



THE WHITTIER CONSERVANCY

1987-2007: Twenty Years of Preserving Our Past & Planning for Our Future

THE PRESERVATIONIST

CONSERVANCY CELEBRATES TWENTY YEARS!

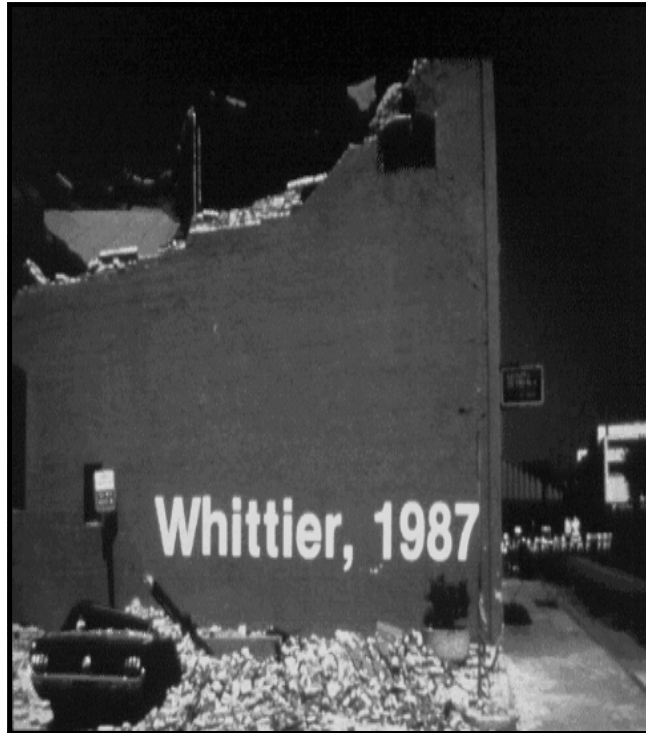
BY REGINA PHELAN

One morning in 1987, the earth began to shake, first lightly then harder. My cupboard doors flew open as glasses came flying out crashing on the floor. Broken glass was everywhere and everything was in shambles.

My grandniece, Michelle Halliday, concerned about my safety, grabbed me and pulled me under the kitchen table and held me down. When everything quieted down, she released me and checked me over for cuts and bruises.

I turned on the TV to learn the epicenter was in Whittier. The town was being tapped off; no one was allowed to enter.

(continued p. 2)



[Damage from 1987 Whittier Earthquake]

UPDATE ON NELLES PROPERTY

Thanks to the efforts of your City Council, Senator Escutia, Senator Margett, Assemblyman Calderon, Assemblyman Huff, and Supervisor Knabe as well as all of the email, letters, and phone calls from Whittier residents, businesses and surrounding communities we successfully beat back the state legislation that would have allowed the Fred C. Nelles property to be reactivated as a prison. While we are proud of the hard work of our community and the elected officials who stood by us,

THIS EFFORT IS NOT OVER.

Our efforts must now focus on the Governor's office and the California Department of Corrections (CDC). The Department has been charged with coming back to the legislature with a comprehensive plan to deal with the State's prison crisis. The CDC still has the ability to make use of the Nelles property as a prison facility in the future.

Simply stated, Whittier will always face the possibility of

SOURCE: CITY OF WHITTIER WEBSITE

a reactivated Nelles prison facility, unless the property is sold and developed for another use.

You can help us close the book on Nelles by writing, emailing and calling the Governor's office and the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation requesting that they direct the sale of the Fred C. Nelles property to move forward. Please see the City's website for contact information: www.cityofwhittier.org. Together we can build a better Whittier.

Spring 2007

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Check out the Whittier Conservancy website: www.whittierconservancy.com
- The Conservancy to make \$2000 donation to the City for the planting of trees.
- WE NEED YOU... To write our Governor requesting him to allow the sale of the Nelles property to move forward: Governor Schwarzenegger, State Capitol Bldg., Sacramento, CA 95814.

BECOME A
CONSERVANCY
MEMBER
TODAY!

The Whittier Conservancy depends on and appreciates your continued support. Please see membership form on page 3 to become a new member or renew your membership for 2007. Payment of your dues will ensure that funds are available to help us continue our work to preserve the historic and unique character of our community.



