

THE CAPITAL

"Preserving Santa Barbara's historic sites of enduring community value"

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JULY MEETINGS OF INTEREST

PEARL CHASE SOCIETY

Next Board of Directors meeting on July 19 at 3:00 at Harry's Cafe, immediately before the Annual Meeting of All Members of the Pearl Chase Society at 4:00. All members are invited and encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting. Complimentary refreshments will be served.

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

City meetings are broadcast live on City TV channel 18 and streamed live [HERE](#), where they are also archived and viewable on demand. Or Watch on You Tube [HERE](#)

City Council

Tuesdays at 2 pm at Council Chambers, City Hall. [HERE](#). JULY 28 ONLY MEETING SCHEDULED

Planning Commission

First, second and third Thursdays of the month at 1 pm at Council Chambers, City Hall. [HERE](#). JULY 2, 9, 16

Historic Landmarks Commission

Every other Wednesday at 1:30 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street. [HERE](#). JULY 1, 15, 29

Architectural Board of Review

Alternate Mondays at 3 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street. [HERE](#). JULY 20th ONLY MEETING SCHEDULED

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

County Board of Supervisor Meetings and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on CSBT20. They are also streamed live [HERE](#) where they are also archived and viewable on demand.

County Board of Supervisors

Three Tuesdays of the month at 9 a.m. The first and third meetings are held in Santa Barbara in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, 105 East Anapamu St., 4th Floor. The second meeting is (typically) held in Santa Maria at 511 East Lakeside Parkway. JULY 7 (SB), 14 (SM)

County Planning Commission

Three Wednesdays of the month at 9 a.m. The first and third meetings are held in Santa Barbara at 123 East Anapamu Street, Room 17, and the second meeting is (typically) held in Santa Maria at 511 East Lakeside Parkway. JULY 1 (SB), 8 (SM), 29 (SB)

County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission

Second Monday of the month at 10 a.m. at 123 East Anapamu St., Room 17 (unless specified otherwise). JULY 13

News and Notes

By Cheri Rae

Join us Sunday, July 19th at 4 o'clock in the afternoon at Harry's Café for our Annual Meeting. It's always an important gathering to meet with other members of the Pearl Chase Society and to appreciate the importance of our work in education and historic preservation.

We are pleased to present architect Fred Sweeney, who will be speaking on the subject "Current Happenings in Santa Barbara." He is well-qualified to speak on matters that range from State Street to high-rise development to decades of community members' involvement in preserving the historic character of this very special place.

It's especially important this year, since 100 years ago this month, our residents were reflecting on how well the town of approximately 30,000 had recovered from the devastating earthquake of June 29, 1925. At that time, visionary community leaders—grounded in the appreciation of local history and heritage with an understanding of the economic value of tourism—worked carefully to turn the crisis into opportunity for the benefit of the entire community.

An editorial in *The Morning Press* noted, "As a community we are not sorry that it happened. It wiped out unsightly, unsafe, antiquated, commonplace buildings and gave us the opportunity to rear in their places beautiful ones. The shake also gave us an opportunity in the community to become acquainted, to understand one another, and brought about community cooperation and coordination that have been invaluable."

The editorial continued, "There was the closest and the heartiest cooperation among the business men and property owners throughout the year of reconstruction. The men with a vision were able to make others see the picture as they saw it, and each new structure was built so that it fitted into the community mosaic as a suitable and appropriate tile."

It concluded, "On the whole Santa Barbara was practically 100 percent solid in everything that was undertaken—and is still united and progressive. Such a beautiful city as has been rebuilt here would not have been possible in such a brief time under any other circumstances....It has given us a NEW city, a unique city, a city that is different from anything else on the continent, once that will attract the world and give us, its inhabitants, personal joy because of its uniqueness and its beauty."

As it appears our city is once more at a crossroads that will determine its direction for the next 100 years, we can only hope for the wisdom and good stewardship of a century ago to continue to inspire and guide us today.

Please join us on the 19th. We look forward to seeing you and hearing your thoughts.

