

**MEMORIES OF BIRD ROCK  
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA  
1945-1965**

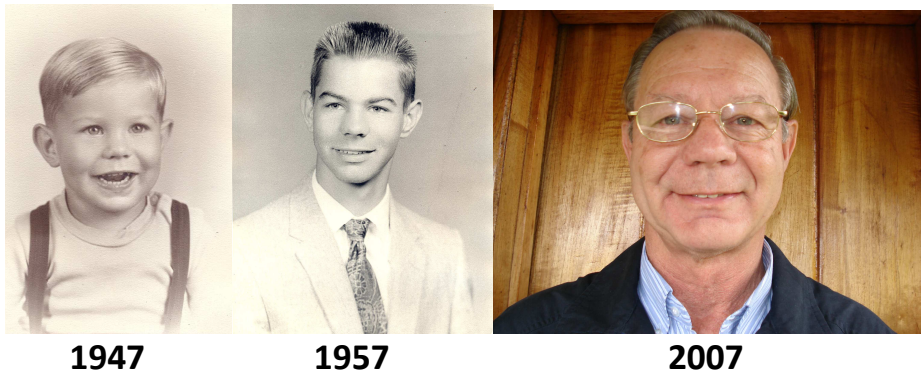
**BY**

**HARRY A. MARRINER**

(With a lot of memory jogging from family and friends)

**July 2011**

Email: [harry@spamcurb.com](mailto:harry@spamcurb.com)



**1947**

**1957**

**2007**

**INTRODUCTION**

This is basically a collection of photos, memories and scrapbook articles that are meant to be shared with a few friends, family and those interested in the history of Bird Rock. Recollections by friends and family added depth to my faded memories. The story unfolds from the eyes of an almost 3 year old boy who moved to 528 Colima Street (Telephone number G53527) with his parents in 1945 and ends when I moved away in 1965 as a 22 year old young man to become an officer in the U.S. Coast Guard and get married. My comments on photos, people and places covers a wide number of years, but emphasis is placed on businesses, the beach, friends, acquaintances and people living in Bird Rock in the late 1940s and 1950s who made impressions on me as a young boy that lasted a lifetime.

**EARLY INHABITANTS OF BIRD ROCK**

Many people today believe that Bird Rock is the ideal place to live but the truth is that in ancient times it lacked water, the most important thing for human existence. The only source of this essential liquid may have been a permanent or part time stream running the length of present day La Canada St. (means 'the arroyo or stream' in Spanish) from the hills down

to the north end of Bird Rock Bay, across the street from where Raymond Chandler, the famous mystery novel writer lived from 1946 to 1955. The foot of the cliff in the backyard of Max Miller at 5930 Camino de la Costa, overlooking North Bird Rock Bay, is very close to the actual mouth of the ancient stream.



**North Bird Rock Bay Beach where the Bohannon Brothers Stored Their Lobster Skiff in the 1940s and Hermosa Point.**

In 2007 the Chandler home sold for 2.7 million dollars but wasn't worth one acorn to the early Indians. North Bird Rock attracted ancient people for its easy access to collect abalone, fish, crabs and other edibles from the sea. Ancient hearths and stone artifacts found at the north end of Bird Rock Cove (Hermosa Point) are 2,800 years old according to George F. Carter in his 1957 book "Pleistocene Man at San Diego." Sea food would have been easy to collect at low tide. Gary Wickham used to hike the Bird Rock canyons in his youth in the 1950s and confirms that some water still existed at that time, but says it was undrinkable. Gary says "That dripping water that I mentioned was highly alkaline and not drinkable. It was located in the canyon just east of La Canada St. and Folsom Dr. When our winter rains came the steep south side of that canyon would turn green with ferns, moss and wildflowers. That was the canyon that had a point where the bee cave stuck out; in and north of the point, up on the north side where the canyon started, was where the cracks were located. The strangest thing that I ever saw in the hills was at those cracks. I was alone and as I approached the cracks from the south side, I spotted not one, but two chuckwallas, both were quite large, about two feet long. I don't know who was more surprised; I or they and both retreated into the cracks. The

only problem with this story is the fact that the chuckwalla lizard is not supposed to inhabit this area, I can't account for them being there, perhaps someone relocated them from the desert, or maybe they were holdovers, the last of their kind."

Jim Kipp lived at 5819 Waverly, a short distance from La Canada, and says "We did find a metate (about 1/3rd of it) when we dug the foundation for our house. It was made from a granite-like stone about 2 inches thick. The bowl probably would have been about 6-7 inches in diameter. We always wondered if the metate was broken during excavation and if the other 2/3 was still buried somewhere on the property. When I sold the house I left the stone there - probably still there. Unfortunately, we never took any pictures of it." Many Indian tribes believed that a person's spirit was trapped in their metate grinding stone, so the stone was ceremonially broken to release the spirit and then buried with the deceased.

Another ancient Indian site was on the barren flat mesa area around Calumet St. about ¼ mile south of Bird Rock Ave. Little did the Indians know that they were sitting on a quiet site that would be a noisy anti-aircraft training station during WWII and later have an address called 5410 Calumet, with a view that would command a price of \$7.9 million dollars in 2011 or that a \$21 million dollar home would be build close by at Calumet and Midway and rent for \$40,000 or \$50,000/month.



**View of South Bird Rock from Calumet Park**



**A Multi-million Dollar View  
From Midway Street Beach South to Gun Point**

Actually, Bird Rock didn't attract many investors until around 1923 when Bird Rock City By -The-Sea lots that were named and subdivided between Forward and Camino de La Costa in 1903 were vigorously promoted. A top lot went for around \$1200 in 1923. Philomene Offen, owner of the Bird Rock History Museum, commented on a plot map showing in 1914 or 1923 that *"...in Bird Rock City By-The-Sea. most of the street names were different then – as were the prices! On Block 12, for example (between Forward Street and Bird Rock Avenue on what is now La Jolla Hermosa), corner lots sold for \$550, inside lots for \$450. In order to encourage sales, the developer built a bridge out to the area's namesake rock."* A line on the plot map shows a bridge going from the foot of Bird Rock Ave. to Bird Rock itself. Electric Ave. (now La Jolla Hermosa) and Taft remained the same for a long time. Beaumont used to be Dodge, Waverly was Burke, Bellevue was Hodgeman and Chelsea appeared as Beulah.

Promoters hyped "Low Tides at La Jolla" trolley tours for 50 cents to get people out to vacant lots in the boondocks. There was a small train station in Bird Rock probably located at the corner of Electric Ave. (La Jolla Hermosa) and Camino de La Costa according to Philomene Offen. A photo dated 1923 in the SD Historical Society collection shows a dirt road passing the station (approximately 10ftx10ft) with a peaked roof with "Bird Rock" painted in white letters. Philomene says *"That building with a Bird Rock*

sign on top of it was actually the train station in Bird Rock before the trolleys came in. The train service to downtown La Jolla ended in 1918; trolley service started July 4, 1924 and ended in 1940.” Bert Wilbur is the only person I knew who rode the trolley to work at Consolidated Vultee in San Diego from La Jolla. Harry Crosby rode it to downtown San Diego occasionally.

Home construction in was slow in Bird Rock until after WWII when the area began to boom with returning GI’s getting married and looking for a nice place to settle with their families. Most of the Admirals and Generals lived in more affluent areas of La Jolla, but many Commanders, Lieutenant Commanders and Colonels lived in the Bird Rock area. In 1952 the 5200 block of Electric (Clairmar Garden Apts. rentals) was composed of almost 100% junior and mid level military officers.

### EARLY MEMORIES FROM 1945



528 Colima St. 1946



Garage, antenna and ham shack 1946



528 Colima St. 1946 East (Beaumont) Side

I still remember the day in October 1945 when we left our home at 854 Cornish Drive, Azure Vista, Point Loma and my Dad parked our 1939 Studebaker coupe in front of 528 Colima St. in Bird Rock. I got out of the car with my parents Ed and Wilda Marriner and wondered why we were stopping here. My father said "Harry, this is our new home." I was not even 3 years old but that first image of the house is still deeply ingrained in my head. Dad paid \$8,450 for the property about the same time that Raymond Chandler bought his house at 6005 Camino de La Costa for \$40,000. Our house was on a large corner lot at Colima and Beaumont without a fence. My Dad contracted with Callahan Bros. to build a concrete block wall around the property in 1947. An old eucalyptus tree was on the street in front of the house which was surrounded by a large grass yard. When roots of that tree grew into the sewer line my father cut it down. The garage was detached from the house next to the alley and part of it quickly became my father's ham radio shack. It didn't take us long to adapt to our new home. First we learned which days the Golden Arrow Dairy milk man delivered so we could be sure and leave the glass milk bottles on the porch to signal that we needed milk. The bottles were sealed with paper caps and another paper cover to keep the dirt out. Next we learned when the ice man cometh so we could place a paper (blue and white?) sign in the window indicating we needed a 25 pound block of ice



**"JF" Hammel abt. 1961**

that he'd carry with ice tongs and place in the "ice box" before my Dad bought an electric refrigerator. Delivery visits by our egg man J.H. (Joe or "JF") Hammel were special events for my Dad who loved to listen to his sea stories about the "old days" working as a shipboard telegraph operator and purser from 1911 until he retired in 1947 and started a chicken ranch at 2290 Foothill Dr. in Vista, CA. "JH" told one scary story about working on the lumber schooner SS Norwood in 1913 when it went aground during a snow storm in the Inland Passage going to Alaska.

## **GUNPOINT**

(AKA: Gunnery Point, P.B. Point, False Point or Sun Gold Point)

Gunpoint was the site of the Pacific Beach Naval Armed Guard Anti-Aircraft Training Center during the early 1940s. The Naval Armed Guard School was located at the San Diego Destroyer Base and students were sent to Gunpoint for live fire practice using simulated shipboard anti-



aircraft gun turrets located along the top of the cliffs. The first year or so in Bird Rock I was frequently scared by artillery practice from the training facility at what we called "Gun Point." Some people called it "Gunnery Point" and later someone renamed it Pacific Beach (P.B.) Point but I still use the old name. Most maps label it "False Point." After expensive homes were built there, real estate developers decided that "Sun Gold Point" would be a more socially acceptable name for the area. Information about the anti-aircraft

### **Ed Marriner in patio lath house-early 1950s**

school is very limited and photos of it were prohibited during WWII. Gary Wickham found that it was a unit of The US Naval Armed Guard and was called the Anti-aircraft Training Center, Pacific Beach Calif. Loud explosions were frequent and sometimes airplanes would tow target banners and Navy ships would participate in training exercises offshore firing their five inch guns. The restricted access training facility containing simulated ship gun turrets may have been built before the USA entered WWII in December 1941.

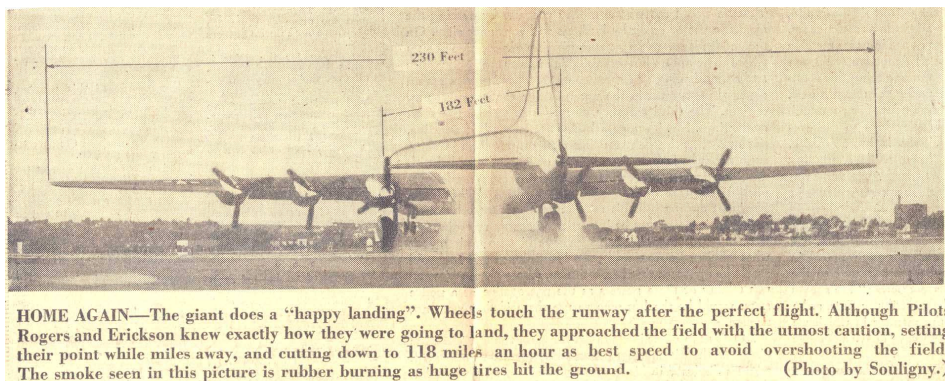
The facility was located west of LJ Blvd to the beach encompassing all of the point north of Tourmaline Canyon to Midway Street. One entrance was on the west side of LJ Blvd. just south of Colima St. There may have been another one further south. Since Camp Callan, La Jolla was also an Anti-Aircraft School it's probable that the Bird Rock (officially recorded as Pacific Beach) gunnery school was where the Navy gave live firing practice to Camp Callan trainees as well as those from San Diego, but I'm not sure.

Marines practiced their live firing at Camp Matthews along Hwy 101 where I remember seeing wooden WWII practice landing craft in the field to the east of the highway.

I hiked along the Gunpoint beach with my father many times picking abalone off the rocks at low tide and collecting Japanese glass and cork fishing net floats, lobster trap buoy markers and other flotsam and jetsam that had drifted across the ocean and landed on the Bird Rock shoreline. All these “treasures” were displayed in our patio lath house. Sometimes we found live ammunition, spent cartridges and other discards thrown over the cliffs from the installation. As a young boy I remember standing on LJ Blvd looking down at a concrete tower and buildings remaining after the facility was closed.

The official closing date was January 27, 1945, but I can assure you that the Navy was using it for practice after I moved to Colima St. in Oct. 1945. Neighborhood kids would sometimes explore the abandoned buildings but they were used by transients and older kids for parties. Obscene graffiti was written on the walls with charcoal embers making it a scary and dangerous place for kids. Our parents warned us not to go there since it was supposedly a hangout for perverts. A couple of tempting tunnels or rooms under turret bases were quickly filled in after the place was abandoned. I watched one day from LJ Blvd (before 1950?) when the buildings were finally dynamited into rubble.

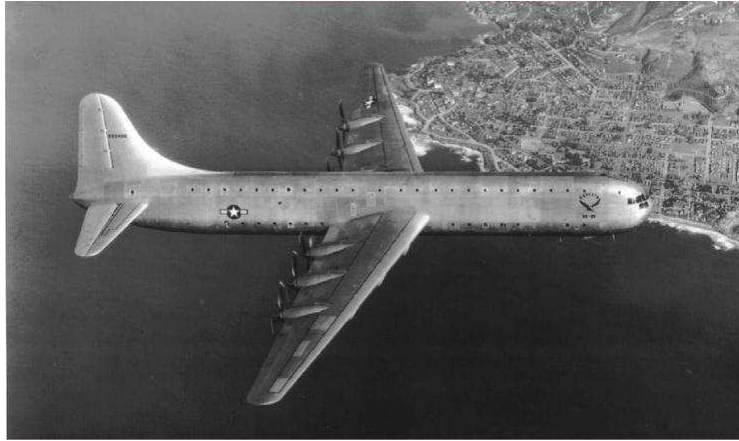
### XC99 AIRPLANE



Another thing that frightened me and everyone else in the neighborhood in 1947 was the enormous XC99 airplane. Once it flew so low over my home that it seemed the house might shake loose. I think everyone in the neighborhood was afraid it would crash on top of us. This giant aircraft was built by Consolidated-Vultee Aircraft Corporation and was the largest



plane I'd ever seen. It had six motors and six three-bladed props and could carry 400 troops.

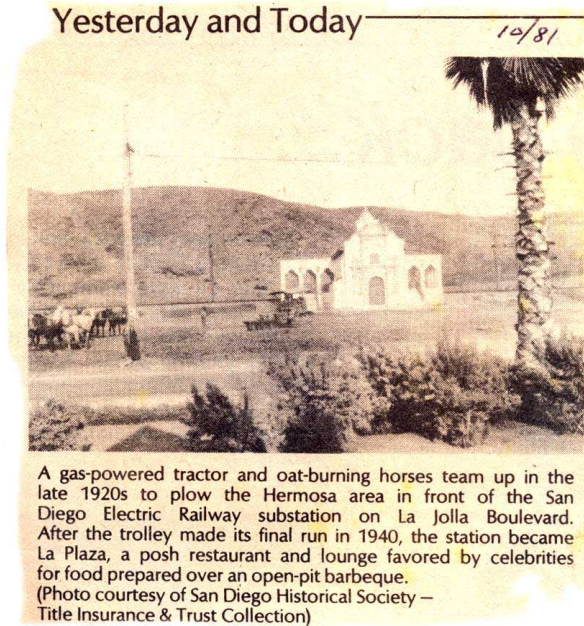


**First test flight of XC99 over Bird Rock 23 Nov. 1947**

### **LA JOLLA TRAIN AND TROLLEY**

The La Jolla trolley, part of the San Diego Electric Railway line, had been abandoned for five years by the time I moved to Bird Rock but the tracks still ran along Electric Ave. (later named La Jolla Hermosa). A house was built at the SE corner of Forward and Electric possibly using part of what I was told was a minor trolley stop, but it may have been an old farmhouse. I remember the distinctly shaped hexagonal window that was incorporated into the house front. Further north at the La Jolla Hermosa "plaza" there was the big extravagant San Carlos railway station used to lure tourists and potential buyers to the LJ Hermosa area from around 1924 until the SD Electric Railway was closed in 1940. Harry Crosby remembers walking from his home on Palomar St. to the station to take the trolley to downtown San Diego for his orthodontist appointments in the Bank of America Building at 6<sup>th</sup> and Broadway. Plans for the substation included the Fine Arts and Administration Building for the La Jolla Hermosa Civic Center project where shops, office and studios were to be located to the east of LJ Blvd. The administration building officially opened in 1928 and housed a restaurant called "La Plaza" and the "El Toro Bar" for about 10 years roughly 1947-1957. I only remember eating there once. During WWII there was a school for aviators located on the premises for a short time, but it was basically unused from 1940-1954. During my bicycle-to-school years (1954-58) we used the path next to the abandoned rails behind the building to get to LJ Jr.-Sr. High School. During

part of that time the building was used as an art school and it was rumored that naked women modeled for the students. We sometimes peeked through the painted over windows but no one I know ever saw one of “those” models. The La Jolla United Methodist Church bought the entire property in 1954 and leased out the restaurant and El Toro bar for 3 years before La Jolla architect Thomas Shepherd (died in 1979) remodeled



**La Jolla United Methodist Church 2011**

It for the church. Shepherd also designed homes in the Lower Hermosa area and in downtown La Jolla. My mother did some accounting work for Thomas and took me to talk to him some time in the mid 1950s when I thought I might be interested in becoming an architect. He showed me various plans he had drawn up for homes and buildings and impressed me with all the hard work that went into designing and constructing a building. Before seeing him I thought that architects just drew a picture of what they wanted to build and gave it to a builder. I changed my mind about following that career after visiting him.

At the south end of Electric Ave. the trolley passed over LJ Blvd. where it curves east into Turquoise St. A concrete north-south overpass allowed east and westbound cars to pass under the trolley tracks. One day around 1948 we heard explosions and saw the overpass being demolished. I wish someone I knew had taken a picture of it.

## CLAIREMAR GARDEN APARTMENTS

(Park La Jolla Apartments)

After the trolley bridge was demolished the Carlos Tavares Construction Company built the unique cement block Clairemar Garden Apartments sometime between 1948 and 1951 to take advantage of the post-WWII need for housing. The main office is at 610 Carla Way, named after his daughter. Carlos Tavares, originally a San Diego ship builder before he entered the construction business, named the complex after his wife Marjorie Clair. Carlos' other major housing project (with partner Lou Burgener) Clairmont was also named after Marjorie Clair. Carlos' San Carlos housing project was named after him. The Tavares family lived in PB during the 1940s but moved to what is now an Historic Landmark home at 6425 Muirlands Dr., La Jolla. Before the Clairmar Garden Apts were built I have a very vague memory (maybe invented in my aging mind?) that there was a small group of buildings on the west side of Electric in the 5200 block that were torn down when the complex was



built. Early Clairmar renters were mostly military officers and their families. Much later the name was changed to Park La Jolla Apartments. My school chum John Campbell's father was the Maintenance Supervisor for this complex of apartments and the family lived there on 634 Sonny Way in 1952, a short distance from my high school U.S. History teacher



Virginia Grizzle who lived at 601 Sonny Way. Around 1960 I had a summer job taking her daughter to school principal Larry Upp's summer camp in Sorrento Valley. The unique concrete block apartment project was built on land that was formerly tomato, melon and bean fields farmed by Japanese-Americans until they were interned in 1942. Zelma Bays Locker says that in the 1930s this was called the "Jap Strawberry Farms." Truck farms extended from Colima St. south over the entire area where the Bird Rock Elementary School is now located to Turquoise, and west to LJ Blvd. Harry Crosby says "The daughter of one of those Bird Rock farmers was in my class at La Jolla Elementary which graduated in 1938. Her name was Hiroko Yoshihara and she left La Jolla Jr.-Sr. High in 1939."

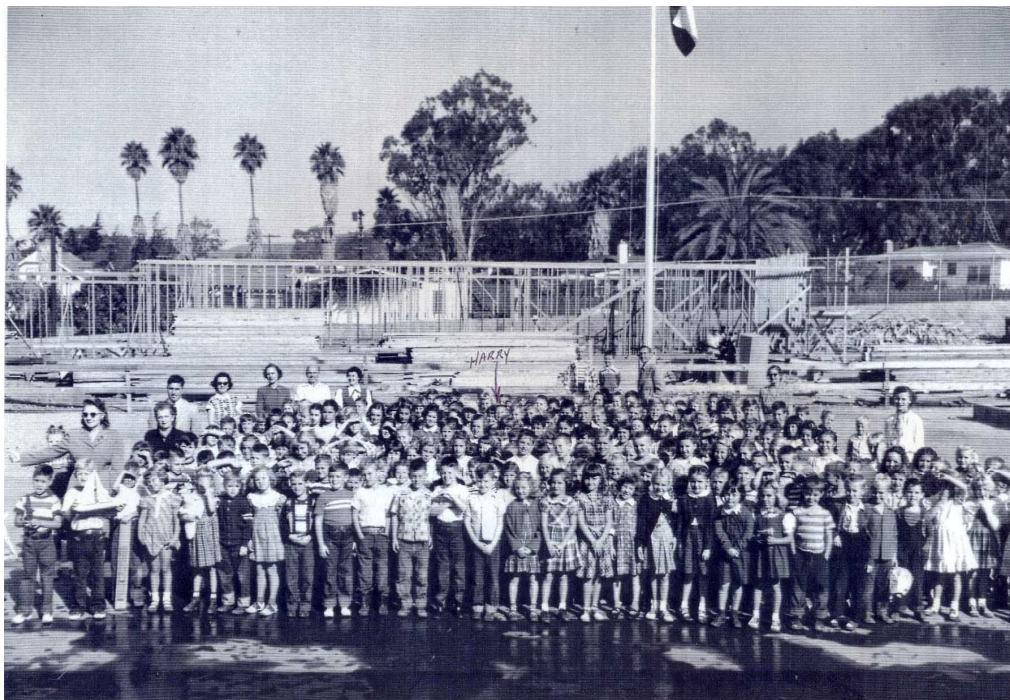
We used to go out into the fields in the jungle of wild vines and make forts out of the dried tomato plants and sticks left over from the planting.

Occasionally the “Van Nuys Street and Archer Street Boys” would come into the field to play or explore at the same time as us “Colima St. Boys” and a rotten tomato war would explode or change into a neighborhood water pistol fight. I never knew who comprised the “other” side, but have to imagine the group must have included future friends such as: Nayland Wilkins, Phil Brown, John Goddard, Butch Van Arsdalen, John Wirtz, Randy MacLaren and others who lived on Van Nuys and Archer streets south east of the future Bird Rock Elementary.



I am still in contact with Nayland Wilkins, a professional photographer and retired graphics arts teacher, who, at age 69, is still an avid surfer, windsurfer, motorcycle rider and kite surfer who lives in Arizona. Nayland re-worked my first balsa Hawaiian Hot Curl style 10 ft 6 inch surfboard into an 8 ft 8inch model with the help of Mike Stewart to shape it. I spent many hours cruising the coast looking for good surf breaks in La Jolla with Nayland in his 1948 Ford.

