

A Brief Informal History of the "Twin Inns" Rotary Gazebo
Compiled by Kip McBane
July 12, 2007

The Gazebo was built in the early 1970s by Eddie "Bup" Kentner, Jr., son of Eddie Kentner, Sr., and manager of the Twin Inns at the time.

Bub recalls: "As for the Gazebo, I designed it early in the 70s. I had undertaken the restoration of the Twin Inns building in 1970, in hopes of having it finished for the bi-centennial year [1976]. At that time about the only traces of the original 1887 building were a portion of the "front" face, and the South facing side. I decided, among other changes, to duplicate the original Victorian "look" by replacing all the plain siding with fancy-butt shingles. An employee, Emilio Lopez, began cutting shingles in the Inn's workshop using a small Sears band saw. He would cut a few hundred shingles, then stop and dip them in white paint, then cut a few hundred more whilst the first hundred dried, and so on. Because the bundles of shingles came in random widths, there were dozens upon dozens of shingles too narrow to cut for the 6" fancy-butts. What to do with the "left over" was the impetus for the design of the Gazebo. They would be used to roof a Gazebo!

Notice that several shingle patterns are visible in the roof . . . it all depended on the width of the scraps from the band saw! As I remember, we did use some shingle scraps for 5" fancy-butts on the towers, but it's been a long while ago! The octagon shape of the structure is pure Victorian, which also ties in nicely with the main dinning room architecture.

Perhaps it would be of some interest to anyone trying to preserve, or restore, the Gazebo to mention some details of its construction. The curve in the roof line is a catenary curve . . . the Victorians seldom, if ever, built a tower or a Gazebo roof with straight lumber. To generate the catenary curve I suspended a light chain between two of the floor joists of the main dining room, draping the chain to nearly the basement floor, then using a spray can and a 4' x 8' piece of plywood, transferred the curve to the plywood. The Gazebo roof rafters were then constructed from this pattern by Robert (Bob) Lininger, the resident carpenter.

As you probably know the Gazebo was in great demand for weddings. Marie MacPherson, my banquet manager, handled all the logistics for these events. She probably has many stories to relate, if the [Historical] Society is interested in personal recollections. Marie also served the Rotary Club of Carlsbad for many years, and so may be of interest to the current members. She is now retired, living on Redwood Street in Carlsbad."

The Kentners owned the Twin Inns from 1919. The property was sold in 1984, and after extensive remodeling and the development of the adjacent Village Faire Shopping Centre it became Neiman's (now Ocean House) Restaurant.

After the family sold the property, in order to make way for the development of the shopping center the Gazebo was moved to adjacent Rotary Park in 1985. Apparently this transfer was very casual. It seemed to take place between the developers and the City, and the Kentner family does not appear to have been involved. The Carlsbad History Room at the Carlsbad City Georgina Cole Library has no official or formal ownership transfer, nor any

This history was created by Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotarian Kip McBane from conversations with and information provided by Susan Gutierrez, Carlsbad City Library History Room, Georgina Cole Library, and Marjorie Howard-Jones, local historian and author of *Seekers of the Spring* (A History of Carlsbad).

