do. Dues are our main source of revenue. Thank you.

Welcome to a few new members: Thomas Seaborne, Kathy Orris and Jim Schweitzer.

Elections

At the recent Board meeting, the following officers were elected for 1996:

Jane O'Brien, President
Herc Roeser, Vice Pres.
Inez Fanning, Recording Secretary
Sharon Dean, Treasurer

The other officers and committees will be appointed by President Jane O'Brien a the next Board meeting.

Computer



Rod Dickenson reported that he could purchase a new computer for $1,769. Jane motioned that we purchase the computer as outlined by Rod. The motion carried and Rod will pursue the new computer. Thank you to all who donated the necessary funds for this new pc. Janis Lodgson will set up the database needed for accesssioning all our artifacts. So if you have time on Saturdays, please don't hesitate to come by the Old City Hall and help with this project. There is always plenty to do.

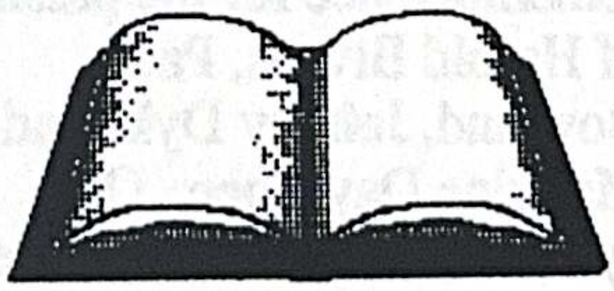
Calendar

March 4 - Board Meeting at the home of President Jane O'Brien.

March 25 - General Member Meeting at **7:30 PM**, First Baptist Church, corner of Date & Flower streets.

Our special speaker will be Frank Logan, noted artist who paints scenes of seaside shores and birds. Mr. Logan is also an expert on China. He will tell us of his early days in Brea. Frank was in the second grade when our own Inez Fanning was his teacher. Please plan to attend and hear Mr. Logan - and bring a friend!

Special Donation



Brian showed the Board a 1930 telephone directory which came from the attic of the Imperial Bar. The directory was presented to Brian by Mike Carré. His mother and father, Francis and Sarah Carré owned the Imperial Bar in the mid-60's. Mike's mother kept the directory after they had sold the bar in the late 60's.

Sarah Carré would like the Historical Society to have the directory. Since we are the experts on these kinds of things and Mrs. Carré would like to see the directory displayed for other Breans to enjoy. The Society will have this artifact rebound so that others may enjoy reading through it. Thank you to the Carré's.

Civic Center Display

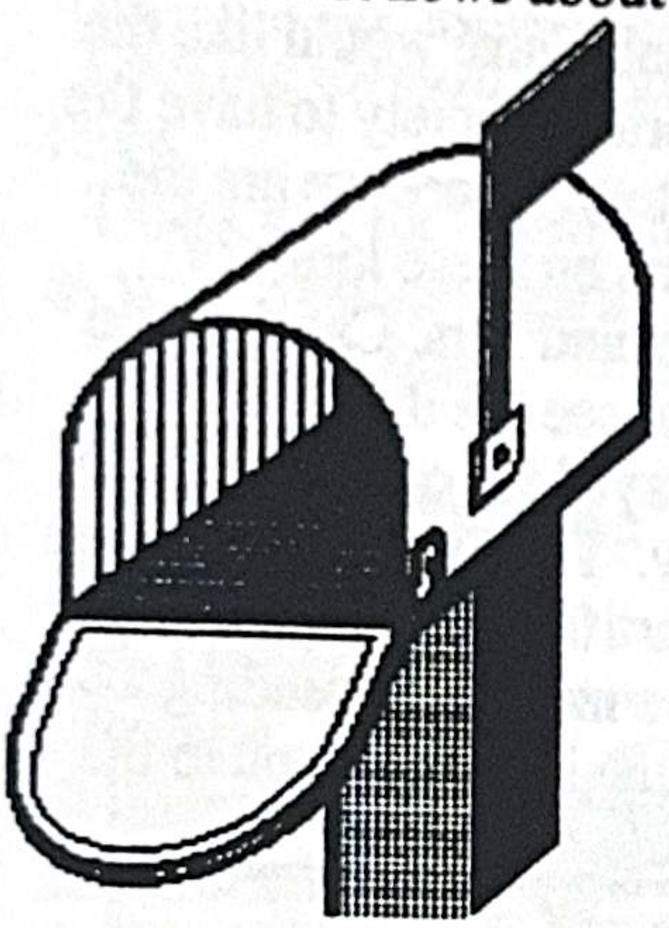
The new exhibit in the Historical Society's cases at the Civic Center is again being prepared by Catherine Seiler. The display will show Sharon Dean's tin box collection. It is quite remarkable!

Breans - Here & There

Sharon Dean

For some time many people from Brea have been remarking on the loss of a local newspaper. Even though we have the Brea Progress once a week with Newsy Susie and Barbara Williams' column, there

seems to lack a source for information about Breans who have moved away or just dropped out of the circle of activities that would allow us to hear the latest news about their



families and friends. I do not claim to be a newspaper reporter in any sense of the term, I do claim to miss hearing from of about former friends and acquaintances. That is why I have volunteered to write this column for our newsletter and with each members help, I hope it will succeed. And I do mean HELP!

I expect input from all members of the Brea Historical Society. You can call me at 714-529-6186 or drop me a note at 300 South Cedar Street, Brea, CA 92621. I really appreciate your help.

The Brea Olinda High School class of 1951 is planning their 45th Reunion under the leadership of Barbara (Greene) Peterson. They are going on a three-day cruise to Mexico on May 17, 1996. There are nine classmates who started kindergarten together and went all through high school. They are: Barbara Greene, Ruthie Hodkins, Joy Bush, Darlene Bergman, Betty Sexton, Carol Strickland, Mary Lou Wade, Gloria Daugherty and Dick Baker. (Notice I used maiden names.) Some of the other classmates who are going along for thee fun are: Ronald & Nadine Thaheld, Frank Alexander, Jean Jordan (her sister Kathleen is also going), plus Doris Seborne, who attended B O H S and was married to Erwin Pfister. Of course spouses and other friends are invited to come and enjoy the cruise. What a great way to get together after 45 years. Congratulations!

I also want to note special rememberence for the passing of Harold Bivens, Paul Bowland, Johnny Dyke and Marleine Day Coen. Our sympathy to all their families.

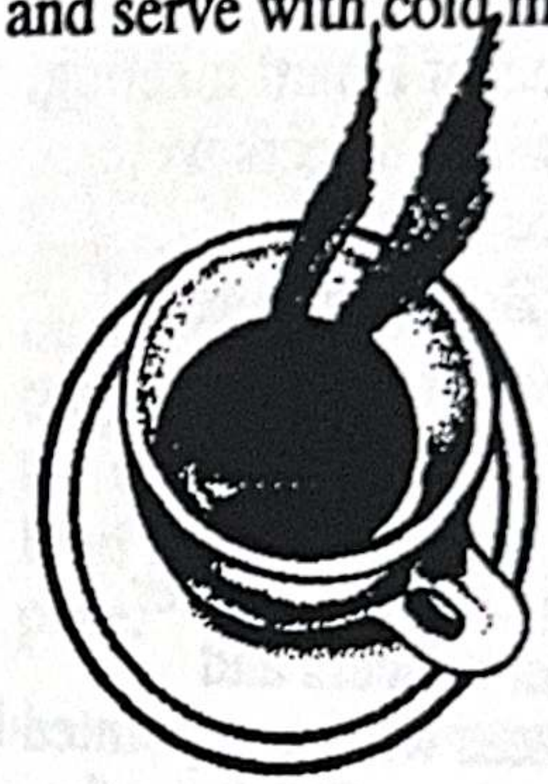
REMEMBER! ! !

I need your help in gathering information.

Thank you - *Sharon*

Coffee Soup

Take I heel from a loaf of French bread or a piece of dry toast, butter it, break it into pieces into a soup bowl. Pour hot coffee over the bread, sprinkle it with sugar and serve with cold milk.



THESE ARE BHS MEMBERS WHO HAVE CONTINUED TO PROVIDE SERVICES THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PURPOSES OF THE BREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. THEIR CONTINUED EFFORTS ARE RECOGNIZED HERE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR MEMBERS.

BARBARA BRANTLEY PITTS, M.S.W.
PSYCHOTHERAPY
FAMILY AND CHILD COUNSELING

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(714) 990-8900

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Brea Historical Society
"Old City Hall"
401 South Brea Boulevard
P.O. Box 9764
Brea, CA 92622
Office and Museum Hours:
Saturday 11: 00 AM to 2:00 PM
and by appointment
(714) 256-2283

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1996
BETTY & DEAN MILLEN
420 S POPLAR AVE
BREA CA 92621

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Brea Historical Society's

Historical Happenings

Brea Historical Society Museum * Old City Hall * 401 South Brea Boulevard
* Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9764, Brea, CA 92622
* Telephone 714 256-2283

Official Newsletter of the BREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Brea, California

Brian Saul, President

Inez Fanning, Editor
Here Roeser, Layout

BREA WOMEN'S CLUB DISBANDS

Mrs. Betty Millen

After 70 years of service to the Brea Community, the Brea Women's Club closes its doors. The Brea Women's Club, a cultural, civic and philanthropic organization, was started by a group of 21 charter members in the home of Mrs. W. D. Shaffer on March 19, 1925. It joined the State General Federation of Women's Clubs in May, 1926. The early history of the Women's Club was filled with the organization and achievements of many sections of talent and dedication to the arts, music and crafts.

During the 1930's, the Women's Club was a time for building. The members started a building fund in 1926 and established a clubhouse in 1935; The dream of this clubhouse, owned and maintained jointly by the Women's Club and the Brea Lion's Club, was realized when the mortgage was burned in an impressive ceremony in 1939, just three years after its dedication. The clubhouse had been a scout house on the west of North Madrona Ave. but it was later moved to the 300 block of South Brea Blvd., on the east side of the street, where it was restored and refurbished.

The 1940's saw much dedicated effort go into the war effort with preparedness courses, sale of Defense Bonds, fund raising luncheons and Red Cross drives. Members rolled thousands of surgical bandages to aid the war effort.

In the 1950's, the Club continued in its support of the Junior Women's Club which had been formed in the mid-forties. A close association grew between these two groups through joint endeavors. Service to veterans held high priority in the activities of the Club, particularly ministering to patients in the Long Beach Veterans Hospital. The Club gave a gala Silver Anniversary Tea commemorating the first 25 years of service and existence.

The Women's Club achieved and supported more community affairs during the 1960's and created many sections to serve the citizens of Brea.

On March 11, 1975, the Club gave a Golden Anniversary Tea with many State and District dignitaries attending. Also, an elegant fashion show and home tour, together with a cruise raffle, was held resulting in the sale of over 3000 tickets for this event.

The Brea Women's Club continued its civic and cultural contributions throughout the 1980's and 1990's. The Club not only enriched the lifestyle of Brea but also challenged its 100+ members with ongoing projects and sections.

The last meeting, a celebration of 70 years of community service, was held June 13, 1995 in the original clubhouse, moved to West Elm St. in 1977 and renamed Pioneer Hall.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brian Saul

"Laurel School-The Early Years"

Despite the fact that Laurel appears as if it could be the oldest school in Brea, actually

there were three others built prior to it in our community.

The first of these was the Brea Canyon School constructed in 1903 in that canyon of the same name north of the city. At this time though, there was no Brea, nor Randolph as Brea was originally called. There was just a development company attempting to sell land where downtown Brea is now located. Their attempt failed, but the school remained serving the oil worker families living in the canyon. Today no one is sure where this school originally stood, for all traces of it disappeared many decades ago.

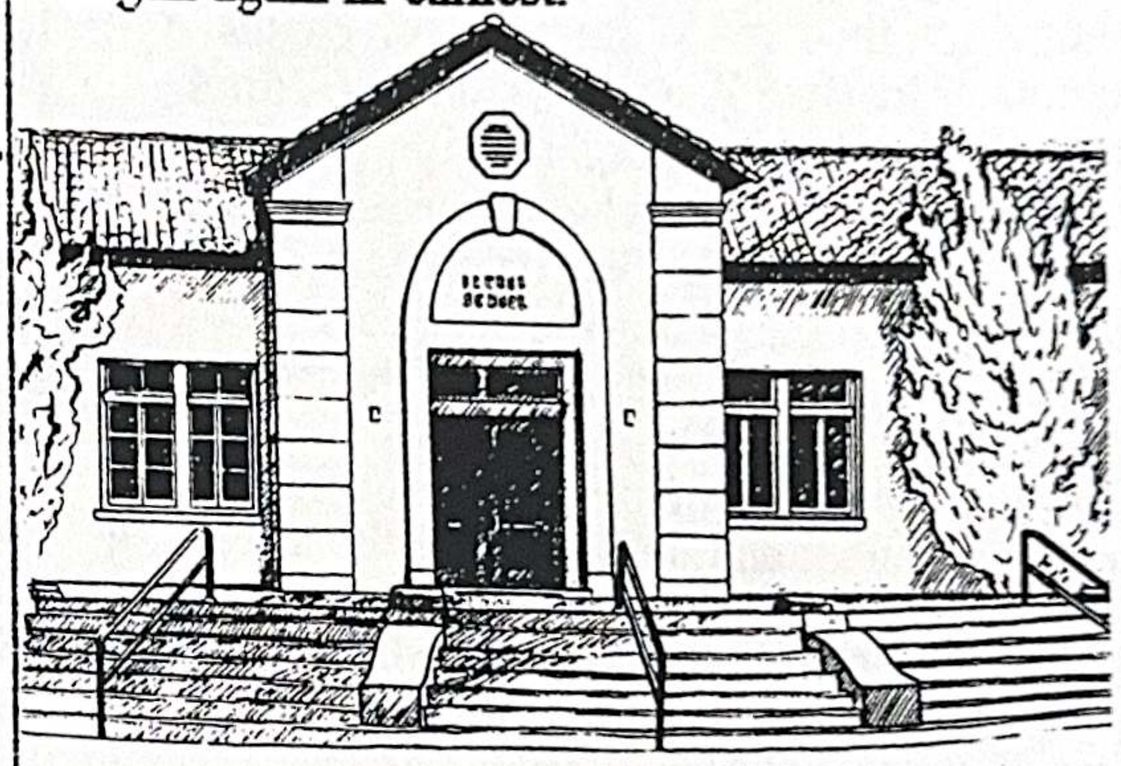
The next school to be constructed was the two-story Randolph school located diagonally across Brea Blvd. from the present Junior High. Built in 1910, it was constructed to lure a later group of prospective settlers to this area. Even though the first attempt by a development company had failed in 1903, another group, the Ontario Land Investment Co., tried its luck and unfortunately failed as well. When the Randolph School opened, the earlier Brea Canyon School closed, transferring its students to the newer structure.

In 1916 so many people had moved to Brea (the Pacific Electric Railway had finally been put through to Brea in 1910, attracting the long-awaited land buyers) that the Randolph School was no longer large enough to hold the influx of newly-arrived students. For that reason, Randolph School was closed and the Brea Grammar School was built (it is now called Brea Junior High).

In the next 6 years the town of Brea grew in size as well as population. As it expanded south of Birch St. with a large housing development project called Laurel Heights, it was decided that another elementary school was needed serving the students in the new area. Luckily, the Union Oil Co. owned a well-situated piece of land between Birch and Cedar Sts. (Cedar is now called Imperial Highway), and it was this piece of land that was now given to the school district. There was one stipulation though and that was that there was always to be a school on the property. If the district in the future chose to close the school and use the land for another purpose it could not do so for the land would then have to be returned to the oil company.

In 1922 bids were let on construction of the new school, but because the district wanted it completed before the quickly approaching start of the 1922 school year, bidders were told that they had only 110 days to complete the project.

Just after a contractor was selected and work commenced, problems arose. Since Brea at the time was a big union town and it was discovered the contractor was using only non-union workers, there were protests. Hundreds of local union members signed petitions asking that only union members be hired. After negotiations between the school district and the contractor, the latter agreed to a compromise giving union members preference in hiring. Work on the school began again in earnest.



200 South Flower Avenue
Laurel School

Now the question was, what to name the school? To solve the problem and get local children involved, the School Board decided to have a naming contest. The winner who came up with the best idea would win a prize of $5.00. Fifty-six entries were turned in, and among these proposed names were Eastside School, Southside School, Laurel Heights or Flower Street School. The most popular name turned in though was Laurel School. Since 7 people has selected it and it was chosen to be the winner, each of the 7 persons were awarded $1.00.

The school was finished on time, with full completion the following year in 1923 with construction of the kindergarten building (it also had a cafeteria in the basement).

Looking somewhat different than it does at present, the new Laurel School had an arbor out front made up of 10 columns with a covering supporting a mass of trumpet vines. In 1932 though there was a major storm that blew its way through Brea knocking over all the columns and destroying the arbor, the columns having no metal supports inside to strengthen them. Because there was no insurance at the time covering their possible damage, the columns were never rebuilt. Only their bases can be seen today.

In 1933 the big Long Beach earthquake was felt in Brea but caused little damage here. One of the long-term local effects of that quake though was that all schools in Brea as well as throughout California were checked for possible structural safety hazards. This brought about major changes to the appearance of Laurel as well as to Brea Grammar School and the newly-built Brea-Olinda High School. Besides ornamentation being removed from the top of Laurel's main building, the kindergarten/ cafeteria/ auditorium structure was condemned and eventually torn down. The present cafeteria/ auditorium sitting on the site of this earlier building was constructed in 1940.

Laurel School was expanded over the years since its construction but it has basically retained its historical appearance. Because of its history and its importance to our community, in 1995 it was officially declared a Brea Historical Landmark.

CALENDAR

August 26	Saturday, Olinda Old Timers Picnic; park opens 8 AM
September 11	Monday, 7 PM, Board meeting at the Dean`s home
September 25	Monday, 7:30 PM, General meeting at Fire Station #3, Kramer & Lambert. A MUST SEE! Fire Captain Dave Mahlsted will show us the newly restored Seagrave fire truck.
October 2	Monday, 7 PM, Board meeting
December 4	Holiday Potluck Dinner & General meeting.

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Monday, Sept. 25, 7:30 PM
Fire Station #3, Kramer & Lambert

We are all looking forward to our next general meeting. We will gather at Brea's newest fire station, Fire Station #3, 400 N Kramer (at Lambert) at 7:30 PM. There is a great meeting room there. Fire Captain Dave Mahlsted is going to show us the newly painted Seagrave fire truck and answer any questions about the restoration. *Mark your calendars now. Plan to come and bring a friend. The Seagrave is worth seeing!* - Inez

***OLINDA OLD TIMERS PICNIC**
***CARBON CANYON REGIONAL PARK**
***SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 8 AM**
***Potluck Picnic Starts at 12:30**

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

We have received a cash donation from the disbanded Brea Women's Club.
We received a working 7-foot tall oil well pumping unit. The well is unique because it is driven by an electric motor for display purposes. This well has been donated by UNOCAL.
Many thanks to our donors.

NOTES from the BOARD MEETING

*Brian Saul reported on the status of the Olinda Project. As an a-political non-profit organization, the Society has endorsed the historical element of this project only. Each member has his/her own opinion about the overall project.
*There were 94 signatures in our guest register from the 4th of July museum exhibit. The museum display has been a popular success.
*The Society is in the process of acquiring a personal computer. We are looking to have one donated and we are also researching the cost to buy a PC that fits our needs.

THE AREA BELOW IS RESERVED FOR BUSINESS CARD ADS !! *If you would like to have your card displayed to our members as an advertiser and supporter, please call* Herc Roeser at (714) 990-2743 for details.

SALLY RATHMELL, E.A.
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Sharon Dean, President

Inez Fanning, Editor

VOLUME X NUMBER 5 OCTOBER 1992

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SYNOPSIS OF BHS BOARD MEETING - 9/14/92

Irene Gresick reported on the progress of our book, "BREA: CELEBRATING 75 YEARS". Some of the items discussed were the Unocal page, the book - signing, luncheon party at the Embassy Suites, the 16 - page color section, the approximately 1,000 pre - publication books ordered, the Library of Congress number as well as the ISBN bar code and the City's page honoring volunteers.

We also discussed our project of placing the Brea Grammar School, Laurel School, the Missionary Baptist Church (formerly 1st Christian Church) on the National Register of Historic Places. Anyone who is interested in helping to accomplish this, please call Inez at 529-2993.

Brea Fest, our General meeting on September 28, the Newsletter and the Nominating Committee. If you would like to serve on the Nominating Committee, pleasse call Sharon Dean at 529-6186.

Special thanks was given to Alan and Joan West for the beautiful mahogany conference table from the Oilfields National Bank. Also to Jim Love of Sante Fe Energy Resources for the Olinda Townsite map, cicca 1926.

The Board hopes that pictures, books, and other memorabilia will be sold at "ANOTHER HURRAH" on October 30 and 31.

The Planning Commission has accepted the Historical Element. Now on to the City Council.

SHARON DEAN, PRESIDENT BHS

"BREA WELCOMES YOU" SIGN

It's gone!!! The most important and prominent symbol of our old downtown, the "BREA WELCOMES YOU" sign was removed last week, somewhat earlier than expected.

Arching across Brea Blvd. since 1934, it was due to come down because of the planned street widening, but in the early morning of 22 September a hit and run crane, truck or something tall speeded up the process.

Because of the collision, the sign was badly bent above on its west side, and there were concerns about its safety. Consequently, at 7pm on Wednesday night, 23 September, Brea Blvd was closed to traffic between Imperial and Birch. About an hour and a half later, the sign was gone. Taken down in one piece, it was later cut into three pieces. Only the side support poles were left standing. The good news is, we will see our sign again. Currently in storeage at the City maintenance yard, it will be restructured and replaced when the "New Downtown" is completed. We eagerly await that day and possible new location.

BRIAN SAUL, VICE PRESIDENT BHS

LAUREL SCHOOL, BREA

A laurel is a tree. In the very earliest days of Brea, the streets were named for trees, and mostly still are. So the street was named first, and then the neighborhood to the east became Laurel Heights -- with the new school being given the name Laurel.

In very ancient times an far away, the Greek people gave the winners in their athletic games, instead of a trophy, like we do, -- they put a crown on their heads made of laurel leaves. So the word "laurel" has come to mean "victor" or "winner", and that is what each student is encouraged to be -- a winner -- in his own way.

This school has come --
from Fiesta to Founder's Day
from a place to receive ration stamps for sugar and meat during WWII
to earthquake drills
from track meets to voting booths
from a hand held school bell to a room full of computers
and such simple things as a game of marbles to Little League
from Maypole Dances to television sets.

It has come --
from wildflowers down in the hollow -- to Lagos de Moreno Park.

And some things never change:
In 1939, we had Tommy Tooth Club, the Flag Salute, rainy day sessions, fire drills, the PTA.
But the wooden, oiled floors had to be sprinkled with sawdust before being swept with a broom.
We had yard duty, lesson plans, and monthly register inspection.

All the children walked to school -- and we had regular lessons on temperance, and abstinence from alcohol and cigarettes.
Girls brought their baby dolls to school, and our lunch sandwiches were done up in bread wrappers.

The Laurel School children now enjoy a field of green grass to play on instead of a playground of hard-packed dirt.

The constant good will of the School District, the city and citizens of Brea, the parents, the teachers, and the children, all working together, has made this school the modern learning institution that it is today.

Today we celebrate the completion of the huge project of bringing this building "up to the speed" of the 1990's, and changes taking place in the streets and neighborhoods of our town.

MAY LAUREL SCHOOL ALWAYS BE A WINNER!!!

INEZ FANNING, May 2, 1990.

This article was first introduced as a "Presentation at the re-dedication of Laurel School". Inez was a teacher at Laurel School from 1937 to 1941.
Inez was a student at Laurel School in 1923.

INEZ FANNING, BOARD MEMBER BHS

****

SPECIAL HOLIDAY POT - LUCK MEETING MONDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 1992, 6PM at 1ST BAPTIST CHURCH. LOOK FOR DETAILS IN NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER!!!!

Next board meeting, 12 October 1992. Time 7PM. Place, Rathmell Manor, 1842 Moorpark Drive, Brea. Dessert only.

BREA HOTEL FIRE

We almost lost another one. Two years ago flames destroyed one of our oldest buildings in town, the Wall Bldg., and on 17 September 1992, the old Brea Hotel almost shared the same fate.

Built in 1912-13 for the influx of oil workers coming from all over the U. S. to work in our local fields, the hotel caught fire sometime between 8:30 and 9PM. Luckily for the building, a police officer happened to be giving a drunken driving citation just below the front windows when he noticed smoke above him.

The hotel had been vacant for some time, and police are now looking into the possibility of arson. A transient was found inside but it's not known whether he was responsible.

The front exterior was blackened a bit where the smoke and flames came out. More serious damage was done to the interior. The rafters, ceiling joists, two rooms and part of a hallway were most severe. Damage is estimated at $45,000.

In spite of this, the Brea Hotel is still slated to be one of the five commercial buildings and one home in the proposed "DOWNTOWN HISTORIC BLOCK". All six structures are to be restored or reconstructed to their condition when they were built. All were constructed prior to 1917 when Brea was incorporated.

BRIAN SAUL, VICE PRESIDENT BHS

MALL DISPLAY OF JUBILEE TIME CAPSULE ITEMS

Mark the weekend of October 16,17 on your calendar!!! That's when you'll finally have the chance to see the items that will be going into the Jubilee Time Capsule. The Capsule will be placed in the ground in December.

Submitted by Brea Schools, Service Groups, Clubs, Scouts, The City, etc. as well as individuals, these articles will be on display that weekend in the Center Court of the Brea Mall.

Remember, time is short, but it's still not too late to have something placed in the capsule. For information regarding entry rules contact Bev Perry at (310) 671-1446.

Don't forget that if you miss the Mall display, you're going to have to wait until Brea's 100th Birthday, 23 February 2017, to see the items again!!

BRIAN SAUL, VICE PRESIDENT BHS

CANDIDATES NIGHT A HUGE SUCCESS

Our September 28, 1992 General Meeting, which featured talks by seven of the nine candidates running for Brea City Council, was a huge success. The meeting was "standing room only", and was attended by a large number of BHS members as well as many non-members. We were able to expose many new people to the Historical Society as well as get to meet and hear all the candidates.

Each candidate had a chance to give a short talk on his or her views, then each was given a chance to respond to a number of questions submitted by the attendees. It was very interesting to see and hear the variety of styles among the candidates, and to hear their positions on the issues.

We hope to turn this into a continuing event every election year. Candidates and citizens can use this vehicle for mutual communication and the Historical Society may gain new members and support.

Please call the office if you have any comments or suggestions you would like to pass on for our next event of this type.

ROD DICKINSON, BOARD MEMBER BHS

THIS PAGE IS RESERVED FOR BUSINESS CARD ADS!!
If you would like to have your card displayed to all our members as an advertiser/supporter, call me for details. It's lonely being the only advertiser.

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Brea, Ca 92622
Office and Museum Hours:
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
(714) 286-2283

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Brea Historical Society's

Historical Happenings

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, BREA, CALIFORNIA

Brian Saul, President

Inez Fanning, Editor
Herc Roeser, Layout

GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 7:30 PM

PLACE: BREA FIRE STATION
Kraemer at Lambert

Fire Captain Dave Mahlstad will discuss the restoration efforts of the Seagrave Fire Engine and the Seagrave will be on display in all its glory!

Members : Be sure to attend and bring a friend!

Light refreshments by Geri Carpenter & Jane O'Brien

Calendar

Mon., Sept. 25, 7:30 PM - general mtg. @ Brea Fire Station, Lambert & Kraemer.

Mon., Oct. 2, 7 PM - Board mtg. @ Old City Hall

Wed., Oct 11, 5:30 to 7:30 PM - Chamber of Commerce "Mixer" @ Old City Hall with the Lions Club.

Mon., Nov. 6, 7 PM - Board mtg. @ Old City Hall

Mon., Dec. 4, 6:30 PM - Holiday Potluck @ the First Baptist Church

Computer Needed for the Historical Society

At its recent meeting, the BHS Board reaffirmed its need for an up-to-date computer to use to store data on our large amount of historical documents and artifacts. Every week we receive more interesting items. We cannot keep up with the paperwork needed to track these items.

Members, please be aware of this need and let others who may be able to help us know about it.

Shaffer Fountain

The memorial fountain that used to be in Old City Hall Park, and was destroyed many years ago, will be revived by a perfect (smaller) replica, in working order. This will be located in or near the new Gateway Center downtown. The original as well as a new historical plaque will be placed there.

Acquisitions

Chevron in La Habra wants to donate to us 10 pieces of large and heavy oil equipment. There are also some smaller items. We must claim them within two months. The questions: Where can we store these items? Who will transport them there? Brian is approaching Santa Fe Energy Co. about this matter. Second choice could be Nieto Trucking of Brea. Storage where? We no longer have the privilege of storage space at the City Yard on Berry St.

Assumptions

The word "assumption" occurred to me several years ago when an article appeared in the local paper. A city employee had referred to the "guest houses" on Walnut Way. This alley is at the rear of houses facing west on North Madronna Ave. These small houses were built by the original residents, as "temporary" homes, where they lived until they could make enough money in the oil fields to build their Dream Home on the front of each lot. Of course, as time went by, these "temporaries" became "granny flats," and many were handy as rentals. As more time went by, many garages on the alley came to have a second story apartment above them.

In some instances, the house in front never materialized. A dream was unfulfilled. One can still drive through a few remaining "alleys" in Brea. Here and there you may spot a playhouse, an old-fashioned "wash house," or a "temporary home," a remnant of the past.

* *

Brea Boiler Works was a thriving business in Old Brea. It was located on Brea Blvd., just above the tracks, on the west side of the street. The Hurst family home was next door. The employees of Hurst manufactured large boilers to be used in the oil and gasoline process. With fuel of natural gas, steam formed from water inside the big round horizontal cylinder. Energy from the steam was used to operate one or more pumps. These pumps moved liquid materials, such as drilling mud, into or out of the well. Steam-driven pumps also would be used to pump oil to a storage tank if it was on a higher level. In other parts of the United States, the word "boiler" refers to a hot water heater, as used in a modern home.

One writer of an historical sketch told us that water heaters were manufactured at Brea Boiler Works. Not So!

Having been interviewed at one time about the life and times of Brea oil workers, I mentioned that the "pool hall " was a popular place to go after work. These places has tables for playing the game of "pool." Some served drinks.

Later on, I smiled as I read the first draft of a brochure, saying "oil workers gathered around the swimming pool after work." Early Brea had no private pools. The municipal Plunge opened later in 1929.

* *

How Assumptions Begin

Information received by the mind is immediately filed under "Frame of Reference," or "past experience." - Inez

---

Since World War II officially ended 50 years ago this week, I thought it might be interesting to go back in time to Brea during the first year of that war. To do so, I copied the following articles from the Brea Progress which don't give a complete picture of the period, but do give a sampling of it.

- Brian

Brea Progress, Friday, May 15, 1942

Kitaoka Family Left This Morning

Along with other Japanese and Americans of Japanese ancestry, the Kitaoka family—Mrs., Hiroo, Sady and Martha—left Brea early this morning for Anaheim, later will go to Parker, Ariz., to camp.

The father some time ago was sent to a camp in New Mexico but the Kitaokas are hopeful the family eventually will be reunited at Parker.

Martha, the youngest, has completed her junior year at Brea-Olinda high.

Except for their personal belongings and a few small household items, the Kitaokas stored their goods. They rented their home at 401 East Ash; had no pets to dispose of, sold their car.

Many friends and acquaintances of the Kitaokas called the past few days to bid them farewell, wish them the best of luck in their new surroundings, invite them to come back home after the war.

Dan Cupid, among those at the Kitaoka family farewell, announced that Miss Sady is engaged to Robert Sakai of Indio. Sakai is a graduate of the University of California, also will be located at Parker —which pleases Sady greatly, according to Dan.

Brea Progress, Wednesday, March. 13, 1941 ——»

AIR RAID PROTECTION INSTRUCTIONS

Here are instructions issued to the people of Brea to be followed in case of blackouts, air raids or other conditions which may arise from war conditions.

They come direct from headquarters . . . they are designed to protect our citizens in groups . . . they MUST be followed.

1. Familiarize yourself with your local blackout and all clear signals. Four long blasts on the siren with short pauses between blasts is the BREA BLACKOUT SIGNAL. (The "all clear" signal will be a long steady blast of the siren.)

2. When the signal comes, turn out all house lights if you have not blackened out your windows. Stay home. If bombs fall, lie down on the floor to avoid flying glass or try to find a place where you are protected from sides.

3. If you are driving, pull car into curb, turn out lights and get under cover and lie down. Keep away from crowded places and stay off the streets. Streets must be kept clear.

4. If incendiary bombs fall on your house, cover they with DRY (wet sand is dangerous) sand. Keep sand bags in your home. Keep garden hose attached to faucet. Use a fine spray only on bombs. A splash or jet of water will make them explode.

5. If you have a soda-and-acid extinguisher (the kind you use upside down), place your finger over nozzle to make spray. Do not use the small cylinders of liquid on bombs. They can be used on ordinary fires.

6. If poison gas is used, go to the most inside room of your house (fewest doors and windows). Paste paper over windows, stuff cracks in doors and windows with rags.

7. Appoint one member of the house now as air raid warden to take charge and remember all the rules.

8. Don't believe rumors—spreading false rumors is part of the enemy's technique.

9. Should you get an air raid warning, remember to shut off gas stoves, gas furnaces.

10. Anti-aircraft fire means falling shrapnel. You are safe from it indoors, away from windows.

11. Above all, keep cool. Stay home. Put out lights. Lie down. Keep away from windows.

Various Brea officers and those in authority from other cities say they doubt if the average person realizes the danger we all face.

These possible dangers not only are from enemy air raids but from saboteurs . . . those who would destroy our plants, our oil wells, our dams, our means of communication, transportation, existence.

Remember: Every country in Europe that fell before Hitler and his gang were "softened" up by fifth columnists, who spread lies, discord, tried to make the people hysterical when trouble came.

Brea may never see air raids or saboteurs. But let's be ready if they come and keep calm!

People of Brea

TONIGHT (Friday, March 13), 7 p. m., at Brea Woman's club, the citizens of Brea, as a community, will have their first opportunity to do something socially for soldiers of our country.

This community dance, of course, is for all the citizens of Brea. But as our specially invited guests, there will be approximately forty soldiers here from the army station at Orange.

These boys are being trained to protect their country and us. They are from the cities and farms, poor homes and homes of wealth. But with those uniforms on, they are soldiers—our soldiers—our guests.

A committee composed of Miss Kathryn Burke, chairman, and Mrs. Mary Canavello, Mrs. Mabel Harden and Mrs. Anita Ward has worked hard to have everything in readiness when they come.

These patriotic ladies have collected money from merchants and residents of Pomona avenue (this week's host street).

They have prepared refreshments, music, novelties for the soldiers and all local folks who attend.

Now . . . what the committee wants to be sure of is: LOTS of dancing partners for the soldiers.

While girls of high school age are most welcome, the committee urges older girls and married women to turn out, too. After all, they say, these soldiers will vary in age from 18 to 35 years. Therefore, the committee is particularly desirous for the women of Brea to come out. Sweethearts and husbands of these ladies also are invited to come. All the committee wants is to have plenty of partners for the soldier boys, see that the soldiers have a good time, make them feel that Brea is a swell town, a live-wire town, a patriotic town.

There will be plenty of local ladies to act as hostesses, a master of ceremonies, Barney Barnes and his orchestra, other good music to keep things lively.

WILL ALL LADIES WHO EXPECT TO DANCE WITH THE SOLDIERS PLEASE BE AT THE WOMAN'S CLUB BY 7 OR A LITTLE LATER?

The committee wants to have plenty of partners on hand when the soldiers arrive. They are expected to be here by 7, must return to camp at 10:30.

Be patriotic . . . Lady Dancers! Please come out!

Oh, yes. Everything is free to everyone!

Brea Progress,

Brea Progress, Friday, Dec. 12, 1941

ERS WHO HAVE CONTINUED TO PROVIDE SERVICES THAT HAVE
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PURPOSES OF THE BREA HISTORICAL
INUED EFFORTS ARE RECOGNIZED HERE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR
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rea Historical Society
Old City Hall"
1 South Brea Boulevard
O. Box 9764
rea, CA 92622
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turday 11: 00 AM to 2:00 PM
d by appointment
14) 256-2283

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CATHERINE SEILER
412 S FLOWER AVE
BREA CA 92621
1995

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Brea Historical Society's
Historical Happenings

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Official Newsletter of the BREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Brea, California

Jane O'Brien, President

Inez Fanning, Editor
Sandy Dickinson, Layout and production

VOLUME XII NUMBER 4 JULY 1994

WOMAN OF RANDOLPH

Margaret Moore
(From an interview with Catherine Moore Seiler - 5/21/94)

Margaret Van Hoosen Moore was born in 1887 on a farm near Central City, Nebraska, to parents of Dutch descent. She was the youngest of ten children. Harvey Moore also grew up on a farm in the area, and the two were married in 1906. Harvey had saved some money to buy a horse and buggy, but he wanted to go to business college. He studied business, and got a job as a bookkeeper in a lumber yard.

By 1910, a good many of the Van Hoosens had migrated to the state of Washington. Margaret and Harvey followed them, and eventually were able to buy a 40-acre farm near Yakima. Harvey also was a bookkeeper for a lumberyard there. In 1924 Margaret developed a goiter, due to the lack of iodine in the snow water used for domestic purposes by the farmers. Doctors suggested she go to California for surgery. The Moores leased their land, and set out for La Habra, CA, where a bookkeeping position had opened up at Brown and Dauser Lumber Co. A year later, the same job opened up in Brea, and Harvey took it. Margaret had her surgery.

Catherine, an only child, was born in Yakima, and came first to Brea as a young child. Their first home in Brea was in the 300 block of South Madrona.

(Continued on page 2)

"EARLY BREA HOME LIFE"

Brea Historical Society Exhibit
Brea Country Fair
July 4, 1994
Old City Hall - 9am to 4 pm

Sharon Dean and Helen Swart have recreated rooms furnished in the simple style that life was lived here circa 1900 - 1930.

The living room and sewing room are complimented by the kitchen and back porch.

Many photographs from our collection complete the display.

See you there!

CALENDAR

July 4, Monday - Country Fair
BHS Exhibit at OCH
9 - 4 o'clock
July 11, Monday - Board meeting
7pm - OCH
August 27, Sat - Olinda Oldtimers Picnic
Sept. 5, Monday - Board meeting
7pm - OCH
Sept. 26 -General Meeting
Second Annual "Candidates Night"
7:30pm - First Baptist Church

ACQUISITIONS

Recently donated from Jack Rider are the following items from the "Pacific Oil World" office in Brea: three very old typewriters (one is portable)and a wood file box. The magazine has been published for nearly 80 years and in Brea for a long time.

In 1927, Harvey bought a rustic cottage in the Sleepy Hollow section of Carbon Canyon, and moved his family there. This cottage was to become a weekend and summer retreat in later years.

In the meantime, Harvey was having a new house built at 114 Redwood Ave. The builder was Van Tuyle, who built many homes in Brea at that time. When the family moved in, in 1929, they set to work enhancing the lot. Besides trees, lawn, shrubs, and flowers, there was an arched trellis over the front walk, covered with climbing roses. At the back of the house there was a large pond with water lilies and gold fish!

The tall roof of the house accommodated a large attic room, with access up a narrow back stairway. Catherine's friends recall many happy parties up in that bonus room.

In 1937, the Moores were forced to move back to the State of Washington to repossess their land. They made it productive again, specializing in apples and pears.

Margaret was a capable farm wife, canning fruits and vegetables, feeding seasonal farm hands, and doing lots of sewing and fancywork in the winter. Ten years later, the farm was sold and the family moved back to Brea, where they bought the house on the corner of Birch Street and Orange Avenue.

In 1948, Harvey Moore became Judge Moore of Brea Township. He served four years. During that time he was also Brea's Building Inspector. Mr. Moore was the last City Judge of Brea. His office was in Old City Hall, to the left of the door as you came in. He mostly handled police and traffic cases. Harvey F. Moore died in 1953.

In the last years of her life, Margaret Moore suffered the amputation of her right leg. She was also plagued by arthritis in her hands and arms. She bravely confronted these problems by producing prolific amounts of handwork. She crocheted 112 afghans, in addition to many lap robes for veterans at the Sawtelle Hospital. Finding that discarded sweaters offered a wealth of material, she unravelled and reclaimed the yarn for her work. Margaret also made six crocheted tablecloths, several braided rugs, and many smaller items. And the work improved the arthritic condition of her hands and arms.

Mrs. Moore died in 1956. She is remembered for her courage to live and be productive, and for her independent spirit. Wheelchair bound, she would remark that the soft yarn and bright colors made her happy.

Richard and Catherine Moore Seiler established their own home in Brea at 412 South Flower St. This house was featured on the BHS History Walk of 1992.*

*Several items made by Margaret Moore will be featured in our exhibit on July 4.

Inez

HISTORIC TREES MEETING

Everyone agreed Karl's presentation on Brea's trees was a delight, and expressed a desire to learn even more about the subject.

Did you know? Young trees planted in the new median of Imperial Highway go by the name of "bronze loquat". The small monument style devices among the trees are sensors that turn on the sprinklers!

OLINDA PROJECT TOUR

Recently, Santa Fe Energy Company officials toured the project area with the following members from the society: Jane O'Brien, Sally and Charles Rathmell, Karl Fanning, and Jack Smith.

Recent changes in the project plans were of interest to the group.

THANK YOU

Sharon and Helen, co-chairmen of this year's July 4th display, wish to acknowledge and thank the following persons for loaning historical items for this event:

Helen Swart and Bernie
Inez Fanning and Karl
Betty Millen and Dean
Sharon Dean and Larry
Virginia Van Arsdale
Catherine Seiler
Carol Wolfert
Brian Saul
Teresa Hampson
Jane O'Brien

HISTORIC ORDINANCE

The historic ordinance, intended to encourage owners of historic buildings to renovate and maintain their properties, was approved by the Brea City Council at its regular meeting on June 7.

As part of this voluntary preservation program, the Planning Commission will maintain a local register of historic structures that will be eligible for special benefits, such as tax breaks and rehabilitation loans.

Once a building is deemed historic, the ordinance states that any exterior alteration or addition will have to receive approval. Suggestions for forming one or more Historical Districts were tabled for more study.

BREA TRIVIA

1. When and where did Brea's water flow through wooden pipes?
2. How was the "pitch pipe" used?

Answer to last issue's trivia question:
The cannon that stood in front of the American Legion Building was turned in for scrap metal during World War II.

BHS INFORMATION

Mailing address:

Brea Historical Society
P.O. Box 9764
Brea, CA 92622

Telephone: (714) 256-2283

Offices and museum are located in the Old City Hall building at 401 S. Brea Blvd.

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Brea, Ca 92622
Office and Museum Hours:
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Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
(714) 256-2283

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Jane O'Brien, President

Inez Fanning, Editor
Sandy Dickinson, Layout and production

VOLUME XIII NUMBER 1 JANUARY 1995

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everybody had a wonderful holiday and now it is back to work. We had a wonderful Christmas Potluck and Program. Thanks to Edna Makins for getting Sam Parsons from the Main Place Christian Fellowship for our entertainment. Plus, Santa Claus did arrive for a quick visit.

By now you know that the Old City Hall will become the new Scout House. We will remain in the building until the scouts raise enough money to do the required repairs and retrofitting. When this begins, the Society will be moving from our current home in the building.

In an agreement with the City of Brea, the Society will be moved to a temporary location until we can find another home in the New Downtown area.

We love our current home in the Old City Hall, but cannot afford the repair and retrofitting costs. It is better to have the building restored to its original look and to be used by the youth of the city, becoming "alive" again. Someday, this youth may join and become part of the Society. However, all of the above will be a slow process, and we will probably remain in the building for some time.

Please attend our next General Meeting on January 23rd and learn more about the Old City Hall becoming the new Scout House.

(Con't on next page - MESSAGE)

General Meeting

Monday, January 23rd, 730 pm
First Baptist Church, corner of Date and Flower.

Program: SCOUT NITE

There will be speakers from the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the City Of Brea.

Memorabilia to Display

Please bring any scout photos and artifacts you may have, to share for the evening - uniforms, camping items, badges, etc.

Refreshments will be served.

Be there to find out what is projected to be done with our building.

Note: Available members of the "Scout Committee" will be invited. These are from Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Lions Club.

Calendar

Jan 23 - Monday, General Meeting
Feb 7 - Board meeting
March 6 - Board meeting
March 27 - General Meeting
Saturdays - Museum in Old Court House open by appointment. Please call Jane at 529-8550 or 529-6173.

(MESSAGE - from page 1)

This is the time of year that we elect our new Board of Directors for the coming year. You will find the names of the candidates elsewhere in the newsletter. The election will take place on Jan 23rd.

1995 annual dues are due. Enclosed is an envelope for your convenience. Please refer to the inside of the envelope's flap for a listing of the various types of memberships and the amount of dues for each one. To see if you owe 1995 dues, please look at your mailing label. If it has "1994" on it, we have not received your 1995 payment. If it has "1995" on it, you are paid up.

Looking forward to seeing each of you at the January 23rd General Meeting.

In Friendship,
Jane O'Brien

Notes From The Board

A policy statement on selling copies of photos from our photo collection was made. We have chosen 8 prints for this purpose. Only these will be sold. Prices are $10.00 for 8x10's and $35.00 for panoramas.

A new brochure was presented by Brian Saul, entitled "Information Guide For Historical Preservation." It tells individual property owners how the Historic Ordinance works. For copies, call Brian at 714-671-1331.

Board Members

Members to be elected:

Sharon Dean
Jane O'Brien
Brian Saul
Inez Fanning
Betty Millen
**Herc Roeser
**Wilma Sauer
Alan West
Karl Fanning
Sally Rathmell
Geri Carpenter
**Joanne Montez (Student Rep)
Helen Swart
Rod Dickinson
**Don Schweitzer

** New Members

The following people are not seeking another term:

Mary Nell Chansler
Wayne Wedin
Teresa Hampson
Elsie Bergman

City Hall Park

In 1924, the City Council took the first steps in planning for a future site for a city park and buildings to house the city government. The land was owned by the Union Oil Company, and the purchase price for the first two lots showed a cost of $5,392.

Three years later the voters approved the plans and voted a bond issue for $60,000 for the Council to proceed in acquiring the necessary land to build a city hall, which would include a jail and quarters for the fire department, a swimming pool, and for the general improvement in formulating a public park. Provisions for the branch library was included in the city hall plans.

Not until January 1929 was the building completed. The following May an additional $10,000 was voted to complete the improvements for the park grounds.

The city vacated OCH in 1981 when the new Brea Civic and Cultural Center was dedicated. It is located on East Birch near Randolph.

Brea City Hall and Park were entered in the National Register of Historic Places by the US Department of Interior on May 24, 1984. On October 13th of that year, its historical designation was approved by the State of California Office of Historical Preservation.

Important places in the park include: Old City Hall, Brea Municipal Plunge, the Old American Legion Building (once the home of the Police Department), the Gazebo, The City Rose Garden, and the historic flag pole.

Acquisitions

From Jack Smith - Slides and photographs of homes and businesses destroyed by redevelopment.

From School District - two boxes of slides

From City of Brea - A 1976 3' x 9' aerial photo of Brea.

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We are open Saturdays 11am to 2pm and by appointment. Please call Sharon Dean at 529-6186.

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VOLUME XII NUMBER 6 NOVEMBER 1994

WOMAN OF RANDOLPH - Minnie Morris Bergman

Minnie Morris was born in Cuttlesville, Virginia, and her Southern dialect never left her. As a young girl, she came west to Arizona, where she met and married her husband, James C. Bergman. The couple moved to Santa Ana, CA., in 1910, and to Brea in 1916. During 1916, Mrs. Bergman was invited to attend the Brea Christian Church, one of the three churches then in town, and she became a faithful member. Her three sons, Walter, Aubrey (Jake), and Jim (Morris) grew up in the church family.

Mrs. Bergman had a rich and varied life. Besides the experience of moving across the country, she had become a great horsewoman in Arizona. At one show she won a beautiful gold watch that had a diamond on it. She also attended business college.

In Brea, Minnie served the Sunday School by visiting the families of children who had been absent for three Sundays. She sold tickets when Brea had a bus station. The bus station was located at Bergman's Garage at the corner of Brea Boulevard and Birch, most recently occupied by Ed Pawlack Tile.

It is said that Minnie sometimes saw herself as an unofficial "detective". Many years ago, one of the houses west of the church on Ash Street was the scene of a

(WOMAN continued on next page)

Christmas Potluck and General Meeting

December 5 - Monday - 6:30pm

First Baptist Church, corner of Date and Flower. Hosts: President Jane and Pat O'Brien.

What to bring:

A-K Main Entree'
L-R Salad
S-Z Dessert

Delicious baked ham will be donated by the hosts! Rolls, coffee, punch, and table service will be provided.

Program: Sam Parsons, a troubadour, will entertain, and there will also be surprises! Come one and all, and bring a friend!

Calendar

Dec 1 - Thursday, 7pm - City Historical Committee, Plaza Room, Civic Center. You are invited to attend.

Dec 5 - Monday, 630pm - Historical Society Christmas Potluck

Jan 9 - Monday, Board Meeting

Jan 23 - Monday, General Meeting

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(WOMAN from page 1)

gambling operation. Mrs. B. suspected this, and invited the police to attend one of the local PTA meetings to "get acquainted". She led the whole group to the notorious house, and the gamblers were caught red-handed! Who said PTA meetings were dull?

Mrs. B. also put a silverware swindle to an end by going to Los Angeles with Police Chief Williams to demand silverware that she had paid for but never received. The company executives were arrested.

An interesting souvenir of Minnie's younger years is her "Autograph Book", in which the earliest writings are dated 1890. The book, 6" x 9", is decorated on the cover with flowers and birds, and a picture of three little girls washing clothes in a wooden tub and hanging them up to dry.

Relatives, as well as friends, signed the book. Signed by Lula E. Reynolds, one page contains the following verse:

"Forget you I can never
It is vain for me to try.
If I sin by loving you
I will sin until I die."
(signed) Your Cousin
March 14th, 1896

The ties were close between sisters and brothers, aunts and others, and it was a tearful time when one of the group "went out west". Minnie's mother wrote a page in the book, and others wrote bible verses. Several pages were "Remember me", and some were "Happy Birthday". The writings were not all by girls or women. Boys who were cousins or "friends" left their mark. The latest date written was 1907. What a precious record of friendship and love!

Mr. and Mrs. Bergman lived to celebrate their Golden Anniversary together, in Brea. Minnie made a few trips back to Virginia and to see her sisters in Bisbee, Arizona. Mostly, though, she lived quietly and "kept house". Her homemade jam and sweet pickles were most tasty.

She served her church in innumerable ways, from Sunday School teacher to deaconess. The church women named her Grandmother of the Year in 1964. Minnie lived to be 94 years old. Her hair never turned gray. It was a beautiful dark brown to the last. Minnie was a direct descendant of Governor Morris of Virginia, who became the first Treasurer of the United States.

Editors Note: Some material for this article was taken from a Brea Christian Church newsletter dated August 23, 1965, and edited by Bob Law. Minnie's son Walter, and Elsie, widow of her son Jake, also contributed.

Acquisitions

1. From the City of Brea - Packet of "souvenirs" of 1994 activities. This includes ephemera, T-shirts, and buttons.
2. From Brian Saul - Files on historical research done over the past few years, including old city blueprints, Sanborn maps, extensive collection of photographs and negatives, early tract maps of Brea, videos, tapes of interviews with early Breans, memorabilia of 1992 Jubilee, and miscellaneous historical items. Thank you, Brian!!
3. Made by Charles Rathmell - two fireboxes to replace original ones on our old fire engine, "Susie". One is a tool box, one is for batteries. Thanks to Charlie.
4. The back wall (20 ft long) of the bar at the old Imperial Cafe from the 200 block of South Brea Blvd. Darwin Manuel has been storing this for us since the building was demolished. It will be moved this week to OCH. It is a very interesting example of Art Deco.
5. From Catherine Seiler - an antique piano stool with turn table and claw feet. This will complement our piano from the Masonic Lodge.
6. From Esther Cramer - microfilm of Brea Progress, 1917 to 1923. And Thank You.

Evelyn Woods Bergman

Mrs. Walter Bergman passed away October 10. She was a wonderful person whose memory we will cherish.

Nominating Committee

Sally Rathmell, chairperson, makes the following report: the following have been chosen as new board members - Wilma Sauer and "Herc" Roecser, both of which have served on the City Historical Committee, and Don Schweitzer, son of the late Frank Schweitzer, Jr. Other members of the nominating committee are Sharon Dean and Brian Saul. The general membership will vote at the December meeting to elect these nominees. Officers are then chosen directly by the board.

Wanted

Computer
Microfilm camera and projector

Please take note, Brea businesses! These will help us to move forward.

From The Board

At the meeting on November 16, President Jane discussed the renewing of our lease with the City of Brea. The city council has voted to retrofit (to seismic standards) Old City Hall, and then grant a long term lease to Brea's Girl and Boy Scouts, who will remodel the inside of the building for their use. The outside of the building will be redecorated to meet the standards of the National Historic Register.

The Redevelopment Agency will provide a consultant to assist us in finding temporary and then permanent quarters. We will be given 6 months notice by the scouts, who need time to raise a great deal of money for their project.

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Brea Historical Society's
Historical Happenings

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Jane O'Brien, President

Inez Fanning, Editor
Sandy Dickinson, Layout and production

VOLUME XII NUMBER 5 SEPTEMBER 1994

LOUIS PAPILLO

Louis "Louie" Papillo was a colorful character of Brea's past. He came to Brea during the twenties and built his house on the corner of Brea Blvd. and Date St. It's style was that of a little wooden two story bungalow from his native Italy, with balconies and flower boxes decorating it.

His business in the town was to be its first nurseryman. The front of the lot (facing Brea Blvd.) was where he planted many flowers and shrubs to be sold. He especially liked to grow roses, and neighbor children running through his garden sometimes fell into the rose bushes and were stuck with thorns. When City Hall Park was developed in 1929, Louie designed the landscaping for it and provided the plants, the site being just across the street from him.

In the thirties, Louie was known as THE gardener at Brea-Olinda High School. He was friendly, and the students often heard him tell of his experiences in World War I. At that time, he was a victim of "nerve gas", which affected his legs. He would show us how his legs still had many red scars from the splash of the gas, and tell us how his legs would itch and burn him forever.

An active member of the Brea Lions Club, Louie had a wife and a little daughter, Rita, when he first built the house. The couple was soon divorced, and Louie never

(PAPILLO con't on next page)

CANDIDATES NIGHT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 7:30pm

This popular meeting will be held at the First Baptist Church on the corner of Date and Poplar Aves.

Candidates for the three openings on the city council will be voted on in November. Come, one and all! This is the time to hear these people in person and a chance to ask them your own questions.

Special note: Refreshment Committee: all of the board members.

See you there!!

CALENDAR

September 26, Monday - General Meeting
7:30 pm CANDIDATES' NIGHT
First Baptist Church

October 3, Monday - Board Meeting
7 pm - Old City Hall

November 7, Monday - Board Meeting
Old City Hall

December 5, Monday - General Meeting
6:30 pm Potluck and Christmas Party
First Baptist Church

Oct 6 - Nov 3 - Dec 1 - Thursdays
7 pm City Historical Committee
Plaza Room - Civic Center - All are welcome to attend

(PAPILLO con't from page 1)
remarried. His ex-wife moved to LongBeach and died soon after.

Louie was an "old Country" type father to Rita. She attended school in Brea and graduated from Brea-Olinda High. She married "Gabby" Gabriel, and their two sons, Larry, now a police officer in Southern California, and Ray, are owners of the property. Ray Gabriel lived on the main floor of the house, and rented the upstairs to a friend. Both of them are currently stuntmen at Disneyland, although Ray has had experience as an hospital aide.

In the meantime, the neighborhood children had noticed all along that Louie liked to collect pretty rocks. He would go into Brea or other canyons and bring a load of rocks home periodically. These would be lying around the edges of the lot and house, but the children were forbidden to play with them. In the forties, Louie made a major room addition at the rear of house on the Date Street side. The wall facing Date was curved, and made of Louie's rocks. It had a definite Tuscan flavor of Old Italy, with a hip roof and a deep overhang. In time, the place came to be known as the "Rock House".

As time went on, first Louie and then Rita passed away. The grandsons continued the remodelling tradition, adding small rooms and corners here and there, and renting out parts of the building from time to time. The nursery has been gone for many years, and recently the boulevard side has been paved with brick and surrounded with a black wrought iron fence.

Louie left his mark on the landscapes of Brea, and his "Rock House" will continue to be a landmark for as long as it stands.

(Special thanks to Eleanor Gheen Lepper for her contributions to this article)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been a busy summer for the Historical Society. We had a booth at the Country Fair on the 4th of July, and the museum was open with our new exhibit "Homestyles: Early Brea". Bernie Swart had a display on how to make rope in which he let children make their own. There were times when they were standing three deep waiting their turn. It was great to see this "hands on" history.

A great big THANK YOU to Sharon Dean and Helen Swart for the many hours they each put in to make the exhibit a success. Also, many thanks to the various members who donated items to be used in the exhibit.

The museum has been open most Saturdays this summer. Also, it was open every Wednesday while the Concerts In The Park were going on, giving a number of Brea and non-Brea residents a chance to see the exhibit.

If you have not had a chance to see the "Homestyles" exhibit, it will be there until October. The museum is open on Saturdays from 11am to 2pm.

Our annual Meet The Candidates night will be September 26th at 7pm. This is your chance to meet the candidates running for Brea City Council. Please refer to the CANDIDATES NIGHT story elsewhere in the newsletter for more information. We had an excellent turnout last year for this event, and look forward to seeing you there this year.

Yours in friendship,

Jane O'Brien
President

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

The City of Brea now owns Sam's Place. A couple of weeks ago, the Historical Committee took a tour of the building. It was very interesting to see the inside of the place, and the brick wall where

the ovens were located when it was a bakery.

It will be moved to the Historical Block area if it turns out that the building can actually be moved. The City is looking into this at the present time. If so, the move will take place around the end of October or the first of November to coincide with the start of the widening of Brea Blvd. from Birch Street north to Ash.

Among many other items, the committee is also updating their inventory of historical homes and buildings.

If you get a chance, please go to the 100 block of South Redwood and take a look at how the homes that were moved there are doing. The work is going great, and this project is something the Historical Committee, the Historical Society, and the City can be proud of.

Jane O'Brien

"MOVIES FROM THE PAST"

...is the title of our current exhibit in the foyer of the Brea Library. Posters, programs, books, and pictures make a colorful display. The following recaps the Brea program for September 3, 1927:

RED LANTERN THEATRE
Brea, Phone 10
Two complete shows every evening
7 and 9 P.M.
Program
September 1 to 14

Tuesday, September 3
CAPITAL PRIZE
to be given away
Also five acts of good
VAUDEVILLE
and
FEATURE PICTURE

Programs are also shown from Fox Fullerton and Fox Anaheim theaters, as well as others.

A big thank you to Catherine Seiler for this display.

BREA TRIVIA

(Answers to last month's trivia)

1. In the time around the turn of the century, ranchers were beginning to settle the North Orange County area. They needed water to irrigate their crops. The East Whittier Water Company was formed to bring water from the San Gabriel River. From the company's reservoir in East Whittier, an 18 inch wooden line brought water to a Brea reservoir, located just north of what is now Brea Junior High. This reservoir stood on tall legs and was a landmark for many years.

A 20 ft. section of wooden pipe still remains and is in storage. The wooden pipes were eventually replaced by concrete pipes.

2. A "pitch pipe" has nothing to do with the water supply. It is an artifact. One in our possession is a silver colored metal tube approximately 2 inches long. Each end has a small opening. By blowing on the pipe you will hear "middle C". A teacher would use it to find the right "pitch" or tone to begin the singing of a song. There were no classroom pianos when W.E. Fanning came to teach in Brea in 1914. Our "pitch pipe" was his.

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Sandy Dickinson, Layout and production

VOLUME XII NUMBER 3 MAY 1994

AN HERITAGE OF PIANOS

In 1935, the Brea Women's Club together with the Brea Lion's Club, dedicated a clubhouse on the east side of the 300 block of Brea Blvd. This joint effort had moved the building formerly used by the Boy Scouts to the site where it was remodeled for the service clubs to use.

The stage at one end of the large room was adorned with beautiful pull curtains. When the curtains opened, a grand piano stood on the stage. This was a project of the women, headed by Bernice Curtis, a piano teacher and wife of Dr. Glenn Curtis.

On a personal note, in 1937 I played a piano concert there for the women's luncheon meeting. One of the numbers was "Kammenoi Ostrow" by Rubenstein.

In 1974, the building was again moved, and refurbished for community use. It was dedicated as Pioneer Hall, at Elm and Madrona, in 1977. The piano went with the building. It is still in use there!!

Inez Fanning

GRAND PIANO AT CURTIS THEATER

In 1986, Mary King (Mrs. Glenn King), then president of the Brea Women's Club, inherited a lovely grand piano from her childhood home in Covina. She donated the piano to the C. Glenn Curtis Theater. This piano has a plaque designating it's origin, in the twenties.

Mary passed away in 1988. The piano still makes lovely music.

UPCOMING GENERAL MEETING

Monday, May 23rd, 7:30pm at the First Baptist Church at the corner of Date and Flower Streets in Brea.

Program: "Trees in Public Places". Karl Fanning, a member of the Brea Beautification and Environment Committee, will speak and show slides. The members of that committee will also be our guests.

Be there!!
Refreshments will be served.

CALENDAR

May 23rd - General Meeting (see above).
June 6 - Board meeting - Old City Hall
July 2 - Saturday - 11-2 - Work day
July 4 - Monday - Brea Country Fair
BHS exhibit at Old City Hall will be open 10am to 4pm entitled "Homestyles: Early Brea".
July 11 Board meeting (note change from March newsletter).
Sep 26 - Our next General Meeting

WORK DAY PARTICIPANTS

Many thanks to the following who showed up for the April 16th work day: Jane and Pat O'Brien, Sharon and Larry Dean, Rod Dickinson, Don Schweitzer, Inez and Karl Fanning, Helen and Bernie Swart, and Brian Saul. Also, thanks to Barbara and Bruce Williams and their daughter, for all the work they did with those heavy boxes of old newspapers on the metal racks.

HELEN SWART

We wish to thank Helen for her donation of a large new coffee maker to the Society. We welcome her as our new secretary, and member of the Board of Directors.

And we do sing her praises as she is already working hard as co-chairman, along with Sharon Dean, of our July 4th exhibit.

Please note the following message about the exhibit:

4th of July Needs

Wooden clothes drying rack
Old quilt, partly finished
Red, White and Blue glass
Dishes from the early 1900's
Old dolls
Linens
Drop leaf kitchen table
Wood kitchen chairs for table
Side table to place old radio
Lace curtains
Old school items
Oranges and lemons
Sewing stand
Mannequins
Chair for sewing room
Rag rug for kitchen
Wrapped hard candy
Spare yarn (bright colors)

VOLUNTEER TIME (1-2 hrs at a time)

Please label any items on loan to the Museum with your name and phone number.

