

# Preservationists fight for landmark houses, buildings

Story by Cerise A. Valenzuela  
Illustration by Stephen Rountree  
The Orange County Register

**L**ike pictures on tattered postcards, several historical Brea buildings and houses will soon be fading away.

Many buildings and houses that line Brea's historic boulevard and a few neighboring streets will be demolished to make way for a 55-acre downtown commercial development and the widening of Brea Boulevard from four to six lanes.

But Brian Saul and other members

of the Historical Society want the city to preserve several of the buildings. "We're losing our whole town and the center of town," Saul said. "All the people of the future will not be able to see what old downtown Brea was like."

The society and other Brea residents have asked the city to restore the landmarks and move some of the houses to the city's historical row on Redwood Avenue.

There are three vacant lots on the street; one house has been restored and moved there.

There isn't enough room for all the Pleasant ~~area~~ **BUILDINGS**

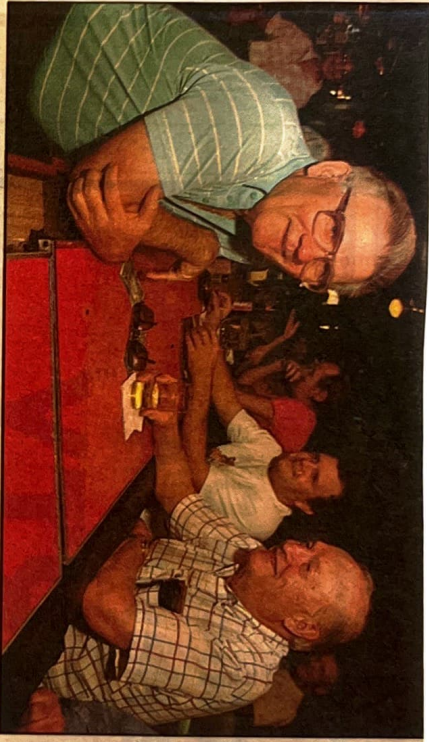
leaved simply don't fit into the city's redevelopment plans, and it would be too costly to move them all, he said.

"We're not quite sure what is going to be preserved and what isn't — the city has not told us," Saul said.

"But we're not giving up. There are so many buildings worth saving, we just don't know where to begin."

Plans are to demolish some city-owned buildings within two months; after asbestos has been removed from the ceilings, Lanza fame said.

The city has bought 95 residential properties in the downtown area since 1985 for redevelopment.



Owner Sid Greaves talks with a few longtime patrons at Sam's Place, where he serves hot dogs, beer and mixed drinks. It's one of the last businesses in the area.

# BUILDINGS: Historical Society says Brea landmarks must be preserved for future generations

FROM 1

downtown houses that should be preserved — and that leaves the problem of the old commercial buildings such as Sam's Place and the old Brea Hotel, Saul said.

In March 1990, the society's historical committee asked the city to designate a new city park where the historical buildings could be moved. The request was denied.

"There just was no room" for another park, redevelopment assistant Phil Lanzafame said. "Where would we put it?"

City officials are considering ways to preserve some structures but have no plans to designate another historical area for the buildings, Lanzafame said.

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In April 1990, the city identified 54 more parcels it needed for the new downtown plan. Since then, the city bought 11; eight are houses.

The remaining 43 properties include 32 houses along Ash Street and along Walnut, Madrona and Orange avenues, and 11 commercial buildings on Brea Boulevard from Ash Street to Imperial Highway. The commercial buildings include a bar, hardware store, auto supply store, music store, glass shop, hobby train shop, frame shop, offices and a Der Weinerschnitzel restaurant.

The Wall building at 105 E. Ash St. — built in 1911 — burned down in March 1990. The oldest commercial building in the city, it's

as a pharmacy, restaurant and barber shop.

A second building, at 136 S. Brea Blvd., once the Red Lantern Theater and the Calvary Chapel, was torn down in 1987 for redevelopment.

The new \$65 million downtown neighborhood with townhouses, condominiums and two shopping centers was approved by the City Council on Dec. 18, after nearly six years of discussion.

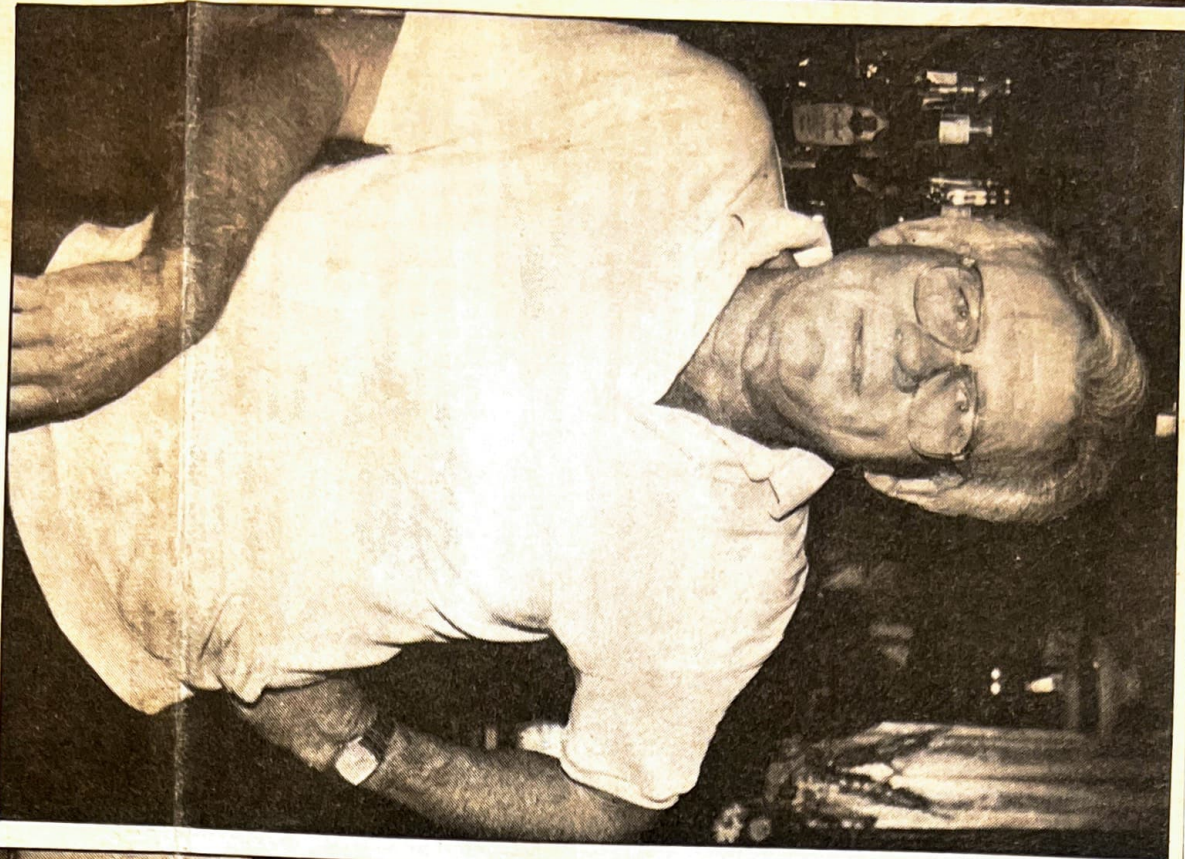
While construction could begin

Brea, and we can't put a price on that."

