



DOLPH HOUSE



by Barbara Force Johannes



Considered Dana Point's oldest residence, the Dolph House was built in 1914 before the Panama-California Exposition was held in San Diego the following year and three years before the U.S. entered World War I. Miss Blanch Dolph commissioned the Los Angeles architectural firm of Walker and Vawter to design her permanent residence. While the home has been described as Mediterranean with Italian influence, it has also been described as Mission style. However, the low-pitched roofs seem to have a Prairie influence with wide eave overhangs and lower horizontal lines in contrast to the Mission Revival homes such as the nearby Forster Mansion (c.1910). It is remarkable that the Dolph House was built before Spanish Colonial Revival architecture became the 1920s and 1930s California style of post World War I. Yet the home's exterior hints at the future of romantic Mediterranean villages to be built locally by Ole Hanson, Sidney H. Woodruff and Ned Doheny. The Dolph House is located at 1 Capistrano-by-the-

Sea before entering the Bal Harbour gated community of Capistrano-by-the-Sea hospital closed in the 1990s. Blanche Dolph's travels may have inspired the Mediterranean influence of her home. The Dana Point Historical Society's original copy of *The 1921 History of Orange County California with Biographical Sketches* by Samuel Armour states that "... she had traveled extensively throughout the United States and Europe as well as the Orient, and her experienced eye enabled her to pick the site of her home on account of its beautiful view and natural beauty, commanding ... a view of the broad Pacific as well as the beautiful San Juan Valley ..." (Continued on Page 3)



43 luxury homes built on land acquired after the

... a view of the broad Pacific as well as the beautiful

Scholarships Announced



The DPHS Scholarship Committee has chosen **Jayden Raye Lapin-Tatman** (left) from Dana Hills High School to receive the Doris I. Walker Scholarship. **Makena Crawford** (right) of San Juan Hills High School will receive the Lucy Chavarrias-Saunderson Scholarship. Their awards will be celebrated at the DPHS **Scholarship Fiesta Dinner** on **Tuesday, June 24**, at Doheny State Beach. Enjoy the special tour of the newly reopened Interpretive Center at Doheny State Beach. The **tours start at 5 PM** with **dinner beginning at 6 PM**. See inside for more details and the reservation form.



President's Message



The May Founders Day program honored Harold Kaufman for his contributions as a DPHS Founder, his efforts on behalf of Dana Point and celebrated the 25th Anniversary the City of Dana Point's incorporation. DPHS board member Heidi Hyde presented an extensive power point presentation and talked about the accomplishments and highlights of Harold's life before and after his arrival in Dana Point. Harold was presented with a certificate from the City Council by Carlos N. Olvera and the Founders Day plaque from the Historical Society by Bill Bamattre. Harold Kaufman spoke about his experiences with the Civic Association and as Mayor.



Max Brown and Judy Henderson served delicious appetizers and wines with the help of the board. A celebratory cake honoring Harold Kaufman and another cake honoring the 25th year of the City of Dana Point provided dessert. Special thanks go to Max Brown, Keith Johannes, Joel Bishop, Mike Grier, Bill Bamattre, Elizabeth Bamattre, Kirsten Reynolds and all our board members who helped set up the exhibits, chairs and tables and return them to storage after the program.



Currently, we have an exhibit and display board commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Dolph House thanks to Kirsten Reynolds, Exhibit Chair, and we will have some of the original architectural plans of the 1914 residence provided by DPHS member Bill Brough which we will be able to view at the museum in the next few weeks. Speaking of the museum, we are grateful to the Historical Society members who volunteer their time to keep the museum open to the public.

Regina Barnes, Scholarship Chair, presented the Lucy Chavarrias-Saunderson Scholarship at San Juan Hills High School and I had the honor to present the Doris I. Walker Scholarship at Dana Hills High School. We will have our annual scholarship fundraiser on Tuesday, June 24th, at Doheny State Beach. Special thanks go to our scholarship committee members Judy Brandmeier, Judy Henderson, Heidi Hyde and Georgelean Olvera, who read the applications for the scholarship recipients and are volunteering to help at the Fiesta.



