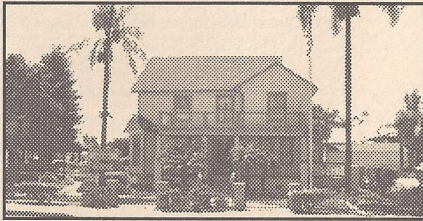
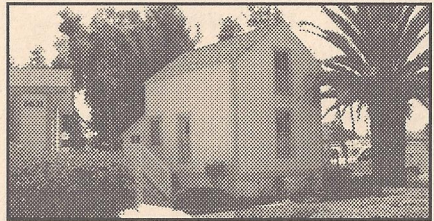




Significant Buildings in Buena Park's Historic District

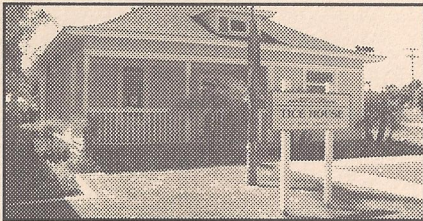


Whitaker Jaynes House Museum



Bacon House Museum

Museums operated by the Buena Park Historical Society



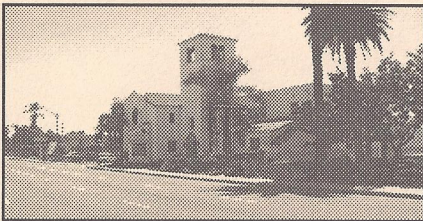
The Tice House



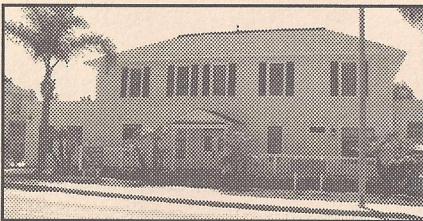
Dreger Clock

**The Buena Park
Historical Society
Welcomes You!**

The Dreger Clock
is a historical
restoration project
of the Buena Park
Historical Society



First Congregational Church



Stage Stop Hotel

Self-Guided Tour Booklet



*This booklet provides history and
information for self-guided tours in
Buena Park's Historic District.*

2011 Buena Park, California

Buena Park Historically Named

The exact derivation of the name Buena Park is uncertain, but most likely relates to the artesian well and its park like grounds once located at the current intersection of Artesia and Beach Blvd. (formerly Grand Avenue.) Local settlers referred to the area as "Plaza Buena" which means "good park" in Spanish. The mixing of the Spanish and English languages to name Buena Park reflects the major historical influences in the area.

Original Spanish explorers settled on the enormous ranchos by land grants made by the King of Spain. Manuel Nieto of the Portola Expedition received such a grant in 1783, which was divided by his heirs into five separate ranchos in 1834. One of them, 46,806 acre Rancho Los Coyotes, included the current site of the City of Buena Park where the rancho's adobe headquarters was located on what is now Los Coyotes Country Club's golf course.

The area was transferred from Spanish authority to Mexican rule in 1822 and subsequently California was granted statehood in 1850. Americanization further expanded in the area after completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 and its connection to Los Angeles in 1875. By then, Abel Stearns had acquired Rancho Los Coyotes in consideration for loans made to Pio and Andres Pico. In 1885, James A. Whitaker purchased 690 acres of this land from Stearns and in 1887, he founded the City of Buena Park in conjunction with the railway development of what we now know as Orange County.

Buena Park Historical Society

The Buena Park Historical Society is a non-profit (501)(c)(3) organization of individuals and institutions concerned with and working for the preservation of their community's heritage. The Society believes that this legacy must not be lost and does in fact provide the basis and continuity for all aspects of community growth.

Membership is open to anyone interested. Individual memberships begin at \$10.00 annually, with a lifetime membership of \$100. The Society accepts tax deductible donations of local historical merit including documents, pictures, antiques and memorabilia.

The Buena Park Historical Society has a part time Curator and relies on volunteers to serve as docents, provide valuable research expertise and assistance.

