

FALL 2021

THE LAGUNA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LAGUNA BEACH LIFE | PAST PRESENT FUTURE

**NEWS AND UPDATES
FOR THIS MONTH:**

- JOIN US AND VIEW OUR FALL VIRTUAL PRESENTATION
- HOSPITALITY NIGHT IS DECEMBER 3RD!

Red Guyer "Laguna Legend" Laguna Beach High School Athletics

**Presented by
Glenna Matthews,
Historian**



Portrait of Red Guyer, first Laguna Beach High School yearbook
Signed "Coach"
Photographer Unknown

**Thursday, November 4th
Zoom Webinar**

7:30-8:30 pm

**Visit LagunaBeachHistory.org
for a link to join the webinar**

Maurice "Red" Guyer was the first athletic director at Laguna Beach High School, starting in the fall of 1934 when the school opened its doors. (See his picture taken from the first yearbook.) He didn't retire until 1969—having taken time off to serve in World War II. He even spent time mentoring two generations of young men in some families. In fact, he was labeled by the Los Angeles Times at the time of his retirement as a "Laguna Legend."

His record supports the "legend" label. In his years at LBHS, his track teams won fifteen league championships, and his football teams won eight. Two men who graduated from LBHS during the Guyer years, John Pitts and Clarence Oliver, would go on to play football in the NFL. It's not surprising then that Coach Guyer was inducted into both the California Coaches Hall of Fame and the Orange County Sports Hall of Fame.
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A Message from our President

ED STORKE, PRESIDENT

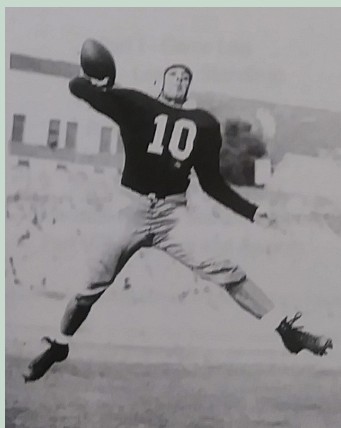
Welcome! The historical society is returning to normal operations reaffirming our commitment to preserving the history of Laguna Beach. We appreciate your participation and support.

I am pleased to announce that we have a special exhibition coming to our house-museum-headquarters at the Murphy-Smith Bungalow, 278 Ocean Ave, located between Wells Fargo Bank and Whole Foods.

This new exhibit will feature the commemoration of the ninetieth anniversary of the Rotary Club of Laguna Beach. It was founded in November, 1931, during the travails of the Great Depression and is still going strong. It will be ready for viewing after Halloween each Friday and Saturday from 1 to 4 pm.

We plan to have more regular viewing hours when we have more volunteer staff. (We are an all-volunteer non-profit organization.) We strongly invite you to visit this exhibition. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Ed Storke



How did a young man who was raised in Chillicothe, Illinois wind up in Laguna Beach? On November 4th, Laguna Beach Historical Society board member (and professional historian) Glenna Matthews will present the results of several months of research into Coach Guyer's life and career. She was fortunate enough to interview Don Guyer, the Coach's son, and to be given access to Don's collection of family photos.

Glenna, who graduated from Laguna Beach High School in 1955, says that she has fond memories of Coach Guyer, though she never had any direct interaction with the man in charge of men's athletics. Glenna's family arrived in Laguna Beach in the spring of 1946, thus in time for the landmark fall football season that year. The team not only won the Orange League championship but also defeated Brawley for the CIF crown, small school division. That year the big star was LaVerne Dugger, who would later go on to teach in Laguna's public schools and to coach as well. (See the picture of Dugger in action.)

Today the legacies of Red Guyer and of Laverne Dugger are enshrined at Laguna Beach High, the school they both loved and served so well. If you've wondered why it's Guyer Field and Dugger Gym, this brief account will give you some idea.

Zoom in on November 4 at 7:30 p.m., and you'll see and learn much more!

Photo at far left and on cover:

LaVerne Dugger throwing a pass as the most valuable player of the undefeated 1946 football team that also won the Small School Division CIF.

Photo at left:

Red Guyer with his wife Louise, Courtesy of Don Guyer

Photograph at right:

Red Guyer firing the starting round at a race. Courtesy Don Guyer



Laguna Beach Historical Society Archival Committee

Our Archive Committee consists of a group of board members, led by Laurie Sanders, a resident in town who holds a Master's in Library Science and has been an employee with the Newport Beach Public Library for years. The archives are housed on the upper floors of the Wells Fargo building next to the Murphy Smith bungalow.

Archive donations of paintings, drawings, and photographs have been collected throughout the years. Three-dimensional objects such as pottery and sculpture have been donated.

Recently we were asked if we would like a piece of the old Cleo Street Barge! We have parts of the original pool from LBHS and a piece of The Tell, an art piece with history rooted in Laguna Canyon. Other pieces include signs from realtors and other local businesses that were near and dear to many. You can visit the Acord's Market sign in the bungalow. Sports and park ranger uniforms are also part of our archives along with letters and documents including old phone books, yearbooks, menus, and programs from The Festival of the Arts.

These artifacts are found in garages, yard sales, estate sales, flea markets, e-bay and even walking through Laguna's alleys.

These come to us in the form of emails, phone messages to the bungalow, walk-ins, and sometimes through our member connections.

We treasure our archives and our commitment is to honor Laguna Beach History through our mission statement.



From the Archive Collection



Quilt donated made by Laguna Beach 5th Graders in 1937

Pottery Shack sign with Dorothy Kindell Pottery

A tax deductible form is provided for donations to the historical society archives.

Board Member SPOTLIGHT

Heidi Miller

Photographed by Douglas Miller

Heidi has been a small business owner and resident for many years. She is known for her acts of service and her love and knowledge of our community. If you've visited our Little Free Library on the bungalow porch you can find some of her donations.

Why did you choose to serve on the board?

"As a 43-year resident, I'm passionate about teaching others about our iconic history."

Why do you think your position on the board is a good match for you?

"Because it's filled with Laguna History buffs. Our board consists of every age group, each with lessons and stories to tell of their experiences here in this magical town."

What is your favorite part of working with the LB Historical Society? "My favorite part of being on the board are the friendships I have made with other board members whose families have been a part of Laguna for 100 years. Our historic presentations are like a window into Laguna Beach past. I always leave amazed, inspired and ready to continue the tradition. Absolutely fascinating."



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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)
Visit our Website: lagunabeachhistory.org
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