

# DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

**DATE:** March 26, 1993  
**TO:** Brea Historical Committee  
**FROM:** Planning Staff  
**SUBJECT:** HISTORICAL COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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The following is a list of the Historical Committee's accomplishments since it was established by the City Council on September 19, 1989.

1. Identified historic homes and commercial structures for publication in the Historic Preservation Opportunities for the Downtown and Historic Resources Catalog.
2. Updated the 1981 Survey of historic buildings and documented structures that warrant preservation in the Historic Resources Catalog.
3. Established criteria for determining significant historic structures.
4. Acquired the Chevron oil pump and derrick.
5. Published a video "A Walk in Time" as a part of the public awareness activities.
6. Provided walking tours of historic buildings and historic Brea on an ongoing basis in conjunction with the Brea Historical Society.
7. Prepared a Historic Resource Interim Policy.
8. Prepared a Historic Resource Element to the General Plan.
9. Documented Downtown Brea buildings and significant structural features.
10. Contracted 13 individual models of the Downtown historic buildings.
11. Provided informative talks and displayed the Downtown Historic Block models to community and service groups in Brea.
12. Collected photographs to document the Collier Chemical Plant.
13. Assisted the Brea Cañon Oil Company in selecting items/buildings for preservation.

# DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

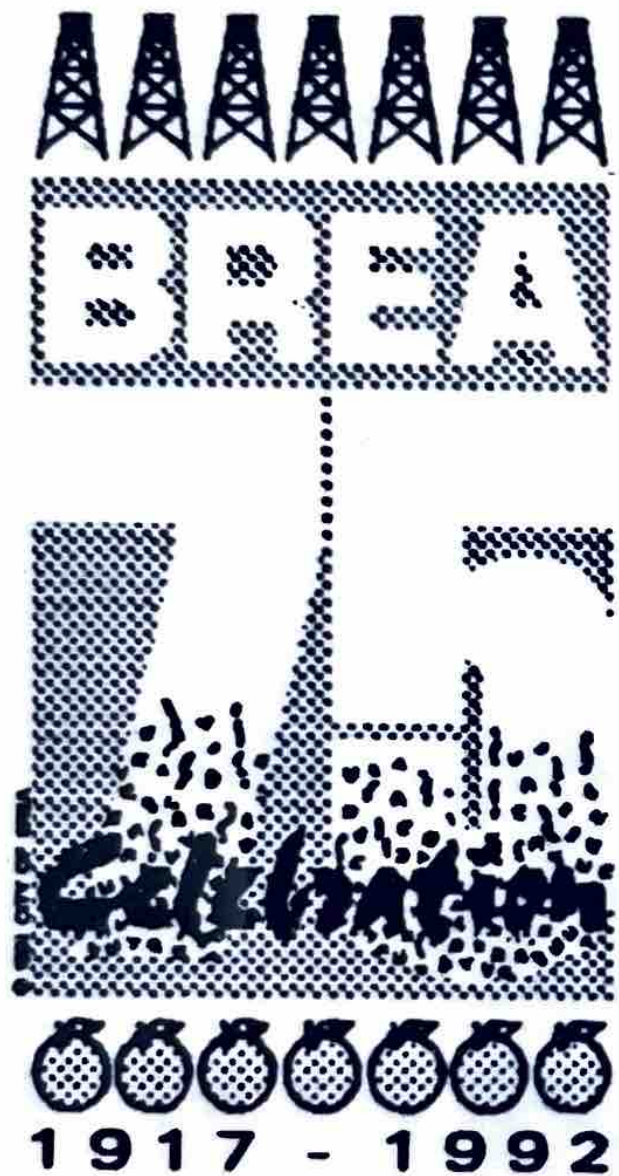
**DATE:** December 17, 1992  
**TO:** New Members of the Historical Committee  
**FROM:** Former Members of the Historical Committee  
**SUBJECT:** GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 1993

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The former members of the Brea Historical Committee recommends the following goals and objectives to the new members.

1. Learn the duties and responsibilities of the Historical Committee.
2. Update the existing Historic Resources Catalog and attempt to reduce the number of structures as recommended by the City Council.
3. Work on a zoning ordinance for historic preservation which includes historic blocks, structures, landmarks, etc.
4. Continue to work on the proposed Downtown Historic Block (to be located at the northeast corner of Ash Street and Brea Boulevard.
5. Continue to make the public aware of the historical structures and the importance of their future preservation (i.e., by education, public involvement, etc.).
6. Document historic structures with pictures, models, etc.
7. Work with the Cultural Arts Commission to further discussion on the inclusion of historic artifacts as a contribution to the Art and Public Places program.
8. Establish a Committee Corner column in the "Brea Line".
9. Continue to look for sites and storage space for future historical preservation.
10. Continue to hold joint committee/commission meetings as necessary.





# Jane O'Brien

HISTORICAL  
COMMITTEE



City of Brea

RECEIVED  
MAY 15 1991

PUBLIC  
AFFAIRS OFFICE

April 4, 1991

Ms. Kathy Morris  
c/o Orange County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 10984  
Santa Ana, CA 92711

**SUBJECT: ARTICLE ON WALKS, BACK INTO TIME**

This letter is in response to your article Walks, Back Into Time, published in Sidelights - Newsletter of the Orange County Conservancy, Volume 1, Number 3, Winter 1991.

We appreciate your effort in promoting the historical walking tour of the old downtown Brea on Saturday, April 13, 1991 at 10:30 a.m. However, we are disappointed with the view expressed in the article that Brea is not trying to preserve its downtown historic structures. This view is not correct. It is contrary to the views, interests, and intent of the Brea City Council, the Brea Historical Committee, and the Brea Historical Society. These bodies have put forth tremendous efforts to preserve the historic downtown Brea and the original parts of Brea in an economically viable manner.

The article claimed that "... No longer will the 'Brea Welcomes You' sign" or "the familiar 'old clock' be seen on Brea Boulevard," the Gobar building ... will be gone forever," and Sam's Place ... won't be visible ...." These statements are incorrect. The Brea City Council, the Historical Committee, the Historical Society, and Staff are working together to create an Historical Area which will include the "Brea Welcomes You" sign, the Old Clock, Sam's Place, and other significant historic buildings within the downtown Brea. These structures, in contrast to the article, will not be gone forever.

We regret that the article ignores and lacks the inside perspectives of the organizations and individuals involved in the preservation of the Brea downtown historic buildings and our major commitment to historical activities.

City Council    Wayne D. Wedin    Ron Isles    Burnie Dunlap    Carrey Nelson    Glenn G. Parker  
Mayor                      Mayor Pro Tem    Councilman    Councilman    Councilman

Ms. Kathy Morris  
Article on Walks  
April 4, 1991  
Page 2

We are happy to clarify any questions you may have on this subject. Please contact me at (714) 990-7700, if I can be of any further assistance.

Attached is a partial list of historical activities that the City of Brea is engaged in.



Wayne D. Wedin  
Mayor

WW/zab:consvcy

Attachment

cc: City Council Members  
Frank Benest, City Manager  
James R. Cutts, Director of Development Services Department  
Konradt Bartlam, City Planner  
Lisa Donnell, Senior Planner



ATTACHMENT A  
HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES  
PARTIAL LISTING

1. Establishment of an Historic Area in downtown.
2. Have started work on an Oilfield Museum.
3. Historic tours.
4. Inclusion of Old High School emphasis in the new market place development.
5. Inclusion of historical emphasis in downtown design.
6. Inclusion of historical emphasis in the City's Art in Public Places Program.
7. Plans for preservation of the Sam's Place.
8. Preservation of the Blue House.
9. Preservation of the 'Brea Welcomes You' sign.
10. Preservation of the City Clock.
11. Preservation of the Practice House.
12. Preservation of Redwood Street.
13. Preservation of the American Legion Hall.
14. Preservation of the City Plunge.
15. Preservation of the Old City Hall.
16. Publication of at least three Historic Books (1992); one for youth, one for table top, and one detailed history book.
17. Production of a made for T.V. History Story (1992).
18. Special T.V. coverage of historical facilities and events.





The historic "Brea Welcomes You" sign will come down soon because Brea Boulevard is going to be widened and the sign with its metal bridge will no longer be able to stretch from curb to curb. The good news is that there's general agreement in the city to preserve the sign and move it to another location.

# Preserve the sign? He welcomes it

**D**uring 1990 to 1992, whenever I led one of the Brea Historical Walking Tours of the old downtown area, I was always asked, "What's going to happen to the 'Brea Welcomes You' sign? Are they going to tear it down or save it?"

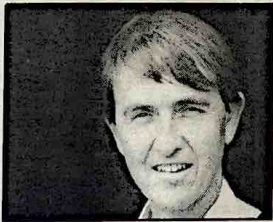
It was easy to see that this sign that has stretched over Brea Boulevard (formerly Pomona Avenue) for the last 58 years has become a true Brea landmark and one whose future people really care about.

So, how did I answer their questions? Well, first of all, the bad news is yes, the sign will come down. Why? Because the boulevard is going to be widened and the sign with its metal "bridge" will no longer be able to stretch from curb to curb.

On the other hand, the good news is that there's general agreement in the city to preserve the sign and move it to another location.

The next question that's invariably asked is "where?" Sorry, but I haven't got an answer for that one. In fact, I don't think anyone really knows for sure yet where the sign is going to end up.

I've heard some suggestions, though, and they range from leaving it where it is and adding on to each side so it can make that stretch between curbs, to placing it over Birch Street at the entrance to the new shopping area west of Brea Boulevard. There has also been talk of making a second sign and placing it possi-



**BRIAN SAUL**

bly somewhere near the railroad tracks. Each sign would then go from opposite curbs to a center median. Got any other suggestions?

Well, enough about that. I guess we're just going to have to wait until the final decision is made, huh?

Just for fun, why don't we go back now 58 years to Thursday evening, April 5, 1934, the day the sign was formally dedicated where it now stands.

Before we do though, you have to realize this was a big event for Brea. Having a sign like this over the main street was considered an important symbol that the city was growing and doing well, even though 1934 was in the middle of the Depression.

What most people don't now know is that during the '20s there was another city sign over Brea Boulevard, but that one, located farther south at the border with Fullerton, was by no means of the

same quality of construction as the new one.

For that dedication ceremony on April 5, Brea Boulevard (then called Pomona Avenue) was roped off from Birch Street to Imperial Highway. Providing music for the festivities was the Brea Grammar School orchestra which played several selections and supposedly was "in fine fettle." (I guess that means it sounded pretty good.)

Mayor Mike Hogue then spoke to those present, announcing the completion of the sign and thanking the construction committee of the Brea Lions Club for initiating the work. He also paid tribute to all the city councilmen, especially Frank Schweitzer who had designed the "bridge." After Schweitzer said a few words about the city's growth, Mayor Hogue then ended by giving special thanks to Brea businessman W.D. Shaffer who had contributed considerable money for the sign's construction. Because of his help, Shaffer was given the honor of officially lighting the two-color neon sign for the first time.

The last speech of the evening was given by Assemblyman Ted Craig, who had been Brea's mayor and was soon to become Speaker of the California Assembly. By the way, Craig Park was named after him.

Finally, there were a couple of songs sung by the girls' octet from Brea Olinda High School, followed shortly thereafter by a street dance.

I just had a thought. I wonder if we'll be having a big rededication ceremony when the sign finds its new home?

Oh, I almost forgot. There's one more thing I want to tell you about the sign. It's something I didn't know until someone on one of my tours pointed it out to me.

I, like most people I'm sure, think the whole sign goes straight across the street. Well, it doesn't. Go up to its side, look up and across, and you'll see that it's kind of wavy looking. At first, I couldn't figure out why it was designed that way until I realized that there was a very practical reason for it.

Because the sign is wavy, that means the actual "Brea Welcomes You" part of it sits at an angle. That was done so that when your car is approaching from the north, the greeting is directly facing you. The same thing happens when you're coming from the south. Clever, huh?

What's smart also is that even from the early years, Brea has used the sign for advertising. What a great place to publicize coming events, city celebrations or, in the case of last year's Operation Desert Storm, our city's yellow ribbon support for our troops.

For 58 years cars have been passing under the Brea sign. Most of the time we just pass under it without even realizing it's there. That's because it has become a real part of our city

Nov. 19, '92



# Lowering the boom

## Last reminder of oil town may be replaced by homes

By Brian Hall  
North County News

Capping a historical era, the last reminders of Olinda, a former oil boom town, could be pulled from their spots like derricks from a dry well to make room for a proposed 1,300- to 2,45-unit residential development.

The Olinda township is the site of the first housing project planned in Brea's sphere of influence, an area the city plans to annex.

It is also the maiden real estate voyage for Santa Fe Energy Resources as an independent entity.

For the Olinda Old Timers Association and local historians, three vestiges of the oil town remain.

Apart from some tin sheds, all that's left are the first oil well built in 1897, the pre-1910 field house (an office still in use) and the turn-of-the-century jack plant.

In early days, the jack plant consisted of mules driving a pulley system to operate nearby oil pumps. Later, the mules were replaced by a motor.

A public school was moved into Brea and now houses the senior center. "There'll be nothing to show that the town was ever there," said Louise Bleininger, 88, a resident from 1907 to 1934.

