

THE FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

Number 4.

Happy Birthday '69: Big Bill, Abe, Susan B., George, W.E.B., and Huey!

FREE

EDITORIAL

In the early 1960's, a thriving artistic community developed along the Ocean Front including several art galleries, studios, coffee houses and a bookstore. This development brought visitors to the area and increased the trade of many small businesses which have since disappeared.

A building inspection program instituted by the City of Los Angeles, at the instigation of then-councilman Karl Rundberg, who was recently convicted of bribery, destroyed the Ocean Front community. About 25% of the buildings were destroyed. Considerably more than 25% of the population was uprooted--many of them forced to leave the Venice area entirely. A good deal of property changed hands.

Many elderly retired persons were forced to abandon their homes because of repairs demanded by the city which they could not afford. Several of them died of heart attacks brought on by the strain.

An enclave of Black people was removed entirely from the beachfront by condemning every habitable building in which they were then living. Galleries closed, numerous small businesses were ruined and whole neighborhoods were destroyed.

Nine years ago there was hardly a vacant lot within blocks of the Ocean Front. Today only a handful of Venice's landmarks remain standing and whole blocks of beachfront are vacant lots strewn with rubbish. Thanks to the City of Los Angeles.

The City of Los Angeles spent a million of our tax dollars on a Recreation Center which is hardly ever used. It was poorly designed to begin with; many potential uses are made difficult or impossible by the restrictions imposed by the L.A. Department of Recreation and Parks and, of course, many who might have used it were driven out of the area by the building inspection program already described. Yet the master plan labels that hulk our "community center."

Today, before the property assessment district in the canal area has even been made into law city money is being used to destroy houses there. Not one penny is being spent to help the displaced people find other quarters. Before that operation is completed, not one person now renting in the canal area will still be there. Their homes will all be destroyed or remodeled and the new scale of rents will

be too high for them to return. Their own taxes will help pay for their forced removal from their chosen community.

Now comes the City Planning Department with a grand plan for all of Venice which would drastically change every existing neighborhood in our community. Every neighborhood in Venice would be uprooted and something more expensive substituted for what is there. The proposed master plan would displace at least half the present population of Venice, leaving them no place to go except away. The population might rise, but it would be different people entirely; middle income replacing low income, high income replacing middle income. The poor--our friends and

neighbors and ourselves-- will have (maybe) four square blocks in the Planning Department's grand design. A large proportion of present businesses will also have to go.

This process has gone far enough. The people of Venice, who have survived despite the neglect and abuse of every department of the city government, deserve better than this and we will have better than this.

We have the intelligence to know what we want, the talent to plan what we want and the skill to build what we want. What we and the hundreds of others who have rejected the proposed master plan are demanding is time and resources to make our own plan for our own community.

Master Plan (reprinted by permission of Independent-Journal Newspapers)

Venice Residents Win Delay

Venice residents, under the auspices of the Free Venice Organizing Committee, and Councilman Marvin Braude of Venice won the first leg of a three-week battle with the City Planning Commission this week as city planners moved to delay action on the proposed master plan until May 8, 1969.

Due to strong opposition to the immediate adoption of a Venice master plan by residents, businessmen, city of-

icials and organizations, the City Planning Commission reversed its previous decision denying a three-month delay and gave interested residents until May 8 to prepare their suggestions for the community's master plan.

Petitions

Petitions containing some 2,199 signatures of Venice residents were presented to the Commission at their meet-

ing this week by Free Venice leader Rick Davidson who added that any plan for the future of Venice should come from the residents within the community rather than from the Commission.

Jane Gordon, another member of the Free Venice Organizing Committee, also proposed at the meeting that the Commission come to Venice May 8, making it easier for residents to attend although the city officials ruled that "usual procedures" would be followed. The demand for local meetings was one of several listed on the petitions circulated throughout the Venice community.

Petition signatures gathered by the Venice organizing group included 414 property owners, 19 per cent of the total. Among the property owners were 21 who operate businesses in Venice. Signers of the petitions amounted to five per cent of the total population in Venice and represented all areas of the community, particularly the Ocean Front and Oakwood areas, however.

Nothing Definite

According to Miss Gordon, no definite meetings have been scheduled as yet to organize the feelings of the community. It is instead hoped, she says, that individual communities and neighborhoods will gather together to decide what is best for their area and what they would like to see included in the master plan.

