



DANA POINT  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

# *The News* *Drogher*

Holiday 2019

***The Dana Point Historical Society cordially invites you to a holiday wine & cheese reception on Sunday, December 8, from 4-6 p.m. at the Society's museum, Dana Point City Hall, 33282 Golden Lantern, Suite 104.***

***Join us as we reminisce and review our accomplishments in 2019 with a slide presentation during the reception.***



***Raise a class of cheer with old and new friends and check out some of our merchandise, such as a cozy Dana Point afghan or a city seal tree ornament, suitable for holiday gift giving!***



This is the time of year we give thanks for all of those who give their time and energy to the Society in myriad ways. We have museum docents, booth and outreach volunteers, technology and graphic design experts and board of directors members. In alphabetical order we wish to extend our gratitude to Bill Bamattre, Nick Bamattre, Ken Boyd, Marlene Beal, Judy and Brad Brandmeier, Lauren Boissevain, Mary Crawl, Grant Earl, Pete Hammer, Paul Hinman, Susan Hinman, Jeff Huston, Carl Iverson, Fay Kristjanson, Rich LaRusso, Toni Nelson, Willa Porter, Stella Prenovost, Jim Proett, Randy Roberts, Lee Walsh, Terry Walsh, Kat Wallace, Wayne Wallace, and Robin Valles. We also thank our hardworking Board of Directors: Elizabeth Bamattre, Bruce Beal, Joel Bishop,

Max Brown, Judy Henderson, Heidi Hyde, Sandie Iverson, Nancy Jenkins, Barbara and Keith Johannes, Marsha LaRusso, Bob Minty, Gary Prenovost and Kirsten Reynolds.

## ***Save the Date!***

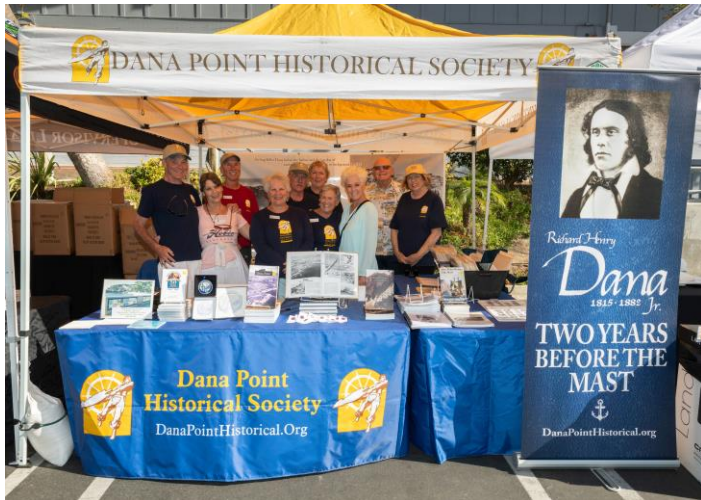
***For our annual meeting and potluck dinner on Wednesday, January 22. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. with a reception followed by dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m. Our program, treasurer's report and annual installation of officers and directors will begin about 7 p.m. Meeting location will be announced next month.***

## President's Message



By the time you read this article we will have concluded our participation in the 2019-2069 Dana Point Harbor Time

Capsule event. Our Treasurer, Gary Prenovost, has completed the event's financial report. Elizabeth Bamattre organized the boxes/sites where time capsule items were donated and we have contacted, collected and listed the



*Top right: Hundreds gathered for the time capsule unveiling on October 29. Above left: DPHS volunteers at our outreach booth on October 29, left to right, Bruce Beal, Marlene Beal, Max Brown, Marsha LaRusso, Bob Minty, Heidi Hyde, Judy Henderson, Elizabeth Bamattre, Keith Johannes and Nancy Jenkins. Above right: Some of our volunteers who assisted with the October 22 sponsor celebration pose with a replica of the time capsule clock along with 5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor Lisa Bartlett. Left to right, Stella Prenovost, Gary Prenovost, Keith Johannes, Barbara Johannes, Lisa Bartlett, Elizabeth Bamattre, Heidi Hyde and Bob Minty. All photos by Mark Montgomery Photography.*

nonprofit organizations, city agencies and business sponsors who donated items. I have delivered time capsule items representing 120 organizations and individuals to the Orange County Archives where they will be preserved and sealed. My thanks to our Board of Directors and Society members who volunteered at the Time Capsule Celebration on October 22 honoring the sponsors and at our booth at the October 28 Dana Point Harbor Time Capsule Celebration.

