

FEATURE AT ORIENTAL THEATRE

A football team Jackson sisters and were guests of the Theatre at the Tuesday performance. A regular program patronized with a pleasing Jackson sisters and sides played as only can play them.

s Club Makes For Indigent

of the Brea Woman's club to attend another he had at the Casa December 6, working 4 to 6 P. M. Special may be brought and coffee will be provided.

material will be provided the comforters made and it is hoped e comforters can be pleted at that time. is asked to bring her bread and scissors as locks will have to be plete the third top. rters are badly needed of our citizens and urged to be present. orks can be completed scesity of taking an and thus delaying of the bedding into it is so much needed weather is growing

VICES HELD BUCHES OF BREA

oke on Life" was the serman delivered at Thanksgiving day un- the Baptist Church. h Gray, pastor of the Nazarene and pres- Brea Ministerial. Ar- ing the words of Ja- id Testament, "All sicut me," and those New Testament "All together for good" strated the attitude o exaggerate their those willing to give their own pleasure e of others as Paul

ley Rubyan, pres- the association, and e Christian church e service. Rev. B. H. stor of the Baptist d the Thanksgiving ev. Donald F. Gay- l the Congregational he Scripture lesson. e included a mixed riting Mrs. Grace onal Estes, Horace

Anaheim Mayor Fatally Shot In Canyon Holdup

DRIVES 15 MILES TO ANAHEIM WITH BULLET LODGED IN ABDOMEN

A SHOOTING from a trip to Brea about 8 P. M. Monday, Mayor Fred Koessel of Anaheim, reported being held up by two men, presumably desperadoes. After demanding all the ready money he had in his wallet, approximately \$100, one of the men who had professed his demand for money with a revolver, then seized him, pulled the trigger, and a bullet lodged in Mr. Koessel's abdomen. Not realizing the seriousness of the wound, Mayor Koessel drove from Brea and pulled up to the door of his physician's home. With his physician, Dr. Felix, he drove to the Sanatorium in Anaheim. Arrived there Mr. Koessel walked into the operating room where an emergency operation was performed. The bullet entered the abdomen above the left hip and passed thru to lodge against the right hip bone, puncturing the intestines in six places. Due to the serious condition of Mr. Koessel from loss of blood suffered in his fifteen mile drive, it was deemed unsafe to probe for the bullet which was located thru X-ray pictures. A transfusion was resorted to Wednesday, but in vain, and Mr. Koessel died at 1 P. M. Wednesday.

The scene of the shooting was estimated as being about seven miles from Brea, so after interviewing Mr. Koessel, Monday night in company with Chief of Police Boudin of Anaheim, Logan Jackson, Sheriff of Orange County, turned the data over to the Sheriff's office of Los Angeles County, the matter falling under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles County authorities.

Men from Sheriff Jackson's office and officers of the Anaheim police department combed the surrounding country without avail. Los Angeles authorities are continuing the man hunt.

ATTEND DISTRICT CLUB FEDERATION CONVENTION, DESERT INN, PALM SPRINGS

"All knowledge is lost, which ends in knowing, for every truth we know is a candle given us to work by." This bit of wisdom formed the theme of the Southern District convention of California Federation of Women's clubs, meet-

Fred Glimpse Is Held For Grand Jury By Justice In La Habra

Fred Glimpse was handed over to the Superior Court at Santa Ana for trial by Justice of the Peace A. C. Earley of La Habra, on Monday in connection with an alleged assault, which the prosecution claimed resulted in the death of Job D. Barton.

It was charged that on September 25th, as a result of an altercation, Glimpse beat Barton into insensibility and that the latter died as a result of injuries sustained at that time.

Glimpse was at the time of his arrest in Needles, Calif., from where he was arrested and brought here on a motor car. Chief of Police Harry Williams, Glimpse's attorney of Barton's case in law.

Industrial and Financial Review Of The Week

Through Courtesy of The Oilfields National Bank

November 25 Teck-Hughes plans work on three unworked properties in Quebec.

Stocks of gasoline up 43,000 barrels in week ended November 19. Bureau of Metal Statistics indicates copper consumption gaining abroad.

All passenger traffic in first half year totals 215,588, against 169,816 year previous.

November 24 Weekly weather report shows conditions spotty in grain growing sections.

Employment in the anthracite industry increased 14% and wage payments \$100,000, from September to October.

Russia must import million tractors in next five years, unless system changes.

November 23 Corcoran higher rubber firm; silk steady; hides irregular.

Great Britain's copper import tariff of 2 1/2% to start December 5.

Garner says House will vote on 15th Amendment repeal on December 5.

Gold imports at New York \$3,519,000 in week to November 24; earmarked decrease \$32,728,000; no exports.

November 22 Harry Guy Taylor appointed

P. T. A. Provides Clothes, Bedding For Brea Needy

BEDDING AND WEARING APPAREL BEING MADE FOR DISTRIBUTION

The local Parent-Teachers Association is carrying on the good work started by the government but only half completed in providing clothing for people who are destitute.

When the cloth contributed by the government was received and applicants came forward to secure their shares, needs that had not been suspected were revealed. People came who were in need of everything: bedclothing, underwear and night clothes were the most in demand.

Only half as much goods was required as was asked for and what was asked for would not have been enough. So the P. T. A. jumped into the breach. Each Wednesday they are meeting at the Brea Grammar school and with money contributed by their treasury and by our ever generous school teachers, they have purchased muslin and quilting fannel and are still cutting garments for distribution. They also intend to make bed clothing. They will not take time to piece quilts but will buy cloth by the yard and make solid covers for the bedding.

More funds can be used in this work, and volunteers who wish to work can also find a place.

NEW RIDGE ROAD BIG MONEY SAVER

Assurance that the vitally important Ridge Route Alternate Highway, bringing the San Joaquin Valley and the Los Angeles Metropolitan area closer together, will be completed and opened by next summer is seen in the award of contract for paving the final dozen miles of this super-modern artery.

