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Maureen Rischard cuts blooms from her rose garden in Santa Ana. Rischard gathers area family histories.

Farmer's daughter digs for family roots as a part of council's effort

By Robert Kinsler
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SANTA ANA — The home of Maureen L. McClintock Rischard sits in sharp contrast to the outside world.

Her home is situated in the middle of a 4½-acre parcel in north Santa Ana, a thick grove of orange trees guarding her and her husband, Ted Rischard, from many of the intrusions so common in suburbia.

Looking out from the comfortable and cozy living room of the Duck Bar Ranch, no other homes are visible and bird song is heard above the noise of traffic.

"After World War II, my husband and I got the property here and built the house — just the two of us," explained Maureen Rischard, 69. "The lumber we used from one of the two-story barracks that had been used at the Santa Ana Air Base before it was torn down.

"We have enjoyed our oranges and other fruit trees. Now they are our insulation."

Maureen Rischard knows her home is unusual in Orange County and quickly becoming a thing of the past. As a volunteer for the Orange County Pioneer Council, she is involved in tracing the roots of her own family and other area settlers as part of an effort to chronicle that history in a continuing series of texts.

Her father, Clarence Martin McClintock, was 2 when the McClintock family left an Iowa farm for Los Angeles in 1896. Two years later, the family moved to Greenville, now part of Santa Ana. In 1907, they settled permanently on a 100-acre farm in Fairview, now incorporated into Costa Mesa.

Her grandfather Cornelius Martin McClintock was killed in a freak accident in 1919 when an electric street car hit his car. Maureen Rischard's father took over the farm and married Alice Goetz that same year. Their daughter, Maureen,

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Maureen Rischard
Orange County Pioneer Council member

was born two years later.

"The Santa Ana Air Base took over all but 20 acres of his property in World War II," Maureen Rischard recalled. "He had to then go into a different profession and opened a machine shop."

When Ted and Maureen Rischard married in 1942, the couple obtained the Santa Ana property they call home.

Maureen Rischard said the McClintock family has had farmers for hundreds of years.

"The first McClintock came to New England in 1718 and already

had farmers in the family," she said.

Maureen Rischard admits that her husband, who grew up in Pasadena, knew little about farming before they were married.

"He was a city boy," she said.

"But he became a farmer. We raised our three daughters here: Marilyn, Carolyn and Vivienne were all involved in 4-H when they were young."

And farming remains an important part of her family's life.

"My brother still has a farm in Northern California called Shaasta Orchards. He also owns an almond packing house," she said.

"Our oldest daughter, Marilyn, lives in Stockton and raises sheep. Her kids are little farmers.

"It's all fascinating. I read each person as a bundle of their ancestors," she said.

"I think one of the legacies of Orange County is that we have had so many of the (original) people in the community show leadership. Many of us are still here and have been pillars of the community."



The McClintock home near Fairview and Baker streets where Maureen Rischard lived during the 1920s. The home was destroyed in the late '20s.

RISCHARD Family

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