

Channel Islands Chamber Gulls

by Aileen Haney

The first Oxnard Beach Chamber of Commerce was formed in 1947. Over the years they have sponsored and promoted many projects, all in the interest of the beach area. To name a few: The Camp Fire Girls, Boys' Club, funds for a building, meetings with the supervisors on problems pertaining to the beach area. To welcome and include all residents in the Marina area, the name was changed to Channel Islands Chamber of Commerce and Homeowners Association.

Last December, the newly formed auxiliary known as the Channel Islands Chamber Gulls had their first general meeting. Their purpose is to support the Chamber in all their projects and endeavors. From twenty-nine members at that first meeting, the roster is now near seventy. Ellen and Tony Ferraro's generous donation of fifty dollars was a welcome boost in getting the Gulls off the ground and in the air. Hard work and great enthusiasm by the members has accomplished much in the last few short months, along with the fun of doing.

The installation breakfast in February was held at the Lobster Trap, with our Supervisor Tom Laubacher installing both the officers of the Chamber and the Gulls' officers. Bill Henry of the Harbor Department spoke on the new development around the Marina.

Each year in March the Chamber sponsors a kite-flying contest for boys and girls from five to fifteen years of age. This year there were 38 kites in the air. The Gulls furnished cookies and soft drinks to the contestants. Our thanks to Sambo's, Beams Market and Hollywood Beach School for their donations. Also in March the Channel Islands Gulls held a most successful rummage sale, adding a substantial sum to the bank balance.

In April a seminar at the Newporter Inn was held by the California Women in Chambers of Commerce. The Gulls' president, Florence Haney; Secretary, Pearl Athens; and membership chairman Wanda Pirkle attended. The Gulls are now a member. Mary Oviatt donated the first year's dues of thirty dollars. Members are now working to promote the next seminar in the Oxnard-Ventura area, believing that Women in Chambers of Commerce is the most effective method of promoting business and civic interest in the community to accomplish collectively what no individual can do alone.

The Channel Islands Chamber of Commerce and their Gulls will take an active part in the June Schooner Races; the Junior Fishing Derby, August 18; and the annual Parade of Lights (December 10). We welcome all who want to join the fun with the Chamber and the Gulls. For membership call Wanda Pirkle at 985-6021 or 985-4967.

Fifty members and guests attended the Channel

Islands Chamber of Commerce general meeting on Friday evening at the Harbor Walk Lighthouse. A potluck dinner served by the Gulls preceded a presentation by representatives of Raznick and Sons, developers of the proposed 884 homes at Mandalay Beach...Associates Larry Moore and David Klagas ran slides, pointing out currently anticipated plans for the project. There will be hearings over a six-month period with the City of Oxnard, then hearings with the Coastal Commission and back to the City of Oxnard covering from one to one-and-a-half years. Projected completion date is approximately three years. It was suggested that all interested parties attend the hearings as they are announced, and also contact Tom Laubacher on complaints or suggestions.

Posters are out for the Schooner races on June 12. Mary Thost is chairman of the bake sale. Future meeting dates will be announced.

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SATURDAY, JULY 5, RELATIVELY QUIET. It consisted of a morning interview with Jerry and Dan Levitz of TOR PROPERTIES, which visit occasioned our feature story for the week.

BUT, CAME SUNDAY, JULY 6, and it was another busy day for this writer and his 35 mm. . . First off, it was the Channel Islands Park. Many pass that park every day, but, because it's located between two section of the Casa Sirena Marina Hotel, they don't really know what it is or that it's for the public to enjoy. . . so there we drove up Peninsula Road in CI Harbor to park Little Brown Pinto and to see what was going on at the BBQ. Actually, this holiday event was staged by the Ladies' Division of the CI Chamber, the Gulls, and its President is Wanda Pirkle. And Wanda, with some assistance from Virginia Ross and probably some other Gulls whose names I didn't catch, bought the steaks and fired up the grill. . . Meanwhile, the happy Gulls all provided some of the accompanying goodies — chips and dips, beer, wine and some soft

drinks, slaw and salads, and many crocks of baked beans plus, of course long loaves of French bread cut up and literally dripping with garlic butter. . . All of which should make you salivate unless you've all eaten just a few minutes before reading. . . It was a good crowd, not only of resident members but many who came to the harbor as guests of members. Among same were Bernie and Olga Hokom with their daughter Virginia Washburn, visiting from Phoenix, and the Hokom's granddaughter. . . Lil (Mrs. Dave) Barrett had a slew of guests, particularly her aunt and uncle, Marge and Kelly, and Margaret and Bob Mueller. Light-hearted and laughing Lil decided to make a real party of the occasion and brought champagne. It appears that Lil's husband, Dave, came with her but secreted himself aboard one of the nearby boats in the CI Park's neighboring Anacapa Isle Marina slips. We understand that he doesn't like crowds, something which appeared to us to be completely out of character for the voluble Dave Barrett that we know. . . One of