Drivers generally may now look forward to savings in time and dollars to be effected with the opening of this highway. The road will effect a saving in operating cost of motor vehicles in excess of \$1,300,000 annually. It is carefully estimated from various surveys of engineers of the state highway department and the Automobile Club of Southern California. Originally estimated to cost \$5,400,000, the Ridge Route will be completed at a cost of slightly more than \$3,000,000 as a result of fe-

NEW VARIETY

Mrs. Cecelia D. owner of the bu- erly housed the- reports that th- Mr. and Mrs. J- Long Beach, a- variety store, f- from Lompoc w- here to Brea. M- are planning to- Himes houses, Walnut street.

Weekly P Hold La

Monday even- NIGHT" with th- era of Orange- organization meet- tner's Cafe in S- dom do the ladies- or privilege of li- worthy group.

Three wives— of Huntington B- chel of Anaheim- Phillips who had- tuced to the gro- ored guests with- now of Placencia- the evening's ent-

Bridge was o- for the ladies wh- discussed matter- portance to the- of the county, bu- ways follow thro- the ladies discus- importance to th- wives until all bu- pleted and they w- men in time to- party at the Fox- tre.

Other ladies p- A. W. McBride ar- La Habra and M- Newport Beach.

BREA BOYS AT CONFERENCE

Nine boys from ange county dis- leadership of sec- attended the two- Older Boys Con- M. C. A. held at- this past weekend- registered deleg- 39 Y.M.C.A.'s of- nis-Alfred Com- and Charles Smi- Brea-Olinda high-

An "Echo" Co- planned by the- next Wednesday- the local high s- 5:30 o'clock. Full- Comrade Clubs o- to be represented- work secretary of-

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1932

men Dismiss Judge Ha

IS WORSE

Judge Spence Says Justice, Not Vengeance, is Rule of His Court

Judge Halsey I. Spence, dismissed as city recorder last night on a three-to-two vote by Fullerton city council, today stated his position as having "endeavored to deal out justice instead of vengeance" and said that he had no apologies to offer for the conduct of his office. Judge Spence said:

"I have applied the laws to the best of my knowledge and ability and have no apologies to offer for the conduct of my office, which I believe has been entirely satisfactory to the majority of Fullerton citizens. The only criticisms my office has received have been from certain members of the city council, who seem to assume that they are the judges of both the law and the facts in cases coming before my court.

"I have endeavored to deal out justice instead of vengeance and to regard all laws as of equal importance. I have levied fines and dealt out punishment in accord with present conditions, considering both the welfare of the accused and their dependents, as well as the economic interest of the city. Thus far I have been given no reasons for the action of the council majority and have had no opportunity to answer any charges or criticisms of my office."

FRED KOESEL SUCCUMBS TO HOLDUP SHOT

Search for Murderers Intensified

GIVE TRANSFUSION

ANAHEIM—With the death at 12:40 p. m. today in Anaheim's sanitarium of Fred Koesel, 53-year-old mayor of Anaheim, the search for his now murderers was intensified although so far futile.

Mayor Koesel was shot by one of two bandits who held him up in Brea Canyon Monday evening. A blood transfusion was performed last night but failed to save his life. The mayor showed improvement yesterday but this morning his condition turned worse. He was unconscious more than half an hour before death came.

A Mexican arrested near Fullerton with a revolver in his possession is being held in the county jail on a charge of carrying a concealed weapon but is not seriously regarded as a suspect in the mayor's case.

Los Angeles county officers are directing the investigation with the Orange county sheriff's office co-operating. Mayor Koesel's hold-up, according to his own estimate, occurred in Los Angeles county. The two bandits, one described as wearing a mask, "flagged" him in Brea canyon and after receiving his wallet, one of them fired a revolver

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Councilmen Dismiss Judge

Anaheim Mayor Fatally Shot In Canyon Holdup

DRIVES 15 MILES TO ANAHEIM
WITH BULLET LODGED
IN ABDOMEN

Nov 28-1934

Returning from a trip to Pomona about 6 P. M. Monday, Mayor Fred Koessel of Anaheim, reported being held up by two men, presumably desperate thugs. After demanding all the ready money he had in his wallet, approximately \$40, one of the men who had prefaced his demand for money with a revolver held against him, pulled the trigger. The 38-calibre bullet lodged in Mr. Koessel's abdomen. Not realizing the seriousness of the wound, Mayor Koessel drove thru Brea and Fullerton to the door of his physician's home. With his physician, Dr. Paige, he drove to the Sanatorium in Anaheim. Arrived there Mr. Koessel walked into the operating room where an emergency operation was performed. The bullet entered the abdomen above the left hip and passed thru to lodge against the right hip bone, puncturing the intestines in six places. Due to the serious condition of Mr. Koessel from loss of blood suffered in his fifteen mile drive, it was deemed unsafe to probe for the bullet which was located thru X-ray pictures. A transfusion was resorted to Wednesday, but in vain, and Mr. Koessel died at 1 P. M. Wednesday.

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FRED KOESSEL SUCCUMBING TO HOLDUP

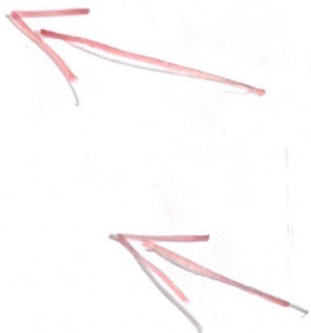
Search for
Inter

GIVE 'TR

ANAHEIM—
12:40 p. m. A sanitarium of the mayor of Anaheim now murdered although Mayor Koessel of two bandits in Brea Canyon. A blood transfusion formed last night save his life. Improvement morning his worse. He was than half an came.

