



TRAGIC FIRE DESTROYS HISTORIC SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD DEPOT

PHOTOS BY LOUISE IVERS



Southern Pacific Depot before it was moved to Willow Springs Park.

By Louise Ivers

On September 16, 2016 a terrible fire of unknown origin destroyed the historic Southern Pacific Railroad station, which was originally located at 225 West Broadway in the downtown area. Built in 1906 and probably designed by Southern Pacific architect, Daniel Patterson, the Mission Revival style depot was one of the few structures from the early twentieth century remaining in Long Beach. It had distinctive arched openings and a tower topped by a tile roof. In 1936, the building was moved to 1475 San Francisco Avenue

and became a city chemical laboratory. The depot was moved again in February 2015 to the Willow Springs Park near California Avenue and 27th Street and was going to be refurbished as a visitor center. It was vacant and had neither electrical nor gas connections at the time of the fire. The old Southern Pacific Railroad station was reduced to a pile of rubble which was removed immediately from the site. Nothing was salvaged from the building and its complete destruction was a tragic loss for historic preservation.

Seaport Marina Hotel Faces Wrecking Ball Again

By Louise Ivers

A new project for the site of the Seaport Marina (originally Edgewater Inn) Hotel at the southeast corner of Second Street and Pacific Coast Highway is in the works. This proposal, designed by Eyestone Environmental, calls for a long rectangular row of two story buildings that conforms to present zoning regulations. A previous design that included skyscrapers and required a variance

was rejected by the City Council around five years ago. The developer, CenterCal, plans to demolish all of the structures that comprise the Mid-Century Modern Edgewater Inn complex, built in 1961-63 and designed by prominent African-American architect, Roy A. Sealey (1917-2008).

Preservationists believe that the signature portion of the Seaport Marina Hotel at the northern end of the site,

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2017 AWARDS BENEFIT AT THE QUEEN MARY ON FEBRUARY 23

By Louise Ivers

This year's Long Beach Heritage Annual Awards Benefit will be held in the sumptuous Grand Salon of the historic Queen Mary on February 23. The no-host bar and silent auction will begin at 5:30 and dinner will be served promptly at 7:15 p.m. As always, this stellar event could not occur without the service of the members of the awards jury. These include Jeff Anderson of Keller Williams Realty; Peter Devereaux of Devereaux Construction; Jonathan Glasgow of Interstices; Karen Highberger of Karen Highberger Interior Design; Louise Ivers, Professor Emerita of Art, California State University Dominguez Hills; Jeff Jeannette of Jeannette Architects; and Jan Van Dijs of J. R. Van Dijs. Special thanks to Patty Moore, who is the Chair of the Awards Benefit, President Cheryl Perry, and Executive Director Mary Kay Nottage.

Awardees are Marshall Pumphrey, Preservationist of the Year; Kight residence, restoration; Tokunaga-Wiesenhutter residence, restoration; Rancho Los Alamitos kitchen and cook's bedroom, restoration; International Sculpture Symposium, California State University Long Beach, restoration; Edison Lofts, adaptive reuse; Hot Cha Café, rehabilitation; Miner Smith Project, cultural resource; and Collaborative Parks Survey, cultural resource.



PHOTO BY CHRIS LAUNI



Hexagonal lobby of Seaport Marina Hotel (originally Edgewater Inn)

Seaport Marina Hotel Faces Wrecking Ball Again

By Louise Ivers

(Continued from page 1)

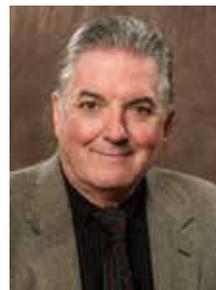
...which is slated to become a parking lot, should be saved and incorporated into the new project. The design by Eye-stone is a rather bland series of boxes of varying heights strung together along an axis that parallels Pacific Coast Highway. The developer could easily restore the distinctive structure that originally contained the lobby and dining rooms of the Edgewater Inn and lease it to restaurants. Saving this portion of the hotel would attract customers because of the "Googie" style architecture of the building which has become popular in Palm Springs and Los Angeles. This part of the structure

has such character defining elements as Y-shaped piers supporting a folded roof, field stone walls, and a hexagonal room with a concrete shell vaulted ceiling.

