

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: October 2009

Please attend Historical Society Program to be held at
Laguna Beach City Hall Council Chambers, 505 Forest Avenue
Monday, October 19th – from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.

"Growing Up in Laguna During the Great Depression"

by Peter Kaye author of the book *Contrarian*

Author Peter Kaye will read and expand upon portions of his book *Contrarian* with special emphasis on President Franklin D. Roosevelt's stopover in Laguna Beach in 1938, the hurricane of 1939 and how Laguna Beach reacted to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

A former newspaper reporter, television producer and commentator, campaign aide and participant in 16 national political conventions, Kaye has released *Contrarian*, a fast-paced memoir detailing his 55 years in politics and reporting. Kaye recollects these extraordinary slice-of-histories to readers in a wry, straightforward manner as an objective observer and commentator.

**Peter Kaye
was on
South Coast
Highway the
day
President
Franklin D.
Roosevelt
was in
Laguna
Beach**



**Franklin D. Roosevelt in Laguna Beach
July 14, 1938 First American Title photo**



**Main Beach Pier off Heisler Point to Bird Rock by gazebo near Las Brisas Restaurant
(formerly Victor Hugo Inn) photo from Laguna Presbyterian Church collection**



1930's - View of Pier before storm. Laguna Beach.



**Four piers
were built in
Laguna
Beach.**

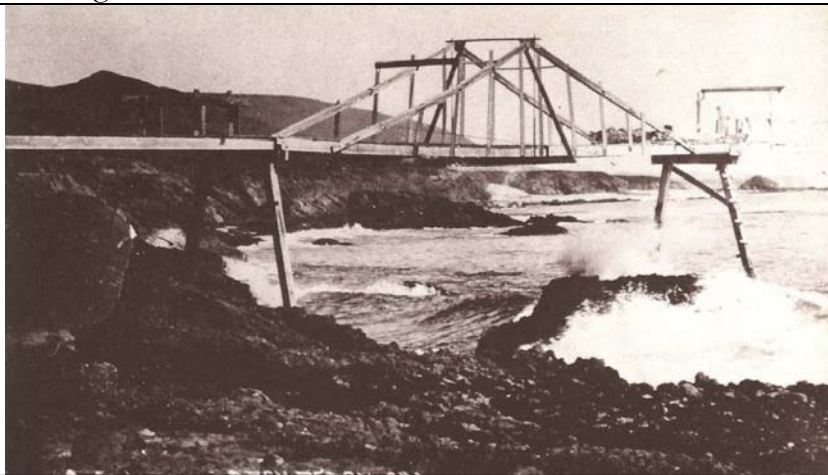
**Seven miles of
Coastline, but
not a single
pier left in
Laguna
Beach**

Pier information
from Roger W
Jones' 2003 book
"Laguna Beach
An Illustrated,
Narrative
History"

A Main Beach Pier was built in 1896 extending to Bird Rock approximately 500 feet off shore. It lasted until about 1916. A longer Main Beach Pier [1,150 feet] was built in 1926 by Tony Derkum and Forrest Carter. In 1939 a severe winter storm [some call it the 1939 hurricane) badly damaged the pier and it had to be closed and later demolished.

The Arch Beach Pier in 1887. It was used primarily to load barley hay onto a schooner for shipment to San Diego for the stagecoach horses.

The diamond shaped Aliso Beach Pier was constructed in 1970 and became the fourth pier in Laguna's history. In March 1998 the pier was closed because it was found to be unstable from damage caused by the El Nino storms. Demolition began in the fall of 1998 and was complete by February 1999.



Arch Beach Pier built in 1887
Near Diamond St. by homesteaders Lorenzo Nathan
(Nate) Brooks and Hubbard Goff.



Aliso Beach Pier
(photo from Michael Weiss)

Laguna Beach Historical Society Board of Directors

Vern Spitaleri - President	Kimberly Stuart – Vice Pres.	Nelda Stone - Secretary
Gene Felder – Treasurer	Gregg De Nicola	Anne Frank
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Thanks to Historical Society Business / Organization Members

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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
Sawdust Festival South Coast Lock Shop Stewarts Landscaping The Stand Natural Foods Restaurant

Make Suggestions for Historical Society Future Programs

President's Message by Vern Spitaleri

Thanks to the committee organizing our 4th program this year. 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, October 19th – from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.

"Growing Up in Laguna During the Great Depression"

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...Congratulations to former Historical Society Board Member Harry Lawrence. October 1st was Harry Lawrence Day in Laguna Beach; read about Laguna's legendary civic activist at www.HarryLawrenceDay.com.

The Laguna Beach Historical Society has a new web site to view historic photographs at www.Laguna-Historical-Society.smugmug.com. 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. As people loan the Society historic photographs, they will scanned and posted for people all around the world to view and enjoy. The Society has more photographs to add to the site, but currently have uploaded 475 photos. Viewers are invited to leave comments to help the Society better identify or date the photographs. At the web site, prints can also be purchase; for example an 8" by 10" glossy for \$6.97 plus tax and shipping.

Send questions on photographs or Laguna Beach history to info@LagunaHistory.org.

Step back into 1920s Laguna by visiting the Laguna Beach Historical Society Murphy-Smith Bungalow, located at 278 Ocean Avenue, which is opened to the public at no-charge every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to greet visitors to the Murphy-Smith Bungalow and should call 939-7257.

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. Remember the Laguna Beach Historical Society in your planned giving.

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: _____

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

