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FREE VENICE

SINCE 1968

BEACHHEAD



FREE

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Real Estate Calls Tune C.A.C. Dances

by Helen F. Fallon

The City of Los Angeles, utilizing funding from the California Coastal Commission, is currently developing a Local Coastal Plan for the Marina Peninsula/Venice Canals area. As part of that planning process a committee of citizens (C.A.C.) appointed by Councilwoman Pat Russell, is meeting and serving as an advisory panel to the effort. This is a part of the public participation in the planning process required by the Coastal Commission for the use of their money.

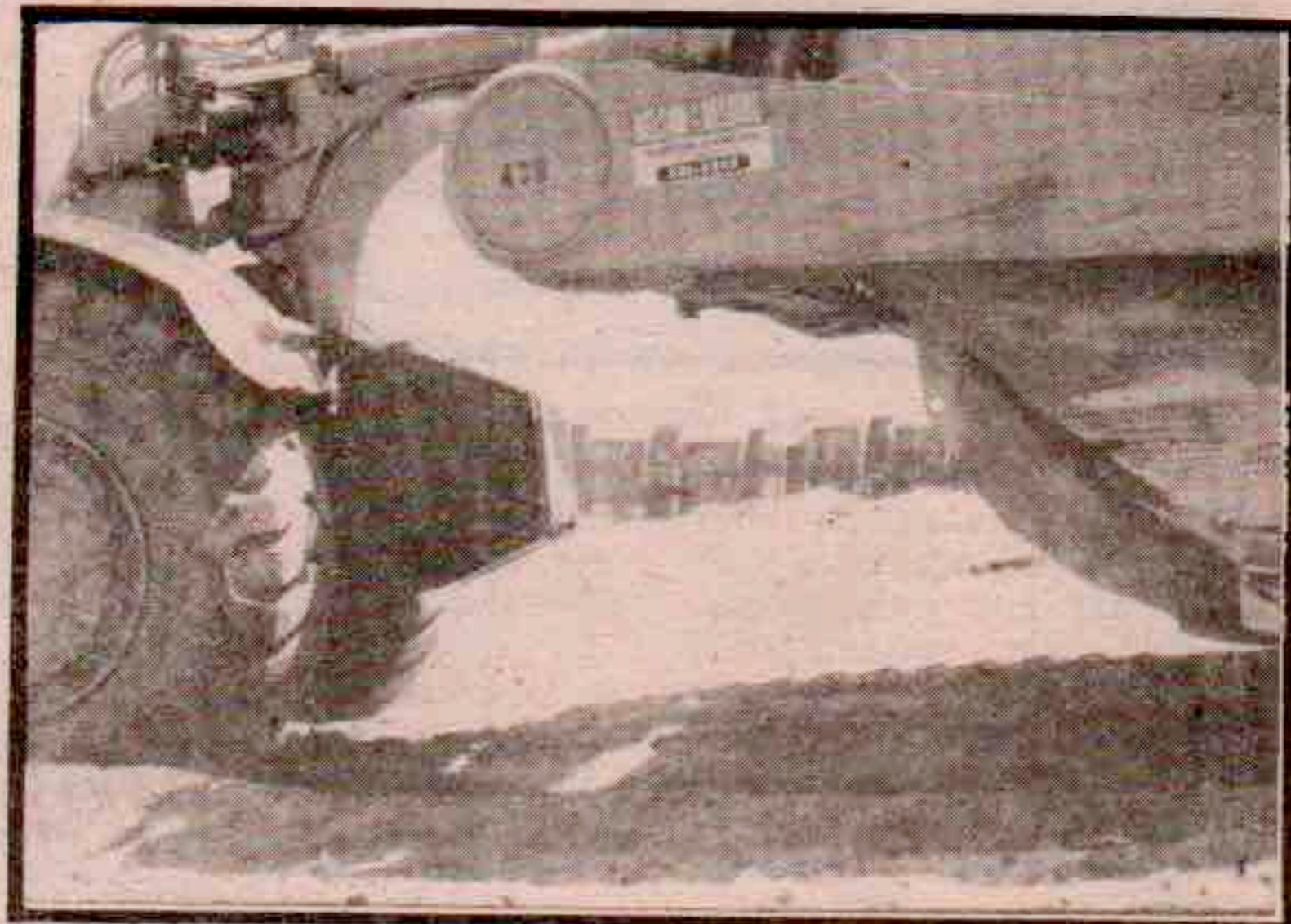
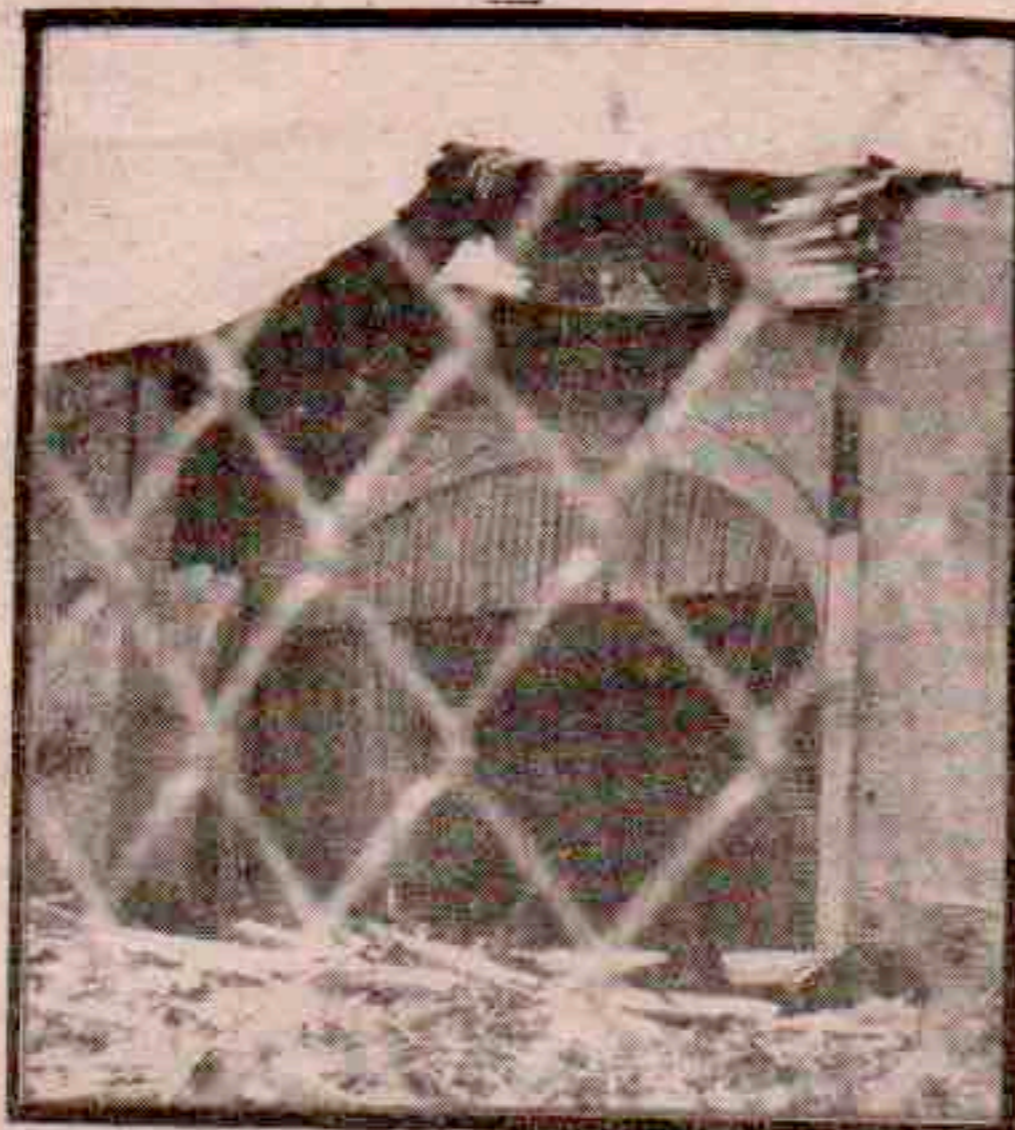
Actions taken by the C.A.C. have caused us to wonder how truly that body "represents" the citizens and users of the area under study. Votes taken by the committee have already endorsed a deepening of the canals, including dredging of finger canals in the Ballona Lagoon-Silver Strand area, (vote: 10-2); removal of a public childrens park in the North Venice Canals, (vote: 9-4); and installation of a storm drain system directly related to an abandoned project designed to convert the canal area into a deep water-marina type environment, (vote: 12-1). These recommendations were made by an overwhelming majority of the committee, and certainly seem to neglect considerations of an environmental, historical preservation and general public access nature.

An examination of public records, including L.A. County property ownership records, Coastal Commission files, and campaign contribution statements for former Coastal Commissioners Art Snyder and Donald Wilson was made to determine if the C.A.C. is a balanced representation of the study area.

It was determined that two-thirds of the members of the committee have financial and/or organizational inter-relationships. Among the 15 members of the committee, an inordinate number are involved in the business of real estate, property investment and the construction-related trades. Eight committee members have affiliations with the real estate and/or building industry. This does not seem representative of the 3,000 plus persons who live in the area, earn their livings in the widest variety of careers and trades and for the most part look at housing as a means of shelter instead of a means to a living.

A portion of the area under study is composed of the Ballona Lagoon, considered by many to be an environmentally sensitive region. Today it is primarily undeveloped land although some housing is currently under construction in the area. Six of the fifteen

(cont. on pg. 14)



Photos by Brenda Harney

Westminster and Ballona:

UNDER THE BULLDOZER

by Moe Stavnezer

To demolish is to destroy, even the dictionary agrees. The last couple months have seen lots of destruction in Venice.

It really doesn't matter if plowing up land that has ecologic value is frequently called "improving" that land; or if knocking down an historic building is excused because it's a "safety hazard". The land and the building end up being destroyed. And we lose something when that destruction occurs.

Sometime in the last 60 days the bulldozers, graders, and land movers of all ilk came to the Silver Strand on the Venice Peninsula. The 37 acres of land along the east side of Ballona Lagoon-the clam bed of Venice-is being "prepared for over 300 houses by scraping the land clean of all vegetation and life. The land will be covered mostly with different kinds of concrete. That concrete will direct all nature of pollutants into the lagoon and so, of course, into the clams. In a short time those pollutants will make people sick and the lagoon and its clams will be forbidden to the public. The lagoon will be destroyed. Demolished, if you will.

In the last 30 days the bulldozers also visited the Westminster School Auditorium. The oldest building in Venice was brutally destroyed after years were spent in frustrating attempts to preserve it. The irony is that this year we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of Venice-- a year of remembering and honoring the past. Apparently the L.A. School District doesn't have a sense of either history or irony. Breaking the law to prove a point seems more what the District was into and they certainly did prove something. The building is gone, like the lagoon, irreplaceable, a scar in the earth. Destroyed, if you will.

The story behind both, while different in particulars, is similar in nature and thrust. In both cases governmental bodies, either aggressively or passively, participated in the destruction even tho called upon to prevent it.

Westminster Auditorium

The history of the attempt to save the auditorium has been recounted many times, especially recently. The long and dogged involvement of George Drury Smith, the Beyond Baroque Foundation, is really heroic in terms of the frustration and eventual outcome. George managed to obtain the support of such diverse groups as the Chamber of Commerce and the Venice

Town Council in the effort to save the Auditorium. Near the end Werner Scharf, a very wealthy land owner/businessman, offered to buy the building in order to preserve it. All to no avail.

And as fascinating as the attempts to save the auditorium are is as sleazy and duplicitous the determination of the L.A. School District to destroy the place. The motives and arrogance of the entire bureaucracy and Board are difficult to understand. Their total lack of sensitivity to citizens and other elected officials is quite remarkable.

The auditorium was demolished without a coastal permit. The School District went to the Regional Coastal Commission for an administrative permit to demolish the building. The Executive Director, Mel Carpenter, determined that, since this was a controversial issue, a coastal permit from the City was required and so informed the District. The District dug up an old court case and claimed that it exempted School Districts from local jurisdiction in matters such as this. They went back to the Regional Commission with this claim and Mel Carpenter, without seeking the advice of the Attorney General, again sent them back to the City. The School District then claimed that it simply didn't intend to get any coastal permit to demolish the building.

The A.G. then went to court seeking to prevent the demolition before a coastal permit was obtained. The School District used Mel Carpenter's letter to "prove" that the Regional Commission had given up jurisdiction over the coastal permit and the judge bought that argument. The case was appealed and the decision was, amazingly, upheld. The A.G., Michael Crow, informed the lawyer for the School District that he would appeal to the Supreme Court on June 4th. He spent most of June 3rd preparing the appeal & was to leave early on the 4th to bring it to the Court in person. He never made the trip. At about 6 A.M. on June 4th the School District sent a bulldozer and Ted Kimbrough (a bureaucrat who seemed to have a vendetta against the building) to Venice and 4 hours later the auditorium was rubble.

When Assemblyman Mel Levine, who was following and supporting the attempt to save the building, called to express his anger at the demolition he was callously informed that the District hadn't gotten any complaints from the community!

(continued on page 2)



Those who profess to favor freedom,
and yet deprecate agitation,
are people who want crops without
plowing up the ground.

They want rain without thunder and
lightning.
They want the ocean without the awful
roar of its waters.

This struggle may be a moral one;
or it may be a physical one;
or it may be both moral and physical;
but it must be a struggle.

Power concedes nothing without a demand.
It never did and it never will.

-Frederick Douglass
August 4, 1857

2 Letters



Dear Beachhead,

Here, according to the world famous MJS rating system, is my analysis of the June paper:

BEACHHEAD	10
PAGE 2	0

Love,
Moe Stavnezer

"BULLDOZER" (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

PHOTO BY BRENDA HARNEY



The Silver Strand

The Silver Strand is 37 acres of land on the east bank of the Ballona Lagoon, a fragile ecosystem that runs almost the length of the Peninsula. The land was divided, many years ago, into over 300 lots and has diverse ownership though more than half the land belongs to about 6 people. Vacant lots have lately been selling for from \$100,000 to \$200,000 & new homes in the area from \$500,000 up!

Despite a study paid for by the major landowners (Isthmus Landowners Assoc.) that confirmed the potential harm from runoff from development and recommended a restoration & preservation project, the Coastal Commission approved development without any protection for the lagoon. The only one of many conditions put on the permit that has any meaning is the preservation of a 40-foot buffer area all along the lagoon. Though I have no special talent at estimating distance, the bulldozers seem to be coming much closer to the lagoon than 40 feet and I have alerted the Commission staff about this possibility. But its much too little and far too late.

It's a little frightening to watch the machines chew up the earth next to the lagoon, knowing that the fate of the lagoon hangs in the balance. Little chance of the lagoon surviving the water from new streets and yards remains. The people who clam in the lagoon are in for a big disappointment when those clams become too polluted to eat. And the lack of protection from the Coastal Commission has paved the way for the rejuvenation of the old, supposedly abandoned, Venice Waterways Project.

