



DANA POINT
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

The News Drogher

Spring 2022

DPHS Annual Meeting, Election and Potluck Dinner Wednesday, March 30

The Dana Point Historical Society will hold its annual meeting and potluck dinner on **Wednesday, March 30**, at the **Community House, 24642 San Juan Avenue, Dana Point**. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. A reception starts the evening, followed by a potluck dinner at approximately 6:30 p.m. Opening comments and approval of the 2022 slate of incumbent officers and appointed board members will begin at 7:15 p.m. Only members in good standing may vote. Good standing is defined as members whose dues have been paid within the last year.

Our final program event will feature Paula Soria and Noushin Entezam of the Interior Designers Institute, who will discuss uses for the original Woodruff Real Estate Building located at the corner of Del Prado and Pacific Coast Highway.

Attendance is open to the public, but please be sure to bring a dish to serve six to eight people for the potluck dinner. Beverages will be provided, but a donation of wine or beer is always appreciated.

Members who wish to nominate individuals or apply for vacant positions should contact Parliamentarian Joel Bishop or President Barbara Johannes at least two days prior to the annual membership meeting. Please note members may also pay their 2022 dues at the event. Marsha LaRusso, Vice President of Membership, will be on hand to collect dues.

2022 Election of Board Members & Confirmation of Appointed Directors

OFFICERS to be elected by the members in March 2022:

Vacant (2022-2024)	1st Vice President
Bob Minty (2022-2024)	3rd Vice President, Programs
Nancy Jenkins (2022-2024)	Corresponding Secretary

Board Appointed Directors to be confirmed in March 2022:

Elizabeth Bamattre (2022-2024)	Special Events
Judy Henderson (2022-2024)	Sunshine Ambassador, Director Emeritus
Max Brown (2022-2024)	Merchandise
Jim Proett (2022-2024)	Docent Scheduling

Current Board Members & Appointed Chairs

Officers Elected by the members in 2021:

Barbara Johannes (2021-2023)	President
Marsha LaRusso (2021-2023)	2nd Vice President
Heidi Hyde (2021-2023)	Recording Secretary
Gary Prenovost (2021-2023)	Treasurer
Joel Bishop (2021-2023)	Parliamentarian

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Spring Greetings to our Members and Friends!



Please join our volunteers for the 51st Annual Festival of Whales the first weekend of March. It is appropriate that we dedicate our participation to Don Hansen, founder of the Festival of Whales, who brought the event to Dana Point Harbor in 1971. The festivities start Friday, March 4 at the Ocean Institute with a 4:45 p.m. sunset welcoming ceremony by members of the local Acjachemen Nation and a surfers' paddle-out at the Marine Protected



Area behind the Ocean Institute. A reception will follow inside the Ocean Institute with an update on Dana Point's World Cetacean Alliance designation as the first and only Whale Heritage Site in the Americas. The free-admission event will include food-truck cuisine for purchase, free non-alcoholic beverages and the Ocean Institute's educational activities and displays.

On Saturday, March 5, you can view the Festival of Whales Parade at 10 a.m. from the Island Way Bridge or Dana Point Harbor Drive. Look for the Society's vintage 1929 Woodie parade entry presented by our volunteers and driven by owner and DPHS board member Bob Minty. You can read more about this unique vintage automobile on page 5.

On Saturday and Sunday, March 5 and 6, our members will volunteer at our DPHS Outreach Booth from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (open 10 a.m.-4p.m.) along Harbor Walkway, which includes setting up and taking down our pop-up tent, unloading historic photos, books and our newly redesigned Dana Point afghan. Allow time to check out the 9th Annual *Fish for Life* Clam Chowder Cook-Off at Baby Beach where, for a \$10 donation, you can taste all the chowders from 11 participating restaurants.

A live DPHS Walking Tour will be offered at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday by appointment. Guests will view historic homes and landmarks from the Bluff Top Trail over Dana Point Harbor and hear our history from 1819 to the present. For reservations call 949-248-8121 to leave a message, or email museum@DanaPointHistorical.org with your name and contact information. (Please see: festivalofwhales.com event schedule for more information. You will also find a link to a virtual tour if 2 p.m. is not convenient.)

Our Board of Directors acknowledge and thank the following individuals who have donated items to our archives and to the museum. William J. Hamilton sent the gavel he used as the last chairman of the Dana Point Specific Plan Review Board, whose members wrote the Specific Plan to prepare for the City of Dana Point's incorporation. Member Robert "Bob" Wilson donated a framed post-card of the Dana Plantation Motel (demolished in 2015) where his father, Cpl. Robert K. Wilson, and crew were lodged as part of the Army's Western Defense Command in 1942. Their assignment was to build an observation post on the Headlands manned 24/7 by civilian volunteers. DPHS Director Grant Earl permanently donated a Logitech *Meet Up + Expansion MIC*, which we used at our February 8, 2022, Board of Directors meeting to enhance the sound in a combined live and virtual board meeting. Salome Ollangg donated 1970s photographs and Dr. & Mrs. Jim and June Mullen gave us several 1980s copies of the now defunct local newspaper, *The Beacon*.

