

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. XXXII No. 1



The Portuguese Historical Center
2831 Avenida de Portugal
San Diego, 92106

August 2026 • President: Eric DuVall • Editor: Susan James • Creative Director: Kathy Blavatt

JOIN US THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 6 PM- OBHS ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

It's time for Summer fun at
OB Historical Society's
first Ice Cream Social!

Thursday, August 20, 2026, 6 pm
In the patio at OB Joyful
(Formerly Water's Edge Community Center)
1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., O.B.
*Come join us at this
FREE community event!*



Morgan Harbridge

*Ocean Beach
Historical Society
Social Media
Coordinator*

STAY CONNECTED... Visit Ocean Beach Historical Society's Social Media Site!

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @obhistoricalsociety for fascinating stories, vintage photographs, upcoming programs and events, behind-the-scenes glimpses from our archives, and fun pieces of Ocean Beach history you won't find anywhere else. Whether you're a longtime OBcean, new to the neighborhood, a history enthusiast, or simply love our unique community, there's always something new to discover.

We love hearing your memories! Many of our posts spark wonderful conversations, with community members sharing their own stories and experiences. If one of our posts brings back a memory, we'd love for you to join the conversation by sharing it in the comments. Every story shared helps bring Ocean Beach's history to life.



INFORMATION, NEWSPAPERS, FILMS/YOUTUBE & MORE LINKS AT: www.obhistory.org

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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 _____

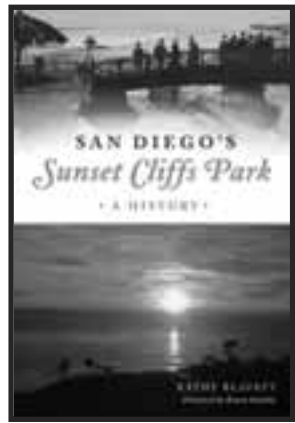
☐ NEW MEMBER ☐ RENEWAL ☐ CHANGE OF ADDRESS



BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS!

LEARN OUR EXTRAORDINARY LOCAL HISTORY!

Information and where to buy books or place online orders: www.obhistory.org
Local Venders: Olive Tree Market, Stumps Market, Roseville Books, CVS, OBMA, Book Star, and Kathy Blavatt: www.blavatt.studio



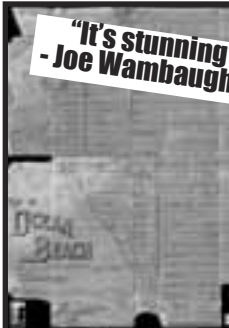


Garment for a Long Journey: The Collected Poems of LoVerne Brown, published by Jonnie Wilson.
Info. & book orders at: lovernebrown.com

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 OB Joyfull 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



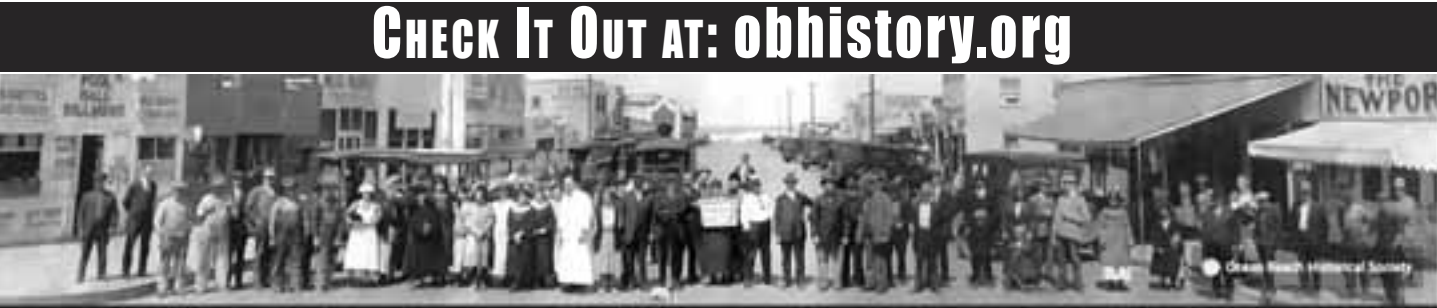
THE OBHS NEEDS:

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



Collier's Shack on O.B. Cliffs

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.



ON THE WATERFRONT
 Images of San Diego's Historic Waterfront
 Part 2 of 2

THE ROSEMARY ANN PHELAN PHOTO COLLECTION NO. 21-2

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.



