



Historical Happenings

A publication of
the
Brea Historical Society

Copy Deadline: 1st Friday of the month
Mailing Deadline: 2nd Friday of the month

VOL. XVIII, No. 11
November, 2001

President's Message

Hallelujah! After 30 years we finally have a permanent home!

I would like to take this opportunity to inform those who might not already know that the Brea Historical Society has worked out an agreement with the City Council for the use of the old American Legion building. We have finally realized our dream and, at long last, have a permanent home for our museum and offices.

The great news came on the evening of Tuesday, October 16 at the Planning Session which precedes the regular council meeting. The council members present voted unanimously to approve our request, and it was at the televised meeting that it was officially announced.

At this time, I would like to enthusiastically thank all those who made this possible through their hard work, dedication, and interest. First and foremost, I would like to both thank, as well as compliment and congratulate, my brother, Don, for essentially spearheading the entire effort, and for all of the research and outstanding work that he invested in this project. Most definitely, he served as the point man throughout in working with the city staff and council members. Without his involvement, we would not have been successful.

Secondly, Unocal must be recognized for stepping forward, in a very significant way, and making an initial commitment of \$50,000 as well as desiring to help in any way that, and as much as, they can. We look forward to working with Kirsten Myers and Mark Smith a great deal from this point forward!

Next, the City Council, the City Manager and City Staff (Eric Nicoll, Laura Halcom and Marsha Adams) must all be thanked for directly making the realization of our goal possible and for their work and consideration. We certainly owe a tremendous amount to those three on staff.

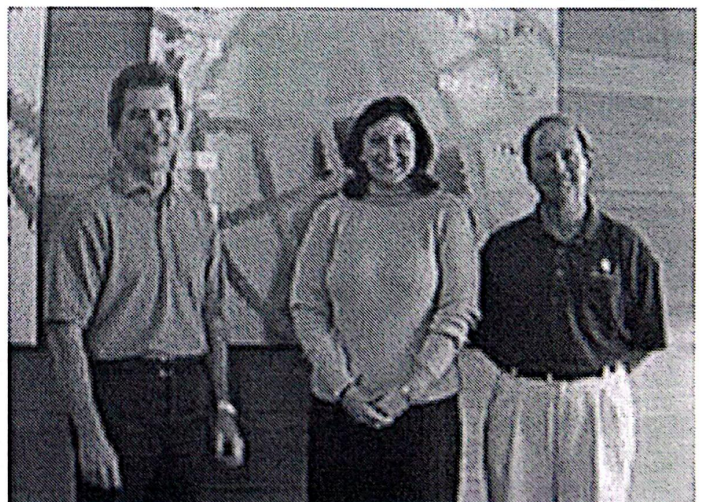
I would also like to mention others who have made a financial contribution to the museum fund thus far: Brea-Olinda graduate and current Carefree, AZ resident, Doris (Sebourn)

Simmons invested \$5,000 early on; Nuevo Energy contributed another \$1,000, and it was Chiksan Corporation who made the very first donation to get us off and running. Pacific Western Bank has been very supportive all along, as well as Don and Maxine Symmes, who helped financially and even went out of their way to collect petitions of support. Rita Blystone has been with us from the beginning, as has been and old friend of many Breans, Dora (Varner) Holton, from her current home in Long Beach.

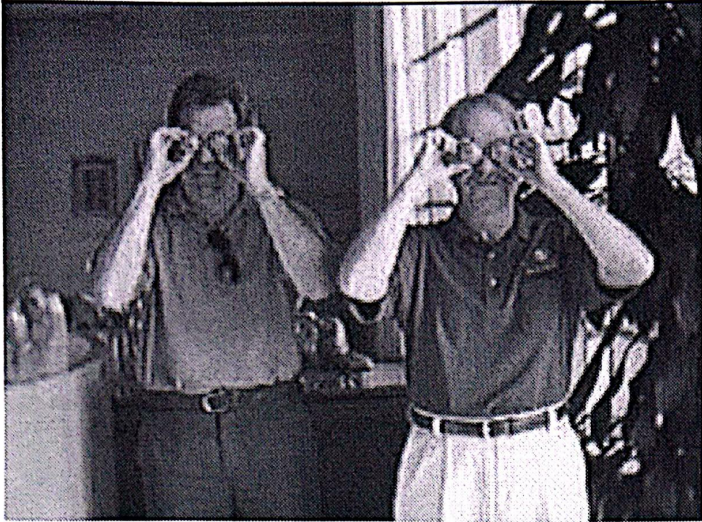
Last, but not least, I would like to thank those folks who took the time to fill out and return the survey petitions of support. We received a tremendous response, and those petitions definitely made an impression and played a part in our overall success. Many, many thanks for your kind support, enthusiasm and interest!

Still, while it is true that we all have great reason to cel-

continued on page 2



Don Schweitzer, Chairman of the Brea Museum and Heritage Center, Kirsten Myers of Unocal, and Jim Schweitzer, all smiles after the City Council vote.



Not just for car antennae's anymore!

Don and Jim Schweitzer take a few minutes to "look" into the future with Unocal "eyes" at the Hartley Center in Brea.

December is Membership Month!

The holidays are fast approaching, and the Brea Historical Society is offering our members a great opportunity! Receive your choice of the book, "Brea: Celebrating 75 Years" (a \$28.00 value) OR the two-hour video "Brea: A Walk in Time" (a \$14.95 value) as our free gift to you (or maybe you'll want to give it as a gift.)

