

# Laguna Beach Historical Society

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

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## APRIL MEETING

You, our members, are the program for the April meeting! "Show and Tell" is the theme. Bring a photograph, artifact, map - anything that relates to Laguna to share with the group. Be prepared to say a few words about it if you wish. The date is THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 7:30 PM at Wells Fargo Bank. Ask your friends and neighbors to come. It should be a fun evening.

## LAGUNA BEACH HERITAGE MONTH

May will be the second annual Laguna Beach Heritage Month and lots of activities have been planned by the City's Heritage Committee for your enjoyment and edification. Here is the preliminary list of activities. Mark your calendars now.

## SATURDAY, MAY 2 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. WALKING TOUR

Sharen Heath and Stephen Crawford will lead a walking tour of downtown Laguna. Meet at the City Hall Council Chambers. No charge.

## THURSDAY, MAY 7, 7:30 PM: OPENING CELEBRATION

"Laguna's Hidden and Not-So-Hidden Treasures:" Stephen Crawford, Chair of the Heritage Committee will show slides of the "E" rated houses and other architectural delights in Laguna. Also featured will be the finalists in the Heritage photography contest. Wells Fargo Bank meeting room.

## THURS., MAY 14 7:30 PM: LAGUNA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAM

Co-sponsored with the Heritage Committee, this is one of our contributions to Heritage Month. Pauline Buzan is going to tell us of her experiences and that of her well-known sculptor husband, Boris, in Laguna's pottery industries in the 1940's. Wells Fargo Bank meeting room.

## SUNDAY, MAY 17 NOON - 4:30 p.m. VILLAGE LAGUNA CHARM HOUSE TOUR

This annual tour of some of Laguna's most xxx exciting homes will concentrate on North Laguna this year. Pre-sale tickets are \$20.00, and the number is limited. For information, call 455-3946.

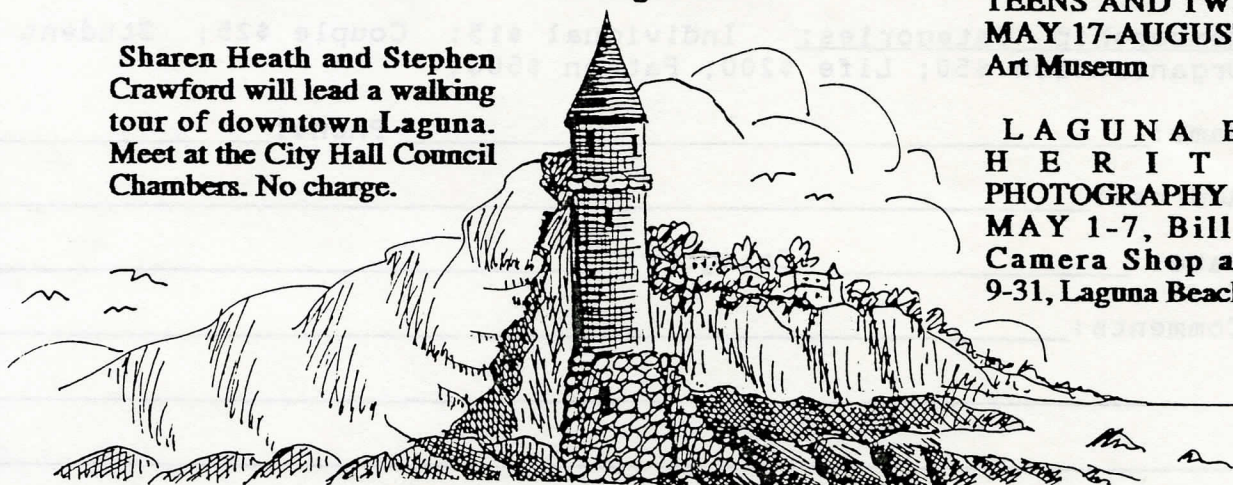
## MONDAY, MAY 18, 10:00 - 11:00 AM: INSIDE PEAK AT THE PAGEANT

If you have never been behind the scenes at the Pageant of the Masters, this is your chance. No charge, but number of participants is limited

EXHIBITS: LAGUNA BEACH'S POTTERY INDUSTRY, May 5-20, 1992, Laguna Beach Library

"CALIFORNIA PAINTINGS FROM THE TEENS AND TWENTIES," MAY 17-AUGUST, Laguna Art Museum

LAGUNA BEACH HERITAGE PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT, MAY 1-7, Bill Thomas Camera Shop and MAY 9-31, Laguna Beach Library



## DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT...??

We're looking for information and artifacts for our May program and exhibit on Laguna's pottery industry during the 30's and through the 50's. We're particularly interested in photographs, advertising leaflets, and examples of pottery, from both large and small companies of that time. We wish to borrow these materials only, and anything loaned will be acknowledged in the exhibit and/or program. If you can help, give Pauline Buzan a call at 497-7870 or Anne Frank at 494-2318.

### DAVID WILSON REPORTS...

Ellen Lee, a South Laguna resident since 1973, spoke at the January meeting of the Laguna Beach Historical Society and gave a slide lecture on the life and career of Madame Modjeska.

The Polish-born actress, who became famous in the United States as well as in her native Poland for her classical dramatic performances, is most widely-known in Orange County today as the namesake of Modjeska Peak, the lower of the two peaks that constitute Saddleback Mountain.

She knew Laguna Beach from about 1895 to 1909, Lee told an appreciative audience of about two dozen. Modjeska was a close friend of the Yoch family, getting to know them through the Catholic Church which the Yochs built in Santa Ana in 1886 after they moved from St. Louis.

Through them she was introduced to Laguna Beach, which she said in 1895 was viewed as "one of the oldest resorts in the County, and one of the most fashionable."

In the late 1890's, Modjeska and her husband, Count Bozenta, frequently visited Laguna Beach with the Rice family. They formed the core of a cultural group that met at the Yoch Hotel on Main Beach, where the Hotel

Laguna stands today. Modjeska was frequently entertained in the lounge by a hotel bellhop who was an excellent piano player with a developed Chopin repertoire. Born in Krakow in 1840, Modjeska is believed to have died in 1909.

A little-known aspect of her family life is that her son Ralph became a bridge designer, whose work includes the Oakland Bay Bridge.

Modjeska and other Polish citizens were attracted to Southern California in the 1870's and 80's by pamphlets which mentioned the cultural amenities of Anaheim and promised enormous financial returns from orange groves. Modjeska and her husband found no fortune in ranching (for which Bozenta was not cut out), but the actress' professional accomplishments were great. Lee's photographs of memorials to the actress in modern Poland bear testimony to the regard in which she is still held in Europe.

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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