DANA POINT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP
Fiesta Dinner Fundraiser

Jack Saunderson of Lucy's *El Patio Cafe* is again catering our June 24th Scholarship Fiesta dinner with his mother's recipes and we are back at Doheny State Beach! Your **entrance and parking is included**

in the price of your dinner and there will be tours of the newly remodeled DSBI Visitor Center starting at 5 PM conducted by Ed Neely, DSBI President. Last year's Mexican style picnic was such a success with friends and guests that we are doing it again—tradition! Dinner will be served beginning at 6 PM. Please reserve your tickets for family and friends as soon as possible so the right amount of delicious food can be prepared. The registration form can be found inside our newsletter and also online at: [Fiesta Dinner Registration Form](http://www.danapointhistorical.org/scholarship-fiesta-dinner-registration-form/2144/) (<http://www.danapointhistorical.org/scholarship-fiesta-dinner-registration-form/2144/>)

As in the past, please bring some folding money to buy tickets for the drawing and donations for drinks poured by dedicated volunteers. Call 248-8121 if you wish to donate a dessert or an item for the raffle. See you at the Scholarship Fiesta Dinner at Doheny Beach!

Barbara Force Johannes

Dolph House – Cont.

Blanche is also described as an accomplished musician who attended the University of Lewisburg in central Pennsylvania, now Bucknell University, and studied the violin, cornet and piano. In 1889, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that Blanche Dolph performed at a Valentine Day's concert at the Los Angeles Armory as a solo cornetist with Kate Fleming as vocalist and the Seventh Regiment Band. Because of her devotion to music and the arts, Blanche had an elaborate music room built on the first floor of her home with a built-in ceiling film projector.

Blanche Dolph was the epitome of a liberated and educated women by today's standards. Born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, Blanche used her share of inherited family anthracite coal wealth to study, travel, invest and do charitable work. In 1886 she would see the neighborhood of San Juan-by-the-Sea on her first trip to California and would cross the United States 60 times by 1921, twice across the Isthmus of Panama before the canal was built! In 1917 Blanche motored with her friend Lucilla McGaughey across America. Lucilla was the Assistant Pastor of Blanche's Presbyterian Church in Scranton at the turn of the century when Blanche invited her along on a trip to missions in China and India. Lucilla would later become Blanche's secretary and companion for 25 years. The 1920 U.S. Census lists a hired man, a maid and a secretary at Blanche's residence. Blanche's elder sister, Miss Florence Dolph, resided at 2021 Ocean View Avenue in Los Angeles. While they had separate residences and lives, the sisters had some common investments and would donate two acres of Aliso Canyon land in 1935 to the Girl Scout Council for the Elizabeth Dolph Girl Scout Camp in memory of their mother Elizabeth Wadhams Dolph.

Blanche named her home "The Dolphin" and was determined to change her barren windswept hill into a lawn, flowerbeds and a home garden despite discouraging advice from her neighbors in the rich lowlands of San Juan Valley. An article in the *Los Angeles Times* dated October 19, 1924, had a lengthy account headlined "Bare Hilltop Acres Are Made to Bloom" with two photos of Blanche in her bountiful garden. Blanche had irrigated her lawn and plants with water gathered in a large concrete cistern sunk into the ground to catch the run-off water from her tile roof. However, to plant a garden that included a family orchard, grape vines, blackberry vines, guava and more, she needed a great deal of water in the event of a drought. When available, additional water was pumped from a the edge of the creek through several hundred feet of pipeline to the top of the mesa. One night, the hired man forgot to turn the water off and the reservoir went dry. The result was a bumper crop of four grape varieties, loaded fig trees --- there were lemons, oranges, peaches, plums, pears and even apples and olives. Blanche also raised chickens and even had a cow, all on her hilltop 10 acres, when she was 75 years young!

Blanche also owned ranch land in San Juan Capistrano and had other investments, which appear in local historic records and newspapers. Blanche was said to have a pretty home at Arch Beach and is recorded in the Laguna Beach Historic Resources Element as buying the homestead of William Egan in 1927 in partnership with Dwight Whiting, who named the area **Three Arches**. (A post office opened in December 1933 under the name Three Arches but was changed to South Laguna, by popular vote, a year later.)

Blanche also had an earlier partnership with Horace Pullen in the Coast Royal area. Pullen decided to subdivide and place the property on the market while Blanche was in Europe. The Los Angeles newspapers branded it a swindle in 1925 when Blanche filed suit to stop the project and it died as a result. Coast Royal was the first development in South Laguna and was later acquired by Guy and Joe Skidmore, a local real estate development team.

In September 1916, Blanche and Lucilla joined with Margaret Day Cook to organize the first Sunday School for non-Catholic children, which met in Woodman Hall in San Juan Capistrano Village. To this day, Blanche and Lucilla are recorded as the first two founding members of the San Juan Community Presbyterian Church.

