

Bill Kendall

(From the book *Our Lifeguard Family*)

Bill Kendall's last summer as a lifeguard was 1952. He was an LA City guard, who in that first year played a "crazy dope pusher" in a movie entitled *Teen Age Devil Dolls*. You can watch the movie on Netflix. He got the role primarily because the part called for a motorcycle and Bill was going to graduate school at UCLA on his motorcycle. Notice Bill's skin coloring on this face. While this photo was taken with the first Kodacolor film in the 1940s (it's not the film), Bill has a combination of tincture of benzoin and olive oil on his face, with zinc oxide on his lips. He also put tincture of benzoin on his nose along with other guards which frequently led to being called a brown nose. In those days, and even up to the early 70s, there really was not anything like the sun block that we have today. Lifeguards had to make up their own formulas to protect their skin against the sun.

Bill's first assignment as a rookie lifeguard in 1948 was at the outfall of a 6 foot diameter pipe that ended at the demolished Venice pier. The pipe started in the sand dunes in the South Bay and brought new sand to the beaches in Venice and south of Venice. That is why we enjoy such nice broad beaches in Venice today. When talking to Venice residents today, very few are aware of this project. Needless to say the pipe spewed out sand and water at high pressure and made a nice hole full of water that the little kids loved to play in. Thus, it was a challenging assignment for a new guard. In subsequent summers, Bill moved to North Beach (Will Rogers and Castle Rock) where he met his wife of over 50 years. It shows that good things can come from socializing with the public on your beach. The union produced four children, two boys and two girls who live in northern California and Hawaii. Few people even know that there was a huge rock at the north end of the Castlemare Beach called Castle Rock that was destroyed in the early 50s by some authority who deemed it as an unsafe hazard to the public.

After ending his summers as a lifeguard, Bill went to Navy OCS and after completion was sent to the Harbor Defense Unit at Pearl Harbor where he helped defend Pearl Harbor from the North Koreans for the next three years. He then returned to Southern California and worked for the System Development Corporation (SDC) and later Scientific Data Systems (SDS), both in Santa Monica. SDS was acquired by Xerox in 1969, and Bill held various positions within the company, ending his working career as the Human Resource Manager at Xerox's Computer Services division.