Following individual meetings, then, conferences would be held to consolidate the needs and desires of the residents allowing them to select a community plan which would be best for the area as a whole.

Although it was Councilman Braude who moved for the three-month delay to allow the community "a further opportunity to explore the plan," Miss Gordon says she has no real confidence in Braude's apparent interest since he has made no effort to seek the opinion of the community in forming their own future. As far as the community's

chances of altering the present master plan suggestion, Miss Gordon feels that if the citizens of Venice come up with a good, coherent, feasible plan for the community, city officials will be hard put not to listen or at least consider their proposals.

In addition, the three month delay will give residents a chance to solidify their feelings and support for deciding their own future and might at least serve to put pressure on the city council in the event that the planning commission rejects the residents' proposals.

Major support at the recent planning commission for the adoption of the master plan came from members of the Venice Planning Committee, a group of beachfront property owners interested in developing a privately financed shopping mall on Windward Ave.

Attending the meeting from Venice were Philip Carter of Commonwealth United, Joy Stanley Morehead of Action Industries, John Flemming of Project Action, Robert Castille, Oakwood community organizer who flew back from a Chicago training institute to attend the meeting, Morris Rosen of the Israel Levin Senior Adult Center, Marguerite Buckley and Terry Timmins of Neighborhood Legal Services, Earl Newman, nationally known poster designer, John Haag, co-chairman of the California Peace and Freedom Party and Ray Valle of the USC School of Social Work.

THE COURSE OF HUMAN EVENTS

• At the FREE VENICE Art Festival the focus this month is on children. Crayons, clay and other materials are free and each child gets a coloring book designed by Venice artists Freddy Freedom and Ed Newell..... Free milk for the children at the festival during the second weekend of February was donated by Walter Michel, Venice manager for Edgemar Farms. The festival happens every Saturday and Sunday from 10 am. to sunset on the Ocean Front at Park Avenue.

• Venice artist Bill Olive designed and gave to the Newton-Cleaver Defense Committee a silk screen poster honoring Huey P. Newton on his birthday this month. Proceeds from sale will help defend Newton and Eldridge Cleaver, Black Panther Party leaders under indictment because of incidents started by the Oakland police. Bill's poster will be displayed throughout California.

• At the request of the Venice Survival Committee, Venice attorney Paul Abram defended 11 of a group of 14 Venice residents tried last month on charges resulting from a mass arrest by the Metro Squad of the L.A. Police Department. All 14 were found not guilty. Six other VSC members arrested in January were released and charges dropped due to Paul's efforts.

• Twenty FREE VENICE Organizing Committee activists rode to the L.A. Planning Commission meeting on January 30 in a bus donated with driver by the Pacific Scenic Lines of Venice. continued inside



The Sea by DAVE MURPHY

During and following the recent storm the waves carried away large amounts of beach sand. This of course is devastating to the entertainment value of the beach areas. It has been suggested that sufficient precedent has already been established to suggest the appropriate corrective action. A law should be passed making it illegal for the sea to carry away more than 3 cubic yards of sand per year.

This, of course, would solve the problem. As to the precedent for this forward looking legislation, one need only look to the laws making it illegal for hemp and poppies to grow.

Of course, when one makes a law of this nature it becomes necessary to define the appropriate sanctions to be used against the sea if it continues to flout the law.

It has been suggested that if the sea continues in its current unlawful acts that it be incarcerated; we can build a big wall around the sea and force it to stay where we want it to. If the sea rebels against this humane treatment, then war may become necessary. We may have to go all out in our pollution efforts.

Of course, all good citizens of Venice will support this measure. The Venice Internal Security Affairs committee will take evidence as to Un-Venice activi-

ties in this matter. Expectoring into the ocean will be considered aiding and abetting.

The birthday of Black activist and historian W. E. B. DuBois will be celebrated by a block party on Sunday, February 23, from 2 to 6 p.m. Centered around 22 Thornton Avenue, the party will include refreshments, dancing, Movement films & rapping with Black Panther Party leader Shermont Banks. Proceeds from donations will benefit the BPP. Call 399-6462.