Wanda's assistants was Nancy Walker, formerly of the Commercial and Farmers Bank's Channel Islands office, but who now works in the Channel Islands County Water District of which Wanda is Manager. We've known Nancy for years, but we must give special ink to Wanda, that vivacious white-thatched load of energy who always manages to liven up any group she's a part of. And to interrupt our account of the barbecue, may we note that Wanda, representing the Water District, is a member of the newly-constituted LAFCO Study Group which will have terrific influence in how Silver Strand residents will vote on annexation. She showed us a communique from LAFCO Exec Officer Bob Braitman and we were struck by a phrase in which they said they weren't sure where the Pacific Ocean is located and what constitutes high tide of same. We repeat this phrase, not to ridicule Braitman's communique, because his question regarding the Pacific is relevant, even though out of context it may raise an eyebrow or two. . . Back to the

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BBQ. . . We noted the presence of Ralph Ennis and his lovely wife who contributed a crock of Boston baked pork and beans, which made our palate happy; of John and Ruth Mauch who brought cans and cans of Michelob Lite and other non-spirit potables; of Fred and Frieda Smith, and Fred instead of taking pictures this time, good-naturedly posed for same; of Dena Beisel, that pioneer Hollywood Beach resident (our ever-present, pun coining amenuensis, Kae, suggested we may call her a "pioneer chicken", but we refrained from calling her that because she's more pioneer than chicken). . . And, among Lil's guests were the LeBlancs, Leon and Barbara, and two very lovely titian-haired females along with Barbara, to match her auburn tresses. We could say that the trio were the red-headed version of the Andrews Sisters, except that they didn't sing and were prettier. I wish I remembered their names, but my failing memory is the price I pay for the years that creep up on me and I wish I could say, "however slowly". . . And we mustn't forget that delightful French lady, the Chamber's

Executive Secretary, E. Krueger, who we understand, however delightfully piquant her French accent, is really a native of Switzerland . . . Nor must we fail to recognize the presence of Chamber Secretary, another flaming red-head, Aileen Haney; and that of Mary Thost, another member of the LAFCO Study Committee. . . Also, Jack Beam of Beam's Market, and we presume his wife was there but she didn't float into our line of vision. . . Virginia Ross did a persona count and came up with the figure of somewhere around 70. Wanda said that, if many more had come, they would have run out of meat. And it's our small speculation that the last steak went to late-arriving Mike Bird who, in a very businesslike way, was gathering signatures for a petition to something connected with that subject many of you readers must be sick of hearing about, but which we insist on reporting, the annexation or non-annexation of Silver Strand.

ELLEN
FERRARO

WANDA

PINCAY
(JOCKEY)

VIRGINIA
ROSS

PHYLLIS
MILLER



HOLLYWOOD PARK

5th RACE

JULY 18, 1980

PHYLLIS
MILLER

FLORENCE
HANEY

SHOEMAKER
(JOCKEY)

WANDA

DELLA
FOSTER



HOLLYWOOD PARK

JULY 1981

for Chamber, 'Gulls'



—Press-Courier photos by Steve Olson

When the Channel Islands Chamber of Commerce and the Channel Islands 'Gulls' planned their barbecue Saturday at Peninsula Park, they also decided that 'typical summer games' would be on the program and so they were. Above, at left, Bob and Margaret Mueller of Hueneme Bay take off in the three-legged race while, at center, Ms. Wanda Pirkle, Silver Strand resident, concentrates on getting back to the starting line for the peanut race. Above, Mrs. Olga Hokom of Hollywood Beach shows she can still move the Hula Hoop. Just enjoying the festivities were visitors from France, below, Geoffroy and Loic Saint Gal de Pons, age 10. Other games included potato and egg races, horse shows and boche ball. For those not inclined to be so active, there were poker and gin rummy games. The barbecue menu of steak, cole slaw, beans and hot bread was prepared by the Gulls, the women's division of the Chamber of Commerce.



