

Calendar

SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2009

• Grand Prix Bike Race. 48th Annual Chevron Manhattan Beach Grand Prix Bike Race 7 a.m., Racing Action Begins 2:45 p.m., Community Races Live Oak Park, Manhattan Beach. Come join Chevron and the racing community at the 48th Annual Chevron Manhattan Beach Grand Prix (MBGP) bike race, one of the oldest one-day cycling races in the country. The MBGP draws over 10,000 spectators and nearly 1,000 racers each year. The Community Races are open for all kids ages 2 - 14. All participants received a t-shirt, goodie bag, medal and Chevron Toy Car. Visit www.mbgp.com for more information.

• Los Cancioneros Master Chorale. Join LC as we surf the dial through the golden years of radio songs from the 20s to 60s "Gather 'Round the Radio" June 28, 7:00 PM James Armstrong Theatre- Torrance Cultural Arts Center 3330 Civic Center Drive. Tickets, open seating \$18.00 Jo Sheldon 310-530-0327 Theatre 310-781-7171.

UPCOMING

• Fun Class for Kids on Etiquette and Social Skills. The City of Manhattan Beach Parks & Recreation Department proudly announces the return of its popular course in good manners by etiquette instructor Dianeh O'Farrill. "Etiquette and Social Skills for Children" Ages 6-12. A two-session course on Saturdays, July 18 & 25, or Saturdays, August 15 & 22, 2009 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Classes will take place at Live Oak Park Hall 1901 Valley Drive Manhattan Beach. Residents \$78; non-residents \$84. For further information, please call The Manhattan Beach Parks & Recreation Department 310-802-5448. This popular educational program covers the basics of good manners needed by children to interact successfully in various social situations.

ONGOING

• MOMS Club of Manhattan Beach. Moms Club MB invites local at-home mothers for friendship, fun playgroups, support and more! Contact Michelle at (310) 489-3927 or <mailto:momsclub90266@hotmail.com> for membership info and meeting dates/locations.

• Renewal Through Art Class. Renewal Through Art for Seniors is an art class for adults 55 and older. A ten-week session will be offered on Thursdays at the Joslyn Center from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm beginning May 29. A variety of media will be used and techniques demonstrated with the overriding object the student's experience, not the art product. The class is free and students provide their own materials. Pre registration is required. Call the Older Adults Program at (310) 802-5447.

• ARTS Manhattan Photographic Exhibition. ARTS Manhattan in Partnership with the City of Manhattan Beach Presents Frozen & Fluid. Frozen & Fluid focuses on three of seven photographic projects by Gil Garetto; the abstract beauty of the Walt Disney Concert Hall; the soaring spirit and beauty of the Cuban dance; the head-turning sight of women, wonderfully attired in Parisian fashion as they ride their bicycles in Paris. The Exhibition is now open and remains on view until August 6, 2009. Manhattan Beach Arts Center 1560 Manhattan Beach Boulevard 310-802-5440

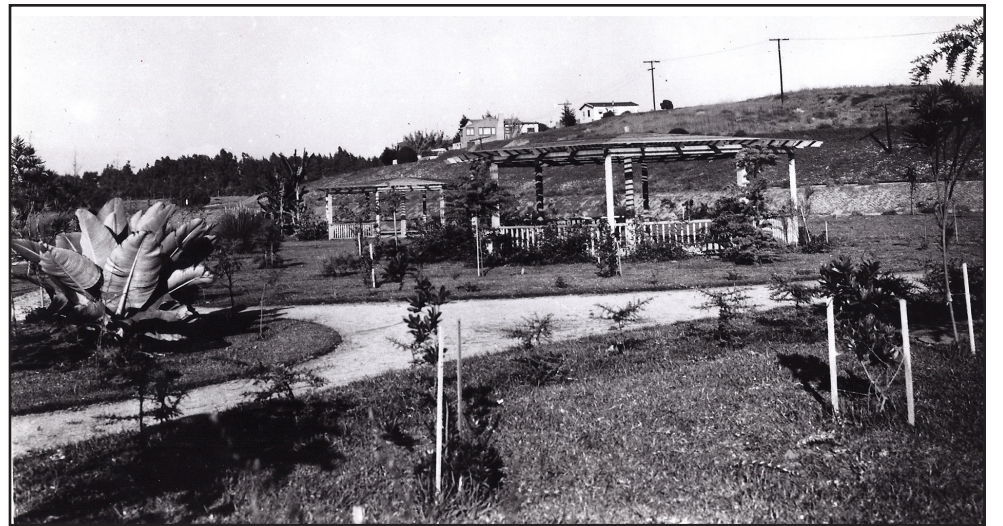
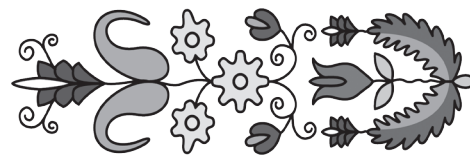
• Older Adults discussion group. Come discuss current events, movies, topics of local and national interest, whatever is on your mind. The discussion group meets every Monday from 9:00 a.m. - noon at the Joslyn Community Center, 1601 Valley Drive. For more information please call (310) 802-5447.