What's the catch? Well, there's no catch, really. In order to receive your valuable gift, just tell one of your friends or neighbors about the Brea Historical Society, and if they become a 2002 member during the month of December, the free gift is yours! What better way to support the Brea Historical Society, promote the preservation of history in our city AND receive a free gift!

Be sure to tell your friend or neighbor to include YOUR name on their membership application as a referral and we will contact you to arrange delivery or pick-up of your book or video. Thank you and Happy Holidays from the Brea Historical Society!

(Special note for current members who joined or renewed prior to October, 2001) It's almost time to renew memberships for 2002. Why not renew your membership now? It's one less thing you'll have to worry about during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. And renewing early assures that there will be no interruption in your subscription to "Historical Happenings". Take a moment and fill out the membership application on the back of the "Brea Home and Down-

President's Message

continued from page 1

celebrate, the reality is that the work has really only just begun. I passionately encourage all those who made financial pledges and/or voiced an interest in donating time and energy, to step forward and follow through! We are just getting started, we have a tremendous amount of momentum already built, and great things are planned in the future. I cannot encourage you enough to approach us and get involved!

In closing, on a different subject, I would like to clarify a slight mistake that crept into my last column in the September newsletter. It probably had some of you folks scratching your heads. What I refer to is the last sentence in the first paragraph, which was intended to read "... such as every issue from the year 1990", but was printed as "... such as every issue from the 1990's." I apologize for the misunderstanding.

Anyway, let's celebrate our great fortune and begin to get to work! This society belongs to everyone and your involvement is invaluable.

Jim

town Tour" insert in this issue and renew now!

And while you're filling out your renewal application, be sure and make plans to join us on the next "Brea Home and Downtown Tour", scheduled for the weekend of December 15th.

Annual General Membership Meeting Scheduled

Mark your 2002 calendar and save this date...January 28, 2002. Why?? Because the Brea Historical Society will be having its annual General Meeting of the Membership.

This year, we will be meeting at the Brea Senior Center from 6p.m. until 8:30p.m. for a potluck, general meeting and the first presentation of the Brea Historical Preservation Award, plus an interesting panel discussion by eyewitnesses and survivors of WWII.

More details of this upcoming event will be in the December issue of "Historical Happenings." In the meantime, though, make plans to attend. It's sure to be a both fun and thought-provoking evening.

Christmas Home and Downtown Tour Schedule

The "Christmas Home and Downtown Walking Tour" will take place on Saturday, December 15 at 2p.m. and 4:30p.m. and Sunday, December 16 at 2p.m. We will be visiting the 1929 Provincial Revival home of Don Ward, as well as a home recently added to the tour, the historic "Mitchell House", owned by Heather and Brian Chappell. Both homes promise to be decorated for an "old-fashioned" Christmas and, in addition, the Downtown will be "decked-out" with ornaments and lights, celebrating the holiday season.

We will meet at the big parking lot, adjacent to the Brea Baptist Church on the corner of Birch and Flower Streets, fifteen minutes before the start of each tour. Tickets are \$5.00 per person and available before the start of the tour. Or, to reserve a spot on any tour, call 714-336-3019. All proceeds go to the new Brea History Museum and Heritage Center Fund. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate an historic Christmas.



The "Mitchell House" is just one of the historic homes featured on the Christmas Home and Downtown Tour.

Meet Kay Lorea - Museum Volunteer

by
Kathy Canon

Last month, you were introduced to Vonnie French. This month, it is my pleasure to introduce you to Kay Lorea.

In the summer of 1945, John and Edith Jordan moved from Fullerton with their daughters, Kay and Jean, to a little home at 113 S. Walnut in Brea, near where the former Brea Christian Church was once located on Ash St.

Born in Santa Rosa, New Mexico, Kay remembers thinking that Brea was "the prettiest little town," and she still feels that way.

As soon as the family moved here, Kay was enrolled at Brea Grammar School (now Brea Junior High) in the sixth grade. She recalls her first teacher, Miss Wheeler, as "the best teacher ever" and as a "good and caring" woman with whom she stayed in contact with, even after Miss Wheeler moved to Hawaii upon her retirement.

Off and on, until leaving high school, Kay worked to earn her own money at several "old Brea" businesses. She was a soda-jerk at Bessie Johnson's Sweet Shop (where she was paid "25 cents an hour and a homemade coke"), she worked behind the counter at the Brea Theatre, and at Pete's Shoes, and also babysat and cleaned homes for families around town.

In 1952, Kay married Ben Lorea, who

was one of seven children of a prominent Brea Basque family. Eventually, Kay and Ben would have three daughters, who still live close to their mom and who she sees "all the time."

Kay has lived and worked in Brea most of her life, even spending four years at Kirkhill Rubber working in experimental molds and recoil pads. She fondly re-



Long-time Brea resident, Historical Society member, and museum volunteer, Kay Lorea, busy clipping and glueing and helping preserve Brea's history. We love you, Kay!

members that she "loved that job."

Along with Vonnie, Kay has volunteered at the Brea History Museum for a little over 3 years, beginning when it was still located at the old City Hall building at City Hall Park.

What I really enjoy when spending a few hours at the museum on Thursdays is listening to Kay and Vonnie. As they read and clip current issues of newspapers to help preserve our history for the future, they talk and laugh and reminence about growing up and living in a Brea I don't know first-hand.