Life/style

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Wednesday, August 5, 1981



Photo by Gary Phelps

Gull-talk

Members of the Channel Islands Chamber of Commerce Gulls auxiliary enjoy a festive luau luncheon in the Ventura home of Amber Burney, right. Among the 50 attending were Virginia Linehan, left, and Wanda Pirkle of Oxnard.

8/24/82



"GULLS" AUGUST 24, 1982 HAWAIIAN LUAU LUNCHEON
AT AMBER BURNEY'S HOME IN VENTURA KEYS

ME MCCARRON BEULLAH BERGMAN



MAY 4 1983



Gulls' Luncheon Festive

About 40 members of the Channel Islands Gulls, the auxiliary of the Channel Islands Chamber of Commerce, attended a luau luncheon which featured a pig roasted in a pit. Getting into the Hawaiian spirit, left, by practicing the hula are Mrs. Florence (Frank) Haney and Mrs. Katie (James) Evans, both of Oxnard. At right, enjoying a toast are from left, the Mmes. Harriett (Joe) Cavaglieri of Ventura, Virginia (Vern) Van Zandt, Lucille (Thomas) Murphy, and Margaret (Robert) Mueller, all of Oxnard. Admiring the roast pig before it is served to guests are from left, Frieda Smith of Oxnard, sunshine chairwoman; Wanda Pirkle of Oxnard, a past president, and Amber Burney of Ventura. The luau, which featured fruit salad, cole slaw and pineapple upside-down cake, was held at the Ventura Keys home of Mrs. Burney.



—Press-Courier photos

Life/style

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Monday, July 25, 1983



Millinery Madness Grips Gulls

Right, in a frenzy of millinery madness, members of the Channel Islands Gulls, such as Mes. June Ball and Beverly Meidell, from left, both of Oxnard, show off hats of their own design which they wore to the group's Easter luncheon held at the Lobster Trap. Judging the chapeau parade, left, was Oxnard artist, Ray Von Keeker, shown at left with another millinery madness participant, Mrs. Wanda Pirkle of Oxnard, whose hat themed 'Easter in Rio,' won the prize as most original, along with that worn by Mrs. Meidell. Mrs. Ball's headline was judged one of the most beautiful at the luncheon. Other winners included Mrs. Elva Kerns who, in the opinion of the judge, wore the 'most outstanding' creation, and took home a first prize.



— Press-Courier photos by Bob Sigmon

Life/style

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Monday, April 23, 1984



HATS MAKE HEADLINES AT LUNCHEON

Members of the Channel Islands Gulls outdid themselves at a Easter luncheon recently, and members such as Mrs. Marilyn Morrison, above, took home prizes for their decorating efforts on Easter chapeaus. Mrs. Morrison's hat was judged the most beautiful, along with that of June Ball. Left, Mrs. Jean Mann shows off her Easter Bunny hat, while, right, Mes. Mary Beth Dersham and Marion Haag, from left, show their elaborately decorated Easter creations. Mrs. Dersham is president of the Channel Islands Gulls. All are from Oxnard.



County Clips



GULLS FLIGHT LOG

S E P T E M B E R 1 9 9 0

SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON -- HAPPY 15TH ANNIVERSARY!



—Press-Courier photo by Tom Gaper

CHANNEL ISLAND GULLS CELEBRATES ITS 15TH ANNIVERSARY

Past presidents of the Channel Islands Gulls presented at the 15th anniversary of the organization are from left, Florence Haney, first president; Wanda Pirkel, second president; and Della Foster, third president. All three were officers when the organization was known as the Channel Islands Chamber Gulls. Mary Beth Dersham, far right, was the first

president of the organization after it changed its name to Channel Islands Gulls. All are from Oxnard. The group met recently at Port Royal on Channel Islands Harbor for an anniversary luncheon. The group raises funds for four charities in this area, Senior Citizens Relief, The K-9 Unit of the Oxnard Police Department, Oxnard Rescue Mission and Child Abuse And Neglect.

"Gulls"

Soar for Charity

By W. David Wright

1990

The "Gulls," a Ventura County women's social organization, met Thursday, Nov. 15 at the Lobster Trap Restaurant in Oxnard to give away \$3,600 to four separate local charities.

