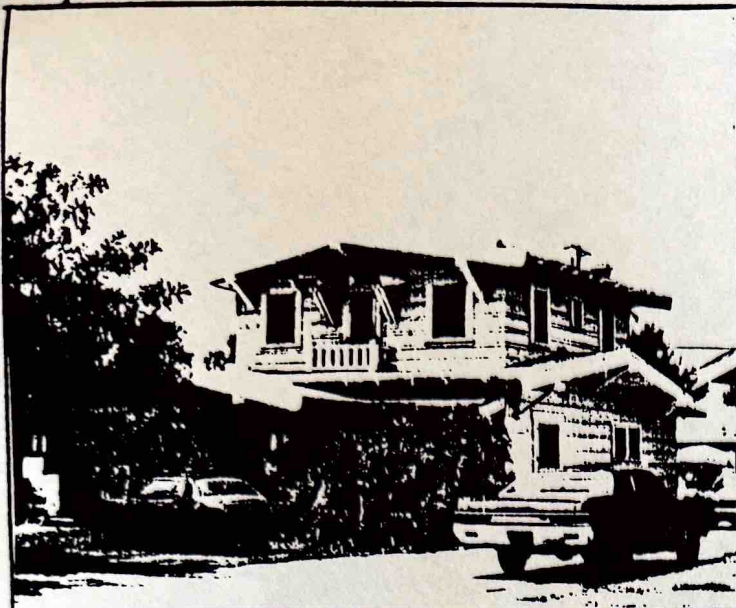


DT Mon Jan 21, 1918

Contractor Craig of Brea is putting the finishing touches on the W. D. Casner home. The Casner home is one of the show places of Brea and reflects great credit upon the ability of the builder and the fine taste of the owners.



WILLIAM D. CASNER HOUSE
207 South Madrona Avenue

The William D. Casner family dates back to early settlement of the townsite, one of the few who came here in 1910 to make their home. Attracted to this area as an oil worker, Mr. Casner drilled the first well on the Amalgamated Lease east of here, and for seventeen years he continued in the oil fields. In 1915, he built this two-story home where the family lived for many years. Mr. Casner stated that he planted the row of palm trees on South Orange Avenue when the townsite was first laid out in 1911. Later, he built the courts on East Birch at Orange Avenue.

The structure is an important architectural landmark, the best example of the Craftsman bungalow built between 1910 and 1920 in Brea. In addition to architectural details, including exposed beams, massive brackets, multiple gables, etc., it is a prime example of the "Airplane Craftsman" styling for two-story homes in which the upper story is smaller in dimensions and more or less "perched" upon the first floor. This delightful feature is portrayed in a painting, "Old Brea Husetop," by the late Don Hendricks, former artist-in-residence, city of Brea.

A small porch with railing and a canopy is above the porch at the second level. Outside covering features alternating wide and narrow clapboard. The preservation of this house is essential to the historic portraying of Brea "as it was."

The above material was taken from "History of Brea," by Purl Harding, and from "Historic Survey of Brea, 1981," by Denver Miller.



CHRISTMAS POTLUCK and GENERAL MEETING

Monday, December 4, 1989 - 6:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church Social Hall
at corner of Date and Flower

Last name initials A to L ---- Bring Salad
L to Z ---- Bring Hot Dish

Coffee, punch, rolls, and dessert
will be furnished.

PLEASE, call one of the following right away
if you plan to come -- so we can get a count!

Grace Ries ----- 529 3086

Ruth Schweitzer -- 529 2566

P R O G R A M

Brian Saul, chairman of the new City Historical Committee, will speak on (1) the purpose and work of that committee, (2) the Charette (which winds up on November 29, and (3) about the Practice House, which will have been moved to Flower Street on November 20.

Remember: the Potluck, the Program, and then,
at the HISTORIC SEILER HOUSE, NEXT DOOR:

DESSERT and CHRISTMAS PARTY!

