

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

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**OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

# Sea Scrolls

Notes from the  
**Ocean Beach Historical Society**  
Vol. XXVI No. 3 Published Bimonthly

*Luxurious Cars of Latest Type for Beach Line*

*BETTER RAILWAY ON BACON STREET*

The Ocean Beach Historical Society's  
President Eric DuVall presents  
"Trolley to the Beach" Online Film Links at:  
**www.obhistory.org**

May - June 2020 • President: Eric DuVall • Editor: Susan James • Creative Director: Kathy Blavatt

**COMING**

**TROLLEY to the BEACH**  
The Point Loma Railroad & the San Diego Electric Railway

The  
**Ocean Beach Historical Society Site Presents:**  
**FILMS ONLINE LINKS**  
and description at:  
**www.obhistory.org**

*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.org**



**OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**MEMBERSHIP**

**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 92167-0895

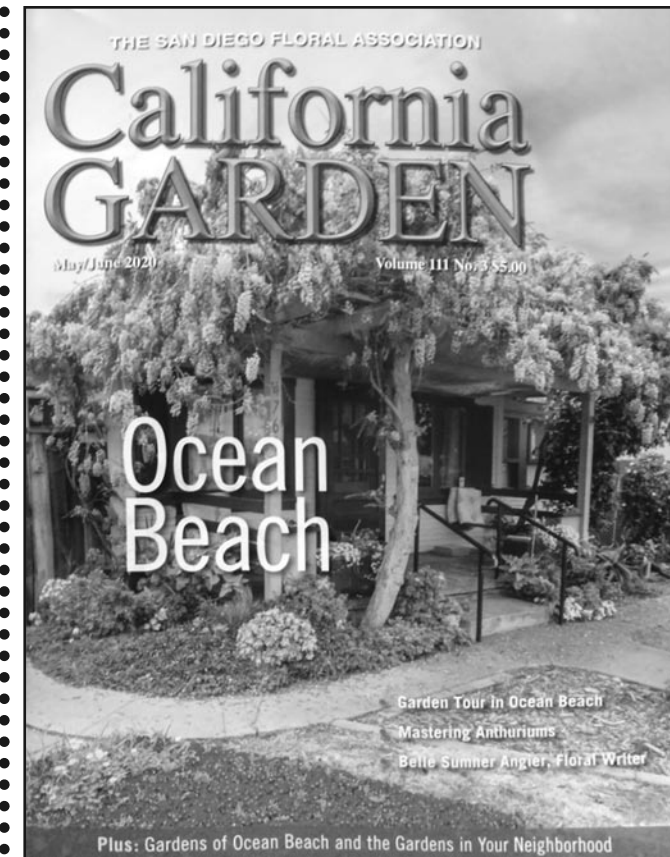
Individuals-\$15/yr.       Business, 2 Adults, or Family-\$20  
 Sustaining Member-\$100/yr.       Life Member-\$500/1 payment  
 Special Friend of OBHS (includes Life Membership) - \$1,000/1 payment

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

NEW MEMBER     RENEWAL     CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

**SPECIAL OFFER**



For information about "CALIFORNIA GARDEN" magazine, and the San Diego Floral Association:  
**www.sdfloreal.org/magazine.htm**

**WISTERIA COTTAGE AND GARDEN**  
at 4761 Niagara Avenue, Ocean Beach  
**ON THE COVER OF California GARDEN MAGAZINE!**

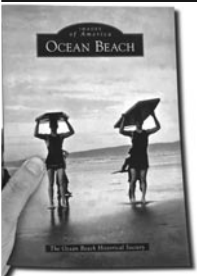
*Congratulations Pat & Susan James, and the Titlow family, for keeping the Wisteria Cottage & Garden so beautiful, that it was chosen as the cover of the May - June 2020 "California Garden" magazine, by the San Diego Floral Association, that was founded in San Diego in 1907.*

*Ocean Beach is the feature article in this "California Garden" issue. It has lovely photos of other beautiful Ocean Beach gardens, artifacts, and a view shot of a line of palm trees leading to the ocean.*

**Live OBHS Programs are CANCELED until further notice!!!**  
In line with State and County guidelines for non-essential gatherings in the wake of the COVID-19 scare, Ocean Beach Historical Society will regretfully cancel our live programs until further notice.

*The Ocean Beach Historical Society is replacing our live programs with Online Films. See:*  
**O.B. Walkabout-Talkabout, Starring: Dean Hollenbeck, PRODUCED BY KATHY & RAY BLAVATT**  
**"TROLLEY TO THE BEACH" by OBHS President Eric DuVall presents online film.**  
**OBHS MOVIE LINKS, UPDATES, & INFORMATION at: www.obhistory.org**

**"OCEAN BEACH"**  
 by Ocean Beach Historical Society & Arcadia Publishing  
**San Diego Book Awards 2015 WINNER**

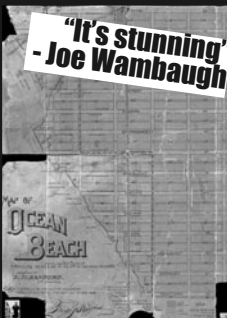


Be transported back in time through this fantastic book filled with O.B.'s wonderful history, historical photos and fascinating images.

Available at OBHS events and at local vendors.

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

**1887 O.B. MAP POSTER**  
 1887 O.B. historical color map poster has lovely calligraphy, old street names and railroad lines. Also locations and names of beaches & rock formations, sand dunes and fresh water springs. The map's natural aging, torn edges & stains give it a wonderful pirate-map quality.  
 \$20 ea. (includes tax)




"It's stunning" - Joe Wambaugh

**DONATIONS Support OB Historical Society**



Get OBHS Film Link at [www.obhistory.org](http://www.obhistory.org)

**OCEAN BEACH**  
 WHERE LAND AND WATER MEET  
 By KATHY BLAVATT  
 Arcadia Publishing



Available at OBHS events & local vendors: Olive Tree Market & Stumps Market

**PRESERVE O.B.'s HISTORY Thru CONTRIBUTIONS!**

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

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 addresses, their spouses & occupations). Dedicated volunteers assist with processing and organizing incoming materials.

