

Torrance Historian

Published for members, this newsletter is dedicated to the support & preservation of Torrance History – share the history with your family & friends!

October 1999
Kristina Kaur, Editor

Historical Highlights

by Peggy Basile, President



October is upon us already - pretty hard to believe! This year has proven to be an exciting one for THS: restoration of the Red Car is finally underway via the TransMachine project (see "TransMachine Update") Mobil Refinery celebrated its 70th anniversary as part of Torrance; the Bob Easley Ghost Town Miniatures continue to be a popular exhibit at the museum...and the Torrance Historical Society is proud to be involved in these and many other activities throughout our city. THS particularly thanks Mobil for their generous donation of \$2,500, as well as several period publications documenting Mobil's history as an active neighbor.

Dates to note: Sunday, October 24th features a walking tour of downtown Torrance (see details in this newsletter); November 8th marks the last day the Easley Miniatures will be on display (if you haven't yet seen them, don't miss this opportunity!).

We look forward to continued involvement in projects like these which recognize and preserve the unique history of the City of Torrance.

Mobil Celebrates 70 Years, Donates \$2,500 to Museum

July 17th marked the single largest Open House the Torrance Refinery has hosted with more than 2,000 people in attendance. The Open House was particularly special since it commemorated the 70th anniversary of the Torrance Refinery. Throughout the day, refinery tours, classic cars, fire trucks, scientific booths and a time tunnel were on display for the public. The exhibits were both educational and entertaining. Several refinery employees dressed in costume as airline stewardesses, hippies, and Pegasus, Mobil's mascot. At noon, Mayor Dee Hardison cut the 70th anniversary cake. Following the ceremony, Mobil's West Region Manager Harry Mc Veigh presented THS President Peggy Basile with an endowment of \$2,500, historical Mobil newsletters and framed photos of the refinery under construction.



New! Walking Tour of Historic Torrance Landmarks. New!

A docent-led tour of the historic landmarks of Downtown Torrance will be held Sunday, October 24th. The tour is an easy, but brisk walk, covering 8 blocks. The tour will depart from the museum at 1:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity for new residents, visitors, children, students and historians alike. Free.

3 free months

Millennium Membership News

Until January 1st, 2000, all new memberships and membership renewals will receive three free months. What a great opportunity to ring in the new year--with savings! Renew today, and forget about paying dues again until February, 2001!



To believe yourself to be brave is to be brave;
it is the only essential thing.

-Mark Twain



Truly unexpected tidings make both ears tingle.

-Saint Basil



5 Web Sites of Interest Historical Societies

San Diego, CA

<http://edweb.sdsu.edu/sdhs/>

San Francisco, CA

<http://www.sfhistory.org>

Oceanside, CA

<http://www.ci.oceanside.ca.us/Library/Associations/history.html>

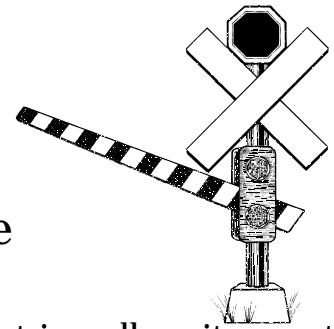
Belmont, CA

<http://www.belmont.gov/orgs/bhs/>

Twentynine Palms, CA

<http://virtual29.com/societys/histsoc.html>

Note: The Katy Geissert Civic Center Library has computers which are free to the public to use, and are an easy way to look up these web sites.



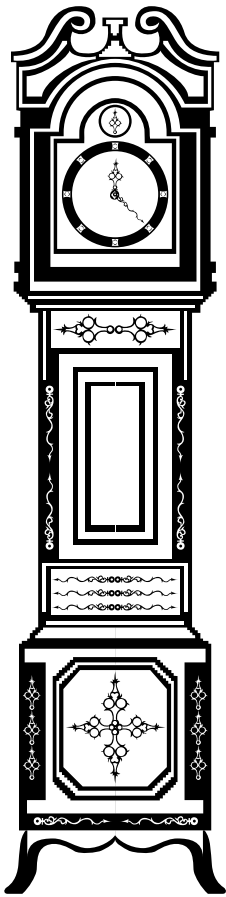
TransMachine Update

The Red Car project is well on its way to becoming a reality. John Powers, Transmachine Coordinator, Peggy Basile, THS President, and Richard Meyer, THS Board Member have continued to work diligently on the project. Additionally, the Torrance Unified School District is involved in the educational exhibits. The Torrance Historical Society will continue to be actively involved in the TransMachine project which is scheduled to open in October, 2000.



Voices of Torrance

Did you know that the City of Torrance has two Choral Groups comprised of community members? The Torrance Children's Chorus is for performers age 10 to 16, and the Torrance Chamber Singers is an adult group focusing on a cappella literature. The groups are led by David Burks, who has been Torrance Civic Chorale Director for 9 years. Don't miss their December concerts December 5th and 12th, respectively at the Armstrong Theatre. Contact the City of Torrance for rehearsal and ticket information at (310) 618-2376.



Clockworks Exhibit of the Millennium

Mr. Vincent Migliazzo, owner of M & M Co. Clocks will be recognized November 14th for his gracious restoration of the Sykes clock. The Sykes clock is an antique English clock, estimated to be more than 200 years old. The clock was bequeathed to the Museum in 1993 by Mr. William Henry Skyes. The Skyes family were clock makers in Yorkshire, England in the 1600s. The Skyes moved to Lomita in 1911 when William Sykes was young, and kept the clock with him throughout his life. The Torrance Historical Society is proud to exhibit such a treasure, and is grateful to Mr. Migliazzo for his restoration work.

Coinciding with the celebration, a One Day Clockworks will be held. Antique timepieces will be on display. The One day Clockworks exhibit and Migliazzo reception will be held November 14 from 1 - 4 p.m.

Downtown Torrance Antique Fair



The next Antique Fair is scheduled for October 24th. (You may have noticed that the event is now on the 4th week of the month.) The Torrance Historical Society will be open to the public as usual. In addition, the Torrance Historical Society has organized a lawn sale beginning at 10 a.m. Any THS member in good standing is invited to donate items or to set up a card table in front of the museum. For further details, call Janet at (310) 328-7549.



Volunteer a Sunday to the Museum

Several Sundays need a docent. No experience or in-depth knowledge is required, just a volunteer spirit. We will train you on how to be a docent. Call Gene Hassan for further details at (310) 618-8259.



Last Chance to See Easley's Ghost Town Miniatures

Bob Easley's wonderfully crafted ghost town model exhibit will be coming to a close November 8th. If you haven't gotten to the museum to see the exhibit, bring the kids on a Sunday. If you saw the exhibit earlier this year, it has been transformed into the next level of spookyness- a halloween treat for all.



Calendar



“ Dance like no one is watching,
Love like you’ll never be hurt,
Sing like no one is listening
Live like it’s heaven on earth.”

-William Purkey



- Oct. 24 Downtown Antique Fair
- 24 Lawn sale at THS
- 24 Walking Tour
- Nov. 8 Ghost Town Exhibit Closes
- 14 One Day Clockworks Exhibit



Museum Hours

The Torrance Historical Society and Museum is open free to the public:

Tuesday – Thursday & Sunday

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Special hours can be arranged for private tours or research. Please contact the Museum directly at (310) 328-5392.

Torrance Historical Society & Museum
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