

LAGUNA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

JULY 1992

VOL I, NUMBER 5

SAWDUST FESTIVAL

A new feature at the SAWDUST FESTIVAL this summer is an exhibit of photographs of old LAGUNA, put together by members of the LAGUNA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY. A brochure on LAGUNA BEACH history and membership information for the Society are also available. Look for the display close to the refreshment area. Our thanks to the SAWDUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS for generously allotting this space to us. The SAWDUST FESTIVAL runs through August 30. Locals are admitted free after 4 P.M. on Wednesdays.

NEXT PROGRAM

Our next public program will be announced in our next newsletter, scheduled for distribution in the latter part of August.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECEIVES GRANT

The LAGUNA BEACH CITY COUNCIL voted to grant the HISTORICAL SOCIETY \$500 in fiscal year 1992-93. The money comes from the COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE FUNDS segment of the City budget. The grant will be used to help preserve historical materials.

THANK YOU CITY COUNCIL !



HISTORIC POST CARDS

FR. WILLIAM KREKELBERG, PASTOR, ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH, has a large collection of post cards covering all of ORANGE COUNTY. He allowed some of his LAGUNA BEACH CARDS to be shown at the library. MICHAEL ONORATO prepared the text.

The BOARD OF DIRECTORS of the LAGUNA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY has expressed its deep appreciation to RICHARD AYOTTE, LIBRARIAN-ARCHIVIST of the Society, for his recent donation to the people of LAGUNA, of his collection of seven hundred postal view cards of the city. This collection, which is without rival in ORANGE COUNTY, is arranged chronologically within category. It is a treasure of the pictorial history of LAGUNA BEACH as seen through the eyes of photographers and the business community seeking to promote LAGUNA to the world.

SMITH HOUSE

There is no final word yet on the BLANCHE CLAPP SMITH house at 278 OCEAN AVENUE, next to WELLS FARGO BANK. As readers of this newsletter may know, possession of the house went to the bank upon Mrs. SMITH's death a year ago. The Society has corresponded with WELLS FARGO concerning the use of the SMITH house as a LAGUNA BEACH history museum and tourist information center. ANNE FRANK has had encouraging conversations with WELLS FARGO officials, and a decision has been promised in the near future.

LIBRARY

NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE WITH THE ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM CONCERNING A SECURED AREA FOR LAGUNA BEACH HISTORICAL MATERIALS. AT A FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEETING IN MAY, JOHN ADAMS, HEAD OF THE ORANGE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM, DID GUARANTEE THAT A SEPARATE, ENLARGED LOCAL HISTORY AREA WOULD BE CREATED WITH THE LIBRARY REMODELING, SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN LATE 1992 OR EARLY 1993.

LAGUNA POTTERY EXHIBITS

THE LAGUNA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO LOANED US THEIR LAGUNA-MADE POTTERY FOR BOTH OUR MEETING IN MAY AND THE LAGUNA POTTERY EXHIBIT IN THE LIBRARY. YOUR INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION MADE THESE EXHIBITS GREAT SUCCESSSES. WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

AARDVARK CERAMIC SUPPLIES

Gwen Anes

Hugh Anderson

Bernice Collier

HOLMWOOD POTTERY

MR. AND MRS. JAMES KERR

Delores Konzal

Jesse Mikkelsen

Gita Noble

Jim Olarte

Patricia Prentiss

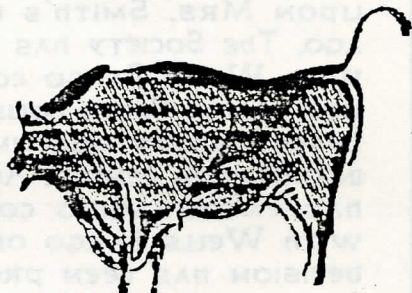
Bob Pyre

Beverly St. Clair

Jane Taylor

Dat Tournier

Mark Weeks



POTTERY LECTURE WELL ATTENDED

THE MAY 14 HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING FEATURED A LECTURE ON THE LAGUNA BEACH POTTERY INDUSTRY BY SOCIETY TREASURER PAULINE BUZAN. SHE AND HER LATE HUSBAND BORIS, WERE ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE INDUSTRY IN THE 1940'S AND 50'S. SHE REVIEWED THE MECHANICS AND ECONOMICS OF CERAMICS IN AN ENGAGING PRESENTATION THAT WAS VIDEOTAPED BY HER SON.

BUZAN GAVE A PROGRAM RICH IN ANECDOTES TO A CROWDED ROOM THAT WAS MADE MORE CROWDED BY THE MANY TABLES BEARING DOZENS OF SPECIMENS FROM THE DIFFERENT POTTERS. BRAYTON PIECES WERE WELL REPRESENTED, AS WERE THOSE BY BUZAN. DINNERWARE, PITCHERS, LAMPS, WHIMSICAL SALT AND PEPPER SHAKERS, AND A COLLECTION OF CERAMIC BROOCHES, TESTIFIED TO THE VARIETY OF STYLES AND DESIGNS TURNED OUT BY THE DOZENS OF LOCAL CERAMICISTS.

THE INDUSTRY, WHICH HAD IT'S ORIGINS IN THE 1920'S, DIED IN THE 1950'S UNDER PRESSURE FROM INEXPENSIVE JAPANESE IMPORTS THAT WERE ESSENTIALLY LAGUNA BEACH DESIGNS. IN THE INDUSTRY'S HEY-DAY, LAGUNA BEACH CERAMIC PRODUCTS COULD BE FOUND IN THE BEST-KNOWN EAST COAST DEPARTMENT STORES.

