Disabled students at Saddleback College no longer have to watch Gauchos basketball from the sidelines. See page 6.
around the town

A look back at 1980 in Mission Viejo

IF YOU DARE—These two ghoulish figures supplied some of the chills and thrills at the Recreation Center's annual haunted house.

FOSSIL FACTS—The Mission Viejo Cultural Resources Center, which houses archaeological and paleontological remains discovered in the community, opened in September. The CRC features specimens from the most comprehensive bed of fossil marine vertebrates from the Pliocene Miocene age anywhere on the Pacific Coast.

U. F LANE — More than 600 of the nation's top amateur swimmers competed in the Seventeen Magazine Swim Meet of Champions in June. Mission Viejo's Nadadores finished near the top in the race for the team championship during the three-day event.

JOYOUS WELCOME — Santa Claus made his annual appearance in Mission Viejo last month at his workshop located at the corner of La Paz and Chrisanta. St. Nick's six-day visit was part of the Five Nights of Christmas pageant sponsored by the Mission Viejo Activities Committee.

THE BAND'S ALL HERE—Twenty-five high school bands from across the southland competed for trophies in the second annual Mission Viejo Band Review in November. The event was hosted by Mission Viejo and Capistrano Valley high schools.

AWARD WINNER—Mission Viejo's entrant in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade is a perennial award winner. The 1980 entrant, "Baubles, Bangles and Beads," won the sweepstakes trophy, the second such honor in four years.

CARFREE FEELING—These mini-sized cars were among the 96 entrants and more than 3,000 participants in the community's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. Twenty-six bands also marched in the event.

EYE ON THE BALL—Carol Heeney, one of tennis' rising young stars, was the top-ranked competitor in the 16-and-under division at the Seventeen Magazine Tennis Tournament of Champions in May. Girls from every state participated in the prestigious event.
Small group’s efforts keep MV beautiful

Since Mission Viejo’s inception in 1965, residents have assumed the responsibility of keeping the community looking good. But making the planned community literally beautiful for the past seven years has been the task of a relatively small group of individuals known appropriately as the Mission Viejo Beautiful Committee.

The 37-member group has played a major role in Mission Viejo’s becoming one of the most aesthetically pleasing communities in California with a year-round slate of campaigns, ranging from the recent Holiday Home Tour, Christmas Parade of Lights and entering a float in the annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade to monthly home landscaping awards.

“Our sole purpose is to encourage scenic beauty throughout Mission Viejo by honoring residents and businesses which have enhanced the community’s appearance,” said Letty Sken, the committee’s chairperson. Mrs. Sken has been the most active member since she joined the Mission Viejo Beautiful Committee along with her husband, Gay, in July of 1975.

“We’re not like a club,” she said. “We have officers, but no by-laws or dues. We’re just striving for the same purpose—the beautification of the community.”

And that’s exactly what the Beautiful Committee has done, Jeanne Gagneben, who has since moved away from the community, formed the committee in January of 1973 when she felt a need to recognize homeowners for excellence in landscaping. Mrs. Gagneben was joined by two other Mission Viejo residents, Kira Naas and Valerie Pingel. In presenting the first landscape award that year, similar awards have been awarded to two households monthly since then. More than 200 of the community’s 13,400 homes have been honored.

That May, the committee thought up the Spring Cleanup Campaign, now an annual event that encourages homeowners on each street to upgrade their exterior landscaping. Cash awards are given to homes on the winning streets.

The committee’s first fund-raising event, the Holiday Home Tour, was staged in December of 1973 and has become one of the most popular of all community activities.

Each December, six homes are selected from countless recommendations to be toured by lucky ticket holders.

“We have pages and pages of homes recommended to us that we sift through,” said Mrs. Sken. “People suggest certain homes to us. Others are recommended by committee members going past a home, finding its exterior attractive and knocking on the door to see the inside. Most residents are very flattered when this happens.”

By process of elimination via telephone interviews, 15 homes are selected as finalists. Three or four members will go out and look at the finalists, rating them on structural changes and interior decorating.

An estimated 900 persons saw this past year’s six homes and attended a reception complete with holiday refreshments at the home of Gloria and Ron Sasso. Door prizes, donated by local merchants, were also given away at that time.

Dania Davis, the committee’s publicity chairperson, said this past year’s tour was so successful, it sold out in just a few hours.

The holiday season is an especially busy time of year as committee members are also involved in the Christmas Decorating and Lighting Contest and annual Parade of Lights. For the decorating and lighting contest, every street in Mission Viejo is canvassed and homeowners are notified they have been nominated for a possible cash award.

Much of the Mission Viejo Beautiful Committee’s work is done without recognition. Members meet only when a project is in the making, but that sometimes seems like year round since planning for home tours begins in March.

However, the committee’s efforts haven’t gone totally unnoticed. Community residents are visibly proud of Mission Viejo’s beauty and for the past four years, the EMA (Environmental Management Agency) has cited the committee for outstanding contributions to Mission Viejo’s overall appearance.

Girl slugs take title

“Mission Machine” took first place in the District 64 Super Sox and Bobby Sox softball league recently with a pair of wins over previously unbeaten Tustin.

