

time of their first meeting, he remembered the dark-eyed Lorena Lorea from the village of Abaurrea Alta, near Pamplona. Lorena emigrated from Spain in 1909, taking work as a domestic at the Yriarte Ranch shortly after her arrival. Augustin Yriarte, then 20 years old, fell in love with the Basque beauty and soon they married and started a family of their own.

In 1915, Patricio and Pascuala Yriarte passed within months of each other. By 1918, the property of the Yriarte Ranch that had been left to their surviving children was divided equally into five parcels. The property west of Laurel went to Felix; Augustin received the northern area of the land; Mary, the area from South Birch to Laurel Ave.; Ysabel received the Yriarte Ranch property on East Elm St.; Julian received the remainder of the acreage. Felix would eventually become part of the investment group that brought Brea its first theatre, "The Red Lantern". Ysabel eventually sold five acres of the Yriarte Ranch property on Elm St. to Frank Schweitzer, Sr., one of Brea's earliest and most influential pioneers, where he built his home.

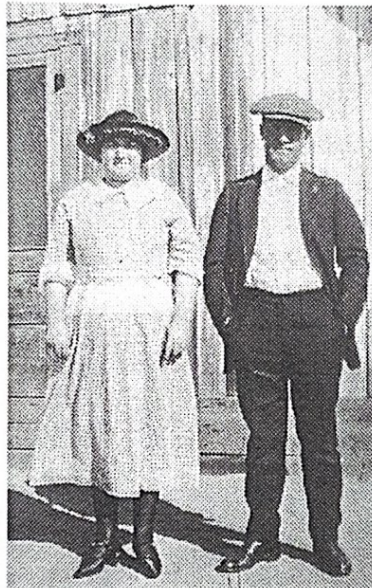
The close-knit family lived and worked together for a time, but eventually, Felix built a

home and moved to the property at 127 S. Orange St.

Although he was born in the house on Orange St., John lived the early years of his life at the ranch house on Elm St. with his older sister, Anita. Lorena took care of the household chores and raising of the children, while Augustin worked his area of the ranch, growing oats and hay and eventually planting citrus trees. While some of the harvest from the ranch went to market, much of what was grown went to feed the family, who continued to live in the ranch house, and into storage to feed

the livestock over the winter. In time, John's brother, Patricio was born and Augustin built a house for the small family on Ash St. and the family moved in soon after.

Lorena could speak only basque, an extremely difficult Spanish dialect, and spoke to her children in her native tongue. Augustin, who was born in Los Angeles, spoke both english and basque but spent much of his time working the fields, with little opportunity to teach his children english. Since the city was still sparsely populated, with few neighbors nearby, the children had little opportunity to interact with the english speaking families in the city.



Lorena Lorea Yriarte and Augustin Yriarte in front of their Ash St. home

When John enrolled in the first grade at Laurel Grammar School in 1923, because he wasn't able to speak english, he was asked to leave school soon after and learn english before returning. John still recalls W.E. Fanning walking up the driveway of his family home to bring the news to his parents. John learned english quickly, and was back in the first grade within a few months, catching up with his classmates and excelling in the second grade.

John, Patricio and Anita walked to school from their home on Ash St., even walking home at lunch and racing back to school afterward in order to return before the bell rang to resume the days lessons.

In the countryside dotted with ranches, farmhouses and oil derricks, John and his brother and sister occupied themselves by exploring the fields, playing in and around the family's ranch barn (where swallows nested with mud from nearby creeks), wading into the creeks to catch tadpoles and frogs or making kites to fly from newspaper, old wood scavenged from oil derrick sites and butcher string tied together to make the tether.

Next issue:

Changes come to Brea and the Yriarte Family

was enrolled in the first grade at age 8. He was the first child to speak English. He was back in the first grade within a few months, catching up with his classmates and excelling in the second grade.

Redwood ave-
this week from
South Laurel
overing from
ved in an auto-
is now getting
Judge, re-
from a three
Texas and
the weather

TOTAL receipts were up from \$33,733 to \$34,870 for this year.
One big change from last year was from traffic fines. Last year this department realized \$3,808. This year it was \$1,334.
The public accountants closed their report with this statement: "The records under control of the city clerk have been well kept during the year and we wish to express our appreciation to the officers and employees of the city for the full co-operation extended to us during the course of our examination."

National Defense Restrictions Have Come Home to Roost

For quite a spell the daily newspapers have carried stories how the government plans to curtail production on certain so-called non-defense products.

Also how the government plans to curtail installment buying by upping down payments, limiting time to pay.

This week these stories congealed in Brea.

Earl Templeman of Brea Hard-ware was notified that, after September 15, much larger down payments will be required on purchases of Servel Electrolux refrigerators in Brea and everywhere else.

Also time of payment will be shortened from as long as 2 1/2 years to 18 months.

Another instance of possible national defense encroachment in Brea is the case of Wales Recap-avine. Service at 721 South Pomona

According to Elmer Wales, manager, the company which supplies them with rubber for recapping tires, has notified them that, because of the defense effort, they can no longer guarantee delivery of rubber, but only can do their best to fill orders.

Barnhill Reception to Be September 3 at Sandman Home

On Wednesday, September 3, a reception will be held for Rev. and Mrs. Fredrick Barnhill, the new congregational minister, and his wife, from 7:30 to 9:30 p. m., in Grant Sandman's yard at 821 St. Elm.

All church members and friends cordially invited to attend.

Summer Home Is Scene of Barbecued Steak Dinner

and Mrs. Ray Roberts of 819 Date gave a dinner party Saturday evening in the summer home near of their home.

The dinner consisted of barbecued mignon steaks and all the trimmings, topped off with home-made cream.

The act bridge was played and were won by Mrs. Kubin Cummings.

day, August 27, for the Brea Birthday Party.
There will be a final beach party today (Friday) at Huntington Beach with band members and parents attending.

Annual 101st Masonic Dinner Will Be Held Tonight

High above Brea, at the ideally situated Shell picnic grounds, the various Masonic lodges of their 101st dinner and entertainment this evening. Dinner starts promptly at 6:30 with plenty of good entertainment to follow, according to Roy W. Monroe, master of Brea lodge.
Many tickets have been sold and a bigger and better time than ever is expected.

Miss Anita Yriarte Passes Away After Long Illness

Miss Anita Yriarte of East Ash street passed away Tuesday about 9 p. m. She had been ill for the past two years.

Miss Yriarte attended the Brea-Olinda high school and would have been 21 this September. She was a native of Brea and had spent her entire life here.

Miss Yriarte is survived by her mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Augustine Yriarte, and two brothers, Pat and John, all of Brea.

Recitation of the holy rosary was conducted Wednesday night at 7 o'clock in the McAnuly and Sifers mortuary in Fullerton and Sifers mass was held at 9 a. m. at St. Mary's Catholic church in Fullerton.

Burial was made in Calvary cemetery in Los Angeles.

Breaans Are Invited to Met Water Meet

There will be a meeting Friday, September 12, at 10 a. m., at Brea city hall, "to consider the advisability of creating a district in northern Orange county for the purpose of obtaining water from the Metropolitan Water District."
All citizens interested are invited to be there.

Great-Grandson of Mrs. Brooks Born Last Monday

Mrs. William Long Brooks of Brea Canyon returned this week from a few days' visit with her daughter, Mrs. George Maronde of Long Beach.

