

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

Summer 2011

ANNUAL MEETING FEATURES AVIATION ARCHAEOLOGIST

This year's annual IAHS membership meeting will be held at 4 p.m. on Sunday, August 7, in the Creekstone Inn at Fern Valley Corners.

Along with the customary business and election of officers and directors, we will hear about an unusual and fascinating aspect of our mountain history: aircraft crashes.

Retired high school teacher Gary "Pat" Macha has been described as "one part Indiana Jones and one part Sherlock Holmes." He has spent 47 years exploring some 800 crash sites throughout the world, particularly in the mountains and deserts of California and the Southwest.

He has authored a guidebook to California crash sites, now in its 3rd edition, hosted a documentary on the History Channel, "Broken Wings," and produced a DVD, "Wreck Finding."

Macha's illustrated presentation to IAHS will include crash sites in the San Jacinto Mountains. Copies of his book and DVD will also be available at the meeting.

The primary business of the annual meeting is the annual election of officers and directors. Nominating Committee chair Joan McCullough reports the following slate of nominees for two-year terms (incumbents identified by asterisk):

President:

Carolyn Levitski*

Directors

Nancy Borchers*

Shirl Reid*

Linda Turner*

Jeff Wu

11TH ANNUAL IDYLLWILD HOME TOUR

Our annual home tour is approaching, and they just seem to get better every year. This one is no exception.

The five houses on this year's tour include an especially wide range of Idyllwild homes, historic and new, from simple and homey to designer showpieces.

Headlining the tour will be a remarkable structure on Strawberry Creek designed by the renowned Southern California architect, John Lautner. IAHS is honored to mark this centennial year of Lautner's birth by including his work.

Two cabins from the 1930s represent the prewar building boom that first populated our village. One retains the simplicity of life in an earlier time; the other has been updated by tasteful remodeling and intensive yard development.

A newly-built retreat, designed by our own Jim Marsh, clings to a mountainside, offering end-of-the-world views.

The fifth home is another new creation, designed in midcentury modern style by the owner, a professional museum director and art historian. Its conception and meticulous furnishing beautifully blend indoor and outdoor Idyllwild living.

The tour date is Saturday, September 17, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ticket booklets will go on sale at 9:30 a.m. at the Idyllwild Monument on Village Center Drive. Tickets may also be bought in advance at the museum or by mail to P.O. Box 3320, Idyllwild, CA 92549. The price remains \$20.

Don't miss this stellar event, IAHS's primary annual fundraiser. For further information, call (951) 317-4613. ☎

IDYLLWILD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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
Jeanette Schultejann
Linda Turner

*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

Volunteer Workers

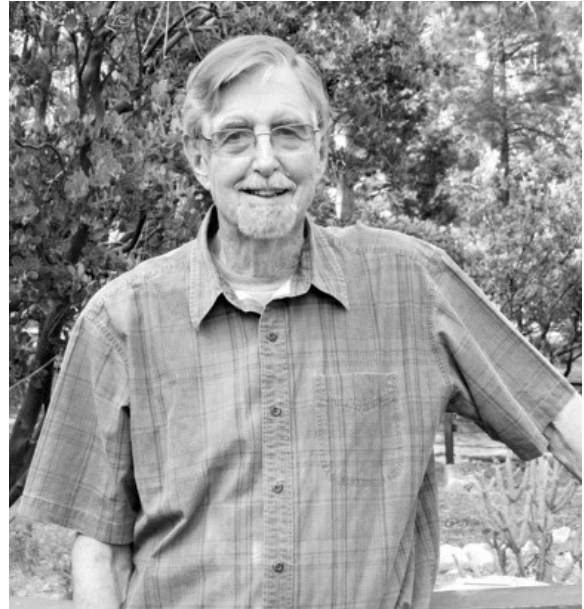
Membership: Adele Voell, Rebecca Frazier
Home Tour: Shirl Reid,
Carolyn Hall, Charlotte Groty
Digital Media: John Drake & Rebecca Frazier
Accounting: George Groty
Research: Bob Smith
Assistant Curator: Shirl Reid
Archives: Laura Caster, Ruthe Donlon
Leann Gudmundson, Will Johnson, Teresa Lease,
Joan McCullough, Susi Questad, Gail Vicondova
Docent Coordination: Joan McCullough
Hospitality: Linda & Larry Turner
Oral Histories: Corrinne Brown, Lynnda Hart
Webmaster: Carolyn Levitski
Museum Maintenance: Richard Levitski

