

# BALBOA



# ISLAND LIVING

A PRIVATE SOCIAL PUBLICATION EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE RESIDENTS OF BALBOA ISLAND • JULY 2019

*meet*

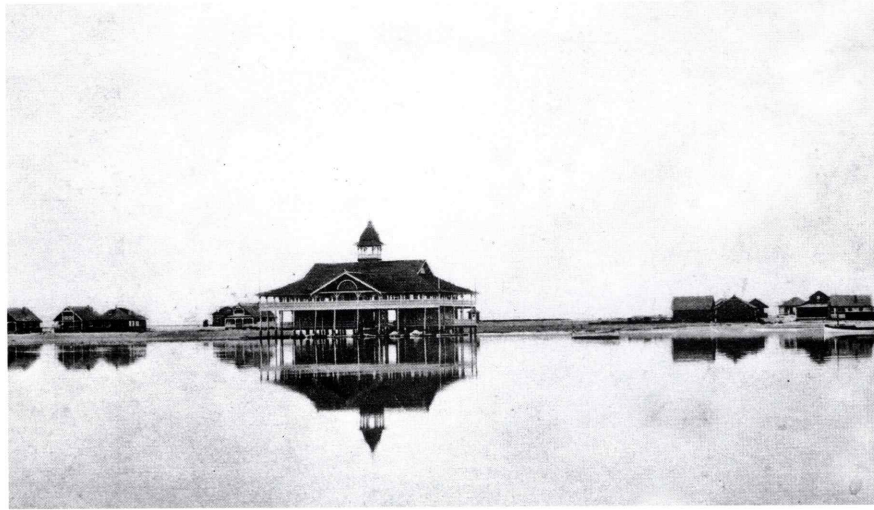
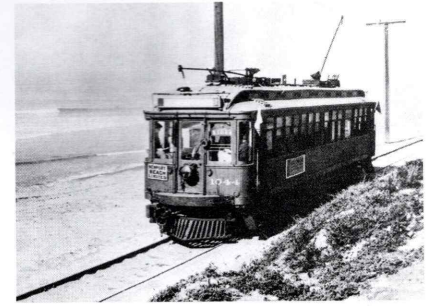
**Tanya and  
Don Larsen!**

Happy Independence Day!



YOUR STORIES • YOUR FAMILIES • YOUR COMMUNITY

*Fairville*  
PHOTOGRAPHY



FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 11, 1911.

**Beautiful Balboa Beach**

There is no more charming spot on the Pacific Coast than Balboa Beach. For a summer home or a place for temporary sojourn of a day's recreation it is unsurpassed. Indeed it is in a class by itself. With a grand stretch of beach on one side for surf-bathing and surf-fishing, and on the other the beautiful Newport Bay for still-water fishing, bathing, boating, it is comparable. On the Ocean side the pleasure pier is now being extended 200 feet further out into the deep blue sea, and on the Bay side is Balboa Pavilion and bath-house with every facility for pleasurable recreation—dancing, boating, fishing, bathing, canoeing. There are the Venetian Gondolas, the steam launches and row-boats and canoes. Directly in front of the Pavilion is Balboa Island on which some of the finest summer homes in Southern California are being built, and to the right across the Bay is Corona del Mar crowned with fine hotel and beautiful cottages, bungalows and more pretentious residences. This resort is free from all objectionable features; is clean and wholesome both morally and physically; and is supplied with all the requirements of visitors, sojourners and residents, as the following list of leading caterers and tradesmen in their respective lines will testify:

**Spend Your Vacation at Balboa**

Balboa Pavilion is the center for Orange County Pleasure Seekers

Rowboats, Canoes and Power Launches for still-water boating in Balboa Bay. Still-water or surf bathing. Bathing suits for rent. Ice and soft drinks served in the pavilion.

FRED W. BECKWITH, PROPRIETOR

# The Balboa Pavilion

*From Bathhouse to Historical Treasure*



**history** | Photos courtesy of the New Balboa Island Museum

The world is filled with many incredible and breathtaking historical sites, and Newport Beach has its own – the Balboa Pavilion. The Pavilion is clearly Newport Beach's most recognizable structure. It has been designated as a California Historical Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic

Places, which is the highest honor a historic building can receive. It is also one of the oldest standing buildings in Newport Beach.

Constructed by the Newport Bay Investment Company in 1905, its initial purpose was to boost the development of Balboa. When the Newport line of the Pacific Electric Railway (Red Cars), which started near Pasadena and went through Los Angeles and Long Beach, was extended to Balboa

on July 4, 1906, this swampy sand spit land (today's Balboa Peninsula) became a popular beach recreation destination. One hundred thousand people in Los Angeles were now less than two hours from the beach, and those seeking a fun time at the seaside utilized the bathhouse changing rooms at the Pavilion.

This influx of people stimulated a buying boom and in a short amount of time, the Newport Bay Investment Company was selling lots. As the story goes, the company made back its initial \$15,000 investment in the Pavilion within the first year as real estate buyers saw the potential growth of the area.

The Pavilion has gone through many transformations during the years, although the basic Victorian-style design has remained the same. In the early days, it housed a post office and barbershop. Locals called the barber "Lucky Tiger Jack" after his fondness of drinking his Lucky Tiger hair tonic! A bowling alley and pool



Long-time residents Cynthia Houston and Seymour Beek share memories about Bal Week in Newport Beach



Barbara Abbott, Penny Rodheim and Sue Pearl at the Concert After Party



Neighbors gather at the Italian Sunday Supper at the Museum

# Happy First Anniversary to the *NEW* Balboa Island Museum Newport Beach



**history**  
By Shirley Pepps

Thank you for making 2019 an extraordinary year at the Balboa Island Museum Newport Beach!

What a year it has been. Between moving into our new location, new exhibits, and a growing membership base, 2019 has been the Museum's best year yet. As the only historical museum in Newport Beach, we present the significant stories of our communities including the importance of the Santa Ana River to the development of Newport Beach; the Boy Scout Jamboree in the 1950s; celebrities who have lived and worked in our villages including John Wayne and his family; Newport Elementary School, Corona del Mar High School, and Newport Harbor High School; fishing and sailing in Newport Harbor; the Ferry; prominent families who helped shape our neighborhoods; and so much more.

We have greeted over 70,000 visitors and couldn't have done it without our members, supporters, and volunteers. Special gratitude goes to the City of Newport Beach and George and Julia Argyros for their generous grants to the Museum.

Here are a few of our favorite highlights from the year:

#### Grand Opening at the New Museum

On November 29, 2018, we launched the opening of the New Museum with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony hosted by the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce. This was followed with our Grand Opening Party on November 30th. Guests had rave reviews for the new exhibits, state-of-the-art audio-visual system, and the extraordinary presentations that capture our community's history. The New Museum opened on December 1, 2019.

#### Oral Histories

We are fortunate to have Peter Weitzner, professor at Chapman University, heading up our Legacy Project. His professionalism and expertise have helped to create memorable and lasting accounts of precious stories told by Newport Beach residents. Pete and his Chapman team have completed 20 oral history videos just this year.

#### Speaker Events

Our famous Speaker Events draw standing-room-only crowds! From Vietnam combat artist Ed Bowen's moving tributes, to long-time residents Seymour Beek, Cindy Houston and John Scudder sharing memories about the various happenings during Bal Week, these presentations continue to be educational and enjoyable.