



# The News Drogher

Summer 2024

## DPHS Meeting and Reception on June 12 Will Feature the Boehne Family



David Boehne, the son of tandem surfing legends and Infinity Surfboards founders Steve and Barrie Boehne (pictured), is preparing a special presentation for Historical Society members and guests in honor of his parents. He will be joined by other members of the Boehne family as he shares background and history about his parents and grandparents. The program will be presented **Wednesday, June 12, at 7 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers**, with a reception in the museum afterward. The City of Dana Point honored Steve and Barrie with a bronze statue last October

where it joined other surfing industry and sport local legends in Waterman's Plaza.

Steve will welcome your questions at the program and suggests attendees check out the family's history at <https://infinitysurf.com/blogs/steves-stories>. Join us as we learn amazing and humorous facts about these local surfing legends. Questions? Call (949) 248-8121 or email [events@DanaPointHistorical.org](mailto:events@DanaPointHistorical.org).

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the formal grand opening of Dana Point on August 16, 1924, the Historical Society has had 100 copies of *Dana Point and Vicinity* reproduced. DPHS members can have their own copy of this historical book for a special price of just \$10 at our June 12 program, after which it will return to its regular price of \$14. See our President's message starting on page 2 for more details.

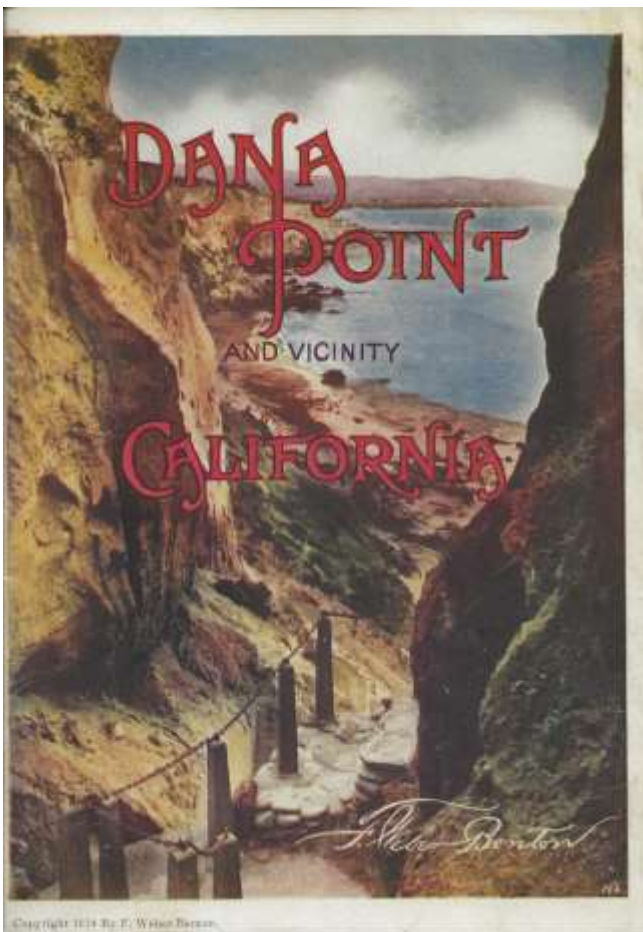
## Celebrating Preservation Month, May 2024



When it comes to preservation, we have two recently restored historic buildings to celebrate. The 1930s Swallows Motel, remodeled as the Capistrano Country Bay Inn, c. 1978, and known in recent decades as the Seaside Inn, has been saved. Artist Guild Hospitality has renovated the roadside motel as the El Caminante Bar & Bungalows. As described in the March 29, 2024, issue of Dana Point Times, the hotel has been reimagined as “an elevated Spanish Hacienda,” inspired by some of the original Doheny

Spanish Colonial Revival homes in Capistrano Beach. Owners Jeff Finn and Danny Hyde have kept the original structure intact while restoring 30 hotel rooms with unique amenities, a lobby and a bar. We look forward to visiting the El Caminante Bar & Bungalows when it opens this summer.

The historic 1947 Dana Point Hotel was also reprieved from demolition by Marvin and Eric Winkler, and the renovated accommodations will soon open as the Del Prado House Luxury Apartments. The building became the location of Danielle’s HōM Dana Point, a home and interiors store, in April of 2023 and has housed Jack’s Restaurant and Bar for decades. It was with relief when Jack Loconsolo’s loyal clientele learned that the friendly pub atmosphere and delicious food would remain in place. The next time you dine at Jack’s, walk down the long hallway to view the Del Prado House courtyard and the beautifully restored interior walkways. Changes to the building’s original *Streamline Moderne* architecture may not make it eligible for the historic register, but the building is unique and historically significant to the Lantern District.



