

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT PROGRAM

March 10, 2015, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Laguna Beach City Hall

The New Deal in Orange County
By Charles Epting

Join the Laguna Beach Historical Society and Charles Epting on this tour of the buildings, bridges, and other infrastructure gains — many still in use — that were revitalized by the Works Progress Administration, Civilian Conservation Corps, and other agencies of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s New Deal, with a special emphasis on the programs’ impact on Laguna Beach.

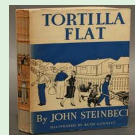
Charles Epting is a recent graduate of the University of Southern California with a dual degree in history and geology. He is planning on continuing with a doctoral program in 20th Century US History. His first book, *University Park, Los Angeles*, was released in early 2013, followed by *The New Deal in Orange County, Orange County’s Pioneers*, and the forthcoming *Victorian Los Angeles*. He is also a research associate for the Living New Deal program at University of California Berkeley.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER



Ask Team History

Send in your questions about Laguna Beach History



Fun Facts

Laguna Beach trivia you may... or may not know



President’s Message

Murphy Smith Bungalow
Gregg DeNicola MD



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Team History Answers Your Laguna Beach History Questions

Dear Team History,

I live in Temple Hills and have always wondered how the area was named. Was there a temple in the area? How did some of the other areas get named?

Curiously,
J.E.

Dear J.E.,

Joe Thurston, one of the early homesteaders of Laguna Beach, purchased the large tract of land, and had a hand in naming Temple Hills. He wrote in his book, Laguna Beach of Early Days, *"The hills have always had a fascination for me. I enjoy walking over their sloping, graceful contours, the hills*

that I have been so familiar with, while also they are furnishing physical as well as spiritual strength. They are the temples of creation and it would be a drab country if we did not have the hills." *"When the discussion came up as to what the area should be called, it was decided that it be called Temple Hills."*

Some of our other areas and streets were named after early residents like Goff Street, Brooks Street, Thurston Drive, Wendt Terrace, Cuprien Way, Jahraus Park, and many others.

We have three streets that were named after three of the

Ancient Greek Muses: Calliope, Thalia, and Cleo (Clio).

One more for now... our city name evolved from "Lagona" from the Ute-Azteca Indian word for lakes. Spaniards later called it Canada de las Lagunas (Canyon of the Lakes- after fresh water lakes in the canyon.) In 1904, the area became known as Laguna Beach.

Team History

Have a question about Laguna Beach's rich history? Ask us, Team History, at LagunaBeachHistory@gmail.com We will delve into the archives to find the answer!

FUN FACTS from

The First 100 Years in Laguna Beach, by Merle and Mabel Ramsey

- The First Census: In 1920, Washington, D.C. took the first census of Laguna Beach. There were 363 people residing in the township. The population of Laguna Beach in 1915 had been 300 people plus many dogs and cats and a few horses and cows.
- John Steinbeck wrote his novel, Tortilla Flat while living in Laguna Beach on Park Avenue.
- The first drinking water of Laguna Beach was hauled by wagons from the springs in the Laguna Canyon. It was sold for 50¢ a barrel or 10¢ a bucket. For some, it became a summer business.
- One morning in January 1949, the residents of Laguna woke to a surprise of one inch of snow over the entire village. The event made national news.

Join the Laguna Beach Historical Society

\$25 for HISTORIAN (Individual)

\$100 for HISTORY FRIEND (Individual or Organization)- Recognition in Newsletter

\$750 HISTORY PATRON- Highest Recognition

Online donations gratefully accepted now by PayPal or credit card!

Check our website LagunaBeachHistory.org for more details.

Or mail this form with your check to:

Laguna Beach Historical Society, 278 Ocean Avenue, Laguna Beach, CA 92651

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Thank you for your support!

LAGUNA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUSINESS & "HISTORY FRIEND" MEMBERS

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Sawdust Festival	Teller Architects	The Stand
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Ellen & James Dovey	Colin Henderson	THANK YOU!

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Contact us at LagunaBeachHistory@gmail.com

Laguna Beach Historical Society
278 Ocean Avenue
Laguna Beach, CA 92651

President's Message – Gregg DeNicola MD

History tells us that the Murphy Smith Bungalow was built in 1923 for the Murphy family then was occupied by the Clapp-Smith family until 1990. Throughout its 92 years of existence, there is no record of an automobile driving up on its porch to find a parking space... until late in 2014, that is.

If you come to visit the bungalow – which members know is now the headquarters of the Laguna Beach Historical Society – you will see the recovery being made to return the bungalow to its glory.

The first thing that I thought of as I watched the recovery going on replacing the damage to the front porch, is that I was glad

I was not standing there when the car hit the porch. Then I thought of the scenes the porch has witnessed since its birth in 1923.

It witnessed the residential homes being replaced by restaurants, banks, and commercial buildings. It saw flappers dancing in the front yard and servicemen being offered a place to stay in World War II.

Decades ago, the porch observed revelers strolling south to enjoy ballroom dancing on Main Beach.

Today our porch watches wayfarers strolling north to meet up with friends at Zinc Café and enjoy a cappuccino.

It sees visitors and residents

enjoying the old and the new Laguna Beach.

As we watch the restoration, we are reminded that the bungalow is a gem in our town. **If you are a member, thank you for your support.** If you are not a member, we invite you to join us. But either way, come visit the bungalow. 1923 has never seemed so close.

