

LONG BEACH HERITAGE MUSEUM

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Seaside Printing Co., Inc.
Gary DeLong
City Councilman, 3rd District
Mike Cincola
Looff's Lite-A-Line

LONG BEACH *Heritage Museum* Preserving the best of the past for the future *Newsletter*

Volume 10 Spring/Summer 2011 No 1

Message from the President/Curator

In Memory of Kenneth Nelson Larkey

April 27, 1928 – April 1, 2011

I am honored that Ken Larkey appointed me to manage the Long Beach Heritage Museum collection after his death. With your help, I will continue to carry on Ken's historical work on behalf of the people and history of Long Beach.

I am proud to be considered one of his close friends and I am inspired by my memories of him. Ken was born and raised in Long Beach, a city he truly loved. A graduate of Poly High School, Ken began collecting historical memorabilia at the age of 9 when he rescued a 1906 panorama of Long Beach from a garbage can.

During the next 30 years he collected an amazing assortment of Long Beach artifacts. In 1971, the world-class collector and archivist opened the Long Beach Historical Museum at First Street and Linden Avenue. In the late 1990's, Ken's beloved museum closed when the building was slated for demolition and he was forced to place his treasured

museum collection in storage. Ken dreamt of finding a new location to house his history of our city, but that dream went unfulfilled.



My memories of Ken's dedication to LB history are numerous. I remember Ken reading about some old building (a hotel, apartments, theatre, church, historic home, etc.) slated to be torn down and he was on his way. He would dig through the rubble to find the interesting things left behind. I used to tease him by introducing him as Long Beach's original "Dumpster

Diver", a title that always brought a smile to his face.

When a building could not be saved, he would save the contents or interior: chandeliers from the Pacific Coast Club, the Cyclone Roller Coaster Car, City Hall files, church pews, theatre seats, telephone switchboards, signs, lampposts, the Iowa Barber Shop, a classic rebuilt 12' surf board, etc. He would retrieve and save any item which recorded a visual history of Long Beach.

As we continue our search for a museum building to fulfill his dream, we are making progress with setting up small exhibits

and galleries so museum artifacts can be viewed by the public. Each location has been carefully selected to ensure the items are secure and protected. Exhibits are in the works for a Seaside Printing Gallery, the Great Balboa Film Studio, the Douglas Park Long Beach Airport & Long Beach Aircraft Exhibit and additional exhibits are planned for Looff's Lite-A-Line.

We do have a new obstacle however. The lease of the current warehouse is expiring in mid-2012 and we need to locate a new warehouse to continue our preservation and archival work. Please let me know if you have any ideas or contacts.

We will miss Ken for he served as a reminder that not all things are lost and that things worth remembering will be found.

By Marshall Pumphrey

President/Curator of the Long Beach Heritage Museum



Upcoming Museum Events & Galleries

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH

Belmont Shore Car Show
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM at Fromex Photo & Digital
5277 E. 2nd Street, Long Beach

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH

Long Beach Heritage Museum
Membership Meeting & Reception
10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon at Looff's Lite-A-Line
2500 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH

Restoration Trade Fair
9:30 AM – 4:00 PM at Luther Burbank School
4th and Junipero, Long Beach

FUTURE EXHIBITS / GALLERIES

Seaside Printing Gallery
Great Balboa Film Studio Gallery
Douglas Park Long Beach Airport &
Douglas Aircraft Exhibit
Additional Exhibits at Looff's Lite-A-Line

LONG BEACH HERITAGE MUSEUM

Membership Application

First Name _____ Last Name _____ M.I. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email _____

- For \$20.00, I would like to help preserve the Heritage of Long Beach. Please add me as a member
 I would also like to make a Contribution to the Building Fund in the amount of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1000 Other \$ _____

- I am interested in volunteering or serving on a committee. Please mail this application with payment to:
Please have someone contact me at the
 phone number or
 email address listed above.

Long Beach Heritage Museum
P. O. Box 14641
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As a Member of the Long Beach Heritage Museum, you will receive:

- ✓ A FREE copy of the Long Beach Heritage Museum Book
- ✓ A FREE subscription to the Long Beach Heritage Museum BI-Annual Newsletter
- ✓ VIP Invitations to LBHM events
- ✓ 20% discount on LBHM Books and merchandise

Your membership dues also provide needed funding for the Long Beach Heritage Museum and their ongoing efforts to preserve and exhibit items which represent the colorful history of Long Beach.

Memories of Ken

Ken Larkey loved the city and history of Long Beach where he was born and raised. A graduate of Poly High School, Ken began collecting Long Beach historical memorabilia at the age of 9 when he rescued a 1906 panorama of the city from a garbage can.

Over 60 years later, the world-class collector and archivist opened the Long Beach Historical Museum at First St. and Linden Ave. in February 1971. The museum closed when that building was demolished in the 1990s. The museum's collection has since been in storage, leaving Ken's dream of finding a new location unfulfilled. Ken spent most of his life working to keep the real history of our city alive. He was loved



by many and is well remembered by his family, friends and associates.

All Ken needed was to read in the paper that some old building (a hotel, apartments, theatre, church, historic home, etc.) was being torn down and he was on his way. He would go to

the site and dig through the rubble to see what interesting things were left behind. I used to tease him and introduce him as Long Beach's original "Dumpster Diver." He would always react with a smile.

