

neighbors

Former mayors hear wedding bells



NEWSY SUZIE
Susan Gaede

Another former mayor, besides **Burnie Dunlap**, is getting married again. Can you guess who it is? **Mel LeBaron** lost his lovely wife, Joan, to cancer last year. He is raising three grandchildren, ages 9, 10 and 11. Mel called the Mormon Church to ask for a babysitter to help with homework, etc. Mel and the babysitter, **Sue Alger**, eventually fell in love. They will be married on March 15. Mel said if anybody wants to drop by his house from 2 to 5 p.m. on that day, they are welcome.

Then there is the **Carmen Zuniga**, a Brea resident and associate professor at California State University, Fullerton. She wanted to get involved with local government three years ago, and city manager **Frank Benest** suggested to **Burnie Dunlap** that she be put on the Brea Council for Excellence committee. Three years later Carmen told her friend **Pam Markman** she would like to meet an interesting male. Pam suggested she call **Burnie Dunlap** and invite him to lunch.

Lunch at the Crocodile Cafe lasted for four hours and the rest is history.

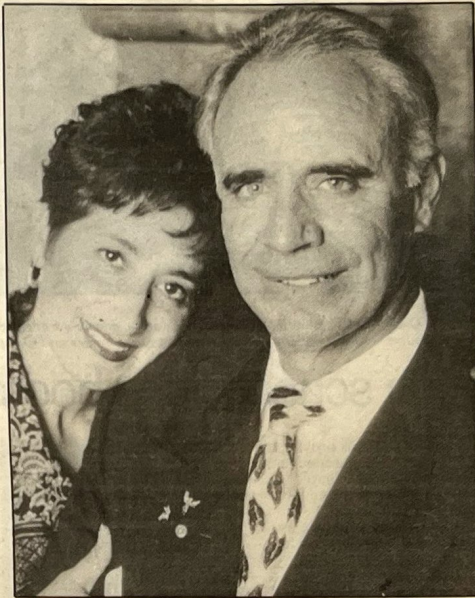
How did **Burnie** propose?

Carmen said she was hanging a garment in the closet and **Burnie** asked her to come out of the closet and he proposed.

"Some people come out of the closet," she said, jokingly. "Burnie went into the closet."

Carmen has three lovely children, **Sabrina** 18, **Madeline** 15, and **Gabriela**, 10. **Burnie** and Carmen were married Jan. 11. They honeymooned in Hawaii.

"Burnie has gained the children's love and confidence," Carmen said. "He will make a wonderful stepfather." **Burnie's** son, **Mark**, is engaged . . . stay tuned.



Wedding bells chimed recently for former mayor and city councilman **Burnie Dunlap** and Carmen **Zuniga** (above) and former mayor **Mel LeBaron** and **Sue Alger** (left).

Catch the spirit

Mayor Parker outlines
1997 City Council theme

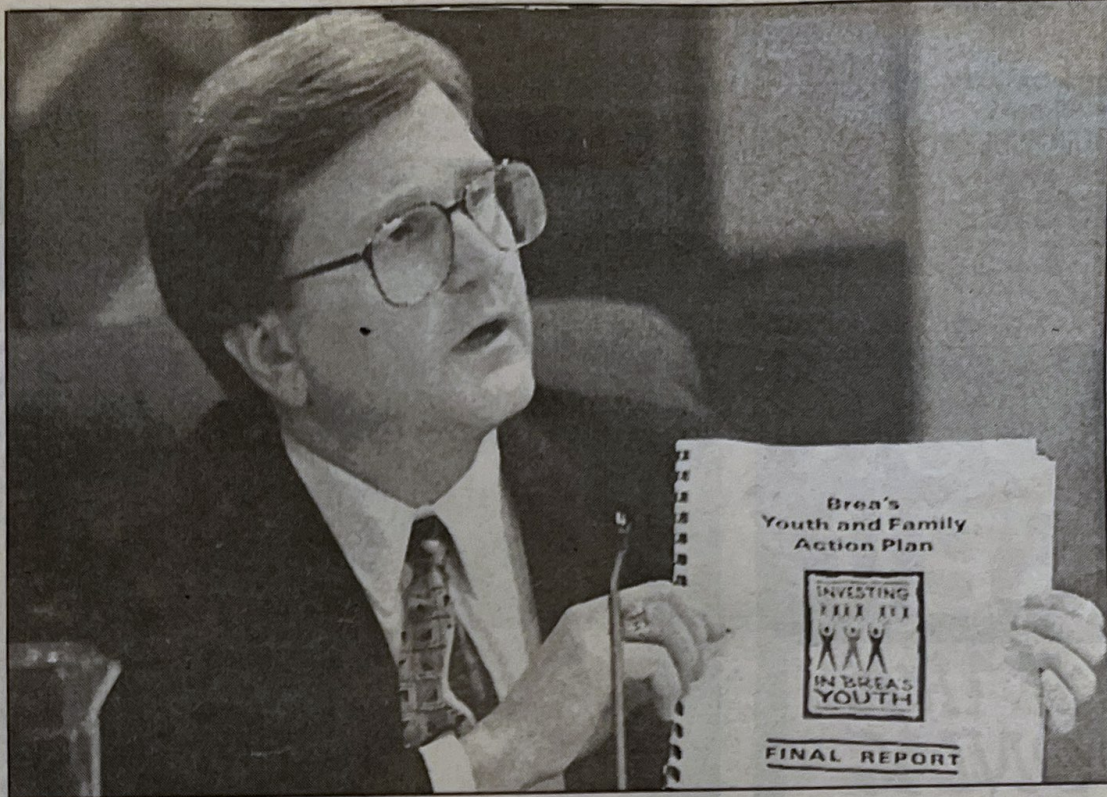
By Jennifer D'Andrea
Brea Progress

Mayor Glenn Parker is a man of few words. People who have watched him in City Council meetings for the last seven years say he seldom smiles, except when gazing adoringly at his wife of 25 years, Mary Jo.

So it was an exceptionally special occasion at the City Council meeting Tuesday night when Parker both smiled and spoke enthusiastically about his designs for the city in the next year.

Parker, 43, themed his tenure, "Catch the Spirit," and emphasized the importance of community involvement:

"I want to introduce a theme that I hope will inspire the council and the community as



Ron Solimon/For the Brea Progress

Mayor Glenn G. Parker praises the efforts of residents who completed the Brea Youth and Family Action Plan, shortly after he announced the theme for 1997 at the City Council meeting on Tuesday.

we pursue our goals," he said. "I wanted to identify a theme that might possibly live beyond 1997. It's a theme that might capture citizens to invest in Brea. How do we perpetrate or catch the Brea Spirit? The Brea Spirit encompasses citizenship, volunteering, service, friends and neighbors, children and the future."

