## **Linda Mar Shopping Center**



Doelger to Start Center in 90 Days; Drive Opened 31 Stores, All Built Around Purity Study District



Prior to the Linda Mar Shopping Center, there was only one large shopping center in what was to become Pacifica, and that was on the other end of town, in Pacific Manor. Originally a giant artichoke field, the land where the Linda Mar shopping center now sits was first owned by Andy Oddstad, who sold it to Ray T. Higgins so that he could finance his other building projects. Pedro Valley was a growing community, and Higgins could see that residents needed a shopping center where they could conveniently shop in their own community. The center took an entire lumber mill in its construction, with over 500,000 board feet of pine, redwood and other lumbers and the floor space topped Kezar Stadium. The initial 21 shops covered over 64,000 square feet of space, while plans were in the works to add on a post office and more.

The center, its largest in the area - still is - would eventually attract not only Linda Mar residents, but shoppers from other parts of the coastside. Henry Doelger designed and built the center for \$1.5 million. Purity owned its own land in the center - it was the first store built, and its center-point - while Ray T. Higgins owned the rest. Purity opened in March 17, 1955, 15 months prior to the center's own grand opening. There were separate openings for many of the businesses, some before the center's grand opening, which was held over three days - on June 20th, 29th, & 30th, 1956. Initially, there were 24 stores and a medical building in the complex, all centered around Purity Market. The number of businesses mushroomed over time. Businesses signed leases, and all were happy to do so. Local businesses were chomping at the bit to be part of the new shopping center - ribbon-cuttings were rife through the decades, as new merchants were added. From 1956-1960, the merchants and services included:

Linda Mar Radio & TV (Val- King TV)
Linda Mar Paint Center
Self-Service Launderette
Linda Mar Cleaners
Linda Mar Variety
Jennell's... for Style reduced-price clothing store
Terroll's Infants and Children's Wear clothing store
Dan's Shoes
Linda Mar Shoe Repair

Linda Mar Pharmacy

Linda Mar Liquors (free delivery)

Jacques Ice Cream

Linda Mar Barber's

Linda Mar Chinese Food

Town & Country Beauty Salon

Hunt's Quality Donuts (which also sold "Stanburgers")

Linda Mar Camera Shop

Linda Mar Pet Shop

Todd Toys

Linda Mar Hardware & Nursery

Lou's Flying A.(owned by Lou Nannini)

Linda Mar Lodge

Medical Dental offices

Bank of America









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The medical building in the center advertised the "Dental offices of Dr. O.N. Obuhoff." There was plenty of parking space at the center, a real plus. Businesses were continually offering free prizes and contests to lure in new customers. Often, the businesses got together and the shopping center held contests and give-aways throughout the rest of the 1950s-70s. By the 1960s, more businesses and services were added or changed hands. Those were:

Grant's Linda Mar Mode O' Day Dress Shop Linda Mar Dress Shop Linda Mar Jeweler Linn's Do-Nut Ranch Dale Fox Dress Shop Laber's Shoes Carl's Men's and Boy's Wear Avenue Appliance Kerri's Coffee Shop Diamond's Variety Ross Department Store Fred's Shoe Repair Linda Mar Florist Wells Fargo Bank County Library Ralph's Chevron Marie's Bake Shop Sears Marianne's Fashion Fabrics













By the 1970s (in addition to, or instead of, previously-named) merchants and services included:

Linda Mar Scotch Jewelers Strom's Boots n' Shoes The Briar Patch Indoor and Outdoor Plants Del Mar Salon Ernie's Liquors Grande's Shoes Grant City (formerly Grant's) Jade Dragon Jr. Kitchen Potpourri Hallmark Card Shop **United Travel Service** Real Estate Offices Sanchez Library Optometrist Jason's Fine Imports Beneficial Finance Henderson Travel Western Auto Sharon's Fashion & Notions Cralum's Bathroom Accessories Amick's Gifts

Founders Title Co.