Led by the battery of Cindy Riviere and Trena Clinton, the “Mission Machine” broke loose for eight runs in the fourth inning of second game to score an easy win after coming from behind to capture the opener, 6-5.

Wendy Hermann led the hitting assault in the second game with a home run.

In late November, the girls finished fourth in the Turkey Time Tournament in Lakewood despite a roster decimated by injuries to some key players.

Bobby Hermann and Helen Riviere shared managerial chores this season. Jake Riviere, George Pello and Jack McMillen split coaching responsibilities.

The team was sponsored by Mission Viejo Company.

FBI member tops seniors agenda

A member of the Federal Bureau of Investigation will be the guest speaker at the Jan. 9 meeting of the Saddleback Valley Seniors. The 11 a.m. event will be held at the Montanoso Recreation Center.

The seniors will hold a fund raising luncheon Wednesday, Jan. 21 at Beverly Hills Savings, located on the corner of Alicia Parkway and Paseo de Valencia in Laguna Hills. Other Saddleback Valley Seniors events include a visit to San Onofre on Thursday, Jan. 29. The bus will leave Montanoso Recreation Center at 8:45 a.m.

Bingo night will take place at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23 at Montanoso Rec Center.

Cds Art League speakers set

Patrick Faurout and Alan Dayton, world travelers and art connoisseurs, will be the guest speakers at the Ceda del Sol Art League’s first meeting of the year at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 15 in the Vista Room.

Dayton and Faurout will lecture on and display Chinese artifacts along with other art objects.

Play slated

Saddleback Valley Community Theatre will present "The Runner Stumbles," a drama dealing with a tale of repressed passion and a murder trial, from Jan. 16 to Feb. 7.

Ticket information can be obtained by calling 830-0252 or 770-0361. The theater is located at 28741 C. Obrero, Mission Viejo.
his 10-member first-year team are not overly concerned with producing a winning record.

Just putting a team on the court is looked upon as a victory. It was a major step for Saddleback's five-year-old adaptive P.E. program, which until the team's formation, offered only recreational and therapy courses for the school's 350 disabled students (125 currently participate in adaptive P.E. classes).

Wheelchair athletics, such as basketball, is an extension of the program as a whole, with only a small percentage of Saddleback's handicapped students participating. Hastings pointed out.

Other extensions of the program include plans for wheelchair track and field and wheelchair tennis, now both on the drawing board. A wheelchair sports camp is slated for April 13-19 at the school.

Although the team is more on the line of rehabilitation rather than competition, Hastings says it (basketball) is "one very good way to get back into the mainstream."

Permanent injury results in most people becoming recluse for an indefinite time period while seeking the answer to the question "Why me?" said those with leg amputations, post polio and spinal cord injuries find their lives turned upside down and they face the challenge of coping with their present condition.

New careers, family and peer acceptance, transportation and recreation or sports alternatives are the major obstacles facing victims.

"After the first big step of emotional preparation to face the outside world, the difficulty of living in the able-bodied world must be met. However, when the final barriers have been crossed and the resultant realization of still having worth is recognized, then life's rewards become more visible and obtainable," said Hastings.

Considering 79 percent of disabled Californians become disabled after the age of 18, the wheelchair basketball team at Saddleback carries added significance, he said.

"Nearly half of Hastings's squad had — those who know the game of basketball — know the game of basketball. The rest of the players must learn the game on a competitive level from scratch.

"Everything we're doing now is basic. You have to have the personnel to be more advanced, so we're all really learning the game together," Hastings explained.

Even though some team members had played high school basketball, there are some adjustments to be made along with rule changes in becoming adept at wheelchair basketball.

General basketball contact rules (charging, blocking) apply to wheelchair version, but players are allowed six seconds in the key (free throw lane) rather than three while on offense and no player can take more than two consecutive dribbles per possession.

Occasionally, a competitor falls during play. If the player is not in any danger, action continues. But if by falling a player prevents the opposition from gaining possession, the ball is awarded to the other team.

Depending on the extent of the disability, points are given to a player. All teams must conform to this point rating to compete on a certain level of play. And all disabilities must be permanent.

Wheelchair play is as quick-paced as an able-bodied game. "The more skilled teams often score in excess of 100 points. However, shooting range is obviously limited due to the inability to use leg muscles."

For many players, the wheelchair team at Saddleback offers another chance at competitive sports...and then some.

"This is my first time playing wheelchair basketball. I'm meeting new people with similar problems. I knew only one or two persons in wheelchairs before this."

Twenty-seven-year-old Lou Tyce, a Mission Viejo resident, raced motor cycles, swam and played water polo at Cal Poly Pomona before he contracted multiple sclerosis stemming from a back injury.

"I had a very competitive spirit before and this gives me an outlet," he said.

Despite his disability, Tyce hasn't lost that spirit. "I'm just out there having a good time but I still want to win."

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<td>8 Tiny Tots (M)</td>
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<td>26</td>
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<td>28 Koolaid Chug-a-lug and Games (MRR)</td>
<td>29 Day At The Races (**)</td>
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**TELEPHONE DIRECTORY**

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<td>Orange County Sheriffs Department</td>
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<td>Orange County Transit District Dial-A-Ride</td>
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<td>Mission Viejo Recreation Centers</td>
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