

T D C T

March 6, 1912

Brea

Improvements Going
on at Brea

Brea, the new oil town on the Pacific Electric in La Habra Valley is growing steadily and it is predicted that within a short time will have five hundred or more population. A number of oil well employees are moving to Brea on account of its convenience to the leases of several companies and there is demand for houses for rent that cannot be supplied.

The main streets are now graded and oiled and placed in first class condition. Construction work is going on in the residence portion and the business section. Several houses are nearing completion and new firms will be ready to open for business in a short time.

Bank to Open

The Brea Bank will probably be ready for business about the first of next month. Completion of the building is being rushed. When finished it will be one of the most attractive bank homes in the southland. C. R. Thomas is the head of the institution.

A hotel building will be erected in a short time containing not less than 16 rooms. It will be managed by Mrs. Nellie F. Alford who has opened the Brea cafe and is now feeding about fifty a day. A number of the oil boys are taking meals with Mrs. Alford and transient business is also good. The new hotel will be strictly modern and rates reasonable. Mrs. Alford was formerly in the Maricopa fields and is a popular caterer.

Hotel

~~JOCT~~ ~~same date~~ May 29, 1912

The hotel which has been leased to Mrs. ~~Alford~~ Alford is fast nearing completion. It is located adjoining the Rudolph drug store. Mrs. Alford reports that the cafe is having a good business.

Orange County Tribune

Wed, Nov. 13, 1912

Boia

Brian - I think

there is an unsub-
hotel. Mention in other
articles about 1 No. of

Cashier A. J. Olsen of the La Habra ^{Branch}
Valley Bank sold the lot to Mrs. Babbitt
on which the new hotel will be erected.

D

Boar

Opp

H. P

R

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ORA
16
P

Resi

Offi
And

Grad

HOTEL BREA

MRS. Z. P. WHETSTINE, Proprietor

AMERICAN AND
EUROPEAN PLAN

Pomona Ave. and La Habra St., BREA, Cal.

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1913-14

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ANAHEIM ORANGE FULLERTON

Including names of Ranchers residing North of Santa Ana city boundary and East of Garden Grove to North Boundary of the County

Including a Complete Record of City and County Officials, Societies, Schools, Churches, Etc.

Price \$4.00

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PASADENA, CAL.

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address of hotel
106 1/2



In 1914 Hotel Brea
is listed in Thurston's
Directory - North Orange
County
at Fullerton, California

Brea Hotel listed

up to that time
Hotel Brea
(1914) + 1919-26

1937 New Hotel Sherman
106 N. Pomona
1938 Hotel Brea 106 N Pomona

1927
1928
1929
1930
31
32

no 33 no 34 no 35 no 36

by Mail or Carrier
has paid in advance.

City Except Sunday
Second Class Matter

**FATALITIES
AUTO ACCIDENTS**

confirm the value in
of the custom of re-
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ok. The number of
ed by automobiles in
ate last year was the
recorded. The great
due to the fact that
eary for a driver of
to have a state li-

on killed 729 persons
the streets and high-
w York state, includ-
ok City, as compared
1915, according to the
rt of the National
ective Society. In
City 392 persons not
by automobiles dur-
e, while trrolley cars
nd wagon 71.

York City alone 248
t their deaths as the
to vehicular traffic.
w, passed at the last
the legislature, became
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hicles to be licensed and
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um have decreased by
ept. In the state of
during the year 1916,
killed 215, trrolley
one 19, as compared
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ys and 12 by wagons
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**CAUSTIC OF WAR
SITUATION**

no since the war began
on so much uncertain-
y situation relating to
tion so now. High-
ed quite certain that
the immediate prospect
ut the German note
the Wilson note have
question of ending the
to the reply of the En-
al quite closed it. Thus
is left in a state of un-
y nothing to guide it.
This at present is the
note presented by the
in Europe. "When
re end?"

re are others that have
to speculation. "The
Barbaric" letter is the
pillar of "Commence-
re, regards this as the
aking of all the record
of the war. "Why was
after removed from an
ound of the French

**HARBOR CITY
CLUB WINS
1ST GAME**

It was a case of too much Tolo
Schneider here Sunday afternoon
and San Pedro annexed the first
game of the series of five in which
the champs are defending the U-
S title of semi-professional champions
of Southern California. That and
initial injury to Hubert Ruser.

At the start of the game when
he stopped a grounder, the ball
struck the injured insect and for
the remainder of the game he
virtually pitched with three in-
nings.

In the early stages the game re-
solved itself into a pitchers' bat-
tle and for five innings it went
without a run, with the
champs unable to find Schneider
and the Longshoremen unable to
discover Hubert.

In the sixth the champs took
three hits and pushed the across
sliding on the base and took the
sixth, when the Harbor City ac-
cidentally panned out three and
called three.

Hubert stayed all the frame
and the Longshoremen pitched the
ninth, holding the Longshoremen
to no hits and no runs.

The next game of the series
will be played at San Pedro next
Sunday.

The box score for Saturday's
game follows:

SAN PEDRO AB R H PO A T

Smith, R	3	1	1	9	0
McKay, W	3	0	0	0	0
Argentin, W	1	1	2	0	0
Carson, M	1	0	1	1	0
Hillman, J	1	0	0	3	0
Wilson, W	1	0	0	2	1
Sawyer, H	1	0	2	0	0
Chap, P	1	0	0	0	0
Schneider, P	1	1	1	0	2
Totals	21	3	6	27	12

CHAMPS AB R H PO A T

Hubert, W	3	0	0	1	0
Rawlings, W	1	1	1	2	0
Hooper, R	1	0	1	0	0
L. Meard, H	1	0	1	2	0
McMullen, W	1	0	0	2	0
G. Callan, W	1	0	0	2	0
H. Meard, H	1	0	0	11	0
H. Callan, P	1	0	0	3	2
Crundall, P	1	0	0	0	0
Hubert, P	2	0	0	0	1
Decandere, P	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	20	1	3	27	13

Summary

Two base hits Sawyer, Schind- ler, Struck out by Schneider, 10; by Hughes, J. Wallard, H. Decandere and the Longshore-

**BREA PERSONALS
AND LOCAL ITEMS**

The Pacific Gasoline Co. is
making plans for the enlarging of
the company's manufacturing fa-
cilities that on completion will
place the Pacific Gasoline Co. on
an equal footing with any in the
state. In addition to the six
plants the company now has in
operation two more are contem-
plated. Plans and specifications
are being gotten out for another
big compressor plant at Tall and
an absorption plant for the same
place.

At the mass meeting at the Brea
auditorium to nominate candidi-
ates for city officials, the follow-
ing were nominated: City trust-
ees: I. Craig, P. Huddleston, J.
C. Sexton, M. J. McCarthy, W. D.
Coxon, P. H. Mitchell, E. H. Pe-
lerin, C. W. Reese, W. C. Culp
and Union city clerk, Charles
Kinsler. C. P. Davis, city treasur-
er, S. A. Styles. These will be
placed on the ballot, to be voted
on February 15, at which time the
election to decide incorporation
will be held. Wm. Sutherland
acted as chairman.

All M. Davis, an employee of the
Union Oil Co., by the Brea Can-
ton District contracted to build
an oil well on the land owned by
and has recovered fully. The
contract has been lifted and
Mr. Davis has been allowed to
resume his work with the com-
pany.

Considerable speculation is
being made as to what will be done
with Brea's auditorium in the
new building. The Sewell build-
ing is owned by Mrs. Sewell of
Long Beach and she has given it
free to all occupants such as
lodges and public organizations
to vacate the building as it is to
be closed to the public. The
Sewell auditorium is the only
public place in the city and its
loss will be heavily felt. The plans
of the owner are not known.

The infant son of W. D. Keates,
dying for a day in the Graham
Hospital, is recovering rapidly from
a serious illness.

A real estate transaction of con-
siderable interest took place a
few days ago at Brea. Chas. Kin-
sler, owner of the Kinsler Hotel,
sold the property to Mr. and Mrs.
Frank Miller. The new owners
have made extensive improve-
ments in the building and have
changed the name to the "Brea
Hotel."

**No. of Bank 263
REPORT OF CONDITION
of the
Fullerton Savings Bank
At Fullerton, California, as of the
close of business on the 4th
day of January, 1917.**

Resources.

Loans and Discounts	\$489,187.24
Bonds, Warrants, and other securities	14,600.00
Due from Reserve banks	10,224.09
Due from other banks	22,605.94
Actual cash on hand	10,696.82
Total	567,314.09

Liabilities.

Capital Stock paid in	2,000.00
Surplus	10,000.00
Undivided Profits, less Expenses and Taxes paid	3,905.56
Dividends Unpaid	2,042.50
Savings Deposits	253,696.66
Time Certificates of Deposit	59,769.37
County and Municipal Deposits	12,500.00
Total	366,914.09

State of California, County of
Orange, ss.

S. S. Fuller, President, and E. E.
Hammam, secretary of Fullerton
Savings Bank, being duly sworn,
each for himself, says he has a personal
knowledge of the matters
contained in the foregoing report
of condition and that every alle-
gation, statement, matter and
thing therein contained is true to
the best of his knowledge and be-
lief.

S. S. FULLER,
President.
E. E. HAMMAM,
Secretary.

Severally subscribed and sworn
to before me by both defendants
the 11th day of January, 1917.

P. A. SCHUMACHER,
Notary Public in and for said
County of Orange, State of Cali-
fornia.

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

December 26, 1916,
Santa Ana, Calif.

In pursuance of a resolution of
the Board of Supervisors of the
County of Orange, Cal., adopted
December 26th, 1916, directing
this Notice, notice is hereby given
that the said Board will receive at
its office at the Court House at
8 1/2 o'clock A. M. or before the hour
of 1 o'clock P. M. of January 10,
1917, sealed bids of proposals for
the construction of one mile of
eleven (11) foot concrete pave-
ment between Brea and Orange.

Bids must be made on the form
provided for the purpose, address-
ed to the Board of Supervisors,
Orange County, Cal., marked,
"Bid for Brea-Orange Road."
The work is to be done in ac-
cordance with the profiles, plans
and specifications adopted by the
Board of Supervisors on file in the
office of said Board and in the of-
fice of the County Surveyor or in the
Court House.

Each bidder must submit with
his proposal a satisfactory check
certified by a responsible bank
and payable to the order of the
County of Orange, for an amount



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equipped for doing all
business.