Newsletter Co-editors

Adele & Bob Smith

THANK YOU, BEN!

by Adele Smith



Our good friend Ben Killingsworth has resigned as *Arti-Facts* newsletter editor, after 5 years, and we will miss him! Ben found joy in researching articles, which was the initial appeal of taking on the newsletter editorship. He reveled in the tracking and tramping through the storied terrain, loosening pieces from the whole, and finally working it all into an easy-chair read.

Only those of us who worked with him on the newsletter know how very many hours he spent on each quarterly publication—researching and writing the lead story, dealing with the printer, and sometimes hand-folding each of 400+ newsletters.

We'll miss his front-page historical articles, which were indeed easy reads, and we'll miss his ability to lay out the newsletter, all eight pages of it, into a readable whole. We wish him much success in the future, as he simplifies his life, promotes his book (*Waiting for My Wife*), and narrows activities and family obligations down to the most necessary and meaningful. ☞

Photo credits in this issue:

Page 2 - John Drake

Page 3 - (top) Carolyn Levitski, (bottom) Bob Smith

Page 6 - (top left) Bob Smith, (top right & bottom left) Carolyn Levitski, (bottom right) Ben Killingsworth

Page 7 - (left) John Hollis, (right) courtesy of Mt. San Jacinto State Park

AROUND THE MUSEUM

ERNIE MAXWELL CENTENNIAL

This summer Idyllwild is marking the birth centennial of Ernie Maxwell, one of the most influential residents in Idyllwild's history.

Emax (his own signature) founded the *Town Crier* newspaper with his wife, Betty; created and perpetually led the local Izaak Walton League chapter; helped establish the Idyllwild School of Music & the Arts; and produced a substantial body of his own art work. Much of the character of the village today can be traced to Emax's tireless campaign to preserve the forest wilderness surrounding Idyllwild and to prod residents to appreciate their good fortune in living here.

IAHS is contributing to the celebration with new exhibits in the museum, highlighting Emax's art work, and in the Idyllwild Post Office, focusing on his conservation activities. 📌

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Be sure to spend some time in our Community Garden and see more results of the Idyllwild Garden Club's wonderful plantings. New this spring—a small redbud tree planted on Arbor Day.



New redbud tree.

This year we watched apple, lilac, daffodil, and *Ceanothus* blossom. Now their white, violet, yellow, and blue have given way to a rainbow of wildflowers.

Reminder: The tables and chairs in the yard are there for public use anytime; bring family and friends for a picnic lunch, or just rest in our cool shade. 📌

FROM THE ARCHIVE.....

Ernie Maxwell's influence on Idyllwild is perhaps best sought in his own words excerpted from two early columns in the Town Crier:

“The reasons for living here are many and varied. Chief among these are the climate, simple living conditions, closeness to the desert and the sea—and above all, the amount of natural forest land. There are few places where you can live as informally and as casually as we do here. Our back yard is a world of the quieting features that belong to unmolested forests.

. . . An area with so many attractive features can't keep out of the limelight very long. The question is—what are we going to do about it? . . . we don't have to accept the unpleasant features that come with a fast-growing resort, unless by indifference. Nobody benefits from a mushrooming, haphazard development except the fast-moving operator who moves in—exploits, then moves on to the next “killing.” Some of Southern California's finest resort areas have already been devastated by lack of planning. Property values are reduced, trees are cut without thought to future generations, and health and sanitation are allowed to reach a dangerous point. (See page 5)



Emax exhibit now on display in IAHS Museum.

