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Theresa Estrada, Lorraine Dyke, Bar

### Imperial Cafe Taproom Will Open Tomorrow Eve

Several thousand dollars are being spent on the new Imperial cafe taproom which will open to the public tomorrow (Saturday) evening and Sunday.

The restaurant has been separated from the taproom by a full length wall.

The new taproom, located at the south side of the cafe, will be one of the most modern in Orange county, according to Walt Clark, manager. The new 24-foot bar of two-tone mahogany will have built-in refrigerators, indirect lighting and stainless steel trim.

All new furniture is the modern plastic plywood of bright and harmonious colors.

A. V. Van Tuyle, local contractor, has charge of the remodeling and refitting of the new Imperial cafe taproom and restaurant.

### Children's Christmas Party Is Dec. 23

Attention boys and girls of Brea! The Lions annual Christmas party for Brea children will be held

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Brea Progress  
Dec. 13, 1940

vey, Lois Ward, Helen Matthews. Back  
Kubln, Marilyn Poucher, Leta Johnson  
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Brea Progress  
Dec. 13, 1940

85



**ANNOUNCING**

• THE OPENING OF •  
THE NEW, MODERN

**IMPERIAL CAFE**

**TAPROOM**

SATURDAY EVENING  
and SUNDAY  
December 14th and 15th

•  
SEE the new, streamlined 24-foot Two-Tone Mahogany Bar . . . with built-in Refrigerator . . . modern plastic plywood furniture . . .

ENJOY the finest of drinks in an atmosphere of an exclusive club . . .

THRILL to home-cooked food by lady cooks . . .

You are cordially invited to the Big Opening tomorrow (Saturday evening) . . .

You are cordially invited any time . . . for breakfast, lunch, dinner or refreshments . . . at the new

**IMPERIAL CAFE**

Phone Brea 70

223 South Pomona Avenue

April 3, 1991

To: Sue Georgino  
Redevelopment Services Director

From: Brian Saul  
Brea Historical Society

Subj: Bar and outside sign at 221 So. Brea Blvd.

Dear Sue,

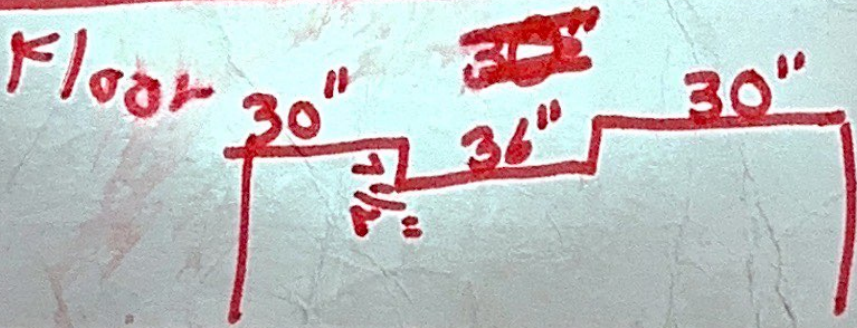
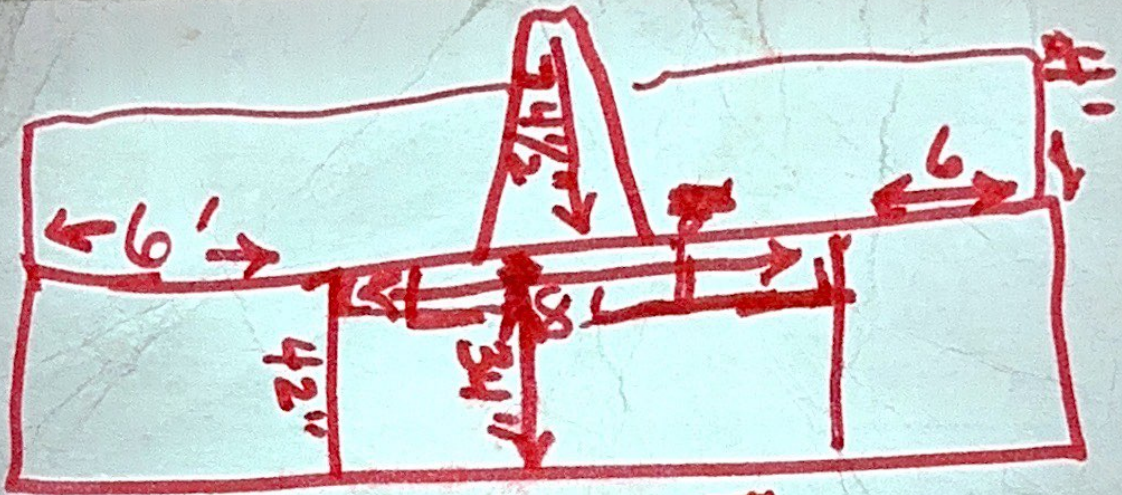
As you are aware, the City Council has recently authorized the Agency to turn over to the Brea Historical Society the above two items in order that they be preserved prior to demolition of the property.

