

ABOUT THE MURPHY SMITH BUNGALOW

The Laguna Beach Historical Society is proud to make available to the residents and visitors of Laguna Beach - a little corner of the past - a look into old Laguna.

The **Murphy Smith Bungalow** was built in 1923. It is listed in the city's resources inventory at lagunabeachcity.net and described as, "A builder bungalow with a box plan, multi-gabled roof, and clapboard siding."

The city's historic inventory description goes on to state, "The front facing gable forms a full porch overhang and is embellished with slatted venting. The porch gable is supported by wide wood posts. The main door has side light windows; French doors are also on the front face opening into the front bedroom."

This house is historically important because it is one of the few old residential homes remaining in downtown proper. Until the 1950s, most of the buildings on Ocean Avenue were residential.

This bungalow is typical of the period and better built and preserved than many. It has a cellar, and rumor has it that bootleg liquor was stored there during prohibition.

A rotating collection of Laguna Beach memorabilia is on display at the bungalow, which is decorated in the style of a mid 20th century beach bungalow.

RESIDENTS OF THE BUNGALOW

The house was originally built in 1923 for the **Murphy** family who lived in the bungalow full time and owned the land up to the corner at Beach Street. A cistern provided the water for the majority of their needs.

In 1935, Claudia Clapp, owner of a boarding house across the street, acquired the bungalow. She subsequently sold it to her daughter, Blanche Clapp **Smith** who lived in the house on and off until her passing on June 30, 1990. The bungalow was purchased by Laguna Federal Savings and is now owned by Wells Fargo Bank.

During WWII, they would often rent a room to visiting military personnel. We have been told stories by visitors who spent the night here in the guest room but say that the husbands were asked to sleep on the couch in the living room.

Blanche Clapp married Mr. Smith in the early 1950s and moved with her husband to Los Angeles. In the late 1950s, after her husband took ill, she returned to the bungalow on Ocean Avenue. Blanche Clapp Smith was a familiar figure often seen sweeping the porch and gardening in her yard. Mrs. Smith was known for her daily constitutional walks to Main Beach and often talked with passersbys.

We are thankful to Wells Fargo Bank for their generosity in leasing the bungalow to the Laguna Beach Historical Society for a nominal fee.

LAGUNA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH TIPS

We have a knowledgeable Board of Directors; some have lived in Laguna for many years and would endeavor to answer your historical questions. Email us at info@LagunaBeachHistory.org.

We have an historical archive of documents, books, and memorabilia; we are in the process of sorting, cataloging, and scanning them to be available for research. See our website for links to historical information.

The Laguna Beach Library has many of the old Laguna newspapers available and is located at the intersection of Glenneyre Street, Park Avenue, and Laguna Avenue.

Information on individual properties in Laguna Beach may be available in the property files located at City Hall at 505 Forest Ave. Use the computers at their front desk and search by street address.

Historical Preservation and Registry information may be found at the city's website at lagunabeachcity.net.

We sponsor a number of educational programs each year and send out newsletters to members before each program. Past programs are available on YouTube. Maintenance of the bungalow, insurance, programs, scholarships, and printing and mailing costs are supported by donations paid by members. Please JOIN AND SUPPORT US! Information available at LagunaBeachHistory.org. THANK YOU!

Step back into old Laguna by visiting the Laguna Beach Historical Society's Murphy Smith Bungalow located at 278 Ocean Avenue. It is open to the public at no-charge every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. when docents are available.

New Volunteer Docents are needed to welcome visitors to the Murphy Smith Bungalow. It's fun and we'll train you! Contact info@LagunaBeachHistory.org.

Watch for upcoming historical programs, see past programs, read past newsletters, and research using links to historical information on our website at LagunaBeachHistory.org.

We gratefully accept donations of photographs, written documentation, and other Laguna Beach memorabilia.

The Laguna Beach Historical Society is an all-volunteer private organization. We are a non-profit; tax exempt California Corporation, founded in 1989. [Section 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Tax ID #33-0519882.]



(Information revised 11/2018)

**Please remember the
Laguna Beach Historical Society
in your planned giving.**

Annual memberships are available for with a suggested donation. See website for more details.

- \$25 for "Historian"
- \$100 for "History Friend"
- \$500 for "History Patron"
- \$1000 for "Platinum"

Donate by debit/credit card on our website at LagunaBeachHistory.org/support-us

Or mail a check to:
LAGUNA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
278 Ocean Avenue
Laguna Beach, CA 92651
(Be sure to include your email address)

We are very grateful for your support!

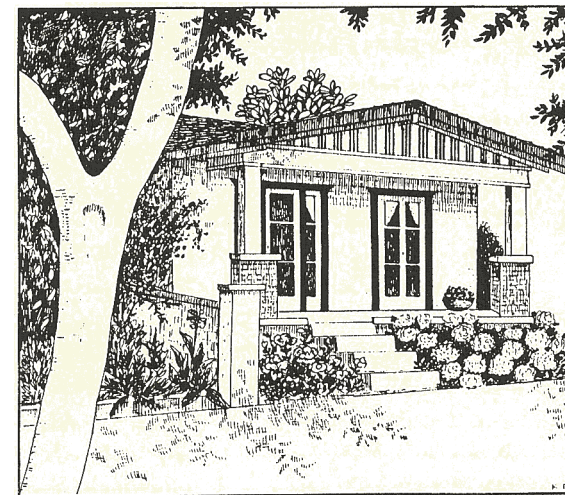
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Presented by the
**Laguna Beach
Historical Society**