

**Casey Brea Inn**  
253 East Ash Street

The local apartment building was constructed in 1926. Modern furnished apartments and swimming reservations to Brea, many of whom stayed to make Brea their home.



**Kinsler House**  
1281 South Orange Avenue

Charles and Fern Kinsler were the initial residents of this bungalow. The house was built in 1924. The Kinslers lived in the house until 1924. Later another small office was attached to the front of the house on Orange Avenue. Mr. Kinsler installed a wooden sidewalk to allow people to reach his office from Brea Boulevard.

The Palm Trees along Orange Avenue were purchased and planted by Mr. Casner, who also built the S & G Market and the Honeymoon Court along Birch Street. Looking south on Orange Avenue, it is noted that the Palm Trees were planted by the late Mr. (Thomas) W. Casner.

**S & G Market, Apartments**  
Corner and Glendale Market, Honeymoon Court  
1926  
115 East Birch Street

The Sam and Gladys Market and the Honeymoon Court were built in 1926 by Mr. Casner. Mr. Casner operated a beauty parlor in the east building, and many of Brea's leading citizens rented these courts when they were first rented.



**Chiropractic Office**  
(American Telephone Building)  
115 East Birch Street

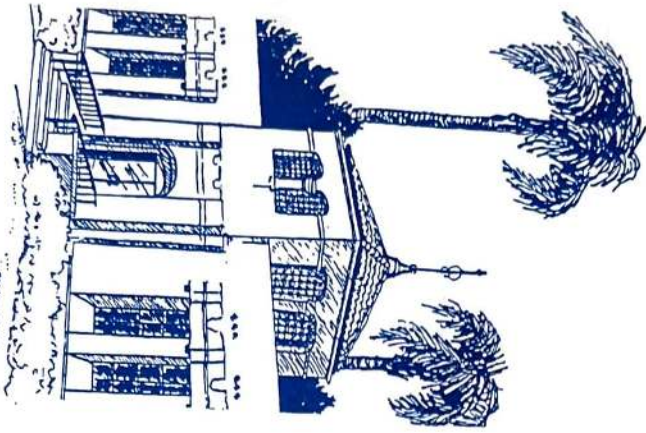
From 1920 to 1948 switchboard operators sat with telephones and read National Business. During those years all phones had only three lines. The building was built in 1920. This building has been occupied for many years by chiropractors.

**"Brea Welcomes You" Sign**  
200 Block of South Brea Boulevard  
1935

This neon sign is suspended across Brea Boulevard, mid-block between Imperial Highway and Birch Street. It was paid for and installed by the Lion's Club and Mayor William E. Shafer in 1935.

Research by Inez Fanning  
Sharon Dean  
Carolyn by Brian Flynn

**City of Brea  
Historic Walking Tour  
1990**



**"Good Old Brea"  
Historic Tour**

This tour is an introduction to the historic buildings of downtown Brea and a sampling of what is architecturally unique about our City. There is an extraordinary collection of buildings and neighborhoods here! Brea has a variety of significant landmark buildings, which are a result of the development of the oil industry.

The tour starts at Old City Hall and proceeds north on Brea Boulevard to the intersection where Ash Street intersects Brea Boulevard. This is East Ash Street. From here the tour explores both West and South Orange. The tour continues south on Orange Avenue to Birch Street, then west to Brea Boulevard, and finally south returning to the Old City Hall.

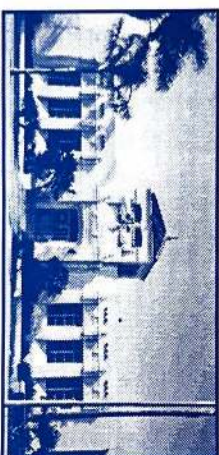
The Historical Committee, appointed by the Brea City Council, is working in conjunction with the Brea Historical Society to produce this brochure and conduct the historic walking tours of downtown Brea. The groups are working diligently to preserve the history and heritage of Brea's important past.

It is hoped that this tour will assist in creating community pride as well as desire to preserve the past and intelligently plan for an historically rich future. Many historic treasures to be found in Brea.

To aid you on the walking tour, please note that odd address numbers are on the east and north sides of streets, while even numbers are on the west and south sides.

**City Hall Park**  
1927

In 1924, the City took the first steps in acquiring the land from the Union Pacific Railroad. The Park includes Old City Hall, the Plunge, the Old American Legion Building, the Gazebos (dedicated 1976), and the City Rose Garden.



**American College of Law**  
(Old City Hall)  
401 South Brea Boulevard  
Completed 1929

The building originally included the jail, Fire Department quarters, and a court. The building was built in 1929. The building was built in 1929. The building was built in 1929. The building was built in 1929.

**Municipal Plunge**  
430 South Plunge Avenue  
Opened 1929

This facility was very popular because there were no private pools in Brea until later years. The amenities included rental swimsuits and bath towels.

**Emergency Ambulance Service**  
(Old American Legion Building)  
495 South Brea Boulevard  
1932

Many volunteers cared for the victims of the 1933 Long Beach earthquake in this building. Brea Methodist Church started here. During the 1970's, the City used the building for its Police Station. It is now leased by an ambulance service.

**City Rose Garden**  
In 1948 a large fountain was built in the City Hall Park in memory of Mr. Casner. The fountain was built in 1948. The fountain was built in 1948. The fountain was built in 1948.

**Time Capsule**  
This was placed by the Historical Society during Brea's Golden Jubilee in 1967 (the City was incorporated in 1917). The capsule is scheduled to be opened in 1982 on the City's 75th birthday.

**Upstairs - Downstairs**  
Dr. C. Glenn Curtis Home  
418 South Brea Boulevard  
1928

Claude and Willis Steen were the initial residents of this revival style house. The house was built in 1928. The house was built in 1928. The house was built in 1928. The house was built in 1928.

**Glenn Green Home**  
420 South Brea Boulevard  
1925

Glenn and Ad Green were the first residents of this house constructed in 1925. Mrs. Green was still living in the house until 1989. Mr. Green died in 1989. The house is the only known house in Brea with a walk-in refrigerator.

**300 Block South Brea Boulevard**  
1915

Tom and Wilma families occupied these homes continuously from the time they were built until 1989. This is a good example of how homes were interspersed with business along Brea Boulevard.

**Imperial Highway**  
1928

Originally named Cedar Street, it was a two-lane dirt road with walnut orchards on both sides. There were courts on the south side near Walnut Avenue, and at one time Ted Craig's home was on the north side between Brea Boulevard and the alley. Ted Craig was speaker of the California State Assembly in the 1930's and the father of the famous singer, Ted D. Craig.

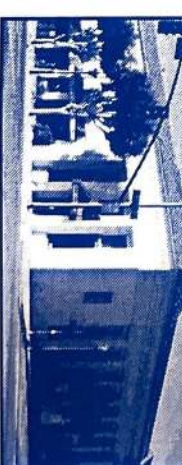
**Sandy's Castle**  
(Southern Counties Gas Building)  
227 South Brea Boulevard  
1928

This building was constructed in 1928 as the local office of the Southern Counties Gas Company. Over the years it was occupied by several restaurants and by the Brea-Olinda United School District at one time during the 1980's.

**Brea Boats**  
Imperial Cafe, Bar and Restaurant Building  
228  
221 South Brea Boulevard

This building was originally constructed as the Higgenbotham-Rolfe Funeral Parlor in 1928. It was later converted into a restaurant. The funeral parlor later in the 1930's. At one time it also housed the Cummings Furniture Store. In the 1940's, it became the Imperial Cafe and Bar owned by the Oliver Family.

**Gober Building**  
(Ollifields National Bank)  
201-207 South Brea Boulevard  
1928



Originally the Ollifields National Bank, this was the largest and costliest building in Brea at the time. The land was purchased from the Brea Congregational Church.

**Pacific Oil World Building**  
(Trojan Cafe)  
227 South Brea Boulevard

This building was originally the Trojan Cafe, a popular place for many years. After the Trojan Cafe, the building housed a publishing house. During the aftermath of the Watergate scandal, the building was occupied by the local Republican as their headquarters with the planning sign still intact on the front of the building. Jack Fisher purchased the building in 1977 and published the Pacific Oil World magazine there until 1980. Pacific Oil World magazine has been published since 1988.

**VFW/American Legion Building**  
210 South Brea Boulevard  
1950's

Frank and Helen Davese constructed this store in the 1950's and operated a furniture business for many years. It is now temporarily occupied by the VFW/American Legion.

**Baldwin Motor Company Building**  
208 South Brea Boulevard  
1923

Originally constructed for Baldwin Ford in the 1920's, this building later housed the Baldwin Ford dealership. It also served as the meeting place for the Brea Elementary School Board. In the 1950's it was a bowling alley.



**Office of Dr. W. W. Davis**  
200 South Brea Boulevard  
1919

Dr. W. W. Davis constructed this small structure in 1919 to serve as his office and residence. The front of the house served as a waiting room. The building was recently used as the headquarters for the Brea Redevelopment Agency.

**Restoring the Home, Brea Bike & Lawnmower Shop**  
141-143 South Brea Boulevard  
1921

This structure has had numerous commercial establishments in the years since it was constructed in 1921. In 1929, it housed a restaurant, a barber shop and a pool hall. Later, Woodruff's Department Store and a grocery store were located here.

**Pendick The (Garmin Garage)**  
140 South Brea Boulevard  
1920

James and Walter Bergman had this constructed as an auto garage in 1920. Later it became Cheungry Chevrolet. There was a drive-in (open) service station on the corner and drive-through garages in the back.

**Red Lantern Theatre**  
136 South Brea Boulevard  
Demolished in 1987

Constructed in 1922, the Chinese red and gold theme was unique in the part of Southern California at the time. People came from far away to see the beautiful theater. The Joy Gardens was among those who operated the theater. In 1987, the theater was demolished. The site was later occupied by Calvary Chapel just before its demolition in 1987.

**Moose Lodge No. 1269 (Craig Building)**  
124 South Brea Boulevard  
1921

Constructed by local contractor Isaac Craig in 1921, the building once housed the U.S. Post Office and O.S. Cisee Drugstore. The building was the frequent scene of numerous community gatherings.

**1st Stop Parry Shop**  
(Green Market)  
120 South Brea Boulevard  
1920

One of Brea's attached brick buildings constructed in 1920, this building was at one time Green's Market.

**Fabric City**  
123 South Brea Boulevard  
Early 1960's

This area was originally the location of Mrs. Gurley's Rooming House. For many years it was occupied by Jeanne's Yerdage.



**Sam's Place**  
117 South Brea Boulevard  
1911

This unique Craftsman style building was constructed in 1911 and was first occupied by the bakery. It has been a bar and cafe for many years since.

**Various Commercial Uses**  
105-113 South Brea Boulevard  
1914

This brick structure, known as the Sewell Building, has a varied history. It was Brea's first City Hall from 1917 to 1920. Other tenants include: MacClatchie Hardware, Brea Cash Market, Ford's Confectionery, Masonic Temple, a Sateway Store, Dr. Jarvis's Office, and a pharmacy. At one time Richardson's Picture Show was located in the original wooden structure that burned down before the present Sewell Building was constructed in 1914.

**First Frame Place**  
(La Habra Valley Bank)  
103 South Brea Boulevard  
1913

At one time, the intersection of Brea Boulevard and Ash Street was the center of town. This building, at the southeast corner, was constructed for the La Habra Valley Bank in 1913. It was also the place where the people of Brea voted to incorporate in 1917. The bank changed to the First National Bank of Brea in 1920. In later years, the building was occupied by the U.S. Post Office and others.

**Private Residence**  
(Elmer Jamison Home)  
103 South Walnut Avenue  
1911

This Jamison home, the oldest existing house in Brea, is a classic example of a Box House. It is a typical oil workers' house that has not been altered in any way. Similar houses with tent-type roofs were originally constructed in the nearby oil fields.

**Brea Missionary Baptist Church**  
(Brea Christian Church)  
201 West Ash Street  
1914, 1935

The congregation was formed when the first building was constructed in 1914. The congregation in the back was designed and built by high school students in 1935. The church building was constructed in 1935.

**Russell House**  
113 West Ash Street, on alley between Brea Boulevard and The Missionary Baptist Church  
circa 1910

This house began before 1910 as a one-room tenhouse. The walls of what is now the living room are insulated with sawdust. At one time, it was the office for the Standard Oil Company who had the tin

## Brea's Early History

"Black Gold" or oil as it is usually known, played a crucial role in the founding and development of Brea. In 1894, the Union Oil Company purchased 1,200 acres from Abel Stearns, a large property owner in the foothills which adjoin the City of Brea. Intensive exploration and production began in the late 1890's as numerous oil companies joined Union Oil in the oil quest.

At this time, a small town developed in the foothills known as Olin-da, and was the home of numerous oil workers and their families. They constructed modest bungalows of varying sizes and styles.

As Olin-da developed, the Ontario Investment Company decided in 1908 to establish a new town to the west as a speculative venture. This new town was named Brea and within this period of settling quickly and in 1911, the Randolph Subdivision was rolled with the new name of "Brea," meaning "lar" in Spanish. The town received an important transportation link in 1912 when the Pacific Electric Railway constructed a line from Los Angeles to Yorba Linda and built a station in Brea.

Between 1910 and 1920, the town expanded with many pioneer families coming to Brea to reside while working in the adjoining oil fields. A series of compact residential neighborhoods developed around the Brea Boulevard commercial center. Neighborhoods were primarily settled by oil workers.

Warehouses on Brea Boulevard, J. E. Fussell purchased the house in 1910 and added two bedrooms, a kitchen, and a bath. The Fussell family still owns this property.

**Brea Hotel**  
(Hotel Kinross)  
108 North Brea Boulevard  
1913

Constructed in 1913 for M. J. McCoy and Mr. Bowen, this structure was the first hotel in the community. Next to the hotel was the street level portion of the structure, including a pool room, a barber shop, an electrical store, and a restaurant.

**Brea Clock**  
(Charlie's Clock Shop)  
East side of Brea Boulevard, near Brea Hotel  
1905

The Brea clock was constructed around 1908 and once stood in the old Riverside Railway Station. When the owner moved his shop and the clock from Brea to Tustin in 1975, the City of Brea purchased the clock and returned it to Brea Boulevard within a year.

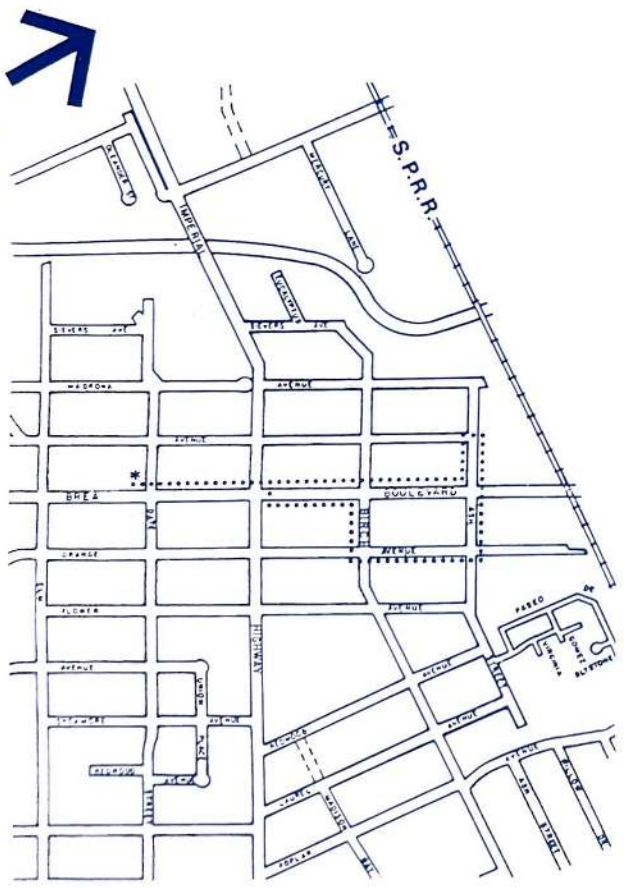


**Wall Building**  
105-109 East Ash Street  
1911

Constructed in 1911, this is the oldest commercial building in Brea. It once housed the Brea Pharmacy, a restaurant and Brea's first barber, Vern Russell. Like Sam's place, it is a unique structure. The Wall and Cabell families served upstairs.

**Brown & Dauser Lumber Co.**  
SW Corner of Orange and Ash  
Circa 1920's

The original office of the lumber company still stands on the corner. Bird and Allen Oil Riggers occupied the building on the alley where they also sold cement. With the brick yard nearby, this area was the center for purchasing building materials.



\* City Hall Park



# BREA ARCHITECTURAL STYLE GUIDE

# BREA ARCHITECTURAL STYLE GUIDE

Text By Denver Miller  
Drawings By Diann Marsh

LA Times, 1913

*"Like the star which rises unexpectedly from some secret hiding place, to suddenly burst its brilliancy upon the dark heavens, so there has come, all unexpected, upon the map of Orange County and the State, a thrilling new town, come to stay; a wonder created on necessity and born spontaneously with the discovery and development of the richest oil fields in California. Such is Brea."*

The City of Brea is very fortunate to have obtained the resources of the Historic Preservation Services of the Environmental Coalition of Orange County, Inc. in order to establish a community survey of architectural history in Brea. This effort strongly reinforced by volunteers within our community not only contributes important information and data for historic purposes, but also emphasizes the continuing need for public education about our City of Brea. On behalf of the Brea City Council, I would like to express our appreciation to the Environmental Coalition and all the local volunteers who ultimately participate in the Brea Historic Survey.

Mayor Donald L. Fox  
Mayor Pro Tem Melvin J. Le Baron  
Councilmember Sal F. Gambina  
Councilmember Norma D. Hicks  
Councilmember Ron Isles

This publication was funded by a grant from the California State Office of Historic Preservation under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and funds provided through the City of Brea and the County of Orange to the Historic Preservation Services division of the Environmental Coalition of Orange County, Inc.

SEPTEMBER, 1980

**Cover Drawing:** This residence, located at 300 S. Madrona Ave. is a classic example of the Colonial Revival bungalow found in Brea's neighborhoods. It remains as one of the unique examples of Brea's architectural heritage.

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## INTRODUCTION

This Architectural Style Guide has been prepared as a guide to general architectural styles in Brea. It is to serve as the primary working tool for volunteers participating in the citywide Historic Survey being conducted from August, 1980 to August, 1981.

The purpose of the survey is multiple and the results can be utilized to meet a variety of needs. One purpose is to increase the community's awareness of its architectural and historical resources. The survey data can be utilized by the city government to channel and focus new development projects and Federal agencies will be able to meet their planning responsibilities to protect historical resources. Furthermore, the survey will establish a list of structures eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Certain such sites are eligible for special tax advantages and can apply for California State Preservation Grants. The usages of the survey are varied but all are beneficial to Brea.

Pure forms of stylistic trends which took place throughout Brea's architectural history are shown in this Style Guide. Prior to World War II structures were built largely on an individual basis and were highly subjected to a mixture of artistic influences and personal touches which resulted in very few pure stylistic buildings.

While this blending and sharing of various architectural styles

contributes to the unique personality of historical architecture most of Brea's is comprised of residences and buildings that draw heavily from one style and incorporate, on a minor level, influences from other styles.

The Brea Historic Survey is inventorying all of the pre-1940 building stock and is aiming to define the pattern and character of urban development which is unique to Brea. The survey is not just looking for the most outstanding landmarks, but for the collective architectural trends which give Brea its own unique identity. Hence, everything from bungalows to churches constructed prior to 1940 will be surveyed in order to determine what remains of Brea's architectural heritage.

The architectural styles discussed in this guide are the most common examples found in Brea. Utilizing this style guide with participation in the Historic Survey and for general information on Brea's architecture will provide a greater awareness of the community's architectural past.

A city's historic architecture is influenced by a variety of forces including economics, politics, geography, and prevailing architectural trends. In order to better understand the context in which the architecture of Brea evolved, a brief history of the city follows.

## BREA: A BRIEF HISTORY

The architectural development of the city of Brea is closely intertwined with the history and cultural development of the community. A brief insight into the city's background can aid one in better understanding the architectural styles which prevail in Brea.

In the mid-1890's, the Union Oil Company purchased 1200 acres of land from Abel Stearns, a large property owner, for the purpose of drilling oil. Located in the Brea area, these oilfields were the first to be developed in the Los Angeles area. Numerous settlers were attracted to the Brea oilfields by the prospect of high wages and continuing jobs. In 1908, a subdivision map was filed establishing the community of Randolph. Within two years, a new subdivision map was filed that included the area of Randolph; this new subdivision was named Brea. Brea means 'bar' in Spanish, and the community was so named because of the abundance of bar in this area.

Between 1910 and 1917, the development of Brea continued. In 1912, the Pacific Railroad extended a line from Los Angeles to Yorba Linda. A station was constructed in the community of Brea giving it access to Los Angeles. During this period a constant reliable water supply was established via La Habra. This insured Brea's continued development.

As the surrounding Olinde oilfields began to decline, oil workers began to migrate to the prosperous Brea oilfields often moving their houses into Brea. By 1917, the population had reached 732

citizens, more than enough for the community to begin incorporation procedures. By late 1917, local elections were held to determine whether Brea should be incorporated as a city. Voters overwhelmingly approved the establishment of the city of Brea and it became the 8th city in Orange County.

The twenties saw a continued growth of the community reflecting the prosperity of the American economy. Oil had become a much-in-demand product, and the Brea oilfields continued to supply this product to the Los Angeles area. During the twenties Brea's commercial and residential areas continued to grow. The commercial core had developed along Brea Blvd. north of Imperial Blvd. By the late twenties, the city had begun to construct its new city hall complex. While the thirties saw a decrease in construction due to the depression, the oil industry still continued to employ the bulk of the Brea population.

Brea remained a small town up into the fifties and sixties, but by that time increased development saw the expansion of the commercial center and the residential neighborhoods. Many of the older oilfields gave way to tract homes, shopping centers and freeways. Brea's population jumped from 3,215 in 1950 to 21,650 in 1970. This tremendous growth brought enumerable changes to the city. While Brea's appearance has changed, the small town character still remains, a reminder of the early years of the city's development.

## CRAFTSMAN AND MISSION REVIVAL STYLES 1900-1920

The Craftsman style was one of the most popular styles in California. It developed out of an anti-industrial movement that had begun in England and later spread to the United States. The movement emphasized the importance of workmanship with the Craftsman artist seeking in a variety of mediums.

The architectural aspects of the Craftsman movement included structures which were informal, horizontal in emphasis, and sited with an abundance of landscaping. In the large Craftsman homes, artists would design furniture, stained glass windows, lamp fixtures, and even tiles for fireplaces. The style was primarily used for residential structures, but occasionally churches and commercial buildings were designed in the style.

In Brea, where blocks of Craftsman bungalows still exist. These Craftsman bungalows were the middle class version of the larger Craftsman house. Built by contractors who specialized in such houses, the bungalows were the first mass produced middle class housing in Southern California. Reasonable in cost, such houses

could be chosen from a plan book and then constructed. These houses served the needs of Brea's growing middle class, working in the oil industry.

The Craftsman commercial style was simple, having minimal detail and with a functional purpose in mind. While its major similarity to the Craftsman bungalow was its wood sheathing, it freely combined stylistic features from other sources.

The Mission Revival style also developed during this period. Its popularity developed out of a renewed interest in California's Mission architecture. Mission features such as bell towers, stucco walls, scalloped parapets, and arcades were utilized in the designs of churches, houses, commercial structures and schools. The style was occasionally combined with Craftsman features. Because the style was at its height of popularity before Brea developed, few examples of the style exist in the community. After 1910, the style declined in popularity and was replaced by the Spanish-Mediterranean style.