So far, the only tenant committed to the new 2nd & PCH Project is Whole Foods, but the developer wants to rent to other stores, fast food establishments, and high end restaurants. An article in the local paper compared the proposed development to Fashion Island in Newport Beach, but it is highly unlikely that Tiffany's or Bloomingdale's is going to open next to a grocery store. However, the prospect of new restaurants is within the realm of possibility and future diners would undoubtedly want to eat in a distinctive "Googie" type building.

2017 Preservationist of the Year

Marshall Pumphrey, a life-long resident of Long Beach, is in his words "one of those people who appreciate the past and enjoy seeing things that are part of the city's history." This passion led him to



forge a bond with Ken Larkey, founder of The Long Beach Heritage Museum. After Larkey's passing in 2011, Marshall took over management of the museum's extensive collection of artifacts, historical photos and postcards. With loving dedication, he embarked on a mission of moving these artifacts from storage, carefully restoring them, and situating them in local businesses/public spaces where they can remind residents of Long Beach's rich history. Marshall promotes awareness of our multi-faceted history by arranging these educational installations. In addition, he and his team of investors stabilize and adaptively reuse numerous older buildings in the city. Each of these buildings receiving one of Marshall's face-lifts is a gift to both pedestrians and drivers, who see historic structures repurposed for the future. Marshall Pumphrey sets a wonderful example as a Long Beach resident contributing to our living heritage.



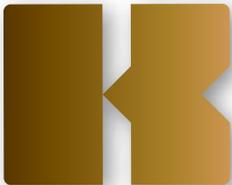
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Making Victorian Christmas Happen at the Bembridge House

By Chris Hogan

Photographs by Ken Slater

The theme "A California Winter Wonderland" truly inspired the artistic sensibilities of our many volunteers. Kudos to the tireless decorators from Long Beach's Historic Districts, neighborhoods, and groups as well as the individuals who worked on their own. Every person gave many hours to make each room an amazing space. Please accept our gratitude for your positive energy and hard work.



The House Gardeners

The Gardens

(Above) In addition to making all the goodies in the Garden Boutique, Elisa Trujillo, Carol Smith, Linda Renner, Donna Sievers, Chris Horan, August Bussi, James Barker, Pablo Godoy, and Chris Hogan matched lush garden greenery with many garlands and wreaths. Red bells and ribbons and even ornamental garden tools added to yuletide spirit.

Belmont Heights Historic District

Reil's Bedroom

(Right) Veteran decorators Bette McKinney and Craig Starnes used student-made red and green paper chains, a nutcracker, and a little popcorn-strung Christmas tree to set a delightfully whimsical tone for our boy's room.



Alamitos Beach Neighborhood Association

The Landing

(Above) Chris Hogan and neighbors, Mark Clark and Sharon Piercecchi, made their tree a fantasy of red ornaments, white beads, and ivory snowflakes. California-inspired fruits, English-cottage miniatures, and greenery accented the stairs.



Bluff Heights Historic District

The Foyer

(Above) A long-time decorating group, Christine Votava led Debbie Gray, Frank & Johane Ginipro, Donna Sievers, John Thomas, and Chris Launi in creating an enchanted forest of green garlands, dancing snowflakes, shimmering snow-tipped branches, and silvery sparkles. What a dazzling entrance!



Making Victorian Christmas Happen



California Heights Historic District The First Parlor

(Above) The first group to ever decorate the interior, John Royce, Kerrie Weaver, Lee Schweckert, and Nanc Cruz adorned their beautiful tree with white blossoms, tangerines, strawberries made out of walnut shells, and real dried orange slices to create a vision of orange, white, and green. Final touches included vintage postcards and photos of local seasonal scenes, golden poppies and garlands.