The city is considering finding new sites for the "Brea Welcomes You" now arched over Brea Boulevard between Imperial Highway and Birch Street and the old Brea clock on the northeast corner of Ash Street and Brea Boulevard, Bartram said.

Officials also are working on a proposed budget for buying, preserving and relocating some downtown buildings.

5-2-91  
O.C. Register



(Star-Progress photos by Jack Hancock and Mark Cromer)

**REMEMBER SAM'S PLACE** — Seaton Greaves, above, owns perhaps one of the most recognizable buildings in downtown Brea, the legendary Sam's Place. The small bar, at right, now faces either relocation or destruction due to redevelopment. Greaves has promised to fight.



Monday, March 30, 1992

# As redevelopment looms, owner of Sam's Place promises replay of Alamo

By Mark Cromer

DSP Staff Writer

**BREA** — As Seaton Greaves sees it, it is a historic struggle.

A small group of men, loosely bound together more by fate than a sense of loyalty to each other, are facing a vastly larger and better equipped adversary.

And while the names Sherriffs, Vega, Kunec, Cook and Greaves may not be remembered like Crockett, Bowie and Travis, there is little question Greaves intends to turn Sam's Place into Brea's own Alamo.

Though he is a downtown Brea businessman like Vega and the others, for Greaves the issue of redevelopment transcends simply moving from one location to another, or even getting a fair offer for his property.

As the owner of Sam's Place, the legendary bar that has stood on Brea Boulevard for longer than most members of the City Council have been alive, Greaves

sees it as a matter of being on the right side of history...and doing the right thing.

"Sam's Place is prime Americana. Once it is destroyed, it can not be replaced. Once it is gone, it is gone forever," Greaves said, as he paced the floor of his small stock room in the back of the bar.

His stocky frame tense with anger sometimes flashing to the point where it seemed he might run to the window and shout to the world outside "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore!"

Though Greaves appeared to relish the opportunity to go at it with the city over what he feels is an attempt to run him out of town, it is a fight he said he tried to avoid.

"I tried to stay out of this as long as I could, but I'm not keeping my mouth shut any longer," he said, jabbing his finger through the air, no doubt visualizing someone on the receiving

end of it.  
"Now I'm going to come out fighting."

It is a fight which Greaves frames, like Sam's Place, in salty historical terms.

"There was a British admiral who became cornered by the Spanish fleet, and you know what he did? He said 'Come forth, come forth, ye cowards all, here is a man as good as you!' And history proved that the Spanish got their ass whipped and sent back to Spain."

He his hoping history will repeat itself.

Greaves's main points of contention with the city and its Redevelopment Agency echo much of what other downtown businessmen have already said about redevelopment of the downtown.

Greaves feels the agency has not offered him a fair price for his property and is using the threat of an eminent domain seizure.

(Continued on Page A2)

# As redevelopment looms, owner of Sam's...

By Staff Writers 3-30-92

(Continued from Page A1)  
sure to force him to accept their terms.

Sam's Place, located at 117 S. Brea Boulevard, sits on 7,000 square feet of property that the city wants for its downtown redevelopment project.

Greaves bought the property and business on St. Patrick's Day in 1961, paying cash outright for the bar.

"When I bought Sam's from its previous owner, I paid what he asked. I didn't steal it from him, and the City of Brea is not going to steal my building from me...no one is going to steal my building from me," he said, making it a point to note that's exactly what he considers the Redevelopment Agency's recent offers to be: theft.

The agency made its first formal offer for the property late last year.

In a letter from Redevelopment Director Sue Georgino to Greaves, dated Oct. 1, the agency offered to pay \$202,240 for the entire parcel of property and the building.

That figure includes \$22,310 for improvements made on the building, but does not include any relocation "benefits" that Greaves would qualify for by relocating.

Greaves, though, feeling the offer was ridiculously low, agreed to meet Georgino in early January. The meeting did not go well.

"She said I ought to consider this a business opportunity. Well, I don't need a business opportunity and I told her that. I already have a business opportunity. It's called Sam's Place."

Georgino declined to be interviewed for this story, referring questions about Greaves' property to Assistant City Manager Tim O'Donnell, who was unable to comment by press time.

At a press conference last week, called to refute charges that the city has not complied with state law during redevelopment, Brea city officials stated they were confident that redevelopment negotiations have been fair.

City Attorney Jim Markman characterized the downtown project as, for the most part, smooth.

"Having done this for 23 years, I cannot remember a downtown redevelopment process that affected hundreds of parcels, dozens of businesses and tenants where there has been less controversy or less contested items. Look at the statistics, you have about 270 to 300 transactions involved here, out of those maybe a dozen have gone to the point of being lawyers' management, said.

During the talks between Greaves and Georgino, the city offered to sell Greaves a 4,240-square-foot parcel of property up the street from Sam's Place, located on the west side of North Brea Boulevard, between Cypress and Bracken Streets.

The agency would sell the property to Greaves for \$180,200, leaving him \$38,187 to build a new building and start his business again.

"Do you think I could even buy the permits for a new building in Brea for \$38,000?" Greaves asks with a laugh that barely conceals his disgust at the offer. "Well,

maybe I could buy the permits..." Jim Cutts, director of the city's Development Services Department, said permit fees would vary depending on what the building encompassed.

Figures provided by the DCD, estimated that for a 4,000 square foot building basic fees would be close to \$3,700.

Still, Greaves said the agency's offer does not take into account the historic element his business counts on to draw its patrons.

The thin, wood-sided building is considered a landmark by many in the community, spawning legends about a brothel that allegedly operated from its second floor during the 1940s.

Its washed-out red veneer helps make the otherwise small building stand out on the boulevard. A lone neon sign advertises cocktails.

Greaves said in his early years of ownership, before redevelopment picked up steam, Sam's Place was a neighborhood crowd.

"My business was from the surrounding community, which the city destroyed. My parking lot used to be empty, but you couldn't get a seat in the house," he said, adding that now-a-days most of his customers drive there.

