

## **SOME EARLY HISTORY OF O.K. INGRAM SHIP 1774 AND THE VFW**

- The First Ship's Captain, Edward J. Neron was a Navy Captain, VFW Past State Commander, and in Nov 1930 was elected Chairman of the San Diego Country Commanders Council comprising all Veterans organizations in San Diego county. It was recorded that he was instrumental in the founding and organization of the Ship. At the time, the initiation fee was being lowered from \$3.00 to \$1.50.
- It was reported at 23,000 millionaires obtained their wealth from the sale of munitions and materials in World War I.
- At a parade in 1930, marching members from the Veterans of Foreign Wars protested prohibition in front of President Herbert Hoover by the display of empty liquor bottles and signs. It was reported he sat passively.
- Disability payments in 1930 were \$40 per month for 100% disability and \$12 per month for 25% disability. The VFW led efforts to raise the amounts.
- 22 Mar 1930, the Ship's Ladies Auxiliary held their first Annual Inaugural Dance @ 50 cents per ticket.
- 25 Oct 1930 the Ship was awarded the Domain of Neptunus Rex Certificate at the Neptune Ball and Court.
- 3 Jun 1931, Ship's Ladies Auxiliary was the largest in the Department of California.
- In 1934, O.K. Ingram Ship 1774 Drum and Bugle Corps won "Honorable Mention' at the Coronado Flower Show
- 10 May 1939. It was reported that thousands of aliens are profitably employed in the U.S. whereas there are 1,500,000 veterans looking for work.
- 24 Dec 1940. Ship's annual Christmas Party was held with gifts to all children present.
- 29 Jul 1950. VFW Ship 1774 held a bathing beauty contest; the proceeds of which went to the Relief Fund. Bathing suits were part of the awards.
- 30 Aug 1950. The National VFW overwhelmingly adopted a resolution demanding the removal of Defense Secretary Johnson for issues related to the Korean War.
- 31 May 1951. O.K. Ingram Ship 1774 had 429 members.
- 16-22 Jun 1952. The VFW and Auxiliary held the 1952 annual encampment at the Federal Bldg, Balboa Park. Approx 8,000 attended; a record at that time. Previous encampment in San Diego was in 1934. During the encampment, one day was spent in Tijuana, Mexico (at the Caliente Race Track) for a free barbeque as a gesture of goodwill.
- June 1952. New Plaza Hotel at 1037 Fourth Avenue advertised 200 rooms for \$3.50/night. Where to eat? B's Drive In advertised hamburgers 19 cents, malts and shakes 23 cents, and french fries 10 cents.

- 18 Jun 1952. Dept of California VFW paid tribute to over 1,000 veterans of the Spanish American and World War I Wars who had passed the previous year. "We must remember, and never forget, our heritage".
- 7 Feb 1954. O.K. Ingram Ship 1774 broke ground at 2 P.M. Sunday for the new \$27,500 meeting hall. The site at Broadway and 19<sup>th</sup> Street (1035 19<sup>th</sup> Street) was purchased in 1942. They raised \$9,000 over 12 years to finance construction, and got a building loan for the balance. Ship 1774's first Captain, Edward J. Neron, turned the first shovel of dirt. The building was erected and dedicated 6 Jun 1954. Cornerstone was laid 14 Mar 1954 and presented by Charles Seaman, member Post #1512.
- 2 Mar 1958. Mortgage was burned at 2 P.M. for the 1035 19<sup>th</sup> Street building.
- Prior to Ship 1774 owning a building, meetings were held in private homes, Knights of Columbus Hall at Fourth and Elm Streets, Elks Club at 350 Cedar Street, the YMCA, and VFW/Veterans War Memorial Building in Balboa Park.
- 8 Mar 1965. Past Ship 1774 Junior Captain A.L. "Al" Levine was murdered near Silver City, New Mexico.
- Summer 1965. Ship 1774 sponsored the Redwood Village Little League, San Diego 5, CA. The Little League Banquet was held 31 Jul 1965 that offered Southern Fried Chicken @ \$1.50 per person.



Ship 1774 Drum and Bugle Corps in Memorial Day parade, San Diego 1931



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Ship 1774 Little League team, 1965