

BREA SISTER CITY COMMITTEE



BREA

* PROMOTING *
* WORLD UNDERSTANDING *
* AND *
* PEACE *
* THROUGH FRIENDSHIP *

HANNO

LAGOS

1986

INTRODUCTION

The BREA SISTER CITY COMMITTEE offers its members unique opportunities to participate in personal and cultural exchanges with LAGOS DE MORENO, Jalisco, Mexico and HANNO, Saitama, Japan.

As members, you and your family will meet people who live in Mexico and Japan. These experiences will provide you with an insight into the different cultures and lifestyles of these two exciting countries.

You will have the advantage of seeing these countries from a different perspective. Also, you will be seeing your own country from the viewpoint of a visitor.

Participation in the Brea Sister City Program gives you a chance to make a personal statement regarding world understanding and peace.

Whether you choose a student, adult (family), sports or cultural exchange, your life will be greatly enriched by the experience.

HISTORY

"No impersonal representation of a culture can fully communicate its reality to others who have never known its living substance. Through personal relationships-- our curiosity can give way to trust, and the warmth of human friendship can be kindled." John F. Kennedy.

Brea's Sister City Program was founded on October 1969 by the City Council. The first trip to Lagos de Moreno was in 1971.

Relations with Hanno were established by the City Council in 1980. The first delegation from Hanno arrived in Brea in 1980. The first delegation from Brea visited Hanno in 1980. In 1985, a joint delegation from Lagos and Brea traveled to Hanno.

During the past 16 years, more than one thousand people have participated in Sister City events.

AFFILIATION

Brea is a member of Sister Cities International and the United States of Mexico Sister City Association.

LAGOS STUDENT EXCHANGE

1986 marks the 12th year of the Student Exchange Program with Lagos de Moreno, Mexico. Over the years, more than 130 high school students and their families have taken the opportunity to develop very special relationships with our friends south of the border. Exchanges are reciprocal in nature.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL EXCHANGE

Junior high school students can apply to be part of a reciprocal exchange program with students in Hanno, Japan. Hanno students have made an annual trip to Brea since 1981. 1985 marked the first trip of Brea students to Hanno.

ELEMENTARY ART AND PEN PAL EXCHANGE

Students in Brea's elementary schools have an opportunity to exchange artwork and letters with students in Lagos de Moreno. The theme of the artwork is a co-celebration of "The Day of the Teacher." Students get to know their friends in Mexico by exchanging letters.

YOUTH SOCCER EXCHANGE

1986 will mark the beginning of a 10-day youth soccer trip to Lagos. It is hoped that this inaugural event will blossom into an annual affair. A team from Lagos has been invited to visit Brea in 1987.

ADULT (FAMILY) EXCHANGE

You may choose to participate in any or all of the following exchanges, either by traveling to a host city or by being a host family. Lengths of stay vary, but are normally 4-10 days.

LAGOS TO BREA: July 4th week gives the Lagos visitor a chance to participate in our fiesta activities. Hosting special visitors from another country is a unique and rewarding experience; one you will never forget.

BREA TO LAGOS: The first week of August is fiesta time in Lagos. You will be a part of the fiesta activities. Also, you will be able to visit many of the beautiful cities close to Lagos. The people of Lagos are very gracious hosts and are looking forward to your visit.

BREA TO HANNO The 2nd of November is festival time in Hanno. Activities include many fancy floats and dancing in the street. You will have an opportunity to tour Japan and see much of its beauty and splendor.

HANNO TO BREA: Arrival dates for visitors from Hanno vary from year to year. You may wish to host some of our friends from Hanno. If so, you will find the Japanese to be most warm and friendly guests. Being a host family is an extremely rewarding experience.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE

One of the features of a Sister City program is the exchange of culture between the cities. Some of the cultural exchanges which have occurred are:

- Lagos de Moreno names one of their schools "Brea School."
- Brea named the City park near Laurel School "Lagos de Moreno Park."
- Lagos presented a sculptured mural, "Hermandad" to Brea. It is located on a wall at the Civic Cultural Center.
- "La Amistad", another mural by the same artist, Carlos Terres, was presented to the City of Hanno by the cities of Brea and Lagos de Moreno.
- Hanno sent their world famous Daiyashi Dance Troupe to Brea for a sellout performance.
- Hanno is preparing a 3100 pound, 11 foot lantern to be presented to the City of Brea.
- Elementary students in Lagos and Brea exchange artwork in celebration of the "Day of the Teacher."