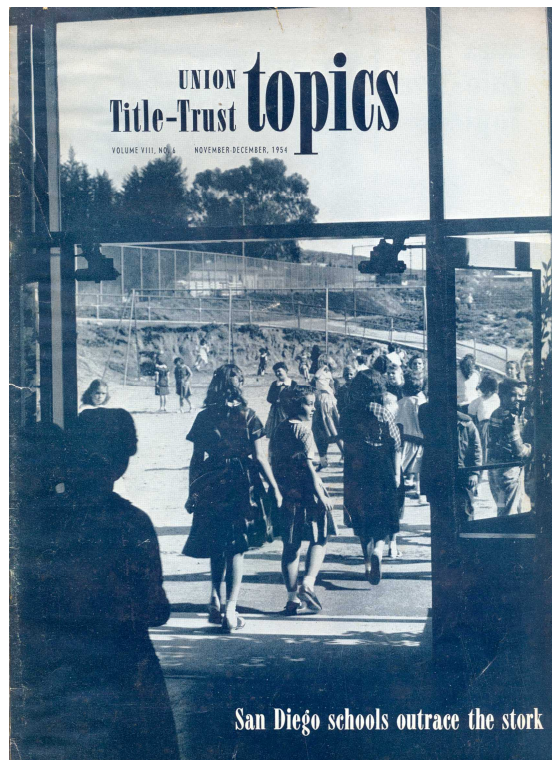
### **BIRD ROCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**



**Bird Rock Elementary under construction 1951-52**

Around 1950 heavy machinery arrived and began clearing the land across the street from my house south of Colima St. and east of Electric for the new Bird Rock Elementary School. We played soldiers in the ditches and

watched as the fences, playground and infrastructure was constructed and portable buildings were moved onsite. I was in the first group of students who marched into the school in 1951 carrying chairs to furnish my 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. Dr. Geddes was the school Principal. Marion Kipp, mother of my friend and classmate Jim Kipp, was the school secretary. Jan McNaught-Davis and I were selected to be “Bell Ringers” for the school for 1952. Five minutes before each class either she or I would slip out of our desk and go to the secretary’s office. Exactly on the hour I’d press a doorbell button that would make all the bells in the school ring to signal a change in classes. Our Glee Club met twice a week and I’m sure we thought we sang melodiously, but imagine listening to a recording today would be ear-shattering. Mrs. Betty Banks (later Tatman), my 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and daughter of Maj. Gen. Emile P. Moses USMC, was raised at various military bases including Shanghai and Peking. She was the descendant of A. Will Angier an early San Diego resident and was married for 10 years to Brig. Gen. Charles L. Banks USMC. In 1952 she married David C. Tatman who died in 1969. Betty died at age 75. I thought she was one of the most understanding and gentle teachers at Bird Rock Elementary. Tom Morse remembers “...that in school we had A-Bomb drills as well as earthquake remember duck away from the would not be flash if an A- I also remember drives where we coins and buy booklet until we buy a US sister, Carla kindergarten in She was in the students to straight from through the



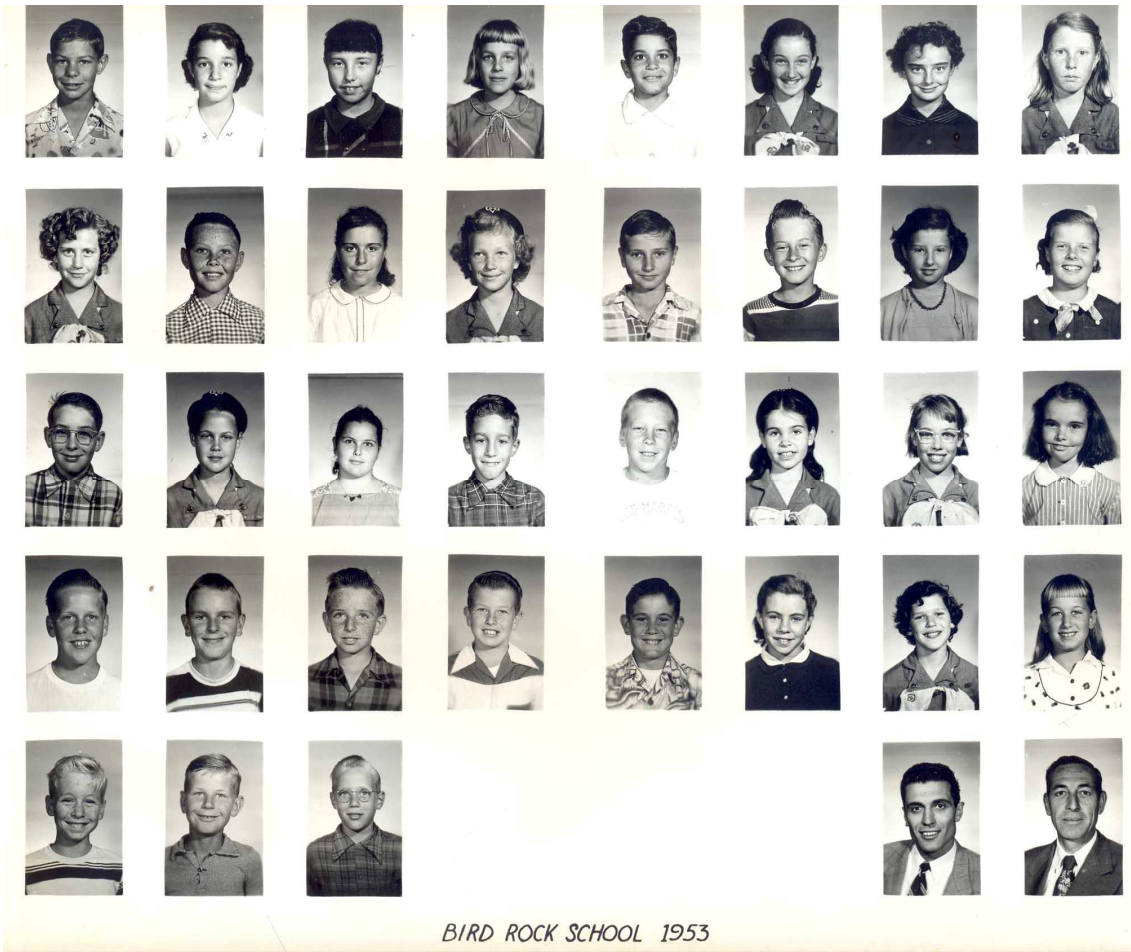
fire and drills. I vividly and cover, facing window so we blinded by the bomb went off.” Savings Bond would save up our stamps to put in a had enough to Savings Bond. My Ann, started the 1951-52 year. first group of attend Bird Rock kindergarten sixth grade.

### **Bird Rock Elementary Lower Playground 1954**

I was a sergeant in the Jr. Traffic Patrol. We wore yellow fore and aft hats, blue jeans and a red sweater with a shiny badge. The sergeant would carry a wooden pole and march with his two assistants who carried Stop signs down to LJ Blvd. at Colima where the crew would stop traffic to let the students cross the street. Officer Shaw was a kind-hearted police supervisor who received our reports of license plate numbers of cars that ran our stop signs. Later, when I was a senior at LJ High School, a juvenile delinquent stole the generator off my hotrod. I found out who stole it and called Officer Shaw who was still working with juveniles. The word got back to the thief that I had called the police, so by the time Officer Shaw arrived, my generator had been hidden. Gary Wickham remembers that Officer Shaw moonlighted as a meat-cutter working nightshifts at the LJ Safeway with Ed Rees, Gary's step-father. Sometimes smart alecks in the traffic patrol would blow their whistle signaling the signs to come down without giving the car time to stop just to hear screeching and smoking tires. Once a month we were treated to a free movie in downtown San Diego as "payment" for our services. Bob Atkinson was our Lieutenant for the 1952-53 school year (he was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade) and Bob Wilbur was Lieutenant for our 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Patrol in 1953-54. In the beginning most of the classrooms were "temporary" wooden buildings that could be moved to another school if enrollment decreased. Bob Wilbur was 6<sup>th</sup> Grade class president and had to make a serious decision for a kid one day. He was in charge of dismissing the class at the end of each day. One day a smartass kid made a big mistake when he said something nasty and made the sweet and tender Sandra Williams cry. word that they were going to all the little kids were whipped It was my first experience with realized that this boy could be and Sandra were "close friends" Bob let him go about two minutes before the rest of the class. When we were finally dismissed the entire class raced after him down Waverly St. to his house about 2 blocks away. The crowd chanted and threatened him with sticks and stones as he escaped through his front door. I don't remember seeing him at school after that episode and can't remember his name.



The entire class passed the "get" him after school and up to crowd mentality fury. "crowd mentality." Bob seriously hurt and while Bob



Bird Rock Elementary School  
 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
 1952-1953

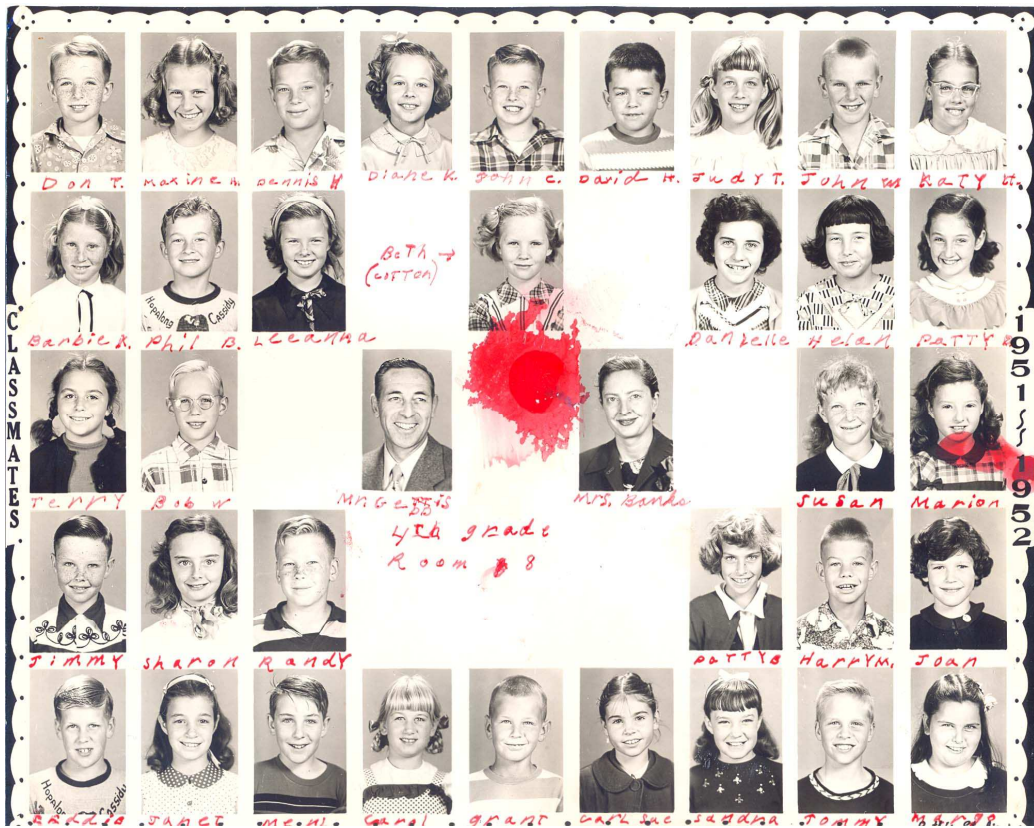
Top Row L to R: Harry Marriner, Janet McNaught-Davis, Helen Wiley, Jud Traylor, Bob Young, Patty Durkin, Sharon Harrison, Barbara Kellogg.

Second Row From Top L to R: Maxine Henry, Jim Kipp, Terry Winder, Susan Sherman, Nayland Wilkins, Phil Brown, Marion Lenger, Leanna Norris.

Third Row From Top L to R: Merle Clements, Susan Nebel-Thau, Margo Tangway, Kenneth Lyon, Randy MacLaren, Carol Sue Carmichael, Kathy Haupt, Raean Napier.

Fourth Row From Top L to R: Eddie Reid, John Wirtz, Donald Thayer, John Campbell, Kintner Alverson, Vickie Torbert, Joan MacFall, Carol Armacost.

Bottom Row L to R: Henry Krutzsch Grant Peterson, Bob Wilbur, Clement C. Macevicz, Dr. Geddes.



SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EDUCATION

**WATCH YOUR WEIGHT**  
KEEP THIS RECORD

Name Marriner, Harry Age 10 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>

Current Year: Height 57 Weight 76 Date Oct 13, 1953

Previous Year: Height 54 Weight 66 Date \_\_\_\_\_

Children are weighed and measured each year for the purpose of learning if they are making normal gain in height and weight.

G. G. WETHERILL, M.D.—Director

Nurse Lelia Gettles, R.N.

Form H-11

Form H-13

SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EDUCATION

My dear Mrs. Marriner

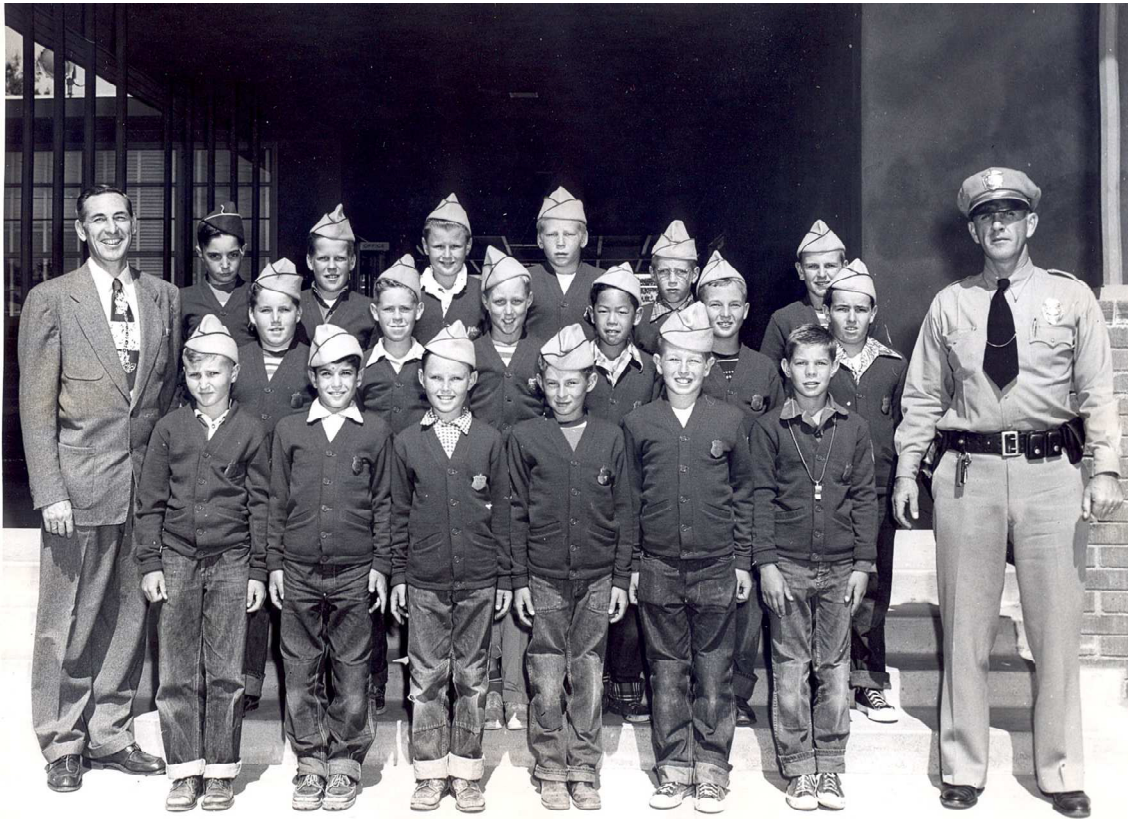
May I report to you that in a health inspection of Marriner, Harry the following was noted:

Urgin test  
P. 20 1. 20

A. M. Ostlind, R.N.  
School Nurse

This health inspection does not take the place of an annual examination by your family physician



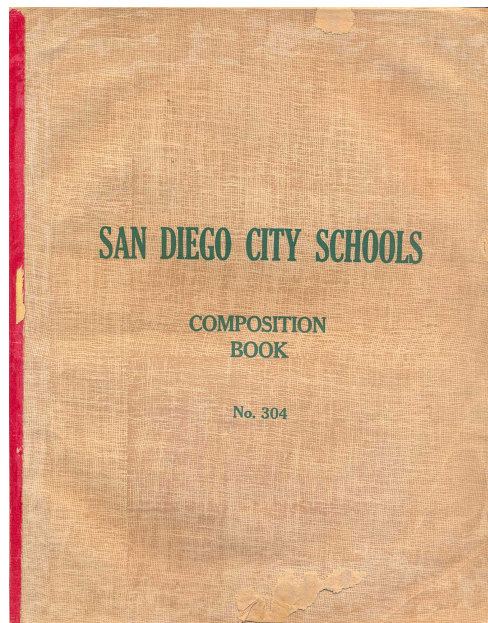


**1953 (or 1954) Bird Rock Elementary Jr. Traffic Patrol**

**Back Row L to R:** Dr. Geddes, Bob Atkinson, Eddie Reid, Alan Steiner, Randy MacLaren, Bob Wilbur, John Wirtz.

**Middle Row L to R:** Tony Whyte, Ronnie Prast, Charles Hague, Telford Quon, Mike Thomas, Gary Wickham.

**Front Row L to R:** Nayland Wilkins, Bob Young, Jim Kipp, Phil Brown, John Campbell, Harry Marriner, Officer Shaw.





Bird Rock  
Elementary  
School  
April 1954  
Junior Patrol

**Bird Rock Elementary Jr. Traffic Patrol  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
1953-54**

Top Row L to R: Bob Wilbur, Phil Brown, Nayland Wilkins, Fred Small, Pat Higgins, Gary Carmichael, John Emerich.

2<sup>nd</sup> Row from top: Bob Young, Roy Stewart, John Campbell, John Wirtz, Jim Kipp.

3<sup>rd</sup> Row from top: Bill Brown, Dave Millard, Randy MacLaren.

Bottom Row: Harry Marriner, Jim Walters (?), Jim Howland.

SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS  
San Diego, California

**ELEMENTARY PUPIL GROWTH REPORT**

**BIRD ROCK ELEMENTARY**  
SCHOOL

**Message from the Superintendent**

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The instructional program of the San Diego City Schools is planned to provide the best possible education for each child of our community. A carefully planned course of study serves as a guide for promoting continuous growth in the basic skills. The school is also concerned with the physical, social and emotional growth of the child. It seeks to help each boy and girl to develop to the best of his or her ability. The total school program provides opportunity for the student to develop as a well-adjusted, self-supporting, actively participating citizen.

Your child's progress report has been prepared in terms of his growth and development. It indicates:

- . . . growth and progress in the basic skills.
- . . . social and emotional growth and adjustment.
- . . . areas of study where improvement is needed.
- . . . ways that improvement can be achieved.

There will be three reports sent home during the school year.

You are invited to discuss your child's progress with his teacher or with the principal. By working together, the home and the school can better help each boy and girl make progress.

Sincerely yours,  
WILL C. CRAWFORD, Superintendent  
San Diego City Schools

Pupil: Harry Marriner

Grade: 5<sup>TH</sup> Frederic B. Gullett Principal

Form 30647

I graduated from 6<sup>th</sup> grade with a blue and white ribbon pinned to my suit in June 1954.



6<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Day June 1954



G-203

Bird Rock Elementary School Sixth Grade-Mr. Neumann  
1953-54 Class Picture

Top to Bottom and Left to Right in Picture Above

Top Row (l to r): Mr. Neumann, Don Thayer, Judy Traylor, Linda Arnold, Carol Sue Carmichael, Bob Young, John Campbell, Kenny Caldwell, Kathy Haupt.

2<sup>nd</sup> Row from top: Sandra Swanker, John Goddard, Susan Nebel-Thau, Terry Winder, Vickie Torbert, Mike Hoerr, Jim Kipp, Henry Keys, Ken Lyon.

3<sup>rd</sup> Row from top: Margo Tangway, Mike Johnson, Susie Sherman, Marion Lenger, Helen Wiley, Harry Marriner, Nayland Wilkins, Le Anna Norris, Tony Heredia.

4<sup>th</sup> Row from top: Jan McNaught-Davis, Patty Durkin, Henry Krutzsch, Carol Sue Casey, Rita Sugar, Dave Newton, Jim Boehm, Leean Tarr, Bob Wilbur.

Bottom Row: Randy MacLaren, John Wirtz, Barbara Shepherd, Carol Armacost, Phil Brown, Chick Winspur.

Gary Wickham was in the first graduating class (49 students in 1953) and says that his class was given the honor of selecting the school colors. They chose blue and white. Mr. Neumann was their teacher.

Kids in school had special times of the year associated with different activities or sports. One time was for playing marbles, another month was for flying kites. I remember one year that the big craze was to make handkerchief parachutes. We made wooden match guns from wooden clothes pins that lit the match when you fired them and potato guns made from the used up tubes from ballpoint pens. The paved lower playground was perfect for flying model airplanes or when I got to be 12 years old, racing my wooden car powered with a 1.5hp Clinton gas engine. Sometimes we'd take croquet mallets and a ball to the lower playground



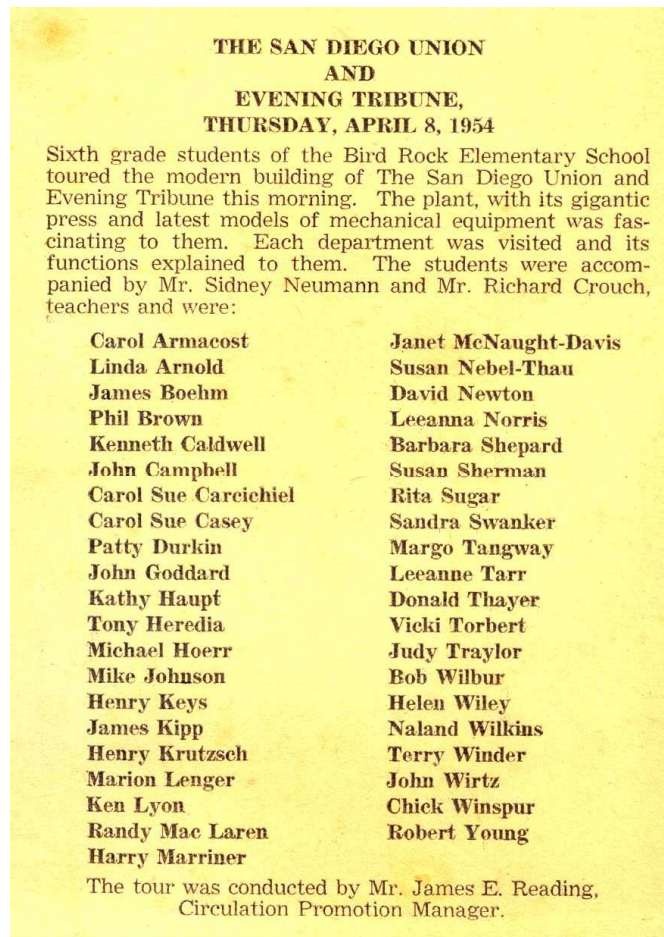
and play polo with our bikes. The upper playground, where we played baseball, was all dirt and rocks so once a year the principal would muster the entire student body and line them up abreast to walk across the playground picking up loose stones.

**Harry's Go-cart May 1955**

One day Jim Kipp was having a difficult time throwing the ball up in the air and hitting it. Phil Brown said "Give me the bat and I'll show you how to do it." Phil threw the ball in the air but connected with Jim's skull instead splitting open his eyebrow. Jim started crying and spurting blood at the same time. Someone ran to get his mother from the secretary's office and he was rushed off to the doctor to get sewn up. He still has the scar to this day.

In October 1954 my very sociable dog Buster got loose and went over to the school to play with the kids. He was accidentally locked in the cloakroom of one of the classrooms overnight. Another time spent the entire night in the recreation room.

I always enjoyed the special class trips to places such as the Carnation Milk Factory and The San Diego Union and Evening Tribune newspaper plant.



## 1954 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Field Trip to SD Union and Evening Tribune

## **BIRD ROCK BUSINESSES 1945-1960**

### **BIRD ROCK AVE.**

The Bird Rock Inn was located on top of the cliff on the north side of Bird Rock Ave. at the beach. It was built and operated by Cornelius "Neil" Bohannon in the early 1920s who lived there with his wife Irene and four children. Neil paid men to catch lobsters, abalone and fish at Bird Rock that were served at the restaurant. Workers at Ryan Aeronautical took Charles Lindbergh there to eat fresh seafood in March 1927. Neil was so impressed by the planned trans-Atlantic flight that he named his son Charles Lindbergh Bohannon after him. Neil's son was born while Lindy was on his famous flight in 1927. Neil died in 1929 from possibly oversteering his system hauling beach cobble boulders up the cliff to his inn to build walls and walkways. After Neil died his wife and their kids moved to a small house at 5646 Beaumont. Charles and his brother Jack began hunting for abs and fishing the tide pools at minus tides, then later became expert divers for abs, lobster and fished for eels at Bird Rock in the late 1930s and early 1940s. They used a 14 ft. skiff with a 3hp Champion outboard motor and stored the skiff on the Bird Rock Cove beach below Max Miller's house. Once they caught a 92 pound Black Sea Bass by grabbing it by the gills with their hands. It was just floating on the surface.

By the time I was frequenting Bird Rock, the Inn as a going restaurant, was long gone. Only the cobblestone structures and what I thought was always a home, still remained. When we thought no one was looking we used to walk along the cobblestone paths and went around or climbed over a wooden gate leading to a round area that overlooked Jump Rock and Flat Reef. This was the easy and dry way to get to Jump Rock.

