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**The Oct. meeting will be held on  
Wednesday, Oct. 17th  
at 7:30 p.m. at 853 Daisy Ave.  
(home of Cindy and Nancy Smith)**

THE WILLMORE CITY ENTERPRISE  
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**Mark Your Calendar!!**

THE WILLMORE CITY ENTERPRISE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WILLMORE CITY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION OCT 2007

**October 17th Meeting**

The Smith Sisters, Cindy and Nancy, have invited us to hold our October 17th meeting at their home. The house is at 853 Daisy Ave., kitty-corner from our usual meeting place.

The house is one that has kept its woodwork, which is extensive. It also has some history, having at one time been the summer home of the Governor of Oregon. It served many years as a doctor's office, with the front bedroom being a waiting room and the bedroom behind it the examining room. The water basin was removed about ten years ago, but it was nothing special.

The style is called "airplane house" with the one upstairs bedroom being the cockpit, set off by the wing-like wide eaves. That bedroom only got a closet about 20 years ago. There is a style of Murphy bed that had one giant door that dropped down to support the springs. The owners who built the closet acquired one of the Murphy bed doors to use as a headboard, but were unable to get it up the narrow, turning stairs.

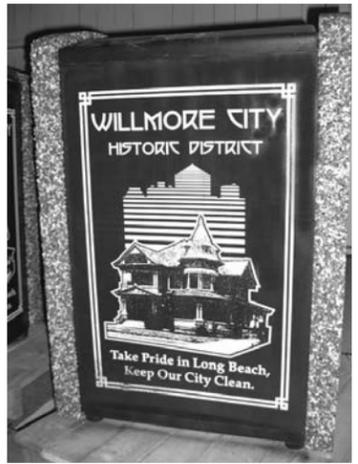
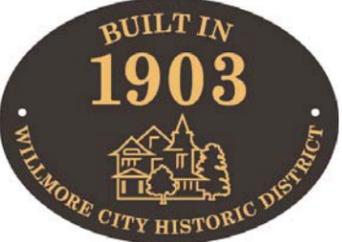
There will be a lot to see inside, so please come. The WCHA meeting will be at 7:30 pm. Code Enforcement teams will meet at 6:30 pm at the Willmore Community Police Center, 910 Daisy Ave.

Everyone welcome at either or both meetings.



**Historic Plaques and Trash Receptacles**

The historic plaques and the new trash receptacles that we were able to purchase thanks to grants from the Neighborhood Partners Program have arrived. If you ordered a plaque, they will be available for you to pick up at the October 17th meeting. The 9 trash receptacles will be placed in the neighborhood as soon as we can get them coated with an anti-graffiti coating on the panels to make them easier to clean. You should see them out in the neighborhood in the next few weeks.



T H E W I L L M O R E

**Historical Cemetery Tour Oct. 27th**

The Historical Society of Long Beach's 12th Annual Historical Cemetery Tour will be held on October 27th. Through docents, in period dress, the dead come to life to tell wonderful stories about many city founders, residents, and pioneers whose lives contributed to the rich diversity of Long Beach -- and who happen to be buried in the Long Beach Municipal or Sunnyside Cemetery at 1151 and 1095 E. Willow Street. These adjacent cemeteries (at the corner of Orange Avenue and Willow Street) are the two oldest cemeteries in the City dating back to the 1870s.

One of the famous residents of the long Beach Municipal Cemetery is our own William Willmore for whom Willmore City was named in 1882 when he filed the first survey and subdivision with the county clerk. Mr. Willmore died on January 16, 1901 at the age of 57.

For tour times and ticket info call 562.424.2220 or check out their website at [www.historicalsocietylb.org](http://www.historicalsocietylb.org)



**More Ghosts of Willmore City**

My first contact with a neighbor was a little girl asking me if my house had a ghost. Not knowing any better, I told her it didn't. It does. It's October again and some of us are sure to be asked if we have ghosts. Dorothy Bembridge was probably asked the most often. About five years ago I wrote an account of our departed-but-still-with us residents. One Willmore haunted house was omitted. When I called a friend I'll call "Susan" I was told I couldn't write about her ghosts, even though I had planned not to reveal her name or location. It might be my favorite of all the Willmore City ghost stories.