HOSPITAL PROGRAM

In the summer of 1982, a program was begun by the Sister City Committee to collect and repair hospital equipment for the Hospital Rafael Larios in Lagos de Moreno. The private hospital, staffed by nuns and local doctors who donate their services, provides care for the poor people of Lagos.

Through the efforts of the service clubs in Brea, we have been able to better equip the hospital with many desperately needed items, such as X-ray machine, beds, cribs, nurses station, examination table and more.

These efforts have enabled the hospital to continue in existence; however, many more items are needed in this ongoing humanitarian project.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

We hope that you will want to join the Brea Sister City and be a part of a unique group of citizens dedicated to peace and friendship among peoples of the world. You can become a member by filling out the application below and submitting it, along with an annual membership fee of \$15 per family or \$5 for an individual.

The Brea Sister City Committee meets the 2nd Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the Brea City Council Chambers, located in the Civic Cultural Center. Correspondence should be sent to 331 Thor Place, Brea, CA 92621.

I/We would like to become a member of the Brea Sister City Committee.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

aug. 22 '86

A sister city relationship

'Mi casa es su casa,' amigos say

Story and photos
by Don and Pat Fox
Special to the Brea Progress

Don Fox helped start sister city relations between Brea and Lagos de Moreno, Mexico in 1969. The Brea icon and his wife Pat celebrated the 25th anniversary of intra-community visits and journeyed Aug. 3-10 to their Mexican friends south of the border.

Our recent visit to Lagos de Moreno was a significant one. It has been 15 years since we last visited our sister city.

Our first trip to Lagos was made with 21 other Breans in 1971 as the first delegation from Brea. We flew to Guadalajara then drove to Lagos, which is now approximately a 2½-hour drive. In 1971, the highway was a 2-lane road; today there is a toll highway.

Upon arriving in Lagos, we passed a new hotel, The Holiday Inn, and a large auto dealership. Also we noted a marked increase in commercial and industrial activity, bringing with it the usual increases in traffic.

When last in Lagos, we traveled one route in and out of the city with long waits behind vehicles crossing the bridge to the outskirts. Now, a new bridge — centrally located — reduces travel time considerably.

“When last in Lagos, we traveled one route in and out of the city with long waits behind vehicles crossing the bridge to the outskirts. Now, a new bridge — centrally located — reduces travel time considerably.”

Don and Pat Fox

On the hills surrounding the city, many new housing developments have gone in. In one of them, the Sister City Association constructed a park honoring our Brea-Lagos relationship. This was particularly touching since the park was dedicated in honor of our Mayor's late wife, Jacque Dunlap.

A few years ago, the Governor of Jalisco had built in Lagos a huge bullring and fairground complex. In the early years, the bullring was just a circle of cemented wall with bleachers around one end. Now, this new facility is completely built in,



ABOVE: Magdalena and Manuel Flores (left) pose with Don and Pat Fox during a sister-city visit to Lagos de Moreno, Mexico. Fox and Flores were the mayors of each city when the program began 25 years ago. **BELOW:** Mayor Burnie Dunlap poses with friends at the dedication of a park commemorating the relationship between the two cities — Brea and Lagos.



roofed, and has many exhibition rings. We viewed cattle and sheep much as we do at one of our county fairs.

It was nostalgic strolling through the Plaza, unchanged over the years. We noticed the beginnings of some much-needed renovation on the large ancient cathedral.

One thing missing in the Plaza was the young people who used to promenade each evening, arm-in-arm. Now, only older people sit and visit while the young ones have taken to wheels. Also missing were the *vacarros* who used to ride through the town on horseback.

Our hosts during our stay were Manuel and Magdalena

Flores, dear friends over the past 25 years. Manuel was the first Lagos Mayor to come to Brea, as Don was the first Brea mayor to visit Lagos. In 1978, a little elementary school was built and dedicated in honor of Don — Esquela de Brea.

On this trip, a watercolor collage depicting this event (from 18 years ago) was presented to the current Lagos Mayor.