Volunteers to work July 2 at the museum to finish setting up the display and to make and put on labels.

Any items you may be able to temporarily donate may be brought to the May 23rd General Meeting. Or, you may call Sharon Dean with what you have, so she can tell you when to bring the item to the museum.

Sharon Dean - 714-529-6186

BREA TRIVIA

1. What happened to the old cannon that stood for many years long ago in front of the old American Legion Building at Brea Blvd and Elm Street?

Answers to previous trivia questions:

1. The detached steeple belongs to Brea Foursquare Church. Reverend Loren Wood, minister, came to Brea in 1950 to establish this congregation. His former pastorate was in Bellflower, CA When the church building in Bellflower was demolished, the steeple was saved. It will become a part of the new Brea Foursquare Church to be built as a Brea Redevelopment Agency project at the northwest corner of Brea Boulevard and Ash Street.

SPRING POEM

Yellow clouds of mustard
in Brea Canyon--
Green hills of home.
Green and Gold.

Inez

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

1. Given by the Dean family: A lovely, framed watercolor by Myrtle Wilson Stipp. This was done in the Philippines in the twenties, before she came to Brea as a founder from the Santa Ana church, and later as the wife of Reverend Frank Stipp of Brea Christian Church, 1935-1940.

2. Given by Inez Fanning: Items from Gheen's Market - portable gas burner used at the back of the store to heat water. Fresh chickens were scalded and dressed there; Hammer-style meat tenderizer (Anybody remember Mr. Gheen's good swiss steak?); Ice tongs and margarine mold.

3. A voluminous history of Shaffer Tool Works from the files of the late Frank Schweitzer.

PAUL WHIPP

We are saddened by the death of Paul Whipp, former school board member, community volunteer, and loyal member of his church and the society. Our sympathy goes out to his wife, Alice.

SPECIAL NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

I wish to thank all members who paid their dues between the February 1st and April 15th for their patience. My tax business prevented me from getting membership cards out with the promptness you had the right to expect. Please accept my apologies.

Sally Rathmell
BHS Treasurer

CIVIC CENTER DISPLAY

Thank you, Catherine Seiler, for another attractive collection in our cases on display at the Civic Center. "Historic Hats" made their debut for Easter, and will continue.

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Inez Fanning,Editor
Herc Roeser, Layout, Production

BOB and MATTIE SHANKS
BREA PIONEERS
Inez C. Fanning

Robert Milton Shanks married the former Mattie Hannah in Arkansas in 1912. They both were natives of the state and grew up on adjoining farms. The couple arrived in Brea in 1916. They had come west earlier and lived elsewhere in California first. Their first home in Brea was in the 300 block of South Pomona Ave. (now Brea Blvd.) on the west side of the street. Bob obtained employment in the oil fields. Their son, Robert, Jr., was born in 1923.

Having had some experience in hair cutting in Arkansas, Bob decided to open a barber shop in Brea. He rented a building downtown in the space where Brundage Glass was recently located. Bob was a good barber and had many friends. At one time, he had two shops - the other in La Habra. As the depression came along however, Mattie decided that she too wanted to work. She enrolled in a beauty college in Los Angeles and rode the Motor Transit bus back and forth to classes for many months.

When Mattie was ready, the working facility became a Barber and Beauty Shop. Bob Shanks was a successful business man and an active member of the Brea Lions Club and the Chamber of Commerce.

In 1948, a larger house was purchased and the family moved in. This was a box-type house on the east side of the 200 block of South Pomona Ave. The house was on the east side of the street and at this writing is the only building now standing on the block due to city redevelopment. A few years later, the adjoining lot to the north of the house was purchased and Bob built his own Barber and Beauty Shop. This small building still stands beside the home now boarded up.

In the late fifties, the Shanks bought a new house a 325 South Flower and moved, leaving the Pomona Ave. house as a rental.

Bob Shanks died in 1969 and Mattie died 16 months later. Bob Jr. and his wife Nelda inherited the property on Brea Blvd. and in 1975, the property was sold by them to Miguel and Marina Vega.

Bob, Jr. worked in this area for Standard Oil Co. - Chevron -- for 36 years and retired 10 years ago. Bob and Nelda are current members of the Brea Historical Society. Their two grown children are int police work: Debbie as a police and fire dispatcher for the City of Brea, and Byron is a correction office at an installation near Blythe, California.

A Personal Note: Mattie and the beauty operator who worked with her, Della Bowie, ran a shop that was a pleasure to go to. Black-haired, short and plump, Mattie gave a little cheer and a few laughs to each of the women whose hair she set. - Inez

NEW DISPLAY IN FOYER

Catherine Seiler's next display in the City Library will be about "Burma Shave" roadside advertisements and promises delightful sayings, photographs and objects. Please make it a point to stop by the library and view this historical display. - Inez

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Brian Saul

In a couple of hours, I'll be heading for our museum/office for a group clean-up/move-stuff-

around/get-ready-for-the 4th-of-July-exhibit day. These two hours will give me time to fill you in on what the Society has been doing lately.

As I said, today is a group work day. Among the things we have planned is to move a lot of larger historical items from their present location at the Berry St. fire station back to old city hall. Recently, we've begun to use two large rooms downstairs for storage. This will allow us to have our whole collection in one place.

As part of this month's National Historic Preservation Week, we currently have three exhibits going on in the community: one in the library at the high school about old BOHS; and two others in the city library, one of which shows items that were unearthed in old downtown Brea, and the other displaying "Burma Shave" memorabilia.

We've recently reached an agreement with the City in that they will sell our Brea historical video "A Walk in Time" and in turn, we will sell the City's "Our Town" poster. Both of us will receive a small percentage of sales.

We made another agreement with the Brea Olinda Alumni Association. We will do a joint mailing to 4000 alumni. This will give us the opportunity to advertise our book and video and the Association to announce a major reunion event next year.

The 4th of July will be here soon and as always, the Society will be well represented. Apart from our booth in the park itself, we'll be raising restoration funds, as we did last year, for the old Seagrave fire truck. Inside the museum will be our yearly exhibit, this time tentatively titled "Brea Blvd., Past and Present." The day will also see us formally dedicating old City hall, the plunge, and the American Legion hall as official Brea historical landmarks.

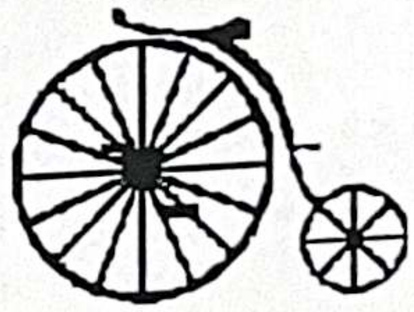
At long last, a child's history of Brea is in progress and should be completed soon. Teresa Hampson, who wrote our book Brea: Celebrating 75 Years, is the author. It will combine pictures for the children to color as well as games and other features based on our past.

Brea Mayor Bev Perry, a member of the Society and working with us, this week completed a video tour of the historic homes moved to Redwood St. It appeared as part of May 16 City Council meeting and is currently being rerun on cable channel 3.

We're still negotiating with the developers of the Olinda Heights Project in Carbon Canyon to make our dream of an Olinda oil interpretive center / historical park a reality. Things look good so far.

Finally, on a sad note, the old 1915 Brea Bakery building, better known as Sam's Place, has been demolished. Fortunately, we were able to save many items which have been added to our collection. The City, at our request, has also preserved the front of the building so that when the structure is rebuilt as part of the new Heritage Block, it will include a part of the original building.

You can see that the Society is really moving along and it's thanks to you and your support as well as to our great Board that's making all this possible. It's very important that we continue our forward motion in the future and make our presence known as much and as often as possible. The Society has a lot of challenges coming up (the Heritage Block, moving to a new home, the Olinda Historical Park) and it's imperative that we all work together to accomplish our goals. - Brian



NOTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING

Herc Roeser

President Brian Saul called the Board meeting to order in the museum at old city hall on Monday evening, May 1.

Brian mentioned that the new lighted Junior High School sign used some bricks from old downtown buildings, now demolished. Roof tiles from the old high school were installed on top of the sign also. The official plaque marking the Junior High as an historical site has also been placed on the new sign.

Joanna Montes, our student representative on the Board, will see the editor of the "Wildcat News" about having an article on National Preservation Week. An historical exhibit about the old high school is on display in the library at the high school. - Herc

A SURPRISE at LOMA VISTA

Brian Saul

I was bored the other day with nothing to do so instead of just sitting around the house, I thought "Oh, I'll spend a little time in the Loma Vista Cemetery."

Yeah, I know. There are a lot more exciting places to go; but as any historian can tell you, visiting a local cemetery is one of the most interesting -- well, kind of interesting -- things you can do. All those names and dates and files in the cemetery office!

Entering the front gate off Bastanchury Rd., I headed for the back of the cemetery because that's where the earliest graves are located. Right before I reached the area, I wanted to, my eyes were attracted to a black marble gravestone on my right. Etched (or somehow molded onto the stone) was a photograph of the person buried. Alongside the picture, there was some foreign writing as well as its translation in English. When I read it, I was surprised and shocked because the words written were "Lon Nol, President of Cambodia, 1913 - 1985."

Lon Nol -- That name was very familiar to me because like so many of us who lived through the Vietnam War and the subsequent tragedy of Cambodia, I was constantly bombarded with news, names and places from that part of the world.

Who was Lon Nol? With the help of an encyclopedia get the facts, I learned that in 1970, angry that communist North Vietnamese had been allowed to occupy his country's eastern provinces, Lon Nol had helped to overthrow the Cambodian regime of Prince Sihanouk and then established the Khmer Republic.

Being pro-American, he and his new government became the target of the increasingly powerful communist Khmer Rouge insurgents. Despite substantial US. assistance, the Khmer Republic fell in 1975 with President Lon Nol being forced to flee his country. I'm sure we all know then occurred in Cambodia -- the murder of millions of its people by the Khmer Rouge.

Here in a little cemetery so very close to us is the grave of a man who played a major role in world history. I'm sure that outside the Cambodian Community, hardly anyone knows that he's buried here. Somehow, to me, that's a strange and sad end. Consequently, I felt that even though this article doesn't deal specifically with Brea or Breans, it needed to be written and shared. I hope you agree.

PS. I was later told that apart from President Nol, other well-known people who are buried in Loma Vista are Walter and Cordelia Knott, founders of Knott's Berry Farm; singer Andy Russell, best known for his song "Amor" and C.S. Forester, the author of such books as The African Queen and the "Horatio Hornblower" series. - Brian

SPRING POTLUCK & GENERAL MEETING

May 22 -- Monday -- 6:30 PM
First Baptist Church, corner of Date & Flower

All the Board members will be your hosts.
(The Board is asked to come early and help set up.)

What To Bring

A-K Main dish **L-R** Salad **S-Z** Dessert

PROGRAM

"Clothing through California's History"

A slide presentation with artifacts by Edith Behrens of the Bowers Museum Speakers Bureau.

Rolls, coffee, punch and table service will be provided

CALENDAR

June 1 - 4 Twentieth Annual California

Conference Headquarters will be in the Mission Inn. Conference sessions will focus on the preservation of sacred structures and historic landscapes, historic preservation as economic development and the historic legacy of art in public places. Riverside's historic resources will be the focus of workshops and seminars. Brian Saul & Herc Roeser have information on this annual event. You will learn an awful lot about historical issues in short period of time. Brian's number is 671-1331 and Herc's is 990-2743.

June 5 Monday at 7 PM, monthly Board meeting a the home of Rathmells, 1620 Moorpark Dr

July 3 Monday at 7 PM, monthly Board meeting a Old City Hall

July 4 "County Fair" all day at the Old City Hall

THE AREA BELOW IS RESERVED FOR BUSINESS CARD ADS! If you would like to have your card displayed to our members as an advertiser and supporter, please call Herc Roeser at (714) 990-2743 for details.

Please note that we are computerizing the mailing list into a new database. If you note any errors or have any corrections, call Herc at 714-990-2743.
Thank you

Ask a friend or neighbor to join the Brea Historical Society!



Brea Historical Society
"Old City Hall"
401 South Brea Boulevard
P.O. Box 9764
Brea, CA 92622
Office and Museum Hours:
Saturday 11: 00 AM to 2:00 PM
and by appointment
(714) 256-2283

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March 1995

Brea Historical Society's

Historical Happenings

*Brea Historical Society Museum * Old City Hall * 401 South Brea Boulevard*
** Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9764, Brea, CA 92622*
** Telephone 714 256-2283*

Official Newsletter of the BREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Brea, California

Brian Saul, President — Inez Fanning, Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brian Saul

Here is the first Newsletter since I became President and the first opportunity I've had to sit in front of my computer and write out a few thoughts. Don't expect anything very profound though, because right now, it's almost 10 PM and I have to get this article in tomorrow. I just came back from a meeting and the thought of going to bed sounds very good to me at the moment.

Despite all that, there are some things that I think it's important that you know and one of these of course is my goals for the Society in 1995. A few of these concern work already begun by the City's former Historical Committee and they include continuing to nominate structures to the Brea Historical Register and to serve as historical advisors on Brea's exciting new project, the Heritage Block.

Now that the Brea Scouts will be taking over Old City Hall as their headquarters in the future and we'll be moving to a new home, I want to insure that we're organized and prepared for that move when it occurs.

Making the Society a place where the public can come and do extensive research about our history is of prime importance to me. I'm thrilled that we're well on our way to reaching this goal and I know the months ahead will bring us even closer.

The Olinda Heights project, in which the developers have promised to preserve the remaining few structures of Old Olinda and create a park/oil interpretive center around them, will soon be underway, and the Society should play an important role as the project progresses.

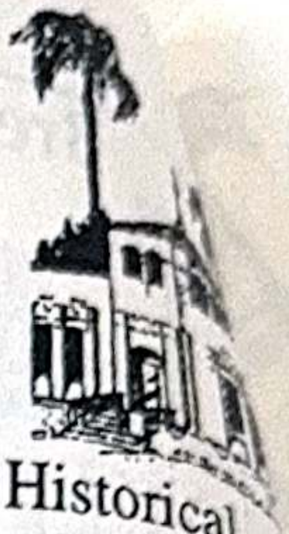
More visibility for our organization is yet another of my goals. We need to continue to make Breans aware that we still have a history, even though the most obvious sign of our past, the old downtown, has almost disappeared.

To make these and other goals a reality, I've set up committees within the Society to better facilitate results. I believe it's extremely important that we continue moving forward in a positive way so that we accomplish as much as possible.

(cont.)

General Meeting
Monday, March 27, 7:30 PM
First Baptist Church
Corner of Date & Flower Streets

Historical Happenings



This year's Board is going to be great to work with, and with us all working together, I'm really excited about what the future holds for the Society. Don't forget though that the other Board members and I represent you. If you have suggestions or concerns, please share these with us. Also, if you're able, we can always use your help down at the Museum in Old City Hall if only for a few hours a week. As I said, we need to continue moving ahead and with your help, it will only go faster.

Well, I guess it's time to finally go to bed now, so have a great rest of the month and I'll see you on the 27th for our General Meeting at the First Baptist Church. It will be a great program with representatives from Santa Fe Oil coming to give us an update on Olinda Heights.

PS. Remember that we still have copies of our book Brea: Celebrating 75 Years and our Brea Historical video, "A Walk In Time" available. Please call me at (714) 671-1331 if you wish to purchase one or the other or both. Also, we're always excited about adding to our collection of Brea historical information, photographs, and other items, so if you'd like to make a donation to the Society, we'd be very excited and grateful to accept it. - Brian



MUSEUM REPORT

Sharon Dean

The purpose of the Brea Historical Society is "to preserve the past and the present for the future." To accomplish this, we depend on gifts and donations from many sources to increase our collection of artifacts, photos, biographies, and other memorabilia pertaining to Brea's history. We have mentioned many of the items acquired in the past couple of years in our Newsletter along with the name of the donor. We are now working very hard to update all of our files and complete the accessioning process for all items received by the Society.

The following is a list of donors and items that we have recently compiled. If you notice any discrepancy, please call me so that we can correct our records. Also, if you have similar items or know of someone who does and would like to donate the item for historical purposes, please call the Historical Society at (714) 256-2283.

We wish to acknowledge and thank the following donors:

Adele Kubin Thompson
Alan West
Betty Lundgren
Bob Bickel
Brian Saul
Brian Yates
Bud Moody
Catherine Seiler
Charles B. Smith
David & Linda Thompson
Dean Millen
Dr. Steve Dennis (cont.)

Historical Happenings



Elsie Bergman
Esther Barry
Esther Cramer
Frank Burrell
Frank Whitaker
Gene Slauter
Gregg Hopkins
Inez Fanning
John Beatty
John Yriarte
Leland Kinsler
Leota F. Jones
Lillian Johnson
Margarite Yriarte Pinnell
Maxine Whisnant
Mrs. Robert Kubin
Nick Romanoff
Peggy Lynch
R. Edwards
Ray Wolfert
Ret Wixted
Robert Richey
Sharon Dean
Sue Georgino
Teresa Hampson
The Bowman Family
The Johnson Family
The Myrtle Warner Family
The Shaffer Family
Thelma Hyder Reahm
Wiley T. Kennedy

Items Donated

slide rule, ruler (ALCO Chemical), ruler (Union Oil Co.), parts made at Chiksan, ration books, miscellaneous small items with Brea businesses' names, microfilms of old Brea newspapers, W.W.II uniform, City of Brea traffic ordinance book, BOHS alumni paper, Bowman family history, cassette interviews (3). magazines, Gushers, books, blueprints of oil workers' hotel, "Blue Bungalow" and a Brea City Hall that was never built, slide projector, record player, xylophone, Boy Scout photos and certificates, City of Brea Historical Committee records, items from Sam's and the Sewell Building - "Log Cabin" - Brea Boulevard - "Brea Welcomes You" sign, coke orchard heaters, many items used in the citrus and oil industries, items from the Miller Building, washing machine, programs from "Red Lantern" and "Fox Fullerton" theaters, large fossil-laden rocks from Olinda, grinding wheel, old canning kettle, quilting frame, quilt rack, meat tenderizer, margarine mold, ice tongs, Boy Scout books and canteen, 3 boxes of old records from Brea Canyon Oil Co. dating back to 1902, catalogs, the "Imperial Bar" (back and 2 sides), piano, piano stool, piano scarf, sewing box, fire equipment, marble from BOHS, Jubilee memorabilia, typewriters, and the BOHS Time capsule.

I have condensed this list due to space restrictions. I apologize if I have not listed a name or an item. Don't hesitate to call to correct any errors. Also, please remember us when you aren't sure what to do with a picture or some other part of Brea's history. We promise to cherish and protect your history as well as Brea's. - Sharon

Historical Happenings



NOTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING

Herc Roeser

Sharon Dean hosted the March 6 meeting of our Board at which President Brian Saul encouraged all members to be as active as their schedules would allow.

Jane O'Brien reported on membership and finances.

Sharon Dean and Helen Swart have been working on the museum artifacts, which we have listed in this Newsletter.

Wilma Sauer and Betty Hampson are organizing the clipping file.

President Brian Saul brought us up to date on the Olinda Heights project. Jane O'Brien, Sharon Dean, and Teresa Hampson will be the committee persons working with Santa Fe Energy on this development.

Don't forget that this will be a prime topic at the next Regular Meeting on Monday, March 27, 7:30 PM at First Baptist - - bring a neighbor, friend, or relative to this meeting.

We also want each member to ask one or two (or more) neighbors, friends, and relatives to join the Historical Society this year. The dues are only $15 and this year's events will certainly be an "E" ticket ride.

Don Schweitzer and I will be working with the Ways & Means Committee. Our job will be to find ways to generate money to help fund the work we need to do. If you have any ideas, you can call me, Herc Roeser, at (714) 990-2743.

Sharon told us that the Brea Olinda Alumni will be refurbishing the "Old Wildcat." This involves placing a football under its paw and adding a plaque with the names of past football captains.

HOT NEWS - - Geri Carpenter will be buying cookies for each General Meeting - - so come and help us burn some of these calories.

The Annual California Preservation Society Conference will be held at the Mission Inn in Riverside from June 1 thru June 5. Mark your calendars to attend this event. It provides some great ideas, learning sessions, and networking opportunities to see and enjoy what other Societies are doing with historical preservation. It's also very close to us this year and we could drive out each day.

The next Board Meeting is on Monday, April 3, at 7 PM, in the Old City Hall. We adjourned the meeting at 9 PM. - Herc

50 YEARS AGO in the PROGRESS

Herc Roeser

The launching of the tanker S.S. La Brea Hills at Sausalito marked events in March 1945. The tanker was named in honor of the Brea oil fields. It was the seventy-fifth ship launched by the Marin shipyard. Launching the tanker were Brea Mayor Emil F. Carlson, Brea Councilmen R.W. Monroe and L.A. Crowe, Ship Sponsor Mrs. Walter Gee, and Associate Editor of the Progress, Martin R. Norins. (cont.)

Historical Happenings

News about Iwo Jima came in a letter from Lt. Leonard W. Anderson to his wife who was living with the (cont.) officer's parents, Mr. & Mrs. William Anderson, at 323 S. Madrona.

"My tank was hit when I made the landing and blew my radio aerial off and punching holes in the right side of my tank and it sunk when I pulled out to help support the infantry from the water on their flank. I lost all yours and baby's pictures when the tank sank."

Anderson's message closes with a PS. "The grease spot on the left edge of the letter is canned turkey." He had been overseas 14 months.

Well over 300 persons attended the opening of the Floral Dining Room which was formerly the Brea First National Bank and before that the La Habra Valley Bank. The new restaurant had a spacious dining room with flowered arbors, a comfortable private dining nook, to the left a comfortable lounging room, and behind, a children's nursery.

One of the evening's surprises was music by an orchestra led by Kenneth Himes and formed largely of Brea-Olinda high school student musicians including Mary Ann Jones, Lois Ward, Larrayne White, Genevieve Connelly, Curtis Wade, Frank Davison, Keith Carpenter, Ted Raubinger, Albert Warner, and Robert Bickle.

A dozen eggs were 46¢ at the Safeway. You could buy sauerkraut juice for 9¢, but I'm not sure why. And tomatoes were 23¢ a pound.

After shopping, we could visit the Brea Theatre and see "Sunday Dinner for a Soldier" starring Anne Baxter and John Hodiak, "Hollywood Canteen" and "Days of Glory" with Gregory Peck and Alan Reed, plus a cartoon - "Birdy and the Beast." and chapter 6 of the "Black Arrow." All movies were shown on different days - no multiple screens. How simple life seemed!

See you next issue. - Herc





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Brea Historical Society's

Historical Happenings

• Brea Historical Society Museum • 401 South Brea Boulevard • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9764, Brea, CA 92622

Official Newsletter of the BREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Brea, California

Jane O'Brien, President — Inez Fanning, Editor

VOLUME XI NUMBER 4 — APRIL #2, 1993

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have been receiving phone calls and being asked if we knew there was a log cabin in Brea? Yes, we know about it! It is located on Ash Street, just west of Brea Blvd. Now that some of the buildings around it have been torn down, you can see it from Brea Blvd. Unfortunately, it is also in dire need of repair, with the roof being in the worst shape. We are currently working on putting together an accurate history of the cabin. When that is complete, we can then begin the process of getting it on the State and National Historic Register.

Old City Hall museum will now be open on Saturdays from 11am to 2pm. Please stop by and see the items we have on display. Also, don't forget that we also have a display near the entrance to the library at the Civic Center. The theme of the current display is "Olinda - Gone But Not Forgotten".

We missed many of you at the March general meeting. Please try to attend the next one on May 24th, which is featured elsewhere in the newsletter.

In Friendship,
President Jane O'Brien

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 3 - Monday, 7pm
Board meeting at home of Dean and Betty Millen, 420 S. Poplar.

May 4 - Tuesday, 7pm
City Council Meeting. There will be several presentations honoring Historic Preservation Week. BHS members are urged to attend!

May 22 - Saturday, 10am to 4pm
Orange County Museum Day at Richard Nixon Library, Yorba Linda.

May 24 - Monday, 630pm
SPRING POTLUCK and General Meeting.

June 7 - Board Meeting (TBA)

July 4 - Country Fair at City Hall Park.

MARCH MEETING IS INFORMATIVE

An especially good program was presented at our March meeting. Margie Stirrat of the Garden Grove Historical Society inspired us with details on how they run their historic Stanley Ranch Park. This 2 acre site is located on Euclid Avenue near Chapman in Garden Grove, and is run on an annual budget of only $16,000, of which more than $2,000 is for insurance. Sixteen historically significant homes and stores that were slated for demolition were saved and moved to the site.

Their funds are raised mainly by donations and memorials, a year-round thrift

shop, two large annual rummage sales, and tours. In addition, weddings can be held at the gazebo in the courtyard for a fee. A caretaker lives rent free on the grounds.

The buildings are being restored inside and out by volunteers, and several of the buildings are surrounded by white picket fences. There are several informational bronze plaques on display, as well as a historical flag pole. All landscaping is also performed by volunteers.

The park is open to the public on Sundays 1:30 - 4pm and weekdays by appointment.

HISTORIC BREA BUILDINGS

The Brea City Council has designated the following downtown buildings to be moved to or replicated at an historic park site located at the northeast corner of Brea Blvd and Ash Street:

First National Bank
Brea Hotel
Wall Building (replicated)
Sam's Place
Delaney Bldg (replicated)
Kinsler home

"THOSE DAYS SO LONG AGO"

The following was written March 16 of this year by Ella Armstrong Past, a real "old timer" of OLINDA. Thank you, Ella.

My Dear Inez,

A few months ago, I was telling Carl about the fun we used to have around the old Santa Fe Railroad depot. Also about the tennis court and the happenings of the 20's. He said, "Why don't you write about it and send it into the Historical Society and I told him I would do so, and here are the recollections of those days so long ago.

The old Santa Fe Railroad Depot was situated at the foot of the Chandler Canfield Midway Oil Company (CCMO) lease. It was a sizeable depot, painted green and trimmed in white. At the back of the building was a living quarter for the depot keeper and his wife. The depot faced the Carbon Canyon Road and everyone who drove on the canyon road, going to La Vida Hot Springs or to Chino had to pass over the railroad tracks and pass the depot.

By the side of the depot was a deep sump hole filled with thick oil and somewhat lightly fenced in. As we walked from the Olinda Land Lease, to catch the Brea-Olinda High School bus, we had to pass the deep oil pond and cross over a tiny bridge to get to the Carbon Canyon Road.

There was a depot keeper by the name of "Old Man Bowe", as the kids called him. He checked the train in and out every few days, as they picked up the tank cars loaded with crude oil. Well, this old fellow loved children but somehow he was not too fond of teenagers. The reason being that we would run back and forth on his depot platform and occasionally venture into the depot to weigh ourselves on his Grant Scale. Sometimes the drivers, either Mr. Peterkin or Mr. Meissner would be a bit late and that would give us more time to run back and forth on that platform which really aggravated the old gentlemen.

A few years later, the superintendent of the CCMO built a lovely day and night tennis court about 1,000 feet away from the depot and near Superintendent Ledbetter's home. This pleased the old station keeper for all the activities were diverted to this lovely new meeting place. We could play until midnight but we had to make sure the lights were turned off, the

gate locked and the key hidden for the maintenance man to use.

The CCMO lower lease tennis court was the greatest meeting place for all the teenagers of the town and what a joy it was for us to have a place to go and meet our friends and play tennis. I do believe there was a bit of romancing also, but teenage crimes were unheard of because of the fore sight of company oil workers who wanted a place in the town nearby their homes, where their children could play out-of-doors and enjoy the wonderful evening sport.

The appreciation of the company's interest in the welfare of the Olinda youth, living in that little town, remains with me to this day, 65 years later.

Ella Armstrong Past

ABEL YOST

The paragraph below was inadvertently omitted from last months story of "Abe" Yost.

" The family was able to purchase a car some time in the twenties, and regularly went on camping trips. Often the destination was Anaheim Landing (now Seal Beach). In the summer they went north to June Lake. The purpose of each outing was to go fishing. They also motored through many parts of the state of California, as Abe wanted his children to be educated about their part of the world."

IN MEMORIAM

The historical community has lost a valuable worker for our cause. Ray Wolfert passed away March 29, and a memorial service was held the following Friday. A former member of the City of Brea Planning Commission, Ray was a member of the City Historical Committee from its inception (Sept. 19, 1989 ~~1990~~) until the present time. Although disabled in recent years, he continued to contribute, and was a leader in the community. We send our sympathies to Ray's wife and family. Ray was 61. He was one of us.

WANTED: OFFICE SECRETARY

Through STEP (Senior Employment Training Services). Qualifications: over 65, limited income, basic office skills, 20 hours per week.

or

Steady volunteer (any age) with basic office skills Wednesdays and Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm.

Please contact Sharon Dean 529-6186.

BREA TRIVIA

1. What year did the Gaspar Portola expedition camp in Brea Canyon?
2. What soft drink, using water from the Lavida Hot Springs, was bottled and sold in Brea?
3. What family had a grocery on the NW corner of Brea Blvd. and Ash St.? At what sport did one of their sons excel?
4. Who was Jeanne of Jeanne's Yardage?
5. Who was the first woman school bus driver in Brea?

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S TRIVIA:

1. Judy Garland (real name - Frances Gumm - her uncle was the Brea theatre manager).
2. The Brea-Olinda High School girls' basketball team (Ladycats) were state champions (CIF) in their league, in 1989, 1991, 1992 and 1993.
3. Randolph was the early name of Brea.
4. Long Beach Earthquake 1933.
5. "The Oilman's Church" (Brea Congregational).

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Official Newsletter of the BREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Brea, California

Jane O'Brien, President

Inez Fanning, Editor
Sandy Dickinson, Layout and production

VOLUME XII NUMBER 2 MARCH 1994

"A PIECE OF THE OLD SOD"

(For St. Patrick's Day, March 17)

Lillian Johnson, now retired, has given a notable gift of Irish lore to good friend Karl Fanning (Fanning being an Irish name).

Lillian's grandparents left Ireland for Boston, U.S.A., about 1860. The grandmother, as was the custom, brought with her a "piece of the old sod". This clod of dark earth, peat, became a revered artifact and good luck charm down through the decades. A lovely lined pouch with drawstring, crocheted by the grandmother, contains the clump.

Lillian's grandfather, James Trainor, was born in County Cork. He was a boot and shoe maker, and opened a shop on Dover Street in Boston. The grandmother, Bridget Lyon Trainor, was born in County Galway. Their daughter, Julia, was born in 1880.

Julia married Joseph Johnson, who had been born in Sweden. Wouldn't you know that Lillian's mother would marry a Swede?! The pouch is now safe, a cherished treasure in the family of the Fannings.

Lillian managed the Brea Historical Society office from May 1991 to January 1993.

A VERY SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, March 28
Social hour - 7pm
Meeting - 730pm
1st Baptist Church Social Hall
Program: Olinda Heights Update

Mr. John Ullom and his associates of Sante Fe Energy Company have prepared pictures, slides, maps, and narration to present to us. Recent work on the project has produced many important changes we should be aware of. Emphasis will be on the historic area to be developed.

Please come and bring interested friends. Hosts will be Inez and Karl Fanning, and Ruth Schweitzer.

SPECIAL GUEST

Bruce Sinclair will be present to make some announcements at our general meeting. Bruce is a member of the Board of Directors of the Orange County Old Courthouse Museum Society.

An interesting exhibit opened there March 12 entitled "World War II: The Home Front"

We will also have a report at the meeting from the City Historical Committee concerning the new historical ordinance.

BREA MASONIC LODGE #656 DONATES HISTORIC PIANO

In the years just before the turn of the century, the town of Olinda was a thriving place. Among the residents were Henry and Emma Stegeman, who had come from Quincy, Illinois, with their children, Ruth and Ralph. Sometime before she was married, Ruth entered a subscription contest that was promoted by the local Fullerton newspaper. To her surprise, she won the contest, and was awarded the first place prize, which was a brand new upright piano.

When Ruth was married in 1935 to Earl Templeman (also of Quincy, Illinois), the piano was proudly displayed in their home. Earl took a job working at McClatchie's Hardware Store in Brea.

Ruth and Earl eventually bought the hardware store, which was located in the Sewell Building, and moved the business across the street to the Woodruff and Henigan Building on the northeast corner of Ash and Pomona Aves. (Brea Blvd.) The couple operated the Brea Hardware Store at that location for many years.

Ruth Templeman was very active in the Eastern Star Lodge, which met at that time on the second floor of the Sewell Bldg. Her sister-in-law, Cecile Templeman, who taught seventh grade at the Brea Grammar School, was "organist" for the lodge. Earl Templeman passed away in 1956, and when Ruth died in 1981, her will stated that the piano was to go to the lodge. It was accepted by the group, who at that time paid for some work to be done on the instrument. The beautifully carved case added nostalgia to the meetings, now held at the new building on the corner of Imperial Highway and Sycamore. And Cecile played it for every ritual and program until her death in 1986. In 1989, Brea's Eastern Star Lodge was dissolved.

Now, in 1994, the Masonic Lodge and service clubs that use the historic building are replacing the historic piano, and it has been given to the Brea Historical Society. Don Tentler, local piano restorer and member of the Shaffer-Yates family, has evaluated the instrument, and it is being moved to Old City Hall. The piano is a Lester Cabinet Grand, made in Philadelphia in 1906. The wood is a beautiful dark walnut, and the keys are real ivory.

The society is now accepting donations toward a fund to be used to restore this piano.

Note: Rita Blystone assisted with this article.

CALENDAR

March 28, Monday, 7pm - General Meeting, 1st Baptist Church, Corner of Flower and Date in Brea. See announcement in this issue.
April 4, Monday, 7pm - Board meeting at Old City Hall in Brea. All members are invited to attend.
April 16, Saturday, 10am to 2pm - "Work Day" at Old City Hall office and museum. Please help.
May 2, Monday, 7pm - Board meeting at Old City Hall.
****May 23**, Monday, 7pm - General meeting at 1st Baptist Church.
June 6 - Board meeting.
July 4 - Brea Country Fair.
****Please note date change**

HISTORY CONFERENCE

The Conference of California Historical Societies met February 25-27 in Garden Grove. Our Society is a member of this group. Karl Fanning prepared and set up a display table featuring Brea's history on Friday and Saturday nights, and attended each of the two banquets. Inez Fanning, Sharon Dean, and BHS President Jane O'Brien also participated.

HISTORY CONFERENCE (con't)

Lima beans in burlap sacks from historic Fountain Valley were among the door prizes. A lima bean feed is promised soon!!

BREA TRIVIA

1. Name two historic pianos (besides the one featured in this issue) now in the possession of the City of Brea.
2. A detached steeple sits in the middle of redevelopment property in old downtown. It sat in the alley behind the Meridith house for many months. It was never a part of any Brea building. Where did it come from, and where is it going?

Answers to trivia quiz from last month:
1. Rosalie Williams ran a boarding house in Olinda, had a dress shop in Brea, and became Brea's first woman postmaster. Her daughter, Thelma Wagstaff, is a BHS member.

TOUR AND BOUTIQUE

The Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society and the Tustin Area Historical Society invite you to their "Garden Tour and Spring Boutique", to be held Saturday, April 9, from 10am to 5pm.

This self-guided tour will feature a number of beautiful gardens in the Santa Ana and Tustin areas, and will offer a variety of spring flowers and garden designs. The tour will also include a craft boutique, and will feature displays and sales sponsored by area neighborhood associations and plant societies. Some of the homes will also be on tour, and many of the garden owners will be available to answer questions.

You may begin your tour at either the Dr. Howe-Waffle House at 120 Civic Center Drive in Santa Ana, or the Tustin Area Museum at 395 El Camino Real in Tustin, at which time you will be given a booklet describing each home and garden, as well as a map to the other gardens.

There is a $7.00 donation per person. Tickets are available at both locations on the day of the tour. For more information, contact Roberta Reed at 714-953-1876.

WANTED

I am looking for an old Brea telephone directory. I would like one of the small variety (approximately 5" by 8") which were very common in the twenties and thirties, especially in small communities. It may contain other cities as well, as I have never actually seen one. I know that Fullerton and La Habra had their own phone systems, but they might have been included in the same directory. These directories often had a small hole in the upper left hand corner for hanging the book on the old wall phones with a string. I will pay a premium for one of these books in nice condition.

Gary D. Goff
(714) 990-7827
(Paid Advertisement)

BHS INFO

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 9764
Brea, CA 92622

Telephone: (714) 256-2283

Office and museum are located at 401 S. Brea Blvd.

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Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
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Brea, California

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M/M Dean Millen
420 S. Poplar
Brea, CA 92621

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Brea Historical Society's

Historical Happenings

* Brea Historical Society Museum * Old City Hall * 401 South Brea Boulevard
* Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9764, Brea, CA 92622
* Telephone 714 256-2283

Official Newsletter of the BREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Brea, California

Jane O'Brien, President — Inez Fanning, Editor

President's Message
Jane O'Brien

I hope you have had a happy St. Patrick's day! This note is to keep you abreast on the Heritage Block. We do have an interested developer. The plan is to construct apartments for senior citizens in the buildings.

The buildings scheduled to be re-constructed on the Heritage Block are the Delaney House, the Brea Hotel, Sam's Place and the Wall Building.

We did have a meeting with the developer's architect. Attending were Brian Saul, Wilma Sauer, Joanna Montes and me. These were former Brea Historical Committee members, now members of the Society.

The project as outlined did not sit well with this committee. The idea is to only use the front of all the buildings except the Wall Building and Sam's Place which would be re-constructed to code.

The Brea Hotel would be cut in half and the front half rebuilt. The Delaney building would be rebuilt in the front and on one side. The committee reasoned that the Brea Hotel is Brea's last original building and all efforts should be made to save the entire structure. The Society through this committee is not in favor of this project as presented.

There were some additional objections raised but are difficult to describe here.

Our main objection to this project is the manner in which the developer wants to re-construct only certain parts of the Hotel. After re-construction, the Brea Hotel would not qualify for Brea's own Historical Register. We need to save the Brea Hotel!

On another note, we need your help on March 30 down at the Old City Hall to clean up the museum and organize some of the artifacts we have gathered. We will be starting at 9:30 AM. Please come down for an hour or so. We can use all of your help.

Don't forget to attend the General Meeting on Monday, March 25 at 7:30 PM. Our program will be interesting and informative. We will find out about Inez Fanning as a Teacher - one of her former students is our guest speaker.

Looking forward to seeing everybody on Monday!

GENERAL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 25
BEGINNING AT 7:30 PM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, ON THE CORNER OF DATE & FLOWER STREETS.

Our guest speaker is Mr. Frank Logan, noted artist and China expert.
Please plan to attend and see old friends and meet new ones.

La Esquina
A Brea Landmark
Inez Fanning

La Esquina Restaurant at the corner of Cypress St. And Brea Blvd. has been a favorite with Breans for over 25 years. The Rodriguez family opened the restaurant in 1967 and continues to

operate it today. They feature authentic homemade Mexican food, great margaritas, and a massive lunch buffet that offers everything from chimichangas to enchiladas, with all the trimmings. La Esquina is open from 7 AM to 10 PM Sunday through Thursday, and from 7 AM to 11 PM on Friday and Saturday. Drop by soon!

Breans Here & There
Sharon Dean

Wonderful News! I received my first call about this column from a very dear friend and super nice person, Beverly Neal Strickland. She and Dick were in Brea taking care of business and she read our newsletter and phoned me to share some news. Harold Biven Bassett Jr., Class of 1978 and better known as "Hoddy" has retired from the navy as Chief Petty Officer. Hoddy and his wife have four daughters and plan to move to Portland, Oregon when the girls are out of school in June. Hoddy's father Harold class of 1945 and his wife Noreen came down from Newport, Washington for his retirement celebration. Congratulations Hoddy and good luck in your new life out of the Navy.

Bev also told me that Marilyn Westerhout Critchlow, class of 1950, is planning a wedding for her daughter in June. Bob and Pat Critchlow Davis, class of 1949, will be here from Sunriver, Oregon for the wedding. Congratulations and best wishes to the Bride and Groom.

Sorry to report two classmates of 1939 are deceased. They are Adele Kubin Thompson and Bob Richey. Our sympathy goes to both families.

Dick, class of 1942, and Bev. Class of 1946 spend most of their time at the Colorado River and come home to Brea a few days a month. Bev promises to share more news of Breans here and there.

All birthdays are special, but when they start numbering in the 90's they are spectacular. Phil Campbell Sr. who founded Campbell patterns and was a long time Brea resident celebrated his 90'th birthday last September. Phil, or "Pappa" as many of us called him, lives in Costa Mesa with his wife Myrtce. His son, Phil Jr. Still owns Campbell patterns at 300 S. Orange in Brea. His son John, class of 1950 lives in Balboa with his wife Bobby. Happy Belated Birthday " Pappo".

Another spectacular birthday is coming up soon and I think we should all send cards. Mamie Maes will be 96 on May 11, 1996. Her address is 535 Peach St., Brea, Ca. 92621. Wouldn't it surprise her is she received 96 cards? Mamie's two daughters, Gloria Maestrejuan, class of 1944, and Rlea Butler, class of 1940, invited a few of us to lunch last year and started reminiscing about the "Good Old Days" of Brea. It was so much fun that I decided to start taping some of Mamie's memories. Gloria and the rest of the family are still working of the project and it you have any fond memories of Mamie I'm sure they would appreciate it if you would write it in the birthday card you're going to send Mamie.

In talking to Audrey Smith, class of 1964, I found out two of Brea's graduates are going to London on a spring study program from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. They are Angie Smith and Desiree Hitchock both of the class of 1994. Jack and Audrey are going over in June to meet Angie when it's time for her to come home. I asked how Thurl Smith is getting along and found out he has been staying at his son Vince's home in North Fork near

Bass Lake since November. He visited with Jack and Audrey a few weeks ago and then Is going to see his daughter Nancy in Santa Rosa for awhile. Thurl was a long time member of the Brea Olinda School Board and a very well liked and respected Brean (and Olindan).

That's all for now. Remember, I need help! ! ! So please call me at 714 529-6186 or write to me at 300 S. Cedar, Brea, Ca. 92621.

Thanks! *Sharon*

Board Meeting Notes

Jane O'Brien appointed the following chairpersons:
Publicity - Brian Saul
Membership - Wilma Sauer
Photographs - Karl Fanning
Ways & Means - Don Schweitzer
Newsletter - Inez Fanning
Museum - Sharon Dean

The computer is up and running. The following are computer literate:
Rod, Ron, Herc, Brian, Jane, Sharon, Janice and Audrey.

There will be a work day Saturday, March 30, 9:30 A.M. We need guys to help with heavy moving. Current display will be removed, and there will be some organizing.

At a day to be announced, there will be a Computer Day, with Sharon and Janice in charge.

Announcements:

Jane reported the Scout Committee expects to have raised $200,000 by the end of this year. We could receive 6-months notice in June. A written agreement not only insures us another building, but insures that our needs be studied before this happens.

Jane told of the "Poineer Day" at George Key Ranch, Placentia March 23, Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. No one volunteered to set up and maintain a display table.

Brian announced the "Shorty Smith House" on Redwood St. has been purchased by a live-in owner who is really into restoration. Complete restoration to 1920, inside.

Jane showed the group a large volume recently given to the society on the history and geneology of the Yost Family. Abel Yost was the first superintendent of the Brea Canyon Oil Co. The book is the work of a great grandaughter living in Hesperia.

Jane said that Claire Schlotterbeck will be at our next board meeting to speak about the preservation of the Wildlife Corridor in the Puente Hills.

Calendar:
March 25- General Meeting. Speaker, Frank Logan.
May 20- General Meeting. Program on the preservation of family photos.
April 1- Board meeting at the Fanning home.

Historic Preservation

The Brea Christian Church (1917-1964) was a thriving congregation. From 1925 to 1957 its Cradle Roll Department enrolled nearly 1,000 babies. When their names were added, there pictures were taken.

These photographs had been stored in an attic. A leaking roof had lead to much mildew. Careless handling produced lots of broken glass.

After all these years, nearly 800 pictures survive, each one properly identified. Members Inez Fanning and Edna Makins have restored these, and mounted 64 of them in two of the original frames. The rest are now in acid-free plastic pockets in two large binders. They are alphabetized, and will be displayed at the museum shortly.

Persons whose birthdays fall during those years (or their parents) will enjoy finding their photo here.

Mrs. Clara Burquist was in charge of the original project.

Inez Fanning

THESE ARE BHS MEMBERS WHO HAVE CONTINUED TO PROVIDE SERVICES THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PURPOSES OF THE BREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. THEIR CONTINUED EFFORTS ARE RECOGNIZED HERE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR MEMBERS.

BARBARA BRANTLEY PITTS, M.S.W.
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ASK A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR TO JOIN THE BREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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"Old City Hall"
401 South Brea Boulevard
P.O. Box 9764
Brea, CA 92622
Office and Museum Hours:
Saturday 11: 00 AM to 2:00 PM
and by appointment
(714) 256-2283

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Official Newsletter of the BREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Brea, California

Jane O'Brien, President

Inez Fanning, Editor
Herc Roeser, Layout & Mailing

President's Message

Jane O'Brien

My heartfelt condolences and prayers go out to the family of Sally Rathmell who recently passed on. Sally had been a Historical Society Sponsoring and Board member since 1992. She has served as Chairperson of the Ways and Means Committee and two years as Treasurer.

Sally got our record keeping up-to-date on the computer. She was working to keep us current as we worked with the past. Sally also provided her expertise on this Newsletter for a year.

Sally also kept her better half active with the Society. Chuck (Charles) helped on different projects such as cleaning the museum on Saturdays, fixing the oil derrick in the Library and many other activities that they enjoyed together. Every July 4th, both Sally and Chuck would help at the Society's booth in Old City Hall Park and both helped raise money to restore the 1923 Seagrave firetruck.

Sally's presence will be missed.

I'm looking forward to serving as the President of the Brea Historical Society for the term 96/97.

Our thank you to Brian Saul, our outgoing President. Brian did a wonderful job for the Society as President. It will be hard to fill his shoes. Brian continues to be an active member of the Board.

Other outgoing Board members include Helen Swart who has been a member since 1991 and came on the Board as Secretary. That is a job! Helen took the minutes of the Business meetings and did a beautiful job. She has worked at the museum helping to do the accessioning of items given to us. Helen helped set up our first big display for the 4th of July. She probably felt like she lived at the Old City Hall! Helen also worked on the next display for the 4th of July.

Bernie - Helen's better half - was also involved. He showed the children how to make rope one 4th of July and did a lot of work on the display.

Alan West has been a Sponsoring member for many years and is our farm expert. Alan has received old farm items and tells us what are some of the items we have. Some of us are City Folks.

These members will be missed on the Board but they are still members of the Historical Society and are there if we need them. We thank you for your past service and are looking forward to working with you again.

We need our members help in working down at the museum on a Saturday for a few hours. This is the only time the museum is open on Saturdays. If you can spend

a few hours, please call me at 529-8550.

Don't forget to come to our next General Meeting in March. See the March Newsletter for who our guest speaker will be.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Thank you for letting me serve as your President again.

Sincerely - *Jane*

Woman of Randolph - Rosalie Williams

Inez Fanning



Rosalie Williams was a colorful character in Brea's history, from the time she arrived in 1912 until her death here in 1974.

Baptized Rachel Rosa Lee Little in Camptown, Kentucky in 1888, she arrived in Brea in 1912. With her was her husband, O.W.Rankin and her son, Melvin, an infant. The family purchased a home at 127 South Walnut where daughter Thelma was born on October 17, 1913. It has been said that Thelma Rankin was the second girl baby born in Brea. Florence Reynolds was born a year earlier.

Mrs. Rankin started a corset shop in the Kinsler Hotel building. Within a month after Thelma's birth, Rosalie's marriage failed. Undaunted, she sold her house, purchasing another larger one at 209 South Walnut, where she took in roomers and boarders in order to provide for her little family. From Brea, she moved to the CCMO-Santa Fe lease in Olinda where she ran a large boarding house for the oil workers.

Rosalie married Hugh Williams in 1919. Her lovely daughter Wilma was born. About 1924, the family moved to Brea again. The new home was at 415 West Imperial Highway, then known as Cedar Street. Rosalie lived there the rest of her life.

Mrs. Williams was an active and busy woman. In the late 20's, she established the "Ready-to-Wear" shop for women in downtown Brea just south of the Red Lantern Theatre. During WWII, she served as temporary Postmistress while the Postmaster was in the service.

She participated enthusiastically in the local Democratic Club, the Brea Women's Club, the Brea Congregational Church and the Eastern Star Lodge of Fullerton.

Always friendly, with a twinkle in her eye, Rosalie, with her Kentucky way of speaking, had a great sense of humor. Her life brightened all with whom she came in contact.

Thelma Rankin Wagstaff is a Brea resident at the present time. Thelma tells of trips to Los Angeles, with her mother driving, when Thelma was a child. They went to see Thelma's grandmother. Now the grandmother gave the children a special treat, that they always looked forward to. It was called coffee soup. Find the recipe on the back page. - *Inez*



Membership

We want to encourage our members who have not as yet paid their 1996 to do so. Please use the attached envelope to send in you dues. Ask a friend or neighbor to join also. The Society's membership has been holding around 150 members for the past few years.

It is important to increase our membership in order to keep up with all the planned activities the Society has to

Brea Historical Society's

Historical Happenings

• Brea Historical Society Museum • 401 South Brea Boulevard • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9764, Brea, CA 92822

Official Newsletter of the BREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Brea, California

Jane O'Brien, President

Inez Fanning, Editor

VOLUME XI NUMBER 6 JUNE 1993

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Our book, "BREA - CELEBRATING 75 YEARS", is at the printers and we are very excited about it!

This book could not have been done without the help and persistence of Irene Gresick, Karen Vitkus, Theresa Hampson, and Brian Saul. This was a big undertaking for them, as well as the society.

Irene had the faith that they could write and publish the book, and went out and helped raise the money for the corporate donor section and other areas. Plus, she attended all the Society's board meetings to keep up our enthusiasm for the book.

Karen Vitkus has also done just a great job. Karen is so quiet, but that lady feels the love for the book that the Society has for Brea and our history. Karen has given up much of her homelife so this book could be done. Since I have been involved, Karen has had several meetings in her home, and sometimes stayed up until 3 o'clock in the morning. Everything that Theresa had written, plus all the pictures, had to be scanned into the computer. Karen then had to make any corrections and changes that were needed in the text and layout that she and Theresa did. Karen is still doing the work between the printer and us, or should we say the book.

Theresa Hampson is the author of our book. She is the writer that Windsor Publishing had selected before their problems, and we are very lucky that she has the LOVE for Brea that we do, too. In some ways it was great that windsor had a problem, because we ended up with a better book. Theresa has written several additional chapters and added so many little things that you will just love. Her family also did without Theresa's time and attention for the book. The time that she spent looking into Brea's history, talking to our citizens for information, and doing proof reading was wonderful. Theresa has written a wonderful book.

Brian Saul has been a very valuable member of the "Book Team" also. He has spent many, many hours in research. He has scanned old newspapers, and interviewed persons never contacted before. He has turned up unique information, photos, and documents. Well done, Brian!

When you see these four people, please thank them for all their hard work. And their families, too! Without these wonderful people, we would not have our book, Brea - Celebrating 75 Years.

The book will be released on July 4 at the Brea Country Fair. Please visit the museum and see some wonderful items found in old downtown Brea, Olinda (Santa Fe, CCMO Lease), and other items on display.

The Society will also be helping raise the money to assist in the preservation of the old city fire truck, "The Seagrave" (1923). It is in need of a paint job and we need to raise $15,000. It will be in front of the museum on the 4th for all to see, and to

start making donations. This is a community project and we would like the help of all Brea citizens and any interested organizations.

The General Meeting on May 24th was wonderful. We learned how we should save our pictures and put the names in pencil on the back of them. Edna Makins shared how she has traced her family and written its history. Wade Mansur shared some history of his family and friends by the letters they sent to him. Edwina Drake has captured her family history by painting it.

See you at the Country Fair on July 4th at the Old City Hall Park!

In friendship,
Jane O'Brien

VOX POP

VOX POP is a local program on Century Cable. It is a half hour program on channels 49 and 51, Wed., beginning at 5PM and running intermittently until morning.

Wade and PJ Mansur produce and host the program, which features local people. Upcoming is a segment on family history entitled, "WHO ATE THE APPLE ON YOUR FAMILY TREE?", with Edna Makins, Barbara Renick, and Cherie Horner, all Brea residents. Tune in for some good tips and information on genealogy.

CALENDAR

July 4 - Sunday - 10AM - 4PM Country Fair at Old City Hall Park. We will need help selling books, taking donations, manning the museum, etc. PLEASE VOLUNTEER by calling:
SHARON - 529-6186
ROD or SANDY - 255-1023
FANNINGS - 529-2993
Note - Due to the above activities the cake walk has been cancelled.

July 19 - Monday - 7PM Board Meeting at Old City Hall.

ACQUISITIONS

1. Panorama picture of an oil fire on the Fullerton lease.
2. Two swivel joints and miscellaneous items from Chicksan Co. Donor - Mr. Stuff, Brea.
3. Large picture of last class at Randolph School. Other miscellaneous pictures. Donor - Evelyn Mansan Starkey, who is pictured in the Randolph class.

WOMAN OF RANDOLPH – ANNIE POPE

Annie Pope was born Sarah Ann Clegg in Heber City, Utah, in 1895. Her parents were farmers, scratching the earth for subsistence. Her grandparents had been among the Mormon pioneers, making their way West, walking and pushing handcarts with their belongings. Annie grew up, and after one year of high school, went to Salt Lake City with $25 in hand to learn to be a stenographer, which she did briefly.

In November of 1916, Sarah Ann was married to William Ernest Pope. "Bill" had worked for the railroad in Utah. A year after their marriage, they arrived in Los Angeles. Bill found temporary work in the bean fields of the Long Beach area. He soon found other work in the oil fields, and was sent to a place called Brea. His employer would be the Union Oil Company.

In 1919, Annie and Bill arrived in Brea from Los Angeles via a big Pacific Electric Red Car. As they stepped off the car here, the gray depot was fairly deserted, and night was coming on. They walked with their suitcases toward the feeble lights of town. At the first cross street (Ash St.) they saw a sign saying ROOMS. The couple turned in that direction. An upstairs room in the Delaney Building became their home that night, and for weeks, until a house became available on the G and L (Graham and Loftus) Lease.

Five children were born to the couple - Billy, Lewis, Robert, Anna Mae, and

Donald. Life was good on the lease. The children ran and played in nearby meadows, and enjoyed their pet goat. Rides were taken sometimes on the red car to Los Angeles to visit relatives. The PE cars had a stop near the lease.

When the Lease was closed in 1930, the family lease house was moved to Fuller Park. "Fuller Park" was located between Buena Park and Fullerton, and included the present site of Fullerton Airport. The family moved there, and in 1933 moved back to Brea, having bought a small home on Flower St., across from Laurel School.

One year later, tragedy struck. Billy died of typhoid fever. Then Bill Pope left for work one morning, but did not come home. He had been sent to the top of a tall wood derrick and was doing repairs on the "catwalk". He fell to his death from the shaky ledge.

A widow at 39, Annie was a stout-hearted woman. Always active in the Mormon Church, she was supported as she took care of her children, and she attended beauty school in Fullerton. Following graduation, she taught at the school for two years. A beauty shop facility became available on the east end of the Birch Street "Honeymoon Courts" in Brea. Annie bought the shop in 1940 and was in business for 37 years. The four children went through Brea schools, and became successful adults.

Annie Pope was so much more than a beautician, She had beauty of spirit -- and uplifted and encouraged her patrons -- many of whom eventually reached their own senior years. Love and laughter were the keys to her life. At the age of 80, Annie left the shop, installed her equipment in her home, and continued to ply her trade. A wonderful mother and a real lady, Annie passed away in 1978 at the age of 84 years.

Inez Jones Fanning

P.S. The sign from Annie's business ("Lorraine Beauty Shop") and her original permanent wave machine will be on display at the museum.

NEEDED: OFFICE SECRETARY

Through STEP (Senior Employment Training Services). Qualifications: over 55, limited income, basic office skills, 20 hours per week;

or

steady volunteer (any age) with basic office skills, Wednesdays and Saturdays 10am - 2pm. Please contact Sharon Dean at 529-6186.

BREA TRIVIA

1. What existing downtown building used to be Brea's bus station?
2. Before Loma Vista Cemetery opened (1916), where were Brea persons buried?
3. What are the tall towers, with the red lights, above Brea Canyon and just east of the 57 freeway? What is their function?
4. What national recognition was given to Brea-Olinda High School recently?

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTHS TRIVIA:

1. Randolf School and the Pacific-Electric Depot were Brea's first public buildings.
2. The ice skating rink at the Brea Mall.
3. Kathryn Burke - early librarian
4. Go north on Brea Blvd to Canyon Drive (signal). The area on the left (all the way up) is Birch Hill.

M/M Dean Millen
420 S. Poplar
Brea, CA 92621

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ALL YEAR

Brea Historical Society's

Historical Happenings

* Brea Historical Society Museum * Old City Hall * 401 South Brea Boulevard
* Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9764, Brea, CA 92622
* Telephone 714 256-2283

Official Newsletter of the BREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Brea, California

Jane O'Brien, President

Inez Fanning, Editor
Herc Roeser, Layout & Mailing

President's Message
Jane O'Brien

The Brea Historical Society has been busy these past few months.

First: Members have helped take down our display in the museum "Brea - Past, Present and Future."

This was a very big project. We also had a clean up day on the same Saturday! I wish to thank the members that helped with the taking down of the display and organizing our storage rooms in the basement of Old City Hall - or more historically - the "downstairs area."

Special thanks to Wilma Sauer, Sharon & Larry Dean, Patrick "Watch Your Head" O'Brien, Reine & Herc Roeser, Audrey Smith, Karl Fanning, Helen Swartz, Gill Realon and Kathy Orris.

Gill, Patrick, Larry and Herc helped put up shelves in the "downstairs" storage rooms and place the artifacts carefully on them. A BIG thank you to Gill for bringing all his tools, some of which he even knew how to use! Someone was heard to yell "My tools are bigger than yours." We dismissed such outbursts as lapses in thought or too much TV.

If I missed some names who helped with this special day , I apologize with extra thanks again.

BREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
GENERAL MEETING

May 20, 1996 - Monday
********7:30 PM ********
First Baptist Church, corner of Date & Flower

PROGRAM:
"Are Your Family Photographs at Risk?"
Photo Preservation from A to Z
by
Sharon Deveaux
Let's enjoy this program together!
Bring friends-family-neighbors!
Refreshments

Second: The Brea Historical Society is supporting the nomination of the Puente-Chino Hills Heritage Corridor area as a National Heritage Area. There is no designated National Heritage area west of the Mississippi. We are sending letters to the United States Congress members in our areas.

Third: The Brea City Council has agreed to relocate the Brea Hotel. The City has conducted two studies to insure that the Hotel could be moved. The Brea Hotel is the oldest standing building in the former downtown. Some

Historical Happenings

members believe Mayor Dunlap is the oldest standing thing in the downtown, but some have seen him sitting lately.

The Brea Historical Society and all her members wish to sincerely thank the City Council for its support in preserving the Brea Hotel.

Fourth: Renaming the City Hall Park to "Schweitzer Park." This naming is in honor of Brea pioneer Frank Schweitzer Sr. and Frank Schweitzer Jr., their wives and families for all the contributions they have made to Brea over the years. This naming has been approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission and now goes before the City Council.

The Society is still working on restoring the Shaffer Memorial Fountain somewhere in the new downtown area. The original Shaffer fountain was dedicated in the City Hall Park in 1948 where the Memorial Rose Garden now stands. Chronic plumbing problems resulted in the fountain's destruction in the late 1960s.

There was a BIG fire in Brea which totally destroyed the ESCO Company building and the Four Square Church. This was our second big fire in Brea. The first one was on April 8, 1926 when lightning struck two separate 750,000 barrel crude oil tanks. Both tanks exploded into giant fireballs at the Stewart Tank Farm. Brea made the newspapers both times and this fire was on TV. Fortunately no one was hurt in both fires. Brea cable TV was out due to the fire and the fire department really showed Breans the skills they possess. A lot of us went to watch the fire now as we did back in 1926.

We will be having another cleaning day as we get ready for our new display in the museum. The date is around the middle of June and we invite all members to come down to the Old City Hall on that Saturday morning to help. We really do need your help and support.

The Society received a scale from the Brea Post Office that was used since the Post Office was located on Brea Boulevard in the La Habra Bank building - now torn down. The scale is over 30 years old, but younger than Council Woman Bev Perry. We also received a picture taken of the Post Office dated 1952 and signed by a number Brea citizens. We wish to thank the Brea Post Office for a wonderful donation to our memory and history. Thank you.

I hope to see more of you at our May 20th meeting. Please come and learn how to protect your photographic history.

- Jane

Notes from the Board Meeting
Inez Fanning

Brea History Day will be held at the Senior Center on Wednesday, June 12. The theme is "People of Brea" and will be a preview of our July 4th exhibit. Everyone is asked to wear old-time costumes or their regular clothes. At 10:45 to 11:45 AM, we will have a

program involving oral quizzes and games plus community singing of old-time songs. Lunch reservations are requested. Everyone is invited.

Brea Eagle Scouts will be restoring the Memorial Rose Garden at City Hall Park. The Scouts will use bricks form the old downtown.

Breans Here & There
Sharon Dean

Another spectacular birthday! Walt Bergman called after our last newsletter to tell me he celebrated his 90th birthday on March 12. Walt is living in Las Vegas with his daughter Darlene Blain. After Evelyn died, Walt decided to rent the house on Orange after living there for 67 years and stay with Darlene. His address is 4043 Alto Avenue, Las Vegas, 89115. His phone # is 702.452.7943. Walt would love to hear from you.

During our phone conversation, Walt mentioned he had bought a new Buick from Leo Bivens' grandson-in-law and was driving to Brea for the Chiksan reunion at Alta Vista Country Club on April 4. He was going to stay at Jim & Miriam Bergman's and I asked him to drop by . He came by on Saturday and shared some of his news with me. He has been to visit his granddaughter Darci who works for Steelcase in Phoenix as an architect. He got in touch with Joanne (Printz,'52) & her husband Bob Bassett ('49) who live in Tempe. Bob is a house painter and Joanne owns a bridal shop. I remember when Joanne used to play the piano for our girls chorus in 1955(?). Walt reminded me that Joanne's mother is Helen Hughes.

Walt also contacted Janice (Pomato, '56) and her husband, Ed Garcia. He remembered years ago when they were stationed in Petaluma while Ed was in the Navy and Walt and Evelyn were on a camping trip. They pulled into Petaluma and called Ed & Janice. They were very homesick and happy to see someone from Brea. Ed is in construction in Las Vegas.

