

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



# Laguna Life

The Laguna Beach Historical Society Newsletter: May 2007

**Happy Birthday! City to Celebrate 80<sup>th</sup> Year of Incorporation June 29, 1927**

Please attend Historical Society programs to be held at  
Council Chambers at City Hall, 505 Forest Avenue from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.

**Monday, May 21st – 7:30 P.M. Laguna Beach City Council Chambers**

**DICK METZ, SURFING AND THE LAGUNA CONNECTION**



Dick Metz 1955  
Surfing  
at Brooks Street,  
Laguna Beach

Photo copyright of  
Surfing Heritage  
Foundation



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.

Courtesy of Joe Ambrose and Mike Feddersen  
1908 "Stories of Laguna" booklet  
"Daily We Gather at the Wagon"  
Photograph of Joe Thurston's wagon

## 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
Jane Janz	Eric Jessen	Ed Perry

Dick Metz will be presenting a program for the Laguna Beach Historical Society on the origins of surfing in and around Laguna Beach. Come see the photos and hear the story of how surfing evolved here in those early years. Dick Metz is uniquely qualified to relate this story having grown up in Laguna and, at an early age was initiated into the beach scene. He witnessed and participated in the growth of the surfing industry, both in Laguna and Hawaii where he lived for 20 years.

**Main Beach 1930**



**1946 Surfers at Salt Creek**

Photos copyright of Surfing Heritage Foundation

**Main Beach 1950**



**Hobie Surfboard Shop Dana Point**





Please Visit and support **Surfing Heritage Foundation**

110 Calle Iglesia, San Clemente, CA 92672

Public Hours: MON-FRI 9AM - 4PM or by appointment 949.388.0313

For information go to [www.SurfingHeritage.org](http://www.SurfingHeritage.org)

From his beginnings here in Laguna Beach, Dick developed a love of the sport that lasted a lifetime. In 1958 he left Laguna on a three year surfing odyssey around the world and was the first American to surf in South Africa. On his return his abilities as a businessman emerged when he started Hobie Sports. All those years spent as part of the surfing culture resulted in his formation of the Surfing Heritage Foundation where the archives of the surfing culture will be permanently preserved.



**Brooks Street 1954 Keyhole Group**

**Brooks Street Photo includes Mike Segar,  
Hobie Alter, Tom Morey, Bing Boca**



**Main Beach 1955**

**Hololulu Hawaii Dick Metz  
at Hobie Shop 1961**



**Thanks to Historical Society 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  
Stewarts Landscaping ... Village Laguna

**Make Suggestions for Historical Society Future Programs**

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

**President's Message by Kimberly Stuart**

This year marks the City of Laguna Beach's 80<sup>th</sup> year of incorporation. The anniversary celebration becomes even more special in the month of May for Heritage Month events going on all over town. Events still include (after this mailing): Guided walks of Historic Downtown Laguna, Crystal Cove Historic District Guided Walk, Natural History Hike – Laguna Wilderness Park, Heritage Tours, and the Laguna Art Museum. Call Nancy Csira, Senior Planner, City of Laguna Beach 949/497-0332 for more information.

The Laguna Beach Chamber of Commerce and Civic Association is celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Laguna Beach Historical Society invites you to join us at our upcoming event:

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

**HERITAGE MONTH MIXER**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2007 - HOSTED BY THE LAGUNA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
at THE MURPHY SMITH BUNGALOW at 278 OCEAN AVENUE

The home, built in 1923 is one of the few remaining original residential structures in the downtown. The Laguna Beach Historical Society leases the grounds and building from the Wells Fargo Bank, and brings in volunteers to provide our members and the public with weekend opportunities to experience a bit of home life in the 1920's. Please join us in a stroll through the Murphy Smith Bungalow's newly replanted gardens, enjoy the new exhibits and artwork inside, pick up some information, or buy some copies of historic photographs. We will have plenty of food & drink to enjoy, provided by our neighbor businesses on Ocean Avenue, while visiting with local history buffs and curious supporters. We will also have an ample supply of autographed copies of Joan Irvine Smith's new book – through the contribution of Mr. Richard O'Neill and Joan Irvine Smith, [A California Woman's Story](#) for your \$100.00 donation the Laguna Beach Historical Society.

I would like to send a special Thank You the Laguna Beach Garden Club for its tremendous contribution to the Murphy Smith Bungalow over the last couple of months. Janene Freitas and Nancy Englund have orchestrated a wonderful palette of plant materials with the tremendous assistance of Christine Fusano, and a great crew of volunteers who have generously given their time and energy to revitalizing the gardens of the Murphy Smith Bungalow. Thank you to Chris Lutz and Tom Simpson for their special efforts in support of this exciting beautification project in our downtown.

Please consider being a 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.

**DICK METZ, SURFING & THE LAGUNA CONNECTION**

Monday, May 21st at 7:30 p.m. in the Laguna Beach City Council Chambers

Please mark your calendar and don't forget to bring your board.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_