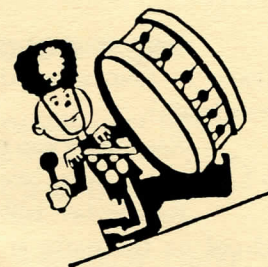




LAGUNA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



278 OCEAN AVE., LAGUNA BEACH,
CALIFORNIA, 92652

1996 - WINTER

JANUARY 1996

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

Our Past

by Belinda Blacketer

General Meeting "First Laguna Homesteaders" Speaker - Beryl Wilson Viebeck

February 15, 1996 Thursday Eve - 7:30 pm
Wells Fargo Community Room
270 Ocean Ave.

Beryl Wilson Viebeck is the Great-great-Granddaughter of Henry Rogers who homesteaded Mystic Hills, Temple Hills and central Laguna to Blue Bird Canyon in 1878, and great niece of George Rogers who homesteaded downtown Laguna in 1880 and they planted most of the eucalyptus trees.

The book containing the Oral History interview with her, and maps of the early Laguna and South Laguna homesteads will be available for sale at the meeting. This is an incredible opportunity to hear about early Laguna.

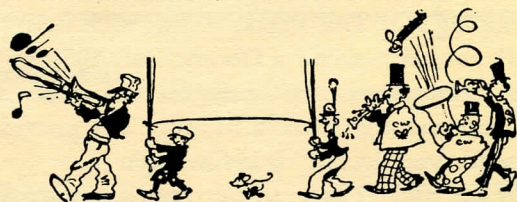
Please join us. We invite everyone (members and non-members) to our meetings. We love your support and participation.



Patriot's Parade

"Honoring Laguna's Volunteers"

March 2, 1996 Saturday Morn. - 10 am
Park Ave. / Forest Ave.



Our Lifetime Angel, Doc Blacketer, has been named "Citizen of the Year" for the 1996 Patriots Day Parade by the Parade Committee, partly for all the hours he has donated to the Historical Society. Congratulations.

This one is for the "Baby Boomer's" in town. If you grew up in Laguna or visited here in the 1940's, 50's, & 60's, you may remember some of the following:

The swings, slides, merry go round which were located at Main Beach where the Basketball courts are now. Remember when they delivered milk and bread to your door? Remember the Helm's Bakery Wagon (a "Woody") with its racks of donuts you could pick from. Remember the Ice Cream truck?

Remember looking at the bones in your feet before you bought new shoes? Remember when Jim & Judy's was on Beach Street?

Remember when the Boy's Club used to be located roughly where the lifeguard headquarters are now. Remember square dancing lessons there on Thursday nights? (The only time girl's were allowed.)

Remember Easter Egg Hunt's at the park where the Festival of Art's now has it's permanent booths. Remember how tall the grass was?

Remember the first Boo Blast was held at the Elementary School playground on Park Avenue (where the tennis courts are now)?

Remember when they fired the elementary principal because they said she was a "communist"?

Remember the eucalyptus groves on the crest of Mystic Hills and at the top of Park Avenue in Top of the World? Remember catching horny toads and scorpions to take to school?

Remember when Skateboards were wooden swing seats nailed to our metal skates? Remember Hula Hoops? Remember renting "surfriders" to ride the waves?

Remember when we went to Saturday Afternoon Matinees for cartoons and "cliff hangers" for 2 bits? Does anyone remember Carpenter's Market next to the Theater? Does anyone remember "Walter Clarke"?

Remember going to Trotter's for fountain cokes and scalloped edged sugar cookies after school?

Remember the old covered boardwalk at Main Beach ? Remember the hamburger stands on the old boardwalk?

Remember catching crawdads, tadpoles and frogs in Laguna Canyon Creek?

Remember roller skating on Wednesdays after school on the patio at the Presbyterian Church. Does anyone remember the Roller Rink at the corner of Mermaid & Third?

Does anyone remember the Scoop Deck? Or getting your first Driver's license at the Legion Hall basement on Wednesday afternoons?

Remember when Easter Week was really "Party Week"? When the Fraternities and Sororities rented houses in Laguna for the week and we used to sneak into their parties?

Does anyone remember the "Surfer Party House" on the bluff where the Surf and Sand Hotel is now?

