

ARTI-FACTS

The Newsletter of the Award-Winning Idyllwild Area Historical Society

Preserving the History of Idyllwild and Surrounding Communities
in the San Jacinto Mountains

AUTUMN 2011

BEHIND THE SCENES: IAHS ARCHIVE ATTRACTS ATTENTION

By Bob Smith

“What goes on out there?” is a common question when visitors spy the new Frank and Mabel Mooto Archive & Research Center behind the museum.

The function of an archive is to preserve retrievable information for people who need it. It may be a former resident or visitor hoping to solidify a treasured memory. Or an author or researcher seeking specific information or images.

This year we’ve been fielding an average of one new request every week. Some are quick and easy to deal with: “When was Idyllwild founded?” “Tell me about my furniture stamped ‘Pinecraft’ on the bottom.” “Where and when did Camp Tahquitz operate?” “How did Luisana Drive get its name?”

Other inquiries can require extensive research, possibly even an inquirer’s visit to the museum. We’ve worked lately with several writers seeking photographs of particular scenes, such as old roads, a campsite or a long-gone ski run. The most interesting case was working with novelist Jon Boorstin, who was using Idyllwild as a model for a tale involving filmmaking in a mountain locale and needed help envisioning the town and film crews working here around 1920.

The biggest project of the year was compiling information and images for the Town Crier’s Ernie

Maxwell Centennial celebration. Six months of planning and research produced a museum exhibit, a newspaper article, and a slide show.

We’ve also developed ongoing collaborative relationships with other organizations, such as the Krone Museum at Idyllwild Arts, Riverside City Museum, the U.S. Forest Service, and the San

Diego Natural History Museum. That last one involves a long-term project with biologists who are repeating a 1908 survey of animal populations in the San Jacintos, to learn what’s changed over the past century. One aspect of the project is pairing early 20th-century photographs from our collection with the identical scenes shot today, to show changes in the landscape.



Archive & Research Center (at right) complements the IAHS museum.

Watch for a couple of our old photos to show up in similar then-and-now comparisons on a calendar to be published next year, advertising the “Forest Care” program for mountain homeowners.

As a relatively new collection, ours still has plenty of blanks, but this year we’ve been able to supply useful information for over 80% of the inquiries. The other 20% most commonly deal with particular people, for example, artists Frances Rich and Charles Small, the Zimmerman family, the horse-stable managers for Keen Camp, or the architect of a building at Desert Sun School. Or they may seek

(See Archive, page 6)

Board of Directors

President: Carolyn Levitski
Vice President: Joan McCullough
Secretary: Adele Voell
Treasurer: Bob Smith
Directors: Nancy Borchers
 Laura Caster
 George Groty
 Charlotte Groty
 Carolyn Hall
 Shirl Reid
 Linda Turner
 Jeff Wu

*Board meetings are held monthly
 on the 2nd Friday at 4 p.m.*

Special Advisors

Harry Bubb, Kay Cenicerros, Janice Lyle
 Walter Parks, Kent Steele, Lynn Voorheis

Current Volunteer Staff

Membership: Adele Voell, Rebecca Frazier
Assistant Curator: Shirl Reid
Research: Bob Smith
Archives: Ruthe Donlon, Will Johnson,
 Teresa Lease, Joan McCullough
Oral Histories: Corrinne Brown, Lynnnda Hart
Docent Coordination: Joan McCullough,
 Charlotte Groty
Digital Media: John Drake, Rebecca Frazier
Webmaster: Carolyn Levitski
Hospitality: Linda & Larry Turner
Home Tour: [See story page 4]
Accounting: George Groty
Museum Maintenance: Richard Levitski

Arti-Facts

Co-Editors: Adele & Bob Smith
Layout & Design: Halie Johnson

At the IAHS annual meeting in August, Jeff Wu was elected to the Board of Directors. Jeff is CEO of Ci Design, a 28-year-old company that does research, design, and manufacturing of high-density data storage equipment for computer systems. Headquartered in Irvine, CA and the Netherlands, the company has manufacturing facilities in Taiwan and China.



