



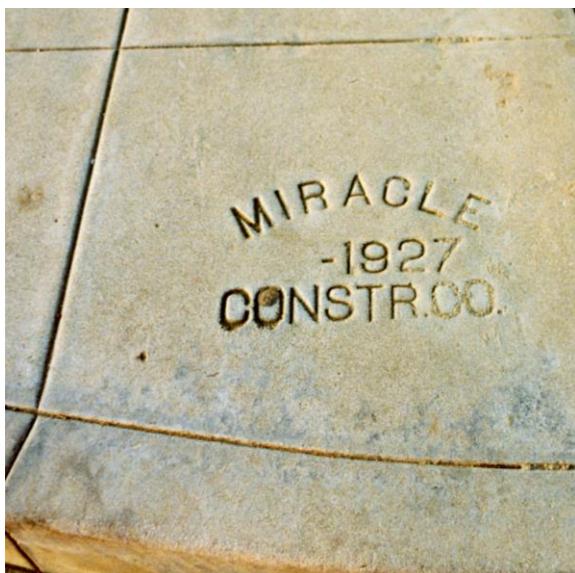
O.U. MIRACLE

By Kristi Hawthorne

Walk the neighborhoods of Oceanside and you will find the sidewalks marked with the curious name "O.U. Miracle." Many downtown sidewalks and curbs are engraved with this interesting name and many people wonder what, if any meaning it holds, or who is this Miracle.

Orville Ullman Miracle's parents were creative in thinking up their son's name. Their beloved son's initials lovingly proclaimed his birth to the world. I think often of Mrs. Miracle as she must have held her precious baby and whispered in his ear, "Oh you miracle!" Little did they know that this name would be used as a business advertisement second to none.

Orville Miracle was a local contractor who founded the Miracle Construction Company. His association with Oceanside began in 1927 when he was the low bidder on the contracts to improve streets throughout downtown and the oceanfront.



In the early 1930's, South Oceanside was the home of "Miracle Village," a subdivision of single family homes that continues to be a desirable place to live to this day. His office at 1922 Hill Street was a mainstay for growth and development.

Described as an "ardent civic worker," Miracle was also politically involved in the City and community affairs. He was involved in the Elks and Rotary clubs, as well as the South Oceanside Improvement Club.

O.U. died October 9, 1949 at the Oceanside Hospital at the age of 78. Up until his death, he remained interested in the development of Oceanside.

His unusual name brought attention from many columnists including "Ripley's Believe It or Not". His name was so familiar that a letter from South Africa simply addressed to "O.U. Miracle, USA" was delivered to him. Orville Ullman left his mark on Oceanside in a very permanent way, in concrete no less, that many Oceanside citizens see every day or walk across absentmindedly.

Next time you walk through downtown, pause at each "little Miracle" you pass. It is a unique reminder of an Oceanside entrepreneur and visionary who made his dreams for Oceanside a reality.