There were about 150 people at the Chiksan reunion: Bill Harris form Yorba Linda; Frank Burrell & his wife, Lucy Ayeres; Chuck & Nellie Russell, Jack Russell & his wife; Melvin Carlson & his wife from Cortez, Colorado; Leo Bivens; Don Davison - just to name a few. Walt started telling me whose children had married who & tied which families together. I got a bit confused. If someone can share with me who attended, I'll share that in my next column. Walt is such a treasure. We have few left that remember first hand people & events. We need to let Walt know how much we care about & appreciate his memory & longevity. Thank you Walt & happy 90th birthday!

I'm busy with the new display. There are a lot of articles we need to find. Some items are uniforms of postal, police, fire, city government, schools, mothers, library, PTA's. The display will have a classroom, doctor's office, a wedding scene - please call me at 529-6186 with anything you can provide.

- Sharon

THESE ARE BHS MENBERS WHO HAVE CONTINUED TO PROVIDE SERVICES THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PURPOSES OF THE BREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. THEIR CONTINUED EFFORTS ARE RECOGNIZED HERE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR MEMBERS.

BARBARA BRANTLEY PITTS, M.S.W.
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CALENDAR:

May 12 - 18	**Historical Preservation Week**
May 20	**General Meeting (see page 1)**
June 3	**Board Meeting at Edna Makins, Orange Villa Apts, #14**
June 12	**History Day at the Senior Center, 10:45 AM**
June 15	**Deadline for contributions to "People of Brea" exhibit**
July 4	**OCH Exhibit opens (Thursday) "People of Brea"**
	County Fair at City Hall Park
July 6	**Community Center Opening (Saturday)**

ASK A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR TO JOIN THE BREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Brea Historical Society
"Old City Hall"
401 South Brea Boulevard
P.O. Box 9764
Brea, CA 92622
Office and Museum Hours:
Saturday 11: 00 AM to 2:00 PM
and by appointment
(714) 256-2283

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The Brea Historical Society's mission is to collect and preserve historical materials relating to the City of Brea. Since its founding in 1971, the Society has worked to foster community pride as well as a desire to preserve the past and creatively plan for a historically compatible future.

Brea Historical Society's

Historical Happenings

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Official Newsletter of the BREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Brea, California

Jane O'Brien, President

Inez Fanning, Editor

VOLUME XI NUMBER 7 SEPTEMBER 1993

HISTORIC QUILTS

Two most interesting quilts have come into our possession. Karl Olmstead, of Fullerton, inherited them from the estate of his mother, Marie.

In Brea during the 1920's and 1930's, the Knights of Pythias was a very active lodge group for men. The women's group was known as the Pythian Sisters. These were charitable groups, and their lodges existed in many areas of the country. There is a local lodge in Tustin. Pythias was a noble youth in Greek legend.

Both quilts were made by the Pythian Sisters, and are in perfect condition. The first is a crazy quilt design, put together with embroidery stitches. A gold ribbon sewn in one corner attests to the quality of the piece. A printed message reads:

August 17, 1935
Knights of Pythias
Pythian Sisters
California Pacific International Exposition - San Diego

The second quilt was a friendship quilt. The print squares that form the design are very small. In the middle of each block is an autograph, preserved in embroidery. A few familiar names that appear: Bessie Salveson, Eva Jarvis, Bessie Danielly, and Irma Tremaine. On one side a blue square boasts the name of Myrtle Allen, obviously the leader of the project. The date is 1930.

Members Helen and Bernie Swart have taken interest in these quilts. Bernie has moved forward with enthusiasm to build a lovely quilt stand upon which the first quilt is being displayed. In the works is a quilt rack on which we can hang and display other quilts. Thank you so much, Bernie.

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

7pm, Monday, September 27, at First Baptist Church Social Hall, Corner of Date and Flower Streets in Brea.

Program - Glenn Parker, Brea Mayor Pro-tem, will talk about "Planning For The Future - Brea's Sphere Of Influence". Glenn will be introduced by Teresa Hampson, who will also be giving a talk on "The Background And History Of Tonner Canyon". Teresa will also be available to autograph your copy of our book, "Brea: Celebrating 75 Years". Copies will also be available for purchase at the meeting.

Important: Members of the Diamond Bar Historical Society have ben invited to join us for this meeting. Let's all turn out to welcome them!!

Hostesses for this meeting: Sharon Dean, Betty Millen, and Mary Nell Chansler. They plan special refreshments!!

CALENDAR

September 27 - 7pm - General Meeting
September 10 - 7 to 10pm - "Brea Fest"
October 4 - 7pm - Board Meeting - Home of Mary Nell and Wilbur Chansler, 313 N.

Lillie Avenue, Fullerton (Southeast of Chapman and State College).
October 24 - Olinda Village Fair - 11am to 4pm on the elementary school grounds.
November 1 - Board Meeting - Location TBA

THANKS TO CATHERINE

Many thanks to Catherine Seiler for the Old Olinda exhibit which has been shown in the Brea Library foyer this summer. A new exhibit is now in place.

Letter Openers from many times and places are from the collections of Elizabeth Langmore and Martha Jones. The openers are sparked with interesting ink wells, pens, paper weights, and a red background.

The smaller glass case contains antique medical items donated by Dr. Warren Fox and his wife, Roberta Hall Fox. Roberta's father was Frank Hall, publisher of the Brea progress for many years.

Dr. Fox currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Brea Community Hospital.

BREA: CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

The following letter is typical of many recently received:
"Dear Brea Historical Society,

I've received my two copies of *Brea: Celebrating 75 Years*. All of you deserve a blue ribbon for making such a wonderful contribution to Brea's history. My father, Frank Hall, if he were alive would also commend you for your long hours and frustrations with the publishers. Thanks for a good job!"

(signed) Roberta Hall Fox

OTHER ACQUISITIONS

John Yriarte - kitchen items from Mary Yriarte's home.

Lillian Johnson - two books, a dictionary and atlas, circa 1930.

Teresa Hampson - six children's books from the 1920's, including Raggedy Ann.

Alan West - Three ancient orchard heaters and miscellaneous farm equipment.

Billie Russell Bowland - Large Auto Club map of Orange County, 1923.

Frank Burrell - Autobiography, in two volumes. Frank was the comptroller for Chiksan Oil Tool Company in Brea for many years, and a past president of the Brea Chamber of Commerce. He also was responsible for getting Drivers Education into BOHS curriculum - the first in the state.

Gwen Pendleton Shaffer - Desks and furniture items from Don Shaffer office. Large portrait of W.D. Shaffer and miscellaneous smaller photos.

IN MEMORY OF FRANK SCHWEITZER, JR

We are saddened by the death of this friend who was so important to the development of the Brea Historical Society, as well as the development of the city of Brea itself.

All of his adult life he was a self-appointed photographer of whatever was, or was happening in Brea. His legacy of hundreds of photographs form the backbone of our collection. His lifelong friend, Karl Fanning, has catalogued all of these, including a negative and print for each one.

After the 50th Jubilee in 1967, which he headed, it was Frank who afterward kept a group going who was interested in Brea history.. He obtained incorporation papers and held them until the society was re-organized years later. Goodbye, dear friend, and condolences to Ruth and to sons Charles, Don, and Jim.

Don Schweitzer, architect and Brea resident, has designed the new Boy Scout house, to be built by the Lions Club and with private donations.

ROBERT STIVES

The Brea Historical Society regrets the passing of Robert Stives, the last of his pioneer family to be living in Brea.

OLD OLINDA

The Olinda Old Timers picnic held on August 28th was a real success. Among those enjoying the day were the Jackson twins: Gladys Jackson Smith of Birchwood, Tennessee, and Cordius Jackson Hamilton of Hesperia, CA. Both are widows, but have children and grandchildren to enjoy.

UPDATE

The following information is from the "Olinda Heights Update", Summer 1993, by the City of Brea. The Olinda Heights Development will consist of 1380 residential dwellings and three open spaces.

"Plans are being prepared to ensure onsite retention of the remaining historical structures, perhaps as an Interpretive Center, which will provide an important historical resource for the community. The field office building, Olinda Well #1, and the jackline building will be accented in a landscaped, parklike setting. The landowner is also working to help the Historical Society in seeking placement of the structures on the Natural Register of Historic Places."

FIRE TRUCK RESTORATION

Donations received July 4th totaled $320. The project for the restoration of the 1923 Seagraves Fire Truck has a goal of $18,000. You may mail your donation to the Brea Historical Society, PO Box 9764, Brea, CA 92622.

ANSWERS TO LAST ISSUES (JUNE) TRIVIA QUESTIONS

1. The northeast corner of Brea Blvd and Birch Street was, in earlier times, the location of Bergman's garage. It was the Brea bus station at the same time, being a drive-through.

2. Before 1916, the nearest public cemetery was in Anaheim.

3. The tall towers east of the 57 Freeway and above the high school are the transmitting antennas for a southland radio station. The red lights are aviation safety lights.

4. In June of this year, Brea-Olinda High School received national recognition as one of the best schools in the nation. The Blue Ribbon Award of Excellence was given by the United States Department of Education.

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Office and Museum Hours:
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
(714) 256-2283

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THIS PAGE IS RESERVED FOR BUSINESS CARD ADS!!
If you would like to have your card displayed to all our members as an advertiser/supporter, call me for details. It's lonely being the only advertiser.

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ALL YEAR

CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF ENROLLED AGENTS

NEWSLETTER

Brea Historical Society

401 South Brea Boulevard
P. O. Box 9764
Brea, California 92622

Editor:
Inez Fanning
January, 1991

Volume 10. NO. 1



DR. REMFRY HUNT

The Brea Christian Church was fortunate, in 1928, to secure a most extraordinary minister. Remfry Hunt came to Brea from 30 years as a missionary in China. He was a small man, with a light, quick step when he walked, always reminding one of the stereotype "Chinaman" of the day.

With his wife, son and daughter, he lived in the parsonage next to the church, and pastored his flock.

At this time, Rev. Hunt was no longer the young man who had bravely crossed the ocean to save the "heathen". His hair was white. But he was a vigorous man, and had acquired a certain wisdom in his travels that was respected by all.

To the church library he added copies of books he had written. One book graphically portrayed, with text and pictures, the "bound feet" of Chinese baby girls and women.

Other, current books of the time, of which he was not the author, he gave to young graduates who were in the "church family". In the front of each was a personal note of congratulations --- written in Chinese!

Dr. Hunt served the congregation well. This picture of the church building at that time is taken from a "calling card" saved by one of the parishioners.

The Hunts were in Brea for several years until they went to live in the California Christian Home in Rosemead.

GENERAL MEETING

Monday, January 27, 1992 - 7:30 PM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Corner Date and Flower, Brea

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

HOSTS: Dean and Betty Millen
Grace Ries
Evelyn Corolla
Elsie Bergman

There will be:

Election of Board Members

Recognition of those leaving the Board

Meet new Board Members

Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Brea Historical Society.

Charter members will be guests.

PROGRAM:

"ORANGE COUNTY FAIR: 1992

100 YEARS IN THE MAKING" by Phyllis Morrow, Coordinator of Exhibits.

Phyllis is a Brea resident, and is interested in our participation this year.

BE THERE!

REMINDER!!

If you have not already done so, please send in your 1992 Membership Dues

AND

To take advantage of the reduced price on the book

"BREA: CELEBRATING 75 YEARS"

your order must be received this month.

****

The following mini biographies will acquaint you with those named by the Nominating Committee to be new Board Members.

Mary Alice Blaydes

Mary Alice lived most of her childhood in Long Beach, California. In 1969, she moved to Brea with her husband, John, and their two children. John taught at Brea Junior High and Fanning School before going to Los Alamitos School District, where he is presently the principal of a school there.

In 1979 Mary Alice graduated from CSF and began substituting in Grades K-12 in Brea, In 1982 she became the librarian at Brea-Olinda High School, but left in May, 1990, due to her mother's illness.

Mary Alice cares about the future of our town. She believes the future lies in preserving Brea's wonderful history.

Rod Dickinson

Rod grew up in South Dakota. He first came to this part of California in 1968, as a member of the United States Navy.

He and his wife have been members of our Society since 1985. Rod is Broker/ Manager for Darwin Manuel Realty in Brea. Sandy is a Sales Rep for Carboloy Corp.

Rod is a strong supporter of our Society.

Jane O'Brien

Jane was born in Buffalo, New York, and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvanis. She and her husband, Patrick, and their family have lived in Brea for 19 years.

Her career is in the insurance business. She also attends school to enhance her career. She is President of her local Homeowners Association, and Chairman of the Living History Bus Tours -- Brea Jubilee Events.

Jane says "History is exciting -- not dusty!".

Sally Rathmell

Sally was born in Brooklyn, New York. When grown, she worked as a dental assistant. She met her husband in Houston, Texas. They have four grown children. She was an adult volunteer with the Girl Scouts for nine years.

She is now a Tax Professional and has a large clientele in Brea.

Sally just received an AA degree at Fullerton College, with a major in history.

****

ELECTION

Board members are elected for two-year terms on a staggered plan, and may succeed themselves.

Those whose terms are up now are:

Inez Fanning - will remain on Board
Karl Fanning - will remain on Board
Toad Kinsler - retiring
Bob Bickel - retiring
Elsie Bergman - will remain on Board

Those whose terms go another year are:

Sharon Dean
Brian Saul
Morris Bergman
Frank Schweitzer - retiring

Nominees:

For two years each:

Mary Alice Blaydes
Rod Dickinson

For one year to finish Frank Schweitzer's term:
Betty Millen

To be added to the Board (for two years):

Sally Rathmell

For one year:
Jane O'Brien

The new Board will elect officers at their first meeting, which will follow the General Meeting on January 27, 1992.

****

And now, back at the office-museum, Old City Hall:

The entire building was tented and fumigated this week. Delayed the Newsletter.

Karl and Richard Fanning built two sets of large and strong shelves in the vault for storage of our bound newspapers, and other large books. Thank you both. This is a most welcome project.

And Lillian thanks Karl for providing office supplies as needed, and for being on call for maintenance.

****

CITY OF BREA
HISTORICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
January 9, 1992
By Sharon Dean

At the January 9 Meeting, the following items were discussed. A model is being constructed of Brea Blvd. from the "Brea Welcomes You" sign to the railroad tracks. This model will be approximately 12 feet long and will be displayed in the library or somewhere in the Civic Center.

After much discussion, it was decided to invite the builder, Mr. Howard Glasky, to attend a meeting on January 23 to discuss the project with the whole Committee. The time of the meeting will be announced later.

The Sub-Committee of Brian Saul and Ray Wolfert have chosen 63 photos of Downtown Brea to be placed in an album -- 33 will be 8x10 and 30 will be 5x7. This album may eventually be used along with the model as an educational tool in describing Brea's history. The Committee has decided to mail letters to all service organizations offering the "Historic Block" program as a presentation.

There are several preservation projects being investigated including windows, doors, maps and other objects from the buildings being demolished along Brea Boulevard.

We also discussed the Historic Block, framing and hanging the historic pictures in the reception area of the Civic Center, the Casner House moving in February, and the California Preservation Conference in April. Brian Saul reported on activities of the Jubilee that are listed in this Newsletter.

The disappointing information we received from Lisa Donnell, Assistant Planner and Staff Representative from the City, was that the Historic Preservation Element/Ordinance that she had worked so hard to be part of the Growth Management Plan was deleted because of cost restraints the City Council has been forced to Implement. She is not giving up hope. She is working on another plan to tag the ordinance to the May Amendment of the Master Plan. We encouraged her to continue in her efforts and to keep us updated.

Our next scheduled meeting will be February 6, with a special meeting on January 23. The meetings are held in the Plaza Room next to the Chamber of Commerce, and all people are invited to attend. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM.

****

JUBILEE EVENTS

Well, it's finally 1992, Brea's Diamond Jubilee, and the coming year promises to be an exciting one.

On Saturday, February 22, the celebration will kick off with a huge 75th Birthday Party at the Brea Mall Tickets are now available at the Community Services counter on the third floor of City Hall for $10 per person, which includes food and entertainment. A reserved table for 10 people costs $150,00.

The following day, Sunday, Feb. 23, is the actual date of our incorporation as a city, and to celebrate the event, there will be a ceremony to finally open the 1967 Golden Jubilee Time Capsule. Festivities will begi at noon in the parking lot beside Old City Hall in City Hall Park.

The Historical Society Museum will also be open on that day with a new exhibit, as well as displaying time capsule items that were just removed from the ground.

What promises to be an exciting and interesting experience will take place directly after the time capsule opening. This will be the first of the Living History Bus Tours of Brea. The guided tour will visit such places as the site of Brea's old airport, Brea and Tonner Canyons and where the famous Babe Ruth - Walter Johnson exhibition game took place in 1924. Also, at old Olinda and the site of the huge Stewart Tank Farm fire of 1926, there will be actors reliving for the tour groups the life in Olinda and the disaster of the fire.

Tours will leave at 1:00 pm, 1:30 pm, 2:30 pm, and 3:00 pm from Old City Hall. Tickets will be $5.00 and will also be on sale at the Community Services counter. Space is limited so purchase tickets soon.

Other Living History Tours will be on May 9 and September 19.

On Saturday, April 4, Brea will have the first Historical Home Tour where the public will be able to visit several of the interesting old homes as well as two of its churches. Tickets for that event will go on sale soon and will cost $8.00. Another home tour will be on October 3.

It's going to be a great Jubilee Year with these and many other exciting events taking place, so please plan to join the festivities.

****

Feb. Bd.
Mar. Bd.
Mar. Genl. Mar. 23 -

Feb 13
200 Boxes
Corn
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Sue Flash

VIDEO TAPE

The time has finally come!!!

The one-hour, 50 minute historical video of old Brea called:

"BREA: A WALK IN TIME"

can now be reserved by calling the City Community Services Department at 990-7735 or 990-7737. The price is $9.95.

Filmed over a period of two years, the video combines old photographs, interviews and a guided tour to tell the story of Brea's beginnings.

Seventeen different segments, including the tragic story of the tiny Hummingbird plane built in Brea, the hsitory of Sam's Place, the disastrous 1926 Stewart Tank Farm Fire, and the Babe Ruth - Walter Johnson Exhibition Game, combine to make this video a real collector's item.

Only 150 of these videos will be available so order yours as soon as possible.

For further information, Call Brian Saul at 990-4461.

These orders can be picked up and paid for in February at the Civic Center.

Brea Historical Society

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NEWSLETTER

Brea Historical Society

101 South Brea Boulevard
P. O. Box 9764
Brea, California 92622

Vol. 10, No. 2
Sharon Dean, President

March, 1992
Inez Fanning, Editor



WOMEN OF RANDOLPH:

ORAL HOLLOWELL

Oral Hollowell was born in 1889 in Kentucky. She was married in 1905, at the age of 16, to James Oscar Hollowell, who was 32 years old at the time.

The newly married couple came to Los Angeles, California, and lived with relatives in the Boyle Heights area. James was afflicted with asthma most of his life, so in a few years the couple moved to Victorville, California, on the high desert. James was a bookkeeper, but jobs were scarce. Oral, also, was always considered "frail," especially by her mother.

Another move took them to Whittier, California, where they had a "Mom and Pop" type grocery store; but in 1915, James was hired as a bookkeeper for an oil tool company in Brea.

The Hollowells rented a house on the southeast corner of North Orange Street and Deodora (now Lambert). Several children were born to the couple: Pauline, Stanley, Bill and Ion.

The father, James, was hurt in an accident where he worked. For some reason, he fell from a high ladder. This injury disabled him for the rest of his life, part of which was spent in a wheelchair.

Oral, his wife, was very resourceful. Plucky, too. First she made tables from sawhorses and boards, and placed them in her shady yard. At noon each school day, children came across the street (a very small road at that time) for lunch. A hot lunch was 15¢ for Brea Grammar School children.

Continued on Page 2

GENERAL MEETING

Monday, March 23, 1992 - 7:30 P.M.
First Baptist Church Social Hall
Date Street at Flower, Brea

Speaker: Charles Welsh
"Antique Table Silver"

Charlie, a member of the Garden Grove Historical Society, will bring pieces of his own silver collection to show us.

This will also be our annual "Show and Tell". Bring a family heirloom to share with us.

Hosts:
Jim and Miriam Bergman
Dora Varner

****

CALENDAR

March 9 - Board Meeting - 7:30 P.M.
Old City Hall

March 23- General Meeting

April 4 - Historic Home Tour - $8.00
10 AM - 4 PM

April 13 -Board Meeting

May 9 - Living History Bus Tour $5

May 11 - Board Meeting

May 16 - Jubilee Parade & Picnic

May 25 - General Meeting

****

IN MEMORY

We are saddened by the death in February of Gil Straw, formerly active in the Society. Gil and his wife, Betty, had moved to Atascadero three years ago.

Gil, Industrial Arts Teacher at Brea-Olinda High School, and Betty, our long-time TReasurer, were friends of us all. We love you, Betty!

****

OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays -
9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Phone No.: (714) 256-2283

Another small store soon became available at the northwest corner of Brea Blvd. (Pomona Avenue) and Cypress Street. The Hollowell family moved there, running the store, and living at the back of the building. Dr. Jackson, doctor to James, was a next-door neighbor. The store was not too profitable. Children sometimes bought candy there on their way home from school. Oral was undaunted. Her children became big enough to help. Sometimes the family picked corn for farmers, or gathered walnuts off the ground in the walnut orchards for their own use. Until the children were old enough to do it, Oral rode a bicycle around town delivering newspapers.

At that time there was a large open field west of the little store, on the east side of North Madrona Street. Baseball games were played there. Oral, with the help of the family, carried sode pop and sandwiches through the crowds, for sale. In later years she remembered vividly carrying on this operation at the now-famous 1924 Exhibition Game where Babe Ruth and Walter Johnson of Olinda were big "star" players.

The daughter, Pauline, was entering high school when the little store was sold. Another location was found - a two-story white building on the north side of Imperial, between Walnut and Madrona Sts. The Hollowells lived upstairs and ran the store downstairs. This place was known later, in the 50's, as the first "Pot Belly Pizza Store".

James died. The children grew up and left home. Oral Hollowell, plucky still, remarried. Her second husband was Ray Sinks, and the couple moved to a mobile home in Garden Grove. Mr. Sinks, being quite prosperous, bought 10 acres of land in Garden Grove, and for a while ran a small grocery store there. When Ray died, the property went to Oral, who sold it for more than a quarter of a million dollars!

She moved to Santa Ana, to her own new house, next door to her son, Bill, and his family. Oral died at the age of 96. "Frail" indeed!

From an interview with
Aileen Hollowell by Inez Fanning

****

OFFICERS

1992

At their recent meeting in February, the Board elected the following officers:

President	Sharon Dean
Vice President	Brian Saul
Recording Secretary	Elsie Bergman
TReasurer	Betty Millen

****

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to invite all of you to visit the museum to view the display of the items that were in the Time Capsule.

Especially interesting is the scroll which has many names and signatures of the performers of the "Brea Story" in 1967.

Also on display are the models of many historic buildings that were located in Downtown Brea. They are to scale and are detailed to the original style of the building.

Attention Collectors:
We would like to learn about your collections and possibly display them. Please contact Dora Varner at 256-2283 during office hours.

****

CITY HISTORICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

At its meeting on February 5, the Committee discussed the following items:

A presentation of photographs of Downtown Brea that have been placed in an album and identified, will be presented to the Brea Historical Society at the March 23 meeting.

The Downtown models made by Mr. Gardner were loaned to the Brea Historical Society to be displayed at the Time Capsule Opening. We are planning plexiglas boxes that will protect the models in the future.

Many exterior and interior artifacts are being saved from buildings being demolished in the Downtown area. Hopefully, these will be re-used in the new buildings along Brea Blvd.

The Casner House was moved in the early morning hours of February 26 to Redwood Street.

The Committee is looking into the preservation of the log cabin behind the Missionary Baptist Church (First Christian Church) on Ash Street.

The Committee continues to work for an historical element to be accepted by the City Council. This would put the Committee in a better position to label and preserve landmark structures.

Sharon Dean
Committee Chairman

****

MEMBERSHIP

With all the history now happening in Brea, and the past history, this is a GREAT time in Brea, our 75th Birthday! Let's invite one friend or neighbor to our next General Meeting.

Our history is important to this town and this is the year the Brea Historical Society can grow.

Please be sure you have paid your Annual Membership Dues. The dues are as follows:

Individual	$15.00
Family	~~$30.00~~ 25.00
Supporting	$50.00
Sustaining	$100.00
Business	$100.00

If your friends are just a little interested in our history, invite them on the Home Tour in April or the Living History Bus Tour in May. This will really get them interested in Brea's History.

Jane O'Brien
Membership Chairman

****

CALIFORNIA BUNGALOWS

A Lecture Series

ORANGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CONSERVANCY

Bowers Museum Education Center
2002 North Main Street
Santa Ana, CA 92706

Wednesday Nights at 7:30 PM

March 25 - Randell L. Makinson,
Greene and Greene, Historical Architects
The Art and The Craft

April 22 - John C. Loomis
Buffalos to Bungalows
Care & Feeding of Your Bungalow

May 28 - Deborah Denne
The Landscape Translation of the Arts and Crafts Philosophy

$15 per lecture at the door.
$40 remaining three lectures

****

A special thanks to Aaron Eseltine (a brand new member) who stopped by the Museum and replaced all of our burned-out lights and cleaned all the fixtures.

WHAT AN IMPROVEMENT!

JUBILEE UPDATE

Just a quick letter to fill you in with what's been happening and what will still occur during Brea's big 75th Birthday Celebration.

On Saturday evening, February 22, over 1,000 people turned out for the City's birthday party at the Mall. The following day, the long-awaited opening of the Golden Jubilee Time Capsule took place before a large crowd. Inside were lots of great things which can now be seen at the Historical Society's Museum in old City Hall, - Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 9:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

Directly after the capsule ceremony, the first of this year's Living History Bus Tours got underway. One hundred sixty (160) people had purchased tickets which made the tour a sell-out and a real success. Tickets are now on sale for $5.00at the Community Services Counter at the Civic Center for the next two tours, May 9 and September 19.

Mark your calendar for the first Brea Historical Home Tour Saturday, April 4. Seven special homes were chosen for the tour, to give visitors a peek into how Breans lived in the early years, and to show the types of homes that were popular at the time. The old Brea Missionary Baptist Church (former Brea Christian Church) with its famous log cabin, and the First Baptist Church of Brea will also be open for the tour. There will be entertainment, demonstrations, and a few surprises, so purchase your tickets now for $8.00 at the Community Services Counter.

The one-hour, 50-minute historical video: "Brea, A Walk in Time" has been a tremendous success, selling almost 300 copies so far. If you haven't purchased your copy as yet, they're available now at the Community Services Counter for $9.95. Over 125 historical photos were used on the video, making it a real collector's item.

Finally, don't forget about the big Brea parade and community picnic on May 16. I'll be telling you more about that later.

Have a great March, and I'll see you on the home tour.

Brian Saul

THANK YOU!

A big "Thank You!" to Rod Dickinson and Jim Bergman for all of their dedicated help on Sunday, February 23. We hope more of our members will become involved and join our fun.

Another big "Thank You!" to Helen MacKain and Wilma Cockrel for their great help at the Museum. Dora keeps them busy. We need all of you!

Mary Alice Blayden
Volunteer Chairman

Brea Historical Society

401 South Brea Boulevard
P. O. Box 9764
Brea, California 92622

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NEWSLETTER

Brea Historical Society
101 South Brea Boulevard
P. O. Box 9764
Brea, California 92622

May, 1992

Vol. 10, No. 3

Sharon Dean, President
Inez C. Fanning, Editor



THE SULLIVAN BROTHERS AND THEIR TRUCKING BUSINESS

The property on West Ash Street, now occupied by Phillips Trucking and Towing Company, has been used for a trucking station for more than 75 years. In the early days of Brea, the Sullivan Trucking Co. was a big company located at this site,

Arthur Sullivan arrived in Brea from Arkansas at the age of 16 years, in time to become an employee of Union Oil Company in May, 1913. He was hired at Stearns Lease and was assigned to drive A TRUCK.

Meantime, young Ruth Dutton was living with a relative at a Brea Canyon oil lease. She had worked as a cook's helper at an Olinda boarding house.

Later Ruth lived with an older sister, Mrs. Lee Calderwood, on Randolph Street, and was a next-door neighbor to the Moseley family.

Arthur Sullivan and Ruth were married in Los Angeles in 1916. They "set up housekeeping" in a little house on Stearns Lease, but soon moved into town. They were among the first candidates for membership at the Brea Christian Church, which was also located on West Ash.

Continued on Page 2

GENERAL MEETING - MAY 18, 1992

MONDAY - - - 7:30 P.M.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH SOCIAL HALL

SPEAKER: ANDY DENEAU,
ANAHEIM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"RESTORING AN HISTORIC HOUSE"

He will also show slides.

Seven winners of the HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST and their teacher will be present to receive their awards. A promotional event for our book "Brea: Celebrating 75 Years". the essay topic was "Why should Historic Preservation Be Included in Brea's Vision for the Future?".

There were 98 entries. Judges were: Mary Alice Blaydes, Inez Fanning, Mae Burt, and Susan Gaede.

The grand winner will receive $100 and have his/her essay printed in our book. Congratulations to all!

This promises to be an exceptional meeting! Be there!!

Awards will be given promptly at 7:30 P.M.

Host and Hostesses: Sally Rathmell, Louise Bleininger, Alice and Paul Whipp.

Kathleen Ralph's Girl Scout Troop have made a historical quilt which they will present at the meeting.

****

CALENDAR

May 16 - 10:00 A.M. - Jubilee Parade followed by Community Picnic, Old City Hall Park.

May 18 - GENERAL MEETING
First Baptist Church - 7:30 P.M.
Board Meeting follows.

June 8 - Board Meeting

July 4 - County Fair and Historical Exhibit

September 28 - Next General Meeting

****

Arthur's brother, Charles, and his wife, Nani, purchased the property to the east of the church in 1919, and lived there in a large house moved in from an oil lease. The house had a hipped roof and a porch around the two sides and front. Trucks came in and out on this same property. An office was in the house.

The two brothers bought several trucks. The business specialized in hauling pipe for use in the oilfields. The pipe was produced by steel mills in Pennsylvania, but because of the weight, it was too expensive to ship it across the country. The pipe was loaded on ships in Eastern ports and sent down through the Panama Canal and then up to Los Angeles Harbor (San Pedro). The Brea truckers picked up the pipes at the docks, and at one time, delivered pipes to oilfields all over the State of California.

The most important pipes went down the well, one after the other, threaded together or with a coupling.

One big project for the Sullivans involved handling pipe for the first pipeline along the Ridge Route between Bakersfield and Los Angeles.

Arthur's wife, Ruth, took care of their two children, Marian and Kenny. She joined the Ladies Aid at the Brea Christian Church and sang in the church choir. Arthur not only ran the business, but pursued his two hobbies of baseball and fancy cars.

In those days, there was an Orange County Baseball League for which Arthur managed several teams at different times. He became an umpire of note. The different town teams played each other. Also, National League players came home in the winter, and played the local teams. Important hardball games were played on Sunday afternoons, and Art took his family to the games. If he was paid after the game, the family stopped at Curry's Mile High and all enjoyed a five-cent ice cream cone.

Harry Dunning, a catcher for the Giants, played here, as well as Jack Salveson, a product of Brea, who became a National League player. The Babe Ruth-Walter Johnson game was memorable for Art.

Beginning with the depression, the trucking business went down. The office was moved to a branch at Signal Hill, Long Beach, and in 1930, the brothers' partnership was dissolved. Charles Sullivan was Mayor of Brea in the years of 1925 and 1926.

The Charles Sullivan family moved to Buena Park. In 1936, the Arthur Sullivans moved to Fullerton. Arthur died in 1972 and Ruth passed away in 1986. Daughter Marian is a retired school teacher, now living in Placentia.

INEZ C. FANNING

****

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Many things are happening at the Brea Historical Society Museum. Our book, "Brea: Celebrating 75 Years" is progressing on schedule with new and exciting opportunities for participation. Our latest section, "Great Moments in Sports in Brea" is receiving positive comments from many interested sponsors. If you would like more information, call Irene Gresick at 961-0888 or Karen Vitkus at 524-9866. We are searching for photos. Any Brea photos could be used where appropriate. Please call Brian Saul at 990-4461 or the Museum Office 256-2283.

An important project that Dora Varner is working on is "family biographies". We are interested in having the history of your family in our special file. Please call Dora at the Museum on Mondays between 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M.

The Museum will be open this Saturday, May 16, from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. If you would like to help, please call me at 529-6186.

Hope to see you Saturday or Monday.

Sharon Dean

DUES! DUES! DUES!

Some of us have inadvertently forgotten to pay dues for 1992. Our year is the calendar year, January to January.

Please call the office - 256-2283 - if you do not know if you have paid.

DUES SCHEDULE

Membership:	
Individual	$ 15.00
Family	25.00
Supporting	*50.00*
Sustaining	*100.00*
Businesses	*100.00*

****

ADVERTISING AVAILABLE

Beginning with this issue, business card size spaces will be offered.

One Issue - $10.00
Three Issues - $25.00

You can help support our publication. July issue comes next.

Call 256-2283 Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

****

JUBILEE UPDATE

What a weekend this is going to be! Saturday is the big day, but you might just need Sunday to recover from all the excitement.

What I'm talking about is the big Brea Jubilee Parade, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning, May 16, and running along Birch Street from the Brea Marketplace to Brea Blvd.

Celebrity Grand Marshall Mickey Mouse will lead the marchers, floats, equestrian units and clowns along the route.

Brea's own Frank Schweitzer, former Mayor and man in charge of our Golden Jubilee Celebration 25 years ago, has been chosen to be the Citizen Grand Marshall. It's an honor well deserved.

Don't forget to watch for the Brea Historical Society's parade entry. A special thanks goes to Karl Fanning and Geri Carpenter for organizing our participation.

So, grab your folding chair, maybe your sunglasses, and head over to Birch Street on Saturday. It should be lots of fun.

That's not all that's planned for Saturday. Right after the parade, an old-fashioned community picnic will be held at City Hall Park from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Be sure to be there because there will be all sorts of entertainment, a fun zone for children, celebrity guests, and plenty of old-time games for family members of all ages.

In case you don't want to bring your own picnic lunch, a wide assortmentof food and drinks will be available at a nominal fee.

Don't forget to visit our museum room in Old City Hall to see the exhibit there.

Our entry will be an antique Chervolet Touring car, 1927, with driver. Riding in the car will be Geri Carpenter and Karl and Inez Fanning. They will be in old-fashioned attire.

Girl Scout Troop 811 will march ahead with a banner they have created for the occasion.

Sounds like a great day. I'm sure it will be one you're not going to want to miss.

BRIAN SAUL

****

ACQUISITION

In April, we received two lovely oil paintings from Ruth Harmon, Anaheim artist.

She is a member of the Brea Art Association.

The paintings depict two local historical landmarks -- the Kinsler House, and the Wayside Chapel in Carbon Canyon.

Thank you, Ruth!!

See the paintings at our museum.

We also thank Marion Sullivan for 54 historical snapshots, and we thank others who have brought interesting items in to the Society.

****

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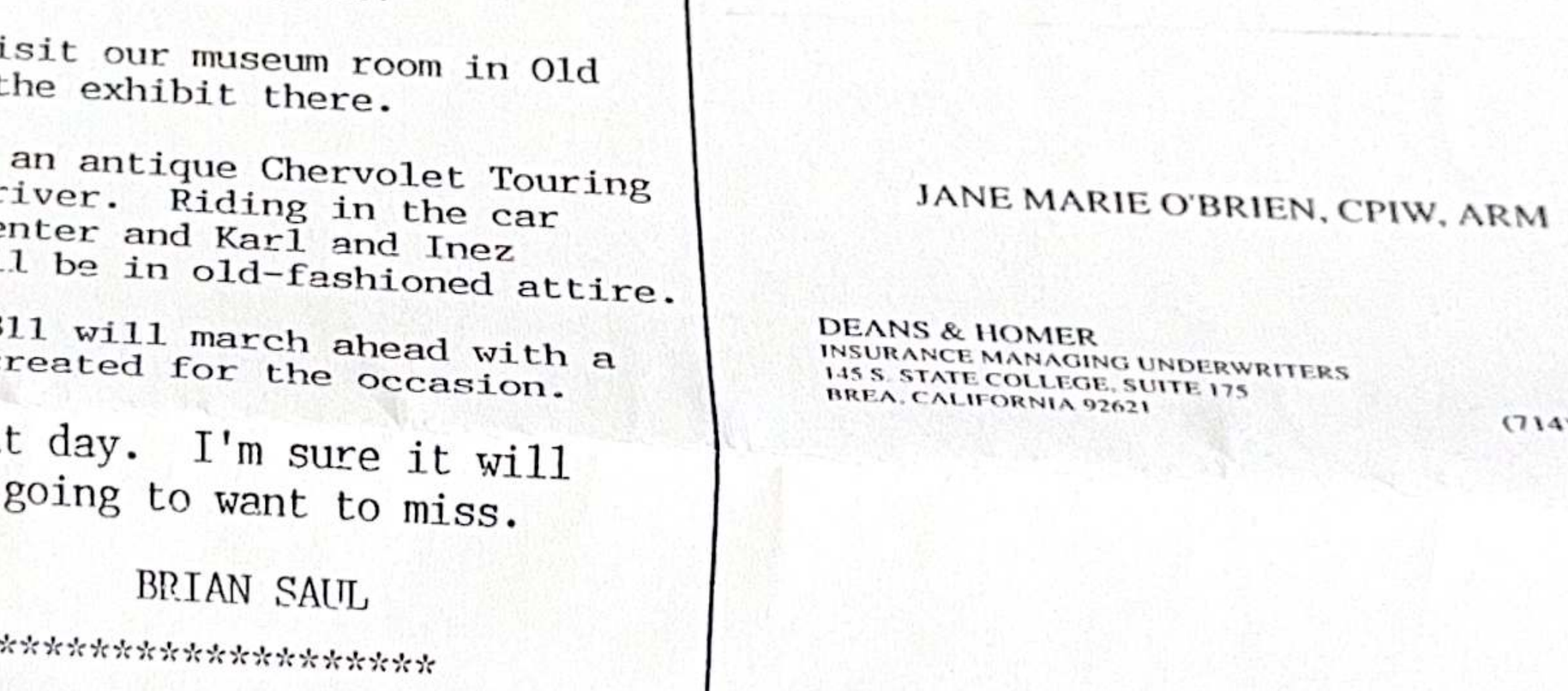
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ARTHUR SULLIVAN (RIGHT) WITH ONE OF HIS LOCAL BASEBALL TEAMS



Brea Historical Society
401 South Brea Boulevard
P.O. Box 9764
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Brea Historical Society's

Historical Happenings

• Brea Historical Society Museum • 401 South Brea Boulevard • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9764, Brea, CA 92622

Official Newsletter of the BREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Brea, California

Jane O'Brien, President — Inez Fanning, Editor

VOLUME XI NUMBER 3 APRIL 1993

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Thank you for taking the time to complete the "BREA ARTS SURVEY". This was the green form in last months newsletter. This will help to show that Brea's history is important to all of BREA'S CITIZENS. If you have not sent in your survey, please do so as soon as possible.

I have written to the mayor and city council with regards to saving the buildings and Oil Well #1 at Santa Fe Energy/Olinda. A meeting of the Open Space Taskforce will be held on Thursday, March 18, 1993, at 630 pm in the council chambers. If you can, please plan on attending to see if these areas are going to be considered open space for a park.

President Jane

CALENDAR

March 22, Monday, 7:30 pm
General Meeting

Monday, March 29, at 2:30 pm - Esther Cramer will be speaking on "History of Brea Schools" at Laurel School in Brea.

April 5, Monday, 7 pm
Board Meting at home of Jane and Patrick O'Brien, 1608 Wardman Drive, Brea. Note: Board meetings are now being held on the 1st Monday of each month.

May 3, Monday Board Meeting at home of Betty and Dean Millen.

May 10-14 Historic Preservation Week

May 24 General Meeting

June 7 Board Meeting

July 4 Country Fair at City Hall Park. HISTORICAL SOCIETY EXHIBIT AND BOOTH.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Monday, March 22
at 7:30 pm
1st Baptist Church
Date and Flower, Brea

Program:
THE MANAGEMENT OF A LOCAL HISTORICAL PARK

Our guest speaker will be Margie Stirrat, past president of the Orange County Historical Society, and current president of the Garden Grove Historical Society. She will show slides of what is happening at Stanley Ranch at Euclid and Chapman in Garden Grove. Topics to be discussed will include: finance and fundraising; relationship with the city; meeting legal requirements; enlisting volunteers; etc.

This is a very timely

subject for Brea historians. Plan to be the there!!

BOOK BRIEFS

With layout now nearing and end, our book, Brea: Celebrating 75 years, promises to be at the publishers by early April - and, with luck, in the hands of its buyers by late April or early May.

Our design artist, Karen Vitkus, is doing a marvelous job with layout. The book includes a wealth of pictures, stories and anecdotes - all artfully presented.

This is a project that promises to be worth its long wait.

Teresa Hampson, Author

THANK YOU, CHUCK

We now have a new case in the vault for storage of our many framed panoramic photographs. The photos are now placed vertically in the carpet-lined spaces. Made and donated by Chuck Rathmell, this is a real help to us.

A.D. YOST

Abel David Yost was born in Missouri, and arrived in Olinda in 1898. He took up residence in a tent and helped drill Olinda Well #1. The shaft was punched with cable tools. The oil was very heavy - almost like tar - and the shaft was shallow, only 117 feet. Later, the rotary drilling method was used in Olinda. This thick oil, first pumped, was used as a topping for dirt roads in the vicinity.

Mr. Yost became associated in Olinda with Mr. Holderhoff, an investor recently arrived from Germany with his daughter, Valda. Mr. Holderhoff had a business hauling grain from farms in this area to market in Los Angeles. The grain was hauled in a wooden wagon pulled by oxen, and the trip took three days. Sometimes they took a passenger or two, charging them three dollars. Yost drove the wagon, and they camped over night in Santa Fe Springs. There, the two first looked around for water for their animals and found tar oozing out from the ground.

In 1900, "Abe" Yost married Alpha Koch at her family's home in Los Angeles.

The association with Mr. Holderhoff ended when Mr. Holderhoff was killed by his daughter. This was a great scandal of the time.

Abe Yost then went to work for Brea Canyon Oil Company, and the couple established a home in a house built for them in Brea Canyon by the oil company. The first child born to the couple was Sherman. As an adult, Sherman spent his career working for the Standard Oil Co. in the Middle East. In 1903, a daughter, Silvia, was born. She died at 3 1/2 years of age. The next born was Lily. She eventually married Dan Price. They had two daughters, Jane and Geraldine, who attended Brea schools and now live in Redlands, CA and Amarillo, TX. Carl was born in 1915 and George in 1917. Carl is now living in North Long Beach. In 1922 Marvin was born, he lived only four months.

In 1915 the family built their own house on the southwest corner of Orange and Imperial. Mr. and Mrs. Abel Yost celebrated their Golden Anniversary there in 1950.

Abe was superintendent of Brea Canyon Oil Co. until the company began to sell stock. A young man from Canada was then brought in to take Abe's place. After retirement, Abe went into the real estate business with W.A Culp and they built and sold houses in Brea. Abe also had a partnership with Felix Yriarte to build and manage the Red Lantern Theatre.

Other community activities in which Mr. Yost participated were: Brea Lions Club, the board of Oilfields National Bank, the School Board, Brea Tool Works, and the Brea Brick Co.

Alpha Yost was a popular member of Brea Woman's Club and was president of the school PTA. To her family, she was a wonderful mother and a cook who made fresh donuts for her children to enjoy upon arriving home from school.

Abe died in 1951. His wife, Alpha, passed away some time in the 1960's.

As told to Inez Fanning by Carl M. Yost.

JANE ANNOUNCES: 1993 CHAIRMEN

PUBLICITY - Brian Saul
MEMBERSHIP - Teresa Hampson
PHOTOGRAPHS & MAINTENANCE - Karl Fanning
SOCIAL - Geri Carpenter
EXHIBITS AT BREA LIBRARY - Catherine Seiler
COUNTRY FAIR COMMITTEE REP - Rod Dickinson
CLIPPING FILE - Frank & Virginia Day
DECORATIONS - Edna Makins
BREA BOOK - Sharon Dean
PROGRAM COORDINATOR - Rod Dickinson
NEWSLETTER EDITOR - Inez Fanning
NEWSLETTER PUBLISHERS - Rod & Sandy Dickinson
FOURTH OF JULY EXHIBIT - Inez Fanning

WANTED: OFFICE SECRETARY
Through STEP (Senior Employment Training Services).
Qualifications: over 65, limited income, basic office skills, 20 hours per week.
or
Steady volunteer with basic office skills Wednesdays and Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm.

Please contact Sharon Dean 529-6186.

POINT OF INTEREST:

Historic French Park Home Tour April 3rd and 4th see enclosure.

IN MEMORIAM

We note the recent passing of Horace Chansler with deep regret. A longtime educator and churchman of Brea, he was the son of Brea pioneers Charles and Martha Chansler who came to Brea in 1921. He was the father of Wilbur Chansler, Brea-Olinda science teacher. Horace will be remembered by his many students with affection and respect.

Our sympathy goes to Harace's wife, Frances, and to Wilbur and Mary Nell.

Answers to last months Brea Trivia:

1. February 23, 1917
2. Woodrow Wilson
3. Council Grove, Craig Park
4. 1976
5. J.D. Sexton

BREA TRIVIA

1. What movie star appeared on stage at Red Lantern Theatre?

2. Name a year when the Brea-Olinda Ladycats were CIF champions.

3. What was the first name given to the Brea town area?

4. During what earthquake did refugees come to Brea? What year?

5. What was the nickname of the first church established in Brea?

GOOD LUCK! Answers will be in next months newsletter.

SALLY RATHMELL, E.A.
TAX CONSULTANT

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BY APPOINTMENT
ALL YEAR

THIS PAGE IS RESERVED FOR BUSINESS CARD ADS!!
If you would like to have your card displayed to all our members as an advertiser/supporter, call me for details. It's lonely being the only advertiser.



Brea Historical Society
401 South Brea Boulevard
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Address Correction Requested

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Brea Historical Society's Historical Happenings

• Brea Historical Society Museum • 401 South Brea Boulevard • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9764, Brea, CA 92622

Official Newsletter of the BREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Brea, California

Jane O'Brien, President

Inez Fanning, Editor

VOLUME XI NUMBER 5 MAY 1993

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 22 - Saturday, 10am to 4pm Orange County Museum Day at Richard Nixon Library. Exhibits, entertainment, and demonstrations by numerous museums from throughout Orange County will focus on contributions which museums make to our understanding of science, history and art. Admission to the event and to the Nixon Library on this date only is free.

May 24 - Monday, 6:30pm SPRING POTLUCK and General Meeting.

June 3 - Thursday, 7pm City Historical Committee Meeting, Plaza Room at the Civic Center.

JUNE 7 - Monday 7pm Board Meeting at home of Sally & Charles Rathmell, 1840 Moorpark (Glenview Area).

JULY 4 - COUNTRY FAIR, Museum open 10am to 4pm. The Cake Walk Concession is ours! We need cakes, cakes, cakes! Here's your chance to help the Historical Society without spending a lot of time or money! Plan ahead (cakes do freeze). Please let Rod know or call 255-1023 if you can donate a cake or two.

SEPTEMBER 6 - Board Meeting

SEPTEMBER 20 - General Meeting

SPRING POTLUCK - GENERAL MEETING

May 24. First Baptist Church Social Hall, Date and Flower Streets.

PROGRAM: "Preserving Your Personal History"

Panel of Speakers:

1. "How I wrote and Published my own Family History" - Edna Makins
2. "My Paintings Tell Stories of Family History" - Edwina Drake
3. "Family History Through Correspondence" (Letters) - Wade Mansur

We look forward to this exciting program! Be there!

FOOD * FOOD * FOOD

A-L Bring Salad or Vegetable
M-Z Bring Main Dish of your choice
Committee: Dessert
Coffee and punch will be served.

Dinner Committee:
Sharon and Larry Dean
Inez and Karl Fanning
Jane and Patrick O'Brien

THE WOODEN BIRTHDAY CAKE

The year was 1924. I was eight years old. My weekday birthday was memorable.

I had learned to sing about the same time I learned to talk, and was adept at both. In fact, I sang with such exuberance, standing beside her in church, that my mother was often driven to nudge me with her elbow, and to whisper, "Not so loud!"

At about the age of four, I became aware of the musical possibilities of an instrument known as the piano. This awareness came in the Beginners Class at Sunday School, where we learned to march and sing: "Jesus Loves Me" and "Give, Said the Little Stream".

The gas stove in my mother's kitchen had a heavy black shelf on the right side. The stove stood alone on one side of the room. A moveable stool, we called the "highstool" (one word) was a place for me to perch, and pretend the shelf was a keyboard. Of course, I could only play when my mother was not cooking. When I entered kindergarten, my repertoire expanded to include: "My Dolly is a Lady" and "All the Birds Are Here Again".

Another place to play and to sing was found on the front porch of the house next door. I had a baby brother at home, but the Woodward children, Ted, Jerry, and Lillian, were several years older than I was. Jerry Woodward Duff recalls how I sat on the bottom of the cement steps leading up to their front door. I played and sang using a higher step for my "keyboard".

In the morning of that special December 29 birthday, a van drew up in front of our house. Trucks going by were not frequent. We occasionally saw the "ice man", the "fish man", and the "vegetable man" as they slowly passed by. The arrival of this big truck was an event. We stood on the front porch.

Out of the back of the truck appeared a small upright piano! Two hardy men maneuvered it up the front walk toward my house. This was real. A real piano for me! For my birthday!

The next week I started piano instruction with Mabel Green, piano teacher of Whittier. My teacher came to my house weekly after school.

Although many, many years have passed, many piano teachers have been known, and many a recital and performance played. The joy of having my own first piano is still high on my memory list of joys.

But the birthday was not over. The following Sunday was my "Birthday Sunday"! As I and my brother (then five years old) walked up Walnut Street to our Brea Christian Church at the end of the street, I held tightly to two sparkling white ironed handkerchiefs. Tied carefully in the corner of one was the nickel I always took for the offering. The other handkerchief was heavy with its "tied in" load of eight bright pennies.

The "Opening" of the Sunday School was a special time when children and adults met together, before going into separate classes. First we sang. And oh how we sang! Then usually one teacher would tell us a short story about a missionary on a "foreign field". The offering basket would be passed, and my nickel would be released into it. Then the superintendent would say - "Are there any birthdays?"

Now I am walking up the center aisle to the front. These precious pennies I put into an enameled tin world globe, with a slot in the top. "One - two - three" everyone chants as each coin drops. "Four - five - six - seven - eight!"

"Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you." And I can see eight candles glowing on the wooden cake, just taken down from the cupboard, where such things are kept. The ceremony ends with a wonderful blessing, recited by all:

"Many happy returns
Each day of the birth

And may sunshine and
gladness be given.

And may the dear Savior
Prepare thee on earth
For a beautiful birthday
in Heaven".

Inez Jones Fanning

BY THE WAY...

As part of Brea's Country Fair on July 4 at Old City Hall Park, the Historical Museum at Old City hall will be open all day. There will be an exhibit about the Brea Christian church, the congregation of which recently terminated its ministry. The "pulpit with a past" will be there, and look for the wooden birthday cake!

Another new exhibit: A profusion of antique glass bottles of several kinds - found during the current excavation of old Downtown Brea.

ACQUISITIONS

1. National Oil Tool Supply Catalog. Brea. 1925. From Paul Lehr. This is a handsome bound volume.
2. Furniture from original Shaffer Tool Works Office, including the desk of Mr. Shaffer. From the Shaffer family.

CITY HISTORICAL COMMITTEE REGROUPS

At a meeting on May 6, the City Committee welcomed new members Herc Roeser, Marge McMillan, and Jane O'Brien. Continuing members are Wilma Sauer and Brian Saul. The new terms are for four years. Brian was elected chairman and Wilma the co-chairman, at the meeting. Committee members will be special guests at the POTLUCK, May 24.

NEEDED: OFFICE SECRETARY

(Through STEP (Senior Employment Training Services). Qualifications: over 55, limited income, basic office skills, 20 hours per week.

or

Steady volunteer (any age) with basic office skills, Wednesdays and Saturdays 10am - 2pm.

Please contact Sharon Dean, 529-6186

BREA TRIVIA

1. Name the first two public buildings built in Brea.
2. What recreational facility was built into the original Brea Mall?
3. Who was the city librarian when the library was at Old City Hall?
4. Where is Birch Hill?

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S TRIVIA:

1. 1769, Portola Expedition.
2. "Lime 'n Lemon" was the soft drink bottled in Brea.
3. Salvesons was the grocery store. Jack Salveson played baseball with the Hollywood Stars.
4. Jeanne Gladden owned Jeanne's Yardage.
5. Edna Makins - first woman school bus driver in Brea.

Brea Historical Society
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P.O. Box 9764
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(714) 256-2283

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Brea Historical Society's Historical Happenings

• Brea Historical Society Museum • 401 South Brea Boulevard • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9764, Brea, CA 92622

Official Newsletter of the BREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Brea, California

Jane O'Brien, President

Inez Fanning, Editor

VOLUME XI NUMBER 8 OCT/NOV 1993

"TIDINGS OF COMFORT" or "THE BLANKET SHOW" *

Stone Age people, it is said, covered themselves with hides and furs for warmth as they slept the night on the ground. Roving shepherds were kept warm by the woven woolen clothing they wore and wrapped around themselves. People living in castles were overdressed day and night to keep out the cold. Victorian people had fancy beds, so they must have had plenty of fancy bedcovers. We do know there were mattresses and comforters stuffed with feathers and down. American pioneers on their way out west made for themselves mattresses stuffed with straw, hoping for the time they would arrive in the Promised Land and make feather beds and pillows.

(Time frame for the following is 1921 - 1941.)

Growing up in Brea, the earliest bedcover I remember was a "quilt" made by my mother. It was made of 5" squares of cotton material left over from the dresses and shirts she made for us. It was not quilted. Squares were put together at random and sewn on her treadle sewing machine.

There were white sheets and pillow cases on the bed. When brought in from the clothesline on wash day, they were returned to the bed smelling like the most wonderful sunshine. In the winter, these sheets were replaced by a "pair" of sheet blankets. This was one very large piece, the length of two blankets. (TIDINGS con't on page 2)

CHRISTMAS MEETING

The next meeting is our annual CHRISTMAS POTLUCK, to be held December 6th at the First Baptist Church on the corner of Date and Orange at 6:30 p.m. We will have carolers, a special visitor, and surprises.

A - L bring main dish or salad.
M - Z bring dessert.

Honey-baked ham, coffee, drink and table setups will be furnished.

Table hosts and hostesses will be Mary Nell Chansler, Alan West, Elsie Bergman, Sharon Dean, Helen Schwartz, and Jane O'Brien.

A brief board meeting will be held following the party.

CALENDAR

Nov 4 - City historical Committee, Plaza Room, Civic Center, 7pm

Dec 6 - BHS Christmas Potluck (see above)

Jan 3 - Board Meeting, Old City Hall, 7pm.

Jan 24 - General Meeting and installation of officers.

Reminder: 1994 dues are due!!
(Please use the enclosed envelope)

TIDINGS, con't

It folded in half at the bottom of the bed, and was fuzzy, cozy, and warm.

In addition to the "quilts", comforters were also made, and put over the quilts when the weather was cold. To make a comforter, you had to buy new fabric. You would buy four lengths. You would then cut the cotton cloth into four equal pieces, and wash and iron them. Two strips were sewn together for the front, and two for the back. Then the back of the comforter was laid in the middle of the living room carpet, right side down. Cotton batting that had been purchased at the store was then rolled out over the back of the comforter to cover it. Then the front of the comforter was laid over it, right side up.

Now began an activity sometimes shared by the entire family. Long pieces of yarn were threaded into large darning needles. With these we made big stitches through the comforter to hold it together. The stitches were in precise rows, and each was cut and tied in a knot when the stitching was done.

Down on our knees on the floor, we looked each other in the eye, and laughed. It was a happy time.

When the knots were neatly trimmed, the comforter edges were hemmed on the sewing machine, and our work was done.

The Christmas I was 12 years old I received my own beautiful pink wool blanket with satin binding at the bottom and the top. My brother received his own bright red blanket.

The joy I felt at that moment was topped only by one of the wedding gifts my husband and I were to receive from my elderly parents, years later. It was a comforter they had made for us.

*When my brother and I asked to be taken to the movies on Saturday night, sometimes my father would put us off by saying "You're going to the Blanket Show" (to bed).

CHRISTMAS EXHIBIT

A new exhibit for our cases in the Brea Library foyer will be set up soon.

A collection of old and new nativity scenes belonging to Elsie Smith Gorden will be augmented with other interesting creches. Catherine Seiler will put it together and make it interesting for all to see.

ACQUISITIONS

Due to the passing of Helen Wood (Mrs. Perry Wood) the historic home at the corner of Date and Sycamore has been sold. This large "box-type" house was moved in from the Olinda oil lease years ago. The sons of Mr. and Mrs. Wood, Dick and Jerry, have given us a large box of oil tools and equipment; also a large photo of the Shell Oil Co. lease taken in the fifties. They have also promised us several household and miscellaneous items.

We honor the memory of Helen and Perry - hard working, loving and caring citizens of Old Brea.

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

A good attendance of thirteen members kept business going at a fast pace at the last board meeting. Member Alan West attended his second meeting, and Helen Schwartz was welcomed as the newest board member.

The group approved the purchase of 40 more acid-free boxes in which to store very old newspapers given us by the old *Daily Star Progress*. The oldest, 3 editions from 1915, will be mounted in special rigid plastic. Member Barbara Williams and her daughter are in the midst of a project to sort and file these old records. Barbara writes for the *Orange County Register* and her weekly column is examining some of her "newsy finds" in these issues. You can catch her articles on Thursdays in the Brea section.

MILAN "BUD" EASTON

Bud Easton, lifelong Brea resident, passed away recently in Chino. His change in residency was due to redevelopment activities here in Brea. His parents, Edison and Anna, along with his brother Wallace and he, were early Brea pioneers, arriving here in 1921 looking for work in the oil fields. Bud was a track and tennis star at Brea-Olinda High School in 1931. He was a retired foreman for Unocal.

ELECTION

All board members are elected each year for a one year term. The election takes place at the December General Meeting, following a report by the nominating committee. Officers are then elected by the members of the board.

Present board members are:

Pres	Jane O'Brien	529-8550 (H)
		529-6173 (W)
V.P.	Brian Saul	993-4337
Sec	Mary Nell Chansler	879-1755
Treas	Sally Rathmell	529-7663 (H)
		529-0839 (W)
	Sharon Dean	529-6186
	Elsie Bergman	529-2651
	Inez Fanning	529-2993
	Karl Fanning	529-2993
	Rod Dickinson	255-1023 (H)
		529-1991 (W)
	Betty Millen	529-3289
	Teresa Hampson	990-2141
	Geri Carpenter	529-3527
	Alan West	529-3341 (H)
		992-2121 (W)
	Wayne Wedin	961-1416
	Helen Swart	

BREA TRIVIA

1. Identify three historical adobe buildings still standing in Brea and who built them.
2. What is the oldest business in Brea still in operation today?
3. What is the meaning of the word "puente"? (As in Puente Hills)
4. What is the translation of the word "Chiksan"? (Yes, Chiksan)
5. Who was Midnight Ethel?

Answers in next issue.

WANTED

I am looking for an old Brea telephone directory. I would like one of the small variety (approximately 5" by 8") which were very common in the twenties and thirties, especially in small communities. It may contain other cities as well, as I have never actually seen one. I know that Fullerton and La Habra had their own phone systems, but they might have been included in the same directory. These directories often had a small hole in the upper left hand corner for hanging the book on the old wall phones with a string. I will pay a premium for one of these books in nice condition.

Gary D. Goff (714) 990-7827

(Paid Advertisement)

Mrs. Sally Rathmell
1842 Moorpark Drive
Brea, CA 92621

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Brea, California

THIS PAGE IS RESERVED FOR BUSINESS CARD ADS!!
If you would like to have your card displayed to all our members as an advertiser/supporter, call me for details. It's lonely being the only advertiser.

SALLY RATHMELL, E.A.
TAX CONSULTANT

ENROLLED TO REPRESENT TAX PAYERS
BEFORE THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

1842 MOORPARK DRIVE
BREA, CA 92621-6045
(714) 529-0839

BY APPOINTMENT
ALL YEAR

Historical Happenings

Schweitzer Park

Brian Saul



The Brea Historical Society is sponsoring the initiative to change the name of City Hall Park to 'Schweitzer Park' in honor of the Schweitzer family's 85 years of service to the Brea community.

The existing naming criteria for the City of Brea includes:

Devotion of time and effort to the betterment of the community and its residents.

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The individual should not be currently serving in public office.

Some of the Schweitzer family achievements over the past 85 years includes Frank J. Schweitzer, Sr. serving on the Brea City Council for 22 years, his design of the 'Brea Welcomes You' sign, his negotiation and layout of City Hall Park.

Frank Jr. served on the Council for 12 years, was 'Man of the Year' in 1966, Chairman of Brea's 50th Birthday and Bicentennial celebrations.

Julia Schweitzer, Frank Sr.'s wife and Ruth, Frank Jr.'s wife have also devoted many hours and efforts on behalf of Brea and the community.

The list of the Schweitzer family involvement includes active in incorporating the City of Brea, help to establish Brea Christian Church, Superintendent of Sunday School, Choir Director, Brea Women's Club, Brea Lions Club, Brea's East-end expansion during the 50's, member of the North Orange County YMCA, the American Red Cross, 'Citizen's Make a Difference' award, 'Citizen Grand Marshall' for the 75th Year celebration, Brea Republican Women, Meals on Wheels and 'Brea's Women of the Year' award.

The value of volunteering continues in Brea based on the many hours of effort and involvement exemplified by the Schweitzer family.

There are other families the City of Brea needs to recognize and the Historical Society will be fully involved in establishing recognition on those who have and may continue to serve this community over the span of years that is included in Brea's history.

Please talk to Board members and let them know your ideas and preferences.

We are continuing our efforts with the City to honor those who have set the path for what we have and enjoy today.



SEE YOU AT CITY HALL PARK
THIS THURSDAY, JULY 4
AT THE BREA COUNTRY FAIR !!

Just a note from Sharon - The 'Breans Here & There' column is 'Here & Gone!' No one has helped with information & this column is slowly passing on. **Please** call/write Sharon or the Historical Society with any news or requested information on people/things you are interested in for our Newsletter. Thank you.

THESE ARE BHS MENBERS WHO HAVE
CONTRIBUTED TO THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE
SOCIETY. THEIR CONTINUED EFFORTS ARE RECOGNIZED HERE.
CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR MEMBERS.

BARBARA BRANTLEY PITTS, M.S.W.
PSYCHOTHERAPY
FAMILY AND CHILD COUNSELING

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LARRY H. DEAN
300 S. Cedar • Brea, CA 92621

(714) 529-6186

Fax (714) 529-1303

CALENDAR:

July 4 OCH Exhibit opens (Thursday) *"People of Brea"*
County Fair at City Hall Park

July 27 Community Center Opening

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Office and Museum Hours:
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and by appointment
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Jane O'Brien, President

Inez Fanning, Editor
Herc Roeser, Layout

President's Message

Jane O'Brien



We have been busy these past few months working on the July 4th museum display at the Old City Hall.

