

# Looking Back <sup>(4)</sup>

## Saluting Brea's Sixtieth Birthday

Series by Jim Marxen

(Editor's Note: This is the fourth installment of Looking Back. The series deals with events just prior to and including incorporation. This year, the city of Brea will be celebrating its 60th anniversary.)

BREA — Incorporation came nearer and nearer to the town of Brea as the first week of February unfolded. An election was set for the third week of the month. Voters would then be able to make the decision on becoming a city.

Much interest was shown by the townspeople on the topic. A rally to discuss incorporation was scheduled for the Wednesday before the election in the Sewell auditorium.

The citizens of Brea secured several speakers for the rally. The main address was given by Judge W. H. Thomas of the Superior Court of Orange County. He was scheduled to speak on "Civic Progress."

E. J. Marks of Fullerton was also given as a speaker for the event. Other names were announced later.

Owing to the importance of the movement, it was anticipated there would be a record crowd gathered in the Sewell building.

A canvass of leading businessmen was made and it was noted many of them were in favor of incorporating. Breans were very vocal on the issue.

A few of the comments on incorporation were: "I am in favor of incorporation as I stand always on the side of improvement," said Dr. W. W. Davis.

F. E. Smith of the Brea Pharmacy said, "I am very much in favor of incorporation. It gives many privileges and advantages and no town can advance without incorporating."

Perhaps the most stirring words of

the day were made by the Reverend T. M. Lineweaver of the Brea Congregational Church, "I am in favor of incorporation. It makes it necessary for those who share our privileges to also share our responsibilities. It gives protection to our people. It gives to our people rights and privileges which our government has decided are for the good and we ought to have."

Out in the oil fields it was noted that Harry Humphrey was starting to build a new home on the Steward Station site. The property is now located near Puente Street.

Humphrey built his home on Union Oil property as had many other Union Oil men. The oil man worked in the boiler shop at Union's plant near Brea.

Thirty percent of the men working on the Union Oil lease owned their own home by the time Brea was ready to incorporate. The men on the Union Oil lease were described as "one big happy family".

"As a sign of the times, it was noted that residents should get ready for war. An ad placed by McAlister's Shop said, "Have your plowshears beat into swords and your pruning hooks beat into spears!"

Brea residents gathered on a bright Saturday to witness the auction of horses and farm implements at the Brea Orange Company.

The company was located next to the Brea Schoolhouse. The auction, featuring plows and workhorses was put on by L. D. Sievers.

Also on sale was a gang plow, two harrows, two Killifer cultivators, one seeder, three sets of weed knives, one mower, one feed chopper, one shetland pony cart, one large tractor and two pony gang plows. Times have indeed changed.

(Editor's Note: This is the fifth installment of a continuing series dealing with the events in Brea just prior to and including incorporation. This year the city of Brea will be celebrating its 60th anniversary.)

BREA — Automobiles and roads were on everyone's mind 60 years ago this week. It was reported that John Green of the Olinda lease met with an accident on his way from Fullerton last Monday.

Green's car reportedly ran into some sand along the road and the car and skidded off the pavement. Green jumped out of the car as it turned over. He suffered minor scratches but the car was considerably damaged.

Ben Remly, who worked on the Graham-Loftus lease near Brea was also injured in an accident. He escaped death when his car plunged over a 15 foot embankment on his way to work. He too, was able to leap from the car before it was demolished. The victim of the wreck suffered many bruises and a broken hand.

It became apparent that the Pomona Chamber of Commerce was not going to be able to get its supervisors to take any immediate action in the matter of building the Brea Canyon Road. Residents shook their heads for it became apparent the road would not be built for at least a year.

But as matters happened, the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors voted to improve the road. The cost of the new road would be \$1,000 per mile. Motorists from Brea as well as towns farther south approved the action.

The five mile stretch of the road was described by one Brea resident as "in as bad condition as any Los

Angeles County roads are ever permitted to get."

The road that was in the canyon prior to improvements was full of holes and motorists were reportedly "risking their car and had to trust their strength". A good steering mechanism was also necessary to get one through the canyon.

Workers in the area decided to help improve the road by filling the worst places with hay straw.

The local resident who was viewing the situation said, "In Brea Canyon there are many places where washes have encroached to the end of the road and board barricades have been erected to protect users against possible disasters."

With the heavy amount of oil drilling going on in the canyon, it was the custom of the oil-laden trucks to use the road. Wagons, drawn by horses were also used to haul in materials and take out waste.

But one roadblock was thrown in the oil companies path when it was reported the new road could not support these heavy vehicles. Consequently, it was announced these trucks would be banned from the road.

As a sign of the times, prohibition was coming to the area. A local handbill urged residents to vote against prohibition. The handbill criticized the prohibition act in Kansas saying that even the police chief of Topeka had been arrested for smuggling liquor.

An ad in the Star-Progress, soliciting news read: "If anyone has left town, died, eloped, married, divorced, had a fire, had a baby, sold a farm, come to town, been arrested, bought a home or fallen from an aeroplane that's news."

# Looking

# Back

(Editor's Note: This is the sixth installment of Looking Back. The series deals with events just prior to and including incorporation. This year, the city of Brea will be celebrating its 60th anniversary.)

**BREA** — One Brea oil man struck it rich in another type of way early this week. Edward Pereira, a pumper for the West Coast Oil Company, received word that through the death of an uncle in Wisconsin, he had fallen heir to \$35,000.

The pumper told friends the news had come as a complete surprise. He had not previously learned of his uncle's death. He had no idea he was a beneficiary of his uncle's will.

There was an unusual accident in the area over the weekend. J. A. Duncan, riding to his job in the Brea oilfields on his motorcycle, struck the back end of a stagecoach.

The stagecoach was traveling at a slow pace, Duncan said, and it had no tail lights. The accident occurred at night. Duncan said he tried to swerve out of the way but was unable to maneuver his cycle.

The cycle rider suffered a scalp wound and a broken collar bone. He was reportedly unconscious for 36 hours. He informed the stagecoach company he would sue for \$2,500 in damages.

An oil well called the "Great Gasser" was producing thousands of feet of gas every day in the oil fields north of Brea. The well was tapped three months previously and was reportedly one of the richest finds in the area. Another gasser was suspected near the original well.

The oil output on the great gasser was, however, low. Only 200 barrels of oil a day was being produced. The natural gas flow was one that would indeed be welcomed in the eastern states today.

Speaking of gas, a placard seen around town advertised a method of getting rid of it. The advertisement read: "No more gas on the stomach or sour stomach. No more heavy feeling after meals of constipation.