I hear about Tony's Kitchen, owned by Tony Haro before it was bought by Sam Landa and turned into Sam's Place. I've learned that Sam's sister, Sophie, cooked "the best chili beans and stew." I know that the best place to trade and shop was the Brea Market, the place to fix your car was the Bergman Garage, and if you wanted to see a movie, you went to the Red Lantern Theatre, which would later become the Brea Theatre.

These two bright and vivacious ladies, Kay Lorea and Vonnie French, tell me they love Brea and love its history. That's why they come to the museum every Thursday.

Kay and Vonnie? I hope you both know...Brea loves you, too.

The Story of the Face in the Frame

by
Brian Saul

If you've ever attended a Brea City Council meeting you know that looking over your shoulders are photographs of all our previous mayors since Brea was incorporated in 1917.

Way off to your left and leading the others is the photo of Jay C. Sexton, Brea's first mayor, but nevertheless someone about whom little is known.

It doesn't make sense, does it? Here's a man who was chosen to lead our new city and no one really knows anything about him.

That had always bothered me, so not long ago, I figured I'd try to fill in the blanks and find out just who Jay Sexton really was. What I discovered though isn't a very happy story. Instead, it contains a couple tragic events that might help to explain why the mayor resigned his office and moved away with his wife to begin a new life in a new city.

What you'll read below was gathered from old newspaper articles of the time, city records and the mayor's obituary. No, it's not the complete story, but it does help to make the council chamber photo more than just a face in a frame.

Jay Corwin Sexton's life began a long way from Brea. He was born in Minneapolis, Kansas in 1880 and was the son of a banker. Going north to attend college, he graduated with a law degree from the University of Michigan in 1904, but instead of becoming a lawyer, he turned to commerce as a profession.

In the small Oklahoma town of Ochelata he became a bank cashier, but it wasn't long before he and his brother Ray organized their own bank in the Rogue River mining settlement of Jacksonville, Oregon.

Next his life made another turn and he was back to law, opening up an office in Mesa, Arizona. He remained there until 1912 and then moved west to San Diego, where he practiced law for 3 years.

It was in San Diego where he heard about a great opportunity being offered in the new little town of Brea in Orange County. The controlling interest in the 3-year old La Habra Valley Bank was up for sale, and Sexton jumped at the chance to purchase it.

Now a bank president and one of Brea's leading citizens, he quickly became involved in the life of the town. He served as clerk on the school board for a term and then became president of the Chamber of Commerce. When the drive for incorporation began, Jay was right there in the forefront giving

his help and support to make his adopted home of Brea an official city in the county.

On February 15, 1917 the incorporation vote was held in attorney Albert Launer's office in the rear of Jay's bank, located on the southeast corner of Ash and Pomona Ave. (now Brea Blvd.). Also on the ballot were the names of men nominated for the proposed city Board of Trustees (city council). Among them was Jay C Sexton, who, when all the 255 ballots were counted, received 197 votes, 7 less than the top vote-getter Isaac Craig, father of future mayor Ted Craig.

Of course, as you know, incorporation also passed, and it did so by a large majority, 204 votes for and 45 against. A little over a month later, on February 23, the town that had been Brea became the City of Brea.

On February 26, the first Board of Trustees meeting was held in the Chamber of Commerce office in the Sewell Bldg. At the top of the agenda was the election of the board president. Nominations were held, and the vote was between Craig and Sexton. Jay won, and, as it says in the original minutes of that meeting, he was "declared the first MAYOR of the CITY OF BREA."

The following years were busy ones for Sexton, but he also took time out to plan a new 6-room home on 5 acres of undeveloped property on east Elm St. Surrounding the house would be over 4 1/2 acres of orange groves.

It was into that home on October 18, 1919 that Jay moved with his wife Mary, little son Bobby and newly-adopted 7-week old baby daughter, Janet.

About three months later, though, on the afternoon of January 25, 1920, the first of the 2 tragedies to strike the Sextons occurred. Janet, who had been adopted from the Los Angeles Orphans Home and brought here to Brea on Bobby's birthday, died suddenly.

Then, six months later, while returning with his parents from a vacation to Portland, Oregon, 8-year old Bobby was found drowned in a Tulare swimming pool.

With both their children now buried nearby in Loma Vista Cemetery and their lives forever changed, Jay and Mary continued to live quietly in that home at 527 Elm St.

On the evening of October 11, 1922, their lives were about to take yet another turn when Jay made a brief announcement



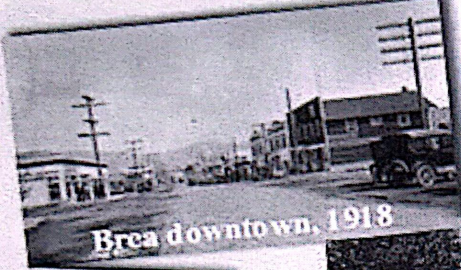
Mayor Jay C. Sexton

continued on page 8

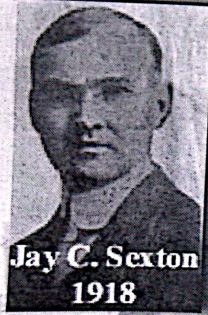
NUMBER OF NUMBER 125 BREA, CALIFORNIA, FRIDAY, JULY 6, 1918. Subscription (in advance) \$1.00 per year; 25c month. The

