back to the library to show everyone and then shared some for the librarians to eat. I love gardening, it is fun and exciting to share with family and friends."— Mistey



 **Winter Documentary Film Series**
Spring Break Fun Film Fest
Summer Family Film Fest



Partnering with Old Towne Boys & Girls Club – *"We loved walking over to the library for movies last summer. We love our library."*

Partnering with National Charity League Mom & Daughter volunteers: *"We love popping popcorn for film series and we are amazed with the variety of seeds we sort for the Orange Seed Lending Library. Giving our support to make these programs possible is a gift that keeps on giving."* — Lisa and Sophia



STEAM
science • technology • engineering • art • math
for teens & tweens

Sponsored by Edison International
Programs spark curiosity and engage inquiring minds.



"Thank you so much for always bringing awesome events, especially my favorite STEAM for Teens & Tweens" — Lara



National Novel Writing Month



National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo), is a fun, seat-of-your-pants approach to creative writing.



**LITTLE
FREE
LIBRARIES**

Little Free Libraries provide free books and inspire a love of reading by fostering neighborhood book exchanges in our local parks.

SPRING (Apr - May)
"IT'S YOUR MONEY"
Workshop Series

FALL (Sept - Oct)
"IT'S YOUR ESTATE"
Workshop Series

Feel in control of your financial health.
Education only — 8 week seminars!

"The money/estate seminar is very informative. It stimulated us to get our trust in order and also encouraged us to talk to our children about End of Life wishes." — Glenn and Jan Stocking



Untold Story of Legendary Benefactress Maxine Huber Finally Revealed Continued



Maxine Huber
Class of 1936 Orange High School



Maxine Huber (1995)



Maxine Huber (2008)

She came from a typical mid-west family that moved to California in the early 20th century. Maxine's mother and father, Emma Wanda Boethin and John "Jack" Huber, met in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Their only child, Maxine Virginia, was born in 1918, twelve years after their marriage. The next year, the family doctor suggested that the Huber family move to California due to Maxine's poor health. So they purchased a five acre orange ranch with residence on N. Cambridge St. between E. Walnut Ave. and E. Collins Ave. in Orange, California.

Jack and Emma were managers of the Cedar Glen Resort near Lake Arrowhead for five years from 1928 until 1933. Maxine spent these glorious youthful years from age 10 to 15 learning to swim and ride horses, learning dance and pumping gasoline at the resort's general store. Her driving lessons were in a Model-T Ford.

Maxine attended Orange High School from her freshman to senior year. She played several sports, earning her coveted letter "O" in her senior year. Maxine also covered sports for the Annual and was the Society Editor for the Reflector. Maxine wrote in her yearbook, "I, Maxine Huber am taking my title as the '5&10 cent girl' with me."

After a semester at UCLA Maxine worked briefly for Orange County and then settled into her professional career as a travel agent. She worked for years at the Red Carpet Travel, Two City Blvd. East, #175, where the Outlets at Orange is now located. She later worked at World Travel formerly in the same building as Watson Drug Store on east Chapman Ave. How many of us must have seen Maxine through those big windows, never suspecting the impact one woman's life might have in our sweet, sweet Orange? In her later years, Maxine arranged private tours to the Hollywood Bowl, Las Vegas and Hawaii, often attended by her fellow Presbyterians.

Several years after the death of her mother, Maxine and her father sold the orange ranch family home, purchased a doublewide mobile home and parked it in the new Carriage Estate mobile home park at the northwest corner of E. Collins Ave. and N. Glassell St. Maxine continued to care for her father until his death in October of 1977. Maxine loved working as a travel agent, and was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Orange. In her later years, she developed macular degeneration. She passed away peacefully, at age 94 on the morning of January 26, 2013 and is buried next to her parents' graves at Fairhaven Cemetery.

R. Winston Presnall, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Orange, conducted the funeral service.

Maxine was loved and cherished by those who knew her. Her closest cousin, Melanie (Boethin) Ruggles, 20 years younger than Maxine, helped Maxine in her later years and was the Executrix/Trustee of her estate. Maxine's estate was made up primarily of 131 acres of agricultural land near Yuma, Arizona that she inherited from her father and her friend Jacob Mumm, Jr. Her cousin Melanie remembers that Maxine once said, "I should have married him (Jacob Mumm)."

Maxine Huber's Request for Anonymity

Being frugal, Maxine would bring a thermos bottle to church to save coffee left over after the service. Being humble, she requested that the donations she planned to make in her trust not be revealed before she died. With the permission of her Trustee Melanie Ruggles, and the completion of the Trust distributions just last year, we now know a very generous Maxine. Her trust made unrestricted charitable donations totaling \$667,500.00 in several payments to each of the following organizations from 2013 to 2016.

- City of Orange Public Library Foundation,
- Community Foundation of Orange,
- First Presbyterian Church of Orange,
- Macular Degeneration Foundation,
- Orange High School,
- Orange Rotary Community Trust Fund, and
- St. Joseph Hospital Foundation (Nursing)

Maxine also gave \$333,750.00 to each of the following:

- CHOC Children's Foundation,
- Orangewood Foundation,
- Salvation Army, and
- The Braille Institute (Orange County)

The American Lung Association and the Orange Elderly Services, Inc. also benefitted from Maxine's generous spirit.

It is possible that nearly everyone in the city of Orange has been in some way touched by Maxine Huber. Now we can all say, "Thank you so very much, Maxine."

If you have a story about Maxine, any photographs that relate to her life story, or a memory of how the charities she supported have touched your life, please share this valuable information as we build her legacy file in our Local History Center. Contact the Orange Public Library Foundation at 714-288-2470.



Photo provided courtesy of www.OrangeReview.com

Joanne Coontz • January 20, 1929 – November 4, 2017

A dedicated library supporter, Joanne was responsible for diligently promoting the building of Orange’s first branch library – the Charles P. Taft Branch (opened 1969). In 1998, she established the Orange Public Library Foundation, an organization she envisioned to meet the needs of the city’s library facilities and services and to honor the community’s historic past.

“She once said “that her love of books and reading stemmed from her grandmothers, who would send her the most beautiful books as a child. This love of books grew to an appreciation for libraries as a source of knowledge and a place of community. Her work in the community and city government, before, during, and after her time as Mayor, sought to foster a strong sense of community and a dedication to its history. She was instrumental in the expansion of the library in 2007 and in establishing the History Center. Her support of the library and of local history led to the naming of the Former Mayor Joanne Coontz Tower Reading Room, which fittingly features displays of the city’s artifacts and historic treasures. Joanne was an invaluable partner in preserving local history.” Lizeth Ramirez – OPL Local History Librarian.

Please make a donation to the Orange Public Library Foundation in support of the library and the preservation of local history.

Make your donation online using our secure website, www.oplfoundation.org, or use this form.

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Please make checks payable to
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Orange Public Library Foundation
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As a donor, you will receive the Orange Public Library Foundation’s newsletters, invitations to special events, and other special mailings and e-mails. Your name will be listed for 12 months on an Annual Fund contributors plaque at the Orange Public Library & History Center.



About the Foundation

The Orange Public Library Foundation is a tax-exempt, private, non-profit 501c(3) corporation, which exists to support the Orange Public Libraries.

It is the Foundation’s goal to enrich, not replace, traditional tax-based support for the library through gifts from individuals and organizations. Your contribution to the Orange Public Library Foundation Annual Fund will help perpetuate the highest quality library resources for information, recreation, and lifelong learning for residents of all ages in the city of Orange.