The "Gulls" is a group of 176 civic-minded women from all areas of Ventura County dedicated to raising money for worthy causes. The "Gulls" is an organization comprised of women from Ventura, Camarillo, Oxnard, Ojai, Port Hueneme and other cities in the county who work hard each year for the benefit of the needy.

"Giving is what we are all about," Adaline Van Vickle, Gulls treasurer said. "We do this every year, and give to the same charities"

Van Vickle is the out-going treasurer and says the job is hard because of the constant work going on to raise money throughout the year and said, "In a way I'm glad it's over."

Over 150 Gulls flocked together at the Lobster Trap Restaurant for their annual luncheon, and gave the largest amount ever raised to representatives of four charities that receive the benefits of the year-long fund-raising campaign.

Also on the afternoon's program was a fashion show and boutique sponsored by the Gloria Pratt, owner of the Clothes Encounter, 5250 Seabreeze Way, Oxnard, who presented fashions and jewelry modeled by members of the Gulls organization. New club officers were also elected.

Receiving their annual checks were Jerry and Carol Roeburg of the Ventura County Rescue Mission in Oxnard. The mission helps feed, clothe, and house homeless people of Ventura County, and also provides drug and alcohol abuse programs.

"There are millions of homeless people in the United States and millions more on the verge of becoming homeless," Jerry Roeburg said. "This money will help provide for some of those people."

Others receiving checks at the luncheon included Betty Scott of the Wilson Senior Center in Oxnard who represents the Senior Survival Emergency/Relief Fund. The Senior Fund provides assistance to Ventura County Seniors in the problems arising from living on their own.

"The Seniors I represent are very appreciative of this money and it will help them very much," Scott said.

Also receiving a \$900 check was DarAnn Dearing of the C.A.A.N. (Child Abuse and Neglect) organization who said the money will help children in need of treatment and counseling due to problems that arise within the home caused by child

abuse. Child abuse is one of the major problems in our society today, and those in need are sometimes unable to receive help because the problems usually arise within the home where they go unnoticed by society, she said.

Last to receive a check for \$900 was Corporal Randy Coats of the Oxnard Police Department's K-9 unit. Coats said he was surprised at the large amount of the donation and added, "This is more than we expected. We always get a check each year, but this is the largest ever. It is very much appreciated." Coats capped his "thank you" by presenting his dog, "Geno," who won the hearts of all those attending the luncheon.

The original Gulls organization was formed in Sept. 1976, for the purpose of raising money for the Channel Islands Chamber of Commerce. The present organization has grown considerably since its break from the chamber, and has become a charitable force within the county, providing funds for needy organizations, Wanda Pirkle, Gulls charter member, said.

"That's when (in 1976) ten of us got together from the chamber of commerce and decided that we should form a women's auxiliary to get some things going on the beach, to bring people together, and raise money for the chamber. So, we formed Channel Islands Chamber Gulls," she said.

The Gulls grew to its present size due to a bowling league started at the Wagon Wheel Bowl that drew more people into the organization, Pirkle said. Originally only chamber members were eligible to join, but due to its popularity, the group broke away from the chamber and formed

the present organization.

"Finally the officers at that time decided we'll just break away from the chamber and re-charter ourselves, and be the Channel Islands Gulls, and they did," she added.

According to Pirkle, of the Gulls 10 charter members, only five remain active: Florence Haney, Virginia Ross, Clair Shoemaker, and Phyllis Miller continue to participate in the yearly fund-raising activities which include raffles and local boutique sales. Others have either died, moved out of the area, or just dropped out, she said, but added, "Everyone is eligible to join. We welcome everyone."

Money raised each year comes from different activities and is the combined effort of merchants and residents of Ventura County, she said.

"Well, mostly (money raised) it's from our raffles every month. We receive donated items from local merchants and then raffle them off within the club, and then we have our boutique. Usually it's held at the Oxnard Shores Mobile Home park. It deals with home-made pastries, different arts and crafts the Gulls make, and we buy sweatshirts and sell them," Pirkle said.

Although many social events have been dropped in the last few years, the main focus now is on raising money, she said, and added, "they are (Gulls) strictly a social organization that raise money for charities."

Membership into the Gulls is open to all women in Ventura County. Luncheons are held once a month at different restaurants throughout the county.

For more information, call: Ruth Kraglin, President, (805) 985-1733. ♦



Channel Islands Gulls

30th Anniversary



2006