

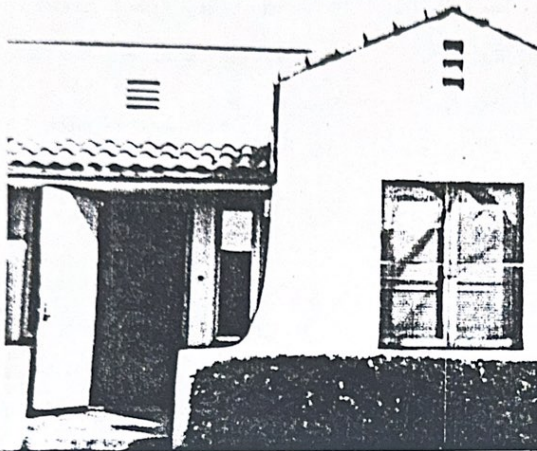
# NEWSLETTER



401 South Brea Boulevard  
P. O. Box 9764  
Brea, California 92622

Vol. 6, No. 2

May 1988



Everything that is essential to a housewife has been given to these little housekeepers."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>GUSHER 1930 (Yearbook)

"A hedged walk leads through the luxuriant lawn up to the portals of a real modern home. The home was finished by students. Not only the woodwork, but many articles of furniture were constructed by the boys."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup>GUSHER 1931

"This spring another phase of work was completed. This was the addition to the bungalow. A large sunroom, shower, and dressing room were built on the east side of the house."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup>GUSHER 1932

## HAILE TO BREA-OLINDA "PRACTICE HOUSE"

"The total cost of the buildings was \$349,874, after adding two cottages for class projects in 1927. These were constructed from one of the temporary buildings that was moved from the grammar school location. One of the cottages became a practice house for use by the home ec. dept., and the other a dwelling to house the head custodian and his family."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Harold Yates, "History of Brea-Olinda High School" (Thesis, 1961), p. 24.

"Something new! If you have looked to the left of the main building of Brea-Olinda High School you have noticed a modern little home located there. But perhaps you did not inquire about this house and don't know why it is there. It is called the 'Practice House'. It is there that the girls learn to keep house.

"Three different girls stay there each week and practice keeping house, under the supervision of Miss Beven. They not only learn to keep the house in order, but they learn how to entertain. Every week the girls give a dinner or luncheon for different groups of students and faculty. Tea is served after school to each class.

"It really should not be hard to keep this little home looking neat at all times.

### LATER USES

The Practice House was used by the Home Ec. Department for girls to stay in and to learn the domestic arts until 1960.

However, Frank Hopkins, newly hired principal, moved in with his family in the 1940's because he could not find a house to rent or buy in Brea.

Space for a school library was very limited, and some bungalow rooms were used for book storage.

Overflow classes of all kinds met there. Most recent and current are the 'English as a Second Language' classes, most necessary with the new makeup of the student body in 1988.

### UNIQUENESS

In the thirties, it was common for high schools to have within their home economics building a 'cooking flat'. This was a simulated kitchen and dining room where the girls practiced the domestic arts. To have a complete bungalow, and so to learn house cleaning, bed-making, and furniture arrangement, etc., was a very innovative idea.

The building and its program have been unique in all of Southern California. The fact that the building is still standing is a wonderful opportunity to preserve a bit of local, and more than local, history.

\*\*\*

## OUR BUSY MEMBERS

**CATHERINE SEILER**--Our two glass cases at the Brea Library are now displaying purses of various times. Intermingled with these are appropriate accessories such as gloves, jewelry, fancy combs, and handkerchiefs. Of special interest is a hand-painted handkerchief case made by Mrs. W. E. (Stella) Fanning, 1940, and two embroidered silk handkerchiefs, 1918, sent by an American doughboy in France to loved ones. Loaning items are Elsie Bergman, Clara Day, Betty Straw, and Catherine Seiler.

**JACK DETWEILER**--has placed an exhibit in the Fullerton Main Library for the month of May entitled, "50th Anniversary--National Air Mail Week, 1938 -- May 15-21 -- 1988." The 4.5 foot display consists of three 18" panels. One panel depicts national activities; one depicts state activities; and the third displays five of the eight post offices whose covers were flown on the 1st Fullerton to Long Beach flight in 1938. One of the participating post offices was Brea; Mike Hogue was then Brea's postmaster.

**VIVIAN WEDDLE**--has written an excellent history of Brea which will appear in an upcoming book featuring all cities in Orange County. The book is part of the Orange County Centennial celebration and is funded by the Orange County Register.

**DEAN MILLEN**--has prepared an interesting summary of the citrus era in Brea's history, and he will share his orange crate labels and agriculture tools and paraphernalia in our display for the Brea Country Fair, July 4.

**LESLIE CARTER**--and his wife have returned from a nostalgic trip to England, and he continues to entertain us with his Brea Beat articles in a local newspaper.

**INEZ AND KARL FANNING**--have recently given presentations on the history of Brea to the Laurel, Olinda, and Brea Junior High schools; Orange County Historical Society; Brea Kiwanis Club; and to the Brea City Council. President Inez expects to serve on a Task Force of the Brea Project. She also has researched material about all of the buildings, etc. on the City Poster, at the City's request.

**CLARICE BLAMER** and **JOHN SUTTON**--members of the Brea City Council, have been appointed by the Mayor to follow up on our ideas for preserving Brea's past.

