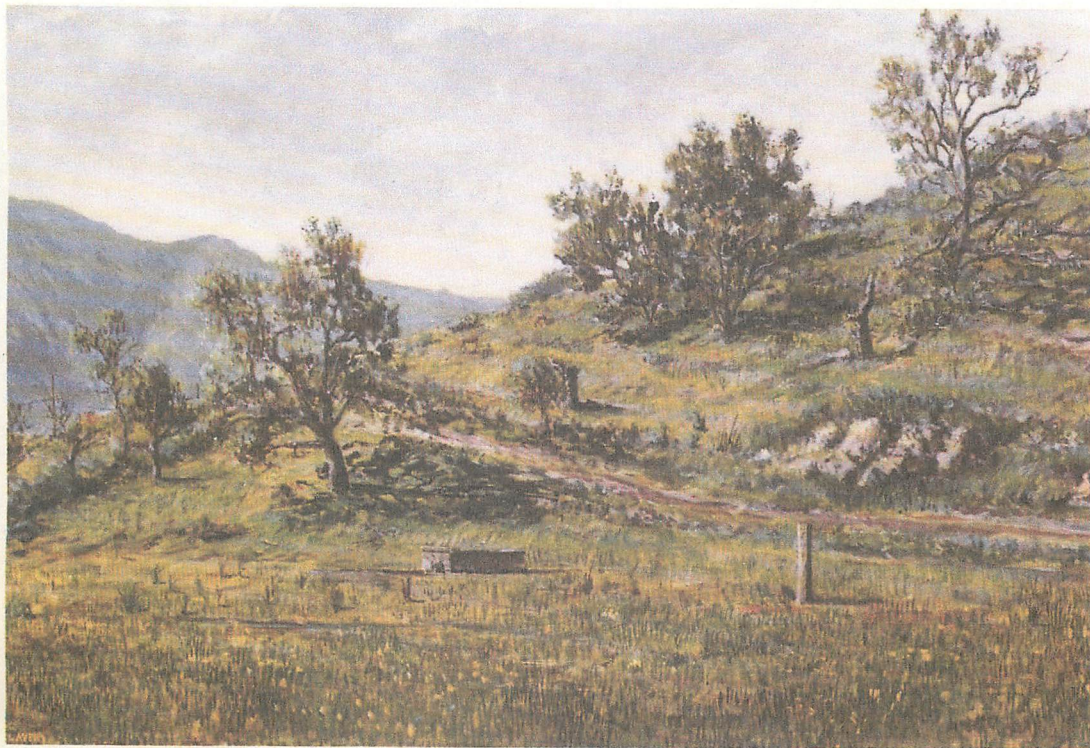


The Laguna Canyon Book



Big Bend, Laguna Beach, California 1988

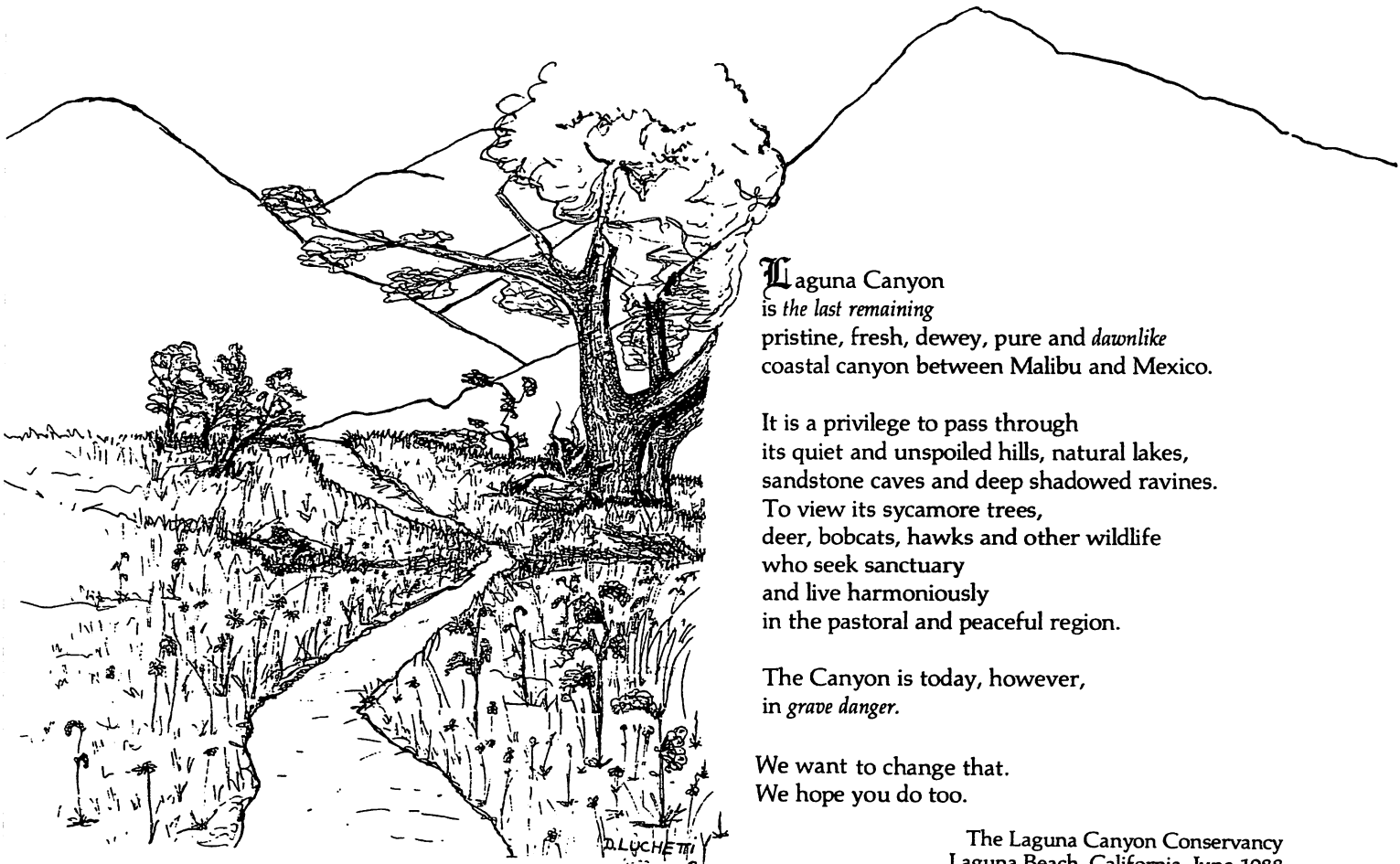
Laguna Canyon is located along the southern coastal region of California. Partially within the City of Laguna Beach and partially in the surrounding unincorporated region, the ancient and naturally formed canyon is about 7 miles long and of varying widths. It runs from the San Diego Freeway (I-405) to the Pacific Coast along Laguna Canyon Road (State Highway 133).

Many hundreds of thousands of people have traveled the 133 since the 1930s. The old two and three laned road stretches through a region of unspoiled natural beauty, wildlife and clear blue skies. Few, however, have ever seen the extended canyon regions, even more beautiful than those which can be viewed from its only paved thoroughfare.

Nevertheless, people who come to the village of Laguna Beach never forget their first vision of this remarkable region.

It is today threatened with imminent development. More than 3,200 homes, 88 acres of shops and offices and a 300 acre golf course — to be built by The Irvine Company, the landowner — threaten to destroy the extraordinarily beautiful canyon, turning it into just another highly developed planned community.

The Laguna Canyon Conservancy was founded as a non-profit association in January of 1988 by concerned citizens who wish to stop the canyon development and secure and preserve Laguna Canyon as a Wilderness Sanctuary forever.



