

# The O'Neil Building, A Short History

By Dan Haifley, retired OSO Director



“Harry Hind and I (were) old-time surfers from Kelly’s Cove and Ocean Beach, San Francisco. We surfed there in the 1950s, and became good friends. I had the idea to open a surf shop at the Santa Cruz harbor, and I asked Harry if he could back me on the deal. He said he would.”

– Jack O’Neill

“Then Harry brought in a CPA and an attorney, and soon our surf shack became an 8,500-square-foot building.”

We got approval from the harbor and built it in 1965. In 2000, Harry and I donated this building to the Sea Odyssey...”





Over the years the building housed O'Neill Yachts, O'Neill Dive Shop, O'Neill Surf Shop and O'Neill Sea Odyssey.

Jack was one of many with great harbor stories. After the 1964 tsunami washed the dredge to sea, Jack and two friends located and returned it to the harbor.



It was renovated in 2004-2005. O'Neill Sea Odyssey paid \$1.56 million, or 47% of the cost, mostly grants and donor funds, plus a loan.

Brian Foss said OSO's financial involvement made renovation possible.

The California Coastal Commission granted a waiver of their review of renovation due to the presence of OSO's education center and the Surfrider water quality lab – priority ocean dependent uses under the Coastal Act.





O'Neill involvement is part of the harbor's rich history, and speaking for myself, I hope it won't be lost.