

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 2012

Breezin' Along in Old Idyllwild

During Idyllwild Village's formative years (1920-29) the Idyllwild Inn's newspaper, "Idyllwild Breezes," promoted land sales by reporting events, activities, the comings and going of summer residents and visitors, and the attractions of the San Jacinto Mountains. Here we begin a series of vignettes from that paper depicting life during Idyllwild's first boom years.

Crashing the Parties

By Adele Smith

Summertime was the busy season in the newly booming vacation village, and the social center was the Idyllwild Inn. Its ballroom filled with dancers every night except Sunday, and the weekends often brought special events like the following.

• **SCAVENGER HUNT:** This was held after a picnic supper at Idyllwild Inn Bowl [located creekside below today's Mountain Harvest Market]. "A number of Idyllwild families almost had to lock their pet cats in the house, but all cats who did get out on the hunt report a lively time and hope to be included again."

Items to be found included a certain designer's garters, a yeast cake, one piece of cellophane 8.25"x 3.25" untorn, horse sketch on blue paper with red ink by some member of the team, corn cob pipe, one very square ice cube, one clear glass ashtray (not colored), exact cutout of a specific cleaning-label lady, a certain brand's empty coffee can, key ring made in France, sprig of mistletoe, "specific cigarette guest package," ice cream freezer, 6 ½ dried apricots, bow tie, golf ball autographed by Mike Flavin [golf pro at the country club], one green apple growing on a three-foot branch, and ONE LIVE CAT.

(See Parties, page 5)

12TH ANNUAL IDYLLWILD HOME TOUR



**Saturday, September 15
10 AM - 4 PM
(See story on page 6)**

IAHS Annual Meeting

**Speaker: Steve Lech
Election ~ Refreshments
Sunday, August 12, 4 PM
Silver Pines Lodge
(See story on page 2)**

Ice Cream Social

*An Idyllwild community tradition
Bid farewell to the summer season.*

**Saturday, September 1
12 - 2 PM**

**On the grounds of the IAHS Museum
FREE!**

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
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

4th of July Parade: Linda Turner
Accounting: George Groty
Archive: Nancy Borchers, Ruthe Donlon, Teresa Lease,
Joan McCullough, Shirl Reid (*Assistant Curator*),
Bob Smith, Cecilia Tepel
Audit: Charlotte Groty, Tom McCullough,
Joan McCullough
Digital Media: John Drake, Rebecca Frazier
Docent Coordination: Charlotte Groty, Joan McCullough
Home Tour: Charlotte Groty, Carolyn Hall,
Nanci Killingsworth, Shirl Reid, Bob Smith,
Rebecca Frazier, John Drake
Hospitality: Linda & Larry Turner
Membership: Adele Voell, Rebecca Frazier, Shirl Reid
Museum Maintenance: Richard Levitski
Museum Shop: Nancy Borchers
Nominating: Diann Coate, Joan McCullough (chair),
Adele Smith
Oral Histories: Corrinne Brown,
Lynnda Hart, Carolyn Levitski
Research: Bob Smith
Webmaster: John Drake

Arti-Facts

Co-Editors: Adele & Bob Smith
Layout & Design: Halie Johnson
Feature Writer: Marcia Torrey-Jay

ANNUAL MEETING TO FOCUS ON MOUNTAIN HISTORY

This year's annual IAHS membership meeting will be held at 4 p.m. on Sunday, August 12, in the historic Silver Pines Lodge on Cedar Street.

The lodge has been an Idyllwild landmark since the 1920s, having housed the Rustic Shop selling manzanita furniture, the Rustic Tavern, and the Rustic Theatre before its conversion in 1952 to overnight accommodations as Hillbilly Lodge.

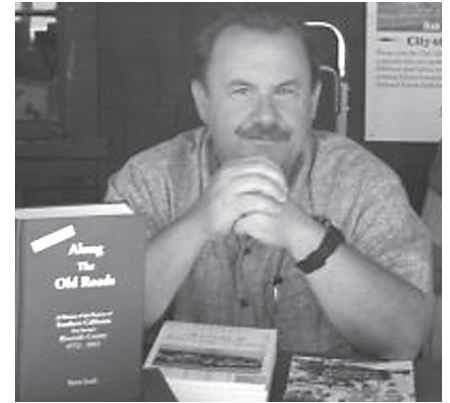
Our featured speaker will be Steve Lech, longtime historian of Riverside County and president of the Riverside Historical Society.

His eighth book on topics pertaining to our county's past is just off the press, a history of the creation of the Pines-to-Palms Highway linking Idyllwild with the Coachella Valley desert.

This book will provide the topic of Steve's talk. It's now available in our Museum Shop, and he'll be selling and signing copies at the meeting.

