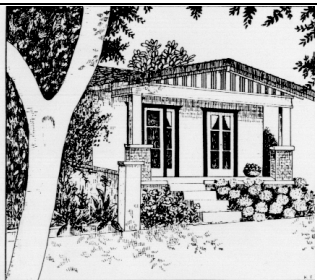


Laguna Beach
 Historical Society
 Murphy-Smith Bungalow
 278 Ocean Avenue
 Laguna Beach CA 92651



Laguna Life

The Laguna Beach Historical Society Newsletter: Nov 2008

Please attend Historical Society Program to be held at
 Laguna Beach City Hall Council Chambers, 505 Forest Avenue
 Monday, November 17th – from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.

“The Legend of Pancho Barnes”

Hollywood's first woman stunt pilot, Laguna resident

by Nick Spark, writer-producer of a television documentary on Barnes

Florence "Pancho" Barnes, considered Hollywood's first female stunt pilot and an influential woman in early aviation. "Pancho" Barnes was a society woman turned daring woman of action. She gained renown as a tough and fearless pilot, who performed as a barnstormer throughout California and briefly worked as a test pilot for Lockheed. She was a friend and competitor of another woman air pioneer, Amelia Earhart, and broke Earhart's air speed record by flying at 196 miles per hour in 1930. For a time, Pancho maintained a residence in Laguna Beach that was well-known as a party house. It was equipped with its own air strip on what is now McKnight Drive.

Pancho Barnes Pilot's License signed by Orville Wright

Photographs courtesy of the Pancho Barnes Trust Estate Archive and Estate of George Hurrell



Pancho Barnes Pilot License

Photo by George Hurrell 1928



Laguna Beach Historical Society Board of Directors

| | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Kimberly Stuart - President | Anne Frank – Vice Pres. | Nelda Stone - Secretary |
| Gene Felder – Treasurer | Eric Jessen | Francie Holder |
| John Hoover | Jane Janz | Ronald Kaufman |
| Glenna Mathews | Ed Perry | Tom Simpson |
| Vern Spitaleri | Georgina Valdez | Victoria Winters |
| Notice: the Board Members will stand for election at the program Monday, Nov 17, 2008 | | |

For those having treasured historic photographs or printed material, the Historical Society is happy to scan them electronically and return them to the owners. This way there will be a record preserved for future generations without the necessity for the owners to relinquish the item.

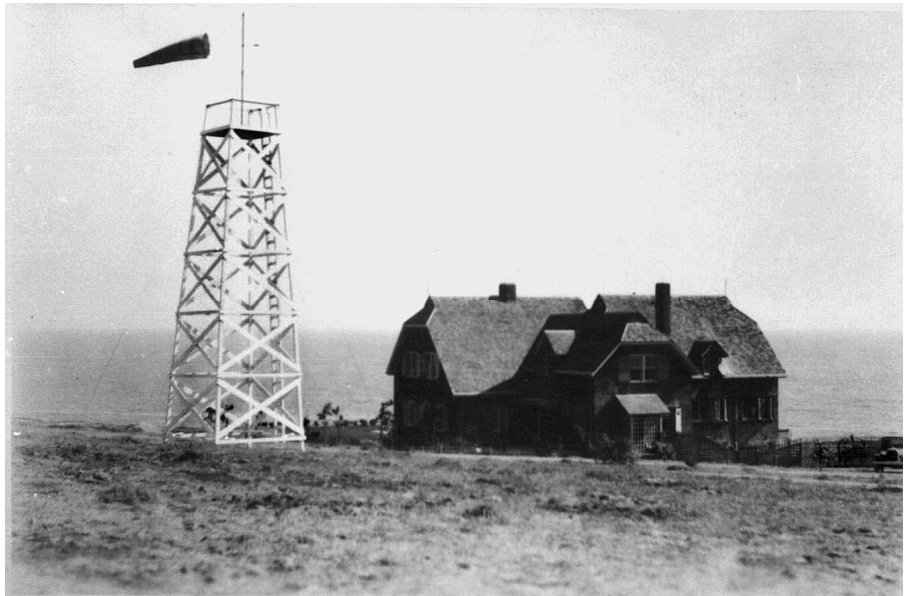
From Roger W. Jones “Laguna Beach An Illustrated, Narrative History”

“Florence "Pancho" Barnes, the famed aviatrix from the 1920s, who at one time was known as "the fastest woman on earth". She competed in the first Powder Puff Derby and in 1930 beat Amelia Earhart's cross country air speed record. Aviation was still in its infancy then and female pilots were few and far between. In her book, *The Happy Bottom Riding Club*, an entertaining biography of Pancho Barnes, Lauren Kessler points out that in the summer of 1929, there were only 34 women licensed pilots out of 4690 total in America.”

