

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

1993 -FALL

OCTOBER 1993

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

## SMITH HOUSE

On November 2, 1993, a Tuesday evening the Historical Society will be asking the City for funding for renovation of the bungalow on Ocean Avenue.

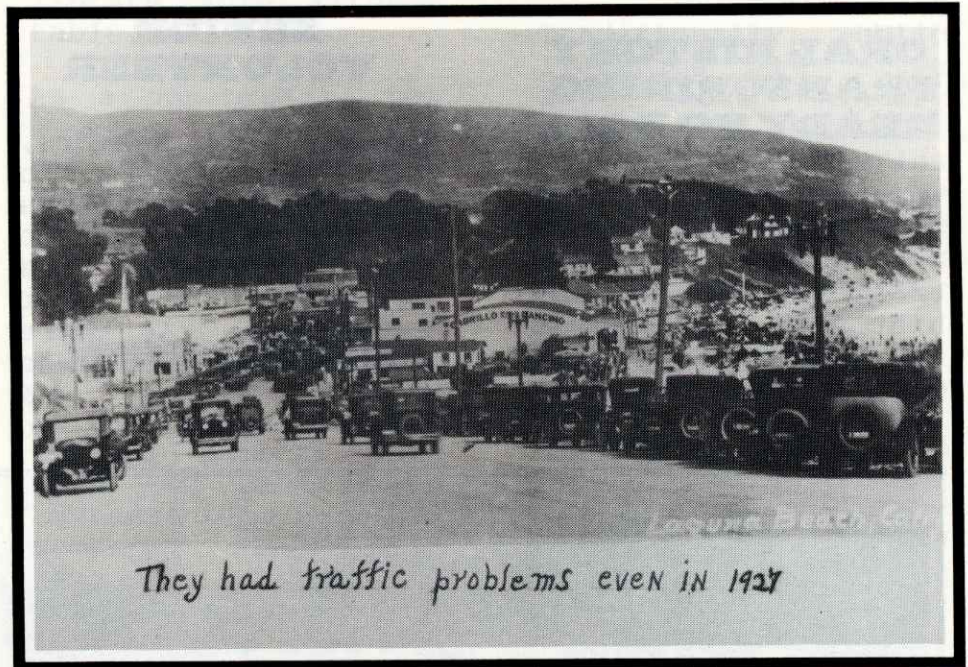
We hope the bungalow, located between the Wells Fargo Bank (formerly Laguna Federal) and Acords Market will soon be open for tours by the Historical Society.

The Hospitality Association, with a grant from the City and additional funding was going to spend \$30,000.00 to renovate the little bungalow for use as offices for the Association, to be shared with the Society.

However, the Hospitality Association has decided to pursue alternative offices leaving the Historical Society to fund the house on its own. The Historical Society has requested \$15,000.00 in funding from the City of Laguna Beach (from funds which were previously earmarked

for the Hospitality Association's renovation of the

PM, the Chamber of Commerce and the Historical Society



*They had traffic problems even in 1927*

SUMMER TRAFFIC NEVER CHANGES  
[1927-M. RAMSEY COLLECTION-LAGUNA BEACH LIBRARY]

Smith House. The Society hopes to do the renovation for around \$12,000.00 with donations of time, skills, and materials from members of the community. If you can help us do this, please call us at 497-9104.

## Historical Haunted House

On Saturday, Oct.  
30th, from 4 PM to 9

will jointly sponsor a **COMMUNITY HAUNTED HOUSE** using the Smith House.

This will be in conjunction with the party to celebrate the Forest Avenue Renovation Project which will be held at the Bank of America Parking lot.

Bring your kids and enjoy a super haunt for \$1.00 per person.



The money will go toward the renovation costs.

### **COME "PLAY" TOM SAWYER!**

We are planning a work party at the house, 278 Ocean Avenue, on **November 6th, Saturday, at 10 AM.**

Bring paint scrapers, gardening tools, large garbage bags, gloves and a picnic lunch and join us for a "Tom Sawyer" party.

### **ORAL HISTORY TRANSCRIBING READY TO ROLL**

It has taken us some time, but finally we are ready to start transcribing the oral histories obtained in the 1970's by the Laguna Beach Community

operated transcribing machine. Anne Frank, while on a Saturday morning garage sale expedition, was lucky and found such a transcribing machine for one dollar! Simon Frazer volunteered to repair it and was able to replace the one worn part. We are very grateful to Simon and Anne for helping us out. Our thanks also to Doris Banks and Nikko Theris who have volunteered to transcribe the tapes.

### **SENIOR VOLUNTEER**

Laguna Beach Seniors, Inc. would like to have a representative in its organization to better inform its members of our activities. Is there anyone over 55 who would like to

Call Frank Quiggan at 497-2964 or Belinda at 497-9104.