### ***Dana Point and Vicinity, 1924-2024***

Dana Point was first advertised as a planned community in 1924. The booklet, cover illustrated here, was published for the San Juan Point Corporation of Laguna Beach. It was written by F. Weber Benton of the Benton Publishing Company of Los Angeles in 1924.\* The first 20 pages are dedicated to “Dana Point: A Beauty Spot of Historic Interest and Scenic Splendor.” A color photograph of The Point and Stillwater Bay (Dana Cove) is followed by a photograph of the First Residence of Dana Point, from a photograph dated February, 1924, although the Dolph house was built 10 years earlier. Additional information describes the unspoiled beauty of Dana Point, quotes Richard Henry Dana Jr. on his impressions of what was then San Juan Point in 1835 and includes a biographical sketch of him. Two pages of commentary and photographs are devoted to the San Juan Capistrano Mission ruins. Another

section features the Coast Royal tract, owned by Skidmore Brothers Corporation, in the process of being subdivided, including Aliso Canyon, Camel Point and Table Rock, now South Laguna. Was the Skidmore Brothers involvement in Coast Royale one of the reasons the San Juan Point Corporation ended when its property was foreclosed due to lack of a paved highway and overextended investments? The book ends with a brief description of Los Angeles and Southern California, featuring its status as a playground of the world as well as the more practical aspects of the area's agricultural production.

What was the San Juan Point Corporation and who were the people invested in it? Our archives include a San Juan Point Corporation general stock certificate of Anna G. Walters, local real estate agent and investor, in the amount of "Two Thousand Five Hundred Shares of Capital Stock at Laguna Beach, Cal." dated September 1, 1923, signed by "J. L. Beebe, President, and Joe Skidmore, Secretary." A letter to the members of the San Juan Point Corporation regarding Dana Point and adjacent subdivisions of 894 acres also listed "P. H. Krick, Vice President, and A. G. Walters, Executive Manager and Sales." In a letter dated March 18, 1924, Joe Skidmore stated he was successful in having the map of the San Juan Point Tract formally accepted by the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Skidmore reported he was compelled to promise the supervisors a specific outlet for the general public, a public park, and keeping the sand strip from the foot of the bluff to the ocean for the general public. He further stated, "We were extremely fortunate because two members of the Board had last Sunday been down to Dana Point and inspected what we are doing in a general way. After the acceptance of the map they complimented us on the stairway [to the beach], the house for the public [Scenic Inn], and also on the retaining wall." Color photographs of the Scenic Inn, stairway and retaining walls are included in the booklet.

Be sure to purchase your copy of this historic booklet while supplies last. We will offer a one-time discounted price at our June 12 meeting. This is an excellent opportunity to purchase several copies as gifts and the booklet also makes a unique housewarming present for people moving into our area.

Join us as we honor tandem surfers Steve and Barrie Boehne and family to learn about their fascinating lives. I look forward to seeing you on June 12th at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers and at the reception in the museum afterward.

*Barbara Force Johannes*

\*Color Plates by Los Angeles Engraving & Art Co. Illustrations from Photograph by Edw. W. Cochems, Santa Ana. The booklet was located by Carlos N. Olvera, DPHS President, in 2012 at the Bancroft Library while attending the California Preservation Conference in Oakland. The book is reproduced with the permission of the Bancroft Library, Berkeley, CA.

## DPHS Awards Scholarships to High School Seniors



The Dana Point Historical Society's Scholarship Committee (Heidi Hyde, Chair, and Judy Brandmeier, Judy Henderson, Susan Hinman and Fay Kristjanson) has chosen a graduating St. Margaret's Episcopal School senior to receive our \$1,000 Lucy Chavarrias-Saunderson Scholarship. Dania Arteaga, left, pictured with DPHS President Barbara Johannes, has lived in Dana Point her entire life and will be attending USC in the fall, majoring in political science on a pre-law track as a first-generation college student. She aspires to become a congresswoman, and states she wants to be at the forefront of legislation and positively impact the lives of many.

The committee has also chosen a graduating Dana Hills High School senior to receive our \$1,000 Doris I. Walker Scholarship in May, named for the local author, historian and Historical Society founder. This year's recipient of the scholarship is Alex Segal, right. He will be pursuing a BS degree in nursing from the prestigious College of Nursing at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington.



## Membership

Please welcome new members the **Thomas Holdiman Family** and **Dave & Diane Johnson**.

As a reminder, the annual dues for 2024 were due in January. The membership categories are:

<b>Individual</b>	<b>\$25 annual</b>
<b>Family</b>	<b>\$30 annual</b>
<b>Business</b>	<b>\$50 annual</b>
<b>Patron</b>	<b>\$100 annual</b>
<b>Life</b>	<b>\$500 lifetime</b>

Please remit your dues at this time either via mail at P.O. Box 544, Dana Point, 92629; at our museum Tuesdays, Thursdays or Saturdays, 1-3 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 Marsha La Russo at [rmlarusso@msn.com](mailto:rmlarusso@msn.com).