She brings back news of the arrival of a great-grandson, William Long Brooks III on Monday, August 18.

The new arrival is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Long Brooks II of Long Beach.

B. H. Templeman of 112 South Walnut is confined to his home by illness.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday by Rev. W. E. Morrison of Brea Assembly of God church at McAnuly & Sifers mortuary in Fullerton. Burial was in Loma Vista cemetery.
Full bearers were old Union Oil friends: V. E. Washbon, Earl Hill, James Stives, Charles Hood, Homer Farren, Robert Russell.

Immediately after the services, Mrs. Caldwell went to spend a week or so with her son in Los Angeles. Her future plans are undecided.

Demonstrations Mark End of Red Cross Swimming Lessons

At 10 o'clock Saturday morning there will be a demonstration of water sports and tests made by students at the Brea plunge, marking the completion of the two weeks' swimming course sponsored by the Red Cross.

This demonstration is free to the public and everyone is invited to come and see the children complete their work, receive their certificates. Fifty-one girls and 66 boys of all ages have been enrolled in these classes.

George Hughling, special summer representative of the Red Cross, is the instructor. He is director of aquatics at the University of California and will return to Berkeley Saturday after the program for the fall semester.

Standard Oil Gives Richard Jones a 5-Week Vacation

Richard Jones of 217 South Walnut recently was one of the Standard Oil employes to be with the company for 25 years.

As a result, Jones received five full weeks with full pay.
Another Brea employe who has been with Standard Oil 20 years, and who received the coveted 20-year medal, was Thomas Howe of Bert Wilkins of Anaheim, who works at the Brea plant of Standard, also received a 20-year medal.

Art Ferree of this city is leaving today (Friday) for San Francisco where he will attend medical school at the Medical Center in San Francisco.

Mrs. Coyle Steele of 201 South Laurel has just returned from a two weeks' visit with friends in Madera. Her mother, Mrs. L. Wilkerson, is visiting in Madera at the present time.

Roy Baker of Vallejo has been a guest of his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Baker of 312 West Imperial, for the past week.

Mrs. H. T. Severnes of Fullerton lease left Wednesday for Inglewood to spend several days with her mother and aunt, who are ill.

Mr. and Mrs. ...

Prizes totaling \$101.
McClure (Mack) Flower, a machinist and works, had his midget second in the heat race in the main event.
Roy Tremaine of Los married Lucille Ball had his car in the mo evening.
So, out of 18 cars entered huge Atlantic Stadium n Tuesday—most of those by wealthy men who spend on engines, wheels, gadgets—three Brea cars, me home-made, brought home prizes and awards.
Brea Races On!

All-Brea Program at Lions Club Gets a Big Hand

The greets and near-greets Brea, in large numbers, passed at the regular meeting of the club yesterday.

And be it said for the local ent, it all seemed to go over the customers.

First to appear was Miss J. Massey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Massey.

Just where Miss Massey has been hiding her talents is not known but what a piano player she turned out to be!

She played "Liebestraum," "September Donè," "When Day I Miss Massey played and sang one of her own compositions.

What a Quartet!

Next came four local boys, Ken Fogue, Don Critchlow, Leo Plantoni and Dale Varner, who went onto the stage, closed the curtains and back came some of the most wonderful close harmony ever heard anywhere. The song, in various arrangements, was "You Tell Me Your Dream."

Alaska was the theme song of the program, and after a few words of statistics about Alaska by Program Chairman Bowers, Sourdough Glenn Curtis gave a talk, showed he took on a recent "mush" to Alaska.

Part of his pictures were in full color, his informal remarks colorful.

Honored guests were Sourdoughs Forrest Gordon and Jack Collins. Collins spent seven years in Alaska, Gordon has a son up there.

Collins told of some of his interesting experiences up there in 1898 and after.

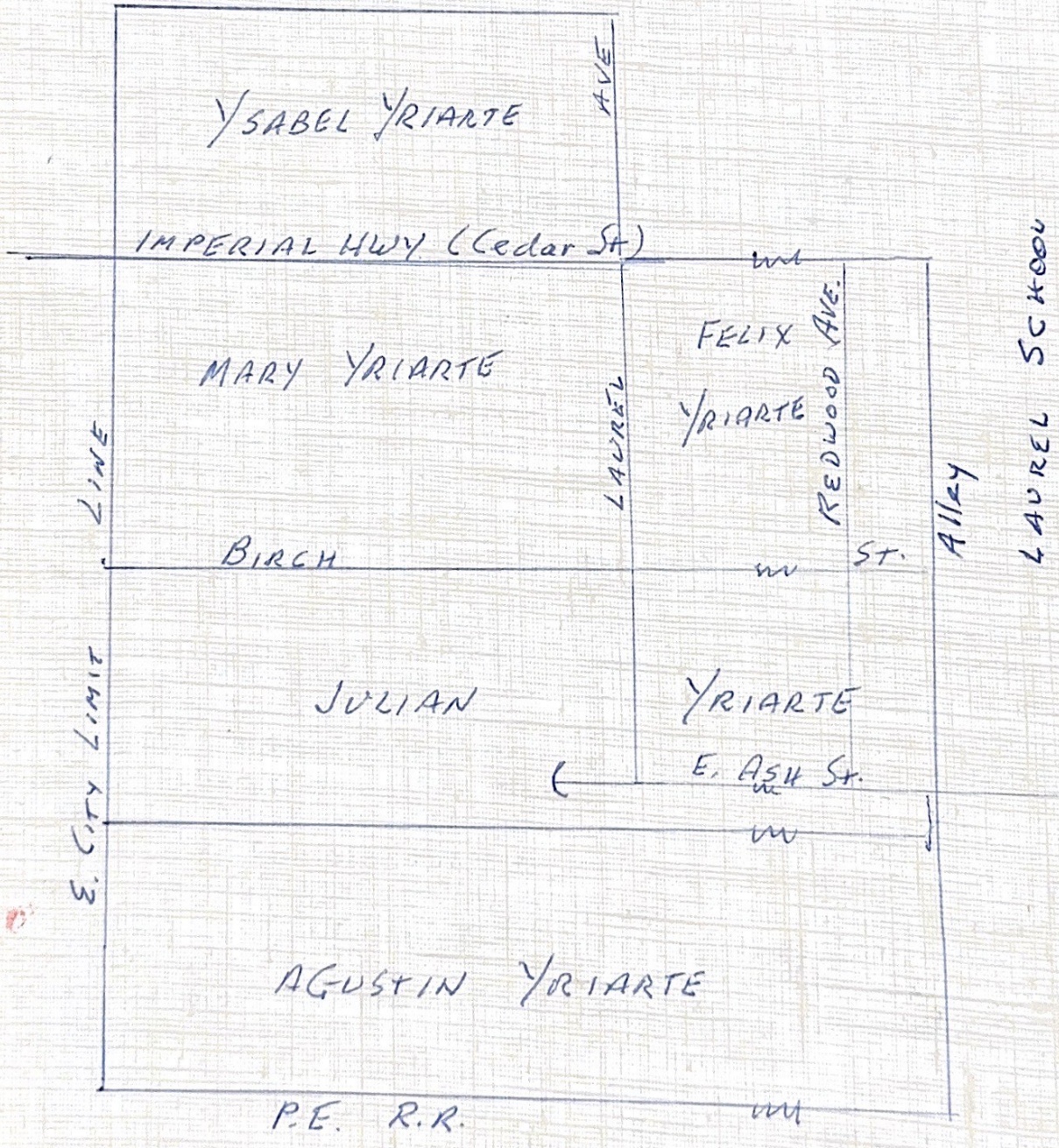
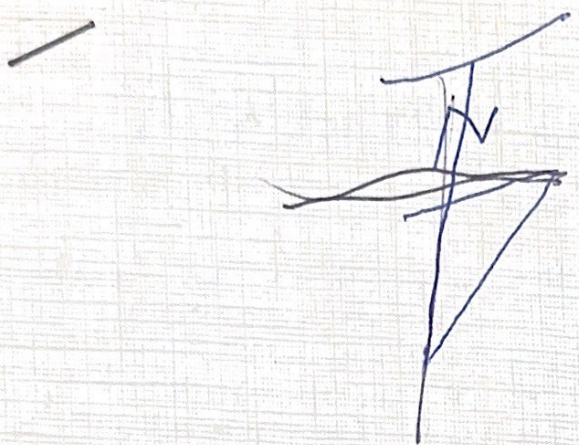
Not to be outdone, Mayor Shaffer arose and told of his experiences in Alaska nearly 50 years ago.