Probably the most unchanged feature of Lagos is the Mexican hospitality exhibited by all the families we've met and visited through the years. They are a loving and affectionate people who truly open their homes and hearts to you. When they tell you "Mi casa es su casa" it is sincerely spoken.

KIWANIS HELPS: Brea Kiwanis Club President Pat Rountree tries out the driver's seat of a fire engine that the club and the Brea Fire Department donated to the city of Lagos de Moreno in Mexico. The club purchased three retired fire vehicles as a gift to Brea's sister city. Jack E. Hancock/Brea Progress



BIG GIFTS

Local service club and Fire Department donate fire engines and a truck to Brea's sister city Lagos de Moreno

By Vanessa Jazin
Brea Progress

Lagos de Moreno's more than 100,000 residents are a bit safer now, thanks to a local service club and the Fire Department.

Last week, Brea Kiwanis members and fire officials donated and drove two refurbished fire engines to Brea's sister city in Mexico.

Before last week, Lagos's 100,000 residents spread over 20 miles relied on one fire station at the south end of the city staffed by volunteers.

Now Lagos will be building another fire station at the city's north end to better respond to emergencies and common brush fires.

After a brief presentation at



FINISHING TOUCHES: Brea Fire Chief Bill Simpkins readies a retired fire engine for transport to Lagos de Moreno in Mexico. Jack E. Hancock/Brea Progress

the Civic Center, city fire officials and Kiwanis members drove off in the 1969 Crown pumper truck and 1975 Ford Brush truck headed toward San Diego. From there, members of

the Lagos fire team, the Bomberos, placed the trucks on a flat-bed semi and drove them to their new station.

"This will be well received by our sister city," said Brea Fire

Chief Bill Simpkins. "What we thought were unusable resources have come to life. It has been a process that has taken months,"

Please see GIFT/6

GIFT

FROM 1

Simpkins said.

"(They've) been rebuilt and their useful service to us is up," said Brea Battalion Chief Joel Shennum.

Along with the two engines, a surplus truck that was once used for earthquake or disaster emergencies by the school district will be sold at a low cost to the 40-member Bomberos team.

"There are lots of traffic emergencies (in Lagos) so this is perfect for them," Shennum said. "There are lots of storage spaces."

Equipment to fill those storage spaces was also donated. Safety clothing, floodlights, hoses, ropes, medical tool boxes and a stretcher were just a few of the many items added.

Through fund-raising like the Pancake Breakfast and golf tournament, the Kiwanis Club garnered the \$3,500 for the cost of the trucks.

"This is where we get to see the fruition of our efforts. Often, we just hand a check over to the library or to schools, but here we get to see our project firsthand," said Kiwanis President Pat Rountree.

The money used to purchase the trucks will be donated to the Community Center's after-school program.

"The best thing is all the money will be redirected to the youth and we immediately start saving lives down south," said Kiwanis member Bruce Freedman.

Equipment has been donated in the past by other local service clubs including the Rotary Club.

"It's really important to help the people of Lagos because they need and appreciate it and (there isn't) a lot of money in Mexico," said Rotary member John Boyd. "Eight years ago in Lagos if you heard the wailing of a siren it was unusual."

Since 1990, nine trash trucks have been donated to Lagos through Brea Disposal and 11 ambulances have been sent through Rotary Club.

The relationship between the two cities, which was established in 1969, will continue to strengthen through efforts like these, Boyd said.

STAR-PROGRESS

SISTER CITY ENVOYS AID PARK DEDICATION

By MARTIN HIRIGOVEN
Star-Progress Staff Writer

BREA — Visitors from Lagos de Moreno, Mex., Brea's sister city, continue a busy schedule of events this weekend, including attendance at tonight's Brea - Laguna Beach football game, the dedication of Brea's newest mini-park Saturday morning, and a community picnic Saturday afternoon.

The nine-member entourage has been treated to tours and social gatherings in their first two days in Brea, including a fiesta attended by nearly 100 people in the patio of Sandy's Casita Thursday night.

The plan is to show the visitors a good time during their five-day stay in Brea, but indications are that points of business and the official relationship between the two cities have been discussed between Mayor Don Fox and Mayor Manuel Flores during the visit.

"I am pleased with the bonds of friendship between the two sister cities, and hope they will even be strengthened more with student exchanges," Mayor Flores said during Wednesday's reception at the Brea Community Center.