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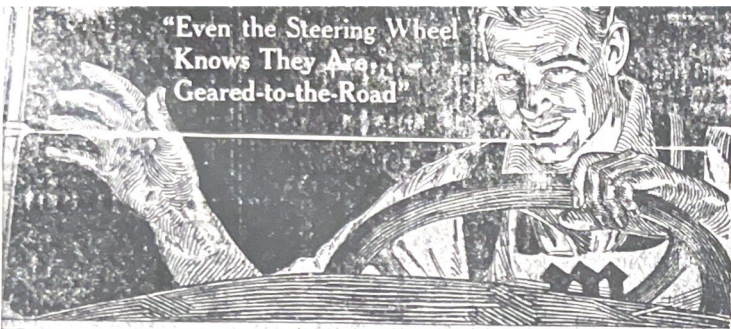
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W**

**Northwest
Fire Insur**

OF M

Assets o

**Lowest Rate
Adjustmen
pany t**



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UNIFORM MILLER TIRES mean no "second bests." They are built by uniform workmanship and all are long-distance runners.

Miller Tires are also *Geared-to-the-Road*. This tread of many caterpillar feet engages the ground like cog. No tread is safer or gives such positive traction.

Call up or drive up when you want a tire or a tube. Our prices are reasonable, our service complete.

Resolve right now to try the Uniform Miller on your car.

MacClatchie Hardware Company
Brea, California



The New Garage Next.

Ground will be broken for a new garage located at the corner of Pomona avenue and Birch street in the very near future. Contracts have been let and preparations are well under way.

John E. Kunst, of Los Angeles, has charge of the architectural and engineering work. The brick and stone work will be done by Mr. M. Stepan, also of Los Angeles.

The building will present a good appearance because of its architectural appearance and its size, 50x100 feet. Being of brick and stone (pressed glazed brick being used on the front) gives it solidity as well as attractive appearance.

In short it will be a modern garage in every respect.

Brea Hotel in New Hands.

W. A. Engle has sold the Brea Hotel to Mrs. Thayer who took possession Wednesday. Mrs. Thayer is a capable hotel woman and will give her personal attention to the conduct of the house.

Mr. Engle will go to his ranch in the Antelope valley and prepare the ground for putting in ten acres of pears next spring. But he is not prepared to say that he will leave Brea permanently.

Mrs. Thayer has the best wishes of many friends and the people of Brea in her new venture who hope the hotel will continue to prosper.

Subscribe for The Progress



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SAN FRANCISCO

Agent
L. GROVER LAW
Phone Main 6012 923 East

When You



La Habra Valle
BREA, CALIFOR

WILL BUILD FOR POSTOFFICE, STORE

W. L. Rhodes yesterday let the contract for the erection of a one-story brick business block on his lot on the west side of Central avenue, La Habra, adjoining the Wester building. It is expected that construction work will start next Monday.

The building will have fifty feet front, and will contain two rooms, the west one being designed for use by the postoffice. It will be so designed that entrance can be secured to boxes by patrons at times when the office is closed. Whether or not the government will accept the room for this purpose is a point that cannot be determined until the building is complete and a tender made. However, the policy of the postoffice department is to improve the service wherever possible.

The eastern room, which will be the larger of the two, will be rented for business purposes. Riley & Boales have the contract for the erection of the building, which will be pushed to completion as rapidly as possible.

Brea Hotel Changes Hands

The Brea Hotel changed hands Tuesday morning. The hotel has been owned for the past two years by W. A. Engle, who disposed of the property Tuesday to Mrs. Harry Thayer of Brea.

Engle left today with his wife for his ranch near Little Rock, Cal. He owns eighty acres of land in that vicinity and expects to set ten acres of this to pears in the near future. Engle most emphatically stated that he is still a Brea booster.

INTO NEW HOME

The new home of Jay C. Sexton of Brea has been completed and the family has moved into it. The former Sexton home has been purchased by R. G. Pettigrew, and the new owners moved into it Friday.

RECEPTION GIVEN FOR BREA TEACHERS

The members of the Brea P. T. A. entertained with a reception Tuesday evening in honor of the teachers of the grammar school. The affair was held in the school auditorium and was opened with a few words of welcome by the vice-president of the P. T. A. The program was then turned over to Mrs. Middleton who was in charge of the entertainment. The first number on the program was a delightful piano solo by Miss Agnes Coffey. Rev. W. E. Spicer delivered the welcoming address in his usual sincere and enthusiastic manner. He brought out the fact that we all love our teachers and summed up his talk in a few words. He said in order to make the school an asset to the city the teachers should be like pianos. They should be upright, square and grand.

Prof. Fanning responded to this address of welcome and gave those who were present some idea of the work that must be accomplished by the teachers. The teachers' work is never completed and they labor on and on in an attempt to make perfect men and women out of their pupils.

Following the response a duet was sung by Miss Avis Coffey of Brea and Vernon Martz of Whittier. The remainder of the evening was spent in a jolly get-together fashion during the course of which refreshments were served.

ENTERTAINS GUESTS FROM THE EAST

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Schneider entertained with a dinner on Sunday. They had as their guests R. Rath and family of Iowa, who are visiting at the C. H. Rath home in East Whittier. Other guests were C. H. Rath and family, Mr. Sucksdorf and son, William, of East Whittier. Following the delightful dinner a most pleasant afternoon was spent on the ranch.

ENTERTAINS WITH DINNER

Mrs. James A. Tunis of the West Coast lease entertained a number of her friends with a chicken dinner Friday evening.

YORBA LIDA OPENS NEW LIBRARY HOME

The new quarters of the Yorba Linda Public Library, in what was formerly the postoffice building, were formally opened last night. The building has been fitted up in a very comfortable and serviceable manner, and in its new location this popular institution promises to be even more valuable than before.

Dr. Lester Keller delivered the opening address in his usual interesting manner. There being only a moderate attendance, the meeting was then turned over to the Chamber of Commerce and Farm Center for its regular meeting. The topic of the evening was "Cover Crops," and this was ably handled by N. W. Renneker, an interesting discussion following.

TO GIVE SUPPER

The ladies of the Brea Christian church will serve a harvest supper Thursday evening under the arbor of the Christian church. Many good things to eat will be served and everyone is invited to be present.

ON MOTOR TRIP

Mr. and Mrs. George Meyers of Yorba Linda leave this week for a motor trip through the northern part of the state. They expect to be absent about two weeks.

Dog Poisoner Gets in Work

Two of the valuable dogs owned by E. H. Peterkin of Brea have been poisoned during the past week. The dogs were Boston bull and bob prize animals. One died the latter part of last week, it being valued at \$250. The second was poisoned the first of this week and was immediately taken to Anaheim where it is hoped to save its life. A determined effort is being made to locate the party responsible.

MOTHERS' MEETING

A special meeting of the La Habra grade mothers and teachers

ASSOCIATION PROFITABLE YEAR

The annual meeting of the La Habra stockholders of the La Habra Packing Association was held at the packing house yesterday noon. Secretary Goodell presented an interesting and favorable report of the year's output and profits of which appear below.

The total output of lemons was 164,967 boxes, or 43.96 million pounds. Of these 43.96 million pounds were graded as No. 1, or 34.82 per cent of the total.

Valencia shipments in 1918 totaled 268 boxes or 20,880 pounds. The navel crop was 5,428,526 pounds.

There were 1,172 boxes of fruit and 35 boxes of other produce.

The directors for the year are A. M. Otis, President; C. W. G. H. Sargent, J. D. Siev Edwards and Wm Espo.

After the meeting the adjourned to the Garden where they were treated to a most interesting movie "Story of the Sunkist" which was shown on the screen with the first orange harvest from Riverside and ending with the York auction scene. The picture was "A Little Joe Hill" showing the count the box shook is made.

PLANS TO LOCATE IN LA

John Kruse of La Habra was called to Iowa a few days ago by the death of his father. He returned to his home last night. He was accompanied on his return trip by John B. brother of Mrs. Kruse and Mrs. Chris Schneider of Brea. Battgar is looking over the property about La Habra and expects to invest in the future. He will then return to Iowa.

May 22, 1919 Local Happenings

The Brea Hotel is sporting a new transparent electric sign above the doorway

Brea Star Mon Nov 10, 1919

W. A. Engle, former owner of the Brea Hotel, & now residing in Los Angeles was visiting old friends in Brea the latter part of ~~the~~ last week



Hotel Kinsler between the movie theater and pool hall.
ca. 1922



Thelma, Mildred, and Arlene Kinsler (l-r) with their dolls
in front of their frame house in Brea. The front porch
was later enclosed and used by Thelma for her beauty
parlor. The Yriarte family home can be seen on the left.

La Habra Star
Mon April 25, 1930

The Brea Hotel property at the north edge of the business district on Romona avenue has been traded to Dr. Francis Marshall of Garden Grove for a 200-acre farm in Missouri. The Brea property consists of 24 hotel rooms on the second floor and five store rooms on the ground floor, most of the latter being vacant.

Brea Progress
Thurs., June 30, 1932

Early Morning Fire At Brea Hotel Does Very Little Damage

PROMPT ARRIVAL OF FIRE DEPARTMENT CONFINES BLAZE TO ONLY ONE ROOM

A serious fire broke out at 12:45 a.m. Wednesday morning in an unoccupied room of the Brea Hotel, but was extinguished by the quick work of the fire department which responded to the call in double quick time. The furnishings of one room were completely destroyed and the interior badly damaged by fire smoke and water and the ceiling of the furniture store belonging to Mr. Sharpe, proprietor of the hotel, was saturated with water.

All the occupants of the building were in the south wing and no one knew of the conflagration until the windows were broken by the heat. When the flames burst from the windows of the north wing, they attracted the attention of James McFarland a lodger, who hastily roused the others and turned in an alarm.

The speed at which the boys responded may be guessed when one knows that they were in time to confine the fire to the one room.

The building carries insurance but the furniture in the store and hotel which belongs to Mr. Sharpe carried no insurance.

SECOND BLAZE SET AT HOTEL

Wednesday July 7-1932
Arson Squad Searched
for Suspect

By SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BREA—The second fire of supposed incendiary origin within eight days routed out guests of the Brea hotel at 3 a. m. today.

Following the first fire which occurred a week ago Wednesday at 11 a. m. spring locks were placed on the doors at the rear of the two halls and only the front entrance was left open. Unable to gain an entrance this morning, the supposed incendiary started a fire on the porch at the rear of the unoccupied wing. Volney Siebenthal, night man at the fire house, found a tightly knotted ball of inner tube wrapped in sacking and smelling strongly of gasoline in the corner of the doorway this morning. An inner tube filled with gasoline was the means used of igniting the building last week.