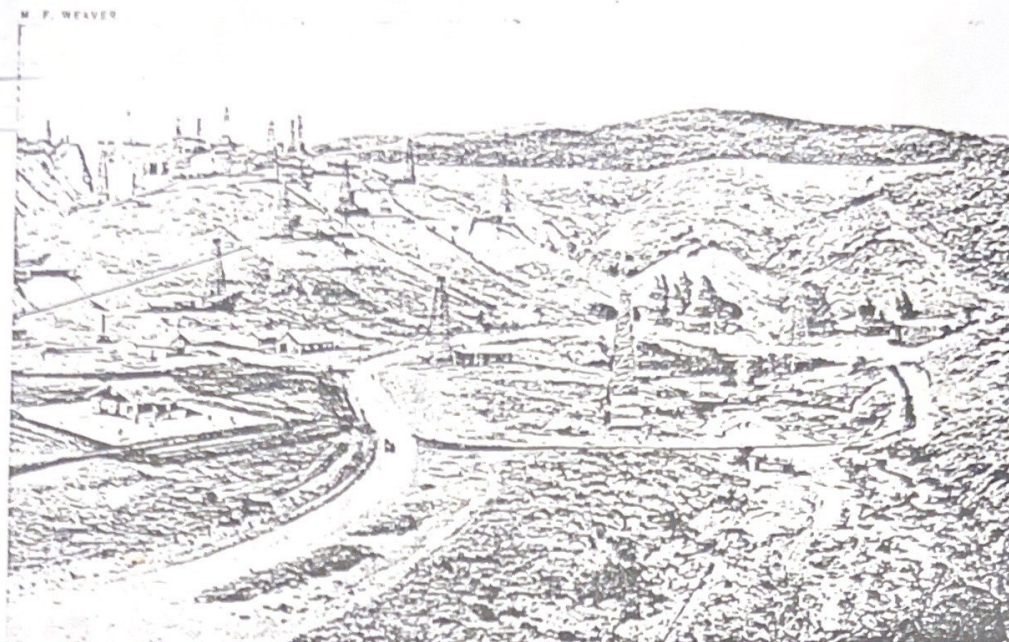
A Mexican Fullerton with a session is being by jail on a concealed weapon. Los Angeles county officials are directing with the Orange office co-operation of the hold-up. own estimate Angeles county its, one described mask, "flagged" yon and after let, one of the shot into his in his coupe, the home of Anaheim, de wound.

The robber in the hold-up Pomona on was returning of the robber Arrangements were being



333

Oil from a Canyon Called Brea



• At the left is the first Brea Canyon Oil Company office building. It is still standing today

THE FAMILIAR thread of pavement weaving through Brea Canyon has long since covered the dusty cattle trail once followed by the princely Don Bernardo Yorba little more than a century ago. Oil derricks grow forest-like along canyon walls which once echoed the sounds of ox-drawn carretas squeaking rhythmically beneath their loads of brea.

Processions of such carretas were not uncommon, for brea—or asphaltum as we know it—was plentiful in the canyon and a handy material for roofing adobes as well as for fuel. Don Bernardo was happy to use it on his magnificent two-storied hacienda San Antonio at the mouth of Santa Ana Canyon. Vaguely aware that these deposits of brea indicated larger pools of petroleum lying just beneath the surface, Don Bernardo and his contemporaries were unconcerned with exploiting "black gold" for it had little commercial worth.

Hardly a score of years had passed after Don Bernardo's last trip into the canyon when petroleum was discovered in Pennsylvania and it began to be used in the form of coal oil.

Led by Major Max Strobel, one of the most ambitious European immigrants to set foot in southern California, a small group of energetic men began digging a hole above one of the petroleum outcroppings in Brea Canyon. The derrick consisted of a long pole with one end secured in a pile of heavy boulders and a fulcrum at a calculated distance from the buried

By Raymond M. Holt

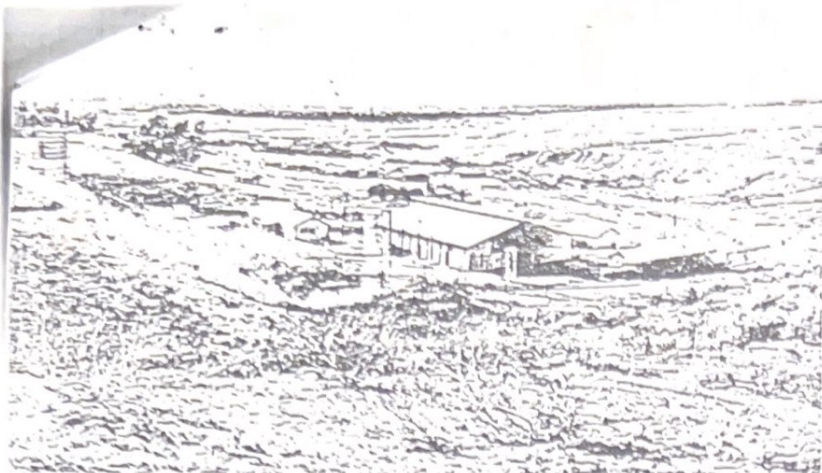
end. Two ropes trailed from the upper end of the pole. To one of these a heavy piece of tapered iron was attached and weighted. The other rope was tied in a series of knots and loops to provide foot and hand holds. Actual operation was as simple as it was primitive: a crew of men alternately pulled and released the knotted rope causing the pole to bob up and down and thereby plunge the piece of iron into the ground. Water was occasionally poured into the hole, then bailed out and the accumulated rock and dirt removed. It was hard work and monotonous. As the bit buried itself deeper and deeper into the earth the rope was gradually lengthened. After the hole had reached a depth of a few hundred feet the rope stretched too much to pull the bit from the bottom. When they had reached this limit without striking oil, Major Strobel and his men were forced to give up. Ironically, flowing wells and small gushers were found two or three decades later within a few feet of their dry hole.

