

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

Electronic Service Requested



Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
San Diego, CA  
Permit No. 3285



# Sea Scrolls

Notes from the  
Ocean Beach Historical Society  
Vol. XXXI No. 1



1941 Ocean Beach storm destroyed the Flat Iron Building. Now it is the grass triangle at Abbott & Newport.  
*Mick Gammons photo.*

June 2025 • President: Eric DuVall • Editor: Susan James • Creative Director: Kathy Blavatt

## JOIN US AND LEARN ABOUT O.B.'s FASCINATING HISTORY! OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY's UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

**THURSDAY JULY 17, 7:00 PM**  
At Waters Edge Community, 1894 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., O.B.  
Featuring Ron May  
**FROM LOMALAND TO  
THE MEDITERRANEAN RIVIERA**  
*The Story of Sunset Cliffs and Neighboring  
Subdivisions on Point Loma*

The presentation is based on the 2004, City of San Diego, Historical Nomination of the Joseph E. and Esten Shreve House, 4510 Alhambra Street in Point Loma.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 7:00 PM**  
At Waters Edge Community 1894 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., O.B.  
Featuring Stuart Hartley & Eric DuVall  
**POINT LOMA HIGH SCHOOL CENTENNIAL**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**  
Featuring Lisa Johnson,  
Liberty Station Arts District President  
**TOUR OF LIBERTY STATION**



OBHS brings you programs with wonderful guest speakers, 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.

For fun or research, check out the online editions of the Ocean Beach Historical Society's collection of *The Beach News*, *The Ocean Beach*, and *The Peninsula News* on the Ocean Beach Historical Society's website at: [www.obhistory.org](http://www.obhistory.org).

**INFORMATION, NEWSPAPERS, FILMS/YOUTUBE & MORE LINKS AT: [www.obhistory.org](http://www.obhistory.org)**

### OBHS

**VISIT**  
[www.obhistory.org](http://www.obhistory.org)

- PROGRAMS & EVENTS
- ONLINE FILMS
- HISTORIC RESOURCES
- BLOG
- OBHS YOUTUBE LINKS
- OBHS PRESS LINKS

*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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address or PO Box \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ NEW MEMBER    ☐ RENEWAL    ☐ CHANGE OF ADDRESS

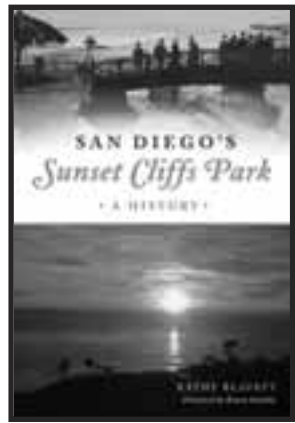




**BOOKS,  
BOOKS,  
BOOKS!**

**LEARN OUR  
EXTRAORDINARY  
LOCAL HISTORY!**

*Information and where to buy books or place online orders: [www.obhistory.org](http://www.obhistory.org)  
Local Venders: Olive Tree Market, Stumps Market, La Playa Book Store, CVS, OBMA, Book Star, and Kathy Blavatt: [www.blavatt.studio](http://www.blavatt.studio)*

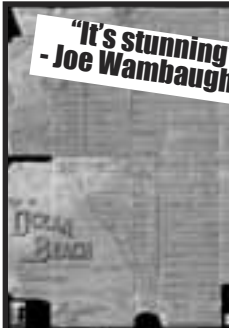




*Garment for a Long Journey:  
The Collected Poems of LoVerne Brown,  
published by  
Jonnie Wilson.  
Info. & book orders at:  
[lovernebrown.com](http://lovernebrown.com)*

**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**



**BLUE  
VASE**

**THANK YOU**

- **Members**
- **Donors**
- **Archive Donors**
- **The OBHS 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 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](mailto:contact@obhistory.org)**

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

**THE OBHS NEEDS:**


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



*1882 Ocean Beach Cliffs*

**CHECK IT OUT AT: [obhistory.org](http://obhistory.org)**



 Ocean Beach Historical Society

 **YouTube**

**Enjoy Ocean Beach Historical Society's FREE Specials!** *Links at: [obhistory.org](http://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.



**Ocean Beach & Sunset Cliffs**

*THE ROSEMARY ANN PHELAN PHOTO COLLECTION No. 28*

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.



**Narragansett Avenue**

*San Diego City Clerk's Photolog c. 1970*

**Is your home in these Photologs?**





OBHS collection of *The Peninsula News*, comprising 237 weekly editions between 1954 and 1970, is now digitized and archived on the Internet Archive. They are all available for your information and enjoyment, free of charge 24/7. *The Peninsula News* is the direct descendant of *The Beach News* and *Ocean Beach News*. Our collection of those earlier publications is also archived online, through California Revealed, a program of the California State Library, on the Internet Archive. Together, we have more than 530 weeks of local OB and Peninsula area coverage, spanning nearly fifty years of local history. Many of these stories are to be found nowhere else. A link to this collection is easily accessible on our website: [www.obhistory.org](http://www.obhistory.org) Happy reading!

## Come on down to the 45th Annual Ocean Beach Street Fair & Chili Cook-Off

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 10 AM TO 8 PM

The Ocean Beach Street Fair & Chili Cook-Off Festival offers attendees fun in the sun for all ages, including the ever-popular

### OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOOTH

(Near Hodads).

Come say "hi" and see the many historic photos and relics. Ocean Beach books and sale items that are also available in our booth. The OB Street Fair also includes three stages of continuous music, art, beachfront entertainment, shopping, food and more.

*Entry to the Street Fair  
is always FREE!*



### 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: ph. 619-226-8125



# OCEAN BEACH'S HISTORIC CHURCH ROW'S **Waters Edge Community Center** (Point Loma United Methodist Church) **SAVED!!!**



*A recent OBHS program (above) attracted another large crowd, filling the sanctuary of Water's Edge Community Center. Ocean Beach Historical Society's Monthly Series of Free Programs, is in its 31st season.* For a century, Sunset Cliffs Boulevard, the main throughfare in Ocean Beach, has been known as *Historic Church Row*. These churches are all still standing, and fortunately will be for years to come, including Water's Edge Community (formerly Point Loma United Methodist Church). Many important community organizations, including the Ocean Beach Historical Society, have used Water's Edge for decades. Kudos to the United Methodist Southern California Convention for interceding to prevent the destruction of this Ocean Beach community landmark. We are thankful for the reprieve from losing our use of the church building. Water's Edge is home to important organizations that love the wonderful building, and look forward to doing good for the community for decades to come.