THE COMPANY WE KEEP

New and Renewing Members - March through June 2011

NEW MEMBERS

Business

Field Family Photography Ashland, OR
(Sid Field)

Family

David Haslim San Diego
John & Claudia Dutton Hollis Marysville

Individual

Craig Lassen Idyllwild
Sandi Tenerelli La Cañada

RENEWING MEMBERS

Sponsor

Karl & Joy Allgeier Idyllwild
Dore Capitani & Trish Tuley Mountain Center
Karen & Thomas Higgins Idyllwild
Ben & Nanci Killingsworth Idyllwild
Phyllis Marling South Pasadena
David & Helle Pearson Carlsbad
Joyce McGaugh Silberstein Anaheim
Kay Wanner & Charles Wix Idyllwild

Business

The Vintage Shoppe (Bob Cox) Idyllwild

Contributor

Barney & Jorgine Brause Idyllwild
Earlie May Brosterhous Hemet
Dolores Ellison Idyllwild
Joe & Nancy Hart Carlsbad

Johnnie Johnson Idyllwild
Ron Killingsworth Fallbrook
David & Kim Leonard Riverside
Leona McGaugh Mountain Center
Susan Miller Hemet
Pascal & Colette Simon Idyllwild
Marianne McConnell Smith Eagle Mtn., UT

Family

Kathy & Ron Beaufort Laguna Niguel
Millie Bird Palm Desert
Irene & Lew Brahm El Cajon
Jeanne & Jerry Buchanan Idyllwild
Dan & Sharla Carpenter Idyllwild
David & Mary Carroll Idyllwild
Lorel Cornman & Will Johnson Idyllwild
Wayne Donaldson Sacramento
Helen Drummond Yuma, AZ
Elisabeth & Jan Jaspers-Fayer Idyllwild
Joe & Leann Gudmundson Idyllwild
Noreen & Stephen Hudson Palm Desert
Ron & Marcia Krull Idyllwild
Catherine & Richard Miller Palm Desert
Dawn & Thomas Miller Idyllwild
Bob & Pat Parish Idyllwild
Larry Shute & Nancy Brothers Idyllwild
Melinda & Ron St. Pierre Idyllwild
Joanne Tenney La Palma
Michael Voell San Rafael

Individual

Carol Acosta Idyllwild
Nancy Borchers Idyllwild
Linda Wright Miller Carlsbad

OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS

We're grateful for the support of these businesses and urge your patronage.

Evenson Design Group (Culver City)
Field Family Photography (Ashland, OR)
Idyllwild Realty
Mile High Café

Quiet Creek Inn & Vacation Rentals
The Vintage Shoppe
Wilder Cabins
Wooley's

We thank those who have donated new items for our collection in recent months. They include the Fern Valley Inn; Idyllwild residents Cindy Allert, George Baker, Suzanne Bowman, Rebecca Frazier, Richard Greenwood, Lynn Hart, Suzanne Jansen, Avianna Jones, Dot Lewis, Mike Pearson, Sandy Reed, and Shirl Reid; Meg Garner of Garner Ranch; Jim Foley of Carlsbad; author John Robinson of Fullerton; Don Lass of Palm Springs; Janice Sutton and Maxine Shepard of Riverside; and Terry Bauman and Shon Doyle of San Diego. (In addition to these, some particularly noteworthy donations are described on page 7.)

FOUNDERS CIRCLE

Now well into our second decade, we remember with gratitude the people who through their early, generous support have earned life memberships since IAHS was founded. Our healthy finances and excellent archive and museum facilities owe much to their contributions. (We also mourn the loss of former life members Berdie Bubb, Rayburn Hanzlik, Jim Johnson, and Margaret Wootton, each of whom has since passed on.)