One proposal would create an interpretive center or oil museum in

Carbon Canyon Regional Park. Another would put it in a new park proposed at the mouth of the subdivision. The museum would lie at the base of a hill, north of Carbon Canyon Road, which is a 100-year flood plain.

"I don't know why both proposals are in flood plains," said Brea resident Donna Contento. History buffs want the well and the two structures left undisturbed. Moving

them would lose their historical significance and keep them off a future listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

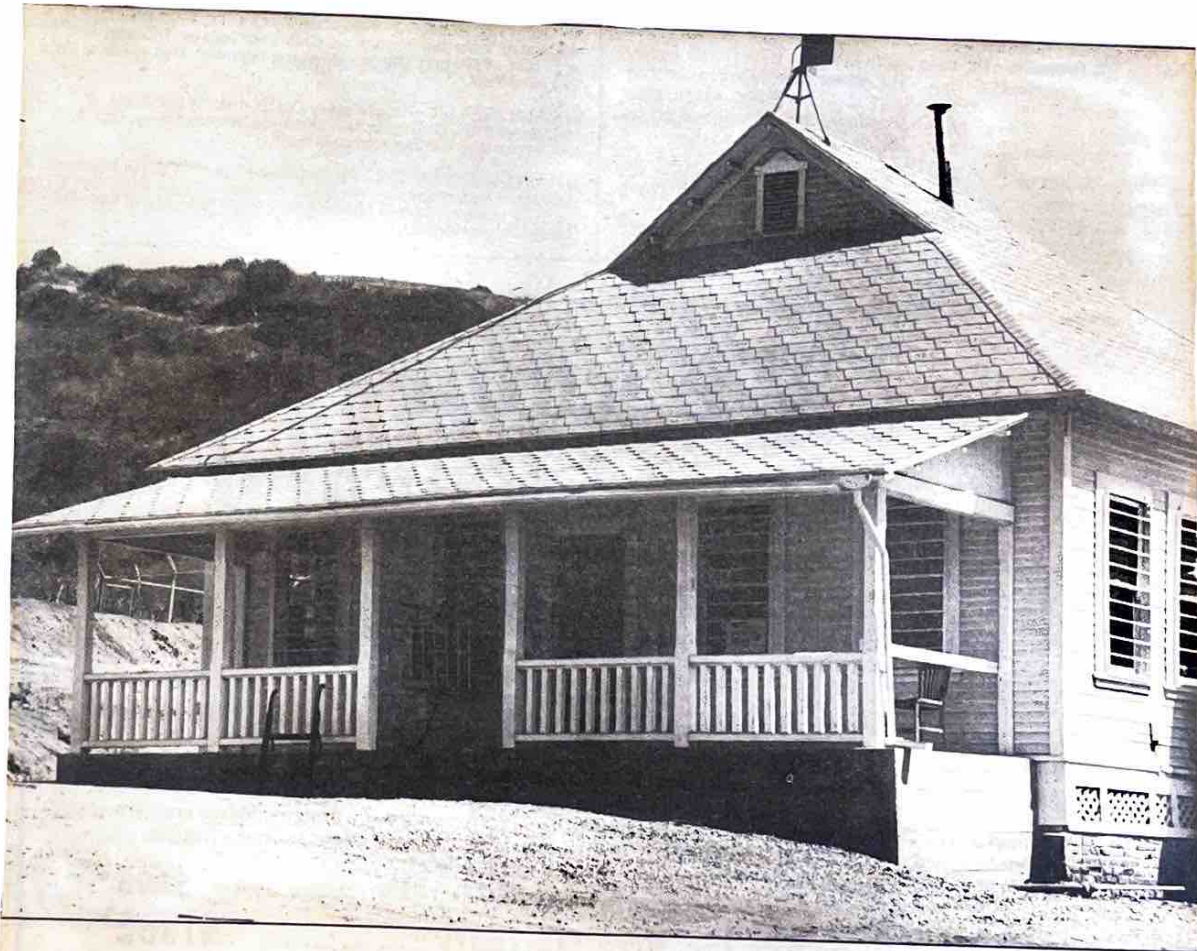
"It's like moving the White House to Detroit," said Brian Saul, Brea Historical Society vice president.

The slope leading up to the field office is too steep for county law and will have to be graded, Santa Fe officials said.

They worry that an interpretive center in the suburbs could alter traffic patterns and clog park parking lots like undiluted crude.

"One of the concerns expressed by people who would consider living in the residences is, do you want this in the middle of your neighborhood, where you've got all these transients and strangers coming into see this historical instructional center?" said Greg Hoffman, the company's business development director.

The final site will be left to historical groups and city planners.



The Brea Historical Society hopes the historic Santa Fe Energy house will be allowed to remain rather than be demolished or moved as plans progress for a new housing project.

M. Loren Hernandez/North County News



San Clemente  
Sun Post-Daily

MAY 28 1990

## Historical group to gain rehab influence

By Mark Berg  
DSP Staff Writer

BREA — The Historical Committee, with a keen eye toward preservation, has spotted more than 100 buildings and homes in the city that should be kept from alteration or destruction. And with a policy currently under review, the committee may be granted some influence in determining how or if those buildings should be touched.

A new historic preservation interim policy, coming before the Planning Commission tonight, will give the committee the privilege to make recommendations regarding any improvements or alterations the property owner might want to make — including demolition.

But the right to recommend

does not mean the committee has the authority to regulate development of historical sites. The policy, according to senior planner Pat Shoemaker, is an interim effort to protect the city's heritage without regulation. Ultimately, an ordinance may be adopted that would prohibit destruction or alteration of historically valuable sites.

For the time being, adoption of the interim policy "wouldn't preclude property owners from making improvements or making changes to their properties," Shoemaker said.

Since its inception in September, the Historical Committee has been hard at work to identify buildings in the city with historic significance. The resource cata-

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)  
log currently identifies 110 sites.

One of the committee's recent preservation efforts was a recommendation to the City Council to construct a historical park as part of the downtown redevelopment, returning about half a dozen buildings to their original uses, clustered in a park setting with a museum of Brea artifacts. The committee is presently working with the project architect for the downtown so that a historical element could be incorporated there.

"The Historical Committee feels that there is an immediate need to take some steps toward preservation of existing resources," Shoemaker said. "(The policy) sets up a framework by which resources would be identified."

Some of the guidelines to be used with regard to proposed work on an identified historic resource, according to the draft policy, is that the work should not adversely affect the architectural features or character of the building. And any new development on the site of a historic resource should be compatible with the existing building.

The Planning Commission will only determine whether implementation of the policy would negatively affect the environ-

ment, Shoemaker said. Policy approval must come from the City Council after it has passed Planning Commission scrutiny.

In other agenda matters, the Planning Commission will deliberate a conditional use permit allowing a child-care facility to be located at the Brea Marketplace site on East Birch Street.

The 16,000-square-foot facility, which would be positioned at the northeast corner of Randolph and Birch streets, could provide care for about 160 children, according to staff reports. Lowe Development, owners of the Brea Marketplace, have reached an agreement with Child Care Centers, Inc. to run the center in the bottom portion of the building planned for that corner of the lot, formerly the site of Brea Olinda High School.

Concerns voiced by nearby residents have prompted city planning staff to recommend restriction of traffic flow onto Randolph Street from the facility, as well as no-parking signs along Randolph. Lowe is also seeking to light the play area associated with the facility, a permit specification recommended by staff.

The Planning Commission will meet in the Council Chambers of the Brea Civic & Cultural Center at 7 p.m.



**pacific clippings**  
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**BREA NEWS**  
Weekly

OCT 10 1991

## Committee updates priorities

By Brian Hall  
Staff Writer

790

The Brea Historical Committee last week updated its goals and priorities for the year, with Chairman Sharon Dean and member Jose Segura absent.

The single newly adopted aim is to continue making the public aware of historical structures and the importance of their future preservation.

The group followed up on earlier priorities to reduce the number of buildings requested for salvation.

The committee has arrived at no firm number but the original proposal of more than 100 structures was far too high for the City Council, said committee member Brian Saul.

Concentration will shift to special homes and designation of certain neighborhoods as historically important to Brea.

Consensus hasn't been reached, but two residential buildings may be moved to the Redwood Street historical block rather than the Blue Bungalow. Those under consideration include 128 or 132 Walnut Ave., and the small box house at 103 S. Walnut. The first two are early examples of craftsman-style bungalows in Brea.

"Their architecture makes them like no other houses in the city," Saul said.

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Los Angeles  
Times-Daily AUG 10 1991

**BREA**

## Council Approves Preservation Plan

790

The City Council this week endorsed plans to preserve some of Brea's oldest buildings in the downtown redevelopment area.

A "site plan" detailing a historical block to be established on the east side of Brea Boulevard, north of Ash Street, was given unanimous approval by the council.

Since June, the city's Historical Committee has been working with an architect on the preservation plan. Six buildings were recommended for preservation, including Sam's Place, Delaney House, Brea Hotel, Wall Building, La Habra Valley Bank and the Kinsler House.

In addition, the committee has also recommended converting the historic buildings to apartments and businesses, and turning the Kinsler House into a museum.

The cost of rehabilitating the buildings and moving them is not known at this time. However, despite a lack of cost estimates, the council did endorse pursuing various potential funding sources including grants, loans and

redevelopment money.

City Planner Rad Bartlam said that the staff will now begin putting together more detailed plans. Bartlam said they will work on a piecemeal basis, bringing portions of the project back to the council for approval as they are completed.

—LYNDA NATALI



# City to register 2 sites

3/12/92

By Brian Hall  
Staff Writer

After getting some heat for failing to save some older downtown buildings from demolition, the Brea Historical Committee wants to put the city's first Christian church and the log cabin located behind it on the National Register of Historic Places.

Committee Chairman Sharon Dean has received the necessary forms, and she plans to meet with the leadership of the Brea Missionary Baptist Church, who owns the adjacent buildings, to find out whether there is mutual interest in a federal listing.

"We're pursuing the possibility of putting them on the National Register not only to make sure they're preserved but as a way of honoring them," Dean said.

"The church is very well pre-

See REGISTER / 4

## REGISTER:

Continued from page 1

served. The inside is just how I remember it as a child."

When the demolition of current structures is finished, it will be the last remaining downtown church in its original location. Both the church and cabin are located outside of the downtown redevelopment area. Church representatives were unavailable for comment.

Some Brea merchants have accused the committee of not working hard enough to place buildings on the National Register.

"I think there's a conspiracy," said former Brea Boulevard businessman Dennis Dean, the leader of an abortive recall effort against Brea councilmen.

"The whole district qualified

and should have been put on the Register. I smelled a rat."

A 1981 survey of the downtown redevelopment area stated that numerous structures inside and just outside the demolition zone qualified or had potential to qualify for national, state or county preservation.

Dean said Brea should have instituted a historic preservation ordinance to insure their survival but that the lack of federal funds within the redevelopment project negated that requirement. The 1981 survey was repeated in the 1991 downtown environmental impact report.

"I was contacted by some of the downtown merchants who said we could have done more," said Brian Saul, the committee vice chairman.

"But I think they had different motives than actually to preserve the buildings for his-

toric purposes. They may have been trying to forestall the redevelopment of the downtown."

Dennis Dean denied that other motives were behind the attempts at preservation, saying that the primary concern was for "justice."

The City Council appointed the committee in 1989 on an 18-month trial basis. The group's mission was to decide which parts of the downtown should be preserved and how.

A plan has been approved in concept to set aside a block for salvage of key buildings. Saul said the committee will try to put all of these structures as well as the home of Brea's first mayor on the National Register.

Three buildings have been added to the federal listing already, The Brea Plunge, Old City Hall and the former Amer-

ican Legion Hall, which now serves as an ambulance station.

Saul said it is too late to list any more sites within the redevelopment area.

"Anybody who thinks something should be on the National Register just has to fill out the papers," he continued. "And if it qualifies, it'll make it."



# Business

## A slick attempt to preserve the history of oil in Brea

City, refining firms put together exhibit of crude equipment

By Frank Moraga  
The Register

BREA — Before the late 1800s, little attention was paid to the black tar that seeped from the ground in the area now known as north Orange County.

By 1898, however, the area to be known as Brea had become the home of wildcatters, oil derricks and pumping stations. In the late 1920s, wells pumped more than 19,000 barrels of crude a day.

But soon production slowed and although the industry rebounded to reach its peak in the 1950s, the oil companies turned their attention to oil fields off the coast of California and later the North Slope of Alaska.

Most of the men who worked the Brea-Olinda oil fields are long gone. Most of the drilling equipment also has disappeared — most, but not all.

For years, what remained of the oil-drilling equipment lay rusting in former oil fields, covered by weeds, waiting to be carted off to the salvage yard to make way for housing developments. If not for the efforts of concerned citizens, city officials and local businessmen, most of the early oil history of Brea would have ended up on the scrap heap.

As part of preserving the history and honor, the Shaffer Tool Works company, members of the Brea Historical Society, city officials and the Brea Foundation joined forces, starting in 1983, to create the Heritage in Oil Exhibit.

"We got together to preserve the oil history of Brea," said Dean Millen, a historical society member. "In 1983 we decided to get serious and started talking about doing something to honor Shaffer Tool Works."