First Congregational Church of Buena Park, Circa 1891

“According to invitation and previous notice the People of Buena Park met in the Hall August 31st for the purpose of considering the wisdom of organizing a Congregational Church,” so wrote James A. Whitaker who was elected permanent scribe on that occasion. Mr. Whitaker is perhaps better known as founder of the town of Buena Park. The year was 1888. “Mr. Richard Archibald was selected Chairman while Mr. Jacob Hamm and J.W. McKinney and Jonathan Wallace were elected permanent Committee on Organization to report Confession of Faith and Covenant and Constitution.”

Then on September 7th, 1888, in Buena Park Hall (a meeting room over the Whitaker General Merchandise Store) a second meeting elected Rev. Mr. D. Goodsell (Congregational Minister from Westminster) as Chairman who “reported in favor of the second model in the California Manuel and after reading of this Confession of Faith and Covenant and Constitution they were adopted by this proposed organization.”

On September 25, 1888 at 3:00 p.m. an invited “Council of Congregational Churches and Ministers” met at the Hall “to advise with and if found expedient, recognize the proposed Congregational Church of Buena Park.” Los Angeles, Long Beach, Vernon, Westminster, Monrovia, and Compton churches were represented. Rev. D. Goodsell (Westminster) said he had been holding services at Buena Park Hall since “about the first of May. After brief consultations the council voted unanimously to approve the actions of the proposed Church and to recognize the Church and welcome it into the fellowship of Congregational Churches by appropriate services tonight.” At 7:30 p.m. the Recognition Services included the reading of 1st Cor. 12:31. Fourteen members being present and assenting to the covenant.

On Sunday, September 30th “Rev. D. Goodsell was unanimously chosen for pastor for the ensuing year” and by unanimous vote it was decided that the church would incorporate “so as to hold and dispose of property.” The pastor’s annual salary of \$130 was “subscribed” by six families. The charter member families were Whitaker, Hamm, Archibald, McKinney, and Cox.

The church was founded on September 25, 1888 and hired Rev. D. Goodsell (formerly of Westminster) who was pastor from September and was last paid on December 1, 1888.

Rev. L. F. Bickford was pastor from November 4, 1888 until September, 1890. On May 1, 1890, Rev. Bickford was appointed for an additional one year term but was paid \$1.00 on July 14, 1890 and was then not again until \$1.00 was paid on September 1, 1890 although records show he was owed \$50.00 in back pay by September 1, 1890. Rev. Dr. Harwood of Orange began preaching on September 14, 1890 and was paid \$8.00 on October 19.

Andrew W. Whitaker and his wife, Mary E. Whitaker joined the church on July 10, 1890. In March 1891, a subscription paper was started to build a church building. James A. Whitaker donated one hundred feet square on the corner of 10th Street and Grand avenue (now Beach Blvd.). “The grant from New York City was obtained and Mr. Whitaker donated \$3,000.” They began laying the foundation for the new church building on June 1, 1891 and it was completed November 7, 1891. A service was held that night and the following day the church was dedicated.

On January 4, 1892, the articles of incorporation were signed by nineteen members including fifteen charter members. The Congregational Home Missionary Society gave financial support for ministers’ salaries for many years. The wooden church was built on the north side of the lot, facing east. It was sixty feet long and thirty feet wide.

An open porch with five steps led into the vestibule that was eight feet square. This was the offset on the southeast corner of the church with a bell tower and steeple above. At the 1907 Annual Meeting, the church donated \$3.40 for San Francisco Earthquake Relief.

During the parsonage of Rev. Burton Neal, 1927-1931, a modern church was built. At that time the parsonage was moved across 10th street by the Richard Nelson family for a rental and was sold in 1928. The new church building was completed in 1929. Mortgage burning ceremonies were held on February 20, 1944 Street for \$4,100 in 1944 and sold for \$7,000 in 1958. A new parsonage was built with volunteer labor on Brenner Street. Bees have resided in the churches's outer wall three times since 1929.

A new church building addition of mater planned Sunday School rooms and Youth Building was dedicated on April 27, 1958. Rev. Frank Newbern became 33rd minister of February 1, 1972. The Brenner Street parsonage was sold in 1974 for \$34,000.

