

February 21, 2012

Jennifer Sampson Thomas Safran & Associates 11812 San Vicente Boulevard, Suite 600 Los Angeles, CA 90049

Subject: Immanuel Community Church, 3215 E. 3rd Street, Long Beach

Dear Ms. Sampson:

This letter was prepared in response to a request from Thomas Safran & Associates for a due diligence report on the Immanuel Community Church located at 3215 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in the City of Long Beach. In preparing the report the following tasks were performed:

- Researched pertinent registries and databases to determine if the building is currently designated or has been previously evaluated for designation at the local, state, or federal levels;
- Reviewed the building's permit history to determine date of construction, major alterations, and the name(s) of original owners, architects, and builders;
- Conducted online research to determine the building's potential significance;
- Conducted a site inspection to determine the building's physical integrity and/or significant features.

Following is the results of these efforts.

### Previous Evaluations:

The building appears to be a contributor to the Bluff Heights Historic District, a local historic district within the City of Long Beach. Research did not reveal any indication of any other previous evaluations of the property for individual significance at the local, state, or federal levels (Bluff Heights Historic District Ordinance with map of contributing buildings attached for your review).

### Research Summary:

The Immanuel Community Church was constructed between 1922 and 1923. It was designed by prominent Long Beach architect W. Horace Austin. J. D. Shurer was the contractor. Its original address was 300 Obispo Avenue, and its original name was Immanuel Baptist Church. Its current address is 3215 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. The church is a blend



of the Spanish Colonial Revival and Neoclassical architectural styles. The estimated cost of construction was \$130,000. It was one of three churches built in the same residential neighborhood at about the same time, and it was the largest and most expensive of the three. The building was reportedly damaged in the 1933 Long Beach Earthquake, but subsequently reconstructed in 1934 at a cost of \$10,000. Originally, its exterior wall materials consisted of tapestry brick and marble, but they have since been covered with lightly textured stucco. It appears that the stucco was added in 1953 under the direction of architect James R. Friend. Other alterations to the building over time have included the replacement of the entry steps and railings on the south and west elevations, the addition of a second story exit stair on the north elevation, a sanctuary remodel, pipe organ replacement, and the removal and replacement of some partition walls (permit history and *Los Angeles Times* articles attached for your review).

W. Horace Austin was a prolific and highly regarded architect within the City of Long Beach and throughout southern California. He designed numerous large public and private projects in Long Beach, including the Civic Auditorium (constructed 1930-1932, demolished 1970s), City Hall (constructed 1921, remodeled 1934, demolished 1970s), the Long Beach Airport (1941), the Press-Telegram Building (1924), and the Pacific Tower/City National Bank Building (1923). He also designed many noteworthy projects outside of Long Beach, including the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana (1931-1936), Santa Ana City Hall (1935), Seal Beach City Hall (1929), and the San Pedro Post Office (1934-1936). He is regarded as the first significant architect to locate his office in Long Beach. His large and impressive body of work within the city led him to be regarded as the "dean of Long Beach architecture."

There is no evidence to suggest that the congregation of the church or any of its leaders were significant under any context. There is also no evidence to suggest that any significant events took place on the property or that it was significant as part of a historic pattern or trend.

### Site Inspection Summary:

The building retains its original form and massing. It appears to retain many of its original windows as well. However, the majority of its doors are non-original, and its exterior walls have been covered with lightly textured stucco. These changes have significantly impacted the building's historic integrity. There is evidence of the original brick beneath the stucco around the entrances on the west elevation. The interior of the building has been greatly altered, largely due to the removal and replacement of original finishes. Partition walls have also been reconfigured. The building's overall condition is good. However, the windows are generally in poor condition, especially those on the south elevation (select photos attached for your review).

### Conclusions:

The Immanuel Community Church is a contributor to the City of Long Beach's Bluff Heights Historic District. Because the building is a contributor to the local district, the City



will be mostly concerned with changes to the exterior of the building. It is unlikely that the building's contributor status would trigger concern over interior changes.

