

HERITAGE SQUARE

GAZETTE

Oxnard, CA

January 2008

Next General Meeting: February 12

Hi Everyone,

I just wanted to inform you that we had our first General meeting of 2008, on January 8th, at the Square. It was well attended (great for January) and chaired by our new President, Regina Stevens. A lot of items were discussed for the coming year and ideas were exchanged. Many plans are in the making and hopefully will be implemented this year. Some exciting field trips are also being planned. We would like you to become involved so plan on coming to the next General meeting on February 12th at the Square.

See you there!

Flora Bea
Docent and Secretary

Great Christmas Event(s)

Speaking strictly for myself, our Christmas event this year went extremely well. The change from one weekend with longer hours, more docents and lots of extras to one weekend but three more Saturdays, and the usual ten to two time frame gave people, and us, time to enjoy the Square, and .

(cont'd on back page)



BIRTHDAY WISHES

Barbara Hilburn	1/8
Gary Blum	1/22
Fran Hruska	1/25

2008 Executive Board Slate of Officers

**Hi to all the friends of Heritage Square.
Here is the 2008 slate of officers.
Welcome to all of them and hope that all
of you will give them your support this
year.**

President	Regina Stevens
Vice President	Gerry Murphy
Secretary	Flora B. Stratas
Treasurer	Wilma Skeen
Parliamentarian & Staff Support	Gary Blum
Sunshine Secretary	Helen Gilbert
Newsletter Editor	Ruth Hibbard
Members at Large:	Ernie Hosaki, Connie Korenstein, Carol Puerto, & Laura Harris

**A big WELCOME aboard to our new
Docent Coordinator, Tracie Phan!**



Great Christmas...cont'd from front page

The “extras” were some beautiful music by our old friend Sam the piano man, a harpist, and a senior singing group. All were appreciated by those who heard them, and docents got to do lots of tours, which we all love to do!

Who was able to enjoy the “Holley Trolley?” After watching two groups of happy people walk through the Square, listening to a bit of music, receiving hot chocolate and cookies handed out by Docents in the Petit Theater, Paula, Laura and I got to join the last group. That night the trolley was actually a double decker bus. We sat up on top and got a great view of the lighted scenes on F and G Streets. So spectacular!

Now, let’s look forward to our next meeting, and to more tours.

Ruth A. Hibbard
Docent and Gazette Editor



*Wonder what’s going on at
Heritage Square? Come and
find out on February 12!!!*

HERITAGE SQUARE GAZETTE

Oxnard, CA

March 2008

Next General Meeting: March 11, 2008

Heritage Square Announcements

School Tours

Thanks to the Docents who have signed up to help with the School Tours:

March 13th - Flora Bea, Ernie

A tour docent is still needed.

March 20th - Paula (Tour Docent)

Two hands-on volunteers are still needed

March 27th - Carol (Tour Docent)

Two hands-on volunteers are still needed

FOHS Will Tour Two Unique Sites on “Our” Naval Base

On Saturday, March 8th, 2008, Friends of Heritage Square will be privileged to tours of both the Bard Mansion and the SeaBee Museum on the Port Hueneme Naval Base. Helen Gilbert has arranged for us to see both, and to have lunch in between on the base.

Please call Helen at 483-5887 by Tuesday, March 4th before 5 p.m. if you want to be included. It is essential that Helen has your name by that date. You will NOT be able to join the group unless Helen has given your name to the base security before the day we arrive.

Documentary Film “Oxnard 1961”

The film is part of the free training program offered to new docents, tour guides, and volunteers of Heritage Square. This training program is an educational tool that gives everyone a chance to learn about Oxnard’s history and architecture. It also provides an opportunity to work with people from all over the world who are visiting and want to learn more about Oxnard’s rich history, as well as children enrolled in our local schools. This is a way to give back to the community we live in.

This film will be shown on March 11th from 5:00 - 6:30 pm at Heritage Square, located at 715 South A Street. This is part of the new docent training program. All persons interested in Oxnard History are welcome to attend. (See flyer included for more details.)

Spring Docent Training Class

Do you want to be a part of Oxnard’s history that your children and grandchildren can be proud of? You can be trained for free as a docent or volunteer. Docents and volunteers are needed for the tour program, special events, exhibits, historical research and visitor center at Heritage Square in Oxnard.