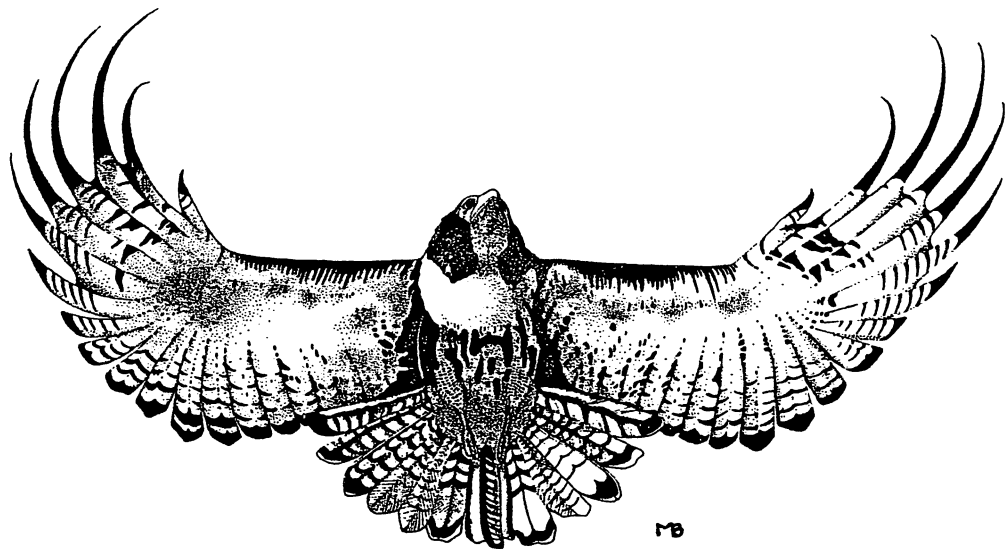
Laguna Canyon
is the last remaining
pristine, fresh, dewey, pure and dawnlike
coastal canyon between Malibu and Mexico.

It is a privilege to pass through
its quiet and unspoiled hills, natural lakes,
sandstone caves and deep shadowed ravines.
To view its sycamore trees,
deer, bobcats, hawks and other wildlife
who seek sanctuary
and live harmoniously
in the pastoral and peaceful region.

The Canyon is today, however,
in *grave danger*.

We want to change that.
We hope you do too.

