

**Laguna Beach  
Historical Society**  
Murphy-Smith Bungalow  
278 Ocean Avenue  
Laguna Beach CA 92651  
949-497-6834



# Laguna Life

**The Laguna Beach Historical Society Newsletter: Oct. 2012**

**Please attend Historical Society Program to be held at  
Laguna Beach City Hall Council Chambers, 505 Forest Avenue  
Tuesday, September 25th – from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.  
Edgar Payne by Eric Jessen**



**Edgar Payne**

The curators of the current Edgar Payne exhibition contacted Eric Jessen over three years ago and asked him to find the locations for 15 of Payne's paintings deep in the back country of the Eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains. In addition Eric was given a similar assignment for some of Payne's majestic Laguna canvases. Our September 25 program will feature Eric describing in vivid detail the art-sleuth detective work that went into solving the mysteries of some of these painting locations. PBS has produced a documentary associated with this undertaking which will be aired on KLCS (Cox Channel 38 in Laguna Beach) at 9:00 PM on October 7 and 10:00 PM on October 9.

Edgar Payne was the driving force and the first President of the Laguna Beach Art Association which was founded in 1918, the oldest cultural institution in the County of Orange.

Edgar Alwin Payne was born on March 1, 1882 in Washburn, Missouri. Payne left home at an early age and earned a living as a house painter. He spent a very brief time at the Art Institute of Chicago, and otherwise was a self-taught artist. He met his wife, Elsie Palmer in San Francisco, California, and married her the following year.

Frank Cuprien wrote in the 1933 Festival of the Arts program "It was in the Summer of 1918, when a number of artists were painting Laguna scenery. Among them was Edgar Payne, who had been here before, but at this particular time conceived the idea that Laguna Beach should have a Gallery. His eyes turned to the old town hall. as you might call it; a building put up by local residents and used

for most anything. It was almost a wreck, but we banded together and formed the Laguna Beach Art Association, consisting of about twenty-five people, both artists and laymen.

The president and officers for the first year were: Edgar Payne, President; Anna A. Hills, Vice President; Mrs. Thaddeus Lowe, Second Vice President; Nevada Lindsey, Secretary; Henry De Kruif, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. E. E. Jahraus, Treasurer; Directors: E. E. Jahraus, Joseph Skidmore and F. W. Cuprien.

We then proceeded to improve the old building with the consent of the owners of the land, The Yoch Company. We put in a skylight, covered the walls with gray building paper, hung electric bulbs on suspended wires, and oiled the old floor. We were ready by August and had our first exhibition, which was acclaimed a great success. Visitors came from far and wide and to our surprise, we made twenty-one sales the first year.

But this was only the beginning. A large Gallery was our ideal. So we gave lectures, concerts, plays, and in 1921, the Indian Pageant. From the proceeds of these activities, and with the sale of paintings donated by the artists, sold at a wonderful reception at St. Ann's Inn, we purchased the land and built the present new Gallery.”

## Edgar Payne: The Scenic Journey

In honor of its tenth anniversary, the Pasadena Museum of California Art is presenting a retrospective of artist Edgar Payne (1883–1947), one of the most gifted and beloved of California’s early plein-air painters. With its majestic, vital landscape subjects and a bravura application of pigment, Payne’s work exemplifies the power and dynamism that distinguishes California Impressionism from the more genteel French Impressionism of the 18th century. The first major exhibition of his work in over forty years, The Scenic Journey traces Payne’s artistic development as he traveled the world and features over 100 objects, from paintings and drawings to photographs and studio artifacts.

The Pasadena Museum of California Art is at 490 East Union Street, Pasadena, CA 91101. Their phone is 626-568-3665. Museum hours are Wednesday – Sunday from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. The exhibition closes after October 14<sup>th</sup>.



Edgar Payne with Wife Elsie  
Palmer Payne married 1913

**Pavilion built 1900 made into Art Gallery  
1918 located what is now the parking lot of  
the Hotel Laguna.  
Photo thanks to Michael Onorato**

**Art Gallery built 1928 Cliff Drive  
at Coast Boulevard (1939 Photo)  
Tom Pulley Postcard Collection**



*View Laguna Photos at [www.Laguna-Historical-Society.smugmug.com](http://www.Laguna-Historical-Society.smugmug.com)*

### Laguna Beach Historical Society Board of Directors

Gregg De Nicola	Anne Frank	Gene Felder - Treasurer
John Hoover	Jane Janz	Eric Jessen
Ronald Kaufman	Glenna Matthews	Francie Holder Pemper
Laurie Sanders	Vern Spitaleri	Karen Smith – Vice President
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# Thanks to Historical Society Business / Organization Members

Wells Fargo Bank H.J Baker & Bro.,Inc.

