



WHAT'S HAPPENING

September 1, 2020

City Council Candidate Forum

On September 20, the Historical Society will be hosting a City Council Candidate Forum. We have traditionally done this in conjunction with our Annual Meeting but the pandemic necessitates a different plan. We have invited the candidates to an online forum in the afternoon of September 20. There are 18 candidates vying for three positions on the City Council. Ten candidates are competing for two four-year terms. Eight candidates are competing for one two-year term. Fifteen candidates have agreed to participate. We will be questioning the four-year term candidates from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm. The two-year term candidates will be from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm. The Forum will be attended by each group separately and not available to be watched live. It will be recorded then uploaded to YouTube and available as soon as possible. To watch the Forum search YouTube for "**San Clemente Historical Society City Council Candidate Forum 2020.**"



This strategy should work out well, because the Forum will be available to all of the public whenever they want to see it. Please e-mail questions for the candidates to larryculbertson3@gmail.com.

Election of Board of Directors



The By-Laws of the Historical Society call for an Annual Meeting for the purpose of electing the Board of Directors. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic the Board has determined that the required election can and should occur via email.

Election: Four of the seven positions on the Board are up for election this year. As was announced in the September newsletter, the Nominating Committee has nominated Mary Ann Comes, Marilyn Wigglesworth, Tom Marshall, and Jim Hamilton. A call for other nominations from the Membership has yielded no additional nominees. Unless there are any other nominations, the four who have been nominated will be accepted by unanimous consent effective September 20, 2020.

The following is a reprint of another great article that was recently published in the San Clemente Times.

The Plots to Murder Ole Hanson

By Tom Marshall

The decade before Ole Hanson became the founding father of San Clemente; he was the Mayor of Seattle. World War One was in full swing with many of our young men serving overseas. A pandemic also roared across the globe. The Russian Revolution had brought fear of communism into the political arena, most notably here in the United States. Dread of a communist revolution weighed heavily on the minds of many citizens. At this time, Seattle's most important industry was its ports. Goods and passengers arriving and departing daily for and from ports in Asia made a huge impact on the Seattle economy.



By the 1910s longtime labor unrest was being exploited by Bolshevik sympathizers nationwide. In 1919 three such revolutionaries landed in Seattle for the express purpose of organizing its 105 unions into one powerful, 100,000-member International Workers of the World (IWW) union. Being a staunch conservative, Mayor Hanson would have none of this.

Unable to reach wage and working condition agreements with the mayor, the union called for a general strike including the port and dock workers. Inciting hatred of Mayor Hanson and other city leaders, the union staged a huge rally. A reported 15,000 workers marched on Seattle's City Hall. According to Ole's son, Lloyd Hanson, the mob was met by the Mayor standing alone on a flatbed truck with a rifle in one hand and an American flag in the other.

"I will fire upon the first man that soils my Stars and Stripes," shouted the mayor according to son Lloyd. The younger Hanson notes in his book "The Spanish Village" the leaders then ordered their marchers to go home. William Randolph Hearst's newspapers jumped on the story, calling Ole "the fighting Norwegian."

Now the movement went underground. A plot was hatched to assassinate the Mayor. A package was sent to the Mayor's office with a bomb inside. It, however, was opened by a secretary. Fortunately, she opened it from the wrong end and the sand paper and flint never ignited the nitroglycerin.

A second attempt in 1920 involved a union man quietly substituting for an armed guard posted on Ole's garage roof. He waited for Ole to sit down at his desk by a window as usual that evening, but fate intervened. According to Lloyd, "I had croup, so dad didn't write that night."

The union finally relented, a labor agreement was signed and peace restored. Shortly thereafter Ole Hanson resigned as Mayor, finished writing a book "Americanism Versus Bolshevism" and mounted a nationwide speaking tour to promote it. Money earned on the book and tour allowed him the capital to invest in his new dream, a Spanish village by the sea, or as we know it, San Clemente.

Support San Clemente



Many businesses in San Clemente are struggling valiantly to stay afloat as we cope with the pandemic. It is important that we support our local businesses so that they will still be here when the smoke clears. We in the Historical Society believe it is especially important to support the businesses located in historic buildings because the owners have gone to the extra expense involved in rehabilitating and maintaining those links to our past.

Casino San Clemente has been able to bring back its wonderful dinner/music programs that had been so popular pre-Covid-19. The series, **Dinner Under The Stars**, offers a great dinner with live music for only \$30. They will soon be offering classic movies with dinner. They are extremely popular and fill up fast. Contact the Casino to get on their mailing list for rapid notification of upcoming events.



Casa Romantica has suspended access to the building and gallery but the gardens and gift shop remain open. Member's Night, the Toast to the Casa, and other events are being held but on a smaller scale than before. Check out their website for more information on what is available.

Downtown & the Pier Bowl are really hoppin'! At least ten restaurants have been permitted to set up for dining on the sidewalk and into the street in front of their business. Every set-up is unique so it make for a very interesting look. Better take advantage of it soon, the concept will probably not work when the rainy season arrives.



North Beach Historic District

We are getting closer to having a North Beach Historic District! At the Planning Commission Meeting on September 2, GPA Consulting, the City's consultant, will present the North Beach Historic District Nomination that was recently submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation for review by the State Historic Resources Commission. It will be interesting to see their presentation and hear about the progress that is being made.



Planning Commission Meetings can be watched live via a link on the City web site, or anytime on YouTube. Search San Clemente Planning Commission with the date of the meeting.

That's all for now, see you next month!