(cont’d on next page)



BIRTHDAY WISHES for February and March:

Connie Korenstein

February 2

Helen Gilbert

March 9

Ivan Sanchez

February 8

Marilyn McGuire

March 20

Gerry Murphy

February 19

Patrick Behrens March 27

Spring Docent Training , cont'd from page 1

The Friends of Heritage Square is offering a free six-week training program scheduled every Saturday beginning April 19th through May 24th. Classes will be held at Heritage Square, 715 South A Street. Classes will start at 10:00 am and end at 2:00 pm. The program will include lectures, slide shows and tour guide techniques.

Volunteers will have an opportunity to learn about Oxnard history and architecture, working with the public and developing educational programs.

Interest individuals are encouraged to attend, as well as anyone who wants a refresher training course. Please contact Tracie Pham for addition information at phone: 805-338-0113 or e-mail: HSDocentCoord@aol.com.



Don't Miss Our Costume

Exchange!



The FOHS General Meeting, Tuesday, April 8th, will feature another chance to exchange your unused skirts, blouses, hats or other items for “new to you” items from another docent’s closet. Just bring what you want to give away, and browse for something you want. If you

want to sell something, special arrangements can be made.

Call Tracie Pham 805-338-0113 or e-mail: HSDocentCoord@aol.com.

Old American Gas Stations from all around the country. Some are abandoned, some are restored and many are still in use. (from Regina Stevens—just a sample)





Sugar Beets and American Crystal Sugar: Both Still Here in the U.S.

(from Gary Blum who found this on NPR website: <http://www.npr.org/>)

All Things Considered, February 14, 2008 · You have probably heard of sugar cane. But **half of all sugar in the United States comes right out of the ground — from sugar beets.** And this spring, thousands of American farmers are hoping to plant sugar beets that have been genetically engineered.

The American Crystal Sugar factory in Moorhead, Minn., which processes sugar beets into the granular sucrose we know, is a steaming, belching, coal-burning monster. On the day I visited, it was 11 degrees below zero and blowing hard. But for sugar beets, that's perfect. In this part of the country, millions of tons of beets sit all winter long in enormous open-air piles. And they have to stay frozen; otherwise, they'll rot.

The homely vegetables arrive in 25-ton truckloads. They look like very fat, white carrots. Following the trail of beets, David Berg, the CEO of American Crystal Sugar, leads the way through the factory.

First the beets are washed. They're then sliced into thin strips and fed into a gigantic steel drum filled with hot water, where the actual process of extracting the sugar begins. You get sugar water, boiled down to the point where it's so thick that it turns into a mass of sugar crystals.

And at the other end of the factory, a stream of dry white sugar fills an endless parade of five- and 10-pound bags.

"The sad truth is, the 10-pound bags aren't very popular anymore because people don't bake at home as much as they used to," Berg says.

The New Sugar Beet

The real sugar factories, though, are silent ones: green, leafy beet plants that turn sunlight into sucrose.

The new sugar beet that farmers here in North Dakota want to plant has a gene inserted into it that lets the plant withstand Roundup, the popular chemical weedkiller. Farmers who plant these sugar beets can spray Roundup on their fields and kill the weeds, while the sugar beet plants survive.

Alan Dexter, a weed scientist at North Dakota State University, met a group of farmers last week at a hotel in Fargo, N.D., to talk about this new weapon in the war on weeds.

"This is a very big deal," Dexter says. "Typically we've been using mixtures of four herbicides, applied four times, at a seven-day interval. It's very complicated. Roundup is a lot easier and a lot more reliable... Farmers are going to adopt it as rapidly as they can."

Actually, they have been waiting years for these beets. Roundup resistant soybeans, cotton and corn have been on the market for almost a decade, and government regulators approved so-called Roundup Ready sugar beets back in 1998. But until now, the sugar beet industry — including American Crystal — has held back.

"Five years ago, my impression was, there was some very serious customer concern — at the industrial customer level, the people we sell the sugar to, and certainly at the consumer level... about biotech agriculture," American Crystal's CEO David Berg says. "Since that time, the resistance has just diminished. People have become more comfortable with it."

(cont'd on back page)

Sugar Beets and American Crystal Sugar, cont'd from page 3

Not everybody, though.

"A lot of the American public simply disagrees with the idea of genetically engineering life forms," says Kevin Golden at the Center for Food Safety in San Francisco. "It's an invasive technology, where you're transporting foreign genes into the genome of a plant, using a viral vector, and a lot of people think that's just wrong, morally and environmentally."

