



Independent Photo By Lisa Beth Guzik

LONG BOARDERS REUNION — Some of Huntington Beach's favorite standbys attend a ground-breaking for the new site of the surf HB museum. The crew includes Kai Weisgar, Bill Alenstrong, George Draper, Bob Carbonel and Robert August.

## Huntington Beach Surf Museum Organizers Break Ground For A New Facility Downtown

By Greg Hernandez

The boarded-up building at 411 Olive St. in downtown Huntington Beach doesn't look like much now.

But within two months, the former site of Safari Sam's will be transformed into the second temporary location for the Huntington Beach International Surfing Museum, which will house a collection of surfing memorabilia from throughout the world.

The museum officially opened in July 1988 at 312 Walnut St. That building was demolished in February 1989 to make room for

a redevelopment project. During its Walnut Street stint, the museum made headlines when a thief broke in and stole a guitar belonging to musician Dick Dale.

The guitar was eventually returned and will be displayed when the new facility opens its doors in late November or early December, according to museum chairman Natalie Kotsch.

The collection, which also includes a Tom Blake long board from the 1920s, classic photos and vintage copies of Surfer Magazine, is in storage during the renovation.

Kotsch said the interim site should prove to be a popular tourist attraction until the permanent museum opens its doors in the Pier Plaza in 1992.

"It's an exciting venture for our town. We'll be the envy of the West Coast."

Ground-breaking at the Olive Street site was marked by a modest ceremony on Monday attended by about 30 people.

Among those on hand were Robert August, owner and operator of Robert August Surfboards on Main Street and one of the stars on the classic surfing film "Endless Summer," George

Draper, owner of the oldest surf shop in Huntington Beach; and 66-year-old Bob Carbonel, who is better known as "Dr. Ding" for his surfboard repair prowess.

Carbonel has been surfing in Huntington Beach for 50 years and still hits the beach several times a week. He said there is a real need for a surfing museum.

"I think it's great and something that should've been done a long time ago."

Kotsch said volunteers are needed for the renovation process and more surfing memorabilia is always welcome.

For more information, call (714) 960-3483.