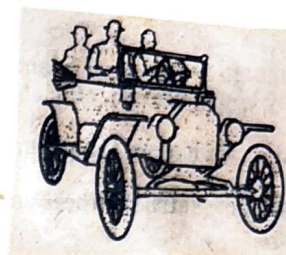
"If you have sour stomach constipation or gas on the stomach, try just one spoonful of our simple buckhorn bark and glycerine. Adlerika, is the most powerful bowel cleanser ever sold.

"The very first dose shows results and a short treatment with Adlerika will surprise you. It drains such astonishing amounts of old matter from the system that a single dose relieves constipation, sour stomach and gas almost instantly. A dose twice a week guards against appendicitis."

Breans were moving closer to incorporation at the time and it was hoped enough votes could be mustered to officially put the city of Brea on the map. A parcel map had been previously filed naming the city Randolph. Plans for that city fell through. Breans hoped for more luck in their endeavors.

As a sign of the times, it was noted in an ad placed by the Moran Stage line operating out of Brea and with coaches leaving every hour from the city that "We are here to stay." Breans were beginning to say the same thing about their town.

## Saluting Brea's Sixtieth Birthday



### Series by Jim Marxen DSP Staff Writer

(Editor's Note: This is the eighth installment of Looking Back. The series deals with events just prior to and including incorporation. This year, the city of Brea will be celebrating its 60th anniversary.)

**BREA** — A census of the proposed city of Brea was scheduled to be made in the early part of 1917. It was expected that the Orange County Board of Supervisors would grant the residents of Brea a petition for incorporation after the census was taken.

After the county board passed the petition, the election was set. Election of city officers was also set up at that time.

The petition for incorporation was originally presented to the county in November by attorney Albert Lauener and a committee of residents from Brea.

The boundaries agreed upon by those representing Brea and the Brea Chamber of Commerce called for an area 1.75 miles long by one mile wide.

Exact proof of the town's population was delayed for a while and did not take place until C. C. Kinsler of the city was appointed by the board of supervisors to take a census.

Business possibilities were looking up as it was announced that J. H. Johnson, a Riverside businessman, saw great things for the little town and purchased the Brea Dye Works from H. E. Barr. Johnson was described as a "hustler" but it is doubted the word has the same meaning today.

The Head Drilling Company announced it is placing its men on an 8-hour work day. The employees liked the change, according to reports.

The company was the second oil developing corporation in Brea to give an 8-hour day schedule. The company announced that it would not be cutting wages when it shifted to the 8-hour day.

Other oil companies began taking a look at the new work schedule and it was felt that all oil businesses would soon be placing their men on such a timetable. The Standard Oil Company had paved the way for the innovative measure at the beginning of 1916. The Standard Oil Company was the largest oil producer in the Brea fields.

As a sign of the times, the famous red cars of the Pacific Electric Railway rolled into the Brea area each day. The company announced it was giving a price break to the residents of Brea by bringing the price of a round trip ticket into Los Angeles down to \$1.25.

The railway urged residents to "get above the fog where the sun is shining" and take a trip to Mt. Lowe. The price of the round trip was \$1.50.

Meanwhile, work on the Brea Canyon Road was progressing nicely. The road crews had reportedly laid three miles of new road starting at the Orange County line.

The road was not exactly a freeway, however, the surface consisted of crushed stone. Crews were also laying a gas line that would eventually serve the city of Pomona.

# REFERENCE

Series by **JIM MARXEN**  
DSP Staff Writer

(Editor's Note: This is the second installment of a continuing series dealing with the days in Brea just prior to and including incorporation. This year, the city of Brea will be celebrating its 60th anniversary.)

BREA — There was some bad news in the offing for Brea residents 60 years ago today as it was announced by Mrs. Sewall that she was going to close her building on Brea Boulevard to the public. The building, was the popular gathering place for many of the city's organizations during recent years.

Considerable speculation was made as to what the public organizations would do when Sewall of Long Beach closed her building. The building was the only place big enough to suit all the public clubs. Residents said the loss of the building was - "keenly felt".

There was something good for residents to think about, however, when a doctor, specializing in child care from Santa Ana, told residents the infant son of W. D. Kuhns would survive a serious illness. The doctor said the child was recovering rapidly under his special care.

Kuhns was the drilling foreman on the Graham-Loftus lease outside of the town.

Sports fans had something to cheer about as it was announced by the Brea baseball club that Bill Simms, one of the best catchers around,

would be joining the club. Simms formerly of the Redondo Beach club, was one of the few left-handed catchers in the game at the time.

The Brea club was part of the North Orange County League. The addition of Simms to the lineup made the Brea battery of Abbot and Simms one of the most feared in the league. Abbot had also joined the Brea club from Redondo Beach.

A real estate transaction of considerable interest took place at the end of January. Charles Kinsler, owner of the Kinsler Hotel, sold the building to Mr. and Mrs. Franz Richter. The new owners gave the building a thorough renovation and renamed it the Brea Hotel.

As a sign of the times, an area dentist was offering a set of false teeth for \$8. The same dentist was filling cavities with silver for 75 cents or a dollar depending on the size of the hole.

Residents could take a trolley trip around the Orange Empire and into the San Gabriel Valley for \$3.50. The offer included all side trips.

Of special interest to today's price conscious shoppers, Mills Grocery in La Habra was saying to residents: "Notice! Coffee ground while you wait. We have just installed a new plate glass show case for displaying our Puritas line of coffee. Try a pound of our coffee and we feel sure you will be pleased with the results."

The coffee was selling for 25 cents a pound.

REFERENCE

Series By **Jim Marxen**  
DSP Staff Writer

(Editor's Note: This is the third installment of Looking Back. The series deals with events just prior to and including incorporation. This year, the city of Brea will be celebrating its 60th anniversary.)

BREA — Good news reached the men of the Union Oil fields around Brea early in February 1917. The company announced it would be paying a dividend of \$200,000 to its 3,000 employes.

The number of men in the fields working for Union in Brea numbered 250. Those employes noted they were feeling "quite prosperous".

Two local doctors, C.C. Charleston and C.C. Jarvis, were arrested by police on Friday for hunting on "forbidden ground". The two were fined \$5 each.

Appendicitis struck L.A. Welch earlier in January. The local man returned to work this week after an operation.

Former Orange County Sheriff, Charles E. Ruddock, was buried in Fullerton. The turn out of area residents was somewhat unexpected as the crowd gathered to pay last respects to one of the most well-liked lawmen in the North Orange County area.