RSVP by July 14: call (805) 961-3938 or e-mail PCS@PearlChaseSociety.org

**Want to get involved, or have submissions for
The Capital? Email us at PCS@pearlchasesociety.org.**

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Newsletter

Cheri Rae, *editor*

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The Fourth of July Weekend, 1926: Santa Barbara's Celebration of America's Sesquicentennial

By Cheri Rae

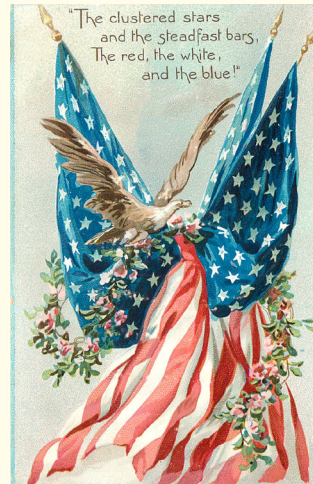
Just a year after the earthquake, Santa Barbara was once again a vacation destination for the Fourth of July. Downtown hotels that had been badly damaged by the temblor were repaired in time to celebrate the holiday weekend crush of visitors. Note this story in the *Santa Barbara Daily News*, with the headline, "City Crowded with Visitors over Holidays."

A record-breaking holiday crowd was cared for by the Santa Barbara hotels Saturday and Sunday nights, according to the hotel managers this morning. Starting early Saturday afternoon visitors started filling the hotels and the peak was reached last night when practically every house in town was filled.

Room clerks at the various downtown hotels started locating rooms in other hostelrys after their own had been filled and all visitors were accommodated. The Samarkand, Miramar and El Encanto reported that they were full last night but they managed to find rooms for all those who called during the day. The clerks



Santa Barbara has long celebrated the Fourth of July: This is a historic photographic of an Independence Day parade, from July 4, 1876—America's Centennial anniversary. Credit: Courtesy Edson Smith Collection, Santa Barbara Public Library.



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at the Virginia, Neal, Californian reported that their houses were filled to overflowing by three o'clock Saturday afternoon.

The Carrillo reported practically full house last night, while the Gregson said they had a few rooms left Saturday about here entirely sold out last night. Of the thousands who thronged here over the weekend, all were cared for in the city according to the hotel men.

Manager Frank Hinkley of the Carrillo said: "People need not worry about accommodations here as the hotels can comfortably care for all those who desire to remain in the city. The hotelmen of the city always get together and locate rooms for all those who inquire for them. During the weekend holiday clerks always make it a point to find vacant rooms throughout the city to care for the overflow of visitors."

[NOTE: Hotel Virginia was constructed after the earthquake, one of the first approved by the Architectural Advisory Committee. Today it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.]

Holiday Festivities

Since the Fourth of July was on a Sunday in 1926, it was a three-day long holiday celebration. Residents and visitors alike made their way to Santa Barbara High School's Peabody Stadium for a variety of patriotic and religious and observances to observe the nation's 150th anniversary. It also honored the 100th birthday of songwriter Stephen Foster, as a chorus comprised of members of the Second Baptist and African Methodist churches sang a selection of his "plantation songs."

Numerous attendees joined in a community sing-along of patriotic songs, and participated in full historic costumes dressed as characters portrayed in tableaux, including "The Adoption of the Declaration: The Birth of a Nation," and "The Growth of the Nation."

On July 6, *The Morning Press* front page headlines summed up the festivities: "Large Pageant Shows Growth of 48 States: Signing of Declaration of Independence Re-enacted in Peabody Stadium; Veterans in Parade; Churches Unite for Union Service with Many Pastors Assisting."

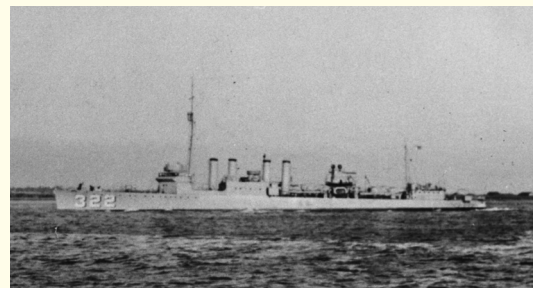
The article detailed: A citywide celebration of the sesquicentennial of American independence was brought to a close yesterday afternoon with the last of two demonstrations in which all Santa Barbara and many visitors participated.

Several thousand persons gathered in Peabody stadium yesterday for the Independence Day celebration, and hundreds more attended the union patriotic services there the day before.

The Independence Day program, arranged by a committee headed by Dr. A. Grant Evans in accordance with a plan recommended by the national congregational committee, began with a parade of civic, military and fraternal organizations from the High School into the stadium. Dr. A.C. Soper, Jr. acted as grand marshal.

Veterans Parade: Leading the procession was a platoon of Santa Barbara police, followed by representatives of Starr King post No. 53, G.A.R., and Laura Bell Stoddard Ten, Daughters of Veterans.

A division of 66 men from the two visiting destroyers, the Mervine and Selfridge, in marching uniforms and carrying arms, cut an imposing figure as it marched around the stadium in its appointed place in the line of march.