Though the city has earmarked the building to be moved to a nearby block where other historic buildings are to be preserved, one gets the feeling the building wouldn't survive an attempt up-rodding.

Pointing to Temecula, who preserved its old buildings in a commercial development, Greaves said the agency and city should work to incorporate Sam's Place into the redevelopment project.

If the bar was moved to the parcel of property the agency has offered, Greaves said, it could prove to be in violation of zoning codes as well as a major source of controversy due to its proximity with the Four Square Church. "It would be holding but trouble," Greaves said.

Currently Greaves said he pay \$1,360 a year in property tax. He doesn't want that figure to change drastically with a new location and building.

If forced to move, however, Greaves said the agency needs to up its offer by about a half million to \$750,000, a figure he said he arrived at by dividing what the Four Square Church got for its property and building with the size of his own parcel and building.

Short of that, Greaves is ready to man his barricades and fight city hall over the destiny of his private property.

Whether or not those who oppose eminent domain seizure will someday yell "Remember Sam's Place" remains to be seen.

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**Sam's Place :**  
A reporter's trip to an outpost of  
Brea's past, a past that's all but gone

Sam Landa

"Sam at Sam's Place  
photo by Susan  
Geade"



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CROP ↑  
Sam's Place (Brea)  
Sam Landa

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# Unhappy hour at Sam's

Owner of historic bar gives up fight; he will close at month's end

By Toby Hill  
North County News

**S**am's Place is not moving, read the signs tacked on the historic downtown saloon.

Owner Seaton "Sid" Greaves posted the notices less than a month ago when he painted the red clapboard building black in protest of the city's efforts to acquire his business for downtown redevelopment.

What a difference a few weeks can make.

Last Thursday, Greaves withdrew a legal motion blocking the Redevelopment Agency from taking his property, ending a years-long fight with the city.

A price for the bar still must be negotiated, but Greaves is no longer contesting the city's right to acquire the property through its power of eminent domain.

The city is spending too much of taxpayers' money on litigation, Greaves said, referring to the numerous lawsuits filed against the city over its redevelopment actions.

One such case involves former downtown property owner Michael Kunec, an elderly inventor who worked out of a Brea Boulevard warehouse. On June 22, a Superior Court judge ordered that Kunec receive a new Redevelopment Agency condemnation hearing because agency members with conflicts of interest voted to acquire his property.

The city recently had the case reopened based on what Greaves called "a technicality."

"The Kunec case took a year to get a decision, and two days later the judge opens the case again. If you win, you lose," Greaves said. "There's no justice."

Greaves, 61, believes that even if he won his lawsuit, he'd be stuck in court for years fighting appeals from the city.

"I thought it was wise to stop the legal wrangling," he said. "It's OK for me to own (the bar) until someone else wants it . . . They can have it."

Greaves' decision surprised city officials.

"I was very surprised because he was



Jack Hancock/North County News

Owner Seaton "Sid" Greaves stands in front of the Brea saloon he recently painted black as a protest against the city's downtown redevelopment plans. Greaves gave up the fight last week and says he will now close his historic watering hole by month's end.

Please see SAM'S/5

JULY 14, 94

# Two Looks at Sam's

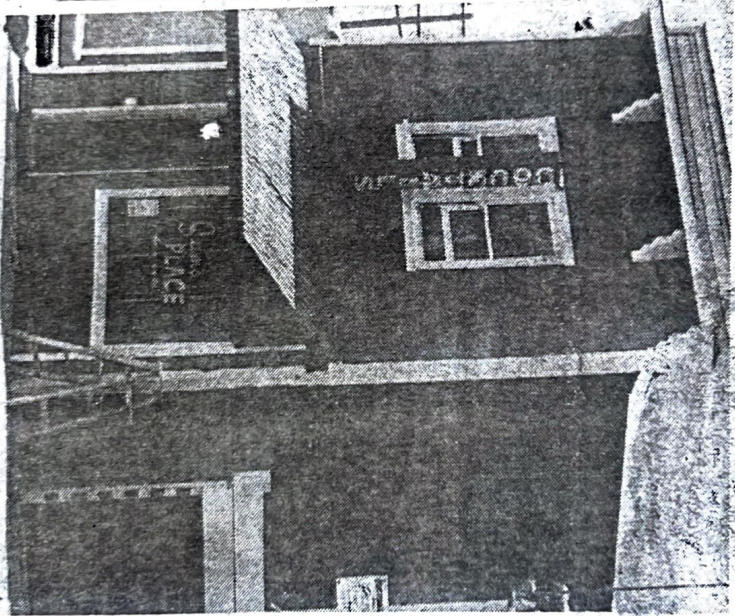


**THEN AND NOW** — Brea's "Good Old Brea" downtown revitalization program can probably best be seen in these comparative pictures of Sam's Place on Brea Boulevard. At left, the bar is shown in its previously unpainted condition, and at right, it is pictured as it takes on several coats

of red and white paint. The city administration is happy with the improvement, but not everyone else is. One patron, a Brea resident for 20 years, asked "why the change?" He said it looked like Sam's had gone to "Knots" (Berry Farm, that is).

(Star-Progress Photo)

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(Star-Progress Photo)

COMMUNITY

PERSPECTIVE

Sam's Place:  
A reporter's trip to an outpost of  
Brea's past, a past that's all but gone

By Mark Cramer  
Star Staff Writer

It was shortly after dark when I first went inside. The air was warm and smoky and every head lined up at the bar turned to see who was crossing the threshold into the blue-lazed room.

Most looked away quickly, others furrowed their brows and looked harder.

It was more crowded than I had anticipated for a Monday night, but I found an empty stool half way down the bar and claimed it.

As I waited for my Coors I noticed the state's warning that alcohol can cause cancer and birth defects was complimented with a bumper sticker which read "We don't have a town drunk, we all take turns."

I felt right at home.

Sam's Place had been an intriguing sight to my eyes since I'd started on the Brea beat several weeks before. I'd drive by it almost every night on my way to that monolithic and omnipotent Civic Center Plaza.

It contrasts well with the plaza, which stands like Washington's J. Edgar Hoover building: massive and concrete, a testimony to new Brea's money and power, among other things.

And each time I cruised south on Brea Boulevard toward Birch Street, there was Sam's Place.

That lone neon Budweiser sign hanging in the window always caught my attention, forcing me to slow and give the old joint the once over.

Every reporter needs a place to drink, and Sam's Place just seemed to reek of the poetic environment old dives tend to have. Just as the *San Bernardino City News* Service reporter Norman Jacoby would work his stories from the old cop and reporter bar The Stakeout, I figured Sam's Place might be the perfect spot to cool my heels.