\* \* \* \*

## AWARD

On May 12, a special 1988 BEAUTIFICATION AWARD was given to the Brea Historical Society for our "Oil Display" and "Keeping the Spirit of Good Old Brea." We appreciate this award.

\* \* \* \*

## MAY MEETING - A DINNER

When: Monday - May 23, 1988

Where: First Baptist Church  
Date at Flower, Brea

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Reservations: \$6.00, to Betty Straw, Treas.

Hostesses: Betty Millen, Louise Detweiler

Program: DIANE MARSH  
"Historical Preservation:  
What Comes Next in Brea?"

NORMAN WASSERMAN  
"Big Business: History  
Being Made in Brea"

\* \* \* \*

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

### Board Meetings

9:30 a.m. - Tuesdays, June 7 and Sept. 6  
(None in July or August)  
Fanning home, 1018 Eadington Drive

### Work Days for July 4 Display

9:30 a.m. - Old City Hall  
Mondays: June 6 - June 13 - June 20  
June 27 - July 4  
V O L U N T E E R S N E E D E D

### DAYS OF OIL AND ORANGES

Display at Brea Country Fair  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Old City Hall  
Committee: Catherine Seiler, Betty  
Straw, Inez Fanning

### Olinda Oldtimers Picnic

Sunday - August 7 - All Day  
Carbon Canyon Regional Park  
- - - Bring picnic lunch - - -

### Next BHS General Meeting

Monday evening - September 26  
A N N U A L P O T L U C K  
(Committee needed!)

\* \* \* \*



401 South Brea Boulevard  
P. O. Box 9764  
Brea, California 92622



OVERHEAD  
AGE DOOR

RELOCATED PRACTICE HOUSE

Commemorative plaque

MISSION "S"  
ROOF TILE

42" HI. PATIO  
WALL W 2X8 CAP  
& 2X6 TRIM W/  
STUCCO OVER

AUREL AVE. ELEVATION  
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

## HER WESTERN ROMEO

**T**HE ANNUAL student body play, "Her Western Romeo," was presented November 27. The story was about an aristocratic family who had lost all their money by the death of Mr. Melford. Mrs. Melford's daughter, Mary, decided to be an interior decorator. When she and her mother were trying to scrape up enough money for her to make a beginning, her old friend, Johnny Turner, The Western Romeo, arrived from the West.

He advanced her the money and they formed a partnership. When they were at the peak of their success, there was a little misunderstanding and Johnny was gone for several months. When he came back Mary found out her greatest and most profitable job had been the designing of the home that was to be her wedding present. Clever Johnny had thought not only of Mary and himself, but also of Mary's mother. He had Mary design a room upstairs for Mrs. Melford. This way the three of them could live happily.

The play was directed by Bernice Murray and Myrna Manis, under the supervision of Mr. Albert Stuelke.

The players were: Mary Melford, Ruby White; Johnny Turner, Stratton Phillips; Agnes Hewlett, Florence Reynolds; Freddy Van Tassell, George Henigan; May Tuttle, Guinevere Salen; Mr. Jessup, Harrison Thompson; Mrs. Melford, Ethel Kuenzli; Mrs. Phyfe, Georgia Grant; Mrs. Combs, Gladys Merriman; Mrs. Parker, Beth Lipe; Mr. Green, Gene Risinger.

## PRACTICE HOUSE

**S**OMETHING NEW! If you have looked to the left of the main building of Bre Olinda you have noticed a modern little home located there. But perhaps you did not inquire about this house and don't know why it is there. It is called the Practice House. It is there that the girls learn to keep house.

Three different girls stay there each week and practice keeping house, under the supervision of Miss Beven. They not only learn to keep the house in order, but they learn how to entertain.

Every week the girls give a dinner or luncheon for different groups of students and faculty. Tea was served after school to each class.

It really should not be hard to keep this little home looking neat at all times. Everything that is essential to a housewife has been given to these little housekeepers.

The rooms are furnished with furniture of the best kind. The two bed rooms are furnished with suites made by the boys in shop. They deserve a great deal of credit for the fine appearance of these two rooms. The rest of the house is furnished with the best possible taste. The curtains were made by the domestic science class and added much to the coziness of the house.

B.O. is certainly proud of this house and views it with pride on all occasions.

# home econ's

## HOME TRAINING PROVIDED "VIA" PRACTICE BUNGALOW

One of the most outstanding features of the Home Economics Department is the Practice Bungalow.

For one week, six girls stay together to obtain actual experience in home management. This opportunity for home practice is not limited only to Home Economic girls. All the girls on board the "Brea-Olinda" may have the privilege of living in the Bungalow one week out of each year.

On Wednesday, during their stay, the girls entertain their mothers by preparing a dinner for them. On Thursday, they have a party for their boy friends.

The bungalow is attractively furnished and is well equipped for entertaining. The Faculty Dinner, Senior Tea, Fashion Tea, and many other social gatherings take place at the bungalow.

v. M.



# Now-empty campus relic full of memories

By Tony Saavedra  
The Orange County Register

It was the doorway to adulthood.

In a small house built by shop students, generations of female Brea Olinda High School students practiced the finer points of home-making and — in later decades — the art of landing a job. Sleep-overs at the two-bedroom bungalow became a rite of passage for the students, who emerged a bit more ready for the world ahead.

Now, the doorway is boarded up. Only memories remain in the 65-year-old cottage known to decades

of students as the "practice house."

