

Golden Jubilee recalled

When the Brea time capsule was opened Feb. 23 and out came all these objects, papers and news articles from the 1967 Golden Jubilee, I realized just how little I knew about that celebration of 25 years ago.

A WALK IN TIME

By Brian Saul

Even though there are still plenty of people living in the city who were here in '67 and remember that Jubilee, there are even more of us "newcomers" who know little or nothing about what went on back then. That's why I thought it might be kind of fun in this year of celebrating our 75th to go back in time and take a look at what Brea did on its 50th.

First of all, the Golden Jubilee was not the first time our city had observed one of its anniversaries. Over the years since our incorporation in 1917, several special events had taken place, but most of these were just dinners where old-timers would recall Brea's early days.

1967, though, was going to be different. Brea was 50 years old, and that deserves a major celebration. Both big and small events were planned, but unlike our current year-long Jubilee, all these events would occur over a period of nine days, July 8 through 16.

For the kick-off, or should I say tee-off, a Jubilee Golf Tourney was held at the Brea Golf Course. That evening, a costume ball took place in the rear parking lot of Guardian Chevrolet, at 800 S. Brea Blvd. Don't recall a car dealership at that location? It's no wonder. The place was torn down years ago to make way for the Town and Country apartment complex.

The following evening, Sunday, a religious service was held on the football field of the old high school. The guest speaker was senior U.S. Naval Chaplain Ronald Faulk, who spoke on the dilemmas facing the United States in the Vietnam War.

Tuesday saw the premiere of the 90-minute Brea Pageant entitled "The Brea Story." Consisting of a cast of 325 Breans of all ages, the historical spectacular also took place at the high school, on a giant outdoor stage with a huge backdrop.

"We had a heck of a time getting the telephone poles we'd sunk into the ground to hold up that backdrop," recalled LaVeta Daetweiler, chairwoman for the pageant.

She also remembered the hired director of the pageant was very temperamental.

"He drove me nuts!" she said. "For some reason, every time he needed something he'd yell 'LaVeta!' from across the stage."



Staff photo by Michael Lore

Captured in time: Beverly Heeney-Cary, queen of Brea's Golden Jubilee, looks at a scroll signed by Beckman Instruments employees and put in the Brea time capsule during her reign in 1967.

One of the highlights of that evening was the crowning of Miss Jubilee, Brea housewife Beverly Heeney Cary. Mayor Robert Clark presented her with a trip to Hawaii and praised her for selling the most tickets to the pageant.

"I put everything I had into selling them," Beverly said recently.

"That week of the Golden Jubilee was one of the best times of my life."

Among other events that week were a "small fry parade," with awards given to the most novel pet and best-decorated wagon or bicycle, an old-fashioned bake contest, a beard-growing contest, a parade and a carnival and community barbecue at Arovista Park.

At the Old Settlers Picnic Friday, July 14, Brea pioneer Lena Kinsler was honored as the oldest woman of continuous residence. Arriving in the area in 1906, she and her husband Charles built in 1911 what she said was the first house in Brea, at 135 S. Orange Ave.

As with every celebration, there has to be an end. This end, though, brings me back to the beginning of this article because Sunday, July 16, the last event of the week-long fest was the Time Capsule Ceremony in City Hall Park.

While a prayer was said and a trumpet call sounded, the aluminum time capsule was slowly lowered into the ground. Inside, as I recently found out, were mainly mementos of the Golden Jubilee, including a

nine-foot scroll with signatures and messages to the Breans of 1992 from many of the actors in the Brea Pageant.

Among those messages were the following!

"It's been fun doing this pageant and I've enjoyed it completely. I am now 12 and 25 years from now, I will be 37. I hope I may participate in the Diamond Centennial celebration" — Michelle West. (Michelle, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alan West, is now a lawyer.)

"I hope I am alive when this is read" — Bob Polucha. (He is.

"To the future generations, lots of luck" — Phyllis Shop.

"It's been fun acting in the scene of the 'Gay '90s.' I always wanted to be an actress. Maybe I'll be a real actress 25 years from now." — Nancy Witham, 11 3/4 years old. (Anyone know if she got her wish?)

By the way, if you'd like to see the scroll and other things that came out of the Golden Jubilee Time Capsule, they're now on display at the Historical Society Museum in Old City Hall, 401 S. Brea Blvd. Museum hours are from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

I wonder if 25 years from now someone like me will be writing an article about our 1992 Jubilee? To borrow the sentiments from Bob Polucha, "I hope I'm alive to do it myself!"

Brian Saul is vice president of the Brea Historical Society.



Just a memory: Old Brea Olinda Union High School once faced Birch Street, but if some early Breans had their way, it would have been built at a different location.

School secures spot (in history)

The other day I was trying to think of all the buildings and homes in Brea that have disappeared over the years through redevelopment. Some I remember, most I don't, but there is one place I'm sure I'll never forget, and I think of it every time I drive down Birch Street — the old high school.

A WALK IN TIME

By Brian Saul

Even after more than two years, there's still a lot of bitterness around about its demolition. Often I've heard people say that they just can't understand why the main building couldn't have been saved and renovated, possibly for office space. On the other hand, others have told me that with the mall across the street, the school was just in the wrong place at the wrong time.

I agree that the school's location wasn't the greatest, but honestly, if it had been built instead where Breans in the 1920s had voted to place it, I have the feeling we would have lost it a heck of a lot earlier than we did.

What do I mean by that? Well, let's go back to 1925, a year in which many important decisions were made that played a role not only in the eventual fate of the high school but also in the way Brea would look in the future.

Prior to 1925, students of Brea, and of that other oil-producing community of Olinda, had to attend Fullerton High School. Why? Because we had no high school here, and both Brea and Olinda were then part of the Fullerton District. This meant that our students usually were forced to ride the "Red Cars" back and forth to school until, in later years, buses were sent out to pick them up.

In 1925, though, Olinda petitioned to join with Brea in forming a new district. Local oil companies, who paid most of the taxes, were very support-

ive of the plan and were in favor of building our own local high school. Thus, after some negotiations, the Brea-Olinda Unified School District was born.

Now the big questions were: 1) what to do with our high school students, since we had no school as yet; and 2) where would the new school be built?

Question No. 1 was taken care of when one of the buildings at the old Brea Grammar School (now Brea Jr. High) was remodeled for temporary use by first and second-year high school students. Juniors and seniors would continue going to Fullerton High until the new school could be constructed.

Answering that second question about the building site, though, proved a lot more difficult than expected.

Even after Brea and Olinda voters had passed a bond issue Oct. 3 to raise \$325,000 for construction of buildings and buying of land, it had still not been decided which land to purchase.

In the "Fullerton Tribune" of Dec. 18, it was stated that "while a majority of the members of the board have been reported as favoring a school site between Brea and Olinda, a recent post-card referendum is said to show a decided preference for the old aviation site on Pomona avenue (now Brea Boulevard), approximately half a mile from the Fullerton city limits.

"According to W.D. Shaffer, member of the high school board, a compromise site is now being considered which is said to be more satisfactory than either of these two to the heaviest taxpayers of the district. This is the Hambleton tract between Cedar (now Imperial Highway) and Date streets and two blocks from Pomona avenue."

First of all, that old aviation site that the people liked so much was a landing strip about where the Brea Heights Shopping Center is today. Secondly, the compromise location on the

Hambleton tract would have been on the south side of Imperial, approximately across the highway from Laurel School.

And why wasn't that compromise site chosen? The reason was that the school board just couldn't reach an agreement and was consequently forced to call a special election to decide the question.

The Union Oil Co., which was the largest property owner and taxpayer in the district, favored the Hambleton tract location as did wealthy local landowner J.D. Seivers. By the way, Mr. Seivers' house, situated on the northwest corner of Imperial Highway and Berry Street, was the one that everyone hated to see be demolished three or four years ago.

Despite the influence of these two powerful entities, electors in February, 1926, chose the 23½ acre Birch Street site by 181 votes. That's not to say, though, that Breans didn't vote overwhelmingly for the Hambleton tract location because they did, by a vote of 400 to 150. What tipped the scales in favor of the Birch Street land was the almost solid vote of Olinda and the oil lease properties east of Brea. Naturally, they preferred Birch because the new high school would be closer to them.

The vote at Laurel School, which included several people from the leases, was 375 for Birch and 421 for Hambleton. In Olinda, all but five of the 242 voters selected Birch Street.

With the election over, the location of the school had finally been decided, construction commenced and, Oct. 2, 1926, the cornerstone was put in place.

The Hambleton tract was eventually subdivided, and where students might have listened to their teachers talk about the proper way to write an essay, homes were built instead. The widening of Imperial Highway many years ago

took a chunk of that land and probably would have threatened the school, had it been built there.

Now that the old school on Birch Street is only a memory, you're probably wondering why I even bothered to tell the story of its search for a home. When I sat down to write this, I wondered the same thing, but I guess I'm a person who likes those little footnotes of history.

In the coming weeks, I'll be sharing a lot of those footnotes with you, and hopefully, as time goes on, you'll end up as excited about Brea's history as I am.



A FIRE FROM THE PAST — An old fire truck, complete with firefighter, will be one of the many period pieces on display during Sunday's "Living History Tour" of Brea. Residents on the tour will get to see and talk with actors who will portray firemen who battled Brea's legendary oil fire as well as crews who worked the wells that still dot the hillsides.

Living history tours to search out Brea's past

BREA — In an effort to put residents more in touch with their past, the city and Jubilee Historical Committee is sponsoring a "Living History Tour" that is set to kick off Sunday with the opening of a 25-year-old time capsule buried in Old City Hall Park.

The time capsule was buried in the park during celebrations of the city's 50th birthday in 1967.

Though many of the tour sites bear little resemblance to how they looked several eras ago, the promoters of the tours hope to il-

lustrate something of a collective flashback for residents who take the trip.

Those who take the tour will hear stories about the small, citrus producing town whose hillsides were dotted with oil derricks, as well as Brea's founding families and the city's first airport.

They'll also learn about tales of treasure buried somewhere in Tonner Canyon.

The 90 minute tours will leave the park at 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. in wide-view window

buses supplied by Dial-a-Ride. Tickets are \$5 a person and are available at the Community Services Desk at the third floor of the Brea Civic and Cultural Center.

Reservations are preferred, but non-reserved tickets may be purchased at the bus boarding site if space permits. Accommodations for the handicapped must be made in advance.

The tours are set to be repeated May 9th.

For additional information or reservations, call (714) 990-4461.



Staff photo by Michael Loren

Rustic reminder: Brea's log cabin, not in the best shape but doing well enough to celebrate its 71st birthday this year, was built as a Sunday school classroom in 1921 for a Bible class of boys from the old Brea Christian Church who called themselves the Honor Knights. Walt Bergman, then president of the Honor Knights, helped in the construction of the structure.

Cabin logs in Brean history

Hidden back in a corner of old downtown Brea is a little bit of city history that most people don't know exists. Even when they're told that it's there, they still find it hard to believe.

What I'm talking about is our own log cabin, not in the best shape but doing well enough to celebrate its 71st birthday this year.

And how did it come to be here? Well, I wondered that myself when I first saw it. After some searching around for answers, I discovered its history is a bit different than I expected.

First of all, it wasn't made by some early Brea pioneer who had an inkling to recreate his old homestead back east. That would make a great story, but the truth is still interesting. It was built as a Sunday school classroom.

Back in 1921, there was a Bible class of boys from the old Brea Christian Church who called themselves the Honor Knights. Not having their own place to meet, they decided they'd build one. It wasn't going to be your ordinary run-of-the-mill classroom though, but an honest-to-goodness log cabin.

Right behind the church on West Ash Street, just before the land slopes down to meet the old Red Car tracks, there was some extra space. Everyone agreed that this would make the perfect place to build because when the cabin wasn't being used by the boys, the church could use it for other functions.

Now that the site was settled, where were the logs to come from? If Brea had been in the middle of a forest, that wouldn't have been a problem, but in the early '20s there weren't a heck of a lot of trees of the needed size around here.

A local oil company, Amalgamated, then came to the rescue. It donated some eucalyptus trees on its property if the boys, their fathers and other church members would come and cut them down. Sullivan Bros. Trucking Co. of Brea volunteered to haul them to the cabin site.

In a "Brea Star" newspaper article dated Jan. 17, 1921, Walt Bergman, president of the Honor Knights, was quoted as saying, "Mr. Dan Dutton has made drawings and specifications for the cabin which is to have a floor space of 16 by 24 feet with four windows, a door, fireplace, bookshelves, electric lights, cement floor, shingle roof, rustic overhead joists (useful for monkey shines), and otherwise furnished suitably for boy life."

Building began in February, and when the last nail was driven in June, the boys were ready to show off their new classroom to the public.

The "Brea Star" then reported that on the evening of June 23 a "delightfully informal program" took place at the church attended by more than 100 Breans. There was plenty of good food, games of basketball and other activities for young and old. The highlight of the evening was a bonfire and a short ceremony to dedicate the cabin. Everyone agreed afterward that the entire program had been "oodles of fun."

What didn't appear in the paper, though, was that something special had been done as

part of the dedication. Right under the hearth of the rock fireplace (or maybe it was in front of the door), the boys placed a time capsule to be opened at some unspecified date in the future.

Walt Bergman, that early Honor Knights president, still lives in Brea. Now 85 and living on Orange Avenue with his wife Evelyn, he has a great memory for what's occurred here in the past. Whenever I have a question about early Brea, he's one of the first people I go to, but as for the time capsule, he just can't seem to remember exactly where they placed it. Of course, it has been 71 years.

He does recall, though, that the capsule is some sort of large can and inside it are the names of all the people who gave their time, money, materials or assistance in the construction.

Four years after the cabin was built, it was enlarged. By this time, girls were allowed into the Honor Knights, so more room was needed. As for logs, the boys tried something new. Instead of eucalyptus trees, they used old telephone/power line poles. In fact, one of these poles still has a metal plaque on it that reads "S.C.E.C." (Southern California Edison Co.).

You might be wondering now what's going to happen to this Brea landmark when the area undergoes major redevelopment in the next couple of years. Will it come down like so many of the surrounding homes? Fortunately, the answer is "no." Plans are that the cabin, as well as the church, will stay where they are.

Now used only for storage, the little classroom definitely has seen better days. After all those years since 1921, the logs are not in the best of shape, the fireplace has some major cracks and the roof really needs work. The Missionary Baptist Church, which now owns the cabin, is doing its best to maintain it, but it's being hampered by local graffiti "artists" and the elements.

During the past two years, whenever I was leading one of the "Historical Tours" of old downtown, I always enjoyed seeing the look on people's faces when they saw the cabin for the first time. They seemed really amazed that Brea had something like this and they hadn't known of it before. Let's just keep our fingers crossed that the little cabin is around for a long time and people can go on being amazed by it for many years to come.

Video puts Brea on record

Film team documents city's historical buildings and founding families

By **Cerise A. Valenzuela**
The Orange County Register

BREA—When Brian Saul and Scott Pettinger started filming short historical segments in Brea in fall 1989, they intended to do only 10 shows for the city's Video Brea Line, shown on Century Cable of Southern California.

But the city's historical committee demanded more video bits about Brea's historical beginnings, especially as the demolition date for most of the downtown buildings drew closer. Some demolition work started this month.

"Soon there won't be anything to look at," said Saul, a Brea Historical Society member and a kindergarten teacher at Arovista Elementary School. "We had to document it all before it was gone."

The two filmed seven more segments. They interviewed members of Brea's founding families and did profiles on various historical buildings, the city's citrus industry and oil fields, a railway and an old airport that not many residents knew about.

Then last summer, something clicked, said Pettinger, the city's media specialist. "We didn't think about it," he said. "It was something that just happened. We decided to put it all on one video."

After nearly two years of filming, the 17 segments were combined into one two-hour videotape titled "Brea: A Walk in Time." The pair will have 150 copies for sale next month throughout the city for \$10.

The video, part of the Brea Jubilee celebration, is co-sponsored by the Brea Jubilee Committee and the Brea Historical Committee. About 80 percent of the proceeds will help pay for the yearlong Brea birthday celebration. The rest pays for

printing and duplication costs, Saul said.

The video begins with a view south from the top of the Brea Hotel on Brea Boulevard. It shows Sam's Place bar and the old Red Lantern Theatre on Brea Boulevard. Also shown are some of the city's oldest houses along Walnut Street, Brea's First Christian Church on Ash Street and the log cabin built behind it in 1921 and the city's old airport.

Also featured is an oil tank storage yard

where two tanks were struck by lightning in 1926. That sparked a fire that spewed hot oil into the citrus groves and onto nearby railroad tracks. The oil was so hot that the tracks warped, Pettinger said.

The video ends with a look at the Brea Marketplace built in 1991 along Birch Street and a view from atop the Embassy Suites Hotel on Birch Street.

Saul said the video includes more than 100 historical photographs of Brea and glimpses inside old buildings.

"Every city should have a video like this," Pettinger said. "You can just watch it and you'll know everything there is to know about the city."

"When I came here two years ago, there

was nothing on video to show the historic value of Brea. Now I know more about Brea than I do (about) my own hometown of Rochester, N.Y."

In one segment, the two tried to show how Indians used tar to line their baskets and make them watertight, he said. But his and Saul's experiment was a disaster. "I always wanted to see if it would work," Saul said. "I heated the tar all day and scooped it up with my (rubber-gloved) hand. The tar went right through the basket and the basket stuck to my hand, all on camera. I had to laugh."

Another time, they filmed a man driving away after he hit Saul's parked car.

"A man was pushing his car away from mine because he had hit my car," Saul said. When Saul walked up, the man asked him to help push, and Saul told the man it was his car he had hit.

"His mouth just dropped and I agreed to push (his car) away but said we'd have to call the police," Saul said. "As we were pushing, the man got in his car and drove away."

"Funny thing is, Scott got it all on tape and got a close-up of the license plate, and the police later caught him."



Craig Wallace Chapman/The Orange County Register
It's taken two years, but Scott Pettinger, left, and Brian Saul recently completed a video history of Brea. They interviewed families who lived in Brea for many generations.

time has become difficult.

They have been too busy working on their latest project — combining their episodes of "A Walk In Time" in a videotape that will be made available to Brea residents as a memento of the city of Brea's 1992 Jubilee Celebration.



(Star-Progress photo by Barbara A. Williams)

REMEMBERING A FOND PAST — Longtime Brea resident Walter Bergman, who appears in several segments of the city of Brea's historical videotape, supplies the details of a fatal plane crash at the Brea airfield as Brian Saul studies a 1926 newspaper clipping of the event.

Sponsored by the Brea Historical Committee and the Brea Jubilee Committee, the video is expected to run about 1 1/2 to 2 hours in length, with segments covering historic Brea locations and many of the old buildings that will soon be demolished to make way for the city's downtown redevelopment plan.

Saul, the 1990-91 president of the Historical Committee, said the group hopes to keep the price of the video affordable so that all Brea families can keep it as an historical reference in their homes.

The tape's segmented format will also make it a convenient classroom teaching tool, he noted. Both Saul and Pettinger, who developed the Brea history series together, said the video itself will one day be of historic importance.

"When I came to Brea two years ago, there was not one video or slide record of any part of historic Brea," Pettinger recalled. "Now the city has a very good record of the old downtown."

The "Walk In Time" film also includes shots of the Brea Historical Society's photo collection, he pointed out.

"Now we have at least two-thirds of their historical pictures on tape — and we've used almost all of them in 'Walk Through Time,'" he added.

Saul, who serves as vice-chairman of the Historical Society, said the value of the tape is enhanced by its oral-history footage of some of Brea's longtime

a historical view of downtown Brea from the roof of the Brea Hotel, near the corner of Brea Boulevard and Ash Street. residents, such as Inez Fanning, Catherine Seller and the late Dyer Bennett.

One early Brea resident who appears in several "Walk In Time" segments is Walter Bergman.

"When Walt talks to you, it's like living history. He's got a wonderful memory," Saul said.

Bergman helped the video crew fill in the details of the construction of the Brea Christian Church's Honor Knights' log cabin, a structure that still stands near the corner of Ash Street and Walnut Avenue.

"Walt" Bergman talked on camera about the fatal 1926 crash of the tiny, Brea-built 'Hummingbird' monoplane. The plane burst into flames in front of 4,000 spectators at the Brea airfield, located in an area that is now north of the intersection of Imperial Highway and Kraemer Boulevard, near the railroad tracks.

He also gave his eye-witness account of the disastrous fire at Union Oil Co.'s Stewart Tank Farm, that was started by a bolt of lightning on April 8, 1926.

Most recently Bergman talked on camera about the fatal 1926 crash of the tiny, Brea-built "Hummingbird" monoplane at the Brea airfield, located in an area that is now north of the intersection of Imperial Highway and Kraemer Boulevard, near the railroad tracks.

Although Saul had found a newspaper account of the incident — the paper said 4,000 spectators had seen 21-year-old test pilot Ray "Billy" Freeman, 1917, Long Beach die on impact when the 250-pound experimental plane crashed nose-first into the field — Bergman's own recollections of the event added layers of historical insight to the account.

Bergman told Saul how he helped the plane's designers, Brea Bill Tremaine and Australian-born Fred Thaheld, paint the wings with "plane dope" and cart the 15-foot plane out to the airfield in his flatbed truck, in exchange for flying lessons.

He recalled the 3-day air show with its 80 pilots, and his own successful drink concession at the waterless airfield — 25,000 bottles of soda and 10,000 bottles of beer.

And he remembered how the rigid stubble of the barley fields in the surrounding area shredded the tires of visitors' cars, and the surge of the repair business at the Bergman family's downtown garage.

Stepping so close to Brea's past with its early citizens is exciting, Saul said.

Yet even when the facts must be gathered from libraries and archives, he said he enjoys the thrill of discovery.

"It's like a treasure hunt," he explained. "Everything you find is a clue. But you never reach the treasure. The treasure is the whole picture."

Dynamic Duo document days of old Brea

By Barbara A. Williams

DSP Correspondent

BREA — Local residents may have already seen the Video Brea Line "A Walk In Time" segment in which reporter Brian Saul demonstrates how local Indians used tar to waterproof their woven baskets.

What viewers didn't see was the preceding 24 hours when Saul, a kindergarten teacher at Arovista School, attempted to lig-
tuey clumps of tar from the Brea hills over a classroom burner, while a chorus of young voices chirped, "Oooo! What smells?"

Nor did viewers see how the bottom fell out of the basket when Saul started spreading the tar, or how the basket stuck to his arm as he tried to shake it loose.

But Scott Pettinger saw it all. For the past year and a half, the city of Brea media specialist has filmed, edited and directed each of the 17 "Walk In Time" segments, standing beside Saul with camera in hand even when the going got tough.

Most people don't see what goes on behind the scenes, like the time they had to haul the camera gear out a window, up a ladder and over the roof of the Brea Hotel, just to get a decent shot of Good Ol' Brea's historic town center, the corner of Ash Street and Brea Boulevard.

During their filming sessions, the two men managed to clamber into and over most of Brea's historic landmarks.

Pettinger kept the camera rolling as Saul explored the seldom-seen corners of Brea history, like the upstairs living quarters of Sam's Place, and the community room of the Sewell Building, where citizens met for dances, wrestling matches and the city's incorporation meetings.

However, some of the men's video adventures never made it to Video Brea Line.

For instance, once, they returned from a film session to find Saul's parked car in the middle of an auto accident.

After identifying himself to the errant motorist, Saul agreed to help the man push his car to the side of the road before collecting insurance information.

But while Saul was pushing from the rear of the car, the motorist hopped into the driver's seat and drove away.

The incident wasn't over.

Pettinger had captured the entire encounter on tape, complete with zoom-lens footage of the car's license plate. Police later apprehended the hit-and-run driver.

Although the video duo may be tempted to stop and laugh over their out-takes, even finding that



ON A HISTORICAL NOTE — Scott Pettinger, right, city of Brea media specialist, keeps the camera rolling as Brian Saul provides

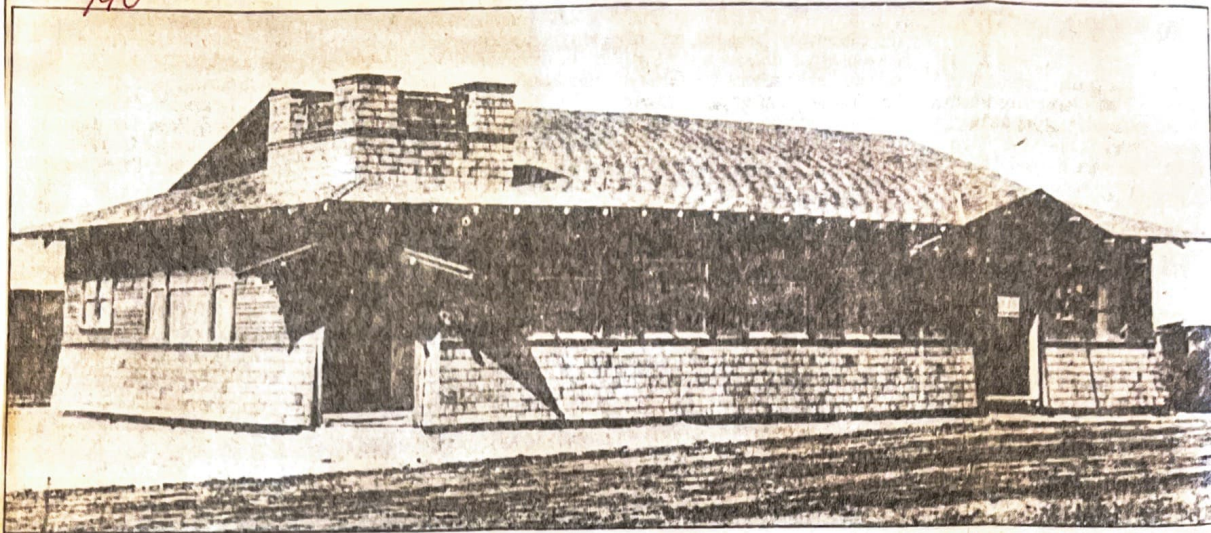
(Star-Progress photo by Barbara A. Williams)

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FREEZE FRAME: BREA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

A view of Orange County yesterday and today, appearing each Tuesday.

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1915: On April 13, 1913, 15 residents met in a pool hall on Pomona Avenue (now Brea Boulevard) and formed the Brea Congregational Sunday School and the city's first church, according to church records. A church building, shown here, was built two years later at the corner of Pomona and Birch. It

Photo courtesy of Brea Historical Society
was known as the "oilman's church," apparently because the first pledge toward its construction was a \$500 gift from A.O. Birch of Birch Oil Co. Probably, too, its attendance included some of the many oil workers who flooded into the area to work on the oil derricks.

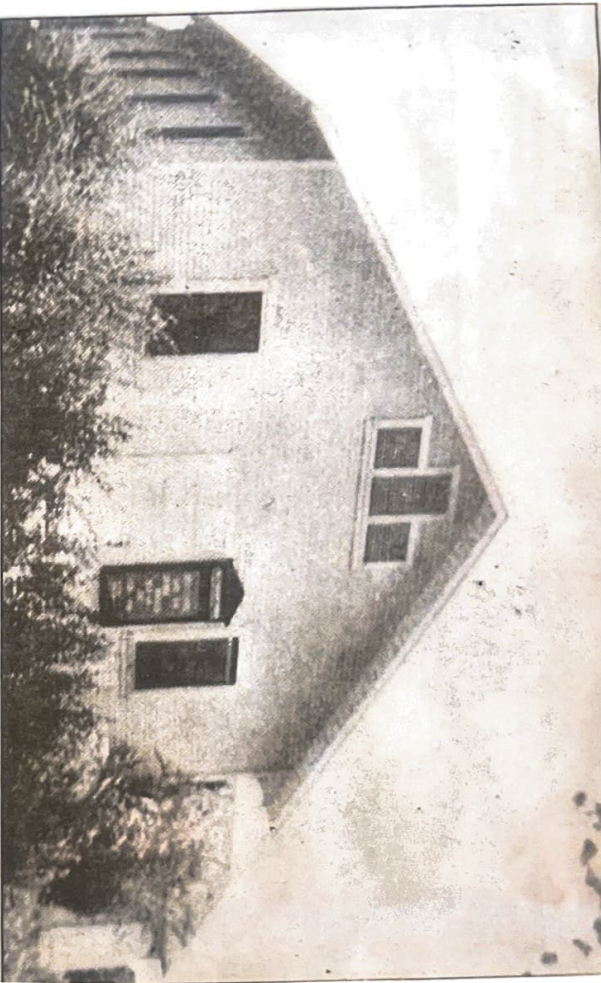


John Westcott/The Register

Today: The lot where the church stood was sold to Oilfield National Bank in 1927. The building was moved to Imperial and Flower and is now part of the fellowship hall for the church's current building, which was completed in

1929. Oilfield National Bank built a new structure on the Pomona and Birch site, and later was bought by First Interstate Bank. Today, that building, shown here at 201 S. Brea Blvd., is shared by several businesses.

FREEZE FRAME



Register file photo

The Brea Baptist Church held its first meeting on April 11, 1924, at the Brea Congregational Church. It would be four years before the Baptists dedicated a building of their own, here at the corner of Birch Street and Flower Avenue. They worshiped there for 20 years, adding on occasionally. In 1950, the Baptists bought a lot farther south on Flower for a new church. That building was completed in 1953, and dedicated the next year. The old church was torn down and replaced by the Living Rock Church, at 217 E. Birch.

— JOHN WESTCOTT/The Orange County Register

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

- In 1891: First post office opened in Newport Beach.
- In 1903: First California domestic water used for irrigation in the La Habra Valley.
- In 1932: Laguna Beach artists launched Festival of the Arts.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY PLANS MINI-MUSEUM

from page 2

interviewing 50 Brea residents was drawn up and half of those interviews have been compiled so far.

"We wanted to show the past customs and events and preserve them... through the personalities of the people," Fanning said.

At a recent city event which named old City Hall and a nearby park a national monument, the compiled interviews were presented in book form to the individuals who told their story of Brea.

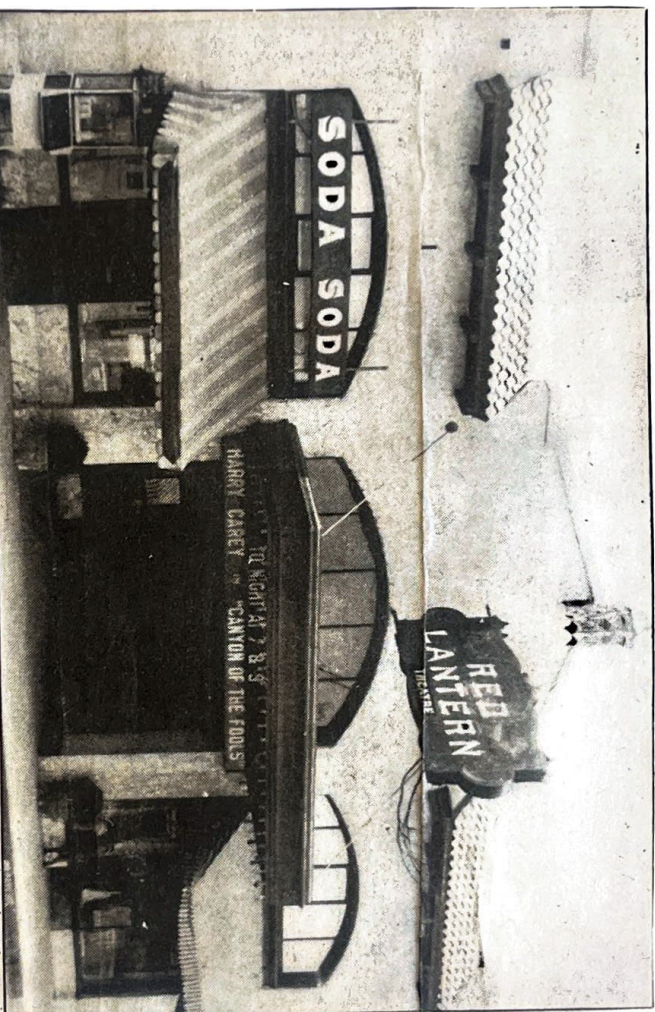
The books are available to the public through the Brea Historical Society and CSUF's oral history department. A book about Brea's history will also be compiled in part by CSUF and the Historical Society in the future.

Fanning, a teacher of biology and science for 38 years, noted that members of the Historical Society are not trained historians or archivists, but they are learning slowly. Membership is open to anyone interested for a small fee.

The approximately 60-member Historical Society has a social meeting every two months where a speaker is featured. The next meeting on Nov. 10 will be a field trip to "Heritage Hill," Saddleback's historical site in El Toro.



DRILLING CREW This picture was taken inside a wooden oil derrick in 1930 when rotary drills were common. Cable tool drilling was used before the invention of rotary drills. (Photo courtesy of Brea Historical Society)



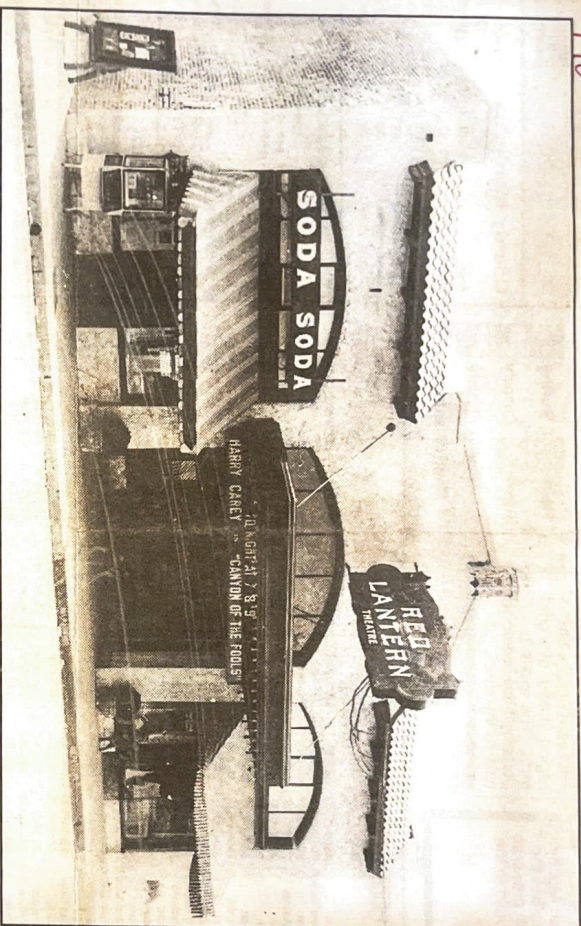
THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT The Red Lantern Theater opened in Brea in 1922 and featured such actors as Harry Carey in "Canyon of the Fools." According to Karl Fanning, president of the Brea Historical Society, the building actually had a red lantern atop its building and a Chinese Buddha with a red light in its forehead on either side of its walls. Children enjoyed Saturday matinees for 15 cents at the theater, which is now a church said Fanning. (Photo courtesy of Brea Historical Society)



BREA'S BEGINNING Pomona Avenue (now Brea Boulevard) was the location of the Sewell Building in the 1920s where Brea city offices first settled. Notice the the "City Engineer" sign at the right end of the building. Today, Brea city offices are located in the Brea Civic Cultural Center near the Brea Mall. (photos courtesy of Brea Historical Society)

FREEZE FRAME

790



Courtesy of the Brea Historical Society

Theater filled the bill in Brea

Frustrated by the lack of a theater in Brea, community leaders joined in the early 1920s to create one. Construction began soon afterward. The Red Lantern Theater opened March 7, 1922, as floodlights lighted the sky and the Brea Municipal Band performed. The building's motif included a cross-legged Buddha overlooking the audience; a red light shone in the middle of his forehead. Stars performing there included Frances Gumm, better known later as Judy Garland. Other businesses flanked the entrance, including a soda shop on the left. Located on Brea Boulevard just north of Birch Street, the theater later became the Calvary Chapel Church. It was demolished in 1987.

— John Westcott/The Register

THIS WEEK IN OC HISTORY

- **In 1812:** A massive earthquake destroyed Mission San Juan Capistrano's stone church, killing 40 Juaneño Indians.
- **In 1845:** Mission San Juan Capistrano's buildings were auctioned off to John Forster and James McKinley for \$710.
- **In 1893:** The first post office was opened in the young town of Placentia.
- **In 1906:** Ole Hanson opened lot sales for the new development of San Clemente.

FREEZE FRAME: SEWELL BUILDING, BREA

A view of Orange County yesterday and today, appearing each Tuesday.

90

Circa 1917: One of the first business buildings erected in Brea, the Sewell Building was completed about 1910. It consisted of a one-story frame structure in the 200 block of South Pomona Street (now Brea Boulevard) on the corner of Ash Street. It was destroyed by fire in 1913. In its place was built the present two-story Sewell Building, made of brick and featuring stores on the ground floor and offices and an auditorium on the upper floor. Early businesses included the MacClatchie Hardware Co. and Dr. C.C. Jarvis' dental office.

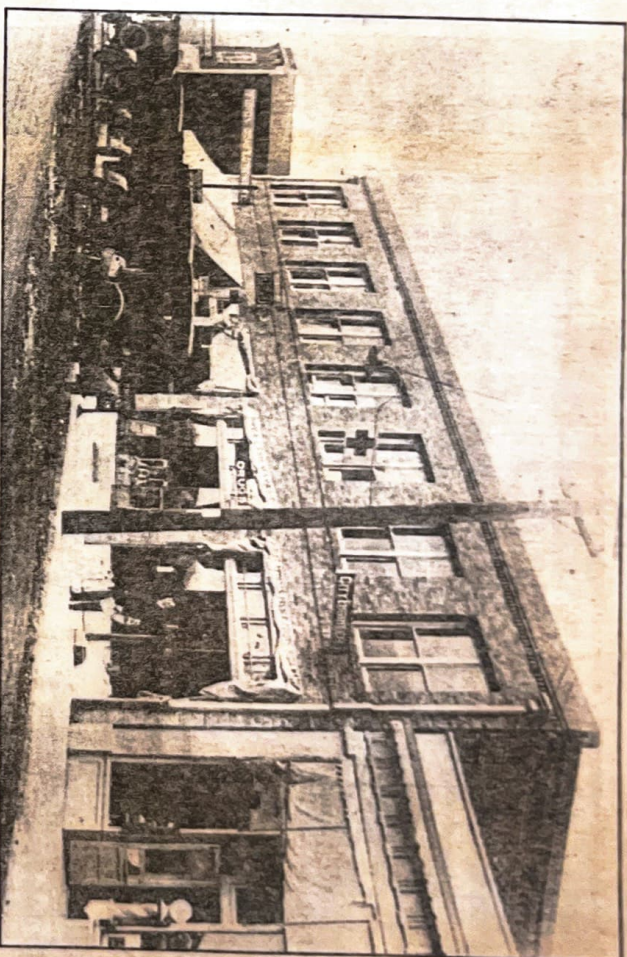


Photo courtesy of Orange County Historical Society

Today: When Brea incorporated in 1917, it leased space in the Sewell Building for city staff and its council meetings until the first City Hall opened in 1929. Five years later, in the height of the Depression, Earl Templeton bought the building, which had been vacant for several years. He renovated the building, replaced the roof, and moved in his hardware business in 1937. Today, the building is occupied by several businesses, including a fine arts store and an upholstery shop. The building to the right, which was a barber shop in the original photo, today is a custom frame shop.



Cabin logs in Brean history

Hidden back in a corner of old downtown Brea is a little bit of city history that most people don't know exists. Even when they're told that it's there, they still find it hard to believe.

What I'm talking about is our own log cabin, not in the best shape but doing well enough to celebrate its 71st birthday this year.

A WALK IN TIME

By Brian Saul

And how did it come to be here? Well, I wondered that myself when I first saw it. After some searching around for answers, I discovered its history is a bit different than I expected.

First of all, it wasn't made by some early Brea pioneer who had an inkling to recreate his old homestead back east. That would make a great story, but the truth is still interesting. It was built as a Sunday school classroom.

Back in 1921, there was a Bible class of boys from the old Brea Christian Church who called themselves the Honor Knights. Not having their own place to meet, they decided they'd build one. It wasn't going to be your ordinary run-of-the-mill classroom though, but an honest-to-goodness log cabin.

Right behind the church on West Ash Street, just before the land slopes down to meet the old Red Car tracks, there was some extra space. Everyone agreed that this would make the perfect place to build because when the cabin wasn't being used by the boys, the church could use it for other functions.

Now that the site was settled, where were the logs to come from? If Brea had been in the middle of a forest, that wouldn't have been a problem, but in the early '20s there weren't a heck of a lot of trees of the needed size around here.

A local oil company, Amalgamated, then came to the rescue. It donated some eucalyptus trees on its property if the boys, their fathers and other church members would come and cut them Down. Sullivan Bros. Trucking Co. of Brea volunteered to haul them to the cabin site.

In a "Brea Star" newspaper article dated Jan. 17, 1921, Walt Bergman, president of the Honor Knights, was quoted as saying, "Mr. Dan Dutton has made drawings and specifications for the cabin which is to have a floor space of 16 by 24 feet with four windows, a door, fireplace, bookshelves, electric lights, cement floor, shingle roof, rustic overhead joists (useful for monkey shines), and otherwise furnished suitably for boy life."

Building began in February, and when the last nail was driven in June, the boys were ready to show off their new classroom to the public. The "Brea Star" then reported that on the evening of June 23 a "delightfully informal program" took place at the church attended by more than 100 Breans. There was plenty of good food, games of basketball and other activities for young and old. The highlight of the evening was a bonfire and a short ceremony to dedicate the cabin. Everyone agreed afterward that the entire program had been "oodles of fun."

What didn't appear in the paper, though, was that something special had been done as part of the dedication. Right under the hearth of the rock fireplace (or maybe it was in front of the door), the boys placed a time capsule to be opened at some unspecified date in the future.

Walt Bergman, that early Honor Knights president, still lives in Brea. Now 88 and living on Orange Avenue with his wife Evelyn, he has a great memory for what's occurred here in the past. Whenever I have a question about early Brea, he's one of the first people I go to, but as for the time capsule, he just can't seem to remember exactly where they placed it. Of course, it has been 71 years.

He does recall, though, that the capsule is some sort of large can and inside it are the names of all the people who gave their time, money, materials or assistance in the construction.

Four years after the cabin was built, it was enlarged. By this time, girls were allowed into the Honor Knights, so more room was needed. As for logs, the boys tried something new. Instead of eucalyptus trees, they used old telephone/pole line poles. In fact, one of these poles still has a metal plaque on it that reads "S.C.E.C." (Southern California Edison Co.).

You might be wondering now what's going to happen to this Brea landmark when the area undergoes major redevelopment in the next couple of years. Will it come down like so many of the surrounding homes? Fortunately, the answer is "no." Plans are that the cabin, as well as the church, will stay where they are.



Staff photo by Michael Loren

Rustic reminder: Brea's log cabin, not in the best shape but doing well enough to celebrate its 71st birthday this year, was built as a Sunday school classroom in 1921 for a Bible class of boys from the old Brea Christian Church who called themselves the Honor Knights. Walt Bergman, then president of the Honor Knights, helped in the construction of the structure.

WALK: Brea's log cabin

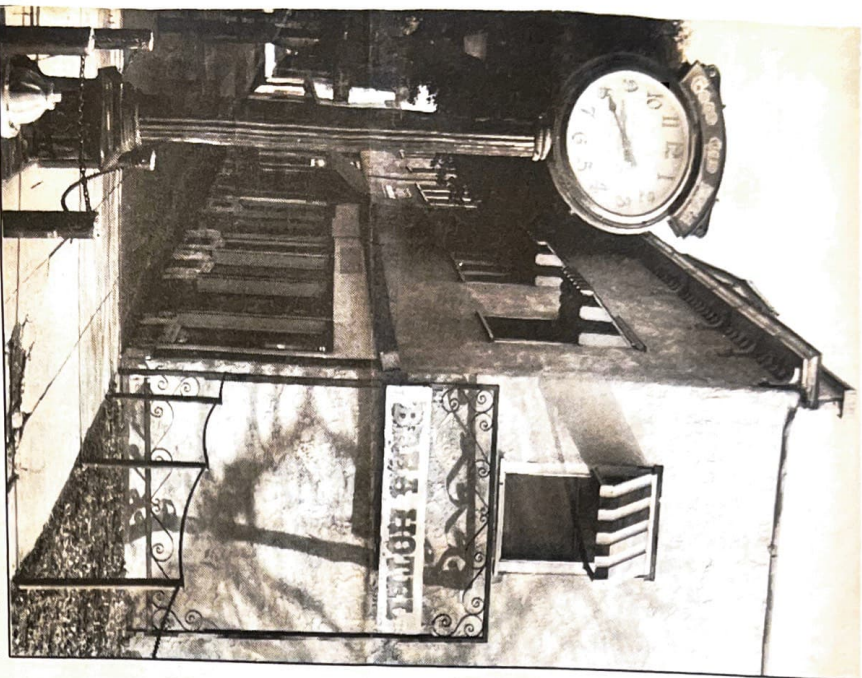
Continued from page 6

Now used only for storage, the little classroom definitely has seen better days. After all those years since 1921, the logs are not in the best of shape, the fireplace has some major cracks and the roof really needs work. The Missionary Baptist Church, which now owns the cabin, is doing its best to maintain it, but it's being hampered by local graffiti "artists" and the elements.

Whenever I was leading one of the "Historical Tours" of old downtown, I always enjoyed seeing the look on people's faces when they saw the cabin for the first time. They seemed really amazed that Brea had something like this and they hadn't known of it before. Let's just keep our fingers crossed that the little cabin is around for a long time and people can go on being amazed by it for many years to come.

During the past two years, the Brea Historical Society.

Brian Saul is vice president of the Brea Historical Society.



(Star-Progress photo by Mark Croner)

NO VACANCY — The Brea Hotel will one of the stops in a walking tour of the downtown slated for Jan. 18.



(Star-Progress photo by Mark Croner)

LOG CABIN LORE — Brea's lone authentic log cabin, built in the early 1900s, will be one of the featured stops in a tour of the down-

town sponsored by the historical society.

FREEZE FRAME: DOWNTOWN BREA

A view of Orange County yesterday and today, appearing each Tuesday.



Photo courtesy 1st American Title Insurance Co.

1920: The small oil boom town of Brea (which means tar in Spanish) acquired its name in 1912 and, in

June, the twin halves of the Brea Hotel. It is located at 106 N. Pomona, said county historian Jim Sleeper.



Todd Buchanan/The Register

Today: The building still stands and is run as a hotel, though the address has changed to 108 S. Brea.

Remodeled in 1927, it now is owned by Inge Werner. A baby-goods store is on the bottom storefront area.



MINIMAL BUSINESS MACHINES — An interior view of Oilfields' second location showed two Burroughs business machines, a typewriter and functional furniture that welcomed depositors in the late 1920s.

West Brea...the way it was

By

Elsie Bergman

Thank you, Elsie, for sharing your memories of "West Brea...the way it was". We are pleased to print and share them with the Historical Society membership. (Note: clarification of some information appears in italics and are not part of the original article as submitted.

Moving from the state of Washington to Brea, California back in 1944 (at age 31) was rather traumatic...it was still wartime and housing was tight. My sister-in-law Evelyn Bergman (who Elsie did not meet until she arrived in Brea in 1944) knew of ONE rental available. It was rather small and a bit shabby, but for rent of \$18.00 a month, it was a "find". A vacant lot even went with the property (at 208 W. Birch) and upon Jake's (Elsie's husband) return from overseas, he transformed it into a beautiful mum garden in his spare time.

Those were the days of wooden oil derricks on the hillsides. Nearby orange groves permeated the air with the scent of their blossoms. Also, those were the days of great camaraderie when neighbors shared their flowers and produce and nobody locked their doors.

With fond memories, I recall some of the "old timers" who lived in our neighborhood. First, my dear in-laws, Jim and Minnie Bergman gave up ranch life in Aguanga to buy the house (formerly owned by the Russell family) around the corner from us on Madrona. Mrs. Phillips lived next door to them. Stella and (former Brea School Superintendent) Will Fanning lived across the street and Florence Harvey, a few doors away. The McDowell Family lived close by, and Bill (Elsie's son) and Jerry (McDowell) went all through school together as great buddies. Jerry grew up to be Brea Fire Chief. Frances and Florence Nipp lived across the alley from us (owners of Cannings Hardware at the time).

One Thanksgiving, my old gas stove gave out on me and Florence insisted I finish baking our turkey in her oven as they were going to be away for the day.

After the Nipp's moved, the Jack Algers were our neighbors. Mayme Mays lived next door to them and Dave and Cuba Brown lived across the street. There was the McKinley Family next to our vacant lot...she an invalid and he an excellent handyman who so skillfully replaced the screening on our long front porch. The parents of Inez Fanning lived next to them. Johnny Char,

the baker, lived kitty-corner from us and enjoyed raising squab for a hobby. We were often the recipients of his leftover bakery delights. Alexander's Market was on the corner of Pomona Ave. (now Brea Blvd.) and Birch St.

In 1949 (January 11), Brea had its first snowstorm. I so vividly remember our little girl looking out the window and crying because she thought her sandbox was gone, for everything was covered with snow. We lived in that little house at 208 W. Birch until December, 1950. Today, it would be hard to mark the spot where it stood.

Bill adds these memories from the perspective of an 8-year-old:

We kids collected tinfoil from cigarette packages and rolled it up in balls for the war effort. We collected grease for a neighbor who made soap from it with ashes from her hearth. We helped with paper drives and scrap metal drives.

Took piano lessons from Mrs. Curtis (wife of Dr. C. Glenn Curtis). Jerry and I played a lot across the street at the home of the Troup family. They raised chickens in their backyard.

We collected pop bottles and earned 2 cents a piece for them at Alexander's Market. Sometimes we got a free weenie from Mr. Gheen, the butcher. Mr. Dump owned the Brea Theatre and we could get in for 27 cents, which included a cartoon between double features. The malt shop uptown was neat and so was the 5 & 10 cent store. Liked looking in the window of Haddad's Haberdashery; had fun hunting "crawdads" down in Brea Creek by the railroad tracks.

Went to Cub Scouts and in the summer, to camp at Osceola.

The Brea train depot is gone now, as is the (old) high school and the entire old city center. All that remains is the Brea Plunge, the Old City Hall and the American Legion Hall at the park.