There is a Citizens Committee, appointed by Pat Russell, drafting a coastal plan for that area. That committee has dredged up and approved as part of that plan a project that calls for the deep dredging of the Ballona Lagoon, the present canals and the construction of "finger canals" all along the lagoon.

An analysis of the committee membership done by two of its members (Helen Fallon & David Contant) shows that 2/3 of the members "...have financial and/or organizational inter-relationships." These include membership in the Isthmus Landowners Assoc. & Venice Waterways Assoc. Many of the members also do business with one another as builders, architects and designers. Given the lack of consideration for the environment of the area shown by these people, the City and the Coastal Commission, the destruction of the lagoon, for motives no higher than those involved in the Westminster Auditorium, seems a foregone conclusion. It will simply take longer than it took to destroy the building.

Money+Power=Destruction

Whether the force behind the destruction in these cases was money or the exercise of authority, the result was the same. The Westminster Auditorium is just as dead now as the Ballona Lagoon will be in a few years. Valuable assets of the community as a whole have been destroyed in order to enhance the personal assets of large landowners and overbearing bureaucrats. Somehow, forgotten in all of this, the community must now be content only to react to actions taken in spite of its concerns.

The arrogance of power is not very pretty to watch. Especially when that power is exercised for the benefits of a few people at the expense of many.▲

Hi Folks:

Sure enjoy the Beachhead. A year since I lost my least at Armour's Liq. I miss Venice and all nice friends and customers.

Hello to everyone. Sincerely,

Erma Armour

Dear Comrades:

The following is a letter I sent to the L.A. Times. I think it important you print it because it is part of a running (crawlin?) commentary on the struggle of yet another group of oppressed people.

Staff note: The cartoon is attached although it is not necessary to print that: it is for your information only.

Letters to the Editor

Los Angeles Times
Times Mirror Square
Los Angeles, CA. 90053

Editor: I am appalled by Interlandi's cartoon in today's paper (June 5) on his supposedly needed chemical that "makes teenagers say thank-you, sir, mam and please."

My first point is that the term "teenager" is an abomination for precisely the reason shown in the cartoon. It labels the young person as an irresponsible individual, both disrespectful and unworthy of respect, unable to take proper care of either his body or his mind, or make any sort of contribution to the general populace of which he is a part. Most young people do not realize the harm they are doing to themselves, and therefore the people as a whole by tolerating this label or in any way adhering to this stereotype. It is virtually, if not completely, impossible for a responsible young individual to overcome a headline or news story using this term. Instead of the person's deeds being the issue at stake, that person is viewed in the context of the above named "traits". It is a smear so strong that if a similar connotation were applied to an "adult", such person would be out of public life for good. Yet a young activist of whatever quality is expected to bear such a burden!

My second point is that students in particular are far ruder to each other than to members of an older generation. It is for much similar reasons to Blacks and Latins fighting amongst themselves because of the unjust economic and political control of white people. Newspapers similar to yours have robbed children of their self-respect, of a dignity

which all people are supposed to possess. One can find more dignity in crime, and yes even drugs, than in trying to deal as equals with persons long since given over to bigotry.

This brings me to my third and final point. Wouldn't it be nice if middle-aged and older people would also be expected to address younger people as "sir" and "mam" with an appropriate amount of thank-you's and please's? And how about an end to older people who automatically call younger people by their first names? To legislators who have the gall to debate creating a lower minimum wage for people simply because of their ages? To those same legislators who discuss sending young people off to war when the young people are constitutionally forbidden to run for those very offices? Why don't we simply do away with age-based bigotry and get on with justice? After all, it's only been 204 years!

In struggle,
Ms. Alison D.S.L. Arnold

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OINK OINK - IT'S UN-VENITIAN



MEMBERS OF THE VENICE BEACH ASSOCIATION
VOTING NO TO A MOTION SIMULATOR RIDE

GRAPHIC BY NORA

FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

COLLECTIVE STAFF: Olga Palo, Gerry Goldstein, Joan Friedberg, Arnold Springer, Emily Winters, Elizabeth Elder, Chuck Bloomquist, Brenda Harney.

The FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD is published monthly by the Beachhead Collective as a vehicle for the people of Venice to communicate their ideas and opinions to the community at large. We welcome and take responsibility for publishing contributions exactly as the contributors submit them, although the opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily endorsed by the Collective staff. The Beachhead encourages anyone to submit news stories, articles, letters, photos, poetry, graphics, or other material of interest to the Venice community. The volunteer staff reserves the right to make all decisions collectively on material published. There is no editor on the Beachhead. The Beachhead Collective is an open group and welcomes interested Venice people's participation. The printing is financed by ad donations. To submit material, include your name and phone number. Anonymous material will not be printed, but your name will be withheld on request. If return of material is desired, a stamped self-addressed envelope is required. No payment is made for material used. The Beachhead subscribes to Liberation News Service (LNS) and is a member of the Alternative Press Syndicate.

Bill Speak on Iran

LEONARD WEINGLASS TO APPEAR IN VENICE

As part of its continuing involvement with the problem of Iran, the Venice Town Council is sponsoring an appearance by L.A. attorney Leonard Weinglass, who just returned from Tehran where he took part in an international Tribunal investigating U.S. intervention in Iran. Mr. Weinglass was one of 10 Americans, including former U.S. Attorney-General Ramsey Clark, who participated in the Tribunal in spite of a ban and the threat of prosecution by President Carter.

Mr. Weinglass has been defense attorney in such notable cases as the Chicago 7 Conspiracy Trial, the government's attempt to frame Indian activists Paul Skyles and Richard Rohawk, and the trial of accused SLA members Emily and William Harris.

Mr. Weinglass will speak in Venice during the second week of July. The exact date and place were not final by the BEACHHEAD deadline, but they are now and you can learn them by calling 396-6876 or 392-8938.

Venice Town Council resolutions on Iran will be introduced and voted on at the Council's regular monthly meeting, Wed., July 16th, 7:30 P.M., at Venice City Hall, 681 Venice Blvd (by the Fire Station).

Venice Town Council

City of  Venice

WEDNESDAY JULY 16, 1980 7:30

VENICE CITY HALL
681 North Venice Blvd.

AGENDA :

1. City Property- presentation by Alex Mann of the Fellowship of Reconciliation
2. Iran Resolutions
3. Oakwood housing- update
4. Committee Reports

Everyone from the community
is always welcome

A MATTER OF TASTE

By Carol Fondiller

One would hardly think that another vendor/entrepreneur on a lot already used by vendors on the Ocean Front Walk would cause an outcry against this said vendor.

What this particular vendor was proposing to vend were rides in a "simulator" that would simulate rides through space, over the falls, and on a roller coaster. These rides were going to be in an enclosed area, consisting of a red, white, and blue striped circus tent. Also included were Video Games.

The promoter, Alan Saffron, had also guaranteed parking spaces, and in compliance with guidelines from the Los Angeles Police Commission, security guards.

But there arose from certain segments of the Venice community, such screams and protests that one would assume that the community this tent was going into was San Clemente or Santa Barbara. Certainly not Venice, whose history included roller coasters, speak easies, bingo parlours, and boxing exhibitions.

And what was most surprising about the protestors was that some of them were members of the Venice Beach Association, and that some of them are vendors on the Ocean Front Walk. And that some of these vendors rent roller skates to crowds of people, and that some of these vendors have consistently denied any responsibility for the congestion and parking that have been on the increase for at least two years.

Some of these people have flaunted parking regulations, encroached on the public walkway for private profit, taken out living units in low rent buildings to rent skates or sell without benefit of a public hearing because they went ahead and did it without going through the process.

And here they were protesting against some one who went through the Regional Coastal Commission, got approval, and now here we were sweating it out within the cramped confines of the Police Commission. I guess it was free enterprise for them and not for Saffron and his tent.

Ilene Trube, leading literary light of the Venice Beach Association (she's the one who wrote those wonderful leaflets on "those elements" and "freeing Venice from overage hippies....") regaled the Commission with apocalyptic visions of what would happen if the tent rides were installed on the quiet tasteful Ocean Front Walk.

Frank Sorrocco spoke of congestion and tried to malign the Venice Town Council.

Moie Stavnezer spoke for the project citing that parking was being taken care of, that security was being taken care of, and that it would offer alternatives to people who came to the beach. In other words, they had something to do besides eating, buying, and drinking. Mr. Stavnezer was interrupted by Mr. Rinehart, Chairman of the Police Commission who asked him why Charmer's Tea House was closed. "I liked the ice cream," he said. "It was good."

"You broke the law," said Stavnezer. Now grit your teeth, my darlings I know that some of you are tired unto death of seeing this name in print. No, its not Tehran, it's---

"Doug Christmas didn't get any permits to open that place".

Carol Berman and Susan Baker also spoke on the need for low cost entertainment.

Allan Saffron spoke of the death threats he'd received and showed the Police Commission an unsigned leaflet giving the home phone number of the lessor of the lot Mr. Saffron has leased.

The Commissioners noted that several of them knew Mr. Yellin (perhaps that's why the Art Walk never had it's catered affair at the Christmas owned Ace Gallery!) and they effectively disqualified themselves, because of the spectre of conflict of interest. After sitting through the Police Commission hearing for five hours, they threw the ball to THE BOARD OF REFERRED POWERS. I just love that title. It makes me go all existential and I feel like a character in a Kafka story.

Actually, the Board of Referred

Powers decides on matters the Police Commission can't decide on because of Conflict of Interests. And who sat on the Board of Referred Powers? Why, members of the Los Angeles City Council. My eyes rolled back in my head. Another meeting. The Bastards can really grind you down.

I received yet another leaflet written in the unmistakable style of the Tom Paine of the Venice Beach Association.

"Don't let them sell Venice out from under you!" "Arcades", "Pin Ball Machines", "Gangs!", "Barbed wire fences!", "Emergency meeting at the Pavilion!"

Well, gee, I hadn't been invited to the Pavilion in a long time. The Venice Beach Association, after receiving publicity in the Beachhead, had barred this writer from attending. At least that's what I was told when they started holding private meetings. It was to keep me out.

At the meeting, I had the feeling they were talking about a different beach. Were these the same people who were planning a July 4th weekend where a million people were expected to attend? Was this the group that promoted Skate Day? Yes, it was.

Doug Christmas spoke of how he wanted Venice to be the way it was a year ago, when you could walk and see Blacks and Chicanos. People who lived on 19th Street talked about the noise and congestion and how paramedics couldn't get through. No one mentioned how certain business people had been snatching parking and transforming the spaces into patios might just have exacerbated the situation. But there was no question of calling their attention to these facts: that since the inception of roller skating on the Ocean Front Walk, and the City's hesitant and laggard efforts in dealing with wheels vs. walking, zoning violations, health and safety violations, traffic violations, we've had these problems. They weren't going to come because of Saffron's tent, the problems were here already.

Ah, but you see a CIRCUS TENT. Vulgar. Tacky. "Why it would be like P.O.P.!", shrilled one woman.

Oh yes, and the Venice T-Shirts with naked roller skating ladies are so wonderfully esthetic. So are those blow ups of pictures. And the Mylar Venice symbols--and the pre-packaged

cotton candy. I'm glad I'm not in the business of whats "good" taste and "bad" taste, because I think removing low income units and putting in vending is about as tacky as you can get.

But you know what the taste makers did? Now I guess Mr. Christmas had been smarting at the picketing of Charmer's Tea House for a long time. So in addition to having a lawyer take steps to incorporate the name of the Venice Town Council, he decided to co-opt the style. You know, the way Vanderbilt co-opted Levi-Strauss. He was going to show us.

The day before the State Coastal Commission meeting, Doug Christmas was seen reconnoitering the Marina Airport Hotel, where the State Coastal Commission meets. Was he there to see how the Commissioners voted? What moved them?

no.

When I got to the Marina, I was met by a coffin, pall bearers, dressed in black robes with red linings, wearing death masks. There were drum rolls echoing from the Commission hearing room. The hearing room was packed with people dressed in your basic hearing style: beige shirts, sweaters,, jeans. (Jassen and Joroche) and there were signs. All of it seemed painted in the same hand. "Stop Rape in Venice!" "Venice is not Hollywood Blvd." "Death in Venice!"

Then the pall bearers and the coffin came in.. The Commission declared a five minute recess. The Coffin top flew open and out hopped Frank Sorrocco. Doug Christmas was standing well to the back of the room, looking like some quiet kind of shy guy who wanted to build a duplex in Long Beach. Acting as if he had nothing to do with the crowd of 50 people and the media they brought with them. My God, I thought, they're trying to be US! - the us that fought for low income housing, public parking, beach access, the right of poor people to live in and visit Venice. And they were so professional.


Despite their matching robes and practiced cadenced walk, or maybe because of it, they just didn't wash.

Hey, I've gone to various meetings with loads of people screaming and yelling, but this was like Tom Wolfe's description of the nice little girls in the 60's in London who unsuccessfully tried to look like the tarty little working class cockneys. Everything matched. Too well.

After being chided by a member of the State Commission for bringing a circus to the Commission when they didn't

CONT. on pg. 14

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Parting Thoughts

by Brenda Harney

Goodbye is not a favorite word of mine. I often take my leave of friends by saying "see you" instead of goodbye. As if seeing each other again is a matter over which I have control. As if saying the words will make that person, place, or thing available to me again at will. As if the way things are or were is the way they will be again.

June undid my assumptions, forcing me to look at my world with the knowledge that there might not be another "see you" to be had. I lost friends in June: person, place, and thing.

Old Westminster, of course, that crazy nook-and-crannied thing at the end of my street, a showcase for spray-can calligraphy, sought by artist friends for a museum, boarded up by the School District years ago, the object of ardent campaigns to preserve it, repair it, use it again.

I saw Westminster every day, did what I could in the campaign to save it. And then one day in June I drove by to see the roof flying off the tower, walls splitting open, guts becoming rubble under the treads of a bulldozer crazed with the scent of plaster, hungry for splintered timbers, caring not at all that I or anyone would like to see Westminster stand where it had for the better part of a century, connecting the beginnings of Venice with the present in Venice.

The bulldozer was relentless, snorting into the building, extending its hydraulic scoop like a mechanical fist, beating down the roof, the walls, bludgeoning the structure as if it were an enemy to be destroyed.

And the bulldozer won. The building went down in spite of my love for it, in spite of my rage against this attack on it. Old Westminster went down to bureaucratic insensitivity, and all I could do at that moment was take a few pictures, shed a few tears.

I had heard that another friend was under attack at that moment, so I drove to the Silver Strand, that lumpy patchwork of dirt clods and wildflowers next to the Ballona Lagoon, a stretch of undeveloped land in the midst of Marina high-rises and condos, an unspalted place to play. Or so it was. I drove along the Strand to see eight bulldozers careening around the just-dug earth like Tonka toys in a giant sandbox, ripping up plants and spraying water on the dust they raised. The Strand is losing too, the earth is wounded, will be laid to rest under a mantle of asphalt and housing, bringing the finality of development ever closer to the fragile biology of Ballona.

