



Laguna Niguel Historical Society

December 2013

VOLUME 1 Number 5

Phone: 949-495-3974

lagunaniguelhistoricalsociety.com

Laguna Niguel Historical Society

Invites you to a Members and Friends Event

**A Birthday Celebration Honoring
The City of Laguna Niguel**

**Sunday, December 1, 2013, 4-7 PM
at The Krembas' Home**

24391 Las Naranjas, Laguna Niguel

RSVP to Jeanette Krembas

(949) 495-3974 or jkrembas@cox.net

President
Pat Bates

Vice President
Bruce Rasner

Secretary
Jeanette Krembas

Treasurer
Jerry McCloskey

Newsletter Editor
David Weiss

Hon. Pat Bates

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Members...Your Board has re-convened following the summer recess and is back to work on several fronts..

At our September General Membership meeting former **Orange County Sheriff Brad Gates** provided a very interesting personal account of the region's development from a more rural, County managed, collection of unincorporated communities with only a few cities, to the present day vibrant South Orange County comprised of several independent cities each with their own individual personality and story. **The Education Committee** has been very busy making presentations to various Laguna Niguel service clubs on our very successful "**History of Laguna Niguel**" 3rd grade history unit. Given approval by the Orange County Superintendent, the unit is now available to all Laguna Niguel elementary school 3rd grade teachers to use at their discretion. **The Archives Committee** continues its work on compiling Laguna Niguel historical documents, photos and oral histories

All of our work, of course, requires resources-- funds to finance the projects and volunteers with time to give. Our Archives Committee has recruited several volunteers and we welcome more. To produce those necessary project funds our Funds Development Committee is producing boxed note cards containing pictures of Laguna Niguel's significant landmarks which we are planning to have available for purchase for holiday gift giving. Information on where to purchase these will be available by December 1, when we will host our annual **Laguna Niguel Birthday/Holiday Celebration**. Invitations are in the mail, and your Board looks forward to seeing you at this very special Annual event.

Pat Bates, President

Preserve the Past Enrich the Present Promote the Future



Calendar

Board Meeting - 4th Wednesday of each month.

Archives Committee 10-12 noon each Wednesday.

Holiday Meeting - December 1



September General Meeting Guest Speaker - Sheriff Brad Gates, Retired

Retired Orange County Sheriff Brad Gates a California native born and raised in San Juan Capistrano, was our featured speaker at the September General Meeting sharing his 75 year history of the South Orange County.

Sheriff Gates attended public schools in San Juan Capistrano, graduating from High School in 1957, when the school district covered from Sand Canyon to Camp Pendleton and the population of San Juan Capistrano was 675 at that time. He initiated his college education in Orange Coast Junior College where he officially began his long and historic journey through a lifetime of law enforcement, by studying Police Science/Administration, criminology and Government. He continued his education, graduating with a B.S. and M.S. degree in Police Science/Administration and Criminology from California State University Long Beach in 1969 and 1972 respectfully. He completed extensive studies for his Doctoral Degree in Government at Claremont Graduate School.

Sheriff Gates began his lifetime career in law enforcement while still a student at Orange Coast Junior College. His interest spurred by visits with the sheriff officers stopping to take their breaks in the San Clemente restaurant where Brad was working during his high school years. Little did he realize then that his quest would take him to the top level of his chosen profession under the mentorship of Sheriff-Coroner James Musick who held the Orange County Office for over 20 years.

Brad joined the Orange County Sheriff's department in 1961 as a Jailer. After serving successfully in virtually every position within the department, and repeatedly proving his leadership abilities, Brad entered the campaign for Sheriff-Coroner with the encouragement of Sheriff-Coroner Musick, after he announcement of his retirement.

In the June 1974 primary, Brad was elected to Sheriff-Coroner of Orange County receiving 70% of the vote and repeatedly being re-elected by voters for six successive terms totaling 24 years of service as Sheriff-Coroner retiring with thirty eight years of service in the Orange County Sheriff's Department. He managed a law enforcement agency involving 3,000 employees, a budget of close to \$400 million and the 11th largest jail system in the U.S in his time of leadership.

Brad's always active mind has been responsible for creating or developing a diverse and seemingly endless list of innovations while serving as Sheriff such as:

Implementing California's first-ever Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission-Approved Death Investigation/Basic Coroner Academy.

Responsible for adding close to two million square feet of building space which includes jail facilities and Forensic Science Center.

The Forensic Science Center being the first in the nation to process DNA and a national leader in advancement of DNA capability.

First agency in State of CA to implement the Cal-Id Automated Fingerprint ID system.

One of first Departments in nation to implement video cameras in patrol cars and video down link capabilities in helicopters.

Implemented a Worker's Compensation Control Unit to monitor track work-related injuries and investigate claims of misuse.