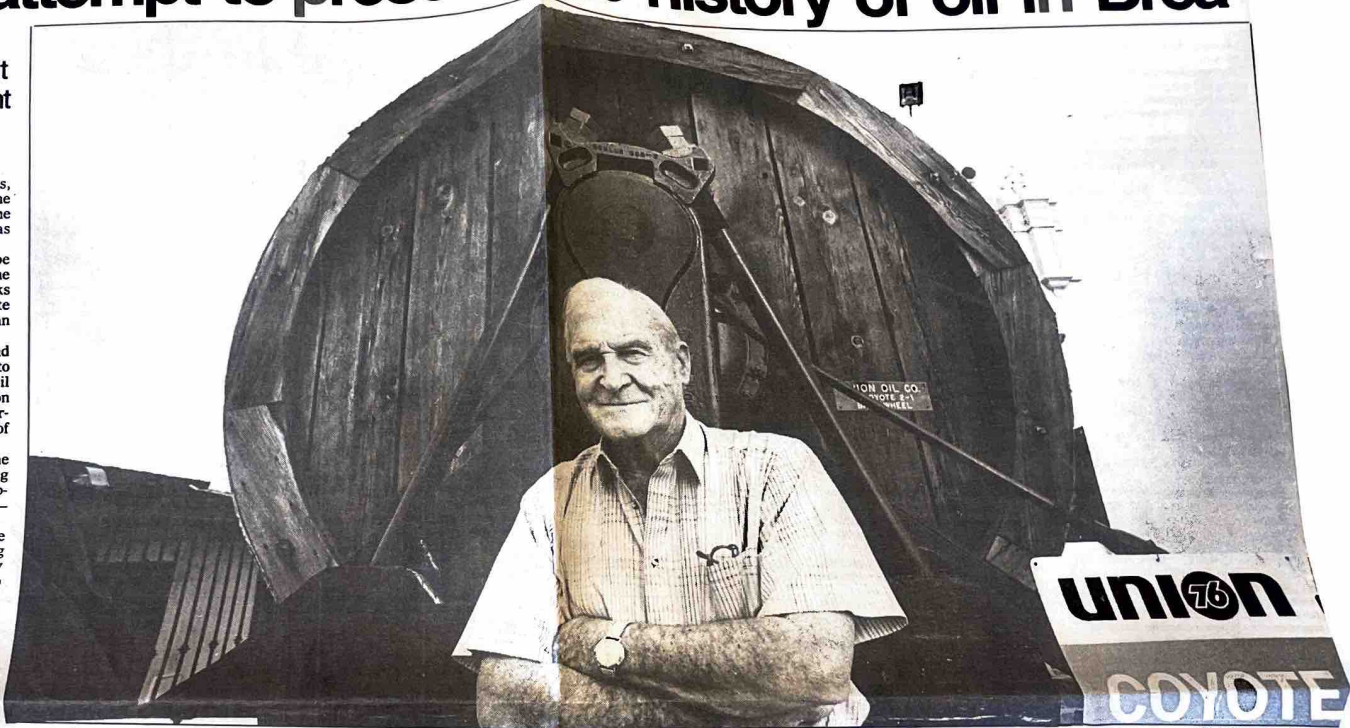
The exhibit, on the south side of the Old City Hall Building at Old City Hall Park, was expanded to include a variety of oil-field equipment and was dedicated last July 4. It includes oil-field equipment that dates to the cable-drilling days of the 1890s.

Among the items, which were donated by Unocal, Shell Oil and Chevron Land and Development, are pumping rigs, a wooden bandwheel for cable drilling, a Shaffer blowout preventer, drilling bits and a gasoline pump dating from the 1920s.

The Shaffer company was founded in 1923 in Brea and provided oil equipment to rigs throughout Southern California.

"During the Depression you worked for Chevron Oil Co., Shaffer Tool Works or the federal WPA Works Progress Administration program," he said.

While the original Shaffer business was sold to other oil-equip-



Dean Millen, a Brea Historical Society member, helped restore oil-field equipment dating back to the 1890s. The restoration was a joint project of the historical society, the city of Brea and location businessmen.

ment supply companies, two offshoots — Don Shaffer Oil Tools of Buena Park and Shaffer Oil Tools Services Inc. of Anaheim — still exist.

Society members worked with city officials on the project, including former Mayor Clarice Blamer. "I am delighted (with the exhibit)," said Blamer, a Brea city councilwoman. "I think it is essential that we know about our roots. It is important for each generation to preserve history for the next generation."

Blamer said her interest in the history of oil is a result of her childhood.

"I am from Oklahoma and I knew what some of the oil equipment was," she said.

The city donated the land outside Old City Hall for the exhibit, Blamer said. Funding for the project came from the Brea Foundation, an organization composed of local business leaders involved in a variety of cultural, recreational and service projects.

"The Brea Foundation had worked with the Brea Historical Society in other areas," said Jack Rider, a foundation director and owner/publisher of Pacific Oil World in Brea. "We felt the exhibit

was a project that was meaningful to the city."

Once the exhibit site had been determined and funding arranged, it was time for society members to round up surviving oil-field equipment.

"We were lucky to have what we have salvaged," Millen said.

A nine-foot diameter wooden bandwheel used during the early cable-drilling days was found abandoned in the hills, at the site of

a new subdivision located at the southwest corner of Brea Boulevard and Bastanchury Road, Millen said.

"It was sitting there for 60 years," he said.

Construction of a housing development was about to begin, so the equipment was moved by Chevron Land and Development Co. and refurbished.

"They had a couple of mechanics who had worked on the original

equipment," Millen said.

The bandwheel then was stored on property owned by Unocal Corp. before being moved to the exhibit site.

Millen said the exhibit, locked behind a wrought-iron gate, is opened any time anyone is interested in looking into Brea's past.

For information on the Heritage in Oil Exhibit or the Brea Historical Society, call Dean Millen at 529-3289.

Rick Stora/The Register



**ALMANAC FROM 12**

from The Federated Group, 12:32 a.m.  
 □ **Ladera Vista North**, 1200 block: residential burglary reported, 9:34 a.m.  
 □ **Oak Street**, 2400 block: residential burglary reported, 7:05 a.m.  
 □ **Orangehorpe Ave.**, 1601: auto theft reported, 7:25 p.m.  
 □ **Sunny Crest Drive**, 1847: two suspects arrested and charged with possession of narcotics, 8:08 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JAN. 8**

□ **Acacia Avenue**, 200 block: residential burglary reported, 4:54 p.m.  
 □ **Acacia Ave.**, 1600: arson reported, 7:18 a.m.  
 □ **Commonwealth Avenue**, 4200 block: residential burglary reported, 2:44 a.m.  
 □ **Commonwealth Ave.**, 4251: commercial burglary reported at Sky Haven Motel, 10:17 a.m.  
 □ **Commonwealth Ave.**, 1112: traffic accident with injuries reported, one suspect arrested and charged with drunken driving, 7:48 p.m.  
 □ **Dorothy Lane**, 2200: auto theft reported, license WNA692, 1:45 p.m.  
 □ **Euclid Street and 91 Freeway**: one suspect arrested and charged with drunken driving, 10:51 p.m.  
 □ **Harbor Blvd.**, 3900: one suspect arrested and charged with possession of narcotics, 8:39 p.m.  
 □ **Orangehorpe Ave.**, 1031: one suspect arrested and charged with public intoxication, 11:41 p.m.  
 □ **Picadilly Way**, 1643: one suspect arrested and charged with armed robbery, 3:28 p.m.  
 □ **Pomona Ave.**, 1116: commercial burglary reported, 7:58 a.m.  
 □ **Puente Street**, 3100 block: residential burglary reported, 4:49 p.m.  
 □ **Quail Ridge**, 2718: theft from vehicle reported, 4:59 p.m.  
 □ **Quartz Ave.**, 3360: theft from vehicle reported, 6:46 p.m.  
 □ **Richman and Houston Avenues**: one suspect arrested and charged with possession of stolen property, 4:34 p.m.  
 □ **Treewill Place**, 2919: grand theft reported, 11:06 a.m.  
 □ **Valencia Drive**, 400 block: residential burglary reported, 11:05 p.m.  
 □ **West Ave.**, 1072: one suspect arrested and charged with possession of narcotics, 1:40 p.m.

□ **Chapman Ave.**, 600: one suspect arrested and charged with possession of narcotics, 9:10 a.m.  
 □ **Chapman Ave.**, 2555: commercial burglary reported at doctor's office, 4:10 p.m.  
 □ **Chapman Ave.**, 2555: commercial burglary reported at Document Scanner Resources, 4:30 p.m.  
 □ **Euclid Street South of La Palma Avenue**: one suspect arrested and charged with drunken driving, 9:45 p.m.  
 □ **Harbor Blvd.**, 1331: commercial burglary reported at Montgomery Ward, 2:38 p.m.  
 □ **Highland and Baker Avenues**: one suspect arrested and charged with drunken driving, 1:53 a.m.  
 □ **Marymont Avenue**, 2800 block: residential burglary reported, 7:38 p.m.  
 □ **Orangefair Mall**, 140: theft from vehicle reported, 3 p.m.  
 □ **Orangehorpe Ave.**, 915: auto theft reported, 8:06 a.m.  
 □ **Pacific Ave.**, 1218: one suspect arrested and charged with public intoxication, 8:26 p.m.  
 □ **Placencia Ave.**, 600: one suspect arrested and charged with drunken driving, 4:54 a.m.  
 □ **Quartz Avenue and Carmo Lane**: theft from vehicle reported, 2:39 p.m.  
 □ **Skyline Drive**, 2200: one suspect arrested and charged with drunken driving, 10:18 p.m.  
 □ **Topaz Ave.**, 3055: theft from vehicle reported, 7:50 a.m.  
 □ **Yorba Linda Boulevard**, one suspect arrested and charged with possession of stolen property, 1:19 a.m.

□ **Sunday, Jan. 10**  
 □ **Basque Ave.**, 244: one suspect arrested and charged with public intoxication, 1:21 a.m.  
 □ **Chapman Ave.**, 2200: theft from vehicle reported, 2:36 a.m.  
 □ **Deerpark Drive**, 1535: theft from vehicle reported, 9:15 p.m.  
 □ **Gilbert Ave.**, 1000: one suspect arrested and charged with possession of narcotics, 11:16 a.m.  
 □ **Lemon St.**, 701: one suspect arrested and charged with possession of narcotics, 10:32 a.m.  
 □ **Orangehorpe Ave.**, 100: one suspect arrested and charged with drunken driving, 1:14 a.m.  
 □ **Orangehorpe and Magnolia Avenues**: one suspect arrested and charged with drunken driving, 1:18 a.m.  
 □ **Orangehorpe Ave.**, 1725: one sus-

**SATURDAY, JAN. 9**

□ **Brookhurst Ave.**, 100: one suspect arrested and charged with drunken driving, 1:39 a.m.

**HAVING A SUPER BOWL PARTY?**



**CALL**

pect arrested and charged with drunken driving, 8:56 p.m.  
 □ **Palm St.**, 3200: theft from vehicle reported, 9:56 p.m.  
 □ **Placencia Avenue and Ruby Drive**: one suspect arrested and charged with possession of narcotics, 4:11 p.m.  
 □ **Placencia Ave.**, 1120: one suspect arrested and charged with drunken driving and an outstanding warrant, 7:45 p.m.  
 □ **Walnut Ave.**, 1004: theft from vehicle reported, 9:59 a.m.

— Compiled by Mindy Komrij

**FULLERTON REAL-ESTATE TRANSACTIONS**

Transactions taken from Orange County public records. The first dollar figure represents the amount on which a transfer tax was paid. The small letter "p" means partial price, the small letter "F" means full price. The second dollar figure represents the amount of the principal loan. The two together do not necessarily constitute the full purchase price. "A" means assumed loan, "C" means conventional loan, "V" means VA loan and "F" means FHA loan.

□ **134 Elsa Drive**, single-family residence, \$180,000, Fred J. Wolford to Ronald and Joan K. Mooers, Nov. 20.  
 □ **1717 Sunny Crest Drive**, single-family residence, \$174,000, Fred M. Kay to Gerold and Mary J. Kuhn, Dec. 1.  
 □ **224 Ventura Place**, single-family residence, \$126,000, Glenn Hubbard to Steve and Darlene A. Silvas, Nov. 18.  
 □ **900 N. Carhart Ave.**, single-family residence, \$67,500, Wells Fargo Bank to Cindy Marie and Kenneth Pul, Dec. 1.  
 □ **112 S. Orchard Ave.**, single-family residence, \$115,000, Kevin D. Oliver to Raul F. Miranda, Dec. 2.  
 □ **754 W. Roslynn Ave.**, single-family residence, \$123,500, American Home Investment to Otto E. and Vivian D. Salzer, Dec. 1.  
 □ **146 W. Whiting Ave.**, commercial, \$130,000, Gary W. Evans to Dionysus, Nov. 25.