The Laguna Canyon Conservancy
Laguna Beach, California, June 1988



The Laguna Canyon Book

By Sharen Heath

Published with the author's consent by

The Laguna Canyon Conservancy

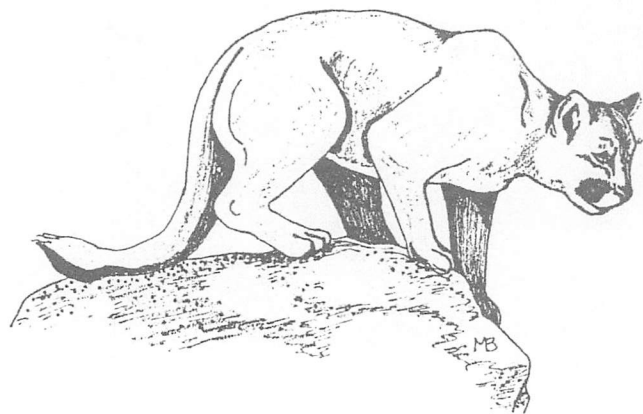
20522 Laguna Canyon Road #108

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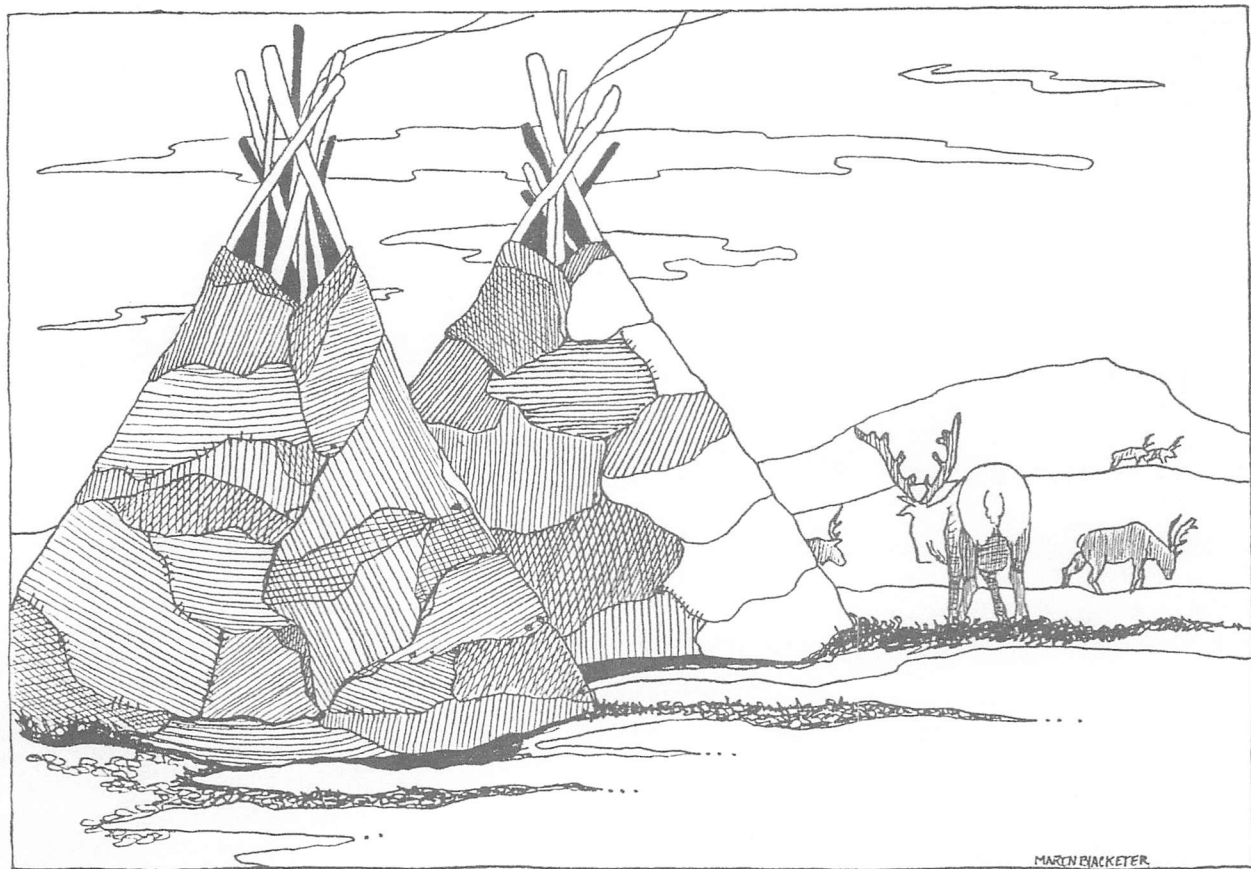


To the memories of
all People and Creatures
who ever lived in Laguna Canyon,

To the survival
of all who live there now,
to those whose efforts
will make that possible,

And finally,
to hope and hard works...
we dedicate this small book.

The Author and Friends
February 12, 1988



MARTIN BLACKETER

Several hundred years ago, Acacqmemem Indians called it "Lagonas" for the natural lakes which nestle in the broad sweep of a canyon connecting dry Southern California flatlands to the cool Pacific coast. Among soft and gently rolling hills and connecting canyons, the Acacqmemem, a Shoshoni-speaking tribe, lived serendipitiously with all natural things. The coastal environment, its abundant wildlife and the land's temperate seasons made the quiet place an ideal home for the peace loving people.

It was a time when Indigenous Americans and all living things gave back to the land everything they took away.

Times have changed. Today, the canyon keeps giving, but Humankind keeps taking away.

