



The News Drogher

Holiday 2025



Please join us for our Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 7th, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at our museum, located in Dana Point City Hall. Come raise a glass of cheer, have a holiday snack and check out our new keepsake ornament, available for purchase for the first time!

We also invite attendees to bring new, unwrapped toys suitable for children, or gift cards for teens, which will be collected by DPHS Board Vice President Bob Minty, who will deliver them to Camp Pendleton for its annual toy drive.

***We hope to see you on December 7!
Happy Holidays!***

President's Message



We are excited to invite everyone to the upcoming Open House on December 7th, which will be held at the museum from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. During this special event, guests will have the opportunity to purchase our latest Christmas ornament, inspired by Richard Henry Dana's renowned book, *Two Years Before the Mast*. This unique ornament is truly a must-have for collectors and history enthusiasts alike. Our heartfelt thanks go to Kirsten Reynolds for her beautiful design and the many hours she dedicated to bringing this project to fruition. We encourage all members and friends to join us for what promises to be a joyous afternoon.

I would like to extend sincere appreciation to my Board of Directors and Committee Chairs for their unwavering commitment to propelling our Historical Society into the 21st century while ensuring that the museum remains open for both research and visitors. At our September meeting, we had the privilege of honoring one of our own, Keith Johannes, by presenting him with the Founders Day Award in recognition of his many years devoted to preserving the vitality of our organization. We thank DPHS board member Joel Bishop for always being there to record our history.

Our participation in the September Maritime Festival, led by Gary Macrides, our First Vice President, was a tremendous success. We had Society volunteers for the Dana Point Trolley Art & History Tour and our outreach booth generated impressive merchandise sales, thanks to the tireless efforts of our dedicated Board of Directors. Thanks to volunteers Elizabeth and Bill Bamattre, Gary and Stella Prenovost, Heidi Hyde, Barbara and Keith Johannes, Jeff and Vickie Lander, Jim Proett, Robin Valles, and our outstanding Tile Chair, Randy Roberts. This year, Randy surpassed expectations by selling over \$2,000 worth of tiles. If you have not yet purchased a commemorative tile, we encourage you to consider doing so. We thank DPHS board member Bob Minty for showcasing his historic Woody at these special events.

During the annual Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving, the Dana Point Chamber of Commerce honored our organization as one of its charity partners. We are grateful to have been awarded a grant of \$7,500, which will greatly assist in archiving the many important documents housed in our museum for the use of future generations. Special thanks are due to Rocky Parker, our Archive Chair, whose dedication to writing the grant and countless hours of work made this achievement possible.

We thank our other dedicated board members, Judy Henderson, Nancy Jenkins, Robin Valles and Grant Earl. Finally, we wouldn't be reading this wonderful publication if not for the work of editor Max Brown. Thank you to everyone who has supported us and the happiest of holidays to all.

Marsha LaRusso



Presenting Dana Point Historical Society's
Third in a Series of Collectible Ornaments
~ 2025 Ornament ~

Celebrating Dana Point's Namesake, Richard Henry Dana, Jr.
Featuring His Classic Memoir,
TWO YEARS BEFORE THE MAST



Finished in brilliant 24K gold, proudly made in the U.S.A.
and elegantly gift-boxed with description brochure

\$35.00 (tax included)

Quantities are limited!

Ornament may be purchased at the **DPHS Museum** in City Hall Plaza
Museum hours: Tues., Thurs. and Sat. 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

33282 Golden Lantern #104, Dana Point, CA 92629
(949) 248-8121 museum@danapointhistorical.org



ORNAMENT ORDER FORM

Name/Business: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Number of ornaments purchased: (_____) X **\$35.00** each (tax included) = \$ _____

____ Check enclosed*: OR: Please charge my credit card: ____ Visa ____ Mastercard

Account # _____ cvv Code ____ Expire (mm/yy) _____

Print name exactly as it appears on the card _____

Signature (required on all credit card orders) _____

____ I will pick up ornament(s) at the DPHS Museum.

____ I will pick up ornament(s) at the December Holiday Open House at the DPHS Museum.

____ I will call to schedule an appointment to pick up ornament(s) during museum hours at the DPHS Museum.

Phone: (949) 248-8121 - 33282 Golden Lantern St., Suite #104, Dana Point, CA 92629

*Make checks payable to: **Dana Point Historical Society**

Mail form and payment to: Dana Point Historical Society

Attn: Ornament Program c/o Kirsten Reynolds

P.O. Box 544

Dana Point, CA 92629

For information contact the Historical Society at (949) 248-8121 or communications@danapointhistorical.org

