

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. XXIX No. 2



O.B. Holiday Past Parade
Ocean Beach Historical Society
Co-Founder Carol Bowers and
Ned Titlow were driven in the 2010
parade by George Greenwell in his
red Mustang.

December 2023 • President: Eric DuVall • Editor: Susan James • Creative Director: Kathy Blavatt

OBHS

VISIT

www.obhistory.org

- PROGRAMS & EVENTS
- ONLINE FILMS
- HISTORIC RESOURCES
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If you're moving
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changing address:

Contact:
Susan James
Ph. (619) 226-8125

Or Mail:
Ocean Beach
Historical Society
P.O. Box 7895,
San Diego, CA 92107

Please visit our OB Blog for information, comments and memories:
www.obhistory.org



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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 OBHS EVENT POSTCARDS, BI-YEARLY SEA SCROLLS.

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, Family, or Business \$25/yr.
 Sustaining Member-\$100/yr. Life Member-\$500/1, payment
 Special Friend of OBHS-\$1,000/1 payment (includes Life Membership)

Name _____

Street Address or PO Box _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

- NEW MEMBER RENEWAL CHANGE OF ADDRESS



GREETINGS

IT'S TIME TO KICK OFF 2024

As we celebrate the Ocean Beach Historical Society's
30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

Our 2024 Lecture Series will begin on Jan. 18, Thursday at 7 pm. with local photographer Randy Dible, as he presents *A World through Time, History, and back to O.B.* Please plan to be with us. OBHS programs are always entertaining, informative, and FREE. *More info. on page 3.*

Many thanks for your continued support of Ocean Beach Historical Society.

OBHS LOOKS FORWARD AS WE REMEMBER THE PAST!

Thank you for your continued support of Ocean Beach Historical Society. We are a very local non-profit 501(c)3 organization working to highlight and preserve the history of our community. We are a completely volunteer organization. *Basic membership (Individual, Family, & Business)* is only \$25 annually. Other levels of membership including *Sustaining Memberships, Life Memberships, and OBHS Special Friends* are also critical to our continued success. **Details/Membership Form on the of back of Sea Scrolls or OBHS website: Join or Donate at <https://obhistory.org/membership/>**

Visit our amazing Ocean Beach Historical Society YouTube Channel available 24/7. It's a treasure trove of local history and special features. Access website links at obhistory.org or go to YouTube and search for Ocean Beach Historical Society. Also, visit our online collection of OB's great little community newspaper, *The Beach News* at obhistory.org.

Ocean Beach Historical Society thanks the *Water's Edge Faith Community*, in Ocean Beach, for hosting our lecture series, and for providing a home for our Historical Archives. The **OBHS Archives** houses books, periodicals, maps, charts, planning documents, photographs, directories, oral histories and more.

We welcome donations of similar material. If you or someone you know has something of a local historical nature that you don't know what to do with, the OBHS Archives may be your solution.

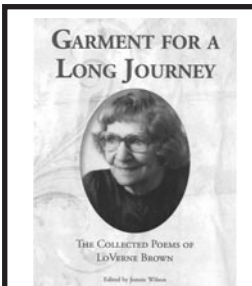
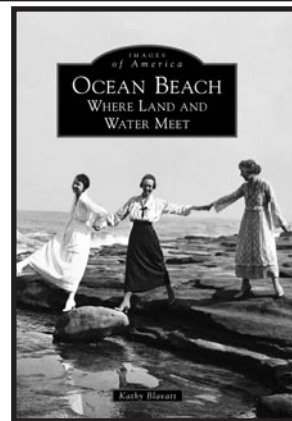
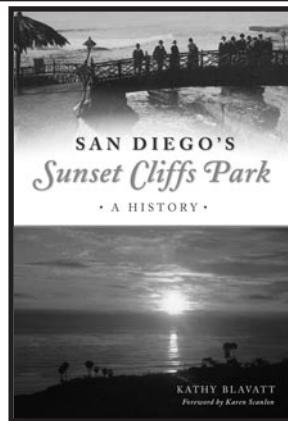
Thank you again for your continued support and participation.



