Grey Gables of Ojai is among America’s most historic retirement communities. Founded by Dr. Andrus in 1954, Grey Gables was an “experiment in living” that helped define the modern retirement lifestyle. While at Grey Gables, Andrus pioneered programs and services that included retiree health insurance, housing, senior travel, lifelong learning programs, and low-cost drugs and other senior discounts. In 1958, Grey Gables was the birthplace of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and its flagship magazine, Modern Maturity. (Now called AARP The Magazine, it remains the highest circulation magazine in America.) The Grey Gables lifestyle exemplified the modern retirement lifestyle Americans aspire to today.

Important Dates

c1900 Original farmhouse built
1944-48 Alee Barbee Sanford converts the building to a residence for teachers
1954 Dr. Andrus purchases property as retirement home for teachers
1956 Health insurance created for residents and other members of the National Retired Teachers of America (NRTA)
1958 American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) founded at Grey Gables
1964 Some NRTA-AARP operations moved out of Ojai while others remain
1982 AARP absorbs NRTA
1983 AARP divests itself of Grey Gables; it’s now open to anyone, not just retired teachers
2000 Sold to The Parsons Group, Ltd; name changes to The Gables of Ojai

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HISTORIC GREY GABLES