Parker, who was elected mayor by his council colleagues, hopes to use his experience as Brea's mayor three years ago to shepherd the council and city.

"My goals are the council's goals," he said. "My job as mayor is not to create a separate agenda, my job is to manage the council's agenda and to help the council achieve the goals that they set."

After Parker identified his theme for the year, he noted five priorities on which he and the council will focus:

- ▶ Achieve first-year cost recovery and participation goals for the Community Center.
- ▶ Complete downtown infrastructure improvements, open Birch Street for business and secure tenants for the Super-

blocks.

- ▶ Revisit the Sphere of Influence document, identify additional issues and develop an action plan.

- ▶ Develop and implement a plan to stabilize and enhance general fund reserve levels.

- ▶ Enhance public safety by implementing the approved recommendations of the Fire Department Audit and the Youth and Family Action Plan and develop a community-oriented policing program for the downtown.

Of the five goals for the year, downtown construction heads Parker's list. Making the city a commercial hub is important, he said.

"The goal is that it will be a place where Breans will enjoy going for entertainment and gathering for social purposes," he said. "Our hope was that if we (accomplished this), then it would also be a place that others would want to come to."

Parker stressed downtown development in his campaign for City Council in 1990.

"We've achieved a tremendous amount on that and I think we're on the road to getting

that done."

While surging into the future, Parker wants to ensure city officials don't forget the past. He said the council will work to support the city's mission statement and that they will use the following four goals outlined in the mission statement to guide their daily decisions:

- ▶ Maintain a safe environment for Breans.
- ▶ Ensure Brea remains a special place.
- ▶ Protect and enhance Brea as a balanced community.
- ▶ Increase Breans' sense of civic duty.

The Promenade and the six-month-old Community Center are prime examples of how the mission statement works, Parker said.

"I think we've got a very good council now with some very broad experience," he said. "As a result, I think we've got the ability to meet the challenges that we have for the year ahead of us."

"We all share the same values. We might have different roads to get there, but we all

BREA PROGRESS

A weekly newspaper with personality

PUBLISHED BY THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER ON THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13, 1997



Claire Schlotterbeck, a resident of Olinda Village, surveys the lush landscape surrounding Carbon Canyon.

Stan Bird
Brea Progress

An environmentalist capitalizes on the . . .

NEED FOR NATURE

By Jennifer D'Andrea
Brea Progress

As a child, Claire Schlotterbeck loved the eerie elements of nature that frightened most other children.

She treasured fierce crashes of thunder and lightning and the shadowed mystery of the hills and the night sky. She even frequented a pet cemetery near her home — a place from which others might run.

Then again, Schlotterbeck lived to exist outdoors. She relished the idyllic atmosphere that surrounded the 10-

acre farm in Kentucky where she spent five years of her childhood.

"I loved the freedom of that childhood," Schlotterbeck said, dreamily. "I'd lay in the alfalfa field and just gaze at the sky. I used to play in the barn. We had an apple orchard and a strawberry patch. My grandfather was an astronomer, so I've always loved the night sky."

The 50-year old attributes her deep appreciation for natural beauty to her family. Schlotterbeck family vacations never meant a trip to Disneyland, rather they gravitated toward beautiful places such as the Great

Smoky Mountains between North Carolina and Tennessee.

Those experiences sparked Schlotterbeck's lifelong devotion to preserving the environment. She transferred those efforts to Brea after she moved to Olinda Village in 1978.

"I love the variety of California," Schlotterbeck said. "Within an hour you can be in the mountains or the desert or the sea."

She became involved in "Hills for Everyone," a group concentrated on creating, preserving and expanding

Please see NATURE/4

Nature

FROM 1

Chino Hills State Park, which borders Riverside, San Bernardino and Orange counties. She has been president of the organization since 1980.

"We're trying to protect all the variety that's California in the state park system," Schlotterbeck said. "This is the most expensive state park in California history because the State Parks Department waited too long to start buying land in Southern California for parks."

Creating the park has con-

sumed a great deal of her time and energy. She helped acquire insurance for the park, clear the land of debris and trash, organize volunteer work parties and solicit grants.

By 1983, "Hills for Everyone" ran the Chino Hills State Park, marking the first time in state history that the state allowed a group of non-profit volunteers to run a state park.

"Generally, if you took people on the land," Schlotterbeck said, "the land would sell itself. It was always our belief that people need nature in their daily lives. That's what drove us. When you get people out on the land, people

recognize the treasure that it is and they want to protect it because of its beauty and because of its rarity as a state park in Southern California."

In the last few years, Schlotterbeck has worked to prohibit commercial and housing development on the park's ridgelines as well as cattle grazing in the park.

After years of volunteering her efforts, Schlotterbeck is now being paid for doing what she knows best: looking out for nature. She is a consultant at Wildlands Conservancy where she works on open-space issues, specifically in the Chino Hills State Park.

Schlotterbeck's current environmental efforts include expanding the state park by acquiring Coal Canyon, located just south of the Riverside (91) Freeway, so that wildlife can connect between the two areas.

"If you have a Persian rug and you cut it up," she explained, "then you don't have a Persian rug anymore. All you have are frayed pieces. And that's exactly what happens in the state parks. Unless the food chain is replenished, the reason we invested all this money will be lost."

She also has requested that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors investigate the bulldozer-training school on the Firestone Boy Scout Reservation near Brea. The school violated eight county and state codes because of illegal grading that will change the course of stream beds, she said.

"I'm unwilling to be held hostage to illegal activities by the Boy Scouts on land we worked so

hard to save," Schlotterbeck said.

Schlotterbeck earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science at UCLA. She received a Master of Arts degree in nutrition at Purdue University.

The single mother has 21-year-old twins, Melanie and Jennifer, and a son, Nathan, 13. The twins have followed their mother's lead: both are pursuing careers in environmental preservation.

"Children and nature have been the two forces that have driven me in my life," Schlotterbeck said, explaining an experience she had as a camp counselor for under-privileged children at UCLA.

"When I saw the transformation in kids when they were in a natural setting, it was profound," she said. "They relax and they become who they really are. I saw how important nature is and what a healer nature is, even for these kids that had been so wounded in their lives."

neighbors

Carey a sell out



NEWSY SUZIE
Susan Gaede

The recent Drew Carey Show at the Brea Improv sold out way in advance. Carey stars in the "The Drew Carey Show" on television. Carey was awarded the People's Choice award for the best actor in a new series this year. The New York Times called it "ferociously funny." Spotted former Brea resident **Mitch Leyton** and he thought Carey was ferociously funny. Mitch said tears rolled down his cheeks as he watched Carey. Brea's **Paul Pohlen** was impressed by how much time Carey spent on stage (probably 45 minutes). Paul's wife, Mac, enjoyed his energy. I thought Carey was very down to earth and was not surprised that he recently purchased his boyhood home in Cleveland and would rather live there.