The Pacific Fleet in Santa Barbara: The crew of the destroyers, U.S.S. Mervine (right) and U.S.S. Selfridge (left), marched in the Fourth of July parade. Credit: Wikicommons

A large delegation of children from St. Vincent's orphanage was followed by another large representation from the Santa Barbara Chapter of the U.P.B.M.I. [NOTE: U.P.B.M.I. stands for Unión Patriótica Benéfica Mexicana Independiente (Independent Patriotic

Hotels damaged in the earthquake just one year earlier were restored and repaired in time for an influx of visitors to celebrate the holiday and the rebuilding of Santa Barbara. From top: The El Encanto, The Neal, The Californian, The Carrillo and The Miramar. Credit: Courtesy Edson Smith Collection, Santa Barbara Public Library.

Mexican Benefit Union). It is a historic Mexican-American fraternal and mutual-aid society. Founded in California in the early 20th century, these lodges provided social support, community, and cultural preservation for Mexican immigrants and Mexican-Americans]

Troop of Boy and Girl Scouts, carrying the national colors as well as an organization insignia, formed another important part of the procession.

Representatives of the Reserve Officers' association and those who took part in the Independence Day tableau, in costume, concluded the parade.

Dr. Evans Speaks: The procession was followed by a brief address by Dr. Evans, in which he outlined the purpose of the celebration. He then led the audience in singing "America." The tableau, "The Adoption of the Declaration: The Birth of a Nation," depicting the scene at the session of Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, when the Declaration of Independence was read and accepted by the delegates, was presented by a special committee from the Community Arts Association.

The tableau was taken from that portion of the session when the Declaration was presented to the congress by Thomas Jefferson. It was read by the secretary and adopted unanimously. The last vote being cast by Caesar Rodney of Delaware, who rode 80 miles on horseback that he might do so.

Mayor Speaks: The scene was followed by a short address from Mayor H.A. Adrian. "There are two kinds of patriotism," the mayor began. "One kind is founded upon hate, and the other upon love. The kind that bases itself upon hate, finds its expression in roaring guns and confusion—the other in the sentiment that this tableau has so well expressed this afternoon. There was a time when our nation was divided, and we found it necessary to engage in war. Now there is no north or south—we are a single nation, undivided and indissoluble. As we look back upon history, we realize that America and Great Britain are today the greatest hopes that the world has for human liberty and for civilization itself."

Pageant of States: The second tableau of the afternoon, "the Growth of a Nation," opened with the figure of Columbia, portrayed by Miss Frances Hammond, and the various states grouped around her. The 13 original states, represented by those who participated in the first tableau, were grouped around her at the start. The other states, represented as far as possible by natives, then followed in the order in which they joined the Union.

The article concluded with a listing of the many local pastors who gave sermons, including Rev. John Hopkins Denison, pastor of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian church in New York City who described the "Difficulty that nations in ages past have encountered in solidifying liberty and unity." He stated, "Americans may feel justly proud that she has accomplished the miracle of these two forces together in so harmonious a state."

Those who participated in Santa Barbara's patriotic 150th anniversary activities had high expectations that the beauty of the city rebuilt, and the liberty and unity of the country they so valued would continue a century beyond themselves. Today, as we look forward to America's 250th we, too, hold onto that hope.



The famous Currier and Ives image of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Credit: Library of Congress



The patriotic female symbol America, Lady Columbia, was regularly depicted in print and even in Santa Barbara's July 4 parade. Credit: Library of Congress

Note: A listing of City of Santa Barbara planned activities for the Independence Day holiday observing America's Semiquincentennial [HERE](#)

The Pierre Claeysens Veterans Foundation will sponsor its annual concert at the Courthouse Sunken Gardens on Saturday, July 4 at 5 p.m. [HERE](#)



Remembering Esther and Bob Baum, longtime supporters of the Pearl Chase Society.

In Memoriam: Board Member Emeritus Bob Baum

A notice from his sons Dave and Frank Baum

It is with sadness that I write to you to let you know that our father Robert K. Baum passed away on June 16, 2026 at Maravilla in his sleep. This was the place and the manner in which he wished to depart this life.

During his lifetime, he and our mother worked tirelessly for the Pearl Chase Society as we witnessed as Mom hand addressed every invitation for years and Dad as I recall handled the treasurer roll for ticket sales. They loved that work, challenging as it was.

We would be grateful if you would let those in the Society who you think would want to know of his passing, know that he has passed on. Just 16 days before what would have been his 98th birthday. In accordance with the wishes of our family there will be no funeral and no celebration of his life. Our father celebrated life every day he was alive and even in the tougher times of late, he loved and was deeply loved in return.