**THE OBHS NEEDS:**

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



**MEMBERS March - May 2020**

**New Members**  
 Celia & David Ball;  
 Tony Cataldo; Randy Dible;  
 Park Ranger Araceli Dominguez;  
 Liz Harris-Leenen & Family;  
 John Kelly;  
 Lady Janice Martinelli;  
 Lynette & Matt Willis;  
 Bill Wilson.

**Welcome Back Members**  
 Judy Collier & Family;  
 Suzanne Dawson;  
 Linda L. Lawrence.

**Donations**  
 Mary Allely;  
 Celia & David Ball;  
 Carol & Rick Callejon;  
 Barbara A. Chrestman;  
 Judy Collier;  
 Maureen & Suzanne Dawson;  
 Mark Dodge;  
 Marge Grant; Carol & Larry Holt;  
 Diane Kane; John & Allison Lyons;  
 Gordon Myers & Justin Brent;  
 Maureen & Tom Roever.



**ARCHIVES DONATIONS ARE WELCOME**

Many people believe that their lives are of no interest to others, but they are! Unfortunately, important history is lost when photographs, house plans, business and organization records, and family papers end up in the trash after a death in the family. Photographs are historically important because shots of people depict their activities and customs, homes and buildings, and dress. Without records of O.B. buildings, we lose links to the past when the buildings vanish or their functions change. Likewise, when the cliffs erode and scenery changes, it needs to be documented. Donations to the OBHS Archives provide an invaluable window into Ocean Beach's past.

**WHEN DONATING PHOTOGRAPHS TO THE ARCHIVES, PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECORD THE DATE AND IDENTIFY THE PEOPLE AND PLACES.**

Reluctant to give up your photos or papers? The Archives 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](mailto:pjinob@gmail.com)  
 or ph. 619-226-8125


**"TWO LOCAL MEN WHO SERVED ON THE NAVY BATTLESHIP MISSOURI"**

**BIRTHDAY LEON MATSON TURNS 100**

Peninsula residents join Leon Matson in celebration of his 100th Birthday. Leon Matson was born in April 1920 in Lake Preston, South Dakota. He grew up during the Depression and jumped at the chance to enlist with the Navy in 1940. He rose to the rank of Chief Petty Officer and was on the USS Missouri when the Japanese formally surrendered on September 2nd, 1945 ending World War II. He is one of the last surviving servicemen to witness this historic event. In 1945 he wed Violet Thompson also from South Dakota. Leon returned to San Diego to build his house in Point Loma in 1952 and start a Family. He retired from the Navy in 1961 and worked for the San Diego City Schools as a landscaper for another 20 years. Leon's wife Violet passed in 2018. He has four children and a grandchild. Both he and his friend Ned Titlow were active in St. Peters by the Sea church. On April 30th, we honored this common man on his 100th Birthday. Leon and others like him are our true heroes.

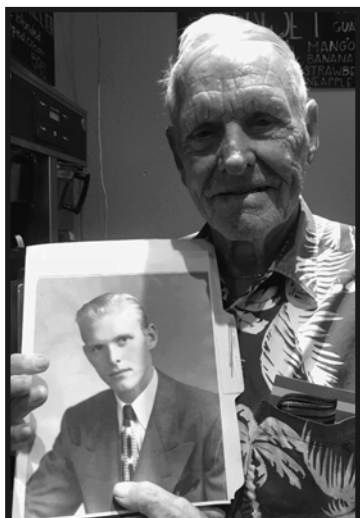
Leon Matson celebrated his birthday, from his front porch, with family, friends and neighbors.



**OBITUARY GEORGE GREENWELL, AGE 94**

Long term Ocean Beach insurance broker and Point Loma resident George Greenwell passed away peacefully at home at the age of 94 on February 24th, 2020. George was a sailor in the US Navy, a businessman, and a boating and motorcycle enthusiast. He will be missed by all that knew him. He was always friendly and willing to lend a hand. George, a prankster, kept a ready supply of jokes and antics on-hand to regale friends and customers at home, at his insurance business, and his favorite local haunts. For decades, he was a regular coffee crew member at The Cliffs Café (formally Newbreak Café), where his high jinks and stories entertained customers and their children. George was also known for bringing levity to the Ocean Beach Historical Society events. George served in both World War II and the Korean conflict on various boats, including the USS Missouri. George's ashes will be buried at sea.

**Historical Note: According to George, at age 94, he was the oldest working Insurance salesman in the U.S. The previous record was held by a man that passed away at 92. Greenwell Insurance at 1855 Sunset Cliffs Blvd will continue to serve the community.**



**SUGGESTIONS TO FILL YOUR TIME AT HOME:**

- Learn the history of your community. Read the Arcadia Publishing books: Ocean Beach, Ocean Beach, Where Land and Water Meet, Point Loma, and other books on local topics. Arcadia Publishing book available at Olive Tree Market and Stumps Market. Also available online.
- Research and write about your family's history and your time spent living in O.B. or P.L.
- Organize and share copies of your photos. Share photos & descriptions with relatives and friends, post online, and donate copies to the OBHS.
- Write your favorite Ocean Beach stories. Have your family write their O.B. stories. Kids can make drawings to go with stories.
- Take walks through the community. Look at the historic homes and gardens. There is a lot to see.