This year's theme is "People of Brea" and we have on historical display a doctor's office, a classroom, a worker having lunch, items from homes and shops, and a wedding couple. We are also displaying uniforms of a World War I soldier, a postal worker, a fireman, a policeman. and other displays of all our historical artifacts.

Sharon Dean has been working steadily on this project assisted by other members of the Board and the Historical Society. Without the help of our members, this Society would be a piece of history itself.

Thank you to all our members and especially those who have generously given time, mementos, care and support.

Please stop and see the displays on the Fourth of July - this Thursday!



In Memory of Dorothy Hodkins Mon

Inez Fanning



We regret the passing in June of Dorothy Mon. She was born in 1911. Her parents had lived in Pennsylvania where her father worked in the oil fields.

In 1919, the family arrived in Brea and moved onto the Stearns Lease. The children were Dorothy, Myrtle and Dudley. Relatives came here to live. Dorothy was related to both the Everhart and Washburn families.

Work in the oil fields suited the father, W. D. Hodkins, and he built the family home in the Union Oil tract (300 - 400 South Madrona.) The oil company subsidized these homes.

Mrs. Hodkins found work in a produce packing house boxing lemons. Dorothy went through the Brea schools and then she too worked in packing houses in Yorba Linda and Whittier.

In 1961, when Fisher's Drug Store opened in the old downtown Brea, Dorothy began to work there and was continuously employed until recently.

Her son, Kenny Mon, has often helped the Historical Society in interpreting the outdoor oil display to the public. A daughter and a grandson also reside in Brea.

- *Inez* (interviews with Dudley and Dale Neuls Hodkins, current members of the Historical Society)

Historical Happenings

History Day
Inez Fanning



Brea History Day at the Senior Center was celebrated Monday, June 10. Amid red, white and blue decorations, the program featured "People of Brea," theme of the new museum exhibit to open this Thursday, July 4 at the Old City Hall. Members participating were Inez and Karl Fanning, Don Schweitzer, Edna Makins, Norval "Frog" Winchel, Grace Ries, Geri Carpenter, Bob Bickel and June Miller. There were quizzes, games, prizes and a sing-a-long. Karl brought his "kiosk" exhibit and Frog and Bob showed some great framed historical photos. Reverend Loren Wood also joined the group.

Label Check Time
Jane O'Brien



It's that time of the year when we ask you to check the mailing label on your newsletter. If the label reads ***1996***, you are a member in good standing through December 31, 1996. If your label reads ***1995***, you need to renew your membership. We have included envelopes for your renewal checks. Also, please ask 1 friend, neighbor, co-worker; your doctor, dentist, plumber, electrician, the gardener, aunt, uncle, cousin, grandparent, schoolmate, pastor, priest, rabbi; your child's teacher, principle, bandleader, gym instructor, coach; your mentor, those serving on the City Council, those hopping to serve on the City Council; those working for the City - anyone you can to join the Brea Historical Society. This year will be our last at Old City Hall and as we build for the future, we need your help, your voice, your continued support. So many of our lives intermingle. Stay in touch with your history - past & present as we plan for the future. Look at today's membership in the Historical Society as a gift to our children who will remember our history 10 - 20 - 30 years from now. The dues are so little but we need it so much! (Please note that if your label is not correct, call Herc Roeser at 714 990-2743 to fix it.)

Other July 4th Events



The Historical Society is having a raffle this July 4th, Thursday, at the County Fair at City Hall Park. We are providing framed, color, historical photos to the winners. Stop by the Historical Society's booth at the Park or stop inside Old City Hall. Come early for pancakes; come during the day for rootbeer floats and other foods; but do come by the see friends, neighbors and enjoy the day in Brea.

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BARBARA BRANTLEY PITTS, M.S.W.
PSYCHOTHERAPY
FAMILY AND CHILD COUNSELING

LIC. NO. LCS7003
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Brea Historical Society
"Old City Hall"
401 South Brea Boulevard
P.O. Box 9764
Brea, CA 92622
Office and Museum Hours:
Saturday 11: 00 AM to 2:00 PM
and by appointment
(714) 256-2283

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The Brea Historical Society's mission is to collect and preserve historical materials relating to the City of Brea. Since its founding in 1971, the Society has worked to foster community pride as well as a desire to preserve the past and creatively plan for a historically compatible future.

Brea Historical Society's

Historical Happenings

Vol. XIII, No. 6

October, 1996

Brea Historical Society
Brea, California

Jane O'Brien, President
Kathy Orris, Editor

Brea Historical Society
Offices and Museum:
401 S. Brea Blvd.
(Brea Blvd. and Date Street)

Museum Hours:
Saturday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Telephone: (714) 256-2283

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 9764, Brea, CA 92822

General Meetings:
Last Monday of Alternate
Months, 7:30 p.m.
at the First Baptist Church
(corner of Date and Flower)
Brea, California



BHS Museum to Close; Where Do We Go From Here?

Like Disneyland's Main Street Electrical Parade, it'll soon be "lights out" for the Brea Historical Society's museum.

Re-roofing and seismic retrofitting of Old City Hall necessitate that the museum be closed by around the middle of this month in order to protect the artifacts. So, if you haven't seen the current display, please come in within the next two weeks. It's going... going... GONE!

Moreover, it won't be long before the Historical Society office will also be vacated and Old City Hall (our home for the past 15 years) takes on a new life as the Brea Lions' Scout Center. We must find a temporary office, ideally with some room for our archives. Unfortunately, everything else must go into storage, which means the Historical Society won't be able to reopen its popular museum for a year or more.

The board has been working closely with a relocation expert, Steve Oliver, who was hired by the Brea Redevelopment Agency to help us find a temporary home. He will hire the movers, and ensure that they take great care of the Society's irreplaceable photographs, newspapers, tools and artifacts. Together, our goal is to protect the Historical Society's interests and maintain its visibility in the community both during and after the transition.

Besides the services of the relocation expert and the procurement of temporary quarters, our agreement with the City of Brea requires the city to locate a *permanent* home for the Brea Historical Society within the "new downtown." Our current lease specifies that the Historical Society is to receive six-months notice to move from Old City Hall.

In the meantime, we are working with the city, the Lions Club and the scouts to make the transition as smooth as possible for all parties.

HAVE A HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Say *What?*

by Jane O'Brien, President

It's nothing new for politicians to sling mud at each other... *but at their host?*

During last month's "Meet the Candidates Night" (sponsored by The Brea Historical Society), city council candidate, Steve Vargas, made the startling statement that the current council had "bought the silence" of the Historical Society on the 22-screen theater controversy, in exchange for moving "an old flophouse" (the Brea Hotel).

To set the record straight,*The Brea Historical Society cannot and will not be bought!* In fact, the Heritage Block project was negotiated years before the theater complex became an issue, and well before the current city council took office.

And okay, so it ain't the Ritz Carlton, but as they say, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. As the oldest commercial building still standing in Brea, the Brea Hotel was at the hub of downtown life for nearly eight decades. Now, as part of Heritage Block, this landmark will have a meaningful future as new generations of Breans seek to learn more about their city and what came before.

About Hugh Jones

The late Hugh Jones was born in Arkansas. He and his first wife, Ruby, came to California in 1919, a year after their marriage.

Hugh worked on a fruit ranch in Cucamonga for several years. After the couple moved to Brea, he worked for a trucking company and then for Union Oil, before his retirement in 1962. An active member of the community, Hugh was Master of the Brea Masonic Lodge in 1931, as well as a volunteer firefighter. From 1942 to 1954 he served on the Brea City Council.

Ruby and Hugh had no children. After Ruby passed away, Hugh married Leota Wilson, who still resides in Brea. The Joneses were members of the Brea Christian Church.

Practical Arithmetic, Minus the Pocket Calculator

by Inez Fanning

From the estate of Hugh Jones, the Brea Historical Society has acquired three books:

- *The Beautiful Story* by J.W. Buel, 1888. A large album-type book of Bible stories, illustrated with 250 engravings, many in color.

- *The Essential Facts of American History* by Lawton B. Evans. A.M., 1914. (Note that this book was written before World War I.)

- *Practical Arithmetic* by G.A. Wentworth, 1897.

The following exercises were relevant when *Practical Arithmetic* was written. Can you solve them?

A. The charge for sending a telegram from Boston to New York is 25 cents for ten words, and 2 cents for every additional word. Find the charge for sending 40 words.

B. The front wheels of a wagon are 3 ft. 8 inches in diameter, and the hind wheels are 4 ft. 2 in. How many more revolutions a minute must each wheel make to travel 40 miles an hour?

C. The sugar contained in the sugar beet is 6-1/4% of the weight of the beet. How many pounds of sugar will be obtained from an acre of beets, if it produces 400 bushels?

Correct answers next month! In the meantime, send your guess to P.O. Box 9764, Brea, CA 92822. If you're correct, we'll print your name in the November issue of *Historical Happenings.*

People of Brea: The Whipp Family

Together with her father, George E. Logan, Alice Logan moved from Helena, Montana to Brea in 1933. Her aunt and uncle, Alice and Albert Lynes, already lived here, as did her oldest brother, Harold E. Logan.

Paul L. Whipp was born in Ruth, Nevada to Ernest and Millie Whipp. In 1940 he met Alice at the roller rink that was located between Anaheim and Orange. They married on December 12, 1940.

During World War II, Paul was on his way to invade Japan at an atoll in the South Pacific when the atom bomb was dropped. He then went on to Saipan for the completion of his tour of duty. Meanwhile, Alice spent over 500 hours at the Aircraft Warning Service, perched on the roof of Brea Olinda High School.

After the service, Paul worked in an aircraft factory and on other jobs, including building inspector for the City of Brea. He worked for Unocal from 1951 until his retirement in 1981. Paul and Alice were members of the Brea Congregational Church for over 40 years. Additionally, Paul was a member of the Brea School Board for 12 years. Alice served as PTA president at three schools: Laurel, Arovista and Brea Junior High.

The couple's first child, Pamela, was born in July, 1948. Now a nurse, she is part-owner of a home health care firm located in Oahu, Hawaii. Son David was born in September, 1950. He is computer engineer for Oregon State College in Ashland.

Paul's brother, Lloyd Whipp, had joined the Air Force in 1940 and was on Clark Field in the Philippines when World War II broke out. He met his wife, Eileen, in England. After 22 years in the military, Lloyd also moved to Brea with Eileen and their three children. Two of the children still live here: Michael Whipp and Jackie Whipp Stuart. Son Gary lives in Oregon.

Paul and Lloyd's parents, Ernest and Millie, moved to Brea in 1951 and were active in the Christian Church. They are now deceased, as are Paul and Lloyd.



Alice and Paul Whipp, 1945 - At Paul's parents' house in Placentia.

Orange County Pioneer Council: Not for Oldtimers Only

Although the news release arrived a little late for publication, we hope that members of the Orange County Pioneer Council had a great time at their annual Oldtimers Picnic on October 6.

This year's picnic was held at Craig Park, to encourage participation by North Orange County residents and raise awareness of the Pioneer Council and its activities. Membership in the Council is open to all Orange County pioneers and their descendants, as well as anyone interested in the early days of Orange County. For more information, call Barbara Oldewage, president, at (714) 543-9681.

It's the Big 4-0!

The BOHS class of 1956 is looking forward to its 40-year reunion on Saturday, November 2 at Embassy Suites in Brea. The following members are still being sought:

Arlene Hoskins Jensen, Bill Jensen, Loral Leavitt, Cecelia Johnson Lanthripe, Doris Osborne Koebig, Martha Smith, Bob Tucker and David Ullrich.

Please contact Curt Pitts at (714) 529-3034 if you know their whereabouts, or for more reunion information.

These are BHS members who have continued to provide services that contribute to the accomplishments and the endeavors of the Brea Historical Society. Their efforts are recognized here. Thank you for your support of our members.

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Family	$ 25.00
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Brea, California

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Kathy Orris, Editor

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Telephone: (714) 256-2283

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Last Monday of Alternate Months, 7:30 p.m.
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December General Meeting and Holiday Potluck:

Mon. Dec. 2, 1996
6:30 p.m.

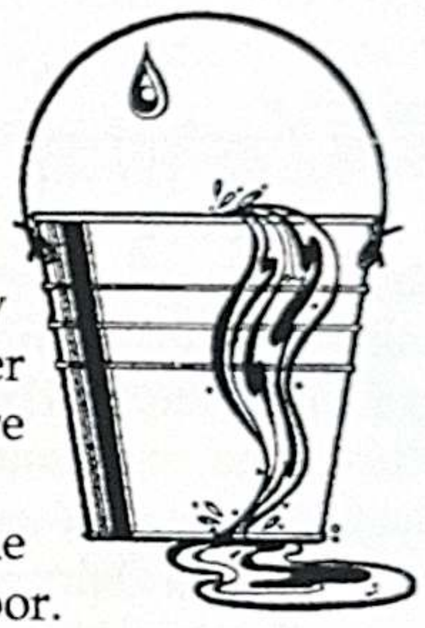
Details on Page 3!

Water, Water Everywhere...

And plenty of drops seeped into the Brea Historical Society's office and museum during the first major rain of the season, hastening the end of our tenancy at Old City Hall.

Ironically, the City Manager's office had only recently given BHS an anticipated 6-month notice to vacate. Seismic and roof repairs to the building necessitated that various parts of our museum exhibit be moved or dismantled to protect them from falling debris.

Then the rains came. BHS members Jane and Patrick O'Brien and Don Schweitzer, along with Greg Rymer of the Lions Club Scouting Program, worked frantically on October 29 and 30. They spread plastic tarps, disconnected electrical equipment, removed photos from the walls and moved the newspaper archives, museum artifacts and even heavy antique furniture and display pieces to safer areas. But tarps on the unfinished roof were not enough to hold back the water, which easily burst through the ceiling, soaking the walls and carpet and warping the office door.



According to the terms of our contract with the city, BHS must move out by mid-March, 1997. Now if we could only wait that long! Temporary office locations are being reviewed this month, with the decision to be announced at the Historical Society's general meeting and Christmas Party on December 2. A high weekend traffic location is being sought, with ample room for an office and small display. Everything but office furniture and office equipment, photos and books will be put into storage. Quotes are awaited from several movers.

During its October meeting, the board voted that Jane O'Brien, BHS president, represent the Historical Society in all negotiations with the city concerning temporary and permanent headquarters. Major decisions will be deferred to the BHS board. Burnie Dunlap represents the Brea City Council in these negotiations.

Continued on Page 2

Getting a Move on Heritage Block

by Jane O'Brien

It's not just the Historical Society office and museum that are moving. On October 28, the Brea Hotel was moved about 20 feet from where it had stood for over 80 years, making way for Brea Boulevard to be widened in that area.

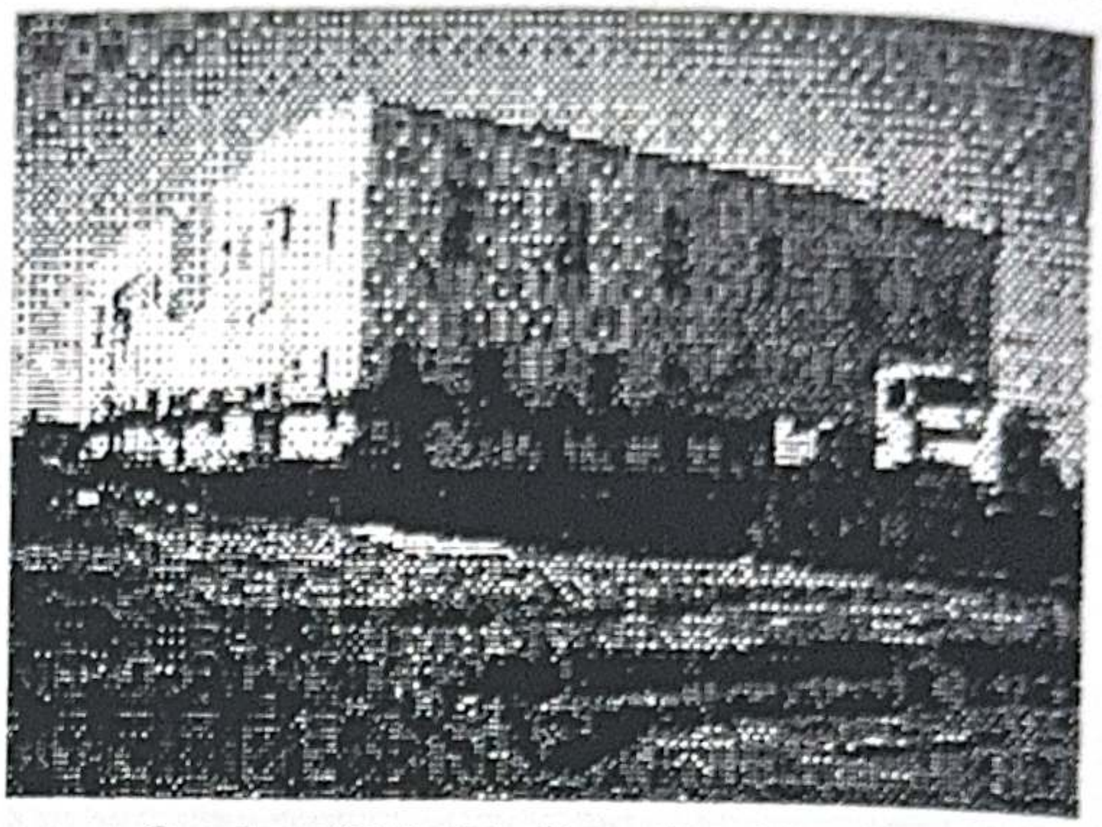
The new Brea Hotel site is a little back from Brea Boulevard and near where Esco Rubber Co. had been located. As of the first week of this month, the next step was to pour a new concrete pad upon which to set the hotel.

Isaac Craig built the Brea Hotel. Originally called the McCarty Building, the building had street-level commercial space. Upstairs, furnished rooms were rented to travelers and boarders. Shortly after its completion, Charles Kinsler began operating the Kinsler Hotel in the building.

Later during the hotel's first decade, the local economy improved, and business rallied on several fronts. The Kinsler Hotel got a new name (The Sherman), a coat of stucco and some awnings. Two businesses moved in downstairs: an Italian restaurant and the Brea Dairy Store.

Certainly the building doesn't look real good right now, but in time, it will become a proud anchor of Brea's historical Heritage Block. The stucco will be removed and the hotel will be restored to its original exterior appearance, circa 1911. Next to the Brea Hotel the Wall Building will be reconstructed, with the La Habra Bank Building on the other side. On Ash Street, the Delaney Building and Sam's Place will also be rebuilt to their original exterior appearance.

With the five buildings grouped together, interested developers will be better able to find a use for them than if the buildings had been spread out, as was previously intended. A Request for Proposals has been issued.



October 1996: The Brea Hotel is on the move.
Photo by Sharon Dean

Water, Water Everywhere (Cont'd.)

Meanwhile, BHS "outreach" will take on new proportions. Through projects such as mall exhibits, trunk shows, tabletop displays, dramatic presentations... maybe even a site on the World Wide Web, the directors are working to maintain the Brea Historical Society's visibility and ensure a smooth transition.



Recent Acquisitions

by Inez Fanning, BHS Recording Secretary

When his cousin Mary's home on the 100 block of South Orange Ave. was recently demolished, the crew found some interesting papers and documents stashed between the walls. BHS member John Yriarte donated them to the Brea Historical Society. They include:

- A thin record book of household expenses, dated 1919
- Correspondence from McCauley & Suters Mortuary, Loma Vista Cemetery and the county coroner, regarding the death of Mary's mother, Celestina
- Photos of a vacation camping trip by auto (1920s) and two road maps from the 1920s
- Various mail to Felix Yriarte, Mary's father.

Mary lived in the house where John Yriarte had been born in 1916. John's father was Felix's brother, Patricio Yriarte. Patricio had extensive land holdings in the Brea area, and a farm north of East Ash St.

BHS member, Dean Millen, has donated the following items to the Historical Society:

- A 1947 report of collection, treatment and disposal of sewage and industrial wastes in Orange County
- Several books of weather forecasts, frost and precipitation records of the central Brea area, 1930s, '40s and '50s. (An official weather station was located at Berry St. and Imperial Hwy.)
- Map collection, circa 1940, of Brea, Union Oil citrus orchards and others
- Newspaper clippings including one listing all Breans who were in military service during World War II
- Original copy of a very special letter regarding the sale of Rancho Rincon de la Brea to Newland I. Mellers, dated Feb. 11, 1888 at Los Angeles, California

Brea Historical Society

December General Meeting and Holiday Potluck!

Monday, December 2, 1996
6:30 p.m.
First Baptist Church (Date & Flower St.), Brea

If your last name begins with:

A-I	Bring a salad
J-P	Bring a main dish
Q-z	Bring a dessert

Program: "Show & Tell." Bring your favorite Christmas toy or describe your most cherished holiday memory of years past.

Holiday Gift Problems Solved!

The holidays are a time for reminiscing, so why not indulge that hard to buy for person on your gift list with a bit of Brea history?

The Brea Historical Society suggests Teresa Hampson's "Brea: Celebrating 75 Years," an impressive reference book featuring hundreds of historical photographs. The hardcover book is priced at $25.95 plus tax ($27.96 total).

Also available is the engaging video about Brea Boulevard, titled "A Walk in Time." The two-hour video is narrated by Brian Saul, and is priced at $10.

Books and videos will be available for purchase during the general meeting on December 2, or you may call the Historical Society at (714) 256-2283 to make purchase arrangements.

Give Up?

Here are the answers to the arithmetic problems in last month's issue of *Historical Happenings.*

A. 85 cents
B. A little more than 55 turns
C. 1,500 lbs.

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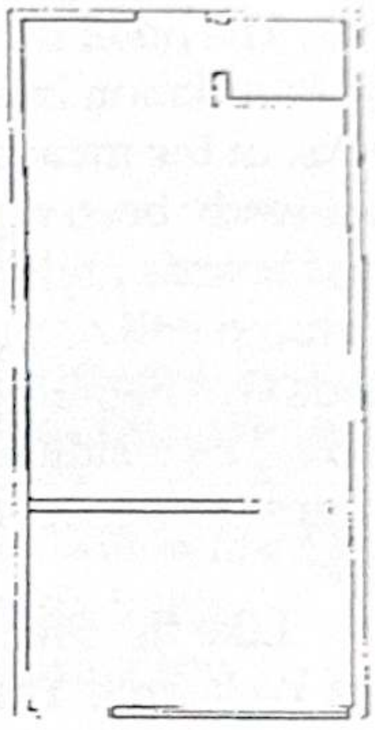
Next General Meeting:

Monday, January 27, 1997
7:30 p.m.
First Baptist Church

BHS is On the Move... to Brea Heights!

As announced during the Christmas Potluck and general meeting on December 2, the Brea Historical Society will be moving this month to its temporary headquarters at 652 S. Brea Boulevard, in the Brea Heights shopping center.

The property is owned by SL Realty Partners. Steve Horowitz, managing principal, offered the Historical Society a one-year lease plus two six-month options on the 600-sq.-ft. space, which is situated between The Stamp Patch and the shoe repair shop on the south end of the center. In addition to paying the monthly rent, the City of Brea will pay all moving and storage costs relating to the temporary headquarters, in accordance with its previous agreement with the Historical Society.



Floor plan of 600 s.f. temporary office

With only half of our former floor space, the board of directors is already "thinking small." The location offers adequate office space in the back and a small display area in front. However, most of the artifacts and collections—including the newspaper archives—will go into storage, save for smaller items selected for changeable window displays. A high, accordion-style room divider approximately 25 ft. long has also been suggested to display photos.

Additionally, the temporary location will give the Historical Society good visibility and foot-traffic in a secure environment. Thus, the office can be open more afternoons and evenings, provided volunteers are available to staff it. Any Historical Society member who has some free time during the day is encouraged to come down and spend a few hours helping with displays or accessioning.

Continued on Page 3

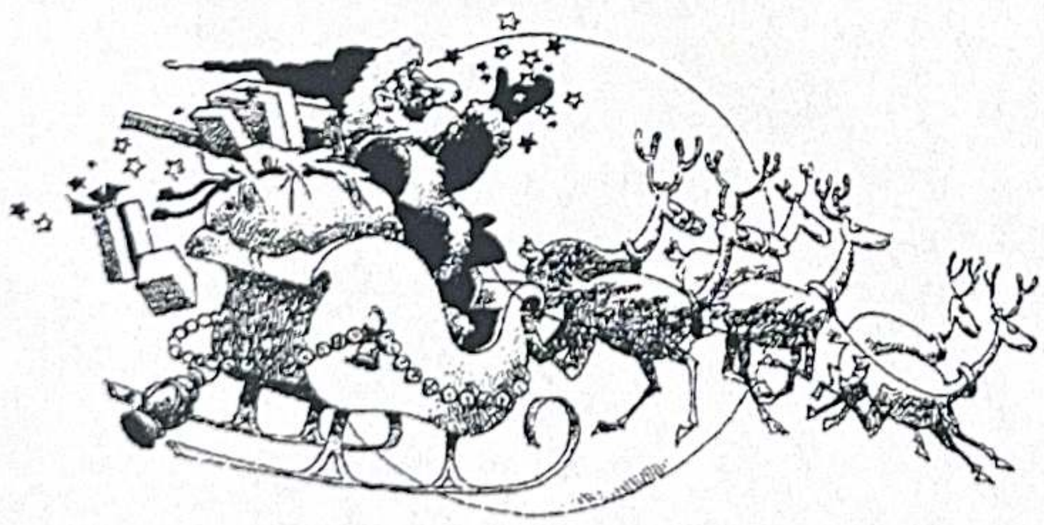
What's Old Will Be New Again

by Jane O'Brien

It looks even worse than before, but that's only because preliminary restoration work has started on the Brea Hotel, even as it's awaiting its new foundation.

The historic building was moved back and slightly north from its original site so that Brea Boulevard could be widened and the parcels configured for the entire Heritage Block. The hotel may be lowered onto its new foundation in approximately three weeks. In the meantime, some of the stucco has already been removed, exposing dry-rotted boards underneath. Eventually, all of the stucco will come off, and replacement boards will help restore the original 1911 facade. The inside will not be a hotel, but perhaps residences upstairs with retail below.

Like the Brea Hotel, the nostalgic "Brea Welcomes You" sign and Charlie's Clock are awaiting their second debuts as part of the new downtown. The sign will eventually span Birch Street, although it has not been determined whether it will be located the east or west side of Brea Boulevard. The intention is to place the sign in such a way that not only memorializes its significance, but invites people to stop, get out of their cars and explore the area.

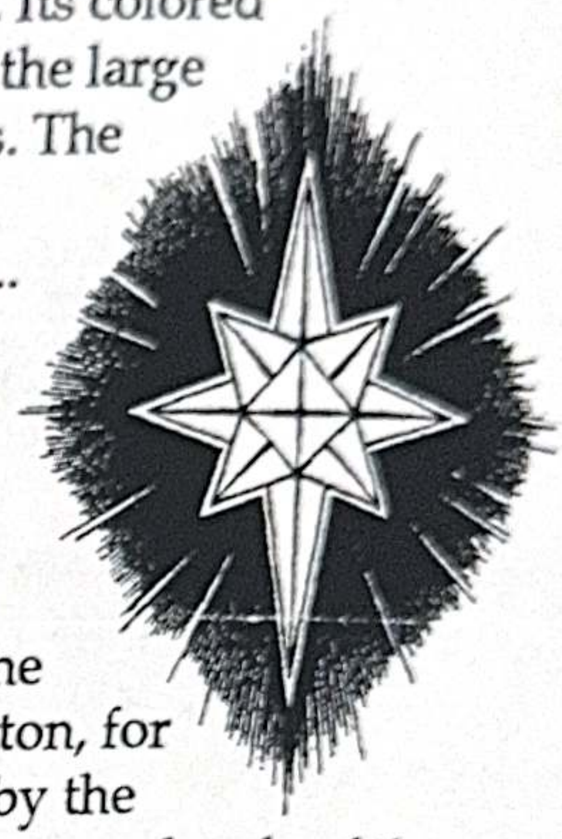


Christmas Memories, 1963

by Inez Fanning

A bright young President, John F. Kennedy, had been slain, and Brea and the nation mourned.

Now it was nighttime at Old City Hall Park, but the fountain did not dance. The flag hung limply at half-mast on the historic flag pole, illuminated by a spotlight. Nevertheless, the stately pine tree next to it spoke joyously of the hope of Christmas. Its colored lights cast sparkles on the large bell-shaped ornaments. The star on top pointed to Heaven. We saw grief... and the joy of the season.



On that Sunday night, people from all over the city headed to Lark Ellen Church, at the edge of Brea and Fullerton, for a memorial service led by the Brea ministers. As the strong chords of the organ filled the air, people filed in and seated themselves. Many more arrived, and the people moved closer together until all the pews were filled. Folding chairs were put up in the aisles, and yet people continued to come. Many were standing.

The service opened with a very moving salute to the flag. Then "Eternal Father, strong to save..." the words rang out as the moving hymn was sung. The ministers took their turns reminding us to "keep the faith."

As the service closed, we sang "Faith of Our Fathers." Never before had such mighty music swelled from so many voices in the sanctuary. The mourners left under starry skies.

I was the organist at that service.

Acquisitions

by Inez Fanning, BHS Recording Secretary

Antique wooden carpenter's tools owned by his father were donated to the Historical Society by E. Paul Moore, of Rancho Bernardo, California. The former track star visited Brea last month as the invitee of Brea Foundation for Youth Sports, at its annual awards dinner.

Paul's parents, Mr. & Mrs. T. Elwood Moore, arrived in Brea in 1911. Elwood built houses. (My father worked for him briefly as a "carpenter's helper," his occupation being so listed on my birth certificate. In fact, my father was a great admirer of Mr. Moore, and had I been born a boy, my name would have been Elwood Jones!)

Paul set track records at Brea Olinda Union High School and at Fullerton Junior College. He ran the world's record in the 3/4-mile at Stanford, where he graduated in engineering.

Paul really enjoyed his brief visit to Brea. In addition to the carpenter's tools, he also made a sizable financial donation to the Historical Society, for which we thank him.

Perhaps you saw it displayed at the Christmas potluck... the beautiful yellow decorative plate that was recently donated to the Historical Society by Al Tremayne.

What makes this plate unique is that on the back of it, in gold letters, is printed "Woodruff's" store in Brea. Mr. Woodruff had a general merchandise store in the building which formerly stood on the southeast corner of Brea Boulevard and Ash, before the hardware store was located there. Woodruff's later became Woodruff & Henigan.

Later, Mr. Woodruff became the manager of the California Hotel, now known as the Villa Del Sol in Fullerton.

Leland "Toad" Kinsler has donated five photos of classes and teachers at Randolph School (in town) and Brea Grammar School.

Taken shortly after the schools opened in 1910 and 1916 respectively, these are now the oldest photos the Historical Society has of the first students and faculty. Thank you!



BHS On the Move

(Continued from Page 1)

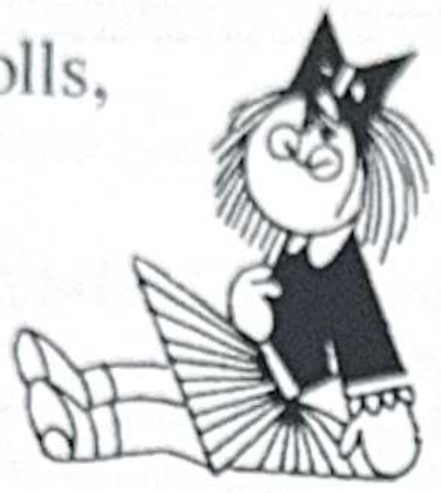
Even as the Historical Society settles into its temporary headquarters, the directors continue to plan for a permanent home in Heritage Block. That optimism was echoed by outgoing Mayor, Burnie Dunlap, in his remarks to the membership during the potluck:

"My dream is to have the Brea Historical Society be in a place where there's a critical mass—where we're not the only attraction—so that all can see the heart and soul that we've put into saving Brea's artifacts." He added that accessiblity to Brea's 1927 Seagrave fire truck would be a good way to encourage local children to develop an interest in the city's history.

And as for Old City Hall, the Historical Society will miss the building which has been its home since 1981, although we look forward to the completion of its restoration and renovation, and to many productive years of use as the Brea Lions' Scouting Center.

4

Dolls, Dolls, Dolls!



If you visit the Brea Library regularly, you've probably admired the various exhibits of antiques and historical artifacts, many from the collections of Historical Society member, Catherine Seiler.

For the holiday season, Catherine has assembled a special exhibit of collectible dolls. Stop by and enjoy!

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Brea Historical Society's

Historical Happenings

Vol. XIV, No. 1

January 1997

Brea Historical Society
Brea, California

Jane O'Brien, President
Kathy Orris, Editor

Brea Historical Society
652 S. Brea Blvd.
P.O. Box 9764
Brea, CA 92822

Telephone: (714) 256-2283

General Meetings:
Last Monday of Alternate Months, 7:30 p.m.
at the First Baptist Church
(corner of Date and Flower)
Brea, California

General Meeting:

Monday, January 27, 1997
7:30 p.m.
First Baptist Church

That "Somebody Else" is Each of Us

Who's responsible for staffing the Historical Society's booth at the July 4 Country Fair? For raising funds for historical projects? For preserving photos? For accessioning artifacts? For maintaining the computer database? For setting up historical displays throughout the community? For cleaning the office and keeping it open? For chronicling the lives of Brea's pioneering families? For planning interesting and informative general meetings?

You.

As the elected governing body of the Brea Historical Society, the board of directors assumes responsibility for keeping the Society on track with budgets, maintaining liaison with city government and services, and for long-range planning. It can be an almost overwhelming job; some board members spend hundreds of hours a year in these endeavors! So, faced with a constant flow of opportunities and activities that involve displaying, moving, repairing, building, setup, archiving and more, the directors sincerely appreciate the efforts of our general members, who cheerfully volunteer their time and labor in the interest of preserving Brea's history.



However, to be as effective as possible, we need to channel these efforts into committees. The directors are seeking help from more members interested in accessioning, photo preservation, fund raising, program planning, displays, helping out in the office, and other essential activities in keeping with the Society's long-term goals. In fact, during this year, the board will consider a re-write of the Historical Society's by-laws. If adopted, the reorganization would require fewer board members (down from the current 15), while allowing for non-voting committee chairmen to become more active in day-to-day operations.

Continued on Page 2

Genealogy Research is January Meeting Highlight

Whether you're a newcomer to genealogy or you've had experience tracing surnames, you'll enjoy "In Search of Family History," to be presented by Richard Fanning during the Historical Society's upcoming general meeting. The general meeting will be held Monday, January 27, at 7:30 PM at the First Baptist Church, corner of Date and Flower Streets in Brea.

As part of his presentation on genealogy and the application of personal computers to those activities, Richard will share some of his experiences from a recent trip to southeast Arkansas, where he traveled to uncover more records of his family history. Richard first became interested in genealogy through the many online programs and other resources available to computer users. He even used his computer to create a booklet of stories about his ancestors, including his great-grandfather, who traveled to California by covered wagon in the 1880s.

Following the presentation, members are welcome to add comments about their own particular genealogy interests, and are encouraged to bring photos of their ancestors to share!



Dues are Due!

Membership in the Brea Historical Society grew slightly in 1996—we now have about 180 members—but far too many are behind in their dues. We desperately need all members to get caught up! Member dues are the Society's main source of revenue. Moreover, it is important to *increase* our membership to meet all the Society's goals for 1997 and beyond.



If your address label still says 1996, you'll find an envelope tucked in this issue that you can use for mailing in your annual dues. We also hope you'll tell your neighbors and friends about the Brea Historical Society, and ask them to become members!

Welcome New Members: November '96

Audrey Oxandaboure, Brea
Isagani San Angelo, Walnut

Volunteers (Continued from Page 1)

This month, many of us are making New Year's resolutions. So too, the board of directors resolves to continue its hard work during 1997. But your help is needed. If you can't serve on the board, you are encouraged to start or serve on a committee. To find out how, just ask any board member or call the Historical Society's office at (714) 256-2283. You will most certainly be welcomed!



by Inez Fanning

Have you ever eaten fried mush? Among my old cookbooks is one titled *50 Ways of Serving Cream of Wheat,* and fried mush is not listed. To make fried mush, cooked cereal was poured into a mold (such as a baking powder can) and put in the icebox overnight. Unmolded in the morning, slices of it were fried in butter and served with hot pancake syrup. What a breakfast!

Other jewels of cookery were found in my mothers receipt book. Notice I said *receipt* book—not recipe book. The receipt book offered room to write-in her own family favorites. Could you price this dish today?

Chilli (1910)

Mexican beans 10¢
Hamburger steak 25¢
Soup bone 5¢
2 large onions

Fry hamburger and onions in flour with butter. Boil soup bone and put chilli salt and cayenne pepper to suit taste. Boil several hours.

Finally, back in 1930 just as today, rainy January evenings called for a tasty, stick-to-the-ribs family supper. From *The Book of Better Recipes* published by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 181 of Brea, Calif., comes this recipe for "Squirrel Stew," perhaps inspired by the abundance of wildlife in the Puente Hills.

Squirrel Stew (1930)

2 squirrels
1tbls. salt
1 minced onion
1 pt. lima beans
6 ears corn
1/2 lb. salt pork
6 potatoes
1 teas. pepper
2 teas. sugar
1 qt. sliced tomatoes
1/4 lb. butter
2 slices lemon
1 tbls. tapioca

Cut squirrels in pieces. Add the salt to 4 qts. of water and when boiling add onion, beans, salt pork, corn, potatoes, pepper and the squirrel. Cover closely and simmer for 2 hrs. Then add the sugar and tomatoes and simmer for 1 more hr. Ten minutes before removing stew add butter cut into chunks and roll in flour. Boil up adding salt and pepper if needed. Serve.

(Apparently the cook is to assume that the squirrels must be skinned first!)

Canning's Brea Hardware, Now...

The Historical Society's temporary headquarters may be a hole in the wall, but at least the wall will have fresh paint! Many thanks to Claude Bradley of Canning's Brea Hardware, who donated four gallons of paint for our new office in the Brea Heights Shopping Center.

- Sharon Dean

...And Canning's Brea Hardware, Then

A recent issue of the *Brea Progress* ran a great article by Leslie Carter about Brea's special store and its history.

Did you know that when Karl and I were married in 1941, Brea Hardware was the best place in town to buy wedding gifts, as well as many kitchen and household utensils? Our wedding gifts—beautifully wrapped and tied—were delivered by the store to the door of my parents' home. One glass bowl, which I still have, was a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schweitzer, Sr.

- Inez Fanning

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SPORTING GOODS — GLASSWARE — POTTERY

Phone 115 Brea, Calif.

1930 Advertisement



Seventy years ago this spring, 10 Brea scholars from Fullerton High were designated as Brea Olinda High School's first "graduating class," even though BOHS was still under construction! Also in 1997, the first Olinda oil well is 100 years old.

Throughout 1997 then, *Historical Happenings* will feature special stories about these and other noteworthy events that shaped Brea's character throughout the years. So, keep reading, and happy anniversary to us!

These are BHS members who have continued to provide services that contribute to the accomplishments and endeavors of the Brea Historical Society. Their efforts are recognized here. Thank you for your support of our members.

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Historical Society Has Small Space, Big Plans

by Jane O'Brien

It's small... but it's dry! The Brea Historical Society has completed its move to a new temporary home in the Brea Heights shopping center. Our new address is 652 S. Brea Blvd. Phone number is the same: 714/256-2283. Our mailing address is also the same: P.O. Box 9764, Brea, CA 92822.

The unit has a display area in the front and office space in the back. Compared to our former headquarters in Old City Hall, the space is extremely small, but we'll be able to operate the Brea Historical Society from this location with your help.



Audrey Smith and Jim Schweitzer pack Cradle Roll photos in preparation for the move to Brea Heights.

Our current display features Brea Olinda High School, which graduated its first seniors 70 years ago. We have the original Wildcat from the Class of 1930. There's also a wonderful album featuring the high school's construction, and photos of the first teaching staff and some of the student activities.

Another pictorial display will feature Brea's old downtown, in honor of the city's 80th birthday.

Now that we're getting settled in, we need everyone's help to grow our membership. We could also use some help during the week at our new location. With a good storefront location to take advantage of, we'd like to open the office more often than just Saturday.

Continued on Page 2

Discover the Artist in You! Logo Contest Announced



Even if you can't draw a straight line, your idea could be the one that becomes the new logo for the Brea Historical Society.

The Society is having a contest to replace its former logo of Old City Hall on BHS stationery and literature. One $50 cash prize will be awarded; there will be no runners-up. All entries will be displayed in the Society's exhibit cases at the Brea Public Library.

The contest is open to anyone, any age. When designing a logo, keep in mind that it should not be elaborate, since it will be greatly reduced in actual use and details will be lost. In addition, the logo should depict a historical Brea, not a future vision. The deadline for submission is March 31.

Entries may be created in any media. They may be submitted in person or mailed to the Historical Society's office. The entries will be judged for appropriateness by the Historical Society's board of directors.

Board Members Elected

Mary Kathryn Parker was welcomed to the Historical Society board of directors during the annual meeting and election on January 27.

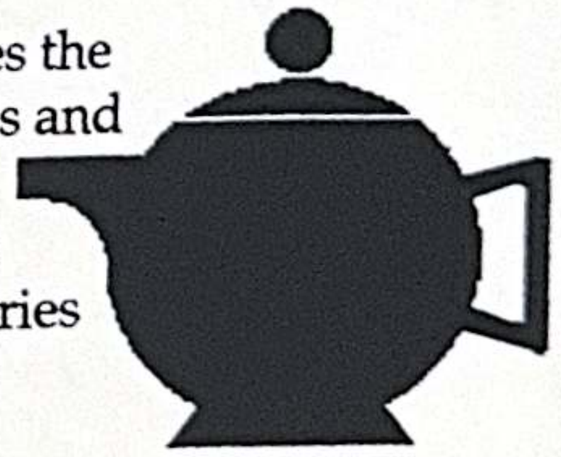
Many Breans have already met Mary Kathryn at the Brea Community Center, where she works at the front desk. She also runs the "Kid Watch" and "Parents' Night Out" programs and is a Senior Leader.

Originally from Whittier, Mary Kathryn has lived in Brea for 16 years with her parents, Glenn and Mary Jo Parker. Currently she attends Fullerton College as a Recreation major, and intends to transfer to Cal State Long Beach next year.

Continuing board members who were re-elected at the annual meeting are: Geri Carpenter, Sharon Dean, Inez Fanning, Karl Fanning, Edna Makins, Betty Millen, Joanna Montes, Jane O'Brien, Kathy Orris, Herc Roeser, Wilma Sauer, Brian Saul, Don Schweitzer and Audrey Smith.

Brea Gallery Offers "Tea & Comfort"

The City of Brea Gallery's latest exhibit, "Tea & Comfort: Quilts and Vessels," runs through March 15.



The exhibit traces the evolution of quilts, cups and tea pots into art forms. Some of the quilts span generations and tell stories of family, tradition and history.

In addition to loaning a historical quilt for display, The Brea Historical Society is represented in the Brea Community Quilt, featured in the exhibit. Our square, depicting Old City Hall, was designed by Sharon Dean. Helen Swart did the embroidery and sewing.

The City of Brea Gallery is located at 1 Civic Center Circle. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 5 p.m., and Thursday and Friday, noon to 8 p.m.

President's Message - Cont'd from Page 1

We also need new members, and are asking every current member to recruit one new person this year. After all, this is *your* Brea Historical Society, and we must keep working hard to save Brea's past and make it relevant to a generation that thinks the 1950s and '60s are old!

Happy Birthday, Brea!

Fullerton Union High School: Class of 1926 Reunion

by Sharon Dean

You may be wondering why I'd write about a Fullerton High School reunion. To tell the truth, until last October I would have wondered too!

Back in Sepotember, Walt Bergman called from Las Vegas and invited me to attend Evelyn's class reunion. Since Evelyn had passed away, I asked Walt why he had invited me, and why he was driving in from Las Vegas to attend.

Well, Walt enjoys visiting with his old friends. He also reminded me that all Brea students attended and graduated from Fullerton High School until the Brea-Olinda Union High School District was created on March 21, 1925. (For all the facts, check out pages 82-85 of the Historical Society's book "Brea: Celebrating 75 Years ").

Construction of the high school did not begin until 1926. However, some students chose to attend classes at the grammar school, and so 10 Breans graduated from Brea-Olinda Union High School in 1927.

Enough of the history lesson; back to the reunion! There were 11 class members in attendance at the Day's Inn on October 11, 1996: Inez Young Evans (reunion organizer), Ruby Sarles Ortega (Brea), Bill Ortin, Thelma Smith Renkin (Brea), Dorothy Schweitzer McLean (Brea), Clara Sarles Wittersheim (Brea), Dorothy Ferrand Wilson (Brea), Leota Hains McGill, Viola Behrent Gahn (Brea), Mabel Sexton Brinkley (Brea), and Winnie Pendleton Wagner (Brea).

According to Inez, there were 179 graduates in the class of 183. She isn't quite sure how many are still alive but could not attend. All together there were about 23 at the reunion, including guests.

I had taken my video camera with me, and gathered the 11 former classmates in one part of the room to sing the school song. Unfortunately, my battery was low and the song was the only thing I could record!

I also learned some interesting facts from some of the guests. Thelms Smith Lockridge Renken came to Brea in 1919. Francis Smith Curtis Fellows was born in Taft but came to Brea when she was three months old. She graduated from Brea in 1937. Douglas McGill, Fullerton Class of 1923 (Leota Hains McGill), was related to owners of Brown and Douser Lumber in Brea. He was from La Habra.

Mabel Sexton Brinkley came from a family of seven children, and lived on Flower St. She became a nurse in Santa Barbara. Dorothy Farrand Wilson was born in Fullerton and her father was a superintendent with Brea Canyon Oil Co. She lived on Orange St. and attended Brea schools through the 6th grade.

There was much more information to collect but so little time. I am very grateful that Walt thought to invite me to Evelyn's class reunion. Moreover, the Historical Society would be happy to include articles about other class reunions in our newsletter. Please call me at 714/529-6186.

Oh, by the way, don't forget to stop by the Historical Society's new office in the Brea Heights shopping center and see our display featuring Brea-Olinda High School. We'd love to add *your* high school mementos to the display. If you have items to donate, you can call me at the phone number above, or bring them to the office on Saturdays between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Welcome New Members
January 1997

Nannette De Rusha, Brea
Donna Lee Kennan Willson, Las Vegas

Donations & Acquisitions

Jim McGowan of Brea recently donated a lovely piece of antique furniture to the Historical Society... and it's especially appropriate for February and Valentine's Day.

It's an Empire-style love seat, circa 1890, with a burled walnut frame with vintage pattern crest. The love seat is upholstered in wine rose crushed velvet with a roll pillow on each end. Come by and see this piece at our office!

These are BHS members who have continued to provide services that contribute to the accomplishments and endeavors of the Brea Historical Society. Their efforts are recognized here. Thank you for your support of our members.

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Brea, California

General Meeting
Monday, Mar. 24, 1997
7:30 p.m.

Details on Page 2!

Is This Your Reunion?

by Sharon Dean

One of the fun things that happens to me is getting phone calls at 6:30 a.m. from people I haven't heard from for awhile. I really mean it! Doris (Sebourn) Gore called to tell me about the Brea Olinda **Class of 1952** planning its reunion for May 16 on Catalina Island. Now THAT sounds like a reunion I'd want to go to!

Anyone who is interested can call Doris at (916) 246-2591 or Odelia (Nelson) Rone at (714) 529-2367. Wanda (Clark) Larsen is also helping plan this event. Give these girls a call and get ready to have a fun time with your former classmates on Catalina in May!

Jerry Bowland and Joy (Bush) Wagoner both called, asking about our alumni group. I'm sorry to say we have not met for several years and we are not a non-profit group. At one time we were under the Brea Education Foundation but that has been dissolved. If any alumni are interested in getting together to plan another big event, please call me, Sharon Dean, at (714) 529-6186. We'll set up a meeting to discuss BOHS 70-year anniversary celebration.

Back to Jerry and Joy; they are planning a get-together for BOHS graduates of **1948, '49 and '50.** The event will take place at the Embassy Suites in Brea on May 24, 1997. If you are interested, call Joy at (909) 654-5445.

My **class of 1957** is also planning a reunion at Embassy Suites on May 24. We are missing some of our classmates, and I will publish their names in the next issue of this newsletter. Meanwhile, if you have any information, please call me at (714) 529-6186.

Finally, the **Class of 1967** is planning a reunion. Janice (Rogers) Wiegall and friends can be contacted at (310) 691-9565 for further information.

Look for more details about these reunions in next month's issue. Remember... if you have any news—call me!

Vintage Fashions Will be Modeled at March General Meeting



Just look in the Juniors section of any department store: '70s style fashions are everywhere. If you like the old styles—*really* old styles—you'll enjoy the vintage fashion show to be presented during this month's Brea Historical Society general meeting on Monday, March 24. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church (corner of Date and Flower) in Brea.

The trunk show will be presented by Debbie Shrider and Diane Reidy, two friends who met through the Music Box Society. Their families' love for old-time musical instruments (Debbie's husband restores player pianos) eventually led to an interest in period fashions, which the two women have been collecting for about 10 years.

The show includes both women's and men's fashions from the late 1800s to the 1920s. In addition to modeling and describing the history of their original fashions, Debbie and Diane will display various clothing items and accessories including underwear, shoes, hats and jewelry. Debbie's four-year-old daughter is also part of the show, modeling a child's dress from the late 1800s.

Debbie and Diane's collection also includes original movie costumes, some of which will be displayed during the program. Please bring your friends, and come enjoy an evening of fashion history!

Macy's Donates Mannequins

The bride and groom, the nurse, the school teacher, the fire fighter, police officer and World War I soldier... last year's museum display, "People of Brea," would not have been possible without the fashion mannequins and stick mannequins loaned to BHS from Macy's in Brea Mall.

Moreover, when the exhibit was disassembled and board members attempted to return the store's mannequins, Macy's Brea Manager, Mary Damiano, generously donated them to the Historical Society.

Besides extending an official "thank you" to Macy's for donating the mannequins, the Historical Society encourages its members to patronize Macy's and *all* the community-minded merchants who support the Society's ongoing efforts to preserve Brea memories.

BHS is Open Wednesdays

Do you know that the Brea Historical Society is now open two days a week? Our two newest members, Marian Simmons and "Kat" Lorea, have volunteered to staff the office on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Remember, we're still open on Saturday too!

Look for the new sign above the Historical Society's headquarters in the Brea Heights Shopping Center. Hope to see you soon!

Welcome New Members
February 1997

Marian Simmons
Brea, Calif.
Kathleen Lorea
Brea, Calif.

A Woman of Randolph: Clara M. Burquist

by Inez Fanning, BHS Recording Secretary

Clara Burquist was born June 12, 1876 in Ohio. As newlyweds, Clara and her husband, Jack, came to Brea circa 1910, so that he could work in the oil fields.

Before Clara left home, her mother made a crib quilt for her to take along, hoping that Clara and Jack would establish a home and raise a family in California.

Jack quickly found employment here, and Clara joined Brea Christian Church, in which she remained active throughout her life. She became Cradle Roll Superintendent, enrolling young children for the church. A local photographer took each child's picture. This helped bring young families to the church. Clara added my name to the Cradle Roll on January 7, 1917, when I was just nine days old.

Clara was also active in the Woman's Work at the church, taking her turn at each of the officer positions, reading and reporting on missionary books, and supporting the Christmas bazaar with her crocheting and embroidery projects. She was well-known for her individual chicken pies!

In the meantime, another need presented itself, and Clara took action. At that time, women teachers in Brea schools had to promise not to marry during the school year (married teachers were not tolerated). Also, teachers were required to live within Brea's city limits, despite the fact that they were hired from cities such as Fullerton and Tustin.

Mrs. Burquist offered room and board for the young women, and at one time had four teachers living at her home, Monday through Friday. The girls went home for the weekend. Clara was a wonderful housekeeper and cook, and soon her white house on the 100 block of South Madrona came to be known as "The Teacherage."

In 1961, Clara turned a shovel full of dirt at the groundbreaking for a new church. Brea Christian Church was no more. It bordered on the city of Fullerton, and had been renamed Lark Ellen Christian Church.

Unfortunately, no baby ever came to Clara and Jack Burquist. Yet the crib quilt that she'd brought with her from Ohio was just like new when Clara died on September 27, 1962, at the age of 86. She had willed the quilt to me for my daughter, Jean, who was a baby at the time.



Chiksan ad, 1930

Mrs. Burquist was noted for her Angel food cakes (made from scratch with a whisk). Once she held a class to teach others how she did it. I attended and made many cakes like hers afterwards



Don't forget the BHS logo contest—submit your entry by March 31 and become eligible for the $50 cash prize!

Anyone may enter, regardless of artistic ability. The goal of the contest is to generate an *idea* for the Society's new logo that can be easily recreated for use on stationery and literature. Entries may be mailed to the Society's post office box, or hand-delivered on Saturdays and Wednesdays between 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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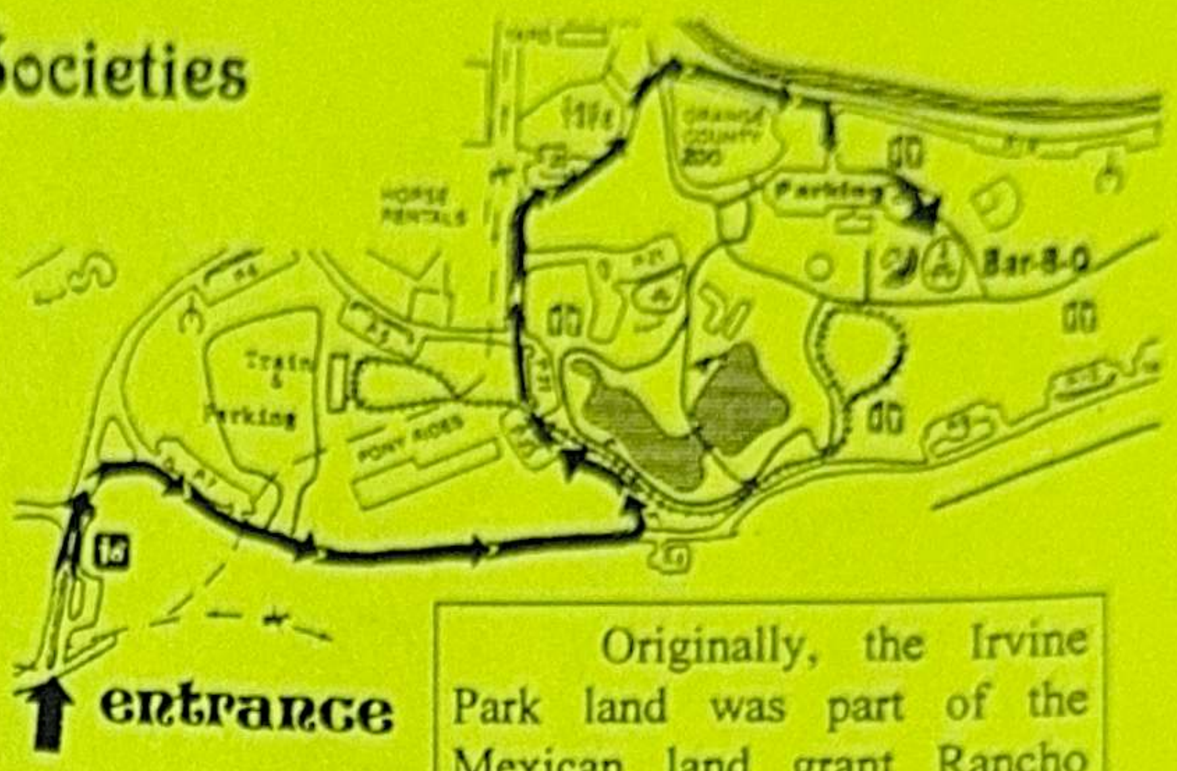
Get-Together

at

Irvine Park

1 Irvine Park Road, Orange

Friday, June 13



Originally, the Irvine Park land was part of the Mexican land grant Rancho Lomas de Santiago owned by the Yorba family. In 1860 the rancho was owned by William Wolfskill, then by six sheep ranchers and finally James Irvine in 1876. In October 1897, James Irvine, Jr. donated 160 acres to the county. An additional six acres were given in 1950 and 20 more in 1958.

4:00- 6:00 **Lawn Games** — horseshoes, croquet and bocci ball.

4:00 - 6:00 **Ride the Train—Starting at our picnic site** $ 2.00

6:00 **Bar-B-Q** —San Juan Capistrano Historical Society's — Tony Forster's famous tri-tip and chicken barbeque.

❖**Parking — $2.00 at the entrance to the park.**

❖**You will need exact change**. Paper or quarters.

Reservations — $16 per person. **Must be postmarked by May 30 deadline**

Your guests are welcome.

. . . . . .**Mail with payment**. . . . . .

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Brea Historical Society's

Historical Happenings

Vol. XIV, No. 4

April/May 1997

Brea Historical Society
Brea, California

Jane O'Brien, President
Herc Roeser, Vice President
Inez Fanning, Secretary
Sharon Dean, Treasurer

Kathy Orris, Newsletter Editor

Brea Historical Society
P.O. Box 9764
652 S. Brea Blvd.
Brea, CA 92822

Telephone: (714) 256-2283

General Meeting

Monday, May 19, 1997
7:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church
(corner of Date and Flower)



It's a Dessert Party!

Come and get updated on the activities of the Brea Historical Society, while enjoying delicious desserts prepared by the board members.

Bring a Guest!

Brea Jr. High Unveils Historical Mural

It's 32 feet long by 4 feet high, highlights 18 million years of Brea history and took two years to create. Unveiled in April, this colorful mural designed and created by Brea Jr. High School art students now hangs in a main hall of the administration building.

Illustrations from Theresa Hampson's book "Brea: Celebrating 75 Years," formed the inspiration for the scenes. These begin with mastodons and saber-toothed cats from Southern California's later prehistoric period, and conclude with BJH students of all ethnic groups gathered around "The Face of Brea Clock," a symbolic linking of Brea's past to its future. Among the 29 scenes are a Native American woman waterproofing a woven basket with tar from the Brea hills, Babe Ruth and Olinda's Walter Johnson playing baseball, the Pacific Electric train system, the Nike missile base, "Pepper Tree Lane," and local inventor Fred Thaheld, a pioneer diesel engine designer.

Historical events depicted in the mural include the Stewart oil fire of 1926 and the dedication of Old City Hall in 1929.

Brea Jr. High art instructor, Teha DeBacker, described the construction of the mural, which grew out of a desire to display art on campus. Students first sketched the designs in pencil. They built a frame and glued four panels to it. After preparing the surface with a coat of white paint, the students enlarged their sketch and transferred the drawing onto the panels.

Painting the scenes took a full year. Prior to framing, the mural received several "anti-graffiti" coatings.

The campus itself has its own place in local history. Depicted in the mural as it looked at its opening in 1917, Brea Grammar School—today's Brea Jr. High—was Brea's first grammar school.

Anyone who is interested in purchasing "Brea: Celebrating 25 Years" may pick up a copy of the hardcover reference book at the Historical Society office. The price is $25.95 plus tax ($27.96 total).

President's Message

by Jane O'Brien

Now that the Historical Society has settled into its temporary location in the Brea Heights Shopping Center, it's time to roll up our sleeves and get to work!

Sharon Dean and I were among the 200 people who attended the recent workshop and idea fair directed at "Shaping the Downtown." Not only am I very glad that our city council solicits the ideas of the residents of Brea; I was also impressed by the creativity of some of the suggestions.

From a Historical Society perspective, Sharon and I contributed ideas for each location on the Downtown tour. One was to rebuild the Shaffer fountain somewhere in the "new" Downtown area. We also suggested that the "Brea Welcomes You" sign be placed on Birch Street just before Orange. This would tie-in the downtown area with the Civic Center, plus our Brea sign would not get "lost" among the lights and signs and tall buildings of the new Downtown.

Back at the office, we have a wonderful young man helping us out every Saturday. His name is Matt Ezell, and he is a senior at Brea Olinda High School. We've been keeping Matt busy on the computer; currently he's working on assessioning records.

We missed seeing you back in March at our general meeting! Perhaps our low turnout had something to with the fact that the Academy Awards were being broadcast the same evening. *Our* program, however, featured vintage fashions by Debbie Shrider and Diane Reidy. Those in attendance enjoyed the vintage fashions very much, thus we've invited these two ladies back for our Christmas program. Just so you can start planning, the Christmas program will be the first Monday in December. Mark your calendar!

Logo Design Contest to be Decided in May

Twenty-seven entries were received in the Brea Historical Society Logo Contest. The board of directors is reviewing them all thoughtfully, and will vote on a new logo design in early May. The extra time was intended to allow participating students to complete their projects despite Spring Break, and to give all the board members adequate time to view the entries.

The winning designer will be notified following the board's decision, and will receive a check for $50.

Rancho Days Fiesta is May 31

Heritage Hill, Orange County's first historical park, will celebrate Rancho Days Fiesta on Saturday, May 31 1997 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The fiesta highlights the contributions of early Indian, Spanish and Mexican people to the area's history.

An Old Time Good Time Chili Cook-Off will be held, with judges picking winning recipes throughout the day. Indian fry bread, cookies and cold drinks will be sold.

The Fiesta will include demonstrations of roping, blacksmithing and branding. Artisans and craftsmen will show and sell their products.

Docents in costume, members of Amigos de la Colina, the park's volunteer support group, will welcome visitors to the four fully furnished historic buildings on the site. They also will preside over a piñata contest, Indian face painting and hands-on craft activities for children.

Admission is $3 for adults, $2 for children. The park is located at 25151 Serrano Road, Lake Forest. For more information, call (714) 855-2028.

The Story of the Steeple

by Inez Fanning

It was hard to miss, the white steeple sitting in a vacant lot on the west side of Brea Blvd. after all the old buildings had been razed. Perhaps you may have wondered "What's the story behind it?"

In a recent newspaper article reviewing the redevelopment process in Downtown Brea, the 'Old Church Steeple" is mentioned—along with the "Brea Welcomes You" sign—as *"bits and pieces of the once-bustling downtown."* Let's set the record straight!

Rev. Loren Wood, pastor of Brea Foursquare Church, is the proud possessor of the steeple.

Rev. Wood grew up in Illinois. He came to Brea, California and led the organization of Brea Foursquare Church in 1950. Originally, the congregation met in the American Legion Building. In 1951, a beautiful stucco church building was built on Imperial Highway at Sievers.

In December 1959, Pastor and Mrs. Wood left to assume the pastorate of the Florence Avenue Foursquare Church in Santa Fe Springs. They returned in November, 1968, to again pastor the Brea Foursquare Church.

In 1986, the church building was demolished as part of the Imperial Highway widening project. The congregation purchased the Nazarene Church, at Walnut and Birch Streets. The Brea Foursquare Church occupied this building from 1986 to 1993.