While she was still moving in, Susan became aware of "Ma'am" and The Little Boy. They were hard to miss as they stood in the dining room watching her. Ghosts have never bothered her, and they seemed benign, so she continued carrying in her possessions.

It wasn't long before she had to assume she had chosen The Little Boy's former bedroom for her own. The room has an attached screened porch, and when she put an outdoor easy chair in it and settled down to smoke, he got very agitated. The porch may have been his toy room. The real run came that night when Susan gathered up her cat and shut the bedroom door to keep him from disturbing her roommate in the other bedroom. The Little Boy wanted that door open! Now! I no longer recall what she did to settle him down and I'm not going to call her and ask.

Not being sensitive to ghosts myself, I was interested to find out how many different ways people make contact. Susan sees them. Some people hear them, others intuit their presence, and still others intuit their motivations. Susan soon assembled a panel of her friends who possess varying means of communication. She wanted to know what was going on.

Then a third ghost made himself known and he was a piece of work. He liked to stand on the stairs, creating an aura of freezing cold air and had to be ordered to move over so living people could pass. Worst of all, he had a pattern of charging into the other bedroom and running to the front window. He might have done it at all hours, but the women were aware of him at night. It might have been fine if only he hadn't brought with him his aura of freezing cold air, which tended to wake the roommate.

A neighbor who intuitively ghostly motives soon realized that he had apparently committed some crime and had spent who knows how many decades hiding in the house, fearfully awaiting the arrival of the police. The trips to the window followed his hearing or imagining some noise on the street below. Eventually he was persuaded to leave, a ritual was performed to help him on his way, and he moved on to where he should have been all along. The cold incidents on the stairs and at the window stopped.

Susan has moved out of state and the house has been sold twice, but one may assume that Ma'am and The Little Boy are still there.

Carol McCafferty

C I T Y E N T E R P R I S E

**Whoops!**

I made several errors last month. The World War II service flag in Jack Caplinger's living room has a blue star with a red border. I reversed the colors. I assume we used blue stars because the Russians had a lock on the red star, and even then our government didn't want to be confused with Russia's. Jack didn't correct me; I found out on my own. What Jack did was visit the Neighborhood Police Center to get copies of the item to send to the other Caplinger kids. Jerry Lomeli, our retired cop, was pleased to oblige.

Rich Roberts pointed out my other error/omission. The Dr. Boyd I referred to was Dr. Walter H. Boyd. He and Mrs. Boyd had two boys, one being Truman, who died in W.W. II. Their deaths left the Boyds with no heirs, so they willed the property to U.S.C. Rich is a retired cop who owns well-managed rental properties in the area and hangs out many mornings at Pat Waters' coffee shop. He was sort of apologetic about correcting me, but I pointed out that reader-generated corrections like his prove we really do have a readership. Which is the whole idea after all.

Carol McCafferty

**W I L L M O R E C A L E N D A R**

- |                  |   |                  |   |
|------------------|---|------------------|---|
| <b>Oct. 17th</b> | <b>Code Enforcement (Block Captains) 6:30 pm</b><br>Willmore Community Police Center<br>WCHA Meeting/Tour 7:30 pm at<br>Home of Nancy & Cindy Smith<br>853 Daisy Ave. | <b>Nov. 14th</b> | <b>Code Enforcement 6:30 pm</b><br>WCHA Meeting 7:30 pm<br>Bembridge House<br>Speaker: "The Color Diva"<br>Learn about house colors |
| <b>Oct. 27th</b> | <b>Historical Cemetery Tour</b><br>9:00 am - 1:00 pm<br>1095 E. Willow Street<br>The Historical Society of Long Beach   | <b>Dec. 2nd</b>  | <b>Holiday Tour</b><br>Bembridge House  |
|                  |   | <b>Dec. 19th</b> | <b>Holiday Potluck 7:00 pm</b><br>Home of Mark & Cheryl Perry<br>351 Magnolia Ave.  |

**Willmore City Heritage Association**

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Please make checks payable to: W C H A  
PO Box 688  
Long Beach, CA 90801

**Donations are Tax Deductible**

The Willmore City Heritage Association is committed to the preservation, protection and improvement of the physical environment and quality of life in the Willmore City/Drake Park neighborhood.

