



DANA POINT  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

# The News Drogher

Spring 2023

## DPHS Program and Meeting Wednesday, April 26 at 7 p.m.

### *From the Basques to Baseball in Capistrano Valley with Bob Zamora*

The ranches and farms that once surrounded today's Dana Point began with the Mission period and would last into the 1960s. During the 1950s, Dana Point was still surrounded by grazing land in the foothills and farming in the Capistrano Valley. By the 1960s grazing land and farms were giving way to the freeway and housing tracts. Early homeowners in Thunderbird Homes still reminisce about the cattle seen from their property and homeowners in Lantern Village remember a ranch wagon behind their home on Chula Vista Avenue.



DPHS members visited the Aliso Viejo Ranch in 2021 to learn about the Moulton-Daguerre Ranch partnership that purchased land in 1895 to expand their sheep business which included the hills of today's Niguel Shores and

Monarch Beach. Both Lewis Moulton and Jean Pierre Daguerre (a Basque immigrant) first worked for others herding sheep. Many people of Basque decent came to California after the Gold Rush, some by way of South America, where the climate and ranch lands were favorable for shepherding. A *Then & Now* feature of the *Capistrano Dispatch* about shepherding stated that many early Basque immigrants became land owners in the San Juan Capistrano area with the Domingo Oyharzabal family becoming the most prominent.

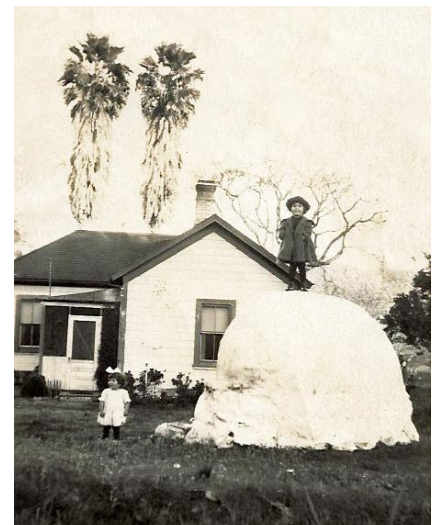


*Sheep being herded through San Juan Capistrano late 1800s. Photo courtesy OC Archives.*

Bob Zamora's great-grandparents' Basque family moved to San Juan Capistrano Valley in 1910 and worked for the Oyharzabal family. Bob's grandparents would move to the outskirts of West Covina in the 1920s where they could buy more affordable farmland. As a boy he spent summers on his grandparent's farm while his parents worked. He would frequently visit family friends with his grandfather in San Juan Capistrano. Bob (pictured upper left) will share those memories with us during our April 26 meeting. The local farm where

his family first lived is now gone, part of the developed tract near Blue Fin, between Del Obispo and San Juan Creek, now a residential area in the cities of Dana Point and San Juan Capistrano.

After Bob completed a bachelor's degree at Chapman University and graduate school at UC Irvine, a career in teaching and coaching would bring him back to south Orange County. In 1978, Bob became only the second coach in Orange County's high school baseball history to have 500 victories. When Bob retired as Capistrano Valley Baseball Coach after the 2018 season, it was the Cougars' seventh CIF-SS baseball championship and his teams had won 17 league championships under his leadership, during 41 years of coaching baseball.



*Bob Zamora's family used a large outdoor oven to bake bread, which was sold at the market at Mission San Juan Capistrano.*

## Celebrating 35 Years & Springing Into a New Season!



More than 80 members and guests attended our 2023 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, February 15th. A Valentine theme was in appreciation of our members and volunteers. The evening officially began just before dinner when Annie Mitchell, County of Orange Fifth District Policy Analyst, represented Fifth District Supervisor Katrina Foley and read the Certificate of Recognition presented to the Dana Point Historical Society congratulating us for the past 35 years of preserving and documenting Dana Point history.

Additional special guests introduced were Mayor Mike Frost and Heidi Frost, City Council Member John Goddard, Planning Commissioner Eric Nelson, City Manager Mike Killebrew and Shauna Killebrew, Community Planning Director Brenda Wisneski, and Jim and Michelle Miller, who also provided the evening's coffee service from Coffee Importers.

The lighting and tables in Gloria Dei's Bankson Hall provided a lovely ambience for Special Events Chair Elizabeth Bamattre and 12 committee volunteers to serve a delicious dinner catered by Enzo Scognamiglio's *Brio Tuscany Grille*. Wine, beverages and desserts were generously donated by our members.