INFO & FILM/YOUTUBE LINKS at: www.obhistory.org



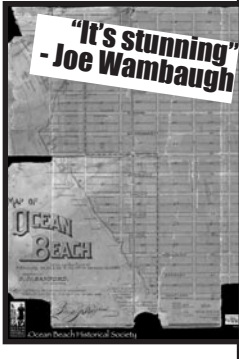
**BOOKS,
BOOKS,
BOOKS!**
LEARN OUR
EXTRAORDINARY
LOCAL HISTORY!



*Garment for a Long Journey:
The Collected Poems of LoVerne Brown,*
published by
Jonnie Wilson.
Info. & book orders at:
lovernebrown.com

Information and where to buy books or place online orders: www.obhistory.org
Local Vendors: Olive Tree Market, Stumps Market, La Playa Book Store, CVS, OBMA, Rite Aid, Book Star, and Kathy Blavatt: www.blavatt.studio

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



THANK YOU

- To Members
- To Donors
- To Archive Donors
- To the Board and Volunteers

PRESERVE O.B.'s HISTORY Through CONTRIBUTIONS!

The OBHS Archives was founded to preserve the history of Ocean Beach and the peninsula. *OBHS Archives Room is on the top floor of the Water's Edge Faith Community.*

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 Supplies



Vallin family fishing at Sunset Cliffs

ARCHIVES DONATIONS ARE WELCOME

Many people believe that their lives are of no interest to others, but they are! Unfortunately, after a family member's death, important history is lost when photos, house plans, business and organization records, and family papers end up in the trash. Photos are historically crucial because people's shots 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. **OBHS Archives' donations provide an invaluable window into O.B.'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? Our 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 and supplies.
GIFTS MAY BE DONATED
*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: contact@obhistory.org

OBHS GENERAL INFO. CONTACT:
ph. 619-226-8125



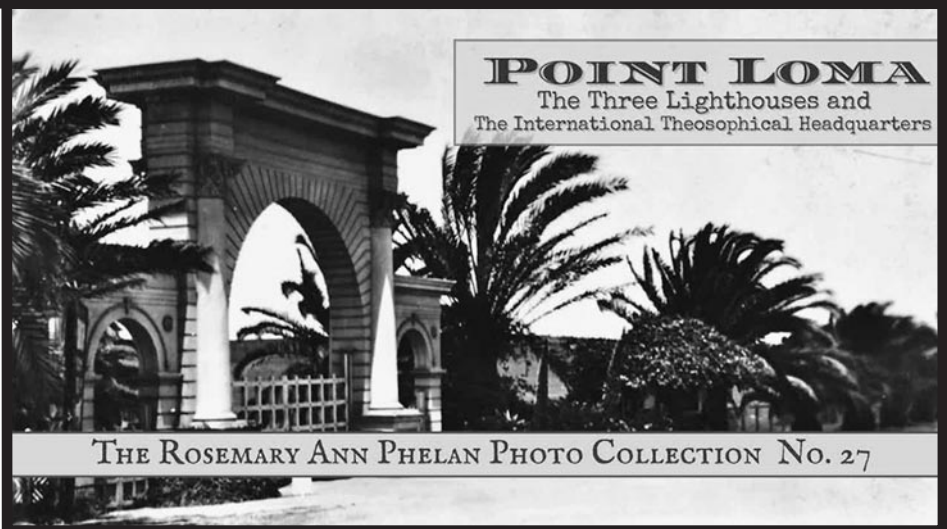
CHECK IT OUT AT: obhistory.org



Ocean Beach Historical Society 

Enjoy Ocean Beach Historical Society's FREE Specials! *Links at: obhistory.org*
Our **You Tube** Channel includes FREE original specialty videos for your edification and entertainment!