"To those of us born and raised here (in Brea), those memories mean everything," Anna Mae Shamblin, 62, said wistfully.

The Mediterranean revival-style house sits old and empty, stored on wooden blocks in a city-owned lot at 122 S. Flower Ave. Once inviting, the house now sports a "No Trespassing" sign.

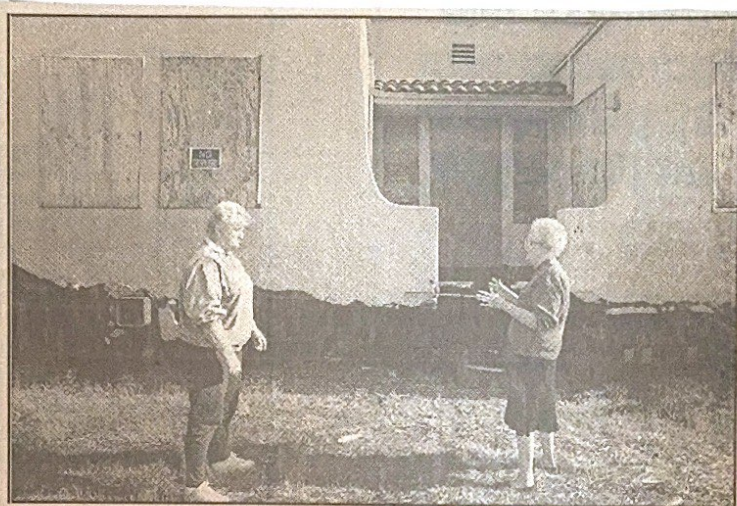
The cottage is the last remnant of the old high school campus, bulldozed in 1989 to make way for a shopping center on Birch Street. A new campus was built on a hilltop overlooking the city.

1-10-92  
Trying to salvage a piece of history, Brea moved the "practice house" to a storage lot while looking for a permanent site for the building. After two years, the house still needs a home.

The cottage once sat in a barley field, with a hedged walk leading through the lawn to the front portal. Inez Fanning, 75, walked that path as a 17-year-old. She, like other students, was required by the school to live at the house for four days.

"That was scary. We were intimidated," Fanning said. "We had to plan meals, cook, clean, en-

Please see **HOUSE/7**



Ana Venegas/The Orange County Register

Anna Mae Shamblin, left, and Inez Fanning chat outside the 'practice house,' where they lived for a week as Brea Olinda High students.

## HOUSE: Door is shuttered

FROM 1

ertain faculty members one night and boyfriends on another night."

Shamblin, Class of 1947, remembered the home-economics teacher lining up the students before bed to take their vitamins.

"I'll tell you, the things I learned there have been valuable throughout my life," she said. "By the time I was 15, I knew how to roast a turkey from beginning to end."

Jean Bassett, home-economics teacher from 1954 to 1975, watched her students come of age in the small house.

"Some of the girls would go, thinking it was a lark ... then they found out that Mother did a lot that

they took for granted," said Bassett, 78. "You learned to love the girls very much. They would confide a lot. The group sessions were very stirring."

Bassett was the last teacher to use the house as an overnight-training ground for happy homemakers. The sleep-overs were abandoned in the early 1960s for coed vocational training, as society began to forsake the stereotypes that sent boys to wood shop and girls to cooking class.

"We got very tired of seeing a lot of girls get out of school with two options: get married or go on welfare," Bassett said.

## Historical building to be placed at school

By Pamela Krebs  
Staff Writer

Brea Olinda Unified School District decided Monday to place a historical building at Arovista Elementary School and rejected the placement of the wildcat sculpture and maintenance agreement at a special study session.

The Practice House, built in 1927 by high school students, was given to the district by the city. The house was formerly used to train young women to be homemakers.

Now, the district will use the house for the Headstart program, a federally funded pre-school program for low-income students.

"It will free up a classroom," Ed Seal, superintendent said.

Arovista was chosen because the Headstart program took up space at the school and it was decided the site would be more suitable for visitor accessibility.

The decision was made after letters requesting the building were received from Brea Canyon High School, the district's continuation high school.

Arovista and Laurel elementary schools.

The bronze wildcat sculpture created by Artist in Residence Carlos Terres finally found a home at Brea Olinda High School until the board discovered the gift had stringent maintenance regulations imposed by the city.

"We never expected someone was going to tell us how to maintain it," Lynn Daucher, board vice president said.

Board President Susie Sokol advised trustees to reject the agreement and explain to the city that the wildcat was their's and the district will maintain it to its own standards and ability.

Board members agreed. The item was pulled from the agenda for discussion at the next board meeting.

In other action the board:

■ Elected Barbara Benson to Supervisorial District No. 3 of the Orange County Committee on School Organization.

■ Approved the eighth grade International Relations Class Trip to Washington, D.C., March 27-31. It's expected 47 students will participate.



## City of Brea

July 18, 1994

Mr. George Taunton  
621 East Elm Street  
Brea, CA 92621

**SUBJECT: HISTORIC PLAQUE FOR THE PRACTICE HOUSE**

Dear Mr. Taunton:

This letter is in response to your submittal for the placement of a commemorative plaque for the Practice House. Condition "r" of Planning Commission Resolution No. PC 93-63, required that the design and placement of said plaque shall be subject to review and approval of the Brea Historical Committee. The Committee has approved the plaque design and its placement location at its meeting on July 7, 1994. Attached are the approved copies of the plaque design and elevation plan indicating the placement location of plaque for the Practice House. Also attached for your information is Resolution No. PC 93-63.

