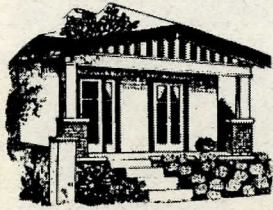


Murphy-Smith House
278 Ocean Avenue
Laguna Beach, CA 92651



LAGUNA LIFE

The Laguna Beach Historical Society, Inc. Newsletter: Spring 2002

Donation from the Laguna Beach News Post

In our newsletters we like to say thank you to those who donate research material to the Society. Thanks to the Laguna Beach News Post we now have in the archives what is probably the largest single donation we have ever received. Here is how this all evolved.

Anne Frank heard that the newspaper was going to close their Laguna Beach office, and that what was in the files in that office was going to be tossed. She called Andy Horan, who worked for the News Post, and set up a meeting time, then called Jane Janz to be there also. We met and it went "as smooth as silk."

Andy was very congenial and seemed glad that the information would not be lost and agreed to meet with us there as soon as we had "the move" set up.

What a move it was. Five filing cabinets full to the brim, and the savior in all this was J.J. Gasparotti who arrived with truck and helper. These two people made countless trips up and down stairs with loads that were extremely heavy. Many thanks. Our thanks go also to the News Post and to Andy Horan for allowing this to happen and of course to Wells Fargo Bank for giving us a room for storage. Many years from now some researcher of Laguna's history is going to be grateful that this resource was not lost.

President's Message by Gene Felder

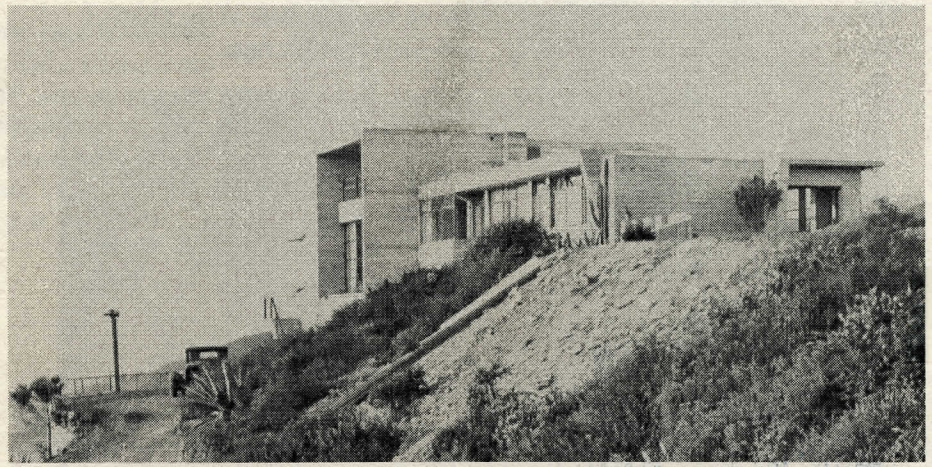
It is particularly upsetting for those of us who love history to experience change. However, big changes have occurred at the Laguna Beach Historical Society. Long serving President Belinda

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Programs Planned for You
All are welcome — No charge
See the descriptions and pictures in this Newsletter
Mark your calendar for these events

- 1: **April 18**, Thursday, 7:30 PM –Wells Fargo - 3rd Floor
Beryl Wilson Viebeck is a storyteller of early Laguna scenes. We will celebrate her 80th birthday.
- 2: **May 20**, Monday, 7:30 PM –City Council Chambers
Richard Halliburton built his dream house in South Laguna, William Taylor, an expert on the topic, will speak.
- 3: **October 3**, Thursday, 7:30 PM –Wells Fargo –3rd Floor
Isaac Frazee, early Laguna artist, poet, and writer will be the subject of a slide show presented by his great grandson.

