



The News

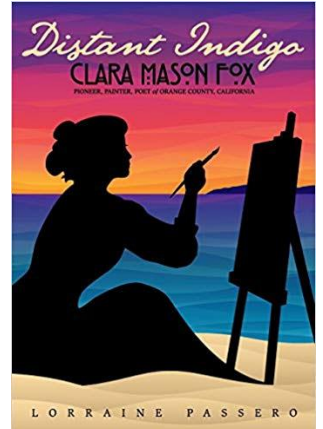
# DROGHER

April 2019

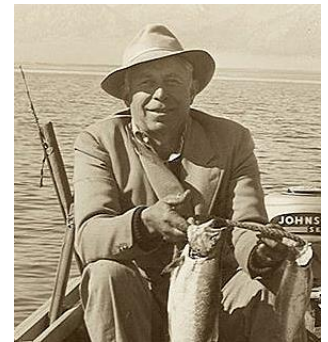
## April 24 Meeting Will Feature Jon Seeman and Lorraine Passero



Our meeting on **Wednesday, April 24** will feature Orange County native Jon Seeman and his wife Lorraine Passero (left). Both are distinguished artists and Lorraine is also the author of *Distant Indigo*, the story of local artist Clare Mason Fox. In addition, Jon is the grandson of Ed Seeman (below, right) of Laguna Beach, who built the scenic walkway (below, left) in Dana Point Cove for the San Juan Point Corporation in 1924. The construction included rockwork, retaining walls, sidewalks and pavement, as well as other decorative touches. Working with him was a crew and his brother George, who lived in one of the few small cottages in Dana Cove.



The event will take place in **council chambers at City Hall starting at 7 p.m.**, followed by a reception in our museum.



## Founders Day 2019



The Dana Point Historical Society will celebrate its annual Founders Day on **Wednesday, May 22, 2019**. We are pleased to announce that we will have two honorees this year. DPHS lifetime member, former Dana Point mayor and Dana Point Symphony co-founder **J. Scott Schoeffel** (left) will be honored with the 2019 Founders Day award. Longtime member **Rod Howorth** (right) will be celebrated in memorium for all of his past work with the Society and as a community advocate in Dana Point. The event will take place in **Bankson Hall at Gloria Dei Church**, Selva Road and Stonehill Drive. A reception will greet members and their guests



beginning at **6:30 p.m.**, followed by our program at 7:15 p.m. The public is invited to join us on this very special night.

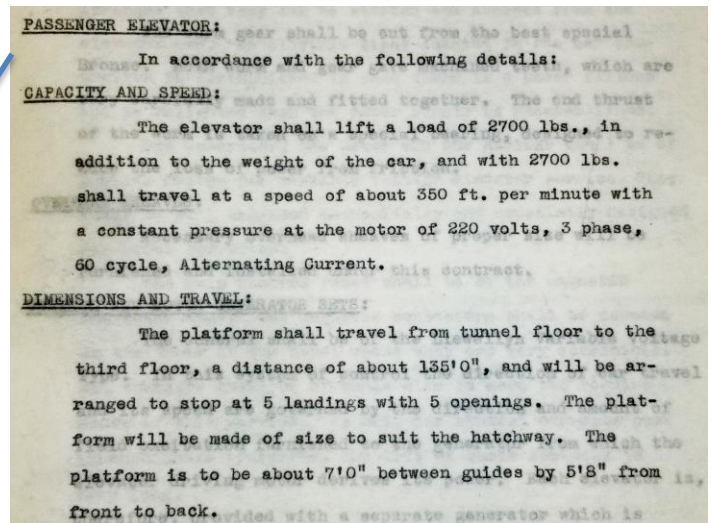
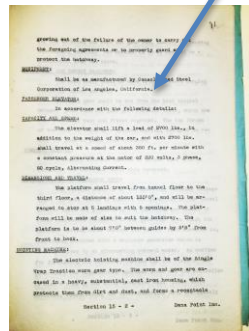


