



DANA POINT  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

# The News Drogher

Summer 2023

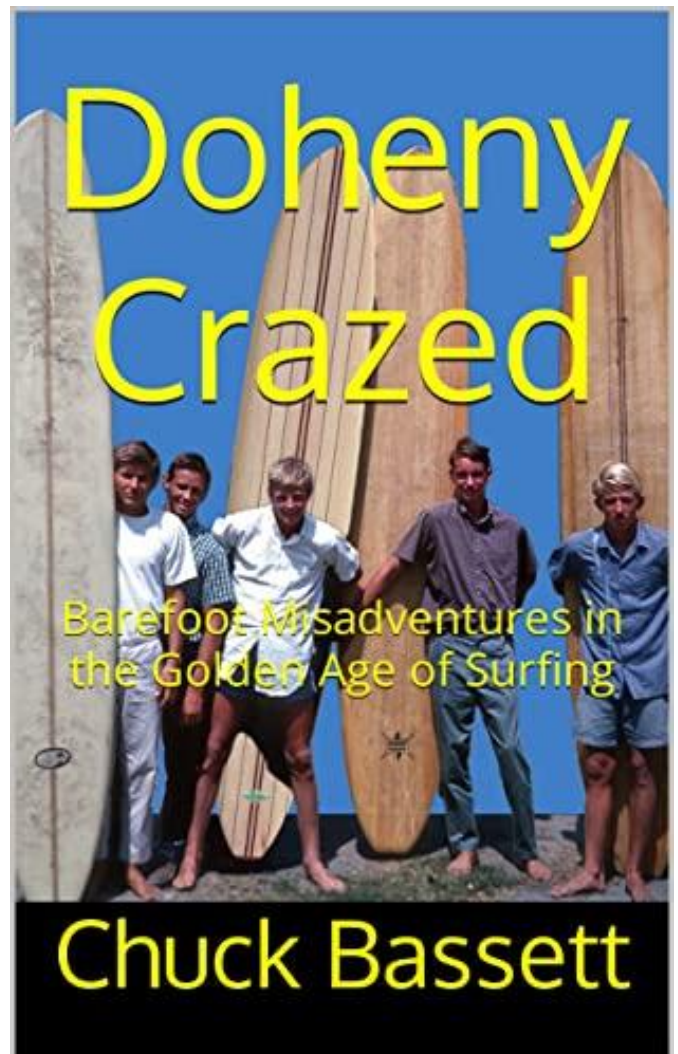
## Join us June 28 at 7 p.m. in City Council Chambers For a Book Presentation by Chuck Bassett

Our June program will feature Charles “Chuck” Bassett and his first book, *Doheny Crazy: Barefoot Misadventures in the Golden Age of Surfing*. Chuck will be accompanied by Jean Pierre “The Fly” Van Swae as he discusses his experience at Doheny Beach as a teenager from the City of Orange. Bassett’s book describes Doheny State Beach in the 1960s and he reflects on a time when it was a magnet for hundreds of surfers. Chuck and J.P. will share a variety of short stories including Chuck’s accounts of camping on San Juan Creek as a youngster, complete with cooking implements and bedding, which served as his “home base” since sleeping



San Clemente author Charles “Chuck” Bassett, right, with Jean Pierre “The Fly” Van Swae, left.

Photo by Breanna Greenberg, Dana Point Times.



at Doheny Beach was prohibited. *Doheny Crazy* is in its second printing with additional photos to illustrate Chuck’s stories. Early arrival is suggested. A reception and book signing will be held in the museum after the meeting. His book will be available for purchase.

## Remembering Local Basque History and Doheny 60's Beach Culture!



Our thanks to Bob Zamora who, at our April meeting, traced his Basque roots, aided by his collection of family historic photos and artifacts. Bob's presentation highlighted Basque immigration in Southern California and the Basque shepherding that surrounded Dana Point. Early Basque immigrants like Domingo Oyharzabal and his brothers came to California by way of Chile in 1867, to find success as a prominent San Juan Capistrano family whose sheep ranching extended to the

Pacific Ocean along Del Obispo and San Juan Creek. Jean Pierre Daguerre, a French Basque, also arrived as a young single man in 1874 and ultimately became a one-third partner with Louis F. Moulton in the Moulton Ranch, raising sheep on thousands of acres that included the Monarch Beach area.

