

A photograph of a body of water, likely a pond or lake, with reeds and other vegetation in the foreground. Two people are sitting on the sandy shore, looking towards the water. The scene is bright and sunny.

Huntington Central Park

For Reference

Not to be taken from the Library

CENTRAL PARK
(Ref. Pam. File)

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*dedication
june 15, 1974
parks for people*





NORMA BRANDEL GIBBS
Vice Mayor



TED W. BARTLETT



HENRY H. DUKE



JERRY A. MATNEY



DONALD D. SHIPLEY

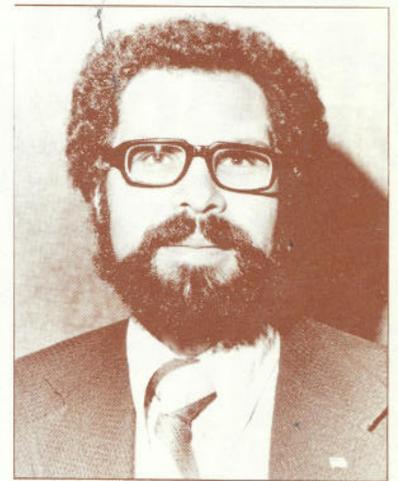


HARRIETT WIEDER



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MAYOR ALVIN M. COEN

HUNTINGTON CENTRAL PARK: 1974

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CITY STAFF

City Administrator
David D. Rowlands
Executive Assistant
Floyd G. Belsito
Civil Defense
Wilbur J. Lage
Economic Development
William J. Back
Public Information
William G. Reed

Departments

Elected:

Attorney
Don P. Bonfa
Clerk
Alicia Wentworth
Treasurer
Warren G. Hall

Appointive:

Building
John F. Behrens
Finance
Frank B. Arguello
Fire
Raymond C. Picard
Harbors and Beaches
Vincent G. Moorhouse
Library
Walter W. Johnson
Personnel
Edward H. Thompson
Planning
Richard A. Harlow
Police
Earle W. Robitaille
Public Works
H. E. Hartge
Recreation and Parks
Norman L. Worthy

PEOPLE FOR PARKS: STEERING COMMITTEE

Co-Chairmen	- Ron Bauer Cris Cris	Precincts	- Charlene Bauer Connie Bauer Lorraine Faber
Finance	- Bob Sutake	Speakers	- Tom Cooper Mike Bogen
Publicity	- Rod Cruse Bill Liles	Group	- Ralph Bauer
Promotion	- Bruce Williams Fred and Lynn Bolding	Coordinator	- Lee Mossteller
Teenage	- Brian Hanrahan Sherry Jensen	Secretary	- Norm Worthy Angie Crusinberry
Young Adult	- Gary De Boise	Council	- Dr. Henry Kaufman
		Liaison	- Dr. Donald Shipley

CENTRAL PARK: 1974

Former Officials Helping Plan This Park

Councilmen
Jack Green
Jake Stewart
Henry Kaufman
George McCracken
City Administrator
Doyle Miller
Assistant Administrator
Brander Castle
Development Coordinator
Tom Severns
Planner
Kenneth Reynolds
Public Works
James Wheeler
Citizen Advisors
People for Parks

**HUNTINGTON CENTRAL PARK
DEDICATION PROGRAM
SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1974**

10:00 a.m.	Band Prelude	Huntington Beach Concert Band John Mason, Director
10:30 a.m.	Call to Order	Master of Ceremonies Ron Bauer, Co-Chairman, People for Parks Bond Committee
	Pledge of Allegiance	James Curran, Recreation and Parks Commission
	National Anthem	Huntington Beach Concert Band
	Invocation	Reverend Thomas W. Overton, Pastor, First Christian Church
	Introductions and Acknowledgments	Mayor Alvin M. Coen
	Dedication Addresses	Recreation and Park Commissioners
	Alvin M. Coen Group Campground	Commissioner Scott Flanagan
	Henry H. Duke Trail	Commissioner James Shepard
	Norma Brandel Gibbs Trail	Commissioner Betty Kennedy
	Jack Green Nature Observation and Play Center	Commissioner Rod Cruse
	Henry A. Kaufman Play Center and Picnic Area	Commissioner Lee Mossteller
	Jerry A. Matney Mesa	Commissioner Bill Barnes
	George C. McCracken Meadow and Play Center	Commissioner Harry Turner
	Donald D. Shipley Nature Center	Commissioner Tom Cooper
	Jake R. Stewart Viewpoint Picnic Area	Commissioner Rudy Lozano
	Thomas B. Talbert Lake	Commissioner Kent McClish
	Huntington Central Park	
	History	Norman Worthy, Director of Recreation and Parks
	Design	Erik Katzmaier, Project Architect Ekbo, Dean, Austin and Williams
	Proclamation	David D. Rowlands, City Administrator
	Band Postlude	Huntington Beach Concert Band
	Opening Day Special	Huck's Hangout and Tom's Place
	Continuous Entertainment	Main Stage and Tom's Place
12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.		
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Tram Tours	Main Stage and Tom's Place Chamber of Commerce Women's Division

HUNTINGTON CENTRAL PARK: EARLY DAYS

The land now known as Huntington Beach has experienced several development phases. The Spanish/Mexican Rancho period spanned from 1784 to 1849, Early Statehood/Grazing and Agriculture period from 1859 to 1920, Oil Boom period from 1919 to 1922 and the Urban Expansion period from 1945 to the present.

Indians inhabited the land previous to any historical periods as indicated by the artifacts and burial grounds found over the years.

Huntington Beach was originally a portion of the old Las Bolsas Ranch owned by Abel Sterns until the 1880's. Sterns sold the swamp lands and retained the mesa which was eventually developed by several landowners.

Except for the highlands the surrounding land was swamp area and under water most of the time. Until the lowlands were drained of the water the area was quite useless.

The land north and west of Clay Street and west of Lake Street was considered county territory until the 1940's. Many small towns and communities sprouted up in this area but only a few remain today as most have been annexed to Huntington Beach and other surrounding cities.

There were schools, but no parks or recreation for the children in the area. Aside from games and play areas on the school grounds kids made their own fun. They had their favorite swimming and fishing holes and created games that were typical of the area and time.

COUNTY TERRITORY

The county territory, known more commonly as Gospel Swamp because of the numerous artesian wells, was a refuge for wild birds, ducks, geese, coyotes and hogs.

The original settlers here had to struggle with preparing the lands for cattle and crops. Cow trails were the only roads that could be traveled and most of the land was under water or in swamp marsh.

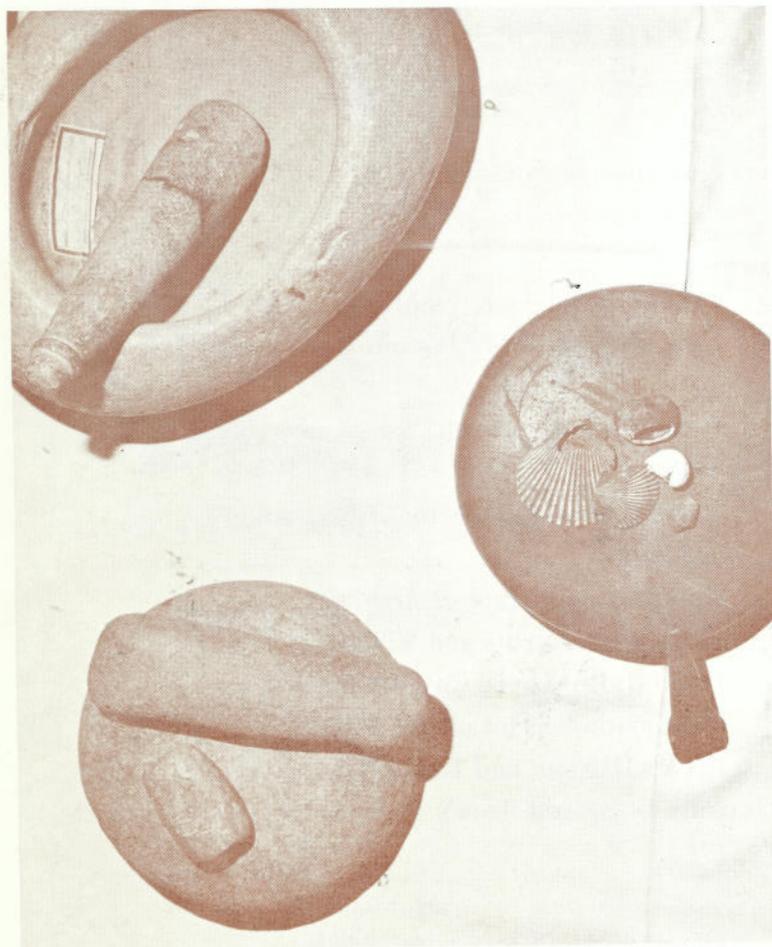
The Santa Ana River which surrounded the mesa often joined the Freeman River during the heavy floods and emptied into the ocean at Los Patos in Bolsa Chica.