Rev. Jonathan Vincent is the 34th Pastor, replacing Rev. Newbern in 2000. The pews in the balcony came from the original church.

Whitaker-Jaynes House, Circa 1887

The story of the Whitaker-Jaynes House coincides with the history and development of Buena Park. The House was built for Andrew W. Whitaker when he arrived from Indiana in 1897. His brother, James A. Whitaker, a prosperous wholesale grocer from Chicago, had bought 690 acres of land here in 1885 to establish a cattle ranch. A land agent for Santa Fe Railroad, named George Fullerton, convinced Whitaker to subdivide his property instead. Since Whitaker's acreage bordered the rail route, the deal was consummated in exchange for a rail terminal to be built later. So, on June 17, 1887, Whitaker registered his platted map for the town of Buena Park with Los Angeles County (Orange County was not formed until 1889.)

Twenty acres of land within the subdivision was sold to one of James' two brothers, Andrew. Andrew was an experienced farmer who later helped James operate the Pacific Condensed Milk Company after a local group of investors took over its operation in the early 1890's. This company was Orange County's first nonagricultural industry and was commonly referred to by its brand name as the Lily Creamery.

J. Harry Whitaker, Andrew's eldest of four sons, worked for his father's older brother, Harry A. Whitaker, who started the town's general store. Later, J. Harry bought the store from his Uncle Harry A. Whitaker and subsequently became the town's first Postmaster in 1895, with the post office being in the store.

J. Harry Whitaker lived in the house with his parents from 1887 until 1889, when he married his Uncle James' adopted daughter, Lillian. After Andrew dies in 1903, his wife sold the home to the I.D. Jaynes family and moved to Los Angeles.

Isaac D. Jaynes was a successful rancher and fruit grower credited with being the first to plant citrus in the area. Jaynes achieved recognition as a U.S. Army officer in Europe during World War I, and after the war he was active in the Officer's Reserve Corps. Upon returning home, Jaynes began developing commercial and residential properties within the City and was also appointed Buena Park's Postmaster in 1922. I.D. Jayne's and his wife Edna had six children, three of whom were born in the house.

After owning the house for decades, Jaynes undertook a major remodeling circa 1925, which added a bay window to the dining room and replaced a single window in the kitchen with three. The original porch was also replaced with a stronger one.

The Jaynes family lived in the house until 1965, when the City of Buena Park bought it and restored it. The surrounding land was made into a park. The house was moved in 1994 to become the cornerstone of Buena Park's newly established Historical District.

Self Guided Tour

Whitaker-Jaynes House

The Whitaker-Jaynes House was originally located where the Toyota dealership is now - the corner of Beach Blvd. and Manchester Blvd. (now Auto Center Drive.)

Parlor/Drawing room

The Arian Piano, 1878, Europe, was shipped around Cape Horn to teach a child in Pasadena. The family needed a place to store it, and the Whitaker-Jaynes House had a place. For a long period of time it was on loan, but since has been donated to the Estate.

The Victorian Rococo Revival style sofa with ornate hand carved mahogany is from an estate in Winnetka, IL. and dates back to the mid 1800's. The floor lamp with the fringed shade was founded in the Whitaker-Pierce house (the original home of James A. Whitaker, the founder of Buena Park whose house was torn down in the mid 1980s.)

The early families did not have our modern conveniences. Hobbies, such as shell collecting, drying flowers, taking and looking at photos in scrapbooks and stereopticons, occupied their time when they were not working.

The clock on the mantel (circa 1830) has a gilt and shell column. The weight is wound every 8 days. On the left of the fireplace is a chalk portrait of the mother of Isaac Jaynes who purchased the house from Andrew Whitaker in 1907.

Many homes had small desks for writing letters, keeping stamps and such. The one here, dated 1903, is called a "secretary" and also has space for books, and drawers for other items.

The red empire sofa and two red velvet Victorian style chairs, were donated by Mrs. Edith Rehnborg of the Nutrilite business on Beach Blvd.

Dining Room

The light above the table and chairs was converted from kerosene to electricity. A 1908 Kellogg telephone allowed the residents to communicate with other across the country by picking up the earpiece, and when the person on the other end asked, "what number please?" would tell the operator who or what number they wanted.

