

**Laguna Beach
Historical Society**
Murphy-Smith Bungalow
278 Ocean Avenue
Laguna Beach CA 92651
949-497-6834



Laguna Life

The Laguna Beach Historical Society Newsletter: Sept 2013

**Please attend Historical Society Program to be held at
Laguna Beach City Hall Council Chambers, 505 Forest Avenue
Tuesday, September 24th – from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.
“It Takes a Villager” by Arnold Hano**

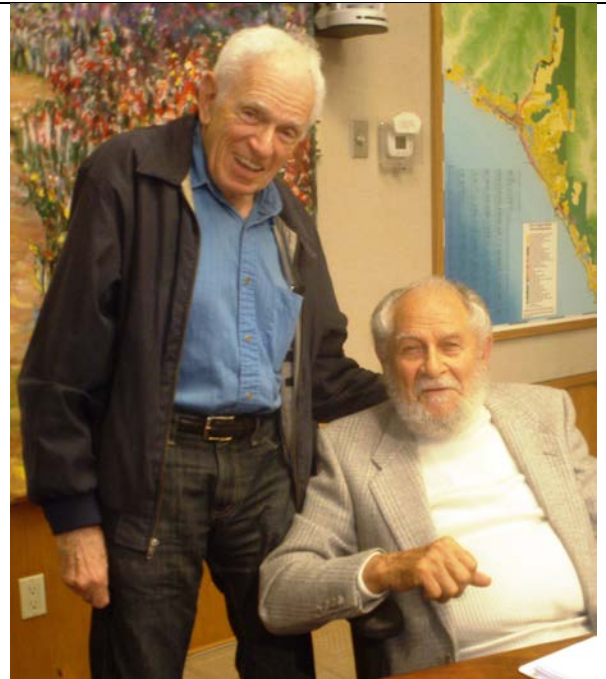
Arnold Hano has a new book “It Takes a Villager”. Once again he is sure to provide a lively and information discussion of his civic activism since moving to Laguna Beach in 1955 with his wife Bonnie.

The book’s full title is “It Takes a Villager: Wit and Wisdom by Laguna’s Irreverent Observer” and is a collection of newspaper columns, written over a span of 50 years featuring his observations and reflections about events of the day.

In the words of Dan Duling, scriptwriter for the Pageant of the Masters, “These collected scenes personalize local history and reveal not only the author’s impeccable craft but also his deeply rooted commitment to celebrating and preserving Laguna’s unique quality of life.”

A number of the columns are illustrated by historical or current photographs of Laguna Beach and of Hano’s family and friends. Arnold Hano and his wife Bonnie settled in Laguna Beach in the early 1950s and immediately became involved in local issues. Since then, they both have worked to protect Laguna’s village atmosphere, including the ban on high rise buildings and the establishment of Village Laguna which is “dedicated to preserving and enhancing the unique character of Laguna Beach.” During those years, Hano wrote over 200 newspaper columns, from which those in this collection were selected, taught writing in several Southern California colleges, and also found time for he and Bonnie to serve in the Peace Corps.

He also wrote 26 books, including *A Day in the Bleachers*, a well-known classic account of the first game of the 1954 World Series, and hundreds of magazine articles.



Arnold Hano & Historical Society
former President Vern Spitaleri at Main
Beach Park Program April 2008

“It Takes a Villager” is available for
purchase at *Laguna Books* and on
Amazon.com.

Mark Calendar for Next Historical Society Program Tuesday, October 22ndth

Chateau & Casa Mandingo when on Broadway now Wells Fargo Bank parking lot

Arnold Hano appealed the demolition permits to the California Coastal Commission and the buildings were saved. The Chateau is at 1166 Gleneyre Street now the dental offices of orthodontist Dr. John DiGiovanni. Casa Mandingo is now at 1750 South Coast Highway which includes the Royal Thai Restaurant.

Photo from Tom Pulley Postcard Collection in OC Archives



Chateau Getting Ready for Move - Rick Balzer Photo Collection. The Laguna Federal Savings building (now Wells Fargo Bank) is at the right.



“Doc” Blacketer

We mourn the passing of Le Roy “Doc”, Laguna Beach High School class 1938. From the Murphy-Smith Bungalow brochure: “The restoration could not have occurred without the dedication of our President Emeritus Belinda Blacketer and her father, Doc Blacketer, who donated over \$16,000.00 volunteer labor and did most of the labor restoring of the bungalow.” In addition Doc Blacketer was the resident artist and had a studio in the shed. He was most welcoming to Bungalow visitors showing his paintings and telling stories about the good old days.

Belinda Blacketer wrote in her “History of Laguna Canyon” “From the early days of the century, anything the townspeople didn’t want in the city was encouraged in Laguna Canyon. The kids who grew up in Laguna Canyon were called “Canyon Rats” and the residents were considered to be from the “other side of the tracks.”