### **LA JOLLA BLVD.**

**5700 Block**-The Old Lady's Candy Store. One of the few stores "important" to a young child in central Bird Rock in the late 1940s was the "no name" candy store located on the west side of LJ Blvd. a short distance north of the NW corner of Bird Rock Ave. and LJ Blvd. There wasn't much more there at that time and definitely no street address. It was a small rustic clapboard building run by an old woman who (as far as I remember) only sold candy. Her clients were mainly children who pleaded

with their parents for “one of these and one of those.” I believe she lived in the back of the store.

Gary Wickham also remembers the store and says “The first store I can remember was located in a very small house in the 5700 block of La Jolla blvd. on the west side and about a hundred feet north of Bird Rock St. I don’t know if it even had a sign. It was one small room with a wooden floor and was run by an older woman, all the local kids went there, she sold penny candies and other inexpensive items, she couldn’t have made more than a dollar or two on a good day.”

**5450-** Joe Hunt's Restaurant was here in the early days according to a reference my sister found but, I don’t remember it at all. Gary Wickham says “It was in the same building as old Pernicano’s, on the south side and at least double the size with the entrance at the southeast corner.”

**5457-**Ed Fackler Jr. & Associates real estate was located in a small office behind a big sign on the east side of LJ Blvd just south of the Texaco gas station and La Jolla Liquors store (located on the corner) in 1952.

**5460-5462-** In 1952, 5462 LJ Blvd. was the location of Ann Ghio’s Italian Foods with “Pizza Pie.” Mrs. Ann Ghio lived at 1661 Beryl in 1952. In 1953 John Pernicano’s Pizza House replaced Ann’s restaurant just south of where the Bird Rock Mobil Gas Station would be built on the SW corner of Midway and LJ Blvd. I only remember when it was located at 711 Turquoise on the curve



**Pernicano’s Pizza House 711 Turquoise St.**

where LJ Blvd turns into Turquoise Street. Gary says “I had my first taste of pizza there; it was a plain cheese and I can still remember it. At some point the old Pernicano’s became a mosaic art supply store.” John Pernicano, who came to San Diego in 1945, opened his first restaurant in 1946. There were 11 Pernicano family members and 8 pizza parlors throughout San Diego at one time. Gary Wickham spoke to Larry and John Pernicano in

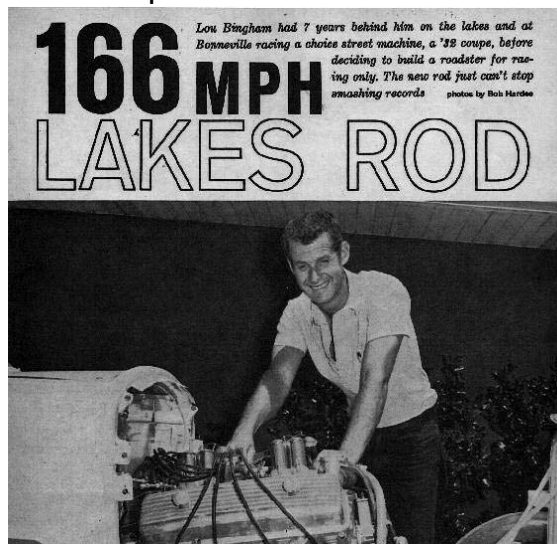
June 2011. John, who lives in La Jolla, still runs his restaurant at age 83, and confirmed that he had his first place at the spot where Ann Ghio's Italian Food was located in 1953. John stated "I tried to buy the restaurant, but Hanniman owned the whole block and wouldn't sell." In 1957 he built the restaurant at its present location at 711 Turquoise. Del Heltzel (423 Colima St.) worked in the Hillcrest Pernicano's for a while when he first came to San Diego and made us super pizzas until his death, but he'd never eat one. He said he had eaten too many during his lifetime.

**5469**-Pacific View Market was a small market where you could buy soda pop and a few things at the SE corner of Midway St. and LJ Blvd. Roughly 1970-75 this was the site of the Ocean Fresh Fish Market owned by the Doyle brothers. They opened a restaurant across the street. The rest of the corner lot was a Texaco gas station in 1952 with La Jolla Liquors on the corner.

**5474**-Tom's Mobil Gas Station was located at the SW corner of Midway and LJ Blvd in 1951. In 1952 it was Eddy & Andy's Service. The name was changed to Bird Rock Mobil Gas Station when Lou Bingham and Fritz Swan bought the station in the mid 1950s. Fritz owned a 1932(?) brown Hupmobile and Lou had light purple 32 Ford Coupe Roadster powered by an Oldsmobile engine that set a land speed record for the D Gas Roadster class in 1962 going 171mph. The station vehicle was a blue 1956 Ford Pickup truck that held 2nd place record for its class at 96mph in 1961. I

worked part for a couple attending San College and for errands. take Lou's delivery which since Lou never it. Bird Rock and Dick enthusiasts

**Lou Bingham**



**record for his class**

time at the station years while Diego State drove the truck Once Fritz let me Coupe for a was really a thrill let anyone drive locals Jerry Free Lempke were auto who

**sets world speed**



hung around the Mobil station. A Texaco Station across the street was their main competition. A hamburger joint called “Cindy’s Drive-In” across the street on the NW corner of Midway and LJ Blvd. was where I ate many a time before the Jack-In-The-Box was built on the SW corner of Forward and LJ Blvd.



**Diane Martin Jan. 1962 on Lou Bingham’s 1932 Ford Coupe**

**5504**-Cindy’s Drive-In was “the” place in Bird Rock to buy great old-fashioned hamburgers in 1961 and just “hang out.” Gary Wickham says he remembers the price was 15 cents. This restaurant changed hands and names, but has been a Mexican restaurant for many years now with excellent fish tacos the last time I went there in 2000.

**5505**-Armacost Nursery was a large nursery owned by “Buzz” Armacost and his wife. They were parents of my classmate Carol Armacost. She was my “seat mate” in 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at LJ Elementary School and a very good artist who taught me how to draw horses. It was the place to buy anything you wanted for landscaping your yard. Many of the plants in our garden came from there.



**5509**-Ocean Fresh Fish Restaurant was on the NE corner of Midway and LJ Blvd. This excellent seafood restaurant (and fish market across the street) flourished around 1970-75 and was established many years after the restaurants I’ve mentioned above. It was owned by the Doyle brothers (Tommy and Billy) who were commercial fishermen and the sons of the prominent Dr. Doyle and his physician wife Dr. Figueredo. Billy Doyle or his brother lived a block from the restaurant in the old Napier home and kept his fishing skiff out in front on the street. Classmate Raean Napier now lives in Grants Pass, Oregon.

**5518**-La Jolla Self-Laundry was owned and run by the mother of classmate



Margo Tangway. We had our own Maytag washing machine with rollers on top to squeeze out excess water so the self-laundry wasn't used much. When I was 3 ½ years old I decided to stick my right arm in the wringer to see what would happen. Luckily my mother was close by in the kitchen and heard

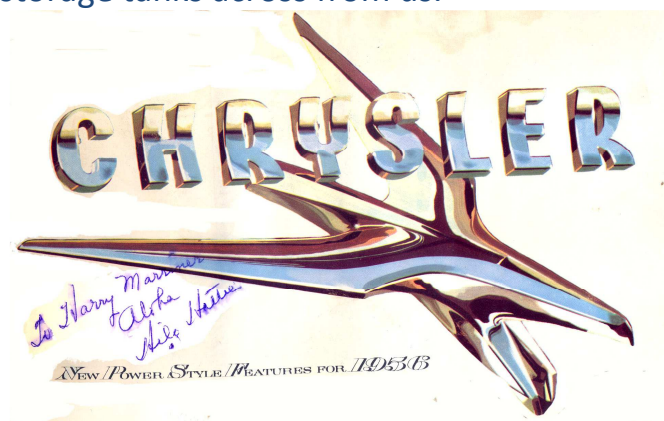
me yell. She hit the fast release button before serious damage was done. That was just one year after I closed the door to my Grandmother's car on my left thumb leaving a lifetime scar.

**5520**-Sip n Surf Bar, located on the west side of LJ Blvd between Midway and Forward, was owned by Burt Anderson. It was the local watermen's hangout. Lifeguards, surfers, divers and all their friends hung out there. Dean Carlson, a local body surfing legend and expert diver, was manager there for a while. The name was changed later to the Hungry Horse Tavern, but the Hawaiian atmosphere and sitting on the floor on mats to drink beer and listen to loud music wasn't the same. In the late summer evenings they would keep the door open and turn the volume up to full. I could hear the Kingston Trio and other folk and Hawaiian music through my open bedroom window about 3 blocks away. It got rowdy and impossible to enter on weekends and especially when free beer flowed on Halloween night. In 1966 the Red Mountain Inn, owned by Dave Osborn, opened its doors for the first time at 5525 LJ Blvd. Patrons guzzled 17 barrels of beer on opening day showing that they were stiff competition to the Sip n Surfers of the 1950s. The White Whale either replaced the Hungry Horse or was very close by, and rated a distant 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the "rowdy bars of Bird Rock" contest. It was a hangout for political left-wingers from UCSD in the 1970s according to Gary Wickham. Bill Hotchkiss bought the Red Mountain Inn and changed the name to the Hatchcover, but the patrons remained the same.

**5530**-In 1952 this was The French House Restaurant, but later it was Rudy's Hearthside. I thought it was located one block south of this site where Gail Hanniman's parents built The Inn hotel, but my sister corrected my faulty memory. Rudy's was the only alternative to Jamar's in the early days if you wanted a full service restaurant. I found a note in my childhood diary that on December 20, 1955 (I was 12 years old) I ordered Louisiana Fried Frog Legs for the first time at Rudy's Hearthside and really liked them. Sometimes I took fried grasshoppers to high school for snacks.

**5538**-There was apparently competition for restaurant clients at The Burger House located at this address in 1955 but I don't remember it. The manager was Thelma Campbell who lived in Pacific Beach.

**5535**-Mc Cune Motors (Jewel City Chrysler Imperial and Plymouth Dealership) was a large business located on the east side of LJ Blvd. between Midway and Forward in 1955. On May 5, 1956 the owners hosted an open air event featuring the famous Hawaiian singer/dancer Hilo Hattie with Harry Owens conducting the Royal Hawaiian Orchestra. She sang the song that made her popular called "When Hilo Hattie Does the Hilo Hop." It was really a big event for Bird Rock in those days attended by most of the locals. Hilo Hattie signed a car brochure for me and many others that day. We listened to authentic Hawaiian music and received flower leis as gifts along with Chrysler car brochures. Before this auto dealership was built there was a Union 76 oil or gasoline storage facility between LJ Blvd and Electric and north of Forward. Gary Wickham remembers it well, I barely remember it and Susie Sherman says "I do remember big storage tanks across from us."



**Brochure signed by Hilo Hattie for Harry in 1956**

**5545**-Robeson Realty Company-This was another of many real estate offices in Bird Rock in 1952 during the real estate boom there.

**5568**-Peggy's Inn. This is the first restaurant I remember in Bird Rock. It was located at the corner of Forward and LJ Blvd and was a hangout for all the locals. Good home cooked food and a friendly atmosphere made it a favorite meeting place for skin divers and anyone wanting a good lunch. There was an ocean view from here. My father used to stop for a bite to eat or for a soft drink on his way back from the picking up round boulders at Bird Rock or Midway St. beach to build a fountain for our lath house garden. It was still operating in 1950 and probably for a few years afterwards.

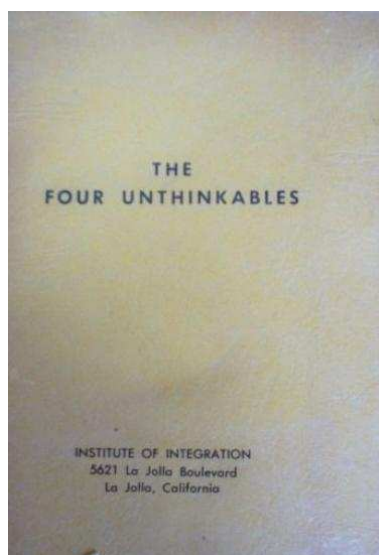
**5568**-Jack-In-The-Box hamburger drive-thru was built in the late 1950s on the site of Peggy's Inn and gave employment to two of my close friends: Merle Clements and John Warren. John worked there for Mr. Tishner from about 1960-63. John asked for time off to go to Mazatlan on the train with Bob Atkinson and friends, but Tishner said he couldn't let him go. John said "I quit then." When he got back John was asked to work there again. Tishner later owned a steak house on Midway Drive. One night after partying we went inside the Jack-In-The-Box when John was working and secretly poured a shot of rum into a drive-thru client's vanilla milk shake. I'm sure he became a repeat client after tasting it. Once we used the French Fries machine to cook a rattlesnake we shot on Black Mountain. Clients got different tasting French Fries during that shift. Gary Wickham says that the Beatles once went through the drive-thru lane in their wildly painted Rolls Royce. He also remembers it being there in 1969 but can't remember when it was closed. Russell Forester (LJHS 1938) designed the early Jack in the Boxes according to Harry Crosby.

**5602**-Fred Stewart's Signal Gas Station. This was probably the first auto mechanic shop and gas station in Bird Rock but I don't know when it first opened. Fred was the one to call for any mechanical problem with your car. He sold gas from a hand pump with a glass reservoir. My father used Fred for general car maintenance. His shop wasn't the cleanest in the world, but he knew his cars very well. He lived next door to his shop at 366 Forward. I knew his sons Fred and Roy very well and grew up with them in school. Dan McLeod pumped gas and did lube jobs at Fred Stewart's while he took a vacation in the late 1940s.

**5603**-Virgil Lowe's Chevron Service Station always had the highest gas prices in Bird Rock so we usually used Brantley's Shell.

**5616**-Brown's Upholstery Mart was Mastro's competition and I believe was owned by classmate Bill Brown's father, but am not positive.

**5621**-Institute of Integration. This Institute was a metaphysical organization studying the inner healing power of ones own self. It was owned by Alva. L. "Beau" Kitselman who taught E-Therapy (Aumakua Therapy) and Hyper-E Therapy here in 1960 and a while longer. (See: 5939 Camino de la Costa-Kitselman)



**Booklet published by the Institute of Integration**

**5626**-Riptide Restaurant-I note its existence in 1952 but can't remember anything about it. The same for Laufer's Variety Store at 5666 LJ Blvd.

**5638**-Stone Music Studio-I remember nothing about this place, but Bob Atkinson (Madrone now) remembers Mr. Stone going around the neighborhood knocking on doors and offering kids their first music lesson for free. He picked the accordion and says he quit when he realized that songs he knew, sounded nothing like what he was playing.

**5665**-Glazebrook-Nelson Realty Company was owned by classmate Billy Glazebrook's father. Classmate Jan McNaught-Davis's father had his McNaught-Davis Company real estate office at the same address in 1952

as well as Max Schmidt, a tax accountant. My mother worked for him for a while as a bookkeeper.

**5676**-Kenard's La Jolla Florist Shop was a place where my Dad sometimes bought my mother flowers on special occasions. It wasn't a place us kids usually frequented.

**5655**-Lynn Fayman Photographer usually had a nice portrait photograph in the window to look at as we walked by. Later the Masonic Temple was built here.

**5670**-Mastro Furniture Upholstering was owned and run by Barry and Kenny Mastro's father. It was one of several businesses in a long building along the boulevard. It was known for its quality workmanship.



**Barry Mastro**

**5675**-Brantley & Killinger Shell Station was Fred Stewart's competition but the difference was night and day. Stewart's place was a greasy garage with years of accumulated parts tossed here and there. Mr. Brantley was a reserve Army officer and kept the station clean as a whistle. He could be seen driving the station's red WWII Army Jeep around for service calls and up to his home at 6319 Dowling Drive. His daughter Jill Brantley grew up with my sister Carla and my mother did the accounting for Mr. Brantley. They owned another gas station at 7982 Prospect St. in downtown La Jolla. Both Brantley & Killinger were hard working, honest men respected by the community.

**5680**-Walsh's Ice Cream Parlor was a favorite place for all the kids to go for a special treat. It was located at the SW corner of Bird Rock Ave. and LJ Blvd. The ice cream was excellent in a banana split or malted milkshake. Large glass windows faced the boulevard. Even knowing the owner's son Steve Walsh who lived at 5656 Electric with his parents didn't get me a freebie there. Milk shakes, malts and cherry phosphate drinks and vanilla Cokes were always available to curb the thirst on a hot summer day.

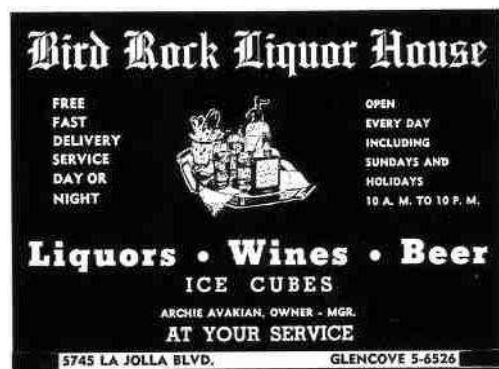
**5732**-Betsy's Pastries-I don't remember this one but Gary Wickham says "ahh, my favorite for glazed donuts and large cream puffs that made me look like a mad dog frothing at the mouth."

**5737**-Arnold's Fine Foods was "the" supermarket in the area where everyone bought food. Later the name was changed to the Bird Rock Market.

**5736-38**-Parker & Sadler Drugstore was on the NE corner of Bird Rock Ave. and LJ Blvd. They sold magazines and sundries as well as medicines. The name was later changed to Bird Rock Pharmacy. My sister Carla reminded me that you could also go there for cherry Coke's and vanilla phosphates. Gary Wickham remembers that they had a US Post Office Branch window inside where he would buy the latest commemorative stamps for his collection and also comic books.

**5740 (5707)**-Phelp's Sporting Goods/Dive Shop between the Bird Rock Pharmacy and Arnold's Fine Foods, was located in the north end of the Bird Rock Pharmacy building. This store was essential to me and my water oriented friends who bought dive masks, fins and the first "dry" suits for diving there. The \$31.50 surplus Navy UDT (Underwater Demolition Team) suits consisted of a smooth blue rubber shirt, hood and pants stretched over a cotton sweat suit or whatever you wanted to wear underneath. The shirt and pants were rolled together and a rubber band type belt made out of a car inner tube vulcanized together used to seal the joint. These ALWAYS filled up with water and didn't do much to keep you warm, but it was better than nothing. Later the neoprene wetsuits were a big improvement. Fishing gear and bait was also sold at the store. Phelp's was there from about 1955-1957. One year the Bird Rock merchants attached coupons for prizes to helium balloons and let them go up in the air until they popped or came down. I found one coupon and reclaimed a pocket knife from Phelp's.

**5745 (5771 in 1955)** -Bird Rock Liquor House was owned by Archie Avakian in 1952, but E.J. Bush is shown as the owner in 1955. The store was located just north of Arnold's Fine Foods. He sold the usual variety of alcoholic



beverages as well as soft drinks, nuts and potato chips. I believe the addresses were changed for this block sometime in the early 1950s, but not sure.

**5750 ½ and 5752**-Hoberg's Clothing and Tailor Shop was located almost across the street from the Bird Rock Market on LJ Blvd. but I can't remember the year he opened. He was there in 1960 and 1961. One part



was a Men's Shop and the other side was for younger people. Mr. Hoberg was a very formal, serious and corpulent man who reminded me of Alfred Hitchcock. He was an excellent tailor who catered to rich La Jollans. He was expensive, but for my Sr. Prom in 1960 my parents took me down to his store and bought me a white tuxedo dinner jacket and

**Harry in 2011 with his modified 1960 Hoberg Tuxedo**

black pants. Years later my wife sewed a black cloth to the front of it to "modernize" it and I wore that jacket for most of my life at formal occasions. Around 1980 I was invited to a formal wedding and didn't get the word that I needed to wear a black tux and stood out like the proverbial "sore thumb" in my white dinner jacket. I still have the slightly yellowed white jacket and black pants in my closet, but can't fit into them anymore. (Anyone want to buy a slightly used tux?)

**5755**-The Pour House Bar owned by Daniel Hoffman and Lee Teacher in 1958-59 had the best (and probably the only) live music in Bird Rock. A Pet Store with tropical fish either just preceded or was just after the Pour House era. Susie Morse remembers winning 3<sup>rd</sup> prize at an opening day raffle and taking home a 5 gallon fish aquarium. The place would later be changed into Bully's Restaurant. Since us under-aged boys couldn't go inside The Pour House, Bob Atkinson, Gary Wickham and me used to sit outside with friends and listen to the great music. Gary remembers "They once had a Trinidad steel band playing there when the police showed up and arrested the whole band since they didn't have any papers to be in the country."



Bully's was more upscale than either the Sip n Surf or The Pour House, and eventually turned into a fashionable restaurant. Cookie Taylor, a very talented local Black singer frequently sang at after-football game dances at the LJ Recreation Center in the 50s and was head chef at Bully's for a long time after he left the Red Mountain Inn as cook and singer some time after 1966. He worked as a SD City trash collector for many years also and saved items discarded in the LJ trash, then resold them on the second hand market. He did so well at this that he eventually bought a home in the Muirlands.

**5769**-Bird Rock by the Sea Barber Shop was where most men got their hair cut. I believe it was owned by Ken Palmer who in 1950 was still in the Navy and lived at 5659 Waverly. In 1951 it was called the Bird Rock By the Sea Beauty Salon, owned by Inez Duke. Two ex-Navy barbers (Ken was one?) set up a barber shop next to Pernicano's Pizza on the curve where LJ Blvd. turns into Turquoise. This is where I normally got my hair cut and became good friends with the owners, but can't remember their names now. When I attended UC Riverside in 1960-61 they sold me and my roommate Merle Clements basic haircutting tools and gave us some free lessons. We earned enough money cutting hair in the dorm bathroom to pay for beer and hamburgers on the weekends. Our success took up valuable study time and was one reason neither one of us was asked to return for the second year.

**5770 Jamar Dining Room (1952)**

By 1955 it was located at 5786 LJ Blvd. but the street addresses may have changed for this area as I mentioned earlier. This was the family restaurant where we went for special occasions such as birthdays and Mother's Day. It had good home cooked food with

reasonable prices. Dan McLeod worked there for two years ('48 and '49), first as a dish washer and salad boy, and later as a bus boy.



## BEAUMONT AVENUE

**5383**-Anderson Nursery was owned by the elderly (to me at least) George and Emily Anderson who were a quiet couple who raised fruit trees and other plants and trees for sale. George was chief deputy auditor for the City of San Diego. They never did a big business but lasted for several years across the street from my house on Colima. I remember kids climbing over their fence to steal the delicious pomegranates off one tree. All the neighborhood kids including Jimmy Howland and myself used to climb up the pine trees lining their property and at about the 10 foot level cut a tunnel inside the trees so you could walk for quite a distance inside them without being seen. Descent was made by walking out on a limb until it bent down to the ground, then sliding down it. The downside of this was explaining to your mother why you had gooey sap stuck to your clothes.

### FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, STRANGE AND NOTABLE PEOPLE

My "early world" only encompassed Colima St. and one block of Beaumont Ave. This expanded through the years, but most of my closest friends lived on Colima, Beaumont, Waverly, Taft, Linda Rosa, Electric or Chelsea.

## COLIMA STREET

**415**-Perle and Maybell Belknap were older people who either owned or were close family to the owners of the Belknap Bakery in Chula Vista where Loris B. Dixon worked for his wife's family business after he retired from the Navy as an Aviation Electronics Chief. Loris "Pat" also worked as a weigh master for the Chula Vista Post Office for 15 years. The Belknaps owned a black 1939 Chevy coupe that I always admired. Eventually it was fixed it up for their grandson Pat Dixon who was a classmate of mine. When Pat moved away from Colima in 1958 I bought it from the Belknaps for \$100, about six months before I got my driver's license at 15 ½ .



Harry Marriner (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) and his 1939 Chevy Coupe at LJ Shores  
1959



**Pat Dixon (L) and Harry (R) about 1949**

**422**-L.R., Vera and Leonard Burkhardt-A strange and scary man who lived here with his wife and bachelor son in 1950. His son may have been mentally ill and/or an alcoholic. We kept as far away from them as we could since no one knew what they did for a living and they rarely went out of their house. They were one of the very few homes in the area without a telephone and the house was usually dark.....day or night. Once the father or the son ran out the front door and waved a snake head at us and made us run down the street. Another time my Dad went out and saw a drunk or crazy man tearing the lath off our lath house. My sister remembers it may have been one of the Burkhardt men.