However, as redevelopment took over at the Walnut Street site, the church was again forced out. An area on the east side of Brea Boulevard, just south of the railroad tracks, was made available by the city. Two portable buildings were brought in, one for a sanctuary, the other for the church's daycare center.

Last year as you may remember, this third location was seriously damaged by a fire at its next-door neighbor to the south—Esco Rubber Company. One church building was destroyed and the other was damaged. With the city's help, a new portable was moved in, and the other damage repaired.

In the meantime, the city designated two lots at Ash Street and Brea Blvd. for Brea Foursquare Church's new building. The groundbreaking was held in June, 1996. The first unit of construction includes the daycare center, Sunday School and youth facilities, along with nine units of low-cost housing. The second unit will consist of the church sanctuary.

But what about the steeple, you ask? Well, in 1991, Rev. Wood learned that his former Santa Fe Springs church was being demolished. He asked for the steeple from that church, and had it shipped to his future construction site in Brea. Recently it was moved off the construction site because of power lines crossing the property (the top of the steeple is made of metal).

So you see, the "old church steeple" had never before been a bit or a piece of Downtown Brea! Yet it waits—as do we all—for the day when it *will* become a Brea landmark, when it's raised into position atop the new Brea Foursquare Church.

Acquisitions

From **Darlene Thompson Long** of Placentia: A large photo of the Stearns Lease, taken around 1909. Darlene's grandparents, William and Bertha Bessonett, lived on the Stearns Lease and her mother was born there.

From **Tony and Emma Baca** of Arizona and **Verla M. Daugherty** of Fullerton: A 1941 refrigerator/freezer. Purchased new by the Bacas as newlyweds, the refrigerator was in continous use by the couple until 1996 and it still works.

From **Virginia Day** of Brea: A 1996 Gusher, to add to our set of BOHS yearbooks.

Attention Board Members!

Don't forget that the next board meeting will be *at the Historical Society Office,* on Monday, May 5 at 7 p.m. Bring a chair!

Welcome New Members

April 1997

Matthew Ezell, Brea
Sharon Forquer, Brea

These are BHS members who have continued to provide services that contribute to the accomplishments and endeavors of the Brea Historical Society. Their efforts are recognized here. Thank you for your support of our members.

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Brea Historical Society's

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Vol. XIV, No. 5

October, 1997

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Kathy Orris, Editor

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(corner of Date and Flower)
Brea, California

December General Meeting and Holiday Party:

Mon. Dec. 1, 1997
6:30 p.m.

See Page 3!

Brea Hotel Fate Uncertain

Standing nearly across the street from each other but with 87 years between them, the Brea Hotel and the "New Downtown" represent past and present efforts to meet the needs of community residents. But with "Good Old Brea" now but a memory, the hotel may also face the bulldozer unless a new use can be found for this last reminder of the city's commercial history.

Ironically, downtown history was one of the main concerns expressed by Brea citizens last Spring during a city-sponsored idea aimed at "Shaping the Downtown." However, while spending $1.3 million to buy the land and move the hotel onto a new foundation in the proposed Heritage Block, the City had contacted hundreds of developers concerning the 1.2-acre site at the northeast corner of Brea Boulevard and Ash Street. The project was envisioned as a residential/commercial development with reconstructed facades of the Wall Building, the La Habra Valley Bank and Sam's Place. Unfortunately, only two developers expressed interest. Moreover, each asked for the land that the city had paid to acquire, along with income from the properties and $1.2 million to take on the project—money the City says it just doesn't have.

For now, the Brea Hotel sits lonely and boarded-up as the city continues to evaluate options. Presently, the two main options seem to be rehabilitation of the Brea Hotel for affordable housing, or selling the site for its land value and letting the buyer demolish the hotel for new development. *The Brea Historical Society opposes any and all options that do not include rebuilding the entire Heritage Block.*

On a related note, a home that once belonged to the first proprietors of the Brea Hotel will be moved shortly after the first of the year. The Kinsler House, which had been intended as part of Heritage Block, will be moved to the 200 block of South Redwood, as the 100 block is now filled.

Continued on Page 2

Logo Contest Winner Announced

Out of a total of 27 entries, a design submitted by Donna Pemberton of Brea will become the new logo for the Brea Historical Society. The directors declared her the winner of last Spring's logo contest, whereupon Donna immediately returned her $50 prize as a donation to the Society!

Slight modifications will be made for the logo to be recreated on the computer.

BREA
Historical Society
FOUNDED JULY 22, 1971

Conservancy to Administer Olinda Heights Historic Park

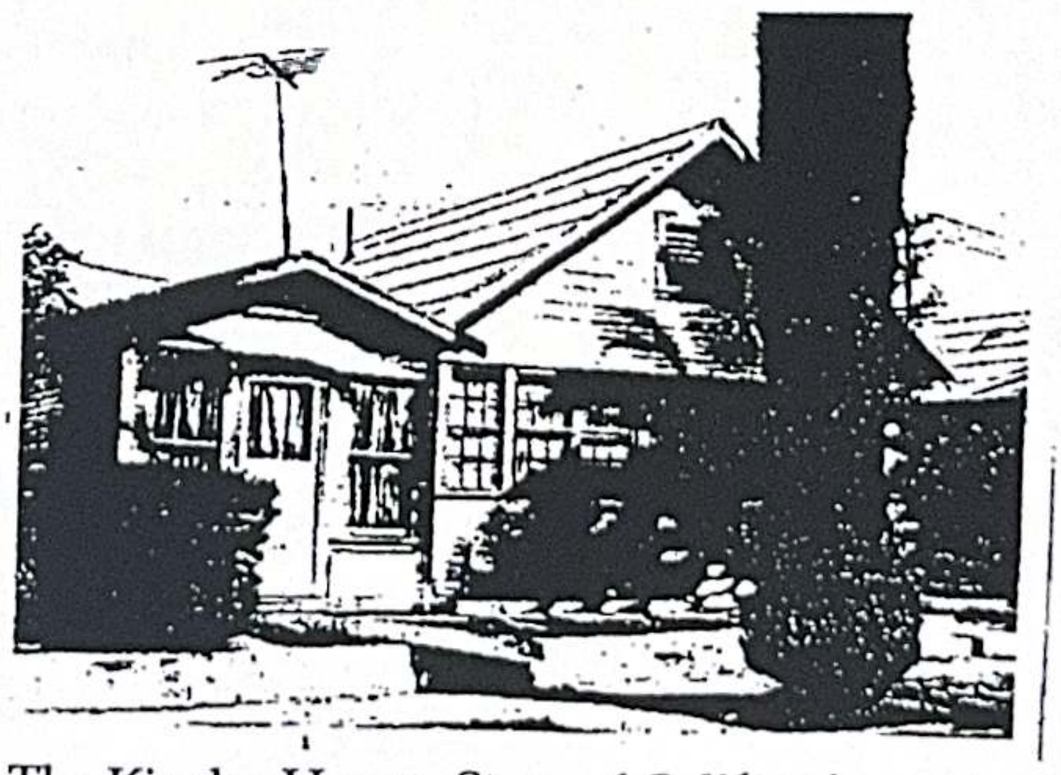
Grading is underway on the 10-acre historic park at Olinda Heights. The next issue of *Historical Happenings* will include a status report on the building renovation. BHS board members Jane O'Brien and Sharon Dean, along with members of the city planning department, have been working with The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, which will own the buildings and oversee the park. The Brea Historical Society will maintain ownership of the contents, including all oil museum artifacts.

Established in 1979 by the California state legislature, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy works closely with the National Park Service, state parks, city and county governments to preserve recreation and open space lands and to further opportunities for nature education and recreation. Olinda Heights is attached to the wildlife corridor of Chino Hills Park.

In December 1993, Barbra Streisand donated her 22.5 acre estate to the Conservancy. In 1995 the Conservancy acquired the Santa Clarita Valley town of Mentryville—the site of the first commercial oil well in California—in a transfer by Chevron USA. Mentryville was re-opened last year to the public with refurbished structures and grounds. The town now offers tours and numerous public activities.

Brea Hotel (Continued from Page 1)

Long a landmark at 129 South Orange Avenue, the rectangular-plan Craftsman bungalow's initial residents were former oil worker Charles Kinsler and his wife, Rena, who had operated the Kinsler Hotel upstairs at the McCarty Building (Brea Hotel). Kinsler served as Brea's first city clerk, and was an early member of the local elementary school board. He also was secretary of Brea's first chamber of commerce, and later became both city judge and volunteer fire chief.



The Kinsler House. State of California Historic Resources Inventory, May 1981.

by Inez Fanning, BHS Recording Secretary

And Then There Was One

Brea still has one historic "broccoli tree," so named by my children when they were young. Three or four of these lovely Italian stone pine trees once graced the grounds of the J.D. Sievers home, which stood on the northwest corner of Imperial Highway and Berry Street.

The ranch consisted of 100 acres of lemons, oranges and walnuts. Dean Millen managed the orchards as early as 1936. Built in 1918 as the first home in Brea with electrical wiring and appliances, the Sievers house was razed in the late 1970s to make way for commercial development.

However, there is still one "broccoli tree" left on the property. The mature tree— which formerly shaded the grandest residence in Brea— can now be found in the center of a parking lot. The tree beside the stone pine is a blue gum eucalyptus.

Walnuts Grown Here

So much emphasis has been placed on the many citrus orchards of this area in early times. However, walnut orchards were extensive also. The Sievers ranch was surrounded by walnut groves long before citrus was planted. These acres extended on both sides of Imperial Highway to La Habra.

As a small boy, my husband, Karl, along with his father and his sister, would walk out to the area after the harvest and glean walnuts off the ground. Many of the nuts still had a soft brown husk on the outside. This husk contained tannin acid, which stained the hands when it was handled.

Although messy, these outings were happy times, and the nuts were carried home in a burlap sack brought for the purpose. Some of the nuts were sent to relatives in the Midwest.

Brea Historical Society

December General Meeting and Holiday Potluck!

Monday, December 1, 1997
6:30 p.m.
Brea Senior Center
(Sievers & Elm St.)

If your last name begins with:

A-I	Bring a salad
J-P	Bring a main dish
Q-Z	Bring a dessert

Our program will feature vintage holiday fashions, collected by Debbie Shrider and Diane Reidy. Watch for your invitation in the mail during November!

Welcome New Members

Bill Little
Brea

Donna Pemberton
Brea

Bonnie McBride Putnam
Parker Dam, CA

Barry & Lynne Shapiro
Brea

Kathaleen M. Spangler
Anaheim

Holiday Gift Problems Solved!

There's still time to finish your holiday gift shopping *early*--even for those hard-to-buy-for people on your gift list--if you know where to shop!

Just visit The Brea Historical Society at 652 S. Brea Blvd., in the Brea Heights Shopping Center, and pick up Teresa Hampson's "Brea: Celebrating 75 Years." It's an impressive reference book featuring hundreds of historical photographs. The hardcover book is priced at $25.95 plus tax ($27.96 total).

Also available is the engaging video about "old" Brea Boulevard, titled "A Walk in Time." The two-hour video is narrated by Brian Saul, and is priced at $10. The Historical Society office is open on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Saturdays, 11 a.m . to 2 p.m.

These are BHS members who have continued to provide services that contribute to the accomplishments and endeavors of the Brea Historical Society. Their efforts are recognized here. Thank you for your support of our members.

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Vol. XV, No. 1

January, 1998

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Kathy Orris, Editor

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General Meetings:
Last Monday of Alternate Months, 7:30 p.m.
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(corner of Date and Flower)
Brea, California

Brea Historical Society Annual Meeting and Election

Mon. January 26, 1998
7:30 p.m.

See Page 2!

Future Visions of Olinda's Past

Ten acres have been set aside for a historic park and parking lot in Olinda Heights. BHS officers Jane O'Brien and Sharon Dean met several times late in 1997 with the project developer and architect. Another meeting was with the Santa Monica Conservancy, which will own the buildings and oversee the park.

While building renovations have not yet been finalized, various concepts have been discussed. The goal is to bring the buildings up to all applicable codes, while maintaining their historical integrity. All suggestions are contingent on funding and the availability of docents.

The Jack Plant. Renovation to the point where visitors could enter would be prohibitively expensive. Instead, the Conservancy recommends cosmetic repair to restore the building original appearance. The east side opening could be enlarged to encompass the area where the sliding door would have been, and the resulting large doorway/window covered with plexiglas. From a platform and ramp on the north, visitors could get a glimpse of the workings inside.

Interpretive panels at this structure would likely include historical black and white photos and/or sketches of the Jack Plant at various stages in its history, both from when it was powered by mules and later by machinery.

Office Building. The building's large front room would be returned to its original historic state, including flooring, light fixtures and paneling, so that visitors entering the building feel that they have traveled back to another era. This front room would serve as an oil museum, displaying original maps and photos of the site, as well as scale models of oil field implements. Other ideas include a display and slide show of historic photos, narrated by longtime Olinda residents, and renovating the inside of the safe as a display area, perhaps to display a baseball signed by "Babe" Ruth and Olinda's own Walter Johnson.

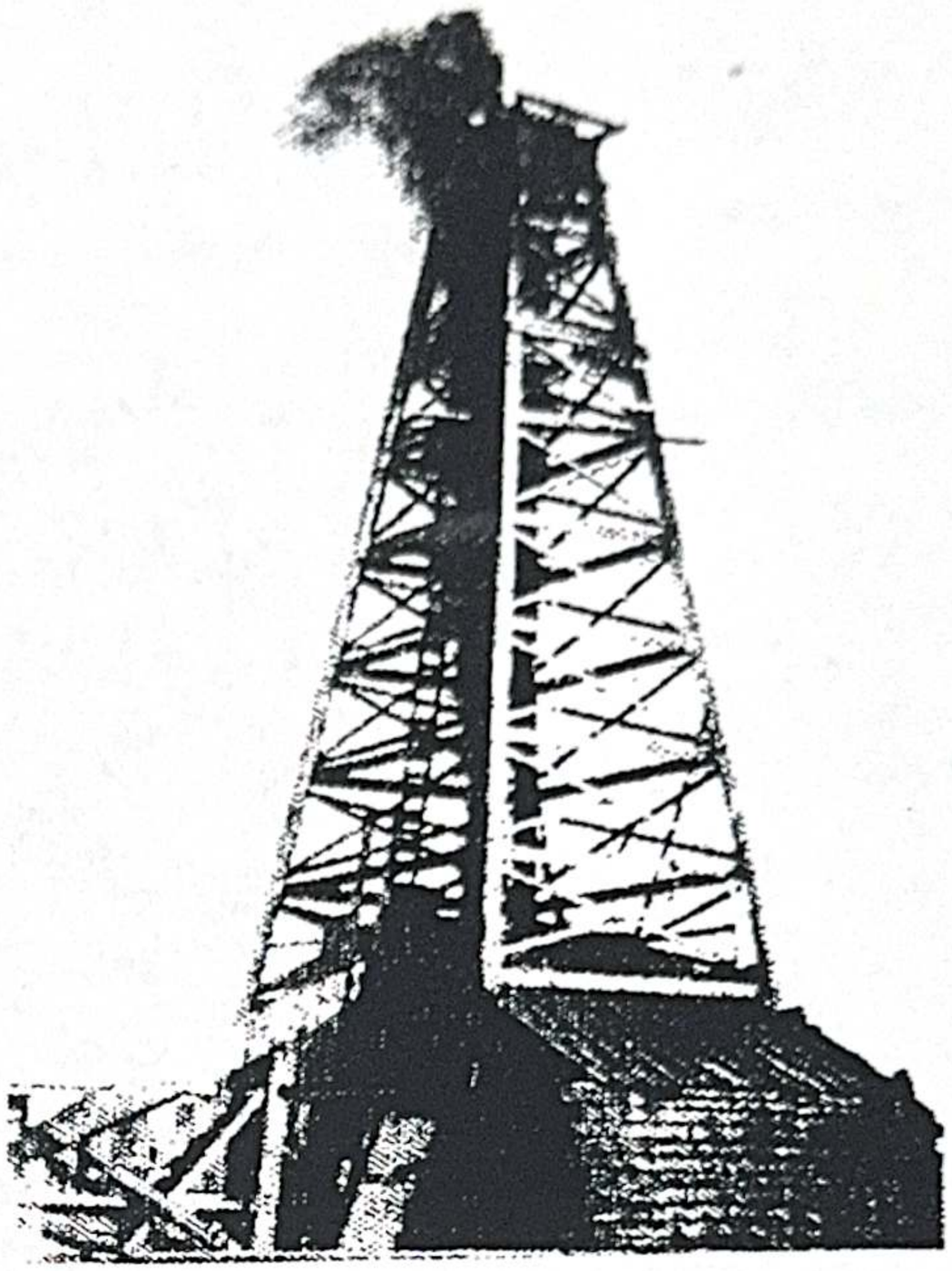
Continued on Page 2

Visions of Olinda (cont'd from Page 1)

The garage would be renovated as a hands-on, interactive children's museum, with enough space for an entire classroom, and staffed by docents in period dress. The children would be encouraged to explore some of the implements displayed throughout the room. Enlarged laminated copies of historic photos would show some of the original houses, and the general store where oil field workers and their families went to buy what they needed. Here, the students would also learn about the original Native American inhabitants of Olinda, and how Olinda's natural spring, abundance of oil and other elements have brought people to the site since time began.

Other programs could be designed for older students, including an expanded vision of the site through time to include its present significance as a wildlife corridor.

Outside Areas. In addition to a parking lot with room for a bus to turn around, public restrooms and a covered picnic area would be located outside the main building. On the pad where Olinda (well) #1 is located, the Conservancy suggests adding larger pieces of machinery and equipment along the edge of the hill that would allow docents to interpret oil history in the area. Interpretive panels would describe the function of each piece of equipment.



A Brea Canyon Gusher.

Welcome New Members

Roy Moore
Brea

Howard Bryden
Brea

Mayor to Speak at BHS AnnualMeeting

What is the City of Brea doing to save our history? Find out on Monday, January 26, during the annual meeting of the Brea Historical Society. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, located at Date and Flower Street in Brea. All BHS members and interested residents are encouraged to attend.

Guest speaker, Mayor Lynn Daucher, will present an update on the Heritage Block and the Olinda Heights projects, followed by a question and answer period. Also on the agenda is the election of a Brea Historical Society board of directors for 1998.

Heritage Block: Will it Happen?

By Jane O'Brien
President, Brea Historical Society

It's been said that in the old days, history was made for a tenth of what it costs today.

For $1.2 million, we could build Heritage Block—the proposed recreation of Brea's historic downtown core. Now for the $64,000 question: where will we get the money?

It's been been nearly six months since the City Council rejected two developers' proposals as being too costly. Instead of fulfilling its promise to preserve a bit of Brea's past, the city wants to put what remains of $100 million in redevelopment funds into projects with more money-making potential.

The city has spent approximately $1.3 million in redevelopment money to purchase the existing buildings on the 1.2-acre site, at the northeast corner of Brea Blvd. and Ash Street. However, this was to allow for the Brea Blvd. widening, and in my opinion, it should not be counted as part of the Heritage Block cost. Only the cost to move and restore the Brea Hotel and to rebuild the other four buildings should be counted as part of the cost. To date, that has been about $250,000.

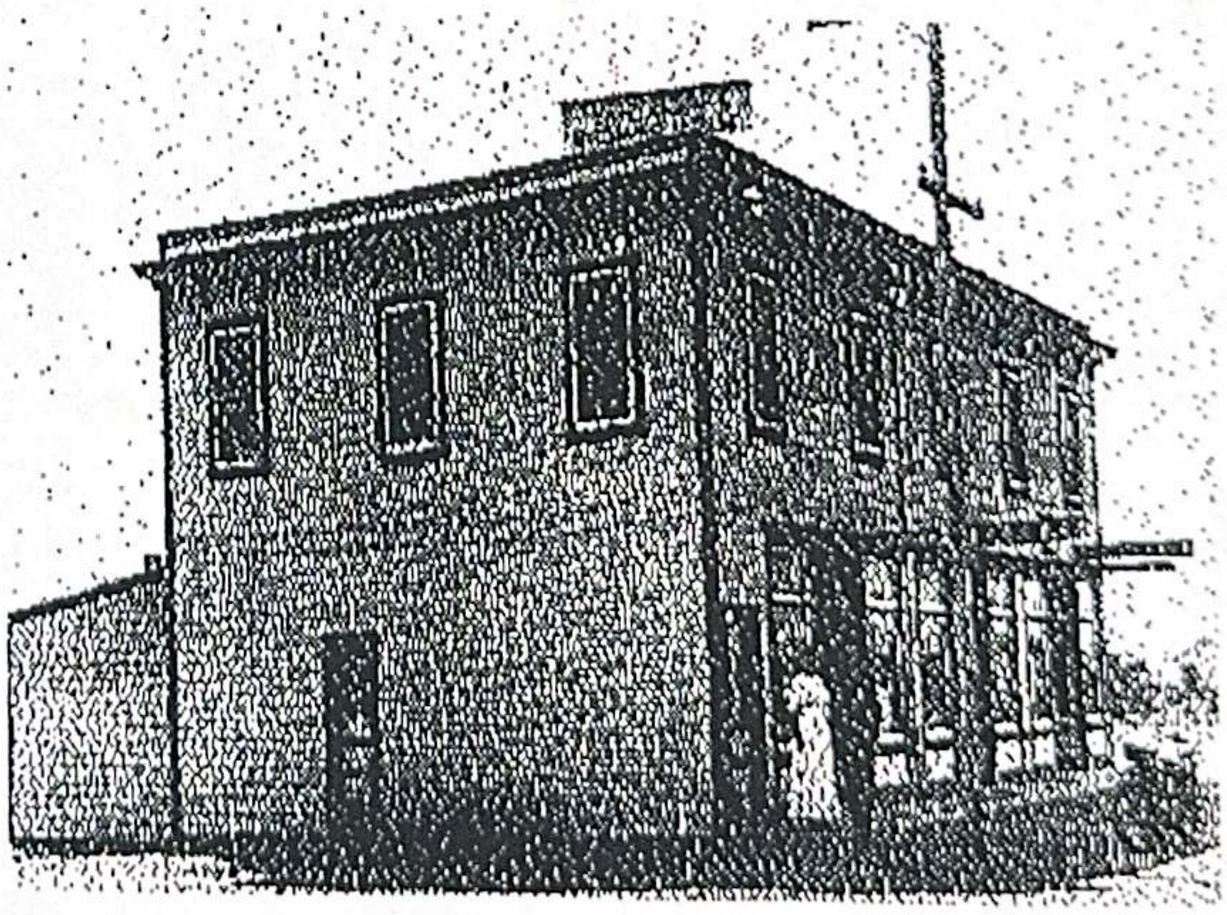
Developer bids to build Heritage Block were for $1.2 million. In addition to the Brea Hotel, the project includes four historic buildings: the Wall Building, La Habra Valley Bank, the Delaney Building and Sam's Place. All are cheaper to rebuild than they would have been to move. For example, Sam's Place was a long, narrow building,and had much dry rot damage. No amount of shoring it up would have worked for the move. Because La Habra Valley Bank had been constructed of brick and concrete, there was no way of moving it. The Wall Building and Delaney Building had been destroyed by fire.

It's Up to You

According to citizens who participated in the city's "Shaping the Downtown" idea fair, saving our history is very important. Now Redevelopment is all but ignoring their concerns. How many employees of the Redevelopment or Planning Departments live in Brea? Do they have the bond with our history that we do as residents of Brea? How many of their towns have been destroyed?

We, the citizens of Brea, need to be heard. Each and every one of us needs to contact the city council and implore them to build our Heritage Block, that it's worth commiting the funds to. Please, send the city council a letter with a copy of the letter to the Brea Historical Society. Or, if you're able to call one of the council members please let us know.

Heritage Block, one of the few tangible reminders of our city's small-town past, is key to keeping alive Brea's "small-town" feeling. The Brea Historical Society is trying desperately to save this small part of your history. Please help us.



Delaney Building, 1917

Dues are Due!



Membership in the Brea Historical Society continued to grow during 1997. Unfortunately, about 10 individuals or families were dropped from our roster, having not paid their dues for two years. However, new membership made up for the loss, and we now have a total of 188 current members.

Member dues are the Historical Society's main source of revenue. Moreover, w several members retiring from the board this month, we would like not only to incre our membership, but also to encourage new and existing members to take a leadersh role in the Brea Historical Society. Even if you can't serve on the board, you are encouraged to start of serve on a committee.

If your address label says 1997 (or earlier), please use the enclosed envelope to mail in your annual dues. We also hope you'll tell your friends and neighbors, fellow BOHS alumni, etc. about the Brea Historical Society, and encourage them to become members!

These are BHS members who have continued to provide services that contribute to the accomplishments and endeavors of the Brea Historical Society. Their efforts are recognized here. Thank you for your support of our members.

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presents

SPRING FLING

Tuesday, March 24, 1998
at the Brea Bistro

Details Inside!
Mark your calendar

Counting on a Miracle to Rescue a Bit of Americana

"People Count" may be the theme of the current Brea City Council, but the Historical Society intends to make sure that history counts also. In her remarks during the Society's general meeting last January, Mayor Lynn Daucher addressed ongoing concerns about the Brea Hotel and Heritage Block.

According to Mayor Daucher, Brea's "new downtown" is one of the council's major areas of interest. "Bonds must be repaid through the construction of new buildings. We need to finish the project so that the investment can pay dividends for the community," she said.

What this means is that city officials intend to put what remains of $100 million in redevelopment funds into projects that generate more tax revenue— including an outdoor retail mall/promenade, and a second Edwards theater along with another 900-vehicle parking garage. This, despite a previous council's written commitment to build Heritage Block, made as part of negotiations modernize Brea's downtown.

No decision has been made on the fate of the Brea Hotel. So far the city has spent $1.9 million to acquire the Heritage Block property, although Mayor Daucher conceded that the hotel would have had to be moved anyway to widen Brea Boulevard. She added that the cost to move the hotel and renovate it is about the same as the cost to demolish it and build something that looks like it.

"The more restrictions you have on a piece of property, the lower its value," she said, adding that there would be a lot of restrictions on renovating the Brea Hotel into affordable housing. "Interiors would have to be planned differently today. The rooms would not be as marketable in their old layout, not as desirable for the price," she said.

Continued on Page 2

Brea Hotel - Continued from Page 1

Developers had asked for $1.3 million to build Heritage Block, which was to include the facades of the Brea Hotel and four other historic buildings. They also wanted the land, for a total cost to the city of $1.8 million. Mayor Daucher said that city staff is investigating all opportunities for grants and funding—anything that could be used to supplement city money.

The city currently is considering three options for the property:

1. Spend $1.8 million and build Heritage Block.
2. Rehab just the hotel (estimated cost $500,000 plus) and sell the remaining land.
3. Demolish the hotel and market the land. Demand that whatever is put there "look old."

In the meantime, the Brea Historical Society has done some investigating of its own. Roy Moore, a BHS director and chairman of the Brea Cultural Arts Commission, spent some time at Ed Royce's and Dick Ackerman's offices to explore possible grants. Moore reported that it doesn't appear that any are available.

During an informal poll of community residents, Moore heard some "far-fetched" stories and strong negative reactions concerning hotel in its current boarded-up state. However, he added that most respondents felt that Heritage Block would be an asset to the city. Working with a contractor who specializes in non-profit projects, Moore is further exploring opportunities for the hotel as low-income housing.

Brea Historical Society to Host Fundraiser Dinner

Tuesday, March 24 is the date for the Brea Historical Society's "Spring Fling" at Brea Bistro, 600 S. Brea Boulevard (in the Brea Heights Shopping Center), Brea. A no host bar will start at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Proceeds from the dinner will be used to help establish a permanent office and museum for the Society. Tickets are $20 each and can be obtained by contacting Edna Makins at (714) 529-1755 or Inez Fanning at (714) 529-2993. Tickets are also available for sale at Brea Bistro, and a limited number will be available at the door on March 24.

Former Brea-Olinda High School football coach and director of athletics, Dick Tucker, will be on hand to reminisce about his 11 memorable years with the Wildcats, including CIF championships in 1959 and 1961. Musical entertainment is planned throughout the evening, plus a historical photo display and lots of opportunity prizes. Outside in the parking lot, Brea's fully restored 1923 Seagrave fire truck will be on display, along with a collection of classic autos.

BHS Elects Board of Directors

With five new members ready to add their ideas and enthusiasm, the 1998-1999 Brea Historical Society board of directors was elected during the Society's general meeting in January.

Taking their seats on the board are **Howard Bryden, Aaron Eseltine, Roy Moore, Eileen Shaffer and Jim Schweitzer.**

Continuing board members are Geri Carpenter, Inez Fanning, Karl Fanning, Edna Makins, Jane O'Brien, Kathy Orris, Mary Kathryn Parker, Herc Roeser, Wilma Sauer and Audrey Smith.

"My Shoes"

by Inez Fanning

Babies used to wear booties—a tiny pair of crocheted bed socks—lovingly made by expectant mothers, grandmas or aunties.

As a toddler, my first pair of "real" shoes were of leather with high button tops. They now sit atop my china cupboard as a small copper sculpture.

As my brother and I grew our feet grew also, and "school shoes" were purchased in September. By father always wanted to be sure there was "growing room" in the new shoes.

In those days, Shredded Wheat was a popular cold cereal. It came in a familiar box in which each large pillow of the cereal was separated from the others by a long, narrow cardboard strip. The cardboard was saved, and when new shoes were imminent, we had to stand on the cardboard and our bare feet were outlined in pencil by Father. The outlines were then cut out with scissors.

In the shoe store, our feet were carefully measured by the sales clerk. Occasionally our feet, in the new shoes, would be x-rayed, a practice which was later banned in shoe stores. The first thing my father would do upon our arrival home was to slip the cardboard outlines into the shoes, and pronounce them "a perfect fit."

"Sunday shoes" were purchased less frequently, and like the school shoes, we had one pair at a time and they were meant to last. My father's asthma attacks always made him rise early, so on Sundays he polished our shoes on the back porch for our weekly visit to church. Summer was for going barefoot, although as time went by, we each had a pair of tennis shoes to wear during the summer.

Of course, eventually all the shoes wore out in various places. Father mended them himself. Many times the shoes only needed to be "half-soled," meaning that the old sole was ripped off and used for a pattern, and then the half-sole was cut from a piece of leather with a sharp knife. In order to attach the new piece to the shoe, a shoe last was used. This tool was an iron stand that could hold the shoe upside down. It was shaped at the top like a human foot. The new sole was attached by tiny tacks around the leather's edge, pounded in by a small hammer. Rubber heels were fastened in the same way. Replacement heels could be purchased in a store, by size.

Interestingly, the Brea Historical Society office is located in the Brea Heights shopping center, right next-door to one of these small shoe repair stores. A series of owners have kept Brea Shoe Repair in business at this site since 1960. For the past four years, it has been owned and operated by Yung Min, who learned his craft 20 years ago in South Korea. Min has three sewing machines and a large supply of glue for use in his repair work.

So, the next time you're dropping off shoes at Brea Shoe Repair, why not stop by the Historical Society office, and learn a bit more about your city's history?

Welcome New Members

Evelyn Henderson Proctor
Bishop, Calif.

Doug Makins
Fremont, Calif.

Earl Makins
Mira Loma, Calif.

Perry Makins
Orange, Calif.

Brea Historical Society Presents
- Classic Autos
- 1923 Seagrave Fire Truck
- Musical Entertainment
- Hors d'oeuvres/Dinner
- Historical Photo Display
- Lots of Opportunity Prizes
- Former BOHS Coach Dick Tucker



SPRING FLING

Tuesday, March 24, 1998
5:30 p.m. No Host Bar • 6:30 p.m. Dinner

$20.00

Brea Bistro
600 S. Brea Blvd. (Brea Heights Shopping Center)
Brea, Calif. (714) 529-5700

RSVP to: Edna Makins (714) 529-1755 • Fannings (714) 529-2993

These are BHS members who have continued to provide services that contribute to the accomplishments and endeavors of the Brea Historical Society. Their efforts are recognized here. Thank you for your support of our members.

• Custom Handy Work •

LARRY H. DEAN
300 S. Cedar • Brea, CA 92821

Fax: (714) 529-1303 (714) 529-6186

BARBARA BRANTLEY PITTS, M.S.W.
PSYCHOTHERAPY
FAMILY AND CHILD COUNSELING

LIC. NO. LCS7003
2282 N. STATE COLLEGE BLVD., SUITE B
FULLERTON, CA 92831 (714) 990-8900

Brea Historical Society
P.O. Box 9764
Brea, CA 92822

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Brea, California

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

CHECK ONE BOX
☐ NEW MEMBER ☐ RENEWAL

BREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP

Individual	$ 15.00
Family	$ 25.00
Sponsor	$ 50.00
Sustaining	$100.00
Business Patron.....	$250.00

Name_____

Address _____

City_____

State_____ Zip_____

MAIL TO:
BREA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 9764
BREA, CA
92822

BREA Historical Society
Founded 1971

Historical Happenings

Vol. XVI, No. 1
January, 1999

Brea Historical Society
Brea, California

Jane O'Brien, President
Edna Makins, Vice President
Jim Schweitzer, Secretary
Herc Roeser, Treasurer

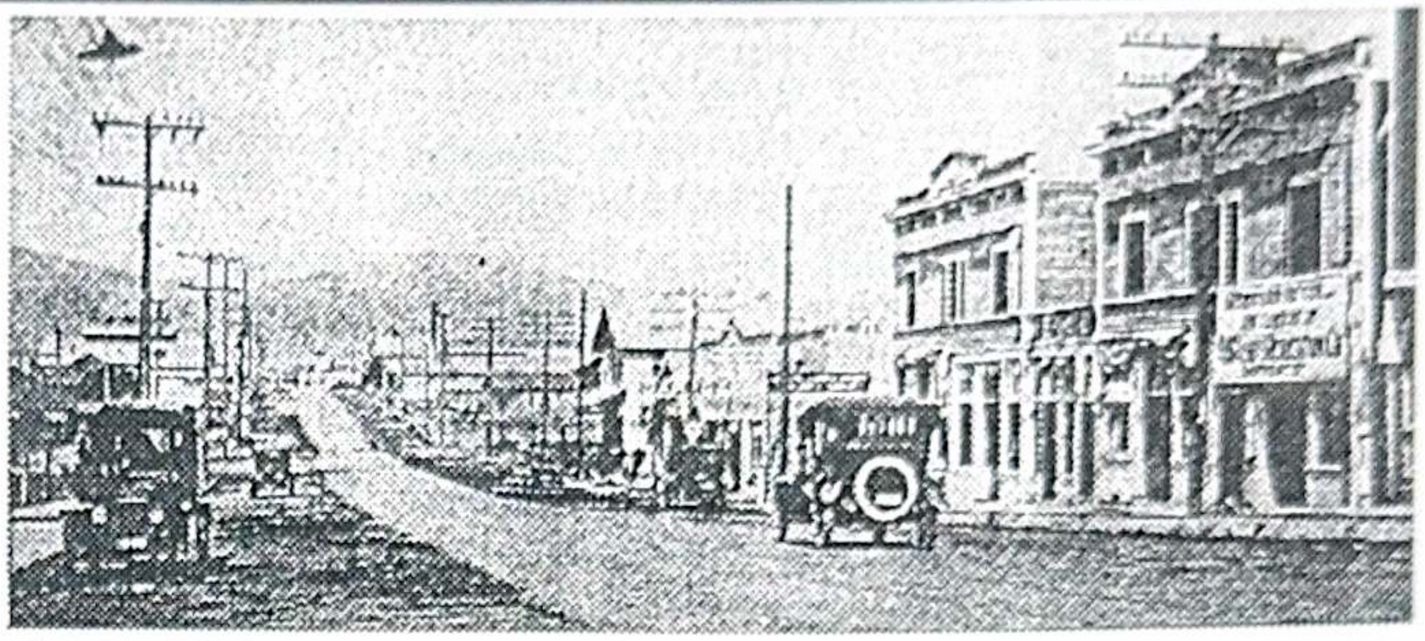
Mailing Address:
Brea Historical Society
P.O. Box 9764
Brea, CA 92822

Office Location:
652 S. Brea Blvd.
(Brea Heights Shopping Center)

Telephone: (714) 256-2283

Annual Meeting & Election of Board of Directors:
Monday January 25, 1999
7:30 p.m.at the First Baptist Church (corner of Date and Flower) Brea, California

GET INVOLVED PLACE YOUR NAME IN NOMINATION AT THE ANNUAL MEETING!



Some say that this former Brea landmark didn't look that good when it was practically new as shown in the circa 1930 photo above, but to others it stood as a symbol of our city's heritage when it provided a residence for the many men who gave life to Brea with their sweat on the oil rigs which filled the landscape. To those driving north on Brea Blvd past Ash Street, it is only a memory now after being torn down around Thanksgiving.

The good news is that the Brea Hotel will live forever in many pictures in the files of the Brea Historical Society. Much effort has been devoted since our founding in 1971 to collecting, repairing, preserving and archiving photos documenting our colorful history.

At the Board of Directors Meeting for November, 1998, a motion was made and passed that from this point forward any requests, whether they be private or commercial, for photographic prints from the Society's archives will be addressed on a case by case basis. Further, if the request is granted and approved, a stamp will be printed on the back of each photo stating that the photo cannot be reproduced. A contract will be signed by the purchaser to that effect and the price of each photo will be decided through discussion by the Board of Directors. Lastly, the fee, which the Board decides upon, must be pre-paid.

It is hoped that this decision will result in local businesses and individuals visiting the Brea Historical Society's office and museum to select and purchase pictures which they wish to display for their clients and customers pleasure. The funds raised in this way will be put to good use in protecting and preserving our photo heritage.

Contact Jane O'Brian, President or Karl Fanning, Photo Committee Chairman to arrange a private viewing of our photo archive.

Visit Our Web Site -

http://www.ci.brea.ca.us/brea/depts/BreaHis/

Brea Historical Society - A Year In Review

by Jane O'Brien, President

As we start a new year 1999. It is time to look back on 1998 as to what the Brea Historical Society has done. We were able to enlarge office space by almost a 1000 sq. ft. in May. The space next door became vacant and, working with the redevelopment agency, we were able to get the additional space.

We have been slowly getting our items out of storage. The first thing we did get was the old newspapers. We have most of the newspapers from 1917 to the 1960's. We are missing a few years.

As we work on getting our things out of storage we are trying to set up the museum too. Since we do not have the storage space we must be careful in what we get out of storage. I know the Imperial back bar will not even fit in the door, the big aerial photo of Brea from the First Interstate Bank also won't fit.

As you can see from driving down Brea Blvd., the Old Brea Hotel is gone. There will be no Heritage Block in Brea. There were two bids out of hundreds of request for bids that were sent out for the Heritage Block. To redo the Brea Hotel, reconstruct La Habra Valley Bank, Sam's Place, Wall Bldg. and the Delaney Bldg. would have cost the Redevelopment Agency $1,200,000 in addition to giving the builder the land. The City did everything it could in trying to locate funds to use in making the Heritage Block happen.

We are still working with the City (Planning Dept.) on the Historical Park at Olinda. We did save the office building built in 1905, Jack Plant built in 1900 of used parts and oil well No.1 which is 100 yrs. old, built in1897. The State of California is now interested in the park and we will be working with the City, State and Brea Historical Society to get an agreement on how this should work.

The Society held its first Spring Fling at the Brea Bistro. It was well attended by our membership. We thank the business of Brea that donated door prizes for the Spring Fling.

We are looking forward to the history Brea will be making this year that we all will be a part of.

Visit Our Web Site
http://www.ci.brea.ca.us/brea/depts/BreaHis/

By-Laws Spell Out Election of Board of Directors

by Lloyd Dudding, Editor

The By-Laws of the Brea Historical Society require a Board of Directors comprised of 15 members of the Brea Historical Society who are elected for two (2) year terms at the Society's Annual Meeting in January of each year. The reason for annual elections is that in even years five (5) Board Members are elected and in odd years, such as 1999, ten (10) Board Members are elected.

BARBARA BRANTLEY PITTS, M.S.W.
PSYCHOTHERAPY
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FULLERTON, CA 92831 (714) 990-8900

Last year we elected Howard Bryden, Aaron Eseltine, Roy Moore, Eileen Shaffer and Jim Schweitzer to their two year term on the Board of Directors.

Article III, Section 1 says, "The President shall appoint a nominating committee of three (3) by November 1 of the current year and shall inform the committee of the number of nominees required, and supply the names of the directors whose terms are expiring. The committee shall report to the board their nominees by December 15. Each member of the Corporation shall be notified in writing at least five (5) days prior to said annual meeting of the nominees. An additional nomination or nominations may be made by any member orally at the annual meeting of members."

Section 2 says, "The exact number of directors shall be fifteen (15) as prescribed in the Articles of Incorporation. Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting of members and shall serve until their successors are elected. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes in descending order of votes shall be elected to fill the positions of directors to be elected."

Section 3 says, "Except as provided below for the initial terms of the first elected directors, the term of office of each director shall be two (2) years or until his successor is elected. A director may succeed himself or herself in office."

3

Historical Happenings...

by Jean Byers



As the once familiar disappears and the landscape changes, long time Breans (including quite a few natives) recall fondly what was. Among those who still call Brea home are members of the James L. Crow family.

In about 1920 Mr. Crow, leaving his wife and two young daughters at home in Missouri, traveled to Southern California and work with the Union Oil Company in Santa Fe Springs. In 1922 he was able to send for his family. Daughter Imogene Crow Dahlum, recalls that she was two years old when she, sister Vivian and their mother arrived at the old train station in Fullerton.

After living a few years in the Bandini-Norwalk area, during which time son, James Jr. was born, the family moved to

Brea. Housing was scarce in those early years and friends helped each other in finding places to live. A second son, Walter (nicknamed "Tiny") was born in Brea and still makes his home here.

In the mid-twenties Mr. Crow became one of the first employees of Shaffer Tool Works, formerly Brea Tool Works and was a welder on Brea's familiar landmark "Brea Welcomes You" sign. The sign was dedicated in April of 1934 with then Mayor Mike Hogue officiating and festivities included a street dance. The sign was removed and stashed for the widening of Brea Boulevard.

Recalling the effects of the depression era thirties, Jim Jr. describes a youthful "paying job" that earned him and pal Kenny Hogue 35 cents per Wednesday for hand-folding with rulers several hundred copies of the "Brea Progress" weekly newspaper. To put this in perspective, for 10 cents one could purchase delicious malt or hamburger at the Brea Malt Shop!

Many Breans were able to supplement meager incomes during the depression years with provisions of food and clothing obtained from a government sponsored commissary located in a large frame building on North Brea Boulevard (Pomona Ave.) at Cypress St. Women were paid to sew clothing items.

Jim's wife, Pauline, also a lifelong Brean, revealed that her parents, John and Marie Vertson, moved to Brea from Los Angeles in 1928. Mr.. Vertson owned Duro-Engineering, which was later sold to Shaffer Tool Co.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Vertson were born in Yugoslavia, having been brought to the U.S., he as an infant and she as a young child. They made their home on Walnut St. and were neighbors of the Culp family before moving to their longtime home on west Imperial Hwy., originally Cedar St. The family also included a son, Martin, now retired from the Air Force and as a commercial airline pilot, and enjoying life as a rancher.

Extending back three-quarters of a century, the Crow/Vertson families are among the many who still call Brea "home"!

Thoughts about the early days of Brea/Olinda

Hugh McConnell, who attended Olinda Elementary School from 1925 through 1934 and graduated from Brea Olinda High School in 1938, will share his memories of the early days of our community. Ever wondered where all of the children lived in those early years? Hugh knows from personal experience. Wonder why Brea High School was named Brea Olinda High School long before there was a Brea/Olinda School District? Mr. McConnell will spell it. These and many other interesting facts will pack his brief twenty minute talk.

Visit Our Web Site
http://www.ci.brea.ca.us/brea/depts/BreaHis/

100 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
OLINDA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1898-1998

It is an extreme pleasure to announce that our little country school will be celebrating its century milestone in the school year of 1998 -1999. We invite you, our community, to get involved in this historical occasion. Olinda has many events planned beginning as early as September 3, 1998 and continuing to the end of our school year. The following is just a sampling of what we are working on:

(1)Library book and video drive to gain at least 100 donations of books and educational videos to our school library in honor of our anniversary. (2) Family service pledge drive to donate 100 hours of community service in honor of Olinda's anniversary. (3) Student pledge drive to donate 100 deeds of good will to fellow students, also in honor of our anniversary.(4) Anniversary cookbook filled with Olinda families (past and present) best recipes. (5) Monthly campus activities beginning in September.

Parade of current and former students, teachers, staff and city officials in the Olinda Village community, slated for Spring of '99.

Obviously this is a bold undertaking that will need much support to make it a success. This is not restricted to just Olinda School: This is a community event of great historical significance.

If you or anyone you know would like to be involved in any way, please contact the school as soon as possible. We are accepting gifts of time, expertise, and service as well as any cash, check, gift certificate, or merchandise donation.

We thank you in advance for your support because we know you will provide it. *Olinda Elementary School 109 Lilac Lane, Brea, California* 92823 *(714) 528-7475*

Submitted by Lori Diaz, 100th Anniversary Coordinator

Brea Historical Society
P.O. Box 9764
Brea, CA 92822

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CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL, IF YOUR LABEL DATE IS NOT 1999, PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK TODAY:
INDIVIDUAL $15.00 - FAMILY $25.00 - SPONSOR $50.00 - SUSTAINING $100.00

Brea Historical Society
Brea, California

Historical Happenings

Vol. XVI, No. 2
February, 1999

Brea Historical Society
Edna Makins, President
(714) 529-1755
Inez Fanning, Vice President
(714) 529-2993
Jim Schweitzer, Secretary
(714) 529-0635
Lloyd Dudding, Treasurer
(714) 256-4324

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Brea Historical Society
P.O. Box 9764
Brea, CA 92822

Office Location:
652 S. Brea Blvd.
(Brea Heights Shopping Center)
Telephone: (714) 256-2283

Copy Deadliine:
Second Monday of the month

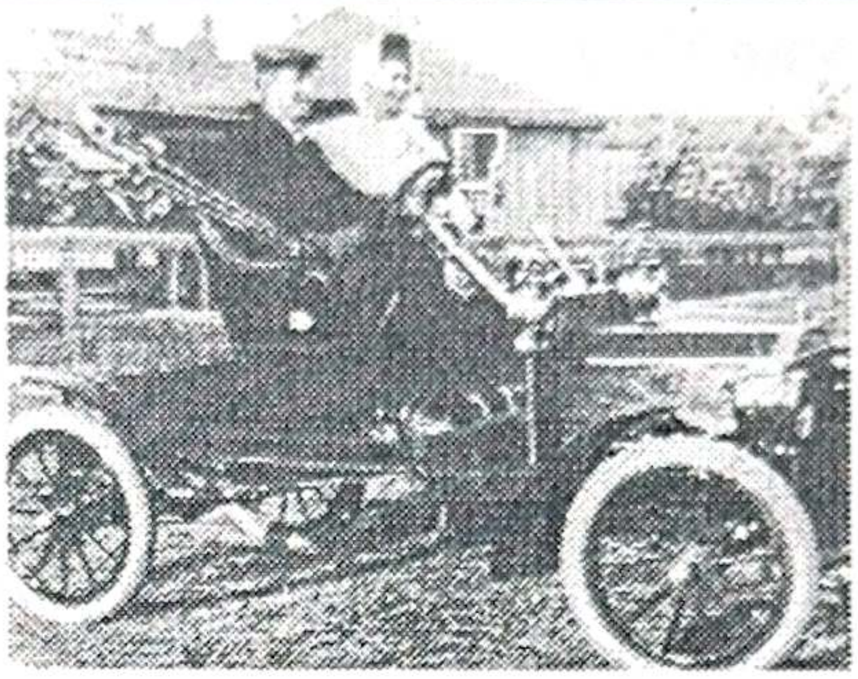
Printing Deadliine:
Third Monday of the month

Mailing Deadliine:
Third Friday of the month

Editor: Lloyd Dudding
(714) 256-4324

March Board Meeting:
Monday March 1, 1999
7:00 p.m. at the Orange Villa Senior Apartments Recreation Room (cross street Ash and Orange).

March General Meeting:
Monday March 29, 1999
7:30 p.m. at the Foursquare Church (corner of Ash and Brea Blvd.).



Frank Schweitzer, Sr. and his wife Julia in their 1907 Ford ten years before he would serve as one of Brea's first civic leaders.
Brea: Celebrating 75 Years

Historical Society Board of Directors Supports Renaming of City Hall Park After Civic Leader Frank Schweitzer

One of Edna Makins' first actions, as our newly elected President, was to telephone canvass the Board of Directors and receive majority support for one of her top goals in 1999, the renaming of Old City Hall Park as Schweitzer Park. This effort which started in 1997 by the Brea Historical Society with a petition signing at a general meeting was put on the table by the City Council at that time. However, with two new council members, Roy Moore and Steve Vargas who are members of the Historical Society, Edna hopes this long overdue recognition of Frank Schweitzer, Sr. will become a reality in 1999.

Edna's additional goals are to double the membership this year, increase volunteer participation, complete phase one of the Historical Museum and encourage more children and students to learn about the history of Brea.

The Board of Directors joins Edna in thanking Jane O'Brian, Past President, for her dedicated service and leadership. We all are pleased that she is remaining on the Board of Directors so we can benefit from her knowledge and experience.

Carbon Canyon Regional Park A Walk in the Redwoods

Discover the secrets of Carbon Canyon Creek as you walk to the grove of beautiful Coastal Redwood trees.

Time: 8:30 A.M.
Parking: $4.00
(714) 996-5252

Brea Historical Society

Profit & Loss

Jan 31, '98 - Feb 1, '99

Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Campaign Income	
1998 - Spring Fling	2,500.00
Total Campaign Income	**2,500.00**
Contributions Income	
Dean Miller Fund	45.00
Relocation Expense	9,666.00
Rent Reimbursment	14,332.00
Total Contributions Income	**24,043.00**
Membership Dues	
Business Patron	100.00
Family Membership	1,315.00
Individual Membership	1,235.00
Sponsor Membership	300.00
Sustaining Membership	100.00
Total Membership Dues	**3,050.00**
Miscellaneous Income	
Comm Svce	335.50
Tax Refund	10.27
Other	432.00
Total Miscellaneous Income	**777.77**
Retail Sale	
Book Sale	484.80
Photo Sale	362.00
T-Shirt Sale	64.00
Video Sale	80.00
Total Retail Sale	**990.80**
Unknown Source	185.00
Total Income	**31,546.57**

Continued on page 3

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http://www.ci.brea.ca.us/brea/depts/BreaHis/



KIRKHILL RUBBER SOLD...

By Jean Byers

Kirkhill Rubber, one of the largest and strongest rubber manufacturing plants in the U.S., has been sold to Esterline Technologies of Bellevue, Washington.

Seventy percent employee owned since 1988, the sale will provide distribution checks to about 700 retired and current employees based upon how much time each has been with the company since it has been employee owned.

Started in Los Angeles in 1919 by T. Kirk Hill and a friend, the plant progressed from the making of rubber heels for shoes to plumbing parts, toy products, aircraft components and space shuttle gaskets.

Needing to consolidate its various manufacturing units in Los Angeles, Kirkhill began a search for a suitable location after World War II. The Brea site at 300 E. Cypress St. was selected and in 1950 the move began, taking about 4 years to complete. The plant eventually became Brea's largest employer, according to Larry Griffeth, Vice President of Price Administration.

The seal for the spaceship hatchway through which Neil Armstrong passed as he stepped onto the moon was made by Kirkhill Rubber Co. and it is

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

reported that the press which made the shoe heels is still in use.

Mr.. Hill passed away in late 1972 and is buried in Brea's Memory Garden Memorial Park. At his death, W.J."Bill" Haney, who had gone to work for the company as a shipping clerk in 1929 and rose through the ranks to the presidency, became C.E.O. He retired in 1990 after 61 years with the company.

Board of Directors Elects 1999 Officers

On February 1, 1999, at the first meeting of the Board of Directors following the annual meeting of the membership, new officers for the Brea Historical Society were elected for 1999:

Edna Makins	President
Inez Fanning	Vice Pres.
Jim Schweitzer	Secretary
Lloyd Dudding	Treasurer

In addition, **Wade Mansur** was elected to complete the term of Roy Moore who resigned due to the time commitment required as a Brea City Councilman.

Our Mail Bag...

Howard Phelps writes from San Francisco, "The photo on page 1 of Jan. 1999 Historical Happenings was taken approximately 1920 or earlier (not circa 1930). Pomona Ave. (now Brea Blvd.) was paved over, curb to curb, in the early 1920s and new street lights installed. A big celebration was held for this event. Karl Fanning can verify this".

June Hendricks writes from Sonora, California, "Even if I don't live in Brea anymore, I still consider it my home. I lived there 55 years. Please accept this donation".

Continued from page 2

Expense

Dues and Subscriptions	145.00
Fund Raising Costs	
Entertainer	40.00
Fund Raiser Sup[plies	40.76
Other	1,284.00
Total Fund Raising Costs	**1,364.76**
Insurance	
Liability Insurance	512.00
Total Insurance	**512.00**
Licenses and Permits	60.00
Meeting Costs	
Facility Fee	25.00
Total Meeting Costs	**25.00**
Miscellaneous	116.00
Photography	
Enlargement Costs	199.71
Photo Supplies	109.40
Total Photography	**309.11**
Postage and Delivery	
Bulk Fee Permit 00117	160.00
P.O. Box 9764	42.00
Other	100.00
Total Postage and Delivery	**302.00**
Printing and Reproduction	
Newsletter Printing	131.99
Other	52.80
Total Printing and Repro.	**184.79**
Rent	16,721.00
Repairs	
Equipment Repairs	171.68
Total Repairs	**171.68**
Supplies	
Flowers & Cookies	42.12
Holiday Supplies	33.15
Total Supplies	**75.27**
Telephone	269.10
Utilities	
Gas and Electric	371.92
Water	115.19
Total Utilities	**487.11**
Total Expense	**20,742.82**

Thoughts from Inez

By Inez Fanning

This article, written on September 28, 1998, was intended for the next edition of Historical Happenings. Since that didn't take place until January of 1999, it got misplaced.

Welcome to Lloyd Dudding our new editor. A welcome also to member Jean Byers who will be writing for this publication this year. A "born-in-Brea" native, she has many stories to tell about the life and times in our town long ago. A former journalist with the Brea Progress, we look forward to the fruit of her experience and research. Jean is the sister of our Social Chairwoman Geri Carpenter.

In Memory

Dean Millen

The Society mourns the death of Dean Millen, member and supporter of our group for many years. He was the one who researched and caused to be made the collages of some early Brea families now on the walls of Progress Hall. The present name of the building was his suggestion.

Dean was very instrumental in the participation of the city of Brea in the California State Fullerton University History Project in the seventies.

Along with the late Frank Schweitzer, Jr. and our board member Karl Fanning, Dean kept the Society together for many of the early years.

His collection of farm tools is now displayed at the George Key Historical Ranch in Placentia. Raised on a farm in Santa Ana, Dean became Superintendent of the Agricultural Field Station at U.C.I. The Oil Exhibit on the south side of Old Brea City Hall was created and managed mostly by him. Each item on display was given to the Brea Historical Society by one of our local oil companies.

Good-bye, Dean. You were great!

In Memory

Earl Ward

Oct. 20, 1920 - Dec. 28, 1998

Gladys Ward writes from Sun City, Arizona, "My husband passed away after being ill less than 24 hours with noninfectious meningitis plus a bacterial infection. Earl was born in Brea and lived there 25 years until 1945. Then again from 1954 through 1964 when he retired from Unocal Research Department."

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Nov 14, '98 - Feb 14, '99

Edna Makins	7:45
Eileen Schafer	2:45
Herc Roeser	2:45
Jane O'Brian	6:00
Jim Schweitzer	3:00
Karl Fanning	14:00
Kay Lorea	11:15
Lloyd Dudding	3:00
Sharon Dean	6:45
Vonnie French	12:00
Wade Mansur	3:00
Wilma Sauer	1:45
TOTAL HOURS	**74:00**

At the January Board of Directors meeting, Jane O'Brian made note of the volunteer efforts made by our members and gave special notice to Kay Lorea and Vonnie French for manning the museum every Wednesday and Karl Fanning for his help every Saturday. It was unanimously agreed that these and all other volunteers should be recognized for their help each month.

Editor's note: The above report of volunteer hours reflects the only sign-in sheet found. Please be sure to record your volunteer service.

Brea Historical Society
P.O. Box 9764
Brea, CA 92822

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Brea Historical Society
Brea, California

Historical Happenings

Vol. XVI, No. 3
March, 1999

Brea Historical Society
Edna Makins, President
(714) 529-1755
Inez Fanning, Vice President
(714) 529-2993
Jim Schweitzer, Secretary
(714) 529-0635
Lloyd Dudding, Treasurer
(714) 256-4324

Mailing Address:
Brea Historical Society
P.O. Box 9764
Brea, CA 92822

Office Location:
652 S. Brea Blvd.
(Brea Heights Shopping Center)
Telephone: (714) 256-2283

Copy Deadliine:
Second Monday of the month

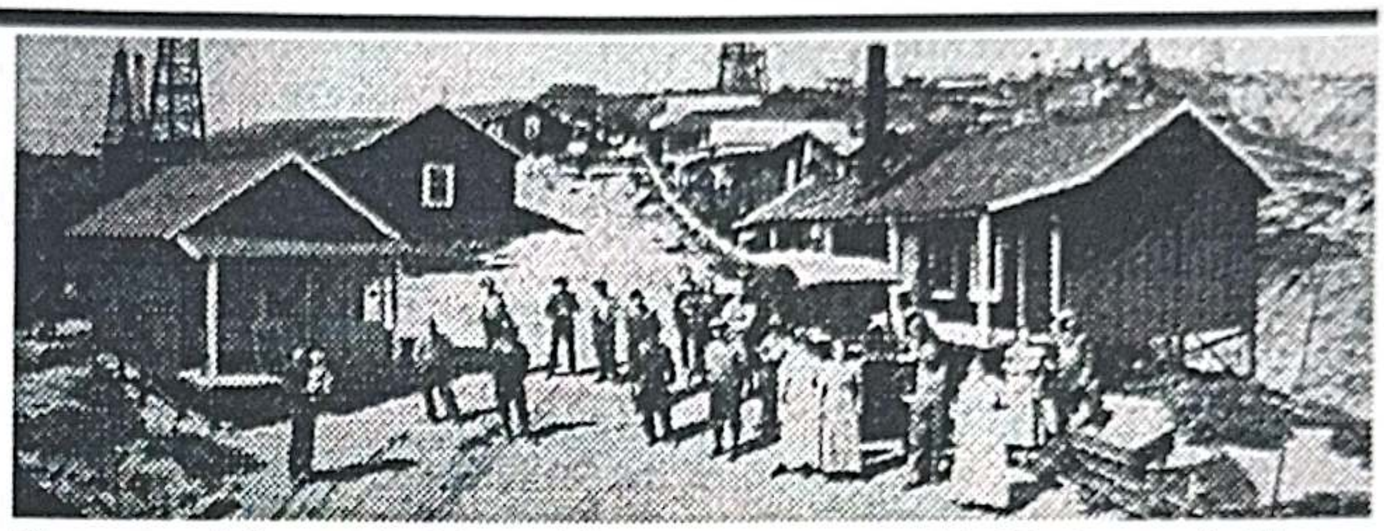
Printing Deadliine:
Third Monday of the month

Mailing Deadliine:
Third Friday of the month

Editor: Lloyd Dudding
(714) 256-4324

April Board Meeting:
Monday April 5, 1999
7:00 p.m. at the Orange Villa Senior Apartments Recreation Room (cross street Ash and Orange).

March General Meeting:
Monday March 29, 1999
7:30 p.m. at the Foursquare Church (corner of Ash and Brea Blvd.).



The ups and downs of oil-lease life were apparent to this Birch crowd. The commute to work was short, but it was tough not to take the job home. Workers' houses line this steep street, northwest of today's Central and Brea Boulevard. Source - Brea Celebrating 75 Years© 1993

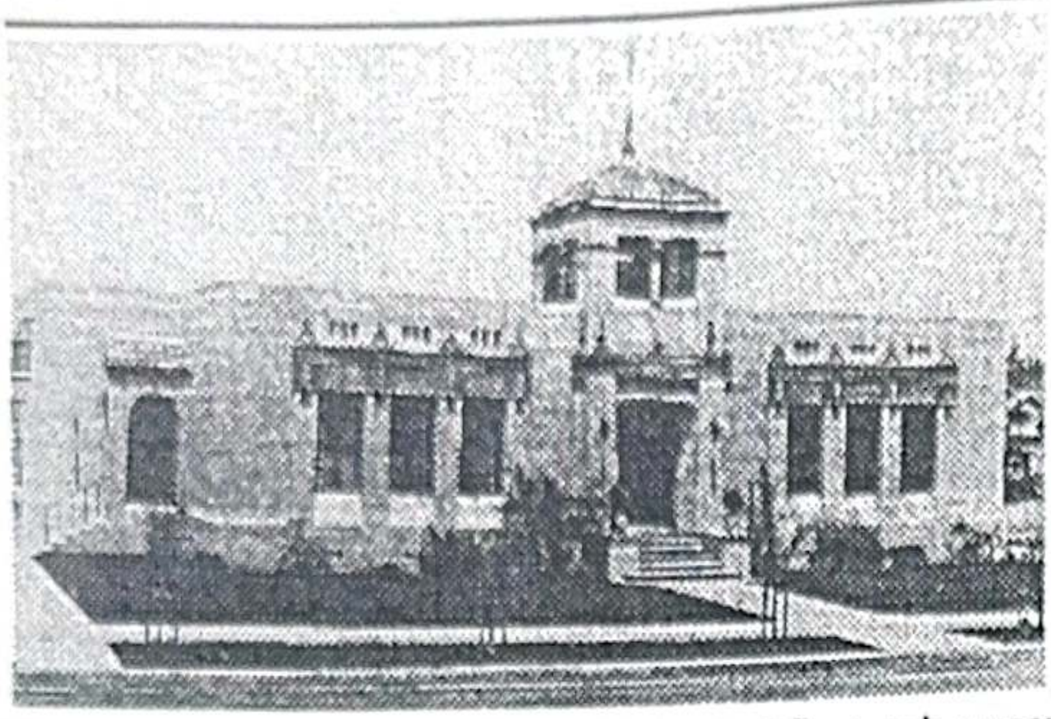
"We loved the oil field living..."

These are the thoughts expressed by 86 3/4 year old former Brea and Olinda oil lease resident Ella Armstrong Post in her letter to the editor found inside on page four of this edition of Historical Happenings. Looking today at the photos we have like the one above, it is hard to fathom that anyone living through those hard circumstances could have actually enjoyed them. We hope to hear more from Ella and others like her who will help us to understand life as it really was when Brea got started as a city.