It does not appear that the building has been determined eligible for individual listing in the local, state, or federal registers by any previous evaluations. The building was designed by prominent Long Beach architect W. Horace Austin. Austin designed many noteworthy buildings in Long Beach and throughout southern California. A review of his body of work suggests that the subject church is not one of his best or most significant projects. The replacement of original exterior doors and the application of non-original stucco over the original tapestry brick and marble have significantly altered the building's historic character and physical integrity. Therefore, due to the lack of historic significance and physical integrity, the building does not appear to be eligible for listing in the National or California Registers.

The City of Long Beach has broader designation criteria and integrity requirements than the National and California Registers. Consequently, it is possible that the building might be eligible for local designation under local criterion F as the work of W. Horace Austin. Criterion F states that a building is eligible if "it is the work of a person or persons whose work has significantly influenced the development of the City or the southern California region." Even if the building were determined to be eligible as a local landmark, it is likely that the City would still primarily be concerned with changes to the exterior, because the interior has already been so greatly modified.

Thank you for your consideration of this report. Please don't hesitate to contact us with questions by telephone at (310) 792-2690 or by e-mail at laura@galvinpreservation.com.

Sincerely,

Laura Vanaskie O'Neill

Associate Architectural Historian

Attachments: Bluff Heights Historic District Ordinance, building permit records, newspaper articles, site visit photos

# Bluff Heights Historic District Ordinance

### ORDINANCE NO. C-7937

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Attorney of Long Beach

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AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH DESIGNATING THE BLUFF HEIGHTS HISTORIC LANDMARK DISTRICT

The City Council of the City of Long Beach ordains as follows:

Section 1. Designation of an Historic Landmark District. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2.63.010, et seq., of the Long Beach Municipal Code and with the recommendation of the Planning Commission, the City Council of the City of Long Beach hereby designates the area known as Bluff Heights as an historic landmark district:

### BLUFF HEIGHTS HISTORIC LANDMARK DISTRICT

A. Location, Description and Characteristics.

The Bluff Heights Historic Landmark District is a residential area that includes homes generally situated between Broadway, Junipero Avenue, Fourth Street and Redondo Avenue. Said boundaries of the Bluff Heights Historic Landmark District are more particularly set forth in red on the map which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference as Exhibit "A".

The Bluff Heights Historic Landmark District is a residential neighborhood that represents an early housing subdivision dating from 1905. The period of significance is between 1905-1950.

B. Rationale for Historic Landmark District Designation. In accordance with the provisions of Section 2.63.050 of the Long Beach Municipal Code, the City Council finds that the following reasons exist relative to the designation of the Bluff

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27 28 1. It possesses a significant character, interest and value attributable to

Heights area as an Historic Landmark District:

the development, heritage and cultural characteristics of the City, the Southern California region, or the State of California.

The district is a section of the Alamitos Beach Townsite which was originally planned by John W. Bixby in 1886 and annexed to Long Beach in 1905. the character of the district retains the building types and architectural styles that were part of the early history of Long Beach. The land was then sudivided into the Tichenor Tract, Cedar Rapids Tract, Graves Tract, Alamitos Tract, and Ocean Villa Tract. There was a substantial growth of structures in 1914.

2. It portrays the environment in an era of history characterized by a distinctive architectural style.

The predominant architectural style of homes in this area is the Craftsman Bungalow style. More than 50% of the existing contributing homes today are Craftsman Bungalows. The earliest type of architecture in the area is Victorian, exemplifying the first homes built in the neighborhood. There are also a number of Prairie, Mediterranean and Spanish Colonial Revival homes in the district, as well as a few Tudor Revival and Neo-Traditional homes.

3. It is part of or related to a distinctive area and should be developed or preserved according to a specific historical, cultural or architectural motif.

As a portion of the original Alamitos Beach Townsite, the Bluff Heights community dates back to the early years of the twentieth century. It was a part of the original development that was incorporated into the City of Long Beach in 1905. With a large number of the original homes still intact, it retains the scale, character and streetscape ambience of an old Long Beach neighborhood.