□ **116 N. Lincoln Ave.**, single-family residence, \$97,500, Peter A. Beard to James R. Vnwey, Nov. 19.  
 □ **1101 E. Santa Fe Ave.**, single-family residence, \$111,000, Gus M. Devore to Salvador Gomez Chavez, Dec. 2.  
 □ **3930 W. Valencia Drive**, single-family residence, \$250,000, Bruce and Perry to Tung-Ming Chang, Nov. 25.  
 □ **1801 W. Cherry Ave.**, single-family residence, \$135,500, Rick P. Scharlow to Lyndall D. Tucker, Dec. 1.  
 □ **1012 S. Lambert Road**, single-family residence, \$135,000, Norman Richard Rollings to Robert M. Simonetti, Nov. 23.  
 □ **825 W. Houston Ave.**, single-family residence, \$130,000, Trust Services of America to Frank Kyriakos, Nov. 20.  
 □ **307 W. Porter Ave.**, single-family residence, \$120,500, Susan K. Richardson to Peter K. and Jane Spencer, Nov. 19.  
 □ **825 W. Maxlzn Ave.**, single-family residence, \$125,000, Frank Budiman to Rolando S. Quimbao, Nov. 30.  
 □ **2017 E. Whiting Ave.**, apartment, \$361,500p, John H. Hung to T.S.L. Inc., Nov. 24.  
 □ **2017 E. Whiting Ave.**, apartment, \$675,000, T.S.L. Inc. to John A. and Liling Chen, Nov. 24.  
 □ **2025 E. Whiting Ave.**, apartment, \$361,500p, John H. Hung to T.S.L. Inc., Nov. 24.  
 □ **2025 E. Whiting Ave.**, apartment, \$675,000, T.S.L. Inc. to John A. and Liling Chen, Nov. 24.  
 □ **1243 Cranbrook Place**, single-family residence, \$228,000, Jha Suh Myoung to Chun and Suk Tae Lee, Nov. 25.  
 □ **1103 Carmel Circle**, single-family residence, \$147,000, Crispin Pangan to Chin H. and Judy S. Wang, Nov. 30.  
 □ **1500 Rolling Hills Drive**, single-family residence, \$159,000, William K. Lal III to Joseph J. and Mary Y. Noah, Nov. 25.  
 □ **1908 Beechwood Ave.**, single-family residence, \$150,000, John T. Wennerberg to Mimi Wang, Nov. 20.  
 □ **2000 Skyline Drive**, single-family residence, \$400,000, Investment Savings and Loan Association to Haddi and Lina S. Kurniawan, Nov. 24.  
 □ **1762 Las Lanas Lane**, single-family residence, \$195,000, Nicholas Melnik to Dyu Hwhan Kim, Dec. 1.

□ **1649 Valley Lane**, single-family residence, \$230,000, Katherine E. Wade to Dale A. and Bonnie L. Swanson, Dec. 1.  
 □ **2206 Heritage Way**, single-family residence, \$215,000, Kuo Mei-Chen Chiu to Wang and Li-Jan Tsai Shiyh, Dec. 1.  
 □ **417 Thunderbird Court**, single-family residence, \$250,000, Arlin D. Sweet to Ralph A. and Jayne Clave, Nov. 20.  
 □ **720 Cienega Drive**, single-family residence, \$200,000, John William McLennan to Benjamin J. and Paula R. Hughes, Nov. 25.  
 □ **2900 San Juan Drive**, single-family residence, \$286,000, Leonard Anderson to James F. and Patricia Fusting, Nov. 19.  
 □ **4026 Franklin Ave.**, condominium, \$93,500, Lance B. Slimmer to Dorothy A. Johnson, Nov. 25.  
 □ **1510 S. Pomona Ave.**, No. 6A2, condominium, \$283,000, Josephine Polgreen to Lester E. Nielsen, Nov. 24.  
 □ **1640 S. Pomona Ave.**, No. 14B1, condominium, \$98,500, Robert C. Bankert to Virginia M. Kirk, Nov. 25.  
 □ **1601 S. Pomona Ave.**, condominium, \$80,000, Linnette M. Ronge to Paul V. and Barbara R. Dolan, Nov. 25.  
 □ **1727 Avenida Selva**, No. 49, condominium, \$112,000, Denise Keck to Ralph H. Montague Jr., Dec. 1.  
 □ **2726 Quail Ridge Circle**, No. 68, condominium, \$94,000, \$90,000F, Ray Nagami to Keven D. Erickson, Nov. 24.  
 □ **3046 Associated Road**, No. 33, condominium, \$63,000, Robert Amos Jones to Mary F. Jacobson, Nov. 25.  
 □ **922 White Water Drive**, No. 94, condominium, \$132,500, John J. Limon to Robert E. and Susan W. Dreistadt, Nov. 23.

— Compiled by Mindy Komrij

**FULLERTON BUILDING PERMITS**

Permits granted and issued the week of Jan. 4

□ **901 Melody Lane**, Doolittle, re-roof, \$9,800.  
 □ **1837 Skyline Drive**, R. Osburn, skylight, \$500.  
 □ **1011 Harbor Blvd.**, North, Mariott

Corp., tenant improvements, \$23,000.  
 □ **1013 E. Dorothy Lane**, I. Gullickson, re-roof, \$3,200.  
 □ **513 Jecaranda Place**, R. Royer, installation of a fireplace, \$500.  
 □ **345 South Euclid St.**, Land Development, tenant improvements, \$500.  
 □ **618 S. Alberta Place**, Connelly, change utility room into dining room, \$500.  
 □ **705 E. Santa Fe Ave.**, Ho, replace existing exterior stairs with new stairs, \$8,000.  
 □ **2477 Santa Ysabel**, J. Kinnear, enlarge kitchen, \$300.  
 □ **2626 W. Olive St.**, R. Boyd, re-roof, \$300.  
 □ **2016 Beechwood Ave.**, R. Smithline, three room additions, bathroom and family room with fireplace, \$84,600.  
 □ **1956 Overlook Road**, B. Bogoff, kitchen remodel with skylight, \$15,000.

— Compiled by Mindy Komrij

**FULLERTON BIRTHS**

Birth information supplied by area hospitals.

□ **Alvarez-Malo**, Ricardo and Louise, a girl, Dec. 18, Martin Luther Hospital Medical Center.  
 □ **Cashin**, Michael and Janet, a girl, Dec. 25, Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center.  
 □ **Mitchell**, Matthew and Caren, a girl, Dec. 21, Martin Luther Hospital Medical Center.  
 □ **Navarro**, Comado and Manuel, a girl, Dec. 22, Martin Luther Hospital Medical Center.  
 □ **Ramezani**, Ali and Geraldine, a boy, Dec. 17, Martin Luther Hospital Medical Center.

— Compiled by Eldolnye Briggs

**FULLERTON MARRIAGES**

Marriage information taken from Please see ALMANAC/19

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HERITAGE IN OIL EXHIBIT

Acknowledging the founding of the City of Brea  
as a pioneer oil community

BREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Karl Fanning, President  
Leland Kinsler  
Dean Millen  
Frank Schweitzer

BREA FOUNDATION

Wade Mansur, Chairman  
Jack M. Rider, Vice-Chair.  
Carol D. Weddle  
Jim Rigby  
Wayne Maris

BREA CITY COUNCIL

Jonh Sutton, Mayor  
Norma Arias Hicks  
Clarice Blamer  
Gene Leyton  
Carey Nelson

John D. Rose, Design Engineer

July 29, 1987

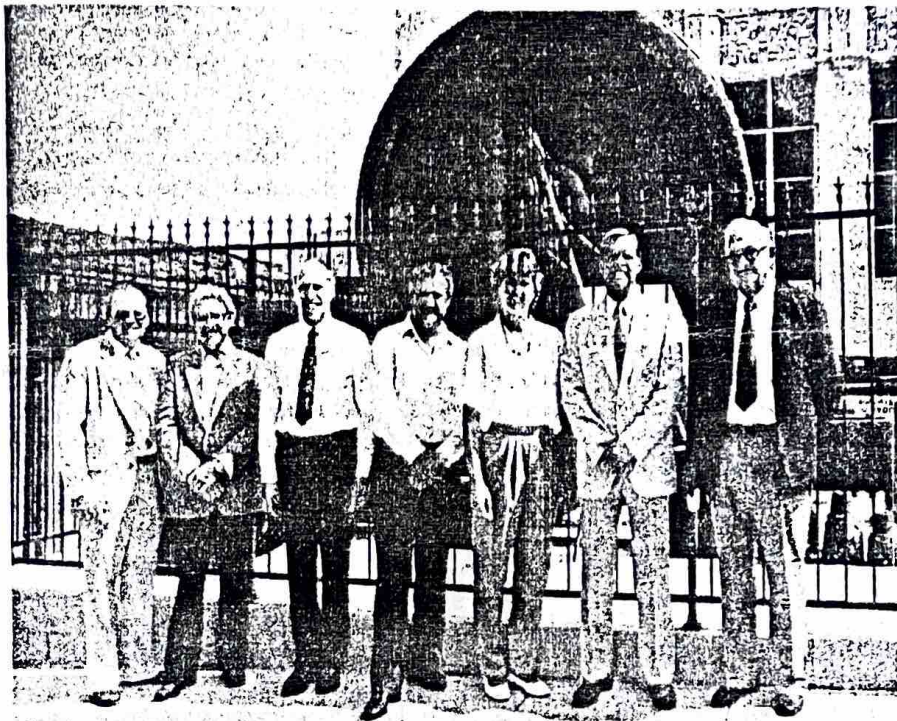
COPY



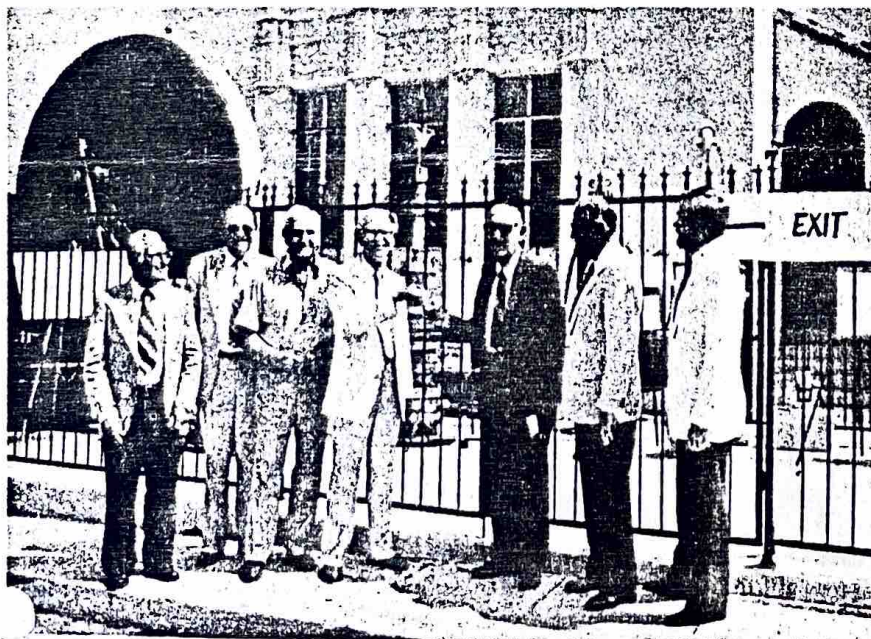
# Brea Historical Society Dedicates Heritage In Oil Exhibit

COPY

The Brea Historical Society's Heritage in Oil Exhibit which was opened to the public at the Brea County Fair of July 4th was officially dedicated. The outside exhibit is adjacent to the south side of the Old City Hall Building in Old City Hall Park. It was a joint project of The Brea Foundation and the City of Brea with the Brea Historical Society. The oilfield equipment that dates back to cable drilling in the 1890's was contributed by local oil operators and oil tool manufacturers which include Unocal, Chevron USA, Shell Western Exploration & Production, Pacific American Oil Co., Shaffer Tool Works established in Brea in 1923, Petrolite Corp. in Brea since 1960, Chiksan Co. in Brea since 1928 (now FMC Corporation, Fluid Controls Division), Republic Supply Co. Representatives of these companies were thanked by Karl



**Exhibit Contributors** — Standing with Jack Rider (l), publisher **PACIFIC OIL WORLD** and Director of the Brea Foundation are representatives of some of the companies that contributed equipment, restoration services and transportation of oilfield equipment for the Brea Historical Society exhibit (l-r) Tom Brown, George Steinbach, Jack Webb, all of Chevron U.S.A., Inc. Sherry Gregoire, Shell Western Exploration and Production, Walt Nelson, FMC Corp., Flow Controls Division, Don Shaffer, Don Shaffer Oil Tools.



**Exhibit Opening** — Karl Fanning, president, Brea Historical Society, hands key to Brea Mayor John Sutton for opening of the 'Heritage in Oil' exhibit. Observing (l-r) are Frank Schweitzer Brea Historical Society (Shaffer — retired), Jack Rider, Brea Foundation and **PACIFIC OIL WORLD**, Dean Millen, Fanning, Sutton, Brea Councilman Gene Leyton, Brea City Manager Ed Wohlenberg.

Fanning, president, Brea Historical Society and Jack Rider, vice-chairman The Brea Foundation and Publisher of **PACIFIC OIL WORLD**, in Brea since 1976. Fanning detailed Brea's beginning founded on oil development in the Brea-Olinda leases. He credited Dean Millen of the Brea Historical Society, Carol Weddle, Brea Foundation Director and former Chairman, and City Councilwoman and former Mayor Clarice Blamer as the early motivating forces of the idea of such an exhibit.