Parliamentarian Joel Bishop conducted the annual installation of officers and recognized them for their service in the past year. The nomination slate of new and re-elected officers was read and approved by the members present. Mayor Frost installed the 2023-2024 Board of Directors according to our bylaws. The President read the 2022 Annual Report and adjourned the meeting. Bob Zasa gave a brief update on the Dana Point Sister Cities Association.



*Pictured left to right are 2023 board members Barbara Johannes, Nancy Jenkins, Elizabeth Bamattre, Marsha La Russo, Heidi Hyde, Gary Prenovost, Joel Bishop, Keith Johannes, Mike Frost, Grant Earl, Randy Roberts, Bob Minty and James Proett. Absent from the photo are Bruce Beal, Max Brown, Marco Carralero, Kirsten Reynold and Robin Valles. Please refer to the January News Drogher for the position held by each individual.*

Our featured speaker, Mayor Mike Frost, spoke on his goals as mayor and answered members' questions sent to him in advance regarding historic buildings and sites in the City of Dana Point. His remarks were informative, inspiring and entertaining. Special recognition was given to *Brio Tuscany Grille*, *Coffee Importers*, Gloria Dei Church, all our members who contributed beverages or desserts and the evening's volunteers: Bill, Elizabeth, & Nik Bamattre, Joel Bishop, Marsha & Rich La Russo, Heidi Hyde, Gary & Stella Prenovost, Nancy Jenkins, Jim Proett, Randy Roberts and Keith Johannes.



Our Festival of Whales participation this March began with our parade entry, Bob Minty's 1929 classic Oldsmobile woody station wagon (pictured left) preceded by members and volunteers Ryan Colopy, Kat Wallace, Bruce Beal and Trisha Minty (below, right) along with Michael Guthrie, Mike Emory and Jennifer Kiel (not pictured). Elizabeth and Bill Bamattre led the well-attended historic walking tours on Saturday and Sunday. Volunteers staffed our outreach booth both days along Harbor Walkway, including several new members who volunteered for the first time. Booth volunteers included Elizabeth, Bill and Nik Bamattre, Bruce Beal, Max

Brown, Livia Hart, Susan & Paul Hinman, Annie Hyde, Heidi Hyde, Vickie & Jeff Lander, Marsha LaRusso, Ellysa Marino, Stella & Gary Prenovost, Jim Proett and Bob Minty.

Two new partnerships have been created through our historic photos. The first was an invitation from Dana Point Times Managing Editor Shawn Raymundo to allow the Society's historic photos to be published weekly in the printed edition of the Dana Point Times in exchange for crediting the Dana Point Historical Society as the source. Our board of directors agreed this was a win-win since we are sharing Dana Point's history with residents. The second partnership with



Vintage Redo Market was proposed by member Lauren Grant, who requested the use of our historic photos to tell Dana Point's story while advertising the Vintage Redo Market on social media. The photos will be watermarked and DPHS will be credited as the only source for those interested in purchasing these historic photos. In exchange, the Redo Market is providing the space for our outreach booth where our historic photos can be purchased.

The Vintage Redo Market will be held on Sunday, April 30, on Del Prado. Would you like to volunteer? See page 6 for details.

I look forward to seeing you on April 26th in City Hall Council Chambers when Bob Zamora will tell us about his Basque family immigrants who raised sheep for wool in the Capistrano Valley. An informal reception will be held afterward in the museum downstairs.

*Barbara Force Johannes*



## Get Ready for Scholarship Season!



As many of you know, one of our most popular programs is our Scholarship Program, which awards two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating Dana Point high school seniors in honor of Doris I. Walker and Lucy Chavarrias-Saunderson, both precedent-setting women of Dana Point.

Since our 2021 scholarship raffle was such a hit, we have decided to repeat the raffle again this year. We will provide one raffle ticket for each \$25 donated to the Society for the scholarship program. For instance, if you give \$50, two raffle tickets with your name will be put into the raffle ticket bin. After the scholarships are awarded in May, we will draw names from the bin and inform the winners of their prizes. Prizes include whale-watching trips, gift certificates for restaurants, Baby Beach tiles, as well as other gifts from local businesses and the Society. Donations/Raffle Entries should be mailed by the end of May. Raffle prize donations are also welcome (call 949-248-8121). The scholarship drawing will be held in June.

No donation is too small but a minimum of \$25 is needed to be entered in the raffle. You may send contributions, earmarked for SCHOLARSHIPS, to DPHS, PO Box 544, Dana Point, CA, 92629. **We have included an envelope for your use. Please be sure to include your contact information with your donation using the form below.**

You may also drop off donations at our museum (Tues., Thurs., and Sat 1-3 p.m.) or bring donations to our April 26 meeting!



