

# Long Beach 908 Magazine

*local business local teams local people*



## *I Remember When...*

**Inside:**

- Memories of Old East Long Beach
- Weingart-Lakewood Family YMCA Renovation
- Eldorado Bar and Grill gets facelift
- Valley Christian makes big impact in the 908'





# 908 LONG BEACH

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magazine

lb908.com

While putting this issue together I had the pleasure of traveling around the city into people's homes and places of business, gathering their memories of old East Long Beach. The welcoming and story-filled residents filled my days with stories from their childhoods and the good ole days in East Long Beach, not all of which I was able to print! A couple things stood out about yesterday's businesses. The Egyptian Pharmacy, Musical Jewel Box, and Bob's Big Boy were certainly favorites. Also, it was good to hear that businesses like Domenico's and Hofs Hut made such a big impact in past decades and still are going strong today.

Special thanks to Millikan High School and Stan Poe for providing pictures as well as everyone who helped us out by giving us their memories. My hope is that by remembering our favorite small businesses from past decades, we are reminded to support our favorite small businesses of today, many of which are featured in this magazine. Enjoy the issue!

John Grossi  
 Editor/ Publisher

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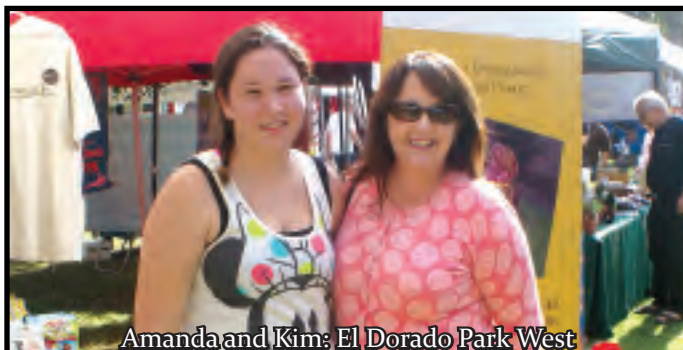
Residents of East Long Beach enjoy themselves at community events.  
School Carnivals, Veterans Day Celebrations, and  
El Dorado Park Bone-Anza give families a lot to smile about!



Dennis and Jill: Lakewood Village



Zach and Jennifer: Lakewood City



Amanda and Kim: El Dorado Park West



Lesli and Joe: El Dorado Park Estates



# I Remember When...



Amy Hollister

There was a bank (not Chase) next to Egyptian Pharmacy and on the other side (where Rite-aid expanded), at FarWest, I walked up and saw a gun laying on the ground at the back door. As I cautiously bent down thinking, "This isn't safe," a police officer very stealthily snuck up on me (or me being 16 not paying attention) and stated very firmly, "DON'T TOUCH THAT!!" -nothing like scaring me to death!!

Before Marina Pacifica had Ralph's or Laughman's there was a very popular place called Cookie Munchers, best tasting cookies I had ever had and top secret recipe! Then there was some kind of disagreement with the management, the involved people parted ways, and the recipe became known! YUMMY!

Growing up in Naples, we used to do a lot of swimming, hanging out, and partying on the peninsula. Occasionally at night, if circumstances called for it, we would tip over the canoes and sleep under them instead of going home. There was never any trouble about going to a party or someone else's home in the neighborhood. If you didn't already know a person, you'd just introduce yourself and no one was ever trying to cause any problems. In the mid 60's there used to be great dance parties on the 2nd floor at the classy Golden Sails hotel. No matter what I did as a teenager and young adult, I always seemed to end up at Hamburger Henry's on 2nd St. during the night. Everyone would be there and Henry the owner was always there too. The first time I went I didn't have enough money to eat so I went to make a call at the payphone and a bunch of money came out of the slot. It turned out to be enough to go buy a hamburger!



Stan Poe





**Karyn Parker**

The first place that came to my mind was Katy's Kitchen in the Los Altos shopping mall, It's where CVS pharmacy is now. We used to leave for lunch in high school from Wilson and go get a cup of frozen yogurt. Or we would go to Naugles for a burrito with tons of sour cream where Krispy Kreme is now on Los Coyotes Diagonal. After school we'd ride our bikes across the 2nd Street bridge, work our way over to the new Marina Pacifica shops and go to an aerobic class with "John," the cutest aerobics instructor ever. The gym was called Butilus and it's where Loehman's is now. A little mom and pop gym, before Family Fitness, Bally's and LA Fitness. And then get a bite to eat at Mike's Munchies, where Ralph's is. Marina Pacifica was a two story outdoor mall back in the day....with a Marie Calendars, an arcade in which to play Pacman and Barwinkles, but that was in my 20's and I'm enjoying Jr. high and high school memories right now. Totally 80's!!! The first record I bought was on 2nd St. at a record store called the Warehouse. It's now Citibank. It was a Pretender's album and I had to take it back because it had bad language in it. Way before Parental Advisory labels. Good ole Egyptian Pharmacy with Bob Jr. and Jack, the 2 coolest pharmacists around.

I remember there was a candy shop at Wilson High School in the 1970's called Woody's Goodies. My friend and I would break into it every summer and steal the candy but I think the administrators knew about us because all of the candy was always rotten. During the summers and afterschool we'd hang out in Belmont Shore and on 2nd Street. Back then, we knew all of the owners of the shops and life was fabulous. No one was ever fighting, there were no worries about curfew or any dangers. Everyone knew each other. There was a movie theatre where the Belmont Athletic Club is now and we could get 6 movie tickets for \$1.25. At Wilson I met my future wife and we would go to Domenico's for Pizza. Now 35 years later we still go! One last note, my father grew up in Belmont Shore as well. One day his neighbor, Harold Hofman, walked over to his house and asked my dad to try this burger he had just perfected. He asked my dad if it was good enough to sell and my dad said yes. Two weeks later he opened up the first Hof's Hut!



**Ken Sontag**



**Kathleen Steube**

I was born and raised in Long Beach. In fact, I am currently living in the same house I grew up in! Some of my Long Beach local business memories include grocery shopping with my mom at Market Basket and stopping in Barcus Drug Store on my way home from Carver Elementary School. Also, getting ice cream at Sav-On and sodas at Woolworth; both businesses in Los Altos Shopping Center. One of my favorite (non-food related) memories was at Christmas time when I got to sit on Santa's lap inside The Broadway. They had a large front picture window where Santa sat for all the kids to see and wait in line to tell Santa what we wished for that year.