The Freeman River formed by a large underground spring, flowed through the lower section of Huntington Central Park between Slater and Talbert Avenues.

When the farmers tried to sink fence posts to keep their stock confined or fence in their property, water would spurt up in fountains. If willow posts with seeping sap were used, they usually would send out sprouts and eventually grow into trees.

Since wild celery grew abundantly here, D. E. Smeltzer, formerly of Michigan, introduced cultivated celery and it became the finest ever grown along the coast. Everyone went into the celery business and the farmers formed a marketing organization. Golden West Celery Packing House was established in the town of Smeltzer. (Edinger Avenue between Beach Boulevard and Golden West Street).

The farm land, floundering in water, had to be drained and so ditches were dug and a large canal constructed to carry the excess



Indian artifacts found on Slater, Huff property. Homer Slater found large bowl the day of the big earthquake in 1933. Ralph Huff discovered an Indian spoon while digging sump-hole for oil well with a "Fresno" scoop.

water out to the ocean. Cattle sometimes would get caught in the ditches and had to be rescued.

After some of the land was drained the farmers found the soil to be quite alkali and sugar beets seemed to be the crop that would do well. As the word spread, farmers planted large crops and several sugar factories were built in the county. Many sugar plant workers came from Colorado to start the sugar industry on the West Coast. Unfortunately, the crops lasted only a few years as a disease wiped them out.

The farmers then planted lima beans, chili peppers, corn, potatoes and other crops. Lima beans became such a successful crop that the celery warehouse in Smeltzer was turned into a clearing house and processing plant for the syndicated growers of lima beans.

The bean crops were picked by large threshing machines over a two week period. Many farm hands were brought in to work the fields during this period. This was the main crop of the area for many years.

La Bolsa Tile Company, the oldest and still existing industry in Huntington Beach today, manufactured the tiles the farmers used to line the drainage ditches.

The 200-acre central park and surrounding area was formerly home and farmland to many pioneer families.

SLATER FAMILY

William Slater born in 1883 came to the area when he was nine. He lived with the Dennis McGuirk family until he was 14, at which time he went off to make his living and then returned to the area while in his twenties.

It was then that Will decided he wanted to have his own land and raise crops. McGuirk helped him acquire his first 20 acres of land which was located north of what is now Slater Avenue between Golden West and Edwards Streets.

In 1908, Will married Bonnie Clay, who was the first Springdale School teacher at the time. They lived in a ranch house located on the land that Will farmed, not far from the school.

The Slaters had three children, Fred, June and Homer. Then in 1919, Bonnie suddenly died. Her girlhood friend Ruth, who came down from Redlands in 1913 to teach school and was very close to the family, helped Will with the children. The following year Will and Ruth were married.

Slater built the home on the hill (Gothard Street) where he and Ruth raised the

children and added three more to the family, Alice, Bettie and Bill. The family has lived in the same home for over 50 years.

According to Ruth Slater, now 81, her husband acquired a good portion of the land within or surrounding Huntington Central Park from 1919 and over several years. One of the largest parcels was purchased from the Bolsa Chica Gun Club. The 80 acres surrounds the westerly portion of the park. Will Slater owned land near what is now Huntington Lake, part of the old Preston property (Telephone Company) and most of the property on either side of Slater Avenue between Gothard and Edwards Streets.

In the early days the land was so swampy people thought that roads could never be built. Before it was drained the only crops that could be raised were celery, potatoes and onions.

The Slaters raised celery, sugar beets and later lima beans until 1964 when Will sold the main portion of his land.

Ruth Slater remembers the lima bean harvest during the forties and fifties as a time everyone looked forward to. They had several thrashing machines that would come into the area with large crews working them.

The beans had to be completely dry in order for the harvesters to work properly, so the crews usually couldn't start until noon because of the morning dew. Mrs. Slater used to load up the family car with food and go into the fields to feed the workers. Even though it was a hard working process and the crews worked late into night, it was an exciting culmination of the crop season.

In November 1965, Will Slater died leaving the remaining land he farmed to his family. Young Bill followed in his father's footsteps and farmed land in Huntington Beach. Although most of the original Slater land has been sold, Bill leases acreage north of the park, across from the family home, where he still raises crops.

PRESTON FAMILY

The Preston Family arrived in Huntington Beach (Wintersburg area) by wagon from Pomona in December 1904. Lewis C. Preston and his wife Sarah purchased their first piece of property on Hampshire and Wintersburg Avenues (Beach Boulevard and Warner Avenue). They raised their large family of nine children on this ranch.

Preston purchased several parcels of land in the area over the years. As a transplanted Oregon man, he came to California with the reputation of being a wealthy investor and people wanting to sell their water-soaked land holdings flocked to his side.

He did invest in substantial holdings of which some were leased to farmers to raise crops and the remaining land was farmed by Preston and his sons.

One of the parcels, 20 acres near Slater Avenue and Gothard Street purchased from Mr. Larter was full of peat, water and tules. The eldest son, William, and a younger brother worked to reclaim the land so that it could be farmed. They dug out peat and tried to fill the swamp area with anything, including old car bodies and scrap. The junk finally sank to the bottom still leaving water and peat on most of the land.

The family helped build the Methodist Church on Warner Avenue and Gothard Street. They also started Sunday School classes there and at the Baptist Church in the area.

The eldest girl, Gertrude, married Mr. Rutherford and they both became missionaries in India. Gertrude died at the mission in India in 1911.

Before the parents' death in the 1920's, provisions were made that some of the property be given to the American Baptist Home and Foreign Mission Society to help support the work Gertrude gave her life to.

In 1934, the Preston Institute was established at Jangoon Decca, Hyderabad, India. An impressive white structure, it houses the classrooms that are used to educate hundreds of children who pass through every day.

William Preston married Mary Marshall in 1915 and they raised two daughters, Ena and Eva. He farmed the land and raised crops on the old family ranch in Wintersburg.

Mary Marshall Preston, 85, is the only one of the family who still lives in Huntington Beach. She remembers the peat lands and recalls the crops that were grown, especially the huge potatoes. "One would feed the whole family," she states. Will Preston died on Christmas Eve in 1962, but left a living tribute to his heirs, The Preston Institute in India which the family still supports today.

MORSE FAMILY

Back in 1890, a man by the name of Lanfield built a ranchouse on a hill overlooking the mesa where the Huntington Central Park now exists.

George and Rozella Morse moved to the ranch house where George farmed the surrounding land. It was there that the Morses raised not only crops, but the first of their family which eventually became ten children.

Huntington Beach resident Ella May (Morse) Elliott, who will be 87 in August, remembers very little of this particular home as she was only six at the time.

The eldest of the children, Ella May, recalls moving to several farms in the Wintersburg area (then known as Santa Ana, now Huntington Beach).

Mrs. Elliott said that her parents were poor and never owned any of the land or ranches but her father was a hard working man and farmed many ranches for the owners in the area.

In 1893 the Morses moved to a ranch on the hill where the library is being constructed. The property was owned by Richard Harris of Santa Ana. The Morse family lived on this land for three or four years where Ann Morse Fickeisen, now 81, was born.

Morse tried to raise crops on the ranch but had a very difficult time due to excessive water seepage. They found the problem was a large peat bog that went very deep under the surface soil. The farmer worked on a water drainage system by digging ditches and cutting the peat out with hay knives.

When the peat was removed, water would spurt out of the ground in the high furrows. That's when it was discovered that the area was fed with underground springs and the water pressure formed the spurting fountains or artesian wells.

The horses had to wear peat shoes which were ten-inch-long blocks of wood to fit over the hoofs. Otherwise, they would sink into the soggy ground.

Finally, not able to dig out all the peat, the farmer plowed furrows and dropped potatoes in the ditches. The only crops that they were successful in raising were potatoes and onions. A small onion house was built nearby where the onions were hung until they cured.

One of the larger springs on the west side of what is now Golden West Street formed a stream. This stream originally called New River, flowed through the lowlands down to the ocean, the river was later called Freeman River. As there were no roads at that time the local families used to take rowboats down to the Gun Club located in the Bolsa Chica swamp lands.

The river was very deep in spots and the children would plunge poles into the water to try and find the bottom but never succeeded.