Last month, Golden's group and several others filed a lawsuit to stop the new sugar beets.

They say the U.S. Department of Agriculture violated the law when it approved these beets, because it didn't look carefully enough at several environmental risks. For instance, sugar beet seeds are harvested in the same part of Oregon as ordinary table beets and Swiss chard. And all those plants are so similar that they can pollinate each other.

So, Golden says, gardeners could find themselves growing the occasional hybrid: part Roundup Ready sugar beet, part Swiss chard.

"It may look like chard, it may look like table beets, but in fact it will have the Roundup Ready property in it, or at least the Roundup Ready gene," Golden says.

Accidental cross pollination between these crops was always possible, but Golden says it now could be a problem for organic farmers who aren't supposed to use any genetically engineered seed.

A similar lawsuit, using similar arguments, stopped the planting of Roundup Ready alfalfa last year.

Sugar beet farmers are now awaiting word from the court. Planting time arrives in just a couple of months.



HERITAGE SQUARE GAZETTE

Oxnard, CA

April 2008

Next General Meeting: April 8, 2008

DESTINATION SEABEE BASE- VENTURA COUNTY

On a beautiful Saturday morning in March, several Docents & Volunteers met at Heritage Square to caravan to the Seabee Base to tour the Bard Mansion & visit the Seabee Museum.

Helen Gilbert was in charge of this field trip and did



all the exhibits, and there were many.

We had a great lunch at Roxi's and enjoyed each other's company. We ended our day back at the Square where we all went our separate ways.

(Story by Flora Bea, photos from Pat Supko)

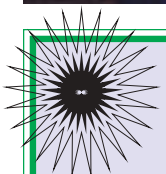
all the preliminary work to get us on the Base.

We were met by a very knowledgeable Docent, Mrs. Hinckley, who gave us a tour of the whole house, upstairs and downstairs.

We went to the Seabee Museum and were on our own to enjoy



Clothing Exchange April 8th!
Bring your bits and pieces or whole hats and costumes for exchange. One woman's discard may be another's treasure!!!



BIRTHDAY WISHES for April

(and belated wishes to Ernie--sorry)

Ernie Hosaki 3/14

Regina Stevens 4/6

Tom Von Allmen 4/16

Dues are DUE!

Please bring or send your dues of \$10 to:
Heritage Square, 715 South A Street, Oxnard, CA 93030. Make check out to Friends of Heritage Square. Cut off date for keeping membership current is June 1.



One of the beautiful stained glass windows at Heritage Hall. Come next month and find out all about them.

Local Stained Glass Artisan to Speak

from *Gary Blum*

The talented Patrick Clensay of Architectural Art Glass of Ventura will be the guest speaker at the May 13th meeting of the Friends of Heritage Square. Mr. Clensay was contracted by the City Oxnard back in 1990 to carefully remove and then restore all of the stain glass windows in Heritage Square Hall. He was also commissioned to make the newer panels on the East side of the church building. Mr. Clensay will talk about the history of stained glass, his involvement in the restoration of many windows in Ventura County and will be available to answer your questions about stained glass. Don't miss this great educational experience Tuesday, May 13th at 5pm. 731 South A Street, Oxnard.

Did you know...?

The color red in a stained glass window meant that the owner was wealthy, because red was made with GOLD!

SAVE THIS DATE

The Associated Historical Societies and Museums of Ventura County will have their semi-annual meeting on May 12, 2008 from 9:30am-2:30pm,

This event will be held at the Reyes Adobe Historical Site in Agoura Hills. The Friends of Heritage Square usually carpool to the meeting.

More information will be forthcoming so save the date.



Winter Clothes Expo and Sale

On May 10, a Saturday, Docents can carpool to the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium for this acclaimed event. If there is enough interest, Gerry Murphy will make the arrangements. Call at 647-6016 to let her know of your interest and to make reservations.



Connelly House Recollections:

Sheila Pohlman, great-granddaughter to Archie Connelly, sent these recollections in response to a letter from Gary Blum.

Unfortunately, my mother, Helen Connelly (daughter of Thomas) never passed on too much in the way of family history and she is now deceased.

As for the layout of the house, here's what I remember from my childhood..I frequently stayed there.