Lowell Saunders, who has made a guest appearance on Home Improvement and Arsenio Hall, was on the ticket, too. He kept the audience in stitches. The comedian broke the ice by saying, "I know OJ did it." Saunders, who is black, said he was saying that because he was playing to an all-white audience. He said, "Kato should write a book on how to stay in a house and not pay rent." The comedian said there were so many earthquakes in California that he now wears his clothes to bed. The next star to appear at the Improv is Andy Clark from the Boston Commons Comedy Club.

Boys basketball team grabbing headlines: Nice to see the Brea boys varsity basketball team doing so well and making headlines. Did you know **Gene Lloyd**, boys varsity basketball coach, actually started the Ladycats' team and coached them for several years?

Business news: Brea has two new taco places. **El Lucero Tacos** has opened at 171-D S. Kraemer

Bld. Owner **Juan A. Ayala** said his mother-in-law owns Tlaquepaque in Placentia and he is using some of her recipes. He also features authentic Mexican food.

Also, **Taco Mesa**, at 860 W. Imperial, should be open any day now.

Breans should be fit with all the new fitness and health centers coming in. **John Kollas** and **Gino Alvarion** are personal trainers at John the Bodyman Personal Fitness Center, 604 S. Brea Blvd. **John the Bodyman** will be starring in his own cable fitness show soon. He is also the KEZY spokesman for fitness.

Premiere Health and Wellness Center, a weight-loss clinic, has opened at 649-F W. Imperial Highway.

Now that everybody is getting skinny, they can go to the new swimwear store at the Brea Mall called **Diane's Inc.** It is opening soon.

Here comes the judge: We are so impressed Brea's **Clay Smith** was appointed to the North Orange County Municipal Court by Governor Pete Wilson. It's too bad the attorney had to give up his new appointment to the Planning Commission. Did you know Clay is a past bishop for the Latter Day Saints church that served part of Placentia and all of Brea east of the 57 Freeway? He has a wife and five children. Two of the children are Eagle Scouts and a third is working on his Eagle. Clay said the family is very excited about the appointment, but sorry he has to run for the position next November.

Did ja know department: Brea had only two runners in the L.A. Marathon. La Habra had more than 30. I guess Brea runners were all worn out from the 8K Classic. The two Brea runners were **Denise Saldena** and **Jeff Tzeng**.

Brea Olinda High School track coaches **Pam Barstow** and **Dan King** ran a marathon in Vegas in February.

Little League opening day notes: The weather was beautiful on Opening Day. **Brad Webster**, vice president of Little League, received the prestigious **Don Symmes** award. We hear Brad is great!

The following boys received really big prizes for selling the most candy: **Kyle Walker, Taylor Ruiz, Dustin Daley** and **Edward Rubi**.

Scout Auction: Don't forget to tune in Channel 3 Saturday from 4 to 9 p.m. and bid on Brea Lions Scout Center Cable TV auction items. I hear a man from Fullerton donated four oil paintings. **Lazy Pets** donated a bed shaped like a tuna can...cute? **Al Tremayne** of Brea Meats, a very active Lions Club member, has donated six Friday night barbecue dinners...yum. The school board donated picnic baskets from the **Brea Bistro** for Brea Concerts in the Park. Need a VCR? How about a 20-inch TV? There's even collectible plates from Disney movies, matted Howard Cleworth lithographs of Corvettes, family packages of Knott's tickets, and much more.

Fender Guitar Company has donated a beautiful guitar, and **Rockit Guitar** of La Habra is going to donate something to go along with it. There are a zillion more items, so do tune in, and remember, it's all for the Brea Lions Scout Center—a meeting place for all Brea Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Brea Republican Women Federated's rummage sales starts at 8 a.m. Saturday at the home of **Carol Wolfert**, 623 Pine. Carol said that if you have items, she will come and pick them up. Call Carol at 529-6030.

The Club's next evening meeting is Wednesday at the Brea Glenbrook Clubhouse. **Linda LeQuire**, administrative assistant to Rep. Ed Royce, is the speaker. Call **Gail Dittman** at 255-0932 to RSVP.

Any news? Give me a jingle, 529-8561.

What's Your Opinion?

We want your letters to the editor.

Send them to

1771 S. Lewis St., Anaheim, Ca. 92805

or

Fax them to us at (714) 704-3714.

Asking for God to bless city

Clergy offer insight at prayer breakfast

By Jennifer D'Andrea
Brea Progress

Blessings were plentiful last Wednesday during the 16th annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast at the Community Center, where Breans congregated to listen to inspirational words from some of the city's clergy.

The purpose of the event is "to cement and express the relationship between the religious community and the rest of the community," said Pastor Rick Marshall, president of the Brea Ministerial Association.

The morning featured a performance by the Brea Olinda High

School Chamber Choir and scripture readings by Pastor Doug Green of the North Hills Church.

Church representatives offered their insight about Mayor Glenn Parker's theme for this year, "Brea: Catch the Spirit."

The Rev. Theodore Olson of St. Angela Merici Catholic Church compared community members catching Brea's spirit to surfers catching a wave.

"The wave carries you with it," he said. "It takes you along. That's how spirits are."

He offered a warning, however, about the spirits people catch.

"You need to be choosy about what spirit captures you," he said. "You've got to catch the spirits that draw the best out of us: generosity, neighborliness,

gratitude, forgiveness and hope. The spirit that gives us life will take you, us and our whole city farther than we ever imagined."

Pastor Dave Radar of East Hills Baptist Church offered his thoughts on love, using it as an acronym for listen, overlook, value and express.

"When we love, we touch the hem of the garment of God," he said. "Let's catch the spirit of loving one another and supporting our city."

Parker emphasized community involvement.

"The bottom line is, we all make a difference every day," he said. "That spirit starts with each one of us. The Brea spirit: Catch it. If you've caught it, spread it. It's infectious."

Benest honored for library work

County Librarian John Adams presented City Manager Frank Benest with a City Managers Award last Tuesday for his efforts to revamp the county library system, which suffered a blow four years ago when the state reduced its financial support of the system.

Benest was a leader of a city managers task force that "had to find a way to equitably manage the impacts of these (financial) reductions," Adams said. The state, in 1992 and 1993, decreased the amount of money allocated

for the county library by 35 percent, or \$10 million.

Twenty-one of the county's 31 cities are part of the regional library system, but some were threatening to leave and create independent city libraries.

"If some of the larger cities broke away and formed their own libraries, this regional system could not survive," Benest said.

