

Laguna Beach Historical Society  
Murphy-Smith Bungalow  
278 Ocean Avenue  
Laguna Beach CA 92651



# Laguna Life

The Laguna Beach Historical Society Newsletter: Spring 2006

May Heritage Month Program

## Photographer George Hurrell and Pancho Barnes in Laguna Beach By Dr. Louis F. D'Elia

Monday, May 15, 2006

7:30 PM to 9:30 PM

Laguna Beach City Hall Council Chambers  
505 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach, California

The quintessential glamour photos of movie stars Jean Harlow, Jane Russell, and many others were taken by George Hurrell. He got his start in Laguna Beach. He was friends of Pancho Barnes and made important movie star connections as Pancho threw wild parties at her home on the ocean bluff top area that is now Smithcliffs in North Laguna.

Florence Lowe Barnes was from a very wealthy Philadelphia family who owned among other items a large hotel in Philadelphia as well as 40 acres along the Laguna Beach Coast including what is now Emerald Bay. Florence was called Pancho (at the program see the photo that did the trick), and was an early aviator, her pilot's license signed by Orville Wright. Pancho had her own landing field where is now McKnight Drive. A nice plus when throwing parties.

George Hurrell was a very innovative photographer, made movie contacts through his friendship with Pancho Barnes, and worked for MGM at the height of the powerful studio period.

**Hurrell Glamour  
Photos Movie Star  
Jean Harlow**



**All Photographs are Copyrighted  
by the Pancho Barnes Trust Estate Archive or Estate of George**

**May is Heritage Month in Laguna Beach**

As part of Laguna Beach's Heritage month, the Laguna Beach Historical Society is holding a program on Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at the City Hall Council Chambers starting at 7:30 PM. Dr. Lou D'Elia, the owner of the Pancho Barnes Estate, will relate the history showing a PowerPoint presentation including copyrighted photos from Pancho Barnes Estate and the Estate of George Hurrell. Some photos from the Barnes family have never been seen publicly before. The public is welcome and there is no charge.

At the Laguna Art Museum currently is an "Early Days" exhibition, and it includes George Hurrell photos of early Laguna Impressionists Edger Payne, Anna Hills, William Griffith, William Wendt, and Frank Cuprien.



**Hurrell Photo of  
Aviatrix Pancho Barnes**

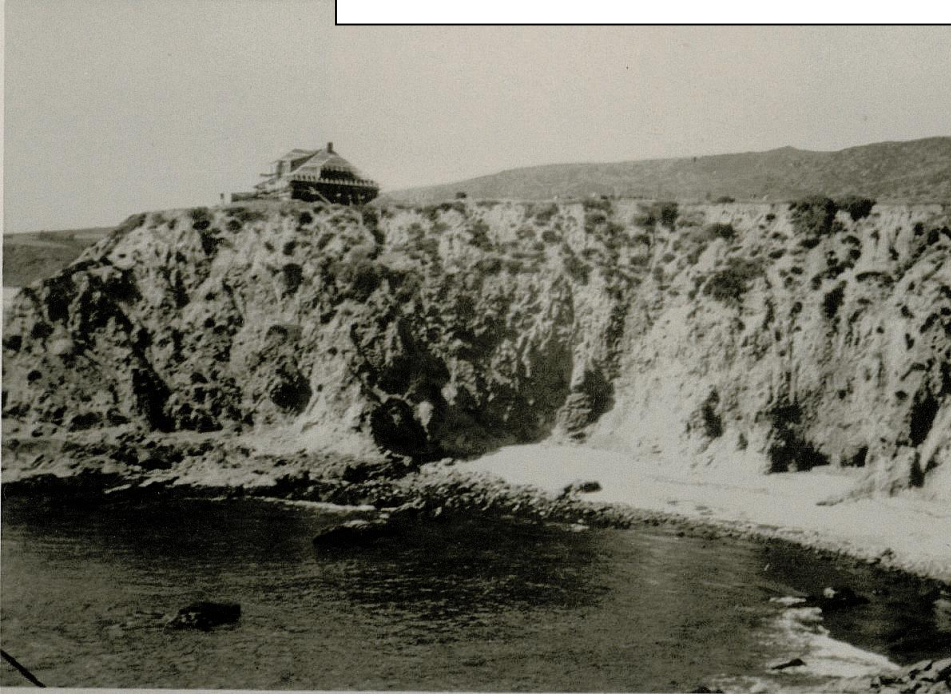
**Hurrell at Hollywood Director Mal St. Clair Laguna Beach Hillside Cottage  
on Thalia Street 1925 Enjoying the Western Look**



Note "Pageant-Play" Poster on the wall on the right. This photo is from 1925 significantly before the Pageant of the Masters. If you remember the Laguna Beach Historical Society October 2002 program on Isaac Frazee who created in 1921 an Indian Peace Pipe Pageant called Kitshi-Manido. The project raised money for art gallery building.



