

Carlsbad Historical Society (760) 434 9189

www.carlsbadhistoricalsociety.org

Carlsbad Citizen Profiles: Ted and Hazel Roberts

Growing up in West Covina, Hazel Ayers lived across the street from Japanese American farmers. Her parents collectively farmed and developed a close and friendly relationship with their neighbors sharing holiday meals, and teaching English lessons to the young Japanese workers. Mrs. Ayers even fostered one Japanese child for several years when the mother became ill. Hazel and her sisters never thought of the little boy as anything other than their little brother, as they grew up with him.

In 1917, Hazel Ayers married Ted Roberts and they started a dairy farm on Mrs. Ayer's property. The couple was involved in many volunteer activities, especially those involving their Japanese neighbors. Hazel taught Sunday School Classes and became a Camp Fire Girl leader. Because of desegregation, in 1925 she created the Cherry Blossom Girls, a division of Camp Fire Girls for the Japanese girls. This group helped the girls, many of whom were children of immigrant agricultural workers to learn English, American cooking, etiquette, dancing, and handicrafts. Hazel continued her activities through WWII, earning the derogatory label "Jap Lover" from her some of her fellow citizens.



Ted & Hazel, from the left 8th & 9th

In spite of this, after the internment of the Japanese community occurred, Hazel and Ted Roberts and her mother Mrs. Ayers continued to aid their friends and

neighbors, visiting the temporary internment camps, bringing clothing, fresh fruits and vegetables. They continued corresponding with their friends for the remainder of the war.

After the war, the Roberts moved to Carlsbad. Ted became active with the Carlsbad City police reserve unit, boy scouts, church activities and gardening. Hazel was a Union Church Sunday school teacher. In 1967 her former Cherry Blossoms, presented the Roberts with an all expense paid trip to Japan to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. The Roberts were honored as Carlsbad Citizens of the Year in 1973.



Twin Inns 1919

In 1887 Gerhard Schutte built a home at 2978 Carlsbad Blvd. His family lived in the home until 1906, when Gerhard and his wife, Bertha, moved to National City. Over the subsequent year's ownership of the property changed hands several times. First, the South Coast land Company purchased the home and used it as a boarding house for their workers. In 1914, it became a restaurant when the Mesdames Whiting and Reed purchased the building, calling it the Twin Inns, and serving their family-style dinners on Blue Willow pattern china.

In 1919, Ed and Neva Kentner purchased the Twin Inns Restaurant, and moved their family to Carlsbad. The structure once again became a family home in addition to a restaurant. The Twin Inns became famous for their family style chicken dinners, corn fritters, and the famous plaster chickens out

front. The restaurants' fame was not just local, but through out Southern California and indeed the United States, featured twice in the National Geographic Magazine. The Twin Inns was owned and operated by members of the Kentner family until the 1980s when it changed ownership and became Neiman's and now Ocean House.

Recently, Ed Kentner Jr wrote up his recollections of refurbishing the Twin Inns and constructing the Gazebo that now is located within Rotary Park.

"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. At that time about the only traces of the original 1887 building was 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' bana 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 dining 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, and 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." Ed Kentner



Twin Inns early 1980s

Request from Automotive Museum

Were you around San Diego during the '50s and 60's? Did you go to drive-in restaurants and/or theaters? Do you have stories about that experience and/or memorabilia, including photos, you can share?

The San Diego Automotive Museum would love to collect your stories. Please - one paragraph to one page only with your name, address, phone, and email along with the permission to display or share your stories.

Send your stories to "Drive-In Stories, San Diego Automotive Museum 2080 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA 92102-1636". You may also email them to: rebecca@sdautimuseum.org. If you have any questions, please call: 619-398-0303. We'd love to hear from you.



Passings....

It is with sorrow we mention the passing of one of our long time members and dedicated volunteer, Phyllis Demy. She was involved in many community volunteer activities, such as the Assistance League of North County, Carlsbad Newcomers, Angels of Aseltine, AAUW, Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary, Children's Home Society and the Gold Diggers. Phyllis was always willing to lend a hand when needed, and could be counted on year after year, aiding with our Third Grade school tours, decorating Magee House for Christmas and participating in our display committee. She will be greatly missed.

Donations....

All we can say is wow! What a month it has been for donations.

First, Carlsbad Unified School District Superintendent John Roach gave us a real treasure in late July, a metal girl crossing guard display and hand held stop sign. These two objects are familiar and dear memorabilia for those students who attended Pine School. We have no documentation as to exact dates when the crossing guard first arrived at the school, but estimate sometime in the 1930s.



Then in early August, Lt. Don Rawson of the Carlsbad Police Department (for those of you wondering, yes he is a member of the Carlsbad Rawson/Wilson family) gave us three artifacts from the early days of our police department. A large megaphone (quite heavy), a spotlight and a unique police officer gun test box. With a hole in the front center and a light on top, police officers would insert a fake gun in the hole to see how steady they could hold their guns.



All of these recent donations are going to make a huge impact on our interpretive displays. And we offer a huge thank you to both gentlemen for entrusting us with such precious Carlsbad historic artifacts.

New Displays....

Next time you're at Magee House, check out our newest Fashion Display in the west bedroom. Cal State San Marcos student and volunteer Suzie Mantz spent

many hours this summer, organizing and creating a wonderful look back at fashion history utilizing many pieces of clothing from our collection. We certainly appreciate all of Suzie's effort and hard work.

Thank You....

A big thank you goes out to member Laurie Boone. While running errands one day she came across a wooden trunk, at a yard sale. Laurie was able to purchase the trunk and brought it down to Magee. It is now in the east bedroom, as part of a new display design that is underway.

Avocados

This past summer, I was fortunate in having the opportunity to sample a Nabal avocado, a survivor from one of Carlsbad's earliest groves. The flavor was different, richer than the normal supermarket avocado, but more importantly, the flesh did not turn brown after being cut open. Carlsbad has a long history with avocados, beginning with Sam Thompson's first trees on Highland Drive in 1916. By the end of the 1920s, three other commercial growers arrived in Carlsbad, L.C. Alles, E. C. Litchfield and A. W. Theisinger and numerous other gentlemen growers as well. Many varieties of avocados were planted, so many different types that avocados were ripening throughout the year. A few of these were Dickinson, Fuerte, Linda and Porto Rico. Carlsbad became known for a short time as the Home of the Avocado. An Avocado Growers club was formed in the 1920s, and one of their activities was promotion of the fruit. To do this, they held an annual "Avocado Festival" downtown, usually in early September. Within a few years more than 8,000 people swarmed into town each year to enjoy Carlsbad Avocados prepared in a variety of ways such as in ice cream and cake, as well as the traditional salad ingredient.



Avocado Day Festival- Late 1920s on State Street

**Carlsbad Historical
Society**

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Open Friday 10:00-4:00
and Saturday 10:00-4:00

Private Tours with Tea are
given on Tuesday and
Thursday
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

www.carlsbadhistoricalsociety.org

Avocado Ice Cream

5 egg yolks
1 quart of milk
2 cups sugar
4 medium sized avocados
Almond or vanilla extract
Make boiled custard of milk, eggs, and sugar. Add flavor. When cool
add the fruit and freeze.

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**Carlsbad Historical
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