

**Laguna Beach
Historical Society**

Murphy-Smith Bungalow
278 Ocean Avenue
Laguna Beach CA 92651
949-497-6834



Laguna Life

The Laguna Beach Historical Society Newsletter: November 2009

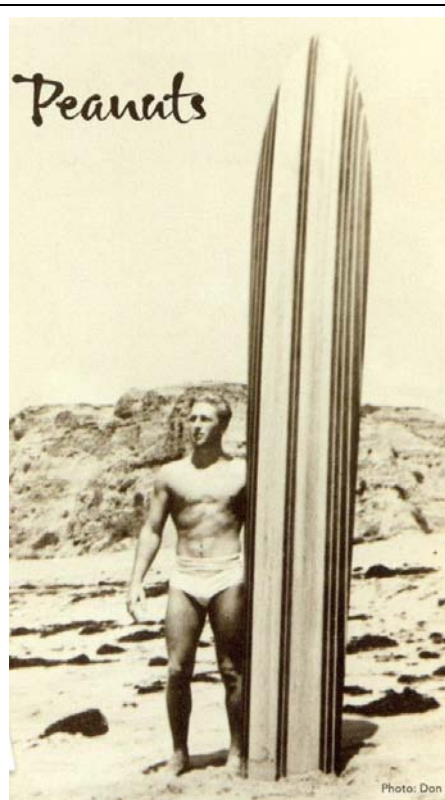
Please attend Historical Society Program to be held at
Laguna Beach City Hall Council Chambers, 505 Forest Avenue
Monday, November 30th – from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.

“Peanuts” George Larson

by author and Laguna Beach local Craig Lockwood

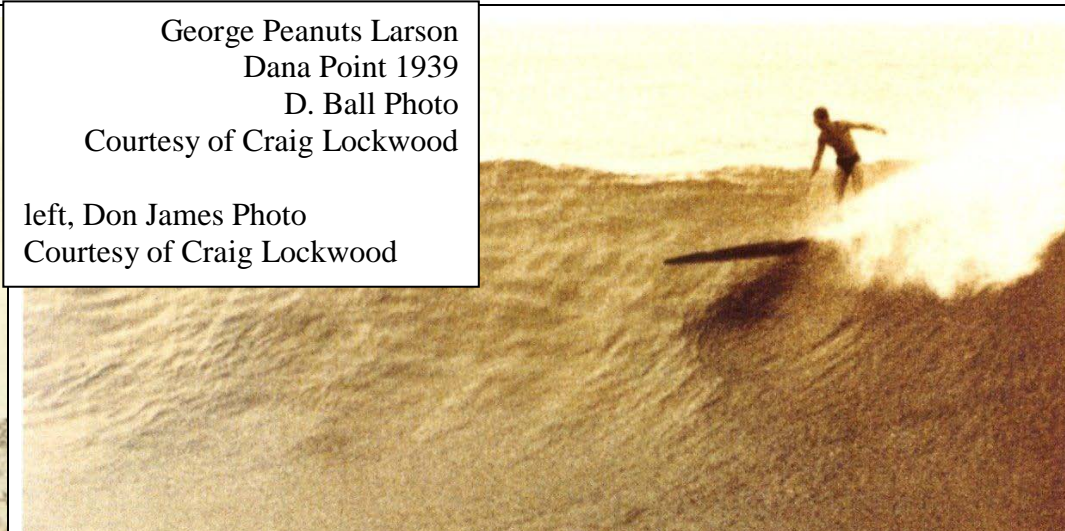
Craig Lockwood was surfer kid who was lucky enough to grow up in Laguna Beach, loved the ocean, became a Laguna Beach lifeguard, and had his first newspaper job for the old Laguna Beach Post when Betsy Rose was the editor and Bud Dessenberg the publisher. He has written for many publications including the Daily Pilot, and Surfing Magazine.

In his book "Peanuts", Lockwood explores legend, myth and archetype in Southern Orange County's surfing subculture. What made George "Peanuts" Larson compelling was his elusiveness as a subject. Hear stories why "Peanuts" was a Laguna original. Did he ride "the biggest wave ever ridden in California"?



George Peanuts Larson
Dana Point 1939
D. Ball Photo
Courtesy of Craig Lockwood

left, Don James Photo
Courtesy of Craig Lockwood



George Saunders Zimmerman Larson "Peanuts" (1916-1986)

was first of all the quintessential Laguna Beach waterman. He'd been if not San Clemente's first lifeguard, certainly among the very first. He became a subject of great admiration and respect in his 20s when he surfed a wave larger than anyone had ever seen ridden in California. This single wave was witnessed by several other surfers whose reputations cast them as wholly reliable and believable observers.

Anybody have photos or information on Gavy Cravath?