# THEN and NOW



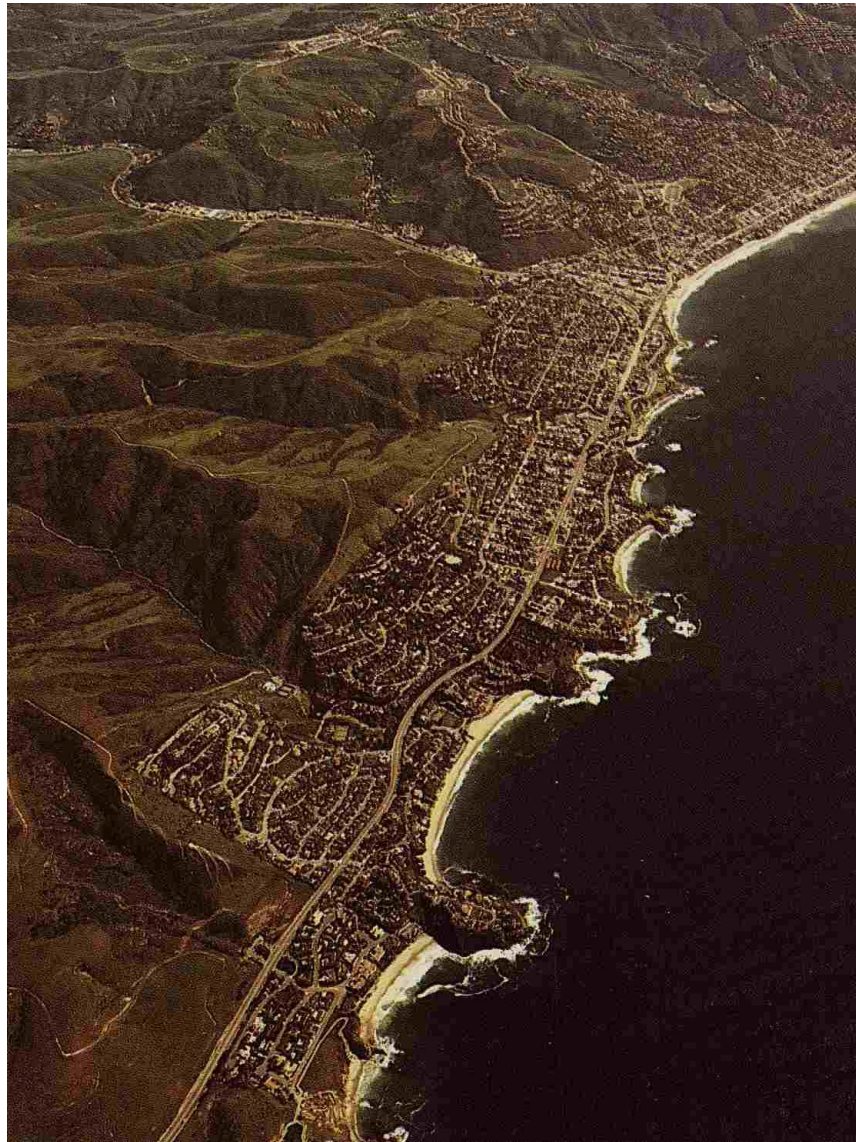
## THEN

Pancho Barnes'  
Family  
"Dos Rocas"  
Bluff Top Home  
in North Laguna

## NOW

Development  
in  
North Laguna  
circa 1986

Aerial photo  
courtesy of  
Carolyn Wood



## President's Message By Gene Felder

The Board of Directors of the Laguna Beach Historical Society appreciates all the support we have received, but would appreciate more. We want to encourage you to come to our functions, and to encourage friends and neighbors to join becoming members.

In addition, the Board requests historic artifacts and photographs you wish to donate. The Board is concerned that every day some of Laguna's history is being lost. For those having treasured historic photographs or printed material, the Historical Society is happy to scan them electronically and return them to the owners. This way there will be a record preserved for future generations.

The Board is most thankful to Wells Fargo Bank for leasing us the Murphy-Smith Bungalow, and to the City of Laguna Beach for its annual \$1,000 grant. The top priority of the Board is to ensure that the bungalow is open to be enjoyed and experienced by members and the public.

In addition, we plan to have an ongoing series of activities to learn about and explore the history of Laguna Beach. In the past, we have held programs on the 1978 Bluebird Canyon slide, saving Laguna Canyon, the 1993 Laguna wildfire, Villa Rockledge, and the history of the Laguna Art Museum.

Mark your calendar for Monday, September 18th for a program by Larry Lytle on Photographer William Mortensen to be held at the Laguna Beach City Council Chambers from 7:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.

Financial support is appreciated. Those interested in supporting and joining the Laguna Beach Historical Society should send \$15 per household or \$50 per organization or business to 278 Ocean Avenue, Laguna Beach CA 92651.

There is more information on the Society and Laguna history at [LagunaHistory.org](http://LagunaHistory.org). Volunteers are needed. Those who'd like to get involved, even a tiny bit, should contact me: 939-7257 or [Gene@Felders.Net](mailto:Gene@Felders.Net).

## Laguna Beach Historical Society Board of Directors

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- Kimberly Stuart  
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## Thanks to our Business Organization Members

- Andrus Plumbing
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**More information  
on the Society  
and Laguna history is at  
[www.LagunaHistory.org](http://www.LagunaHistory.org)**

**If you haven't paid 2006 annual dues send \$15 per household or \$50 per business or organization  
to Laguna Beach Historical Society, 278 Ocean Avenue, Laguna Beach CA 92651**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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