The pot belly stove in the corner is the size usually found in a two-level home or in a general store where neighbors would sit around and chat. Above the stove is the marriage license of the James Whitakers.

Two people are need to play the organ: one to pump air into the organ, and the other to pump the pedals to play the keys.

The high chair (1892) belonged to the Mitchell family. Linens, china, and silver from various period are held in the built-in-cabinet.

Very few items belonging to the two families are in the house. The large turkey platter, more than two hundred years old, is believed to have belonged to the Whitaker family.

The china cabinet next to the stairs has several interesting pieces including the chocolate set belonging to the Whitakers and a dolphin dish purchased by Winnie Wagg at the Five and Dime store for twenty-five cents many years ago.

Kitchen

The stove was heated by wood making the kitchen the most comfortable part of the house in the winter.

On the stove the three kinds of irons - the flat iron (also called sad iron.) Two or three were used at the same time. (While one was used for ironing, the other two were being heated), the one on the left is a kerosene iron and the black is called the charcoal iron. You need to lift them to realize the weight while they were being used.

Ice for the icebox was delivered by truck and carried into the house with huge tongs (see wall). The carrier had a leather pad over his shoulder to keep the water off his clothes. The ice went into the top section of the box, water drained down through the center where the food was kept, into a tray in the bottom that had to be emptied each day or so. If not, it ran over and onto the kitchen floor.

The orange painted cabinet by the door is called a pie safe, and was used to keep flies off the pies while they cooled. The dishes are from the Jewel Tea Company, a door-to-door merchant, given away in the 1930's and 1940's when food items were purchased from them.

Other objects in the kitchen are also marked: butter churn, ice shavers, apple peeler, chopping block, coffee grinder, cake mixer, and others.

The metal tub in the corner is a bath tub usually used in the kitchen, the warmest place in the house.

Items in the pantry are identified as marked: tin can maker has thirty six parts, kraut slicer slices cabbage to make kraut, large ice tea ball, cherry pitter, green bean stringer, and others.

Upstairs

The large painting of D.H. Lawrence *Pinky*, was donated by Movieland Wax Museum's "Place of Living Art" which had paintings and wax figures to match.

Madeline and Loring Whitaker were born in this "children's room" (children of Lillian and J. Harry Whitaker). Their third child was born in Anaheim after J. Harry took over the postmaster job in that city.

The bedroom set in the larger bedroom belonged to Walter and Cordelia Knott (Knott's Berry Farm founders) and was donated by the Knott family. It had been kept in the home above the berry market at Knott's Berry Farm. Note the hole that had to be cut in the ceiling to allow the crown of the dresser. The red cabinet is French and help lingerie. The potty chair would have accommodated an invalid.

The wardrobe took the place of closets. To preserve the clothing in storage, they are now wrapped with acid free tissue.

The Whitaker-Jaynes home originally did not have a bathroom. An outhouse was more than like available. We believe that Mr. Jaynes added a bathroom and other plumbing later. This was all removed when the house was moved to its current location to make it more accurate for the period in which it was built.

Bacon House, Circa 1884

A Rare Example of Single Wall Construction

The Bacon House was built about 1884 by an unknown squatter in a remote area of Abel Stearn's Rancho Los Coyotes. The land was being held in trust for a minor, named Fredrick B. Ramige, of Calhoun Iowa, who had inherited it. At maturity in 1894, Ramige sold ten acres of land and the house to Jacob Hamm for 625. Hamm worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad in Banning and had married the Widow Shance whose brother was plant manager for the Pacific Condensed Milk Company - more commonly known as the Lily Creamery.

About 1900, Hamm traded his equity in the land and house for another house in Buena Park, owned by Robert D. Bacon. Bacon had come to the area in 1888, used these ten acres as the nucleus for what was to become a successful and progressive farm. Bacon married Agatha Van Loenen in 1905, and their three children, Mildred, James E., and Robert W., were all born in the house. By 1913, a more substantial home had been built on the same property, so the original house was used as a storehouse. Bacon served as a trustee of the Centralia School District and worked to form a storm district for the control of the Santa Ana River.

