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# FREE VENICE SINCE 1968 BEACHHEAD

CHEE  
WAY-WAY  
**FREE**

MAY 1980

ISSUE # 125

P.O. BOX 504

VENICE, CALIFORNIA

90291

823-5092



Photo: Arnold Springer

## Demolition in Oakwood

# ADIOS HAMPTON COURT

By James Dawson

To the casual tourist Venice is a kaleidoscopic land of roller skates, street shows, slick shops, funky houses, and green canals. To those who fancy themselves artistic, Venice is a refuge where westerly winds and grey mornings mark the borderline between city and sea.

Venice has its attractions to the young, beautiful, and upwardly mobile hipsters, to the seniors on fixed incomes and to those who choose to live in old school buses. Venice is a tremendous new market to the landlord and a profitable target for the developer. Venice is also one of the last multi-racial lower income coastal neighborhoods north of the Mexican border.

A few blocks from the sea in the neighborhood known as Oakwood, there is a silent contest being waged over the future of Venice. The sides were chosen long ago: integrated low income living versus the inevitable result of development - white anglo condomania.

The story I will relate is not one of victory. It is, rather, one of subtle intimidation, neglect, and eventual defeat. The purpose in telling it is to add another experience to the wealth of local culture and to inspire more foresight and vigilance in protecting what is ours.

Early one evening on one of the first days of March while headed home from the sea, I came across my friend, Mr. Garcia, engaged in an argument with his next-door neighbor--the manager of the property. Mr. Garcia was also engaged in chopping down one of his two avocado trees. The trees, like Mr. Garcia, had been residents at Hampton Courts for the past 12 years.

The manager was having no luck in her attempts to prevent Mr. Garcia's machete from whacking the tree. "No!" he was saying rebelliously, "This is my tree. I planted it and I'm taking it with me. I'm leaving this place the way I found it!" As Mr. Garcia is a proud man--and prouder when insulted--the manager's pleadings were in vain.

CONTINUED TO P. 17

## OILY WARNING! SLIP SLIDING THE BAY

February 26, 1980

Cecil D. Andrus, Secretary of the Interior  
C Street between 18th and 19th, N. W., Rm 6151  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Secretary Andrus:

It is our understanding that the Department of Interior is now soliciting nominations for the sale of oil leases in the Santa Monica Bay. We understand the need to lessen this nation's dependence on foreign sources of energy, and support actions to achieve that goal, including the expanded development of domestic energy resources. We further understand that such development will require expanded drilling for oil off of our coasts. Nevertheless, we are deeply troubled by the possibility of oil drilling in the Santa Monica Bay, and believe that a number of reasons exist why such drilling would not be in the public interest.

Santa Monica Bay and its beaches are among the most scenic and heavily utilized recreational areas in the country. Last year alone, more than 56 million people visited these surrounding beaches in Los Angeles County. Contained in the call area is Marina del Rey, the world's largest man-made marina. The Santa Monica Mountains, which flank the beach area, have recently been designated as a national park. The local economy is heavily dependent on this tourist trade, and cities in the affected area would be seriously affected by any appreciable drop in such activity.

CONTINUED TO P. 18

"The urban renaissance, as it is commonly called, comes from a powerful new globalized economy whose waves are washing over national frontiers everywhere. It creates glittering skyscrapers, chic shops, costly condominiums--for some. For others, it is washing away hope for achieving the American dream."

--The Progressive, Jan 1979

Hampton Courts is (and possibly at the time of this printing, was) an old housing development on the corner of Hampton St. and Sunset Ave. The lot supported nine small one-bedroom houses, one two-story house, many Chicano and Latino families, and a community of feisty children. In my daily travels to and from the ocean and the Main St. bus stop, I came to know and call friends some of the people who lived in the weathered houses. We would talk about politics, jobs, homelands, and dreams in a rather eclectic mixture of bad Spanish (mine) and good English (theirs)

## CEMENTING THE SAND

How do you feel about the City building another 14 foot wide concrete bikepath on the sand in North Venice Beach? And how do you feel about the City also, in the same project, widening the existing bikepath by 8 ft? Well, that's what the City wants to do.

The project, if built, would involve creating a 36 ft concrete strip along North Venice Beach between Dudley and 18th Ave. Now 36 feet is certainly wide enough for a roadway, for cars. Regardless what you think about the necessity of another bike or skatepath, what do you think will happen after the bike-skating craze ends? Isn't this an ideal solution as far as the City's traffic engineers are concerned? They've often floated the idea of a major road to run along the beach. How about linking it up with Nielson Way? And how about linking it up in the south with Venice Blvd. so that all the Marina and Sea Colony people can get thru our community a little bit faster?

If you're intrigued, outraged, or just interested, plan to attend the hearing on the City's E.I.R. (Environmental Impact Report). The City doesn't want to write one, and that's what this hearing is about. It will be held by the Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Board of Commissioners, at 4 pm on Thursday, May 8 in the Meeting Room, 1325 City Hall East, 200 N Main St., downtown Los Angeles. The City wants a negative declaration issued on the E.I.R. You have to be present or write a letter in to the Board in order to appeal any decision they make.





# Letters



To the Beachhead:

In the interest of world peace I urge no boycott of the Olympic games. Boycotting the Olympics will in no way change the foreign policy of the U.S.S.R. and it will do irreparable harm.

Politics must not enter and destroy the age old tradition of the Olympics. In our nuclear age building understanding of other peoples is an absolute necessity as a bulwark against the out break of World War III. What better way to build respect and friendship than through sports.

President Carter's brinkmanship and vindictiveness is shocking and terrifying. Presidential ambitions can not be allowed to destroy the hard earned glory for our young men and women who have struggled over many years to qualify as Olympic champions.

Although our Administration has called for the boycott and our faithful Congress has supported the President, and some foreign governments (fully conscious of the U.S. power) have OKed the boycott, I feel it damages the image of my country in the eyes of the peoples of the world and appears clearly for what it really is - an effort to whip up war hysteria.

Sincerely,  
Betty Rottger

Dear Beachhead

Before Ocean Front merchants clean up the Venice beach as a local "service", they should first examine themselves and the clientele who are their financial mainstay. Doesn't a vagrant have as much "right" to sleep on the beach and remain undisturbed as a merchant who remains undisturbed because he closes off part of a public street to use as his restaurant's waiting room? Doesn't the local wino have as much "right" to publicly drink his wine as the affluent tourist who publiclly clutches his can of beer in a brown paper bag? And doesn't the local dog have as much "right" to be leashless as the awkward weekend roller-skater who screams obscenities as he trips over the dog's LEGAL six-foot leash?

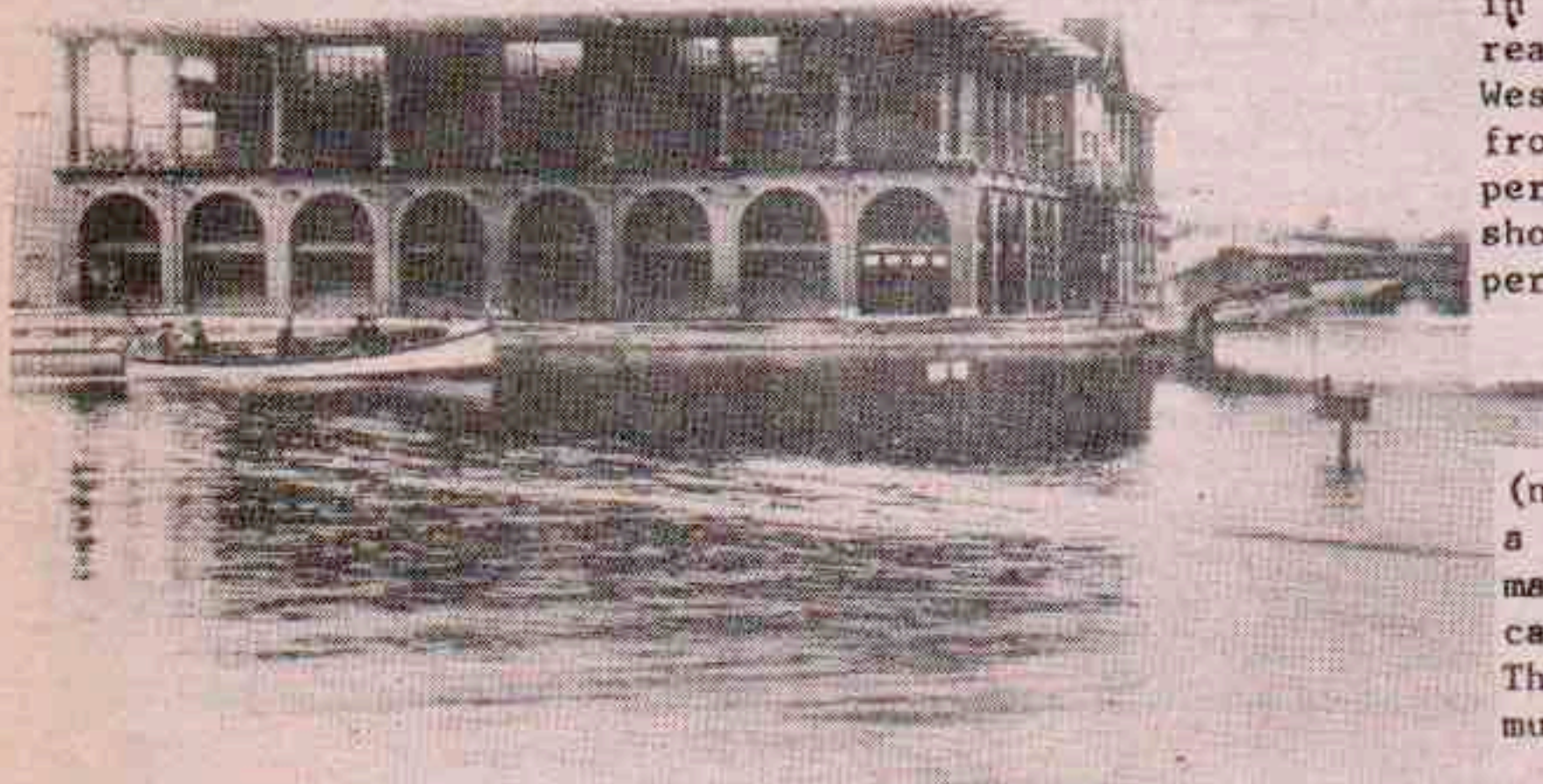
At the time that I lived, worked, and walked near the Pavilion area, I had no reason to complain about the winos, vagrants and residents who hung out there. As a single woman, I got hassled a little bit, but that happens in Hollywood, Westwood or the Valley, and I took it in stride. So I find it somewhat surprising that police and local merchants have seen fit to "clean up" this area only after a profit-hungry restaurateur has created his own trouble-spot by remaining open 24 hours.

I agree that crimes should be prevented. But when the majority of the Venice Police Department is on the beach chasing winos, vagrants and dogs at the request of an elitist organization (with \$100 dues), instead of being free to respond to violent crimes in the surrounding vicinity, I feel that priorities are sadly lacking. And let's face it, when all of the winos, vagrants, dogs, artists, poets, writers, low-income, elderly, middle-income and freedom-loving people of Venice are "cleaned up", how can VOGUE MAGAZINE write about our Ambiance?

Connie Ellig

P.S. I am glad that the Beachhead is finally concerning itself about this issue while our Town Council is vacationing in Teheran.

**NEGATIVES - STATS  
HALFTONES - PMT'S  
WHILE-U-WAIT  
826-5305**



The pollution of our beautiful blue-green Pacific Ocean by all that nasty stuff we put down our sinks and toilets is a sign that our "out-of-sight, out-of-mind" handling of our environment wastes is a way that does not work. The fact that it takes a catastrophe to make us aware of this fact is a sad statement about the prevailing consciousness, that allows "educated experts" to utterly ignore the simple ecological laws that pervade nature, and to "dump it or hold it" somewhere quietly "out-of-sight" and hopefully "out-of-the-newspapers". The stuff does not go away, folks.

Do you suppose the chlorine they treat our wastes with is good for the plankton, the little critters at the base of the ocean's food chain? How about changing the water temperature with those heated effluents, do you suppose that is going to effect the sensitive biological organisms that inhabit our coastal waters?

The solution is right under our noses, Nature RECYCLES everything. Put these wastes in bio-mass generators. The result? Methane gas, that can be converted into propane, which can heat our homes and run our cars (yes, run your car!), and given enough time for the decomposition process to take place, high-nitrogen fertilizer for our farms (saving the oil that it takes to make those synthetic fertilizers).

For the money we are now spending to treat these wastes by aeration and chlorination, we could be well on our way to beginning an ecologically sound treatment plant that would yield beneficial results for our community and not harm our environment.

George Boyd  
Venice

## Venice Town Council

City of Venice



WEDNESDAY MAY 21, 1980 -- 7:30 PM  
Venice City Hall -- 681 N. Venice Blvd.

### AGENDA:

- 1- Announcements
- 2- Abortion Rights Coalition
- 3- Glen Small/Plans for Green Machine
- 4- Skating problems/Alternative solutions
- 5- Should the VTC focus on national and international problems?
- 6- Committee reports: Coastal committee, Community Development Reform committee, Tehran committee, VTC against Prop 9 & 10 Committee.

*Everyone from the community  
is always welcome*

**CORRECTION:** In the March issue, the article "Kings, Queens & Khomeinis" was mistakenly attributed to Carol Berman. Another case of the OOPS, we're sorry to report. The article was, in fact, written by Carol Fondiller. Our heartfelt apologies, Carol (Fondiller, that is), in sooth.

Dear Beachhead:

I received this in the mail and thought you and the rest of the people in Venice might be interested. There is really nothing to do about the prigs of Westwood (I have recently moved here from Venice) and Brentwood except to perhaps use subtle tactics such as shooting them in the knees. But, then, perhaps we should pity the unenlightened.

Regards,

An old friend.

(note) The photo on the left was part of a solicitation by Fred Sands Realtors mailed to Brentwood "neighbors". The caption under the photo says: "1913, The Venice Bath House - Unquestionably, a much needed facility in Venice..."

# WORD GAMES

(Answering the question  
as called by Bob Wells)

by Arnold Hansen

Have you ever seen a would-be magician try to pull a rabbit out of the hat, but instead produce a turkey? Well, if you read Bob Wells' article "Calling the Question" in the April Beachhead, then you observed the bird in all its glory.

In case you missed it, Bob's article attempted to prove that we in Venice have no more important or urgent a calling these days than of condemning U.S. imperialism and supporting the Iranians.

I disagree. I'm all for condemning imperialism and oppression, but I happen to think that we've got an adequate share of both right here in Venice. Maybe I'm provincial, but I honestly care less about CIA bribery than I do about the money changing hands down at the coastal commission. I find it truly regrettable that while rents in Venice continue to rise and long term residents continue to be displaced by chic hot-tubbers from the hinterlands, the Venice Town Council spends its time, its energies, and what little credibility it has left debating U.S. foreign policy, in the process alienating, rather than uniting, a great many people in this town.

Each day the Marina comes closer. Maybe this development is inevitable, maybe it is not. That all depends on what is done about it. Unless the Town Council addresses itself to this problem and no other, unless it dedicates itself to saving Venice instead of the universe, it will sooner or later find itself discussing world affairs in Bell Gardens or Paccima. But no matter, for if those future discussions exhibit the same logic and quality of thought as that of Bob's article, then perhaps it will be just as well.

Regardless the issue--dog shit on the beach, bikers vs. skaters, rent control, property rights, tenants' rights, police brutality, the preservation of Venice, the draft, or the evils of U.S. foreign policy--if the issue can't be presented clearly and factually, then it ought not be presented at all. Continued to page 8

## FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

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

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.



# SHORT SHOTS

by Moe Stavnezer

## THAR'S OIL IN THAT THAR BAY!

Some months ago, an article in the *Beachhead* revealed a sneaky plan to drill for oil in the Santa Monica Bay from the oil rig in Venice (opposite the Sidewalk Cafe). That, it now appears, was just the tip of the iceberg as oil companies and the Dept. of Interior are now considering leasing much of the bottom the Bay to any of 10 oil companies.

This revelation has brought howls of opposition from some unlikely quarters including Congressman Robert Dornan. The possibility of oil drilling in waters used almost exclusively for recreation has also produced a coalition of Bay area local governments to oppose the scheme. There is also a group of homeowners and some environmental groups joining the fray.

We'll have more info later but for now you can write Pat Russell (L.A. City Hall, L.A. 90012) and voice your opposition to oil drilling in the Bay.

## MORE DIRT FROM THE SEA

The L.A. Harbor is in the final stages of getting approval for a massive dredging project that will deepen part of the harbor channel by 10 feet. In its great wisdom the City of L.A. has asked for special legislation that would exempt the dredging operation from compliance with



state financing this monster please write Berman at the Sate Capitol, Sacramento, Ca. 95814.

## WHO THE HELL IS MARZ GARCIA?

A State Senator from Menlo Park, Mr. Garcia has introduced a bill that would destroy the ability of the Coastal Commission to provide housing for low and moderate income people. Bills similar to this have already been killed in the Assembly but this one is alive and well in the Senate. One Senator, Roberti, made a very unusual appearance before the committee that passed this bill and voiced strong opposition. But the bill passed anyway.

The next step is before the full Senate where there is little chance of stopping the bill though it would be a good idea to voice your opposition both to Roberti and Sen. Sieroty.

The next step is the Assembly where we have a good chance to kill the thing. Please write Senators Roberti, Sieroty & Watson at the State Capitol, Sacramento, Ca. 95814.

## TAX BIG OIL: A PIG IN OUR PEN

Proposition 11 will impose a 10% tax on oil company profits. The monies that come to the state treasury as a result will be spent on mass transit.

The "Tax Big Oil" folks have a great gimmick. A postcard showing some pigs at the trough and TAX BIG OIL underneath the picture. The idea is to get lots of people to sign the postcard and then to send it to the head of the Exxon Corp., the world's largest oil company.

The Tax Big Oil folks are out and about so find a postcard and mail away.. And don't forget to vote Yes on Prop. 11.

•••••

air quality standards. This would result in dumping 5,000 lbs. a day of nitrogen oxide into the coastal air, 20% more than would have been produced by the much maligned SOHIO oil terminal. The dredging operation will take 30 months.

Assemblyman Mel Levine is taking a lead position in dealing with this exemption attempt in the state legislature. This blatantly special interest attempt to pour 4,500,000 pounds of pollutants into our air must be prevented.

If you oppose this special, and dangerous exemption from the air quality standards please write Mel Levine at the State Capitol, Sacramento, Ca. 95814.