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## Remember the Laguna Beach Historical Society in Your Planned Giving



Mike Suhy on Main Beach drove truck for Laguna Lumber, Washed Dishes for Mr. Metz at Broiler, was Volunteer Fireman - Robert Story Photo Album



Jane Story in front Boat Storage Shacks north end Main Beach Peanuts Larsen Shaped Surfboard - Robert Story Photo Album

DVDs of past Laguna Beach Historical Society programs are now available at the Murphy-Smith Bungalow. You can have your own copy to keep or borrow to view at home and then return. If kept, we'd appreciate a \$6 donation covering the reproduction costs; however, the donation is optional.

The Historical Society has a scrapbook from the 1957 Little League and thinks it would be a great future program. We are busy scanning in the material, and request anyone from that era of Little League who has material or who would like to participate in the program to contact Historical Society Board Member Gene Felder at 929-7257 or [Gene@Felders.Net](mailto:Gene@Felders.Net). We are planning future program Pottery in Laguna Beach and request photos, information from people who have information on Laguna Beach pottery.

### Main Beach Date 1939-1942



Thanks to Historical Society member Lindy Narver who sent in a newspaper clipping from the South Coast News July 19, 1938 about President Franklin D. Roosevelt being driven through Laguna Beach on July 16, 1938. The President was greeted by the Welcoming Committee headed by Mayor Howard G. Heisler and the "Dean of the Laguna Art Colony" Frank Cuprien. Last year we had a program including showing a movie clip of the event, and thanks to Lindy, we can now identify many more people in the clip.

# President's Message by Kimberly Stuart

## Edgar Payne by Eric Jessen

**Tuesday, September 25th from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.**

Please attend the Laguna Beach Historical Society program. It is of course free, and will be held at the Laguna Beach City Hall Council Chambers, 505 Forest Avenue. The program will be videotaped and is to be televised on the local Cox Cable channel 30.

We thank Board Member John Hoover and Vice-President Karen Smith for the enhancements they have made to the interior and exterior, and ongoing care of the Murphy-Smith Bungalow. Over the years, improvements and maintenance have included the sewer line, painting, lath and plaster repair, electrical and plumbing work, water heater, glass, gas heater, and tree trimming. In addition, volunteer Steve Winke has been doing a great job cleaning up and caring for the outside grounds and gardens.

However, we now have an opportunity to significantly upgrade the Bungalow. The Bungalow is leased from the Wells Fargo Bank and the latest lease renewal expires December 31, 2012.

For the first time Wells Fargo Bank has inspected the property and lists repairs for the Society to perform. The Board would certainly like to have the improvements made, however, it would require a significant increase in our fundraising and solicitation of in lieu contributions.

So please help if you can; inspection findings include:

- Some issues with electrical wiring
- Fascia and eve's boards are suffering from exposure, dry rot and termite damage
- Two windows are in need of replacement
- Entire structure is in need of painting
- Roofing repair - raised fascia area is exposed – replace roofing
- Remove deteriorating window caulk and apply new window caulking.
- Estimated Costs: \$28,000.00 to \$32,000.00

We thank the City of Laguna Beach for a generous \$1,500 grant from the Community Assistance program. These funds contribute to the operations of our free educational programs each year.

Step back into 1920s Laguna by visiting the Laguna Beach Historical Society Murphy-Smith Bungalow, located at 278 Ocean Avenue, which is open to the public at no-charge every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Those interested in supporting the Laguna Beach Historical Society should send \$15 per individual, \$25 per household or \$50 per business/organization to 278 Ocean Avenue, Laguna Beach CA 92651. The Laguna Beach Historical Society is a section 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. Tax ID #33-0519882.

**If your Dues are due (check your mailing label) Send \$15 per person, \$25 per household or \$50 per business or organization to Laguna Beach Historical Society,**

**278 Ocean Avenue, Laguna Beach CA 92651**

**To be added to the mailing/email list please provide the following information:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_