Visit our Website: www.danapointhistorical.org

For Office Use Only:

Date Order Received: _____ Date Payment Sent to DPHS: _____ Check #: _____

DPHS Member Accepting

Order: _____

Ornament(s) Received by: _____ Date: _____

Customer Signature

Park Dedications

Dana Point Councilmember Michael Villar and Fifth District OC Supervisor Katrina Foley, Vice Chair of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, look on as Barbara Johannes, OC Historical Commissioner and DPHS Historian, cuts the ribbon unveiling the plaque proclaiming Palisades Gazebo Park as Orange County Historic Site No. 60. The Palisades Drive park was created in 1928 as a viewpoint park by the Capistrano Beach Company as part of Edward L. Doheny Jr.'s Capistrano Beach development. In its nearly 100-year history, local residents cared for the park from the end of the Doheny era until the City of Dana Point was incorporated. In 1965, residents created the Capistrano Bay Parks and Recreation District to levy a tax to maintain parks in the area. In 1970, the Orange County Board of Supervisors directed the Harbors, Beach and



Parks Department to seek to expand coastal recreation spots throughout the county. In 1972, community residents formed a human blockade to prevent a private wrecking crane from destroying the gazebo as an eyesore, a story which is recounted in Doris Walker's *Home Port for Romance*. The park was awarded to the public by the court in 1975. It was then restored by Capistrano Bay Parks and Recreation District and dedicated on February 12, 1978. The Gazebo Park became the property of the City of Dana Point upon incorporation in 1989. Councilmember Villar also introduced the *Gazebo Gardeners*, Capistrano Beach volunteers who cared for the beautiful garden surrounding the gazebo. Each volunteer received an award certificate in recognition of their dedication.

A City of Dana Point Trolley transported County officials and guests to Pines Park where a second ribbon-cutting event was held to declare Pines Park Orange County Historic Site No. 59. Councilmember Villar and Supervisor Foley invited Orange County Historical Commission Chair MaryAnne Skorpanich to cut the ribbon after she introduced the Orange County and OC Parks officials, as well as the OCHC representatives in attendance. Pines Park was also maintained by the Capistrano Bay Parks and Recreation District in its early days. In the late 1960s, the Pines Park Gazebo began to decay, aided by vandals and graffiti artists. The County finally razed the structure, pushing it down the bluff where it lingered under overgrowth.

In 1969, a quitclaim deed was issued by the Capistrano Bay Parks and Recreation District to a developer who intended to build homes. When nearby residents complained, saying they had clauses in their deeds stating that Pines Park was reserved by the Doheny family for the use of the residents, the District's lawyer, environmental advocate William Willcoxon, sued on behalf of the District. The case lasted two years and went all the way to the California Supreme Court which refused to hear the developer's appeal. The park was returned to District ownership, allowing Pines Park to be officially dedicated in 1972.

County historian Eric Jessen refers to the case in his history of south Orange County parks: the lower court "Unanimously ruled on the perpetuity of the intention of the original dedication by the Doheny Family of Pines Bluff Park allowing the park to revert to public ownership."

Supervisor Foley spoke of the value of community activism and the importance of documenting the struggle to create these kinds of protections for public spaces, so that people who come to these parks appreciate the community involvement necessary.

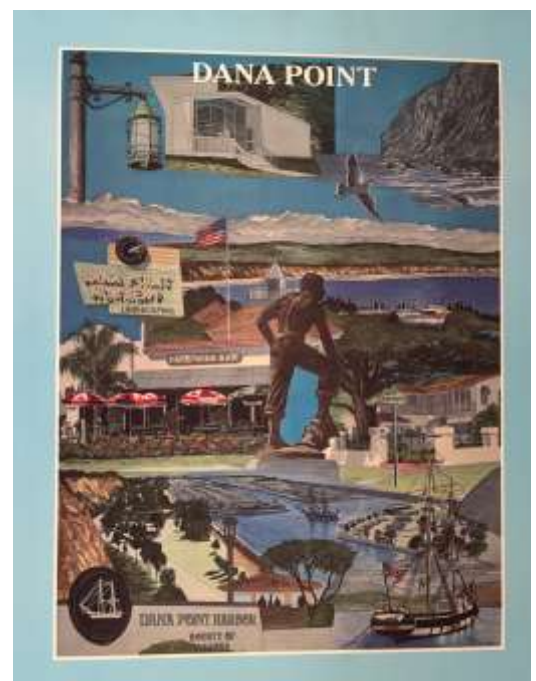
The Historical Society also wishes to thank Toni Nelson, Capo Cares founder, for accepting our invitation to write the Orange County Historical Plaque Application, which had to be approved by the City of Dana Point Planning Commission, the City Council and the Orange County Historical Commission in order to have the two Doheny Parks of Capistrano Beach approved as historic sites in Orange County.