As always, we thank our museum docents, who keep the museum open and who meet with individuals for research. Special thanks go to the amazing members who mailed your 2022 dues during the Omicron pandemic without being reminded.

We will return to the Community House for our Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner on Wednesday, March 30th. This is a tradition that was established by the Civic Association and the Women's Club after the Community House was built in the 1950s, and it continues to be a favorite informal dinner meeting site of the Society. After a brief business meeting, two Interior Designer Institute students will present their class project on the adaptive reuse of the Woodruff Real Estate building located at Del Prado and Pacific Coast Highway. I look forward to seeing you at the Festival of Whales and at our Annual Meeting.

Barbara Force Johannes

Surfing Champion Joyce Hoffman Honored at Waterman's Plaza

There has been extensive news coverage of surfer Joyce Hoffman's new life-size statue in Waterman's Plaza. As an extra feature, we were fortunate enough to get a picture of her (below, in aqua shirt) with the restored Triumph Spitfire Mk2 automobile that featured her in the company's ad from the mid-1960s (inset). Because of Joyce's unparalleled success at that time, she was featured in many print stories and advertisements and is the first surfer to cross over into non-surfing product endorsements. Pictured with her is her friend Mark, the current owner of the automobile, who carefully drove it from Northern California, over the course of several days, to share it with us on her special day. The car's seat fabric, damaged years ago, has been replaced with a Hoffman Fabric design from her family's business. In the background, at far right, you can see the new statue of Joyce that celebrates her surfing heritage. You can read more about Joyce's history here: <https://www.danapointtimes.com/its-joyce-hoffmans-time-to-shine/>



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Board Appointed Directors confirmed in 2021:

Bruce Beal (2021-2023)

Joel Bishop (2021-2023)

Max Brown (2021-2023)

Vacant (2021-2023)

Keith Johannes (2021-2023)

Grant Earl (2021-2023)

Ocean Heritage Projects

Public Relations/Technology

Newsletter/Web Editor

Photo Archive

Preservation

Technology/Media

Appointed Chairs:

Jeff Huston (2021-2023)

Kirsten Reynolds (2021-2023)

Tile Wall

Exhibits

Bob Beeby 1941-2022

The Historical Society has lost an important member. Council Member Mike Frost informed us that Robert Beeby, 81, passed away on January 22, 2022. We first met Bob and Bonnie Beeby when representatives of the Historical Society visited their 1930 Woodruff home in 2009 and subsequently recommended the



historic designation of their home to the City of Dana Point. Bob and Bonnie moved to Dana Point in 1992, attracted to the separate casita living area of the home for her mother. They spent the following 16 years restoring their home and said they enjoyed its warm and happy personality while doing so. After the historic designation of their home was granted by the City of Dana Point, it was featured in an Orange County Register article in which Bob was quoted as saying, "Now we are a part of Dana Point's history and a part of Dana Point's future." The Beebys had become Historical Society members and, when invited, generously placed their home on our 2013 Home Tour, "... from the hills of Hollywood to the sea... in Dana Point." This tour was the first time that all the Woodruff-era homes on the tour were listed on the City of Dana Point Historic Register and all had been granted economic incentives through the Mill's Act. Bob

also served as a Lantern Village Association Board member for years and was an enthusiastic promoter of the Lantern Village. Bob graduated with a Business and Sociology Degree in 1964 from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, and worked for BC Wire Rope & Rigging in Anaheim. Bob is survived by his wife Bonnie, their daughter Michelle and family, son Mark and family, including four grandchildren. We will miss hearing Bob's cheerful greeting and conversation at DPHS meetings, Coffee Importers and around town. --- *Barbara Force Johannes*

Ilse Byrnes 1928-2022

Ilse Byrnes spoke to Dana Point Historical Society members on October 23, 2013, in the Dana Point City Council Chambers (pictured, on right, with Barbara Johannes, left, following the presentation). She gave an informative talk in which she detailed her involvement in the placement of 13 historic buildings on the National Register and their importance in telling California's history. A few weeks earlier she had been featured on the front page of the September 16, 2013, Los Angeles Times. In that article, Jay Correia of the California Office of Historic Preservation was quoted as saying "Byrnes is a rare person that recognizes the importance of preserving those places associated with the people and events that made us who we are." At the age of 23, the Swiss-born preservationist came to Los Angeles as a lab technician where she met and married her husband Roy, a young pathologist. After Roy's Army service, they lived in Capistrano Beach before they built their hilltop home in San Juan Capistrano, raised a family and became invested in San Juan Capistrano and its history. Roy was elected to city council twice, 40 years apart. Ilse's preservation efforts began in 1976 with the Los Rios Street Historic District and would include Crystal Cove State Park (1979), Casa Romantica in San Clemente (1990), and the Judge Richard Egan House (2017).