In the 1950's, Frank Schweitzer, Jr. wrote the following brief history of the effect the oil companies had on Brea. "I am going back 20 plus years from the building of the City Hall and the Plunge to brief you on the influence the Union Oil Co. had on the City. In 1894 the Union Oil Co. purchased 1200 acres from the Stearns Ranch at a cost of $1.50/acre. They then leased some and also sold 200 acres to Brea Canyon Oil Co. in the hills north of Brea. Many oil wells were drilled both in Brea and Olinda which became "Boom Towns". In 1908, Ontario Investment Co. filed a Subdivision Map with the County of Orange encompassing the land South of the Brea Hills. The sale of the lots did not go over and 2 years later, in 1911, the same map with the name of Brea, was recorded and the lots were sold. The oil companies in the meantime had built homes in Olinda and in the hills for their employees and these homes were later moved into the town of Brea. Brea grew in size and population and February 23, 1917, it was incorporated into a 6th Class City, General Law, with a population of 732 residents. The city headquarters were located in the Sewell Building in the 100 block of North Pomona Ave. (now Brea Blvd.).

As time passed and the population increased, the people felt they needed more civic and recreational facilities and on September 28, 1927, an

Continued on page 2



Brea's City Hall, built in 1928

Photo taken in 1929. The Brea Historical Society's museum and offices were located in this building from 1992 to 1997 Source - Brea, The City of Oil, Oranges and Opportunity© 1992.

Continued from page 1

election was held for a $60,000 Bond Issue for this purpose, $40,000 for land and $20,000 for a building to be a City Hall and a Park. There was a total of 334 votes cast, 248 for and 86 against. The land, a city block between Date and Elm Streets along Pomona Ave. was purchased from Union Oil Co. which had purchased a large area in the Southwestern part of town so their employees could build homes for themselves. The purchase price of about $31,000 was arrived at after some bargaining. Plans were drawn up for the City Hall but the Council felt the low bid of $42,803 was too high and had the plans reviewed by the architect. New bids were received and the low one of $22,590 was accepted. Jail equipment at a cost of $971 was later purchased.

Plans for a swimming pool were drawn up but the bids were also felt to be too high and revisions were made. Finally a bid of $12,987 from E. M. Funk and one of $3,655 from L. A. Mfg. Co. for pool equipment were accepted. The city hall building was finished and accepted on December 5, 1928, and the pool on February 6, 1929. A Bond Issue for $10,000 for improving the park by adding plants and play equipment was passed and improvements were made. The pool was opened to the public in the summer of 1929 with Winifred Gurley hired as matron at a salary of 40 cents per hour. To show you what was the going wage rate of workers at the time, Fred Boxall, Street and Water Superintendent, salary was $210/month. Prior to the opening of the Park and Plunge the Brea residents and those in the area would travel to Fullerton and Anaheim for this relaxation."

Schweitzer Family

Frank Joseph Schweitzer was a long time resident and civic leader of Brea. Born in Toledo, Ohio in 1877, Frank moved to Olinda in 1905, several years before the formation of the township of Brea. At the time he was a machinist and obtained a job in an oil tool shop under the direction of W. D. Shaffer. In July of that year, he sent for and married his long time sweetheart, Julia E. Meissner. They had a daughter, Dorothy, born in 1909 and a son Frank Jr. born in 1911. In 1912 the family built a house on Madrona Ave. in Brea in which they lived until 1925. Frank then built a house on East Elm where he planted a five acre orange grove.

Frank was very active in the fight to incorporate the City of Brea. Even though he did not seek public office, three months after the city incorporated in 1917, Councilman M. I. McCarty resigned and Frank was asked to fill his post. He served in this capacity until 1938, 21 years! Throughout these early years Frank was very involved in establishing the necessary services and operations a new city demanded. He headed the drive to acquire the necessary land for a city park and a city hall building. He worked for the construction of a sewage treatment plant and bringing water to the citizen's of Brea. He designed the initial layout of City Hall Park as well as the "Brea

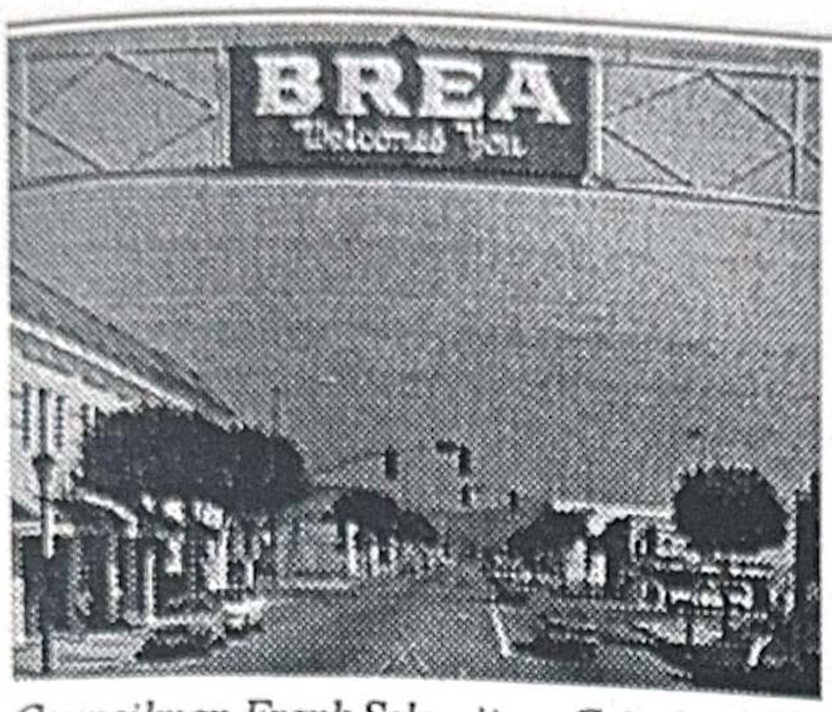
Welcomes You" sign that once spanned Brea Blvd.. Although he had many opportunities to become Mayor, he always refused stating he would rather be a worker than a boss. However he did serve as Mayor Pro-tem on many deterrent occasions.

Upon moving to Brea in 1912, Frank became superintendent of a gasoline extraction plant until it was sold to a major oil company. He then, along with a few friends, began Brea Tool Works becoming its first Secretary/Treasurer. It eventually sold to Baash-Ross Tool Company which later became Shaffer Tool Works. Frank then became superintendent of Brea Brick Company until the source of clay was exhausted and the company moved to Alhambra, California. He then worked for Duro Engineering and later went back to Shaffer Tool Works as Superintendent and Chief Engineer. While at Shaffer Tool Works, he designed and patented many oil well drilling devices until his retirement in 1942.

Frank and his wife Julia were both very active in community affairs. In 1914 they helped establish the Brea Christian Church. Julia was its first Choir Director and Superintendent of Sunday School classes for more than 30 years. In 1947 the Sunday School building was dedicated in her name upon her death. She was also a charter member of the Brea Women's Club. Frank was an active member of the Chamber of Commerce as well as the Brea Lions Club until his death in 1960.

Frank's son, Frank Joseph Schweitzer Jr., was born January 8, 1911 while his parents were living in Olinda. He entered Brea Grammar School, now

Continued on page 3



Councilman Frank Schweitzer (Sr.), designed the cantilevered structure, a Brea Boulevard landmark for 58 years, when it was cut from its base and stored for future use in the renovated downtown district.

Brea Welcomes You Sign, built in 1934

Continued from page 2

the Brea Junior High School, the first year it opened. He entered Brea-Olinda High School and was among the first class to graduate that entered as freshmen. After high school he went to Fullerton Junior College and later the University of California at Berkeley majoring in Engineering. He returned to Shaffer Tool Works working for his father. Upon Frank Sr.'s retirement Frank Jr. stepped in as the new Chief Engineer.

In 1938, on a blind date, Frank Jr. met Eltha Ruth Huntington of Anaheim. They became engaged and married on June 2, 1939. The couple had three sons, Charles Lewis born 1942, Donald Laurence born 1947 and James William born 1953. Frank Jr., like his father, was a very active member of the community. He joined the Brea Lions Club in 1948 becoming, its President in 1978. He was awarded the highest honor Lions Club International can bestow on a fellow Lion, the "Melvin Jones Fellow Award" in 1983. Frank Jr. ran for and was elected to the City Council in 1950. He served for over 12 years becoming Mayor in 1960 - 62. While on the Council, Frank was most proud of spearheading the annexation of a large portion of land just east of town. Brea beat Fullerton in the effort by just one day, largely due to Frank's efforts.

During and after Frank Jr.'s tenure on the City Council, he was very active in many other city and community projects. He was a member of the Brea Christian Church, the North Orange County YMCA and the American Red Cross. He along with LaVita Daetweiller organized Brea Bonanza Days, now the Brea Country Fair, as well as the Brea Historical Society. Many of the pictures the society now has are pictures Frank took or collected throughout his lifetime. He has been honored with many awards including the Brea's "Citizen of the Year" in 1966, "Citizen's Make a Difference" award and "Citizen Grand Marshal" of Brea's 75th year celebration. After a lifetime of service Frank passed away August 17, 1993.

Ruth Schweitzer, has also been an active Brean. She has been a member and President of the Brea Women's Club as well as the Brea Republican Women. She has worked actively with Meals on Wheels and the Brea Christian Church for many years. She too has been bestowed with many awards and honors, one of which was "Brea's Woman of the Year" in 1976.

Visit Our Web Site

http://www.ci.brea.ca.us/brea/depts/BreaHis/

Our Website Has A New Look

After Brea City Councilman Roy Moore took action and got the hyperlink from the City of Brea Homepage to our Brea Historical Society website, it seemed fitting to upgrade the look and feel of our website in anticipation of the additional visitors we expected. Hardly anything except our name and address has not been changed.

Visitors will now find they can not only read the latest edition of Historical Happenings online, but every edition beginning January 1999. Also they can read one of the posters used to promote the visit Babe Ruth made to the Brea Bowl in 1924. Hyperlinks to other historical society websites we found interesting put them just a "click" away for our visitors.

So add our URL: http://www.ci.brea.ca.us/brea/depts/BreaHis/ to your favorite places and stop by often as we have many more additions planned. Send your e-mail comments and suggestions to:

Lloyd@Dudding.com

Membership Drive Heats Up

One month after announcing a major effort to double the membership of the Brea Historical Society during her first term as President, Edna Makins is looking for several committee chairpersons for:

1) Renewal Memberships
2) New Memberships
3) Sponsor Memberships
4) Patron Memberships

As of March 7, 1999, we have 95 Renewals, 1 New, 7 Sponsor and 2 Patron memberships in 1999 for a total of 105 members. Only 145 to go! Sounds like these committees will have their work cut out for them, but Edna says we will do it!

Julian Enberg, Journalist and Newsman, Is Speaker at March 29th General Meeting

Once in a great while, an individual comes upon the scene who completely understands the relationship of history to daily living. Our March speaker, JULIAN ENBERG, is Editor of the Orange County Register-Brea Progress and Northern Lights Editions. He is a Journalist and Newsman in the purest sense. Personable and scholarly, Julian has become a popular speaker in North County. A major organization wrote of Enberg, "Julian hardily believes The Ben is mightier than the sword, and is determined professionally to see it happen." Julian will discuss Brea history, the Society and how it relates to Breans.

See ya! Monday March 29, 1999 7:30 P.M.. at the Foursquare Church (corner of Ash and Brea Blvd.).

Our Mail Bag...

Ella Armstrong Post writes from Hemet, California... Just a little note to put with my membership check for 1999. I do so enjoy receiving the Historical Happenings and all the good information regarding all the many wonderful things so many volunteers have done for the society. I regret I have lived so far away for so many years, but truly have enjoyed the old museum and the friendships of several of the old time Brea-Olinda High School Friends.

I wrote an article about the Olinda Depot and thought I sent it on to Inez Fanning quite a while ago. If she didn't receive it, I will rewrite the article. The Olinda students loved the old Santa Fe Railroad Depot, where we met every weekday morning to await the Brea-Olinda High School bus. Few folks will even remember that the oil train came into the village every few weeks to pick up the tank cars filled with the oil production of the CCMO (Chansler, Canfield Midway Oil Company) oil wells which were all active in the early twenties.

Keep up the good work you are doing. Our family moved into Brea in 1922 and into Olinda in 1924, We loved the oil field living.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

February 1999

Edna Makins	12:45
Eileen Schafer	2:45
Jim Schweitzer	3:00
Karl Fanning	18.15
Kay Lorea	6.00
Lloyd Dudding	6:30
Sharon Dean	4:00
Steve Vargas	1:15
Vonnie French	2:00
Wade Mansur	10:00
Wilma Sauer	3:00
TOTAL HOURS	**66:45**

This report of volunteer hours does not include any of the volunteer time for Board of Directors' meetings or other activities by the executive officers.

Special thanks to our Patrons!

Pacific Western National Bank

George & Evelyn Shaffer

Brea Historical Society
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Brea Historical Society
Founded 1971

Historical Happenings

Vol. XVI, No. 4
April, 1999

Brea Historical Society
Edna Makins, President
(714) 529-1755
Inez Fanning, Vice President
(714) 529-2993
Jim Schweitzer, Secretary
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Lloyd Dudding, Treasurer
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Mailing Address:
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P.O. Box 9764
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Office Location:
652 S. Brea Blvd.
(Brea Heights Shopping Center)
Telephone: (714) 256-2283

Copy Deadline:
Second Monday of the month

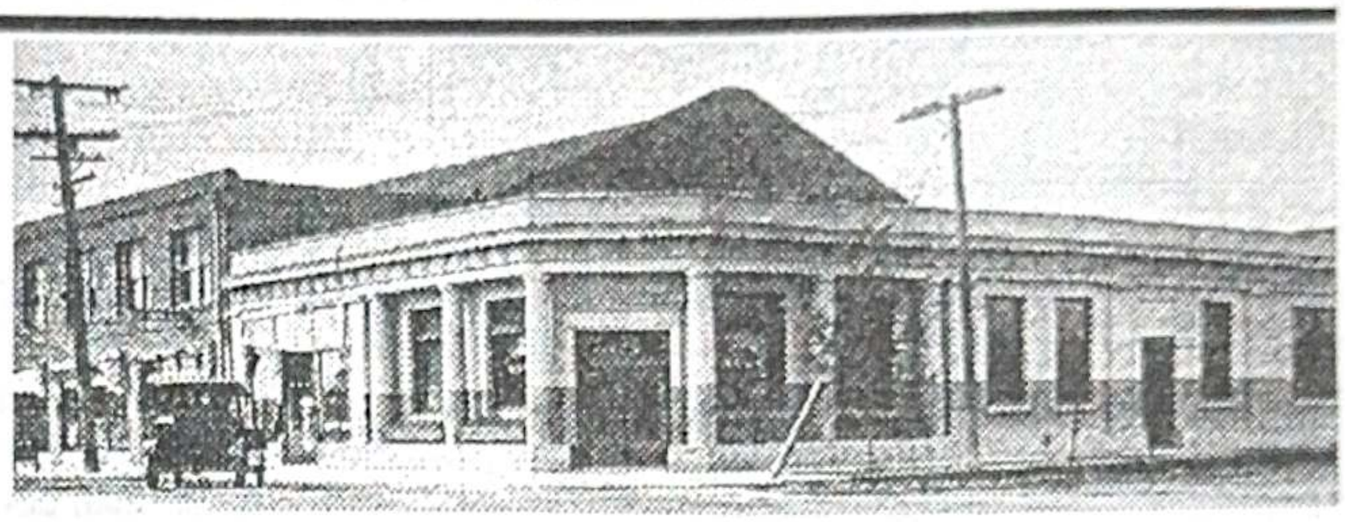
Printing Deadline:
Third Monday of the month

Mailing Deadline:
Third Friday of the month

Editor: Lloyd Dudding
(714) 256-4324

May Board Meeting:
Monday May 3, 1999
7:00 p.m. at the Brea Historical Society Office & Museum, 652 S. Brea Blvd. (Brea Heights Shopping Center)

May General Meeting:
Monday May 24, 1999
7:30 p.m. at the Brea Foursquare Church (corner of Ash and Brea Blvd.).



Upstairs rented rooms in the Sewell Building (left) serve as Brea's first city hall, while the La Habra Valley Bank shares its building with a barber shop - also the site of the city's first post office. Downstairs Sewell tenants include (from left) Sweet's Confectionery, Brea Pharmacy and Ed Perkin's Brea Cash Market and General Store. Source - Brea Celebrating 75 Years© 1993

This was the "essence" of Early Brea.

One of the first highways in Northern Orange County was a couple of wagon wheel tracks in the dirt, occasionally the mud, going north from Santa Ana, Anaheim, and Fullerton through Brea Canyon and through Puente Hills to the Pomona Valley. As early as the 1890's widely scattered settlers from this area and other areas came by horse and buggy to cut squares of tar (often called by its Spanish name, *brea,* or *asphaltum,* a later designation). These chunks were hauled home to be used mainly as fuel.

This highway was developed as an official road in 1911, and it became Brea's main street--Pomona Avenue--a name describing its destination. The road was not paved until the 1920's.

The first cross street was Central Avenue, which led to La Habra. This created the first intersection of importance at what is now Brea Boulevard and Central. Oil workers in Brea Canyon built houses along the west side of Pomona Avenue, just south of Central. Later, Mr. Flanagan's ittle store and service station occupied the southwest corner. The Shields family lived on the northwest corner on General Petroleum land; thus, it was called "Shields' Corner."

The second cross street vas La Habra Street (now Ash Street). The La Habra Valley Bank (later The Frame Place) was built on the southwest corner of

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this intersection. Obviously, the street led to La Habra, curving south to the course now taken by Imperial Highway west.

The La Habra street intersection became the hub for businesses along both sides of the narrow road to the Puente Hills. A general merchandise store, Stern and Goodman (later Woodruff and Henigan) sprang up on the southeast corner; and the Brea Hotel, a huge double building with a fancy facade and a restaurant on the first floor, near the northeast corner. It was a comfortable place for newly arrived oil workers to stay. Brea's first grocery was built and run by the Salveson family on the northwest corner.

The landscape to which the settlers came was arid and dry. Only a few black walnut and scrub oak trees could be seen, and these only up in the hills. Mr. William Casner, a prominent citizen, purchased and planted palm trees along the 100 block of South Orange Street and other early streets, establishing an idea which came to its peak in the 1930's and again in the 1980's: a Brea made beautiful by Mediterranean and Spanish type homes and buildings, *graced with palm trees.*

As electricity became available in 1922, a bare light bulb was suspended over the main intersection to light the way of an evening traveler. Stores, of course, closed at sunset. Behind the La Habra Valley Bank, on Ash Street, was Brea's first "rooming" house. Many of Brea's citizens spent a few nights at the Delaney upon arrival in the area. Just east of Pomona Avenue, on Ash Street, was the Brown and Dauser Lumber Company which did a thriving business furnishing supplies to build houses for the newly arriving families.

The Randolph School, a two-story wooden building, was built in 1910 on the southwest corner of the intersection of Pomona Avenue and Union Oil Road. This is now Brea Boulevard and Lambert. The railroad, with its handsome depot, came in 1912. Homes were scattered along Pomona Avenue south from Lambert to the railroad tracks. Other neighborhoods were on north Madrona and north Orange Streets. At first, all of these houses had outhouses, and coal oil lamps were used for lighting.

Other early homes were built on the 100 and 200 blocks of south Walnut and south Madrona, and on the 100 block of south Orange Street. Mr. Charles Kinsler, proprietor of the Brea Hotel, built his home at 137 South Orange.

A post office was established in 1912. There was no 'home' mail delivery, nor any house numbers used. It was several years before mail was received any way except to "Brea, California." Sometimes, "Orange County" would be written on the envelope. In the 1920's post office boxes were installed at the Post Office. By this time, there were several stores along the 100 block south on Brea Boulevard. Some of these were: Peterkin's Cash Market and *Gheen's* Meats, Nethaway's Stationery, Harry Ray's Menswear, as well as others.

Mr. Kinsler became Judge Kinsler and had a small office on the alley behind his home on Orange Street. A board walk led through a vacant lot on Pomona Avenue to Mr. Kinsler's office. Later, he built a small office in front of his home for official business. The house and office still stand.

The highest structure in the little town at this time was the tower on the Nazarene Church, built in 1912. Later, the church was remodeled and enlarged. Its taller, white steeple became a local landmark. This was significant because while Brea was a bustling, active place, it was never a rowdy, brawling type of place. The early citizens hastened to form congregations and build buildings for churches of their choice.

The largest public building, Sewell Hall, was an. investment in the growing little town by Mr. Charles Sewell of Los Angeles. *Mr.* Sewell never lived in Brea. The large, handsome, two-story, red brick building replaced an earlier one-story version which had been destroyed by fire. The downstairs featured McClatchy's Hardware, and other stores. *Mr.* McClatchy sold toys and gifts in addition to hardware. The second floor of the Sewell Building had offices on the street side. First were the city offices, used for years until the City Hall was built on south Brea Boulevard in 1929. Afterward, the offices were occupied by Dr. C. C. Jarvis, dentist; Mabel McGee, a colorful figure from La Habra who dealt in insurance and real estate; and others. To the rear of the second floor was a beautiful, large "ballroom" used by the Masonic Lodge. It also became Brea's first "community center" with many public and private dinners, dances, and programs given there, as well Lodge functions.

– Inez C. Fanning

Memories of Mildred Dyke

by Inez Fanning

"Old Brea" people seldom see each other any more. At the funeral of one of their own, they gathered last week. At the historic Brea Congregational Church they celebrated the life of Mildred Martin Dyke, resident of Brea since 1925.

The Dykes were a large family who lived across the street from us in the 200 block of South Walnut Street. I can remember a group of small "towheaded" kids riding their trikes and kiddy cars up and down the sidewalk.

The family were active in the old Brea Christian Church. Mother Mildred made certain that all the Sunday School lessons were learned and put into practice. Having come from an itinerant farm family in the South of the U. S., she was determined that her children "stay put". All of them went K - 12 in Brea schools.

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

Mildred was a precious part of "Good Old Brea" and could , even in later years, recite the names of merchants on both sides of the street as they were in 1925. Her husband, John, worked for the City of Brea. He died in 1947. Mildred Dyke's children are Jean Byers, Lorraine Drake, Geri Carpenter and Barbara Bowlby. She was 94 when she died on March 31, 1999.

St. Clare's Garden

by Inez Fanning

An Oasis. A beautiful place. A part of current history.

In 1993, St. Angela's Brea Church bought a property on Elm Street - a 1950's home - as a residence for nuns teaching in their Day School.

Later, the house next door to it, built in 1946 by David Kreps. Became the nucleus of a wonderful Christian retreat.

It was where David and Grace Kreps, Brea teachers, had made their home and raised their family. Now retired, they moved to the State of Utah to be near their grandchildren.

A lattice type fence surrounds the property now. One enters the front door through the same wooden porch where the children once played.

You are greeted by a statue of St. Francis of Assisi, a counterpart to St. Clare by a fountain. Sister Briegen is the hostess who makes you feel at ease. A worldwide traveler, the Irish nun supervises many other retreats.

Turning to the right, there is a chapel, a former bedroom. It features a kneeling place and a picture window to the garden. The semicircular Japanese bridge installed by the Kreps is still out there above a slow moving rocky stream.

There is a herb garden where Kreps grew spinach and tomatoes. The pool is surrounded landscaping and blooming plants. Dave's toolshed is now a place of prayer. Inside the house, his trophy room, (he was a bow hunter) has become a beautiful sun room in which to bask. The trees outside have grown tall and willowy. There are birds and butterflies in the garden.

Do you need a place to meditate? Somewhere to retreat from the hectic life of a busy world for a respite? St. Clare's Garden is open for you and there is no charge. Docents will help you.

On a return visit to her former home, Grace Kreps was heard to say, "It always was a place of love."

Membership Drive

Two months after announcing a major effort to double the membership of the Brea Historical Society during her first term as President, Edna Makins is looking for several committee chairpersons for:

1) Renewal Memberships
2) New Memberships
3) Sponsor Memberships

As of April 15, 1999, we have 111 Renewals, 2 New, 8 Sponsor and 2 Patron memberships in 1999 for a total of 123 members. Only 125 to go! Sounds like these committees will have their work cut out for them, but Edna says we will do it!





Kansas newsman Frank Hall (above right) became Brea Progress owner-publisher in 1947, when the paper's office was located in the Oilfields National Bank Building.
The Progress built its own Brea Blvd. office in the early 1950's.
Now you can get your FREE copy of the Brea Progress at the Brea Historical Society, 652 S. Brea Blvd. on Thursday 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM or Saturday 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Visit Our Web Site

http://www.ci.brea.ca.us/brea/depts/BreaHis/

Send Us E-Mail

BreaHist@pacbell.net

Board of Directors Non-Meeting

On Monday, April 5, 1999, the Board of Directors of the Brea Historical Society was scheduled to hold its monthly meeting at 7:00 PM, but only seven of the fourteen Directors met their commitment to attend. This failed to meet our bylaws quorum requirement of eight, so no business could be conducted.

Those present were Edna Makins, Lloyd Dudding, Jim Schweitzer, Karl Fanning, Wilma Sauer, Wade Mansur, and Audrey Smith. Absent and unaccounted were Jane O'Brien, Herc Roeser, and Mary Katheryn Parker. Absent and excused were Inez Fanning, illness, Aaron Eseltine, vacation, Howard Bryden, family from back east, and Geraldine Carpenter, death in family.

Because of a change in our bylaws in March which reduced the number of members of our Board of Directors to seven effective with the election in January of 2000, the quorum will be only four and this situation should not recur. However, we still have eight more Board of Director meetings in 1999 which require full participation by those elected to serve.

In fairness to fellow members of the Board of Directors, when a Member is unable to attend, a phone call to the President (714) 529-1755, eight hours before a Board Meeting would allow her to cancel the meeting for lack of a quorum and save other members from wasting their time.

Any Member who is unwilling to do this should submit his/her resignation. This would lower the number required for a quorum by one for each two resignations since the bylaws now state that vacancies shall not be filled unless the remaining members of the Board of Directors drops below seven and the quorum is adjusted accordingly.

Our Mail Bag...

Our mail bag was empty throughout the month, but on the last day for copy we received the following e-mail from our website.

I am a student researching the history of Brea and was wondering on how the city started and who were the founders. Please respond soon. Thanks

VOLUNTEER HOURS

January thru March 1999

Ann Juul	2:00
Edna Makins	23:30
Inez Fanning	3:30
Jane O'Brien	6:00
Jim Schweitzer	6:00
Karl Fanning	40.30
Kay Lorea	12.00
Lloyd Dudding	6:30
Sharon Dean	7:15
Steve Vargas	1:15
Vonnie French	10:15
Wade Mansur	16:15
Wilma Sauer	3:00
TOTAL HOURS	**138:00**

This report of volunteer hours does not include any of the volunteer time for Board of Directors' meetings or other activities by the executive officers.

Special thanks to our Patrons!

Pacific Western National Bank

George & Evelyn Shaffer

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Brea, CA 92822-9764

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Brea Historical Society
founded 1971

Historical Happenings

Vol. XVI, No. 5
May, 1999

Brea Historical Society
Edna Makins, President
(714) 529-1755
Inez Fanning, Vice President
(714) 529-2993
Jim Schweitzer, Secretary
(714) 529-0635
Lloyd Dudding, Treasurer
(714) 256-4324

Mailing Address:
Brea Historical Society
P.O. Box 9764
Brea, CA 92822

Office Location:
652 S. Brea Blvd.
(Brea Heights Shopping Center)
Telephone: (714) 256-2283

Copy Deadline:
Second Monday of the month

Printing Deadline:
Third Monday of the month

Mailing Deadline:
Third Friday of the month

Editor: Lloyd Dudding
(714) 256-4324

June Board Meeting:
Monday June 7, 1999
7:00 p.m. at the Brea Historical Society Office & Museum, 652 S. Brea Blvd. (Brea Heights Shopping Center)

May General Meeting:
Monday May 24, 1999
7:30 p.m. at the Brea Foursquare Church (corner of Ash and Brea Blvd.).



Olindans gather in front of Social Hall, April 30, 1917, where Jim Flynn hosted the Saturday Night Dance with a three-piece orchestra that played until midnight. Source - Brea Celebrating 75 Years© 1993

No! We did not feel deprived! Life was good in Olinda!

By Nora Brown McMillan

Olinda was a well-established, thriving community of oil leases when our family moved there in September, 1907. I was nine years old at the time, and remember riding on the wagon that brought our household goods up from Anaheim. As we rode down Hall's Hill I held my breath for fear the wagon would run down on the horses, the hill seemed so steep; and the popping of the gas engines was so loud, I wondered if we would ever be able to sleep. Today, in the automobile, Hall's Hill is hardly a bump in the road, and in three days time we were so acclimated to the popping of the gas engines, we didn't consciously hear them.

Most of my memories of Olinda come from eleven years of living on the Santa Fe Oil Lease, though we did sometimes live for a short while on other leases while Dad helped build the wooden derricks which dotted the landscape, a new one added whenever a new, well was to be sunk. Eventually Dad settled to a pumper job on the Santa Fe Lease. It was in the time of the 10- and 12-hour workday, and a pumper's shift was from noon to midnight, or midnight to noon. I used to feel sorry when Dad would sometimes have to get up on a cold, rainy midnight and trudge off to work with a cold breakfast in his lunchbox.

Continued on page 2

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Some of the leases besides the Santa Fe I recall as the Loftus, the Hall's, the Columbia, the Olinda, and a couple of small ones. The Fullerton and the Puente I think. Most of these leases had a main street lined with company-owned, houses which were rented by the month to the married employees. There were bunkhouses for the single men, with a boarding house nearby where these bachelors got their meals.

The board-and-batten houses mostly had only three or four rooms, some had five. Water was piped into the kitchens, but there were no inside bathrooms (in 1907). Gas was burned for heating, and also for lighting in one house in which we lived - gas lights with the fragile gas mantle which persistently crumbled if one did not handle it gently - but I do not recall gas lights on the Santa Fe Lease. I think electricity had already been installed there before we came.

Our family members totaled nine. Count us: Dad (Argus I. Brown), Mom (Maggie Brown), Alvis (Dutch), and his wife, Minnie, and baby, Florence (6 months old), Nellie, Earl, and the twins, Ora and myself (Nora).

We lived in one of those three-roomed houses for some months when we first went to Olinda until a larger house was available. Of course, the married brother's family moved themselves too,, as soon as another house could be obtained: and each time a better house was vacated, we would ask for it. As time went on rooms were added to some of the houses and bathrooms came to all. We finally had a fairly sizable house: Living room, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, a bathroom and a screen porch at the rear with canvas drop-curtains, which served as a comfortable third sleeping quarters.

Laundry was still done by hand on a washstand in large tin tubs which were set up in the covered area outside the kitchen door. These same tubs served for bathing until bathtubs were installed. Other spot-bathing came out of the granite wash basin which always hung on a nail in the kitchen.

Granted, our living quarters were sometimes cramped, but there was always ample ground for a miniature mid-west farm. Our yards were fenced and we managed always to have some sort of corral and shed where we kept a cow. We staked her out in the daytime to eat grass on the slope away from the houses. There were also a dozen or more Rhode Island Reds which gave us fresh eggs and fried chicken, or chicken and dumplings for the table. Mother always had a vegetable garden and flowers. Along about 1909 my brother, Earl, got his own horse and buggy which we managed to stable.

Did we feel deprived? No! One could sleep outside and fill the lungs with bracing fresh air, look up into the blue sky through glorious sunshine, find solace in a view of the velvet green hills, and when the orange groves down Placentia way were in blossom, our hills were bathed in such exquisite fragrance that one could close the eyes and breathe in heaven! We youngsters found coy yellow violets nestled close under the sagebrush in the springtime, and mariposa lilies growing straight and tall out of the grass. Even the clumps of cactus that dotted the hillsides were beautiful when the gorgeous yellow and red blossoms burst open. No! We did not feel deprived! Life was good in Olinda!

The main street on the Santa Fe Lease was referred to as Santa Fe Avenue. There was an east-west county road along the southern border of the lease, and the avenue branched north off this road to run up the south slope of one of those beautiful hills. A short distance east of Santa Fe Avenue, past the Fullerton and Puente leases, the county road entered the mouth of Carbon Canyon.

Santa Fe Avenue was the hub of much of the social activity in the area. There was a social hall at the north end of the avenue as well as a Grocery and Dry Goods Store, managed by Mr. Maurice Rey. Groceries and dry goods were charged by the residents from day to day and paid for at the end of the month when the paychecks came in - with a bag of candy as a reward for prompt payment. John Martin's Drugstore was also on the road.

Rey's grocery store did not stock fresh meat, so meat was brought from Fullerton in a horse-drawn covered cab. The "meat man" would drive up and down the street blowing a whistle and the housewives would go out and select the piece of meat they wanted from what he had to offer. Ice was likewise delivered from door to door by the "ice man" and there also was the "vegetable man". Our mail came R.F.D. out of Fullerton.

We were still very much in the horse-and-buggy days in 1907, so just east of Santa Fe Avenue in the "flat" on the north side of the county road, was Mr. Marcus Andrade's Livery Stable, Well-stocked with horses and buggies for hire to any who cared to go for a gallop or buggy ride. (The first automobile to come into our family was my brother Dutch's Ford in 1915.)

A spur of the Santa Fe Railroad came up through the draw to the south of Santa Fe Avenue, and the trains brought empty oil tank cars in and took oil-filled tank cars out. There was a Santa Fe Depot on the south side of the county road just where Santa Fe Avenue entered it. A Mr. Bowe was the station manager. I rode the train going twice to Redondo Beach. It was great fun.

The church, of course, was a source of social activity. Many in the community took their religion seriously and filled the air with song twice on Sunday and prayer meeting on Wednesday evening. We youngsters would not dream of missing a chance to dress in our Sunday best for Sunday school and for church in the evening where we would meet our boyfriend and slyly walk home together in the moonlight.

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

Then there were the activities connected with the social hall. Lodges held their meetings in it, music recitals were sometimes held there, but the biggest socializer of all was the Saturday night dance. Mr. Jim Flynn, a dapper, red-haired, red-moustached little Irishman was the genial host of these dances. An admittance fee was charged to pay for the three-piece orchestra which was hired to play until midnight, when refreshments were served in the hall basement. At times the crowd paid extra and hired the orchestra to play until 2 a.m.

I would not forget the Olinda Baseball Team! It was another source of great pleasure to the settlement. The local boys first played on a diamond in the "flat" by the livery stable. Walter Johnson, the well remembered big league ball pitcher, was one of the local boys who played there, but Walt had moved on up to the big leagues before Olinda's best known baseball team was formed. This team was managed by John Martin and the baseball diamond was back of Martin's Drugstore on the Hall's Lease. The games were played on Sunday afternoons and we filled the small grandstand to watch them.

In 1907 our education was taken care of in the two-room little Red School House on the Loftus Lease. It accommodated all eight grammar school grades. In 1909, the larger four-room Green School House was built on the "flat" just southeast of Santa Fe Avenue. The high school students were bused the nine miles to Fullerton Union High School.

My twin brother, Ora, and I had one year in the little Red School House, graduated from grammar school in the little Green School House, rode the bus the four years to graduate in Fullerton Union High School's Class of 1917. I even rode the bus another year to attend Fullerton Junior College. This is the pattern many Olinda youngsters followed.

About this time the idea for the Brea-Olinda High School was conceived and later on carried out. Ten years before Brea was hardly on the map. We knew it as Randolph, where the electric car ended its run out of Los Angeles. I remember going to Randolph twice in the buggy where we tied the horse in the shade of a big tree, caught the Electric Car into Los Angeles, did some shopping and rode the Electric Car back to Randolph for a fun day.

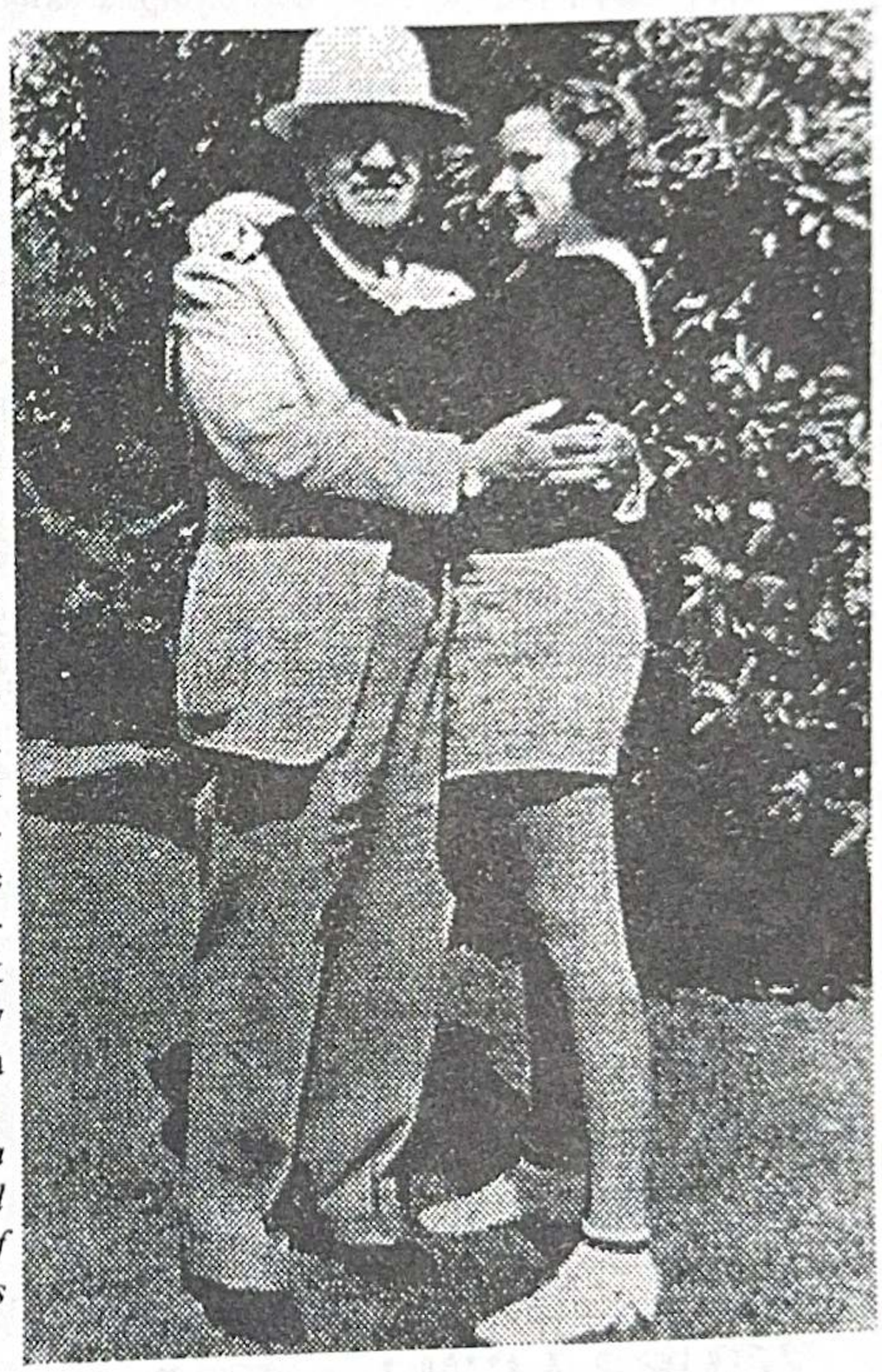
When Olinda was in its heyday, this area was a brush-tangled part of Ed Gaines' ranch where he ran cattle and hunted with his foxhounds. Today nothing is left to show that there once was a bustling, thriving community of hard-working, happy people living on the southern slope of these beautiful foothills in northern Orange County. All that remains of Olinda are the memories - even they have grown old and are fading away.

I recently ran across this interesting article and thought our members would enjoy it. Inez Fanning

JUDY GARLAND BOB'S NIECE

R. E. Gumm, proprietor of the Brea Theatre, has not only the distinction of being an old timer in the motion picture business, but he also has the good fortune of being the uncle of pretty Judy Garland, rapidly rising young star under contract with M.G.M. This snapshot of Bob and Judy was taken a few days before final "shots" were made of "Thoroughbreds Don't Cry" which is now showing at the Brea Theatre.

Source Brea Historical Society's achieve of The Brea Progress 1938.



Visit Our Web Site

http://www.ci.brea.ca.us/brea/depts/BreaHis/

Send Us E-Mail

BreaHist@pacbell.net

Don't Miss "Growing Up In Olinda"

An exciting and entertaining program featuring JACK SMITH will be presented at our next General Meeting, May 24, Monday evening, 7:30 p,rn, at the Foursquare Church, Ash St. & Brea Blvd. Free parking is available in the parking structure across from the church.

JACK SMITH was born and raised in Olinda and was the last student to graduate from the school. .The U.S, Corps of Engineers acquired the property from the Olinda Elementary School District which was used for the Carbon Canyon Darn.

Jack loved the outdoors and real country living. Bring the family, the grandchildren, and enjoy hearing about the fun and excitement of "Growing Up In Olinda".

Membership Drive

Three months after announcing a major effort to double the membership of the Brea Historical Society during her first term as President, Edna Makins is looking for several committee chairpersons for:

1) Renewal Memberships
2) New Memberships
3) Sponsor Memberships

As of May 13, 1999, we have 66 Individual, 48 Family, 7 Sponsor and 3 Patron memberships in 1999 for a total of 123 members. Only 125 to go! Sounds like these committees will have their work cut out for them, but Edna says we will do it!

VOLUNTEER HOURS

January thru March 1999

Ann Juul	2:00
Edna Makins	23:30
Inez Fanning	3:30
Jane O'Brien	6:00
Jim Schweitzer	6:00
Karl Fanning	40.30
Kay Lorea	12.00
Lloyd Dudding	6:30
Sharon Dean	7:15
Steve Vargas	1:15
Vonnie French	10:15
Wade Mansur	16:15
Wilma Sauer	3:00
TOTAL HOURS	**138:00**

This report of volunteer hours does not include any of the volunteer time for Board of Directors' meetings or other activities by the executive officers.

Special thanks to our Patrons!

Pacific Western National Bank

George & Evelyn Shaffer & June Hendricks

Brea **Historical Society**
'O Box 9764
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founded 1971

Historical Happenings

Vol. XVI, No. 7
July, 1999

Brea Historical Society
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(714) 529-2993
Jim Schweitzer, Secretary
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Lloyd Dudding, Treasurer
(714) 256-4324

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Brea, CA 92822

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(Brea Heights Shopping Center)
Telephone: (714) 256-2283

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Second Monday of the month

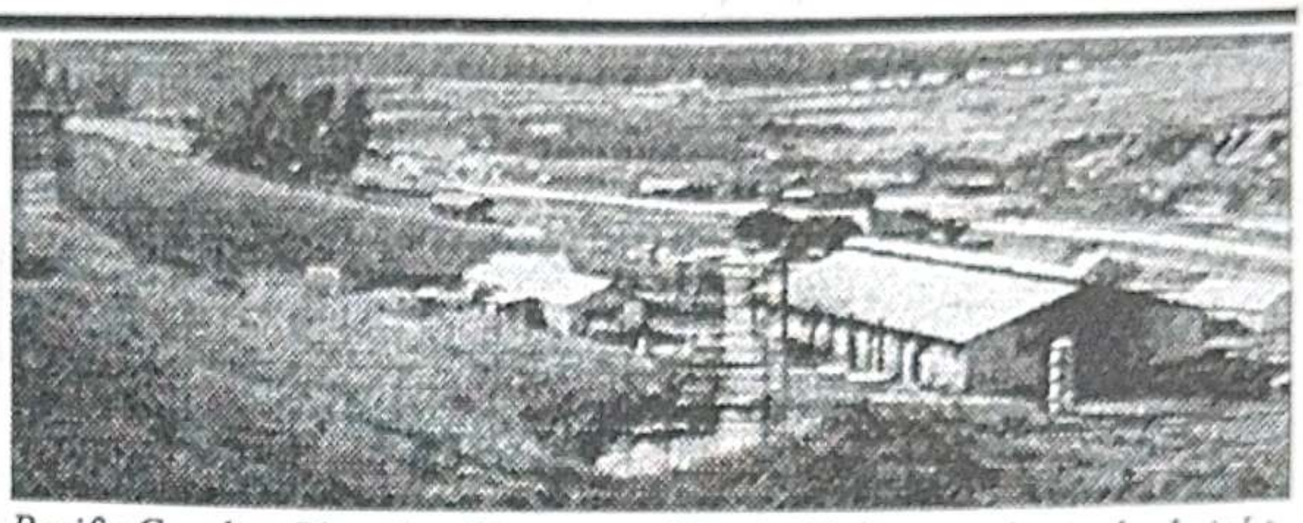
Printing Deadline:
Third Monday of the month

Mailing Deadline:
Third Friday of the month

Editor: Lloyd Dudding
(714) 256-4324

July Board Meeting:
Monday July 5, 1999
7:00 p.m. at the Brea Historical Society Office & Museum, 652 S. Brea Blvd. (Brea Heights Shopping Center)

July General Meeting:
Monday July 26, 1999
7:30 p.m. at the Brea Foursquare Church (corner of Ash and Brea Blvd.).



Pacific Gasoline Plant, handling most of Birch Oil Company's gas, had eight, eight-horse-power Bessemer gas engine compressors operated by natural gas. Production capacity was 4,000 gallons of gasoline per day. Pacific's was the first plant of this kind in California. Source - Brea Historical Society Photo Archive - Karl Fanning

Childhood Memories

Brea Canyon - 1923

by Inez Fanning

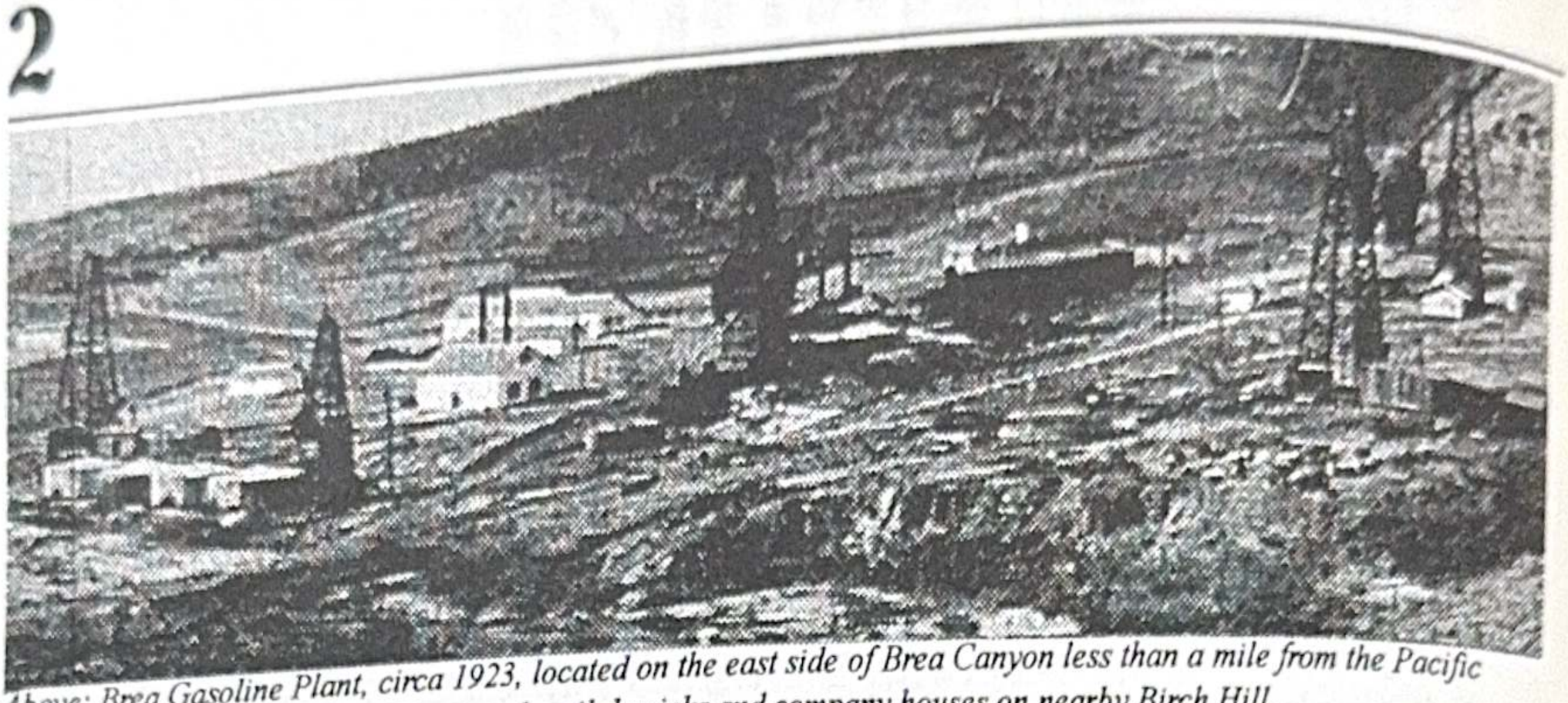
I grew up and with the city of Brea, having been born on North Orange Avenue a few weeks before the city was incorporated.

My family soon moved to 217 South Walnut Street and this place became "The Family Home". However, in 1923, my father became foreman of the Pacific Gasoline Plant in Brea Canyon and we moved to the "Company House" that went with the plant. That house was a tiny green square building.

Conversely, a gardener was provided for the grounds. Our drive rose from Brea Canyon Road on the right as you started up the canyon. Canyon County Drive now goes there, in its asphalt glory, from a traffic signal at the bottom of the hill. Our dirt driveway up the hill was lined with datepalm trees. I remember crying when we moved there because the road was too steep for my little brother to ride his bicycle down the hill.

In front of our house was a flag pole at the top of which a large "Stars and Stripes" flew every day. The flagpole was surrounded by a large round fish pond. The goldfish were beautiful. A rose garden going down the slope introduced me to the sight and fragrance of the American Beauty Rose and many other roses. A pergola covered with lavender wisteria posed at the top of the rose garden. The landscap-

Continued on page 2



Above: Brea Gasoline Plant, circa 1923, located on the east side of Brea Canyon less than a mile from the Pacific Gasoline Plant to the west. Below: are the oil derricks and company houses on nearby Birch Hill.

Continued from page 1

ing here was a child's garden of delight. Beautiful white roses climbed the fence behind the fishpond.

Wild flowers on the hills in the spring time, including yellow violets, blue elodea and red Indian paintbrushes, made small bouquets to bring home from hiking.

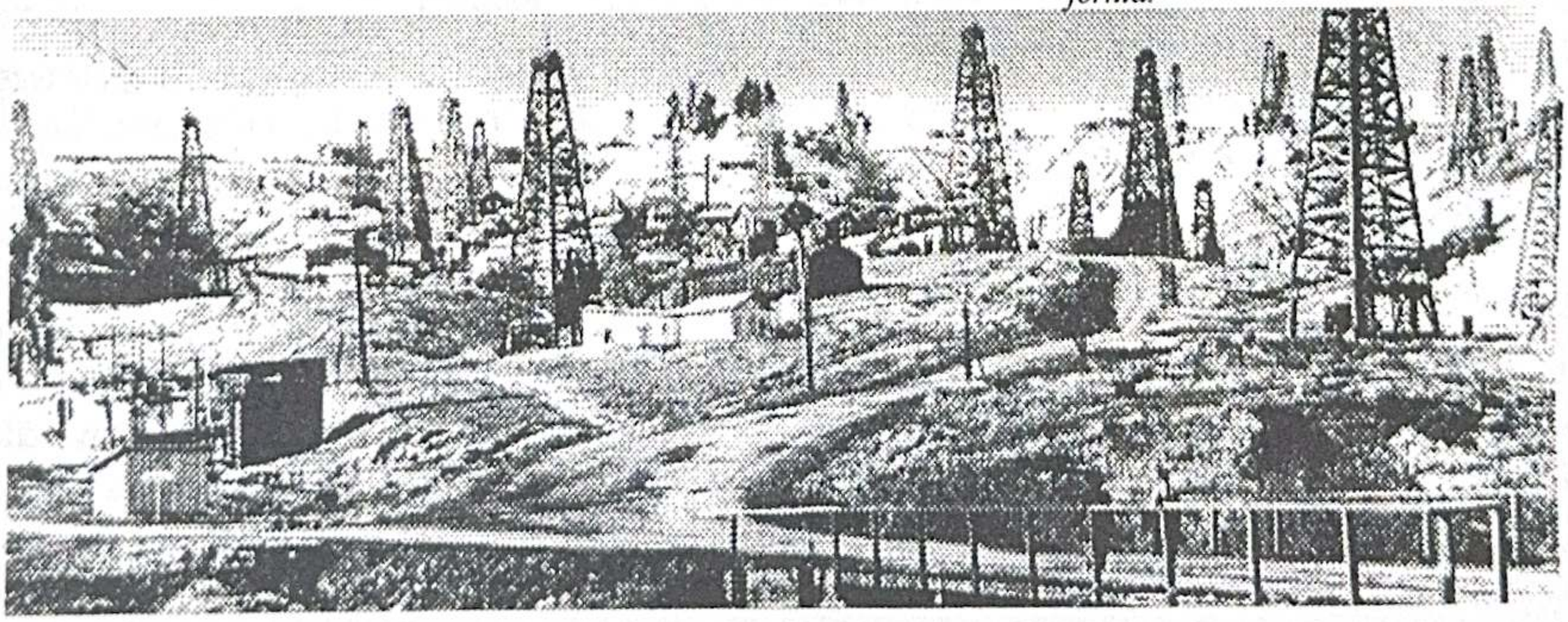
My father's duty covered 24 hours a day with a replacement on Sunday. Family times were precious. I played the piano by day and listened to the oil wells' pumping and the sounds of the plant's compressors at night. My brother played in the dirt with his toy cars and he did not ride his "trike".

My mother, feeling isolated, learned to drive the car, a Chevrolet touring car. Driving through Pepper Tree Lane, to the homes of relatives and friends in town was a pleasure. She loved to drive the car. One day mother became bold and took her friend, Bessie, to Los Angeles. There they each had their long hair "bobbed" (cut very short) and they managed to buy and wear long "drop" earrings on the way home.

Due to the pressure of a 24 hour responsibility at work, my father's health began to fail. His nights were an agony of asthma attacks. Fortunately, his hours were shortened and we moved back into town. Dad bought an old car to go to work in and he had to get up very early in the morning.

When my brother and I came out to the kitchen in the morning, he was just leaving for work. He put his old hat on his foot, kicked and caught it on his head as he waved good-bye and went out the door with a big smile for us.

E. Cramer, "Brea", p. 100, "Pacific Gasoline Plant, handling most of Birch Oil Company's gas, had eight, eight-horse-power Bessemer gas engine compressors operated by natural gas. Production capacity was 4,000 gallons of gasoline per day. Pacific's was the first plant of this kind in California."



3

Tax Relief to Owners of Historic Property

In 1972, California Senator James Mills introduced a little-publicized bill to grant property tax relief to owners of qualified historic properties. Historic properties that are owner-occupied single family residences and income producing commercial properties are recognized under the Mills' Act. The tax relief is to encourage homeowners to maintain and preserve their historic properties for all of us to visually enjoy.

A qualified historic property is one which is recognized and listed as historic on any official federal, state, county, city register or local survey listings that the local jurisdictional government recognizes.

Why is there an agreement between the homeowner and the city?

The responsibility for assuring that the homeowner uses the money for the preservation of the structure was left up to the jurisdictional local government, the City of Orange, hereafter referred to as "City." A formal agreement is executed between the City and the property owner for a minimum of ten years. In return, the property owner agrees to protect, preserve, and maintain the historical and architectural character of the property in accordance with the specified historic preservation standards and conditions set forth by the City.

Periodic inspections of the property by the City planning officials ensure that the proper maintenance of the property is accomplished. The City can impose very stiff penalties for breach of the agreement if the property is not maintained.

The City will assess a fee for the submission of an Agreement application, but Government Code 50281.1 states that it is "not to exceed the reasonable costs of administering the program."

What Are The Benefits Of A Mills Act Agreement?

Reduced property tax to the qualified homeowner, who redirects the tax moneys "saved" into the preservation of the property, work for local contractors and purchase of restoration materials.

The City at large, in that there is an increase in the value of historic homes and surrounding homes by the very nature of maintenance and preservation.

Visually improves the physical environment of the community and its historic landmarks

Provides revenue source to the City via application fees and issuance of permits for work performed under the agreement

How Will The Agreement Effect Other Taxpayers?

Revenues to the City from property taxes on all *historic homes* represent approximately $380,000 or less than 0.04% of the total City budget. A property tax reduction under the Mills Act to a qualified homeowner is approximately 75% of the current tax on the property. Since it is anticipated that 10% of the 1400 historic homeowners might submit an application, the potential loss of revenue to the City is $21,000 or less. If an application fee of $150 were charged to each of the 140 applicants the revenues from submission would be $21,000. It is concluded that the passing of the Mills Act will have no financial negative impact to the City or to concerned taxpayers.

Send Us E-Mail

BreaHist@pacbell.net

Visit Our Web Site

http://www.ci.brea.ca.us/brea/depts/BreaHis/

Festival In The Park

On Saturday, July 3, 1999, the Brea Historical Society will have a booth near the oil tool exhibit at the south end of Old City Hall for the annual Festival In The Park event in Brea. We will not be selling anything but ideas. Stop by to sign a petition for the renaming of the park to Schweitzer Park or to learn more about Brea's Historical Society or renew your membership for 1999 if you haven't yet.

Our Mail Bag...

I came across information about your society through my daughter, still living in Brea. I am presently writing my memoirs and my memoirs is getting a little fuzzy! Any information you publish would be of help.[If I get help in remembering, Is it still a Memoir ?] Anyway, My grandfather worked on the Stearns lease for years. I believe he settled there in 1913-16. His name was John P. Johnson and my grandmother Carrie was a sister to Livonia Ledbetter. We lived[ended up living until 1943] across the street from the Case store and next door to the Collins family.I was born there in 1935 and attended school K-3 grades, I think?[see what I mean ? I would appreciate an application for membership . My 'e' mail is : mj1@teleport.com and postal adress is: Ron L. Johnson 1034 Columbia st. Cathlamet Wa. 98612. Thank you very much.....

VOLUNTEER HOURS

January thru June 18, 1999

Aaron Eseltine	1:15
Ann Juul	3:00
Catherine Seiler	2:00
Edna Makins	56:00
Inez Fanning	8:00
Jane O'Brien	6:00
Jim Schweitzer	6:00
Karl Fanning	71.15
Kay Lorea	34.00
Lloyd Dudding	17:00
Sharon Dean	7:15
Steve Vargas	1:15
Vonnie French	33:15
Wade Mansur	49:00
Wilma Sauer	9:00
TOTAL HOURS	**304:15**

This report of volunteer hours does not include any of the volunteer time for Board of Directors' meetings or other activities by the executive officers.

Special thanks to our Patrons!

Pacific Western National Bank

George & Evelyn Shaffer & June Hendricks

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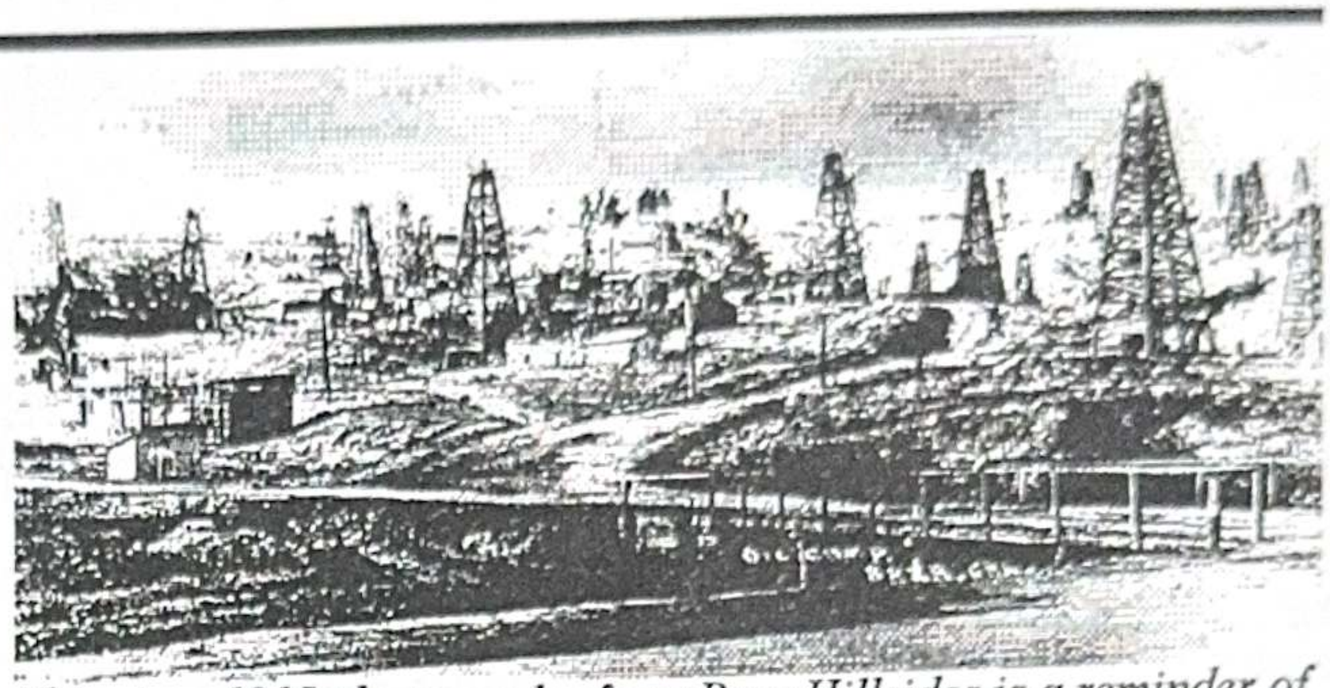
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Editor: Lloyd Dudding
(714) 256-4324

Sept. Board Meeting:
Tuesday, September 7, 1999
7:00 p.m. at the Brea Historical Society Office & Museum, 652 S. Brea Blvd. (Brea Heights Shopping Center)

September Fund-raiser:
Tuesday September 14, 1999
6:30 p.m. at the Brea Bistro, (come at 5:30 for no host bar), great speaker, food and fun.