-----raffle form-----



-----raffle form-----



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

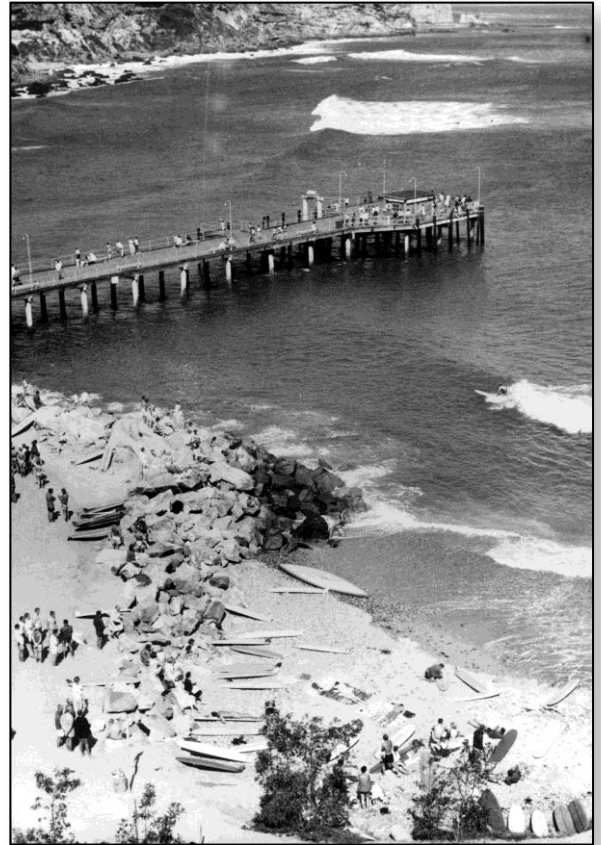
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## Society Presents New Online Edition of Oceanic Heritage History



A new edition of Bruce and Marlene Beal's online oceanic heritage history journal is now available on our website. The new edition is entitled *SURF, PADDLE & SAIL! Oceanic Heritage Journal of Dana Point*.

Commencing in the 1930's, Dana Point and surrounds increasingly became populated by persons, originally known as "Watermen," defined as those who were "comfortable in a wide variety of ocean conditions and had a broad store of oceanic knowledge; more specifically applied to those who are accomplished at a particular set of surfing-related activities, including diving, swimming, sailing, bodysurfing, fishing, spearfishing, surf canoeing, and oceangoing rescue work." This Oceanic Heritage Outline of the Surfing and Oceanic Heritage Projects of the Dana Point Historical Society commemorates these Watermen, and now Waterwomen, who inhabited, and still inhabit, Dana Point.



The 105 page journal features detailed beach history illustrated by the chapter titles which include *Why Dana Point?, Surf, Paddle & Sail Legends, Local Champions, Beach Breaks & Histories* and *Oral Histories* as well as many others. Many historic photos are used throughout the journal and it also includes an extensive bibliography to guide the reader who craves even more detailed reading. Go to [www.DanaPointHistorical.org](http://www.DanaPointHistorical.org) to view the entire journal. Also be sure to stop into the Society's museum to check out the many historic surfing and sailing photos available for purchase from the Society.

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## 2023 DPHS Calendar

**April 26** Bob Zamora & Basques in San Juan      **April 30** Redo Market

## Membership

Please welcome new members **Tim & Marriott Clark, Cheri & Thomas Fenton, Jackie Goff, Annie Hyde, Mia La Londe, Ellysa Marino, Tricia Minty & Michael Guthrie and Jill Richardson.** And a special welcome to new **LIFETIME MEMBER Eric Nelson!**

**As a reminder, the annual dues for 2023 were 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., or at our membership meeting on February 15.**

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

Questions?

Contact Marsha La Russo at [rmlarusso@msn.com](mailto:rmlarusso@msn.com)

## Vintage April Redo Market

The Society will once again have its outreach booth at the Redo Market which will be held on Del Prado on Sunday April, 30.

We welcome any members who would like to volunteer to help us sell our merchandise, distribute membership applications and promote the Society's mission. No experience necessary!

Volunteer hours are generally two hour shifts from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. We especially need able bodied individuals who can help erect and teardown our tent and tables and box merchandise at the very beginning and end of the day. A supervisor is always on hand to help.

Please contact the museum if you would like to participate: 949-248-8121 or at

[museum@DanaPointHistorical.org](mailto:museum@DanaPointHistorical.org)