Carroll Park Historic District The Office

(Above Left & Above Right) Santa was in the building greeting visitors. Participating for their third year, Bill Marley, Kat and Mark Clark, Cecile Lindsay, and Sharon Piercecchi situated a jolly Santa Claus with a teddy bear to greet visitors. Santa's list of good girls and boys sat in a typewriter on a desk along with sparkling baubles and presents.



North Pine Neighbor- hood Alliance The Downstairs Hallway

(Above) We welcomed first-time participant, Carole Sercy. She truly "decked the hall," brightening our dark, narrow space with glittering silver and lustrous white strands of garlands, ornaments, feathery birds and glistening reindeer.



South Coast Chorale The Carriage House

(Above) For many years, the Chorale has entranced visitors with their beautiful caroling. This season they also decorated our Carriage House as a charming country barn with different-sized Christmas trees, pinecones, and a dancing Santa.

at the Bembridge House 2017



Rose Park Historic District The Middle Bedroom

(Above) Gretchen Swanson, Emily Stevens, Nancy Blair, and Richard Connelly wrote a "fabricated tale" mystery to complement their room design. Visitors looked for clues and then went to the Rose Park website for the answer. Curtains of brilliant white lights, handsome peacock feathers, and navy blue wall hangings enhanced the male ambience.

Bluff Park Historic District The Master Bedroom & Bathroom

(Right) Having decorated this room for many years, Kitty Parmar, Lois Caltabiano, Mari O'Connor, and Eva Pinsky designed a comfortably serene scene, complete with holly & poinsettia garlands, candles, and a glowing castle. The traditional Victorian pickle ornament was hidden in a shining tree centered perfectly in the turret alcove. The Master Bathroom, with its claw-foot tub filled with sudsy foam and iridescent glass-ornament soap bubbles, was a definite crowd-pleaser.

Craftsman Village Historic District The Original Kitchen

(Below) Long-time decorators, Michelle Arend-Ekhoff, Lisa Harris, Betty Lima, Tim Schugt, Peggy Kozlowski, and Jose Cordero, imagined a wondrous world of white, silver, and gold. A magnificent floral centerpiece, mirror runner, crisp place settings, snowflakes and white feathers set a frosty-weather tableau.



Elisa Trujillo The Sun Porch & Sewing Room

(Above) For a second year, Elisa transformed the Sun Porch and Sewing Room into truly welcoming Victorian Christmas spaces with a sign, "Welcome! Come in out of the cold," garlands, sparkly lights, dangling ruby and silver baubles, a sleigh filled with toys, a cherub birdbath, and a garden-inspired tree ornamented with red roses, white Queen Anne's lace, birds, and birdhouses. With bobbin-strewn wreaths hanging about, the Sewing Room showed Christmas stockings being sewn on the Singer machine.



Making Victorian Christmas Happen at the Bembridge House



Eleanor Mendoza The Dining Room, Breakfast Room & Kitchen

(Above) Eleanor out-did herself again with a stylish dining table adorned with a sumptuous red and white centerpiece reaching up to the historic gasolier dripping with radiant baubles. Along with a charming nativity scene, the combination of cobalt blue and turquoise glass in the Breakfast Room beautifully complimented the garlands tied with festive red and green tartan-plaid bows in the kitchen.



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The Bembridge House Decorating Committee The Second Parlor

(Below) Chris Hogan, Jill Anne Black, Iris Schutz, Cheryl Perry, and Blaire Robinson created a warm red, gold, and silver theme from the glistening mantel over the fireplace to the stockings "hung by the fireplace with care" to the wintry jewel-tone colors seen in their tree.