Free Pap tests to detect cancer will be offered at the Venice Branch Library, 610 California, on March 1 between 1 and 4 pm. by special arrangement with the American Cancer Society.

hand crafted jewelry
silver gold



David Knox
1333 1/2 W. Washington Blvd.
Tuesday - Saturday 12 - 6

the **FLEA MARKET**
Antique Clothing etc.
1225 w washington blvd

Meher Baba has a message for you...
MEHER BABA BOOKSTORE
2700 pacific avenue
venice, california

LOVE

BAYROCK PUBLICATIONS
publishers of *beyond baroque*, announces a new service: EXPERT TYPING of all kinds, including justified typing on the fabulous IBM 'Selectric' COMPOSER. Many type styles, including this and this and this and this and even this.
Ideal for offset printing of menus, letters, small and display ads, pamphlets, brochures, books, etc. Call Virginia Cook, 396-6551 or 473-4791 or stop in at the BAYROCK Publications offices at 1639-41 W. Washington Blvd., near Venice Blvd.

a book review

by JERRY WELLS

None of the current programs for reducing unemployment--including black capitalism -- gives hope of changing the basic fact of life for all working people: that all jobs eventually turn us into dumb robots. Our hopes of becoming creative, informed, happy adults are usually smashed in the daily grind to pay the bills.

A truly Free Venice would develop new ways of working that would eliminate the drudgery and alienation of work and enable us to develop all the creative potentials that are within us. A wild dream?

In 1940, Marcel Barbu, a French worker and watch-case maker by trade, decided to change that dream into reality. Barbu offered to teach several unskilled workers the watch-case trade. The workers agreed to search with Barbu for a new way of working in which the "distinction between employer and employee would be abolished."

They set up their first shop in an old barn and were soon selling their product to watch manufacturers. Together they developed a common ethical basis for

working in what they now called their Community of Work. By 1946 they grew to 90 employees despite the destruction of their original factory during the war.

The success of the Community of Work didn't simply mean one man getting rich. They bought a 200 acre farm where they took turns enjoying the healthy country life one month a year. This was in addition to a month's vacation a year. An increase in production didn't mean laying people off work. Instead, the work week was reduced for all and the extra time gained was used together, in educational classes, soccer, singing, or whatever they wanted.

Neighborhood Groups, smallest and most important unit of the Community, bring together families who live in close proximity to discuss the activities of the Community. Minutes are taken, suggestions and criticisms made, and they are sent to the elected Chief of the Community. The Neighborhood Groups also organize mutual aid activities such as baby sitting, care of the sick, etc.

The members of the community are paid for their social value as well as for the work they do. The degree of friendliness, in-

tellectual activity, frankness, communitarian responsibility, etc all help to determine the social value of each. Women and children are also considered in this rating and are paid accordingly.

The communitarian idea spread rapidly. Domain Ott vineyards became a community of work. So did the milkmen of Geneva, Switzerland. Five boiler workers in Marseille set up a shop in an old submarine yard to produce leather goods. By the mid-1950s there were over a hundred communities of work throughout Western Europe.

You can read about the Communities of Work in the book ALL THINGS COMMON by Claire Huchet Bishop (Harper & Bros. Publ.). Eric Fromm's book THE SANE SOCIETY also contains a discussion of them in the chapter entitled "Roads to Sanity."

After that, why not organize our own communities of work in Venice? Do we have the courage to turn our dreams into reality?

CO-OPS FORMING:

- photo-lab for those interested in lab & equipment
 - apartment living (complex)
 - Venice school
- interested, call 399-7681

musical artists, lecturers & attractions
FOR CONCERTS, PROGRAMS & SPECIAL EVENTS



The Jack Hampton Agency
Two Two Six South Beverly Drive
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90212
TELEPHONE CRESTVIEW 4-6075

stage band clinics folk music

VENICE SPIRIT *****
*****PUBLIC ELECTION

All Venice Residents can vote for the BOARD OF DIRECTORS of the VENICE HEALTH COUNCIL
Monday*February 17*1969*7:30 pm
BROADWAY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
1015 Lincoln Blvd. Venice
*****396-1917***



graphic design
printing facilities
layout
paste-up
finish

EX 6-5270

kitchen table art service

Signed articles in BEACHHEAD are entirely the work of individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the BEACHHEAD staff. The staff is open to any Venice resident who wishes to contribute time and effort to produce and distribute the paper.

Contents of each issue are decided collectively by the staff for that issue. The paper is non-

profit in that all money contributed is used to cover the costs of production and distribution.

