



Marina del Rey Historical Society



Volume 3, Issue 2 ~ May, June, July, August 2014

History in the Making The book becomes a reality...

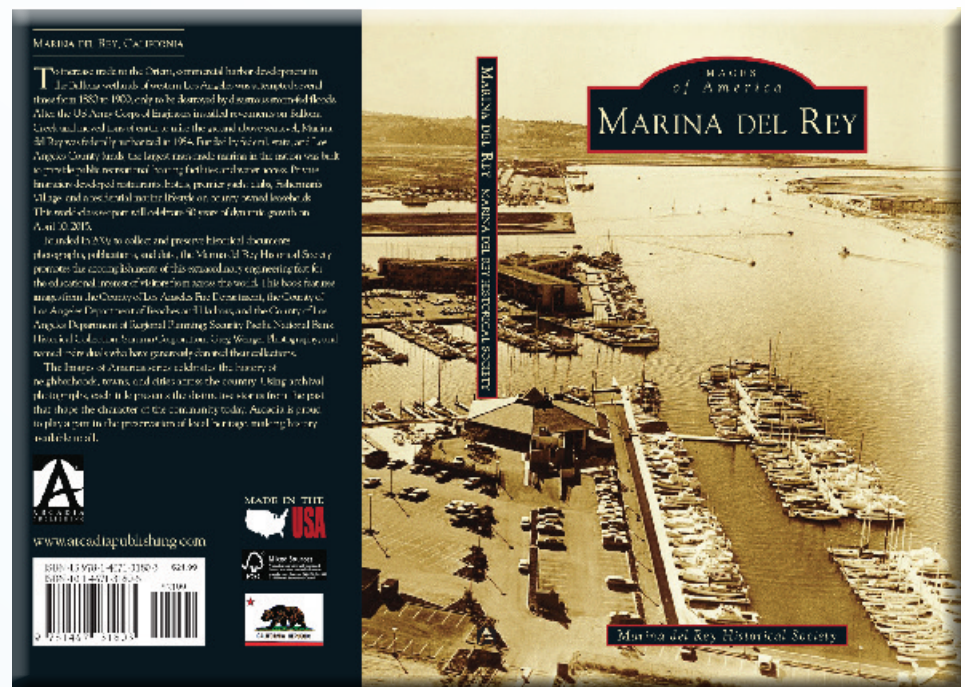
by Rikki Barker

The Marina del Rey Historical Society (MdrHS), more than a year ago, decided to create a book detailing the history of our marina, Marina del Rey. The goal was to create a pictorial history prior to the celebration of Marina del Rey's 50th Anniversary on April 10, 2015.

Our publisher, Arcadia Publishing, creates historical books and has simple-to-use guidelines that helped us through the process. It seemed like a piece of cake. We had thousands of photographs ready to go. Gather the photographs-check. Write captions for each one-check. We had lots of details. Assemble them and mail out the book-piece of cake! After all, how difficult would it be to select 200 photos when we had thousands and then add captions?

Have you ever tried to look through thousands of photographs, none of them in order and most with no dates, names or ids? Over several months, we tried and tried again, and kept finding new images as we became more aware of the progression of our chapters. Some chapters were easier to write than others and we found we couldn't tell the full story in the space allocated. *That will be the next book.*

We needed writers and several talented



Images of America, Marina del Rey book cover (front/back) by the Marina del Rey Historical Society. On sale September 8, 2014. 128 pages with 200 black and white images.

writers volunteered. Unfortunately, people have jobs or other obligations so had limited time. We also realized we knew a lot about the Marina's history and people but not enough to caption each photo, identify the place and date and name all the people in the photo.

In the end, MdrHS members, Willie Hjorth, President, and David Maury, Director, spent countless hours in

research, meetings and digging up little known facts, names and places. Thank goodness for the Internet! We visited the Huntington Library and with the help of Alan Jutzi, we were able to gather more information to help with the project. Janet Bubar Rich, a writer and member of Del Rey Yacht Club, was amazing in her work on the introduction consisting of more than 2,200 words.

(Continued on page 2)

Historic Grand Opening

by Howard Wenger

The Marina del Rey Historical Society had its official Grand Opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, April 10th, 2014, at our Fisherman's Village Gallery, to coincide with the 49th Anniversary of the dedication of Marina del Rey harbor. What started as a small gathering became an event. With help and many thanks to Jill Peterson (of Pacific Ocean Management), plans for the 4 day festivities were worked out. Susie Fox, (also of P.O.M.), helped provide the band *Vento Sul*, as our musical

entertainment.

Christina Davis and the LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce provided our official ribbon cutting ceremony.

With food provided by *Thai Garden*, *The Lighthouse*, *Sapori's*, *Cafe Al Fresco*, and *Whiskey Red's* -- the party was on.

