

## **My Life and Times in Imperial Beach; 50 years of Forever Classic**

*By*  
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One would never have thought that after 37 years as a San Diegan, I would actually remember those bits and pieces of my childhood that bring out the best of times in what can sometimes be such troubled periods. The memories of my life here in Imperial Beach are priceless and ones that render a peace now within my heart that, through thick and thin, will always spark recollections of that perfect day that somehow made all our little worries go away. I reflect now on not being so financially well-to-do back as a child in San Diego and feeling quite flustered about my parents separation at the time, but the special things that my Mother did for us here in IB were extraordinary and this is why I can speak of these times where the simple sand and surf were a true rescue to a few worrisome moments.

Just coming down Palm Avenue with anticipation of going to the beach, seeing the sandcastles and playing at the park was a joy that no amount of money could ever replace or enhance. I can even remember the little fish sign that said we were entering Imperial Beach and knowing that we were entering in to another world where so much fun was waiting before us. Those small buckets of tiny seashells we filled were huge tokens of memories of this city that meant the world. The drive-in was a treat that let our family be together for hours while watching a film and we even loved being in that beat-up old station wagon, cramped together with popcorn and soda -- feeling safe and sound here at the beach.

I have seen the efforts that Imperial Beach has taken to make the community a place for all diversities to enjoy a progress that has proven to be particularly impressive over the years. I have now lived here for over seven of those years and know that people genuinely care about the future of our city and the potential it will have for years to come in making the population so proud to be a resident. I have made new friends and talked with new neighbors. This is a pleasure that only a true city can emphasize as to what we all wish to enjoy -- harmony and promise.

The work that has taken place aesthetically, the buildings that have been redeveloped, and the pride that the City has shown in its effort to continue to enhance our protected wetlands and estuaries, makes me proud to be a resident of IB. With birds flying and sounds of waves slowly accenting our shores, I am honored to be here and will continue to strive to add to this community's strong nature and resilience.

You ask about my life and times in Imperial Beach? I am still here! I am still a part of a 50-year old history of ever changing growth and expectation that every city would envy. Thank you IB, for the fun and memory of times past and future accomplishments I know will enhance my life and those around me.