We always entered the home from the back through what was apparently the mud room, laundry room and where there was one tiny "wash up" bathroom. That room as you headed into the house lead to the kitchen. The kitchen had lots of white cabinets and a booth seat/diner table where we ate all our meals when I visited. At the north end of the kitchen was a huge pantry closet.

If you exited the kitchen to the north, you would pass the back stairs on the left. These were the stairs everybody used to get to the upstairs bedrooms. If you walked past the stairwell you would enter the formal dining room which had a large storage closet in the northwest corner of it. When you first entered the dining room, there was a room to the right/east that served as an office. There may have been a closet in that room as well.

Back to the kitchen, if you exited the kitchen from the south end toward the west, you would enter what we used as a family room/t.v. room. It had a large brick fireplace in it and a beautiful built-in hutch which my grandmother used to store her china and fine dishes. To the west was another room, the formal living room. We were not allowed in this room except on special occasions like Christmas. It had two large sets of sliding wooden doors which the adults would shut to keep young children from peeking at the Christmas tree.

To the north of this room (and there was also a door from the family room) was the main entrance. It was done in beautiful dark polished wood..there was a beautiful wooden staircase which we were never allowed to used—I never was sure if Nana just wanted to keep it nice or if she was afraid we'd slip on them! In the corner of the

room near the door that came from the family room was a small room that was called the phone booth. I don't know if it was ever used this way.

Upstairs were four bedrooms and a large bathroom with a footed tub. It had a built-in vanity. There was a door by the tub that led to the north. Through that door was a small outdoor porch (which also had a door to one of the bedrooms). My grandmother basically used that porch to hang her "delicates" out after washing.

Across from the downstairwell on the west side of the upstairs was a door that lead to an outdoor porch.. This was above the downstairs formal entrance. We never used that porch either. There was a small porch beneath that as well

leading to the main entrance. Another side porch was located on the south side of the house with a door into the family room/t.v. room.

That's about it on the house. It has very special memories for me as I was the oldest child of Helen Connelly O'Callaghan and probably spent more time there than my siblings. I have fond memories of tractor rides with my grandfather (Punch/Thomas). I remember the blacksmith shop below the big garage where all the license plates hung. I remember the old shed/wash house where we used to play house. I was always amazed at the circular drive..how elegant it seemed. Then there were the orange trees, the avocado trees, the nut trees and my grandmother's rose garden. There were a lot of family barbeques in the back yard where the brick pit was.



Heritage Square Gazette
715 South A Street
Oxnard, CA 93030

English Morris Dancing

Saturday, April 26, 2008

9:45 a.m. - Glenwood Care Center

9:45 a.m. - Camarillo Health Care Center

10.00a.m. - Victoria Health Care Center

11:15 a.m., 3:00 p.m. - Channel Islands Harbor -
Maritime Museum

11:00 a.m., 2.45 p.m. Ventura Harbor -
Carousel Stage

1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. - Mission Park, Ventura

4:15 p.m. - Victoria Pub

4:15 p.m. - BJ's, Oxnard

10:45 a.m., 3:00 p.m. Heritage Square, Oxnard

Come and watch this traditional English celebration of Spring. Dancers from across the country will be here performing historical dances and new interpretations. Morris is characterized by energetic dancing, colorful costumes, and curious characters. Children especially are captivated by the music and movement.



HERITAGE SQUARE

GAZETTE

Oxnard, CA

May 2008

Next General Meeting: June 10, 2008

Friends Will Visit Pratt House June 6th

Tour of the Pratt house will be Friday, June 6 at 11am. For car pool information and lunch plans, contact Regina Stevens either by phone or email. (Use directory)

You can find photos and information about the house at their website at www.casabarranca.com.

Stained Glass Talk is Rescheduled

Patrick Clensay of Architectural Art Glass of Ventura was unable to be at the May 13th meeting of the Friends of Heritage Square. He has agreed to come to our next meeting on June 10.

Mr. Clensay was contracted by the City of Oxnard back in 1990 to carefully remove and then restore all of the stain glass windows in Heritage Square Hall. He was also commissioned to make the newer panels on the East side of the church building. Mr. Clensay will talk about the history of stained glass, his involvement in the restoration of many windows in Ventura County and will be available to answer your questions about stained glass. Don't miss this great educational experience Tuesday, June 10th at 5pm. at 731 South A Street, Oxnard.