## WATER WATER EVERYWHERE AND BARELY A DROP IN YOUR SINK!

The Peripheral Canal is the latest in a long line of water projects put forward to supposedly provide water for Southern California, mainly L.A., needs. This project was orinally to cost \$7 billion will now cost the taxpayers \$23 Billion (thats \$1,000 for every person in California!)

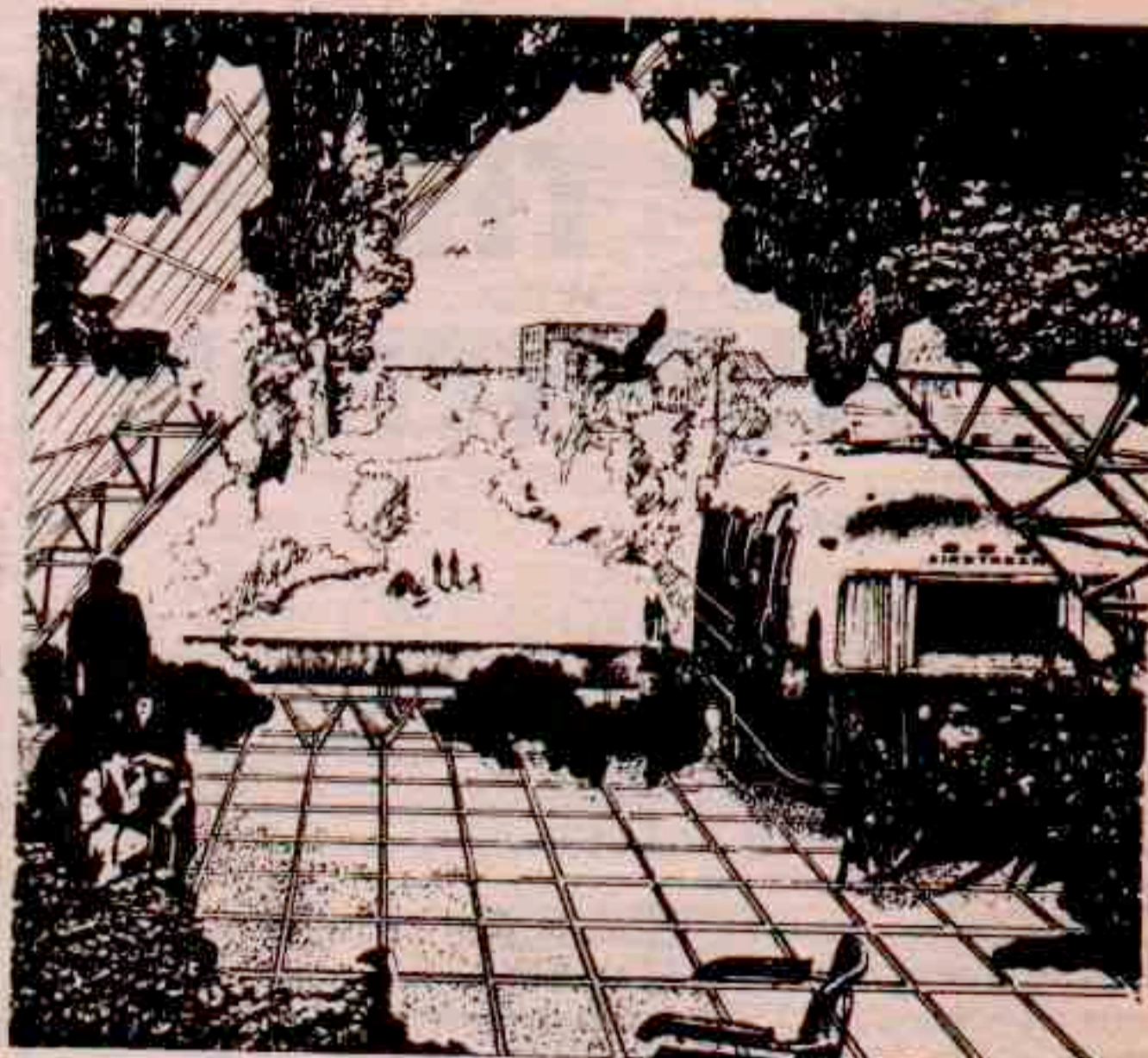
This particular project would destroy the Sacramento River delta and leave the entire Bay area smelling like a sump. And all really for the major land owners between Sacramento and Los Angeles.

According to an excellent article in the *L.A. Reader* (April 11) the major land-owners and farming interests include the *L.A. Times* which owns about 30% of the 270,000 acre Tejon Ranch which this project would supply with water. The *Times* is a strong backer of the Peripheral Canal, in its editorial and news articles. According to many, the Peripheral Canal is not needed and will continue to cost taxpayers millions of dollars to run and will benefit and subsidize the development and ranching needs of the Tejon Ranch.

Assemblyman Howard Berman appears to be leading the opposition to the Canal in the legislature. If you oppose the

## YOU DECIDE: HOW GREEN IS THE MACHINE?

3



By Glen Small

If you are in a low income category and interested in comfortable compact spaces, manufactured portable housing, preservation of open spaces, energy conservation, high tech construction, recycling or being a part of an experimental vertical housing project of national interest, then on Saturday, May 31st or Sunday, June 1st visit any time from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for a user survey at the proposed site of the Green Machine.

The proposed site is on the median strip between North and South Venice Boulevard at Venice Way. Applications will not be taken, but a study of interested applicants will take place. A full size mock-up of a living space with trailer in the Green Machine and working models that the potential user can interact with will be on display.

The Green Machine is a projected low income housing project owned and operated by the City of Los Angeles. Questions are to be directed to the Architect, Glen Small, at 822-0024.

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## BEATS AT THE FOX

By J.D. Bacharach

*The Beats: An Existential Comedy* by Venice poet and filmmaker Philomene Long will have its premiere showing at the Fox Venice on Monday May 26 as part of the theater's evening of Beat Generation Films.

The work was first conceived some three years ago as a tribute to Stuart Z Perkoff whose poetic vision spanned the fifteen years between the heyday of the Venice West/Gas House scenes and his death in 1974. From filmed encounters with friends and fellow poets Aya, Frank Rios and Jack Hirschman, the project has grown to span the country from Venice to San Francisco's North Beach and New York's Greenwich Village and to draw upon the memories and imaginations of filmmaker Shirley Clarke, super-star Viva and poets Lawrence Ferlinghetti and Allen Ginsberg. The jazz score of the film was composed and performed by SiPerkoff for an album entitled *Poets Journey*.

In form, the film is not so much a historical documentary of the period as a recreation of the Spirit of the times through the verbal magic of its cast of characters - a style of Life and Art which liberated a part of these States from the paranoia and rigidity of the McCarthy Era.

The beat of the film moves back and forth in time between 1958 and the present and what emerges is a cinematic poem celebrating eight Free Spirits who are linked by their dedication

to their Art and an unflinching non-conformity tempered by laughter. They are the "Holy Fools", the Poets, Saints and Mad Ones of this Existential Comedy.

Like its subject, the film has endured the vicissitudes of life in Modern Times - the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune (including Prop 13 devastation and soaring film stock prices due to silver speculation). It was once evacuated in the face of fire and later missed being swept away in last winter's Topanga Flood.

The filmmaker and her partner-producer Jay Kugelman came to *The Beats* following a series of short films and long radio productions (the week-long *Alexandria Quartet* and *Mythathon*) broadcast on KPFC in 1976 and 1977. Their work combines a love for the spoken and written word with a poet's eye and a musician's ear. Philomene has published a collection of poetry (available at local bookstores) entitled *The Dream Awakening* while Jay has produced Oscar Wilde's *Salome* and Thomas Mann's *Short Stories* for Pacifica Radio. They also teamed in a co-production of J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye* which was performed for KPFC two years ago.

*The Beats: An Existential Comedy* will be screening with *Pull My Daisy* at about 8 p.m.





# Peace and Freedom:

## AT THE CONVENTION

by Rick Davidson

Moving into the 80s, the 1960s seem a long time ago. Nostalgically I remember 1967 and the strange coalition of activists ranging from drop-out democrats, to social drop-outs, to students, to radicals, to minorities, to revolutionaries, to \_\_\_\_\_, who came together to create the Peace & Freedom Party, an electoral party envisioned as one arm of a larger Peace & Freedom Movement: Peace in Vietnam and Freedom for oppressed people at home!

Of course the sad reality was that neither Peace nor Freedom came with the mere creation of a "legal" alternative third party in California. It was a given, although not realized by every one, that with the "legal" requirements of an electoral party, the Movement would have to divide its work, i.e., some continuing the thankless job of maintaining a legal ballot status - others continuing the mass struggle on the campuses, at the workplace, in communities, and in the streets. This division of labor was not consciously arrived at, in fact, it was often accomplished amid hostility with one group thinking that their work was the most important and everyone should be involved in it.

New to politics in the 1960s, my naivete led me to expect the Movement to take advantage of this third party that we had worked so hard to create. Use it, not with the idealistic dream of electing our person to sit in the White House, but use the platform it offered to talk about issues the democrats and republicans were glossing over with their Madison Avenue campaigns. Occasionally this did happen: Cleaver use his campaign to help Huey Newton (then in jail) and the Black Panther Party which was under heavy attack a few Vietnam Veterans ran in local races Marge Buckley gained a lot of attention in her Attorney General race; and a few other races were used to good advantage. Yet considering the respect the average American still gives to the election process I feel the Movement has been amiss in its use of this arm of its own forces.

All sorts of reasons are given by activists - even alternative third party politics. When one is involved in a life and death struggle (that's what it was in the 60s and that's what it is going into the 80s) it seems absurd not to use every tool one has at their disposal. It is in this light that this year's Peace & Freedom primary is significant. The party has opened its primary to other parties and groups on the left who wish to participate. There's been a good response and at our last statewide meeting in San Luis Obispo (March 29/30) the various candidates for president or their representatives came to talk about the issues, the platform and how they saw the campaign.

(Continued on page 19)

## GRISWOLD



Worker's World Party Candidate for President of the United States, 1980

by ROBT. WELLS

The Peace & Freedom Party is not a "left" party in the Leninist sense -- a political organization built around a revolutionary ideology -- rather it's an asset, a resource, a tool, for the entire Left: a place on the California ballot won in the 60's movement against the Vietnam War and for Black liberation.

I thought it was good, then, when PFP opened its June 1980 primary to the presidential candidates of all other Left parties who did not disagree with its basic platform and its definition of itself as "socialist."

Nevertheless, I went to San Luis Obispo in March, to the meeting of the Peace & Freedom State Central Committee, prejudiced against having any "outside" party come in and "take over" or "take advantage" of Peace & Freedom.

I came home supporting the candidates of a Marxist party I had never consciously heard of until San Luis Obispo, the Workers World Party. I support them because they are a revolutionary socialist party, and I feel that at this time in our country's experience the PFP statewide campaign should be putting forward the message of revolutionary socialism; I support them because their positions on the issues and their past actions to back their positions up are uniformly the best of the lot in the Peace & Freedom primary.

The Workers World presidential candidate is Deirdre Griswold, 43, a white woman from Hoboken, N.J., editor of her party's newspaper "Workers World." Her Vice-Presidential running mate is Larry Holmes, 27, a Black Vietnam veteran from New York City.

Griswold was one of the founders of her party when it split from the Socialist Workers Party in 1959. In the early sixties she was active in New York in support of the Cuban revolution, and in the South in support of Black self-defense against racist terrorism. In '62 she helped organize some of the earliest demonstrations against the Vietnam War. In 1965 she went to Europe to open up contacts with the South Vietnam National Liberation Front; two years later she was

## HOLMES



Worker's World Party Candidate for Vice-President of the United States, 1980

invited to work with Bertrand Russell and others in London to prepare the International War Crimes Tribunal which took place in Stockholm. In the late sixties she did extensive research and writing on the U.S. role in the bloodbath in Indonesia. In 1978 she went twice to Ethiopia as a correspondent for her paper, reporting on the war and revolution in that country firsthand.

Larry Holmes grew up in East Harlem. He got his political baptism when he was drafted into the Army during the Vietnam War. He immediately joined the American Servicemen's Union and became an anti-war, anti-racist, anti-brass organizer within the military, and was eventually booted out of the Army. As a national organizer for the ASU he fought for jobs and decent benefits for Vietnam-era vets. In 1974 Holmes was a full-time organizer of the Emergency Committee for a National Mobilization Against Racism, which led a march of 25,000 opposing the violence against Black schoolchildren in Boston. He later went on to organize in support of affirmative action and against the Bakke and Weber cases.

Griswold and Holmes expect to be on the ballot in about 30 states. The first plank in their party's platform is "NO DRAFT, NO WAR -- money for jobs, hospitals, schools, not the Pentagon." In response to the manufactured crisis in Iran and the phony war fever they have already organized a National Anti-Draft Network, based on principled class-conscious solidarity with the people's liberation movements that an imperialist draft would be directed against, including those in Iran and Puerto Rico.

At the March meeting the Peace & Freedom Central Committee voted a resolution to "advocate draft resistance" -- this is quite different from draft counseling, and could put the PFP in direct, felony confrontation with the government if put into effect after the draft is started again.

Holmes agreed with this position, saying the WWP not only advocates draft resistance ("don't register, don't go"), but, as during the Vietnam War, organizes resistance within the military, to where servicemen would vote out their officers, vote not to fight.

(Continued on page 19)



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# an Open Primary

## HALL

## DAVIS



Communist Party Candidate for President of the United States, 1980

The Hall-Davis Campaign Committee of California appreciates the opportunity to have an article in the Beachhead Newspaper concerning our candidates Gus Hall and Angela Davis' participation in the Peace and Freedom Party Primary election.

Our participation in the Primary is based on our firm belief in the need for political independence from the monopoly controlled Democratic and Republican parties. We welcome a contested primary as an important vehicle for placing our program before a progressive electorate as well as expanding the discussion about the need for developing a national anti-monopoly political and electoral party which is based on labor, racially oppressed people and all other anti-monopoly forces.

In our effort to win the Peace and Freedom Party nomination, we have at no time attacked the credibility of any of the other candidates participating in the P & F Primary. We ask of all P & F registrants only that they give our program and strategy a fair hearing and decide their vote based on the merit of the program advanced.

We are disturbed, therefore, that Robert Wells, a supporter of the Workers World candidates, finds it necessary and advantageous to attack the Communist Party candidates, Gus Hall and Angela Davis.

There are incorrect and distorted statements in Robert Wells' article (which also appears in this issue of the Beachhead) that we feel we must respond to.

The Communist Party has always forthrightly opposed all U.S. imperialist wars of aggression, including the First World War, Korea and Vietnam. Communists often stood alone in their opposition to the Korean War. Fortunately, that was not necessary during the massive people's movement against the war in Vietnam. Communists participated at all levels and in every capacity during the anti-Vietnam War movement. Our approach at all times during that struggle was to expand the base of opposition to the Vietnam War and to increase anti-imperialist consciousness in the country.

Many of our members refused induction into the army during the Vietnam War.



Communist Party Candidate for Vice-President of the United States, 1980

Mark Allen, People's World reporter and Co-Chair of the Hall-Davis Campaign Committee of California, was brought to trial for refusing induction. His defense was based on his refusal to participate in an illegal, immoral, racist, imperialist war. He was acquitted of all charges. J.J. Johnson, present editor of the Daily World Magazine, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, was one of the first U.S. soldiers to refuse to go to Vietnam. He together with two other soldiers, Dennis Mora and David Somas, became known as the Fort Hood 3. They were court-martialed for refusing orders and spent 3 years in Leavenworth Prison.

Our candidates, Gus Hall and Angela Davis, were not only leading opponents of the war in Vietnam, but today are major spokespeople against the present war danger emanating from the mad men in Washington.

We would also like to take this opportunity to present to readers of the Beachhead our approach to the 1980 elections.

Our country is faced with a crisis on every front - economic, social and political: tens of thousands of jobs lost because of plant closures and layoffs in California alone, skyrocketing prices for food, housing, health care, tuition, childcare, clothing. The Klan and Nazis are marching openly in our streets, police violence and murder in black and chicano communities is out of control. Unsafe nuclear power plants and chemical and industrial waste are poisoning our environment and threatening our lives. And now the mad men in Washington are bringing us frighteningly close to the brink of World War III.

While the people of our country suffer the devastating effects of this

crisis, the huge monopoly corporations are reaping obscene profits.

More and more people are fed up with the no-choice presented to them in national elections. Confronted with a choice between Reagan, Bush, Carter or Kennedy, a growing section of the people (maybe even the majority) would prefer "none of the above".

We believe the 1980 elections allow an opportunity for the Peace and Freedom Party to emerge as an important organized part of this national trend towards political independence. A clear and viable alternative program presented by the Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates of the Peace and Freedom Party can serve as an invaluable vehicle for large numbers of California voters to place their mark for political independence from the policies of the two monopoly controlled parties.

We believe an effective alternative program must speak to the needs and interest of the majority of working people in our State. It must address the special racist edge of this crisis on the Black, Chicano, Latino, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native American peoples. It must call for real unity of all our people suffering from monopoly's grip.

Central to the program of the Communist Party and our candidates Hall and Davis are concrete proposals to curb the power and profits of the monopolies. We propose a \$100 billion cut in the military budget, a roll back of prices by 25%, an end to all tax writeoffs and loopholes granted to the rich, and the taking of \$100 billion from the "windfall" profits of the big corporations. Our program demands no registration, no draft, no war, no plant closures. We believe racism and sexism are assaults on the dignity of all people, men and women, and these assaults result in super profits for the monopolies and should be outlawed. We are opposed to all laws and attitudes that discriminate against Gay people and support movements and struggles which seek to eliminate that discrimination. We are for a foreign policy based on peace, friendship and solidarity with all peoples fighting for their liberation. We are for Detente and passage of Salt II and are opposed to the boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics. We call for the nationalization of the energy industry to be run by representative people's committees and the closing of all nuclear power plants until such time as these people's committees can guarantee absolute safety.

Our program is based on one simple principal, People before Profits.