Bill Rust and Ray Cole wanted to tell about their experiences at Laguna Beach but they were voted down for lack of time.

A tamale ple and lazy daisy cake meal was served by Woman's club members Mrs. Fred Hilbert, chairman; Mrs. J. L. Cummings, Mrs. J. M. Burquist, Mrs. J. E. Wilson, Mrs. Ray Cole.

Looks Will Be of Fish

An all-



A History of.....part one

by Kathy Canon

A new feature of *Historical Happenings*, focusing on an individual or event in the story of Brea that helped shape the city we know it today. Our very first "History of..." tells the story of John Yriarte and his family.

John Yriarte and his family have seen and lived much of the story of Brea. This thoughtful, soft-spoken man was born in Brea on August 11, 1917, the year of Brea's incorporation, at the home of his Uncle Felix at 127 S. Orange.

John's grandfather, Patricio Yriarte, immigrated to the United States from the Basque province of Spain in 1885. After spending a short time in New Orleans, Patricio came to California, finding work at the Bastanchury Ranch, a local gathering place for Basques. Before long, Patricio set out on his own to find his fortune in what is now the Placentia/Yorba Linda area. Soon, he sent word to his wife, Pascuala Arresa Yriarte to join him. By 1905, they had settled and began to raise a family in Randolph, the small town that would become Brea.

Patricio began acquiring land to farm oats, barley and hay. He purchased 30 acres of the W.H. Hole tract and part of the Abel Stearns tract and soon had 160 acres. Those acres would prove invaluable to the city of Brea over the years, eventually providing the city with one of its first water wells. The acreage owned by the Yriarte Ranch encompassed the area from today's Elm Street, south to just east of the old Brea City Hall. The western boundary was today's Imperial Hwy, then east to Laurel Ave.

As the Yriarte Ranch grew, so did the Yriarte family. Felix, Augustin, Julian, Ysabel, Mary and Ysidoro were brought into the world over the span of about 15 years. Ysidoro, during a trip back to Spain with the family, became ill and died in his infancy. The family left Spain shortly after his death



Left to right: Ysabel, Julian, Pascuala, Felix, Ysidoro, Augustin, Patricio and Mary Yriarte. Circa 1905

to return to their home in Brea.

The Yriarte Ranch thrived, providing employment to local area residents and forming bonds with other area Basque families such as the Landa's (the early ascendants of Sam Landa, owner of "Sam's Place"), the Oxandabourne's and the Bastanchury's.

The early years of Randolph attracted farmers and ranchers because of its open space, fertile land and perfect climate for agriculture. Basque sheep herders tended flocks in the hills near Puente Wells. They cursed the "black stuff" that dirtied their clothing after long days, not realizing that the tar they cursed was the precursor to the discovery that would change Randolph forever...the discovery of oil.

The Yriarte family worked their ranch, the children raised by Pascuala and working in the fields alongside Patricio. Eventually, the Yriarte children married and started families of their own. Felix married Celestina and started a family; Ysabel married Garrett Prendiville and eventually had five children; Julian married Inez Dolley of Whittier and had one child; Mary wed Joe Nichols.

Augustin Yriarte met a young woman on a trip to Spain. Although they were only 15-years old at

continued, next page

John and his family were living on East Ash St. on April 8, 1926. He remembers this day, as do so many other Breans, as the day of the huge oil storage tank fire ^{near} at what is now Berry St. ^{early} He recalls the storm coming in the night before, with heavy rain and winds. By dawn, thunder was rolling across the sky. At approximately 9 a.m., lightning struck at least one of the storage tanks, setting it ablaze with an explosion loud and strong enough to blow ^{open} the door of their East Ash St. home. The fire raged throughout the day, filling the sky with black smoke and raining soot and ashes onto the city into the night. John also recalls sitting on his back porch on Ash St. with his family, watching the planes and their death defying maneuvers in the Air Shows held at the Brea Airport (where the Brea Heights Shopping Center is now located.)

near today's intersection of Kreamer + Imperial

After completing his elementary education, John attended the old Brea-Olinda High School, then located on Birch St. He graduated in 1935, third in his class and is remembered in his yearbook as "...solitary as an oyster." He was on the school honor roll, participated in track for 3 years (~~where, he says, they weren't trained well... 'track wasn't big'~~) and served as president of the school's Spanish Club in his senior year. When John graduated, there were a total of 49 people in his class, including Harvey Sweet and Katherine Fanning.

Sadly, 1935 brought tragedy to Agustin and Lorenza Yriarte and their family. After battling tuberculosis a few years earlier, Anita Yriarte had contracted the disease again. Conventional treatment at the time was to collapse the infected lung and then, prolonged rest. After what was believed to be a full recovery, Anita became ill again shortly after grammar school and her remaining lung became infected. In August 1941, Anita died, just a month short of her 21st birthday.

After high school, John enrolled in Fullerton Junior College, taking business courses until 1937. During these years of "The Great Depression", jobs were hard to find, even in Brea. John worked as a warehouseman until December 5, 1939, when he went to work for Southern Counties Gas Company, known today as Southern California Gas, for \$100 per month. Shortly after taking this job, John bought his first car, a 1938 Chevy, for \$800 from Barton Chevrolet on Brea Blvd. ~~and Birch St., which was later the old Pawlack Tile building that used to be located near Birch.~~

became

Shortly before the outbreak of World War II, John registered for the draft in Fullerton and was drafted November 12, 1941 and sent to Fort Crockett, near Galveston, Texas. He served just over four years in the 20th Coastal Artillery Unit. This was John's first time out of California.

when

In December 1945 John returned home to Brea from the service, he found his job waiting for him, where he stayed until his retirement in 1982. During those years, ~~in 1950 Lorenza Yriarte passed of a stroke at the age of 61. John moved from Brea in 1954 and lived in Orange until 1968, when he returned once more to Brea. In 1983, Agustin Yriarte died at the age of 94.~~

when

in 1950 Lorenza died and used them until 1968

Over the span of John's life here in Brea, he has experienced much. He's seen Hollywood production companies come to town to shoot movie backgrounds and scenes for stars like ~~William~~ Boyd (Hopalong Cassidy), ~~and~~ as well as Lana Turner in "The Postman Always Rings Twice". When he first started working for the Gas Co., they serviced 50,000 meters. ~~When he retired, they were servicing 600,000~~ Over the years, groves and orchards were subject to disease and development and the old Yriarte Ranch eventually

turned into much of what is now the city of Brea. Only Ysabel Yriarte's heirs still own a very small portion of what was the Yriarte Ranch, The Brea Ranch Center located on Imperial Hwy.