Other petroleum prospectors tried driving tunnels beneath the seepages, but failed to tap more than a small trickle of oil which flowed through the shaft and collected at the mouth of the tunnel. These endeavors were short lived and the canyon again lapsed into pastoral silence.

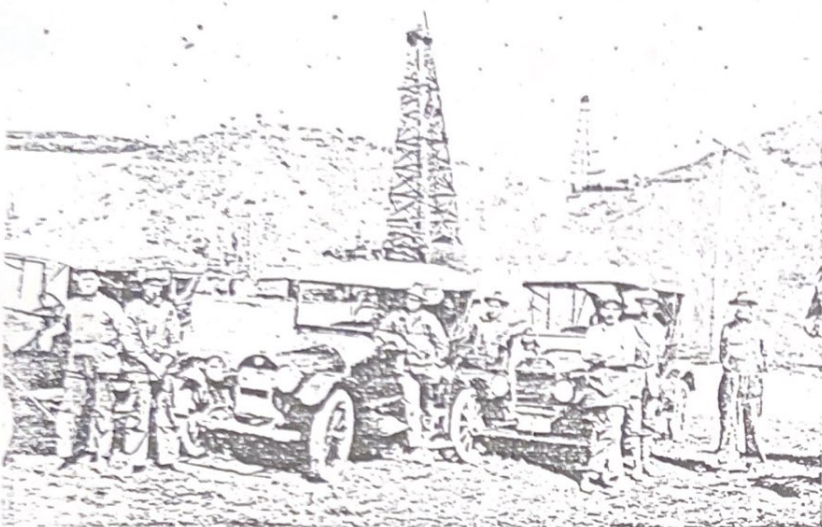
The boom of the eighties and expansion of commerce to the West Coast made in-

creasing amounts of fuel oil necessary. The real break came when Edward L. Doheny persuaded the Santa Fe Railway to convert its locomotives from expensive coal to cheap oil. Almost immediately thousands of oil companies sprang up all over the state. Meanwhile, Santa Fe decided to drill its own wells and purchased along with the Union Oil Company, thousands of acres of land along the southern slopes of the Puente hills, from Brea Canyon to Santa Ana Canyon. Doheny himself, purchased some 200 acres at the mouth of Brea Canyon where, only a half century before, Don Bernardo had extracted his roofing materials. In 1895 the Brea Canyon Oil Company was formed and Doheny sold out his interest. By the end of the first year of production, 12,700 barrels had been shipped from the Brea Canyon fields. Five years later Brea Canyon oil wells were producing more than a half million barrels a year.

In the decade following the turn of the century scores of new wells were drilled. New depths were reached and in 1900 black oil belched from Hall Well No. 14, the field's first real gusher. For several days the oil roared into the air with prodigious quantities of gas. It was estimated that 20,000 gallons of oil a day were flowing down the side of the hill from the well before it was finally brought under control. To the west the Birch Oil Company brought in its No. 5 at the rate of 2,600 barrels a day—3,000,000 barrels in five years.



• This is the original refinery and water cooling tower used by the Brea and Birch oil companies



• This photograph of the Brea Canyon field was taken about 1918. Note the old wooden derricks

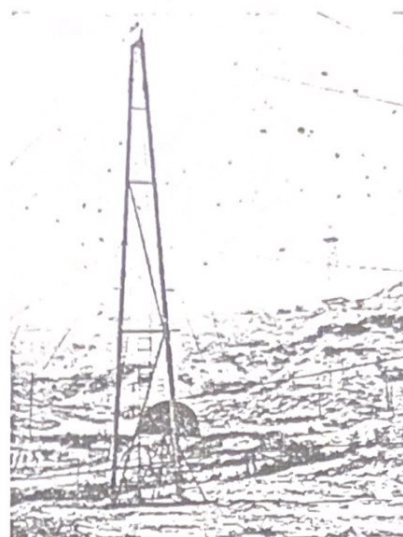
At first the crude oil was collected in reservoirs near the mouth of Brea Canyon to await shipment. Small refineries in Los Angeles and Chino took a portion of the output, but the bulk was either shipped by rail, or piped directly to the harbor at San Pedro where barges were loaded with crude oil for the refineries in San Francisco. With the increase in production and the development of a larger local market, both the Brea Canyon Oil Com-

pany and the Birch Oil Company established refineries near the mouth of the canyon close to the site of the present Brea Canyon refinery. Almost simultaneously the Union Oil Company developed the enormous Steward Tank Farm and Refinery southwest of the canyon, the largest in the area for many years.

Meanwhile, drilling had spread eastward along the fault line for several miles and the Union Oil Company and the Santa Fe

hit pay dirt in an extension of the Brea field which they called Olinda. Here a small settlement of workers was housed in a sort of crude labor camp, but it was only a question of time before a new town would be born.

On October 13, 1908, the Ontario Investment Company opened a small subdivision on a mesa a mile south of the Brea Canyon oil fields. This embryonic



• The field's first well is still producing, though the old wooden rig has been replaced

town was called "Randolph," after the school district of which it was a part. Not until the Pacific Electric completed its line into the area two years later did people begin to buy lots. In 1911 the town changed its name to Brea. Rough frame buildings and modest homes were erected. The main dirt road received an oil surface from the plentiful supply close at hand.

A grammar school site was purchased just north of town to replace the Randolph school in Brea Canyon and the Union Oil Company took over the old school buildings for field offices.

As traffic between Brea and the Brea Canyon oil fields increased, an improved road was necessary. Orange County paved the road in 1916 and planted a long row of pepper trees on either side—the same pepper trees that extend lacy branches above the roadway today.

Brea Canyon has earned its reputation as a source for high quality crude oil and consistent production. The Brea-Olinda field ranks tenth today in current production in California and twelfth in the total oil produced since its opening sixty-six years ago.