A lot of people worked to protect the Lagoon, hearings and letters resulted in a compromise that brought in these bulldozers, and from the looks of things the compromise included destruction, demolition of an irreplaceable resource, gutting of an open space.

The bulldozers are winning here too. I photograph them in action, ripping into soft flowered earth, snorting and snarling and struggling with the land as if it were the enemy, destroying in the name of compromise or progress or a job. It is too much. I take my film and the ache in my gut and go home, knowing I have lost another friend, a place dear to me which will not come again.

I am diminished by the loss of friends, Westminster and the Strand, irreplaceable community resources, eliminated from the visible world, real only in memory. I reflect on the brutal finality imposed by bulldozers and permits and uncaring bureaucracy. I share my pain and impotence with other Venetians who feel the same sense of loss. We are still reeling with this loss of place and thing when we hear that we have lost a person in our midst, an irreplaceable resource, a friend named Michael Clare who took his life one day in June.

Michael I did not know very well, but I discovered I was not alone in that. I knew him only as a gentle smiling person, and I liked him but I did not know him well enough to know he hurt, to know that life for him was such pain that self-destruction was an option for escape.

I could have written Mike a letter, signed a petition had there been one, saying, you are a resource not just to us but to yourself, you're all you've got and all we'll ever know of you. But I did not know Michael, got to know him only as the friends he left behind mourned him, held each other, awed by the fragility of life and the finality of Michael's act. I got to know Michael as I embraced others like me who knew him but did not know him, as I touched in wonderment other living beings, grateful to be alive, the pain of Michael's loss making more poignant the life experience, my friends, myself.

I mourn the loss of this person-friend I

did not know, whose pain I've shared but did not see. He was loved but did not love himself, went down not to bureaucracy but at his own hand, cried out for help but could not help himself.

Goodbye is final, as is the loss of any resource. Perhaps in that finality we can see what we are more clearly, see the living resources in us and around us, value those resources, nurture them, share them. Perhaps we can care more for ourselves, for each other, for our personal and social environment, for our community.

Saying goodbye is an ending. Maybe by caring we can begin to see more clearly who we are, what we have in us and around us, keep ourselves and our community together, before it's too late.

It's surely worth a try.▲

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mike clare
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carrying on

sweet dreams dear friend.
may the grass grow ever green
from your head to your feet.
may you find the answers
you so desperately
seek -
find the rest, the peace
your soul could not create.

and in the silence
of the night,
where sleep is not a passing act,
may you know
and hold in memory, if there's any,

that we loved you
and miss you.
that each in our own way
carry you
in our hearts
where you live forever
having made our lives richer
by your being.

may you understand in death
what in life you refused
to accept.

:::

Rick
rick davidson
venice, california 90291

MIKE CLARE 1952 - 1980

Mike grew up in Pittsburgh and came to Venice the summer of 1970 to visit his brother Steve. Mike found Venice in a two-fold struggle: fighting against the illegal war in Vietnam; and struggling against the war in Venice being waged by speculators and City Hall. He jumped into both with all his energy. Following are some of Mike's own thoughts about that summer so long ago.

(I visited an address today where so much of my growth as a young man, a carpenter, and a human being had taken place. The address was that of the Community House - 468 Howland Canal. How different it looked and sounded and smelled now then in the Summer of 1970....)

I am just new from high school and new to Venice. I am new to alot of things these days. First time away from home and into something as different as this place. Certainly different from the shot and a beer mill town from where I'd just come. I left in order to find out who I was, away from most of that which determines who I should be. I haven't the vaguest notion as to how to go about this, but family bonds are strong within me, within my family.

A house was slated for demolition that summer at 468 Howland Canal. The bulldozers were there and had laid waste to the garage. The tenants possessions were being tossed out into the light drizzle. All of this in his absence. This action was brought to the attention of some members of the Free Venice Organizing Committee. People with foresight who saw this action as a portent of things to come. Using the language of legalese they were able to stay the dozers.

"Alright!" We'll bring the building up to code. The people of this community will try. The back alleys of Venice could be gleaned for some of the materials, but money had to be raised for the rest. There were permits to pull. Shingles to buy, along with plumbing tape, electrical conduit, wire and fixtures. A whole realm of materials that I now work with every day. How could the money be raised?

Community gatherings! After all this was the community's house. The Community House-468 Howland Canal. Gatherings that would bring us together as a family of humans. A family that cares for, and lives, and helps each other. Family gatherings. What wondrous moments we shared.

Roasted corn cobs, classical guitar recitals, poetry readings, Bastille Day with 'cuisine francais et films revolutionnaire', speakers from the Venceremos Brigade about to embark on a journey that touched imaginations. Festivals of life, proclaiming our struggle to preserve these canals. Canal Festivals. People from all over the Venice community gathered and the money was found to cover the expenses.

We worked, and with our backs glistening with sweat in the warm, sweet, Venice sun. Boy next to woman, moving earth into the cavities that used to be sidewalks. A strong and bearded carpenter/teacher, explaining to the boy what a stud was. Making pipe connections with a plumber/friend and smoking with out pocket pipes. Talking design and layout with an architect/teacher/friend. So many people/friends unnamed. And through it all, my brother and love.

All of us laughing and singing and dancing to the strains of the player's guitar. Crying to the strain in our backs and hearts. Six months was so short a time and there was so much to be done. But it was done. Our spirit was the creator.

(BEACHHEAD 100th Issue)

It remains for all who knew and loved Mike to go on maintaining that Spirit of Venice which he loved and which became an important part of his life as he became an important part of everyone who knew and worked with him.

His death painfully explains how important we are to each other and how our sense of "family" must be deepened and strengthened if we are to survive the insanity all about us.▲



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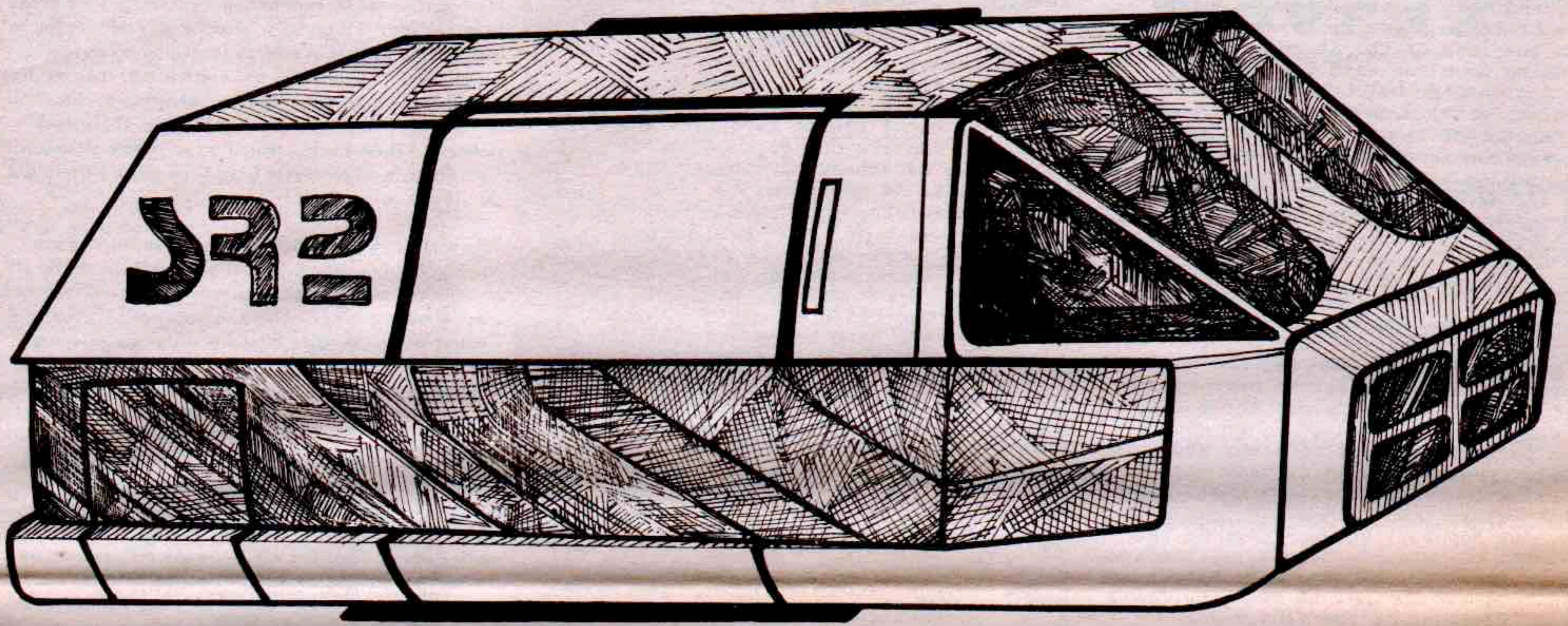
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paralyzing rides to nowhere launch zylon space center on boardwalk

**Space-age "Motion-Simulator" Capsule Gives
Incredibly Real Motion, Sight, and Sound Sensations**



The docile-looking Zylon "Motion-Simulator." (A holy terror in space-capsule disguise.)

Venice beach-goers now have something incredibly exciting to stir the senses on a lazy summer day. Get up off the sand and stroll on over to the all-new Zylon Space Center! This place is not to be believed.

The latest Venice attraction opens officially at Ocean Front Walk and 17th St. on July 11. Zylon is housed in the blue-and-white tent just south of the roller-skating "Slalom run." Everyone in the family will find Zylon to be a thrilling way to break up the beach-day.

The Zylon "Motion-Simulator" takes you down an Alpine slide run without ever really going anywhere. This extraordinary new adventure capsule pitches and rolls in synchronization with the Alpine-slide movie being projected up front in the capsule. Seeing the adventure, hearing it, and feeling it - all at once gives you an unprecedented sensation of how the "real thing" would feel! It is truly a paralyzing ride to nowhere.

And that's not all. While waiting for your ride, you can play all the latest electronic video games. These exciting machines make the entire visit to Zylon Space Center a pleasurable diversion from lying around on the beach. You must try it once! But, fair warning...if you visit once, then you'll be back again! And again. And again. Zylon Space Center is like that. Maximum excitement with maximum safety, too. All in the tastefully-designed area at 17th & Ocean Front.

grand opening friday july 11

(Look for "sneak-preview" opportunities the week before.)

A CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

Greg Goldin

The essential, nagging question about recent events in Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza is, at what price peace? It is extraordinary, amidst increasing international isolation and domestic dissent, that Prime Minister Begin should not see this as his most pressing demand. With Israelis taking to the streets, and Palestinians renewing terrorist tactics, the Begin government has only redoubled its inflexibility. Now more than ever reconciliation is needed.

On this alone can Israel survive. Since the 1967 Six Day War, Israel has been locked in a ruinous policy of occupation in territories it captured in the '67 war with Egypt. It is ruinous economically and it is ruinous morally. It imposes a huge military burden. It taxes over one third of the national output and turns it over to the war machine. It turns every man and woman into a soldier. It burdens the Israeli population with taxes and inflation among the highest in the world. And, it adds something new to Israel: unemployment, poverty, and severe housing shortages. With the occupation comes a spirit of fear and hate. It creates within Israel a hostility toward every Arab and it has fired racism against Oriental Jews (Sephardic, African and Arab Jews). Chauvinism and self-righteousness are its fruits. Arab and Israeli do not attend the same school, do not see the same doctor and do not live in the same neighborhood.

In the occupied territory, under Mr. Begin, new settlements proliferate and with them violence and terrorism escalate. Inside Israel, censorship and political repression are common. It is not, to quote the noted Jewish journalist, I.F. Stone, "the beneficent Zion for which the prophets hoped and of which the Zionists once dreamed."

In fairness to Israel no one can forget what sparked the occupation and the settlement policy. Israel has fought four wars in little more than thirty years. Recent history, fresh in the memories of the Jewish people, is always a reminder that world conscience is weak. Israel was born out of resistance to the British blockade which kept homeless Jewish refugees from emigrating. The indifference of the United States and other nations to Nazi oppression and extermination left the bitter feeling—quite justifiably—that Israel must survive on her own.

But security has become a catechism and events have outstripped the rationale. It has been replaced by a spiral of violence which has been fueled by the Israeli government encouraging new settlements—some within the borders of ancient Arab cities. The Begin government calls the settlements the "first line of defense." To members of Israel's massive peace movement they are "a security risk and an obstacle to peace." From their perspective Israeli military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza is not occupation; it is expansion and annexation founded in the overzealous religious notion that Israel's borders shall include all Palestine. What recent events in Hebron have shown is Palestinians living in the occupied territories can not tolerate the situation for too much longer. There can be no security in continued rule over Israel's 1 1/2 million Palestinian neighbors.

The killing by Palestinians in Hebron of the six Israeli religious settlers was not wanton. It was calculated revenge by Arab residents in Hebron for whom the new settlement represented furtherance of Israeli military occupation and the cornerstone to a deliberate Israeli effort to ultimately wrest Hebron from its Palestinian inhabitants. Violence is inevitable, according to now-deported Hebron Mayor Fahd Kawasmeh. "What happened in Hebron is the result of settlement," he says. "We told Mr. Begin what would happen from a settlement in Hebron. But he does n't listen to us—only to the extremists. He wants land more than peace." In Israel the decision to open the Hebron settlement was widely seen as the cause of violence that culminated in the ambush that cost six Israelis their lives.

The new settlements in Hebron and nearby Qiryat Arba have meant bloody land and water disputes. They have meant religious zealots forcing Arabs off their communally held farms—using Israeli law to accomplish what otherwise would be illegal under Arab rule. The settlements have meant Israeli wells are drilled beneath Palestinian ones to siphon off Arab water. And they have meant Arab retaliation which has brought Israeli reprisals, preventative detention, deportations and imprisonment.

Palestinian bitterness and resentment has real and deep roots. They lost their farms, their homes, their villages, their cities and their homeland. The occupation has made them suffer innumerable indignities. Now it has turned them into nationalists fighting for a new homeland. As

difficult as it is for many Jews—especially American Jews --to admit, Palestinian rights have been violated. The occupation and the settlements only beget Palestinian violence. And the Palestinian violence only begets Israeli retaliation. It has become a vicious cycle.

