Oilfields National Bank

## Guided by History, a Blog about History & Community posted by Ryan Baum on 6/1/2011

When most people think of California, they think of sun and gold. When thinking of California and oil together, they think of the automobile lifestyle and gasoline consumption. Likewise, when people think of Orange County, Calif., most think of Disneyland or its many fabulous Pacific Ocean towns. Few, however, might realize that California and Orange County have deep roots in oil.

Here is the story of one thread of California's tapestry with oil.

For centuries, Native Americans used <u>pitch</u> or tar from natural seeps in Southern California for caulking canoes and sealing water containers. One of the original Spanish land grants in the Los Angeles area was Rancho La Brea, which contained what is still known as the <u>La Brea Tar Pits</u>. 

La Brea Tar Pits.

Commercial oil development in California began in 1865, six years after the world's first well drilled in <u>Titusville, Pa. E' The first California well</u>E' was in Humboldt County in the far northern part of the State. A decade later, oil was discovered in Los Angeles County in 1876. E' Four years after that, oil was discovered in northern Orange County in what would become the <u>Brea-Olinda field</u>. E'

Support towns sprang up quickly around these new fields. Workers, suppliers, and businesses blossomed, fed by the black gold pumped to the surface. Among the towns founded along the base of the Puente Hills was <u>Brea</u>, incorporated in 1917. Naturally, a bank quickly followed. A group of local investors formed Oilfields National Bank of Brea and received national bank charter number 13001 on October 14, 1926. The President was Alonzo Brown and Vice President was William Jackson, a doctor at the Brea Emergency Hospital.

As with many banks during the Depression, Oilfields National was severely stressed. Similar to other banks such as Coast National, it sought a new charter to gain a new beginning and allow for an orderly resolution of problem loans on its original charter. Consequently, it received a new charter number 13877 as the Oilfields National Bank in Brea.

The Brea-Olinda field has produced nearly 450 million barrels of oil since first discovered. Amazingly it still has over 400 wells which continue to produce 132 years after the field's discovery.



Oh, and Oilfields National Bank continued independently until 1955, when it merged into the California Bank, a precursor to First Interstate that merged with Wells Fargo in 1996. So just like the oil fields of its naming, Oilfields National Bank, as part of Well Fargo, is still producing today too!

http://blog.wellsfargo.com/guidedbyhistory/2011/06/a tapestry of oil.html

Shirley Bickel Obituary Notice: Shirley Bickel's Obituary by th...

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http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/orangecounty/obituary-print....

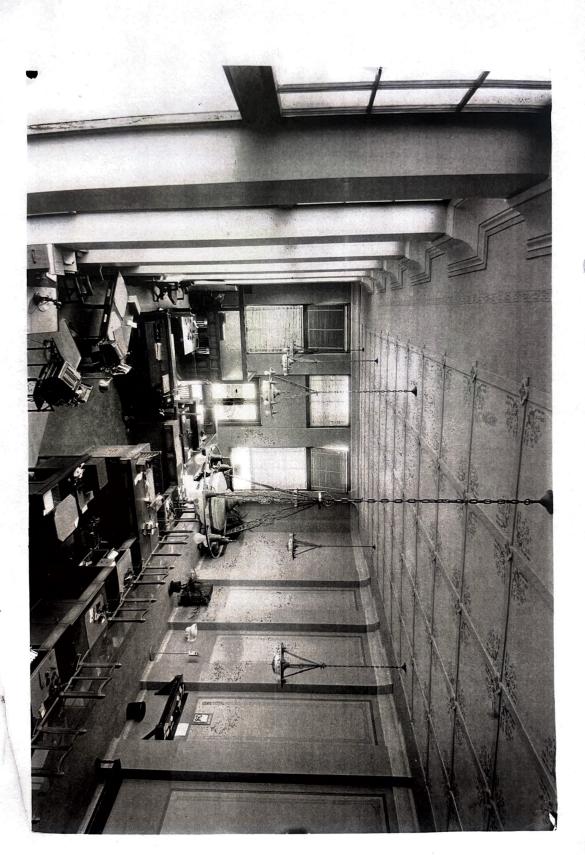
## **Shirley Mae Bickel**

Bickel, Shirley Mae 78, died December 22, 2011 at her home in Brea. Shirley was born May 12, 1933 in Albany, Oregon. She was a long time Brea resident, moving there June 17, 1950, the day she married the love of her life, Robert "Bob" Bickel, who survives along with their three children, John (Pam), Jim (Joy), and Karen. She was a phenomenal grandmother to her 10 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchild.

Shirley started her banking career at the Oilfield National Bank in Brea, and retired after 25 years from First Interstate Bank. After retirement she kept herself busy by being involved with The Brea Senior Center, and many other community activities.

A celebration of Shirley's life will be held at St. Angelas Merici Catholic Church in Brea on Saturday January 14th at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers please send donations to St. Joseph Hospice 1845 W. Orangewood Ave. Suite 100A, Orange, CA 92868.

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BRMA PROGRESS, BREA, CALIFOR

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Churchill and Mrs. Maude Church

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On this anniverse

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