We believe that the direction we are proposing will strengthen and broaden the effectiveness of the Peace and Freedom Party as an instrument of struggle for peace, against foreign intervention, for full economic, social and political progress for all people. A vote cast June 3rd for Gus Hall and Angela Davis is a vote for this direction. ■

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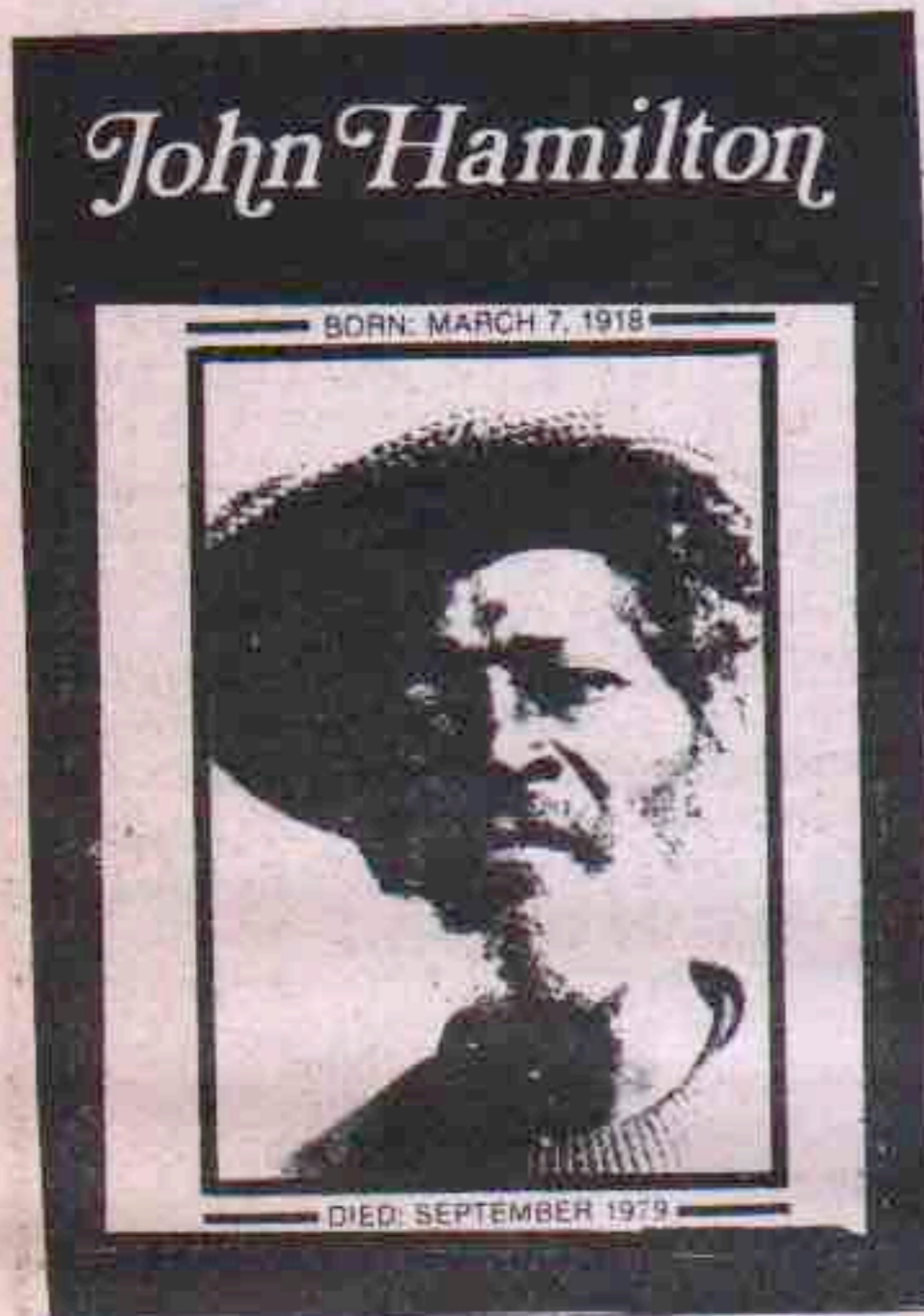


# Epitaphs For A Survivor

## The Windward Avenue Sketches

Part II  
by  
John Hunt

John Hamilton was a long-time resident of Windward Avenue and an intimate observer of life on that changing street. The following is the second part of a tape-recorded "architectural memoir" he did with the author, John Hunt.



WINDWARD APARTMENTS, N.W. Corner  
Windward & Pacific Avenues.

John Hunt: What's the story of that building?

John Hamilton: Oh, bad news. Right through that door as you walk directly down the hall there's a room and there was a guy, 71 years old, Joseph De Loche, he got all his checks on one of those four day holidays and a couple of guys got in with him and they were running around here trying to cash the damn checks and no one would cash them. Irma here at the liquor store wouldn't cash them and, they finally did get the checks cashed, but the checks were signed in three different signatures, that is, three different writings, two different pens and Joe De Loche died before the checks were cashed. Old guy, nice guy, nothing important about him except he was 72 years and \$466 worth of checks. What they done was kept him on wine and kept him on wine and he died of alcoholism while they were keeping him propped up for the cashing of the check. They overdid it. They had him in custody really, he was a prisoner.

Hunt: Who owns that place, do you know?

Hamilton: I think it's under Abbott Associates. The way they do it, they change the ownership every time they run up a big bill or come to a lawsuit, they change the ownership. It's Abbott Associates this time, it's actually owned by Priscilla Loring and her son Robert Abbott. You ought to see the back of that building. The windows will never close back there because the windows ain't there... if you go around the backside you'll see even worse than that. The building's falling into the street... Now she has welfare tenants. Welfare tenants can't complain and the money's good and when they die and speaking of dying, when they die, he sends in the notice at the end of the month, they die on the first, why they didn't die, not until the 30th, then she notifies the Welfare they're dead, after she gets and cashes the check.

Hunt: How long has she owned this place?

Hamilton: About 15 mean years. You see

stairs that's supposed to be a fire escape, it's locked now, you can't get in and you can't get out. It's kinda come loose at the hinges, too. At the bottom of those stairs two men were found dead on separate occasions. One was a barber from across the street. He got up there and he got stoned and somebody beat him on the head with a bottle and he came to the bottom of the stairs with glass in his ears and a fractured skull and dead. And there was another one came to the same end. Small guy. I had an idea who did it but ideas don't pay off.

Hunt: While you're down on level-right behind that sign that says Windward Avenue and this doorway there used to be a bar called the Pub and it was a hellish bar, too. A great hellish bar. One day this guy, the bartender, and his old lady got into it and she had priors (prior convictions), but I'll tell you what she tried to do. She horsed him into an argument and she went to the back of the room towards the can and she pulled out a gun and fired one round but he had known her priors so he had a gun and he put three in her. She shot him in the balls and he put three in her. He made it. One ball less but he made it. She'd done the same thing in Texas - horsed a guy into an argument and them blasted away. In the company of witnesses. Well, in this case, too late, for her. He was already ahead of the game and he got her. Of course the guy's walking around light on one side. But she was dead dead. She left here dead. Curious town, very curious town... Let's take a walk. Every step in this town is a damn shame.

Hunt: When was that?

Hamilton: Oh, about six-four, one-nine-six-four, and where that drain is up there, that's where Lalla P. Karres, came off the roof, right down here to the edge of the

curb where that trash is in the gutter. She ended up right here in the god damned gutter! Lalla P. Karres, the daughter of a revolutionary from Russia, her sister was a judge in South Bend, Indiana. She was just a fuck up but she was alleged to have jumped off the roof. She didn't. She couldn't get that high. She had a broken hip. She couldn't get over that railing under any circumstances and she certainly did not come through the side to get this far out. Somebody threw her off the roof. That's a great passion here in Venice, throw 'em off the roof, get 'em up on deck and throw them off the roof and if anybody asks you anything why "she jumped, I asked her not to."

Now let's get back on the roof, we got another one. Some hype was up there, a big fat tub of a girl and she o.d.'ed up on the roof and the only way they could get her off the roof they had to call the whole damn Fire Department to throw the hook and ladder up there and bring her down in a stretcher and park here in the alley, bring her down in a stretcher cage and get her to the hospital. She didn't make it.



TOWNHOUSE BAR, 52 Windward Avenue

...I don't think you really want to know this... That's Petey Owens, many missions, many missions in "Q" (San Quentin), and they had a shoot-out at the Townhouse when his brother got hit, he got hit pretty good, too! The bullet entered here and instead of penetrating his brain it rambled around the brain pan. He's got a permanent headache. That's another story.

SECURITY PACIFIC BANK, 121 Windward & Ace Gallery, on the Windward Circle (formerly Bank of America)

Hamilton: I got to tell you about the holdup. There was this junkie, he held up the bank one morning, he knocked over that one the second morning, the fourth morning he knocked over this one again, and the fifth morning he knocked over that one again. He was shooting \$100 a day so he'd come in, hold up the place... The people told me the FBI was sitting here, two cars, one here and one there waiting for the guy. Somebody said he walked over here and he went down Horizon. Well, Horizon is only two



blocks long. I said, well, if that son of a bitch went on Horizon he lives right there - and we were on Market Street and I pointed to the building. The guy must come here, the street ends, and if he's walking, it's all over. It was beautiful... He knocked over this one twice, he got the B of A once, the holdup man... It was beautiful... It was beautiful...

MOBIL OIL WELL, 1 Market Street

Hamilton: That was a real put on. It took six years to get that thing squared away but Standard and Mobil went around signing up every landholder in Venice for the rights to the oil underneath their property. This is not one of those covered properties where you don't get the mineral rights. The landholders here still had their mineral rights and they went around from here to Lincoln Boulevard buying up mining claims or undersurface mineral claims. They did, and then while they were mapping this area, Standard came up short and Mobil went long on their bids. Now Mobil's bid consisted of that they put that oil well there and part of the royalties from the oil well would go into this recreational area, or most of it would go into this recreational area. That's why we have all these new structures on that oil well. That oil well which looks like it's going straight down, isn't. They have a slant drilling device where they can go down almost a mile under the ocean. That's what they're doing now, they're putting in another slant well. They have about eight now. The first problem we had with the blessed oil well, they were also pulling in natural gas and the natural gas was blowing in the wind and people were calling the gas company saying there's a gas leak in my neighborhood. And with this prevailing offshore wind that meant all the way from here to Washington Boulevard, the smell of gas and it was dangerous. They finally forced Mobil to capture that leaking natural gas that was part of their pickup- and put it in tanks and haul it away. Another thing about that oil well was one death related to that structure, but that's another story. And that's at the end of Market Street.





JOHN HAMILTON'S HOUSE

**Hamilton:** Here's the script. I must not take drugs, the drugs have a hook on you. I was 70 days in a brand new VA hospital and all I had to drink was half and half, milk, water, pheno-barbital and codeine to make me sleep. When I was leaving the VA hospital at the end of 70 days I had my truck out there, they offered me a 6 months supply of codeine, opium paregoric, the whole bit. I could keep it up till I fell over. I didn't fall over, I cut it cold turkey.

**Hunt:** How long have you been drinking?

**Hamilton:** I had to go into \_\_\_\_\_ in 1950 because I refused to take drugs and aspirin dummies me up for two days. Two beers, I'm dummied up for two days.... I can't stand up on my toes.... would you believe a one arm officer? Would you believe that? Could you cop that? I get semi-paralyzed according to the time of day and sometimes the time of day.... one arm and one leg but I did it. I was flight commander, I had 20 planes in the air, 10 planes on the ground, I can't lose anybody. That's important.

**Hunt:** What did you do in the way?

**Hamilton:** I got six stitches in my ass. I was in the Quartermaster Detachment at that time, the 838, it was spread out all over the world and it was number uno....

Now, we've been out an hour, so turn five degrees to the north. Anything that goes north, take it, and we'll go there. We did and we got back to the base and this silly second lou, he said, "How come you know all this?" I said, in the dark you have to go by the stars and the stars will change 5 degrees against you per hour and you will have to do it.

**Hunt:** How do you know all that?

**Hamilton:** How do I know, God gave me quite a good grace. Each time fortune hits me..... "I, sha'allah" God is in his heaven. I'm a flyboy. I didn't die and I didn't lose anybody. That's the important thing. If you lose somebody then you have a guilt. You're not very good for the next flight. I didn't lose anybody. I was a first pilot. I dragged two instructors, one out of a plane and one I took him in the 68 journey, he didn't like that. He wasn't worth shit when I pulled a 60 split ass on him. I was first pilot on that flight. He was supposed to be checking me out but he threw us into the wrong spin, it's a redline spin and upside down spin. in a Stearman. I bugged him, I pushed my button and said this is one helluva spin you got us through. We were only up at 3500 feet and I racked it and I racked it and we ended up 100 feet off the deck and we had smoke pots going out on the field and I said do you want me to follow the pattern or do you just want to get in. He said, he weighed 260 and I weighed 160 and I put her down.

**Hunt:** Did you see combat?

**Hamilton:** Didn't have to, they wouldn't let me go. They give me 20 chuck companies at a time. I was a training sergeant. I was big man. Just lik Black Dick Pershing.

**Hunt:** How long you been out here on Windward Avenue?

**Hamilton:** Since 1960

**Hunt:** How did you get to Venice?

**Hamilton:** I'm standing here and I knew she was selling it and some small quiet person with brown hair said.... I said I would have to leave for L.A. and she said, "Don't go to L.A., go to Venice." I said where in the great mary hell is Venice? Well, she told me to go and you get on the Washington Street bus and when you get to the end of the line, that's Venice. I did it. It worked. It was beautiful.

**Hunt:** Do you think it's going to be a good year?

**Hamilton:** I don't know, the birds didn't sing this morning as they should have. If you want to know about Venice, you need two backpackers and three cameras. I read pretty good. The backpackers are for the batteries and the spares.

**Hunt:** What do you think about taping this stuff?

**Hamilton:** Someone has to know. I don't want to go to my grave knowing that someone does not know. I don't want the dust to go unremarked and I don't want it unremarked that there were not some pretty people here as well. They grew up

and I was here. I was playing the drum in there for the white human race. The Darwin on the white human race. Darwin endeavored himself upon the etymology and the entymology and where we came from, and me, black like I am, I got an inside start. They didn't know I was observing carefully biological specimens. They just happened to be white. It worked out all right, it worked out beautifully, so I have my white biologicals. There are more ways to conduct investigations than with a badge or a white coat.

**Hunt:** So you consider yourself a doctor then, in a way?

**Hamilton:** No.

**Hunt:** Historian?

**Hamilton:** Historian, yes.

**Hunt:** How about a novelist, they tell a story the way you do.

**Hamilton:** Yeah, but they don't see it. I've lived it. I'm not sorry, I'm not glad, but if you read it correctly, if you do it as it should be done, you have been a friend, or in some cases a foe, but this is the actual actual.... How can you back off from that? Remember, I'm an airplane driver... You don't back off from something because you don't like it. No! You get with it! In the Air Force we have a procedure and a procedure takes place. You go through the procedure and if the procedure don't work, you're free to do what the fuck you can to stay alive.... and then, give us the word on how you stayed alive.

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Elizabeth Freeman, Susan Sullivan and Marilyn Emerzian helped prepare this remembrance.

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That the proposal to make Venice the sister-city of Tehran was divisive is beyond question. It behooves its maker, therefore, to prove that the proposal, in spite of its inflammatory nature, is an important local issue requiring our attention.

The issue is local, we are informed, because it has to do with the draft. "...Does Iran have anything to do with the draft? If it were not for the hostage crisis in Tehran, the President would not have talked, as he has, about possibly invading Iran. If the President had not moved up ships, planes, and Marines as if he might invade, there would be no Soviet troops in Afghanistan. If there were no Soviet troops in Afghanistan, the President would not be reinstating the draft...."

Now I don't know how anyone else reads this, but to me it says matter-of-factly that it is Carter's fault that the Russians are in Afghanistan. That it was his belligerence that caused them to take the purely defensive step of invading that country, then stomping on and shooting its people. At the risk of being called a fan of Jimmy Carter and an apologist for U.S. imperialism, I'll say only that if you swallowed that one, you'll swallow anything.

Having thus "proved" that the sister-city proposal embodies an important local issue, Bob proceeds to address the sticky business of the hostages.

"...Without changing the facts in Iran at all, let me just for a moment change the words we use to talk about those facts...." And so, instead of "an act of terrorism," let's just for a moment call it "an act of limited war." Instead of "hostages," let's call them "prisoners of war." We're not changing any facts, remember, just a few words. Nevertheless once we change the words, as if by magic we see the situation in an entirely new light. "...We see that U.S. imperialism is the aggressor in the limited war with Iran....We can see that [the hostages] are being treated well within international standards for treatment of prisoners of war...."

Word games. You can call a turd a petunia, but you'll never change its smell.

I am in sympathy with Bob's desire to condemn past transgressions of the U.S. in Iran. Yes, the Iranians have just grievances. Yes, the Shah was a monster, installed and supported by the U.S. government. And yes, all this needs exposure. But Bob does his cause ill when he blindly pursues it by employing whitewash and by relying on that most insidious of rationalizations, namely, that the end justifies the means. These were the very same ruses, after all, the CIA used to install the Shah in Iran in the first place.

In his passion to condemn the acknowledged evils of U.S. imperialism, Bob misses one simple little point: even if the U.S. was and is completely wrong, this doesn't make the Iranians completely right. His article expresses again and again an attitude which Bertrand Russell called "The Fallacy of the Moral Superiority of the Oppressed." This is the popular but mistaken belief that if someone is oppressed, he is by definition more virtuous than his oppressors. This fallacy is frequently expressed in Beachhead articles and letters. In the past it has taken the form of eulogies claiming sainthood for a deceased Venetian primarily because that person was a victim of the system and spent his or her entire life being shat upon. It has often been expressed in the assertion that tenants are morally superior to landlords simply because landlords are out to make a buck. It has been proclaimed in countless essays and polemics which assume that blacks, Indians, women, and workers are virtuous simply because they have been exploited. And in Bob's article it paints the actions of the Iranians white for no other reason than the fact that past U.S. actions are demonstrably black. Well, it ain't necessarily so.


This town is rapidly going down the drain, yet Bob ends his article urging us to come together and support the proposal to make Venice the sister-city of Tehran. This because "...If nobody else appreciated it now, the Iranian people

would...." If ever there was a rhetorical phrase, a demagogic, even Orwellian phrase, it has to be "the people." It refers to absolutely nothing. What "Iranian people" are we talking about? The Kurds, busy fighting Khomeini's army? The striking leftist students? The subjugated women? The millions of poor and unemployed who struggle daily simply to survive? Are all these people going to cease being what they are and instead become THE IRANIAN PEOPLE, its one mind and one spirit aglow with the knowledge that it is loved and supported in Venice California?

Enough of this nonsense. The Scottish philosopher Hume said it best: "Sophistry and illusion. Commit it to the flames!"