James McFarland, a night sleeper, heard something crackling and thought he smelled smoke. He aroused another lodger and they sighted the smoke across the court but could not be sure that it was the hotel. Rousing the landlord, L. C. Sharpe, they opened the rear door in their hall in the south wing and found the fire on the porch of the north wing.

An alarm was sent in and the fire company responded. The entire building was damaged by smoke and water and the smoke forced the occupants to flee without gathering any of their belongings. Two little canary birds were killed.

July 7, 1932

A call was sent for the county arson squad who immediately set out after a suspect. Tire tracks in a Brea garage and at the place where the car was parked while the fire was started are clues. Sharpe is selling his furniture stock, which he has in a store under the hotel, to dealers today and they will move out of the hotel as soon as possible. His wife's nerves cannot stand the strain of frequent fires, she says. Their daughter, who is ill, and under a great strain from the first fire, was away from home last night.

Arson Suspected In Brea Hotel Fire Friday Morning

WATER SHUT OFF, KEROSENE
IN BUILDING; SECOND
FIRE IN WEEK

The arson squad from Santa Ana was called early Friday to investigate the fire which broke out at the rear door of the unoccupied north wing of the Brea hotel at 3 A.M. Friday morning. When the fire company arrived it found an unaccountable lack of pressure in the water line and used a pump to supply force. Later investigation revealed the fact that the water supply had been shut off at the reservoir as tightly as it could be done by hand. Later Friday morning Volney Siebenthal, night man at the fire station, found a tightly rolled inner tube wrapped in burlap and smelling strongly of kerosene in the corner of the back door sill where the fire started.

The fire which occurred 10 days before in a room in the same wing was believed to have been started in a similar manner as a similar tube and a strong odor of kerosene were found in the room when the fire boys arrived. Mrs. L. C. Sharpe, proprietress of the hotel, said she had been cleaning up kerosene in the hall and lobby outside the corner of the room where the fire had started, for several days before the second fire occurred. This kerosene had seeped through, she believed, after the tube had burned through and released the fluid to spread where it would.

Feeling that this fire was of incendiary origin, Mr. Sharpe put spring locks on the two back doors on the north and south wings and left the front stairway open for late comers. The incendiary, finding the door locked, built his bonfire on the porch before his departure.

James McFarland, a roomer and light sleeper, heard a crackling noise and smelled smoke and roused another roomer.

Looking out the window they could see smoke but could not tell whether or not it emanated from the hotel. Together they called the landlord who unlocked the door in their wing when the fire was plainly visible.

Damage by fire was slight in both cases, thanks to the quick work of the fire boys, but smoke poured into every part of the hotel and water following the flames overhead seeped through the plaster in every direction. Two little canary birds lost their lives in the thick smoke that filled the porch where their cage hung.

Search for clues as to the person responsible for the fire resulted in finding footprints and the marks of automobile tires near the reservoir and footprints and tire marks north of the Oil Well Supply Company's building which tallied exactly with the others. Tire marks on a garage floor where a car had been taken for repair, on Thursday also fitted into the picture.

The arson squad had been notified of the suspicious circumstances surrounding the first fire and already had a mass of evidence concerning one suspect. Acting on the clues which they had, they have traced the suspect to San Francisco but so far have been unable to make an arrest.

George Ellis, fireman, was the only person injured in the fires. He fell into a skylight and cut his hand so that several stitches had to be taken in it. Mrs. Sharpe suffered from nervous shock caused by fear that she and her family might be trapped in the hotel and burned up and her daughter, but recently out of the hospital, had to be placed under a physician's care the night of the first fire. She was away from home the night the second fire occurred.

As a result, Mr. Sharpe auctioned off all the furniture in his store downstairs and in the hotel yesterday and will occupy a private residence in the future.

New Deal Turkey

Rural Life Institute of EAST FOUNDATION operating with International College November 20, 1933.

Phillips, Progress, California.

Phillips, closing a short article as in my letter of December last year.

has been before the world during the past year, that fresh news value can be however, I am giving you of this Turkish revolution appears to one who is dist of it.

Sincerely,

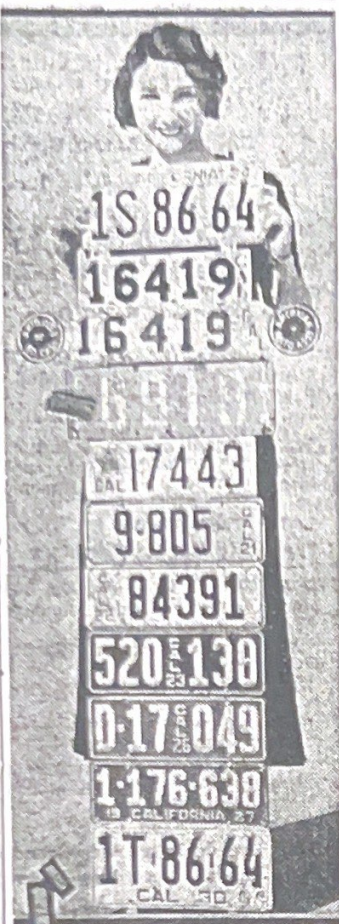
Richard H. Allee,

Director.

Smyrna), Turkey—I have ned from a visit to one of ge areas in which Near adation is carrying on rurt- ment projects. The vil- mitolla are on fire. Every- are is a spirit of rejuven- passed through seventeen in the course of a two- mile trip. In sixteen of ere are new primary lber completed or in the f construction. Land that idle since the days of the n Kings and the Roman s being cleared for culti- sanitary facilities are be- d. Every village has its ub, its young people's un- ding room, and a business- e for the meetings of the ee of Elders. Many of ave agricultural coopera- en with prices the lowest (wheat is selling on the or about ten cents per there is a general atti- enthusiasm.

lasm for progress seems s the world like an epi- t manifests itself in the great men such as Kemal y, Mussolini of Italy, Hit- ermany, and Roosevelt of Turkey could never have m the wreck of the Otto- pire to a position of lead- e the Near East without mic strength of President nd the Diplomacy of Prime Ismet. Neither could

Auto Tag History



Phenomenal increases in motor cars are recorded in this Auto Club of Southern California collection of old license plates. Contrasted with the 1934 plate at top, the "tags" show many changes in number systems and colors. Third from top is an iron marker made for members by the auto club in 1909. Fifth down is type used from 1916 to 1919, with emblems of bear, poppy and bell marking the only annual change.

TELEPHONE TROUBLES THWARTED BY PRE-RAINY WEATHER CABLE TESTS

It's tough to be a telephone cable!

Although carrying hundreds of telephone conversations hourly, some cables find life just one puncture after another. These voice carriers have varied misfortunes; some are bitten by insects, others are struck by bullets, pierced by arrows, speared by fishermen, strangled, electrocuted, pinched, cut or burned. Some cables contain as many as 2,600 separate wires, each strand covered with colored wax paper. When a pair tests "dead," the trouble shooter immediately selects another pair for service. But this isn't all—he starts a

BIRTH OF PROGRESS TOLD BY FOUNDER

By C. A. MEACHAM
Brea's First Publisher

(Continued From Last Issue)

What was generally considered as the first well of high gravity oil in those days was the famous Birch No. 5, which came in with a flow of 2400 barrels a day at about the time that the Brea townsite was laid out. In 1913 this single well was assessed by the county at one million dollars, probably too high a figure, but it attracted widespread interest and stimulated all kinds of business in this northern section of the county, which heretofore had been regarded by the more populous sections as being sort of "wild and woolly" or "way out in the sticks."

Also in 1913 the Standard brought in their famous No. 7 well on the Emory lease. This well came in with a flow of 11,000 barrels, or about four times that of any other well in California outside of Kern county fields up to that time, but it did not continue flowing for the long period of time which helped to make the Birch well famous. This was a "scoop" for the Progress as the news of Emory No. 7 was published in your home paper before any of the dailies got hold of it.

The Brea oil fields also attracted much attention from the fact that the first casinghead gasoline was manufactured here. The first plant of the kind was that of the Pacific Gasoline Company in Brea Canyon, under the management of W. A. Culp, and which had an initial capacity of three thousand gallons a day. Within two years time there were eight other plants operating in the local fields, some of these working under lease agreements and some owned outright by the producing companies.

Brea was the first town south of the Tehachapi to utilize natural gas for fuel purposes when the Birch Oil Company laid a pipe line into town and began serving local residents, and it was about eighteen years ago that the first natural gas was piped to points outside

the oil fields. In some localities it was used "straight" the same as in Brea and in some places it was mixed with the artificial or manufactured gas.

The California National Supply and the Oil Well Supply Company were already located here before the founding of the Progress, the Standard Oil Company shops were established about the same time, and within a few months time buildings were constructed for the Union Tool Works, Dietzel's Boiler Works and the Tay-Pike Company.

The Delaney building, where a newspaper was printed in Brea for the first time, had three store rooms on the lower floor and a rooming house on the upper floor. About the time this building was ready for occupancy, work was started on the McCarty building on Pomona avenue, which when completed, had accommodations for four more businesses, and a hotel dining room on the ground floor. The entire upper floor was occupied by the Brea Hotel, which made it quite a hotel for such a town in those days. Then about a year later the Sewell building was erected on the site of the old building which, as I have related, burned down in September, 1913, in such fashion as to prove the complete lack of fire protection. The new Sewell building had five store rooms on the ground floor, several office rooms on the second floor and an auditorium which was the source of considerable pride to the young and growing town.

With all of these building activities the town of Brea passed away from the cross-roads trading center period and became a lively little industrial city, keeping pace with the important developments in the local oil fields at that time. So, in closing, I hope that the readers will understand what a big part the events of those two years had in laying the foundations for the present prosperous and progressive city of Brea.

THE END

Many repair jobs result from bullets fired into telephone cables, either by mistake or purposely. The Fourth of July, New Year's Eve, and certain other joyful occasions add to the bullet problem.

Celebrations Costly

keeps 1,250 men and women constantly at work in the Southern California Telephone Company. They keep records, test the lines, receive reports of trouble and clear them. Eliminating some of the hazards in the life of telephone cables is just one of their many duties.

