



Port of Long Beach Administrative Building



Port of Long Beach Administration Building designed by Warren Dedrick and James Friend, 1958-59. Photo by Emily Tanaka

By Emily Tanaka

In March 2012 the Long Beach Heritage Advocacy Committee became aware that the Port of Long Beach Headquarters/Administration Building was in danger of being demolished. This structure at 925 Harbor Plaza Drive was designed by Warren Dedrick and James Friend in 1958-59. The building has a distinctive, curved, yellow ochre ceramic tile façade and a wonderful mural executed in the same material portraying shipping in Long Beach from the discovery of California through the mid-twentieth century. This art work was designed by Sheridan Stanton and Paul Souza and produced by Gladding McBean. The interior contains original furniture and "sputnik" light fixtures.

In November 2008 the POLB published a Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Program and LBH is concerned about whether the port officials are adhering to this document. Newspaper articles indicate that the port administration prefers vacating its present building, but the environmentally preferred alternative listed in the Environmental Impact Report is to retrofit and expand the existing POLB headquarters. A press-release dated April 23, 2012 states, "The Port's current building on Harbor Plaza built in 1959 no longer meets the Port's needs. It also does not meet today's earthquake codes. The Port plans to either lease or purchase its new facility." Also a company called 3QC has advertised that they are "working with the Port of Long Beach as both the Port-wide commissioning agent and LEED® consultant. The 9 story Headquarters building is a LEED® Platinum building incorporating the latest energy efficient technologies and control systems including integrated day lighting, solar shades and photovoltaic panels, an under-floor air

distribution system on eight floors and fan wall air handling units." 3QC says that this new building is scheduled for completion on December 13, 2013.

The environmentally preferred alternative is provided in Chapter 4 of the EIR. It states, "The only issue area where there is a clear distinction

between the proposed Project and the Expansion Alternative is Cultural Resources. The proposed Project involves demolishing a building that may be eligible for listing on the California Register of Historic Resources as a good, intact example of high modernist style. Demolition of the building would be a significant and unavoidable impact."

"The Retrofit and Expansion Alternative would not involve demolition of the existing building. In order to retain the integrity of the building for listing, it would be necessary for the Port to work with an architectural historian to ensure that the proposed building alterations would conform to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings and/or would alter proposed renovations in order to conform to these guidelines. This mitigation would reduce the impact to less than significant. Therefore, in this one issue area, the Retrofit and Expansion Alternative would have a lesser environmental impact than the proposed Project. Based on this one criterion, the Retrofit and Expansion would be environmentally preferable to the proposed Proj-

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The Meeker-Baker Building

By Louise Ivers

Originally called the Graef-Lynch Building after its owners, William P. Graef and James A. Lynch, who were executives employed by the Long Beach office of Southern California Edison, the Meeker-



Baker Building at the northeast corner of Pine Avenue and Seventh Street has fallen on hard times. However, its new owners, John and Michelle Molina of Millworks, have plans to refurbish and adaptively reuse this historic structure. It was designed by noted local architects, Hugh R. Davies and Edwall D. Baume, in a classical revival style in 1923. William G. Reed was the contractor for the two-story, \$100,000 building which contained the Long Beach National Bank and six stores on the first floor as well as twenty-two offices above. The Southwest Builder and Contractor stated that the structure would have brick walls, pressed brick facing, exterior art stone details, plate glass windows, copper sash, tile window bases, marble entrance and bank floors, and gas heat. The Long Beach Press described "an elaborate front entrance on Pine avenue for the bank and a Seventh street entrance of unusually artistic design." This monumental entrance still displays a Palladian motif incorporating Doric

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Meeker-Baker Building, by architect Hugh R. Davies, 1923-24. Photo by Louise Ivers



Message from the President

By Melinda Roney

The Loft Walk at the Galaxy Towers was a huge success thanks to Laura Verbryck, Anne Marie Ashley, Bobbi Burket and the many fun and gracious residents. There were many positive comments and questions on next year's venue. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this another very successful Loft Walk.