I had wonderful visions of it all I could see myself sitting there, hunched over a shot and chaser, taking slow drags on a smoke and thinking wistfully of a girl I once knew.

I'd be about ready to sink into the bottom of my empty glass when a tall, older blonde would come walking through the door and pull up a stool only a few feet from mine. Her name would be Loretta and the bartender would bring her the usual.

I would study the lines etched on her face and marvel in the stories I knew they told. She'd have a tattoo that only a few guys had seen and with every passing beer I'd wonder if I would be one of them.

The juke would slow down with some Sinatra and she'd ask me for a cigarette. I'd hand her one, lean over to light it for her and start making time from there.

We'd talk leisurely as the night went by, only occasionally making eye contact. She'd smile and say something, marvelously cynical each time we did.

Last call would finally come, but we'd skip it, instead walking outside together, to drift slowly past the gutted store-fronts along Brea Boulevard, disappearing, as they did, into the California night.

Perhaps I'd seen Barfly one too many times, or spent one too many nights in the Ill-Brow, Claremont's lone dive, but my first time in Sam's Place was a little different than such holy visions.

Loretta wasn't there. And I didn't see Bukowski lurking in any of the dark corners. Nor did I find Kerouac humming a sad tune to a platinum haired black girl at the end of the bar.

No, the beats were still up at the North Shore, or at least no further south than Palo Alto. This was the Monday night football crowd and the place was packed.

As I worked my first beer, the bar was swathed with football talk and the crowd alternately cheered and moaned as the Chief's defense wrecked havoc with the Raiders.

Despite the evident lack of any beats or hippies or jazz heads, the place definitely spoke of a different life, if not a different era altogether.

The faces behind the tall bottles were those of blue collar men and women, wonderful faces full of life, not chin tucks and cheek wrinkles.

I kept thinking of Carl Sandberg and a song by the Rolling Stones.

*"Let's drink, to the hard working people  
Let's drink, to the lovely from birth  
Raise your glass, for the good and the evil  
Let's drink, to the salt of the earth."*

The crowd was overwhelmingly male, but there were women clustered at each end of the bar.

There were tattoos to be seen, on shoulders and on some of the cleavage that flashed here and there.

The guy next to me seemed to know a little bit about the history of the place, telling me it had been home to a dozen past lives, everything from a bakery to a brothel.

The latter he said had been run out of rooms on the second floor of the thin, red building.

It seemed like a logical progression, from baking bread to housing our oldest profession.

But that's the beauty of places like Sam's, their veins run full with history, stories, tales, legends, blood and guts... life.

When I asked him what he thought the chances were for Sam's survival into the next century, he seemed to ponder the thought in a depressed pause.

It didn't look good, he said, Brea was changing. The old downtown had been diagnosed with an affliction that has proved fatal to historic spots in the past: redevelopment.

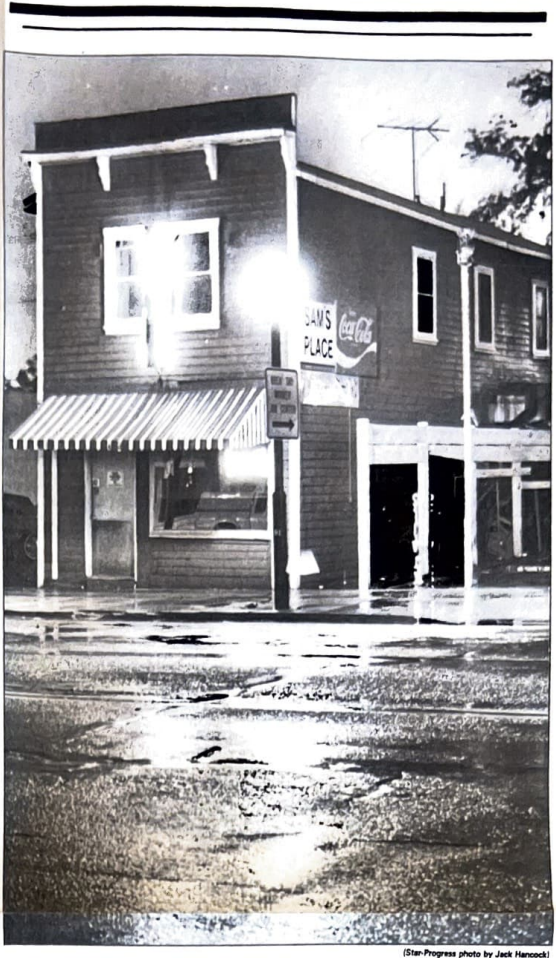
In one sense Sam's Place may survive by being relocated to the "Historical block" that's been planned as something of a municipal preserve for a few of the city's old buildings.

He felt that in another sense, however, Sam's would almost assuredly die, probably by being burned into gift shop or the equivalent once relocated.

We had another round and stared at the long rows of half-empty bottles behind the bar. It was twilight at Sam's Place.

I left about an hour later, passing a heaping bowl of the chili. Sam's said to be known for it, instead deciding to drive back down to the plaza.

I wanted to stroll around there



(Star-Progress photo by Jack Hancock)

a bit, searching perhaps, for some perspective on it all.

The plaza itself was deserted. Traffic was light on Birch Street, and only the looming glow of the mall gave any real hint of life.

I ended up at Tut's Bar and Grill, the chic lounge that's nestled in the gut of the Embassy

Suites Hotel.

The contrast was lovely and ominous at the same time.

Here were the suits and ties and coiffures, the money men and power brokers, the shot callers and deal makers... the new Brea in spades.

Watching them, I knew my

friend at the bar had been right, Sam's Place and the era in Brea it represents is dead.

New Brea had arrived.

I finished my drink and mulled over the possibilities for a story title. "A Tale of Two Cities" sounded pretty good.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Rancho-Starbuck honor roll

LA HABRA — Rancho-Starbuck Intermediate School has announced its Honor Roll for the First Quarter.

Students who earned a 3.5 grade or above grade point average are as follows:

**Seventh Grade:** Craig Aldaco, Heidi Arneson, Ken Barry-Gaerem, Catherine Boreas, Kari Browata, Jeff Carrino, David Cunningham, Jason Dore, Julie Eddle, Bianca Fernandez, Nicole Ferranti, Thomas Foster, Daniel Hall, Jill Hill, Orin Hosen, Sam Hulse, Robert Lee, Melissa Klich, Karen Koehler, Hubert Lee, Melissa Lundy, Chris Loney, Candice McDougal, Amanda McQuinn, Kelly Overreese, Andrea Pacheco, Anna Purcell, Justin Redwell, Re-

becca Blank, Shelley Salas, Rosemarie Saphar, Shaun Steel, Paul Summers, and Christina Weismann.