In order to break the cycle of violence, Israel must stop its settlements and end the occupation. Israel must achieve reconciliation with the Arabs. As Stone has said, "to achieve it will require an act of sympathy worthy of the best in Jewry's Biblical heritage. It is to understand and forgive an enemy, and thus convert him into a friend. Still, Prime Minister Begin clings to the religious hard-line, saying there will be "one last batch" of settlements and then continued expansion in their population. This is the kind of beguiling rhetoric the master Israeli politician is known for. Begin's ideological intransigence is preventing a practical settlement between Arab and Israeli. Blind to reality, he aggressively pursues an expansionist and annexationist policy which alone is the major obstacle to peace. Tacitly his policies encourage religious fanatics, like American-born Rabbi Meir Kahane—founder of the Jewish Defense League who emigrated to Israel and formed the radical right-wing Kach movement—who was implicated in the attempt to destroy the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem's old city, the third holiest shrine in Islamic religion. "A plot so heinous," said Israeli Supreme Court Justice Yitzak Kahan, "that the court could not consider" releasing Kahane from a three-month period of administrative detention. Had the Mosque been destroyed, Israel might have faced its most severe crisis since 1948. It is a measure of the depth of the "crisis Israel is in," according to peace activist Simcha Flapin, editor of Israel's New Outlook magazine.

Fortunately, Israel is not a monolithic society. Dissent is growing there and a majority of the population do not favor Mr. Begin's policies or his continuation as Prime Minister. While the "liberal" Labor Party—which ruled Israel from its beginning as a Jewish State in 1948—proposes a Jordanian solution to the Palestinian problem, others seek direct negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization. The Sheli Party, described in U.S. press as "a left-wing splinter group" is a party which calls upon the government to withdraw from the occupied territories and negotiate a settlement with the PLO. "Peace Now", another party pushing the initiative for peace, has drawn 100,000 people into the streets of Tel Aviv—equivalent to over 2,000,000 in the streets of Washington—to protest government inspired settlements and violence. In this opposition to Begin rests the real prospects for a lasting peace.

On the Palestinian side, Mohammed Milhem, Mayor of West Bank city Halhul, and a moderate PLO supporter,

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"TERRORISTS" & TERRORIZERS

by ROBT. WELLS

"When will the media, including The Times, stop calling those who murder civilian men, women and children 'guerrillas' or 'commandos,'" asks Hervey B. Schacter, Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, in a letter in the L.A. Times.

"They are terrorists," he says, "and should be described as such."

Now, this is quite a dishonest and self-serving point of view, coming as it does from the B'nai B'rith, which long ago went far beyond simply defending Jews against defamation to become a major U.S. apologist and propagandist for Israeli aggression in the Middle East.

Schechter's letter was prompted by the attack in May by the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) on a Jewish religious center illegally established in the West Bank Arab city of Hebron.

It seems to me that if Zionists are going to use women and children, civilians and religious students as first-wave shock troops in their drive to displace and replace the Arab population, they then give up their standing to label attacks and retaliations against these frontline civilians as unjustified "terrorism." Yet that is what they have always done and what they are doing now around the West Bank.

Look at the situation. The West Bank (the zone along the western banks of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea taken from Jordan by Israel in the '67 war), and a stretch of seacoast between Israel and Egypt called the Gaza Strip, are the "Arab" areas of Palestine, like reservations. Twenty-five cities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and Hebron, are exclusively Arab, controlled by Israeli occupying forces but legally off-limits to Jewish settlement.

For well over a thousand years, of course, all of Palestine was owned and worked by the Arabs. But throughout this century increasing waves of Jewish settlers, mostly from Europe, backed at first by the British army and then by their own Zionist armed force, have replaced the Arab peoples on the land and driven them into refugee camps in surrounding countries. For nearly 100 years the pattern has been the same: armed Jewish farmers and settler families have seized, bought, occupied, defrauded, or otherwise taken hold of ancestral Arab lands; and then modern technological military violence has been used to force the Arab people permanently further and further away from their own territory.

"WATCHMAN'S WAGES"

The Zionist attitude toward the Arabs of Palestine was summed up neatly in the 1940's when an Arab peasant, losing his land to the new Israeli state in a forced condemnation sale, asked an official of the Israel Lands Administration, "What are you offering me? Is my land worth only 200 pounds per dunam?" The official replied, "This isn't your land. It's ours. We are paying you watchman's wages, for that is all you are. You have 'watched' our land for two thousand years, and now we are paying your fee. But the land has always been ours."

Now the pattern is being repeated on the West Bank. Even while so-called "peace" talks were going on between Sadat of Egypt, Pres. Carter, and Menachem Begin of Israel, officially to discuss the possibilities of an autonomous Palestinian state on the West Bank, Begin was pushing an aggressive policy of Zionist settlements precisely in the area he was supposedly considering for Arab autonomy. Armed colonies intended to be permanent, set up behind barbed wire by the most violent of fundamentalist Jewish religious fanatics, have been peppered all across the West Bank, defended against Arab retaliation by the Israeli armed forces. Gangs of nightriders from these outposts have made forays into the Arab cities, burning, smashing windows, and otherwise trying to intimidate Arabs into leaving.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Begin declares pugnaciously that the only permissible capital of Israel must be Jerusalem, deep within the Arab West Bank, including East Jerusalem, one of the most important West Bank Arab cities. Here in the States Jewish groups pressure mainline presidential candidates for commitments to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, which would have the U.S. agreeing to Zionist sovereignty within

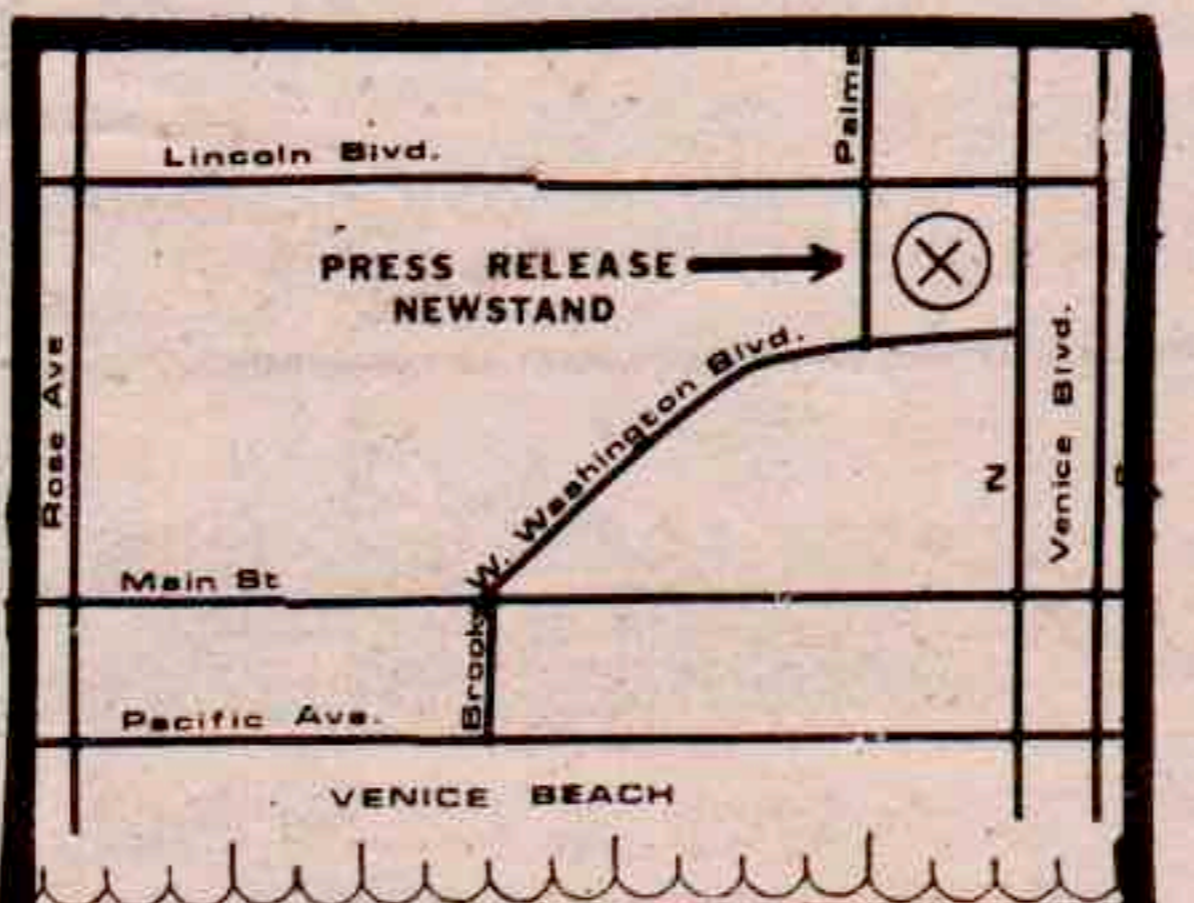
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VENICE: 1914-1916

TRANSPORTATION: **Wheels of Fortune**

(This is the sixth in a series of articles dealing with the history of Venice between 1914-1916 prepared by students at Long Beach State University and published by The Beachhead in celebration of the 75th anniversary of this community. Supervision of research - Professor Arnold Springer. Material for this paper was gathered by Nancy Hogan, Art Kuhlman, Mark McIntire, Marilyn Cavanaugh, Ralph Migliozi, John Haber, Kathleen MacAndrew and Maureen Burns. The final paper was written by Nancey Hogan, revised and edited by Arnold Springer)

BY NANCEY HOGAN (C) 1980 TRUSTEES OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

BY NANCEY HOGAN

Horses could still be seen pulling wagons in the Venice of 1914, but times were changing. Efficient, accessible, modern and inexpensive transportation was vital to Venice's growth and development. By 1914 the automobile had been improved and was affordable to more people. A shift from railway and trolley travel to private transportation was underway and issues like road improvements and the "jitney" controversy occupied the attentions of many people.

High gasoline prices were a concern of people than as today. The federal trade commission conducted an investigation into "the rise of gasoline prices" after representatives of Standard oil and various independent companies "had given divergent explanations of the present situation in the industry." Independent jobbers and refiners placed the blame for the increase on Standard Oil who, they charged, were fixing prices. The oil company replied but did not explain why costs of oil were soaring.

With the emergence of the automobile accidents, laws, crimes, and road improvements became issues that Venetians had to deal with. Accidents were numerous. Headlines exclaimed: Charging Auto Kills Girl on Beach Road; Resident of Venice Killed - Son, Daughter and Friend Are Severely Hurt; Woman Picked Up By Fender (of a train); and Collision on the Miniature Ry. Crossing. Engine On The Miniature System Strikes Auto; appeared in the Vanguard usually on the front page.

Oscar Childers suffered a broken arm when the crank he was using to start up his car retracted, and Mrs. J.D. Hendrix panicked, jumped from her skidding car, and smashed her kneecap on the curb. An elderly woman was struck by a car at Trolleyway and Sunset. On the corner of Speedway and Recreation Place a Studebaker driven by L. Mason of Santa Monica hit a telegraph pole. The car was a complete wreck and all four passengers were thrown out. "S.R. Smith of 956 Crocker St., Los Angeles, last evening backed his auto against an ornamental post at Pier Ave. and Speedway and wrecked the post, smashing the light globes. He will be held responsible for the damage done". Ralph Barton, a 19 year old Santa Monica student had to have his right foot amputated when he tried to catch the Short Line train on a hill. He lost his footing and went

under the wheels of the train. While hurrying to a fire at the septic tank, the axel of a motor cycle that Louis Eager was riding on snapped. He was thrown headlong onto the road and suffered a scalp wound that required stitches. The fire truck just missed him. And "little" Roberta Clarke, a five year old, was struck by a car while attempting to cross the Speedway at Rose Ave.

Besides the usual problems with speeding cars (15 m.p.h. was the limit within Venice) there were also problems

with cars without proper lights, licenses and open mufflers.

"Complaints of open mufflers and citizens being kept awake by noisy automobiles have inspired Chief of Police Randall of Santa Monica to begin war on this abuse... He declares that the city's ordinance forbidding open mufflers will be rigidly enforced without further warning and that if the penalty is not found severe enough to stop the abuse the state law recently put in effect will be invoked."

Chief Randall also added ten officers to the duty roster on Sunday in order to give motorists "near reasonable protection from collision." And the Pacific Electric put signals on the Venice Short Line to help "insure no wrecks between trolley cars that ride too close together."

The laws, as usual, were broken quite often: *The biggest 'speeding day' in the history of the bay was held yesterday in Justice Rennie's court. Owing to the absence of the justice of the peace for six days last week, a number of cases accumulated. The cases numbered 54. They included speeding, reckless driving, open mufflers. The number of arrests speaks well for the activity of motorcycle officers Spaulding and Clark. These officers are never looking for a technical violation of the law and always are giving kindly advice, especially to young and inexperienced motorists."*

During 1914 the City Recorder collected \$4,000. in traffic fines. In 1915 10¢ was added to the price of licenses as part of the gas tax measure. "Many expressed the opinion that soon it will be much more popular to ride in a jitney

bus than to own a car. The auto owner pays city taxes, state and county tax,

and another state tax when he registers his car and now another dime!"

Motor vehicle related crimes were common in Venice and the surrounding areas. Detectives McFarland and Martin "threw three men out of Venice for stealing parts from parked cars." I. Suzuki and H.J. Englebert both reported stolen cars, and the driver of a rented car was beaten and robbed by "three young, well dressed men."

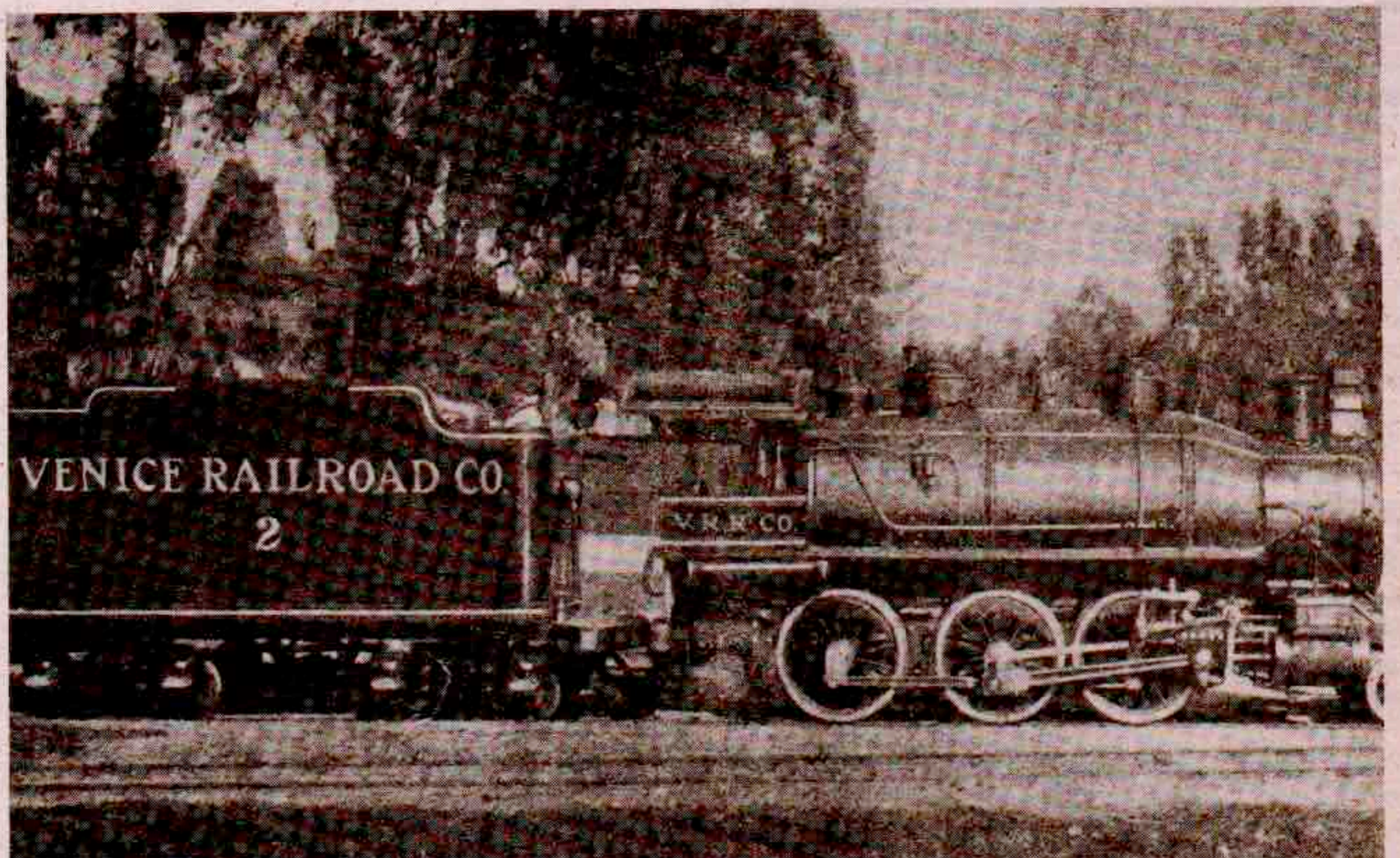
"Highwaymen" were a nuisance to residents of the community. "Two highwaymen beat, robbed, and shot a victim named Lona while he was on his way to Los Angeles with produce." And a case was brought before Superior Judge Willis that involved John Fleming who had been arrested "on a charge of being a member of a gang of auto bandits who terrorized the city and county highways during the winter months."

