

### *Front Room*

Upon entering the museum, in the display case to the right, are locally excavated Native American artifacts. The Tongva and Chowigna inhabited this area before the Spanish arrived.

In a tall display case on the opposite wall are photos of the Dominguez Family. Rancho Sausal Redondo was part of a 75,000-acre Spanish 1784 land grant to Juan Jose Dominguez.

The rancho was handed down to Manuel Dominguez who, in 1849, was one of the signors of the California Constitution. Manuel’s daughters and relatives live on in several of south Redondo’s street names, in alphabetical order, from Catalina to Susana. (Broadway was originally named Dominguez Street.)

Until the late 1880s, Redondo remained largely undeveloped. In 1887, the Redondo Co. bought land from the Dominguez’ heirs spanning from the ocean to Prospect Avenue and Herondo Avenue to Knob Hill. Soon thereafter came Wharf 1, the Santa Fe Railroad and booming lumber and tourism industries.

To the left is a small exhibit dedicated to the memory of the Pacific Electric Railway and the red cars that took you right to the beach.

### *Room 4*

On the wall to your left are some remembrances of the original Hollywood Riviera, the brainchild of Clifford F. Reid, who thought the area looked similar to the French Riviera. Entranced by the movie industry, Reid envisioned this area as a getaway for the Hollywood elite. The large wall map further back shows the City’s layout in 1953. There is also a collection of fire-fighting memorabilia.

The case on the right holds memorabilia from local churches, service clubs and businesses, as well as a manual Remington typewriter. On the floor to the right are doors salvaged from the Protsch Building that housed Woolworth and other Pacific Avenue businesses, and a rib from the fishing barge, *Lahaina Rose*.

On the walls are photos and drawings of Hollywood starlets of the early 1900s posing as bathing beauties to promote travel and tourism in Redondo Beach.



## **Redondo Beach Historical Museum**

302 Flagler Lane  
Redondo Beach, CA 90277  
310-697-3137

**Museum Hours**  
**Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday**  
**Noon – 3 pm**



### *Welcome to the Redondo Beach Historical Museum A Self-Guided Tour*

The Redondo Beach Historical Museum is located at 302 Flagler Lane in the beautiful Heritage Court at Dominguez Park. Located next to the museum is the beautifully restored and period-furnished Morrell House.

The house now being used as a museum was built on Garnet Street in 1904 by J.E. Early and was later moved to 318 S. Broadway. The City acquired the home in 1989, saving it from demolition. A small room was built onto the back for added display space.

Also called the Queen Anne House after its architectural style, the house reflects classic Queen Anne Cottage design in its turned wooden posts and railings, tall narrow windows, open porch, steep roof, boxed cornice and fish scale gable front.

The museum is owned and operated by the City of Redondo Beach with guidance from the City-appointed volunteer Historical Commission. Its collection of photos and artifacts, mainly donated by the community, was formerly housed at Knob Hill & PCH.

## Front Room (continued)

The cabinets to the left hold remnants from early Redondo businesses, like the Plunge, Pavilion, Fox Theater and El Ja Arms Hotel. “Moonstones” are from the former Moonstone Beach, near the border with Hermosa Beach.

Above the left-rear cabinet is a signed lithograph of the Hotel Redondo by Herb Fillmore. Built by Henry Huntington in 1890, with 225 rooms, a bathroom on every floor, and 18-hole golf course, the hotel transformed Redondo into a major resort town.

Steamships stopped calling on the Port of Redondo in 1913, when San Pedro became the new Port of L.A. Prohibition dealt the final blow, and the hotel was torn down in 1925. In 1930, a library was built on the former site, which still stands today in what is now Veteran’s Park.



## Room 2

The first thing you’ll notice are three beautiful stained-glass panels from the St. James Roman Catholic Chapel renovation in 1949. St. James was built in 1892, the same year that Redondo Beach became an incorporated city. Christ Episcopal Church was founded the following year, followed by the Congregational Church of Christ in 1895 and the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1899. These are but a few of the many places of worship in Redondo today.

Display cases on the left and right contain artifacts that pay tribute to George Freeth (1883 – 1919). Henry Huntington persuaded George to move from Hawaii to Redondo in 1907 to give two daily exhibitions of “standing on the water” for hotel guests. That’s how surfing came to California.

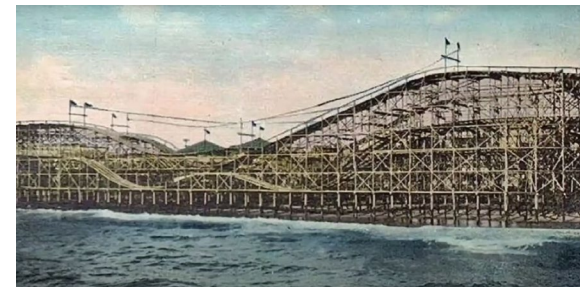


George Freeth with a life-saving buoy he designed, described as a “hollow, air-tight, copper torpedo forty-two inches by eight, which will hold up a dead weight of five-hundred pounds.”

In his short 36 years of life, George Freeth made a big splash. He trained Olympic-caliber swimmers and divers, won many water polo competitions, and became the first official lifeguard in Southern California. George is credited with inventing the first “longboard” used in surfing and the “torpedo rescue can” used by lifeguards. He also won Carnegie and Congressional medals for lifesaving feats.

In the opposite corner is the light that warned Tony Cornero’s *SS Rex* gambling ship in the 1930s when the cops were near and they needed to head back out to sea. On the wall to the left is a huge aerial view, circa 1967, of the pier looking east over Redondo before the first phase of the Redondo Village apartments was built

Flip charts in the corner depict people and places in Redondo’s past, from the Pavilion built in 1907, the Plunge in 1909 (pictured below), and the Lightning Racer roller coaster (pictured below) in 1913.



## Room 3

On display in this room is memorabilia from Redondo schools past and present. The longcase on the left and images on the wall above remember the short-lived Aviation High School (1959 – 1982).

The long, low case in the far corner pays tribute to our student athletes. On the wall are pictures of former RUHS athletes, including two who later became known for their comedy routines – the Smothers Brothers.

In the tall narrow case in the far-left corner are old police cameras and other equipment, relics of a time before the digital revolution.