The popular sheriff was politically backed by Brea residents for his bid in the 1911 Orange County Sheriff's race. He held the position until 1915. He was born in New York in 1864.

Plans were going well for the Brea Congregational Church's Valentine's Day party. A fine menu was promised at the event.

The P.T.A. of Brea was entertained by Eugene Knox, an impersonator. Knox gave a "diverting program" according to those who were present. The hall at the Brea school was jammed with local residents. The organization reportedly was able to increase its funds from the event.

Emerson Brooks, a noted humorist and poet of the time, gave the crowd another fine show by expounding on his written thoughts and interpretations. Crowds at both the events responded enthusiastically.

Meanwhile, out in Olinda, the P.T.A. was hosting a sewing session at the home of J.E. Welin. Mrs. Welin lived on the Columbia lease near that town. The group talked about comfort patching and needlework. A "dainty" luncheon was served.

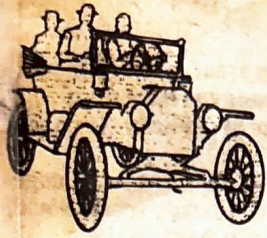
As a sign of the times, ladies were able to purchase muslin nightgowns for the price of 69 cents. The sale was going on at a local mercantile store.

A want ad placed in the local paper of the day listed a horse and buggy of fine quality for sale.

The Dodge Brothers Motor Car Company in Fullerton was selling a car that not only got unusually high mileage on its tires but unusually high gas mileage as well. The company did not elaborate on what the gas mileage was.

The Crown Laundry and Cleaning Company, operating in Brea, was announcing it would clean clothes as well as deliver them to a resident's door for a good price.

Milk was selling for 25 cents, bread was selling for 10 cents and corn flakes for 15 cents.



# Looking <sup>①</sup> Back

Saluting Brea's  
Sixtieth Birthday

REFERENCE

SERIES BY JIM MARXEN  
DSP Staff Writer

(Editor's Note: This is the first installment of "Looking Back". The series will deal with events in Brea prior to and including incorporation. This year, the city of Brea will be celebrating its 60th anniversary.)

BREA — Towards the end of January 1917, Brea was heading rapidly towards incorporation. The little oil town located east of La Habra and north of Fullerton had a population of 732. Buildings in the town included a grocery, a dentist office, a general store and several machine shops.

Many of the residents in the town were tied to oil but one man left the oil fields to become Brea's first postmaster. He was R.E. Pettigrew, a Union Oil man working on the Graham-Loftus lease. Pettigrew received a telegram this week 60 years ago, from the State Department in Washington informing him of his appointment to the postmastership of Brea.

Pettigrew was confirmed by the Senate late in January. The application was presented to the Senate by Senator Phelan of San Francisco.

A brief note in the news that week revealed the growing optimism about Brea. The article read, "Real estate in Brea keep moving. Hardly a week passes but some outsider is attracted to the building little oil town and makes investments there."

One Brea businessman moved out late in January. H.H. Christ, owner of the Brea Pool Room left Brea to relocate in Los Angeles. The new owner of the room was H. O. Devlin.

The week an oil well in Brea became a "gusher". Well No. 29 of the

Brea Canyon Oil Company shot a column of oil over the top of the derrick and high into the air. The event was unprecedented in oil drilling in and around the town.

Prior to that day, drillers had to go down 3,500 feet before reaching payable oil. The gusher, however, was produced from a shaft only 2,000 feet deep. No oil of any consequence had ever been found at such a shallow depth.

William J. Robertson of Brea completed a contract that week which would allow him to plant ten acres of Valencia Oranges on his ranch in Corona.

Oranges were becoming one of the more important commodities to come out of the area and it was announced that the famous California orange would gain national attention when a California Orange Day was set for March 10 by the United States Congress.

A lecture at the Brea schoolhouse attracted local attention. The lecture was made by Professor Melville Dozier of Los Angeles. Dozier discussed astronomy. Those who went to the lecture that day described it as enlightening as well as entertaining.

Dozier was later entertained by La Habra residents.

As a sign of the times, the Gale Theater in Whittier (Brea's theater was not yet built) was showing "The Good Bad Man" starring Douglas Fairbanks. Fairbanks was described as the greatest actor on theater billboards around town.

In Fullerton, a car dealer was offering the 1917 Hupmobile for \$1,475. The seven passenger touring car had an engine that the dealer said was "fit for a \$3,000 car."

# City celebrates 67th birthday

By Jack Hancock  
Advocate Editor

Residents are invited to celebrate the city's 67th birthday tonight, 7:30 p.m., at Olinda Hall, as the Brea Historical Society and Brea Forever Young Club share "historical memories."

The program includes singing, a slide show, and a large cake decorated with orange groves, oil wells and a cable car. Carole's Cakes of Brea donated the cake after hearing about the civic organization's plans. Flowers will be provided by La Petite.

Mayor Carrey Nelson will be on hand to welcome guests along with other city dignitaries.

A sing-a-long will be staged with a slide show put together by Karl Fanning and Frank Schweitzer. Whit Cromwell, a

former Brea resident, will lead the singing with Inez Fanning accompanying him.

"California Here We Come" will begin the song fest as slides depict the origins of Breans. Singing swings to "School Days" as residents view a history of Brea schools and "I've Been Working on the Railroad," leads into the city's history of red painted street cars.

The program will continue with "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," as Breans remember Babe Ruth and Walter Johnson coming to Brea to play exhibition baseball. "This Land is My Land," will conclude the historical presentation.

Brea was incorporated on February 27, 1917. "We hope our new and old residents will mark their calendars and join with us," said Carl Fanning, president of the Brea Historical Society.

23 Feb 1982

**BIRTHDAY TIME** — It was 65 years ago today that Brea was incorporated as a city.

In honor of this occasion, the City Council threw a birthday party at its meeting last week and invited several residents who have lived in the city all those years.

Blowing out candles on a birthday cake designed with the city's seal were KARL and INEZ FANNING, CLAYTON and GRACE RIES, FRANK SCHWEITZER, VIOLA SWINDLE, HARRY and AUDREY WINCHEL, SEDALIA PHILLIPS, DOROTHY MON and W.D. HODKINS.

Frank Schweitzer used the celebration to get in a plug for the Brea Community History Project, which is gathering old photos, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, directories, personal correspondence and diaries in an effort to compile the city's past into a formal record.

Individuals who may have information to contribute to the project may call DEAN MILLETT at 3289.

