

# Volunteers dedicate to building pier

PAMPHLET

By Amanda Wray

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Julie Anello had never seen a pier before she moved to California. Canada wasn't well-suited for them.

But, it didn't take long for the then 14-year-old Julie Kotsch to adapt to pier life: learning to pull a clean fillet, cook shark meat, and pry mollusks from the pilings.

Eventually, she got to know the "big

biker dudes" who caught most of the big ones from over the side. She was an End Cafe girl, a waitress at the Huntington Beach Pier's furthest eatery.

Although the famous restaurant will never return — its structure has twice been destroyed by storm-driven waves — the spirit has survived. And the camaraderie developed among those who managed the place is stronger than ever.

Anello, now a 28-year-old social worker,

said the day after the second storm knocked the restaurant into the ocean she and two other restaurant workers formed a group to put the pier back together.

That was Jan. 17, 1988. Two and a half years and \$100,000 later, she is proud to say the group, dubbed PIER for Persons Interested in Expediting Reconstruction, is still going strong.

"Most of the group that started since the inception have stuck with it," she said.

"They've held on for two and a half years and I don't see them backing down at all. The enthusiasm is just fabulous."

PIER, now under the direction of original member Tom Bagshaw, has donated \$40,000 to the city toward the pier's \$11.7 million price tag. Another pledge, to be announced at the groundbreaking of the new structure, should round out the \$100,000 goal.

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## PIER

From A1

PIER volunteers, who sell T-shirts, calendars, pictures and pens, or "pieraphenalia," every weekend at their beloved hangout, number in the hundreds during special events like the annual Run For the Pier and Pierfest in the Old World Village. Bagshaw said the core group remains steady at 35 to 65 members.

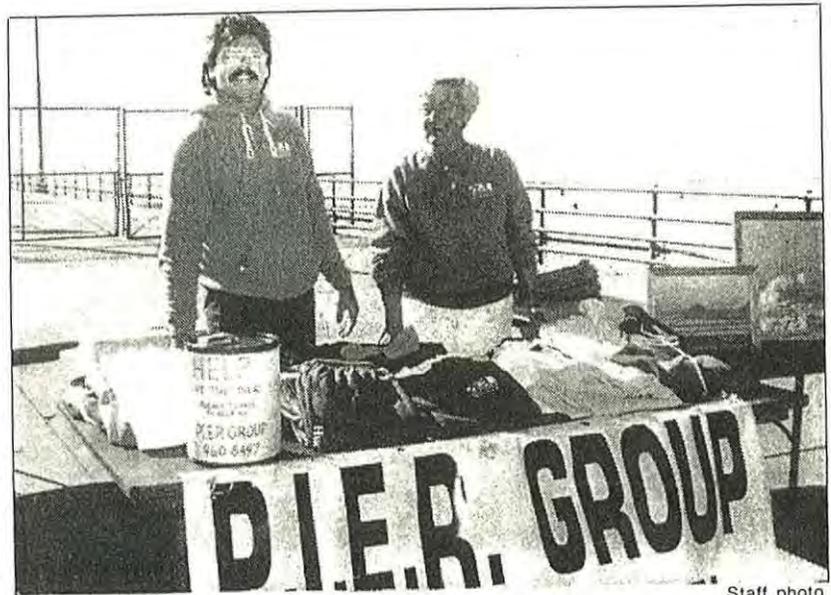
Why do they do it?

For Bagshaw, the motivation is akin to getting a good friend back. "It took awhile to figure out what I was going to do with myself," Bagshaw said of his initial feelings of loss. "My heart was broken, I was shocked. All of a sudden I was out of work. (And), the old pier was a really big part of my life. I learned to surf there. I fished there."

In the process of raising funds to rebuild his old "friend," Bagshaw, now a real estate broker, said he has gained many new ones.

"A lot of the group I meet with on a social basis too. I made friends with a lot of them."

Strong ties and interest from newcomers have helped keep the group's enthusiasm going, despite key departures.



Staff photo

Tom Bagshaw, PIER president, and Marilyn Hopson, treasurer, sell wares to raise funds for the new pier.

Former End Cafe manager and original PIER member Tammy Dillon had to drop out of the group because of a full-time commitment to medical school, and the family of the late John Gustafson, owner of the End Cafe, requested the restaurant's name not be used again.

But most are excited about the

cafe's replacement: Ruby's, which has successfully operated on the end of the Balboa Pier for the last several years.

"I think it will be swamped," said member Craig Doty, who joined the cause in March 1988. "A destination point at the end of the pier is important."

