


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

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Sea Scrolls

Notes from the
Ocean Beach Historical Society

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©OBHS Archives Photo

1916 Flood, overflowing San Diego River, damaging railroad tracks and bridges and causing severe damage in Ocean Beach.

January - February 2016 • President: Pat James • Editors: Susan James & Stephanie Greenwald • Creative Director: Kathy Blavatt

Ocean Beach Historical Society Presents:

OB'S HISTORY OF VOLUNTEERISM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 7 PM, *By Claudia Jack*
at the P.L. United Methodist Church, 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd.,



Join us Jan. 21 as Claudia Jack presents "OB's History of VOLUNTEERISM". The many organizations and volunteers are what has helped make OB special... from it's parade, beach clean-ups, planning board, Friends of the Library, and many more. We are thankful to the multitude of caring and helpful residents that are the heart of our beach town.

Claudia will include information about the many local organizations and how you can get involved and keep OB's wonderful community volunteerism spirit alive!
Please join us on the evening of Jan. 21st. This program is free.

"CENTENNIAL OF THE DEVASTATING 1916 FLOOD AND THE RAINMAKER"

By Rick Crawford

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 7 PM,
at St. Peter's by the Sea Lutheran Church
1371 Sunset Cliffs Blvd, Ocean Beach



One hundred years ago, the drought-fearing city councilmen of San Diego hired a rainmaker. For a handshake pledge of \$10,000, Charles Hatfield built a wooden tower, set up equipment at Lake Morena, and began "milking the skies." In the days that followed, San Diego was deluged with nearly 30 inches of rain. Mission Valley flooded, reservoirs filled and dams collapsed, roads and bridges washed away. Did the rainmaker produce the epic storms of January 1916? Or was this massive deluge an act of God?

In words and pictures this presentation will re-visit the famed Rainmaker Flood and look at the strange story of an itinerant sewing machine salesman—turned rainmaker, who claimed the historic rainfall as "an act of Hatfield."

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Start taking your OB Pier photos NOW!!!
The Ocean Beach Historic Society will be celebrating the Ocean Beach Pier's 50th Birthday
OB EXPOSED! in May, is having a Special PRIZE Category.... **"PIERING-THRU-THE-LENS"** (pier photos)

COMING

Please join our OB Blog to tell your favorite OB stories, facts and memories. Visit:
www.obhistory.wordpress.com



OB'S HISTORY OF VOLUNTEERISM
Claudia Jack
THURS., JAN. 21, 7 PM
at P.L. United Methodist Church,
1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., O.B.

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



MARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY?
We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. 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-\$15/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) _____

NEW MEMBER RENEWAL

Receive an 2016 OB Historic Calendar with \$100 or Larger NEW Membership
Redeemable at any OBHS Event or Program

SPECIAL OFFER

SAN DIEGO BOOK AWARDS ASSOCIATION
San Diego Book Awards
2015 WINNER

“OCEAN BEACH”
Book by the Ocean Beach Historical Society & Arcadia Publishing

Be transported back in time through this fantastic book filled with Ocean Beach’s wonderful history, historical photos and fascinating images.

\$21⁹⁹ plus tax

The “Ocean Beach” book is available at the Ocean Beach Historical Society programs, events and for sale by local vendors.... see sales list at: www.obhistory.wordpress.com

Proceeds go to the OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY a 501(c)(3) non-profit org.

1887 OB MAP POSTER

The 1887 O.B. Historical color map poster has lovely calligraphy, the old street names and the railroad lines. Also locations and names of the beaches & rock formations, sand dunes and fresh water springs. The map’s natural aging, torn edges & stains gives it a wonderful pirate-map quality.

\$20 ea. (includes tax)

“It’s stunning” - Joe Wambaugh



©photo by Steve Rowell

- THE OBHS NEEDS:**
- HISTORICAL PHOTOS, ITEMS & DOCUMENTATION
 - CASH DONATIONS
 - HISTORICAL INTERVIEWS
 - ARCHIVAL SUPPLIES

PRESERVE OB’S HISTORY!

THE OBHS ARCHIVES WAS FOUNDED TO PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF OCEAN BEACH AND THE PENINSULA.



The OBHS Archivists Serving Our Community
 ©photo by Steve Rowell

The Archives Room is in the PLUM Church in O.B., where the OBHS programs are held.

The collection includes: Photos, maps, books, papers, newspapers, letters, artifacts and 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 processing.

ARCHIVES DONATIONS 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) non-profit organization.
 DONATIONS OF ITEMS & CASH MAY BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.



CONTACT FOR ARCHIVES ONLY:
 ARCHIVIST MARY ALLELY
 TO SCHEDULE A MEETING OR PICKUP: 858-550-5982

MEMBERS
 November - December 2015:
 New Members:
 Life Membership Craig & Julie Klein Family;
 Elizabeth Kutzner;
 Jenny & Darryl Ridenour;
 Jonathan Riley;
 Ron & Kristin Soski-Conwell.

Donations:
 Celia & David Ball;
 Roger Bresnan;
 Kathy Frasca;
 Ruth Sewell; Betty White.

Thanks To Blue Vase Donators

We Welcome Newly Elected OBHS Board Member:
 Eric DuVall

Thank You to all that made Archives Donations in 2015

OBHS GENERAL INFO. CONTACT: Pat James, President
 pjinob@gmail.com or ph. 619-226-8125

The Ocean Beach Historical Society looks forward to bringing you more exciting OB HISTORY in 2016.

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Rick Crawford is the supervisor of Special Collections at the San Diego Public Library. He is the former archives director at the San Diego Historical Society, where he also edited the Journal of San Diego History. He has degrees in history and library science, and has written extensively on local history, including articles for the San Diego Union-Tribune, and the books “San Diego Yesterday” and “The Way We Were in San Diego”.

Come hear Rick at our Feb. 18th OBHS Program.

2016 Congress of History Presents

Scandals & SCOUNDRELS

Stories of Controversy and Such in the San Diego Region

The 2016 Congress of History Conference
SCANDALS & SCOUNDRELS
 to be held on:
Friday, March 4 and Saturday, March 5, 2016
 at San Diego OASIS (Mission Valley Macys)

For information and reservations:
www.congressofhistory.org

The Congress of History of San Diego and Imperial Counties is a networking organization that brings together representatives of historical organizations, groups, museums and historical archives in California's San Diego and Imperial Counties.

The Congress of History of San Diego & Imperial Counties provides unity and coordinates the educational efforts of member organizations interested in promoting a greater awareness of the history of San Diego and Imperial Counties and outlying regions among its members and the general public.