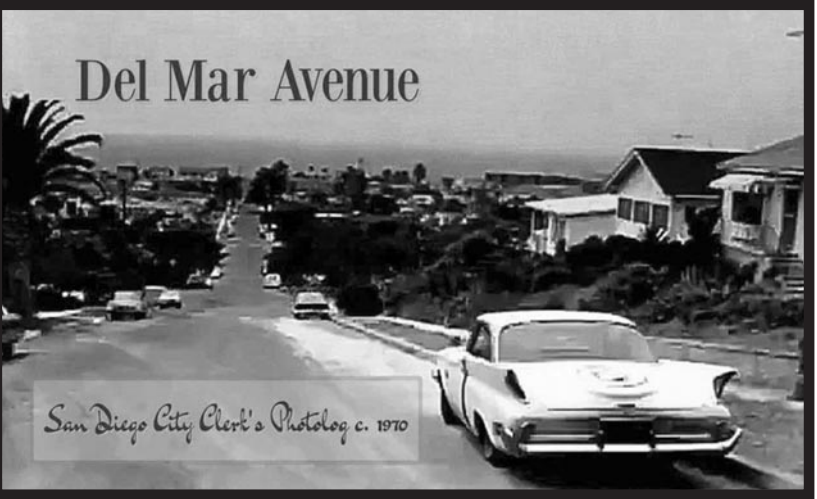
The Rosemary Ann Phelan Photo Collection.
OBHS is proud to host this remarkable collection of over 9,000 images of San Diego before 1950. Archived by Mr. Jim Phelan and curated into topical; slide shows set to music.



The collection includes many unique images found nowhere else. San Diego neighbors, backcountry, and coastal cities, the military's role in San Diego history, local events, expositions, and institutions are all a part of this remarkable collection.

Ocean Beach Historical Society Programs
Good news— some of the wonderful Ocean Beach Historical Society programs were recorded and are now available.

1970s Era Street Photologs
DO YOU REMEMBER THE HOMES AND BUSINESSES FROM THE 1970S?
The Digital Archives of the San Diego City Clerk's Office includes this unusual collection of what they called *Street Photologs*. The images were snapped ten seconds apart driving down many San Diego Streets. OBHS has reproduced quite a few of these with period music soundtracks.



Enjoy these flashbacks to the past.

Is your home in these Photologs?



The smiling image of OBHS Co-Founder, Ruth Held, seen as a teenager, welcomes you to the Ocean Beach Historical Society's 30th Anniversary! We will be looking back at the OBHS's history, showing the groups many achievements, along with honoring the founders, board members, and volunteers who help us preserve Ocean Beach's history.

OBHS BOARD MEMBERS



Information about the the Ocean Beach Historical Society Board at: obhistory.org
Photo by former Board Member Justin Reed. Thank you to all board members and Justin.

Extraordinary World Travels Through Time, History, and Back to O.B.

BY RANDY DIBLE

Thurs. Jan. 18, 7 pm at Water's Edge Church, 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., OB
Our January 18th program features Randy Dible, one of Ocean Beach's best-known photographers who comes from generations of talented and fascinating family members from the film and photo industry. Randy's program is an early travelogue of his family's adventures throughout the world, then always coming back to the peninsula and enjoying the local beach. Come travel far and wide and back in time with this extraordinary family!



OBHS 2023 Review

OBHS marked 2023 with another successful Wisteria Garden Party and our annual very popular booth at the Ocean Beach Street Fair. The 29th year of our monthly lecture series featured programs examining the role of San Diego women during World War 2, the fabulous Isthmus at the Panama California Exposition in 1915, and the centennial of Point Loma's Naval Training Center. Our audiences learned about the work of Ocean Beach artist Charles Faust and about the past and future of the Ocean Beach Pier at a sunset, on-site program. In May OBHS collaborated with the Point Loma High Alumni Association treating a packed house to tales from the *Cradle of Bitchin* with author A. Lee Brown and sculptor Richard Arnold. OBHS Favorite Richard Carrico was back with us in November, detailing three cold-case murders from the 1920s, the subject of his new book, *Monsters on the Loose*.

2024 promises another calendar full of exciting FREE local history programs. Be sure to join us!



GIVE A HOLIDAY GIFT

Happy New Year

We look forward to seeing you at the January 18, 2024 OBHS Program and throughout the year.

HELP PRESERVE OB'S HISTORY! DONATE!

OBHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit org.
MAIL CHECKS TO: Ocean Beach Historical Society
P.O. Box 7895, San Diego, CA 92167
DONATE PHOTOS OR ITEMS
Contact: 619-226-8125. • WE CAN SCHEDULE A MEETING OR PICKUP.

BUY IN OCEAN BEACH!

