

LONG BEACH *Heritage Museum* Newsletter

PRESERVING THE BEST OF THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

VOL 3

FALL/WINTER 2004

NO 2

LONG BEACH NAVY MEMORIAL DEDICATION

For most of the 20th century, the U.S. Navy had a compelling presence in Long Beach beginning in 1919 when the city was named homeport for the Navy's very first Pacific Fleet. As a welcoming gesture, the city built a servicemen's club and in 1926 added the first Navy landing piers at the foot of Pico Ave in the harbor. By 1928, the fleet included the aircraft carriers USS Lexington and the USS Saratoga. In 1940, the Navy upgraded Long Beach to a full-scale Naval base including a shipyard and such facilities as the Naval Hospital, the Navy Air Station, and ammunition Depot. For so many years, the focal point in Long Beach was the Navy, and at its core were the Naval shipyard and Naval Station. When these institutions closed in 1997, a void was created that was felt by so many in Long Beach. The Navy Memorial Heritage Association decided to dedicate a memorial to honor the navy's history in Long Beach. Terry Braunstein, an artist in her own right, was commissioned by the Heritage Association to design a memorial which, when it was finished, was dedicated on July 10th of this year at the new Pier Point Landing at Rainbow Harbor. For hundreds of people,



Memorial is a replica of an armillary sphere.

including the Long Beach Heritage Museum officials that attended the dedication, the symbolism of the Naval Memorial was hard to miss. The Long Beach Heritage Museum staff was invited by Mr. Dick Landgraff of the Friends Of The Navy to display the Museum's Navy exhibit along with other Navy items, such as scale models of the battleships "Arizona" and "Nevada" in conjunction with the dedication ceremonies for the Naval Memorial. As the official preservation organization, the Museum represented the historians of Long Beach. We in Long Beach owe much to the heritage of the Navy, which did so much to shape the character of our city.



Museum Navy Base Display Boards as displayed at the dedication Memorial

HERITAGE MUSEUM'S ARTIFACTS



#1 THE PIKE NEON PARKING LOT SIGN: This sign was donated to the Heritage Museum by Mr. Ken Wooten, past member of the museum. The sign measures nine feet long by five feet tall. There is a circus clown head missing from between the open hands at the top of the sign. When the museum is open again this sign will be restored to its original bright flashing lights, and will be at the entrance to all the Pike exhibits.

#2. COOPER ARMS

ELEVATOR DOORS: When the Cooper Apartments replaced the original elevator doors with new up to date doors, this 1924 set of doors was donated to the Heritage Museum. They are made to look like a mahogany wood finish, but are really heavy steel doors.



#3. 1930'S REDWOOD

SURFBOARD This is an original twelve foot long redwood surfboard used by the Long Beach, City Life Guards along the downtown beach between the old Pine Avenue Pier, to the foot of Alamitos Avenue. The board was found in an apartment building basement on Seaside Walk during its demolition, and was saved for display at the Heritage Museum.



#4. PACIFIC COAST CLUB DISPLAY CASE

This is the museum's showcase for the display and exhibit of

the Pacific Coast Club artifacts from that popular and well known civic club. There is dinnerware and silver ice tongs, the club's brass shield ensignia along with menus and other club items as shown in the enclosed photo.



#5. NAVY IN LONG BEACH This is a mannequin of a Navy sailor dressed in a typical sailor uniform with the popular peacoat. The entire uniform was donated by the now long gone "Fleet Locker Club" and is part of the Heritage Museum Navy Memorial Exhibit

#6. HISTORIC CHURCH PEWS

These are the historic First Christian Church pews saved from the demolition of the church in the 1980s. The Heritage Museum has seven of these mahogany pews that were installed in the church in 1924, and removed to the Heritage



Museum to display the church history. They are used for the seating in the Heritage Museum's Theater.