As the City is trying to establish its own historic plaque program, the City will be responsible for ordering the plaque for you. The cost of ordering, including shipping and handling, of this plaque is estimated to be \$159.47. However, we need to add a 10 percent contingency to this amount. At this time we would request that you submit a deposit in the amount of \$175.00, payable to the "City of Brea". The City will refund to you any remaining balance from your account. Please mail this deposit to the City of Brea Planning Division, attention Alan Lawson. We will process your order as soon as we receive your deposit and will notify you when we receive your plaque. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to call me at (714) 990-7674.

Sincerely,

Zai Abu Bakar  
Assistant Planner

Attachments

/prtchse.ltr

cc: Konradt Bartlam, City Planner  
Lisa Donnell, Senior Planner  
Alan Lawson, Associate Planner

City Council    Glenn G. Parker    Bev Perry    Burnie Dunlap    Carrey Nelson    Kathy Wiser  
Mayor    Mayor Pro Tem    Councilman    Councilman    Councilwoman

Civic & Cultural Center · Number One Civic Center Circle · Brea, California 92621-5758 · 714/990-7600 · FAX 714/990-2258



OCTOBER 4, 1991

RECEIVED

OCT 8 1991

Superintendent

TO: DR. SEAL  
FROM: PAT AHERN *PAH*  
RE: USE OF PRACTICE HOUSE

WHILE LAUREL SCHOOL IS CERTAINLY NOT IN NEED OF ADDED CLASSROOM SPACE AT THE MOMENT, I THINK THAT AS WE SEE THE POPULATION IN ALL OF BREA INCREASING, WE WILL SOON BE USING ALL OUR ROOMS AND LOOKING FOR MORE SPACE. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS CAMPUS CONSIDERED AS A POSSIBLE LOCATION FOR THE HOUSE FOR THESE REASONS:

- 1) HISTORICAL-SINCE THE MAIN BUILDING OF THE SCHOOL WAS CONSTRUCTED AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME AS THE HOUSE, IT MAKES SENSE "HISTORICALLY SPEAKING" TO LOCATE IT HERE. THIS AREA IS THE HUB OF THE HISTORICAL LANDMARKS IN BREA, AND THE HOUSE SOUNDS LIKE IT IS ONE OF THOSE!
- 2) USE-WE COULD USE THE BUILDING TO HOUSE "EXTRA PROGRAMS", ART, MUSIC, ESL, CHAPTER 1 READING/MATH...AS MORE AND MORE OF OUR SPACE IS ALLOCATED TO REGULAR, LARGE CLASSES, IT WILL BECOME MORE DIFFICULT TO HOUSE THESE PROGRAMS.

I CERTAINLY WOULD UNDERSTAND IF THERE ARE OTHER, MORE PRESSING NEEDS THAT COULD BE FILLED BY LOCATING THE HOUSE ELSEWHERE; HOWEVER, IF THE LAUREL CAMPUS IS A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE, I WOULD BE HAPPY TO WORK WITH YOU TO "GIVE IT A HOME" HERE!

RECEIVED  
OCT 7 1991

RECEIVED  
OCT 7 1991  
Superintendent

# AROVISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## MEMORANDUM

TO: DR. SEAL  
FROM: ANNE FLESHER *AF*  
DATE: OCTOBER 4, 1991  
RE: PRACTICE HOUSE

Hi Dr. Seal,

As I shared with you yesterday morning, I feel that the Practice House would greatly benefit the Headstart program here at Arovista, as well as free up needed classroom space. The Headstart program is currently housed in 1 full portable, plus half of a second portable. As I look at the growth pattern here at Arovista, we will be in need of two additional rooms next year. While we still have 2 empty rooms which are currently used for SIP and Chapter 1 programs, we will be in need of space.

I am proposing that the house be placed in front of the kindergarten playground to be used by Headstart. I think that this would be an ideal setting for this program, as most of these kids live in apartments, and therefore would have the opportunity to experience a home environment.

*Sharon Dean*  
**RECEIVED**

OCT 31 1991

PETER J. BOOTHROYD  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

DATE: 10/30/91  
TO: DR. SEAL  
FROM: TIM BATIUK *T Batiuk*  
RE: PRACTICE HOUSE

I would like to submit a request for the utilization of the Practice House on Brea Canyon High School campus. This facility would serve many functions for the alternative education students and would enable use to expand the uses of the current facilities.

**PRACTICE HOUSE USES:**

1. Special Education      The Special Education program would house approximately 10 students in a self contained learning environment.
2. Valley View H.S.      The Independent Study program would be able to expand beyond its current capacity of 1 TEACHER, 1 AIDE and approximately 50 students.
3. Counseling      Space is needed to accommodate our new counseling programs such as Straight Talk, ROP, Counselor interns, Small Group, Peer Training, and Conflict Management.
4. Parent/Child Care      Additional facilities are needed to enable pregnant and parenting students to continue their high school education. Many of these students are unable to obtain child care and need a program whereby they can attend classes (Brea Canyon or Valley View) and bring their babies to school. This facility would allow the Brea Alternative Program to have a certificated facility that would serve the needs of the parenting students.