The hundreds of oil derricks which scale the walls of the canyon would amaze Don Bernardo Yorba as much as his creaking carretas would astonish us.

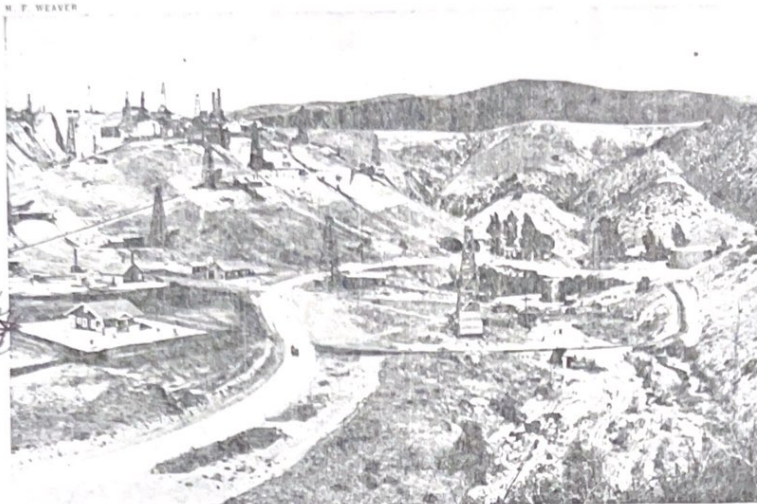
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From: Westways Magazine
November 1961

Oil From a Canyon Called Brea

Stella Kline
Aunt Stella
worked here



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By Raymond M. Holt

THE FAMILIAR thread of pavement weaving through Brea Canyon has long since covered the dusty cattle trail once followed by the princely Don Bernardo Yorba little more than a century ago. Oil derricks grow forest-like along canyon walls which once echoed the sounds of ox-drawn carretas squeaking on the wheels beneath their loads of brea. The carretas were not the only means of transport as pack animals, mules and horses were used to carry the brea to the surface. The brea was stored in large wooden barrels and shipped to Santa Ana Canyon, Virginia, where these deposits of brea indicated large pools of petroleum lying just beneath the surface. Don Bernardo and his contemporaries were unconcerned with exploiting "black gold" for it had little commercial worth.

Hardly a score of years had passed after Don Bernardo's last trip into the canyon when petroleum was discovered in Pennsylvania and it began to be used in the form of coal oil.

Led by Major Max Strobel, one of the most ambitious European immigrants to set foot in southern California, a small group of energetic men began digging a hole above one of the petroleum outcroppings in Brea Canyon. The derrick consisted of a long pole with one end secured in a pile of heavy boulders and a fulcrum at a calculated distance from the buried

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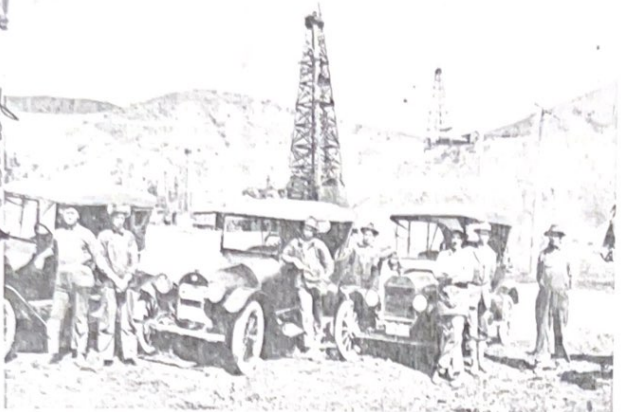
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In the decade following the turn of the century scores of new wells were drilled. New depths were reached and in 1906 black oil belched from Hall Well No. 14, the field's first real gusher. For several days the oil roared into the air with prodigious quantities of gas. It was estimated that 20,000 gallons of oil a day were flowing down the side of the hill from the well before it was finally brought under control. To the west the Birch Oil Company brought in its No. 5 at the rate of 2,600 barrels a day—3,000,000 barrels in five years.



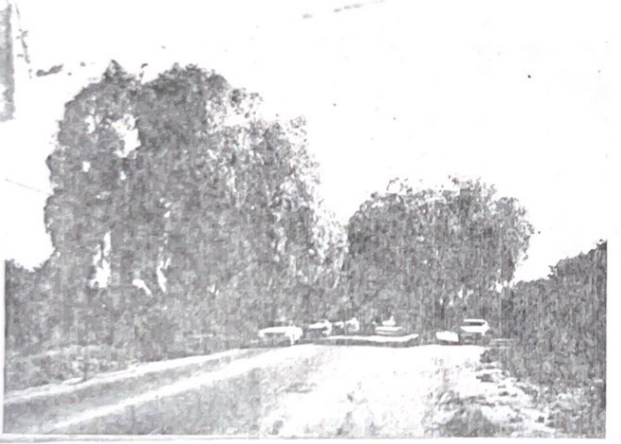
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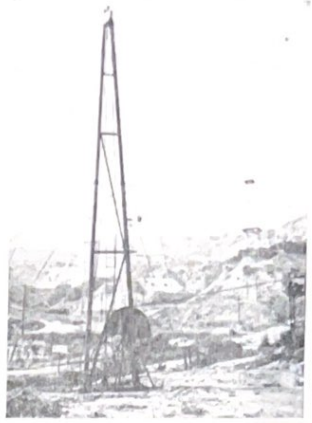
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George A. (Butt) Schifer

Nobby

Submitted by:
 Alberta Schifer Ferrell
 (FERRELL)

Col. 1

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Col. 3

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History Of The Gabrielino/Tongva Nation

By Martin Alcala, Member,

Gabrielino/Tongva Nation: Gabrielino/Tongva tribal territory extends from the Santa Susana mountains on the north to Aliso Creek on the south, and from the Mohave desert on the east to the Pacific Ocean to the west. This area encompasses the entire Los Angeles basin and parts of Orange County. The Channel Islands of Santa Catalina, San Clemente, San Nicholas and Santa Barbara are also part of Gabrielino/Tongva territory.