Each issue of the paper is delivered free to 12,000 Venice residents. Your copy cost us about 2¢ and hours of volunteer labor. If you want this unique community paper to continue, please offer your help by calling 399-7681, or send a check to BEACHHEAD, 1727 W. Washington.

The FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD is published at 1727 W. Washington Blvd., Venice, California 90291 Telephone: 399-7681. Circulation this issue: 12,000 copies. Copyright 1969.

Staff for this issue: Shlomo Bachrach, Dora Bayrack, Virginia Bohannon, Kandy Broatch, Fred Burkhardt, Rick Davidson, America Dunnavant, Jane Gordon, Anna Haag, John Haag, Nancy Lacefield, Jean Levitan, Phil Melnick.

OAKWOOD PLAYGROUND ACTIVITIES

767 California Ave. 399-0162

Slim-n-Trim Mondays
(Adults).....10 am.

Dance Class Mon. & Wed.
(5 yrs. & over).....4 pm.

Pre-school Wed. 7 Fri.
(3 to 5 yrs.).....10 am.

Teen-age Dance Thursdays
.....8-10 pm.

---contact Miss Ponder

* * * * *
Little Major League Baseball - 1969
All boys ages 9-12 are eligible

Dates for registration:
2 Saturdays in Feb: the 15th & 22nd
3 Saturdays in March: 1st, 8th, 15th
Any time between 1 p.m. and 4 pm.
---contact Mr. Peoples

EDUCATION CADRE
now offers a complaint center to all Oakwood parents & students who are not satisfied with our local schools. Open 9 am to 5 pm, Mon. thru Fri. for information call 392-5540

TUTORS ARE NEEDED

The Venice Educational Center operates a tutorial program allowing students experiencing difficulty in school to obtain help. The primary objective of the program is to aid each child in overcoming his particular academic problems, with special emphasis placed upon developing a close, personal relationship between tutor and child.

There are presently thirty student applicants awaiting tut-

ors, some since October. If you can spare two hours a week, and are at least sixteen years old, why not help a child? Contact Mrs. Virgie Smith at 451-9747 or after 2:30 pm, 399-4276. Or come to the State Service Center at 324 Lincoln Blvd., between 2:30 and 6:00 pm.
Peter Kahn 451-9747 399-4276

.....
VENICE DRAFT INFORMATION CENTER is located at 73 Market Street, Room 2, upstairs front: the old Kick-a-poo Logan Building. Hours are: 7 to 10 pm Monday through Thursday; Saturday 1 to 5 pm. Call 399-5812 for appointment. The group will attempt to aid in answering your questions on the draft. Is there a draft on you?

392-5693

USED AND ANTIQUE FURNITURE

Bill & JoAnn

See Charles Lovett

1227 W. WASHINGTON BL. VENICE CALIF. 90291

Quintessence of Life

Earth Mother

TUESDAY thru SATURDAY 6-12 pm

1354 WASHINGTON BLVD. VENICE, CALIFORNIA TEL 392-5249

Quintessence of Foods prepared for you by: *Sharon St. Clair*

POSTERS!

EARL NEWMAN
1725 WASHINGTON BLVD.
VENICE, CALIF. 90291 ☆ 399-2859

LEGAL SERVICES - T. TIMMINS

There is an office of the L.A. Neighborhood Legal Services in Venice, 1711 Pacific, Phone 392-4177. Our office is financed by the federal government to provide certain legal services for those who can't afford a lawyer. We can only work on civil rather than criminal cases.

Until now, we have dealt mainly with domestic relations problems, such as divorce, paternity suits, adoptions, etc. We are now dealing more and more with other types of cases - consumer fraud complaints, removing attachments or garnishments from payroll checks, stopping illegal evictions, and protecting welfare rights.

In future issues I will explain some rights we should be aware of in the area of civil law.

We are trying to reach more people in the community by working with service groups that are active in Venice. We have set up a successful Law Student program with the cooperation of the UCLA Law School, at the Venice State Service Center, 324 Lincoln Blvd. This is a good place to go if you need advice or information about the law. Call 392-4811.