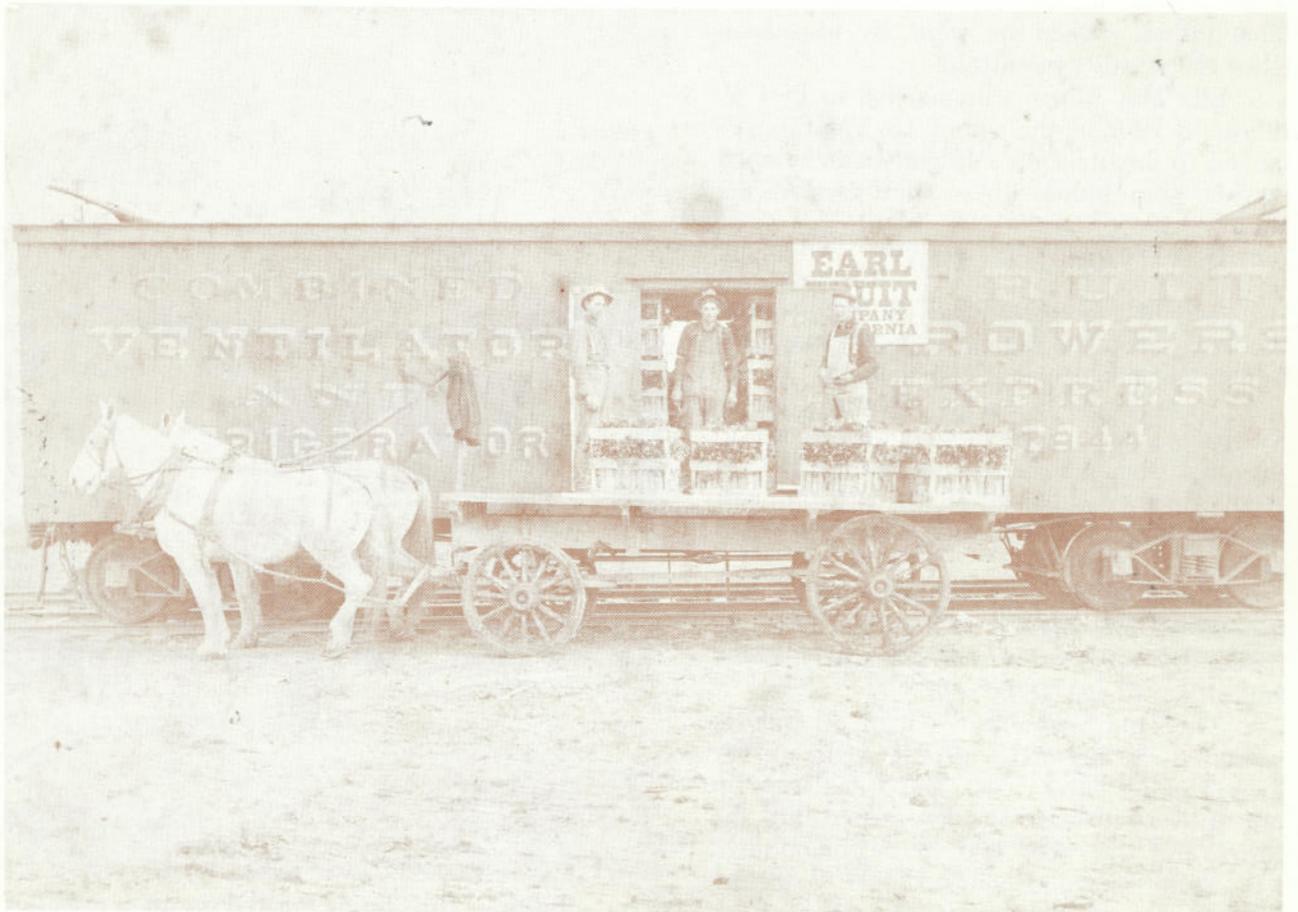
The Morse family moved further north of the area where George worked on the canal which finally drained the lowlands of the water. Most of the families lived in tents during this project.

Meanwhile, the successors of the peat lands (located on the Golden West/Talbert property), finally decided to go into the peat fuel business. A factory, rows of small homes and a boarding house were built on the land.



Sugar Beets being loaded from horse drawn wagon to railroad box car.

Crates of celery loaded into railroad car for shipping.



George Morse, knowing more about the land than anyone else, moved his family back and began work in the peat business. Small electric cars were installed at the lower level to haul the peat up the hill to the factory where it was ground and compacted. The firm also built gas tanks to try and convert the fertile composition into gas. But, the process was not successful, as the peat contained too much soil and was deteriorated.

The business was dormant for the next few years until the Price Peat Works came along and proceeded to mine the peat and sell it to farmers for growing crops. The massive excavation over the years was the reason Talbert Lake was formed.

Ella May Morse Elliott remembers this area as acres of willows, tullys, and blackberry patches where wild hogs ran free. Her family found many Indian artifacts such as arrowheads and tools which were simply tossed away.

There being no roads, the only way to travel was by horse and buggy over the sheep and cattle trails. In order to reach the beaches where the people enjoyed camping and bathing was to go north toward Westminster around the swamp lands and then down to the beaches. Seal Beach was the closest beach because the water and swamps made it impossible to reach Shell Beach (Huntington Beach).

Children of this area attended Ocean View School in the town called Smeltzer. Most either walked or went by horseback when the weather permitted.

Ella May Morse was married to Pysl W. Elliott in 1902 at the age of 15. The Elliott's moved to Smeltzer on a 40-acre parcel owned by her grandfather where they farmed the land.

HUFF FAMILY

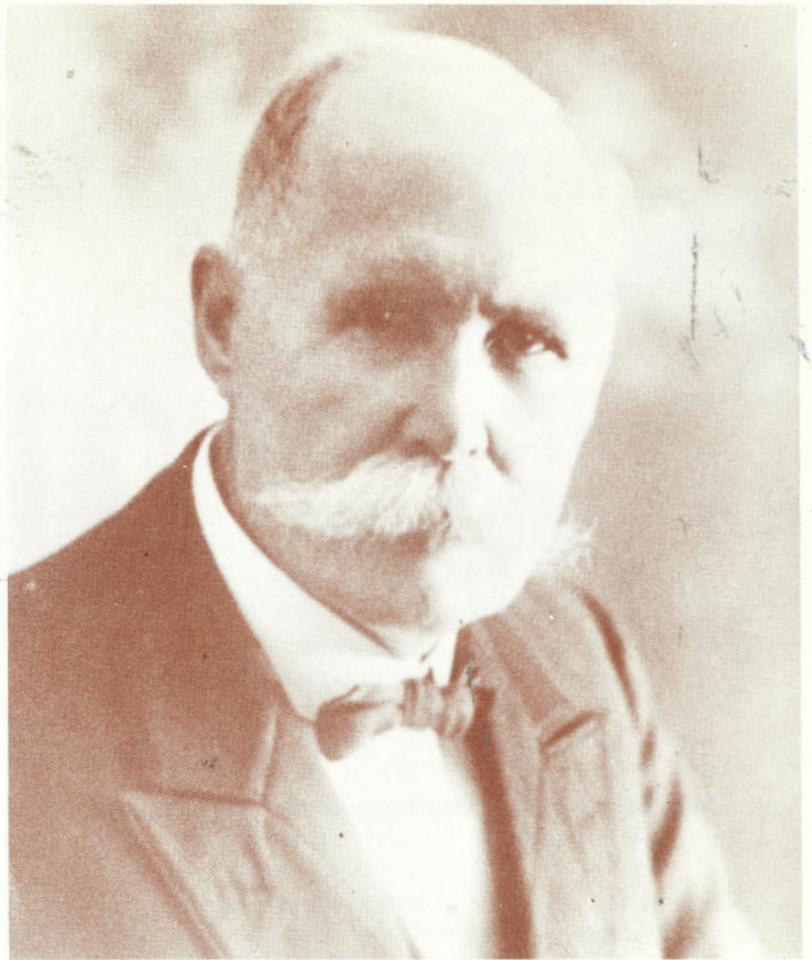
In 1901, Dr. Samuel G. Huff purchased the land and ranch house previously occupied by the Morse family from Mr. Lanfair.

According to Arline Huff Howard, granddaughter, Sam was the first country doctor in the area and practiced here from 1901 to 1918. He then returned to the east, but left his son Ralph C. Huff to oversee the ranch and farm the land.

Ralph farmed this 40-acres which was located on the highest hill in the area. He raised tomatoes, corn and lima beans, chickens and produced eggs to be sold.

The land was adorned with 30 English walnut trees, had many artesian wells and its own drinking water wells. The wells were in use until 1940 when the salt seeped into the water and the wells had to be abandoned.

Ralph met and courted Alice Gallienne in the area, who later became his wife and to-



Dr. Samuel G. Huff



Ralph C. Huff home located on mesa in park center.



Chicken ranch typical of agricultural period.

gether they raised four daughters, Edith Mary, Agnes, May and Arline.

The children were all raised on this property. Since a lot of the surrounding land was swampy and low, they were confined to the high hill area and forbidden to go near the back section as there was a big dropoff (which eventually became the gravel pit and later the lake).

Ralph Huff farmed the property until 1927 when he went to work for the high school and worked there until 1949. The family lived in the ranchouse until 1953 when the state bought the property for fill dirt which was used to construct the San Diego Freeway. At that time the hill was leveled and changed the topography of the land to a great extent.