The City's rent control ordinance may lapse or be changed drastically within the next few months. At this very moment a Citizens' Advisory Committee is being formed which will determine the fate of North Beach. A motley bunch of meatheads and troglodytes are busy attempting to re-fashion Venice in their own image. These and other local matters are the issues which demand our civic attention and around which we should gather.

First things first, I say.



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## Lance to Bob

by Lance Diskan

I have no desire to get into a political discussion with Bob Wells. No doubt he is more informed than I am about certain events in some foreign nations. However, I do wish to respond to a few of his criticisms about my March 1980 Beachhead article "Town Council Chaos."

First of all let me say that I wrote a personal account of an event, not an analysis of the Iranian situation. I am not required to make political judgments when reporting activities at a public meeting. The motion itself was never presented for a vote where I might have stated my opinion. If Bob condemns my report as "frivolous" for not including my own ideas on Iran, he should also criticize me for not discussing Chile, Angola, the Draft, Afghanistan, the FBI, onion rings, Petunias, and Tennessee Ernie Ford. These things were also not covered in my article.

Second, Bob twice misquotes my article. He completely fabricates two phrases and puts them in direct quotes. I did not write "how typically, typically Venice" nor did I write that the meeting participants were "undisciplined and irresponsible".

In stating that my article 'takes the line' of those who "support U.S. imperialist oppression of other people" or who are "against the Town Council for other reasons" Bob Wells both insults me and conveniently forgets that -- despite the Council's unique status as the only group to oppose the event -- it was the financial beneficiary of several hundred dollars from the Venice Night community celebration I produced at the Fox Venice Theater in 1978.

Third, while Bob's method of setting up strawmen (strawpersons?) and then demolishing them is not without precedent, I do not wish to be grouped with opponents of the Town Council's Iranian motion by his loose accusations. I did not state or imply that the motion was "ridiculous" (again direct quotes are vaguely used); I did not state that anyone should cease supporting something in which they believe because "everybody's against it" (more of the unattributed quotes); I did not state or imply that Town Council members are foolish clowns to be concerned with Iran; and I most certainly made no mention of any kind against the Town Council's outstanding efforts in behalf of coastal conservation. My God, he even infers that both Carol Berman and I are somehow in favor of the African slave trade!

I openly admit to Bob Wells and anyone else who's persisted in reading this far, that at present I am not devoting my primary energies to the destruction of U.S. imperialism. However, this does not mean that I "trivialize" the sincere and necessary efforts of those who work in their own ways to challenge repression of human rights. I work on my own scale, and accept the fact that others can differ from my personal understanding of the truth and remain legitimate human beings.

Finally, I hope that Bob can find some comfort in the fact that both of us are Marxists--even if he follows Karl and I follow Groucho.

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# It's a Matter of Survival! VOTE NO on 9 & 10

The rich get richer while the poor get poorer — that's what Propositions 9 & 10 are really all about.

Proposition 9 would cut the state income tax by 50% which means cutting the state's income by \$5 billion dollars. Unless defeated, Proposition 9 will give the richest 5% of the taxpayers a \$2 billion dollar tax cut!

Proposition 10, the landlord and real estate initiative, will wipe out all existing rent control laws in California.

### Big Lie and Big Fraud Tactics

Propositions 9 & 10 use the *big lie* and

*big fraud* tactics to try to trick us into voting against our best interests. They really benefit those powerful few who are the richest people in the state. Poor and working people of every color, race and age are being asked to sacrifice hard won battles and benefits in order to subsidize those who never seem to have too much. The people who support Propositions 9 & 10 don't need the protection of rent control or the benefits that Proposition 9 will destroy. But we do!

### Economic Crisis

The combination of *spiraling inflation* and the *beginning of another recession* have brought us an economic crisis. The result is escalating rents and increased costs for all of life's necessities including food, health care and schools. Those

sponsoring Propositions 9 & 10 don't need to worry about these problems. They are willing to fatten their pocket-books by making these problems even worse for us than they are now.

### Don't Be Fooled

Propositions 9 & 10 are cut from the same mold. They are supported by the same people with enough money to bombard us with false information in an attempt to convince us to vote against ourselves. *Don't be fooled.* We must recognize the danger from these propositions and band together to defeat them. Look inside this paper. See what community leaders on the westside think about these losing propositions.

On June 3rd VOTE NO on PROPOSITIONS 9 & 10!

## HELP DEFEAT Props. 9 & 10

If you would like to help us distribute this paper or work in other ways to defeat Propositions 9 & 10, please contact us at 467-4360 or come to our office which is located in the Westside Tenant Action Center, 1301 Main Street, Venice.

### The Westside Coalition Against Propositions 9 & 10

Included are the following organizations:

- Beach Area Gray Panthers
- Campaign for Economic Democracy (Santa Monica Chapter)
- Coalition for Economic Survival
- Free Venice Beachhead
- Los Angeles Child Birth Center
- Los Angeles Health Organizing Committee
- New American Movement
- Ocean Park Perspective
- St. Joseph's Center
- Santa Monica Fair Housing Alliance
- Venice-Ocean Park Coop
- Venice Town Council
- United Professors of California, Local 4025 (AFT/AFL-CIO)
- Westside Tenant Action Center
- Westside Women's Health Center

Endorsed by:  
Citizens Party  
Ocean Park Community Organization

# NO on 9 & 10

# RALLY!

## May 18 — 12 Noon

Penmar Park  
(1/2 mile east of Lincoln on Rose)

- *East-West Band*
- *Horizon Street Band*
- *Sam Taylor Blues Band*



# PROP. 9

## A Cut in Benefits & Services

- Cuts back Medi-Cal by 1.2 billion dollars
- Wipes out cost-of-living increases for people on AFDC & SSI
- Destroys bi-lingual education, after school and summer school programs
- Freezes wages and forces layoffs of public employees
- Imposes tuition at State colleges
- Reduces fire and police protection

# Westside Community Leaders

### Vera Davis

I am the mother of nine children and have lived and worked in the Venice community for 9 years. I am against both Propositions 9 & 10. Proposition 10 will destroy rent control in Los Angeles, and anywhere else it now exists. If 10 passes, renters will get huge rent increases. We can't afford to pay the outrageous rents as they are, and such an increase will push people out of our community. Where will they go?

Proposition 9 will have a devastating effect on poor and working people in this community. We are the people who get the least benefit from this tax cut. If 9 passes, we will see jobs disappear, our health services dry up, our children's school programs closed, high tuition imposed at state colleges, and our police protection become even less effective. More of our kids will be on the streets because job training and summer programs will be cut off. **Don't let Prop. 13 happen again. VOTE NO on 9 & 10.**



### Gary Richwald, M.D., M.P.H.

Co-Medical Director, L.A. Childbirth Center

### Sheldon Greenfield, M.D.

President, Venice Family Clinic

The passage of Prop. 9 would bring great hardship to thousands of women and their families on the west side of Los Angeles. Especially hard hit will be those who use our County health facilities.

Perhaps most frightening will be the dramatic increase in potentially serious childhood illnesses and V.D. as a result of the cutbacks in children's immunization and venereal disease services. Chronic and acute illness, when left untreated, will result in more serious illness and days lost from work. Much of the funding for the Venice Family Clinic on Lincoln Boulevard in Venice, comes from the State of California and would probably be cut.

Before the passage of rent control in Los Angeles and Santa Monica, families at the Childbirth Center were constantly in crisis over moving. As their families grew larger, they were faced with astronomical rents and discrimination because they had children. Since rent control, this situation has improved as rents have been held down.

Prop. 10 would effectively eliminate all existing rent control. The result for families with children would be catastrophic.



### Michael Straeter

President, Retail Clerks Union Local 1442

On our ballot this June there are two very attractively worded but deceptive propositions — namely Prop. 9, commonly referred to as Jarvis II, and Prop. 10, the "Renters Rights" initiative. We must work to defeat these propositions.

We should vote down Prop. 9 because it will provide the majority of its benefits, in the way of income tax reductions, to only 5% of our state's wealthiest inhabitants who need it the least. If Prop. 9 passes, I am confident that the state will increase other taxes to offset the tremendous loss of revenue. If this happens, then the average person once again will be carrying a disproportionate share of the tax burden.

Prop. 10 should be defeated because it is a clear and obvious fraud being perpetrated by Howard Jarvis and his co-sponsors, the apartment house owners and associations, realtors and the like. This proposition does not protect renters, but rather, it deserts them and leaves them to the mercy of an uncertain economy and a dwindling apartment house market.



### Flora Chavez, Jolene Fukushima, Perfecta Toldeo, Janette Singleton

Life for poor people and minorities in Venice is becoming harder and harder. Housing costs too much already. If Prop. 10 passes, there will be no more rent control in Los Angeles and Santa Monica, and our rents will skyrocket.

Prop. 9 will hurt our lives and the future of our children. After-school and summer programs will be cut and bi-lingual education will be dropped. If Prop. 9 passes, college education will no longer be possible for many in our community. All public employees would face lay-offs. Minorities, the last hired, will be the first fired and any gains we have made through affirmative action would be lost. Community health clinics like the ones on Venice and Lincoln Boulevards would be forced to close.



# VOTE NO



# PROP. 10

## The End of Rent Control

- Eliminates all existing rent control laws in California
- Requires future rent control laws to allow rent increases equal to the rate of inflation (20%)
- Prevents local city councils from passing rent control
- Eliminates "good cause" eviction controls in Santa Monica and Los Angeles
- Encourages evictions by allowing landlords to raise rents any amount whenever a unit becomes vacant
- Permanently exempts single family dwellings from rent control

## Speakers Speak Out Against 9 & 10

### Jane Gozzi

Convenor of the Beach Area Gray Panthers, Santa Monica and member of National Gray Panther Steering Committee

I have seen the fear and concern of many older people when faced with elimination or reduction of life supporting services. If Prop. 9 passes, the elderly, poor and disabled will again be hurt the most.

The elderly rely on state funded programs — housing programs, health care programs, libraries, recreation and parks, adult education and other services — to make life livable. Many elderly on fixed incomes can only afford the basics for survival and they depend upon public services and programs to make life interesting and fulfilling. It's obvious that for most of us a 50% cut in our state income tax will not benefit us greatly. To the contrary it will probably hurt those we care about the most.

For renters who have finally gotten some respite from intolerable rent increases, the passage of Prop. 10, eliminating rent control, would be a disaster. I am a renter and always have been. I'm currently able to afford a roomy apartment in Santa Monica for my children and myself only because of rent control. It frightens me to think what will happen to my friends if rent control is abolished.

### Rev. Ellis H. Casson

Pastor — First AME Church, Santa Monica

As ethnic minorities, Senior Citizens and the poor, we MUST VOTE NO on Propositions 9 & 10 on June 3, 1980.

Prop. 9 (Jarvis II) is staring us in the face, and as usual for "Jarvis-sponsored initiatives," it will benefit the wealthy and shift the tax burden to the backs of Senior Citizens, working people, and others who can least afford it. If you vote YES you vote for CUTS in the State's education system, transportation services, health and other essential public services.

Prop. 10 is a complete distortion of facts. It sounds as if it supports rent control when in fact it does away with it and would make null and void any rent control measure already on the books.

If you want a good and strong "survival kit" for the future — VOTE NO on 9 & 10.



### Geri Franklin

There is no single service more vital to parents than quality education. This is our hope for the future. Yet as a result of Prop. 13, we have all been forced to accept a lower standard of public education for our children. Now, the author of Prop. 13, Howard Jarvis, has written Prop. 9 to further strip our lives of benefits and services.

The Santa Monica School District budget has already been cut by \$5 million and special programs, nurse's care, field trips, full-time librarians, smaller class sizes and a multitude of extra-curricular activities have been eliminated. There are no more after-school programs or summer school for our children. And this hurts the working parents and especially — in our area — the Spanish speaking children who are in such need of learning English.

Prop. 9 will make things much worse because over 50% of the state's income is spent every year on public education and Jarvis's "tax cut" will reduce these funds by at least 25%. Our children's education will suffer and who will benefit? Only the people who are wealthy enough to send their children to private schools.



### Morris Rosen (and friends)

During the past ten years, 1970 to 1980, fifteen thousand elderly people have been displaced, rent-raised and evicted, from their Venice and Ocean Park homes and apartments by greedy speculators and landlords.

Today, 1980, there remain but a few thousand elderly in the Venice-Ocean Park community, struggling desperately to pay their rent and the cost of other basic needs from their meager fixed incomes. Only rent control keeps these remaining elderly in their homes! The greedy rich speculators and landlords want to eliminate rent control in Venice, Ocean Park, Santa Monica and everywhere else in the State of California. The greedy rich speculators and landlords are in favor of Prop. 10.

Prop. 9 is Robin Hood in reverse. It is a tax measure that takes from the poor and gives to the rich. The same greedy rich landlords told tenants to vote for Prop. 13 in the last election. Prop. 13 was a disaster for renters, poor people, and the elderly. So are Prop. 9 & 10. Don't be fooled again.



# ON 9 & 10



# VOTE NO EN PROPUESTAS 9 y 10

## PROP. #9

### Una Reduccion Beneficios Y Servicios

- Reducina el programa de medi-cal por cerca de un billon y medio
- Eliminaria por completo aumentos sobre la viviendas en programas de ayudas a padres con ninos y el seguro social
- Destruiria el programa de educacion bilingue, programas de verano y de trabajo despues de hoara escolares
- Congelacion de salarios y dejarian cesantes a millares de empleados publicos
- Aumentaria la educacion en los cologios universitarios de la comunidad
- Reduciria la proteccion policiaca y en contra de incendios

## PROP. #10

### El Fin del Control Regulador de Alquileres

- Eliminaria todas las regulaciones de alquiler existentes en el estado de California
- Estipularia que, futuras leyes reguladora de alquileres de permitir un aumento en le alquiler igual a la tasa de inflacion (de un 20%)
- Impediria a las asambleas municipales de aprobar regulacion sobre el elquiler
- Eliminarian "motivo suficiente" como control de desahucio de la ciudad de Santa Monica y Los Angeles
- Estimularia el desahucio al permitir a los propietarios aumentar la renta a cualquier cantidad cuando se desocupe un departamento (unidad).
- Dispensaria permanentemente a familias individuales con viviendas da la regulacion del alquiler

## Los Lideres de la Comunidad Hablan

### Sister Marilyn Rudy Sister Louise Bernstein

Estudios indican que esta vez, los votantes tendran que escoger entre impuestos reducidos o la continuacion de servicios del gobierno.

83% del presupuesto del estado de California se gasta en "programas populares." Este 83% incluye programas educativos para ninos retardados, abandonados y maltratados. La proposicion #9 intenta rebajar los impuestos de los ricos. La gran parte de los mayores de edad y los que ganan sueldos bajos pagan pocos impuestos, asi eseque reciben poco o nada de beneficios de esta proposicion.

¿ Que sucediria con el precio de registro vehicular, tuicion de colegio, coleccion de basura y otros gastos, si los impuestos estatales de ingresos (state income tax) se rebajarian a la mitad? ¿ A quienes les hiciera mas dano? Esta proposicion no rebaja impuestos federales de ingresos (income tax) ni de seguro social. Tampoco limita los impuestos de gasolina ya de "compras" los cuales son gastos de trabajadores, los jubilados y otros mas que reciben sueldos fijos.

La proposicion 10 se titula "control de rentas" pero en realidad es lo opuesto. Trata de destruir cualquier control de rentas que existe hoy en dia. Los que apoyan este iniciativa son los duenos de apartamentos, banqueros y agentes de casas.

Y ¿ quienes sufriran mas si pasa esta proposicion? Los ancianos, los que reciben seguro social u otro sueldo fijo.

### Jesse Gonzales

La propuesta 9 al igual que la pasada propuesta 13 de Jarvis va a beneficiar por medio de reduccion de impuestos a los bancos, corporaciones, duenos de grandes propiedades y en general al la gente rica. Del ser aprobada la propuesta numero 9, muchos trabajadores perderan sus trabajos tales como, los trabajadores de servicios publicos, maestros de escuelas, trabajadores de hospitales, de mantenimiento de edificios de gobierno y muchos mas. Yo les exhorto que nos unamos y derrotemos la propuesta numero 9.

Del ser aprobado la propuesta numero 10 (derechos de arrendamiento), las personas ancianas, estudiantes y trabajadores en general no podran pagar el alquiler ni hacer los pagos de la casa porque, alquileres cuando desean. No habra controles en el alquiler.

Otra vez les pido de que no voten por las propuestas 9 y 10.



### Flora Chavez, Jolene Fukushima, Perfecta Toldeo, Janette Singleton

El costo de la vida para los trabajadores y las minonas en las comunidad de Venice sube cada dia mas y mas. El Costo del alquiler ha aumentado considerablemente. Del ser aprobada la propuesta numero 10, eliminaria por completo la regulacion del alquiler en Los Angeles y Santa Monica, y nuestro alquiler aumentaria a niveles nunca antes visto.

La propuesta numero 9 nos haria un dano irreparable a nuestras vidas y nuestro futuro. Los programas de verano, de trabajo despues de horas escolares y el programa bilingue se eliminaria por completo. De ser aprobada la propuesta numero 9, la educacion universitaria no seria accesible a gran parte de nuestra poblacion. Los trabajadores recientemente empleados seran los primeros en ser despedidos y las conquistas obtenidas en base de de igualdad de empleo (*Affirmative Action*) se perderan. Se eliminarian gran parte de los servicios medicos. Las Clinicas de salud situadas en la comunidad de Venice y Lincoln Boulevard se veran obligadas a cerrar.

Le exhortamos a que voten no en las propuestas 9 y 10. Nuestras vidas estan en juego.



— Estan Todos —

## A UNA FIESTA

### 18 de Mayo

Penmar Park — a las 12  
(dos cuadras al este de la avenida Rose)

con

## Musica y Invitados

# Nuestra Vidas Estan en Juego.



# VENICE: 1914-1916

## Sports and Entertainment



(This is the fourth 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 the research was handled by Professor Arnold Springer. Research for this paper was gathered by Nancy Hogan, Art Kuhlmann, Mark McIntire, Marilyn Cavanaugh, Ralph Migliozi, John Haber, Kathleen MacAndrew, and Maureen Burns. The final paper was written by Kathleen MacAndrew, revised and edited by Arnold Springer.)

by KATHLEEN MACANDREW (C) 1980 Trustees of California State University.