She also served the 5th District on the Orange County Historical Commission until her retirement in 2016 due to her husband's declining health. The Byrnes both enjoyed riding horseback in the San Juan Hills. Ilse worked to connect the local trails to others throughout Orange County and California because they were a historic link to the early rancho life. The city renamed the Prima Deshecha Trail "The Ilse and Dr. Roy Byrnes Trail" after Roy died in 2019.

Historical Society Parade Entry Features One-of-a-Kind Vintage Automobile

by Bob Minty



For the 51st Annual Festival of Whales parade, I will be driving my 1929 Oldsmobile /Cantrell Woodie Station Wagon, representing the Dana Point Historical Society. This car is the only known J.T. Cantrell & Company modified Oldsmobile Woodie ever built and has received a complete restoration.

It started its life as an Oldsmobile R-29 sedan chassis in the Fisher Body plant in Flint, Michigan, and then travelled by rail to the Cantrell factory in New York where it was

outfitted with a custom oak body. Joseph Theodore Cantrell established his company in 1905, primarily repairing buggies, carriages and wagons. As their custom wood "Depot Wagons" became more popular, the company began building "Estate cars" for wealthy easterners. Most of the Cantrell wood bodies were built on Ford and Dodge chassis. The high quality and stylish design of Cantrell's bodies was appreciated not just in the United States but in many foreign countries as well.



When finished, this car was then sent to Colorado Springs, Colorado, where the purchaser, a hotel owner, wanted a powerful custom-made "station wagon" to deliver his guests from the railroad to his hotel. Soon after, the Depression worsened, the hotel closed and the magnificent automobile was abandoned in a field to face years of neglect. After suffering the effects of snow, heat, vandals and thieves, I purchased the car and had it sent by trailer to the warm surf and sand of Dana Point. Following years of part-searching and painstaking labor by Saddleback Motors, Pacific Chrome and myself, it began a new life representing the iconic surfing heritage of Southern California. The car now holds a vintage-style, custom-made redwood surfboard by the Hobie-era master board shaper Mike Emery. A local craftsman, Vince Lacebal, gave it a new look with fresh veneer and varnish and today it displays an antique enamel badge, "Oldsmobile Legion of Honor," issued posthumously to my grandfather, Larry Hobbs. He was a Fisher Body tool and die maker in Michigan in the 1920s. When I was 10 years old, my grandfather told the story of building a car "all out of wood." Records show that in 1929, Oldsmobile only made one single Woodie. It wasn't until years later that they made another. Despite the Woodie station wagon's popularity, Detroit's first passenger wagons were an all-steel product, appearing in 1949. Their immediate acceptance and popularity with the buying public marked the beginning of the end for the custom wooden luxury wagons built by J.T. Cantrell & Company. You can watch a video detailing the features of my car on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37ioQSc2COY>

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2022 DPHS Calendar

March 5 & 6 FOW March 30 Annual Meeting & Potluck

Membership

Please welcome new members **Marco Carralero, Sarah & Brandon Colbo, Randy Hild, Edward & Kathleen Lambert** and **Lantern Village Association**.

Also, please congratulate new **lifetime** members **Joan Deily** and **Enzo Scognamiglio!**

As a reminder, the annual dues for 2022 were due in January. The membership categories are:

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

Please remit your dues at this time either via mail at P.O. Box 544, Dana Point, 92629; at the museum Tuesdays, Thursdays or Saturdays, 1-3 p.m., or at our membership meeting on March 30.

All contributions are tax deductible as the Historical Society is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Questions? Contact Marsha La Russo at rmlarusso@msn.com

Don Hansen 1935-2022

The Society dedicates this issue to Don Hansen, the founder of the Dana Point *Festival of*



Whales and owner of the first business in Dana Point harbor. The festival set the course for Dana Point being declared a Whale Heritage Site in 2021 by the World Cetacean Alliance. Don was chosen as the Society's

2012 Founders Day Honoree for his lasting contributions to our community.

You can view an extended article about his life here: <https://www.danapointtimes.com/dana-wharf-sportfishing-whale-watching-founder-don-hansen-dies-at-87/>