The Huff family accumulated several Indian artifacts which have been preserved over the years.

GOTHARD FAMILY

George Gothard, a native of Illinois, originally owned the land along what is now Gothard Street midway between Slater and Talbert Avenues.

According to Vivian Gothard Schultz, grand-daughter, George and his wife Ellen purchased the land in the early 1890's. They raised a family of nine, Bert, Elmer, Joe, George, Agnus, Mary, Ethel, Betty and Edwin. The early home was located on the mesa just above the peat bog area. Later a two-story home was built near-by.

Grandfather George worked along with county officials on the task of developing roads throughout the area. The family farmed the area and when they discovered the peat, they mined it and sold the fertile squares.

Mrs. Schultz's father George Edgar married Opal Miller and moved to Wintersburg.

In the 1930's the senior George died and wife Ellen lived on the Gothard land with son Edwin until she sold the property to Rollo McClellan.

THE BEGINNING OF RECREATION AND PARKS

The original recreation and park system in the city consisted of three park sites, Lake Park, 4 acres, Circle and Farquhar Park, 3 acres, and Orange Avenue and 17th Street site, 2 acres.

In the early years, this system coupled with eight miles of beach frontage provided adequate recreation facilities for the city's 3.57 square miles and 5,000 or so residents.

Lake Park Clubhouse was built on the Lake Park land and dedicated April 9, 1938. About the same time, the Pavalon was built on the beach and dedicated in May 1938. These two recreation facilities were built with minimal material costs to the city, as the labor was provided by federal Works Progress Administration (WPA).

The original Boy Scout Cabin also located in Lake Park was built in 1923. This was the only recreation facility the scouting groups had until 1948.

The Orange Avenue and 17th Street site, situated in the center of the oil fields, had only a ball field and playground until 1948 when a building was moved on the land. The recreation building, originally an Army Air Corps headquarters in Santa Ana, was purchased by the city for \$20,000 and moved to the site.

Shared primarily by scouting groups, the building was in need of repair and maintenance which the volunteer groups could not provide. And so, in 1949 a recreation commission was established and a full-time recreation department formed to conduct organized recreation programs in the city.

RECREATION AND PLAYGROUND BONDS - 1938

An election was held April 12, 1938 which called for the sale of \$100,000 in bonds with interest at a rate not to exceed five per cent per year to be paid annually for the first year and semi-annually thereafter, for the acquisition, construction and completion of a public park and playground equipment.

The election passed by the required two-thirds vote and the issuance of the bonds was authorized by the City Council on June 15, 1938. The bonds were issued in denominations of \$1,000 each at the interest rate of 2½ per cent. Security-First National Bank of Los Angeles was awarded the sale of the bonds on June 7, 1938.

The money was used to purchase 1630 feet of beach front for \$85,000 and the remaining \$15,000 was used for labor and im-

provements. An existing trailer park was expanded and restrooms, parking and custodian cottage were added. The city was receiving an income of \$7,000 to \$10,000 a year from the park at the time and it was expected that the figure would be increased to \$25,000 when the park was expanded. Of course, the trailer park was later removed and the beach strip used for swimming, sunbathing and picnicing.

Shortly after this purchase, the city bought the 49-acre strip of land across the highway from Lake Street to Beach Boulevard from the Mills Land and Water Company for \$25,000 which came out of the general fund. Later this investment turned out to be the bargain of the century, with the city owning almost 50 acres of land in an area where land values are listed in the millions of dollars for as little as an acre or two. This property is currently being used for a golf course, mobile home park and the Sheraton Beach Inn.

After several annexations and the large growth period that took place in the 1960's the city was operating with an ineffective master plan. Even though the existing plan provided guidelines for residential, commercial and industrial, it failed to provide future park and recreational needs for the growing community.

A proposed master plan of parks and recreation was drawn up and adopted by the Planning Commission after several hearings in November 1958.

The City Council adopted the master plan on December 1, 1958 accepting the school-park concept and guidelines for a land acquisition plan. The first park and recreation subdivision ordinance was passed by council January 5, 1959. This ordinance required the subdivider to dedicate one acre of land per 100 lots (homes) or \$50 per lot of the subdivision to go into a special fund for acquisition of land for park and recreational purposes only. This ordinance was not enforceable, as a developer later filed suit against the city and won the court case.

In April 1961, the Recreation Commission was increased from five to ten members so that each of the school districts would have representation on the board. This enabled the city to have a closer relationship with school districts in working out joint use of playgrounds on school property.

In 1962 a citizens advisory committee for parks recreation, cultural development and libraries was formed. Committee members were Jack Feehan, chairman, and members, Dr. Donald Shipley, Esther Funk, Dr. Leon DuBov, Bobbie Murphy, Helen Susman, Virginia Barnes and Ann Menees.

After a year's study, committee member Dr. Donald Shipley, also a member of the Recreation Commission, submitted the committee report to the city council.

The report covered three areas, background, analysis and recommendations. Some of the recommendations were to establish a recreation and parks commission, hire a director of parks and recreation, establish a post of superintendent of parks and superintendent of recreation and authorize an up-to-date master plan of the city to include specific allocations for park and recreation areas. Included in the report were several specific locations that were recommended park sites for acquisition and development.

The report was received but no action was taken until a few years later.

A sub-committee headed by Dr. Shipley was appointed by the council to look into the feasibility of converting abandoned county dump sites into parks. After studying the projects throughout the county the committee presented the results with a recommendation that the city purchase the dump site located at Golden West Street and Talbert Avenue (which eventually was purchased and became the nucleus for Huntington Central Park).

In February 1963, \$400,000 in accumulated park fees were released for park acquisition. The city planning department developed an interim park guide with priority lists of park site acquisition.

One of the hardest working recreation commissioners, Dr. Shipley was elected to the City Council in April 1964. A conservationist and a mover in the park development program, Shipley made several proposals which were eventually accomplished with the help of many citizens and councils of the city.

The Recreation Department and Commission were changed to the Recreation and Parks Department and Recreation and Parks Commission in July 1965 with Norman Worthy as director.

The purpose of the commission was to acquire and develop park sites within the city and the department to conduct program and maintenance of the parks.

On July 17, 1965, State Assembly Bill 1150 was signed by the governor which provided the cities and counties a means to pass ordinances to require the dedication of land, or payment of fees for park or recreational purposes as a condition to the approval of a final subdivision map.

This law enabled the city to acquire parks within subdivisions as they were constructed and so the master plan of parks, open space, schools and recreation became an integral part of the city's total master plan.

The plan was officially adopted by the City Council on August 1, 1966, calling for seven high, eleven medium, and two low priority neighborhood parks of 2½ to 3 acres, a community park of 30 acres and a large city-wide park of 65 acres with a nature area.

In August, Landscape Architect Richard Bigler was hired to plan four parks, Schroeder, Greer, Irby and Wardlow. Later Murdy Park was designed by the firm.

As the city was growing so fast the Recreation and Park Commission made several recommendations that would improve the park progress and open space element, but it soon became apparent that in order to accomplish the total aims and objectives of the master plan another large source of income would be required.

In July, 1968, the commission recommended the council place a \$6,000,000 park bond on the November ballot. The recommendation was accepted along with an additional proposal for a \$3.15 million library bond. The bonds would provide development for 32 neighborhood parks, 1 to 10 acres adjacent to elementary schools in all areas of the city, construction of two community centers, acquisition and development for 6 community parks, 10 to 40 acres, adjacent to high schools, and a regional type central city park of 147 acres.

A citizen's committee was formed to promote the bond issues and sub-committees were appointed to handle specific tasks. Chairman William Schweickert and council liaison Jack Green and Jerry Matney headed the combined library and park bond efforts. Committee members were Roger Anderson, Charlene and Ralph Bauer, Connie and Ron Bauer, Bill Brazney, Florence Boosey, Mel Cooper, Tom Cooper, Cris Cris, Esther Funk, Lea Hood, Lynn Hottenstein, Walter Johnson, Jay Mastroianni, Lynn "Doc" May, Bobbie Murphy, Jere Murphy, Katherine Reynolds, Leonard Shane, Dave Wickersham, George Williams and Norm Worthy.

A professional public relations firm was hired by the committee for advice on campaign strategy. The firm conducted a community survey to find out how many people would be willing to spend 50 cents to \$1 to support a library and parks. They were very encouraged when the results showed that seven out of ten people were for the bonds.

A speakers bureau was set up, coffee klatches offered, leaflets printed and distributed, endorsements solicited and information given out.

The election held November 5 had 85 per cent voter turnout and nearly 62 per cent voted in favor of the bonds, but it was not the 2/3 majority needed.