Nick Adamenko	Idyllwild	Don & Lynnda Hart	Idyllwild
Corrinne & Ray Brown	Idyllwild	Bob & Lorna Houck	La Mesa
Harry Bubb	Newport Beach	Lyn & Mitchell Lathrop	San Diego
David & Lois Butterfield	San Diego	Richard & Carolyn Levitski	Idyllwild
The Carratello Family	Idyllwild	Jim Marsh	Hemet
Terry Casella & Harris Demetre	Palm Springs	Julie Masterson	Mendocino
Blair & Kay Cenicerros	Claremont	Bob & Cindi McKinney	Lakewood
Mike Clifford	Los Angeles	George & Sheila Meyer	Otter Rock, OR
Bob & Loraine Dyson	Del Mar	Carol Murrel	Newport Beach
C. Lee Emerson	Roseville	Jan & Nigel Priestley	Christchurch, NZ
Evenson Design Group	Culver City	Shirl Reid	Idyllwild
Penelope Anne Frey	Idyllwild	Bob & Adele Smith	Idyllwild
Katie Grigsby	Idyllwild	Francie Spears	Cardiff-by-the-Sea
Charlotte & George Groty	Moreno Valley	Judy & Kevin Underdahl	Columbia Falls, MT
The Hansen Family	Idyllwild	Bill Wootton	Prescott, AZ



FROM THE ARCHIVE.... *(continued from page 3)*

It is only by thoughtful consideration of such projects as good roads, properly marked – conservation and development of water supply – houses adapted to rustic surroundings – rigid regulation of sewage disposal – that community reaches its fullest potential.”

----February 22, 1947

“Years ago, the cattlemen came in here and took over from the Indians. Later on, the tourists and health-seekers discovered this to be a desirable place for recreation. Since they outnumbered the cattlemen, the grazing herds had to go. . . This area became primarily a recreational wilderness. Last summer, upwards of 15,000 people hiked, rode, or packed into the backcountry. . . .

“Meanwhile, other interests began to bid for the region. . . . The bill authorizing [the tramway] is flexible on how much construction will be allowed at the top of the tramway in the once-primitive country. Now come those people who see in this an opening wedge into an area heretofore restricted to horses and hikers, a chance to expand and develop resort facilities. Pressure is now being applied to gain admittance into the Federal lands which border the State Park. Applications have been received by

the Forest Service—though so far denied—for permission to establish ‘high class resorts’ in Tahquitz Valley. These opportunists argue that since the tramway has been allowed, the country can no longer be considered primitive area, and that it is therefore discriminatory not to allow them in also. And they have a point. . . .

“To prevent further inroads into the back country by commercial interests, those groups which require undeveloped areas for their recreational activities will have to work together. . . hikers, campers, horsemen, fishermen, hunter, conservationists and nature lovers. . . . Because the sportsmen are the best organized group, they are in the strongest position to offer effective opposition. In the final analyses, the deciding factor of what interests will control the wilderness areas, will be the group which puts it to the best use. . . .”

----August 9, 1947

[To dispel a rumor that the Maxwells were paid operatives sent to Idyllwild to promote tramway opposition, Emax closed the August column by saying, “We ain’t no spies, and we work at an honest living just like all of you.”] 🐾

BEHIND THE SCENES

The new **Frank & Mabel Moote Archive & Research Center** has been a busy place this spring. Its year-round constant temperature and humidity, motion-sensing light switches for the forgetful, and poetic touches like the “Eemax” brand water heater make it a marvelous workplace for historical research. And, for the present at least, it provides the space to hold board and committee meetings that we’ve lacked.



Archive volunteers Ruhe Donlon, Joan McCullough, and Teresa Lease (l-r) at work indexing materials.