THE COURSE OF HUMAN EVENTS

- Sam Anderson, a staff member at the Venice Branch Library, 610 California, made a special contribution to Black History week at the library by collecting photographs, biographical sketches and observations on Black identity and development from artists and others active in the Venice Black community. The display will continue beyond the original closing date of February 15 and then will remain in book form at the library.
- More than 60 Peace and Freedom Party activists from around the state met in Venice February 1 and 2 to develop new directions and program for the party. Plenary sessions were held at the Reredos beachfront theater and workshops were conducted in the homes and offices of Venice PFP members. Much of the discussion centered around identifying community issues and producing action on them. The FREE VENICE project was mentioned often as an example of effective community organizing.
- The as yet unnamed Venice street theater group gave its first performance before a captive audience at the PFP State Committee meeting on February 2nd. Their next action will be on the street. Anyone may join. Call Lee Simon at 399-6462.
- A party for BEACHHEAD raised \$42.00 to help pay the printing costs of this issue. Alan and Gwyn Gorg provided their house for the event which was organized by Anna Haag. If you have a house that could be used for a party, call Anna at 392-2892.

- Venice residents Jane Gordon and John Haag made an aerial inspection on February 9 of the oil slick coming down the coast from Santa Barbara. They were concerned about the threat of oil damage to the Venice beach and the failure of all authorities to save any of the beaches so far affected. After the flight John issued a statement to the press which said in part:
'The Coast Guard has been concerned solely with harbors and marinas and their efforts have proved to be ineffectual anyway. In Venice, we intend to save our beach. We have discussed various proposals, including a sandbag dyke below the high tide line, hoses using seawater against the surface layer of oil, canvas or other material to protect the sand, and other kinds of barriers.
'Members of the Peace and Freedom Party are prepared to work with anyone interested in saving other beaches, in stopping permanently all offshore oil drilling and in seeking alternate methods of public transport so as to eliminate the scourge of freeways, air pollution and social damage imposed on us by dependence on internal combustion engines.'
- The Maintenance Department of the L.A. City Library System chose a day when the Venice branch was closed to butcher six sycamore trees on the west and south sides of the library. The local staff was not consulted and their request to save the 40 year old shade trees was not acknowledged.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Are you:
in a rut- broke- out of work?

Do you:
desire to better your financial position - desire to find true financial security?

Contact:
CLIFF TORRENCE 392-2785
106 1/2 E. Breeze Ave. Venice

the Ash Grove
8162 Melrose 01-32070

RADICAL FILMS - MONDAY NIGHTS

TOP LA GOSPEL STARS
FEB. 21-23 & FEB. 28 - MAR. 2

COMING MAR. 7
RAMBLIN JACK ELLIOT

PHONE 399-7717

Venice Marina Club Service

24 HOUR TOWING

AUTO REPAIRS
TUNE UP
BRAKES

427 LINCOLN BLVD.
VENICE, CALIF.

MASTER'S PLAN (from back page) children therefore schools; we are sometimes sick therefore hospitals; we are religious therefore churches; we play therefore parks and beaches; and we are many, many more people. The common denominator is the we. The rest adds up to diversity. A city is the abstract because we humans are reality and all buildings, streets and even parks are

but the by-products of the human us. So let us begin.

In the next few weeks, the Planning and Research Committee of the FREE VENICE Organizing Committee will be calling on the community to help formulate and present to the Planning Commission our way of planning our community: an organic development of the very community the plan is to serve....The responsibility is now ours.

FIRE FLIES *virginia bohannon*

O, free me from this fascination.
It's not my wish to slave for ghosts.
Or so-called men (I pay their pay)
who make so-called fun of gutted homes
where children may have died.
What happened, man?
It's burning, man. It's burnt.

VENICE & THE MASTER'S PLAN

RICK DAVIDSON

The L.A. Planning Commission has given Venice three months to develop an alternative to their master plan. That isn't time to design a community in detail but it is time to speak about basic concepts.