**Eighth Grade:** Eric Albert, Marcus Barber, Ryan Bradley, Theresa Braunswiegler, Heidi Carr, Natalie Davis, Jani Egan, Shannon Ferguson, Tiffany Ferguson, Emma Ferrell, Jennifer Freeman, Blair Gillett, James Granger, Cindy Heinrich, Heather Joseph, Leslie King, Amy Klammann, Praline Linn, Christopher Loutchaw, Amanda Mielich, David Miller, Tracey Miller, Nathan Smith, Michael Moore, Jason Moore-Brown, Kristin Oberlies, Gregory Olson, Jo Anne Ota, Ryan Orenes, Kimberly Powell, Chris Raymond, Kristi Ryan, Thomas Ring, Jacob Rivera, Heather Rodriguez, Kyle Roberts, Andrew Sarnecki, Melissa Schmitt, Melinda Siva, James Sive, Ryan Smith, Michelle Sorenson, Ted Stanekovich, James Strub, Cristina Turner, Alicia Ute, Deborah Wartin, and Barbie Wilcox.

Calendar celebrates Brea's 75th

BREA — The Jubilee committee is now offering a 1992 calendar, entitled Jubilee, in celebration of the city's 75th birthday. A collection of photos that feature various aspects of Brea, the calendar can also serve as a notebook or

information holder.

The calendars are available for purchase at the Community Services Center in the Brea Civic and Cultural Center. For more information, call (714) 990-7771.

Brownies enjoy first overnighter

FULLERTON — Seventeen Brownies from Hermosa Elementary school went on a first time campout Nov. 22 and 23 with their leader, Lisa Flora-Moh and four other adults. The girls sang and did skits around the campfire which was located on private property near the school. As part of their Outdoor Fun Try-it, the Brownies learned and followed trail signs while on an ecology hunt/nature hike the following

morning. For many troop members, this was a first campout experience and for some a first night sleeping away from home.

During the closing ceremony of the campout, all 17 were awarded the Dancersize and Girl Scout Ways Tri-Its for prior work done, and have completed their work towards the Outdoor Fun Try-it. A Try-it is a badge awarded to Brownies for their efforts in trying something new.

Sunny Hills academic team ranks sixth in OC contest

FULLERTON — The 1991 Sunny Hills High School Academic Decathlon Team finished sixth in the recent Junior/Senior Orange County Academic Decathlon competition. The team had a score of 42,838, while three-time champion Laguna Hills High School had 47,822.

quiz topic was "Habitat Earth," "Questions Related to Ecology," "The Environment" and "World Energy Sources."

Team members were Albert Chong, Evelyn Kuo, Ken Chen, Joe Brockett, Pinke Patel, Pia Infante, Meera Balakumar, and Bianca Livera. They were coached by English teacher Allan Dorman.

Individual medals were awarded to: Chong, who placed first in fine arts and second in math; Kuo, who finished third in fine arts; Chen, who placed second in social science and first in economics; and Brockett, who finished first in math and second in speech.

Arborland kids to entertain seniors

FULLERTON — Arborland Montessori Children's Academy will visit the Anaheim Senior Center on Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. The children from arborland, ranging in age from 2 1/2 to 8, will be entertaining the audience with singing, tap and ballet dancing, piano playing and a King Fu demonstration.

The Headstart program. There will be approximately 90 seniors and 36 Headstart students in attendance.

Along with entertaining at the Anaheim Senior Center, the Arborland children will bring presents of the toys to the children in the program.

This is the second year that the children from Arborland Montessori Children's Academy have performed for the seniors during the Christmas season.

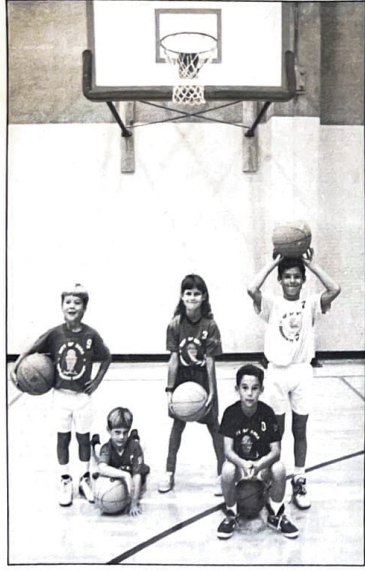
The audience will be comprised of the elderly at the center for day care and the children in

Brea honored by Wilson

BREA — On behalf of Governor Pete Wilson, County Supervisor Gaddi Vasquez presented a Governor's Senior Service Award to Brea resident, Joe Falco at the Dec. 9 Board of Supervisors meeting.

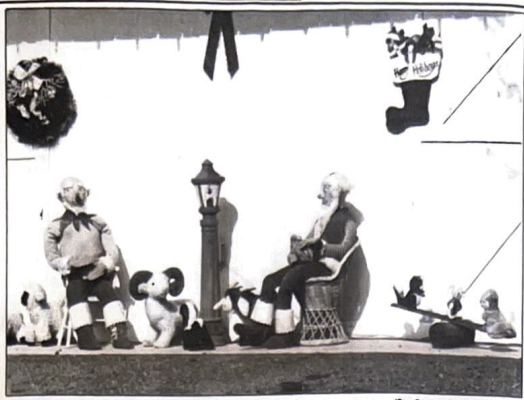
Falco has served nine years on the Cultural Arts Commission and has twice served as chairman. He has worked with the local cable television company to develop "The Cultural Scene" program. Falco is a founder and former president of the Brea Theatre League. He has offered free acting workshops for two years to area residents.

Nominated by the Community Services Department, Falco and two others were selected from nominees throughout the state.



(Photo courtesy of City of Brea)

BACK ON THE COURTS — With youth basketball now back on the courts for another season, boys and girls from the ages of four to 12 are registering to play on the program's teams. Special equipment is being used for preschoolers through the 4th grade, such as hoops with adjustable pole size and smaller basketballs, while 5th and 6th graders will play with regulation equipment. Pictured above are, from left, Brett Roth, Katie Haigh, Barbie Haigh, Josh Perez and David Perez, just a few of the youngsters who have signed up for program. The season starts Jan. 4 and runs through March. For further information call (714) 990-7775.



**JOLLY NEIGHBORS** — Cuddly animals and resting elves have taken up temporary residence in the 1300 block of East Whittier Boulevard in La Habra as homeowners share the spirit of the season on the front lawn. Similar decorations can be viewed throughout North Orange County. (Star-Progress photo by Stan Reid)

## Fullerton College scribes win top awards in state contest

FULLERTON — Fullerton College claimed 21 awards in a recent journalism competition that drew some 400 entries from 35 community colleges throughout Southern California.