Willmore City Heritage Association The House & Carriage House Exterior

(Above & Below) Decorating the Bembridge House exterior requires the largest team effort and has been done by its own neighborhood association since the initial Victorian Christmas Event. Jim Danno & Kathleen Irvine, Ernie Villa, Alan Giomi & Sheila Gibbons, Terry Beebe, Josefa Curtin, Blaire Robinson, and Cheryl & Mark Perry hung garlands and giant ornament-strewn & lighted wreaths and strung lights around trees in front and put up our tallest Christmas tree in back in Pepper Tree Court.



LBH Conducts Special Downtown Walking Tour for Rotary Club

On November 16, Long Beach Heritage's four docents conducted a special 60-minute version of the downtown walking tour for members of the Long Beach Rotary Club. The Rotarians met for lunch at the Federal Bar in the historic Security Bank Building at 1st Street and Pine Avenue. While dining, they were treated to a PowerPoint presentation (running on repeat silently in the background) that explained the mission of Long Beach Heritage and displayed 36 historic buildings in the downtown area. Before leaving the Federal Bar, VP for Walking Tours Chris Hogan talked briefly about the architectural features of the Security Bank Building (designed by Curlett & Beelman in 1925) including its original hand-painted ceiling, mahogany paneling, and stunning Corinthian columns.

The Rotarians then divided into groups of about 15 each to be taken in separate directions through the downtown by docents Linda Dragga; Sam Dragga; Chris Hogan; and Sherron Leno. Sites covered in the abbreviated tour included the "Recreation in Long Beach" mural at 3rd & Promenade as well as the Insurance Exchange Building; Edison Theatre; Psychic Temple; Breakers; First National Bank Building; Bradley Building; Masonic Temple; and Farmers & Merchants Bank. The members of Long Beach Rotary thoroughly enjoyed their instructive walk through the downtown's architectural history, and Linda, Sam, Chris, and Sherron appreciated their lively attention and thoughtful questions about building preservation and restoration.

Long Beach Heritage is pleased to offer special weekday walking tours to groups of ten or more. This service to the community creates greater appreciation and recruits wider support for Long Beach's significant historical and architectural resources.

THE THRILL OF IT ALL

If you do well with your ski instruction, you progress from the bunny slope to the larger challenges. The day comes when you're standing at the top of a really big slope and --while the prospect is thrilling and you're proud of your achievement--you know it's possible you're going to need someone to pick you up at the end of the ride.

This is a bit like the story of Long Beach Heritage, which started on its own bunny slope many years ago and is now very active throughout the city. The problem is that we don't have enough people to participate. Sometimes we are lucky to make it safely down the mountain.

We would like you to consider joining us in some way. It would not need not be a large commitment on your part. We organize events and tours at Bembridge house, put together mailing parties, and help with the awards benefit on the Queen Mary. If you could help occasionally with activities such as these, we would add you to our contact list. It's not necessary to commit to a particular number of hours or to a schedule; just answer the phone/email and tell us yes or no each time.

We also need people to serve on committees such as the one to help us build our membership, and the Advocacy committee which works to promote our preservation ideals. Committee attendance could be as infrequent as one evening a month--and we would like to stress that we're not looking for experts; we think you could learn from us and we could learn from you.

If you would like to explore some of these possibilities please phone Charlotte Mitchell at 562-596-0804 or talk to anyone else on our team whom you might happen to know. We are all hoping to hear from you.



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Calendar

LBH Board	January 23rd
Awards Benefit	February 23, 2017
Executive Committee	February 27th
LBH Board	March 27th
Executive Committee	April 24th
Great Homes Tour	June 4, 2017

Walking Tours

Downtown on the third Saturday at 9:30 a.m.
East Village on the second Saturday at 9:30 a.m.
Willmore City on the fourth Saturday at 9:30 a.m.
North Pine - February 4th at 9:30 a.m.

Bembridge Tours

Every Tuesday & the fourth Saturday at 1:30
& 2:30 p.m.

Long Beach Heritage

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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.

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