Brea Mayor John Sutton and Councilman Gene Leyton along with City Manager Ed Wohlenberg participated in the ceremony. The exhibit committee for the Brea Historical Society was Millen, Fanning, Frank Schweitzer (Shaffer — retired) and Leland Kinsler (Chevron — retired). Directors of The Brea Foundation are chairmen Wade Mansur, Wayne Maris, Jim Rigby, Weddle and Rider, the liaison to the Brea Historical Society. The exhibit will be open to groups and the general public at times that will soon be designated by the Brea Historical Society. Interested parties should contact the Brea Historical society.



## BREA COMMUNITY HISTORY PROJECT

# X 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 looking for a city to do a history on.

Through organization 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.

The project directors are interested in three types of historical resources, De Graaf said.

Those are written sources, such as letters, diaries or documents; oral sources, obtained through interviews with residents knowledgeable

about Brea's past; and visual items, such as photos, drawings and maps.

Eventually, material artifacts like clothing, relics or tools would be accepted, although there is currently no proper storage space for them.

The goals of the project are to locate, evaluate and organize the historical resources of Brea so they will be of use to students, teachers, businesses, public agencies and residents; to promote interest in and appreciation for the heritage of Brea and how it may be applied to the present; to analyze the history of Brea as an example of the development of suburban areas and the impact that growth might have on cultural values and institutions of the community; to present the history of Brea to the general public in the form of books or media presentation; and to work out a research design for community studies which may be a model for similar projects in Orange County and other areas.

The oral history project team believes that businesses and local government, community groups and individuals will profit from the project.

The role of business in the development of communities has been inadequately recorded, project records state.

The project will incorporate the history of business enterprises in its design and encourage the preservation and use of historical records which relate to them.

One result should be an increased appreciation of the contributions private enterprise has made to Brea's development, project brochures said.

And businesses and government personnel frequently depend on trends or analogies drawn from the past in making current decision, project supporters added.

By making the Brea History Project accessible, a larger body of knowledge for decision-making will be available.

According to project notes, a history of the city is necessary because residents and outside scholars will look to a record of the past for an understanding of problems and conditions of the present.

Histories of the county or the state will not necessarily answer those questions, for they cannot recognize the unique aspect of any one community, the brochure states.

History students will be used to sort and label documents, files, pictures and other material gathered for the project.

And later, more volunteers will be used to put together the museum exhibits, De Graaf said.

He has hired a skeleton crew to get started.

Brea's Barbara Vasquez will coordinate the community volunteers and a CSUF part-time faculty member, William Comiford will coordinate research, DeGraaf said.

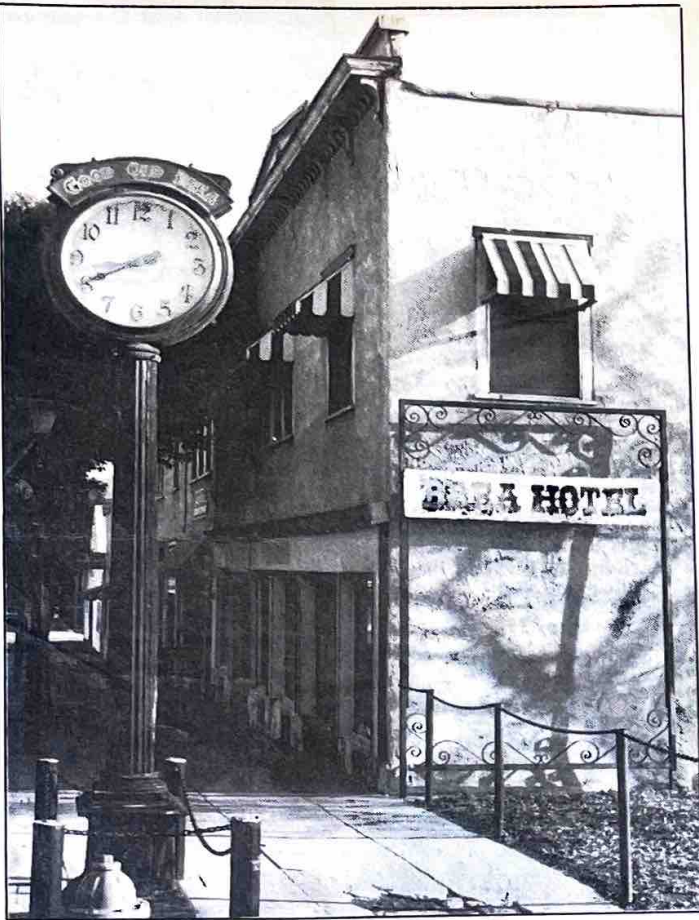
Three classes of history students will be used this spring to bring the project together.

De Graaf added that the project's nucleus is those in Brea interested in its past.

"This is almost more of a public history," he said, noting that oral histories have been done for Newport Beach, Tustin, Fullerton and Brea's sister, Olinda.

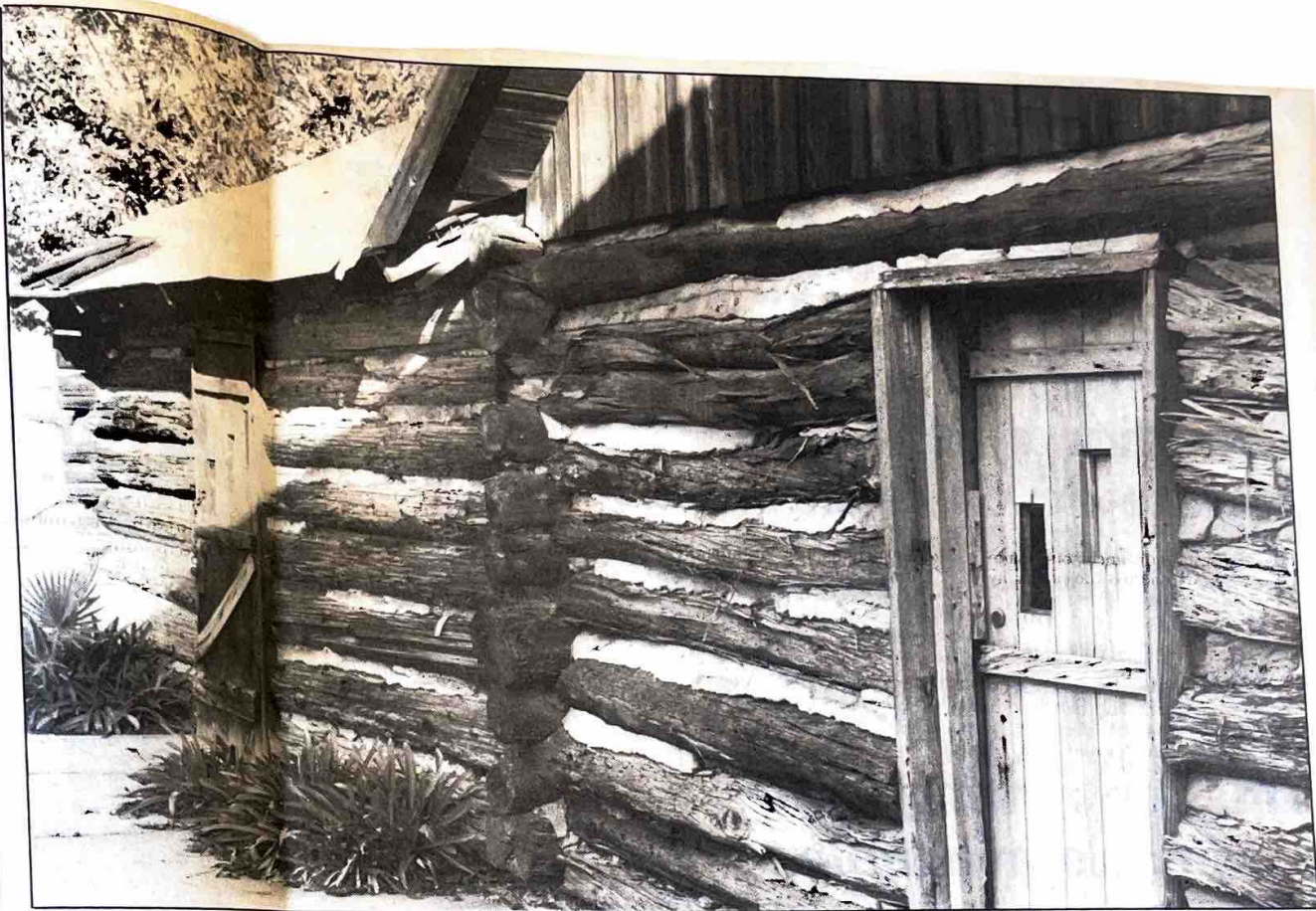
But, those were oral histories only, De Graaf said. None were as multifaceted and thorough as Brea's Community History Project.





(Star-Progress photo by Mark Cromer)

**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 Cromer)

**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.

## A final step approaches for Downtown Brea walking tour

By Mark Cromer

DSP Staff Writer

**BREA** — It isn't over until the fat lady sings, but in the case of the old downtown, the song is just about over.

With demolition now in full swing, Brea Historical Society members have scrambled to put together one last walking tour of the city center, whose highlights include stops at the old Brea Hotel, the Brea Log cabin and the venerable Sam's Place.

The tours kicked off two years ago, when the impending demise of the old downtown became clear as redevelopment picked up steam. A tour that was held several months ago was thought by organizers to be the last one, but with a little time left and interest still high in the historic nature of the downtown, another tour has been planned.

"That was supposed to be one of the last tours, but we decided that with the downtown coming down as quick as it is, we wanted

to do one more," said Brian Saul, vice president of the society.

"We could continue doing the tours, but there wouldn't be much left," he said.

Some of the sites the tour usually stops at are already gone, including the old Craig Building, which was built in 1921. Ironically, Saul noted, the demolition of the building and redevelopment is being done in part by Tom Craig, whose grandfather built the Craig Building.

Saul said the last tour drew 25

people, adding that when the tours first kicked off, hundreds of people joined the excursions.

Ultimately, Saul said, the tours are not a numbers game, but rather an attempt to educate as many people who want to learn about the history of the downtown.

"Since this is the last one we would like as many people as possible, though we will be happy if just one person were to show up to learn about our past."

Historical Society President

Inez Fanning concurred with Saul, adding that the tours give residents a better perspective of the area's history.

"You don't really appreciate it until you are there in the first person. Every building down there has a story to tell. They are full of stories."

Fanning said those stories can provoke a deep respect for those who founded the city, lay the ground work for Brea today.

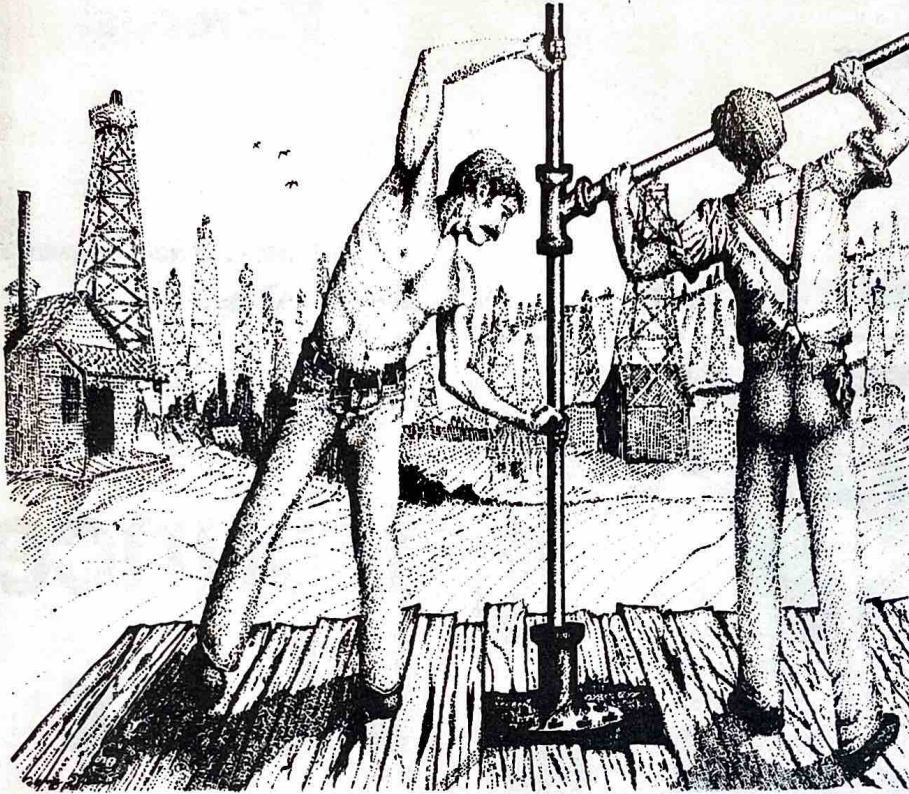
"I always end up saying 'Hail to

the pioneers,' when I go on that tour. The people that came here with so little made all of this possible. A great legacy has been left and we need to know about it and our children need to know about it," she said, adding "We know what happens to people who don't have roots."

