Please attend Historical Society Program to be held at
Laguna Beach City Hall Council Chambers, 505 Forest Avenue
Monday, May 18th – from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.

**Victoria Beach Tower & Norman House** by Mark Whitman

Mark Whitman is a fourth generation Californian from Marin County, has resided in Alaska for the last thirty years, and is the Circulation Supervisor of the Juneau Public Library. The appearance of the 1926 Norman Tower at Victoria Beach seems odd indeed and has startled many visitors, rounding the corner of the reef there, wondering what it might be. Mark Whitman was intrigued and trying to understand what originally inspired Senator Brown to choose this location for a residence, traced the history of both the pool and tower. Whitman researched the subject and found himself drawn into an intriguing review of Laguna Beach history, often finding as many questions as answers.

**Norman House and Victoria Beach Tower Looking South**

In 1926 former Calif State Senator William Edward Brown built the home along with a 60 foot Norman style tower to move easily and safely from the top of the bluff, to the beach below. Did he build the pool on the beach?

A later owner Harold Kendrick dressed himself and the house in a pirate theme was "the Question Man" as he constantly offered cash prizes to children who could correctly answer a never-ending series of questions.
La Casa del Camino Hotel (at Coast and Cress) opened in 1929, built by William W. Riddell so this year is celebrating its 80th anniversary. Lobby included paintings by Joseph Kleitsch.

Mark your calendar for upcoming program on Monday, September 21st
A Retrospective of Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts in Laguna Beach - In Conjunction with the 100th Anniversary of Boy Scouts of America by Pam Jensen

Laguna Playhouse was built in 1924 on Ocean Avenue (demolished in 1969)

Hotel Laguna was built in 1930
Note photo prior to neon sign added on top

May is Heritage Month in Laguna

City Heritage Committee Free Walking Tours. Saturday, May 16th 10 a.m. to noon Historic Downtown meet in front of the Laguna Beach Library, 363 Glenneyre St., and Saturday, May 23rd 10 a.m. to noon, North Laguna Cottages; meet at Madison Square & Garden Café. Led by City Heritage Committee members Rick Gold and local architect Carl Iverson.
All photographs in this newsletter are from the Tom Pulley Postcard Collection with the exception of the 1956 Victoria Beach scene courtesy of Lindy Narver.

Victoria Beach Tower without top

1956 photo of Ellen Narver on Victoria Beach with Tower behind her. (Photo courtesy of Lindy Narver)

Laguna Beach Historical Society Board of Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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Thanks to Historical Society Business / Organization Members

Andy Alison Bungalow Hunters  Borthwick Guy Bettenhausen  Butler Box & Stake
Charles’ Wig Chateau  E D Lohrbach Associates  Emerald Bay Community Assoc
Exchange Club of Laguna Beach  Laguna Beach Visitors & Conference Bureau
Laguna Art Museum  LBHS Artists Class of "63"  Marcom Insurance Brokers
Realtor Monica Mukai  Reynolds Carpet Service  South Coast Lock Shop
Stewarts Landscaping  The Stand Natural Foods Restaurant

Make Suggestions for Historical Society Future Programs

President’s Message by Kimberly Stuart

Please attend the Historical Society Heritage Month Program which is of course free and will be held at Laguna Beach City Hall Council Chambers, 505 Forest Avenue Monday, May 18th – from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.

Victoria Beach Tower and the Norman House by Mark Whitman

Do note your calendar for our next program Monday, September 21st "A Retrospective of Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts in Laguna Beach - In Conjunction with the 100th Anniversary of Boy Scouts of America" by Pam Jensen.

We do want to thank local businesses for helping us maintain the Murphy-Smith Bungalow and for their most generous in-lieu contributions, most recently Andrus Plumbing, and Nelson Electric.

For those having treasured historic photographs or printed material, the Historical Society is happy to scan them electronically and return them to the owners. This way there will be a record preserved for future generations without the necessity for the owners to relinquish the item.

Help, we need volunteers for the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month from 1 to 4 p.m. It is the board's top priority to ensure that the Murphy-Smith Bungalow is open to be enjoyed and experienced by members and the public. It’s a fun experience to meet, share stories and photos with locals and visitors who love our town. If interested, please call Gene Felder at 939-7257.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the history of Laguna Beach.

Those interested in supporting and joining the Laguna Beach Historical Society should send $15 per individual, $25 per household or $50 per business/organization to 278 Ocean Avenue, Laguna Beach CA 92651. The Laguna Beach Historical Society is a section 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Tax ID #33-0519882.

While supplies last, those donating $100 to the Laguna Beach Historical Society will receive a copy of Joan Irvine Smith's new book "A California Woman's Story".

If your Dues are due (see label)

Send $15 per person, $25 per household or $50 per business or organization to
Laguna Beach Historical Society,  278 Ocean Avenue, Laguna Beach  CA  92651

Name
______________________________________________________________________________
Address: _____________________________________  Phone: __________________________
FAX:  ______________________  email:  _____________________________________________

Laguna Beach Historical Society information is at www.LagunaHistory.org