

REFERENCE

PAMPHLET

H.B.--History

News Clippings

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cityside

Independent

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Extra, extra, library to get old copies of Independent

By Robert Barker,
Former Managing Editor

"They found a bunch of old Huntington Beach Independent newspapers in a garage at the Daily Pilot," the city editor said. "It might be worth a little story. You're the senior reporter (old.) Want to do it?"

Always eager to please an editor although fully aware that it's futile to try, I sallied over to the Pilot to check things out. Lo and behold, I found my name listed as a managing editor in the staff box on page 2 of some of the old issues.

My contributions couldn't even be described as minimal, but still, I proudly showed it to the editor in chief who was left unimpressed. Noting my current status as a part-time reporter for the modern Independent, he observed publicly and distinctly that it showed just how far I had fallen over the years.

The Independent, thanks to the efforts of fine reporters and friends, has been a major chronicler of day-to-day happenings in Surf City since the mid-1960s.

The papers soon will be going to the Central Library where they'll kept on file, and photo-copied if possible, to help shed light on city events.

"We are very glad to be getting them," Thad Phillips, the library's service manager said. "We always need more information about Huntington Beach."



MARC MARTIN / INDEPENDENT

Because the Independent frequently covered local stories closely with a personal touch, the newspapers are of special significance, he said.

The paper, in its earliest years, frequently numbered more than 100 pages a couple times

a week, and also carried national and international stories.

And though the Vietnam war was going full blast, local stories nearly always got top play.

The Feb. 2, 1967 edition reported that the Huntington Beach police department was giv-

ing en a "number one" rating in a survey of Orange County's then 21 cities by the Cal State Long Beach Department of Criminology.

Also that month, the Fountain Valley City Council voted to form its very own police department of 19.5 employees—14 police officers and 5.5 staff members. The department had one motorcycle and three patrol cars plus two cars for back-up patrol.

A look at some of the old Huntington Beach Independents that will be donated to the Huntington Beach Central Library.

carried an ad promising a round of golf in "smog-free ocean air." It cost \$2.50 on

weekdays and \$4 on Saturdays and Sundays.

The Independent was an offshoot of the Orange County Evening News that was based in Garden Grove where this reporter was fortunate to serve as managing editor.

The Independent was launched to capitalize on the wide open spaces of Huntington Beach that other papers were pretty much ignoring at the time, former Publisher Larry Collins said.