

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

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OBHS

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*If you're moving
or temporarily
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



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 _____
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Telephone _____ Email _____

☐ NEW MEMBER ☐ RENEWAL ☐ CHANGE OF ADDRESS



Sea Scrolls

Notes from the
Ocean Beach Historical Society
Vol. XXX No. 2



City record shot.
**Seasonal Lagoon at
Saratoga and Cape May.
c. 1945.**

November 2024 • President: Eric DuVall • Editor: Susan James • Creative Director: Kathy Blavatt

Ocean Beach Historical Society... Three Decades and more to come!



In 2024, the Ocean Beach Historical Society celebrated our 30th Anniversary! We look forward to many years to come as the OBHS brings you programs, special events, community participation, preservation of local history, and more. We thank past and present board members, volunteers, donors, members, and all who help preserve Ocean Beach's vibrant history and "Beach Town" culture.



DON'T MISS THE OBHS JANUARY 16, 2025, PROGRAM! "O.B.'S HISTORIC CHURCH ROW"



1941 Winter Storm
The south side of the Merry Go-Round Building (left) is looking across Abbott Street and up Santa Monica Avenue. The storms continued to 1941 causing destruction and damage to the beachfront.

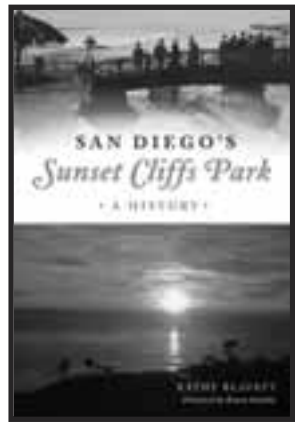

Photo courtesy of Mark-Elliott Lugo Historic Archive

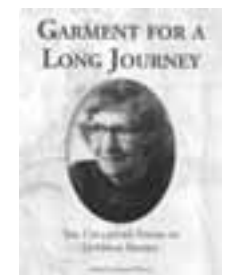
INFO & FILM/YOUTUBE LINKS: www.obhistory.org

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS!

LEARN OUR EXTRAORDINARY LOCAL HISTORY!



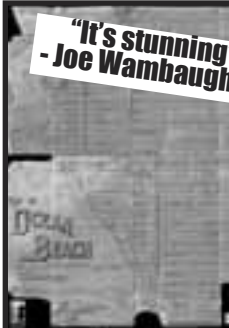
Garment for a Long Journey: The Collected Poems of LoVerne Brown, published by Jonnie Wilson.
Info. & book orders at: lovernebrown.com

Information and where to buy books or place online orders: www.obhistory.org
Local Venders: 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

- Members
- Donors
- Archive Donors
- The OBHS Board and Volunteers

OBHS BOARD ELECTION
NOVEMBER 21, 2024

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 Community Center.*

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.

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


THE OBHS NEEDS:


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




Ocean Beach Community Float, 1913.

CHECK IT OUT AT: obhistory.org





Ocean Beach Historical Society



YouTube

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?

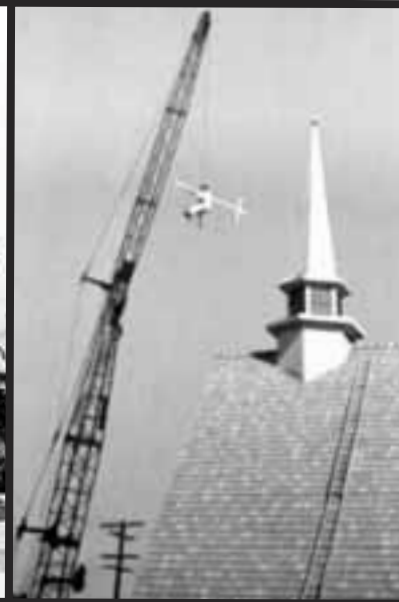
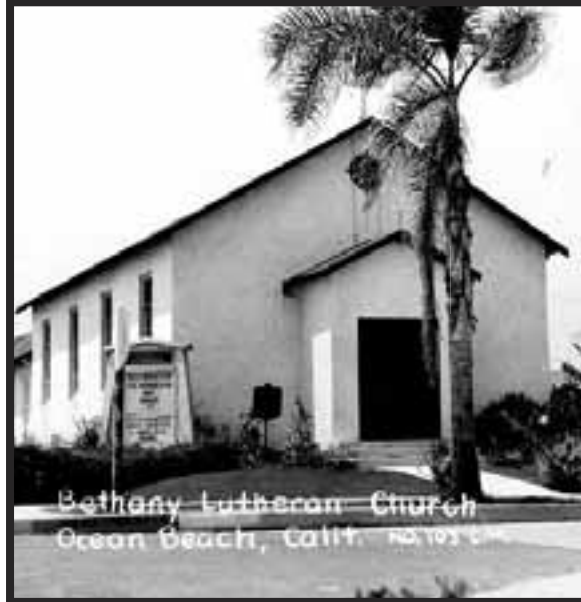
The Digital Archives of the San Diego City Clerk's Office includes this unusual collection of what they called *Street Photologs*. The images were snapped ten seconds apart driving down many San Diego Streets. OBHS has reproduced quite a few of these with period music soundtracks.



