

Gazette Newspaper Preservation & Access Project

Finding aid prepared by Jen Malone
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Descriptive Summary

The *Grunion Gazette* began serving Long Beach in 1977 as a free weekly newspaper. For 30 years, the off-shoot *Downtown Gazette* served the downtown and Eastside neighborhoods, and for 10 years, the off-shoot *Uptown Gazette* served Bixby Knolls, California Heights, North Long Beach, and Virginia Country Club.

Series 1 contains basic identifying information of the newspapers including volume, number, date, and title. Increased description in the database is ongoing.

Series 2 includes all parts of the collection not classified as part of the Newspaper Collection.

Title: Gazette Newspaper Preservation & Access Project

Dates: *Grunion Gazette* 1977-2022; various Special Edition inserts

Bulk Dates:

“Lifestyle” addition to *Grunion* 2000-2011, “Sports” addition 2011-2020, “Community” addition 2020-2022; *Downtown Gazette* 1998-2018; *Uptown Gazette* 2008-2018

Collection Number: Series 1: 2022.023; Series 2: 2022.300

Creator: Gazette Newspaper

Extent: Total 43 linear feet

Series 1: 40 linear feet; 80 document boxes. Newspapers are paper volumes 11.5x17 inches, between 30 and 75 pages; ObjectID numbers 1 to 4,066.

Series 2: Two square feet of display space, 3/4 archival shelf.

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Abstract

This collection recounts weekly activities, businesses, events, people, sports, arts, culture, and other hyperlocal Long Beach, CA community interests from 1977- 2022. Materials include newspapers, photographs, two newspaper racks, and one art sculpture.

Language

Collection materials are in English.

Administration Information Access

There are no access restrictions on this collection.

Publication Rights

Requests for permission to publish or quote from materials must be submitted in writing to the Historical Society of Long Beach. Permission for publication is given on behalf of Historical Society of Long Beach as the owner of the physical materials, and does not include permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained.

Preferred Citation

[Title of item], HISTORIC NEWSPAPER, GAZETTES COLLECTION, from the archives of the Historical Society of Long Beach. Historical Society of Long Beach. Long Beach, California.

Acquisition Information

This collection donated by Simon Grieve to the Historical Society of Long Beach in 2022.

Processing Information

Acquisition of the Gazette Collection began when former Gazette employee Jesse Lopez, facilitated the donation of the Gazette with Julie Bartolotto, Historical Society of Long Beach (HSLB) Executive Director. Lopez, an HSLB board member, worked at the Gazette for 15 years as a graphic designer and digital specialist.

The Gazette staff and publication were forced to vacate their long-time offices on Second Street in the Belmont Shore area of Long Beach, CA. Archivist Alan Scardera, former archivist Brandon Werts, and Bartolotto created a plan to move materials from the Gazette offices to the HSLB building on Atlantic Avenue.

Originally, the collection contained up to eight copies of each edition starting on 30 JUN 1977. The HSLB moved materials measuring 97 linear feet, including two boxes of photographs, an original sculpture, and newspaper racks. HSLB hired movers to make space at the HSLB, and move the collection to the museum. Several HSLB staff members and many volunteers emptied the filing cabinets before the move day, and refilled the cabinets after delivery in the HSLB gallery. After the materials arrived at HSLB, Scardera led volunteers in weeding and documenting the newspapers in an Excel spreadsheet. HSLB acquired new shelving and archival boxes to rehouse the materials. Archivist Jen Malone, with the help of volunteer Board Member Jim Matthis, pulled each edition by date (oldest to newest), applied a

unique object ID, and cataloged each section with title, date, volume, and number in the PastPerfect database. To date, HSLB is the only repository with an almost complete collection of all three Gazette titles.

The processing of this collection and creation of this finding aid was made possible by generous support from the Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association.

Biography

The Gazette is a weekly newspaper that has been in operation since June 23, 1977.