C. General Guidelines and Standards for Any Changes.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings, as amended, as well as

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the Procedures for Administering the Certificate of Appropriateness found in Section 2.63.070 of the Long Beach Municipal Code are incorporated herein by this reference. The guidelines are to be used as standards for the Cultural Heritage Commission in making decisions about Certificates of Appropriateness as required by Chapter 2.63 of the Long Beach Municipal Code. The guidelines are an aid to property owners and others formulating plans for new construction, for rehabilitation or alteration of an existing structure, and for site development. The goal of the Certificate of Appropriateness review is to retain and preserve all original architectural materials and design features; to encourage rehabilitation which restores original historic fabric rather than remodels; and to ensure architectural compatibility between new and old. The guidelines pertain to all buildings regardless of occupancy or construction type, sizes and materials, and pertain to construction on the exterior of existing buildings as well as to new, attached or adjacent construction, and shall include the following additional guidelines:

- D. Standards and Guidelines.
- 1. Existing Structures.

Demolitions, alterations, additions and all environmental changes shall be regulated by the provisions of Chapter 2.63 of the Long Beach Municipal Code and in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Changes requiring a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Cultural Heritage Commission are as follows:

- (a) Alterations to roof; change in roof materials or shape.
- (b) Additions.
- (c) Window alterations or replacement.
- (d) Changes to porch and door.

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27 28 (g) Alteration or addition of fences or patio walls.

(e) Changes to exterior materials or colors.

(f) Alteration of driveways.

- 2. The following guidelines shall be standards to guide property owners, architects, contractors and the Cultural Heritage Commission in reviewing proposed changes:
- (a) Additions shall not detract from the scale and character of the existing streetscape;
- (b) Alterations of windows and doors are acceptable when the replacement windows and doors are consistent with the original architectural style and proportions of the house;
- (c) Important architectural features that are original construction shall not be removed or obscured. These include: rooflines, entry porches, picture windows on the facade, overall composition and massing. exterior cladding in original finishes; wood or stucco, terra cotta tile roofing or roof caps. For minor alterations in the rear of the house that are not visible from the public right-of-way, more flexible standards are permitted;

### 3. New Construction.

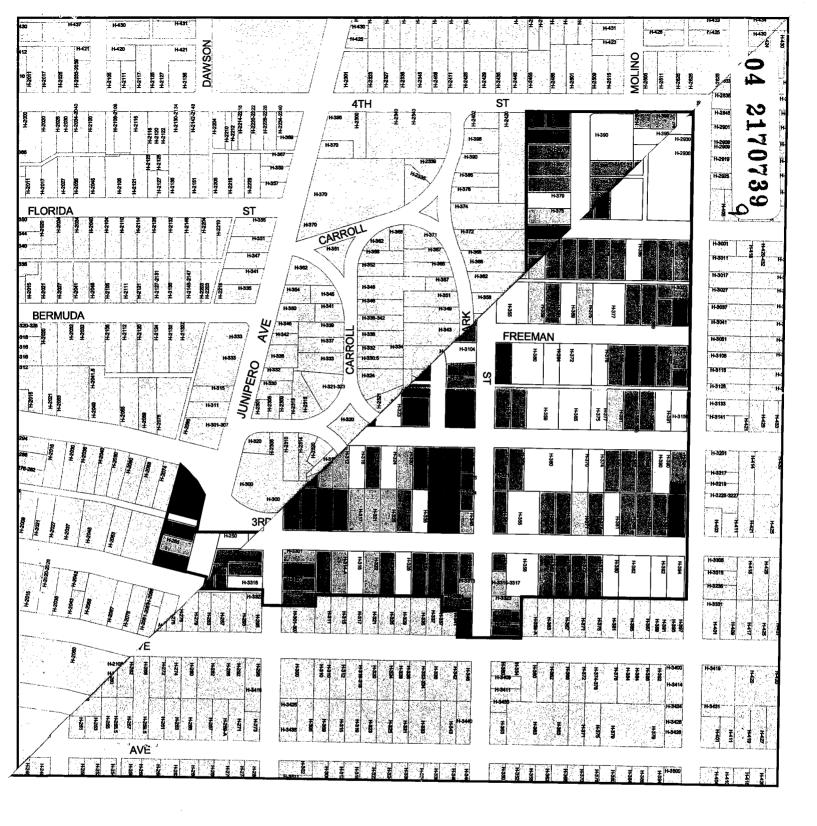
If construction of new homes or garages shall be warranted due to catastrophic loss or severity of deterioration, the design intention shall be to recreate the architectural character of the original home and garage in design, materials, composition, massing, proportion and placement of windows and doors, roofline, and scale. While an exact replication is not required, the overall architectural character of the original structure should be maintained.