After the Bacon Family gave the house to the City of Buena Park in 1976, it was moved to the Whitaker-Jaynes Estate Park where it was restored to commemorate the United States Bicentennial. The House was moved in 1994, along with the Whitaker-Jaynes house, to become one of the cornerstones of the newly established Historic District.

Self Guided Tour

Bacon House

The Bacon House is furnished sparsely compared to the Whitaker-Jaynes House. Still, the residents needed many of the same things - stove, table, chairs, pie safe, beds utensils, and such. The side room may have been added, and not used for sleeping - just for storage.

James Bacon, born in the house, became well know for his development of the Bacon Avocado. You may see plaques on display, honoring him for his numerous contributions to agriculture and horticulture. He passed away in the 1990's. His wife Virgie was a popular elementary school teacher in Buena Park and moved to Tennessee after his death. She passed away in 2008.

Tice House

The history of the Tice House is very sketchy, pending receipt of the promised stories from the last individual owner. In 2001, the structure was purchased and restored from a frightful state of disrepair and remodeled into a credit union. It is now a restaurant serving local residents and visitors from abroad.

William Tice, Jr., known as "Junior," was a world renowned ham radio buff who talked to literally thousands of people around the world from the Tice House. When Junior passed away, he left the House to a friend in Hawaii who never lived in it. When it was sold to the credit union, there were numerous radios, huge towers and many letters found. There was a gas refrigerator in the kitchen. The woodwork throughout the house was never painted and its rich, handsome luster was discovered when it got a good polishing. The linoleum floors had newspapers beneath them, which served as insulation.

Stages of the Stage Stop Hotel - June 17, 2000

by Dean O. Dixon, Buena Park Historical Society

It was a daylong, ride from Los Angeles to Buena Park, especially dressed in heavy, dark fashions better suited to Victorian England than Spanish-American California. People came to the south part of Los Angeles County (Orange County seceded in 1889) to capitalize on the Land Boom of the 1880's this was spurred by the imminent arrival of railroads to service and develop local economies.

Although other towns of the period failed, Buena Park flourished during those tumultuous time due to the adaptability and foresight of founder, James A. Whitaker. Accordingly, the Stage Stop Hotel was built to provide accommodations the first overnight stay out of Los Angeles or the last overnight stay on the way to Los Angeles. For today's freeway-spoiled travelers, it's hard to believe that, at the time, it took two days jut to travel from Los Angeles to Newport Beach and it was a five-day trip to San Diego.

Over the past century the Stage Stop Hotel has served as an elegant boardinghouse, various private homes, an antique shop, and even a derelict flophouse. Today it has come full circle. From its initial role as a way station for business people of another time, today it has been refurbished for dedication to similar usage. Few cities anywhere - and few still in Southern California - have invested in the preservation of historical elements of economic development.

So, it is fitting that the Stage Stop Hotel has become the offices for the California Welcome Center welcoming visitors and locals with information about Buena Park, Orange County, and California. They are open 7 day a week from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The Welcome Center provides Helpful brochures and publications, discounts to many local venues and can make reservations. In addition, they sell tickets to many local and nearby attractions.

Old and new, past and present, meld into the future of the Stage Stop Hotel. More than a historical office building, the Stage Stop Hotel now represents the positive influence of commerce and tourism on the quality of life in the community of Buena Park.

While in the Welcome Center, you will see plaster crown molding that were added in the 1960's when a plaster contractor owned and lived in the building.

The large room at the North end of the building served as a dining room, a proprietor's living quarters, and a "speak easy" over the years.

The stained glass windows are original and only one was in need of repair when the building was restored.

The parlor (sales room) would have been the gathering place for the travelers as they disembarked from the stage coach. In the 1930's there were men who boarded here and worked across the street at the tomato packing pant (where Ganahl Lumber now stands). The men used the room as a library where they read their newspapers and wrote letters home, etc. Down the hall to the South is the library. This (brochures and publications room) was an addition building after 1960. As you leave, you may notice the kitchen on your right hand side. This part of the building was completely re-built. The original kitchen had been added on and was a mish mash of metal and wood.