### **JIM DAVISON**

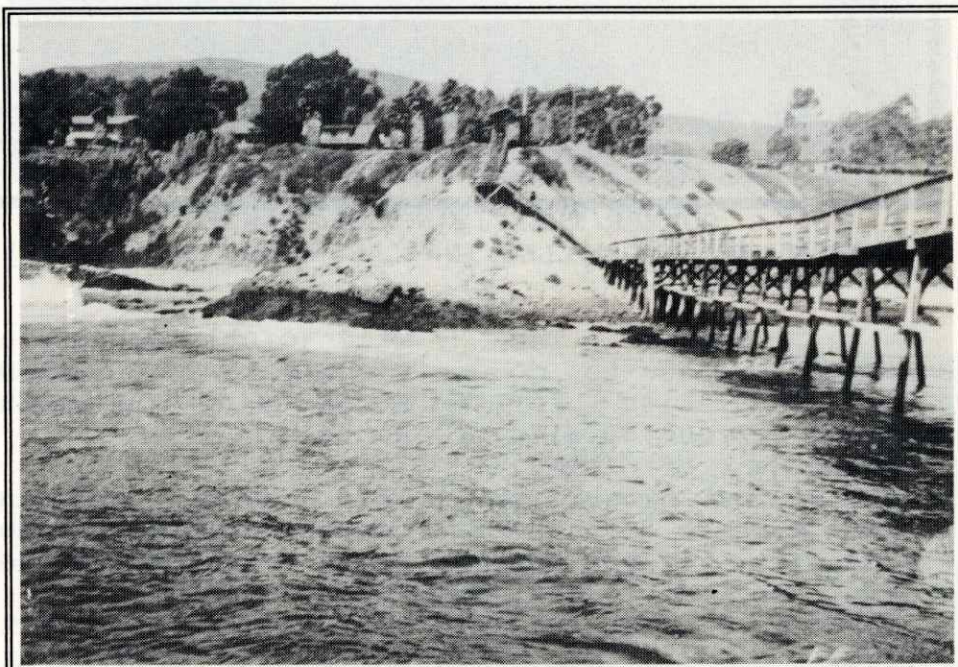
Jim Davison, the founding Vice President of the Laguna Beach Historical Society, tragically lost his life on June 23 in the collapse of a trench he was digging on his property at 424 Glenneyre.

Jim's two great community interests were historical buildings and preserving Laguna Canyon. His innovative and creative approach was aptly demonstrated in projects for both organizations.

As a member of the board of the Laguna Canyon Conservancy, Jim was an adamant opponent of the San Joaquin Corridor.

Jim also put together a collage of historic photographs of Laguna Beach which the Historical Society displays at various community events and at the Sawdust Festival. His property at 424 Glenneyre is a historically significant building in Laguna, having served as the community's first hospital. Jim researched its history and took pride in preserving its Art Moderne architecture.

Jim's untimely death is a great loss to his family and the



Laguna Pier in 1927 below gazebo at Las Brisa.  
[Courtesy Floy Blacketer Gilbert collection.]

Historical Society. What held us up was the lack of a foot-

volunteer to represent the Laguna Beach Historical Society?



community of Laguna Beach. We won't forget you, Jim.

## **RECENT GIFTS**

The Laguna Beach Historical Society recently was the grateful recipient of considerable archival material from the Laguna Beach Garden Club. Included were the Club's Yearbooks, scrap books and reports, dating from the 1950s through the 1990s, as well as trophies and plaques that the Club has been awarded. Among the "miscellaneous papers" are some particularly enlightening and unique items: a history of the Laguna Beach Garden Club covering the period from the 1920's to the 1950s; a list of the Club's presidents, 1928-1951; and correspondence and plans relating to the reflecting/organic pool which used to be at the entrance of the Laguna Beach Branch Library.

Jean Marie Lyon has given us T-shirts from the 1980's. including one for the old Renaissance Bakery and a Schoolpower 10K race. T-shirts are an important part of our popular culture and serve to document events and businesses.

The Laguna Beach Presbyterian Church has donated negatives for three photographs of the church found in the photographs

collection in the Laguna Beach Branch Library. Our goal is to provide negatives for all photos, and this donation is much appreciated.

The Senior Class Party Committee of 1993 has donated a stove for the Smith House.

The McKelvey family (Mrs. Smith's niece) has made a gift of some of the original furniture in the Smith House, a couch, library table, kitchen table and chairs.

As a non-profit, tax exempt group the Historical Society gratefully accepts all donations and will give a receipt for same to the donor.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

At the present we have 150 paid members. Our five year plan is to increase this to 1,000 members. Please help us reach this goal by filling out the application form in this newsletter and sending in your check for \$15.00 for a year.

## **LIBRARY NEWS**

As we are all probably aware by now, the County's budget crisis has resulted in closing the Laguna Beach branch library on Mondays on Fridays and the reduction of it's hours on Tuesday through Thursday. Another budget casualty was the transfer of Maguerite Stanton, Former

Historical Society board member and the staff member in charge of Laguna's local history collection for over 10 years, to the Crown Valley Branch.

Marguerite's transfer is particularly untimely as the Library's scheduled remodel which will result in a larger area for local history materials, is funded by developer fees and not impacted by the budget crisis.

Traditionally, public libraries are sites for local history collections, and local historical societies work cooperatively with libraries to develop collections and provide volunteer assistance.

One of the Laguna Beach Historical Society's goals is to document our community's history and make materials available for public use. Marguerite's skills were uniquely valuable to the community and her expertise will be greatly missed.

However, the Historical Society will continue to work with the Library to provide for a local history collection. Volunteers are welcome. Please contact Anne Frank at 494-2318.

## **NEXT PUBLIC PROGRAM**

Our next public meeting will be held



at 7:00 PM in the Community Room at Wells Fargo Bank on, on Wednesday, November 17th. The topic is the history of Laguna Canyon. Were you aware that the first white settlers in Laguna were the Mormons in the 1890's who built a settlement

at the junction of what was then Niguel Rd. (now El Toro) and Laguna Canyon Rd. where the stables are located now?

The program will follow the format of the previous World War II presentation, with

the public invited to participate with their memories and knowledge. The meeting will be video taped for our oral history collection.

Please come to the meeting and share, or listen.

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SEX:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE#:** \_\_\_\_\_ **OCCUPATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**VOLUNTEER TO:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>MEMBERSHIP DONATION:</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>	_____	<b>2 FREE TICKETS TO SMITH HOUSE</b>
<b>FOR 1994</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	_____	<b>4 FREE TICKETS</b>
	<b>\$50.00</b>	_____	<b>4 YEARLY PASSES</b>

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