

## History

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it began paying 35 percent of the deposit value of savings accounts and 30 percent of commercial accounts.

Depositors, as well as, those connected with the bank in an official capacity were surprised by the closing. A citizen's committee was formed to try to save the bank, but the effort was discouraged by the State Banking Department. They felt with troubled banks all over the State only the more viable ones could be saved.

Manhattan Beach would not have another bank until February of 1934, when the Bank of America established a branch in the old State Bank of Manhattan building. As the economy declined the conventional wisdom advised that the only thing to do was to hold tight and wait it out, and that is exactly what the residents did.

Residents in town mobilized to help their less fortunate neighbors; organizations such as the Sea Lions, the Neptunian Woman's Club, the Manhattan Beach Exchange and

the Exchange Welfare Committee. The "Manhattan News", sold old newspapers to help the Parent-Teacher Association buy milk for school children, the City Hall employees sponsored Thanksgiving dinner for needy children, and the Fire Department solicited and repaired old toys making it possible for needy children to unwrap gifts on Christmas morning.

With money scarce and the city's own revenues diminishing almost to the vanishing point, the city government in the spring of 1932 cut its employees' salaries by 10 percent. In July, street lighting expenses were reduced by \$3,000. Citizens had trouble meeting their property tax bills, so in 1933 the City approved a moratorium on tax payments, but with the City's own revenue needs, that approach was limited. By the late 1930's the City was seizing and selling property that had tax delinquencies dating back to the beginning of the Depression

To be continued...•

## EarthTalk 2

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In 2008 the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) tested water in nine states across the country and found that 85 man-made chemicals, including some medications, were commonly slipping through municipal treatment systems and ending up in our tap water. Another report by the Associated Press found trace amounts of dozens of pharmaceuticals in the drinking water supplies of some 46 million Americans.

But according to USGS, such chemicals and medications are so diluted—at levels equal to a thimble full of water in an Olympic-sized swimming pool—that they do not pose a health threat. But others aren't so sure. Researchers have found evidence that even extremely diluted concentrations of drug residues harm fish, frogs and other aquatic species, and have been shown to labs to impair human cell function.

One of the common culprits is estrogen, much of which is inadvertently released into sewers through the urine of women taking birth control. Studies have shown that estrogen can wreak reproductive havoc on some fish, which spawn infertile offspring sporting a mixture of male and female parts. Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh found that human breast cancer cells grew twice as fast when exposed to estrogen taken from catfish caught near untreated sewage overflows. "There is the potential for an increased risk for those people who are prone to estrogenic cancer," said Conrad Volz, lead researcher on the study.

What may be more troubling is the mixture of contaminants and how they might interact to cause health problems. "The biggest concern is the stew effect," says Scott Dye of the Sierra Club's Water Sentinels program. "Trace amounts of this mixed with trace amounts of that can equal

what? We don't know."

With such contaminants proving elusive to municipal filtration systems, the burden of protection often lies with the end user. But getting traces of birth control and other drugs out of your tap water isn't so easy. Of the many different kinds of in-home water filtration systems available today, only those employing reverse osmosis have been shown to filter out some drugs. Some makers of activated carbon water filters claim their products catch pharmaceuticals, but independent research has not verified such claims.

"The best choice," says Cathy Sherman of the natural health website Natural News, "would probably be a combination of a reverse osmosis filter augmented by pre- and post-activated carbon filters." Installing such a system just for drinking water is sufficient, she says, given that water used for cleaning and plumbing doesn't typically get ingested. As to prevention, the non-profit public health and safety agency, NSF International, urges individuals to not use their toilets or sinks to dispose of unused medications and to opt for the garbage instead; most modern landfills are lined to keep such contaminants inside.

Contacts: USGS Water Resources, [water.usgs.gov](http://water.usgs.gov); Sierra Club, [www.sierraclub.org/watersentinels](http://www.sierraclub.org/watersentinels); NSF International, [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org); Natural News, [www.naturalnews.com](http://www.naturalnews.com).