City Hall officials have earlier indicated that student exchanges between the two cities are among the programs to be discussed during the visit, but no official announcements have been made by Brea representa-

tion. While the men in the party made this tour, the women were treated to an afternoon shopping spree.

After this afternoon's rest period, the visitors will be honored at tonight's football game at Brea - Olinda High School. The 8 p.m. event will find pre-game and half-time entertainment taking on a south-of-the-border flavor in honor of the sister city entourage.

The dedication and plaque ceremony at the one-acre Laurel School mini-park is set for 11 a.m. Saturday. It is appropriate that the new park area is located in Brea's central area, a location where much of the city's Mexican-American population resides.

More than 100 people are then expected to take part in the barbecue lunch at Aro Vista Park beginning at 1 p.m. Then, at 8 p.m., it's out to the Alta Vista Country Club where a dance will be hosted by the Brea Junior Woman's Club. Tickets are still available at the chamber of commerce or by calling Mrs. Eydie Hoss at 529-7178.

Sunday finds the group scheduled for a day at Disneyland. The stay ends Monday, but the Lagos group will not return immediately home, opting to visit Las Vegas prior to their return.

Mayor Flores, earlier this week, invited Breans in attendance at the city's official reception to visit his town of 40,000



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As of this writing, the Lagos entourage and their Brea hosts are scheduled to be cruising from Newport Beach to the Queen Mary in Long Beach on a 50-foot boat owned by a local resident.

The schedule shows an afternoon of rest for the visitors today, and this might have been welcome after the constant schedule they have maintained in their visit.

After Thursday's breakfast at the Imperial Golf Course, the group took part in a lengthy community tour which included visits to both Laurel and Fanning Schools.

The tour went beyond the time that had been allotted, tightening the day's schedule.

The afternoon's industrial tour turned into mostly an agricultural excursion, with three Brea plant tours being scrapped in favor of a trip to a farm in Chino. Mayor Flores is a rancher, and Lagos has a large agricultural area.

Yesterday's tours also included a visit to the Union Oil Re-

the barbecue lunch at Arovista Park beginning at 1 p.m. Then, at 8 p.m., it's out to the Alta Vista Country Club where a dance will be hosted by the Brea Junior Woman's Club. Tickets are still available at the chamber of commerce or by calling Mrs. Eyde Hess at 529-7178.

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Mayor Flores, earlier this week, invited Brea's attendance at the city's official reception to visit his town of 40,000 in the state of Jalisco. He promised the visitors he would make sure they had a good time in their visit.

Flores presented Mayor Fox this week with a leather-bound volume containing prints of Lagos de Moreno and its many attractions.



A FANNING GIFT — Lagos de Moreno Mayor Manuel Flores receives a Fanning School shirt from first grader Kim Karl during the tour of Brea's newest school Thursday. Fanning was one stop on the morning's community tour for the Lagos visitors. (Star-Progress Photo)

Three-State Service Station Shutdown Is Not Unanimous

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
A weekend shutdown of gasoline stations in Southern California, Arizona and Nevada to protest Phase 4 price controls will apparently be far from unanimous. But officials were not willing to predict how widespread the protest will be.

VFW In Brea Searches For Therapy Aids

BREA — Brea Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5384 and its auxiliary are collecting articles that can be used in the physical therapy program of the Long Beach Veterans Hospital.

The VFW is seeking clocks, watches, jewelry, eyeglasses, small radios, and jigsaw puzzles for the hospital's therapy program. Persons wishing to donate such items are asked to call Vivian Kleeman at 529-3896.

The local VFW post will furnish and operate a booth at the hospital's annual second district Halloween Carnival in the Veterans Administration Hospital recreation room on Sunday, Oct. 14.

The post will hold its annual Halloween dance for the benefit of the VFW National Home, Saturday, Oct. 27 at the VFW

forum, Arizona and Nevada to protest Phase 4 price controls will apparently be far from unanimous. But officials were not willing to predict how widespread the protest will be.

"At this point, indications are that more stations will be open than closed," the Automobile Club of Southern California said of the shutdown, which was scheduled to begin today in Southern California.

But the organization added that at the outset "the current situation has been extremely hard to monitor as a large number of station operators are playing a waiting game" to see what other dealers would do.