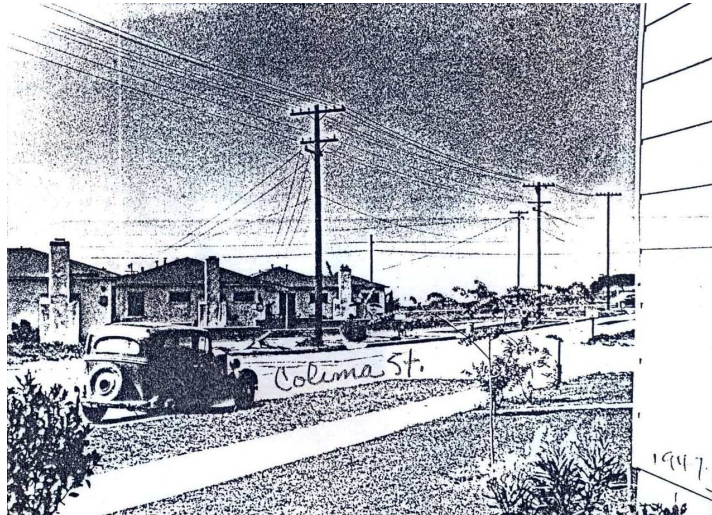
**423**-Del and E.J. Heltzel-Del was a Design Engineer at Convair. Their kids were Marilyn, Mark and Julianne who were some of my earliest playmates in the neighborhood. Marilyn and Mark are now deceased, but I keep in contact with Julianne who lives in Montana. She says "I remember some really fun summer squirt gun wars that took up the entire neighborhood, usually girls against boys, all of us chasing each other from house to house. Then we had some hide and go seek that was great fun on summer evenings. Notably for me was the Marriner and Heltzel beach times at La Jolla Shores. Diana Davis is not in New York. Mark and I both had some communication with her over the years after she quit the ballet. She moved back to the west. She is married. Right now I can't remember, but I had her email address somew



**Wilda Marriner, EJ, Julianne & Mark Heltzel,  
Carla Ann and Harry Marriner-1991**

Krista D'Vincent was a friend of mine in the 70's. We were both weavers and spinners, and met each other again at a weaving class that was held at the Del Mar Fair Grounds. At that time she lived in Vista CA on the same property where her Mother lived. Then she later had twin boys and a mentally ill husband (I'm not sure they were married). She eventually had to go into hiding because he became seriously dangerous. Lost track of her after I left Encinitas sometime around early 80's. Mom stayed in contact with Jan Howland up until Jan died....while living in Poway. I remember the Hilo Hattie thing at the car dealership. On my honeymoon after Nick and I got married I ran into Hilo Hattie. She owned a small motel in the Monterey, CA area that we happened to stay in."

The Heltzels had the first TV in the area and we all used to strain to see the Howdy Doody Show, the Spade Cooley Show, Ed Sullivan or whatever was on the round 10 inch screen at the time. I remember my parents and the Heltzels commenting on the "crude and vulgar" gyrations of Elvis Presley's first appearance and "How could the producers allow such a thing?"



**423 Colima St. in center 1947**



**Merle Clements to right of 423 Colima 1957 (427 at left)**



**Marilyn and Mark Heltzel at 423 Colima St. about 1947 looking at Meers home on right and Burkhardt home (dark one set back)**



**Backyard of Heltzel home 1957**



**Ocean view of Pt. Loma over Heltzel's backyard fence**

**427-**Maurice D. Connevey (and Vera) was an insurance adjuster and stayed away from most people, but he wasn't a mean person. They had what we would probably call a juvenile delinquent son today, but I don't remember him causing any trouble. Maurice Jr., nicknamed "Sonny," was about 10 years older than me so we didn't have much in common.

**430-**B.J. and Thelma Meers (Mission Motors, Pacific Beach)-The Meers had a daughter a bit older than me (Marilyn?) who babysat for me and my sister a few times. I was invited to one birthday party there and was impressed with the well-kept yard and the distinct floor plan of the house. It was located on the sw corner of Colima and Electric. Later the Wards bought the house some time after 1952. Maris Lynne Ward was an intelligent and very nice school mate during high school. She was fortunate enough to be selected to be an AFS student to Austria for the winter semester of 1959, but didn't know a word of German. She eventually went on to get a BA and an MA and do some work on the PhD

in German language and literature. We still email each other occasionally. The home sold again in 2008. When Maris Lynne saw the MLS listing pictures she said “Geez Louise! The only thing I recognized was the fireplace--mainly because my husband and I were married in front of the fireplace and I have a great photo of my cat sitting in the middle of the flowers on the mantel. I certainly didn't recognize anything else--none of the rooms and nothing on the exterior either. Absolutely (expletive deleted) amazing!” She continues: “My father was in the Navy and we lived in a lot of places, so it wasn't easy--but my parents enjoyed helping me out with that. I was hoping to find the dates and addresses where I lived in La Jolla. We moved there in time for me to attend 6th grade at La Jolla Elementary. My folks first rented a house on Draper, and then we moved right around the corner to Westbourne for a few years--about one block away from Rob Langsdorf and on the same side of the street. At some point--and I don't remember exactly when--we moved to Colima Street. My parents rented all that time. The owner was a doctor who lived in a condo at the very north end of Marine Street beach. When I was in college and home for the summer, my mother and I would go to that beach a lot. We parked on the north side of the condos at the south end of Coast Blvd. and then climbed over the rocks in front of the condo to get to our favorite spot. I don't think many tourists found their way there so it was always a great spot to enjoy the beach and was seldom very crowded. The surf could be pretty rough at that spot and since I was not a very good swimmer I rarely got in the water except to cool off a bit now and then. I think it was after I had already graduated from college that my parents finally bought the house on Colima themselves. They eventually sold it in the early 70's to move to Washington State where my grandmother lived. My next-door neighbor here is also from San Diego. Last fall I talked her into driving to San Diego with me when I went to the reunion. Her husband, Marvin Braddock, was part of the management team of Jack in the Box. She's about 10 years older than I and has lots of memories of San Diego that predate anything I knew about.” Maris Lynne presently lives in Horseshoe Bay, Texas within walking distance of Bird Rocker Dr. John Emrich’s daughter Amy and her daughter. John and his brother lived with their parents (Willi Emrich-Pacific Metal Crafts) at 5836 Beaumont and now has a home in the 5400 block(?) of Linda Rosa rented out while he runs his rural medical clinic in Chiapas, Mexico.

**504**-Davis-Diana, the daughter was about my age and was heavily protected from other kids by her mother who was a piano teacher. Diana practiced piano and ballet almost every day and later became a famous ballerina. She performed internationally and lived in New York City but finally married and moved back to the west coast.

**512**-Rod and Ruth Alexander. Ruth's maiden name was Bradley and she was a native La Jolla. In 1930 her father, William S. and wife, Anna, lived on Rushville but by 1940 had moved to 5 Remley Place above the LJ Country Club. Rod Alexander was born in 1918 in Glasgow, Scotland. He apparently came to the US in 1947 and became a citizen in 1951. They had a son Roddy who was a brick mason, a daughter Jonna Ruth Alexander who lives in Oregon where she attended a naturopathy school and then went into Holistic Medicine, and Annette who had Down's Syndrome. Rod was an excellent hardworking brick mason and Ruth was an educated lady who taught my sister piano and told me about her youth in La Jolla. She had a Bobcat skin rug on her floor and told about shooting it near her childhood home in La Jolla. When my Rosy Boa Constrictor pet snake got loose once and I wasn't at home, Jonna went over and put the snake back in its aquarium cage for my mother.

**517**-Don Lookingbill (and Viola "Sue") worked at NEL (Naval Electronics Lab) where my father worked and the families were very close. They had a daughter Karen one year older than my sister and a daughter Linda one year younger than my sister. We all used to play together occasionally and even went on vacations and weekend trips together. LJHS football coach Reeves eventually bought this home and was still a neighbor when I moved away from home in



**Wilda, Carla and Harry Marriner in front of the family 1939 Studebaker coupe.**

**Note Lookingbill home in background about 1947.**



1965. He and his family suffered from our very noisy, barking Chihuahua dog named Pepper. My Dad built Pepper a wooden stairway up to a lookout on top of the wall next to the Colima St. sidewalk. Pepper would go up there and bark at nothing for hours. The neighbors hated the noise and would occasionally throw a bucket of water on Pepper to try and silence him. This house has been completely remodeled into a Mediterranean style house.

**523-Reid-**Eddie Reid lived across the street from me and was a Bird Rock Elementary schoolmate of mine who went with me to watch the building of the school. His mother, who was a waitress, had an old Model A Ford convertible with a rumble seat that was fun to ride in. Once Mrs. Reid picked me up walking on LJ Blvd. when I was about in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. My bus pass somehow got torn and I didn't think the driver would let me on the bus, so I was crying and walking home (about 3 miles) when she found me.



Gary Wickham says "What is amazing to me, looking back on it, is that we used public transportation at such a young age. Going to LJ Elementary all on our own, no school buses then. I can remember going to Mission Beach with Bob Atkinson to the Plunge and to the amusement park and even to downtown San Diego; all on our own, on the bus."

The Osterlohs bought the Reid house and Tom became a close friend of mine hiking, exploring and fishing. I sold him my two man life raft and here's what he recently wrote me after re-connecting after more than 50 years: "I moved to downtown La Jolla after graduating from Bird Rock Elementary in 1956. Then I did my 6 years at LJHS graduating in 1961. Jerry and Dixie Bonham lived with their parents Ray and Vickie in the Colima St. house then moved to Claremont in 1959. I do remember that Ron Herwick and I paddled the life raft I bought from you from the LJ Cove to the LJ Shores. My mom had the police looking for us when we got there thinking we were lost at sea. Kinda took the thrill out of it. After high school I was in the Air Force for a while and was trained as a radar technician. Today I operate a satellite earth station at Dryden Flight Research Center located on Edwards AFB, also JPL & Goldstone. I have been here 30 years since the 1<sup>st</sup> shuttle mission STS1. Before that I



operated earth stations providing satellite links for the shuttle and various aircraft X programs. Also, I support the air force's F22 test programs. Prior to being at Edwards I did the same thing at Camp Roberts, Sunnyvale AFS and The Naval Weather Center in Monterey Ca."

**528-Edmund "Ed" Hayes Marriner and Wilda.**



**Ed W6BLZ about 1950  
in his garage hamshack**



**First Marriner Family TV abt. 1952**

528 Colima St. was home to me from 1945 to 1965. I lived here with my sister Carla Ann and my parents. We had pet dogs Buster and Pepper,



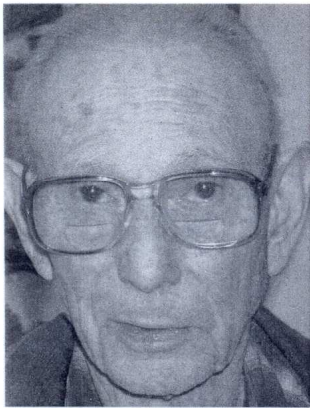
Elmer the rabbit and my pet Rosy Boa Constrictor for a while. Elmer turned out to be a female and died while giving birth at the Howland's home. Wilda was active in PTA and won many 1<sup>st</sup> prizes at the LJ Bridge Club. Ed was an

**528 Colima early 1950s**

Electronics Engineer at the Naval Electronics Laboratory (NEL), Point Loma and was elected to the CQ Magazine Hall of Fame for his pioneering work

in Ham Radio and was the author of over 300 published articles. He was also co-finder of the 17,000 year old Laguna Woman skull; the oldest skull found in the Americas.

## *In Fond Remembrance*



### Edmund Hayes "Ed" Marriner

Edmund Hayes "Ed" Marriner passed away Nov. 20, 2005, in San Luis Obispo, at the age of 90.

Born in Lincoln, Neb., on Aug. 15, 1915, Ed moved to Laguna Beach, Calif. in 1924. Here, in 1933, he was co-finder of the 17,000 year old Laguna Beach Woman skull, one of the oldest skulls ever found in the USA.

He lived in La Jolla from 1946 until 1998. He retired as Electronics Engineer with the U.S. Naval Electronics laboratory (NELC) after 34 years of civil service, including jobs with the F.B.I, Civil Aeronautics Administration, and the Scripps Oceanography Research unit of the University of California's division of War Research Department. He was an amateur radio pioneer, and was elected to the CQ Magazine Hall of

Fame in 2005 in recognition of hundreds of articles he wrote about ham radio construction.

About eight years ago Ed and his wife, Wilda Manning Marriner, moved to San Luis Obispo. They celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on July 6, 2005. Ed is survived by his wife, Wilda, in San Luis Obispo, his son, Harry, living in Bogota, Colombia, South America; his daughter, Carla Marriner Bowlin, and husband, Douglas, living in Atascadero. There are two grandchildren living in the San Luis Obispo area and three grandchildren and one great-grandchild living in Bogota.

Ed died at age 90 and Wilda died at age 95.



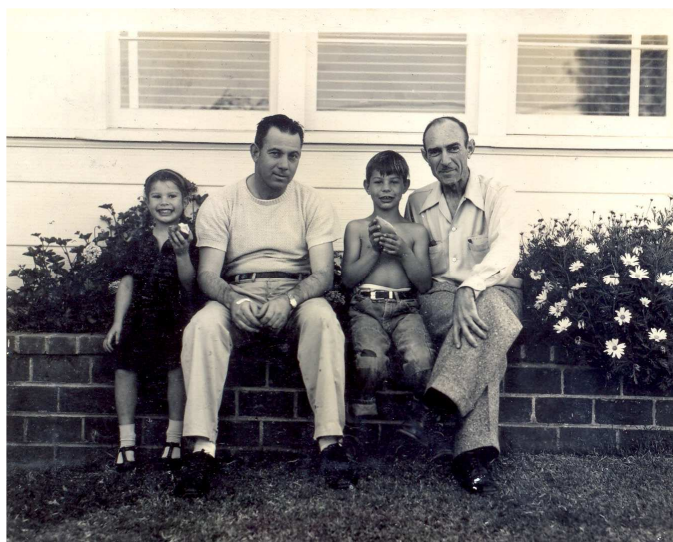
**Carla Marriner 8<sup>th</sup> Birthday April 17, 1951.  
Note D'Vincent house in background.**



**Harry and Carla Marriner 1953**



**Harry and 14 lb. Yellowtail 1955-12 years old**



**Carla, Ed, Harry Marriner & "Bill" Neeves abt. 1951**

**529**-William Neeves-This interesting biologist was a SD City Lab Tech. who was fascinated by thrips and studied them in detail. He gave me a surplus Army collecting kit with small vials filled with thrips. He and my Dad had many long discussions about various things that mutually interested them.



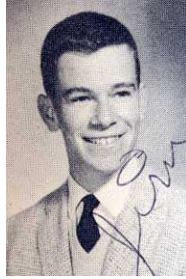
**Neeves home at top and part of Reid home at right about 1957**

**622**-Jere Black-An NEL Physicist from Monday through Friday and an alcoholic from Friday night to Sunday night. He and his wife lived next to the Howlands and would turn their TV volume up to FULL, open the front door during the summer, and drink continuously. When they were really drunk they would either laugh at funny things on the TV or scream and fight with each other. Jere usually wore shorts in the summer and a large hunting knife on his belt. When the Howlands couldn't stand the noise any longer Jim Jr. and I would sneak down the alley and pull the fuse box switch turning off all the Black's power. We would hear an expletive or a loud scream as he burst out the front door and we'd run as fast as we could down the alley and through a vacant lot to get back to the Howland's home and safety.

**630**-Jim and Jan Howland-Both Mr. and Mrs. Howland were very intelligent and interesting people. Jim Sr. was one of the early LJ skin

divers and dove with members of the famous Bottom Scratcher's dive club in the 1930s/1940s. His son Jim Jr. has always been a close friend of mine and we still keep in touch. His brother John was my sister's age. Mr.

Howland once  
birthday party.  
along the way and  
eventually led  
paved street  
where we dug  
drink and a cake



planned a treasure hunt for his son's  
We had to follow clues that we dug up  
follow a treasure map made by Jan that  
down the Turquoise St. canyon (before a  
allowed direct access) to the beach  
down to find a chest filled with food and  
for the birthday beach party. Mrs.

Howland was very creative with birthdays and always had something out of the ordinary. Once she dressed the Heltzel kids up as playing cards for a Halloween costume contest and they won first prize. Later in life Mrs. Howland made incredibly detailed large scale model doll houses that would be an asset to any museum. I've kept in touch with their son Jim since childhood. We played together as kids and had marathon games on a ping pong table next to his garage. We were equally matched and could volley back and forth for what seemed like hours.

Sometimes when we were bored on a hot summer's night, Jim and I would ride our bikes down a quiet Bird Rock street and let out blood-curling screams, then pedal like Hell to get out of there before the neighbors called the police to see what was going on.

Jim lives in Shell Beach, California and recently retired from teaching Technical Writing at Cal Poly at San Luis Obispo. Jim Jr's brother John taught Julianne Heltzel "how to fly" by jumping off the wall with a cape on. He has worked as a Border Patrol Officer for many years.

**715**-John Baumgartner was a naval officer who was a friendly person. One year surprised all the neighborhood kids by taking their picture when he opened the door on Halloween.

**728**-Dr. Cecil Burbank-He was a genius Electronics Engineer and was my Dad's boss for a while.

**808**-John MacFall was the first professional photographer at Scripps Institute of Oceanography in 1949 and participated in MidPac and Capricorn expeditions. He took 16mm moving images and thousands of



still images. Joan was his daughter and one of my early childhood pals. She was a tomboy who was strong and could match any feat the boys would invent. Her sister Bobbie babysat for me and my sister at times. Their front yard was blessed by an enormous tree we climbed up and up until we got scared. I tentatively identify it today as a Monkey Pod Tree. John took many school class pictures. Their house was at the corner of Colima and Taft and had a great view.

### Harry A. Marriner

La Jolla, CA

Board of Review Year: 1956

All experiences on the trail of the Eagle were fun and lessons in self-sufficiency, however, the most important part of Scouting was the opportunity to become involved in a wide variety of community experiences and the chance to learn about different occupations through merit badge study. At the time, merit badges were obstacles that had to be overcome to attain the rank of Eagle, but later in life, it was obvious that these learning experiences helped me make decisions to guide my life as well as several opportunities to help others in times of crisis. The bleeding neighbor child or the drowning surfer will never know how much they owe to Scouting and the merit badges of first aid and lifesaving.



December 19, 1956.

### Harry Marriner-Eagle Scout-1956

#### TAFT

**5415**-Harrison "Harry" and Maribel Millard had two boys. Dave and his father were very active in the Boy Scouts and in my troop. Mr. Millard was an aeronautical engineer at Convair and Asst. Scoutmaster for Troop 4. He helped me attain several merit badges along my way to Eagle Scout. I remember one great evening Bar-B-Q at their home on July 22, 1955. Dave's grandmother lived on the west side of Electric between Midway and Forward in an old wooden clapboard two story home. Maribel was a professional opera singer and sang at the San Diego Starlight Opera in Balboa Park for many years. I remember seeing her in "The King and I."

**5427-Fran (and Janet) Blankenship** was a SD lifeguard. He and his wife were friends of my parents and we visited them occasionally.

**5433-(1952)-John (and Constance) Blankenship** was a well known San Diego physician. The couple was living at 5441 in 1951 but is not listed in the 1955 LJ Blue Book. John showed me an old surfing book written by

## OBITUARIES

### Dr. John Blankenship; had passion for surfing

Dr. John Blankenship, a native La Jolla whose devotion to medicine was overshadowed only by his passion for surfing and the ocean, died at home Sunday of cancer. He was 67.

A graduate of La Jolla High and San Diego State, Dr. Blankenship went on to become a top graduate of the first four-year class at UCLA Medical School in 1958. His love of medicine was inspired by his former father-in-law, Dr. Hall G. Holder, a well-known San Diego surgeon.

In the 1970s, Dr. Blankenship served on both the teaching and practicing staff at Mercy Hospital. He eventually retired from medicine in 1990, after a lengthy association with Mission Bay Hospital.

But from his youth to his final years, it was the ocean that was constant in Dr. Blankenship's life. As a teen-ager, he spent much of his youth in and around the water, working as a lifeguard on city beaches.

He was among pioneer surfers at Windansea beach. As a founding member of the Windansea Surf Club and as its first president, he participated in the construction of the Windansea shack, a local landmark.

In the 1950s, he was among the first to experiment with Styrofoam surfboards, continuing to design and construct his own boards for most of his life.

In his late 50s, Dr. Blankenship took up windsurfing, a sport he loved because it provided an alternative on days when the waves were too small to surf on a regular board.

In addition to water sports, he loved music and was a versatile musician who played four instruments. He loved jazz, Hawaiian and folk music and played often with local musicians.

Affectionately called "Sachmo" by his friends for his trumpet-playing style, Dr. Blankenship passed his affinity for music on to his children, two of whom now have professional musical careers.

He is survived by Joan, his wife of 23 years; two brothers, Bill, of La Jolla, and Powell, of San Diego; a sister, Hope, of San Diego, and eight children from his previous marriage, Stephanie, of Mountain View, John, of San Jose, Laurie, of Weimar, Robin, Kim and Daniel, of La Jolla, Theresa and Timothy, of San Diego, and five grandchildren. A daughter, Constance, died in 1979.

In keeping with Dr. Blankenship's love of the ocean, there will be a Polynesian paddling ceremony in his honor at 10 a.m. tomorrow at Tourmaline beach.

Donations to the California Surf Museum, 308 North Pacific St., Oceanside, CA. 92054 are suggested.

early surfer John "Doc" Ball. This is the man who motivated me to learn how to surf in the 1950s. Pictures of surfers from the 1930s and early 40s really impressed me. John's enthusiasm about surfing and his stories about being a pioneer surfer at Windansea got my adrenalin pumping. He was the first president of the Windansea Surf Club and participated in building the first surf shack there. During his youth he was a city lifeguard at various beaches. (William and Betty Blankenship lived at this address in 1951 when John and Constance lived at 5441 Taft)

**5565-Whyte-Mr. Whyte** was a Captain in the S.D. Fire Department. His son Tony was part of the Bird Rock group of friends composed of Ronnie Prast, Bob Atkinson and Gary Wickham. I went diving with Tony occasionally but he wasn't a close friend. Tony's younger brother John tagged along a lot, and was the same age as Bill Ghio.

## LINDA ROSA

**5441-Anthony and Josephine Ghio** lived here in 1952. Anthony was the manager of Anthony's Fish Grotto and part of the famous Ghio fish restaurant family.



### **BELLEVUE (old name was Hodgman)**

**5624**-Maurice Gross arrived to La Jolla in 1921 in a Model T Ford with his parents. His mother was the original Casa de Manana Hotel hostess and his father was a handyman. One of Maurice's jobs during high school was "bottle hopping" for the local dairy on the site of the current LJ High School football field. He graduated from there in 1929 and went into banking where he retired after 31 years in 1972 from The First National Trust and Savings Bank of San Diego at La Jolla. He and his wife Arlene bought their first house on Bellevue in 1943. Their son Donald Gross, who now lives in La Canada, was a couple years ahead of me in school so we didn't pal around together, but we did know each other.

**5630**-Hague-Charlie Hague was the neighborhood "wiseacre kid" who was always doing something to irritate the adults or other neighborhood kids. He was in the Boy Scouts with me and once had to be warned to "calm down" on a trip to Coyote Canyon, Borrego Springs. He was the kind of kid that would throw rocks at you or splash you with dirty water thinking it was all great fun. His father was a car mechanic and owned P.B. Automotive.

### **WAVERLY (old name was Burke)**

**5659**-Ken Palmer-I mentioned his Barber Shop in the business section.

**5676**-Lockwood-Victor Lockwood was not a close friend, but we were pals for a while since he lived close to the Krutzschs. I'm not sure what happened to him.

**5680**-August "Gus" and Caroline Krutzsch-His son Henry was one of my close friends and attended grade school through first year of college at UC



Riverside with me. Henry's father had a fertilizer plant in Murphy Canyon that grew to include a car junk yard called A-1 Metals. This was a male teenager's paradise since every part imaginable was available down there for your car. I occasionally got a free part, but Henry's mother was very strict about giving things away. I did buy a 1932/33 Ford Roadster from Henry that he'd built.

It had a 1948 Mercury engine and was a very fast car for its day. August went to Alaska at age 19 to make his fortune as a gold miner in the depression but made more money when he opened a bar to mine gold

from the miners. He needed no bouncer since he was a champion boxer in the Yukon. In 1964 Gus bought the rails for the entire Seward Peninsula railroad in Alaska to sell for scrap metal overseas. Henry earned his PhD and went on to become a prominent research biochemist with the National Institute of Health, authored 120 scientific papers, and was co-inventor on 14 patents for biologically active peptides. August passed on at age 72 in 1988 and Henry passed on in 2003 at age 61. Henry's brother Andy lives in Brawley and a step-brother Randal Wagner lived in San Diego.