Brad shared with the audience attending several colorful story memories of growing up in South Orange County riding horseback through the rural ranch communities which most are now incorporated cities like Laguna Niguel. He was instrumental in setting up the contracted agreements for these newly incorporated cities with the best quality contracted services available.

Brad, now retired, lives and still active in the San Juan community, with his wife Dee Dee. Their son, daughter, and grandchildren live close by and he and Dee Dee are enjoying all that goes with this retirement stage of life. However, Brad is still visible in and around the community sharing and volunteering his expertise and leadership gifts and of course riding his horse, as he has all his life, except without the open space he has such fond memories.



Linda Bayme
LNHS Program Chairman

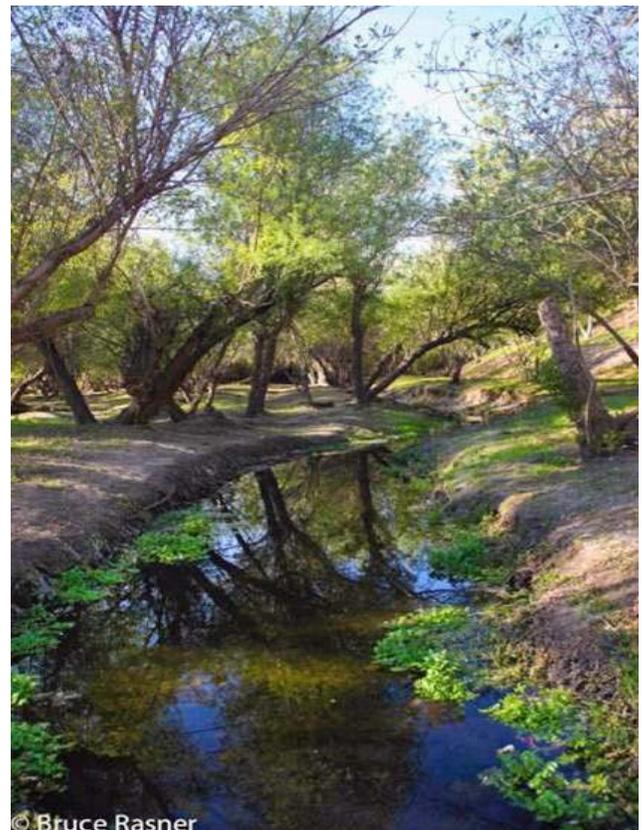
Photographer **Bruce Rasner**, along with LNHS note committee have been busy finalizing the Laguna Niguel boxed photo note cards available for sale in time for Holiday gifts. Each box will contain 12 photo scenery cards of the treasures that we all enjoy living in Laguna Niguel.



The gift boxes will go on sale December 1 at the LNHS Holiday Party.

To reserve your cards before December 1.

Call **Linda Bayme 249-8161** or **Email Info@LagunaNiguelHistoricalSociety.org**.



© Bruce Rasner

Archives Committee

Nancy Kurtz, Chairman Archives Committee

What's new in the Archives:

The Archives Committee continues to meet Wednesday, from 10 AM to 12 noon, at the Watershed trailer in Aliso Canyon.

The committee has almost finished with preliminary cataloging of hundreds of newspaper clippings about Laguna Niguel provided by the city.

We are also looking ahead to preparing another historical display at the Laguna Niguel library in the spring.

Can we use more help? You bet! If you are interested in camera work, if you enjoy researching and organizing, if computers are your thing, if you have a flair for display design, we need your talents. Contact us by calling Nancy Kurtz at 949-495-4958.



AVCO's Courtesy Bus

Membership

Do you have friends or neighbors who might be interested in joining us? We're asking for your help in reaching community members interested in "the story of Laguna Niguel". We need community participation both financially and through volunteer participation.

So, members, please encourage your friends and neighbors to join us. Membership applications are available on our website <http://www.lagunaniguelhistoricalsociety.org>. Brochures can be mailed/e-mailed to anyone interested. Just let me know.

Solveig Darner, Membership Chairman
solveig.darner@gmail.com, 949 495-1438

Education Committee

Paul Whitelock, Education Chair

By the middle of June 2013 the Laguna Niguel Historical Society's first presentation of our History of Laguna Niguel unit was presented to all third graders in the Laguna Niguel Elementary Schools. Seven schools, twenty four teachers and six hundred and eleven students were involved.

The results of a teacher survey indicate that the unit was well received and we have the go-ahead from the school district to present the program again next year. We have already made some edits to the material and plan to contact the schools after the first of the year to obtain new student counts to send to our printer. We would like to thank South County Printing for their generous donation of a cost brake on our printing cost.

New lesson plan teaches 3rd-graders city's history

Former elementary school teacher designed the program.

