

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



Laguna Life

The Laguna Beach Historical Society
Newsletter: March 2007

Happy Birthday! City to Celebrate 80th Year of Incorporation June 29, 1927

Mark your calendars for upcoming 2007 Historical Society programs to be held at
Council Chambers at City Hall, 505 Forest Avenue from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.

Monday, March 19th – 7:30 P.M. Laguna Beach City Council Chambers
View and Discuss Historic Photographs from the Collection
of the Laguna Beach Historical Society by Eric Jessen & Gene Felder

Monday, May 21st – The History of Surfing in Laguna Beach by Dick Metz

President's Message by Kimberly Stuart

It takes a team to keep things going so I would like to send huge thank you's to our Board of Directors and volunteers:

- ✓ Gene Felder - for his years of dedication to the Laguna Beach Historical Society and our community, his proactive public relations work and tracking of finances for the LBHS.
- ✓ Anne Frank – for her professional, thoughtful advice regarding historic structures and processes, and support of LBHS activities.
- ✓ John Hoover – for his warm, ever present smile, solid supporter of the LBHS, and being a people networking machine.
- ✓ Jane Janz - for the fun she has researching and coordinating our wonderful programs and interesting window displays.
- ✓ Eric Jessen – for supporting the existence and presence of the LBHS in our community, and for being an incredible resource and participant in Orange County and Laguna Beach historic memory.
- ✓ Ed Perry – A most reliable volunteer and in maintaining the board members perspective of time and priorities.
- ✓ Vern Spitaleri – A great resource of historic memory and humor.
- ✓ Kevin Spencer – for his willingness to participate and draw volunteers to the Murphy Smith Bungalow.
- ✓ Nelda Stone – For keeping the meeting minutes and the board members up to date.
- ✓ Georgina Valdez - for a great job keeping the Murphy Smith Bungalow charming inside and out, all year long and her dedication to preserving our Laguna Beach heritage.
- ✓ Victoria Winters – For keeping track of the list of historic buildings in town and for promoting the LBHS with other organizations

President's Message continued on page 4



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 without the necessity for the owners to relinquish the item.

Thankfully, we have some new additional photographs to the Laguna Beach Historical Society photographic collection.

Photo courtesy of Eric Jessen
Lodge of Laguna Beach Impressionist Artist
Frank Cuprien (circa 1920s).

Laguna Beach Historical Society Board of Directors

Kimberly Stuart - President	Kevin Spencer – Vice President	Nelda Stone - Secretary
Gene Felder – Treasurer	Anne Frank	John Hoover
Jane Janz	Eric Jessen	Ed Perry
Vern Spitaleri	Georgina Valdez	Victoria Winters

Join us at the next Board meeting. Board meets every other 2nd Tuesday of the month, next meetings Tuesday, March 13th & May 8th starting at 7:00 p.m. at Murphy-Smith Bungalow