This circa 1915 photograph of our Brea Hillsides is a reminder of what uncontrolled development toward obtaining the most economical return on investment by landowners once looked like. Source - Brea Historical Society Photo Archives - Karl Fanning

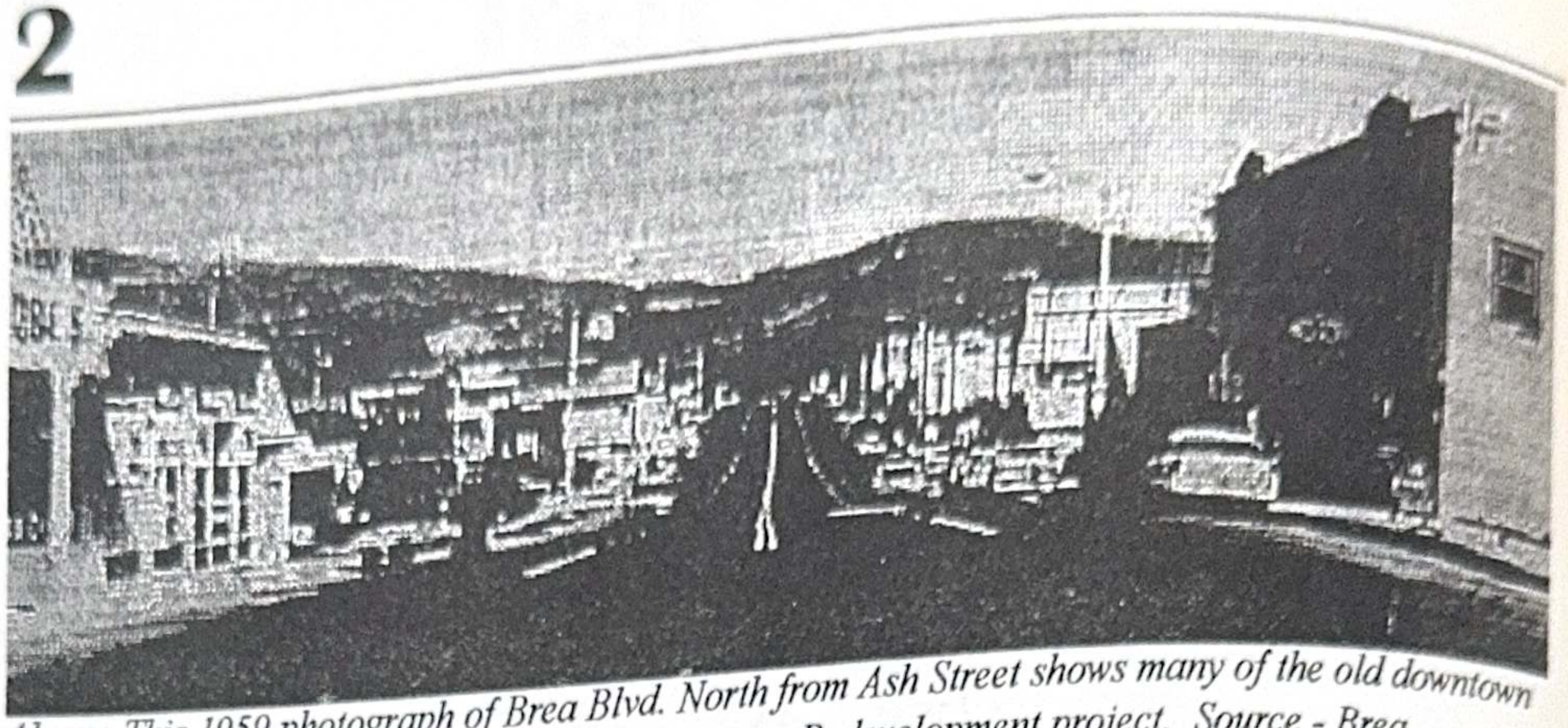
Future Development of Our Hillsides...

Dear Brea Citizen,

Last night we heard the results of the Sphere of Influence Community Meeting where Breans let us know their feelings on development to the north of our city. As Roy Moore said, we know that most Breans would choose to have no development on the hillsides. However, we also know that the landowners have property rights based on Supreme Court rulings to develop their property and to get an economically viable rate of return.

Based on the community input we plan to continue to keep the community involved as development is considered and use the report to evaluate proposals. Some of the other recommendations involved reaching out to our young people, securing school sites, exploring alternatives to massive grading for soil remediation, providing a variety of housing types and working with LA County to protect ridgelines, open space, wildlife corridors, traffic etc. in LA County (north of the western portion of Brea). The council chose to add one recommendation because of its frequency in the responses: aggressively work with property owners to protect ridgelines. If you have a chance to read the report, I am sure you will be struck, as

Continued on page 2



Above: This 1959 photograph of Brea Blvd. North from Ash Street shows many of the old downtown buildings which are now being replaced by the Brea Redevelopment project. Source - Brea Historical Society Photo Archives.

Continued from page 1

we all were, with the emphasis on ridgelines by the participants.

The report goes to the Planning Commission for comment and then will come back to the council for final approval. We also approved hiring some more staff to provide technical/computer services to ourselves and other cities. Interestingly, these new employees will be paid for from the "profit" we make selling our services to other cities. In addition, next year our general fund will realize a "profit" of $250,000 from these entrepreneurial activities by Brea staff. This is quite a success story!

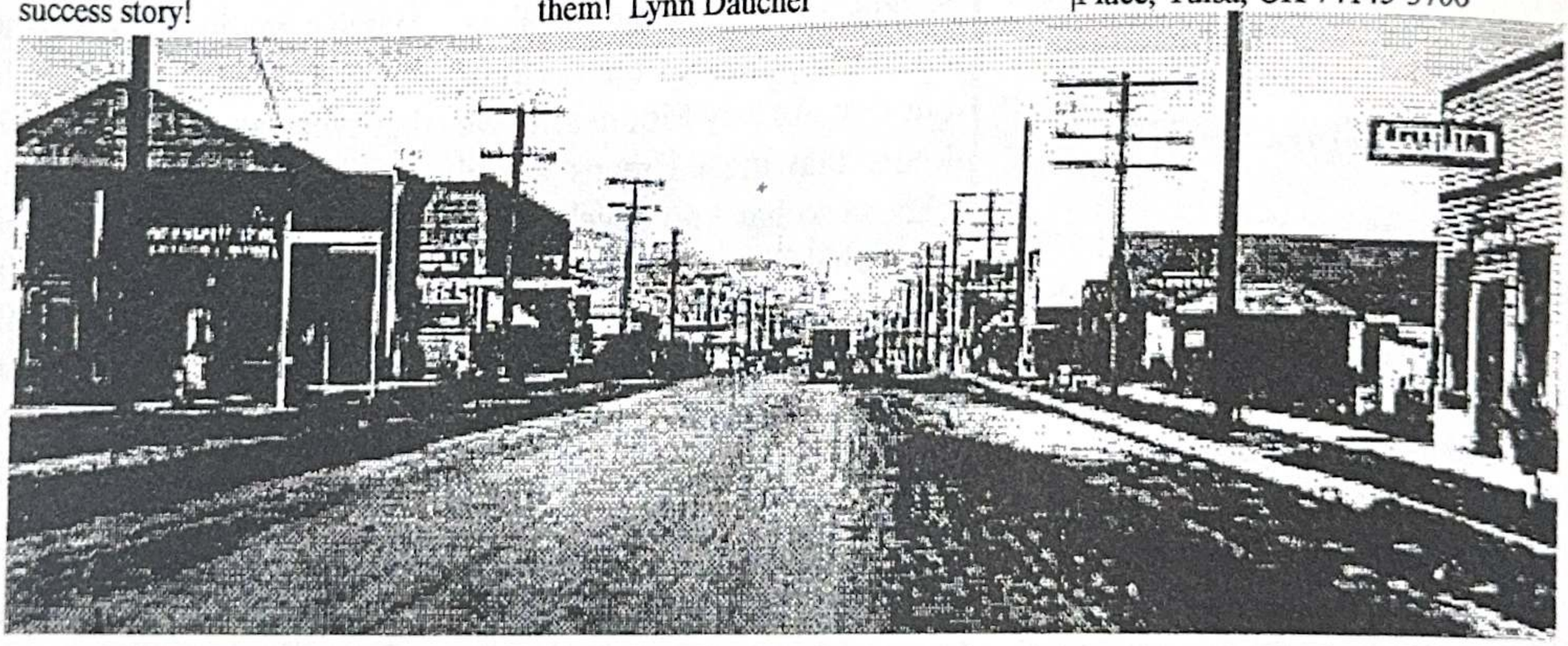
Finally, we discussed allowing the renters of the Birch Street loft apartments to park overnight in reserved spaces in the parking structures. Staff had proposed one reserved space but we wanted to make sure that a second car could also park somewhere legally. This will be done administratively.

Please check out the "Red Light Violators-$271 Fine" sign at the corner of Lambert and Berry. As you may recall we had a tragic accident involving a car running a red light recently. This sign is now allowed by state law and I am proud that our city has acted to display them. You will be seeing more of them! Lynn Daucher

Fall Fling Y'all Come

Our Mail Bag...

I really enjoyed the article about Walt Bergman. We have visited several times when he has been in Arizona. My new address is the home of June Ward Childress who attended Brea schools 5th grade through high school. Gladys Ward, 8845 E. 40th |Place, Tulsa, OK 74145-3706



Above: This circa 1929 photograph of Brea Blvd. (then Pomona Ave.) North from Imperial Hwy., shows how the street scene had changed after 30 years of natural redevelopment from the view shown in the 1959 photo. Source - Brea Historical Society Photo Archives.

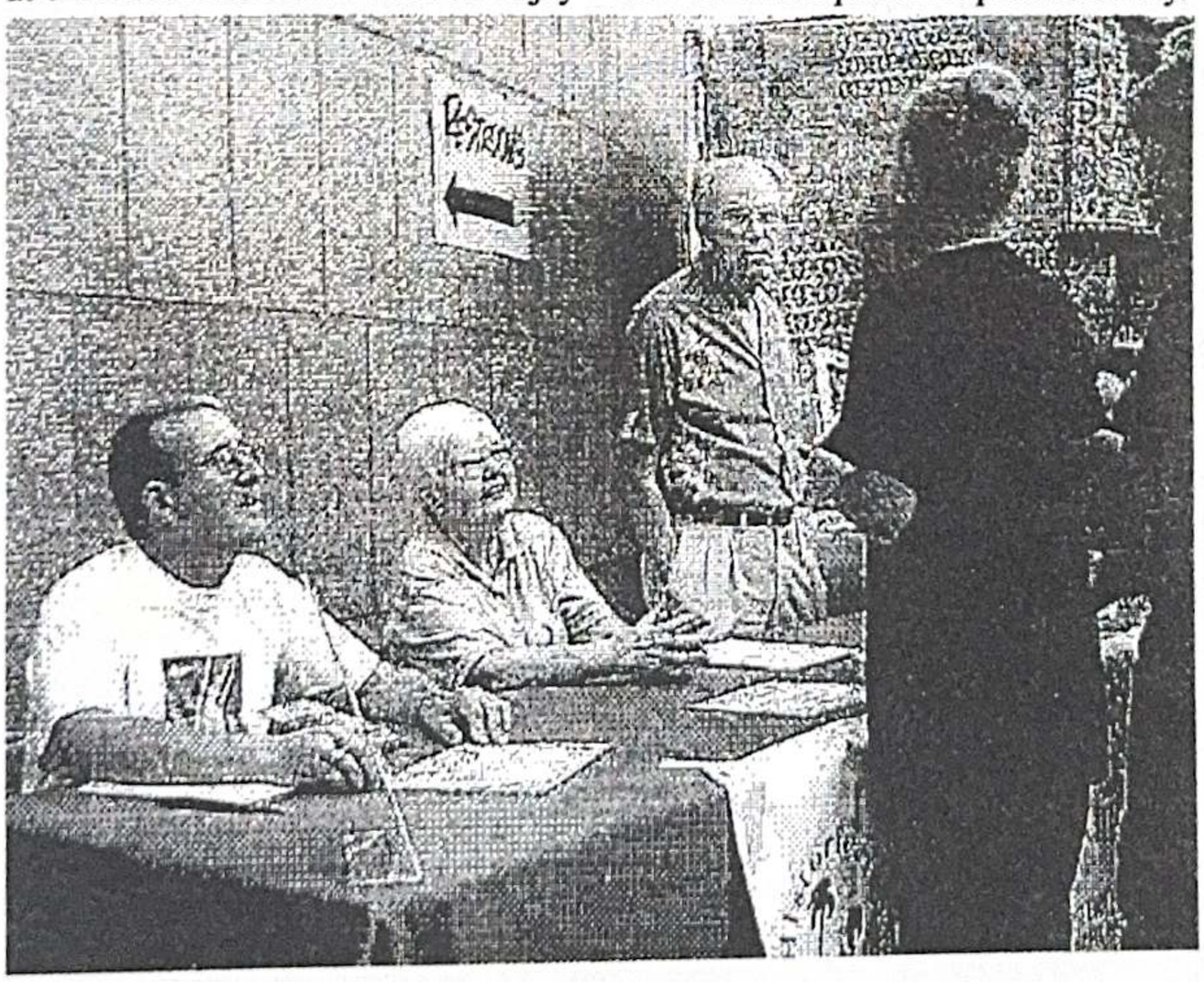


Ashley Schweitzer and her father, Don Schweitzer not shown, visited our booth at Brea Fest where Fall Fling tickets were sold.

Fall Fling September 14th

"Ticket sales have been brisk", reports Aaron Eseltine, chairman of this year's only fund-raising event. "Everyone remembers last year's event at the Brea Bistro and what an enjoyable evening it was for everyone". "We expect to be sold out a week before based on the limited number we can accommodate inside the Brea Bistro". "If you don't have a R.S.V.P., call me, Aaron Eseltine, at 529-2722 or Lloyd Dudding at 256-4324 before mailing your check to our P.O. Box 9764". Tickets are $25.00 each person.

Gary Canavello, Brea native, is looking forward to being our featured speaker. In addition he will treat us to a couple of songs. Gary has a beautiful voice and performs professionally.



Brea Net

I thought I would check in and let you know I survived our visit to our sister city, Lagos de Moreno, Mexico. It was a vacation for my wife, Deanna and me. We stayed at the home of one of Lagos' councilmen. He and his wife and family (11 children, ages 5-30) were very gracious and have adopted us into their family (as if they needed to grow larger).

Before I left for Lagos I had a tour of the Birch Street portion of our new downtown. The goal is to have an official opening sometime in October but stores are now opening as they become ready. I thought you might be interested in the stores in the downtown. Starting at the SW corner of Brea Blvd. and Birch St. and heading west:

Building A- (construction not started) First floor-Pottery Barn; Second and third floors are apartments. Building B- Michael Nusskern Clothing, Sarah Bain Gallery, Kahuna 8, Folk Creations, Promenade Foot-ware, Chicos, Market City Café. Building C- First floor no tenant yet. Second floor daycare center while parents shop, eat at restaurants or attend the theater. Building D- First floor-Rene Collection, Bath and Body, Starbucks, Color Me Mine, Dairy Queen, Wetzel Pretzel, Jamboree Juice, We B Keepsake Gift Shop, Artist Alchemy, Antidote Clothing. The Second and third floors are apartments. Building E- First floor-The Furniture Trader. The Second floor contains apartments. Building F- Located at the end of Birch St. and in front of the second parking structure. First floor is the Maui Beach Café. Second floor is a fitness center. Building G- Located in front and to the west of Edwards 10 Theater. Fresca's Mexican Grill, Blimpie Subs and Salads, Kelley's Coffee and Fudge. Building H- Located in front and to the east of Edwards 10 Theater. McConnell's Ice Cream, Dragon Bowl, Fat Burger.

That's it for now. Until next time.

Roy Moore

Come on in and receive a FREE regular 6" sub with the purchase of any sub of equal or greater value.

Historical Happenings Coupon

Blimpie SUBS & SALADS

It's a beautiful thing.™

Birch Street Promenade Store - Offer Good Through 9/15/99

Please present the coupon before ordering. One coupon per visit. Customer must pay any sales tax due. Not good in combination with any other offer. Not valid with Value Menu or Combo Menu. Cash value 1/100 of $0.01.

Historical Happenings Coupon

Dairy Queen



FREE - One Small Dipped Cone.

Reg. $1.39
Offer Good Through 9/15/99
260 W. Birch St. Store.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

January thru Aug. 21,, 1999

Aaron Eseltine	3:00
Ann Juul	8:30
Catherine Seiler	2:00
Edna Makins	119:45
Inez Fanning	12:30
Jane O'Brien	6:00
Jim Schweitzer	14:30
Karl Fanning	113:45
Kay Lorea	65:30
Lloyd Dudding	28:30
Mary Kathryn Parker	1.45
PJ Mansur	1.45
Sharon Dean	7:15
Steve Vargas	2:45
Vonnie French	64:45
Wade Mansur	83:15
Wilma Sauer	11:00
TOTAL HOURS	**546:30**

This report of volunteer hours does not include any of the volunteer time for Board of Directors' meetings or other activities by the executive officers.

Special thanks to our Patrons!

Pacific Western National Bank

George & Evelyn Shaffer & June Hendricks

Brea Historical Society
P.O. Box 9764
Brea, CA 92822-9764

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 117
Brea, California

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Send Us E-Mail

BreaHist@pacbell.net

Visit Our Web Site

http://www.ci.brea.ca.us/brea/depts/BreaHis/

Brea Historical Society
founded 1971

Historical Happenings

Vol. XVI, No. 10
October 1999

Brea Historical Society
Edna Makins, President
(714) 529-1755
Inez Fanning, Vice President
(714) 529-2993
Jim Schweitzer, Secretary
(714) 529-0635
Lloyd Dudding, Treasurer
(714) 256-4324

Mailing Address:
Brea Historical Society
P.O. Box 9764
Brea, CA 92822

Office Location:
652 S. Brea Blvd.
(Brea Heights Shopping Center)
Telephone: (714) 256-2283

Copy Deadline:
Second Monday of the month

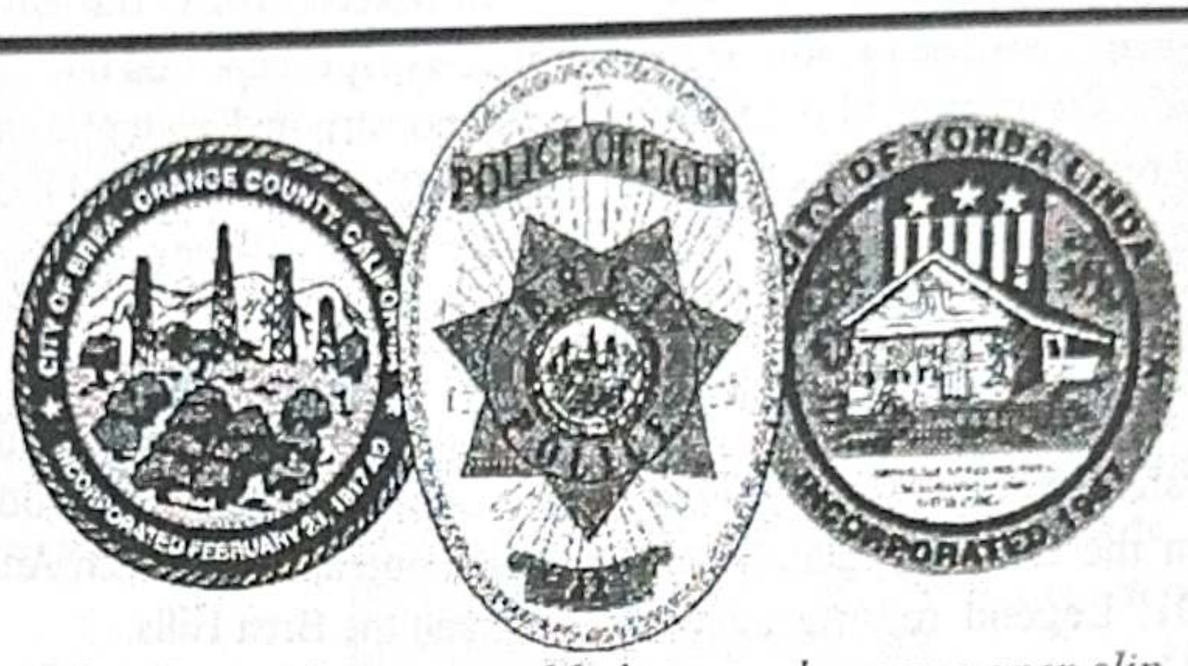
Printing Deadline:
Third Monday of the month

Mailing Deadline:
Third Friday of the month

Editor: Lloyd Dudding
(714) 256-4324

Oct. Board Meeting:
Monday, October 4, 1999
7:00 p.m. at the Brea Historical Society Office & Museum, 652 S. Brea Blvd. (Brea Heights Shopping Center)

Oct. General Meeting:
Monday October 25, 1999
7:30 p.m. at the Brea Foursquare Church (corner of Ash and Brea Blvd.).



If you have any information, old photographs, newspaper clippings, artifacts, or other memorabilia, about the history of law enforcement in Brea and Yorba Linda and the men and women who have served these communities, please contact Sergeant Dennis Gray at 990-7639, or e-mail dennisg@ci.brea.ca.us.

A History of the Brea Police Department

by Sergeant Dennis Gray

Editor's Note: With this volume of Historical Happenings we begin the serialization of the work of Sgt. Dennis Gray of the Brea Police Department detailing the history of the department.

There has been little effort to record the history of the Brea Police Department. As you will soon see, this agency has been innovative throughout its existence. This History is a "work in progress" and is not yet complete. We would welcome and appreciate your assistance.

The Beginning

The history of the law enforcement in Brea goes back to a time before the city was incorporated. On March 8, 1916, George Bird was appointed the first constable of the town of Brea. He served as constable until 1920, walking a foot-beat downtown with a badge and stick. His job was multifaceted: He was paid $50 per month for policing and keeping order, $25 as the street superintendent, $10 as the tax collector, and $5 as the pound master ($90.00 total). Most streets were dirt. There were 44 automobiles registered in the town in 1916. At the same time, Isaac Craig was appointed Justice of the Peace. His office and "chambers" were located in his

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

home at 338 N. Orange.

The city of Brea was incorporated on February 23, 1917. Within a week, Harry Winchell was appointed the first City Marshall. Winchell's son, H.N. "Frog" Winchell (who passed away recently) was usually at his father's side during patrols. There were 106 autos registered in Brea the first year of incorporation. I.N. Hurst took over as City Marshall on January 1, 1919, when the city's population was 1,491. Legend reports he was well known for the effective use of his cane in gaining compliance while enforcing the law. Typical crimes for the time included keeping the railroad workers in line, and dealing with drunken oil field workers.

The 1920's

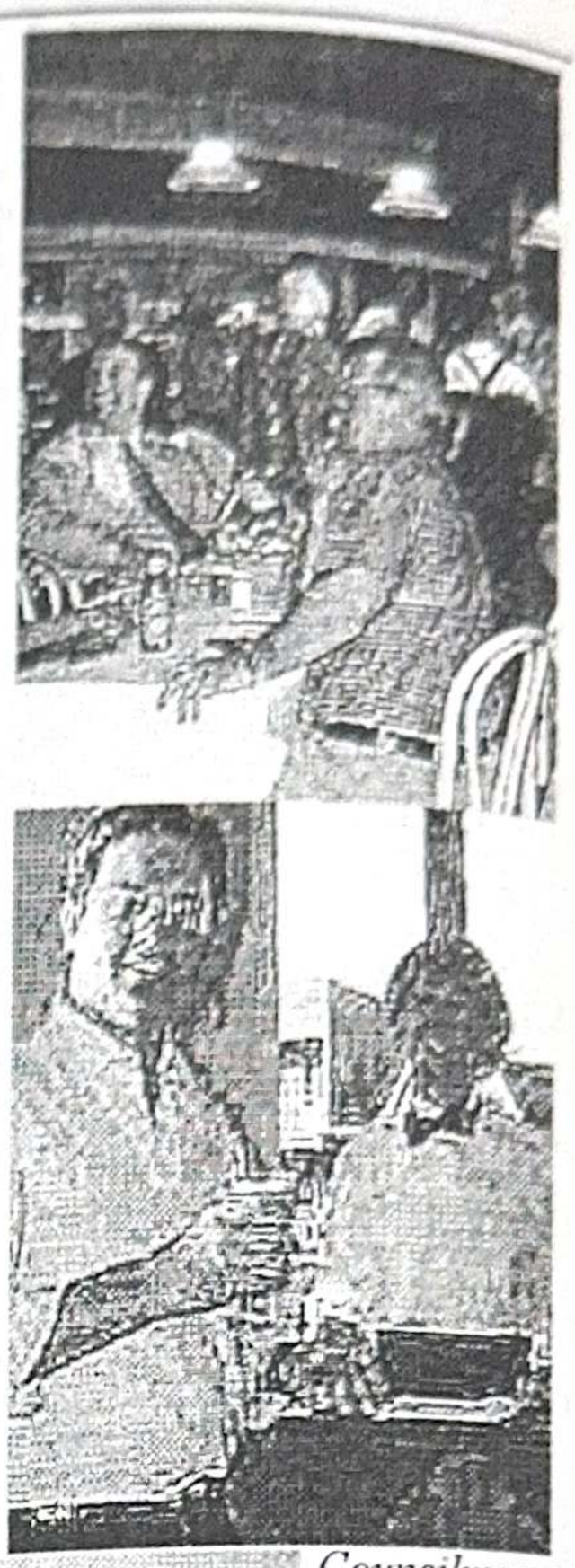
Appointed marshals in the 1920's included D.O. Stegman, J.E. Stone, E.P. Rudy and James C. Looney. A 'call box' was installed at the corner of Ash St. and Pomona Ave (Brea Bl.) that was a direct line to the marshal's home.

In 1921, Charles McClure was appointed the first Chief of Police, and the Brea Police Department was established. The police department was made up of the chief, marshals and night watchmen. Early the following year, the city purchased a California Penal Code for the police department. Also in 1922, Brea Canyon Road was opened, becoming a major route connecting Orange County and the Pomona Valley. A marked increase in traffic was noted. Marshal Looney used his personal motorcycle, a red Indian, for traffic enforcement in the town.

In March, 1923, the Brea Star newspaper reported that the newly constructed water tower on north Pomona has a red light installed on top. When turned on, the light signaled police officers to respond for an emergency call. And city's three officers were kept busy . . . controlling bootleggers operating between Anaheim and the Brea Hills.

The new Brea City Hall at 401 S. Brea was completed in January 1929. It included the offices for the police department and the first town jail. During this time, W. H. (Harry) Williams was appointed Chief of Police.

Continued Next Month





Councilman Steve Vargas makes a stop, but not before he checks in with Wilma Sauer.

***Above**; Howard Bryden, Master of Ceremonies, and Fall Fling Chairman Aaron Eseltine caught in an animated conversation at the sign-in desk. **Top Right**; Nelson Aguirre and Al Tremayne chat with the Mayor who is just out of view.*





Gary Canavello and Edna Makins shared memories of Gary's school bus rides as a kindergartner on Edna's school bus.

Fall Fling Fun!



Jon Lyng and Kriston Crawford prepare to serve 68 dinners; below Karl Fanning chats with Gary.



Mayor Marty Simonoff in lively conversation with banker Nelson Aguirre.





Councilman Roy Moore listens intently to Bob Bickel. Councilwoman Lynn Daucher attended, but avoided the cameraman.

Chef Tom LeCroy makes a final check on the evening's main dishes of Beef Stroganoff and Chicken Fussily.





President Edna Makins caught in the act of chatting enthusiastically about the Historical Society as she went from table to booth.

Our Mail Bag...

From: Marty Simonoff

Lloyd, you are correct in indicating that there has been discussion regarding the old police facility. The council in the past has been approached by the Boys & Girls Club. The Council indicated that if the Boy's & Girls Club desired to utilize this building that specific criteria established by the Council would need to be meet. This criteria included the maintaining of the status of the park on the Historic Register. The entire council has not seen a formal proposal from the Boys & Girls Club, and no decision has been made with regards to their usage of the building.

I will tell you that I have been contacted by the Boys & Girls Club and they have discussed certain plans they have and what they would like to do at the site to permit their needs to be met. An open parking structure was never mentioned in any conversation that I have had, and this may be a misunderstanding as to what they have suggested (if they have changed their plans, I have not been informed). What I was told was that they desire to put underground parking at the park. The parking would be below the existing basketball court. This means they would remove and replace the basketball court, and they have indicated that it would likely be replaced with a court that would be slightly larger and permit additional public play. Seismic upgrading would be a part of any proposal for the usage of the building, this is a must item, so this would be expected. The issue of building a gymnasium next to the building would need to be done is such a manner that the park would not lose its place on the Historic Register, if that is possible.

The most important aspect of this issue is that no decision has been made by the Council regarding this building. When a proposal in submitted and all required follow-up work is completed the proposal must be examined to ascertain that the Council criteria has been met. If this is done then, and only then will the item come forward to the entire council for discussion and action.

I hope this addresses your concerns. Though I believe the Boys & Girls Club will be moving forward, I believe it is premature to pass judgment until all of the information is submitted and reviewed. Also, much like the issue now surrounding Old City Hall Park, public input is an important aspect of the decision making process and your concerns are valid and not in any way premature.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

January thru Sept. 20, 1999

Aaron Eseltine	5:00
Ann Juul	11:30
Catherine Seiler	2:00
Edna Makins	134:45
Inez Fanning	12:30
Jane O'Brien	6:00
Jim Schweitzer	20:30
Karl Fanning	121:15
Kay Lorea	71:45
Lloyd Dudding	32:00
Mary Kathryn Parker	1.45
PJ Mansur	1.45
Sharon Dean	7:15
Steve Vargas	2:45
Vonnie French	71:00
Wade Mansur	83:15
Wilma Sauer	13:00
TOTAL HOURS	598:00

This report of volunteer hours does not include any of the volunteer time for Board of Directors' meetings or other activities by the executive officers.

Special thanks to our Business Patrons!

Pacific Western National Bank

Tapps Fish House & Brewery

Brea Historical Society
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Brea, CA 92822-9764

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Historical Happenings

Vol. XVI, No. 11
November 1999

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Inez Fanning, Vice President
(714) 529-2993
Jim Schweitzer, Secretary
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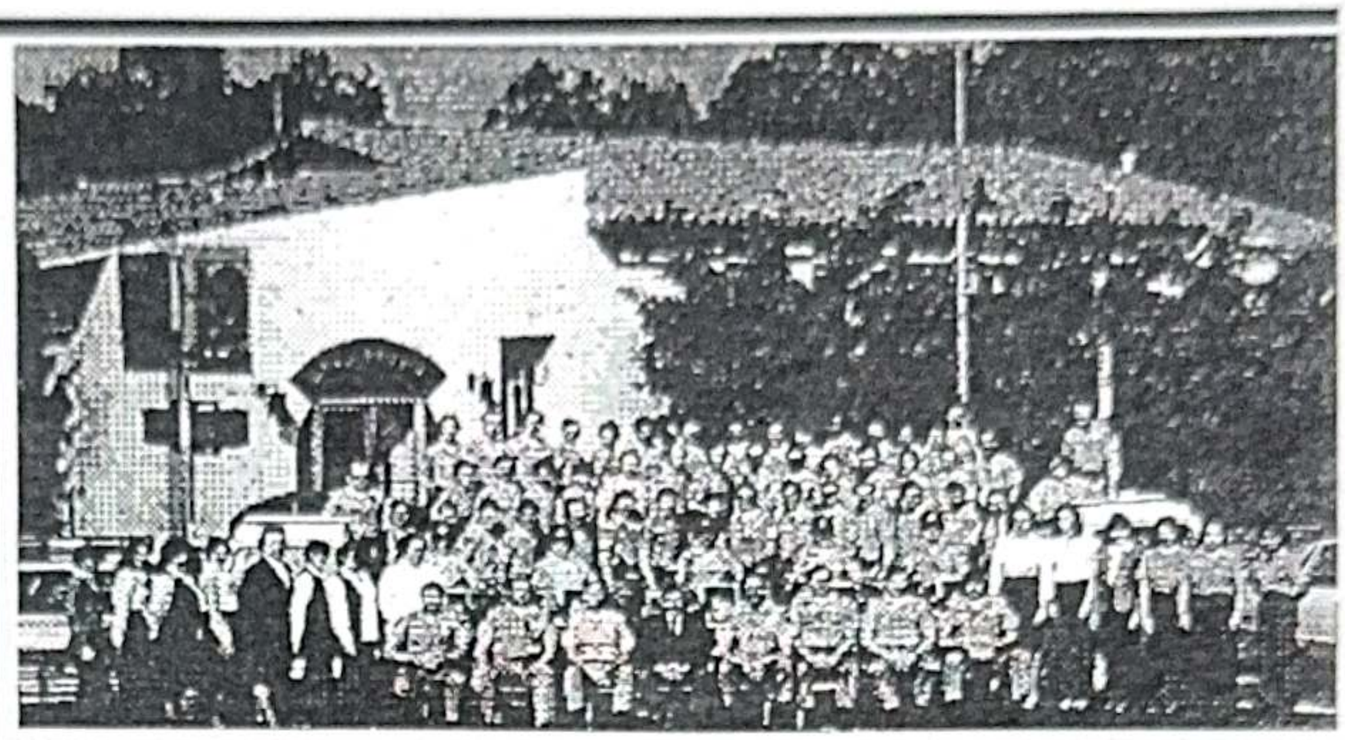
Printing Deadline:
Third Monday of the month

Mailing Deadline:
Third Friday of the month

Editor: Lloyd Dudding
(714) 256-4324

Nov. Board Meeting:
Monday, November 1, 1999
7:00 p.m. at the Brea Historical Society Office & Museum, 652 S. Brea Blvd. (Brea Heights Shopping Center)

Nov. General Meeting:
Monday November 22, 1999
7:30 p.m. at the Brea Foursquare Church (corner of Ash and Brea Blvd.).



Brea Police Department photo taken in January 1981 in front of the Brea Police Headquarters Building in City Hall Park. Donated to Brea Historical Society by Norman Wilson.

A History of the Brea Police Department

by Sergeant Dennis Gray

The 1930's

On March 10, 1932, the Brea Police Department moved into the modern era. Police radios were installed. Chief Ellis of the Fire Department built the radios. Calls received at city hall were diverted to the Los Angeles Police Department and then relayed over the radio to the police officer. This early radio offered no communication between the officers and the police station directly. Brea was only the second city in the state to acquire police radios. Later that year, Carbon Canyon Road was completed as a paved arterial to the Inland Empire.

1933 was a busy year for the small police department with some unusual occurrences to contend with. On January 11, 80-mph winds buffeted the city. Damages countywide exceeded $1 million dollars (in 1933 money!). Old-time residents claim it to be the worst windstorm in memory. Then on March 10, the earth shook in what became known as the Long Beach Earthquake. Police and Brea residents assisted victims of that quake for several days, opening homes and shelters for those whose homes had been destroyed.

An officer's salary in 1933

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

was $200 per month and benefits: 50 gallons of gasoline (later 100), paid auto insurance and phone bills. The next year, the historic "Welcome to Brea" sign was erected across Pomona Ave., south of Birch St.

In 1936, a building was completed that would one day play a major role for the police department. The headquarters of the Brea American Legion and the Brea Women's' Club at 495 S. Pomona Ave. was dedicated on March 13. Years later, this building would become the police department.

Modernization continued in 1938 when Chief Williams developed a records filing system to document police activities. A monthly report written by the chief documented the number of arrests, dates of arrests, names and addresses of those arrested, and the identity of arresting officers. These reports were filed at City Hall. Gambling was one of the major crime concerns of '38. There were three officers in the Brea Police Department in 1938.

Imperial Highway was being developed as a major throughway from Los Angeles east. The segment between Brea and Yorba Linda was completed in 1938. The passenger rail line (red car) was discontinued shortly thereafter. With increasing vehicular traffic, the police department purchased a new 1939 Oldsmobile sedan as its first police car.

The 1940's

In 1941 James Pearson was appointed Chief. That year the department purchased some new equipment: a 1941 Ford to replace Brea's first police car, a .38 caliber pistol, and two pairs of handcuffs. That equipment was put to use when the Oilfield National Bank at Pomona Ave and Ash St. was robbed. Little information is now known of the incident. The crooks got away with $2,846.00.

Technology moved on when, in 1942, a new radio system was installed. Three radios were purchased from Brea Electric Co. at $51.25 each. One was placed at City Hall, and two were placed in patrol cars. The department's call sign was "MQAD."

The Department roster in 1942 was: Chief James Pearson, Officer William Atkins, and Officer R.W. Philips. The chief worked 12 hours a day. Each officer worked 10 hours a day. Everyone worked six days a week.

William Atkins was appointed chief in 1946. The first red curbs were painted on city streets that year. On New Years Day, 1947, Harvey Moore was appointed township judge. He served until October 31, 1952. He was the last judge in town. His office was in the city hall next to the police chief's. He is best remembered for his hard stand on drunken driving. He routinely handed out $200.00 fines to violators, a stiff sentence at the time. When he retired due to poor health, trials were moved to the county seat in Santa Ana.

Radio communications improved in 1947 when the city went on-line with the rest of Orange County, instead of Los Angeles. A telephone "landline" was established to other cities in the county. The department's radio call signal changed to "KMA-152."

The police department purchased a 1947 Chevrolet "Stylemaster" and tear gas equipment in 1947. The department also began furnishing uniforms for its five officers, after establishing a standardized uniform style. It was dark blue.

There were five department personnel at the beginning of 1947. As the year progressed, the city's first "Auxiliary Reserve" officer, Ken Irby, was appointed to a part time position. The department's first sergeant, Keith Barress, was hired at a salary of $340.00. Sergeant Barress was assigned as the first juvenile officer, but wore a uniform. The department's first female employees started this year also. Police Matrons Louise Farwell and Grace Westerhout handled clerical and dispatch work. Matron Ann Penrod became the chief's secretary.

1949 brought snow to Brea, falling on January 11 and leaving drifts for much of the day in town and more than one day in Carbon Canyon.

Continued Next Month

Editor's Note: In response to several questions from our members recently about the City of Brea's commitment to permanent relocation of the Brea Historical Society as the "New Downtown" is being completed, we offer the following letters from the City dated November 10, 1994 and November 13, 1996:

City of Brea

November 10, 1994
ORIGINAL
RETURN TO OFFICE OF
THE CITY CLERK

Brea Historical Society
City of Brea
Number One Civic Center Circle
Brea, California 92621

The City of Brea and the Brea Historical Society have recently entered into a direct contractual relationship as a result of the City succeeding to the interests of the Brea Historical Society's prior landlord, The Brea Foundation. The City and Brea Historical Society have mutually reached a comprehensive general understanding as regards the future cooperative relationship between themselves. The parties desire to memorialize the general understandings so that they may have guidance in continuing their efforts to refine these points. Therefore, in furtherance of the mutual goal of maximizing the benefit of the Brea Historical Society to the City of Brea, the parties establish the following premises upon which further negotiations will focus:

1. The Brea Historical Society will be relocated by the City to a facility reasonably suitable for their needs, which facility is to be located in or near the area generally recognized as the "new Downtown" area. The ultimate relocation site shall be mutually approved by the Brea Historical Society and City. It is recognized and agreed that time is of the essence in regard to the relocation of the Brea Historical Society. Each party agrees to use its best efforts to commence and complete all action necessary to accomplish the relocation in as prompt a manner as is reasonably practicable.
2. The City, at no cost to the Brea Historical Society, by and through its Relocation personnel, will undertake and accomplish both the anticipated interim relocation and the permanent relocation in a manner consistent with all law and policy.
3. The City's interim relocation assistance will include, but not be limited to, the appropriate storage of the assets and resources of the Brea Historical Society, including the reasonable storage of any assets and resources which may be gained after such storage commences.
4. The City will extend to the Brea Historical Society all rights, benefits and services which it provides to relocatees and acknowledges that the Brea Historical Society is an eligible relocatee as eligibility is established in the City's relocation guidelines.
5. The parties agree to extend all further cooperation by and between themselves to accomplish the foregoing goals. Such further cooperation includes, but is not limited to, the execution of a new month-to-month lease to supersede and replace the Brea Historical Society's present lease pertaining to the structure known as the "Old City Hall" which lease will serve to further define the intentions of the parties hereto.

The City of Brea and the Brea Historical Society mutually reaffirm their commitment to enhancing the quality of life of the citizens by preserving and educating the public about the rich history of the City of Brea. The parties hereto intend this commitment to guide their future cooperative efforts and so hereby declare such to be the basis upon which each shall proceed.

The Mayor is hereby directed to execute this letter of intention and cause the same to be transmitted to the appropriate officials of the Brea Historical Society.

Signed by Glenn Parker,
Mayor City of Brea

For and on behalf of the Brea Redevelopment Agency, I acknowledge and consent to the foregoing.

Signed by Frank Benest
Executive Director

City of Brea

November 13, 1996

Brea Historical Society
c/o Jane O'Brien
608 Wardman Drive
Brea, CA 92821

The intent of this letter is to confirm the interim relocation assistance which is currently being provided and which will continue to be provided in the future to the Brea Historical Society. This letter will also serve to re-confirm the general relocation negotiations understanding outlined in a letter of commitment from the City of Brea and the Brea Redevelopment Agency to the Brea Historical Society on November 10, 1994.

On September 27, 1996, the City of Brea notified the Brea Historical Society that by February of 1997 the Society would need to vacate the historic Old City Hall facility located on South Brea Boulevard. Pursuant to the City's and Historical Society's ability to find a permanent relocation site by that date, the City's relocation consultant, Pacific Relocation, worked with the Brea Historical Society to find a suitable interim relocation accommodation. Steve Oliver of Pacific Relocation has obtained bids from qualified furniture movers to pack and move the majority of the Historical Society's collection to an appropriate, high-quality

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

storage facility. The Historical Society, again with the assistance of Mr. Oliver, has found appropriate temporary office space for its business operation in the Brea Heights Shopping Center. The office space is available for a minimum of one year plus two additional six-month options. Until a permanent relocation site is found, the City of Brea understands that it will pay the cost of moving and storing the collection as well as the cost of the space rental. In addition, the City of Brea will pay the cost of bringing certain collection items out of storage for two (2) Historical Society "events" per year (for the term of the temporary relocation) and will also pay for the re-packing and re-storing of the items after each "event." Finally, the City of Brea is currently in the process of upgrading its technology facilities to create a City of Brea web site. The City agrees to assist the Historical Society in the creation of a "Home Page" which is linked to the City* s Internet site.

The City of Brea understands and herein acknowledges that it has an obligation to provide interim relocation assistance until a suitable permanent location is found for the Brea Historical Society.

Furthermore, it is also understood and acknowledged by the City of Brea that the Brea Historical Society is moving to temporary space and storing the majority of its collection to accommodate the need of the City of Brea and the Brea Scouts to begin the restoration of Old City Hall and specifically to replace the roof. By accommodating the City's and the Scout's needs and moving into an interim location, the Historical Society has in no way relinquished its rights for permanent relocation assistance as detailed in the letter of November 10, 1994, which was signed by Glenn Parker as Mayor of the City of Brea and acknowledged and consented to by Frank Benest as Executive Director of the Brea Redevelopment Agency (copy attached).

Sincerely,
Frank Benest
Executive Director
cc: Mayor, City Council, Tim O'Donnell, Susan Georgino
N\104\LHISTSOC

Send Us E-Mail

BreaHist@pacbell.net

Our Mail Bag...

Sharon Dean writes:

Special Thanks - Special People - Special Projects

For some years now the Brea Historical Society has been the recipient of a special kind of contribution. The kind that people seldom hear about.

I would like to acknowledge the superior craftsmanship of Helen MacKain and thank her for restoring, framing or reframing many of the society's treasured photographs. A special thank you also to Jim Lavola of That Frame Place for his expertise and assistance.

The Brea Historical Society's photographs are treasures that must be maintained. Thanks to Jim and Helen for helping us in our effort to preserve Brea's past.

Councilman Roy Moore writes:

If you find my e-mail Brea Net newsletter interesting and informative, please forward it to your Brea friends with a note that they can "subscribe" by e-mailing me.
E-mail **rmoorebrea@aol.com**

Special thanks to our Business Patrons!
Pacific Western National Bank
Taps Fish House & Brewery

Brea Historical Society
P.O. Box 9764
Brea, CA 92822-9764

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Brea Historical Society
Founded 1971

Historical Happenings

Vol. XVII, No. 1
February 2000

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Aaron Eseltine, Vice President
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Copy Deadline:
Second Monday of the month

Printing Deadline:
Third Monday of the month

Mailing Deadline:
Third Friday of the month

Editor: Lloyd Dudding
(714) 256-4324

Mar. Board Meeting:
Monday, March 6, 2000
7:00 p.m. at the Orange Villa Recreation Room, 137 N. Orange Ave, Brea, CA.

General Meeting:
Saturday, March 25, 2000
2:30 p.m. at the Brea Historical Society Office & Museum, 652 S. Brea Blvd. (Brea Heights Shopping Center)

Election Results

At the Society's Annual Meeting held on January 24, 2000, the complete slate of six were elected to a two year term on the Board of Directors and to fill the By-Laws requirement for a seven member Board of Directors, one was nominated from the floor. Our new Board of Directors, in alphabetical order is:
James Crow
Lloyd Dudding
Aaron Eseltine
Karl Fanning
Edna Makins
P.J. Mansur
Jim Schweitzer

Election of Officers

At the first meeting of the new Board of Directors, held on February 7, 2000, new Officers were elected as follows
Edna Makins, President
Aaron Eseltine, Vice President
Jim Schweitzer, Secretary
Lloyd Dudding, Treasurer

Annual Dues (Membership Renewal)

According to our By-Laws, "The annual dues applicable to the twelve (12) month period immediately following the annual meeting of the members shall be payable to the Treasurer of the Corporation." According to our Treasurer, as of February 16, 2000, we had received 31 Family Membership, 47 Individual Membership, 2 Patron Membership and 2 Sponsor Membership renewals for a total of 82 while 83 have not yet renewed. If you have not renewed your membership, the words "Please Renew" are on your mailing lable as a reminder to mail your check.

New Brea Theatre League Display

Our next General Meeting has been set by for Saturday, March 25th at 2:30 p.m. in order to highlight the opening of our **Brea Theatre League Display**. This display promises to include costumes, props and other memorabilia from years of production.

Wade Mansur writes, "Brea's own resident theatre company, The Brea Theatre League, has become a part of

Continued on page 2

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Brea Theatre League Display (cont.)

by Wade Mansur

Continued from page 1

Brea's history. On March 25th. from 2:30 to 4:30 p.rn. at the Brea Historical Museum is a choice opportunity to meet people involved with the Brea Theatre League productions as well as view memorabilia from years of production. The Museum is located at 652 Brea Blvd. next to Mainly Seconds."

You're Good Man, Charlie Brown was the first production in 1981 by Brea's own resident theatre. Founding President, Joe Falco, welcomed patrons to the Premiere Production at the new Curtis Theatre with these words, "You are more than spectators tonight-in fact- you are playing as important a role in the historical significance of this event as the cast and crew." Board of Directors included: Don Rand, Shirley Beach, Carolyn Champagne, Marilyn (Don) Sutton, Neil Caplin, Lyn Shapiro and Mary Engwall.

In an August 1981 letter to the Brea Theatre League; Mayor Melvin. J. LeBaron wrote; Your organization adds much to the cultural vitality and growth of our community. In addition to an exciting evening at the theatre? The Brea Theatre League presents an exciting opportunity for citizens to become involved in their community through performing arts." Dr. LeBaron was so right for Breans flocked to help. The list included: Paul and Cleta Harder, Wade and P.J. Mansur, Rex and Susan Gaede, Tom and Rhea Frost, Joe and Flo Falco, Linda Affeldt, Fred and Joyce Appleford, Bob and Shirley Beach, Dan and Sherryl Dyck, Bill and Clarice Blamer, Neil and Donna Caplin, Rowland and Carolyn Champagne, David and Mary Engwall, Mayor and Mrs. LeBaron, Ray and Ruth Madson, Don and Donna Rand, Richard and Nancy Raymond, Lyn and Barry Shapiro, Bill and Barbara Strowbridge, Carl and Bobbie Sutliffe, Don and Marilyn Sutton, Ruben Vasquez, Ray and Carol Wolfert and Karl and Gerri Zappa.

WOW! What memories. Businesses, the life blood of Brea were there: Meltebeke Volkswagen, Orange Food Service, Wedin Enterprises, Founders Bank, Jeanne's Yardage, Printing Etc., That Frame Place, Vega Motors, La Petite Florist, Pacific Oil World, Brea Village, Baskets and Brass, Brea Travel, Brea Tropicals, All About Hair, Renick Cadillac, Brea Stationers, Brea Glass, Diet Center, Neels Mortuary, Olinda Nursery, Carole's Cake Creations, J&B Carpets, Brea Plaza Jewelers, Adventure Travel, Jim Deering Photography, Ralph Barnes Insurance and Strickler's Buster Brown Shoes.

More Supporters: Carol Beekman, Kathy Conrey, Ken Cooke, Joh Von Dett, George Farias, Ruth Hall, Les Jones, Cathy Lewis, Mona Lewis, Ron Lindley, Cheryl Lowery, Mark Nelson, Phil & Vicky Pheiffer, the John Prevel's, Judy Rosso, Frank Schweitzer, Joan Maxwell, Jim Stafford, Councilman Sal & Lucy Gambina along with children Frank, Cindi, Jess, Maria, Jeffy and Lucia offered these words, "My heartiest congratulations to you tonight and warm good wishes for a long and snccessfril run in the community. Break-a-leg!." Other Council members included Norma Hicks, Don Fox and Ron Isles. Several weeks before the premiere production, 'Newsy Suzie,' wrote in the News Tirnes "Neil Caplin of Brea is Divisional Display Director for Bullocks and has a degree in Journalistic Illustration from the NY City School of Art. The Brea Theatre League is delighted to welcome him as the newest member of the Board. He is also the set technician for You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown.

RaiderEof the Lost Ark, playing at Brea Plaza, and The Empire Strikes Back screening at UA in the Mall could not compete with Snoopy and Friends. The cast included: Mark Burroughs as Charlie Brown; Patti Nelson as Lucy; Bob Porter as Linus; Chris Bitner as Schroeder; Lori Fusare as Peppermint Patty and Bob McLoughlin as Snoopy."

"The News Times of August 26, 1981 said, "Theatre patrons were treated to delightful performances by the cast - - these high energy kids sang, danced and displayed an enthusiastic arid entertaining show. Snoopy characterized by the in multitalented Robert McLoughlin, absolutely stole the show."

"David Dittiman was Director and John Sawyer was Musical Director. The Production staff included: Neil Caplin, Joe Falco, Carolyn Champagne, Charles Newman, Hallie and Ruth Yopp, David Engwall, Cliff Coffey, Brian Sutton, Lynne Dittrnan, Louis Sciarrotta, and Dave Billman. More Breans made up the Management Staff: Don Rand, Rowland Champagne, Veda Franklin, Lyn Shapiro, Mary Engwall, Shirley Beach, Carolyn Champagne, Joe Falco, P.J. Mansur, Wade Mansur, Jim Deering, Thelma Karagines, Phebe Mansur, Mirella Koning, Leslie Dittrnan, Katherine Gardy, Christine Nowell, Vanessa Shaddy, Laura Thomas, Julie Thorum, Mike Thorum, Ethan Mizera and Evan Mizera.

The band music rocked with the energy of Kathy Barnes, John Lewis, Robbi Gandara, Michelle Wetzel and Jeannie Horowitz.

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History of the Brea Police Dept.

1970's Continues

Chief Baugh resigned in1971 to become the chief at Ventura, CA. Robert Wasserman was appointed Brea's new chief in September, 1972. In the next year, Chief Wasserman initiated several improvements and changes. New light bars and electronic sirens were installed on patrol cars. Previously, the cars had only had spot lights and "growler" sirens. Shotguns were installed in units. New "class A" (dress) uniforms were tried: dark brown blazers, with a circular breast patch, over a shirt, tie, and slacks. New shoulder patches were designed, replacing the old, blue California Bear patches. The new patches were in brown tones with Brea's modern logo incorporated.

Orange County implemented the new state-of-the-art county-wide radio system, the most technically advanced in the nation at the time. It included an eight channel radio and teletype printer in each patrol car, and the capability for officers and dispatchers to communicate with other county police agencies. The system is still in use today.

The police department appointed the first School Resource Officer, Joe Morris, in 1972. The S.R.O. worked with school officials, taught safety classes to students, and helped solve problems on school campuses.

In 1973, the Brea Police Department scored two "firsts". The "Citizen Contact Tape Recorder" program was instituted through money from a grant. Officers carried a cassette tape recorder on their "Sam Browne" belt and recorded all contacts with the public. This was the first such program in the state. The program continues today, and has been copied by many other agencies and individual officers.

And the Department was the first in the state to install blue emergency lights on its patrol cars. The California Highway Patrol was in the final stages of testing the lights for approval when Brea put them on the cars.

The Department continued to grow. In 1973 there were 53 officers and other personnel, seven marked patrol cars, six unmarked vehicles, and two motorcycles.

In 1974, the title of "policeman" was officially changed to "police officer." And for good reason: in January of that year, Maria Gambina became the department's first female reserve officer. In December, Suzanne Drlik became the first female regular officer.

In February of 1976, Sergeant Donald L. Forkus was appointed Chief of Police. Chief Wasserman had resigned to be chief in Fremont,Ca. That year, an innovative 10-hour, 4-day work week was established for patrol officers.

In 1977, the department consisted of 43 sworn officers, 16 civilian employees, ten patrol cars, and five motorcycles. All that personnel and equipment was put to use on Valentines Day, February 14, 1977, when the Bank of America on Main Street in Yorba Linda was held up in a take-over "political robbery". A lone gunman armed with a shotgun held seven bank employees hostage for over three hours, demanding to talk to the press, saying this was "a political robbery in retribution of the United States government..." After sometimes intense negotiations, the suspect surrendered to officers. No one was hurt in this incident that received national news media attention.

In 1978, Brea Fire Station #2 was relocated to new facilities at Birch and Laurel. The Police Department expanded to take over all of the building at 495 S. Brea Blvd. A civilian Traffic Control Officer position was initiated that year. These TCO's would investigate traffic collisions and handle other traffic matters, relieving patrol officers to handle other calls for service. This program has been modified over the years into the Community Service Officer position. CSO's handle "cold" report calls and other non-emergency duties.

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

The 1980's

In June of 1980, the Department underwent a major restructuring process. Captains would be division commanders (uniform, investigation, services). Lieutenants would be watch commanders. Sergeants would be field supervisors. All this was in preparation for the move to new police facilities in the Brea Civic Cultural Center, which was completed in 1981. This facility continues to be the Police Department's home.

In 1982, new graphics were applied to patrol units. The cars remained white, but the gold shields were removed. Large, blue letters now spelled out "POLICE" below Brea's city seal on the front door. "Serving Brea and Yorba Linda" was on the back door.

Continued Next Month

Send Us E-Mail

BreaHist@pacbell.net

Our Mail Bag...

Dear Brea Historical Society:

My name is Paul Watts, and I am an undergraduate at California State University, Fullerton. This April I will be presenting a paper at the 96th Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. My paper explores two older residential neighborhoods in Brea and in Fullerton, and how these two neighborhoods have changed over the past several decades.

I am interested in the historical development and the planning philosophy surrounding Lagos de Mareno Park; in particular, the area that is inclusive of South Orange Avenue, East Ash Street, Popular Avenue, and Imperial Highway.

If at all possible, I would like to meet with one of the members of the Brea Historical Society and discuss the area around Lagos de Mareno Park. Currently, my paper is heavily empirical, and I need to inject historical and theoretical themes in order to create a more balanced framework. Any information you could provide would be greatly appreciated.

My home phone number is (714) 526-1715. Please feel free to leave a message, and I will promptly return your call. However, the most effective way to contact me is by e-mail. My e-mail address is:

pw040338@student.fullerton.edu

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours, Paul Watts

Editor's Note:

We are publishing Paul's letter in the hopes that one of our readers with information that he needs will contact him by phone or e-mail.

In Memory

Enclosed is a check in memory of Jack McGuire, a long time Brea Resident.

Frances Reese & Family

VOLUNTEER HOURS

January 2000

Edna Makins	6.00
Jim Schweitzer	3.00
Karl Fanning	4.50
Kay Lorea	4.25
P.J. Mansur	1.00
Vonnie French	6.25
Wade Mansur	0.75
TOTAL HOURS	**25.75**

This report of volunteer hours does not include any of the volunteer time for Board of Directors' meetings or other activities by the executive officers.

Brea Historical Society
P.O. Box 9764
Brea, CA 92822-9764

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Brea Historical Society
founded 1971

Historical Happenings

Vol. XVII, No. 2
March 2000

Brea Historical Society
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Aaron Eseltine, Vice President
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Jim Schweitzer, Secretary
(714) 529-0635
Lloyd Dudding, Treasurer
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Brea, CA 92822

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(Brea Heights Shopping Center)
Telephone: (714) 256-2283

Copy Deadline:
Second Monday of the month

Printing Deadline:
Third Monday of the month

Mailing Deadline:
Third Friday of the month

Editor: Lloyd Dudding
(714) 256-4324

April Board Meeting:
Monday, April 3, 2000
7:00 p.m. at the Orange Villa Recreation Room, 137 N. Orange Ave, Brea, CA.

General Meeting:
Monday, May 29, 2000
7:30 p.m. at the Brea Foursquare Church (corner of Ash and Brea Blvd.).

A Brief History of the Shaffer Fountain



The original fountain was constructed in 1947 to honor the life of William D. Shaffer who passed away a year earlier. The fountain was a large "wedding cake" design with colored lights and jets of streaming water. In the early 60's the fountain was turned off because of a water shortage. It fell into disrepair and finally was dismantled in 1969. At that time the council promised to again honor William Shaffer in some undetermined manner.

After many false starts and continuous efforts by the Historical Society that promise was finally kept 31 years later! Because of the Schweitzer's connection to the Shaffer family, Don Schweitzer decided to again try and fulfill the "promise". After realizing a fountain was scheduled to be built in the new downtown he decided to go directly to the developer with the idea of dedicating it to W.D. Shaffer. Shaul Cuba with the C.I.M Group agreed it would be a fitting tribute and wanted to proceed. Don then went to the City Council to get their blessing which they too gave willingly.

The only person left to convince was the artist, Meg Cranston. After a few discussions with Meg outlining the history of the old fountain and W.D. Shaffer she too agreed with the concept. The only requirement she had was that the fountain not be named "The Shaffer Fountain" since it already had a name the "Orange Grove Fountain". Don and Meg agreed that the plaque would not reference a name but rather a tribute to the man. Once this was all accomplished the Shaffer family was bought into the loop for final approval. Even though we all agreed that the new fountain in no way resembled the old one it was the tribute that was

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

important. Without the family's OK it would have never happened!

W.D. Shaffer was a pioneer in the oil tool business, but also spent much of his time making Brea a better place to live. As owner of the Shaffer Tool Works in Brea, Shaffer offered employment to over 1,000, many who lived in the community and he invested much of the company's capital in the City of Brea. Today the plaque honors a man that contributed so much to Brea and passersby leave with a little more knowledge of our past!

History of the Brea Police Dept.

1980's Continues

On February 9, 1983, three armed men robbed an armored car parked in front of the Bank of America at Imperial and State College Bl. Officers pursued the suspects' vehicle as they attempt to get away. The suspects fire several gunshots at pursuing officers along city streets and freeways. The suspects eventually crashed along Brea Canyon Cut-off. After another shoot out, two suspects were arrested. One was wounded. No officers were injured. The entire $675,000 loss was recovered.

In May, 1983, in the first documented incident of its kind in the department's history, an officer-involved shooting results in the death of a suspect. An armed man had been wandering through an apartment complex in Yorba Linda, waving a handgun in the air and firing shots. When confronted by an officer, he pointed the gun at him, forcing the officer to shoot the suspect.

On July 1, 1983, uniformed officers took on a new appearance when they donned navy blue uniforms for the first time, replacing the tan uniforms worn since the early 50's. New patches were also designed. A new badge, incorporating a gold seven-point star on a silver shield was issued in 1984.

A police K-9 program was inaugurated in 1984. Two officers spent weeks in training with their German Shepherd partners. The program later expanded to include three dogs, and continues today. These four-legged officers are able to smell narcotics hidden in vehicles, track suspects, and apprehend suspects instead of using more lethal force.

In 1985, patrol units were re-painted to a more traditional black and white color, in the hopes they will be more readily identifiable as police cars. There were 71 sworn police officers in the department.

1987 was a busy year for innovation. The DARE program was instituted in Brea and Yorba Linda schools. Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD) goes on-line in the Communications Center. Mobile Digital Terminals (MDT) are installed in all patrol vehicles. Officers were now able to check for stolen vehicles and wanted persons from their patrol cars, significantly reducing radio time. And a Records Management System (RMS) was initiated in the Records Division. The computer age arrives at Brea PD!

The training of new officers is of paramount importance to the Brea Police Department, thus upholding the high standards set and expected. In 1988 the Field Training Unit was established. The Department's Field Training Program was revised and updated to the highest professional standards, and continues to be reviewed annually.

The 1990's

For several years, the Police Department had used a house next to the Yorba Linda Jr. High School as a "substation." Officers were able to go there to prepare reports and interview witnesses. As Yorba Linda continued to grow, the need for additional office services became evident. In 1990, the Yorba Linda Police Administrative Annex was opened in an office complex on Yorba Linda Bl near Fairmont. The office was open and staffed during the day to serve Yorba Linda residents.

On June 19, 1990, the Richard Nixon Library and Birth-

place opened to the public in Yorba Linda. Presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan, and Bush, along with their wives, attended. Several other national and world dignitaries attended. It becames a national news event, drawing over 50,000 people. Security requirements and crowd control needs necessitated the use of officers from nearly every police agency in Orange County, as well as the Secret Service and FBI. Over 375 law enforcement personnel were on scene that day, in the largest event ever organized by officers of the Police Department.

In 1992, the City of Brea celebrated its 75th birthday. Officers wore specially designed badges that year, similar in design to a badge dating back to the 1920's. Also during 1992, Chief Forkus took a medical leave of absence for several months. Captain Larry Baker was appointed Acting Chief of Police until his retirement in December. Captain Jim Oman was appointed Acting Chief in his place. Chief Forkus returned to duty in mid-1993.

The Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace was in the forefront of department activities during the next two years. In June, 1993, Pat Nixon, wife of President Nixon, died and was buried at the Library. Several thousand people passed the coffin as it lay in state. Approximately 300 national, world, political, and entertainment industry dignitaries attended the funeral services. Police department officials handled all security and crowd control for the event.

Less than a year later, President Nixon passed away and was buried at the Nixon Library on April 27. His body lay in repose in the afternoon of the 26th and morning of the 27th. It is estimated that 47,000 people passed by the coffin to pay their respects. Eight hour waits were common. President Clinton and former presidents Bush, Reagan, Carter and Ford, and their wives, attended. National and International political figures were at the library, along with world and national news media. 275 officers from Brea and surrounding agencies provided security, traffic, and crowd control.

On June 6, 1994, Chief Forkus retired after 28 years with the Police Department, 18 of those as chief. Captain Jim Oman was appointed acting Chief until August 29 when he was selected to be the new permanent chief.

On December 1, 1994, new shoulder patches were put in to use. To better recognize the Department's relationship with Yorba Linda, "also serving Yorba Linda" is embroidered onto the new patch design. Patrol Unit graphics are also redesigned to incorporate the Yorba Linda city seal, along with the Brea city seal and Brea Police badge.

1995 saw a major transition in the perspective and day-to-day operations of the Police Department when "Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving" (COPPS) was adopted as the philosophy and driving force of the Department. This back-to-basics philosophy will put officers in more direct contact with the public, working with residents and business owners to solve community problems and enhance the quality of life in Brea and Yorba Linda.

In May of 1995, motorcycle traffic officers adopted the use of "full-face" helmets for safety purposes. This was rather unique in United States law enforcement, although the helmets have been used in other countries for some time.