Linda Mar Lounge

Beneficial Finance





By the 1980s, (in addition to, or instead of, previously-named) merchants and services included:

Funny Farm Pet Shop First National Bank Great Pacific Savings & Loan The Rooster Crows (jewelry, plants, tea & spice gift sets) Round Table Pizza **Action Shoes Donut Time** Safeway (replaced Purity Market) **Foot Fantasies** Ben Franklin Store Jay R. Adams, O.D. Denny's restaurant Cheers Bar Dolphin Real Estate Sam's Delicatessen Stephen Prevost D.D.S. Thrifty Drug Store Linda Mar Video Coming Attractions Boutique







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By the 1990s, (in addition to, or instead of, previously-named) merchants and services included:

Mailboxes. Etc. The Toybox James Miller Insurance Patty's Hallmark Nail Touche' Farmer's Insurance Jewels Forever Taqueria Los Toros Starbuck's California Video Radio Shack Wendy's



In 1995, businesses were hit hard by the closure of Devil's Slide. Many of the businesses in Linda Mar Shopping Center, both large and small, report substantial drops in business. Restaurants, gas stations and other tourist-serving businesses had seen the greatest decline, while businesses like banks and video stores, which depend on local customers, had seen less of a shift. The Super Safeway, which historically attracted a lot of customers due to its size and specialty fish, deli and bakery sections, had to reassign employees on a temporary basis in response to the decline. During that time, Pacifica had become a dead-end, and merchants noticed a sharp decline in the number of tourists who used to stop on their way down the Coast. Luckily, this only lasted until the slide was re-opened.

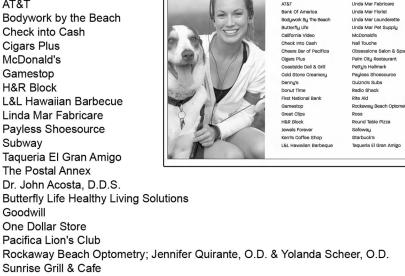
In 1997, the shopping center was remodeled, a huge project that most, if not all, merchants agreed upon. The new look was expected to be more attractive and functional, while expanding the number of shops in the complex. The \$8 million improvement significantly upgraded the center, which was 41 years old in 1997. By that time, the shopping center was owned by a group of investors out of Boston, Massachusetts named: "Fifty Associates", as well as Louis D. Martini & Associates out of Larkspur, CA, (today it is owned and run by the Kimco. corp). The renovation plan included expansion of the Safeway store, replacement of the existing retail/office space with new retail, expansion of the First National Bank and new facades, fascia and roof. Plans also called for a redesigned parking lot with added spaces, improved vehicular circulation, a new traffic signal on Linda Mar Boulevard, new medians on the boulevard, added landscaping, renovation and redesign of driveways, new master sign program and a wall along the Highway 1 side of the building. Although a request for an additional building along Linda Mar Boulevard for a restaurant or bank was initially rejected by the Planning Commission, the City Council gave conceptual approval, including added space for future growth. From 2000-2019,

With Over 35 Stores, Restaurants & Services

Linda Mar Fabricar

Linda Mar Pet Supply

Palm City Restaurant Copy Mill **Great Clips** Rite Aid (formerly Thrifty's) General Nutrition Center California Video **Linen Outlet** Obsessions Salon & Spa AT&T Bodywork by the Beach Check into Cash Cigars Plus McDonald's Gamestop H&R Block L&L Hawaiian Barbecue Linda Mar Fabricare Payless Shoesource Taqueria El Gran Amigo The Postal Annex



there were more businesses that changed hands, or were new, including:

SHO Р Р I N G С



· Clinical Hypnotherapy • Mineral Slimming Body Wrap

sage • Ion Foot Ba

1359 Linda Mar Shopping Center

359-9100

bodyworkbythebeach.com



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Today, Linda Mar Shopping Center is a 168,000 square foot grocery-anchored center located directly off Hwy. 1. Anchored by Safeway, this center features a variety of everyday retail, fitness dining and service tenants. At any time, spaces are open for merchants to rent. Turnover of businesses is ongoing. The center just recently lost Nancyland Kids and Baby (toy store) but eateries have been added relatively recently, including Sourdough & Co., Luigi Italian Restaurant, and the newly-opened Must be Dumpling.