

Laguna Beach Historical Society

P.O. Box 1526, Laguna Beach, CA 92652 494-2318

February 1992

Volume 1 Number 2

FEBRUARY MEETING

We are honored indeed to present Ellen Lee as the speaker for our February meeting. Mrs. Lee, a noted Orange County historian and resident of South Laguna, will speak and show slides about Madame Helena Modjeska. Madame Modjeska was an internationally famous Polish actress of the late 19th century who came to the United States and settled in Orange County.

In a few years, Arden, her spectacular home in Modjeska Canyon, will be opened as the focal point of Modjeska Historic Park.

Madame Modjeska had many ties to Laguna Beach. She was good friends with Mr. and Mrs. Yoch and was a frequent visitor at their hotel. Mrs. Lee's presentation will take place on Thursday, February 27th, 7:30, at Wells Fargo Bank. Don't miss it!

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Interested in Historic Preservation? There are two openings on the City of Laguna's Heritage Committee. Applications are available from the City Clerk, and the deadline to apply is Thursday, February 27th. New committee members will be appointed by the City Council at their March 3 meeting.

FUTURE MEETING

Do the names Brayton, Freeman and Leidy, and Dick Knox mean anything to you? These firms were part of the pottery industry which flourished in Laguna Beach from the 1930's through the 1950's. The Laguna Beach Historical Society's May meeting will concern Laguna's potteries, and we are looking for photographs and artifacts which will illustrate one of Laguna's most important industries. Please contact Pauline Buzan (497-2318) if you can help.

LOCAL HISTORY CORNER, LAGUNA BEACH LIBRARY

While we all know that newspapers are not infallible sources of information, they remain one of the historian's best, albeit sometimes painstaking, research tools.

For example, Maxine Storey Dougan used the library's South Coast News microfilm collection to assist her in writing an article about her recently deceased sister June Storey for the South Coast News.

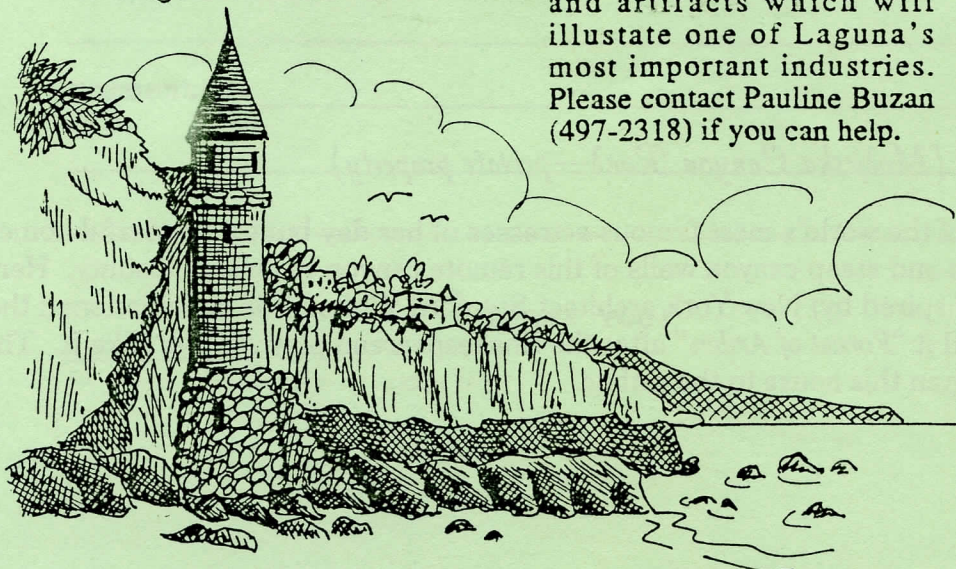
Thanks to Richard Ayotte, a few selected subjects of the early editions are indexed. But armed with approximate dates, the public can research any number of topics from the 1920's through the mid-80'. Unfortunately, gaps in the collection exist for the years 1920-1928, and 1932. If anyone knows where these may be obtained, particularly 1927, the year of incorporation, please contact me at the library, 497-1733.

Thanks,
Marguerite K. Stanton

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Editor: Karen Turnbull





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Modjeska Home (Modjeska Canyon Road—private property)

Helena Modjeska, one of the world's most famous actresses of her day built a wonderful home among the big sycamores and steep canyon walls of this remote canyon in Orange County. Her home was designed (or inspired by) New York architect Stanford White. She commissioned the house in 1888 and named it "*Forest of Arden*" after the Shakespearean play *As You Like It*. There are plans to eventually open this house to the public.

LAGUNA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Membership Application

JOIN LAGUNA'S NEWEST GROUP. Send this form with your check to the Laguna Beach Historical Society, P.O., Box 1526, Laguna Beach, CA 92652. Questions??? Call 494-2318.

Membership Categories: Individual \$15; Couple \$25; Student \$5; Organization \$50; Life \$200; Patron \$500.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____ Category: _____

Committees:

- _____ Finance
- _____ Library & Archives
- _____ Membership
- _____ Nominations
- _____ Program
- _____ Publications

Interest Group Preferences:

- _____ Archaeology
- _____ Education
- _____ Fund Raising
- _____ Historic Materials
- _____ Historic Preservation
- _____ Indexing
- _____ Oral History

Suggestions for Programs/Activities: _____

Comments: _____

THANK YOU!