In all, the oldest community college in continuous operation in the state claimed three first place honors, two seconds, five thirds and 11 honorable mentions at the gathering of the Journalism Association of Community Colleges Southern Section Conference at Whittier's Rio Hondo College.

Offering mail-in and on-the-spot competition in all gamuts of student newspaper and magazine production, the Dec. 7 (Saturday) daylong event saw 13 of the college's honors go to the staff of

The Hornet, the student weekly newspaper, and eight others to The Torch magazine.

Hornet adviser Julie Davey said the newspaper received first place in headline writing for main-in competition, along with a first to Rich Kane for a critical review. Honorable mentions went to Bill Norris of Anaheim, sports news; Len Poche of Anaheim, critical review; Stephen Barber of Fullerton, photo essay; Vincent Williams of Fullerton, editorial cartoon; and Scott Peterson of Diamond Bar, editorial writing.

On-the-spot awards went to Marc S. Posner of Fullerton, first place, editorial writing; Carl Phillips of Anaheim, second, editorial cartooning; Ken Stave of Yorba Linda, third, feature photo;

and Robert Stapleton of Fullerton, third, critical review. Honorable mention recipients were Norris, sports writing; and Barber, news photo.

Torch adviser Larry Taylor said that publication entered only the mail-in competition and took an honorable mention for magazine layout.

Individual magazine winners were Sean Lawrence of Fullerton, human interest feature; Lusi Garcia of Placentia, third, news feature; Julie Miranda of Anaheim, third and an honorable mention, humor/light essay; and Mark Rudyk of Placentia, photo essay. Honorable mentions also went to Rudyk, photo; and Daniel Abbott of Anaheim, news feature.

## Brea's Grascio's Restaurant to host 'Dinner with Santa'

BREA — Grascio's family restaurant will host a "Dinner with Santa" for 65 needy Brea children and their families on Dec.

The owners of the restaurant are working with the city's Community Services Department in coordinating the event. Chamber members have been encouraged to participate and the public is also invited to donate a small toy for the children. For additional information call (714) 990-7778.

Dial 1-900-SANTA-PHONE ext. 81 and tell Santa who he's going to call.



"It's Santa. He wants to speak to you, Cindy!"

A personalized telephone call from Santa! It's your special gift to any child on your Christmas list.

Santa will call anyone at a time you choose. He'll call them by name and tell them you asked him to call. And Santa can add your own special message to his, in your own voice.

Dial 1-900-SANTA-PHONE today to guarantee the best time for Santa's call. Mark your calendar and get ready (film, camera, tape recorder); you'll know when Santa's going to call.

1-900-SANTA-PHONE (1-900-726-8274) \$1.50 per minute. Call length 2-4 minutes.

A portion of the proceeds from 1-900-SANTA-PHONE will be donated to The Boys and Girls Clubs of La Habra/Brea Inc.



## Pre-registration to open for adult continuing education area classes

FULLERTON — Pre-registration for some Adult Continuing Education classes is under way now, while winter courses actually start the week of Jan. 6 at the Wilshire Adult Continuing Education Center in Fullerton.

The varied subjects run the gamut from foreign languages to business classes to vocational training.

A part of the North Orange County Community College District, classes are free of charge or have a nominal fee.

They range in length from one-day workshops to 11-week sessions, and subjects are geared to all ages — toddlers to senior citizens.

Courses to learn conversational German, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish and Japanese are scheduled, as well as a class in reading and writing Japanese.

Computer offerings include "Introduction to FoxPro 2.0 from Fox Software" and "Advanced MS-DOS Extended."

A "Rapid Reading" class is a part of the certified Management Program this term, however it is open to anyone who wants to increase reading rate and retention.

For those interested in polishing their communication skills, there is "Basic Writing" and "Vocabulary, Spelling and Reading Improvement."

Among the vocational subjects available this winter are "Photography," "Florist Techniques" and "Electrical Wiring and Safety Fundamentals."

In addition to the courses in Fullerton, Adult Continuing Education offers classes throughout north Orange County including those at centers in Anaheim, Cypress and Yorba Linda.

The Fullerton classes are held at the Wilshire Adult Continuing Education Center, 315 E. Wilshire.

For more information on classes or registration, call the Adult Continuing Education office at (714) 528-8258. The TDD number for the deaf is (714) 761-8165.

### Police Blotter

**BREA**  
Tuesday

7:41 a.m. — A non-injury traffic accident was reported at Imperial Highway and Poplar Avenue.  
12:36 p.m. — A theft was reported at Nordstrom, with a loss of \$1,053.  
1:26 p.m. — An attempted auto theft was reported in the 300 block of South Randolph Avenue.  
4:46 p.m. — A theft was reported in the 200 block of South Windemere Circle, with a loss of \$2,000.  
5:27 p.m. — A 1990 Honda Prelude was reported stolen from the Brea Mall.  
9:35 p.m. — A gun was confiscated from the Brea Mall.  
10:05 p.m. — A 1989 Volkswagen Jetta was stolen from the Brea Mall.  
10:44 p.m. — A Brea woman and a Nevada woman were arrested in the 600 block of North Tamarack for suspicion of being drunk in public.

**FULLERTON**  
Tuesday

7:38 a.m. — Auto theft in the 400 block of West Franklin Avenue.  
8:58 a.m. — Auto theft in the 2400 block of East Nutwood Avenue.  
9:31 a.m. — Auto burglary in the 1400 block of North Hollywood Drive.  
10:36 a.m. — Auto burglary in the 2700 block of Associated Road.  
12:22 p.m. — Vandalism in the 700 block of West Commonwealth Avenue.  
1:08 p.m. — Auto theft in the 1300 block of South Highland Avenue.  
4:10 p.m. — Youth detained for simple assault at Fullerton High School.  
7:08 p.m. — Grand theft in the 800 block of North Adlena Drive.  
9:13 p.m. — Garage burglary in the 100 block of North Lawrence Avenue.

**LA HABRA**  
Tuesday

6:30 a.m. — Petty theft in the 1200 block of West Hillendale Avenue.  
2:55 p.m. — Mischief mischief in the 700 block of South Harbor Boulevard.  
7 p.m. — Petty theft in the 300 block of North Colfax Street.  
8 p.m. — A beige, '85 Toyota SR5 pickup was stolen in the 400 block of East Lambert Road.  
8:45 p.m. — Robbery in the 400 block of North Bedford Street.

### Museum offers free admission to toy donors

FULLERTON — The Fullerton Museum Center, is joining forces with the Maple Senior Multi-Service Center to collect toys for the children of Fullerton's Maple area.

On Friday, the museum will offer free admission to its current exhibit, "The Day of the Dead: A Consequence of Life," to any visitor bringing a new, unwrapped toy to donate to the drive.