### Craftsman Bungalow Style 1905-1920

#### Structural Form:

- Asymmetrical with large front porch
- Horizontal massing
- One to one and a half stories

#### Materials:

Exterior walls or clapboard or shingles

Frequently uses brick, concrete boulders or stucco

#### Windows and Doors:

Windows have horizontal emphasis

Windows are often grouped into threes

Windows can have stained or beveled glass

Doors can have glass panes

#### Roof:

Low pitched

Extended eaves and exposed rafters

Occasionally will have dormers

#### Additional Features:

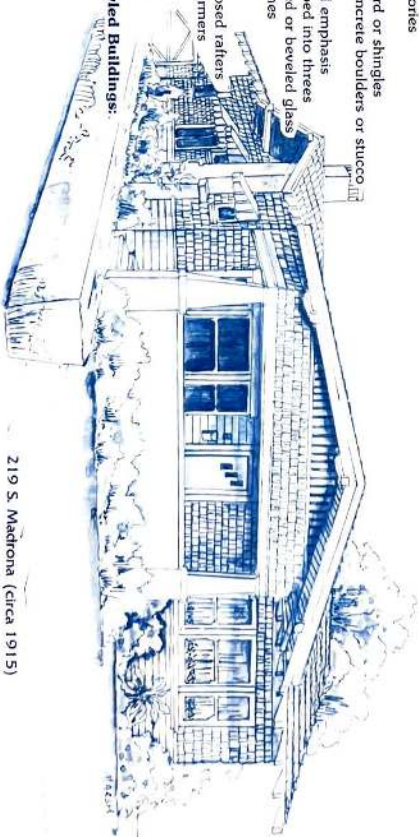
Usage of clinker brick

Tapered porch columns

Gable venting

#### Location of Similarly Styled Buildings:

111 S. Walnut



219 S. Madrona (circa 1915)

**Craftsman Commercial Style 1910-1920**

**Structural Form:**

Square or rectangular shape to accommodate lot  
Facade is the focus of detail  
One to two stories in height

**Materials:**

Wood, clapboard or tongue and groove siding

**Windows and Doors:**

Simple wood doors with glass windows  
Plate glass store windows

**Roof:**

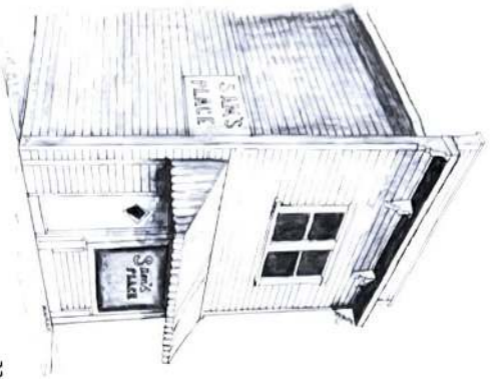
Flat

**Additional Features:**

Simple wood brackets at the front cornice  
False front with cornice

**Location of Similarly Styled Buildings:**

112-116 Ash St.



221 S Brea Blvd. (circa 1918)

**Mission Revival Church Style 1900-1915**

**Structural Form:**

Rectangular or cross shaped  
One to two stories in height

**Materials:**

Usually wood and stucco

**Windows and Doors**

Windows are simple double hung variety  
Arched openings

**Roof:**

Flat or low pitched roof  
Use of small bell tower

**Additional Features:**

Arcades  
Exposed wood struts



Brea Congregational Church (1915)  
300 E Imperial Highway

## PERIOD REVIVAL STYLES 1917-1930

The Twenties have frequently been referred to as the Period Revival decade due to the number of popular styles that were transplanted from other locales. Along with the Spanish-Mediterranean, the most popular of the Period Revival styles were the Colonial Revival, the English Tudor, and the Cotswold style.

The Colonial Revival style was imported from the East, as a renewed interest in this country's architecture and history sparked a revival of the style. The imported Tudor and Cotswold styles are said to have become popular after many American soldiers returned from England after World War I.

Those structures in Brea that are Colonial in style are primarily

one story residences built for Brea's working class families. Like the Craftsman bungalows, these Colonial bungalows were constructed in the same fashion. Purchasers would choose a house from bungalow books and then the house would be constructed by a contractor. While the Colonial Revival bungalow replaced the Craftsman bungalow in popularity, it was in turn replaced by the small Spanish-Mediterranean residence.

The English Tudor and Cotswold styles are exceptionally rare in Brea. The community had completed its initial phase of growth by the time this style became popular.

### Period Revival Residential Style 1919-1930

#### Structural Form:

Rectangular in shape

One to two stories in height

Front facade can be symmetrical

#### Materials:

Can have wood or clapboard siding

Occasionally uses stucco

#### Windows and Doors:

Windows are wood casement

Doors are simple

#### Roof:

Pitched gable roof

Can have clipped gables

Medium to high pitch

Roof can curve under the eaves in Cotswold variety

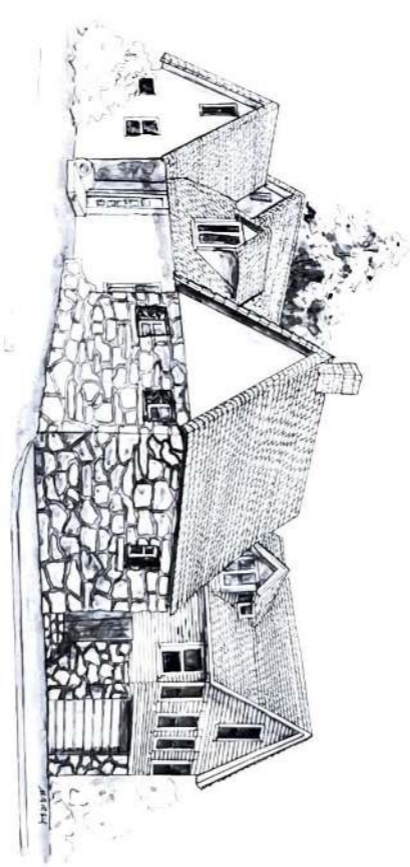
#### Additional Features:

Small front porch

Use of dentils in porch roof

Use of columns in the Colonial Revival variety

Occasional use of stone



108 E. Date St. (circa 1927)

## SPANISH MEDITERRANEAN STYLE 1920-1930

Popular throughout the Twenties, the Spanish Mediterranean style is the second most prevalent style found in Brea. The style was imported from Europe, the assumption being that Southern California had similar weather to the Mediterranean area, therefore the architecture should be similar.

The Spanish Mediterranean style incorporated many of the design elements of the Mission Revival style, including the use of stucco arches and scalloped wall parapets. The style was popular and utilized in a variety of buildings such as churches, schools, commercial buildings, and residences. Variations of the style include the use of brick, brick with stucco, and glazed brick.

The style went through several phases over its ten year span. In

the initial phase, the style was simple, symmetrical and had flat roofs, and stepped parapets. In the second stage, the style was asymmetrical, had pitched tile roofs and utilized exposed wood. In the third and final phase, ornamentation was applied to the facades of the buildings. This decorative feature is called Churrigueresque and is derived from Spanish architecture of the 18th Century.

The style was popular in Brea primarily for residential buildings, although a number of commercial buildings, churches, and public buildings were designed in the style. The first two phases of the style are the most frequent. The style has begun to regain its popularity with the development of new commercial and residential buildings that incorporate elements of the style.

### Spanish-Mediterranean Residential Style 1920-1930

#### Structural Form:

- Rectangular shape
- One to two stories in height
- Can be symmetrical with front porch
- Can be asymmetrical with porch to one side
- Can have arcades with arched openings

#### Materials:

- Exterior stucco walls
- Usage of dark stained wood in eaves

#### Windows and Doors:

- Both are frequently arched
- Windows can be deeply recessed
- Windows are often double hung variety

#### Roof:

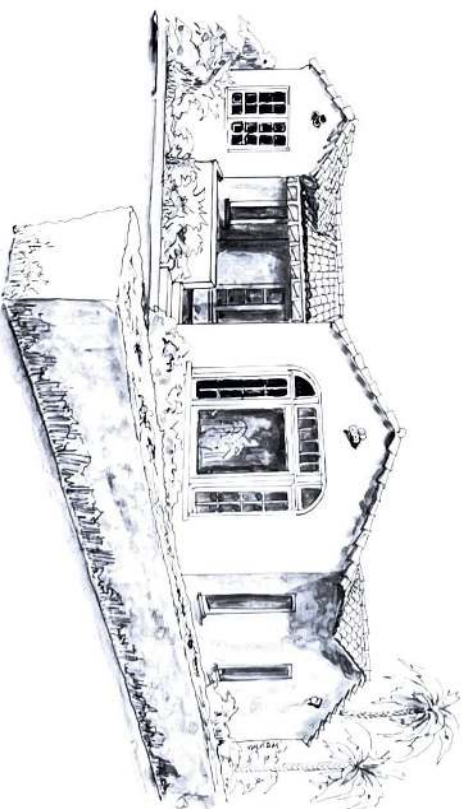
- Can be a low pitched tile roof
- Can be a flat roof with tiled parapets

#### Additional Features:

- Wrought Iron
- Window canopies

#### Locations of Similarly Styled Buildings:

- 315 Imperial Highway



221 S. Madrona Ave. (circa 1929)

## MODERNE STYLE 1935-1950

Utilized during the thirties and forties, the Moderne style was most popular as a commercial style but was frequently used for public buildings and for apartment structures. The style developed from a modern design movement during the twenties in Germany. This movement was called the Bauhaus movement and emphasized designing buildings that had little or no decoration and utilized materials that were modern such as glass, steel, or concrete.

Of the various styles that developed from the Bauhaus movement, the Moderne was one that was most popular in the United States. This style frequently incorporated stylistic features from ships or trains such as ship railing or porthole windows. Occasionally, other

styles such as the Spanish-Mediterranean were incorporated into the Moderne style.

During the thirties, the American government was involved in a massive effort to provide jobs as a result of the Depression. One of the projects of this period was the W.P.A. program, and it constructed a variety of public buildings throughout the United States. Because so many of the buildings were Moderne, the Moderne style has often been called the W.P.A. style.

In Brea only a handful of Moderne buildings exist. While they are rare they are nevertheless important as unique architectural sites in the community.

### Moderne Commercial Style 1935-1950

#### Structural Form:

Horizontal in style

Curved corners

One to two stories in height

#### Materials:

Walls are of stucco or concrete

Can have glass brick

#### Roof:

Flat

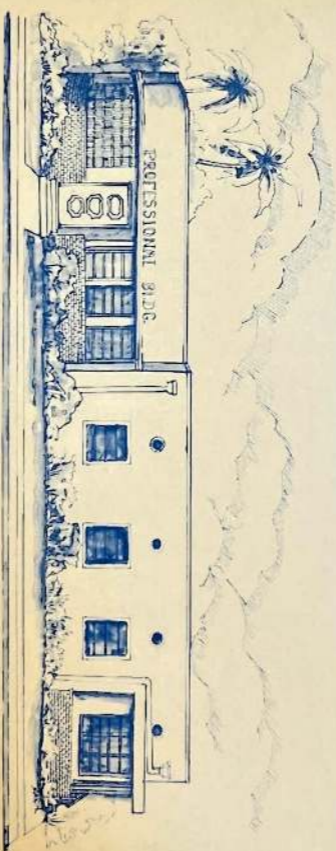
#### Additional Features:

Little or no ornament

Can have round ship railing

#### Location of Similarly Styled Buildings:

124 S. Brea Blvd



342 S. Brea Blvd. (circa 1938)

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## Moderne Public Style 1935-1950

### Structural Form:

- Horizontal emphasis
- Curved corners
- One to two stories in height

### Materials:

- Walls are of concrete with stucco
- Occasional use of glass brick

### Windows and Doors:

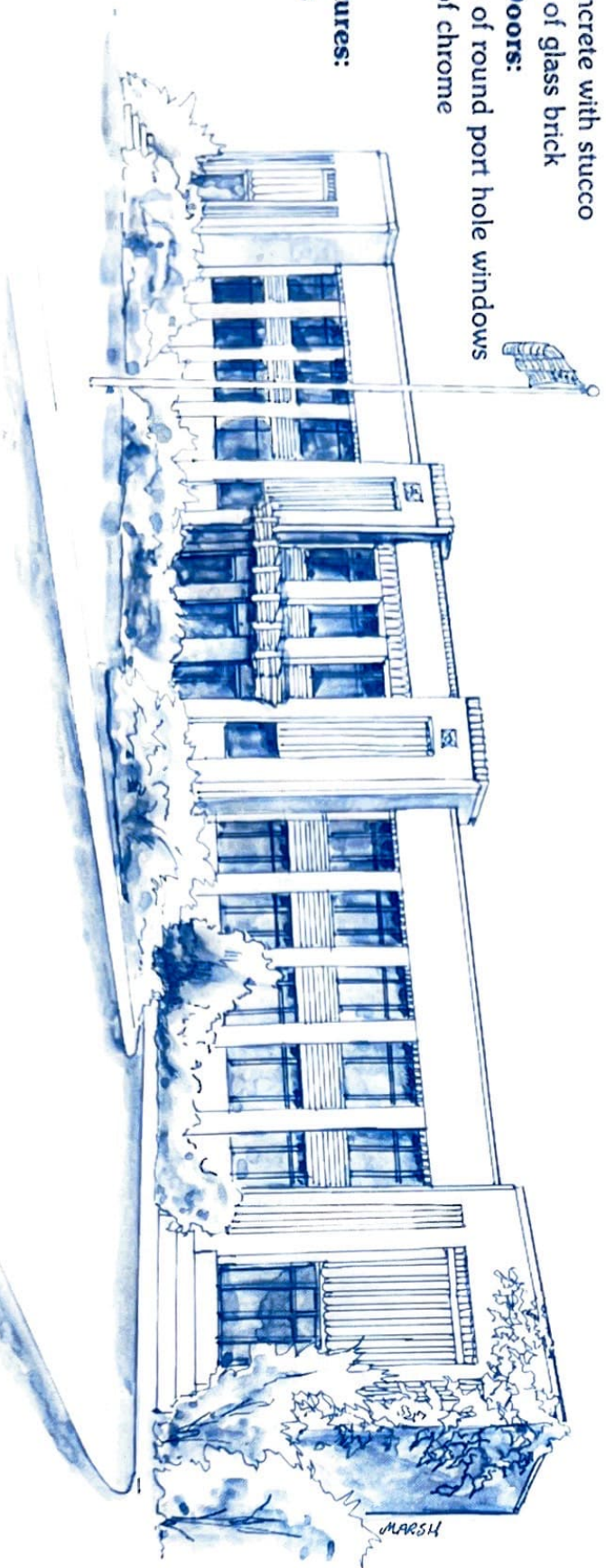
- Occasional use of round port hole windows
- Doors can be of chrome

### Roof:

- Flat

### Additional Features:

- Fluted Pilasters



Brea Olinda High School (remodelled, circa 1938)  
803 E. Birch St.

## Ward Home Tour

- 1929 Provincial Revival home owned by Don Ward since 1995. At one time was the home of "Shorty" Smith, former Brea-Olinda High School coach before he bought home a few doors up the street. All renovations in the home have been done by Don Ward, who studied catalogs and magazines of the period for ideas and inspiration.

- One of the first things you notice as you go in the home is the remarkable floor. Inlaid with OAK, MAHOGANY, WALNUT, and AUSTRALIAN JERRAH (hard, red wood that the rose is made from). Floor was designed and built by the owner. Other flooring in hallway and office also designed and built by Don. Over 2,000 cuts were made on each floor. Floors are stained and shellacued and paste wax was used to shine. Varnish didn't exist in the 1920's.

### **Living Room**

- Blinds were found stored in the basement of the home. Markings show they were made in Long Beach in the 1930's. Mechanisms are wood. Reconditioned by Don.

### **Ceiling -**

- Owner saw design in a picture of an old home. Copied the "coffered" (rounded) design, which is original to the design of the home.

- Picture rail on the ceiling is original to the home. Missing pieces were matched and built by a carpenter.

- When the ceiling was plastered, it fell down 2 days later from weight of plaster. Owner added sheetrock for stability and re-plastered. Swirled style on walls and ceilings is vintage to period.

- Cast iron grills are vintage to period - ducts for heating and (now) air conditioning.

- Windows are 75 years old. Don found them at a vintage salvage yard in Berkeley, CA. Windows are vintage to period and work on a weights/pulleys method. All windows work perfectly.

- Victrola - portable - wind it a few times and it works. Early 1900's version of a "Walk-man."

- 1931 Stromberg-Carlson AM radio- warm it up a few minutes and it works.

- Camera - Circa 1910, works. Missing the black cloth shroud, squeeze ball and sheet film.

- Pictures above sofa: Don Ward and Debbie Bates (fiance) family members.

- Light switches throughout the home are from an old church. Vintage to period.

### **Kitchen Area**

- Stove is from the 1920's and in use.
- Refrigerator is from the 1930's and in use.
- Cabinets to the right of the sink are original to the home. To the left of the sink are reproductions. All handles on drawers and cabinets are original to home. All hardware (hinges) are original.
- Tile on sink counter - vintage to period 2" X 2" tiles.
- Floor - small tiles/design is vintage to period.
- Sink - fixtures are nickel (not chrome). Nickel fixtures common to period. Light switch face-plates are nickel.
- Doorbell and phone box. Both original to home and both work. (Ring doorbell - it's annoying)

### **Dining room**

- Corner hutch has been reproduced from a picture from the original.
- NOTE: when owner moved into home, there were exactly 5 electrical outlets throughout the house. Kitchen appliances were operated by extension cord from outlet in the Dining Room.
- Drapes and window dressings throughout the home are designed and created by Debbie Bates. Don's fiance also helped paint the home, decorate and acquire antiques throughout the house.
- Mud Room. Point out original and antique kitchen accessories (apple peeler, fluter, iron, rug whacker). Corner shelf is where old water heater was located.

### **Back through Living Room to the Hall**

- Stenciling on the walls is vintage to period. Floor is designed and built by owner.

### **Bathroom**

- Original tub and sink from house. Sink was found in basement. Medicine cabinet is original. Toilet is vintage to 1932. Shower fixture is vintage reproduction.

## Muhovich House Tour

- Once the home of one of Brea's first physicians, Dr. Davis. Built circa 1918. Home was moved to Redwood Ave. in 1994 from original location at Birch St. and Brea Blvd.
- Notice above front door, impression left by old street number "200" under the One-Hundred-One. Owners want to leave it that way.
- Home is 1700 square feet. 3 bedrooms.
- The front of the home was added by Dr. Davis in 1923 as office and waiting room for patients. Dr. Davis and his family lived here while he saw patients. Used to be called the "Blue Bungalow."
- On south side of room (where bank of windows is located) is original front door entrance. Point out indentations. Front door is original, moved to current location when the home was placed on the lot.
- Mail opening (NOT hardware) is original opening. Stained glass window was made by the owners' neighbor - *Pat from Mac Beth's*.
- Office door - opening to dining area. Was widened after house was moved.
- Between kitchen and hallway, left side. Wall used to be window or opening. Not quite sure what it was for. Was closed when house was moved to current location. Note: over the years since 1930 (Dr. Davis' death), home has been used as a restaurant, tea-room, paint store and was used by the police department.
- Bathroom and back bedroom was added after house was moved. The original back of the house was removed and the bedroom was added. In bedroom, window facing Ash St. was originally in bathroom. You can tell by striations in glass that most of the windows in the home are original/vintage.

### **Go down hall to backyard**

#### **BACKYARD**

- Garage was built when house was moved to current location. Design is same style as home.
- Homeowners painted house and garage in gray/blue color to keep historic.

### **Go into laundry room**

- Ceiling light was taken from home that was demolished on Flower St. (across from Laurel School, where new apartments are now.)
- This room is where Dr. Davis' sinks and utility sinks of other occupants were located.

### **Go into kitchen**

- When Lori Muhovich lived in Fullerton, she would drive up Redwood Ave. to a business in Brea in order to see the old homes. She always wanted to own a vintage home and in May 1994, when she saw this home had been moved to this lot (where a previous home had been demolished), she stopped and talked to the owner/realtor. Soon, she and husband, Mike, made an offer on the home and they moved in. Lori and Mike have made an effort ever since to preserve the original, vintage exterior of the home, while renovating the inside to accommodate their family.

The Muhovich Home is a perfect example of preserving the old while incorporating the new.

## THE MATHEWS HOUSE

Mr. Mathews was a  
cook in Ole Olason's  
cafe on  
Pomona  
Ave.

Lot 9, block 12 of the Town of Brea was transferred from William and Mary Dorris to Lawrence J. and Florence Mathews in 1926. The Mathews had been living in a small unpainted, redwood house on the back of the lot at 239 South Flower Street for several years. It was there that Florence gave birth to their only child, Esther, attended by Dr. Claude Steen. A neighborhood friend, Ethel Smith, brought her small daughter, Hazel, over to see the new baby that same day in October.

The Deed of Trust of September 16, 1929 shows that the Mathews had a Promissory Note of \$1000 with the First National Bank of Brea, to be paid at \$80 per month. On October 16, 1930 it was paid in full.

After the "big" house was built on the front of the lot by the Van Tyle Construction Company, the lumber from the little house was used for an open-sided garage and wash house. Jay "landscaped" the back yard with a fish pond built with lava rocks, a miniature golf course, an arbor for concord grapes, and Florence had one section for a cactus garden. The most outstanding feature was the acquisition of two pecan trees which had a slow start but eventually produced many pounds of nuts to share with family and friends.

Jay lived alone in the house in his latter years until his death in 1971. The house was boarded up for security until 1973 when Lt. Col. Ray Barry and his wife, Esther Mathews, retired from the Air Force and returned to California. Ray spent several years renovating the old house. The house became home to their youngest son, Robert and his family for several years. Esther had expected those grandsons to start school where she had attended years before but redevelopment came along and that lot was included in plans for a small business park. One night, in the pre-dawn hours, both Barry families were shivering on the school lawn as they watched the old home moved off the property and down the street towards its new location on Redwood Street. A worker rode on the steep roof to make sure it did not snag on over head wires.

info per Esther Barry  
daughter of Lawrence  
& Florence Mathews  
May 1995



## BREA HISTORY TIMELINE - Selected linear representations of important events, by Tim Harvey

\* Brea is a city in the northeastern corner of Orange County, California, located at the base of the Puente Hills near the very mouth of Brea Canyon. "Brea" is a Spanish word that means "tar" or "asphalt." In the early days of California, settlers from the Pomona Valley and the Santa Ana Valley came to Brea Canyon to cut chunks of oil-soaked earth from the canyon walls to use as fuel to heat their homes. Because of the evidence of "black gold," oil men of the 1890s started the development of an oil field in the Puente Hills, which was the beginning of Brea.

### FIRST NATION - NATIVE AMERICAN PERIOD

\* The Tongva Native Americans go back 3,500 years in Southern California. The Tongva inhabited approximately 4,000 square miles, which included parts of Orange County, the Los Angeles Basin and the islands of Catalina and San Clemente. Along with neighboring the Chumash Indians, the Tongva were the most largest indigenous people to inhabit Southern California. Brea was within the ethnographic boundaries of the Tongva people. They built houses named "ki," pronounced "key" and canoes called "Ti ats". Tongva, which means "people of the earth," are now called the Gabrielino Tongva Mission Tribe, as originally referred to by the Spanish, because of their involvement in the San Gabriel Mission in the 18th Century. The Tongva utilized the La Habra Valley for hunting and gathering food, supplies, and medicinal herbs for the sustenance of the tribe.

### SPANISH PERIOD

\* July 29, 1769. On their famous march from San Diego to Monterey, Don Gaspar de Portola, along with Jose Antonio Yorba, crossed the Santa Ana River and arrived at the mouth of Brea Canyon, just north of the future Brea townsite. That night they made their camp with a group of seventy friendly indians thought to be from a nearby Tongva village called Pomoquin, located near today's Brea Canyon cut-off road. In 1932, a monument to honor Portola's famous visit was placed next to Brea Canyon Road, by the Native Daughters of the Golden West. During the time from 1769 to 1850, the area was under Spanish/Mexican control through the Rancho system.