We had the Great Homes of Long Beach Tour. There were many lovely homes to tour and a beautiful garden. Once again a good time was had by all that attended. Thanks to Mary Lou Martin, Stan Poe, Chris Launi, Bobbi Burket and all of those who worked to make this a delightful day.

On July 15 the Great Gatsby Garden Party will be held in the new Peppertree Court in the Bembridge House. Charlotte Mitchell and a very hard working committee will magically turn the house back to the roaring 20s. There will be limited ticket sales for this event so order now at www.lbheritage.org.

On July 29 we will have our Annual Meeting on the Queen Mary. John Thomas will update us on current information from "The Queen." Tours of the ship will be conducted after the meeting. As this is our Annual Meeting, elections will be held for the 2012-2013 LBH Board. We are always looking for "special people" to serve on our Board. If you have an interest in serving on the Board, please contact Sasha Witte @sashawittedesign.com. You are "special" if you care about the Preservation of Long Beach Heritage.

On August 11 we will present the Hollywood Bowl Evening. We will be taken by bus to the Hills of Hollywood where we will be treated to a lovely dinner prepared by our generous hosts, Rick and Brad Hobbs-Seeley. (Rick and Brad of the 16th floor were also our hosts in the Galaxy Loft Walk.) We will then go to the Bowl for a Liza Minnelli concert. Limited seating so don't delay in ordering your tickets.

In April, we had a meeting of the Historic Districts of Long Beach at the home of Karen Highberger. The meeting was very productive. We all have the same problems and we can solve them a little more easily when we get together to talk. We would like to see greater participation from our Historic Districts. We invite those of you who are not members to join. Think of us as "The Mother Ship". We are here to support and help you.

You can see in the various articles from Advocacy in this newsletter that Wendy Ham's committee has been very busy. Karen Highberger discusses Historic Districts; Louise Ivers talks about the Meeker Baker Building; Maureen Neeley writes about the LBUSD; Emily Tanaka on the Port of Long Beach; Dave Waller on remodeling churches in Historic Districts. In the late summer, Laura Verbryk and Erin LeMaster, AIA Associates, will work with us to conduct educational tours and speakers on the Long Beach Civic Center and Pine and Ocean Blvd. (Jergins Tunnel). Details will be available in the future.

Historic District Leaders Meeting

By Karen Highberger

On Saturday, April 21 a meeting was held with leaders of various Historic Districts and Long Beach Heritage in Cal Heights at my home. The purpose of the meeting was to gather information from the districts regarding concerns in their neighborhoods, successes they've had with fundraising, community outreach, working with their Councilpersons and preservation efforts in general in Long Beach. Work sheets were sent out to the heads of the Districts and they were returned at the meeting. Information from these work sheets was compiled and forwarded to Development Services Staff at the City to be used for the city-wide Historic District Meeting sometime in September or October as well as Long Beach Heritage. Districts in attendance included Bluff Park, Hellman-Craftsman Village, Bluff Heights, Belmont Heights/Eliot Lane, Linden Ave., Rose Park/Rose Park South, Drake Park/Willmore City and California Heights. The Advocacy Committee of Long Beach Heritage is working hard to support the various Districts in their preservation efforts. As there is strength in numbers, the joining of the Districts with Long Beach Heritage to form "one voice" will be helpful in working with City Staff on issues important to preservation in general and the Districts in particular. Melinda Roney, President of Long Beach Heritage, stated that the various

Districts should feel free to seek help from Long Beach Heritage and that LBH needs the support of the District residents as well. One issue of concern that was discussed was outreach to business owners in areas adjacent to Historic Districts to educate them on the importance of the Districts and the value of being sensitive to the historic architecture of their neighborhoods. The consensus at the meeting was very positive and everyone had a

sense of accomplishment. We all look forward to the City-wide meeting in the fall. Many issues will be addressed at that time: the status of the Mills Act, the City-wide Historic District Ordinance, the updating of the various District ordinances and the Historic Preservation Element that was adopted by the City last year. It has been a few years since the last City-wide meeting. We will let you know the date as soon as it is scheduled.