The tour is scheduled for Jan. 18 and will leave from the old city hall, located at 401 S. Brea Boulevard, at 10:30 a.m. The tour is free.



## BREA LORE: As Gene Sees It



**THE OIL FIELD WORKERS (1914)**

They came to work the oil fields and they stayed to build a town. The hills were filled with oil rigs as the black gold was pumped from the ground.

# History focus of open house

By Brian Hall  
Staff Writer

To cap off National Preservation Week, the Brea Historical Society and Historical Committee will co-sponsor an open house 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 18 at the Old City Hall, 400 S. Brea Blvd.

The event includes a mini-tour of City Hall Park and an exhibit of antique oil equipment. The Brea Historical Society has doubled its membership from 100 to 200 since it began 19 years ago.

"During all this time we've been in existence, it's been our main business to collect and preserve Brea's history, and we have fun doing it," said society President Inez Fanning.

"I would like to have all of you join us."

Brian Saul, vice-president of the society and chairman of the Brea Historical Committee, said that over the last year-and-a-half his group has been established, members have discovered that preservation means much more than trying to save an old building or house.

"It's actually making the public aware of our history," he added.

"I remember a period not too long ago when somebody came to me and said kind of laughing, 'Walking tour of Brea?' They couldn't imagine that we have much of a history here, but we have a very important one."

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has designated May 12-18 National Preservation Week.



# Tours will look at Brea's past

By John Westcott  
The Orange County Register

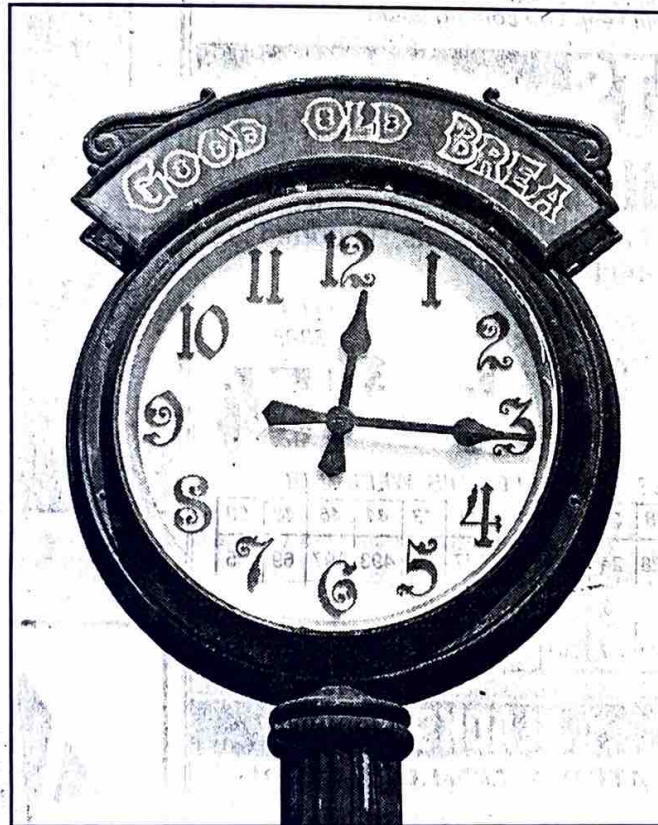
**T**ime finally has caught up with downtown Brea.

A half-century ago, residents often filed in under the flickering screen of the Red Lantern Theater, adorned with Chinese decorations and a cross-legged Buddha that overlooked the audience. Oil workers strolled into Sam's Place for lunch before finishing their long days in the fields and sleeping in dozens of nearby bungalows.

Downtown Brea is filled with memories for many residents. Now, memories are all that's inside the empty hulks lining Brea Boulevard between Imperial Highway and Ash Street. A few buildings, such as the Red Lantern Theater, already have been torn down. Others await the wrecking ball, to swing at the remaining structures over the next few months.

The downtown is being redeveloped, making way for bright new shopping centers and town houses. Construction on the first phase, a 22-acre shopping center, should begin by early fall, said Phil Lanzafame, city redevelopment assistant. It will go on the west side of Brea Boulevard south of Birch.

Residents will get perhaps their last close look at downtown Brea on Saturday, when the Brea Historical Society hosts a walking tour of the area, said Inez Fanning, society president. The two-hour



The Orange County Register  
The 90-year-old railroad clock will be saved.

walk into the city's past will take participants by many of the aging structures. Tours start at 10:30 a.m. in front of Old Brea City Hall at 401 S. Brea Blvd., and cost \$10 per person.

Structures on the tour will include the Gobar Building at 201 S. Brea Blvd.,

which started as Oilfields National Bank in 1928. It was the largest and most expensive commercial building in the area. There's also Sam's Place at 117 S. Brea Blvd., built as a bakery in 1911. It later became a popular cafe.

Many of the buildings still have Victorian-style facades, added in the 1960s.

Not all of Brea's downtown history will be lost. The "Brea Welcomes You" sign straddling Brea Boulevard will survive in some form, Fanning said. So will the 90-year-old railroad clock standing at Brea Boulevard and Birch Street. Charles Jarvis brought the clock from Riverside in the early 1970s as advertising for his clock shop. It left with Jarvis temporarily when he moved the shop to Tustin, but was donated to Brea in 1975.

Fanning also hopes a small bungalow built for an oil worker in 1909 will be saved.

A local hobbyist also is building miniatures of many of downtown's notable buildings.

Fanning, born in Brea and a resident for all but 15 of her 74 years, is sad to see the old downtown go, but no longer bitter at the march of time.

"It's something that you always thought would be there," she said. "But I have no doubt that what the city is building is first class. It will be beautiful and meaningful to the people who live here."



# Walking tour offers final glimpse

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By Brian Hall  
Staff Writer

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The walking tour through Brea, Saturday, Feb. 23 may offer one of the final glimpses into the city's past, according to tour sponsor, the Brea Historical Society.

The walk begins at Brea's old city hall, 401 S. Brea Blvd., at 10:30 a.m. and passes through the entire downtown.

"This is going to be one of the last chances people will have to know something about our history before it's all gone through redevelopment," said Brian Saul, vice president of the historical society.

Several old buildings on Brea Boulevard, between Imperial Highway and Birch Street, came down last week including Brea Travel, together with one of the three original rental houses on Brea Boulevard, the only one still standing and formerly the Brea Florist.

Since about 1917, the date of incorporation, the flower shop was one of the city's oldest buildings.

Where residents voted for incorporation, the La Habra Valley Bank, now called The Frame Place, at the corner of Ash and Brea Boulevard, is slated for demolition as is the Sewell Building, Brea's first city hall which, to the surprise of many visitors, has an upstairs auditorium and stage.

Sam's Place, the old Western-style bar with a false front and a notorious reputation will also succumb to the wrecking ball.

Said at one time to contain a second-story brothel, Sam's was the Brea Bakery in the 1910s and '20s, and an oilman's cafe in the '30s.

"We're losing everything. Here we are next year celebrating Brea's 75th birthday, and it should be a happy time," Saul said.

"But our old history will be gone, and in a way, the Diamond Jubilee will be a sad affair."

Saul said most of old Brea will be destroyed over the next two years to make way for new development. Old houses

along Imperial Highway are being torn down in preparation for road widening.

"The historical society would like to save more, but we're not quite sure if that's going to occur. We don't think so," he said.

So far, the society has had little success intervening on behalf of the early structures, and, therefore, has started focusing on compiling a record of Brea's disappearing past through print and video tape.

Saul presents a local show on cable TV. The episode taped last week concerned the paving of Brea Boulevard in 1915. The society is looking for a local author to write and research a book chronicling Brea's city and business history, to be released through Windsor Publications.

Windsor has just published a similar book for Fullerton.

The Brea Historical Society will offer another walking tour through Brea March 23.



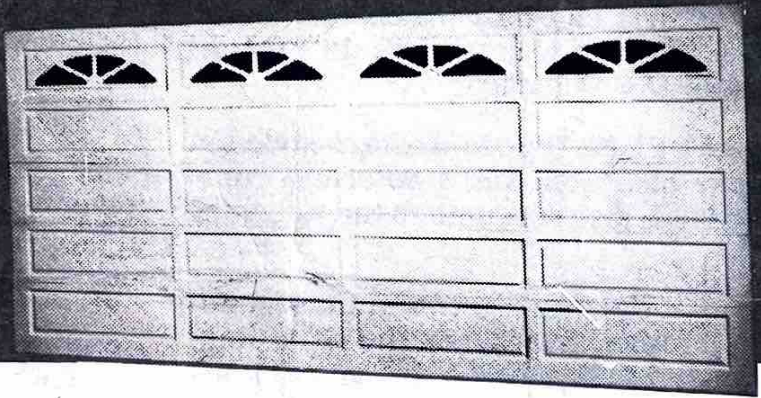
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ANNIVERSARY

## Tour offers last glimpse at Brea's historical downtown

By Mark Cromer

DSP Staff Writer

BREA — Hoping to give residents a last chance glimpse of Brea's old downtown before it is consumed by redevelopment, the Brea Historical Society is sponsoring a walking tour of the area on Saturday.

Brian Saul, a Brea Historian who serves as the guide for the tour, said the two-hour stroll along Brea Boulevard offers residents what could be their last chance to learn first hand about the buildings that have been slated to become memories.

"We plan to do this tour and then possibly another. We are trying to hurry."

Demolition has already started on several of the buildings that rest between Imperial Highway to the south and the Southern Pa-

cific Railroad tracks to the north.

Saul said the downtown could be gone within a month.

He noted the city's historical committee has recommended that several of the buildings downtown have been recommended for preservation. Earmarked for survival is the Brea Hotel, the old La Habra Valley Bank and the legendary Sam's Place.

The Kinsler House has also been tagged for a reprieve from the wrecking ball.

The tours started back in early 1990 and were well received, Saul said, noting that the first tour drew nearly 100 people. Since then, however, attendance has declined and the tours, which had been given monthly, were stopped.

Saturday's tour will be the first

(Continued on Page 2)

## Tour offers...

(Continued from Page 1)

in five months.

Saul said the tour kicks off at City Hall Park where the old city hall used to stand, before moving along Brea Boulevard, where it stops at several locations.

One such stop includes an old log cabin that was built by school boys in the 1920s.

Another site is the former location of Tremaines' Garage, where the first low-winged monoplane in the nation was built during the 1920s, Saul said.

The tours are free and last approximately two hours. Saturday's tour starts at 10:30 a.m..

For further information, call Brian Saul at (714) 990-4461.



# Progress develops early-morning reverie for a veteran walk-about

## Ghosts of past, present and future rise from fog

It seemed like as good a morning as any to explore on foot that section of Brea Boulevard doomed by the city's redevelopment plans.

In fact, it is the ideal morning if you want to call a cold, silent, foggy pre-dawn Sunday "ideal."

The yellow streetlights barely penetrated the fog as I glanced across at the junior high school on the corner of Lambert.

"They wouldn't dare," I assured myself, eyeing the rapacious bulldozers standing still and mute along the roadside as the street enjoys a surely

**“With the theater's passing went a major whiff of old Brea from the days when the place was called “The Red Lantern” and little Frances Gumm trod its boards before going on to fame, fortune and immortality as Judy Garland.”**

needed resurfacing.

"Rough road," proclaims a warning sign.

It's just as much the discarded beer cans and assorted refuse as it is the road's holes that make it so rough.

On the northeast corner of Cypress Street is the red-bricked, red-tiled and adobed "Le Esquina," an authentic-looking Mexican-style restaurant.

Even if the music is piped-in, it's a delight to dine in "Le Esquina" ("The Corner") to "Cielito Lindo" or "Grenada."

Christmas decorations already festoon the tasteful interior of "That Frame Place," once occupied by Brea's main post office, while a few yards further along the boulevard "Sam's Place" is open for business although void of patrons at this hour.

The early 20th century tavern, a hangover from the days when Brea was a mecca for hard-drinking oil workers from all across the land, is uncharacteristically subdued on this quiet Sunday morning.

Check it out tonight, though.

A wreckers' hoarding mercifully obscures the ob-scene cavity — the scars — where once stood the Brea Theatre.

With the theater's passing went a major whiff of old Brea from the days when the place was called "The Red Lantern" and little Frances Gumm trod its boards before going on to fame, fortune and im-

## Brea beat

by Leslie Stuart Carter

mortality as Judy Garland.

One failed to be amused by the wrecking company's "Soon to be Demolished" notice on the theater's marquee before razing the old building.

"Starring..." the sign went on, giving the company name.

We shall not dignify that name here.

"Brea Welcomes You."

The city's familiar red-and-blue illuminated sign pierces the mist, a welcome splash of bright color on this eerily atmospheric Sabbath morn.

The lights loom over the Veterans of Foreign Wars double-fronted premises where the organization's Tuesday evening meetings reunited local former fighting men from America's painfully attritional conflicts.

Sadly, and as a reminder of time's inexorable march, VFW membership includes no survivors from World War I, the so-called "war to end wars."

But the words of British poet and playwright Laurence Binyon are still comforting: "They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old."

Oh no, say it isn't so! Veltri's Restaurant, one's own favorite purveyor of Italian food, is closed forever, a sign on the door advising patrons that "we have moved to Yorba Linda".