**New director
 Jeff Wu**

A native of Taiwan, Jeff is a long-time owner of property in Idyllwild, Pine Cove, and Pinewood, and has been a generous donor to IAHS for several years. He brings a businessman’s perspective to the board, as well as access to expertise for improving our on-line presence. 📝



“Timber!” Contractor perched atop dead pine tree in front yard of museum sends part if its trunk crashing to the ground in a cloud of sawdust.

PHOTO CREDITS FOR THIS ISSUE: John Drake (pages 1, 3, 4 and 5); CiDesign (page 2 top); Bob Smith (pages 2 bottom and 8); IAHS archive (page 6); Charles Trentelman (page 7 left); and Dick Dorisse (page 7 right).

THE COMPANY WE KEEP

New and Renewing Members - July through September 2011

NEW MEMBERS

Sponsor

Marlene Pierce

Idyllwild

Family

Roger & Kathleen Place

Thousand Palms

Luke Stowe & Darren Sanders

Palm Desert

Contributor

Gary & Susie Weber

Idyllwild

Individual

Tuck Ernst

Idyllwild

RENEWING MEMBERS

Benefactor

J H Deal

Riverside

Sponsor

Bill & Pat Altman

West Covina

Doug Austin & Pat Murphy

Idyllwild

Phil & Carol Baily

Temecula

Barbara Burgess

Idyllwild

Rita Edwards

La Quinta

Stacy Ann & Richard Emmons

Long Beach

Bob & Peggy Ferguson

Claremont

Dotty & Mel Goldfarb

Idyllwild

Dorothy Koepcke

Palos Verdes Estates

Tari Lennon

Palm Springs

Penny & Mike Mihály

Columbia

Betty & Walter Parks

Riverside

Joseph & Raphael Plunkett

Diamond Bar

Quiet Creek Inn

Idyllwild

(Jim Newcomb & Michael Ahern)

Harold & Lynn Voorheis

Idyllwild

Business

Wooley's (Pam Allen)

Idyllwild

Wilder Cabins

Idyllwild

(Bob Robbins & Pat Litfin)

Contributor

Ann & Bill Bashford

Idyllwild

Suzanne Bowman

Idyllwild

Bobbie & Gary Glasheen

Idyllwild

Terry & Diana Kurr

Idyllwild

Kimberly Maywald

Idyllwild

Dan Osgood & Robin Levitski

San Diego

Suzi Questad

Idyllwild

George & Jeanette Schultejan

Idyllwild

Carson & Donna Struthers

San Diego

Larry & Linda Turner

Idyllwild

Family

B J & Edith Brix

Idyllwild

Rob & Laura Caster

Idyllwild

Jim & Dawn Deshefy

Laguna Hills

Dan Dukesherer

Los Angeles

Bruce & Carolyn Ganoe

Fallbrook

Ellis & Shirley Greenwall

Rancho Mirage

Lana Ickes

Idyllwild

Marcia & Mac McQuern

Riverside

Joyce & William Miller

Santa Ana

Ron Perry & Doris Lombard

Mountain Center

Donald Sherman

Idyllwild

Jean Waggoner & Cal Gogerty

Idyllwild

Barbara & David Wilke

Idyllwild

Individual

Corrinna Aragon

Los Angeles

Bob Blankman

Idyllwild

Connie Cowan

Indio

Richard Davis

Moscow, ID

Bronwyn Jones & David Hiemenz

Idyllwild

Joan McCullough

Idyllwild

Leslie Mouriquand

La Quinta

Linda Otterbeck

Palm Springs

Alma McGaugh Peters

Mountain Center

Percy Schultz

Palm Springs

Elaine Weiler

Idyllwild

Annual Meeting speaker Pat Macha captivates the audience with his tales of historic aircraft crashes.



11TH ANNUAL HOME TOUR “BEST YET”

More than 60 hard-working volunteers have once again shown the world how to run a home tour.

One measure of their success was the response of the 442 enthusiastic tour visitors. Another was the generation of over \$11,000 in revenue, nearly 45% of IAHS’s annual income budget—this is, after all, the society’s major annual fundraising project.