LONG BEACH HERITAGE IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS TO CONSULT ON PRESERVATION ISSUES. PLEASE CONTACT MARY KAY NOTTAGE AT (562) 493-7019 OR EMAIL PRESERVATION@LBHERITAGE.ORG

SAVE THE DATE AND DONATE

The Willmore City Heritage Association is looking for donations for its annual Summer Potluck Dinner and Auction. This event is a fund raiser that supports Winter in Willmore, May Day, and the Willmore Heritage Garden, as well as other projects. The Potluck Dinner will be held on July 21 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Please contact www.willmorecity.org with your donations.

History of the Navy Trust

By Peter Devereaux

Every spring for the past ten years sizeable grants have been donated to various organizations in Long Beach for historic preservation projects- all told over \$2,000,000. Where does the money come from and why is it given to preservation? The Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association – the “Navy Trust” – was established when the Port of Long Beach was persuaded to compensate the people of Long Beach for the loss of the United States Naval Station, originally called Roosevelt Base.

Those who still remember that campus on Terminal Island, designed by Adrian Wilson and the African American “architect to the stars,” Paul Williams, know what an outstandingly beautiful place it was. It was anchored at one end by the Administration Building with its striking tower and at the other end by the recreation complex. Along the flanks were such facilities as the swimming pool, the bowling alley, the navy legal building and the fleet landing, all fine examples of the International Style of architecture. At the far west end was the Allen Center Officers Club, which hosted many family events, weddings, and the like. Trees were abundant, principally towering olives at one end and ficus at the other. The latter were the nesting place for the largest colony of black-crowned night herons in Southern California. The fleet landing, where many sailors said goodbye to their loved ones, never to return, reminded the community of values

beyond grounds and buildings.

The Navy was set to close the base in 1997; the Port had a plan. Many resisted the complete removal of the campus in favor of a dock and a massive container parking lot – the present Pier T. The Port of Long Beach prepared a memorial program and an Environmental Impact Statement as required. There were meetings and public events, the largest of which attracted a crowd of over 4,000 people and television coverage. Many shared the wide-spread negative reaction to demolition plans.

Long Beach Heritage, originally surprised by the richness of this massive historical asset it its backyard declared eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, was eager to explore avenues for adaptive reuse. Consultants said the Environmental Impact Statement was deficient and Long Beach Heritage at the urging of its Advocacy Committee, led by Nancy Latimer and Peter Devereaux, decided to slow down the demise of the base and engaged a law firm led by Jan Chatten Brown. The State Historic Preservation Office and the National Trust for Historic Preservation were involved and helpful.

Various members of Heritage with city and legal connections advised that there was no prospect of success in resisting the Port of Long Beach plan. The Port offered memorializing activities and projects, possibly at a cost of \$200,000, but Heritage insisted on exploring adaptive reuse possibilities, and their lawsuit prevailed. Experts hired to present reuse possibilities came up with alternatives to the



Adrian Wilson and Paul R. Williams Administration Building, Roosevelt Naval Base, 1941–42. Photo by Louise Ivers

Port’s plan. One of the ideas was to refit the Administration Building as the headquarters of the Port of Long Beach.

The Port turned down those suggestions but was faced with further litigation. Prominent attorney George Wise helped greatly with negotiation. The Port had the upper hand, but there was no clear sailing yet. The Advocacy Committee and Heritage still had to be dealt with. At this point Port offered \$4,000,000 as compensation. One last meeting with George Wise added half a million more. Was this selling out, some asked? We said no, the inevitable would happen, but preservation activities under the auspices of a “Navy Trust” would benefit Long Beach projects far into the future. Members of the Trust would be chosen from the Cultural Heritage Commission, Willmore City Heritage Association, Long Beach Heritage, and Long Beach Historical Society.