More than 1,000 dealers had voted at a Los Angeles meeting Wednesday to shut down for at least three days. However, one survey of 24 dealers found that more than half said they would stay open.

In Northern California, officials said almost all stations would be open. A massive shutdown had occurred in the San Francisco area two weeks ago. At a meeting Thursday night Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley gas dealers voted to stay open, saying that John Dunlop of the Cost of Living Council had agreed to meet

issued a list of company-operated stations that would remain open. The Southern California Automobile Club added it knew of no expected closures on routes from California to Las Vegas — previously hard hit with earlier protests.

In Arizona, mass closures were set for Phoenix and Yuma but not for Tucson. But the Phoenix closures weren't due until Saturday.

Hardest-hit areas in Los Angeles County were expected to be Long Beach, Torrance, Huntington Beach and the northern San Fernando Valley, an Automobile Club spokesman said. He added that there should be no trouble in inland Southern California areas such as Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Deadline Near For Voters To Register

A last chance to register to vote Nov. 6 will be offered tomorrow to La Habra and Brea residents.

Brea Police Nab La Habra Man In Theft

BREA — A 19-year-old La Habra man was arrested by Brea Police early this morning on a "grand theft auto" charge in connection with a stolen auto incident that took place in La Habra earlier this week.

Police arrested Jimmy Hernandez, 1320 W. Lorella, at 12:15 a.m. in the 1100 block of North Puente Street after offi-

LIKE THE PANAMA CANAL

BREA — School board trustee Rex Gaede and Brea-Olinda District Superintendent Dr. Paul Bolle will represent the district at Friday's Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) meeting in Los Angeles where they will present a position paper continuing opposition to the Chino Hills Airport.

The board has repeatedly voiced opposition to any airport in the Chino Hills, and no comments were made during Wednesday's meeting to indicate that any of the trustees had changed their minds.

In fact, it appeared as if the board and school district administration was as firm as ever in opposition, despite receiving written information from Chino Hills Airport Complex, Inc., stating that the proposed facility would not affect the local school district.

Gaede pointed out that the runways for the airport are pointed at 278 degrees magnetic north, a pattern that would take the flight pattern directly north of Olinda Village.

"There would still be a lot of sound," Gaede said.

He called the entire project "extraordinary," and compared the proposed earth-moving part of the project to what was done in developing the Panama Canal.

"I understand they plan to move 300 million cubic yards of dirt to make this happen," Gaede said. "I've read where only 211 million cubic yards of earth was removed to build the Panama Canal."

"I'm dubious that this kind of airport is really possible," he continued.

"They are granted airspace by the FAA, but this is with the understanding that they will only have 100,000 operations per year," he continued asking if it was all worth it.

Trustee Howard Frazier said that he understood the criteria for most "international" airports was 500,000 operations annually.

"I'm afraid we are being victimized by the selfishness of the communities around us, and it is time we stand up and fight this thing," Gaede continued. He was referring to Anaheim and Chino and other communities who might support the airport.

"If they can only operate in

airspace under this limitation (of flights), where will they go from there?" he added. "Anything more, and the FAA says they will be interfering with the operation of Los Angeles International, Ontario, and Fullerton Airports."

"There are 80 million reasons why they want the Chino airport," was the reaction of Trustee Dr. Richard Blake. "That's the amount of money the developers plan to make off of the land sale, alone."

He said that he learned of this program during a briefing of tower operators in Southern California. The project which began on Sept. 11 is scheduled to run through Oct. 31.