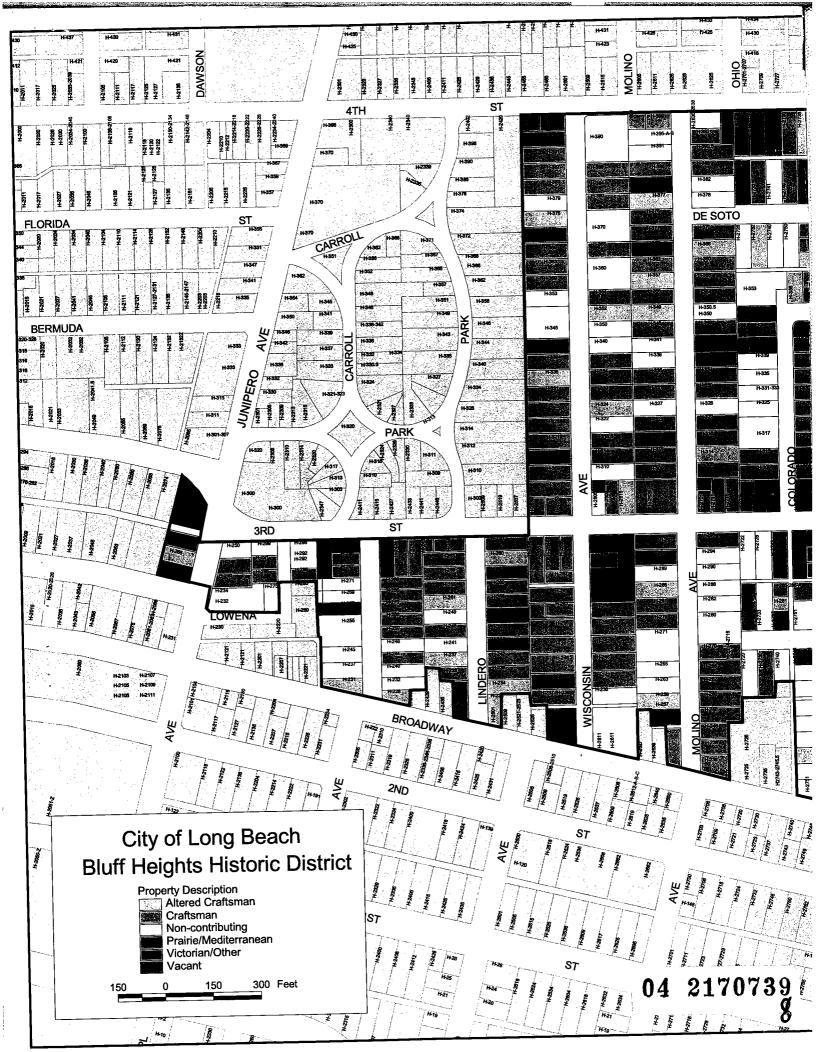
- 4. General Rules.
- (a) Maintenance and repair that do not involve removal or alteration of original materials or architectural features are exempt from

- (b) All applicable building, and safety and health codes shall be observed.
- (c) Properties shall be properly maintained so as to avoid deterioration, visual blight and physical conditions conducive to health and safety code violations.

Sec. 2. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance by the City Council of the City of Long Beach and cause the same to be posted in three conspicuous places in the City of Long Beach, and it shall take effect on the 31st day after it is approved by the Mayor.