MUTI PURPOSE ROOM USES

The utilization of the Practice House on the Brea Canyon H.S. campus would free up the multi purpose room that is currently being used for Independent Study and Special Education. The following needs would be addressed in the multi purpose room:

1. Part of the Multi Purpose room would be used as a media center. The Media Center would serve as a library, video computer and general technology center for the alternative education program.

PRACTICE HOUSE: (continued)

2. The Multi Purpose room would also serve as a career center whereby students would be able to receive career counseling, assessments and exploration. The new ROP technician, Tim Kleeber, would be instrumental in this process.
3. The alternative program is in need of a room to hold student assemblies. I feel that if the media and career areas are structured appropriately, this facility could be used to conduct student body assemblies.

cc: Pete Boothroyd

# Historic house in need of home

By Brian Hall  
Staff Writer

History buffs and city staff hope a newly moved historical house meets a better fate than other aging homes listed for sale in Brea.

The Practice House is believed to be the only building still standing in Southern California formerly used to train homemakers. The last remaining structure from the original Brea Olinda High School campus, it was trucked last week from one temporary site on Flower Avenue to another on Redwood Street. Negotiations to place Practice back on school property broke down when district officials said they could funnel no money into the project.

The Redevelopment Agency now plans to sell the house and a lot across the alley on Laurel Avenue as a package deal.

However, the agency has purchased 10 older homes in the downtown redevelopment area with the idea of selling them. One catch — the buyers must move those homes to a lot outside the area.

"The agency hasn't had any interest," said City Planner, Conrad Bartlam.

"Nobody wants to buy them." Bartlam doesn't anticipate the same problem with Practice because the building and lot are for sale together. Also, zoning there allows development of condominiums or apartments on the approximately 10,000-square-foot parcel, which is larger than the average vacant space left in town.

The other agency homes

haven't had any bites because of a shortage of empty lots anywhere nearby, said Susan Georgino, Brea's redevelopment services director. The worse-case scenario is that Practice, particularly in this sleepy real-estate market, could stand unsold for two to three years, but the agency has devised no contingency plan.

"We'll cross that bridge when we come to it," Bartlam said.

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***"Hopefully, they will have the heart to bring back some of its first beauty with the marvelous hardwood floors and archways."***

---

**--Inez Fanning**

One restriction to buying Practice is that the exterior cannot be altered, said Inez Fanning, a member of the Brea Historical Society, a former Practice student who has dedicated much of her life to the preservation. She also would like the future owner to restore the interior to its original condition.

"Hopefully, they will have the heart to bring back some of its first beauty with the marvelous hardwood floors and archways," she said.

No sale price has been set. The city will finish some basic rehabilitation for yet unspecified costs. Moving the structure from Flower to Redwood totaled \$4,000.

Historians have traveled a bumpy road in trying to convince the City Council to salvage significant early buildings in the path of on-coming redevelopment. Most have been demolished, and others have burned.

"It is with fear and trembling that I hope something good will happen," Fanning said.

"It's tough going in this city, and the Practice House is one of the few concessions we've gotten aside from some homes on Redwood."

The Brea Historical Committee recommends moving five commercial buildings, the Kinsler house and the Pacific Electric Railway Depot to a historical block away from the 50-acre shopping and town home complex planned for downtown. The council has conceptually approved the plan and preliminary studies are under way.

Fanning's interest in Practice springs from her days at the former Brea Olinda High School, where the building was erected in 1926. When she graduated in 1933, it was a requirement for all female seniors to spend a week in the house. They learned cooking, cleaning, bed-making and family budgeting.

The young ladies were practicing to become housewives, Fanning said.

In those days, even the chore of construction was neatly divided into pink and blue categories. Boys from the vocational and shop classes installed the wiring and built Practice including the furniture. Girls sewed the drapery.

See PRACTICE / 11



Staff photo by Michael Loren

**Setting up house:** Inez Fanning, a member of the Brea Historical Society, stands in front of the Practice House, the last remaining structure from the original Brea Olinda High School campus. A former Practice student, Fanning has dedicated much of her time to its preservation.

## PRACTICE:

Continued from page 6

Much lore has grown up around the week-long slumber parties.

"It was a lot of fun," Fanning said, laughing.

"There were stories that when the Home Ec teacher went to meetings in the evenings, why, the boys would come to see the girls. They would have fun visiting, and then the boys would have to escape out the windows."

During Fanning's week, four girls and a teacher had to manage on their own. Students learned to entertain, hosting dinners for parents and faculty. To have breakfast ready before morning classes, they put out the food the night before, placing cold bacon in the skillet,

bread in the toaster and pre-measuring dry ingredients for hot chocolate. The week-long homemaker training ended in the 1950s. Over the years, Practice has housed principals and teachers in various states of hardship, Fanning said.

"It became a nursery school at one point. And the girls learned how to take care of pre-schoolers by taking care of faculty children," Fanning said.

Later, the house stored school books.

As Brea's ethnic population began to change, Practice became the headquarters for teaching English as a second language.

"There's a long and rich past," Fanning said.

"Hundreds of students have fond memories."

