Happy Birthday! City to Celebrate 80th Year of Incorporation June 29, 1927

Please attend Historical Society programs to be held at Council Chambers at City Hall, 505 Forest Avenue from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.

Monday, May 21st – 7:30 P.M. Laguna Beach City Council Chambers

DICK METZ, SURFING AND THE LAGUNA CONNECTION

Dick Metz 1955 Surfing at Brooks Street, Laguna Beach

Photo copyright of Surfing Heritage Foundation

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.

Thankfully, we have some new additional photographs to the Laguna Beach Historical Society photographic collection.

Courtesy of Joe Ambrose and Mike Feddersen
1908 “Stories of Laguna” booklet
“Daily We Gather at the Wagon” Photograph of Joe Thurston’s wagon
Dick Metz will be presenting a program for the Laguna Beach Historical Society on the origins of surfing in and around Laguna Beach. Come see the photos and hear the story of how surfing evolved here in those early years. Dick Metz is uniquely qualified to relate this story having grown up in Laguna and, at an early age was initiated into the beach scene. He witnessed and participated in the growth of the surfing industry, both in Laguna and Hawaii where he lived for 20 years.

Main Beach 1930

1946 Surfers at Salt Creek

Photos copyright of Surfing Heritage Foundation

Main Beach 1950

Hobie Surfboard Shop Dana Point
From his beginnings here in Laguna Beach, Dick developed a love of the sport that lasted a lifetime. In 1958 he left Laguna on a three year surfing odyssey around the world and was the first American to surf in South Africa. On his return his abilities as a businessman emerged when he started Hobie Sports. All those years spent as part of the surfing culture resulted in his formation of the Surfing Heritage Foundation where the archives of the surfing culture will be permanently preserved.
President’s Message by Kimberly Stuart

This year marks the City of Laguna Beach’s 80th year of incorporation. The anniversary celebration becomes even more special in the month of May for Heritage Month events going on all over town. Events still include (after this mailing): Guided walks of Historic Downtown Laguna, Crystal Cove Historic District Guided Walk, Natural History Hike – Laguna Wilderness Park, Heritage Tours, and the Laguna Art Museum. Call Nancy Csira, Senior Planner, City of Laguna Beach 949/497-0332 for more information.

The Laguna Beach Chamber of Commerce and Civic Association is celebrating its 90th anniversary. The Laguna Beach Historical Society invites you to join us at our upcoming event:

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIC ASSOCIATION HERITAGE MONTH MIXER**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 16TH, 2007 - HOSTED BY THE LAGUNA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

at THE MURPHY SMITH BUNGALOW at 278 OCEAN AVENUE

The home, built in 1923 is one of the few remaining original residential structures in the downtown. The Laguna Beach Historical Society leases the grounds and building from the Wells Fargo Bank, and brings in volunteers to provide our members and the public with weekend opportunities to experience a bit of home life in the 1920’s. Please join us in a stroll through the Murphy Smith Bungalow’s newly replanted gardens, enjoy the new exhibits and artwork inside, pick up some information, or buy some copies of historic photographs. We will have plenty of food & drink to enjoy, provided by our neighbor businesses on Ocean Avenue, while visiting with local history buffs and curious supporters. We will also have an ample supply of autographed copies of Joan Irvine Smith’s new book – through the contribution of Mr. Richard O’Neill and Joan Irvine Smith, *A California Woman’s Story* for your $100.00 donation the Laguna Beach Historical Society.

I would like to send a special Thank You the Laguna Beach Garden Club for its tremendous contribution to the Murphy Smith Bungalow over the last couple of months. Janene Freitas and Nancy Englund have orchestrated a wonderful palette of plant materials with the tremendous assistance of Christine Fusano, and a great crew of volunteers who have generously given their time and energy to revitalizing the gardens of the Murphy Smith Bungalow. Thank you to Chris Lutz and Tom Simpson for their special efforts in support of this exciting beautification project in our downtown.

Please consider being a volunteer at the Murphy Smith Bungalow on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday afternoon for a few hours – you’ll love sharing memorable anecdotes and current activities of the visitors you meet.

**DICK METZ, SURFING & THE LAGUNA CONNECTION**

Monday, May 21st at 7:30 p.m. in the Laguna Beach City Council Chambers

Please mark your calendar and don’t forget to bring your board.

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2007 Dues now due, 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: ___________________________