

## President's Message



Happy New Year! Celebrating and preserving Dana Point history is our mission and that includes providing learning opportunities. One of the ways we inform the public about our area is through our large archived historic photo collection. It allows us to visually share Dana Point's past and it also provides a modest income, which assists our organization in helping to finance other projects, including museum exhibits, artifact and book purchases, and outreach. Sandie Iverson, director of our historic photo collection, and committee volunteers work to repair historic photos, research their provenance and place orders for photo reproductions. Our pictures are currently on display in homes, city buildings, local businesses and in our museum. Together with the Dana Point Harbor Business Association, the Historical Society created a series of 12 Dana Point Harbor historic photo banners that we have displayed for more than a decade at annual events in the harbor, including the Festival of Whales, the Tall Ships Festival and the 2016 Dana Point Harbor 50-Year Time Capsule Celebration. In the last few months we have shared our photos or made agreements to provide photos for displays at the Ocean Institute, Doheny State Beach and with private individuals who are writing books or doing research. Each project requires a signed agreement limiting the use of our photos to the stated purpose. Through our photo collection, the Society tells myriad stories of our area and preserves the memories of the people and places that have come to define our community.

On January 2, your Board of Directors unanimously voted to share our historic photos with a new project, the Capistrano Beach Historic (Photos) Fence Project. The initial phase is proposed for the Victoria Boulevard area, southeast of Camino Capistrano. As presented to us by Toni Nelson of Capo Cares, "This is an opportunity to improve community aesthetics and provide an interesting historic attraction for the neighborhood and visiting tourists. It will be an exciting collaboration between the City of Dana Point, Capo Cares, the Dana Point Historical Society, Capo Beach Church and businesses . . ." The historic photos will be printed on heavy-duty vinyl material attached with grommets to a chain link fence similar to the Dana Point Harbor Photo Banners we use each year at our booths. If you would like to learn more, this project proposal will be presented to the Arts & Culture Commission on February 7, and is subject to their approval. Capistrano Beach has a rich history to share. The railroad came to "Serra," a small village named for Father Serra, in 1887. Railroad speculators renamed the village *San Juan-by-the-Sea*, where the San Juan Station, resort buildings and the Pioneer Hotel were built. It was the Pioneer Hotel where Madame Modjeska lavishly entertained 20 guests for much of the summer in 1892. When the resort fizzled due to competition and a depression, the name returned to Serra --- where Blanche Dolph built her 1914 home, the city's oldest existing residence. If one adds together the 1920s Capistrano Beach development of the Doheny family, their 1930s donation of land creating Doheny State Beach and local surfing and sailing history, a fascinating historic photo walk can be created.

Your generous donations of gifts, time and membership dues are very much appreciated. Please consider sending in your membership dues with the enclosed envelope or bringing it with you to our Annual Meeting on January 24th. Please join our members and guests as we congratulate our 10th Pat Plepler Citizenship Award Recipient, honor a past founder of the Dana Point Historical Society and enjoy the company of friends.

*Barbara Force Johannes*

## Eric Plunkett Set as February 28 Program Speaker

On Wednesday, February 28, the Dana Point Historical Society will present history enthusiast Eric Plunkett as our featured Speaker. Eric has researched and written about much of the early days of our area. At our event, he will discuss parts of his upcoming book which includes the history of the hide droghers and details of the shipping industry during past centuries as it pertains to California. The program will begin at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall. A reception at the museum will follow.