People for Parks Committee (standing from left to right) Lee Mossteller, Tom Cooper, Norman Worthy, Rod Cruse, Councilman Donald D. Shipley, Ralph Bauer and Fred Bolding. (Seated from left to right) Lynn Bolding, Connie Bauer, Angie Crusinberry, Chairman, Ron Bauer, Charlene Bauer, Helen Bolding and Lorraine Faber. Other members not present for photo are Co-Chairman Cris Cris, Robert Sutake, Bill Liles, Bruce Williams, Brian Hanrahan, Sherry Jensen, Gary De Boise, Mike Bogen and Dr. Henry Kaufman.

purpose. The Park and Recreation Facility Fund, made up mainly of subdivision fees, or the recent park bond that was approved by the voters would be used for the matching funds.

The city received an additional letter from the government in July 1969 stating that the city's outstanding open space project was being used as a model by HUD in connection with budget hearings to illustrate to Congress that these were the type of grant applications it would like to receive.

As a result of the approval, the city began negotiations with the property owners. Transactions took place with seven property owners for their parcels of land. The other four owners, not agreeing with the appraisal price went into litigation with the city.

The first parcel of land, a one-acre plot was purchased from James L. Crowther and Frank D. Rinaldi for \$27,500.

The five others that followed were 20 acres purchased from the State of California for \$375,066, 3.34 acres from Cresenciano Hernandez for \$110,000, 2.5 acres from Al Gonzales for \$59,000, a 2.5 acre parcel of Ocean View Mushroom Farm's land for \$66,085, and 1.5 acres from Giles Wallace for \$51,000.

The next two parcels of land were involved in litigation between the city and property owners. The city offered Joe Fern \$192,400 for his 14.80 acreage, but the court awarded \$267,000 to the land owner. The same happened with the Inon Corporation for its 10 acre parcel when the city offered \$151,000 and the courts awarded the owner \$221,630.

The ninth piece of property acquired was a portion of land surrounding the Standard Oil Tank Farm. The city negotiated with Standard Oil Company for 15.13 acres with a house on the property for \$320,250.

Aerial photo of park area looking south-east toward beach town.





Local fishermen show pleasure on catch of bass and catfish at Lake Huntington.

The city received approval of a relocation grant of \$15,800. Three of the properties had homes with occupants, Cresenciano Hernandez, Joe Ferm and the watchman from Standard Oil who had to be relocated.

Since the Standard Oil house was occupied by the watchman and his services were needed for the remaining oil property, the city agreed to allow him to live in the house and at the same time have someone to watch over the maintenance equipment stored there.

Due to the rising costs of relocation, the laws were changed to reflect the increase and the city made an amendment to the original relocation grant of \$15,800 asking for an additional \$24,200 which increased the grant to \$40,000. The federal government paid 100 per cent of the relocation costs.

The final two parcels of land in Phase I of the park were also caught up in litigation. Property owner Rollo McClellan was offered \$165,760 for his 14.80 acres and he went to court where he was awarded \$328,151. Robert Warner was offered \$62,500 for five acres of land and the court awarded \$125,000.

As a result of the court cases, the city petitioned for an additional grant of \$272,873 over and above the original grant of \$688,612 bringing the total to \$961,483 for land acquisition in Phase I.

HUD approved the grants and amendments and was obligated to pay 50 per cent of the increased amounts awarded in the litigation cases.

Total amount granted for Phase I includes \$961,483 for land acquisition and \$40,000 for relocation for a grand total of \$1,001,483.

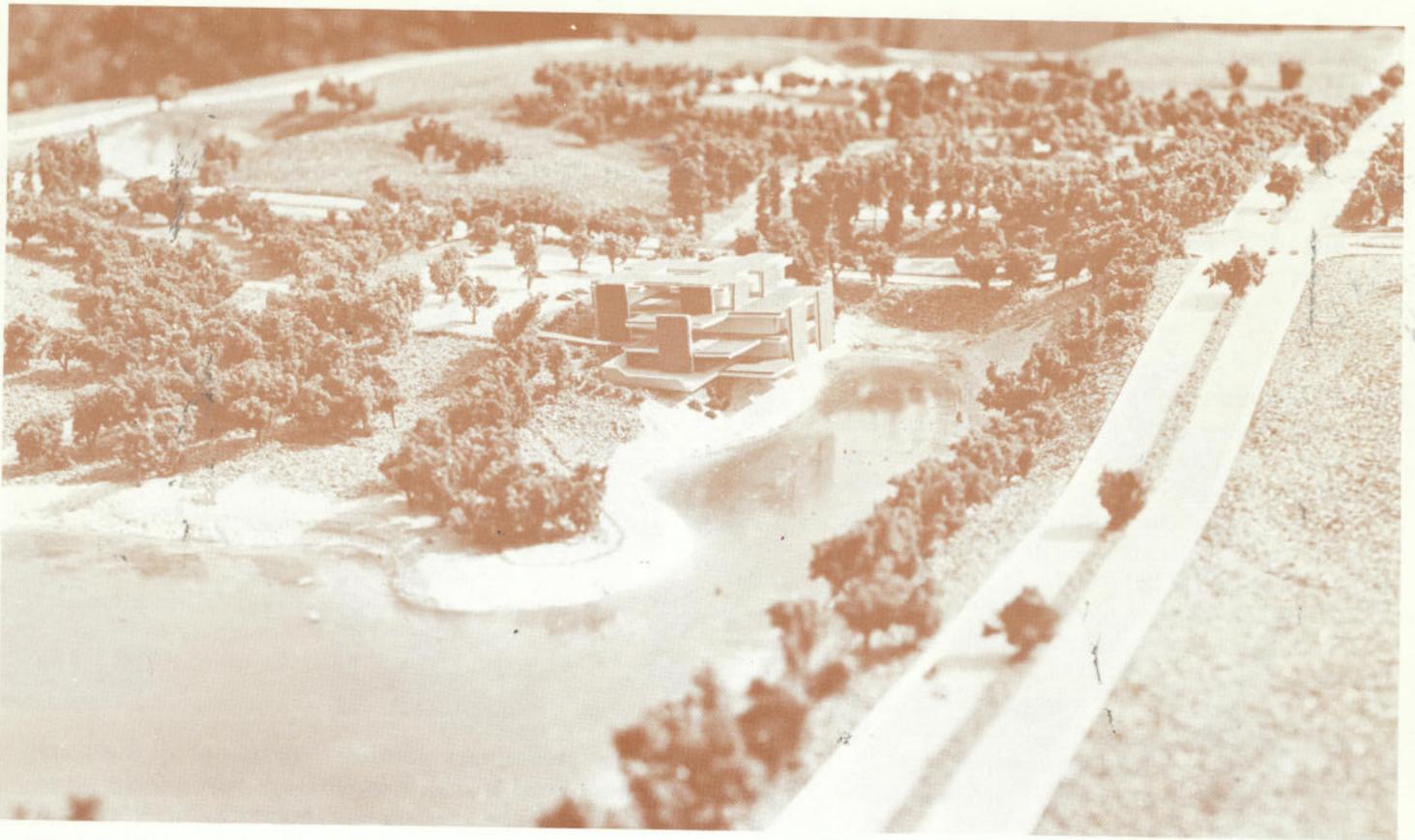
PHASE II

The city filed a second grant application with the HUD on March 2, 1970. The application requested \$582,816 for acquisition of 50 acres of land in Phase II of the park. Since there were no homes in this section a relocation grant was not needed. On June 25, 1970, the grant was approved and the contract executed on November 2, 1971.

Although the grant was for acquisition of 50 acres, the city was able to acquire an additional 10 acres through a surplus land exchange. This increased the land acquisition to 60 acres with no increase in cost.

All nine parcels of land involved in Phase II were negotiated with the landowners and none involved litigation.

The first parcel of land was purchased from Mesa Associates for 13 acres at \$271,700.



Original artists view of library overlooking Talbert Lake.

The next two were 12.6 acres from the state for \$224,919 and .4 acres from Ruth Yoder, for \$14,970.

Kusayanagi Investment Company owned 14 acres which the city acquired by negotiating a land exchange of 3.50 acres of surplus land owned by the city in another location.

The next five acquisitions were 9.66 acres purchased from Harriett Wachs for \$219,204, .34 acres from First Western Bank for \$9,750, 1.33 acres from George Kachickas for \$43,483, 3.67 acres from Masao Nerio for \$122,000 and 5 acres from Union Oil Company for \$138,600.

The balance of the grant money received from the government was used to pay 50 per cent of all administrative, appraisal and consultant costs.

PHASE II A

The land acquisition in Phase II A involved 40 acres. This section of Central City Park has not been developed as yet but will eventually be part of the park.

The federal grant was applied for on December 7, 1970, in the amount of \$607,898. The application was approved on July 16, 1971, and contract executed on October 16, 1971.

Part of the area was used as a dump site and the other as a gravel pit operation. Bruce Brothers Gravel Pit was purchased by the city for \$609,000 and included 20 acres. The other 20 acres owned by Sully, Miller Company has not been purchased but will be negotiated at a later date.