The toll that autos took on paved roads, and improvements and new construction of same concerned the Board of Trustees. Proposed road improvements during this period included: A boulevard between Playa Del Rey and Hermosa Beach to "make a shorter trip from Venice to Long Beach"; The extension of Pico Blvd. through to the ocean; The improvement of Rose, California, Compton, and 4th Ave.; Paving the Trolleyway from Windward to Mildred; A direct rout from Windward to Washington (after the miniature round house was moved); Improvement of Venice Blvd. from Riviera St. to Washington Blvd; temporary improvement of Virginia Ave. (because "the present outfall sewer is not in a safe condition to have a permanent roadway constructed); Extend Santa Monica Blvd. through to Sawtelle, and Navy St. across to Second St; Widen Speedway at the Playa Del Rey end to make it "possible for two automobiles to pass each other on that portion of Speedway - an impossible trick in motoring at the present time."

Besides usual deterioration from use, winter floods and heavy winds resulted in sand accumulating on the streets and this caused problems. In 1914, the first train storm caused pools of water to form in many places "because the roads were in bad condition." And in 1916 winter floods caused \$148,955 worth of damage to Los Angeles County roads and bridges. In 1915, "Santa Ana winds keep

Inspector Benedict busy on Ocean Front Walk cleaning...He has cleaned it before and is doing it again....Not the last of the winds."

Improvements that were completed during the decade were: The completion of 8th St. in Santa Monica which "is the only thoroughfare through both Venice and South Santa Monica"; Pico Blvd. was connected with National Blvd; the road through the Soldiers Home grounds was completed by the county; portions of Mermaid, Billows, White Caps, and Progress Ave. were improved; The Trolleyway from Windward to Mildred was paved; a highway was built between Venice and Manhattan Beach; and Topanga Canyon Road was opened. It was billed as "a great



engineering feat, and one of the finest automobile drives in California."

Some of the road work was done by unemployed people of the city, in an effort to eliminate the high unemployment rate. Chain-gang members also worked on the roads to "pay for their crimes".

Road repair costs became a "heated" issue in the community. Eighty percent of the property owners in the district of Main St. between Pico and Hollister - the main artery of traffic between north Santa Monica and Ocean Park - have "protested the paving of Main St." The property owners claimed that the proposed paving was too expensive, while city officials argued that heavy travel in wet weather had caused holes in the road; Santa Monica proposed a "wide boulevard connecting Venice and Santa Monica." It would require a "large bond issue", and "if the project goes through... Venice would have to bond itself for a boulevard from Washington Blvd. to meet the Santa Monica Blvd. at some point near Marine St. A protest was filed by some property owners against the paving of five blocks of Venice Blvd. from Walgrove to Lincoln. Money from the general fund was going to be used by the trustees for the improvement and that was the reason for opposition.

Parking space was a serious problem. People parked their cars along Speedway between Ocean Park and Venice blocking the entire street and causing traffic problems. In 1915 the city trustees were asked to take official action to provide additional parking. "Auto parking space is a real necessity - more room must be found or motorists will pass on to Ocean Park or Santa Monica where there is always room."

Sidewalks to accommodate residents and tourists were proposed for Nautilus Ave from Speedway to Canal. To combat damage caused by rain "City Trustees Mayor Gerety and Pinkerton met with President Paul Shoup of Pacific Electric R.R. Co. to take up matters on easement for the storm drains of Electric Ave. and Westminster Ave. (Navy St. is under consideration)." And a controversy arose over paving materials: "Protestants against the improvement of Main St. have been called to meet this evening at the office of Mrs. E. S. Beltzooed, on Hollister Ave., between Trolleyway and Speedway to take further steps toward opposition to improvement with bitulithic. "Main St. will never be paved with bitulithic", declared W.S. Freeman, leader of the protestants. "We are willing to have sheet asphaltum paid there but we will never consent to the patent paving". When informed of Mr. Freeman's statement, members of the City Council smiled. "We already have planned to lay sheet asphaltum on Main St." said W.J. Stadelman, chairman of the street committee, "and we have so informed the protestants."

Besides automobiles Venetians also had access to rains, double decked busses, and jitneys. The Pacific Motor Coach Co. operated double decked busses between Los Angeles and Venice but in 1915 it was "in Dutch" because it had ignored requests by the City to help pay the cost of road repairs. The Co also had no regular schedule. In January 1915 it filed for bankruptcy, and the Vanguard had this comment: "The Pacific Motor Bus Co. has filed bankruptcy - after spoiling every road in Venice that the busses ran on. And all Venice can do is 'grin and bear it!'"

Venice of course had a lot of railroad tracks had convenient access via the Southern Pacific to San Francisco, Berkeley, Oakland, and San Diego.

But people were interested in improving the transportation system and alternative forms were proposed. An electric tramway was promoted for Ocean Front Walk in the summer of 1915. "City

Attorney Hanna said that there was only 10 feet and that was on the inside toward the dirt, that could be used for any such purpose, and he doubted the advisability of allowing it to be used for anything but

a walk for pedestrians. Trustee Pinkerton said that he could recall times when it would have been impossible for the train of cars to be operated along the Walk, the crowd being so dense. "Yes, and I have seen the times when it was all that I wanted to do to elbow my way through there myself" said Trustee Lewis. "The matter was referred to the City Attorney...."

A subway between Culver City, Venice, and Los Angeles was proposed in 1914,



"BALLOON ROUTE" TRAIN UNLOADING AT SANTA MONICA.

because "as it (Pacific Electric) can't now easily and rush traffic to the beach...the railroad is handicapped in getting trains over Los Angeles' already congested streets."

Issues concerning the Pacific Electric were reported as favorably as possible in the Vanguard. With "97,000,000 passengers carried yearly the P.E...is said to be a larger system than the combined lines of Chicago, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Detroit, and Grand Rapids." A safety first campaign was promoted by the P.E. and its President, Paul Shoup, spoke at the Venice Pavillion on "Big Things Today, Bigger Things Tomorrow." The P.E. held a contest to name its new orange belt line and it was reported that a "well known and gifted young lady of Venice who knows the Latin language"...had suggested the name La Culebra.

The P.E. began a "daily special train" from San Bernardino to the beaches to accommodate extra summer traffic", and considered a request by the Cafe and Buffet Men's Association to start an "Owl Service" between Los Angeles and Venice to cease service at 2 am. This to accommodate dedicated patrons from Los Angeles enjoying an evening in Venice.

A controversy arose concerning rates charged by the P.E. The complaint was that on week-ends and holidays prices from Los Angeles to Venice and Santa Monica were the same as from Los Angeles to Long Beach and Anaheim. In January 1914 the State Railroad Commission refused to deal with the issue because the "case was not substantiated by evidence". City Attorney Hanna advised Venetians that "at this time it would be wise for Venice to drop the case against P.E. for rate reduction...if the week-end and holiday round trip fare is cut to accommodate

occasional or holiday trips daily rates will probably be raised. So far Venice has the lowest rates around. This causes people to live in Venice and commute to Los Angeles to work."

One issue that didn't receive favorable press concerned depots. In an open letter to Pacific Electric the Vanguard opined: Gentlemen. We really need that long promised passenger depot for Venice. We have all been patient, but now - not a year hence - we need the depot promised eight years ago." P.E. replied that it would locate a depot anywhere the people want it, as long as "the Walgrove people build it."

Although the Vanguard backed the Pacific Electric for obvious economic reasons, some citizens didn't.

"Editor Venice Vanguard: Dear Sir: The present discussion of the auto bus and its relation to the traffic of the Pacific Electric is of much interest to a number of your fellow townsmen, and the howl of the railroad company is furnishing diversion equal in amusing features to a three-ring circus. Evidently, the long suffering public is at last in a measure coming into its own. Since the advent of the Pacific Electric upon this beach, through its purchase of the Los Angeles Pacific, it has not made a single move beneficial to its patrons, with the exception of the installation of a block

system along the Short Line, and that was practically forced upon them. We are getting the same Los Angeles service - or less than we had in the days of the L.A.P. and I believe that your paper admits a slight increase in population since that time. The P.E. has ever been prolific in promises, and noticeably deficient in the keeping thereof. They started by robbing us of the 700 class cars, and have blighely put the boot to us in every possible way up to the present time, notwithstanding the fact that the western division is the best paying portion of their system. They crowd us like sardines, to save a two-bit train expense and rob us of our time through the operation of deficient equipment...."

The auto bus that was referred to in the letter was commonly known as a "jitney". These were "little passenger

carry-alls" that served as taxi cabs. The descriptions of the jitney problem that appeared in the Vanguard paint a picture of mass confusion and fierce competition. Men hoping to "make a dime" rushed to accommodate people who visited or lived at the beach. Any enterprising man or woman with an automobile and the energy to cart passengers around seemed to engage in the jitney business.

Because the busses and jitneys under cut patronage on the P.E. a death blow was eventually dealt the company but the battles engaged in by both sides were vicious. When the busses first appeared despite the clear need they fulfilled, the Vanguard supported the P.E. It charged that "after midnight on Saturday when the electric railway shut down, bus drivers charged higher fares." Accidents between busses and autos or pedestrians were frequently played up. "Little passenger carry-alls that run between beach cities need to be aware that lining up six abreast on Windward Ave. is dangerous and unless eliminated changes will have to be made."

Limiting the number of people in a bus, removing "bells and other noise makers" from busses except for the original horn, regulating hours of operation and routes were all advocated by the paper.

In November of 1914 W.E. Dunn, Vice President of the Pacific Electric and Los Angeles Railroad Co. presented "facts and figures" to show that the "little Fords and double-decked busses are hurting the street car company." One article suggested that 2/3's of the P.E. passengers were being lost to the jitneys

"The jitney busses in L.A. have forced the L.A.R.R. to put 40 cars in the barn. A \$2,200 daily loss is being felt. Director Dunn claims that they may be forced to abandon some lines; Pacific Electric has reduced shop time from 6 to 5 days a week; The company announced yesterday (1-13-15) its intention to abandon its franchise over six pieces of its local trackage leading out of San Pedro."

In March of 1915 P.E. threatened to discontinue its service between Venice and Santa Monica. "The local cars are to be taken out of service entirely. This will prove a serious drawback to those in

the habit of attending social functions in Venice and Ocean Park." The jitney competition cost the railroads an "estimated 5 million dollars" in 1914, and the Pacific Light and Power Company urged its employees not to patronize the jitneys. The large company was clearly protecting its interest in the P.E.

Mayor Rose of Los Angeles urged the City Council to a "speedy enactment of legislation that will demand a certain standard of operation to insure public safety and reduce traffic congestion to the minimum". A letter from a passenger: "I hope that the Vanguard will continue the stand it has taken in defending the people. I believe that some way could be devised so that jitneys could be put under control of the State Railroad Commission". "Up in L.A. everybody including pedestrians, has about concluded to give up the streets to the erratic and reckless little 'kitneys' in sheer self defense, and if the authorities do not regulate them soon, even the electric lines will be glad to climb a tree to keep from being run over."

There were payoffs. President Shoup of the P.E.: "I express gratitude on behalf of the P.E., Ca. and myself for the stand Venice has taken to protect our vested interests here from the encroachment of auto busses." He reminded Venetians of the "several million dollars" that the company had spent on a private right of way, taxes, and excellent service to the public, and the regular operation of trains. "Auto busses have not paid taxes or for the upkeep of city roads." And then in a grand gesture he announced that the P.E. was giving Venice a Christmas present, the rights-of-way at Virginia, San Juan, Millwood, Westminster and California along Electric Ave. He also deeded the storm drain right of way on Electric Ave to the city.

In Santa Monica Mayor Dudley stated that the jitneys were "common carriers" and thus under the control of the State Railroad Commission, which replied that they were in fact automobiles and thus under local jurisdiction. The Santa Monica Police Commissioner decided to put off any decision until Los Angeles acted on the problem. But he did rule that: "Speed laws are being enforced, passengers must be let out near the curb not in the center of the street". After Los Angeles

ruled against the jitneys Santa Monica passed the following regulation:

"To be active in 30 days. All passenger-carrying vehicles either only subject to private calls or engaged in regular passenger service - \$22 annual license to autos for hire not operating from a stand, \$30 for autos which passengers are solicited, all firms of corporations operating hacks, coaches, busses, carriages, or autos in transport service \$100, a \$20,000 indemnity bond must be filed."

Consensus was that the measure was passed to benefit the railways.

Shortly after this the bus drivers of Santa Monica, Sawtelle, and Venice organized for the purpose of opposing the regulations. The jitney bus drivers recognized that the ordinance would put them out of business.

Police Chief Watson of Venice ordered bus and jitney drivers to discontinue their service between Los Angeles and Venice unless they were licensed. The Auto Bus Owners Association replied that they would test the legality by carrying passengers to Venice and allowing one of their number to be arrested.

The jitney bus owners forced the City Trustees into action yesterday afternoon and they learned just where the City stands on the question of jitney regulation. The City is not in favor of the jitneys that ply between Los Angeles and the beach and it is the intention of the city fathers to prohibit their running into Venice.