Through his collecting efforts, he saved an enormous amount of Long Beach treasures. If the building could not be saved, he would try to save the contents or interior: chandeliers from the Pacific Coast Club, the Cyclone Roller Coaster Car, City Hall files, church pews, theatre seats, telephone switchboards, signs, lampposts, the Iowa Barber Shop, a classic rebuilt 12' surf board, etc. He would retrieve and save any item which recorded a visual history of Long Beach.

By Marshall Pumphrey,
President/Curator of the Long Beach Heritage Museum

One rainy day, my husband Birger and I were visiting Ken and we realized he was truly a Long Beach historian. The knowledge he had about this town and its people, past and present, was amazing. We were looking at a picture of the Municipal Auditorium, and in one corner was a scale. "I have that scale", he said. Looking at pictures of the Cyclone Racer, he pointed to a bench and said "I have that bench, too." It was like a historical "Where's Waldo".

By Judy Belshe-Toernblom,
Friend and Museum Volunteer

I respected Ken and his tireless support of Long Beach history. He loved it and loved to talk about it. It was his life and he tried everything to get the city to help him in his endeavor.

By Mike Cincola,
Friend and Owner of the Lite-O-Line

The best thing Ken did for Long Beach was saving the Cyclone Racer Roller Coaster Car from demolition. At first he was not interested, but when he heard it would be lost to the bulldozer, he got sentimental and the rest is history.

By Larry Osterhoudt,
Friend and Project Engineer of the Cyclone Racer Roller Coaster Car

I remember meeting Ken at a Long Beach hobby show when he had a 1933 earthquake exhibit. His photos and articles made it was the most interesting exhibit at the show. It was at this show that Ken realized the need and got inspired to open a historical museum.



By Morgan Humphrey,
Friend and Museum Volunteer

Ken's love of collecting Long Beach history is absolutely our gain. Ken saved the part of history that others were just throwing away so his collection gives us a unique insight into our city's past. What a treasure Ken Larkey has left to us all. Thank you, Ken!

By Diane McNinch,
Friend and Museum Volunteer

There's more to remember about Ken than his marvelous collection of Long Beach history. He was also an inspiration. He reminded me, simply by his words and actions, how important it is in life to be honest, to have a belief in God, and a love for your country.

By Bill Miller,
Friend and Former Newsletter Editor

Let Long Beach artifacts disappear? Not if Ken Larkey could help it. He outbid everyone who got in his way when it came to amassing Long Beach's past, and Ebay wasn't his only source. His chief method of acquisition was 'Dumpster Diving'.

By Tim Grobaty,
Friend and Journalist for Long Beach Press Telegram

Ken should have been a tour guide because he learned the history of every city he visited and he loved to tell others about it.

By Shirley Adams,
Past Vice President and Ken's Sister-in-Law



Special Long Beach Heritage Museum Membership Meeting & Reception

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE
THE NEW CYCLONE RACER ROLLER COASTER CAR EXHIBIT

Looff's Lite-A-Line
2500 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach
Saturday, September 17th
10 AM – 12 Noon
Refreshments will be served.

Guest Speakers

Mike Cincola,
Owner of Lite-A-Line

Larry Osterhoudt,
Project Engineer Cyclone Racer Roller Coaster Car

Guests Welcome!

RSVP (562) 987-1904 by September 14th



SPECIAL LIMITED OFFER

A Bonus for all Heritage Museum Members

Long Beach Pike Book

Retail Price \$15.00

Member-Discount Price Only \$10.00

Includes Shipping and Handling

Order Your Member's Copy Today!

Send \$10.00 Check or Postal Money Order to:

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Renew Membership Now & Validity will be thru December 2012



Cyclone Racer Fans Rejoice

In his infinite wisdom, the late Ken Larkey saved the last remaining Cyclone Racer Car from extinction. Now, thanks to Larry Osterhoudt, the car has been lovingly restored and placed upon an exact replica of the original tracks.

Reunited at Looff's Lite-A-Line, you will find the Cyclone Racer Car in all its former glory with glossy red paint, gold motifs and black leather upholstery. This fun historic display also includes a Looff's Carousel Museum and an interesting collection of Pike artifacts. It is located at 2500 Long Beach Blvd. and open to the public everyday from 11:30 am – 2:00 pm. Stop by for a walk back into Long Beach history!

Mike Cincola,
Friend and Owner of the Lite-O-Line

Thanks to Ken Larkey, one of the cars from the 1930's Cyclone Racer was saved and is on loan to Mike Cincola's Lite-a-Line. Visiting Lite-a-Line is like stepping back into Long Beach history. A museum as well as an entertainment center, Mike Cincola has done a wonderful job in preserving memories of an era before home computers, the Internet or cell phones.

Claudine Burnett,
LBHS Museum Historian

Built over 80 years ago, the Cyclone Racer was a monumental feat of American engineering. The majestic structure became the unmistakable symbol of the Long Beach Pike. Its simple, yet sophisticated engineering is still astounding. Enlighten yourself and come visit the completely restored Cyclone Racer now on display at Looff's Lite-A-Line.

Larry Osterhoudt,
*Friend and Project Engineer
of the Cyclone Racer Roller Coaster Car*