The Society, in turn, has been fortunate enough to have found two individuals to whom we are turning over the items for restoration. The bar is to go to Darwin Manuel and the sign to Robert Grosse. Both persons have agreed that their particular item is to remain in Brea, and in the event they do not need nor want it any longer, it is to be returned to the Historical Society.

If you need further information, please contact me at 990-4461 or 529-2185.

Sincerely,

Brian H. Saul



Food, Space & Survival  
May 15, 1963

Biology

Sign ~~#~~ Permit  
Nov<sup>23</sup> 1949

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sign

# 2 permit

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~~221~~ 221 So Pomona

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11/16/1949

Cut opening into  
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1976 Brea

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Wile

Brea



DEAN F. MILLEN  
420 S. POPLAR AVENUE  
BREA, CALIFORNIA 92621

May 31, 1994

Mrs. Sharon Dean  
Brea Historical Society  
P. O. Box 9764  
Brea, CA 92622

Dear Sharon:

I am responding to your President's Memo of June 9, 1993 -

The four seats referred to from the old Red Lantern Theater could be similar to those used in the Womans Club House. Those in the club house were fastened together in sets of four. I inquired of Don Fretwell when the building was moved and was told that the seats were all disposed of.

The Imperial Cafe

I wish to shed some information on the Imperial Cafe and the Little Trojan. I came to Brea in September, 1935 as a bachelor. There were several places to eat at that time, - the Little Trojan, Grannie's Cafe and the Imperial Cafe. I soon learned that the food at the Imperial Cafe was very good and just like home cooking. I ate three meals a day at the Imperial until the time Betty and I were married in December, 1938.

Beer and wine were served and later on hard liquor was licensed to be sold. Walter Clark, a recovered alcoholic himself, was the owner-operator of the Imperial.

The meals were prepared fresh daily, and over the years several local women served as cooks. One of these was Mamie Mays who later cooked at the Brea Olinda High School cafeteria. The place was very busy during noon hours as many oil workers met there for lunch. There was just a counter with stools, and people lined up behind one another waiting for lunch. Two regular customers for lunch at the Imperial Cafe were Joe Witten, President and Ralph Barnes, Cashier of the Oilfields National Bank.

Sincerely,

*Dean*

Dean F. Millen

B.P. <sup>7th</sup> Dec 13, 1940

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A. V. Van Tuyle, local contractor, has charge of the remodeling and refitting of the new Imperial cafe taproom and restaurant.

Fri Jan 24, 1936

Imperial Cafe mentioned

a bad check was given to it.



# Brea Historical Society

401 South Brea Boulevard  
P.O. Box 9764  
Brea, California 92622  
(714) 256-2283

## PRESIDENT'S MEMO - JUNE 9

TO ALL MEMBERS:

So much to do -- so little time! That is becoming my motto. With summer and vacation fast approaching, we are busier than ever, and it is so exciting!

The museum has recently received some wonderful artifacts from Alan West and family. You will be amazed when you see all the tools that citrus and oil workers had to use. We also received four seats from the old Red Lantern Theater from Linda and David Thompson. They had been used in the Scout House and were rescued, and are now in our storage shed. They are in good condition.

Two boxes, full of city records, and a small machine were discovered in the storage room under Pioneer Hall and these are in the Museum.

At the General Meeting I read an article written by Thelma Hyder Reahm. Thelma lived with her parents, Emmette and Marguerite Hyder, in Brea from 1933 to 1940. She has sent us several additional articles that bring memories of Brea back to life. So that all of you can enjoy Thelma's realistic writing skills, I am sharing with you "The Mystery of The Little Trojan and The Imperial". I know you will be taken back in time just like I was.