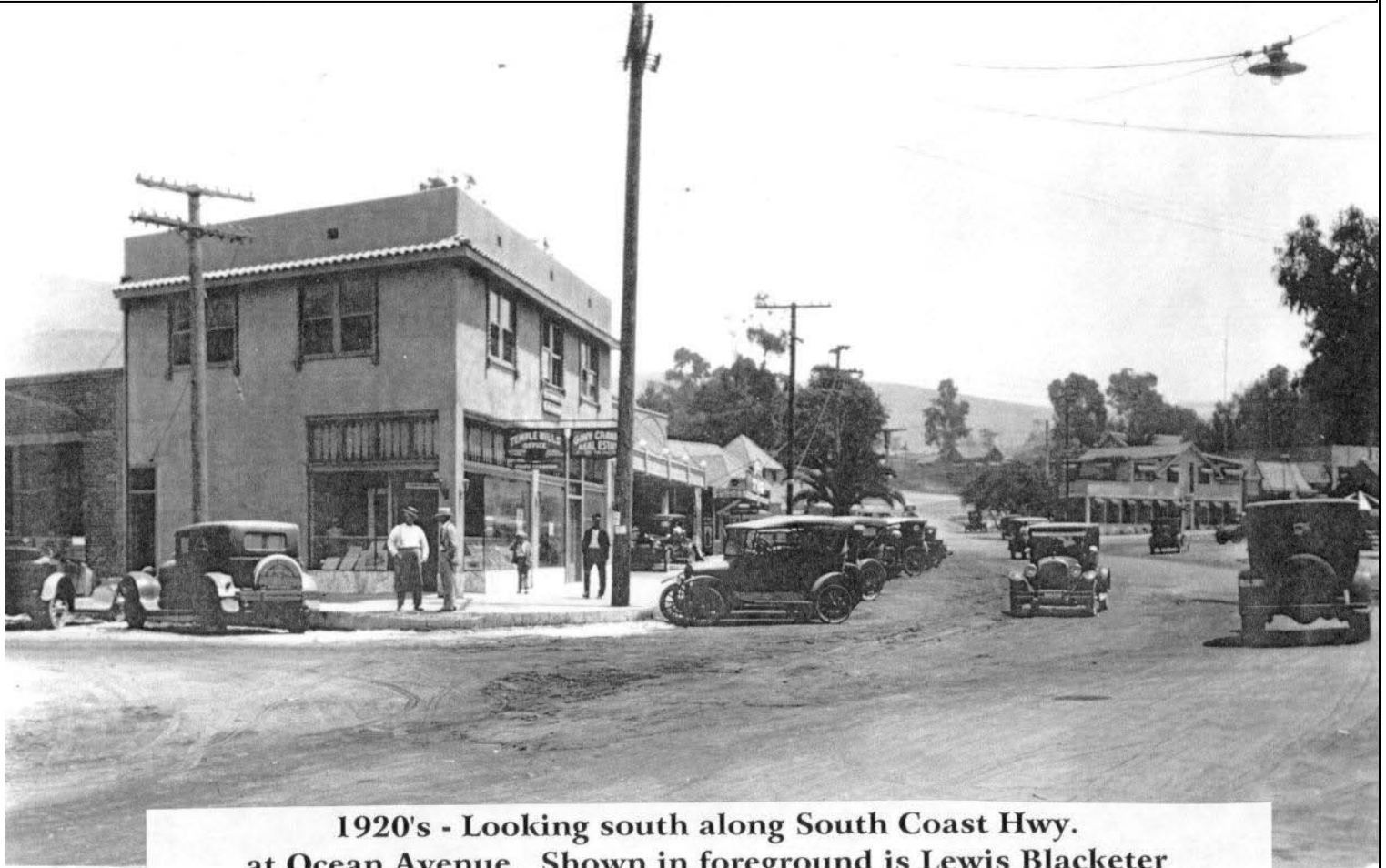
Clifford Carlton Cravath (1881-1963) from Wikipedia.org "His 24 homers in 1915 was the 20th century major league record until Babe Ruth hit 29 in 1919." "One of the sport's top power hitters of the dead-ball era, in the seven years from 1913 to 1920 he led the National League in home runs six times".

From Merle Ramsey "Pioneer Days of Laguna Beach" page 85, "Gavy Cravath, after each baseball season returned to Laguna Beach to rest and invest in more property. He retired from baseball in 1922, and entered the real estate business to sell the land he knew as well as the game he had played for approximately 20 years. He was one of the famous major league players of the great American game.

After retiring, he spent many productive years in various departments as the little village grew. At any activity, Gavy was always at the front with the others. He was very active in the development of the M. W. D. [Metropolitan Water District] water into the City.

For many years he served as Justice of the Peace. He was admired for his consideration for the younger set when they ran afoul of the law. Rather than incarcerate them, he gave them some fatherly advice and sent them home. Many times ending up by laughing with them.

Gavy was as much a part of Laguna as the ocean and the climate. Being on the Water Board for many years, the City is now reaping much of the harvest from his efforts. He was influential in obtaining adequate water for many years to come. His office was always open to those wishing to come in and talk, regardless of the seriousness, or, perhaps with only a joke to be told, or to talk over old times. It will always be remembered for years to come, 'Gavy lived here!'