Signor Veltri, doubtless wearying of waiting for the other shoe to drop, has split!

This is chilling news to Brea's pastaplegics, persons who consume so much spaghetti that they can't move.

It does prove one thing, however: even though redevelopment's tentacles will reach out and gobble up Veltri's red-white-and-green awnings, old Italians simply refuse to die.

They just pasta away.

Christmas poinsettias, another comely harbinger of yuletide and cheering relief from the hand-and-nose-blowing chill of early morning along Brea Boulevard, adorn Brea Florist's windows.

Black mark, though, to those stores which still have Halloween-painted windows.

The Brea Historical Society's impressive exhibit of artifacts and equipment from our city's oil-strewn past, occupies its permanent spot next to Old City Hall.

The site is dominated by a huge band wheel, literally snatched from the bulldozer's jaws and lovingly restored to today's mint condition by society members, for Brea's future generations to admire.

Getting light now, light enough for one to be jolted by a sign in City Hall Park reminding park users that "possession of alcoholic beverages is a misdemeanor."

Trouble is that the operative word is misspelled "alcoholic," inducing one to question the sobriety of the sign-painter.

Remember when our library was just across the boulevard in "Albertson's Shopping Center?"

The present handsome library in the Civic Cultural Center is far and away a superior facility.

And yet...

Now the old place is occupied by the "Ladies Health Spa."

Books to look, as it were.

At journey's end, a huge, red wintery sun begins to shine through the waning fog.

At least they can't "redevelop" that.

"Happy Thanksgiving wishes to Yum Yum Donuts on Imperial Highway.

We wish all Breans the same — everybody, that is, except the turkey who placed that offensive lettering over the dear old Brea Theatre.

May his bird be all dark meat.

*Brea Beat is a regular feature of the Brea Highlander. Leslie Stuart Carter is a 21-year resident of Brea and a native of London, England. He has written freelance articles for a variety of newspapers and magazines. Comments and suggestions for future columns are welcomed. Write or hand deliver to 1227 E. Yorba Linda Blvd., Placentia 92670.*



# Group will aim to preserve Brea's past

By Luis Zaragoza  
The Register

**BREA** — The City Council has approved the formation of a seven-member Historical Committee charged with finding ways to preserve the city's past.

Formal guidelines for the committee will be developed between now and its first meeting, scheduled for sometime in September, city Community Services Director Ret Wixted said.

The committee will make recommendations to the council just as city advisory commissions do, but members will not be paid monthly stipends. Planning Commission members, for example, are paid \$75 a meeting.

Formation of a historical commission, as opposed to the less-formal committee, was one of 60 actions recommended to the council in the final report by volunteers

**T**he council rejected the idea of a commission because of the cost, but supported formation of a less-formal committee.

who worked on the Brea Project. The aim of the year-long Brea Project was to find solutions to some of the city's most pressing problems in development, traffic and city maintenance.

The council, which initiated the project in January 1988, received the final report in March and took action on several of the recommendations in June. Approval of the committee was among the council's actions.

The council rejected the idea of a commission because of the cost,

but supported formation of a less-formal committee.

The council will appoint five of the committee members. The Brea Historical Society, a volunteer preservationist group, will appoint the remaining two members. No appointments have been made yet.

The proposal for a panel charged with advising the council on historical preservation issues is not new. Inez Fanning, president of the Historical Society, said she approached the council two years ago about forming a historical commission.

The request was prompted by concern over the possible loss of historically significant buildings as a result of new development.

The idea was taken up by Brea Project volunteers, who recommended formation of a historical commission in their final report.

The volunteers working on development problems concluded that

the city's efforts to revitalize certain areas of the city jeopardized structures of historical significance. Of particular concern were houses and commercial buildings in the downtown area.

Among the committee's probable tasks will be evaluating the city's historical resources, said Fanning, who plans to apply for a spot on the committee.



**SUSAN GAEDE**

... is taking the week off.



**pacific clippings**

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**STAR-PROGRESS**

Daily

JUN 19 1991

## Brea Historical Committee 790 made permanent by council

By Steve Creech

DSP Staff Writer

BREA — The City Council made official the creation of a permanent Historical Committee.

Began in 1989 as a temporary committee, the body's purpose has been to address historical issues in the community.

The 4-0 vote established a five-member group required also to hold joint membership in the

Brea Historical Society.

City Councilman Burnie Dunlap was absent.

Members of the Historical Committee are appointed by the City Council and assigned to document historical structures in the city.

Their roles have gained prominence recently due to heavy development scheduled soon in the

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)  
city's downtown area.

The downtown is home to several buildings considered to merit historic preservation by many residents.

In other action, the council:

■ Approved a five-year contract extending the city's police services contract with the city of Yorba Linda.

The 4-0 approval includes a level of service agreement with Yorba Linda that also will provide eight more law enforcement positions requested by the city.

The contract price for police services to the city of Yorba Linda will be \$4,710,752 — a 25-percent increase from fiscal year 1990-91 total of \$3,777,533.

Beginning July 1, the city of Brea will provide Yorba Linda with approximately 3,259 hours per month of patrol officer services.

■ Approved a 5-percent cost-

of-living increase for City Manager Frank Benest.

Benest's salary of \$9,830.63 per month includes his services as Executive Director of the Brea Redevelopment Agency.

■ Approved a professional services agreement with architect Joel R. Bishow for modifications to the Brea Civic and Cultural Center.

■ Approved a contract in the amount of \$16,450 to Best Choice Painting and Maintenance for the repainting of the Valencia Reservoir.

■ Approved a contract with Mear Construction for the repainting of the space frame at the Brea Civic and Cultural Center.

■ Agreed to renew property and excess earthquake insurance with Allendale and Century Indemnity Insurance beginning July 1 and ending July 1, 1992.

The city's property insurance through Allendale is approximately \$44.3 million.





# the 29¢ FORUM

## letters to the editor

### A heritage mourned

As I wander through the ghost town of downtown Brea, my heart is saddened. Once, there was life here. Real life. It will soon be replaced with the superficial, unreal world of the shopping plaza.

A few of the old buildings still stand — monuments to their time. Sam's Bar still serves up potent potables for those who imbibe, the Oilfields National Bank building still houses tenants, and there are still those who call the Brea Hotel home. The old grocery store, in more recent times a coin shop, stands empty, as does the Masonic Lodge auditorium. But these are merely buildings.

What is really gone from downtown Brea is its heart and soul. There were little cottages, no two alike, with front porches suitable for a rocking chair or a porch swing. There were large yards, most with small pets. Even an occasional chicken could be seen. These little cottages were home to many middle-income Ameri-

cans. Americans from all over the world, and every walk of life. There were Swedes, Germans, Mexicans and Orientals. There were painters, gardeners, janitors, and mechanics. They were young and old alike all living the American dream in a typical American small town.

Gone now is the laughter of small children, and the young housewife strolling across the grass and through the bushes to take her elderly neighbor a casserole. Gone is the sound of the baseball game from the living room radio on Saturday afternoon while the man of the house tinkers with the family car. Gone is the feeling of "home town," gone is the feeling of family, of neighborhood — our neighborhood.

Downtown Brea had something that will never be captured again. It had character. Character that took many years, tears, heart-break and hard work to make it what it was. What we see now as

we wander through this ghost town are remnants. Remnants of lives once lived to the fullest. Now there are fenced in empty fields, sterile of humanity.

I mourn for what once was. Real people living in a real neighborhood in the small town of Brea.

I know that we must look to the future and progress, but where did all those people go, the real people that lived there? What happened to the heart and soul of our little town? And how can we appreciate our heritage when we keep destroying it?

I hope the City of Brea is thoughtful enough of future generations to preserve at least some of what was. Recently, the Brea City Council made permanent the Brea Historical Committee. I wish this committee well, and hope the council listens attentively to its advice, but perhaps it is too little too late.

For Brea, the heart has almost stopped beating, and the soul is gone, perhaps drifting off to a more amiable place.

**Kathryn Maierhoffer**  
Brea



**pacific clippings**

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**STAR-PROGRESS**

Daily

MAR 16 1988

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

<sup>790</sup>  
**Letterwriter worried**

I am writing this letter to you because I am worried. Scared, though, is probably a better description of how I feel because the city I love and whose future I

care about is losing its past.

To anyone who has driven around "Good Old Brea" recently it is quite apparent that the "Old" is *quickly* disappearing

from our city and is being replaced by shopping centers, apartment complexes and condominiums.

As a teacher of 12 years in Brea and a 5-year resident of the city, I am afraid that all Brea students, my own children and also my grandchildren are being robbed of their heritage by the so-called "progress" that is occurring here.

The problem is that too little regard is being given by the city to historical preservation of some homes and other buildings that should live on as reminders of what our town was like before it became the growing city of today.

Is it too late to save our past? Almost, but not quite.

The Brea Historical Society has made a list of several structures in the city that should be saved from destruction for historical reasons. Of course, many of these are in the redevelopment area, and unless the city changes its policies, it is only a matter of time before they too disappear forever.

What can be done? There is a solution, but it would take the support of the citizens of Brea, local businesses and the city itself to bring it about. The solution I foresee is for Brea to establish a Heritage Square similar to those in other cities. And what would the Square look like? I picture it as a large beautifully landscaped cul-de-sac lined with some of the homes and buildings the Society is trying to preserve, each eventually restored inside and out to its former state. Volunteers from the community and/or Historical Society could serve as docents and lead tours for both Brea school children and the public at large. What a wonderful way to retain at least a part of our past, and what a learning experience it will be for those who follow us here in the future.

I mentioned it would take a combination of the public, local businesses and the city for this idea to materialize. The city needs to donate a piece of land, and local companies could pitch in, and, as a tax write-off, move the homes and buildings to the Heritage Square site. The public, though, does have the largest responsibility, for, without its support, the Square will only be a dream and nothing else. Concerned citizens of Brea should contact their City Council members now while there is still time and also show their support for preserving Brea's past by joining the Brea Historical Society.

I speak for no group in writing this. I am only a Brea teacher who loves history and loves my city and who wants my city's future to include its past.

Brian Saul  
Brea



## Another landmark lost

Brea has lost another landmark in the name of progress.

Brea Mall has announced another grand expansion.

Brea-Olinda High School will have a grand, shiny new home ... if costs can be met and the taxpayers can buy a new roadway to get students to the new education emporium behind an office building complex.

Our streets are falling apart.

Isn't it about time for our City Fathers to, in the words of an advice columnist, "wake up and smell the coffee"?

The Sievers House had to go to make room for more parking for an office building that apparently was approved by city authorities without regard for whether adequate parking has been provided for employees of this clean, non-polluting business.

Brea Mall, which already has given us traffic jams and daily reports of theft from stores and from vehicles in the sprawling parking lots, now proposes to make room for more unprotectable parking areas. A "convention center and hotel complex" is already in the works to bring even more congestion to Brea (assuming that the projected customers for this materialize).

Brea-Olinda High and its fine agricultural facility must make way for more office buildings and commercial use destined to bring additional congestion to our already crowded local streets.

How will all these people who will populate the business and commercial developments for part of each 24-hour period get to them? Look at the Orange Freeway now; bumper-to-bumper through Brea Canyon to Anaheim twice a day, with overflow pouring down narrow Brea Boulevard and onto neighboring streets. Even the alleys are carrying streams of cars seeking relief from the congestion. Carbon Canyon Road appears to be at capacity and now there are reports of plans to put a grand new golf complex in that area.

In the name of progress, the older part of "Good Old Brea" is beginning to look like a desert. It is waiting for redevelopment into more lucrative uses. A few well-heeled real estate developers stand to make a tidy profit by

having a quasi-public agency help remove people and property which have been there for a lifetime.

What about those of us who live here? Must we all move aside to make room for more traffic and congestion created by inadequate planning? Do the City Fathers really want to leave us a legacy of disaster? Do we really need more office build-

ings and expensive stores? Do we need "affordable" housing that those on fixed incomes cannot afford?

Mr. Mayor, Mr. and Mrs. City Council Members, in this rush to rebuild our city according to some ill-defined manifest destiny, please take time to consider the people.

R. Dean Whinery  
Brea



# Brea agency to continue house-moving hearing

By Sheldon Craig  
DSP Staff Writer

BREA — A continued public hearing on a house set to be moved from 239 S. Flower Ave. to 119 S. Redwood Ave. will be held at the Planning Commission meeting Tuesday.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Civic and Cultural Center.

The Brea Redevelopment Agency first submitted its request to move the house at the

Nov. 8 Planning Commission meeting, but the hearing was continued when it was discovered that the home was to be moved to a zone that had yet to be officially created.

The new zone would be a historical one, designed to preserve the older architecture of buildings in the downtown area.

Since no development standards had been officially adopted, planning commissioners said they wanted to be cer-

tain the home would conform to expected standards. Comment was sought from both the city staff and the Brea Historical Society.

Staff said they favored the move, but added conditions requiring complete rehabilitation of the property, new landscaping and yard maintenance within 120 to 180 days of the move.

The staff recommendation also requires the owner to seek approval from the city for any

changes, modifications or additions to the house.

A staff report dated Nov. 17 said the Historical Society had not yet commented on its wishes for the historical zone, but the society's opinions would be presented Tuesday.

Staff recommends approval of the move.