The fund was put under the management of the Long Beach Community Foundation and, in general, the policy was established to use the interest on the fund to distribute to projects around the city deemed worthy of support. Some examples of the beneficiaries of the grants are: the Long Beach Navy Memorial, located near the Aquarium of the Pacific; Bembridge House; Art Theatre; Community Hospital; St. Luke’s Church; California Heights Historic District; Rancho Los Cerritos; Rancho Los Alamitos; and Lafayette Hotel.

Preservation circles around the country said this was the largest settlement an historic preservation group had ever achieved. The legacy of Roosevelt Base will go on and on. We regret the loss, but we are gratified by the grants to notable buildings and projects in our community.

14th Annual “Dinner at Casa Alegre”



Casa Alegre dinner prior to the Hollywood Bowl event in 2011.

Join us for the 14th annual “Dinner at Casa Alegre” on Saturday, August 11th. We will begin a fabulous evening at 4:30 with a bus ride to the historic Hollywood home of Rick and Brad Seeley-Hobbs where we will enjoy a delicious dinner and the ambience of their beautiful home. Following dinner we will be off to the Hollywood Bowl and an evening with Liza Minelli, the irrepressible icon of stage and screen,

queen of cabaret and winner of Tonys, Golden Globes, a Grammy, an Emmy and an Oscar. This event is limited to 55 people so get your reservation in early. Tickets are just \$99 for members and \$110 for guests and may be purchased by mail or through our website at www.lbheritage.org. This is an evening you don’t want to miss!

Big Lots: Mid-Century Modern Architecture

By Louise Ivers

The Big Lots store at 2300 East Seventh Street will close in June 2012 and be replaced by a Big Saver food market. This signature Mid-Century building has a dramatic vaulted roof and was described as “ultra-modern” when it opened in 1968. Designed by Novikoff Engineers, it was originally a Safeway store whose plan was based on consumer analysis, a new concept at that time. The walls were constructed of pre-cast concrete panels that were tilted into place by cranes and then faced with amber quartz stone aggregate at either end of the glass façade. The interior was originally painted in pastel colors calculated to soothe shoppers and encourage them to buy more groceries. A large parking lot provided ample spaces for automobiles. A very similar Safeway store by Novikoff Engineers built at 600 East Broadway two year earlier



Big Lots! store at 2300 East Seventh Street originally designed by Novikoff Engineers as a supermarket for Safeway, 1968. Photo by Louise Ivers

was recently demolished. Local preservationists, the Rose Park neighborhood association, and the East Seventh Street Improvement Association are

working with the owner of Big Saver markets in hopes that the historic exterior of the Mid-Century Modern store will not be remodeled.

Modifications to Older Churches in Long Beach

By David G. Waller

In recent months, the congregation of a church near downtown, but not in a historic district, undertook some maintenance and remodeling work. The church, built in 1941, was originally constructed by the Seventh Day Adventists, designed by E. Z. Springe, and described as a mixture of Streamline Moderne and Mid-Century Modern. It would be on the city’s radar based upon its age and architectural and historic importance, except that churches are exempt from historic preservation ordinances and laws. Several Long Beach Heritage board members, as well as our past president and advisor, John Thomas, noticed the activity. It appeared that the original doors and windows were being replaced, along with painting and other modifications, which together would have the effect of altering the character defining features and historic integrity of the structure.

John Thomas actually spoke to both the contractor doing the work and the pastor of the church, indicating that because of the Streamlined architecture, care should be taken in color selection, and also followed up with some color ideas and renderings for the consideration of the contractor, who said he would be working with a designer on the project. John asked the contractor to pass his concerns on to the pastor along with his contact information and his offer to help in any way, including referrals. As John has pointed out, education is the key with church congregations, and he reached out early and offered to help, but despite his attempts at outreach, the church has been altered and character defining features impacted.

