

LAGUNA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 1526, LAGUNA BEACH,
CALIFORNIA, 92652

1994 -SUMMER

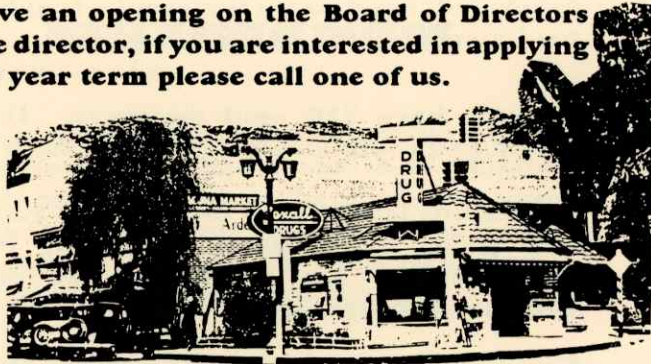
JULY 1994

The Historical Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt, non-political community organization committed to preserving the places, things, and memories of Laguna.

Board Members

Belinda Blacketer Pres.	497-4439
Nelda Stone - Sec.	494-5268
Pauli Buzan - Treas.	494-7503
Jane Janz	499-4976
Ed Perry	497-2207
Anne Frank	494-2318
vacant	

We have an opening on the Board of Directors for one director, if you are interested in applying for a 2 year term please call one of us.



1939

CALENDAR of EVENTS

JULY 13, Wednesday Evening -6:30 pm.
Conditional Use Permit Hearing at Planning Commission for MURPHY-SMITH BUNGALOW (Smith House). 500 Forest Avenue.

JULY 14, Thursday Evening -6:30 pm. Design Review and Sign Approval Hearing for MURPHY-SMITH BUNGALOW (Smith House). 500 Forest Avenue.

JULY 21, Thursday Evening, 7:30 p.m.
General Meeting on the Native Americans in Our Laguna Area. At Wells Fargo Bank, 260 Ocean Avenue, Laguna Beach.

Please join us. We need your support and participation.

Our Past 1883 - 1904

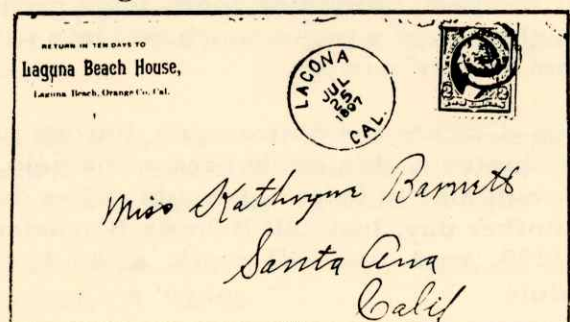
(by Jane Janz)

Ah Laguna.....The name Laguna Beach is not of Indian derivation - Spanish yes, but not Indian. The myth is a result of the Post Office Department putting an "o" in the place of an "a" and the ugly name of Lagona was born.

Laguna's name did evolve - I would love to know who first used it - from the name for the canyon, "Canada de las Lagunas" (Canyon of the Lagoons). This is how it appears on the maps from the days of the Spanish and Mexican land grants. Historian Terry Stephenson cites a map drawn in 1841 (thirty years before Laguna's first homesteaders) which shows Canada de las Lagunas as the southern boundary of the Ranch San Joaquin.

In everyday usage and on old maps Laguna Beach was our name. An 1883 map by C.C. Miller shows it as Laguna Beach, as does a map in 1887. In the Anaheim Gazette in 1883 there appears "At Laguna Beach numbers of campers up to the hundreds" and "Some campers at Laguna find a note ..."

The envelope below is a perfect example. Return address of Laguna but a cancel of Lagona - dated July 25, 1897. (Miss Kathryn Burnett, a schoolteacher in Ocean View, would in 1898 move to Laguna when she married Nick Isch). Note: Original name of the Hotel Laguna was the "Laguna Beach House".



Many years after the fact, someone tried to explain the old "Laguna" cancel mark and came up with the inventive explanation that it was a name the Indians had for the area. Charming myth yes, correct, no.

In 1963 a newspaper article appeared in which the author contacted descendants of the early Indians in San Juan Capistrano. Descendant Antonio Oliveras said "he had not even heard the word 'Laguna' used in conjunction with Laguna or any other local area, or used at all by his tribe." I called Paul Apodoca, Curator of Native American Art at the Bowers Museum, and he confirms that the name is not of Indian origin.

Fortunately, in 1904 Postmaster Nick Inch petitioned to have the cancel mark agree with the town's historic name and it has done so since 1904. Thank goodness, now I don't have to say

AH LAGONA.

MURPHY-SMITH BUNGALOW REPORT

F.L. "Doc" Blacketer has been repairing the house. The interior walls and ceilings have been replastered and textured to match the original interior. The interior, except for the kitchen and bath, have been painted. The living room and hall original wood floors have been sanded, stained and have 4 coats of finish. They are gorgeous. The roof is fixed, including the eaves. The pipes have been fixed.

July 13th and 14th we have our public hearings for approval of the use, sign, and design review for the handicapped ramp and paint colors.

Then we can finish the bungalow and open it to the public. The plans are hanging over the fireplace at the house. Go by and see them.

During the next two months we will have work days every Saturday from 9 am to 2 pm. Bring paint scrapers, gardening tools, large garbage bags, gloves and a picnic lunch and join us for a "Tom Sawyer" party.

Everyone wants the house open, but we have few volunteers. We really need some help. If you would like to help, but would rather do so on another day, just call Belinda Blacketer at 497-4439, and we will work around your schedule.

