

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



Joy to the World and O.B.

SEE YOU IN
2026

Sea Scrolls

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



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

December 2025 / January 2026 • President: Eric DuVall • Editor: Susan James • Creative Director: Kathy Blavatt

Ocean Beach Historical Society Remembers:
JULY 29, 2014... A GREAT DAY FOR OCEAN BEACH!
S.D. CITY COUNCIL (Including Todd Gloria)
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED FOR THE
Ocean Beach Community Precise Plan Update!

NOW!
We need to repeat
history ...
SAVE O.B.
pg. 3

**OBHS
VISIT**

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

**Have you
renewed your
Membership?**

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 _____

Street Address or PO Box _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

☐ NEW MEMBER ☐ RENEWAL ☐ CHANGE OF ADDRESS



On July 29, 2014
OBceans packed
San Diego's
City Hall.
That afternoon
Council Members
voted unanimously
in FAVOR of the
Ocean Beach
Community
Plan Update!


The Ocean Beach
Precise Plan update
was supported by every
O.B. Community
group, worked on for
over 12 years, and
helps preserve our
beach town character
and cottages.

Thanks to all that
helped and supported
the plan.



A special thanks to the
OB RAG for their
fabulous reporting
throughout the entire
process.


Detailed articles:
obrag.org

© S. Rowell & K. Blavatt



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, OBHS, 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 t



"It's stunning!" - Joe Wambaugh

DONATIONS Support
OB Historical Society



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

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

THE OBHS NEEDS:

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



Spalding's Sunset Cliffs Park

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
 Some of the wonderful Ocean Beach Historical Society programs were recorded and are available at: obhistory.org.

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 or business in these Photologs?

GIVE A HOLIDAY GIFT PRESERVE OB'S HISTORY THROUGH CONTRIBUTIONS! 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

Ocean Beach Historical Society Archive Donations

Photo of the
O.B. Cliffs
circa 1887

See how OBHS is
preserving our
local
history at:
obhistory.org

DONATE
PHOTOS OR ITEMS
Contact:
619-226-8125
OBHS is a 501(c)(3)
non-profit org.
• We Can Schedule
a Pick-up.



"Ocean Beach"



Ocean Beach Historical Society
2026 Board Members



2025
OBHS Programs
had record breaking crowds!

SAVE OCEAN BEACH! DEVELOPERS WANT TO GENTRIFY AND BUILD HIGHRISES IN O.B.!



PROTECT O.B.'s COMMUNITY & HISTORY!

- **OPPOSE CHANGES to O.B. AT KEY CITY MEETINGS**
- **Read updates & learn what's going on: obrag.org**
- **Work together with Advocacy Groups & Neighbors**

Mayor Todd Gloria, along with many San Diego and State politicians, are pushing large scale developments in our beach town. They want to take away our Community Plan's Ocean Beach Historic Cottage District.

Their plan is to break our 30 Foot Height Limit law, so they can build high-rises, packing our community. They have tried similar methods numerous times, but in 2016, O.B. was able to PASS it's current OCEAN BEACH COMMUNITY PRECISE PLAN, retaining height limits to 30 ft. and preserve the Ocean Beach Historic Cottage District.

Government entities are also working to remove environmental safety protections. Remember the 2016 and second flooding, of the underground O.B. garage on Abbott Street, which destroyed three Lamborghinis and another car. This example shows what goes wrong when environmental threats are ignored!

Multiply the damage of the Abbott Street building, if high-rise plans bypass environmental issues: flood zones, earthquakes, liquefaction, hillside slides, toxic dumps, fire zones, and other environmental problems common to San Diego. By eliminating CEQA and environmental laws future liabilities will BREAK our city and taxpayers!

O.B. has already taken on density, because of our many substandard size lots, apartment buildings, and multi-unit lots.

Ocean Beach is a town like no other! The City doesn't get it! We're a "Walkable Village", "Rich in History", and a "true community"! The City tried to takeout our O.B. Library, O.B. Elementary School, and recently Water's Edge Community Church! Now once again, our homes and cottages are threatened to be replaced by dense high-rises without parking! **WE NEED TO PROTECT OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY!**



FREE!!!