MUSEUM NEWS BRIEFS

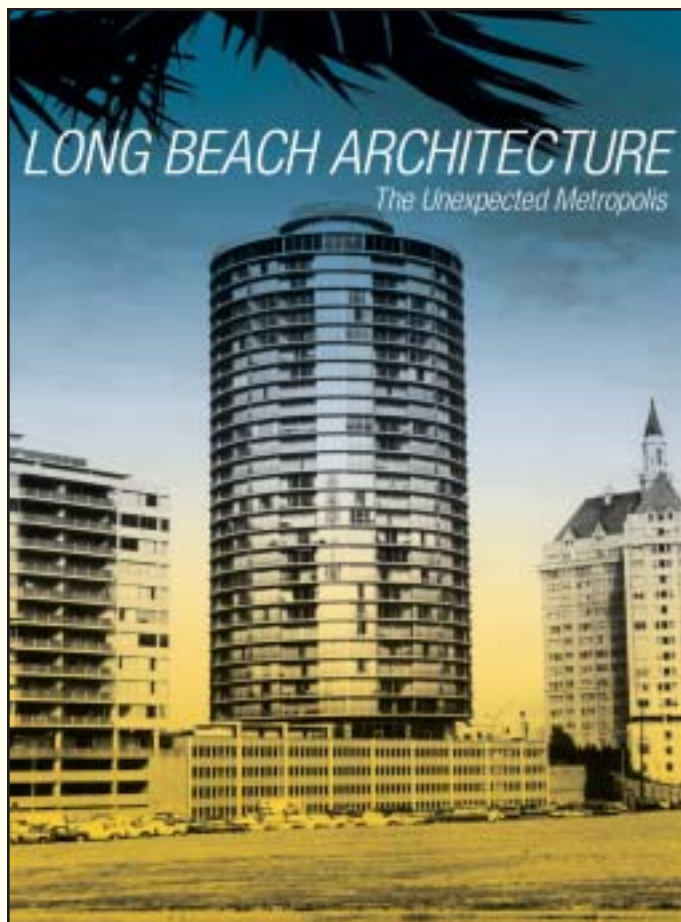
A newly published book "Long Beach Architecture, the Unexpected Metropolis" by Cara Mullio and Jennifer Volland, is now in the local book stores. Many of the pictures in the new book are from the Long Beach Heritage Museum archive photo collections. Cara and Jennifer spent many hours sorting through the museum's photo files while selecting the best pictures representing Long Beach Architecture. The 276 page book will sell for \$39.95 and is available at Borders Book Store in the Los Altos shopping center, Barns and Nobles Book Store in the Marina shopping center, Aquarium of the Pacific; and it's also available at Acres of Books, 240 Long Beach Blvd.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Long Beach Heritage Museum will hold its fourth annual general membership meeting again at the historical Scottish Rite Cathedral at 9th and Elm Ave. on Sunday, February 6th from 2 PM to 4 PM. Make sure you plan to attend this important meeting so that you won't miss out on an informative and interesting program. A special bulletin will be mailed to all current members with details. No reservations required. It will be open to the general public.

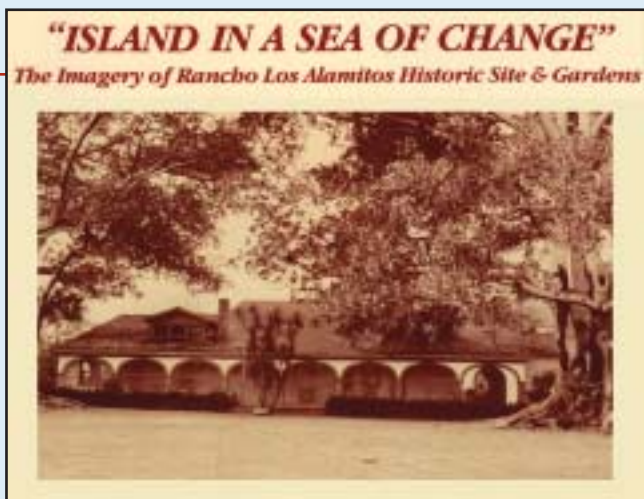
MUSEUM TREASURES REPORT

Museum Building fund has been transferred from the checking account to a CD savings account at a generous interest rate of 2.80 percent at this time. This will now generate more income for the museum's building fund which is now well over six thousand dollars.



RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS

The Long Beach Heritage Museum donates this space in each newsletter issue, to other museums and preservation groups to promote Long Beach history. Rancho Los Alamitos is a nationally recognized historical site in Long Beach featuring an over two hundred year old adobe ranch house, four acres of lush gardens and five early 20th century barns including a working blacksmith shop. The Rancho is open for tours without reservations, Wednesday through Sunday, 1-5 P.M. Admission is FREE. Guided tours of the ranch house and barns start every 30 minutes, last tour is at 4:00 P.M. Garden tours are self guided. This historic adobe was home to the early pioneer family of the Bixbys. Rancho Los Alamitos 6400 Bixby Hill Road. Enter through residential security gate at the intersection of Anaheim and Palo Verde.



SPECIAL LIMITED OFFER A BONUS FOR ALL HERITAGE MUSEUM MEMBERS

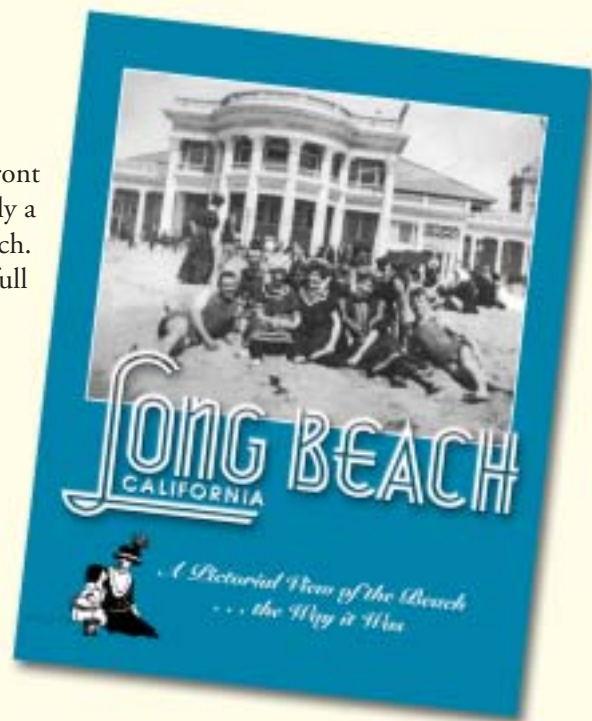
This 84 page pictorial book, full of historical pictures of long beach oceanfront and famous beach, harbor, Belmont Shore, Alamitos Bay and the Pike, is truly a collector's item. each book features 84 pages of vintage photos of Long Beach. printed with fine quality photo reproduction on heavy, coated stock. a book full of nostalgia and pleasant memories of the famous "Queen of the Beaches"

*Retail price \$15.00- Member discount price only \$10.00
includes shipping and handling*

ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!

Send \$10.00 check or postal money order

TO: Long Beach Heritage Museum
P.O. Box 14641
Long Beach, CA 90803



MUSEUM BUILDING FUND

*You can be part of the effort to re-open the Museum,
home to the largest collection of historic Long Beach memorabilia in the city.*

We are in need of a building for the Museum so that we may once again present the collection to the people of Long Beach. This will also allow us to return the current storage space to the generous Bechler Corporation. The Museum's goal is to raise enough funds for the purchase of a suitable building to be a permanent home for the Museum and to get all the exhibits and artifacts back on display for the public to view and enjoy once again. We appeal to you for financial help to fund a Museum Building.



*If you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Museum's building fund,
please send all donations to the address below.*

LONG BEACH HERITAGE MUSEUM
P.O. BOX 14641
LONG BEACH, CA 90803
(562) 433-4156

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Carol Jacoby, the museum's webmaster, encourages everyone to visit the museum's website as it has been updated with new pictures and exhibits. An additional link "Major Buildings and Landmarks" displays many well known buildings, both still standing and some long gone. Museum's website is www.longbeachheritagemuseum.com