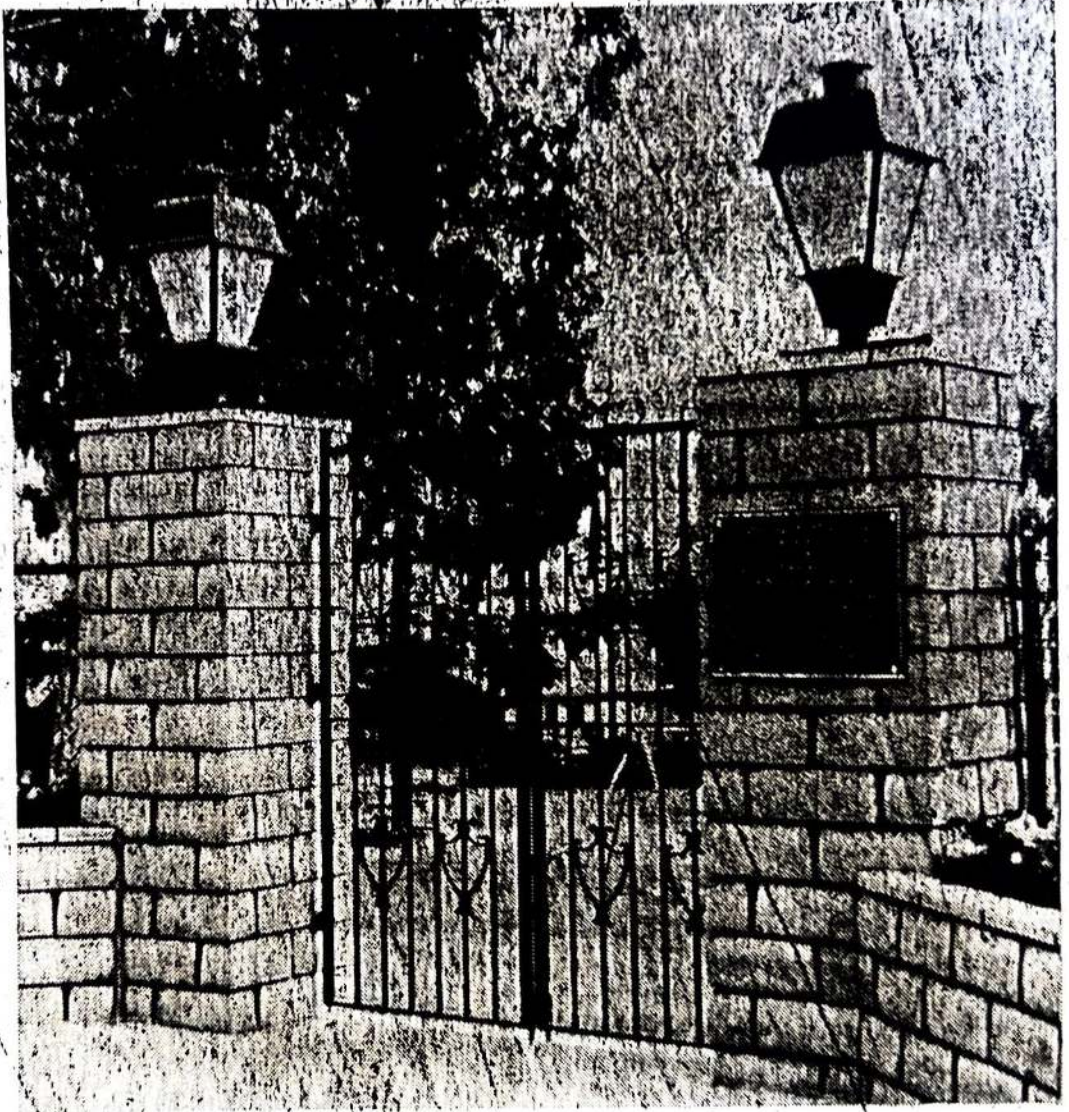
"The objects that the people saw in the sky were very possibly the tetrons from this program," Jennings offered, although offering that he is no expert on the pollution study.

This explanation may well solve many questions on the part of local residents who didn't know quite what they were looking at Wednesday.

Syria and Egypt, involved in the fighting since its outbreak six days ago, were joined in battle Wednesday by Iraq. Jordan, which has a long frontier with Israel and fought in the six-day war in 1967, has mobilized its reserves and was reported under heavy pressure to enter the war on the Arab side.

Both the Soviet Union and the United States accused each other of resupplying the fighting nations. Officials in Washington and Israel said Wednesday the Soviets were airlifting materiel to the Arabs.

Grand Entrance



LAGOS PARK — The sister city visitors are gone now, but this impressive entrance to the Lagos de Moreno Park remains at the corner of Birch Street and Flower Avenue. The gates open to a one acre mini-park on the grounds of Lautel School, of-

fering picnic facilities and playground equipment to residents of Brea's central area, an area that was in need of a park. Visitors from Brea's sister city related that a similar park will be named in Brea's honor in that Mexican city.