Sharon Dean,  
President

## THE MYSTERY OF THE LITTLE TROJAN AND THE IMPERIAL

By

Thelma Hyder Reahm

The Main Street of Brea (Bree-ah, as the oldtimers called it) was only two blocks long. Within those two blocks were two bars, commonly known as saloons during the Depression.

I always wondered why they stayed so busy when nobody had any money. However, in a family like mine, you didn't question adult stuff such as that.

I remember the Imperial by its front door. There was a cut-out in the door shaped like a martini glass. This knowledge came to me way later in life. Back then, I just thought it was a cute little window.

Any time my mother and I walked past The Imperial she would jerk my head around toward the parked cars along the street and say "Don't look," until we were past the danger. Eight or ten steps, depending on our speed. What danger, I didn't know. That's how she handled the subject of the local saloons.

(Continued on next page)

The Little Trojan was across the street from the classy looking Imperial. It was more of a sleazy, low-end-type place, I'd say now looking back. It had a ratty looking screen door in front, and you could see into the murky darkness of its interior. That is if you were allowed to look. I did on occasion peek when running past with other kids, but never when in the company of my mother.

I continued to wonder what people did at The Little Trojan. And what did they do at The Imperial? Someday I was going to take another peek inside the screened door of The Little Trojan when I was by myself, but The Imperial window was too high for me to even catch a glimpse.

During this time we moved from the house on Madrona to Pomona Avenue, the main drag. This was to be an interim house before we moved to Brea Canyon to build the Hyder Cafe. We were only in this house a few months. I slept on the screen porch on the front of the house. It was during the terrible rains of 1939 when whole towns around Los Angeles and Orange County flooded. I remember busloads of refugees being unloaded at the American Legion Hall in Brea Park.

I watched the goings-on of our main street a lot that winter as the thunderstorms kept me awake, and my vantage point at the front of the house was great. Ironically, this house was almost next door to The Little Trojan and directly across the street from The Imperial. I found out that those places were especially busy after dark. I used to keep mental lists of whose parents I saw going in and out each night . . . or more to the point . . . whose father. Then I would tell on them the next day, but only to my Gramma. I often let my Grandmother in on things I knew better than to tell my Mother.

My Dad built the Brea Cafe a few months later and we moved to the Canyon at the intersection of the Pomona Highway and the road to La Habra. Exactly where Brea Psychiatric Hospital is today.

Mother posted a sign in the cafe before we opened. It was provided to us by the Excelsior Milk Company. It said:

WE THINK BUTTERMILK IS BETTER THAN BEER

Chicken dinners were seventy five cents and we specialized in home-baked pies. A hamburger and a malt were each a dime. We were closed on Sunday.

I also remember reading a page out of the church hymnal just before receiving communion when I was twelve years old. It said:

I WILL ABSTAIN FROM THE SALE OR USE OF INTOXICATING DRINK AS A BEVERAGE.

Whatever that meant.

Mother never said and I never asked.

That was all the instruction regarding drug or alcohol use that I ever had. It was a simpler time in Brea in those days. I never, ever saw the inside of The Imperial or The Little Trojan.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you, Thelma, for sharing your memories with us. SD

DUES!

DUES!

DUES!

Some of us have inadvertently forgotten to pay dues for 1992. Our year is the calendar year, January to January.

Please call the office - 256-2283 - if you do not know if you have paid.

DUES SCHEDULE

Membership:

Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$25.00
Supporting	\$50.00
Sustaining	\$100.00
Businesses	\$100.00



**Brea Historical Society**  
401 South Brea Boulevard  
P.O. Box 9764  
Brea, Ca 92622  
*Office and Museum Hours:*  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday  
(714) 256-2283

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

Mr. & Mrs. Brian Saul  
505 E. Date  
Brea, CA 92621

The Brea Historical Society's mission is to collect and to preserve historical materials relating to the City of Brea. Since its founding in 1971, the Society has worked to foster community pride as well as a desire to preserve the past and creatively plan for a historically compatible future.

NOTES

Don't miss the "Brea . . . Then and Now" Gallery opening, Friday, June 12 - 7 - 9 PM.

The Country Fair - July 4 - is always great fun for the summer. Remember, the Museum will be open from 9:30 - 3:30 PM and we will be selling pictures, books and bricks.