• Play Reading. Fun and adventure await you. Spontaneous and unrehearsed activity facilitated by KC Johnson and Maria A. Ruiz, two experienced artists in the South Bay, offers each participant a role in scenes chosen for you - or you may bring your own short scenes to read. Every 1st Tuesday from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Joslyn Center, 1601 Valley Drive, MB. Free Event, Sponsored by Parks and Rec. All are welcome. Info: 310-325-3251 or 310-540-5635.

• Play Scrabble. This event is sponsored by the Manhattan Beach Parks and Rec and facilitated by the Manhattan Beach Senior Citizens Resource Committee. 1-3-1-1-2-3-1-1 (Scrabble). Play Scrabble every 1st and 3rd Thursday at Joslyn Community Center, 1601 Valley Drive. A free event, experience not required and all are welcome (4-1-1-3-1-3-1). 1:30 - 4 p.m. Info 310-802-5447.

• Poetry Reading Circle Recent/longtime, amateur and wannabe poets are welcome to read their own o favorite poems every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Joslyn Center, 1601 Valley Drive, MB. Free Event, Sponsored by Parks and Rec. All are welcome. Info 802-5447.

• Petanque, French game of Boules at Live Oak Field, Manhattan Beach. Play Petanque (played by 17 million people in France), an outdoor social game for every level of fitness; no experience required. Sponsored by Parks and Rec. All are welcome every 2nd and 4th Thursday 1-3 p.m adjacent to Joslyn Center. Info 310-802-5447. •



In 1932 Live Oak Park after its development showing large banana trees, which were gifts from the City of Inglewood, California.

How well do you know your town's History?

By Jan Dennis

Abridged from "A Walk Beside The Sea" by Jan Dennis

During the 1030's the Federal relief programs such as the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) went into operation. The distribution of surplus food and work projects took place. Not everyone in Manhattan Beach applauded these efforts. Some merchants charged that direct government distribution of flour, beans, clothing and other goods took away their customers for those items.

Putting men back to work was handled by the WPA and the Unemployment Relief Program of Los Angeles County. The county felt that not only did the individual receive help, but the money spent did it's bit toward the general economic ability of the community. It was also felt that the work project eventually would enhance property values.

Hundreds of unemployed men worked on: road work at 21st Street and Railroads Drive, now Ardmore Avenue; Live Oak Park; tennis courts at the rear of the old City Hall; sidewalk construction; the police pistol range, located at Blanche Road and 27th Street; as well as, the Grandview Elementary School and the City sewer system. Los Angeles County provided money for the widening of Center Street, now Manhattan Beach Blvd., Highland Ave. and Rosecrans Ave. By January of 1933, 70 families had received a total of \$2,963.80 for work done on county projects. In 1934, the State of California would provide employment by improving Gould Lane, the boundary between Manhattan and Hermosa Beach, one of the original roads in the area.

Both the pistol range and Live Oak Park were located on land that had belonged to Mr. George Peck. Live Oak Park's five acres had been donated to the city by Peck several years earlier. The Park, once the site of a trash disposal dump, was originally built by the county with federal relief funds. In order to fill in the ravine making the area level, 26 registered unemployed men made hundreds

of trips back and forth along plank runways moving cubic yards of dirt, at a development cost of \$14,896. The WPA completed the development and added tennis courts and other facilities.

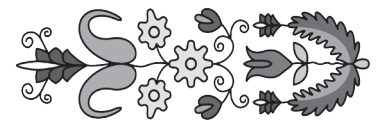
The park was named for the 50 live oaks that were planted December 9, 1932. The trees stood along both sides of what is now Ardmore Drive, in two groves at the north and south ends of the park. Live oaks were chosen because of their durability in a coastal climate. Many other plants and trees were donated by individuals and organizations, one being the People's Building and Loan of Inglewood.

The Great Depression came late to California compared to the rest of the nation, but it would stay longer. The year 1933, is generally considered the worst year of the Depression, however in California it would not bottom-out until 1934.


Not all industries were depressed by the Depression. Metlox a division of the Proutyline Products Company operated by T.C. Prouty and his son Willis, had moved into the first electrically welded steel building on the West Coast. The parent company made architectural tile utilizing Prouty's patents for talc-body tile and his tunnel kiln. Metlox made glazed, ceramic sign letters in five different styles, some being five feet tall. Huge signs were formed with the ceramic letters serving as insulated bases for the ornate neon tubing, which illuminated the sign at night.

To be continued...

If you are interested in the politics of Manhattan Beach at this time in history, you need to pick-up a copy of "A Walk Beside The Sea", by Jan Dennis. You can find a copy at the Manhattan Beach Library, Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce, Hillside Pharmacy or call Jan 310-372-8520.



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 <h1 style="margin: 0;">DEADLINES</h1>
<p>OBITUARIES: Monday at noon.</p> <p>CALENDAR ITEMS: Prior Friday at noon.</p> <p>PEOPLE ITEMS: Prior Friday at noon.</p> <p>DISPLAY AD CHANGES: Prior Thursday at noon.</p> <p>CLASSIFIEDS: Tuesday at noon.</p> <p>LEGAL NOTICES: Monday at noon.</p> <p>NEW DISPLAY ADS: Prior Thursday at noon.</p> <p>REAL ESTATE ADS: Monday at noon.</p> <p>AD CANCELLATIONS: Prior Thursday.</p> <p>LATE CANCELLATIONS WILL BE CHARGED 50% OF AD</p>