


Ocean Beach Historical Society  
P.O. Box 7895, San Diego, CA 92167

Change Service Requested




Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
San Diego, CA  
Permit No. 3285



# Sea Scrolls

Notes from the  
Ocean Beach Historical Society

Vol. xIx No. 3  
Published Bimonthly



Above,  
Ocean Beach  
Wonderland  
postcard of the  
Water Chutes  
and the  
Rollercoaster  
in background.

June - July 2013 • President: Pat James • Editors: Susan James & Stephanie Greenwald • Creative Director: Kathy Blavatt



**COMING**



**WONDERLAND  
100 YEAR CELEBRATION!**  
Pat James & Jonnie Wilson  
THURS., JUNE 20, 7 PM  
at P.L. United Methodist Church  
1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., O. B.

Visit our OBHS Booth  
34rd OCEAN BEACH  
STREET FAIR  
SAT., JUNE 22rd

If you're moving or  
temporarily changing address  
Contact: STEPHANIE  
(619) 602-0771  
luckyme3@cox.net  
or mail to:  
Ocean Beach Historical  
Society  
P.O. Box 7895, San Diego,  
CA 92167

Please join our OB Blog to tell your favorite OB stories, facts and memories. Visit:  
[www.obhistory.wordpress.com](http://www.obhistory.wordpress.com)



**MARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY?**

*We are a 501 (C) 3 Nonprofit, DONATIONS MAY BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.*  
**Join and receive our newsletters & announcements.**  
Fill out the form below and mail it with a check to:  
**OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
P.O. Box 7895, San Diego, CA 92167

---

Individuals-\$12/yr.                       Business, 2 Adults, or Family-\$20  
 Sustaining Member-\$100                       Life Member-\$500/1 payment  
 Special Friend of OBHS (includes Life Membership) - \$1,000/1 payment

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address or PO Box \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ Email(optional) \_\_\_\_\_

**The Ocean Beach Historical Society Presents:**  
**WONDERLAND  
100 YEAR CELEBRATION!**  
FEATURING PAT JAMES & JONNIE WILSON  
**Thurs., June 20 at 7PM**  
at P.L. United Methodist Church, 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., O.B.

**W**hen Wonderland opened on July 4, 1913, it drew a crowd of 35,000 people to Ocean Beach, then a community of only 300 residents. Although this early amusement park—the first to be built in the city of San Diego—only lasted for three years, its brief existence was pivotal to the development of O. B.

At the June 20 meeting, you'll learn details about Wonderland's many attractions, which included the largest roller coaster on the West Coast at the time, some unusual—even bizarre—things that happened at the park between 1913 and 1916, and the connection between this fabled resort and D. C. Collier, the real estate developer many call "the true father of Ocean Beach."  
*Presenters: Pat James is President of the Ocean Beach Historical Society. Jonnie Wilson is on the OBHS board and an author. She is currently Co-author of the "Ocean Beach" book being produced for Arcadia Publishing.*

**CAROL SING SWIMS INTO HISTORY – Thurs., July 18th at 7PM**  
at P.L. United Methodist Church, 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., O.B.

**I**n the tradition of Florence Chadwick, champion swimmer Carol Sing spent her formative years in Ocean Beach. Living blocks from the beach gave her a love for the ocean, having a positive lifelong role in her life. Since the 1960's, Carol spent the next 25 years raising her family at Mt. Helix. However, her mom and two brothers still lived in O.B. She continued her swim skills by coaching, lifeguarding and teaching water exercise classes.

Later, struggling with an empty nest and the death of her mom, Carol went back to the solace of the ocean. Great joy came into her life by swimming with La Jolla Cove Swim Club. She also started on her long distance journey to channel swimming, which in 1999 enabled her at age 57 to become the oldest women in the world to swim the English Channel.  
Come hear Carol's fascinating story at the OBHS July 18th program. ©Copyright 2013 OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY is producing the **OCEAN BEACH BOOK**

for Arcadia Publishing  
We Need O.B. Historical Photos of:

- HISTORICAL STRUCTURES
- BEACHES • O.B. MAPS
- FAMILIES & COMMUNITY
- O.B. EVENTS • BUSINESSES

Email: [kblavatt@cox.net](mailto:kblavatt@cox.net)  
or Ph. Mary Allely (619) 223-7784



Above, O.B. Bake Shop (1966)  
Donated by Heidi Ann Peterson

**MEMBERS**

April - May:  
New Members:  
Maryann Balistrieri;  
Chris Bover; Stephanie &  
Steve Byers; Kay Chilcote;  
Bev & George McCalla;  
Lynn Newlands; Susan B.  
Peinado; Angela Yang.  
Welcome Back: Michael  
Betts; Rick Bollinger;  
Mary Lou Dennis.