Benest helped lead a team of city managers to create a recovery plan that would revitalize the

system. Their plan was "to institute an allocation formula that provides greater equity between a city's (property-tax) contribution and what was spent there for the library," Adams said. It also called for the creation of a Library Advisory Board that has representation from the city councils.

"Other counties have faced a similar property-tax shift, but we were one of the few that were able to preserve the regional system," Benest said.

Activist Clarice Blamer shares another side of herself

When I told Clarice Blamer I wanted to talk about her "legacy," I realized I had to get specific.

I wasn't aiming for information on her accomplishments as an eight-year councilwoman and 18-month mayor of the city of Brea. Neither did I want to talk about the freeway call boxes or the 57 Freeway's carpool lanes resulting from her years as an Orange County Transportation Commissioner.

I also ruled out a) her role as a women's pioneer in her Beech Aircraft engineering job during World War II, b) her contributions to education as a high school math teacher for 27 years, c) the historical compilation of her family tree back to the 1600s in America and beyond, and d) any civic benefits resulting from the 75-year-old Brea's current string of official positions — Orange County Planning Commissioner, Brea Chamber of Commerce vice president of Community Affairs, Soroptimist International



of Brea/La Habra membership chair, Brea United Methodist Church board trustee, La Habra Children's Museum Advisory Board member, Brea Housing Board member, or St. Jude Hospital Guild volunteer.

After all, it's Mother's Day soon. What I wanted to talk about was her famous cooking legacy. The one captured in a cookbook distributed to family and friends and selling for more than \$60 at local charitable auctions. The one titled "My Kitchen Legacy."

■
"The preparing and serving of food has been a part of my heritage for as long as I can re-

member..." Clarice writes in the introduction to the book, a collection of her favorite recipes that are printed on loose-leaf pages, sheathed in protective covers in a three-ring binder, and "published" at her own home computer.

"It has been a creative outlet and is about the only way I can show the use of the right side of my brain. It gives me a chance to show my love for mankind by allowing me to create and give something to people which gives them pleasure and satisfaction."

"But most of all it is very therapeutic for me. Whatever the situation — one of boredom, sadness, joy or feeling down in the dumps, a good session of cooking leaves me in a better mood and with a more positive attitude..."

Clarice's cookbook made its first appearance at Christmas, 1995. She saw her project as "a more creative gift for family and friends at Christmas," but it served a personal mission as well.



Clarice Blamer at the computer where she wrote her book.

"I needed to get organized!" Clarice said. "My six grandchildren were beginning to ask when I would give them my recipes. I knew where the recipes were: scattered among the 300 to 400 cookbooks that fill my closet. But I knew my kids would never be able to find them if I weren't around."

Her son Steven had given her a computer to help her keep up with all her official and service-club duties, and she immediately put it to work on her cookbook project. She looked for recipes that wouldn't be found in ordinary cookbooks, for recipes that her children particularly liked, and recipes that dated back to her childhood on a farm in Oklahoma.

"Each recipe has a story behind it, something I particularly remember each time I prepare the food," she said.

She included a 60-year-old recipe for "Cranberry Fluff" that she made for her children (Deann, Debi and Steven) each Thanksgiving and Christmas. (Debi says she won't come for the holiday if it isn't on the menu," Clarice laughed.)

There's also a recipe for Reuben Casserole a la Orcas, a Soroptimist favorite (Clarice has been preparing monthly dinners for Soroptimist board meetings); Sherried Chicken with Artichokes from a gourmet foods class she took with her husband, Bill, a former flight engineer and test pilot who retired from Rockwell in 1975 ("He'd precision-cut the ingredients and clean up the kitchen while I put the recipe together," Clarice recalled); and Fillets of Beef Chausser (a Clarice specialty recently auctioned off at the Brea Lions Club Scout House Television Auction.)

■
"I believe anybody can cook if they can read," Clarice said. "But I still like to choose simple recipes. I can read a recipe and almost tell what it will taste like without stepping into the kitchen."

Which means Clarice's men-

tal tasting glands get a daily workout. She reads cookbooks like novels, often spending an entire afternoon with a newly acquired book or combing through the pages of several cooking magazines.

"I love to read. I'm not a TV person. I'd rather be reading historical novels, motivational books, political books — or cookbooks," she said.

Recently, after starting a women's investment club, she added financial publications to her daily reading list. Which she fits in between her three-day crossword puzzles and one of her favorite projects, the Sunday newspaper's giant crossword puzzle that serves as a weekly contest between her and a friend.

"I'm happiest when I'm busy," Clarice explained. "I don't ever want to lose the ability to grow. That's why I was so happy to get the computer, because I could learn to keep up with my grandchildren."

Last December, Clarice underwent angioplasty surgery, an experience that introduced a new appreciation for diet, exercise and meditation in her life.

"The thing I fear most about growing old is focusing on myself instead of on issues and problems," Clarice said. "I've worked hard at getting well. I try to focus on uplifting things, things that give you a sense of faith in the future. It's too easy to sit back and worry."

"I'm happiest when I'm busy and doing something for someone else. We all need to be doing something to make the world a better place."

And with that in mind, she's contemplating a second cookbook, filled with the best of the low-fat and low-salt recipes that she's learning to incorporate into her repertoire.

But meanwhile, here's a sampling of recipes from the original "My Kitchen Legacy" by Clarice Blamer.

Peach Delight

This is oldest recipe in her

Please see CORNER 19

CORNER

FROM 18

book, and one "everybody on my block knows about. We take turns making it and sitting outside and sharing it. Our summer weather forecast is, 'It's getting to be peach cobbler time!'"

6 cups sliced, peeled fresh peaches

Juice of one lemon

3½ cups sugar

6 tbsp butter

2 cups flour

2 tsp baking powder

½ tsp. salt

1 cup milk

2 tbsp. cornstarch

2 cups hot water

Grease an 11½ by 17½ inch pan. Spread peaches in pan; sprinkle with lemon juice and cinnamon. Cream 1½ cups sugar with butter. Sift flour with baking powder and salt; add with milk to sugar mixture to form stiff batter. Cover peaches with batter.

Combine cornstarch with remaining 2 cups sugar; sprinkle over batter. Pour boiling water over all. Spoon it very carefully over the sugar and cornstarch. Bake at 350 degrees for about one hour. Serve warm with whipped cream or ice cream. If you use half the recipe, bake it in an 8 by 10 inch greased pan.

Chicken Breasts Elegante

"An easy family recipe that people think you've slaved over all day."