What happened with this church is disap-

pointing to John, but, on the flip side, there are three very important success stories relating to local religious facilities and the use of proactive preservation education. During John’s presidency of LBH, he was approached by past president Kate Braid about St. Luke’s Episcopal Church plans to, among other things, make significant alterations to the sanctuary and change out some of the original wood. John approached the pastor and governing body of the church and was able to persuade them not to alter the character defining features of this landmark structure. This Tudor style building was designed in 1934 by Soule and Murphy.

More recently, as the president of the Bluff Heights Neighborhood Association, John has been reviewing plans and providing input to the new owners of the Immanuel Church, which was built in 1923 and designed by Horace Austin, in their historic district for an adaptive reuse retirement residential project, which will retain many of the character defining features of the old church.

Also, in Belmont Heights, when Temple Israel was considering renovations, Belmont Heights Community Association president, Dianne Sund-

strom, arranged to have the architects of the project present the plans for the renovation at a meeting of the BHCA and they received very positive feedback. Temple Israel was constructed in 1941 and the architect was Louis Shoall Miller.

In each of these four examples, the owners were not approached until some modifications were already under way or being considered. In the midst of the recent email dialogue regarding the church near downtown, I thought – why not send a letter to many of the older places of worship in our historic districts offering our advice and counsel beforehand, so that if they were ever considering repairs, maintenance or renovation at some future date, they would know that we would be there to assist. Such a letter has now been completed and also reviewed by a local pastor in the Belmont Heights area to gain perspective on this initiative. We now plan on sending this letter to religious leaders of older, historically significant places of worship in our local historic districts, and, at some future date, to those that are not situated in historic districts.

Port of Long Beach

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ect.” According to their web site, the POLB’s goal is to “Implement sustainable practices in design and construction, operations, and administrative practices throughout the Port.” The POLB proudly calls itself the “Green Port” and has implemented many environmentally sensitive measures.

This is an opportunity for the POLB to do some-

thing similar to the Police Department’s restoration of their Mid-Century Modern building. Retrofitting and expanding the existing Administration Building will leave a great legacy for city officials because they not only will prevent tons of waste from entering landfills, but they will also preserve an important piece of Long Beach’s cultural history.

An Update on the Queen Mary

By John Thomas

Historic Resources Advisor to the RMS Queen Mary

The City of Long Beach, various historic preservation consultants, and staff from the RMS Queen Mary completed the first Conservation Management Plan (CMP), guiding the ongoing restoration, stabilization, and preservation objectives for this historic icon. Along with the historic asset survey, the CMP was adopted by the Cultural Heritage Commission in April 2011. Since the adoption of the CMP we have established many protocols and policies that will address the current status of the Queen Mary as a historic and cultural resource and improve and develop programs related to preservation initiatives. We are interfacing the CMP with the Secretary of the Interior Standards-Historic Vessels Preservation Practices and Guidelines and Goals as a Strategic Planning tool within the Base Maintenance Plan to ensure compliance and proper protocols for future City review and approval of projects and to seek potential funding opportunities.

Our first step was to establish the Preservation Management Team (PMT). Comprised of Queen Mary staff, City staff and on call consultants, the PMT has initiated the steps to implement the CMP and related principles and guidelines. Developing a process with predictable outcomes in line with the goals and objectives of the CMP will ensure internal consistency with operational aspects of the Queen Mary and related oversight of the City of Long Beach.

Some historic archives have been repositioned to more accessible public spaces aboard the Queen Mary to allow for better interpretive exhibits including The Queen Mary Story tour, Main Hall Exhibits/Displays, The First Class Children's Playroom and The First Class Music Room. The major public spaces aboard the ship and on many decks, including the Queens Salon, Grand Salon, Royal Salon, Observation Lounge and Veranda Grill, are currently under review for conservation programs, including the art en situ and related character defining features. Other Salons are under evaluation as well.