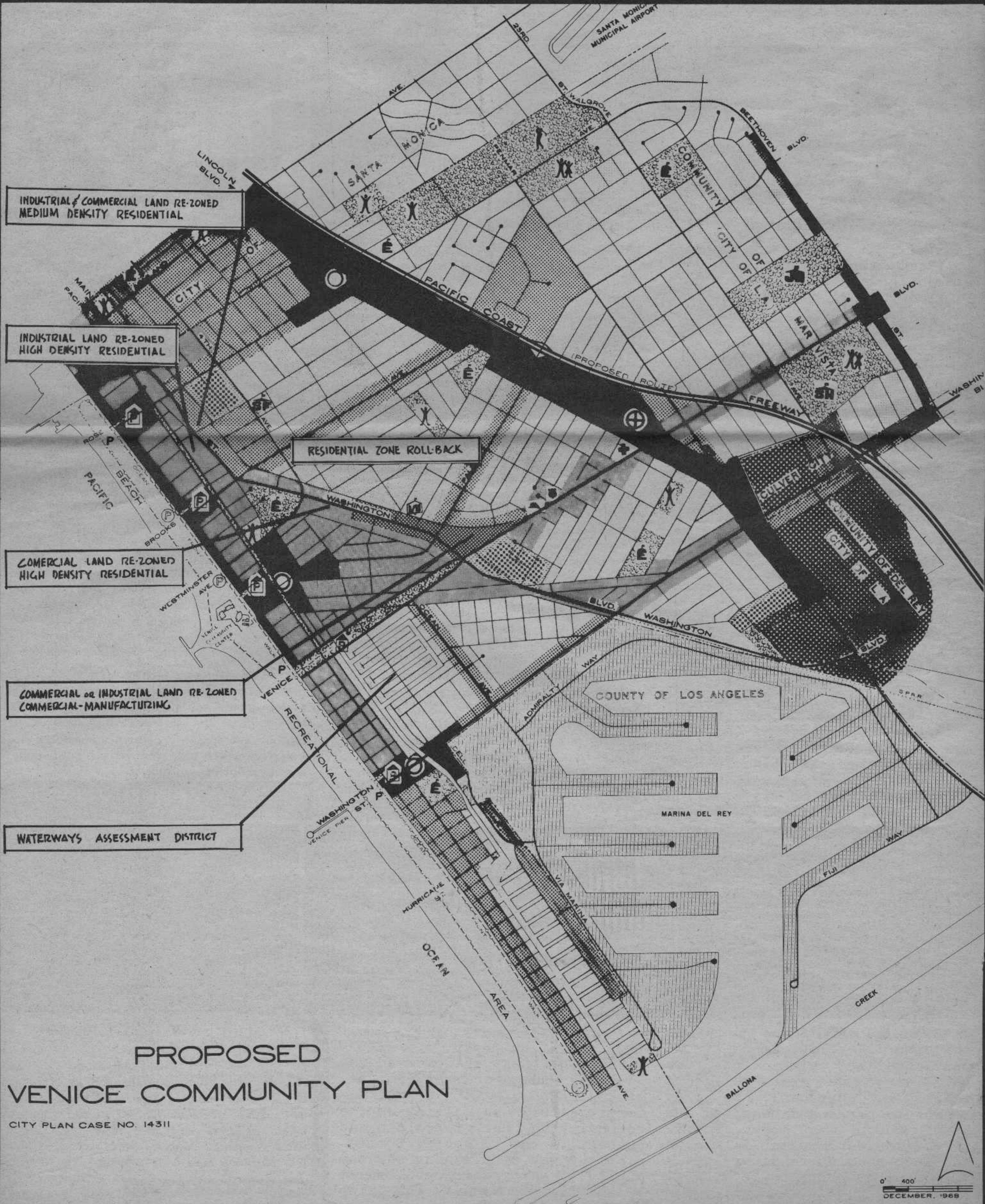
City planning is not new to man. Such names as Babylon, Jerusalem, Athens, Rome, Florence, Paris, Washington, Letchworth, Welwyn, Broadacres, Brasilia as well as present day interest in urban re-building are efforts familiar to all of us and perhaps at a later time a look into past experiences will

be helpful, but for the moment let us consider city planning as it relates to us, Venice, the here and now. I think we can safely begin with the assumption that what has gone before has been insufficient, has failed to solve man's problem of living together in cities. That is, with all the titles, degrees and expertise, something is missing. That "something" is the WE of cities: ourselves as neighbors we like, ourselves as neighbors we disagree with, ourselves as neighbors we don't understand, but always ourselves as commun-

ity, and as such ourselves with equal rights, fears, loves, and needs for a place to live and become.

Therefore it is time that we, as the humans who create cities by our being there, try our hand at planning....without shame, without fear, without worrying if we are qualified. The only experience required is living and the only qualification is the quest for human justice.

Starting with ourselves let's see who and what our needs are. We are family therefore places to live; we are providers therefore places to work; we are continued inside



PROPOSED VENICE COMMUNITY PLAN

CITY PLAN CASE NO. 14311