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^{Theatre}
New Marshall & Paint job 1936

five in 1915
in Melaney Bldg

Brea Hotel - formerly called the
Kensler, California, Oreg. &
Sherman Hotels

B. P. Friday Sept 18, 1936

The New Sherman Hotel To Open C. L. Dersch Has Building Remodeled

The new Sherman Hotel is to be opened in Brea within the next fifteen days. That it will take that long a period is the estimate of the man who will open it and see that it is operated — C. L. Dersch, owner and operator of the Erie Hotel of Fullerton. The two are to be operated together, to the greatest extent possible.

The new Sherman Hotel is located at 104 North Pomona avenue. A hotel for a number of years it was formerly the California and the Brea, and more lately the Osard. But it has been re-christened and is being repainted, re-wired, re-modeled, re-vamped in every particular.

The new Sherman is to be entirely modern, according to Mr. Dersch, who is spending a considerable time here seeing that the remodeling is being accomplished. There will be a new lobby, with the dining room at the rear. The downstairs part of the stairway will be changed, pointing it into the new lobby. Partitions are being removed.

The hotel will be run on both an American and a European basis the guest makes his own choice. In addition to regular rooms, there will also be four or five furnished apartments for small families, and even unfurnished apartments if there is any call for such.

"It looks to me," says Mr. Dersch "that Brea

is on the comeback. Additional citizens are
~~moving~~ moving in business is getting better, things
generally are on the uplift. Those are the
reasons back of my deciding to re-open,
after re-modeling this hotel."

... ..

Hotel Open House Occurs Tomorrow

NEW SHERMAN ADDS FACILITY TO BREa CITY

Entirely renovated and remodeled the New Sherman hotel at 106 North Pomona avenue is having its open house tomorrow all day, and the people of Brea and vicinity are invited to call and look the place over.

It was about sixty days ago that C. L. Dersch of the Erle hotel of Fullerton began the job of reconditioning the former Ozark hotel, getting it ready for business. For a number of years he had been at the head of the Erle and was induced by the owners of that hotel and the Ozark to take over the Brea place also. In the meantime the Erle has been sold and Mr. Dersch will give all his time here. He and Mrs. Dersch will have an apartment at the New Sherman.

In addition to repainting, rewiring and reconditioning generally, Mr. Dersch has had two additional stall showers placed in the building, one each for men and women, with dressing space attached to each. These are in addition to the tub baths. In all the rooms there are complete new bed outfits.

The lobby has been re-arranged to make it very attractive, with new rugs and curtains, new furniture and appliances. Drapes are to be installed between the lobby and the dining room that may be drawn in the evening and thus separate the lobby.

Brea Progress
Fri., Nov. 13, 1936

B.P. Fri June 17, 1938

Helmick Opening Brea Dairy Store

Brea has an entirely new business today. It is the Brea Dairy Products store, and the opening is being held today by the owner, Carl F. Helmick, in the Brea Hotel room at 104 North Pomona avenue.

In addition to milk, Mr. Helmick will handle all kinds of milk products - buttermilk, cream, cottage cheese and butter, and eggs. He is extending an invitation to the public to call this opening day.

~~Copy~~

B.P. Fri Aug 25, 1939

Brea Hotel Is Being Remodeled

Extensive plans are under way for remodeling the Brea Hotel and Apartments, 106 North Pomona, according to J. W. Mulcahy, who will have charge of its operation and management for the new owner Henry Lazzini.

The exterior of the building will soon be stuccoed in a deep sandstone gray, and equipped with new and attractive awning. All rooms, apartments, halls and bath rooms will be redecorated and overhauled.

Mr. Mulcahy also says that an Italian restaurant will be opened, ~~where~~ where real Italian, as well as American style foods will be served in an appealing, appetizing manner, at very moderate prices.

BP

Fri Dec 7, 1945

Brea Will Have P. E. Bus Depot

The Brea Hotel will be the office and depot for P. E. Bus lines possibly beginning Sunday, December 9th. Mrs. Blanche Duran of the hotel, will act as agent with an office on the first floor and waiting room and restrooms adjoining.

She reported that she will have all preliminaries completed by tomorrow night, and hopes that the bus company will be able to use the depot immediately.

Brea Progress
Fri., Dec. 28, 1945

New Bus Depot In Operation At Brea Hotel

Mrs. Blanche Duran has announced that the Pacific-Electric Bus Depot is now in full operation in the Brea Hotel, with a comfortable waiting room and all necessary facilities.

The bus company requests that all tickets for long trips be bought at the office here in order to save the time of the drivers. All buses will make regular stops at the hotel from now on, and information on schedules and such matters will be available there.

Until the new station was established, Breans have been in the category of orphans for bus service, waiting in all kinds of weather at the street corners for their transportation. The new office will mean much to the passengers' comfort and convenience.

Mrs. Duran, who with her son is owner of the hotel, reports that the bus office will be open from 9 a.m. till 9 p.m. She said that new furnishings and redecorations are also planned for the office when materials are available.

Thurs Feb 23, 1950

BP Have you seen what's happened to the space formerly occupied by Thelma's Cafe? Mrs. Wright, owner of the building (Bria Hotel building), is having the front moved out flush with the sidewalk. It will make a more usable space for office or storeroom.

January 12, 1962

MEMORANDUM

To: Brea City Council

Gentlemen:

Mr. Mills who recently purchased the Brea Hotel from Mrs. Wright has requested to appear before the Council to protest the City Business License. The same license fee has been in effect since March 2, 1949. In checking with the City Clerk's Office, there apparently has been no previous objection during the approximate 13 years of the existing license fee.

The Fire Chief states that he checks this location approximately once a month or 12 times per year, the Police Department averages 5 or 6 special calls per year, the Street Department maintains a special loading zone which is painted white on Brea Blvd. for convenience of the Hotel and the Sanitation Department provides sewer service and trash collection for the 25 units at the same cost of an individual residence. Because of the age of the improvements, the assessed valuation is quite low and the return in taxes to the City is quite small. The land is assessed at \$2,740.00 and the building at \$5,260.00. The total assessed valuation is \$8,000.00 at \$1.60 City rate which equals \$128.00 per year or less than some private homes in the City. In view of these special services plus the normal City services furnished to home owners, it does not appear that the license fee of \$58.00 per year which is equal to six-tenths of one cent per day per unit is unfair or exorbitant.

A meeting of the Water Committee, Engineering Department and California Domestic Water Company has been scheduled for 10:00 A.M. on January 16, 1962, at the City Hall.

The improvements in the water system on Berry Street and Imperial Highway as authorized are substantially completed. The division of costs of the water line and Deodara Street sewers have not been finalized.

Consideration should be given for the approval of a special census by the Office of State Finance to be completed as close to June 30, 1962, as possible. The cost should be less than \$500.00 and the City would receive an increase of approximately \$8.00 per capita per increased population of the April 1960 census for the 1962-63 fiscal year.

The Carbon Canyon Water Bond price should be finalized at the earliest possible time as the newly announced interest rates will have a very definite effect on the terms expected.

Mr. Clarkson was in this Wednesday and stated that he expects to construct several additional business units on his property on Arovista Avenue. He states that he now has leases on two units.

Mr. Earl Bright called this Thursday and stated "everything looks very good". The architectural firm has been selected and he leaving to go East to set up a time table.

MEMORANDUM

To: Brea City Council

-2-

January 12, 1962

On April 13, 1948, Ordinance No. 198 was passed by vote in the General Municipal Election to control Oil Well Drilling and Production. The Ordinance was passed basically to control town lot drilling. The City Limits at that time were only $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles long and one mile wide with very limited oil potential. In the intervening years, the City Limits have expanded to approximately 3 miles by 8 miles. Included in this expanded area is considerable potential oil property of a completely different character than was considered in Ordinance No. 198.

Several months ago the Council met with representatives of several major oil companies and were requested to appeal the antiquated ordinance and consider adoption of the Orange County Oil Code. If the Council desires to place this on the ballot for the coming election, it will be necessary to make a decision in the very near future and give some publicity to inform the electorate before the April 10th ballot.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from the District Manager of the Edison Company requesting a water connection on the existing City main through the Anaheim Union Water Company property.

Respectfully submitted,



A. W. Studebaker
City Administrator

Encl.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY

Fullerton, California
January 11, 1962

City of Brea
401 Brea Blvd.
Brea, California

Attention: A. W. Studebaker, City Administrator

Gentlemen:

As you are well aware, the Southern California Edison Company has acquired a site on the southeast corner of Imperial Highway and Associated Road to be used for a facility to be known as Carolina Substation.

We are now planning to grade and fence the area involved; in addition, landscaping will be installed upon completion of the foregoing. We are going to require water for this site to be used for maintaining the landscaping and, upon completion of the substation, for washroom and toilet facilities.

The City of Brea, we understand, has a water line in this immediate vicinity from which water might be obtained, and we, therefore, are desirous of securing this service from the city. If you will advise us of the steps necessary to accomplish this, we will be more than happy to make the necessary formal application.

While on the subject of the proposed substation, I should like to bring to mind the problem we have discussed on previous occasions. This involves our request to the planning commission for zoning of this site as a part of the master plan and proposed zoning ordinance. To date, we have had no indication of the status of our request. I would appreciate your comments and advice on the course of action Edison should pursue to adequately protect the investment proposed for this area and in the City of Brea. You have copies of our past correspondence with the commission, and after you have had an opportunity to review this request, I would like to meet with you to resolve this matter.

Very truly yours,



J. W. Enarson, District Manager

JWE/rc

CC: Messrs. F. T. Schell, H. L. Pearce

P. B. Peacock Attn: Messrs. Swanson & Downs
C. E. Lackey

POLICE SAID 58 PERSONS WERE injured when they were riding plunged into a toll may climb to 72.

ASSADOR CHARLES STELLE TOLD that Russia appears set on a break the nuclear test ban dead-position "rigid and unchangeable."

A DAY OF DECISION FOR CANADA a new government. Prime Minister's opposition is Lester Pearson. The election also could be vital Canadian relations, especially for hemispheric defense. First runoff, at least eight million per-

BREA HAS TAKEN ANOTHER STEP in rule and the return of civilian Park Chung Hee suspended a four years of army rule and lifted a This should lead the way for elec-

NATION

U.S. SAYS THERE ARE "INDI- personnel from Communist North g local Communist troops who Laos. The State Department called action" by Britain and Russia and rol Commission to stop the fight- are co-chairmen of the Geneva. The fighting between the two ain of Jars region is reported as

AMA)—ONE HUNDRED ALABAMA ed into Birmingham to guard a of racial violence. The troopers, police units, represent about one- number of patrolmen. The move ys of racial protests that have nd the arrest of 93 persons. (See

—AN ADVANCED VERSION Po- est ever designed for firing from a successful 2,000 mile test flight Canaveral. The Polaris A-3 will be almost 3,000 miles away.