(Star-Progress Photo)

Thursday, September 12, 1991



(Star-Progress photo by Steve Creech)

CITY TO CITY — Brea Cultural Arts Commissioner Delaina Hofacre, center, with Brea Rotary Club member Ed Seal, right, and Embassy Suites Manager Tom Murray, holds one of the items for sale at the

Lagos de Moreno, Mexico, Business Expo. The Expo, featuring products manufactured in Lagos, will be held at 6 p.m. Friday in conjunction with the "Brea Fest."

Lagos showcases its commerce in Brea

By Steve Creech

OSP Staff Writer

BREA — Decorative lamps, bronze sculptures, and crafted leather goods will be among the items showcased by Lagos de Moreno merchants Friday at the Brea Civic and Cultural Center.

The work is a small example of commerce coming from Brea's sister city in Mexico, said Ed Seal, superintendent of the Brea Olinda Unified School District.

Seal, a member of the Brea Rotary Club, has toured the business facilities in Lagos de Moreno.

He said manufacturing giants

like Swiss/Mex, a maker of agricultural tools, and Nestle's Chocolate, are prime examples of the growing scope of business in Lagos.

"They're just getting a lot of industry in there now," he said.

The emphasis of the Lagos de Moreno Business Expo, which will be held from 6-10 p.m. in conjunction with the "Brea Fest," however, is not on the commercial giants.

Instead, the expo will showcase the wares of Lagos' independent merchants.

The exhibits in the Civic and

Cultural Center's Plaza Room include hand-blown and painted Christmas ornaments, decorative woven blankets, park benches and fences from the foundries of Lagos, and knitted baby clothes.

Pottery and lamps created by Guerra Y Asociados, and leather shoes by Candy also will be sold to the public.

Prices range from several dollars for Christmas ornaments to about \$60 for items such as an Italian-style urn decorated in glazed water colors.

The Lagos de Moreno Business Expo is a result of cooperation

between the Lagos de Moreno and Brea Rotary clubs, and the Brea Chamber of Commerce.

"We are working with Rotarians in Lagos to help them with their businesses," said John Boyd, who serves on the International Service Committee of the Brea Rotary.

Brea teacher tours sister city Hanno, Japan

Editor's Note: In August, Aro-vista special education teacher Karen Gill left for Brea's Sister City of Hanno, Japan, where she began a yearlong assignment as an English aide for the Hanno School District. She splits her time between the district's six junior high schools: Kajii, Daitchi, Nishi, Agano, Mimami Komu and Haru Ichibu.

Gill volunteered to teach Brea more about life in their Sister City by sharing her experiences in letters that will be published on an occasional basis by the Daily Star-Progress.)

**Karen Gill
DSP correspondent**

HANNO, Japan — Aug. 16, 1991:

Ko nee chee wa. (Good afternoon). Well, I've been in Japan for a little over two weeks now. The homeliness is pretty much gone and I think I'm going to like it here ... I'll give you some thoughts on Japan and what I've been doing.

First and foremost, Brea is a BIG deal. Everyone I have met so far (mostly in City Hall) has been to Brea, has kids that visited Brea, or wants to go to Brea ...

I'm staying with a host family the first month. They are fantastic. They help me with all my little trannas (like using the phone or finding a store). Mrs. Kambe is even teaching me how to cook Japanese. I think the main ingredient in every dish is soy sauce.

So far the food has been great. It's mostly salad (three times a day), rice, miso (bean paste) soup and strips of meat that are dipped in a sauce, but we did eat spaghetti, pizza and hamburgers,



—Karen Gill

Their house is bigger than I expected. I have a room upstairs and sleep on a bedroll. They call it a futon ... It's a thick sleeping-bag-size mattress that you pull out of a closet every night, cover with a sheet and a blanket, and sleep on. The floors are not as hard as ours, though, because they have Japanese mats on them.

My first impression of Japan is — everything is small. They have narrow streets, small food containers, small refrigerators ... and small people. (Editor's Note: Gill is 6 foot, 1.)

Very few people are fat (unless you're a sumo wrestler). Everyone is skinny. The only thing big in Japan are the beer and sake bottles ...

The language is coming VERY slowly. I pick up what I can. A lot of people know SOME English and want to practice. Unfortunately, they all know the same English — work and age questions, and "I know someone who's been to Brea ..."

