



Photo by Rob Clement

The old Ojai City Jail.

Detainees would stay in for up to a year at a time, but just stayed the night. When arrested, the suspect would be taken to the police station where the officers would strip him and take his mugshot. Then he would be loaded into a van and taken to the jail. It's a short ride down a dirt road to the jail building lit by a single light. Locals knew the jail, an old visitor might get a glimpse. "After driving into the one arrestee from Los Angeles asked Vince France, an ex-officer from 1962 to now living in Porterville, what are you going to do, tie

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Mercury's Tyranny

Recent heat wave puts Ojai in its crosshairs, power grid struggles to match demand

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Even Ojai, known for its idyllic weather conditions and arid climate, hasn't escaped the sweltering heat wave. Soaring temperatures and humid conditions have hit most of California cities indiscriminately these past weeks.

The average thermometer reading in the city this July has been 95 degrees. If it keeps up through the month, it will be a record-breaking July average, said Tom Johnston, a Ventura County climatologist. The average heat for the month of July, for the past 30 years in Ojai has been 90 degrees, he said.

The average number of three-digit temperatures for this year, is 11 per year, said Jim Ashby from

"We're selling the most we've sold since the fires in '85."

— David Vadnais

the Western Region Climate Center. So far we've already had four just this month alone, according to Johnston's records.

But if the heat has increased a bit, our tolerance certainly hasn't.

Coast to Coast True Value Hardware sold well over 1,000 fans this year and doubled their average annual fan sales. Swamp coolers and air conditioner sales are also well above average.

"We're selling the most we've sold since the fires in '85," said the owner, David Vadnais.

The exorbitant use of cooling technology has its toll, of course. Southern California Edison, which supplies Ojai's electricity, hit an all time high in power usage at 3 p.m. on Wednesday with 22,889 megawatts. Over the past 12 days the company has lost more than 1,000 transformers that couldn't withstand the prolonged usage, said Nancy Williams, the regional manager of California Edison. There has already been an 18 percent increase in energy consumption since January.

Southern California is tied into the Western State Grid. Normally the other states will back each other up, but everyone is experiencing the heat spell right now, said Williams. "We're being stretched pretty thin."

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For sale, for \$1

Ojai house being sold cheap, for land's sake

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Amid Ojai's soaring real estate prices, miracles can still happen. Jeff Weinstein is selling his house on Montana Road near Cuyama Road for a dollar.

It's a three bedroom, two bathroom, 1,500-square-foot, ranch-style home, custom designed by the original owner.

There is a catch, however. Property is sold separately, and the land under this one is already taken. But under the right circumstances, Weinstein's offer could save a buyer several hundred thousand dollars.

The house is good condition, complete with wood floors throughout, and nicely tiled bathroom and kitchen. It was built by the previous owners in 1956 and stayed in the family until it was sold to Weinstein in 1998, so it has been taken care of, he said.

Constructing a house of that size would cost between \$200,000 and \$300,000 and buying one that



Photo by Kaila Williams/Brooks Institute of Photography

Jeff Weinstein's home on Montana Road in Ojai

comes with the property would cost at least twice as much. The price of picking up the house and placing it on a vacant lot would be a minimum of \$15,000 and could go as high as \$100,000 if the house has to be moved a long distance said Ted Hollinger, owner of Master House Movers in Santa Clarita. There are also the added expenses of installing pipes and plumbing. But in the end, the price is still going to be substantially less than building a house.

As sweet as the bargain might sound at first, it comes with some hurdles which have already

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House:

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deterred prospective buyers.

Even with land to put in on, interested property owners must be sure they have the right zoning for a house of that size. Getting a building permit can take anywhere from three weeks to three years, said Hollinger.

The process also gets more complicated and subsequently more expensive as the destination gets farther from Montana Road.

"If we have to take a house a long way down a narrow road, we might have to cut it in half, and then put it back together" said Hollinger.

Weinstein almost sold the house to Happy Valley School but the deal was called off when movers couldn't take the house up the Dennison Grade. But Weinstein confirmed that the house is on a raised foundation, and has a rectangular shape which makes it easier to move.

Weinstein originally bought the property so he could move his family to Ojai, but never intended to live in it. As an architect he plans to design his own home. He also wants to put in a special exhibition-style kitchen so his wife, a professional chef, can hold cooking classes in the house.

But demolishing it would waste a perfectly good resource and leave behind a mass of construction debris. So he decided to give it away.