The other primary business, along with reports of the past year, will be 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):

Vice President:
Charlotte Groty
Secretary
Marlene Pierce
Treasurer
Bob Smith*
Directors
Laura Caster*
George Groty*
Carolyn Hall*
Barbara Jones
Joan McCullough
Adele Voell 🖋️



Steve Lech

THE COMPANY WE KEEP

New and Renewing Members - April through June 2012

NEW MEMBERS

RENEWING MEMBERS (cont'd.)

Sponsor

Bonnie Lynn Lawrie Cerritos

Family

Stephen DeLonge Rancho Mirage
 Jim & Doris Ferguson Riverside
 Elizabeth Miller & Neill Bell Idyllwild
 Tom Zachman & Leslie Hurst Idyllwild

Individual

Greg LeRoy San Clemente
 Karen Metz Idyllwild

RENEWING MEMBERS

Founders Circle

Ann & Dave Dunham Idyllwild

Sponsor

Bill & Pat Altman West Covina
 Wayne Donaldson Sacramento
 Nanci & Ben Killingsworth Idyllwild
 Julie Wright Reilly Santa Ana
 Joyce McGaugh Silberstein Anaheim
 Kay Wanner & Charles Wix Idyllwild

Business

Wilder Cabins
 (Pat Litfin & Bob Robbins) Idyllwild
 Wooley's (Pam Allen) Idyllwild

Contributor

Nancy Borchers Idyllwild
 Barney & Jorgine Brause Idyllwild
 Earlie May Brosterhous Hemet
 John Drake & Rebecca Frazier Idyllwild
 Brent & Jean Dunn Long Beach
 Janet & Richard Goldberg Idyllwild
 David & Kim Leonard Riverside
 Daniel & Jane Levy Pasadena
 Heloise B Marsh Hemet
 Leona McGaugh Mountain Center
 Ralph Priem Hemet
 Geraldine Sperling Idyllwild
 Lloyd & Shirley Wood Idyllwild

Family

Karl & Joy Allgeier Idyllwild
 Irene & Lew Brahm El Cajon
 Gary & Karen Brown Idyllwild
 Jeanne & Jerry Buchanan Idyllwild
 Dan & Sharla Carpenter Idyllwild
 David & Mary Carroll Idyllwild
 Rob & Laura Caster Idyllwild
 Lorel Cornman & Will Johnson Idyllwild
 Helen Drummond Yuma AZ
 Joe & Leann Gudmundson Idyllwild
 Patricia Hair San Jacinto
 Joe & Nancy Hart Carlsbad
 John & Claudia Dutton Hollis Marysville
 Elisabeth & Jan Jaspers-Fayer Idyllwild
 Ron & Marcia Krull Idyllwild
 Catherine & Richard Miller Palm Desert
 Anthony Pearson Glendale
 Melinda & Ron St. Pierre Idyllwild
 Joanne Tenney La Palma
 Michael Voell San Rafael
 Jean Waggoner & Cal Gogerty Idyllwild

Individual

Millie Bird Palm Desert
 Barbara Czescik Del Mar
 Bob Cox Idyllwild
 Linda Wright Miller Carlsbad
 Linda Otterbeck Palm Springs
 Susi Questad Idyllwild
 Barbara & Terry Richmond Springfield OR
 Jeannine Sherrick Reno NV
 Bill Waring Palm Desert

BEHIND THE SCENES

Life in the IAHS archive remains as busy as ever, with a constant inflow of information and materials from a variety of sources and outflow of research results to inquirers and publications.

We continue to receive a steady stream of postcards, photos, scrapbooks, documents, artwork, maps, and other artifacts of mountain history. During the past quarter we've gratefully received donated materials from Hill residents Larrynn Carver, Susan Cowper, Lynnda Hart, and Barbara Layman; Mark Spencer of Anza; and Gina Miranda of Idaho.

The Cowper donation is especially significant, consisting of a large collection of papers from her mother, Dorothy ("Peg") Cowper, who was a prominent figure in Idyllwild as an anthropologist, teacher, artist, and writer. Such substantial collections require many hours to inventory and evaluate for our permanent collection, but they also can significantly enrich the historical record of our community.

Since the first of the year we've had 22 new requests for research information, while continuing to work on four major ongoing projects stemming from prior inquiries. Archive photos and information have contributed to research at both UC-Berkeley and UC-Riverside. The most interesting projects have been sleuthing out the identities of cabins formerly owned by prominent Southern Californians Chauncey and Marie Rankin Clarke of Santa Fe Springs and La Quinta and Cornelia White of Palm Springs.