Bruce Brothers gravel pit will eventually be developed, but plans have not been made as yet. The 20-acre parcel has many great possibilities and the ideas range anywhere from a kids' creative playground to a beautiful botanical garden.

One suggestion has kids being allowed to build their own forts, dig holes and create their own playground with old tires, chunks of furniture, and lumber scraps under the supervision of playground leaders. The city will eventually fill in the area and later develop the site as a more formal park.

DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Two grants for the development of Phases I and II of Central City Park were applied for by the city.

The first was submitted on May 19, 1970, for \$172,153. This was approved on July 8, and the contract executed on January 20, 1971.

The second was submitted on February 1, 1974, for \$145,704. It was approved on July 16, and the contract executed on September 28.

The development grants totaled 12½ percent of the estimated acquisition costs paid for by the Federal Government and the remaining 87½ percent was paid for by the City out of the Park and Recreation funds.

PHASE III

Approximately 27½ acres of land surrounding Phases I and II of the park has been purchased by the city for future development and may eventually become part of the park.

The 10-acre eucalyptus tree grove facing Golden West Street was purchased from Gladys Bealo for \$225,000.

Another 10-acre parcel fronting on Edwards Street was purchased from Thomas Clements for \$242,423.

A 2½-acre parcel was purchased from Maude Bibeault for \$68,750 and a 5-acre parcel purchased from Joseph Curtis for \$137,500, leaving another 12½ acres in the center of the 40 acres.

The city is negotiating for the remaining 12½ acres. Even though there have been no development plans made to date, it is assumed that the land may be incorporated into the park.

The funds used to purchase this land came from the city's park funds as there were no federal funds available for these land acquisitions at the time.



On one of its preliminary studies Department of Fish and Game found several African clawed frogs that had to be removed from the area, a rare species found around flood control channels in Huntington Beach. The frogs, which were released or escaped from capture, are considered undesirable as they feed on small fish and endanger the spawning process.

Artist's conception of Huntington Central Park.



HUNTINGTON CENTRAL PARK

Located between Edwards and Gothard Streets and Slater and Talbert Avenues, this regional-type park in the heart of the city was acquired and developed with park bonds, subdivision fees, HUD grants and county revenue sharing funds. The city currently owns 270 acres and has developed 167 acres.

Architects for the park are Eckbo, Dean, Austin and Williams (EDAW, Inc.) of Los Angeles, General Contractor Valley Crest Landscape, Inc. of Encino, is the builder.

The site contains two lakes, Lake Huntington east of Edwards Street and Lake Talbert, east of Golden West Street and a swamp area in the nature study section. The park is also the site of the \$4 million Huntington Beach Central Library and Cultural Center being designed by the architectural firm of Richard and Dion Neutra of Los Angeles.

The park is designed to be primarily passive, but will contain 30 acres of recreational fishing lakes with 12 acres planned for boat rentals. Food and bicycle rentals will also be available at two lakeside locations. A nature center with an 18-acre nature area has been set aside for ecologists and students to study the native habitat. A park ranger will be on hand to conduct guided tours.

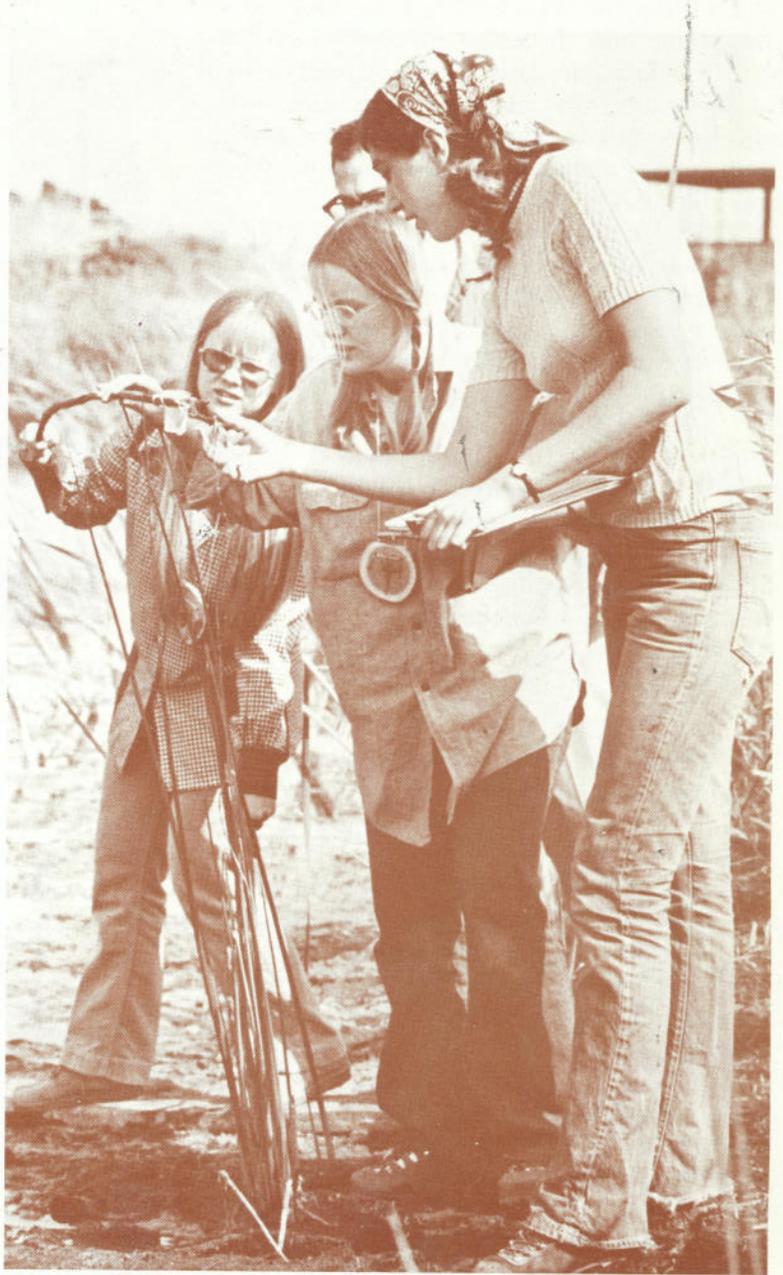
Walks and paths wind in and out of the open space areas through large groves of trees, lush vegetation and wildlife. Although the primary intent is to be a passive park, several other activities that will be compatible are picnicking, camping, ball playing and large group gatherings. Observation shelters, rest rooms and restaurants are interspersed throughout the park.

The park concessionaire, Prentice Taylor, will provide visitors with various necessities and services dispensed through either of the two concession buildings. Row boats for rowing or just fishing, sabots for sailing, bicycles including tandems and sting-rays, pedal-carts with surreys, fishing tackle and gear will be available for rental. There will be fast food service, with sandwiches and drinks for sale at both Tom's Place and Huck's Hangout. A bait stand will stock fresh bait for the fisherman at both lakes.

The buildings were designed by John Wells and constructed by Benton Construction Company of Laguna Beach.

The design depicts the Tom Sawyer theme and the concessionaire will follow through with the workers wearing period costumes.

The State Department of Fish and Game keep tabs on all the wildlife in the park. Along with the bluegill, large mouth bass, surfish, goldfish and shad the department stocks the lakes with catfish.



Group of ecologists taking water sample in nature area

While taking a stroll through the park you might encounter a few mud hens, a couple of roosters, some guinea hens and pheasants along with the wild ducks and many species of birds.

The nature paths are designed so that the people may casually wander through the park at their leisure. You may not recognize all of the plants and shrubs as most of them have grown wild in the area for many years. Some of these are wild celery, wild radishes, sweet clover, mustard, elderberries, burning nettles, bull thistles and wild fennel among the weeping willows.

The natural meadows on the Talbert Lake side of the park are sprinkled with wild flowers in the spring and purposely kept in its natural state so that the fauna that have made this their home over the years may still feed on the wild seed of the flora.

The park will have benches in great numbers, adequate picnic tables, 22,000 shrubs, 12,000 trees, nearly a mile of nature paths, three campground barbecues, nine drinking fountains, three play areas, two footbridges and one bridge for maintenance vehicles and 18 major lighting units.



Boys exploring east shore of Talbert Lake just under Eucalyptus trees.

There will be six miles of paved paths for maintenance vehicles and planned are six major parking lots to accommodate park patrons.

The park was designed for people to visit even though it will be a home for wild life. A family can spend the whole day in the park each with something to enjoy.

Father and son Johnny might rent a boat on Huntington Lake and row out to their favorite spot where they'll drop in fishing lines and catch a few fish. If he has forgotten tackle and neglected to bring bait, he can always stop at the fishing supply center on the lake and rent or purchase his needs.

Meanwhile, mother and the little one will take a casual stroll over to the picnic grounds and set up a table for lunch. On the way they might stop at the playground and give little one a swing or two. If mom brought hot dogs or hamburgers to barbecue, she might choose a table close to one of the outdoor grills.

