

Torrance Historian

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

April 1999

Debbie Hays, Editor

Armed Forces Day

Show Your Support for Our Troops

With the devastating images of the war in Kosovo being splashed across our TV screens and re-counted in detail in our newspapers, we're reminded on a daily basis of the dangers our armed forces face in the name of freedom and democracy.

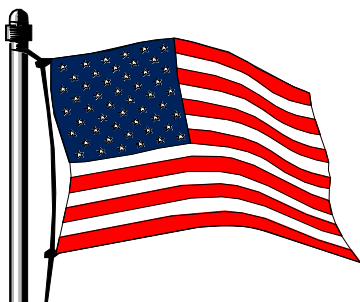
War is not pretty, war is not fun — it is sometimes one of the necessary evils needed to maintain the life-style of freedom that we are so privileged to experience every day.

Let's show our gratitude and support for our troops and join the City of Torrance for their 40th Annual Armed Forces Day Parade on Saturday, May 15th, at 2:00 PM.

More than 50 parade entries from active and reserve military units to civilian bands participate in this patriotic tribute. The parade marches along Torrance Blvd. starting at Crenshaw Blvd. and ending at Madrona Avenue. This year, the City welcomes Rear Admiral Jay A. Campbell as the Grand Marshal. Admiral Campbell is the Commander of Carrier Group Seven ported at the Naval Air Station, North Island in San Diego, CA.

The Armed Forces Day festivities will kick off with two free band concerts by the U.S. Navy

Band, San Diego, on Fri., May 14, at 2 PM and 8 PM in the James Armstrong Theatre. Del Amo Fashion Center will host a display of military equipment & aircraft. ☺



Let's Go Site Seeing

You've been invited by the Manhattan Beach Historical Society & Museum to join them on a guided tour of the Los Angeles

Central Library and the Los Angeles Times on Wednesday, May 5th, 1999. *Consider this your invitation!*

The first stop of the day will be at the Los Angeles Central Library. Having spent more than \$200 million in refurbishments following two devastating fires in 1986, the building is now double its original size. This historic structure not only houses a wealth of knowledge, its murals, interior sculptures, atrium lanterns and chandeliers, painted ceilings and fountains are worth the trip alone.

Next, you'll reboard the coach and venture up to Universal City Walk's newest theme restaurant, Marvel Mania, where you'll be greeted by your favorite superheroes. The focus here is nothing but fun!

Your last stop of the day will be at the Los Angeles Times. There you will be taken on a guided tour of the plant where you'll see the state-of-the-art pressroom, visit the newsprint storage area, tour the photography labs and more!

The cost for this complete trip is just \$39. Advanced reservations are required, and payment must be received by **April 16th!** For more details and reservations, call Bonnie Beckerson at (310) 376-6113. ☺

Ghost Towns are Alive

We asked Bob Easley, craftsman of the miniature ghost town, to explain, in his words, about his collection of buildings that are now on display at the Museum.



Buildings such as this one pictured in Bodie, CA, have been the inspiration of local artisan Bob Easley's remarkable collection of hand-crafted ghost town miniatures. Currently there are over a dozen of these scale-model buildings, schools and churches on display at the Museum.

Bob writes:

“ In these buildings, I have tried to reflect the different types of architecture of the old west. I received ideas and inspiration from visiting various ghost towns such as Bodie.

The buildings are made on a scale of ½ inch to 1 foot. They are made of new pine and each board is antiqued before it is installed on the framework of the building. The wood shingles are hand cut and installed one at a time. Many of the buildings have more than 1,000 shingles.

For the older generation, I hope this exhibit brings back some fond memories and for the younger generation, I hope this gives you a glimpse of the past. The past is gone, but we don't want it forgotten!

Thank you to the Historical Society for giving me a chance to share this display with you.”

— Bob Easley

Bob is right, “The past is gone but we don't want it forgotten!” Stop by the Museum today and take a walk in the past . ☺

OTNA Celebrates Gold Rush Anniversary at Museum

To celebrate California's 150th anniversary of the Gold Rush, the Old Torrance Neighborhood Association (OTNA) thought it would be an excellent idea to hold their bi-monthly meeting in the Torrance Historical Society Museum.

They invited local artisan, Bob Easley, to provide background information on the collection of scale-model ghost town miniatures he's hand-crafted — all of which are now on display at the Museum.

The meeting went quite well, and because it was such a timely topic of interest, it attracted new OTNA members and brought out those who haven't attended a meeting in a while. This meeting also brought in a few first time visitors to our Museum.