12 chicken breasts, halved and boned

1 jar of dried beef

1 pound of sliced bacon

1 (10 3.4 oz) can cream of mushroom soup

½ pint sour cream

Partially cook bacon in microwave. Line pan with dried beef. Wrap each piece of chicken with thin slice of partially-cooked bacon. Place chicken in lined pan. Mix cream of mushroom soup and sour cream, and pour over chicken. Bake uncovered for three hours at 250 degrees. Serves 10 or 12.

Scalloped Tomatoes

Collected on a trip to Virginia at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello Home.

1 cup chopped celery

½ cup finely chopped onion

2 tbsps margarine

2 tbsps all-purpose flour

3 slices bread, toasted, buttered and cut into ½-inch cubes

1 (1 lb. 12 oz.) can tomatoes

1 tbsp sugar

1 tsp salt

2 tps prepared mustard

Dash of pepper

Cook celery and onion in margarine until tender. Blend flour and toasted bread cubes, reserving some cubes for topping.

Whither Brea's library?

More staff, money and materials needed to keep Brea on par in information business, head librarian says

By Jennifer D'Andrea
Brea Progress

Brea's branch of the Orange County Public Library system needs more staff, more money for materials and more space, according to a library official.

State cutbacks have left libraries depleted of funds, but Cheryl Nakaji, Brea's branch librarian, said the county system is not expected to worsen.

The Brea library, however, has some serious needs. City officials have formed a special task force to study libraries around the county — the good ones and the bad ones — and will make recommendations for updating Brea's.

"The most important thing this branch needs is staffing," Nakaji said. "As of January, we have three full time and two part time staff members. It's not sufficient for this branch. There are some really basic services, especially in the children's department, that aren't available."

Nakaji suggested activities such as pre-school storytime, crafts and play performances that would encourage literacy in youngsters, but are not offered because of a lack of funding.

The library has a branch librarian, an adult reference librarian, a senior clerk and two clerks. It lost a children's librarian and a library assistant this year because of budget cuts.

"From a children's perspective, we want to be here to cultivate an interest in the printed word and to encourage them to be readers in the future," Nakaji said. "Most families would be hard pressed to afford every single book and encyclopedia a

Please see LIBRARY/3

Special report: Brea Library

LIBRARY

FROM 1

child is going to need throughout their education."

The county system was adversely affected in 1992 and 1993 when the state cut back funding for county libraries by 35 percent, or \$10 million. Presently, 21 of the county's 31 cities are part of the regional system, for a total of 26 branches.

A lack of up-to-date materials — including fiction, non-fiction, reference books, magazines, compact discs, videos and audio books — is a problem in the Brea library, Nakaji said.

"This branch needs more in the way of new materials," Nakaji said. "The budget has been decreasing since 1993. Our weakness is that we don't have enough (material) that we're keeping

Library at a glance

► **HOURS:** Mon.-Wed., noon-9 p.m.; Thurs., 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

► **LIBRARY CARDS:** Free: fill out an application and present a valid drivers license or identification card

► **OVERDUE FINES:** 25 cents per item per day

► **OVERDUE VIDEO FINES:** \$2 per day

current. Many patrons are disappointed that there's not much to select from.

"We're in the information business. The library is an important factor in democracy. A democracy is based on people being able to make choices but, in order to do that, they have to be literate and informed. We promote literacy and information."

But there is a benefit to having older materials.

"Since this is an older branch, it has some really basic important things that are out of print," Nakaji said. "Newer libraries would have a hard time getting reference material that we already have."

Brea's branch is also lacking in terms of physical space, which means the library's collection of materials doesn't have room to grow, Nakaji said.

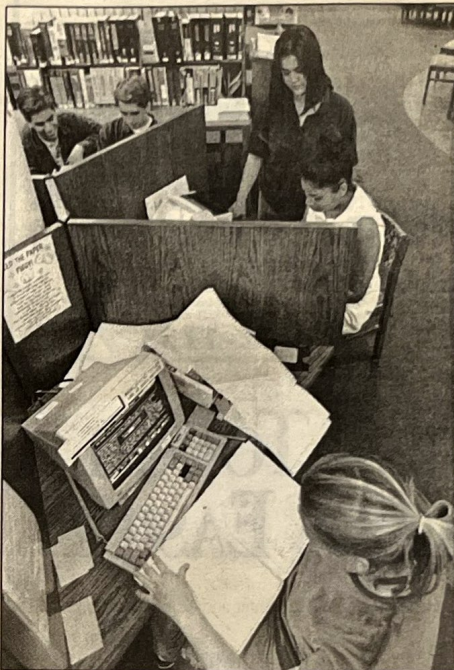
Nakaji said Brea still benefits from being a branch despite the financial blows the county system has suffered.

"Just to run the branch on a bare minimum level, it would require more than what we pay in property taxes," Nakaji said.

"For a city like Brea, I think it's advantageous to be part of a larger system. The fact that we can borrow materials from 26 branches is advantageous because one library can't have everything."

Patrons of Brea's library are primarily reading nonfiction, including books about parenting, starting businesses, home improvement, health and popular psychology, Nakaji said.

"It's very different from anywhere else that I've worked," Nakaji said. "People are reading for information."



M. Loren Hernandez/Brea Progress
Students do homework at the Brea Library. Clockwise from top: Tony Council, Justin Holley, Carley Trejo, Lauren Palazuelos and Jamie Mac.



Mini profile: Cheryl Nakaji

- **NAME:** Cheryl Nakaji
- **RESIDENCE:** Brea
- **OCCUPATION:** Brea branch librarian
- **EDUCATION:** Art history bachelor's degree, University of California.

Santa Barbara; library and information services master's degree, University of California, Los Angeles

- **FAVORITE BOOKS:** Mysteries
- **LIBRARY PET PEEVE:** Not enough parking spaces for patrons

By the numbers

- **\$18 million:** O.C. Public Library system budget in 1998
- **\$27 million:** O.C. Public Library system budget in 1993
- **\$282,182:** Brea property taxes allocated for the library system in 1996
- **\$199,984:** Operating cost includ-

ing salaries, utilities, custodial supplies in 1997

- **\$194,076:** Cost for services including books, periodicals, computers, payroll, etc. in 1997
- **\$394,060:** Total cost for Brea branch in 1997

Building bulge hits Brea

Union Plaza leads upsurge in value of local construction

By Jennifer D'Andrea
Brea Progress

The value of construction in Brea has increased dramatically since last year because of commercial developments in the city, and will continue to rise throughout 1997, according to a building and safety official.

The value of construction through April has been valued at \$24.4 million, up from \$5.5 million during the same period in 1996, said Richard Mitchell, Brea

building and safety manager.

"This is the result of a return of the construction industry," Mitchell said. "It's caused by a large bulge in overall figures in terms of the construction industry. It was very slow last year, but there's been a resurgence in the housing market and in commercial construction."