Do you have memories of Brea you would like to share? We would love to print them! Even if you don't want to write them yourself, we will tell your story...but we can't unless you tell it to us! Contact Kathy Canon, Brian Saul or Jim Schweitzer at 714-256-2283 so we can help you share your memories of Brea.

Brea Bank Opening Recalls...

superintendent Edward Curtis, property owner W. C. Baldwin, businessman Ted Craig, practicing Brea physician Dr. W. E. Jackson, First National Bank employee Ralph Barnes and retired Yorba Linda businessman H. A. MacClatchie.

The new bank observed "usual banking hours", 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday. Advances were made for the oil workers' pay days on the 10th and 25th of the month when the bank closed at 3 p.m. and reopened from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Schwartz reminded Barnes that Founders' Bank is offering similar "personal service" with extended hours 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Last week, longtime Brea resident and former city clerk Lois Muzzall Smith recovered yellowed newspaper clippings of Olifields' opening day, Nov. 6, 1926. One of four on the first clerical staff, Smith was noted as "a well-known and popular girl of Olinda."

"That made me feel real good," she said, brandishing a modest smile. "I left my bookkeeping job in Fullerton to take the \$80 per month job."

"We were all dooied up for opening day," Smith added. "The Santa Ana newspaper came up and took our pictures and someone filmed it for a news item to be flashed on the screen before the major movie was shown at a Santa Ana theater."

Money for the enterprising venture arrived in sheafs. Smith remembered taking the large sheets to the Brea Progress Newspaper. "Everyone knew they had the best paper cutter in town," she said.

There weren't many new-fangled machines in the Brea bank. Clerks used two Burroughs bookkeeping machines while tellers depended upon an old-fashioned typewriter and a coin changing machine similar to ones used by peanut vendors at today's baseball games.

A 50 cent carrying charge was leveled for loan transactions and 25 cents was charged for an overdraft.

Within two years, the growing bank outgrew its location and moved two blocks south to property owned by the Brea Congregational Church at Birch and Pomona Streets.

"I raised our spirits," Barnes quipped.

By 1934, the First National Bank closed its affairs through voluntary liquidation, according to early Brea historian Purl

Harding, and transferred all depositors' accounts to the reorganized (following the Depression) Olifields National Bank.

New equipment and more streamlined banking techniques were a far cry from the old, handwritten Boston Ledger that Barnes had utilized in his early banking days.

The son of a farmer/barber in MacPherson, Kansas, Barnes recalled, "I took nice care of the president of the bank in my youth; that's where I first took an interest in banking."

Taking care included doing the janitor work, shining the president's shoes, helping him with his coat, assisting at livestock sales and delivering farm bills.

When Barnes' family moved to Orange, Ca. in 1923, the young businessman continued his banking interests and was hired by the First National Bank of Orange.

He was transferred to the First National Bank of Brea in 1924.

"There was always an opportunity to serve," Barnes said.

And, although serving others remained constant, the small town banker discovered trust faced constant challenges from outsiders bent on crime.

"It was the day after Thanksgiving, 1941, when there weren't any cops or children around," Barnes said, retelling his only involvement with a robbery. "At 3 p.m. I went to lock up the doors and a young man ap-

proached saying he wanted to change some coins. He told me he guessed he was too late, but I offered to help. The next thing I saw was a gun underneath a handkerchief and he asked me to hand over the money."

"Well, I took my time," Barnes said. "I counted out the bills as slowly as possible. But he still got \$2800 in cash."

Barnes and his wife drove to Alhambra to look over the "men wanted" files, but when wartime activities started the nation on Dec. 7, attention was taken from the small town robbery and the case was dropped.

Brea, meanwhile was bustling with building growth, and Olifields National wasn't able to go beyond a \$15,000 loan limit. In February, 1955, the personable banking facility was merged with California (later UCB) Bank, the corporation's first entry in Orange County.

Schwartz, who began his banking career at Olifields in 1946, following a stint in the Navy, took over as president of California Bank.

Through the years, Barnes and Schwartz have remained active in the community, sharing their financial expertise with many organizations.

"I think the thing my son liked best," Barnes added with a hearty chuckle, was the day they named me city treasurer. He knew he could go swimming in the city plunge free of charge."

Barnes' family owns stock in Founders Bank. "The new bank has the same philosophy we had in the old days," Barnes commented. "The bank was created to serve you... that was the slogan and we stuck by it."

BY OLD PHOTO:

Memories Revived For Brea Resident

BREA — After a story about Brea Canyon Oil Company appeared in the News Tribune

(March 6) with a picture taken in 1914, Roy Absher of 200 S. Brea Blvd. reported that he was in the picture, and could identify most of the other men.

The picture was loaned by Brea Canyon Oil Co., but no one there could identify the local oil pioneers.

Absher, 76, said he was the only one in the picture now living even though he was probably the oldest worker shown.

He identified eight men and two horses including: Abe Yost, Herb Ruggles, Guy Thompson, Marvin Wheeler, Burt Shafter, Erre Stayale, Ed Park and Si Yost. He said he was standing on a wagon pulled by "the finest team in the oil fields," Nig and Si.

"Si was named after Si Yost,"

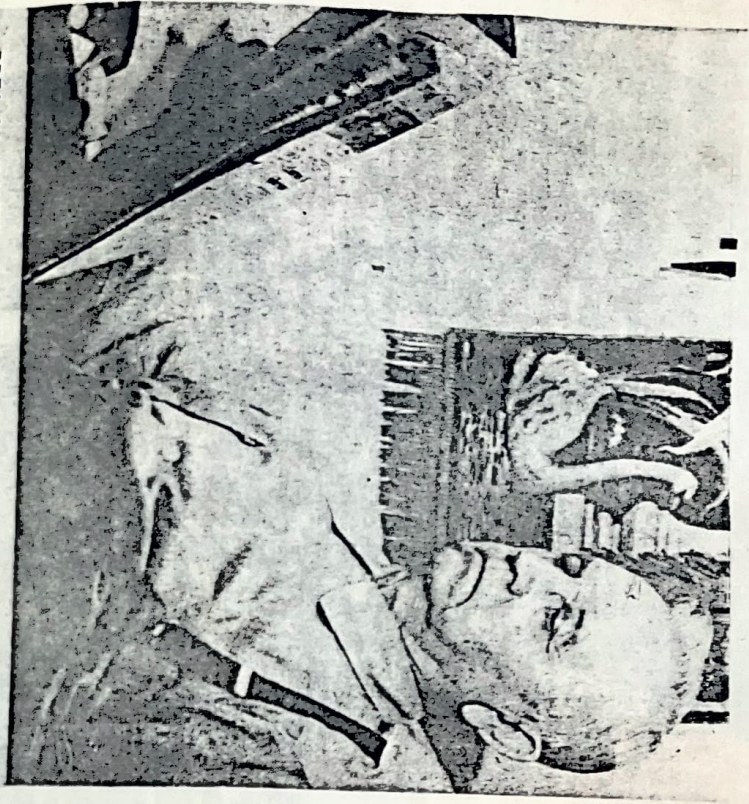
he explained, "because they both were strong as mules."

Absher came to Brea from Arkansas in 1912 to work as a teamster at Brea Canyon Oil Co. He stayed with the company until he retired in 1944.

"That was the best team in the field," he declared. "They could pull a wagon with 6,600 pounds of wire line up that hill with no trouble."

When he went to work as a teamster here, he received \$2.50 per day. Later he worked as a gas plant operator after horses were no longer needed in the field.

"I am not sure about all the men in the picture, but I believe they are all gone now," he said. "A few of them were with a transient crew and I didn't know them."



BREA OIL PIONEER — Roy Absher studies 48-year-old picture that appeared in the News Tribune recently. He identified eight oil pioneers along with a team of horses that "could pull that hill with a 6,600-pound load." (News Tribune Photo)

multitudes, but sometimes the pressures would get to him.

In those moments, West said, Tripp could take him out to lunch and let him "scream, holler, cuss, rant and rave."

Then in a calm demeanor, West said, Tripp would reply, "OK. You got it out of your system. Let's go back, pick up a hammer and nails and get back to work."

West wanted BREAL to be like an old-fashioned barn raising, but Tripp said his friend didn't realize that in today's fast-paced, mobile community, that type of happening just isn't possible.

"The day of being able to barn raise for neighbors is not what it used to be," remarked Tripp.

But none of the people involved with BREAL would discourage other service groups and organizations from pursuing a similar endeavor.

"I'd like to think it would motivate others to tackle this type of project," said Tripp. "This is the kind of thing that could grow."

RECEIVED INQUIRIES

And West, who borrowed his

idea from Novato, said he already has had inquiries from groups in Southern California seeking advice on how to get their own BREAL started.

But West admits he is not ready to take on another low-cost housing development. The time he has given to BREAL has taken away from his family and business for four years. Now, he wants to concentrate on those aspects of his life which greatly please his wife.

Mrs. West said she has supported her husband completely on the BREAL project, but she is looking forward to him abandoning his play clothes for the traditional business attire he wore before BREAL started.

APARTMENTS AVAILABLE

As the apartments have come closer to completion, Mrs. West said, she jokingly told her husband one morning, "It'll be nice to see you walk out of here in a suit and not in your patched-up whatevers."

Although BREAL is nearly finished, there still are apartments available for senior citizens who meet the complex's requirements.

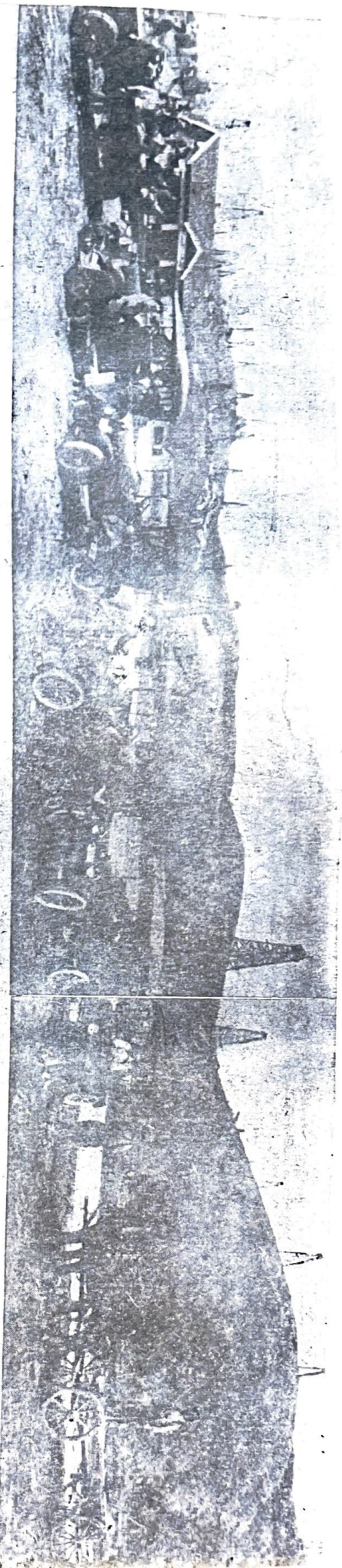
Applicants must be retired, be 65 years of age or older and have lived in Brea for at least three years. Also, their gross earnings may not exceed \$10,000 per year nor may their net assets be more than \$30,000.

Seniors who think they may fit these guidelines and who are seeking reasonable-priced housing may call Brea Rotary President Mike Cohen at 529-1122. Applications are available at his office at 203 N. Brea Blvd. or on the fifth floor of the Civic-Cultural Center.

For those people who are just interested in seeing what volunteer laborers have built for the older population in Brea, an open house at the BREAL site will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday.

The public and those who helped make BREAL happen are invited to come and explore the apartment building.

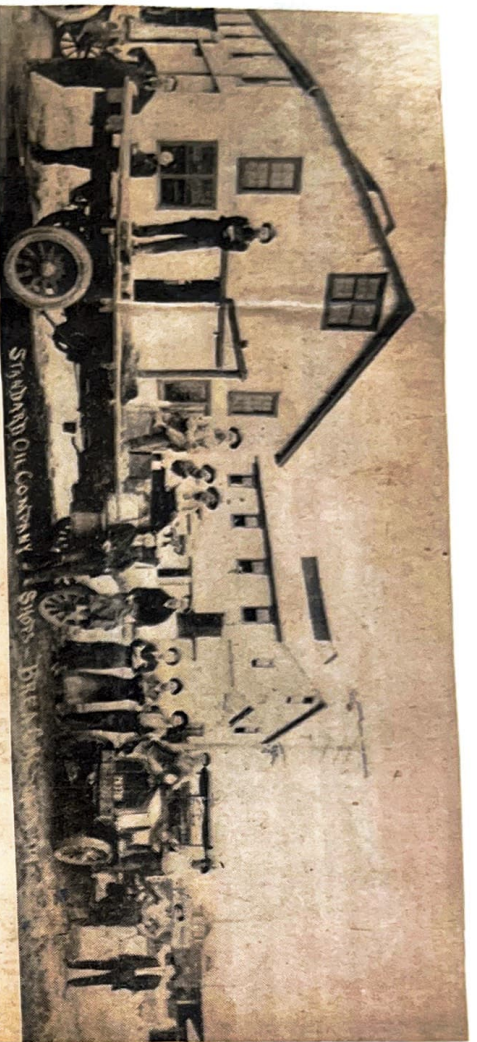
ABSHIER



BREA FOUNDERS — After the above picture, taken in 1914, appeared in the News Tribune March 6, Roy Abshier reported that he was in the picture and could identify many of the men employed by the Brea Canyon Oil Co. Several of those shown were not clear

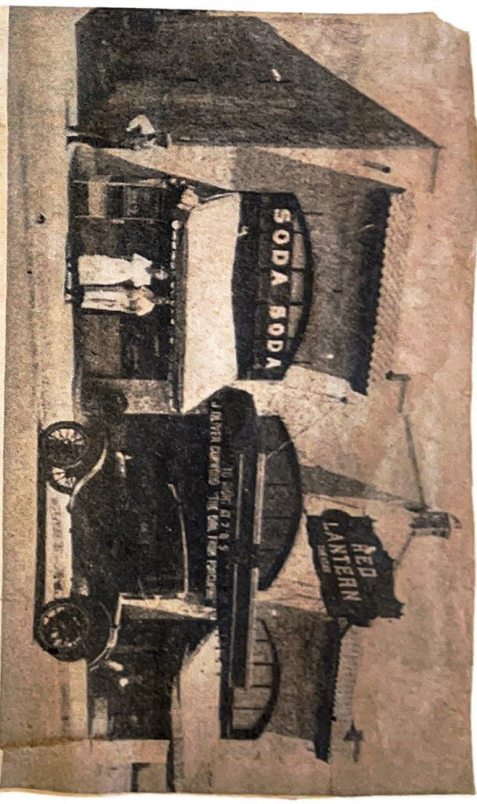
enough for identification. According to Abshier, third from left standing is Abe Yost, superintendent of the lease, leaning against the auto fender is Charles Swan, with Miss Keen, the company bookkeeper. Seated is Herb Ruggles. The next three are Guy Thompson, Marvin

Wheeler and Bert Shaffer. Next identifiable is Ery Stogdale with folded. Standing in front of the horses is Fred Clark with Abs standing in the wagon. Others in the picture but not identifiable: Jerry Penellon, Andy Reed, Carl Stogdale and Charles Reed.



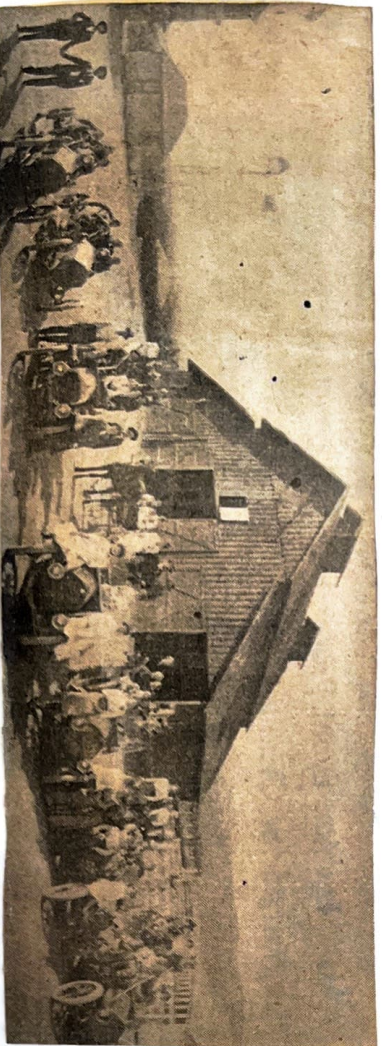
STANDARD OIL SHOPS — As they appeared in 1914 these are the machine shop (left) and blacksmith shop of the Standard Oil Co. Men standing in front are employees. Frank Schweitzer, one of Brea's first city councilmen and father of Frank Schweitzer Jr., now on the council, was machine shop foreman at the time. The shops were located

just south of the Pacific Electric Railroad depot seen in the background on N. Pomona. Julian Yriarte, a brother of Augustin Yriarte who owns these three photographs, is shown standing on running board of truck with large single headlight on the hood.



RED LANTERN THEATER — Felix Yriarte, a son of Patricio Yriarte, one of the early settlers of Brea, was president of this Red Lantern Theater on S. Pomona, which opened March 7, 1922. It had Oriental decorations. A clothing store and confectionery

were the first to occupy the two theaters in the building. "The Girl From Porcupine," by J. Oliver Curry, shown on the marquee was a silent movie known to many theatergoers in 1925 when the photo was taken.



HUALDE RANCH

Charter Legion Member

Edward (Ted) Craig, another of the first City Council elected when Brea was incorporated, was a charter member of Brea American Legion Post 181 when it was organized Jan. 5, 1920. Starting in 1928 he served his district as a state assemblyman for several years. He now lives on E. Elm. So-Brea has more than a big future and an energetic present; it has a colorful and fascinating past. Senior citizens are still around with plenty of memories to interest the young moderns now thinking in terms of space-ships to the moon rather than wagon-trips down dusty roads.

And it's growing. In a master plan recently drawn up by the Brea Planning Commission it was estimated that the city's 2,476 residential units will within 15 years increase to more than 3,742 inside present city limits.

The Kirbhill Rubber Co., which moved to town in 1951 from Los Angeles, has doubled its working space. Chiksan Co. reports growing world-wide exports and a sales volume that has gone from thousands to millions of dollars since it moved to town in 1946. Shafter Tool Works has tripled production in a seven-year period, also due to much overseas exporting. It has been in Brea since 1925.

With thousands of people pouring into California every day, the time will come when the city's present facilities and landscape will seem almost bare when compared with the 21st century scene.

Brea Looks Back Over Happy Holidays Of The Roaring Twenties

What's In a name?

Brea got its name from the Spanish word "brea" meaning oil soaked earth used for fuel, according to a sketch of the city which has been prepared by the Chamber of Commerce.

Here, in part, is the word picture of Brea the chamber paints:

BREA is located on a fairly level mesa, at the entrance to Brea Canyon which leads to the mountains and the desert inland. Its mean altitude of 375 feet above sea-level makes Brea the highest incorporated city in Orange County, and it lends its residents security from flood danger. Oil development in the Puente Hills north of Brea, played an important part in the formation of this community which was incorporated February 23, 1917. In fact, the city took its name from the Spanish name "brea" which means "tar" or "oil". Legend has it that the early Spanish who came through this part of California, noted in their journals that the natives (Indians) came from many miles around to "a canyon from which they dug blocks of fuel which smelled and looked like brea."

Brea is located close to everything—less than 25 miles southeast of Los Angeles; with easy access to the Santa Ana Freeway; 20 miles from the Pacific Ocean, and the beaches; 35 miles from the mountains, with skiing in the winter, and 40 miles approximately to both the high and the low desert. Disneyland, U.S.A., and Knott's Berry Farm and Ghost Town are both within 10 minutes drive of

City Government

Brea is a General Law City (formerly known as 6th class). City hall, located at 401 So. Brea Blvd., on the block-square original city park, houses all branches of city government, headed by five councilmen, who choose one from their group to act as Mayor. The city council meets in regular session in the council chambers at city hall on the first and third Monday nights of each month. A city administrator coordinates and administers the decisions of the council. The city administrator, the police department, the fire department, planning commission, civil service commission, park and recreation commission, and civil defense are all organized units under the supervision of the city council government.

All licenses, permits, and water bills are handled by the city clerk's office, at city hall. The street and water department offers garbage collection on a twice-weekly basis; with trash and tin cans collected weekly.

Assistance in selection of suitable trees for parkway planting is offered by the City Engineering Department, as well as building and safety inspection.

Parks

An added municipal attraction

is the public swimming pool, in City Hall Park, which is open from June through August. This, together with picnic tables, and playground equipment, both in City Hall Park, and in Avonista Park, and the western side of the

Spanish Word for Earth Used

For Fuel Gave Brea Its Name

city), gives Brea residents ample recreational facilities for the summer months.

Brea is part of the Metropolitan Water District, insuring ample water from the Colorado River for future expansion. The water mains have recently been renovated and extended to insure proper pressure to all parts of the city; as well as providing ample lines and pressure for industry to install automatic sprinkler systems for better plant protection.

Membership in the Orange County Sanitation District No. 2 affords capacity rights with room for expansion, due to connection with the Outfall Sewer to the ocean.

Utilities

Southern Counties Gas Company, Southern California Edison Co. and Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company fulfill all utility requirements with excellent service.

Weather

The official average rainfall over a ten year period is 13.05 inches. The average relative humidity over a four year period at 2 p.m. is 58.9 per cent. The average temperature over a four year period at 2 p.m. is 74.8 degrees.

Library

Brea is served by a branch of the Orange County Library, now located at 612 So. Brea Blvd. Present library hours

10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday.

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday.

Transportation and Freight

Pacific Electric (Southern Pacific Railway Co.), local truck lines, Railway Express, and United Parcel Service offer daily service to industry of Brea, both incoming and outgoing.

For transportation only, MTA Bus Lines (Route No. 58-W) offers 13 schedules to Los Angeles (via La Habra, Whittier, and East Los Angeles), beginning at 5:50 a.m. and ending at 11:12 p.m.; and 12 schedules to Fullerton, beginning at 7:22 a.m. and ending at 11:53 p.m. Schedules are available at the Chamber office, 333 South Brea Blvd.

Schools

Brea - Olinda Union High School is a four-year high school (9th thru 12th grades) located at 803 East Birch. It is well-equipped for future district expansion, with a recently-installed football stadium and athletic field, swimming pool and boasting an excellent agriculture course complete with farm facilities.

Brea Elementary School District offers three campuses—Avonista School (Kindergarten

thru 5th grades), located at the corner of South Avonista and Eadington Drive—Laurel School (Kindergarten thru 5th grades), 200 So. Flower —

Brea Junior High-School (6th thru 8th grades) at 400 No. Brea Blvd.; also the location of the Elementary Superintendent's office.

Bus transportation serves all schools.

Churches

Brea boasts of 13 church congregations at present: Full Gospel Church — Brea Missionary Baptist Church — Assembly of God Church — First Baptist Church — Randolph Ave. Baptist Church (Southern) — Brea Christian Church — St. Angela de Merici Catholic Church — Church of Christ — Brea Congregational Church — Brea Four-Square Gospel Church — Brea Church of the Nazarene — Church of Christ.

Seventh Day Adventist and Latter Day Saints congregations are close at hand in neighboring communities.

Clubs & Organizations

Twenty-five (25) Civic, Service, and Youth Guidance organizations afford ample opportunity for Brea residents to take part in making their community a better place in

which to live. These include:

Chamber of Commerce — American Legion, and Auxiliary — Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Auxiliary — Welfare Council — Kiwanis Club — Lions Club — Rotary Club —

Senior and Junior Women's Clubs — Brea Youth, Inc. — Youth Club of Brea — Orange County Coin Club — Masonic Lodge — Order of Eastern Star — Job's Daughters — Girl Scouts — Boy Scouts — Brea

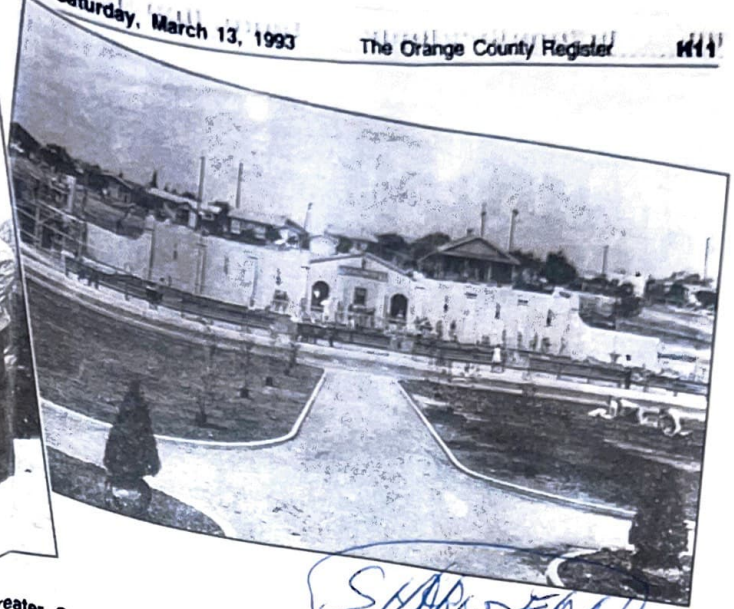
Gay Boys Club — El Rodeo Riding Club — Men's Golf Club — Women's Golf Club — Brea Elementary Teachers Club — Checkmates Square Dance Club — plus very active Parent-Teacher organizations in all four schools.

The BREA PROGRESS is Brea's hometown newspaper, published three times weekly (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) at 218 S. Brea Blvd.

Hospitals

St. Jude's Hospital, Fullerton, serves all North Orange County.

The Fullerton Community Hospital is also available for Brea's.



At left, the Greater Gem Pharmacy was among the popular places to visit in Fullerton in 1892. At right, leisure-lovers enjoy Brea's Municipal plunge in 1930 — also known as a swimming pool.

Brea's start marked by black gold

Located on a plateau next to the foothills at the tip of north Orange County, Brea was known to Indians and pioneers as a place where tar seeped out of the foothills and chunks of tar were used for domestic purposes and fuel. "Brea" means tar in Spanish.

In 1898, the first oil well came in, which started an oil boom in the hills of Brea and Olinda. The first workers lived in tents; as the industry grew, settlements spilled down to where the roads connected to the rest of the county.

The city was incorporated on Feb. 23, 1917 with a population of 752. For a short time, the early settlement's name was Randolph.

The city grew steadily through the

years. As oil production declined, the '40s, '50s and '60s brought many new housing developments and new businesses.

The '70s ushered in a period of development that included the Orange (57) Freeway and the construction of Brea Mall. Industrial parks and retail areas '80s as more and more companies took advantage of the city's strategic location in the center of Southern California.

A history of Brea by local historian Esther Craemer, "Oil, Orange and Opportunity," is available through the city's Community Services Department. There is also a video produced by the Historical Society. For more information, call 990-

7735.

Today, Brea is an important retail and industrial center. The Brea Mall recently underwent an extensive renovation and expansion that nearly doubled its space and added another major department store, Robinson's-May.

A 229-room Embassy Suites Hotel opened in 1992 and has attracted visitors, conferences and small conventions from domestic and foreign locales.

Redevelopment plans for 50 acres in the old downtown area are coming to fruition, and ground breaking will take place soon for a 22-acre retail shopping center, a pedestrian-oriented "main street" environment, and condominiums

and apartments. The mixed-use project is designed to provide more housing — especially "affordable housing" for young families — for a city that, according to the Brea Chamber of Commerce, has more jobs than residents.

The project is expected to encourage pedestrian activity in the original heart of the city. A Historical Plaza featuring some of Brea's older buildings also will be part of the project.

Several major street improvements also are in progress, with Imperial Highway, the major east-west artery in the city, being widened and improved over a one-mile area between Berry and Randolph streets.

New projects reflect 'Brea Spirit'

Many projects are close on the horizon in Brea, including Olen Pointe Phase II, an upscale office and restaurant complex, the expansion of the Lowe Development/Brea Marketplace properties, and the completion of 96 new homes by Fieldstone Development, according to a representative of Brea Chamber of Commerce.

Several smaller housing projects also are being completed on infill lots in the central city, and Habitat for Humanity is helping lower-income residents build homes with "sweat equity."

Arovista Park is undergoing a major renovation, and a new community center is on the drawing board.

Brea recently marked its 75th birthday with a year-long celebration that included a citywide photo contest and community calendar, a birthday party for 1,000 people held in the Brea Mall, a parade and community picnic, and living history tours.

Brea has changed drastically in 75 years, but the "Brea Spirit" — an active, involved citizenry that takes pride in its community — hasn't changed a bit, the representative said.

Brea residents recently participated in an long-range planning effort to dis-

cuss what type of development might take place in Brea's "sphere of influence," which encompasses 7½ square miles of unincorporated land in the hills north of the city.

The SOI project, Future Brea, involved 150 participants who toured the area by bus; heard reports by experts in seismology, planning, environmental issues and economics; and came to a consensus on sensitive issues that will affect development in the SOI area, the representative said.

A "vision document" was presented to the public and the City Council in early 1992, and the concepts identified within are intended to guide the development process.

Some conclusions reached by SOI participants include the need to preserve open space by clustering development, locate business and retail establishments next to major thoroughfares, and explore alternative means of transportation.

The SOI project was a result of the city's desire to be "proactive" to the development process, the representative said.

City facilities may be rented for meetings, wedding receptions and other special events. For more information, call 990-7643.



Photo courtesy Brea Historical Society
The building of the American Legion, Brea Post 181, stood in Brea's City Hall Park.

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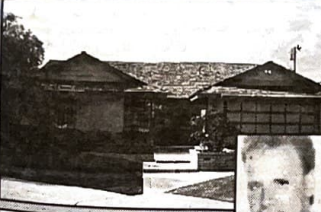


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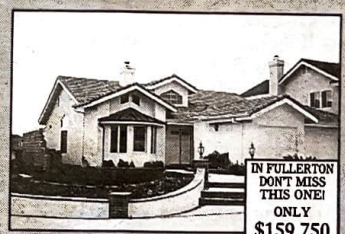
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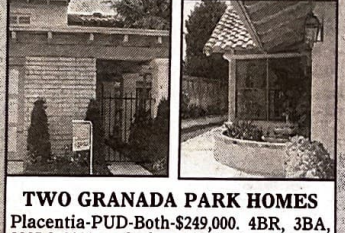


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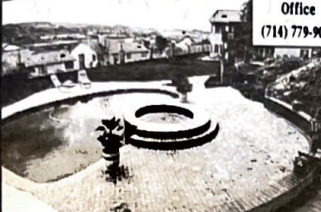
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Brea historical video proves more popular than predicted

By Brian Hall
Staff Writer

Few had any faith that a video about Brea's history would be popular. A top city official told its co-maker,

Brian Saul, such a thing would sell no more than three or four copies.

Originally, 150 tapes were made, but 250 have sold already.

"Brea: A Walk in Time" is part of Brea's 75th birthday celebration. It is co-sponsored by the Brea Jubilee Committee and the Brea Historical Committee.

The city's Historical Society recently stopped taking groups on walking tours of the aging downtown because so many of the early, significant buildings have been torn down for redevelopment.

"We wanted to get it all on film while we still could," said Saul, the society's vice president.

The tape contains 125 historic photographs of the city and rarely-seen views inside old buildings, many of which are no longer standing. The video is a compilation of short, weekly shows Saul

and Scott Pettinger, Brea's media specialist, produced for Video Brea Line on Century Cable of Southern California. Of the 17 clips, seven were never aired.

Featured are profiles of pioneer families, local explorers, the oil days, glimpses of the first homes on Walnut Avenue and the earliest Christian church on Ash Street. There are historical tidbits. For instance, in the 1920s, Brea

and the surrounding area claimed more than 200,000 citrus trees. The county's first city-owned swimming pool, the Brea Plunge, was such a novel idea that few residents

possessed bathing suits. And the suits were rented from where they hung on clotheslines.

Guess which building once doubled as a church and a pool hall.

Beside history trivia, you can also play a game similar to "Where's Waldo." It's called "Where's Saul?"

When Saul and Pettinger were putting finishing touches on the video, they noticed one spot that was full of static and poor sound.

"We had to film that again

two years later," Saul said. "So I had to get the same clothes on and try to edit so nobody would notice. I'm curious if anybody will be able to spot that, in one place, my hair's a little longer, and I'm two years older."

The pair of video producers were fearless, crawling along the ground and climbing the sides of buildings to take certain shots.

"Well, almost fearless," Pettinger said.

"There were some fields I wouldn't go in because I'm afraid of snakes."

Taping along Brea Boulevard was difficult for Saul, a kindergarten teacher at Arovista Elementary School. Inevitably, at the end of a particularly arduous and otherwise flawless scene, junior high school students would yell "Hi, Mr. Saul," or honk their horns.

"Brea: A Walk in Time" is available for \$9.95 in the city's Community Services Department, third floor of the Civic and Cultural Center. Eighty-five percent of the money goes to fund future 75th jubilee events, and the rest supports printing and duplication costs, Saul said.

On the wing: The Humming Bird was a small plane powered by a Henderson motorcycle engine. It crashed in 1926 during an exhibition flight east of Brea.

BREA JUBILEE JOURNAL

In 1924, Fred Thaheld and Bill Tremaine built a low-wing monoplane called the Humming Bird. The small plane was powered by a Henderson motorcycle engine and it crashed in 1926 during an exhibition flight east of Brea. One of Fred's later planes, called "The Spirit of John Rogers," flew at speeds up to 250 miles per hour. It was entered in a Pacific hop to Honolulu, but crashed during takeoff in fog. The early days of flying were designed only for the most adventurous and daring.



Brea's old baseball field once hosted Babe Ruth

By Certe A. Valenzuela
The Orange County Register

BREA — It was the bottom of the ninth inning and Babe Ruth threw the pitch.

It had been a breeze. Ruth was pitching a shutout in an exhibition game at the old Brea Bowl.

But as the ball was lobbed in and across the plate, Bob Meusel slugged it. Wham! The ball went screaming through the air. Going. Going. Gone.

The game was Oct. 31, 1924. Yes, long before Anaheim Stadium.

The Brea game was a fundraiser by the Anaheim Elks Club for its Christmas charity programs. It drew about 5,000 people to the Brea baseball field.

Ruth and Meusel, both stars with the New York Yankees, were the big draws, along with hometown hero Walter Johnson, then a member of the Washington Senators. Johnson grew up in nearby Olinda Village.

Meusel scored his team's only run. The game ended, 12-1. Ruth hit two home runs.

Those home run heroes are



Brea Historical Society
Babe Ruth stands with two local boys in 1924 in Brea. Houses now stand where the baseball field was.

gone. And so is the field where they played, where star-struck neighborhood kids who gathered



Homes, sweet homes: In the early years of Brea's history, land belonging to the Union Oil Co. was subdivided into lots and homes were built for its employees. The area is filled with Craftsman and some Mediterranean-style homes that represent the lifestyle of the early Breans who settled this community.

Caring about history important

In this year of celebrating Brea's past, isn't it about time we really begin to appreciate what's left of our history before it too suffers the fate of the old downtown?

Let me say right off the bat that I'm a person who likes architecture. No, I'm not one who knows everything about this or that building style, but I do know about the architecture of old Brea. Because of that and because of my interest in preserving our history, I feel that it's imperative we start now to value what we have today before we lose it tomorrow.

Look at the old residential area bordered by Walnut Avenue, Imperial Highway, the flood-control channel, and Ash Street. Actually, because of redevelopment, there isn't much left of it now, but the few homes that are still standing and the ones that have already been demolished are and were among the very oldest and most historically important in the city.

And why did they have to go? The answer is simple. The neighborhood got run down, most people didn't care any longer and the area became ripe for redevelopment.

Now the question is, why didn't people care? That answer 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 houses built about the same time as many of those here in Brea. There are literally thousands of these homes, and what's great about the neighborhoods

they're in 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 though, there aren't many of these places left. Too many have been partially or totally destroyed through redevelopment. Beautiful old craftsman bungalows, provincial revival and Mediterranean-style homes on the 100 and 200 blocks of Orange, Flower, Redwood, Poplar and Laurel avenues became run-down and were replaced by apartment houses. Many more of these homes will be destroyed in the coming years.

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 almost 70 years ago. I'm speaking of the neighborhood surrounding old City Hall Park.

In the early years of Brea's history, the land there belonged to the Union Oil Co. Then on June 8, 1921, it was announced that Union would subdivide 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 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 bungalow homes with their low-pitched roofs, wide porches and horizontal windows grouped in threes, there were also Mediterranean-style homes covered by red tile roofs. Interspersed among them all were three or four beautiful colonial revival homes.

Especially interesting today is the 400 block of Madrona. Just as in Fullerton, the houses here are well-cared for, and there is neighborhood pride in keeping the street a special place to live. I've always said that if I could move to any place in the city, this is where it would be.

My hope for this area is that it becomes a place appreciated for what it is. No, it's not filled with big Victorian houses that everyone seems to love, but it is filled with homes that represent the lifestyle of the early Breans who settled this community.

Take a drive around this neighborhood sometime and really look at this beautiful colonial revival house at 400 S. Madrona, the unusual craftsman bungalow next door at 406, or the small Mediterranean at 416. Now continue south to the 500 block of Walnut, where there are some wonderful steep-roofed provincial revival homes built in 1929. And what about the beautiful houses on the 300 block of Madrona? Aren't all of these little homes worth saving?

Of course, my answer is yes, but it's not only up to me. It's all of our responsibility. We just have to be aware of what we have and take care that we don't lose it. It's as simple as that. These older neighborhoods that still exist are truly special places. They certainly don't deserve to be lost to deterioration or redevelopment, as others have been, because of us not caring until it's too late.

A WALK IN TIME

By Brian Saul

From oil field to malls, work marks Brea's birth

By Robert Chow
The Orange County Register

Does anyone remember Hall of Fame slugger Babe Ruth pitching nine innings and hitting two home runs at a ballpark in Brea?

How about Brea serving as a "Top Gun" school for World War I fighter pilots?

Or that the city was almost named Randolph, after the land baron who wanted so badly to be its namesake?

Those are among a few of the highlights recorded in Esther Ridgway Cramer's historical account of Orange County's northernmost city titled "Brea: The City of Oil, Oranges and Opportunity," published in May.

Drawing from oral history, newspaper archives and historical writings, Cramer has woven a colorful anecdote-laden account of the people and events that created and shaped the city and surrounding region. The book includes about 125 photographs.

Brea gave the award-winning historian Cramer a \$10,000 honorarium to write the book as part of its celebration of the 75th anniversary of the city's incorporation.

The book chronicles the struggle to build a railroad, provide a source of water and tap the lakes of oil lying beneath the Puente Hills.

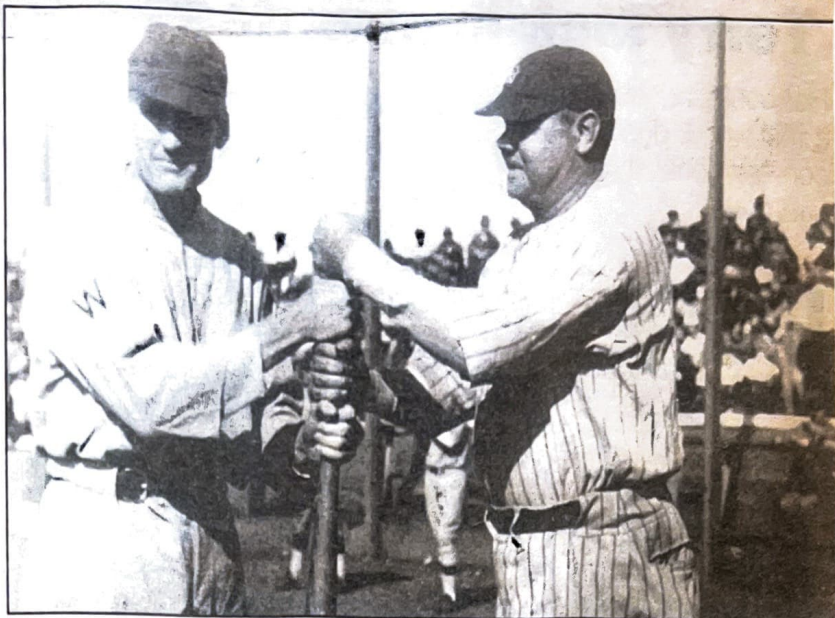
It was the latter that drew most people to the area and later gave the city its name. "Brea" was what the Spanish ranch owners called the naturally occurring chunks of asphalt, formed when dirt mixed with the oil that freely oozed out of ground even before the first well was drilled.

Brea became notorious for the "roughnecks and roustabouts" who toiled in the oil fields by day and caroused at the saloons in Fullerton and Anaheim by night.

The region also once boasted as having "The Largest Citrus Grove in the World" during the heyday of the Bastanchury Ranch, which spanned about 3,000 acres in 1910.

Other noteworthy chapters include Brea's contribution to aviation in the early 1900s and the great baseball duel in 1924 between Babe Ruth and pitching great Walter Johnson, who grew up in Olinda Village.

Among the book's shortcomings as a historical work is Cramer's



Pitcher Walter Johnson, left, and slugger Babe Ruth pose before the 1924 game played at the 'Brea Bowl.'



A street scene in Brea, just north of the Birch Street-Pomona Avenue intersection in the early 1920s.

failure to recognize the significance of the construction of the Orange (57) Freeway in 1972 — an event that has shaped Brea as much as the exploration for oil and the growing of citrus.

The freeway helped transform the once-isolated north county berg into the urban mall-chic city that it is today. Except for a few indirect references to the freeway's construction, Cramer hardly touches on the thoroughfare's impact on the city.

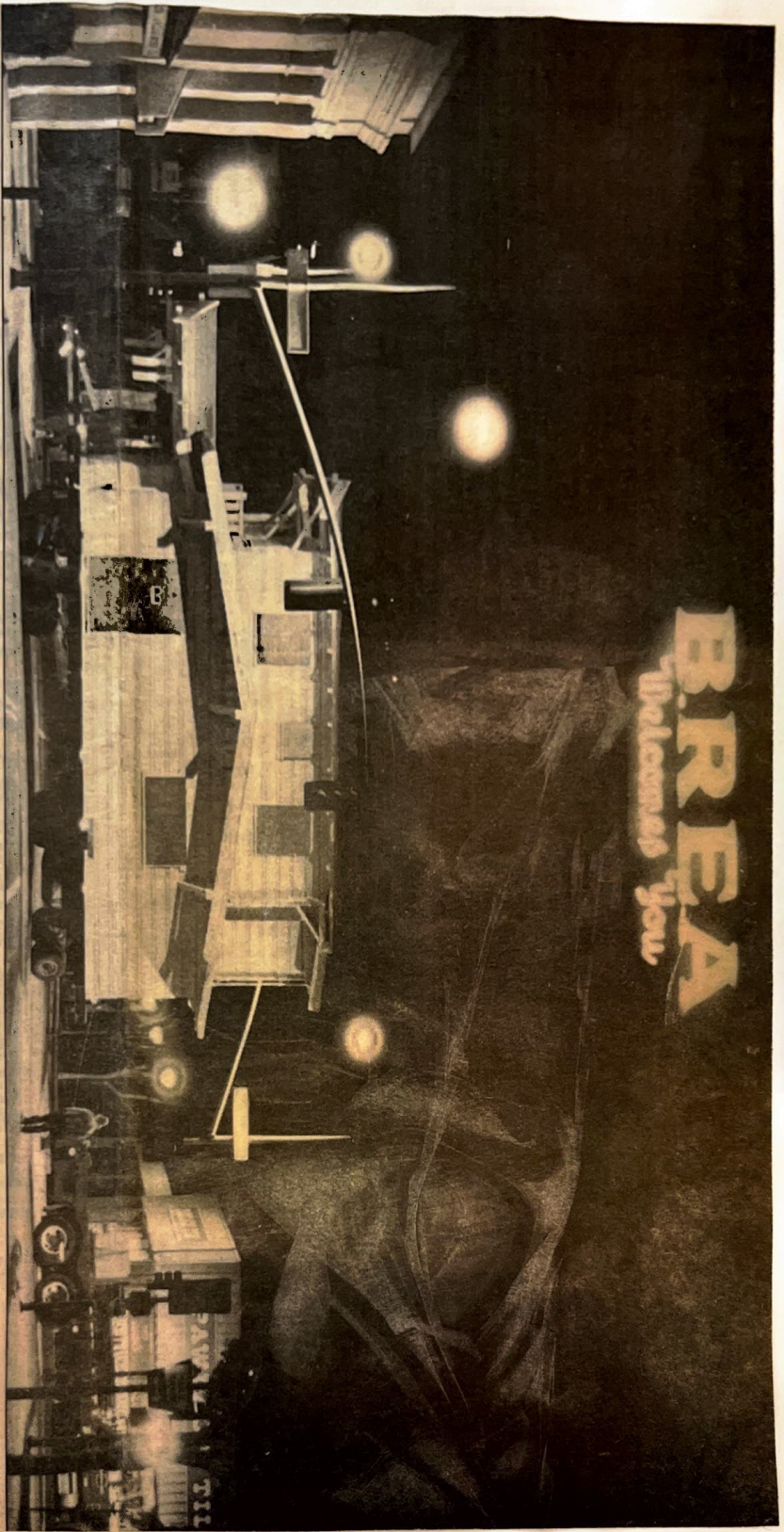
Cramer included City Hall alongside Union Oil and Kirkhill Rubber plant in the chapter titled "Companies that made a difference."

Cramer writes: "The city's operation can be compared to that of a corporate business — the citizens and taxpayers are the stockholders, the mayor is chairman of the board and the city council members are the board of directors. The city manager, now Frank Benest, is the president of the corporation."

Echoing the quasi-public-private nature of Brea's government, a quote from Brea Councilman and former Mayor Wayne Wedin adds, "We run a large real estate operation.... Our profit line is industrial and commercial development...."

"Brea: The City of Oil, Oranges and Opportunity" can be purchased for \$29.95 at the Brea Civic and Cultural Arts Center.

For more information contact Jubilee Hotline at 990-7771.



BREA
"Welcome you"

HOME ON THE ROAD — The historic Casner House catches a ride with a work crew that maneuvered the 77-year-old home through downtown Brea in the wee hours this morning. As it passes through the Brea Boulevard and Birch Street intersection, the home dwarfs a man standing on the right. It took crews two hours to move the home. The home was relocated by the Redevelopment Agency from its original perch at 207 S. Madrona Avenue to 121 Redwood Avenue, which has been slated as a "historic

block" by the city. City officials and local historians have said two other historically important homes will be relocated to the block, with the Jamison Home and the Moseley Home both on the list to be moved. The Casner home was built in 1915 and is the only airplane craftsman-style structure left in Brea. William D. Casner drilled the first oil well on the Amalgamated Lease Land, east of Brea. The Casner home will be sold and restoration left to the buyer.

(Star-Progress photo by Jack Hancock)



This 1915 Brea house is being moved from Madrona Avenue to Redwood Street.

Ed Carreon/The Orange County Register

Historical house of Brea oil pioneer is moved in plan for designated row

By Cerise A. Valenzuela
The Orange County Register

BREA—One of the city's oldest homes last week became the first house moved to Redwood Street as part of the city's plan for the designated historical row.

The deteriorating two-story house was built in 1915 by one of Brea's first oil pioneers—William D. Casner. It was spared demolition at the request of the city's historical committee.

In recent months, it sat at its original location, 207 S. Madrona Ave., surrounded by boarded homes and empty lots. Other old Brea homes in the neighborhood were recently demolished to make way for downtown redevelopment. The Casner home has historical and architectural significance.

Casner drilled the city's first oil well on the Amalgamated Oil Lease property in eastern Brea, near what is now Brea's Imperial Golf Course. The house also is the city's only remaining example of an "airplane" craftsman bungalow, a style in which the top floor is significantly smaller than the bottom floor.

Now at 121 Redwood Ave. and perched atop the sloped street, it waits to be purchased and restored. While the city paid \$44,900 to move the house, it might not keep it. Officials might decide to sell it to a restorer rather than have the city do the work.

"I envy the person who buys the house someday," said Brian Saul, a member of the historical committee. "I think the owner's really going to have something special."

"The historical committee is pleased that this house will be protected (from demolition). It really makes the street look like a historical street when you drive by."

Three lots remain empty on the historical row. The city hopes to move two other historical homes to the street this year.

"We're trying to keep one lot free in case we find another home in the future that's up for demolition and we want to preserve it," Saul said.

The houses the committee recommended for moving to Redwood Street are the former home of oilman Edgar Jamison, at 103 S. Walnut St., and the home of another oilman—and painter—Charles Moseley, at 128 S. Walnut. Both homes were built around 1911, Saul said.

Tracing history

Keeping track of events is mission of Brea Historical Society



Sharon Dean, right, past president of Brea Historical Society and Jane O'Brien, left, president, stand in the oil display of the historical society's museum. Unfortunately, they say, many people don't know the city has a historical society.

Sam Gangwer/North County News

Longtime residents remember the Brea of old, with its bustling downtown and the lucrative oil industry that gave rise to it.

But with much of the downtown gone and many of the old wells dormant, the city's past remains something of an unseen legend to the majority of the community, who may have heard tell of Brea's history but have seen scant evidence of it.

Many probably do not even know of the Old City Hall, not to mention the treasury of local artifacts it houses.