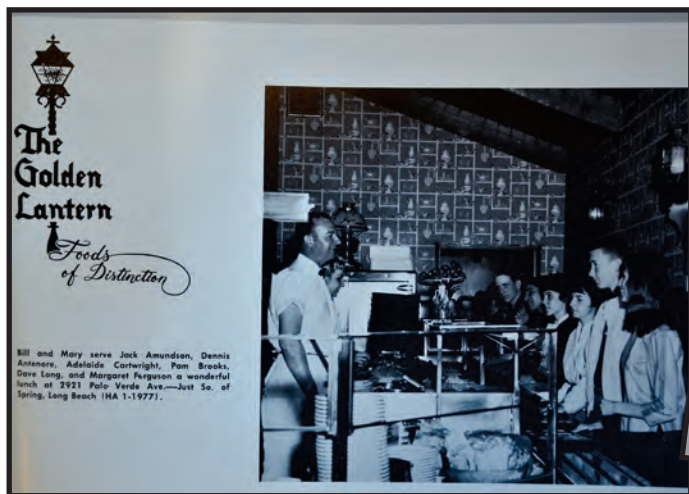
Every Sunday my daughters and I would ride our bikes from our home on Claremont to St. Bartholomew's for 8AM Mass. After that we'd ride over to Hof's on 2nd St. (currently Lucille's) have breakfast, then go for a bike ride and then home for the rest of the day's activities. Hof's was the place everyone would go because they had a little of everything for everyone. You'd always see everyone at Hof's, we sure miss having just a regular place to grab a bite. Another family place was Domenico's pizza and salad with that great dressing. I had been going there with my parents and 4 sisters while I was growing up and now I was taking my 3 daughters. The shore is hardly recognizable any more, I miss the shore I grew up in and the one I raised my daughters in. It was much more of a family atmosphere, small town feeling, everybody knew everyone.



**Fran Feinberg and Michele Wolfe**



# I Remember When...



Joan Hubbard

When I was three we moved into the brand new neighborhood which is now known as La Marina estates. The neighborhood was surrounded by fields. Bixby Hill was gated shut with beautiful fields of golden mustard plants and the lower campus of CSULB was an empty field where we would take our German Shepherd to go chase rabbits. La Marina's new residences were filled with young families and there were so many kids. There were always kids to form groups and play kick the can. In elementary school I was one of the first kids to attend CSULB 49'er camp. The kids in the neighborhood would walk to the Corner Liquor Store which is still located at Palo Verde and Atherton, to buy candy and snacks. I remember walking to the store one day finding an engagement ring on the way and trading it to my middle sister for a chocolate candy bar.

Back then the best place to get hamburgers was at the Golden Lantern across from Millikan or at Hof's Hut on Bellflower which is still going strong! The best place and the only place to get pizza was at Marri's, which still has some of the best pizza around. When I left for college I thought I would never come back to live. When I married and my husband and I decided to have children we decided to move back to Long Beach because it is a wonderful place to raise kids. And here I am living in La Marina Estates once again!

I remember 40 years ago when the Los Altos shopping center was my favorite place to shop. My three boys were very young and I used to buy most of their clothing at JC Penny's, including all their Boy Scout uniforms. My husband used to shop at John's Men's Store and I shopped at Miz Bears, Helen Grace candy store, Los Altos Pastry where I bought all my family's birthday cakes. I was always going to Horace Green's Hardware which stocked all the necessities for the house and yard. Woolworth's was a super place to shop for everything, and a great place to sit at the counter and have lunch. Way before Target, there was Unimart, then Two Guys. I also have fond memories of the Helm's Bakery truck coming down the street and his offerings of fresh baked bread, donuts and many other sweets. And we were lucky enough to have milk delivered every other day right to our front porch. I've been lucky enough to live in Los Altos most of my life, and have many treasured memories of the area.



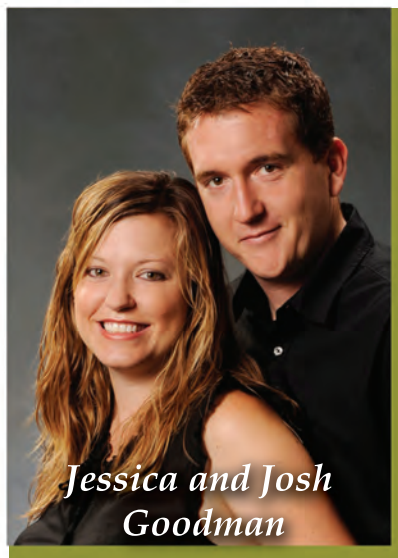
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# I Remember When...



“We were the first girl crew at the McDonalds on Spring St. in 1974!”



Koni McCarger, Cori McClung, Cindy Skovgard and Karen Shoemaker

I remember when the Los Altos Marketplace was an open air mall with sparkly sidewalks and Musical Jewel Box was the hangout and place to get black light posters, candle wax, records, cool jewelry, etc., etc. We'd get in trouble for playing ditch 'em in Broadway (using the elevators and escalators of course) and when CVS was Iowa Pork Shop and then Thriftymart. You could have lunch at the Woolworth's counter and buy cigarettes at Savon Drugstore for your dad for Christmas! But the best was Ramshack as that was the place to meet boys (and girls) from all different Junior High Schools. In the summer when you were an incoming freshman (for Millikan) you could ride your bike up in the early evenings and play ping pong and pool ..... SOMEBODY was always there. But the best were the dances EVERY Friday night where live bands came to play and people slow danced to Stairway to Heaven! -Cindy Skovgard

I have so many memories of the Los Altos area. The Los Altos shopping center was an open air center with Ace Hardware, Sav-on Drug Store, JC Penney's, Broadway, Florsheim Shoe store, The Musical Jewel Box, Woolworths (where we would sit at the counter and eat grilled cheese sandwiches), Los Altos Bakery (where we bought special cakes and pastries), and Lerner's clothing store. There was a Lucky's grocery store at the corner of Bellflower and Stearns where CVS is. On the west side of Bellflower Blvd. was a Sear's Catalog store where Eccos is now. As kids, we used to walk to this center all the time, especially during the summer. -Koni McCarger

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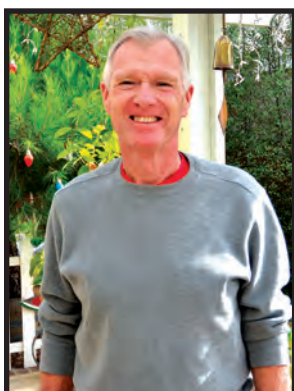
There was a small meat market at the corner of Palo Verde Ave. and Stearns St. (where Starbucks is) where we bought all our meat from a butcher. I remember my mom getting gas at the 76 gas station when the owner would pump the gas, wash the windows and check under the hood. He would even check the air in the tires! Where John's Hamburger's is on Spring St. used to be McDonalds. The strip along that side had a movie theater. I saw Gone with the Wind with my mom there. Lol. On the other side of Palo Verde at Spring was Plaza Bowl. Stater Bros was National Lumber. Just a reminder that we were the first girl crew of the McDonalds. There's no way for you to forget the way we all were! Crazy! But, I did meet my husband at that McDonalds and we married a year out of high school and still are 37 years later! -Karen Shoemaker



When I was about six years old (1954), we moved to a house on Radnor Avenue (by Los Coyotes Diagonal and Spring Street). It was the only housing tract in the area for a few years. We used to go marketing at the Market Basket Store on Bellflower Blvd. and Spring Street (now 24 Hour Fitness, next to JAX Bicycles). Another store we visited was Zody's, at Los Coyotes Diagonal and Spring Street (now Vons-Pavilions). It was somewhat like Big Lots at that time. When I was in high school, I attended Millikan High School from 1963 until I graduated in 1966 (on Snowden Avenue). Across the street on Belen Avenue was a hamburger stand sometimes frequented by students during lunch time. When McDonalds moved to where John's fast food restaurant is now, our stand went out of business. Lots of wonderful memories...Oh how I miss the good old days!