In 1915 Venice was primarily an entertainment town. Its economic base stood on the foundations of tourism and amusements. Thus there was always something exciting to do and usually a wide selection of activities to choose from. From the pages of the Daily Vanguard a picture can be drawn illustrating what people of all ages did for entertainment in Venice. Activities included: movies of all kinds, concerts, athletic events, parades, dances, childrens programs, vaudeville, hotel openings, and fun and games on the several area piers. According to the Vanguard, "the chief end of art is to set aside all limitations and permit people to revel within the light of their larger dreams." Venice provided a fine opportunity for such escapism.

### MOVIES

Historically the first movie made in Hollywood was finished in Oct. 1911. This date marks the birth of the film capitol of the world. Venice had an intimate relationship with Hollywood, geographically and spiritually. This certainly is evident in the pages of the Vanguard since every issue of the paper contained large amounts of advertising for and reviews of various movies playing at the theaters of the Bay area. Movie stars frequently visited Venice and some even stayed, purchasing homes or summer cottages. The movie houses of the Venice area were: Auditorium (Venice Pier), Venice Theatre (Ocean Front Walk), Neptune Theater (opposite the plunge), Rosemary Theatre (Ocean Park Pier), and the Empress Theatre on Ashland Ave. and Ocean Front Walk. The Orpheum in downtown L.A. also received a large amount of publicity.

It is difficult to say what type of

film Venetians liked most because of the wide variety of films shown: westerns, dramas, mysteries, adventures, romances, news, travel, and slapstick. Charlie Chaplin was Venices' favorite male actor while Mary Pickford and Fay Tichner were two of their favorite female stars. Other stars of the period were Ethel Barrymore, Dustin Farnum, Arnold Daly, Marie Dressler, John Barrymore, Henry Dixey and the Keystone Cops.

Some of the films seen by Venetians were: "Chelsea 7750" starring Henry E. Dixey, a movie which combined "the thrill of a detective movie and the romanticism of a love story." Others may have seen Ethel Barrymore in her first film, "The Nightingale", or they may have seen Marie Dressler in "Tillies Punctured Romance". Still others may have seen "A Gentleman of Nerve", "Bird of Paradise", "Spitfire", "Prince of India", or "The Better Man".

Charlie Chaplin films were the all time favorites among Venetians. Various theaters put on many of his movies such as: "A Night Out", "His New Job", and "Caught in a Cabaret". Said the Vanguard in a review:

*Charlie Chaplin in 'A Night Out' and Syd Chaplin in 'Gussie's Day of Rest' will be presented, and it is certain that after seeing 4,000 feet of continuous comedy, enacted by these two brothers, that one will have laughed for a week.*

During May and June of 1915 Chaplin had two hits playing in Venice. They were "The Champion" and "A Jitney Elopement". Charlie Chaplin delighted the City when he took part in the Essanay Company Ball at the Venice Dance Pavilion. He was a guest of the Ship Cafe for two nights and was reported to have said that he "was deligh-

ted with Venice."

Mary Pickford, who in 1914 had signed a \$104,000 contract with the Paramount Famous Players, was also a Venice favorite. Her film "The Diamond from the Sky" was well attended and the local newspaper dutifully reported on the Farewell Ball given in her honor at the Shrine Auditorium upon her departure for the east coast.

Venetians held a special place in their hearts for Miss Fay Tichner. Her victory in the 1915 Bathing Suit Contest earned her a \$50 first prize and a front page picture in the local paper. She decided that the best thing to do with her prize money was to spend it on her friends in the City that had been so good to her. She threw a big feast and party for Venetians at the Strand Cafe. Subsequently she appeared in a movie about the Bathing Suit Parade which was filmed in Venice.

One of her films which played in Venice was titled "Ethel's New Dress". Fay Tichner was Venices favorite. She promoted the City and the citizens loved her in return.

Tom Mix and Nat Goodwin were two other movie stars closely associated with Venice. Mix 'wintered' in and was well known her. One of his movies playing at the Venice Theatre was called 'Roping a Woman'. Goodwin lived in the area, and he owned a cafe named after him located on one of the several piers in Ocean Park. The Rosemary Theatre shoed his film - "When We Were Twenty-One". Whenever Nat was coming or going to his Santa Monica home that news was printed in the paper.

Probably the most popular film shown in Venice was "The Hypocrites". It played at the Rosemary Theatre in May 1915 and was a big hit. It appeared again about mid-month at the Venice Auditorium on the pier. It was billed as "The photo play that startled the entire country."

*"The shallowness of politicians' honesty, the thin veneer of society, the mockery of love, the blindness of virtue and the average parent's attitude toward truth in all forms, these together with the farcical modesty of the modern smart girl... and the great and worldly changes that the present living generation have affected towards the principles of truth and love will be explored."*

The 'spirit of truth' in the film was played by Margaret Edwards, in the nude. The local paper described Ms Edwards as "...supremely modest and holds the mirror to the darker sides of politics, wealth, and fashion."

The Vanguard also printed stories about the rest of the country's reaction to the film. In Corsicana Texas, seven ministers were sued when they got a court order restraining a local theater from showing "The Hypocrites". It was finally shown there for two days, but the Texas theater alternated one show for the women and another for the men.

Venice did not have special showings for men and women but they publically justified their interest in the films nudity by emphasizing its positive social

and moral statements. The impression is given that Venetians were proud that their community was not narrow minded and that a certain 'liberal' attitude prevailed here; they wanted to be trend setting and modern.

An interesting series of movies was shown at the Neptune entitled: "Who Pays" Before the series could run a committee composed of leading club women was called upon to sanction the event, since the films dealt with themes like divorce, crime, and unintended pregnancy. Individual film titles were: "The Price of Fame, The Pursuit of Pleasure, When Justice Sleeps" etc. In general the films were highly moralistic and dealt with issues such as self-centeredness, greed, selfishness, and other ambiguous social/moral problems or, as the Vanguard put it, "...a remarkable delineation of life,

(cont. next pg.)



14 it shows temptations the result of sin and the thorny path of virtue and fame."

It is interesting that Venetians enjoyed this forerunner of today's soap operas. They had the added advantage of knowing what was going to happen in the films beforehand since the paper ran daily synopsis of the films. It appears as though human nature has not changed too much. We always like to hear about people who are worse off than we, and we love to stick our noses into other people's business.

Film reviews differed substantially in tone and emphasis than those of today. For example:

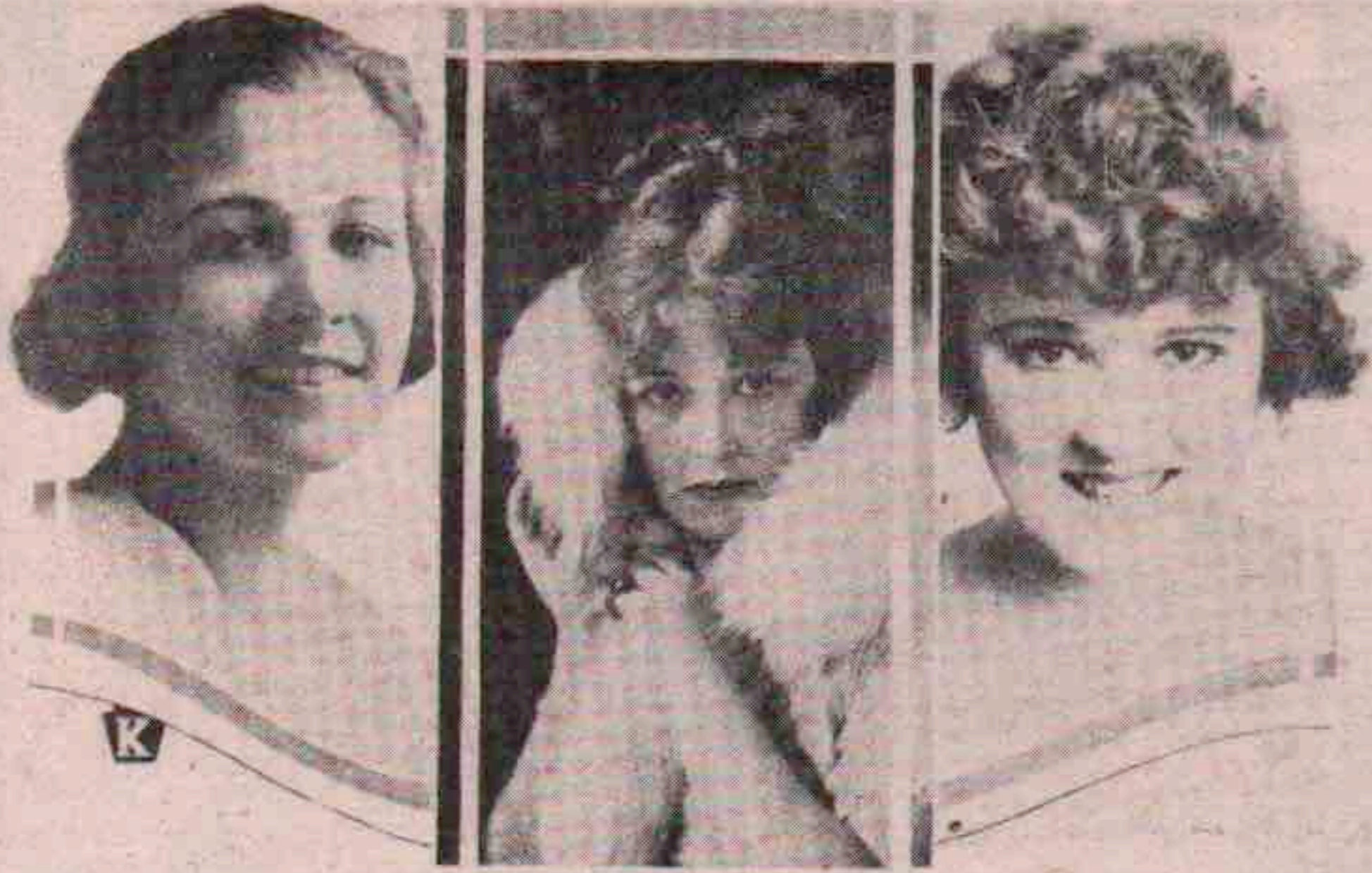
*Rule G had its first public exhibition at the Rosemary last evening, and because of the sensational nature of the subject, drew a large audience. The great features of the picture, the head-on collision, the wreck of a two story building by a locomotive plowing through it, and the destruction of a wagon and team of horses by an onrushing train furnished plenty of thrills. Several novel bits of photography are introduced, just prior to the collision, that make the climax particularly effective. Rule G is a strong temperance sermon; it drives home the lesson of over indulgence in liquor in no uncertain terms and the picture should take its place beside 'Ten Nights in a Barroom' as a weapon in the cause of temperance.*

An ad for the film "Aftermath" read:

*A powerful domestic drama of error and atonement; it is the thrilling story of two souls that emerge from the depths... Virginia Pearson and Owen Moore play an American married couple who come from the depths of poverty and despair to the heights of prosperity and happiness - during which they are confronted with the tragic past of the wife - for a time the vortex of shame threatens to engulf both, but dominant love finally lifts them up.*

The Venice Theatre advertised "The Mystery of the Glass Tubes" which was about cocaine smuggled into England in eggs. "The Straight Road" concerned "a young girl who struggles against the temptations and

## Keystone Stars to Appear in Venice 1917 Fashion Show, Easter Sunday



Left to Right—Edith Valk, Ethel Tarr, Beulah Sunshine, M. V. Sinner, Y. ... Co.

tify to the popularity of the medium.

## VAUDEVILLE

Vaudeville was an alternative to film and was another form of popular entertainment. The Auditorium often featured such things as The Jim Black Trio, featuring Mr. Black, a one-legged dancer, who also sang and was a comedian. On the same show there was an act which consisted of 35 "highly educated" cockatoos who presented a comedy skit called "A Night in Birdville". Each bird was said to be "an actor and comedian". In another show N.E. Gabaini a "well known" star of the Italian Grand Opera made his first West Coast appearance in Venice. He was billed as an unusual tenor, "the second Caruso".

Will Black, "the Yiddish Comedian" well-known throughout Eastern vaudeville circuits was booked at the Auditorium, while at the Venice Dance Pavilion the Ocean Inn Entertainers put on a skit called "It Pays to Advertise."

The Orpheum in Los Angeles also put on vaudeville. "The Bride Shop" was a

Selection from Barber of Seville  
Her Golden Hair was Hanging Down  
Her Back

Not Because Your Hair is Curley  
Why Wasn't I born a Blonde  
That Barber Shop Chord  
Sister Get a Spy-Glass, Baby's Got  
a Hair.

But there could be serious moments as well. For example, when the poet Edwin Markham was scheduled to recite at the auditorium of the Venice Grammar School (Westminister) he got rave advance publicity. Markham was known for his short poem "Outwitted".

He drew a circle that shut me out—  
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout;  
But love and I had the wit to win;  
We drew a circle that took him in.

By far the most peculiar entertainment hype in Venice concerned a figure named Raffles. Everyday for one week the paper printed a photo of the top of a man's head (from the eyes up). Beneath this picture the text would reveal where this man Raffles had been and with whom he had conversed on the previous day. Anyone finding this Raffles who brought him in to the newspaper office would receive a prize of \$10.

The "dog eating", "semi-cannibal" Igorrotes from the Philippines were displayed on the Venice Pier and caused a sensation. There were 22 of them, men, women, and children, and they were in Venice for a short time, on their way to the Panama Pacific Exposition.

*"The Igorrotes are known as 'head hunters' from the fact that they take the heads of enemies fallen in battle and preserve them as trophies and as evidence of their valor on the field of battle...The natives are from the highlands of the Philippines and unlike most people living under the equator are energetic. The men and women complete the designs of the men of the tribe. The body designs on the men indicate the number of engagements they have been in and tattoo marks on the head and face tell of heads taken.*

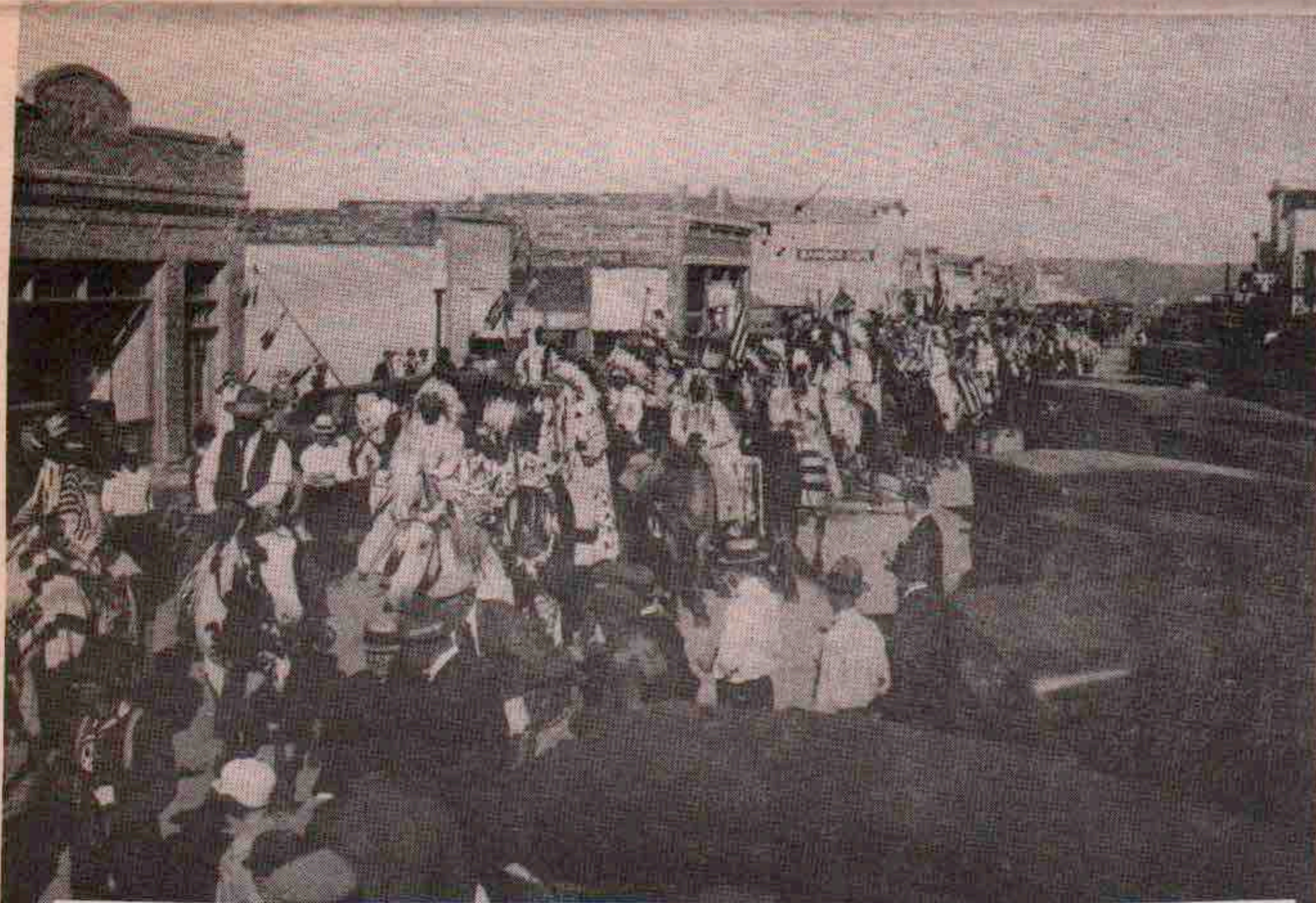
Their habit of eating dogs was played up in the paper. A want ad was run... by the dog catcher. "Wanted. Misc. dogs at Igorrotes Village, opposite Ship Cafe, Venice Pier."

The Barnes Circus arrived from Redondo in November 1914, but only after three cars carrying animals had been derailed in heavy fog. A parade was held and the management announced that any Venetian could view the animals in their cages at any time. Since the circus was to winter in Venice it was promised that many local men would be employed and that the local economy would profit from its presence.

The annual bathing suit parade was held on May 1, 1916. Latest suits were provided by local distributors for Pacific Knitting Mills, H.P. Dyas Sport Goods, and the Guenther Knitting Mills: Automobiles were provided by the Overland Auto Co. It was the largest parade with 102 women entered and participating

On Memorial Day, May 30, 1916 Venice secured the presence of a US navy flotilla, including the USS Milwaukee, to help with the celebrations.

July 4 was celebrated by a carnival



Souix Indians parade down Centinela Ave. near Washington Blvd. View is towards Hughes Airfield and Loyola University. Town was then called Messmer. Indians were employed by Ince Movie Co. which often shot silent western films along La Ballona Creek and wetlands.

evils of the big city, who rises from the mire into the heart of achievement and peace and who is called upon to make one of the greatest sacrifices to which the heart of woman is capable."