The toys will be distributed Dec. 24, at a Christmas party planned for the children at the center. The party is being co-sponsored by the children and adults who participate in the city's recreation programs for the disabled.

Toys are needed for both boys and girls between the ages of 3 and 12.

"The Day of the Dead: A Consequence of Life," which runs through Jan. 5, examines the Mexican holiday tradition of celebrating death as a part of life to be embraced, not feared. The exhibit features work by some of Mexico's leading folk artists, including the Linares Family and Jose Guadalupe Posada.

The Fullerton Museum Center is located at 301 N. Pomona Ave., east of Harbor Boulevard, in downtown Fullerton.

## HOLIDAY ORDER NOW PIE

**This Christmas Tell Them You'll Bring The Pie! Call Your Order in Today!**

For your convenience, and greater speed, we're only accepting pre-paid pie orders for pick-up **Monday, Dec. 23rd and Tuesday, Dec. 24th**

Check with your local Polly's for hours. Sorry, we're closed Christmas day.

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LAGUNA HILLS (714) 390-0393  
LONG BEACH (Att:Rtg) (310) 595-5651  
LONG BEACH (Los Coyotes Regional) (310) 597-6076  
LOS ALAMITOS (310) 430-4541  
ORANGE (714) 637-3040  
SANTA ANA (714) 547-9681  
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**Great Pie, Great Value! from \$5.75 to \$7.45**

Pumpkin	Chocolate Cream
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**California Golden Raisin Custard**  
Pie Fresh natural golden raisins & delicious egg custard topped with caramel.  
(Pie prices plus 45¢ in deposit cheerfully refunded)

**EQUAL Apple Pies Are Available.** by NutSweet

BRING IN THIS COUPON!

## Chicken Pie Dinner & California Golden Raisin Pie Meal Special

Served Daily After 3 P.M., All Day Sat. & Sun.

All for only **\$5.95**

Meal Includes:

- Chicken Pie: Large seasoned chunks of chicken; fresh broccoli, celery, cauliflower & potatoes; plus peas and carrots, all mixed into a delicious gravy; then surrounded by Polly's flaky crust.
- Served with Cranberry sauce.
- Carrots, radish, pineapple salad.
- Mashed potatoes and gravy.
- (May substitute side)
- Freshly baked rolls.
- California Golden Raisin Custard Pie, topped with luscious caramel sauce.
- OR: Chocolate Cream Raisin Pie with walnuts and real whipped cream. (Sic)
- (May substitute Dutch Apple Pie)

**POLLY'S**  
Dairy Foods & Pies

MAKE THE SERVICE & ALWAYS FRIENDLY GOOD AT ALL LOCATIONS

Offer valid thru Dec. 31, 1991. Limit 2 special per coupon. No takeout orders with special. Subject to availability.

# County Scan

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1994

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

PAINTING

## Bar owner mounts protest

By Toby Hill  
North County News

To protest the city's attempts to take his property for redevelopment, downtown bar owner Seaton Greaves painted Sam's Place black and placed two signs on the formerly red clapboard structure saying it is protected by the 140-year-old treaty resolving the Mexican War.

Greaves and Marina Vega, another downtown property owner, claim the downtown is included in a 40,000-acre area that cannot be acquired by government agencies because of a federal land patent granted to a Mexican landowner under provisions of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which was approved by Congress in 1851.

The treaty states: "property of every kind, now belonging to Mexicans not established there, shall be inviolably respected. The present owners, the heirs of these, and all Mexicans who may hereafter acquire said property by contract, shall enjoy with respect to it guaranties (sic) equally ample as if the same belonged to citizens of the United States."

The area in question was once a rancho allegedly owned by Juan Carlos Ontiveros. It encompasses all of present-day Brea, Fullerton, and Anaheim, as well as parts of La Habra, Placentia and Yorba Linda, according to Greaves.

"Public notice," the signs at Sam's Place state. "This property is protected by the Guadalupe Treaty of 1851. The land patent was an act of Congress signed by the 19th president of the United States . . . Rutherford B. Hayes. Sam's Place is not moving."

"I wanted the people to be aware I'm not going to be stonewalled by the bureaucrats at City Hall," Greaves said. "I fully intend to fight these people all the way to the Supreme Court...if it takes every last dime I have."

### PUBLIC NOTICE!

THIS PROPERTY IS PROTECTED BY THE GUADALUPE TREATY OF 1851. THE LAND PATENT WAS AN ACT OF CONGRESS, SIGNED BY THE 19<sup>th</sup> PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES...Rutherford B. Hayes.

SAM'S PLACE IS NOT MOVING!!

Enjoy  
**Coca-Cola**  
Trade-mark ©

SAM'S  
PLACE



KEN STEINHARDT/The Orange Co

**STANDING HIS GROUND:** Sam's Place owner Seaton 'Sid' Greaves has painted his downtown Brea bar black in protest against the city's decision to condemn it to make way for redevelopment. There was a groundbreaking ceremony for the first redevelopment project Monday near the 89-year-old saloon. Greaves says he will fight the city in court.

Brea Progress 6/23/94

# Sam's plays it again, in 'ghost town' on Brea Boulevard

By Certe A. Valenzuela  
The Orange County Register

**BREA** — When Sid Greaves walked down Brea Boulevard for the first time 10 years ago, business was booming. Steady streams of people filtered through the old shops lining the street.

Now stores are vacant and shuttered windows stare out upon

empty streets. The only traffic seems to be passing through on its way to busier parts of town. Pedestrians are scarce.

"It looks like a storm passed through here," said Greaves, 58. "It looks like a ghost town."

Business, however, is not bad at Sam's Place, where Greaves serves hot dogs, beer for \$1.25 and mixed

drinks for \$1.50.

"Nothing affects us here," Greaves said. "Business is always good."

The threat of redevelopment actually has been a boost for Sam's.

"I think people are coming in for a last look and a good story or two about the old oil town," he said.

In the past few years, other old-town Brea Boulevard merchants

have complained about how the Brea Mall has taken the business from their small shops; the talk of redevelopment in the area has slowed business, they said.

Now, most have long accepted that changes downtown are inevitable, and all that is left to do is agree with the city on a price.

Please see **SAM'S/3**

## SAM'S: Business is one of few open in old section of town

FROM 1

"I know we can't fight progress," Greaves said.

Sam's Place is one of the city's most recognized buildings, a red, Western-town style, two-story wood-frame structure that opened as a bakery in 1915. It has been a bar since the 1940s, and local rumors are that a brothel once operated on the second floor.

Greaves bought the place in February 1981 after he spent 10 minutes inside the cozy, dark lounge.