NEW YORK)—POLICE HERE RE- sistent shot and killed five persons ed two others. They said 33-year- d his wife and four-year-old son, relative who lived next door. The e also relatives. Hansen later sur-

FORMATION OF A "DRAFT-GOLD- ement was announced in Wash- nnell, Jr., Republican State Chair- Lone Harrington, Republican Na- for Indiana, said they will be al Draft-Goldwater Committee. They ulated Senator Goldwater.

THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT IS ve a \$23 million check to General his would serve as a guarantee is still the department's choice to lane. The Senate currently is in- Pentagon officials did not go along who picked Boeing.

YS HIT A CAR HERE THIS MORN- girls and seriously injuring two ent was what veteran police of- wreck" they ever saw.

STATE

ARENTS OF A 2-YEAR-OLD GIRL on felony child beating charges hospitalized for treatment of burns 32-year-old Leroy Morrow and his were arrested after police were



THEY KNOW THEIR ORANGES

Gene Buckner and Nelson Cornell of Brea-Olinda Union High School show ribbons they earned in the state citrus judging finals at California State Polytechnic College, Kellogg Campus.

Pomona, Buckner carried off top hon- ors placing him as top citrus judge in the State of California. A team comprised of Harlan Tennes, Mike Davis and Edwin Richison carried off top honors in pest identification.

FLAMES QUICKLY CHECKED

Disastrous Hotel Fire Averted By Speedy Action Of Firemen

What might have been a discovered by a roomer, Mr. conflagration was averted by quick action of the manager and the fire department when a blaze was discovered in the Brea Hotel late Friday after- noon. The blaze started in a radio in a room on the top floor of the hotel and the flames had burned away a window sill, into a wall and were mushrooming to the ceiling when

Brea Building Zooming Fast To New Record

Brea, with \$4,570,459 in building for the first quarter of 1963 seems certain to pass the \$6,297,198 record of 1960 by the end of 1963.

Brea was among the eight Orange County communities which showed a gain in building over the first quarter of last year.

Last year's figure for Brea building was \$5,469,010, the second highest in history.

The Orange County total for the first quarter of this year was \$161,770,208.00 compared with \$135,552,717. The county total for March, however, was behind last year. The 1962 March total was \$50,168,181, as compared with \$48,780,308 this year.

Brea had a March total of \$3,973,743, compared with \$1,006,002 last year.

Special Events At Brea Library For Holy Week

Boyd. Boyd summoned Al Mills, who operates the hotel, and the fire department was called.

Quickly Controlled. When the firemen arrived a few minutes later Mills was playing an extinguisher stream on the flames. Quickly the fire hoses were at work and the firemen had the blaze under control. It was extinguished before the flames reached the ceiling.

"If the fire had mushroomed under the ceiling we would have had a real job on our hands," Fire Chief A. G. Ellis declared. "We are grateful that with the quick action of Al Mills we were able to put it out before that happened."

Short Circuit. Chief Ellis believes the fire was caused by a short circuit in the radio which was on a table near the window in a room occupied by Herb Hardy. The flames licked the sill and got behind the wall before Boyd smelled smoke and traced the blaze to Room 23. Damage done by the fire is estimated at \$500.

TRUCK STOLEN. A half ton pickup truck belonging to Sylvester Gates of 116 S. Redwood was stolen from the 100 block on South Brea Blvd. late Friday, he reported to police.

The fire occurred at 5:19 p.m. There were but a few guests in the hotel at the time, and there was no panic. The arrival of the apparatus at the hotel, however, attracted many spectators.

Police took charge of the traffic situation on Brea Blvd.

80 Enlist For Cancer Drive Here April 15

Brea women are organizing their forces for the 1963 Cancer Crusade which starts here April 15.

Mrs. Edward P. Deming, Brea city chairman of the Cancer Crusade, today announced 80 workers had been enlisted and more would be recruited this week.

Mrs. Deming made it clear today that the Cancer Crusade was providing direct assistance in Brea and that the workers soliciting funds here were local volunteers. She said that solicitation should not be confused with that of outside religious and charitable organizations who, unfortunately are siphoning off funds that could go to such worth-

(Please Turn to Page A-2)

Life's Little Dramas

The spotlight is again on youth as Life's little dramas are presented here.

Youngsters on S. Laurel got hold of an almanac and some fortune cookies and they are predicting the future for their luckless pals. Your future comes neatly on a slip of tissue in a plain envelope and may cost you a nickel—if you can spare that much today.

Contributions

Contributions to Life's Little Dramas come in daily. Some are usable—some are not. Here down to a line of type or two:

A police matron on duty the other evening ran out of are a few that can be boiled matches and, of all places, got some in the fire department. A kid with a lollypop dropped it in Imperial Plaza Shopping Center and went into a store

ADVISOR PARK BY THE of Foreign Wars a Girl Scouts.

Last Monday night regular meeting of Council received a from the V.F.W. for Arovista Park for the munity Fair June 19 to delayed action on it night's meeting after the Girl Scouts wante the park June 17 to was the second year of conflict of dates between organizations for use park.

Board Says "No"

Meantime, the Pa Recreation Commis their meeting last night decided to ask Council that V.F.W. b the use of the park a when the Girl Scout using it.

During the overlap events last year Acti Walton Richison said ditional police patrol provided and that son fathers served as gu

The VFW wants to a "big top" to stage l and commercial exhib it was pointed out ur fair is held at the tin nated it will be dif obtain the exhibit te

Also scheduled to at tonight's adjourni ng is a discussion of posed oil drilling and tion code and a repo committee asked to the request for an ove stead of an undergro duit required for stre ings into the R.C.E tract.

Firehouse Site R

A representative of pany which proposes a sound system in t cil Chambers will a meeting to discuss councilmen the type phones that should vided.

There is no indicati agenda that there v report on a second site, but this probabl made if Councilmen vey has received reg owners of property v his committee.

Big Scramble For Eggs Set For Saturday

Mayor Lloyd Reese claimed next Saturd is Easter Hunt Day expected that hur youngsters will tur Arovista Park with and bags.

The event is l youngsters through grade and officiall at 9 o'clock, accord Kiwanis announcer

The Kiwanians v thousands of eggs v

What's In A Name



THAT'S NO MISTAKE — The old Brea Hotel has taken on a fresher look of late thanks to paint, awnings, and window boxes that should become prominent in the rest of the area when the "Good Old Brea" project gets into full swing. The spelling of the hotel name — "Brae" — has brought much attention to the often-overlooked building, but word is out that the painter didn't make a mistake in lettering the building's front. A spokesman for the hotel said that the owner prefers to use the "Scottish" word Brae to identify his business, and that it was one-time referred to by that name, anyway. Whatever the reason, the new look and the letter transpositioning has brought much attention to the old building. (Star-Progress Photo)

Supervisor Opponents To Speak Here

BREA — County Supervisor William J. Phillips and his opponent in the third district supervisorial race, Ralph Diedrich, have both accepted invitations to speak before the next chamber of commerce manufacturer's committee luncheon, July 20, at Imperial Golf Course, the chamber announced Wednesday.

The candidates have agreed to a program of 20 minutes each for presentation of their qualifications, platform, etc., and it has been agreed that no questions will be asked from the audience.

One candidate will be given a 12:15 p.m. time slot, will speak for 20 minutes, and will depart, then the other candidate will make his presentation at 12:45 p.m., a chamber spokesman indicated.

The time slot will be assigned in an open meeting on July 13 at the chamber office, and will be determined by lot or a coin toss, it was revealed.

"This format is offered by the chamber to conserve time and to create a program which is fair to all concerned," chamber president Darwin Manuel said in letters to both candidates.

The luncheon-meeting is open to the public, but space at the golf clubhouse is limited, so reservations will be held to 60 spectators, the chamber revealed.

The charge for attending the luncheon is \$4, and reservations should be turned in to the chamber office, 333 S. Brea Blvd., not later than July 14.

Weather

Night and morning low clouds and fog; otherwise hazy sunshine today and Friday. Not much temperature change. High today in the mid-80s. Low tonight 65.

posa School, Wednesday night.

The problem came when, the first attempt to pass a tentative version, one member abstained from voting and other voted "no" because of a resolution that was included in the requested board action.

With trustees Ann Har and Alari West absent, the board on the first try to adopt the tentative plan for 1972-73 was with the one abstention. For a seven-member board, a seven-vote majority is needed to pass such a measure.

Trustee Howard Frazier cast the one negative vote, and the board that he did so because he disagreed with a resolution that was tacked on to the tentative budget resolution pertaining to the authorization of two new "permissive overrides" for corrective measures relating to fire alarm

Brea, La Habra Share Highway Users Rebate

The June apportionment highway users taxes, amounting to \$70,778,596, has been distributed among the state, counties and cities announced Controller Houston I. Flournoy.

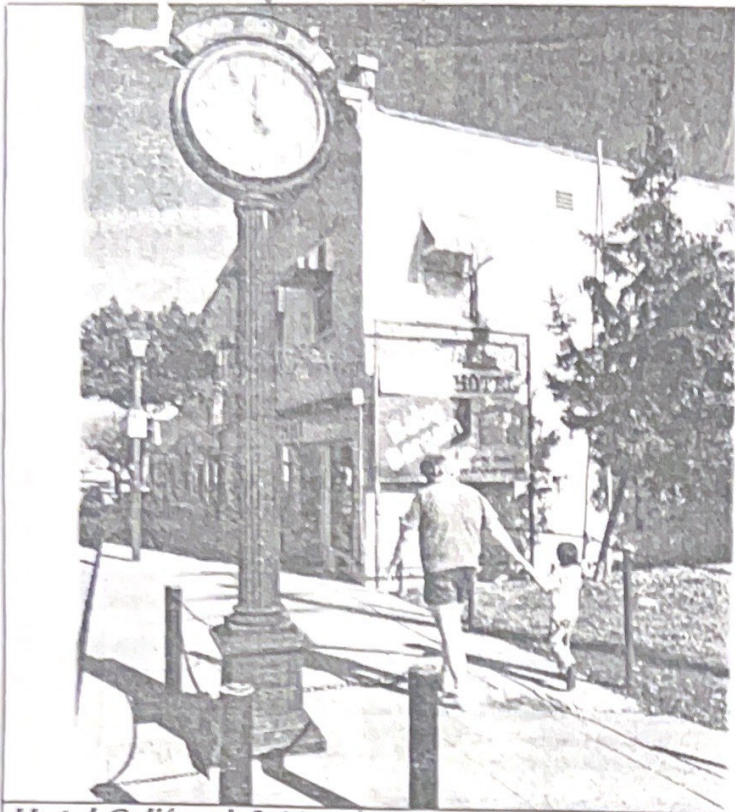
Orange County's share is \$1,221,382.19, while the City of La Habra and the City of Brea received \$39,616.03 and \$19,732.48, respectively.