Imperial Hwy, Laurel Ave., Poplar, Elm, Ash, Randolph, Birch Streets... Names we all know. Streets we all drive. Once part of the Yriarte Ranch, Now, a very large part of Brea's history.

The Brea Historical Society would like to thank John Yriarte for sharing his memories and photographs of Brea and his family.

Do you know someone or have a suggestion for "People..."? Let us know by calling the Brea Historical Society at 714-256-2283 and leaving a message for Kathy Canon.



Historical Happenings

A publication of
the
Brea Historical Society

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May, 2001

“The Easterly 90 feet of said lot...”

by
Kathy Canon

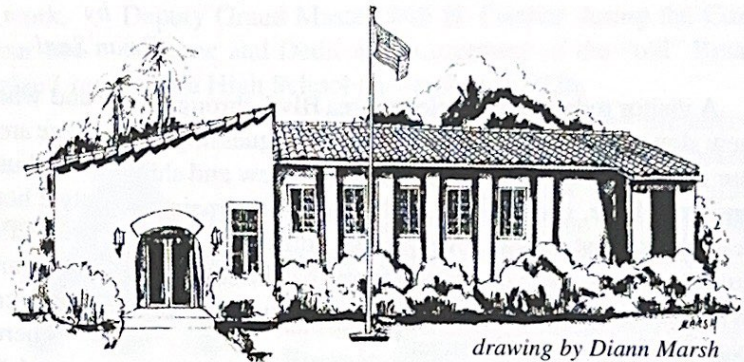
Lot 13 in Block A Tract #154 was once just a block drawn on a map dividing properties in the City of Brea, but today it is known as Old City Hall Park. On April 11, 1928, the title-holders to this tract of land, Brea Post #181 American Legion, represented by H.C. Yarbrough, Ted Craig and R.H. Stegemen, entered into an agreement with the city to “sell said property to the City of Brea, for the sum of \$4000 upon the following conditions”.

Among the conditions agreed to were the “absolute and unconditional right” of Brea Post #181, American Legion “to use the Easterly 90 feet of said lot for Legion purposes”. This included the right to “have a new building erected on the Easterly 90 feet of said lot” (to replace the original wooden structure built in 1920) and that the building would be erected “within a reasonable amount of time”.

On February 4, 1930, Brea Post #181 accepted the report of their building committee and contracted with Fullerton builder, P.N. Schmoker to build the Spanish-style structure presently located at the corner of Elm St. and Brea Blvd.

In 1934, the Legion Post transferred ownership of the building to the City of Brea with the provision that it could be reclaimed at any time during the next 10 years by paying the city one dollar. Brea Post #181 continued to occupy the building for many years in conjunction with the City Police Department.

In 1984, the former American Legion Hall was placed



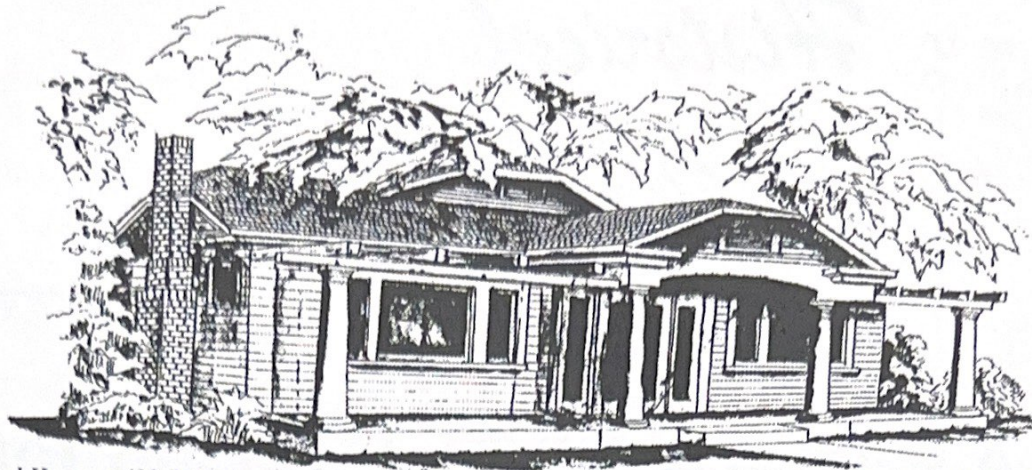
The “Easterly 90 feet of said lot...” now known as the Old American Legion Building.

on the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Dept of the Interior.

Now, in 2001, the “Easterly 90 feet of said lot” begins a new chapter in its history. The proposal recently put before the City Council by Brea Historical Museum and Heritage Center Chairman, Don Schweitzer, is the first step towards a new future for this historic building.

This proposal would give a much needed renovation to a fine, old building and create the perfect environment to house the photographs, artifacts and memorabilia entrusted to the Brea Historical Society. The Brea Historical Museum and Heritage Center would provide children and adults in Brea, as well as surrounding communities, with research facilities, interactive historical displays, meeting and conference facilities and an educational center to connect our schools to our rich history.

continued on page 6



Colonial Revival Home at 400 S. Madrona

drawing by Diann Marsh

Caring About History is Important

by
Brian Saul

A visitor today driving along Brea Blvd. through the new downtown would have a hard time guessing that our city is 84 years old. Everything is all new and shiny and very little, if anything, of the old Brea remains. A few blocks east though, everything is different, at least for the present. Here is where our past can be seen. Here is where the old homes tell the story of what Brea once was, but for how much longer?

Over the last 15 years, scores of houses have been torn down. Even whole neighborhoods have disappeared to make way for redevelopment. And why did they have to go? The answer is simple. The neighborhoods got run down, most people didn't care any longer and the area became ripe for change.

Now the question is, why didn't people care? That question is also easy to answer. Many just didn't appreciate what they had. To most Breans, this area had simply become "that old neighborhood."

Every time I go to the Fullerton Library, I pass through some very special areas of that city. Street after street in the downtown area is lined by simple, older homes built about the same time as many of those here in Brea. There are literally thousands of them, and what's great about these neighborhoods is that they have become places where people *want* to live, not where they *have* to live. Houses are well-cared for, the neighborhoods are clean and the owners seem to be proud of their areas.

Coming back to Brea, we too have sections in the downtown area where older homes are well cared for

and where there is pride of ownership. Unfortunately, there aren't many of these places left. Beautiful old craftsman bungalows, provincial revival and Mediterranean-style homes on the 100 and 200 blocks of Flower, Redwood, Poplar and Laurel Avenues became run-down over the years and were replaced by apartment houses and condo complexes.