# News of North Orange County

A-6

Thursday, February 6, 1975

DAILY NEWS TRIBUNE



News Tribune Photo

**BIRTHDAY TIME** — Mayor Leonard MacKain (left) wields spatula to cut birthday cake publicizing the 58th anniversary of City of Brea Feb. 20. With him are Mrs. LaVeta Daetweiler and Brea Historical Society President

Frank Schweitzer Jr. Cake is decorated with red roses, the city flower. Feb. 16-23 is Birthday Week and flags will fly Feb. 20, with 7:30 p.m. party at Community Center, 500 S. Sievers Ave.

## 75th

Residents explore their city's history,  
then run, dance and enjoy the present



Dave Yoder/The Orange County Register

Gary Ronquist and Kathy Sparks, left, both of Brea, dance at part of Brea's 75th birthday party.

## BREA: City celebrates, reflects on history

FROM 1

The 1½-hour tour was one of several weekend events to commemorate the city's 75th birthday. Highlights were peeps at historical homes and the old airport site and stops at the city's first oil fields in Brea and Tonner canyons.

The caravan also passed the site of a 1926 oil-reservoir fire that burned nearby houses and orange orchards to the ground.

But the 160 passengers who signed up for the tour said they had to use a lot of imagination to picture the Brea that used to be.

Houses stand on the former baseball field where Babe Ruth played an exhibition game in 1924. The only legacy of the field: the shape of the neighborhood is a diamond. Residential St. Crispin Avenue, Realon said, runs through the former outfield.

At some points throughout the tour, volunteers dressed in period costumes described what life used to be like in Brea.

Jim Love, 36, playing an oil worker, described working conditions for those employed at the Chanslor Canfield Midway Oil Co. property in Brea Canyon Hills.

During Brea's booming oil production years in the 1920s to early

### Birthday events planned

Brea's 75th birthday celebration will continue all year. Among the planned events:

■ April 4 and Oct. 3 — Tours of the city's historical homes 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person.

■ May 9 and Sept. 19 — Living-history bus tours through the city's historical neighborhoods, oil fields and to the locations of the city's baseball field and first airport. Tours will leave from City Hall Park, 401 S. Brea Blvd. at 1 p.m., 1:30, 2:30 and

3. The cost is \$5 per person.

■ May 16 — Diamond Jubilee Parade, "Brea Then and Now," begins at 10 a.m. and travels east on Birch Street to Brea Boulevard. A community picnic will be held at City Hall Park after the parade.

■ June 12-Aug. 7 — "Brea Then and Now" photo exhibit at the city's art gallery in the Civic Center at 1 Civic Center Circle.

For information, call the Brea Jubilee Hotline at 990-7771.

'30s, monthly rent was based on how many light bulbs were installed in each house: the rate was \$2 a bulb.

"I worked 10-hour days and made about \$55 a month," Love said in his role. "In 1927, about 94 oil wells were pumping here."

There were 3,000 residents in Old Olinda Village during the boom years.

The old oil days were easier to see. About 185 of the city's origi-

nal 343 oil wells remain in producing, Realon said.

Some of the bus passengers were old enough to remember it for themselves.

"I was there when it all happened," said Sedalia Danieley-Phillips, 73. "But the tour brought back memories. I enjoyed it."

The afternoon bus tours followed the opening of a 25-year-old time capsule.

By Cerise A. Valenzuela  
The Orange County Register

BREA — The slow caravan of white minibuses turned from Kraemer Boulevard to Orbiter Street and stopped.

"Basically we're sitting on the runway," said Gill Realon, bus tour director, pointing along Orbiter.

"What runway?" a little girl in the back of the bus shouted, wrenching herself out of a window-gazing trance.

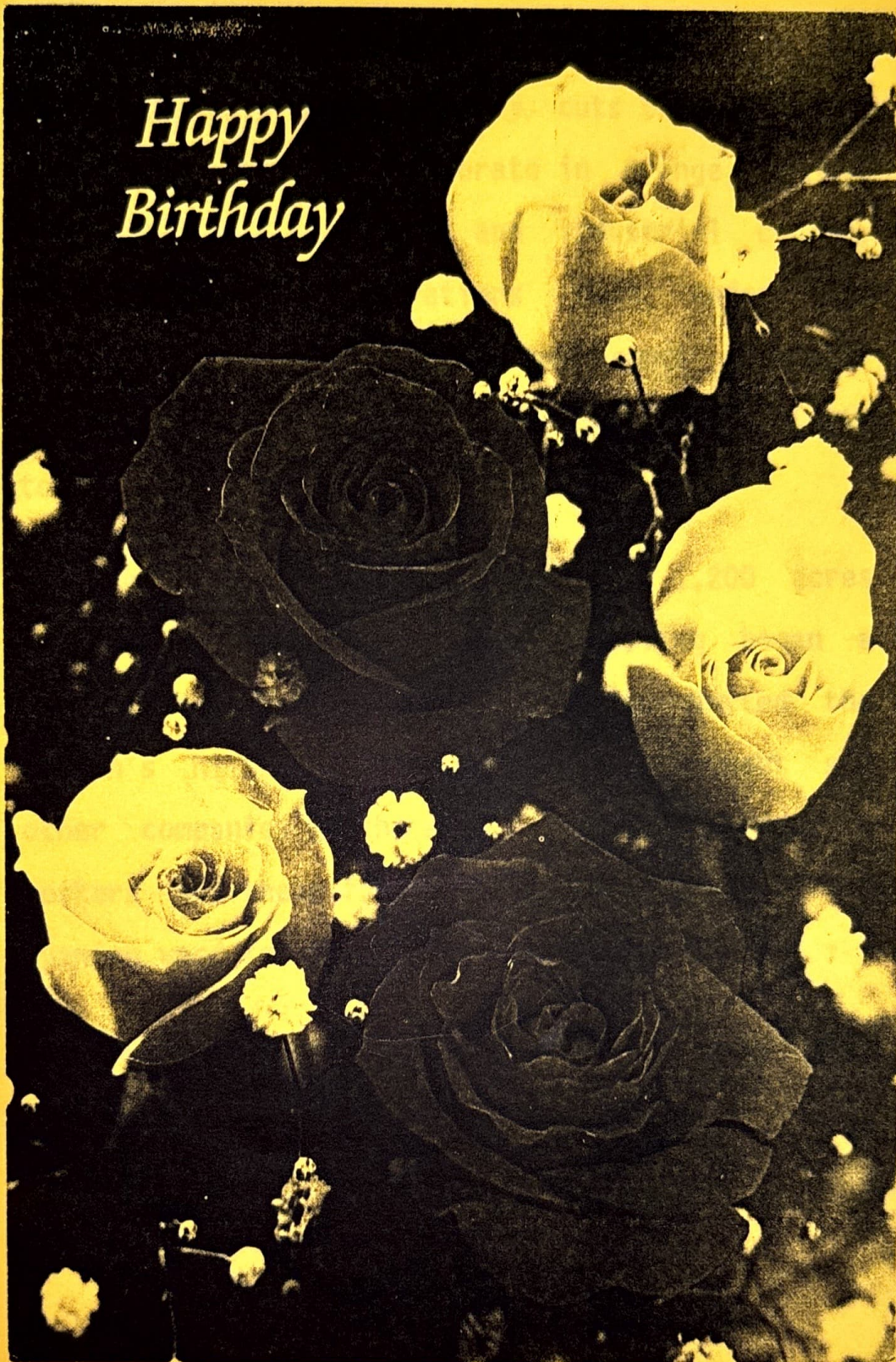
The 24 passengers swiveled their heads. They saw office buildings, Sunstrand Co. and Beckman Industries. What was this about an airport?