I am sharing the following letter with you to be read when the Harbor Time Capsule is opened in 2069. Hopefully, some of our younger members, children and grandchildren will be able to be there for the Orange County Archives exhibit.

Dear 2069 Friends of Dana Point Harbor History,

As you open this Time Capsule we hope you have a bustling Dana Point Harbor and a vibrant city with ample parking and trolleys that allow our beautiful area to continue to provide a resort experience for residents and visitors alike. We know a great deal will have changed, but we trust that Dana Point Historical Society members have continued to preserve Dana Point's heritage, the historic buildings, documents, photos, artifacts and stories that provide a cultural experience for all.

In 2069, the City of Dana Point will celebrate 80 years of official cityhood and a total of 145 years since being declared the development of Dana Point in 1924. In the 50 years since I moved to Dana Point, this area has grown, especially after the opening of Dana Point Harbor in 1971. We are fortunate to have the harbor and Doheny State Beach as part of our community.

The Historical Society celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2017 and we hope you will have celebrated the Society's 80th anniversary in 2067. We further hope you are still sharing our heritage at the DPHS Museum, Festival of Whales, the Tall Ships Festival and other events. At this writing, there are plans for five new hotels and 11 current hotels to join together to promote "*Destination Dana Point.*" Whether in Dana Point for a conference or for leisure travel, visitors enjoy learning about our unique local history. Two of our most popular restaurants are located in historic buildings, *Stillwater* restaurant and the recently restored 1927 building which now houses *Coastal Kitchen* restaurant. Drive or walk through our Capistrano Beach and Dana Point neighborhoods and you will find historic Doheny and Woodruff homes, the 1914 Dolph House and beautiful parks. We hope that the commercial structures from the 1922-1938 planned community of Dana Point have continued to be preserved and cherished as testimony to what early residents built for your future. Of the 122 buildings and structures on the 2016 Historic Inventory Analysis, 36 homes, one commercial building, four historic structures/sites and the Curlew schooner are currently on the City of Dana Point Historic Resource Register. We hope more structures have joined the Historic Register, including mid-20th Century modern buildings such as the Chart House restaurant, which preserve the landmark buildings that visually integrate the rich history of this area into the streetscape of our daily lives and cultural experience. As of this writing, the Society has had 15 Historical Society home tours and we hope the Society and homeowners will be inspired to do so again.

Our members speak to students and conference groups about Richard Henry Dana Jr. and his significance to California history; we also conduct walking and driving tours for visiting groups. Last year, DPHS members collaborated with the San Juan Historical Society to reenact Hipólito Bouchard's 1818 raid, including a mock trial where he was found innocent of piracy. In 2015, we celebrated Dana's 200th birthday with a program on the brig Pilgrim to benefit financial assistance for elementary students' overnight stays on the tall ship. Community readings of *Two Years Before the Mast* were held for six years before, during and after Dana's 200th birthday. We hope the reading will reoccur to honor our namesake.

Another important part of our legacy are the outstanding statues of historic figures including our namesake Richard Henry Dana, the Hide Drogher, which Dana so aptly described in his 1840 description of this area, the Hobie Alter Memorial and the statues of other famous local watermen that are in the process of being installed in South Cove linear park. The City of Dana Point Seal ornament tells the history of this area from Dana's 1835 visit here on the Pilgrim to the headland named for him, the breaking wave signifying the surfing in the cove before harbor construction began in 1966 and the nautical rope that ties Capistrano Beach, Dana Point and Monarch Beach together as one city of Dana Point.