**DISCUSSIONS HELD BY THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE  
REGARDING THE PRACTICE HOUSE**

DATE	DISCUSSION
Oct. 11, 1989	Discussed the Practice House. Original Project site was 327-331 E. Birch Street. (Redevelopment Agency still does not own property).
November 30, 1989	Listed Practice House as #2 on list of historic structures.
January 4, 1990	Historical Committee gave Practice House a priority level of 1 on a scale of 1 to 5.
January 18, 1990	Preservation option for the Practice House was to relocate to Historic Park or use as visitor center.
May 24, 1990	Committee directed staff to explore the feasibility of moving the Practice House to City Hall and use it as a possible museum.
June 21, 1990	Committee discussed relocating Practice House to Brea Jr. High School or Laurel School. Directed staff to come back to next meeting with information concerning the Practice House before a final decision is made on the moving.
July 5, 1990	The Historical Committee directed City staff to look into the economics of the final move for the Practice House and restoration costs.
July 19, 1990	Redevelopment Director informed the Committee that the insurance monies from the Wall Building could be used for the relocation, restoration of recognized historical buildings. The Committee discussed using the Practice House as a day-care center.
September 20, 1990	Placement of the Practice House at the Junior High School was discussed. Possible usage would be a curriculum center or a Home Economics classroom.
October 4, 1990	The Committee moved to recommend to the City Council to locate the Practice House onto the Jr. High School grounds.
December 6, 1990	Committee was told of Council's decision not to relocate the Practice House to the Jr. High School and for the Committee to look for other sites for the Practice House. Placement at the High School for use in the Teen Mother Program was suggested. Placement at the City Hall Park for use as a museum or placement at another City park were again mentioned.

January 2, 1991	Placing the Practice House at the High School to be used by the Night Watchman was discussed.
January 17, 1991	Committee received a letter from Dr. Ed Seal, Superintendent of School Board, indicating the school district would be very happy to have the Practice House at the Jr. High School if the City would pay all the expenses of moving and rehabilitating it to the standards of the State architect.
February 7, 1991	Committee discussed the costs associated with moving and rehabilitating the Practice House. The possibility of selling the house was presented. A decision on the house was postponed until a later date.
March 7, 1991	Placing the Practice House at the High School to teach parenting skills and to be used as a day-care center for the children of students attending school was again suggested. Using the house for child-care purposes only was also discussed.
May 2, 1991	The Committee explored the idea of placing the Practice House at the private park on the UNOCAL property. UNOCAL had been contacted regarding this proposal, but had not been receptive to the idea.
May 16, 1991	It was suggested that the Practice House be given to the City Council for final disposition. It was also suggested to offer it to the Orange County Conservancy.
July 3, 1991	The Committee moved to recommend to the City Council the placement of the Practice House on a graded pad at the northwest corner of Birch in the new downtown area.
October 3, 1991	The Committee learned that the School Board had requested proposals from various school sites for the location of the Practice House.
November 7, 1991	The Committee recommended to the City Council that the Practice House be placed at Laurel School based upon architecture compatibility, however, the School Board could use their discretion and place it where it would be the most useful as long as it could be seen by the public.



# Agency Helps a Piece of High School History Dodge the Wrecking Ball

*"Practice House" moved to temporary site to await fate.*

**E**ven as jackhammers and bulldozers made quick work of dismantling the former campus of Brea Olinda High School, the Brea Redevelopment Agency helped save one historic school building from destruction by literally picking it up and moving it.

The Brea Olinda High School "Practice House," so named because of its original use as a place where high school girls could learn and practice various homemaking skills, was scheduled to be demolished along with the rest of the old high school to make way for a new shopping center. The City and Redevelopment Agency, however, were convinced of the Practice House's significant historical value and made arrangements to purchase and move the structure to a temporary site.



*For the time being, the Brea Olinda High School Practice House will remain at this temporary site on Flower.*

## Built By Students

The Practice House, along with another cottage used to house the school janitor and his family, was built on the school grounds in 1926 as a project of the high school's carpentry class. Students, all boys, provided the skill and labor to construct the building, doing the framing, plumbing, wiring, masonry, cabinetry, and roofing work. They even built most of the furniture originally used in the house.

When construction was completed, the school's home economics department moved in. The house offered a very practical and unique environment for teaching and learning various homemaking skills. According to Inez Fanning,

President of the Brea Historical Society and member of the Brea High Class of '33, this building is the only one of its kind in the area. "Other schools taught home economics in classrooms. Our Practice House was the only self-contained, full-scale house that I'm aware of in Orange County, if not all of Southern California, built specifically to teach homemaking to high school students."

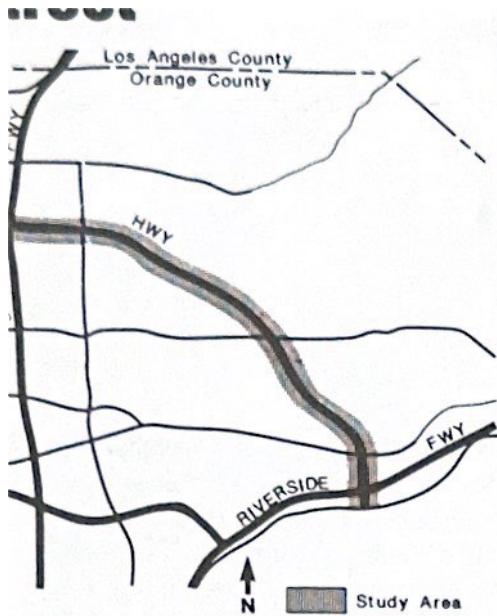
As the times changed, so did the Practice House. Early school district graduation requirements called for the girls to spend a week living in and caring for the House. In the 1950's, optional weekend stay-overs were allowed. Eventually, though, the practice died out completely and the House was used alternately as a teacher's lounge, pre-school care center, counseling office, classroom, and continuation school.

