



The  
News

# DROGHER

March 2013

*You're Invited!*



THE MARCH MEETING OF THE DANA POINT HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL BE THE GRAND OPENING AND RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY OF OUR NEW MUSEUM LOCATED IN SUITE 104 OF DANA POINT CITY HALL. CITY OFFICIALS, DPHS MEMBERS AND GUESTS WILL GATHER ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, AT 4:30 PM FOR THIS EVENT, FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION GIVEN BY THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY. PLEASE BE SURE TO JOIN US ON THIS VERY SPECIAL DAY.

## Historical Society Announces New Acquisition

Among the exhibits at our museum opening on March 27 will be a preview of the **Knowlton Fernald Collection**, which features Monarch Bay as part of the early 1960s Laguna Niguel development. This is a significant addition to our archives because this development began in 1959. It was July 1, 1960, when Laguna Niguel acquired an additional 234 acres of coastal land that formed most of the subdivisions of Monarch Bay and Monarch Bay Terrace. The original structures in these subdivisions, built in the California Modern architectural style, are now approaching historic significance.

It was under the direction of architectural firm Ladd & Kelsey and the Laguna Niguel Corporation's architects Knowlton Fernald, Jr., Ricardo Nicol and Arthur Schiller, that the California Modern planned community took shape. Fernald, Nicol and Schiller designed plans for the original post-and-beam homes in Monarch Bay and the Monarch Bay Mall as well as the first homes in Niguel Terrace, now called Monarch Bay Terrace. One of these architecturally significant homes by Fernald, touted for its California Monterey ranch styling and white-water views, is currently on today's real estate market as a "Statement Home." Perhaps *it* could be the first California Modern home on the City's Historic Register.

Mr. Fernald served as Vice President of Planning, Architecture and Engineering of the Laguna Niguel Corporation for 10 years. He served as Project Manager for many of the corporation's land planning and building projects that were honored with a total of 14 national awards for architectural, interior and graphic design. These projects have appeared frequently in national publications.

The Dana Point Historical Society wishes to gratefully acknowledge Jane Fernald, her husband, Simon Lopez, and her brother, David Fernald, for their donation of the Monarch Bay area files of Knowlton Fernald Jr., AIA, to our collections.



The Dana Point Historical Society, in collaboration with the City of Dana Point, presented the third annual public reading of Richard Henry Dana Jr.'s *Two Years Before the Mast* as a feature of the 2013 Festival of Whales. The reading took place at the Nature Interpretive Center and was completed over a three-day period utilizing approximately 90 readers. Shown at left is the committee for this event which includes Elizabeth Bamattre, Marsha LaRusso, Georgelean Olvera and Ann Liebowitz. *Photo by Howard Liebowitz.*



## President's Message



March is a 'whale of a month' for the Dana Point Historical Society. Our organization's entry in the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Festival of Whales Parade was a classic 1929 Packard limousine courtesy of the owner, Mr. Charlie Beuchat, and arranged by the City of Dana Point Community Services & Parks. Eight members rode or walked with the Dana Point Historical Society Banner and historical photographs to represent our mission in the community. While we were checking in at the parade assembly area, Max Brown and committee were efficiently setting up the DPHS booth on Harbor Drive as part of the FOW Art in the Park. Many thanks to the 17 volunteers who organized, set up the tent, tables and merchandise, manned the booth for two days and then took it down and back to the museum each evening.

March 8, 9 & 10 marked our third annual public reading of *Two Years Before The Mast* at which approximately 90 community volunteers read at the Nature Interpretive Center from Friday afternoon through Sunday noon. Elizabeth Bamattre, Ann Liebowitz, Georgelean Olvera and Marsha LaRusso also recruited 36 folks new to the experience. It is quite an undertaking to schedule 90 people in 10-minute slots over three days. The DPHS booth with our historic photos and merchandise moved to the Nature Interpretive Center on Saturday and Sunday in support of the public reading, where 15 members again volunteered. Then, of course, all the merchandise, equipment, banners and pictures had to be returned to the museum or the storage unit the following week. We appreciate everything Sean Vogt, Natural Resources Preservation Officer, did to welcome us to the center.

As if all this weren't enough, four DPHS Walking Tours were held during the FOW weekends, led by Terry Walsh, chair, Keith Johannes, Elizabeth Bamattre, and Rene Cortez, and enjoyed by members and visitors each afternoon. All of these activities provided fun opportunities to get to know our members better, meet new people and welcome visitors to Dana Point. That is what the Festival of Whales is all about.

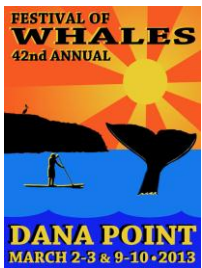
March 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. is the ribbon-cutting ceremony of our new museum at City Hall Plaza. Please mark your calendar to attend. Mayor Steven Weinberg, city council members and the Chamber of Commerce will officiate, followed by a reception for guests and members. Ross Teasley and the Museum Committee are feverishly working on getting ready for the opening. Kirsten Reynolds has done a great deal of research and travel for our exhibits. Rod Howorth is taking inventory on merchandise, Rene Cortez is ordering historic photos and we are attempting to organize materials even while planning FOW activities and monthly programs.

My thanks to Marlene and Bruce Beal for arranging our February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting with local surfing great Mickey Munoz. More than 50 guests enjoyed Mickey's slides and his experiences as a waterman. Thank you, Mickey! We are so fortunate to have a dedicated board of directors and each of you, our loyal members. I look forward to seeing you at our festive opening on Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

*Barbara Force Johannes*

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## A Whale of a Parade!