Hope to see you there!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

Special thanks to several of our members for judging the essay contest: Inez Fanning, Mae Burt, Susan Gaede and Mary Alice Blaydes. And special thanks to Jane Shellhouse for her gift donation of \$100 for the 1st prize. Also to Rachel Sweet for being an outstanding English teacher and to all the students who participated. A commendation to Mario Calderon for winning the essay contest.

\*\*\*\*\*

Last but certainly not least, Girl Scout Troop 811, under the leadership of Kathleen Ralph, will receive a special award from the Brea Historical Society for their participation in all the history-related events during the past few months.

\*\*\*\*\*

BOOK: "BREA - CELEBRATING 75 YEARS"

PHOTOS

We are finding many new and "never before seen" photos of Brea's early years. However, there are some special photos we are still searching for. If you have such photos, we will make copies and return your pictures to you. You will receive credit in the book for any photos that are used. If you have old pictures that are not on the list below, please let us look at them. Please call Brian Saul at 990-4461, Sharon Dean at 529-6186 or Teresa Hampson at 990-2141, or leave a message at the Museum - 256-2283.

We need more scenes of life and events in Brea from the early years through to the present.

Need photos of:

Old Pacific Electric Depot - or --  
Red Car passing through city

Old Downtown and scenes of Brea  
and surroundings

The Olympic Torch Bearer passing through  
Brea in 1984

Dedication of the "BREA" sign in 1934

Opening of the 57 Freeway

Inside some of the stores  
Citrus industry  
Oil industry

Development of our City

Old Olinda  
Old Brea Airport

Sheep in the hills

And other photos, too!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!!!

# ★Celebrate ★Celebrate

Announcing a Once-in-a-Lifetime  
75th Anniversary Celebration  
**Photo Event**

Get (into) the **BIG PICTURE**  
A Full Page Photo Spread  
with **YOU** as the Main Star  
Oldtimers and Newcomers  
★ *The Who's Who in Brea* ★

Bill Strickland, an outstanding Brea photographer,  
will be taking a celebration picture for the book  
**Brea: Celebrating 75 Years**



June 27  
9:00 a.m.  
Brea Historical Society  
Old City Hall  
401 S. Brea Blvd.

Join us to Say Cheese, Please

Wear red, yellow, blue or an old time costume  
R.S.V.P.: Brea Historical Society, 256-2283

*Brea: Celebrating 75 Years* offers a unique look at our city's very special story. Not a textbook, but an immensely readable, hands-on history, which draws readers into the excitement of Brea's past, the challenge of its present and the promise of its future. Published by the Brea Historical Society and funded entirely through private sponsorship, this colorful, oversize volume promises to be the one book local citizens with buy, read and remember — a lasting keepsake of Brea's 75th Jubilee year.

# ★Celebrate ★Celebrate

★Celebrate ★Celebrate ★Celebrate ★Celebrate

★Celebrate ★Celebrate ★Celebrate ★Celebrate



Los Angeles visited with her daughter, Virginia Carroll of 139 South Walnut avenue, Sunday.

Mrs. Muriel Graham of 201 North Pomona avenue returned from Irvine recently after being away from Brea for over a month.

Friends in the Killian home at 216 South Orange avenue recently were Cincinnati residents.

Mr. and Mrs. Truman Cox, who have been residing in Brea have moved to Riverside where Cox is employed.

Mrs. Milton Richison, Alcia and Ellen Richison spent last Saturday evening visiting in Long Beach with friends.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Y. McIntyre of 405 South Orange avenue, who have resided in Brea for many years, moved to Fullerton Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Art White, Jr., who have been living at 104 North Orange, Monday moved into the newly remodeled Burgess house on East Imperial.

The three children of Mr. and Mrs. Don Shaffer of 315 South Flower are back to health again after a siege of the flu.

Dick Long of 318 North Orange, who has been ill for a week, returned yesterday to his position with an airplane factory in Los Angeles.

Adrienne Thornton, secretary to Herb Bergen of Union Citrus Orchards, has been in bed this week with the flu.

W. A. Culp of 105 South Walnut avenue was taken to the Fullerton hospital Sunday afternoon suffering from a severe attack of the flu. He is getting along better, according to reports.

Ed Curtis of Olinda is in the hospital with the flu. He is getting along nicely, it is reported.

Melvin Russell, wife and two sons have all been in bed this week with the flu.

Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Wilson's baby daughter is still in the hospital. She is a little better at present.