A total of \$18,333,929 went directly to the counties; \$13,334 to the cities; and \$38,722 for expenditures on state highways.

The total apportionment derived from the following sources: gasoline tax, \$66,614; diesel fuel tax, \$1,831,415; transfer from the Transportation Tax Fund, \$2,758,883; miscellaneous, \$1,732.

Gasoline tax available for June apportionment was \$32,643 greater than the month. The diesel fuel tax was \$3,321,921 less than the figure. The transfer from the Transportation Tax Fund was \$28,922 greater than in May.

La Habra Boys' Club Cited By City Council



Hotel California? No, the Hotel Brea

The Hotel Brea sits at 108 N. Brea Blvd., having graced the site back when the street was called Pomona Avenue. For more historical information on the hotel, see page 5.

—Photo by Mike Kitada



single rooms for \$60 a month, despite inklings not by the city of Brea.

—Photo by Michael Kita

me forgot ...

Sheraton-Hilton, you're not about to check into the Brea Hotel by mistake.

Still and all, despite its indelibly working class tag, the 22-room, five-apartment establishment at 108 North Brea Blvd. has a lot going for it and a whole lot more that already went. For one thing, the place just happens to be the only bona fide hotel in our town. That's right, the two-story Brea Hotel has this rather startling distinction. Oh, sure, we've got rooming houses and boarding houses and a whole gaggle of motels but, yet, just one classified hotel.

Actually, it's been that way ever since 1913 when a gent named Bowen and his son-in-law, M.J. McCarty, proudly threw open the doors and revealed their splendid hostelry for the first time.

That section of Brea Boulevard between Birch and Lambert which, in those days was

then although, according to a photo hanging in Canning's Hardware Store, there was only empty ground behind the buildings on Pomona.

Like the rest of its environs, the Brea Hotel has changed but little in those seven decades even though it subsequently lost a neighbor when that corner building got itself relocated around on Ash Street. That neighbor put one over on the old hotel by getting itself featured in the 1976 hit movie "Silver Streak" which starred Gene Wilder and Richard Pryor.

When Messrs McCarty and Bowen opened the hotel they shared the premises with Vern Russell's barber shop, a pool hall and a cafe, three emblems of that simpler age. In 1913, though, the world around those rough-hewn denizens of Pomona Avenue was about to change forever.

On April 14 of the previous year, the mighty "Titanic" had sunk into the frigid North Atlantic on her maiden voyage after colliding with an iceberg. Faulty seamanship, an overworked radio operator and wanton indifference to numerous reports of ice in the area sent the huge vessel 2 1/2 miles deep to the ocean's bottom with 1,500 souls.

A year after the Brea Hotel's first guests looked from their windows at the vehicular panorama on Pomona Avenue, the world went mad and gave a war and a lot of innocents went. They called it "The Great War" but the only thing "great" about it was the slaughter of millions from the flower of the globe's manhood.

Survivors of the trenches' unspeakable horrors returned to a more permissive world. With a curious inevitability, the crate-shaped Brea Hotel acquired a

reputation, locally best described as "unsavory." But it's all different now. Today the modest hostelry is home for 40 residents, including six children.

Oddly, the hotel with the red-and-white awnings has no frontal sign, giving it an anonymous aura. Some years ago a tasteful sign was commissioned through and ceremoniously hung for all to see as they passed along teeming Brea Boulevard. Trouble was that the sign painter, in direct defiance of an unwritten edict requiring folks in his profession should be able to spell, had painted BREA HOTEL.

The Brea Hotel's wide main corridor is a tell-tale revelation of the building's venerability; the \$60 per month rents for a single room an indication of the spartan living conditions within. The communal showers and toilets are, however, clean and a top-to-bottom facelift

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"We're going for new, family appeal said white-bearded Brooklyn-born Tom Lawson, a four-year resident and former manager. "Me and Ru (Stone, current manager) work together make the guests feel home."

Merry Christmas Cassie, and better, me golden days, to come!

Brea Beat is a regular feature of the *Brea Highlander*. Leslie Stur Carter is a 21-year resident of Brea and a native of London, England. She has written freelance articles for a variety of newspapers and magazines. Comments and suggestions for future columns are welcome. Write *Brea Beat* at The Brea Highlander, 1227 E. Yorba Linda Blvd., Placentia, 9267



OLDIE BUT HISTORICAL GOODIE— That is Brea's only hotel, still offering single rooms for \$60 a month, despite inklings of redevelopment by the city of Brea. Opened in 1913, it has survived all these years, —Photo by Michael Kita

The little hotel that time forgot ...

By Leslie Stuart Carter
Let's face it, if you're looking for the Sheraton-Hilton, you're not about to check into the Brea Hotel by mistake.

Still and all, despite its indelibly working class tag, the 22-room, five-apartment establishment at 108 North Brea Blvd. has a lot going for it and a whole lot more that already went. For one thing, the place just happens to be the only bona fide hotel in our town. That's right, the two-story Brea Hotel has this rather startling distinction. Oh, sure, we've got rooming houses and boarding houses and a whole gaggle of motels but, yet, just one classified hotel.

Actually, it's been that way ever since 1913 when a gent named Bowen and his son-in-law, M.J. McCarty, proudly threw open the doors and revealed their splendid hostelry for the first time.

That section of Brea Boulevard between Birch and Lambert which, in those days was

called "Pomona Avenue," looks very much the same now as it did then although, according to a photo hanging in Canning's Hardware Store, there was only empty ground behind the buildings on Pomona.

Like the rest of its environs, the Brea Hotel has changed but little in those seven decades even though it subsequently lost a neighbor when that corner building got itself relocated around on Ash Street. That neighbor put one over on the old hotel by getting itself featured in the 1976 hit movie "Silver Streak" which starred Gene Wilder and Richard Pryor.

When Messrs McCarty and Bowen opened the hotel they shared the premises with Vern Russell's barber shop, a pool hall and a cafe, three emblems of that simpler age. In 1913, though, the world around those rough-hewn denizens of Pomona Avenue was about to change forever.

Brea Beat

On April 14 of the previous year, the mighty "Titanic" had sunk into the frigid North Atlantic on her maiden voyage after colliding with an iceberg. Faulty seamanship, an overworked radio operator and wanton indifference to numerous reports of ice in the area sent the huge vessel 2 1/2 miles deep to the ocean's bottom with 1,500 souls.

A year after the Brea Hotel's first guests looked from their windows at the vehicular panorama on Pomona Avenue, the world went mad and gave a war and a lot of innocents went. They called it "The Great War" but the only thing "great" about it was the slaughter of millions from the flower of the globe's manhood.

Survivors of the trenches' unspeakable horrors returned to a more permissive world. With a curious inevitability, the crate-shaped Brea Hotel acquired a

reputation, locally best described as "unsavory." But it's all different now. Today the modest hostelry is home for 40 residents, including six children.

Oddly, the hotel with the red-and-white awnings has no frontal sign, giving it an anonymous aura. Some years ago a tasteful sign was commissioned through and ceremoniously hung for all to see as they passed along teeming Brea Boulevard. Trouble was that the sign painter, in direct defiance of an unwritten edict requiring folks in his profession should be able to spell, had painted BREA HOTEL.

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Merry Christmas Cassie, and better, more golden days, to come for you.

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BREA PROGRESS

NORTH COUNTY NEWS

THE ORANGE COUNTY
Register

THURSDAY, SEPT. 24, 1992

POLITICS

A look at the candidates

We begin our new series of City Council candidate profiles.

TEACHER

Presidential honors

A Brea teacher wins national recognition with a Presidential award.

CONTEST

Promoting awareness

The Red Cross sponsors a poster contest aimed at AIDS awareness.

STEPPING OUT



Popular

PRESERVATION

Brea Hotel hit by fire: arson possible

By Brian Hall
North County News

Another piece of city history caught fire last week.

As with three other buildings slated for preservation, the possibility of arson is being investigated for the Thursday night blaze at the Brea Hotel, 108 1/2 Brea Blvd.

Three Brea engines responded to the fire along with a platform truck from Fullerton, which put personnel on the roof to ventilate

The call came at 8:50 p.m., and it took 5 1/2 minutes for units to arrive. The hotel, built in 1913, might have kept burning if a police officer hadn't been writing a drunken driving citation on the street.

"He just happened to look up and see smoke coming out of the window," said battalion chief Jim Parker of the Brea Fire Department.

"He called us. And by the time we arrived there were flames shooting out of both the involved

room windows."

Fire officials estimate damage at the boarded-up hotel to be \$45,000.

The front exterior was blackened. And there was damage to ceiling joists, rafters, two rooms and part of a hallway, Parker said.

Roger Michelotti, 49, described as a transient, was discovered occupying a room, which Parker said was the furthest from the fire.

"He appeared stunned," Fire Marshal Bill Simpkins said.

"He said he didn't know a fire was going on and only woke to the sound of the arriving engines."

The hotel is on the Brea Historical Committee's list of buildings to be moved to a historic block for preservation in the new downtown. It had been boarded up for months by the city's Redevelopment Agency. But Michelotti claimed he was given permission to stay there.

The fire department is contact-

Please see HOTEL 13

LABOR



BUSINESS

Fees add up in land litigation

Draws ire of Small Business Coalition

By Brian Hall
North County News

This year it may cost up to \$350,000 in legal fees to condemn property and locate other

HOTEL: Arson suspected

FROM A1

ing the caretaker to verify his story.

Parker said Michelotti probably gained access by pulling out a board or breaking a window.

The building is now completely boarded and sealed. Authorities declined to say whether Michelotti is the sole arson suspect. He was arrested on an unrelated, outstanding warrant for grand theft.

Brian Saul of the Historical Committee said that while it's a setback, the group still plans to relocate the building to the historic block.