“Go-To” for FUN and Research Online! Visit our Local Vintage Newspapers, Videos and YouTube sites.

OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY LINK: www.obhistory.org



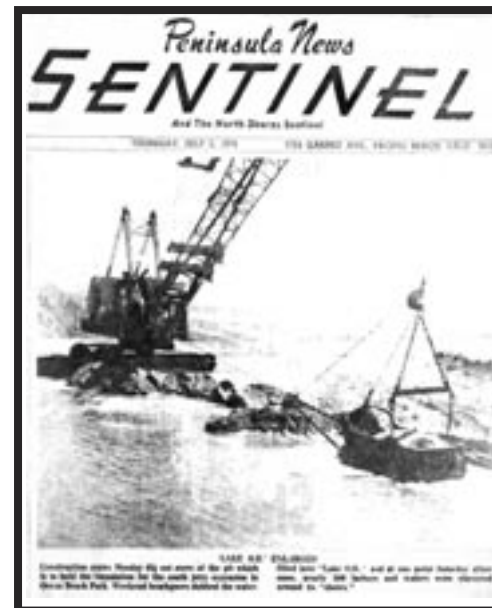
THE BEACH NEWS OCEAN BEACH NEWS PENINSULA NEWS

OB'S GREAT LITTLE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER, *THE BEACH NEWS*, got its start over a century ago in a small cottage on Saratoga Avenue, right next door to where Water's Edge Church is today. The paper liked to describe the beach town as "Where the Sunset Turns the Ocean's Blue to Gold."

Later known as the *Ocean Beach News*, the weekly paper was extremely popular. The little paper advertised local businesses, featured columns and events, and community groups. "Community Spirit Upheld," and 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.

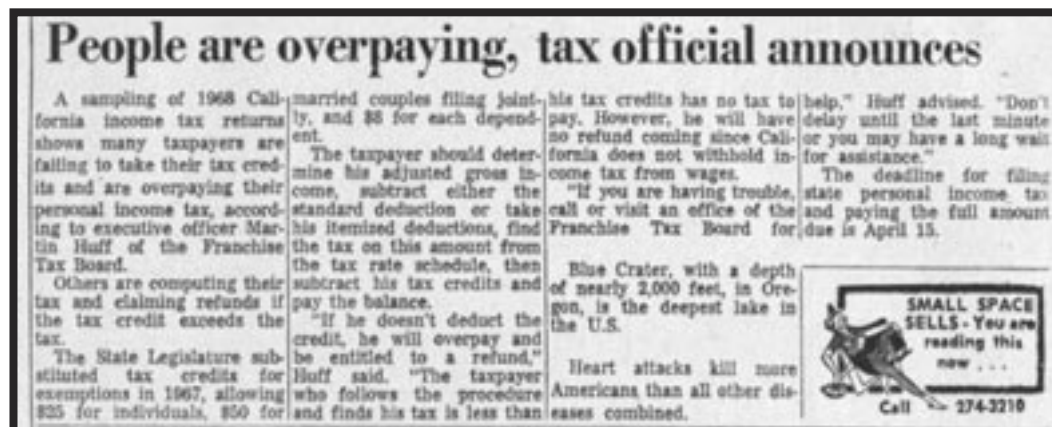
The Ocean Beach News morphed into the Peninsula News in 1950. The paper continued its fun community-based reporting through the turbulent times of the 1960s and into the early 1970s.

Use links to the three online newspapers on the Ocean Beach Historical Society website: obhistory.org



Step into the past:

- Learn our local history.
- Have a few laughs.
- Learn about S.D. politics.
- See how things have changed or not!
- Check out the styles, cartoons, and ads.



The Beach News and Ocean Beach News, (536 weekly editions) cover an exciting twenty-five-year period in the development of the beach community, which may now be read online by anyone anytime at: obhistory.org.

Included in the Ocean Beach Historical Society collection is over 140 editions of the *Peninsula News* that were digitized 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*, which are available on the OBHS collection. It includes editions from the 1950s, 1960s, up to 1970.

Visit our online news paper collection links to the news papers at:

obhistory.org