We hope you will be interested when the 2019 Time Capsule contents are exhibited in 2069 and that you will continue to be stewards of this beautiful and natural environment that inspired Richard Henry Dana to describe it as "*... the most romantic spot on the California Coast.*"

With our best wishes for health and happiness in 2069,



Barbara Force Johannes, President  
Dana Point Historical Society

Enclosures:

1. Doris Walker's *Dana Point Harbor/Capistrano Bay: Home Port for Romance*
2. *Twenty Years Before the Mast: A History of the City of Dana Point*, 2009.
3. The Dana Point Historical Society ornament of the seal of the city of Dana Point.
4. Our newsletters including *The News Drogher* January 2019 issue listing the elected officers and appointed directors of our board of directors.
5. *The DPHS Woodruff Collection: Press & VIP Showing*, August 22, 2006, Public Showing, September 6, 2006. Woodruff's actual Tall Ship pin is attached on page 11.
6. Two signed copies of drawings of the City of Dana Point seal by artist Rick Morgan and Don Porter's recommendation to city council to accept it.

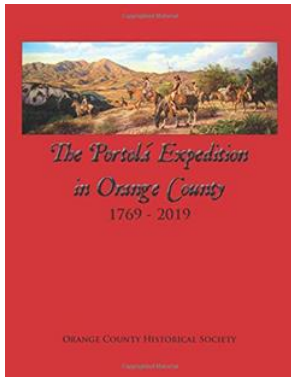
## DPHS Field Trip



Our annual field trip on Tuesday, November 12, featured a fun day viewing adobes and houses built in the last two centuries. We first visited the Workman and Temple historic site in City of Industry which features an original adobe from the mid-1800s as well a second house on the property built in the Spanish Colonial Revival style in the 1920s. The property also includes the family cemetery and mausoleum in which lies the body of close family friend Pio Pico. Joel Bishop and Heidi Hyde prepared a terrific day for our members and guests, which included a delicious box lunch and drinks on the grounds before heading off to our second stop in Santa Fe Springs, the Clarke Estate, a vastly different “modern” structure built from reinforced concrete and completed in 1921. We paused for a picture at the ornate gazebo at the Workman and Temple museum, left.

## October Meeting and Program

Phil Brigandi and Eric Plunkett intrigued us all with a discussion and visual presentation of their new book, *The Portolá Expedition in Orange County*. The Portolá Expedition was the first Spanish overland exploration through what is now Orange County in 1769. Their book can be ordered on Amazon.com.



## State Historic Tax Credit Becomes Law!



The Society is pleased to report that on October 9, 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law SB451, the state historic preservation tax credit act. The tax credit will provide incentives for investment in local economies and the preservation of historic buildings significant in the heritage and life of communities. The California Preservation Foundation

encouraged support letters for this legislation. The Society’s board of directors took a position of support on this and submitted letters (as well as encouraging others to do so) to our representatives and the governor. This same legislation failed in the previous legislative session, so we feel our increased involvement did make a difference for this positive outcome. California now joins more than 35 states that have passed historic tax credit acts, providing incentives for investment in local economies and the rehabilitation of historic buildings that reflect the character of communities.

The Office of Historic Preservation, along with the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee, will administer the tax credit program, including preparing regulations, requirements, and an application process. No specific information on the program is available at this time. Further information will become available as regulations and details of the program are developed beginning in early 2020. Updates will be posted on the [California State Historic Tax Credit](https://www.californiahistoric.org/) website.

## Watermen's Plaza Will Feature Severson *by Bruce Beal*



John Severson, image courtesy of Matt Warshaw from the *Encyclopedia of Surfing*

The next statue to be placed in Watermen's Plaza at the South Cove Linear Park will be of John Hugh Severson (December 12, 1933 – May 26, 2017), a local and international surfing legend. Severson is truly renowned and a large part of what makes the area, now known as Dana Point, also known as the center of creation for modern surfing lifestyle and industries in the world.

According to surf historian Andrew Couldwell, few people in surfing history have as strong a claim to being one of the most influential pioneers as Severson. Severson effectively spawned the "surf media" industry when he created the first- ever surfing magazine in 1960, opening a swath of new opportunities in the world of professional surfing and the evolving surf industry. He

was also the original "surf artist" in the 1950s and one of the first surf filmmakers.