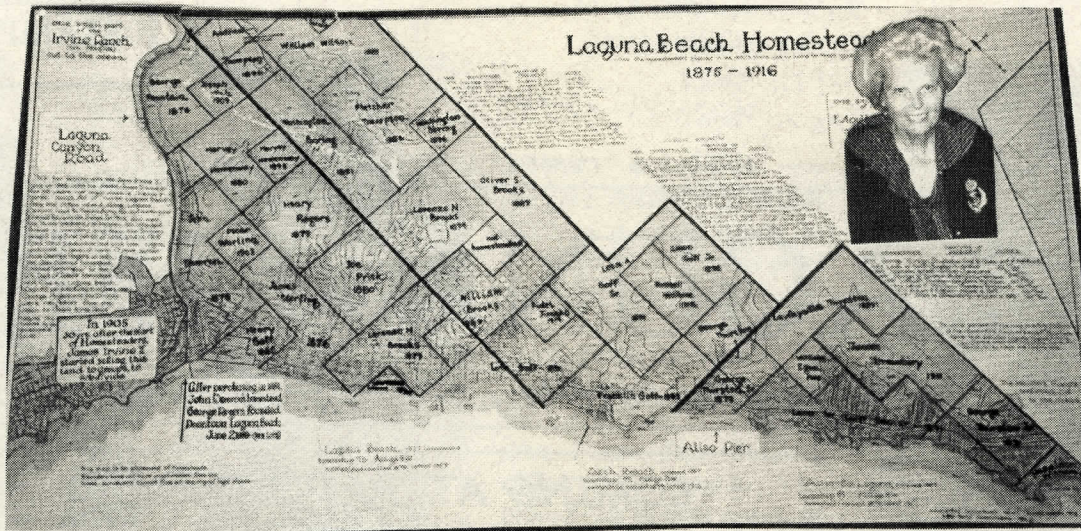
The Halliburton house under construction in 1938-39



Blacketer, a 1964 graduate of Laguna Beach High School, has resigned as she has taken the top legal position as County Counsel in Glenn County California and has moved out of Laguna Beach. She now resides in Willows, California.

Certainly, we all owe a debt of gratitude to Belinda Blacketer and all the work, love, and dedication she and her father Doc Blacketer has given to the Historical Society and to our community. They will be missed.

(Continued on page 4)



Beryl will bring the original map that she created. It is in color and big, we can see the present streets, find our houses, and see who originally homesteaded the land.

Beryl Wilson Viebeck – is a storyteller of early Laguna events. Thursday, April 18, we will celebrate her 80th Birthday. On the day she was born, her grandmother planted a palm tree on Ocean Avenue. That old house is gone and the land is now a parking lot. However, the tree still stands proudly across from Wells Fargo Bank and the Historic Society house. So the tree also deserves its 80th birthday celebration.

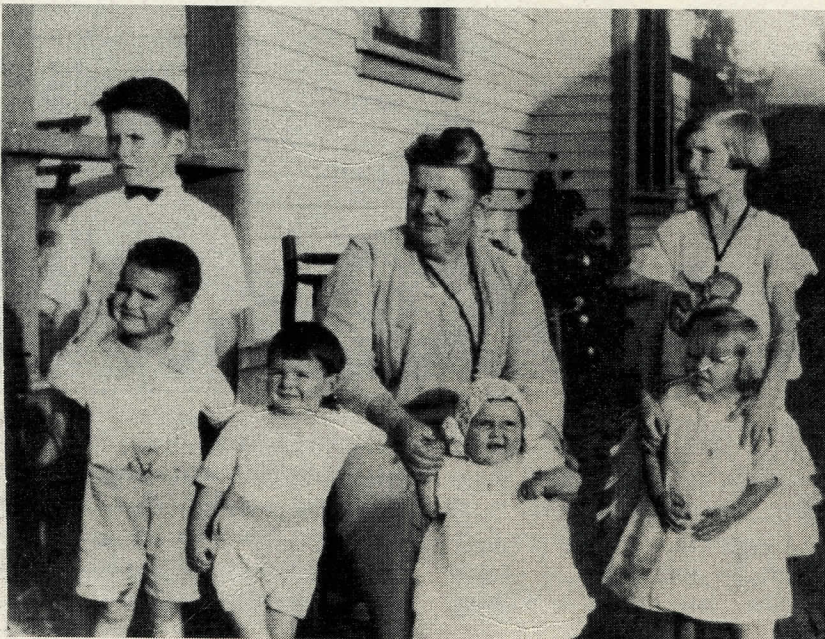
Members of Beryl's family were early residents of Laguna. Her great uncle, George Rogers planted the pepper tree in front of city hall. At the Murphy/Smith house is a copy of the map that is a result of Beryl's research project identifying all the early homesteaders in Laguna Beach.

California State University at Fullerton has established an Oral History program. They interview long time residents of cities in Orange County, and publish these interviews in books, many of which are available in the Library. One book entirely contains the interview of Beryl Wilson Viebeck. She told stories to that interviewer, and can tell many interesting stories in person.