BY LARIE SAMSETT
STAFF WRITER

Who were the American Indians who lived along Aliso Creek? How long did Juan Arillo own Rancho Niguel? What is Laguna Niguel's official tree?

In an effort to better teach third-graders about local history, the Laguna Niguel Historical Society answered those questions and others in detailed lesson plans distributed to teachers last month.

The lesson takes students through Laguna Niguel's past, from the Niguel Indian village along Aliso Creek, members of the Acjachemen tribe — to the Mexican rancho era and up to the city's incorporation in 1969.

Two Historical Society members — Paul Whitelock and Orange County Supervisor Pat Bates, who served as Laguna Niguel's first mayor — presented the lesson plan to the City Council last week. It was taught for the first time to students at George White Elementary School on Friday.

"This is a tremendous gift you've given (this generation and future generations)," current Mayor Robert Ming said after the presentation, which included historical histories of the city seal, details about Laguna Niguel's past as a working ranch, and an overview of a coloring book portion of the lesson plan.

Cecile Allen, a former elementary school teacher, wrote the 18-page lesson and 10-page coloring book. She said it took about a year to put together. It's the first big project the 2-year-old Historical Society has taken on, member Jacquette Krenzler said.

Last week, Allen completed her last day of outfitting, wrapping up nearly a half-century of teaching at Laguna Niguel area schools. Most of that was as a fourth-grade teacher at Crown Valley Elementary School.

In her fourth-grade classes, Allen found her history lesson plan to be fairly straightforward. It had to broadly cover California history, on which she could find plenty of classroom re-



PAUL WHITELock, ORANGE COUNTY RESIDENT
Paul Whitelock of the Laguna Niguel Historical Society watches as third-graders color pictures of the Laguna Niguel city seal, part of a new lesson plan on city history.

Fun facts about Laguna Niguel

- Fossils of sea turtles, sea cows, dolphins and beluga whales have been discovered there.
 - The name Laguna Niguel comes from "Laguna," meaning lagoon, and "Niguel" or "Niguiti," an Indian village on Aliso Creek.
 - The city plant is the bougainvillea, with a blue-pink color.
 - The city tree is the jacaranda, which has lavender-colored flowers.
- Source: Laguna Niguel Historical Society

sources. But she said she heard a need from her colleagues in the third grade, who were charged with piecing together a more localized history lesson each year.

"Third-grade teachers would always say, 'There's no material,'" Allen said.

So last summer, she set out to write out a plan to help them. As a local resident since 1968, she knows some of the history, but the research and writing nevertheless took her the better part of the summer. She has published books for teachers before, on Japan, India and Mexico.

Allen decided a good way to teach Laguna Niguel's history was to pick apart the city's seal, which in-

cludes various symbols intended to represent the past. There's a whale skull, representing the area's ancient underwater origins. There's an Acjachemen tribal member and a cattle brand similar to that of Juan Arillo, who became the area's first private landowner in 1842.

There's a house with a red tile roof and arched doorways, representing a style of the California mission, plus the modern design of the city's current street layout.

The greenery represents the coastal sage, California crowsfoot and coastal live oak. And "Sea Country" is the motto first coined by the Laguna Niguel Corp. in 1950.

Allen said not much surprised her as she put the materials together. "But I wasn't aware of the landowners, like Lewis Mount," she said. "I didn't really know the dates of everything, like when it transferred from Mexican ownership."

Local teachers and students now have easy access to those details.



City Logo Article

Laguna Niguel Historical Society

OBJECTIVES & PURPOSE

*The primary objectives and purpose of
The Laguna Niguel Historical
Society shall be the promulgation
of historical information
about the Community of Laguna Niguel
and its surrounding area.*

*This will include the gathering,
storage and display of historical
documents and artifacts and
sponsoring of activities and events
that will celebrate our history*

History is made every day and as every day passes more of it is lost to memory. The Laguna Niguel Historical Society has been formed to preserve the record of Laguna Niguel's past and of it's new history that is constantly being created. Even though the City of Laguna Niguel was incorporated as recently as 1989, there is a rich past preceding cityhood that needs to be preserved for this and future generations. The native American population, the Spanish explorers, the mission fathers and the ranchers all had a part in our history that needs remembering. The Laguna Niguel Historical Society intends to preserve this history for future generations.

Laguna Niguel Historical Society

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lagunaniguelhistoricalsociety.org

Founding Directors

Patricia "Pat" Bates

Linda Bayme

Gary Capata

Solveig Darner

Jeanette Krembas

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Nancy Kurtz

Jerry McCloskey

Betty Pequet

Bruce Rasner

Carl Schulkin

David Weiss

Judy Whitelock

Paul Whitelock

Marc Winer