Once again we are thankful for our volunteers who organized our Festival of Whale (FOW) activities the first two weekends of March. Although the FOW Parade was canceled due to rain, Tuttle Click Capistrano Ford had reserved two convertibles for our parade entry in celebration of receiving the Dana Point Chamber of Commerce Non-profit Excellence Award, all of which was appreciated. We had lots of visitors at our booth on March 3 and again the following weekend. The booth location varied each day so we had lots of traffic, took orders for historic photos, spoke to visitors about the work of our society and sold books and merchandise related to our local history. We couldn't

have done the set-up and take down each of those three days without our faithful members who volunteered: Alice Anderson, Bill, Elizabeth and Nick Bamattre, Brad and Judy Brandmeier, Lauren Boissevain, Max Brown, Grant Earl, Paul and Susan Hinman, Heidi Hyde, Pete Hammer, Sandie Iverson, Keith Johannes, Willa Porter, Gary and Stella Prenovost and Kat Wallace. A free Historical Walking Tour was given on the first FOW Sunday, led by Lee and Terry Walsh, and an appointment was made for another Walking Tour on March 16, led by Keith Johannes, which prompted a generous donation to the Society by Beverlee Morse and two out-of-town guests.

Historic Photo Archivist Sandie Iverson met with representatives of Dana Point Harbor Partners in March for the selection of historic images to be used for the Dana Harbor Project management office and in other marketing uses, both print and digital. Historic harbor and community images were chosen to convey Dana Point's history and will be used with appropriate DPHS watermarks for the Dana Point Harbor project only. The agreement allows for the public display of local history while providing income for the Historical Society in support of our efforts to preserve and share local history.

On March 27, three board members visited the Sherman Library in Corona del Mar by appointment to research Dana Point's early years. We discovered quite a trove of information in the files of Western Construction, whose owner, Moses Sherman, was an investor in Sidney H. Woodruff's Dana Point development.



Interesting advertisements appeared in the Automobile Club of Southern California magazines. A 1933 ad included a photo of the "Dana Villa . . . by the Sea" at Dana Point, offering beautiful individual apartments with garage, a fine bathing beach and deep sea fishing nearby. A 1947 edition listed a Dana Point Hotel one block off U.S. 101 with 55 rooms ranging from \$4.00 - \$9.00. Two motor lodges were listed, the Dana Villa with 37 Rooms and the Plantation Motel with 25 cottages. Jack's restaurant is located in the former Dana Point Hotel now scheduled to be demolished for a new building. The two motor lodges have been demolished and their lots remain vacant.

*Among the many pages of documents available at the Sherman Library is this specification of the 1920s Dana Point Inn elevator, which was to go from the hotel on the top of the bluff, through the cliff to the seashore below.*

Speaking of historic photos, a timely "From the Archives" photo printed in the March 29 edition of The Dana Point Times featured a bluff-top trail photo with the following caption: "According to the OC Public Libraries archive description, the photo was taken in 1927 of a trail built by Ed Seeman." Why timely? Jon Seeman, the grandson of Ed Seeman, is one of our two speakers at our meeting on April 24 and will give us more details on Dana Point's oldest park, built by his grandfather and great-uncle. Our archives show scenic bluff-top trail photos in a 1924 edition of *Dana Point and Vicinity*, a publication of the San Juan Point Corporation, the first development to be named "Dana Point." Lorraine Passero is our second speaker and the author of *Distant Indigo: Clara Mason Fox: Pioneer, Painter and Poet of Orange County, CA*. Clara Mason Fox was born in 1873 and moved to Silverado Canyon with her family in 1897. You may be inspired to write your own family story after learning how Lorraine went about writing her book. I look forward to hearing our speakers with you on the evening of Wednesday, April 24th.

*Barbara Force Johannes*

## Historic Preservation Outlook: Del Prado Development

A proposed project on Del Prado has been approved that will demolish two buildings and replace them with a mixed-use development with 10,822 square feet of commercial space and 68 residential units. Current addresses are 24442, 24452 and 24470 Del Prado. One of the buildings is the former Dana Point Hotel (below), which opened in 1947. Dana Point Historical Society Matriarch Helen Pierce tells of working at Noel's Galleon, the hotel's dining room, in the summer of 1947 after college graduation and before beginning her fall teaching contract in Alhambra: "Wow! To see this picture of the hotel as it was really brings back memories! The Galleon restaurant was a very pleasant place to work. Mr. and Mrs. Corlett ran the business office (for the hotel) at the center of the building, and I also did office work for them. I think the hotel was built in 1946-1947 because it was very new when my friend and I worked there."