Sally Miranda



I grew up across the street from the Los Altos Center, three houses down from the house that I have now lived in for 34 years! Some of my favorite memories of the early Los Altos area include dining at the A&W Root Beer on Los Coyotes and Clark, and Tastee Freeze on Stearns. I have fond memories of having dinner at Curries on the Traffic Circle, going downstairs at Lonnie's Sporting Goods to check out the Ski Shop, and attending 'Friday Nighters' at Stanford Junior High School and then walking across the Unimart parking lot to Bob's Big Boy restaurant and ordering a chocolate malt. During Christmas time, I remember sitting on Santa's lap in the big front window at the Broadway department store...I would then walk over for the wonderful cookies at the Los Altos bakery. After Christmas was over, we would collect all of the Christmas trees in the neighborhood and take them to Atherton Park. The Parks and Recreation Department would have a huge bonfire.

Bill Marshall

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- I coached **St. Anthony's Boys Basketball** for 7 years and led them to the first ever **CIF** Championship in School History.
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# ...An Unrivaled Community Donation

## Weingart-Lakewood Family YMCA Renovation

By John Grossi



Inspired by a tremendous gift of over \$4 million from the estate of Julie Ibbetson Zilinskas, the Weingart-Lakewood Family YMCA is greeting 2014 with the addition of a masterpiece for the East Long Beach/Lakewood community. The state-of-the-art 21st century architectural design “will be a flagship model for all YMCA’s within the region. It will have a boutique resort feel that will encourage folks to linger,” according to project designer, Michael Bohn with Studio One Eleven Architects.

With its carefully thought out amenities, there is no reason that the Weingart-Lakewood Family YMCA cannot “serve as the community’s living room”—unless of course the community’s mother says no running around or playing ball

inside! Over 10,000 square feet will be added to the facility through the addition of a second story and the repurposing of its current roller hockey rink and healthy lifestyle center. A new great hall will lead to various exercise rooms providing more cardio and weight equipment, and new healthy living outlets. Other additions will include an increased lobby and lounge, and a family adventure room designed to encourage active playtime.

Alfredo Velasco, President & CEO of the YMCA of Greater Long Beach, describes the new facility as a one-stop shop for families. He expects the inviting childcare facilities to be a major draw. Here, parents can drop off their little ones and know they will be well-attended while Mom and





Projection of the 2015 YMCA with the second story glass facing Carson Street

Dad get the exercise they need to thrive. New family changing rooms will also make it easier on parents. The YMCA listened to the needs of the community and found a way to enable members and families of all ages to have a place to gather, exercise, play, and strengthen their fundamental Judeo-Christian Values.

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***“This will be a flagship model for all YMCA’s within the region. It will have a boutique resort feel that will encourage folks to linger”***

**-Michael Bohn  
Studio One Eleven Architects**

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Bohn describes the project design as both revolutionary and a perfect fit for East Long Beach and Lakewood. Each separate room has been designed to fit the needs of its diverse active users, while enhancing the notion of community at the Weingart-Lakewood Family YMCA facility. Virtually anyone you talk to who has served on the board of the YMCA of Greater Long Beach mentions the unbelievable cohesion and unity at the Weingart-Lakewood Family YMCA. The branch serves the area’s greatest number of senior citizens as well as youth, yet somehow everything flows seamlessly. For the past two years, YMCA board members and third party architects have been working on a design sure to enhance the existing feel of community at Carson and Woodruff. Anything else would be unacceptable.

Certainly one thing on which the YMCA Board and architects agreed is the use of glass in the building. According to Bohn, “The abundant amount of glass will serve as the circulation spine to access all the great new activities.” The YMCA likes the transparent feel it gives to their increased programs and the visibility the new branch will have within the community. As seen in the artist’s rendering, a priority in the design uses the second story glass for two-way vision; cars on Carson Street will be able to see into the top floor while members will have a great view out toward Heartwell Park.

For the roughly 10,000 locals and all activities served by the Weingart-Lakewood Family YMCA through its various programs and camps, alternate sites and on-site accommodations have been mapped out to ensure that nothing will be cut during the 2014 renovation. The basketball gym was already remodeled in 2009. In addition to major expansions of weight rooms, the new construction will boast three new fitness rooms, all new locker rooms, a family room, teen room, and pool deck modifications. According to Velasco, YMCA members throughout Greater Long Beach have responded to the renovation with understanding and excitement. While the new Weingart-Lakewood Family YMCA is under construction, membership is expected to grow over the next year as more families realize the potential of this capital expansion project that will be ready by 2015.

The primary inspiration and funding for this project comes from an individual whose family has deep roots in the city of Lakewood. Julie Ibbetson Zilinskas belonged to the family business—Union Development Company—a commercial real estate firm started by her grandfather prior to World War II. The Ibbetsons were one of the first families to de-





Projection of the 2015 YMCA with improved pool deck and parking

velop housing tracts in Lakewood. R.E. Ibbetson subdivided land and built houses still standing on Ibbetson Avenue. As the decades after World War II passed, the Ibbetson family and company gradually divided up their dairy and agricultural farm land and developed numerous residential and commercial properties for the City of Lakewood. Around the time of Julie's birth in the mid-1950s, the Ibbetson family business helped develop the first enclosed shopping mall in Southern California: Lakewood's "Dutch Village."

Holding to her family's knack for business and its passion for Greater Long Beach, Julie joined the Union Development Company in the 1980s after graduating from Saint Joseph High School, Long Beach City College, and Cal State Long Beach. She eventually rose to be Senior Vice President of Business Development at the company. During her tenure, Union managed properties with tenants such as Walgreens Drugstore, Blockbuster Video, Carl's Jr., and Papa John's Pizza.



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Lakewood-Weingart Family YMCA board members and staff from left to right: Sue Baker, Erin Stibal, Dawn Owens, John Blowers, Phyllis Hayes-Reams, Marla Harold, Phil Martinez, John Kelsall, Alfredo Velasco, Vicki Brown



YMCA Ground Breaking Downtown in the Early 20th Century



The YMCA of Greater Long Beach has played a big role in youth lives since the founding of Long Beach

Of equal importance to Julie was her service within the YMCA, where among other positions held, she was chairman of the board of directors from 2000-2003. Julie always felt thankful for the YMCA's influence on both her youth and adult lives. She credited a big portion of her success to lessons learned as a child who had a strong desire to attend the YMCA Camp Oakes in Big Bear. Every year, her parents made her responsible for earning her own way to make the summer trip, so Julie sold YMCA peanuts, learning the values of hard work and what one can get from setting goals and meeting them. Her mother, Harriet Ibbetson, remembers Julie coming home after camp and talking for hours, so excited about her memories from the camp and already anticipating the next year.

Remaining involved through her whole life, Julie continued to reap the benefits of YMCA community. Although she and husband Martin had no children, they treated the youth

of the YMCA as their own. Upon Julie's tragic early departure from this life, she left in her 2005 trust an unrivaled donation to the YMCA of Greater Long Beach. Supplemented by donations to the YMCA of Greater Long Beach from other individuals and local corporations, the project is expected to raise another \$1.6 million through community-wide contributions before completion.