### MEXICAN PERIOD - RANCHO SYSTEM

\* About 250 years ago, one of the results of Portola's exploration was the claiming of Alta California for New Spain. When Mexico won independence from Spain in 1822, the territory of Alta California came under Mexican rule and Mexico issued land grants, called Ranchos. Brea was part of two land grants and a parcel of land that had not been granted to any of the Ranchos.

## AMERICAN PERIOD - From Randolph to Brea

- \* In 1848, the U.S. acquired California by the Treaty of Guadalupe.
- \* On September 9, 1850, California became the 31st state of the United States.
- \* In 1863, the Ontiveros Family sold 30,672 acres of their Rancho land to businessman Abel Stearns at 20 cents an acre. Stearns eventually leased some of the land to basque sheep ranchers and farmers.
- \* "Black Gold" Rush. In 1882, the first successful oil drilling occurred. Oil was struck at 100 to 300 feet below the surface at the junction of Tonner Canyon and Brea Canyon. The search for oil was underway.
- \* Circa 1889, the small settlement of Petrolia was located near the junction of Brea Canyon and Carbon Canyon, and a similar oil camp village called Puente Wells was located to the northwest, on top of the Puente Hills.
- \* In 1894, Union Oil became the area's largest landowner with a purchase of 1200 acres from Abel Stearns. Other oil companies began to purchase land in the area as well, including Brea Canon Oil, Western Oil, Shell Oil, Columbia Oil, E. L. Doheny, and Birch Oil Co.
- \* The town of Olinda was platted in 1887 and recorded in 1888. By 1898, the Puente Hills and canyons began sporting wooden oil-drilling towers, oil wells, and oil tanks, which dotted the landscape, peacefully coexisting with grazing cattle and sheep.
- \* In 1900, the Union Oil Company had extracted one-half million barrels of oil from the Brea Stearns Lease.
- \* In 1903, the Union Oil Company built a one-room school house located on Brea Canyon Road.



\* In 1908, the Ontario Investment Company filed a subdivision map for a town to be named Randolph. Randolph was named after Epes Randolph, an engineer and general manager of the Pacific Electric Railroad. Randolph established a basic infrastructure, but was lacking water and a promised railroad. Despite major ads, few people purchased land.

\* In 1910, Randolph School was constructed on the corner of what is now Brea Blvd. and Lambert Road. The school was a two-story frame building that soon ran out of room. The school was the first building in a new subdivision promoters called Randolph, later to be named Brea.

\* On January 19, 1911, a new map was filed for the same subdivision, for the purpose of changing the name from Randolph to Brea. The building began, both for homes and for small-services industries serving the oil fields.

\* In 1912, the Pacific Electric Railway extended its tracks through Brea to Yorba Linda.

\* In 1916, the new Brea Grammar School opened for the 1916-17 school year with 11 teachers for eight grades. This school, with recent improvements, is the present Brea Junior High School.

\* On February 23, 1917, BREA BECAME THE 8TH. CITY IN ORANGE COUNTY

\* In March of 1916, a petition was filed with the Orange County Supervisors for Brea to incorporate. On February 15, 1917, an election was held and local voters approved the incorporation with 204 in favor and 45 opposed. On February 23, 1917, Brea was officially incorporated as the eighth city of Orange County, with a population of 732.

\*City officials were selected and council members were elected. Street names were changed to represent types of trees. La Habra Street changed to Ash as the dividing line. Streets to the north of Ash became Bracken, Cypress, and Deodara. (Lambert) Streets to the south of Ash became Birch, Cedar, (Imperial Highway) Date, Elm, and Fir.

\* Arrangements were made with Southern California Edison to furnish power, and plans were set for the first street lighting system. Brea continued to grow, with \$5,889.40 received as first-year taxes on an assessed valuation of \$417,600.



Randolph School 1910, first building in the new town, later called Brea



Brea Grammar School in 1916, now Brea Junior High School

- \* World War I. United States declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917, just after Brea was incorporated. Patriotism pulled the small community together with many activities. By the war's end; thirty-eight Brea men had gone to war and thirty-five more were in training camp.
- \* Two Brea airports. In 1917, Brea Aviation Field was one of the earliest airports in Orange County, located at the site of today's Brea Heights Shopping Center. The second airport was Loftus Field; located near Kramer between Birch and Imperial.
- \* Contributions to Aviation History. From 1919 to 1927, Dexter Martin did much to promote aviation in Brea. He was later inducted into the Aviation Hall of Fame, along with Orville & Wilber Wright and Charles Lindberg. Three airplanes designed by Fred Thaheld and built with Bill Tramaine brought national attention to Brea.
- \* In 1922, the new city of Brea was made profitable by a booming oil industry to stimulate the local economy. A branch of the Orange County Library was established in Potters garage, Neff Cox's Shoe Shine shop was booming, and the Red Lantern Theatre was opened with oriental decorations and to hear the Robert Morgan pipe organ. Laurel School was built, and Shaffer Tool Co. was started.
- \* On August 10, 1922, the Brea Lions Club was chartered. A bond was passed to provide curb-to-curb pavement for Pomona Avenue, now Brea Blvd. Three tracks of land were opened to encourage home building.
- \* The Big Game on October 31, 1924. Hall of Fame players Walter Johnson and Babe Ruth played in an exhibition game at the Brea Bowl. Walter Johnson was a local boy who moved to Olinda at age 14 and grew up on the Santa Fe Oil Lease where his family lived. It was a match between the greatest pitcher and hitter in baseball on our local field. An epic game that closed schools and stores so everyone could attend and enjoy.
- \* In 1925, the Brea Womens Club was organized, and Brea's first telephone exchange began service. The Brea-Olinda Union High School District was formed, withdrawing from the Fullerton High School District.
- \* In 1926, the nightmare of all oil men occurred. The Stewart Tank Farm was struck by lightning, causing an explosion that brought national attention to Brea.
- \* The new 23-acre campus Brea-Olinda High school opened in 1927, adding secondary education to a growing city. The campus was located where the Marketplace Shopping Center is today.
- \* Opening in 1930, City Hall Park was a welcome oasis of green at the communities center. It was and still is a classic example of small town America. It included City Hall, now called the Scout House, the Plunge and the American Legion Hall, now called the Brea Museum. The Park was a setting for picnics and concerts still held today.

- \* The 1930s and the Great Depression decreased activities in Brea as elsewhere in the United States. The city of Brea erected a "Welcome to Brea" sign that has greeted people ever since. The population of Brea in 1930 was 2,435.
- \* Brea was also known as a Citrus growing area. Union Oil Company owned one of the largest citrus and avocado groves in the world. It totaled 2,348 acres, contained 207,000 trees, and eighteen water wells. Also, in 1932 "Union 76 gasoline" was introduced and the Brea police cars received their first radio equipment
- \* In 1938, The LaVida Beverage Co. was organized, a product of La Vida Mineral Hot Springs in Carbon Canyon. The Pacific Electric Railroad discontinued service to Brea.
- \* In 1939-40 Bill Griffith won the California Soap Box Durby and Paul Moore set a world record in the three-quarter mile.
- \* In the 1940s, Sam Landa opened bar Sam's Place, which was formerly a Cafe in the 30s and originally the Brea Bakery since 1911. Brea was active throughout WWII, (1941-1945) including airplane spotters located on top of Brea High School.
- \* As oil production declined, the 40s, 50s, and 60s brought many new developments in industry, housing and new businesses in Brea, Normal life included the Tastee Freeze and the Plunge. The citrus groves gave way gradually to industrial parks and residential development.
- \* In 1952, the Kirkhill Rubber moved to town, Arovista Elementary School opened in 1956 and Karl Karcher opened his first two Carl's Jr. restaurants in Brea and Fullerton. In 1958, Brea Nike Missile Base was established in the Puente Hills above Site Drive.
- \* The 1960s were marked by a major change in Brea from oil and agriculture to industry. The population was increasing rapidly and nearly doubled in 10 years. Brea's downtown changed with a mixture of different businesses: Pitsburg Pants, Brea Hardware, Antique Stores, Knights Inn, Brea Theater, House of Imports, and Brea Furniture, That Frame Place and others.
- \* Brea Collier and Chemicals Corporation operated a plant near Kraemer and Imperial from 1965-1994. In 1966, Mariposa Elementary School opened and Brea celebrated it's Golden Jubilee Celebration, Brea's 50th birthday.
- \* The 1970s brought big changes in Brea with with the opening of the Orange (57) Freeway completion in 1972. The freeway increased commercial exposure. With the construction of the Brea Mall, which opened in 1977, Brea became a destination shopping city, which spurred major residential and commercial development. The dominant north Orange County regional shopping complex was built on a 99-acre plot of land next to the 57 freeway.

- \* Brea is known for its “Art in Public Places” and “Artist in Residence” programs. The Artist in Residence program allowed students and citizens to learn in Brea Schools or just watch them work. Brea’s “Art in Public Places” started in 1975 and continues with over 140 artworks in a collection placed throughout the city. Brea’s Public Art Program has been used as a model and for many programs nationwide.
- \* Industrial parks and retail areas thrived in Brea during the 70s and 80s, as more companies took advantage of the city’s strategic location and city planning.
- \* In 1980, adjacent to the mall, the Brea Civic and Cultural Center was opened. It includes an art gallery, library, conference center, the Curtis Theatre, the police and fire departments, the Chamber of Commerce and the Brea Olinda School District offices.
- \* In 1981, Brea Country Hills Elementary School opened and in 1989 Brea dedicated a new high school located in the Brea Hills, north of Lambert Road and adjacent to the 57 freeway.
- \* In 1981, the “Breal Project” an affordable housing project for seniors was completed. Another example of the “Brea Spirit”, led community leaders and built by citizens. In 1982, The Brea Historical dedicated the former Olinda “Little Green Schoolhouse” built in 1909, as a part of the Brea Senior Center. A unique historic preservation event.
- \* 1990s a Historical Home Preservation Committee selected historic homes in the Brea redevelopment area to be preserved. An example is the 1939 Practice House moved the old Brea Brea High School Campus.
- \* In July of 1996, our new 52,000 square-foot Brea Community Center opened at 695 Madison Way. A true center for the community to enjoy.
- \* In the late 1990s, Brea’s downtown was redeveloped into a shopping and entertainment area. Centered on Brea Boulevard and Birch Street is a 70-acre urban village. The area was transformed with movie theaters, sidewalk cafes, a live comedy club, numerous shops and restaurants. It is locally known as Downtown.
- \* Freeway Complex Fire - In 2008, four Brea homes were destroyed and six others damaged along with major damage to Brea High School and Canyon High School.
- \* In 2002, The Olinda Oil Museum and Trail located at 4024 Santa Fe Avenue opened.
- \* In 2003, the Olinda Oil Museum and Trail opened located at 4025 Santa Fe Avenue.
- \* In 2009, Brea’s new 26-acre Sports Park, along with our Distinguished Brea Athletes Wall of Fame, dedicated in 2010.
- \* In 2011, The Brea Sister City Association welcomed Anseong, South Korea to join our two other sister cities, Hanno, Japan (1981) and Lagos de Moreno, Mexico (1969).

- \* Olinda Elementary School opened in 2012 adjacent to the Sports Park.
- \* In 2012, the Brea War Memorial was completed fronting Birch Street, near the Civic and Cultural Center.
- \* Committed to responsible growth, which includes protection of nearby open space, Brea is protective of the significant natural wildlife corridor that also serves as a rare scenic break within the area's urban setting.
- \* Brea has been able to blend the "Old and the New", keeping traditional community activities like the Fourth of July Picnic in historic City Hall Park, while starting our more recent Jazz Festival located on Birch Street in the new "Downtown". Deliberately planned gradual growth that allowed for input and cooperation has kept the "Brea Spirit" alive and well.
- \* Today, Brea is a thriving city of 40,000+ residents with more than 100,000 people visiting the city to work, shop and play during the day. Brea continues its "Art in Public Places" program with over 140 artworks in the collection, located throughout the city.
- \* The community that began as an oil town, has grown into an important regional leader, offering not only opportunity and safety but also a family-oriented community that is worthy of its people.



1  **BREA HISTORIC TOUR**

*A peak into Brea's Extraordinary Architectural Past*

2  **CITY HALL PARK**

In 1924 the City took steps to purchase the first two lots and in 1927 with the help of a \$60,000 bond, purchased the rest of the land from Union Oil. In 1929 construction of the Plunge (Orange County's oldest continual use public pool) and City Hall began and followed in 1930 by the American Legion Building. These two buildings are the only two in Brea on the National Register of Historic Places.

3  **THE SHAFFER FOUNTAIN**

In 1946 the employees of Shaffer Tool Works had a fountain erected in City Hall Park . It served as a memorial to WD and Mrs. Shaffer. At night the fountain was lit with colored lights; unfortunately it often needed repair so was replaced by the beautiful rose garden you see today. The Shaffer plaque is still present.

4  **THE SCHWEITZER ROSE GARDEN**

Like the Shaffer Fountain it replaced, the Schweitzer Rose Garden was also a memorial to the Schweitzer Family. It is believed Frank Schweitzer Sr. planted the first rose in the vicinity of where the rose garden would eventually be plotted.

5  **THE NEW SHAFFER FOUNTAIN**

Located in the heart of downtown, the New Shaffer Fountain is a welcome invitation to splash around on a hot summer day.

6  **UNION OIL HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD**

In June 1921 Union Oil decided to provide homes for 62 of their employees. The Maxwell Division, which was west of Pomona (Brea Blvd) on Walnut and Madrona became the Union Oil Neighborhood. Today many of those houses are still occupied.

7  **WOMEN'S & LION'S CLUB**

In 1935 a community drive began to give a permanent home to the Women's Club and Lion's Club; both active organizations in Brea's civic affairs from its earliest days. Union Oil moved one of its buildings (currently being used as the Boy Scout meeting place) to the east side of Pomona and Date. It should be noted the building, in its original location, was where Babe Ruth and Walter Johnson had breakfast before the "Big Game."

8  **PIONEER HALL TODAY**

Moved again in XXXX, today Pioneer Hall sits at the Brea Senior Center on Siever Ave.


9  **LITTLE GREEN SCHOOLHOUSE**

Built in 1909, this four-room school was located on the south side of Country Road (Carbon Canyon Rd) near the creek. The school was moved in the 1950's when the site was chosen for the flood control dam.


10  **BREA SENIOR CENTER**

Today the Little Green Schoolhouse lives on at the Brea Senior Center. Remolded and missing

its bell tower, the old building is still an important part of the community

11  **RANDOLPH**

Named after Epps Randolph, then VP of Pacific Electric Railroad, in hopes of bringing the P&E trains to the area, the town of Randolph was established on October 13, 1908.

12  **THE TRAINS CAME BUT GROWTH DID NOT**

True to his word, Epps Randolph brought his P&E Railroad to town. Linking remote Randolph with already well established regions of Orange and Los Angeles counties, was believed to be the missing ingredient to population growth. Clearly it was not so on January 19, 1911 the town of Randolph became the town of Brea

13  **DOWNTOWN  
THE HEART OF THE CITY**


Even before we were a city, we had a downtown.

14  **TRAIN DEPOT**

15  **1940'S DOWNTOWN**

16  **1960'S DOWNTOWN**

17  **1970'S DOWNTOWN**

18  **LATE 1980'S DOWNTOWN**

19  **1990'S DOWNTOWN**

20  **BREA BLVD LOOKING NORTH**

21 

22 

23  **OIL FIELDS NATIONAL BANK**

Built in

## Outline of a Brief History of Brea, Orange County, California

- Also, the Brea Collier Carbon and Chemicals Corporation operated a plant near Imperial and Kraemer (now Walmart center) from 1965-1994.
- In 1966, Mariposa Elementary School was established.
- The Golden Jubilee celebration took place July 10-15 in 1967, celebrating Brea's 50th birthday since its incorporation.

### 1970

- The opening of the Orange (57) freeway, which was completed in 1972.
- The Brea Mall was opened in 1977.
- Brea's public art program started in 1975.

### 1980

- In 1980, Brea Civic and Cultural Center was opened.
- In 1981, Brea Country Hills Elementary School was established.
- In December of 1989, Brea dedicated a new high school located in the Brea Hills, north of Lambert Road and adjacent to the 57 freeway. .

### 1990

- The population of Brea in 1990 was 32,873 people.
- The Brea Community Center opened on July 27, 1996.
- In the late 1990s, a 50 acre Downtown Brea incl. Birch Promenade.
- In 1991, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists ranked Brea, which included Olinda and Sansinena, 15<sup>th</sup> in California among competing oil and gas fields.

### Today

- Today, Brea is a thriving city of 40,000+ residents with more than 100,000 people visiting the city to work, shop and play during the day.
- Brea is proud of its new downtown with over 50 acres of shopping and entertainment.
- Brea's new 26-acre Sports Park, located on the northwest corner of Valencia and Birch, opened in 2009.
- A new elementary school 'Olinda' located adjacent to the Sports Park opened in 2012.
- The community that began as an oil town has grown into an important industrial center, offering not only opportunity and safety, but also a family-oriented community that is worthy of its people.

## Outline of a Brief History of Brea, Orange County, California

- In 1922, Pomona Avenue (now Brea Blvd.) was paved, a branch of the Orange County Library was established and the Red Lantern Theatre was opened. Laurel School was built and Shaffer Tool Co. was started.
- Walter Johnson Vs. Babe Ruth Game at the Brea Bowl in 1924.
- In the 1920s, the Brea Hotel, which was original built in 1913 became the "Kinsler Hotel".
- Stewart Tank Farm Fire of 1926.
- A new 23-acre high school was opened on September 14, 1927—Brea-Olinda Union High School.
- The Brea Plunge was built in 1929.
- The City Hall was built in 1929.
- The Great Depression (1929-1939)

### 1930

- The population of Brea in 1930 was 2,435.
- City Hall Park opened in 1930 (designed by Frank Schweitzer, Sr.),
- The American Legion opened in 1930 (later Police & Fire Department now Brea Museum)
- Carbon Canyon Road was opened as a paved highway and in 1934.
- The City of Brea erected the "Welcome to Brea" sign that has greeted people in the downtown area ever since.

### 1940

- World War II (1941-1945).
- In the 1940s, Sam Landa opened up the bar Sam's Place, which was formerly a Café in the 1930s and originally the Brea Bakery since 1911.
- In 1949, Brea had a unique, one-time snow storm.

### 1950

- In 1950, Brea had a population of 3,208 people.
- In 1952, Kirkhill Rubber Company moved its headquarters to Brea from L.A.
- In 1956, Arovista Elementary School was established and Carl N. Karcher opened the first two Carl's Jr. Restaurants in Anaheim and Brea, California.
- In 1958, a Nike base was established in the Puente Hills to the north of Brea with 24 buildings and 3 missile silos.

### 1960

- In the 60s, Brea's downtown along Brea Blvd. looked much different with a mixture of different businesses: Pittsburg Paints, Brea Hardware, Jackson Auto Supply, Cleaners, Bill Brundige Glass, Antique stores, Knights Inn, Brea Theater, House of Imports, Brea Furniture and much more.

# Outline of a Brief History of Brea, Orange County, California

## 1890s

- In 1894, the Stearns Ranch Company sold 1,200 acres of the original Brea land to the newly created Union Oil Company.
- Other oil companies also began to purchase land in the area as well: Brea Canon Oil, Western Oil, Shell Oil, Columbia Oil Production Company, E.L. Doheny, and Birch Oil Company.
- The town of Olinda was founded in present-day Carbon Canyon after an 1890 oil boom.
- "Black Gold" Rush.
- In 1899, a Pipeline was built underground that transports petroleum from Brea to Long Beach.

## 1900

- ✓ • In 1900, the Union Oil company had extracted a ½ million barrels of oil from the Brea Stearns Lease.
- ✓ • In 1908, the Ontario Investment Company to file a subdivision map for a town called Randolph, the precursor to Brea.
- Randolph, a small agricultural town, was named after Epes Randolph, an engineers and general manager of the Pacific Electric Railway.
- Union Oil built a one-room school house in 1903 on Brea Canyon Road.

## 1910

- In 1910, the Randolph School was constructed.
- The Brea Grammar School was officially opened in 1916 (now the Brea Junior High).
- The Randolph School building became the Union Oil Headquarters.
- The official founding date for the town of Brea was January 19, 1911.
- In 1916, the nearest law enforcement was the county sheriff in Santa Ana. On March 8, 1916, George Bird was appointed the 1st Constable of Brea.
- On February 15, 1917, an election was held and local voters approved the incorporation of Brea – 204 in favor and 45 opposed (at the La Habra Valley Bank).
- With a population of 752, Brea was officially incorporated as the eighth city of Orange County.
- World War I (1917-1918)
- Airports.

## 1920

- According to the census, Brea had a population of 1,037 in 1920.
- In 1921, the Craig Building housed the post office, the 1st fire hydrants were installed.

# Outline of a Brief History of Brea, Orange County, California

## Brea

- Brea is a city in Orange County, California, United States, which is nestled in the foothills of Puente Hills on a plateau at the northern tip of the county, and is situated within the heart of the fertile La Habra Valley.
- "Brea", which means "tar" or "pitch" in Spanish (Castilian) from the tar seeping out of the foothills and the subsequent oil fields of the early 1900s.

## Native Americans

- 1,000s of years ago
- 'Tongva', which means "people of the earth."
- Officially called the Gabrielino Mission Indian Tribe.
- Villiage was Nacaunga in the Tongva language.
- The Tongva utilized the La Habra Valley area of hills and valleys for hunting and gathering food, supplies, and medicinal herbs for the sustenance of the tribe.

## Spanish Period

- About 250 years
- Don Gaspar de Portola I Rovira, along with others such as Jose Antonio Yorba
- Camped in Brea Canyon in 1769.
- "El Camino Real", which means "Royal Road".
- During the time from 1769 to 1850, Mexican Missions & the Rancho system, which lasted some 79 years.

## Mexican Period – Ranchos

- Mexico won independence from Spain in 1822.
- Alta California [California]
- Brea was part of 2 lands grants & 1 left over (sobrante) area

## American Period

- In 1848, the U.S. acquired California by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
- Gold Rush of 1849
- On September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1850, California became the 31<sup>st</sup> state of the Union.
- 1850 US Census, there were 3,530 residents in Los Angeles County.
- Spanish was the common language of the area in 1850.
- Don Abel Stearns (1798-1871)
- Civil War: Union.
- Sheep Herders: Bastanchury, Sansinena, & the Wagners in the 1870s and 1880s.
- Oil Boom.
- Orange County was officially formed in 1889.



## BREA HISTORY TIMELINE - Selected linear representations of important events, by Tim Harvey

\* Brea is a city in the northeastern corner of Orange County, California, located at the base of the Puente Hills near the very mouth of Brea Canyon. "Brea" is a Spanish word that means "tar" or "asphalt." In the early days of California, settlers from the Pomona Valley and the Santa Ana Valley came to Brea Canyon to cut chunks of oil-soaked earth from the canyon walls to use as fuel to heat their homes. Because of the evidence of "black gold," oil men of the 1890s started the development of an oil field in the Puente Hills, which was the beginning of Brea.

Tongva Ki home



### FIRST NATION - NATIVE AMERICAN PERIOD

\* The Tongva Native Americans go back 3,500 years in Southern California. The Tongva inhabited approximately 4,000 square miles, which included the Los Angeles Basin and the Southern Channel Islands. Along with neighboring the Chumash Indians, the Tongva were the most powerful indigenous people to inhabit Southern California. Brea was within the ethnographic boundaries of the Tongva people. They built houses named "ki," pronounced "key." (see picture) Tongva, which means "people of the earth," are now called the Gabrielino Tongva Mission Tribe, as originally referred to by the Spanish, because of their involvement in the San Gabriel Mission in the 18th Century. The Tongva utilized the La Habra Valley for hunting and gathering food, supplies, and medicinal herbs for the sustenance of the tribe.