All on December 4, 1989 - SEE YOU THERE!

L U N C H E O N

at



MERCURY SAVINGS
and loan association

Imperial Highway at Harbor Boulevard
La Habra

Thursday, December 14, 1989 -- 12 noon

DONATION: \$3.00

THIS IS A MAJOR FUND RAISER

There will be a delicious luncheon and a short
presentation by Mercury Savings, followed by
WONDERFUL DOOR PRIZES FOR ALL!

Get your tickets -- and some to sell! Just
call 529-4018. TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW.

Boy Larry Jim Gross, 7, gets sledding instruction from Air Force Chief Warrant Officer Jim Gross. The boy was weakened by polio when he was 16 months old. In behalf of 1952 March of Dimes this January, join all March of Dimes posters with the 1952 slogan: "Yours." Join the 1952 March of Dimes today!

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Mrs. Westerhout Finds Artificial Flowers Popular

Flowers are abundant in California. It is a simple procedure, in most homes, for the lady to step out to her flower garden and select a colorful flowerpiece for her coat or evening dress any day of the year.

But even so there is a big demand for artificial flowers of all shapes, shades, and varieties.

Mrs. Grace Westerhout, 447 South Walnut, has a hobby of making these artificial flowerpieces and was swamped with orders from friends before Christmas for various corsage numbers to be used as Christmas presents.

Lifelike

Mrs. Westerhout's products are so lifelike and real looking that it almost takes the "pinch" test to prove they are not real flowers. A touch of the correct perfume adds to the realness and attractiveness of the corsage.

In addition to corsages, Mrs. Westerhout also makes table centerpieces and imitations of fresh cut flowers, such as carnations, roses, and violets.

Materials for the flowers may be secured from art shops but from there on, you are on your own. It takes training, practice and deft hands to maneuver the delicate stamens and petals into a lifelike position and then shape and fasten the leaves in place.

Extra Added

Many artificial gardenia corsages show just the open flower but Mrs. Westerhout adds an attractive white bud on a small green leaf to her offerings. She has even

complications are present. The cost of this home care program, as well as research totalling \$14 million, is paid for by the March of Dimes.

Man Who Planted Trees on Birch Says It Was Done 1911

Have you ever wondered about the age of the tall palm trees along Birch near the Orange intersection?

William Casner, 80, told The Progress last weekend that he planted those trees in 1911 and gave them to the City of Brea. Casner now resides at 1877 Moore street in San Diego. He is the father of Mrs. Ira B. Millar, 209 East Birch, and Mrs. James S. Lauder, 215 South Orange.

Casner came to Orange county in 1910 and drilled the first oil well on the G & L Lease (Graham and Loftus). He also drilled in the gusher known as the Chapman gusher for the Union Oil Co.

In 1915 Casner built the 2-story residence at 207 South Madrona at a cost of \$2600. He said the house is now probably valued at \$13,000.

He is in excellent health for a man of 80 years. He has a hobby of writing poetry, and he writes some good free verse. He also has a hobby of whittling or wood carving. One of his Indian head pictures and a horse head picture is on display at the Harding Camera shop.

Casner said he would enjoy hearing from any of his former friends who might remember him from those early days.

The annual meeting of the Congregational church will be held Wednesday, Jan. 9. There will be a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. The election of new officers for the year will be the business of the evening.

produced poinsettias, rosebuds and a small bouquet of violets.

Mrs. Westerhout says there are hundreds of women in Southern California who have taken up this enjoyable and interesting hobby of flowermaking.

Thursday, Jan 3, 1952

Local Happenings

FOR RENT—Partly furnished cottage in rear of 126 S. Walnut, \$12, no children. 2tp.

Miss Anna Everhart, Miss Ruby Stephens of Olinda and Earl Everhart were Los Angeles visitors Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. McMechin of South Madrona street are visiting in Ventura with the family of a cousin.