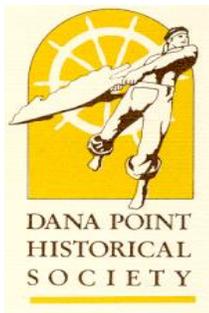
When Blanche Dolph died in 1936, at 87 years of age, the *Los Angeles Times* printed a story entitled, "Huge Estate Fight Rages, Santa Ana Courts Will Hear Case Involving Missionary's \$800,000 Holdings." It seems Florence Dolph, the 89-year-old sister living in Los Angeles, charged that Miss McGaughey had insinuated herself into the life of the deceased and "by nefarious designs" turned Blanche against her own family. Florence was left only a rug and a picture, described as the deceased's two most prized possessions, but nothing more. The article goes on to say, "All the residue of the estate goes to Miss McGaughey who insists that, if the court honors the will, she will carry out the instructions of 'my Miss Dolph' to the letter." Lucilla McGaughey died at The Dolphin in 1945 at 80 years of age, ending the Dolph era of the home. It remains for us to learn what it was that Blanche Dolph wanted done with her money and if her wishes were carried out.

Dr. Harold E. Day acquired the Dolph Estate in 1953, expanding it to 20 acres for the Capistrano-by-the-Sea Hospital and Clinic. It was the Hospital's alterations to the Dolph House and vandalism when it closed in 1996 that would require extensive restoration. The city of Dana Point required the home be retained and rehabilitated as a private residence during the development of the Bal Harbor community. The DPHS museum will soon have the original working drawings of the home on display along with our current Dolph House exhibit. See more about this fascinating piece of our history named "The Dolphin" on YouTube:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsXeYUaP_R4

AND LOOK FOR PARTS 2 AND 3 OF OUR NARRATIVE ABOUT THE DOLPH HOUSE IN FUTURE NEWS DROGHERS.

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2014 DPHS Calendar

June 24: Scholarship Fiesta Dinner

Sept 5,6 & 7: Tall Ships Festival

Oct 5: Home Tour

Membership

Welcome new members, **Jill Amadio, Sandy Wheeler** and **Ted & Caree Miller**. And a special thank you to new members, **Alan & Liz Wickstrom**, for their Life membership.

Just a reminder for those who pay their membership dues annually. Your dues should have been paid in January. If you haven't paid your dues, now might be a good time to upgrade your membership to the Patron level or even a Life Membership.

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

October Home Tour is just 4 Months Away! Volunteer Now!



Home Tour Chairs Mary Crowl and Suzanne Ennis will have their next meeting on July 15 at 2 PM at the museum. All interested persons are encouraged to attend. This will be a promising new venture for our home tour since we have never previously had access inside the gates of Niguel Shores. No experience is necessary and LOTS of volunteers, at all levels of commitment, will be needed. "*Coastal Living Niguel Shores Style*" will take place on Sunday, October 5, 2014.

Change in Museum Hours

Please remember we have new museum hours: Tuesdays 1-3 PM, Thursday 1-3 PM, and Saturdays 11 AM-3 PM. The museum will always take requests for appointment visits as well. The new hours will begin on June 1. People interested in volunteering can go to <http://www.danapointhistorical.org/dphs-museum-docent-schedule/2032/> or call Mary Williams at 248-7164.

USE THIS FORM OR GIVE IT TO SOMEONE YOU THINK MIGHT LIKE TO ATTEND!



DANA POINT HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2014

Join us for a Fiesta Dinner & Special Tour of the newly reopened
Doheny State Beach Interpretive Associations' Visitor Center

5:00 pm. Tours of the newly reopened Doheny State Beach Visitor Center.
6:00 pm. Fiesta Dinner Served at 6:00 pm, catered by Jack Saunderson, Lucy's El Patio Cafe

- All proceeds will benefit scholarships in memory of Lucy Chavarrias Saunderson and Doris I. Walker
- Tickets for DPHS Members: \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door (includes the entry fee into Doheny State Beach)
- Tickets for Non-members: \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door (includes the entry fee into Doheny State Beach)
- For more information visit www.danapointhistorical.org



Come and join us for a fun time, good food and support our annual mission to enhance the college experience of our two scholarship winners!

Mail in by Fri June 20 to: Dana Point Historical Society
PO Box 544
Dana Point, CA 92629

Number of Society member adults: _____ @ \$25 each (enclose check/money order)
Number of Society member children: _____ @ \$10 each (enclose check/money order)
Number of NON-Society member adults: _____ @ \$30 each (enclose check/money order)
Number of NON-Society member children: _____ @ \$15 each (enclose check/money order)

If you cannot attend, and/or you would like to donate money to the scholarship fund in addition to ordering tickets, please enter the amount of your donation: \$ _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email: _____