Midway Drive

EAST & WEST SAN DIEGO CITY CLERK'S PHOTOLOG C. 1970

Enjoy these flashbacks to the past.

Look at the changes in these Photologs?

THE OCEAN BEACH NEWS

A Booster for Ocean Beach, Point Loma, Mission Bay and Mission Beach

ESTABLISHED YEAR, No. 25 OCEAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA PUBLISHED WEEKLY, SATURDAY, MAY 1954 FIVE CENTS A COPY

Ocean Beach, California

Salt Sea Air -- Sunny Days -- Refreshing Breezes

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.

OUR YEAR, NUMBER 3



TITLEMAN

Birthday for OB council

After having attended the members and participated in various club endeavors, the Ocean Beach Town Council will have its first anniversary party Saturday.

Grand Rally!

OCEAN BEACH

"Clean Up" Campaign!

SPECIAL OPEN MEETING

O.B. Chamber of Commerce

Tuesday Evening, Sept. 21

Everybody Invited!

THE MEETINGS OF "THE BEACH NEWS"

FOR THE BENEFIT OF OCEAN BEACH



THE SAYINGS AND DOINGS OF SPEED & DAY OF THE SUNSET GARAGE

Now you can get a new car from the Sunset Garage. There's a whole lot in knowing how to treat a battery, according to Speed & Day's way of thinking. Speed will tell you how to make your battery last longer and last longer.

TOWING SERVICE DAY OR NIGHT

GENERAL REPAIRING

THE SUNSET GARAGE

1918 BACON ST. OCEAN BEACH, CALIF. PHONES - P.L. 20 J - P.L. 67 J

BATTERY SERVICE

"Come Where the Ocean Waves to YOU!"



OCEAN BEACH LUMBER COMPANY

W. H. RABSAHL, Manager

Corner Muir Ave. and Ebers St.

Phone, Section 9946

LUMBER

LATH - SHINGLES - NAILS - ROOFING

Sash and Doors and Mill Work

Wall Boards - Cement and Plaster

Agents for

PIONEER SHINGLES and UPSON BOARD

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 Happy reading!

The 6th Annual Ocean Beach Street Fair & Chili Cook-Off was a Wonderful Day filled with FUN!!

The 2026 Ocean Beach Street Fair & Chili Cook-Off Festival brought locals and visitors for a day of fun in the sun for all ages.

The OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOOTH Was a Hit!



OBHS popular booth was full of historic Ocean Beach photos and items. Books and cool sale items were available in our booth.

The OB Street Fair also includes music stages, art... including a chance to paint O.B. murals, entertainment, a car show, a kids fun zone, shopping, food and more.

SEE YOU NEXT SUMMER AT THE OBHS BOOTH!



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



Do you have an OBHS Membership? JOIN US! Form on back page



California Historic Resources Commission Streamlines Nominations for Bungalow Courts!

Thanks to University Heights Historical Society and partners, including the Ocean Beach Historical Society, whose work led to this watershed achievement for California designation!

Your bungalow court may qualify for the National Register of Historic Places!



STREAMLINING this process opens the doors for broader preservation of bungalow courts, which continue to define neighborhood character and provide affordable housing options across the city!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: obhistory.org



WELCOME TO THE OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Enjoy Ocean Beach Historical Society's FREE Specials!

Ocean Beach Historical Society helps preserve local history through programs, postcards, the *Sea Scrolls* newsletter, articles, local events, special events, and history conferences.

Archives Collection: includes historical photos, resources, articles, and other items.

OBHS partners with historical groups and organizations.

Visit our WEBSITE and LINKS at: www.obhistory.org

- YouTube site includes historical talks, filmed events, videos, presentations, press links, and more.
- Ocean Beach Historical Society YouTube@Channel
- The *Ocean Beach News*, *Beach News*, and *Peninsula News*
- Online: Ocean Beach Historical Society Memberships & Donations



Do you have an
OBHS Membership? JOIN US!
Form on back page or click below



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.

JOIN US AT:

OCEAN BEACH'S OB JOYFULL Community Center

(Formerly Waters Edge Community Center - Point Loma United Methodist Church)



A recent OBHS program (above) attracted another large crowd, filling the sanctuary of OB Joyfull 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 OB Joyfull (formerly Point Loma United Methodist Church). Many important community organizations, including the Ocean Beach Historical Society, have used the OB Joyfull campus 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. OB Joyfull is also home to Loaves & Fishes food pantry and the Pioneer School, important organizations that love the wonderful building, and look forward to doing good for the community for decades to come.