How Well Do You Know Your Town's History?



The Public Works Department was created in 1957, placing all public works-related activities under one director. The old City yard facility, located between 6th and 8th Streets on Sepulveda Boulevard, was demolished after the construction on Bell Street.

By Jan Dennis

While the police had its hands full with developing plans to educate the public as to the criminal activities in town and the expanding population of residents and summer visitors, there was an ever-growing increase in parking problems. In 1967, with a population of 36,538, there were 30,377 parking citations issued, making it almost beyond the ability of the Manhattan Beach Police Department to keep up with the acute parking problems. Tourists as well as local residents were competing for parking spaces. Part of the problem was the 400 percent annual escalation of motorcycles.

It was not only the downtown area that felt the parking congestion, but also the Rosecrans/ Highland Avenue area. Properties adjacent to City-owned land were purchased to form an off-street parking lot. Part of the project was an agreement with Southern California Edison Company to permit the City to use land north of Rosecrans for vehicle access and public parking.

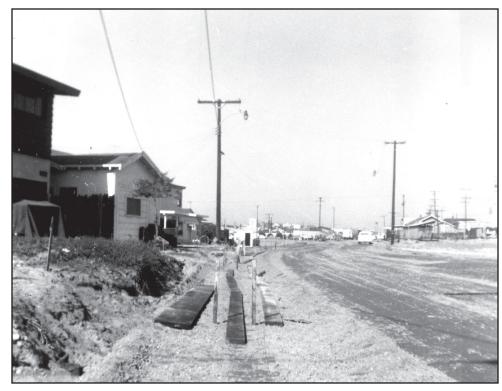
Other parking projects took place, including the widening of Manhattan Beach Boulevard, the Valley Drive extension from Manhattan Beach Boulevard to 10th Place adding more parking space for the downtown area, and diagonal parking on Manhattan Avenue.

As the 1960s wound down, the physical improvements in the community were numerous and outstanding. One of the largest projects was the completion and dedication on April 13, 1967 of the \$250,000 Public Services Facility at Bell Avenue. The development of the Public Services Facility was financed by the sale of City land. Prior to the Bell Avenue location, the Public Service yard occupied the land between 6th and 8th Street on Sepulveda Boulevard. The new facility improved service, added storage and created a better working environment.

A 210' x 10' wide concrete-loading dock

divide a lot without going through established procedures. For some, the measure came 50 years too late, but many believed it to be better late than never.

Other actions included a Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce-sponsored code of ethics for businessmen; a requirement that establishments selling alcoholic beverages



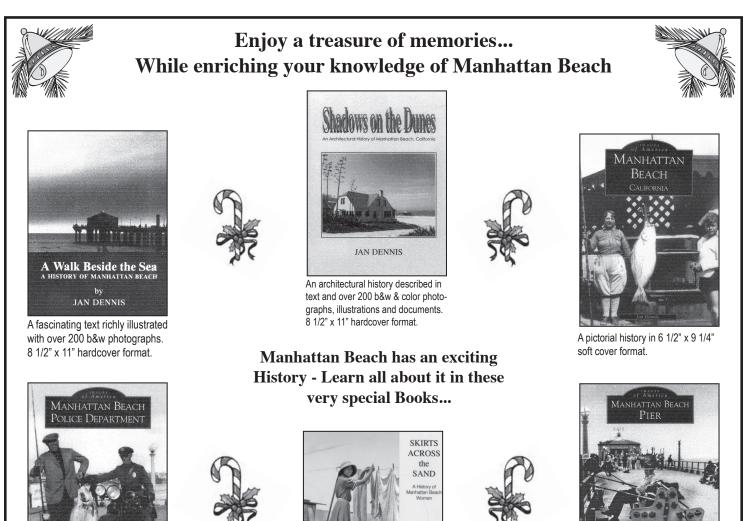
Looking north with work being done to open up Valley Drive between Manhattan Beach Boulevard and 10th Place.

had to apply for a conditional use permit; a directive for the Chief Building Inspector to eliminate all zoning violations and to take action to eliminate "bootleg" apartments; and adoption of the Land Use Element of the General Plan.

The Undergrounding Utilities Committee was reactivated working for the removal of overhead wires and poles, and a refuse container ordinance was adopted that required all new structures to provide an enclosure for refuse containers.

With such ordinances and findings, the City Council worked to stem the tide of urban blight and to control density.

To be continued... •



for storage of water pipe, heavy pipe fittings, etc. was constructed, as well as an additional parking area, rack and cabinet storage. Previously such equipment was stored on the ground at the four City-owned lots at the Peck Avenue Reservoir site.

The Public Works Department is charged with the responsibility of providing and maintaining basic community facilities and services for the residents and business establishments within the city. The more obvious of these services are water distribution, refuse collection, and street and park maintenance.

The Fire Department also experienced growth in 1967, with five new firemen added during the year. Many hours were devoted to giving these men the basics of fire protection and first aid, which were department requirements.

With all the activity within the City departments, the Manhattan Beach City Council continued to work to improve the taxpayers' concerns. Ordinance No. 1060 was adopted, which stated that a property owner could not A pictorial history in 6 1/2" x 9 1/4" soft cover format.



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