MAYOR SEXTON'S SON DROWNED WHILE ON VACATION

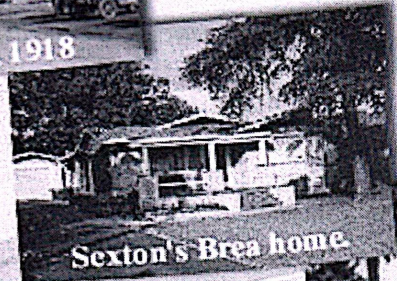
MAYOR J. C. SEXTON RESIGNS



Brea downtown, 1918



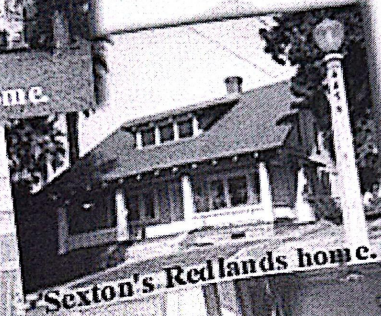
Jay C. Sexton 1918



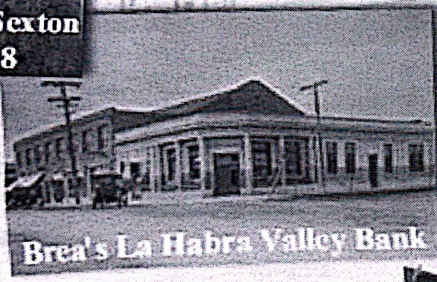
Sexton's Brea home



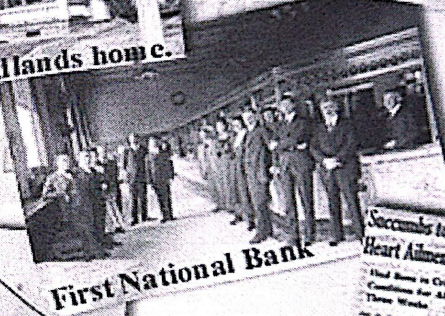
First National Bank of Redlands



Sexton's Redlands home.



Brea's La Habra Valley Bank



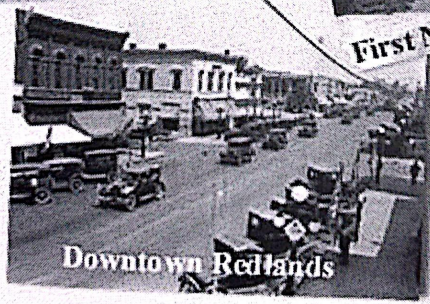
First National Bank

CITY OF BREA

204 YES; 45 NO

With a heavy vote polled Brea was made a city by a large majority, there being 204 votes cast in favor of incorporation with 45 against out of 249 ballots cast. The following was the vote for the city officers who were elected:

Mayor	Jay C. Sexton	730
City Clerk	P. H. Maddison	164
City Treasurer	R. H. Mackell	123
City Engineer	M. I. McCarty	306
City Assessor	G. G. Kincaid	100
City Auditor	C. C. Davis	67
City Marshal	L. A. Davis	176



Downtown Redlands

Succumbs to Heart Ailment

Had Been in Critical Condition for About Three Weeks

JAY C. SEXTON

The Withey Bomb Shelter

By
Brian Saul

Last month I told you about Bill Tremaine and the bomb shelter he built after Pearl Harbor. This month though, I'm going to skip ahead 19 years to April, 1961, to another time of great uncertainty in the world. The Berlin Wall had just been built, the failed Bay of Pigs invasion had occurred six months earlier, and the Cuban Missile Crisis was just getting ready to happen.

In the midst of all this, James Withey, a Brea mailman, who lived in one of those housing tracts that sprang up south of Imperial Hwy after WWII, decided he was also going to have a bomb shelter. Unlike Tremaine though, he wasn't going to build it. It was a ready-made model that could be installed once the big hole was dug.

Built by an Ontario Co. and costing \$2,300, it was made of rolled steel, a quarter inch thick and was placed in the ground 3 feet down from the surface. The blue-painted room measured 8 by 14 feet with a seat that could be lowered from the wall to serve as a double bed. Above it hung a painting of the seashore. A separate small room had a chemical toilet.

Air was supplied by a hand crank that produced an hour's worth of filtered air for a minute's work. One-hundred-ten gallons of water could be stored, shielded from gamma rays. There was also an antenna that stuck up above the surface to receive radio reports.

According to an article that appeared in the Brea Progress, it was "a tank-like affair, built to take care of Withey, his wife, a school teacher at Arovista, their 13-year-old son Gary and their dog Skippy."

"We couldn't leave Skippy out," said Withey.

He continued by saying that he hoped his backyard shelter would serve as an example. "We hope other shelters are built after people see this one, and community shelters are needed too."

For a time the shelter stood on the driveway in front of the Withey home because "we couldn't

get a crane strong enough to lift it" over the house to the backyard. When the Progress article appeared, it was a week away from being totally installed, everything hooked up and in working order.

The shelter is like insurance, Withey said, "Life insurance pays off after you die. This pays off if you live."