Julie's donation is a testament to the value one finds at the YMCA of Greater Long Beach, which has long been capable of improving residents' lives thanks to individual donations such as hers. It is no secret that beneficiaries of the YMCA's programs tend to recognize the institution as a stepping stone in their successful lives. Even before the City of Long Beach was officially incorporated, the YMCA's first Downtown Long Beach board was elected on May 10th, 1884. In 1905, CJ Walker, the man who started Farmers and Merchants (F&M) Bank, became instrumental in raising



the money to spark construction of the first Long Beach YMCA, which was built downtown. Ever since, the Walker family has remained a big part of both the YMCA and F&M, two long-term staples in our Long Beach community.

CJ Walker proved to be the first in a long list of successful and faithful Long Beach people to realize the importance of the YMCA in fostering community spirit. Lloyd Whaley, the primary land developer in East Long Beach, donated land for the Los Altos Family YMCA while building vast housing tracts in the '40s and '50s. Lloyd Whaley is honored not only for having the insight to recognize East Long Beach's potential as a suburban housing community, but for influencing its direction with the donation of parks, churches, libraries and a community gathering place to keep young men focused on values—enter the YMCA.

In 1976, Ben Weingart, the primary land developer of Lakewood (and parts of North East Long Beach) recognized the need for an updated state-of-the-art YMCA facility to serve the community that he helped build. Weingart donated an unprecedented \$1.75 million in land, cash, and materials to build an all-new YMCA at Carson and Woodruff (moved from its original Lakewood location at Bellflower and Centralia). For the last 30 years that building has served the

90808, 90815 and Lakewood communities as the largest and most accommodative branch in the YMCA of Greater Long Beach system.

Since the '50s, hundreds of thousands of Long Beachers have benefitted from programs offered by the YMCA facilities in Lakewood and Los Altos. Whether it was summer camp, swim lessons, youth sports, adult fitness, group classes, family retreats, senior aerobics, or just as a gathering place for all ages - chances are, if you've lived in the 908', your life has crossed paths with the local YMCA.

At some future date, many of us will look back and remember 2014 as the start of a tremendous step forward in the annals of an institution with deep roots in the values of East Long Beach. Increased revenue from this first capital expansion is expected to spark a series of updates and improvements for other branches of the YMCA of Greater Long Beach. As has been true since the founding days of CJ Walker, the goal remains the same: first examine the needs of the community and then proceed to fulfill those needs. Three pillars are central to everything the YMCA has and will continue to do for East Long Beach: youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. ■

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# I Remember When...



**Sherry Meinberg**

During WWII, as a small child, I vividly remember, that every Sunday on our way to church—down Conant or Carson streets to turn onto Lakewood Blvd.—we drove under high, camouflage netting that covered the entire buildings of the Douglas Plant. The heavy, green, netting had little buildings and trees on top, so as to look like a pastoral setting of rolling hills and farm houses, to any foreign airplanes that might be flying overhead. Later, as a first grader in 1945, I visited the Minnie the Whale bones, on display at the Colorado Lagoon pavilion in Long Beach. The 63-foot frame was so huge to my small eyes, that I was convinced that I was looking at dinosaur bones. I was fascinated with the closed building next to the bones, hoping that it held more such artifacts, and I made a mighty vow to return to see the treasures within the walls, when I was older. The summer after I graduated from Wilson High School (1957), I landed a job with the Long Beach Recreation Department, and imagine my surprise to find that our first meeting was to be held at that very same building. Unfortunately, I found that it was just a bare meeting room, and that my dinosaur had been dismantled the year prior. Bummer!

I remember when I first moved here with my family in the 30's from Iowa. My parents worked at the Douglas plant and we lived just south of Heartwell Park—although there was no such thing back then. I went to school at Bancroft, which was just one building in the middle of acres of bean fields and farm grounds. When the farmers would dig their trenches we would all get to play in them during recess. There was no fence around our school and one time a goat escaped from a nearby farm and started running around our school. All of us girls hid in the bathroom till it was gone! I moved to the Los Altos area as a senior at Wilson High School, I then went to Long Beach City College. I'll never forget one night, as a member of the girls' choir we had just finished a concert and we went to a place called Domenico's on Second Street. The owner heard we had just come from a concert and he let us sing a song in front of the whole restaurant! It was also the first time I had ever eaten pizza!



**Elaine Ballinger**



**Craig Barnes**

In the 1960s I remember going on drives in Long Beach with my mom and dad. We would go shopping at Lakewood Mall, or visit family in Bixby Knolls. Every time we drove down Spring St. and went through the tunnel by the airport my father or mother would honk the car horn to the tune of "Shave and a haircut, 6 bits." I still do the same thing with my own children (and they are in their twenties). Maybe it will catch on again. My dad would take me fishing early Saturday mornings. We would stop at Hof's Hut on Bellflower Blvd. for hot chocolate (with a free cookie) and coffee. Belmont Pier was new then. It was clean and they were just building the Olympic Pool next to it. When I was really young my parents would pile my sister and I into the car in the evening and drive to the airport to watch airplanes land. We would sit there and watch as DC-8s and DC-9s landed, and try to guess where they were coming from. I remember playing little league baseball at El Dorado Park, and we used to buy baseball cards from the Helm's Bakery truck that drove through our neighborhood everyday with fresh bread, cakes, doughnuts, and candy. Summers were never long enough, with drag boat races at Marine Stadium, bike rides to the beach, and hiking behind Sims Bait Store looking for frogs, lizards, and snakes.



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## ... South Africa Meets Long Beach at “the Eldo” Eldorado Bar & Grill

By Andrea Sampson



Looking toward the Eldorado Bar & Grill from Spring St. just past Studebaker



Owner Trevor (middle) and his fellow chefs



Eldorado waitresses are excited to serve you!

The Eldorado Bar and Grill, an East Long Beach landmark since the 1950s, has a new lease on life. This summer, the dated restaurant found new owners, a new look and a tasty new menu.

The familiar pink stucco and retro neon sign still grace the corner of Studebaker and Spring, but walking through the front door of the Eldorado reveals a fresh updated interior. Owner Trevor Nettmann had to start from scratch when he acquired the restaurant affectionately known as “the Eldo.” “Everything was worn down,” he said. “The interior had to be completely gutted and rebuilt.” The bar, the kitchen and the dining room are all brand new and have a fun South African twist.

Bamboo walls and ceilings, dark wood beams and African art sets the stage. Stuffed animal heads, which Nettmann himself hunted, overlook the rich wood bar, and there are several large flat screen televisions for the sports fans. A

large stage with a drop down screen sits at the front of the dining room where all types of live entertainment can be seen. The restaurant improvements lend a warm welcoming vibe, with a unique African influence.

Not only did the décor get a change, but Nettmann also added a twist to the menu. He calls “the Eldo” a gastro pub with a South African influence. Standard bar and grill food can be found on the menu, but it is the South African flavor that keeps patrons coming back for more. Nettmann refers to South African food as “rainbow cuisine” because of the diverse influences over the centuries, including Dutch, Portuguese and French. The new menu is full of color.