Sept. 13:

I started school last week. It is a lot of fun. I mostly do team-teaching with the Japanese English teachers (JETs).

Junior high is three years here. The first- and second-year students are fairly vocal, but the third-year students would rather be studying for their exam into high school ...

In some ways, Japanese schools are just like American schools. You have good kids and bad kids, kids who want to learn and kids who could care less.

Some of the biggest differences in Hanno schools are uniforms and bathroom slippers. Every student wears a uniform — actually they wear two. They have their formal uniform of a skirt, pants and blouse, color-coded tennis shoes (each grade level has a different color) and a name tag. Un-derneath they wear a PE uniform which they change in and out of several times a day.

Most students get to school by 7:30 a.m. and practice their "sport," change (well, actually just pull their formal uniform over the top) for 8:15 homeroom, then they change back for PE and cleaning period. Even the teachers bring sweats and T-shirts to wear when they are not teaching in the classroom.

Cleaning period is a 30-minute period at 2:30 p.m. where everyone, including staff and me, cleans the school. Students not only clean their classrooms, but are assigned other school rooms and outside. Outside they sweep, pick up litter and trim bushes ... I help clean the teacher's room.

Oct. 1, 1991:
We had our first school festival. It was a sports festival. It is held to celebrate when the Olympics were held in Japan in 1964.

Sports are a big deal in Japan. Most of the students in junior high are involved in some sort of school club after school (anywhere from 3 to 6 p.m. every day.) I would estimate that 70 percent of these clubs are sports-related. Everyone was very shocked that we don't have any sports festivals in America.

The other big difference is bathroom slippers. When you enter the school, you take off your outside shoes and put on your "inside shoes (which may or may not match your outfit). If you do not have indoor shoes, you wear guest slippers. My first day ONLY I wore guest slippers. My "first impression" was very impressive — I tripped up the stairs and walked out of my slippers on three occasions ...

Now I have indoor shoes (tennis shoes). They NEVER match what I'm wearing and usually look quite silly, but they are definitely more comfortable. They are, of course, a hassle to tie and untie when you have to change out of your indoor shoes into the bathroom slippers to go to the bathroom ...

I have moved into my own "house" now. It's a two-bedroom, one-bath and kitchen place. One room is carpeted and the other is tatami mats. I only have hot water in my shower ...

I've been cooking for myself for two weeks. I eat a lot of noodles and stir-fry stuff, and experiment with vegetables.

One day my neighbors gave me what I thought were plums, but turned out to be a nut of sorts. I had to take it to work and ask them what it was and how to eat it. (You mix it with rice.) ...

At the end there were two events involving the whole school. The girls performed an original dance using flags, balloons or pieces of cloth. In some of the larger schools there were 450 girls on the field at a time. It was really spectacular ...

Afterward the boys took the field and performed gymnastic routines where they build pyramids and did other cheerleading-like maneuvers. Again, very spectacular ... Afterward the parents took the teachers out for food and beer ... "Thikusat" is the formal name for the sports festival ...

Let me tell you a little more about this phenomenon called clubs.

Six days a week (sometimes seven) students arrive at school early, around 7:15 a.m. and begin practicing their sport. The teachers are not required to be here that early, but many are. At 8:15

the students and teachers change out of their track clothes and into their teaching and school clothes, go to school all day, then after cleaning period they are back out at clubs. Sometimes the teachers are there and sometimes they are not.

The teachers' work day is from 7:15 a.m. to 5 p.m., but most teachers stay until 6 or 6:30 p.m. When the teachers are not there, the clubs run the same as when the teachers are there.

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FAR EASTERN EDUCATION — At top, Kaji Junior High boys perform in the gymnastics portion of a sports festival. Below, winners of an English game played in Gill's class pose in front of their handywork. Notice the girls' hair is above their shoulders as required by the school.

work for the good of the group and if you don't, the group suffers. The whole idea of individual gain is not even considered. Students who work for individual gain on a team sport may even be shunned. When the teachers are there, they follow the same schedule and there is a lot of joking and laughing. It's really interesting ...

Japanese is coming slowly, but I'm still trying ...

(P.S. This Thursday (Oct. 10) is a holiday. Nobody has to work because it's Health and Sports Day.)