Mission San Gabriel, 1832



### SPANISH PERIOD

\* July 29, 1769. On their famous march from San Diego to Monterey, Don Gaspar de Portola, along with Jose Antonio Yorba, crossed the Santa Ana River and arrived at the mouth of Brea Canyon, just north of the future Brea townsite. That night they made their camp with a group of seventy friendly indians thought to be from a nearby Tongva village called Pomoquin, located near today's Brea Canyon cut-off road. In 1932, a monument to honor Portola's famous visit was placed next to Brea Canyon Road, by the Native Daughters of the Golden West. During the time from 1769 to 1850, the area was under Spanish/Mexican control through the Rancho system.

### MEXICAN PERIOD - RANCHO SYSTEM

\* About 250 years ago, one of the results of Portola's exploration was the claiming of Alta California for New Spain. When Mexico won independence from Spain in 1822, the territory of Alta California came under Mexican rule and Mexico issued land grants, called Ranchos. Brea was part of two land grants and a parcel of land that had not been granted to any of the Ranchos.



Portola Monument  
in Brea Canyon, 1769



**BIG GAME DAY**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1924



**BASEBALL!**

*Walter Johnson*

Pitching for the Anahiem Elks

*Babe Ruth*

Pitching for Ruth All-Stars

KEN WILLIAMS  
ERNE JOHNSON  
BOB WEISEL

TUFFY TYRELL  
JIMMY JUSTIN  
RUBE ELLIS

HARVEY McCELLAN SAM W. CRAWFORD  
AND OTHER MAJOR LEAGUE STARS

**Brea Bowl**

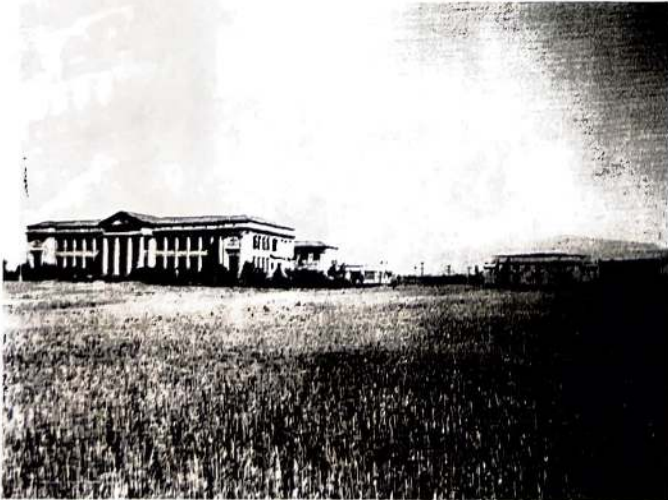
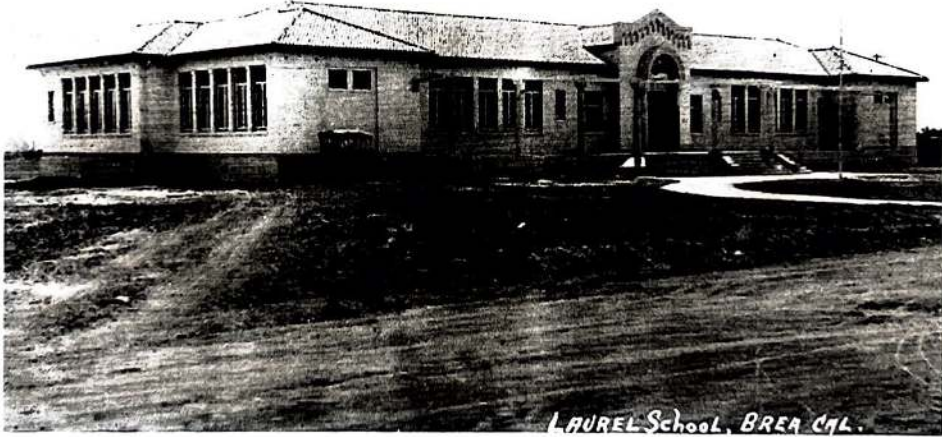
BREA, CALIFORNIA

**Friday, 2:30 p. m., Oct. 31**

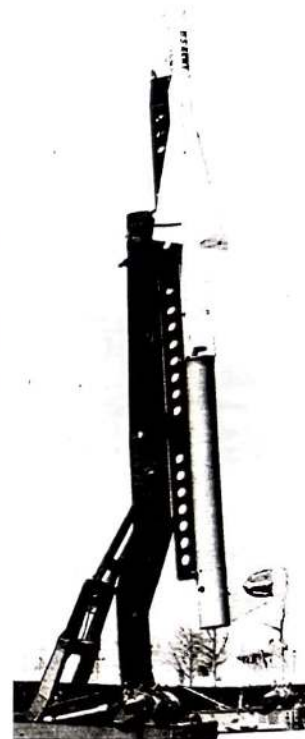
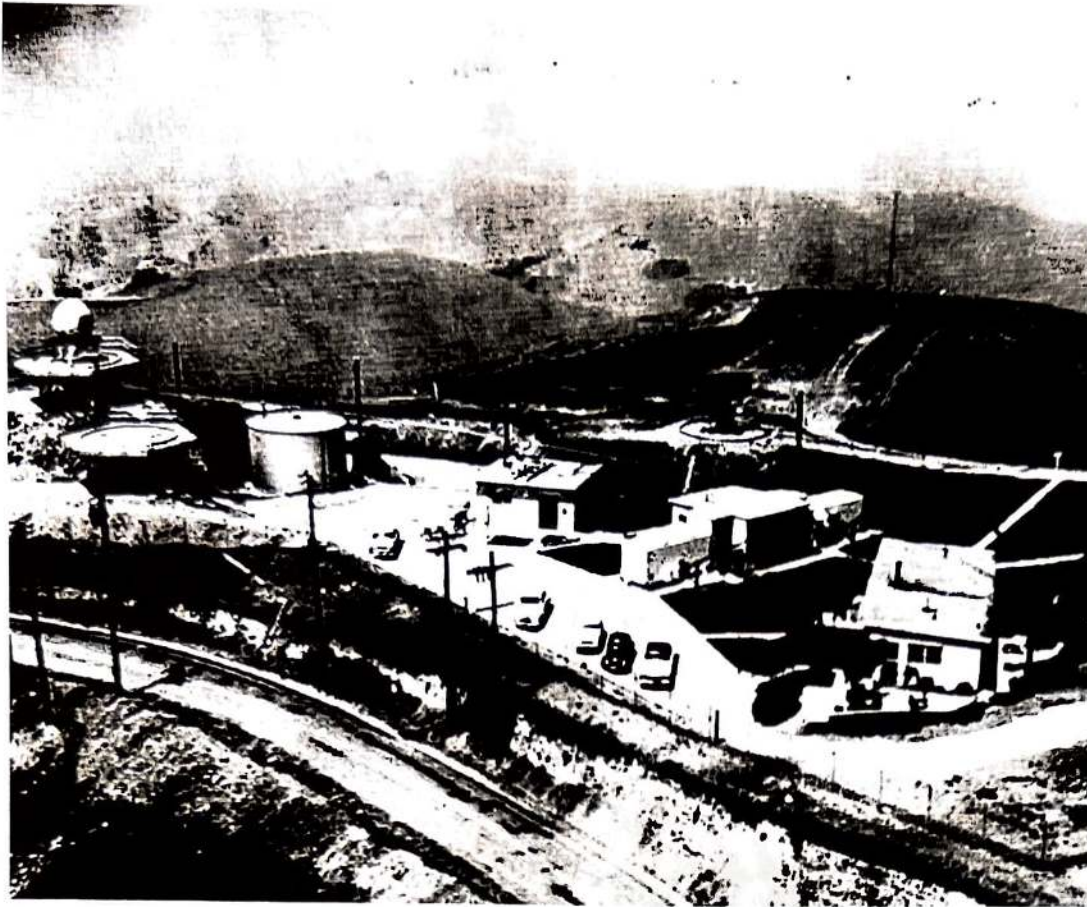
Only Game in Southern California Where Johnson and Ruth Oppose Each Other. Annapolis Anahiem Elks, No. 1345



Brea Grammar School, 1922 - Laurel School, 1916- Brea High School, 1927



Brea Nike Missile Base - 1958 to 1971



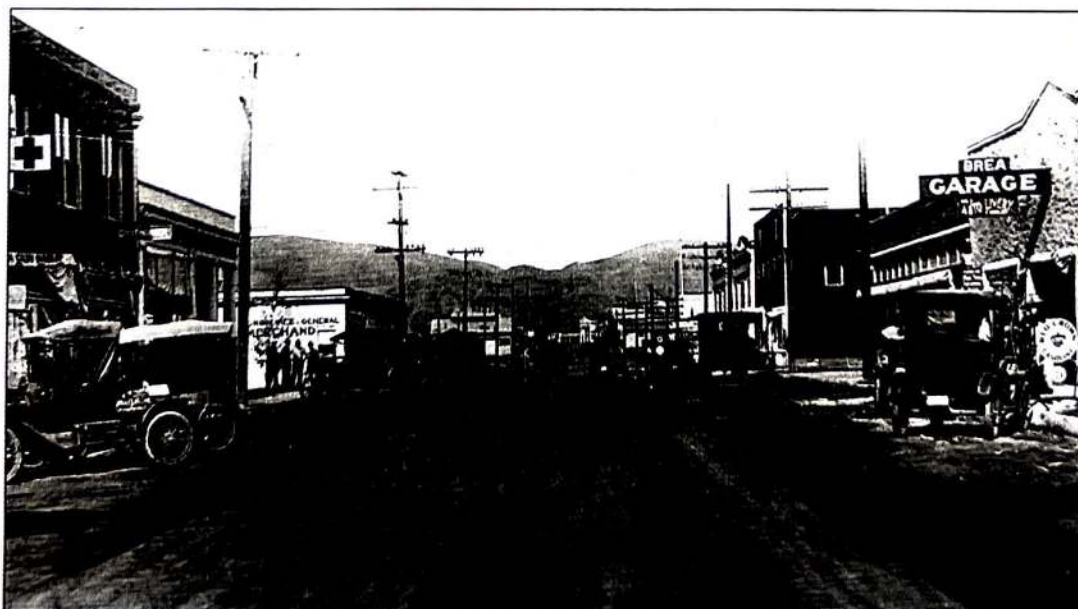
Early Brea - 1914 and 1920



*Pomona Avenue (Brea Boulevard) runs through the middle of the picture above, with the Brea (Kinsler) Hotel shown at upper right.*

### VIEW OF BREA 1914

*Ash Street runs right to left in the picture below. The Delaney Building with its flat roof is located in the upper right, and the two-story Sewell Building is in the center attached to the La Habra Valley Bank on the southwest corner of Pomona Avenue and Ash Street. Notice the newly built homes on the right. The small shack in the center between the bank and the Delaney Building was the first volunteer fire department.*



### POMONA AVENUE, circa 1920

Looking north on Pomona Avenue, today called Brea Boulevard, you can see Brea Grammar School, now called Brea Junior High, in this circa 1920 "Main Street" scene

Stewart Tank Farm, 1926

*Fire and Sword Revenge Attempt to Kill Mussolini*

**Evening Express**

**LATEST CITY**  
**THREE CENTS**

# Huge Brea Oil Fire Catastrophe Wipes Out Homes, Ruins Orchards



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**Topic - Bullet points - page in book for picture**

1 message

---

Tim Harvey <timharvey887@gmail.com>  
To: linda@breamuseum.org  
Cc: Tim Harvey <timharvey887@gmail.com>

Thu, May 25, 2017 at 2:17 PM

Testing this process Please add bullets and/or edit these I can help by looking for pictures on the selected book pages or it may be easier with your organizational system?? Location of these picture in the power point would be by tour location, at least for most of them. 

Native American - Tongva Indians (picture Ki house page 1)

\*Tongva means "people of the earth"

\* lived in the area for 5,000 years

\* Helped build the San Gabriel Mission and were renamed Gabrielino-Tongva Indians

Portola Monument (page 2) Spanish Period (eritcted by the native daughters)

\* Don Gaspar de Portola visited Brea Canyon in 1769

\* the expedition passed through Brea/Fullerton on their way north

\* they later established the San Gabriel Mission located in present-day San Gabriel

\* Portola was appointed Governor of Las California which included Baja and Alta California, from 1768-1770

The Mexican Period, 1769 to 1850 (page 3)

\* The Mexican missions and Rancho systems were major influences in Alta California

\* The largest land grant in the Brea area went to Pacifico Ontiveros

\* the were ranchers that focused on cattle

\*Basque Sheep Ranching to Farming to Oil

Sent from my iPad



Union's researchers in the 1950's found many innovative methods to process hydrocarbons, breaking down and rearranging the molecules in oil and natural gas into <sup>one</sup> saleable ~~and~~ petrochemicals ~~one~~ after another. They were so successful that in 1952 Union set up Brea Chemicals, Inc. as a wholly owned subsidiary to manufacture and market some of these by-products.

52  
acre  
plant

By 1957, Brea Chemicals emerged as an important producer. Their sales of ammonium nitrate and liquid aqua ammonia for fertilizer were booming.

At the same time, Union purchased another successful petroleum by-products company in San Jose, CA. Enterprising Robert T. Collier had build his business by using surplus petroleum coke from Union's Oleum and Santa Maria refineries. He made briquettes for fireplaces and calcined carbon for electrodes, which were used

in electrochemical processes such as aluminum manufacturing. Collier Corporation and Brea Chemicals merged to form a \$20 million-a-year union subsidiary Collier Carbon and Chemical Company. One of the

By 1964 there were seven plants operated by Collier Carbon & Chemical turning out petroleum by-products. Natural gas was used as feedstock to produce ammonia and urea, to produce basic nitrogen fertilizers for the West Coast agriculture industry, constituting more than 32% of Collier's business producing ~~to \$200,000~~ tons a year. In 1977 the company signed a contract for bulk sales of urea to China.

The Brea plant ~~began~~ in 1988 ~~was~~ began a lengthy shutdown of its ~~operations~~ fertilizer manufacturing. The plant was completely shutdown.

in 1991 moving its operations  
to Sacramento, CA

of 300  
people

In 1950, Reese Taylor Union Oil Company President, ~~in order to~~ believing that Union could be a leader in developing new and better quality petroleum products, allocated \$8 million to build a new research center at Brea California. The first staff group moved from their crowded quarters at the Los Angeles refinery to their new laboratories on Sept. 1, 1951. The new research facility ~~consist~~ a complex of a dozen single-story buildings contained laboratories, ~~shops~~ maintenance shops, offices, a library, and ample space for duplicating in miniature almost any working problems faced by Union Oil people anywhere in the world. The chief of the new research center, Bill Stewart, was the grandson of Union Oil founder Lyman Stewart.

In May, 1980 ground was broken for the expansion of the research center, which was renamed the Fred L. Hartley Research Center,

nearly doubling the size of the research center

Cloyd Reeg replaced Dick Stegemeyer as president of the Science & Technology Division. The staff had grown to more than 700 employees, most of those in the exploration and production division.

The addition of a new 3 story administration building featured a semi circular design, auditorium, cafeteria, and addition of a half million square feet of additional laboratory and office space.

In 1997, Union sold the refining, marketing, and transportation division to Tosco Corporation. This was the beginning of the downsizing of operations at

the Research Center. In June of 2004, the remaining ~~staff of office~~ office staff was moved out of the Center. At that time, the demolition and redevelopment of the 120 acre property began. In 2005, Chevron Corporation completed the purchase of the remaining assets.

One of those assets was the ~~already in~~ ~~was~~ the Unocal real estate division, which had begun the La Floresta project, a mixed use development on the Research Center site, which you see today on the north east corner of Imperial Hwy and Valencia Ave. The Chevron purchase ~~ended~~ spelled the end of the company's 115-year history of independence.

inhibitors and alloys. The researchers also provided welding technique evaluation and equipment failure analysis to improve facility design and safety.

### **Environmental Protection**

In all of its operations, domestic and foreign, Unocal has been committed to protecting the environment. Union is a leader in the development and installation of environment protection processes, techniques and equipment. Union research developed a method for preventing gasoline vapor losses during filling of gasoline tank trucks, and dedicated it to the public to use without charge.

Union-developed petroleum refining processes, which are used worldwide, have reduced pollution of the atmosphere by sulfur and nitrogen compounds through removal of these compounds from the oils as they are processed.

Union research has also developed or shared in the development of several processes (9BSRP, BSR/Selectox, Unisulf and Selectox) for removing sulfur compounds, which are objectionable air pollutants, from a variety of refinery gases, natural gas and geothermal steam.

### **Patents and Licensing**

Unocal commenced research activities scarcely a year after its founding in 1890, and in 1951, opened a modern laboratory facility on this site. Valuable discoveries in the fields of oil & natural gas exploration and production techniques, refining processes, petrochemical and agricultural chemical products, gasoline and lubricant formulations, specialty graphite and carbon products, mining and mineral extraction methods, and alternative energy processes were protected by patents and trade secrets.

Unocal's Patent and Licensing Department helped hundreds of scientists obtain patents to protect their inventions. At the height of its research activity in the 1980's, Unocal annually maintained between 1,000 and 2,000 active U.S. and foreign patents. Nearly fifty researchers obtained more than 20 U.S. patents, and eleven were granted more than 50. One research chemist, Dr. Donald C. Young, obtained 196 U.S. patents, the most by any Unocal employee in history.

Many of the discoveries and inventions developed by Unocal scientists were licensed for use by other companies. Over the years, Unocal technology was licensed for use by companies in 26 countries throughout the world.

The Science and Technology Division has a group which licenses technology developed at Union to other companies or institutions. Over the past 20 years the group has sold licenses for our excellent technology to many firms in 26 countries throughout the world. Income from this activity is substantial.

A group of patent lawyers and supporting personnel is located at the Research Center for obtaining protection of the Division's inventions and developments with patents. The group also assists the licensing people in contracts and agreements with other companies. While Union may occasionally purchase a license from others, the ratio of licenses sold to licenses bought is more than 10 to 1. Currently Union holds more than 1400 active patents.

Science and Technology personnel are encouraged to publish their work provided it is *non-proprietary in nature or is protected by patents*. During 1982, Science and Technology scientists presented or published a total of 90 technical papers. During the same period, 41 U.S. and foreign patents were obtained.

**BREA HISTORIC TOUR GUIDE,**  
with historic pictures and narrative describing  
sites and events.



\* **BREA HISTORY TIMELINE**

\* **RECOMMENDATIONS AND INFORMATION ABOUT ADDITIONAL INTERESTING DOCENT  
GUIDED OR SELF GUIDED TOURS**

- Brea Art in Public Places
- Brea Museum
- Olinda Oil Museum
- Distinguished Brea Athletes Wall of Fame at the Brea Sports Park
- Historic Home Tour

Built by M J McCarty  
1913 Hotel (Two story frame Hotel) Kinsler Hotel

First

LA HABRA VALLEY BANK

BUSINESS blocks - Sewell Bldg.

Russell's Jewelry Store

Brea Restaurant

ENOCH + Cowden Pool Room

MATT Smith's Barber Shop

W. E. Richardson's Picture Show

1915 Dr. C. Jarvis dentist office

MAC Clatchie Hardware Co.

SEWELL Bldg.

Before 1917  
Incorporation

# MAP EXAMPLE

Brea J.H.S.

Lambert

BIS CANINE

Rodolph School

Assessment Area  
Brea Blvd.

Cypress

Today

Brea Cash Market

Today

1 Depot 137 N  
Pacific Electric Railway

N 101 Pool Hall \*  
101 BARTER chand \*

\* Brea Hotel 104  
\* Kinsler Hotel NEFF'S SHOW SHED 100  
\* WALL Building Brea STAR 100  
102

Ash

Today

S 101 LA Habra Valley Bank 101

\* Brea Hardware 100  
Library 1st SITE 106

Vote Location  
103 Pool Hall  
107 Peter Kin MEAT MARKET

\* CRAIGS BUILDING 124

W

Upstairs office  
office Pickery  
111 First  
Small Building

121 Santa Place  
(COMM. BLDG)

\* RED LANTERN 132

Birch

Today

1911 Peterkin MEAT + Ice  
1915 CONGREGATIONAL church  
1928 OILFIELDS NAT. BANK

\* BOGSMAN GARAGE 142 1925

201  
or

S

(Imperial Highway) Then CEDAR STREET

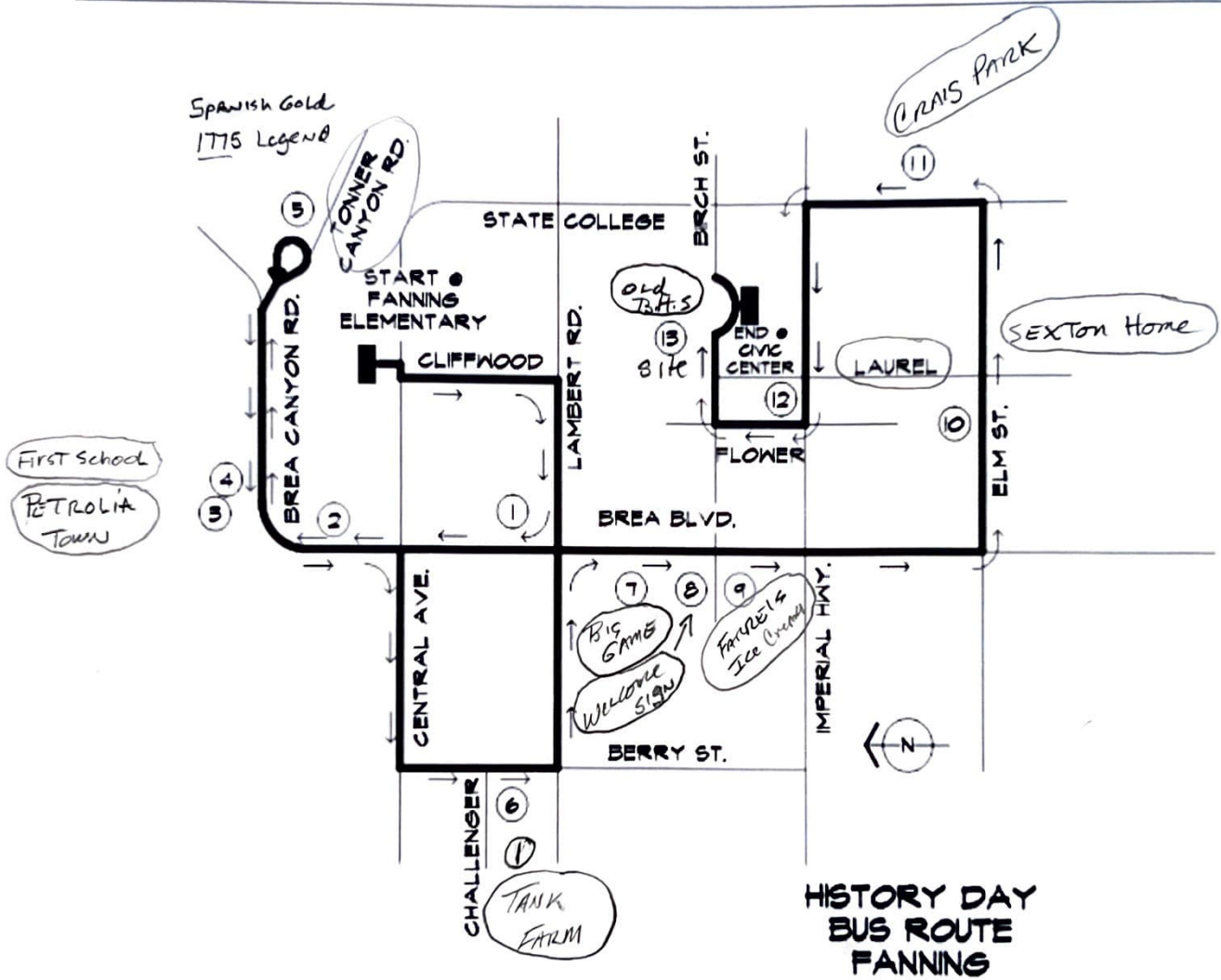
From: dschweltzer dschweltzer@prodigy.net  
 Subject: History Day 2015  
 Date: May 15, 2015 at 1:58 PM  
 To: Tim Harvey timharvey887@gmail.com

D

(MAP)

Tim,  
 Here's the info. you'll need for History Day. See ya then.  
 Thanks!  
 Don

HISTORY DAY SCHEDULE - FANNING.DOC      HISTORY DAY SCHEDULE - MARIPOSA.DOC



END AT OLINDA MUSEUM IN CARBON CANYON





### BREA THEN AND NOW



### THE BREA SPIRIT

During my research on Brea history, the "Brea Spirit" was a constant from the beginning. There is a common thread which is simply the act of people working together for a common good. The process of business, local government, leaders, organizations and regular Brea citizens cooperating with each other for the benefit of the larger community.