Photos courtesy of Amos Stricker

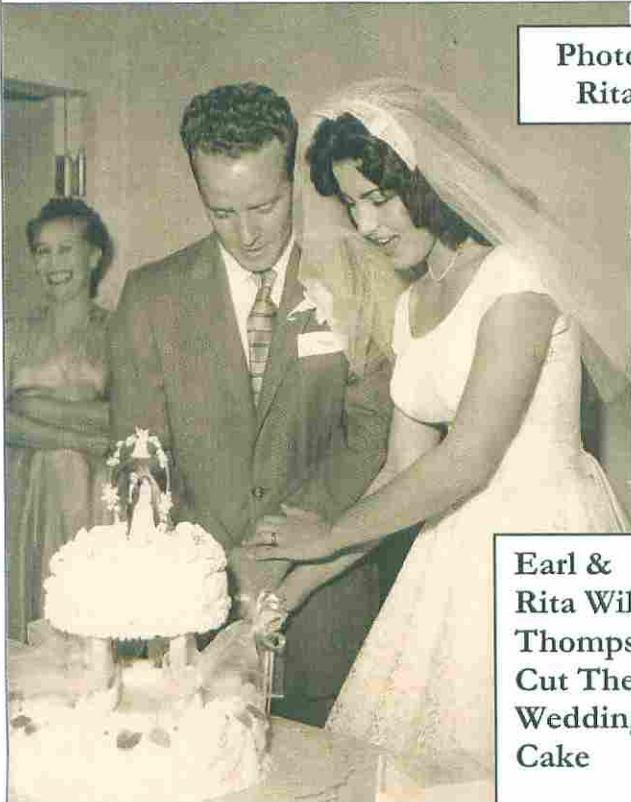


1923 Laguna Beach Baseball Team

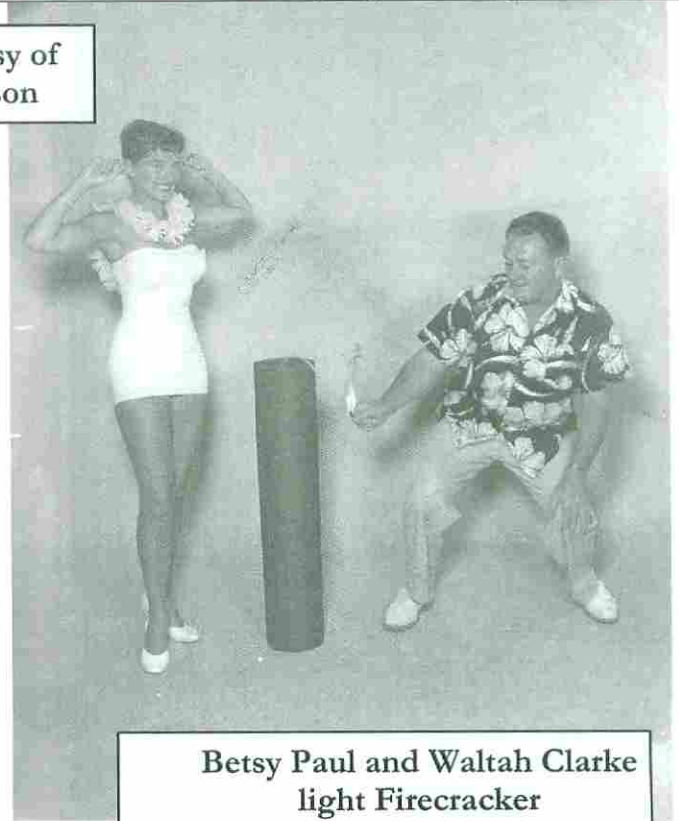


Richard Nixon Campaigns in Laguna

Photos courtesy of Rita Thompson



Earl & Rita Wills Thompson Cut Their Wedding Cake



Betsy Paul and Waltah Clarke light Firecracker

Please visit the Laguna Beach Historical Society Murphy-Smith Bungalow, located at 278 Ocean Ave. Volunteers are needed to greet visitors to the Murphy-Smith House and should call 939-7257.



Bulldozer on 3rd Street

**John and Katy Weld
at The Post Ocean Avenue**



1941 Aerial Photo – Hotel Laguna in the center

Photo Courtesy of Jim Kreder

Thanks to our Business / Organization Members

Andrus Plumbing Borthwick Guy Bettenhausen Butler Box & Stake Charles' Wig Chateau
 Exchange Club of Laguna Beach Laguna Beach Hospitality Assoc. LBHS Artists Class of "63"
 MacGillivray Freeman Films Realtor Monica Mukai Reynolds Carpet Service Village Laguna

Historical Society Upcoming Programs

Monday, March 19th – 7:30 P.M. Laguna Beach City Council Chambers

View and Discuss Historic Photographs from the Collection

of the Laguna Beach Historical Society by Eric Jessen & Gene Felder

Monday, May 21st – The History of Surfing in Laguna Beach by Dick Metz

Laguna Beach Historical Society information is at www.LagunaHistory.org

President's Message by Kimberly Stuart

continued from Page 1

We are proud to mention that Joan Irvine Smith, this years Patriot's Day Parade Grand Marshall, and member Richard O'Neill have made generous contributions to the Laguna Beach Historical Society. Board member Georgina Valdez has been instrumental in making the connection between Mrs. Smith, Mr. O'Neill and the Historical Society in creating the opportunity for their gracious donations. Together, they have donated over 30 signed books of Joan Irvine Smith's "A California Woman's Story". We greatly appreciate their interest and support of the Laguna Beach Historical Society and our parallel mission to preserve local history and heritage.

A great example of a landmark spot in town newly named The Old Pottery Place is now open. Property Owner Joe Hanauer has been spending a bit of time recently greeting friends and neighbors in the new shops and restaurant. It is new, but closely retains the look and feel of the original Pottery Shack that was here for so many years. And, the Greeter is still waving at the corner of Brooks Street and S. Coast Highway. You will be delighted with a photo display of historic Laguna Beach on a wall in an intimate space near the chocolatier and pantry. You will enjoy seeing what downtown Laguna Beach was like in the photo display of images from the 20's through the 50's. Famous early Laguna Beach artists and the first Art Association Gallery of 1918 are shown proudly, establishing what will become a favorite destination for artists from all over the world. The fifth Festival of Arts board of 1936 "decked out", along with images of the first streets and buildings in town from 1890's, show anticipation and promise for a great future as a new artists destination, movie setting, and scenic retreat.

Starting from those original roots, Laguna Beach has evolved into the wonderful community that it is. And, over the years where our civic leaders continuously strive to balance the charm and scale of our community with residents' needs and a warm welcome for visitors. This year marks the City of Laguna Beach's 80th year of incorporation. This year also marks the Chamber of Commerce and Civic Association's 90th anniversary.

The Laguna Beach Historical Society wishes our city a happy anniversary and invites you to join us at our upcoming presentations. Please make a special note in your calendar that the entire month of May is Heritage month. The city will be alive with activities and programs to celebrate this anniversary year. But, especially exciting are plans in the works for first ever Laguna Beach Historical Society's "mixer" with the Chamber of Commerce on May 16th, 2007. This will be a wonderful time to see the Murphy Smith Bungalow's new exhibits and refreshed gardens, pick up some information or photographs, and enjoy some food & drink while visiting with local history buffs and curious supporters.

Mark your calendar and please attend Laguna Beach Historical Society upcoming programs to be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall - 7:30 P.M. 505 Forest Avenue

Monday, March 19th - 7:30 P.M. Laguna Beach City Council Chambers

View and Discuss Historic Photographs from the Collection of the Laguna Beach Historical Society by Eric Jessen & Gene Felder

Monday, May 21st - The History of Surfing in Laguna Beach, presentation by Dick Metz

When it comes down to it, the Board greatly appreciates Wells Fargo Bank for so generously continuing to lease the grounds and building to us. We also thank the City of Laguna Beach, in advance, for its annual financial assistance. Together, their support, with the efforts of our dedicated volunteers, and team work of the Board of Directors, we are able to work toward keeping the Murphy-Smith Bungalow open on the weekends for the enjoyment of our members and the public.

Please volunteer at the Murphy Smith Bungalow on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday afternoon for a few hours - you'll love sharing memorable anecdotes and current activities of the visitors you meet.

One last, and important item - our apology to the LBHS Artists Class of '63 for unintentionally leaving their name off the Thank You list of Business and Organization supporters in our last newsletter. We thank Mr. John Schwartz for bringing this to our attention and for encouraging the group to continue their long time participation and support of the Laguna Beach Historical Society.

**2007 Dues now due, 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: _____