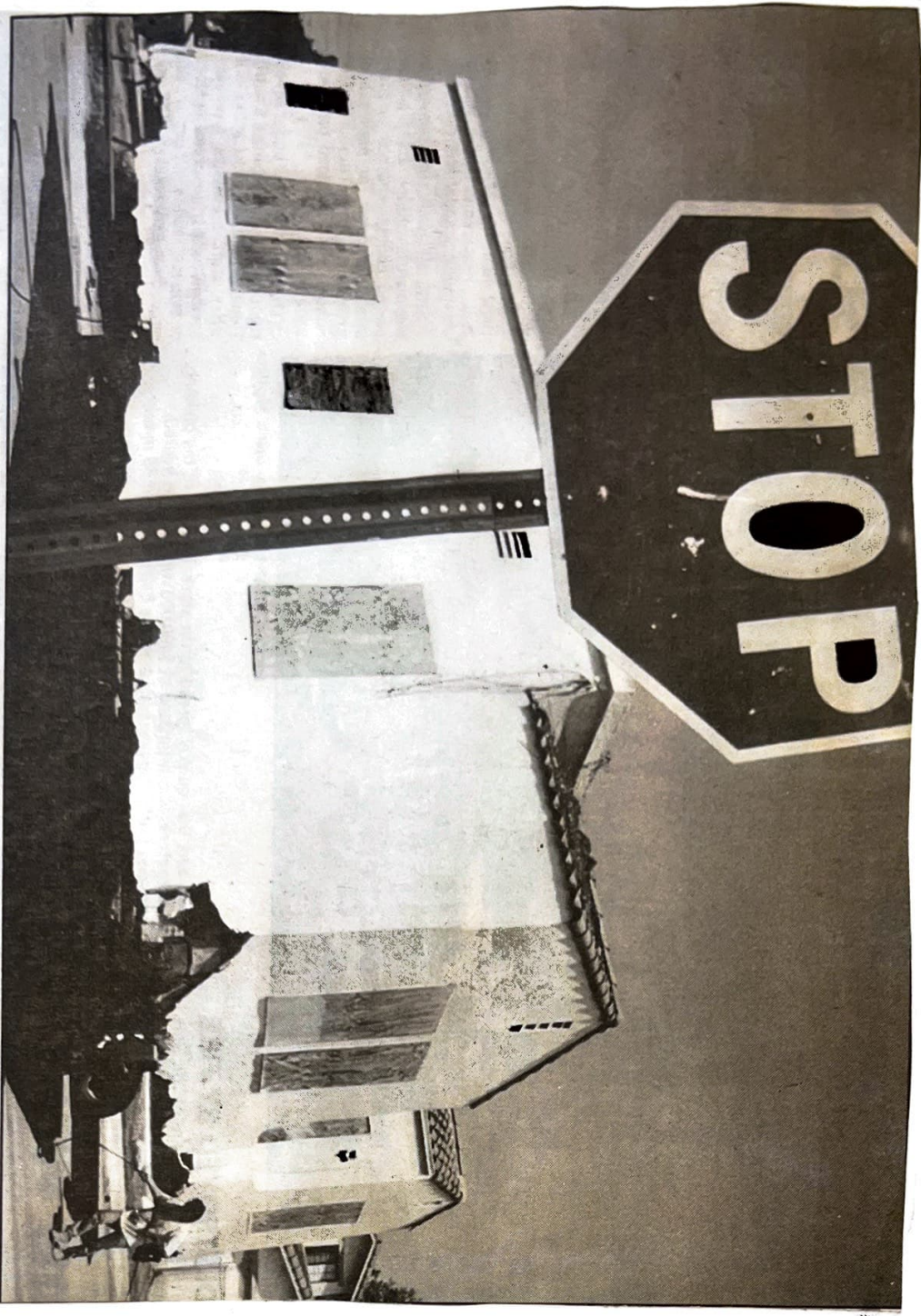
The 200-member Brea Historical Society, whose offices are in the former civic building at the corner of Brea Boulevard and Date Street, is trying to change that.

Recently, society President Jane O'Brien has been handing out fliers at the city's popular outdoor concert series in City Hall Park to get the word out about the historical preservation group and its small museum located a stone's throw from the concert stand-

"People didn't know Brea even had a historical society, and they didn't know where it was," O'Brien said.

A look inside the small three-room office reveals a number of antiques, photos, and a library of local newspapers dating back to the early 20th century.

The society's most prized possession? "Probably the building itself," said Sharon Dean, who was president of the society last year.



PRACTICE HOUSE MOVING: A worker from Snow House Movers of Garden Grove on Wednesday prepares to attach a cable to the Practice House in order to place it on a lot in the 200 block of Laurel Avenue in Brea. The house, which will become the city's first historical landmark, has been moved from its original site on the site of the first Brea Olinda High School, where it was used in home-economics training.

BRUCE CHAMBERS/The Orange County Register

HISTORY: Historical society tracks town lore

FROM 1

The Old City Hall, as it has been called since the Brea Civic and Cultural Center opened in 1980, has been the Brea Historical Society's home for 10 years.

The Spanish style building, which was constructed in 1929, is the former location of not only the city's civic offices, but its fire department as well.

The building's north wall, along Date Street, still has the firehouse doors the department's first fire engine blared out of. The garage was converted to office space long ago, but the glass panes of its twin doors still remain.

The historical society recently expanded its own offices to include the former City Council chambers, where an exhibit of early 20th century furniture is on display, as well as a number of photographs depicting Brea during that period.

"Home Sweet Home" features four rooms — living room, sewing room, kitchen, and back porch — decorated with vintage appliances, fixtures, clothes and other furnish-

ings.

Near the display is the society's collection of such newspapers as the original Brea Progress and the Daily Star-Progress. Nearly every edition from 1917 through 1977 are stored in the society's archive.

The society also has two copies of the La Habra Valley Progress. They are believed to be the oldest newspapers in existence covering Brea's local news.

The top stories of the Aug. 6, 1915 edition: a train wreck that killed one and injured 30 at a station in the Olinda township; the dedication of Brea Congregational Church; and the announcement that the Progress was moving its offices to Pomona Avenue, now known as Brea Boulevard.

The back page also features a small mention of the groundbreak- ing for a bakery that later became Sam's Place, the downtown bar housed in one of the city's oldest existing buildings. It closes Saturday.

The historical society has sought to have Sam's Place moved a block away into the city's Heritage Block, a proposed retail and resi-

dential project focusing on the city's past.

Three historic downtown buildings are to be reconstructed in the project. The La Habra Valley Bank, for instance, is to be torn down and rebuilt using its original bricks.

Critics have said this pays only lip service to preservation, and have taken the historical society to task for not doing more to preserve the city's historic structures, according to Dean.

"We've tried to preserve small things we can save for the future," she said.

The society also has saved some big things, such as the ten-foot wooden oil rig wheel in its Heritage Oil Exhibit.

The collection of tools and machinery from Brea's oil boom days is on permanent display at the south side of the Old City Hall.

The Brea Historical Society, located at 401 S. Brea Blvd., is open most Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., or by appointment. Call (714) 256-2283 or (714) 529-6173 for information.

SNAPSHOTS: Brothers recall the early days

Brothers floor her with stories

As a card-carrying member of the Brea Historical Society, I appreciate the 1992 Jubilee Year efforts to record Brea history in books and on videotape. But whether we like to think of it or not, 1993 has already taken the first steps to becoming history and future historians would be delighted if we took the time to write down or pass along stories of our own lives in Brea.

Even the 1970s-era Brea qualifies as history to me, since my family didn't arrive here until 1981. So I was delighted to discover that the two brothers laying vinyl flooring in my kitchen before the holidays were native Breans with plenty of stories to share.

Of course, **Gordon Greenbank, 38**, and **Robin Greenbank, 35**, needed to be convinced that their recent childhoods were indeed "history." But with that hurdle behind us, the tales began:

In 1954, Canadians **John** and **Elsie Greenbank** came to California where John had landed a job in Anaheim. They finally found a nice house they could afford for \$7,400, but it was out in the sticks in a small town called Brea. Gordon was born that year, and his address was 894 Willow.

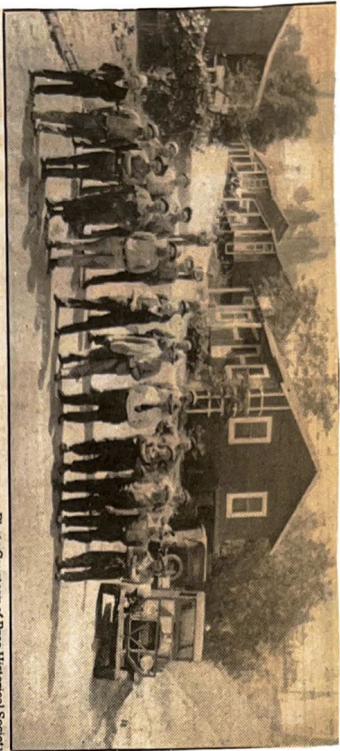


Photo Courtesy of Brea Historical Society
A historical photo shows oil field workers in front of simple wood-frame homes. Hundreds of such dwellings were built during the heyday of Brea's oil production.

Lambert Road ended with a stop sign at Brea Junior High, the brothers said, and the original extension — a dirt access road to the oil fields — became **Deadora**.

The brothers recalled going go-cart riding with their dad at the Old Carbon Canyon road where the regional park now sits, racing slot cars at Tom's Bike and Hobby Shop in what is now the Brea Heights Shopping Center, joining the rest of the town for a swim at the Brea Plunge (and stopping at Taste Freeze (near today's Big O Tires) on the way home; speaking into Shaffer Tools and confiscating pop bottles, the proceeds of which went toward "a whole bunch of candy for a nickel," and being on the receiving end of a shotgun full of rock salt delivered by a farmer intent on keeping youngsters away from his orange trees.

There were cattle grazing on the ranch that became the Brea Mall; orange groves along Lambert Road, east of Kirkhill; and a date factory near the railroad tracks. Brea Olinda High School's farmlands extended to what is now the S7 Freeway and State College Boulevard ended at the railroad tracks just past Lambert.

The Greenbanks also remembered 18-cent McDonald's; washing dishes for \$1.35 an hour at Robert's Coffee Shop; a town party when the population hit 10,000 making Brea "not a town anymore, but a real city." Cub Scout meetings at Legion Hall; and Boy Scout Troop One meetings under the direction of "Mike Murphy's dad — you know, Mr. Murphy."

Brea Junior High memories included marching with the Breanaires school band in the annual Brea parade; smog so bad that eyes burned, Mount Baldy couldn't be seen, and school was canceled; catching pollwogs in the black run-off water in the Kirkhill drainage ditch that led from the plant along Birch to Poplar; and the glorious days when loads of Kirkhill's "super balls" escaped into the drainage ditch. "I got in real bad trouble with my mom because I went after those super balls in the black water while I was wearing my white band uniform," Gordon remembered.

Gordon also remembered when eighth-grader **Jim Black-ell's** spikes went through his own bare foot during track practice, and Gordon ended up with 80 stitches. "A kid named **Ron Hawkins** brought my homework to me faithfully for three weeks. Then at our class's 20th reunion last year, I heard he died a few years ago. I never forgot what he had done for me."

Brea's Pepper Tree Protest occurred about junior high time for the Greenback brothers. "Brea's welcome mat from the north were pepper trees along North Brea Boulevard, from Lambert to Central. They enclosed the whole street like a tunnel. The trees were torn down to widen Brea Boulevard. We had sit-ins at schools and everything to protest," Gordon said.

High school days at the old Birch Street campus included a "Highway History" class for Robin — a three-week summer school class that included a flight to the Midwest and a bus

tour of the East Coast including Niagara Falls, Washington, D.C. and Gettysburg — and plenty of sports for the Greenbank boys. Football, wrestling and track were on the list for all three boys, with father John as "a big booster" and Gordon as Athlete of the Year. "Progress" was part of the Greenbank family history, too. "Our Deadora house is now a right-hand turn lane (the house was torn down for the Lambert Road widening project) and our high school is Toys R Us," the brothers chorused.

Dad died in 1977. Mom Elsie adapted to the relocation from her Deadora home pretty well, the boys said, but succumbed to cancer just a few months ago. John is living in San Clemente, Robin is "just across the line" in Fullerton where he moved to be with his mother during her last year and Gordon and his family live in Placentia.

"I like Brea and I want my kids to go to school here. But I went away to Chico State, and I couldn't afford a house in Brea when I moved back in '87," Gordon said.

Although their recollections took different tangents as their stories unfolded, the two brothers agreed on one central theme.

"What I remember about Brea," Robin said, "is that Brea was nice and small."

it's new, but the history is long

The Alexander/Dean Weinerschnitzel link

By Beth Curtis
Brea Progress

The new stucco building on Lambert Road with the familiar red and orange-trimmed "W" logo out front may look like any other in the fast food restaurant chain. But along with hot dogs and chili cheese fries, Brea's new Weinerschnitzel holds history behind its walls.

Although downtown redevelopment relocated Weinerschnitzel from the corner of Brea Boulevard and Birch Street to Lambert Road this fall — up the street and over one block — the property under the old building has belonged to the same family for almost 50 years.

In 1945, an empty building stood on the lot at 145 S. Brea Boulevard, then Pomona Avenue. It was purchased by Brea residents Dayton and Viva Alexander, and was operated successfully as a market until a fire destroyed it in 1964. Day-



Photo courtesy of the Alexander family. This is Alexander's market at 145 S. Brea Blvd., purchased in 1945.



Special to the Brea Progress. This is the Weinerschnitzel built on the Alexander property in the mid-1960s.

ton's death, just a month after the fire, and the family's not wanting to operate another store, prompted them to look for someone to lease the property before rebuilding.

Der Weinerschnitzel fast food restaurant was expanding rapidly at the time, and so the 67th store in the fast food chain was built in Brea. It remained on the Brea Boulevard lot for almost 30 years.

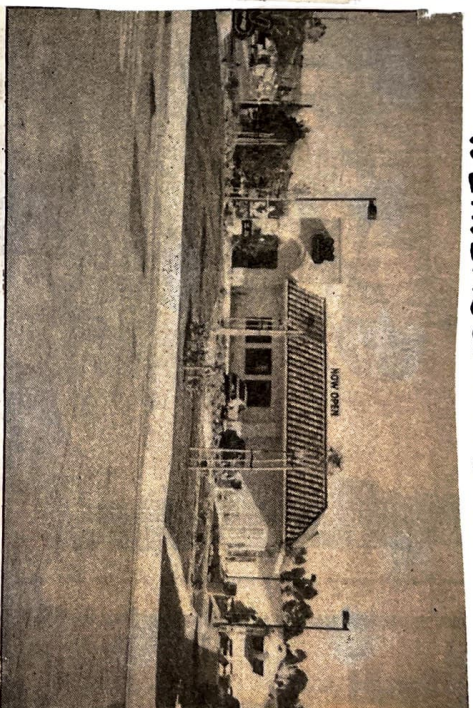
Now, bulldozers push through the dirt of the lot in sync with the city's plans for downtown revitalization. Soon an extension of Birch Street will cut across the lot.

But the Brea Boulevard property has seen many changes over the years. In the early 1920s volunteer firefighters were summoned to the spot by the ringing of a bell. In 1922 the site was chosen for a new city hall, although the plans there did not pan out.

Sharon (Alexander) Dean, a Brea resident, and Franklin Alexander, now own the relocated property, that was once their parents'. They aim to maintain the historical aspects.

This year, while demolition of the familiar Brea Boulevard Weinerschnitzel building was awaited, construction began on Lambert Road. A sense of continuity came with the new building. Gilder & Shanks Construction Co., Inc. built the original red A-frame restaurant on Brea Boulevard 28 years ago. Now a partner of Western States Development Corp., Fred Gilder also built the new 1990s-style Weinerschnitzel, which opened Nov. 17.

The Alexander/Dean family pitched in to make the rebuilding a family effort. An employee for Rykoff-Sexton Co., Franklin worked on the kitchen and interior of the new building. Sharon's sons Mark, a mason, and Jeff, who drives a cement truck, helped with construction. Her husband Larry was overseer.



Special to the Brea Progress. This is the new Weinerschnitzel opened on Lambert Road in November.

But not all traces of the original building are lost. Dean holds in her hands a tangible part of the history.

Paperwork that Viva Alexander saved over the years has now become a valuable historical record. In an album are kept photos of the original market, the original deed of trust, supply orders for the market, 1966 Brea Planning Commission agendas and newspaper articles narrating the history of the property over the fifty-year span.

"We're losing so much," she said regarding redevelopment in Brea. "We want to at least save the paper trail."

Stories of Alexander's market that Sharon and Franklin remember and that their mother, Viva, related through her oral history, tell of days when accounts were held for residents and deliveries were made to them. Blue Chip

stamps were exchanged for meat and sugar, and men sat on a bench in front of the store and talked about the topics of the day.

From the actual buildings, the family has only the sale from the market, but salvaged pieces from the Weinerschnitzel roof and an outdoor umbrella.

Dean said they have kept the property in the family both for sentimental and practical reasons. "We felt our parents wanted it to be a family thing and it's also a good investment," she said.

"If we had our choice, we would have stayed right where we were," Dean said. But business has been very good at the new location, she said, with a different clientele coming in from nearby businesses on Lambert Road. "I think everything turned out really, really well."

Back to the future

By Aaron Boehme
Brea Progress

At age 10, Larry Phillips sleepwalked three-blocks down Brea Boulevard before barking dogs shocked him awake near Emily's, a truck-stop diner between Birch and Ash Streets.

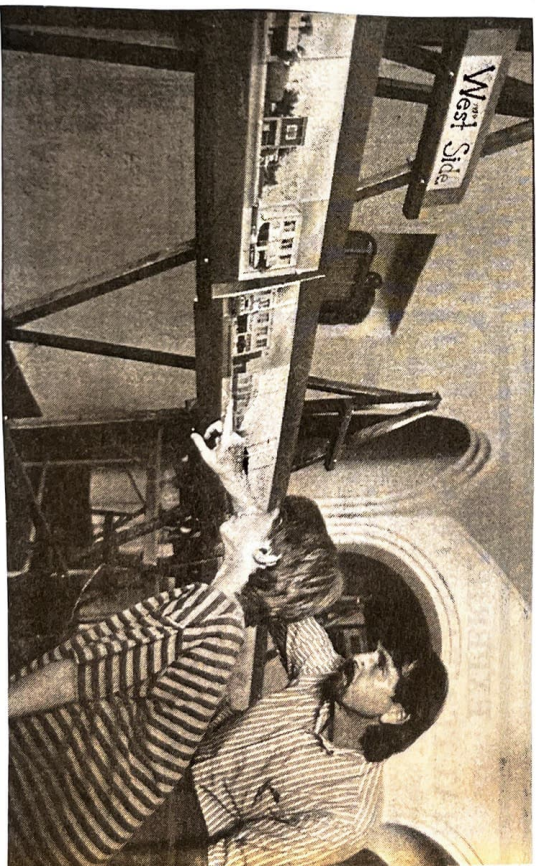
"I think someone from Sam's Place asked me if I was in trouble or needed help, and I got scared and ran all the way around the block," Phillips, 47, said. Emily's disappeared decades ago. Construction crews

Brea Boulevard,
Yesterday and Today
WHERE: Old City Hall, 401 S. Brea Blvd.
WHEN: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday through year end

tore down Sam's Place last month. Most of the other buildings Phillips passed on his nocturnal trek also recently made way for redevelopment.



Sam Bird Brea Progress
Amy Hampson, 12, and sister Beth, 15, compare a picture of the original with a replica of the Shaffer Tool Works oil well recently at the Brea Historical Society exhibit.



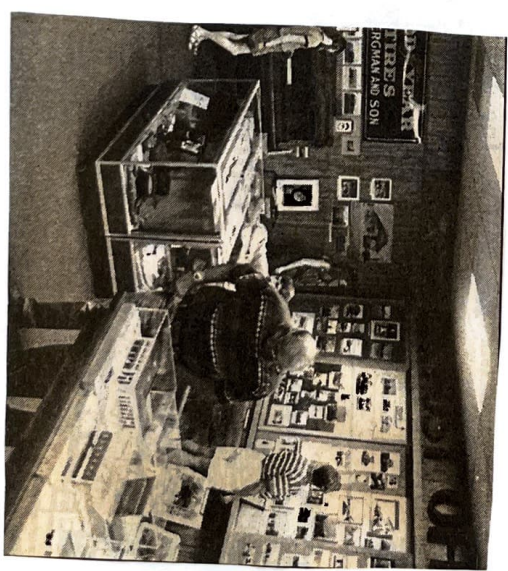
Brian Saul, president of the Brea Historical Society, shows Brandon Hampson, 9, a wide angle view of old downtown Brea. See page 1 for more information on the exhibit.



Salvaging the past

Photos by Stan Bird

TOP: Photos of Old Brea on exhibit at the Brea Historical Society evoke smiles from Bernard and Helen Swart. RIGHT: History buffs peruse displays in Old Brea City Hall.



BHS preserves city's past

Dr. Paul Bolie dangled a valuable incentive in front of his students as he presented the assignment to his seventh-grade history class: Extra credit to anyone who writes at least 50 sentences on Brea's history.

Then he turned on the videotape.

As stories and images of Brea's past came alive on "Brea: A Walk in Time," student Joanna Montes grabbed her pen. She could really use the extra credit, and putting a few interesting facts on paper wouldn't be too hard.

She wrote furiously. The problem, she discovered, was that ALL the facts were interesting.

"I just kept taking more and more notes," said Joanna, a 16-year-old junior at Brea Olinda High School. "Everything was so interesting to me. It was all so amazing. Did you know that Brea Boulevard was once just a dirt road with a few buildings on it? And there used to be an airport here?"

Joanna's enthusiasm for Brea history must have communicated itself well in her extra-credit paper. She earned runner-up status in an essay contest centered on Brea's 75th birthday, entitled "Brea: A Citizen's View of Brea's History."

A few years later, at the 1994 Fourth of July Country Fair, Joanna's continued interest in Brea's history drew her to the Brea Historical Society display. BHS board member Sally Rathmell sensed her enthusiasm and suggested she consider joining the society as a student representative. Soon another board member, Brian Saul, joined the discussion.

"Mr. Saul was my kindergarten teacher at Arovista School," Joanna said. "When he asked me if I would be interested in being on the board, of course I said 'yes.'"

Joanna said her first board meetings were a struggle to understand how to preserve historic buildings.

"A lot of what they said was confusing at first," she recalled. "But then I got to see the buildings they were talking about, and I understood."

Born in Argentina, Joanna came to Brea just in time for kindergarten, figured she wasn't the only teen-ager who didn't know much about Brea's past. She convinced the society to put together a historical exhibit at the high school last spring. The exhibit centered on old Brea Olinda Gusher yearbooks, football memorabilia, old high school books and pictures from the old high school.

"There were lots of kids like me who hadn't even seen the old high school," she said.



JOANNA MONTES

"People my age should know the history of where they live. I'd like to see the Historical Society be more active in the school system, sending speakers out to talk to children at the schools, and tell them interesting facts about Brea history."

Learning about Brea's history has been made easier by the latest Brea Historical Society exhibit, "Brea Boulevard: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."



Barbara Williams

The display of photos and artifacts from Brea Boulevard businesses fills the two-room Brea Historical Museum at Old City Hall, and spills out into the hallway where visitors walk between "East Side, West Side" photographic views of Brea Boulevard in the 1970s.

The display, compiled by BHS President Brian Saul and board members Helen Swart, Herc Roeser and Sharon Dean, is dominated by the back bar of the old Imperial Cafe taproom, advertised as the "finest cocktail bar in Orange County." The bar itself boasted an oil derrick motif. The cafe was located on the west side of Brea Boulevard, north of Imperial Highway, on a spot later occupied by Brea Boats.

Also in the room is the cocktail sign from Sam's Place and a 1970s photo of the business when it had a green facade. The wooden letters spelling "US Post Office" line one wall, saved by the management of That Frame Place when it took

over the old post office's Brea Boulevard location years ago.

There's memorabilia from the Red Lantern Theatre, where Judy Garland performed in 1938, and where adult films were shown in the 1970s. And there's an interesting collection of odds and ends from about 1914 that attests to the ongoing nature of historical discovery.

"Three years ago, I saw some guys digging around the ground on the west side of Brea Boulevard, north of Ash," Saul said. "About 1914 or 1915, there was not trash pickup in the city, so businesses used to dump their trash in a hole behind their stores. The men were looking for collectible glass bottles, but they gave me the other stuff they found."

Included among the found pieces: pottery and dishes, forks, a child's toy pitcher and an old lightbulb.

Another piece of Brea history was "refound" just a few weeks ago, Saul said. Architect Don Schweitzer, working on the historical restoration of Old City Hall for use as the Brea Lions Scout Center, was convinced that the original building did not have doors at its entry arch, but no one could prove it. As luck would have it, Saul was digging through some old BHS exhibit pieces and found the proof: an early picture of Old City Hall without doors. Close examination of the photo convinced the two men that the open entry led to two glass doors further inside. The restoration will reflect the same design.

The second room of the Brea Historical Museum is devoted to a recreation of the office of W.D. Shaffer, owner of Shaffer Tool Works, and includes the major pieces of his office furniture. The Shaffer name has been on the minds of BHS members a lot lately, this time in regard to the Shaffer Fountain that once dominated City Hall Park's Rose Garden.

The fountain, in place from 1948 to 1969, was founded by the employees of Shaffer Tool Works. Plagued by maintenance and vandalism problems, it was dismantled in 1969 with the city's pledge that it would one day be rebuilt, Saul said. The Brea Historical Society hopes the fountain's design will be incorporated in one of the fountains being considered for the "new" Birch Street.

"Brea Boulevard: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" is open to visitors each Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and on Wednesday nights during the city's Concerts in the Park. For more information call the Brea Historical Society at 256-2283.

Brea

New Center Aims to Capture Spirit of City's History, but Some Residents Still Miss Their Small-Town 'Main Street'

By JOHN POPE
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

BREA — Inez Fanning fondly recalls the days when she could stroll through the city's downtown—past furniture shops, markets and pharmacies—and greet by name nearly everyone she passed.

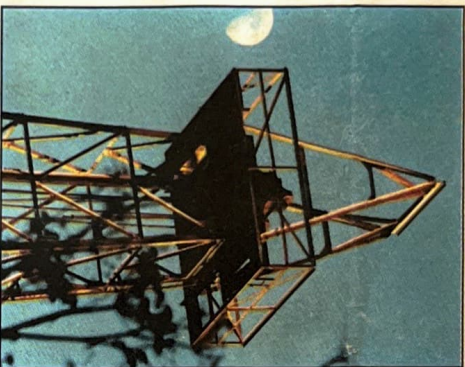
On holidays, Fanning remembers, Boy Scouts would place American flags along the sidewalks. And outside the Red Lantern Theater, where Judy Garland once performed, vendors sold popcorn in purple and green striped bags for just pennies.

"It was a regular old-fashioned main street," said Fanning, 80, whose family came to Brea at the turn of the century to seek jobs in the burgeoning oil industry.

Today, almost nothing exists of the downtown that locals affectionately called "Good Old Brea." The land has been cleared for a \$125-million redevelopment project that began in the mid-1980s. One of the project's aims is to recapture the spirit of that historic downtown, but many residents like Fanning speculate that the cost of progress may have been too great.

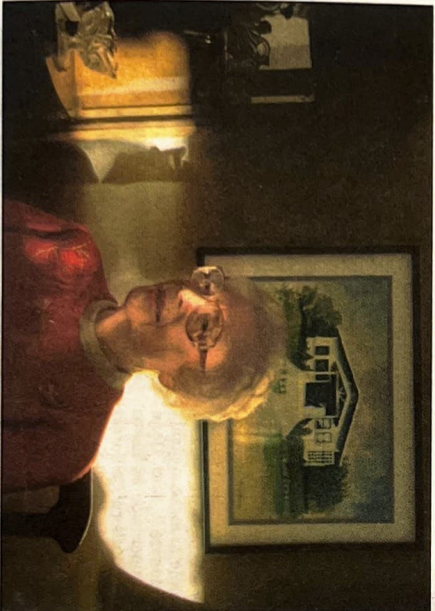
Many point with pride to the work already completed along Brea Boulevard: a contemporary shopping center with a Ralphs supermarket, Blockbuster video store, Starbucks coffeehouse and other stores built to replace old buildings, many of which had become blighted and inhospitable.

A block away, construction crews are working on the first of two 800-space parking structures, and later this year a contemporary promenade with European-style cafes, shops, fountains and a 22-



Oil is a big part Brea's history, and some of the old derricks are still standing.

Some merchants who were displaced remain bitter about the loss of their shops and restaurants.



Photos by MARK BOSTER / Los Angeles Times

Inez Fanning, 80, whose family moved to the area at the turn of the century for oil field work, can recall the days of "Good Old Brea."

REINVENTING DOWNTOWN

NORTH ORANGE COUNTY SEES THE FUTURE IN THE PAST



Housing under construction on Brea Boulevard is part of redevelopment in the city's old downtown, now mostly razed.

Fourth of July past, present blending in precious memory

And, the beat goes on... at the Brea County Fair July 4, Brea resident John Hanna recalled that many years ago, his whole family used to go to their local parade.

He was really impressed with those in the Armed Forces marching in the parade. He had three brothers and two sisters who, later as teens, enjoyed Fourth of July weekends at the bay near Rochester, New York, sailing.

Their family picnics usually included hot dogs, salad and, of course, watermelon.

"Oh, don't forget the corn," he would say. John's sister and her husband raised corn on 400 acres. Can you imagine how good that early corn tasted? It was sweet as sugar.

"Oftentimes," John said, "We joined with other families in the neighborhood where the adults put on their own fireworks show. When you were seven or eight, you got to hold a sparkler. Gee, that was neat!"

He said, "July Fourth is special for me. I was in the Navy during World War II and on July 3, 1946, I was discharged at Lido Island.

"Freedom should be a special thing to Americans. My wife Anne and I have traveled to Europe, perhaps a dozen times. If you look at the monarchy in England and all the traditions and years of existence, our freedom is far more precious.

"We determine who will be our leaders. We have five children and have tried to continue the family tradition of bringing the family to the park on the Fourth, enjoying the holiday. God Bless America!"

While visiting with neighbors at the Republican Women's baby beautiful contest, I spotted Bill Higgins and his wife. Knowing that Bill is a "home town" boy, I wanted some Brea memories. Bill explained that he really is a "home town" boy.

"Of my kindergarten class, half were born at home and half at the New Cottage Hospital in Fullerton. When my mother gave birth, the doctor said, 'Let's go to that new Cottage Hospital.'"

Bill said that the Fourth provided an opportunity for families to get together and shoot off fireworks in the middle of the street.

"There were no cars on the road and we had, I think, only two policemen in town. They generally knew that everyone was going to do the same thing, so that was the scene for the day. I have three brothers and one sister and I usually palled around with my brother John. We would take turns setting off firecrackers."

I asked, "Did you ever put one of them under a tin can to see how high it would go?"

"Of course," he replied, "and we also did some other things." I didn't ask about those "other" things. Bill continued, "It was a big treat when we went to Huntington Beach to see the fireworks display at the pier. No one else had such a big event."

"Otherwise, as kids, we would ride our bikes from one street to another to see the fireworks shows. I also remember the parades down Brea Boulevard and the fireworks displays at the high school on Birch. Just can't beat Fourth's like that!"

Jovial Councilman Marty Simonoff was enjoying conversations with friends and neighbors when he broke away to visit with me.

"As you have heard from others, Wade, this" — as he gestured across the park — "is a little bit of America." Marty told me that he thinks of the entire history of America and what we enjoy.

"It makes me think of all those things that others did, that are embodied in the Fourth of July." Marty said that his family often joined in the block parties in their neighborhood.

With a big smile, twinkling eyes and a body that was

Please see THE HILL/19

THE HILL

FROM 11

bouncing up and down, "baby"

candidate was performing for the baby beautiful contest to his mother's delight. Stacy Dopson Gray, holding son Austin Gray, grandson of Don and Georgia Dopson of Brea, told me that all during the time she attended Fanning, Brea Junior High and Brea Olinda High School, the family attended the event at City Hall Park.

"My brother John and I liked the Fourth at the park since we saw all our friends. As a cheerleader, our group had a dunking booth and we loved going to the plunge," Stacy recalled.

Joseph and Kevin Creagh, sons of Richard and Iris Creagh, both agreed that the Fourth was a special day. Joseph told me that the family has breakfast at Millie's, attends the park celebration and then goes to a movie. Kevin, who will be attending Fullerton College, agreed with his brother, adding, "Sometimes park-

ing is tough." He added that the Fourth at Old City Hall Park is like a big family celebration.

Brea City Clerk Elaine Capps was busy assigning judges for the beautiful baby contest. She paused to give me her impressions of the Fourth.

Elaine grew up in Los Angeles. One thing that was fresh in her mind was how the palm trees would catch on fire from fireworks.

"We lived near the Coliseum and the family would attend. We did family things which included grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins with the emphasis on fun." She reminded me of the fun we had during the Bonanza Day Parade, either as spectators or part of the parade.

Yes, the Brea Country Fair is also a tradition for the Mansurs. Over the years we've participated in a variety of ways. Best of all is the meeting and greeting of acquaintances like the "lady in purple," Edna Makins (her car is purple, too),

Carl Brydon (who did calligraphy for the baby contest certificates), the Fannings, Bob Shaver, Roy Moore wearing a red, white and blue stovepipe hat,

Susan Gaede, the Riders, and Rose Marie Norris, to name a few.

Across America in towns small and large, American families are united by Fourth of July activities that exude the spirit of liberty upon which our nation was founded and continues to flourish.

Memories: a Brea childhood



Far left: Anne (at left) in snapshot with her family in Brea. Near left: Anne Dwire today

FROM 1

ferent states.

The neighborhood enterprises had a confident, make-do spirit. Brea was the frontier.

Dad took the station wagon to his new job at Union Oil every day, leaving Mom out here on the edge of the world without strip mall or bus line. This detail about her experience always gives me pause, yet it pales in light of the fact that she was, at 29, a suburban housewife with five, then six kids — all of us under 8.

That first hot summer, we kids followed tar trucks around as they rolled out sticky black streets. We tried to ingratiate ourselves with the terse workmen who were framing up more houses around us, and collected scraps of new two-by-fours for building blocks.

We piled up tumbleweeds on vacant lots for forts. We took for granted that little toads sprang away from every good-sized rock we turned up, and that the air whirled with grasshoppers on summer afternoons.

Can this really be the right Oleander Avenue? It's so compact! These houses have all shrunk, and they've bunched so closely together!

They once stood far apart, each on its own raw, dusty lot, waiting brightly for driveways and sidewalks. Now they're couched in substantial shrubs and trees.

They look great, owner-occupied and taken care of. Oh, good, I think. It was sound construction after all.

I cruise around a few blocks, still disbelieving the small, close scale of everything. When I was 6, every place — a neighbor's house, the school bus stop — meant getting out on a walk. Now it all seems within arm's reach.

Those crazy white and pastel gravel roofs of the '50s have been replaced, of course, with sensible shingles or tile. And the edgy Necco wafer exterior colors — our house was turquoise — have given over to creamier tones.

I drive back and park. Dad worked in this little yard on weekends, but it's Mom I recall now, out here in her shorts on those 90-degree summer days, pointing the nozzled hose up at the roof and trying to cool down the rooms inside. Those houses offered the novelties of dishwashers and scratchy room-to-room intercoms, but no air conditioners.

The second summer, she had six kids down with measles at the same time.

She darkened the hot bedrooms with blankets over the windows, and we lay there fussing with the dime-store sunglasses she had bought for us. We were listening to the radio because we weren't supposed to strain our eyes watching our new TV. The baby cried.

Chicken pox followed shortly. Once I had a violent allergic reaction to a bee sting. When one of my sisters was feverish and Mom had her bend over and touch her toes, my keen second-grader's instinct knew Mom was thinking about polio.

Every weekday afternoon, the Helms bakery truck would come whistling up and down the streets, and Mom would hail it as often to buy cigarettes as bread. The breadman kept cartons of his customers' brands stuck between the drawers of wonderful-smelling glazed doughnuts that he would pull out — with we kids standing on tiptoes to see.

Our Mom was always different from the homely, down-to-earth mothers that most of my Catholic school pals had. She was pretty and slight, daydreamy, and took delight in things irreverent or whimsical, such as her friend Connie dabbing "My Sin" perfume on a kitten.

I get out of the car and walk over to our house. The drapes are closed, which is fine with me — I've decided not to knock on the door. It's enough to see things and take a few pictures. Unlike weekend mornings 40 years ago, people aren't out in their yards.

My parents' story is a sad one in the long run, but it wasn't sad then, when they were raising their kids in this modest tract house, out here on the edge of your Southern California. Their lives were presumptuous and a bit off-kilter, like people's lives are when they're still in their 20s. But it seems that back then, they had as good a shot at their dreams as any of their neighbors here.

Still gazing at the house, I smile at the party balloons tied to the porch. Another family's story in progress.

Connie had four daughters, and their Dad was hardly ever home. Their house was one street over. Mom told me later that after Dad was laid off, Connie had the milkman add our bill to her family's, saying that her husband wouldn't notice.

Mom and Connie would sit out on the patio or at the kitchen table while we kids played, fought and whined around them. We resented it when they regarded us as entertainment.

Once Connie blew air into a big paper bag and put it in the center of the table, and she and Mom chuckled as one by one we kids camped around wanting to know what was in it.

I surmise that they had teamed up to avoid going straight out of their lively, worried minds. When I consider how tough my fragile mother really was, I often remember her as she was here in Brea.

Lately, willing myself through a stretch of difficult days, I realize that Mom knew all about difficult days. My hunch is that she and Connie were quick studies of the evidence that their new suburban housewife roles were a set-up, and that their souls were in jeopardy.

Even if there had been daycare back then, I believe that there wouldn't have been any jobs out here for Mom and Connie. I shake my head at my '90s provincialism: As if "career development" was the solution.

I think. My own so-called career is looking like a set-up to me lately.

Me, I'm never home, I say to people. I work all the time, I say — I'm on the road, on sales calls, on the car phone. I have a different life than my mother had, I say that's for sure.

But each generation has its own bill of goods to negotiate, I'm discovering. Each comes upon new traps to step around.

Connie would become a divorcee, and Mom and Dad would lose this house and decline into their problems. We kids turned out fine, though — all eventual nine of us. We're past the young age Mom and Dad were here in Brea, and sometimes still, we look at each other, impressed, thinking, how about that? We're okay, aren't we?

I leave Oleander Avenue and drive out onto Imperial Highway. It was a good location, I note, marveling at the array of retail stores.

I come upon Brea Mall. A mall, right here! I think of the Helms man again.

It didn't just happen, we kids doing all right. It was sound construction after all. We're okay because of the good intentions and tenacity of the young mother who got up every morning in that house and did her best in a tedious, harrowing situation. I recall an Easter snapshot, we girls lined up wearing headbands Mom had made, with artificial flowers and little veils.

Driving away through smog-filtered sunshine, I set aside my Northwest prejudices and recognize the integrity of Brea. Thoroughly franchised, laced with chrome, Southern Californian to the bone: For all that, it has the feel of a smart, thriving community.

I bet the schools are good. Its vitality honors Mom and her colleagues, who waxed the first linoleum put down out here, back when Brea began growing into itself.

Memories: Visitor never very far from her Brea childhood

By Anne Dwire
For the Brea Progress

Editor's note: Anne Dwire recently returned to Brea, where she spent part of her childhood. The following is an account of her recent return to the city and the memories it brought back. Dwire, a former junior high school English teacher, lives in Seattle, where she works for a textbook-publishing company.

Solitary and childless, I maneuver around jumpy toddlers in the lobby of the Disneyland Hotel. Before my flight back to Seattle, I'll go take a look at the house in Brea where

my family lived when I was 6 and 7.

The child in me is as excited as these fidgeting kids, wondering, is time travel real? I smile past baggage-laden parents and make it to the door, feeling as if I'm giving the slip to Saturday chores.

The first surprise is that my rental car drive from Anaheim is short. I remember Disneyland seeming very far away when we lived in Brea. Everything was.

My sister and I rode the school bus 45 minutes to St. Philip's School in Fullerton, gazing out at little farms and craggy oil fields. I'm looking at car lots

along the asphalt corridor of Harbor Boulevard. Our school bus must have

“It was 1957 when Mom and Dad made the heady move here from Montana on Dad's job transfer ... Brea was the frontier.”

meandered all over the foothills to pick up rural kids — and look, the signs for Fullerton are right here.

Palm trees, so nonchalantly outlandish, were among the first things I loved about California as a child. Here they still stand, in league with goofy commercial architecture to save this landscape from utter flat drabness.

It was 1957 when Mom and Dad made the heady move here from Montana on Dad's job transfer. They bought into one of the new housing developments that were being scooped out of the orange groves, and put in a lawn and patio alongside other young parents from dif-

Please see **MEMORIES/3**

Brea Hotel returns to old glory

By Danielle Benson
Brea Progress

The Brea Hotel is moving back to its turn-of-the-century glory.

After movers relocate the historical building to allow for the widening of Brea Boulevard, a complete overhaul will follow.

The City Council on April 16 opted to rehabilitate the antique edifice rather than tear it down.

"It's a historical resource and an asset that we must preserve,"

Mayor Pro Tem Glenn Parker said at the council study session.

"But I would like to keep the original use of retail on the bottom and residential on top."

The project will occur in three phases:

- Moving the existing building farther back on the lot, preparing new foundations on the permanent site and restoring the exterior facade.
- The second phase calls for rehabilitating the first floor.
- Reworking the second floor comes in phase three.

The building has significant character remaining. With reasonable work and care the exterior can be restored," structural engineer Melvyn Green wrote in a report. "The interior can be rehabilitated and the building would continue to be of economic value and be a reminder of the city's heritage. The building would be brought back to its 1910-era appearance."

The projected cost for the relocation and restoration is about \$1.5 million. Council members said the building is worth the cost.

"This is the last building for the downtown and we've gotten a lot of support for relocating or demo-ing others," Councilwoman Bev Perry said. "If there's any way to do it without going way out of wack, then I believe we need to."

Final details about plans for the hotel's future will be presented to council members once rehabilitation is under way. But council members expressed interest in keeping the original format — retail shops on the bottom and apartments up top.

BREA PLUNGE HISTORY

1930

1930: The Brea Municipal Plunge, built in 1927 and opened in 1928, was the first swimming pool built by a city in Orange County. The 108,000-gallon pool and bathhouse was one of three Spanish-style structures built at City Hall Park in the 1920s, the others being Brea's first City Hall and police station. Land for the park, at 440 S. Brea Blvd., was donated by the Union Oil Co.

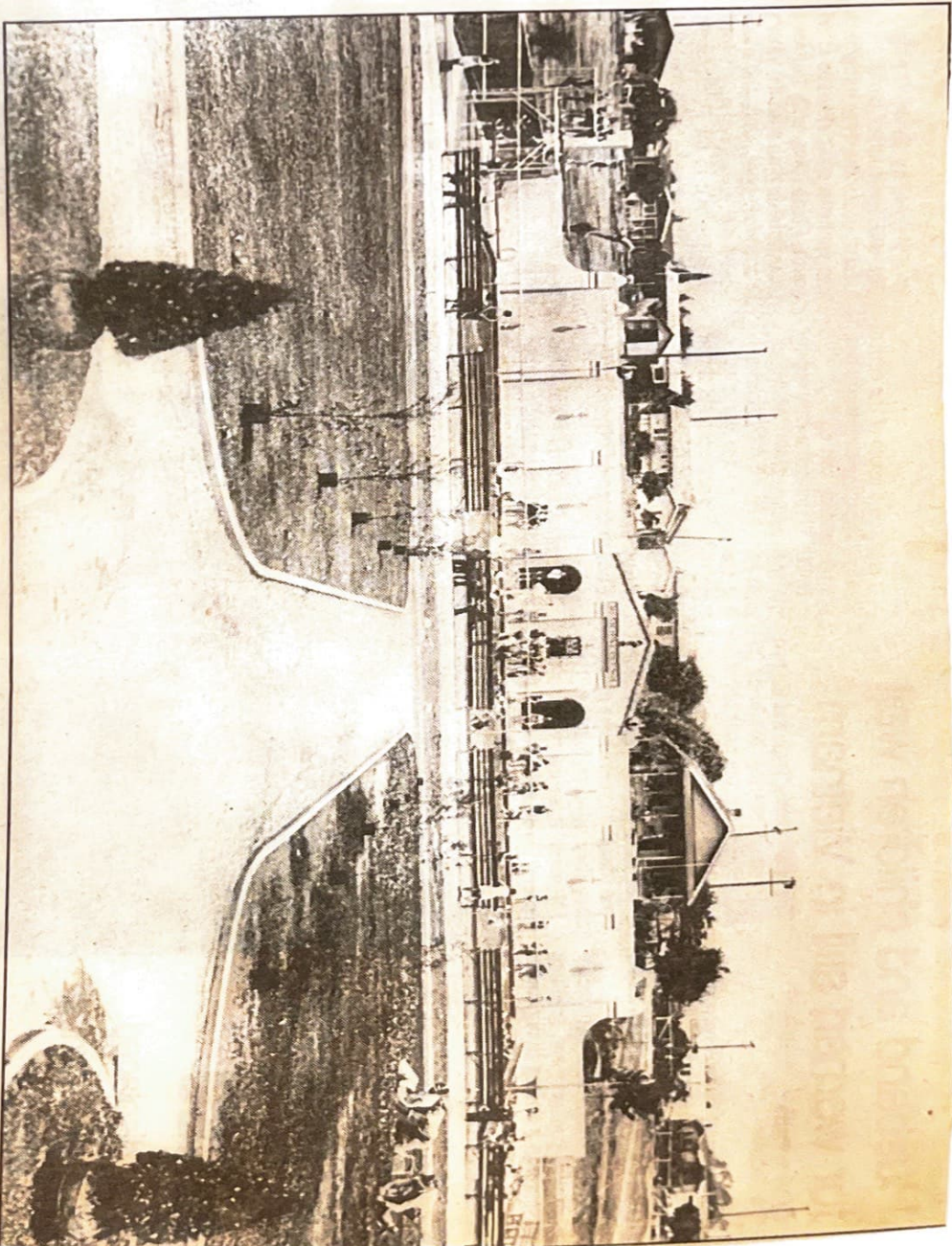


Photo courtesy of Brea Historical Society

Brea's Past History Told In Newspapers

Fifty years ago Brea residents were reading newspaper advertisements of the latest thirty-five horsepower automobile, a set of teeth for \$6, and the latest record player.

The 1917 Overland, selling at \$895, would be considered an excellent buy even today. It boasted an economical thirty-five horses, and unlimited comfort. A. H. Stilton of Fullerton distributed the auto in the area.

Dr. A. Zimmermann "A reliable painless dentist," offered residents false teeth for \$6, porcelain and gold fillings for \$1.50 and up, all with a 12-year protective guarantee.

For \$5 down, Finch's Drug Store would outfit a home with a record player. Twenty of the latest records were included in the price of \$92.50.

Also in 1917, the White Bus Line advertised that their cars were leaving Brea every 30 minutes to Los Angeles. Their office in Brea was located at Ford's Confectionery.

George L. Casey, Brea agent for the Pacific Electric Railway, advertised that the railway offered excursions to Mt. Lowe for \$2 round trip fare. "Save gasoline and help win the war by using Pacific Electric Red Cars," the ads read.

Classified advertisements 50 years ago read something like this: Lost — one fountain pen. Lost — Tail light to automobile, reward. For Sale — Gentle driving horse, good harness and buggy. For Sale — Kohler piano,

good as new, also Plymouth Rock hens, 45 cents a pound.

Food prices a half century ago in Brea were moderate. One dollar would buy 13 pounds of sugar or nine pounds of pink beans. Soups were going for 12 cent a can, as was canned milk. Coffee was selling for 97 cents for a three pound can, salt was 18 cents for a 10 pound sack, and tooth picks were four cents per box.

Twenty-eight cents bought a ticket to the Rialto Theater where William S. Hart was starting in "The Narrow Trail." Children saw the show for a nominal 11 cents.

In those good old days, newspapers were selling for one cent. The Star, in combination with the Los Angeles Express, offered subscribers both papers for 30 cents a month — delivered by carrier of course.

Since 1917, the year that the Brea Star ran these advertisements, Brea has increased its population many times and will celebrate its Golden Jubilee July 8-15.

Old Brea holds onto its old-time charm

3-block-long business area surviving progress

By Francine McMillan
The Register

Strolling along Brea Boulevard at Imperial Highway, one quickly gets the feeling of having been transported back in time.

Signs printed with western-style lettering are affixed to old-fashioned brown, beige and rust-colored wooden store fronts. Combined, they give the area a small-town, turn-of-the-century flavor.

A banner spanning the width of the boulevard reads, "Welcome to Brea." It beckons visitors to walk along the city's original three-block-long downtown section north and south of Imperial Highway, known as Old Brea.

Locals call it Good Old Brea. "I think it's a neat community," said Dave Kendall, a letter carrier who has delivered mail along the Brea Boulevard route for the past year. "It has its own unique charm."

"I fell in love with this area when I saw it," said Maryann Herman, a sales clerk at The Little But Wise Book Store, 216 S. Brea Blvd.

"I think areas like this should be preserved," she said. "We need more of them. I like the new things, but I think we should respect the old times, too. It has its own warmth."

Old Brea differs dramatically from the modern Brea Mall area — with the modern glass-enclosed Civic Cultural Center and commercial and industrial developments — across town.

And if Old Brea is reminiscent of turn-of-the-century San Francisco, there is a reason.

Many of the store fronts along Brea Boulevard are original Bay area store fronts dating back to the early 1900s, according to Jim Deering, who has operated a photography studio at 139 S. Brea Blvd. for five years.

He said owners installed the store fronts several years ago to create the quaint atmosphere.

"San Francisco was renovating an area, but instead of destroying the store fronts, they were disassembled," Deering said.

Brea brought these store fronts to Orange County to make Brea Boulevard "look like an Old Main Street," he said.

The Brea Redevelopment Agency wants to continue these early efforts with its plan to revitalize the area, specifically to expand the rustic Old Brea theme in the area north of Imperial Highway, according to Paulette Ramsay, redevelopment services manager.

"We want to preserve the character of Good Old Brea, but with thoughts toward parking, land uses, landscaping..." she said.

Meanwhile, Brea Boulevard remains an area of interesting contradictions. While some merchants feel the quaint atmosphere is appealing, others say the incomplete look of the street — with modern buildings close by — detracts from the area.

"From a negative standpoint, it gives the area the appearance of being neglected and in some ways run down," said Gil Lerma, who has operated the Brea Boat shop on Brea Boulevard since 1976.

"From a positive standpoint, it has an antique view to it," he said.

Old and new meet again when it comes to the types of businesses on the street.

One can browse through vintage clothing at the Clothes Around the Clock shop, or purchase new yarn at That Frame Place. The strip is also the location of Brea Stationers, Hair Cut Naturally, Pawlack Tile and Supply, and Brea Hardware, which has been in business for 20 years, according to its owner, Earl Hills.

In all, there are about 60 businesses in the area, said Hills, who is a member of the Good Old Brea Committee, a group of entrepreneurs from the area.

Hills said despite the competition of the Brea Mall, businesses in Old Brea have continued to show good profits. In fact, he said, growth of the city and surrounding areas in recent years has benefited Old Brea.