The "Brea Spirit" is a vibrant, reenergizing, flexible hybrid of unparalleled cooperation that has been a positive influence on Brea and its citizens over the years and has helped us meet common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations. A byproduct of the Brea Spirit is that we have had and still have a "Mom and Pop" small town community feel that we really should have outgrown.

We have provided you a timeline of events in the back of this guide booklet. Please take the time to look over some of the significant events that occurred in our history. Stepping back through the decades will remind you of how far we have come, and how far we still have to go. The challenge for all of us is to maintain the "Brea Spirit" that has helped us build this unique community.

Tim Harvey, Brea Historical Society

→ OUR limitless future.

Early Brea - 1914 and 1920



Pomona Avenue (Brea Boulevard) runs through the middle of the picture above, with the Brea (Kinsler) Hotel shown at upper right.

**VIEW OF BREA 1914**

Ash Street runs right to left in the picture below. The Delaney Building with its flat roof is located in the upper right, and the two-story Sewell Building is in the center attached to the La Habra Valley Bank on the southwest corner of Pomona Avenue and Ash Street. Notice the newly built homes on the right. The small shack in the center between the bank and the Delaney Building was the first volunteer fire department.



**POMONA AVENUE, circa 1920**

Looking north on Pomona Avenue, today called Brea Boulevard, you can see Brea Grammar School, now called Brea Junior High, in this circa 1920 "Main Street" scene

Stop \_\_\_\_ BREA'S "MAIN STREET" started out as Pomona Avenue and is now called Brea Boulevard. The definition for boulevard is a broad thoroughfare. You can easily see that these early pictures do not show the boulevard we have today.



**POMONA AVENUE  
circa 1920**

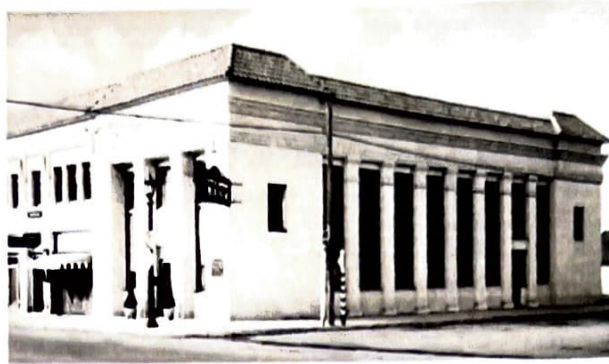
Looking north on Pomona Avenue, today called Brea Boulevard, you can see Brea Grammar School, now called Brea Junior High, in this circa 1920 "Main Street" scene



Photo taken just north of Birch Street and Pomona Avenue (Brea Boulevard) intersection, looking north. The Red Lantern Theatre and the Craig Building on the east side of the street are visible, circa 1920s



Stop \_\_\_ FARRELL'S ICE CREAM PARLOR - This store is new but things have changed over the years. The southwest corner of Brea Blvd. and Birch Street had Peterkin Meat and Ice Cream in 1911, the Congregational Church in 1915 and The Oilfield National Bank in 1928. Please see below for a flashback picture of the Oilfield Bank. Make sure you read the caption for more information.



**OILFIELDS NATIONAL BANK**

In 1928, when Oilfields Bank was constructed, it was the largest and costliest building in Brea. Located at Brea Boulevard and Birch Street, this bank served as a local landmark for some 65 years.

Attention to detail made it a showplace of local design, with carved moldings, stamped ceilings, and the extensive use of wood. In 1934, the bank absorbed its rival, First National Bank, and reorganized as Oilfields National Bank. Between 1975 and 1991, economic consultants Gobar Associates maintained offices in the bank.

Stop \_\_\_ OLD NAVY - On the northeast corner of Brea Blvd and Birch Street we have Old Navey today. In 1922 the Central Garage & Ford agency was located there. The Bergman Garage was popular in 1925-31 and Daugherty Chevrolet in 1941. Check out the transit bus parked there.

**BERGMAN'S GARAGE**



Stop \_\_\_\_ THE SEWELL BUILDING (1914) AND BREA BAKERY - SAM'S PLACE were both located on the west side of Brea Blvd between Birch Street and Ash Street.

### THE SEWELL BUILDING

Brea City offices were housed on the second floor. You can see the City Engineer sign.



*This two-story brick commercial building was constructed in 1914. One year earlier, a single-story 1911 Sewell Building on the same site was destroyed by fire. The newer, larger Sewell structure had a simple design with a series of five commercial store fronts on the ground floor, and paired, double-hung windows across the second story.*

### BREA BAKERY (SAM'S PLACE)

This small two-story structure was built and occupied in 1911 by George Schuppert, the new town baker, seen below. A unique feature of the bakery was the brick oven at the rear of the establishment.

In the 1930s, a cafe occupied this space. In the 1940s, Sam Landa became the proprietor and operated a bar here until his death in the late 1970s.



INSIST ON HAVING

**Brea's Pure Home Made Bread**

The Home Product, Pure, Clean and Wholesome. Ask your Grocer or Come to the Shop for It.

The Brea Bakery



Stop \_\_\_ THE RED LANTERN THEATRE (1922) AND THE CRAIG BUILDING (1921) were both located on the east side of Brea Blvd between Birch Street and Ash street.

### THE CRAIG BUILDING

Built in 1921, the Craig Building quickly became a center for local activity. With shops and the twice-replaced post office downstairs, the large auditorium upstairs became the site of frequent meetings, parties, and banquets. It was built by two of Brea's best-known leaders: pioneer-demrick-builder-turned contractor Isaac Craig, one of the City's first trustees, and his son Ted, a future mayor and state legislator. Brea Army Goods Store, selling WWI surplus, was one of the shops next to the Craig Building, circa 1920s.



### THE RED LANTERN THEATRE

Named for an Oriental legend, The Red Lantern Theatre was completed in 1922. It featured Chinese lanterns in the lobby and two huge cross-legged Buddhas with glowing red lights on their foreheads in its 800-seat auditorium. Furnishings included curly maple leather seats, high-end projectors, and a thundering Robert Morgan pipe organ. Judy Garland, whose uncle managed the theatre during the 1930s, delighted local fans with a personal appearance in 1938. Although it opened and closed several times and was remodeled and renamed, the Brea Theatre was "the only show in town" until the late 1970s. It was demolished in 1987.



**RED LANTERN**  
 BREA — THEATRE — BREA  
 Super Show Featured by Magnificent Theatre Party Starting  
 10-10-1927  
 Wallace Reid and Ethel Ferguson  
 — 10 —  
**"FOREVER"**  
 Based on the Novel "The Scarlet Letter"  
 — 10 —  
 Comedy — Vaudeville — Sport Review  
 SATURDAY MATINEE 10-10-1927  
**"Three Live Ghosts"**  
 — 10 —  
 Comedy — VAUDEVILLE — Sports  
 — 10 —  
 Musical Comedy in  
**CONSTANCE BENNETT**  
 — 10 —  
**"FIRST LOVE"**  
 — 10 —  
 Comedy, "Fresh From the Farmer"  
**VAUDEVILLE — SCENE**  
 — 10 —  
 SATURDAY MATINEE 10-10-1927  
 THE BREA THEATRE BREA, CALIF. 1927

Stop \_\_\_\_ (1912) LA HABRA VALLY BANK, located on southwest corner of Brea Blvd (Pomona Ave) and Ash Street. Where residents voted in 1917 for Brea to be incorporated as the 8th city in Orange County.

*This view of Brea was taken from the corner of Ash Street and Pomona Avenue (Brea Boulevard) looking west, circa 1918*

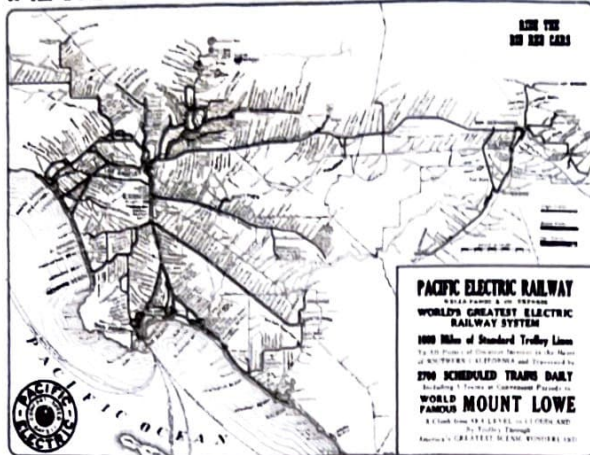


### LA HABRA VALLEY BANK

This building was constructed on the southwest corner of the intersection of Brea Boulevard and Ash Street. In 1913, this was the center of town. This bank was the place where area residents voted in 1917 to incorporate, creating the City of Brea. The bank joined the Federal Reserve System in 1921 and took on a new name, the Federal National Bank of Brea. Sharing its space was a barber shop and later the city's first post office. Other occupants followed, including a business called "That Frame Place." Elva May's Floral Dining Room (pictured here) operated in the bank building during the 1940s after it was no longer a bank.



**LINES OF THE PACIFIC ELECTRIC RAILWAY IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**



In 1912, The Pacific Electric Railroad extended its tracks through Brea to Yorba Linda, planning to continue them eventually up the Santa Ana Canyon to Corona - a plan which did not develop.

During the early years of the 20th century, Southern Californians enjoyed an inter-urban mass transit system second to none in America. Propelled by electric power, the trolleys rolled quietly along at 50 miles per hour, trailing sparks from 600-volt overhead lines. "Ride the Red Cars" slogans drew passengers, who sat on black leather seats in wood and steel cars. Outgoing freight of fresh citrus and barrels of oil met incoming shipments of lumber, mail, manufactured goods, and machinery.

Land values rose and real estate sales boomed. Area rail service stopped abruptly in 1938 when the financially strapped Pacific Electric Railroad halted local service. Brea's once-thriving Substation No. 11 (below) was closed in 1946 and demolished in 1950.



PACIFIC ELECTRIC RAILWAY DEPOT



**PACIFIC ELECTRIC RAILWAY**



Pacific Electric Car No. 884 in service as Los Nietos - La Habra - Brea - Yorba Linda Shuttle Car, circa 1938

"We used to ride the big red cars back and forth from Los Angeles. We'd get on those and spend the whole day. We'd go as far as Venice and ride the boats and gondolas there in the canals. My granddad used to take me there and we'd come home on the Red Car. It was the only form of transportation from Brea, except horse and buggy and a few cars. The train went to Los Angeles, to Whittier, to Montebello, and to Brea. We had to change cars in Los Angeles and get another one to Venice. There weren't many roads at that time. The only road to Los Angeles was Whittier Boulevard or 101 Highway. All the roads in Brea were made of dirt. For years Pomona Boulevard (now Brea Blvd.) was a dirt road, then they oiled it, and finally paved it. There was just a little strip through town which was sixteen feet wide. It was paved for a block or two. That was the extent of the paving in Brea until 1920."

HARRY N. WINCHEL, Oral History Project, CSUF



Brea keeps history alive with today's replica of the past trolleys

## BREA HOTEL

The Brea Hotel was a two story wood frame structure built in 1913 for M. J. McCarty and a Mr. Bowen. The first hotel in Brea, its outer shape is typical of the once-popular "twin" building style. Guest rooms were on the second floor with the entrance and four stores, periodically occupied by a variety of small retail businesses, at street level.

In the 1920s, the Brea Hotel became the "Kinsler Hotel," which included a restaurant on the first floor. (Brea Hotel below, renamed Hotel Kinsler to the right)



*circa 1919*



## NATHANIEL WALL BUILDING

Constructed in 1911, the Wall Building was an excellent example of early Craftsman-style false-front commercial building architecture. Built on the northeast corner of Brea Boulevard and Ash Street, it was located at the center of the early town of Brea.

The building housed rental rooms upstairs with the Brea Pharmacy, cafes, the "Brea Star" newspaper (1918), Schwartz Tailoring, and Brea's first barber shop downstairs. An Easter morning blaze in 1990 destroyed this historic structure.

**BIG GAME DAY**  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1924



**BASEBALL!**

*Walter Johnson*  
Pitching for the Anaheim Elks

vs.

*Babe Ruth*  
Pitching for Ruth All-Stars

KEN WILLIAMS	TUFFY TYRELL
ERNE JOHNSON	JIMMY AUSTIN
BOB MEUSEL	RICKY ELLIS
HARVEY McCELLAN	SAM W. CRAWFORD

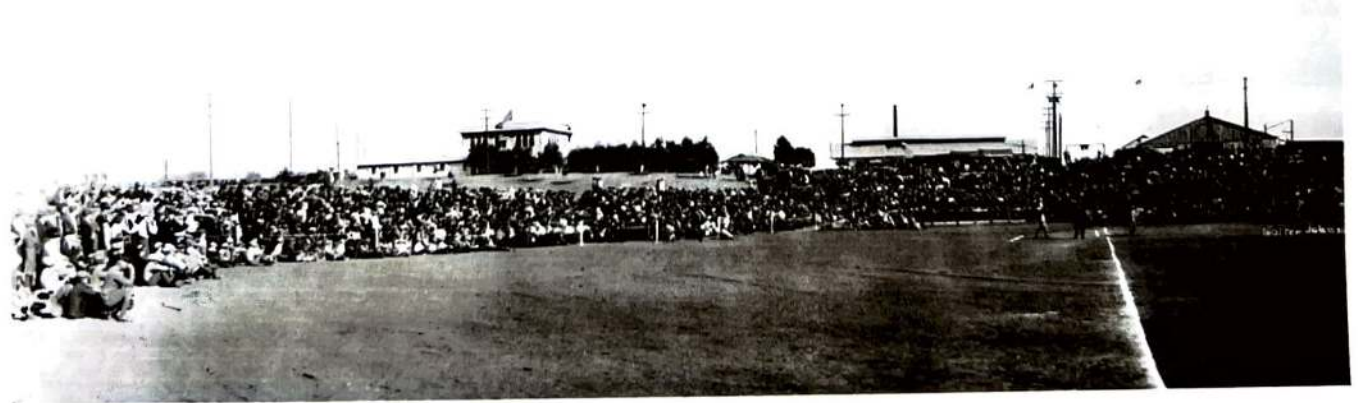
AND OTHER MAJOR LEAGUE STARS

**Brea Bowl**

BREA, CALIFORNIA

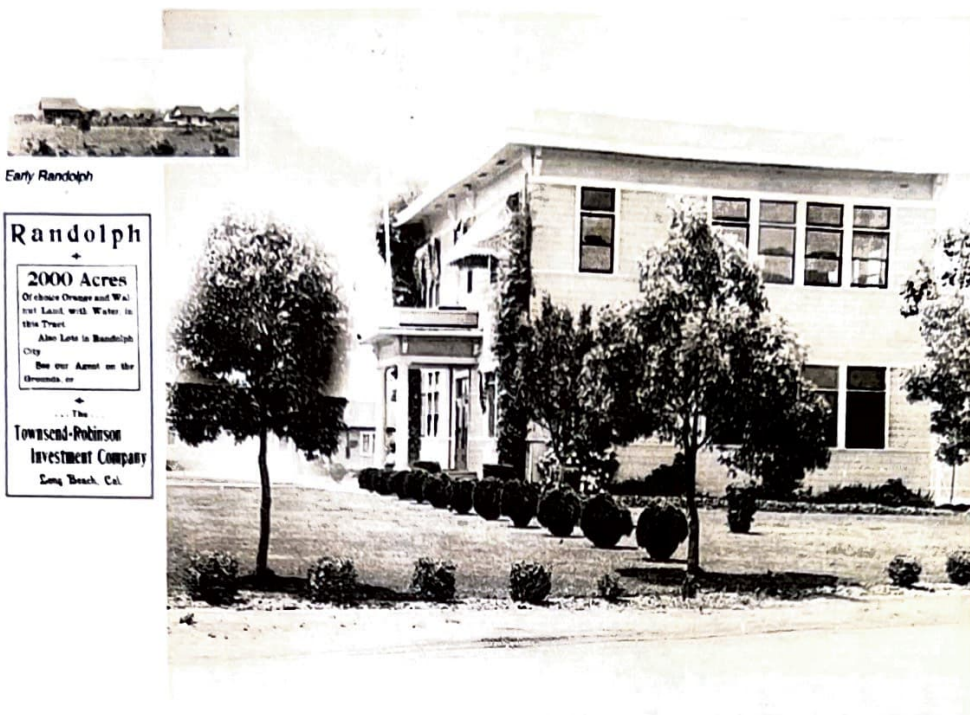
**Friday, 2:30 p.m., Oct. 31**

Only Game in Southern California Where Johnson and Ruth Oppose Each Other. Admision Anaheim Elks, No. 1345



Stop \_\_\_ RANDOLPH SCHOOL, located on the southwest corner of Brea Blvd and Lambert Road. The school was built in 1910 to replace a smaller Randolph School in Brea Canyon. Brea was first called Randolph but the name was changed to Brea before incorporation in 1917.

BREA GRAMMAR SCHOOL (1916), now Brea Junior High was located on the northeast corner of Brea Blvd and Lambert Road. The pride of soon to be Brea.



#### RANDOLPH SCHOOL

1910 - Randolph School, the first building in the new town, later named Brea, was built at the southwest corner of what is now Brea Boulevard and Lambert Drive.



#### BREA GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The new community of Brea was so proud of its growth and progress that its Trustees petitioned the Orange County Board of Supervisors to allow the name of the district to change from Randolph to Brea in time for the dedication of the imposing new Greek Revival-style Brea Grammar School building in 1916. At the opening of the 1917-18 school year, there were ten classrooms, a 600-seat auditorium, 275 pupils and 11 teachers. Since some students lived in remote areas of the oil district, Ed Peterkin, the local ice man, converted one of his trucks into a school bus to transport children to and from school.

The school became the pride of Brea, an architectural gem built by a small town of modest means. Programs were staged, candy sold, and weekly movies screened in the auditorium, all to raise money for local enrichment programs. The school acquired art, a classical music record library, and a grand piano for the auditorium. Following the 1933 Long Beach earthquake and in compliance with new state guidelines, Brea Grammar School was shorn of both its ornamentation and its second story. In a modified form, the building now houses Brea Junior High School.

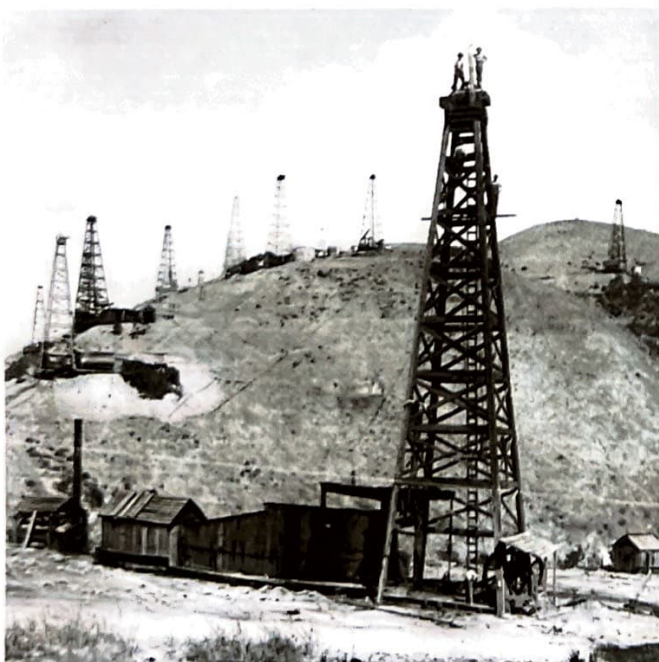
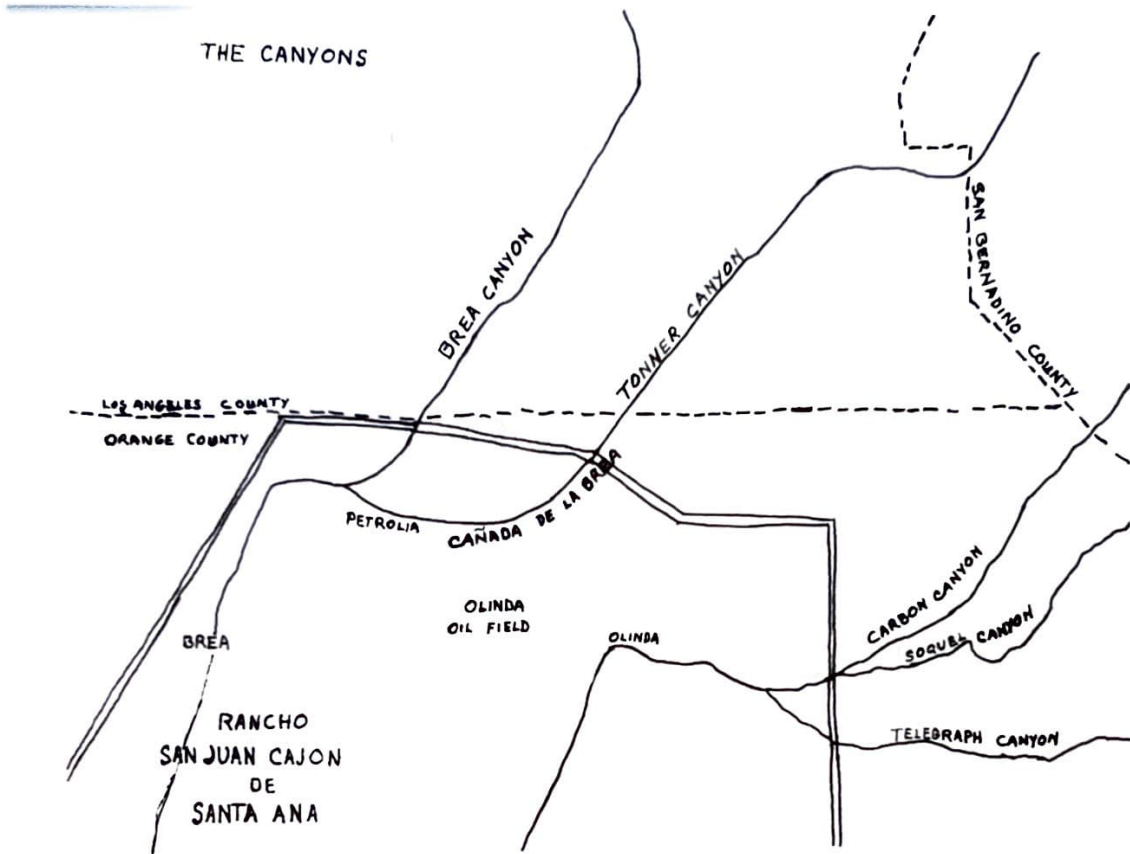


