

The
News

DROGHER

Dana Point Historical Society

April 2008

Lanterns Return to Dana Point

by Carlos N. Olvera

As part of our ongoing quest to collect Dana Point memorabilia, the Historical Society has recently acquired two street lanterns from the Woodruff era. The lanterns, pictured below, were acquired from Joel Wadsworth of Washington. They had been in the family for several decades. Oral family history has these lanterns migrating to Laguna Beach (where others are today) where they were used as street lamps in the Heisler Park area on Cliff Drive and Myrtle Street.

The lanterns originally decorated the streets of Dana Point in the late 1920s as developer S. H. Woodruff began to build his new town with all utilities underground. Along then Roosevelt Highway, the lamp post had a top light the color of the street: ruby, golden, crystal, or green, to name a few. But as the development died in the late 30s, so did the town, and the lanterns slowly disappeared. Some went to collectors, some were "appropriated" for scrap, and others say County officials finally snatched the remaining lamps in the late 40s and sold them for 50cents apiece.

Our newly acquired lamps were a gift to Winnie Everett of South Laguna, great aunt of Wadsworth, from Heinz Kaiser. Kaiser was an Orange County Supervisor for the 5th District. Born in Germany, he was first a chef in New York before opening a restaurant in Newport Beach. He was first elected as Supervisor in 1950 and was a strong supporter of the proposed Dana Point boat



Hobie Alter and his family arrive in Dana Point Harbor via catamaran. Left to right: Hobie's first wife, Hobie Jr., son Jeff, and Hobie. (Photo courtesy of Surfline Magazine.)

GROWING UP WITH THE HOBIE LEGEND

**A Personal Reminiscence by Hobie Alter Jr.
on the 40th Anniversary
of his Father's Famous Cats**

Wed., April 23, 6:30 p.m.
Dana Point Tennis Center
24911 Calle de Tennis

A new era in sailing began in 1968 with introduction of the Hobie Cat 14 whose 40th anniversary will be celebrated this year locally with a Hobie Cat regatta.

The Hobie Cat 14 was launched in 1968 in Capistrano Beach. This "people's racing boat" was the brainstorm of Dana Point surfer-surfboard creator Hobie Alter. The light, fast 14-foot catamaran and its larger descendants have become classics throughout the world.

Hobie's two sons now captain the family business and licensing operations. Hobie Jr. will share with us in words and visuals how he grew up here as his father's creations were changing the art of boat racing. Hall of Famer Hobie Jr. and his brother Jeff both became world champions in racing competitions featuring their father's crafts. Surfing and sailing in local waters was the family's way of life.

Our program will begin with a social time at 6:30 p.m., with the meeting beginning about 7 p.m. Guests and refreshments are specially invited.

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Doris Walker-Smith, Program Director

President's Message
by Carlos N. Olvera

Educational DVD Available to Public Soon

Much was a busy month! We had a very good turnout at our program meeting last month at the Surfing Heritage Foundation in San Clemente. Read elsewhere in this newsletter to learn more of this tremendous facility.

Hopefully, you read in the Dana Point News and the Orange County Register about the release of our educational DVD for 3^d graders. It has been very well received, and soon we hope to make it available to the public. It is currently available on loan at the library.

We have also updated our membership pamphlet which gives a very nice pictorial of the accomplishments of the Society. We will use it for soliciting new membership and introducing residents to the Society. If you have friends or family you would like to send it to, pick one up at our monthly meetings or at the Chamber of Commerce at our outreach desk. Thanks go to Mary Crowl for its design and to Beacon Printing.

Our collection continues to grow, and some are highlighted herein. We have also received a series of

35mm slides of the construction of the harbor taken by Barbara McCarthy and provided to us by Mary Burrough. We have scanned them and have them in a slide show which neatly shows the development of the harbor over the years of activity. If you have any 35mm slides of the harbor under construction, share them with us, and we will include them in the show.

Home tour activities have begun, grant writing has begun, a 20th city birthday party planning has begun, and restoring the original adobe wall and gate entrance to Doheny State Park, which was constructed by the CCC in 1936 is being proposed.

As a result we have plenty of opportunities for help on all of these projects. More specifically, we are in need of an individual who would inventory our retail merchandise and restock as necessary for our booth displays and meetings. Contact a board member to volunteer.

We will look for you at our next program meeting where we will hear more on the surfing industry.

Dana Point Considered for World's Fair



"Darrell Harmon (pictured here), City Planning Director for Placentia and chairman of the Site Selection Committee for the Orange County World's Fair, points out Dana Point land offered to the Fair group for use as a site for the 1968-69 extravaganza.