**Up  
nt  
urge  
d Sales,  
e Ahead**

ter  
state transfers, post  
ted a steadily in-  
May, according to  
Economic Bulletin  
mic Research Bu-  
Dago.  
it was up 1.100  
nd topped May 1963  
900. Total employ-  
900 set a new rec-  
month. Unemploy-  
down 1,400 to 24,300  
ent of the civilian

ates Up Total  
u reported prelim-  
for June of 315,700  
oyed and 27,300 un-  
with the unemploy-  
ase credited mainly  
uates.  
is for May totaled  
an increase of 2.8  
May 1963. First  
showed a gain

rs in May  
red with  
ut were

als on  
ne 19

amill & Co. —  
that there are  
around which of  
y attractive ap-  
ibilities over the  
term and selec-  
ade without com-  
much from the  
oint.”  
chins & Co. Inc.  
reakout above the

**ROUTE SHOWN**—This map shows the route of the historic Seward Peninsula Railroad, built for prospectors during the Alaskan gold rush.

er of A-1 Metals Corp. on Murphy Canyon Road, has bought the Seward Peninsula Railroad from the state of Alaska and is now in the Far North dismantling as much of the historic line as he can before cold weather and the end of navigation closes off work for this year.

**Bar Opened**

Krutzsch is a 1934 graduate of Hoover High School. He went to Alaska to mine for gold during the hard days of the depression.

After living on beans and pancakes for a year, he gave up dirt mining and opened a bar in Fairbanks, where it was much easier, as he says, “mining gold from the miners’ pockets.”

He and his wife, Caroline, have operated the scrap metal business here for the past eight years.

The Seward Peninsula Railroad dates from the days of the Alaska gold rush and is one of the few, if not the only railroad, to be designated as a public highway.

**Started in 1900**

This was done by the Territory of Alaska some years ago after regular trains had ceased running along the line, making it available for use by anyone who wanted to take the tires off their trucks and use the tracks as a public road.

Roads are few and far between in Alaska.

Originally known as the Wild Goose, this 85-mile-long road was started by Charles D. Lane, a resident of Nome and president of the Wild Goose Mining & Trading Company. Construction was started in 1900.

**Ship Purchased**

Lane bought a ship and loaded it full of rails, ties, switches, spikes, locomotives, cars and other equipment for his project.

The line was laid over spongy Arctic tundra, which slowed construction and meant that a flowing of boards had to be laid to keep ties and rails from

**STOCK COMMENT**

**Earnings Fail To Build Up Issue Prices**

NEW YORK (AP) — Stock market comment today included:

W. E. Hutton & Co. — “The excellent first half earnings reports are not finding quick reaction in stock prices except a minority of cases where they differ materially from estimates. A further limiting factor at the moment is the historical pattern which has prevailed in presidential election campaigns regardless of the candidate.”

**Scrap Dealer Buys, Wrecks Railroad**

A San Diego scrap metal dealer and one-time Alaskan gold prospector is now the hard working owner—and wrecker—of a railroad in Alaska.

August (Gus) Krutzsch, owner of A-1 Metals Corp. on Murphy Canyon Road, has bought the Seward Peninsula Railroad from the state of Alaska and is now in the Far North dismantling as much of the historic line as he can before cold weather and the end of navigation closes off work for this year.

**Bar Opened**

Krutzsch is a 1934 graduate of Hoover High School. He went to Alaska to mine for gold during the hard days of the depression.

After living on beans and pancakes for a year, he gave up dirt mining and opened a bar in Fairbanks, where it was much easier, as he says, “mining gold from the miners’ pockets.”

He and his wife, Caroline, have operated the scrap metal business here for the past eight years.

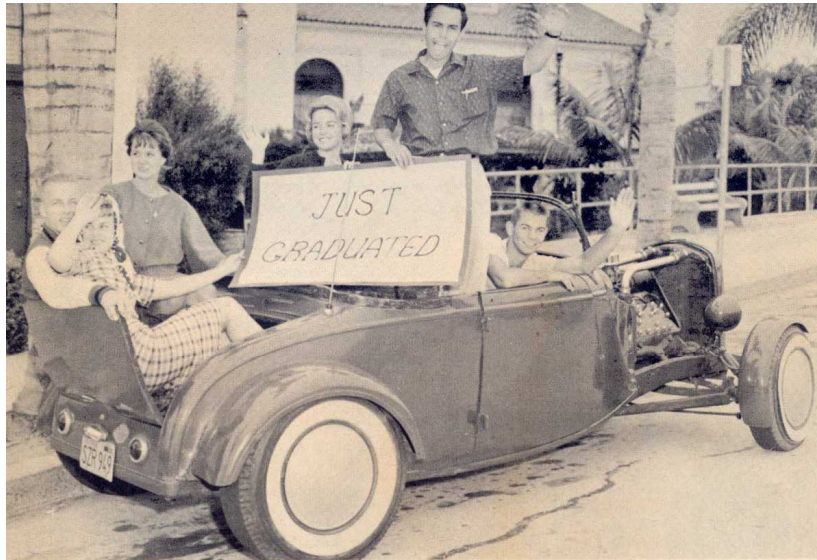
**15 Miles Taken Up**

“We didn’t pay much for it,” says Mrs. Kreutsch, “but we’ve already invested 10 times the purchase price in trucks, tractors, tires and other equipment needed to take up the rails and drag them over the tundra.”

The metal will be loaded on a ship at Nome and delivered to buyers on the West Coast.

Krutzsch has taken up 15 miles of track, so far.

“Gus” Krutzsch buys Seward Peninsula railroad in 1964 for scrap value.



**WE'RE OFF** — Six Seniors pile into Harry Marriner's fire-engine red monster and prepare to head off into the cold, cruel world. The are (left to right): John Bohn, Roxie Ferguson, Sharron Moore, Judy Millar, Dave Newton and Harry Marriner.

### Harry's 1932/33 Ford Hot Rod-1960 at LHS

**5764** -Denham-Frank Denham was the son of Rev. Denham. They were the only people I knew with a swimming pool in their backyard. The scouts had many fun meetings there. Frank was in my patrol when I was Patrol Leader and participated in a cleanup campaign I designed for the business area of LJ Blvd between Colima and Midway streets for a Community Service merit badge.

**East Side 5400 block LJ Blvd. during Nov. 1955 Cleanup Campaign-**

**L to R: Frank Denham, John Robinson, Harry Marriner. Note liquor store and Texaco Gas Station on the corner and Ed Fackler Jr. Real Estate on the right at 5457.**



**5819**-Ernie and Marion Kipp-Mrs. Kipp was Bird Rock School secretary so all the kids knew her. Her son became a close friend of mine and we had many adventures together in a dune buggy we bought together and explored the upper part of Baja California.



**Jim Kipp 1952**



**Our Dune Buggy at Ocotillo Wells 1962**

It was always a special treat to play Jim’s pinball machine that was located in his front room. We were friends from grade school through college and still keep in touch with each other. Jim retired as a major in the Air Force and moved to Prescott, AZ. Jim’s father was an Electrical Engineer with SD Gas & Electric and always impressed me with his knowledge of electricity and projects around his house. He allowed us to make rockets in his garage that we set off at various locations. One accidentally exploded on the beach near Scripps Pier and shook all the windows at the Institute there. Classmate Fritz Bien, whose father worked at Scripps as a physicist, was left “holding the bag” as Jim and I made a fast bee-line for Jim’s yellow 1951 Chevy convertible. Jim reminisces: “Henry Krutzsch and I spent a lot of time at Bird Rock. Sure wish he was still with us to reminisce about the ‘good old days.’ I remember one time we got a big box of old vacuum tubes from a TV repair shop on La Jolla Blvd. and threw them into the water just north of Bird Rock. They made great targets for our BB guns. We also made pipes from the bamboo that grew on the vacant lots above Bird Rock. For tobacco we used cigarette butts we found in the street gutters. It tasted terrible. Probably what turned me off from ever smoking.”

Pam Petersen (Allison), once called the “Martha Stewart of La Jolla” who became a famous model, lived very close to Jim.



**5936**-Louis Burgener had a well known construction company who created Clairemont with Carlos Tavares. Louis lived here in 1950 but the only thing I remember about him was a son named Bruce if I remember correctly.

**FORWARD.** Valerie Forward is the daughter of Lt. Col. Fletcher Carry Forward who was born in 1903 in a house above The Caves and Sunny Jim Cave Store in La Jolla. She told me that Forward Street was named after her family that descended from John F. Forward Sr. who came to San Diego in 1887 from Pennsylvania and founded the Union Title Insurance & Trust Co. compiling a set of records covering all property in San Diego County, which at that time included Imperial County. John was the County Recorder around 1900. His grandson James D. Forward was instrumental in the transfer of the company's extensive collection of early San Diego photographs, books, maps and artifacts to the San Diego Historical Society in 1979. John Forward Sr. was Fletcher's uncle.

**504**-Sherman-Susie Sherman was a nice quiet girl who formed part of a grade school trio including Helen Wiley and Patty Bagarus. They used to corner a couple of us boys and invent games to play. The house, located on the NE corner of Forward and Electric, was built by Susie's parents in 1943 and was sold in 2009. I still keep in touch with Susie who worked as a Communication Technician and now owns and lives on Rolling Oaks Ranch in Caliente, California with her husband Nyles Paris, dogs and horses.



**BEAUMONT (old name was Dodge)**

**5383**-Anderson-I already mentioned the Anderson Nursery. The Andersons lived at the same location on the SE corner of Colima and Beaumont in one of the older homes in the area that must have been built in the 1920s or 30s.

**5403**-Freeman and Donna D'Vincent-Freeman was a Design Engineer for Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Company. The D'Vincents lived in one of the oldest homes in the neighborhood at the NE corner of Colima and Beaumont.



The Victorian style farmhouse was built around 1905. Freeman's father Clarence was a painter and bought the house with his bride in 1928 from the original owners. Freeman was raised in this home that had a beach cobble stone chimney. Part of the outside porch wall was also made from local Bird Rock beach stones. The white two story house was designed by the architect Wheelan and has beautiful hardwood floors. The house is surrounded by ancient palm trees and has a carriage house in the back.

Rumor has it that the home was built for a family who took in foster children for the county and that the closets in the 10 bedrooms were originally rooms for baby cribs. Restoration was begun in 1989 by Jes and

Joanie Selby who purchased the home from the D'Vincent's. When Freeman showed me a redwood and balsa long board (about 11 ft long?) surfboard that he made in his woodworking shop. I tried to buy it from him since he hadn't surfed since the 1940s, but he said it weighed too much compared to the newer balsa boards and that I should look for a lighter one. He told me about carrying it down to Gunpoint and riding the surf there. The 3 D'Vincent girls (Susan, Krista and Cindy) were all cute and intelligent. Their mother was a Quaker and had religious beliefs different from other mothers in the area. One day my father saw that I'd climbed to the top a pine tree at the corner of their lot and yelled at me to get down. I thought I swore under my breath, but my Dad heard me and paddled my butt for swearing. I had fun exploring the old carriage house filled with "antiques" that smelled very musty and moldy. I remember

Susan running when she was Star, her Collie was in panic and neighborhood to was finally blocks away on from Colima. Jolla for a long married and liquor store on near Girard.



away from home very young with dog. Her mother asked the entire look for her. She located a few LJ Blvd. not far Susan lived in La time after she owned a gourmet Torrey Pines Road

**Dixie Bonham, Bob Enns and Bat Ray 1962.  
Note D'Vincent house in background.**

**5414**-Ralph Mayfield-The Mayfields lived next door to us. Ralph was a Major in the Army in 1948. His daughter Marta was my sister's age and



**Marta Mayfield, Carla Marriner, Patricia Svoboda c. 1951**

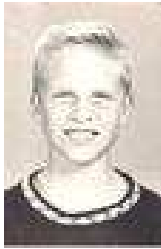
they played together until the Mayfields moved away and the house was sold to the Selbys who had three boys: Mike, David and ?, all a few years younger than me. Mike Selby was the guy who convinced me that Windansea was a great place to go mat-surfing. I didn't have a regular canvas covered surf mat so stuffed an inner tube into a gunny sack and paddled out with Mike without fins to the take off point on a medium-sized day. I managed to take off and get creamed but learned a little bit about waves at that special beach that day.



**2008 MLS listing for the old Selby home was \$1,595,876**

**5419-** Fred Whitney-owned this house in 1948. His son Mike Whitney was a chunky kid and big for his age. He could be a bit obnoxious at times. We played together as kids, but the family sold the 5419 house to Bob Morse and they moved to 5845 Beaumont in 1951/52. Mike graduated from LJHS in 1961 and married Anne Neumann (LJHS 1964), a classmate of Susie and my sister, who was raised at 5444 Beaumont. He is now deceased (Thanks to Susie Morse reminding me of Mike and Ann!).

**5419-**Robert “Bob” Morse (and Jane) had lived in La Jolla from 1936 when Bob got a job with Consolidated Vultee Aircraft



Corporation. Tom, Bob’s son, is my age and Susie, Tom’s sister, is my sister’s age. We played touch football in their front yard after they moved to Bird Rock in 1951 from 327 Rosemont (phone G54578), but then they moved to Summit NJ since Bob worked



as an Administrative Assistant to a V.P. of Consolidated Vultee, later Convair and finally General Dynamics. Fleet Nelson, grandson of Major Fleet, was a classmate of mine. The Morse’s move to New Jersey was temporary to assist with the purchase of parts for the then secret Atlas missile project. Once Bob took Tom and me to a Secret screening of the Convair Sea Dart. I told about it in school the next day and got scolded by Tom. Tom says “We moved to New Jersey after 4th grade was out at Bird Rock Elem in June 1952 and when we returned in Feb 1956, another family, husband and wife with no kids, was living in 5425. We had rented out our house on Beaumont while we were in NJ and could not get back in until the summer of '56, so we lived in a rental at 5656 Beaumont from Feb to June '56.” Tom graduated from LJHS with me in 1960 and we had our first taste of vodka together one night in his parents’ green 1952(?) four door Ford. Actually, Tom had more than a taste and tasted it going down and also coming up later. Tom had the best seat in Miss Lorna Shade’s Latin class. When the light was just right he could see into the girls’ gym locker room from his desk. Bob was very community oriented and raked the leaves in front of his house every day as a role model for other neighbors, but he had a violent temper and when he got mad he screamed at the top of his lungs. I could easily hear him from across the street in my bedroom more than once. Tom went to UC Riverside for the first year of college with me, then joined the police dept. and eventually retired as a bank security supervisor. Susie says “I have the title papers



where my parents bought 5419 Beaumont from Frederick C Whitney and Nancy Watson Whitney and paid \$14,700 in 1951. They (the Whitneys) must have carried the note and it was a 15 year mortgage. It was bought July 16, 1951 and paid in full July 13, 1966. Probably the Whitney's moved to 5845 Beaumont, which would have been 'upper Hermosa' and a 'step up' from Bird Rock. Mike Whitney came back to the house after we had occupied it, slit a screen in the back bedroom and then slip the throat of a giant panda that belonged to my brother. I'm not sure how my parents knew it was Mike Whitney but it makes sense (that he resented leaving his familiar home and 'acted out.')

Susie and Tom sold the Beaumont house in 2007 before home prices fell. Tom presently lives in Scappoose, Oregon and claims to be distantly related to Jesse James on his mother's side. Susie went into nursing and lives in Vista, CA. Tom's first cousin was Dave Calloway (LJHS class of 1966), now deceased, who was a commercial fisherman and son of Wm. Clayton Calloway, a LJHS graduate from the 1930s.

**5422-**Scotty Glasgow was a La Jolla Fireman and caused quite a commotion in the neighborhood when he arrived home one day with the first Ford Thunderbird 1955 in the neighborhood. He took me for a ride in it shortly after he brought it home. It was a turquoise blue convertible and was the only classy sports car in our area.

**5425-**Ellis James "Nick" Carter and Rosemary-Nick was the manager of the Aetna Insurance Company Office in La Jolla and built their home on Beaumont about 1945-46. They had two daughters named Rosemary Jr. and Pamela. Little Rosemary was my age, born in 1943 and her younger sister Pam was 4 years younger, born about 1947 (now lives in Alberta, Canada-never married). The Carters moved back to their home in St. John's Newfoundland in 1949 after Nick died of a sudden heart attack at

age 36 after just 7 years of marriage. "Little" Rosemary and her husband Ed Murphy, who was in the grocery business, still



**Rosemary in Stella Maris uniform about 1948**



live there. Nick used to take us beach walking and would look at a big wave at Windansea then say “Look at that penny whomper!” It must have been a Canadian saying. Rosemary remembers that she and I opened a lemonade stand in front of their home on a hot summer day to make some money. Every ½ hour we’d go back in Rosemary’s house and ask her

**Lemonade Stand 1949.  
Rosemary and Harry’s first Business  
and their first customer.**

mother to make some more lemonade. Her mother said “Wow, you must really be making lots of money selling all that lemonade.” We finally had to admit that we hadn’t sold any and were drinking it all.



**Rosemary at Carter home-5425 Beaumont c. 1946**



**Carter home-5425 Beaumont c. 1948-Rosemary Jr.  
Rosemary Sr. with Pamela, and Nick.**

**5425**-Wally and Margaret Lyon. Wally and his brother owned the Lyon Rural Electrical manufacturing company that made electrical equipment for the poultry industry. Margaret was born and raised in San Diego and after high school worked at Marston's Dept. Store on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., SD, as Hamilton Marston's secretary. She died in 1998 at age 85. The family moved to 5425 in 1951 from Mission Beach and then sold to the Edmonds in 1956 and moved to La Jolla Shores. Their son Ken remembers that his grandmother always lived with the family but was independent. She didn't drive so always took the bus downtown to Horton Plaza. On the return trip she insisted on waiting for the only R-Route bus to La Jolla that said "La Jolla Shores" since she thought that was the only bus that would take her to her bus stop at LJ Blvd and Colima where the La Jolla Shores Motel was located. Ken Lyon was an early playmate of mine and we went to school together through high school. He went into the USAF and retired as a Colonel. After retirement he moved from Williamsburg, Virginia to San Rafael, CA. to be closer to his grandchildren.



**5425**-The Edmonds, then Joseph "Mac" McLean and Eunice lived in this house after the Lyons. Tom and Susie Morse remember many long ping pong games with Spencer Edmonds and jumping from the swing in Spencer's back yard.

**5429?** (c. 1948)-Reed-Barbara and Bonnie Reed were close neighbors and playmates during the late 1940s. They were living on Beaumont in 1948. One day we formed a kid's marching band. I played a bugle, my sister marched and Barbara held the flag as we moved through the neighborhood. The family moved away about 1951 and I lost track of them. By chance, my sister Carla ran into Bonnie judging a Percheron horse show in Paso Robles, California a few years ago.

**5429**-The Furth family lived here in the early 1950s and may have built the house, but I can't remember the years exactly. They had a son a couple years younger than me, but they moved away and William Myers, owner of The Village Apothecary, bought the house sometime in the mid 1950s. He had a son Billy who eventually moved away with his mother when

William divorced and married classmate Barry Gardner-Smith's mother. They moved to a new home constructed on Bellevue Place, an extension of Bellevue Ave. south of Colima St. Barry was a good friend who suffered from epilepsy. Many times I had to take care of him and wait until he came out of his seizures. We went to summer school together in Guadalajara, Mexico in 1961 and it was a real chore sometimes dealing with his affliction. Barry had a photographic memory of everything dealing with WWII and could quote battle details and statistics at will. "Old Mac" lived next door to them and enjoyed showing us pictures of a circus he once owned and places he had lived before moving to LJ.

**5439-** Knox Harris was one of the first of the San Diego Lifeguard Service lifeguards, joining in 1941, in the same year the service was formed. He and his wife Noel were both 100% beach people....I almost said "beach bums" ... but he was really a true "waterman" who previously lived at 635 Westbourne. He could skin dive to 60 feet and rescued over 1,000 people

**Knox Harris; lifeguard, made 1,000 rescues**

By JACK WILLIAMS  
Staff Writer

Knox Harris, who immersed himself in the ocean as a youth to treat a debilitating bone disease and later saved swimmers' lives as a pioneering San Diego County lifeguard, died Saturday of cardiac arrest at his home north of Escondido.

Mr. Harris, 71, joined the just-formed San Diego Lifeguard Service in 1941, scoffing at those who questioned his diminutive stature.

"In deep water, it makes no difference," he said.

And he meant business, skin diving to depths of 60 feet, humbling more experienced lifeguards in run-swim-run competitions and rescuing an estimated 1,000 people during a career that spanned 27 years.

"He was one of the most vigilant and ocean-savvy lifeguards on the Pacific coast," recalled former lifeguard John Elwell of Coronado.


Mr. Harris, a native of Cheyenne, Wyo., was afflicted with osteomyelitis as an infant, severely impairing the use of his knees and shoulders. As a boy, he moved with his family to La Jolla, where he waded and swam in the sea in hopes of strengthening his weakened, atrophy-prone body.

The disease, which prevented him from attending school in his early years, eventually went into remission when he was a teen-ager. His commitment to the ocean lasted a lifetime.

"Every regular surfer and beachgoer was acquainted with him from Del Mar to La Jolla," remembered Elwell.

At Del Mar, Mr. Harris met a number of celebrities who turned the beach into their families' personal playgrounds during the summer horse-racing season. He counted Desi Arnaz and Pat O'Brien among his friends.

He called the sea "his lady," Elwell recalled, and excelled as a skin diver, scuba diver and boatman, living for awhile on a sailboat at the San Diego Yacht Club.



FILE PHOTO

**Knox Harris: A "vigilant and ocean-savvy" lifeguard.**

Mr. Harris, called one of the last of the "beach boy" lifeguards, qualified for lifeguard duty in 1941, the year the county lifeguard service was initiated to safeguard the waterfront from Carlsbad to Del Mar and at Imperial Beach.

The following year, he began patrolling Del Mar's two miles of beach with "a whistle, a phone, a rescue 'can' and a whole lot of luck," he told a reporter 10 years ago. (The can was a metal cylinder with a cone taper at each end).

As a young man, Mr. Harris boasted what lifeguards called an "18 kick" — the ability to propel himself with 18 kicks for every arm stroke cycle.

In 1968, Mr. Harris was forced to retire from the lifeguard service after injuring an Achilles tendon during a rescue.

"I wouldn't trade the lifeguarding days for all the money in the world," he said after his retirement.

Mr. Harris is survived by Darlene, his wife of 15 years; daughter, Holly Chernis, of Bloomington, Minn.; and son, Ki, of Anaheim.

Mr. Harris was cremated, and his ashes will be scattered at sea in a private service.

during his 27 year career until he cut an Achilles tendon during a rescue and was forced to retire. Knox and his wife Noel were always throwing a BBQ or a Luau in their large overgrown yard for his beach buddies with loud music and wild partying, but my parents or other neighbors were never invited....they just gossiped about them and looked over the alley fence to watch Knox's drunk wife doing the Hula topless. Their small kids, Holly and Ki, were many years younger than me and were usually neglected by their parents. They could frequently be seen naked and

unattended in the middle of Beaumont. Holly lived in Bloomington, Minn. And Ki lived in Anaheim at the time of their father's death at age 71.

**5444**-Arnold and Elaine Neumann-They had sons Greg, Danny and a daughter named Ann (possibly more kids). They built a nice pool in their backyard but I never swam in it. On a visit to La Jolla in the 1980s. Susie Morse Pfaff says "Annie Neumann did marry and divorce Mike Whitney. Mike died just a few years ago. He lived in Oceanside. I think that Gregg Neumann (maybe only one "g") died of AIDS but I'm not sure."

**5450**-Bert and Virginia Wilbur-Bert was like a second father to me. He learned many things about survival and living in isolated areas from his days as a cowboy in New Mexico. He had a genuine liking for young people as did his wife. Virginia was a lab technician at Scripps Clinic in her

younger days and lived with Bert at 484 Prospect before moving to Bird Rock and before she became Den Mother to our Cub Scout pack and was president of the Bird Rock Elementary PTA. Our Bird Rock scout group was Pack 4 and met for a while west of LJ Blvd. near Carla Way, not far from where Mike Johnson used to live. I can't remember our den mother but, I remember making and painting some plaster of Paris cherries for my Mom to hang in the kitchen, but can't remember much more about early den activities. Later Mrs. Wilbur (that dear lady) took us under her wing on Beaumont St. I was in Pack No. 4 from 10/31/52 to 10/31/53. James W. Ball was Cub master while

TAKEN BY Harry Morrison

E Thursday, February 17, 1955 La Jolla Journal—3

AY



Mrs. Bertrand Wilbur, Life Membership chairman of the Bird Rock Elementary School P.-T.A. presents Mrs. Herman Haupt with a Life Membership Pin at the February 12th. Founder's Day meeting.

Mrs. Herman Haupt was honored by the Bird Rock Elementary School P.-T.A. February 12th at the Founder's Day Meeting of the P.-T.A. She was awarded the Honorary Life Membership for 1955. She was chosen by the Life Membership committee for her outstanding service to youth in the community.

Mrs. Haupt is from Pueblo, Colorado, but spent part of her childhood in Seattle, Washington, later moving to Los Angeles where she graduated from U.C.L.A., receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Home Economics. She was active in the Gold Shield Women's Honorary Society and an officer in her sorority Alpha Delta Pi.

Before coming to San Diego she was active in Church, P.-T.A., the D.A.R., the Los Angeles Chapter of Daughters of American Colonists, and led a Brownie troop.