There is one area of the city, though, that is still almost totally intact and looks in many ways like it did when the houses lining its streets were built 80 years ago. I'm speaking of the neighborhood surrounding old City Hall Park.

In the early years of Brea's history, this land belonged to the Union Oil Co. Then on June 8, 1921, it was announced that Union would sub-divide part of this land into 62 lots and build homes for its employees. These homes would be along what is now the 400 block of Walnut (west side), the 400 block of Madrona (both sides) and the east side of Sievers.

Described at the time in the local "Brea Star" newspaper as "one of Brea's best locations for a beautiful residential district," this new tract, continued the "Star", "shows the faith the Union Oil Co. has in the future of the city. It encourages others to make definite plans for the large city that is bound to develop here in the future."

Construction began soon after the announcement was made in the paper. Besides the popular craftsman bungalows

continued on page 6

Masonic Gateway Lodge No. 339 - A Rich History in Brea

by

Kathy Canon and Jack E. Dotson

The history of Masonry goes back hundreds of years. No one is sure just when and how it was formed, but a widely held belief among Masonic scholars is that it developed in Europe during the Middle Ages from stonemason's guilds that built the churches, cathedrals, castles and battlements that were part of everyday life.

The oldest document making reference to Masons is the Regius Poem, printed in 1390. This document is believed to have been a copy of an even earlier work.

Documented history shows that in 1717, four Masonic Lodges formed the Grand Lodge of England in London. Masonic Lodges quickly formed throughout Europe and across the Atlantic in Colonial America.

Because of their desire to restore the dignity of man, Freemasons promote liberty of the individual, the right of people to worship as they choose, the formation of democratic governments and the importance of education to empower individuals economically, intellectually and as citizens.

Many of our America's founding fathers were Masons, including Benjamin Franklin, Paul Revere and John Hancock. George Washington was the Master of his Lodge even as he served as President (the only to have done so) and was sworn into office on a Masonic Bible. That Bible has been used in almost every presidential inauguration since and is now brought out from the Grand Lodge in New York only for that purpose.

The symbols on today's dollar bill related to Masonry. The all-seeing eye is Masonic symbology and the pyramid denotes America as a spiritual nation with additional work to do - this is why the capstone is not connected to the base of the pyramid, symbolizing the unfinished work.

Freemasonry grew rapidly throughout the United States during the 1800's and 1900's. Since government did not provide social entitlements during the earlier years, the Masonic tradition of founding orphanages and homes for the aged and infirm, along with support for free public education, became a touchstone for society.

On April 3, 1926 five Master Masons met in the Brown

building in Brea to discuss the forming of a new Masonic Lodge. The group included Lester L. Lemmon and Charles C. Kinsler (serving as chairman and secretary respectively), J.H. Robinson, Albert Boyd and R. E. Critchlow. They continued meeting with other Masons in the area, and their ranks grew rapidly.

As more Masons joined the group, it soon took on the name of Brea Masonic Club. That club assisted Deputy Grand Master Will H. Fischer during the Cornerstone and Dedication Ceremony of the "old" Brea-Olinda High School on October 2, 1926.

The club continued adding members, meeting at various locations throughout the city. On November 8, 1926, the club decided to lease part of the Sewell Building on Pomona Avenue (now Brea Blvd.) - a lease was signed on December 1, 1926 and their leasehold converted into a Lodge Room in which they subsequently met for some twenty-six years.

The Brea Masonic Club evolved into Citrol Masonic Lodge (for citrus and oil), so named to avoid confusion with LaBrea Lodge then in existence near Los Angeles.

Dispensation for Citrol Lodge was granted early in 1926, and was instituted by Henry MacMaster, Inspector of the 97th Masonic District, on March 4, 1927. Citrol Lodge grew to more than 200 members and sponsored affiliated organizations such as Eastern Star, DeMolay, Job's Daughters and Rainbow for Girls.

Groundbreaking for the Citrol Masonic Hall at Imperial Hwy and Sycamore took place in April, 1952, and on March 6, 1954, Frank Harwell, Jr. became the first Grand Master of California Masons to officially visit Citrol Lodge when officiated during the Cornerstone and Dedication Ceremony.

With a cash outlay of "about \$4,000" and "all other work and material donated", the "Brea Star" newspaper reported on March 3, 1954 that "The temple will house a large lodge hall with a mezzanine, a dining room with a

continued on page 8



A History of John Yriarte and his Family

Part Two

by Kathy Canon

Part One of the History of John Yriarte and his family was published in the April issue of Historical Happenings. After immigrating to the United States from the Basque province of Spain, John's grandparents, Patricio and Pascuala Yriarte settled in Brea (then Randolph) in 1905. Soon, Felix, Agustin, Julian, Ysabel, Mary and Ysidoro were born. After Ysidoro died in infancy, the five surviving children grew to have families and farms of their own in Brea. Agustin Yriarte met and married Lorenza Lorea and their family soon included John, Patricio and Anita Yriarte. The following is Part Two of the History of John Yriarte and his Family.

John and his family were living on East Ash St. on April 8, 1926. He remembers this day, as do so many other early Breans, as the day of the huge oil storage tank fire near what is now Berry St. and Lambert Rd. He recalls the storm coming in the night before with heavy rain and winds. By dawn, thunder was rolling across the sky. At approximately 9a.m., lightning struck at least one of the storage tanks, setting it ablaze with an explosion loud and strong enough to blow open the door of their East Ash St. home. The fire raged throughout the day, filling the sky with black smoke and raining soot and ashes onto the city into the night.

John also recalls sitting on his back porch on Ash St. with his family,

watching the planes and their death defying maneuvers in the Air Shows held at the Brea Airport (near today's intersection of Kramer and Imperial Hwy).



Left to right - Patricio, Anita and John Yriarte. Photo circa 1935.

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including Harvey Sweet and Katherine Fanning.

Sadly, 1935 brought tragedy to Agustin and Lorenza Yriarte and their family. After battling tuberculosis a few years earlier, Anita Yriarte had contracted the disease again. Conventional treatment at the time was to collapse the infected lung and then, prolonged rest. After what as believed to be a full recovery, Anita became ill again shortly after grammar school and her remaining lung became infected. In August 1941, Anita died, just a month short of her 21st birthday.

After high school, John enrolled in Fullerton Junior College, taking business courses until 1937. During these years of "The Great Depression", jobs were hard to find, even in Brea. John worked as a warehouseman until December 5, 1939, when he went to work for Southern Counties Gas Company, known today as Southern California Gas, for \$100 per month. Shortly after taking this job, John bought his first car, a 1938 Chevy, for \$800 from Barton Chevrolet on Brea Blvd. at Birch St., which later became Pawlack Tile.

Shortly before the outbreak of World War II, John registered for the draft in Fullerton and was drafted November 12, 1941 and sent to Fort Crockett, near Galveston, Texas. He served just over four years in the 20th

continued next page

John Yriarte

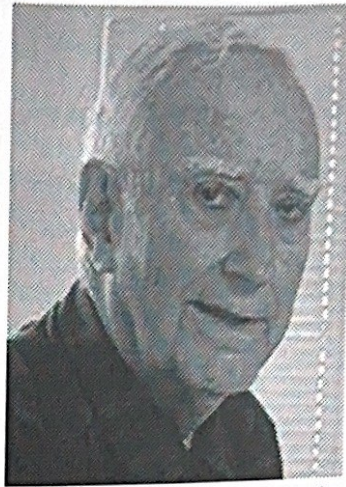
continued from page 4

Coastal Artillery Unit. This was John's first time out of California.