"Harmon said the site, a George Capron property, has 'many things in its favor to recommend it—including the fact of single ownership and esthetically, its ideal.' Harmon said there were many 'nice features' about the 860 acres offered by millionaire land developer George Capron for the world-wide exposition.

"The land offered by the 78-year-old Capron is apparently located in northern Dana Point between the Pacific Coast Highway and the ocean. However, he said, the rugged terrain would be a problem...and the fact that it is out of the area as far as major tourist attractions are concerned.

"He also cited the lack of motel and hotel accommodations as a possible problem. The committee meets next week to narrow down a field of nine of ten possible locations." (Excerpt from an article in the Dana Point Lamplighter of October 22, 1964)

DANA POINT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Look inside
to see what our
Historical Society
does for you and
your community.*

The building below is the original Blue Lantern Fountain Lunch at the corner of PCH and Blue Lantern. The Dana Point flag welcomed travelers from the north and the south.



Inside you will find all of our activities with some of our vintage photos plus a form to become a member. These brochures are available at the Chamber of Commerce office and can be used to acquaint non-members with our Society. Please pick up a few and use them as needed to encourage friends to join.

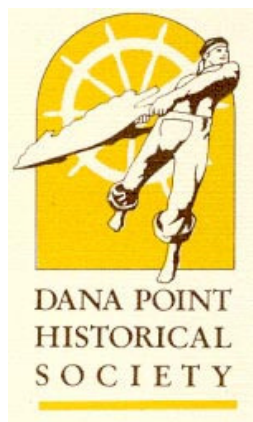
Surfing Heritage Museum Foreseen

At our program meeting last month, we visited the Surfing Heritage Foundation, founded in 2000 by Dick Metz, and their collection of surfboards from the past (1900) to the present. We were able to see how the surfboard has evolved and also how the Foundation is preserving the local and world history of surfing. Currently on display are about 40 percent of their board collection, which includes twelve-foot boards, hollow boards, laminated boards, and even the "historic" board used in the movie *Apocalypse Now* by actor Robert Duvall. These are the boards used by big name surfers like Dick Metz, Duke Kahanamoku, Hobie Alter, and Dale Velzy, names that even non-surfers recognize. Their collection includes surfboards but also personal scrapbooks, home movies, magazines, and promotional posters of the surfing industry. All of their "soft" collection is being digitized, and their library is available for personal research.

Their mission is to preserve, present, and promote surfing's heritage for the appreciation and education of current and future generations and to achieve the goal of surfing being more accurately understood, represented, and enjoyed. The Dana Point Historical Society wholeheartedly supports this Foundation. To this end, the Surfing Heritage Foundation's long range goal is to establish a Surfing Heritage Museum to be able to better share this wealth of history with the general public. Since surfing is a world class sporting event and many of its legends and heroes are from Southern California, and more specifically Dana Point, with Killer Dana, Doheny, Salt Creek, and the shops of Hobie Sports, the Foundation is hoping to establish this world class museum as a destination museum here in Dana Point.

In cooperation with the City of Dana Point, a consultant's study has been conducted with local community focus groups to take input for the feasibility of such a museum. The result of this study will be presented to the City Council on April 15th. The Dana Point Historical Society encourages its members to attend this meeting in support of the proposed project.

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Lanterns (Continued from Page 1)

harbor. He had just been reelected to a third term when he died in 1958. After his death, a second will, dated in 1956, was filed naming Miss Everett as executrix of his estate and leaving her half of his estate. Originally, the first will, dated in 1952 and filed shortly after his death, had left all of his estate to his wife. Although a surprise to many, the second will was not contested. Miss Everett died in 1981 in Laguna Beach.

Another hoard of lamps was retrieved in 1989 when the Dana Point Plaza was reconstructed and several old lanterns were restored and reinstalled. Marjorie Kinkaid had rescued 17 copper lanterns from a scrap heap after WWII by buying them iron poles and all. Her dream was to see them back on the sidewalks shining in their old glory. After her death in 1983 the lamps ended up in the garage of Bob Meyers, who owned the Dana Point Hardware store in the plaza and who was instrumental in getting the County to do the reconstruction of the plaza.

So, once again, more old lamps have been saved. We have located a glass manufacturing business to replace one of the missing glass inserts, and soon it, too, will shine.

Save these dates!

May 28 – Founders Day
June 23 – Annual BBQ
Sept. 24 – DVD Program
Oct. 5 – Home Tour

Membership News

New member
Bonnie Moore
Supporter Member \$50
Paul Hofer
Patron Member \$100
Hofer Ranch