First they took away the Acacqmemem — took them to missions to baptize and civilize the highly spiritual tribe. They died, not of bullet wounds but of measels, chicken pox and venereal disease.

Then, bit by bit, they began to take away the land. By the turn of the 20th Century, a dirt road marked the canyon's path. Rutted with the imprints of horse-drawn wagons, the natural passage provided access to early settlers - farmers, artists, tradesmen and merchants - who found life beautiful...living by the sea.

In July of 1860 someone named H. Tischler carved his name on a sandstone rock not far from the canyon's path. Nobody knows who he was. In 1876 James Irvine formed the Irvine Ranch, buying a hundred thousand coastal, canyon and inland acres at fifty cents apiece.

By 1888 Mormons were settled in the canyon and had established Laguna's first school near the location where Laguna Canyon Road meets El Toro Road. At the turn of the century, artist Norman St. Clair traveled the dry and dusty path by Concord Stagecoach. He captured the region's tree studded hills and ragged coastline upon his sketchbook.

In 1914 the Canyon Road was paved. "Tourist Cars" carrying visitors from Tustin, Santa Ana and far away Hollywood gaily chugged to the famous Laguna Beach Art Colony. In 1955 Disneyland opened in Anaheim and the Santa Ana Freeway connected the fast growing cities of Los Angeles and San Diego.

Laguna Beach - halfway between the two- was instantly more accessible. In 1958 passenger jets began traversing the nation's airways. Then even more people came to the increasingly popular little village.

To Laguna travelers, the Canyon Road was an unmistakable landmark.

Enter here. Paradise.

"Coming down the canyon, you would hope at every turn to glimpse the ocean," wrote one old timer. "Then thinking the journey would never end, the deep and darkly shadowed bend would appear. Soon eucalyptus trees and white water surf came into view... You were now in Laguna Beach, away from any cares and worries."

Technology made cars go fast and still faster. Soon many forgot the beauty of the canyon through which they sped. Few had chosen to live along the route. Greater glories, it was thought, were by the sea. Those who did dwell in the silently wondrous hills and ravines were artists and craftspeople - those unable to afford resort town rents - or those just enamored of the canyon's natural beauty.

Before long, the Canyon Road became a nightmare to some. People too often lost their lives to the actions of irresponsible motorists. The natural lay of the land, like a great ocean's currents, did not forgive the drunken follies of reckless "land navigators."

Transportation people stepped in and determined: "This road is unsafe. We must make it wider, straighter and faster. We must permit more people to drive to and from the village." The state agency proposed taking more land away from the ancient canyon. Carve out her rocks, her bends, her hills and gullies. Remove the sycamore trees. Push back the wildlife. Bulldoze.

Land Developers joined their demands. "Yes," they said, "Widen the Canyon Road. Make it safe for the inhabitants of 3,200 homes we plan to construct in the canyon, for the patrons of our golf course, our shops and our offices that soon will be built there too. Bulldoze."

Merchants were of several minds. Some added to the chorus. "But naturally," they said, "Make the road wider. Permit more visitors to hurry to our Art Colony. We have trinkets to sell and many mouths to feed."

Others joined a few who pleaded, "BUT WAIT!"

"Please wait..." they cried. "Many who live here and many more who visit come because of that canyon. It establishes this famed Art Colony By The Sea. It's her *welcome mat*, her *entrance*, her *front door*!"

"Furthermore, Laguna Canyon is an important part of our proud and unique village history," they said. "This is where early Impressionists once painted: William Wendt, George Gardner Simmons, Anna Hills, Edgar Payne and others. This is where artists, today, still create."

"Long before them, Acacmemem Indians lived among the chaparral, the buckwheat, lemonade berry and prickly pear cactus. Look there. Those are ancient burial grounds in the hills - cave paintings, matatas, arrowheads, sea shells and much more."

"Yes," joined Environmentalists. "See the dudleya. Their leaves are tiny and unobtrusive but, they are endangered and may not survive."