THE BEACH NEWS

The Beach News link at the Ocean Beach Historical Society website: obhistory.org

OB'S GREAT LITTLE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER, *THE BEACH NEWS*, got its start a century ago in a small cottage on Saratoga Avenue, right next door to where Water's Edge Church is today. Later known as the *Ocean Beach News*, the weekly paper was extremely popular from the outset. The little paper advertised that it was "Endorsed by the Ocean Beach Chamber of Commerce," and frequently featured the slogans "Community Spirit Upheld," and "Circulating in Every Home." The paper liked to describe the beach town as "Where the Sunset Turns the Ocean's Blue to Gold."

By 1927 the paper was billing itself as "The Most Widely Read Weekly Newspaper in San Diego County - We Circulate!" This claim was later enlarged to cover all of Southern California. The paper also frequently boasted a local readership larger than all the other San Diego County newspapers combined. Without question *The Beach News* was fun. By the mid '20s the paper carried national wire service features, serialized adventure stories for adults and children, and even a half page Comics Section.

Many local landmarks date from the 1920s and 1930s and their development and completion were chronicled in *The Beach News*. The purchase of the Chatsworth Boulevard property, the hiring of Point Loma Architect Edwin T. Banning, and the subsequent construction of Point Loma High School was a story followed closely by *The Beach News* in 1924. The opening of the new Strand Theatre, the new Bank of Italy, and the coming of the San Diego Electric Railway's high speed Beach Line, were other significant additions to the community covered by *The Beach News* in the '20s.

Occupying a prominent shelf in the Archives of the Ocean Beach Historical Society is our collection of fourteen volumes of *The Beach News* and the *Ocean Beach News*. Six of the years are complete or nearly complete 52-week volumes. The collection chronicles the development of the community from the early Jazz Age, through the Great Depression and on through the end of the Second World War. We have 1922-1927, 1934-1936, and 1943-1947. The collection is a very representative sampling of a quarter century of seismic change and upheaval, both internationally and on the home front. Some of the years are in large bound volumes and some are on microfilm. All once belonged to the San Diego Public Library and were heroically rescued from the scrap heap of history. They are fascinating, fragile, and falling apart.

Through California Revealed, a program of the California State Library, Ocean Beach Historical Society's collection of *The Beach News*, and the *Ocean Beach News*, nominated and accepted for digitization in September of 2019, is now beautifully digitized and newly available for your perusal on the **Internet Archive**, the massive digital public library.

Use *The Beach News* link at the Ocean Beach Historical Society website: obhistory.org

LINK TO THE BEACH NEWS at: www.obhistory.org

For fun or research: 536 weekly editions of *The Beach News* and *Ocean Beach News*, covering an exciting twenty-five-year period in the development of the beach community may now be read online by anyone anytime at: obhistory.org.

(Right) *The Beach News* wished townsfolk a Merrie Christmas as they embarked on their fourth year as a community newspaper in 1926. Growth in the business and residential districts was highlighted as was the paving of quite a few local streets!

Denny's
OCEAN BEACH

1st Anniversary

1/2 BROILED LOBSTER (While Supply Lasts)
— OR —
PRIME RIBS OF BEEF
Choice of Soup or Salad; Choice of Potatoes (baked, mashed or fries); Vegetable, Hot Roll and Butter, Coffee, Tea or Milk.
Prices Effective Dec. 12-13-14-15, 1928
\$2.49

DAILY BREAKFAST SPECIAL
All the Hot Cakes or French Toast You Can Eat
Served with one egg any style and coffee.
ONLY **85c**

NEW YORK STEAK SANDWICH **\$1.59**

1830 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. OCEAN BEACH (Across the Street from Mayfair)
222-1388

(Above) Did you know that Ocean Beach had a Denny's on Sunset Cliffs Boulevard? We sure did. Denny's became Nappy's and then gave way to a series of several restaurants in the block south of Niagara Avenue.