The Laguna Beach Soroptimists International gave the Historical Society \$1,000 for the renovation of the house and it is greatly appreciated. We had to spend almost \$800 in fees for City permits, hearings and mailing lists for noticing. That is about 8% of our total budget.

When Last We Met

Our last General Meeting was on May 26, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. at which time we had a wonderful program on the history of the Landmark Lifeguard Tower at Main Beach and the Laguna Beach Lifeguards. The slide show was wonderful.

Mark Klosterman was the key speaker, ably assisted by Craig Lockwood, Ed Hobart, George Griffith, who was the first lifeguard paid by the City, and others. Approximately 30 people attended and enjoyed the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

We now have 210 paid members. Dues of \$15.00 a year are due in January of each year.

The mailing label shows the last year your dues were paid. Your dues go to pay for the newsletters (6 per year) and our ongoing educational programs.

We can't afford to keep you on our mailing list without your dues to help us with the costs. Please check your label and mail us a check if you haven't renewed your membership for 1994.

You will receive a Membership Card in the Mail. Your membership Card will act as your yearly pass for two persons to the house. This is because in order to receive a property tax exemption we cannot charge a fee to visit the house. Therefore we will gladly accept donations.

Summer General Meeting

Our July 21, 1994, General Meeting is on "Native Americans in Our Laguna Area". This topic will be presented by Corky Smith, Laguna's own expert.

The Meeting will be held on Thursday

Evening, at 7:30 p.m., at the Wells Fargo Bank, 260 Ocean Avenue, Laguna Beach. Slide Show, Discussion, and Refreshments.

If you have something to add to this topic, please contact Jane Janz .

Library Open

On July 7th the Library reopened. The hours are Tuesday & Wednesday 12 to 8, Thursday 12 to 6, and Saturday 12 to 5.

The area now devoted to Local History is rather large, with locked cases, and a table for Local History Research. Beside the historical books on Laguna and Orange County, and various other materials, the old Laguna Newspapers on Microfilm are available. While it will be difficult to secure the originals loaned and donated to the Library it is our hope that copies will be made available and the originals kept under lock and key.

The Historical Society will continue its policy of loaning documents and items to the Library. The only reason for this is that if at some future date the Orange County Library system decides it cannot keep the material, it will come back to us. We want it available for research.

With the budget cuts, and curtailed Library hours, it is wise to loan the material to the Laguna Beach branch.

We are very excited about the new area for Laguna History.

Presidents Message

In reviewing our Bylaws at the last Board Meeting, it was interesting to note that one of our purposes is to "assist in the identification and preservation of historic sites and buildings in Laguna."

It has been brought to our attention that Laguna's downtown is losing its character. The remodel of the Mariner's building being one, that while interesting, was not in keeping with the character of old Laguna. New uses, etc. are one thing loss of the charm which makes Laguna Laguna is something else.

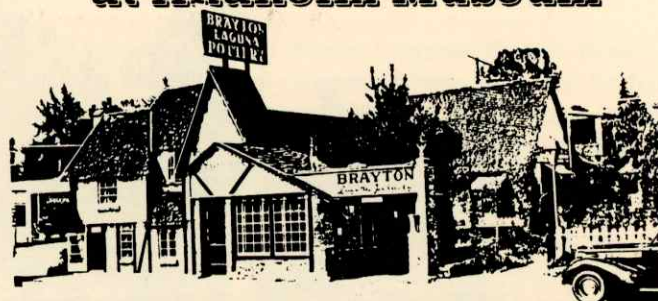
The purchase of the property by Wyland which

contains the building which housed the original Fahrenheit 451 is a case in point. We will watch the proposal with interest. The loss of the old buildings on their original location will be sad.

NOTE: After my last discussion of South and North Coast Highway in the last newsletter, it was brought to my attention by a number of people that until the 1960's it was known as Boulevard rather than Highway.

This was reinforced by my recent research on Brayton Laguna Potteries which showed that in the 1930's the address on their stationary was "1450 Coast Boulevard South".

Brayton Laguna Potteries at Anaheim Museum



Anaheim Museum presents "California Kilns", Southern California Art Pottery 1920's to 1960's. Southern California has had a long rich heritage in what is known as ceramic art.

This exhibit is planned as a showcase of four ceramic concerns operating in the height of California's art pottery movement. The four concerns represented in the exhibit are vastly different in design and artistic flair but are bound in one element- lasting quality.

Early designs of Brayton Laguna Pottery will be on display along with photographs and special firing process of Kay Finch Ceramics of Corona del Mar. Rare examples of Vernon Kilns, Hamilton Sisters and Jane Bennisons Art Deco pottery from the 1930's will be on view while Sascha Brastoff ceramics offer a mod yet elegant glaze from he 1950's and 60's.

California Kilns will go beyond just the display of actual artifacts. Biographies of the artists, special process, photographs and an area dedicated to the tools of the trade in pottery production.

The exhibit is August 23 through November 24. Hours are Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10 am to 4 pm, and Saturday, 12 noon to 4 pm.

Anaheim Museum, 214 South Anaheim Blvd., Anaheim, CA. 92805.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NAME: _____ SEX: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE#: _____ OCCUPATION: _____

VOLUNTEER TO: _____

MEMBERSHIP DONATION: \$15.00 _____ 2 YEARLY PASSES TO SMITH HOUSE



**LAGUNA BEACH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Address Correction Rec

Members:
The last year you paid is indicated on your label.
Dues are due each January.