Calendar

SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2009

• 4th of July Barbecue. Join the City of Manhattan's Aquatics staff for a great celebration of our Nation's Independence! Location: Begg Pool 1402 North Peck Avenue 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Cost: \$5 per person, there will be water games, face painting, water balloon toss, swimming, music and free food (while supplies last). The entire family is welcome. Children six years old and under must be accompanied by an adult in the water at all times. The cost is \$5.00 per person at the door and all pool rules apply. If you have any questions, please call Jesus Sandoval, Aquatics Supervisor at (310) 802-5429

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2009

• 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.

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.

Ongoin

- 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 Garcetti; 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 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 lever 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. •





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Tennis courts built by the WPA in 1933, were located on what is now the Police and Fire Station parking lot on 15th Street. In the same year the building (middle ground) was the original Boy Scout House.

How well do you know your town's History?

By Jan Dennis

Abridged from "A Walk Beside The Sea" The early Depression of the 1930's ravaged America. Many people escaped their troubles by going to the movies. The motion picture industry boomed with actresses and actors like: Jackie Coogan, matinee idols William Haines, Lila Lee and James Kirkwood Jr. to name a few, all who had a connection to Manhattan Beach. While other construction had stopped or slowed down, new movie theaters were still going up. Metlox, a division of the Proutyline Products Company, was also expanding, building signs not only for the Pantages Theater, but for the Pathe Studio, as well as, the Warrer Brothers theater in Huntington Park. In 1932, the company signed a contract to sell neon signs in eleven Western states.

1n 1931, T.C. Prouty died, L.P. Bugess became president making Willie Prouty, Executive Vice President. The demand for signs began to dwindle and those who had ordered signs, bought on credit, found they could not pay their bills. To survive the Depression the Metlox plant began producing three lines of clay dinnerware.

One design "Mission Bell" was made exclusively for Sears and Roebuck Company. The most famous of the line was "Poppy Trail", which received its name from a book of California wildflowers, "California Poppy Trial", written by Evelyn White, read by Mr. Prouty. The dishes came in a spectrum of colors from delphinium blue to poppy orange all of which were finished in a high gloss.

While prices were low: a loaf of bread (seven cents), a gallon of gas (10 cents), a gallon of milk (forty-three cents) and gold per ounce \$2.67, many residents were without an income. Like the movie, domestic commercial radio blossomed as an entertainment medium. Manhattn Beach families gathered

around their radios throughout the decade to listen to: "Jack Benny", "Fibber McGee and Molly", "Gangbusters" and many other favorites. Housewives listened to "Ma Perkins" and "Our Gal Sunday". Kids came home from school and turned in "Jack Armstrong", "The All-American Boy" or "The Lone Ranger".

In 1932, residents were also introduced to another form of radio service. Mackay Radio Corporation established a relay station at the southwest corner of 6th Street and Rowell Avenue. The one-story, \$1,250 facility transmitted and received ship-to-shore International Morse Code signals for maritime radio communications.

Broadcast fans were already talking about picture radio. A television demonstration was put on as a benefit for the Manhattan Beach Community Church with tickets being sold in local stores. An audience gathered in the school auditorium where they saw a 60-line picture projected onto a two-foot screen.

Edwin Wilson of Los Angeles, who presented the demonstration, noted that while there was no television in the West, some 32 stations had been licensed in the East for experimental, non-commercial, non-scheduled broadcasts. He blamed the lack of western television on the successful efforts of eastern interests to dominate the new medium.

Not only was there discord in the television industry, but bickering here in Manhattan Beach, between political factions. A petition on the issue of zoning was being circulated by the Taxpayers Protection Association. They were also seeking a recall and demanding the election of successors for two City Council members.

To be continued...

