



**LAGUNA
BEACH
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**



JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT PROGRAM

Tuesday, January 27, 2015, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Laguna Beach City Hall

Laguna Beach Police Department: The Early Days

The Laguna Beach Historical Society is pleased to host a presentation by Paul Workman on the Laguna Beach Police Department. The presentation will cover the police chiefs from the first Chief Johnson up to the early 1950s, the Police Station, a "mystery officer" from the 1920s, a story about the second Chief Johnson, the shooting of Officer Gordon French, and a recent find in the department's storage.

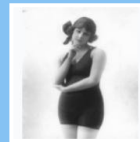
Paul Workman has been with the Laguna Beach Police Department since 1975. He has a bachelor's degree from Cal State Fullerton and attended the Peace Officer Standards and Training Command College. He also attended the FBI National Academy class 211. Paul Workman has been the Chief of Police since May of 2009.

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

1950s Laguna Beach
Gregg DeNicola MD



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Team History Answers Your Laguna Beach History Questions

Dear Team History

I know that the Laguna Woman, possibly the oldest human remains in the Western Hemisphere, was discovered from a skull found on St Ann's Drive. Exactly how old is it and what type of Indian was she? I had heard it might have been a splinter group of Navajos. S.D.,

Dear S.D.,

You are right that the Laguna Woman was found on St Ann's Drive right here in our little town in 1933. The young excavator was Howard Wilson (age 17).

The skull initially was thought to be over 17,000

years old by radiocarbon dating, but newer techniques have pegged it to the Holocene era about 11,700 years ago.

There is no evidence we had Navajos in Laguna; most evidence points to a Paleo-Indian civilization here called the Tongvas. Aliso Creek served as a type of boundary between different groups of the Tongva, and they were first met by Spanish explorers to the area in the 1500s.

The Tongva were peaceful herbivores who inhabited much of Southern California, with a large camp near the Bolsa Chica area. Despite being pacifists, there

is evidence they resisted the European settlers with force.

There are still approximately 1700 descendants of the tribe in California, with one of the largest councils still in San Gabriel Valley.

*Have an historic day!
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!

- ❖ In 1913, Pomona College built a Marine Laboratory on the corner of Broadway and Coast Highway. It also served as a Serpentarium---a collection of snakes. The local paper in 1935 advertised, "WILL PAY ONE CENT FOR ALL MICE AND TWO CENTS FOR RATS FOR THE FEEDING OF SNAKES AT THE SERPENTARIUM."
- ❖ In 1929, a bathing suit ordinance was passed. "For women, all bathing suits must be suspended from the shoulders and cover the front of the body from the nipples to the thighs and must NOT be transparent." The fine was \$300 or three months in jail... or both!
- ❖ Henry Goff, one of the four Goff brothers and one of the early families to settle in Laguna Beach, owned eleven 50-foot lots offering beach frontage from downtown Laguna to Sleepy Hollow. He sold them in 1887 for \$1 per "front foot" - that's right - \$50 a lot!



LAGUNA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUSINESS MEMBERS

Wells Fargo Bank	City of Laguna Beach	Whole Foods Market
Ann Christoph Landscape	Caduceus Medical Group	BGB Landscape Architects
Brooks Street Books	Bungalow Hunters	Charles of Laguna Atelier
Chicago Title	Dr. Korey Jorgensen	ED Lohrbach Associates
Emerald Bay Association	Estate Plan, Inc.	First Energy Capital
Flavors of Laguna	Indiana James	Ken's Jewelry Store
Laguna Beach Visitors Center	Realtor Gayle Waite	Reynolds Carpet
Sawdust Festival	Teller Architects	The Stand
Twig of Laguna	Village Laguna	WLW Investment

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Visit us at the Murphy Smith Bungalow Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 1PM-4PM. *Volunteer docents needed!*
Contact us at LagunaBeachHistory@gmail.com

Join the Laguna Beach Historical Society

\$25 for HISTORIAN (individual), \$100 for HISTORY FRIEND (individual/organization), HISTORY PATRON (\$750)

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!

President's Message--- Laguna Beach - 1950

The Hotel Laguna has a large sign perched on the roof serving as a beacon to visitors on Main Beach.



El Morro Beach has a trailer park for camping across Coast Highway. The Pottery Shack is selling Fiestaware. There is a burger stand steps from the lifeguard tower on Main Beach. The local cinema plays Best Picture, "All About Eve" starring local resident Bette Davis. Travelers check in to the Coast Inn, sporting the Spanish Colonial architecture. And at the White House Restaurant, jazz musicians cover the just released "Birth of the Cool" by 24-year-old Miles Davis.



MILES DAVIS (FRANCIS WOLFF/CORBIS)

On Coast Highway, an art lover named Richard Challis opens Laguna Studio Gallery. It later becomes Challis Galleries and then The Esther Wells Collection, specializing in California watercolor paintings. Richard, a good-natured Brit, always supported the art community, most notably the Laguna Art Museum.



In 2011, as if by a cruel twist of fate, Mr. Challis suffered a debilitating stroke, and the gallery closed, succumbing to the financial pressures many galleries suffered due to the economic downturn. He had sold the gallery years before, but was always linked with it. In all, his gallery served our local art community for 61 years.

Last month, Mr. Challis passed away at age 94. This is not his obituary; our local papers did a wonderful job celebrating his life. It is a poignant, and, perhaps, somber look back into the 61 years the Challis Gallery served our city. More galleries close than open in Laguna now and the odds that a 30 year-old self-taught art lover could open a successful art gallery that thrives more than a half a century are minimal.



RICHARD CHALLIS (DON LEACH, COASTLINE)

I well understand the need for taxes, permits, regulations, and inspections. That is why I salute Mr. Richard Challis--and thank him for all he contributed to our city--and pray he NOT be the end of an era.

Gregg DeNicola MD

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

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