Remember when the police stopped you and then sent you home? Unlocked your car doors when you locked your keys in the car? Told your Dad at Denny's over coffee in the morning what you had been doing the night before?

Remember when all the junior high and high school girls bought their clothes at Wilsons, so we all dressed alike? Remember "flats"? Remember when girls couldn't wear pants to school?

When Laguna's basketball team won CIF? When we had a Drill Team? When we spent summer afternoons at the community pool at the high school?

Remember when everyone "parked" at Crescent Bay Point ? When we "cruised Balboa Island"? When all the dances were held in the High School (now the Girl's) Gym? Remember the great "flower raids" by junior girls the night before graduation? Remember the red neon HOTEL LAGUNA sign ?



MURPHY-SMITH BUNGALOW REPORT

We have an Angel for the front yard. Walter von Grep, a long time Laguna resident, has offered to donate the cost of putting in a handicapped lift, fence, and "crazy brick" patio and planting area if the cost doesn't exceed his budget. We, of course, are thrilled.

So we hope to have the front done by Spring. Still hoping for an Angel for the Backyard. If you have \$8,000 for materials and labor, we are a non profit, tax exempt organization in case you need a tax write off..

The Garden Club has donated two trees for the backyard which have been planted, and 5 rose bushes for container planting along the fence. The Beautification Council and Dr. Florence Harding Hiscock, MD, each donated \$200.00 to the backyard as well.

To keep the basement from flooding, Doc Blacketer has built a "crazy brick wall" around the back porch, which will become a raised "kitchen garden" planter.

The house has been open Thursdays, Friday, and Saturday from 11 am to 4pm since August 22, 1995. We average about 20 visitor's a day. We have picked up many new members and an incredible number of donations in this time.

Doc Blacketer has now replaced all of the pipes under the house. Water, and gas pipes, and the heater was rebuilt after the mud was cleaned out of it, and we now have heat and hot water.

Be a DOCENT

All of our Docents seem to enjoy being at the Murphy-Smith House greeting our guests. On warm days the porch rockers are full, and on cool day's the living room makes a great place to hang out and stay warm.

Shifts are 10:30 am to 1:00 pm, and 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm on Thurs., Fri., and Sat.

Sherry Dorney has graciously come every Thursday Afternoon for months. Marilyn Ghery, Jane Janz and many others have spent more than 3 hours a month helping out. Doc Blacketer has been filling in.

If you wish to be a Docent, call 497-4439 and leave your number and we'll call you back and sign you up. we only ask for 3 hrs. a month. We provide free parking while you docent. It is fun. Join us.

If you haven't been to see the house please come and bring your friends. It is very interesting and brings back lots of memories.

MEMBERSHIP

Your Membership is due for 1996. We haven't sent out a Newsletter lately because we ran out of funds. Our 400 members \$15.00 a year brings in \$6000.00 a year. This should pay the utilities at the Murphy-Smith House and for 6 newsletters a year.

So get your friends to join. We are planning a party in the Spring when the front yard is finished, so get on our mailing list.

However when we don't get your dues promptly in January we can't budget our funds so we are always broke. Please help us meet our commitment to you by meeting your commitment to us.

A Self Addressed envelope is enclosed so that you can slip your check inside and send it right along. Please notice we gave up the P.O. Box and all mail comes to 278 Ocean Avenue.

Presidents Message

I have been working on a possible joint project with the Laguna Canyon Conservancy lately. We have boxes of photographs, pictures, articles, letters, magazines, and who knows what all.

Even if we sort them, catalog them all, and make them available, they will not be available to most people to use, due to monitoring and storage problems.

The LAGUNA CANYON CONSERVANCY has boxes of documents concerning the Canyon dating back to the 1960's and before. Archeology studies, Maps, historical data, etc. They want to donate them to the Historical Society to preserve them and make them available to the community and others.

However, that still does not make them available to the public. So after much discussion and research and backing for the LAGUNA CANYON CONSERVANCY, I am trying to find a Grant which will allow the Historical Society to acquire the hardware and software to scan, catalog, and archive to CD Rom the history of Laguna Beach and surroundings.

If this were done, copies of the CD's could be made available through the City's "Laguna Access" program on Internet and Bulletin Board Services. This would make our history available to all.

I estimate \$17,000 in hardware and software and another \$33,000 to train the volunteer's to archive the data. If anyone is interested in this project, let me know. I'm at the Grant Writing stage.