Not long ago I had the neatest experience. I was given the chance to take a trip back in time to 1961, to go inside the Withey bomb shelter, and I guess I don't need to say that it was fascinating. Going down the narrow steel steps that changed to rotting pieces of wood, I almost fell as one of them gave way under my shoe. With flashlight in hand and passing by and through spider webs, I made the right turn into the musty-smelling shelter itself, and the first thing I saw in front of me was that seat that made into a bed. What was weird was

that the seashore painting was still hanging above it after 40 years! The walls, covered with big spots of rust, were still blue. Looking to my right, there was the little bathroom with the chemical toilet. Lying next to it was a paper I thought was trash, but when I looked at it closer under the light of the flashlight, I realized it was the instruction sheet telling how the toilet worked. Another quick turn to the right and I was looking at that hand-cranked air machine. Yep, it still turned, and as I gave it 3 or 4 turns, I could feel the air coming out into the room. I realize now that I never did see the water storage tank, but near the steps was the antenna, a part of which still stuck up through the dirt and grass above. Also rising through the grass are what I suppose were air vents, still looking in pretty good condition. What really struck me though about the shelter was how it's held up through all these years of rain, rust and different home owners. Thank goodness it did because it's not only a part of Brea history, but also a relic of a time we called "The Cold War".



James Withey, at the entrance to his bomb shelter. Photo reproduced from the Brea Progress, Oct. 1961.

Special Thanks
to our
Corporate Sponsors

Pacific Western
National Bank
located at
275 N. Brea Blvd.

Taps Fish House
& Brewery
located at
101 E. Imperial Hwy

The Brown and Dauser Lumber Yard

by
Catherine Seiler

I don't know whether much has been written about the Brown and Dauser Lumber Yard, but I thought it might be of interest to describe my recollections of it, since my father, Harvey Moore, worked there from 1925 until 1937. Also, as a girl, I was in and out of that office a great deal.

Mr. W.J. Brown of Fullerton was really the owner. Mr. Dauser sold out his share almost immediately. At the time we moved to Brea, there were three lumber yards under Mr. Brown: the main one in Fullerton, one in La Habra under the direction of Mr. McGill (Mrs. McGill was the Browns' daughter), and the third company was here in Brea, at the northwest corner of Ash Street and Orange Avenue.

I don't know the true dimensions of the yard, but it extended from the corner at Orange Avenue to the alley on the west. It extended south on Orange, possibly the same distance. A building near the Ash St. corner next to the alley was occupied by the Bird and Allen Company, rig-builders, I believe.

Of course, the office was the area in which I spent the most time - many hours.

The building, probably of the Craftsman design, had wooden siding and a large window in front. The entrance was

from Ash Street. Upon opening the door, you saw a little waiting area with wicker chairs. Next came the business area with a high counter running to the south. An aisle went past it to the door on the west, leading to the yard outside. Most people went that direction, and, after ordering,

My father told us many times how many square feet of lumber were used, but, unfortunately, I can't remember now. The cement was used, a great deal of it, in the wells.

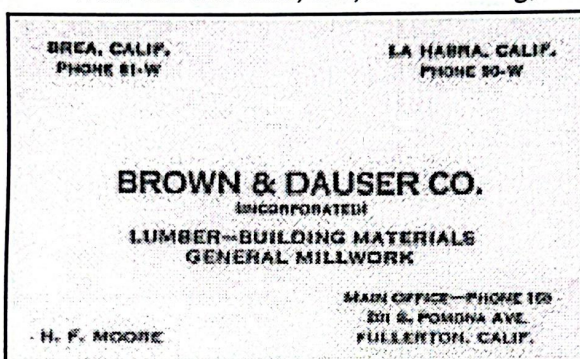
Later, when the Depression hit, there were no longer yardmen. My father did it all and delivered everything with the big truck.

Jack Collins came to Brea in 1915 and joined the Chamber of Commerce and was a charter member of the Lions Club. He worked for Mr. Brown 23 years. Mr. Collins was a very likeable person, but out of town most of the time since he was the public relations man. He loved prize fights and

took part in everything in Brea. He always had a big cigar in his mouth, and the office reeked of cigar smoke. He and his wife lived in a house connected to the lumber yard. They had two boys: John, the younger, was my age. I cannot remember the name of the older son.

We would like to thank Catherine Seiler, not only for contributing this memory of old Brea to the newsletter, but also for her enormous contributions to the Historical Society and the History Museum.

Do you have a memory to share? Let us know and we will print it in the newsletter.



continued outside.

On the east side of the counter was a tall wooden stand-up desk with a high stool. That was where my father worked since he was the bookkeeper.