Guests in the A. W. Mahlstedt home Saturday at 334 South Madrona avenue were Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Mahlstedt of Huntington Park, Mrs. William Monroe and son, Billy, Mrs. F. W. Mahlstedt of Ventura.

Mr. and Mrs. W. V. Hardy of Susanville, Calif., returned home Monday. They came to Brea for the funeral of his father, Police Officer Harry Hardy.

Mrs. Marian Babcock and infant son, Norman of Lancaster, are visiting with her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Green of South Laurel avenue. They expect to be in Brea for about another week before visiting in Redondo.

Tommy Woodard arrived in Brea Sunday morning for a visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Woodard of South Madrona avenue. Woodard is stationed in Cheyenne, Wyo. (Fort Francis) and is



Above is a part of the students who make up the mixed eighth grade chorus which will ably support the grammar school's Christmas program Tuesday evening in the high school auditorium. They are: First row—Harriet Baker, Paula Pepper, Paul Gheen, Bob Bickel, Carl Harvey, Lois Ward, Helen Matthews. Back row—Helen Connelly, Eleanor Kubin, Marilyn Poucher, Leta Johnson, Ruby Sutliff, Betty Jo Beal, Theresa Estrada, Lorraine Dyke, Barbara Warner, Frances Ball.

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The restaurant has been separated from the taproom by a full length wall.

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All new furniture is the modern plastic plywood of bright and harmonious colors.

A. V. Van Tuyle, local contractor, has charge of the remodeling and refitting of the new Imperial cafe taproom and restaurant.

## Children's Christmas Party Is Dec. 23

Attention boys and girls of Brea! The Lions annual Christmas party for Brea children will be held at the Brea theater Monday afternoon, December 23, at 1:30.

A special movie with plenty of cowboys, Indians and other pictures that will please boys and girls will be shown.

Then, to top it off, when the children come out of the theater, each will be given a Christmas stocking full of goodies.

Yes, indeed! The show, the goodies, everything will be free to Brea youngsters, the gift of the Brea Lions club.

## Hilbert Now on Full Time at Art's Pharmacy

Fred Hilbert, druggist, of 425 South Laurel, who has worked part time at Art's pharmacy for 3½ years, started full time at Art's the first of the month.

Hilbert also worked part time the past few years at a drug store in Whittier.

## Harry Weaver Family Moves to South Sievers

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Weaver, with daughters Dorothy and Jean, moved

All the pageantry, the beauty, the inspiration of the Nativity Story will be unfolded Tuesday evening at 7:30 at the Brea-Olinda school auditorium when the students and teachers of the seventh and eighth grades of Brea Grammar school, under the direction of Miss Jane Deming, give the annual Christmas pageant.

Many innovations will be introduced this year. A narrator will stand at the side of the stage and, over a loud speaker, explain the ever-new story of Christ's birth.

### Religious Music

Appropriate music will be played as a background.

The glee club will sing, the pipe organ will play, and one of the finest and best acted Christmas pageants ever seen anywhere will be unfolded for the good folks of Brea.

The pageant, billed to begin at 7:30 p. m., will be free to all.

Rev. H. M. Gromer, pastor of Brea Baptist church, will give a short devotional talk before the play.

### Religious Characters

Characters for pantomimes are: Mary, Ramona Ondaro; Joseph, James Denney; narrator, Frances Ball; shepherds, Eugene Warren, Ted Raubinger, Lloyd Johnson; wise men, Tony Atencio, Joe Maestrujoan, George Whygle; innkeeper, Billie Hance; angels, Marie Tremaine, Vanoye Miller, Anna Mae Pope; children, Archie Dean Logsdon, Rodney Wade, George Mabes, Mildred Long, Kathleen Austin, Virginia Eubanks.

Solos—Mary, Betty Jo Beal; Joseph, Carl Harvey; innkeeper, Bob Bickel; shepherd, Paul Gheen; angel, Leta Johnson.

Angel Chorus: Girls' Glee Club—Harriet Baker, Genevieve Connelly, Lorraine Dyke, Theresa Estrada, Beverly Lee Neal, Ruby Sutliff, Barbara Warner, Lorraine White, Eleanor Estrada, Andrea Serna, Helen Connelly, Charline Edmunds, Elizabeth Hart, Hilda Jean Houton, Eleanor Kubin, Helen Matthews, Kathleen Meissner, Vera Phillips, Marilyn Poucher, Marilyn Prior, Dorothy Sandman, Phyllis Strickland, Lois Ward, Elise Baker, Paula Pepper, Chloe Perez, Elivera Ruiz, Amelia Soza, Betty Jo Beal, Leta Johnson.

