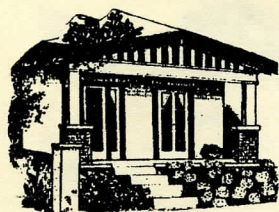


Murphy-Smith House
278 Ocean Avenue
Laguna Beach, CA 92651



LAGUNA LIFE

The Laguna Beach Historical Society, Inc. Newsletter: Spring 2005

Program presented by Linda Jaharus
at the City Council Chambers: Friday April 15, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

The History of the Laguna Beach Lawn Bowling Club

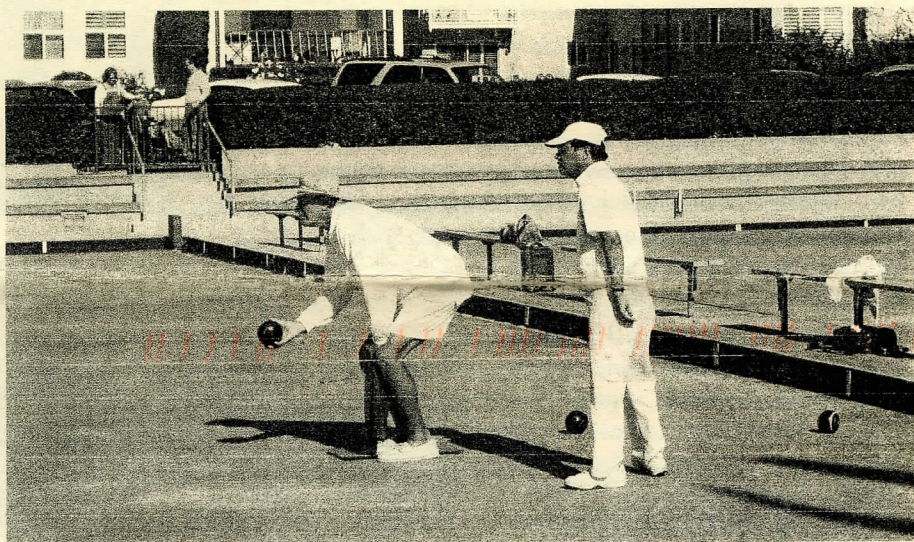
The program will include a PowerPoint presentation with numerous photographs.
There is no-charge and the public is invited.

Lawn Bowling in Laguna Beach

Some bowls historians believe that the game of bowls developed from the Egyptians. No one will know for sure, but certainly one of the most famous stories in lawn bowls is with Sir Frances Drake and the Spanish Armada. On July 18, 1588, Drake was involved in a game at Plymouth Hoe when he was notified that the Spanish Armada was approaching. His immortalized response was that "We still have time to finish the game and to thrash the Spaniards, too." He then proceeded to finish the match which he lost before embarking on the fight with the Armada which he won. Fact or fiction?

There are definitely other famous bowlers and bowling greens. Laguna Beach is certainly one of the most beautiful greens in the world with its own share of famous personalities. Seventy five years ago, a group of Laguna Beach citizens from the Lunch Club got together and formed the Laguna Beach Lawn Bowling Club. The club has grown and prospered on the same site since 1931. Come join the Laguna Beach Historical Society in learning more about this Laguna Beach landmark on April 18, 2005 at 7:30pm in the City Council Chambers.

The program, accompanied by pictures will be presented by Linda Jaharus, president of the club.



Reinie Kramer and Patrick Chan starting to bowl.

Heritage Month Program

History of the Laguna Art Museum
presented by Janet Blake
Curator of Collection/Registrar of the Laguna Art
Museum

Friday May 20th: 7:30 PM
Laguna Beach City Council Chambers.
Everyone is welcome, Admission is free.
See article on Page 4

President's Message by Gene Felder

The Laguna Beach Historical Society is off to a nice start in 2005 and we'd like to ask for your support and participation. Thanks to Wells Fargo Bank, the \$1 per year lease for the Murphy-Smith Bungalow has been extended to December 31, 2007.