Donations:  
OB Geriatrics Surf and  
Drill Team \$1,000.  
Donations to the Archives:  
Lindy Harshberger \$50;  
The Friends of the  
Ocean Beach Library \$150.

**PRESERVE OB'S HISTORY!**  
DONATE TO THE  
OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Donated by Mcling Family

WE NEED: • HISTORICAL PHOTOS, ITEMS & DOCUMENTATION  
• CASH DONATIONS • HISTORICAL INTERVIEWS • ARCHIVAL SUPPLIES

**GIVE A GIFT THAT HELPS PRESERVE OUR COMMUNITY'S HISTORY ARCHIVES**

The OBHS Archives was founded to preserve the history of Ocean Beach and the peninsula. The Archives Room is housed in space rented from the PLUM Church in O.B., where the OBHS programs are held.

The collection includes: Photos, maps, books, papers, newspapers, letters & artifacts. Also, an extensive biography index and San Diego City Directories from 1926 to 1984 which list people, their spouses & occupations. Residents are also listed by street address. Dedicated volunteers assist with the processing.

**DONATIONS TO THE ARCHIVES ARE WELCOME.**

Many people believe that their lives are of no interest to others, but they are!

Unfortunately, photographs, house plans, business & organization records, and family papers end up in the trash after a death in the family... photographs depicting people, their activities & customs, homes & buildings, and dress. Some O.B. buildings vanish or functions change almost overnight and new ones appear. The cliffs erode and scenery changes. The OBHS Archives provide an invaluable window into O.B.'s past.

When donating photographs to the Archives, please remember to date, identify the people and places in them. Reluctant to give up your photos or papers? The Archive's staff would be happy to copy and safely return items to you with your permission to use the materials.

Preservation work often needs support & supplies.

GIFTS MAY BE DONATED AT MONTHLY MEETINGS

OBHS is a 501 (C) 3 Nonprofit, DONATIONS OF ITEMS & CASH MAY BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.



CONTACT ARCHIVIST MARY ALLELY TO SCHEDULE A MEETING OR PICKUP: 619 223-7784

**THANKS — Archive & Book Donors:**

Mike Mcling; Hidi Ann Peterson; and Kathleen Svetilk

More from:

Walt & Pam Simon (Pamela Faber-Simon)  
Vince Adami (Frank McElwee & Mary Peace)

**OB EXPOSED! A Photo Perfect 19th Year!**



Photographed by Kathy Blavatt

**CONGRATULATIONS WINNERS:**

**BEST IN SHOW:**  
Don Johnson - O.B. Phil #1

**BLACK & WHITE:**  
Don Johnson - O.B. Phil #1

**COLOR:** Ray Hitchcock -

Sunset Splash

**SPECIAL EFFECTS:** (right)

Fran Del Santo - Electric—

A Young Woman Writing in Her Journal

**PEOPLE'S CHOICE:** (far right)

Jane Swanson - Dog Explores

Cave at Sunset Cliffs

**VINTAGE:** McElwee/Peace, (right)

Vince Adami - (1917)

Looking North of OB from Cliff Area



THANKS TO DONORS (all those great refreshments):  
Point Loma Masonic Lodge; C.J.'s Catering &  
Speciality Baking; European Cake Gallery; Newbreak  
Coffee at the Beach, OB Business Center; OB People's  
Co-op; OB QuikStop; Olive Tree Market Place;  
Pepe's, Shades, and Rikio & Annie Shiodsaki.

Thanks to: Judges Joe Ewing & Steve Rowell, volun-  
teers, and participants that made this a fabulous event.  
Photos will be available for pick up at The OB Business Center  
(M-F). OB Business Center, 4876 Santa Monica, OB (9 am-5 pm,  
Mon.- Fri.) Any photos not picked up after 30 days will be the  
property of the OBHS.  
The OBHS is not responsible for lost or damaged photos.