



*Historical Society of
Long Beach*

For Immediate Release

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**LONG BEACH HISTORICAL NEWSPAPER COLLECTION
TO BE DEDICATED AT HSLB GALLERY**

Friday, February 10, 2012
5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
HSLB Gallery
4260 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach 90807

The Historical Society of Long Beach and the Long Beach *Press-Telegram* are dedicating the Long Beach Historical Newspaper Collection to the community on February 10, 2012 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in the HSLB gallery.

Over 1,400 bound volumes of newspapers spanning the years 1902 through 1989, the collection includes 16 mastheads, including the *Long Beach Sun*, the *Independent*, the *Independent Press-Telegram* and the *Press-Telegram*. One of the largest collections ever received by the HSLB, it holds great significance as a prime source of Long Beach history as reported by hometown beat reporters, editorialists, and investigative journalists. The dedication will mark the first time the public has had access to these volumes which were previously stored by the *Press-Telegram* in various locations.

In addition to dedicating the collection to the community, the event will serve as a fund raiser for preservation and public access to the collection. Included in preservation efforts are the purchase of archival boxes for volumes with cracked or missing spines, retrofits to the South Gallery, including protective shading for windows, a security camera to alert staff to potential theft or vandalism, and metal shelving inserts to replace the existing wooden ones. To provide greater public access, the volumes will be further inventoried and catalogued in order to create a search tool for researchers.

Dedication attendees will be treated to gourmet appetizers from Primal Alchemy, along with a choice selection of wines and other refreshments. Speakers will include the PT Editor Emeritus Rich Archbold, PT Executive Editor Carolina Garcia, best-selling mystery writer and former PT columnist Jan Burke, and retired PT columnist Tom Hennessy. There will also be a silent auction of donations from some of Long Beach's premier businesses and organizations, as well as an opportunity raffle.

Joining Co-Chairs Julie Bartolotto (Executive Director, HSLB) and Rich Archbold on the Honorary Host Committee are Governor George Deukmejian (Ret.), Mayor Beverly O'Neill (Ret.), Mayor Bob Foster, Councilwoman Rae Gabelich, Carolina Garcia, Senator Betty Karnette (Ret.), Lillian Kawasaki (Director, Water Replenishment District), Supervisor Don Knabe, Geraldine Knatz (Executive Director, Port of Los Angeles), Assemblywoman Bonnie Lowenthal, Peter Ridder (Former Publisher, *Press-Telegram*), Harry Saltzgaver (Executive Editor, *Gazette Newspapers*), Jean Bixby Smith (Director, Bixby Land Company), and Vice Mayor Doris Topsy-Elvord (Ret.).

Tickets: \$120 General Public; \$100 HSLB members. To purchase, go to www.hslb.org or call the HSLB at 562.424.2220.

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Long Beach Historical Newspaper Collection Fact Sheet

- The Historical Newspaper Collection consists of 1,400 bound volumes of newspapers, a Sunday magazine supplement entitled *The Southland* and advertising pages categorized by zones within the city.
- In all there are 16 mastheads that include the *Long Beach Sun*, *Press-Telegram*, *Independent*, *Independent Press-Telegram* and several others for nearby cities including Compton, Wilmington and San Pedro. The years span 1902 through 1989 with some years missing, primarily the 1970s.
- The volumes have been stored in various places; the most recent was a Press-Telegram distribution warehouse in Signal Hill. The years of storage had left the volumes in need of cleaning, some with water damage and others with cracked or missing spines.
- The HSLB lightly cleaned and packed the volumes on pallets for delivery to its gallery. Pest-killing packets were placed among the volumes and the pallets were wrapped in plastic. When they reach the HSLB building, they were quarantined on wrapped pallets for six weeks to ensure the pests were all killed and to protect the rest of the collection.
- The *Press-Telegram* delivered shelving with the volumes. The shelves reach 10 feet in height. Four contractors were paid to arrange the *Press-Telegram* and *Southland Magazine* volumes in date order on the south gallery shelving and the remaining papers were also arranged by masthead and date on shelving in the vault. Considering the volumes weigh between 10 and 20 pounds each, it was time-consuming and physically taxing to move literally hundreds of volumes into the subterranean vault storage.
- Next steps will be to inventory the entire collection including damaged volumes and their locations. This will make it easier for staff to locate volumes when researchers are seeking a particular year and masthead. Because we know there are gaps in the collection, we will identify the missing years.
- Much of the content of the collection exists on microfilm and in digitized copies in libraries and other repositories. We plan to create a comprehensive finding aid that lists all the locations in which the newspapers can be located in any format. We feel this is important to the integrity of the project and is a service to the historians and researchers that want to access specific dates.
- We have applied for a Navy Trust grant but we won't know their decision until March. In January, we will apply for a grant from the John and Dora Haynes Foundation. We will supplement the grants with a community campaign that includes individual donors, organizational sponsorships and the February 10 dedication and fundraising event.
- Preserving and presenting the Historical Newspaper Collection fits the HSLB mission. It is one of the largest single collections we have ever received and has great significance as a chronicling of the city's history as told by its local newspaper.
- When the collection is dedicated on February 10, 2012 it will be the first time it has ever been made available to the public. Given the collection spans 110 years, there is no living resident of the city who can claim to have read every paper in the collection on the day it was published.
- Although the newspapers exist in other formats (digital, microfilm), that does not diminish the significance of original copies that are "as they were" on the day of publication. To say they have no value because they can be found at the library or in some cases, online, is like saying there is no reason for universities and libraries to preserve first editions of books since they can all now be found online.
- We need the support of the community to help fund the preservation, cataloging and ongoing maintenance of the collection. It is not something we can do alone.