**1920's - Looking south along South Coast Hwy.
at Ocean Avenue. Shown in foreground is Lewis Blacketer
and Doc Mallow. Note Justice of the Peace Gavy Cravath's
Real Estate Office.**

Loan Historic Printed Materials & Photos to Historical Society to Scan & be Returned

French Chateau now at 1166 Glenneyre was on Broadway

From "The Cottages and Castes of Laguna" by Karen Wilson Turnbull page 40, French Chateau "This is a period revival building in the French chateau style. The corner turret, mansard roof, and French doors distinguish the style. The building was built in 1930 and was originally located in the 200 block of Broadway before the move to its present location on Glenneyre in 1974. The chateau was offered, free of charge, by Laguna Federal Savings to anyone who would move it. The building was built by Merle Ramsey author of 'Pioneer Days of Laguna Beach'. It was the dental office of Dr. Ervin Watkins for many years."

According to the City's Historic Resource Inventory it "later served as the home of the Barbara Weber studio."

The Laguna Beach Historical Society Murphy-Smith Bungalow at 278 Ocean is owned by the Wells Fargo Bank. Mrs. Smith sold her home to the bank and their plan was that after Mrs. Smith died that the bungalow would be demolished to expand the then Laguna Federal Savings' parking lot. The bank has a large parking lot on Broadway; they purchased the French Chateau (built in 1930) & Casa De Mandigo (269 Broadway built in 1940). Thanks to local Arnold Hano who appealed their demolition to the California Coastal Commission, the buildings were offered for free if moved. See photos (thanks to local realtor Rick Balzer) of the move of the French Chateau to 1166 Glenneyre. Casa de Manigo was moved to 1750 South Coast Highway.



Chateau built in 1930 & Casa De Mandigo built in 1940 when on Broadway
Tom Pulley Postcard Collection



Chateau Getting Ready for Move in 1974
Rick Balzer Photo Collection
Wells Fargo Bank at right



Chateau on Truck Being Moved to Glenneyre
Rick Balzer Photo Collection



French Chateau at 1166 Glenneyre
Rick Balzer Photo Collection

Make Suggestions for Historical Society Future Programs

Laguna Beach Historical Society Board of Directors

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Gene Felder – Treasurer	Gregg De Nicola	Anne Frank
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Thanks to Historical Society Business / Organization Members

Andy Alison Bungalow Hunters Borthwick Guy Bettenhausen Butler Box & Stake
Charles' Wig Chateau E D Lohrbach Associates Emerald Bay Community Assoc
Exchange Club of Laguna Beach Laguna Beach Visitors & Conference Bureau Laguna Art Museum
LBHS Artists Class of "63" Marcom Insurance Brokers Realtor Monica Mukai Reynolds Carpet Service
Sawdust Festival South Coast Lock Shop Stewarts Landscaping The Stand Natural Foods Restaurant

Remember the Laguna Beach Historical Society in Your Planned Giving

President's Message by Vern Spitaleri

Thanks to Jane Janz for organizing our 5th program this year, a record for us. Please attend the Historical Society Program which is of course free and will be held at Laguna Beach City Hall Council Chambers, 505 Forest Avenue

Monday, November 30th – from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M. **"Peanuts" George Larson**

'I'm not talkin' about the way it was, just the way it's never gonna be again.'

by Craig Lockwood author of the book *Peanuts*

Help! We are looking for donations in lieu or any help in painting the Murphy-Smith Bungalow. We also ask you to remember the Laguna Beach Historical Society in your planned giving.

If anyone has photos or information on former Justice of the Peace and baseball slugger Gavy Cravath, please contact us as a researcher from Ohio, Mark Lecuru, is writing a book about Cravath. Come to our November 30th program as author Craig Lockwood mentions a number of Cravath anecdotes in his book, and we will ask him to share them.

View historic photographs at www.Laguna-Historical-Society.smugmug.com. Viewers are invited to leave comments to help the Society better identify or date the photographs. At the web site, prints can also be purchase; for example an 8" by 10" glossy for \$6.97 plus tax and shipping. Send questions on photographs or Laguna Beach history to info@LagunaHistory.org.

Step back into 1920s Laguna by visiting the Laguna Beach Historical Society Murphy-Smith Bungalow, located at 278 Ocean Avenue, which is opened to the public at no-charge every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to greet visitors to the Murphy-Smith Bungalow and should call 939-7257.

Those interested in supporting and joining the Laguna Beach Historical Society should send \$15 per individual, \$25 per household or \$50 per business/organization to 278 Ocean Avenue, Laguna Beach CA 92651. The Laguna Beach Historical Society is a section 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Tax ID #33-0519882.

If your Dues are due (see label) Send \$15 per person, \$25 per household or \$50 per business or organization to Laguna Beach Historical Society, 278 Ocean Avenue, Laguna Beach CA 92651

Name _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

FAX: _____ email: _____

View Laguna Photos at www.Laguna-Historical-Society.smugmug.com