



DANA POINT
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

The
News

DROGHER

September 2012

SUNSET AT THE DROGHER

In 1987...Ronald Reagan was in his second term as President...the Whittier Narrows Earthquake shook the southland....La Bamba hit Number 1 on the pop charts....it cost 25 cents to mail a letter...the first Turkey Trot was raced in Dana Point...the Electric Slide was the new dance craze...the Minnesota Twins defeated the St Louis Cardinals in the World Series....Dana Point was the destination of a two-day Tall Ships race from Oxnard...The Last Emperor won the Best Picture Oscar...the New York Giants won Super Bowl XXI....The Dana Point Resort opened its doors...the Dana Point Historical Society was established....

Please join us in celebrating our 25th Anniversary

SUNSET AT THE DROGHER
Reception and Reminiscences
Wednesday, September 26, 2012
6:00 PM

The Drogher Statue on the Bluff Top Trail
Violet Lantern at El Camino Real

** For those who wish to continue celebrating after refreshments at the Drogher Statue, we will be gathering afterward at StillWater Spirits and Sounds. StillWater is located at 24701 Del Prado, only a short walk or drive from the Bluff Top Trail. StillWater will have a section reserved for DPHS members who wish to socialize and purchase food and/or drinks. There will also be live entertainment. We hope that many of you will be able to join us for the celebration at both locations.*

President's Message



Usually summer is a time to relax and plan, but August had a brisk pace with committees preparing for our 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION in September, as well as other important fall events. In the midst of busy preparations, we were surprised to learn that Carlos Olvera, our president of more than six and a half consecutive years, had announced his candidacy to run for Dana Point City Council and then, to avoid any potential conflict of interest, stepped down from the DPHS Board of Directors at the August 7, 2012, board meeting. The Board of Directors joins all our members in thanking Carlos for his many dedicated years of service on the Historical Society Board of Directors and for his unquestioned love of history and genealogy, the latter as evidenced by his research into Richard Henry Dana's own family tree. As stated in the Bylaws of the Dana Point Historical Society, the Vice President now serves as President until the next election. Thus, I find myself with the challenge of following a very experienced leader and of writing this column to you.

The June 25th Doheny Barbecue was a success enjoyed by all who attended, thanks to Jessica Blair and her committee. Regina Barnes and her committee selected two scholarship applicants pictured in this issue who, with our assistance, enter college this fall. A committee working with the City's Arts & Cultural Commission continues to make progress toward the dedication of the Doris Walker tribute sculpture at Heritage Park.

Our annual fall home tour was cancelled in July due to a major opportunity presented to our Board. The City of Dana Point has offered the Historical Society a space vacated by a previous tenant at City Hall. Suite 104, consisting of approximately 800 square feet, will allow us to reinstate the Dana Point Heritage Museum originally located in another space at City Hall before our move to the Blue Lantern location. Your Board of Directors has approved the lease and it will be presented for approval at the September 18th City Council meeting. If approved, the board envisions three to six months to complete the move and to archive our collections. Please watch closely for our announcement of the ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate this wonderful occasion.

Major preservation strides were made this summer as the first historic commercial building and a four-unit apartment building were added to the Historic Resource Register. Four DPHS nominations were submitted to the City of Dana Point and were approved on August 13th by the Planning Commission to designate four city historic resources, c. 1924-1930, and add them to the Historic Register. These historic landmarks tell the story of early Dana Point development by the San Juan Point Corporation and Sidney H. Woodruff's investors. Two, the 1924 Scenic Trail and the 1930 Dana Point Inn Arches, were part of the first preservation effort of a newly formed Dana Point Historical Society in 1987. Public access to the bluffs was saved due to the efforts of Elizabeth Bamattre, Judy Henderson and their committee. The result is the Bluff Top Trail—the most appropriate location to kick off our 25th Anniversary year.

Please be sure to join us Wednesday, September 26th, as we toast the past quarter century of our accomplishments. Reminisce with members whose early efforts resulted in saving the Bluff Top Trail, the site of the Drogher statue that commemorates Richard Henry Dana's famous descriptions of these shores when he visited in 1835.

Barbara Force Johannes



October Program Announcement



The San Juan Historical Society will guide us through old Los Rios Street for a haunting "Ghost Walk" on Wednesday, October 24, at 6:30 pm. Please park in the multi-story lot across the street over the railroad tracks and meet outside the O'Neill Museum at 31831 Los Rios Street, San Juan Capistrano. Wear comfortable shoes. There will be a fee of \$5 per person for this fun local field trip.

Dana Point Abounds With New Historic Designations

Six new historic designations have recently been approved in Dana Point.