Social Media Volunteer Needed

The Society is looking for a volunteer to manage our social media sites. Ideally, the position would involve 2-4 hours per week posting and editing content on our Facebook and Instagram pages and could include increasing our presence on other sites. If you have experience working with social media and would like to volunteer, please contact Gary Macrides at Events@danapointhistorical.org or call 949-248-8121.

Painting Donation

DPHS has received an original 1986 framed watercolor painting by artist David Milton donated to DPHS by Carolyn "Toni" Walti, whose daughter, Caryl, drove from Prescott, Arizona, where Carolyn retired, to deliver the painting our museum. Artist David Milton will be our speaker at our 2026 annual meeting this January. He will talk about visiting the various points illustrated in the painting and how those places were chosen for inclusion. Pictured is a poster featuring the framed original artwork which will be used in the future for scholarship fundraising.



Romano Plaque Dedication

On behalf of the Dana Point Historical Society, I would like to thank the City of Dana Point and Al Jacobo, Parks Superintendent, for planting a new pine tree dedicated in memory of Ann and Malin Romano. In an earlier newsletter this year, ("Remembering Ann Romano and Her Gift to the DPHS"), we reported that Anderson Law Group informed our Society that we are one of 17 nonprofits listed to receive funds from the Ann Romano Trust. Malin had preceded Ann in death and Ann passed away on March 28, 2024. Ann's trustees wrote: "Each of the 17 Southern California organizations listed as a beneficiary in the trust was a part of their lives at one time or another. When Ann created this trust she saw this as a way to either give something back or to say thank you for what you do."



We first saw the newly planted pine tree and plaque at the Orange County Historic Site Plaque dedication at Pines Park on October 29th, which was a perfect occasion to recognize these two longtime Capistrano Beach residents. It was a very special day to remember the Romanos and Ann's work as a DPHS volunteer who loved Capistrano Beach history and wanted to preserve its parks and unique Doheny history.

Barbara Force Johannes, DPHS Historian

Dana Point's Famous Residents

The Society has put together a list of famous people who have lived in Dana Point over the years. Some were full-time residents, and others were considered part-time residents. See if there are any names you recognize!

Josh Allen	NFL quarterback (Bills).
Marcus Allen	Hall of Fame NFL running back (Raiders, Chiefs) and Heisman Trophy winner.
Hobie Alter	Pioneer of the modern foam surfboard and inventor of the "Hobie Cat" sailboat.
William Bamattre	Fire Chief of City of Los Angeles.
Lisa Bartlett	Orange County Supervisor.
Steve Beuerlein	NFL quarterback (Raiders, Cowboys) and TV sportscaster.
Tom Blake	Newspaper columnist and author (Dating over 50).
Steve and Barrie Boehne	World champion tandem surfers and founders of Infinity Surfboards.
William Boyd	Actor (Hopalong Cassidy).
Bill Brough	California Assemblyman.
Bruce Brown	Filmmaker (Endless Summer, On Any Sunday).
Dana Brown	Filmmaker (Endless Summer Revisited, Dust to Glory).
Brad Budde	NFL offensive lineman (Chiefs) and member of the College Football Hall of Fame.
Corky Carroll	World champion surfer and the first professional surfer.
Sascha Ciezata	Filmmaker and animator (When Lynch Met Lucas).
Norman Chandler	Publisher of the Los Angeles Times.
Lon Chaney, Jr.	Actor (The Wolf Man, House of Dracula).
Gordon "Grubby" Clark	Surfboard foam inventor and mass producer.
Timothy Clark	Acclaimed artist, specializing in large watercolor paintings.
Melinda Clarke	TV actress (Days of Our Lives, The O.C., Nakita).
Dave Dalby	NFL center (Raiders)
Dick Dale	Musician, "King of the Surf Guitar."
Sam Darnold	NFL quarterback (Vikings, Seahawks).
Edward Doheny, Jr.	Only son of oil tycoon and philanthropist Edward Doheny.
Blanche Dolph	Early real estate investor of South Orange County, who built the first house in Dana Point in 1914.
Anthony Edwards	Actor (Top Gun, ER).
Phil Edwards	World renowned surfer.
Robert Englund	Actor (role of Freddy Krueger in Nightmare on Elm Street).
Seth Etherton	College baseball All-American and MLB pitcher (Angels, Reds).
Jim Everett	NFL quarterback (Rams).
Steve Fryer	Sports writer (OC Register).
Daryl Gates	Police Chief of City of Los Angeles.
Beccy Gordon	Off-road racer, racing journalist and model.
Melanie Griffith	Actress (Working Girl, Something Wild).
Ed Hackbarth	Co-founder of Del Taco.
Sammy Hagar	Rock and Roll Hall of Fame singer (Van Halen, etc.) and songwriter.
Lorrin "Whitey" Harrison	Legendary surfer who brought the Hawaiian outrigger canoe to California.
Steve Hegg	Olympian, winner of a Gold Medal in cycling (Los Angeles 1984).