LOST—Pair of horn rimmed spectacles near Christian Church, August 12th. Return to W. C. Hamlin, 158 Poplar Ave. Brea 1tp.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Campbell and children of Ventura are spending two weeks with Mr. Campbell's mother, Mrs. Agnes Campbell.

Orpha McConahogue of Eagle Rock was the guest of Eloise and Pauline Meredith for several days this week.

Mrs. Charlie Stephens and children and Ileen McConnell of Olinda and Earl Everhart spent Sunday at Balboa Beach.

Mrs. F. A. Weaver was in Whittier Thursday where she called on several old friends. The Weaver family formerly resided in Whittier.

Mr. and Mrs. James Leech and family are at home again after a delightful two weeks vacation spent at San Diego and Newport Beach.

Miss Elizabeth Zerbe returned to Berkeley, the last of last week, where she will continue her college training.

Miss Caroline Sammons, who has been in a hospital at Burbank where she had an operation for appendicitis, returned home Tuesday.

Miss Oual and Ruy Stephens and Bill Stephens of Olinda and Guy Cone and Earl Everhart formed a fishing party at Newport Beach Saturday.

RICHARD SPENSLEY AND MOTHER ENJOY VACATION

Taking advantage of the last few remaining days of his vacation, Richard Spensley and his mother, Mrs. R. W. Spensley, have been enjoying several days with friends and relatives. On Monday they went to Los Angeles where Mrs. Spensley spent the day at the home of Mrs. C. A. Harvey, a former Leadville, Colorado neighbor and met several other Leadville people. The following day they spent at Balboa beach in a picnic outing, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Oro Spensley of Arcadia, the former a son of Mrs. Spensley. Yesterday they went to Long Beach where they visited with Mrs. Hugh R. Davies and Mr. Davies, the former a niece of Mrs. Spensley and a teacher in the Long Beach public schools.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Casner are moving from their home, 207 South Madrona Avenue, to another property which they own on North Orange street.

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Harvey, Don Harvey, and their house guest Guy Clow, spent Wednesday at Newport Beach swimming.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilton Hirth and Roger and Mr. and Mrs. Merle Tower and children of Buena Park, motored to Deer Lake, Highlands, Sunday.

FROM BREA PROGRESS

Aug 20, 1931

Aged Mother Visits Here With Children

Mrs. Katrinka Bergman, 94-year young mother of Mrs. W. D. Casner and J. F. Bergman, is visiting at their homes here and thoroughly enjoying her stay. She is accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. Blanch Littlepage, from their home in Ramona, San Diego county. Mrs. Bergman is one of the genuine old-timers of the state and can tell of some interesting events in connection with the history of early California.

The Bergman family ranch, near Aguanga, in Riverside county, comprising several hundred acres, is one of the oldest homesteads in the state, historic in having been for a time the abode of Helen Hunt Jackson as she gathered material for her famous novel of the life of California Indians. Mrs. Bergman's husband, Jacob Bergman, deceased for many years, himself acted as escort to Mrs. Jackson on many of her excursions among the Indians, and over country which she later described with such precision and enticing interest in her book "Ramona."

Another contact of historical importance for the Bergman ranch is that of the old Butterfield stage route, conducted during the early days of the state's traffic and traversing the homestead for many miles.

"Warpy" Names His Venture In Oil

A. H. "Warpy" Brown, who recently leased what for years has been known as the Olinda Land Company holdings near Olinda, has given his personal venture into the salvaging of this property the name of the Brea-Olinda Oil Company, with headquarters in his own home on East Elm street.

For more than twenty years "Warpy" had charge of the drilling operations of the Union Oil Company in what is known in oil circles as the Brea-Olinda field and he knows every foot of land in that district like the palm of his hand. He is personally acquainted with the logs of all wells drilled in that time by the Union and with those of important wells drilled by neighboring companies.