We have developed regular meetings with key Queen Mary Operation Departments, including Security, Housekeeping, Maintenance, Attractions/Archives and Marketing, to implement recommended elements of the CMP and to ensure internal consistency for those departments and the CMP. Soon, we will begin evaluating several options and models to establish a new nonprofit organization for the Queen Mary. Creating this organizational structure is a priority and will meet an over-arching objective of community outreach and stakeholder involvement.

We are also evaluating models to develop positive community outreach and volunteer programs to bring together those with special skills

and interest in service in the unceasing pursuit of enhancing the Queen Mary's position as an international historic and cultural resource. We are reviewing current historic archive management functions, policies and procedures to develop strategies consistent with the CMP to stabilize, restore, preserve, protect and repurpose archives including a Collection Management System. Efforts are ongoing to integrate historic and cultural aspects of the Queen Mary into all attraction and marketing related activities and programs, including enriching docent lead tours, scripts and passive interpretive programs. Currently, we are evaluating the five year Capital Improvement Program budgeting to include on-ship maintenance related activities consistent with historic preservation and restoration

objectives. In 2011 we were extremely honored that the RMS Queen Mary was added to the National Trust for Historic Preservation Historic Hotels.

There is still much to accomplish. The RMS Queen Mary remains a one of a kind maritime historical and cultural resource. Although it was significantly altered during her conversion to a hotel and attractions venue, we will continue to seek opportunities to encourage preservation and restoration programs on the ship and to improve shipboard community outreach and volunteer programs as well. The Queen Mary continues to do what she was originally intended to do, host guests from all over the world, and in the process, create lifetime memories in a setting not found anywhere else in the world.

The Meeker-Baker Building (Continued from page 1)

columns. An "ornamental iron stairway" led to the offices above which had oak floors and birch trim. The corridor floors were covered with linoleum.

In 1924 the Long Beach National Bank merged with the Bank of Italy and Leo M. Meeker, who was the president of the former institution became vice president in charge of Long Beach operations for the latter one. Meeker's banking career began with the founding of the First National Bank of Garden Grove. Then he bought the First National Banks of El Monte and La Puente and in 1921 purchased the Exchange National Bank of Long Beach, which he renamed the Long Beach National Bank. He was also the president of the First National Bank of Riverside. Today the city landmark at Pine and Seventh bears his name.

In 2007 a developer called October Five bought the entire 600 block of Pine Avenue, which included the Press-Telegram Building, the Nielsen Store designed by Schilling and Schilling, and the Meeker-Baker Building with the intention of constructing two high rise towers behind them. The Nielsen Store was slated for demolition, the Press-Telegram was to be converted into lofts, and the Meeker-Baker was going to contain parking for the residents. This project failed to materialize and the Molinas, who were partial investors in the loft project took over the property. The former banking area of the Meeker-Baker was altered after a

number of businesses occupied this space and in 1995 a fire damaged portions of the second story. However, in 2007 the interior of the upper floor of the Meeker-Baker Building was fairly intact, with the original concierge desk, doorways, and light fixtures still in place. The first floor lobby with neo-classical plaster reliefs on the walls and ornate staircase also retained much of its original aspect. Unfortunately, between 2007 and 2011 the second story windows were removed from the building and vandals desecrated the interior. The staircase railing was taken off and the marble facing was smashed. The antique light fixtures have been lost and the doors have been removed from their frames. Graffiti is scrawled on the walls and mildew permeates the building. The Millworks employees were able to recover the stair railing, some pieces of marble, and the solid wood doors and hardware, which they plan to reuse on the first story of the Meeker-Baker building. The new project is six stories high, will complement the adjacent Press-Telegram structure, and will incorporate the façade of the landmark structure. Millworks and Nadel Architects will bring their concept before the Planning Commission and the Cultural Heritage Commission for approval.