Since residing in La Jolla she has taught Sunday School at St. James Episcopal Church, has been a Brownie troop leader for 3½ years, 2nd. vice president of the Lamplighters, active in the March of Dimes and the Community Chest campaigns; vice-president of the North Shores Council P.-T.A., and for the past four years a constantly dependable, hard working member of the Bird Rock P.-T.A. Board where she served as Secretary, President, Parliamentarian and Publicity Chairman.

Dan O. Henry was the regional Scout Executive.

## 'You give a great gift of reading' School salutes 100-year-old volunteer

By Pat Kumpan

Sabre Springs resident Bertrand "Bert" Wilbur didn't know what all the fuss was about Friday at Morning Creek Elementary School, but students, teachers and parents did, as everyone on campus warmed the blustery day with birthday wishes and thanks to a revered volunteer, who turns 100 on Saturday.

In a sea of young, exuberant faces, Wilbur looked spry and humble during a schoolwide birthday celebration that caught him completely off guard.

Granddaughter Jenny Hardison and daughter-in-law Suzy Wilbur had hinted to Wilbur that the school wanted to do something for him, but the from-the-heart approach touched the almost-centurion so much he was awestruck.

"It's overwhelming, isn't it?" he said to his daughter-in-law.

Almost 700 Morning Creek Elementary students offered birthday wishes and found ways to thank Wilbur for helping them become bet-

ter readers during one-on-one mentoring sessions. To many, Wilbur is a familiar sight as he walks two blocks to school and cleans trash along the way with one ambition — to help children read.

A choral group sang "Little Joe the Wrangler" to help reminisce about Wilbur's days as a ranch worker in New Mexico during the 1930s.

Class representatives brought handmade cards and other presents during the birthday parade, after other students read poems and presented a school shirt, drawings and a special quilt that said "100% volunteer."

"You give our students a great gift of reading," said principal Leslie Granger, who thanked "Mr. Wilbur" for the hours he spends helping students improve their reading skills on Tuesdays and Thursdays. "We're so excited about Tuesdays and Thursdays. It's a great break in our day when you stop (in the office) to tell us stories (about yourself)."

"Rain or shine, it doesn't make a difference. He (Wilbur) still comes to

be with the students. He's a credit to all the seniors out there," said Dr. Robert Reeves, superintendent of Poway Unified School District, who gave Wilbur a handheld school bell in appreciation for his continued efforts as a volunteer at Morning Creek.

Wilbur rang the bell triumphantly, holding it high enough for all seated students to see.

"He went out of his way to volunteer time for us," said student Jolee Farias, but third-grader Jamie Drubich said it was something more specific. "He explains things to us — word by word — and he takes his time."

Student Brett Heimpel said he would always be thankful to Wilbur for teaching him to be a faster reader and although Heimpel has moved on to fifth grade, "Mr. Wilbur" will be one of those people who most influenced him.

"I don't know where he gets his energy," said his granddaughter, Jennifer Hardison. "He told me there were plenty of other people who deserved the attention more than he. He doesn't realize how many lives he's touched."

After the children began heading back to classrooms, Wilbur told the *Poway News Chieftain*, "It was overwhelming and very surprising. I can't find the words to describe it." When asked if the celebration and children's gifts and good wishes made an indelible impact, Wilbur said, "Oh, yes."

Wilbur treats the milestone of becoming a centurion like "no big deal," because he still has his health, the love of his family, children to help read to at Morning Creek Elementary School and enough time left over for being a Scouting committee member to Troop 625.

Wilbur was born April 10, 1889 in Sitka, Alaska where his father was a Presbyterian missionary physician to the Tlingit Indians. When the Wilbur family returned to Philadelphia, Pa., young Bert became one of the first members of Boy Scouting.

After moving to La Jolla with his family, Wilbur joined the oldest Troop west of the Mississippi — Troop 4. Today, he lends his Scouting experience as a committee member for Troop 625 in the Sabre Springs area.

In 1938, Wilbur married his love, Virginia Wyatt in La Jolla. She later died in 1992, but the Wilbur family continues on with five children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Wilbur continues to attend La Jolla Presbyterian Church, where he has been a congregant for the past 60 years, teaching Bible study and leadership classes.



Clutching his birthday gifts, 'Bert' Wilbur rings in the start of his 100th year during Morning Creek Elementary School ceremonies.

Staff photo by Larry Gagnon

Bert was Scoutmaster for our Boy Scout Troop 4 for many years and was an idol for hundreds of children. Under the guidance of Bert I earned my Eagle Scout Award. Bert and Virginia had 2 sons and 3 daughters, but always had someone living in their home that needed shelter. While I was still in high school they moved to Beryl St. in Pacific Beach. In 1999 at 100 years of age Bert was still helping grade school children learn to read in a volunteer program. On May



16, 1955 their son Bob was diagnosed with osteomyelitis and rushed to the hospital. He was in serious condition, but finally recovered and went back to his first Boy Scout meeting on August 10 1955. Bob and I grew up together and went diving at Gun Point one super cold winter day

without wetsuits until we started shivering and came out with blue lips. We wore sweatshirts in the water thinking they would keep us warm. We had no idea there was anything called hypothermia. Our only catch that day was a large limpet that we fried and tried to eat. Bob and I attended the same schools from grade school through the first year of college. Bob married his 8<sup>th</sup> grade sweetheart Betsy Riggs, who lived in the middle of the east side of the 5600 block of Electric. They are still married and have several children. Bob was a professor of Real Estate at SD State University. Betsy was the first girl I ever invited out for a date, but she declined and asked me instead to introduce her to my friend Bob. Bob and I went camping and hiking together countless times, made the first skateboards in the neighborhood out of one roller skate and a flat piece of wood, and also made the first go-carts in the neighborhood out of plywood and lawnmower engines until Bob got a ticket for driving without a license. Ralph Dam, a 400 block Midway St. neighbor, sold me the Clinton 1.5 hp lawnmower engine to power my go-cart.

**5548-Nebel-Thau-** Susan Nebel-Thau, LHS class of 1960 died in July 2008. Susan lived on Beaumont about 1 ½ blocks from me from early childhood until HS graduation in 1960. I remember her as a super-nice neighbor friend who rang our doorbell every year in her Brownie or Girl Scout uniform, selling cookies. It was always nice to see her again at the class reunions. Her mother and mine worked many years together in the PTA.



**5836-**Willi Emrich. Pacific Metal Craft. His son John was a close friend during high school and went on to get his medical degree. Many years ago he started a rural medical clinic for Chiapas, Mexico Indians near Palenque, but still owns a house on Linda Rosa in Bird Rock.

### **ELECTRIC AVENUE (now LA JOLLA HERMOSA)**

5418-Hart-Mr. Hart was a SD City Electrician. His daughter Carol Hart was a pretty girl about the age of my sister, but wasn't a close friend of mine.



**5426-**Prast-Ronnie Prast was one of my surfing buddies and part of our Tiburones skin diving club composed of Gary Wickham, John Warren, Bob Atkinson, Tony Whyte,

Bob Wilbur and Bob Enns. In 1958 we carved "Tiburones" into the east side of Bird Rock, but neighbors didn't appreciate it and quickly "erased" it. We shared in many neighborhood kid adventures. Ron married and moved to Oregon where he had a dairy farm for a long time and was also a fireman. He now works for Tillamook Cheese in Tillamook Oregon.

**5448**-Charles McEuen was my 7<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher and surprised me once during an algebra exam by snatching a test off my desk. I thought he had given the signal to start the test so I was concentrating deeply when he came over. It was very embarrassing and an important test. I ended up with a C grade for that semester and McEuen comment on my report card was "I think Harry is Loafing." "Coach" McEuen also was a football coach and was seen at all the games.



**5550**-McNaught-Davis. Mr. McNaught-Davis was a real estate salesman who worked the Glazebrook-Nelson Company office on LJ Blvd in central Bird Rock as mentioned earlier. His daughter Jan was a close childhood friend for many years. Jan once invited me to a birthday party when we were in about the 4<sup>th</sup> grade and we played "Spin the Bottle." That's the first time a girl kissed me. Jan became a professional nurse and now lives in Oceanside.



**5623**-Wiley- Helen Wiley was one of my earliest childhood playmates along with Susie Sherman and Patti Bagarus. I lost track of Helen for many years, but a few years I located her on Facebook and have kept up with her activities in Anza, CA. Sharon Wiley, Helen's older sister, went around saying she was a Hawaiian princess and that the Wiley's were not her real parents. Ron Wiley, Helen's older brother, was a very good skin diver and started diving Bird Rock in the late 1940s. Gary Wickham says that he saw what may have been a 20 pound lobster in Ron's car one day that came from Bird Rock.

I believe that Helen's friend Patti Bagarus lived in the 5500 or 5600 block of Beaumont in 1952 and may have grown to be a very close friend later in life, but she and her family moved away and I was never able to locate her





again. Patti's mother was an actress in her younger days but I never knew her stage name.

**5624-McLeod-Dan** McLeod grew up in Bird Rock and was my 11<sup>th</sup> grade

high school English teacher. He was a tall, lanky, likeable man with large glasses. His easy rapport with the kids gained him respect and is one of those teachers who leave a lasting impression on those who have been taught by him.

**'Lanky Dan' Measures 6'5"**

Mr. Dan McLeod, La Jolla's long-limbed, bespectacled English teacher, was 6'5" when he last measured himself. He says he hasn't dared to since.

He has taught English at La Jolla for three years, and is one of our few teachers that graduated from here.

"I must like it here," he said, "or else I wouldn't have come back." He added the only thing he dislikes about the students is that they aren't as well organized as he is.

Mr. McLeod has taught at two other schools — San Diego State and Oakland High School.

"Can't win them all, sometimes can't win any," said Mr. McLeod, reflecting on his school experiences in sports. In college he was on the swimming and track teams. "But," he confessed, "it was hard to tell which I did worse at, I did so badly at both."

Mr. McLeod develops his powers of concentration by correcting all of his papers at the school library. But because the library is so "maddening" it is hard to get any work done. He classifies this as one of his hobbies, along with bicycling

and tennis. Asked why he decided to be a teacher. Mr. McLeod replied, "I can't even remember deciding. It was just inevitable."



**MR. McLEOD**

**May 13, 1959 LJHS  
HiTide Newspaper**

Recently I re-established contact with him after 50 years. He went to

Japan on a Fulbright Scholarship to teach English and now feels like Japan is a second home. Dan says: "I worked at Jamar restaurant for two years ('48 and '49) first as a dish washer and salad boy, and then as a bus boy. Before that I worked at Top of the Cove on Prospect, but Jamar was a much better place to work. And during the Summers (2 or 3 of them) I pumped gas and did lube jobs at Fred Stewart's while he took a



vacation. I was pretty much a full time worker while at LJHS and when I was released from there to go to become a carpenter's apprentice and, for a semester, attend SDSU. In 1950 I transferred to Pomona College, the arch rival of Harry Crosby's Occidental--we called it "accidental". My first wife, Mary Gleason, lived in her father's real estate office on the 5600 block of La Jolla Blvd. We were married for over 40 years. She died of cancer in the late 90's and, being unsuited to live singly (I was a child groom) I married Sumi Adachi, a Japanese woman, who has been very successful in international relations with Japan. I met her through our daughters when they were in nursery school and moved her from Del Mar to La Jolla in 1998."

And Dan continues: "I'm embroiled in a graduate computer statistics course, and haven't been much good at thinking about the old Bird Rock days. About Dad's construction company; my guess is that it was only a dream. My father, a retired carpenter, wanted to have his own construction company, but it never happened. I dropped out of LJHS after doing a stretch as a carpenter's apprentice. The idea was that my dad and I would have a construction company. But I let him down here. You see, my dad never went to school--any school. He needed me to run the office part of the business because I could read. But I was also needed to help on the real job from time to time. I did terribly as a carpenter and decided in '49 (I think) to go to college instead. So the company never happened, and my dad and I built an apartment house in Mission Beach that he lived on (not in) until he died in his nineties--still living in Bird Rock. We'd moved there from North Park right after WW2.

One other memory... My best friends in Bird Rock were Jim Houser who lived two doors down from me, and Don Collins who lived on the 5600 block of Waverly. We were all in the same LJHS class ('50). I introduced them both to the gastronomic glory of Bird Rock low tides--a condition that Japanese people returning from internment introduced me to. I would go down there with a tire iron and pry abalone off rocks. Take them home, and after minimal pounding, grind them up for abalone burgers--pretty much my favorite lunch from the 9th grade on. I also liked raw sea urchin (uni), but was never able to interest Don or Jim--both dead now. By the time you were in high school the abalone had to be dived for along with the lobsters. We three had an inflatable life raft (war surplus) and did a bit of this in our junior year. It was easier to steal lobsters from the traps left by others (probably professionals) than dive for them, but we did find abalone in fairly shallow water. Abalone and lobsters are all long gone,

just as those days. Sigh.

About me and Japan. After that first Fulbright, I picked up two more. Worked at Hokkaido, Kyushu, and Tokyo universities on my sabbaticals from San Diego State. Retired in '98 at 65. Presently enrolled in the MS program in gerontology (I'm not only an old man, I'm soon to be a professional old man), writing a column on what it's like getting old for a Japanese newspaper, and a book about what the aging population in Japan can tell us about the aging population here. They're the oldest population in the world, but in about 20 years the U.S. will be about where they are now in this regard. I now live in La Jolla and won't move again until my ashes are strewn at sea."

Ex-neighbor Gary Wickham also remembers Dan: "I can remember Dan when he was a student at San Diego State; he lived three doors south of us, tall and lanky with oversized black rimmed glasses. Didn't have much contact with him, he was always coming and going, but we always said hi to one another."

**5626**-Fred Ruiz-Was a Spanish teacher to many at LJ High School for many years. He was an institution there, but I didn't know him personally. Gary Wickham comments that "There was another teacher that lived two doors south of us, his name was Fred Ruiz, he was a Spanish/English teacher at La Jolla High, really nice man, and his wife would make tamales at Christmas and give them to all the neighbors."



**5648**-Edward "Ed" Rees-Ed was a Safeway meat-cutter and Past-Master of the La Jolla Masonic Lodge who married the widowed mother of Gary Wickham in 1946 after Gary's father died during WWII. They moved to Bird Rock in 1947. Gary was one of my closest Bird Rock friends and has helped me add details to this article that I'd forgotten or never knew. Gary and I had many adventures together in Tijuana, diving at Bird Rock and in Baja California, Boogie Boarding, Mat Surfing and Body Surfing, drinking Coors beer in the shade and Red Mountain wine in the sun at LJ Shores, searching for Indian Artifacts in the San Diego back country, exploring, hiking and working on cars. Gary was one of the best skin divers I've



known and could hold his breath much longer than I. Once, diving the Cardiff Reef he came up with the largest lobster I've ever seen and also pulled a huge one out of the water at Bird Rock. Unfortunately it was out of season and we didn't know what to do with it. A Cardiff lifeguard must have been watching us through binoculars and paddled out and asked us if we had caught anything. We said "Nope, not yet" as Gary was struggling to keep the 15 pounder in a gunny sack tied to his inner tube! Gary could dive down 15 feet and easily pry 3 abalones off the rocks. We used to spend many summer days on a log raft made out of telephone poles that was built by unknown locals (possibly Tom Dam and/or Kurt Carlson?) and anchored in the center of North Bird Rock Bay.

Gary and I went into partnership in the early 1960s buying a 15 ft. Gordy Culbertson-built lobster skiff from commercial fisherman and friend John Collins who had sunk it twice overloading with abalone at San Clemente Island. We had many experiences with that boat and our used 35 hp outboard motor catching many fish off the LJ coastline. Once, while we were trying to start the temperamental engine somewhere between Bird Rock and Windansea, we heard a loud "whoosh" behind us and smelled something very foul and putrid. We turned around and saw a grey whale surfacing and blowing a very short distance from us.



Gary recently commented that the "hills above Bird Rock had canyons. They were really complex ecosystems, complete with constant dripping water, a series of cracks with sand in the bottoms, a narrow point with a honeybee cave and further to the southeast a canyon that we called Red Canyon that had shear red sandstone sides on the west, north and east sides. Most of

**L to R: Bob Atkinson, Gary Wickham and Harry after LJ Mackerel Run-Oct. 1963**

it rivaled Torrey Pines, all that has been covered up by neighborhoods now. What a place to grow up in, I feel blessed to have lived there. There

was also a cave that someone carved in sandstone that was located in the canyon that started north of Forward St. at Taft St. It was halfway up the north side of the canyon, went back in about 10ft. made a 90 degree turn to the left for about 4 ft. and a 90 degree turn to the right for about 6 ft. all hand dug.”

Gary also holds the record for going the fastest down Colima St. After a football game Gary and I had been drinking too much rum and pineapple juice and Gary decided to see how fast his 1959 Ford Ranchero would go downhill. I think he hit 88 mph before I told him the end of the street was getting close. He jammed on the brakes in front of my house and skidded ½ block doing a 180 degree turn before he knocked off a fire hydrant that ended up directly under his truck. The fire hydrant shot up a geyser of water but I jumped out the window so fast that I didn't even get wet. I forget how much the city charged him for water, but it wasn't cheap.....something like \$250 in those days. Luckily he didn't even get a ticket and insurance paid for all damages. Phil Brown frequently tried to set the Colima St. uphill record in his 1941 Ford burning rubber in front of my house when he started. I didn't have to look out the window to know who was there. Bob Enns also hit 88 mph on LJ Blvd once in his parents' Oldsmobile 88, but that was level ground.

Gary moved to Mission Beach and then Ocean Beach in the 1960s and was interviewed one day at Windansea beach by Tom Wolfe who used many of Gary's stories as a basis to write "The Pump House Gang" Later Gary moved to Normal Heights with his wife Cherie and son Keith. The family now lives on several acres of land near the beach just south of Port Orford, Oregon.

**5645**-Louis and Virginia Ghio -"Louie" was a commercial tuna fisherman/engineer/ham radio operator. I was friends with his son Bill who was in the DeMolay with me, then followed me into the Coast Guard and even went into my field of Industrial Relations retiring from the city of San Pedro. I've kept up with Louie, who is now 90, and his son Bill, via email through the years. Bill is a very active hiker and has made some fun hiking trips in Europe.

**5649**-Hubbard Phelp's, owner of Phelp's Sporting Goods store lived here.

**5656**-Ralph Norris-Ralph was a Patternmaker at Convair. His daughter Leeanna Jo was a fun-loving neighborhood friend who moved back east before marrying and moving to San Francisco where she presently works as a volunteer docent in the Strybing Museum of the Golden Gate Park's arboretum, and as such has helped with the growth and development of the Park and part of it where they have a children's garden, highlighted by the butterfly garden.



**5674**-Walter Atkinson- Walter was a planner at Convair and had a son Bob Atkinson who was a close buddy. Both he and his wife changed their last names to Madrone when they got married. Bob and I, along with Gary Wickham and Bob Enns, did many water sports, hikes and archeological investigations together. Enns, Atkinson and I made one adventurous surfari to Mazatlan, Mexico at Christmas 1962. Bob was a good surfer and diver. Bob and I were together in front of the Vietor home at Secret Spot, north of North Bird Rock when we were caught inside in the biggest set of



waves I've ever been in. We paddled and paddled and barely made it over the top of each wave. I finally turned around and I lined up for the last wave, but decided at the last moment not to take it. I still wonder if it would have been the ride of my life or if I would have been splattered against the cliff.

**Bunny Kitselman and Bob Atkinson Feb. 1964**

In 1967 Bob purchased a wooden Bahamas Sloop from my father's friend Jimmy Smith in Costa Mesa. It took Jimmy ten years to make the boat in his backyard. I helped Jimmy sail the boat down to San Diego. Bob and some friends sailed it down to Ensenada from San Diego for a complete remodeling by a marine carpenter there. Sailing back to San Diego with his girlfriend 6 months later the engine failed and Bob had a very difficult trip against the wind and the current. The only navigation aid he had was a compass....no GPS or cell phones in those days. He was so overdue that I was ready to call the Coast Guard but finally went out to the end of Pt. Loma and saw him limping in with a flapping sail late one afternoon. He was scared, exhausted, and lost most of his enthusiasm for seagoing activities after that. After a stint in the USMC and working for the Orange

County Welfare Dept. Bob made his living as a Calif. Forest Ranger in the Ft. Ross region and now lives in Cazadero, California.



**5674 LJ Hermosa-Old Atkinson Home 2011**

**CHELSEA (old name was Beulah)**

**5560**-Larry and Margaret Clements-Merle Clements lived with his parents, a brother Gary and a sister Joan. Merle's mother died when he was in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade so there was a big burden on his very strict father. One night his father walked in his sleep into Merle's bedroom and urinated in Merle's shoe. His father was really embarrassed about that one. Merle was never allowed to go barefoot or out of the house without a belt. The rest of us literally lived barefoot with jeans and a tee shirt during the summer. Once I peddled my bike every day to LJ Jr. High School without a jacket but can't remember if I did it just to prove a point or if it was a warm winter. Merle and I were close pals until his death in Alpine in 2010. He suffered from diabetes since the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and had to take insulin shots every day of his life. We attended grade school, high school and college together. After he became independent Merle rebelled against his early childhood restrictions and usually wore shorts, a tee shirt and hiking boots to every function whether it was formal or not. His philosophy was to speak what he believed in and to live every day to the maximum since he never knew when he might die from an insulin attack. He came close several times, but survived being a cross country motorcycle racer, owned a well pump business, owned a glider airplane and worked as a computer technician, jet turbine balancer and maintenance man for the Viejas Indian Casino

# Boy Scouts Sharpen Skills For Week-Long 'Big Show'

San Diego County's Boy Scouts today sharpened their skills in preparation for their biggest show of the year—Boy Scout Week.

The week begins Sunday, but the young citizens will start their activities Saturday when they'll be guests of 11th Naval District at Naval Training Center's recruit parade at 9:45 a.m.

## Churches Cooperate

Sunday, many of the county's churches, sponsors of dozens of Scout units, have planned ceremonies to honor achievements of Scouting.

Scheduled at Horton Plaza are these demonstrations, 4 to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, and noon to 8 p.m., Saturday:

**Monday**—Explorers of Troop 46 and Air Squadron 346, sponsored by El Cajon Rotary Club; Troop 315, sponsored by La Mesa United Presbyterian Church, and Troop 325, Lake Murry Manor Civic Improvement Association, will demonstrate camping, outdoor cooking and crafts.

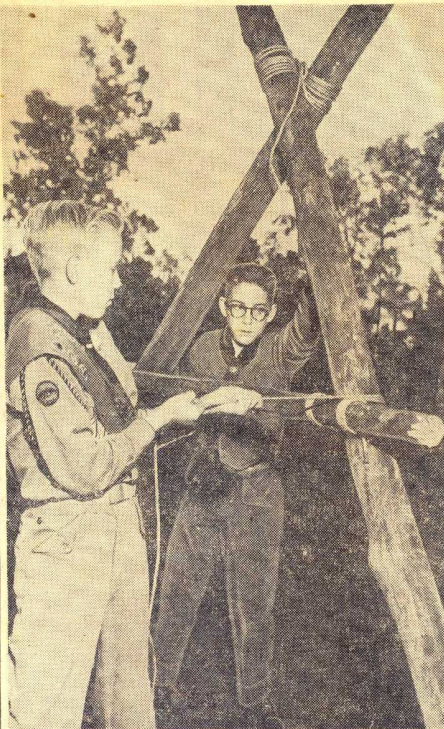
**Tuesday**—Troop 115, Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church of Coronado, will show use of rope, knots and lashing.

Also, on Tuesday, 45th anniversary of Scouting in America, Eagle Scouts will take over as city councilmen, mayors, supervisors and other official jobs, said D. Ray Grable and R. King Kauffman, chairmen of city-county day activities.

**Wednesday**—Explorers of Troop 4, La Jolla Presbyterian Church and La Jolla Kiwanis Club, aluminum foil cockery.

**Thursday**—Troop 48, Encanto Civic Club, will build a 60-foot "monkey" bridge across the downtown Plaza. After supper, the troop will hold a Court of Honor to show how the troop awards advances in rating.

**Friday**—Troop 1, American



**'MONKEY BRIDGE-NESS'**—As a feature of Boy Scout Week, beginning Sunday and marking the 45th anniversary of Scouting in America, a primitive "monkey" bridge will be constructed by Scouts across Horton Plaza. Demonstrating how it's done without using nails or screws are Bob Wilson, 5450 Beaumont Ave., left, and Merle Clements, 5560 Chelsea Ave.—Evening Tribune Staff Photo

EVENING TRIBUNE  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
a-16 Wednesday, Feb. 3, 1953

## Butler to Seek Bay Dredging Work Extension

Mayor John Butler said today he will ask Army engineers in Washington, D.C., to extend their Mission Bay dredging operations to federal land inside the bay.