"And what about the deer, bobcats, horned lizards, great owls, hummingbirds and other wild creatures who live here?" observed a Red Tail Hawk, watching from a nearby sycamore tree. "Have we offended you? Why do you wish to destroy our homes?"

"To save people's lives," replied the Transportation People.

"But lives can be saved by reducing the speed limit, enforcing traffic laws and posting warning signs," said the Hawk.

"To provide more homes for people to live, more shopping centers, offices and golf courses," said the Land Developer.

"At what price to the people and to us?" asked the Hawk.

"To bring more people into the village so they will purchase our trinkets and make us happy!" said several Merchants.

"And when people no longer want to come to the famed Art Colony By The Sea," said the winged creature of exceptional vision, "because it smells, feels, looks and sounds like a city called Everywhere Else..."

What then?" the Hawk whispered as he flew away.

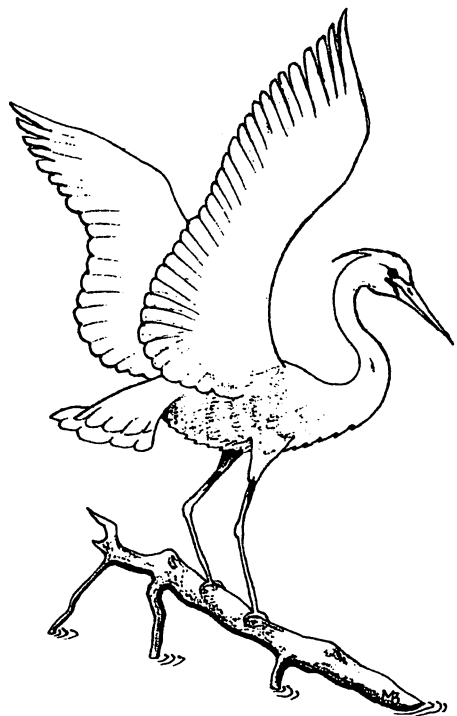
Threatened...

Orange-throated whiptail
California black-tailed gnatcatcher
Least Bell's Vireo
San Diego Horned Lizard
Deer
Bobcats
Mountain Lions
Coyotes
Laguna Beach Dudleya
Multi-stemmed Dudleya
Orange County Turkish Rugging
Mesa Clubmoss
Coastal sage scrub which provides habitat for two rare lizards.

Orange County's only two naturally formed lakes,
host to rare birds: Tricolored blackbird, Clapper Rail and Blue Heron.
A vernal (spring) pool, endemic to California. Very few remain intact.
Acres of freshwater fens...marshy areas...vital to low growing plants
and many species of animals.
Streamside vegetation, willows and sycamores.
Indigenous American burial grounds and artifacts.
Silence
Serenity

To find out how you can help save Laguna Canyon, please turn the page...



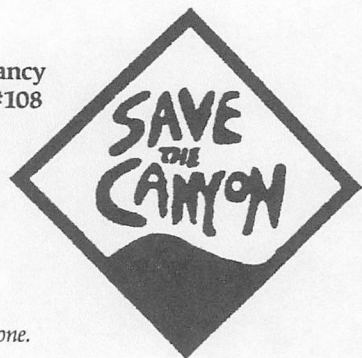


You can help
SAVE THE CANYON

For more information, please call:

(714) 859-HELP

Or write to:
 The Laguna Canyon Conservancy
 20522 Laguna Canyon Road #108
 Laguna Beach, CA 92651



- ☐ I want to join the effort as a Laguna Canyon Conservancy Member.