Please come to Laguna Beach City Hall Council Chambers for our upcoming programs:

- History of Laguna Lawn Bowling by Linda Jahraus - Friday April 15th
- History of the Laguna Art Museum by Janet Blake - Friday May 20th.

Our new web site is www.lagunahistory.org which is under construction but which will improve over time.

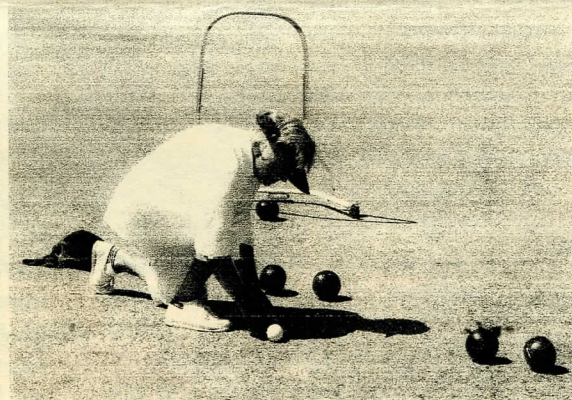
We have a new Business level membership and are encouraging all Laguna Beach businesses to support the Historical Society with annual membership dues of \$50. We are working with the Chamber of Commerce Beautification Committee and Garden Club to improve the appearance of the Murphy-Smith Bungalow. We are soliciting help for in-kind contributions for maintenance such as leveling the porch column and re-painting the bungalow.

The Laguna Beach Historical Society is an all volunteer non-profit civic organization dedicated to preserve historical information and artifacts of Laguna Beach and to accurately disseminate information regarding the important heritage of Laguna Beach. After losing long serving President Belinda Blacketer and her father Doc Blacketer, many distinguished members of the community have volunteered to serve. Four people joined the Board of Directors in 2004: John Hoover, Kevin Spencer, Vern Spitaleri, and Kimberly Stuart. Continuing as Board members are: Anne Frank, Eric Jessen, Willa Gupta, Jane Janz, Ed Perry, and Nelda Stone.

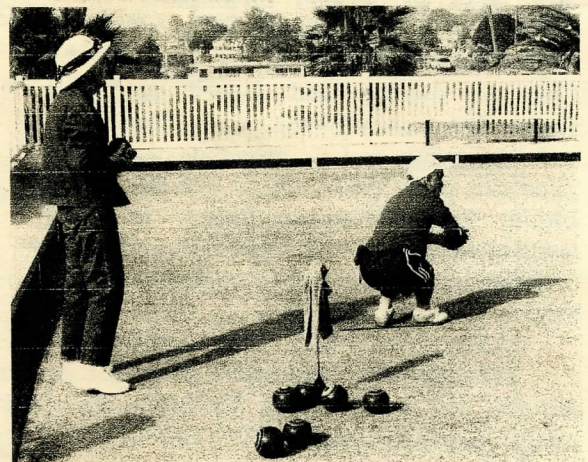
Step back into 1920s Laguna by visiting the Laguna Beach Historical Society Murphy-Smith Bungalow, located at 278 Ocean Avenue, which is opened to the public at no-charge every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to greet visitors to the Murphy-Smith Bungalow. Those interested in supporting and joining the Laguna Beach Historical Society should send \$15 per household to 278 Ocean Avenue, Laguna Beach CA 92651. If you want to get involved, even a little bit, call me at 939-7257 or email me at gene@felders.net.



Brian Osborne is showing his teammates the exact location of the jack. (the little white ball)
Tom Cutkomp is watching.



Jan Hargraves is measuring the distance between the bowl and the jack.



Bill Levison is getting ready to deliver his bowl.



NOW

Bowling at Christmas-time. (This picture in color is just gorgeous)

THEN

A wonderful old postcard. Note: they appear to be wearing "bowler hats."