Daughter Susie while bicycling through the park, meets a friend and they want to share a coke but can't decide whether to go to Tom's Place or Huck's Hangout. After lunch the whole family takes a walk over to the Nature Center where they are given a complete tour.

EXISTING AND FUTURE PARK PROGRAM

A coordinated effort by the City Council, Recreation and Parks Department and Commission, Planning Department and Commission, Design Review Board, and Environmental Council have helped make Huntington Beach a better place to live, by providing parks and open space for the residents.

The city has become the number one city in park planning, acquisition and development in Orange County and one of the top in the state.

Of the 534 acres owned, under lease, negotiation or joint-power agreement, the city now has 38 developed parks, a total of 346 acres.

There are recreational facilities for public meetings, swimming, sports and programs for the tiny tots through the senior citizens including social, cultural, sports and supervised playground activities.

Huntington Beach has a total of 60 miles in bicycle trails planned, 60 miles of jogging trails planned with 2½ miles developed and 12 miles of equestrian trails on the drawing boards ready for approval.

Couple enjoy solitude of passive park area.



Nine new neighborhood parks and one community park were dedicated in April. Edison Community Park received the State Environmental Award for community park design and development from the California Park and Recreation Society. Located across from Edison High School and adjacent to Kettler Elementary School, the 40 acre park was a former county dump site and part of Edison Company easement land. A community center, group picnic shelters, amphitheater, outdoor classroom, lighted softball fields, handball, tennis, basketball, shuffleboard and volleyball courts are all located on the park site.

Bicycle enthusiasts trying out new paths.



City Administrator David D. Rowlands

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

The Department of Recreation and Parks was established in order to secure the benefits accruing to the city from the growth and development of land within the city.

The goal and objective of the department is to encourage, foster, facilitate, establish, and maintain in a systemized program of recreation on properties owned or controlled by the city or on any other properties with the consent of the owners and authorities thereof.

The director of recreation and parks, subject to prevailing administrative policy, assumes full responsibility for the management and overall coordination of all functions of a governmental agency concerned with the development and operation of a public recreation and park service. The director supervises divisions of city government pertaining to recreation, park development and any other use the City Council may so direct. He also serves as secretary to the Recreation and Parks Commission without vote.

Under the supervision of the City Administrator, he appoints all other officers, assistants, deputies and employees of the Recreation and Parks Department.

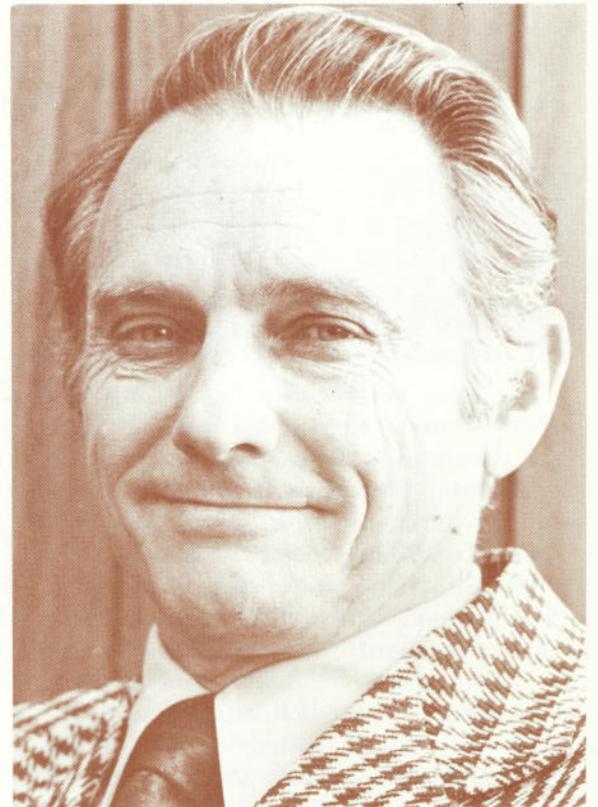
This department has the authority to charge the public reasonable fees for the city building use and for expense.

RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

There is an advisory Recreation and Parks Commission composed of eleven members who are appointed by the mayor and five members are appointed for terms of four years and six members are appointed for terms of one year each.

The mayor and council appoint five members from the city at large for four year terms. All of the terms terminate on July 1. The mayor also appoints six members for one-year terms. Each elementary and high school and junior college district having facilities within the city may recommend to the mayor two or more persons, residents of their respective school districts, and the city to represent the district. One of these is appointed by the mayor for a one-year term.

The commission meets every second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. unless it is a holiday. In such case, the following Wednesday is designated. All meetings are open to the public.



Norman L. Worthy



Recreation and Parks Commission (from left to right standing) Rod Cruse, chairman, Harry Turner, Tom Cooper, James Shepard, Lee Mossteller. Seated from left to right, Scott Flanagan, Betty Kennedy, William Barnes, James Curran, Kent McClish and Rudy Lozano.

The commission acts in an advisory capacity to the council, trustees of the school districts and the director of recreation and parks in park programming or facilities. Also it cooperates with other governmental agencies and civic groups in the advancement of sound park and recreational planning under the direction of the council. Commissioners may study, interpret, and report the needs of the public to the council and assists in securing financial support from the community for park and recreational needs. The Commission reviews the annual budget and advises on the current operational needs and long range plans for capital improvement.

PARK OPERATIONS

The Parks Division is responsible for the acquisition, development and maintenance of property for the purpose of providing visual and physical enjoyment for Huntington Beach and visiting residents in both passive and active environments.

With continual increased citizen input into the city planning function through boards, commissions, councils, and citizens advisory teams, the need for more parks, open space, and overall city beautification has been expressed. In 1973 the park subdivision and



Vivian Borns
Recreation Supervisor



Tom Bushard
Park Superintendent



Duane Jenkins
Park Supervisor



William Vance
Recreation Supervisor

unit-lot ordinances were doubled to require residential builders to dedicate 5 acres of land or equivalent cash value per 1,000 people provided for in their development. These ordinances, along with the \$6 million parks bond, \$2.3 million HUD grant, and excellent cooperation from the local school districts enabled Huntington Beach to move forward into the No. 1 city in park planning, acquisition and development in Orange County.

The duty of the park operations is to provide satisfactory levels of maintenance for 338 acres of parks and for the library, city gym and pool, highway medians, pump stations, parking authority, and city yard. Duties of the maintenance force include mowing and edging turf areas, watering, pruning, raking, cultivating, spraying, renovating, fertilizing, aerovating, rototilling, planting, landscaping, cleanup and trash removal in all areas mentioned. The crew also works with volunteer citizen groups in cleanup of major areas, installation of playground apparatus and planting of trees.

RECREATION

The Recreation Division is especially important since it deals directly with Huntington Beach's most priceless commodity — its people.

The division provides a variety of activities which enrich the lives of its citizens during leisure hours. Boys and girls may begin their recreation experience by joining a tiny tot swim class, learning the basics of ballet, or entering one of our pre-kindergarten programs. As a grade school youngster, he may wish to participate in one of the many organized sports programs offered, perfect techniques in swimming, gymnastics, tennis, golf, or simply get together with others on one of the playgrounds where a wholesome and happy atmosphere prevails.

Teenagers prefer a less structured program and are very much in evidence at game rooms and open gyms. Teens also comprise the majority of players in mixed leagues. Classes in modern dance, yoga, backpacking, slim gym, tennis, golf and dog obedience have brought teens and adults together with mutual interests. Additional classes which are adult-oriented include oil painting, bridge and cake decorating.

Sports programs for both boys and girls have been highly complimented throughout

Orange County. While this is partly due to organization and paid leadership, too much time and devotion to their "job" — the volunteer coach. Far more important than the making of steel into machines is the molding of boys and girls into men and women. Sportsmanship and fair play are stressed.

The Recreation Division also provides an opportunity for many teens to become part of the staff as scorekeepers, officials or playground assistants. The benefit to them is matched only by their influence on the youth of the community.



Groundbreaking ceremonies for Huntington Central Park were held on Friday, April 28, 1972. Many youth groups including scouts planted trees to mark the occasion.

PLANNING DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION

Five years ago what is now Huntington Central City Park was a no man's land in the center of the city with an abandoned quarry, dumping ground and raw scraped land.

This presented quite a challenge to the landscape architects, EDAW, Inc. (formerly known as Eckbo, Dean, Austin and Williams) who were chosen as the project planners.

It was decided from the beginning that the project would not be made into an active recreational playground with structured athletic facilities as they were available in other city parks. Instead the park would be a place where the residents could find tranquility away from urban pressures in a setting of lakes, rolling greenswards and a small wild-life preserve.



Cyclists stop to quench their thirst at one of many drinking fountains offered in park.

The firm planned the landscape program to incorporate many of the existing trees and shrubs along with carefully placed plants which would screen out visible manifestations of civilization that surround the park.