Brea Grammar School, circa 1917



Brea Junior High School, 2011

# BREA CANYON



Massive wooden derricks such as these in Brea Canyon were constructed by Brea area rig builders, circa 1900

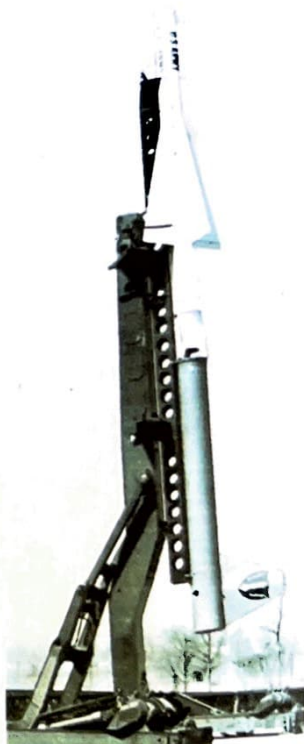
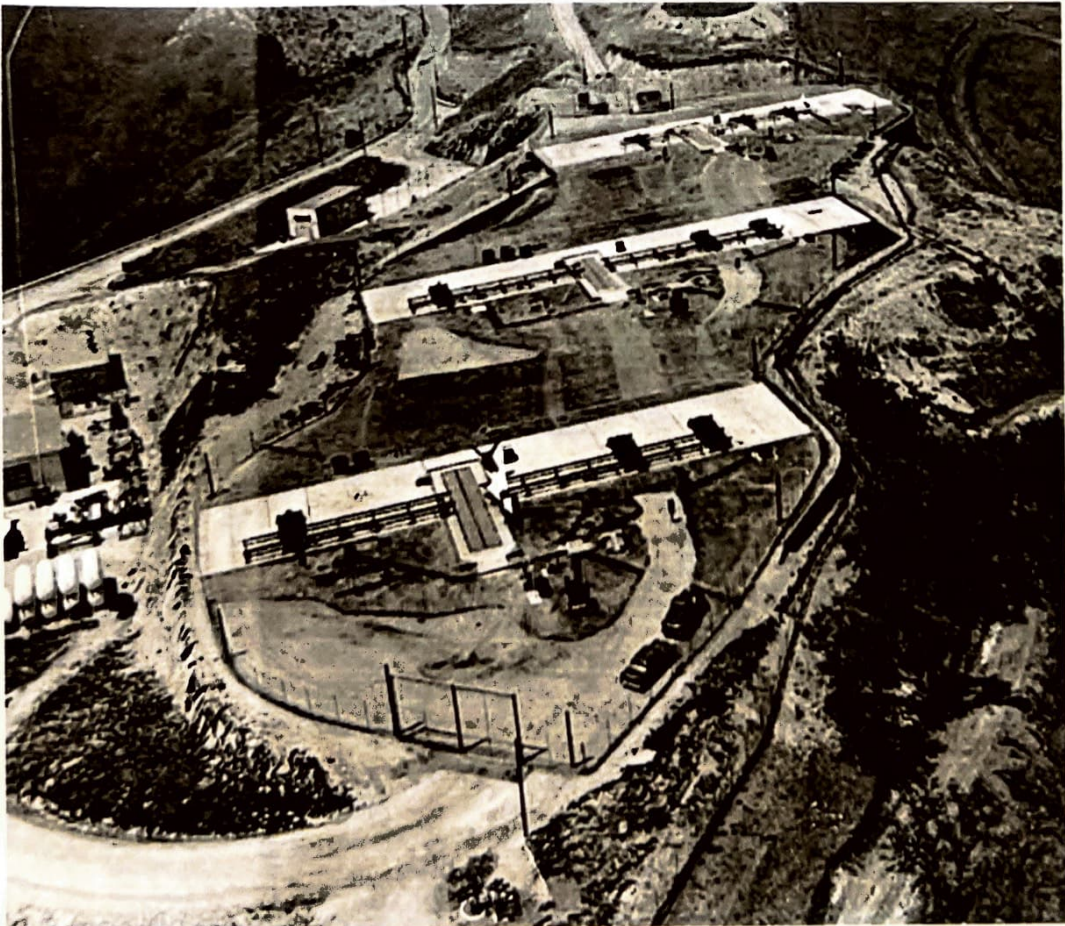
Stewart Tank Farm, 1926

*Fire and Sword Revenge Attempt to Kill Mussolini*

PLACES FORBIDDEN  
OF LOS ANGELES  
**Evening Express** LATEST CITY  
THREE CENTS  
PUBLISHED DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY AND HOLIDAYS  
FOUNDED 1878  
FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1926  
SPECIAL DELIVERY BY MAIL AT THE RATE OF \$1.00 PER YEAR

# Huge Brea Oil Fire Catastrophe Wipes Out Homes, Ruins Orchards





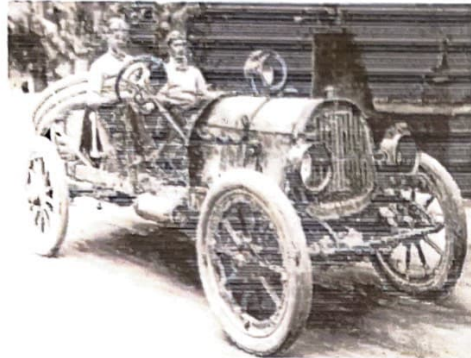


### TRAGEDY AT BREA AIR SHOW 1926

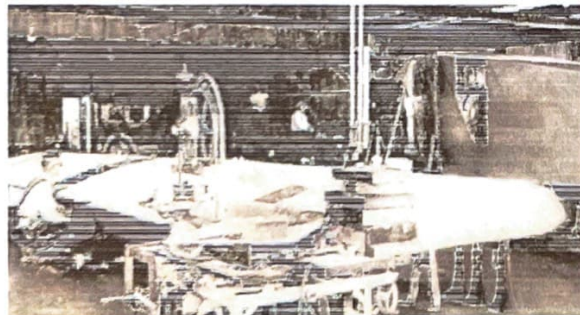


Pilot Ray Freeman (left) and designer, Austrian born aeronautical engineer Fred Thaheld pose by the Hummingbird. The plane performed well in three test flights, attracted interest from the military for its speed, and was entered in Brea's second Air Show in 1926

Ray Freeman, 21, of Long Beach was a five-year flying veteran in 1926 when he piloted the Hummingbird in the second Brea Air Show at Loftus Field. Before boarding, he spoke of possible failure, telling bystanders that the flight might be his last. Climbing skyward and circling for half an hour, Freeman pushed the craft beyond its 85 mph structural safety limit, and both wings suddenly collapsed. Thousands watched in horror as the tiny plane plunged to earth, crashing nose first and killing its pilot.



William "Wild Bill" Tremaine, race car driver, pilot, and former town constable, built airplanes in his garage at 120 N. Pomona. He once crossed into Mexico to retrieve an American plane downed during the 1916 search for Pancho Villa, rebuilt it and returned it to the U.S. Army for use in World War I. Tremaine built the Hummingbird, helped design other aircraft, continued flying and championed the expansion of Loftus Field.



The Spirit of John Rodgers under construction by Pacific Aircraft



The Dolo Pineapple Race entry, The Spirit of John Rodgers in 1927

### THE FRED THAHELD AND BILL TREMAINE DESIGN TEAM

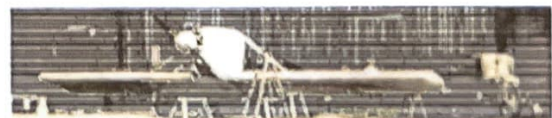
Though unnerved by the tragic crash of the Hummingbird, Thaheld and Tremaine continued their work, taking Pacific Aircraft as the name for their expanded flight design firm. They designed and built other airplanes, including the successful two seat monoplane shown on page 115 and another larger monoplane called the "Spirit of John Rodgers" (below) which crashed in San Diego. Later they went on separately to new efforts. Thaheld designed diesel engines in Dallas, Texas, one of which powered M-3 tanks in WWII. His "pancake" diesel engine brought him national fame, and today some of his inventions are exhibited in the Smithsonian Institution. After the war, Thaheld returned to Brea, worked at Shaffer Tools, and adapted a diesel engine for aircraft use. It was also used for wind machines that provided frost protection in the citrus industry. Bill Tremaine in later years became a city constable.



Thaheld on right with his new diesel engine

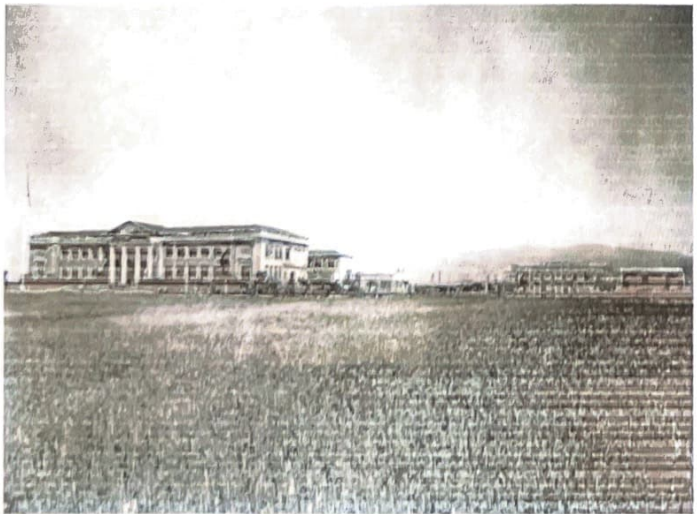
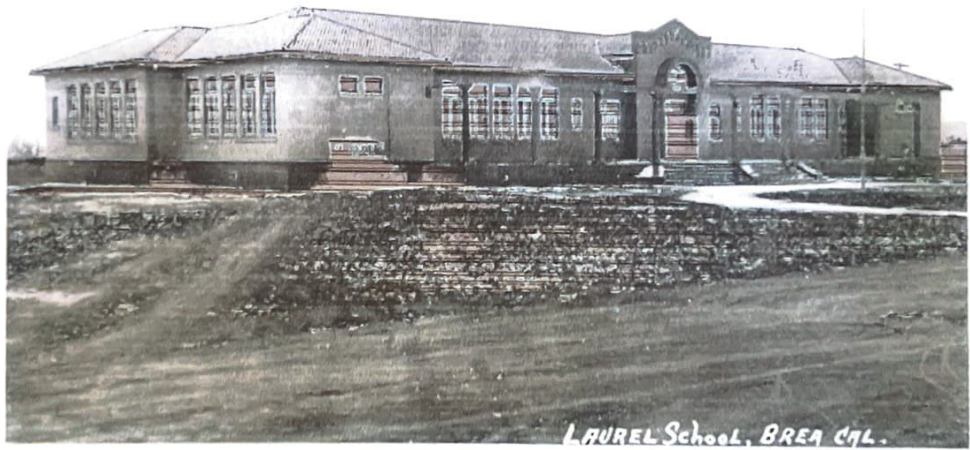


Breaking tradition with standard biplanes of the time, Thaheld and Tremaine's powerful, low-wing monoplane, Spirit of John Rodgers, was to compete in the \$25,000 Dolo Pineapple Hawaiian Air Race from Oakland in 1927



Posed for flight but destined for disaster, the Spirit of John Rodgers crashed in heavy fog into the cliffs of Point Loma in San Diego as it took off for Oakland to begin the race, killing both pilot and navigator

Brea Grammar School, 1922 - Laurel School, 1916 - Brea High School, 1927



## EDUCATION A PRIORITY THEN AND NOW



### Olinda School District, circa 1898

- 1898 Olinda's "Little Red Schoolhouse" - Located on the Graham-Loftus Lease, below the present-day Brea landfill
- 1909 Olinda's "Little Green Schoolhouse" - Located in Carbon Canyon Park, re-located to S/E Elm and Sievers in Brea
- 1960 El Hodeo Riding Club, Temporary, circa 1960-64
- 1964 Olinda School - Located at 109 Lilac Lane, Olinda Village (K-6)



### 1903 - Randolph School District (changed to Brea Elementary District)

- 1903 Brea Canyon School - Located in Brea Canyon
- 1910 Randolph School - Located at the S/W corner Brea Blvd. and Lambert
- 1916 Brea Grammar School - 400 N. Brea Blvd. (changed to BJH 1956) (7-8)
- 1922 Laurel School - Located at 200 South Flower Ave. (K-6)
- 1956 Arovista School - Located at 900 Eadington Drive (K-6)



### 1925 - Brea Olinda Union High School District

- 1927 Brea Olinda High School - Located at 803 East Birch Street (9-12)
- 1934 Brea Olinda High School - Extensive reinforcement (Field Act, Long Beach earthquake of 1933)



### 1966 - Brea Olinda Unified School District (6 Elem., 1 J.H.S., 2 H.S.)

- 1966 Mariposa School - Located at 1111 W. Mariposa Drive (K-6)
- 1970 William. E. Fanning School - Located at 650 N. Apricot Ave. (K-6)
- 1981 Brea Country Hills - Located at 150 N. Associated Road (K-6)
- 1989 Brea Olinda High - New school built at 789 N. Wildcat Way (9-12) and
- 1989 Brea Canyon Continuation High - Located at 689 N. Wildcat Way (9-12)
- 2012 "New" Olinda School - Located at 3145 East Birch (K-6)



# Brea Briefly

## Pre-incorporation

- Part of the rancho system - Mexico becomes independent from Spain in 1822
- US acquires California under Treaty of Guadalupe in 1848; encourages homesteaders, explorers
- California becomes 31<sup>st</sup> State in 1850
- Orange County forms in 1889
- Union Oil Company purchases 1,200 acres in 1894
- Pipeline built in 1899 to transport oilfields petroleum to Long Beach

## Early 1900s

- Randolph School constructed in 1910; evolves into Brea Grammar School (now Brea Junior High)
- Brea Chamber of Commerce forms in 1913
- City of Brea incorporates in February 1917 as sixth city within Orange County
- Two exhibition/experimental airports attract thousands of visitors to events
- Babe Ruth vs. Walter Johnson exhibition baseball game held in 1924
- Stewart Tank Farm Fire burns in 1926, black smoke plumes visible for miles
- Brea-Olinda High School opens in 1927
- City Hall built in 1929
- City Hall Park and American Legion building open in 1930
- Resiliency: recovery from impacts of 1933 earthquake; Depression-era community support

## Mid-Century

- Oil a mainstay, but more economic diversification, business-friendly outlook
- Strong patriotism; WWII war bond sales, high school shop class projects, rooftop look-out post and victory gardens. Nike missile sites placed in hills during cold war era
- Major Growth - 1950s Census around 3,000; by 1980 up to about 30,000
- Land expansion and annexations for housing tracts
- Three new elementary schools added over 15-year period
- BOHS football prowess in the early 60s
- Late 70s - City and District initiate unique cooperative venture for future development

## Modern Era

- State Route 57 and Brea Mall increase regional visibility, enhance business access
- Seeking cultural identity through APP and Artist in Residence programs
- Educational pride: multiple California Distinguished and Blue Ribbon schools, Ladycat girls' basketball dynasty; first State school on the internet,
- Brea Civic & Cultural Center, Community Center, high school campus, fire stations, public parks and trail enhance recreational opportunities
- Redevelopment successes: new entertainment based downtown, refurbished shopping centers, in-fill and affordable housing units

# Brea's History Briefly

"Black Gold" or "oil" as it is usually known, had a crucial role in the purchasing and development of Brea. In 1904, the Union Oil Company purchased 1,200 acres from Abu Stevens, a large property owner. In the foothills which adjoin the City of Brea, intensive oil production and production began in the late 1890's as numerous oil companies joined Union Oil in the oil quest.

At this time, a small town developed in the foothills known as Olinde, and was the home of numerous oil workers and their families. They constructed modest bungalows of varying sizes and styles.

As Olinde developed, the Olinde Investment Company decided in 1906 to establish a new town further south as a satellite town. They filed a subdivision map in 1906 and called this new town Randolph. The Randolph Township's lots apparently were sold and selling quickly and in 1911, the Randolph subdivision was refiled with the new name of "Brea," meaning "tar" in Spanish. The town received an important transportation link in 1912 when the Pacific Electric Railway constructed a line from Los Angeles to Yorba Linda and built a station in Brea.

Between 1910 and 1920, the town expanded with many pioneer families coming to Brea to reside while working in the adjoining oil fields. Early pioneers included the Caspers, the Craigs, the Woodwards and the Saxtons. A series of compact residential neighborhoods developed around the Brea Boulevard commercial center. Neighborhoods were primarily settled by oil workers.

By the late teens, Brea had begun construction on its new grammar school and in 1917 local elections were held to determine whether Brea should be incorporated as a city. Voters overwhelmingly supported this movement and when the first city council was elected, Jax Saxton was voted Mayor by the council.

The twenties were a period of growth of the community as oil production continued. New neighborhoods, such as the Union Oil and Laurel Heights, were developed to accommodate the growing population. Brea Boulevard expanded south to become a two and a half block commercial strip. The new City Hall and Park were designed and constructed in 1929, capping a ten-year effort to build a civic landmark in Brea.

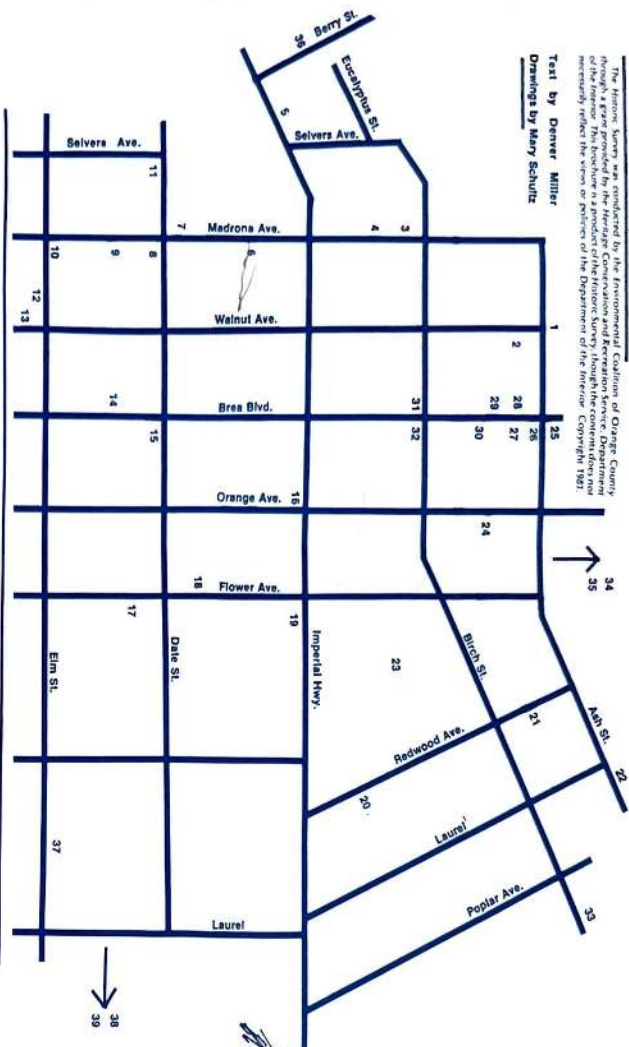
The onset of the Depression brought an economic slowdown to Brea. The city's population remained stable and the oil companies continued to employ the bulk of Brea's population.

By 1940 Brea had begun to recover from the economic downturn and new tracts of homes began developing. But Brea remained a small town with the population only 3,215 in 1950.

By the 1960's, the oil fields and groves gave way to tract homes, shopping centers and freeways. Brea's population in 1970 stood at 21,650. In a short span of twenty years, Brea had become one of the significant urban centers of Orange County. While Brea's appearance has changed, much of its older downtown remains, a reminder of the early years of the community.

The Historic Survey was conducted by the Environmental Coalition of Orange County through a grant provided by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, Department of the Interior. This brochure is a product of the Historic Survey. Though the content does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior. Copyright 1983

Text by Denver Miller  
Drawings by Mary Schantz



1921 East Elm Street Schwitzer Residence

30. 124 South Brea Boulevard  
Craig Building

31. 201-27 South Brea Boulevard  
Olinde National Bank Building

32. 296 South Brea Boulevard  
Beadle's Major Copying Building

33. 403 East Birch Street  
Brea-Olinde High School

34. 400 North Brea Boulevard  
Brea Junior High

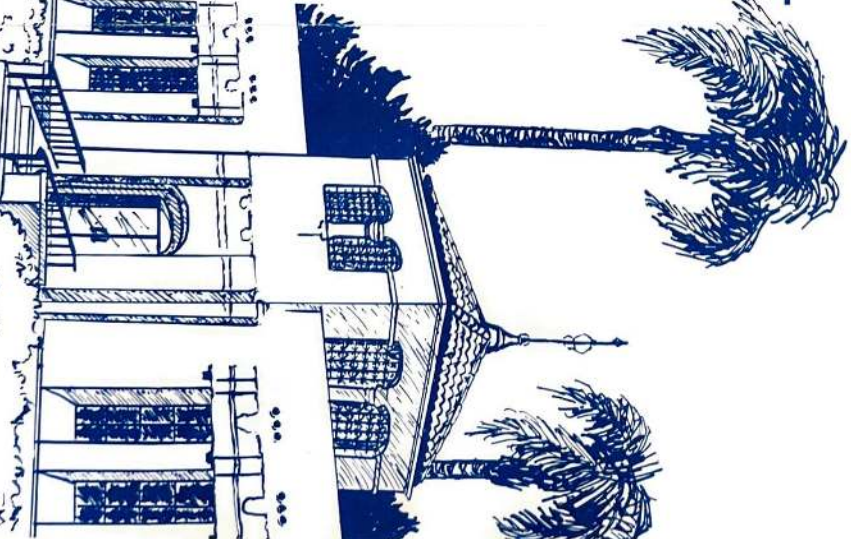
35. 1531 North Brea Boulevard  
Brea Canon Oil

36. 285 South Brea Street  
Sewers Residence

37. 527 East Elm Street  
Saxton Residence

38. 1021 East Elm Street  
Schwitzer Residence

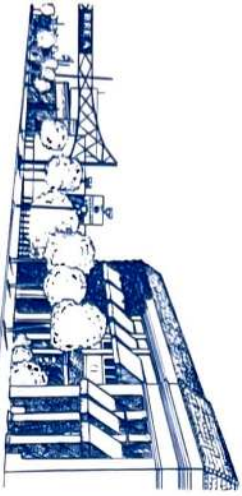
39. 1021 East Elm Street  
Schwitzer Residence



City of Brea  
Historic Tour

Old Brea City Hall

201-27 South Brea Boulevard  
Olinde National Bank Building



1924, 1934

1916, 1933

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# City of Brea Historic Tour

This tour is an introduction to the historic buildings of Brea and a sampling of what is architecturally unique about our City. There is an extraordinary collection of buildings and neighborhoods here! Brea has a variety of significant landmarks buildings some of which are a result of the development of the oil industry. But more than just these individual structures, Brea has whole neighborhoods of special distinction. The tour has selected those important individual buildings as well as specific buildings from each of the neighborhoods.

The tour was planned for either walking or biking and since many are homes, please respect the owner's privacy. The tour starts with the Severn/Walnut neighborhood and proceeds in the counter direction covering each of the five areas ending with the Good Old Brea commercial district. Since there are several buildings which are outside of these neighborhoods, at any point feel free to diverge from the neighborhood tours to visit these other sites.

This walking tour is a product of a year-long Historic Survey which began in August, 1980 as an effort to inventory the historic and architectural buildings within the community. More than 500 homes and buildings dating prior to 1940 have been itemized in the Historic Survey Inventory. To view the complete inventory or to obtain additional copies of this brochure contact the Information Desk at the Brea City Hall.

The result of the Brea Historic Survey has been to uncover the architectural and historical treasures in the City. It is hoped that this tour will assist in creating community pride as well as a desire to preserve the past and intelligently plan for an historically compatible future. So, enjoy this sampling of the many historic treasures to be found in Brea.