Mitchell attributed most of the increase to the Union Plaza project at Imperial Highway and Kraemer Boulevard.

"There should be some substantial increases later in the year based on projects that are scheduled for development," Mitchell said.

The increase in construction value is a boost for the city's economy.

"Anytime you develop land, there's greater property value and an increase in property tax, and, in commercial developments, there's an increase in sales tax," Mitchell said.

Community on cloth



Quilt tells story of Brea through eyes of community groups

By Jennifer D'Andrea
Brea Progress

A group of colorful children are working and playing together near a fence that represents the boundaries of their school yard. Beyond the fence is a vast expanse of lush green hills, into which the children will be released once they've been educated inside Country Hills Elementary School's protective fence.

This is just one square of 20, each with a wealth of symbolic meaning, that make up the Brea Community Quilt, which was unveiled Friday at the Brea Mall.

The squares were created by 17 community groups during the Brea Gallery's "Tea & Comfort: Quilts and Vessels" exhibit. The mall sponsored the quilt-making as part of its Kids in Residence program, which was created to supplement the arts in the community.

"This is something the kids will remember for the rest of their lives," said art teacher Delaina Hofacre, who helped students create three squares. "I think it's an exciting art form. It's certainly a lot more than just stitching. It's thinking of a quilt as a canvas with an exciting composition and as a medium that tells a story."

Some of the groups that



Ron Soliman For the Brea Progress

Top: Smita Satiani, Mellissa Wyatt and Bahar Banan, all 13, look at the quilt when it was unveiled Friday at the mall. **Below:** the square created by Girl Scout Troop 1304.

picked up a needle and thread include the Brea Historical Society, the Brea Parent Teachers Association Council, Brea Girl Scouts, Brea Tiny Tots, and several local schools.

Award-winning quilter Juanita Swarts, 72, of Fullerton, lent her talents to the project by sewing the 20 squares together.

"I think the squares show the diversity of the whole community and the children," Swarts said. "It takes all of them together to make a whole and that's what this quilt is."

The quilt will be displayed at the mall until June 8, when it will be moved to the Community Center.

City sues ESCO over rubber-plant blaze

By Leslie Berestein
The Brea Progress

A rubber-products company that burned down in April 1996 is being sued for damages by the city, which claims that negligence on by the company led to the fire.

City officials filed a complaint in Orange County Superior Court against ESCO Rubber Products Inc., which until the fire was located in an old building at 130 N. Brea Boulevard.

The lawsuit alleges that ESCO employees "utilized one or more pieces of industrial equipment in such a manner as to cause the generation of sparks and other ignited debris."

Russell Nowell, an attorney representing ESCO, said employees were not being negligent.

"It was an accident," he said. "We don't know the exact cause, but they were being careful."

Attorney Andrew V. Arczynski, who is representing the city, said the total cost of suppressing, investigating and cleaning up the fire — including the cleanup of toxic substances from storm drains and from nearby Craig Park Lake — was

upwards of \$600,000, much of it paid to professional hazardous-waste cleanup companies.

"We had lots of material that flowed into the storm drain system, and we had to clean that up," Arczynski said. "The pollution was going into the water system down at the park."

The building had no fire sprinklers because at the time the city began requiring them the building was so old — more than 50 years — it was grandfathered in as is. However, given the nature of its business and the flammability of its products, ESCO management should have thought twice before going without sprinklers, Arczynski said.

Nowell said one reason the company did not upgrade its building is because its planned move to a new building at 230 N. Orange Ave., as part of the city's downtown redevelopment, had been delayed by city officials.

"It was put on hold on more than one occasion," Nowell said.

The company, which moved to the new location soon after the fire, is trying to determine what its insurance will cover before taking further steps in the case, Nowell said.



Stan Bird/Brea Progress

War veterans Jack Shroyer (from left), Henry Van Der Vliet and Don Badziong cherish Fourth of July holiday.

WWII vets: Nothing tops the 4th

By Jennifer D'Andrea
Brea Progress

For some, the Fourth of July is a day off and a good excuse for a party. To others, the day means the excitement of explosions in the sky after the sun has gone down, the pleasure of an old-fashioned country fair or a simple picnic at a local park.

But for those who've defended the United States, it's a time to reflect. Former soldiers enjoying afternoon drinks recently at the Brea Veterans Club offered their opinions about the holiday.

"It's got to be the most important day in this country," said World War II veteran Henry Van Der Vliet. "The Fourth of July should be our premiere holiday."

Van Der Vliet, 71, was drafted for World War II in 1944, when he was 18 years old. He was sent to

New Guinea, the Philippines and finally to Japan, where he worked in Gen. Douglas MacArthur's public relations office.

"They took away my rifle and gave me a typewriter," Van Der Vliet said. "I remember typing the list of people who were going to invade Japan in 1945. My name was on that list. Then (Pres. Harry) Truman dropped the (atomic) bomb and ended the war."

World War II veteran Don Badziong, 73, was drafted for the Army infantry in 1942 when he was 18 years old and was sent to the South Pacific for two years.

"I remember the fighting, losing friends and comrades and the overall tough conditions," Badziong said. "We were subject to all kinds of diseases. But I have no regrets. Even today if I was physically okay, I'd go."

Badziong will be celebrating

the holiday at a family barbecue.