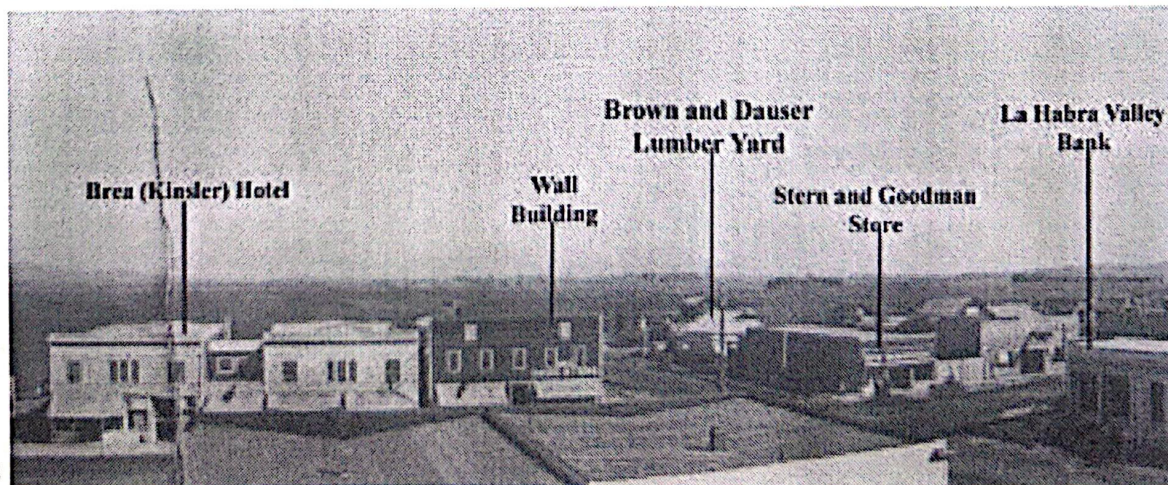
There was another small office to the south where Jack Collins, the manager, worked. Also, there was a walk-in safe. Outside in the yard were two men, Frank Stauter and Mac Senn. The lumber stood in the middle of the yard with a covered shed at one side for sacks of cement.

There was a great demand for lumber and cement at that time because the rigs were made of lumber, and the walking beams of solid wood were very large.

Photo at right:

The former location of the Brown and Dauser Lumber Yard at Ash St. and Orange Ave.

Photograph has been reproduced from the book, "Brea, The City of Oil, Oranges and Opportunity" written by Historical Society member, Esther Cramer.



Jay C. Sexton

continued from page 4

at the Board of Trustees meeting resigning his office as mayor. He told those present that he would shortly be moving to Redlands to "engage in the banking business," but he would "always hold a warm attachment to Brea and her citizens and would continue to have the interest of the city at heart."

One week later, with Sexton chairing his final meeting of the board, a resolution of regret was read by Trustee Huddleston honoring him for his many years of leadership, governing and devotion to the betterment of Brea.

Oct. 26 marked both the end of one life and the beginning of another when Jay and Mary left Brea behind them and moved into their new Redlands home. It would be a city where they would remain for the next 21 years.

Not one to just sit around, Jay immediately helped organize the new First National Bank of Redlands and became its vice-president, cashier and later manager.

In 1930, though, he retired from banking and once again returned to law, opening a law office he maintained for the next 13 years.

As in Brea, he spent a lot of his time involved in civic affairs. He was presi-

dent of the Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Kiwanis Club, president of the Y.M.C.A., a planning commission member, chairman for 2 years of the city's Week of Flowers celebration and long-time vestryman for the local Episcopal church.

Suddenly, in 1943 at the age of 63, Jay was stricken at home with a major heart attack. Three weeks later at the Redlands Community Hospital he died, leaving his wife Mary as well as two grown children, Frank and Grace.

Mary lived for another 30 years and died in Sept, 1973.

Twenty-one years had passed since she and Jay had driven out of that driveway on Elm St. for the last time. Even though their life in Redlands had been a long one, they always knew that when they died there was only one place they wanted to be buried and that was back here next to their children.

Now, in a secluded, quiet corner of Loma Vista Cemetery, shaded by an overhanging tree, this once well-known family, torn apart by tragedy so many years ago is now forever reunited in death.

No, Jay, you're not just a face in a frame.

Brea Historical Society Board of Directors

Jim Schweitzer, President
(714) 529-0635

Brian Saul, Vice President
(562) 698-5339

P.J. Mansur, Secretary/Treasurer
(714) 528-4240

Jim Crow, Board Member
(714) 529-3295

Marie Domenico, Board Member
(714) 529-6641

Lloyd Dudding, Board Member
(714) 256-4324

Edna Makins, Board Member
(714) 529-1755

December Board Meeting:
Monday, Dec. 3, 2001, 7p.m.
at the Brea History Museum,
652 S. Brea Blvd.

Museum/Office Location:
652 S. Brea Blvd (at the Brea
Heights Shopping Center)
(714) 256-2283

Museum Hours:
Thursdays: 11a.m. until 1p.m.
Saturdays: 11a.m. until 2p.m.
Or call to arrange a special tour!



Brea Historical Society

P.O. Box 9764

Brea, CA 92822-9764

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 117
Brea, California

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Withey Bomb Shelter

Last month I told you about Bill Tremaine and the bomb shelter he built after Pearl Harbor. Today though I'm going to skip ahead 19 years to April, 1961, to another time of great uncertainty in the world. The Berlin Wall had just been built, the failed Bay of Pigs invasion had occurred six months earlier, and the Cuban Missile Crisis was just getting ready to happen.

In the midst of all this, James Withey, a Brea mailman, who lived in one of those housing tracts that sprang up south of Imperial Hwy after WWII, decided he was also going to have a bomb shelter. Unlike Tremaine though, he wasn't going to build it. It was a ready-made model that could be installed once the big hole was dug.

Built by an Ontario Co. and costing \$2,300, it was made of rolled steel, a quarter inch thick. It was placed in the ground 3 feet down from the surface. Inside, the blue-painted room measured 8 by 14 feet with a seat that could be lowered from the wall to serve as a double bed. Above it hung a painting of the seashore. A separate small room had a chemical toilet.

Air was supplied by a hand crank that produced an hour's worth of filtered air for a minute's work. One hundred ten gallons of water could be stored, shielded from gamma rays. There was also an antenna that stuck up above the surface to receive radio reports.