Flavors like the spicy Portuguese Peri-Peri sauce and the South African Durban curry kick up the menu, and just about everything is made from scratch, including the bacon and sausage. Homemade boerewors sausage is a customer favorite. Nettmann says that the “farmer’s sausage” is very





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**Restaurant seating at the Eldorado Bar and Grill**



**Bar area at the Eldorado Bar and Grill**

popular on a roll with a side of traditional tomato and onion sauce, but the boere burger is an alternative for the less adventurous. “We tried to add traditional South African flavors to classic American bar food,” Nettmann said. Peri-Peri hot wings are another mix of the two cuisines. Among the exotic entrees are delicious versions of the all-American favorites including burgers, fish and chips, and mouth-watering steaks.

The Eldorado Bar and Grill is quickly regaining its status as the neighborhood hangout. Wednesday nights have been designated as community or family nights, and “the Eldo” has hosted several “family night out” events for the local schools. Nettmann is happy to donate 20 percent of profits back to the schools for these events. “I want this to be a place where the community comes to have meetings, gather with friends, celebrate, or just relax.” A side room connected to the restaurant is being turned into a party room or meeting room to accommodate all types of gatherings.

Nettmann hopes the Eldorado will become the community’s home away from home, and he’s listening to everything they have to say. On Fridays and Saturdays, live music fills the dining room, and happy hour runs Monday through Friday. “I am letting the customers give the restaurant its direction,” Nettmann said. Customer suggestions have helped shape happy hour and the beers on tap. The Eldorado has added several craft beers and has moved Happy Hour a little later, now 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., to accommodate the working customers. These simple changes show Nettmann’s dedication to creating a community bar and grill.

Homemade entrees made with fresh ingredients, a wide variety of beers on tap, live music and an inviting atmosphere make the Eldorado Bar and Grill hard to resist. And, as happy as the neighbors are to have “the Eldo” up and running again, Nettmann is even happier to have found a home for his restaurant in East Long Beach. In his words, “It’s a good neighborhood, with good people.” ■



# I Remember When...



Glenn Jackman

I remember when the name Clark Griswold may have been the name of your local pharmacist or local mechanic. Many 908 residents were "Griswold's" before that name became associated with over the top holiday light displays and house decorations. Two examples come to mind each year. First is the Santa falling off the roof and the rotating tree in the perfect "Tree Window" on College Circle. My parents would drive us by each year. My second was the "MERRY CHRISTMAS - HAPPY NEW YEAR" which was spelled out around little Whaley park (Chatwin, Los Santos, San Anseline). Each house had an aluminum letter corresponding to their location around the park, spot lighted and all!

Marri's Pizza, on Stearns and Palo Verde, has been my husband Jerry's and my favorite pizza place since we were dating in high school in the early eighties. It still has a soft spot in my heart, plus the fact that they continue to serve great pizza at the same location is always a plus. My hubby was a Bruin and I was a Jackrabbit, but Marri's was our neutral zone where we could kick back and discuss our schools' sports, our teachers (his dad taught at Wilson), who was dating who, music (punk v. rock), and whatever else teenagers talk about. We have enjoyed chowing down on their pizza so much over the years, that I have been known to pick one up on my way home from teaching at Wilson (yes, I have gone over to the "dark" side). The only thing missing now is the graffiti all over the walls: Marri's classed up the joint a number of years ago, and we kind of miss reading what people wrote on the walls.



Patty Martinez



John McConnell

I was the first Long Beach State Baseball coach and the program has certainly come a long way since our humble beginnings in the spring of 1954. That first season saw us encounter several challenges. Construction on the campus Baseball Field had not been completed so we were forced to commute to nearby Whaley Park to practice. At that time the field was a Little League sized facility. The lack of a home field also meant that we became the visiting team until the tail end of the season when we managed to squeeze in three home games. Another problem was the shortage of players. Our roster consisted of fourteen players, several of whom were very inexperienced. As a result, we did a lot of improvising. The next five years saw remarkable improvement and we were able to compete favorably with well established programs like Fresno State and San Diego State. A highlight of the 1958 season was when we played the official opening of Blair Field, and Mayor Ray Kealer throwing out the first pitch.



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# I Remember When...



Janis Krantz

I remember the fifties and sixties walking home from Our Lady of Refuge Catholic School and every day stopping at the Los Altos Shopping center to get a candy bar for only \$.05 cents or an ice cream cone for only \$.05. Then walking down the open air mall and stopping at the Musical Jewel Box to see what I wanted to save my money for and purchase. Sometimes we would stop at The Broadway and get a "cherry coke" at their restaurant upstairs. If we were really hungry we would go to Woolworth's and get some crispy French Fries. The shop owners and employees were all so nice to us. There was C H Baker Shoe store, Kenny's Shoe store, J C Penney's, and the yummy Los Altos Bakery. We would just sit in the center of the shops on the benches outside our favorite shops and dream of everything we wanted to buy. For a fun night out we went to the giant Los Altos Drive-In movie theatre. When we were in High School, we would sneak friends into the theatre inside my huge 1954 Chevy trunk. We would laugh ourselves silly once we got into our movie parking space. Another favorite spot was The Galley restaurant where you could have a bar-b-q beef sandwich and a Dr. Brown's Creme Soda. That is also where the Pumpkin Patch was and where we would pick out our Halloween pumpkins. Now, in that same spot, I have my own business, J&L Jewelry. Just wish I could get a bar-b-q beef sandwich. Hee-hee-hee. We are trying to bring back that OLD WORLD feeling at J&L Jewelry. Our business is built on trust and friendship!



Ron Hosler

I got my first job in college working at the No-Name Restaurant where small café is now in Naples. I was a breakfast cook and we served people on a top deck over looking the ocean. My wife worked at the Musical Jewel Box. At nighttime, Hamburger Henry's was always the place to go and meet up with people. They had their signature Curly Fries that you could smell from down the street.



Terry Gill

Loved shopping downtown Long Beach in the 50's and 60's. Walker's department store, Buffum's for Prom dresses. Zuker's Ladies store was high class and I bought a white dress with black trim on the large collar--loved that dress--so smart looking. Bought my wedding gown at the 1962 Walker's - on sale for \$40, so I bought the most beautiful net slip in lace to wear under - and still have both. Also, bought wedding rings at Walker's. The stores had elevator operators that called out the floors and what was sold on each floor. Great experience.



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Jan Szabatura

I grew up in the Los Altos section of Long Beach in the 1960's and my life was centered on the Los Coyotes Diagonal. My siblings and I all went to Our Lady of Refuge, which was across the street from A & W Root Beer restaurant. We would have Hamburger Day once a week at school and got burgers and fries delivered to all the students. Our favorite day ever! On the walk home from school we would stop at Bab's Dairy Drive Thru for candy, on the corner of Los Coyotes and Willow, next to the Flying A gas station. During our high school days, Bab's was the place to get beer! After church on Sundays, Dad would take us all up the "hill" to Uncle John's Pancake House next to Java Lanes Bowling Alley. Uncle John's pancakes were awesome and I loved the many different flavors of syrups to choose from. But the best part of breakfast was eating with the black, papered mustaches that they handed out to all the kids. If we were good Dad would stop at Kiddie Land on the way home, the small carnival, near where the In and Out is now on the Diagonal. If it was a special occasion Dad would actually get off the Diagonal and head up Clark Ave to Hody's Restaurant. Hody's was a great family place either to eat inside or choose car service!