The bus owners managed to get an injunction from a Superior Court judge who called the local ordinance "either unconstitutional or discriminatory." Venice insisted that local jitney owners must be licensed and that they must post a \$10,000 bond, and that none of them had done so. Then in April of 1915:

"Venice wins jitney case in superior court. Judge Hewitt upheld the validity of the ordinance regulating the jitney bus traffic between here and L.A. and sustained the contentions made by affidavit and orally by City Attorney B.C. Hanna in the scrap. Great victory for Venice. Hanna handled it in a masterly way. The jitney busses now operating between

Venice and Los Angeles will cease at midnight.

The bus drivers were "in a quandry" due to the decision but continued to carry passengers. "Many snuck in and unloaded. They came in the back way and left as soon as they loaded. Many drivers were arrested and bailed out.

"The first thing taken into consideration by the trustees (May 18, 1915) was the appeal by jitney bus owners and drivers to be permitted to operate between L.A. and Venice. A large delegation of owners and drivers were at the meeting. The main representative of the delegation was Secretary Williams of the drivers association. He stated that if Venice wouldn't license them they will have to go to some other beach city, but they prefer to give Venice their business. Trustee Smart stated that the people of the city are opposed to the jitneys. Judge Rennie told of the good that the P.E. had done for the city. "It has built up the city, and is loyal to it. The railway can't afford to continue its present service if the jitneys are allowed to run."

Some interesting developments occurred during the jitney controversy. A jitney newspaper was published in Los Angeles "to champion the interests of auto bus drivers. Women drivers were employed. "Many of the little jitneys are being driven by fair hands. They make splendid chauffeurs, as they are careful and stady drivers." The city trustees dealt with the problem of passengers that sat on one another's laps. The trustees said no, no. "Mischievous youngsters throw lemons at jitneys. Jitney busses that operate through Santa Monica are good for more purposes than carrying passengers. The small boy has learned that they make excellent targets, and are using them for such." And warnings to women were printed: "Don't get in a jitney bus unless

you see a sign on the front of the car indicating it is a passenger-carrying vehicle. Don't stay in a supposed jitney bus if you see upon the dash that there is no city license - it may be a trap to entice you away. Don't get into a jitney bus if it is crowded. An excellent opportunity is thus given men to flirt or to make advances to girls. Don't get in a jitney bus late at night unless escorted by a man or older woman."

In the end the jitneys went out of business and the bus lines were also hurt, but the automobile eventually ruined Pacific Electric and forced the abandonment of the worlds most extensive inter-urban rail transit network. But while it

lasted it sure must have been exciting. Horse drawn wagons side by side with automobiles, double decked busses, trolley cars, trains, and of course jitneys. The political and economic battles that were fought were repeated in many American cities as new, more "modern" forms of transportation appeared. But for Venice this transportation revolution had an added significance. For the victory of the automobile and motorized transport sealed the fate of the canals which were paved over in 1926 to accommodate what was "modern". And the uniqueness and special identity of the Venice community was thereby significantly undermined.▲

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The BEACHHEAD parody of Tom Victory's O'Front Weekly column was right on the dime. I hadn't focused on what fluff the Victory column really is until I read "Dawn Defeat" and then went back and re-read the original. You're so close you make Victory seem like he's making fun of himself.

In one of his May columns Victory took a swipe at the Venice Town Council and its forum on Iran, and I wrote an answer that I'd like to share with the BEACHHEAD. Another Town Council Iran meeting is coming up; we can still be told by any evening news that the Persian Gulf has exploded, that American planes are attacking and U.S. troops have landed, that Soviet tanks have crossed the border; and Victory's jab brought out most clearly just what's happening in Venice around the question of Iran.

TO THE OCEAN FRONT WEEKLY:

"In his discussion of who represents 'the people' in his May 21st column, Tom Victory called the Venice Town Council proposal to be sister-cities with Tehran 'insane.'

"Perhaps Tom doesn't understand what the Town Council was doing; or perhaps I don't understand what he means by 'insane.'

"There have been times in the past when Town Council people have put our bodies on the line in front of bulldozers to preserve low-cost housing for low income people in Venice. The Council's long struggle to preserve low-cost housing in Venice has represented the interests of low income people everywhere.

"But there are other times, some of us at the Town Council feel, when it's necessary to put our bodies, or our organization, on the line in front of our own people.

"When the Tehran meeting took place in February, American people everywhere including Venice were being whipped into a frenzy of hate against Iran. White American 'patriots' had assaulted a peaceful Iranian march in Beverly Hills. The imperialists in Washington were pushing



toward a conflict that could easily involve war with the Soviet Union. And the people, our people, were being sucked along.

"I and others feel that at times like these it is necessary to stand up against the tide, even if that means taking some punishment.

"It's not enough only to say 'Stop The Draft,' since that tells the imperialists 'Do whatever you want in other people's countries, just leave me out.'

"It's not enough to say 'End All War' because in today's world some wars are necessary and justified, particularly wars to free one's country from foreign oppression.

"No, when the United States attacks other people's countries, as it is doing in Iran, as it did in Indochina, these peoples are justified in taking whatever steps they must to defend themselves and throw off U.S. aggression. The only realistic way to 'peace with honor' is to forthrightly acknowledge when the United States is wrong and other peoples are right, and to take our stand against U.S.

imperialism here at home.

"Now, there are people at Town Council meetings who don't think the U.S. is wrong in Iran. Others think the U.S. is wrong but feel the Council can't stand the heat of saying so publicly. Still others feel the most important thing is not to go against 'the community,' whether the community is right or wrong.

"The Venice Town Council has decided that in a month or so [which would mean some time in July] it will hold another meeting on Iran. The format has yet to be decided, but its purpose, like the purpose of the last one, will be to get all these questions out into a public forum where the people of Venice can discuss and decide things for themselves.

"I don't see anything 'insane' about that.

"Tom Victory said he was 'downright embarrassed' by the conflict and dissent. All I can say, Tom, is that after you've been around Venice a while longer I'm sure you'll get used to it."

Robt. Wells

While I'm on the subject, let me say a word about the position Ed Pearl put forward at the May Town Council meeting, that he could not in any way put himself in solidarity with the present revolutionary government in Iran (by supporting a sister-city, for instance), because Khomeini and the other ayatollahs are trampling the rights of women, executing people for minor offenses, repressing the Iranian working class and national minorities, and attacking the Iranian left, including Ed's favorite revolutionary group (and mine), the Organization of Iranian Peoples Fedayee Guerrillas (OIPFG).

Even if all these charges were true, for us in this country they would be irrelevant.

It should be enough to point out that the two Iranian students who joined us at the first Town Council sister-city meeting were from the OIPFG faction in this country. They understood very clearly what our meeting was about; they understood, and said, that Khomeini was repressing their fellow Fedayeen in Iran and would repress them too if they went home. They gave the Town Council full support and said they'd be glad to come back any time we had another sister-city meeting.

They understood clearly what it seems Ed Pearl does not -- that we in this country do not have, and should not have, control or responsibility for internal developments within the Iranian revolution, but we do have responsibility and some influence over U.S. imperialism. (Even the action of so small a community as Venice has significance beyond our numbers.) Even though Khomeini is repressing their brothers and sisters in Iran, these OIPFG Iranian students support him in his staunch opposition to U.S. imperialism, and so does the OIPFG in Iran!

As righteous as it may sound the position taken by Ed Pearl amounts to a cop-out on opposing U.S. imperialism under difficult but fruitful circumstances. It carries all the arrogance, conscious or

not, of the imperialist oppressor nation, particularly of oppressor-nation white males. It says that we are the ones who will be in control -- all knowledge, all all understanding, all judgment, will come through us, and our decision will be final -- that we, from within the oppressor imperialist nation, will decide which strugglers against our imperialism to support and which ones to dismiss, which tactics against imperialism we will allow and which ones to condemn as "terrorism."

It's a curious coincidence that the Muslim fundamentalists the American people and the press are most indignant about are Iranian revolutionaries who at the moment are kicking the U.S. in the ass harder than any other people in the world. Meanwhile the religious retrogrades in Saudi Arabia are looked on as quaint museum pieces, and the rock-jumping mullahs and vicious landlords of Afghanistan, more backward if that's possible even than their cousins in the desert, are considered positive heroes because at the moment they happen to be shooting at Soviet tanks.▲

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has said simply, "If the Israelis want security, the way is clear: talk to the Palestinians." PLO acceptance of a State in what is now Israeli military occupied territory-- which has been publicly stated and largely ignored-- is de facto acceptance of the right of Israel to exist within its pre-1967 borders. The terms for peace are known; they must now only be accepted.

What remains for Israel--though we can not overestimate the chances--is a hopeful change of outlook, from a first world country to a third world country. Israel is not a European nation with a strong industrial base; it is a developing nation, located in a fluid Middle-East. Saudi Arabia may soon follow on the heels of Iran, as might other feudal monarchies in the Middle-East. Israel must turn its back on the superpowers, as surely they would turn theirs on her, and begin to think of herself as part of an Arab world in transition. She must cease her support for racist South Africa and for repressive regimes like Chile. She must also look within her own borders at the 65% of her population, the Oriental Jews, who are third world in culture and outlook. Such a transformation is possible because it is rooted in the same tradition which brought a Vienna journalist and his followers to found Zionism. It is in the Jewish identification with outcasts and downtrodden that Israel will survive.

With such a change will come the spirit of reconciliation which is just below the surface of violence in the Arab world. The Palestinians are anxious to reach a just settlement; so are the Israelis. Should such a settlement be reached, both peoples could turn their resources to building strong economies and to generating a renaissance in the Middle East.

It is the great tragedy of Israel--which seems to elude a country so versed in the Prophecies--that a fellow people was made homeless in the creation of a new home for the survivors of the Holocaust. The stalled Camp David talks only make Israel's reconciliation with the Palestinians more urgent. Israel's future and Middle East peace require a swift settlement today of the conflict. That settlement rests in negotiation with the Palestine Liberation Organization, recognition of refugees' self-determination and acquiescence to the likelihood of a Palestinian State in the West Bank and Gaza. Israel has found only moral and economic weakness in military strength, and scant security by occupation. Palestinians have small room to maneuver from imposed diplomatic isolation. Each side is caught in a vortex of exaltation. Now is the time to right past wrongs, for Israel to show generosity in strength, for the PLO to bend in righteousness, and to negotiate a new order in the Middle East in which Israeli and Palestinian can live in peace.▲

Greg Goldin is a Los Angeles based freelance writer and the producer of the recent Pacifica Network documentary on Israel and Palestine. He shares much of the perspective and the aspirations of Israel's "Peace Now" organization.

"TERRORISTS"-cont.

this presently Arab zone. A year ago a number of Jewish families from the extremist encampment of Kiryat Arba set up a squatter colony in a deserted hospital in the Arab city of Hebron. Even though they are in direct violation of Israeli legality, Prime Minister Begin, himself a terrorist leader in the thirties, has ordered them defended by the machine guns of Israeli troops.

Then, several months ago, in an even more aggressive action, other extremists from Kiryat Arba opened a Jewish religious college in Hebron, also protected by the Israeli army. In May members of this college, marching in a deliberately provocative parade through Arab Hebron, were ambushed by the PLO and six were killed.

Here in the States the B'nai B'rith, the American Zionist Federation, and other professional apologists for imperialism immediately hit the propaganda machine, and we were hearing once again about "terrorist attacks on civilian students."

AN AMERICAN ADVENTURER

It is useful to take a closer look at one of these "civilian students." He was called "Eli Mezeev," which in Hebrew means "the Wolf," a nickname he picked up as a particularly gung-ho and blood-thirsty American paratrooper in Vietnam. Born James Eli Kahon Jr., a Christian in an American military family, by his early twenties he was "Crazy Jim" in an east coast outlaw motorcycle gang, the Vipers. In '70 he was charged with 2nd degree murder for killing one of his fellow bikers with a shotgun. After two tours as a sniper in Vietnam he converted to Judaism, moved to Israel, took his Hebrew name, and served a hitch in the Israeli army. When a self-appointed anti-Arab assassination mission to the U.S. went awry he joined the Far Right Gush Emunim extremist sect and helped set up the armed camp at Kiryat Arba deep in Arab territory. He spent eight months in an Israeli jail for window-smashing excursions into Hebron. When he was killed in the ambush he was armed with an M-16 machine gun.

It was quite appropriate that one of the casualties in the Hebron ambush be an American military adventurer. Although Zionists use the Old Testament as justification for their on-going invasion of Palestine, in the real world their aggressive settler colonialism has nothing to do with the ancient imperialism of Saul, David, or Solomon, but everything to do with being an armed extension into the Middle East of modern-day European and particularly U.S. imperialism.

ZIONIST AGGRESSION SPOILS 'PEACE' TALKS

In the wake of the Hebron ambush the Israeli army has been dynamiting Arab houses in that city, seizing Arab families in the middle of the night and relocating them on trash heaps in the desert while immediately moving other families into their homes. The Israeli army arrested two Arab West Bank mayors in the middle of the night (before the Hebron ambush) and dumped them in exile in an empty field in Lebanon, after first cutting the Tel Aviv phone lines of their Israeli lawyer. Right-wing Zionist extremists have made bomb attacks against three other Arab mayors, blowing the legs off two of them. The fascist Israeli Kach movement hailed these attacks and said all Arabs should be driven violently out of "Judea and Samaria," that is, from the Arab West Bank where they and their ancestors have lived and farmed for centuries. Kach was created by Rabbi Meyer Kahane, the founder in this country of the Jewish Defense League (JDL), which has become a kind of Zionist Ku Klux Klan.

Meanwhile, rather than cracking down on the Zionist extremists in the West Bank, Begin has called them into uniform for reserve duty in the Israeli army, and is using them to police the Arab quarters. This is like the Mississippi sheriffs who deputized Klansmen instead of arresting them.

As a result of these arrogant aggressions by Begin and the Zionists the Camp David "peace" talks have been broken off. I put the word "peace" in quotes because the talks were meant only to work out an accommodation among imperialists, in total disregard of the just demands of the Palestinian people, and no agreements in the Middle East that do not satisfy the rights of the Palestinians will result in any kind of peace.

Still, Carter had hoped to cool out

the Middle East for a time with the talks, and push further conflict into the future. Now, because of Israeli arrogance, plus other explosive situations in that same part of the world and the renewed draft here, we are once again swinging toward the possibility that American troops can become involved in a war in Palestine.

WHO ARE THE REAL 'TERRORISTS?'