Enjoy these flashbacks to the past.

Is your home in these Photologs?

Other Local Churches and Affiliations



Bethany Lutheran Church was first built at Cape May Ave and Sunset Cliffs Blvd in the early 1930s. (left) The cross was precariously positioned atop the steeple of the new Bethany Lutheran sanctuary in 1960.



All Souls Episcopal Church (left) got its start when the North Chapel from Camp Callan was moved to the lot on the corner of Catalina and Chatsworth Boulevards in 1949. The old wooden St. Agnes Catholic Church (above) on the corner of Evergreen and Addison Streets (now Avenida de Portugal) in Point Loma. Newer buildings have replaced both churches. (below) St. Peter's by the Sea, (below left) broke ground at Sunset Cliffs Blvd. and Adair streets in 1948. The Lutheran congregation had met in the Thursday Club and the old Azure Vista Community Building. The Masonic Temple (below) at Sunset Cliffs and Santa Cruz Ave is the current home of O.B.'s very active Submerge Church.



Strong storms and high waves between 1939 -1941 destroyed the Flat Iron Building.

Fred Jennings' Flat Iron Building was home to a Bath House, a Café, and the Ocean Beach Woman's Club before it was undermined and later destroyed by storms. The site is now O.B.'s Veterans Plaza Park.

Spalding's Pool

Spalding's Pool was an early feature of Albert Spalding's Sunset Cliffs Park. The enhanced and tiled natural tide-pool was once part of this sandstone outcropping between two coves. Now known as Black Sands, this little beach was reportedly Spalding's favorite. The pool and formations have eroded and now boulders and riprap fill the south cove and the cliffs are supported by retaining walls.



Ocean Beach Historical Society presents:
***When Death was a Hitchhiker*, by Richard Carrico**
Thursday, November 21, 7 PM,
at Waters Edge Community Center, 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., O.B.

In 1958, an El Cajon man picked up a sixteen-year-old runaway off of old Highway 80 near Alpine. The young man lived with the Pendergast family for several weeks. Two weeks before Christmas, the troubled young man killed Lois Pendergast and her four children. Come along with local historian and true crime author Richard Carrico as he takes us back to the event that was then described as the "largest mass murder in San Diego history." Richard will also have copies of his last true crime book, "Monsters on the Loose", available for sale at a pre-holiday O.B. special rate. Please join us. *All OBHS Programs are FREE!*

HELP PRESERVE OB'S HISTORY! DONATE!

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MAIL CHECKS TO: Ocean Beach Historical Society

P.O. Box 7895, San Diego, CA 92167

O.B. Holiday Parade
SAT., DEC. 7, 2024, 5 PM

The OBHS is taking December off.
See you at the Parade.

OCEAN BEACH'S HISTORIC CHURCH ROW

LEARN MORE AT THE ... OBHS JANUARY 16, 2025, PROGRAM!



First Baptist Church – now known as OB1 Church - at the corner of Santa Monica Ave and Sunset Cliffs Blvd was the first church built on Church Row in 1921.



The Episcopal Church Center at the corner of Sunset Cliffs and Brighton Ave., was long known as Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. It is now home to the Resurrection Episcopal Congregation.



For a century Sunset Cliffs Blvd in the community center of Ocean Beach has been known as *Church Row*. These churches are all still standing, but the former Point Loma United Methodist Church on the left (Water's Edge Community Center) is endangered and facing possible demolition. The combined strength of the unique Church Row has been a significant and irreplaceable factor in the development and history of the Ocean Beach Community.



The old redwood Sacred Heart Church (illustration above) stood on the NW corner of Sunset Cliffs Blvd and Santa Monica Avenue. The building is now the parish hall for the big Catholic Church at Saratoga and Sunset Cliffs.