AN INTERESTED AUDIENCE VOLUNTEERED STORIES OF THEIR OWN INVOLVEMENT IN THE INDUSTRY. THE IMPRESSION GREW THAT VIRTUALLY ANYONE WHO LIVED IN LAGUNA BEFORE OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORLD WAR II AT ONE TIME WORKED FOR BRAYTON.

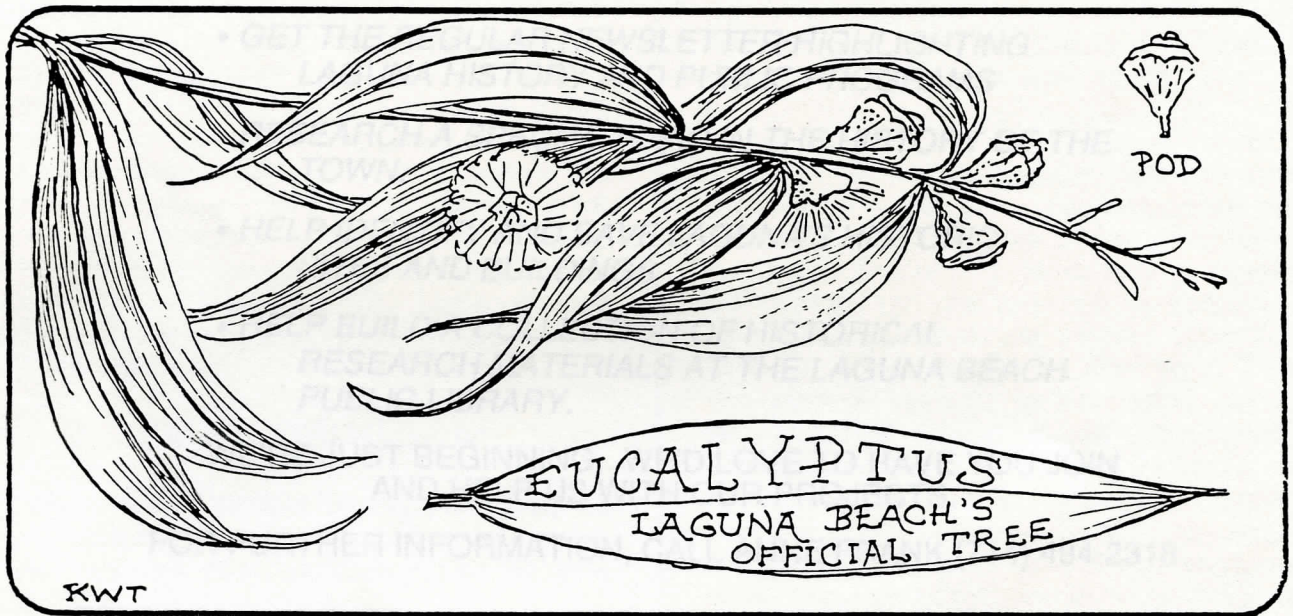
THE LECTURE WAS HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATIONS. THE CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH CONTRIBUTED REFRESHMENTS TO THE MEETING.

HERITAGE MONTH

We had a display of photographs of old LAGUNA at one of the houses on the Village Laguna Charm House Tour in May. Many people stopped to look and pick up literature about Heritage Month and the Historical Society. Thanks to Jim Davidson for putting it all together.

EDITORS NOTE

My hat is off to all of the members of the Board who have put so much time and energy into getting this organization off to a good start. This summer while they are xeroxing, indexing, processing, and filing, I will be at the beach. (This is where you go with small children when school is out). It's a hard job, but someone has to do it!



MAILING LABELS

Look at the mailing label on this newsletter. If there is a "92" in the upper left corner that means you are a member of the Laguna Beach Historical Society. If you are not a member, please consider joining the Society now. We need and welcome your participation!

HISTORICAL MATERIALS

This summer a group of Board members are beginning to process materials from the former Laguna Beach Historical Society for eventual deposit at the Library.

SEND IT IN!

I am happy to accept information, stories, anecdotes, and updates for future newsletters. My current address is:

KAREN TURNBULL
8 VISTA DEL SOL
SOUTH LAGUNA, CA
92677

All materials received in time will be considered. No story is too trivial for newsletter potential. See you at the next meeting which will be announced in the August newsletter.

LAGUNA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LAGUNA BEACH IS A SPECIAL PLACE, A TOWN UNLIKE ANY OTHER IN ORANGE COUNTY. COME LEARN ABOUT OUR CITY'S COLORFUL PAST.

THE LAGUNA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S PURPOSE IS TO ACCUMULATE, RECORD AND SHARE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TOWN'S UNIQUE HISTORY.

IF YOU JOIN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, YOU CAN

- LEARN THE INTERESTING BACKGROUND OF THIS UNUSUAL COMMUNITY.
- GET THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTING LAGUNA HISTORY AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS
- RESEARCH A SPECIAL TOPIC IN THE HISTORY OF THE TOWN.
- HELP IDENTIFY AND SAVE LAGUNA'S HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
- HELP BUILD A COLLECTION OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH MATERIALS AT THE LAGUNA BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY.

WE'RE JUST BEGINNING. WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN AND HELP US WITH OUR PROJECTS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL ANNE FRANK (714) 494-2318

I WISH TO JOIN THE LAGUNA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY. ENCLOSED IS MY MEMBERSHIP FEE (INDIVIDUAL \$15; COUPLE \$25; STUDENT \$5)

NAME _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: (home) _____ (work) _____

COMMENTS: _____

Please return to Laguna Beach Historical Society, P.O. Box 1526, Laguna Beach, CA 92652.

THANK YOU!