



The News Drogher

Autumn 2024

DPHS Celebrates Opening of El Caminante Bar and Bungalows



*Barbara Johannes with owners
Danny Hyde, left, and Jeff Finn.*



On July 25, more than two dozen Society members attended the official opening of El Caminante Bar and Bungalows, the building formerly housing the Seaside Inn. We were invited by General Manager Didi Shields to the ribbon cutting organized by the Dana Point Chamber of Commerce. The Historical Society presented an enlarged and framed 1940 postcard of the building after it originally opened as



The Swallows Motel. A reception followed with tours of the renovated and beautifully furnished rooms inspired by the Spanish Colonial Revival style of some of the original 1920s to 1930s Doheny

homes. The building's tile work, doors, furniture and record players all pay homage to an earlier era of the motel. Mayor Jamie Federico congratulated the Artist Guild Hospitality owners on their thorough restoration of the historic motel. Consider stopping in at the bar for a locally named cocktail (such as the "Hole in the Fence") or lemonade while enjoying an ocean sunset on the front patio. There is a small intimate bar lounge with both a front patio featuring an ocean view as well as a back patio. *Photos by Robbie Robinson.*



Surfing Through the Summer



Our June 12 summer program featuring Steve and Barrie Boehne, tandem surfing legends and Infinity Surfboards founders, was a huge success, thanks to their son David Boehne. The entire Boehne family was in attendance plus 75 members and guests who were amazed with the spectacular videos Dave assembled for the program. Steve and Barrie answered questions from the audience regarding their international fame, especially in France. The museum reception afterward overflowed outside and was a celebration of Steve and

Barrie's fascinating story, commemorated last October by the City of Dana Point with a bronze tandem-surfing statue in Watermen's Plaza.

In late June, Don Kent visited the museum to share a poem he wrote describing his



experience surfing Dana Cove in 1964 while attending an inland high school. Don was one of the young surfers who peacefully protested in the last day of surfing at Dana Cove. The Cove had been closed to water sports to facilitate building Dana Point Harbor when the photo was taken. From Doris Walker's book *Home Port for Romance*: "As a crane in the background prepared to drop the first breakwater boulder, surfers surrounded legendary canoe surfer Ron Drummond of Capistrano Beach to pose at a funeral for Killer Dana." The August 1966 photo went into the Orange County Harbor Time

Capsule later that month and would be displayed at the 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2016. You can read Don Kent's poem beneath the photo of the peaceful protest in this newsletter.

In August, the Board of Directors accepted Jake Schwaner's invitation to partner with Hobie Surf Shop, Surfing Heritage & Culture Center (SHACC) and the Ocean Institute in a permanent surfing display for the Ocean Institute's Surf-Science Building (pictured left). Seven DPHS historic photos were donated for the exhibit including the 1966 last-day-of-surfing photo taken at Dana Cove. It was a pleasure for our volunteers to see the impressive exhibit during the Ocean Institute Maritime Festival.

Two exchange students from Sorrento, Italy, visited the Museum with their Dana Hills High School counterparts on August 16th. Dana Point Sister Cities International President Bob Zasa accompanied the students along with Sister Cities Board Members Nancy Jenkins and Danielle Wilson. The visit was to give Francesca La Scala, 15, and Lavinia Giannino, 17, a brief history of Dana Point and to demonstrate how Dana Point investors were inspired as early as 1924 to develop Dana Point as a resort city like Sorrento. Both young ladies attend the Classical Lyceum Public Virgilio Marone School in Meta, near Sorrento. Their Dana Hills student hosts, Haidyn Smith and Ben Strauss, are local Sister Cities Student Ambassadors who visited Sorrento in June. After the students viewed the 1924-2024 exhibit, which compared the similarities of the coastlines of Dana Point to Sorrento, the meeting concluded. Haidyn and Ben were heard planning their next stop for lunch at Young's Beach Shack via the Dana Point Trolley. Oh, to be a student again!

Barbara Force Johannes

Killer Dana 1964 by Don Kent

In August of 1966 (pictured below), Don Kent was fortunate to be among the few who surfed Killer Dana on the last day. A photographer gathered them together and shot some film. For the next 50 years, Don had no idea what became of that photo. In August 2016, his youngest son, Taylor, planned a trip to the opening of the Dana Point Harbor Time Capsule from Don's residence in Scottsdale, Arizona. Once in Dana Point Harbor, he saw the picture of all the surfers on the last day for Killer Dana. He is the 5th board over from the left, in dark swim shorts, holding onto his 9'2" G&S with a dark diagonal strip on the lower portion of the board.

The poem is his ode to the timelessness of Killer Dana, as it remains in our memories, photos, films, and stories. And also to the generations lucky enough to have been there.