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NAME: _____ SEX: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE #: _____ OCCUPATION: _____

VOLUNTEER TO: _____

MEMBERSHIP DONATION: \$15.00 _____

Comments: _____

Board Members

Belinda Blacketer Pres.
Pauli Buzan - Treas.
Ed Perry
Eric Jessen

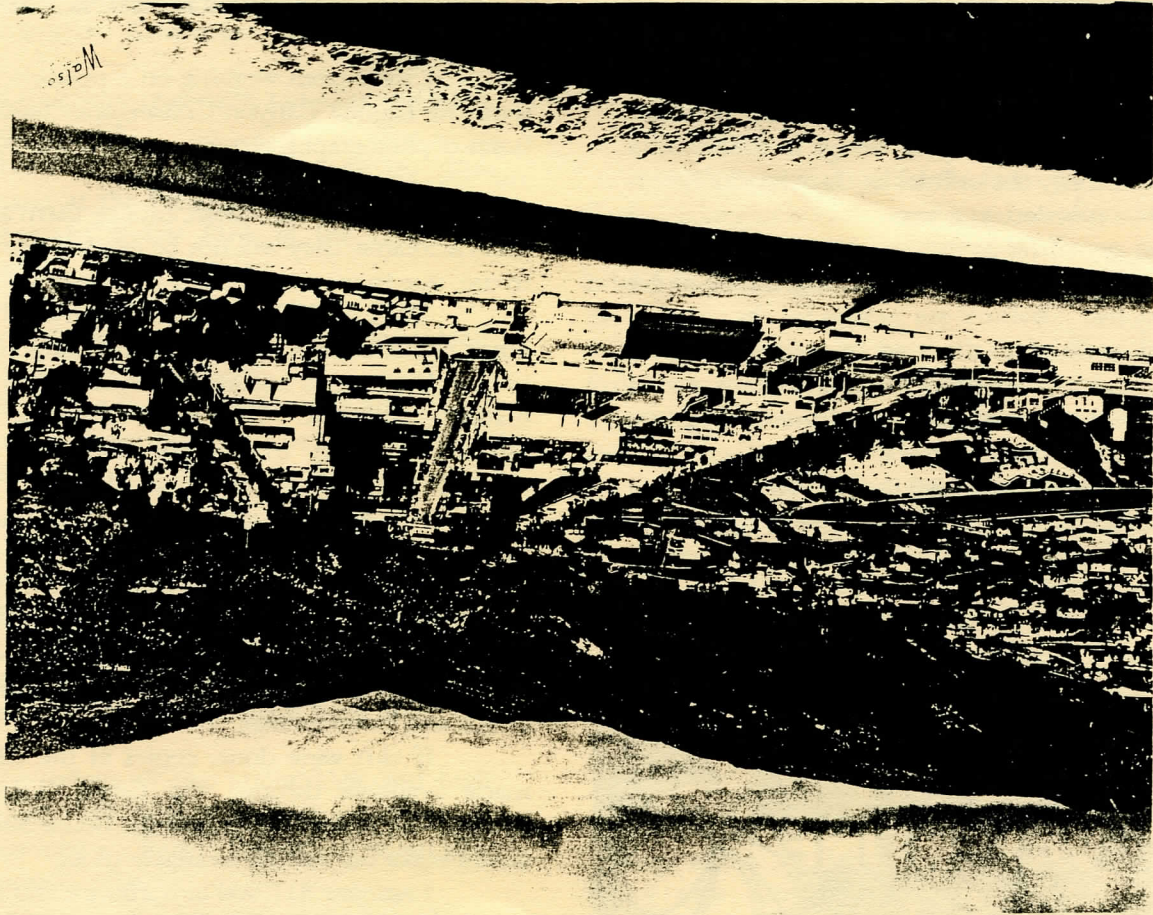
497-4439
494-7870
497-2207
499-2131

Nelda Stone - Sec.
Jane Janz
Anne Frank
Terri Quam

494-5268
499-4976
494-2318
641-8613

Donna Martin 494-6138

1940's - Photo of downtown from off Main Beach.



LAGUNA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
278 Ocean Avenue,
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CALIFORNIA
92652

Address Correction Requested:

Members:

The last year you paid is
indicated on your label.

Dues are due each January.