Tour planning begins a year ahead of time with careful selection of homes, an art developed in our early days by Lynnda Hart and perfected more recently by Nanci Killingsworth. Owners are interviewed and homes visited to collect information about their histories and contents. Interview visits must then be distilled into compact narratives for the tour booklet and more extended profiles for tour docents. An adequate number of hosts, docents, parking attendants, and entertainers, both musical and artistic, are recruited and scheduled. Docents must be trained, publicity materials prepared and distributed to the media, advertisers recruited for the tour booklet, and endless details attended to weekly. Food and drink must be provided for visitors taking a break at the museum. On top of all this is humoring the unseen forces we depend on to deliver perfect weather.



Nanci Killingsworth, who has masterfully led the project for five years but was unable to continue in that capacity this year, assembled an unusually intriguing array of homes. She then passed on her accumulated wisdom to a new planning team led by Shirl Reid, with Carolyn Hall and Charlotte Groty assisting.

Shirl oversaw the process; orchestrated production of photography, advertising, map, and narratives for the tour booklet by John Drake, Rebecca Frazier, and Bob Smith; recruited musicians and artists; and dealt with

last-minute emergencies—like running out of tour booklets in the face of overwhelming attendance. Carolyn handled docent recruitment and training, as well as advance ticket sales and inquiries. Charlotte took on homeowner liaison and many details.

The Idyllwild Garden Club, led by Harold Voorheis and Mike Feyder, prepared the museum grounds to provide unprecedented ambience for visitors’ refreshment break. And many of our hosts and docents brought years of invaluable experience to their roles. We are especially grateful to the Idyllwild residents who generously offered their homes this year: Ann & Cid Castillo, Nancy & Roger Hull, Ron Kelley, Janice Lyle, and Suzanne Avalon. 🍷

And we want to recognize and thank all the other volunteers who made tour day a resounding success:

Hosts: Doug Austin, Maureen Boren, Jorgine Brause, Morry Copeland, Dick Dorisse, Diana Kurr, Kay Wanner

Docents: Sharla Carpenter, Diann Coate Ruthe Donlon, Bonnie Doshier, Pamela Fojtik, Leann Gudmundson, Ed Hansen, Barbara Jones, Teresa Lease, Virginia Mathahs, Joyce Miller, Earl Parker, Marlene Pierce, Terry Richardson, Shanna Robb, Melinda St. Pierre, Vicki Streeter, E. J. Weiler, Barbara Wilke, Joy Woodman

Parking: Dan Carpenter, Chic Fojtik, Terry Kurr, Danny Richardson, Chuck Streeter

Musicians: Mary Carroll, Dotty Goldfarb, David Jerome, Vicki Jakubac

Artists: Judy Aussenhofer, Jan Jaspers-Fayer, Rebecca Frazier, Kristine Haddock, Judith Schonebaum

Refreshments: Linda & Larry Turner, Carolyn & Richard Levitski

Media: Carolyn Levitski

Ticket Sales: Kathy Duncan, Dawn Miller, Sue Miller, Adele Smith, Adele Voell

Logistics & Signage: Doug Austin, Richard Levitski, Bob Smith, Gail Vicondova

Accounting: George Groty

Database: Mary Carroll

SCENES FROM THE 2011 IDYLLWILD HOME TOUR



NEW ACQUISITIONS

Between mid-summer and the end of September the IAHS archive has been enriched by donations from families of several well-known former residents:

▶ Paul and Susan Foster – he’s a grandson of Dr. Paul Foster, who briefly owned much of central Idyllwild during the crucial years of 1944-1946 – visited from their high-desert home in Phelan to bring us a collection of photos and articles from that period to scan for our collection. While here they met with staff to share helpful information about Dr. Foster, an important figure in modern Idyllwild’s history, about whom we knew relatively little.

▶ Charles Russell of Granada Hills, son of the late Florence Field, brought us a notebook containing a pictorial account of the Bee Canyon Fire of 1986, compiled by his stepfather Gaylor Field, whose father was premier Idyllwild photographer Avery Field.