So Americans must take time in our already complicated lives to get straight on who's right in that situation and who's wrong. We should be very suspicious of the use of the word "terrorism." "Terrorism" is the word the imperialists and their paid-for propagandists in the schools, the press, and the churches, use to prepare us in advance to discredit anything that oppressed peoples do anywhere in the world to defend themselves against imperialist aggression. From Ireland to Palestine, from Iran to Southern Africa, from Southeast Asia to the Puerto Rican barrios and Black ghettos of the United States, nothing that oppressed peoples do to free themselves from oppression will ever be considered legitimate by imperialism. So we need to understand things for ourselves, to see where our real class interests lie, and to begin to sort out which side we'll be on in the coming conflicts.▲



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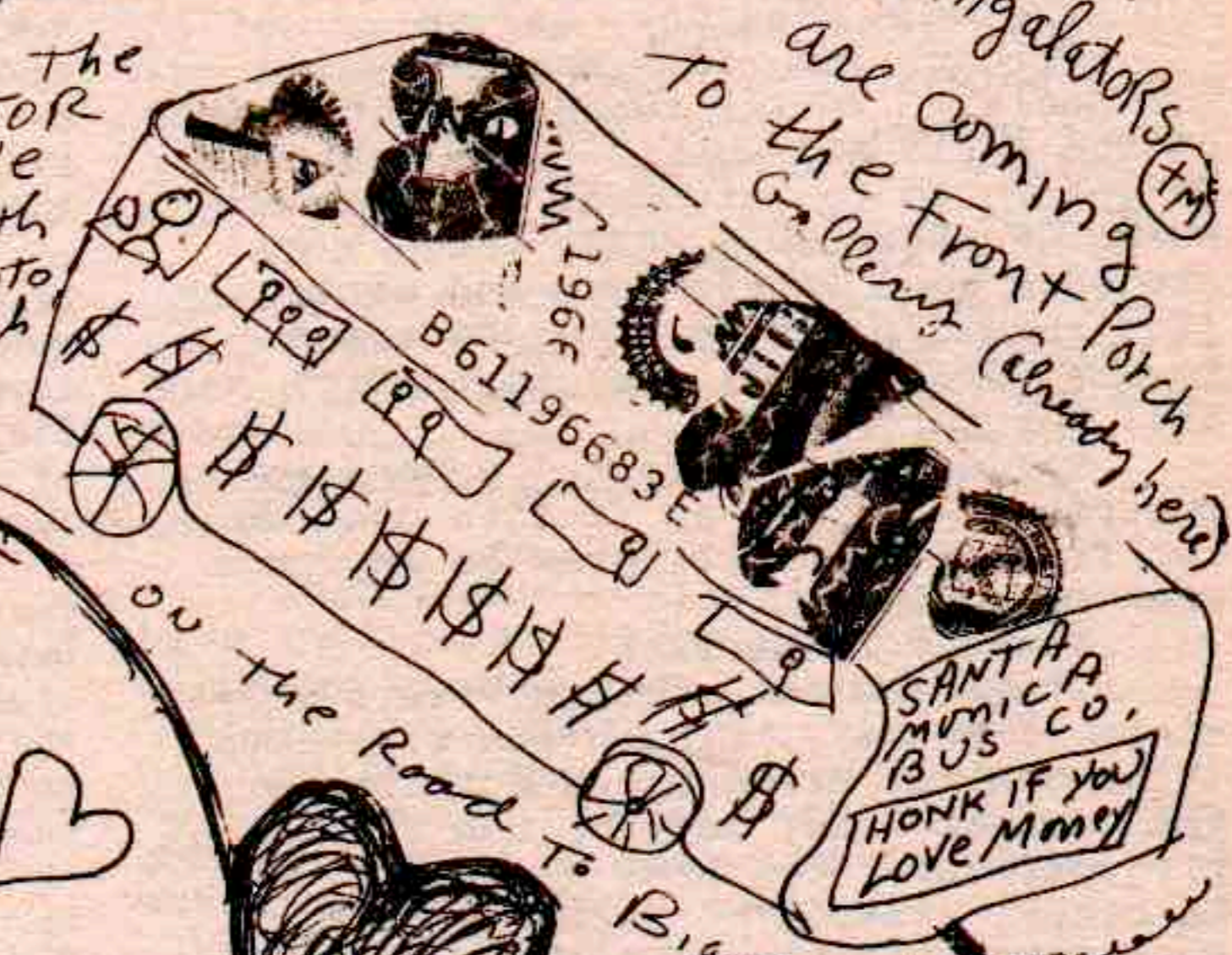
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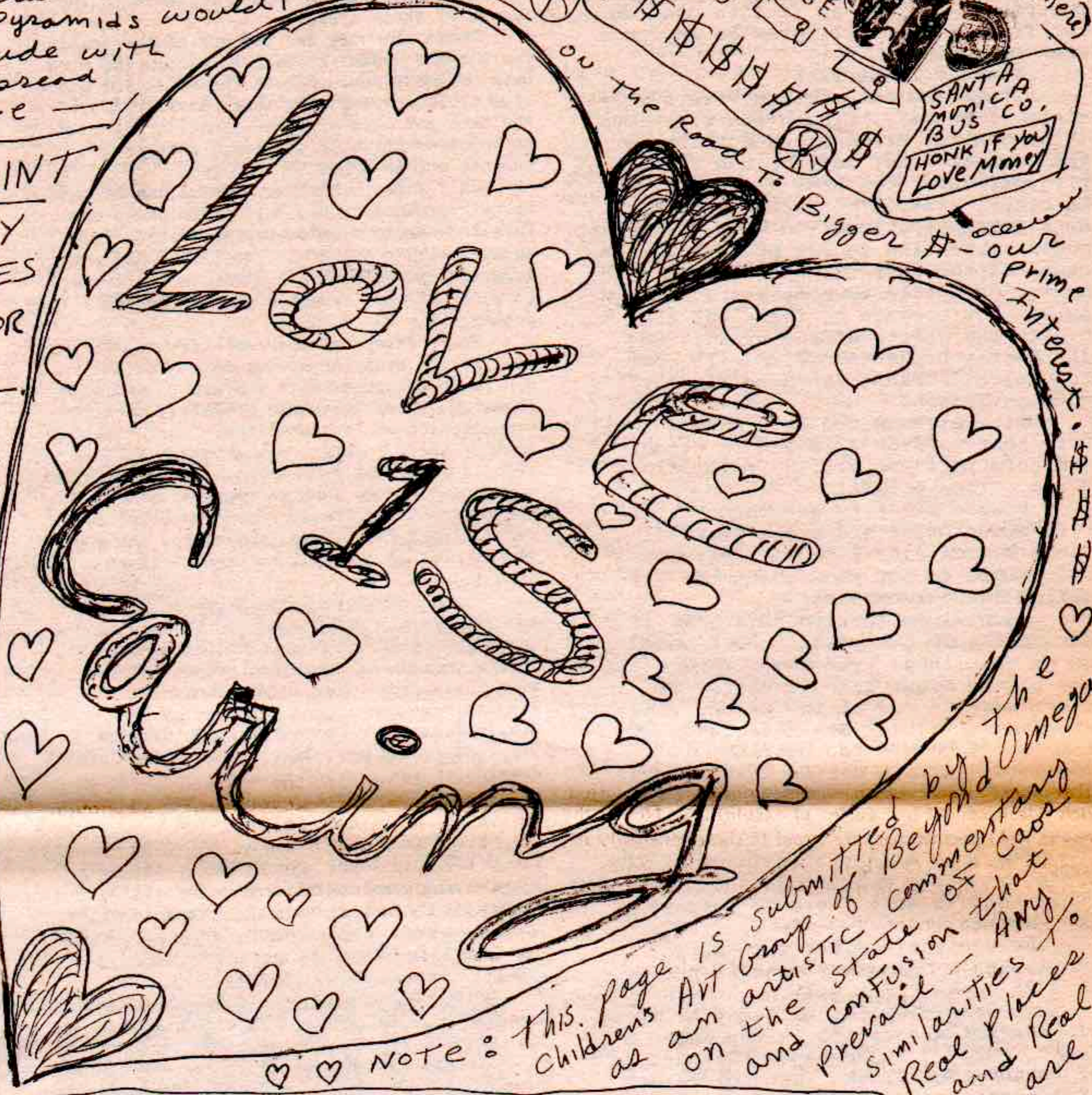
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want one in Venice, the Commission voted. No Substantial Issue. In other words, the Commission could see no reason to deny Saffron his project, which by way of information, is a few feet away from a lot where Doug Christmas proposes to put yet another restaurant called Ristorante Paladino.

The beat goes on. And on. Friday, June 20. Mayor Bradley has declared Venice the Skating Capital of the World and June 20th is Skate Day. We get to go to City Hall and face the BOARD OF REFERRED POWERS, because we are such good little boys and girls. (You remember the Board of Referred Powers, don't you?) We sit in City Hall for three hours.

The Board of Referred Powers is postponed. I feel as if I've used up two friends who will never go anywhere with me again.

Tuesday, June 24th. The Board of Referred Powers consists of Ferraro, Gibson (chair), Picus (Vice chair), Braude, and Cunningham. Pat Russell comes out for the Saffron project, but recommends a moratorium on other "arcades". Braude declares he's intimately involved with Venice and is objecting to the project not because of the fear of undesirable elements, or residents complaints of noise, but because he fears for the health and safety of the crowd. He fears that Drugs and Crime will come to Venice. "Isn't it there already?" queries Gibson.

Lt. Ferguson and Sgt. Morgan testify that Saffron's record is clean, and he's followed all the regulations for a police permit.

Braude tries to get them to testify about Drugs and Crime in the Santa Monica Pier Arcade. Ferguson and Morgan do not know about the situation in Santa Monica.

Councilman Ferraro says that if you have a large crowd, there's bound to be unruliness from some. And that the police might find it easier if there were no one at the Beach. The same argument that Stavnezer used at the Police Commission hearing, I thought. Ferraro states that if you used the reason that crowds are unruly, one should close football games or baseball games.

The vote is 3 - 1 in favor of the project. Nancy McCullough and some other vendors were there to support the project.

Braude was against it. So for two months a temporary tent is put up on 1725 Ocean Front Walk.

On Wednesday I read a letter from Cleo/Baldon Associates in the Ocean Front Weekly. It bemoaned the passing of "shabby buildings just this side of condemnation..." "A flutist sits mesmerized by his reedy tune a sweet lament" "We watch in awe, knowing that this atmosphere cannot be bought or manufactured." "A promoter has now been given permission to put up a circus tent and serve up canned pre-digested rides and amusements."

It goes on like that, sighing for handicrafts and the spontaneity of it all.

Cleo/Barden Associates sits on 723 Ocean Front Walk. It used to be a one story Synagogue. It is now two stories high painted black with white trim.

The Synagogue was low and pink. I know the Synagogue was doomed because the elderly Jews, even 7 years ago, were being pushed out by people who wanted to landscape for people with good taste, i.e. money. Well it is a matter of taste and a red, white and blue circus tent will blend in with the jugglers and mimes and vendors and palm readers. Folks, the Carnival is already here.

This isn't Newport Beach. And it suits my taste just fine.▲

(CAC Dances cont... from p.1)

committee members hold ownership of property in this area, or have close working, social or other relationships to the development of that property, and to the Isthmus Landowners Association, long time advocates of a deep water marina atmosphere for the historical and environmentally sensitive area.

Five of the fifteen committee members are members or have close affiliations with the Venice Waterways association, a group which advocates and promotes a deep water canal system for the north canals area, again in the face of environmental and historical considerations.

This overwhelming display of memberships or relationships to real estate promotion and groups promoting the fullest and most drastic development of the areas in question seems inappropriate to a fair and unbiased airing of important planning issues relative to the future of these areas.

There are only two members of the committee who are listed as tenants within the area. Both of these members have financial and other ties to those proposing major development of the area and this precludes considering them as representative of the large numbers of tenants who do populate the area.

Only three committee members can be said to be representing the Marina Peninsula area. This is a serious under-representation from an area within the study group that has the largest population and includes a beach that is a significant resource for the general public.

Four members of the committee do not live in the study area, but have absentee ownership of property in the area. Although absentee ownership should certainly have representation on the committee, four committee members seems an overrepresentation of this type of financial commitment. This is further compounded by the lack of representation of non-resident utilizers of the beach and canal recreational facilities, and of the environmental area of the Ballona Lagoon-Silver Strand.

Three committee members are on record as having contributed money to the election campaigns of former coastal commissioners during periods of time when projects involving their properties and/or financial interests were under consideration by the Commission. It seems incredible that the very people who were involved in the Coastal Commission conflict of interest controversy should be on a committee whose goal is to implement the Coastal Act.

Although public input is accepted at the C.A.C. meetings, and a public testimony session and questionnaire proposed, it is dangerous to look at this committee as either representative of the area or a spokesman for the thousands of people who visit the area annually to enjoy the beach or canals.

With this in mind, the State Coastal Commission is being asked to withdraw financial support of this biased committee until it is reconstituted with a broader membership more in touch with the populace of this section of Venice and the users of its public resources.

The public recommendations of this committee may be merely advisory in nature, but it is of the greatest importance that this advice be truly representative of the study area and its users, or the process becomes a mockery of true public participation.▲

MANICURES and PEDICURES
by Connie
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MORE LETTERS:
Dear Beachhead:
I feel I must elucidate your readers on the Beat Generation. After having read Joan Freeberg's article, I feel I owe it to many of my friends of that period. I don't know where Joan was during this enchanted era, but her viewpoint and mine seem to prove that "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder."

John Altoon and Ramblin Jack Elliot were the first "beats" I knew, and the word is "beats", not "beatnik". "Beatnik" was what squares (remember that word?) and "outsiders" called us. For people who didn't "take themselves too seriously", how can Joan account for John and Jack and Earl Newman and John Haag, Anais Nin, Chris Isherwood, Barbara Dane, Bud Partch, Italo D'Andrea, Stuart Perkoff, not to mention the self-promoters, the trendies like Billy Al Bengston, Ed Keinholtz, etc. Although having no latent, at least keep busy "taking themselves seriously" -- how about Leonard Cutrow, Ed Moses, and Bob Dylan up in Ocean Park was no slouch, either. And these are just a few of the local people!

Not all of us wore sandals and slouched around, living in swalor, or "pads", Joan, AND not all of us dreamed of "died to match". I know I wore leotards and turtle-necks, black, of course. We were clothes and image conscious, but the mode of dress didn't determine your eligibility for being a Beat. A BEAT WAS SOMEONE SEARCHING FOR NEW DIMENSIONS.... Beat was an extension of many great philosophies that have gone before, a Gestalt, as it were; a Beat was a Socrates, a Thomas Wolfe, a Hemingway, a Steinbeck, a Soroyan, a Freud, an Einstein, a Van Gogh, a da Vinci, a Joyce, a Keats, a Jesus, a King David, a Messiah yet to come, and going way back, a Bruno who asked just where was this world in the universe, anyway, and got burned at the stake for it.

A compilation, a utilization of a centuries old backlog of thoughts and ideas gave us the Beat Generation, a spinoff of Bohemianism, which was a spinoff of Existentialism, which was a spinoff of----but need I go further. A beat was a cultural radical questioning truth and beauty, mores and values, economics and politics, science and industry in a stale, senseless society. In short, Joan, a Beat was me and not you. How could you walk through such an awesome period of time, such a glowing renaissance, and glean so little from it?????????

