

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

1994 -SPRING

MARCH 1994

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

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

**March 13, Sunday, 2:00 pm:** Public Meeting at the Hotel Firenze at 1289 South Coast Highway, Laguna Beach. Discussion, Tour, and Refreshments.

**April 2, Saturday, 10 am-2 pm:** Work party at Smith House, 278 Ocean Avenue.

**May 29, Thursday at 7:30 pm** Public Meeting on the History of the Laguna Beach Lifeguards and famous Tower. Wells Fargo Bank, 260 Ocean Avenue, Laguna Beach. Slide Show, Discussion, and Refreshments.

## SMITH HOUSE

Believe it or not we are still working on the Smith House at 278 Ocean Avenue.

We have lots of paint scraping, and weed pulling to accomplish before the fun stuff starts, such as actually fixing the house up. Believe it or not, we are working on the inside of the house, and haven't

work days got canceled because of the unfortunate fire on October 27th. We are also having trouble finding volunteers because everyone is so darned busy recovering from their own problems.

In addition, the Homeless keep breaking in and vandalizing the house, including using every room as a privy.

So 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. We need plumbing, electrical, and yard work at this point.

## Hotel Del Camino

Our first General Meeting of 1994 will take place on **Sunday, March 13, 2 p.m.** This event will take place at the site of the old Hotel Del Camino, 1289 South Coast Highway, now the Hotel Firenze. Known as La Casa del Camino when it opened with great fanfare on January 26, 1929. it

we want you to come and share with the group your impressions of this landmark Laguna structure.

Everyone is welcome, and refreshments will be served. If you have photographs or other material we can reproduce, or if you need transportation to the meeting please call Belinda Blacketer [497-4439] or Anne Frank [494-2318; 856-4968].

## History of the Lifeguard Tower

Our second General Meeting will be on **May 26, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.** at Wells Fargo Bank Community Room. Mark Klosterman, a Laguna Beach Lifeguard, will explain the History of the Landmark Lifeguard Tower at Main Beach. He will show pictures, etc.

We are asking for people who have stories about the lifeguards in Laguna to come and share their experiences with the group. We are video taping all our meetings now so that



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We are planning a work party at the house, 278 Ocean Avenue, on **April 2nd, Saturday, at 10 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.

Our last 2 planned

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We are looking for people who have first hand recollections, photographs, and other mementos of the Hotel del Camino, from 1929 up to the present day. We will present a short slide show if we have enough material. Most of all, however,

Everyone is welcome, and refreshments will be served. If you have photographs or other material we can reproduce, or if you need transportation to the meeting please call Belinda Blacketer [497-4439] or Anne Frank [494-2318; 856-4968].

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## **Board Members**

We have had a request to list our Board Members in the Newsletter so here you are:

Belinda Blacketer  
Pres.

497-4439

Sharon Heath V. Pres.  
494-6703



Nelda Stone - Sec.  
494-5268  
Pauli Buzan - Treas.  
494-7503  
Jane Janz  
499-4976  
Ed Perry  
497-2207  
Terry Neptune  
494-0266  
Anne Frank  
494-2318  
Bob Penney  
499-8442

**Michael Onorato**

Michael Onorato, one of the founders of the Laguna Beach Historical Society and former President of

the Laguna Beach Friends of the Library, has left Laguna Beach and moved to Bellingham, Washington, with his wife, Marie.

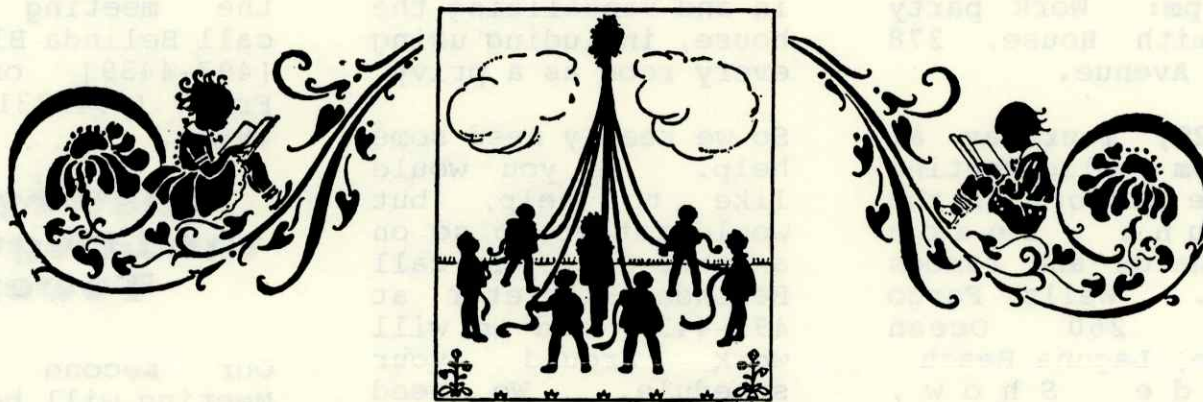
Michael, who retired last year as Head of the Oral History Program at California State University, Fullerton, spearheaded the collection of oral history interviews with longtime Laguna Beach residents that is housed in Laguna's public Library local history collection. One of the projects Michael undertook before his departure was the inventory and transfer from reel-to-reel to cassette of interviews conducted

by the Laguna Beach Community Historical Society in the 1970s.

We are really going to miss you in Laguna Beach, Michael, but we wish you and Marie the best of luck in your new life in the Pacific Northwest.

**MEMBERSHIP**

We now have 190 paid members, an increase of 25%. 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.



**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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 Michael Onorato, one of the founders of the Laguna Beach Historical Society and former President of

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**TO:**