Since Christmas, an expanded volunteer crew (see page 2) has been creating a subject index to our photos and documents (80 boxes and growing) and updating our computer records to add information on the thousands of new items added to our collection in recent years. These projects will enable us to respond more quickly and accurately to the frequent inquiries we get from members, staff, and researchers and writers throughout the country.

John Beach, former president of the Florida **Elvis Presley Club** and a significant source of our



John Beach (2nd from right) and friends visiting museum.

archive material on “Kid Galahad,” recently brought us a group of Elvis fans from several southeastern states. Beach had brought the Florida Club on a tour in 2005, and as before, the fans were eager to examine our collection of memorabilia. Afterwards, they also took our self-guided “Tracking Elvis Through Idyllwild” tour.



Elvis fans examine the IAHS archive.

~~~~~  
**Historic first!** Laura Caster, one of our most skilled volunteers, and husband Rob, a commercial charter pilot, announce the June 10th birth of Ethan Stead Caster, first baby born to an IAHS board member. The boards of IAHS and the Pine Cove Property Owners gave a baby shower and luncheon recently for Laura and Rob, hosted by Joan McCullough and assisted by Charlotte Groty, Carolyn Hall, Sally Warwick, Anna Marie Padula, and Ruhe Donlon. Ethan arrived at a hefty 9 pounds 9 ounces. We wish the three a wonderful life together. 🍷



Laura & Rob Caster opening shower gifts.

## NEW GIFTS FOR OUR COLLECTION

► Claudia Dutton Hollis of Marysville stopped by last month to deliver photos, press clippings, and other documents from her Idyllwild childhood.



(L-r) Bob Smith and Claudia Dutton Hollis display Cambodian flag and silver pumpkin she donated to IAHS museum.

Most prominent were the handmade Cambodian flag she fashioned and displayed for the 1961 visit by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, as well as the silver pumpkin, a Cambodian national symbol, that the prince gave her in return for her thoughtfulness.

► Our good friends Sid & Barbara Emerson Field of Field Family Photography in Ashland, OR have given us a beautiful framed, hand-tinted photo of Hidden Lake by esteemed Southern California photographer Stephen Willard. It once hung in Claudius Emerson's office at the Idyllwild Inn.

► Last year State Parks Archaeologist Larynn Carver, on behalf of Mt. San Jacinto State Park, lent us a massive group of photos and papers from the park's archive. We recently finished laboriously evaluating and scanning 342 valuable new items for our collection, such as this previously unknown 1901 snapshot of Walter Lindley's daughter gazing at her father's pride, the Idyllwild Sanatorium:



*Dorothy Lindley*

► Don Lass of Palm Springs, current owner of "The House Built From One Rock," an Idyllwild landmark, has donated the home's 1930s handmade guest books. (Ripley's "Believe it or Not" featured the house, as did our 2007 home tour.)

► And we owe special thanks to the Palm Desert Historical Society for donating the materials from which Richard & Carolyn Levitski and Larry & Linda Turner have created some beautiful storage shelving for the Archive & Research Center. 📖

### 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**

**Summer Museum Schedule:  
Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, & Monday Holidays  
11 am - 4 pm**

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

**E-mail: [info@idyllwildhistory.org](mailto:info@idyllwildhistory.org)**

**Website: [www.idyllwildhistory.org](http://www.idyllwildhistory.org)**

**Admission Free**

**Donations Welcome**

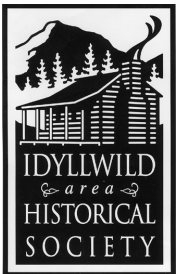
**Dates to remember:**

**Sunday, August 7 — IAHS Annual Meeting  
( 4 pm at the Creekstone Inn)**

**Saturday, September 3 — Ice Cream Social  
(11 am-2 pm at the IAHS Museum)**

**Saturday, September 17 — 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Home Tour  
(10 am-4 pm at Idyllwild Monument)**

**P O Box 3320  
Idyllwild, CA 92549**



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Organization  
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