"Since construction of the mall, business has picked up," he said. "In my case, it's increased 300 percent."



Residents try to save historical buildings

By Steve Creach
Staff Writer

790

Olli

The discovery of this mysterious, black substance in the American Southwest gave rise to communities in some of the most unlikely places.

A prime example of these community outposts is the city of Brea. Since 1894, when Union Oil Co. of California purchased 1,200 acres of oil-rich land in North Orange County, a detailed, historical legacy has flourished.

During a brief stroll through the Sievers-Walnut and Laurel Heights neighborhoods, a visitor can't help but notice that many of the buildings and structures built at the time still stand, serving as a barometer of the inconsistent changes brought on by advanced technology.

For Brian Saul, chairman of the Brea Historical Committee, the elimination of the buildings to make way for ultra-modern office buildings and parking lots would, very possibly, remove the city's last contact with the past.

The Historical Committee is the creation of the Brea City Council, which appoints its members. Saul is a representative of the independent



The first hotels: Constructed in 1913, the Brea Hotel has been identified with Brea's founders and is former home to a barbershop, pool room and an electrical store.

Historical Society on the Historical Committee.

"There is an area in downtown Brea that is going to be leveled," Saul said. "The majority of the old homes, along with the old commercial area on both sides of Brea Boulevard, will be taken out and leveled to make way for a large, modern, commercial development."

Saul, referring to the plans for a new Brea town center, said, "We realize that it's part of progress that this has to occur. They (the City Council) don't have to save every old building, but we'd like them to save a representative sample to give the city's children a glimpse of what their home was like in the past."

The Historical Society and Com-

mittee have been pushing for a historical park within the city to where all the old buildings could be moved.

"It is very difficult to set aside the land, as it is, for a historical park, since the land downtown will be used for a shopping center," Saul said. "We would prefer the historical park to be downtown since that's where its original location is."

Brea City Manager Frank Benest said history has played an important role in the City's decision to redevelop. He believes Brea's historical buildings should remain intact but foresees difficulty in preserving several of the less well-constructed ones.

"There are some buildings that cannot be saved," he said. "They are impossible to move. In those cases, one of our options is to integrate the buildings' facades into the new commercial development along Birch Avenue."

At its last meeting, the City Council suggested the committee meet with the new downtown developer and exchange ideas about the preservation of the old buildings.

"I am very pleased with the interest the City Council has shown," Saul said. "We realize that the city would

See BUILDINGS / 9

Benest said the spirit of Brea's heritage is very important. He also stressed it needs to be balanced.

"The historical society has done a good job. They have been very realistic and forthright. They have confronted the prob-

Ash Street and Brea Boulevard structures such as Brea Bakery, the Wahl building on East Ash Street and Brea Christian Church are some of the buildings under scrutiny while the City Council weighs its final decision.



Rise and fall of a bakery: The Brea Bakery, now a bar known as Sam's Place, embodies the craftsmanship and detail of post turn-of-the-century architecture. It will be affected by the proposed widening of Brea Boulevard.

BUILDINGS!

Continued from page 6

like the relocated buildings to be used commercially, and that the houses should be reused."

Benest said the spirit of Brea's heritage is very important. He also stressed it needs to be balanced.

"The historical society has done a good job. They have been very realistic and forthright. They have confronted the prob-

lem squarely and made accurate assessments," he said.

The first commercial and residential buildings were built around the corner of Ash Street and Brea Boulevard. Structures such as Brea Bakery, the Wahl building on East Ash Street and Brea Christian Church are some of the buildings under scrutiny while the City Council weighs its final decision.

FREEZE FRAME: DOWNTOWN BREa

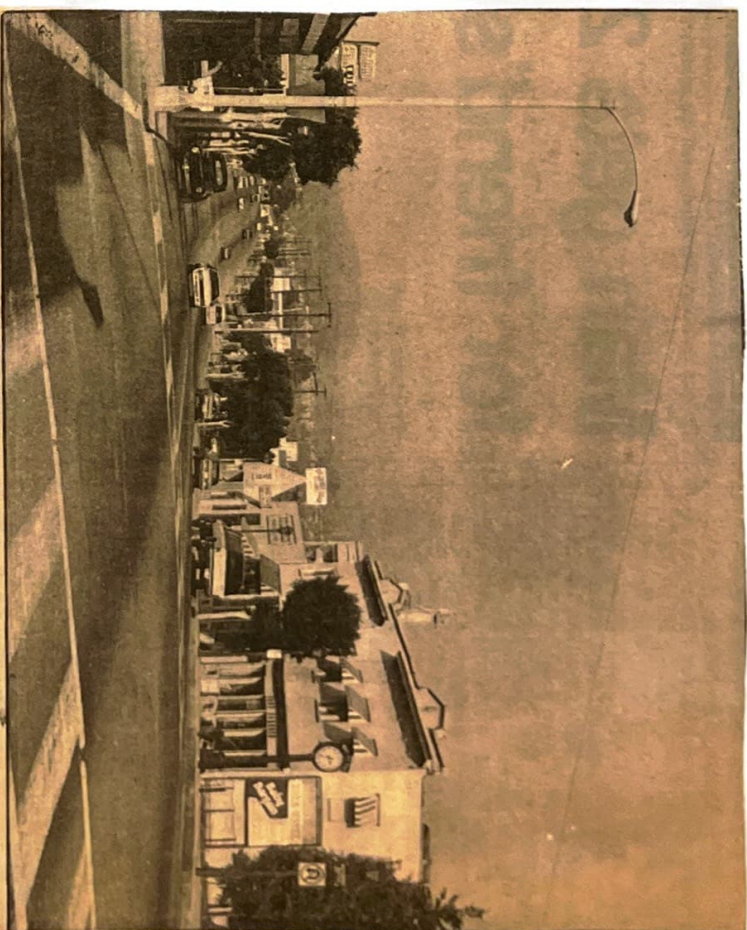
A view of Orange County yesterday and today, appearing each Tuesday.



1920: The small oil boom town of Brea (which means tar in Spanish) acquired its name in 1912 and, in

Photo courtesy 1st American Title Insurance Co.

June, the twin halves of the Brea Hotel. It is located at 106 N. Pomona, said county historian Jim Sleeper.

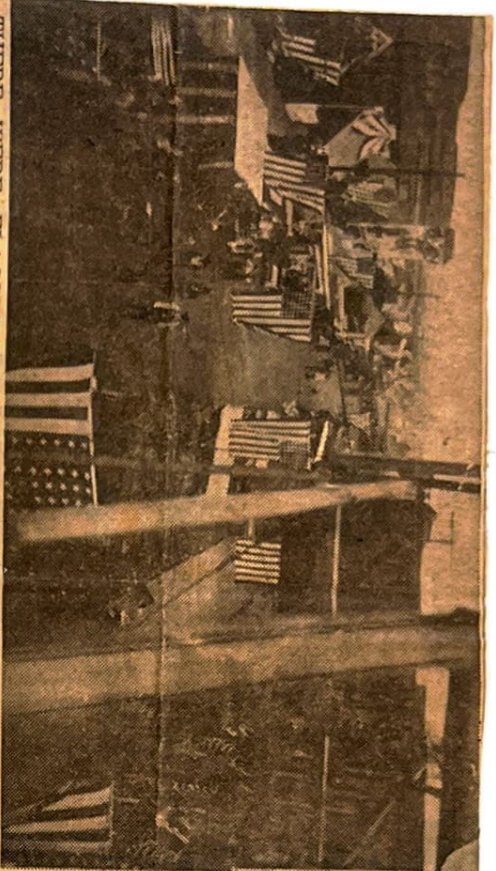


Today: The building still stands and is run as a hotel, though the address has changed to 108 S. Brea.

Todd Buchanan/The Register

Remodeled in 1927, it now is owned by Inge Werner. A baby-goods store is on the bottom storefront area.

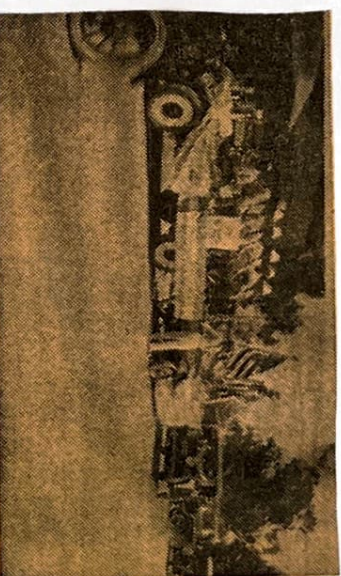
1921
THE MAIN STREET WAS CLOSED
FOR THE CARNIVAL



THERE WERE FLAGS EVERY-
WHERE during Brea Carnival back in 1921, but there is not an auto in
evidence anywhere.

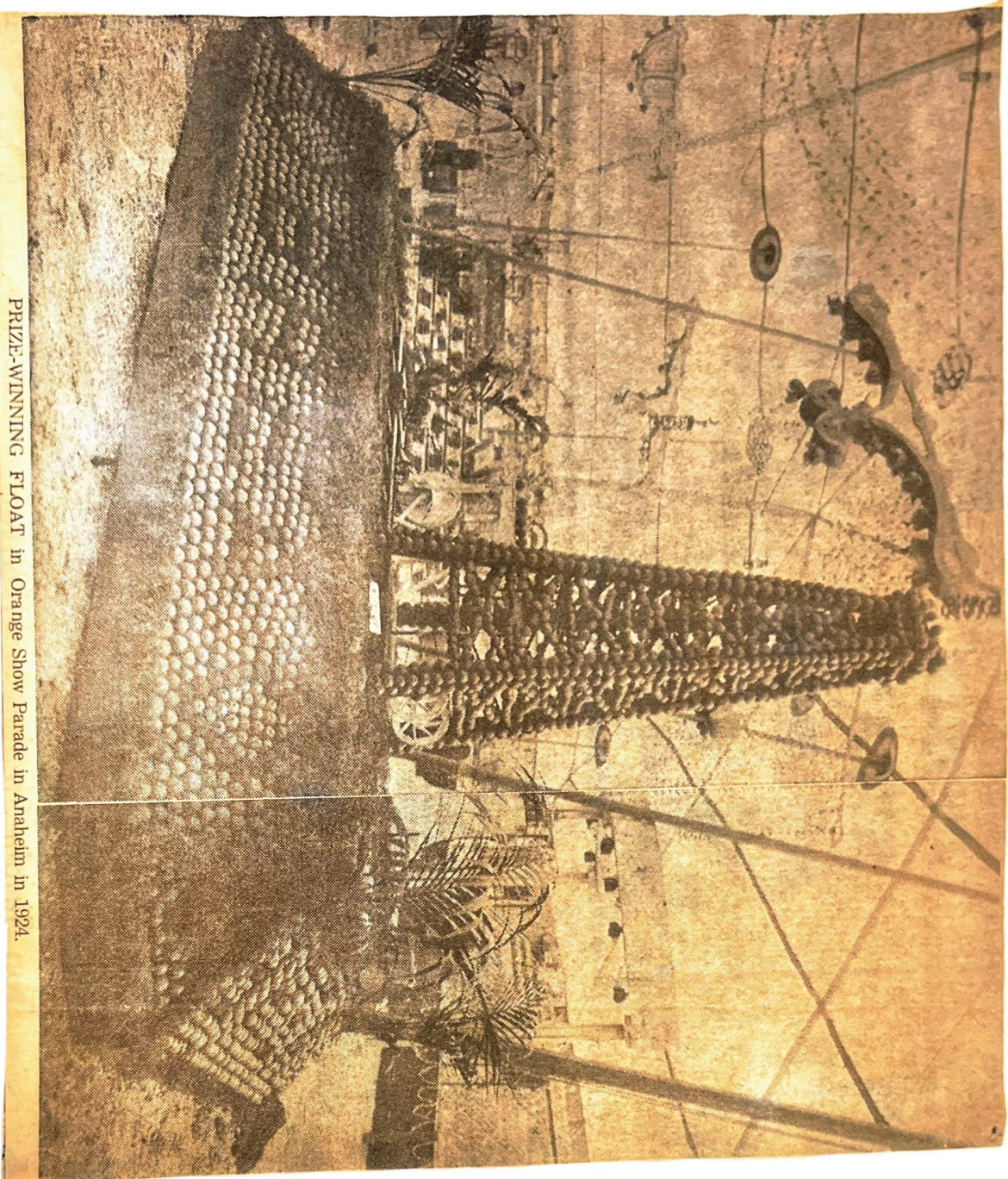


CARNIVAL SCENE IN BREa in 1921 shows
streets decked with flags and bunting.



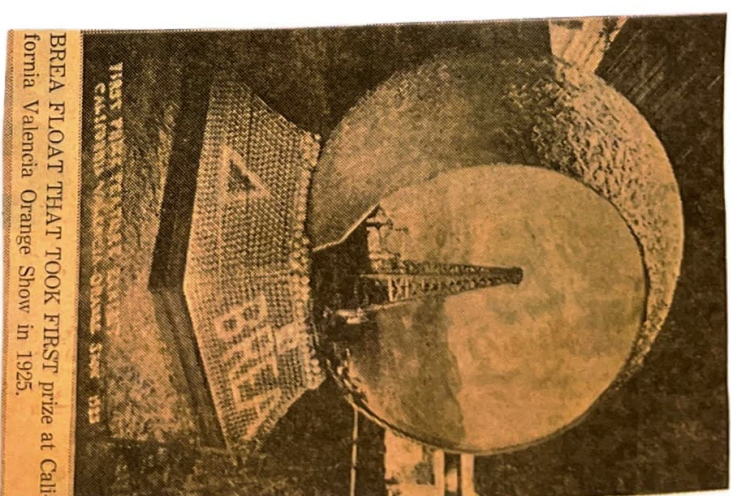
CELEBRATING IN 1921 — Here are two scenes
from Brea's Fourth of July parade down Pomona
Avenue (now Brea Boulevard) 44 years ago. In
one picture a float featuring Uncle Sam is shown,
in the other is truck with sign which reads: Oil
workers.

1924



PRIZE-WINNING FLOAT in Orange Show Parade in Anaheim in 1924.

1925



BREA FLOAT THAT TOOK FIRST prize at California Valencia Orange Show in 1925.

Oil boom pumped life into Brea

By David Witny
Register staff writer

BREA — If it were not for an oil-boom town called Olinda, there would be no Brea as it is known today.

After the discovery of oil in the foothills to the east before the turn of the century, the shantytown of Olinda sprang to life near what is now Carbon Canyon Regional Park.

The workers and merchants who lived in the oil-field village later replaced the clapboard community with a city nearby.

Tuesday, Brea, the city spawned by its one-time neighboring oil-field camp, observed its 65th anniversary of incorporation.

On Feb. 23, 1917, after residents had voted 204-45 to incorporate, the state recognized Brea as Orange County's eighth city.

Although the oil-boom heyday that brought the town into being largely has vanished, its legacy is still felt by the present-day population of 30,000.

A handful of modern, steel oil derricks along Carbon Canyon Road has replaced the wooden structures that once dotted the hillsides.

Industry that has been moving to Brea since the 1970s has been able to do so only because companies like Union Oil and Shell Oil decided to sell their land.

The future expansion of Brea into the hills outside the city limits is intertwined with the future of the oil companies that still own much of the land, said city Planning Director Dick Maggio.

Shortly before the turn of the century, oil companies began to exert their influence in the area called Brea, which means "tar" or "asphalt" in Spanish.

Local historian Purl Harding wrote in 1950 that turn-of-the-century travelers came to the hills to cut chunks of the oil-soaked ground into "bricks" for fuel.

Union Oil Co. sank its first productive oil well in the area in 1895, and other oil companies — Standard, Shell, Getty and Doheny — soon followed, wrote Harding.

The Olinda foothills were a prominent oil-producing region for approximately 30 years, Harding said. A single well produced 3 million barrels of oil between 1911 and 1916.

A city whose residents depended on the oil fields as a livelihood grew up alongside the oil derricks.

Frank Schweitzer, 71, vividly recalls growing up during the oil boom era in Olinda, before Union Oil Co. pulled out in the 1940s.

"My dad came here from Ohio in 1902 to work as a machinist for Union Oil," Schweitzer said.

He said his father soon helped found Brea Tool Works, which made oil drilling equipment, in Brea.

Schweitzer himself worked for the oil-dependent business after graduating from college and became a supervisor in the firm's engineering division.

Dean Millen, 73, moved to Brea in 1935, in time, he said, to witness the death of Olinda as a bedroom community for oil-field workers. Workers often had their houses picked up and moved into Brea where many of them still stand today.

Millen's occupation was rooted in agriculture, but it also was linked to Brea's oil companies.

Millen supervised 450 acres of citrus groves on land owned by Union Oil. When the firm left Brea six years after his arrival, he joined friends in buying up oil company land at \$500 an acre.

"There were less than 2,500 people in town when I came here in 1935," Millen said. "They were all oil-field workers. When Union pulled out, it hit me like a sledgehammer. I never thought they'd go. This was a Union Oil Co. town."

Brea, incorporated as a 1.75-mile-square city, has grown to a 10-mile-square community which has not forgotten its past.

The city, in cooperation with California State University at Fullerton, has enlisted people like Millen and Schweitzer to research Brea's past.

Among other things, they hope to collect historical documents from city residents, write a book on the city and put together a historical exhibit within two years.

"If there hadn't been an Olinda there wouldn't have been a Brea," Millen said. "In remembering our history, we have to remember both."

BREA COMMUNITY HISTORY PROJECT

Brea undertakes to record city's early lifestyle

By TAMMY DUNN
Staff Writer

It was born from oil, or perhaps more accurately, tar.

The Indians used the Brea, Spanish for tar or asphalt, for medicine.

The oil companies had different plans for the liquid fortune that once soaked the hills and soil of what is now Brea.

People, drawn first by oil and more recently by other industry and business, moved to Brea, causing its population to increase nearly 1,000 percent in 30 years.

And because of the combined efforts of Cal State Fullerton's history department and some interested local residents, the early history of a once-small town called Randolph will be available for old and new residents to learn.

Brea's history will be recorded and presented next fall, Lawrence De Graaf said.

De Graaf is the director of the oral history department at CSUF and is coordinating the Brea Community History Project.

He defined oral history as being history which is recorded on tape, from living subjects whose memories are permanently set in record.

Or as W.E. Fanning, who was superintendent of Brea's Public schools from 1914-1942, wrote in 1919, one way to calculate the growth of a town or city is to "watch for the oldtimer on the corner who knows and recites the whole pulse of the town."

The Brea Community History Project seeks to do just that.

De Graaf explained that the oral history department was looking for one community which was representative of the development and growth which most of the 26 cities in Orange County have gone through.

"We were looking for a city to do a history on and Brea was looking for a history," De Graaf said.

He added, "There is in Brea a group of people very interested in their own history."

Dean Millen is one of those people responsible for the development of the historical undertaking.

In 1979, Millen was at CSUF looking for history on some trees in Yorba Linda.

On the Advisory Committee for

the Fullerton Arboretum, located on the CSUF campus, Millen was attempting to trace the history of a couple of tree species which exist

in the area.

He said he discovered through his research on the trees, that the oral history department was look-

ing for a city to do a history on.

Through organizational and work, the Brea Historical Coordinating Committee was formed.

Composed of residents like Barbara Vasquez, Patricia Fox, Carl Fanning, Frank Schweitzer and Millen, to mention just a few, the committee set to work to gather historical information for the project.

And as important as the data to be included, the history supporters gathered \$16,000 to fund the Brea History Project.

De Graaf estimated that \$33,000 will be needed to complete the project.

A donation of \$7,500 from the California Council of the Humanities and the \$16,000 to fund the Brea Community.

De Graaf estimated that \$33,000 will be needed to complete the project.

A donation of \$7,500 from the California Council of the Humanities and the \$16,000 from local supporters has already been raised.

De Graaf said they are pursuing other sources of funding, although the local contributions have been heavy. The Lion's Club gave \$3,000 and individuals have donated as much as \$1,000, he said.

The Brea Community History Project has a grant through October.

Old photos, documents, deeds and other memorabilia will be gathered and exhibited.

The group has reserved the art gallery through September for that purpose.

The front section of the Old City Hall on Brea Boulevard is being used to house the mass of papers and materials which have been donated by long-time Breans so far.

De Graaf said the local government will have to decide what will be done with the project after the month-long exhibition in September.

As things stand now, the materials will be given back to those who donated them, unless a permanent place is established to keep the project.

The ultimate product might be a published analytical study.

What About Those Ash St. Tents?

HISTORICAL SOCIETY GETS QUESTIONS

BY DAVE TAYLOR
News Tribune Writer
BREA — When your business is history, you become an information bureau and some questions you can't always answer.

That is the quandary facing members of the Brea Historical Society, according to Mrs. Sandy Doggett, who relayed information on its meeting this week.

One question is who wrote a book called "The Era of the Buick, 1903-13," while others are who lived in tents on East Ash Street, when did this happen and why; and when was the first airplane built in Brea?

People with answers can phone City Hall at 529-4951. They will be relayed.

These questions were brought forth at the recent meeting of the society at the Durkee home on Imperial Highway and Berry Street. An open house is planned in October, said Mrs. Doggett.

Among the speakers at the June meeting were Dyer Bennett, who discussed the building now occupied by Sam's Place, at 117 S. Brea Blvd. owned by Sam Landa. Also heard was Miss Hester Tallman, who was graduated from Randolph School

and taught in Atwood around 1924, which is nearly 50 years ago.

BANDAGED

Miss Tallman told the famous story about former Mayor Frank Schweitzer J.R., historical society president who arrived in town with bandaged hands because his parents were trying to cure him of thumb-sucking.

Miss Tallman came to Brea in 1911, before it was incorporated (1917).

She also told about Grandpa Green, (which

wasn't his real name) the first traveling salesman in Brea who had a vegetable wagon.

Whether he had them or not he used to yell his wares, "peaches, plums and watermelons," (sounds like the melodic vegetable wagon salesmen in New Orleans.)

Bennett said he believes a murderer was caught in 1958 at Sam's which reportedly served at one time as a house of shady reputation but details are lacking and the society could use some help.

He added that there were bakery ovens in the rear of the bar, dating from when bread was baked there. It also reportedly was a gin distillery.

Bennett is a long-time resident, having worked for an oil company until his retirement several years ago.

Mrs. Doggett said one of the joys of the people interviewed on tape or heard at society meetings is their memories of earlier days.

She said Miss Tallman recalled her mother was organizer for the first church in

Brea, the Congregational, which decided to build when the tent in which it held services blew down in a storm. It was organized in 1913, Miss Tallman said.

Mrs. Doggett said the group plans to have an exhibit in connection with the "Good Old Brea" grand opening this fall.

Cooperating in the open house will be the Woman's Club of Brea. The city cultural arts program handled by Mrs. Doggett and her husband Tom, will be involved with the exhibit.

**NEWS
OF
BREA**
on this
page

Brea Historical Society Asks, 4/29/23 'Who Recalls Grandpa Green?'

BREA — Who remembers "Grandpa Green," the first traveling salesman in Brea, and what was his real name?

This is just one of the questions put forth by the Brea Historical Society in an effort to spur some interest in Brea's past on the part of area residents who might remember those days-gone-by.

The society this week decided that it will be displaying an exhibit of old pictures, antiques and remembrances in September when Brea holds its official opening of the Good Old Brea downtown area. Times and dates have not been set as yet.

In October, a tour is tentatively set of the historical old Sievers mansion, located at the edge of the city's industrial redevelopment area off of Imperial Highway.

The historical group will not hold a meeting during the summer, but it is still trying to

build interest in the city's history by asking questions of its older citizens.

The newcomers are invited to participate, as well, and the Society is urging all to look for the answers to questions on the city's past and maybe raise some of their own.

The Society has been conducting taping sessions with people who remember most of Brea's 50-plus years as a city, and the interviews have brought up many questions and even differences of opinion, along with the fond remembrances, according to Society member Sandy Doggett.

Who wrote the book, "Era of the Buick, 1903-1913?" is another question that has been raised.

This question was asked of the Brea Library, and the questioner believes that either the writer lived in Brea or the book

was published here. The Society hopes that someone can provide the answer.

"When did people live in tents along E. Ash Street?" This is another question that the Society hopes will interest Brea residents enough to provide an answer.

One question that might bring a lot of interest in this time of proposed jet airports near Brea is as follows: "What year did Bill Tremayne build the first airplane in Brea, and where was the first Brea Airport?"

Historical Society President Frank Schweitzer said that there has been two airports in Brea.

Perhaps the most provocative question that arose at last week's historical society meeting is, "Why did no one build next door to what is now known as Sam's Place on Brea Boulevard?"

Another question might be,

"Where was the first Brea School, and what was its name?"

"Where was the original Brea Progress building, and what other publication was produced there?" might be another.

Long-time Brea resident Dyer Bennett asks residents to name Brea's first policeman and the year he started local law enforcement.

"When did Olie Olson start his cafe in Brea? When did the Salvenson Brothers start their store at the 100 block of West Ash Street and Pomona Avenue (Brea Boulevard)?"

These are more questions that Bennett feels will gain some interest from Brea residents who might remember these names and places.

The Society invites answers to these questions by calling either Frank Schweitzer at 529-2566 or LaVeta Daetweiler at 529-2322.

BRICKS IN BREA - OR, I REMEMBER WHEN!

Some of us who were in the 6th grade at Laurel School in 1926 will recall our being released weekly to go to Brea Grammar School (now Brea Jr. High) where girls participated in a homemaking class while the boys had a class in wood shop or "SLOYD" as it was called in those days.

We had the choice of riding the school bus, which some chose, or walking if the weather was good. The latter was preferred by some of us. The requirement was that we behaved ourselves on the way and got there on time.

We often passed a place where bricks were being made on the north side of the intersection of Ash Street and Randolph. Today Pandera Estates Mobile Home Park occupies the site. *Redwood*

On the way home we sometimes detoured back past the brick yard to watch the creation of a brick. I can still see in my mind the rack holding many vertical wires properly spaced to cut the bed of brown clay into ribbons the width of a brick. How other cuts were made has faded in my memory.

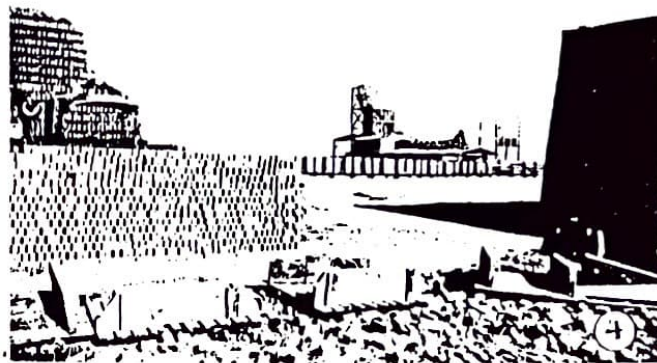
The large kilns of clay bricks became super hot and impressed me immensely. To an 11 year old the mysterious transformation of soft brown clay into hard red bricks was not only an exciting observation but a valuable lesson showing the change of a rather useless material into something useful.

At the time I did not question the source of the natural gas used to fuel the intense fire that made the marvelous change from clay to brick, but now I know it came from the oil fields north of Brea.

Some of these bricks certainly ended up in the walls of the Brea Olinda High School being built in 1926 on East Birch at the edge of the city limits of Brea.

Perhaps the brick you bought today which came from Brea Olinda High School was made from Brea clay by the Brea Brick Company and transformed by the heat of burning gas from Brea's oil fields.

Karl Fanning
July 4, 1990



Brea Brick Company

old. Indian

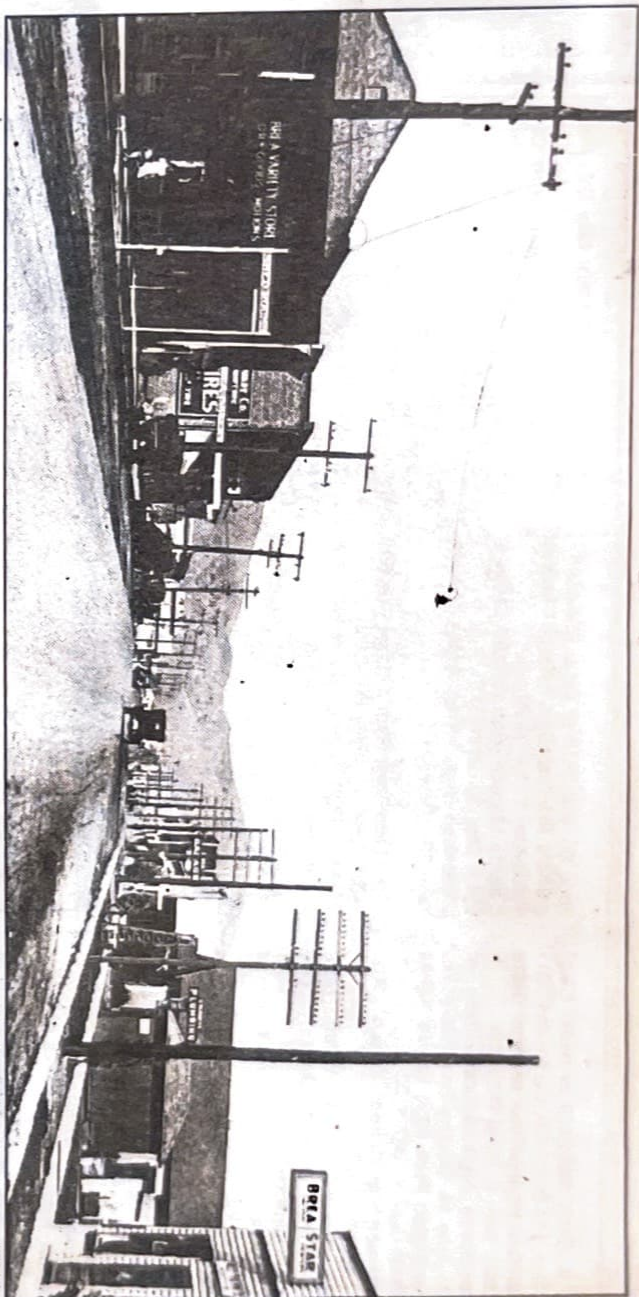
metate - John Yriarte - found on
family property in Brea.

② Corrugated tin buildings used for
making oil tools

~~more~~ several.

oil repairing
industry

bar



Courtesy First American Title Insurance Co.

FREEZE FRAME

Early Brea benefited from oil boom

Brea Boulevard was a far different street in 1914; for one thing, it was called Pomona Avenue. The view here is north from Birch Street and includes the Brea Star building on the right and the Brea Variety Store on the left. The town and its business section benefited from a major oil boom in the early 1900s. High wages in the oil fields lured many workers and their families to the town, originally called Randolph. It was renamed Brea in 1911. At the time this photo was taken, Brea was connected to other parts of the county by the Pacific Electric Railway, the popular "red cars" of the area's first mass-transit system. But even a few years later, Brea was not a major city. A county census be-

THIS WEEK IN OC HISTORY

- **In 1886:** The Santa Fe Railroad lowered its fare from Kansas City to Los Angeles to \$1.
- **In 1938:** In the worst flood in Orange County history, the Santa Ana River overflowed and a blanket of water spread over much of the county.
- **In 1942:** The US War Department declared California a "military zone."

fore its incorporation in 1917 counted 732 residents. Brea Boulevard is still a major street but is due for major changes from redevelopment.

— John Westcott/The Orange County Register

BREA ART EXHIBITION from page 1

in this section is a pair of photographs titled: *Union Oil Company Stearns Leasing, Boarding Houses, Shops and Oil Workers*. The first photograph, circa 1912, shows a group of men, women, and children on a grassy area in front of a group of buildings. Some of the people are in carriages or on horseback. There are five automobiles in the photo.

The second photograph, circa 1917, shows a larger group of people standing on the same grassy area, in front of the same group of buildings. The trees are larger, a few more houses have been built. But in this photograph, the vehicles (and they are numerous) are all automobiles. Not a carriage or a horse to be seen.

After the 1926 oil refinery fire, until devastation by root disease in 1955, citrus was Brea's major industry. In this section, artifacts and photos combine to reveal life in the city through the Depression and both World Wars. (It is also in this section, that the permanent wave machine stands, still awaiting its next brave femme fatale.)

The Modern City covers Brea's most recent transformations. Industrial development and growth are illustrated through a combination of photographs, products, and exhibits.

The exhibition's second section *The Changing Community*, focuses on government, schools and social organizations.

Included are police and fire equipment from the past and present, the Brea's Women's Club Tapestry, a note and telegram signed by Ronald Reagan, and Scout memorabilia.

Also in this section, an impressive corner depicts the history of Brea's schools with

yearbooks, and textbooks, pom-poms, and photographs of the 1936 Brea-Olinda High School Band, and the 1927 High School Football Team.

And finally, there is the Brea Time Line - a wall which telescopes Brea's history from the Mexican Land Grant to an aerial photograph which shows Brea as it is

today, right into the year 2,000 with an estimated population of 40,000.

The Brea Gallery is located in the Civic Cultural Center. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, noon - 5 p.m., and Thursday, noon - 8 p.m. The exhibition is free to the public.

Brea Historical Exhibition: A Trip Into The City's Past

By Gundl Thomas

Give yourself a special treat during this holiday season, and take a step back in time to Brea's past. It's all still there to be seen - from old photographs to old phonographs, from wedding dresses to wash tubs, from farm machinery to a permanent wave machine which looks more like an instrument of torture than an instrument of beauty.

The Brea Historical Exhibition, which runs through Jan. 14 at the Brea Gallery is more than a trip down Memory Lane (although that's certainly part of the fun.) It is an important effort to trace the evolution of the city through its various stages from oil town to

citrus-growing community to modern suburban city.

The culmination of a two-year community historical project which included Brea Citizens, local donors, Cal-State Fullerton's Oral History Program, the City of Brea, and a grant from the California Council on the Humanities, the exhibition is divided into two sections;

The culmination of a two-year community historical project which included Brea Citizens, local donors, Cal-State Fullerton's Oral History Program, the City of Brea, and a grant from the California Council on the Humanities, the exhibition is divided into two sections: *The Developing City* and *The*

Changing Community.

The Developing City is devoted to the actual land and its use: Oil (1890-1930), Citrus (1930-1955), and the Modern Era (1955-1980). Beginning with a map of the Rancho San Juan Cajon de Santa Ana Grant in 1838, subsequent maps trace the land through its ownership by Abel Sterns in 1863, its proposed communities and later housing plots, to its present day boundaries.

The space devoted to the oil era includes rare photographs, a look at two living rooms from the period, and a scale model of a 1920s oil rig built by Fred Johnson.

Of particular interest

please turn to page 4

EARLY DAYS--

Oil Was Big Brea Oldtimer Interest

(Ed. Note: Following is a continuation of the story concerning early days in Brea and the industries and activities that thrived here).

On North Pomona Avenue adjacent and north of the Pacific Electric tracks W. E. Hurst was operating a boiler shop in 1913. He built his home next to the shop and the Hurst family have lived there continuously. Mrs. Hurst and their son Forrest continued business when W. E. died and are still doing business. They share with the Russells jewelry store the honor of being the two oldest businesses in Brea.

Seven Wells

In 1911 the Stanard Oil Company of California drilled seven wells in Southern California in an attempt to get production in the various sites chosen. One of these sites was on the Yriarte Ranch on the east side of what eventually became the city of Brea. The hole was abandoned when the attempt to shut off water failed, after the drill had passed through an oil strata.

Oil

Another attempt to find oil was on the Emory Lease, south of La Habra. This well came in at the rate of 3000 barrels of oil daily. A short time prior to bringing this well in the company had erected a machine shop and a blacksmith shop in Brea. Its location was on the west side of Pomona Avenue south of the P. E. Railway tracks. It was eventually moved to another location out of town. The Emory lease was close to the Murphy Coyote Lease south of La Habra, and the Standard Oil Company entered into negotiations with the Bastanchury interests, who owned the Murphy - Coyote land, for the purchase of this immense oil bearing property. The deal was consummated and the Bastanchury received in the neighborhood of \$4,000,000.

To the south of the Standard Oil Shops was the Miller store building a one story frame. It consisted of two spaces for stores. The Walter Ford Confectionary occupied one of the stores and Mr. Paul ran a pool room in the other.

On the northwest corner of Pomona and Ash Streets S. A. Salvesson and Mr. Borden were operating a grocery store early in the history of the town site. They catered to the limited number of people in the town and to the surrounding oil fields. Borden sold his interest in the business to P. C. Huddelston, who in turn sold to A. H. Brown. Sig. Salvesson's brother Jack Salvesson, Hollywood Star's ace pitcher. The family moved to Brea from Fullerton when Jack was an infant, and it was in Brea's healthy atmosphere that Jack grew up to be signed up by the New York Giants in the first baseball assignment.

Supply Co.

Across the tracks to the north was the Tay-Pike Supply Company. The did a prosperous business although on a smaller scale. The Union Oil company took over the Tay-Pike Supply company and built a large galvanized warehouse on this site facing Orange Street. They had pipe racks loaded with casing and pipe. It was the main supply yard for the Union Oil company for many years.

BRICKS IN BREA - OR, I REMEMBER WHEN!

Some of us who were in the 6th grade at Laurel School in 1926 will recall our being released weekly to go to Brea Grammar School (now Brea Jr. High) where girls participated in a homemaking class while the boys had a class in wood shop or "SLOYD" as it was called in those days.

We had the choice of riding the school bus, which some chose, or walking if the weather was good. The latter was preferred by some of us. The requirement was that we behaved ourselves on the way and got there on time.

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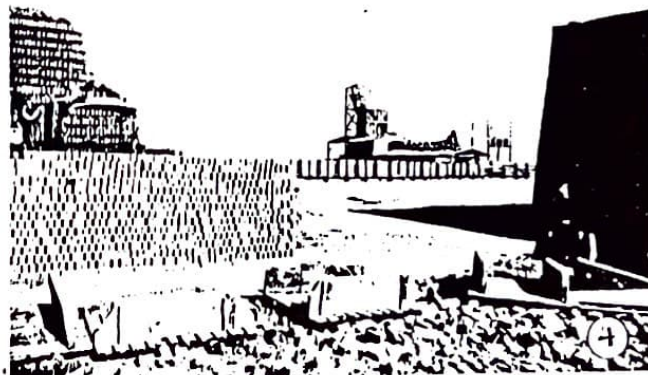
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Karl Fanning
July 4, 1990



Brea Brick Company

Olinda Born And Dies; Brings Flower To Brea

(Editor's Note: This is the second installment of a three-part series on the history of Brea. Today, Olinda is born and dies but brings flower to the city of Brea. And the oil fields go up in smoke.)

By JIM MARXEN
DSP Staff Writer

Oil was originally drilled for in 1861 by Major Max von Strobel, first mayor of Anaheim. The drilling went down 100 feet before the project was given up.

It wasn't until 1882 that a successful well was drilled in Tonner Canyon. The Chandler Oil and Mining Company, drilling near the present site of the intersection of Brea and Tonner Canyon Roads, was so successful in its efforts that a town named Petrolia was established in the low hills on the south of the canyon.

The residents of Petrolia began migrating east to the growing community of Olinda. The town was part of the Santa Fe Oil Lease. It was owned by the companies and houses were rented out to the oil workers.

Walter Johnson, the Washington Senators' pitcher, migrated to Olinda with his family. They lived in the growing town until 1904, when Walter left to seek his fame elsewhere. The town became respected as having one of the best baseball teams in Southern California.

The origins of Brea find their root in the early community of Olinda. In fact former Olinda resident Ted Craig believes that if it were not for Olinda, Brea would never have existed.

Olinda was basically geared around oil. Close to a dozen oil companies owned the lands in and around the town.

It was a lively town. Saturday night dances were held at the community hall and sometimes a few all-nighters were still around when the minister came in to prepare the room for church.

Oil was so plentiful in those days that Craig remembers his mother's sheets getting sprinkled with the black substance as they waved in the breeze. The wooden derricks came out of the ground everywhere for oil was suddenly in demand.

The townsite contained a row of houses along with a boarding home for single men. There was also a community center, a school, a general store, a barber shop, a train station, and even a newspaper called The Derrick graced the oil town.

The famous Red Cars of the Pacific Electric Railroad would once a day pull into the station at Pillsbury (now the area between Central Ave. and Imperial near Puente Street) to pick up residents of Olinda. The trains took the people to Los Angeles as well as Redondo Beach, where an annual picnic was held.

Although Olinda was a 'dry' town, many of the oilmen would travel to nearby Anaheim for a night of drinking. When the men returned there was sometimes trouble. A man was shot once after such a night. However, the residents of Olinda were described as very friendly.

Gradually, other oil fields opened up in other areas. Olinda began to disappear. The depletion of oil and the fact that there was more money to be made elsewhere led to the desertion of the town. Today there is little evidence of Olinda.

Many of those who left that town came to the drilling sites in Brea Canyon. A new town called Randolph was being formed at the mouth of the canyon. The town was originally planned to be much like La Habra. In fact one of the founders of La Habra was instrumental in the planning for Randolph.

Randolph School was built in the anticipation of the new town. But plans for the site never materialized, water was scarce and a planned spur of the Pacific Electric never came past the Pillsbury station.

On January 11, 1911 a map was filed at the County Recorder's office for a town called Brea. The main purpose of the map was to generate new interest in a town at the mouth of the canyon and to change the name of the site to Brea.

Oilmen began coming to Brea from as close as Olinda and as far away as Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Water lines began coming into Brea and in 1912 the promised P.E. Railroad spur extended into the town. A general store, a grocery, a

bakery, a barber, a doctor's office, and several machine shops were opened in Brea. On February 19, 1917 Brea became incorporated as a general law city.

The first city officials were Isaac Craig, Jay Sexton, P.C. Huddleston, R.N. Mitchell and M.J. McCarty.

More and more people came into Brea. At the time of incorporation there were only 732 people living here. By 1925 that figure had risen to over 1,300.

The 20's were years of progress in Brea. Streets began to be paved, a high school was built, city hall was erected, more shops opened, and an effective police force developed.

On October 31, 1924 Walter Johnson returned home. By his side was Babe Ruth. Together they played an exhibition baseball game that will never be forgotten in this city. Ted Craig proudly displays a baseball signed by the two stars on that day.

Because of Prohibition, bootlegging became a pastime for many in Orange County. The Carbon Canyon was a popular hideout for some. James C. Looney, marshal of Brea at the time, chased the bootleggers into the canyon on his red Indian motorcycle. Looney resigned from the post, however, after an accident where he ran into the side of a truck that was, ironically, parked outside of an illegal saloon.

"Huge Brea Oil Fire Catastrophe Wipes Out Homes, Ruins Orchards" screamed the headline of the April 9, 1926 issue of the Los Angeles Evening Express. W.E. "Griff" Griffith remembers the moment of the explosion.

At 9 a.m. on April 8, lightning struck the Union Oil reservoirs on the western edge of Brea. Griffith was there "huddling in the rain" that morning. His foreman Howard Robinson, whose account follows, was beside him.

"Raining hard . . . wind about 35 m.p.h. from south-west . . ." Suddenly there was "quite an explosion and the roof went up . . ."

The two men looked out into the rain and saw the smoke and flames reaching into the sky. Griffith added that at that point "we knew we were in trouble". A telephone call to Los Angeles headquarters was put in.

Fire and Squad Revenge Attempt to Kill Mussolini

Evening Express **ATLANTY CITY**
THREE CENTS

Huge Brea Oil Fire Catastrophe Wipes Out Homes, Ruins Orchards

LEADER SAYS
CRIME DONE AS
ATTEMPT TO KILL
MUSSESSINI

AIRPLANE PHOTO SHOWS GREAT BREA OIL FIRE

Large Gangs in Desperate
Battle to Impede Flaming
Flow From Burning Tanks

WOMEN ON STAGE
OIL FIRE PAID

OLIVE OILS
TAKEN TO
BATTLE

Oil Disaster Takes Huge
Toll of Lives, Property

WOMEN SEVERES
SUSPECTED LEADERS

35 Seamen Missing After
Oil Tankers Crash, Explode

Police Are Ready to Testify
They Blushed at 'Desire'



EXTRA! EXTRA! — This was the headline in the now-defunct Los Angeles Evening Express almost 50 years ago to the day that a huge fire engulfed the oil fields surrounding Brea. (Photo courtesy of Frank Schweitzer Jr.)

In the first hours of the fire many residents who had had their windows shattered or their roofs blown off came to help the oilmen. Volunteers from all over the area rushed to the scene until almost 600 workers were battling the blaze.

Because of the continuing overflows and tremendous heat of the oil, it became apparent that the flames could not be put out. Hollywood movie wind machines were brought out but they were of no avail. Sheets of metal was placed in a ring about the overflows in an effort to contain the spreading fire but as Griffith says, the metal "flew up into the air like it was cardboard".

The entire area was close to traffic. The police department had to swear in oilmen who were unversed in law. No Bible could be found to swear the men in with so a dictionary was hastily substituted.

Finally, two days later, the fire burned itself out. The loss was termed the greatest due to fire since the blaze following the San Francisco earthquake in 1906.

Despite the fact that the devastation was enormous, almost \$4 million worth, not a single man was injured.

(Tomorrow: In the final installment, the city's history is traced through the Great Depression, the war years and to the present, with some observations by present City Manager Wayne Wedin.)

REFERENCE

Brea Had 44 Autos Besides Horses And Buggies In 1916

The old gray mare alint what she used to be in Brea. In fact, a horse drawn vehicle has not been seen here in many years.

Back in 1916 there were more horses and buggies than there were horsepowerd motor vehicles in Brea. That year 44 motor vehicles were registered here. The next year there were 105.

While the state's motor vehicle department does not break down current registration figures by communities it is estimated at about half of the city's present population, which is over 12,000, is now represented by motor vehicles of one type or other. There are currently 538,467 motor vehicles in Orange County.

The long line of pepper trees on both sides of N. Brea Blvd. is the result of county effort about the years 1916-17. The trees may now be doomed by a road widening program.

Airport In 1917
An improvised airport, was located northeast of town. In 1917, and history reports British planes were daily visitors from Riverside, in routine flights before taking off for the homeland.

As Brea took its burden of World War I, the five loan drives met with ready response. All issued were oversubscribed. Many Brea boys are listed as volunteers, while others were drafted into the conflict.

As the city officially went into action, \$5,889.40 in taxes were received the first year, with assessed valuation of \$417,600. Listed among the many important details

was fire fighting equipment that became mobilized with a chassis from the Union Oil Co.

It was in 1918 the 8,000 acres of land north of the oil fields, originally part of the Rancho Nogales, were sold to Capt. Fred E. Lewis. This large expanse of rolling land is now known as Diamond Bar Ranch, and through which lies Brea Canyon Road. It was acquired in 1904 by A. Bartholomae, Jr., who was slain in the kitchen of his Balboa Beach home last January.

Garage Building
In September 1919, Daugherty Chevrolet, began construction of a building at the corner of Brea Blvd. and Birch, and it was completed the following January.

Listed among the various owners of this garage was the name of James Bergman and Son, Walter, who served the public from 1925-1931 in this business. After selling the garage, the elder Bergmans took up their residence on the old homestead at Aguanga but later moved back to Brea to make their home to be near their sons Walter, James Morris and Aubrey Jake who live here.

The J. D. Stevens new home was said to be the first to be equipped with electricity. The Casa Brea Inn, on E. Ash St., was built that year by J.C. Fredrich, who conducted a tailoring shop here. Brea then exported a population of 1491.

Brea police cars received their first radio equipment in 1932. All local calls had to be diverted through the Los Angeles police department and relayed back to our own cars.

Later a transmitter was installed at the city hall using call letters MDAQ to improve the service and all cars were in contact with local headquarters. Now the police department have direct contact with the Orange County sheriff through station KMA 152, beamed from the county jail through a booster atop Saddleback mountain, the mile-high point in the county.

At the time of the incorporation the greater part of the land south and north of E. Elm St. was owned by the Union Oil Co.

The Shell Oil Company became identified with other leading oil interests in this community in 1919 when The Columbia Oil Co. sold their Olanda oil land acquired by lease from the Union Oil Co. in 1888. Ben Scott, president of Columbia, also controlled the Orange Oil field, west of Birch Oil and Brea Canyon property.

In the transaction Shell Oil became owner of both Orange Oil and the Columbia oil fields.

Machine Shop
In 1919 L. F. Baash and H.C. Ross started a small machine and repair shop in the building on E. Ash St., formerly occupied by the Brea Machine Shop. Baash had

developed a casting performer and established himself, with the help of Ross, in this building to build and service the casting performer. Their success was immediate. Many new oilfields were discovered during this heyday of extensive drilling with the new method of drilling with rotary tools. In 1921, having outgrown the small shop on E. Ash St., the Baash-Ross Tool Co., was incorporated and a large building was erected on the property previously occupied by the Standard Oil Co. oil shops.

The officers and stockholders were Lawrence F. Baash, Hans C. Ross, A. F. Brown and H. M. Dailey. William E. Krupp was secretary and treasurer.

They were fortunate in securing the manufacturing license on the Gulberson patented rotary tool joint, and along with their other products, such as the Safety Joint, Hosmer Blow-Out Preventer, H & W Slips, Hosmer Tubing Head and a list of other oil field equipment, they grew into one of the large oil tool manufacturers of Southern California.

It was in 1924 that the Baash-Ross Tool Co., withdrew from Brea and moved their establishment to Vernon.

The Brea American Legion Post No. 181 was organized January 5, 1920, with J. Warren McClatchie as commander. An incomplete list of charter members includes Jay Taylor, Gene Hillard, A.R. Burns, Dr. W.W. Davis, Harry Yarbrough, Henry Baldwin, Forest Hurst and Ted Craig.

After the City Park was established and the City Hall erected, the present Legion Hall was built to conform with the architectural designs and to harmonize with the other buildings on the block - square park grounds.

Early Barbers
About that time outside saloons commenced to provide a plan to build a theater, to supplement the intermittent picture show that prevailed since the town-site started.

Brea's barbers became firmly established in the community's early history. Vern Russell was one of the first, then in the spring of 1920 Bob Sparks brought a shop here and was followed by George Greene that same year. Roy Eubank evidently heard that Brea was in need of a fourth barber, so he joined the others in 1922.