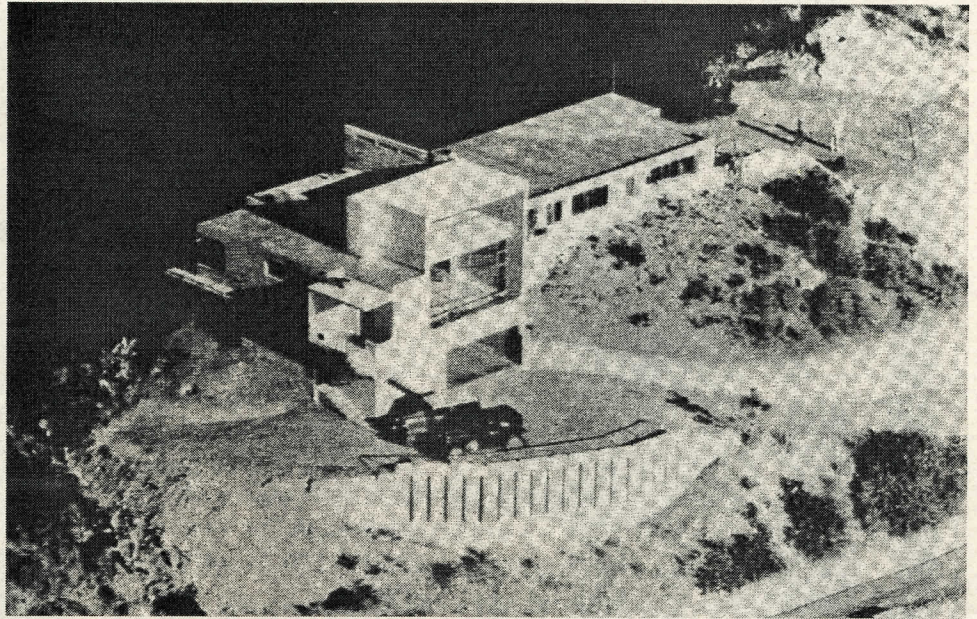
Our program will involve looking at great old pictures, listening to stories, talking to Beryl, having refreshments, and sharing old times in Laguna.

Come to Wells Fargo Bank (third floor), Thursday, April 18, 2002, 7:30p.m.

The photograph below shows Grandma Jennie Johnson, wife of the Chief of Police, in front of her house on Ocean with Beryl at lower right.



Halliburton on one of his adventures.



The Halliburton House,

South Laguna's hillside landmark has stood watch for over 60 years. Maybe it is still waiting for its original owner to return as promised and sit on the balcony overlooking Aliso Beach.

Richard Halliburton, born in 1900, became a well-known adventurer and writer. Among his adventures were climbing the Matterhorn, Mt. Olympus, and Mt. Fuji. He retraced the steps of Ulysses as recounted in the *Odyssey*. He followed the routes of Cortez, Alexander the Great and Hannibal, and swam the Hellespont. He swam the entire length of the 50-mile Panama Canal. The lock charges were calculated according to tonnage, so he paid 36 cents.

His books were travelogues and were widely read by a generation of the American public and a worldwide audience. Among his titles were *The Book of Marvels*, *The Flying Carpet*, *New Worlds to Conquer*, and *The Royal Road to Romance*.

In 1939, just after finishing the house, Halliburton had a Chinese junk built in Hong Kong. He named the Boat *Sea Dragon* and set sail planning to land in San Francisco in time for the Golden Gate Exposition. He never got to enjoy his wonderful house.

William Taylor is a devotee of the entire saga of Richard Halliburton. Mr. Taylor lives in Wisconsin and is taking a trip to visit us in Laguna for the express and only purpose of regaling us with photographs and the lore of Halliburton.