Enclosed is my annual membership contribution of \$15. *Monthly meetings are announced by phone.*

- ☐ Send me **SAVE THE CANYON** shirt(s) (100% cotton, white w/logo, men's sizes only)
as follows (Specify quantity in box):

T-shirt (\$10 ea) ☐ S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL Total \$ _____

Tank Top (\$10 ea) ☐ S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL Total \$ _____

Sweatshirt (\$25 ea) ☐ S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL Total \$ _____

- ☐ Please accept this additional contribution toward securing Laguna Canyon as a Wilderness Sanctuary, preserving it forever. ☐ \$ _____ ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25

**DO NOT SEND CASH. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
 THE LAGUNA CANYON CONSERVANCY. TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____**

Please Print:

Name _____ Phone () _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip Code _____

Thank you...for caring so much about extraordinary Laguna Canyon.

"Big Bend" and "Thank God They Saved the Canyon" are reproduced with the artist's generous consent. Thank you Michael J. Lavery for the use of your poignant works of original art.

Grateful thanks also go to Laguna Canyon Conservancy founding members Maren Blacketer and Diana Luchetti for their contributions of original pen and ink drawings reproduced in this book.

Others who have contributed kindly are acknowledged as follows:

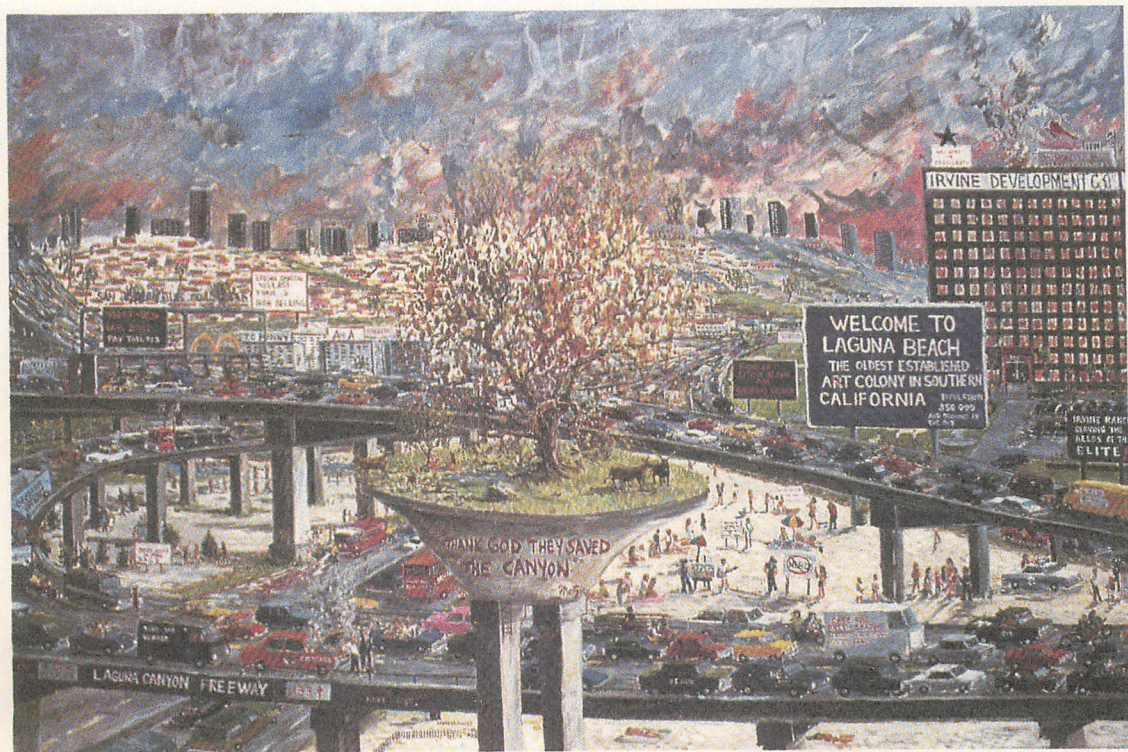
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The Laguna Phantom
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Village Laguna
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Andrew Ogden
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The book you have purchased is genuinely Lagunan. It was written, illustrated and printed in Laguna Beach, California. All of the contributors reside in the community.

Every penny of the proceeds will help the effort to save Laguna Canyon....forever.



"Thank God they saved the Canyon..."