

## Balmer School and La Jolla Country Day School, RG005.02

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Balmer School | La Jolla Country Day, RG005.02

**Dates:** 1926 - Present

**Collection Number:** RG005.02

**Creator/Collector:** La Jolla Historical Society

**Extent:** .5 linear feet

**Repository:** La Jolla Historical Society, La Jolla, California 92037

**Abstract:** The Related Group 005.02 Balmer School and La Jolla Country Day Collection is made up of photographs and archival material collected by the La Jolla Historical Society since the 1930s to use for historical research and reference. The Collection contains material reflecting the history of the School began by Louise Balmer in 1926. The topics pertain to the history and heritage of La Jolla, California; its people, places and events. A container list is included on the PDF and HTML versions.

**Language of Material:** English

**Access:** The Collection is open for research

**Publication Rights:** The La Jolla Historical Society holds the copyright to any unpublished materials

**Preferred Citation:** Courtesy of the La Jolla Historical Society

**Acquisition Information:** RG005.02

**Biography/Administrative History:** The Balmer School was started in 1926 in Wisteria Cottage and Balmer Annex at 780 Prospect Street in La Jolla, now the property of the La Jolla Historical Society, with four children by Headmistress Louise C. Balmer, A.B. Bryn Mawr College. The School was located in many places over the years, always preserving an informal homelike atmosphere. At times it ranged from kindergarten through fifth grade, and other times nursery school through the second grade. It emphasized high scholastic standards and good study habits, keeping alive the child's normal intellectual curiosity and giving opportunity for creative work in various areas. In pre-school years the goals were to learn to live together, to share, to enjoy music, to have opportunities for self-expression and imagination through art, and in kindergarten to become aware of community. In September 1955, the School became the lower unit of the La Jolla Country Day School, incorporated as an independent non-profit school, and today contains grades pre-school through high school.

The La Jolla Historical Society inspires and empowers the community to make La Jolla's diverse past a relevant part of contemporary life.

The La Jolla Historical Society's Collections encompass over 80 years of actively collecting archival material, books, maps, scrapbooks, ephemera, fine art, newspapers, street and land use files, business and personal documents and historic and archaeological artifacts. The Society boasts over 20,000 photographs, over 1000 postcards, 400-plus architectural drawings and approximately 200 oral history recordings.

Collecting was initiated by Howard Randolph and volunteers on the historical committee of the Library Association of La Jolla. The Collection began by gathering photographs and documentation in the late 1930s, which later became the nucleus of the La Jolla Historical Society's Collections. The Society was created in 1963.

Through many moves in location the Society continued collecting and expanding. Accumulated Collections took on its current construct in 2010 after the renovation of the La Jolla Historical Society's campus of structures in central La Jolla, which consists of the 1904 Wisteria Cottage and 1940s Balmer Annex used for exhibits and programming, and a 1909 cottage used for business and research offices. The late Ellen Browning Scripps' 1916 automobile garage was also renovated and now houses the Collection in a modern collections storage facility. Materials are housed in archival boxes, sleeves, envelopes and other archival-safe materials and are cared for according to standards and best practices of the museum profession. In 2016, the Society initiated new PastPerfect Museum Software to manage and catalog its Collections and in 2018 started using the Online Archive of California to upload searchable information from its Collections to enable improved public access. The Society will continue these processes and look forward to utilizing new opportunities to collect, preserve and share the history of La Jolla.

**Scope and Content of Collection:** The Related Group 005.02 Balmer School and La Jolla Country Day Collection is made up of photographs and archival material collected by the La Jolla Historical Society since the 1930s to use for historical research and reference. The Collection contains material reflecting the history of the school, which Louise Balmer began in 1926. The topics pertain to the history and heritage of La Jolla, California; its people, places and events. A container list is included on the PDF and HTML versions.

**Container List Below**

# Container List

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RG005 – Subject Files (Large)  
Box 02 – Balmer School and La Jolla Country Day School

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## Balmer School/ LJ Country Day: History

Seal. La Jolla Country Day seal from a letterhead. 1980's.

Research paper. Incomplete handwritten research paper on the Balmer School and Mrs. Balmer. Includes forward from Pat Dahlberg providing context. April 27, 1987.

Article. Article titled "The Balmer School Story" by Freda L. Klapp and Helen G. Lewis. La Jollan Magazine. March 5, 1947.

Yearbook. La Jolla Country Day School yearbook for 1960 (two copies).

Schedule. La Jolla Country Day School important date and vacation schedule. 1989-1990.

Photographs. Series of 18 photocopied photos from a Hansel and Gretel production at the La Jolla Country Day School. Includes typed description. 1958.