On May 23, 1995, Detective Danny Valenzuela collapsed and died after suffering a heart attack while participating in the departments Bicycle Training in Westminster. He was the first Brea Officer to die "in the line of duty." He had joined the Department in 1980, working as a patrol officer, traffic officer and detective. He was survived by his wife, Jean, and children, Christopher, Sarah, Brian, and Diana. He was buried with honors at Bellevue Cemetery in Ontario on May 27.

On September 1, 1995, Chief Oman retired after 30 years with the Brea Police Department. Two months later, Captain William C. Lentini is appointed Chief of Police by City Manager Frank Benest.

The Chief, several officers and family members attended the

Continued on page 4

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annual California Law Enforcement Memorial ceremonies in Sacramento on May 17 1996, in memory and honor of Detective Valenzuela and all other California Peace Officers who had died in the line of duty. Ironically and tragically, less than one week later, another member of the Brea Police family would die.

Continued Next Month

Send Us E-Mail

BreaHist@pacbell.net

Our Mail Bag...

Hello friends: I am a Spanish teacher and I was born in a nice and little city called as yours, Brea de Aragón, in Spain. I am interested to study every cities around the world with the same name. I found you in the internet I would like you to help me to know something about your city because I am now writing a book about mine. I would like to know how can I have some information about Why is your city called BREA, and something about its history.

Pleased to know you.
Consuelo Trasobares.

REPLY

Our city takes its name from the Spanish word for tar or asphalt - "brea". Early settlers discovered tar or asphalt which the Mexicans called brea seeping from fissures in the hills north of the present city. This "brea" was collected and burned in the settlers cabins for heat and cooking fuel.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

January 2000

Edna Makins	6.00
Jim Schweitzer	3.00
Karl Fanning	4.50
Kay Lorea	4.25
Lloyd Dudding	8.00
P.J. Mansur	1.00
Vonnie French	6.25
Wade Mansur	0.75
TOTAL HOURS	**33.75**

This report of volunteer hours does not include any of the volunteer time for Board of Directors' meetings or other activities by the executive officers.

Membership Application

Individual	$ 15.00
Family	$ 25.00
Sponsor	$ 50.00
Patron	$100.00
Business Patron	$250.00

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ St: ____ Zip: _____
Phone: (____) _____ -- _____

Special thanks to our Business Patrons!

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Brea Historical Society
founded 1971

Historical Happenings

Vol. XVII, No. 3
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Copy Deadline:
Second Monday of the month

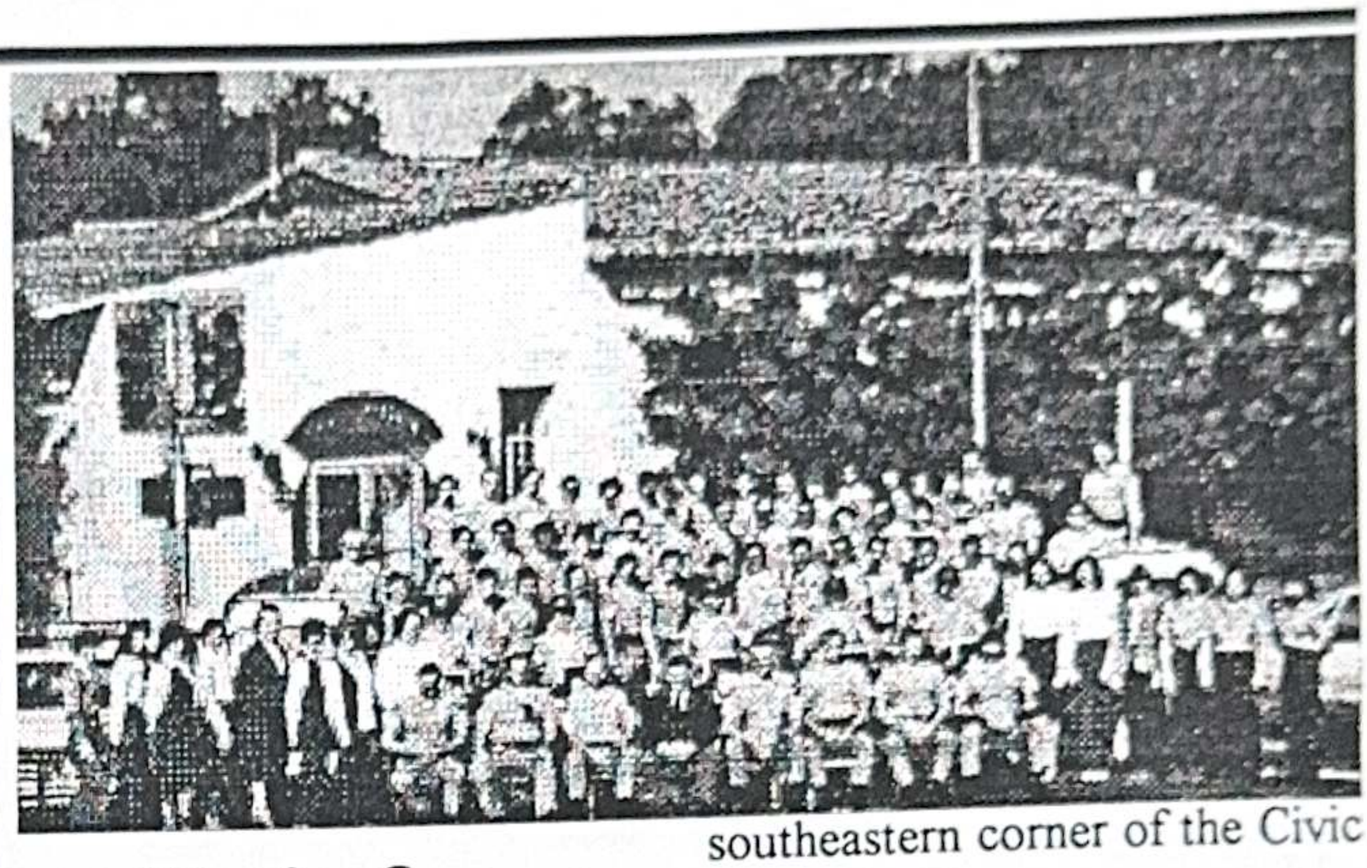
Printing Deadline:
Third Monday of the month

Mailing Deadline:
Third Friday of the month

Editor: Lloyd Dudding
(714) 256-4324

May Board Meeting:
Monday, May 1, 2000
7:00 p.m. at the Orange Villa Recreation Room, 137 N. Orange Ave, Brea, CA.

General Meeting:
Monday, May 22, 2000
7:30 p.m. at the Brea Foursquare Church (corner of Ash and Brea Blvd.).



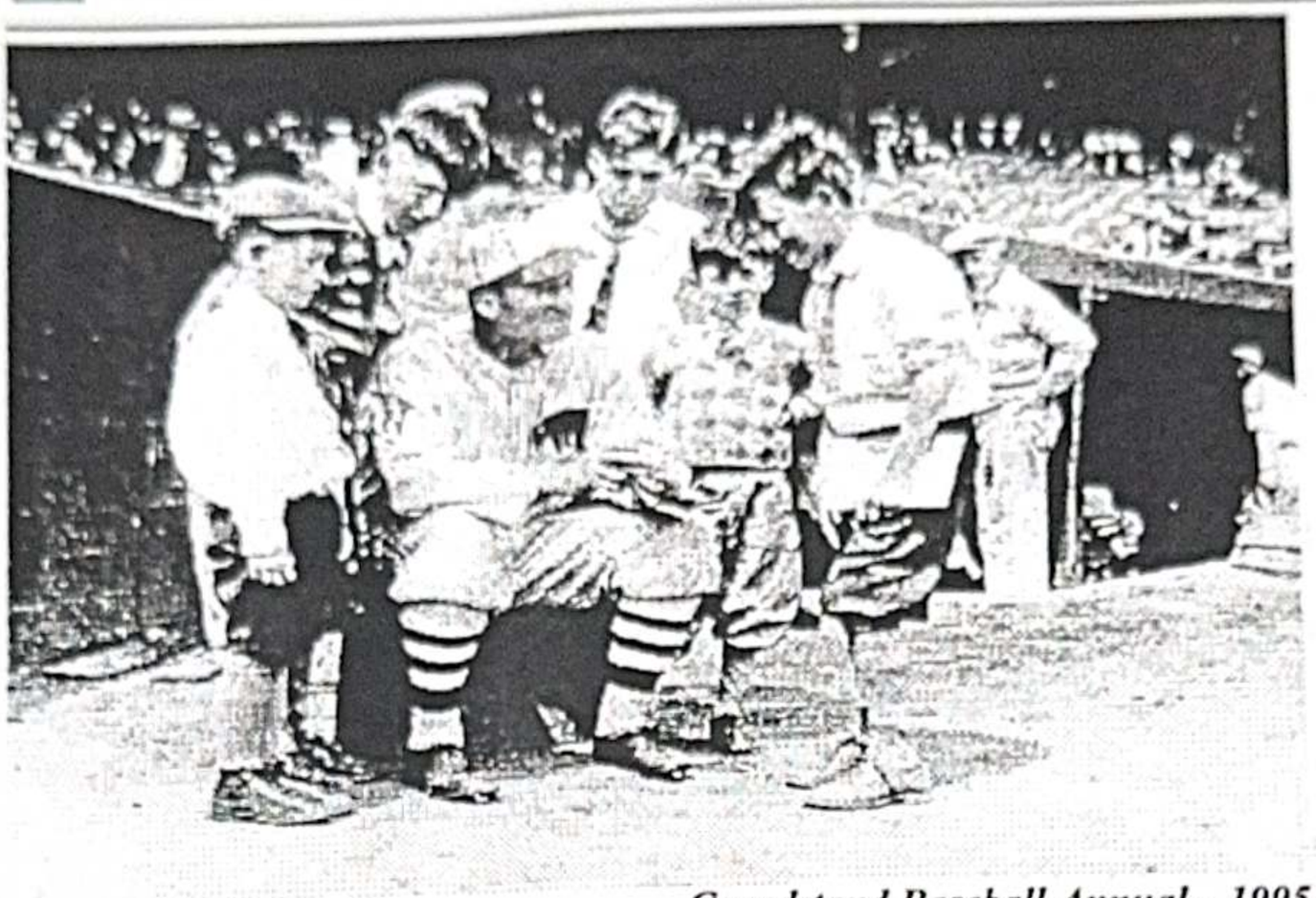
A Brief History of the American Legion Building

After the completion of Brea's City Hall and Park in 1929, the American Legion had plans drawn to build a new clubhouse that would blend with the architecture of the City Hall to replace the American Legion Building, built in 1924 on the northwest corner of Pomona Avenue (now Brea Blvd.) and Elm Street. In 1931 construction was completed on the new headquarters on the southeastern corner of the Civic Center property.

During the Great Depression, the Legion could not make their mortgage payments and the property was then taken over by the city. It became the Brea Police Station and Jail in the early 70's (picture taken in 1981), Brea Methodist Church started here and it was used for an emergency ambulance service in the 90's.

In circa 1997, the emergency ambulance service moved to a new location and since that time the building has been vacant. In the last 18 months, the City of Brea has received several proposals from the Brea Boys and Girls Club to convert the building for their local headquarters. Their proposal included building a large gymnasium on the City Hall Park land behind the old American Legion Building and this raised concerns by the Brea Historical

Continued on page 4



Walter Johnson, The California Comet?

The Walter Johnson Athletic Field at Craig Regional Park in Brea was dedicated in 1978 to honor this hometown member of Baseball's Hall of Fame. It was in Orange County where Johnson learned and became a pitcher. Johnson lived in Olinda where his father was an oil field worker. Read the article titled " The California Comet?" by Hank Thomas and Chuck Carey in Grandstand Baseball Annual, Volume 11 - 1995 which documents this neglected California chapter in the Johnson saga.

All too often, we read, he is the pitcher from Idaho. Thomas' and Carey's well researched article tells us otherwise! We could be talking about the California Comet? instead of The Big Train if the day's sportswriters had done their biographical homework.

Grandstand Baseball Annual - 1995, $7.95, P.O. Box 4203, Downey, CA 90241-1203

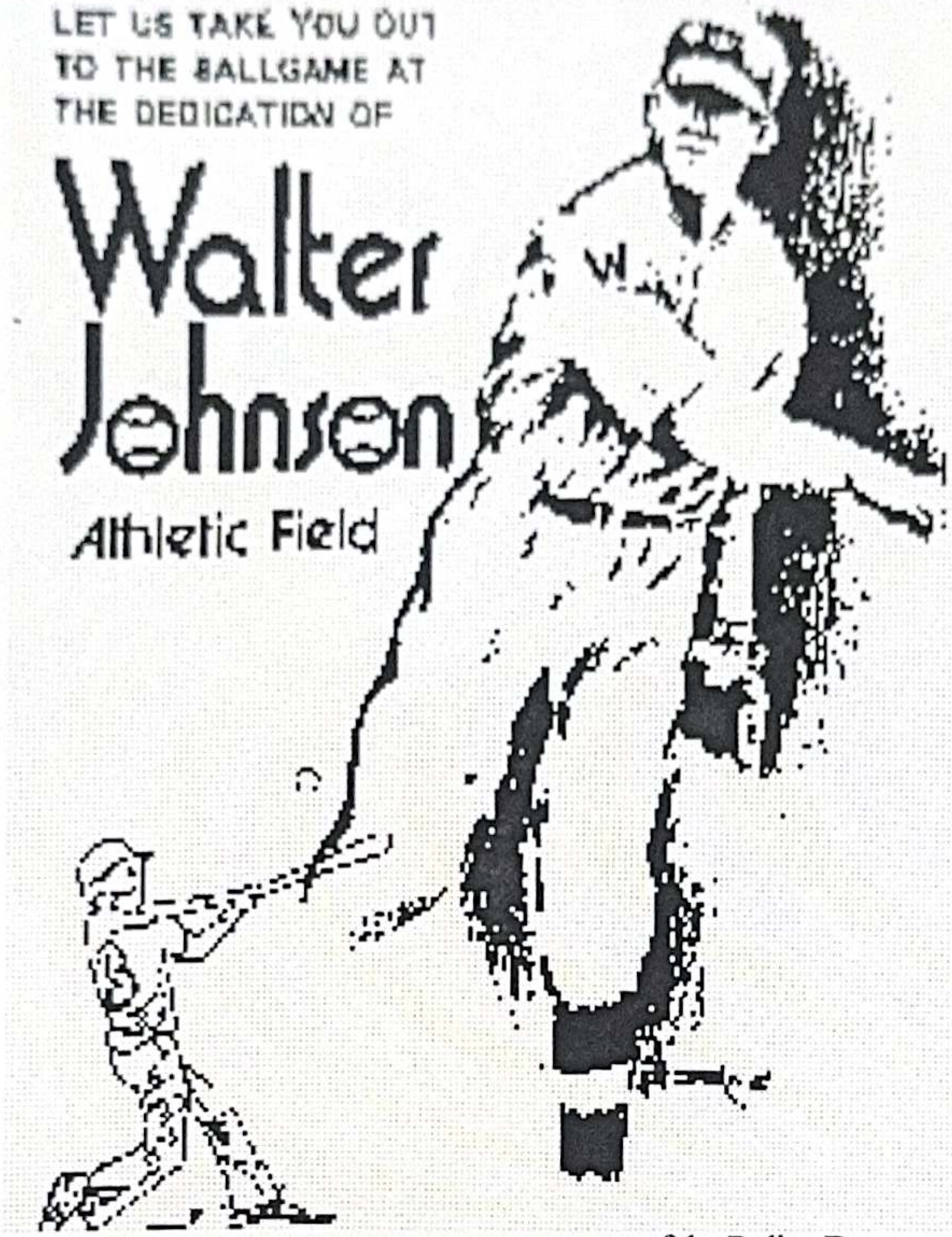
Johnson, Walter (1887-1946), American professional baseball player, one of the greatest major league pitchers. Because he threw the ball so fast, he was nicknamed the Big Train.

Walter Perry Johnson was born in Humboldt, Kansas. He joined the Washington Senators of the American League (AL) in 1907 and remained with the team until 1927. During this time the Senators did not achieve consistent success, but Johnson was one of the best pitchers in the major leagues, compiling a win-loss record of 417-279. In career victories, he ranks behind only Cy Young, who earned 511. During his career Johnson also threw 110 shutouts, a major league record. In 1913 he compiled a 36-7 win-loss record and was voted the AL's most valuable player (MVP). He was also the AL's MVP in 1924.

Johnson, who overpowered batters with his fastball, is considered one of the greatest strikeout pitchers ever. He led the AL in strikeouts 12 times (1910, 1912-1919, 1921, 1923, 1924), and during his career he recorded 3509 strikeouts, a major league record that was not broken until Nolan Ryan surpassed it in 1983. Johnson pitched in two World Series: In 1924 the Senators defeated the New York Giants, but the following year they lost to the Pittsburgh Pirates. Johnson retired after the 1927 season. He returned to the Senators in 1929 and managed the team until 1932. He managed the Cleveland Indians of the AL from 1933 to 1935. In 1936 he was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

"Johnson, Walter," Microsoft® Encarta® Online Encyclopedia 2000 http://encarta.msn.com © 1997-2000 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.





History of the Brea Police Dept.

1990's Continues

Detective Terry Fincher was struck and killed by a train on May 22, 1996. Detective Fincher had been searching for a weapon used in an aggravated assault case along the railroad tracks near Esperanza Road in Yorba Linda when a train came around a bend in the tracks. Terry was a 16 year veteran of the Police Department, and had worked as a patrol officer, traffic officer and detective. He was survived by his wife, Brenda, and children, Edie, Erik, Nathan, and Melissa, as well as two grandchildren. He was buried with honors at Rose Hills in Whittier on May 28. Officers and family members traveled to the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington DC, and the California Law Enforcement Memorial in Sacramento in May, 1997, again to pay respects to Danny, Terry, and others. A small memorial with plaques was installed at the flag poles of the Brea Civic Cultural Center in honor of the fallen officers.

Brea has had a long relationship with its sister city, Lagos de Moreno, Mexico. In September, 1997, Officer Rob Aberle went to Lagos as the first participant in Brea's Police Officer Exchange Program. Officer Aberle stayed there for one month, living with a Lagos de Moreno officer, observing law enforcement in that community, and helping that Department to establish some training in tactics and officer safety techniques.

Today, the Brea Police Department continues to grow and expand to meet the needs for service and law enforcement in Brea and Yorba Linda. Now staffed with 100 sworn officers, 18 reserve officers, and 36 full and part-time civilian employees; and equipped with 28 marked patrol cars, 16 motorcycles, undercover cars, bicycles, computers, advanced weaponry and techniques, members of this Department look forward to continued professional service into the 21st century.

This completes the serialization of A History of the Brea Police Department, prepared by Sergeant Dennis Gray. Many thanks are due to Sergeant Gray for his effort in creating this work and generosity in sharing it with our membership.

This History is a "work in progress" and is not yet complete. If you have any information, old photographs, newspaper clippings, artifacts, or other memorabilia, about the history of law enforcement in Brea, please contact Sergeant Dennis Gray at 990-7639, or e-mail him at dennisg@ci.brea.ca.us.

Continued from page 1

Society concerning the possible loss of the park's listing in the National Historic Parks Register. This proposal was set aside by the City Council on Tuesday, April 18, 2000 as explained in councilman Roy Moore's Brea Net, Issue No. 44, April 19, 2000:

Dear Fellow Brean:

Tuesday's study Session was a very pleasing experience for me. The Council agreed to forego any feasibility study on possible locations for new Boys and Girls Club (B&GC) facilities and authorized the initiation of the CEQA process (environmental study) to allow the B&GC to expand at their current location. This is great news. First, our historic City Hall Park will remain the same, as Breans have known it for decades. Second, the B&GC will finally have the new facilities they have been searching for over the past 10 years. I want to thank all those in our community who rallied public support in favor of this action. I especially am indebted to Don, Alex, Dave and Sam, who provided strong leadership in making this happen. This is a prime example of people making their voice heard to influence their elected officials to change, what seemingly was a done deal, into a positive, win-win situation for all Breans.

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January 1 - March 15, 2000

Crow, Jim	07:30
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Pacific Western National Bank

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Brea Historical Society founded 1971

Historical Happenings

Vol. XVII, No. 5
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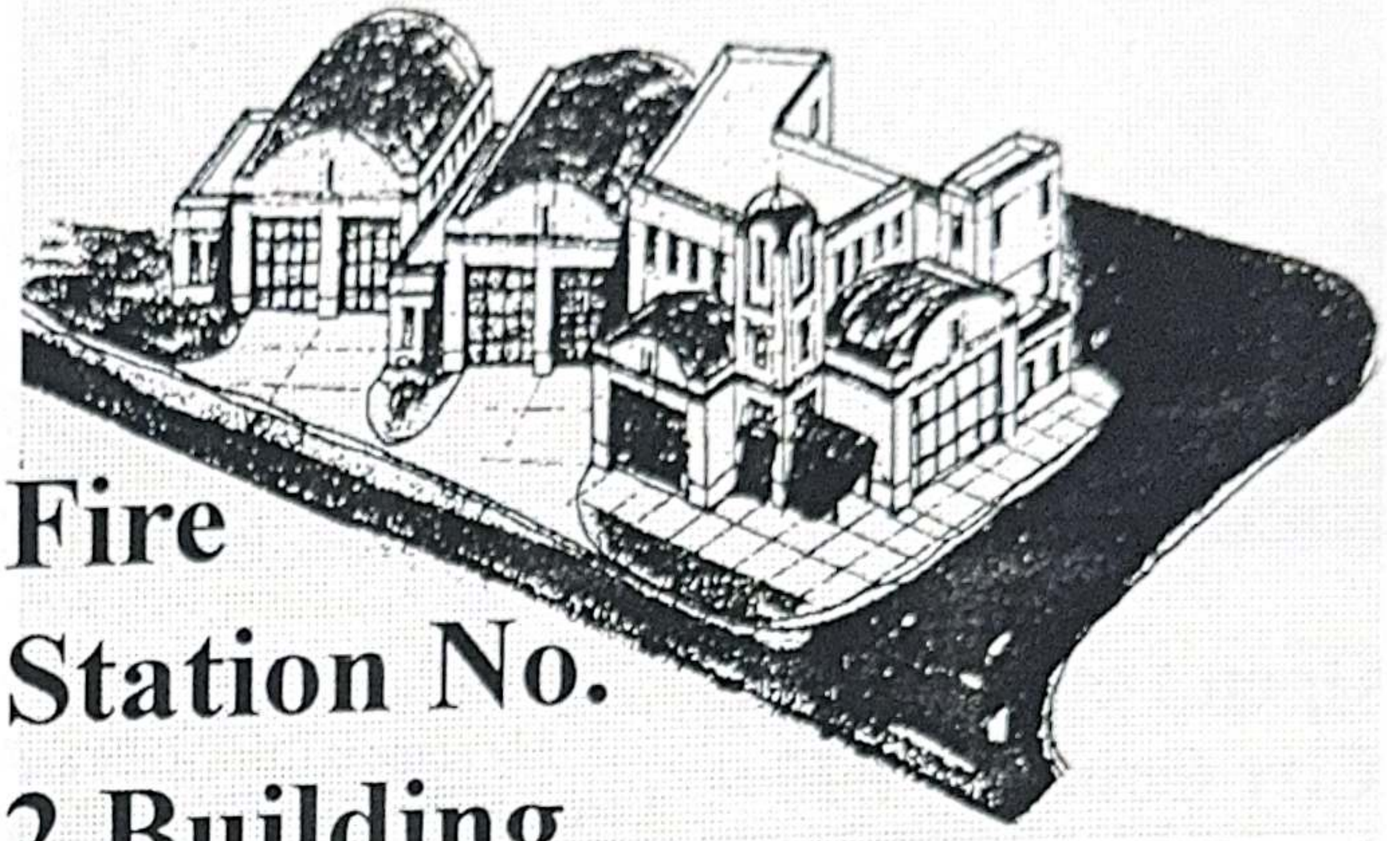
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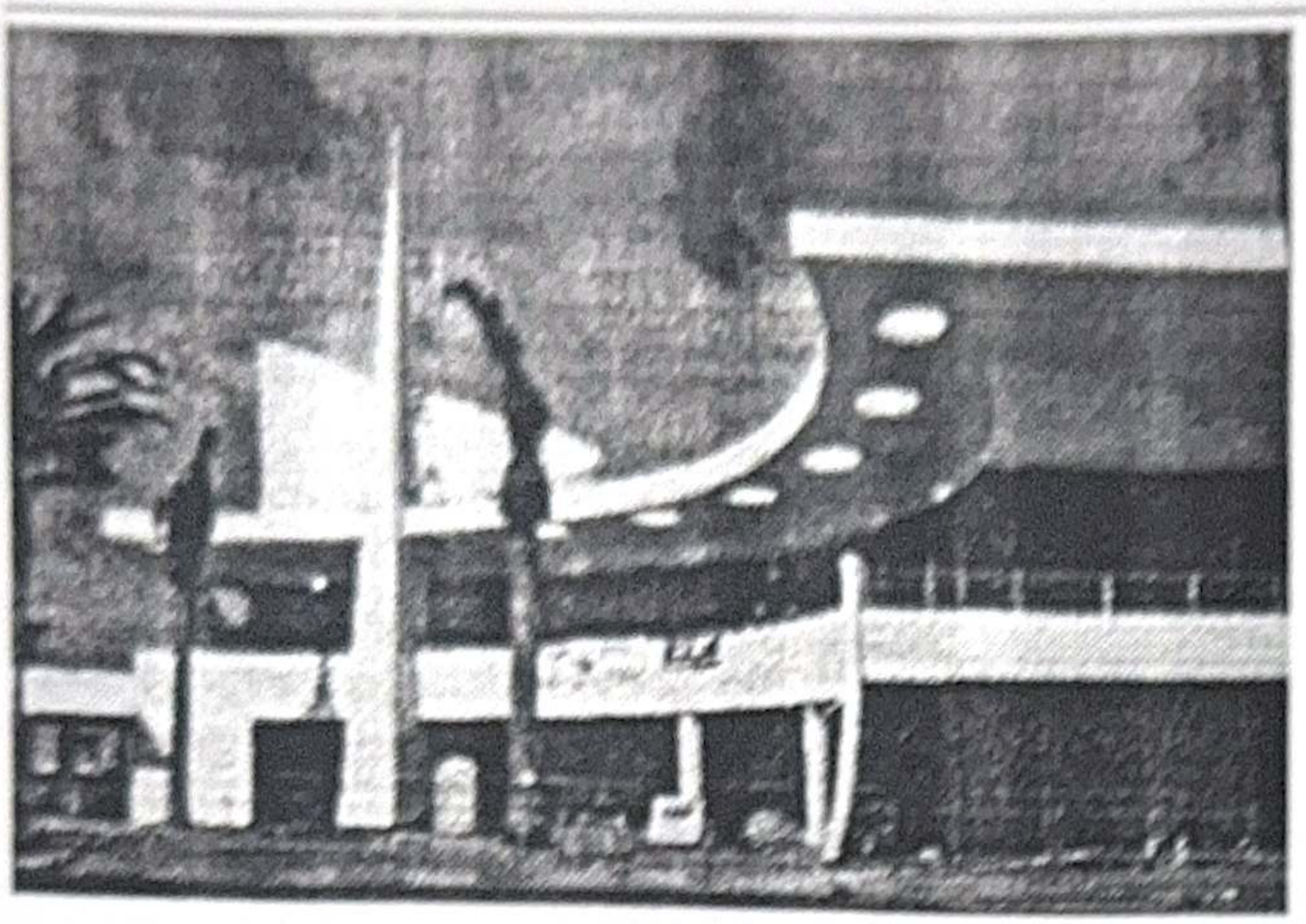
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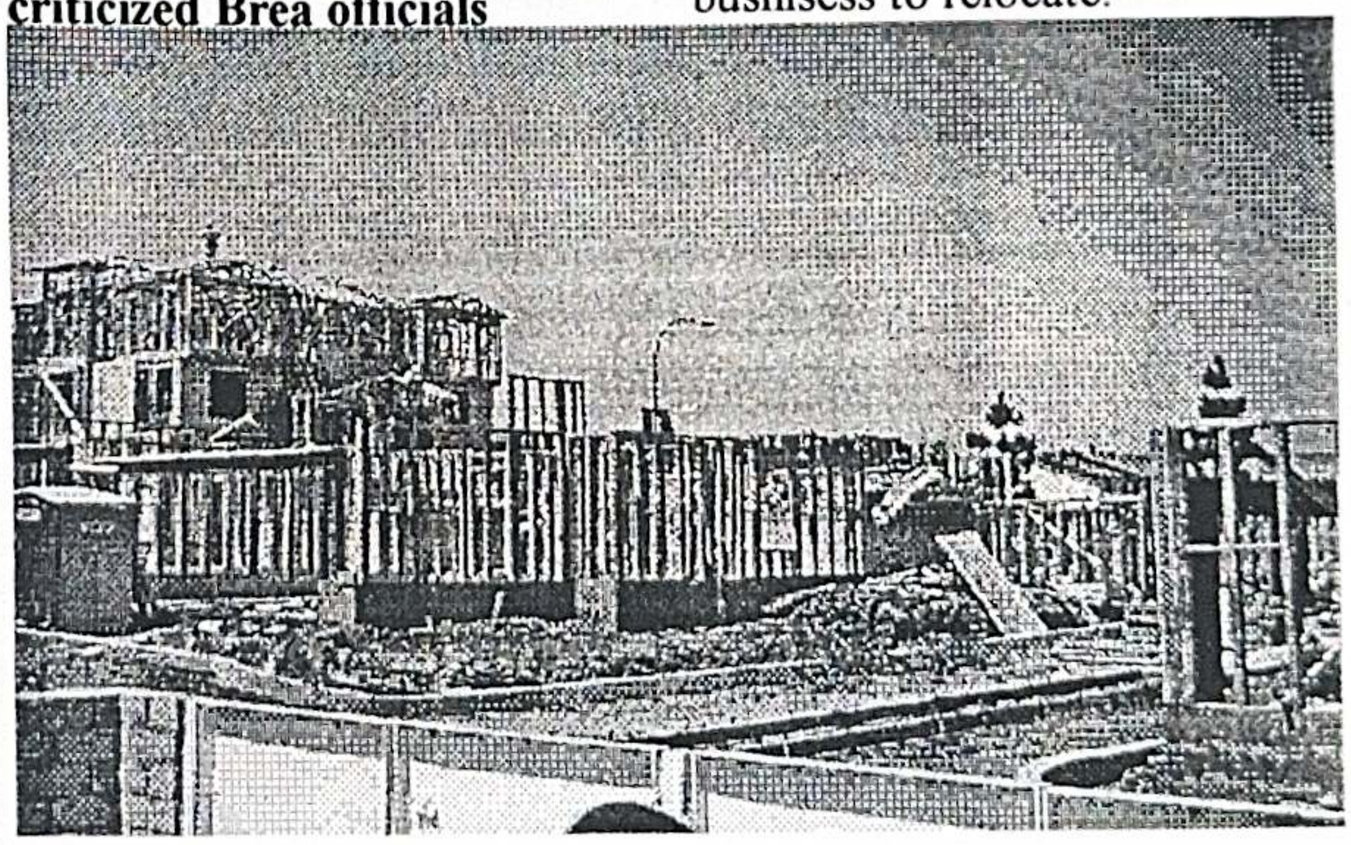
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February Board Meeting:
Monday, February 5, 2001
7:00 p.m. at the Orange Villa Recreation Room, 137 N. Orange Ave, Brea, CA.

Annual Meeting:
Monday January 29, 2001
7:30 p.m. at the Brea Foursquare Church (corner of Ash and Brea Blvd.).

It's That Time of Year Again

Yes, it's time to renew your membership for 2001. You, our members, are so important to the success and continuation of the Society. As you can see listed elsewhere in this newsletter, we're currently working on a variety of important projects and your dues are **vital** to making many of them happen. A membership envelope was mailed to you recently, so please mail it in ASAP. We really appreciate your help so that we can continue our efforts to preserve and teach about Brea's past.

Here's Your Chance

…to share that one, special possession that has a particular meaning to you.

Please bring them along and tell us about them when you join us at our January Annual Meeting on Monday, January 29, 2001 at 7:00pm at the Foursquare Church, Brea Blvd at Ash St.

We'll also be honoring some of our cherished volunteers so come and give them a big "THANK YOU". We're looking forward to seeing you.

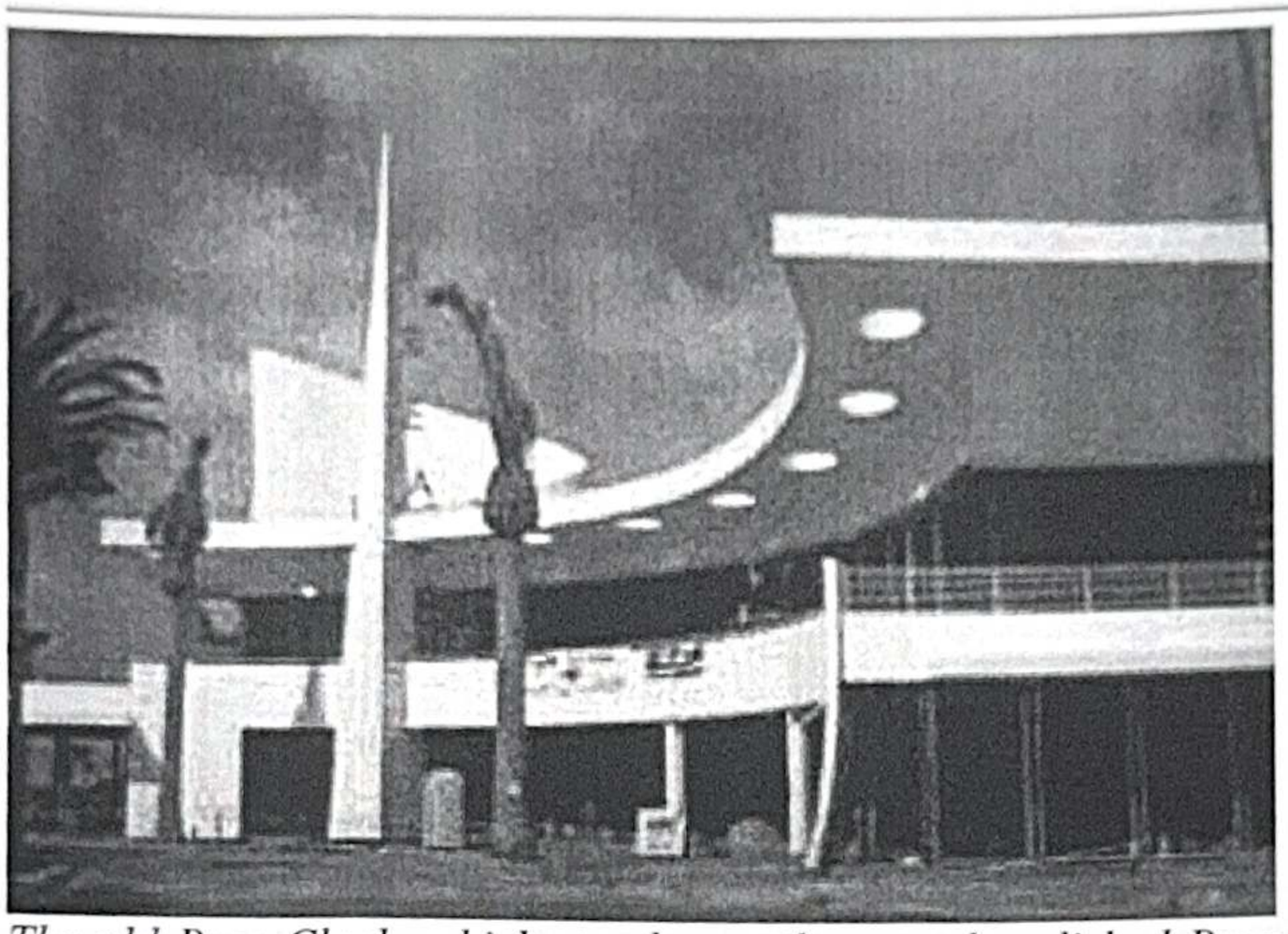
For further information, call Edna Makins at 714-529-1755.

Did You Know?

The beautiful old safe door from the former Oilfields National Bank building, in storage since the building was demolished several years ago, is about to be restored and placed once again in the downtown area? Its new home will be in the lobby of the fire station, soon to be built on the east side of Brea Blvd at the railroad tracks. Don't forget to go check it out and while you are there, take a look at our restored 1923 Seagraves Fire Truck. Thank you, Brea Fire Department for your preservation efforts.

The "Brea Welcomes You" sign, which stretched over Brea Blvd from its dedication in 1934 until its removal in 1992 for street widening, will also soon find a new home. It's to be placed on a 21-foot high pedestal on the northwest corner of Brea Blvd and Birch St. By rotating slowly

Continued on page 2



The old Brea Clock, which stood near the now demolished Brea Hotel since the 1970's is a third city landmark that will soon reappear. It is to be placed in the new downtown at the end of Birch St, near the white building/parking structure.

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The home of Brea's first Mayor, Jay C. Sexton, is located at 527 East Elm St. The property, built in 1919, once included 5 acres of orange groves.

Speaking about homes, one associated with a leading Brea pioneer will soon be officially dedicated as a Brea historical landmark. Built in 1912, it was the home of Charles & Lena Kinsler and family. The home, which was moved from 129 S. Orange Ave. some time ago to its present location on Redwood St. not far from Imperial, was recently restored and is presently for sale.

Among his many civic accomplishments, Mr. Kinsler headed Brea's drive for incorporation in 1916. When Brea became a city in 1917, he was elected as Brea's first City Clerk and Recorder. He was also City Judge, Fire Chief and the first Secretary of the Brea Chamber of Commerce. In 1920, he was chosen President of the newly formed Orange County Central Labor Council.

Be looking for the announcement of the dedication ceremony. You're all welcome to share in this important event to honor one of our pioneer families.

In the old tin building at 227 N. Brea Blvd., just north of the railroad tracks and currently occupied by Ron & Wayne's Auto Repair, was where Babe Ruth, Walter Johnson and other team members changed into their uniforms for the big game in 1924.

Projects We're Working On

1. Acquiring a permanent home with museum for the Brea Historical Society.
2. Adding important buildings, homes and city landmarks to Brea's historical designation register.
3. Placing an historical marker at the location on Brea Blvd. where the world's first low-winged monoplane, the "Humming Bird", was built in 1926.
4. Bringing back to a more local storage facility all of the Brea Historical Society's artifacts, etc. that are now being kept in Orange with very limited access. They were placed there when we were moved out of Old City Hall. Having our things closer and more accessible would enable us to change our museum displays more frequently.
5. Working with the City concerning our presence at the proposed Olinda Oil Heritage Park.
6. The return to Brea of the Babe Ruth - Walter Johnson autographed baseball used in the big exhibition game here in 1924. It's currently kept at the Craig Park, unable to be seen by the public.
7. A fundraising sale of Brea - Celebrating 75 Years books, as well as our Walk in Time videos

in February. It will be in conjunction with Brea's 84th Birthday.
8. Representation of the Brea Historical Society at the Key Ranch's Pioneer Days in March.

Founder Karl Fanning dies at 85

The Brea Historical Society will certainly miss Karl who died on October 28, 2000, a mere three and one half months after his beloved wife Inez passed away. Without his contribution of time and organizational skills, there may not have ever been a Brea Historical Society.

Over the past several years, Karl spent many hours devoted to obtaining, cataloging and organizing our collection of Brea's historical photographs. In addition he served on our Board of Directors for many years. So long good friend and hard working member.

Karl and Inez Fanning Memorial Fund

Several of our members mailed personal checks notated, "In memory of Karl and Inez", to the Society. In order to honor the spirit of these gifts, the Board of Directors opened a Karl & Inez Fanning Memorial Fund savings account and deposited the checks into it. Anyone wishing to contribute to this memorial fund can send their check so marked to:

Fanning Memorial Fund
P.O. Box 9764
Brea, CA 92822-9764



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A WALK IN TIME: Part One

by Brian Saul

1992 may have been the year of Brea's 75th birthday, but if early land developers had had their way, this celebration could have happened 15 years earlier.

The following is a story of Randolph, the little townsite which began optimistically in 1902 but ended a year later because of unfulfilled promises. Being the forerunner of Brea, it's part of our city's early history which has nearly been forgotten but deserves to be recalled in this year of celebrating our past.It all began back at the turn of the century, when the eastern end of the La Habra Valley, where Brea is now located, basically was undeveloped. The first oil well had been drilled successfully in Brea Canyon in 1899, but apart from the oil company bunkhouses and the small homes which were just beginning to dot the hillsides, there was nothing here which one could remotely call a town.

Newspaper articles of the day described this area as having "a superb climate, pure water and deep soil remarkable for its fertility." Already the land around present-day La Habra had farms, orchards and fields of barley and hay covering its landscape, and this new undeveloped land east of La Habra was touted as having the same excellent potential.

It was into this area in 1902 that developers came and decided to purchase 2,200 acres of land below the mouth of Brea Canyon. Plans were made to subdivide the property into 10- and 20-acre

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

lots, lay out a townsite and provide water.

Ads were placed in surrounding newspapers praising the land as having "no superior in South California for oranges or walnuts," and claiming that a 36-inch cement pipe was to bring pure, fresh, soft water to new residents. Lots were to sell for $150 per acre.

By the end of 1902, it was reported that there was a big demand for the available lots and 50 of them had been sold in one day. The new town, which had not yet been named, had contracted for city water and electric lights and soon was to be connected to the Pacific Electric Railway (the Red Cars).

A month later, in January, 1903, the new townsite officially was christened . It became Randolph, named for Epes Randolph, the general manager of the Pacific Electric Railway Co.

That same month, a petition was circulated for a new school district for the town. It was to be formed from parts of the Fullerton, La Habra and Placentia districts, although the small portions of Placentia land to be included later were dropped from the plan.

Local newspapers now began to write glowing and probably somewhat exaggerated reports of the success of the new settlement.

- - - Next Issue: Randolph Flourishes

1937 Annual Found

Due to the efforts of our member, Vannoye Maestrejuan, we now have a complete set of the Brea High School Annuals. Vannoye tracked it down in Minden, Nevada from a member of the class of 1937, Jeannette (Thaheld) Waldrep. Thanks Vannoye and Jeannette!

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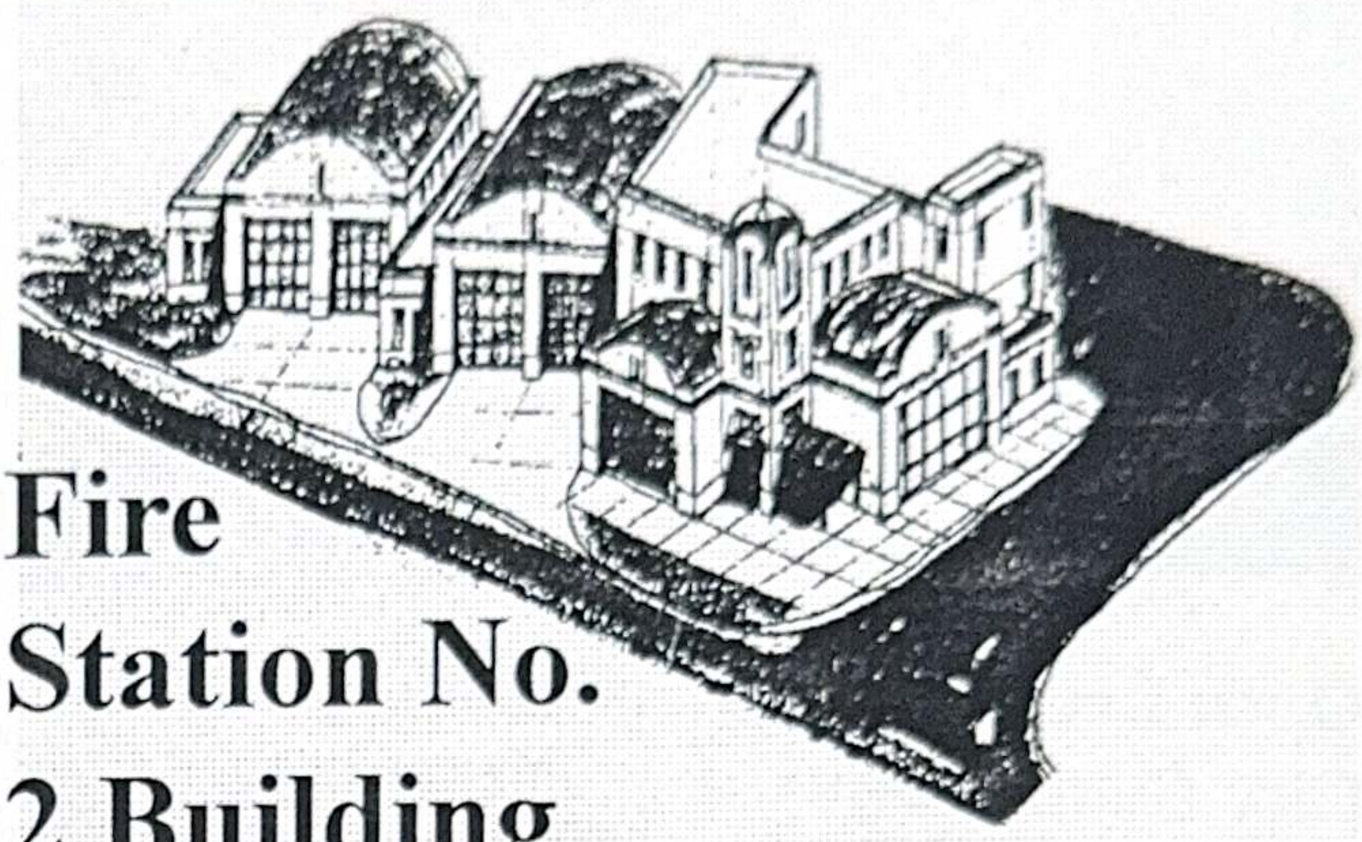
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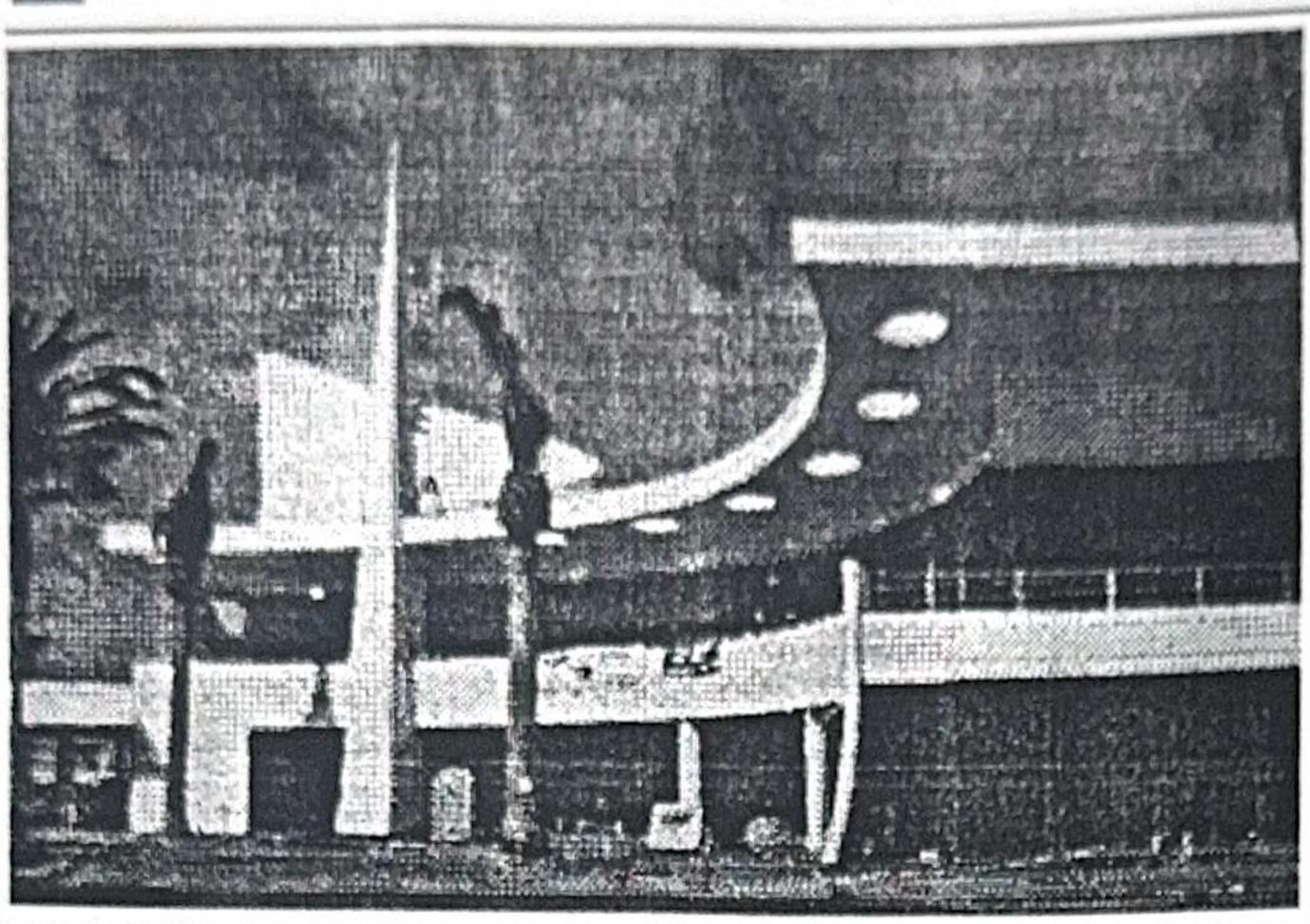
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Trullinger, Tracy	02:30
TOTAL HOURS	261:15

This report of volunteer hours does not include any of the volunteer time for Board of Directors' meetings or other activities by the executive officers.

Membership Application

Individual	$ 15.00
Family	$ 25.00
Sponsor	$ 50.00
Patron	$100.00
Business Patron	$250.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ -- _____

Special thanks to our Business Patrons!

Pacific Western National Bank & Taps Restaurant

Brea Historical Society
P.O. Box 9764
Brea, CA 92822-9764

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Permit No. 117
Brea, California

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Send Us E-Mail

BreaHist@pacbell.net

Visit Our Web Site

http://www.ci.brea.ca.us/brea/depts/BreaHis/

Brea Historical Society
founded 1971

Historical Happenings

Vol. XVII, No. 6
January 2001

Brea Historical Society
Edna Makins, President
(714) 529-1755
Aaron Eseltine, Vice President
(714) 529-2722
Jim Schweitzer, Secretary
(714) 529-0635
Lloyd Dudding, Treasurer
(714) 256-4324

Mailing Address:
Brea Historical Society
P.O. Box 9764
Brea, CA 92822

Office Location:
652 S. Brea Blvd.
(Brea Heights Shopping Center)
Telephone: (714) 256-2283

Copy Deadline:
Second Monday of the month

Printing Deadline:
Third Monday of the month

Mailing Deadline:
Third Friday of the month

Editor: Lloyd Dudding
(714) 256-4324

February Board Meeting:
Monday, February 5, 2001
7:00 p.m. at the Orange Villa Recreation Room, 137 N. Orange Ave, Brea, CA.

Annual Meeting:
Monday January 29, 2001
7:30 p.m. at the Brea Foursquare Church (corner of Ash and Brea Blvd.).

It's That Time of Year Again

Yes, it's time to renew your membership for 2001. You, our members, are so important to the success and continuation of the Society. As you can see listed elsewhere in this newsletter, we're currently working on a variety of important projects and your dues are **vital** to making many of them happen. A membership envelope was mailed to you recently, so please mail it in ASAP. We really appreciate your help so that we can continue our efforts to preserve and teach about Brea's past.

Here's Your Chance

…to share that one, special possession that has a particular meaning to you.

Please bring them along and tell us about them when you join us at our January Annual Meeting on Monday, January 29, 2001 at 7:00pm at the Foursquare Church, Brea Blvd at Ash St. We'll also be honoring some of our cherished volunteers so come and give them a big "THANK YOU". We're looking forward to seeing you.

For further information, call Edna Makins at 714-529-1755.

Did You Know?

The beautiful old safe door from the former Oilfields National Bank building, in storage since the building was demolished several years ago, is about to be restored and placed once again in the downtown area? Its new home will be in the lobby of the fire station, soon to be built on the east side of Brea Blvd at the railroad tracks. Don't forget to go check it out and while you are there, take a look at our restored 1923 Seagraves Fire Truck. Thank you, Brea Fire Department for your preservation efforts.

The "Brea Welcomes You" sign, which stretched over Brea Blvd from its dedication in 1934 until its removal in 1992 for street widening, will also soon find a new home. It's to be placed on a 21-foot high pedestal on the northwest corner of Brea Blvd and Birch St. By rotating slowly

Continued on page 2



The old Brea Clock, which stood near the now demolished Brea Hotel since the 1970's is a third city landmark that will soon reappear. It is to be placed in the new downtown at the end of Birch St, near the white building/parking structure.

Continued from page 1

atop its pedestal, the sign will once again welcome visitors to the downtown area.

The old Brea Clock, which stood near the now demolished Brea Hotel since the 1970's is a third city landmark that will soon reappear. It is to be placed in the new downtown at the end of Birch St, near the white building/parking structure.

The home of Brea's first Mayor, Jay C. Sexton, is located at 527 East Elm St. The property, built in 1919, once included 5 acres of orange groves.

Speaking about homes, one associated with a leading Brea pioneer will soon be officially dedicated as a Brea historical landmark. Built in 1912, it was the home of Charles & Lena Kinsler and family. The home, which was moved from 129 S. Orange Ave. some time ago to its present location on Redwood St. not far from Imperial, was recently restored and is presently for sale.

Among his many civic accomplishments, Mr. Kinsler headed Brea's drive for incorporation in 1916. When Brea became a city in 1917, he was elected as Brea's first City Clerk and Recorder. He was also City Judge, Fire Chief and the first Secretary of the Brea Chamber of Commerce. In 1920, he was chosen President of the newly formed Orange County Central Labor Council.

Be looking for the announcement of the dedication ceremony. You're all welcome to share in this important event to honor one of our pioneer families.

In the old tin building at 227 N. Brea Blvd., just north of the railroad tracks and currently occupied by Ron & Wayne's Auto Repair, was where Babe Ruth, Walter Johnson and other team members changed into their uniforms for the big game in 1924.

Projects We're Working On

1. Acquiring a permanent home with museum for the Brea Historical Society.
2. Adding important buildings, homes and city landmarks to Brea's historical designation register.
3. Placing an historical marker at the location on Brea Blvd. where the world's first low-winged monoplane, the "Humming Bird", was built in 1926.
4. Bringing back to a more local storage facility all of the Brea Historical Society's artifacts, etc. that are now being kept in Orange with very limited access. They were placed there when we were moved out of Old City Hall. Having our things closer and more accessible would enable us to change our museum displays more frequently.
5. Working with the City concerning our presence at the proposed Olinda Oil Heritage Park.
6. The return to Brea of the Babe Ruth - Walter Johnson autographed baseball used in the big exhibition game here in 1924. It's currently kept at the Craig Park, unable to be seen by the public.
7. A fundraising sale of Brea - Celebrating 75 Years books, as well as our Walk in Time videos

in February. It will be in conjunction with Brea's 84th Birthday.
8. Representation of the Brea Historical Society at the Key Ranch's Pioneer Days in March.

Founder Karl Fanning dies at 85

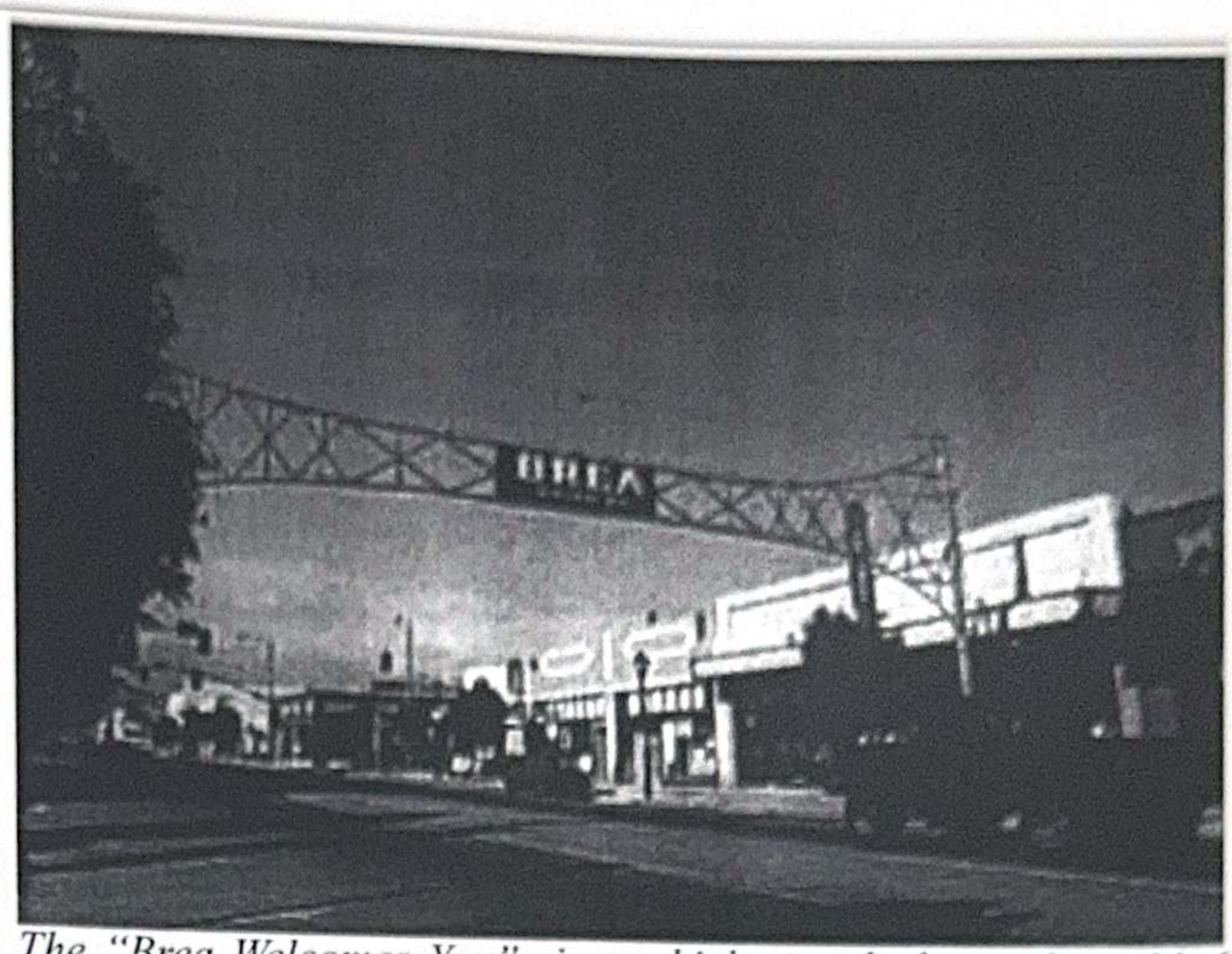
The Brea Historical Society will certainly miss Karl who died on October 28, 2000, a mere three and one half months after his beloved wife Inez passed away. Without his contribution of time and organizational skills, there may not have ever been a Brea Historical Society.

Over the past several years, Karl spent many hours devoted to obtaining, cataloging and organizing our collection of Brea's historical photographs. In addition he served on our Board of Directors for many years. So long good friend and hard working member.

Karl and Inez Fanning Memorial Fund

Several of our members mailed personal checks notated, "In memory of Karl and Inez", to the Society. In order to honor the spirit of these gifts, the Board of Directors opened a Karl & Inez Fanning Memorial Fund savings account and deposited the checks into it. Anyone wishing to contribute to this memorial fund can send their check so marked to:

Fanning Memorial Fund
P.O. Box 9764
Brea, CA 92822-9764



The "Brea Welcomes You" sign, which stretched over Brea Blvd from its dedication in 1934 until its removal in 1992 for street widening, will also soon find a new home. It's to be placed on a 21-foot high pedestal on the northwest corner of Brea Blvd & Birch St.

A WALK IN TIME: Part One

by Brian Saul

1992 may have been the year of Brea's 75th birthday, but if early land developers had had their way, this celebration could have happened 15 years earlier.

The following is a story of Randolph, the little townsite which began optimistically in 1902 but ended a year later because of unfulfilled promises. Being the forerunner of Brea, it's part of our city's early history which has nearly been forgotten but deserves to be recalled in this year of celebrating our past.It all began back at the turn of the century, when the eastern end of the La Habra Valley, where Brea is now located, basically was undeveloped. The first oil well had been drilled successfully in Brea Canyon in 1899, but apart from the oil company bunkhouses and the small homes which were just beginning to dot the hillsides, there was nothing here which one could remotely call a town.

Newspaper articles of the day described this area as having "a superb climate, pure water and deep soil remarkable for its fertility." Already the land around present-day La Habra had farms, orchards and fields of barley and hay covering its landscape, and this new undeveloped land east of La Habra was touted as having the same excellent potential.

It was into this area in 1902 that developers came and decided to purchase 2,200 acres of land below the mouth of Brea Canyon. Plans were made to subdivide the property into 10- and 20-acre

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lots, lay out a townsite and provide water.

Ads were placed in surrounding newspapers praising the land as having "no superior in South California for oranges or walnuts," and claiming that a 36-inch cement pipe was to bring pure, fresh, soft water to new residents. Lots were to sell for $150 per acre.

By the end of 1902, it was reported that there was a big demand for the available lots and 50 of them had been sold in one day. The new town, which had not yet been named, had contracted for city water and electric lights and soon was to be connected to the Pacific Electric Railway (the Red Cars).

A month later, in January, 1903, the new townsite officially was christened . It became Randolph, named for Epes Randolph, the general manager of the Pacific Electric Railway Co.

That same month, a petition was circulated for a new school district for the town. It was to be formed from parts of the Fullerton, La Habra and Placentia districts, although the small portions of Placentia land to be included later were dropped from the plan.

Local newspapers now began to write glowing and probably somewhat exaggerated reports of the success of the new settlement.

- - - Next Issue: Randolph Flourishes

1937 Annual Found

Due to the efforts of our member, Vannoye Maestrejuan, we now have a complete set of the Brea High School Annuals. Vannoye tracked it down in Minden, Nevada from a member of the class of 1937, Jeannette (Thaheld) Waldrep. Thanks Vannoye and Jeannette!

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2000

Canon, Kathy	013:30
Cornelius, Lisa	004:00
Crow, Jim	029:15
Dudding, Lloyd	024:30
Eseltine, Aaron	005:00
Fanning, Karl	030:15
French, Vonnie	056:15
Lorea, Kay	055:45
Makins, Edna	102:45
Mansur, P.J.	030:00
Mansur, Wade	030:30
Schweitzer, Jim	039:00
Thayer, Perry	001:00
Trullinger, Tracy	002:30
TOTAL HOURS	**420:15**

This report of volunteer hours does not include any of the volunteer time for Board of Directors' meetings or other activities by the executive officers.

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