In 1916 D.W. Griffith's "The Birth of a Nation" was shown for the first time in Venice. It was popular and drew thousands of people to the Venice Auditorium.

All in all Venetians probably were frequent moviegoers. The fact that the city was so close to Hollywood, and that many stars made Venice their home or vacation spot, created a close relationship between the two. Movies were even made in Venice on occasion. The number of movie theaters in the community tes-

popular light comedy it put on in May 1915. George H. Rosener did impressions there. The character sketches he was known for were his "dope fiend" and "old soldier" acts. Sylvester Shaffer put on a one man vaudeville show which involved stunts, cards, animal trainers, athletics, and violin-playing.

Fred Fuller of the Arcade Barber Shop on Windward Avenue had a great idea. He wanted to offer cabaret entertainment in all the barber shops of the area. The idea was not born out of a sober moment. Quartets would serenade their customers with the likes of:

Silver Threads Among the Gold  
E'en Your Hairs are Numbered



and a rodeo called "the Grand Wild West Show and Rodeo" attracted large crowds. One of the attractions were airplane flights by Tex LaGrone. Broncho-buster Daredevil Downing was also featured. He performed "hair-raising" stunts and was an expert roper. Another attraction was Peggy Owens who "rode any broncho no matter how wild." She was one of several women riders with the rodeo.

Special events were important in Venice because they kept the people interested and active. Anything was used as an excuse for a special parade or event. It was a way of attracting outsiders to Venice who in turn spent money and kept businesses in Venice going. All of the activities must have been fun for locals. The citizens had the opportunity to be in the limelight and participate in the fun and excitement.

## AMUSEMENTS

Venice offered many amusements which were located on and near the piers. The Ocean Park and Venice amusement parks boasted the \$90,000 Ben Hur roller coaster a ferris wheel, and an aerial swing that was 100 feet in height and was able to spin a total of 200 people in 20 cars at a considerable rate of speed. The roller coaster extended from Pier Ave 400 feet into the sea. The ferris wheel, located in Ocean Park, was loaned out to so many different cities that Venetians hardly ever had a chance to use it. Besides these attractions there was also The Plunge, Ostrich Farm, and Race Thru the Clouds.

On the Windward Ave Pier Louis Klein who was known for his "wonderful representation of the sinking of the Titanic", came up with "a new and for more terrible depiction of the loss of the Lusitania." This concession was opened a couple of days after the real sinking happened! Captain Felix, owner of a large curio store in Ocean Park, made arrangements to exhibit an Indian village on the pier. It was a replica in miniature of a genuine desert camp. Some of the finer points of display were the arts, crafts, and blankets; "life in a Teppe" was shown. A new concession opened on the pier in the shape of an observation tower, "which had been established over the ostrich farm".

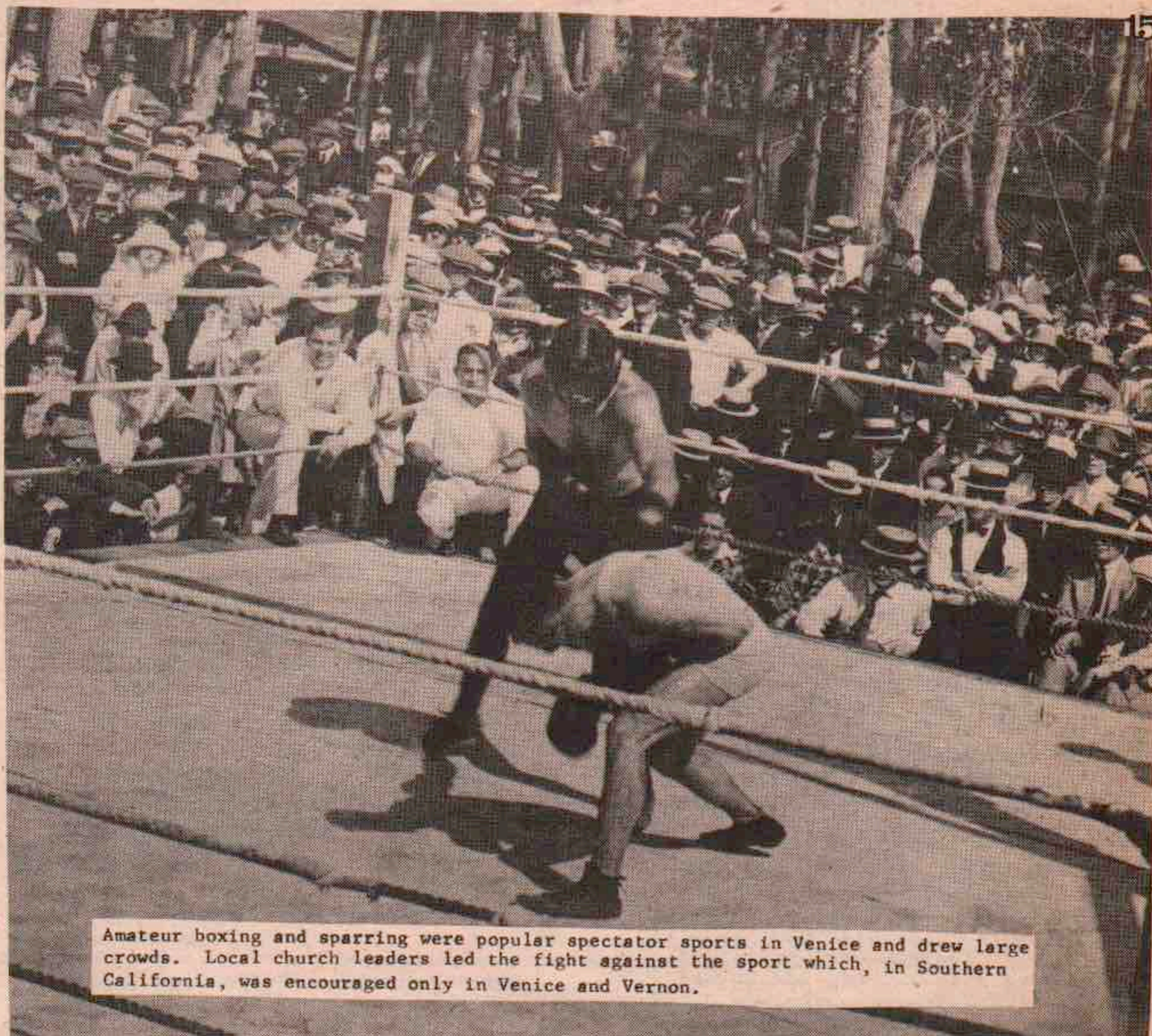
Edward A. August, totally blind, was in charge of this concession. The customer could watch passing ships from powerful marine glasses and a telescope. "The owner tells of what may be seen, the wonders of the coast line, and the boats that pass the pier, none of which Mr. August has ever seen."

In July 1916 a new amusement was introduced called the "Spanish Bull Fight," at the Race Thru the Clouds. It was said to be like the exhibitions in Spain and Mexico. Antonio Rivas Moreno was the leading toreador. An added attraction was a Spanish fiesta in which "Spanish Senoritas" in native costume performed gypsy songs and dances.

Stuntmen were very much a part of the Venice scene. They often entertained with all kinds of daring feats. Frank Stites was a stunt flyer who had a contract with the Kinney Company. Stites performed all kinds of stunts at the beach. For example, he perfected a cork spiral dip that was executed at the speed of 250 miles per hour. His specialty was the loop to loop which he did in the presence of crowds usually numbering in the thousands. A wealthy Austro-Russian count named Sergius Apraxin was so impressed with Stites that he offered him \$50 to take him flying and \$2,000 to repair the damages of his plane after Stites had wrecked it during a stunt.

W.M. Morton was a ballonist and a parachuter who also performed stunts. Morton boasted that he had a stunt no one else had ever attempted. The event consisted of a cannon that was chained to the bottom of a plane. While the plane was in flight, Morton positioned himself to be shot from the cannon. He accomplished this by detonating the powder from inside the cannon which shot him into the sky. Morton said that he had self-inflating balloons in his vest that would fill as he was falling to the ground.

Another daring aviator was Eddy Mussick with his \$6,000 military aircraft. Mussick gave a night flight amid fireworks while flying at an altitude of 3000 feet above the pier. As the fireworks lit up the sky he performed spirals and back dips. Airplane stunting seemed to be a fascination with Venetians.



Amateur boxing and sparring were popular spectator sports in Venice and drew large crowds. Local church leaders led the fight against the sport which, in Southern California, was encouraged only in Venice and Vernon.

## NIGHT LIFE

Night life in Venice was active. There were two major dancing pavillions and two new dancing pavillions in the Santa Monica bay area. At the Venice Dance Pavillion a monthly ticket allowed the buyer to dance to the music of the Lew Lewis Orchestra which celebrated its third anniversary in Venice in June 1916. Edward Allen White and Haylie Elyer were the dancing instructors there. At the Ocean Park Dance Pavillion the instructors were Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Smith. They adapted current news themes to the popular dance steps of the day. Thus they introduced the "Preparadness Fox Trot", the "Aviation Waltz", the "Zeppelin Fox Trot" and the "Dardenelles One Step" to Venetians. Manager Middleton of the Ocean Park Dance Pavillion booked the Sierra colored troupe which also attracted large crowds. Other area dancing pavillions included the newly opened Santa Monica Dance Pavillion managed by A.T. Mayor, and the new Schleuter Dance Pavillion between Ocean Park and Venice. It was still being built in 1916.

Municipal dances were often held at the Venice Pavillion. Women and children were admitted free every Monday night. In Santa Monica the Municipal Dance Hall was often the site of balls or dances. On one occasion 1,500 people paid to participate in a "movie ball" held there. Many were also said to have attended a "moving picture makers" dance.

The Venice Dance Pavillion always had a full schedule of events. On Saturdays the children of Venice usually had parties heard music, or put on plays there. For example the children put on a sketch of Rip Van Winkle, and another time Cinderella was featured. Venice was probably a very enjoyable place for a child.

But the Pavillion was primarily for adults. The Venice-of-America Band played there as did special guest bands such as "The Great Joker Band and the Honolulan Three Step." Professor George Carr, operatic baritone from Los Angeles, visited Venice and was invited to sing with the regular band at their Sunday afternoon and evening concerts. Other guest performers were Nell Hartman who performed a "Globe Trot Spanish Gavotte",

while "A Night in Old Japan" was the hit in May 1915. Professor Nema, "The celebrated jiu jitsu and fencing expert", demonstrated his skills, assisted by six Japanese dancing girls". Thus just about anything went at the Pavilion. The "Race Thru the Clouds Entertainers" put on the "Great Houlah, Houlah Dance" which was praised as one of "the best attraction ever" in Venice.

The Venice Auditorium also put on various programs. For example La Monaca's

Band held a Grand Concert. Two famous musicians played with them. Mr. John Marquardt (violin) and Mrs. Alexandra Marquardt who played the harp.

The hotels and restaurants of Venice also offered entertainment. The Melody Mirth Makers were featured at the Ship Cafe, The Ocean Inn Cafe featured a "Rag Trio" and when the Hotel Waldorf opened La Monaca's Band participated.

## DANCING

Dancing in cafes was apparently a big issue because some people objected to dancing in a place where liquor was sold. But business was business. With the summer season in full swing "beach officials think it would be unjust to curtail the cafe men and it's a hardship for them to do business when other cafes allow dancing and keep open till 2 a.m. Those other cafes were in Los Angeles were officials announced that they were prepared to relax the 'blue laws' to permit such dancing, so Venice had to compete.

The Venice Auditorium offered many music and dancing shows. One of these was Russian. Called the "Neffsky Troupe" it consisted of six dancers, singers and instrumentalists who had come to America from Moscow. They were touring the World and had already performed at the Hammerstein Theatre in New York. The leader was Ivan Neffsky, a former ballet master in the Imperial Theatre, billed as one of the foremost interpreters of Cossack and folk dances of Russia.

## BOXING

Boxing and prize fighting were popular spectator sports and drew large crowds to the Venice Auditorium. Boxing was controversial but every Friday night there was

boxing and wrestling at the Auditorium where local favorites such as Heinie Schwartz could be admired for their skill. Many minorities participated in the Venice fight game including Mojave Indians, Mexicans, Philipinos, Welchmen and Englishmen. Columns dealing with prize fighting read like and international roaster: Thom Langford, Frankie Burns, Joe Lopex, Sailor Petrosky, Bill Murray, Freddie Welsh, Jack Lundgren, Kid Williams, Jimmy Johnson, Bombardi Wells, and Kid Lewis.

But boxing was considered an evil affair by some and the Reverend Fenwicke Holmes led the opposition. Others only opposed professional prize fighting. In November 1914 legislation was passed which forbade professional fighting in California. The Vanguard printed an article on the matter:

"It never should be allowed to run again in California under the conditions that finally ruined it. Boxing in California has been conducted



# VENICE: 1914-1916

*in pavilions that were more like cattle pens than amusements. Men sitting on rough benches are apt to act like men sitting on rough benches. People in pig pens act like pigs."*

This comment was part of an article that suggested that something could be done in the future to retore boxing in the state:

*"An effort to apply the Pulmotor to the dying boxing game will be made by T-Bone Riley, whose amateur fight club gives its first shindig tonight in Los Angeles. If T-Bone can induce enough young men to have their faces bumped out of their love for pure art, he will probably succeed in keeping the 'game' alive until a friendly legislature comes along to rescue it. It is the history of reforms that in nearly every community where boxing had been put under the ban, the game has been allowed to reopen after two or three years."*

The Venice Athletic Club hosted many boxing matches. A one time resident of Venice, Johnny Kilbane, became feather-weight champion of the world. He also planned to become a champion violinist.

*"Johnny has had the bug for some time, but since defeating Abe Attel in 1912 he has been so busy he gave up his violin lessons. Recently he has revived his musical ambition, his friends at Cleveland declare. He hopes to be the world's champion Irish violinist. He's no Ysaye or Kubelik-- but he's getting along."*

After 1914 all boxing in Venice was supposed to be amateur, but when a fight was scheduled between Willie Hoppe and Joe Rivers in June 1915, Venice Police Chief Watson and Mayor Gerety appeared and stopped the match on the grounds that it violated a municipal ordinance prohibiting both professional boxing contests and sparring exhibitions within the city.

But boxing in Venice did not cease. In fact Vernon and Venice were famous for the number of prize fights put on there. Bill Aldridge often fought in Venice as did Walter Ehle and Battling Nick. A match between Eddie Shannon and Steve Dalton was seen by 2000 fans at the Venice Auditorium in August 1916. To get around the law promoters used various ploys. In November 1914 \$324 in gate receipts were turned over to the Children's Hospital. That was part of the gate taken from 3000 spectators who came to Venice to watch fighters Langford and Wells in training camp.

## RACING

Racing was the most exciting spectator sport of them all for citizens of Venice. Road races attracted large crowds and so the city exploited the events whenever they occurred. For a particular race in 1914, Mayor Dudley of Santa Monica said

that he wanted no purse less than \$50,000 for the winner. Films of the sport were shown at local theaters. But there were also 'naysayers' who complained that the sport was too dangerous. Many complained about 'death curve' on Washington Blvd and the wrecks that it caused, while other said that innocent spectators were in danger of getting killed if a car went off the track. Complaints were patiently heard and the races allowed to continue.

The Vanderbilt Cupace was a very big event in Venice. Crowds were said to have lined the streets in January 1914. Women became involved when Mrs. Leotia K Northam entered two of her own cars. The started for the race was Barney Oldfield, the first person to drive an auto at a speed of one

mile per minute). Two other famous racers were Teddy Tetzloff and Louis Nikrent.

A speedway was proposed for midway between Venice and Ocean Park. J. Princes plans included a one and a quarter mile track with tripple radius turns at 40 degrees and two straight aways banked at 10 degrees. Speeds of 120 miles per hour were anticipated.

Venice planned a road race for March 17, 1915, to entertain residents and gain national publicity. According to the paper the City was not looking to make any money. The course was 300 miles long: "Washington Blvd., St. Mark's Blvd., Victoria Ave., Lincoln Blvd., and Rose Av.

*"Streets will be regraded, widened, and resurfaced where necessary. Telephone, telegraph and hedghpower and lighting poles will have to be removed at some points, temporary transplanting of trees and some extension of roadway over curb lines to avoid sharp angles will be done."*

An \$8,000 purse was offered, and national publicity was handled by Roy Compton, who placed ads in 120 papers and auto trade magazines. Rivalry between Santa Monica and Venice developed over the race. Prior to 1915 Santa Monica had held an annual race and so some elements in the city were upset about upstart competition. But according to the Vanguard, there were "wealthy interests" in Santa Monica who were opposed to the whole idea of racing in their city. The Grand Prix

in Santa Monica was cancelled and the one in Venice allowed to go ahead.

On March 17, 1915 the First Annual Venice California Grand Prix was held. Even representatives from the "Eastern Press" arrived to cover the race. The Vanguard reported that "never in the history of Venice has so much substantial and so much broadcast publicity been given Mayor Gerety, Col. Thomas Prior, and Dana Burks went to Los Angeles to get Mayor Rose to declare St. Patrick's day a legal holiday to support attendance at the race. Both Venice and Santa Monica had done so. Mayor Rose declined.

Barney Oldfield won the First Venice Grand Prix and 60,000 people came to the City to see it. The P.E. ran three car trains into Venice at 5 minute intervals, 100 jitney buses were operating, and spectators came into Venice in horse and carriage, on bicycle, and on foot. 6,000

privately owned autos were parked near the course. Venice made the sports news from coast to coast.

On April 3, 1915 Venice hosted an International Motorcycle Race. The race was scheduled for Sunday at 12:30, "so as not to interfere with church services and at the same time allow those who wanted to attend church previous to the calling of the race to do so." Otto Walker of Oakland won the 300 mile race at an average speed of 68 mph, and new world's record. Although 20,000 people saw the race, it was a financial loss to the City and to its promoters

## BASEBALL

Venice had a pro team called the Tigers but did not support the team very well despite the fact that it had an ace pitcher in Doc White and that the Tiger center fielder was the leagues batting champion. According to the Los Angeles Times only about 75 fans showed up for Tiger home games, and not many of them actually paid admission. In an attempt to stir up interest, stunt flyer Frank Stites was called in to drop a series of baseball from a height of 800 feet into the hands of a waiting player. But that didn't seem to make any difference as far as attendance was concerned; it remained low. The team was owned by Eddie Maier of the Maier Brewing Co. of Los Angeles. Maier had substantial investments in Venice property. Happy Hogan was the popular manager.