According to an article that appeared in the Brea Progress, it was "a tank-like affair, built to take care of Withey, his wife, a school teacher at Arovista, their 13 year old son Gary and their dog Skippy."

"We couldn't leave Skippy out," said Withey.

He continued by saying that he hoped his backyard shelter would serve as an example. "We hope other shelters are built after people see this one, and community shelters are needed too."

For a time the shelter stood on the driveway in front of the Withey home because "we couldn't get a crane strong enough to lift it" over the house to the backyard. When the Progress article appeared, it was a week away from being totally installed, everything hooked up and it working order.

The shelter is like insurance, Withey said, "Life insurance pays off after you die. This pays off if you live."

Not long ago I had the neatest experience. I was given the chance to take a trip back in time to 1961, to go inside the Withey bomb shelter, and I guess I don't need to say that it was fascinatin. Going down the narrow steel steps that changed to rotting pieces of wood, I almost fell as one of them gave way under my shoe. With flashlight in hand and passing by and through spider webs, I made the right turn into the musty-smelling shelter itself, and the first thing I saw in front of me was that seat that made into a bed. What was weird was that the seashore painting was still hanging above it after 40 years! The walls, covered with big spots of rust, were still blue. Looking to my right, there was the little bathroom with the chemical toilet. Lying next to it was a paper I thought was trash, but when I looked at it closer under the light of the flashlight, I realized it was the instruction sheet telling how the toilet worked. Another quick turn to the right and I was looking at that hand-cranked air machine. Yep, it still turned, and as I gave it 3 or 4 turns, I could feel the air coming out into the room. I realize now that I never did see the water storage tank, but near the steps was the antenna, a part of which still stuck up through the dirt and grass above. Also rising through the grass were what I suppose were air vents, still looking in pretty good condition. What really struck me though about the shelter was how it's held up through all these years of rain, rust and different home owners. Thank goodness it did because it's not only a part of Brea history, but also a relic of a time we called "The Cold War".

(Possibly run this below section in another font or something to set it apart from the section above. I didn't break it up into paragraphs as you can see. I kind of did that on purpose. How would it look if we left it that way? Probably real gray, huh?)

County Civil Defense Moves Into High Gear

Education of the public is the main problem facing Brea civil defense agencies, Richard W. Basse, director said recently after attending a city-county coordination committee meeting at Anaheim last Friday.

Much Interest

The meeting, at a restaur-

ant, attracted a throng of about 200 persons. Attendance was so great that partitions had to be taken down to accommodate those who wished to participate.

Attending from Brea were Basse, Fire Chief A. G. Ellis and Quinn Alexander. Police

(Continued on Page 2)



FIRST SHELTER in Brea is being built for James Withey, local postman at 200 East Fir. The shelter is expected to be completed this weekend.

ONE-YEAR-OLD TAMMIE QUINLIVEN

'CAN AFFORD TO BE WRONG'

Fallout Shelter Builder Hopes Others Follow His Lead

Most fallout-shelter builders are thinking primarily of their families.

But Brea's first known fallout shelter builder, James W. Withey, 200 East Fir, hopes his backyard shelter will serve as a spur to others so they will build one too.

"If I charged admission, I could have paid for it that way," Withey said recently.

But he added seriously:

"All the people who went through it were serious, I only had one who scoffed. He asked me whether I might be wrong in building it.

Can Afford To Be Wrong

"With that thing in the ground, I can afford to be wrong."

"I don't ever want to use it," the Brea mail-carrier said. "But its like car insurance. You never go out and expect to have an accident because you have insurance.

Pays Off If You Live

"Life insurance pays off after you die. This pays off if you live."

Withey's rolled-steel shelter, the building permit for which is valued at \$2,300, was built by an Ontario firm. Plans were approved by the Orange Empire chapter of engineers and civil defense.

Meant For Survival

It is a tank-like affair, built to take care of Withey, his wife, a school teacher at Arroyo Vista, their 13-year-old son Gary and their dog Skippy.

"We couldn't leave Skippy out," said Withey.

As Withey explains his shelter, it is meant for survival, and not as some people misunderstand, the usual living conditions.

The quarter-inch steel tank is three feet from the top of the ground at its closest point. The blue-painted room inside is eight by 14 feet and includes

a picture of the seashore on one wall.

It includes a chemical toilet and a seat which can be slid out of the wall full-length to form a double bed.

Keep Air Supplied

One person must be awake at all times to keep up the air supply. A hand-cranked air recirculating machine can, with one minute's work, supply an hour of filtered air.

In addition, arrangements are made for 110 gallons of water, which is shielded from gamma rays. Water would be shut off. Dust, Withey explained, does not affect the water or food.

Sealed Door

The shelter door had turn-buckles and can be sealed.

"If gamma rays get down the stairs, we don't have to

worry since corners," Withey said.

The family has lived in the shelter for a long time.

"The (American) Red Cross and it confirms that he said.

Completed

The shelter was completed in front of the house for a time and a crane lift it."

Withey was the door of the shelter.

"Come on, have it finished, hope other people after people come on needed too."

As you returned to the side scene of the shelter.

Local Schools Could Unify By Themselves

The Brea-Olinda High School and Brea elementary school districts could unify by themselves if Olinda refused to join a unification move, The Progress learned yesterday.