“Of all the characters that have lived in Laguna Beach, Pancho Barnes was arguably the most colorful. An heiress from Pasadena, she ...was a head-strong, rebellious woman with a wanton personality. In his book *Fly Away Home*, John Weld gives his impression of Pancho Barnes:

In creating her, the gods had erred. She had a short neck, a stocky body, a baritone voice, face hair, which she shaved, and an unwomanly personality. Characterwise she was an iconoclast, a nonconformist, a rebel. At Pasadena High School she had become notorious because of her bizarre behavior, one aspect of which was smoking cigars. She had acquired the nick-name, "Pancho" when, disguised as a man, she crewed on a banana ship to Panama’.”

Pancho Barnes Airstrip (where now McKnight Drive)



1928 Pancho Barnes Photo by George Hurrell



Laguna Artist
William Wendt



See New Exhibition at Laguna Art Museum at 307 Cliff Drive In Nature's Temple: The Life and Art of William Wendt

November 9, 2008 - February 8, 2009

In Nature's Temple: The Life and Art of William Wendt will be the first full-scale retrospective on the art of William Wendt. In 1912 William Wendt was elected an Associate Member of the National Academy of Design, the same year that he built a studio-home in Laguna Beach. In many ways, Wendt represented the essential nature of California Impressionism both stylistically and ideologically. No other California Impressionist so consistently essayed the sweeping, romantic grand landscape view as Wendt, and no other painter so strongly equated his work with the ideology of Nature as Creation, and Nature as a spiritual path. Dapper, distinguished, and much admired by his many followers, Wendt functioned as a very visible example of what an artist should aspire to, and his ongoing career summarized the idealism that was the foundation of California art in the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries



*Photos from
the Merle
Ramsey
Photograph
Collection*

Merle Ramsey
Old Well in
Laguna Canyon
which dates to
1907

Wedding Day
of Joseph &
Marie Harding
Frazier
Thurston July
1921



The Honeymooners and Marie's daughters

THE HONEYMOONERS
In July of 1921 Joseph Thurston and Marie Frazier
were married and spent their honeymoon at Catalina
Island.

Thanks to Historical Society Business / Organization Members

Borthwick Guy Bettenhausen Butler Box & Stake Charles' Wig Chateau
Emerald Bay Community Association Exchange Club of Laguna Beach
Laguna Beach Visitors & Conference Bureau Laguna Art Museum
LBHS Artists Class of "63" Realtor Monica Mukai Reynolds Carpet Service
Stewarts Landscaping ... Village Laguna

Make Suggestions for Historical Society Future Programs

**Laguna Beach Historical Society information is at
www.LagunaHistory.org**

President's Message by Kimberly Stuart

A 4th Historic Society program this year, a first for us. On November 17, 2008, we will get to hear writer-producer Nick Spark and "The Legend of Pancho Barnes". We will get to see a portion of his film which is scheduled to air on KOCE-TV, the PBS station in Orange County, early next year.

For more information, visit the website: www.legendofpanchobarnes.com. Donations for the completion of the film are welcome.

Laguna Beach should be very proud of the number of streets named after artists including Cuprien, Griffith, Hinkle, and Wendt. Do go see the new exhibition and lectures at the Laguna Art Museum on Laguna Impressionist artist William Wendt. He built a studio-home in Laguna Beach in 1912 and "In Nature's Temple: The Life and Art of William Wendt" will run from November 9, 2008 closing on February 8, 2009. Don't miss it.

We thank web master Ryen Caen for his support and invite you to see www.LagunaHistory.org where photos and additional information can be viewed.

Now you can buy, if they still have some, the new colorful postage stamps "TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME" at your favorite mailing shop or the post office.

Remember, we take special care when we borrow, scan and return your cherished historic photos or documents of Laguna Beach people, places, and events.

Thank you to all our regular volunteers who help achieve the board's top priority to ensure that the Murphy-Smith Bungalow is open to be enjoyed and experienced by members and the public. It's a fun experience to meet, share stories and photos with locals and visitors who love our town. But we need more volunteers. If interested, please call Gene Felder at 939-7257.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the history of Laguna Beach.

Those interested in supporting and joining 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.

While supplies last, those donating \$100 to the Laguna Beach Historical Society will receive a copy of Joan Irvine Smith's new book "A California Woman's Story".

If your Dues are due (see 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**

Name _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

FAX: _____ email: _____