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## School Board

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awards were presented to: Evelina Collier, Preschool Assistant at the Manhattan Beach Preschool; Rod Jorgensen, Building Trades Specialist with Maintenance and Operations; Linda Reddington, Office Specialist at the District office; Sylvia Martinez, Instructional Assistant at MCHS; Edward Bangasser, P.E. Assistant at MBMS; Kathy Poje, School Office Manager at Grandview; Woody Crist, Instructional Assistant at Meadows; Susia Howat, School Office Manager at Pacific; Paula Daniels, Instructional Assistant at Robinson; and Gloria Figueroa, Food Service Assistant at MCHS.

Hannah Geiser and Kian Rowshani, the two student representatives on the MBUSD Board from MCHS, were recognized for their yearlong service to the District. Hersman warmly thanked the students for their valuable participation and for "adding insight" to the Board's discussions. Geiser and Rowshani, graduating seniors, each were presented with a gavel and some college spending money as gifts from the Trustees and Administrators.

"No District funds were involved to buy these gifts," Hersman joked.

Student winners of the 40<sup>th</sup> annual Reflections Art Contest, sponsored by the Council of PTAs, were recognized in five categories. Literature: Nora Yang, Robinson; Arjun Patel, Pennekamp; Natasha Brunstein, MBMS; Austin Siegemund Broka, MCHS (who also won Third Award of Recognition at the 33<sup>rd</sup> District level). Visual Arts: Rohil Dave, Meadows; Allison Hanna, Meadows (who also won First Award of Excellence and advanced to statewide competition); Jasmine Williams, MBMS; Katelyn DeCoste, MCHS (who also won Third Award of Recognition at the 33<sup>rd</sup> District level); Photography: Madelyn Contreras, Pacific; Emma Hatton, Pennekamp; Meghan McMahon, MBMS (who also won Honorable Mention at the 33<sup>rd</sup> District level); Marie Lauzon, MCHS; Musical Composition: a tie for Parnia Mazhar, Pennekamp and Oliver Ullman, Pacific; Jigar Bhakta, MBMS. Film/Video Production: Lauren Woomeer, Pacific; Jesse Hartnell, MBMS. •

## Dodgers

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right with the Blue? Well, how about second baseman Orlando Hudson, who is hitting .315, with 33 RBIs and 39 runs scored? Hudson is working on a one-year deal with the Dodgers, and is making a very nice push to sign a lucrative multi-year contract with someone this offseason. And how about if that someone is my Angels, who may be ready to jettison Howie Kendrick unless the guy picks up his play in the next 100 or so games.

See, as a professional writer, I can always spin it back to the Angels. Didja notice?

Anyway, not only is Hudson providing a spark near the top of the lineup, he can also actually make a few difficult plays defensively at second base, which couldn't be said of last year's second bagger, Jeff Kent. Adios, Mr. Kent, who some misguided folks think is a future Hall-of-Famer. More on that in a later column. Or not. It's up to me, right?

Mentioned mighty mite Juan Pierre in a column last week, so no reason to gush again about the slap-hitting leftfielder. But he has more than made up for the absence of the steroid-cheater Ramirez.

And now that the area known as Manynwood has been retired, at least for the moment, how about Pierre's Plaza? Maybe you couldn't rip off the Dodger faithful for \$99 bucks per seat, Mr. McCourt, but I'll

bet you could pry \$29 bucks out of a few delirious fans' wallets.

Need any more marketing tips, Frank? Shoot me an e-mail at [franklyplank@gmail.com](mailto:franklyplank@gmail.com), and I'll be glad to share some ideas with the owner of my favorite team.

Okay, enough brown-nosing. Continuing to give the credit to the guys on the field, don't see a whole lotta Dodgers having career years. Sure, Matt Kemp is hitting .304 with a handful of homers, and 30-plus RBI, but most in the know figure he can ratchet those numbers upward.

And catcher Russell Martin, fave of *Karaoke Jen*, has been struggling most of the season, hitting a paltry .251 with nada homers. Heard that Martini used to enjoy a tad bit of the nightlife, but had dialed back his nocturnal adventures. Good for him. And apparently, bad for his on-the-field performance. Whadya think, Jen?

Did you see the recent game where Dodger pitchers, forced to chuck the horsehide to Mr. Martin, were assessed five wild pitches? Bet my bro Chris, who used to catch for Cal State Dominguez Hills during the coach Andy Lopez years, would have blocked at least three of those balls. And he also enjoys a tad bit of the nightlife.

Wow, the column is over, and I barely got started raving about my Dodgers. To be continued, whenever I see the need...•

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