In this very special 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Historical Society we were honored to march in the Festival of Whales parade on Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Parade coordinators arranged for us be chauffeured in a 1929 Packard limousine owned and driven by owner Charlie Beuchat.



Seen here are Rene Cortez, Ken Boyd, Ann Leibowitz, Heidi Hyde, Max Brown, Barbara and Keith Johannes, and Liz Claus. Some were lucky enough to ride in this elegant machine (including Rene's grandson, Keegan) while others carried our DPHS banner or enlarged historic photographs. Beautiful weather made the day a success!





Margaret (Peg) Serences, a long-time Dana Point resident and Historical Society member, recently passed away. Peg lived in one of the most charming of Sidney Woodruff's houses on the bluff overlooking the harbor—a house that was twice open to us for our annual Home Tour. Peg was a great supporter of the Historical Society and recorded for us an oral history in which she discussed the early days of Dana Point.

She came here with her family in 1951 when the population was about 2,000, when there were no schools and one had to go to Laguna Beach for any shopping. The children went to school in Capistrano Beach and then to San Clemente High School. Peg's husband, John, formerly an engineer at Douglas Aircraft Co., became a moving force in the water district of this area and, over the years, helped consolidate and modernize the system. Peg expressed great love for the community in those days because everyone knew everyone else and she participated in a great many meetings of various organizations and in social activities at the Community House—truly a community center.

Once her children were off to school, Peg started on a quest to get a college degree and, eventually, her teaching credentials. She graduated from UCI with a BA in English in 1968 and went on to Cal. State Fullerton to complete her teaching credentials. She taught at Marco Forster Junior High as well as San Clemente and Dana Hills High Schools. In addition to her teaching talents, Peg studied art, was an accomplished painter, and further expressed her artistic ability by making exquisite dolls—including the porcelain heads, and the bodies, as well as the beautiful costumes.

In Peg Serences we have lost a true pioneer of our community, an ardent Historical Society supporter and one who contributed so much to the distinctive city that Dana Point has become.

*Mary Crowl*

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## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

So many of our successes occur because of the people who volunteer long hours to plan and execute the many events in which DPHS participates. This month is a particularly strenuous month for volunteers, starting with the Festival of Whales parade, setting up and manning the FOW booth, accompanying visitors on our historic walking tour, and coordinating and running the *Three Years Before the Mast* reading. During all this volunteers are working long hours to prepare the exhibits for our museum opening later this month, and others are working to be sure our website is reflecting our current exciting 25<sup>th</sup> year.

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## Let's Go Digital!

Printing costs for our newsletter is one of our largest monthly bills. The Dana Point Historical Society will now make our newsletter available online, through our website. Some of our members have expressed an interest in receiving the *News Drogher* only in a digital format. Others still want only a print copy. Some people may use both if more than one family member reads our newsletter.

All members will continue to receive our newsletter in a print format UNLESS they tell us otherwise. If you want only the print version, no response is required at this time.

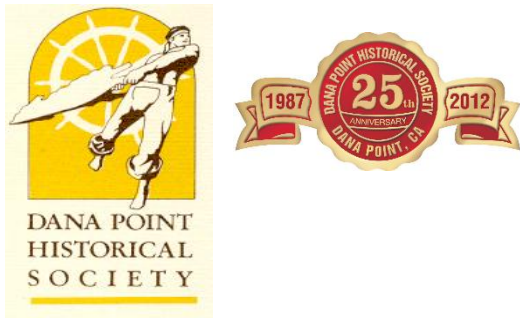
If you would like to receive our newsletter in a digital format, please use the information below. You may add more than one email for other members in your household or those who are not living at home, such as college students or those temporarily living out of town.

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- 1) Tell us your name and mailing address.
- 2) Tell us if you want ONLY the digital version, OR BOTH the digital and print versions.
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## Membership Dues

Thanks to all who have renewed your membership dues. We appreciate your commitment to our mission, which is to celebrate and preserve the history of Dana Point for current and future generations. Our activities, such as the newsletter, program meetings, collection and preservation of documents and photographs are funded by your dues.

A special thank you to **Forrest Owen**, who increased his membership from Patron to Life Member. As a Life Member he received the DVD, *Dana Point, my home town*, Vol 1 & 2.

For those who have not renewed their membership, this is just a reminder that renewal is on an annual basis and was due in January. When you renew your membership you will receive a membership card that provides a 10 percent discount on our merchandise, such as books, cards, photos, T-shirts, caps, etc. Please consider renewing today.

All contributions are tax deductible as the Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, EIN 33-0359288.

*Regina Barnes*

## Mickey Mesmerizes!

Mickey Munoz entertained us at our last monthly meeting on February 27. His slide presentation, along with his many stories as an experienced surfer and waterman, intrigued a packed room. Introduced by Bruce and Marlene Beal, Mickey also brought along copies of his new book so members could get a personal signature and message.



Many thanks to Ann Shultz and those who brought snacks and refreshments for this very interesting evening. If you are interested in Mickey's book, you can visit:

[www.MickeyMunoz.com](http://www.MickeyMunoz.com).

## April 24 Meeting

Remember that Eric Jesson of the Laguna Beach Historical Society will make a presentation about open spaces and community areas in Dana Point. Be sure to join us for his very knowledgeable and experienced insights.