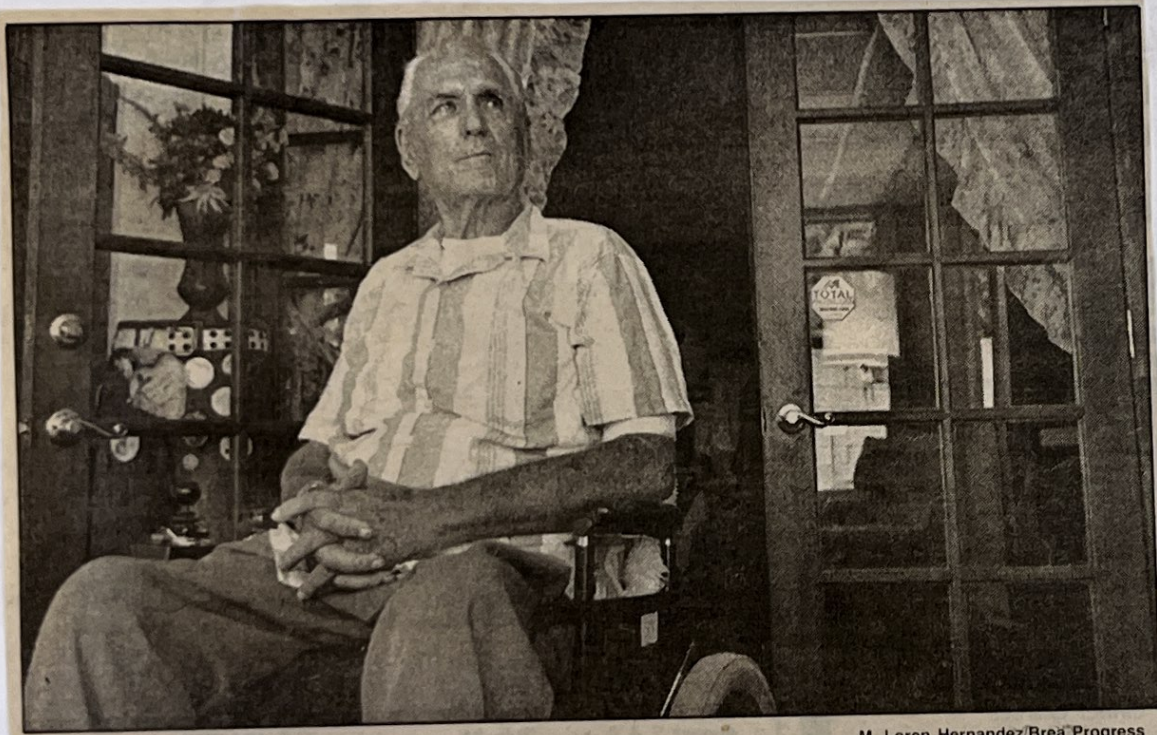
"The Fourth of July is more than just a day of vacation for me — it always has been," he said. "(I helped) in my little way to defend the country. I think of the guys who ... fought the English with nothing. We've carried on the tradition."

Jack Shroyer, 71, who enlisted in the Navy in 1944, appreciates that America offers a person a real chance at life.

"The opportunities are here if you just apply yourself," he said. Van Der Vliet echoed Shroyer.

"I think being an American is the best thing that ever happened to me," Van Der Vliet said. "I've traveled around and nowhere have I seen a country like this. We got what we were fighting for in 1776 and pretty much preserved it."

June 5, 1997 Brea Progress



M. Loren Hernandez/Brea Progress
Brea native Tom Thompson (at home in Brea today, above, and in 1965 below) says he has no regrets 32 years after a land mine explosion in Vietnam left him a paraplegic.

Paralyzed Brea vet still proud

By Jennifer D'Andrea
Brea Progress

The instant the Jeep's tires rolled over the land mine, the explosion cracked and lifted the vehicle carrying four unsuspecting soldiers off the road and into a rice paddy.

Two soldiers were uninjured, but two others didn't fare as well — both were trapped under the Jeep. An American advisor leading a Vietnamese battalion nearby heard the explosion and ran over to help.

The two who were hurt were transported to Saigon and then flown to a hospital in the Philippines for surgery. This scene probably was not uncommon during the Vietnam War.

But for Master Sgt. Tom Thompson, the 1965 incident was anything but typical. His wheelchair is a constant reminder of the mine blast 32 years ago.

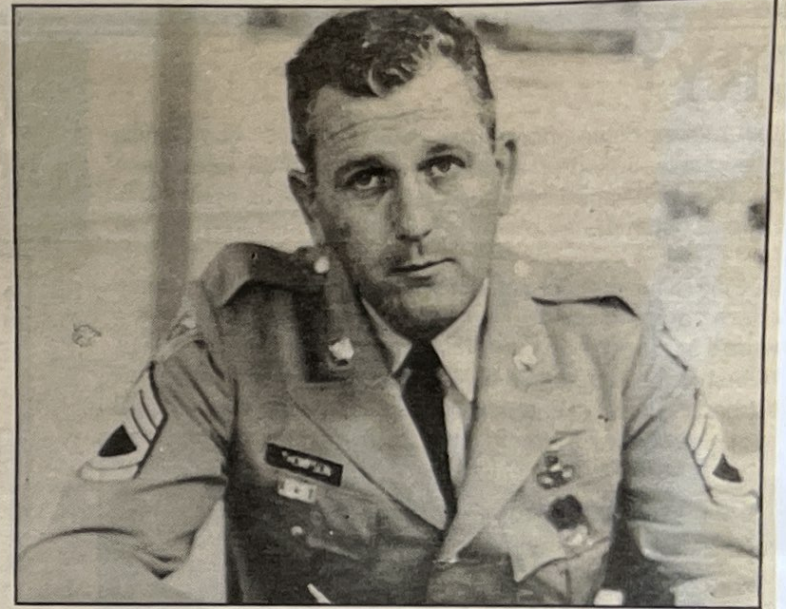
Just 30 days after the Brea native had been ordered to Vietnam, he became what has been described as the first soldier sent home to the Los Angeles area from the war as a paraplegic — paralyzed from the waist down with severed spinal cord.

"I knew what it was as soon as it went off and then you only think about survival," Thompson, 66, remembered. "Then I blacked out."

Despite the fateful explosion, Thompson is proud he served in the army nearly 20 years.

"I have no regrets," he said. "That's what my job was. If you're a professional soldier, that's what you do. I was angry about those people who marched against (our involvement in) Vietnam. The American people didn't accept us when we came back. They thought we were dumb for going over there."

Thompson, who was born in Brea in 1930, joined the army in 1948 after attending Laurel Ele-



mentary, Brea Grammar and Brea Olinda High Schools. He said his grandfather was Brea's first marshal in 1917.

Thompson was posted at army bases around the U. S. while he was enlisted and met future wife Pat in 1953 in Washington. Pat moved to Brea in 1954 and Thompson made several service-related trips to Asia.

Later, Thompson became a teacher at Harvard Military Academy in North Hollywood, where he taught film stars' children. When Thompson was injured, a letter written by a former student to President Lyndon Johnson prompted the president to call Thompson in the hospital to wish him luck.

Thompson's son, Richard, was 9 years old when Thompson was hospitalized in Long Beach.

"Before I left, my son and I used to go camping and fishing together," Thompson recalled. "I couldn't do that anymore with him. That probably hurt me more than anything."

Though shocked when she learned of her husband's injury,

Thompson's wife was relieved that he had survived.

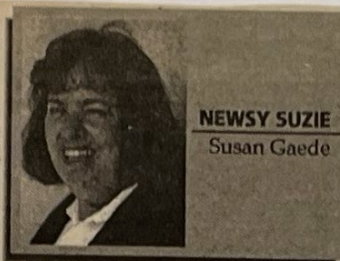
"I was sent a telegram and was told he was hurt," Pat, now 63, said. "I had no idea he was paralyzed. It was devastating to find out he would never walk again, but he was alive and that didn't stop my love for him. You just accept it and go on."

Thompson has had 18 surgeries since his injury and has dialysis three days a week.

