

# Towering example of local history feted

## High school's landmarks are rededicated

By Ann Pepper *O. C. Register*  
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**HUNTINGTON BEACH** — Few sounds carry more sweet nostalgia than music chiming from the bell tower of a hometown high school on Main Street.

And few present last week would argue that was not the case during the rededication of Huntington Beach High School's auditorium and bell tower as an Orange County historical landmark.

Built in 1926, the structure is considered an excellent example of Lombard Romanesque Revival architecture.

The Orange County Historical Commission and Board of Supervisors gave the building historical status in the spring. The Huntington Beach City Council followed suit last month.

The ceremony was held on the auditorium steps with members of the Huntington Beach Union High School District Board of Trustees, faculty, alumni and Mayor Jack Kelly participating.

The school's marching band played. But on this day, it could not outshine the music from the old bell tower.

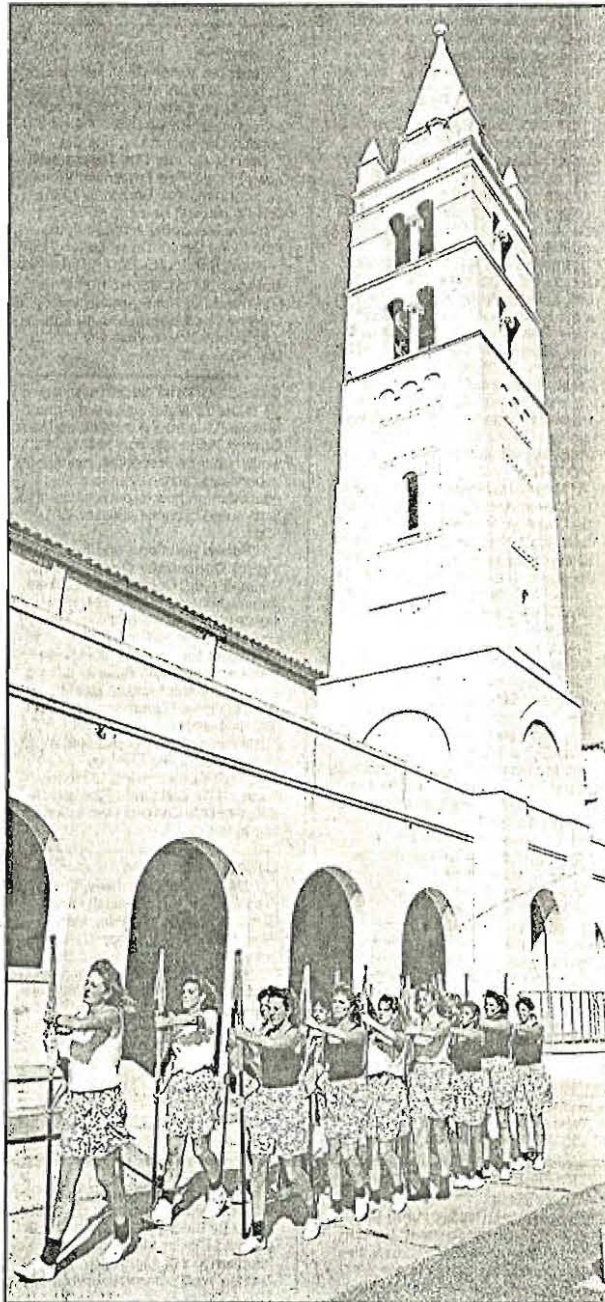
Students passing by said they had never before heard so much music from the tower. A few students sat on the lawn under the trees and listened.

Balloons in the school colors — orange and black — were released by members of the drill team and the afternoon breeze carried them away from the building and into the blue, late-September sky.

The building itself is simple, sand-colored and blessed with one of the hallmarks of northern Italian architecture: an arcade. It runs along the structure's southern side, affording strolling students and faculty shade from the sun and shelter from rain.

The high-school's campus at 1905 Main St. was donated to the 5-year-old Huntington Beach Union High School District by town developers, the Huntington Beach Co.

District Superintendent Larry Kemper expects it will be there for a long while yet. Toward the end of the ceremony, he invited everyone back for the auditorium's centennial celebration — in 2026.



Rick Storza/The Register

The Huntington Beach High School flag team hails the auditorium tower, rededicated as a historical landmark during ceremonies on Sept. 30.