ANNUAL MEETING

Long Beach Heritage's Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Queen Mary (Evolution Hospitality) on **Sunday, July 29, 2012 from 2:00 to 4:00**. A short business meeting aboard the beautiful streamlined ship will include the election of the Board of Directors. John Thomas will be our featured speaker on the history of this landmark, presenting an informative lecture accompanied by numerous photos. Attendees will be able to view various areas of the vessel. There is no charge for the meeting for members or guests, but reservations are necessary. Call the Long Beach Heritage office at 562-493-7019 to RSVP. Parking at the Queen Mary lots will be discounted for the event.

Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association Awards Nearly \$180,000 to Local Historic Projects

On March 29 the Trustees of the LBNMHA (affectionately called the Navy Trust) distributed a total of \$179,875 to 8 local organizations. These projects all focus on sustaining and preserving historic Long Beach. A ceremony at the Rancho Los Alamitos was well attended by not only the grantees and grantors, but also many of the advisors to the Trust, as well as members of the Long Beach Community Foundation. The selection process is difficult, as there are many wonderful proposals and certainly many worthy projects underway in the city. This year's awardees include:

- California Heights Neighborhood Association — Replacement and restoration of the globe/cage/final assemblies on the lampposts in this historic neighborhood district

- Christian Outreach in Action — Repair the parapet and cornices along the top of the historic First Methodist Church (COA office) to stop water leakage & prevent further damage to the building
- Community Hospital of Long Beach Foundation — Restore and preserve the Spanish-style courtyard at the hospital's entrance to upgrade and increase usable space while maintaining its historical significance
- Historical Society of Long Beach — Preserve & catalog 1400 bound volumes of the Press-Telegram and its predecessors and improve the research center space
- Long Beach Symphony Orchestra — Support "Sounds & Spaces" second season of chamber

music concerts in architecturally & historically significant Long Beach venues including the Ebell Club, Masonic Temple, & Engine Company No.8 Fire Station

- Rancho Los Alamitos — Repair and restore the girls' bedroom — including roof & skylight waterproofing/reconstruction - to bring it more in line with the ranch house's historical period
- Rancho Los Cerritos Foundation — Screen or enclose modern equipment near the new Visitor Center to preserve the historical character of the site; add benches & interpretive signage in the arroyo
- The Dolly Varden Hotel — Restoration and re-lighting of the rooftop historic neon sign — "Dolly Varden Hotel Bath in Every Room"

Rattlesnakes, Resorts and Railroad... Brighton Beach

By Stanley Poe

Brighton Beach was a very popular area at the turn of the century. It was established as a seaside resort on the western end of what was known as "Rattlesnake Island," now Terminal Island. In the 1870s the U. S. Corps of Engineers constructed jetties, dredged the channel between the island and San Pedro, and secured dockside landing facilities. A small community was established comprised of houses on stilts and small cottages. Apparently the rattlesnakes were convinced to relocate.

By the turn of the century, tourists flocked to the area. Hotels, bathhouses, taverns and an observatory were constructed on the southwestern side of the island. An electrically illuminated boardwalk was built and proved to be a real draw for tourists. Many homes were built along the strand, including some rather large two story "cottages." There were enough permanent residents to build a two story Victorian style school. However, the resort lifestyle was short lived. The city developed and private storage companies expanded the harbor. The long sandy beaches were swallowed up, and guest quarters became rooms for new laborers who came to build boats, fish, and longshore at the new wharves. Although the area once resembled the Peninsula in Long Beach, deposits from the dredging were dumped in front of the homes making them further and further from the water and many were abandoned. Eventually the island was populated by Japanese who were involved in the fishing industry. At the beginning of World War II many of those people were placed in internment camps and the residential component eradicated.

The name was changed from Rattlesnake Island in 1891 when the Terminal Railway Line was built. It later became the Los Angeles, San Pedro,

and Salt Lake Railroad and reached the capitol of Utah in 1905. The route went through Los Angeles, Riverside (where an elaborate station remains in good condition), Daggett, Las Vegas, and Salt Lake City. It eventually connected with Chicago.

Today Brighton Beach is only a memory to a handful of people. Luckily photographs remain to tell the story of this delightful resort which was located along the present day approach to the Vincent Thomas Bridge.