**WCHA Board Members\* - 2007/2008**

Cheryl Perry, President*	436-2815
Ernie Villa, Vice-President*	436-6522
Sherron Leno, Secretary *	432-5140
Jill Anne Black, Treasurer*	495-3377
Erik Sochin*	435-1146
Jana Shields*	495-1729
Patty Lund*	435-9606

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Newsletter - Mark Perry	436-2815
WCHA Voice Mail	436-8611
Police Center Chair: Carrol Goddard	618-9507
Willmore Community Police Center	570-1146
1st District Council Office	570-6919

visit us at our website: <http://www.willmorecity.org>

In the early eighties, when Willmore City was being organized, most residents were disgusted with the state of street lighting in the neighborhood. The only lights in the neighborhood were at the intersections. Wires were strung from the four corners to meet in the middle, and at the intersection of wires hung an archaic little gadget called an acorn light. Picture a metal shade over a single light bulb and you have something that looks like an acorn. And that was it for after-dark lighting in Willmore City.

Residents Stan Poe and Nancy Conover went to lobby the First District Councilman. They requested some up to date lighting for Willmore. Several days later Stan came home from work and found a street light outside his house at 12th and Cedar. He didn't see any others, so he called Nancy. In front of her home at 837 Daisy, five blocks away, was THE other street light in Willmore.

I grew up in North Long Beach, which has always considered itself the stepchild of the city, and acorn lights must have been phased out there about 1930. I only know what an acorn light looks like because I used to see them when we went out into the country. I figure the city neglected Willmore because it could.

After some more lobbying, the city agreed to put in modern lights along the blocks as well as at the corners. When the proposed light standards were shown, the community unanimously turned them down. The proposed lights were those modern things with the snake-like conduit connecting the pole and the light. The Willmorons held out for lighting that at least sort-of looked historic. So we got the el cheapo-looking lights we have today, but at least they don't have snake heads.

In the early nineties, part of the area south of Seventh got "boulevard lighting". None of south of Seventh was historic at the time and we'd been told it never would be, so it was a completely separate entity. Their leadership had bought new condos a year or two previously, only to discover that they were afraid of their own neighborhood and they wanted bright lights.

They objected, as did we all, to the garish yellow lights that the entire city had at the time. The yellow lights went back twenty or thirty years, and were horrible. They distorted the colors of faces, houses, cars, and everything else. A friend showed me his new car after dark and I thought it was a nice brown. Turned out it was bright red.

Between ten and fifteen years back, the yellow lights were junked and replaced with the "champagne" lights we have now. When they were installed, lighting really did improve, but we had planted young trees which grew, and now lighting isn't as good as it was.

I have a habit of forgetting to run errands during the day, so there are times when I need to run to John's Liquor after dark. And I visit neighbors and walk home. I have never been afraid after dark, lights or no, because of the men who sit on the front stoops in the evening. I figure a mugger isn't likely to try anything with them there. I don't know if the men would come to my rescue, but neither does the mugger.

It's nice to have reliable neighbors.

WCHA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

This is Membership Renewal Month. Please take a moment to complete the renewal form below and return with your check. Your support of Willmore City Heritage Association is greatly appreciated! We are your organization, your neighbors, your friends working together to help preserve, protect, and improve the physical environment and quality of life in the Willmore City/Drake Park historic neighborhood.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_

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Would you like your address & phone number listed in a Willmore City neighborhood directory?