## SEVERN-WALNUT NEIGHBORHOOD

Much of this neighborhood was part of the 1911 Town of Brea Subdivision. The first pioneers came to Brea and settled there, and included such families as the Schneitzlers, the Campers, the Huddlestons, and the Woodmans. The first of the Good Old Brea homes were built by the owners with some constructed by local contractors. This is Brea's oldest intact neighborhood and it has a variety of early pioneer Craftsman style homes.



307 West Madonna Avenue  
Carter Residence  
1915, 1925

1. 203 West Ash Street  
Brea Christian Church  
1915, 1925

The high tower of the Brea Missionary Baptist Church punctuates the skyline of this neighborhood. Originally the Brea Christian Church until the early 1920s the old church building was remodeled in 1925 to its present form. The church youth group is a small log cabin constructed by the Kiwanis Club, a church youth group in 1922.

2. 118 South Walnut Avenue  
Having the distinction of being one of the oldest houses on this block, this early Transitional-Craftsman style bungalow was constructed by one of Brea's early pioneers. At that time, streets were unpaved, having no curbs, gutters, or sidewalks.

3. 207 South Madonna Avenue  
Carter Residence  
1915, 1925

A wealth of Craftsman style detail are visible on this house. Note the large porch where one could rest on hot summer evenings. William Carter, early Brea pioneer who participated in the development of many of Brea's early commercial buildings, resided here.

4. 219 South Madonna Avenue  
Fanning Residence  
1919

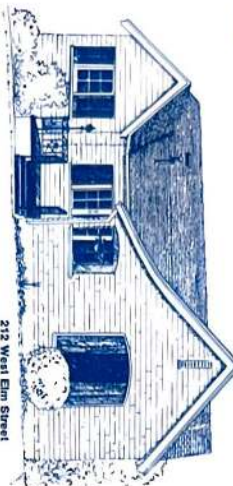
Springes took this quaint Craftsman style bungalow. Built for William and Stella Fanning, William Fanning was principal of the Laurel School and later Superintendent of the local school district.

5. 415 East Imperial Highway  
Wittman Residence  
1921

This large Mediterranean Revival style house is distinctive for its large porte cochere which is one side of the house. The porte cochere was a covered roof over a driveway block of Imperial Highway, was constructed during the Twenties on property which was originally part of the Severn Ranch.

## UNION OIL NEIGHBORHOOD

Major portions of this neighborhood were subdivided by the Union Oil Company in the early twenties for use by its employees. The company assisted its employees by carrying out a large program of home ownership. It had a wide range of architectural styles from the Twenties and Thirties.



212 West Elm Street  
1923

6. 326 South Madonna Street  
This block has an appealing mixture of Craftsman and Revival style residences. This particular Mediterranean Revival style house was constructed of reinforced concrete with a plaster finish. Such construction was popular for the early 1920s residences and may be due to the early concrete fall of fire or earthquakes.

7. 343 South Madonna Avenue  
Van Tuyl Residence  
1922, 1936

Local Contractor, Arthur Van Tuyl constructed these two residences as his home. It was a common practice to construct a small make-shift bungalow at the year of lots, and expand to a larger house at a later date. The front of the Van Tuyls was added to the Brea City Council in 1940.

8. 400 South Madonna Avenue  
Dan Dornburg Residence  
1922

This block of Madonna Avenue is Brea's finest example of small bungalows constructed by Union Oil company employees. The street showcases the variety of styles which were popular like this Colonial Revival residence.

9. 415 South Madonna Avenue  
Symmetry characterizes this Mediterranean Revival style house. This style was quite popular in Southern California during the Twenties and architects and contractors built them to fit the most limited budgets.

10. 424 South Madonna Avenue  
Cochran Residence  
1922

This old-fashioned Craftsman bungalow is one of the many examples to be found in this neighborhood. Such houses were small versions of the Craftsman style homes designed by famous architects Swarth and Greene in Pasadena.

11. 409 South Steers Avenue  
This seemingly simple Transitional-Craftsman style bungalow illustrates the likely moved from the outdoors.  
1916

12. 212 West Elm Street  
During the Twenties numerous architectural styles were transported to Southern Europe. After World War I, when its design was popular, this house is one of the many examples which can be discovered in this neighborhood.  
1927

13. 329 South Walnut Avenue  
This large multi-unit Mediterranean Revival style bungalow court is a one-of-a-kind in Brea. Such courts were popular in such areas as Hollywood where many of the homes could live on limited budgets. This popular housing style found its way to Brea.

14. City Hall Park  
Brea's important public park was built on land purchased from the Union Oil Company. Los Angeles architect Allen Rudolph designed the City Hall in 1928 at a cost of \$23,000. The American Legion Hall, which later became the Brea Police Department is well remembered for the numerous dances held in its basement. Local gardener, Louis Paglio provided the original trees and shrubs for the Park.  
1928-30

## EAST ELM - EAST DATE NEIGHBORHOOD

Numerous Revival style residences can be discovered in this neighborhood. The variety of styles and designs. At one time orchards bordered the south and east sides of this neighborhood.

15. 108 East Date Street  
Paglio Residence  
1922

This picturesque Colonial Revival house utilizes a variety of building materials. The quality of the work is evident in the quality appearance is reminiscent of a small Italian hillside home. Louis Paglio operated nursery at the front of the lot in the Twenties and Thirties.

16. 311 South Orange Avenue  
Burgin Residence  
1930

This is just one example of the many fine English style homes which can be found on this block. Note the small tower above the entry.

17. 412 South Flower Avenue  
An eye-pleasing Colonial Revival residence dominates this block. Originally located in Pico Rivera, this house was moved to Brea in the early fifties.  
1919

18. 335 South Flower Avenue  
Burgin Residence  
1929

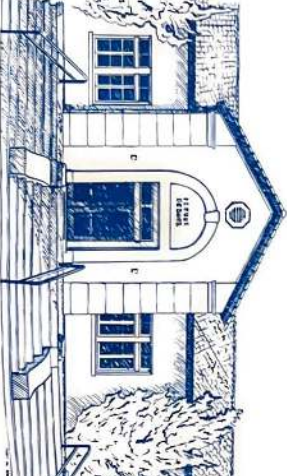
Engineers had designed this large Mediterranean Revival style house. Such designs were popular in Southern California for their picturesque qualities. Notice that the porch has all but disappeared by the time this house was designed.

19. 300 East Imperial Highway  
Brea Congregational Church  
1915, 1928

Long a part of Brea's religious community, the Congregational Church was designed by architect Edward Birch and Brea Boulevard. When the lot, the National Bank offered the church a substantial sum of money for the lot, the church moved to its present location and remodeled its building in a Spanish design. For many years its bell rang out to the community as a call to church services.

## LAUREL HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD

Known for its numerous small rolling hills, the area east of Flower Avenue was once part of the Yuma Ranch. When the ranch was split-up, this area was divided for new housing. The area was slow to develop and during the Thirties many houses were moved. Several of the streets have a preponderance of Craftsman and Revival style homes such as the 200 block of Laurel Avenue.



200 South Flower Avenue  
Laurel School  
1905

20. 260 South Redwood Avenue  
Originally located in Olanda, this transitional-Craftsman style bungalow was moved to this address in 1925. As Olanda declined, many of its houses were moved to Brea during the Twenties and Thirties.  
1905

21. 118 South Redwood Avenue  
General Provençal Revival style houses are located on the small hill block. The numerous examples of this style indicated the ingenious way the local contractors varied the style.  
1929

22. 329 East Ash Street  
Agustin Ybarra Ranch  
1920, Barn - 1909

Located at the top of a small hill is this simple Craftsman Ranch house. Once known as the Ybarra family had come to the Brea area in 1902 as ranch hands. The family property was split, Agustin constructed this residence and moved the old family barn here.

23. 200 South Flower Avenue  
Laurel School  
1922

An important local landmark, it was constructed when voters approved Brea's first local bond of \$60,000. Designed in an attractive Spanish style, the structure was damaged by the 1933 Long Beach earthquake. Its lush landscaping is a pleasant retreat from busy Imperial Highway.

24. 134 South Orange Avenue  
Muzari Residence  
1921

This is just one example of the many houses on this street constructed by early oil workers. This block was part of the original plan of the Town of Brea and its small houses are indicative of what the oil workers built. Note the rows of palm trees which add additional character to the street.

## GOOD OLD BREA

Inviting, pedestrian oriented, the Good Old Brea Commercial Center developed in the early thirties. In the past, the upper story consisted of a commercial center continued in a southward trend until by the 1930's the commercial center occupied a 2 1/2 block stretch of Brea Boulevard. A small town atmosphere is evoked from the area because the buildings are close to the street and many are intact. Varying in height, the buildings are a variety of styles indicative of the different periods of development.



105-09 East Ash Street  
Wahl Building  
1911

25. 105-08 East Ash Street  
Wahl Building  
1911

One of the early Craftsman-False front commercial structures, this is one of Brea's oldest commercial structures. In the past, the upper story consisted of rented Brea Boulevard but was turned on the lot. Note the Good Old Brea clock located at the corner which was placed here recently by the City.

26. 100 South Brea Boulevard  
Canning Store  
1915, 1934

Long a part of the Brea commercial center, this building was originally owned by the Canning Store and Company. The building was later sold to a Spanish design complements the Brea Boulevard fabric.

27. 118, 119, 120, 122 Brea Boulevard  
Four small brick commercial buildings each designed different from the other define this portion of the block. Constructed together, their relationship remains different while still being part of the block of buildings.  
1920

28. 103-13 South Brea Boulevard  
Sewell Buildings  
1914

While seemingly simple in style, this was Brea's first brick building and replaced a fire-ravaged structure. Between 1917 and 1929 the Brea City Hall was located on the second floor while numerous commercial establishments occupied the ground floor shops.

29. 117 South Brea Boulevard  
Brea Bakery  
1911

Early pioneer architecture inspired the builder of this Craftsman-Falsfront structure. At one time the location of the Brea Bakery, numerous other enterprises including a restaurant have been located here.

Come take a peek into the window of  
Brea's architectural past with the...

# Brea Historical Home Tour

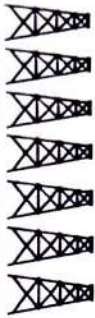
April 4, 1992



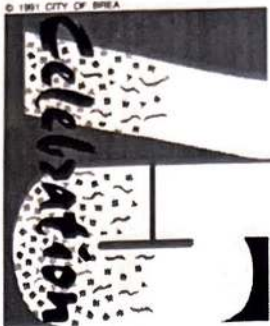
In celebration of Brea's 75th Birthday

1917 - 1992

# 1992 A Year of Celebration!



# BREA



© 1991 CITY OF BREA



1917 - 1992

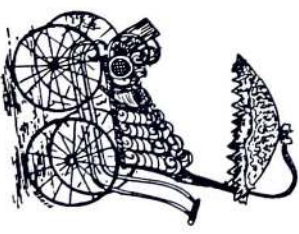
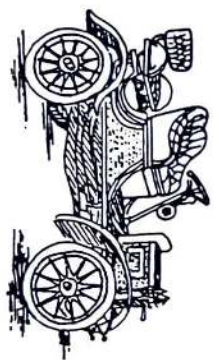
## Welcome!

As you stroll through the Historic neighborhoods of Brea on this Home Tour, please take a moment to reflect on the history of our town. The architecture of these homes is closely intertwined with the history and cultural development of the community. A peek into the City's background can aid you in better understanding the architectural styles which prevail in Brea.

In the mid-1890's, the Union Oil Company purchased 1200 acres of land for the purpose of drilling oil. Numerous settlers were attracted to the Brea oil fields by the prospect of high wages and continuing jobs. In 1908, a subdivision map was filed establishing the community of Randsdolph. Within two years, a new subdivision map was filed that included the area of Randsdolph. This new subdivision was named Brea. Brea means "tar" in Spanish, and the community was so named because of the abundance of tar in this area.

When the surrounding Olinda oil fields began to decline, workers who lived on the oil leases began to migrate into Brea where they could buy their own land. By 1917, the population had reached 732 citizens, more than enough for the community to begin incorporation procedures. Voters overwhelmingly approved the incorporation of the City of Brea, and it became the eighth city in Orange County.

These homes need to be appreciated for what they are. Brea is not filled with Victorian houses that everyone seems to love, but they are homes that represent the lifestyle of the early oil workers and their families who settled in this community.



## Missionary Baptist Church

201 West Ash Street

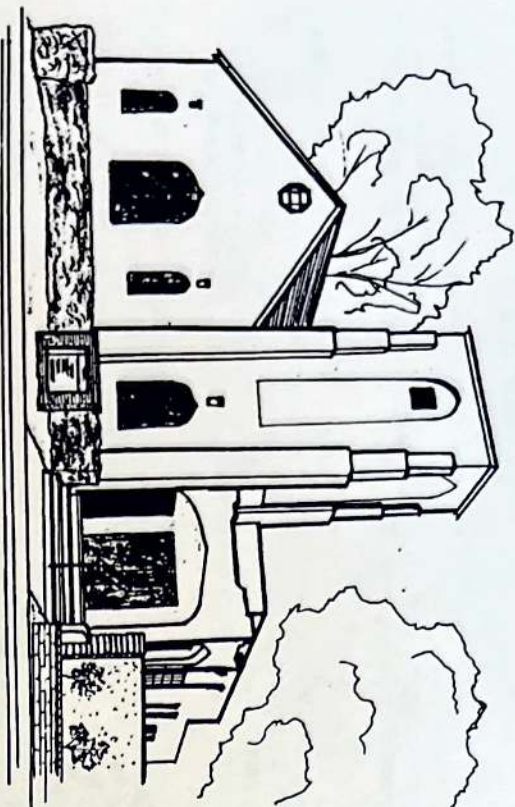
This church was first built and owned by the Brea Christian Church. The existing structure was dedicated in February 1936. Prior to 1936, two other church buildings were built on this site.

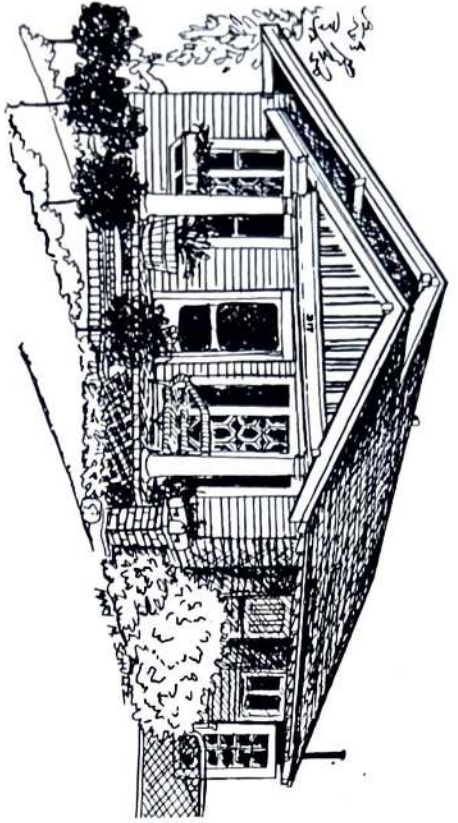
In August 1914, a group of men and women from the First Christian Church of Santa Ana helped erect a temporary building. This was the beginning of what became the Brea Christian Church. The lumber from this first building was used in the construction of the "Little Brown Church." Over the years, improvements were made to the "Little Brown Church" including a white paint job. In 1935, it was relocated on the lot and the present Sanctuary was attached to it. The old church became the kitchen and fellowship hall and is still used for this purpose today by the Missionary Baptist congregation.

The Log Cabin located behind the Sanctuary was constructed in 1921 by the Honor Knights, a Sunday School class of young boys. It was constructed with eucalyptus trees from nearby oil fields. All other materials were donated by local merchants. A close peek through the door reveals a rock fireplace, reminiscent of those built in pioneer days. It is said that a time capsule may have been placed under the fireplace or the front door. Its exact location has been lost with time.

In 1925, telephone poles were used to build the adjoining Log Cabin to the west. Since girls were now allowed to be in the Honor Knights' class, this additional room was needed.

These historical buildings, owned by the Missionary Baptist Church, will not be removed as part of Brea's redevelopment because of their special significance to the history of Brea.





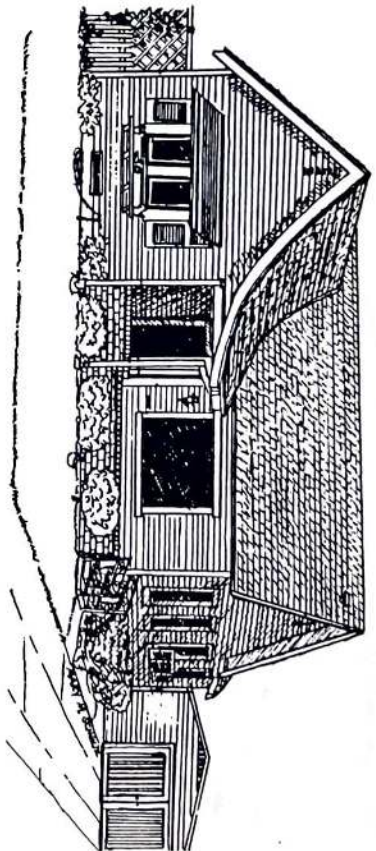
### **Powell Home**

317 South Madrona Avenue  
1922

The current owners, Dee and Carrel Powell, have lived in this house since 1985. As you tour the home, it will become apparent that they have modernized it to some extent, while at the same time preserving many of the original features which make this house a window into its architectural history.

This craftsman bungalow was built in 1922. The original occupants were the Frank Throops.

In the 1950's, the homeowner covered the original redwood siding with asbestos shingles. When the Powells purchased the house, they removed the shingles to expose the original redwood structure.



### **Gordon Home**

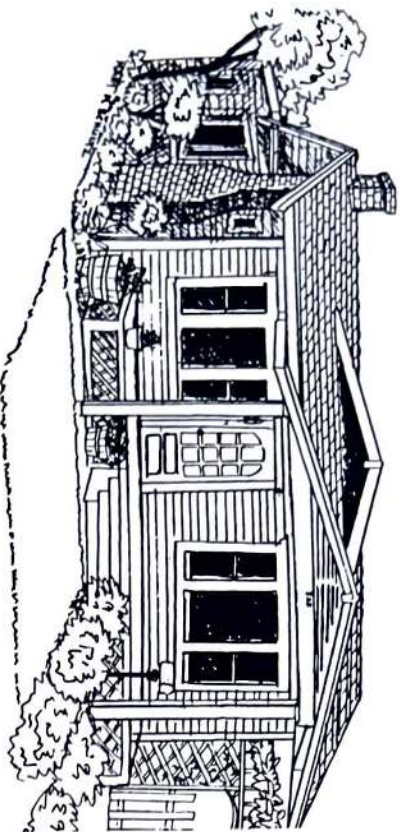
321 South Madrona Avenue  
1929

Owner, Esie Gordon, has lived in this home since 1939. She and her husband, Lawrence, who passed away in 1989, have preserved this house in its original state. No remodeling has ever been performed.

The house was built in 1929 by Mr. John Van Tyne who built several other homes in Brea. The first occupants were the Gales. It was then sold to the Eastman family who, in 1939, sold it to the Gordons for \$2,900.

Lawrence Gordon's father owned a local newspaper from 1929 to 1930 called the "Brea Progress." Lawrence's mother would walk up and down local streets gathering gossip and news for the paper from passersby.

This quaint residence is one of the best examples of an early Provincial Revival home in Brea.



### **Stevens Home**

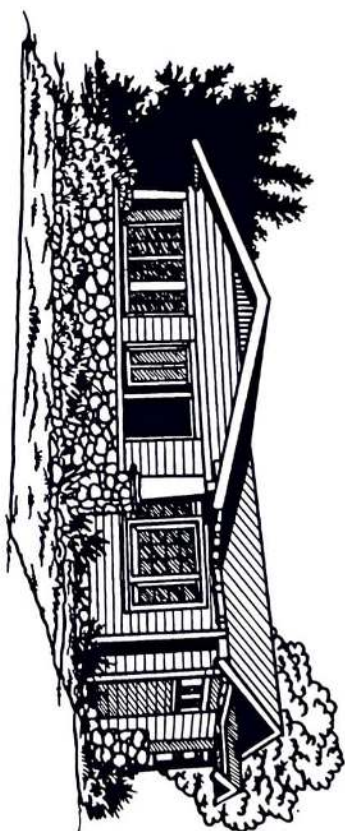
323 South Madrona Avenue  
1923

This craftsman bungalow was constructed in 1923. Bill and Maud Anderson were the first owners of this house. Bill was a cement worker and built the home himself.

After Mr. Anderson died, the house was sold at an estate sale to an unknown party who lived in the house for two years before it was sold to a local real estate agent. In 1962, the agent sold the house to the Stevens family.

This residence contains a feature you will not find in contemporary homes -- a canning cellar. It is not known whether it was put there when the house was built or added to the house at a later date.

The entire house is the original structure except for a small bathroom at the rear which was added by the Stevens family.



### **Foster Home**

321 South Orange Avenue  
1922

The Foster home is typical of several craftsman bungalow style houses in this area of Brea. It was not built on its present site. In the formative years of the oil industry in Brea and Olinda, many homes were built on the oil lease properties. These were for the oil workers and their families.

As time passed, more and more families opted to move into Brea from the oil lease properties. Many of the homes were moved to Brea rather than being abandoned at the lease sites. The Foster house was one of these. It was moved to its present location sometime between 1940 and 1945. Walt Bergman, a longtime Brea resident, can still remember the house being moved down the street.

It was built on the Galhahn-Loftus oil lease in 1922 for a cost of \$2,500. The first occupants were Harry Luchenback and his wife, Ella.

As you tour this home, note the well preserved, natural wood used in the trim and moldings.



### Wilson/Shaffer Home

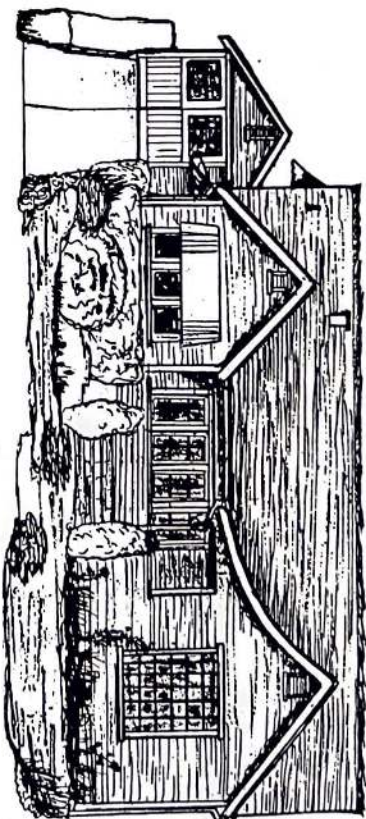
315 South Flower Avenue  
1938

Harold and Joyce Wilson are the owners of this Regency/Revival style home. Mr. Wilson retired in 1988 after working as a civil engineer for several years in Brea. Mrs. Wilson, also retired, wrote and presented television lessons in social science for Anaheim schools.

This house was built in 1938 by Donald Shaffer, a wealthy man, on two of four adjacent lots. Mr. Shaffer sold the house to his son, Chuck, whom the Wilsons purchased it from in 1968.

The Shaffer family was very prominent in Brea's history. They founded Shaffer Tool Works which manufactured tools used primarily in the oil drilling industry. Shaffer Tool Works was one of Brea's most important industries for many years.

During your tour, you might want to observe the beautiful hardwood floors and intricately painted crown moldings around the ceilings. This home features a sun room with many window panes. Count the number of panes and imagine having the task of washing all of those windows!