Assisting EDAW, Inc. with the project were Development Research Associates, Alfred Caldwell, architect and Valley Crest Landscape, Inc., contractor.

EDAW, Inc. has occupied a unique place in the professions of landscape architecture and recreation planning since the firm's inception in 1939. It has been responsible for a substantial number of park projects throughout the United States and in a number of foreign countries.

The firm currently maintains offices in Newport Beach, San Francisco, Honolulu, and Minneapolis. The staff numbers more than 60 professionals, including landscape architects, planners, environmental scientists, engineers, architects, economists, and cartographers.

EDAW has created vital and widely recognized park designs for projects ranging in size from the tiny Princess Park in Salsalito, California, to such major works as the Yosemite National Park Support Study. One of the

firm's primary goals has been to produce work of the highest quality within the client's required time frame and budget.

Working from a broad ecological base, EDAW approaches each project through practical analysis of the unique condition associated with the particular location. Design, plant selections, irrigation requirements and implementation documents are then tailored to the specific project to insure maximum effectiveness.

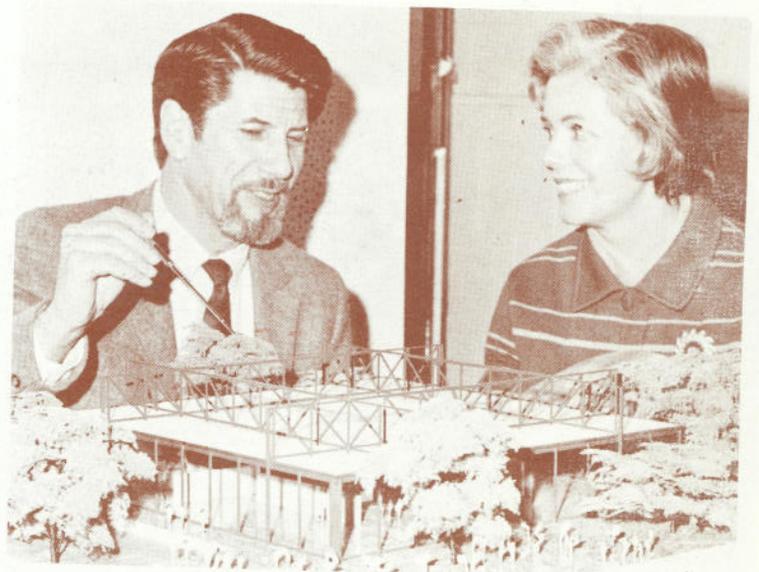
EDAW has received over forty major awards in the last ten years for design and planning excellence. Principals on the job were architects Francis H. Dean, Donald H. Tompkins, and Erik Katzmaier, associate.

Valley Crest Landscape, Inc. of Encino, has been in business since 1949 and experienced in landscaping, irrigation and site development work as both a contractor and subcontractor during this period. The firm has subsidiaries and offices along the West Coast, Arizona, Colorado, Florida and Washington.

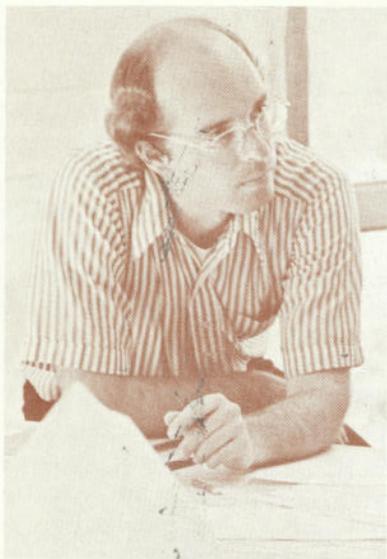
Some of the projects completed during the last five years include Los Verdes Golf Course for the county of Los Angeles, California Exposition for the State Corporation, Harbor Park in Los Angeles, and the Queen's Bridge for the City of Long Beach.

Valley Crest has also completed many parkway, freeway and multi-housing planning projects.

Principals of Valley Crest Landscape, Inc. on the job were Neville (Red) Laatsch, vice president, and Dave Jennings, project manager.



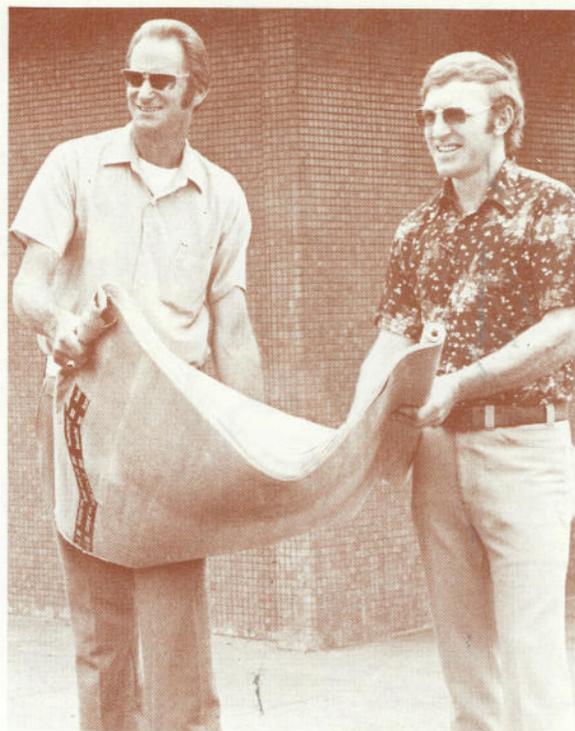
Architect Francis Dean pointing out the many features that will be offered in park to Councilwoman Norma B. Gibbs.



Erik Katzmaier
EDAW, Inc.



Donald H. Tompkins
EDAW, Inc.



Park Builders Dave Jennings, Neville Laatsch look over final plans.

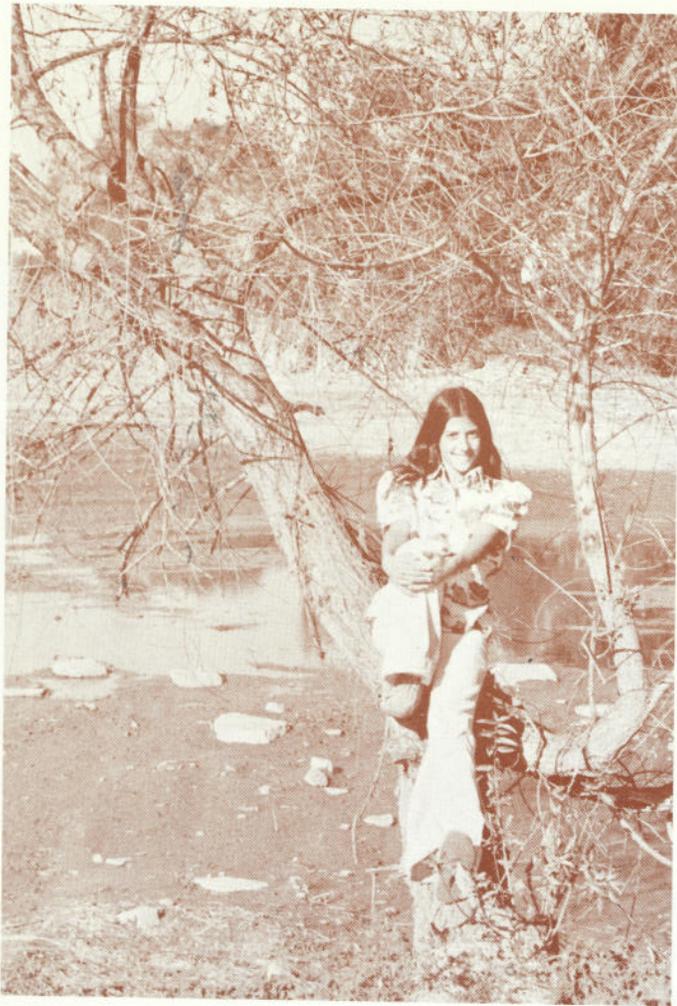
Early construction period of Talbert Lake.



This park would not have been possible if it had not been for the efforts of many citizens and residents in the community. There would not be room to list every individual or organization, but we especially would like to recognize a few who so graciously gave of their time over the last eight years.

Past Recreation and Park Commissioners, Ralph Bauer, Ron Bauer, Ada Clegg, Dale Coogan, Robert Cooper, Louis DeHarb, Lorraine Faber, Norma Gibbs, Orville Hanson, Dennis Mangers, Charles Mashburn, Jay Mastroianni, Don Treece, Patti Truesdell, Bruce Williams, Neomia Willmore and John Wyatt.

Past and present City Council members, former planning commissioners, and particularly the press - including George Farquhar, Jack Broback and Don Keller who were very helpful during this time.



P A R K S F O R P E O P L E





HUNTINGTON CENTRAL PARK: 1974

A Publication Of The City Of Huntington Beach

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Reference: My 60 Years in California
By T. B. Talbert