Owners Tom Burger, architect, and Ron Jenkins, contractor, have received historic designation for their project at **24531 La Cresta** in Dana Point. It is an original apartment building, built in 1929, by developer S.H. Woodruff. The owners plan to remodel the four-plex building while still maintaining the historical integrity of each unit.



The Dana Point Planning Commission on July 9 voted unanimously to have the building located at **34091 Pacific Coast Highway** designated as a historical structure and placed on the city's Historic Resource Register. The vote also granted participation in the Mills Act Program. Originally the Blue Lantern Fountain Café, it most recently is recognized as the former Bella Bazaar retail building.

The Blue Lantern Gazebo has been placed as a historic structure on Dana Point's Historic Resource Register. Built c. 1925-1927, this historic landmark represents one of the first two developments in Dana Point, advertising as early as 1924. Doris Walker described the Blue Lantern Gazebo as built by the San Juan Point Corporation, a financial syndicate of Laguna Beach realtors, before S. H. Woodruff's syndicate bought the failed development in 1926. Recent research indicates the Gazebo may have been built during the transition to the Woodruff era, about the same time as the Blue Lantern Fountain Lunch building.



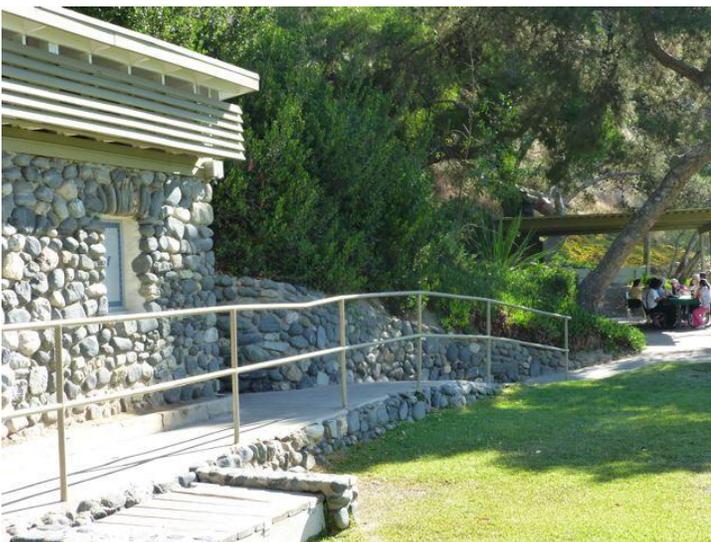
A *Significant Historic Resource* designation was received for the **Arches**, the preserved 1930 architectural ruins of the Dana Point Inn, Woodruff's vision of a grand hotel situated on the bluff above the harbor. In addition, the adjacent **Bluff Top Trail** located at Violet Lantern and El Camino Capistrano also received the same designation. The remnants of stone retainer walls and walkways, viewed from the Bluff Top Trail, still remain from the Scenic Walkway, or beach access trail, that was advertised in 1924 when built by the San Juan Point Corporation, the first development to actually break ground in the new Dana Point community.



Above, from what would have been the hotel's interior, a view of the remnants of the Dana Point Inn Arches with the Bluff Top Trail seen directly behind. Right, the Dana Point Inn under construction in the 1930s. The arches can be seen at the far right.