In December 1945 when John returned home to Brea from the service, he found his job waiting for him, where he stayed until his retirement in 1982. During those years, Lorenza Yriarte died of a stroke in 1950 at the age of 61. Four years later, John moved to Orange and lived there until 1968 when he returned once more to Brea. In 1983, Agustin Yriarte died at the age of 94.

Over the span of John's life here in Brea, he has experienced much. He's seen Hollywood production companies come to town to shoot movie back-grounds and scenes for stars like William Boyd (Hopalong Cassidy) as well as Lana Turner in "The Postman Always Rings Twice". When he first started

continued next column



John Yriarte at his home in Brea. April, 2001

~N~

Pacific Electric Railroad



working for the Gas Co., they serviced 50,000 meters. When he retired, they were servicing 600,000.

Over the years, groves and orchards were subject to disease and development and the old Yriarte Ranch eventually turned into much of what is now the City of Brea. Only Ysabel Yriarte's heirs still own a very small portion of what was the Yriarte Ranch, The Brea Ranch Center located on Imperial Hwy.

Imperial Hwy., Laurel Avenue, Poplar, Elm, Ash, Randolph, Birch Streets...names we all know. Streets we all drive. Once part of the Yriarte Ranch, now a very large part of Brea's history.

The Brea Historical Society would like to thank John Yriarte for sharing his memories and photographs of Brea and his family for this article.

Do you have an interesting topic or know a Brea resident who would be a perfect subject for a future Historical Happenings article? Let us know by calling the Brea Historical Society at 714-256-2283 and leave a message for Kathy Canon.

Spring Fling Fun!

The Brea Historical Society wishes to thank Jon Lyng and his staff at the Brea Bistro for the wonderful job they did to see that our Spring Fling was a success. Without their warm smiles and professionalism, our function would not have been as great a treat as it was for everyone attending.

We also wish to thank Jack Smith and the Moodys for the classic car display, Don Schweitzer for handling the emcee microphone, everyone who donated items for the opportunity drawings and, of course, Randy Jones. His wit, humor and wonderful stories of his major league baseball career made our Spring Fling a grand slam homerun!

Look for a full re-cap of the Spring Fling in the June issue of Historical Happenings.

Brea Historical Society

Jim Schweitzer, President
(714) 529-0635

Brian Saul, Vice President
(562) 698-5339

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

Edna Makins, Board Member
(714) 529-1755

Jim Crow, Board Member
(714) 529-3295

Marie Domenico, Board Member
(714) 529-6641

Lloyd Dudding, Board Member
(714) 256-4324

June Board Meeting:

Monday, June 4, 2001, 7:00pm
at the Brea History Museum, 652 S. Brea Blvd.

Office Location:

652 S. Brea Blvd (at the Brea Heights Shopping Center) (714) 256-2283

On Sale Now at the Brea History Museum

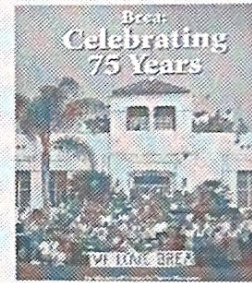
When you make your next visit to the Brea History Museum, be sure and purchase your copy of the book, *Brea: Celebrating 75 Years*. Written by Teresa Hampson, the book is 246 pages of photographs and recounts of Brea from its early days as a major oil-production and agricultural center to the early 1990's.

Brea: A Walk in Time is an entertaining 2 hour video, hosted by Brea Historical Society Vice President, Brian Saul. Join Brian as he takes you on a tour of Brea's historical landmarks and visits areas of the city that you didn't know were there.

All proceeds from sales of the book and video go to assist the Society's preservation efforts in Brea.



Brea: A Walk in Time. A 2 hour video of the early years of Brea.
Hosted by Brian Saul
\$14.95, incl. tax.



Brea: Celebrating 75 Years. By Teresa Hampson.
\$28.00, incl. tax.

Volunteers! We Need You!

This is *your* Historical Society and we always need volunteers on Saturdays between the hours of 11a.m. and 2p.m. to help set up new exhibits, catalog items and research Brea history. If you have the time, even an hour, join us at the Brea History Museum, 652 S. Brea Blvd., Brea, CA 92821 or leave a message for Brian at 714-256-2283. Not a member? Join now and help us preserve the history of Brea.



Membership Application

Individual	\$ 15.00
Family	\$ 25.00
Sponsor	\$ 50.00
Patron	\$100.00
Business Patron	\$250.00

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Email Address: _____
 Comments: _____

Masonic History in Brea

continued from page 3

modern kitchen, recreation hall and two sets of restrooms. The building will have no indebtedness when completed”.

Over the years, Citrol Lodge laid cornerstones for many landmarks in Brea, including Fanning and Country Hills Elementary Schools and the Brea Civic Center. On December 2, 1989, they laid the cornerstone for the “new” Brea-Olinda High School on Wildcat Way.

In the 70’s, 80’s and 90’s, membership in North Orange County Masonic Lodges began to decline. Faced with fewer and fewer members available for serving the principal offices in both Citrol and Fullerton Lodge, they consolidated as Gateway Lodge No. 339 on December 1, 1996, now meeting in the Brea Masonic Hall.

Gateway Lodge No. 339 is among numerous Masonic organizations in the United States that contribute to various charities at the rate of some \$3 million per day. These charities include Scottish Rite and Shriner’s hospitals for disabled and handicapped children, Masonic Alms for

the Elderly, children’s homes, retirement and care facilities, eye clinics and language disorder centers. Their services are free of charge to those they serve, made possible through endowments compiled through the years by Masonic members and organizations.

On June 6, 2001, Master Victor Asfour of Gateway Lodge will present awards to deserving Brea Junior High School students during their U.S. Constitution Observance. And on June 12, the Lodge will present scholarships to three exceptional Brea-Olinda High School students for academic excellence and community service.

Membership in the Masonic Lodges of America now exceeds 4 million. Masonry is by far the oldest and largest brotherhood in the world, and has compiled a vast, rich history in Brea and throughout the world.

Special Thanks
to our
Business Patron
Pacific Western
National Bank
located at
275 N. Brea Blvd

Many Brea pioneers were members of the Citrol Lodge, and their adherence to the principal Masonic tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth has helped make Brea the thriving community we know today.

The Brea Historical Society thanks Past Fullerton Master, Jack E. Dotson for his time, assistance and contribution of materials to the Brea History Museum in researching this article.

Where Are YOU???

Friends! Romans! Members of the Brea Historical Society!!! WHERE ARE YOU??

We’ve got two **AWESOME** new exhibits at the Brea History Museum and you haven’t been here yet to experience them!

