

Historical Society

Laguna Beach Life | Past | Present | Future

Mark Your Calendar For Our Upcoming Program!

JANUARY 9th Program

The History of South Orange County's First Hospital

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



Photograph above: Gordon French, the fallen Laguna Beach police officer who, after his death, prompted the need for a closer hospital.

The History of South Orange County's First Hospital

Thursday, January 9th, 7:30-9:00 pm

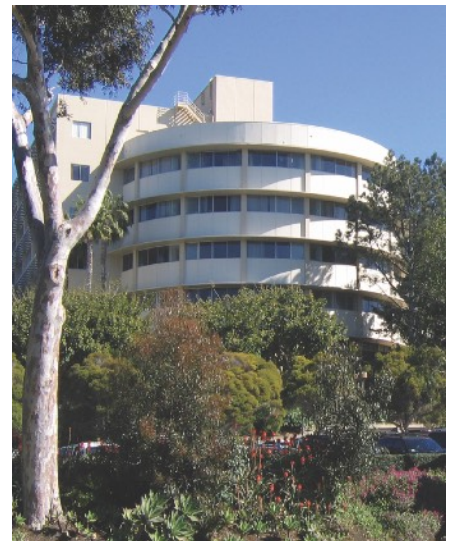
Drs. David Lagrew, Woody White and George Harper

On January 9th at 7:30 pm, The Laguna Beach Historical Society will present a program on the rich history of South Laguna's hospital which opened as the 74 bed South Coast Community Hospital in 1959. Today it has developed into Mission Hospital, Laguna Beach, with over 200 beds. The presentation will be given by three physicians: Dr. David Lagrew, Dr. Woody White, and Dr. George Harper.

The realization of the hospital begins in 1953 with the death of a popular policeman, Gordon French, who bled to death from a gunshot wound and a general community concern of the vulnerability of residents in growing south county.

A combination of city leaders, community leaders, celebrities and grass roots support would convert a land donation from the James Irvine Foundation at the behest of its president Myford Irvine and make it one of Laguna's most important community assets.

Photograph above: The iconic curved structure of the hospital which we now know as Mission Hospital, Laguna Beach





JOHN WELD receives check from Myford Irvine as escrow was closed last week on the South Laguna property purchased by the Laguna Beach Community Hospital Association for a hospital site. The 22 acres were procured from the El Toro Land Company. Monies—\$60,000—to purchase the land were furnished by the James

Irvine Foundation, of which Myford Irvine, one of the directors of the hospital association, is president. The transaction was handled for the El Toro Company by Real Estate Broker Cal Pearce. A drive for funds to erect the 50-bed, \$1,000,000 hospital will get under way in a few weeks.

The presentation will cover the important personalities and events of the medical center. It will include the story of how the local community hospital grew into a four building campus. Details of the events and pressures of healthcare changes which led to two major health systems to buy and reform the hospital into the modern facility to meet community needs will be presented. The stories of local physicians who worked at the center and had ties to actual history will be of particular interest in telling of the history of this hospital.

Please join us for the historical look into Laguna's history in healthcare.

Photograph above left: A newspaper clipping provided from hospital archives showing John Weld and Myford Irvine.



A Message from our President

Edward Storke

My sincere wishes to you and yours for a wonderful holiday season. May peace and joy be with all our members and friends. A special thank you to all our volunteers and board members. If you haven't renewed your membership recently, please renew soon for the 2020 calendar year. It hardly seems possible that it will be 2020.

All Laguna Beach Historical Society programs are being held at the Susi Q Center from 7:30 pm to 9pm, with doors opening at 7pm. We looking forward to seeing you!

Mark your calendars! The following are the first three programs in the new year:

Thursday, January 9th: Dr. David Lagrew, Dr. Woody White and Dr. George Harper will present the history of South Orange County's first hospital.

Thursday, March 5th: Bob Borthwick will present the history of the 1935 Laguna Beach Sewage Treatment Plant, also known as the Laguna Beach Digester.

Tuesday in May (TBA): The History of the Pacific Marine Mammal Center in Laguna Beach Canyon

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Online donations gratefully accepted now by PayPal or credit card on our website at: lagunabeachhistory.org

You can also mail this form with your check to:

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

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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.

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 YouTube: Laguna Beach Historical Society

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