In the early 60's my pre-teen buddies and I were always riding around on our stingray bikes looking for adventure. One of our favorite locations for adventure was the 'bone-yard' at the Douglas Aircraft plant that was littered with old airplane parts, which were probably left over from the Korean War. For some reason, the gate to the yard was always open, so what could be more fun than climbing around, looking for old gauges and other cool objects to take home to play with in the fort we built in my backyard? We would hide whenever employees or security came by. The coolest activity was climbing into an old airplane nose-cone and having pretend war games with buddies who were on the ground trying to attack us. Eventually as we got older we discovered something even more fun – girls! Our fantasy war games quickly faded away, but it still remains a fond memory of growing up in Long Beach.



Tom Dutchner

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### *I Remember When...*

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When the decision was made to revamp the area, we moved our office to the top of Signal Hill. We've had the joy of seeing numerous local high school cross country and track teams run by our building as they train on the hill. We even put a drinking fountain on the side of our building for these Long Beach athletes!

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# ... Bridging the Gap Between God, Fun, and Learning

## Valley Christian Schools K-12

By John Grossi



Valley Christian- it's that high school I always heard about while growing up in Long Beach but never knew anything about. For example, I did not realize there were four schools other than the high school (Middle School, Elementary School, and two Preschools). If you're anything like me, now is the time to learn!

Upon visiting the Cerritos-based schools this Fall, I was not surprised to find out that over 30% of their student body is from the Greater Long Beach area. I know or know of plenty of Long Beach families that call Valley Christian their alma mater. What I was pleasantly surprised about was, among other things, the ease with which the school fits our theme of both remembering back to a golden age and looking forward to the updates of the 21st century.

First, the Golden Age: In 1935 Christian dairy farmers grouped together a number of churches and started a school that strove to connect students to learning through a Reformed Christian lens. That basic philosophy has grown with the school and remains strong today: The bible should not be separated from any subjects such as, math and science, rather teachers should illuminate God's light, wisdom, and work through every subject at all times.

However, what jogs my memory most (and certainly others' as well) about this school is not the dates and facts that make up this school's history, rather the atmosphere and feeling you get when walking through the grounds. I personally toured both the High School and Middle School whose grounds are separated by sports fields. Passing by classrooms, stepping into classrooms, and conversing with students, there is a revitalized sense of that long-lost happy and secure schooling system, where students are genuinely

having fun while being engaged with their subjects.

It is refreshing, and in many ways reminiscent of a different time and place, to see a school where class sizes are small (the faculty to student ratio is about 1 to 20), students are active, teachers are friendly to the students, and smiles, literally abundant—believe me I wouldn't feel comfortable lying about something like this. The whole place (Middle School and High School alike) gives off this feeling like *yeah, these kids actually want to be here!*

A big reason for the motivated and engaged students at Valley Christian's schools are the teachers—many of whose resumes suit higher paying jobs, but who have chosen Valley Christian because of its Christian mission, and their dedication to the educational philosophy involved. One AP Physics class I walked into was in the middle of reviewing what they learned for the day. The teacher, a young man in his thirties started, "Archimedes Principle relates to the property of..." the class (and I mean the whole class) responded loudly—"buoyancy." Did you know that?

They went on to perform a number of similarly impressive Q&A's. I learned later that the teacher completed his masters degree at Harvard and turned down a number of prestigious positions to give back to the high school Christian environment that had made him so successful in the first place.

Another walk-in encounter that impressed me was the Senior English class reading the play Hamlet out loud. Now I am not going to sit here and tell you they understood everything in that play they were reading (I was an English major and only after taking multiple upper division Shake-





**The Valley Christian Music program performs at invationals around the country**



**Schooling is a family commitment and parents are involved along the way**

speare classes was I able to fully understand that no one can fully understand Shakespeare). What impressed me was how no matter whose turn it was to read, his or her voice echoed, loudly, clearly, and slowly—as if someone forgot to tell these students that they are supposed to be scared and embarrassed in front of their peers as teenagers. I was shocked at how tangible the secure feeling of the students was at this unique school.

There are of course the impressive figures to boast about as well. About 96% go to College and University and 30% of graduates are accepted to the top 100 Universities in the nation, pretty much every student graduates, multiple AP classes are offered, and passing rates are well-above the national average. Athletics have brought home more than 30 CIF championships with the most recent one coming in 2011 for men's volleyball, and every student participates in one of their many award-winning arts programs.

Though many academics, sports, and arts programs produce college-prep results, there are no recruiting or specialty requirements involved. Valley Christian accepts students based on their personal and familial commitment to Christ as well as the school's ability to serve the student's needs. As long as an individual meets those requirement, Valley



**Smiles are easy to come by while on campus**

Christian will accept the student and surely provide an area they can excel in as well. The old-timey, secure and happy feeling I got when walking through the campus appeared to be a direct result of having students and teachers who have clearly chosen to be at the school. "It is their place," as High School principal Jeff Hoogeveen observed. Valley Christian is not a job, a chore, or a hassle for anyone.

All of this starts at Valley Christian elementary school where, from kindergarten through 6th grade, students experience weekly specialized training in art, music (including instrumental training beginning in 4th grade), technology,

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**Middle School Principal Paul Theule and his students show off their one-to-one iPad program**

library and P.E. Even before that there is the Preschool. Early childhood education is very important within the school system and is taught from a Christian perspective at both Valley Christian preschool campuses. The developmental preschool employs the highly acclaimed HighScope method of hands-on learning and play.

Now to the 21st Century part of this school, which reveals itself through tools: iPads, iPads, iPads. As of this year, the high school has adopted a one-to-one iPad curriculum. However, the program started and was refined at the Middle School level a few years ago, so that is where we will examine. You may know the capabilities of iPads or even have one yourself, but until you walk through a Valley Christian School, you have no idea how these things are revolutionizing education. For a majority of students; textbooks, notes, class activities, and homework are all done on one place—their personal iPad.

According to Middle School principal Paul Theule, iPads were out of the question unless the school had a reliable and robust infrastructure, as well as extensive training and buy-in from the teaching staff. That means that every staff member is on-board and using iPads in an integrated way throughout the campus. Training started four years before the program was initiated and is ongoing. At national conferences Valley Christian Middle School teachers are the models for other aspiring schools. The biggest misconception for skeptics, according to Theule, is that iPads are an end in themselves. “They are a tool and nothing more,” Theule noted while holding up a student drawn timeline of world history on poster paper. “They could never take the place of something so beautiful, hands-on, and creative as this.”

What iPads allow for is a system where students are kept constantly engaged (as is a theme at Valley Christian Schools) and where teachers can access real-time results



**Sporting events tend to pull together the whole Valley Christian community**

about the speed and success with which students are completing activities. One big benefit is that the apps on the iPads are designed for a mastery that cannot be achieved with a pen and paper. For most assignments and activities, a student cannot move on to the next question or segment without getting the first one correct.

