Glenn Vanstrum mixes medicine, music, waves with love of family

A Minnesotan by birth, Glenn Vanstrum majored in music at Grinnell College before attending UCSD School of Medicine and training in anesthesiology. He jokes that though he has surfed for 37 years, he still wipes out frequently.

A pianist since age five, Vanstrum studied with Cecil Lytle and Nathan Schwartz. He practices daily and performs works from the classical, romantic, and modern repertoire on a regular basis, playing duos with violinist Roy Bak and trios with Bak and cellist Janet White.

Vanstrum's fiction has been published in LitmAGE, the Bellevue Literary Review, and THEM. His book of nature writing, “The Saltwater Wilderness” (Oxford), won a San Diego Book Award. Essays of his have appeared in Sierra, California Wild, and the Los Angeles Times.

Vanstrum has e-published five novels and two story collections. Kirkus Reviews wrote of his novel, “Northern Liberties,” — “smartly written” and “a fascinating read.”

Find more surfing, writing, and music info at vanstrum.net

What brought you to La Jolla?
I was studying piano in the Bay Area and came down to attend UCSD med school in 1976.

What might you add, subtract or improve in the area?
It would be cool if La Jolla had a local Village bus system — something to cut down on traffic. Hard to say, of course, if anyone would use it ...

Who or what inspires you?
Music is my writing muse these days; along with my wife, Diane; surfing; and crazy stuff from the hospital.

If you hosted a dinner party for eight, whom (living or deceased) would you invite?

SEE 10 QUESTIONS, B17

La Jolla’s story unfolds in Historical Society exhibit

BY LINDA HUTCHISON

Just how did the town of La Jolla get its start? Who were the first La Jollans and what brought them here approximately 125 years ago? To find out, visit “Home of Your Dreams: Early La Jolla from 1887 through the 1920s,” a new exhibit at the La Jolla Historical Society’s Wisteria Cottage. The exhibit tells the story of La Jolla’s early days and gradual development into a cohesive, distinct community.

Artfully laid out and illustrated with approximately 100 photographs from the society’s extensive archives, the exhibit also includes artifacts and written descriptions and flows easily from one area of La Jolla’s colorful history to another. These include Early Pioneers, The Scripps Legacy, Transportation, Art & Performance, Civic Community, Houses & Architecture, The Sporting Scene, and The Enchanting Sea.

SEE EXHIBIT, B8
By Diana Saenger
Young actors thrilled to be part of Old Globe’s ‘Grinch’

Liam James Brandt, 11, of La Jolla, tried out for Grinch because “I love the Grinch show and I want to see people jump out from the stage in those funny costumes and have so much fun last year.”

La Jollan Gabi Liebowitz, 13, said she’s honed her craft by taking acting lessons and in camp classes, but you get to get upset if you don’t get the part. “Also I watch and learn from the cast and designers and work with them,” she said.

Michael laMont, 11, whose father is in the Who Family, said he’s interested in La Jolla’s theater because “it’s a great experience.”

Dr. Seuss’ timeless tale about a grumpy green Grinch who has appeared in many local productions, including the Old Globe’s Copley Plaza Theatre, in Point Loma, and North Coast Repertory Theatre, will dazzle audiences of all ages this holiday season.

The Old Globe’s annual holiday show is based on Dr. Seuss’ classic children’s book, starring the beloved character of La Jolla were Ellen Browning Scripps, her half-sister Eliza Virginia Scripps, and Anna Held. The Scripps family were the wealthy heirs to a newspaper fortune and enjoyed philanthropic pursuits. Ellen Scripps’ lasting legacy of contributions includes Torrey Pines State Park (1908), Scripps Institute of Oceanography (1909), the La Jolla Woman’s Club (1914), the La Jolla Rec Center (1919), Scripps Memorial Hospital and Clinic (1924), and the breakwater and Children’s Pool (1931). Virginia Scripps’ contributions helped build St. James By-the-Sea Episcopal Church in 1907. In 1896, Ellen built her first house, South Moulton Villa, on the site of the current Museum of Contemporary Art. It burned down in 1915 (a fired gardener was the suspect) and she rebuilt with the help of architect Irving Gill. Her sister purchased nearby Wisteria Cottage, currently occupied by the La Jolla Historical Society. Anna Held was a German teacher, nanny, and theatrical assistant who brought her love of art and performance to La Jolla in 1897, where she founded the Green Dragon Colony overlooking La Jolla Cove. The colony grew to include 12 bungalows and a variety of creative spirits, including actors, writers and artists.

Sports were popular with early residents too, including golf (played on dirt before the first golf course was laid out), tennis, basketball, hunting, fishing and swimming.