He added that the burned front and much of the gutted inside would have been replaced anyway, the front to bring the hotel back to original style, and the interior to meet current codes.

"It's going to be the show place

of the historic block because so few people know how beautiful it originally looked," Saul said.

Previously, the Wall building, Brea's oldest commercial structure that had been considered for a historic park, was gutted inside and ravaged on the outside.

"Parts were still standing. But it was in cinders," Saul said.

The interior of the Craig building burned, and a residence on Sievers Avenue, the Daugherty house, also was gutted.

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9 July 1994

Brea Historical Society
401 So. Brea Blvd.
Brea, CA 92621

Re Brea Hotel and Sam's Place

Dear Ladies/Gentlemen:

Reading about the Brea Hotel and Sam's Place in the news has been especially interesting to me as I used to live in both buildings and my parents, Clint and Bessie Burch, operated businesses in both in the late 1930's into the 1940's.

Toward the end of 1937, my parents leased the hotel. Some transients stayed there, but most guests were oil field workers who lived in the hotel. We used two front rooms as our own bedrooms, and one room in the north wing (inside) was our kitchen. During the big Orange County flood many escaped the watercovered lowlands, escaping to high and dry Brea. My dad put pallets in the halls to accommodate the overflow of people.

Two years later we moved to what is now Sam's Place. My parents opened a restaurant - and a mighty good one it was. The two of them ran it alone, opening at 6:00 am. and closing at 11:00 pm. My mother cooked just as she had at home except larger amounts. Again, the oil workers flocked in for good home cooking, plus local merchants, Brea families and out-of-towners. Some came from Los Angeles, passing Knotts Berry Farm, to feast on my mom's chicken dinners. We lived upstairs. My bedroom was the front one facing the street. Many homeless came for food and received plates heaped with good food and homemade pie for dessert.

In reading about Sam's Place, the bakery and Bar are always mentioned, but not the cafe period. We left Brea in 1941.

These two buildings were especially dear to me because I suffered from childhood rheumatoid arthritis and was confined to my home most of the time.

(over)

I was ten when we moved to Brea and 13 when we left. I attended the Brea Grammar School and the Christian Church on West Ash, so I have many great memories.

Perhaps none of this is of interest to you, but I felt that Clint and Bessie Burch are a part of the history of Brea and of these two old buildings. My dad was also an arthritic, struggling to make a living for his family.

Sincerely,

Wyoma (Burch) Hamilton
13171 Ethelbee Way
Santa Ana, CA 92705-1855
838-8734

P.S. Should you wish to call, please let it ring a long time. I'm slow!

Talked to Wyoma on 8-17-94
SAID SAM'S painted white when they lived there

Fate of old hotel is bleak

APRIL 9, 1998

City Council agrees to look for other uses

By Vanessa Jazin
Brea Progress

The old Brea Hotel — the last of the original downtown buildings still standing on Brea Boulevard — is closer to being a thing of the past.

At Tuesday's City Council meeting, council members received a report from city staff which concluded that a last ditch effort failed to get money to renovate the dilapidated structure.

City Manager Frank Benest said staff will propose alternative uses for the property within 30 days.

"The interior is literally terrible," Benest said, referring to slides which showed pictures of the building. "There's dry rot, structural problems... It's current condition is not suited for residential or retail (use)."

The city moved the 86-year-old building in 1996 to its current location at North Brea Boulevard and Ash Street when Brea Boulevard was widened.

City Planner Jay Trevino said the last hope of saving the building was trying to get grants to fund the hotel's restoration.

"There are not many grants available, and those that are are highly competitive," Trevino said.

Councilmember Glenn Parker said the city has exhausted every effort to preserve the building.



ALEX GARCIA / Los Angeles Times

Karen Cole of Newport Beach remembers visits with her grandmother at the Brea Hotel, which is being demolished.

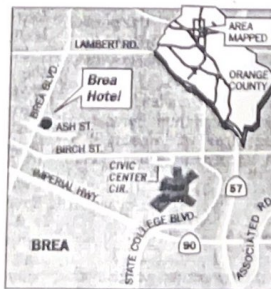
Dislodged History

Brea Hotel Falls Victim to Unexceptional Past, Present State of Disrepair

By JEFF GOTTLIEB
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Karen Cole was driving home from business in Diamond Bar recently when something clicked as she passed the Brea Canyon Road exit on the Orange Freeway.

As she pulled off the freeway, it all felt so familiar, even though it had been nearly 40 years since she had last been in Brea. Without using a map she found her way into the city until she arrived at the now-vacant landmark:



Los Angeles Times

"It's my farthest back memory of my grandma," Cole said.

Soon that memory will be all Cole has. The Brea Hotel, the last commercial building left from Brea's old downtown, is being demolished. Despite numerous efforts, it was impossible to build support for a building that lacks a glitzy past and sits in the shadow of the symbol of modern Brea: The Birch Street Promenade, with its 22-screen Edwards Cinema, restaurants, shops and two parking structures with 1,900 spaces, is being built just up the street.

Jane O'Brien, president of the Brea Historical Society, said she is saddened that this piece of history will be lost. "It's really a shame that it's going down, but I can understand it. The city has tried.

"I'd rather have it destroyed than have it sit



ALEX GARCIA / Los Angeles Times

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Dislodged History

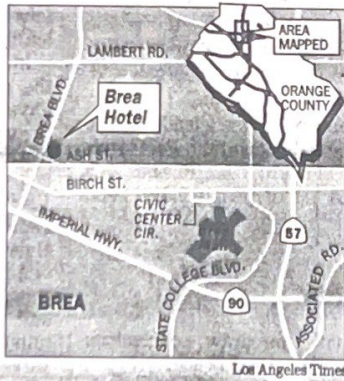
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As she pulled off the freeway, it all felt so familiar, even though it had been nearly 40 years since she had last been in Brea. Without using a map she found her way into the city until she arrived at the now-vacant landmark: The Brea Hotel, beige and beaten, with a red-tile roof.

Standing across the street, the Newport Beach resident looked up to the second floor, third window from the left. She spotted the room where her now-deceased grandmother had lived as owner of the hotel, and she cried.



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Jane O'Brien, president of the Brea Historical Society, said she is saddened that this piece of history will be lost. "It's really a shame that it's going down, but I can understand it. The city has tried.

"I'd rather have it destroyed than have it sit vacant and look like what it looks like," O'Brien added.

It was such a *fait accompli* that no one even spoke up at a recent demolition hearing to try to save the building. There have been many attempts over last decade. The hotel was the cornerstone of a

Please see HOTEL, B7



ALEX GARCIA / Los Angeles Times

Brea Hotel, which is being demolished.

story

"It's my farthest back memory of my grandma," Cole said.

Soon that memory will be all Cole has. The Brea Hotel, the last commercial building left from Brea's old downtown, is being demolished. Despite numerous efforts, it was impossible to build support for a building that lacks a kitschy past and sits in the shadow of the symbol of modern Brea: The Birch Street Promenade, with its 22-screen Edwards Cinema, restaurants, shops and two parking structures with 900 spaces, is being built just up the street.

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"I'd rather have it destroyed than have it sit

HOTEL

Continued from B1

redevelopment plan to build a heritage square made up of the city's oldest buildings. The hotel was even moved 100 feet north and 30 feet east—at a cost of \$191,000—to make way for the widening of Brea Boulevard.

But now, the hotel will be torn down. The city has not been able to find enough grant money to give it new life, and no developer has come forward with an acceptable plan for the aging structure.

Built in 1913, the Brea was never the Ritz. At first, workers in nearby oil fields lived there, and eventually it became a residential hotel for older men. No one has lived there for about 20 years, and the shops on the first floor moved out eight or nine years ago.

Today, the hotel sits alone, buffered by empty lots on either side, surrounded by a chain-link fence.

Clara Wright, Cole's grandmother, owned the hotel from 1950 to 1960. Each week, Cole's mother would drive her and her sister from their home in West Covina to Brea to visit their grandmother before the children went to their ballet and tap lessons down the street.

Cole remembered walking past the men sitting in the lobby, past the water cooler and going up the stairs to her grandmother's room. "I cried when I pictured her bedroom window," she said. "In those days you could just about open the window and fall out."

Cole's family moved to Arizona when she was 6, but she returned to Orange County to work as a human resources consultant for an Irvine accounting firm. Her grandmother died in 1986, at 94.

A few years ago, Cole's husband, Greg, who arranges financing for commercial development, spent some time in Brea on a project. He had told his wife that he had driven by the hotel, and she thought about

LANDMARK MAY GO DOWN IN HISTORY

PRESERVATION: Repairs to the 1913 Brea Hotel are too expensive, planners say, so demolition looms.

By ERIC CARPENTER
The Orange County Register
From Brea

OCT. 20, 1998

The last original downtown building standing in this city seems headed for a date with a wrecking ball.

The old Brea Hotel, opened in 1913, has fallen into such disrepair that preservation costs are 60 times more than destruction.

The Brea City Council is scheduled to consider a proposal tonight to demolish the Brea Boulevard hotel.

"At this point, I just don't see any way to preserve it," Councilman Burnie Dunlap said.

The dilapidated building needs \$1.5 million in improvements. Demolition would cost \$24,900.

If the hotel does go, 20 townhouses might eventually fill the surrounding block. The possibility of losing the only remaining piece of Brea's historic downtown disheartens some residents.

Already, they have seen many old structures razed to make way for shopping centers and entertainment complexes.

"I understand they don't think it's worth saving," said Wilma Sauer, a Brea resident for 34 years. "But I think it's part of our history. There's not much left, and I'm sorry about that."

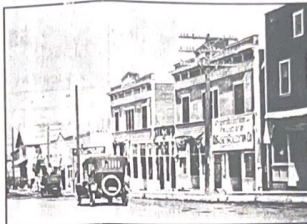
The Brea Hotel was to become part of a Heritage Block, a row of historic buildings within the downtown redevelopment zone.

But the two other buildings intended for the block were demolished in recent years when they could not be relocated.

The city has worked with local preservationists since 1991 to find donations or grants for the hotel, but efforts fizzled.

"We've gone out of our way to try to save the hotel," said Lisa Donnell, senior planner. "But nothing worked."

► **PAST:** The Brea Hotel was once "the center of everything." **Metro 5**



EUGENE GARCIA/The Orange County Register

NOW AND THEN: Brea Hotel, decked out in bunting during its glory days, above, now sits ready for demolition, below, on Brea Boulevard.

lines walls of Brea Hotel

Building center of Brea's downtown.

