



DANA POINT
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

The News

DROGHER

January 2014

DPHS Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner January 22



Please join us for our annual meeting and potluck dinner at **6:15 p.m. on Wednesday January 22 in the meeting room at Gloria Dei Church** in Dana Point. Dinner will be followed by the presentation of the 2014 slate of incumbent officers. In addition, long-time **DPHS Member Jim Miller** will be presented with the annual Pat Plepler Award for outstanding community participation.

Richard Deffenbaugh will be the evening's guest speaker and will present his RICHFIELD tower beacon and its custom designed stand to the Historical Society. He will talk about how the beacon related to the 125 foot RICHFIELD sign that was dismantled in 1971. The tower was one of the first erected in 1928 as part of a chain of 36 towers on the west coast. Mr. Deffenbaugh has been in business in Dana Point since 1969. If you would like to read more about the Richfield towers, Steve Vaught's written works in "Paradise Leased --- Historic

Hollywood and Southern California Architecture, History, People and Travel" include a detailed article entitled: *Lighting the Up the Coast – The Beacon Tavern and the "Richfield Lane of Lights."* It can be found here:

<http://paradiseleased.wordpress.com/2011/03/16/lighting-the-up-the-coast-the-beacon-tavern-and-the-richfield-lane-of-lights/>

Please bring a dish to serve 6-8 people for the potluck dinner as well as your own tableware. Drinks will be available.

Gloria Dei Church is located at 33501 Stonehill Drive. Parking is available in the adjacent parking lot.

2014 Election of Board Members

On January 22, the members of the Dana Point Historical Society will be asked to approve board members up for re-election. Below is a listing of those board members, along with their positions and two-year terms. The re-election of these board members needs the approval of the general membership.

OFFICERS:

Ross Teasley (2012-14)	1 st Vice President, Museum/Archives/Website
Christy Johnson (2012-14)	Treasurer
Nancy Jenkins (2012-14)	Corresponding Secretary

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Mary Williams (2012-14)	Docents
Elizabeth Bammtre (2012-14)	Special Events
Judy Henderson (2012-14)	Sunshine Ambassador, Director Emeritus
Terry Walsh (2012-14)	Walking Tours

President's Message



Happy New Year! 2014 is a year of anniversaries for Dana Point. This is the 25th anniversary year for the City of Dana Point, officially incorporated on January 1, 1989. City Councilman Carlos N. Olvera has recently written a summary entitled "*Rough Road to Cityhood*," printed in the January 3 Dana Point Times, which describes the 30-year process of becoming a city. While we are a young city in Orange County, Dana Point has a much older story and thus we can celebrate two other anniversaries of significant milestones in our community's history this year. You can read his article here: <http://www.danapointtimes.com/its-history-a-rough-road-to-cityhood/>

2014 is the 90th anniversary of the original Bluff Top Park, located between today's streets of Amber and Violet Lantern. Originally known as the Scenic Walk, it was built by the San Juan Point Corporation, the first company to break ground for a Dana Point community. In F. Weber Benson's 1924 advertisement booklet, *Dana Point California and Vicinity*, photos illustrate the "Grotto Stairway from the Summit to the Sea" winding from the top of the bluffs to the rocky beach below, with sheltered benches on the paths of the bluff where visitors could rest and admire the Pacific Ocean view. A Scenic Inn picnic shelter, near the site of today's stone Picnic Facility and Restrooms, was built on the beach, against the bluff, where prospective buyers were treated to lunch and the opportunity to buy lots in Dana Point. You can still observe the ruins of the original walkways and steps from the Bluff Top Park when you enjoy a stroll or workout along the bluff. The City of Dana Point approved the Bluff Top Park as a Significant Historic Resource, one of four approved as part of the Dana Point Historical Society's 25th anniversary celebration.*

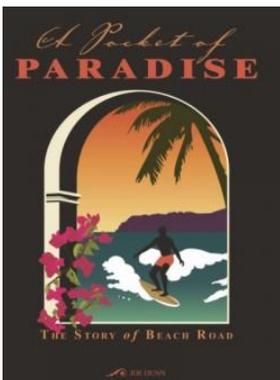
Even more impressive, 2014 is the 100th anniversary of the oldest extant building in the City of Dana Point. Blanche Dolph situated her primary residence so that it would have an impressive view that swept from Mission San Juan Capistrano to the unobstructed Pacific coastline. Blanche and her secretary, Lucilla McGaughey, lived in the home until their respective deaths in 1936 and 1945. In 1953 the house and property became the Capistrano-by-the-Sea Hospital together with additional structures built during the hospital's operation, until closing in 1996. Later, the city required the developer of the proposed Bal Harbour community, as part of the development agreement, to restore the house into a private residence since it is one of the two most historically significant properties on the city's Historic Survey. During the restoration by Fred Kiko and Associates, DPHS was privileged to have two public events on the property. In 2006 the house was auctioned and sold to a private owner. There will be more stories to tell in future articles about Blanche Dolph's accomplishments, investments and local philanthropy. In the meantime, the home can be admired from the park next door, just before the entrance to the Bal Harbour gated property.

