

THE LAGUNA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LAGUNA BEACH LIFE | PAST PRESENT FUTURE

NEWS AND UPDATES FOR THIS MONTH:

- *COMMUNITY HISTORY PROGRAMS*
- *RE-OPENING THE BUNGALOW*

Presenting and Preserving History

**For our members, our community,
and for generations to come**



Top 5 Most Popular Videos:

- #1 Pancho Barnes, Moye Stephens, Richard Halliburton
- #2 1963 Eiler Larsen
- #3 "Edgar Payne" by Eric Jessen
- #4 1938 Laguna Beach news: Flood, FDR
- #5 1974 Main Beach Development – Window-to-the-Sea

How to watch?

Visit our YouTube Channel at Laguna Beach Historical Society to watch and subscribe or click the link under LB History at our website <http://lagunabeachhistory.org>

We hope you are all safe and well. During quarantine and along with all the changes in daily routines and social distancing, we needed to move our live/in-person programs at the Susi Q Community Center to a later date.

This was necessary but also a bit disappointing since we had many exciting topics plus ideas in the planning stages. Scheduled for last May was The History of the Pacific Marine Mammal Center. We hope to reschedule this program when things open up. We love and miss our programs - seeing you - we know there is no shortage of history in our small town!

Alternatively, online content provides an opportunity to view some of the wonderful past programs on file. Information and directions were sent to our email list on how to access these videos. Our website remains up and running at lagunabeachhistory.org

Do you have a topic you would like to see that hasn't yet been presented or may need revisiting? Feel free to share with us. Contact information is on the back of this newsletter.

A Message from our President

ED STORKE, PRESIDENT

Greetings from the Laguna Beach Historical Society. I hope that this newsletter finds you healthy and safe in these troubling times. We sincerely appreciate your support. The Historical Society is continuing to function despite restraints imposed due to the pandemic.

Shortly before the shutdown, we participated in the 53rd annual Patriot's Day Parade. Unfortunately, the parade for 2021 has already been cancelled. We once again awarded a college scholarship to a deserving Laguna Beach High School student, Grace Petersen, who plans to major in history at the college of her choice. We could not present the scholarship in person, but the Laguna Beach High School Scholarship Foundation had a virtual convocation.

We continue to collect, catalogue, and preserve historical documents and other artifacts. Contributions continue to be given to the historical society, and we appreciate your generosity. We have negotiated our lease on the Murphy-Smith Bungalow from two years to three years from Wells-Fargo Bank. Our lease is still just \$1.00 per year, we would like to extend a sincere thank you to Wells Fargo Bank.

The Laguna Beach Historical Society board continues to meet regularly and has appointed a task force to recommend guidelines and timelines for reopening the bungalow. In order to do this, we will need additional volunteer docents. You can inquire and/or join by contacting Diane Keplinger at 949-494-7492 or emailing her at dianekep2009@gmail.com.

If you are not currently a member, you are encouraged to join now. If you are currently a member, memberships come due on January 1, 2021. You can join or renew your membership by sending a check in the enclosed envelope or by using our website: lagunabeachhistory.org.

Ed Storke



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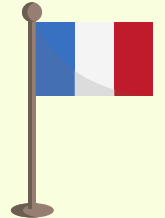
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A French Connection to Laguna's Beaches

GLENNA MATTHEWS



The Greeter's Footprints ~ on the move!



During construction of the Coast Highway Intersection Improvements Project, contractors removed the concrete footprints from their original location within or very close to CalTrans ROW. They were moved yet positioned thoughtfully and as close as possible to the original location and in the general direction Eiler Larsen would have faced as he greeted people on the street and in cars years ago.

Are you old enough to remember what spring break used to be like when thousands of kids flocked to Laguna? It became so overwhelming that the authorities eventually cracked down. I am old enough, and I never imagined that some day I'd be tasked by the Organization of American Historians to evaluate a book in French (which I started studying at Laguna Beach High) for a possible prize and be reading about "le spring break."

This book is a history of the beaches in Los Angeles County, focusing on city planning, environmental history, and the development of a distinctive Southern California beach culture. But it's not limited to Los Angeles, and our town comes up for mention more than once. I'm recommending it highly, because I don't know another book which covers so much so entertainingly. It began as the author's (Elsa Devienne) PhD dissertation in France, but was researched in archives here.



Karen Lagrew, Carol Viebeck Lloyd, Ed Storke, and David Lagrew



Ed Storke, President and Michael Jacques



John Hoover, Carol Viebeck Lloyd and Ed Storke



Michael Jacques and Eric Jessen

Did you know that the first parade was held on February 22, 1967? Laguna Beach High's band director at the time organized it along with the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Exchange Club to promote patriotism among schoolchildren and raise money for band uniforms.

Then and Now... The Patriot's Day Parade

It's been quite a while since The Laguna Beach Historical Society entered the Patriot's Day Parade. President Ed Storke sat in the passenger seat of a bright red vintage convertible driven by local artist, Michael Jacques of Michael Jacques Fine Art. The Laguna Beach High School parking lot was buzzing with energy and full of creative entries with an opportunity for neighbors, friends, and acquaintances to meet and greet during this local tradition spanning 53 years.

The day could not have been prettier and welcomed visitors from near and afar. Sunny clear skies opened over the ocean as the parade headed down Park Avenue. The Spirit of '76 photographs you see here were taken from the film archive of John Kopp. To view the entire video go to: <https://youtu.be/n9F194oB7es> — you may recognize some familiar faces — you will sense the excitement for this annual small town tradition!



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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](https://www.youtube.com/Laguna Beach Historical Society)
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