In 1925, the city dedicated an airport here on what was farmland, Realon said, in a manner as patient as a camp counselor. It never was a major airport. A big, old barn was used as the hangar, he said.

Realon was among several community volunteers acting as tour guides or re-creating roles of Brea's bygone days for the living-history bus tour through the city Sunday afternoon.

Please see BREA/3

*Happy  
Birthday*



FEBRUARY 23, 1990

City of Brea

**HISTORICAL REVIEW**  
(excerpt from the Orange County Register)

Today, the busy Orange Freeway cuts through Brea, the eighth city to incorporate in Orange County. The City is a commercial and industrial center, housing major corporations that enjoy its accessibility to Los Angeles and Orange counties. But, in the early 1900's, Brea was just a dusty town.

In 1894, the Union Oil Company brought 1,200 acres of what was then Olinda Village. Drilling began a year later and soon wooden oil towers dotted the region's hills. A "black gold" rush brought six other companies to the area. They leased homes to workers and their families. In 1917, Brea - the Spanish word for tar - was incorporated.

New homes and businesses since have replaced most wells.

## FACTS ABOUT BREA

Eighth City to incorporate in Orange County -  
January 23, 1917

Population upon incorporation was 732 people

City Flower is the Red Rose

City Tree is the California Pepper

City name "Brea" is Spanish for "tar"

Elevation is 375 feet above sea level

First Council was elected in a special election on  
February 15, 1917, which elected five members  
to a Board of Trustees

First Resolution adopted set the term of office for  
the five members of the Board of Trustees:

Isaac Craig	- four year term
Jay C. Section	- four year term
P.C. Hudleston	- two year term
R.M. Mitchell	- two year term
M.I. McCarty	- two year term

First Ordinance set the time and place of meetings  
in Rooms Nos. 7 and 8 in the Sewell Building on  
Pomona Avenue (Brea Boulevard) between La Habra  
and Fifth Streets, which rooms shall be known  
as "City Hall."

First Meeting held on February 26, 1917 in the  
Chamber of Commerce Room in the Sewell Building

City of Brea is in :

39th Congressional District  
31st and 32nd Senatorial Districts  
64th Assembly District

## WE'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY!

This information has been collected to provide you with a visual, historic picture of the era in which Brea became a City. Dates have been provided, where known.

Motion Pictures: This was time of nickelodeons, victrolas, and silent movies which had printed dialogue and descriptions of actions at the bottom. Movies included:

"The Little Princess" with Mary Pickford (1917)

"Intolerance" (1916)

"Birth of A Nation" (1915)

This year was the first year Chaplin's yearly salary reached one million dollars.

Musical Comedies: Ziegfield Follies, No-No Nanette (1920), Hit the Deck (1920)

Songs: George M. Cohan writes "Over There." Other songs popular were "Tea For Two," "Hallelujah," "There'll Be a Hot Time In The Old Town Tonight," "Hearts and Flowers." These were usually heard on radios and phonographs.

Singers: Bing Crosby and Rudy Vallee

Dance: One step, Turkey-Trot, Cake-walk, followed by the Fox trot, Shimmy, Charleston, and Black Bottom - Chicago this year becomes known as the World's Jazz Center

Style: Bobbed hairstyle sweeps Britain and United States, Flapper look is in

Political: World War I (1914-1918)

Four women were arrested for picketing the White House on behalf of Women's Suffrage and were sentenced to six months in jail.

Best Car Seller: Model-T Ford

Sciences: Sigmund Freud writes "Introduction to Psychoanalysis"

1917 Happenings:

Brea was Incorporated and became a City

Buffalo Bill dies

John F. Kennedy was born

Sara Bernhardt, 72, begins last tour of America

Post Office begins first air-mail service (this was discontinued because of too many deaths)

First trans-atlantic airplane flight in 1919 from New York to England

First production of a metal, four engine airplane

*Mayor Carrey J. Nelson*  
*Mayor Pro Tem Wayne D. Wedin*

*Council Members*

**Clarice A. Blamer**

**Ron Isles**

**Gene A. Leyton**

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# **pacific clippings**

post office box 11789  
costa mesa, calif. 92711

**STAR-PROGRESS**

Daily

FEB 23 1988

## **Newsline**

### **Brea celebrates birthday**

<sup>790</sup> **BREA** — The city's 71st birthday celebration will take place tonight from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Community Room at the Civic and Cultural Center.

The theme for the event is "where we've been and where we're going."

Participating in the celebration are the Chamber of Commerce, the Historical Society, the Arts Commission and the Redevelopment Agency. Each group will present a display outlining the city's roots, its past and its plans for the future. The Redevelopment Agency will provide a model display of planned new projects.

In addition, Fullerton artist Judi Smith Trasport will be on hand to sign prints and posters of her watercolor painting that was commissioned by the city. Residents who chose the different sites depicted in the artwork will also be on hand.

Several of the city's former mayors also have been invited to attend. Admission is free.

— Sheldon Craig



Photo by Susan Gaede

## Happy Birthday Brea

The Brea Forever Young Club and the Brea Historical Society celebrated Brea's 66th birthday, Feb. 18, at Olinda Hall. The Brea-Olinda High School Chamber Choir entertained. Viewing the cake (from left) Norma Hicks, Clarice Blamer, Carrie Nelson, Golde Woods, Golda Woolever, and Karl Fanning. (Not shown Councilman Sam Cooper.)