In January 1915 the players got upset when a half Chinese, half Hawaiian outfielder was signed by the team. Many of the players objected because he was too dark. But Tiger Walter McCredie was quoted; "I don't think the color of the skin ought to be a barrier in baseball." Although Blacks were barred from pro-ball there was no rule clearly stated against Mexicans or Hawaiians.

## SWIMMING

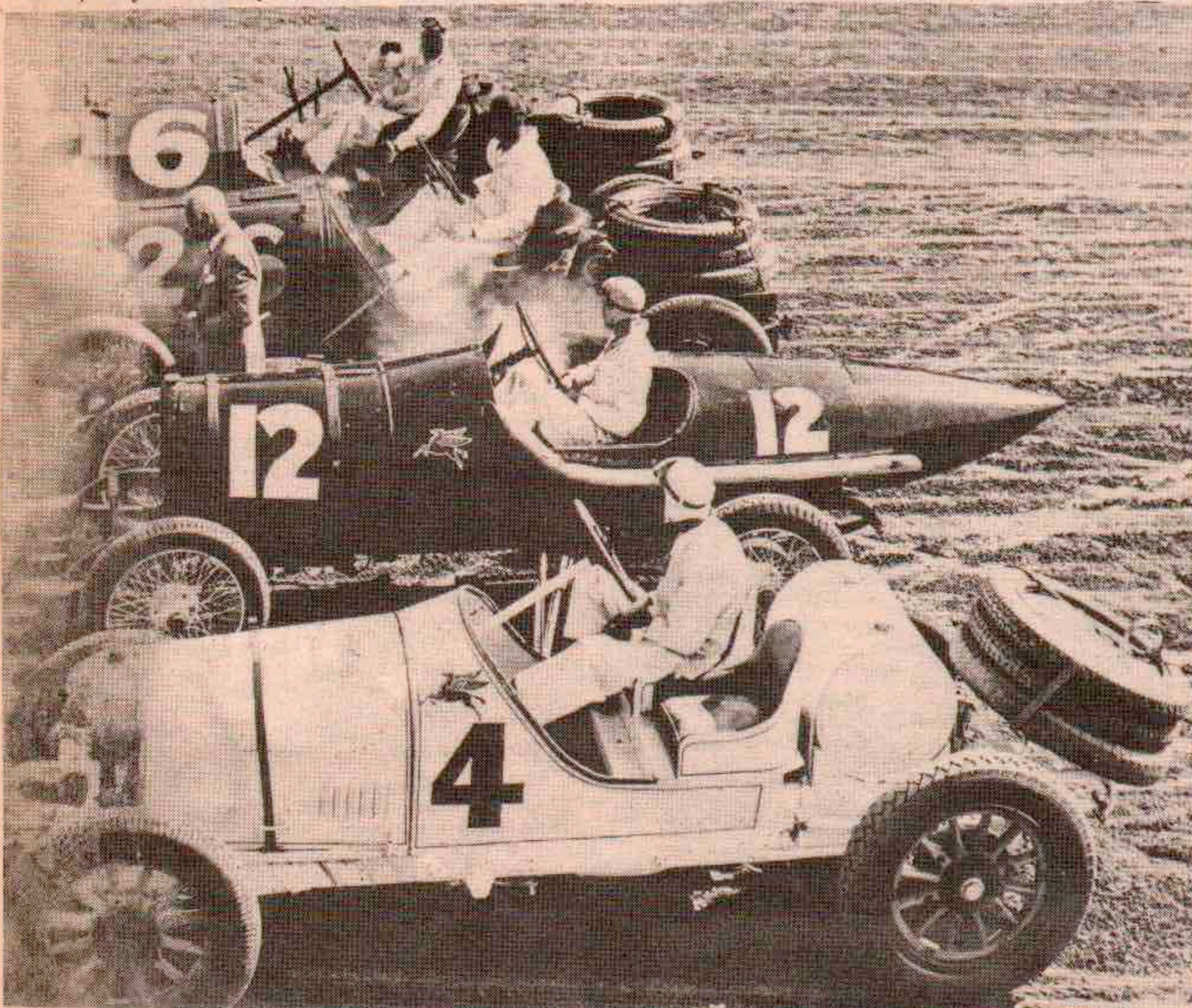
Probably the one sport that everyone participated in was swimming. Special swimming clubs existed and when they got together for a day at the beach comeptitions were held. The Ladies' Swimming Club, the Athletic Club, and the Venice Bath House all sponsored swimming events. Such events attracted up to 5,000 people.

Venice made much to do about its lifeguards. One day an L.A. man got caught in a rip tide and was being pulled out to sea. Hundreds on the beach saw him waving frantically but mistook it "as a friendly salutation" and excitedly waved back. He was rescued. Many articles appeared in the paper praising the fantastic lifeguards and the many people whom they saved.

Two former Venice women, Nita and Lyba Sheffield taught womens swimming at USC. And two nationally ranked amateur swimmers Aileen Allen and Dorthy Burns, lived in Venice.

Like everything else swimming was capitalized on as a tourist attraction.

(cont. on p. 15)





I looked over to the house where Señor Vasquez, his wife, and five children lived. I recognized the sign on his front door that read: "This is a Catholic home. Propaganda of other religions will not be admitted." I also noticed--for the first time--a large "For Sale" sign mounted on his front porch. Earlier in the year I had learned from Mr. García that the landowner, Flinkman Realty, had warned the tenants that the property underneath their houses and families was to be sold. It was now obvious that the realtors were making their move.

I returned that weekend to help Mr. García move out. He was bitter about the sale and angry about having 12 years of his life culminate in being told to leave. For months we had talked about seeking legal assistance and tenant aid when the landowners served notice but his will to fight had just resolved itself into a mad dash to be gone. All he left in his house were the carpet tacks, and the false roof he had installed to keep the winter rains where they belonged.

Within a few days of Mr. García's departure the rest of the residents, long-term and recent, received their eviction notices.

The 10 houses were all in need of repair. Shingles, paint, plumbing fixtures, hinges

"The Appalachian community here is being displaced from its neighborhood now by an urban renewal/rehabilitation project which is making their rents unaffordable. The city expects them to move to another area of town which is totally deteriorated. Meanwhile, the city has plans for using that area for an exposition in another ten years. Of course, those renters have already been displaced from their homes two or three times by highway construction, etc...."

--Susan Reynolds, tenant organizer in Columbus, Ohio

wood caulking, a good dose of labor, and a trip to the city dump could have revitalized the settlement. But in the 15 years that Señor Vasquez and his family had lived there the landowners had done virtually nothing to maintain the property. Discussions with the other tenants revealed the same pattern of neglect. Now, in a style of capitalist reasoning reminiscent of the Vietnam days, the big brass had decided to destroy the land in order to save it: the houses were to be demolished.

The houses were and still could have been part of the lower income housing needed to maintain Venice. If they had been upgraded it would have served to protect as well as enhance the quality of the Oakwood neighborhood. But the half-million-plus-dollar lot zoned for light industry would be much more attractive to potential buyers if the houses and the humans occupying the merchandise were dispersed.

Señor Vasquez, my friend with the shaggy black eyebrows and the grey beard, is 59 years old--maybe not your typical fighter for justice. But this was his neighborhood and he wasn't about to give up his home. His children went to the Catholic school down the street. His wife worked in a nearby warehouse. He didn't want to move.

Señor Vasquez, myself and another tenant named Maria who I knew from early mornings at the bus stop, agreed to help the other residents learn of their rights and take action. Our first step was to

"The development conflict raises issues beyond the immediate question of whether rehabilitation should be encouraged. In the District of Columbia, 'rehabilitation' is code for 'black removal.' When The Washington Post real estate ads tout a neighborhood as 'fast moving' and 'up and coming,' they mean that poor blacks are moving out and better-to-do whites (and some blacks) are moving in."

--Working Papers, Winter 1977

organize a contingent of renters to go to the Westside Tenant Action Center. The fair housing and rent control laws apply to all-independent of immigration status--but many of the undocumented residents of Hampton Courts were afraid to get involved. Maria and Señor Vasquez were asked by the others to bring back the news and information from the tenant center.

The night of our meeting we found out two discouraging facts: (1) the California Coastal Commission had very little interest in their chartered responsibility

to maintain low income ethnically diverse communities in the coastal areas; and (2) if the landowners could obtain a legal permit from the city they could demolish the houses.

As we left the office it seemed that the battle of Venice had already been lost and it was just a matter of time before the landed class consolidated their victory. All we could hope for was either a legal blunder on the part of Flinkman or using the courts to stall the eviction while fighting for a settlement.

Along with the very cooperative and concerned people of the Venice office of the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, a house meeting was arranged to discuss the possible courses of action. This allowed the tenants to work out a strategy with the foundation's lawyer.

"David Crockett Elementary School stood like a tired old elephant, taking up one whole block in the middle of San Antonio's Prospect Hill. At night, the abandoned school building served as refuge to homeless drunks and vagrants. The old building--trashed, barricaded and dirty--was a silent partner in the agonizing death of a community."

-- Agenda, August 1978

The meeting took place about one week after the notices had arrived. Two tenants who were said to be undocumented and wanted no trouble had already moved out. Of the six households left (not including the manager) five houses were represented at the meeting. In a long and emotional gathering that took place in two languages, the tenants aired their gripes and grudges against the Flinkmans with the people of Legal Aid. The seven women, two men and one confused baby were told of their rights, and the laws protecting them, and informed that they could fight against the eviction. The bottom line on demolitions layed out at the Tenant Action Center was confirmed again, but the possibility of challenging the landowners was emphasized. The households of Hampton Courts came to a loose agreement that they would allow the Legal Aid Foundation to help them but they would continue looking for new housing. Although the lawyer was optimistic about either saving the homes or winning a settlement, it was an undesirable last resort. (As Señor Vasquez once told me, "The rich man owns the land and he owns the courts too.")

As the days passed, I would occasionally see Señor Vasquez outside his house. He would tell me of the houses he had looked at and of the excessive rates that they were renting for. He had paid low rent for all his years at Hampton Courts and when he finally found a place to live, it cost over one-half of his and his wife's total earnings. But there was a church nearby and a Catholic school for his

children so he packed up his household on Easter weekend and moved the eight miles to a new neighborhood. We had one final talk about the power of landlords and the rich and he agreed that some day they will be on the receiving side of the grand eviction.

It may seem disappointing that Señor Vasquez, who understood the nature of the struggle for Venice so clearly didn't choose to stay and fight. But he and the others had to think of their children and their own future as renters with good references in the Venice area. They wanted to move and carry on their lives out of the courtroom lights with minimum disruption.

In one sense they took the path of least resistance, but they didn't leave without learning their rights or becoming aware of their potential power and ability as a group to effect change. Perhaps, in this sense something may have been gained.

As the eviction deadline passes and I transcribe this story, two of the households (not including the manager) are still occupied--evidently waiting until they can find new places to live. But our neighborhood has suffered a loss and the corner of Hampton St. and Sunset Ave. will never be the same.

Gone are the hoards of joyous children whose ingenuity turned a street corner into an endless afternoon's adventure. Gone is Mr. García and his avocado trees. Gone are the young men who spent the summer evenings playing cards, drinking cerveza, and singing songs from their homelands.

Soon the 10 old houses and their spirited memories will be bulldozed into the earth to lay the foundation for a concrete warehouse.

Adiós amigos. Salud....

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Saturday, May 10 East-West Band  
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Sundays throughout May Horizon Street Band and Mimi Harris

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**JAZZ FUSION SHOWCASE**  
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Monday Alfred Johnson  
Tuesday Theresa Tate/Joel Tepp  
Wednesday Carlo Bizio classical guitar  
Thursday Mimi Harris cont. folk  
Friday Shinobu Sato  
Saturday David Gross folk  
Sunday Ann Hughes cont. folk

Hirth Martinez  
Arco Iris  
Beverly Spaulding  
Blue Guitar  
L.A. Underground  
Beverly Spaulding  
Forecast



## 18 Venice History cont.

In June 1916 Venice publicized an aquatic festival in the Lagoon, which featured women swimmers, canoe tilting, dunking contests, diving exhibitions by champion female divers, surf board riding and a water borne parade of floats.

Venetians participated in a wide variety of other sports, including golf at the Pinehurst Club, bowling, billiards, ice skating, and hunting bird and deer in Topanga Canyon. Venice had a Gun Club that sponsored rabbit shoots and trap or skeet competitions. There were occasional competitions with the Los Angeles Gun Club. Ralph Spotts was its champion while Heine Pferrman was the most well known skeet shooter in Venice.

Bowling was popular as well with Venice, Ocean Park, Santa Monica and Los Angeles all fielding teams. Venice bowlers were sponsored by a local drug store and were known as "The Peoples Drug Team."

A women's tennis club, a rugby club, and a Venice Boys Athletic club also existed. The members of the Athletic Club entertained their parents and members debated the unathletic subject of "wet vs. dry."

Muscle building was also practiced and the center of activity here was the

Venice Athletic Club which held demonstrations in club-swinging and bag punching.

Venice High School was the focus of much sports attention. Track, field, swimming and football were all played. Venices' founder Abbot Kinney took special interest in amateur athletics, especially for high school students. A special 8 event meet was held which Kinney sponsored and he provided a trophy for the winner.

### CONCLUSION

Venice must have been an interesting and unpredictable place to live and visit in the years 1914-1916. There was much to offer in the way of entertainment and sporting events. The city's economy was dependent on entertainment to attract large crowds. The summer months seemed to be an especially busy time of the year in Venice. Any excuse was used to declare 'a holiday' (even if it was not a legal one) in order to play and/or to make money. And the entertainment and sporting events were not second rate. The image seemed to be, then as now, that Venice offered something to everyone, it tried very hard to be all things to all people, but mostly it was really fun and games.

## oil cont. from pg. 1

In light of the important resources in this area, and the crucial relationship between the tourist trade and the economy, it is clear that any activity which would seriously impact the environment would have serious ramifications. There is little doubt that drilling for oil in Santa Monica Bay would adversely affect the environment, and would carry with it real danger to thousands of small and medium-sized businesses in the area.

As you know, the Los Angeles Basin has one of the most serious air quality problems anywhere in the world. Oil drilling would only serve to exacerbate this problem. It has been estimated in air quality impact studies for previous lease sales in the area (Lease Sales 35 and 48) that a worst case scenario of normal operations for those leases, oil drilling operations could release 444 tons of hydrocarbons into the air each day. In the event of a worse case spill -- estimated then to be a 10,000 barrel spill -- oxident concentrates would result in a change from a stage one to a stage two air pollution emergency episode. The accuracy of this "worst case" estimate must be called into question however by recent tanker accidents which have resulted in spills in excess of 10,000 barrels. In addition, the recent spill in the Bay of Campeche which resulted in the discharge of 10,000 to 30,000 barrels of oil a day until it was partially capped is even greater cause for concern.

The possibility of a major accident is heightened by the fact that the area is moderately active seismically. The area was rocked by an earthquake as recently as January 1979, and aftershocks continued to be felt. As pipelines are particularly vulnerable to seismic activity, and leaks in buried pipelines often very difficult to pinpoint, the danger of a major spill is a real one. In addition, it is my understanding that the withdrawal of fluids from the area might actually stimulate seismic activity.

Clearly, then, the possibility, indeed the likelihood of serious damage to the environment and the economy of the area exists. Any benefits derived from the sale of leases must offset potential damage. After careful examination of the benefits, it is our opinion that they do not.

The oil which would be recovered from the Santa Monica Bay is very heavy oil, which is high in sulfur content. This severely limits any use which might be made of these resources at this time. In addition to being unusable in California because of strict emissions standards, no capacity now exists in California to refine the recovered oil. Therefore, it would have to be transported either by pipeline or ship to an area where it could be used. This is not only expensive, but raises the possibility of environmental damage.

As we indicated earlier, we strongly support viable means of securing adequate alternatives to meet the energy needs of our nation. We certainly do not believe that any action to increase our dependence on foreign sources of oil is in the public interest. It is our belief, however, that the benefits of drilling for oil in this area are overwhelmingly counterbalanced by the dangers of environmental and economic damage to a precious resource. We urge you to terminate any further action by the Department of the Interior on the sale of leases in the Santa Monica Bay now, rather than allowing the process to continue and require the needless expenditure of additional public funds on this project.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter, and we look forward to hearing from you regarding your intended actions on this matter at your earliest convenience.