Originally a coastal people, the Tongvaor "People of the Earth", were displaced by the Spanish and driven as far inland as the San Bernardino mountains. "Gabrielino" is the Spanish name given to the Tongva people after San Gabriel Mission, hence Gabrielino Mission Indians.

Long before the Spanish had ever set foot upon these Pacific shores, the Tongva Nation already had a major civilization in place. They had a working government, laws, religion, music, dance, art, cultural exchange and a monetary system.

Because of the vast distances of their land, each village had it's own separate chief. All these village chiefs reported directly to one main chief.

The main chief was responsible for the welfare of all the Tongva people. He also had the final word in any inter-tribal dispute. His number one responsibility was being keeper of the "sacred bundle." Other responsibilities included representing the Tongva Nation in times of war, keeping the peace and enforcing tribal law by passing judgment on tribal members.

The Tongva people were not warriors at heart, although they did occasionally fight neighboring tribes over some personal transgression or insult. Basically, they were hunter-gatherers who existed on nuts, berries, sage, seafood and small game. From time to time, the tribal hunters would kill a large animal such as a bear or a deer, but mainly they stuck to acorn gathering and smaller animals such as rabbits, foxes, rats, and sea otters.

At one time, The Tongva Nation was considered one of the most generous, friendly, and prosperous Indian tribes of California. With their knowledge of the plank canoe, they were able to paddle to Santa Catalina and other islands. Here, they would remove large deposits of steatite or soapstone, an extremely malleable metal. From this metal they would create cooking vessels, bowls, plates, utensils, and jewelry.

When the Tongva people first spotted the Spanish sailing offshore in their Galleons, they paddled out to these ships bearing welcoming gifts of nuts, berries, sage and seafood. This act of kindness by the Tongva people was taken as a sign of weakness by the Spanish, who almost immediately enslaved them.

This was the beginning of a long period of suffering and oppression which continues to this very day.

It was also the beginning of the end to Tongva life as they knew it.

Among the Gabrielino/Tongva people today, there is a saying. "We were friendly, all right. Friendly to the point of extinction!" Before the Spanish, the Tongva population was approaching

- 200,000 people.
- By the mid-1700,s, that total had dwindled down to 70,000 an by the late 1800,s only 6,000 Tongvas remained.

But, as another tribal saying goes, "We have always been here, we are still here, and we will always be here."

By Martin Alcalá: Tongvachief@webtv.net



Brea Canyon Residence California

from History of Brea - Orange Union
High School District
by Harold W. Yates
Aug 61

Portola Monument

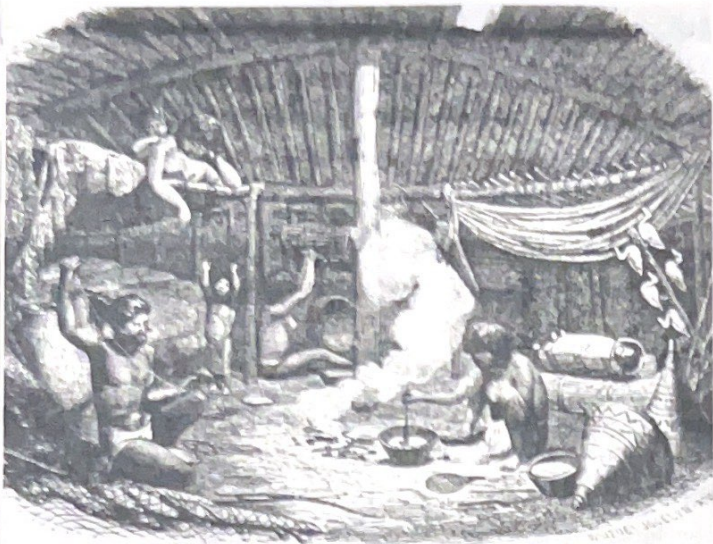
Gaspar de Portola - gov of Alta Calif from
1767 to 1770

Don Gaspar de P. with sixty men
camped here July 31, 1769, on his
first exploring march from San Diego to
Monterey. Dedicated June 2, 1932, by
Grace Parlow No. 242, Native Daughter
of the Golden West

According to Mrs. Ted Craig, long-time
resident of Brea a very short ceremony
preceded the unveiling of the monument
with her husband then a state assemblyman
from the district, giving the dedication
before a sparse gathering of approx twenty-
five persons

Need for shooting -

- ① picture of Ted Craig - in 1967 Jubilee Book bottom
- ② pictures of Portola expedition



Indian homes were simple but comfortable. Each member of the family helped with the work that needed to be done. An opening in the roof of the house allows smoke from the cooking fire to escape.

They had no written language. The Indians made fire by rubbing hard wood against soft wood until sparks came. They then used the sparks to start dry leaves or grass burning.

Indian houses differed from region to region. The Indians of the northwest split tree trunks into planks and made sturdy, permanent homes. The Indians of the coastal regions used branches and animal skins to build tents. The Indians of the Central Valley used tule grass to cover their houses. Desert Indians built huts made of earth because there were few trees. Whatever the material, Indians' homes were

simple. They had almost no furniture. The people lived most of their lives outdoors. They did not need fancy homes.

Indians also did not need much clothing. Most of the year, in fact, when the weather was warm, Indian men and boys wore nothing at all. The women and girls wore only a simple skirt, made of grass or animal hides. In winter, they wrapped themselves in animal furs, which they stitched together with leather strips. Sometimes, shoes made of pounded tree bark were worn. Many California Indians decorated their bodies with colorful designs. They used earth or the juice from crushed tree bark or berries to paint their chests and faces. Coast Indians decorated themselves with necklaces made from shells.

