

# 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: May 2009

Please attend Historical Society Program to be held at  
Laguna Beach City Hall Council Chambers, 505 Forest Avenue  
Monday, May 18th – from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.

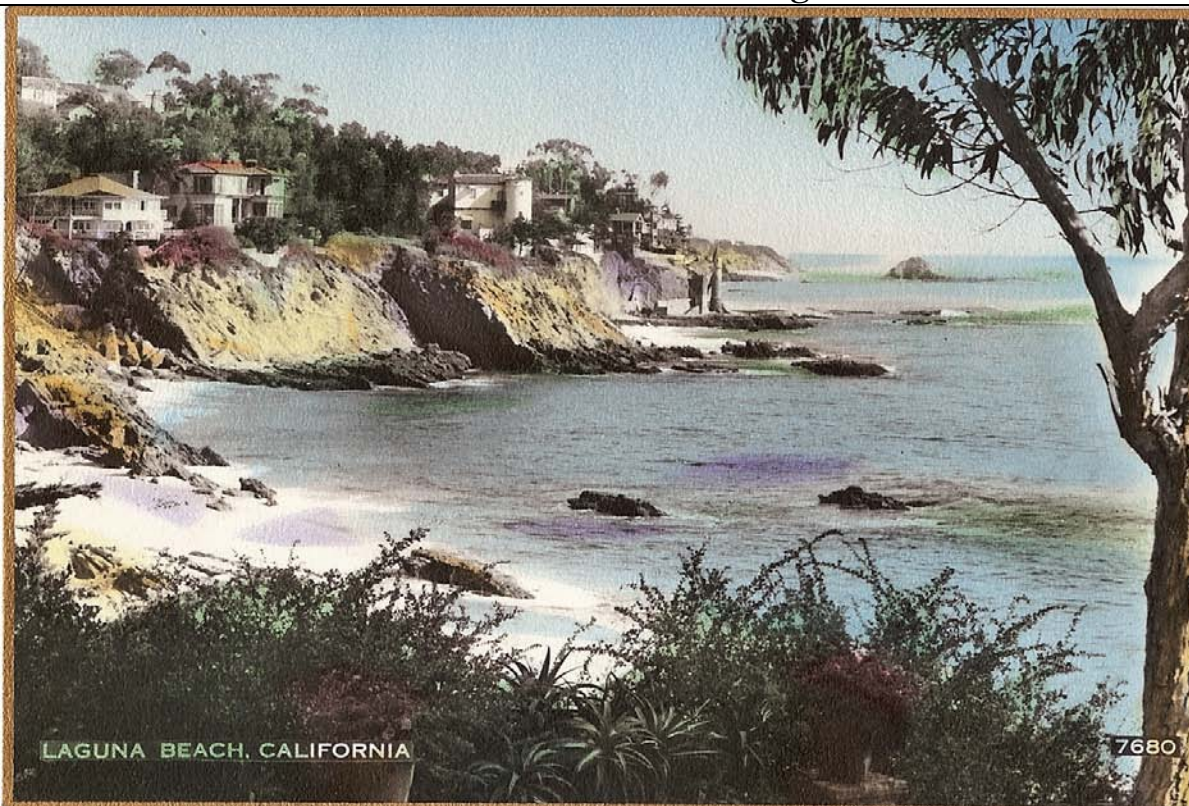
**Victoria Beach Tower & Norman House** by Mark Whitman

Mark Whitman is a fourth generation Californian from Marin County, has resided in Alaska for the last thirty years, and is the Circulation Supervisor of the Juneau Public Library. The appearance of the 1926 Norman Tower at Victoria Beach seems odd indeed and has startled many visitors, rounding the corner of the reef there, wondering what it might be. Mark Whitman was intrigued and trying to understand what originally inspired Senator Brown to choose this location for a residence, traced the history of both the pool and tower. Whitman researched the subject and found himself drawn into an intriguing review of Laguna Beach history, often finding as many questions as answers.

## Norman House and Victoria Beach Tower Looking South

In 1926 former Calif State Senator William Edward Brown built the home along with a 60 foot Norman style tower to move easily and safely from the top of the bluff, to the beach below. Did he build the pool on the beach?

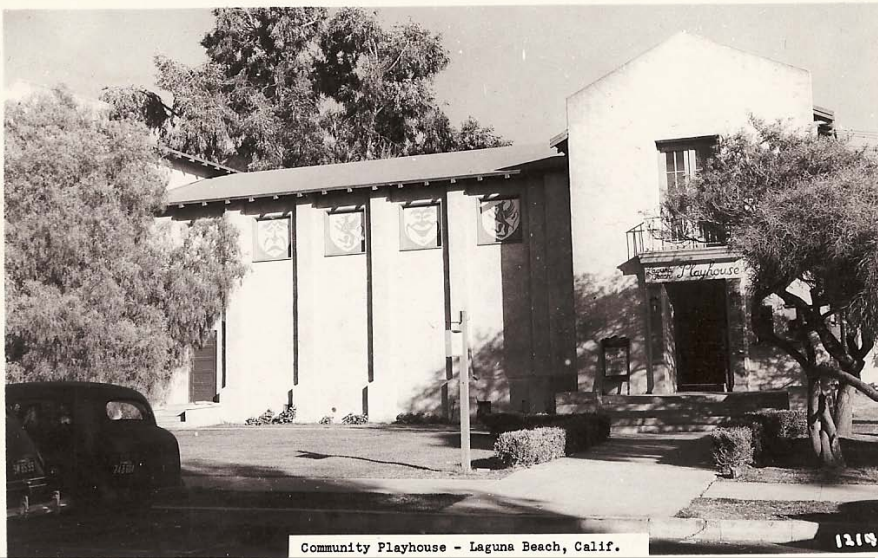
A later owner Harold Kendrick dressed himself and the house in a pirate theme was "the Question Man" as he constantly offered cash prizes to children who could correctly answer a never-ending series of questions.