In other business, the Planning Commission will consider a revised zoning ordinance, designed to streamline the process

of acquiring conditional use permits and zone variances.

Commissioners said they believed city staff should handle a number of the permits and variances, rather than requiring applicants to come before the commission. The new ordinance would therefore broaden the powers of staff to grant approval of certain requests.

The Planning Commission will also consider a request by developer Darwin Manuel to com-

bine 12 lots into four parcels and to build four buildings for a project on the north side of Imperial Highway, between Orange and Flower avenues.

Current zoning regulations allow for only 25 percent retail use for properties in the area where Darwin's property is located. Darwin received approval in September to increase the retail use percentage to approximately 50 percent.

(Continued on Page 2)



## Daily Star-Progress

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Monday  
Nov. 21, 1988

Business .....10, 11  
Community.....13, 14  
Lifestyles.....19  
Sports.....15 thru 18

## Brea...

(Continued from Page 1)

The project is planned as an old-fashioned commercial area, and design issues were raised earlier this year. Darwin was asked by the Planning Commission to continue work on design ideas before the matter was brought up for a public hearing. Staff now recommends approval of the requests, which will be presented Tuesday.



## that glows with old-fashioned warmth



Daniel A. Anderson/The Register

Owner Sid Greaves takes time to rest for a moment before the late-afternoon arrivals begin packing the walls of Sam's Place.

### Sam's Place offers the good time spirit of 'Good Old Brea'

By Daniel R. Browning  
The Register

**S**am's Place is the epitome of "Good Old Brea." Under the direction of its mercurial owner, Sid Greaves, the Lilliputian-sized tavern has become a sanctuary from the onslaught of progress. "Everything in here is old and authentic. Even the soft drinks are poured from bottles. We don't use pumps," said Greaves, a Placentia resident.

Sam's Place, housed in a red, two-story, western-style building on Brea Boulevard north of Imperial Highway, was built in the early 1900s when Brea and Olinda were oil boom towns.

Inside, a red linoleum bar is barely visible among the elbows of a growing 4 p.m. crowd; wagon-wheel lamps cast a yellow glow from overhead, making customers look like pictures from a faded newspaper; and conversation is loud and friendly, reminiscent of a high school reunion.

"The first time I saw this place it reminded me of a poem I read when I was in school," said Greaves. "We've got three generations of people coming here. I'm told (Sam's Place) was here before the city was incorporated."

Greaves bought the bar about three years ago, but decided against renaming it because it had been known as Sam's Place for about 45 years.

"This is the second bar I've owned," he said. "I'm the type of guy that takes a shot at anything, and then tries to make it work."

Work it does. The tavern is open 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. daily, and finding a seat is next to impossible from 3 p.m. until closing, according to several customers.

Even Greaves admits the bar has proven to be a gold mine.

"Believe you me, I do all right," he said.

His secret? "To be in the bar business

you've got to give good service. Thrift comes first, conversation comes later. ... And in the bar business, you've got to love people and you can't have prejudices. I don't have moods. I'm always on the same level," Greaves said.

Low prices also contribute to the bar's success, he said. Because bottled beer sells for 90 cents and bartenders liberally "free pour" other libations,

Greaves said his volume is tremendous. But customers say price isn't the only

reason they frequent Sam's Place. "Everybody's friendly and we know

everybody. ... And everybody watches out for everybody else," said Donna Dyche, who works at Brea-Olinda High School.

Then again, there's Greaves himself. "Sid is quite a character. He's Irish-Canadian ... (and) he sings all the time," Dyche said.

"He sings Danny Boy to the max," another customer volunteered.

Besides singing and quoting poetry, Greaves also likes tales that add to the bar's already notorious reputation. "Supposedly, they had fun and games upstairs with the girls. This is what I've been told. It doesn't happen anymore," he said impishly.

Though liquor flows generously at Sam's Place, there is surprisingly little trouble, said customer Bill Johnson.

"Most of the people who come here are all Brea people. You hardly ever see any fights in here because everybody knows everybody else," Johnson said. "Sam's Place is the best bar in Brea."

"It's hard to find another bar like this anywhere," added Greaves.





**Jack Sims, a regular at Sam's Place, makes a call on the bar's pay phone.**





**PROGRESS CONTINUES** — An old familiar landmark in Brea, background, will soon be torn down to make room for redevelopment. In the foreground grading has been completed and staking is in place for a new senior citizen complex to be built on a site near Kirkhill Rubber Co.

*(Star-Progress photo by Stan Bird)*



# Wrecking ball targets old downtown

"In two or three years," said Brea Historical Committee president Brian Saul, pointing north along Brea Boulevard from City Hall Park, "there'll be nothing along here. Only empty lots."

Yes, old downtown Brea, in all its shabby gentility, is about to become numero uno in the Destruction Derby. Mind you, the City Council, encouraged by both the committee and the Brea Historical Society, has tentatively agreed to spare a few treasured remnants of our city's past and to relocate the buildings in a proposed Historic Park at Walnut (Brea's oldest street) and Ash Streets.

"You know," Saul said, "once upon a time, buildings were moved more than they are today. Structures had meaning, then." He went on, "the council wants to bring downtown Brea back to life. Now, a person comes down here just for one or two items. In a couple of years there'll be new life here to attract strollers as well as shoppers. Plans are afoot to introduce the continental-style sidewalk cafe and jazz up the whole area."

Mercifully, because it's listed on the National Historic Register, they can't demolish our beloved Municipal Plunge in City Hall Park. The plunge has been there since 1929, a huge attraction back then since nobody in town had a backyard pool so all Brea flocked to Orange County's first public pool.

A rose garden once enchanted park visitors not to mention passers-by. The garden was illuminated at night with water from the Schaeffer Fountain. We should be so lucky! Banjos were big in '29, hence the unforgettable strains of "If I Had A Talking Picture Of You," wafting across the boulevard on a summer night. The modestly verdant acreage of City Hall Park, constructed in 1927 with a \$60,000 bond issue by Brea voters, would cost an estimated \$4 million to \$5 million today. Brea's old jail, still standing on the park's southern tip and with barred windows still clearly visible, housed forlorn and dispossessed survivors of Long Beach's devastating 1933 earthquake.

There'll be living quarters in downtown Brea as in days of yore because many new buildings will have residences above. Just pop out of your pad for lunch at one of those outdoor cafes like the one where Rossano Brazzi picked up Katharine Hepburn in Venice, in the movie "Summertime."

Actually, sidewalk cafes weren't exactly priorities back in 1908 when the Ontario Land Investment Company began the town to be named Randolph, a new community to house oilworkers living in hillside shacks on the oil leases. The joint was a bust until three years hence when the Big Red Cars clanged into town on a spur of track from Yorba Linda to Los Angeles. Randolph became Brea in 1911 as citizens discovered that they could take Big Red all the way into Los Angeles for a day's shopping or for a visit to one of them new-fangled moving pictures soon to be elevated from nickelodeon status to art form by the great director D. W. Griffith. Couldn't be simpler—the now vanished station was right there on North Brea Boulevard.

Readers, should you know of anyone who's into Victorians—you know, all bric-a-brac inside and window boxes out—tell 'em not to try to recreate the Old Queen's era here in new Brea. The city fathers are decidedly lukewarm—no, make that downright hostile!—to the Victorian motif. Brea, after all, dates from a full decade after Britain's aged monarch, in 1901, went the way of all flesh.

Sam's Place is a definite maybe, an obtuse term for the survival status of Brea Boulevard's Craftsman-style tavern standing in that same spot since 1910, long before most of us had heard of a Harvey Wallbanger or a boilermaker. Once a bakery and with its original brick ovens intact, the venerable pub cries out for salvation to take a well-merited place in a Historic

## Brea Beat

By Leslie Stuart Carter

Park for future Breans to pause before and to reflect upon what the boulevard could possibly have looked like when it was just a dirt road. Stop, if you will, for a moment at the staircase on the tavern's south side—can you still hear, especially on a drowsy Sunday afternoon, the ghostly laughter of a "lady of the evening" traipsing up to the apartment above the bar, her footsteps vying with the clump of an oilworker's hob-nailed boots?

Across the boulevard, the vacant two-story Wall Building erected in 1911 on Brea Boulevard and subsequently turned around onto Ash Street and featured in the Gene Wilder-Richard Pryor comedy hit "Silver Streak," was gutted in a pre-dawn blaze Easter Sunday this very week and the acrid smell of smoke pervaded the chilly

silence. The old place housed Brea's first barber shop and, ironically, was due to be spared and relocated.

"Brea Welcomes You." Our city's so familiar sign, spanning Brea Boulevard south of Birch Street, a 1935 donation of the Brea Lions Club, is marked for preservation as is the Brea Clock, made in 1905, a landmark in these parts although its installation here dates only from the 1960s. The clock used to direct customers to Charlie's Clock Shop.

The doomed, dignified Sewell Building's second floor, 105-113 South Brea Boulevard, was the city's first Masonic Hall and the room's solemn atmosphere is intact to this day as is the adjoining auditorium where Breans held amateur shows. The rubbish-ridden stage is still there and the melodies linger on. Downstairs, only 249 Brea residents voted for incorporation in 1917 from an electoral roll of 732. The missing 483? Mostly women! The fair sex wasn't allowed to vote until 1920.

Have a good look at the 1921 Spanish-Mediterranean Craig Building named for

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pioneer Brea Isaac Craig and which was home to the first post office in town. The city's lovely Craig Park also is named for Isaac. In the same block was the now demolished Brea Theater where, in 1939, Judy Garland appeared on the stage following her triumph in *The Wizard of Oz*. The former Frances Gumm's personal appearance was in aid of her uncle Frank Gumm's, the manager, sagging box office attendances.

Brian Saul's fourth tour of old Brea will be held 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 22. Feel free to shed a tear for the ravaged Wall Building.

□  
Brea Beat is a regular feature of the Brea Highlander. Leslie Stuart Carter is a 26-year resident, member of the Historical Society and free-lance writer.



## TOUR: Brea Oldtimers join newcomers

FROM 1

never really visited downtown," Mary Johnston said. "I've heard so much recently about redevelopment that I felt I should come before it's gone."

For longtime resident Geraldine Carpenter, the tour was a bitter-sweet experience.

"I wanted to see everything one last time before they tear it down," Carpenter said. "Everybody says that this is progress, and it has to go on. I guess that's so, but I can't forget about all the good times I

had here. This was our town.

"You can't bury your head. This can't stay the little town it once was. But I'm not altogether happy about it."

Joyce Collins, who was born in Brea in 1924, said the tour elicited memories of the city as a "beautiful town where you knew every person in every house."

Future tours of downtown and of other historic districts in the city are being planned, but none are scheduled.



Phil McCarter/The Register

Laurel Elementary School teacher Brian Saul leads a tour group up the stairs of Sewell Hall in downtown Brea.

## PARK: Preservationists hope to find site

FROM 1

the Brea Historical Society. The society was founded 20 years ago to preserve historic buildings and city memorabilia. The society has long supported the idea of a heritage park.

The Historical Committee is scheduled to discuss its role in the redevelopment of downtown at Tuesday's council meeting.

Saul urges residents interested in preserving Brea's heritage to lobby council members to find a site for a heritage park and allocate funds for its development.

"The city hesitates to give us an area (in downtown) because the land is too valuable," said Saul, standing at the corner of Walnut Avenue and Ash Street, the city's oldest residential area. "But this is where the city was born. This is where it belongs."

The city eventually will have to find new sites for the Good Old Brea sign on the northwest corner of Imperial Highway and Brea Boulevard and the Good Old Brea clock on the northeast corner of Ash Street and Brea Boulevard, Saul said. Both landmarks will be displaced by redevelopment projects.

Although some larger buildings cannot be saved because of the cost, some smaller buildings can and should be moved to a historic preservation district instead of bulldozed, Saul said.

"I think the kids should have something to see of old Brea," Saul said. "We shouldn't tear it all down."

Council members have said they support historic preservation, but hesitate to enact restrictive preservation ordinances that might hinder the city's ability to negotiate the development of a potentially profitable project.

City officials are in the process of interviewing two developers vying for the right to develop the 22-acre shopping center. City Manager Frank Benest said the council hopes to make a selection as soon as possible.

To raise awareness of preservation efforts, the Historical Committee and Historical Society sponsored a two-hour walking tour of downtown on Saturday. Nearly 100 residents turned out.

"We want to do more for the public, so the response to the tour gives us hope," Saul said. Future tours

are being planned, he said.

Such tours educate the public about what is worth preserving, Saul said.

Some buildings are not, he said. Saul cited as examples the motley collection of storefronts in the 100 block of South Brea Boulevard.

In the 1960s, the city sponsored a project to establish a Victorian theme in the area to attract customers. The buildings, many built in the 1920s, were outfitted with false fronts. The gambit did not pay off as expected, he said.

Nowadays, the storefronts convey the incorrect impression that Brea's heritage includes Victorian architecture, Fanning said.

Among the buildings preservationists want to relocate is a house in the 100 block of Walnut Avenue representative of the houses built for the oil workers who first populated the area.

The Historical Society has set up an exhibit about old-town Brea at the old City Hall building on the southwest corner of Brea Boulevard and Date Street. The exhibit is open by appointment only. For information, call 529-2993.