Series of documents. A letter and two resumes introducing John Neiswender as the new director of La Jolla Country Day School.

## LJ Country Day: Newsletters

Collection of newsletters. Collection of 20 Forum, Passages, and Alumni Today newsletters from La Jolla Country Day School. 1986-1992.

## LJ Country Day: Newspaper Clippings

Article. Incomplete article titled "Torres lose". La Jolla Light. October 1, 1981.

Article. "Susan Ota finds class in eurythmics exciting" by Patty Murphy. La Jolla Light-Journal. May 10, 1973.

Article. "Football returns to La Jolla Country Day" by David Yarowsky. La Jolla Light. October 1, 1981.

Article. "Country Day school chosen recipient of June 1 'Walk'". La Jolla Light. June 20, 1974.

Newspaper photograph. Photo of Kyle Spain performing a layup while playing basketball for La Jolla Country Day School. La Jolla Light-Journal. March 1, 1973.

Article. "Country Day youngsters emulate basketball greats" by Lola Sherman. La Jolla Light. January 30, 1975.

Article. "Country Day opens; enrollment boosted". La Jolla Light. September 13, 1973.

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Article. "9 join faculty at Country Day". La Jolla Light. September 27, 1973.

Article. "Country Day students explore career options".

Article. "Country Day School earns accreditation". July 29, 1976.

Article. "President named at Country Day" on Clare Friedman. July 7, 1977.

Article. "Country Day honors school's sports stars". March 13, 1986.

Article. "Country Day downs Parker" by Mike Grady. October 18, 1973.

Article. "Seniors study on trip to England". July 5, 1975.

Article. "Country Day gridder chosen by foundation" on Justin Traxler. March 6, 1986.

Article. "James Kerr to speak at Country Day rites". June 7, 1973.

Article. "Country Day presents 'Antigone', too". March 8, 1973.

Article. "Mohrhardt leads on San Miguel" by Mike Grady. October 25, 1973.

Article. "Country Day takes break". January 1, 1975.

Article. "Everything from the occult to medicine: 'Intersession '75'" by Kathy George. February 6, 1975.

Article. "Fourth graders tour state capital". June 5, 1975.

Article. "Country Day basketball team showing strength". February 1, 1973.

Newspaper photograph. Newspaper photo of Mrs. Robert W. Holcombe and Frank Bryant. April 19, 1973.

Newspaper photograph. Newspaper photo of Frank Bryant and Donald R. Nickerson.

Newspaper photograph. Newspaper photo of Santa Claus with parents from LJ Country Day School. November 22, 1973.

Article. "Mini-auction will benefit school art". La Jolla Light-Journal. April 26, 1973.

Article. "Torres lose, tie Parker for season". November 8, 1973.

Article. "9 join Cum Laude". May 17, 1973.

Article. "Country Day smashed, 50-0" by Mike Grady. September 27, 1973.

Article. "New trustees elected at Country Day". June 7, 1973.

Article. "Glaub leaves Country Day". La Jolla Light. July 5, 1973.

Article. "Country Day holds 10<sup>th</sup> graduation". June 14, 1973.

Newspaper photos. Two newspaper photos, one of Harold P. Field and another of Tim Tucker. 1973.

Article. "Country Day honors Frank Bryant". May 31, 1973.

Article. "Headmaster honored". April 19, 1973.

Article. "4<sup>th</sup> graders to follow whales to Baja lagoon". February 15, 1973.

Article. "Country Day Madrigal Singers participate in music clinic". February 21, 1974.

Article. "1<sup>st</sup> soccer win". February 1, 1973.

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Article. "Country Day honors students". La Jolla Light-Journal. May 31, 1973.

Article. "Country Day's coach Kent Hales discusses baseball player-issue". April 10, 1975.

Article. "Country Day kicks off expansion plan with new library center" by Eva Hoffman. La Jolla Light. June 1, 2006.

Article. Three newspaper photos of the La Jolla Country Day School Greek Day. May 8, 1975.

Article. "La Jolla Country Day cheerleaders win awards". La Jolla Light. September 25, 1986.

Article. "Tim Burns: La Jolla Country Day School". La Jolla Light. September 3, 1987.

Article. "Country Day dumps Nickerson" by Gay Fall. La Jolla Light. February 22, 1978.

Article. "Sea world art contest winners". La Jolla Light. May 1, 1986.

Article. "Nostalgia Lane" by Marie Breder on the Balmer School. La Jolla Journal. October 3, 1963 (three copies).

Article. "Country Day opens doors". La Jolla Light. November 12, 1998.

Article. "La Jolla Country Day School opens a new student pavilion". La Jolla Light. March 2, 2000.