I’m not even going to tell you what they are...you have to come down and find out. BUT!! I will give you **THREE** hints: they’re about Oil History, Charles C. Kinsler and **BASEBALL**...so, what are you waiting for? Is today Thursday between 11a.m. and 1p.m. or Saturday between 11a.m. and 2p.m.? If it is, then drop this newsletter and **GET DOWN HERE NOW!** We’re **OPEN!!!**



Brea Historical Society
P.O. Box 9764
Brea, CA 92822-9764

Non-Profit Organization
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Brea, California

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NT DROPS DEAD

President of the United States who today. He apparently was in the best of his office this morning. He returned home. His wife returning from a shopping trip to the bedroom shortly after 1 o'clock this

5-1933



**GEORGE CULLEN
SERVICES HELD
ON WEDNESDAY**

Died March 12-1933
FULLERTON, March 14.—George

W. Cullen, a resident of the Brea-Olinda district more than 14 years, who died Sunday at his home at Brea, will be buried from the McAuley and Suters Funeral home at 2 p. m. Wednesday. Brea Masonic Lodge will have charge of services at the grave at Loma Vista. The decedent was well known in

**Felix Yriarte Dies
After Month Illness**

March 9-1933

Felix Yriarte, 48, well known Brea resident died this Thursday morning at 11:30 at the family home at 127 S. Orange Ave. Mr. Yriarte had been confined to his bed for the past four or five weeks suffering with arthritis and last night his condition became worse.

Mr. Yriarte had been a resident in the vicinity of Brea since 1900 and had lived in Brea for 20 years. He is survived by his wife, four children, Mary, Joe, Pauline and Marguerita; two brothers, August Yriarte of Brea and Julian Yriarte of Huntington Beach; and one sister, Mrs. Prendville of Long Beach.

Definite arrangements for the funeral have not been announced but services will probably be held from the McAuley and Suters chapel in Fullerton Saturday at 2:30 p. m.

**Cooper Wm. McKemy
Dies At Fullerton**

March 13-1933

Funeral services were held this Thursday morning from St. Mary's Catholic church in Fullerton for Cooper William McKemy, 36, who died at his home in Fullerton early Tuesday morning following a brief illness. Burial followed in a Los Angeles cemetery with Fullerton Post No. 142 of the American Legion, of which McKemy was a member, in charge of the services at the grave.

McKemy was formerly a resident of Brea, moving to Fullerton four years ago where he had since been engaged in the automobile business. He was a past commander of Brea Post 181, of the American Legion, and a member of Jack Fisher chapter of Disabled American Veterans of the World War and of Anaheim Lodge of Elks. He was also a member of St. Mary's Catholic church.

The widow, Mrs. Marguerite McKemy, and two children, Mary Olive, 8, and Robert, 7, of Fullerton; his mother, Mrs. Mary A. McKemy of El Paso, Texas, and three brothers, Hugh McKemy of Fullerton and Harry and Charles McKemy of El Paso, Texas, survive.

**Kenneth E. McLean
Funeral Tuesday**

**Death Of G. W. Cullen
Shock To Many Friends**

March 12-1933

George W. Cullen, a resident of the Brea-Olinda district for the past fourteen years, died suddenly Sunday at home. His death shocked his family and many friends, for while he had been in delicate health, his condition had not been thought to be so serious.

At the time of his death, Mr. Cullen was serving as Clerk of the Board of Trustees of the Brea-Olinda Union High School District. He was a candidate to succeed himself on the Board.

Up to a couple of years ago Mr. Cullen lived on the C. C. M. O. lease in Olinda, when he moved to Brea, continuing in the employ of that concern. Mr. Cullen came from Logansport, Ind.

A Past Master of the Brea Lodge, Mr. Cullen was a member also of Al Malaikah temple of the Shrine Los Angeles and of the Long Beach Scottish Rite Consistory.

An impressive funeral ceremony was held under the auspices of Citrol Lodge No. 656 F. & A. M. on Wednesday of this week at McAuley and Suters Funeral Chapel. Interment was at Loma Vista Cemetery.

Mr. Cullen is survived by the widow, Mrs. Winifred Cullen, three daughters, Mrs. Ray Sherman of Placentia, Mrs. Katherine Van Atta of Anaheim, and Mrs. Louise Bleninger of Bakersfield, and five sons, Lawrence Cullen of Brea, G. W. Cullen, jr., of Fullerton, Walter Cullen of Olinda, Donald Cullen of Brea and William Cullen of Brea.

Three sisters, Mrs. Minnie Heffner and Mrs. Gertrude Hughes, Los Angeles, and Mrs. Louise Burke, Hollywood, also survive.

**Funeral Services Held
For Former Resident**

March 11-1933

Several Brea people attended the funeral services Tuesday afternoon, which were held in San Fernando for Mrs. Tom Ferran, a former Brea resident, who died at her home in Saugus Sunday. A son, Homer Ferran, is employed by the Union Oil Co. at Stearns Lease. He lives in Buena Park.

Among those who went from Brea were Mrs. A. B. Bowie, Mr. and Mrs. Perry Chansler, Charles Moseley and Charles Hood.

The Brea Progress

BREA, ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1933

NUMBER THIRTY

Library To Serve Brea Patrons

ERNOONS EXCEPT
ALL EVENINGS
SATURDAY

the city hall the Brea
Orange County Free
a variety in choice
atter that should ap-
any divergent tastes

capable management
ry. Burke the patron
pt, helpful and cour-
nt at all times.

y is a "Brea Institut-
ens universal thought
travel, information
ment to all who wish
alm. It is open from
ch afternoon except
from 6:30 to 8:30
except Saturdays.

he newest books of
classics in fiction
opinion are avail-
this channel as
classics in literature.

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Definite arrangements for the
funeral have not been announced
but services will probably be held
from the McAuley and Suters chap-
el in Fullerton Saturday at 2:30 p.
m.

Report Progress Of Unemployed

Work in the 75 acres of farm

Noted Scientist Opens Series In Santa Ana Talk

DESIGNED TO RAISE FUNDS
FOR ORANGE COUNTY
SCHOLARSHIP

The first of a series of talks by
eminent professors from the Cali-
fornia Institute of Technology at
Pasadena was delivered at the high
school auditorium in Santa Ana
last Friday evening.

Dr. Robert A. Millikan, a noted
scientist in his own right and a
member of the faculty at Cal Tech
took as his subject, "Recent Work
on Cosmic Rays." Dr. M. W. Holl-
ingsworth, chief sponsor of this
movement to raise a scholarship
fund for young people of Orange
County, introduced Dr. Millikan.

"At no time in the history of the
world have the foundations of pro-
gress been laid as they are at the
present time when the world has
the possibilities of moving up to a
higher type of civilization than
ever has been known," he said.
"An electronic tube has made the

STATEMENT

In last weeks' issue of the Progress there appeared
a front page editorial titled—"We Move To Draft." In
this editorial the statement was made that no one had
announced from Brea—and that to the best of our know-
ledge and belief no one had filed.

This statement has been challenged, as Dr. W. E.
Jackson called at the Progress office on February 23rd
and said he would be a candidate and that he would
have a statement for the next issue (March 2nd). Pre-
viously Dr. Jackson had stated unequivocally that he
would not be a candidate. And so after holding our
presses for a couple of hours beyond the regular time
for going to press, or till 8 p. m. Thursday, March 2nd,
without receiving the promised statement, we felt just-
ified in assuming that Dr. Jackson had again changed
his mind—and that the field was open in so far as
Brea was concerned. We still feel the same way about
it and were the occurrence to be duplicated, would act
accordingly.