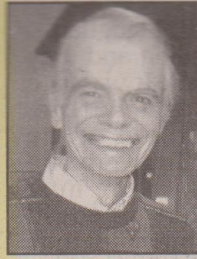
"We want to maintain and contribute to the beauty of the place we are moving to," he said. "We don't want to fill up its land fills."

Weinstein would like to move to town as soon as possible and hopes to sell the house by October.

It is expected that the purchaser will take care of the expenses of moving it. But beyond that, the house itself is essentially free. It saves Weinstein the \$7,500 or so that it would cost to demolish it.

He might charge a dollar so that the hand-over can be considered a sale. But the ideal prospect would be a charitable organization, a school or church, said Weinstein. In that case he is offering the house as donation, so they get the dollar off.

For more information, call Weinstein at (310) 795-0652.



David Mason



SOCIAL CLIMATE

Native son Ford retires from Coast Guard

On a recent day in St. Louis, Mo., and in the sprawling Missouri Athletic Club, all eyes were focused on a man who was a native son of Ojai. **Brian J. Ford** was retiring as the Coast Guard's commanding officer of the Integrated Support Command St. Louis. Among the audience was Capt. Ford's wife, **Christine**, and his three children, **Kevin, Shelley and Cara**.

Ford grew up in Ojai, and graduated from Nordhoff High School in 1974. He also attended the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn., graduating in 1978 with a bachelor of science degree in marine science. He also holds a master of business administration degree from Pepperdine University.

As a young man, choosing the United States Coast Guard as a career was an important step, for it is the nation's oldest and its premier maritime agency.

Ford's first assignment was as a division officer and deck watch officer on the Coast Guard Cutter, *Mellon*, a high-endurance cutter home-ported in Honolulu, Hawaii. He then served one year of isolated duty as commanding officer of the Coast Guard Long Range Aids to Navigation Station in Kargaburun, Turkey. From there, he was assigned to the 11th Coast Guard District in Long Beach, as the assistant director of auxiliary.

He next served as operations officer on the medium-endurance cutter, *Valiant*, out of Galveston, Texas, primarily conducting law enforcement

patrols in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean. He was assigned to the Coast Guard Training Center, Yorktown, Va., first as chief of the International Maritime Law Enforcement Training Team, then as the assistant chief of the Maritime Law Enforcement School.

Following an assignment at the U.S. Atlantic Command, a joint service staff in Norfolk, Va., Ford served as the group commander of Coast Guard Group Upper Mississippi River in Keokuk, Iowa. He then served in the Republic of Panama on the U.S. Southern Command joint service staff, which oversaw the United States' support to counter drug operations in Latin America.

Ford's next tour was as chief of the International Training Division at the Coast Guard Training Center at Yorktown, and prior to reporting to St. Louis, he was the director of auxiliary for the 11th Coast Guard District, Southern Region at San Pedro, Calif.

Then as commanding officer of the Coast Guard Integrated Support Command St. Louis, Mo., Ford was responsible for the logistics support of 2,000 active duty, reserve and civilian men and women of the Coast Guard assigned to over 60 units spread across 22 states in the heartland of America.

Organized in four distinct divisions, the Integrated Support Command is poised to support successful Coast Guard mission execution any time, any place through dedication, foresight and innovation.



Capt. Brian Ford, U.S. Coast Guard

The Coast Guard, through its forefathers, is the oldest continuous seagoing service in the world. Since the Constitution in 1789, the law of the land in 1789, in war, the Coast Guard has engaged in protecting the environment for more than 200 years.

Ford has lived to good purpose and has achieved a large measure of success. His awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Coast Guard Commendation Medals, two Joint Service Achievement Medals, two Coast Guard Achievement Medals, the Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon.

His parents, **Boyd and Mary Ford**, were married in Ojai in 1950 and their training of young Brian J. Ford helped him to find his way to a respected position in the world, winning the high admiration of the people of his great country.

Jail:

(Continued from Page A-1)

me to a tree and leave me here.

"Where are you taking them? They would ask," said Bar. "Sometimes I had to physically wrestle people out of the cells and take them in and lock them up."

A night inside the jail was apparently far from enjoyable. "Life stinks today," Goldberg wrote on a wall in the cell. Filling the walls with graffiti, detainees kept track of how many nights they spent, drew pictures and disparaged the officers who put them in jail.

Santa Barbara Bowl

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MATISYAHU