But Olinda would have to join the unified district or some other district with three years, Dr. John Packard, county administrative consultant on unification said. Within five years the district may have to join another district in any event.

"A lot of people get the idea that nobody can tell them what to do. But the state legislature sets up a uniform system of education.

There are different types of districts speaking to the best of the district, Dr. Packard said.

"Experience the little school districts."

Unification up to the county committee school board has been a meeting in the past.

Local districts to decide form a joint which will year later.

(To Be Continued)

High Gear

it, attracted a throng of about 200 persons. Attendance was so great that partitions had to be taken down to accommodate those who wished to participate.

Attending from Brea were Police Officer James G. Ellis and Quinn Alexander. Police

(Continued on Page 2)



is being built for James W. Withey, 200 East Fir. The shelter is being built this weekend.

ONE-YEAR-OLD TAMMIE QUINLIVEN

'CAN AFFORD TO BE WRONG'

Fallout Shelter Builder Hopes Others Follow His Lead

Most fallout-shelter builders are thinking primarily of their families.

But Brea's first known fallout shelter builder, James W. Withey, 200 East Fir, hopes his backyard shelter will serve as a spur to others so they will build one too.

"If I charged admission, I could have paid for it that way," Withey said recently.

But he added seriously:

"All the people who went through it were serious. I only had one who scoffed. He asked me whether I might be wrong in building it.

Can Afford To Be Wrong

"With that thing in the ground, I can afford to be wrong."

"I don't ever want to use it," the Brea mail-carrier said. "But its like car insurance. You never go out and expect to have an accident because you have insurance.

Pays Off If You Live

"Life insurance pays off after you die. This pays off if you live."

Withey's rolled-steel shelter, the building permit for which is valued at \$2,300, was built by an Ontario firm. Plans were approved by the Orange Empire chapter of engineers and civil defense.

Meant For Survival

It is a tank-like affair, built to take care of Withey, his wife, a school teacher at Arroyo Vista, their 13-year-old son Gary and their dog Skippy.

"We couldn't leave Skippy out," said Withey.

As Withey explains his shelter, it is meant for survival, and not as some people misunderstand, the usual living conditions.

The quarter-inch steel tank is three feet from the top of the ground at its closest point. The blue-painted room inside is eight by 14 feet and includes

a picture of the seashore on one wall.

It includes a chemical toilet and a seat which can be slid out of the wall full-length to form a double bed.

Keep Air Supplied

One person must be awake at all times to keep up the air supply. A hand-cranked air recirculating machine can, with one minute's work, supply an hour of filtered air.

In addition, arrangements are made for 110 gallons of water, which is shielded from gamma rays. Water would be shut off. Dust, Withey explained, does not affect the water or food.

Sealed Door

The shelter door had turn-buckles and can be sealed.

"If gamma rays get down the stairs, we don't have to

worry since they don't turn corners," Withey said.

The family has thought a long time about the shelter.

"The (American) Legion put on a civil defense meeting and it confirmed all information we had already received," he said.

Completed This Week

The shelter is expected to be completed this week. It stood in front of the Withey house for a time since "we couldn't get a crane strong enough to lift it."

Withey waved farewell from the door of his home.

"Come on back when we have it finished," he said. "We hope other shelters are built after people see this one and community shelters are needed too."

As you left your thoughts returned to that pleasant seaside scene on the wall.

Local Schools Could Unify By Themselves

The Brea - Olinda High School and Brea elementary school districts could unify by themselves if Olinda refused to join a unification move, The Progress learned yesterday.

But Olinda would have to join the unified district or some other district with three years, Dr. John Packard, county administrative consultant on unification said. Within five years the district may have to join another district in any event.

"A lot of people get the idea that nobody can tell them what to do. But the state legislature sets up a uniform system of education.

There are about 15 different types of districts. Generally speaking, the unified district is the best type generally," Dr. Packard said.

"Experience has shown that the little school is expensive."

Unification however, is left up to the augmented county committee and in effect, the school boards. Locally there has been no action since a meeting in January.

Local districts will have to decide by Feb. 1963 to form a junior college district which will start operation a year later.

(To Be Continued)

Plan For

Discussion focused on school tax override election Nov. 28 at the Brea-City Union High School District meeting Monday night.

Main object was to set general meeting of the board between the board and council. Councilmen L. Reese attended and listened to the tax plan saying would relay it to council.

35-Cent Hike

The tax calls for a 35 cent hike bringing the present cost per \$100 assessment to \$1.10.

Superintendent Frank Kins, reading from a taxation brochure to be sent voters, said the purpose of the proposed increase was to finance the general operation of the district. This includes maintenance, operation salaries he said.

The tax period is planned from July 1, 1962 to July 1, 1967, depending on wisdom of the people and existing conditions during that span. It can be raised, lowered or eliminated, the superintendent added.

Need Money Now

One prime question that might have, Hopkins explained, is why not wait until possible unification effect and then tax the unified district.

Hopkins said this would work because unification would not be realized until at least one year after plans began and the district needed the extra revenue much sooner than that.

In another money matter, trustees voted to borrow \$100,000 to tide the district until early in 1962.

Borrowing is standard

Call JA 9-2141
If Your PROGRESS Isn't Delivered

That's the number to call if your PROGRESS isn't delivered to you by Thursday. To insure daily delivery in case of service error, call should be phoned in

B.P.
Hurs.

Oct 19, 1961