In addition to these three significant anniversaries, we look forward to interesting programs in the near future. We start off our new year with Richard Deffenbaugh's presentation to the Historical Society of the RICHFIELD Aeronautical Beacon. February 26th promises a fascinating rendition of Capistrano Beach history with Joe Dunn and Wayne Shafer. This March we celebrate our coastal heritage with the Festival of Whales City Parade, Historic Society Walking Tours and the fourth public reading of *Two Years Before the Mast*, written by our namesake, Richard Henry Dana Jr. Join us!

Barbara Force Johannes

*The four significant historic resources and/or structures approved by the City were: the 1930 Arches, the preserved architectural remains of Woodruff's Dana Point Inn; the 1924 Bluff Top Trail; the site of the 1924 Scenic Inn and the Blue Lantern Gazebo, c. 1925-27.

SAVE THE DATE OF FEBRUARY 26 FOR A SPECIAL PRESENTATION



Our featured guests at our February meeting will be Joe Dunn, author of the book *Pocket of Paradise: The Story of Beach Road* and his guest, local sailing legend Wayne Shafer. In the book, Joe Dunn tells the story of Capistrano Beach's *Beach Road*, from the days of Junipero Serra to the early development by the Doheny family and to the creation of the Hobie Cat sailboat right there on the beach. He introduces the locals, tells the stories, and brings to life the small Southern California beach community that has had a big impact on the country's surf-and-beach lifestyle culture. Be sure to join us for a look back at this slice of history from Capo Beach.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church – A Brief History

The first Lutheran service in our area was held on September 19, 1965, at Serra School in Capistrano Beach. There were 50 people attending this service given by Pastor Donald Bankson.



Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and Fellowship Hall

The next year in May, The Executive Vice President of the South Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church, Reverend E. J. Cornils, officially organized the congregation and formally installed Donald Bankson as its first pastor. The group soon moved its worship service to the Richard Henry Dana Elementary School and, shortly thereafter, broke ground for the new Gloria Dei Lutheran Church at its current site at 33501 Stonehill Drive in December, 1966. The cost of the three-acre church site was \$104,000 and the building was constructed and furnished for \$86,000. Dedication services were held June 4, 1967. In 1975, John Knudson was called from Goleta, California, and became the new pastor. In 1984 ground was broken for Fellowship Hall, which was completed with the help of many volunteer hours.

The preschool was added in 1986 as an outreach to working parents. The early 1990s involved further expansion and remodeling of the sanctuary and church offices.

Pastor John Knudson retired in 1999 and the new millennium brought a new pastor, David R. Mattson, who was installed in July, 2000. To celebrate the 35th anniversary of Gloria Dei, a new altar and pulpit and the stained glass windows, designed by Jon Evans, were installed in the Sanctuary.



Drawing of proposed new Gloria Dei Church

The congregation has plans for a new church on the lower level of the present site for which they have already raised over \$6 million. At right is a drawing of the proposed building. The plan is to break ground next year. This short history illustrates that this congregation continues to be a vibrant part of our community.

Mary Crowl

Online Sign-Up Announced for Museum Docents

The Dana Point Historical Society has instituted a new online sign-up sheet for museum docents. If you are interested in becoming a docent, or are already a docent and would like to sign up for a time slot, please go to the link below and follow the instructions.

<http://www.danapointhistorical.org/dphs-museum-docent-schedule/2032/>

Docents sign up for a two-hour shift and training is provided for all new docents. Please consider giving the Society a couple hours of your time once a month. It's fun, informative and a wonderful way to help out the Society.

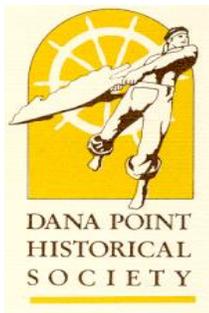
Thank You



Patrons!

We're grateful to all of you who signed up for the Ralphs Community Program this fall. Our quarterly infusion from Ralphs was received for the quarter and it was nearly \$168! If you're interested in finding out how to designate DPHS as your community non-profit for the Ralphs program, send an email to DPHSNewsletter@gmail.com.

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2014 DPHS Calendar

Jan 22 Annual Meeting

Feb 26 General Meeting

March FOW & TYBTM Reading

Membership

Please welcome new member **Mike Didelot**.

As a reminder, the annual dues for 2014 are due in January 2014. Please refer to the front of your label to see if you need to renew your membership at this time.

The membership categories are as follows:

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

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

Regina Barnes

Festival of Whales

It's not too early to be thinking about YOUR part in the *Festival of Whales* March 1-9. DPHS will need help with our display booth, readers for *Two Years Before The Mast* and logistics help setting up tents for these events. Please plan now to find some time in your busy schedule to lend us an hour or two.

Tile Wall Update



Saturday, January 11, our trustworthy Mike Choate installed 26 more tiles at Baby Beach assisted by new volunteer Randy Roberts. We are grateful for their participation!