

# Historical Society

Laguna Beach Life | Past | Present | Future

## Mark Your Calendar For Our Upcoming Program!

### DECEMBER 4th Program

Early Homesteaders of  
Laguna Beach: from the 1870s

Susi Q Community Center  
7:30-9:00 pm  
(doors open at 7:00 pm)

### Bungalow News

We recently received a painting by artist Lucy Jencks showing the beach south of Sleepy Hollow and Judge Cheney's house. In the photograph Judge Cheney's house can also be identified perched on the cliff overlooking the south point of Sleepy Hollow. The photograph is labeled 0080 Old Coast Road.



## Early Homesteaders of Laguna Beach: From the 1870s

Wednesday, December 4th, 7:30-9:00 pm

Carol Viebeck Lloyd

The next Laguna Beach Historical Society program will be *Early Homesteaders of Laguna Beach* presented by Carol Viebeck Lloyd, great-great-great-granddaughter of Henry Rogers, the 5<sup>th</sup> homesteader of Laguna Beach. The program will be on December 4<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 to 9:30 pm at The Susi Q Community Center. The public is invited and there is no charge.

Carol will be talking about her early pioneering family and how in 1873, her great-great-great-grandfather, Henry Rogers came to Orange County from Galena, Illinois, after having read advertisements that shared, "California, for better health and better climate." After settling here a bit longer, he soon wrote back to his wife, Elisabeth Jane, to "Sell everything, get all the family and friends together who want to come, and come." In her talk, Carol will be sharing about how on April 18, 1874, Henry's wife, 44 year old Elisabeth arrived with 22 other family members and friends on the transcontinental railroad soon settling in Laguna Beach. Henry eventually acquired 160 acres of land in Laguna in 1878, which stretched from Temple Hills to Bluebird Canyon. He became the 5<sup>th</sup> homesteader in Laguna.

From there, Carol will extend her talk into the life of her great-great-uncle George Washington Rogers, Henry Roger's son, and his purchasing of 155 ½ acres of the downtown Laguna village area in 1881. His subdividing the downtown area into 310 lots and recording his subdivision at the county courthouse on June 2, 1888., his building of the "Old Ranch

(continued on page 2)

House" on the site which is where the city hall now sits, and stories of his daily life in Laguna with his large family will be shared.

Carol will also be sharing stories about some other early homesteaders in Laguna Beach, along with her mother Beryl Wilson Viebeck's primary research which unearthed the town's early origins....that of the homesteaders. She will also be talking about how her mother not only located her own Rogers familys' homestead records, but also those of all the other 39 original homesteaders. Her mother's subsequent development and creation of Laguna Beach's Homestead Map in the mid 1990s was a result of all her hard work and persistent efforts. Having passed a few years ago, her mother always said that her time and energy spent on the creation of her homestead map was for her family, for the many people of Laguna Beach who love local history, and for all the people who came before them.

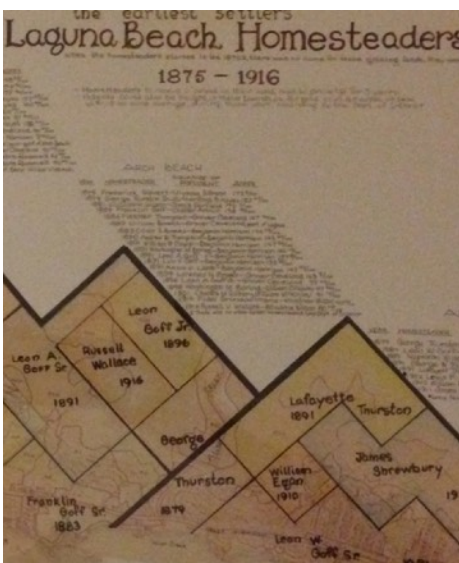
The large original map that her mother eventually created will be on display, along with copies of the homestead map available for purchase. The total proceeds of the map sales will go to the Laguna Beach Historical Society, as her mother had wished.



**Photograph above left:**  
The old ranch house that was built by Carol Viebeck Lloyd's great-great-uncle George that sits on the site that is currently City Hall



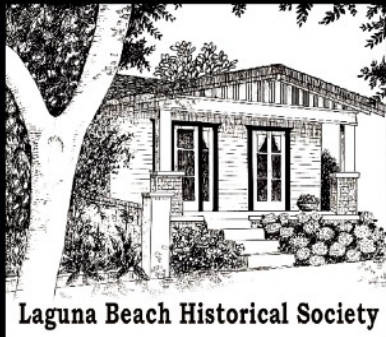
**Photograph above right:**  
Carol Viebeck Lloyd's Great-great-great-grandfather, Henry Rogers who was a homesteader of 160 acres from Temple Hills over to Bluebird Canyon



**Photograph to the right:**  
Carol Viebeck Lloyd's mother, Beryl Wilson Viebeck

**Image to the left:**  
Partial image of Carol's mother's Laguna Beach Homestead map





## Become a Docent!

Becoming a docent with The Laguna Beach Historical Society is an easy and fun way to give back to the community and support history. We currently have a couple spots to fill on the second Sunday of each month and the fourth Friday. Please contact us if you are interested!