▶ Local resident Susan Cowper donated a charcoal sketch by her mother Dorothy Cowper, an anthropologist, artist, writer, and ISOMATA teacher, who was prominent

in the Idyllwild Historical Society of the 1970s. ▶ Cheryl Bryant Sears of Long Beach donated four boxes of notes, articles, photos, and memorabilia collected by her mother Dorothy Bryant, a local naturalist and Town Crier columnist. The material includes many documents of the earlier historical society, which will add to our collection of that organization’s records.

(See Acquisitions, next page)



One recent acquisition was this original 1950s photo of movie actor Van Johnson (right) entertaining local children at the Koffee Kup (now the Red Kettle).

BEHIND THE SCENES ... *(continued from page 1)*

help identifying obscure scenes in an old photo or home movie.

Sometimes we have the answer hidden away somewhere, but can’t readily find it. So now that we have the facility for safe long-term storage, priority has turned to making information retrievable. Thus, board member Laura Caster has been adding searchable keywords to item descriptions in our computer records.

Vice President Joan McCullough and IAHS member Ruthe Donlon have been meeting weekly to create a subject index that will dramatically simplify searches for material on over 200 common topics.

Helping people understand the past, refresh faded memories, and enrich their own work is extremely satisfying. We owe our many donors a giant debt of gratitude for helping IAHS fill this role. 📖

IDYLLWILD JULY 4th



George Groty and Larry Turner lead the IAHS entry in the 4th of July Parade.



Bob & Adele Smith greet 4th of July parade-goers.

ACQUISITIONS ... *(continued from previous page)*

In addition, we continue to buy affordable postcards, brochures, photos, and souvenirs that turn up through Adele Smith's perpetual surveillance of eBay.

We're grateful to all our donors for sharing their treasures with the community through IAHS including the following:

- ▶ Banning Public Library (Bill Bell)
- ▶ Terry Bauman, San Diego
- ▶ Bill Blaschko, Idyllwild
- ▶ Paul Dunn, El Cajon
- ▶ Ruthe Donlon, Idyllwild
- ▶ Katherine Garver, Idyllwild

- ▶ Darlene Gunkel, Fallbrook
- ▶ Joyce Miller, Santa Ana
- ▶ Darren Sanders & Luke Stowe, Palm Desert
- ▶ Bob Smith, Idyllwild
- ▶ Karen Visel, Idyllwild
- ▶ Debbie White, San Diego

We also wish to thank local resident Antoinette Berthelotte for a used printer/scanner/copier, which will be useful in the Moote Archive & Research Center, as well as Jerry Holldber and the Pine Cove Water District for our raffle bench (see page 8) and a similar bench for the museum grounds. 📖

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) _____ Address _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

_____ Individual (\$15) _____ Contributor (\$35) _____ Benefactor (\$250) _____ Business (\$35)

_____ Family (\$25) _____ Sponsor (\$100) _____ Patron (\$500) _____ Corporate (\$750)

(Please make your tax-deductible dues check out to IAHS & mail to PO Box 3320, Idyllwild, CA 92549)

If a gift membership, please enter donor's name and address:

Name _____ Address _____

Be sure to visit our wonderful museum and gift shop!
54470 North Circle Drive

Fall/Winter/Spring Museum Schedule:
Saturdays, Sundays, & Monday Holidays
11 am - 4 pm

For special tours and other business, call (951) 659-2717

E-mail: info@idyllwildhistory.org

Website: www.idyllwildhistory.org

Admission Free

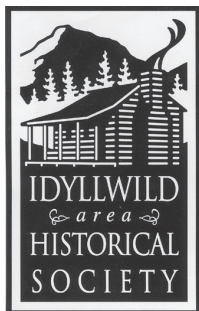
Donations Welcome



Date to remember:
Friday, December 9 — Raffle drawing for this
locally crafted garden bench
(tickets available during museum hours)

JUNE 2011
The Staff of the
Pine Cove Water District
made this bench from
lumber milled from
local drought/bark beetle
killed trees

P.O. Box 3320
Idyllwild, CA 92549



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage

PAID

Idyllwild, CA

Return Service Requested

NEWS FLASH: IAHS continues its award-winning ways! As we go to press, the California Council for the Promotion of History announces that IAHS will receive its Dave Byrd Award of Meritorious Performance and Promise for 2011. Details to follow in the Winter issue of *Arti-Facts*.