The iPad's implementation could be discussed at length, but for the sake of brevity here are a few more key facts East Long Beach residents should know about the schools:

- The High School and Middle School are located on Dumont Avenue in Cerritos, between Palo Verde and Studebaker just north of the city of Lakewood. The campus is about 10-15 minutes away from most of East Long Beach via the 605.
- Valley Christian Schools offer a comprehensive bus system that covers all of East Long Beach, and with hundreds of residents already going there, chances are someone in your neighborhood is already bussing or carpooling to Valley Christian.
- The schools draws students from nearly 300 local churches and new students are welcome to join in any grade pre-K-12. The Valley Christian Elementary School, located on Grand Avenue in Bellflower, goes from pre-K-6 and the Middle School in Cerritos is 7th-8th grade. ■



# LOOKING FOR A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH?

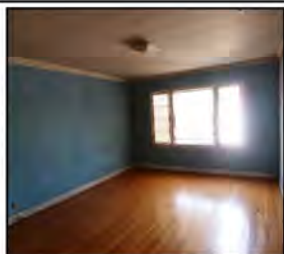


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# *... Improving Accessibility and Affordability On Ice*

## THE RINKS- Lakewood Ice

By John Grossi



Last issue we sat down with local Anaheim Ducks star Emerson Etem to talk about his journey to the NHL from Alamitos Heights in East Long Beach. The lengths Emerson went to while pursuing his dream were incredible partly due to the rarity of youth ice hockey in sunny Southern California. However, the accessibility for youths and adults to learn hockey in the Long Beach/Lakewood area has grown tremendously in the past few years thanks in a large part to the Anaheim Ducks installation of THE RINKS- Lakewood Ice.

THE RINKS is an initiative to help nurture the growth of ice hockey in an environment that, since the 1992 trade of Wayne Gretzky (The Great One) to the Los Angeles Kings, has seen the largest growth in the sport's fan popularity of any American region. Launched in February 2009, THE RINKS Development Program presented by Honda consists of seven local skating facilities operated by the Anaheim Ducks: four ice rinks (THE RINKS - Anaheim ICE, THE RINKS - Lakewood ICE, THE RINKS - Westminster ICE and THE RINKS -Yorba Linda ICE), as well as three inline facilities (THE RINKS - Huntington Beach Inline, THE RINKS - Irvine Inline and THE RINKS - Corona Inline). THE RINKS all operate with the goal of providing professional facilities capable of meeting the needs of developing athletes along a range that spans from beginning to advanced ice skating, ice hockey, figure skating and inline.

THE RINKS marketing manager Jesse Chatfield explains that SoCal ice hockey fans have for a long time responded to the sport on a professional basis. The obstacle in spurring recreational sports involvement in this traditionally non-hockey market has always been cost. Before their kids really

understand the sport, parents hesitate to spend money on the necessary skates, gear, and other hockey merchandise. Allowing THE RINKS to partner with an organization such as the Anaheim Ducks, with its vested interest in seeing the sport grow in Southern California, has greatly reduced the cost and made it a no-brainer for serious and casual hockey fans to get their kids involved in a sport that epitomizes teamwork, respect, personal skills, and work-ethic. Most families that try the sport have trouble leaving.

Tom Dorkin and his wife Chie, who live off of Palo Verde and Willow in 90815, have long been hockey fans. They heard about a program offered at the RINKS- Lakewood Ice facility called "Learn to Play." In the program, participants are given a completely free 4-week trial during which they learn about the sport, including the fundamentals of skating with a stick in hand and beginning puck skills taught by professional-level coaches. All gear, pads, and skates are donated by Ryan Getzlaf and Corey Perry—the current franchise stars of the Anaheim Ducks.

After the Dorkin's Daughter Mikela tried the program - and loved it! - she immediately signed on for the next level up—a "hockey initiation" that furthers youngster skills in the sport. Her brother Nikolas, at the tender age of three, followed his sister's footsteps straight into the "hockey initiation" and has also fallen in love with the sport. Tom describes THE RINKS- Lakewood Ice as a great environment for both kids and their families. Brandon Parra, the Lakewood Ice hockey manager and a product of THE RINKS himself, describes the group effort that the hockey and figure skating community in Southern California has undertaken to make their passion accessible to local families.





**Hockey Manager Brandon Parra with Long Beach Residents Mikela and Nikolas**



**Outside the 76,000 square foot facility**



**Two youngsters learn a new hockey drill**



**Team figure skaters work on a twirl**



**Smiles are something you see a lot of at THE RINKS**



**Speed Skaters zoom past our camera**

“Most of the time kids don’t even realize the professionalism they are surrounded by at THE RINKS,” explains Parra. “On a given day it is likely that you will be skating side-by-side next to a current or former professional hockey player, as many of their own kids are participants in the program. The Ducks organization from top to bottom is all in on giving back to the sport.” As for Tom Dorkin, he did not realize until reading Long Beach 908’s article on Emerson Etem, that his 3-year-old daughter was being coached by Etem’s own former and current mentor, Sandy Gausseaul

After they complete the initiative programs, youths can continue into fun, equal-play but competitive rec leagues comparative to AYSO soccer or YMCA basketball. Kids can have great fun playing in the rec leagues throughout their youth; or jump to a club team and engage in a more competitive level of play. Similar progressions exist for the Lakewood Ice figure skating program, which is one of the

most comprehensive in Southern California. THE RINKS- Lakewood Ice offers programs from beginner group classes all the way up to advanced triple jump, and participants can take advantage of an impressively accomplished plentitude of coaches and mentors looking to spread their knowledge.

THE RINKS- Lakewood Ice - with three full skating rinks, a snack shack, pub, bleachers, skate-rentals, team store, and other world-class features - rounds out its ice time with public skating sessions, team practices, and other programs to nurture the skating population. They invite anyone who has ever dreamt about an early morning skate, a gliding blade along pristine ice, or a seamless triple jump, to head down and check out the prices and facilities at THE RINKS- Lakewood Ice. Thanks are due to the Ducks, and everyone in the local ice hockey community, for giving of their time and money to further this great pastime in the unlikely Southern California climate. ■



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## ...30 Days of Charity and 30 Years of Service Naples Rib Company

By Jonathan Murrietta



It's the rib that keeps on giving. Long Beach's Naples Rib Company, along with its sister restaurant Newport Rib Company, in Costa Mesa, generated over \$36,000 in donations as part of 30 Days of Charity—the month-long program aiding 30 local and national charities. The 30 Days of Charity, which began on November 1, celebrated the family-owned and operated barbeque and catering restaurant's 30 years in the business. Fran Ursini founded the Naples and Newport Rib Company in 1984. Since then, the barbeque eatery has been fervently supporting the local community by donating to hundreds of charity fundraisers and events each year. Today, the successful restaurants are operated by Fran Ursini's sons John and Dave Ursini, with the assistance from sister Laura.

"The success of this program demonstrates to us that our community loves to give back," says John Ursini, co-owner of Naples and Newport Rib Company. "We are ecstatic at the results and plan on continuing to support the community year round." An astounding final result of \$36,150 was given to local and national charities from 30 Days of Charity. As part of the 30 Days of Charity program, each customer was given the opportunity to donate 20% of his check to support one of the 30 local and national charities of the patron's choice. The Seal Beach Animal Care Center, the Wounded Warrior Project, and the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Miller's Children's Hospital in Long Beach received the most donations from restaurant customers. Among the local charities popular among diner donations were WomenShelter of Long Beach, Long Beach Ronald McDonald House, and Food Finders.

"Food Finders deeply appreciates its partnership with Naples Rib Company during their anniversary celebration," said Food Finders Executive Director Patti Larson. "The



Ursini family has always been a great asset to the community and supportive of our hunger relief efforts, which intensify during the holiday season." Food Finders is a community-based rescue organization that is determined to eradicate hunger and food waste while bolstering nutritional values in the communities they serve.