Eusebio and Maria Gamboa, Bob's Basque great-grandparents, arrived in California in 1910 as a family of six, leaving their Spanish Basque homeland due to the poor economy. Each of them had lost their first spouse and subsequently remarried each other. Maria's first husband was killed in Cuba during the Spanish-American War. When she went to Cuba with their young daughter to claim her dead husband's farm as her inheritance, she learned another woman had claimed it as his wife. She would return to Spain and later marry Eusebio, whose wife had died and left him with three children. The newly formed Gamboa family arrived at Ellis Island and traveled by train to Los Angeles, where they stayed in a Basque boarding house until Eusebio found a job shepherding in El Sereno. The family was housed in a drafty, batten board ranch house and their children attended Farmdale Elementary School in 1911. (The school still exists and was listed on the National Historic Register in 2022.) The winter of 1911-12 was very cold and the house caught fire and burned to the ground. Justo, Eusebio's 10-year-old son from his first marriage, died in the fire. The Gamboa family was without a home until they learned, with the help of Basque friends, there were jobs in San Juan Capistrano. Maria and the two girls worked cleaning the French Hotel owned by the Oyharzabal family, the Egan House and the El Adobe Restaurant. When Oyharzabal hired Eusebio to raise sheep, a house was provided on the ranch near today's Blue Fin Drive and Via La Pluma, near Del Obispo Street. The family would live and work there until Eusebio and Maria decided to return to their Basque homeland in 1919 after the end of World War I and because, with the passage of Prohibition in the United States, Eusebio did not want to live without wine. However, their children wanted to remain in California. Eusebio's son (Bob's grandfather), Serapio, married his stepsister, Francisca, in 1917 and they moved to Spadra, where farmland was more affordable. Their family moved again to Chino and then in 1929 to West Covina, where Serapio purchased 50 acres. Bob's mother, Mary, graduated from Pomona High School in 1937 and, with her cousin Mary Zualet (her father was French Basque), worked in Los Angeles for Barker Bros, riding the Red Car each way to work and back home. Bob's mother met Joe Zamora at a Basque picnic in Brea. Joe would serve as a U.S. Army Lieutenant in WW II, and they would marry in 1945 after the end of the war. Bob was born in Los Angeles, his parents bought a house and his mother opened her own drapery shop. In 1960, when his mother was attacked on a street near work and her



*Bob Zamora wearing a traditional Basque Boina hat and guayavera shirt at our April Meeting*

purse was stolen, Bob's father moved the family to Tustin. Bob completed high school at Mt. Carmel High School in Los Angeles, had an academic scholarship to Chapman College and completed his teaching credential at UCI. Bob taught Spanish at Dana Hills High School before moving to Capistrano Valley High School, teaching a total of 41 years and coaching baseball a total of 50 years.

During the reception, we learned that one of his second cousins was in the audience with her son. She had never met her own father, who died in the Korean Conflict only five months after her parents were married and three months after he was sent to Korea with the U. S. Army. It was evident that 20th Century world events influenced the lives of four generations of the Gamboa family, just as they determine the paths of present-day immigrant families seeking a better life in the United States.

Our next presentation is June 28 and will feature Charles Bassett and his first book, *Doheny Crazyed*. "Chuck" will be accompanied by J.P. "The Fly" Van Swae. When Chuck attended our April board meeting, he told about the fort he built along San Juan Creek for himself and his "inlander" friends where they camped for the summer. We're sure you will enjoy his many tales of 1960's Doheny Beach culture.

*Barbara Force Johannes*

## **Then & Now: The DPHS Outreach Booth had special visitors at the Vintage Redo Market**

One of our historic photo banners came alive when Steve and Barrie Boehne stopped to visit at our April 30<sup>th</sup> Outreach Booth. As it happened, we were on Del Prado across from Infinity Surfboards when Steve stopped in to see our displays and said, "Hey, that's me!"

Jeff Landers asked to take Steve's photo in front of the photo banner and Steve invited Barrie, his wife and tandem surfing partner, to join him.



The Dana Point City Council voted on February 15, 2022, to commemorate their local and international surfing accomplishments with a statue to be erected in Watermen's Plaza. Sculptor Bill Limebrook's statue will hopefully be installed at some point this summer. According to the *Dana Point Times*, the couple has been tandem surfing since the 1960s and have won more contests than any other tandem team in history.

Sixteen DPHS members volunteered at our Outreach Booth at the Vintage Redo Market. Eight gathered to set-up our tent alongside Bob Minty's classic 1929 Oldsmobile woody. Special thanks go to

*Steve and Barrie Boehne in front of our vintage photo showing them tandem surfing. DPHS Photo by Jeff Landers.*

our volunteers: Bruce Beal, Max Brown, Susan & Paul Hinman, Heidi Hyde, Barbara & Keith Johannes, Vickie & Jeff Landers, Marsha & Rich LaRusso, Bob Minty, Stella & Gary Prenovost, Jim Proett and Robin Valles.

