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Huntington Beach, California (Images Of America)



Synopsis

Incorporated in 1909, Huntington Beach remained a sleepy seaside town until the city's legendary oil boom in the 1920s. Wells sprang up overnight, and in less than a month, the city's population more than doubled. As the area developed culturally through the decades, the once tiny farming community increased its size with 25 miles of annexations to become one of Southern California's major tourist destinations. Pictured here in nearly 200 vintage photographs is the evolution of this small seaside village into a classic, Southern California beach city, known as Surf City to nearly a million tourists a year. Showcased here are images acquired from city records, including shots of the famous Huntington Beach Pier as it evolved over the century, rare amateur photos of one of the largest gushers in city history, vintage beach scenes, rarely seen historic aerial views, images of the turn of the century "Tent City," the infamous flood of 1938, and nostalgic shots of the Saltwater Plunge.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Author Chris Epting has compiled an in-depth visual history of one of America's oldest beach cities, the first time a collection this extensive has been available to the public. He lives in the Huntington Harbour area of Huntington Beach with his wife and two children.

My hometown.. so interesting to me!

I liked to see the old pictures just after we were there. Very pretty book with the history of Huntington beach. Nice photos. Some are "then and now", and are very interesting.

Chris Epting did a wonderful job of showing the history of my home town Huntington Beach

This book tells about the history of Huntington Beach in California. Here is some of the information that this book mentions: There was a 30,000 acre Spanish land grant on what is now Huntington Beach. Around 1890, the city was called Shell Beach. It became Pacific City in 1901. In 1904, the town name was changed to Huntington Beach named after H.E. Huntington who sponsored the extension of the Pacific Electric Railway. In the 1920's, there was an oil boom at Huntington Beach. In addition to oil production, Huntington Beach had agricultural successes with produce such as tomatoes, celery, sugar beets, and lima beans. The city's nickname is Surf City. Some of the pictures in the book include pictures of the following: Ocean Avenue in about 1909, Pacific Coast Highway in the 1920's-1930, July 1955 Oil Geyser, Driftwood Restaurant in the 1960's, and the Huntington Beach Pier around 1904.

I love local history, and learning about what happened in the past that makes a place so iconic. Chris Epting has done his homework and shares some of those insights in this book. Thanks for putting this together Chris!

Having lived in and near Huntington Beach for the last 5 years, I found this book fascinating. Historically, you get a great perspective of what the city once was...and how it developed throughout the late 1900's. But what I found MOST interesting...was the before and after transformation. Walking the same streets the author had. Lining up the same shots at the same historical locations. Standing in the exact same spot that the pictures had been taken almost a century before. And seeing how this sleepy surfside town blossomed into the famous city we now know. I definitely recommend this book for anyone that lives in Huntington Beach. It's great reading...and great for exploring the sidewalks of HB.

I grew up near Huntington Beach and remember the times of oil wells and derricks up and down the now-famous beach. If you drive around the town and look closely, you can still see a few derricks pumping away. What is most interesting to the reader, and should be most instructive to younger

people, is the fact that Huntington Beach was part of the oil boom that attracted many, including J. Paul Getty, to southern California in the early years of the last century. Also, compared to other books in the same series, this volume has more "people shots." It's interesting especially to note what people wore in earlier times, even to the beach!

I had contacted the author prior to buying the book - to use any pictures needed for my archaeology report on a site I was working. I couldn't believe the treasure I found inside. Those pictures allowed me to continue my research direction & I was able to reduce the age of my site from c.1900-1940 to c.1900-1927 & have the proof to back those dates up. I applaud Chris for this book & hope to obtain other copies for friends & associates, in the future.

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