Joyce Hoffman	World champion surfer in the 1960s and L.A. Times "Woman of the Year" (1965).
Phillip "Flippy" Hoffman	Legendary big wave surfer and pioneer of aloha-inspired surf clothing fabrics
Walter Hoffman	Legendary big wave surfer and pioneer of aloha-inspired surf clothing fabrics
Tab Hunter	Movie star (Damn Yankees and over 40 other films).
Sandra Hutchens	Sheriff of Orange County.
Earvin "Magic" Johnson	NBA Hall of Fame player (Lakers) and entrepreneur.
Randy Johnson	MLB Hall of Fame pitcher (Mariners, Diamondbacks).
Sugar Ray Leonard	Hall of Fame boxing world champion.
Louise Leyden	Award winning California painter.
Greg Maddux	MLB Hall of Fame pitcher (Cubs, Braves).
Mark McGwire	MLB home run slugger (A's, Cardinals).
John McLaughlin	Renowned abstract artistic painter.
Katie McLaughlin	Olympian, winner of a Silver Medal in swimming (Tokyo 2021).
Andrew McMahan	Lead singer of "Something Corporate."
Allison Moore	Actress (Dexter's Laboratory).
Pat O'Connell	Surfer starring in Endless Summer II.
Dallas Raines	TV weatherman.
Wayne Randazzo	Sportscaster (Angels play-by-play TV announcer, Mets).
Andy Reid	NFL head coach (Eagles, Chiefs).
Brooks Robinson	MLB Hall of Fame third baseman (Orioles).
Lee Rocker	Musician with the band Stray Cats.
Fred Roggin	TV sportscaster and sports talk radio host.
Rita Rudner	Comedian, writer and actress.
Mark Sanchez	NFL quarterback (Jets) and TV sportscaster.
Steve Schirripa	Actor (Sopranos, Blue Bloods).
John Severson	Founder of <i>Surfer</i> magazine.
Nicole Brown Simpson	Former wife of O.J. Simpson.
James Sinegal	Founder and CEO of Costco.
Stan Talley	NFL punter (Raiders).
Rachael Tilly	World champion surfer.
Klay Thompson	NBA player (Warriors, Mavericks).
Jean Vander Pyl	Actress (voice of Wilma Flintstone).
Doris Walker	Orange County historian and author.
Anna G. Walters	1920s real estate agent of and investor in the original Dana Point.
Melanie Watson Barnhardt	Actress (Diff'rent Strokes)
Felix de Weldon	Renowned sculptor (Marine Corps War Memorial-Iwo Jima at Arlington ,VA.)
Sidney H. Woodruff	Real Estate developer of the Hollywood Hills and creator of the "Hollywood" sign. First developer of Dana Point (1920s).
Alan Young	Actor (star of the 1960s TV Series, <i>Mister Ed</i>).

Membership

Please welcome new members **Kathleen Carlisle, Sarena Underwood and Lynne Yauger!**

As a reminder, the annual dues for 2026 will be due in January. The membership categories are:

Individual	\$25 annual
Family	\$30 annual
Business	\$50 annual
Patron	\$100 annual
Life	\$500 lifetime

Please remit your dues at your earliest convenience time either via mail at P.O. Box 544, Dana Point, 92629; at our museum Tuesdays, Thursdays or Saturdays, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.; at one of our scheduled meetings, or at events when our outreach booth is present.

All contributions are tax deductible as the Historical Society is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

Questions?

Contact Membership Chair Jeff Lander at Jeff.Lander@danapointhistorical.org
630-240-9266.