## Anniversaries - November 1997

### 29 YEARS

Eckart Plumbing  
529-3229

### 27 YEARS

Brea Veterinary Hospital  
529-4988

### 25 YEARS

Russell, A Division of ArdcO, Inc.  
529-1935

### 24 YEARS

Ericson Law Office  
529-4911

### 22 YEARS

State Farm Insurance - Goedl  
529-3936

### 19 YEARS

St. Algela Merici Catholic Church  
529-1821

### 18 YEARS

Abigail Abbott Staffing Services  
579-6700

Nordstrom  
529-0123

Law Offices of Rodney H. Parsons  
526-3600

Rita H. Rubinstein, M.D., Inc.  
990-9421

### 16 YEARS

M J D Investment Company  
529-3453

### 15 YEARS

Thomas Gernux  
990-4306

### 14 YEARS

The Great Pacific Elbow Company  
529-0411

Rotary Club of Brea - Noon  
990-7824

### 12 YEARS

Christian Salvesen Company  
993-3533

### 10 YEARS

Lake Park Brea Social Club  
691-9627

### 10 YEARS

Ginter Associates Public Relations  
773-0361

Golden Seal Services, Inc.  
990-4968

### 9 YEARS

Brea Disposal, Inc.  
238-3300

Country Road Realty  
529-1988

Bob Hitchcock  
529-7109



The Voice of the Business Community

**COMMUNIQUE**  
A Chamber of Commerce Publication Promoting Business

# Brea couple celebrates 70th anniversary

By Sheldon Craig  
DSP Staff Writer

**BREA** — There aren't many residents in town who can lay claim to the fact that, even though they spent the first 30-odd years of their lives in the Dakotas, they've also lived in Brea longer than most natives.

It's even more unusual to celebrate your 70th wedding anniversary here.

But, that's exactly what Cecil and Ruth Baker did two weeks ago on Nov. 8 at the Brea Congregational Church. They were married Nov. 8, 1917, in Dickinson, North Dakota.

The reception was hosted by the Bakers' six children, and the only thing that might have irked Cecil was the fact that the reception may have taken away from some of his golf time—but for the fact that he usually takes weekends off. He still spends time on the course nearly every weekday.

Of course, reports are that the elder Bakers enjoyed the celebration immensely.

Originally, the Bakers lived in Edmunds, Carrington and Jamestown, North Dakota, and they moved here in 1935. Cecil retired from working at the Shaffer Tool Company in 1961. He will be celebrating his 95th birthday next month.

Ruth is the younger of the two. She won't be celebrating her birthday until March, when she'll turn 94.

While Cecil is out golfing, Ruth says she still likes to do needle-



**WE SHOULD ALL LIVE AS LONG** — Shown here are Ruth and Cecil Baker who are, believe it or not, 94 and 95 years of age, respectively. On Nov. 8, they celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary at the Fellowship Hall at the Brea Congregational Church with a reception hosted by their six children.

work, although—only recently—she says that the intricate patterns she works with are sometimes difficult to see.

It seems commonplace to hear those of middle age deny the fact that there's any such thing as old age as their years advance. In the Baker's case,

they've made a pretty good argument for the truth of that statement.

Considering their age, the Bakers also have a relatively small family. Their three surviving children have expanded the family tree to include five grandchildren and one great

grandchild. Two of the Baker's children died in early childhood, and their son Gordon passed on in 1971.

Their only daughter, Harriett, lives in San Jose, while their two sons, James and Harry, live with their wives in Fullerton and Orange respectively.



## The century mark

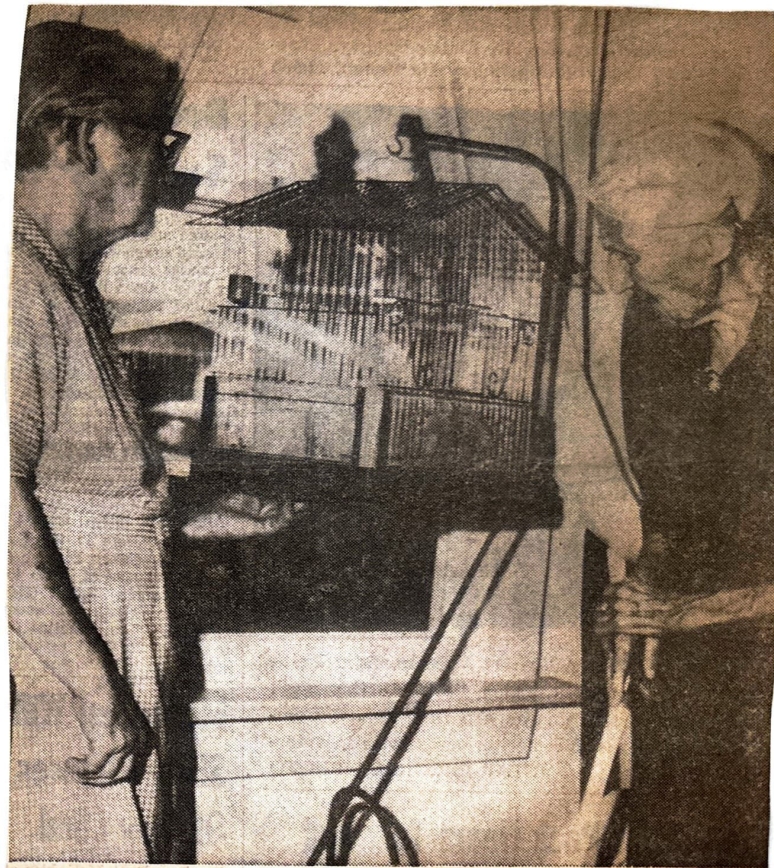
Mack Burke (seated) celebrated his 100th birthday with the help from his sister, Carol Tarbell (with her hand on his shoulder), and friends from the American Association of University Women: Martha Jane Wolking, Marlene Walters, Dawn Andersen, Lynn Sentenn, Linda Swain, Janet Harvey, Joyce Bauer, Barbara Grenier, Mary Alice Blaydes and Wilma Sauer.

M. Loren Hernandez/Brea Progress



**100 BIRTHDAYS** — Pictured at the reception and open house at the First Baptist Church last Sunday is Mrs. Carrie Burdick, who was honored at the approach of her 100th birthday on Oct. 8. Affectionately known as "Granny" Burdick, she

greeted hundreds of friends from the congregation and community. Pictured are (left to right) Mrs. R. C. McFadden, Granny Burdick and the Rev. R. C. McFadden, church pastor, with visitors in the foreground. (News Tribune Photo)



**100 - YEARS - YOUNG** — "Granny" Burdick, of 233 S. Orange, will reach the century mark on Oct. 8. She has lived in Brea for 3 years. She is

shown here with her eldest daughter, Mrs. John McClure, with their pet canary.

