A Compendium
of
References
On the
History
of
Riverside County, California

Steve Lech
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Welcome to what I believe is a first attempt at putting together a fairly comprehensive listing of bibliographic citations dealing with the history of Riverside County, California.

This work is an outgrowth of a seminar presented by the Riverside County Archives Commission, entitled “Where's the History in Riverside County?” During that seminar, Mr. Bob Fitch introduced a listing of materials which he had compiled. I mentally compared his with my own, which was more a listing of my own personal collection than any serious try at documenting references for Riverside County, and found several differences. Other attendees expressed the desire to have one single reference work which could list, as completely as possible, all of the works that had been done on some aspect of the history of Riverside County, California. I therefore decided to try to compile as many of the references as I could into one work - and this volume is the result of that.

What I did in compiling all of these references was to organize them as follows: Section I lists all citations in strict alphabetical order by author/preparer. Section II divides the citations in one of two ways - by geographical area (from west to east across the County), and by subject area (biographies, Native Peoples, etc.) Section II contains two subareas (Miscellaneous and Other) which, depending on the work, may or may not be directly relevant to Riverside County. They are put in here because they provide background information on areas and/or events which overlap County boundaries, and give a better understanding of how Riverside County fits into the greater Southern California area.

The references in this work come from three main sources:

1. The References sections of several previous works;
2. The Authors’ own collections and lists, and;
3. Some research at public libraries.
4. A fourth source - sheer dumb luck in stumbling across some - should probably also be included!

Is this a 100% complete and accurate listing of all Riverside County historical references? Of course not - and I would caution anyone who might want to think so. One very significant portion of Riverside County historical writing has been purposefully omitted - the Press-Enterprise articles entitled "Out of the County's Past" that Tom Patterson wrote over several years. This omission was certainly not one of spite - I simply felt that because there were over 1,100 citations currently in this volume, and because the Riverside Public Library had already catalogued Mr. Patterson’s articles, this work should complement the series. I would encourage any serious researcher to avail himself of both this work and the catalogue of Tom Patterson’s articles to get the full breadth of information that has been accumulated.

With that said, undoubtedly there are numerous other articles, writings, jottings, etc. that have been missed in setting up this work. In an attempt to be as complete as possible in compiling this, I am
appealing to anyone who has additional material, or knows of one or more citations which were omitted from here, to contact me at one of the addresses below. I would welcome any additions that could make this work more complete. The only criteria, of course, is that they must have some relevance to the history of Riverside County.

I hope that all who read this will be able to glean some useful information from it. I would like to thank Mr. Bob Fitch for his assistance and input in the preparation of this list.

Thank you - and happy researching!

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