Thompson was released from the hospital, and he and Pat had a house built in Brea at 700 S. Lantana Avenue in 1967. The house, where the two still reside, is a wheelchair home and has wide doors and low light switches, electrical outlets and counters.

"Brea was great when I left, but they changed things," Thompson said of his hometown. "It's not like it used to be and never will be. The streets used to be lined with pepper trees. They've taken down all the old landmarks and haven't preserved them. It's just not like it was."

15,000 including America, renowned Les Brown, flock to fest at St. Angela Merici



NEWSY SUZIE
Susan Gaede

Every year 15,000 people attend the St. Angela Merici School Summer Fest fund-raiser. John McEntee, Brea resident and entertainment chairman, said St. Angela's was mobbed when the band America performed last weekend.

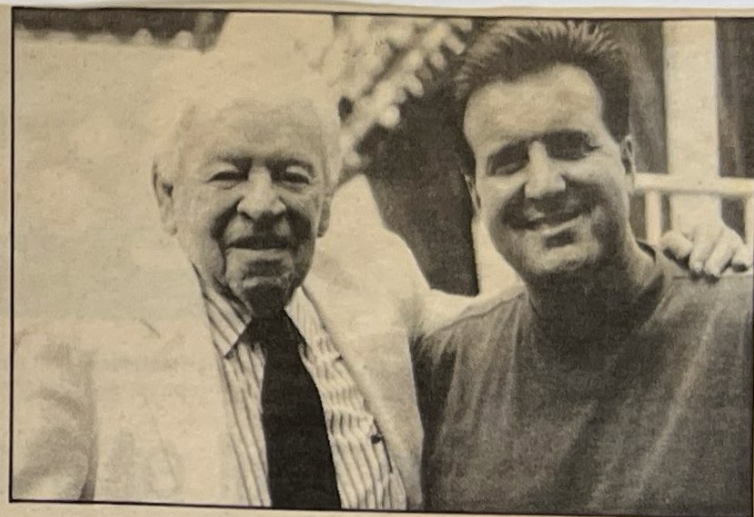
"Some people parked a mile away," he said.

Bandleader of renown Les Brown — celebrating his 85th birthday this year — also performed at Summer Fest. Brown revealed a tremendous amount of energy, considering that he had just gotten back from Europe the night before.

Some people in the audience enjoyed dancing to Les Brown and His Band of Renown while it performed tunes from the '40s and '50s. His son, Les Brown Jr., sang several solos.

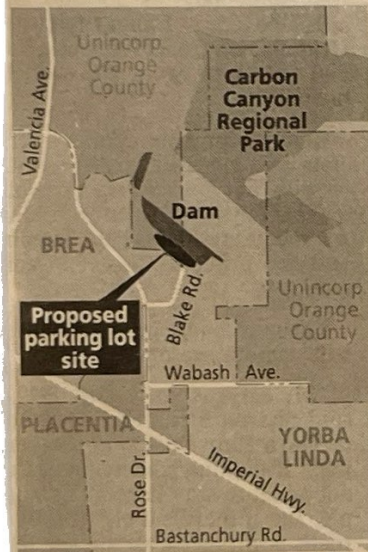
Over the past 10 years the Summer Fest has had such entertainers as Bobby Vinton, Three Dog Night, Peter Noone of Herman's Hermits, Paul Revere and the Raiders, Grass Roots, and the Commodores.

How does Summer Fest attract such famous people to perform in Brea at St. Angela's School's fund-raising event? Well, McEntee — an active member of St. Angela's — is president of TEI (That's Entertainment International) in Anaheim and produces celebrity entertainment worldwide. He is able to secure the celebrities.



Les Brown of a renowned band (left, above) joined Brea resident and St. Angela Merici School Summer Fest entertainment chair John McEntee for the fund-raising event attended by 15,000 people.

Carbon Canyon, Chino Hills parks to get free parking area



Lot could alleviate illegal area parking but funding sources remain unresolved

By Jennifer D'Andrea
Brea Progress

City officials on July 15 announced plans to build a parking lot for Carbon Canyon Regional Park and Chino Hills State Park, but funding sources for the lot remain at issue.

The lot would be located at the end of Blake Road, south of Carbon Canyon Regional Park in Brea, and would be free for public use. Four acres for the lot would be leased to Brea for free by the U.S. Army Corps of Engi-

“These people are going in to (visit) regional and state parks, so where’s the county and where’s the state (to help with funding)? I’m not comfortable that we’ve looked in every corner (for funds).”

Bev Perry
Councilwoman

neers until 2001.

Park-goers have allegedly been parking illegally along Carbon Canyon Road and in the Vesuvius (Brea) and Rimcrest (Yorba Linda) neighborhoods in order to avoid paying fees to park in the lots at Carbon Canyon Regional Park, officials say.

As many as 100 cars are parked in neighborhoods adjacent to the state park on Saturday mornings, according to a

city document. The parking problem is expected to worsen after plans to expand Chino Hills State Park are implemented and after the Olinda Heights project is completed.

However, city officials question Brea’s financial responsibility for the lot, which is projected to cost \$20,000 to build and another \$7,519 per year to maintain.

“These people are going in to (visit) regional and state parks,

so where’s the county and where’s the state (to help with funding)?” Councilwoman Bev Perry asked at a City Council study session. “I’m not comfortable that we’ve looked in every corner (for funds).” Perry named the Orange County Transportation Authority and other state and county agencies as possible funding sources.

Also, city officials are asking that the city of Yorba Linda pay half the cost of building the lot, since it would alleviate that city’s neighborhood parking woes. The remaining \$10,000 needed could be drawn from the city’s general fund and park development fund.

However, Parks, Recreation and Human Services commissioners vehemently oppose using park funds for a parking lot.

Take LA street, Spitzer tells Breans

By Jennifer D'Andrea
Brea Progress

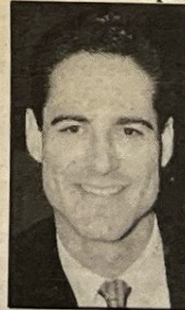
Orange County Supervisor Todd Spitzer said he backs annexation by Brea of Puente Street — which borders Brea but is part of Los Angeles County — at a town hall meeting held at the Community Center.

Spitzer led a discussion Sept. 11 on issues including transportation, El Toro airport, Coal Canyon Biological Corridor and annexation of Puente Street.

"It doesn't make much sense to me that (the street) is incorporated in Los Angeles County," he said. "I'm looking to see if I can get Los Angeles to give that region to Orange County."

Spitzer fielded questions about county plans to build an airport in El Toro after the Marine base closes in 1999.

"The county has been incredibly negligent in its planning process," he said. "Before decisions are made, we need to figure out



TODD SPITZER