Interesting Side Note: Since the building that houses the Historical Society was originally built as the main Torrance Library in 1936, it somehow seemed fitting that during the OTNA meeting, a nomination was made from the floor to donate \$75 to the library funds of both Fern Avenue and Torrance Elementary schools.

See how inspiring our Museum can be? ☺

Welcome New Members

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to those who have recently joined the Torrance Historical Society (THS):

Kristina Kaur
Douglas & Erlinda McLellan
Hazel Mulqueen

Also, a special thanks goes out to those of you who have renewed your membership in THS and to both Sue Herbers and Ted Lieu who have joined the Historical Society & Museum for Life. ☺

Quote of the Day

You must learn from the mistakes of others. You can't possibly live long enough to make them all yourself.

— Sam Levenson ☺



Torrance Historical Society

presents the

Annual Meeting & Installation of Officers



The Torrance Historical Society would like to invite you to join us on Thursday, May 20th, at the Museum to elect and welcome the 1999-2000 Board of Directors. The evening will begin with an Italian buffet dinner catered by Cafe Luna and will be followed by an exciting program —

Back to the Future: Update on Torrance's Red Car

Joining us for the program will be the TransMachine Foundation's board members, John Powers and Barbara Johnson. They will share recent developments concerning Red Car #4601 and the TransMachine learning center project. The Honorable Mayor Dee Hardison will be the installing officer.

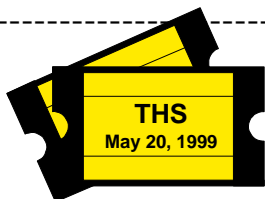
Date: Thursday, May 20th

Location: The Torrance Historical Society Museum
1345 Post Avenue • Historic Downtown Torrance

Time: 6:30 PM - Social
7:00 PM - Dinner
7:45 PM - Installation
8:00 PM - Program

RSVP: Deadline — Tuesday, May 18th

Cost: \$16 THS Member / \$18 Non-members (*no refunds*)



Reservation Form

If you would like to join the Torrance Historical Society for the Annual Meeting and Installation Dinner, please complete this form and make your check payable to the *Torrance Historical Society*. Mail to:

Torrance Historical Society ♦ 1345 Post Avenue ♦ Torrance, CA 90501

Name(s): _____

Phone(s): Day _____ Evening _____

Number of Reservations: \$16 (members) _____ \$18 (non-member) _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

For additional information, please call (310) 328-5392

1999/2000 Slate of Officers

On Thursday, March 18th, the appointed Nominating Committee for the Torrance Historical Society, Debbie Hays, Gussie Kriss and Janet Payne, presented the Board with a slate of officers for the 1999/2000 term of office:

President	<i>Peggy Basile</i>
First Vice President	<i>Janice Plank</i>
Second Vice President	<i>Debbie Hays</i>
Third Vice President	<i>Janet Payne</i>
Fourth Vice President	<i>Kristina Kaur</i>
Secretary	<i>Carl Kaemerle</i>
Treasurer	<i>Dan Gutknecht</i>
Historian	<i>Richard Meyer</i>
Special Events Chair	<i>Sue Herbers</i>
Financial Secretary	<i>Tony Kriss</i>
Museum Volunteer Chair	<i>Gene Hassan</i>
Member at Large	<i>Arnold Woo</i>
Parliamentarian	<i>Maureen O'Donnell</i>

On Thursday, May 20th, THS will hold its annual meeting and election of officers for the THS Board of Directors. Providing there are no other nominations from the floor, this slate will be voted upon as presented. ☺

Torrance Historical Society & Museum

1345 Post Avenue
Torrance, CA 90501
(310) 328-5392

Return Services Requested

Inside

- ◆ Torrance Celebrates 40th Annual Armed Forces Day Parade
- ◆ Tour L.A. Central Library & the L.A. Times
- ◆ Ghost Towns are Alive
- ◆ Annual Meeting & Installation of Officers



Easter in El Prado Park

Easter Sunday marked the 18th annual "Easter in

El Prado Park." Each year this fun-filled event is sponsored by The Old Torrance Neighborhood Association as a way for the Downtown Torrance residents to get to know one another. As always, Mr. & Mrs. Bunny were there to greet the children, teach them the Bunny Hop, and to hand out prizes to the two who found the hidden golden eggs. ☺

Museum Hours

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

Tuesday - Thursday & Sunday
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

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

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