Pacific Beach Historical Society
NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 9200 San Diego, CA 92109 John Fry, Editor 272-6655 Vol. X1, No. 1 January, 1989

THE PACIFIC BEACH ASBESTOS WORKS



WAS THIS THE SITE OF THE PACIFIC BEACH ASBESTOS WORKS? The San Diego *Union*, in an article entitled "Yesteryear's Trash", dated November 20, 1988, mentioned the fact that an asbestos manufacturing plant had once been located in Pacific Beach. The PBHS "office" has received a number of calls from nervous public officials as to the location of the facility. Mary Allely, librarian in the California Room, did considerable research with the City Directories of the period, and with the San Diego *Union* microfilm. We share her information inside. Mary notes the following listings in the City Directory: 1889-90 -- John D. Hoff, Asbestos Co., PB 920 Fifth; 92-93 -- John D. Hoff, Asbestos Co., PB., factory on PB Motor Line, office 923 4th. Mary deduced that, since the railroad went down Grand Avenue, and north-south streets were numbered then, that the plant was on Dawes or Everts. We think the office was downtown San Diego, the plant in Pacific Beach, and the mines in Elsinore.

The photo above, taken in June, 1906, looks west to Pacific Beach from about the site of today's Mission Bay Hospital. The racetrack (driving park) is visibile in the background. The mystery firm is located just east of the "Pacific Beach Motor line" and just west of the rail line to San Bernardino. (Photo courtesy of SDHS/Title Insurance Collection)

San Diego *Union*, September 29, 1888:

A NEW INDUSTRY

An Important Manufacturing Establishment Located at Pacific Beach.

It is stated that an asbestos manufactory will soon be in operation near the driving park at Pacific Beach. Asbestos is a mineral found in large quantities near Elsinore, and constitutes the base materal for manufacturing boiler covering, fireproof cement and roof-paint. The San Diego Asbestos Mining and Manufacturing Company anticipates an establishment capable of crushing 5,000 pounds of this mineral per day. A number of men are now at work upon the necessary buildings, and the enterpirse will be pushed forward with all rapidity possible. A spur will be extended from the San Diego and Pacific Beach sidings to facilitate shipments. George W. Hazzard, of this city, is one of the prime movers of the new industry, and John D. Hoff, of Elsinore, is manager.

San Diego *Union*, October 17, 1888:

The Pacific Beach asbestos works will soon be in operation. The boiler engine and pumpbs were tested Monday, the steam whistle sounded first, and all worked satisfactory. It is expected that the machinery ordered from San Francisco will arrive in a few days, and once on the ground no time will be lost in placing it in position.

San Diego *Union*, January 19, 1889:

THE ASBESTOS COMPANY

The Manufacture of Paint to Be Undertaken on a Large Scale.

Mr. Hoff, general manager of the Pacific Beach Asbestos Company, returned yesterday from Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside and other points, at which he has established agencies for his company. The success which has attended the manufacture of asbestos roof paint at this factory has decided the proprietors to embark in the manufacture of various colored house paints, and in this connection they yesterday let the contract for several thousand cans of different demensions, in which the famous boiled oil and lead product will be put up.

San Diego *Union*, July 20, 1889:

San Diego Asbestos

The asbestos works at Pacific Beach is receiving its first carload of long-fiber asbestos, which is being shipped from the desert mines. A carload of short-fiber is ready for shipment at the Elsinore mines. The firm has the contract for covering the steam-pipes and boilers of three plants owned by the Los Angeles Cable Car Company.

San Diego *Union*, January 22, 1890:

The Asbestos Trade Lively

The development of the local deposits of asestos and the increasing demand for the pain manufactured from it, is one of the most encouraging features of the commercial situation here. The demand is not confined as heretofore to Seattle and other Pacific Coast points, but orders are coming in from all over the East. The factory is running day and night and the force at the mines has been correspondingly increased.

San Diego *Union*, March 2, 1890:

College and Pacific Beach Notes

New machinery for grinding bones for fertilizing purposes is at the asbestos works.

San Diego *Union*, May 28, 1890:

A Product That Is Meeting With Wide Success.

Another large shipment of asbestos good was sent down from Pacific Beach yesterday and forwarded by steamer to San Francisco. The goods are becoming widely known, and an order was received the other day from Denver for about two tons of asbestos roofing and asbestos paint.

San Diego *Union*, June 18, 1890:

A PAINT MACHINE

Arrives at the Asbestos Works and Is a Corker.

A large combination paint mill weighing three thousand pounds arrived yesterday at the asbestos works. It consists of a combination of three machines of large capacity, producing the paint ground, colored, and canned, ready for the market. It mixes the paint thoroughly and evenly and grinds finer than can be done by any other process.

Asbestos

Is an indestructible fire proof mineral.

Asbestos Fire Proof Roof Paint

Is the best in the world. It does not fade, and will not burn.

Asbestos Boiler and Steam Pipe Covering

Will save 20 per cent. in fuel.

Asbestos Indestructible Fire Proof Cement

Will make an old stove or range last as long as a new one. It is a non-conductor.

Asbestos Cement Plaster

Protects against fire, heat and water.

Ours are Genuine Asbestos Goods,

Guaranteed to be what we represent. Send for Asbestos circula
Freight rates to all parts of the United States quoted on applica

Hazzard, Hoff & C

Works at Pacific Beach.
Mines near Terra Cotta City, Calif.

640 Fifth St., San

RATE OF FREIGHT QUOTED TO ALL PARTS OF THE U. S.

San Diego Asbestos Mining and Manf'g Co.

J. D. HOFF & COMPANY,

OFFICE AND WORKS AT PACIFIC BEACH, CALIFORNIA.

ASBESTOS
Boiler and Steam Piping Covering.

ASBESTOS
Indestructible Fire Proof Roof and House Paint.
WILL NOT FADE.

ASBESTOS PLASTER FIRE CEMENT.
Easily applied by anyone. Will cost less than one-half the cost of Fire Brick Lining for lining backs of stoves, fireplaces, furnaces, etc., and to protect fire brick where oil or intense heat is used.
WILL ADHERE TO ANY SURFACE AND NOT CRACK.

Advertisements from the Pacific Beach *Weekly, 1888*

Are You A Member of the Pacific Beach Historical Society?

PACIFIC BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ DATE _____

BUSINESS/GROUP _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIPCODE _____

HOME PHONE _____ BUSINESS PHONE _____

☐ - $10/Single Membership ☐ - $15/Family Membership ☐ - $20/Business/Group Membership

Send to: Membership Secretary, Pacific Beach Historical Society, P.O. Box 9200, San Diego, CA 92109
* Make checks payable to: Pacific Beach Historical Society (or P.B.H.S.)

NEXT MEETING

NO MEETING UNTIL

FEBRUARY

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Ralph Hardie passed away on December 7. Active and vigorous, and always well-dressed, Mrs. Hardie attended society meetings as recently as this past October, the month of her 104th birthday.

Member Al Flores, brother of Eva Crossman, passed away in November.

MEMBERSHIP

Renewing their memberships since the publication of the last newsletter were the following: Joan Talzmann, Susie Johnson, Velma Labriola, Mary Truman, Edna Fields, Virginia Skinner, Jesse & Mildred Mitchell, Lester & Genevieve Sjobeck, Ben & Allue Gingery, George & Alice Simpson, Charles & Lelia Drew, Pat & Flo Gandolfi, and Thomas & Elaine Battista.

Joining the society was Esther Lagomarsino. Welcome aboard -- we look forward to seeing you at the next meeting!

PACIFIC BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 9200
SAN DIEGO, CA 92109

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