I hereby certify that the foregoing	ordinance was adopted by the City Council of
the City of Long Beach at its meeting of	July 13 , 2004, by the following vote:
Ayes: Councilmembers:	Lowenthal, Baker, Colonna, Kell,
	Richardson, Reyes Uranga, Webb,
	Lerch.
Noes: Councilmembers:	None.
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Absent: Councilmembers:	Carroll.
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CERTIFIED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
CITY CLERK OF THE SHY OF LONG BEACH	Jany G. Henry
DATE: JUL 1 6 2004	City Clerk
Approved: 7-15-04 (Date)	faces Meil
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### Permit Records for the Building's Known Addresses

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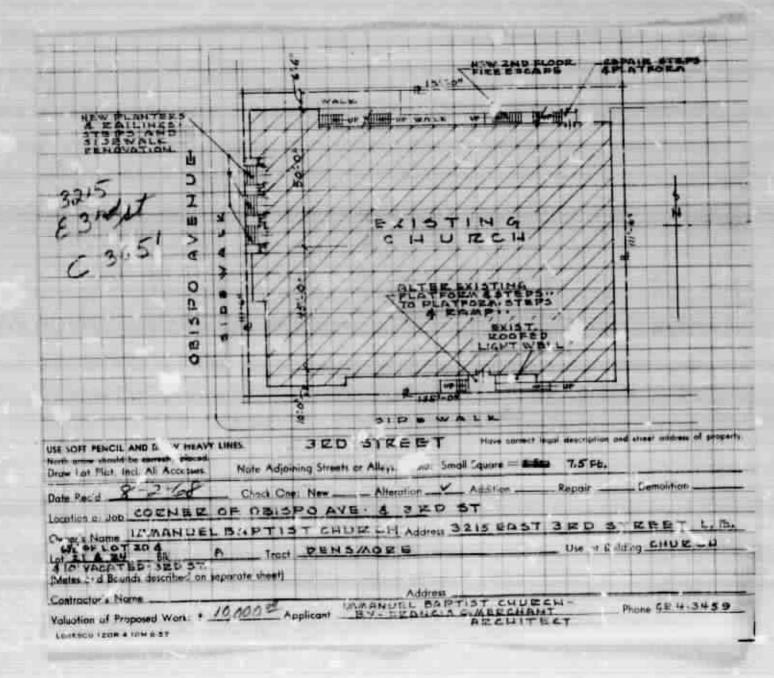
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### NOTICE

Separate permits required for the following work: Planteeing, Roofing, Tile, Maioury, Planteing, Electrical, Fences and Signs.

An owner, on his own single family dwelling, doing the work with his own hands, may take out a sub-permit for Planteeing, Roofing, Tile, Maioury and Fences only. All other type permits are required to be taken out by Long Beach licensed contractors.

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Find 9-10-53



### FINE CHURCHES BEING ERECTED: Baptists and Methodists at Long Beach Build; Three

Pangburn, Arthur

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Jun 10, 1923;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Times (1881-1988)

pg. V3

### FINE CHURCHES BEING ERECTED

Baptists and Methodists at Long Beach Build

Three New Church Homes to Cost Quarter Million

Immanuel Baptist Will be Occupied July First.

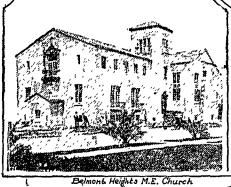
BY ARTHUR PANGBURN "Times" Staff Correspondent LONG BEACH, June 9 .-- An un-

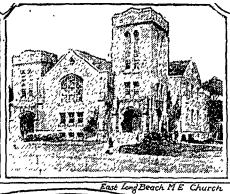
usual, but certain indication of the rapid growth of Long Beach is found in church development. No less than three imposing new churches are now under construc-

tion in a city noted for its beauti-ful church homes. All three are in one residential section. They are the Immanuel Baptist

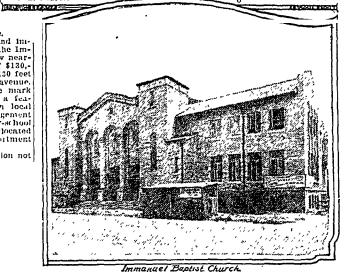
Church at Elliot street and Obispo Avenue; the East Long Beach Avenue; the East Long Deach Methodist Episcopol Church at Eleventh street and Frseman ave-nue, and the Belmont Heights Methodist Episcopal Church at 317 Termino avenue. More than \$235,-000 will be expended in making them outstanding examples of