## DPHS Awards Scholarship to Local High School Student

The Dana Point Historical Society's Scholarship Committee (Heidi Hyde, Chair, and Judy Brandmeier, Judy Henderson, Susan Hinman and Fay Kristjanson) has chosen a graduating Dana Hills High School senior to receive our \$1,000 Doris I. Walker scholarship in May, named for the local author, historian and Historical Society founder. This year's recipient of the Doris I. Walker Scholarship is Sophie Anderson.



Sophie will graduate as a Valedictorian with an outstanding GPA of 4.5 in addition to being named Dolphin of the Year. A water polo player, she is also a Scholar Athlete and a National Merit Scholar. She is an AP Scholar with Honors, a PTSA Dolphin Ambassador and has received the California State Seal of Biliteracy. Sophie was recognized as a Senior Pathway Completer in College & Career Advantage.

Truly an accomplished young woman, Sophie plans on attending the Georgia Institute of Technology to study Biomedical Engineering. The Society congratulates Sophie and wishes her every success in her academic pursuits.

The Society would like to thank the donors who contributed to our scholarship fund this year: Regina Barnes, Mary Crawl, Paul & Susan Hinman, Fay & Dave Kristjanson, Norm Denton, Robbie Robinson, Barbara & Keith Johannes, Geody Deffenbaugh, Terry & Lee Walsh, George & Barbara Miller, Robin Valles, Robert Zasa, Paula & Bob Becker, Doris Conroy, Hansa & Lakshman Sehgal, Ruth Clark, Muriel Hamme, Judy Brandmeier, Bob & Barbara Wilson and Francisca Feddersen. The Society continues to accept scholarship donations throughout the year which will be recognized in later editions of The News Drogher.

We also extend a special thanks to those who submitted prizes for our June Scholarship Raffle Drawing: Captain Dave's Dolphin & Whale Watching Safari, Dana Wharf Sportsfishing & Whale Watching, Ironwood Restaurant and See's Candy.

# Highlights from the 2023 California Preservation Conference

By Keith Johannes, Preservation Chair

The 2023 California Preservation Conference was held at the Fort Mason Center for Arts and Culture, a National Park in the Golden Gate Recreation Area of San Francisco, on April 19-21. On the first day, I chose a visit to the Angel Island Immigration Station on Angel Island State Park, one of three full-day sessions



demonstrating how a historic site can be restored and used to understand the past. From 1910 to 1940, Angel Island was the main entry point for approximately half a million Chinese and Pacific Rim immigrants entering the United States. The Detention Barracks tell the history



of America's exclusionary immigration laws, and the Hospital Building is now the newly renovated Immigration Museum which opened in 2022.

One exhibit there commemorated Asian-Americans who overcame barriers to excel, including Dr. Sammy Lee, a platform diver, who served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps after medical school and went on to be the first Asian American man ever to win an Olympic gold medal, which occurred in 1948. He followed that with another Olympic gold medal in 1952. Later, he coached young divers who won a total of 10 Olympic gold medals. A visit to Angel Island State Park is an easy 30-minute ferry ride across the bay from the historic San Francisco Ferry Building.



*Angel Island photo courtesy of California National Park Service.*

The conference's Plenary Session discussed what we can learn from the world and UNESCO

to broaden our traditional notions of integrity and authenticity. A panel discussion followed that engaged the audience in the important questions of Heritage Conservation and place-keeping in our modern era. For example, is architectural integrity more important than the cultural significance of a property?



*Photo of Fort Mason courtesy of National Park Service.*

The California Income Tax Credit of 20% for the restoration of California Historic Buildings will be implemented this year. The credit applies to both commercial and residential buildings that qualify as California historic properties. The federal tax credit of up to 20% has resulted in \$122.9 billion in tax credits since 1977. Approximately 44% of these tax credits were on buildings valued under \$250,000.

Fort Mason Center (pictured left), which served as the conference center, is a perfect example of adaptive reuse in a historic location. Military buildings/piers are restored as they were originally on the exterior, while the interiors provide theaters, galleries, restaurants, shops and more.

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### 2023 DPHS Calendar

**June 11** Art Fest      **June 28** Program with Chuck Bassett & J.P. Van Swae      **Sept 9 & 10** Maritime Festival

## Membership

Please welcome new members **Lauren & Drew Anderson, John & Donna Kontoulis, Cheryle Wing and Kevin Russell**. And a special welcome to new **LIFETIME MEMBER Perry James Starkey!**

**As a reminder, the annual dues for 2023 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.**

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](mailto:rmlarusso@msn.com)

## Join DPHS at the Dana Point Art Fest on June 11

The Society has been invited to have its outreach booth at the Dana Point Art Fest on Sunday, June 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

We will feature our Tile Wall Project, where you can sign up to create a handmade ceramic tile for the tile wall at Baby Beach (pictured below).

We will also have our vintage photograph collection on hand, from which prints can be custom ordered.