STAR-PROGRESS PHOTO

## She's 100 Years Young!



Mrs. Carrie (Granny) Burdick of Brea is doing her part in the festivities planned for her 100th birthday anniversary Oct. 8. She's resting up in advance. An open house Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. will be held in her honor at Brea First Baptist Church where she has worshiped 34 years. (News Tribune Photo)

## Granny's 100, But Is Her Cake Big Enough for All The Candles?

There's only one thing bothering "Granny" Burdick and that is: "Can they really bake a cake large enough to hold a hundred candles!"

"Granny" Burdick, who has lived in Brea for 34 years and will reach the century mark on October 8, is 100-years - young to all who know her.

She is an active member of the First Baptist Church of Brea, which she joined in 1930. She visits with friends, she takes occasional walks by herself, she plays with her pet canary. Mostly, though, she reminisces in the quiet of her home at 233 S. Orange, which she shares with her eldest daughter, Mrs. John McClure. "Granny" Burdick has a much to remember.

### Born in Mississippi

Born in Mississippi Oct. 8, 1864, Mrs. Carrie Burdick, known to all as "Granny," is the head of a family of five generations. She raised nine children in Texas, where she spent most of her life, and now has 39 grandchildren, 87 great grandchildren, and 22 great great grandchildren.

"Granny" was born in a log house during the Civil War period. When she was four-years-old, her family moved from Mississippi to Arkansas, traveling by

covered wagon. Two years later her mother died.

Later the family moved to Wellington, Tex. when "Granny" was

nine. In 1881, at the age of 16, she married Westcott Jones, who died when their younger children were still small. It then became necessary for her to operate a boardinghouse to care for her nine children, all of them raised in Texas.

### Nurse in World War I

In 1914 when World War I broke out, "Granny" became a nurse. She was living then in Memphis, Tex. in 1918, the year of the great flu epidemic, she nursed victims of the illness in Amarillo, Tex.

In 1925 she moved to California, living at first in Los Angeles and then in Whittier. In 1930 she came to Brea and in 1932, at the age of 67, married the late Stillman Burdick, who was then 76.

### No Real Trouble

"I can honestly say that I've never had any real trouble my whole life," said "Granny." "I've had sorrow and heartache—I lost my husbands and four children—but everyone in my family was always good. That's what I mean when I say I never had any real trouble."

This Sunday at the First Baptist Church, the Rev. R. C. McFadden, whom "Granny" calls "Brother Mac," is planning a special celebration in honor of her 100th birthday.

# Happy Birthday Brea!



## **HISTORICAL REVIEW**

*(excerpt from the Orange County Register)*

Today, the busy Orange Freeway cuts through Brea, the eighth city to incorporate in Orange County. The City is a commercial and industrial center, housing major corporations that enjoy its accessibility to Los Angeles and Orange counties. But, in the early 1900's, Brea was just a dusty town.

In 1894, the Union Oil Company bought 1,200 acres of what was then Olinda Village. Drilling began a year later and soon wooden oil towers dotted the region's hills. A "black gold" rush brought six other companies to the area. They leased homes to workers and their families. In 1917, Brea - the Spanish word for tar - was incorporated.

New homes and businesses since have replaced most wells.

## FACTS ABOUT BREA

- ☛ *Eighth city to incorporate in Orange County - February 23, 1917*
- ☛ *Population upon incorporation was 732 people*
- ☛ *City Flower is the Red Rose*
- ☛ *City Tree is the California Pepper*
- ☛ *City name "Brea" is Spanish for "tar"*
- ☛ *Elevation is 375 feet above sea level*
- ☛ *First Council was elected in a special election on February 15, 1917, which elected five members to a Board of Trustees*
  
- ☛ *First Resolution adopted set the term of office for the five members of the Board of Trustees:*
  - Isaac Craig - four year term
  - Jay C. Sexton - four year term
  - P.C. Hudleston - two year term
  - R.M. Mitchell - two year term
  - M.I. McCarty - two year term
  
- ☛ *First Ordinance set the time and place of meetings in Room Nos. 7 and 8 in the Sewell Building on Pomona Avenue (Brea Boulevard) between La Habra and Fifth Streets, which rooms shall be known as "City Hall."*
  
- ☛ *First Meeting held on February 26, 1917 in the Chamber of Commerce Room in the Sewell Building*

City of Brea is in :

39th Congressional District  
31st and 32nd Senatorial Districts  
64th Assembly District

## WE'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY!

This information has been collected to provide you with a visual, historic picture of the era in which Brea became a City. Dates have been provided where known.

**Motion Pictures:** This was time of nickelodeons, victrolas, and silent movies which had printed dialogue and descriptions of actions at the bottom. Movies included:

“The Little Princess” with Mary Pickford (1917)

“Intolerance” (1916)

“Birth of A Nation” (1915)

This year was the first year Charlie Chaplin’s yearly salary reached one million dollars.

**Musical Comedies:** Ziegfield Follies, No-No Nanette (1920), Hit the Deck (1920)

**Songs:**

George M. Cohan writes “Over There.” Other songs popular were “Tea For Two,” “Hallelujah,” “There’ll Be a Hot Time In The Old Town Tonight,” “Hearts and Flowers.” These were usually heard on radios and phonographs.

**Singers:**

Bing Crosby and Rudy Vallee

**Dance:**

One Step , Turkey-Trot, Cake-walk, followed by the Fox trot, Shimmy, Charleston, and Black Bottom -

Chicago this year becomes known as the World’s Jazz Center

**Style:** Bobbed hairstyle sweeps Britain and United States, Flapper look is in.

**Political:** World War I (1914-1918)  
Four women were arrested for picketing the White House on behalf of Women's Suffrage and were sentenced to six months in jail.

