

President's Message



Lorraine Passero and Jon Seeman presented a fascinating program for our April meeting. Members and guests were inspired by Lorraine's book, *Distant Indigo*, the story of Clara Mason Fox, who had been an Orange County artist and storyteller of a past era. Lorraine, an artist and retired teacher, was able to create her story based on the contents of a large box found in a family attic. Clara's life is the true story of a woman born in 1873 who moves with her family from Illinois to homestead in Orange County. In 2010, Clara's botanical watercolors were discovered at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, California. Some of the 150 works were dated as early as 1894, when Clara lived in Silverado Canyon, and became part of the "When They Were Wild: Recapturing California's Wildflower Heritage" exhibit at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California. We have several copies of Lorraine's book available in the museum if you would like to know more about this pioneer teacher, poet and artist of Orange County. Author Lorraine Passero is married to Clara Fox's great-great nephew, Laguna Beach sculptor Jon Seeman. Jon is a fourth-generation Laguna Beach artist whose sculptures are well known. Jon spoke to us about Ed Seeman and George Seeman, his grandfather and great-uncle, who were hired to build the Scenic Inn and scenic bluff walkway in 1923-24 Dana Point. George lived in a Dana Cove cottage at the time with his family. Jon brought amazing photos of lobster trapping, fishing and a high-powered boat capable of rum running. A special Seeman family film clip included family friend and surf filmmaker Bruce Brown in Dana Cove. Our members and guests had lots to talk about at the reception afterward (pictured above).



Please thank (shown right to left) Elizabeth Bamattre, Bob Minty and Keith Johannes for representing the Dana Point Historical Society at our outreach booth at the Irvine Ranch Jamboree in the Irvine Historical Park on April 13. The event was enjoyed by a steady stream of families with children in perfect weather. Saturday, June 8, is the Orange County History Roundup at the Heritage Museum in Santa Ana and Richard Henry Dana Jr. will be there --- reenacted by Bob Minty. Several of our Board members will be volunteering at our booth and we would love to have you join us! There will be free tours of the H. Clay Kellogg House, historic exhibits and Orange County Historical Society archives will be open to the public. Check the article on page four of this newsletter and call if you can attend and/or volunteer.

Our Founders Day Program is always memorable. Join us in Bankson Hall at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church on **Wednesday, May 22**, for a tribute to the late Rod Howorth and a program honoring DPHS Life Member Scott Schoeffel for his past and current contributions to our community.

Barbara Force Johannes