THE BEACH NEWS
Always Boosting Mission Beach, Ocean Beach, Pacific Beach and Point Loma
Saturday, December 26, 1926
FOURTH YEAR, No. 6
FIVE CENTS THE COPY

Merrie Christmas

GREAT BEACH GROWTH
PERMITS EXCEED FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND FOR PAST YEAR
Statistics of building activities at Ocean Beach during the past year furnish positive proof of the great forward movement going on throughout the district. Through the courtesy of W. H. ("Bill") Babash, manager of the Ocean Beach Lumber Company, accurate totals have been obtained of the number of building permits for 1925 and the amount of expenditure involved. There were 171 permits, totaling \$412,131, which gives the fine showing of an average of nearly \$2400 a permit. The daily average in round numbers, not counting Sundays and holidays, figures at \$1400, which is far beyond expectations for the past year, while the future is extremely bright for unprecedented building activity.

Help the Campfire Girls With a Yearly Subscription to "The Beach News"

POINT LOMA PROGRESS
AMAZING CHANGES ALONG RIDGE SECTION WITH NEW STREETS
Principally due to the linking subdivisions acquired and being marketed or prepared by Pantages, Mills, and...

Big Paving Schedule
PRINCIPAL STREETS NOW

CAMP FIRE GIRLS ARE GRATEFUL AND WILLING WORKERS
Ocean Beach, Dec. 20, 1925. Mr. Kirk Smith, Editor "The Beach News."
Dear Mr. Smith—The Tatapash Camp Fire Girls thank you for the publicity given their recent sale, which proved quite successful. We will do the very best work we can this coming week in securing subscriptions for your popular paper.
Yours cordially,
PERRY LOUISE RANSOME, Secretary.

Photographs—Froid—Bacon St.

Ocean Beach Historical Society is happy to announce that our collection of over 140 editions of the *Peninsula News* has recently been approved for digitization through the California State Library's California Revealed program. The Peninsula News is the direct descendent of *The Beach News* and the *Ocean Beach News*. Our collection includes editions from the 1950s, 1960s, up to 1970. Soon this collection will join our collection of *The Beach News* online.

Peninsula News
SENTINEL
44th YEAR, NUMBER 99 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1968 2724 GARNET AVE., PACIFIC BEACH, CALIF. 92109

Explosive Situation Simmering
Business Decline Blamed On Invasion Of Hippies

A potentially explosive situation is simmering along the 3600 block on Newport Ave. About 14 business owners have submitted a petition to the Ocean Beach Town Council requesting that organization be disbanded. He also charged that the "hippies" several times have applied lumps of excrement to the door and windows of his shop.

Right of the merchants, interviewed by The Sentinel, charged that the hip-hopers are a "hurling business" of trash and garbage, and that they are "hurling" trash and garbage into the streets. He also charged that the "hippies" several times have applied lumps of excrement to the door and windows of his shop.

The proprietor of an adjacent store said he has received complaints from many of his customers. "They insult my customers as they enter the store," he said. "They throw trash in the doorway and on the sidewalk because they don't want to pay for it. They ask me to pick it up. I don't want to pick it up. It's a real nasty situation."

charge that the "hippies" are "hurling" trash and garbage into the streets. He also charged that the "hippies" several times have applied lumps of excrement to the door and windows of his shop.

The 14 businessmen's petition to the Town Council last week was referred to an ad hoc committee comprised of Ned Tinsley, Mrs. Pagan Cullen, Spike Webb, Rev. Robert Tinsley and John Lewis. The committee is scheduled to submit an interim report at the next meeting of the Council's board of directors.

"I grew up here and went to elementary and junior high school here, and I have just as much right to be a resident of Ocean Beach as anybody else," he said. "I'd like to tell the people who are complaining that they are not the people who live in Ocean Beach are more than willing to cooperate with the establishment as long as we aren't expected to compromise."

WES FORD
The other side of the story...

THREE AGAINST LITTER—This energetic trio was among rubbish participants who dumped 18 tons of rubbish on the parking lot at the foot of Santa Monica Avenue Saturday in the Peninsula rubbish roundup. They are Fred Jackson, chief of Dick Long Beach Ave., a member of the Ocean Beach Town Council; Mrs. Fran Banks, Peninsula coordinator of the city-wide campaign; and Lester Hoffman, principal of Ocean Beach Elementary School. In all, 18 tons of rubbish were dumped. The roundup will resume Saturday from 7 a.m. to noon. Dumping sites will be Barnard, Carlton, Dewey and Silver Gate Elementary Schools.

Saved From Fate
Use Found For Old
Old Carol Significant

HOLY NIGHT, SILENT NIGHT