

Three Great Events



CELEBRATE JULY 4TH & 5TH AT
San Buenaventura

The Ventura Chamber of Commerce Fourth of July Celebration Committee with William Arthur Hobson as president took on the full responsibility to create a “triple celebration” to mark the completion of the new Ventura County Courthouse, Ventura River Bridge and restored Serra Cross atop Grant Park over two days, July 4 & 5, 1913. The events generated immense public pride and media coverage, including the front page of the Los Angeles Times.

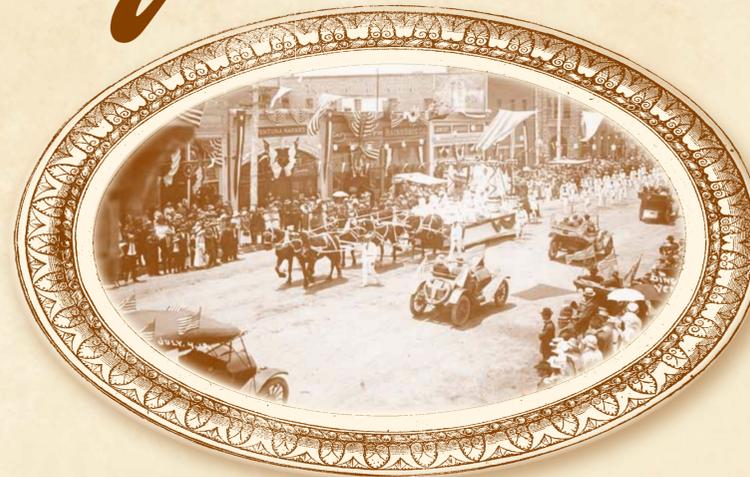


LA Times: June 29, 1913

Photo courtesy of the Hobson/Hoffman/Haley Family Archives



Event letterhead courtesy of Hobson/Hoffman/Haley Family Archives



A two way parade of steeds and sedans July 4, 1913.
Photo courtesy of the Hobson/Hoffman/Haley Family Archives

Bridge to the Future

A July 4th morning dedication of the Ventura River Bridge followed Ventura’s biggest ever Independence Day parade with Seaside Park races, Spanish dancing, band concerts, Japanese day light fireworks, drills by the Knights of Pythias and nighttime fireworks at the wharf completing the day.

Front Steps of History

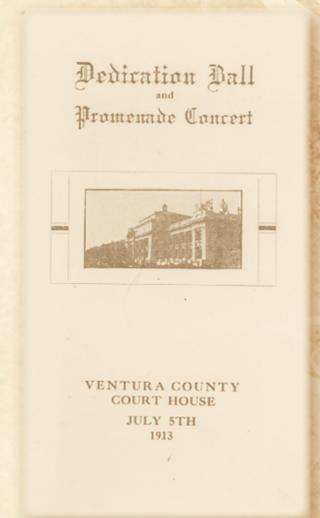
On July 5th a baseball game preceded and afternoon barbecue and athletic sports followed the morning’s huge front-steps dedication ceremony of the courthouse.



Chairman Adolfo Camarillo’s “call to order.”
Photo by Eric Daily

Dancing through the Halls

For the July 5th nighttime dedicatory ball and promenade concert the entire courthouse was “illuminated and thrown open for inspection” with officers of the cruiser South Dakota, moored off the wharf, in attendance as guests of honor.



Dedicatory Ball’s dance card program
Photo courtesy of the
Hobson/Hoffman/Haley Family Archives

“At a cost of \$269,000, Ventura’s handsome new courthouse is complete, and its finish is one of the reasons for this present great celebration. The new courthouse is pronounced by those who have seen it to be a magnificent affair, surpassing any public building in Southern California in matter of beauty and general fitness for the purposes for which it was erected. It is absolutely fireproof. It is of two stories and with a skeleton of reinforced concrete, surfaced with cream-colored terra cotta, handsomely ornamented and making a beautiful front for the whole length of 290 feet. It is not possible to go into detail, but when it is considered that \$30,000 worth of the handsomest, matched marble enters into the inside work, some idea may be had of what the building is like.”

— Ventura Free Press
at Foster Library Archives