

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
Vol. xxlv No. 1 Published Bimonthly



Who is this person?
Find out at the Feb. 15
OBHS Program

January - February 2018 • President: Eric DuVall • Editors: Susan James & Stephanie Greenwald • Creative Director: Kathy Blavatt



San Diego's Naval Disaster and the Zeal for Conviction By Karen Scanlon

THURS., JAN. 18, 7 PM
AT WATER'S EDGE FAITH COMMUNITY (Formerly P.L. United Methodist Church)
1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., O.B.

It was business as usual along San Diego's waterfront in the early morning of July 21, 1905. But a boiler explosion aboard the patrol gunboat USS Bennington, at anchor in the stream of the bay, plundered the ordinary and remains one of the deadliest peacetime disasters in the history of the United States Navy.

Immediately, a Court of Inquiry convened in San Diego. In October, the Courts Martial of Bennington's commanding and engineering officers took place at Mare Island Naval Yard. What caused the explosion that stole the lives of 66 men? The pursuit of conviction was intense. *Join Karen Thursday January 18th. (continued on page 3)*

COMING



OBHS PRESENTS:
San Diego's Naval Disaster and the Zeal for Conviction

By KAREN SCANLON
THURS. JAN. 18, 7PM
AT WATER'S EDGE FAITH COMMUNITY (WAS P.L.U.M.)
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



OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

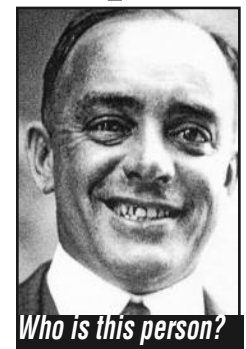
ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY?
We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, DONATIONS MAY BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.
JOIN AND RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS.
Fill out the form below and mail it with a check to:
ATTN.: OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 7895, San Diego, CA 92167-0895

Individuals-\$15/yr. Business, 2 Adults, or Family-\$20
 Sustaining Member-\$100/yr. 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 _____ Email _____

Receive an 1887 Map Poster with \$100 or Larger NEW Membership
Redeemable at any OBHS Event or Program

Unique and Funny O.B. Stories, By Kitty McDaniel, Dedi Ridenour, & Jonnie Wilson



Who is this person?

THURS., FEB. 15, 7 PM
AT WATER'S EDGE FAITH COMMUNITY (Formerly P.L.U.M.)
1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., O.B.

Join us on February 15 for a nostalgic trip back in time with a trio of O. B. historians—Kitty McDaniel, Dedi Ridenour, and Jonnie Wilson. Jonnie and Kitty will regale you with stories of strange things that went on at Wonderland—O.B.'e early amusement park—as well as introduce you to some important Obecians you've probably never heard of, and reveal political shenanigans that went on during the early days of our beach town. (News flash: Things weren't any better back then!) Dedi, on the other hand, will focus her attention on her favorite topic—Ocean Beach during World War II. She was only a child during that era (albeit a precocious one), but research done as an adult—combined with her early memories—have made her a bonafide expert on this subject.



Who is this person?

Point Loma United Methodist Church (PLUM) has changed to
WATER'S EDGE FAITH COMMUNITY.

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.

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

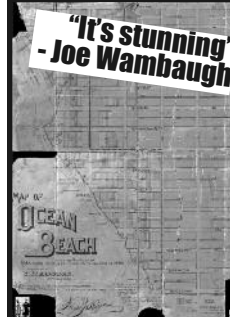


1887 OB MAP POSTER

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



SPECIAL THANKS TO ST. PETER’S BY THE SEA LUTHERAN CHURCH

For use of your wonderful facilities for our Nov. Ocean Beach Historical Society Program.

Coming: MARCH WISTERIA GARDEN PARTY.

Ocean Beach Where Land and Water Meet
By Kathy Blavatt
BOOK PREMIER AT THE APRIL 19th OBHS program.

PRESERVE OB’S HISTORY Thru CONTRIBUTIONS!

The OBHS Archives was founded to preserve the history of Ocean Beach and the peninsula.

The OBHS Archive’s Room is upstairs on the top floor of the

WATER’S EDGE FAITH COMMUNITY
1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., O.B.

THE OBHS ARCHIVE COLLECTION INCLUDES:

THE OBHS NEEDS:

- Historical Photos, Items & Documentation
- Cash Donations
- Historical Interviews
- Archival Supplies

Photos, maps, books, papers, newspapers, letters, artifacts and an extensive biography index with 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. 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:
TO SCHEDULE A MEETING OR PICKUP: 619-226-8125

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



MEMBERS
October - December 2018:
New Member:
Chere Thomas.
Sustaining Member:
Mary Northrop (Mares).
Donations:
Celia & David Ball;
Roger Bresnan, Barbara A. Chrestman; Vickie Ficklin; Kathy Frasca; Jan & James Hall, DDS; Karen Scanlon; Anna Thurston; Betty White.
Donations
Jane Meiners
Donations in Memory of Candy Riley:
Kathy & Ray Blavatt.
Thanks To Blue Vase Donators
PLEASE CONSIDER AN OBHS DONATION.

Continued from pg. 1
Karen Scanlon is a freelance writer, historian, and early childhood educator who writes extensively on the maritime history of San Diego, and children’s curriculum. She is a volunteer at Cabrillo National Monument and works with her twin sister, Kim, tending the Fresnel lenses in its collection. The two co-authored a book titled Lighthouses of San Diego. Karen is a contributing member of La Playa Trail Association and Maritime Museum of San Diego. She is the proud recipient of The Martha Washington Medal awarded by the Sons of the American Revolution for her work commemorating the Bennington disaster.

Believe it or not -
IT HAPPENED IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD!
ADVENTURES IN LOCAL HISTORY



Conference Co-sponsor: The Portuguese Historical Center
The Congress of History of San Diego & Imperial Counties
53rd Annual Conference • March 2 & 3, 2018
At Portuguese Historical Center: 2831 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego, CA 92106 (P.L.)
www.CongressOfHistory.org

2018 Ocean Beach Historical Society Board


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Back Row:
Eric DuVall, Ray Blavatt, Terry Beddoes, Susan James, and Tom Garonski.



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