

# HUNTINGTON BEACH PIER

*only solid concrete pier in U.S.*

The first pier to be built in Huntington Beach was in 1902. It was one thousand feet long and was a rough pine structure. The barnacles ate through the pilings and during a winter storm in 1912 the pier was destroyed. The Huntington Beach Company had already wanted a new pier and although it preferred wood it was decided that a concrete pier was needed.

Some people thought that if a concrete pier was built it would cause the whole town to go bankrupt. Nevertheless, a city bond issue was held and it carried to construct a concrete pier in 1911. The pier was completed in 1914 at a cost of \$100,000.00. Its construction was: Concrete piles, pile cap girders and beams, and timber strings. Deck was paved concrete. Piles were sunk approximately 25 ft. into the ocean bottom. The pier was thought to be the best concrete pier along the coast.

Around 1930-1931 a 488 ft. 8 in. addition was made to the pier. The addition used the same material except 4 pile bents were used instead of 3 pile bent. Existing beams and girders were repaired with wire mesh and concrete granite. The tidal zone area was strengthened with concrete jacket splices.

In 1939 a tropical storm washed out about 300 feet of the pier.

By 1940, repairs were made that brought the length to 1832 feet.

In the 1950's the surface of the pier was redone.

The Fish and Game Department in an experiment, poured several tons of rock at the base of the pier for fish breeding. No success.

The present pier structure is beginning to show signs of wear and tear, and sometime in the near future we are going to have to answer the question "DO WE STILL WANT THE HUNTINGTON BEACH PIER?" If so, how are we going to finance it? Some studies are already being made on this subject. The new pier will cost several million.

If you have never been on the pier, pick a quiet day of the week and saunter out to the end of the pier and spend some really relaxing moments as you look out on the mighty sea. It is a great feeling.

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