### Three New Churches Will Cost Quarter of a Million





modern church architecture.
By far the most contro and imposing of the three will be the Immanuel Baptist Church, now nearmanuel Baptist Church, now nearing completion at a cost of \$130,000. It occupies a site 95x130 feet
and faces west on Obi-po avenue.
Tapestry brick and marble mark
its outer construction end a feature hitherto not found in local
churches will be the arrangement
of the various Sunday-school
rooms. Each room wil be located
opposite its respective department
in the church proper.
Plans call for its completion not



Long Beach Congregations to Have Handsome Edifices

The Immanuel Baptist Church, the Belmont Heights Methodist Church and East Long Beach Methodist Church have buildings under construction which will be completed during the summer and early fall. The Belmont Heights church, costing \$55,000, is rapidly nearing completion. It is shown in the upper left corner. The East Long Beach Church, costing \$50,000, is shown in the upper right.hand.corner. At the bottom is the Immanuel Baptist Church, costing \$130,000. It will be occupied in July.

dedicatory program is seing arranged by its pastor, the Rev. W. If. Galbraith, and a committee of church members. Services are being held in the basement of the church each Sunday, pending its completion.

The auditorium of the new structure will seat 1000 persons and the arrangement and decorations will be in keeping with the general design of the church. A mammoth pipe organ is to be installed at a later date, it is announced. The architect is W. Horace Austin. tin.

Mr. Austin also drew the plans for the East Long Beach M. E church, which is being M. E church, which is being erected at a cost of \$50,000. This structure will be two stories in height and will contain a total of twenty-three rooms, including the auditorium. Work on this church has just begun and it is expected that the new edifice will be ready for occupancy in about eight months. Other units are to be added in accordance with growth of the church membership.

Provision is being made for the

later than July 1 and an elaborate Sunday school rooms, banquet hall

Sunday school rooms, banquet hall and kitchens in the basement. Red tapestry brick will be the material for the outside. Interior decoration plans are now being worked out The pastor of the church is Rev. E. C. Delaplain. Of an entirely different appearance, in modernized Spanish, the Belmont Heights M. E. church, now almost ready for occupancy, is being constructed on a site 102x 114 feet on Termino Avenue. Like the East Long Beach church, this structure is also being constructed on the unit plan. Provisions having been made in the general plans for the addition of other units as the growth of the church demands.

demands. The building is of stucco and there is a suggestion of the Spanish mission in its appearance. More than \$55,000 is being anore than \$85,000 vis being expended for the main church unit. A similar or greater amount will be spent later for the additional units, it is said. Plans were drawn by John and Donald Parkinson, and construction work is under the supervision of C. T. McGrew & Sons.

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Wilson Grad Honored at UC

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Jul 18, 1954; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Times (1881-1988)



DAY IS DONE—Lowering the Tricolor from mast of French Navy's new vessel, Glycine, at sunset are, from left, Seaman Claude Guitton, CPO Daniel Coatmur, Seamen Marcel Lefloch and Jean Legall. The craft's crew is training under U.S. Navy.

# Reviews Growth SAVING LIFE **During 41 Years**

Immanuel Baptist Church congregation is looking into the future with confidence as it embarks on the 42nd year of

its existence. The church, at Obispo Ave. and 3rd St., has expanded in facilities and enrollment since its organization June 26, 1913, with 64 members, according to the Rev. R. Merrill Jensen, pastor the last four years.

The original church was damaged in the 1933 earthquake and reconstruction was necessary. The mortgage was paid off in 1945.

The sanctuary has been remodeled and a fine, new pipe organ installed as the church's latest improvements.

### Two Torrance **School Units Being Built**

TORRANCE — To cope with the 12,994 students to be enrolled in local schools in September, the unified district is adding a four-room unit, to be completed soon, and another elementary structure, the Hillside School, to be ready in about six months, Dr. J. H. Hull, School Superintendent, announced. T. nounced.

LONG BEACH—Ronald T. Nelmes, who, during his 30-year hanking career, rose from the job of messenger-bookkeeper to supervisor, is going to take a long vacation.

