



WHAT'S HAPPENING

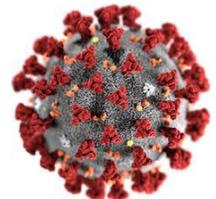
April 1, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Historical Society wishes for your health and safety during this very challenging time. Please do abide by all of the well-publicized recommendations to protect yourself and your family from infection.

Our Board Meeting scheduled for March 16 was canceled for social distancing concerns. We are continuing to carry on Historical Society business albeit in a much-limited capacity.

What Would Ole Do?

The following article by Tom Marshall appeared in the San Clemente Times last week. We have reprinted it in case you missed it. Good job Tom.



How Ole Hanson Handled the Last Big Pandemic

The last time our country faced a Pandemic like the Coronavirus San Clemente didn't even exist; but it's founder did. During the 1918 Spanish Influenza outbreak Ole Hanson was the mayor of Seattle, Washington.

The first cases of the "flu" in Seattle turned up in September 1918. Of first concern were the men working at the shipyards, a major part of Seattle's economy at the time. Cargo and passengers arrived en masse from all over the Pacific Rim. Though unable to test everyone arriving at the port, Mayor Hanson's health officials proclaimed in a September 24 Seattle newspaper account, "There is no cause for alarm as yet." Ten days later the Seattle Star reported the city's first death among its

nine cases. Hanson's Department of Health advised that "Men with temperatures of 103 degrees or more were of the greatest risk."

Four days later the paper reported 13 more had died in the area including one at the shipyard. The Star also noted a scarcity of physicians in Seattle due to World War One. At that early point the supply of masks was depleted. (Months later it was determined those masks were ineffective anyway.)

Mayor Hanson then closed all schools and places of amusement. Is this beginning to sound familiar? In a somewhat conflicted message he urged all citizens, "Keep in the open. Sleep with the windows open. Avoid drafts."

By October 26, the Mayor released more restrictions on the populous. He ordered police to break up any gatherings of people and to stop street cars that didn't have at least three windows open on each side. Stores were allowed to open only between 10am and 3pm weekdays, except for grocery stores and pharmacies. Four days later Mayor Hanson ordered what the Spokane Chronicle called "The most drastic quarantine ever enforced in Seattle." It also required the wearing of gauze masks everywhere except in open air and to be enforced by the police." Apparently, the supply of masks had been replenished.

By election day, November 4, the influenza cases were reported to be in decline. Mayor Hanson encouraged everyone to vote early to avoid crowds late in the day and promised, "All polling places will be well ventilated, windows kept open and no crowds allowed to gather." But, in December the "flu" roared back.

Inoculations began about the same time and the pandemic was declared over in March 1919. In Seattle 1,500 people had died from influenza. In August, declaring, "I am tired out and am going fishing," Hanson resigned as Seattle Mayor. There were rumors he was ill, which he denied. He didn't just take a leave of absence because a political foe would have taken over as Acting Mayor. As Ole explained, "I would as soon have taken a man from the penitentiary and left him in the mayor's chair." By resigning the City Council could appoint a new mayor.

So, health scare over, Ole embarked upon a nationwide speaking tour. The Spanish "Flu" returned to Seattle that fall, but with far fewer cases.

March 5 Casino Presentation

Our Quarterly Meeting was a big hit. Events Chair Tom Marshall put together a great presentation on the Casino San Clemente. It included many rarely seen historic newspaper articles and historic photographs. Current Casino owner Linda Sadeghi shared her experiences with the restoration of the Casino. Thank you Linda, we really appreciated the presentation and the amazing job of rehabilitation you have done on the Casino!



Scholarship

Our hearts go out to all of the children who are having what should be a wonderful time of their lives so traumatized. Particularly the high school seniors whose graduation is being so disrupted.

We will still be awarding two \$500 scholarships for college bound San Clemente High School Seniors. Scholarship Chair Suzi Klickstein received 36 applications by the March 13 deadline. The Committee will be announcing the recipients this month.



Miramar Theater



Cleanup and remediation of the Miramar Theater and Bowling Alley is proceeding! We plan on doing a presentation on the project at an upcoming meeting. We will have a project update next month.

Mills Act Inspection Fee

The City Planning Department is proposing a \$500 inspection fee for historic buildings protected by the Mills Act. About 80 of our 204 historic resources are

enrolled in the program, which the City calls the Historic Property Preservation Agreement (HPPA). Owners receive significant property tax savings in exchange for agreeing to maintain their property.

State law requires that these HPPA properties be inspected every five years. The City, "recommends instituting an ongoing inspection fee of \$500 due every 5 years to improve the verification of preservation..."

The Staff Report on this subject may be found using the following link.
<https://www.san-clemente.org/Home/ShowDocument?id=55447>

This item was scheduled to go to City Council but has been temporarily postponed.

Please Stay Healthy!

