

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT PROGRAM
September 15, 2015, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Laguna Beach City Hall
“The Prehistory of Laguna Beach;
People, Places, and Paradigms”

We are honored to have Megan Wilson, a Registered Professional Archaeologist and cross-trained paleontologist, who will present an exploration of the prehistory of Laguna Beach and will touch on current themes in archaeology, from the peopling of the Americas to changes in local subsistence and settlement patterns. It will focus on the unique topography and environmental setting of Laguna Beach that has attracted people to the area for thousands of years and will include a discussion of the indigenous populations that first inhabited, and still inhabit the area. Important archaeological sites located in Laguna Beach will be discussed as well as an update on the intriguing and controversial story of the “Laguna Woman”.

Attendees are encouraged to bring artifacts that they have collected from Laguna Beach. Ms. Wilson will be happy to identify the artifact, provide some temporal and functional information, if possible, and document the artifact(s) for the scientific record. The artifacts will remain in the owner’s possession – it is purely for informational purposes.

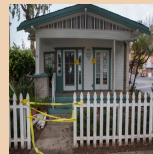
IN THIS NEWSLETTER



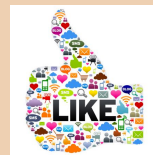
BLAST FROM THE PAST
 Articles about the Murphy-Smith Bungalow from our 1992 newsletter



100 YEARS AGO
 Happenings in 1915



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE & ANNOUNCEMENTS



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BLAST FROM THE PAST-September 1992-Historical Society Newsletter

THE SMITH HOUSE

“We are thrilled at the decision of Wells Fargo Bank to lease the Smith House to the Laguna Beach Historical Society.... These are the events that led to this happy conclusion. Mrs. Blanche Clapp Smith sold her house to Laguna Federal Savings with the stipulation that she could live there the remainder of her life. At her death, the property passed on to Wells Fargo Bank, Laguna Federal’s successor. Longtime Lagunan Belinda Blacketer recommended to the Historical Society that we pursue the Smith house as a home for the Society.” (Anne Frank then contacted Wells Fargo and made it happen.)

“We’ll need lots of local support and assistance to get the house renovated and ready for public use.”

BLANCHE CLAPP SMITH

“Mrs. Smith was related to the Laguna pioneer Brooks family. She lived with her parents at the old Will-Eva boarding house on Ocean Avenue, which is where the Bank of America is now. In 1935, her mother, Claudia Clapp, acquired 278 Ocean Avenue from the Murphy family, who at that time owned most of the property on that corner. As a young woman, Mrs. Smith worked in a bakery on Forest Avenue. After her marriage, she and her husband moved to Los Angeles. However, they returned to Laguna and the house on Ocean Avenue when he became ill. He died in Laguna in 1959. “

“For the next 32 years until her death on June 30, 1991, Mrs. Smith lived alone at 278 Ocean Avenue. She took daily walks and attended senior citizen lunches at the Presbyterian Church. We trust Mrs. Smith would have approved of the use of her home as a historical museum... for the city in which she spent most of her life.”

100 Years ago in Laguna Beach- In (about) 1915...

- Electric power for the village came from a gas motor on Broadway.
- “The Gate” was hung on Forest Ave in front of Carl Hofer’s ice cream parlor (later moved to Forest and Coast Highway.)
- The Laguna Chapel, often called the Little Brown Church, was built (now the site of Laguna Presbyterian Church.)
- Laguna Canyon Road was paved.
- The first movie theater was started by Fred Aufdenkamp (who later started Lynn Theater in 1923.
- The population in Laguna Beach was about 300!



100 Laguna Beach, California

Putnam Studios, L. A. Cal.

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 (see our website for more details)

Online donations gratefully accepted now by PayPal or credit card on our website

LagunaBeachHistory.org

Or mail this form with your check to:

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

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How would you like to receive our Newsletter? Paper Digital Both

Thank you for your support!

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Contact us at LagunaBeachHistory@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE--REMEMBERING THE HOMESTEADER FAMILIES

Last year, one of our board members, Carol Lloyd, presented a program at the City Chambers focusing on her mother, Beryl Wilson Viebeck, a direct descendent of the Homesteading Rogers Family. It was wonderful that so many members of Carol's family came to the talk and realized how important those initial homesteading families were to the founding of Laguna Beach.

Between 1875 and 1878, five homesteaders set up in our city and literally planted the seeds of what we see today. The first two homesteaders – George Fountain and James Sterling – didn't stay around long. The third homesteader, John Damron, soon sold his land to Carol's uncle, George Rogers, who subdivided that homestead to make what we currently know as downtown Laguna Beach. The fourth homesteader is one of the more recognizable names of Nate Brooks. In 1878 Carol's great-great-great-great grandfather, Henry Rogers, became the fifth homesteader in Laguna Beach. The document was actually signed by Rutherford B. Hayes. His 160-acre homestead encompassed Temple Hills down to the Mesa on Bluebird Canyon. The groves of eucalyptus trees that have covered Laguna Beach over the years were a result of the planning of Henry and George Rogers having ordered seeds from Australia.

Carol's mom, Beryl, painstakingly overlaid the original homestead map over our current city. It is extremely detailed and thorough. It was available to those who came to Carol's talk, and I am proud to hang it in my office where I can refer to it regularly.

As one generation of the original Lagunans gives away to the next, we honor Beryl Wilson Viebeck who passed away peacefully on June 5th. Clearly, Henry and George Rogers would be very happy to know that their progeny are still living in Laguna Beach 140 years later. The original founding fathers of our city were true pioneers, and their foresight and hard work was a major reason how Laguna Beach became the unique city it is today. We at the Laguna Beach Historical Society salute our original five founding fathers and will be sure that they are never forgotten. *Gregg DeNicola, M.D.*

Laguna Beach Historical Society Announcements

Is it Labor Day yet? We have had a beautiful and happy summer here in Laguna Beach and even though that day marks an unofficial end to summer, we have lots of fun yet to celebrate this year.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS: We have an AMAZING program in September (see front page of this newsletter) as well as TWO MORE this year: "Laguna Lifeguards" by Kai Weisser on October 27 and "Joe Thurston" (an early LB homesteader) by Phil Brigandi on November 24.

The Murphy-Smith Bungalow is getting a facelift and update of some of our displays. Come by and see us on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday between 1-4PM.

Speaking of our beloved bungalow, **we are in need of DOCENT VOLUNTEERS.** We are open every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. **Would you consider a shift?** We'll train you and it's fun! Email us at LagunaBeachHistory@gmail.com and we'll help find a shift that is convenient for you.

SUMMER SKY: Winter often hosts our most beautiful sunsets but this past summer provided some beautiful skyline views. See a summer sky gallery at our website LagunaBeachHistory.org.



Please contact us about changes to your address at LagunaBeachHistory@gmail.com

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

Special note to our loyal members

We couldn't keep up the bungalow, have our wonderful historical information programs, or send out this newsletter without your support. Thank you!

Frequently Asked Question: *"When is my 2015 Membership dues due?"* Answer: "2015 Membership Dues is due in 2015." ☺ Be sure to check page 3 of this newsletter for our 2015 membership categories - more details on our website.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