*fading in the distance we hear school bells ring like unanswered fire alarms
hands lightly on the wheel, my 55 Chevy speeds toward the Pacific
its top rack stacked with salt and wax covered long boards
tan faces front and back seat looking windward, enjoying a welcome relief
from study halls and classrooms
the sterile concrete buildings of higher learning*

*tee shirt board short wearing truants laughing
as if this was just another ditch day for the upper class
with no regard for graduation honors
just a car filled with high voltage electricity
unaware that one day these escapes will be part
of an oral history filled with storied memories
frozen in timeless black and white photographs*

*these seniors, nearly emancipated from family ties
are navigating narrow roads twisting inside familiar canyon walls
with prized cargo lashed up top the chrome rimmed 55
rule breakers embracing their bond
as brothers united in their quest to Dana Point*

*smoothly down shifting gears, the migration merges
into a dead end at Main Beach
then a smooth, wheel turn and instinctive
left up PCH past the wise old man with his timeworn smile
long grey beard and bent body wrapped inside his tweed suit*

*the truants lean out mid rolled down windows
cheering, waving, stretching out for a balloon
The Greeter belongs to Laguna Beach, his theatric past
will be forever enshrined in distant memories and stone statues
but this day he is everyone's Mayor and original Crazy Guy
welcoming sun worshipers to Laguna*

*Each of the 55's escapees are quick trigger ready
for a red alarm four door exit their noses inhaling the musky ocean salt air
a familiar companion to the clouds of Marlborough smoke
a membership requirement to be in the clan*

*sunlight showcases the horizon, the road ahead passes lazily
off in the distance, unobstructed panoramic views of waves
breaking into rights and lefts rising peaks and tubes
fighting through froth over rocks revealing their location
from a shallow bottom being obedient to changing tides*

*rolling swells traveling endlessly from their far eastern birthplace
cruise closer to Laguna's beach exhaling a thunderous boom
then sinking into the sand and seaweed while backing up
she welcomes another, and another...and another until the
magic seventh or nineth wave makes a grand entrance*

*as the truant's eyes narrow down the oncoming side street
the 55 continues south for this section of Laguna belongs to the locals
a lineup of high school truants returning like migrating dolphins
to Thalia Street and other beach town alleyways*

*today's 55 southern migration to Dana Point is in sight
a cousin of Laguna she is our beloved Killer Dana,
welcoming us to a familiar cove, towering rock cliffs protecting
an endless procession of thunderous waves
rolling over volcanic reefs in perfect harmony
with one another and the surf boards inside the curl*

*my clan is finally home, ready to plunge into cold, clear waters
history making wave riders like Hobie and Corkey
will call her the Waimea of the West
spoken in reverent, almost hushed terms
as if inside a secret cathedral of the sea
protected from a world that can only envy our freedom*

*later, driving away after a day of baptism by salt water
in the distance remains a single pier stretching out into the bay,
bisecting the hard fast breaks rolling around the Point
and on the port side the quarter mile long 8 foot waves
embracing an endless line of surfers...nose walking the horizon*

*one day, sadly
Killer Dana will be forever broken
by breakwaters and commerce
her voice silenced...a memory replaced with black and white photographs
But today is 1964 and she is home to the 55 Chevy truants
And she always will be...*

Don Kent, March 23, 2023

Outreach Events

DPHS volunteers manned our booth at September's Ocean Institute Maritime Festival. Also, Society



Volunteers Jim Proett, Outreach Chair Gary Macrides, Jeff & Vicki Lander and Keith Johannes.

Vice President Bob Minty presented his whaling and pirate artifacts while serenading attendees with his concertina. Randy Roberts was available to help with tile painting. Other volunteers included Elizabeth and Bill Bamattre, Heidi Hyde, Robin Valles, Gary Prenovost, Rocky Parker, Barbara Johannes and Margie Roberts.



Keith Johannes and Bob Minty show off Bob's collection of whaling and pirate artifacts.



Baby Beach Tile Wall Chair Randy Roberts, left, helps a family paint tiles.

Sunday, September 22, Vintage Redo Market on Del Prado. We will have our Outreach Booth which will feature our new Dana Point Shirts (pictured) manufactured by *High Seas Trading Company*. This attractive, 100% cotton, high-quality shirt features the Orange County Beach Cities and highlights Richard Henry Dana Jr., the brig Pilgrim, the City of Dana Point Seal, Pacific Coast Highway and the Headlands. We sell the shirt for \$70 including tax and DPHS members can get a 10% discount.



Sunday, October 13, ArtFest on Del Prado. DPHS Baby Beach Tile Wall Chair Randy Roberts, along with DPHS volunteers, will host tile painting in the children's area. Tiles sell for \$65 which includes the tile, paint, kiln firing, installation and maintenance of the tile walls at Baby Beach.

The **Trolley Art & History Tour** is a companion event to ArtFest and features a limited number of tickets, offered by the City of Dana Point. Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased at www.danapoint.org/recreation. Click the online registration button and search Activity #8769, #8770 or "trolley."

Each trolley will have an Art Ambassador and a Historical Society Docent to provide information and insight at all the stops. The city tour will include locations such as the Lantern Bay Park Stairs, Doheny Village Mural, Hide Drogher Sculpture, Watermen's Plaza, and Woodruff Homes, among a total of 10 stops. The 90-minute tours will run at 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. from the Community House, 24642 San Juan Avenue, Dana Point. Ticket holders will be greeted by DPHS Vice President Bob Minty, who will portray Richard Henry Dana Jr.

After the tour, stop by the ArtFest to be a part of a community celebration of fine art, live music, food, wine tasting, beer gardens and more in the heart of the city's Lantern District. For more information, visit <http://www.dpartfest.com>.

Membership

Please welcome new members **Timothy Gibson** and **Anthony Vela**!

As a reminder, the annual dues for 2024 were due in January. The membership categories are:

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| 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 our museum Tuesdays, Thursdays or Saturdays, 1-3 p.m.; at one of our scheduled meetings or at events when our outreach booth is present.

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

Questions? Contact Membership Chair Marsha La Russo at rmlarusso@msn.com.