See Art Sherman provided photos of the 1938 Laguna Beach High School football team, the year Doc graduated. There were many other Blacketers, Art says one touchdown went Blacketer to Blacketer to Blacketer.



Two-Room Schoolhouse Bell (now Legion Hall); pictured are donor Florence Fainbarg & Doc Blacketer in December 1998.

A two roomed schoolhouse was built in 1908 on the south side of Park Avenue but in 1928 to make way for a newly built grammar school the old two-room schoolhouse was moved to 384 Legion Street where it became Legion Hall. In 1935 Laguna Beach High School became part of the existing Laguna Elementary School facility and the K-5 portion of the school was relocated to a new Elementary School built across Park Avenue now District offices and Municipal Pool.

The Historical Society had the bell restored in 2011 and is on loan to the American Legion for display.



Laguna Beach High School 1938 Football Team, the first to win the league title. Le Roy Doc Blacketer left side 2nd row from top.

Historical Society member Art Sherman was also on the team.

Photograph courtesy of Art Sherman.



Two-Room School House Built 1908 Children in front about 1916

Information from Jane Petty Janz (5th from left is Katherine "Kitten" Isch); Jane's mother who identified those pictured: left to right Burdette May, Martha Simmons, Maurice Clapp, Agnes Derkum, Katherine Isch, Maggie Clapp, June Harding, Laura Summers, Catherine Cravath, Shipstone Taylor, Wilford Duarte, Hampton Rounthwaite

View Laguna Photos at www.Laguna-Historical-Society.smugmug.com

Laguna Beach Historical Society Board of Directors

Gregg De Nicola – Vice Pres	Anne Frank	Gene Felder - Treasurer
John Hoover	Jane Janz	Eric Jessen
Ronald Kaufman	Carol Lloyd	Glenna Matthews
Francie Holder Pemper	Laurie Sanders	Karen Smith – President
Nelda Stone - Secretary	Ed Storke	Kimberly Stuart

Consider Contributing to Historical Society Maintenance Fund

Historical Society Business / Organization Members

Wells Fargo Bank City of Laguna Beach
Caduceus Medical H.J Baker & Bro., Inc.

Andy Alison Bungalow Hunters Ann Christoph Landscape Architect FASLA
Borthwick Guy Bettenhausen Brooks Street Books Butler Box Charles' Wig Chateau Chicago Title
Emerald Bay Community Association Indiana James Limited Partnership
Dr. Korey Jorgensen Ken's Jewelry Store Laguna Beach Visitors & Conference Bureau Laguna Broadcasting
Network Realtor Gayle Waite Reynolds Carpet Sawdust Festival Stewarts Landscaping Teller Architects The
Stand Natural Foods Restaurant

Remember the Laguna Beach Historical Society in Your Planned Giving

President's Message by Karen Smith

"It Takes a Villager" by Arnold Hano

Tuesday, Sept 24th from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.

Please attend the Laguna Beach Historical Society program. It is of course free, and will be held at the Laguna Beach City Hall Council Chambers, 505 Forest Avenue. The program will be videotaped and is to be televised on the local Cox Cable channel 30. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, October 22nd which will be the "20th Year Anniversary of Oct 27, 1993 Laguna Wildfire"

Hope everyone had a great summer. We thank the Program Committee for the great programs earlier this year:

- **View and Discuss Recently Acquired Historic Photographs** in April
- **History of Negotiations 1990 Save Laguna Canyon Bond Measure H** in May
- **"Laguna Beach Then and Now"** by Foster J. Eubank and Gene Felder in June

We certainly miss the Blacketers, Belinda and her father "Doc" who contributed so much for the Historical Society and the Murphy-Smith Bungalow. We were saddened to learn of Le Roy "Doc" Blacketer's passing. May he rest in peace.

The Historical Board is calling for Maintenance Fund contributions and for in lieu contributions. We are proceeding with painting the western wall of the Bungalow which will complete the exterior painting. We have received a couple bids for replacing the roof. Special thanks to Charlie and Anne Quilter for a generous donations earmarked for the Maintenance Fund toward the Murphy-Smith Bungalow improvements. From these resources, we will continue to make needed repairs required by the Wells Fargo Bank.

We welcome another Board Member. Carol Lloyd's roots go way back being the daughter of Beryl Wilson Viebeck descendants of homesteaders Henry and George Rogers. Beryl's 1995 Cal State Fullerton Oral History interview is an important resource. Beryl also researched and made the Laguna Beach Homestead Map – copies of which are available for purchase.

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

Those interested in supporting the Laguna Beach Historical Society should send \$15 per individual, \$25 per household or \$50 per business/organization to 278 Ocean Avenue, Laguna Beach CA 92651. The Laguna Beach Historical Society is a section 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. Tax ID #33-0519882.

If your Dues are due (check your mailing label) Send \$15 per person, \$25 per household or \$50 per business or organization to Laguna Beach Historical Society, 278 Ocean Avenue, Laguna Beach CA 92651

Name _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

FAX: _____ email: _____