Tedi and Pat Cantalupo started the newspaper to serve the Belmont Shore and Naples neighborhoods of Long Beach, CA, with circulation eventually including East Long Beach. Fran and Jon Blowitz purchased the *Grunion Gazette* in 1981 and increased scope, content, and circulation. They began publishing the *Downtown Gazette* to serve those communities in 1988. All titles were sold to MediaNews in 2004, who added the *Uptown Gazette* to serve North Long Beach, California Heights, Bixby Knolls, Virginia Country Club and other communities in the northern area of Long Beach in 2008. All titles and content combined in 2018 under the *Grunion Gazette* moniker, and continued to serve all of Long Beach.

The Gazette collection offers a counter-point to the Press-Telegram's coverage of the city and community. How and what the Gazette family of newspapers reported affected generations of local people. In the Gazette's early years, circulation and advertisements catered to the white, affluent, neighborhoods of Belmont Shore and Naples, however, readers included Latinos, Japanese Americans, African Americans, and residents who may not have been subscribers to daily newspapers. Because the Gazettes were free, they were a "go-to" source of information for high school and college students before the internet. It was an accessible source of news and local information, a place to learn about cultural events, find housing, employment, and like-minded individuals to share experiences.

Scope and Content

Series 1 consists of newspapers only, size 11.5x17, folded on left binding, pages numbering between 30 and 75 depending on the issue. They are cataloged as part of the larger HSLB Historic Newspaper Collection. The Gazettes cover community activities, events, businesses, advertisements, personal ads, and more with a hyperlocal journalistic approach from 1977-2022. The original publication, *Grunion Gazette*, becomes a two-part paper, second section titled "Lifestyle Gazette," later "Sports," and finally "Community." In October of 1988, the *Downtown Gazette* began publishing, and in October of 2008, the *Uptown Gazette* began publishing. A "Special Edition" focused on various subjects such as education appears sparingly. In 2018, the three publications were consolidated into one, the *Grunion Gazette*, and distributed throughout the city. Newspapers are organized by volume, number, and date. When the volume and/or number designations are repeated or incorrect, the object is recorded in the database with the correction and [SIC {number on paper object}].

Series 2 includes photographs, an art sculpture made out of Gazette newspapers, and folding racks used for newspaper distribution. The photographic collection is approximately 2,500 photographs housed on one archival shelf. Long Beach Grand Prix makes up approximately 25 percent of the collection in print, negative, slide, and CD mediums, arranged by year. The other 75 percent of the photographs are print, sized 4x6 up to 8x10 representing people, places, and events covered in the Gazette newspapers, arranged by LCSH as close as possible. Within this arrangement, standard alphabetizing rules apply.

Arrangement

Arranged in two series:

Series 1: Newspapers

Series 2: Gazette Ephemera

Indexing Terms

Subjects

Airport

Arts

Business

Civic Light Opera

Congressional Cup

Convention Center

Development

Festivals

Graffiti

Grand Prix

Housing

International City

Jazz

Land Use

Long Beach Community Playhouse

Marine Department

Navy

Municipal Band

Noise Pollution

Offshore Powerboat

Olympics

Queen Mary

Regatta

Storm Damage

Terrace Theatre

Transportation

Water

Women

World Trade Week

Geographic Areas

Belmont Shore (Long Beach, Calif.)

Bixby Knolls (Long Beach, Calif.)

California

Central Long Beach (Long Beach, Calif.)

Downtown Long Beach (Long Beach, Calif.)

Long Beach Harbor (Calif.)

Long Beach (Calif.)

Los Altos (Long Beach, Calif.)

Marina (Long Beach, Calif.)

Naples (Long Beach, Calif.)

North Long Beach (Long Beach, Calif.)

Poly High School Neighborhood (Long Beach, Calif.)

Southern California

Waterfront (Long Beach, Calif.)

West Long Beach (Long Beach, Calif.)

Westside (Long Beach, Calif.)