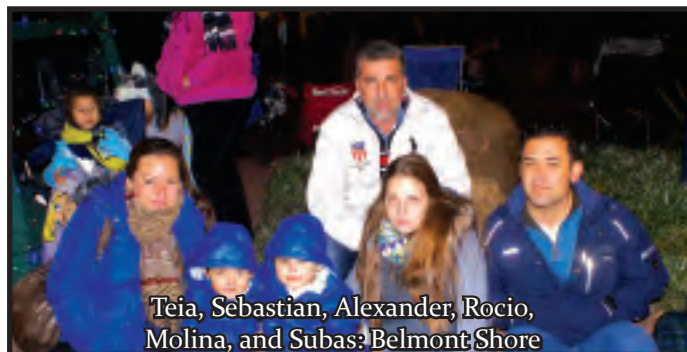
"It was also heartwarming to see some of the local charities do so well," says co-owner and operator of Naples Rib Company Dave Ursini. "They work hard year round to provide assistance to those in need. We are glad that we can support their work through our anniversary celebration. We feel exceptionally fortunate to have the opportunity to support the local community and we plan on continuing this tradition for years to come!"

Naples and Newport Rib Company is known throughout Southern California for offering a tasty barbeque but also clearly take pride in its charitable work, during the holiday season and throughout the year. The 30 Days of Charity is a program that not only illustrates the holiday spirit, but serves as a testament to a business's long-time dedication to giving, inspiring others, and serving the community all year long. ■





Jennifer and Christy: Plaza



Teia, Sebastian, Alexander, Rocio, Molina, and Subas: Belmont Shore



The Snow Family: Los Altos



Karina, Marco, and Maridsa: Long Beach



Chad, Kim, Jordan, and Matt: South of Conant



Jessica, Mackenzie, and Charles: Belmont Heights



Alyssa and Marie: Ranchos



Jacqueline and Connor: Lakewood City

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Lani, Riley, Allison, and Sammy: Belmont Heights



Terry and Dee: Ranchos



Jason, Melissa, and Topazio: Belmont Heights



Anaïs, Caryn, John, and Ed: Lakewood Village

Residents of East Long Beach enjoy themselves at community events. The Sugar Peach Festival, Parkview Village 4th Fridays, and the Belmont Shore Christmas Parade give families a lot to smile about!



Sheila and Julie: Lakewood Village



Ken and Dylan: Lakewood City



Denise and Jessica: South of Conant



Garry and Myra: South of Conant



The Harmony Family: Plaza





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# I Remember When...



I grew up in Long Beach in the late 50's and early 60's. We lived about a block from Dooley's, a large general merchandise department store on Long Beach Blvd. I found a first baseman's mitt there in about 1962 and I was sorely in need of one. I rode my bike down the back alleys to Dooley's every night after school and I would take that mitt and pound my hand into it, over and over. In my mind, I was in the World Series. I was on the Dodgers and we were playing the dastardly Yankees. A salesman in that department asked me nearly every time I showed up there "Sonny, are you going to buy that mitt or just pound your fist into it every night?" I told him my dad was going to get it for me, "come pay day." Well, pay-day arrived and my dad and I walked the block and a half to Dooley's where he bought me that first baseman's glove. It cost \$6. I still have it to this day, hanging on my wall in a display case at home.



**David Phillips**



**Rick Skarbo**

In my college years I lifeguarded down on the peninsula at 62nd place. After shifts my buddies and I would go to a beer bar on 2nd Street called "The Other Place" next to Colonel Sanders where Pappa Luccis is now. One time after a couple beers my buddies and I convinced our girlfriends to let us go jump off of the 2nd Street Bridge. I missed hitting a sailboat by about three feet and it turned out to be the first and last time I ever jumped off of that bridge. Things were more lax than they are now. We used to hang out in our lifeguard stations, invite our friends and girlfriends over, and then go down to 2nd. Everything was Mom and Pop store on 2nd Street and people were easy going.

I am a teacher at Millikan High School and have been a resident of Long Beach since birth (1960). My first home was on Bellflower Blvd directly across the street from the drive-in theater when there was only one screen (now home to Cal Worthington Ford). When I was just a toddler, summer nights were warm and of course we had no air conditioning in the tiny, less than 1,000-square-foot home, so we would leave the front door open. Cars would stop right in front of our house to prepare themselves to go to the drive-in. The passengers from different cars would get out and they would load as many people into the trunk of one car as possible. They would then drive to the drive-in and only have to pay for one or two cars. As a little three-year-old, everything seemed so exciting, even when couples would stop in front of the house in their car and get into arguments. One time, a 2-seater private plane was attempting to make an emergency landing at the Long Beach Airport. We were all playing in the front yard and the plane was coming straight towards our house! The plane crashed into the telephone poles and wires, landing right in the middle of Bellflower Blvd., just 15 feet away from our front yard! Those were exciting times.



**Julie Edwards**



# I Remember When...



Looking west toward 2nd Street from 2nd Street Bridge

*This picture and others inside the magazine are courtesy of Naples historian Stanley Poe and can be seen in his book "Naples, The First Century."*



**John Hancock**

I remember the 1940's and first half of the 1950's during which time I attended Lowell, Rogers, and Wilson High School. There were five small, neighborhood grocery stores located within one mile of our home on Roycroft Ave. The two most memorable were Hamel's (at 3rd and Prospect) and the most notable and long standing is the former Followell's store which has survived for some 70 years mostly in the form of today's "Ma and Pa's Restaurant" at the same Roycroft and Colorado location. Although it has been gone for many years, the Currie's Ice Cream store (home of the "mile high" ice cream cones) located at the triangle bounded by Livingston /Ocean and Termino was a favorite of many and one that pioneered the retail ice cream business in the 40's/50's. The store has been gone for many years and has since been an Arco gas station location. Drive-in movie theatres are a thing of the past today, but were quite a big deal in probably the 1950's through perhaps the 1970's. Most significant in Long Beach to those on the east side were the Circle Drive-in and Los Altos Drive-in theatres located at the traffic circle and Los Altos retail areas respectively. I suspect we all have fond memories of drive-in movie dates and later when we would go there with our family/kids. I'm sure as well, that most of us remember well the Clock Restaurants that were a key "hang-out" probably in the 1950's and 1960's. Those of us on the east side and attending Wilson identify with the Clock Restaurant on

the traffic circle at Ximeno. However, there were two additional Clock Restaurants located on Atlantic Ave that were considered the "Poly HS Clock" and the "Jordan HS Clock" Restaurants. Hoefley's Restaurant in Belmont Shore had a strong following probably in the 50's and 60's. And a similar high opinion exists for me in (the now former) Kelly's Restaurant in Naples for the past 2-3 decades. I can also recall from many years ago the former Leilani Restaurant, which provided many of us with our first Chinese food in the 1940's. It could have been on or near the current site of Legends. Lots of proprietary (i.e., not chains) retail stores have existed on the east side over the years. Two that have earned commendations, in my opinion, are Umberto's mens' clothing store located in Los Altos for some 50 years and the former Egyptian Pharmacy in the central area of 2nd Street in Belmont shore.





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