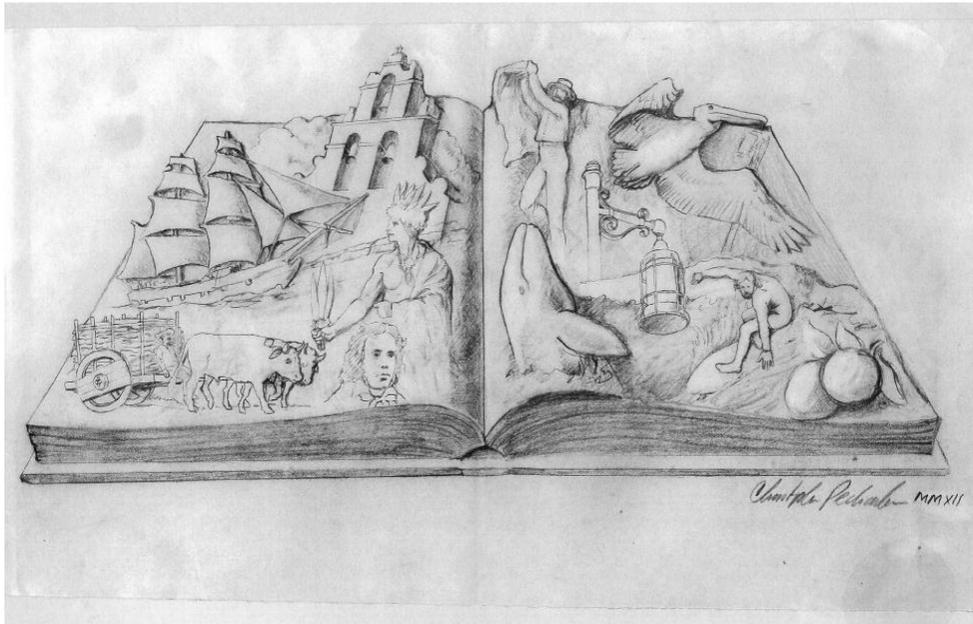


Also placed on Dana Point's Historic Resource Register is the area of the present-day **Picnic Facility and Restrooms** located on Dana Point Harbor Drive. According to Doris Walker, these structures were built near the original site of the **Scenic Inn** reportedly using rocks from the ruins of the original facility. The Scenic Inn was famously advertised in real estate ads by the San Juan Point Corporation. Located on the beach at the base of the Dana Point bluffs, it was the hospitable site where prospective lot buyers were served lunch and encouraged to invest.



The current Picnic Facility and Restrooms (left) are built near the site of the Scenic Inn (right) using rocks from the original structure.

Dana Point City Council and Dana Point Arts & Cultural Commission Approve Christopher Pecharka Design of Doris Walker Memorial



Confirmation for installation of the Doris I. Walker Memorial was received in July for local artist Christopher Pecharka's design. The sculpture features a three-dimensional book showing highlights of Dana Point and Doris Walker's writings. The proposed date to have the bronze artwork in place at Heritage Park is early 2013.

Also in July, DPHS presented a check for \$10,000 to the City of Dana Point. DPHS received the donation from an anonymous source to assist with the construction of the artwork.



Clockwise from top: Mr. Pecharka's rendering of the three-dimensional "pop-up" book; Doris Walker-Smith, who perished, along with her husband Jack Pierson Smith, as a result of a house fire in October, 2011; Artist Christopher Pecharka.

November Field Trip to Mission Inn



Mark your calendars for November 7 and join us for a day trip to the beautiful Mission Inn in Riverside. Aside from the tour, there will be time for lunch and make purchases at the Mission Inn Foundation Shop and the surrounding plaza. Current plans include a visit to other historic points in Riverside such as a building designed by Julia Morgan of Hearst Castle fame, just a block away.

The cost for the trip is \$50 per person which includes transportation and the Mission Inn tour. The bus leaves the Strand Vista parking lot mid-morning and returns late afternoon. Interested persons should contact Jessica Blair to make a reservation at (949) 690-7823 or email her at attyjessicablair@yahoo.com.

A Quarter Century of the Dana Point Historical Society

In 1987 the Dana Point Historical Society began from the inspiration of Doris Walker, with the leadership of Barbara Brown and Sue Emery.

In the early days while dealing with the more mundane tasks of Articles of Incorporation, the first major project undertaken by the DPHS was to maintain public access to the old Bluff Top Scenic Trail between Amber & Violet Lantern. A site of historical significance, the land was being developed by the Sand Dollar Corporation for a new housing development later built by the Pulte Home Corporation. This July and August, the Dana Point Planning Commission designated the Bluff Top Trail, and five other sites highlighted in this issue, for the city's Historic Register. Four of those designations are primarily due to the involvement of former Vice President, and now Acting President, Barbara Johannes. Saving public access to that portion of our magnificent cliffs may have been our prime motivation a quarter century ago, but we have now secured all these historical elements of our colorful heritage for future generations to appreciate.

Between 1987 and 2012 every president, board member and member has made a mark on this seaside community. Commissioning public art and commemorative plaques around the city, establishing a first-class archival photograph collection, instituting the Baby Beach Tile Wall Program, creating the Historic Walking Tour, Home Tour, and annual scholarship awards to two local high school students, as well as honoring dedicated residents in historic homes are just a few of many accomplishments.

None of this would have been accomplished without the dedication of many volunteers and loyal members. So whether you have been a past president of the organization or a loyal member and a regular at the monthly program meetings, the current Board of Directors *THANKS YOU* for making our historical society a premiere non-profit in this picturesque community of Dana Point.

Elizabeth Bamattre

We're on Television!

Did you know that *Dana Point, My Hometown* is on TV? Our own professional program has been on for several years now, on Cox Cable Channels 30 and 855. But how many knew?

Most of us know that City Council Meetings and Water Board Meetings are televised, and rerun for several weeks. So are other locally produced programs such as Dana Hills High School theater productions.