Raffle prizes were provided by the local shops of Fisherman's Village, with the drawing held on Sunday afternoon.

Our thanks also go to *Hornblower Cruises*, *Daniel's Bike Shop*, *Luellela's*, *Star Lane*,

Next Wave, *Pammy's Place*, *Gold Mine*, and *The Classic Yacht Association*. And, thanks to *Indy Plush* for our gallery's mascot.

On Friday, April 11th we held an afternoon Happy Hour to continue our celebration. Brenna Rhea and friends provided the in-store, delightful musical entertainment.

Finally, a very BIG thank you to all who attended and helped make this a special event for the Historical Society. 🌊



Photo, Patrick Reynolds

MdRHS Ribbon Cutting Ceremony-L-R; Rachel Horning, Christina Davis, President, and Lisa Schwab, 2013 Honorary Mayor, LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce; Howard Wenger, MdRHS Vice President/Gallery Site Manager; Greg Wenger, MdRHS Founder/Chair Emeritus; Mimi Wenger; Rikki Barker, MdRHS Director; Willie Hjorth, MdRHS Founder/President; Barbara Slavin, MdRHS Director; David Maury, MdRHS Director

History in the Making

(Continued from page 1)

The scope of the project for novices like us was daunting. We learned several lessons that will help us in the future. Our photos were not to "book specifications" so any we used had to be reformatted. That was helpful to us because now we scan our photos using the correct format and they are ready for any future uses.

Writing the captions came to a little more than 18,000 words. The research

and working with photographs and captions has made each of us more in touch with our area's history and I, for one, find myself pointing out history to friends as we visit around the Marina.

We thought this project would take six months but a year later, with several delays to our deadline, we finally sent the proof on to the publisher. An actual book is in the making and it really looks great!

We anticipate release of the book, *Images*

of America, Marina del Rey, on September 8, 2014. We will be selling it at our exhibits gallery in Fisherman's Village, located at 13737 Fiji Way, C3, Marina del Rey. You may also order it by using the order form on page 4.

This book is a work that will enable us to move forward and help the Marina del Rey Historical Society achieve its future potential. 🌊

A Peek Inside "Images of America, MdR"



Marina Fair (site of TriZec buildings), 1966

An event intended to attract the public's attention to the location of the marina was a mini-zoo exhibit. It occupied the empty parcel between Admiralty Way and Lincoln Boulevard and between Bali Way and Mindanao Way. The windmill building in the background, the iconic symbol of the Van deKamp Bakeries, stood on the east side of Lincoln Boulevard.



Old Fashioned Day in the Park, July 20, 1980

The early Old Fashioned Day in the Park event featured old cars, boats, a steam run tugboat and various steam driven contraptions. Visitors were invited to board the vintage boats and ride on the steam-driven tugboat.

Many of the exhibitors dressed in period clothing to match their boats and cars.

Meet our New Board Director

Christine Rohde ~ As a 2nd generation Los Angeles native, Christine has always had an inherent interest in local history.

Four decades in and around Marina del Rey has provided a rich history here, starting with architectural offices at Marina City Club in the late '70's through the '80's. The firm of Pearson & Wuesthoff (P&W) was involved in the development and renovations of numerous projects in MdR over these years, including, amusingly, what was intended to be "temporary" dock kiosks at Fisherman's Village, which continue to survive today! Christine has worked with the contemporary design firm of William Dale Brantley, *aARTs Architects*, since 1990 in administration, project management, interior design, model homes and governmental entitlement interface, while also providing marine interior design consulting. She holds a degree in Environmental Design from San Diego State University.

Having grown up in Seattle and San

Diego, Christine carries on a family legacy in boating. She and Mr. Brantley each have 1950s vintage Chris Craft yachts which they completely restored. They are very involved with the Classic Yacht Association which strives to preserve and maintain the maritime architectural heritage of fine old wooden power boats. They also work with several Marina del Rey lessees.

Christine has been International Commodore of Classic Yacht Association, as well as Southern California Commodore and treasurer. She has been fund-raising event chair and president of the John Tracy Clinic



Women's Auxiliary; in the civilian reserve Santa Monica Police Department; Santa Monica Red Cross board of directors; and Marina del Rey MarinaFest Committee which furthers awareness of Marina del Rey activities for Southern California residents. ≡



Marina del Rey Historical Society
P.O. Box 9550
Marina del Rey, CA 90295-1950

Stamp

Visit us...

MdR Historical Society Gallery
Fisherman's Village
13737 Fiji Way, Ste. C-3 ~ Marina del Rey



***Sailing in
Marina del Rey***



Photos: Greg Wenger Photography

"If we do not collect, preserve, and digitize the history of Marina del Rey, much will be lost."

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Marina del Rey"**

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Mail to: Marina del Rey Historical Society  
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**Save the Date**

Friday, October 24, 2014  
Fundraiser/Dinner  
Details TBA