Dorothea Boyd,
President,
Whittier Conservancy

**WHITTIER
CONSERVANCY
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[Uptown Earthquake Damage]

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY DOROTHEA BOYD

As we begin our 20th year, the Whittier Conservancy hopes to bring you, with each issue, a glimpse of some of the accomplishments since its founding in response to the 1987 Whittier Narrows earthquake. Started by a group of people anxious to preserve the tapestry of Whittier, the Conservancy was successful in encouraging City Hall in preservation rather than demolition and in keeping the integrity of the township.

Today we continue to keep in close contact with City Hall encouraging preservation of historic structures, of natural resources, of the renewal of Uptown and hopefully the development of Nelles. And it is with great pleasure that this month we present our City

Council with a \$2000 check for the planting of new trees in a designated area.

Currently the Conservancy is interested in the disposition of the historic tombstones stored in the lower premises of the museum. The Historical Society is anxious for their removal. The Conservancy is hoping for their return to their place of origin—Founders Memorial Park on Broadway. In 1967, the disbandment of the Broadway Cemetery and adjacent Mt. Olive began and old gravestones were moved—to Rose Hills if desired by descendants or to the Pio Pico property if unclaimed and later moved to the Museum. The Daily News editorial of January 13 suggesting the gravestones be ground up and used to pave city streets is unacceptable to historians and

preservationists. There are 87 of these historic headstones, one of them an unknown Milhaus, Richard Nixon's family, and we feel they can be used in a wall or simple seating area in the park where they can be viewed and studied as part of Whittier's early history. We are hoping for City or private means to make this possible. Any suggestions from our readers?

We are delighted to welcome two new members to the Board of the Conservancy, Michael Delgado, a member of the Design Review Board and long time Whittierite Regine Phaelen, author and historian. Both are active in local organizations and bring to the Conservancy a wealth of experience. May our twentieth year bring many good things to Whittier.

CONSERVANCY CELEBRATES TWENTY YEARS! (CONT.)

I quickly headed for town and went to City Hall. There I met Myron Claxton, Gene Chandler and Tom Sawyer. Knowing my concern about the Lindley Building, they all

assured me they would do their part to rebuild it but consoled me knowing it would have to be torn down.

The Lindley Building had been built of brick that had been made on our ranch. Our grandfather, Thomas Hackett Phelan purchased

his land from Don Pio Pico, eleven years before the Quaker Colony had been founded. The land had a vein of clay. He built a kiln on the land so when the Quakers arrived, he had a large stack of brick on his land.

The Chamber of Commerce was to be opened to talk to those of us who had concerns about the earthquake. I decided to attend.

That night I returned to Whittier and drove into the parking lot. All of the lights were out. Then, another car

entered and then another. We got together and Mike Sullens suggested we go up to his house to talk it over and see if we could save Whittier's historic buildings.

The Lindley Building was closed off and no one was allowed to enter. Was there any possibility of saving it?

At the Sullens' home, we sat in a circle in front of the fireplace with broken bricks and the chimney down, not yet cleared away.

(continued p. 4)

CITY CORNER BY CHIEF DAVID M. SINGER

The Whittier police station was built in 1955 to accommodate 20 officers and 15 support personnel. In 1961, the building was already stretched beyond capacity and underwent an expansion to increase workspace for a growing police force. Today, the Whittier police station does not look much different than it did fifty years ago. The 20,000 square foot police station that once housed 28 police officers is now home to 97 police officers, 60 support personnel and close to 50 volunteers. The overcrowded state of the police station has forced to City to rent additional office space for police operations in a business building for the past 10 years.

A constrained workspace for a police department has a direct effect on its ability to serve the public in an effective and efficient manner. From a small and inadequate public lobby to the lack of private interview rooms for victims of crimes, the Department's ability to provide top customer service to the citi-

zens and business community in Whittier is suffering. In September of this year a group of citizens, business people and council members toured the station and were confronted by a daily reality at the Department; a victim of crime, visibly upset and crying, sitting in the open area of the records bureau for everyone to watch as she was being interviewed by an officer. The police station only has room for one public interview desk, which many times forces officers to stand outside the lobby as they interview and comfort victims of crimes. In addition, services that should be readily accessible to the public such as code enforcement and crime prevention are housed in a business building across the street, due to lack of workspace at the station. Although the Department has made significant achievements in community policing, it lacks a vital physical component, a community meeting room where citizens, business people and the police can meet on a regular basis.