The Brea Canyon road leading to Pomona was started in 1921 and officially opened the following spring.

pacific clippings
 post office box 1178
 Astoria, Ore. 97103
STAR-PROGRESS
 Daily 25¢ 1990

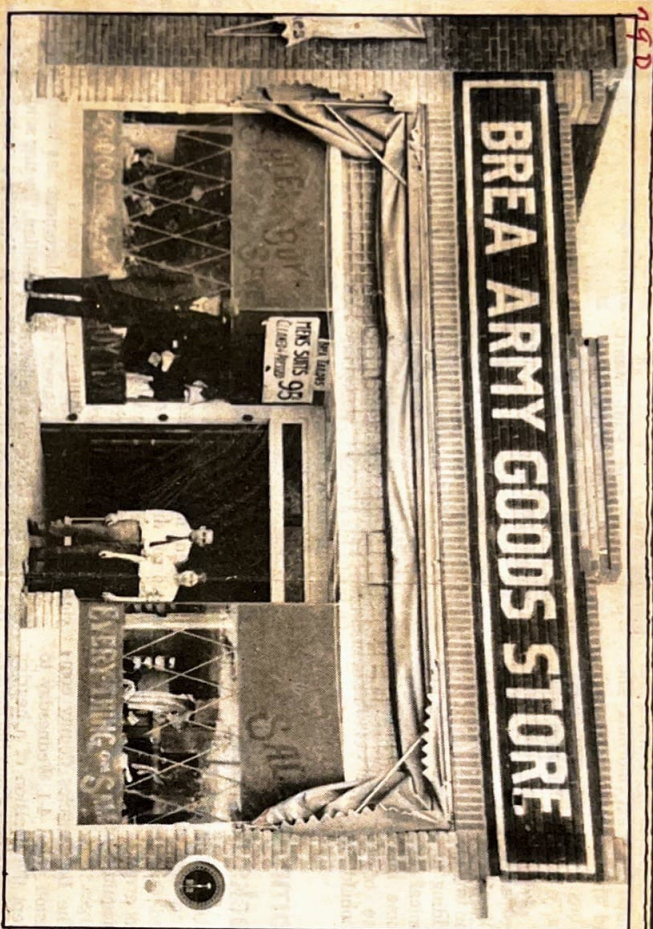
190



75th
 1916 1991
 ANNIVERSARY
 DAILY STAR-PROGRESS

(Photo courtesy Brea Historical Society)
COMMUNITY CENTER — The Craig Building at 124 S. Brea Blvd. in Brea, built in 1921, has housed the U.S. Post Office, McKelvey and Volz drugstore, O.S. Close drugstore and Moose Lodge No. 1268. The upstairs contained a hall used frequently for community gatherings. This newspaper had been publishing for five years when the building was constructed.

DEC 27 1990



(Photo courtesy of Brea Historical Society)

THEY HAD SUITS, TOO — The Brea Army Goods Store was among the first buildings in Brea on Brea Boulevard. It still stands today and has undergone various facelifts. Its history parallels that of the Daily Star-Progress, which celebrates its 75th anniversary in August 1991.

Brea remembered

Feb. 23 marks the day 67 years ago that Brea was "incorporated. The Brea News-Times extends its congratulations, and says Happy Birthday!

By Jan Greene

Karl and Leo were talking about the old days in Brea.

"Well, Betty Struck's house was out here, so it had to be taken around 1950 or '51," Leo concluded, pointing to an aerial photo of the city.

"Look, that's where they used to grow lima beans and hay, across from the high school," Karl recalled, pointing to another part of the picture. "And that's where the Basianchurys lived. They were Basque, weren't they?"

"Basque? I don't remember. Where do Basques come from?" Leo answered quizzically.

"I don't know, I don't remember." Karl said with a frown that suddenly turned into a smile as he realized the turn in the conversation. "But we're rambling now. What is it you wanted to know?"

Walking into the middle of a meeting of the Brea Historical Society is like that—they meet in a room filled with memories, in Brea's abandoned Old City Hall, and talk about the town they knew as boys. It's more interesting just to listen to them talk.

And they did. "I remember we used to ride our bikes to Harbor Boulevard. The walnut trees made a canopy over

your head," Karl recalled. "It was beautiful."

They described old Brea as a small, stable town, not unlike small, stable towns throughout the country in the earlier part of the century. The people who lived here worked in the oil fields or the orchards, and built homes and families. Because of that stability, there are still plenty of people around who can tell you what life used to be like.

Brea stayed basically the same up until the late 1940s, when the first tract of homes were built. When the city was incorporated exactly 67 years ago, in 1917, there were 732 people in the town. That grew to just 3,215 in 1950. But between the midpoint of the century and today, that population has grown nearly ten times.

Back then, the center of town was Brea Boulevard, from the railroad tracks to Elm Street. The high school, on Birch, was "three blocks from anything," placed what was then the edge of town so it would be accessible to the town of Olinda. The high school was built in 1925, when Brea and Olinda decided they didn't want their kids going all the way to Fullerton for high school.

Those were the days when Sam's Place on Brea Boulevard was known

as the Bucket of Blood, and people went to the Red Lantern Theater for entertainment. But Saturday nights were reserved for going into Anaheim to shop or just watch people.

And when the Great Depression hit Brea, it was the kind of town where people helped each other, where those who had extra food gave to those who had none. Because money was scarce, food and other goods were bartered among the townspeople.

And when an earthquake hit the area, jolting Long Beach the worst, the Brea people set up cots and helped those fleeing inland to escape the continuing aftershocks.

But, like many other towns of its size at the time, Brea had a small town mentality. For instance, there was an unwritten rule that blacks could not stay overnight in town.

Brea was known as the "suitcase town" because of the many oil workers who were transferred from field to field, according to the recollections of Catherine Seiler, as recorded by Cal State Fullerton's

Oral History Program.

Seiler also recalls one of the big disasters to hit the city—the Stewart Oil Farm fire of 1926. A total of \$9 million dollars (that's 1926 dollars) of damage occurred when lightning struck an oil tank in the Brea foothills, and it exploded into flames.

"I was in my bedroom when the lightning struck and the concussion was so great that it blew the windows in," Seiler recalled. She remembered smoke and flames going a thousand feet into the air, and continuing for days.

The fire spread to other tanks, and the burning oil washed over the ground, burning up orange groves and a few of the small cottages in the fields. Reportedly, the flames could be seen by residents in Tustin and Santa Ana.

As Seiler remembers, it was April and raining, and the rain came down in black streaks, making the houses with black sludge that never would come off. But luckily, no lives were lost in the disaster.

But back further in history, Brea's

first claim to fame was its rich oil deposits, which seeped out of the ground in Brea Canyon and was cut into bricks and burned as fuel. The original occupants of this area were the Shoshonean Indians, who were succeeded by the Spaniards.

The first white American to obtain land here was Abel Stearns, a Massachusetts native, who eventually sold much of his land to the Union Oil Company, which still owns a large portion of land within the city limits.

The oil fields brought in a number of oil companies and workers lured by high wages.

The original name of the town was Randolph, supposedly named after the railroad engineer who designed the tracks through the area.

But when the final map was filed with the county of Orange, it had the name Brea, an Indian word for tar. In February of 1917, 204 people voted in favor of becoming a city, 45 were against.

The first year's taxes were \$5,889.40, a far cry from the 1983-84 property taxes of \$1.7 million.

A lot of other things have changed in those 67 years, most of it occurring in the last 15, the Orange Freeway, Brea Mall, the Civic Cultural Center, and lots and lots of housing.

But if you go into a Brea Historical Society meeting, you may find that some things never change.

"I remember when you graduated from high school with the same people you started school with," Karl was saying. "I remember when...."



Photos courtesy Brea Historical Society

EX-RACE DRIVER

0057, 1964

(Editor's Note: Today the Star-Progress begins a three-part series on the history of Brea. The first installment chronicles the city through the 1800's.

By JIM MAXSEN
DSP Staff Writer

The city of Brea is sometimes forgotten when historians sit down to discuss Orange County. In fact, when the county was formed in 1889, no buildings existed at the mouth of Brea Canyon.

Nevertheless the history of Brea, and of the area it now stands on, has, at times, played an important role in the development of the county. Today, with community spirit riding high, City Manager Wayne Wedin can say with sincerity, "Brea has not let me down." It is the community spirit then that makes Brea a model city of the 70's. This spirit lies deep within its short but vigorous history.

Before man learned how to record events, a tribe of wandering Shoshone Indians traveled down from the cold climates of northern Nevada and settled in what is now Brea Canyon.

The tribe had simple beliefs. Its god sprang from a well of water and rising into the heavens, announced that he would someday return.

The Indians fed on the antelope, deer, rabbit, and berries of the canyon. Agriculture was almost unknown, although a crude form was practiced. The canyon was also the site of a spring of water, a vital resource in this dry land.

Language became so diverse to these men that it was almost impossible for two members of different tribes to communicate. The language became a series of guttural sounds coupled with hand signals.

When the great white sails of the Spanish fleet skirted the Orange County coast in the 16th century, the Indians must have thought their god had finally returned. The Spanish ships never landed, however, and it wasn't until 1769 that the Indians caught their first glimpse of a white man.

A LOOK DOWN MEMORY LANE OC Historians Sometimes Forget Brea's Contribution

In July 1769 Don Gaspar de Portola organized a group of soldiers that he hoped would accompany him on an expedition to the then uncharted bay at Monterey. On the 29th of that month, the party forged the Santa Ana River and crossed a grassy mesa. That night they came to the village at the mouth of Brea Canyon. The Indians invited the Spaniards to a celebration.

Miguel Costanso, engineer for the expedition, described the tribe as friendly but added that there wasn't enough water to satisfy the thirsty pack animals. He called the place *Los Ojitos* or "little eyes." As the party left the canyon the next day, they were shaken by a mild earthquake.

As the Spanish settled the lands, the Indians began to dwindle in number. Many were transferred to

the mission of San Gabriel, others were put to work at nearby rancheros.

It wasn't until May 13, 1837 that the Mexican government granted to Pacifico Ontiveros lands that would eventually become Brea.

Ontiveros called his ranch San Juan Cajon de Santa Ana. The grant was fairly large but land contests plagued the owner and the ranch did poorly.

The name Brea was derived from the Spanish word for tar. So abundant was the tar in the canyon that landowners from all across the area came to remove it for use in sealing the roofs of their adobes. There is a legend that no man could ever prohibit the removal of the tar from the

canyon. It was a free commodity and the Spanish believed its extraction could not be hindered.

As California began to slip away from Mexican rule, trouble was brewing between the American settlers and the Mexican government in Los Angeles. The Carbon Canyon area was to play a small role in that conflict.

On August 13, 1846, John C. Fremont, famous explorer of the west, raised the American flag over Los Angeles. Fremont left the command of the garrison there in the hands of Archibald H. Gillespie. The Mexican people, feeling the sting of Gillespie's tyrannical rule, revolted and captured the guard.

Twenty Americans under the command of B.D. Wilson heard of the attack and took refuge at the Chino Ranch at the eastern mouth of the canyon. The Mexican army passed near the Brea area as it marched on Wilson and his men. In the battle that ensued, one man died and six were wounded; the ranch was burned to the ground.

Ontiveros died and left his lands to his wife, Abel Stearns, one of the wealthiest landowners in California purchased much of the Brea Canyon area during the 1860's.

Contrary to what was originally believed, the famous Butterfield Mail Express on its route from San Diego to Los Angeles, did not pass within the vicinity of the Stearns Ranch. Instead, the route between Chino, Pomona and El Monte was used during this period.

During the 1870's - 1880's, Stearns experienced trouble with his ranch.

All across Southern California ranchers were being destroyed financially by the loss of cattle due to drought. The whittened bones of beasts were said to have stretched out from Los Angeles to San Diego. Stearns saw his fate and tried to avert disaster by selling the bones of the animals for whatever money he could recover.

Parcels of the ranch began to be advertised in newspapers across the country. The area was described as an agricultural haven. Pictures accompanying the stories showed lush green meadows.

Those who did come to farm in the area were soon disappointed. Try as they might to make the land produce crops, little grew in this section of the area. A strange and bothersome substance made the water brackish and destroyed much of the seed that was planted; that substance was oil.

A LOOK DOWN MEMORY LANE

Olinda Born And Dies; Brings Flower To Brea

By JIM MARXEN
DSP Staff Writer

Oil was originally drilled for in 1861 by Major Max von Strobel, first mayor of Anaheim. The drilling went down 100 feet before the project was given up.

It wasn't until 1882 that a successful well was drilled in Tonner Canyon. The Chandler Oil and Mining Company, drilling near the present site of the intersection of Brea and Tonner Canyon Roads, was so successful in its efforts that a town named Petrolia was established in the low hills on the south of the canyon.

The residents of Petrolia began migrating east to the growing community of Olinda. The town was part of the Santa Fe Oil Lease. It was owned by the companies and houses were rented out to the oil workers.

Walter Johnson, the Washington Senators' pitcher, migrated to Olinda with his family. They lived in the growing town until 1904, when Walter left to seek his fame elsewhere. The town became respected as having one of the best baseball teams in Southern California.

The origins of Brea find their root in the early community of Olinda. In fact former Olinda resident Ted Craig believes that if it were not for Olinda, Brea would never have existed.

Olinda was basically geared around oil. Close to a dozen oil companies owned the lands in and around the town.

It was a lively town. Saturday night dances were held at the community hall and sometimes a few all-nighters were still around when the minister came in to prepare the room for church.

Oil was so plentiful in those days that Craig remembers his mother's sheets getting sprinkled with the black substance as they waved in the breeze. The wooden derricks came out of the ground everywhere for oil was suddenly in demand.

The townsite contained a row of houses along with a boarding home for single men. There was also a community center, a school, a general store, a barber shop, a train station, and even a newspaper called The Derrick graced the oil town.

The famous Red Cars of the Pacific Electric Railroad would once a day pull into the station at Pillsbury (now the area between Central Ave. and Imperial near Puente Street) to pick up residents of Olinda. The trains took the people to Los Angeles as well as Redondo Beach, where an annual picnic was held.

Although Olinda was a 'dry' town, many of the oilmen would travel to nearby Anaheim for a night of drinking. When the men returned there was sometimes trouble. A man was shot once after such a night. However, the residents of Olinda were described as very friendly.

Gradually, other oil fields opened up in other areas. Olinda began to disappear. The depletion of oil and the fact that there was more money to be made elsewhere led to the desertion of the town. Today there is little evidence of Olinda.

Many of those who left that town came to the drilling sites in Brea Canyon. A new town called Randolph was being formed at the mouth of the canyon. The town was originally

planned to be much like La Habra. In fact one of the founders of La Habra was instrumental in the planning for Randolph.

Randolph School was built in the anticipation of the new town. But plans for the site never materialized, water was scarce and a planned spur of the Pacific Electric never came past the Pillsbury station.

On January 11, 1911 a map was filed at the County Recorder's office for a town called Brea. The main purpose of the map was to generate new interest in a town at the mouth of the canyon and to change the name of the site to Brea.

Oilmen began coming to Brea from as close as Olinda and as far away as Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Water lines began coming into Brea and in 1912 the promised P.E. Railroad spur extended into the town. A general store, a grocery, a bakery, a barber, a doctor's office, and several machine shops were opened in Brea. On February 19, 1917 Brea became incorporated as a general law city.

The first city officials were Isaac Craig, Jay Sexton, P.C. Huddleston, R.N. Mitchell and M.J. McCarty.

More and more people came into Brea. At the time of incorporation there were only 732 people living here. By 1925 that figure had risen to over 1,300.

The 20's were years of progress in Brea. Streets began to be paved, a high school was built, city hall was erected, more shops opened, and an effective police force developed.

On October 31, 1924 Walter Johnson returned home. By his side was Babe Ruth. Together they played an exhibition baseball game that will never be forgotten in this city. Ted Craig proudly displays a baseball signed by the two stars on that day.

Because of Prohibition, bootlegging became a pastime for many in Orange County. The Carbon Canyon was a popular hideout for some. James C. Looney, marshal of Brea at the time, chased the bootleggers into the canyon on his red Indian motorcycle. Looney resigned from the post, however, after an accident where he ran into the side of a truck that was, ironically, parked outside of an illegal saloon.

"Huge Brea Oil Fire Catastrophe Wipes Out Homes, Ruins Orchards" screamed the headline of the April 9, 1926 issue of the Los Angeles Evening Express. W.E. "Griff" Griffith remembers the moment of the explosion.

At 9 a.m. on April 8, lightning struck the Union Oil reservoirs on the western edge of Brea. Griffith was there, "huddling in the rain" that morning. His foreman Howard

Robertson, whose account follows, was beside him.

"Raining hard . . . wind about 35 m.p.h. from south-west . . ." Suddenly there was "quite an explosion and the roof went up . . ."

The two men looked out into the rain and saw the smoke and flames reaching into the sky. Griffith added that at that point "we knew we were in trouble." A telephone call to Los Angeles headquarters was put in.

In the first hours on the fire many residents who had had their windows shattered or their roofs blown off came to help the oilmen. Volunteers from all over the area rushed to the scene until almost 600 workers were battling the blaze.

Because of the continuing overflows and tremendous heat of the oil, it became apparent that the flames could not be put out. Hollywood movie wind machines were brought out but they were of no avail. Sheets of metal was placed in a ring about the overflows in an effort to contain the spreading fire but as Griffith says, the metal "flew up into the air like it was cardboard."

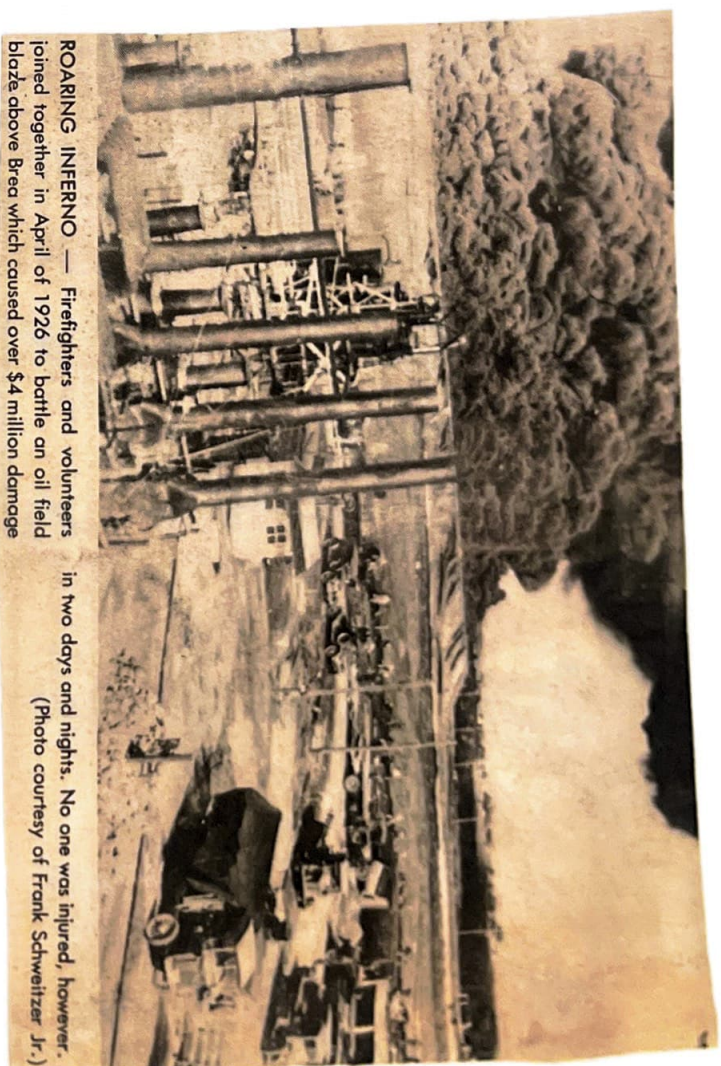
The entire area was close to traffic. The police department had to swear in oilmen who were unversed in law. No Bible could be found to swear the men in with so a dictionary was hastily substituted.

Finally, two days later, the fire burned itself out. The loss was termed the greatest due to fire since the blaze following the San Francisco earthquake in 1906.

Despite the fact that the devastation was enormous, almost \$4 million worth, not a single man was injured. ("Tomorrow" In the final installment, the city's history is traced through the Great Depression, the war years and to the present, with some observations by present City Manager Wayne Wedin.)



EXTRA! EXTRA! — This was the headline in the now-defunct Los Angeles Evening Express almost 50 years ago to the day that a huge fire engulfed the oil fields surrounding Brea. (Photo courtesy of Frank Schweitzer Jr.)



ROARING INFERNO — Firefighters and volunteers joined together in April of 1926 to battle an oil field blaze above Brea which caused over \$4 million damage in two days and nights. No one was injured, however. (Photo courtesy of Frank Schweitzer Jr.)

By JIM MARXEN
DSP Staff Writer

The Depression came to Brea in the early 1930's. WPA women canned fruits and vegetables and a soup kitchen was opened. The oil fields cut back on hours while community projects were begun to aid the unemployed. However bad the situation might have been, not a single Brea brick closed its doors. Ted Craig adds that not a cent was lost by those who had money in the city's banks.

It was also during the 1930's that Ted Craig was elected to the California State Assembly. He became the youngest Speaker of the Assembly in state history.

In 1933, a March earthquake shook the area. Frank Schweitzer Jr., who was in Long Beach, the center of the quake, remembers the events of those few moments.

"I was at a boxing match. After the match, I crossed the Navy yard. Suddenly the ground opened up, there was a gap eighteen inches wide before me. Down town, all the buildings were on fire."

During World War II sentries were posted on top of the Brea - Olinda High School. Construction was at a standstill and there was a housing shortage.

After the war industry began expanding anew in Brea. The Brea and the Winchel Manufacturing Companies were opened. It was also in the late 40's that the first housing subdivision was built in the city.

According to Lloyd Reese, the 1950's were like "a wind out of the East". People began coming to California from all over the country. The birth rate climbed in Orange County. Better roads reached out from Los Angeles bringing cities like Anaheim and Santa Ana a flood of new people.

A LOOK DOWN MEMORY LANE

Brea Is Utopia To Its Citizens

In 1950 there were just over 3,000 people in Brea, but by 1960 that figure had almost tripled. Despite this phenomenal growth, Brea was spared many of the growing pains other cities in Orange County were experiencing. Perhaps it was Brea's distance from Los Angeles that kept many people away; perhaps it was the fact that Brea had no major highway leading to it that spared the crowding. Regardless of the reasons, Brea received "quality instead of raw growth" according to Reese.

Community spirit grew in Brea during the 50's. New schools were planned, more homes were built, churches were erected and the citizens of Brea rallied together in a bitter annexation fight with Fullerton. A new police car was purchased for the whopping price of \$1,551.

In the 1960's Brea came into its own. The oil companies were gradually forced, because of increasing taxes and depletion of oil, to give up some of their lands. The population more than doubled in that decade. City Manager Wayne Wedin sums up Brea's growth pattern.

"Brea has not experienced explosive growth. Our growth has been deliberate. Brea is in total control over its growth, gradual growth."

Wedin believes that the key to Brea's success lies in its "game plan" and because of its many involved citizens. He adds that every new development is carefully planned and organized by the people of Brea.

"The people of Brea wanted the Orange Freeway," he says. "They wanted the new center." When asked why Brea was able to capture these two important facilities he said with a grin, "Because the people of Brea went after it."

During the decade the city began to plan for the future. A new civic center was planned, plans for more residential areas were laid out, the development of the hillside surrounding the city was prepared and as the city manager says, "We were getting our house in order."

Wedin admits he has a somewhat biased view towards Brea. "The people here are progressive, not necessarily conservative." He points out how Brea helps its senior citizens adding that, "we're out front in social services."

The community spirit in Brea has led to the development of a new hospital and the redevelopment of the downtown area. Wedin likens the citizenry of Brea to an entire body, "The whole system has to work, we have a good system here in Brea."

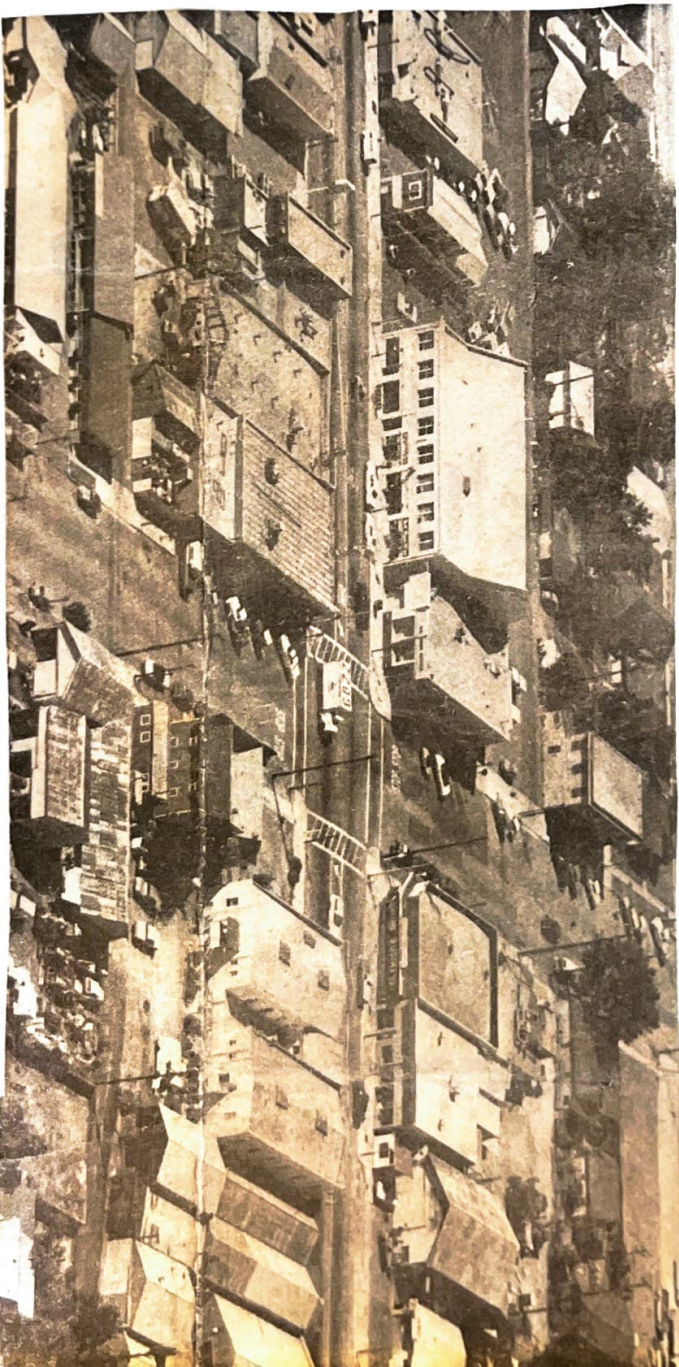
The city of Brea continues to grow in the 1970's. New commercial developments prevent the city from becoming a bedroom community. Expansion of city limits lies in the near future. Brea now has enough housing to double its population. Two regional parks, Ted Craig and Carbon Canyon Park, have been developed. More regional parks are planned for the future.

With the opening of the Brea Center in August of 1977, even more development is expected. The center will help bring new industry to the city. But Wedin points out that the growth will be "slow and deliberate."

Two weeks ago Ted Craig waved his hand out over the landscape surrounding his ranch style home in Brea. He looked around him and smiled, "Have you ever seen anything like this?", he asked, "Brea is utopia as far as I'm concerned."



STUDY IN CONTRASTS — The city of Brea has undergone wholesale changes since its early oil days.



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MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS PAST — Brea Historical Society members brought past holidays in the Brea and Olinda areas to "life"

as they gathered for their recent holiday luncheon.

(Star-Progress photo by Barbara Williams)

Remembering Christmas past

By Barbara A. Williams
DSP Correspondent 12-22-89

BREA — Red and green "Happy Holidays" banners and a Civic & Cultural Center Christmas tree welcomed yuletide visitors to Brea this year. But back in the days of Red Cars and oil booms, the holidays looked a bit different, according to longtime Brea residents.

Members of the Brea Historical Society told of paper chains and popcorn garlands, horse-drawn wagons and candles on trees, as they traded Christmas memories at their recent holiday luncheon.

Karl Fanning, whose family has lived in Brea since 1914, recalled that when he was "very small," his family Christmas tree was "a living tree in a tub," decorated with glowing candles. Wary of fires, the family always made sure at least one person remained with the Norfolk pine at all times, he said.

Community Christmas Eve parties were held at Brea Christian Church, he added, where a church-member Santa Claus presented youngsters with boxes of hard candies. The cherished packages had cloth handles and

were about the size of animal-cracker boxes, Fanning remembered vividly.

"It was always an exciting time," he said. "We didn't get many things — clothes, maybe a toy, a simple little toy."

Fanning's favorites were an erector set, that he still owns, and miniature metal cars that he played with for hours in the backyard dirt of his Madrona Street home.

"Nowadays, girls buy jeans with holes cut into the knees," Fanning said. "We used to have holes in the knees of our jeans, too. We played on our knees with those cars until we wore the jeans out."

J. M. (Morry) Bergman, who traces his Brea ties to 1917, remembered stringing garlands of popcorn and making homemade decorations with flour-and-water paste. Favorite gifts were wagons and bicycles, he said. However, with two older brothers, his gifts were often hand-me-downs, he noted.

"Nobody was rich, but nobody cared. We didn't know we were poor," he said. "We had locks for our doors, but no keys. It was a good place for kids."

And the town was pronounced "Bree-ah," Bergman said pointedly. The original Pennsylvania-Dutch pronunciation lasted until 1940, he said, when "an influx of correct Spanish" changed the town to "Brea."

Louise (Cullen) Bleininger was 3 years old when her family moved to Olinda and a Santa Fe oil lease home on Santa Fe Avenue, across the road from what is now Carbon Canyon Park.

Each lease had its own activities, and many of the Santa Fe community's events centered on its Methodist Episcopal Church, she said. At Christmastime, the oil company put up a big Christmas tree and gave presents to the children of its employees, she recalled.

Christmas shopping could be done in LA, Bleininger said. All the Olinda shoppers had to do was walk from their lease homes to what is now Imperial Highway and Rose Drive, where they could catch a Red Car to the city. "The one Christmas I especially remember on the lease was when one fellow put on a Santa

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

Claus suit and brought his horse-drawn wagon, with horns tied on his horse like a reindeer," she said. "He rode up and down the hills. It was a lot of fun for the kids to see."

Catherine Seiler, vice president of the Brea Historical Society, said her favorite Brea Christmas took place in "1931 or '32."

"My folks celebrated their wedding anniversary on Christmas," she explained. "We rented the Boy Scout house by the railroad tracks. It was rainy, but we had a fireplace, a stage and a Christmas tree."

"We all had such a good time

that we came back on New Year's and did it again!"

Ruth Schweitzer remembered that the Red Lantern movie theater in downtown Brea offered special shows for children during the holidays. The theater would "run all the cartoons" and Santa Claus would pass out small gifts, she said.

Once, when Schweitzer's son Chuck was a 5-year-old member of the audience, the movie-theater Santa was her husband, Frank. Chuck wasn't fooled, she said, and returned home to tell her that his dad was Santa Claus.

"When I asked him how he knew, he said, 'Because of his face.'" Ruth recalled with a grin.

Christmas dolls were the topic of conversation for Grace Ries and Elsie Bergman. Ries remembered Betsy Wetsy dolls, Gerber baby dolls and "paper dolls — you hardly see them anymore."

Bergman said her daughter and friends would spend hours playing with Jennie dolls.

"They were a little smaller than Barbies. There were clothes for them, and there were rugs, furniture and houses for them, too," she recalled.

Ries added that she and her sister, Mildred, always enjoyed Brea's Christmas decorations, which once included street-light trimmings and a community tree

"in the middle of Pomona (Brea Boulevard) and Birch."

"The Santa Ana winds would come every time they got the decorations up," Ries recalled. "The winds knocked the tree down once, but they put it up again."

Ries said she will always remember the Christmas her sister traveled from Arizona and arrived in Brea late at night.

"It was after midnight when she came," Ries said. "She told us all the cities she passed through were dark except for Brea, all aglow with its Christmas decorations."

"That was very special to her."

POINTS OF INTEREST IN BREA

POINTS OF INTEREST IN BREA

BY

INEZ C. FANNING

INEZ C. FANNING

The Bryn Golf Course was developed in 1928, and occupies thirty acres. Most of the land had been owned by the Orange County Flood Control District. It was leased, for recreation purposes, to the Smith Corporation and E. H. Jones and Associates.

The green-painted "clothes" with used brick trim contains a small pro shop, replacing a dining room and a bar of earlier years. Palm and eucalyptus trees and picturesque white bridges provide visitors with an interesting view.

TRAVELERS BUILDING

The Travelers Building, located in Brea Corporate Place, represents some of the major changes that have occurred in Brea during the past few years. Prior to 1985, part of this property was the site of the agricultural center for Brea Olinda High School. The development of the Travelers Building and other buildings within Brea Place financed the construction of the new Brea Olinda High School.

BREA-OLINDA OIL FIELD

The historic Brea-Olinda oil field running about seven miles along the Puente Hills north of Brea is the oldest major commercially productive oil field in the Southern California area. The oil discovery date was probably around 1886. The first well in Olinda was developed by Mr. E. L. Doheny in conjunction with the Santa Fe Railway in 1898. The first well in Brea Canyon (1899) is still operating today.

OLEN POINTE

Olen Pointe-Brea, a one million square foot office park, was conceived by Igor Olenicoff, founder and president of Irvine-based Olen Properties Corp. The 34-acre project is located adjacent to the Orange (57) freeway at Lambert Road. The project will eventually include six office buildings, four restaurants, a hotel and a six-screen cinema complex.

Olen Pointe-Brea has been nominated for the following awards: The Glass Association Award, the California Council of American Institute of Architects Award and the Gold Nugget Award in connection with the Pacific Coast Builders Conference.

BREA GOLF COURSE

The Brea Golf Course was developed in 1959, and occupies thirty acres. Most of the land had been owned by the Orange County Flood Control District. It was leased, for development purposes, to the Smith Corporation and E. M. Reese and Associates.

Brea Creek channel goes through the property. Near the present seventh hole was the original City Sewer Treatment Plant, built in the 1920's.

The green-painted "clubhouse" with used brick trim contains a small pro shop, replacing a dining room and a bar of earlier years. Palm and eucalyptus trees and picturesque white bridges provide visitors with an interesting view.

IMPERIAL GOLF COURSE

Stands of pepper trees, eucalyptus trees and formal plantings of bright colors greet the visitor to Brea's Imperial Golf Course. The green landscape is dotted with oil wells pumping. The "grasshoppers" blend into the landscape.

The Imperial Golf Course was opened in September of 1970. It consists of 125 acres. The 18-hole course is owned by the Union Oil Company and leased to a management corporation. There is a large pro shop and a restaurant which is open to the public.

BIRCH HILLS GOLF COURSE

The nine-hole Birch Hills Executive Golf Course is located south of Birch Street, with the double railroad tracks forming its boundaries on the west and on the south. The Brea Unocal plant lies beyond the tracks. Unocal owns the land, which is leased for golf course management. The Course was opened in December of 1974.

BREA FIRE STATION NO. 3

Brea Fire Station No. 3 was dedicated in October 1986. The features incorporated in the Station's design reflect the City's values of community service, functional efficiency, energy conservation and aesthetic quality. An integral part of the station's design includes the Community Training Room for First Aid, CPR and Public Safety Training Classes for community groups and in-service training of fire fighters.

Brea Fire Station No. 3 won the American Institute of Architects highest award, the "Award of Excellence".

OLINDA SCHOOL HOUSE

In the late 1890's, vast oil fields were discovered in the Carbon Canyon area and the community of Olinda grew. At the request of the citizens, a school district was formed in 1898. As the oil fields continued to expand, the population grew and with it a need for a more adequate school. The Union Oil Company donated land to the School District to serve as a school site, and the building was erected. The new school opened in 1909 with four classes, ranging from first through eighth grade.

In 1960, the Carbon Canyon Dam and Regional Park Project called for the removal of the school. The Olinda community had become reduced in population, and the few children left were subsequently bussed to Brea schools.

The building was moved in August, 1960, to its present site on the corner of Sievers and Elm. It served as a youth club and community activities center until 1982, when it became a facility for Senior Citizens.

WAYSIDE CHAPEL

In 1961, Mr. Syd Sybrandy and his wife and three children arrived in Brea from South Africa. He purchased acreage in Carbon Canyon, where he later developed Hollydale Mobile Home Park.

His religious nature prompted Mr. Sybrandy to build a small chapel beside the road for passers-by. The chapel proclaims on a sign in front, "Come unto me all ye who labour and are heavy laden; and I will give you rest." Inside, kneeling at a small prayer rail, the worshipper views a cross within a large window picturing green trees and blue sky outdoors.

Beyond the chapel is a large abandoned building and empty swimming pool. These were part of a Christian retreat, called Edendale, that the Sybrandys operated for a number of years.

HOUSE ON ELM STREET

During the 1920's numerous architectural styles were transplanted to Southern California. The Provincial Revival style was said to have been brought from Europe, after World War I. With its shingle siding, this house is one of the many examples of this style which can be discovered in this neighborhood.

BREA OLINDA HIGH SCHOOL

Brea Olinda High School came about when people of the communities of Brea and Olinda decided to have their own high school, rather than have their children continue to attend Fullerton High School. At the time the students had been riding Pacific Electric "Red Cars" to school in Fullerton.

The first class graduated in 1926. The 1933 earthquake did not damage the building, but it was remodeled somewhat after that to meet new state laws regarding earthquake-safe construction. The Girls' Gym, which was a popular gathering place for many events, was destroyed by fire on April 19, 1988.

The new high school facility is due to be occupied in September 1989. The location is north of Associated and Lambert Road. The permanent facility is expecting an attendance of 1,750 and will be able to accommodate new growth.

OLD CLOCK

In the early 1970's, proprietor Charles Jarvis moved his clock store to Brea, renting a space on the south end of the first floor of the Brea Hotel.

As an advertising ploy, Mr. Jarvis installed a tall and impressive clock on the front sidewalk. It is a 90 year old railroad clock, formerly used in Riverside. When Charles moved his "Charlie's Clock Store" to Tustin, he

took the clock with him. Through negotiations, the City of Brea brought the clock back. It was donated to the City in 1975.

BREA JUNIOR HIGH

The first elementary school in Brea was a one-room building, erected in Brea Canyon in 1903. There were 27 students. In 1910 this structure was replaced by Randolph School, a two-story building on the southwest corner of what is now Brea Blvd. and Lambert.

Brea was growing rapidly, and a new building of stucco and red tile roofs was soon built on the northeast corner of the same intersection. This was "Brea Grammar School". Classes of all eight grades met there beginning in 1917.

Following the earthquake of 1933, remodeling was done to meet new legal requirements. In 1950, the Brea Grammar School Auditorium was built and dedicated. It was described then as "ultra-modern". Brea Grammar School became Brea Junior High School in 1956.

BREA SENIOR CENTER

The Brea Senior Center opened on October 25, 1982 following extensive remodeling to convert the Olinda School House, moved from Olinda, into a multi-purpose Senior Center. The Center is the hub for social activities, service and support for many of the community's senior citizens. It is owned, staffed and maintained by the City of Brea. Additional expansion occurred in 1988 and was funded by the Senior Center Bond Act.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROGRAM

Brea's Art in Public Places is one of the largest outdoor public sculpture collections in the nation. By integrating art into every day life, the program is a major element in the City's image.

All new residential, commercial and industrial development projects with a building valuation above \$500,000 are required to participate. New pieces are added to the Art in Public Places collection at a rate of six each year. In early 1988, the program had over 70 pieces.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES SCULPTURE - GOLDEN CALIFORNIA

Golden California was created by Artist Robert Cunningham. This cast bronze work is a composition of the symbols of California including the grizzly bear, valley quail, golden trout and golden poppy. The sculpture is located at Imperial and Puente. The Don McBride Company was the developer.

BREA MALL

The Mall opened in August of 1977 as a unique world of shopping in a well planned commercial and entertainment center with its four major department stores and 140 specialty shops. A substantial 80 million dollar renovation and expansion project started in 1988. When completed, the size will have increased by over 60 percent. Sales are expected to double to almost 400 million dollars annually.

The construction will include: a new Nordstrom building, 75 new specialty shops, an expanded food court, a new Robinson's store and possibly one other major retailer. Additionally, four parking structures will be added with 4,000 spaces upon the final completion in 1991.

The design of the project, was undertaken by RTKL Associates, Inc., an architectural firm based in Dallas. The renovation will have a strong California flavor with a bright and airy feel of light color finishes, a more sophisticated and elegant look.

SIEVER'S HOUSE

This two-story ranch house was built in 1918 by the Siever Family and it sat in the middle of a walnut grove. After the oil tank fire of 1926 in this area, Union Oil Company bought the property. Later owners were the Neuls and Durkee families. The building was characterized by the beautiful floor plan, window style and woodwork. In 1987 the house and property was purchased by Mercury Casualty Insurance Company. Despite many efforts, the house was demolished but the beautiful pine trees remain.

BREA MUNICIPAL PLUNGE

The City Hall Park was developed in 1928. The Plunge opened in 1929 at a cost of \$55,000. Attendance at the pool was high, as there were no residential pools in the area at the time. Old-timers remember the rental suits and bath towels hanging out to dry.

During 1988, the Plunge underwent complete renovation. Although the historical outside appearance will not be changed, the inside will be completely redesigned to meet health and safety codes as well as functional needs. The City of Brea offers a Summer Aquatics Program complete with swimming lessons and recreational swim.

THE GAZEBO

The Gazebo at City Hall Park was a bicentennial project of the City of Brea and the Soroptomists International of Brea. It was dedicated July 3, 1976 and provides a marvelous "bandstand" for summer "Concerts in the Park" and for the activities of the annual July 4th Country Fair.

"BREA WELCOMES YOU" SIGN

Lions' Club President, Ralph Barnes and the Lions' Club Construction Committee for Civic Improvement were responsible for the erection of the "BREA WELCOMES YOU" sign that bridges Brea Boulevard between Imperial Highway and Birch Street. Dedication ceremonies were held on the evening of April 5, 1934. Mayor Mike Hogue thanked and congratulated the project group for their efforts. Lions' Club member, Frank Schweitzer, Sr., designed and supervised the building of the cantilever bridge for the two-color neon sign.

A tribute was made to Mr. W. D. Shaffer, owner of Shaffer Tool Works, who contributed much of the money for the sign. He turned on the power to illuminate the sign as the crowd enjoyed music performed by local school children.

BREA CIVIC & CULTURAL CENTER

Brea's award-winning Civic & Cultural Center is a distinctive building, designed by Warneke/Dworsky, architects. Completed in 1980, the 274,000 square foot complex is the home of the City's administrative and Council offices, police facilities, School District offices, Orange County branch library, Chamber of Commerce offices, Dr. C. Glenn Curtis Theatre, Brea Art Gallery, video facility, conference center and community rooms.

The total cost for the complex came to \$23 million and was financed through the City's Redevelopment Agency, avoiding any debt to the local taxpayer.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES SCULPTURE - KIM - OLYMPIC RHYTHMS

Kim - Olympic Rhythms was the inspiration of Artist, Natalie Krol. This 10-foot tall sculpture depicts Rhythmic Gymnastics which was a new event in the 1984 Olympics. A challenging process called copper repousse creates this salute to the pursuit of excellence. The sculpture is located at Imperial and Berry. The Mercury Casualty Company is the developer. Natalie Krol is the creator of two additional art works included in Art in Public Places, Butterflies and Swinging a Child.

THE ROSE GARDEN

The Rose Garden at City Hall Park was preceded by a large fountain built in 1946 in memory of Mr. & Mrs. William D. Shaffer. Mr. Shaffer founded the Shaffer Tool Works. The fountain was in operation for ten years until 1956. The fountain was replaced with the Rose Garden. In 1988, the City created a new program, Brea's Living Memorial Program. The Rose Garden is now also known as the Brea Memorial Rose Garden in which a person's memory is honored by placing their name on a plaque at the entrance to the Rose Garden.

CITY HALL PARK

In 1924 the City Council took the first steps in planning for a future site for a city park and buildings to house the city government. The land was owned by the Union Oil Co. and the purchase price for the first two lots showed a cost of \$5,392.

Three years later the voters approved the plans and voted a bond issue for \$60,000 for the Council to proceed in acquiring the necessary land to build a city hall, which would include a jail and quarters for the fire department; a swimming pool and for the general improvement in formulating a public park. Provision for the branch library was included in the City Hall plans.

Not until January 1929 was the building completed. The following May an additional \$10,000 was voted to complete the improvements of the park grounds.

Brea City Hall and Park were entered in the National Register of Historical Places by the United States Department of the Interior on May 24, 1984. On October 13 of that year, its historical designation was approved by the State of California Office of Historical Preservation.

Important places in the park include: Old City Hall, Brea Municipal Plunge, the Old American Legion Building (once the home of the Police Department), the Gazebo, the City Rose Garden and the historic flag pole.

COUNTRY FAIR

Brea's July 4th Country Fair is an annual event that began in 1980 as an offshoot of Brea Bonanza Days. The site for the fair is City Hall Park located on Brea Boulevard. This event attracts between 4,000 and 5,000 people and is organized by a committee representing service clubs, civic organizations and city staff.

BREA HARDWARE STORE

Stern & Goodman Mercantile Co. of Fullerton had a branch store in Olinda for many years. Some time before 1920 they erected a one-story brick building on the southeast corner of Pomona (Brea Blvd.) and Ash St. and opened a general store. This store later became Woodruff and Henigan. For a short time one half of the store was a cooperative grocery.

In the 1930's the store became Brea Hardware Co. and has been a hardware store ever since. The early store had gift items of beautiful china and housewares.

RED LANTERN THEATRE

In the early 1920's several attempts were made with outside promoters to build a theater within the City of Brea. These efforts having failed, several local men who had lived in Brea for many years, formed a company called the Brea Investment Company, Felix Yriarte was named president.

Construction of Brea's first theatre was started in 1921, with T.H. Fowler of Santa Ana as the contractor, and completed by March of 1922.

Opening night was a gala affair on March 7, 1922. With floodlights lighting up the sky, the Brea Municipal Band played for the milling crowd that stood in the streets waiting to be admitted. This was Brea's first showplace.

The Red Lantern Theater was a popular dating place of the young people of Brea, often followed by ice cream at Stewarts Confectionary Shop next door. One of the Red Lantern's most notable stars appearing on stage was Frances Gumm, later known as the famous Judy Garland.

The sign and light over the theatre had red glass to carry out the theme. The ceiling lights inside were similar and hung down like Chinese lanterns. Looking out over the audience, a huge golden cross-legged Buddha with a red light in the middle of its forehead was attached to each side wall. The theater was located on the east side of Brea Boulevard, a few doors north of Birch St. After it eventually closed, the building was remodeled and used by Calvary Chapel Church. The building was demolished in 1987.

"SAM'S PLACE"

Originally a place for refreshment after an evening's lecture, dinner or dance upstairs in Sewell Hall to the north, this building dates back to the early 1900's. The George Schupert family had taken over a bakery in one of the stores on the street level of the Delaney building on West Ash Street. After a short time there, they moved into this two-story wooden building to do business as a bakery and to live upstairs. A brick oven at the rear of the buiding is a remnant of this time. Later Mr. Schupert built the brick stores across the street and moved his business there. The bakery was just north of the space now occupied by Brea Glass Co.

In the 1930's, the building was occupied by a cafe where oil and other workers came in at noon for lunch.

In the 1940's, Simeon "Sam" Landa became the proprietor and operated a similar business until his death in the 1970's. Sam's father was a Basque sheepherder and the family were early pioneers in the Brea Canyon area.

For the past seven years, Seaton "Sid" H. Grives has owned and operated a small bar at this location.

BREA HOTEL

This two-story frame building was built in 1913. The outer shape is of "twin" buildings, a style popular then. There was room for four stores on the ground floor, and the hotel entrance. The hotel rooms were on the upper floor. The hotel was called "Kinsler Hotel" in the twenties and the Kinslers also had a restaurant on the first floor. Mr. Kinsler became Brea's first judge and a prominent citizen.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES SCULPTURE - EAGLE

The Eagle was the creation of Daniel Gluck. The bronze Eagle stands 26 feet high with a wing span of 16 feet. The sculpture is located at Birch and Flower Hill. The developer was The Eagle Development Company.

OLD CITY HALL COMPLEX

In 1929, Brea Government moved into City Hall. This building complex included the seat of government and the city's only fire station. Old pictures of the building show the fire siren high on the roof. At the front, on the south side, the Brea Library occupied a space. Later the library moved and the space was remodeled for the police department. The jail was in the basement.

Old City Hall, with its Spanish architecture, became too small finally and in 1980, the city offices moved to the new Civic Center on East Birch Street. Old City Hall has been occupied by the American College of Law since 1982. Renovation provided several large classrooms, as well as offices. The Brea Historical Society also has an office in the building.

LAUREL SCHOOL

Laurel School's main building was built in 1921. Its lovely Spanish style then included pillars across the front upon which vines grew. The large area between the curving front steps and the doors was used sometimes as a stage for plays, with the audience sitting in chairs on the lawn. There was a separate kindergarten/cafeteria building also with a red-tile roof, built just north of the main building in 1939.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BREA

The Baptist church had its beginning in 1925 on the northwest corner of Ash and Pomona Avenues. In 1929 the congregation moved to a new church on East Birch. The present stucco building with red tile roof, at Date and Flower Streets, was dedicated in 1952.

The sanctuary is characterized by polished woodwork and lovely stained glass windows. Eight round clerestory windows each feature a Christian symbol. The window behind the pulpit, originally given by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Seiler in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Moore, has been replaced, but still portrays Christ knocking at heart's door.

In 1962 a two-story education unit was added.

ESSENCE OF EARLY BREA

One of the first highways in Northern Orange County was a couple of wagon wheel tracks in the dirt and occasionally the mud, going north from Fullerton, Anaheim and Santa Ana up through Brea Canyon and through Puente Hills to the Pomona Valley. As early as the 1890's, widely scattered settlers from this area and other areas came by horse and buggy to cut ~~juicy~~ squares of tar (often called by its Spanish name, brea or asphaltum, a later designation). These chunks were hauled home to be used mainly as fuel.

This highway was developed as an official road in 1911 and became Brea's main street -- "Pomona Avenue" -- a name describing its destination. The road was not paved until the 20's.

The first cross street was Central Avenue which led to LaHabra. This created the first intersection of importance, at what is now Brea Boulevard and Central. Oil workers in Brea Canyon built houses along the west side of Pomona Avenue, just south of Central. Later Mr. Flanagan's little store and service station occupied the SW corner. The Shields family lived on the NW corner on General Petroleum land. This was called Shields' Corner.