City Council yesterday authorized Butler to attend a meeting of the American Municipal Association's Airport Sponsor's Committee Monday in Washington.

## Airport Funds Up

Butler, only representative of the League of California Cities scheduled to attend the meeting, said the conference will concern release of more federal funds for construction of local airports.

Butler said that while in Washington, he will investigate the possibility that federal funds be appropriated to extend the Army engineers dredging to include Quivers Basin and all the federal territory at the southwest end of the bay, west of Ventura Boulevard.

## Dredging Started

Present federal specification call for dredging the federal area of the bay to a depth of 20 feet at low tide, but funds have not been appropriated for it yet, Butler said. Dredging of the Mission Bay channel has begun.

Councilman Clair Burgene said he wants to know whether the south Mission Bay jetty can be extended to prevent erosion of sand from Ocean Beach. Dredgers are dumping sand from the channel onto Ocean Beach.

## Councilmen to Hear New Freeway Plans

Plans for the proposed cross

## Bob Wilbur and Merle Clements at Boy Scout Fair 1953

and the Kaiser Medical Clinic. We went fishing, hiking, drinking and exploring Baja California together. He was a great fisherman and always up for adventure. I remember having a beer with him on the Mission Beach Jetty once in the 1980s and him saying "Harry, you're too uptight...loosen up and enjoy life like me. We're not going to live forever."

## ABALONE PLACE

**5644-McGuire-** Sandy McGuire and her sister Barbara had this address on Abalone Place and their parents had a Dolphin Place address. I believe the house went from one street to the other. Sandy says "My birth date is March 21st, 1943.....first day of Spring. Mom told me I was her birthday present (July 3rd). My dad had been in Burma for four months contracted by Central Aircraft Manufacturing (The Flying Tigers) until he was forced back to California by amebic dysentery. He went to work for Ryan



Aeronautical as a flight instructor over in Hemet. I was conceived on Friday evening July 3rd, 1942 on one of my parents' weekend road trips back to Coronado. Mickey McGuire was Chief Test Pilot for Ryan when he was testing Ryan's Fireball on March 26th, 1945, and died when the plane crashed up by Kearny Mesa.”

Sandy was a cute LJHS cheerleader and very popular in high school. I had a crush on her and would try to time my trip to school in the morning to pass by where she waited for the bus on LJ Blvd. and offer her rides to school. Unfortunately I was no competition for David Cheney who was a legendary Windansea surfer and renowned Hawaii big surf surfer.



**Sandy McGuire, David Cheney and Candy Franklin**

After high school she married David, moved to Grenada, Spain, lived with the Gypsies, and later remarried and relocated to the Calif. Gold country. Sandy also lived on a sailboat in Florida for a year. She is a talented artist whose mural work can be seen at LJHS. Presently she lives in Crown Point with her husband Bill Shrosbree who shapes surfboards.

### **DOLPHIN PLACE**

**5666**-Lamar Boren lived in a home with a direct view of South Bird Rock and was a man I'd heard lots about, but never saw. He was the 7<sup>th</sup> member accepted to the San Diego Bottom Scratchers skin diving club (1943) and was given the nickname "Soupfin". He was one of the first great underwater cameramen and filmed Sea Hunt with Lloyd Bridges that was one of my favorite programs. Dean Carlson was hired to double for Lloyd Bridges but finally quit when they wanted him to jump into the

water and be run over by a large motorboat. Gary Wickham comments that “Another famous business owner lived on Dolphin Pl. just south of Bird Rock Ave., he was Lamar Boren, a member of the Bottom Scratchers. His business was called Lamar Boren Productions. His first underwater work for Hollywood was in 1950 on a film that starred Jane Russell, called “Underwater”, he shot all the underwater scenes using his own movie camera because no other was available at the time. He helped originate “Sea Hunt” and had a thirty year career as Hollywood’s leading underwater filmmaker and was awarded a lifetime membership in the Explorers Club.” Lamar died in 1986.

### **LA JOLLA BLVD.**

**5209**-Ernest Montiel was my high school metal shop and auto shop teacher. Most of my mechanical and automotive knowledge stems from the basics Mr. Montiel taught me. He was a good friend of Ernie Kipp’s and was liked by his students.

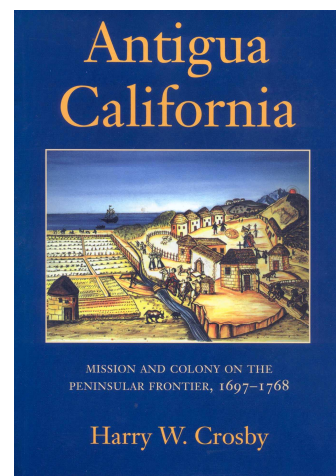


### **MORE FRIENDS AND FAMOUS PEOPLE**

#### **LOWER LA JOLLA HERMOSA**

Purists will say this isn’t Bird Rock, but it’s close enough for me to include here because a some of my close friends and acquaintances lived in the La Jolla Hermosa area and I spent a lot of time there. In 1923 La Jolla Properties, Inc. subdivided this area into ocean view and “close to the ocean” lots that sold from \$2,000-\$3,000. There were restrictive clauses in the sales contracts to keep the area very exclusive. This was the group that built the San Carlos train station.

**215 Avenida Cortez** -Harry Crosby-was my high school chemistry teacher (he taught at LJHS from 1958 to 1963) and later became a well known writer, explorer and photographer of Baja California rock art. His interest in the culture and people of Baja led him to write one novel and several other books about the history



of the peninsula. We crossed paths over the years and one day began exchanging emails. Coincidentally, a book he wrote and an article I wrote ended up in the same bibliography of a book on rock art in Mexico.

Here are comments by Crosby that may be of interest:

Capt. Harry W. Crosby, for whom I was named, was a ship captain, ferry line founder, marine salvage entrepreneur and more on Puget Sound as well as delivering supplies for sale to Nome during the Yukon Gold Rush, establishing two salmon canneries as well as the first floating cannery in Alaska, and more. Well, during those adventures, he and his men experienced all the weather that hits the Gulf of Alaska, B. C., and the Sound. He and Grandma Crosby used to visit us in the winter when all was quiet in his marine businesses. I remember one time around 1951 when he was down here in La Jolla and some one of my father and mother's friends, knowing where he was from, asked him how he liked the weather down here in San Diego. My grandfather leaned over (he was a very tall guy for those times) looking sorta mock serious and came up with this great line. "Weather in San Diego? When? Where? The place has a climate, sure, but **no** weather!" Bing Crosby went to Spokane to go to Gonzaga, but I don't know if his father moved there. And my grandfather, for whom I was named, was a hob-knobbing buddy of Bing's dad, not a business partner in any way. I've always wondered if the old man might have named Bing for my granddad who was a prominent and successful entrepreneur as well as an oft-quoted storyteller and waterfront character. You ought to see the bundle of newspaper clippings I inherited from Grandma, who cared about such things even if he did not give a fig for such ephemera!

I lived first at 522 Bonair just a door up from La Jolla Blvd., then at 482 Palomar Street until 1940, then to 215 Avenida Cortez in Lower Hermosa just one house south of Via del Norte.

1939 -I was 13 and really got into drop netting off the rocks off La Jolla Hermosa and Bird Rock. Also got a few abs at low tide in the same areas. Started swimming at Whispering Sands because a couple of my friends lived in the Barber Tract.

1940-At Windansea I got acquainted with the two of the three founding Bottom Scratchers, Wally Potts and Jack Prodonovich, when they were patrolling the shore with faceplates on their foreheads and spears in hand.

I soon got a wooden spear with a five prong metal head. Got a few fish, mostly opaleye or corvina, a sculpin or two if I was lucky.

1941 was an epochal year in my life! I got the first pair of swim fins seen in La Jolla. How? Well, I hung out some with Lois Ann (a.k.a. "Beano")



Swim fin patent model, 1940

MacKay and her father, Dr. Eaton MacKay, who was second in command at Scripps Metabolic Clinic, then on Prospect across from Bishop's School. The good doctor was an old friend of Owen Churchill who designed and manufactured the first fins sold to the public. Churchill gave MacKay a pre-distribution pair of fins, and they were too big for the doctor and I had the biggest feet (size 14) of anyone he knew so he gave them to me. I immediately went from an also

ran body surfer at Windansea to being the star of my age group. Not only that but spear fishing took on a whole new dimension. I got a 13 foot spear and cut off the 2nd and 4th tines on my spearhead. For the next two years I not only supplied my family with fish but also sold a lot of halibut and sculpin to the Windansea Hotel which was down there at the foot of Playa del Norte, north side so it butted up with Nautilus Street.

My last spear fishing was during the spring/summer/fall of 1943. On graduation from LJHS in June of '44 I was in the navy, then in college to graduation in '48, grad school to 1950. But right after the war, starting in the summer of 1946, the local population of surfers and fishermen of all sorts went up exponentially. The fish population went down proportionately. And as a teacher, husband, and soon father-to-three, I was in no position to go back to sea --- and then after that came Mexico and my adventures there. All I did at Bird Rock was go out for abs or drop net for lobsters. I remember my ab and lobster days off Lower Hermosa and Bird Rock, many a moray encountered (but never petted), but Carl Adams did get bitten by one when he reached under a shelf to feel for abs. His index finger had three gashes down to the bone 'cuz it bit him and he jerked his hand out; not the best reaction as it turned out. I got virtually all my halibut in the 3- to 6-foot wide successive strips of sand lined with eel grass that stretched from the south end of Whispering Sands around Sherwood Point and ended at north Windansea. Also got turbot there, but gave up after my first few months because no one like

the strong iodine taste in turbot meat. In those days there were also sculpin and particularly calico bass off Sherwood too.

1944--1945 -At Occidental College in the US Navy V-12 Officer Training Program (WWII ended five months before I would have been commissioned as an ensign and committed to seven or more years of service). The V-12 encouraged us to compete in sports, so 1945 was my formal introduction to competitive swimming. I improved quickly because I had never before done pool swimming or made turns against a wall and so I practiced in just about all my spare time, like weekends.

1946-1948-Competed as a civilian student at Oxy. In '48 I took a fourth in the 100 meters at the Far West regional Olympic trials, but I qualified for the finals in Detroit because the guy who took 3rd in L.A. had a better shot at the 400 m. and dropped out of the 100. I looked at the results of the other three regional trials and saw that my time ranked me 9th among the 12 who could go to Detroit, and I was in love with the then young lady who has been my wife for 60 years and I had that water polo job coming up at UCLA. So I dropped out of my only shot at the Olympics, not a hardship when I was such a long shot.

1950-Salesman for Gerard & Sands American and European Handicrafts and Gifts (1001 Prospect, La Jolla).

1951 or 1952, can't remember which; I was 1st La Jolla Man in The La Jolla Rough Water Swim --- note: first La Jolla Man, not first man. I think I was about 7th man overall.

And that was the end of my swimming career until about 1995 when I took up Master's Swimming for exercise, and that at La Jolla High at the Coggan Family Aquatic Complex after 2001.

My father started construction on a one-story brick house at 215 Avenida Cortez--- designed by my mother and her uncle Roy D. Rogers --- in 1938 using the crew of the family dinky one-line fish cannery in Chignik, Alaska. Those guys were jacks-of-all-trades and the cannery only ran from 1 June to maybe 10 September. So, what with depression and all, most of them were available from, say, mid-October to 1 May, and my dad hired them to do all the concrete work, all the framing and sheeting and roofing up to

covering the planks with tarpaper. Local construction workers laid the flagstone paths, put the Mexican red tile on the roof, plastered the interiors, did cabinetry, etc. We moved in early in 1940 and I left for good in June 1944 when I joined the US Navy and was sent off for officer training in the Navy's V-12 Program.

My parents lived in that house until their deaths, both in 1986. They owned the lot immediately to the south which was our massive Victory Garden from 1940 to about 1947 when my dad got tired of vegetable farming --- I did a lot of the butt work until my departure for the V-12.

Then there was one more house to the south of our garden lot before you came to the corner house at you associate with Jerry Stirnkorb.

Harry's son Robbin Crosby was born in 1959 and attended Bird Rock Elementary. He was a famous guitarist for the 80's rock band Ratt, and had it made being married to a Playboy Playmate and owning a Ferrari. Unfortunately his life was cut short and he died a tragic death in 2002 at age 42.

On 21 June 2010, our last grandchild, the fourth out of four, graduated out there on the football field of our Alma Mater LJHS. Linley Barba, second child of our daughter Bronle (LJHS '73), who lives in Bird Rock, stepped up and received her diploma with honors, top 10% of the class in grades. Her brother Grant Barba graduated in 2007 and is now at the University of Tuebingen, Germany, finishing his third semester as an exchange student from the University of Oregon.

Linley entered Cal Berkeley in August 2010. (Our daughter Ristin, LJHS '70, and her husband William Decker, LJHS '65, saw their daughter Annika graduate from you-know-where in 2001, and their son Reed tossed his cap up in the air in 2005.)

Harry Crosby (Harry del Norte) and I-(Harry Marriner-Harry del Sur) continue to exchange emails on themes of interest to both of us.

**205-Robert Stirnkorb**-Jerry Stirnkorb's father Robert was a real estate developer/builder who was the contractor for the famous Noah's Ark restaurant in North Leucadia.



**Noah's Ark Restaurant**



**The Stirnkorbs lived in this house  
Cortez in the 1960's, a bit after the  
Main emphasis of this article.**

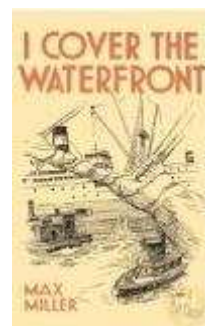
Jerry was a close friend during my college years and lives in Encinitas running the family construction company. He was an aggressive and fearless surfer who surfed some of the biggest waves ever seen at The Cove, Middle Bird Rock (Little Makaha) and North Bird Rock around 1959 and later. This contrasts somewhat with his lifelong passion for poetry and literature. He graduated from SD State College with Honors in Literature.



**Jerry Surfing The Cove 1959**

**CAMINO DE LA COSTA**

**5930**-Max Miller, a famous author (I CoverThe Waterfront 1932; The Cruise of the Cow, The Town With The Funny Name, etc.), lived across the street from the Kitzelmans. I looked at his home every time I rode my bike down that street hoping to get a glimpse of him, but never did. He



walked from his home to LJ Cove every day for a swim and knew the Bohannon brothers (Jack and Charles) who fished lobster and left their boat at the bottom of the cliff behind his house during the late 1930s and 1940s. Jack was one of the characters in “The Town with the Funny Name.” Charles “Lindy” Bohannon said that Max Miller tried ab diving but never got the hang of it. Harry Crosby’s parents were friends of the Millers and lived only a few blocks away on Avenida Cortez. His mother knew Mrs. Miller well. Max was friendly enough but clearly had a drinking problem.

**5939**-Kitzelman- Alva L. “Beau” Kitzelman-He and his wife Betsy bought this home in 1959 from Mr. & Mrs. Rose who built it and owned several adjacent lots. Mr. Kitzelman was an analytical mathematician consultant who lived in a level of intellectual pursuit far above the understanding of the average person. He started the Institute of Integration on La Jolla Blvd. in Bird Rock, a metaphysical group, dealing with the inner healing power of ones own mind. He inherited all or part of the largest wire-making company in the country located in Muncie, Indiana, called the Indiana Steel and Wire Company that in 1883 made the first steel roller skates and beginning in 1887 made wire fences. This company made the family independently wealthy. Beau’s daughter Bunny Kitzelman commented on some of her father’s accomplishments and life:

Kahuna Huna A.L. ‘Beau’ Kitzelman, FHF Aumakua Therapy  
1/24/1914 - 9/28/1980

Kahuna Huna ‘Beau’ was living in Honolulu at the time of his Malamaka`opuahiki iki (little or short Enlightenment), but it changed Huna and everything else associated with it forever.

He was a member of Stanford University's long-term study of the lives of identified geniuses.

He was one of the foremost scholars of Sanskrit.

He was a famous theoretical mathematician.

He was the head of the Scientology movement in Hawaii—although that didn’t last.

He discovered that the Aumakuas would come down and take control of a healing session, and that in many, but not all, the results were astounding. For the general public, he called it, “E Therapy”, but he was a Kahuna Huna and FHF (Fellows of the Huna Fellowship), and inside, he called it, “Aumakua Therapy”. As the years have slowly passed we have discovered that it does best in healing of emotional problems.



Although physical healings, of the most dramatic sort, can happen in them, it is where the emotional healings lay that it really comes into its own. Hence, Mana Infusions are for Physical illnesses and Aumakua Therapy for emotional problems. Kahuna Huna Nui Max Freedom Long said, "Huna Religion is incomplete without Aumakua Therapy!"

Bunny was a very close friend of mine and the hospitality was such that I could drop in any time for a visit. Bunny was a very social person and had many friends. It was a local hangout for Gary Wickham and many other young people. Bunny always had one or two girls living there who had family problems or needed a place stay. It was a great place to look for a weekend date. Bob Atkinson, Bunny and I once met a man at SD Bay who had built a unique stainless steel sailboat. He invited us for a fun day sail that was quite a treat.

Bunny's sister Suzette has this to say about her father: "Hello! Nice to read about T. Townsend Brown, and his associations with my Dad. I am a daughter of Alva "Beau" Kitselman and Betsy. I remember Commander Brown, and the amazing stuff he was up to! I remember Salvador, was born at Pyramid Lake, Nevada and the "Huna" information posted above isn't entirely correct. For the short version about my Dad: Papa did a lot of things. He just couldn't stop learning stuff! Born at Battlecreek, MI on Jan 24, 1914, raised in Muncie, Indiana where his father was in steel. (my Grandad invented the first steel roller skates....put ball bearings in them....but that's another story.) Some anecdotes on Beau Kitselman: Physicist, Mathematician, authority on eastern religions, psychotherapist, author. Studied Sanskrit at Stanford the last year it was offered, and was translating several Sanskrit volumes that were a gift of King Prahadjipok of Siam when he passed away. The Sanskrit does tie in with physics, actually: modern 'discoveries' in physics were actually uncovered in India around 5000 years ago, and some volumes he was translating were on those ancient physics studies. Several colleagues wanted him to publish his findings in Scientific American, but since Papa didn't have a PhD, the magazine wouldn't. Rules! Oh, well. Anyway, he was one of the 'top 5' mathematicians in the US for many years. In the 1960s, (when only weirdos had computers!) he wrote software for the intercontinental ballistic missiles, so that they would readjust their trajectory every 6/10ths of a second, when previously they had readjusted only every 8 seconds. In psychotherapy, he was one of the pioneers of 'insight therapy', which was

a precursor to the modern style of cognitive therapy, aka 'talk therapy'. There is a website that incorrectly links his psych work with L. Ron Hubbard. The two had been acquaintances while studying psych, and were discussing their plans in our living room after dinner sometime around 1958. When L. Ron said that he would make his therapy into a religion to avoid paying taxes, and create several different "levels" for his patients to achieve, taking lots of time and costing lots of money, my father escorted Mr. Hubbard to the door. That was the end of their friendship! (Papa didn't like him).....”

**The words 'I am...'  
are potent words;  
be careful what  
you hitch them to.  
The thing you're  
claiming has a way  
of reaching back  
and claiming you.**

A.L. Kitselman Quote on 2011 Sweatshirt

Gary Wickham comments: “Around the early fifties Beau invented E-Therapy, where you would be hooked up to a device called an E-Meter and interviewed with the intent of being “cleared” of psychological dissonances. He then went on to found The Institute For Integration.

I read a most amazing letter at the Kitselman’s house, it was from Aldous Huxley to Beau and was asking him if he could acquire some mescaline for him, the letter, if I remember correctly, was dated before 1953.

In May 1953 Aldous Huxley took 4/10 of a gram of mescaline for his first time, under the watchful eyes of his wife and Dr. Humphry Osmond from Canada and in 1954 wrote about it in his book, The Doors Of Perception. When Huxley wrote his book in the early 1950s mescaline was still regarded as a research chemical and was listed in the Park-Davis Catalogue as a chemical with no controls on it.

In 1969-70 I was the gardener for the Kitselman House, that paid the rent when we lived in Mission Beach.”

**6110**-“La Casa de Los Amigos”-was designed and built by architect Herbert Palmer in 1927 for the Pilcher family. In 1964 Herbert and Sybil York

bought it for \$144,000. Dr. Herbert York was 39 years old when he was chosen to be the first Chancellor of UC San Diego and professor of Physics. Before this he was 1. One of the Manhattan Project's "Wunderkind." 2. Director of the Lawrence Livermore Laboratories. 3. Chief scientist of Advanced Research Projects agency of the Office of the Secretary of Defense. 4. Appointed by President Eisenhower to be the Director of Research and Engineering for the Dept. of Defense. His low key personality and high government and international profile as an expert in nuclear arms made him a very interesting person. Few people were able to be involved with nuclear science and engineering as deeply as Dr. York and



**La Casa de Los Amigos**

also work with anti-nuclear activists. Dr. York played a special role in being able to clarify both the benefits and the dangers in nuclear developments so that he was "heard" as a sensible and objective expert to clarify issues without empty rhetoric or self-serving arguments. His backyard was the cliff above the ocean a bit north of North Bird Rock. Jim Stafford, a good friend of Gary Wickham's and an easy going guy, lived as a house-sitter/personal assistant in the York home that is a beautiful Spanish style home with a relaxed atmosphere. I'd go with Gary to visit Jim and enjoy a beer and kayak off the beach or just sit in the back yard and watch waves break over Submarine Rock at sunset, but never met Dr. York. Gary and his wife Cherie were fortunate to be able to chat with "Herb" and discuss politics and the world situation. Gary says that many high ranking government officials visited Dr. York at home and remembers getting phone calls from Jim asking him what time he would arrive at the



York's and how many persons would be with him. The reason for the question was that Dr. York would have Harold Brown, his personal friend and also the Secretary of Defense, or some other world leader at the house and unknown to anyone, the entire

### **Submarine Rock**

neighborhood, including the beach, was under surveillance by the Secret Service who tried to act non-chalant, but all wore white tennis shoes, non-cool sport shirts and stuck out like sore thumbs.

**6210**-John and Mia Vietor-John was called "the Jell-O heir," and owned the "Point" magazine oriented to La Jolla. He bought a large part of the San Diego Magazine and merged the Point into it to form the first "city" magazine in the USA. He was also a world traveler who ate with royalty and a registered Democrat when La Jolla was solidly Republican. John drank with Ted Geisel (Dr. Seuss), and he saw Roger Revelle and Jonas Salk, but normally didn't mingle with UCSD professors (a party given for Vietor to enable him to meet people from academia "didn't work out"). I never met John or Mia but, his house (from the outside) was well known to me. Rosendo Ramos, whose uncle owned Hussong's Bar and Cantina in Ensenada, was caretaker for the Vietor mansion and lived there.

Rosendo was a good friend of mine and we both pole vaulted together on the LJHS track team. This house was important to me for two reasons:  
1. I used it to line up for surfing at Secret Spot, in front of his house and  
2. Rosendo let me and Jim Kipp store our lobster traps along side of the house.

Susie Morse has a few comments on Vietor: "I think that he was an heir to the Jello company. I don't know that he "worked." Jeannie Copley

leased that house after she divorced Jim Copley. My aunt was her personal secretary and I did "gal Friday" errands for them.

He went by 'Jack' (Vietor) and was a personal friend of JFK. I believe Jack died while on a cruise ship, fairly suddenly. After he died and his wife Lita died, the kids had to divide the property to afford the taxes. It still left the big house and someone build an equally big house next door.



**Modern Day Access To Secret Spot**



**Harry Surfing Secret Spot 1993**

It was rumored that Jack and JFK were with some "women." and the secret service was having trouble finding them. Remember when JFK came to San Diego and we were let out of school so we could go to the parade?

Jack Vietor used to host an annual backgammon tournament. He had

international guests in attendance. I just found that his son must be carrying on the tradition. It says it has been an annual event since 1962. If you Google Jon Vietor, it comes up.

Jack was married to a San Francisco native whose family came from Italy, Lita di Grazia Vietor. I found her name but only related to her brother's obit. She and Jack were part of the "beautiful people" of the 60's. She was stunning. (I was also at a party at the house where Ruthie Dubonnet (of the Dubonnet liquor family) was the honored house guest with a whole other set of the European beautiful people.)

I was at a party at the Camino de la Costa house, as a helper. Town and Country magazine ran photos from the party in its society section. Peter Duchin, son of Eddie Duchin, and his band played the music by the pool. They shot off fire works over the ocean. The band used so much electrical power that they blew a multi block transformer. That must have been around 1965."