Due to the fact that there is only one paper in Brea,
we do not feel it to be fair to sponsor any one or two
of the candidates now filed for the position of High
School Trustee. But we shall extend to all four candi-
dates the same courtesy of expressing their positions
and aims once each. Any additional data any candi-

Orange Co Sheriff Exp Work To

TWO NEW MEMBE
RECEIVE FIRST
LION MILK OG

The program at tod-
of the Brea Lions C
some of the work of
office when County S
Jackson gave a brief
administration of his
ed by lantern slides w
erated and explained
sheriff R. R. Lutz.
revealed scenes aroun
sheriff's office and seen
out of the jail which
the prisoners are han

Jack Collins, progr
for today, introduced

Dr. Elliott Rowland
national director from
initiated three of B
Lions into the den by
their charges to the
so initiated were Co
shank, who has already
his portion of Lions m

BUILT IN 1800S

NEWS TRIBUNE, Fullerton, Calif.
Tuesday Evening, April 19, 1962

Two Historic Ranch Homes Still Stand as Reminders of Early Brea

By RAY RHODES

BREA — Two of the original ranch homes, built in the 1800s, before this area was settled, still stand within the city.

In fact, the Yriarte Ranch still exists as a ranch surrounded by homes and only two blocks from the business district. Visitors here find it odd to see the old home with a huge barn sitting on a rise surrounded by oranges—right in the middle of town.

The Hualde Mansion also still stands in the northeast section of the city and is owned by Everett Reese.

Actually, the original Yriarte home was built at Elm and Maple Sts., where the eucalyptus grove still stands. The ranch included all the area from the P.E. Railroad on the north to Elm St. on the south and included what is now the high school.

Settled originally by Patricio Yriarte, a Basque, the land was divided on his death in 1915 with the heirs, Felix, Augustin, Julian,

Isabel and Mary. Felix, now a widower still lives in the home, now located at Ash and Laurel Sts. in the center of an orange and avocado grove. It is on a small hill and overlooks the entire city.

The Yriarte family came from

the Pyrenees mountains between Spain and France, to New Orleans in 1861. They moved to Brea in 1863 to begin farming thousands of acres in this area. Much of the tilled land was leased, and even more was leased for sheep, Yriarte said. An old picture of Felix Yriarte shows a group harvesting beans in the area between La Habra and Buena Park, an indication of the large farm.

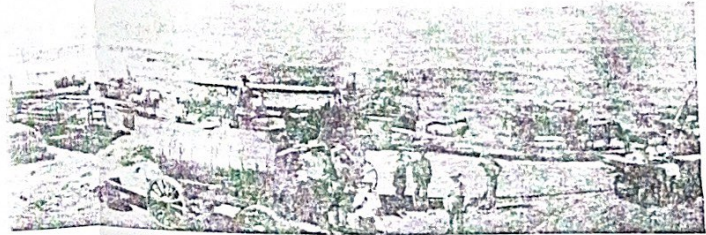
Yriarte remembers when oil workers began to settle here and can remember when the city was incorporated. He is better remembered by oldtimers here for his racing cars and other fine early automobiles.

He recalls an early auto with a V-4 engine with eight spark plugs that would take him to Panama, all around town and back to Brea on one tank of gasoline.

Yriarte had four children, three of whom are still living. He has a son, Pat, in Whittier, a son, John, in Orange and a daughter, Juanita, in Santa Ana.

He attended elementary school in Brea and completed high school in Fullerton since there was no high school in Brea at that time.

Today, the ranch has all been sold except the eight acres where Yriarte lives. While in the middle of town, he is still somewhat independent. He has plenty of his own water, the only mine left in Brea. His windup truck carries the grove produce his home in the middle of the city. It is a long drive home through the city.



HUGE RANCH — The extent of Yriarte farming is shown in the 1914 photo where beans were being harvested in the area of Imperial Highway and Highway 39. The picture is taken on what is now Hwy 39 looking toward Buena Park. To

the left of the old picture would be the current location of Standard Oil Research. Felix Yriarte, (arrow) posed for the picture along with his ranch hands.

By Brian H. Greene
OSP Staff Writer

BREA — A large, rustic red barn just north of Ash Street stands as a remembrance of Brea when it was a horse and buggy town, just large enough to support an existence for oil field workers in the canyon.

A marshal reigned over the township of Brea and La Habra, and Valencia orange groves populated much of the surrounding land near the barn.

Young John and Pat Yriarte ran from their house near the barn through an open field to Brea Grammar School, now the junior high school, on Lambert Road. But that barn and 66 years of Brea history are destined to succumb to Brea redevelopment.

Five acres of Brea, on which the barn stands, remain virtually untouched by development. The land recently was sold by the Yriartes to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and will be the future site of the Brea ward.

The barn has been somewhat of a landmark in the city, standing alone atop a grassy hill near the heart of downtown. The land is the last of what once was a 150-acre piece of land owned by the Yriartes' grandfather. After his death in 1915, each of the five Yriarte children received 30 acres of

land. The barn and the house where they grew up now stand on the remaining five acres.

"We had to sell it. Between your capital gains and inheritance tax, they got you coming and going," John Yriarte explained of the financial difficulties of keeping the property.

"We're not sure when it was built," Yriarte said of the barn. It originally stood in Fullerton, was moved to Brea, and then moved within the city to where it now stands.

"My grandfather moved it on rollers by tractor with another farmer," Yriarte said. An uncle said the only real problem in moving the awkward structure was through a ravine which ran through where Ash Street now exists.

"We never asked questions about it," Yriarte said of the barn's history. "Now we're sorry we didn't."

The barn has a galvanized steel roof that Yriartes' father put on the barn when he was 85 years old.

"He climbed up this rickety old ladder that I sure didn't want to go up," Yriarte said.

Adjacent to the barn is a ranch house in which both Pat and John grew up. Almost assuredly, it will be demolished, he said.

Another remnant from the past which remains in running condition is a 1937 Caterpillar tractor their father purchased brand new.

"My father used it for cultivating the weeds and for work in the orange orchards," Yriarte said. "Even when he was 85 years old, he'd crank it up and drive it through the field."

The Yriartes' father died in 1983 at the age of 95.

"It (the tractor) was my father's favorite toy. He drove it when he was 93 years old," Yriarte said. "He worked on that tractor when he was in his 90s and I have no intention of giving it up."

He said the tractor will be stored in a garage at a nearby house the Yriartes own.

Russell Blewett, the real estate broker who handled the sale of the land, said there might be hope for the barn yet.

"Normally, it would be torn down," he said. "But we have somebody interested in removing it. He said he'd like to

remove it board by board."

But the liability situation with the church must first be worked out before this task can begin. Also, a new location must be found.

Blewett said the intention is to build a stake center, a large building, and a large chapel for 5,000 Brea LDS members.

Ross Coles, teaching support consultant for the church, said,

"The church is not going to say what exactly we're going to do with it" because of current building project underway at the corner of State College Boulevard and Rolling Hills Drive. Any building is at least five years away, Coles said.

But for the meantime, John and Pat finish cleaning out the barn and house of all their personal belongings on the property. They have until Feb. 11 to be completely off the property.

All the horses, chickens, rabbits and cows have vanished from the territory along with a life-style of living off the land. The only thing that remains as a reminder of that way of life is the big red barn on the hill. But soon, this could be only a memory as well.

YRIARTE BARN PAGE 11