## Fast Facts: The Digester Building

- It was built in 1934.
- The building treated sewage until the mid 1980s.
- The silo houses about 60,000 gallons of sewage leftover from when it was in operation.
- Loans and grants from the Public Works Administration (PWA), a New Deal agency, combined with local bond money covered the \$165,838 needed to build the digester during the depression era.
- On March 10, 2015, our society hosted a presentation on the New Deal's impact in Orange County.

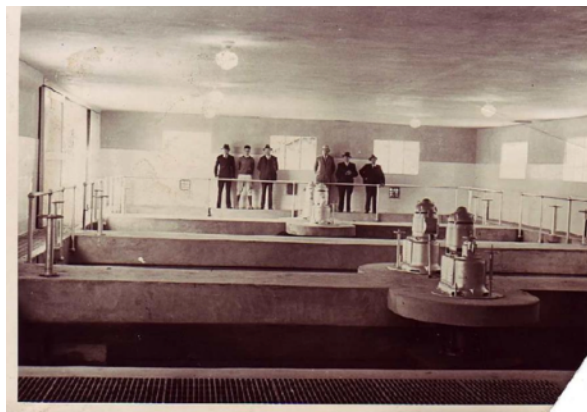
## A Message from our President

### Edward Storke

The purpose of my message this month is to attempt to enumerate and extoll the delights of living in Laguna Beach. However, the list was so lengthy that it would take over most of this newsletter. Therefore, let me highlight two of our most important assets, namely our people and our history. This does not lessen the importance of the plethora of other positive factors that make Laguna Beach the home that we love. Our people and our history make us what we are. Thanks to each of you for your participation and promotion. We welcome each of you to send your 2020 annual membership now if you haven't done so recently. Memberships provide almost all of our operating funds. We have no employees. Volunteers are the heart of our society, especially board members and the docents at the Bungalow. We welcome memberships of any denomination. An annual membership of \$500 or more will receive a beautiful souvenir bag with a silkscreened image of the Murphy-Smith Bungalow on it. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join with us now.



Laguna Beach Old Sewage Disposal Plant Exterior (to the left) and Interior (shown below.) The back of the interior photograph reads: "The sewage disposal plant at Lagoon, California, is architecturally unique. PWA funds financed the construction of this disposal plant." - National Archives and Records Administration



These photographs, along with historic information on The New Deal architecture and art can be found at: [livingnewdeal.org](http://livingnewdeal.org)

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Penny King  
Eric & Laurie Kirkland  
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We want to thank you for your past financial support and encourage you to consider upgrading to the next level of support. We are determined to preserve and protect the Historical Archives of Laguna Beach including photographs as well as provide quarterly guest speaker events, and an annual Laguna Beach Historical Society Scholarship to an outstanding Laguna Beach High School graduating Senior.

The bungalow in Laguna Beach is our home but we have a goal of increasing our needed space to increase exposure, for the hosting of historically significant events displaying more historical photographs and books, etc... Your increased contributions may help us reach the goal of a permanent location more suited for hosting guests and visitors of Laguna Beach.

## **Become a Member:**

- \$25 for Historian** (Individual)
- \$100 for Historian Friend** (Individual, Business, Organization)
- \$500 for Historian Patron** (Individual, Business, Organization)
- \$1,000 for Historian Platinum/Corporate Membership**  
(Individual, Business, Organization)

Online donations gratefully accepted now by PayPal or credit card on our website at: [lagunabeachhistory.org](http://lagunabeachhistory.org)

You can also mail this form with your check to:

Laguna Beach Historical Society  
278 Ocean Avenue  
Laguna Beach, CA 92651

Name and/or Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

The Laguna Beach Historical Society is a section 501 (c) non-profit organization.  
Tax ID #33-0519882

## **Other Ways to Support Laguna's History:**

### **Amazon Smile**

- We would be honored if you would choose Laguna Beach Historical Society as your "designated charity" on Amazon.
- Be sure to always start at AmazonSmile.com when you shop at Amazon.
- It costs you nothing extra and you will be supporting our organization –Thank you!

### **Ralph's Community Contribution Program**

- The Historical Society is now enrolled in the Ralph's/Food 4 Less/Foods Co. Community Contribution Program.
- To register, simply go online to [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com).
- Make sure to have your rewards card handy, choose The Laguna Beach Historical Society as your organization.
- If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the customer service desk at any store.
- If you are new to [ralphs.com](http://ralphs.com) online, please click on the top right: no account and register.
- You will receive an e-mail when you register your new account.
- Walk through the steps and enter our Ralph's Non Profit Organization (NPO) # - KC415.

**Laguna Beach Historical Society**  
**278 Ocean Avenue**  
**Laguna Beach, CA 92651**

If you prefer to receive this newsletter by email, drop us a line at [info@lagunabeachhistory.org](mailto:info@lagunabeachhistory.org).

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**A Special Note to our Loyal Members:**

With your support, we are able to maintain our beloved Murphy Smith Bungalow, present historical programs, send this newsletter, and host other events — thank you!

**Visit us on You Tube:** Laguna Beach Historical Society

**Visit our Website:** [lagunabeachhistory.org](http://lagunabeachhistory.org)

**Contact us at:** [info@lagunabeachhistory.org](mailto:info@lagunabeachhistory.org)

**We would be honored if you would follow us on  
Facebook and Instagram**