Article. "Country Day plows new furrow" by Stefani Mingo. La Jolla Village News. January 29, 1998.

Article. "Another era ushered in at Country Day" by Bill Mueller. February 9, 1984.

Article. "Country Day picks headmaster" by Jack Laufenberg. La Jolla Light. April 21, 1981.

Article. "New headmaster is ready for the challenge" by Mark Stadler. La Jolla Light. August 20, 1991.

Article. "Headmaster suspended: La Jolla Country Day action follows harassment suit" by Cynthia Queen. La Jolla Light. March 19, 1992.

Article. "La Jolla Country Day School's Schwartz has it all".

## **LJ Country Day: Quest School Publications**

Series of publications. Seven copies of "Quest" by La Jolla Country Day School. 2006-2008.

## **LJ Country Day: Annual Report to Donors**

Report. La Jolla Country Day School annual report to donors. 1986-1987.

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**LJ Country Day:  
Campus  
Renovations**

Letter. Letter regarding the start of construction for the new La Jolla Country Day Middle School.

Letter. Letter to Mr. and Mrs. H. Bailey Gallison from Barbara Blake and Judith Hickman regarding the construction of La Jolla Country Day Middle School. July 6, 2005.

Letter. Letter to parents from E. Clare Freidman and Ronald E. Hahn regarding the future of La Jolla Country Day School. December 2, 1985.

Packet. Packet from the La Jolla Country Day School regarding a fund-raising campaign.

**LJ Country Day:  
Brochures**

Flier. Flier advertising the new La Jolla Country Day Middle School. 2006.

Packet. La Jolla Country Day School program details and enrollment information. 1986-1987.

Calendar. La Jolla Country Day School Calendar. 2001-2002 (two copies).

Letter. Letter from James B. Stewart to Joan Wagner of the LJHS regarding information on the Balmer School. January 27, 1987.

**Balmer School/  
LJ Country Day:  
Photographs**

Photograph. Photo of the La Jolla Country Day School. 1955.

Photograph. Photo of La Jolla Country Day Students painting a mural in La Jolla. 1986.

Photograph. Photo of Mike Niggli at LJCDS. 1986.

Photograph. Photo of a coach and football player at LJCDS. 1986.

Photograph. Photo of the junior varsity cheerleaders at LJCDS. 1986.

Photograph. Photo of the student government leaders at LJCDS. 1986.

Photograph. Photo of Coach Rick Woods and the LJCDS varsity football team in the locker room. 1986.

Photograph. Photo of kindergarten students at LJCDS at the La Jolla fire station. 1989.

Photograph. Photo of the LJCDS sign. 1994.

Series of photographs. Seven photographs of Tim Burns in administrative duties at LJCDS. 1981-1989.

Photographs. A photo of Mary Anne Brower and Bernice Cattanch.

Photograph. Photo of the LJCDS graduation ceremony.

Photograph. Photo of the LJCDS maintenance crew. 1986.

Photograph. Photo of the LJCDS alma mater composers. 1986.

Photographs. Two photos of a young man before and after his graduation from LJCDS.

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Photographs. Two photos of girls during the LJCDS graduation ceremony.

Photographs. Copy. Series of eleven photographs of the Balmer School at Wisteria Cottage. Children and teachers posing inside the classroom and outside of Wisteria Cottage.

Photograph. Photo of LJCDS students cheering at lunch. 1986.

Photograph. Photo of LJCDS lower school light reporters. 1986.

Photograph. Photo of James Steward of LJCDS.

Photograph. Photo of young LJCDS students wearing "Brave Denmark" shirts. 1986.

Photograph. Photo of three older students sitting together LJCDS. 1986.

Photograph. Photo of a LJCDS indoor graduation ceremony.

Photograph. Photo of the LJCDS Parents' Association Board. 1986.

Photograph (2). Copy. Balmer School. Young boy standing on top of the rock wall outside of Wisteria cottages, holding lunchbox and school supplies.

Photograph. Copy. Balmer School. Children outside on lawn, playing with large boxes.

Photograph. Copy. Balmer School. Ten children standing up outside stairway. Wisteria Cottage.

Photograph. Copy. Three children standing outside pergola. Sign above reads: "La Jolla Country Day School the successor to The Balmer School." Fritz Liebhardt, Tricia Mosier, Bill Fleming.

Photograph. Copy. Balmer School. Nine children and two teachers posing for photograph on rock wall outside Wisteria Cottage. Louise Balmer.

Photograph. Copy. Louise Balmer outside Wisteria Cottage next to a rocking horse. "Cat in the Hat" signage on side of the cottage.

Photograph. Copy. Balmer School. Children playing on tire swings on lawn.

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