**Best Car Seller:** Model-T Ford

**Sciences:** Sigmund Freud writes "Introduction to Psychoanalysis"

**1917 Happenings:**

- Brea was Incorporated and became a City
- Buffalo Bill dies
- John F. Kennedy was born
- Sara Bernhardt, 72, begins last tour of America
- Post Office begins first air-mail service (this was discontinued because of too many deaths)
- First trans-atlantic airplane flight in 1919 from New York to England
- First production of a metal, four engine airplane

*Mayor Wayne D. Wedin*  
*Mayor Pro Tem Ron Isles*

*Councilmembers*

**Burnie Dunlap**

**Carrey Nelson**

**Glenn Parker**



# Brea News-Times

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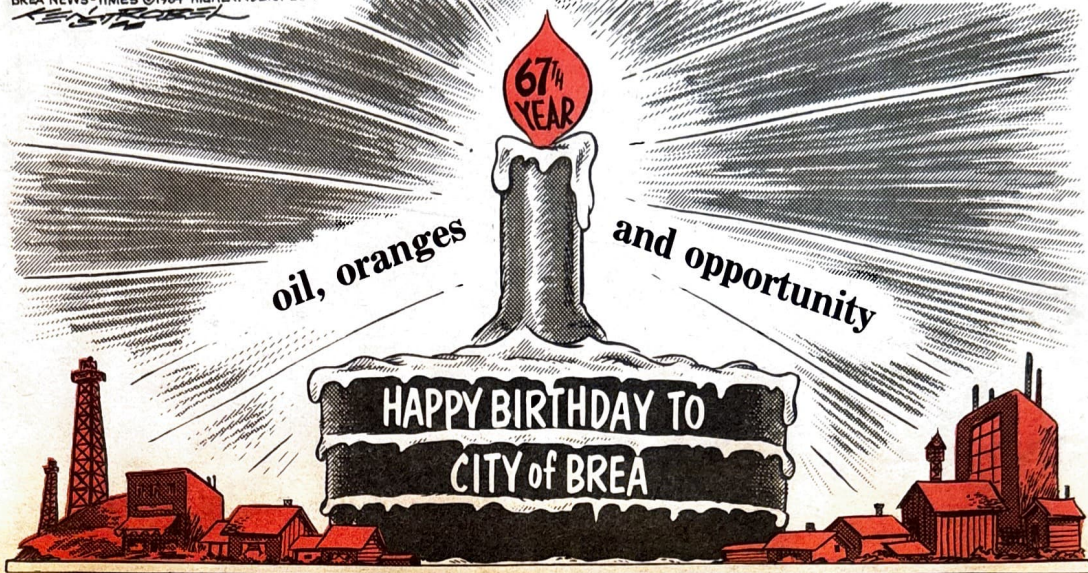
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VOL. 12 NO. 150 25 A HIGHLANDER COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER Feb. 22, 1984 25 CENTS

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## It's one year down for Brea city manager

By Jan Greene

Everyone thought the new city manager in Brea would need pretty big shoes to follow in the footsteps of longtime manager Wayne Wedin.

But when Ed Wohlenberg was appointed to the post a year ago, he decided not to even try—he'd make his own footsteps in Brea history.

And Wohlenberg, who celebrated his first anniversary with the city last week, seems to have done just that, judging from the praise he received from city leaders.

The City Council gave him a plaque listing his many accomplishments in the past year. And Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Norm Wasserman added his own pat on the back.

"I don't know of any time since I've been here that things have been better," Wasserman, who has run the chamber for five years, told Wohlenberg.

But the city manager, a down to earth Kansas

native who hasn't quite lost his mid-Western twang, doesn't let all the praise go to his head.

"What's been done has involved the energy and commitment of a lot of people," Wohlenberg said. "And it's taken the City Council's continual support."

Some of those accomplishments, he said, include:

—settling the lawsuit between the Brea Mall and the city;

—reorganizing the internal workings of city government;

—work on a Carbon Canyon specific plan to plot its future;

—working with the school district on a new high school;

—expansion of the redevelopment area to rejuvenate the downtown area.

Wohlenberg emphasizes the internal changes he has made

please turn to page 4

## Mayor to speak at Brea Forum

Brea Mayor Carrey Nelson will speak to the Brea Forum Feb. 27, at 7:30 a.m.

Nelson will address some of the city plans to maintain financial stability, including the proposed hotel, re-development of north Brea Boulevard and a new high school building. He will also discuss communications within the city and between the city and residents. Questions from the audience will conclude the program.

Brea Forum meetings are open to the public. Nelson will speak at the Civic Cultural Center Community Room, Number One Civic Center Circle, third floor. A continental breakfast will be served at a cost of \$3.50. Call Carol Griggs, 990-3121 for reservations.

## Brea remembered

Feb. 23 marks the day 67 years ago that Brea was incorporated. The Brea News-Times extends its congratulations, and says Happy Birthday!

By Jan Greene

Karl and Leo were talking about the old days in Brea.

"Well, Betty Struck's house was out here, so it had to be taken around 1950 or '51," Leo concluded, pointing to an aerial photo of the city.

"Look, that's where they used to grow lima beans and hay, across from the high school," Karl recalled, pointing to another part of the picture. "And that's where the Bastanchurys lived. They were Basque, weren't they?"

"Basque? I don't remember. Where do Basques come from?" Leo answered quizzically.

"I don't know. I don't remember," Karl said with a frown that suddenly turned into a smile as he realized the turn in the conversation. "But we're rambling now. What is it you wanted to know?"

Walking into the middle of a meeting of the Brea Historical Society is like that—they meet in a room filled with memories, in Brea's abandoned Old City Hall, and talk about the town they knew as boys. It's more interesting just to listen to them talk.

And they did. "I remember we used to ride our bikes to Harbor Boulevard. The walnut trees made a canopy over

your head," Karl recalled. "It was beautiful."

They described old Brea as a small, stable town, not unlike small, stable towns throughout the country in the earlier part of the century. The people who lived here worked in the oil fields or the orchards, and built homes and families. Because of that stability, there are still plenty of people around who can tell you what life used to be like.

Brea stayed basically the same up until the late 1940s, when the first tract of homes were built. When the city was incorporated exactly 67 years ago, in 1917, there were 732 people in the town. That grew to just 3,215 in 1950. But between the midpoint of the century and today, that population has grown nearly ten times.

Back then, the center of town was Brea Boulevard, from the railroad tracks to Elm Street. The high school, on Birch, was "three blocks from anything," placed what was then the edge of town so it would be accessible to the town of Olinda. The high school was built in 1925, when Brea and Olinda decided they didn't want their kids going all the way to Fullerton for high school.

Those were the days when Sam's Place on Brea Boulevard was known

please turn to page 3

Pictures of old Brea  
Pages 2 and 3

Who are these  
people?  
Page 4

Local sports  
Page 12



Photos courtesy Brea Historical Society

## Good Old Brea revisited: Scenes from the past

Above, a street scene of Brea Boulevard looking south from the area of the railroad tracks in 1917. Many of the storefronts are still the same, though the road is a little better paved. Below, the 1926 Stewart Oil Farm fire caused \$9 million in damage and burned for days on

end, igniting one tank after another. Residents all over Orange County could see the smoke and flames, but there were no lives lost and just a few homes burned. The oil tanks were in the foothills of Brea.