The second cross street was LaHabra St. (Now Ash). The LaHabra Valley Bank (now The Frame Place) was built on the SW corner of this intersection. Obviously, the street led to LaHabra, curving south to the course now taken by Imperial Highway west.

The LaHabra street intersection became the hub for businesses along both sides of the narrow road to the Puente Hills. A general merchandise store, Woodruff and Henigan, sprang up on the SE corner and the Brea Hotel, a huge double building with a fancy facade and a restaurant on the first floor, was near the NE corner. It was a comfortable place for newly arrived oil workers to stay.

Brea's first grocery store was built and run by the Salvesson family, on the NW corner.

The landscape to which the settlers came was arid and dry. Only a few black walnut and scrub oak trees could be seen, and only up in the hills. Mr. Casner, a prominent citizen, purchased and planted palm trees along the 100 block of South Orange and other early streets, establishing an idea that came to its peak in the 1930's and again in the 1980's, of Brea made beautiful by Mediterranean and Spanish type homes and buildings graced with palm trees.

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Behind the bank on Ash St., was Brea's first "rooming" house. Many of Brea's citizens spent a few nights at the Delaney upon arrival in the area.

Just east of Pomona Avenue on Ash was the Brown and Vauser Lumber Company which did a thriving business furnishing supplies to build houses for the newly arriving families.

The Randolph School -- a two-story wooden building, was built in 1910 on the SW corner of the intersection of Pomona Avenue and Union Oil Road. This is now Brea Blvd. and Lambert.

Homes were scattered along Pomona Ave. from this intersection south to the railroad tracks. The RR and handsome depot came in 1912.

Other neighborhoods were North Madrona and North Orange Streets. At first, all of these houses had outhouses, and used coal oil lamps for lighting.

A post office was established in 1912. There was no mail delivery and no house numbers. It was several years before mail was received any way except to Brea, California. Sometimes "Orange County" would be written on the envelope. In the 20's, post office boxes were installed at the post office.

Other early homes were built on the 100 blk. and 200 blk. of South Walnut and South Madrona, also the 100 blk of South Orange St.

Mr. Charles Kinsler, proprietor of Brea Hotel, built a home at 137 South Orange. By this time there were several stores along the 100 blk South on Brea Blvd. Some of these were: Peterkins Cash Market and Gheen's Meats, Nethaway's Stationery, Harry Ray's Menswear, as well as others.

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The largest public building, Sewell Hall, was an investment in the growing little town by Mr. Charles Sewell of Los Angeles. Mr. Sewell never lived in Brea. The large handsome 2-story red brick building replaced an earlier 1-story version which had been destroyed by fire. The downstairs featured McClatchy's Hardware and other stores. Mr. McClatchy sold toys and gifts in addition to hardware. The upstairs of the Sewell Bldg. had offices to the street side. First were the city offices used for years until the city hall was built on So. Brea Blvd. Afterward, the offices were occupied by Dr. Jarvis, dentist, Mabel McGee, a colorful figure from LaHabra who dealt in insurance and real estate, and others. To the rear of the second floor was a beautiful large "ballroom" used by the Masonic Lodge. It also

became Brea's first "community center" with many public and private dinners, dances, and programs given there as well as lodge functions.

Inez C. Fanning

Nov 1989

CASITA

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brea is History

The old man stopped when he reached the ancient tree that overlooked the town. He was breathing heavily from the long climb up the hill and he slumped down against the rough bark of the tree trunk. His hand moved idly through the black soil as he looked out across the rooftops below. Sunlight broke through the leaves at odd intervals as the breeze gently shifted the limbs around. His thoughts were interrupted by the flickering sunlight that broke up the shaded area he was cultivating with his hand, reflecting off a polished stone he had uncovered. A strange looking stone, he thought, picking it up and brushing away the clinging dirt by rubbing it on his sleeve.

This is an ancient arrowhead, shined and blunted from years of natural wear. I wonder how long it has been here, he asked himself, turning the discovery over on his palm.

The canyon must have looked much different then, he thought, I mean when this arrowhead was new. The sights and sounds of progress were unknown to the Shoshone Indians who lived here before we knew the earth was round. I wish I could have been here then. It would have been good to see the Indians living in their brushwood shelters and hunting in these hills.

In the cool stillness of the shade the old man could almost see them stalking the deer that still roam freely in the hills.

Down on the canyon floor he could see the marker that was built on the place where the Spaniards camped in 1769.

I wonder what the Shoshone thought when the Spanish came here for the first time. I remember reading what the Spanish reported in their journals about the Shoshone. It is very sad, he said to himself, that we do not have a record of what the Indians thought, or what they said to Don Gaspar De Portola and his sixty soldiers. We don't even know what their names were. Perhaps they helped the Spanish find the trail to Monterey or acted as guides for them. He smiled, hoping it was true.

I hope the Indians did not know then that their lives would never be the same again.

Perhaps, he said to himself. Perhaps the Shoshone were absorbed by the Spanish who ruled California until 1821. The Indians could have taught the white men many useful things about the oil here. They used it as a medicine and later the settlers learned to use it as a fuel and to waterproof their homes against the rains. That many be their legacy to use, he thought. It would be a good memory.

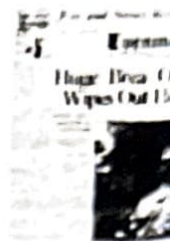
Brea is a fine name for this rich countryside, although the Indian word for tar might be better than the Spanish.

So little really changes he said to himself, turning the black soil in his hand. Almost everything has changed since the Shoshone were here. Except the oil. Everything depends on that. That is why we came with all the others in 1895. The oil is the reason the town is here and all the new changes came after those first great wells were in. Even the later growth that does not depend on the oil only came because the wells endured through the hard times.

A lot of my old friends came then, when wages were good and life was very hard. He laughed remembering the boyish pranks they played at the new school that the Union Oil Company built for them back in 1903.

Everything moved faster after that. The men in town filed a map to establish a township here. And then the promoters came. We had to be careful where we hunted after that. Almost every week a new house would spring up where wild game used to roost. But worst of all was the day the water system finally got hooked up. From then on I spent almost every night soaking in the bath. It was not so bad after the electric lights were hooked up. At least I could read a Bret Hart story while I got myself all squeaky clean for mother, for Sunday School, or for a ride on the Pacific Electric Line, or for a show at the Red Lantern, or for a long day at school. Still, there were some bad points about the street lights. The

Continued on Page 14



brea history continued

games we played at night were spoiled by the light shining down on all the best hiding places, he remembered. His father had said that it was a good thing to have the lights now that we had some of those new automobiles running around town. It made him sad to remember those early days when life was so much simpler and leisurely.

The old man got to his feet very slowly, feeling tired and burdened with the memories of his childhood and the growth of the town. He started back down the hill and turned up toward the center of town. He stopped for the signal that regulated the flow of traffic in the city now, and looked off to the west along Lambert Road. He smiled remembering the crowds at the old ball park cheering for Babe Ruth and Walter Johnson of the Washington Senators—their own home town boy. He could never forget that day in October of 1924 when the big leagues came to town for an exhibition game.

The light changed to green and he had started off again when he noticed the striking colors of the sunset. Tears filled his eyes as he stood looking at the reddening sky, remembering the terrible oil fire that exploded before breakfast on April 8, 1926 when lightning struck the Stewart Tank Farm.

The light was green again and he started off hoping that the next time Brea is talked about in the National Press it would be for great achievements and not another disaster.

The old man did not stop again until he came to the corner of Birch Street near the center of the downtown area. A lot of friends helped put up that 'Welcome To Brea' sign he thought as he looked up and saw it hanging across the boulevard. It is a very good monument for the city. I remember when it first went up in the middle of the Depression. Even then, with all of the other troubles people had, they thought about the city. And the money. Some might think we were foolish to build a sign instead of buying food. But they were not here then, he thought.



Those who see the metal and the lights will not remember the soup kitchens and the shelters for the victims of the earthquake. They will not remember the destruction of the winds and fire in the oil fields. They cannot remember Judy Garland playing at The Red Lantern, and they did not have savings in the Oil Field National Bank.

The sign has taken on a character from the town, he said. I wonder if the newer people see it, or if the character I see is only the reflection of the things it reminds me of.

Sometimes I think we should set aside a special place up on that hill for the younger people, he said almost out loud. Perhaps it would not mean as much to them now. It could not mean the same to them. But it is a thought. They have to write their own histories and the history of the city of tomorrow. I hope they ask me what I think. I will tell them that those early days of high wages and hard living made all the difference in this town. All of the industry and the homes, all of the planning and all of the promise, all that is Brea today and all that Brea will be is the harvest of seeds that were planted deep in the oily soil of a quieter time, long ago.

We used to have a saying here in town, "OIL — ORANGES — OPPORTUNITY!" It is mostly the opportunity that is left now, he said to himself. But that is the most important thing, after all.

It was growing dark as the old man turned to walk down the street to his house. He looked back over his shoulder and smiled as the lights flickered on around the old sign that reads "Welcome To Brea!"

brea is in its

library

If you like to read poetry, a good novel, or keep up to date on what's happening in the business world, the Brea Library has it.

A distinct advantage is being able to obtain a free library card, which is honored at all Orange County libraries, with exception of Buena Park.

The Children's Librarian, Virginia Crabb, is at the disposal of the younger BREANS. She supervises the "summer reading program", "story time", and "movies" every Thursday, plus "Kiddy Kraft" once a month. Imagination and art are fostered through the annual Children's Book Week Contest and the National Library Week in which students compete county-wide in designing their own unique book mark.



The present library has been in the same location since 1962, and is open Monday through Thursday noon till 9 p.m.; Friday noon till 5 p.m.; and Saturday 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.

By 1980, the new library hopefully will be in operation. It will house a larger staff, more periodicals, more business references, and an innovative idea which has proven successful of co-mingling non-fiction books that will be available to students as well as adults. This will not only eliminate duplication, but cut down on costs as well.

With 30,000 volumes, numerous magazines, newspapers, and periodicals at your disposal, Barbara Brotherton, head librarian, plus a staff of six, are there to help you meet your needs.

City always planning for the future

By Katie Hodgson

Brea Junior High School

Even before 1917, when Brea became a city, its citizens had begun planning for the future. We have changed many things in Brea, but still kept the motto "Oil, Orange and Opportunity." When the Indians lived here, they discovered "brea," or tar. Portola probably would not have expected this land to become the great city it is today.

Brea became a city because of its people. The reason people came to the then-known Randolph area was for jobs in the oil and citrus industries. The people first lived in the Brea Canyon area, until downtown Brea was developed. Even early on, Brea's citizens were concerned. As they gazed at the barren hills, a plan was de-

vised to plant the hills with trees and shrubs.

Brea's history has had many positive and negative occurrences, but the 1926 disaster was probably the worst. On April 8, 1926, lightning struck oil tanks in the oil fields. Many tanks exploded, houses were destroyed, orange groves were burned, and roofs were blown off, yet its citizens proved they were strong and rebuilt the city.

Brea has always attracted people to its city because of the "good life." In 1926, Babe Ruth and Walter Johnson played baseball here at one of our parks. Although the absence of winter weather is desirable in Southern California, Brea has been fortunate to have had a white layer of snow grace its lawns and fields one special day in 1949.

Here in Brea we have many historic buildings. For

example, the Brea Hotel is where the first settlers stayed; the carpet store which used to be a grocery store; the frame store, which had the first voting booth; as well as Cannings Hardware, Wall Building, the old city hall, and most famous even to the kids today, The Plunge. The Plunge was built in 1929 and was the first community pool in Orange County. It was completed with a fountain and a high dive.

We have come a long way in our city and we still keep improving. As we march into the future, we keep striving to make Brea a model for other cities to follow. With our profitable mall/hotel complex, our Art in Public Places plan, and our environmental award-winning recycling project, we continue to work together to improve Brea, making it the best little city in the world.



ESSENCE OF EARLY BREA

"Essence: that which makes something what it is; intrinsic, fundamental."

One of the first highways in Northern Orange County was a couple of wagon wheel tracks in the dirt, occasionally the mud, going north from Santa Ana, Anaheim, and Fullerton through Brea Canyon and through Puente Hills to the Pomona Valley. As early as the 1890's widely scattered settlers from this area and other areas came by horse and buggy to cut squares of tar (often called by its Spanish name, *brea*, or *asphaltum*, a later designation). These chunks were hauled home to be used mainly as fuel.

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The first cross street was Central Avenue, which led to La Habra. This created the first intersection of importance at what is now Brea Boulevard and Central. Oil workers in Brea Canyon built houses along the west side of Pomona Avenue, just south of Central. Later, Mr. Flanagan's little store and service station occupied the southwest corner. The Shields family lived on the northwest corner on General Petroleum land; thus, it was called "Shields' Corner."

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The second floor of the Sewell Building had offices on the street side. First were the city offices, used for years until the City Hall was built on South Brea Boulevard in 1929.

Afterward, the offices were occupied by Dr. C. C. Jarvis, dentist; Mabel McGee, a colorful figure from La Habra who dealt in insurance and real estate; and others.

To the rear of the second floor was a beautiful, large "ballroom" used by the Masonic Lodge. It also became Brea's first "community center" with many public and private dinners, dances, and programs given there, as well Lodge functions.

This was the "essence" of Early Brea!

--Inez C. Fanning

November 1989

Souvenir of July 4, 1990

ICF:mjb
July 1990
300

BREA

Civic Cultural Center • Number One Civic Center Circle, 92621 (714) 990-7600

BREA: FROM OIL TOWN TO COMMERCIAL CENTER

The City of Brea's history begins with its geography. It sits in the northeastern corner of Orange County at the mouth of Brea Canyon, where early Californians came to cut chunks of the oil-soaked earth from the canyon walls for use as fuel in heating their homes and as waterproofing for their roofs. In 1894, the Union Oil Company purchased approximately 1200 acres of land in the area, and began oil production the following year. Union's wells proved to be very successful, and soon other oil companies also began purchasing land, and hiring workers. Shops and schools were soon needed to serve the growing population.

On February 23, 1917, the City of Brea was incorporated with a population of 732. Two upper-floor rooms of the Sewell Building became the Council Chambers until the first city hall was built in 1929, along the newly paved Pomona Avenue (Brea Boulevard).

As more and more houses were built, Brea grew from a rural community into an established town. During the 1950s and 60s, subdivisions totaling over nine square miles sprouted within the city limits. And in 1960, Carbon Canyon was annexed into Brea, making it one of the largest cities in land area, 11.6 miles, in Orange County at that time.

Brea's geographical location continued to play an important role in the second phase of the City's history.

Orange County's growth in the 1960's created a demand for roads, and three major highways eventually came to bisect the town. The Orange Freeway (57), established in 1972, extends north/south. Imperial Highway (State Route 90) runs east/west, as does Carbon Canyon Road (State 142). These transportation corridors made Brea a natural location for businesses of several types. So as the oil wells began to be depleted, the industrial nature of Brea began to change. Union Oil built its research center in town. Security Pacific Bank decided to locate its regional check cashing facility in town, and in 1977, the Brea Mall was completed. This regional shopping center has been very successful and is undergoing more than \$130 million in expansion.

The 1980's Brea is a City that Council members like to describe as well-balanced, because of its combination of residential neighborhoods with commercial and industrial facilities. Its resident population now numbers 33,000, with a working population of over 110,000. There are 18,225 registered voters.



CARREY J. NELSON
Mayor



CLARICE A. BLAMER
Councilwoman



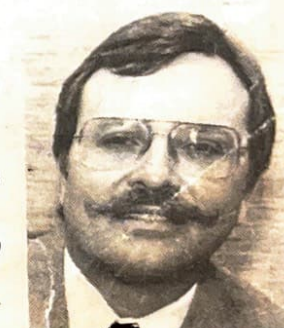
GENE LEYTON
Councilman



WAYNE WEDIN
Mayor Pro Tem



RON ISLES
Councilman



FRANK BENEST
City Manager

CITY COUNCIL 990-7718

Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday 7 p.m.
in the Council Chambers

MAYOR 990-7703

CITY MANAGER

Frank Benest 990-7710

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

Denise E. Ovrom 990-7770

CITY ATTORNEY

James L. Markman 990-0901

CITY CLERK

Donna M. Rhine 990-7757

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Sam W. Peterson 990-7763

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

Ret Wixted 990-7636

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

James R. Cutts 990-7690

MAINTENANCE SERVICES DIRECTOR

Patrick McCarron 990-7648

PERSONNEL DIRECTOR

Becky Ross Iacobucci 990-7719

Before The Shaking Starts

Prepare Your Family

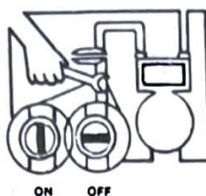
- Know the safe spots in each room: against inside walls, under sturdy tables, desks or supported doorways.
- Know the danger spots: windows, mirrors, hanging objects, fireplaces, and tall unsecured furniture.
- Practice drills. Physically place yourself in safe locations. This is especially important for children to know and do.
- Learn first aid and CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) from your local Red Cross chapter or other community organization.
- Keep a listing of emergency numbers.

Prepare Your Home

- Learn how to shut off gas, water and electricity (if lines are damaged).



Water Valve



Gas Valve



Circuit Breaker



Pull-Out Cartridge Fuse

- Keep breakables or heavy objects on bottom shelves.
- Secure tall heavy furniture which could topple, such as bookcases, china cabinets or wall units.



- Secure water heater and appliances which could move enough to rupture gas or electricity lines.

- Secure hanging plants and heavy picture frames or mirrors (especially over beds).
- Put latches on cabinet doors to hold closed during shaking.
- Keep flammable or hazardous liquids such as paints, pest sprays or cleaning products in the garage or outside shed.
- Check chimneys, roofs, walls, foundation for structural condition.

- Maintain emergency food, water (minimum of 1 gallon per person per day, for drinking, cooking and hygiene) and other supplies, including a flashlight, a portable battery-operated radio, extra batteries, medicine, first aid kit and clothing.

During the Shaking



If indoors, stay there. Get under a desk or table or stand in a doorway or corner. If outdoors, get into an open area away from trees, buildings, walls and power lines.



If driving, pull your car to the side of the road and stop. Avoid overpasses or power lines. Remain inside until the shaking is over.



If in a highrise building, stay away from windows and outside walls. Get under a table. Do not use the elevators.

If in a crowded public place, do not rush for the doors. Move away from display shelves containing objects that may fall.

After The Shaking Stops



Check for injuries. Apply first aid. Do not move seriously injured individuals unless they are in immediate danger. Do not use the telephone unless there is a severe injury or fire.



Hunt for hazards:

- Check for gas and water leaks, broken electrical wiring or sewage lines. If there is damage, turn utility off at the source.

- Check building for cracks and damage, including roof, chimneys and foundation.

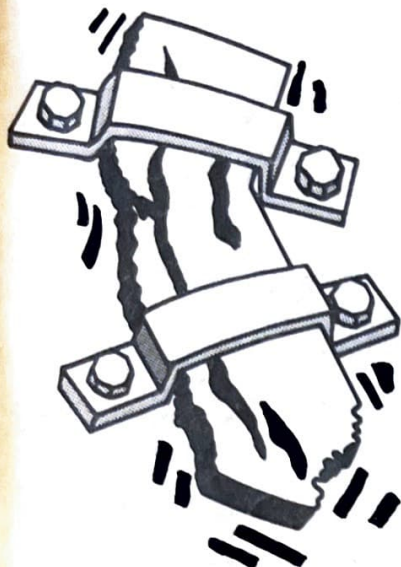
- Check food and water supplies. Emergency water may be obtained from water heaters, melted ice cubes, toilet tanks and canned vegetables.



- For Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) information tune in your portable radio to any Orange County station. Co-operate fully with public safety officials. Do not use your vehicle unless there is an emergency. Keep the streets clear for emergency vehicles. Be prepared for aftershocks. DON'T PANIC. Stay calm and lend a hand to others in need.



Be
Quake
Safe



For more information, contact:

ORANGE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

180 South Water Street
Orange, California 92666

(714) 744-0579



B. 4 - Today's Kidstyle 4-16-84



Inez Fanning examines Betty Straw's fashionable contribution to the Brea Historical Society collection.

Fig. 3 - Topsy's photographs 4-16-84



Betty Straw demonstrates antique curling irons



Beech bluff Karl Fanning models a moth-eaten lifeguard suit.

dies from Paris and postcards from exotic islands signaled gratitude for the loved ones at home.

Seller's section of the afternoon program focused on handwork, a popular pastime with the women of the decade. Dress scarves, tablecloths and intricately crocheted doilies were stretched across the speaker's stand, drawing a multitude of "ooohs" and "aaahs."

But it was the personal touch that charmed the audience. "My mother (Margaret Moore) had a leg amputated, and a few months later, arthritis set into her hands," said Seller. "The doctor told her the best therapy was

stitching handwork, so she started with a crochet hook."

Demonstrating an awkward, gripped - hand technique, Seller noted it took her mother a long time to get adjusted to working with painful fingers. "But she was a determined woman. By the time she died, she had crocheted 135 afghans, which many people in town cherish."

"I have one," spoke out one lady. "Me, too," chimed in another, obviously proud to own a Moore Original.

The club women were invited to inspect the trunk treasures following one more event that had just become a part of Brea's history.



Catherine Seller holds up one of her mother's 135 handmade afghans.

Today's Lifestyles

16 Daily Star-Progress Mon., Apr. 16, 1984

Brea history buffs unlock family treasures

"Brea's past includes yesterday and this morning. We're not an old cronies' club, we're just reminiscing."

— Karl Fanning, president
Brea Historical Society,
1984

By Barbara Glasone
Deputy Managing Editor

Brea Historical Society's traveling trunk show tumbled into Pioneer Hall Tuesday, stocked with remnants of early north Orange County. With the dexterity of an amateur magician, Inez Fanning pulled out enough memories to pack a museum.

Tucked inside her family's restored trunk was a baby's belly band, drawing quick recognition from the Brea Woman's Club audience. And, yes, they remembered the lingerie teddies of the '20s with that discreet strip holding the leg openings together.

The women marveled, sighed and compared family antiques as Fanning, Betty Straw and Catherine Seiler shared stories of Brea from 1915-1930.

Fanning opened the luncheon show with a brief outline of her parents' trip to the oil rich town. Married in 1914, Richard and Margaret Jones were urged to travel from Rock County, Colo. to a little town of 600 near the Fullerton train stop. Two years later, a team of horses met the

Joneses at the depot and took them to the Jameson House on Central Avenue in Brea.

"The oil boom brought lots of people to Brea," recalled Fanning. "But soon there were lean times when a \$1 per day wage forced families to live together until they could scrape up money for a down payment on a lot. "The East Coast immigrants could hardly believe people could live in such flimsy housing," she continued.

Reaching deep into the brightly-painted luggage, Fanning snapped up the Jones Family Bible and a tattered black book. "This is the doctor book," she explained, evoking chatter among the elderly observers. "You remember, there weren't

many doctors around in those days, so when we had an ailment, we went straight to the doctor book."

Switching to the town's history, Fanning noted Brea was incorporated February, 1917 just before World War I "and Brea would never be the same again.

"Every spare dime," she said, "was given to war bonds. The flu hit hard. But the best memory of all was Armistice Day at the corner of Ash Street and Brea Boulevard where hundreds gathered for one of Brea's biggest celebrations."

By the mid '20s, motor transit linked Brea to the world. Brea Grammar School, Brea Olinda High School and Laurel Elementary were in operation to educate the town's young folks.

"Meanwhile, the major concern among the local women was the Monday morning race to see who could get her washing on the line first," Fanning recounted, drawing laughter from the club members. "Those early Brea women worked hard to get their chores done and keep their homes in order."

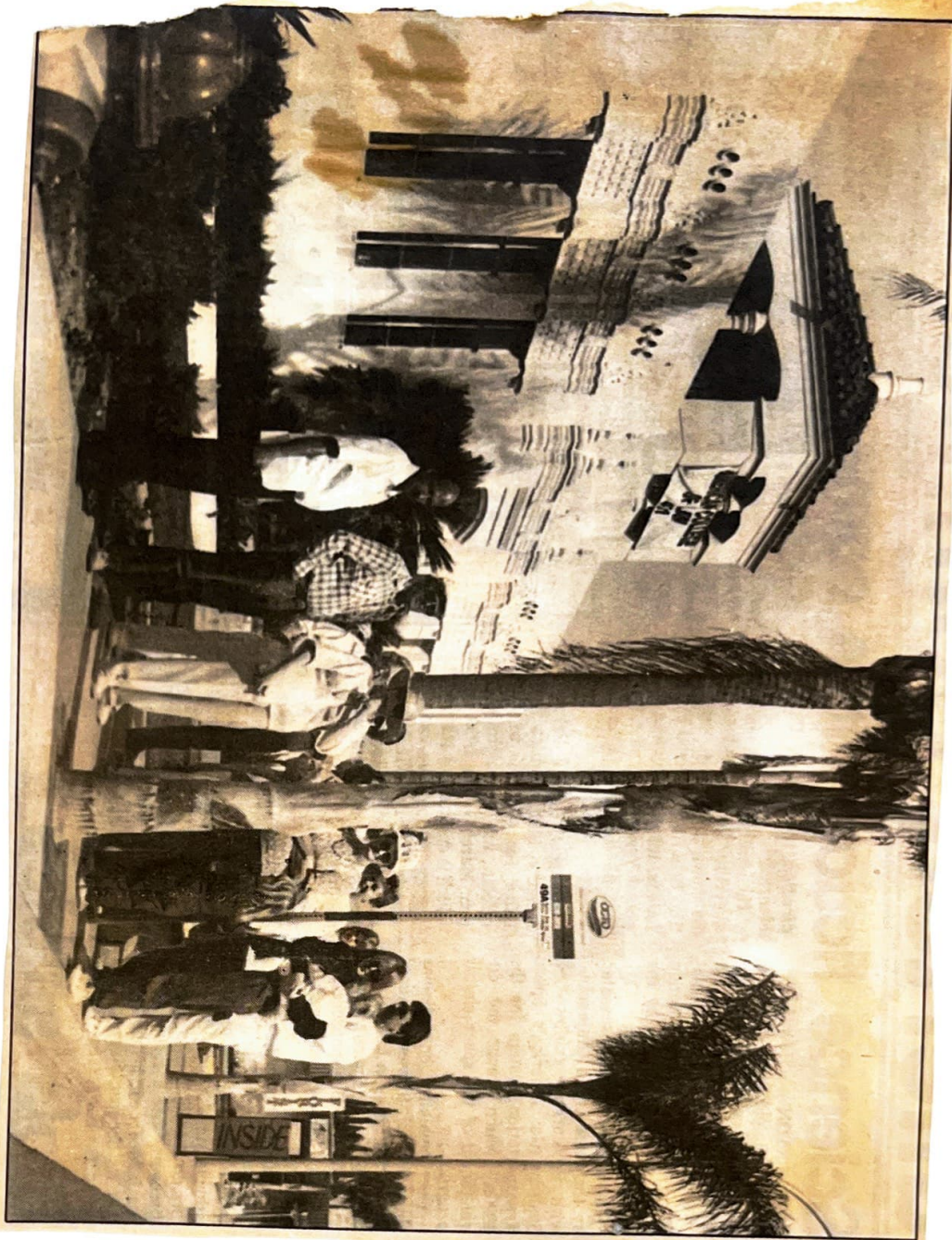
While the historical society trio continued draping garments around the podium, Fanning pulled out dustcaps, embroidered baby shoes, celluloid hair brush, her cuffed, lace baby panties and corset covers.

Straw, who was born and raised in Fullerton, displayed her mother's dress, an uncle's barber strap and razor used in an early Brea shop, leather hair curlers and up-to-the-elbow gloves.

Digging deeper into the trunk, Fanning unloaded international souvenirs mailed to her mother from soldier relatives stationed around the world. Beaded handbags from the Middle East, mid-



Catherine Seiler models early sunbonnet



A WALK THROUGH HISTORY — The Brea Historical Society and City Historical Committee co-sponsored a tour of old downtown Brea Saturday. At top right, president of the Brea Historical Society Inez Fanning explains the history behind the Old City Hall building to interested community members who gathered for the two-hour walk. At lower right, Fanning tells the group about Sam's Place, an original fixture on Brea Boulevard that the Historical Committee has selected for preservation following the redevelopment of the downtown. Above, Fanning guides the tour down palm tree lane (Orange Avenue). Brian Saul, chairman of the Historical Committee, led a similar group through the downtown area, about 50 people in all coming out for the informative day. The Historical Society and Historical Committee are planning future tours of the city's relics before redevelopment plans begin demolition on many of them.

Star-Progress photos
by Mark Berg



Fire destroys historical Wahl Building

Brea experienced a historical loss Sunday, April 15, when the Wahl Building at 109 E. Ash was destroyed by fire.

Brea firefighters were notified of the conflagration at 4:23 a.m. when a passerby informed them that a "building around the corner was on fire."

Incoming units found the building fully involved, with fire visible within all the downstairs windows, and focused their attention on protecting two nearby structures — the Brea Senior Housing complex and the Brea Hotel.

Units from Fullerton, La Habra and Buena Park also were called in for assistance, and the use of a ladder truck from Brea Boulevard by the Fullerton Fire Department was utilized to help control the blaze and keep it away from the neighboring structures.

Built in the early 1900s for use as an office and retail center, the Redevelopment Agency-owned structure has been vacant for the past few months. It was scheduled to be refurbished as part of the recent redevelopment activities in downtown.

A total of 30 firefighters worked for over an hour to extinguish the fire, with several more called in to stand by on the reserve engine. No injuries were reported by either firefighters or residents of the nearby structures.

The American Red Cross set up a shelter at Brea Junior High for the residents displaced from the Brea Hotel and also provided some food and drinks for the emergency personnel. The building was considered a total loss and will be demolished sometime in the near future.

Burned facade could be reborn

By Luis Zaragoza
The Register

BREA — Preservationists hope the Craftsman-style facade of an 80-year-old former apartment building recently destroyed by fire can be reproduced somewhere in a proposed downtown redevelopment project. Fire officials have not determined the cause of a "suspicious" early-morning fire turned the boarded-up, two-story Wall Building at 109 E. Ash St. into a charred shell. The building had been earmarked for historical preservation.

The loss of the wood building, named after the family who lived in it for more than 30

years, was "really a disaster and a disappointment," said Karl Fanning, a member of the Brea Historical Society.

No injuries were reported in the blaze, which collapsed the roof. Transients had called the vacant building home for some time, witnesses told arson investigators.

The cause of the fire is under investigation, Fire Department Battalion Chief Bill Simpkins said.

Talks are under way to replicate the building's Craftsman-style facade in designs for new buildings to be built downtown as part of a proposed 50-acre

Please see WALL/8

WALL: Plans go up in smoke

FROM 1

redemption project, said Inez Fanning, president of the Historical Society and member of the Brea Historical Committee.

"That was a very special building," she said. "It deserved to be saved."

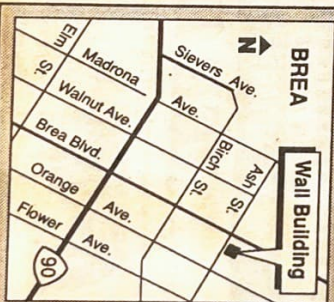
The Wall Building was one of three commercial buildings the seven-member, city-sponsored Historical Committee recently recommended for preservation. The City Council established the committee last year for advice on preservation issues.

What came to be called the Wall Building was built in 1911 as a home and a restaurant along what is now Brea Boulevard. The Wall family purchased it in 1919. They lived in the second story, while renting out the divided first story as a restaurant and other businesses.

Wall family members lived in it until they sold it in the early '50s. It subsequently was moved to face Ash Street and was split up into apartments. By the late '70s, it was

Lost history

Brea preservationists are mourning the loss of the 80-year-old Wall Building, 109 E. Ash St., to an early morning fire April 15. The vacant building, one of the city's oldest, was targeted for preservation.



The Register
vacant. The city's Redevelopment Agency purchased the building in 1980.

Environmentalist recalls early Brea

By Barbara Glasone
792
CSP Managing Editor

BREA — When Walton Wright swings a few verbal complaints toward golf course developers, he often gains the sympathy of county oldtimers.

Local historical society members are no exception.

In the north county area alone, native Breans recall more than one bulldozer that cleared an entire willow woodland for a putting area.

As Wright flipped through a "Native Plants and Animals of the Brea Area" slide show Monday night, Brea Historical Society members lamented the passing of groves and floral displays that once peppered the canyons.

"We forget the value of our natural resources," Wright told his captive audience, seated in the First Baptist Church fellowship hall. "We plan them right out of existence. If we don't start planning for 200 years from now and save our significant resources, we won't have anything left."

Wright, who serves as coordinator of educational programs at the Natural History Museum in

Newport Beach, illustrated his predictions with a county story. "County people attempted to move an oak tree from Coto de Caza to optimize building space," he recalled. "They allocated \$40,000, only to discover it would take months to box the tree."

"First they loaded it onto a flat-bed truck and brought it in a crane. When they found it couldn't be lifted, a second crane was brought in, the wheels of the truck sank and the trailer was bent. The irony of the whole incident was the tree couldn't survive."

The nature enthusiast also bemoaned the proposed Soquel Canyon Road thoroughfare plan that could devour the habitats between San Bernardino County and Brea, and add 39,000 homes along the corridor.

"Brea won't get that much out of the deal," said Wright. "And we can't afford to pay a share of it."

Times and the environs have changed since Wright romped through the willow woodlands of Coyote Creek in the early '50s. He quickly recalled his Scouting days when he and his buddies made plaster casts of raccoon prints.

"But now the area is the site of Fullerton Golf Course and Arroyo Vista Park," he pointed out. "The beauty of the old trees is long gone."

In a color-slide show of Brea's long-forgotten beauty, Wright remembered the north county town as a land of orange and lemon groves, surrounded by open grasslands.

Early Brea, he reminded historical members, harbored starlings from the East Coast, cabbage white butterflies, opossums introduced in the San Francisco Bay Area and red foxes that were brought from Missouri to the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

In the 1920s and '30s, landowners planted cassia that often attracted the cloudless sulphur butterflies. Eucalyptus trees, he added, were introduced to Orange County in 1872 in El Toro.

Continuing his historical agenda, Wright noted that Bermuda grass came from East Africa; farmer's foxtail from Eastern Europe and the artichoke thistle, brought by the Italian farmers prior to 1938. "The county had to spend as much as \$200,000 to eradicate that thistle," Wright added.

The conservationist recalled a profusion of local color when along Imperial Highway. "The

gold fields past Kraemer were sights to behold," he said. "Now we have to travel to Arlington to enjoy the beauty."

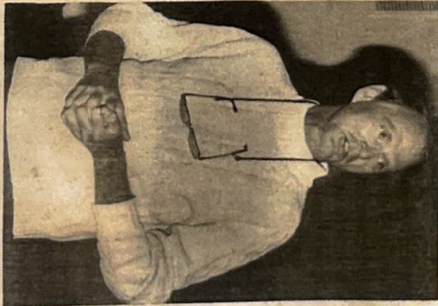
He suggested society members look south along the 60 Freeway near Phillips Ranch Road to enjoy pockets of lupine. Some, he said, could also be spotted along Brea Canyon Road.

The slides continued to roll, displaying remnants of the oak woodlands that were planted 1,500 years ago in Carbon and Tonner canyons, the wild buck-

wheat and the Mariposa lily, a rare plant that bloomed in Tonner Canyon.

Toward the end of the environmental showcase, Wright screened a slide of a lizard, one of the few survivors of heavy construction equipment.

Members started to share their personal memories of the plant beauty of early Brea. Others shook their heads in disbelief. They realized the urban forest could never replace the sprawling woodlands.



Walton Wright



Photo courtesy of the Brea Historical Society

On the line: Construction of Brea's first telephone exchange in the summer of 1925 was considered a big step forward for the city. There were three or four operators and a supervisor who worked eight-hour, daily shifts.

Recalling the phone exchange

In this age of cellular telephones and satellite communications, it may be hard to believe that at one time just picking up your telephone in Brea and hearing a simple, "Number, please" was considered a big deal.

A WALK IN TIME

By Brian Saul

With the current redevelopment of the old downtown area and the demolition of the city's historic structures, the little building at 115 E. Birch St., where those two words were repeated over and over, now is awaiting its fate.

Built in 1925 of "Spanish design" and roofed by handmade tile, it stands empty and silent now, but back in the '20s its construction as Brea's first telephone exchange was considered a big step forward for our city. No longer would Breans have to place their calls through another town. We now had our own exchange, part of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co.

Opening day ceremonies took place in that summer of 1925. Among those on hand to celebrate the event was Brea Mayor C.A. Sullivan, who had the honor of saying the first words over the new system. Talking to E.A. Beard, manager of the Orange County division of the telephone company, that initial conversation went as follows:

"Hello, is this Mr. Beard?"

"Yes, this is Beard, manager of the telephone company."

"I wish to thank you for the honor of being permitted to place the first call over the new Brea Exchange board."

Formalities over, the exchange and the newly hired switchboard operators got down to business and the first calls were put through.

According to Ruth Moseley Calderwood, who worked as an operator from the early '30s to the mid-'40s, there were three or four operators and a supervisor who worked eight-hour daily shifts.

"Besides the main switchboard room, there was a bathroom and another small area with a sink and a cot," she said.

For those Breans who did not have a phone, there was a public telephone booth that was open 24 hours a day.

During the 23 years of its life, the little building on Birch Street played an important role in assisting during emergencies here and in the surrounding area.

In an early written history of Brea, Winifred Crabill, long-time operator, said the first emergency that the operators had to deal with was the huge Brea Stewart Tank Farm Fire of 1926. They also assisted with communications following the Long Beach earthquake of 1933.

She continued by saying that perhaps the greatest service the exchange was able to provide, though, was coordinating relief efforts during the disastrous 1938 Atwood flood. By maintaining

an open line between Placentia and the old American Legion Building in City Hall Park, the operators were able to relay information crucial in the rescue work.

As important as they had been over the years, the time came when technology made the switchboard and the operators obsolete. Direct dialing had arrived in 1948 and Brea was ready to change to the new system. Operators were transferred to other exchanges, a new, larger telephone building was built south of Imperial Highway and the little exchange on Birch Street was emptied.

Now, 45 years later and after serving for many years as a chiropractic office, that little building is empty once again. Overgrown bushes have taken over its east side, obscuring the already hard-to-see recessed emblem of a bell, over which is written, "The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co." Even more difficult to see are the words beneath the bell, "American Telephone and Telegraph," Pacific's parent company.

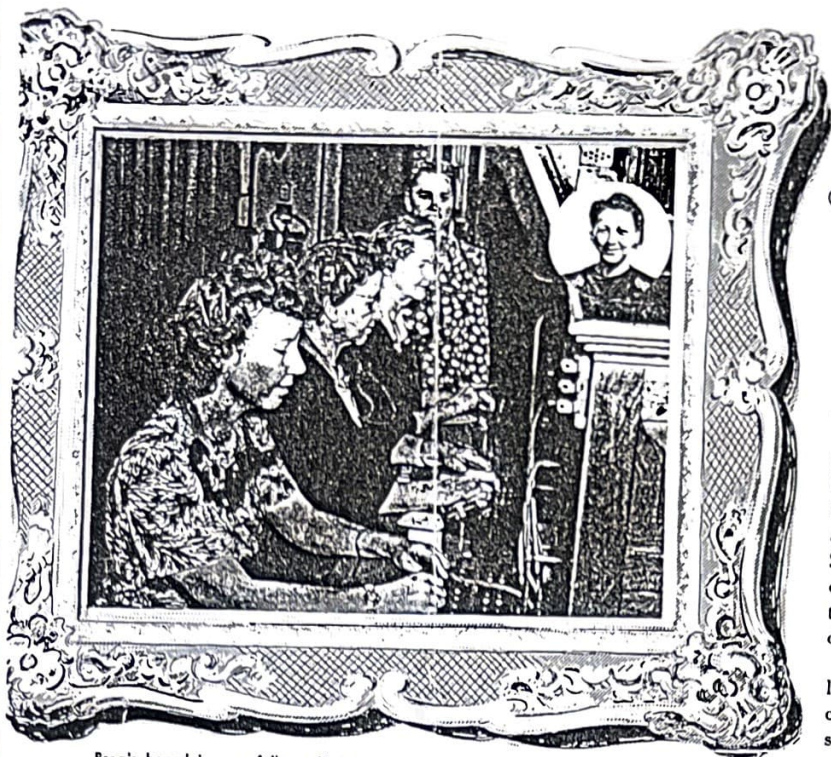
What's to become of 115 E. Birch St.? Will it disappear like so many other buildings in the old downtown, or will it be saved? The city's Historical Committee has recommended its preservation and the hope is that it will find a new home, a new use and a new lease on life before another part of Brea's history is gone forever.

Brian Saul is vice president of the Brea Historical Society.

See Story by Crake
10/2/45

138 YEARS OF SERVICE IN

BREA



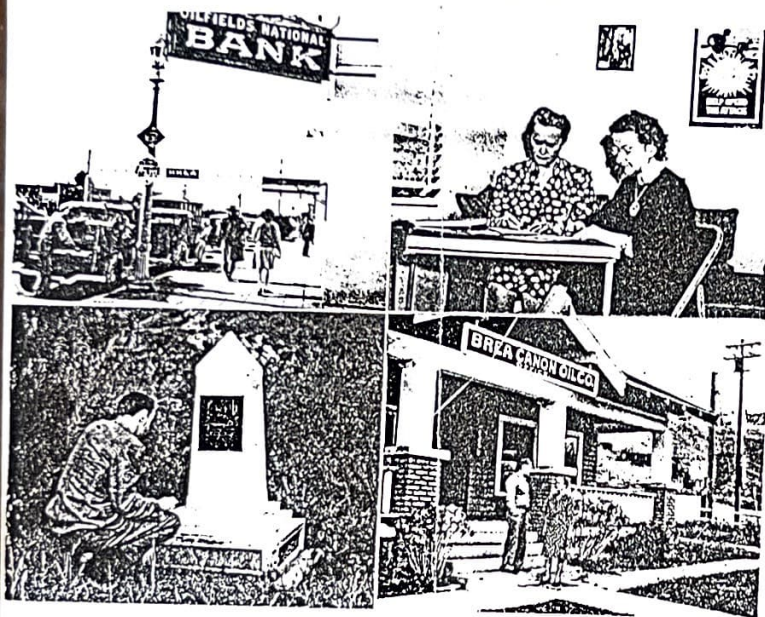
Brea's board is seen fully staffed by operators Hazel Caspario, Winifred Crabill, Jessie Wilson, and Naomi Nash, chief operator. Inset is Helen Ryan, night operator. Margaret Griffith was vacationing at the time this picture was taken.

A SMALL monument a mile north of the town with the inscription "Don Gas de Portola with 60 men camped here J 31, 1769 on his first exploring march fr San Diego . . ." gives insight into the l tory of Brea, a community nestled near rolling Puente hills, four miles from E lerton and twenty miles southeast of l Angeles.

Brea is unique not merely because P tola, discoverer of San Francisco Bay, a first governor of California, once camp there, but also in being situated on a me above the fog-line and free from fro Stretching for several miles south and w of Brea are vast citrus groves; north of t town is located one of the most producti oil fields in California.

Brea's telephone exchange was esta lished in 1925. The combination commecial and traffic office is located in a on story building. Only a few steps from t switchboard is the window where the eli operator transacts business office affairs. A joining the main room is a lounge an kitchen for the operators.

Something which visitors to this com munity soon learn and of which Breans ar mighty proud is the service record of th employees of the exchange. The six op erators in the traffic force have a combin service record of 138 years, and the young est operator has been with the company 1 years. Not to be outdone by the operators the two installer-repairmen at Brea hav each completed twenty-five years of service



On Brea's main street (upper left) Installers Benjamin Appling and John Dressler are pictured outside the Oilfields National Bank and the office of the newspaper "Brea Progress."

Immediately below is the monument marking Portola's camp, a short distance north of town.

In the central office rest room, letters to sons in service have first call on the free hours of Chief Operator Naomi Nash and Winifred Crabill (right), who has three sons in the armed forces of our country.

Outside the Brea Canon Oil Company's office, Mrs. Nash talks with Superintendent A. F. White about early days in Brea.

Brea At The Crossroads: Heritage vs. Progress

(Editors Note: This is the final chapter in the three - part series on Brea's historical buildings.)

By Tony Saavedra
DSP Staff Writer

BREA — To local resident Lois Muzzall Smith, 76, the problem is fairly simple: "If you plant a tree and put chemical fertilizer on it, it may grow fast. But, it will die."

Working as a secretary for the Shaffer Tool Works Co. during the 1940's and later as city clerk, Smith watched Brea grow from a rural oil town to a busy suburb.

Recently taking a break from tending her garden, Smith expressed concern that Brea, meaning "asphalt" in Spanish, was living up to its name.

With the advent of a new mall and other industries, Smith said some of the city's historical sites were being trampled by the onslaught of progress.

(Continued from A-1)

planner, assured that the zoning was purely an incentive and not a mandate. Therefore, no homeowners would find themselves out on the streets, watching a wrecking crew level their old house in preparation for a new condominium.

In his presentation to the commission, Miller praised the architectural integrity of structures in the Sievers - Walnut and Good Old Brea areas.

He also noted strong historical traits in homes in the South Madonna - Elm community, called the Union Oil tract.

With the oilfields bringing laborers to the tiny town in 1912, Pacific Electric Railway added a push to the population by building a train station in Brea.

As the boomtown prospered, the city's first settlers ventured down to the Sievers - Walnut area and built small, bungalow - type houses.

To accommodate the fledgling community, commercial buildings sprouted along the town's main drag, now called Brea Boulevard.

Among the commercial structures was the local cathouse, which later became the Brea Bakery and finally ended up as the neighborhood bar, Sam's Place.

As the population grew to 2,435 by 1930, Union Oil sold some of its land to employees, who settled in what soon became a classy neighborhood.

And after initiating a year - long study on preserving Brea's architectural history, civic planners may find themselves choosing between an urban sprawl and a city's heritage.

Led by private consultant Denver Miller, the Brea Historic Survey board presented a proposal to the Planning Commission last week which would make restoration more attractive to developers and homeowners.

However, according to Senior Planner Norm Canchola and other city officials, the proposed project would come into direct conflict with a long - standing Brea zoning ordinance.

The ordinance was passed in 1968 to encourage developers to demolish older buildings, combine small lots in the zone and build multiple family dwellings.

A problem arises, however, because the three targeted neighborhoods in the recently completed preservation proposal fall within the demolition zone, said Canchola.

"Something is going to have to give," he warned, adding that the zone was imposed by progress oriented commissioners, many of who still are on the commission.

Roger Friesen, associate
(Continued on A-2)

It's Thursday, July 23, 1981

In his report, Miller said that these communities should be preserved as an entity, because each house contributed to the historical essence of the neighborhood.

And the private consultant, from the Santa Ana - based Historic Preservation Services, offered the city a few suggestions to accomplish the task.

He proposed the addition of a city Historic Resources Ordinance to the general plan which would create an official Brea register of important vintage buildings.

These structures included Laurel Elementary School, Brea - Olinda Unified High School, Sam's Place and the Sewell building.

Miller added that membership in the register could entitle the landowners to federal and state tax write - offs, restoration grants, as well as possible eligibility in the local home improvement low - interest loan program.

Also, as part of the suggested ordinance, he recommended softening building code regulations for the registered structures, making it easier to restore them.

However, Miller assured the commission that the historical buildings would still have to meet safety guidelines.

"There is all kinds of things the city can do that they haven't even considered yet," said the consultant.

According to the report, once a building was admitted to the city's register, no renovations could be made that were not compatible with the structure's original state.

"Why change the structure when you have a beautiful building and all you need to do is

scrape some paint off the bricks," asked Miller, who with his survey board examined about 500 Brea homes.

With the rise of apartments, condominiums and other signs of progress, the board was worried that the historical communities would be invaded by incompatible buildings.

Consequently, the group added a proposal for an overlay zone, providing for city control over building requirements in the preservation areas.

Recently Planning Commission Chairman John Sutton questioned the need for the modifications to the general plan, saying that maybe the old relics were not worth saving.

"There are literally thousands of homes like this in the Southland basin," argued Sutton. "I wonder whether we are grasping for historical type houses rather than ones that typify Brea."

Miller replied that the conformity of the houses within the communities was unique. Con-

sequently, the city would suffer an irreparable loss by letting the neighborhoods be destroyed.

"Brea has something going for it and you just don't realize it," contended Miller.

During the July 14 meeting, the commission was also presented with a population survey by city planners predicting that the ultimate number of Brea residents would jump from 29,806 to 56,809.

Also, employment in the area would more than double at 37,500 workers.

However, said Associate Planner Friesen, the figures teetered on whether the land zoned for development was preserved for historical reasons or cleared for high - density dwellings.

Kough Draft

THE SETTLEMENT OF THE TOWN OF BREA AND THE "BOX HOUSE"

Also called Juntas House. Moved to 10 block of Redwood Av & restored

~~Mission San Gabriel had little or no influence in this area.~~

Review

The Spanish flag flew over California from 1769 to 1822. In 1822 California became a part of Mexico, Mexico having won its independence from Spain. A Mexican land grant made ~~of~~ property, including where Brea now is, the property of Juan Patricio Ontiveros, whose father had been a member of the Portola Expedition, who camped in what is now Brea Canyon in 1769. The Ontiveros ~~Spanish~~ Rancho was in the vicinity of what we know as Los Nietos, but the land stretched to the east and adjoined the land of Bernardo Yorba. In 1848 Mexico surrendered its claim on the areas it held in California, and California became a state. Mexican land grants were divided into smaller parcels and sold to Americans arriving from the east.

In the 1890's, Mr. Horan had built his ranch house out on East Birch Street of homemade cement blocks. It was a simple two-story house, with the "summer kitchen" added on at the back. The original BCHS was built across the street from this in 1926. Dr. Davidson had built a two-story wood ranch home at the southern city limits of (Brea Blvd.) Cyrus Merrifield bought this house in 1918 and his family lived there for many years. Out on Lambert Road, beyond Stearns Lease, was the Huilte Mansion, another two-story ranch home built in 1909. ~~Although less pretentious,~~ The Yriarte Ranch home stood just north of East Ash St. Patricio Yriarte had 160 acres of land, mostly in hay. J.D. Sickers had large holdings of acreage west of town, and built a beautiful two-story ranch house a little later, in 1923, on the east side of Berry St., corner of Imperial Highway. Another ranch was owned by John Sarthou. It was located on East Elm St. He farmed the land for hay and blackeye beans. Other Basques had also settled much of the area and they raised sheep.