The "Long Journey to San Pedro" Additional Information

I received a comment on the picture in the last newsletter of the Salt Lake RR Bascule Bridge. This is not the Badger Avenue Bridge (Henry Ford Bridge). The photo is of the first bridge to Terminal Island built by the Los Angeles Terminal Island Railroad Company. It actually was in place where the Gerald Desmond Bridge is now. It was built before The Pontoon Bridge and was how everyone got by rail to Brighton Beach on Terminal Island. Because Long Beach had the only rail link to Terminal Island, they annexed Terminal Island and had control of the entire island for several years. —Melinda Roney

Long Beach Schools at a Crossroads

By Maureen Neeley

On May 1, members of Long Beach Heritage tried to convince the Long Beach Unified School Board to delay their decision to accept the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Theodore Roosevelt School. LBH asserted that the district's objectives could be met through the adaptive reuse of the main campus building, rather than demolition. Short of that, we requested that the mitigation measures be more thorough.

Although our presentation generated board discussion and concern, in the end they decided to demolish the only Public Works Administration funded Streamline Moderne Long Beach school designed by George Kahrs. Both Board Member, John McGinnis, and Board President, Felton Williams,

expressed dismay at losing a potential Long Beach treasure. They heard our concern that this school is part of a unique collection of PWA schools; demolishing one or more diminishes the significance of the collection and this collection's place in Long Beach history. Board Member Jon Meyer, a LBH Advisor, suggested that pieces of the demolished structure be saved and incorporated into a display in the new building.

To that end, the Board supported the groundwork already laid between LBH and LBUSD to implement ideas for completing an historic resources survey of all LBUSD facilities, especially those built with PWA funds during the 1930s. We have also offered to assist in developing ways to utilize the State Historical Building Code to achieve the construction objectives of the school district.

Membership Report — June 1, 2012

DUES, DUES, DUES...

May is membership month. Is your name missing from this list? If so, and you are a Preservationist member or above, perhaps you have forgotten to send your dues—which are due NOW. We miss you and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

BENEFACTOR

RMS Queen Mary

SUSTAINER

The Ackerman Family
Melinda Roney & Walter Wojak

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Kathleen Bursley
Marsha Jeffer
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Susan Westafer
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The Great Gatsby Garden Party

Step back in time and enjoy celebrating the opening of

PEPPERTREE COURT

at the historic Bembridge House with a Great Gatsby Garden Party

July 15, 2012, 3:00–7:00



You remember the legendary parties of Jay Gatsby in F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel, *The Great Gatsby*. Now experience for yourself the glamorous and dangerous life of the Roaring Twenties! Enjoy live music, fun activities, fabulous food & drink, and special surprises. Have your photo taken in a vintage automobile. Let Lady Luck smile upon you when you whisper the password to enter the secret world of a speakeasy. Your initial casino dollars for the games of chance will be complimentary on arrival. This party may be the most memorable evening of the year! Appropriate 1920s or 1930s clothing are encouraged, but not required. This is an offer you can't refuse! Tickets for the Great Gatsby Garden Party are \$80 for members and \$90 for guests, and include a garden supper and beverages. Reservations are limited, but are necessary. Mail in your response card or respond through the website using PayPal. If you have questions call the office at (562) 493-7019.

Calendar

June 25	LBH Executive Committee
July 15	Great Gatsby Party
July 23	LBH Board
July 29	Annual Meeting
August 11	Hollywood Bowl
August 27	LBH Executive Committee

Walking tours:

July 21, August 18, September 15 at
9:00 a.m. at the WPA mural at Third
and The Promenade

LBH Membership

Long Beach Heritage is a non-profit education and advocacy group promoting public knowledge and preservation of significant historic and architectural resources, neighborhoods and the cultural heritage of Long Beach. Dues are due on May 1st each year.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Long Beach Heritage

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- Call me with information on how I can participate in LBH as a volunteer
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- New member _____

Make your check payable to:

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