Noted surf historian Drew Kampion tells the story of how Severson had been taking pictures of his friends at the beach and in the water ever since his father moved the family to San Clemente in the late forties; now in the right place at the right time, armed with a 16mm Keystone movie camera, he turned his attention to the exploits of the rag-tag crew of young men who were drawn to the North Shore's big winter surf. The footage from that first winter became his first film, *Surf!* The film's showings in Hawaii and back in California earned enough to enable him to exchange his Keystone for a Bolex and buy more film for another movie, *Surf Safari*, which led to another, *Surf Fever*, and another, *Big Wednesday*, in 1961.

Using enlarged frames from his films, he created a 36-page booklet to promote the shows. He titled that booklet *The Surfer*, which became *The Surfer Quarterly*, and then *Surfer*, first a bi-monthly, then a monthly magazine, becoming known as "the Bible of the Sport."



Aside from his movies, he became known as the first "Surfer Artist," creating the term "Surf Art." His posters (an example appears at left) were smash hits in the '50s and '60s and remain collector favorites, along with his surf prints, paintings and aloha shirts, according to Gordon T. McClelland, author and art historian. Severson was also a pioneering surf photographer. At right is an image he shot of Mickey Munoz, circa 1960, currently a resident of Dana Point and a surfing legend in his own right. This pose became known as *The Quasimodo*. Severson's photographs have appeared in a variety of magazines including *Life*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Paris Match* and Germany's *Stern*, and were selected for a '60s *Sports Illustrated* "Sport-In-Art" in New York. Severson's recent coffee table book "*Surf*" recalls the birth of surf culture and serves as a testament to our devotion to the ocean, according to the Surfing Heritage & Cultural Center. The book is 212 pages long and features over 300 illustrations, plus a foreword by Gerry Lopez and an afterword by Drew Kampion, author and former editor of *Surfer* and *Surfing* magazines, who said, "Everything he touches is art."

John Severson was voted into the Surfing Hall of Fame in 1993, the Walk of Fame at Huntington Beach in 1995, and given a lifetime achievement award by the Surf Industry Manufacturers' Association as Waterman of the Year in 1997. He received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2011 *Surfer* Poll. "What a great sport we have," Severson said at the end of his acceptance speech adding in a warm voice, "Lucky us."

You can view the actual presentation of the award and see his contributions to surf history at <https://capitansurfocker69.blogspot.com/2017/05/2011-surfer-poll-lifetime-achievement.html>. His paintings and his films remain hallmarks in our sport's cultural imagination, of which he was, for an entire generation, both the artist and the author.



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## 2019/2020 DPHS Calendar

**December 8** Holiday Open House at the Museum

**January 22** Annual Meeting and Potluck

## Membership

**As a reminder, the annual dues for 2020 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 this time either via mail at P.O. Box 544, Dana Point, 92629; at the museum Tuesdays, Thursdays or Saturdays, 1-3 p.m., at our Holiday Event on December 8 or at our Annual Meeting on January 22.**

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

Questions? Contact me at [rmlarusso@msn.com](mailto:rmlarusso@msn.com)

Marsha LaRusso

## Saving the Brig Pilgrim

The Ocean Institute is using a first-time crowdfunding effort to raise \$100,000 for upkeep and repairs for our beloved Pilgrim.

The Pilgrim, built in 1945 as a three-masted schooner in Denmark, came to Dana Point Harbor in 1981 to be included in the educational programs of what was then the Orange County Marine Institute.

Because of her similarity to Richard Henry Dana Jr.'s ship mentioned in his book *Two Years Before the Mast*, she is visited by an estimated 100,000 visitors annually with some student groups invited to stay overnight on board the ship to experience life at sea circa 1830.

The **GoFundMe** campaign began in October.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Pilgrim's funding can go to the **GoFundMe** link at [OceanInstitute.org](http://OceanInstitute.org) or send a check to the Pilgrim Fund, Ocean Institute, 24200 Dana Point Harbor Drive, Dana Point, CA 92629.