

1835

The name of Richard Henry Dana, seaman explorer and author of *Two Years Before the Mast*, is found on a list containing the names of nonfiction authors for whom evidence of homosexuality exists. This is usually derived from references to their writing and their personal contacts with other supposed homosexuals, i.e. Herman Melville. There is referenced evidence of his friendship with his special Hawaiian friend, Hope, and his many friendships with English sailors. Dana Point in south Orange County was named as a tribute to the explorer who spoke highly of the area.

1920

The blossoming film industry discovers that Laguna Beach makes a great shooting location and Laguna's first wave of gays arrive as members of these early movie crews.

1927

The South Seas Bar located in the Coast Inn in Laguna Beach, opens [currently the "Boom Boom Room"]. Like many of the early gay bars it was straight during the daylight hours and became gay after dark.

1936

Richard Halliburton builds the "Hangover House" in South Laguna -- high above West Beach. Halliburton was a writer of adventure books for young people. He and his whole crew of gay men were lost at sea in 1939 bringing a chinese junk to the worlds fair.

1952

George Jorgensen, former veteran, undergoes a sex change operation in Denmark and is henceforth known as Christine Jorgensen. She eventually relocates to Orange County.

1953

President Eisenhower issues order #10450, mandating sexual perversion as grounds for dismissal from Federal employment, including the armed services. The FBI was sent to investigate possible violation at the Newport News, Virginia army base. Joy Liles an 18 yr old member of the Army Swim Team was training for the 1954 Olympics. After the investigation the entire Women's Swim Team (officers and enlisted personnel) were given dishonorable discharges. Liles returned to Orange County to live and did not compete in the Olympics..

1957

Two years after opening, Disneyland theme park in Anaheim, adopted regulations regarding public dancing, which included a ban on same-sex "shimmying," thinly veiled as a crowd control measure. The rule remained on the books until 1985.

1960

July 19 - The Tiki Hut bar opens in Garden Grove.

1962 – The Happy Hour a lesbian bar opens on Harbor Blvd. in Garden Grove. It was the oldest continuously operating lesbian bar in the county and the first gay or lesbian bar to obtain a liquor license (April 1, 1974). It closed in 2003 when the long time owner, Jo Moore, passed away.

1963

Bayard Rustin, a black pacifist, organized the 1963 March on Washington for Civil Rights. Martin Luther King delivered the "I have a dream" speech

Bo Frieden organized the popular volleyball games on Main Beach in Laguna Beach. The city closed Main Beach in 1972 and the "Bodettes" game moved to West Beach. (see 1972).

Lured by cheap rents, Garden Grove Blvd. became a Mecca for gay bars over the next ten years and they outnumbered those in West Hollywood for a while. Police Harassment began shutting them down in the 70's and of the originals only the Happy Hour and the Frat House survived..

1964

A Tent City existed in downtown Laguna Beach and was very popular with the summer crowd. Police sweeps of Laguna Beach gave the city the nickname of "Fag City."

June – Art Frink and Harry Moon open the Cottage Restaurant in Laguna Beach and it has been community stalwart ever since.

1966

May - The Santa Ana Register (The OC Register) reports a "crackdown of suspected homosexuals" in the Newport Pier area, men who have allegedly been propositioning undercover police officers. The register prints their names, ages, home addresses and occupations before they are ever convicted.

1967

January 1 -- Stonewall West. The Los Angeles Police Department raided the Black Cat and New Faces bars, in the Los Angeles Silver Lake District. Many patrons and employees were injured. A demonstration was held on January 5, organized by the Personal Rights in Defense and Education (PRIDE).

1968

Laguna Beach was described as a resort center & art colony in the winter and as a 'gay' beach in the summer. Dante's was a popular gay bar located on the old boardwalk at main beach. It was at this location for 15 years until it closed on the Fourth of July in the early 1980's.

The Laguna Health Club opens. Purchased by Bob Major and John Thrash in 1974. They make it into a co-ed club.

March - The Advocate reports that an OC man recently lost his home and car insurance after a neighbor saw him kissing a man in his back yard. The neighbor called police and they notified the man's insurance company. His insurance was cancelled.

1969

June 28-STONEWALL REBELLION IN GREENICH VILLAGE, N.Y.. A police raid on the Stonewall Inn in New York City in the wee hour's leads to four days of battle between police and angry gays, lesbians, transsexuals, and drag Queens. The riots mark the birth of the modern gay movement

August - Rev. Roger Harrison comes to the Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles after spending two years as a protestant chaplain in the US Embassy in Moscow, and he later settles in Orange County becoming one of the early activists.