The lack of space at the Whittier police station also has an

impact on the Department's crime fighting abilities. Detectives that should be sitting next to each other so they could share information about crime trends and possible suspects are split between the police station and a rental office across the street. The installation of crime fighting computer technologies in the building is also a challenge, as the station's 1955 construction style makes running data cables and adding computer equipment difficult. In fact, the electrical grid at the station is so old, replacement parts are no longer available and power supply interruptions have become a regular occurrence.

The current state of the Whittier police station does not help in the difficult challenge of recruiting the best and the brightest next generation of Whittier police officers. In an age where job seekers look for modern and technologically advanced workplaces, the physical state and appearance of the police station is less than appealing to prospective applicants who



David M. Singer, Chief of Police, City of Whittier

visit it. Lack of storage and workspace has resulted in boxes being stacked up in hallways as well as offices and break areas, employees working in old closets, and evidence and property being stored in staircase areas. Finally, the most critical public access portion of the Whittier police station, the 911 emergency communications center, does not reside in a seismically safe location.

A newer, larger, more modern police station will ensure that our police force will be able to improve customer service and operate more effectively and efficiently in reducing crime and fear in our community.



2007 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yes! I want to be a part of the Whittier Conservancy!

<input type="radio"/> \$10 Student	Name _____
<input type="radio"/> \$25 Individual	Address _____
<input type="radio"/> \$45 Family	_____
<input type="radio"/> \$100 Patron	Email Address _____
<input type="radio"/> \$__ Donation	Phone # _____

Please return this form with your membership fee (checks payable to the Whittier Conservancy) to:

Whittier Conservancy, PO Box 9114, Whittier, CA 90608

FIREWORKS

The Whittier Conservancy has joined residents in voicing opposition to lifting the ban on selling and using fireworks within Whittier city limits.

A petition drive has begun to gather signatures of Whittier residents who are concerned about the safety of residents and property from the use of fireworks. Of particular concern are Whittier's hillside and adjacent neighborhoods, whose dry landscape may be vulnerable to firework usage.

We urge City Council to listen to growing resident concern and reinstate the ban on fireworks.

WALLS ON WHITTIER?

We have recently learned that one of the proposed developments on Whittier Blvd. includes the construction of a six-foot wall surrounding the entire development. These plans are contrary to the Whittier Blvd. Specific Plan, which mandates open inviting development along the boulevard.

The Conservancy will be monitoring this situation closely and voicing its concern to the City as we favor the highest quality development for Whittier Boulevard.

We encourage residents to communicate their thoughts about this with City Council.

20 YEARS (CONT.)

Phil Wintner and Jane Gotthold were two of the concerned attendees and I did not know the others.

We made plans to march as a group to the Lindley Building. The TV cameras would be there.

In honor of our 20th anniversary, this year's newsletters will feature memoirs from some of the Whittier Conservancy's founding members.

TREES FOR THE CITY

In recognition of the Conservancy's 20th anniversary, we have donated \$2000 to the City of Whittier for the planting of new street trees. The board of directors will work with the City to designate one Whittier street that will be beautified by these trees.

The Conservancy will be seeking additional funding to support programs aimed at preserving and replacing Whittier's "urban forest." These efforts also honor longtime Conservancy member and tree advocate Damon Cofer, who passed away last year.

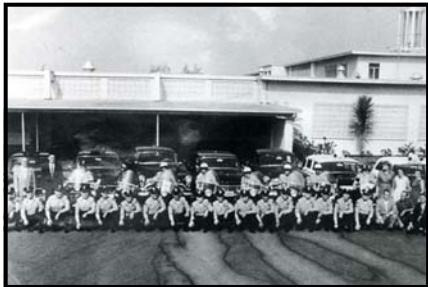
CONSERVANCY/ COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 12, 2007
Founder's Day
City Hall—parade commences
Central Park—event

June 10, 2007
3rd Annual Whittier Cultural Arts
Foundation Showcase
2-5pm, Info: 562-464-3360

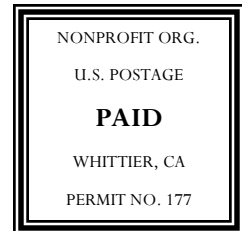
THE WHITTIER CONSERVANCY

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Whittier Police Station, 1961

**PRESERVING OUR HISTORIC
AND NATURAL RESOURCES**



Return Service Requested