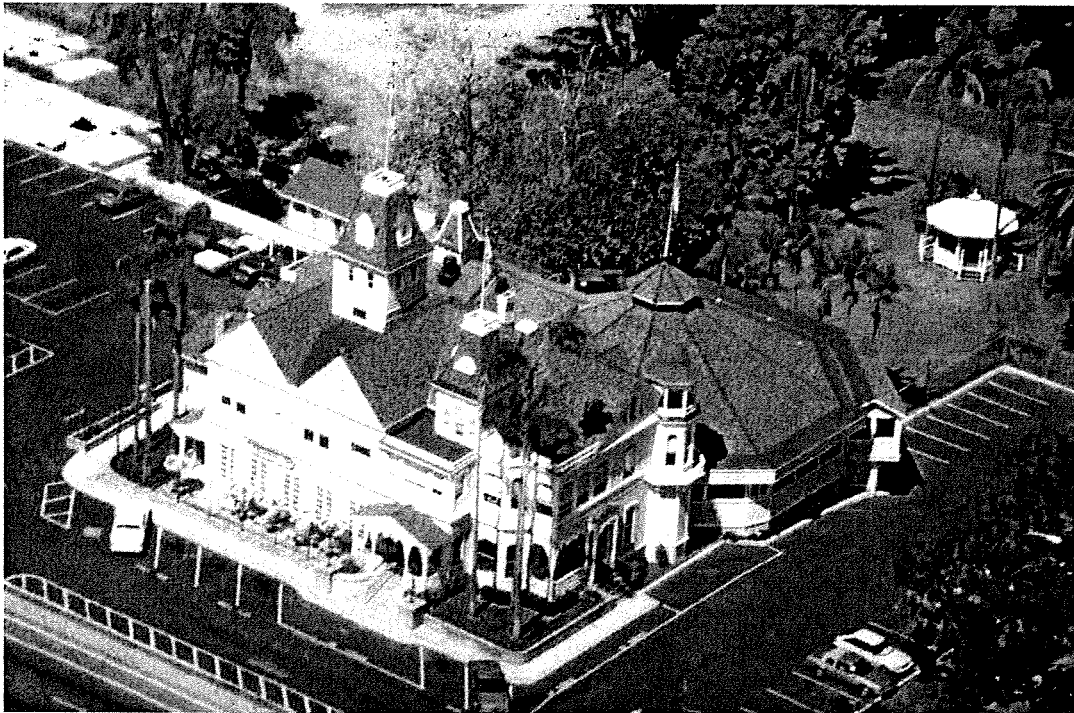
paperwork detailing how the Gazebo got to the park. The president of the Carlsbad Historical Society knows of no such records either.

The City received the lease on Rotary Park and the Depot in May of 1963. Carlsbad Rotary Club member Chris Christiansen was instrumental in gaining the permission for use from the Santa Fe Railway Company, with contact made through Raymond T. Anderson, also a member of the Carlsbad Rotary Club. The Park was intended to be a memorial to Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary International.

Over the years the Gazebo has suffered neglect and its location has made it a focus for loiterers considered undesirable by neighboring businesses and shoppers. In 2007 the City of Carlsbad was considering demolishing the Gazebo to clean-up the Park and reduce liability. When members of the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club (distinct from the Carlsbad Rotary Club) heard about the proposed demolition in the Spring of 2007, they determined to try to move the Gazebo to a more appropriate location, restore it, and once again make it a focal point for visitors to and residents of Carlsbad.

The Carlsbad Historical Society and the Carlsbad Historical Sites Commission have been informed of this effort and are supportive of the move.

Hi-Noon Rotarian and author Dave Dana has offered to prepare an "oral history" of the Gazebo and will be put in touch with related parties who have agreed to be interviewed.



Historical photos are used courtesy of the Carlsbad History Room, Georgina Cole Library.

This history was created by Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotarian Kip McBane from conversations with and information provided by Susan Gutierrez, Carlsbad City Library History Room, Georgina Cole Library, and Marjorie Howard-Jones, local historian and author of *Seekers of the Spring* (A History of Carlsbad).



Historical photos are used courtesy of the Carlsbad History Room, Georgina Cole Library.



Historical photos are used courtesy of the Carlsbad History Room, Georgina Cole Library.

This history was created by Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotarian Kip McBane from conversations with and information provided by Susan Gutierrez, Carlsbad City Library History Room, Georgina Cole Library, and Marjorie Howard-Jones, local historian and author of Seekers of the Spring (A History of Carlsbad).



Historical photos are used courtesy of the Carlsbad History Room, Georgina Cole Library.



Historical photos are used courtesy of the Carlsbad History Room, Georgina Cole Library.

This history was created by Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotarian Kip McBane from conversations with and information provided by Susan Gutierrez, Carlsbad City Library History Room, Georgina Cole Library, and Marjorie Howard-Jones, local historian and author of Seekers of the Spring (A History of Carlsbad).