The first oil workers pitched tents in the hills and canyons of Brea and Clinda, near the oil wells; ~~progressed~~ *they soon* to tent houses; then to simple wood frame dwellings as the oil leases became more and more numerous. Some of the oil companies built these little homes for their employees, away from the wells. Around 1900, people began arriving and settling on the flat plateau below the hills. This area was mapped out in 1911 and known as the town of Randolph.

in Early Brea

A few houses were built (mostly by the people who lived in them) with a "hip" style roof but far more were of a pre-Craftsman or early-Craftsman style that we call a "box house". The house is a simple rectangle, and the roof has much steeper slope than the California bungalows that were built ten to twenty years later, although the time frames overlap. The word bungalow is taken from the Hindu word "Bangla" meaning "house". Weber defines a bungalow as "being in the Bengal style: a usually one-storied house of a type first developed in India and characterized by low sweeping lines and a wide veranda". Many simple houses with shallow or California type roofs were built here in the 1920's. The Santa Fe Springs museum shows this type of house as its official "oil workers' house". Later more detailed and lavish versions of this were built which came to be known as Craftsman Bungalows. The Fanning house on Madrona was one of these. So is the Casner house. Notice the roofs.

Brea The box-type house fits the criteria for a what is called the "prairie house" but the size and shape of early lots in Brea meant that the doors to these houses were on the ends, instead of at the middle of the long side. Many of these houses were in Brea, ~~originally~~ but most have been remodelled or added to in various ways. It is the silhouette of this type of house that dotted the main street of Brea in the early days, along with galvanized metal workshops, and the old three stories ~~up~~ ~~at the~~ streetscape what it was. *stores, it made, the* *list box hou*

The "box house" at 103 South Walnut stands at the corner beside three similar houses on Walnut Street. It can be seen from the intersection of Ash and Brea Blvd. and is there in at least one very old panoramic photo of the neighborhood in 1917.

This house has not been remodelled, on the outside. It has the original front porch (indented into the rectangle) with its sky blue ceiling and place for wooden porch swing. At the rear is the screened-in back porch ~~and the~~ (also indented into the rectangle) and the cement steps.

This is a typical house of the common man of early Brea. Mr. Elmer Jamison, who, with his family, lived there, worked for Shell Oil Co. more than 30 years. The box house is similar to the old "saltbox" houses of the east coast. With only one story, and no really cold weather to cope with, this structure was built much cheaper and with ~~less~~ materials of lesser value.

Typical houses of this kind are still found in ~~many parts of~~ Brea. Only a few exist in other parts of the county. *2*

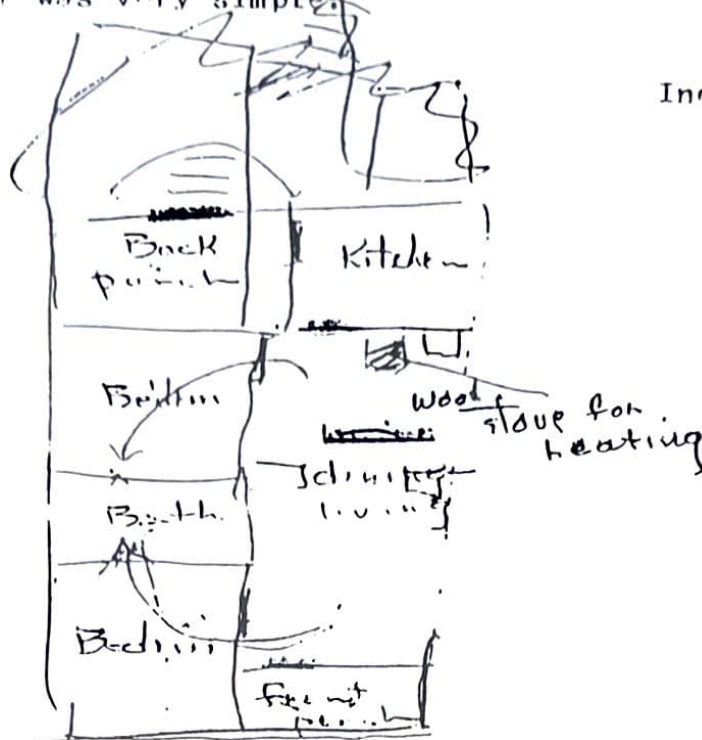
Inside the house, the kitchen's wooden drainboard and the bathroom's pull chain toilet, as well as other authentic features could be easily recreated. The backyard is typical. A galvanized metal narrow one-car garage sits on the back alley. The other corner was occupied by the ever-present chicken pen and chicken coop. Down the yard went a triple clothesline, strung at each end onto T-shaped pipes brought in from the fields. Because of being on the corner, protection from a well-travelled pedestrian sidewalk came in the form of a white wood picket fence on the north side. ~~and~~ Fences between houses were unknown in Brea's early years.

*Inez
Sept 1991
for newsletter*

The backyard of this house typified oil workers' life. At the back of the lot was the "burner" for the trash. This was contrived from a discarded round metal oil barrel, brought home from the hills. After punching holes around the edge of the bottom of the barrel, to ventilate the fire, the barrel was placed up on some bricks. (Did you know that Brea had a brick factory?). A piece of large ~~mesh~~ ^{flat} metal screen was laid over the open top, and held down with a ~~rock~~ ^{flat brick}. These burners lasted until the fifties when even commercial incinerators were outlawed to improve air quality. Whatever trash that did not go into the burner was disposed of by burying it at the back of the lot. Gasoline was often brought home for a myriad of uses. One was a home-style "dry cleaning" process in which clothes were swished up and down in the gasoline contained in a small wash tub, and then hung on the clothes line. Hills of ants ~~also sometimes were~~ ^{also were} in the backyard, and were taken care of by pouring gasoline on them and lighting it with a match.

At the south side of the house was always a vegetable garden. A rose garden took its place in later years.

Dangerous business it was!
The interior plan was very simple.



April 18, 1991
Inez C. Fanning

Pictures

Video puts Brea on record

Film team documents city's historical buildings and founding families

By **Cerise A. Valenzuela**
The Orange County Register

BREA — When Brian Saul and Scott Pettinger started filming short historical segments in Brea in fall 1989, they intended to do only 10 shows for the city's Video Brea Line, shown on Century Cable of Southern California.

But the city's historical committee demanded more video bits about Brea's historical beginnings, especially as the demolition date for most of the downtown buildings drew closer. Some demolition work started this month.

"Soon there won't be anything to look at," said Saul, a Brea Historical Society member and a kindergarten teacher at Atrovista Elementary School. "We had to document it all before it was gone."

The two filmed seven more segments.

They interviewed members of Brea's founding families and did profiles on various historical buildings, the city's citrus industry and oil fields, a railway and an old airport that not many residents knew about.

Then last summer, something clicked, said Pettinger, the city's media specialist. "We didn't think about it," he said. "It was something that just happened: We decided to put it all on one video."

Brea begins big birthday bash

By **Cerise A. Valenzuela**
The Orange County Register

BREA — The city plans to celebrate its 75th birthday in a big way — and for a year.

The city's community services department is selling a 12-month calendar, "Images," for \$10.75. Dates of important citywide events are marked on the calendar, which also has pictures of city activities, historical downtown buildings and Brea residents at work and play.

A glimpse of the old downtown as seen by the Brea Historical Society is available in the group's final walking tour Saturday. The redevelopment of downtown is scheduled to start this month and many of the buildings will be torn

down. The free tour begins at 10:30 a.m. at City Hall Park, 401 S. Brea Blvd., and travels north on Brea Boulevard to Sam's Place bar, site of the city's incorporation in 1917, and other historical buildings and homes.

The city's diamond-anniversary jubilee begins with a dinner and dance in the Brea Mall at 8 p.m. to midnight Feb. 22. Food will be catered by Edie's Creative Foods, Hubba Hubba Catering and Le Diplomate Cafe, all in Brea.

A 25-year-old time capsule will be excavated from beneath the flagpole at City Hall Park at noon Feb. 23, followed by a "living history" bus tour into the northern and eastern hills of the city. Actors will re-create historical events at tour locations such as the old Brea

Please see **BIRTHDAY** 4

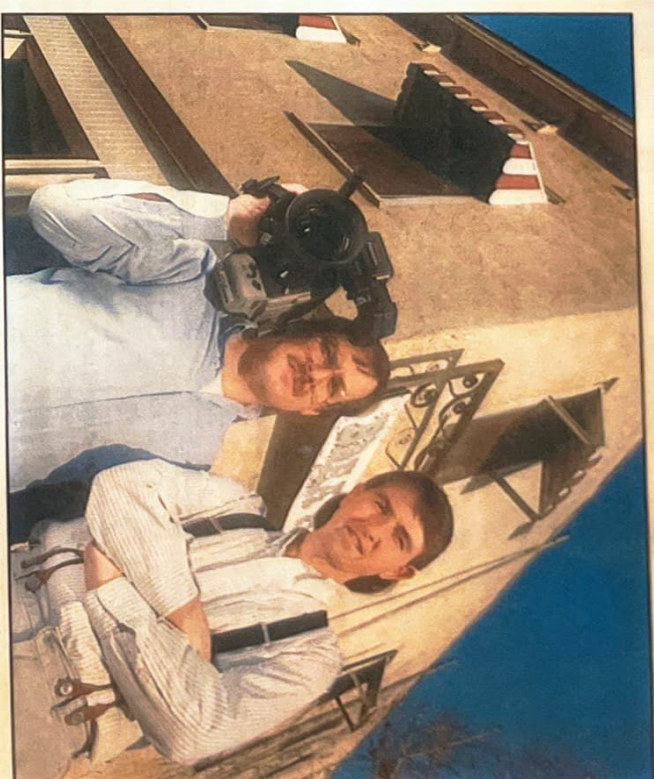
After nearly two years of filming, the 17 segments were combined into one two-hour videotape titled "Brea: A Walk in Time." The pair will have 150 copies for sale next month throughout the city for \$10.

The video, part of the Brea Jubilee celebration, is co-sponsored by the Brea Jubilee Committee and the Brea Historical Committee. About 80 percent of the proceeds will help pay for the yearlong Brea birthday celebration. The rest pays for

printing and duplication costs, Saul said.

The video begins with a view south from the top of the Brea Hotel on Brea Boulevard. It shows Sam's Place bar and the old Red Lantern Theatre on Brea Boulevard. Also shown are some of the city's oldest houses along Walnut Street, Brea's First Christian Church on Ash Street and the log cabin built behind it in 1921 and the city's old airport.

Also featured is an oil tank storage yard



Craig Wallace Chapman/The Orange County Register
It's taken two years, but Scott Pettinger, left, and Brian Saul recently completed a video history of Brea. They interviewed families who lived in Brea for many generations.

where two tanks were struck by lightning in 1926. That sparked a fire that spewed hot oil into the citrus groves and onto nearby railroad tracks. The oil was so hot that the tracks warped, Pettinger said.

The video ends with a look at the Brea Marketplace built in 1991 along Birch Street and a view from atop the Embassy Suites Hotel on Birch Street.

Saul said the video includes more than 100 historical photographs of Brea and glimpses inside old buildings.

"Every city should have a video like this," Pettinger said. "You can just watch it and you'll know everything there is to know about the city."

"When I came here two years ago, there

Please see **VIDEO** 4

VIDEO: Families and historical sites get taped to record past

FROM ¹
was nothing on video to show the historic value of Brea. Now I know more about Brea than I do (about) my own hometown of Rochester, N.Y."

In one segment, the two tried to show how Indians used tar to line their baskets and make them watertight, he said. But his and Saul's experiment was a disaster. "I always wanted to see if it would work," Saul said. "I heated the tar all day and scooped it up with my (rubber-gloved) hand. The tar went right through the basket and the basket stuck to my hand, all on camera. I had to laugh."

Another time, they filmed a man

driving away after he hit Saul's parked car.

"A man was pushing his car away from mine because he had hit my car," Saul said. When Saul walked up, the man asked him to help push, and Saul told the man it was his car he had hit.

"His mouth just dropped and I agreed to push (his car) away but said we'd have to call the police," Saul said. "As we were pushing, the man got in his car and drove away."

"Funny thing is, Scott got it all on tape and got a close-up of the license plate, and the police later caught him."

BIRTHDAY: Party to last for one year

FROM ¹
Steward oil-tank farms. Tours will depart from City Hall Park at 1 and 3 p.m.; tickets are available for \$5 in the city's Community Service Department.

A tour of historical homes is scheduled for April 4, a parade and community picnic will be held May 16, and the "Brea Then & Now" photo exhibit opens in the Brea Gallery on June 13-Aug. 7.

Brea's annual July Fourth fireworks show at Brea Olinda High School will be paired with a county fair at City Hall Park this year, and the city will dedicate a new time capsule at noon Dec. 6.

Two books about Brea's history will be available this year.

"Brea — The City of Oil, Oranges and Opportunity," produced by the city, may be purchased through the jubilee information hot line at 990-7771.

"Brea: Celebrating 75 Years" will be published by the Brea Historical Society in October and can be ordered from the society. For more information, call 256-2283.

Historic building's fate still remains uncertain

City makes efforts to find new owner

By Toby Hill
North County News

The future of an artifact of Brea's earliest days remains uncertain as the Redevelopment Agency continues efforts to find a buyer for the historic Chiropractic building on Birch Street.

The building's front face belies its rich history. "CHIROPRACTIC," it reads over an arched doorway.

But if one walks around to the small office's west side, where an old Pacific Telephone Co. emblem is painted, its past is made clear.

The 640-square foot Spanish-style office was built in 1925 and housed the city's first telephone exchange until 1948. But its years as a standing piece of Brea history may be coming to a close.

The Redevelopment Agency, which owns the building, wants the building moved to make way for future development.

There is no plan set for the land where the Chiropractic building sits, but the area has been zoned for mixed commercial-residential use, said Redevelopment Services Director Sue Georgino.

The agency has been soliciting bids for more than a month, and has held two open houses for prospective buyers.

An article encouraging readers to "own a bit of Brea's past" also

was printed in the current edition of Brea Line, the city newsletter. The buyer would have to relocate the building to his own property.

"No one's even called to to express an interest in the building," said Redevelopment Assistant Kimberley McAllen. And now time is running out. Bids must be submitted by Dec. 6, but Georgino said there is no date set for the building's destruction should a buyer not come forward.

The Historical Committee had tried for three years to figure out a use for the building, said Brian Saul, committee chairman. Unable to come up with a proper use, the committee recommended the Redevelopment Agency put it up for sale.

Saul said the Pacific Telephone switchboard worked out of the building until 1948, when the city was wired for direct dialing and the exchange closed.

It opened Sept. 5, 1925, and served about 300 subscribers in its early days, said Esther Cramer, author of "Oil, Oranges and Opportunities," a history of the city.

"For the next 23 years, local switchboard operators would assist Brea callers — their familiar reprieve, 'Number, please,'" Tereasa Hampson writes in her book, "Brea: Celebrating 75 Years."

The building was used as a chiropractor's office starting in 1991, but closed soon after, said Cramer, who was unsure what it was used for between 1948 and 1991.

"For awhile the equipment just sat there," she said.



The historic building in Brea needs to find a way to move.

M. Loren Hernandez, North County News

Telephone exchange workers recall office's role

By Toby Hill
North County News

From the mid-1920s to the late '40s, they manned important pipelines, not of oil, but of communication, keeping early Brea residents in touch with each other and the outside world.

And some of them still live in the city they served those many years ago.

Hazel Rune, who worked on Brea's telephone exchange for 20 years, said her job brought a personal touch to telephone communication that is missing these days. "We knew just about everyone," she said, "and we'd visit with people."

"I loved it," said Margaret Newstrand, who began her 21 years at the Brea switchboard when she was just a teen-ager.

Newstrand said a sisterhood developed among the seven operators who worked in the office. She and Rune are still in touch. They occasionally go to lunch and reminisce about their former occupation.

"It kept you pretty busy most of the time," Rune said.

Newstrand recalled working during a major earthquake in 1932. The tremor's epicenter was in Long Beach but the shaking could be felt in Brea, where damage was limited to a few broken windows and fallen bricks.

Newstrand had been off that day, but one of her co-workers, who was the only one on duty at the time, had more work than she could handle. Newstrand went in to help that afternoon and worked until 11 p.m., trying to patch concerned resident's calls through.

After the Brea exchange closed, both Rune and Newstrand continued working for Pacific Telephone at different locations until they retired.

Perhaps their years at the Birch Street building contributed to their company loyalty.

"It was small but it was really home to us," Rune said. "We really did have kind of a family there."

Oldsters Resurrect Scrapbook Of Yesterdays



THROW THE SWITCH — Dorothy Mahan of Brea simulates the hair-raising experience of giving Marjorie a body wave, the old-fashioned way. The curling machine and the hair dryer are part of the Brea History exhibit opening tonight at the civic-cultural center gallery.

By Tony Saavedra
DSP Staff Writer

BREA — Everything was a lot bigger in the old days, an era of three-foot radios and hair dryers the size of floodlights.

And it seems everything was a lot cheaper.

"Me and my wife would get a dollar, go to the Fullerton show, get a hamburger and buy a big glass of orange juice, and still have 20 cents left," said 74-year-old Dyer Bennett, a longtime Brea resident.

The memories poured from Bennett and other senior citizens Thursday as they hammered, painted and prepared for tonight's 7 p.m. opening of the Brea Historical exhibit at the civic-cultural center gallery.

Stooping over a table, Bennett gazed at a Brea - Olinda High School scrapbook from the 1930's.

The city's resident sports fanatic, Bennett gingerly studied each page as if he were a law student searching for a loophole.

He commented on the various basketball players and football

teams of the past, remembering days of athletic glory.

Suddenly, his attention froze on the picture of "Miss Popularity 1932" — it was his late wife, the former Edith Mallory.

"We used to sit in the loge section at the movies — it was darker up there," said Bennett, with a mischievous grin. "This book brings back a lot of memories."

Around the corner, more tales were being resurrected as 73-year-old Dean Millen piled orange crates for the display on Brea's once - thriving citrus industry.

Millen stopped for a moment to talk about a gas pump which he had restored and brought to the exhibit.

Manufactured around 1920, the 7-foot pump spurted gasoline in 1, 2, 3 and 5-gallon increments.

"I remember lining up holding my 5-gallon gas can, the way people today line up with their cars," said Millen.

Displaying roughly 70 rare photographs, as well as maps, farm equipment, clothes and other artifacts, the six-week exhibit is bound to stir more memories around the community.

The display is the culmination of a local history project to uncover and record Brea's past, through interviews and research by Cal State Fullerton's Oral History Department and the Brea Historical Coordinating Committee.

The groups began working on the exhibition last year after receiving a \$7,500 state grant and raising another \$13,000 locally.

Dr. Lawrence deGraaf, a history professor from CSUF, said the money would be used, among other things, to produce and publish an oral history on Brea.

While city officials have already begun lauding the exhibit.

(Continued on A-2)

It's Friday, December 3, 1982

Daily Star-Progress

La Habra/Brea, California

Jobless Rate Soars

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. unemployment rate soared to a post-Depression record of 10.8 percent in November, the government reported today. With 440,000 people joining the jobless rolls, there were 12 million Americans out of work.

Unemployment rates for virtually every category of worker — whites, full-time employees, blue-collar and white-collar, adult men and women and Hispanics — reached the highest levels in four decades, the Labor Department said.

Pricate economists said unemployment was expected to worsen in December, regardless of any Christmas holiday surge in retail spending.

The 0.4 percentage point increase in the jobless rate was more than enough to eclipse the previous post-Depression record of 10.4 percent established only a month earlier, the highest since 1940.

Since July 1981, the unemployment rate has leaped by 3.6 percentage points. The calculations, adjusted to take into account seasonal variations such as school closings and weather, showed that the number of people officially classified by the government as unemployed has soared by 4.1 million in that time.

Among construction workers alone, the jobless rate was 21.9 percent, a decline from the 23 percent posted in October. The drop was not explained. Congress is moving toward enactment of a nickel-a-gallon increase in the federal gasoline tax to finance a road and bridge rebuilding program. That legislation would create an estimated 170,000 jobs in construction and another 150,000 in allied industries, the Reagan administration estimates.

Continuing weakness in heavy manufacturing accounted for much of the jobless increase last month, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as a survey of business establishment payrolls showed a loss of 165,000 jobs.

The 10.8 percent unemployment rate was the highest since the nation recorded an annual average 14.6 percent unemployment in 1940, the last year of the Great Depression.



Here's Looking At Ya

(Star-Progress Photo by Leri Shepherd)

Brea Olinda High School student Steve Roman, 15, waits on a Brea Boulevard bus bench, unaware of the watchful eye that hovers near him.

City Worker Injured In Tuesday Windstorm

LA HABRA — Tuesday's windstorm claimed a human casualty Thursday when a city worker was injured while cutting fallen tree limbs.

Public Works Director Jim Harkins said Richard Moody, 40, lost control of a circular saw he was using to cut tree limbs when the saw cut deep into his left thigh.

A La Habra resident, Moody was working on Parkwood Street when the incident occurred. He was rushed to La Habra Community Hospital by co-workers, Harkins said.

A hospital spokesman said Moody had been treated for the injury and was in stable condition.



FUHSD Has Say In YL Decision

By Gary Harmon
DSP Staff Writer

FULLERTON — Yorba Linda residents will have to get permission from a majority of Fullerton Union High School District voters to secede from the district and build their own high school.

A 5-2 state Supreme Court decision handed down Thursday denied the state Board of Education's contention that the Yorba Linda Elementary School District needs only a vote within that district to unify. A unified district contains kindergarten through 12th grades.

A move toward unifying the Yorba Linda district began in 1976 and in 1978, Yorba Linda voters supported unification in an advisory vote.

The state Board of Education's procedures called for a unification election to be held only in the Yorba Linda district.

The Fullerton Union High School District, however, took the question of who should vote to Orange County Superior Court contending that a unification vote in just Yorba Linda would violate the one man, one vote provision.

Fullerton's attorney, Spencer Covert, noted the high school district has always believed a vote would have to be district-wide. "And they (the Supreme Court) went along with us."

The court also ruled the Yorba Linda district would have to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act to unify. The act would come into play with the proposed building of a new high school in Yorba Linda for the 1,000 to 1,100 students who now attend Troy High School in Fullerton.

Yorba Linda is the only one of Fullerton's Elementary feeder districts that is not contiguous to Fullerton's boundaries. Parents in Yorba Linda are concerned about the bus ride their children take across the Placentia School District to get to Fullerton.

"I still think the (Yorba Linda) people should have the opportunity" to vote on unification, said Yorba Linda Superintendent Sterling Fox.

Supreme Court Justice Allen Broussard, who wrote the decision, said an election limited to Yorba Linda would be unconstitutional because it would deny equal protection for all Fullerton district residents.

The Fullerton district has seen enrollments decline and the loss of Yorba Linda students "would have district-wide ramifications," said Fullerton Superintendent Walter Ziegler.

"If we were to lose those students, it would certainly bring about the closure of another high school quickly," said Assistant Superintendent Robert French. Closing a school would bring "tremendous disruption" for staff and students, French said.

The Supreme Court decision remanded the issue back to Orange County Superior Court where the Fullerton district position was originally favored. The state Board of Education appealed Superior Court Judge Robert Kneeland's ruling in favor of the high school district later. That ruling was overturned by a state Court of Appeal before going to the Supreme Court in November a year ago.

Joining Broussard in the decision were Chief Justice Rose Bird and Justices Stanley Mosk and Frank Newman. Justices Otto Kaus and Frank Richardson dissented, saying equal protection was not violated by the Board of Education procedures.

The court majority did rule that the unification plan "substantially complied" with the Education Code, but awarded court costs to the Fullerton district.

Good Evening!

A Freedom Newspaper
66TH YEAR
NO. 171
SEVEN SECTIONS
(80 PAGES)

The Weather

Fair, but some high clouds at times tonight and Saturday. Slightly warmer Sunday with highs 65 to 75. Lows tonight 38 to 50.

Quotable Quotes

The cruellest lies are often told in silence — Robert Louis Stevenson, Scottish-born writer (1850-1894).

Of Historical Interest

The oil boom in La Habra and the surrounding areas prompted the Union Oil Company to add a new ship to its fleet, the La Habra, in 1914. The La Habra shipped crude to San Francisco for refining.

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Dateline Today:



Statewide

Governor May Appoint Cousin

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Gov. Edmund Brown Jr. may appoint his insurance broker-cousin to a seat on the Marin County Board of Supervisors, the Los Angeles Times said today.

Harold C. Brown Jr. of San Anselmo denied any "family pressure" on the governor to name him to the spot vacated by Barbara Boxer, a Democrat who was elected to Congress.

"That's a fallacy as far as I'm concerned," Harold Brown said. The governor has not said whom he will appoint to the \$26,608-a-year post. But a source close to the governor said he "wouldn't be surprised" if he names his cousin before he leaves office Jan. 3, the paper said. The Times did not identify the source.

Ms. Boxer, elected to Congress in the Nov. 2 election, resigned from the board before her term ended to give Brown a chance to fill the position. She hopes he will choose a woman, the paper said, since the only other woman on the board did not run for re-election. The board will be comprised of four Republican men and Ms. Boxer's replacement.

Brown said he talked to the governor several weeks ago "about my ambitions in this Marin County board regard." He said the governor "was non-committal about ing he" "wanted to see who else was in the running" and whom Ms. Boxer recommended for the job.

Brown, 37, said he sees the governor occasionally at family gatherings and the two have "what I would describe as a good working relationship — it's not a great personal friendship, by any means."

His father, Harold C. Brown Sr., and Gov. Brown's father, former Gov. Edmund G. "Pat" Brown are brothers. When Pat Brown was governor, he appointed his brother to the State Court of Appeal, from which he resigned six years later.

Harold Jr. said he believes he is qualified for the office because of his business experience, political fund-raising efforts and community work.

"I have a working knowledge of the legislative process, although I've never held elective office," he said.

The governor's cousin said he has raised "hundreds of thousands of dollars" for the governor's campaigns.

Cal Jobless 11.2 Percent

SACRAMENTO (AP) — California's unemployment rate in November hit a record 11.2 percent, with 1,372,000 people seeking work, officials said today.

The jobless rate was 10.7 percent in October and 8.1 percent in November 1981. Nationally the rate was 10.8 percent in November, a 42-year high.

The number of unemployed seeking work increased by 53,000 in November, according to the U.S. Labor Department report released by state officials. Since last November, the jobless total has increased by 416,000.

Less than 40 percent of the unemployed — 516,430 people — were receiving regular jobless benefits, officials said.

New or initial claims for unemployment benefits in November also reached a record total, 83,704, compared to 77,350 in October. The state said one reason was that unusually wet weather caused above-normal layoffs in agriculture and construction.

Employment totaled 10,849,000 in November, a decline of 103,000 from October and 66,000 lower than a year ago.

The construction industry continued its long slump, with employment down by 84,700 jobs, or 19.5 percent, from a year ago. Manufacturing jobs declined by 5.5 percent during the year, retail trade by 1.2 percent, and government by 1.1 percent. Jobs in service industries increased by 1.9 percent and wholesale trade jobs by 1.2 percent.

While the unemployment rate was the highest since California started its present system of record-keeping in 1970, it was lower than that of several other industrial states: Michigan, 17.2 percent, Ohio, 14.2 percent, Illinois, 13.2 percent, and Pennsylvania, 12.1 percent. The New York rate was 9.9 percent.

International

Reagan to Discuss Drug Shipments

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — President Reagan, moving north on his four-nation tour of Latin America, arrived here today for talks with Colombia's new leader about the country's huge exports of marijuana and cocaine to the United States.

The president was greeted at the military terminal of El Dorado Airport by President Belisario Betancur and the Colombian presidential honor guard. After a 21-gun salute, the presidential band played the national anthems of both countries.

For security reasons, the international section of the airport was closed to regular passengers. Heavy security was evident throughout the city.

Reagan flew here from Brazil for a half-day visit. State Department officials said Reagan was prepared to discuss Colombia's huge drug exports and Reagan's campaign for strict narcotics controls.

Gas Tax Boost Fares Well

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan's proposal to increase the federal gasoline tax is moving easily through the House, but his controversial MX missile plan appears headed for a tough House floor fight next week.

Lobbied hard by Reagan and top administration officials, the MX barely survived a move Thursday in the House Appropriations Committee to deny a request for \$968 million to produce the first five of 100 proposed missiles.

A motion to cut the money from the fiscal 1983 defense spending bill failed on a 26-26 vote.

The president had a far easier time Thursday with the House Ways and Means Committee, which gave voice-vote approval to his plan to boost the gasoline tax from 4 cents a gallon to 9 cents to finance highway, bridge and mass transit repairs.

The tax increase, which has the support of leaders of both parties in Congress, would raise an estimated \$5.5 billion a year at an annual cost to the average motorist of about \$30 a year, according to administration officials.

In other congressional business Thursday:

—The House Public Works Investigations subcommittee voted 9-2 to cite Anne M. Gorsuch, head of the Environmental Protection Agency, for contempt of Congress for withholding documents dealing with the toxic waste cleanup program.

Acting on Reagan's orders, Mrs. Gorsuch invoked executive privilege in refusing to turn over what she called "sensitive documents found in open law enforcement files."

The contempt citation goes to the Public Works Committee. Approval there would send it to the floor. If approved by the House, Mrs. Gorsuch could face prosecution.

—The House, by voice vote, approved a plan for permanently disposing of highly radioactive wastes from nuclear power plants. The bill envisions an underground repository to bury the wastes 2,000 to 3,000 feet under ground for 10,000 years. The proposal was sent to a House-Senate conference committee.

—The House Appropriations Committee approved a bill prohibiting the Interior Department from granting oil drilling leases off much of the California coast and in wilderness areas.

—The House refused, 241-168, to accept a Senate proposal to ban imports of uranium for the nation's utilities if the imports rise substantially.

—The Senate Appropriations Committee approved a \$11.5 billion foreign aid bill that provides \$475 million more than the \$1.3 billion the administration requested for direct military assistance to Israel.

Daily Star-Progress

(USPS 146-300)

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Evening Miss Service

If your carrier fails to deliver your evening Star-Progress, please call either (213) 497-1734 or (714) 529-2144 not later than 7 p.m. and a copy of the newspaper will be delivered to your home on the very same day.

Local News

Readers wishing to share news from their communities may do so by contacting a news staff member of the Daily Star-Progress at (213) 497-1734 or (714) 529-2144. Here's who to contact:

Letters To Editor: Don J. Clever
La Habra News: Gary Harmon
Brea News: Tony Savanna
Entertainment: Barbara Glanville
Sports: Paul Click
Lifestyles, Church: Tricia Glanville



A CLARINET CAROL — Members of the Brea elementary school honor band took out a few Christmas songs at the city's Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony Thursday night. Roughly 400 residents gathered at the civic-cultural center to listen to local choirs and bands and — most of all — visit with Santa Claus.

Former Liberace Bodyguard Warned To Drop Lawsuit

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Scott Thorson, who filed a \$113 million palimony suit against entertainer Liberace, has been warned to drop the suit or risk bodily harm, Thorson's attorney says.

Attorney Michael B. Rosenthal said Thursday that he and Thorson, who claims to have had an "intimate sexual and emotional relationship" with Liberace for six years, have received threatening calls since filing suit in October.

Rosenthal also said someone fired two shots through his office window Tuesday night or Wednesday morning, but he was not in the office. Thorson said he received a threatening call Tuesday night.

"We're in fear for our safety, very honestly," Rosenthal said. "When people — I'm not accusing them, I'm not divulging it either — shoot into a person's office, I mean, my God, I've never been shot at before and it's frightening. The same for Mr. Thorson."

Two people have been arrested in connection with the shooting, but a possible motive was unknown, said police Sgt. William Welch.

"Mr. Thorson said he had received a call earlier that same evening and that he was told if he did not drop the case that he would be set up or injured," Welch said.

Police had not questioned Liberace in the case, Welch said. A spokesman for the 63-year-old Liberace called it "preposterous" to suggest that the entertainer had Thorson threatened. "I can wholeheartedly say that Mr. Liberace did not threaten Mr. Thorson," said Jamie James. "That would be totally outrageous."

Neighborhood Housing Nears Fundraising Goal

LA HABRA — Recent contributions to Neighborhood Housing Services of La Habra have brought the organization "within striking distance" of its \$65,000 fundraising goal this year, NHS Executive Director Glenn Hayes said.

The contributions from Allstate Foundation, Bank of America Foundation, City National Bank, Downey Savings, Lincoln Savings and Southern California Bank brought this year's donations to more than \$50,000, Hayes said.

"Our finance committee has done a good job of letting potential contributors know that NHS is a worthwhile program," Hayes said.

"Older neighborhoods don't remain static," said committee chairman Jerry Thomas. "They either improve or decline and NHS is the single best way to get the most bang for your buck."

Thomas is the chief executive officer of Quaker City Savings Associations. Other members of the committee are Landmark Bank President Craig Collette, Mercury Savings Executive Vice President Charles Bottomley and neighborhood resident James Bennett.

NHS provides free home improvement counseling to La Habra homeowners and maintains a revolving fund for those who cannot qualify for conventional financing.

Dreyfuss Pleads Innocent

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Actor Richard Dreyfuss today pleaded innocent in municipal court to two felony counts of possessing cocaine and a pain-killer drug.

Dreyfuss, who could face sentences ranging from a drug diversion program to a multi-year prison term if convicted, would not comment on the proceedings. But he said, "I'm very glad that no one was hurt."

Court Commissioner John Murphy set a Dec. 16 date for a preliminary hearing for the Academy Award-winner.

Dreyfuss was charged in October with possessing cocaine and oxycodone, a pain-killer commonly known as Percodan. Authorities allegedly found the drugs in his clothing while Dreyfuss was being examined after an auto accident.

Dreyfuss' attorney, Howard Lowe, would say only that police had tested the actor's blood for alcohol and drugs after the accident and all tests were negative.

The 34-year-old actor is free on \$2,500 bond.

Dreyfuss was booked Oct. 11 while hospitalized for treatment of injuries sustained when his car flipped over and hit a palm tree on Benedict Canyon Road in Beverly Hills.

Personnel at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center found 0.7 of a gram of cocaine and 31 Percodan tablets in Dreyfuss' clothes, said Al Albargate, spokesman for the Los Angeles County district attorney's office.

The actor's injuries were not serious and he was released a few days after the accident.

The actor could be eligible for a six- to 12-month drug diversion program because there was no evidence of violence or that the drugs were to be sold, Albargate said.

Dreyfuss appeared in "Jaws" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," and won an Oscar for best actor with the 1977 film "The Goodbye Girl."

Southern California Bank

Oldtimers...

(Continued from A-1)

deGraaf said he was worried that all the memories would be put back in the attic after Jan. 14, when the display closes.

"I hope Brea doesn't repeat the mistake of the Los Angeles Bicentennial," he said.

That "mistake" occurred when the bicentennial committee could not find a permanent place for its display.

Consequently, the Los Angeles Bicentennial exhibition was dismantled and the items returned to the contributors.

"All these Brea items may also have to go back if we can't find a permanent place for them," said deGraaf, adding that the historical society has discussed using part of the old City Hall building on Brea Boulevard as a museum.



NHS APPROACHES GOAL — Tony Valle, left, president of La Habra Neighborhood Housing Services, thanks Southern California Bank's Gary Webster for the bank's support of NHS programs.

NEWSY SUZIE

By Susan Gaede

Former Brea on 'Seventeen Cover'
Clay Tucker, a former Brea resident outdied 2,600 males in the "Seventeen" Magazine cover contest competition. A fellow student in Clay's government class at Orange Coast College sent in Clay's photo. He placed first, so his photo will grace the February cover of "Seventeen." In addition to the magazine, Clay is the subject of a three-photo inside cover. He received \$1,000 in cash as winner of essay the contest which was based on academics and athletic ability.

Clay's Dad was a football coach at Brea, and his mom, Phillips, still teaches coach at Fanning.

People

Brea's Dorrey Brandt, 13, recently defeated Sharon Vind, a sophomore at Fullerton College in the Brea University tennis tournament. The talented Dorrey played in the National Indoor Championships in Detroit over Thanksgiving vacation and did very well.

Joseph Pedragon must have the cleanest locker in town, since he was the first winner of Brea Junior High's clean locker contest. He received \$10 for his efforts.

Did ya know department?

Jessie Thompson is retiring from the Brea Library. She's worked for the Orange County Library System for 20 years. We will really miss her, but she assures us, she'll be back in a few months, contributing to the library in the new automated circulation system. Can you imagine checking books in and out will be computerized with a wave of a wand the book will be checked in or out?

Congratulations to the following Brea-Olinda High School girls for being selected to the all Orange League volleyball squad. 1st team Jodi Kiebler and Julie Lane were named to the first team, while Colene Cross and Carrie Giboney made the second team.

Kelly Rider looked beautiful modeling fur at Bullocks fashion show.

Love

Linda Weston, 1977 Brea-Olinda High School grad is a receptionist in Phoenix, Arizona for Maple Brothers Molding, where she met her new husband Joe Reis they were married Oct. 30.

Gymnast Qualifies

Tamara Swindle an Anovita 4th grader, is a gymnast for the North Orange County YMCA Stalder's team. She competed in a district meet recently in Chula Vista and qualified for the Class III State Gymnastic meet that will be held at Sunday at Pierce Jr. College.

Busy Time in Brea

Lots happening in Brea this weekend. The 2nd annual tree lighting ceremony is tonight, at 7 p.m. "Barefoot in the Park" a fun play begins tonight and another performance on Saturday at the high school.

The Brea Historical Exhibition on Friday. The exhibit continues through Jan. 4.

Also on Friday there will be the big CIF matchup between Brea and Fullerton at 7:30 p.m. at Fullerton High School.

The Brea Varsity basketball squad meets Sonora, at Sonora High School on Saturday.

The Brea Soroptimist Club Holiday Auction will be held at the Civic Center on Saturday Dec. 4.

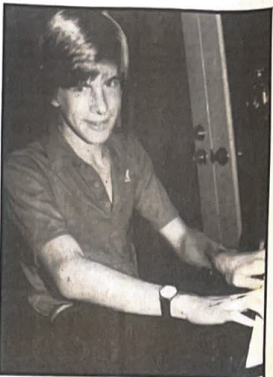
"Gifts for Grannies" and friends a Saturday and Sunday gift boutique will be held at the home of Anita Poland, 435 S. Redwood, from 10 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. Don't miss this one...okay?



Advocate Photo by Susan Gaede

NEWLYWEDS

Nino Reverands and Arch Bishop Clavel participated in the wedding of Michelle Triolo and Manuel Corral Nov. 26 at St. Angela Merici Church. The newlyweds will reside in Placentia after a honeymoon in San Diego.



STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Eric Wedin was selected December Rotary student of the month. He is an 8th grader at Brea Junior High with many interests. A member of the basketball team, 52 Mantle Club, and International Relations. He also writes for the school newspaper and is on the principal's list. Wedin, a pianist, received a savings bond from the Brea Rotary Club.



JUST MARRIED

Annette Castaneda, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Righ Castaneda of Brea, and Alfonso Martinez, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfonso H. Martinez also of Brea were married Nov. 27 at St. Angela's Church.

Brea group aids Mexican orphans

Residents of five Baja California orphanages are a little better off this week because of efforts of a Brea-based group.

Members of St. Angela's Youth (SAY), joining other members of the Brea Catholic parish, traveled to Tijuana for a weekend with Los Ninos program. They took with them hundreds of pounds of food, rice, beans, flour and canned goods — all greatly needed by the orphanages in the face of the sharply devalued peso.

SAY members stayed at a Los Ninos facility on the U.S. side of the international border and made daily crossings to bring food and cheer to the poor Mexican children.

The food delivered by SAY was donated by generous shoppers at various Brea supermarkets earlier in the month.

Another Los Ninos trip is being planned for early spring, according to Sister Nancy, youth minister at St. Angela Merici Catholic Church.

Brea Band wins several awards

The Brea-Olinda High School Marching Band placed third at the 35th annual Days of the Vardugo Parade in Glendora held the weekend of Oct. 16 and Oct. 17.

Jeff Capps earned a second place trophy in the drum major category.

In the month of October, the Brea-Olinda Marching Band earned three trophies.

The Brea-Olinda High School Marching Band won a third place trophy for their performance in Division "B," class 2 at the La Habra Field Show Tournament held Oct. 30, 1982.

Under the direction of band director, Cameron Malotte, and drum major, Jeff Capps, the band performed "Spirit of Spain," "Summer Time," and "You'll Never Walk Alone." The Tall Flag unit also received a third place trophy for their performance in the competition.

WHAT'S UP IN BREA?

Find out every week from Newsy Suzie, featured in the Brea Advocate.

First Baptist Church Your Neighborhood Church Invites You to Worship With Us

Sunday school 9:30 AM
Worship Services 11:00 AM
College Fellowship Sun. 7:30
Rev. George Saunders 408 S. Flower St. at Date & Flower extension 291/292.

Youth Meetings Wed. 7:00
Family Night Wed. 7:00
Sunday Prayer Meeting - 8 p.m. 714-529-2296

OBITUARIES

Tim Wilson

Services were held for Brea resident Tim Wilson at Neels Brea Mortuary on Nov. 18. Wilson was born on Nov. 4, 1910, in Fisher, Minn. He died on Nov. 15 at St. Jude Hospital in Fullerton.

Wilson is survived by his wife, Marquerite.

Harold Wingard

Services were held for La Habra resident, Harold Wingard, on Nov. 17 at Neels Brea Mortuary. Wingard was born on June 10, 1931 in Charlebois, Michigan. He died on Nov. 14 in Fullerton.

Wingard is survived by his mother, Fannie; La Habra, brothers Robert, Charles and John.

Wingard was a member of the Fullerton Elks Club and the American legion of Fullerton.

Brea Soroptimists plan art competition

The Brea Soroptimists are sponsoring a county-wide art competition as part of their 10th anniversary activities.

The competition is open to all Orange County residents. A prize of \$500 will be presented to the person, who best interprets the theme of the art competition — 10 years of growth.

This theme commemorates the establishment of the Brea chapter of Soroptimist International and the parallel growth of the city of Brea.

Entry blanks must be turned into the Soroptimist Club of Brea by Dec. 1. The address is P.O. Box 363, Brea, Ca. 92621. Preliminary judging is set for Feb. 5.

Leads Club to open new chapter in Brea

On Dec. 9, Leads Club, a group of women in business, will open a new chapter to serve the Brea, Placentia, Yorba Linda, La Habra and East Fullerton area.

Coordinator for the club is Julia Hoch, owner and director of the Merle Norman Cosmetic Studio in Brea.

Businesswomen are invited to attend the first meeting of Leads-Brea at Kaplan's, 2112 Brea Mall, from 7:15 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. For more information and reservations, contact Julia Hoch at (714) 990-0510.

advocate

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PHONE 714-671-0431

Tom Wright News Editor
Jenny Tenner Account Executive
Ken Bond Circulation Director

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Bloodmobile to make local stops

The Orange County Red Cross traditionally experiences a slowdown in blood donations during the months of December and January because people often don't think about donating blood during the holiday season.

Association presents November awards

Popular awards at the Nov. 10 meeting of the Brea Art Association went to William Galvez for his oil painting done in the style of the Old Masters and in the Craft Category Dave Kreps received the award for a wood carving.

Hazel Jordan, of Brea, received her first place award for a watercolor in the advanced category. Bob Shuman received second place in this category with his landscape in acrylic. This place in this category went to Virginia Montague for her watercolor.

In the intermediate category, Edwin Drake took first place with his acrylic while Sister Claire Michael placed second with her oil painting and Kay Gundersman completed this category by accepting third place with her acrylic.

The B & W Blueprint Co. award went to Ervil Homies while Leon's Frame Co. certificate award was won by Marie Smith.

Bob Bates will be a guest at Wednesday meeting and will give a demonstration in acrylics. He is well known for his Walter Foster Book and has had paintings published in Bernart Picture Company in New York.

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day season. Red Cross bloodmobiles will appear in the following Orange County communities during the month of December.

According to Dr. Harold Kaplan, Orange County Red Cross Blood Services director, "Blood donations generally slow down at this time, but sick and injured patients need blood. It only hurts when you don't."

The bloodmobile will be at the Brea Community Hospital, located at 380 W. Central, in the Conference Room from 1:45 to 6:30 p.m. For appointments call (714) 855-5381 extension 291/292.

The bloodmobile will be at 299 W. Greenwood, from 10:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For appointments call (714) 855-5381 extension 291/292.

The bloodmobile will be sponsored by La Habra Noon Lions on Dec. 18, the bloodmobile will be at 299 W. Greenwood, from 10:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For appointments call (714) 855-5381 extension 291/292.

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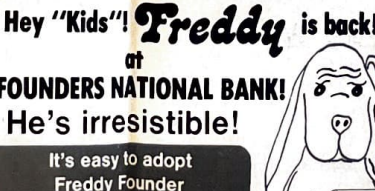
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From oil field to malls, work marks Brea's birth

By Robert Chow
The Orange County Register

Do you remember Hall of Fame slugger Babe Ruth pitching runs into the outfield? Or the "Top Gun" school for World War I fighter pilots? Brea, Calif., was almost named Randolph, after the land baron who wanted so badly to be its namesake.

There are among a few of the highlights recorded in Sister Riddle Cramer's new book, "The City of Oil, Oranges and Opportunity," published in May.

Crane, a local history newspaper archives and historical writings, Cramer has woven a colorful anecdote-laden account of the people and events that created and shaped the city as we know it today. The book includes about 125 photographs.

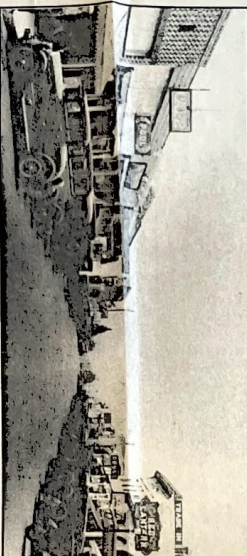
Brea gave the award-winning historian Crane a \$10,000 honorarium to write the book as part of the city's 100th anniversary celebration. The book chronicles the struggle to build a railroad, provide a source of water and tap the fabled oil fields. It also tells the story of the later that drew most people to the area and later gave the city its name.

Brea became notorious for the "roughnecks and rousters" who lured in the oil fields by day and cruised at the saloons in the night. The largest citrus grove in the world, during the heyday of the Bascom Ranch, which spanned about 3,000 acres in 1910, provided Brea a contribution to aviation in the early 1900s and the great beachhead built in 1924 between Brea and the great World War I shipyard in Long Beach, who grew up in Oxnard.

Among the book's shortcomings as a historical work is Cramer's



Photo: Walter Johnson, left, and slugger Babe Ruth pose before the 1924 game played at the Brea Bowl.



A street scene in Brea just north of the Birch Street-Pomona Avenue intersection in the early 1920s.

Failure to recognize the significance of the construction of the Orange (57) has shaped Brea as much as the exploration for oil and the growing of citrus. The freeway helped transform the once-isolated north county town into the urban mall-city that it is today. Except for a few Brea boys are the head of director. The city manager, now Frank Beeson, is the president of the corporation.

Best Sellers

Publishers Weekly
© 1982 Reed Publishing USA

Here are the best sellers for the week of June 15, compiled from bookstores, book wholesalers and independent distributors nationwide.

Hard-cover fiction

1. "Savage," Dan Cramer, Simon & Schuster, \$22.95.
2. "The Prisoner," John Grisham, Doubleday, \$22.95.
3. "The Day After Tomorrow," Tom Clancy, Simon & Schuster, \$22.95.
4. "The Day After Tomorrow," Tom Clancy, Simon & Schuster, \$22.95.
5. "The Day After Tomorrow," Tom Clancy, Simon & Schuster, \$22.95.
6. "The Day After Tomorrow," Tom Clancy, Simon & Schuster, \$22.95.
7. "The Day After Tomorrow," Tom Clancy, Simon & Schuster, \$22.95.
8. "The Day After Tomorrow," Tom Clancy, Simon & Schuster, \$22.95.
9. "The Day After Tomorrow," Tom Clancy, Simon & Schuster, \$22.95.
10. "The Day After Tomorrow," Tom Clancy, Simon & Schuster, \$22.95.

Hard-cover non-fiction

1. "The Silent Manager," Margaret, Gail Schneider, \$25.
2. "The Silent Manager," Margaret, Gail Schneider, \$25.
3. "The Silent Manager," Margaret, Gail Schneider, \$25.
4. "The Silent Manager," Margaret, Gail Schneider, \$25.
5. "The Silent Manager," Margaret, Gail Schneider, \$25.
6. "The Silent Manager," Margaret, Gail Schneider, \$25.
7. "The Silent Manager," Margaret, Gail Schneider, \$25.
8. "The Silent Manager," Margaret, Gail Schneider, \$25.
9. "The Silent Manager," Margaret, Gail Schneider, \$25.
10. "The Silent Manager," Margaret, Gail Schneider, \$25.

Mass-market paperbacks

1. "The Silent Manager," Margaret, Gail Schneider, \$5.99.
2. "The Silent Manager," Margaret, Gail Schneider, \$5.99.
3. "The Silent Manager," Margaret, Gail Schneider, \$5.99.
4. "The Silent Manager," Margaret, Gail Schneider, \$5.99.
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Trade paperbacks

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Books

Some timeless tales for children get new clothes

By Marc D. Luzzo
The Orange County Register

Some stories never go out of style. Many of the classic fairy tales from childhood are being reissued, or again, in new editions. Others are new stories told in the time-honored tradition of fairy tales.

The Emperor's New Clothes

37 pages, \$14.95 hardcover. Hans Christian Andersen's lesson in the dangers of vanity and the right touch of pomposity by Rik Lertman. But the real charm is in the illustrations.

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KIDSBOOKS

These are the best books for children, selected by the editors of The Orange County Register. This week's selections are:

THE EMERSON AND THE SHOE by Freda, 30 pages, \$3.95 paperback. Schoch.

Other reissues by Little, Brown include "The Little Prince" by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, "The Wolf and the Seven Little Kids" by a German author, and "The Emperor's New Clothes" by Hans Christian Andersen.