The Sadhna Hall

Based on the geometrics of the golden mean spiral, the Sadhna Hall is decorated with antique Tibetan furniture, and features a grand fireplace lined with hand crafted tiles and crowned with a mural by artist Michael Brown.

New Summer Hours for the Square

Friends of Heritage Square have agreed to offer extended hours on Saturday: one docent will come from 11 a.m.–1 p.m., and another will come from 1 – 4 p.m. Press releases will announce this, and we will be keeping count of any increase in visitors, especially the last hours.



BIRTHDAY WISHES for May & June

Omar Sanchez	5/9
Pat Supko	5/13
Diane Suskin	5/24
Sharon Collins	5/31
Carol Puerto	5/31
Ginger Roth	6/23



**The Designer-Model Shows Off
an Array of “Just Lovely
Fashions” in her Bright and
Colorful Ventura Showroom**

Elizabeth Cornejo of “Just Lovely
Fashions:” Fall/Winter ‘07-2008 11
The ClipBoard, a newsmagazine of
the West Valley Occupational Center

Photography by Michael
LeRoy Spaul

Multi Talented Designer/Seamstress

Elizabeth Corejo can design and make a dress from a photo, or in the traditional way—from a pattern. She has sewn a beautiful skirt to match the top I made, partly from an inexpensive curtain.

Anyone wanting to consult her about a costume or any sewing can reach her at 805-643-7398 or email Justlovelyfashions@sbcglobal.net. Her shop is at 2692 Loma Vista Road, unit #B, Ventura, CA 93003.

Ruth A. Hibbard

Grand Opening of Railroad Museum

The Fillmore Historical Museum invites you to the dedication of the restored 1887 Southern Pacific Depot from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday May 31st. RSVP if you want to attend by calling 805-524-0948.

Some of the Friends attended the Association of Historical Societies and Museums’ spring meeting last year. The Fillmore Historical Museum occupies the Hinckley House, which was the home of Fillmore’s first dentist in the early years of the town. The Historical Museum will eventually include not only the town’s train station, but also a bunk house for railroad crews.



2008 HERITAGE SQUARE SUMMER CONCERTS

Enjoy more than Great History in Downtown Oxnard!

June 13 - Aug 15

6 PM-8 PM

805.483.7960

For more info visit www.downownoxnard.org

6/13	Incendio	Latin Guitar Fusion
6/20	Summer Of Love	Late 60's Rock & Roll
6/27	Bandidos de Amor	World Beat Rumba
7/4	Ulysses S. Jasz	Dixieland Jazz
7/11	House Arrest	60's-80's Dance Band R & B
7/18	The Wonderelles	Classic 50's & Ws Revue
7/25	The Chico Band	Latin, Oldies, Rock
8/1	Spice	R&B, Latin & Smooth Jazz
8/8	Sapadilla	Caribbean Fusion
8/15	Gilberto Gonzales	World Jazz

Summer Concerts Instructions

Docents & Volunteers

There are generally four Docents up front to greet and direct guests.

Docents should arrive at 5pm (concerts start at 6pm) in costume with name badge.

Docents will stand at the entrances to the Plaza greeting all guests.

You may ask if they have a ticket to show you. Some will not have a ticket, as they are guests of a sponsoring organization. CLUE: they may be carrying a picnic basket so welcome them to the square. Most guests will know where their table is.

If guests wish to purchase a ticket to be seated in the plaza, direct them to go to the south entrance and proceed to the ticket table. Do not let them cut thru the plaza to purchase a ticket.

During the concert you may pass out tickets for the half time drawings to all the guests seated on the lawn surrounding the plaza. (People who obtain tickets or have tables already have their drawing tickets). Take pencils

with you and after passing out tickets, you may pick up the tickets and pencils and put the tickets in the drawing box. Say, for example: We need your name so that you may be entered into the FREE drawing at half time. If you want to give an address we will add your name to our mailing list, unless we already have it. They may want to know what they can win so it is a good idea to check at the ticket table to see what the prizes are for that evening.

Other information that you may tell guests is that their entry tickets are used to send them schedules of future events to be held at Heritage Square.

You will be given a basket at intermission (usually around 7pm) to collect money for the band. Each Docent will be assigned a section of the square to pass the basket for donations. Turn the basket into the ticket table when finished.

There will be a drawing for the door prizes that two of the Docents may help with. After the drawing, the Docents are free to leave or just enjoy the rest of the concert.

Flora Bea Stratas

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