Shepherd Chorus: Boys' Glee Club—Herbert Smith, Billy Turley, Bobby Wade, Howard Henry, Mario Perez, Don Wampler, Richard Foster, Clayton Berg, Ronald Schryer,

Coppins, Frank Ellingsen, Al Muhr, Jim Kubin, G. E. Rasmussen, W. S. Whisler, M. F. Roberts, Lee Powell, Adrian La Force, Frank Whitaker, W. A. Schweiss, John Musty, G. G. Lovejoy, Mrs. Robert Critchlow, James E. Russell, Earl Doty.

Mrs. Elmer Guy wishes to thank all workers and all contributors in the Red Cross campaign in Brea; also Mrs. Robert Isbell, who took charge of Olinda.

Mrs. Guy says that while all workers have checked in and the campaign is nominally closed, memberships will be available for a short time. Cards may be had at her home, 201 East Birch, or the Brea Progress office.

## Edith May Mitchell Dies Following Illness

Mrs. Edith May Mitchell, wife of Clarence H. Mitchell of 250 South Redwood avenue, passed away suddenly in her home Monday. She has been a resident of Brea for the past 10 years.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday morning from the McAulay and Suters mortuary chapel, with the Rev. Harry Gromer, pastor of the Baptist church, officiating. Burial was at the Loma Vista cemetery.

Mrs. Mitchell was 47 years old and is survived by her husband, Clarence Mitchell; three daughters, Mrs. Genevieve Davis of Idaho, Clarice Iona and Betty Lou, and a son, Charles Mitchell, all of Brea. She also leaves several brothers and sisters.

Mrs. Mitchell has been connected with the Baptist church of Brea and has been greatly loved by her friends and neighbors. She was a devoted wife and mother.

## Kitty Kelly Smith Dies After Long Illness

Mrs. Kitty Kelly Smith, who has a number of Brea friends, passed away Monday in a Whittier rest home at the age of 74.

She had been a resident of Fullerton for the past 27 years.

## Mrs. Claude Steen's Mother Passes on After Illness

Funeral services for Mrs. J. Harper Simons of Olinda were conducted Wednesday from the Fullerton Seventh Day Adventist church. Mrs. Simons lived in Brea several years ago.

# Church Women Yule of Holiness

What a joyous and happy time the Christmas season is.

While there is rush and confusion, it is happily so. The old pat-

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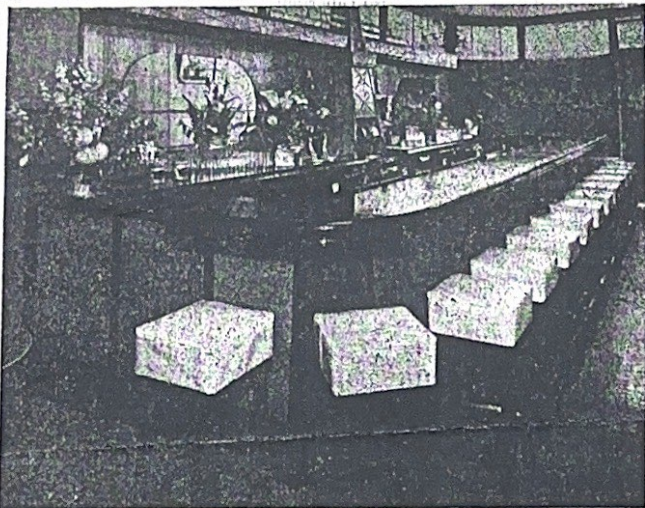
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"An army marches on its stomach," is often quoted and is a saying which carries lots of truth. Uncle Sam is training and seasoning you and other servicemen to be tough . . . to be fit for any eventuality. Along with long hard drill and lots of exercise, food is mighty important . . . that's why we invite you to come in. We're sure you know plenty about vitamins and calories. And when you eat one of our breakfasts, lunches or dinners, you'll see we are expert when it comes to meal planning. Also, you'll find our food prices reasonable!



The finest cocktail bar in Orange county is here to serve you. All drinks are expertly prepared at reasonable prices!

# IMPERIAL CAFE

223 SOUTH POMONA AVENUE