


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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Published Bimonthly



Ned Titlow and Carol Bowers at the 2008 Ocean Beach Historical Society Wisteria Party.

**A Lucky Leprechaun awaits you at the March 17th OBHS program!**  
See details inside.



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

*Ocean Beach Historical Society Presents:*

**THE BELOVED  
WISTERIA COTTAGE**  
THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 7 PM,  
at the P.L. United Methodist Church,  
1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., O.B.

On March 17th we celebrate Spring with a program about the history and O.B. spirit of the beloved Wisteria Cottage and it's famous 100+ year-old vines.

You will see and hear what has made the historical site so special... from the people who have lived there, to the people that have partied there!

Along with the wisteria vines, we will also celebrate the "shamrock"... since this is St. Paddy's Day! You'll be able to enter our **Lucky Shamrock 50/50 Opportunity Drawing.**

Come join in the fun on the evening of March 17th (in the spirit of purple & green) as we celebrate O.B. style. Suggested OBHS Program donation \$5, but any donation is appreciated.



**THE CARLSON & HIGGINS  
O.B. SCANDALS**

By Bruce Semelsberger

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 7 PM

at P.L. United Methodist Church, 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., O.B.

In 1887 Billy Carlson and Frank Higgins (credited as the founders of O.B.) renamed "Mussel Beds" to "Ocean Beach". Following that they were linked to numerous scandals. To name a few: land deals, an O.B. hotel and trains. Later Carlson became San Diego's youngest Mayor; while Higgin's became a tragic figure.

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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)

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**COMING**



**THE BELOVED  
WISTERIA  
COTTAGE**  
Ocean Beach  
Historical Society

THURS., MARCH 17, 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

**SPECIAL OFFER**

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

[www.obhistory.wordpress.com](http://www.obhistory.wordpress.com)



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

**“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.

**\$21<sup>99</sup>** 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](http://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*

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

**Help PRESERVE OB’s HISTORY!**

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



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**  
 January - February 2016:  
 New Members:  
 Linda & Steve Bates;  
 Robert Keller; Kitty McDaniel;  
 Edith White;  
 Karen & Chris Jernigans  
 Donations:  
 Marge Grant; Jane Meiners;  
 Barbara Schmidtkecht;  
 Dianne Cowen.

Thank you Rick Crawford for an interesting program on the 1916 Floods & Rainmaker, and the Congress of History San Diego & Imperial County, for the audio clip of a man’s childhood memories of buildings & animals washing down the San Diego River to the ocean.

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

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 Bruce Semelsberger is the Archivist for the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum 1985 – present. Bruce built an archival collection and gives lectures on the railroad. Bruce also lectures about local history. He has been prominent feature speaker at The Congress of History of San Diego and Imperial Counties annual conferences.



**FEELING LUCKY THIS ST. PATRIC’S DAY?**  
 Enter the Lucky Shamrock 50/50 Opportunity Drawing at the March 17th OBHS Program. 50 percent goes to the winner, and 50 percent goes to the Ocean Beach Historical Society. (a 501(c)(3) non-profit org.)

Other prizes will be included in the drawing.



**Get your photos ready for OB EXPOSED!**  
 Photographic Impressions of Ocean Beach & Point Loma  
**FRIDAY, MAY 20th, 6 PM- 8:30 PM**  
 MASONIC CENTER, 1711 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., O.B.  
 A photo exhibit and contest is open to all levels and ages. Enter photos taken in Ocean Beach or Point Loma... old photos, new photos, color or black & white.

**PRIZES & WINNING CATEGORIES ARE:**

- **\$100 Prize+T-Shirt** Special Subject Prize - **“PIERING-THRU-THE-LENS”** OB Pier Photos Best in Show & People’s Choice (Voted by show attendees)
- **\$25 Prize** Best Color, Best Black & White, Best Vintage (Historic), Best Special Effects, and Best Child’s Under age 16

**PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY: For Exhibit Only... Not Judged.**

- Professionals can display cards and/or brochures by their work. They may donate photos if they choose to.

ENTRY FORMS will be available:  
 in the May Sea Scrolls, The OB Business Center or at [www.obhistory.wordpress.com](http://www.obhistory.wordpress.com)