## City Recognizes Historical Value

The Practice House was identified by the City as historically significant during a 1981 inventory of downtown buildings. Since then, the City, as well as the Brea Historical Society, have each discussed what to do with the House but never created any formalized plans. But when the high school started to come down, something had to be done.

Luckily, the Redevelopment Agency was able to act quickly. Staff members arranged to purchase the House from Lowe Development (who got the House when they bought the rest of the old high school property), contracted with a company to pick up and move the House, and then located an Agency-owned lot on which to store it, all within a matter of a few weeks. The House will remain on the Flower Avenue lot until a final decision is made on the structure's future.

The ultimate fate of the building is currently being discussed by the City's Historical Committee. The public is invited to join in these discussions during the Committee's regular meetings, held at the Civic & Cultural Center on the first and third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Their recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council/Redevelopment Agency, who will make a final decision about the building's future within the next 30-45 days.



Preliminary plans are for each of the three streets to become six lanes wide along the entire project area. The Imperial project would extend from Beach Boulevard in La Habra to Santa Ana Canyon Road in Anaheim Hills. Other traffic flow improvements used to create a super street are the coordination of traffic signals, adding turn lanes at intersections, building turnouts so busses stopped for loading don't block traffic, and combining driveways so fewer cars are turning off of and onto the street.

Between now and September, the Imperial Highway Super Street Study plans to accomplish four objectives: Prepare conceptual high traffic flow design plans; develop cost estimates and ways to pay for the project; identify environmental issues and analyze economic effects, and; develop a consensus among the public agencies and community members regarding the Imperial Highway Super Street plan.

## Public Input is Vital

Public input is an important part of this study. Two public workshops were held during the last week of January and more are scheduled for late June. These meetings are part of an extensive public participation program designed to keep citizens informed about the project, as well as solicit ideas, comments, and questions. Between meetings, OCTC will be publishing and distributing newsletters to the residents, businesses, and property owners along Imperial. Details on meeting dates, times, and locations will be included as will all the latest information on the super street study.

Anyone wanting additional information about the Imperial Super Street Study is asked to contact Arya Rohani or Linda Miller of OCTC at (714) 541-7850.

## Correction

### Housing Rehab Program

An article in the January issue of "The Brea Line" listed an incorrect phone number for Housing Rehabilitation Specialist Pat Stokes. The correct number to call for information regarding the City's Housing Rehab Program is 671-4461. We apologize for any inconvenience.

## Senior Corner

### Support Counseling

The Brea Senior Center specializes in helpful people! Laura Finley Cole, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, is one of those caring individuals. Her focus is to assist seniors with life's inevitable adjustments, including changing parent/child relationships, alternatives to staying in your own home, retirement "shifts," and husband/wife relationships. Call the Center at 990-7750 for an appointment.

### Tax Assistance

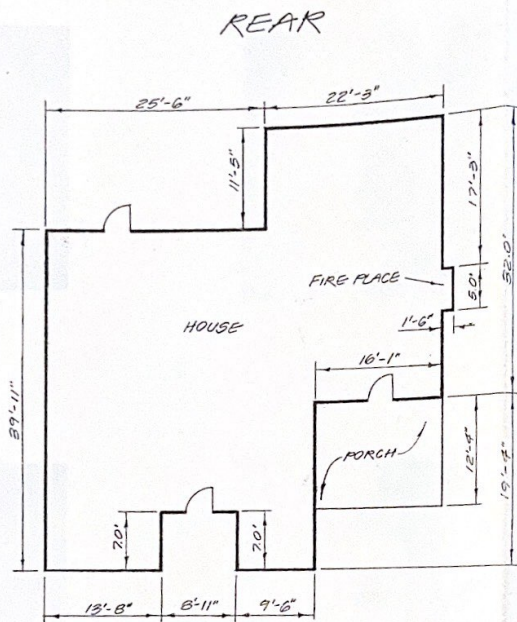
It's that time of year again! The Brea Senior Center will provide free tax assistance for seniors from 1 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, February 13 and 20. Beginning February 26 and continuing through April 9, help will be available every Monday. Please call 990-7750 for an appointment.

### Forever Young Club

The Club meets every Friday from 7 to 10 p.m. for a fun-filled evening of bingo. A business meeting and light supper are held the first Friday of the month. Visitors are welcome and membership is open to everyone 55 years of age and over.

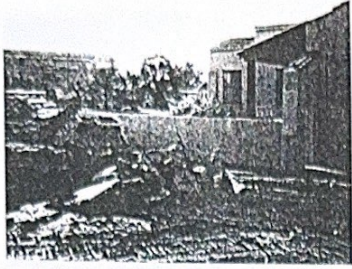
### FYI—Catastrophic Medicare Legislation

What do you know about the new Catastrophic Medicare legislation? Well, here's a chance to learn more. Julie Schoen from HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program), a program funded by the State Department of Aging, will present a free seminar on Monday, February 5 from 10:30–11:30 a.m. at the Senior Center. Come and discover how this Medicare law affects you. Call 990-7750 for more information.