### Moody Home

331 South Flower Avenue  
1928

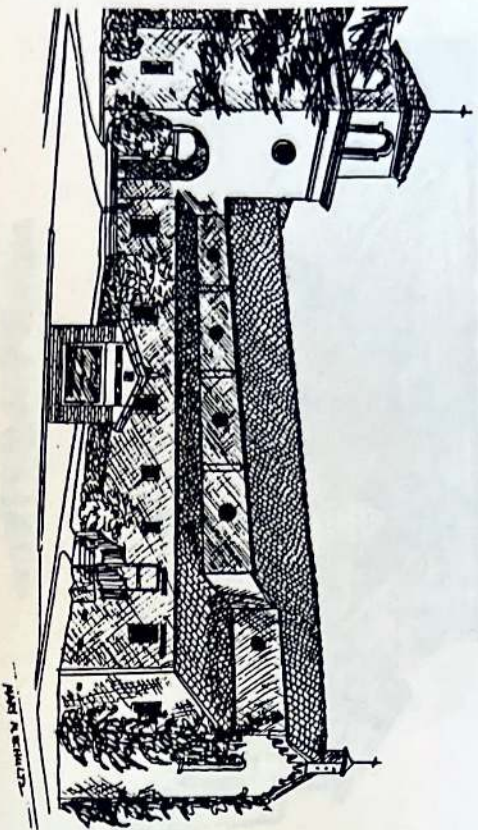
This Provincial Revival home was built in 1928 by the Hemicks. The lot was purchased for \$10. When the house was finished, it was sold to the initial residents, the Hogues.

Lynn Hogue was a local grocer who served on the Brea City Council. He was Mayor of Brea in 1932 and remained on the Council until his resignation in 1936.

The Jones family purchased the house from the Hogues in 1936. They sold it to the Whiteys in 1969 who, in turn, sold it to the current owners, the Moodys, in 1973.

One of the original next-door neighbors was Mr. Nicodemus, head of the local draft board. It was said that Mr. Nicodemus tried to draft everyone, including longtime Brea resident, Dyer Bennett who was not quite old enough to enlist in the armed forces at the time.

Early legal records of the Moody home show the bigotry of the era by stating in the deed that "no part of said premise shall ever be sold, conveyed, transferred, leased or rented to any person of African, Chinese or Japanese descent." The deed also noted all dwellings should have at least two coats of good paint and all outbuildings and fences shall, likewise, be painted or whitewashed.



## First Baptist Church

Date Street and Flower Avenue

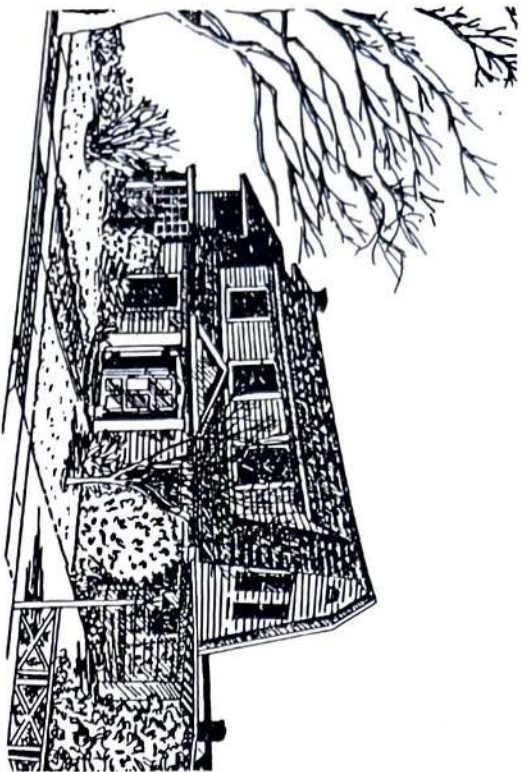
In the spring of 1924, a Sunday School class of Baptists were meeting upstairs in the Craig Hall on Brea Boulevard, formerly known as Pomona Avenue. Eager to begin their own church, they organized the First Baptist Church of Brea. They later rented a vacant store building at the corner of Pomona Avenue and Ash Street to hold their services, during which time the Girl Scouts, Masons, and Anti-Saloon League were also allowed to use the building for their meetings. The Brea Fire Department leased the building for social events at the cost of \$2.00.

On April 4, 1927, the congregation purchased the corner lot on Birch Street and Flower Avenue. The first building was constructed on a "pay-as-you-go" payment plan and was dedicated in March 1928.

In 1948, three lots were purchased on the corner of Date Street and Flower. On June 25, 1950, a ground-breaking ceremony was held for construction of the new church building. During the building program, discussion was held as to the verse to be inscribed over the Sanctuary doors. The architect suggested "O Come Let Us Worship", and today that invitation is still extended to all who enter.

From the records:

- The first purchase by the officially recognized church was a communion set
- The Pastor was guaranteed at least \$15.00 per week
- First piano was purchased for \$100.00; \$25.00 down and ten monthly payments of \$7.50 with no interest
- On January 27, 1929 - "Janitor has been hired at \$5.00 per month. It was discussed how to pay his salary."
- The financial report read on July 28, 1926, "was not encouraging."
- April 29, 1935 - \$1.75 for light bill - \$1.12 for postage, were listed as monthly expenditures.
- December, 1949 - Taxes of \$19.25 were paid on parsonage.
- August, 1955 - The young people donated record player and records playing The New Testament for the ill and aged of the church.



## **Seller Home**

4112 South Flower Avenue  
1920

This Colonial Revival home was actually built in Provo Rivera in 1920. Richard and Catherine Seiler were in the process of looking for a larger house to accommodate a growing family when they happened past the house and saw it was for sale. The exterior so resembled a house that Mrs. Seiler had lived in as a young girl that she urged her husband to buy it without even seeing the interior.

The deed was sold at a public auction for \$3500 and the Seilers arranged to have the house moved to its present site in 1950. When the house reached the La Habra city line, they were informed by police officers that a city ordinance passed the night before forbade the moving of houses through that town.

Mr. Seiler rushed back to Brea and found his father-in-law, a Brea judge, who granted permission for the house to pass through La Habra.

The first day that Mrs. Seiler actually lived in the house was the day she came home from the hospital after giving birth to her son, David.

## **Thank You**

Our thanks and appreciation to all those who have donated their time and support to this Brea Historical Home Tour:

### **Our Gracious Homeowners**

First Baptist Church  
Missionary Baptist Church  
Our Enthusiastic Docents  
Mary Schultz

### **Classic Car Owners**

Orange County Model T Ford Club

Girl Scout Troop 811

Bernie and Helen Swart

Orange County Quilter's Guild

Brea-Olinda High School Chamber and Concert Choirs

Country Hills School - Ms. Lucren Skag's Second Graders

Country Hills School - Third through Sixth Grade Chorus  
and Director, Norma Galuzzo

Laurie Hill

Sharon Dean

Brea Senior Center

Theat Frame Place

Brea Bistro

### **Brea Historical Home Tour Committee**

Mary Eselrine

Aaron Eselrine

Kathleen Ralph

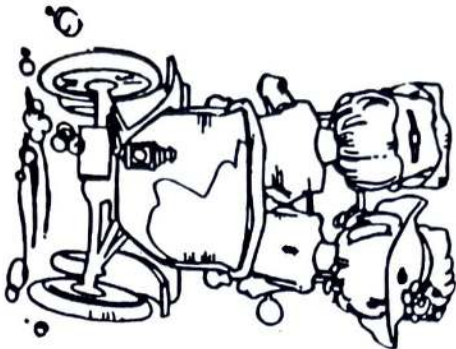
Sandy Sarthou

Brian Saul

Audrey Smith

Jack Smith

We hope you've  
enjoyed your tour



Thanks for coming!

### Home Tour Entertainment/Demonstration Schedule

First Baptist Church  
Corner of Date Street and Flower Avenue

#### Entertainment Scheduled

- 11:00** Brea-Olinda High School Chamber and Concert Choirs  
Director: Linda Prideaux
- 11:30** Laurie Hull  
Professional Banjo/Guitar Player and Singer
- 12:00** Laurie Hull  
Professional Banjo/Guitar Player and Singer
- 12:30** Second Grade Classroom, Country Hills School  
Teacher: Lucren Skaggs
- 1:00** Country Hills Chorus, Grades 3 Through 6  
Director: Norma Gauzzo
- 2:00** Brea-Olinda High School Chamber and Concert Choirs  
Director: Linda Prideaux

Other Things To See

**Quilting Demonstration**  
Orange County Quilters' Guild  
Gail Conser

**Antique Farm and Household Equipment**  
Bernie and Helen Swart

**Old Fashioned Lemonade Stand**  
Junior Girl Scout Troop 811

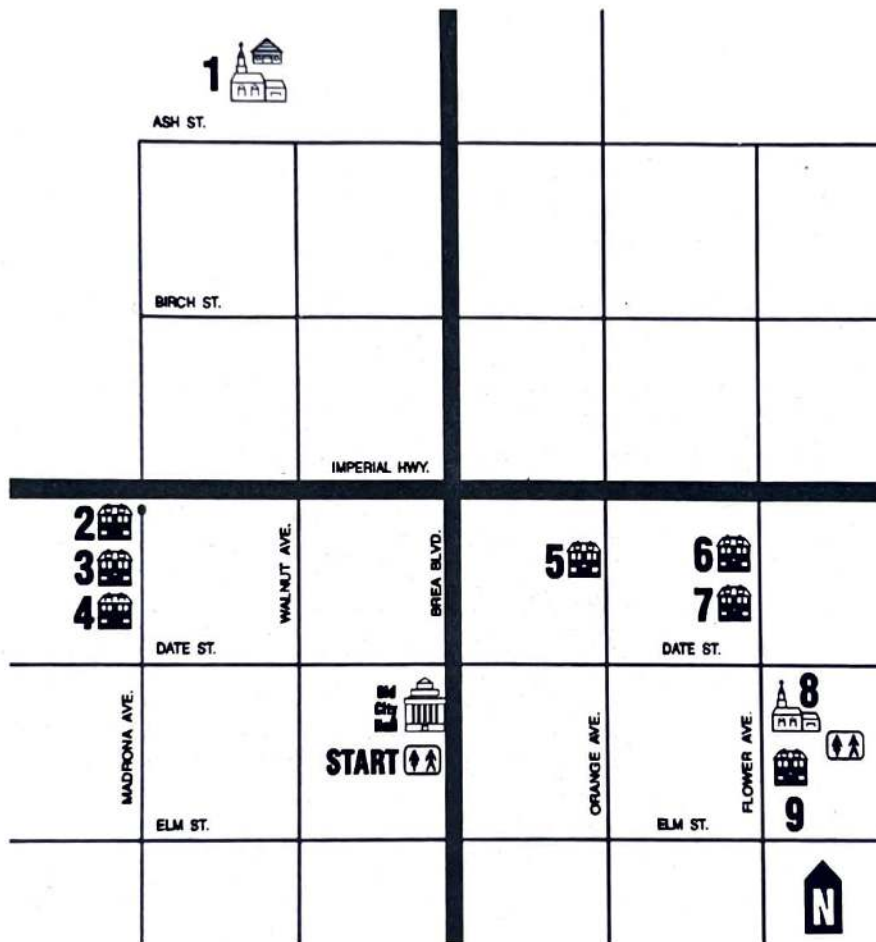
1. Missionary Baptist Church, 201 W. Ash
2. Powell Home - 317 S. Madrona
3. Gordon Home - 321 S. Madrona
4. Stevens Home - 323 S. Madrona
5. Foster Home - 321 S. Orange
6. Wilson/Schaffer - 315 S. Flower
7. Moody Home - 331 S. Flower
8. First Baptist Church - Date & Flower
9. Seiler Home - 412 S. Flower

## Welcome!

We would encourage you to walk on the tour.  
If necessary feel free to drive.

### NOTE

Homes open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



As a courtesy to homeowners, NO PHOTOS OR SMOKING ALLOWED IN HOMES OR CHURCHES.

All antique cars parked in driveways are near age of tour home.

Restrooms available at First Baptist Church (Date & Flower) and Old City Hall Park (401 S. Brea Blvd.)

TOUR VISITATION LOG								
1	<del>2</del>	<del>3</del>	<del>4</del>	5	6	7	8	9

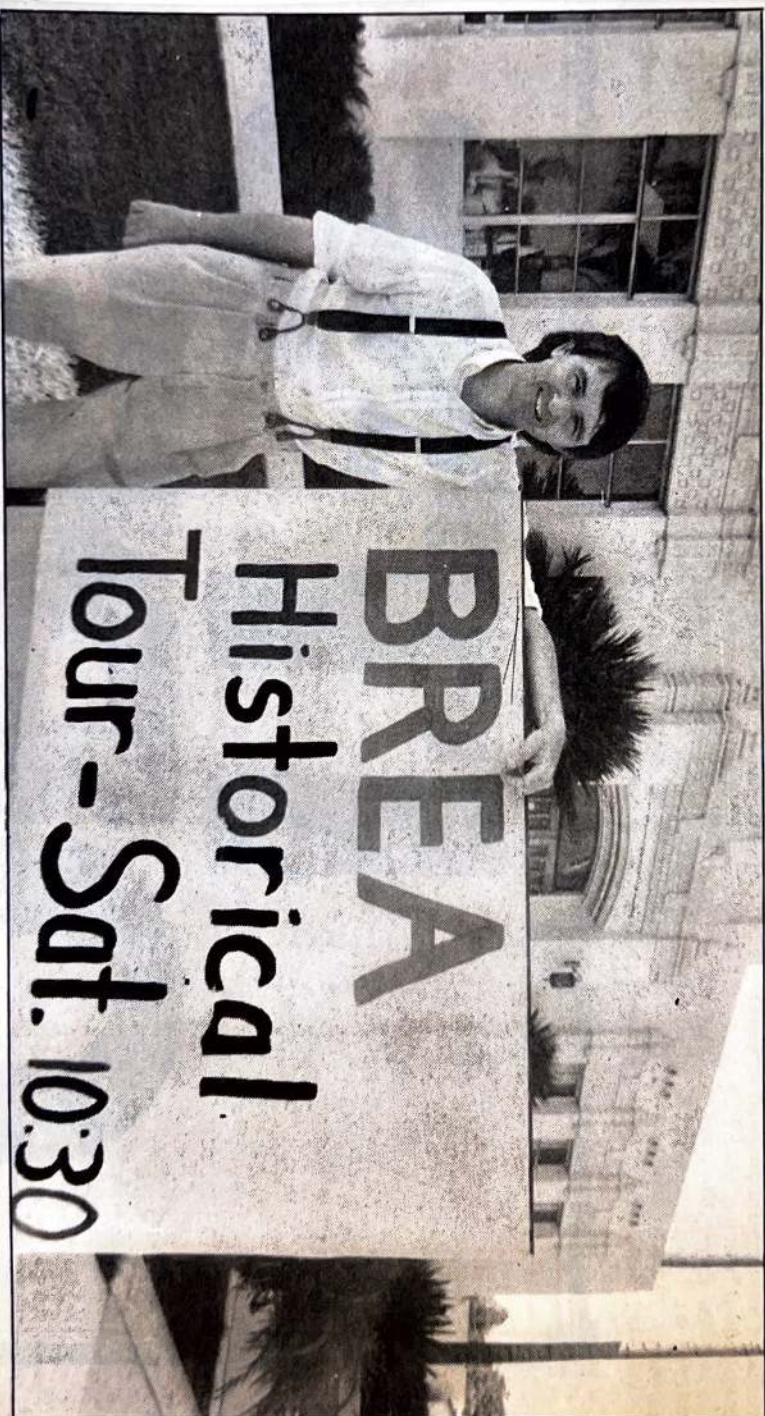
# Around Town

## Walking tour treks through history

Brea's will have the opportunity to satisfy their curiosity regarding the city's history when the Brea Historical Society and Historical Committee hosts its latest walking tour at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 22 from the old city hall building, 401 S. Brea Blvd.

The tour will last approximately two hours and will travel through some of the oldest, most interesting buildings from the city's oil-boom days.

For information, call Brian Saul at 990-4461.



**History in the makings:** The Brea Historical Society offers tours of famous and, other, seldom seen buildings that have played important roles in the development of Brea and North Orange County. The tours are led by society chairman Brian Saul.

Staff photo by Gary Gossett

# HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR THROUGH OLD BREA

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*Saturday, February 24, 1990*

**T**he Brea Historical Society and the Brea Historical Committee are pleased to invite you to a walking tour through historic downtown Brea.

The 1½ hour tour will take place February 24, 1990, starting at 10:30 A.M. at the Old City Hall.



The Old City Hall is located at the southwest corner of Brea Boulevard and Date Street. You'll learn about Brea's past from local historians and gain a new appreciation for some of the older buildings in our growing community.

*For more information  
please call Brian Saul at  
(714) 990-4461.*

## Citizens unlock key to Brea's past with tour

By Barbara A. Williams  
Star Correspondent

**BREA**—Residents will get the chance to play detective Jan. 27 as they study clues to Brea's past during a historical walking tour of downtown Brea.

The morning tour, co-sponsored by the Brea Historical Society and the recently formed City of Brea Historical Committee, begins at Old City Hall and winds up Brea Boulevard to the oldest commercial and residential areas of town. Guides will point out physical clues to yesterday by leading tour goers to sights such as a two-room log cabin, the town's first bank and the REAL "old city hall."

Visitors will also have the chance to enter the former Masonic Lodge quarters, darkened since the 1950s, and offer their own solutions to questions that still puzzle history buffs today.

"I would like to ask the public to tell me why the Wall Building, the oldest commercial building in Brea, was picked up, turned and moved over a lot," said Brea Historical Committee Chairman Brian Saul, as he studied the red and gray building near the northeast corner of Brea Boulevard and Ash Street.

Saul, who will serve as one of the guides for the Jan. 27 tour,

said early photos of the Wall Building (sometimes referred to as the Wahl Building) showed the false-front structure facing Brea Boulevard, next to the former Brea Hotel. However, the 1911 craftsman building now faces Ash Street, one lot east of Brea Boulevard.

Tour goers may also guess along with the guides about whether or not there was ever a brothel above Sam's Place, the red fronted, 1921 building at 117 S. Brea Blvd. Saul said he doesn't know, since he has collected an equal number of "yes" and "no" answers concerning the business upstairs.

Sam's Place and the Wall Building are two structures that the Historical Society and Historical Committee are trying to save for placement in a city historical park, Saul said. Such a perk has been under consideration since the announcement of city redevelopment plans that call for widening Brea Boulevard from Imperial Highway north to the railroad tracks and eliminating the structures facing the boulevard.

"We hope to save representative examples of early Brea," said Saul. "We want to make people aware of what we have and what will soon disappear." The approaching demise of

Brea Boulevard's old buildings is also the reason the Historical Society and Historical Committee set up the walking tour, Saul noted.

Historical Society President Inez Fanning said the goal of the tour was to "create an awareness in Brea citizens of their downtown heritage."

"Things are moving so fast these days, it'll all be gone before you know it," said Fanning, who will serve as a guide for the tour.

"We could lose something precious in the shuffle if we're not aware of it and make an effort to save it."

"What looks like just an old building may have a story worth saving," she said.

The Sewell Building, just north of Sam's Place, has such a story, according to Saul. The City of Brea set up its first city offices in the 1913 building, Saul recounted, and the Masonic Lodge used its large hall and stage until about the 1950s.

The building is now owned by Larry Kenemore, president of Bestland Insurance Agency Inc., which has offices in the building. Kenemore, 1989 president of the Rams Booster Club, has agreed to allow tour goers to visit the Masonic quarters, which have not been seen by the general public for many years.

"We know we can't move the Sewell Building," said Saul, who is also a member of the Historical Society board. "But we might possibly save some bricks to use in walkways or planters at a historical park."

Another building with a story to tell, Saul noted, is the Honor Knights log cabin, tucked behind the Brea Missionary Baptist Church at the corner of Ash and Walnut Street.

The original congregation, the Brea Christian Church, constructed the log cabin in 1918 to house its large Sunday School class of seventh- and eighth-grade "Honor Knights." Logs were cut from trees on the Amalgamated Oil Lease, a fire-place was built at one end and a second room was soon added. The log cabin is now used for storage.

The log cabin will be one of the stops on the Jan. 27 tour, which will include other historical sites, homes and businesses along Brea Boulevard and in the "town center" area of Brea Boulevard and Ash Street.

The tour begins at 10:30 a.m. in the Brea Historical Society offices in Old City Hall, 401 S. Brea Blvd., where visitors will be able to view pictures of early Brea. There is no charge for the tour, which is expected to last until noon, with a refreshment stop scheduled along the way.

In order to better plan for the tour, Saul asked that persons interested in attending call him at (714) 990-4461.



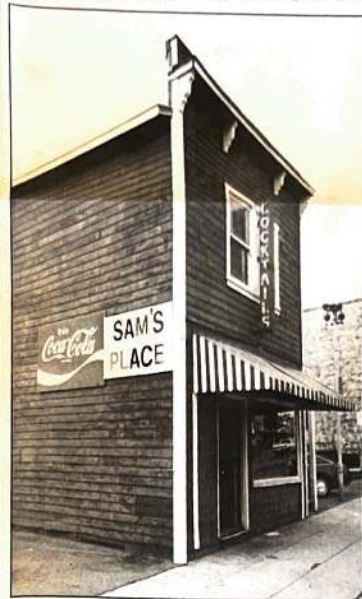
(Star-Progress photo by Jack Hancock)

**VAULT TO THE PAST**—Brian Saul, chairman of the Brea Historical Committee, studies an early photo of downtown Brea in a vault at the Brea Historical Society offices in Old City Hall. Photos, artifacts and volumes of the Brea Progress newspaper record the days of "Good Old Brea" in the safe that is used to house the city's daily business papers. Persons joining the Jan. 27 historical walk will get a chance to view some of the artifacts at the start of the tour.



(Star-Progress photo by Jack Hancock)

**HIDDEN TREASURE**—Hidden behind the present Brea Missionary Baptist Church, at the corner of Ash Street and Walnut Avenue, is this historical tour stop—a two-room log cabin built in 1918 for a Brea Christian Church youth group. The Brea Christian congregation built the current church structure in two phases, beginning in the 1910s. According to tour coordinator Brian Saul, by the 1930s the original church had been picked up and turned to form the rear of a larger church.



(Star-Progress photo by Jack Hancock)

**FROM WHEAT TO HOPS**—Sam's Place, a Brea Boulevard bar now owned and operated by Seaton "Sid" Grives, was built in 1911 and used by the George Schupert family for their bakery business and second-floor home. An extension at the rear of the building still holds a brick oven. The red, false-front building became a cafe in the 1930s. In the 1940s, Simeon "Sam" Landa, son of a Basque sheepherder and scion of Brea Canyon pioneers, became the proprietor and operated a similar business until the 1970s.



(Photo courtesy of Brea Historical Society)

**GOOD OLD BREA**—Early Brea's "town center" was dominated by the columned La Habra Valley Bank and S. A. Salvason groceries and general store in this picture of the southwest corner of Brea Boulevard and Ash Street. Fronting Brea Boulevard (then called Pomona Avenue) to the south of the bank is the

two-story brick Sewell Building that housed City Hall offices and the Masonic Lodge. At far left on the boulevard is the bakery building that later became Sam's Place.

FEB 21 1991

# 790 Walking tour offers final glimpse

By Brian Hall  
Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Windsor has just published a similar book for Fullerton.

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

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BREA NEWS

Weekly NOV 7 1991

## Historical walk to be conducted in old downtown

The Brea Historical Society and Historical Committee will conduct a historical walk of old, downtown Brea beginning 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, at the former City Hall in City Hall Park, 401 S. Date Street.

The event will be one of the last tours of Brea's historic section before many of the buildings are demolished for re-development. For the first time, the walk will include a talk about and showing of the building at 120 N. Brea Blvd., where the first monoplane in the United States was built.