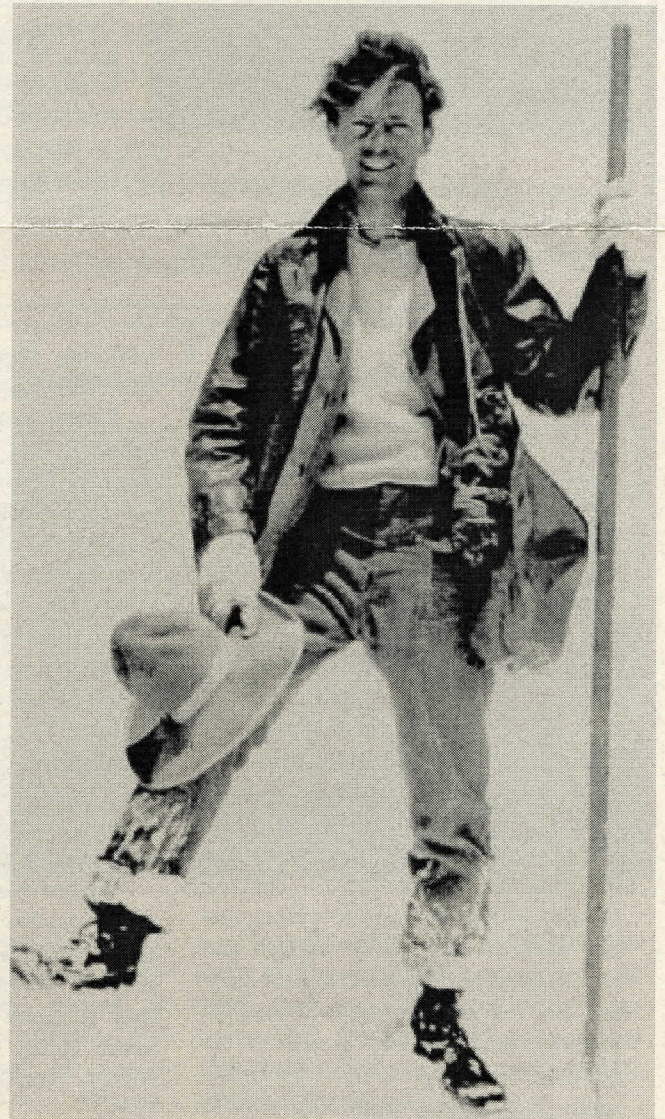
The program will be held at the City Council Chambers, Monday, May 20, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Please be on time, we expect the room to be filled and we must start at 7:30 sharp.

William R. Taylor—Presenter

Mr. Taylor spent forty years as a Design Engineer (including the Apollo Moon program) and published technical articles in many national and regional magazines. He discovered Halliburton as a teenager in the middle 1940's, and was inspired by his seven books. He is a major Halliburton fan, has collected memorabilia and written and lectured about his deeds and misdeeds.



Halliburton atop Popocatepetl in 1928





(Above) Isaac and Bettie Frazee at the house on El Bosque. (Right) The Frazees in front of their house on Lombardy Lane.

Isaac Frazee was the first documented sketch artist in Laguna Beach in 1878. On October 3, his great grandson, Craig Walker, who lives in Ojai, will present a narrated slide show for us.

Mr. Frazee is best known for creating, in 1921, an Indian Peace Pipe Pageant called Kitshi-Manido. The project was to raise money to build an art gallery. The original building has been incorporated into the current Art Museum.

Isaac Frazee and his wife Bettie lived in Laguna from the mid-1920's. Two houses that they lived in are still standing. Shown here are pictures of the Frazees at the Lombardy Lane house and the one on El Bosque.

The program will be at Wells Fargo Bank, third floor, 7:30 p.m. October 3, 2002.



President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

Four people have been added to the Board of Directors to try to take up the slack: J. J. Gasparotti, Willa Gupta, Karolee Hampton, and myself. We join Anne Frank, Jane Janz, Eric Jessen, Ed Perry, and Nelda Stone.

The history of Laguna Beach is rich, varied, and most interesting. The Board is dedicated to build upon Belinda and Doc Blacketer's accomplishments of leasing the Murphy-Smith House from the Wells Fargo Bank and restoring it so beautifully. The top priority of the Board is to ensure that the house is open to be enjoyed and experienced by members and the public. Our current schedule is to have the Murphy-Smith House opened to the public at no-charge every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to

4:00 p.m. Please come by and step back into 1920s Laguna.

Recent events have included participating in the City of Laguna Beach's Heritage Month, a discussion and viewing of historic Festival of the Arts / Pageant of the Masters programs and postcards, and a discussion of the City Heritage Ordinance. In addition, Eric Jessen presented "The Irvine Family Photo Legacy, Life on the Irvine Ranch" at the Wells Fargo Bank Community Room. The PowerPoint program featured private photos from the Irvine family spanning 130 years, as well as numerous plein-air paintings that were painted on the Irvine Ranch.

We are very grateful to Wells Fargo Bank who has renewed our lease for the Murphy-Smith House for another three years. Volunteers are needed, particularly to greet visitors at the Murphy-Smith House. If you want to get involved, even a little bit, call me at 497-4525.

Email = felder.laguna@gte.net. Of course, we also deeply appreciate membership and your financial support.

May is Heritage Month

The City of Laguna Beach Heritage Committee was formed in 1990 to serve in an advisory role on matters concerning historic preservation. It makes recommendations on all structures related to the City's Historic Register.

The Heritage Committee is in charge of Laguna Beach Heritage Month. Activities include a gala opening event during the first Thursday's Art Walk, guided walking tours of downtown, a special backstage visit to the Pageant of the Masters, a program sponsored by the Laguna Beach Historical Society, and MORE.

For further information about Heritage Month contact Ann Larsen at the City Hall, 497-0320.