**DEERHILL COURT** (While not really in Bird Rock, it's close enough for a few comments.)

**1465-Gilbert Martin-** Mr. Martin was a building contractor who built custom homes. His children Craig and Diane were close friend of mine and my sister during high school years. Craig and another high school friend Drake Thomas (and his brother Barron), designed and built a gold dredge barge that they towed up to Alaska after taking offshore samples in the ocean sand in Norton Sound and obtaining mining rights. The indications were positive for gold so they were very enthusiastic about the project and had financial backing. Unfortunately an early winter storm came up just as the barge entered the sound and the barge was smashed to pieces on the rocky shore. Drake barely survived the incident, but the barge was a total loss. Craig was a fishing and sailing enthusiast, but went into the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration business later in life and also taught the subject at night school. Merle Clements took a course from him and also entered that field later in life. Craig died in 2003.

**1480-Dr. Murray Crouse-** Dr. Crouse's son Sam has been a close friend ever since the family moved to La Jolla in January 1959. Dr. Crouse was the Whispering Sands Retirement Home physician for many years. Sam was part of "my crowd" and spent a good deal of his time in Bird Rock participating in most all the antics and many of the



adventures of my late youth. He retired from the city of San Diego as a Restaurant Health Inspector and lives with his wife Virginia “Ginny” in Clairemont.

### **STORM DRAINS**

There were various storm drains in the Bird Rock area and being the adventurous type, I convinced Merle Clements to go with me to the top of Colima St. and see where that one led. We entered with lit highway flares but the toxic smoke almost killed us so we decided that flashlights were better even though the thought of batteries going low did worry us. Walking took a very long time so we managed to borrow a couple of Flexy Flyers and go exploring the fast way. The Colima St. drain had a fork that went south ending at Tourmaline Canyon in a huge concrete tunnel at the north end of the present parking lot. At that time you had to cross over a concrete pipe “bridge” and walk down a trail through the canyon to reach the beach. The right fork went down through the Clairemar Apt. complex. A gutter drain at LJ Blvd. allowed us to stick our hands out and wave at the cars. Going onward there was another fork with the left fork leading to a corrugated metal pipe projecting out from a cliff a little ways south of the stairs to beach north of Tourmaline canyon near Gun Point. The first time I went down that tube was with Gary Wickham and we almost shot out into the air about 20 feet up from the beach. I barely stopped at the end and had to yell at Gary to slow down and stop. The right fork led to a steep slope to the beach at the foot of Midway. The most famous tube was the one at the top of Nautilus St. that was eventually welded shut with rebar, but I did make that run several times holding my nose at the bottom where it came out near the Windansea Shack since the beach kids used it as a toilet. Gary remembers one branch that had a dip in it was filled with water making it impossible to continue, but I don’t remember that place. We never thought about having to turn around and go back.

### **BIRD ROCK HILLS AND CANYONS**

As Gary Wickham mentioned above, there were two main canyons that we liked to explore. One is the lower part of the Red or Box Canyon area and the other is arriving at the more eroded part. I seem to remember there were two different canyon paths but can only remember the entrance to the one directly above Bird Rock Ave. The other one must have been accessed from the Forward/Taft intersection. The one to Red Canyon was to the south and more difficult since it was covered with

heavy brush. At the top there were snaky sandstone walls along the dry stream you went through. The canyon above Bird Rock Ave. had easier access and was closer to the cave. We usually first climbed to the top of the hill at the top of Bird Rock Ave. after going through the white-painted rocks that spelled "Bird Rock." An easier access was from a path near the corner of Taft and Forward streets. The top of the hill was embedded by bowling ball sized rounded rocks.



**Lower Red or Box Canyon, Bird Rock 1957**



**Upper Red or Box Canyon, Bird Rock 1957**



We used to pry them loose and roll them down the steep shrub less hill to see how far they'd roll. Sometimes a big one would roll too far and smash into a concrete wall bordering someone's backyard below. Going SE from there we'd drop into the sandstone canyon and visit the cave that Gary mentioned. It was unusual since it's the only cave I ever found in the hills there. Gary found two more but I didn't know about them. This cave may have been dug by early Indians, area kids during the 1930s or 40s or? I never found anyone who knew the history behind the cave. Every time I went there the cave had been modified and deepened. The last time I went there most of it had caved in or had been purposely destroyed. Gary Wickham says that later a bulldozer covered it over with soil from a home site above. Sometimes previous "explorers" cut holes through the brush so you could crawl through or walk along the dry creek bottom up to the eroded source of the creek that was a red iron oxide colored box canyon. We usually just took off from home with no water or food so came back dirty, scratched, thirsty and hungry. Bob Wilbur and Jim Howland were my early years hiking buddies in this area.

### **PILL BOX MACHINE GUN EMPLACEMENT**

Hiking up to the WWII machine gun emplacement was a real adventure for a kid. You could open the steel hatch door and climb down iron rungs in the wall to a room that must have served as a bedroom and kitchen. The "front room" had a cement column with bolts where a machine gun had been mounted at one time. Three or four thick metal plates that served as windows could be lowered or raised and bolted shut. The top was camouflaged cement. Looking over Bird Rock we imagined enemy troops landing and I'd stick my Red Ryder BB gun out the window and pretend it was a machine gun defending the coastline. After spending time inside the pillbox playing soldiers and looking around for any leftover WWII artifacts, we'd hike on looking for lizards, large centipedes, snakes and rabbits. Once I found the wooden grip for a Thompson submachine gun outside the pillbox but by the time I was old enough to explore, most everything of value was gone.

Maris Lynne Ward says "I remember there was a pillbox on the hill directly above Judy Millar's house (I can't remember the name of the street Judy lived on—was it Dowling Drive? [ed. note: 6327 Dowling](#)). I seem to recall that on a day around the time we graduated from 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Judy and I climbed up there and I was astonished to find out that the pillbox was still

there from WWII. Now that I think of it, that really wasn't that long after the end of the war. Of course, it wasn't too many years later that the entire hill had been built up with homes."



**Mark Heltzel and Harry Marriner playing soldiers abt. 1952**



**Typical WWII San Diego Pillbox Similar to the One at Bird Rock**

Pete Evans remembers ".....exploring the pill boxes later, especially the one overlooking Bird Rock while hunting rabbits with a bow and arrow. The rabbits were safe. I don't think I could find the location today."

Gary Wickham, after a recent conversation with Bob Atkinson (Madrone) says "Bob and I are both in agreement, that we don't remember a pillbox on Bird Rock hill, but we do remember the ones made out of concrete and had steel window shutters that you could raise or lower. They were

located on a promontory, just a little ways down the hill from where Muirlands Vista Way dead ended and directly up the hill from the intersection of Dowling Dr. and Vincente Way. The view to the north was over La Jolla and to the south over Gun Point. They are now covered up by homes on Avenida Manana.”



**Typical Pillbox Interior. Note cement base for machine gun**

### **BIRD ROCK BEACH AND THE ROCK**

The Bird Rock coastline was “my world.” I knew every reef, rock, hole, dive spot and surfing spot there during every type of weather. Most places were agreeable, but some were revolting. Seagulls covered the Bird Rock with guano and sea lions left their odor. The top of the rock was especially slippery and smelly. There were a few rusty pieces of rebar there in my “early” days, but I never knew their purpose. Charles “Lindy” Bohannon stated in an interview for the SD Historical Society in 1992 that the Army scraped off a few feet off the top of Bird Rock and placed an orange 55 gal barrel up there to be used as a guide for airplane pilots towing target sleeves for the gunnery school located to the south. Walking on it forced you to endure a very strong and foul smell added to the rotten kelp smell at low tide caused from cutting the kelp beds offshore for agar. It was a shock to see trucks and cranes unloading large jetty type rocks over the cliff one day in the late 1950s (?) to slow the cliff erosion. The pristine small beach disappeared and the aspect of the area changed for the worst. In the same interview Bohannon told about the early exploitation of the area by Japanese truck farmers who grew

watermelons, tomatoes and beans south of Colima St. in the 1930s up until WWII started.



**Little Makaha (Middle Bird Rock) Surf Breaking 1959**

They used bone goggles with tubes and a bulb to pump air into them. Their method of cooking abalone was to built a big bonfire on the beach and leave the abalone on a wet plank to cook. When fully cooked they



cooled them in sea water and broke off the shell leaving only the guts to be cut off. Chunks were

**Gary Wickham and 15 lb. Bird Rock Lobster-c. 1958**

cut off and eaten. Charles and his brother Jack learned from the Japanese and went out at minus tides to harvest abs and later to dive for them getting 3 or 4 one dive.

South Bird Rock was my favorite surfing spot since very few surfers used it. I almost always took the lefts there but many liked to cut right and see if

they could shoot the curl and make it by a nasty rock sticking up in the middle of the ride, especially at a lower tide. At high tide you had to know the “path” to walk south of “George Washington Rock” with your board to get out in the water or else you



**Bird Rock 1986**



**South Bird Rock Surfer and Geo. Washington Rock 2011**

would cut your feet on barnacles, sharp rocks or get stuck with sea urchin spines. There was a small channel where you could start paddling without hitting the rocks with your board and then paddle with the skeg topside. George Washington Rock was a rock column with a profile that resembled the first president. Now it’s almost all eroded. South Bird was also a great place to dive for abs and larger fish. Bob Atkinson once speared a giant barn door halibut there and Bob Enns and I speared a bat ray there that we somehow managed to get to my house, but couldn’t figure out what to

do with it afterwards. One of Gary Wickham's huge lobsters came from this area also.



**Bird Rock & Geo. Washington Rock 2011**

At low tide Jim Kipp and I would scour the holes and lift the eel grass looking for abs. Usually these were Black abs but with luck we'd get some green ones and every once in a while a pink one. Once I reached way under a rock and something tried to grab my hand. I jerked it out and a barnacle or mussel cut deeply into my thumb. I still have the scar to member that incident. The only Red ab I ever saw was one I pried off a rock on the shore side of Bird Rock itself. A diver must have dumped it there since they were usually only found at depths much deeper than most of us skin divers could reach without Scuba gear. I also had a lobster trap at that place, but it was too obvious and didn't last a long time. Ronnie Prast and his father "Beanie" used that spot for many seasons to set wooden lath lobster traps. It wasn't unusual to find the trap completely filled with lobsters. Between South Bird and Gunpoint (P.B. Point or Pacific Beach Point) were many good places for surfing and diving when conditions were good. Hairmos Break, at the end of the Point, was a special place on a big swell that also was a secret place to dive for abs during calm weather and clear visibility. On a good day we could easily pick up 15 or so to be sorted out for selecting the biggest ones to take home. If the water was dirty it was difficult to find even one. I did much of my early learning to surf on the south side of Gun Point. On a medium sized day you could take off south of the point and have an easy, fun ride. When it got bigger you had a choice of either that spot or going out further west from the point to Hairmos but the reef structure usually didn't allow you to ride the wave completely around the point

which was always my dream. On Nov. 6, 1988 Skip Frye, who was inducted into the International Surfing Hall of Fame in 1991, rode one wave all the way into the beach near Tourmaline Canyon showing that it could be done. He also dreamed of going “all the way” and using an 11 ft. 1 inch board he took off on an 8-10 ft. wave at Hairmos, PB Point, one October in the 1990s and rode it roughly 800 yards (about ½ mile) to the Tourmaline Canyon beach.



*Abalone Iron with Measuring Gauge*

*Back in the 50's in La Jolla, California when abalone abounded, a guy named Reg had a monopoly on abalone irons. He sold them at all the dive shops. He made them with a handle that was wrapped in green rope dipped in some kind of rubberizing stuff - great for an underwater grip. A hole in the handle end held the elastic wrist strap. This one is frayed and should probably be replaced. The stainless steel blade was divided into a measuring gauge for Red, Green, Pink and Black Abalone and Lobster. On the other side he scratched his name into the stainless "Super Pro by Reg." This is the classic California abalone iron.*



Below Calumet Park was a great place to surf when conditions were right. Gary Wickham filmed me and others surfing there in the late 1950s with good rides. Bird Rock Cove was a fun place to surf taking off from outside the flat reef near “Jump Rock” where you had to jump over a channel from rock to rock. A calm pool between jump rock and the cliff was a neat place to fish for sculpin or sail model boats. The problem with surfing the cove was a submerged

**Harry, Bob Enns and shark  
At Midway St.- May 1958**

small reef in the middle of the ride that would usually knock you off your board if you weren't prepared.



**Bird Rock Beach June 1961  
in its natural state**



**Bird Rock Beach after being  
destroyed by dumping jetty rock**



**Jump Rock, Flat Rock Reef and North Bird Rock Bay**

The cove was a great place to dive for abs and lobster. Once I dove down about 10 feet in very murky water and stuck my hand under a "rock" to look for abs, but the 4 ft. rock took off swimming. I raced to the surface for my spear gun but never found the nurse shark I'd surprised. Calico Bass and Cabezone were numerous there at times. The February 1958 Skin Diver Magazine published a picture of me with a couple good sized fish I speared there. The flat reef at low tide had a channel running from west to east that was a favorite hideout for lobsters. One year I set my lobster



trap there and tied it to a large spike driven into the middle of the channel just below the average tide level.



**Harry surfing Flat Rock Reef c. 1959**



**Bob Enns and South Bird Rock Bat Ray 1962**

I'd bait it in the late afternoon then ride my bike down at 5AM to check it before the sun came up. Once I pulled it up and it was full of Moray eels and lobsters. A wave washed over the reef and the Morays got out on the reef close to my bare feet. Boy did I do a dance on the reef. When I got home my Mother always complained and told me I had to boil the lobsters before going to school. Sometimes I took lobster legs for snacks. Other times I took fried grasshoppers as a change from peanut butter and grape jelly sandwiches. One dark early morning I loaded my machete and gunny sack on my bike and went full bore down Abalone Place. Halfway down the bag worked loose and got jammed in the spokes. The back wheel froze and I slammed my bare foot on the cement to steady myself. Later I learned that I had fractured the little toe on my left foot and had to be in a

leg cast up to my knee for three weeks. That was very uncomfortable and of course ended my trapping for the season.



**Wilda Marriner, Carla Marriner and Susie Morse  
Bird Rock Beach-Low Tide c. 1957 before it was destroyed.**



**Diving North Bird Rock Bay about 1957  
Harry on paddleboard and Mark Heltzel in 2-man life raft.**



**Harry with Calico Bass and Cabezone speared at Bird Rock in 1958**

A large raft made of telephone poles was anchored out in the middle of Bird Rock bay one summer and duplicated during another summer. I can't remember if my diving buddies or someone else built it, but Gary Wickham, Ronnie Prast, John Warren and I used it as a place to escape and as a dive platform until the first big swell would come in and destroy it. Dean Carlson mentioned that his son Kurt lived on the cliffs above the bay one summer and may have made the raft. I remember that Tom Dam, who lived on Forward St., may have had something to do with the construction also.

Middle Bird Rock reef, aka "Little Makaha" named after a beach break in Oahu, Hawaii, is located at least ½ mile off shore of Bird Rock and breaks on very few occasions when the waves are at least 15 ft. tall. It was awesome to watch the few surfers who made the long paddle to take off on giant waves so far from shore. During my early years of surfing I never heard of anyone who surfed there, but later there were some brave souls such as Jerry Stirnkorb who made the long trip to challenge Poseidon there. Jerry remembers: "It was the biggest wave I've ever been in this side of Sunset, Hawaii. I knee paddled three strokes up the face of one monster stood up and dived off my board to get under it when it broke. Easily 18+. We paddled out from North Bird Rock Cove. Steve Stepanek was with me and one other guy but they couldn't get through the cove break. I was crazy that day. Fortunately it re-broke outside of the Bird Rock so I could reclaim my board after I got 1 enormous take

off and wipe out. If I had a wetsuit that day I would have warmed it good.”



**North Bird Rock Bay 2011**

Several times, under ideal calm conditions, Gary Wickham or another friend and I paddled surf mats over ½ mile offshore to go diving at the Middle Bird Rock Reef and associated kelp bed. It was a special place for fish but a very tiring trip to get there, dive and paddle back in. We never thought that there might be an offshore current that would take us further out to sea.

North Bird Rock is difficult to ride on take off is a fast, the tail of your nose. Just as powerful curl knocks you off the big wave there shore. My board



a tricky peak break that is a 10 ft. 6 inch board. The steep peak that lifts up longboards and pearls you stand up the snaps into your back and board. I took off on one once and fell off far from was taken almost all the

**Jerry Stirnkorb Surfing North Bird Rock 1961**

way in. I had swallowed water and asked another surfer if I could hang onto his board for a couple minutes while I caught my breath. He said

“No... if you can't hack it here you shouldn't be out in the water.” I slowly swam in coughing up more water and retrieved my board.



**Harry's Last Surfboard**

### **CRIME AND PRACTICAL JOKESTERS**

My father, Ed Marriner, along with Bob Morse, wrote many letters to the editor of the San Diego Evening Tribune, La Jolla Light and the local police department reporting on Bird Rock crime and suggested ways to improve local security. He was very active in the Neighborhood Watch program. In the 1940s and 50s there was the occasional transient who would ask for food door to door, but very little housebreaking, robberies or violent crime. We used to leave our doors open and unlocked most of the time. Crime increased when illegal aliens began using Bird Rock as a known area of wealth where many homes were left unattended during the day. More recently incidents such as those involving the “Bird Rock Bandits” and long time La Jolla resident Ron Troyer's recent car accident injuring innocent pedestrians have brought Bird Rock security problems to the forefront.

I grew up with the “geoglyph” of “BIRD ROCK” spelled out in round rocks painted white and thought it would stay that way for the rest of my life. Local merchants residents would periodically get together and communally repaint the rocks as needed. Probably the project was initiated by real estate promoters in 1903 or 1923, but I'm not sure. It was definitely there when I moved to Bird Rock in 1945. A few times in the past some of the letters were changed by practical jokesters. Gary Wickham comments: “The Bird Rock sign was made of whitewashed rocks. The picture shows the second time it was “rearranged”. The first time was

on Halloween night in the early fifties when it was changed to read “Turd Rock”. Not sure when it was built, but I believe it was sometime in the late forties.”

For some this unique touch to Bird neglected during years and now



unknown reason “Hollywood” Rock was the past 40 ceases to exist.



**Remnants of Bird Rock 2011**

## **CONCLUSION**

Today, everything is different in Bird Rock. Electric Ave. is now La Jolla Hermosa Ave. All the businesses have changed, LJ Blvd. is completely different, the beach has been filled in with ugly jetty boulders and the old majestic “rock” has eroded to what looks like a gutted beached whale. Even the beautiful white-painted rocks spelling out “BIRD ROCK” on the hill at the top of Bird Rock Avenue are gone as well as the “indestructible” WWII pillbox and the Gunpoint anti-aircraft training facility. The stairs to



## **528 Colima morphing into 5408 Beaumont**

Bird Rock Beach have been “modernized” as well as the rustic cliff path to Secret Spot and the small parks overlooking Bird Rock Bay and Gunpoint Beach. All my old friends and neighbors have either died or moved out for one reason or

another and have been replaced by “Newcomers” who purchased the older basically square homes that were built with quality knot-free pine timber from the 1940s or 50s and transformed them into the home of their dreams tearing them down completely or remodeling them using modern materials. My old family home was torn down to the framing and the entrance changed from Colima St. to Beaumont Ave. I doubt that there is one vacant lot in Bird Rock where kids can play a pick up game of softball or make tunnels, mud pies and dirt castles like we used to do. Gone are the numerous abalone and lobsters that my mother used to hate to see in the kitchen at 5AM. The only things I have today from Old Bird Rock are my memories that can’t be taken away except by Mr. Alzheimer or the Grim Reaper.

### **THANKS**

Special thanks go out to the many friends who helped jog my memory and remind me of people and events that were hidden behind the moldy synapses of my brain. Gary Wickham’s superb memory and internet searches helped fill in many blanks. Some of the other people who helped on the project are: Carla Ann Marriner (Bowlin), Harry Crosby, Dan McLeod, Tom Morse, Susie Morse (Pfaff), Bob Atkinson (Madrone), Jim Kipp, Jerry Stirnkorb, Bob Enns, Sam and Virginia Crouse (many, many photos), John Warren, Ken Lyon and Julianne Heltzel (Randall), Maris Lynne Ward (Long), Philomene Offen, Pete Evans, Rob Langsdorf, Valerie Forward, Rosemary Carter Murphy and Tom Osterloh.

## CREDITS

### PAGE

- 1a,b,c-author
- 2a-Virginia Crouse
- 3a-Virginia Crouse
- 4a-Virginia Crouse
- 5a,b,c-Ed Marriner
- 6a-Ed Marriner
- 7a-Ed Marriner
- 8a Souligny-SD Union
- 9a-Internet- <http://www.40th-bomb-wing.com/gallery6.html> Photo courtesy of Bill Geopfarth, Flight Radio Operator.
- 10a-San Diego Union Oct. 1981
- 10b-Virginia Crouse
- 11a-La Jolla High School 1960 yearbook
- 12b-Bird Rock Elementary
- 13a-Union Title Trust Topics 1954
- 14a-Bird Rock Elementary
- 15a-Bird Rock Elementary
- 16a-Bird Rock Elementary
- 16b,c-author
- 17a-Bird Rock Elementary
- 17b-author
- 18a-Bird Rock Elementary
- 18b-author
- 19a-author
- 19b-Bird Rock Elementary
- 20a-author
- 21a-author's collection
- 23a-Virginia Crouse
- 24a-Hot Rod Magazine on internet
- 25a,b-author
- 25c-Bird Rock Elementary
- 26a-1952 La Jolla Blue Book
- 27a-author's collection
- 29a-Amazon.com on internet
- 28a-author
- 29a-www.amazon.com
- 30a-La Jolla High School 1959 yearbook



31a- 1952 La Jolla Bluebook  
32a-Yaneth Romero  
33a-Postcard-author's collection  
34a-Wilda Marriner  
35a-Wilda Marriner  
36a-Julie Green Marriner  
37a-Muriel E. Taylor collection  
37b-author  
37c-courtesy of Julianne Heltzel Randall  
38a-author  
38b-courtesy of Julianne Heltzel Randall  
40a-Ed Marriner  
41a-Bird Rock Elementary  
41b-La Jolla High School 1960 yearbook  
42a-Ed Marriner  
42b-Ed Marriner  
42c-Ed Marriner  
43a-San Luis Obispo "The Tribune" Nov. 27, 2005.  
43b-Ed Marriner  
44a-Golden Arrow Dairy Promotional Foto  
44b-Ed Marriner  
44c-Wilda Marriner  
45a-author  
46a -La Jolla High School1960 yearbook  
47a-Bird Rock Elementary  
47b-Eagle Scout Stories-National Eagle Scout Assn.  
48a-SD Evening Tribune  
49a-Bird Rock Elementary  
50a-San Diego Evening Tribune  
51a-La Jolla High School HiTide 1960  
51b-author  
52a-Bird Rock Elementary  
52b-author  
52c-San Diego Union-Tribune  
53a-Bird Rock Elementary  
53b-courtesy of Joanie Selby  
54a-Wilda Marriner  
55b-MLS-Multiple Listing Service  
56a-Bird Rock Elementary

56b-author  
57a-courtesy of Rosemary Carter Murphy  
58a,b,c- courtesy of Rosemary Carter Murphy  
59a-Bird Rock Elementary  
60a-San Diego Union-Tribune  
61a-La Jolla Journal 1955  
62a-San Diego Union  
57a-Bird Rock Elementary  
62b-Bird Rock Elementary  
63a-Bird Rock Elementary  
63b-La Jolla High School 1958 yearbook  
63c-La Jolla High School 1959 yearbook  
63d-Bird Rock Elementary  
64e,f-Bird Rock Elementary  
65a-La Jolla High School HiTide 1959  
65b-La Jolla Light  
67a,b-La Jolla High School 1959 yearbook  
68a-author  
70a-Bird Rock Elementary  
70b-author  
71a-Virginia Crouse  
72a-San Diego Evening Tribune  
72b-Windansea Luau webpage-internet  
74a-La Jolla High School 1959 yearbook  
74b-La Jolla High School 1960 yearbook  
74c-courtesy Harry Crosby/www.Amazon.com  
76a-www.Amazon.com  
79a-courtesy of Jerry Stirnkorb  
79b-Virginia Crouse  
79c-courtesy of Jerry Stirnkorb  
79d-www.amazon.com  
83a-Virginia Crouse  
84a-Virginia Crouse  
85a,b-Carla Marriner Bowlin  
86a-La Jolla High School 1960 yearbook  
88a,b-author  
90a-Ed Marriner  
90b-author  
91a-author

92a-author  
92b-courtesy of Gary Wickham  
93a-La Jolla Light 1986  
93b-Virginia Crouse  
94a-Virginia Crouse  
95a-www.ebay.com  
95b-courtesy Of Bob Enns  
96a-author  
96b,c-Virginia Crouse  
97a-Jim Kipp  
97b-author  
98a,b-John Marriner  
99a-Ed Marriner  
100a-Virginia Crouse  
101a-Vanesa Marriner  
102a-Bill Decker-MacMeda website.  
102b-Virginia Crouse  
103a-Carla Marriner Bowlin