La Casa del Camino Hotel (at Coast and Cress) opened in 1929, built by William W. Riddell so this year is celebrating its 80th anniversary. Lobby included paintings by Joseph Kleitsch.

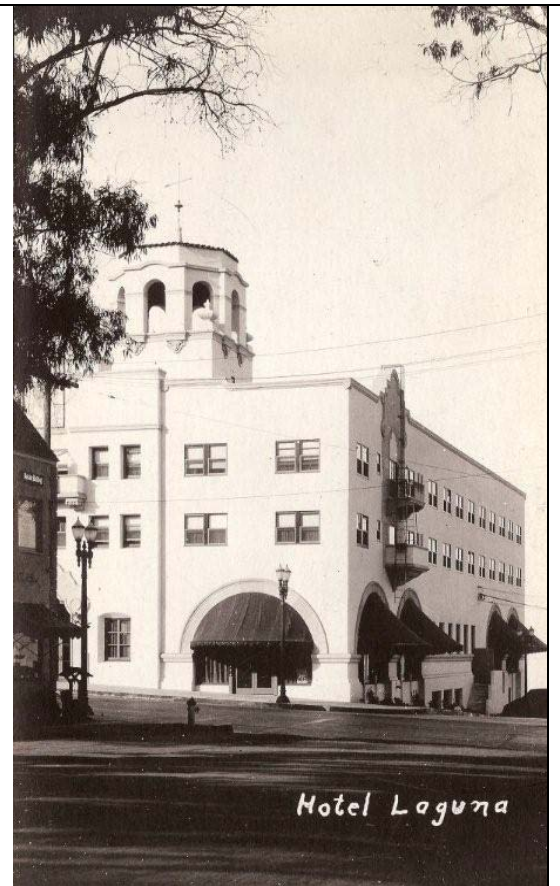


Mark your calendar for upcoming program on Monday, September 21st  
 A Retrospective of Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts in Laguna Beach - In Conjunction with the 100th Anniversary of Boy Scouts of America by Pam Jensen



Laguna Playhouse was built in 1924 on Ocean Avenue (demolished in 1969)

Hotel Laguna was built in 1930  
 Note photo prior to neon sign added on top



May is Heritage Month in Laguna

City Heritage Committee Free Walking Tours. Saturday, May 16th 10 a.m. to noon Historic Downtown meet in front of the Laguna Beach Library, 363 Gleneyre St., and Saturday, May 23rd 10 a.m. to noon, North Laguna Cottages; meet at Madison Square & Garden Café Led by City Heritage Committee members Rick Gold and local architect Carl Iverson.

**1930s see Presbyterian Church, Pier, Playhouse, and Lumberyard**



All photographs in this newsletter are from the Tom Pulley Postcard Collection with the exception of the 1956 Victoria Beach scene courtesy of Lindy Narver



**Victoria Beach Tower without top**

**1956 photo of Ellen Narver on Victoria Beach with Tower behind her. (Photo courtesy of Lindy Narver)**



**Laguna Beach Historical Society Board of Directors**

Kimberly Stuart - President	Anne Frank – Vice Pres.	Nelda Stone - Secretary
Gene Felder – Treasurer	Gregg De Nicola	Eric Jessen
Francie Holder	John Hoover	Jane Janz
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## Thanks to Historical Society Business / Organization Members

Andy Alison Bungalow Hunters Borthwick Guy Bettenhausen Butler Box & Stake  
Charles' Wig Chateau E D Lohrbach Associates Emerald Bay Community Assoc  
Exchange Club of Laguna Beach Laguna Beach Visitors & Conference Bureau  
Laguna Art Museum LBHS Artists Class of "63" Marcom Insurance Brokers  
Realtor Monica Mukai Reynolds Carpet Service South Coast Lock Shop  
Stewarts Landscaping The Stand Natural Foods Restaurant

## Make Suggestions for Historical Society Future Programs

### President's Message by Kimberly Stuart

Please attend the Historical Society Heritage Month Program which is of course free and will be held at Laguna Beach City Hall Council Chambers, 505 Forest Avenue Monday, May 18th – from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.

**Victoria Beach Tower and the Norman House by Mark Whitman**

Do note your calendar for our next program Monday, September 21st "A Retrospective of Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts in Laguna Beach - In Conjunction with the 100th Anniversary of Boy Scouts of America" by Pam Jensen.

We do want to thank local businesses for helping us maintain the Murphy-Smith Bungalow and for their most generous in-lieu contributions, most recently Andrus Plumbing, and Nelson Electric.

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.

Help, we need volunteers for the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month from 1 to 4 p.m. It is the board's top priority to ensure that the Murphy-Smith Bungalow is open to be enjoyed and experienced by members and the public. It's a fun experience to meet, share stories and photos with locals and visitors who love our town. If interested, please call Gene Felder at 939-7257.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the history of Laguna Beach.

Those interested in supporting and joining 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.

While supplies last, those donating \$100 to the Laguna Beach Historical Society will receive a copy of Joan Irvine Smith's new book "A California Woman's Story".

**If your Dues are due (see 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Laguna Beach Historical Society information is at [www.LagunaHistory.org](http://www.LagunaHistory.org)**