Still active and energetic, with the advantage of years of experience in this line and with the urge of the game like a flame in his heart, "Warpy" has undertaken the salvaging of the shallow wells on the Olinda Land Company holdings. Old-timers see him again about town in the garb of the "oil worker," bustling and busy and happy as a youngster that has retrieved a favorite toy. We venture to say that he knows what he is doing and also that if success is to be achieved in the venture "Warpy" is the man for the job.

13. Condition: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated No longer in existence
14. Alterations: Minor
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land Scattered buildings Densely built-up
Residential Industrial Commercial Other:
16. Threats to site: None known Private development Zoning Vandalism
Public Works project Other:
17. Is the structure: On its original site? Moved? Unknown?
18. Related features: Old garage

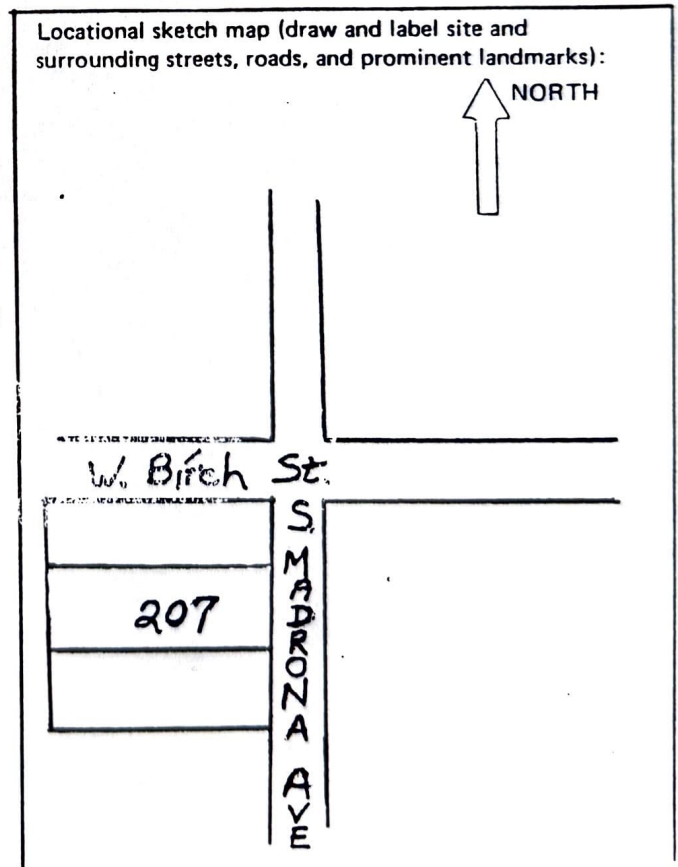
SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)

The structure is notable as an important architectural landmark and for its associations with the William Casner family. This building is the best example of the Craftsman bungalow built between 1910 and 1920 in Brea. The architectural details include exposed beams, massive brackets, vertical gable venting, and multiple gables which are all utilized in an inventive fashion.

This house dominates this residential neighborhood of small, simpler bungalows. The house was constructed for the Casner family circa 1915. William Casner was one of the early settlers who came to Brea in 1910. He was responsible for drilling the first oil well on the Amalgamated Lease. As a member of the Brea Investment Company, he participated in the construction of many of Brea's commercial structures.

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)
 Architecture 1 Arts & Leisure
 Economic/Industrial Exploration/Settlement 2
 Government Military
 Religion Social/Education
21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).
 Harding, Purl, History of Brea, p. 41.
 Orange County Assessment Records, 1981.
 Brea Assessment Records, 1917-40.
 Brea Historic Survey Advisory Board Meeting, February, 1981.
22. Date form prepared March, 1981
 By (name) Denver Miller
 Organization Environmental Coalition
 Address: 206 W. Fourth St., Suite 321
 City Santa Ana Zip 92701
 Phone: (714) 836-4314



HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION

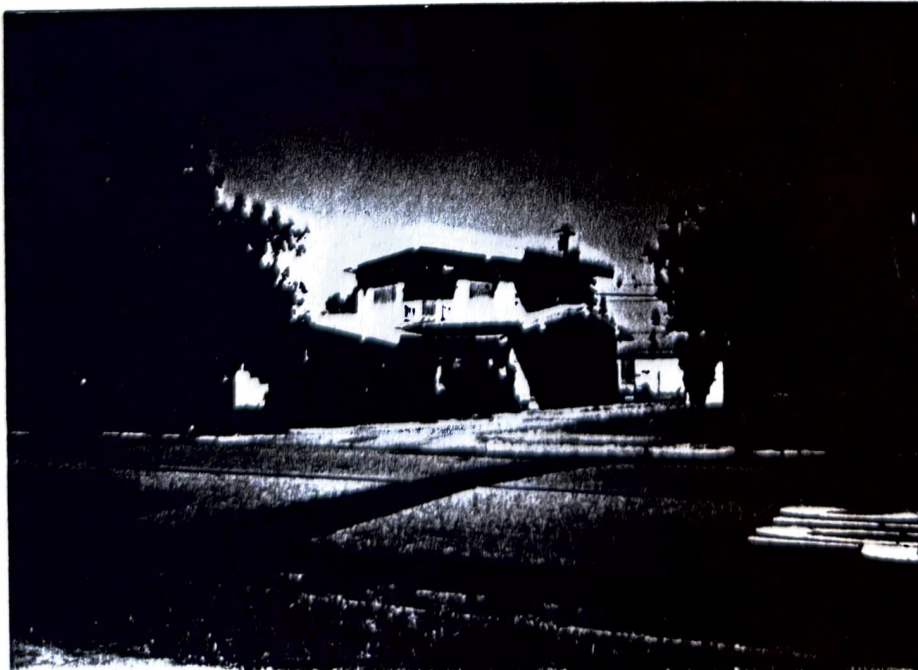
1. Common name: CASNER RESIDENCE
2. Historic name: Casner Residence
3. Street or rural address: 207 South Madrona Avenue
City Brea Zip 92621 County Orange
4. Parcel number: 20-143-15
5. Present Owner: Emma Blythe Address: 207 South Madrona
City Brea Zip 92621 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Residence Original use: Residence

DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural style: Craftsman
- 7b. Briefly describe the present *physical description* of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

This is a large, Craftsman style residence. It has two stories. The house is multi-gabled, with the lower story having side facing gables and the upper story a front facing gable. A front facing gable forms a porch overhead. The porch has brick piers faced with stucco; thick wood posts rise from these piers to support the porch gable. A small porch with railing and a canopy is above the porch at the second story. The residence has other Craftsman features including large gable brackets, extended purlins, vertical gable venting, and overhanging eaves. The house is clad in alternating wide and narrow clapboard.

Has been moved to the 100 block of Redwood St.



8. Construction date: Estimated _____ Factual circa 1915
9. Architect unknown
10. Builder unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 50 Depth 140
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
September 1980

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Dr. Donald K. Shields (right) of Brea and Dr. and Mrs. David L. Messenger of Placentia, shown during recent meeting at which clinic sites were considered for the administration of Sabin oral polio vaccine in the two communities this fall and winter. The physicians are chairmen of committees responsible for organizing and conducting the Brea and

recruitment in the two areas. More than 70 clinics will be held throughout the county on the S-O-S (Sabin On Sundays) dates: Oct. 21 and 28, Dec. 2 and 9, Jan. 20 and 27. The vaccine will be administered in doses of two drops on a cube of sugar. The program is sponsored by the Orange County Medical Association.

El Monte Woman Taken To Hospital After Wild Chase

Brea police pursued a car at speeds up to 75 miles per hour along Imperial Highway Friday before they corraled the driver, a 21-year-old El Monte woman, in an orange grove in the Fullerton city limit.