THE FAMILY AND THE VILLAGE

The Indians in each village lived together as families. A large village could have as many as 30 families. When a man wanted a woman to be his wife, he gave the woman's family a valuable gift. He gave this gift because the woman's family was losing a valuable worker. A man could have more than one wife—if he had enough gifts to give. No one



INTRODUCTION

"... a beautiful valley of many leagues of good land." with innumerable "Castillian rosebushes, loaded with roses."

—Father Juan Crespi

Describing La Habra Valley in his diary
of the Portola Expedition of 1769.

"... La Habra Valley as a place never played a major role in the early historical development of California, but it has been a witness to the passing parade of significant historical persons and events."

—Esther Cramer, author

In "LA HABRA/The Pass Through the Hills", 1969

Most of this album's content has been taken from newspapers serving the community, which only seems proper since this publication celebrates the 75th anniversary of the news publications serving the La Habra Valley.

But the fact is, much history predated the newspapers. This introduction will attempt to bring you up to speed on the years preceding the late 1800s/early 1900s — the storied times of primitive Indians, Spanish explorers, historic missions and colorful ranchos.

As Esther Cramer said in her book on La Habra history, the valley may not have played a "major role" in development, but it certainly was witness to "significant historical persons and events."

Visitors From the West

As an example, Mrs. Cramer notes that when Governor Gaspar de Portolá led his expedition (searching for the Bay of Monterey) through the valley on July 30, 1769, his group of 63 men included "two future governors and the grandfather of another, the discoverer of San Francisco Bay and the future commander of Monterey" (Lt. Pedro Fages, Governor from 1782-91; Capt. Rivera Y Moncado, successor to Fages; Juan Bautista Alvarado, grandfather of Gov. Juan B. Alvarado; Sgt. José Francisco Ortega, discoverer of San Francisco Bay).

And, there was also a soldier named José Antonio Yorba, a young corporal of the Royal Catalán volunteers, who was obviously impressed with what he saw. He would later lay claim to lands that were destined to be the social and economic hub of what was to become Orange County.

The Land Grant Ranchos

The role of the missions as an economic and cultural force is indelibly written in California history, the forerunner of all that was to follow. But following close behind, were the Land Grant Ranchos.

In reviewing the rancho era, a clear distinction must be made between grants made by Spain and those made by Mexico. The Spanish were very frugal in their dispensation of land grants, only issuing some 20 to 30 during the Mission Period. Mexico's California governors, on the other hand, authorized nearly 800.

Probably the first grant involving what are Orange County lands occurred close by the La Habra Valley. In 1784, Governor Fages (remember him?) granted José Nieto a vast tract of approximately 300,000 acres which included about half of Orange County and considerable land in what is now Los Angeles County. These lands, lying southwest of the valley (from El Camino Real to the ocean), eventually were divided—by Mexican order at the request of Nieto heirs in 1834—into five large Ranchos: Los Coyotes, Los Cerritos, Santa Gertrudes, Los Alamitos and Las Bolsas.

Another large Spanish grant, this consisting of lands entirely in Orange County, was made in 1810 to the little corporal of Portolá's expedition, José Antonio Yorba (and his nephew, Juan Pablo Peralta). Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana consisted of 62,500 acres southeast of the La Habra Valley was divided from the Nieto grant by the Santa Ana River for much of its acreage which extended from the mountains to the ocean.

The Mexican Grants

The First Americans

Jedediah Stone Smith

James Ohio Pattie

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European Discovery

ESTHER RIDGWAY CRAMER



Although the California coast had been explored as early as 1542 by Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, it was not until 1769 that a land expedition was ordered by Don Jose de Galvez, Spanish Visitador-General. He had traveled to Lower California, where the Franciscan Order had recently replaced that of the Jesuits in order to reorganize the missions there and to plan the exploration and occupation of the land to the north. San Diego was named as the meeting place for four expeditions, two by land and two by sea. The two ships *San Antonio* and *San Carlos* reached the designated rendezvous first, on April 11 and April 29, 1769. Captains Fernando Rivera y Moncada and Gaspar de Portola and their land expeditions arrived on May 14 and July 1. They began construction of the first mission site in Alta California, San Diego de Alcalá, in what is now the city of San Diego.

Even before the mission could be dedicated on July 16, a reorganized land party of sixty-two men headed by Portola set off to the north in search of the Bay of Monterey. This expedition entered what is now Orange County on July 22, 1769. A camp was made in Christianitos Canyon, just northeast of the city of San Clemente. It was so named because the padres performed the first baptism in California there when two little Indian girls were named and blessed.

The next night, July 23, camp was made in San Juan Canyon about four-and-a-half miles from where the mission was later founded. July 24 and 25 were spent on Plano Trabuco, named because a soldier lost his gun (trabuco), either on this expedition or on one of the later trips. On July 26,

the group traveled as far as the present Tomato Springs, a mile northeast of the El Toro Air Station.

Up early on July 27, the group needed to find more water for their animals. Scouts reported that an abundance of water and shade was about three leagues away. They traveled from Tomato Springs along the foothills about a half-mile northeast of where the Irvine Ranch headquarters were later located (at what is now between Red Hill and Lemon Heights to the corner of Chapman and Prospect avenues), and on to the east bank of Santiago Creek where they made their camp. On Friday, July 28, they reached the Santa Ana River near the present town of Olive. It was here that the group recorded camping with many Indians and experiencing a strong earthquake. They named the river "El Rio del Dulcissimo Nombre de Jesus de los Temblores" (the river of the sweetest name of Jesus of the earthquakes). However, the soldiers with the expedition called it the "Santa Ana River," because it seemed to flow from the mountains they had named in honor of St. Ann. From this campsite, they angled across the plains toward the hills to the north-northwest. That night they camped with a group of Indians at the mouth of Brea Canyon (just north of the present city of Brea). On July 30, they left La Habra Valley close to the route of the present Fullerton Road, across the Puente Hills, and into the San Gabriel Valley. The name, La Habra, means "the pass through the hills," probably given because of this famous passage.