"There was just something about Sam's Place," Greaves said. "The bar reminded me of a poem I learned in grade school: 'The cottage was attached once, the outside old and mean. Yet everything within that cottage was wondrous, neat and clean.'"

Greaves took over the tiny bar a month later, on St. Patrick's Day. It is open 6-2 a.m. every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

It never has been closed for lack of customers, and Greaves said it has been a busy place from the start, even when it was Brea's first bakery.

City officials are attempting to buy Sam's Place for redevelopment; plans are to demolish the building within six months of its purchase.

It has been appraised by the city twice in the last four years, Greaves said. The property value is \$106,981, according to county records.

The last time the property was

appraised was July 3, Greaves said. City officials said they would contact him in 14 weeks, but they haven't done so.

Several longtime customers said they dread the day Sam's will close.

Rex Allen of Brea, a building inspector, said the bar is a second home.

"I first came to the bar when I was 2 days old," said Allen, 43, adding that it was in the arms of his father. He said he learned to walk in the bar when he was a year old, holding on to the raised shutleboard table against the south wall.

"This place is important," Allen said. "The city ought to just make the main street of the new down-

town go around this place and leave it alone."

Forty-year customer Al Youngman, 63, said people are coming to Sam's in greater numbers these days because they are starving for history in the city. They want to see where the city's founders and oilworkers once gathered, he said.

"Not many cities have downtowns anymore," said Youngman, a retired research technician for Brea-based Union Oil. "This is something we should save."

5-2-91  
O.C. Register

It was shortly after dark when I first went inside.

The air was warm and smoky and every head lined up at the bar turned to see who was crossing the threshold into the blue-hazed room.

Most looked away quickly, others furrowed their brows and looked harder.

It was more crowded than I had anticipated for a Monday night, but I found an empty stool half way down the bar and claimed it.

As I waited for my Coors I noticed the state's warning that alcohol can cause cancer and birth defects was complimented with a bumper sticker which read "We don't have a town drunk...we all take turns."

I felt right at home.

Sam's Place had been an intriguing sight to my eyes since I'd started on the Brea beat several weeks before. I'd drive by it almost every night on my way to that monolithic and omnipotent Civic Center Plaza.

It contrasts well with the plaza, which stands like Washington's J. Edgar Hoover building: massive and concrete, a testimony to new Brea's money and power, among other things.

And each time I cruised south on Brea Boulevard toward Birch Street, there was Sam's Place.

That lone neon Budweiser sign hanging in the window always caught my attention, forcing me to slow and give the old joint the once over.

Every reporter needs a place to drink, and Sam's Place just seemed to reek of the poetic environment old dives tend to have.

Just as the legendary City News Service reporter Norman Jacoby would work his stories from the old cop and reporter bar The Stakeout, I figured Sam's Place might be the perfect spot to cool my heels.

I had wonderful visions of it all.

I could see myself sitting there, hunched over a shot and chaser, taking slow drags on a smoke and thinking wistfully of a girl I once knew.

I'd be about ready to sink into the bottom of my empty glass when a tall, older blonde would come waltzing through the door and pull up a stool only a few down from mine. Her name would be Loretta and the bartender would bring her the usual. I would study the lines etched on her face and marvel in the stories I knew they told. She'd have a tattoo that only a few guys had seen and with every passing beer I'd wonder if I would be one of them.

The juke would slow down with some Sinatra and she'd ask me for a cigarette. I'd hand her one, lean over to light it for her and start making time from there.

We'd talk leisurely as the night went by, only occasionally making eye contact. She'd smile and say something marvelously cynical each time we did.

Last call would finally come, but we'd skip it, instead walking outside together, to drift slowly past the gutted store-fronts along Brea Boulevard, disappearing, as they did, into the California night.

Perhaps I'd seen Barfly one too many times, or spent one too many nights in the Hi-Brow, Claremont's lone dive, but my first time in Sam's Place was a little different than such holy visions.

Loretta wasn't there. And I didn't see Bukowski lurking in any of the dark corners. Nor did I find Kerouac humming a sad tune to a platinum haired black girl at the end of the bar.

No, the beats were still up at the North Shore, or at least no farther south than Palo Alto.

This was the Monday night football crowd and the place was packed.

As I worked my first beer, the bar was awash with football talk and the crowd alternately cheered and moaned as the Chief's defense wrecked havoc with the Raiders.

Despite the evident lack of any beats or hippies or jazz heads, the place definitely spoke of a different life, if not a different era altogether.

The faces behind the tall bottles were those of blue collar men and women, wonderful faces full of life, not chin tucks and cheek wraps.

I kept thinking of Carl Sandberg and a song by the Rolling Stones...

*"Let's drink, to the hard working people  
let's drink, to the lonely from birth  
raise your glass, for the good and the evil  
let's drink, to the salt of the earth."*

The crowd was overwhelmingly male, but there were women clustered at each end of the bar.

There were tattoos to be seen, on shoulders and on some of the cleavage that flashed here and there.

The guy next to me seemed to know a little bit about the history of the place, telling me it had been home to a dozen past lives, everything from a bakery to a brothel.

The latter he said had been run out of rooms on the second floor of the thin, red building.

It seemed like a logical progression, from baking bread to housing our oldest profession.

But that's the beauty of places like Sam's, their veins run full with history, stories, tales, legends, blood and guts...life.

When I asked him what he thought the chances were for Sam's survival into the next century, he seemed to ponder the thought in a depressed pause.

It didn't look good, he said, Brea was changing. The old downtown had been diagnosed with an affliction that has proved fatal to historic spots in the past: redevelopment.

In one sense Sam's Place may survive by being relocated to the "Historical block" that's been planned as something of a municipal preserve for a few of the city's old buildings.

He felt that in another sense, however, Sam's would almost assuredly die, probably by being turned into gift shop or the equivalent once relocated.

We had another round and stared at the long rows of half-empty bottles behind the bar. It was twilight at Sam's Place.

I left about an hour later, passing on a heaping bowl of the chili Sam's is said to be known for, instead deciding to drive back down to the plaza.

I wanted to stroll around there a bit, searching perhaps, for some perspective on it all.

The plaza itself was deserted. Traffic was light on Birch Street and only the looming glow of the mall gave any real hint of life.

I ended up at Tut's Bar and Grill, the chic lounge that's nestled in the gut of the Embassy

Suites Hotel.

The contrast was lovely and ominous at the same time.

Here were the suits and ties and coiffures, the money men and power brokers, the shot callers and deal makers...the new Brea in spades.

Watching them, I knew my

friend at the bar had been right, Sam's Place and the era in Brea it represents is dead.

New Brea had arrived.

I finished my drink and mulled over the possibilities for a story title.

"A Tale of Two Cities" sounded pretty good.

SAM'S PLACE