In 1948, the Automobile Club of Southern California listed three places to stay in Dana Point: The Dana Villa Motel, the Plantation Motel, both on Hwy 101, and the Dana Point Hotel, one block off Hwy 101. Vacant lots are all that remain of the 1930 Dana Villa that advertised garages with each of its apartments and of the small cottages of the 1942 Plantation Motel. The former Dana Point Hotel is the last of the three and will soon be razed.

Built in the streamlined Moderne Architecture style often associated with travel, the Dana Point Hotel building featured a nautical design. The patio/pool area was later replaced with an addition that altered the original design. The Dana Point Hotel portion of the property has had its share of financial difficulties: The *Los Angeles Times* on July 17, 1955, had a notice of the "FORCED SALE BY COURT ORDER; 55 UNITS-rooms and Apts., Store, Restaurant. Completely Furnished and Equipped-16,000 sq. ft. 6 mi. S. Laguna overlooking Ocean, no trades. \$127,000. Terms-Courtesy to Brokers." The property was consolidated into the current three lots in 1969 when administrators of Florence Corlett's will deeded it to Charles Beyer who then sold it to Thomas Brown in 1975. Then again in 1995, the property (now three lots) was purchased out of foreclosure, with an unpaid debt of \$445,370.90, and sold for \$370K to the highest bidder, Florentino Ortiz, who later sold it in 2005. The building adjacent to the District Salon was built for a fitness center sometime after 1975.

More recently, the original Dana Point Hotel building has been the home of Jack's Restaurant & Bar, The District Salon and rented apartments. Jack Loconsolo established Jack's Restaurant in 1997 and loyal clientele will miss the friendly pub restaurant atmosphere and delicious food. Nancy Jenkins is one such customer: "In addition to running a well-established restaurant, Jack is an influential businessman who is revered by Del Prado businesses and is the founder of the Del Prado Art Walk event." The current owner, American Commercial Equity LLC of Malibu, CA, purchased the properties in 2005. The company is also the owner of the restored property where Coastal Kitchen Restaurant, the 1927 Blue Lantern Fountain lunch building, is located. The company has restored one historic building but will demolish this one.

The current property was evaluated by Architectural Resources Group, which stated that the property has lost its historic significance because of substantial alterations and repairs for fire damage. The Dana Point City Council has accepted the Planning Commission's approval to move forward. The appeal period for the project has ended, and it cannot be appealed to the Coastal Commission. So the next step, once the applicant is prepared, will be to submit for engineering and building permits.

*Keith Johannes*

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## 2019 DPHS Calendar

**April 24** Jon Seeman & Lorraine Passero Program    **May 22** Founders Day Program    **June 26** Scholarship Fiesta

## Membership

Please welcome new members **Tom Patty, Kim & Nick Tarantino and Laura Wheeler.**

**As a reminder, the annual dues for 2019 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 April 24.**

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

Questions? Contact me at [rmlarusso@msn.com](mailto:rmlarusso@msn.com)

Marsha LaRusso

## Modjeska Illustrated Book

April 8 was the 110th anniversary of the death the great Polish/American actress and Orange County resident Helena Modjeska (1840–1909). The actress was a good friend of Richard Egan and spent much time in San Juan Capistrano and what was known as San-Juan-by-the-Sea (now Capistrano Beach in Dana Point). Among her many other talents, Modjeska was a



gifted storyteller and artist. During breaks in her acting schedule she spent time writing and illustrating a fairy tale for her grandson, Felix Modjeski, presenting the 147-page bound manuscript to him as a Christmas gift in 1896. With handwritten parallel texts

in English and Polish, the ink-and-watercolor illustrations show Modjeska's flair for both fantasy and natural observation.

You can view the book in its entirety at the Laguna Beach Art Museum through May 27. Admission will be free on Thursday evening, May 2, as part of the Laguna Beach First Thursday Art Walk event, when local art shops open their doors to the public.

For more information go to: [lagunaartmuseum.org/exhibitions/](http://lagunaartmuseum.org/exhibitions/)