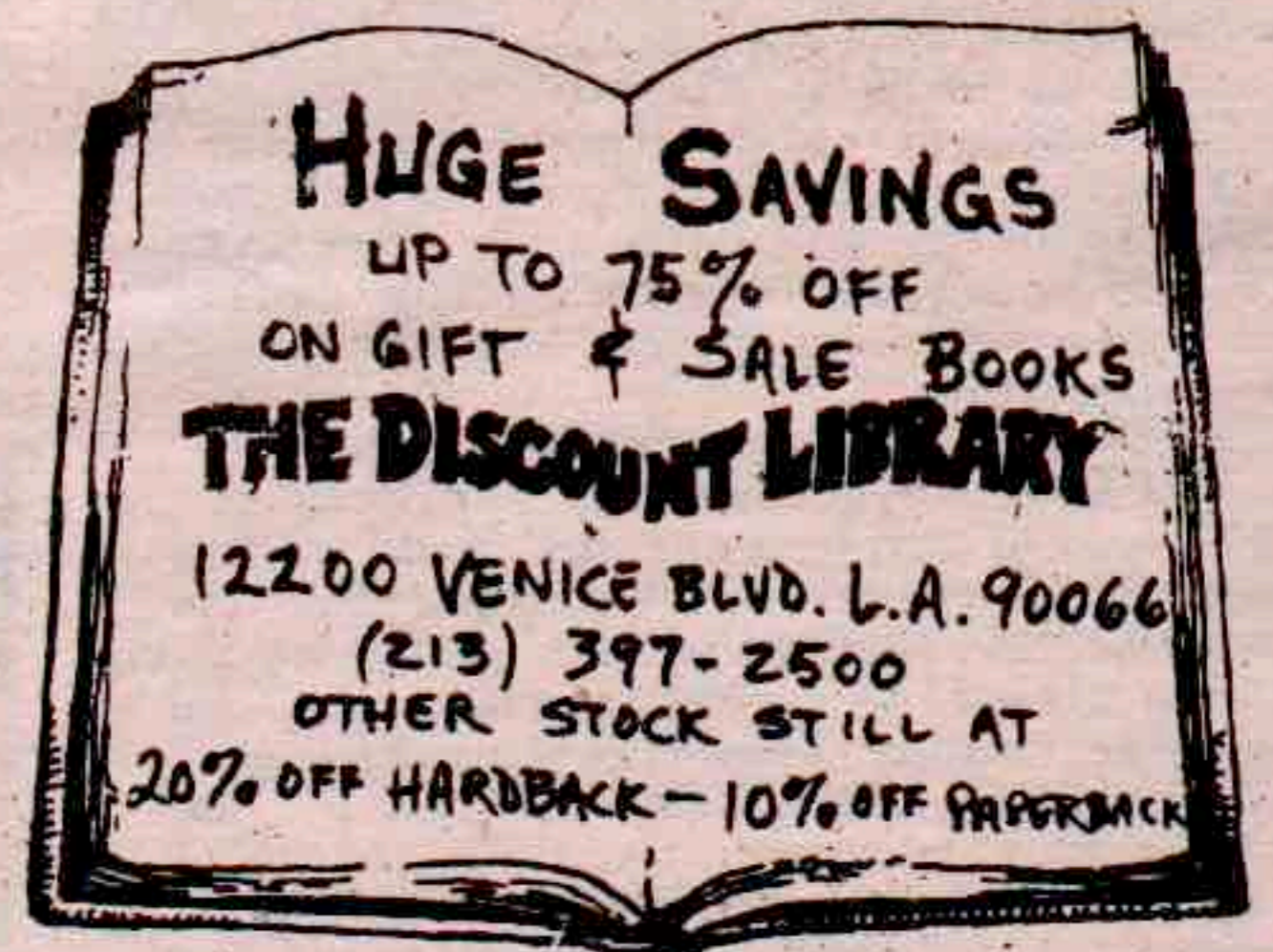
Sincerely,

Alan Sieroty, Senator, 22 District  
Howard Berman, Assemblyman, 43rd District  
Teresa Hughes, Assemblywoman, 47th District  
Marilyn Ryan, Assemblywoman, 51st District

Mel Levine, Assemblyman 44th District  
Herschel Rosenthal, Assemblyman 45th Dist.  
Curtis Tucker, Assemblyman, 50th District  
Sally Tanner, Assemblywoman, 60th District

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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH, IS INTERESTED IN COLLECTING AND PRESERVING MATERIALS THAT RELATE TO THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE VENICE COMMUNITY. JOHN AHOUSE, ARCHIVES LIBRARIAN AT THE UNIVERSITY WOULD BE GLAD TO LEARN OF CORRESPONDENCE, DOCUMENTS, PHOTOGRAPHS, FILMS, MUSIC, ORGANIZATIONAL RECORDS, ETC. FOR INFORMATION ON THE PROGRAM, CONTACT MR. AHOUSE AT 498-4087, OR WRITE IN CARE OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, 1250 BELLFLOWER BLVD., LONG BEACH CALIF. 90840.



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Griswold accused Carter of "deliberately creating" the hostage crisis in Iran by bringing the Shah here, and called his breaking of diplomatic relations a "dangerous escalation" of his plan to involve the U.S. in another war (this was before the extraordinarily dangerous attempt to raid the embassy in Iran). She said Carter is using the Afghan situation as an excuse to "rebuild the American military machine to heights never seen before." The U.S. has been trying to subvert the revolution against feudalism in Afghanistan, she said, so the "Soviet intervention (on behalf of the revolution) is on the side of human progress."

It would seem that the WWP, through its anti-draft network, is taking an early lead in our next anti-war movement, just as they took an early lead in the last one. This is consistent with the principles of the Peace & Freedom Party, which was formed in the first place as an act against the war, and contrasts with the record of the Communist Party USA which also has two candidates in the PFP primary (Gus Hall for President, Angela Davis for V-P).

Anti-war activists of the '66-'67 period who worked to put Peace & Freedom on the electoral ballot share recollections as to how the Communist Party people functioned at that time: then as now the CP was principally concerned with maintaining its base within the Democratic Party, and its hegemony (that is, influence amounting to control) over the Left movement; its people in Peace & Freedom worked not so much to get PFP on the ballot as an anti-war move as to deflect the impact of the new party away from the Democrats. Yet the radicals saw Vietnam as precisely a liberal Democrat war, brought about by Jack Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson and Hubert Humphrey, and vigorously supported here in California by Gov. Pat Brown. The CP argued (and lost) to have PFP get on the ballot with petition signatures rather than by registering people out of the Democratic Party; the CP argued for Peace & Freedom candidates to run against conservative Republicans and not against liberal Democrats.

And yet, despite all persuasion and argumentation, the liberal Democrats were constantly stepping up the ferocity of their imperialist assault in Vietnam -- Peace & Freedom radicals saw the new party as a form of "punishment politics" against the Democrats, escalating the political cost to them of continuing the war. Certainly the example of a new radical party gaining ballot status in such an important state as California, as well as in other states, lent its weight to eventually bringing that war to a close.

It is ironic that the Communist Party, which first dealt with Peace & Freedom with such suspicious reluctance, is now seeking to put two of its flagship personalities at the head of the PFP ballot.

The Workers World second plank is "For a people's takeover of the oil industry" -- and they've gotten an initiative to this effect on the Detroit ballot for this summer. (They also successfully got a rent-control initiative on the ballot and passed in Baltimore, only to have it thrown out by a judge; they're on appeal.)

Their third plank is "For an end to racism, sexism, and anti-gay bigotry." Many alphabetical Left groupings take a repressive and opportunist position on the gay question -- the working class is (supposedly) anti-gay, the party wants to get up alongside the workers, and since the gay issue is expendable they will be as anti-gay as the workers, if not more so. The WWP supports the democratic rights of gays and all people to sexual freedom, opposes anti-gay bigotry as retrograde, and rejects the notion that homosexuality results from bourgeois consciousness, eminently sensible considering that homosexuality was around for thousands of years before capitalism.

They've backed up their politics with a record of energetic action around gay rights, such as building the recent Stonewall march in Washington, D.C.

Whether or not one is gay oneself, a party's position and record on the gay question is a key indication of its seriousness, its intelligence, its respect for people's rights, and the honesty of its intentions. I don't know the current official position of the Community Party on the gay question, but for much of its history the CP has been effectively anti-gay.

I support the Workers World candidates

because I see that they are the only ones in the PFP primary who are at once revolutionary, and anti-imperialist as a matter of principle, and I feel the Peace & Freedom Party needs that kind of politics now. I hope other PFP registrants will vote for them in the June primary.

To learn more about them one might contact the WWP L.A. office 668-2924. ●

## CONVENTION

(Convention cont. from page 4)

Some of the parties and candidates were: Dave McReynolds of the Socialist Party; Ben Spock of the Peoples Party (he couldn't make it, a representative was there); Barry Commoner of the Citizens Party (a representative was there and since then the Citizens Party has voted not to participate in the PFP primary); Angela Davis of the Communist Party (she's running for Vice President with Gus Hall for President who couldn't make it due to illness); Deirdre Griswold and Larry Holmes of the Workers World Party (Deirdre is running for President and Larry for Vice President); and Larry Manel of the Peace & Freedom Party (he made his decision late and may not be on the ballot).

Most of us were familiar with the various groups and individuals except the Workers World Party. Their name had come up at our last state-wide meeting, but few knew much about them. They are based mostly in the east and mid-west. The WWP was founded by Ms Griswold and other socialists in 1959. Mr. Holmes joined later. He was active in the G.I. Resistance Movement while in the service. (for further information see Bob Wells article in this issue).

At the meeting most of the party business was taken care of on Saturday leaving Sunday for a discussion/question & answer period with the candidates. It was a good dialogue with everyone friendly and respectful to each other, something I haven't seen in a long time. The different parties were very close on most issues with the Citizens Party and the Socialist Party being the most conservative. Angela Davis was very late and unfortunately missed most of the questions (every candidate spoke on every question). Spock sent word that he really didn't want to run, but was willing if people wanted him to. Larry Manel has a computer background and his platform is built around the future use of computers. He was going to run in the Citizens Party, but pulled out in favor of Commoner. He doesn't seem to have any base in PFP. From my viewpoint Deirdre and Larry were the strongest on all the issues, especially the right of self-determination for oppressed people in and out of this country; and the use of elections as just one arm of a movement to build a multi-national movement throughout the country.

The importance of this primary is that it offers a potential connection between electoral activists and mass work. The changes that are necessary to create an America that most of us could believe in, i.e., without imperialism, will only come about by millions of us -- young, old, worker, retired, unemployed, Black, Brown, White, and other are mobilized to force such changes. America saw this

in the last century with the Civil War<sup>19</sup> and Reconstruction, and on a smaller scale with the Peoples Party of the

in the 1880s and 90s -- a Populist third party movement. During that period the Populists elected state legislators governors, and in the House 50 out of 350 Representatives, 5 U.S. Senators. It was a populist move against the big business of the Morgans, Mellons, Duponts and Rockefellers. A movement that scared hell out of both democrats and republicans alike until it was co-opted by Williams Jennings Bryant's presidential race in 1896. The only guard against such co-optation is a broad based movement struggling on every front simultaneously, not just in the election booth, be it a national election or a union election. I think one of the most positive approaches for the 1980s would be a coalition between the Peace & Freedom Party and the Workers World Party. I hope Peace & Freedom people will seek out information on Deirdre and Larry and vote for them in the primary. I also hope that friends who are still in the ol' one-party business club, the DemoRepub, will decide to cut the cord and join us in our continuing search for Peace & Freedom. ●

For Information call 396-6876

## Sometimes a woman's place is in the home.

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## POETRY

### Original Language Poetry Series Italian

May 4 Giovanni Cecchetti and Anna Bruni Seldis  
May 11 Virginia Cambell - American  
May 18 Manazar (Chicano) David Valajalo (Chilean)  
May 25 Gogo Yoshimasu (Japanese)  
June 1 Yannis Phyllis (Greek)  
June 8 Yusef Komunyakaa, Leslie Wolf (American)  
Fifth St. Theater 4157 W. 5th, at Western Ave.  
info. 383-7177

### Beyond Baroque

Fri May 9, 8 pm Poetry of Rochelle Ratner and  
Barbara Einzig  
Fri, May 16, 8 pm. Poetry of Jacqueline De  
Angelis and Terry Hunter  
681 Venice Blvd info 822-3006

## DANCE

### MOTION WOMEN'S PERFORMANCE CONNECTION

May 23, 24. Helen Dannenberg and Michele Larsson,  
two choreographers from S.F. will put on a dance  
concert. They are among foremost proponents of  
dance/performance art on West Coast. At Storie-  
Crawford Studio, 1329 B 5th St., Santa Monica.  
\$5. Info. 829-0321.

### I.D.E.A. CO.

May 18, 8 pm. "The Celebration". Dance Theater  
Concert. Master Class. Barbara Gardner who has  
developed idea of Theaterdance, the fusion of  
dance and theater into a new form. \$4 donation.  
Volunteers for the Arts: flyer distribution,  
typing and secretarial work, book-keeping, tele-  
phoning, hostessing during performances, electri-  
cal and studio maintenance, in return for which  
you meet artists, learn about dance, take classes  
and attend free Sunday evening performances.  
IDEA 522 Santa Monica Blvd. info: 395-0456

## ART

### CALIFORNIA DADA AT S.P.A.R.C.

May 10, 6 pm. Josine Lanco-Starrels with taped  
conversations with her father. Marcel Janco,  
last living founding member of Swiss Dada  
May 11, 8 pm. "Punk Prom" featuring "X" and Hal  
Negro and the Satintones. \$5  
May 12, Pasadena Film Forum. "Dada on Film" work  
by Hans Fichter, Salvador Dali, Man Ray,  
Luis Bunuel, plus current films by Bruce  
Conner, Victor Barbieri, and Curt McDowell  
(at 99 E Colorado Blvd. \$2.50)  
May 13, 7 pm. "Dada" poems/essays on Language  
and Culture Historical Dada interpretations  
by Israel Halpern and Barbara Einzig, plus  
contemporary Dada poems by Michael Ford and  
Michael Mollet  
May 14 7 pm. "Dada" What About It. A slide  
lecture on the origins of Dada by Professor  
Russel Cangialosi.  
Old Venice Jail (SPARC) 685 Venice Blvd. 822-9560

### CAMERAVISION EVENTS

May 2 to June 1. Art color photography of Roger  
Camp and Rosalie Winesuff.  
May 19, 7:30 pm. Danny Edward Vandevier on the  
Artists Hotseat. Slide/lecture entitled "Explora-  
tions Before the Mid-Life Crisis or Preparing for  
the Deluge" \$2 donation  
Tuesday, June 17, 7:30 pm. Dina Dar will speak  
on "Rhythms in Xerography" and show slides of her  
recent work.  
Cameravision 4121 Wilshire Blvd, LA 380-4266

### IN HONOR OF THE CHILD

Thru May to June 19. In Honor of the Child, a dis-  
play of photographs and cultural objects courtesy  
of UCLA Museum of Cultural History. Santa Monica  
Public Library. 1343 6th St. Free

"The New Psychology According to GURDJIEFF"  
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# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## MUSIC

Schubert to Aid Refugees  
Sunday, May 18, 7:30 pm Univ. Religious Ctr UCLA  
Benefit to aid Indochinese Refugees arriving in  
the United States \$5. Music of Franz Schubert

### COMEBACK INN

Acoustic Dinner Concerts, nightly, 6 pm. Acoustic  
music, jazz, classical, country and folk. Food  
from around world and fantastic desserts.  
No Cover Charge, \$1 per set. Comeback Inn is  
approaching its 7th anniversary in Venice, it  
deserves your support.



East-West Band, a Venice Group, featured at  
the Comeback Inn on West Washington Blvd.

## THEATER

### Provisional Theatre

Opens June 12. A wild musical comedy pits a  
weary Mother Earth and some of her enlightened  
cosmic buddies against a renegade space spirit  
out to destroy the world. Humanistic science  
fiction. \$6-7.50 1816 1/2 Vermont Av. info 6224530

### Children's Theater

Saturdays and Sundays. The Burbage Theatre.  
The Jewel Tree, The Legend of Hatpin Highway.  
Info Harriet Feinstein 839-3322.

### BURBAGE THEATRE ENSEMBLE

Bleacher Bums, a play, begins April 24, runs  
at 8:30 Thurs, Fri, Sat. \$5. At Century City  
Playhouse, 10508 W Pico Blvd in WLA 839-3322

### CHILDREN'S THEATRE FESTIVAL

Sat., Sun, May 17, 18. Continuous Performances  
from 10 am to 5 pm. 3 indoor theaters, 2 outdoor  
theaters, featuring 20 of the finest Children's  
Theatre Companies in So. Cal, plus Acrobats,  
Clowns, Jugglers. \$2.50. At Los Angeles City  
College, 855 N. Vermont Ave Info: 663-9141, x336

## WOMEN

### DIDI HIRSCH CENTER

Under gerontology specialist Julie Bach Peterson,  
a program to deal with depression, loneliness,  
memory loss, and general well being of seniors.  
Consultations available by phone, home visits may  
be arranged. Call 390-6612, ex 267.

### WIDOW-TO-WIDOW SUPPORT GROUP

A ten week seminar to help women deal with the  
changes brought about by widowhood begins Monday,  
May 12, 7 pm. Free. Led by Phyllis Solow, MA.  
At Colombia Savings, 3021 Wilshire Blvd in Santa  
Monica Call 395-0973.

### ADDRESS AND STUFF ENVELOPES AT HOME

\$800 per month, possible.  
Offer, send \$1 (refundable) to:  
TRIPLE "S" 869-E Juniper, Pinon Hills, CA 92372

## COMMUNITY

### ALLIANCE FOR SURVIVAL

#### Calendar

May 6. Film. Building the Bomb. History and  
background of A-Bomb. Discussion.  
May 13. Speaker Tim Callahan on the dangers of  
uranium mining and milling.  
May 20. Speaker and Slide Show. Bob Nelson  
discussing a transition to solar energy.  
May 27. Help at Alliance Main Office.  
All meetings held on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm  
at St. Mary's Episcopal Church 3647 Watska in  
Palms. Info 839-0576 or 839-3175; 823-5595.

### THIRD ANNUAL SURVIVAL SUNDAY

Sunday, May 25 at Hollywood Bowl. Benefit rally  
and concert for Alliance for Survival. Peter  
Yarrow, Graham Nash, Dick Gregory, Oscar Lee  
Brown, Holly Near, Prof Michio Kaku, Winona LaDuke  
Ron Kovic, Bella Abzug, Jim Lawson and Pat Smith  
from TMI. Info 387-3870.

### HOT MEALS FOR SENIORS

Subsidized by federal funds, are being furnished  
at noon time and each day m-f at Oakwood Rec. Ctr.  
768 California Ave in Venice. People 60 years of  
age or older are eligible to eat at this location.  
Meals will also be delivered to disabled or sick  
seniors. Voluntary donations may be made.  
Also opening available for paid site manager.  
Information call 399-7075.

### Nuclear Free Pacific Conference

May 10-18. Delegates from 14 Pacific countries  
and territories will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii  
at the University. Decisions of the conference  
will be reflected in heightened and coordinated  
anti-nuclear activities in all parts of Pacific.  
Info (808) 947-8403 or 1212 University Ave.,  
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96826

### Elderly East-European Jews in L.A.

May 1-June 15 at USC. Israel Levin Senior Adult  
Chorus will sing May 1st; Morrie Rosen of Center  
will moderate on June 12. Abba Eban, George Jesse  
Avery Schriber, Lee Strasberg: Films Number Our  
Days, Scenes from Shtetl Life, The Bespoke Over-  
Coast; Also poetry, readings, and Traveling Jew-  
ish Theater. Billed by organizers as a major  
community event. Organized in part by Dr. Barbara  
Myerhoff. \$20 a session. Info 741-2410

### Angela Davis Speaks

May 16, 7:30 pm. Angela Davis will speak on  
affirmative action at Lincoln Jr. High Audit.,  
14th and California. Tickets are \$2 in advance  
and \$2.50 at door, and are available at S.M.  
College Bookstore or call 450-5150. Sponsored  
by Women's Exchange Club.

### Church in Ocean Park Events 399-1631

5/11 Dances of Universal Peace, 7:30  
5/17 Film "Passing Through" A benefit for  
Geronimo Pratt 7:30  
5/18 Swen Gunderson in concert with her friends.  
5/27 Dances of Universal Peace  
235 Hill St in Ocean Park

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