He's planning to do some extensive traveling this summer just to get a glimpse of places he's been curious to see. He'll visit Havana, Cuba and Trinidad and Caracas.

Although Nelmes started his banking career in 1924 at a Harbor branch, he actually has been at the work 25 years. From 1941 to 1946 he was in the Army. Entering as a private, he was discharged as a first lleutenant.

Sc nool Superintendent, announced.

Of the total enrollment, 9744

1200, adult evening classes.

The largest single class registration will be 1508 in kinderwith with approximately 1069 pupils expected to enroll here.

Riding Trails

Group Elects

PARAMOUNT—E. E. Olen-Kamp, 16459 Virginia Ave., was elected president of Equestrian

Downey KC to Dance

DOWNEY — Members of Knute Rockne Council, Knights of Columbus, will hold their first anniversary ball Saturday at Clock Country Club, Whittler.

Trails, Inc., at a meeting of the organization in Pasadena.

Neil Hill, Compton, has assumed the duties of organizational chairman, vacated by Clenkamp, and Margaret Porter, Compton, has been appointed temporary secretary.

WORK BEGINS ON NEW

Downey KC to Dance

lieutenant.

Wilson Grad

Honored at UC

LONG BEACH—William W. Bell, 21, has been awarded the Zenneth Priestley Medal by UC. The award is made annually to the senior who shows outstanding student leadership in the opinion of a committee of faculty members, alumni and students.

of faculty members, alumin and students.

Bell, Wilson High graduate and son of Capt. and Mrs. Rus-sell D. Bell, 306 Euclid Ave. was prominent in campus af-fairs and varsity yell leader during his final year at Wilson.

**Tropics Goal** 

of Banker on Vacation Trip

LONG BEACH-Ronald

BAPTIST CHURCH UNIT LONG BEACH-A new \$250,-000 religious facility of the Lakewood University Baptist Church is rising at 3434 Chat-

win Ave. The plant will consist of a 900-seat capacity church, 125-seat chapel, and a Sunday school unit that will hold 1000, according to the Rev. William C. Cole, pastor.

the

unit with the First Baptist Church of Long Beach aiding in its establishment.

Principals in ground-breaking ceremonies for the edifice were Dr. Frank Manson Kepner, ex-Oseat capacity church, 125tat chapel, and a Sunday chool unit that will hold 1000, thool unit that will hold 1000, thool unit of the Rev. William Cole, pastor.

Volunteer Labor
Volunteer labor helped build the present chapel-education between the college of the Men's Council, and Jack Andres, president of the Senior Baptist Youth Fellowship. ecutive secretary of the South-

# Baptist Church L.B. MAN GETS

LONG BEACH — First fe-saving merit award LONG BEACH — The life-saving merit award made here by the Red Cross in 29 years is in the possession of P. Lawrence Van Andel, 6765 Gaviota Ava Ave.

A citation, personally signed by President Eisenhower, credits Van Andel, Navy shipyard employee, with saving the life of Mahlon G. Marcellus, 60, Gardena.

dena.

Van Andel, by using artificial respiration he learned in Red Cross classes, revived Marcellus, a fellow employee, who had suffered a severe electric shock. A, charge of electricity had jumped from a power line to a metal bucket Marcellus was holding, according to Red Cross officials.

## Woman Given College Post

Long Beach woman, Miss Al berta F. Brown now is dear of admissions at Pembroke Col lege, Providence, R.I., accord

lege, Providence, R.I., according to word received by her parents, Dr. and Mrs. J. Scott Brown, 2920 E 3rd St.
Miss Brown, who started at Pembroke in 1951, received her B.A. degree from Northwesterr University, her M.A. at Mills College, and a Ph.D. at Brown University. She has held im portant administrative positions at Lake Erie College and Hood College.