Yours for responsibility in reporting.
Ruth Clark

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 Fri/Sat Nights: 8:30pm-1:00am DANCE HOME, freestyle dancing, \$3.00.
 July 26, Student Dance Demo, 2:30pm FREE.
 Aug 9,16,23,30: Site Dances, 2:00 pm, FREE, call 459-4198 for locations/directions.

MUSIC

TOPANGA Folk Festival, FREE WORKSHOPS, Sat July 12, various locations UCLA; info- Dorian Keyser 345-3795.
 TOPANGA Banjo/Fiddle CONTEST, Sun Jul 13 UCLA Athletic Field 9:30 AM - 6 PM, Food - Prizes - Fee. Info 828-4497.

ART

Beyond Baroque Gallery has temporarily suspended visual art exhibitions to reorganize and develop a visual arts program. When resumed, an alternate exhibition space will be part of the expanded cultural arts program. 822-3006

ARTISTS & PATIENTS from Norwalk State Hospital, Paintings and Sculpture, at SPARC 685 Venice Blvd, Venice, July 7-August 1. Reception July 7 from 7-9 pm. Admission free.
 JOHN SWANSON WATERCOLORS and RIDGE KUNZEL COURDS, July and August, Small World Books and Gallery, 1407 Ocean Front Walk, daily to 8:00 PM.
 SILKSCREEN WORKSHOP, artists sharing w/ less experienced doing posters with social themes, SPARC 685 Venice Blvd, Venice, Mondays 7-10 PM. Free.
 CHILDRENS ART WORKSHOP, SPARC, begins July 17, ages 6-13, Thursdays from 3:30-5:30. Monthly fee. 822-9560.

VENICE ARTZ FAIR July 5 & 6
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COMMUNITY EVENTS

THEATER

FILM AND GARAGE SALE BENEFITS TO HELP FREE GERONIMO PRATT AND OTHER BLACK PRISONERS OF WAR

GARAGE SALE: Saturday, July 12, 10 am-4 pm, at the Church in Ocean Park, 235 Hill Street
 FILM: "Malcolm X", a full-color documentary based on the autobiography of Malcolm X, will be shown Sunday; July 20, 7:30 pm., at the Church in Ocean Park 235 Hill Street. Prairie Fire Organizing Committee will present the film as a benefit for Geronimo Pratt and other Black prisoners of war and the Black Human Rights struggle. Tickets are \$2.50 in advance; \$3.00 at the door. Phone 384-1711 for more information.

ODYSSEY THEATRE: Year One of the Empire - World premiere play focusing on American politics at turn of the century, debate over the issue of American Imperialism. Th-Sat 8:30PM, Sun 7:30 PM. Ticket info 826-1626, at 12111 Ohio Ave, Los Angeles 90025.

PROVISIONAL THEATRE: Growing Up, a Brechtian version of Pinocchio, July 10-27, Info 664-1450.

PUBLIC WORKS: Improv, LEFT OF CRYSTAL PIER, an original work derived from improvisation on life in OCEAN PARK. Th, F, Sat 8:00 PM at The Church in Ocean Park, Call 399-1631 for information and Fee schedule.

POETRY

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS FUNDING INFORMATIONAL MEETING. Explains grants & assistance to small presses, fellowships for creative writers, and residencies for writers. Wednesday, July 9, 8:00pm-10:00pm, Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. Contact Manazar Gamboa, 822-3006.

BEYOND BAROQUE, 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006
 7-11 8PM, LEWIS MACADAMS, editor WET.
 7-13 8PM, Open Poetry Readings.
 7-18 8PM, Publication Party/Reading, Issue #802 The Gay Issue of Beyond Baroque Magazine.
 7-25 8PM, Publication Party/Reading, Coming Attractions/Young Poets.
 VENICE POETRY WORKSHOP every Wednesday at 8PM - Free - open to the public.

SPARC/OLD VENICE JAIL READINGS, 685 Venice Blvd, Venice.
 7-1-80 7:30pm, Mardell Martinez and Stuart Lishan.
 7-8-80 7:30pm, OPEN READING.

GEORGE SAND BOOKS, 9011 Melrose LA 90069
 July 6: 4:30pm, Japanese poet Kazuko Shiraiahi from Seasons of Sacred Lust
 July 13: 4:30pm, Bayla Winters from "I Don't do Dope but I Steal Candy" & Poet/Mime Dave Ceserio with dancer Abigail Young, from San Diego.

THAT CREPE PLACE

COMMUNITY

"NUKES IN THE VALLEY", Rockwell's Atomic International fuel processing and reactor installations in the San Fernando and Simi Valleys, discussion by Alliance for Survival. Wednesday, July 9, 7:30pm Marine Park Bldg; 1406 E. Marine (near 16th St.), Santa Monica. Details: 829-7251.

NO NUKES: Everything You Wanted to Ask But were Afraid to Know about Nuclear Power, Alliance for Survival, 1127 6th St, Santa Monica; Info 395-0790.
 July 10: Film/Paul Jacobs and the Nuclear Gang, 50's weapons testing, discussion.
 July 17: Solar Energy Now, slide show.

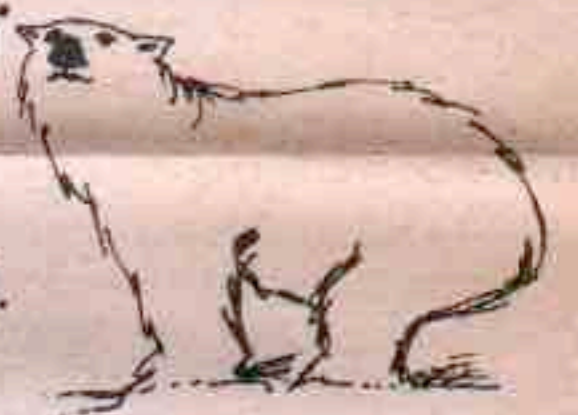
SINGLETARIANS 1260-18th St, SM Info 394-4318
 July 6 - Getting Mind & Eyes to See Clearly, Adrian Balizer, Am. Physical Society.
 July 13 - Where do we go From Here in Politics? Ruth Yannatta, SM City Council Person.
 July 20 - Stress and Nutrition, Arnold Fox MD.
 July 27 - China & Chinese Mental Health, Abby Leventer LCSW/MFCC, color slides.
 ALL LECTURES REQUIRE \$2.00 DONATION.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: JEWISH TEEN HOTLINE, Chai Line, help for identity crises in Jewish teens. To volunteer or for more info call 852-1234 Ext 2413.

SM/VENICE DRAFT TASK FORCE: counselling Tues and Weds-eve 7-9, Sat 1-4, 235 Hill St, Ocean Park. Call for details/info 399-1631.

If YOU would rather be enjoying the beach area instead of FIGHTING TRAFFIC and SEARCHING FOR PARKING please telephone your Los Angeles County Beach area Supervisor: Yvonne Braithwaite Burke. YOUR call to her will help her to get funds to improve traffic flow and provide more beach area public parking. Ms. Burke and her staff are waiting for your call on Monday between 10 AM and 3:30 PM: L.A. 390-2536; Venice 396-9960; Santa Monica 451-5911.

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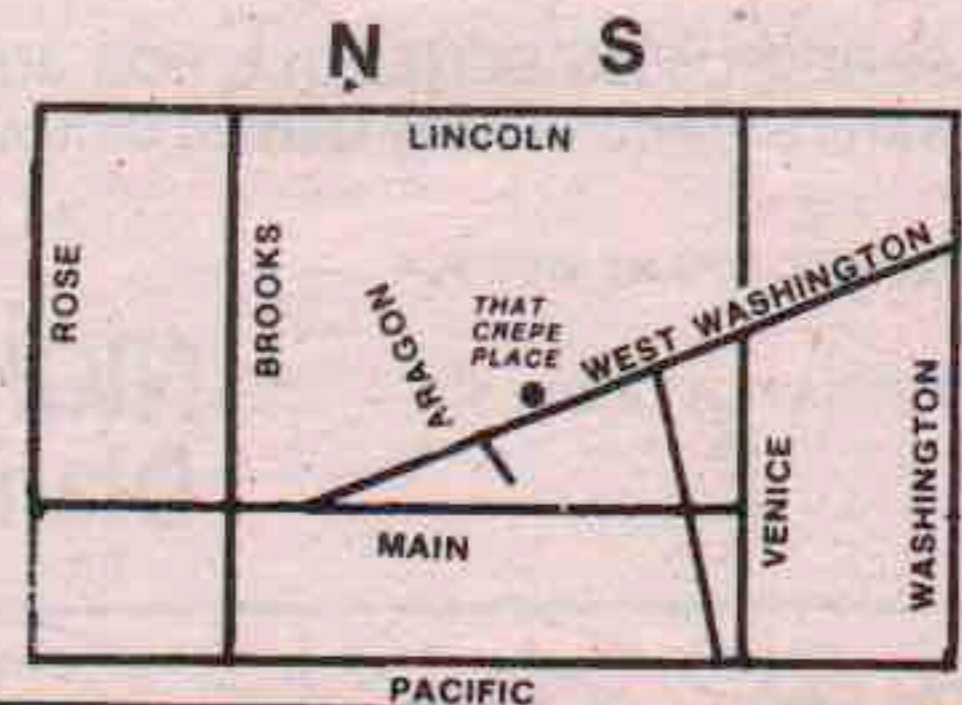
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OVERTONES

By James C. Hovey

The following is a dialogue between Will Raabe, current proprietor and music director of the COMEBACK INN, a workshop and showcase environment for original new-age fusion sounds, and DIANNE REEVES, the fresh, vital lead singer from the exciting fusion-jazz group "NIGHTFLIGHT".

W. Now, how do you feel about the music scene today, in general?

D. I hate the labels that are placed on music today... it's really too bad that people aren't able to hear all the different kinds of music, so they could choose with an open mind. So I plan -- I want to educate my audience into the things that I -- all the things that I do.

W. I'm so glad you mentioned the key-word - education. I'm afraid that the adult world sets bad examples for young people because we categorize so much. The really creative ones can't come out and blossom. We become so alienated from one another that we hardly have a chance to bridge it. Music is such a beautiful way to bring it all together if we only listen and stop being prejudiced and over indulgent and self serving and just be able to listen to other people's feelings, then we have a chance to come up with a better idea.

D. Oh, I absolutely agree. I'm working with a lyricist right now, Tony Lawredge, and he has this craft, a real artist when it comes to lyrics and he believes, as I do that the lyrics and music have to say something to bring people together, because, as you say, music is a very strong force.

W. It can also be misused, when the music is so conflicting in itself that it forces tension upon the audience. If there is no artistic tool to release this you can actually hurt people's nervous system. I've seen people walking out of concerts going crazy. That's the other side of it.

D. There again is the problem of categories. If people knew there was more music out there, then the choice would be on them. But the companies put out all these categories, and if you only listen to a certain station, you only hear a certain kind of music. It's delicate. I don't want to be classified as a jazz singer. I try to incorporate other things, dancing, acting, I write my songs, I just want all that I am to be out there.

W. That's what we are trying to achieve at the COMEBACK INN, being natural in our approach.

We are working with so many different individuals who are very sensitive to the environment. We have chosen to work with artists who play music, rather than musicians who can execute a craft. This is a very stimulating, free environment where you don't feel the pressure of competition, you don't show off something for someone -- no, you don't.. all you have to do is be yourself and let the natural energy come thru, and it changes the audience and then they get off.

D. The Group and I, we've all gotten better. This experience at your place has motivated all the players. Now Joe, the drummer knows these chants from Africa, Spain, Brazil - all these little chants, and he wants to incorporate them. And Anthony, the guy that took Billy's place on piano, he was nervous but last Saturday it was perfect. On "My Funny Valentine", we really hooked up. Everybody wants to be themselves now and it's only because of the atmosphere. It's not like we have to play for money, we don't care, we know we're dealing with a lot of artists and we're having fun. If we were playing for money in a club, and the owner was always saying, do this or do that, and .. then we would look at it as a job, everybody looks at this as a wonderful experience - and they look forward to it.

W. There's no classification here as to what you have to play. A lot of jazz clubs want strictly jazz. That's why we're getting away from calling it jazz -- well, first of all, we are not really a club anyway, we're more of a workshop and showcase environment than anything.



The reason we call it fusion now because we like to incorporate all the music of all the people in the world. My belief is throughout history, the artist has always been more conscious, more aware, more progressive - to the point where he or she says, "wait a minute -- we have to look back to our roots, you know - we got to look back to where we are coming from - like you said, we've got to have some faith - in something, whether you call it God or not, because we know there is a force out there that is much higher than ourselves -- we have to employ that force and be more natural -- obey natural laws by proper eating and exercising your

minds and bodies -- by respecting ourselves, and other people for what they are, this makes for a healthy society, which I fear we are losing every day more and more.

D. I have to sit up and forget what's around me and just come in touch with myself, sometimes, just listen to what I have to say. It wasn't hard in Denver, but here in L.A. it's so easy to become absorbed in the materialistic competitive way of life. You don't have the escape of pure nature here, so you have to come within yourself - whatever way, you have to stay in tune with yourself.

W. I think the only way we can survive as a society is by opening up doors to other cultures, all over the world and say --wait a minute, we've got to come back to our senses, you know - we are put on this earth, not to kill each other and fight each other, but somehow find a way of communicating and cooperating and making this place liveable, because there are enough resources available for us all.

D. I agree very much with what you said about "the force".. I found out I have to do certain physical and mental things to make the spiritual things happen. When my mind is concentrating on what my body can do, I find this spiritual thing start to happen. I end up listening to myself and it's wonderful because I've found with this type of faith I can sing all night. I have this constant energy. I don't get tired at all.

W. See, that's how I feel. My concern is to use music as a healing force, because if any of the three fields, body, intellect or spirit is out of balance, then we have conflicts. But if an artist on stage has that balance and communicates it to the audience, they get thrilled, they get goose pimples and they get relieved. Because you take away all their problems, all the tensions just like a car is overheating and you stop it to cool off.

D. Right. I remember a psychology teacher told me that people go to sleep and no matter if they remember it or not, they always dream. Dreaming is the way God has given us to release tensions. And I realize that enacting different things in lyrics, projecting certain attitudes and feelings, people are able to say "well, I agree to that, I've been through that." And Tony, who writes lyrics for me, we'll pick certain situations that I've been in, and try to relate it to the audience so that everybody seems to hit home on these things and they feel this release. That way, when you go home at night, you might have wanted to holler at your husband, but you won't 'cause you feel relaxed and it's just a wonderful feeling. And I get help and release myself, every night I sing, and I just want to keep singing.

COMEBACK INN

PERFORMING SCHEDULE FOR JULY 1980
Saturday and Sunday Garden Concerts

SATURDAYS AT 2:00 P.M. -

SUNDAYS AT 2:00 P.M. -
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Diane Reeves

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