Recently, Dana Point's web site (www.Danapoint.org) has added the city's Cox Cable channels television schedule. If you click on 'Residents' up near the top, you'll find the Dana Point TV for the week.

The wonderful high school production of *Bye Bye Birdie* and our Festival of the Whales parade has been televised. So have programs about the Ocean Institute and vintage car events and important emergency information.

Take a look for yourself. The program schedule runs Monday through Friday, from 9 am to 10 pm, with other hours devoted to community events.

I'm sure that every week there'll be something of interest to you.

Who knows? Maybe some of our own programs can be recorded and end up on television!

Stay tuned.

Bob Fairbanks

Dana Point TV - Weekly Schedule

Weekly Schedule Information

Dana Point TV can be found on Cox Cable channels 30 and 855.

Community Bulletin Board airs Saturday and Sunday (no programming)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9am	Vintage Vehicles	Curiosity Quest	Vintage Vehicles	Curiosity Quest	Vintage Vehicles
10am	CA Bountiful	Storm Water Systems	CA Bountiful	Storm Water Systems	CA Bountiful
11am	CA Water	Ocean Institute	CA Water	Ocean Institute	CA Water
12pm	Festival of Whales	Bye, Bye, Birdie	Festival of Whales	Bye, Bye, Birdie	Festival of Whales
1pm					
2pm	Pulse of the Port	Dana Point Emergency Info	Pulse of the Port	Dana Point Emergency Info	Pulse of the Port
3pm	Dana Point My Hometown	Tsunami Info	Dana Point My Hometown	Tsunami Info	Dana Point My Hometown
4pm	OCSD	Vector Control	OCSD	Vector Control	OCSD
5pm	OCFA	Community Events	OCFA	Community Events	OCFA
6pm					
7pm	City Council Meeting	South Coast Water District Meeting	City Council Meeting	South Coast Water District Meeting	City Council Meeting
8pm					
9pm	Community Bulletin Board	Community Bulletin Board	Community Bulletin Board	Community Bulletin Board	Community Bulletin Board

Scholarships Awarded at Dana Point Historical Society Annual Barbecue



Monday, June 25, 2012, DPHS awarded the \$1000 Doris I. Walker Scholarship to **Allison Payne** (left) from Dana Hills High School, and the \$1000 Lucy Chavarrias-Saunderson Scholarship to Capistrano Beach resident **Jenay D. Drake** (right) from San Clemente High School.



There was lots of good food and wonderful friends, as well as a special goodbye to Bob and Pat Fairbanks who are moving to Portola Valley. After 22 years as DPHS members and beloved Dana Point residents, we are sorry to see them leave, but wish them our very best.



Left: Jim Miller, second from right, of the Dana Point Civic Association, presents Bob and Pat Fairbanks with a dinner gift certificate while Carlos Olvera, Terry Walsh and George Miller look on.

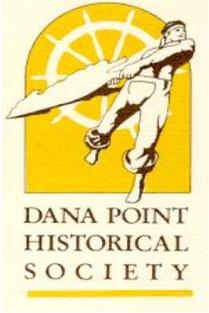


Above: The line for all the great barbecue food---clearly a popular place to be! Barbecue committee chair Jessica Blair, far right, serves attendees along with Scholarship chair Regina Barnes.



Left: Servers Bill Brough, Georgelean Olvera and Nancy Jenkins help out with a smile.

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Please register to help
DPHS through the
Ralph's Community
Contribution Program



Ralph's has informed us that it is once again time for DPHS members to register for the Community Contribution Program. This begins after August 31st. Only registering will keep your contributions going to DPHS. If you haven't registered in the past, now is your chance to do so! If you have registered previously, you will need to register again.

Registration for this program is required annually.

Use your Ralph's grocery bill to help the Dana Point Historical Society

Register at Ralphs.com and not only receive special coupons, but Ralph's will give from 1% to 4% of your grocery bill to DPHS as your designated community participant.

It's free! Just follow the instructions:

Go to RALPHS.COM

- 1) <CLICK> **Create an account** (upper right)
- 2) Type in your email and choose a password
- 3) Type in your zip code to find your local Ralph's
- 4) Enter your Ralph's card, if you have one, or skip
- 5) Choose any email offers you want to receive
- 6) Confirm your information and register
- 7) GO TO the Ralph's home page (be sure to sign in)
- 8) Scroll to the bottom and <CLICK> "Services"
- 9) <CLICK> "Community Contributions"
- 10) Scroll to the bottom and <CLICK> "Enroll"
- 11) Type our organization number **90334**
- 12) Confirm your enrollment choice. (Only one allowed)

And remember you can also use last year's or this year's SCANBAR LETTER to register directly at your local Ralph's location!