Thumbelina does get a price (of course, these arent book women only after, jilting a froggy blade-dare and her doll, full lance mode. She also never again sees her adored mother, the woman who gave her the name. But she does see her father (and now presumably is even sadler at having had and lost one).



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Biography reveals the public and the private Harry Truman

By Christopher Lehmann-Haupt
The New York Times

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It can take a year or a lifetime to complete a novel

"It is still my custom to write with my watch below me and to re-read the first chapter of the quarter of an hour I have chosen. The 250 words have been long-knowning as my watch went."

—Anthony Trollope (1815-82)

By Hilary Hulse

The Associated Press

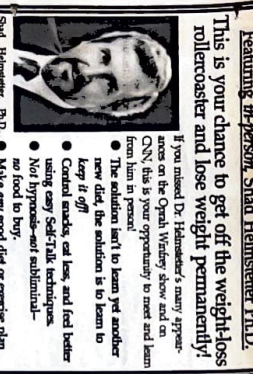
I took Harold Brodkey's advice to accomplish what I've done. I've usually done it in a year, but I've also done it in 10 years. I've published it. "Blind Caliban" in about eight months.

Why? All those years don't necessarily mean the book will be better. I mean the book will be better if you're not in a hurry to finish it. I mean the book will be better if you're not in a hurry to finish it. I mean the book will be better if you're not in a hurry to finish it.



Ernest Hemingway began "Garden of Eden" in 1925. He finished it in 1926. He published it in 1926. He published it in 1926. He published it in 1926.

Free Self-Talk for Weight-Loss Seminar



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30 PERFORMERS ON STAGE

DOYNT MISS IT

TUESDAY JUNE 23RD, 1992 7pm - 11pm

1100 N. BARBORN BL., SANTA ANA, CA

SPECIAL EVENT! ADMISSION \$5*

THE WORLD FAMOUS CALIFORNIA GIRLS

A CALIFORNIA GIRL * LUAV *

TUESDAY JUNE 23RD, 1992 7pm - 11pm

1100 N. BARBORN BL., SANTA ANA, CA

SPECIAL EVENT! ADMISSION \$5*

that take 20 or 30 years or longer. I have no idea what to do with it. I'm doing all that time."

Tom Morrison, who took about 10 years to write "Blind Caliban," also prides himself on his structure. Each work on their novel is a new beginning, he says. "I know how the story will end. I know how the story will end. I know how the story will end."

But no one had a harder time than the Russian writer Nikolai Gogol. In 1841, he began "Dead Souls," a novel about a man who collects dead souls. He never finished it. He never finished it. He never finished it.



Book of the year winner draws fire for its accuracy

In what's quickly becoming a tradition, this year's winner of the American Book Award, "Blind Caliban" by Ernest Hemingway, is surrounded by controversy.

But no one had a harder time than the Russian writer Nikolai Gogol. In 1841, he began "Dead Souls," a novel about a man who collects dead souls. He never finished it. He never finished it. He never finished it.

Books

Terry McMillan writes as she lives

By Hilary Hulse

Her books are about a real world, done in conversational style

I've didn't guess from her new novel, Terry McMillan would like a man in her life. She's not desperate, mind you. Right, just a guy with some "churnings."

But no one had a harder time than the Russian writer Nikolai Gogol. In 1841, he began "Dead Souls," a novel about a man who collects dead souls. He never finished it. He never finished it. He never finished it.



McMillan's "Writing to Exhale" tells of four women.

Good god Almighty. This man is just perfect. He's a man in her life. She's not desperate, mind you. Right, just a guy with some "churnings."

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Brea News-Times

"The Talk of the Town"

Vol. 12 No. 89 Zone 25

Wednesday, Dec. 15, 1982

A Media General Publication

Price 25 cents



Daniel R. Browning/News-Times

SANTA COMES TO TOWN

Santa Claus (Ray Torres) delighted youngsters at John Tynes School Thursday when he popped up at a Rotary luncheon and Kris Kringle gift give-away. For more photos see page 3.

Local Artist Thanks Eye Bank With Special Christmas Card

By Anita-Vardanian-Schuber

Her vision was slowly fading. When Dorothy Carpenter contracted measles, at age 2 she began to develop eye ulcers which, in healing, left scar tissue over both her pupils.

But 60 years later, thanks to advances in medical technology, surgeons affiliated with the Brea-based Southern California Eye Institute were able to perform a cornea transplant in Carpenter's left eye, saving her from total blindness.

This holiday season, the 77-year-old artist continues to show her gratitude for the priceless gift of an eye donor and "the help of God." She has painted a Christmas card showing a tiny bird resting on the snow-covered bough of a cypress tree. The eye institute has arranged for the sale of this card,

and proceeds will be used to promote better vision by educating the public about eye care.

Money already generated from this fund-raiser has been used to purchase an audioplayer, which Carpenter presented to the Orange County Eye Bank last Thursday. This sound slide projector will be used to inform patients and the

public about the eye bank and corneal donation.

"They (eye bank associates) helped me regain sight, so it's a real joy to be able to share my gift with them," says the Placentia resident.

The Southern California Eye Institute was founded in Sep-

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Inside This Issue

Handicapped Children

Enjoy Holiday Treat p. 3

Brea Librarian Retires p. 3

Basketball Teams Form p. 7

Early News Deadline:

Dec. 16, noon for Dec. 21 issue,

Dec. 22, noon for Dec. 29 issue

Council Appoints Committee

Mobile Home Owners Seek Relief From Rent Increases

By Deborah Rodd

Mobile home owners in Brea say they are being held captive and they want the City Council to do something about it.

At the last meeting of the Brea City Council, Bob Cain, a resident of Crestmont Mobile Estates, said that mobile home owners are captive tenants in their parks because no lots are available for them to move their homes to.

In the past four years, mobile home owners have come before the council several times to request relief from constant rent increases. Showing captive tenancy could give the city justification for rent control.

Cain said he found only five open lots in the city and four of them are in Crestmont, "which wouldn't do me a lot of good."

He said that even if 10 lots were open in the city only 1 percent of the mobile homes could be moved. "Therefore, over 99 percent of total mobile home tenants are captive in their parks," he said.

City zoning ordinances which require mobile homes to be placed within parks have created a monopoly for a small group of park owners, Cain said.

"I am not in a rental

park by choice. I am there because your zoning laws have put me there," he said. "That is why most of the people have mobile homes in parks that someone else owns."

Cain said that the council's last action which was to form a committee of representatives of park owners and mobile home residents to work together to solve problems — had not worked. He said he and others are tired of speaking to the council and writing letters and getting no response.

"We feel it's time for the Brea City Council to get off their duffs and take some action," he said.

Councilman Sam Cooper said he had walked all five mobile home parks in the city. "While it appears that most of the parks have no rent problem, appearances are deceiving," he said. "I find the greatest problem to be rent escalation."

At Cooper's request, Mayor Norma Hicks appointed a subcommittee, composed of Councilman Carrey Nelson and Cooper, to investigate the situation and report back at the first meeting in January.

The subcommittee will see if any of the facts have changed since the issue was discussed last spring. City Manager Wayne Wedin said. They will see if it is worth the time and effort "to explore whether or not something can be done now that was not possible several months ago."

Cooper proposed that the city adopt a rent control ordinance for mobile homes similar to one in Westminster with the difference that legal costs be provided for by mobile home residents and park owners prior to any litigation, so that there would be no cost to taxpayers.

Councilman Ron Isles said that he opposed taking any action which "would embroil the city in extremely expensive litigation," although the council should continue to examine the matter and seek a solution.

City Attorney James Markman said that a lawsuit over an ordinance similar to the one in Westminster could result. "We don't have a Court of Appeals opinion that tells us you can do any form of rent control on mobile homes only."

"Some cities have done it," he said, "and there are lawsuits flying

please turn to page 15

Brea Historical Exhibition: A Trip Into The City's Past

By Gundi Thomas

Give yourself a special treat during this holiday season, and take a step back in time to Brea's past. It's all still there to be seen - from old photographs to old wedding dresses to wash tubs, from farm machinery to a permanent wave machine which looks more like an instrument of torture than an instrument of beauty.

The Brea Historical Exhibition, which runs through Jan. 14 at the Brea Gallery is more than a trip down Memory Lane (although that's certainly part of the fun.) It is an important effort to trace the evolution of the city through its various stages from oil town to

citrus-growing community to modern suburban city.

The culmination of a two-year community historical project which included Brea Citizens, local donors, Cal-State Fullerton's Oral History Program, the City of Brea, and a grant from the California Council on the Humanities, the exhibition is divided into two sections;

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Changing Community.

The Developing City is devoted to the actual land and its use: Oil (1890-1930), Citrus (1930-1955), and the Modern Era (1955-1980). Beginning with a map of the Rancho San Juan Cajon de Santa Ana Grant in 1838, subsequent maps trace the land through its ownership by Abel Sterns in 1863, its proposed communities and later housing plots, to its present day boundaries.

The space devoted to the oil era includes rare photographs, a look at two living rooms from the period, and a scale model of a 1920s oil rig built by Fred Johnson.

Of particular interest

please turn to page 4

What's Happening?

Christmas Music At Forum

Traditional and contemporary Christmas music will be performed at the Forum in the Yorba Linda Continuing Education Center by the newly organized Forum Pops Orchestra Sunday, Dec. 19.

Tickets for the 3 p.m. program are \$3. Tickets are available through the community services office of the North Orange County Community College District, located at the Yorba Linda Continuing Education Center, 4175 Fairmont Blvd., Yorba Linda, 779-8591. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Leon Gulde will direct the Forum Pops Orchestra in the holiday concert.

Special Holiday Puppet Show

Coming to Brea on Dec. 18 will be a "Special Holiday Puppet Show". Filled with all the sights and sounds of many holidays and ending with a Latin American Christmas procession and La Pinata. This entertainment is suitable for the entire family.

Since 1975, Teatro De Los Puppets has become a leading puppet company in the Southern California area, specializing in multi-cultural theatre for young audiences. The company combines puppetry, masks, mime, ethnic music, and audience participation to create theatre that is educational, entertaining, and exciting. Many of their stories are drawn from the folk tales and traditions of the Americas, while their puppets reflect the color and charm of Mexican Folk Art. With their decorative sets, and multitude of puppets, ranging in scale from 10 inches to 10 feet, Teatro fills the stage with color and life.

Teatro has performed at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Hollywood Bowl, El Pueblo Olvera Street, Disneyland Hotel, at conferences, parks, shopping malls, festivals, and for over one million school children.

Tickets are on sale at the Brea Civic Center on the 5th floor in the Community Service Department or you may order by mail. Send a check and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: The L.P. Repertory Company, 1541 Sycamore, Tustin, CA 92680. Tickets are \$2 for children and \$3 for adults. Underground parking is free. Show times are 1 and 8 p.m. Tickets available on mail orders. For information call (714) 731-2792.

Brea Police 5 & 10K Run

The Brea Police Athletic League is a non-profit organization which sponsors adult and youth sports, donates to worthy causes and attempts to improve the image of police officers. This winter, BPAL is sponsoring the Brea Olinda High School basketball tournament during the holidays. The group has also donated ten turkeys to the Brea Senior Citizen Center. A major fund raiser will be the 5K-10K Run Jan. 15, 1983. For information on BPAL, call Tom Flenniken, 990-7609.

5K - Starting Time 8 a.m. (1st Prize - \$50 - 1st man, 1st woman).

10K - Starting Time 8:45 a.m. (1st Prize - \$100 - 1st man, 1st woman).

Entry Fee - \$8, includes T-shirt.
Deadline to register - January 7
(Brea Residents - \$1 off Entry Fee, when you buy T-shirt)

In addition, more than 100 plaques will be given to winners, as well as a drawing for two days at the Ambassador Inn in Las Vegas. For information, call 990-7609. Applications may be picked up at the Brea Police Department, Founders Bank or Second Sole.

Fullerton College Holiday Music

Christmas, with all its joyous musical sounds, will take over a specially arranged Fullerton College cable television network this month - in Fullerton, Anaheim, Brea/La Habra and Orange.

Spotlighting college choirs, bands and chorales, the special network will allow three separate Yuletide programs to air simultaneously on the four cable systems serving the five communities.

The special cable network includes Anaheim's Storer system, Channel 6; Brea/La Habra's Century, Channel 3; Fullerton's Group W, Channel 32; and Orange's Cablevision, Channel 21.

Traditional Yuletide music will be highlighted Dec. 15 (Wednesday) with the annual College Chorus Christmas Concert; while on Dec. 20 (Monday), it will be the Community Band Holiday Concert, offering familiar music of the season. The specials conclude Dec. 22 (Wednesday) with the Community Chorus Christmas Concert, a package of traditional and contemporary holiday sounds. All programs begin at 8 p.m. on the special network.

Antique Toys Displayed

The Placentia Library in conjunction with the Fullerton Arboretum, during the month of December, has a small collection of antique toys in the cylindrical display case between the adult lounge and children's area.

A much larger collection of antique toys, decorations and other holiday activities of a Victorian Christmas can be seen at the Fullerton Arboretum on the campus of California State University, Fullerton through Dec. 21.

Families Anonymous Helps

Are you feeling frustrated and all alone due to someone in your family having a behavioral, alcohol or drug problem? If so, then Families Anonymous may be for you.

We meet every Monday night at St. Jude Hospital Yorba Linda, 16850 Bastanchury Road, Yorba Linda (1/2 block east of Rose Drive). Meetings are held in the cafeteria. We are a 12-step program and we use first names only. There are no required dues or fees. We have literature available for you and we come together in a spirit of friendliness. Come and see if Families Anonymous can bring peace and serenity back into your life. If you have any questions or would like more information, call Martha S., 524-5117.

West Point Parents Club Party

The West Point Parents Club (USMA) of Orange County has scheduled its annual cadet winter homecoming pizza party. This event will be held Wednesday, Dec. 22, 7 p.m., at the Lamp Post Pizza restaurant located at 17568 Yorba Linda Blvd., Yorba Linda.

This function is held to strengthen the camaraderie of the cadets, families, alumni and liaison officers. Video tapes will be available showing USMA sports activities.

For information call Rod Motley, 994-0804, or Donna Wesley, 528-6833.

YMCA Winter Day Camp

A winter hay ride, roller skating, a trip to the mountains, and a visit to the Goodyear Blimp are only a few of the activities that the Yorba Linda Y.M.C.A. offers through Winter Day Camp.

Day Camp is offered to children 5-12 years of age and takes place Dec. 20-31. Day Camp hours are 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, with extended hours (designed especially for working parents), of 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 4 to 6 p.m.

Cost for the two weeks of day camp is \$89 for YMCA members and \$94 for non-members. The fee for extended hours is \$20 for both weeks.

For information, contact the Yorba Linda YMCA, 777-9622.

Lunch With Santa: Library

The Yorba Linda District Library presents "Lunch with Santa," Saturday, Dec. 18, in the multi-purpose room of the library, at the corner of Imperial Hwy. and Olinda Streets.

A lunch of hot dogs, chips and punch will be served to children for \$1.00. Santa will talk to each child and pose for photos (parents bring your own cameras!), and each child will receive a gift from Santa.

Monies generated from the event will be used to benefit local schools. For information or reservations, call 528-0233 after 6:00 p.m.

Statewide Cremation Plan

Neels Brea Mortuary recently announced its affiliation with the Pacific Cremation Plan - a statewide network of funeral homes offering simple, low-cost cremation services.

Unlike most cremation societies, sponsors of the Pacific Cremation Plan will not charge a membership fee to consumers for arranging the Plan in advance of need.

The plan, which can be arranged in advance of need, or at the time of need, includes transfer of body from the place of death, preparation of the death certificate and disposition permit, delivery of documents to proper authorities, filing fees, a simple cremation container, cremation and assistance with Social Security and Veterans Administration benefits, when applicable from sponsors for consumers who desire additional services. For information, call Neels Brea Mortuary.

Wanna Volunteer?

Community Companion - A local health association is interested in finding concerned volunteers who may assist disabled persons in their readjustment to community living. Volunteers will work with the client and therapist on a time limited, goal oriented basis. The volunteers will receive special training designed to acquaint them with the system. Hours are flexible, and the time commitment is approximately four hours a week.

Office Assistance - An ability to perform light clerical duties and serve as a telephone receptionist is all that is necessary to aid a Fullerton agency. Hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

School Days - Two elementary schools in La Habra need assistance in their library during school hours. Help the children choose their books, shelve books and assist the librarian in her many duties.

Show and Tell - A La Habra museum designed especially for children needs tour guides to assist these groups and answer questions. Training is available, and the museum is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Meet and Greet - Anaheim is the city where the hospital is located that is looking for volunteers to man their information desk. Volunteers are needed for the evening hours and on the week-end. If you enjoy talking to people then this may be just the opportunity you are looking for.

One to One - A workshop will be held the first week in January for volunteers who are interested in working on a one-to-one basis with children. This special program will be held at a school in Placentia and is for children 4 through 8 years of age.

English as a Second Language - In Buena Park, a teacher has 35 adults waiting to learn English. Volunteers are needed to assist in this class. No special skills are needed, so if you have some time between 8 a.m. and noon, Monday through Friday, call the Volunteer Bureau.

Community Services - Bloodmobiles servicing the community are practically inoperable without the help of volunteers. There are a variety of jobs available such as receptionist, donor room aide, canteen volunteer or driver. After orientation and training you can be assigned to work at the bloodmobile nearest your home. These are on-going year 'round needs.

VICA - Starting in January a six-week training is being held for volunteers in Child Abuse. They will be held Wednesday mornings 9 a.m. to noon in Santa Ana. Volunteers from the north part of the county are especially needed. After completing the training you will be working with the parents of abused children along with staff and social worker.

To Volunteers - For these or other opportunities call the Volunteer Bureau of North Orange County, Carolann Thrasher, Executive Director, 526-3301.

YMCA Soccer Sign-ups

Registrations are being accepted for the waiting list for the Yorba Linda YMCA's Men's Soccer League.

Men will be placed on teams until Mar. 10, which is the cut off date. Games are played Sunday afternoons from February through June. Practice begins in December. Eleven games are scheduled plus a Championship Cup Playoff.

The cost is \$30 and men must be 25 years old. For information, call the Yorba Linda YMCA - 777-9622.

Opinion

The City of Yorba Linda has a unique property tax structure: there isn't any.

Funds to run the city are tied to construction starts and the current state of affairs, though not yet disastrous, offers plenty to worry about.

In a building activity report made to the city manager last week for the month of November, the total number of building permits is down 19.6 percent from 709 to 513 for the same month during the previous fiscal year.

And although building permit valuations are up for this month over the same month last year - \$7,189,496 compared to \$509,164 - the total valuations for this year-to-date is running 9 percent lower than last year, \$14,974,276 compared to \$16,440,086.

It's time city residents considered the possibility that they may have to pay property taxes in order to maintain the quality of life they moved to Yorba Linda to obtain. An alternative may include encouraging builders by loosening zoning restrictions, a suggestion sure to meet with general disapproval if the Baldwin Duplex affair taught us anything.

With economic times as difficult as they are, everyone has learned to expect sacrifices and belt-tightening. An old proverb may manifest itself in unpleasant terms unless the city takes preventative action soon: You can't have your cake and eat it too.



Rotary Brings Christmas To John O. Tynes Elementary School

The Rotary Club of Yorba Linda recently held its annual luncheon and Kris Kringle gift-give-away at John Tynes School in Placentia. Members are pictured here with the children — seen with visions of raspberries dancing to the carols of the JOTS — the John O. Tynes Singers recently returned from an exclusive engagement at the Las Vegas Motel 6 (the JOTS are teachers at the school). Ray Torres played Santa Claus.

ARTIST THANKS EYE BANK from page 1

tember 1981 by Carpenter's physician, Dr. Robert Fensal, and Dr. Clifford Terry and Dr. Jill Robinson-Terry. The organization offers a variety of training courses for eye surgeons.

This non-profit community agency is supported by funds from its tuition and donations by patients, according to Karen Lash, community affairs representative.

In addition to training physicians, the institute will soon provide the public with literature on eye care and surgery. A speaker's forum is also planned.

Lash is developing a pamphlet on cataracts, a disease which afflicts 70 percent adults over the age of 60. The information is designed to reduce the fear of undergoing cataract surgery.

"Years ago it used to take several months to recover from an eye operation, but now, through advanced technology, it's just a matter of weeks," Lash pointed out.

Carpenter, whose "had just about every operation there is," says informing the public about achievements in eye surgery is essential. "There are so many people afraid of an eye operation, but it's really a simple, painless process," said Carpenter, who learned about cornea transplants when she had her

cataracts removed. Because these operations were not available when Carpenter was young, constant eye trouble forced her to quit school after the 11th grade. Her artistic talent didn't surface until long after she was married and put three children through college. At the age of 60, she enrolled in an art class with her daughter.

"I got hooked on painting but had to quit the class because I had to sit so close to the teacher to see that I blocked everyone's view," she said. Before leaving the class, during coffee breaks, Carpenter would stand real close to the model being studied, sketch what she could see, and complete the assignment at home, where lighting has been adjusted to meet her special needs.

Carpenter's first assignment was a painting using the principles of perspective, the art of depicting objects to give the impression of distance or depth. Although she had no intentions of doing so, Carpenter sold that first painting to her gardener for \$35.

She originally painted the picture for her daughter, but after seeing it, the ground-sman wanted to buy it for his wife.

"I thought he was kidding, and tried to talk

him out of it. But he persisted, so I agreed to sell it if I painted another picture for my daughter that I was satisfied with.

And she did. In fact, using a magnifying glass and standing four inches from her canvas, Carpenter has painted many more pictures, earning blue-ribbons for several of them. She has donated a portion of her profits to the Anaheim Lions Club which purchases eye glasses for needy children.

Looking back, Carpenter believes it was this involvement with the Lions Club that provided her with an opportunity to paint this year's Christmas card.

"Dr. Fensal phoned one afternoon, and I told him I was leaving to have lunch with the Lions. He asked why, and I said 'to share my paintings with them.'"

"In surprise, he said, 'You mean you paint? well, you can do something for me!'"

For Dr. Fensal, the Orange County Eye Bank and the Southern California Eye Institute, Carpenter has donated even more of her time and creative ability as a means of saying "thank-you" for her new-found love.

For information about the Christmas card or the Southern California Eye Institute, call 990-5749.

Brea Librarian Honored During Retirement Party

By Anita Vardanian-Schuber

Friends of the Brea Library, patrons as well as city representatives said "good-bye" and "thank-you" to Jessie Thompson during a retirement party in her honor last Thursday.

Thompson has worked for the Orange County library District during the past 21 years, four of which she spent as administrative librarian of the Brea Library.

Both she and her husband will retire in January, and are considering moving to Northern California where they bought 10 acres of land four years ago.

In addition to traveling across Canada and spending more time with her family, Thompson plans to pursue such hobbies as community service, gardening and reading.

Thompson says she has enjoyed her relationship with the library staff, patrons and city employees, and has mixed emotions about retiring. "I will miss all the people I've come to know, but I've chosen to retire to lead a less strenuous life."

"I certainly plan to be active, and I won't be a procrastinator because there's just so much to do," she states.

Unless she moves from the Brea area, Anderson will continue to serve the community



Jessie Thompson

as a member of the Brea Coordinating Council, Brea Women's Club and Friends of the Brea Library.

The satisfaction of helping others is a major reason the La Habra resident has enjoyed working for the county library system. "Sometimes the daily questions that we find answers for are very important to our patrons. It's really fulfilling to know that you've helped someone."

Thompson has watched the Brea Library grow from its former 3,100 square-foot facility on Brea Boulevard to the modern, 10,000-square foot building on Number

One Circle (in the civic center).

"We were really crowded in the old building. The books were so over-stacked, they were almost dripping off the shelves," she remembers.

In its former building, the library offered patrons a selection of about 29,000 books, compared to its present inventory of 43,000. Circulation has gone up significantly since the library relocated. This past November, circulation was 16,200 as

please turn to page 19

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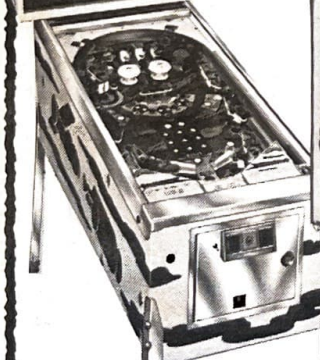
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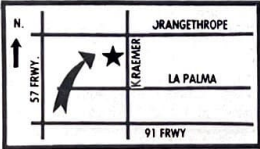
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BREA ART EXHIBITION from page 1

In this section is a pair of photographs titled: *Union Oil Company Stearns Leasing, Boarding Houses, Shops and Oil Workers*. The first photograph, circa 1912, shows a group of men, women, and children on a grassy area in front of a group of buildings. Some of the people are in carriages or on horseback. There are five automobiles in the photo.

The second photograph, circa 1917, shows a larger group of people standing on the same grassy area, in front of the same group of buildings. The trees are larger, a few more houses have been built. But in this photograph, the vehicles (and they are numerous) are all automobiles. Not a carriage or a horse to be seen.

After the 1926 oil refinery fire, until devastation by root disease in 1955, citrus was Brea's major industry. In this section, artifacts and photos combine to reveal life in the city through the Depression and both World Wars. (It is also in this section, that the permanent wave machine stands, still awaiting its next brave femme fatale.)

The Modern City covers Brea's most recent transformations. Industrial development and growth are illustrated through a combination of photographs, products and exhibits.

The exhibition's second section *The Changing Community*, focuses on government, schools and social organizations.

Included are police and fire equipment from the past and present, the Brea's Women's Club Tapestry, a note and telegram signed by Ronald Reagan, and Scout memorabilia.

Also in this section, an impressive corner depicts the history of Brea's schools with

yearbooks and textbooks pom-poms, and photographs of the 1936 Brea-Olinda High School Band, and the 1927 High School Football Team.

And finally, there is the Brea Time Line - a wall which telescopes Brea's history from the Mexican Land Grant to an aerial photograph which shows Brea as it is

today, right into the year 2,000 with an estimated population of 40,000.

The Brea Gallery is located in the Civic Cultural Center. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, noon - 5 p.m., and Thursday, noon - 8 p.m. The exhibition is free to the public.

Senator Campbell Announces Re-election

Sen. William Campbell (Rep. 31st District) recently announced his re-election as Senate Minority Leader by his colleagues in the Senate Republican Caucus.

"I am extremely gratified by the support of my colleagues for my continued leadership in the upper house of the legislature. It is my intention to continue to work closely with Governor-elect George Deukmejian and the incoming administration to bring about the kind of fiscal responsibility necessary for the functioning of California government."

The members of the Republican Caucus are united in their determination to make

whatever cuts are necessary and to reduce the size of government in order to bring California's budget into balance for this fiscal year, he added. "These are difficult and challenging times for us all, but I appreciate the confidence of the Republican Caucus in reasserting my leadership role," Campbell said.

Additionally, Sen. Campbell announced his reappointment of Sen. Kenneth Maddy, Fresno, as the caucus chairman, Sen. John Doolittle, Sacramento, as the minority whip, and the new appointment of freshman Sen. Ed Royce, Anaheim, as caucus secretary.

Happy Holiday Week At Brea Junior High

Happy Holiday Week is underway at Brea Junior High, and activities are benefitting the student body.

Wednesday is ornament contest judging. Students and staff entered their handmade and handpainted ornaments in a contest. Prizes for first place are \$5, and second place is \$3.

Thursday is Almost Anything Goes Contests

at noon. There will be a lip sync contest each lunch between the seventh and eighth graders. There will be reindeer races, and a Christmas Person Package Wrap.

Friday is red and green day and a number of students will be randomly selected and will be given to a staff member or student and the student who finds the Santa and can solve the clues will receive \$10.

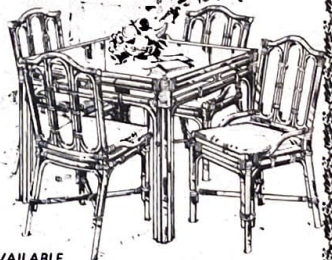
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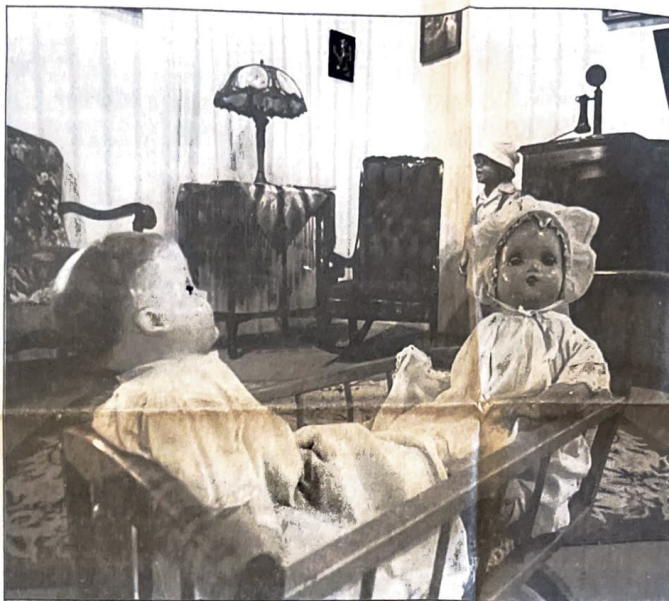
Thursday, December 30, 1982

25 Cents

Looking back with warmth at good old Brea



This photograph captures an earlier time when Birch Street and Brea Boulevard were less traveled roadways in Brea. It's part of an exhibit at the Brea Civic-Cultural Center that runs through Jan. 14.



The artifacts in the livingroom setting pictured above along with the horseless carriage gallery at-

tendent Marie Sofi is seen sitting in are some of the items featured in the Brea Historical Exhibit. The



Jess Anderson Jr. News Tribune

show is a collaboration of Cal State Fullerton's Oral History Program, the city and several Brea pioneers.

Brea enters 1983 without Wedin

By LAURA WINGARD

Brea will enter a new era in 1983 — an era without City Manager Wayne Wedin who leaves his post in February after heading the city since 1968.

But when asked what he expects to happen upon his departure, Wedin summed up his feelings in one word — "nothing."

Saying he wished he were as indispensable as some people think he is, Wedin admitted that the city will continue on course after he leaves.

"The organization is in place and there are dedicated and knowledgeable people in the city who will remain to run it," he explained.

Mayor Norma Hicks has said one of the first items on the agenda for the City Council is to find the person who will replace Wedin.

The process for completing that search is well under way, and Mrs. Hicks believes a replacement is likely to be

chosen late this year or early in 1983.

So, by February, a new city manager will probably be leading Brea. The top administrator also will have to deal with a fairly new council.

The complexion of the council changed in November when three new members — Clarice Blamer, Carrey Nelson and Sam Cooper — joined Mrs. Hicks and Ron Isles.

Wedin said he expects the coming year to be a time when the council members "will be honing a relationship among themselves."

However, he doesn't believe there will be a "dramatic change" in the council's direction, although he suspects more emphasis will be placed on stressing the human side of issues.

One of the primary issues the council will undoubtedly have to grapple with is shrinking revenues from the state.

"There is very little doubt that the relationship with the state will change... That means less, not more," said Wedin. Tightening purse strings at the federal level also will be apparent, he said.

Because of these financial realities, Wedin said, "There will be a continuing effort to make the city more economically independent."

One of the more important ways the city will attempt to achieve this independence, he added, is through the non-profit Brea Foundation, which has

already received its tax-exempt status from the state and should receive the same status from the federal government in about 30 days.

Once its fund-raising apparatus is in "high gear," Wedin said, the foundation could raise as much as \$1 million annually.

As for major projects the council will have to deal with in 1983, heading the list is solidifying plans to build a \$35 million, high-rise hotel on the Brea Mall parking lot.

During the coming year, Wedin said, the hotel's financ-

ing, legal documents and design should be completed. "It's even conceivable that there might be some construction in 1983," he said.

City officials are currently negotiating with Coast Hotel Properties Inc. of Seattle to make all of this a reality.

Wedin also predicted that the council will have to deal in 1983 with creating some sort of a master plan for the undeveloped portions of Carbon Canyon.

This will go beyond the hillside development guidelines already in place, he said. It will deal with how the canyon will develop in the next few years and what sort of roads will have to be built and improved to accommodate the development.

All of this has partly been spurred, he said, because of the firm establishment this past year of the Chino Hills State

Park, which is part of the canyon.

In addition, Wedin expects the already close relationship between the city and the Brea-Olinda Unified School District to grow even closer.

However, because the district recently hired him as a consultant to raise money — part of which is likely to come from the city's Redevelopment Agency — Wedin was reluctant to be too specific about what kind of deals may be struck between the two entities.

But, he said, he sees partnerships between the city and district "increasing, not decreasing."

His overall assessment of the city's growth and economic condition is optimistic. "While there is a need to be prudent, I think the community is still in a very positive position."

Senior Center to hold New Year's Eve Party

The Forever Young Club invites all senior citizens to attend the New Year's Eve party and usher in New Year of 1983 at the New Brea Senior Citizens Center, located at 500 S. Sievers Street, at the corner of Sievers Street and Elm Street.

A cold buffet will be served and door prizes are to be awarded. Entertainment will be provided by Cliff Craig's "Pickin' Over 50" Band, who play for

listening and dancing enjoyment. The festivities begin at 8 p.m. and the donation is only \$1.00 per person.

Join the Forever Young Club and kick up your heels at the "best deal in town" this New Year's Eve. For more information, call the Forever Young Club at 529-8852 or 529-5218, or the Brea Senior Citizens Center at 990-7750.



A Thrill

Kathy McAuley fulfills one of her duties as Miss Brea 1982 with the Xerox Corporation's Father Domenico. See more highlights of 1982 in a special Newsy Suzie column inside on Page A-2.

Murder soliciting suspect arrested

A Cypress woman was arrested Wednesday by Brea undercover police officers when she allegedly attempted to trade one ounce of cocaine as half-payment for the murder of her ex-boyfriend, a police spokesman said.

Angela Wine, 30, of 5275 Halfway Circle in Cypress was taken into custody at 2 p.m. at the Brea Plaza, following a one-month investigation by Brea narcotics officers, said Det.

Mike Messina of the Brea Police Department.

Street value of the cocaine was set at \$3,000, Messina said.

Miss Wine was booked into Orange County Jail on suspicion of soliciting a murder and possession and sales of cocaine. Bail was set at \$250,000.

Messina said detectives would file formal complaints with the district attorney's office against Miss Wine, and that she may be arraigned on the charges Friday.

NEWSY SUZIE

Reviews Brea events of 1983



JOHN LAROCHE
By SUSAN GAEDE
Brea Newsmakers

... John LaRoche, 102-year-old Brea resident and Al Capone's barber, blew out the candles on his birthday cake with a hairdryer. The birthday party was held on Feb. 14.

... Carol Churn, a former Miss Brea, was on the cover of the September "Soap Opera Stars" and featured in a full-page photo spread in her role as Melody on "Al My Children" TV soap opera.

... Brian Muma, a 1977 Brea-Olinda High School grad won a promotion contest for Steve Martin's film "Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid." The winning entry was a replica of an Army tank painted plaid and Muma rode away with the grand prize of a 1937 Ford car, valued at \$10,000, and received a \$500 gift certificate. He appeared on the television show "That's Entertainment" with his prize-winning tank.

... DeAnne Spicer, a 1979 BOHS grad, was in the December issue of Life Magazine, which did a photo spread on the L.A. Rockettes troupe. Ms. Spicer was one of the girls



DEANNE SPICER

selected for L.A. Rockettes Christmas Show.

... Phil Guarnaccia, 67-year-old Brea bicyclist and former Mr. California, placed ninth in the National Bike Championship.

... Mat and Don McBride won the off-road Barstow Classic this year.

... Don Stagnaro was featured in Newsweek Magazine discussing his Vietnam experiences.

... Cruz Reynoso, born in Brea, was appointed a state Court of Appeals judge by Gov. Brown.

... Clay Tucker, a former Brea resident, topped; 2,600 males in the



KIM KROHN AND BARRY HAGMAN

"Seventeen" Magazine cover contest competition and will grace the cover in February.

... Kim Krohn, world figure dance pair skater, appeared on an ABC sports feature.

... Candy Linne, a cocoa poodle, came in second in the Johnny Carson dog-singing contest.

... Vicki Vargas is now a weekend anchor on Channel 4 news.

... Ray Gabriel is a Knott's Berry Farm stuntman, and was featured on P.M. Magazine TV program.

... Donna Barlet and Linda Karagines both had cases on "People's Court."

... Shirley Hosler, inventor of the art technique of pane-ting was featured in



RAY GABRIEL

"Family Circle," and "True Story" magazines.

... Rozann Logan, former Brea mail carrier, became the second woman in the U.S. named to the National Association of Letter Carriers.

... Brea's street sculpture was featured in Sunset Magazine.

... Dan Lelper, Mike Vanderburg, Chris Johnston, and Paul Felix all signed professional baseball contracts.

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In spite of problems, he makes own way

By Penelope Moffet

Like many young adults, at age 20 Brian Nield is learning to make his way in the world. He lives in an Anaheim apartment with a roommate, rides a motorcycle, works at a local restaurant, takes evening classes and dates young women of similar backgrounds and interests.

Unlike most young adults, however, Nield has serious communicative difficulties — difficulties which have been with him since childhood. Understanding language and expressing himself verbally have never been easy for the young man, who graduated from the Speech and Language Development Center (SLDC) in June 1981. Nield also has a history of hearing and visual impairments.

A special education school located in Buena Park, SLDC currently serves a population of about 160 persons, aged 1 to 21, who have learning and communicative problems. Nield at-

tended the school from age 10 to age 18, during one-third of SLDC's 17 years of existence.

Through Project Independence, a program funded by Orange County's Regional Center, the youth is now making the transition from school days to the working world.

The project offers him a supervised apartment in which to live, as well as emotional support and help in learning how to handle his finances, how to maintain living quarters and prepare food, and how to deal with the adult world as an independent and productive community member. Nield, like all other Project Independence participants, pays his own way. Only developmentally disabled individuals with jobs or Social Supplemental Income (SSI) are eligible for the program, which also does not accept persons whose primary diagnosis is one of mental instability.

Andrea Erickson, Project Independence director, said Nield "skillwise does quite well." A participant for 16 months, he is

now in the program's second phase, living in "Pi North," where a few Project Independence units mingle with a large, regular apartment community under minimal supervision.

In three months or so he may go on into the "satellite program," said Ms. Erickson, and live in the community without supervision. At that time he will still be eligible for state assistance with areas of particular difficulty.

Ms. Erickson doesn't see Nield having too much trouble in the working world. "I don't worry about Brian working," she said. "He's very motivated."

Dissatisfied with shortened hours at the restaurant chain which had employed him for almost two years, Nield recently went out and found himself another position, on his own.

"He started beating the bushes for a job, and he made it," said his foster father Harry Morris, a speech therapist at SLDC. "Now he's working a full 40-hour week and he's happy as a

clown. His SSI is down, but he's happy."

Presently he works as a handyman at Hamburger House in Anaheim. Robert Stephenson, manager and co-owner of the business, said that it was Nield's "sincerity and eagerness" that won him the job.

This position is another step in Nield's steady movement toward self-sufficiency. That movement began at SLDC, where by his mid-teens he was known as the center's foremost student entrepreneur.

Something of a before-and-after school parking lot fixture, he conducted a brisk business washing cars, and did yardwork and home maintenance for the staff on weekends.

He also received training in SLDC's extensive vocational program, through which students begin exploring occupational preferences and developing work skills as early as the preschool years. By the time students reach the secondary program, vocational capabilities are strongly stressed. Aptitude

tests and assessments of technical and perceptual abilities take place, and clerical, other job skills are taught. In addition, through a home living skills program, eleventh and secondary students learn how to maintain themselves in their daily lives — grocery shopping, cooking, cleaning house, doing simple plumbing repairs, washing laundry and making beds.

Mobility training is another aspect of the vocational program — learning how to get around the county on Orange County Transit District buses.

Transition Services, an adjunct to the daily program funded by home school districts, Rehabilitation, also offers young adults individual assistance in making the shift from the educational setting to the working world.

Because of his SLDC vocational training, and because of his own intense desire to succeed, Nield was "quite a bit

ahead of the game" by the time he reached Project Independence, said Morris. Ms. Erickson confirmed this.

Unlike many of the project's participants, he is not even mildly mentally retarded. "He has an uncanny ability to figure things out, which indicates an underlying intelligence that he is unable to symbolize in verbal form," said Morris.

Brad Koerner, an SLDC secondary instructor who taught Nield for his last five years at the school, said the 20-year-old's biggest asset may be that "he doesn't realize that he's handicapped." Not only has he not let his communicative difficulties hold him back, but "he has something all of us would like to have," said vocational coordinator Judy Solomon — "courage and confidence and determination."

Koerner sees a possible future career for Nield in a cabinet shop, for the former student was one of SLDC's star woodworkers.

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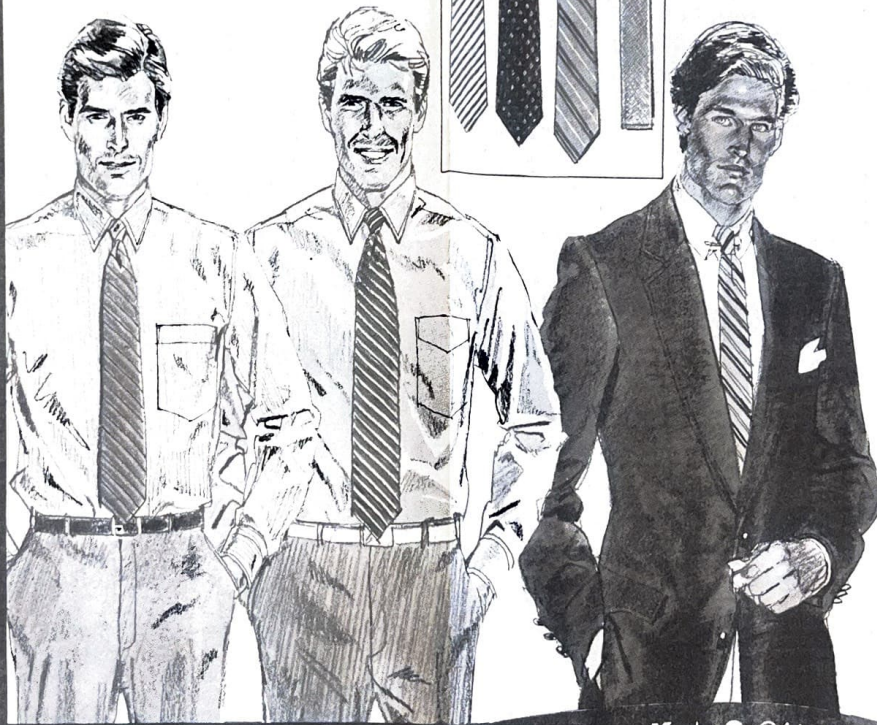
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NEWSY SUZIE

Reviews Brea events of 1983



JOHN LAROCHE

By SUSAN GAEDE

Brea Newsmakers

... John LaRoche, 102-year-old Brea resident and Al Capone's barber, blew out the candles on his birthday cake with a hairdryer. The birthday party was held on Feb. 14.

... Carol Churn, a former Miss Brea, was on the cover of the September "Soap Opera Stars" and featured in a full-page photo spread in her role as Melody on "Al My Children" TV soap opera.

... Brian Muma, a 1977 Brea-Olinda High School grad won a promotion contest for Steve Martin's film "Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid." The winning entry was a replica of an Army tank painted plaid and Muma rode away with the grand prize of a 1937 Ford car, valued at \$10,000, and received a \$500 gift certificate. He appeared on the television show "That's Entertainment" with his prize-winning tank.

... DeAnne Spicer, a 1979 BOHS grad, was in the December issue of Life Magazine, which did a photo spread on the L.A. Rockettes troupe. Ms. Spicer was one of the girls



DEANNE SPICER

selected for L.A. Rockettes Christmas Show.

... Phil Guarnaccia, 67-year-old Brea bicyclist and former Mr. California, placed ninth in the National Bike Championship.

... Mat and Don McBride won the off-road Barstow Classic this year.

... Don Stagnaro was featured in Newsweek Magazine discussing his Vietnam experiences.

... Cruz Reynoso, born in Brea, was appointed a state Court of Appeals judge by Gov. Brown.

... Clay Tucker, a former Brea resident, topped 2,600 males in the



KIM KROHN AND BARRY HAGMAN

"Seventeen" Magazine cover contest competition and will grace the cover in February.

... Kim Krohn, world figure dance pair skater, appeared on an ABC sports feature.

... Candy Linne, a cocoa poodle, came in second in the Johnny Carson dog-singing contest.

... Vicki Vargas is now a weekend anchor on Channel 4 news.

... Ray Gabrel is a Knott's Berry Farm stuntman, and was featured on P.M. Magazine TV program.

... Donna Barlet and Linda Karagines both had cases on "People's Court."

... Shirley Hosler, inventor of the art technique of pane-ting was featured in



RAY GABRIEL

"Family Circle," and "True Story" magazines.

... Rozann Logan, former Brea mail carrier, became the second woman in the U.S. named to the National Association of Letter Carriers.

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Happy New Year brea advocate



Vol. 2, No. 10

Thursday, December 30, 1982

25 Cents

Looking back with warmth at good old Brea



This photograph captures an earlier time when Birch Street and Brea Boulevard were less traveled roadways in Brea. It's part of an exhibit at the Brea Civic-Cultural Center that runs through Jan. 14.



The artifacts in the livingroom setting pictured above along with the horseless carriage gallery at-

tendnt Marie Sofi is seen sitting in are some of the items featured in the Brea Historical Exhibit. The



Jess Anderson Jr./News Tribune

show is a collaboration of Cal State Fullerton's Oral History Program, the city and several Brea pioneers.

Brea enters 1983 without Wedin

By LAURA WINGARD

Brea will enter a new era in 1983 — an era without City Manager Wayne Wedin who leaves his post in February after heading the city since 1969.

But when asked what he expects to happen upon his departure, Wedin summed up his feelings in one word — "nothing." Saying he wished he were as indispensable as some people think he is, Wedin admitted that the city will continue on course after he leaves.

"The organization is in place and there are dedicated and knowledgeable people in the city who will remain to run it," he explained.

Mayor Norma Hicks has said one of the first items on the agenda for the City Council is to find the person who will replace Wedin.

The process for completing that search is well under way, and Mrs. Hicks believes a replacement is likely to be

chosen late this year or early in 1983.

So, by February, a new city manager will probably be leading Brea. The top administrator also will have to deal with a fairly new council.

The complexion of the council changed in November when three new members — Clarice Blamer, Carrey Nelson and Sam Cooper — joined Mrs. Hicks and Ron Isles.

Wedin said he expects the coming year to be a time when the council members "will be honing a relationship among themselves."

However, he doesn't believe there will be a "dramatic change" in the council's direction, although he suspects more emphasis will be placed on stressing the human side of issues.

One of the primary issues the council will undoubtedly have to grapple with is shrinking revenues from the state.

"There is very little doubt that the relationship with the state will change ... That means less, not more," said Wedin. Tightening purse strings at the federal level also will be apparent, he said.

Because of these financial realities, Wedin said, "There will be a continuing effort to make the city more economically independent."

One of the more important ways the city will attempt to achieve this independence, he added, is through the non-profit Brea Foundation, which has

already received its tax-exempt status from the state and should receive the same status from the federal government in about 30 days.

Once its fund-raising apparatus is in "high gear," Wedin said, the foundation could raise as much as \$1 million annually.

As for major projects the council will have to deal with in 1983, heading the list is solidifying plans to build a \$35 million, high-rise hotel on the Brea Mall parking lot.

During the coming year, Wedin said, the hotel's financ-

ing, legal documents and design should be completed. "It's even conceivable that there might be some construction in 1983," he said.

City officials are currently negotiating with Coast Hotel Properties Inc. of Seattle to make all of this a reality.

Wedin also predicted that the council will have to deal in 1983 with creating some sort of a master plan for the undeveloped portions of Carbon Canyon.

This will go beyond the hillside development guidelines already in place, he said. It will deal with how the canyon will develop in the next few years and what sort of roads will have to be built and improved to accommodate the development.

All of this has partly been spurred, he said, because of the firm establishment this past year of the Chino Hills State

Park, which is part of the canyon.

In addition, Wedin expects the recently hired him as a consultant to raise money — part of which is likely to come from the city's Redevelopment Agency —

Wedin was reluctant to be too specific about what kind of deals may be struck between the two entities.

But, he said, he sees partnerships between the city and district "increasing, not decreasing."

His overall assessment of the city's growth and economic condition is optimistic. "While there is a need to be prudent, I think the community is still in a very positive position."

Senior Center to hold New Year's Eve Party

The Forever Young Club invites all senior citizens to attend the New Year's Eve party and usher in New Year of 1983 at the New Brea Senior Citizens Center, located at 500 S. Sievers Street, at the corner of Sievers Street and Elm Street.

A cold buffet will be served and door prizes are to be awarded. Entertainment will be provided by Cliff Craig's "Pickin' Over 50" Band, who play for

listening and dancing enjoyment. The festivities begin at 8 p.m. and the donation is only \$1.00 per person.

Join the Forever Young Club and kick up your heels at the "best deal in town" this New Year's Eve. For more information, call the Forever Young Club at 529-8852 or 529-5218, or the Brea Senior Citizens Center at 990-7750.



A Thrill

Kathy McAuley fulfills one of her duties as Miss Brea 1982 with the Xerox Corporation's Father-Daughter Dance. See more highlights of 1982 in a special Newsy Suzie column inside on Page A-2.

Murder soliciting suspect arrested

A Cypress woman was arrested Wednesday by Brea undercover police officers when she allegedly attempted to trade one ounce of cocaine as half-payment for the murder of her ex-boyfriend, a police spokesman said.

Angela Wine, 30, of 5275 Halifax Circle in Cypress was taken into custody at 2 p.m. at the Brea Plaza, following a one-month investigation by Brea narcotics officers, said Det.

Mike Messina of the Brea Police Department.

Street value of the cocaine was set at \$3,000, Messina said.

Miss Wine was booked into Orange County Jail on suspicion of soliciting a murder and possession and sales of cocaine. Bail was set at \$250,000.

Messina said detectives would file formal complaints with the district attorney's office against Miss Wine, and that she may be arraigned on the charges Friday.