ON METRO 1
The Brea Hotel, opened in 1913, seems destined for demolition since repair costs are 60 times more expensive than destruction. **Story on Metro 1**

Need for the hotel waned as bigger and more luxurious competitors moved in. But even after the hotel's closing, the building remained a reminder of Brea's early days and continued to serve as a retail center. These days, the building is crumbling. It was just strong enough to survive a 1996 move down Brea Boulevard to the road's intersection with Ash Street. Now the hotel, the city's last historic commercial building, faces demolition. City Council members will consider its destruction tonight. City officials said efforts to preserve the building failed to attract sufficient funding. The city began looking for a way to save the hotel in 1991 when it launched a 60-acre downtown redevelopment. The hotel was to be one of several buildings moved to a one-acre Heritage Block, then finished up. Four historic homes were located to Redwood Avenue, the commercial buildings were not as fortunate. The Wall building burned down. Sam's Place and La Habra Valley Bank were too rickety to move and were destroyed. "The hotel may not be able to be saved," Dean said. "But we need to find a place to record Brea's history."

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History lines walls of Brea Hotel

CITIES: The building was once the 'center of everything' in Brea's historic downtown.

By ERIC CARPENTER
The Orange County Register

BREA — The opening of the Brea Hotel in 1913 was welcomed by a growing number of migrant oil workers looking for an inexpensive place to stay.

The two-story building, originally called the Kinsler Hotel, immediately flourished and helped bring more businesses into Brea's downtown.

"That area became the center of everything in Brea," said Sharon Dean, a 34-year resident and former Brea Historical Society president.

In the mid-1930s, the hotel got a new name — The Sherman — and a new look. Wood siding was hidden by stucco and awnings were added. The first floor was converted to retail space, eventually occupied by a barber shop and a pool room.

ON METRO 1

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The hotel was to be one of several buildings moved to a 1.2-acre Heritage Block, then fixed up. Four historic homes were relocated to Redwood Avenue. But the commercial buildings were not as fortunate. The Wall building burned down. Sam's Place and La Habra Valley Bank were too rickety to move and were destroyed.

"The hotel may not be able to be saved," Dean said. "But we need to find a place to recognize Brea's history."

LANE BANK MAY GO DOWN IN HISTORY

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By ERIC CARPENTER
The Orange County Register
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"At this point, I just don't see any way to preserve it," Councilman Burnie Dunlap said.

The dilapidated building needs \$1.5 million in improvements. Demolition would cost \$24,900.

If the hotel does go, 20 townhouses might eventually fill the surrounding block.

The possibility of being the only re-

HOTEL TO VACATE

Council's 4-0 vote means the city's last original downtown structure is doomed

By Vanessa Jazin
Brea Progress

A prominent piece of Brea's history — the last original downtown building — is set to become a thing of the past.

Two years of seeking funding and alternatives to save the Brea Hotel ended Tuesday when the City Council voted 4-0 to demolish the 86-year-old building. Councilwoman Bev Perry was

absent.

A contract was awarded to C. R. Gann Demolition Inc. for asbestos removal and demolition of the hotel, and a draft supplement to the Program Environmental Impact Report for the City's Downtown Master Plan was approved.

The council action ratified the Planning Commission's Oct. 13 recommendation to demolish the hotel.

Failure to obtain funding for preservation of the dilapidated building — an estimated 60 times costlier than destruction — led to its doom, according to city staff.

"We've concluded financial infeasibility; therefore, demolition

is unavoidable," said City Manager Frank Benest. The hotel needed \$1.5 million in improvements; demolition costs \$24,900.

Built in 1913, the hotel was to have become part of Heritage Block — a row of historic buildings including the old Sam's Place and La Habra Valley Bank — for a revitalized downtown. Deemed structurally unsound, the latter buildings were demolished.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 22, 1998

On Oct. 13, a presentation to the Planning Commission revealed plans for 20 townhouses and a fire station at the hotel's site.



EUGENE GARCIA/The Orange County Register

NOW AND THEN: Brea Hotel, decked out in bunting during its glory days, above, now sits ready for demolition below on Brea Boulevard

► **PAST:** The Brea Hotel was once "the center of everything." **Below** ☞

CHECKING OUT

Ongoing demolition of Brea Hotel paving way for townhomes

By Vanessa Jezin
Brea Progress

Dirt and some wooden boards will soon be all that remains at the south corner of Brea Boulevard where the Brea Hotel stands.

Demolition was set to culminate this week after two weeks of asbestos removal cleared the way for a project that includes more housing for Brea's urban downtown.

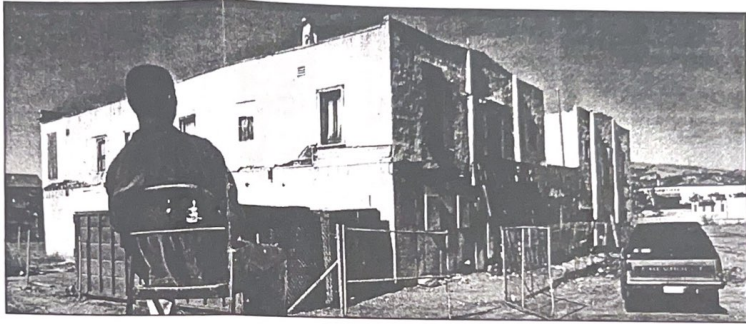
Before long, the soon-to-be vacant lot will bustle with construction workers developing the 40 townhouses planned for the site.

The south side of Brea Boulevard will contain 20 townhouse units, with 20 more to be built on Orange Avenue, acting as a buffer between planned retail stores on Birch Street and existing homes.

Each unit will comprise three bedrooms for an average of 1,332 square feet, and is expected to sell for between \$180,000 and \$250,000.

The area will also see construction of a fire station to the north of the planned townhouses on Brea Boulevard to accommodate the expected influx of residents and patrons of the new downtown currently under construction.

Approval of the project by the Planning Commission had been set for Nov. 10, but was delayed



LEFT: Alfred Munoz, an on-site inspector hired through the City of Brea, watches asbestos removal at the soon-to-disappear Old Brea Hotel.



Business Desk
Brea Progress

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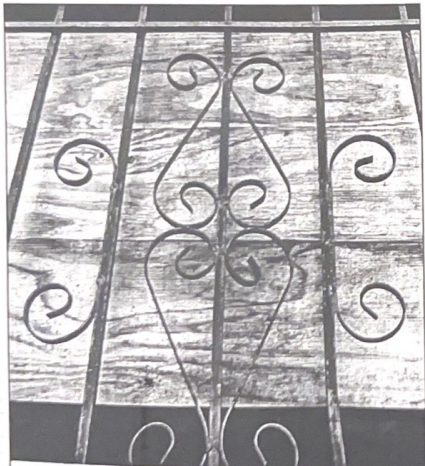
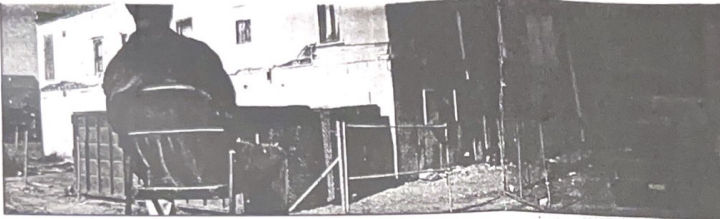
Each unit will comprise three bedrooms for an average of 1,332 square feet, and is expected to sell for between \$180,000 and \$250,000.

The area will also see construction of a fire station to the north of the planned townhouses on Brea Boulevard to accommodate the expected influx of residents and patrons of the new downtown currently under construction.

Approval of the project by the Planning Commission had been set for Nov. 10, but was delayed to allow for working out development details with the project developer, the Olson Company.

The firm has other developments in the city, including single-family dwellings on Laurel Avenue.

Development plans will be presented to the Planning Commission in a study session Dec. 5. A vote is expected on Jan. 5.



DANGER
ASBESTOS
Cancer and Lung Disease Hazard
Authorized Personnel Only
Respirators And Protective Clothing
Are Required In This Area

Photos by Jack E. Hancock/Brea Progress

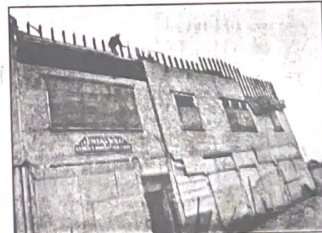
ABOVE: Plastic curtains shield asbestos removal inside hotel.
LEFT: Boarded up windows and black plastic help retain asbestos at Old Brea Hotel.



Photos by BRUCE CHAMBERS/The Orange County Register

BREA HOTEL GOING DOWN, BOARD BY BOARD

Umberto Arngulo, above, wields his pick Tuesday to remove the facade at the top of the old Brea Hotel as workers begin demolition of the last original downtown structure in Brea. On Thursday, a bulldozer will knock down the hotel at Brea Boulevard and Ash Street. Preservationists had wanted to restore the building, which was built in 1913, but the City Council opted for demolition.



ROOF REMOVAL: A worker helps to take apart the roof of the old Brea Hotel on Tuesday. The boards were salvaged for reuse.

Brea Hotel Fire

We almost lost another one. Two years ago flames destroyed one of our oldest buildings in town, the Wall Bldg, and on Sept 17 the old Brea Hotel ~~24~~ almost shared the same fate.

Built in ~~1913~~¹⁹¹²⁻¹³ for the influx of oil workers coming from all over the U.S. to work in our local fields, the hotel ~~has been lucky~~ ~~over the years, suffering many fires none of which completely destroyed the historic building.~~ caught fire somewhere between 8:30 and 9 p.m.

Luckily for the building, ~~but~~ a police officer ~~just~~ happened to be giving a drunken driving citation ~~just~~ below the front windows when he ~~was~~ ~~was~~ smoke above him.

The hotel had been vacant for some ~~some~~ time, and police are now looking into the possibility of arson. A transient was found inside but it's not known whether he was to blame.

The front exterior was blackened a bit where the smoke ~~came~~^{flames} out. More damage was done inside to rafters,

ceiling joists, two rooms and part of a hallway. Damage is estimated at \$45,000.

The Brea Hotel ~~is~~ is still slated to be one of the 5 commercial buildings and one home in the proposed ~~Historic~~ Downtown Historic Block. All 6 structures are to be restored or reconstructed.

to their condition when they were built.
All were constructed prior to 1917, when
Brea ~~became a~~ was incorporated,