

ABOUT THE MURPHY SMITH BUNGALOW

The Laguna Beach Historical Society is proud to make available to the residents and visitors of Laguna Beach – a little corner of the past – a look into old Laguna.

The **Murphy Smith Bungalow** was built in 1923. It is listed in the city's resources inventory at lagunabeachcity.net. It is described as, "A builder bungalow with a box plan, multi-gabled roof and clapboard siding."

The historic inventory description goes on to say, "The front facing gable forms a full porch overhang and is embellished with slatted venting. The porch gable is supported by wide wood posts. The main door has side light windows; French doors are also on the front face opening into the front bedroom."

This house is historically important because it is one of the few old residential homes remaining in downtown proper. Until the 1950s, most of Ocean Avenue was residential.

This bungalow is typical of the period and better built and preserved than many. It has a cellar and rumor has it that bootleg liquor was stored in it during prohibition.

A rotating collection of Laguna Beach memorabilia is on display at the bungalow, which is decorated in the style of a 1920s to 1950s beach bungalow.

RESIDENTS OF THE BUNGALOW

The house was originally built in 1923 for the **Murphy** family, who owned the land up to the corner at Beach Street. They lived in the house full time. A cistern provided the water for the majority of their needs.

In 1935, Claudia Clapp, owner of a boarding house across the street, acquired the bungalow. She subsequently sold it to her daughter, Blanche Clapp **Smith** who lived in the house until her passing on June 30, 1990.

During WWII, Blanche would rent to visiting military personnel and their wives who had difficulty finding housing. We have heard stories from visitors who spent the night in the guest bedroom, but who tell that the husbands had to sleep on the couch in the living room.

Blanche Clapp married Mr. Smith in the early 1950s and moved with her husband to Los Angeles. In the late 1950s, after her husband took ill, she returned to the bungalow on Ocean Avenue. Blanche Clapp Smith was a familiar figure often seen sweeping the porch and gardening in her yard. Mrs. Smith was known for her daily constitutional walks to Main Beach and often talked with passersby.

We are thankful to Wells Fargo Bank for their generosity in leasing the bungalow to the Laguna Beach Historical Society for a nominal amount.

LAGUNA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH TIPS

We have a knowledgeable Board of Directors; some have lived in Laguna for many years and would endeavor to answer your historical questions.

We have a historical archive of documents, books, and memorabilia; we are in the process of sorting, cataloging, and scanning them to be available for research. See our website for links to historical information.

The Laguna Beach Library has most of the old Laguna newspapers available and is located at the intersection of Glenneyre Street, Park Avenue, and Laguna Avenue.

Some information on individual properties in Laguna Beach is available in the property files located at City Hall at 505 Forest Ave. Use the computers at their front desk and search by street address.

Historical Preservation and Registry information may be found at the city's website at lagunabeachcity.net.

We sponsor a number of educational programs each year and send out newsletters to members before each program. Past programs are available on YouTube and on DVD (donation suggested.) The maintenance of the bungalow, insurance, programs, scholarships, and printing and mailing costs are supported by donations paid by members. Please JOIN AND SUPPORT US – THANK YOU!

Step back into the 1920s Laguna by visiting the Laguna Beach Historical Society's Murphy Smith Bungalow located at 278 Ocean Avenue. It is open to the public at no-charge every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Volunteer Docents are needed to welcome visitors to the Murphy Smith Bungalow. It's fun and we'll train you! Contact us at LagunaBeachHistory@gmail.com.

Watch for upcoming historical programs, see past programs, read past newsletters, and research our links to historical information on our website at LagunaBeachHistory.org.

We gratefully accept donations of photographs, written documentation, and other Laguna Beach memorabilia.

The Laguna Beach Historical Society is an all-volunteer private organization. We are a non-profit; tax exempt California Corporation, founded in 1989. [Section 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Tax ID #33-0519882.]



(Information revised 04/2015)

Remember the Laguna Beach Historical Society in your planned giving.

- Membership is available for a suggested donation.
- \$25 for Historian (Individual)
 - \$100 for History Friend (Individual/Organization)
 - \$750 for History Patron
- See website for more details.

Mail a check to:
LAGUNA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
278 Ocean Avenue
Laguna Beach, CA 92651

Please be sure to include your email address.

Donate by debit/credit card on our website
at LagunaBeachHistory.org/support-us
We are very grateful for your support!

CONTACT INFORMATION:

For more information about us, go to
LagunaBeachHistory.org

Email us at
LagunaBeachHistory@gmail.com

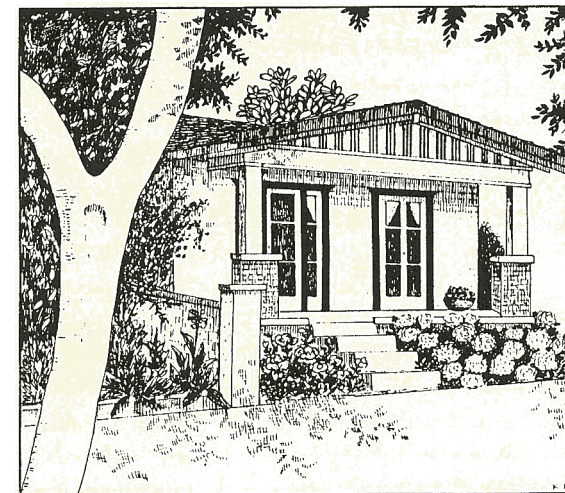
Photos available soon at
LagunaBeachHistory@smugmug.com

Follow us on
Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram



The Murphy Smith Bungalow

**278 Ocean Avenue
Laguna Beach, CA 92651
949.497.6834**



Presented by the
**Laguna Beach
Historical Society**