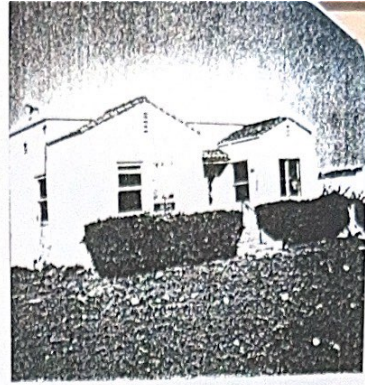


FRONT

"THE PRACTICE HOUSE"  
 EXIST. HOUSE AT OLD BREA  
 HIGH SCHOOL SITE  
 SCALE 1"=10'



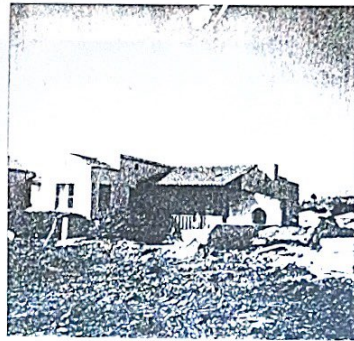
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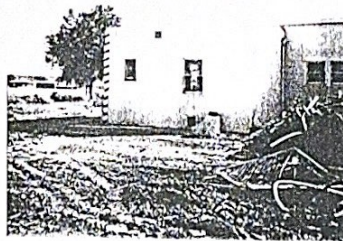
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# Brea News

The North Orange County News

Brea's only hometown newspaper since 1967

November 14, 1991

3 Sections

40 Pages

## IT'S A FACT

In 1917, John P. Sarthou built a home and barns on land leased from the Anaheim Union Water Co. and the Graham, Loftus Co. On the land he grew hay and blackeye beans. Thousands of sacks of blackeye beans were harvested each season with the help of his three sons.

CALL US

see SIDEWALK / 12

## Historical Committee discusses negotiations

By Brian Hall  
Staff Writer

A historical building on stilts might be moved for joint use between the city and school district.

The Brea Historical Committee last week discussed ongoing negotiations between the Brea Redevelopment Agency and the Brea Olinda Board of Education about the Practice House, which could be relocated from Fir and Birch

Streets to one of three schools.

Brea Canyon High School, the district's continuation campus, and Laurel and Arovista elementary schools are all vying for the building, which formerly housed classrooms for would-be homemakers.

Each school has written letters to the board explaining their reasons for wanting the building.

The Historical Committee also reviewed plans to place three historical structures onto Redwood Street. A public hear-

ing was scheduled with some outcry expected from neighborhood residents, but nobody came forward to speak.

The two-story Casner House, owned by an early Brea industrialist, was the latest building the City Council approved for the street. It will accompany two craftsman-style bungalows, now at 103 and 128 S. Walnut. The house at 103 is an example of a well-maintained oil worker's house that has been little changed over the years. The home at 128 was owned a coun-

cilman who sat on Brea's first city government.

Committee member Brian Saul said he is withdrawing his request to place the tin building at 120 N. Brea Blvd. on the historical block proposed for the new downtown Brea.

"It won't fit in, and I think a plaque commemorating the spot within one of the other buildings will do," he added.

The tin building was where the first low-winged monoplane in the United States was built.

**PRACTICE: Old Brea school was housewife-training house**

In 1933, Brea-Olinda High School required one week of household chores from all girls



Stan Bird/Brea Progress

The 200 block of South Laurel is site of the first historic-dedication plaque placed on a registered historic Brea building, which was used as a 'practice house' for young women. The developer is explaining to Brea city officials and visitors just how this all came about.

In 1933, Ines Jones Fanning spent a week learning to wash dishes, make beds and cook meals in a two-bedroom house on the campus of Brea-Olinda High School.

Fanning said she and her classmates looked forward to their week of household chores, but even if they hadn't, it was a graduation requirement.

At the time, the senior girls at the school had to complete one week in the "Practice House" to be eligible for graduation, she said.

The school is long gone and a shopping center stands in its place, but the Practice House has been renovated, and a new generation will be keeping house in it.

The house, now at 255 S. Laurel Ave., will serve as part of an affordable condominium complex, and its new owners, a single mother and her three children, are scheduled to move in soon.

On Thursday, the house also was the site of the unveiling of a plaque naming it a "Brea Historic Landmark" — the first in the city.

Several city officials, including each member of the City Council, showed up for the unveiling and listened to Fanning describe the building's history.

Boys from the high school's vocational classes built it in 1926 using wood from the temporary buildings that previously served as the city's junior high school, Fanning said.

As the years went by, the boys added

furniture made for school projects and eventually built a sun room, she said.

Meanwhile, the girls sewed the draperies and the house was immediately put to its intended use: a home-economics practice facility.

Each of the bedrooms had two twin beds for the girls. The teacher, "with her fiery red hair," slept on a hide-a-bed in the living room, Fanning said.

At the beginning of the week, the girls were given money and had to buy groceries. And during the week, they had to entertain, she said.

"One night, the school board stopped in for dinner, and we were really terrified that that night would be the one we didn't do it right," she said.

Every night, the week's occupants also had to make breakfast for the next day to make sure they could get to school on time in the morning, Fanning said.

"I'll always remember that cold bacon sitting in the pan all night," she said.

The memories prompted groans and laughter from some of the assembly, but Fanning said that each time has its own propriety.

"The woman's role was different then," she said. But she added that she is happy to have her husband helping with the housework now.

March 2-95



Stan Bire/Brea Progress

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## PRACTICE: Old Brea school was housewife-training house

FROM 1

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## Women 'practiced' housewifely duties

March 2-95

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By Aaron Boehme  
Brea Progress

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Please see PRACTICE/2