Police first spotted the speeding car on Brea Blvd. near the intersection of Cypress in the north end of the business district. They estimated the speed at up to 50 miles per hour.

They followed the car south to Imperial where it made a right turn onto Imperial Highway from a left hand lane, and began to "fish-tail," weaving from side to side.

The vehicle gained speed as it hurtled along Imperial Highway, police said. The car narrowly missed some other vehicles and finally stopped. The driver was taken into custody at an orange grove.

Her husband and father were notified and she was taken to Orange County Hospital. The woman told police she had slashed her wrists while at a friend's home in Baldwin Park.

Police confiscated a number of white pills, razor blades and a butcher knife they found in the car, which belonged to the woman's husband.

Police said the woman told them she had lost her two children.

91-Year-Old Pioneer Long-Time Resident W. D. Casner, Dies

Funeral services were held over the weekend for William Daniel Casner, 91, of 126 1/2 S. Flower, Brea, who died Thursday at the Los Alamitos Sanitarium, three days after his birthday anniversary.

The Brea pioneer's services were held at McAulay and Suters Mortuary, Fullerton, with The Rev. W. Leslie Lowrey, minister of the Brea Christian Church officiating. Burial followed at Loma Vista.

Survivors include a son, William Floyd Casner of Fullerton; a daughter, Waineta Marie Lauder of Palmdale, eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Mr. Casner is known for drilling the Chapman gusher in 1919, nine years after he arrived here.

Born Aug. 6, 1871 in the town of Ballena, near Ramona, in the mountains of San Diego County, he worked in the Stonewall mine as a young man.

He married Matilda Agnes Bergman in 1898 and after a few years of farming in Ramona, moved to Santa Paula, where they started their family. Mr. Casner farmed for 33 years and spent 37 in the oil fields.

His first oil well was brought in in 1909 at the station of Oleo. It was the first well south of the Pacific Electric Railway.

In 1910 he moved his family to Brea and built several landmarks. When he arrived, Mrs.

Casner often recalled, Brea was a half-dozen buildings separated by a dirt road. He used to drive to the corner of Commonwealth and Spadra (now Harbor Blvd.) in Fullerton to buy groceries, horses and wagons from Stern and Goodman. The horses and wagons were the start of a transfer business he established in 1915.

He built an apartment building at Orange and Birch; a two-story home at 207 S. Madrona, and a number of rentals.

In later years he became a self-taught woodcarver and verse writer to occupy his busy mind and hands. He lined the walls of his home with his carved works of his own design which he fashioned over the years. His verses fill a number of pages of copybooks and he took pleasure in reciting them.

pected to be "balanced by representatives from homemakers, service clubs, the professions, business and industry" if Smith's plans are adopted by the board of trustees.

The annual drive, held in the spring rather than the fall, has been spearheaded by industry, and the base needs to be broadened, officials feel.

More community participation is needed, they believe.

"All members of the present executive committee have expressed a willingness to start from 'scratch' in the selection of a 1963 executive committee from which officers, budget committee chairman and fund drive chairmen will be selected," Smith said in a letter to organizations announcing the meeting.

Old Sol Going To Get Warmer Through Tuesday

Mercury reading as much as five degrees higher than normal is the five-day prediction for Southern California and the local area, according to the U.S. Weather Bureau.

Temperature here Sunday reached a high of 92, with a low of 61 during the night. The smog count was measured at 35.

The weather forecast through Tuesday in the area calls for sunny and continued hot with temperatures in the vicinity of 100 degrees and above.

New Grade School Library Aide Has Story Hour This Tuesday

Special summer activities for children at the Brea Library, 642 S. Brea Blvd., are proving to be a popular recreation for young readers, according to library officials.