References: Bolton 1927; Costanso 1910; Palou 1926; Portola 1909; Talbert 1963.



The Mission San Juan Capistrano, the mission complex.



The mission complex was founded by the four Franciscan missionaries who returned from their first voyage in 1771. Juan Capistrano, the youngest of the four, was the richest, controlled the mission, and much of the land. The mission was the first of its kind in California and was the first to be founded into loyal and independent states. Meadows described the mission as a pattern of the mission system in Spain which was never completely based on the mission system.

The mission complex was a pattern of the mission system in Spain which was never completely based on the mission system.

- ★ The Portolá party, representing the area's first contact with Western civilization, made camp at a *ranchería* (a clustering of wickiups housing blood-related relatives which usually numbered 25 to 100 persons) near the mouth of Brea Canyon. The Indians invited them to join a celebration the Indians were giving for neighbors.
- ★ Portolá diarists described the 70 Indian residents of the *ranchería* as "friendly heathens" and the group apparently enjoyed their stay. (The *ranchería* was called "Los Ojitos" ((little eyes)) by Engineer Miquel Constanó because of small springs arising there and "Santa Marta" by Father Crespi, whose policy it was to name places for the Saint's Day when they made camp)
- ★ The mass celebrated by Father Crespi at this camp was the first Western religious service in the La Habra Valley.

The Early Inhabitants

Mrs. Cramer tells us that early Indian inhabitants of the valley were members of the *Tongva* tribe, who resided in an area stretching from Tujunga east to San Bernardino and south to Aliso Creek in Orange County. The *Tongvas* were members of family known as Shoshoneans (relatives to the Shoshone in Nevada) who, in turn, belonged to the super-family known as Uto-Aztecan (From the Ute of Utah to the Aztecs of Central Mexico, including the Comanches of Texas.

Local Indians were later to be known as *Gabrielinos*, named for the San Gabriel Mission which held control over the lands of the La Habra Valley (and much more) from 1771 to 1839.

These Indians apparently were a peaceful group, aroused only by matters of honor or by invasion of turf, but there is some historical disparity regarding their cultural status and living conditions.

J.M. Guinn says in his 1902 "*Historical and Biographical Record of Southern California*", that they were "among the most degraded specimens of North American Indians." But Zoeth S. Eldredge's "*History of California*", 1915, reports that, although primitive, they were not "digger" Indians. Rather, Eldredge says, this was a contemptuous term given them by the early mountain men and later by those who found them in a degraded state.

The *La Habra Star*, on Nov. 30, 1916, printed an early area history in which Mrs. W.J. Hole, wife of the pioneer rancher and developer, told those assembled at the La Habra Woman's Improvement Association Old Settlers Picnic in October, 1899, "We learn from the Franciscan Fathers who estab-

lished the San Gabriel Mission in 1772, that the Indians they found here were of a very low type known to us as the digger Indians."

Although Mission San Gabriel prospered, becoming one of the wealthiest of all the missions, the *Gabrielinos* did not. Hubert Howe Bancroft wrote in "California Pastoral", 1888, that "It was a scurvy trick for civilization to bring its pestilence and foul disease to scatter among these simple savages." Mrs. Cramer said epidemics and venereal diseases took a heavy toll, and a measles epidemic in 1825 followed by a smallpox in 1826-27 "dissipated much of the remaining *Gabrielino* population."

The Mission Life

For nearly 70 years the valley domain was controlled by the padres of the San Gabriel Mission acting on behalf of the Spanish government. In all, there were 21 missions (*San Gabriel Arcángel* was fourth in the string) stretching from San Diego to Sonoma, each a day's ride from the other along a trail known as *Camino Viejo* (*Old Road*) or, more commonly in this area, as *El Camino Real* (variously translated as *The Real Road*, *The True Road* or *The Main Street*).

The route through the valley approximately traced that taken by the Portolá expedition on its return in January, 1770, when they went around the Puente Hills rather than across them and entered the valley from the west. As it angled through the area, it was, according to Mrs. Cramer, "... little more than a dirt path through the grass, (but it) carried the most important persons in early California history."

An ailing Father Junípero Serra had sent Father Crespi with the Portolá group for the expressed purpose of locating suitable mission sites. Following a pattern established in South America and Mexico, the Spanish intended to Christianize the Indians and gain their support for the King's cause. It was then planned to turn the lands back to these new Indian citizens and have the settlements become *pueblos* of the Spanish Crown.

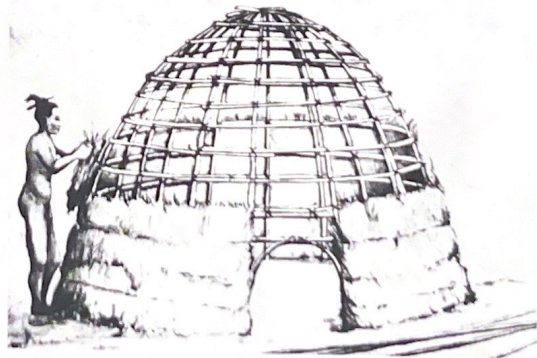
This plan never evolved, partially because of unrest in at home which kept the Spanish government from following through on the plan. With the proclaiming of the Republic of Mexico in 1822, the missions passed from Spanish to Mexican hands. Shortly thereafter, a movement began to return the mission lands to the public domain, a movement culminating in the Secularization Act of 1833 which resulted in the end of the mission system as it was known and the casting of many of the native *Gabrielinos* into poverty. A plan designed to help Indians had brought an opposite reaction.

Courtesy Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County



Typical Indian village.

Courtesy Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County



Indian round house.