### **Psychologists** Organize L.B. Association

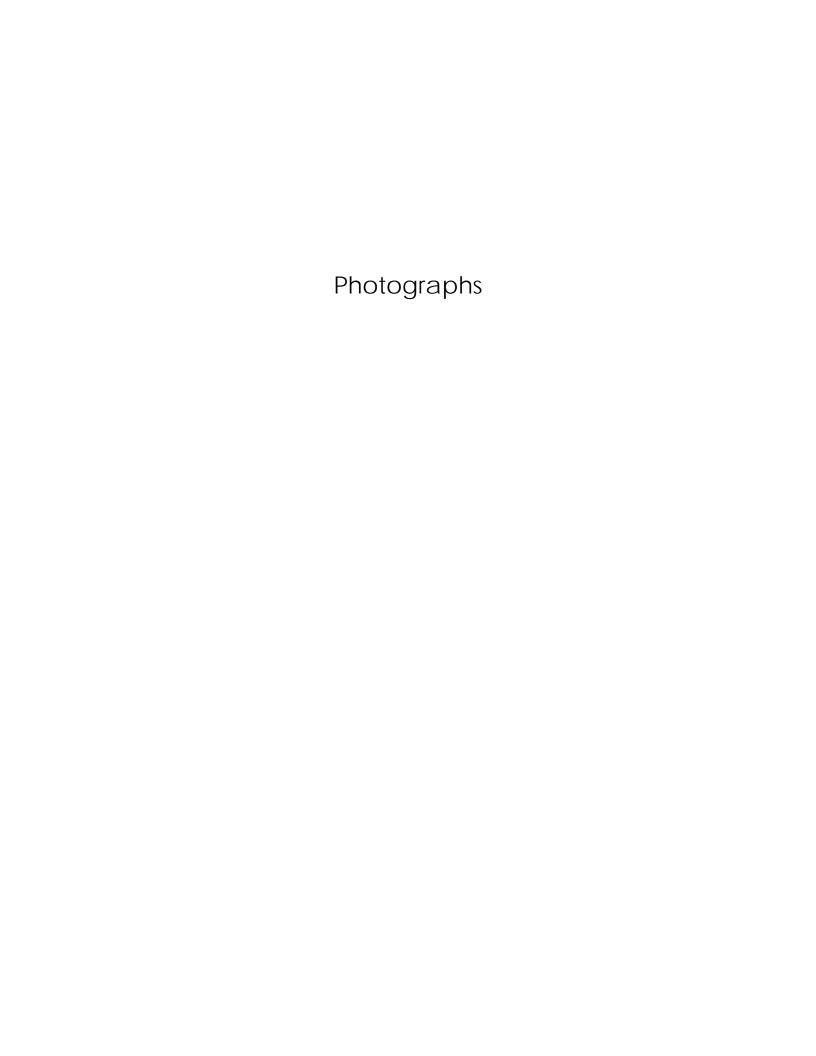
LONG BEACH — Names of qualified psychologists may be secured by the public from a newly organized group, the secured by the public from a newly organized group, the Long Beach Psychological As sociation, officers reveal. Thomas Macfarlane, assistan

PARAMOUNT — E. E. Olen-Kamp, 16459 Virginia Ave., was Beach State, is chairman. Mem bership is limited to person. Trails, Inc., at a meeting of the organization in Pasadena.

### Rotarians at Downey Have Installation Rite

DOWNEY — Kim Stevensol took office as Rotary Club prei ident and Cal Berry was awarded the Rotarian of the Yea plaque at the annual installation dinner at the Women' Clubhouse.

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West Elevation Looking East



South Elevation Looking Northeast





North Elevation Looking Southeast



East Elevation Looking Northwest





Detail of Entry Arch on West Elevation

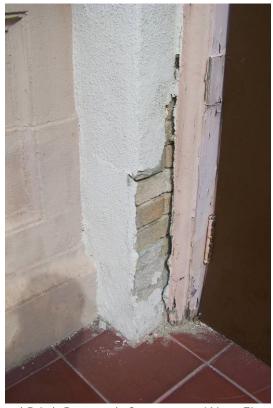


Detail of Tower at Northwest Corner





Original Brick Beneath Stucco on West Elevation



Original Brick Beneath Stucco on West Elevation





Detail of Window Damage on South Elevation



Altar and Pipe Organ Viewed from Balcony





Interior of Church Viewed from Altar



Church Balcony Viewed from Floor Level





Church Balcony Viewed from South End



Typical Offices/Classrooms



Typical Offices/Classrooms



Example of Altered Corridor