"Club" has over 300 children enrolled and more than half of these have already completed the reading of ten books and have earned the miniature telescope and the solar



91-Year-Old Pioneer

Long-Time Resident

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Thurs ~~at~~ Jan 22, 1953

B.P. We have a "gripe" from a reader, William D. Casner
206 East Birch. Mr. Casner writes in part - "It disgusts me
to walk up and down the streets of Brea and see how the
Palm trees are neglected. Why doesn't the Brea street
department trim up the Palm trees, especially on Orange
Ave., between Imperial and Ash?" Mr. Casner is a
long-time resident of Brea.

BP Thurs Feb 5, 1953

Dear Sir: —

Thanks for publishing my gripe. I have received lots of compliments for it. And there are several other ~~red~~ kicks I have, but if you can't publish them as I write them don't publish them at all. The first one is the way they want to hold up the public for price on bare lots which are outrageous which are so high you can't afford to build on them. Also just go along the alleys and see the number of people, old people, that have to live in some dump over a garage and pay \$40 rent for it. I know several old ladies past 80 who have to climb stairs on an alley and go up Pomona avenue and see how many sidewalks that are dirty and how many cars stop across the sidewalk so that you have to go around them. I guess that's gripe enough for this time. ~~William~~ Wm. D. Casner.

B.P.

Friday, Nov 27, 1942

Old Time Brea Tells About Good Old Days

William D. Casner, a man who left his impress in a big way on Brea, was a visitor here this week.

Casner came to Brea in 1911.

He drilled the first oil well here, he says, for Amalgamated Oil company, an Associated Oil affiliate. Casner also drilled the Chapman gusher, an oil well that made history around here.

Not only was C — active in oil well drilling but he was a planter and a builder. For example he planted the row of palm trees on East Birch, built the court apartments next to Russell's grocery, built the house at 207 South Madrona.

Ten years ago Casner retired, left Brea to live in San Diego.

"Brea looks good to me" said C —

"Sure you have a few empty stores but what town doesn't these days."

Casner visited his daughter, Mrs. Ira Millan, 209 East Birch.

Other children are Floyd Casner, who recently joined the armed forces; Mrs. Juanita Casner-Lauder and Carl Casner of Whittier.

In addition to his other accomplishments, Casner writes poetry, some of which will be printed in early editions of the Progress.

Casner House may be saved from Brea redevelopment wrecking ball

6-22-91

By Steve Creech

DSP Staff Writer

BREA — A piece of city history may avoid the redevelopment wrecking ball Tuesday if plans for its relocation are accepted.

The Planning Commission is expected to approve a new address for the Casner House, a two-story historic building at 207 S. Madrona Ave.

The building now stands within the 50-acre area of the city's downtown slated for redevelopment.

Built in 1915 by William Casner, a city founder who drilled one of the early oil wells in Brea, the Casner House has been singled out for preservation by the Brea Historical Committee.

Following the committee's recommendation, the City Council gave its approval in June to relocate the Casner House to 121

South Redwood Ave.

The proposed relocation places the historic building on a similar size, 7,000-square-foot lot, but does not include an adjoining two-car garage.

A new two-car garage must be constructed at the new site before the home is occupied, according to city documents.

The 2,200-square-foot Casner House is listed in the Historic Preservation Opportunities for the Downtown booklet created by the Historic Committee in February, 1990.

The booklet identifies all structures within the downtown area worthy of preservation.

City documents call the building the "best example in Brea of an 'Airplane Craftsman' "-style home.

The historical significance of the Casner House is based on cri-

teria for the listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The city believes the building is an example of "special elements of Brea's cultural, social, economic, political, and architectural history. (It is) identified with persons significant in Brea's history."

Since it is designated as a local historic structure, the Casner House qualifies for rehabilitation under the Historic Building Code.

Also at the meeting, the planning commission is expected to:

- Approve a sign program for Islands restaurant. The restaurant will occupy the existing Avilas El Ranchito Restaurant at 250 S. State College Blvd. Its operators are seeking approval for three outdoor wall signs on the south, west, and north sides of the building.

- Deny a request by a resident

(Continued on page 2)