Bowling on the Green, Laguna Beach, California



History of the Museum & Its Impact on Laguna Beach

Over the years, the Laguna Art Museum has added to the cultural and educational life of our City and has helped ensure our identity as an "art colony" which contributes significantly to our economy. The Laguna Beach Art Association, founded in 1918, was the predecessor to the Laguna Art Museum. It was this seminal institution that spawned the Pageant of the Masters and the Festival of Arts among other important cultural organizations in Laguna including the Art Institute of Southern California.

These endeavors as well as others that no longer exist led the Chamber of Commerce to promote Laguna as an "art colony". It is interesting to note that our current Sawdust Festival grew out of the Festival of the Arts, and the Art-A-Fair grew out of the Sawdust Festival. Laguna's arts reputation and charm has historically been the keystone to its economic viability and the Museum has been a significant factor in the arts scene. Chapman College did a study on the economic impacts of the nonprofit arts in Orange County. As referenced in the City of Laguna Beach Community Cultural Arts Plan, the total economic impact of the nonprofit arts in the City of Laguna Beach for the year of 1993 was over 33 million dollars.

From the turn of the century until 1930, Laguna Beach was the most important American art colony on the West Coast. As a consequence, Laguna Beach has evolved as a community centered in the arts and Laguna Art Museum has functioned as the center of art activities in the city for eighty years. LAM is also the oldest cultural organization in Orange County. In fact, it can be said that culture in Orange County emanated from Laguna Beach, as the Museum founded the first art programs in county schools. LAM is the only major institution in Southern California presenting programs entirely devoted to American art. Its focus on both historical and contemporary California art draws both general and specific audiences from the greater Orange County area. Southern California is home to approximately

50,000 artists, collectors, and art historians, who have a strong interest in the art of the region. Orange County college students from two state universities, six community colleges and several private colleges make regular use of the museum. Groups affiliated with art institutions such as the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Contemporary Art Museum, San Diego, often take advantage of LAM's docent tours. Senior citizens, the most rapidly expanding segment of the population, represent a significant percentage of the Museum's audience.

In 1918, when a group of some twenty painters who had settled in Laguna Beach founded the Laguna Beach Art Association, the goals of LBAA as stated in its 1918 Constitution were: "To maintain a permanent Art Gallery, to advance the knowledge of and interest in Art and to create a spirit of cooperation and fellowship between the painter and the public." As one of the most important exhibition spaces in the region, the gallery advanced the careers of many California artists in the first decades of this century. A review of the Museum's exhibition history and its collection records closely parallels the unfolding history of art in the western United States. In 1971, the association attained museum status, and the Museum has continued to refine its focus on California art making major contributions to the field of the art history of this state.

The Museum's collection is rich in the art of California, and encompasses many of the major schools or art movements important in the state. The California Impressionist movement, which emerged soon after the turn of the century, was centered in Laguna Beach and led by prominent early members of the Laguna Beach Art Association. LAM is now entering its 80th year with more support from the local community than it has ever had with three-quarters of its 1,625 members residing in Laguna Beach.

Laguna Art Museum is a Museum to be proud of and one worth maintaining and preserving for future generations.

Material is taken from the book "A History of the Laguna Art Museum 1918-1993" by Nancy Dustin Wall Moure and Joanne L. Ratner

May is Heritage Month

The City of Laguna Beach Heritage Committee was formed in 1990 to serve in an advisory role on matters concerning historic preservation. It makes recommendations on all structures related to the City's Historic Register.

The Heritage Committee is in charge of Laguna Beach Heritage Month. Activities include a gala opening event during the first Thursday's Art Walk, guided walking tours of downtown, a special backstage visit to the Pageant of the Masters, a program sponsored by the Laguna Beach Historical Society, and MORE.

For further information about Heritage Month contact Ann Larsen at the City Hall, 497-0320.