Lynnda Hart interviews (l-r) Melinda Rose, Gina Miranda, and Kathleen Jones in the museum. (Not shown is videographer Carolyn Levitski.) Photo by Bob Smith

Oral Histories

Our oral history program under the direction of Corrinne Brown and Lynnda Hart got an unexpected treat in June, when three cousins, Gina Miranda of Meridian ID, Melinda Rose of Apple Valley, and Kathleen Jones of Fullerton, came to town. They are granddaughters of Kathryn Scherman Whisnand Centers, an Idyllwild native who was a fixture here between 1922 and 1953. (This makes them great-great-granddaughters of pioneer Idyllwild logger Anton Scherman.) They enjoyed touring our museum and had much to share about life with their grandmother. 📖



IAHS honored Nanci & Ben Killingsworth in the 4th of July parade for their stellar contributions to our society's success during the past seven years, especially the home tours and Arti-Facts. They rode in IAHS member Paul Leverenz's 1949 Mercury wagon. Photo by Paul Leverenz



Museum visitors and staff were entertained last month from the rafters of the archive building's porch by our resident robin family. Photo by Bob Smith

PARTIES ... (continued from page 1)

Honorable mention was given to Sam Donnelly, who drew “clever and amusing” pictures of each article instead of bringing in the real thing. Winners were awarded ashtray sets and jewel boxes made from native wood.

• **MASQUERADE BALL:** “The Grand March was a wonderful and picturesque parade, with Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Nims taking the lead, attired in the Scottish national costumes.” An Irish jig was performed by an Irish colleen, along with a “very graceful dance by two girls from the Peak and Pine Girls’ camp.” There were clowns, cowboys, Pierrets [sic], Indians, squaws, Chinese, Shieks [sic], Spaniards, Gypsies, Russians, harem ladies, a Weary Willie, a stately queen, and a little boy as an elephant.

Special mention was made of “a lady disguised in a dress of fir leaves from head to foot.” Prizes went to an old Indian woman with a papoose on her back and to Mr. Jack Abbot, who was “a scream in pink and white gingham rompers.”

• **MASQUE BALL:** This was an annual event at the Idyllwild Inn, with dancers wearing costumes of many nations and walks of life. One year first prize (a guest book) went to “an excellent caricature of Der Führer, Adolf Hitler. He was correct even to German accent and nazi salute.” Miss Phyllis Bishop topped off the evening with a toe-tap dance and two fast buck dances.

• **FANCY DRESS BALL:** A mock marriage ceremony was a special feature of the evening. “The vows, to which the bride and groom were asked to subscribe, were cleverly worded and pronounced in true orthodox style.” Costumes were awarded



Unmasked vacationers in outlandish garb for a masquerade ball at the Idyllwild Inn.

Photo from IAHS archive

for a gypsy lady and a beggar woman, with special mention of a Southern couple of colonial days.

• **BARN DANCE:** “The [Inn] lobby was transformed into a typical barn, with piles of baled hay, farming implements, harness, horse collars and other ranch equipment ... dozens of balloons were cut loose and soared above the heads of the gay dancers.”

• **IDYLLWILD COMMUNITY CHURCH FAREWELL PARTY:** [Each year the church ceased regular services at summer’s end.] A “roundup” of members and friends was led by Rev. W. T. McAfee, emcee, at Idyllwild Pines. “The group was divided into three ranchos, the I & U, Bar B Q, and Pobre, with Pepper Pat Nagel, Pert Percy Percival, and Weary Willie Woods as ranch foremen. With the call of ‘chuck’ from rancher McAfee, the hungry mob ... descended upon the old chuck wagon, where they were helped to barbecued beef and frijoles by ‘Old King Cole’ and ‘Little Jess Steven,’ cooks.”

Ranch gangs competed in a singing contest. A. C. Lovekin, of Riverside, reviewed Idyllwild’s roads

(See Breezes, page 6)

12TH ANNUAL IDYLLWILD HOME TOUR

Home Tour season will soon be upon us, and after the outstanding success of last year's tour, our incomparable scout, Nanci Killingsworth, is even more excited about this year's selection of homes.

The five houses range in age from the immediate postwar era to the present and in design from traditional Idyllwild Craftsman style to contemporary showpieces. You'll even see how a modular home can be artfully blended into our forested mountain terrain.

Two of the homes are perched high above the village, one on either side of Strawberry Valley, exploiting drop-dead views. Two nestle among the trees on the valley floor, and the fifth exploits the charms of both hillside shade and exposure to the surrounding heights.

Decors range from Japanese to Spanish/

Moroccan, with plenty of knotty pine in between. All reflect the personalities of their owners and illustrate the variety of mountain lifestyles that make Idyllwild such a refreshing community.

For a respite from touring, you can repair to the IAHS museum grounds for refreshments and a relaxing stroll through the ever expanding gardens developed through our partnership with the Idyllwild Garden Club.

The tour date is Saturday, September 15, 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. The price remains \$20.

Don't miss this stellar event, which provides both an enjoyable day and much of IAHS's annual income. For further information, call (951) 317-4613. 📞

“HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF”

1946: Businesses shut down, and the whole town turned out to pour the foundation for Town Hall.
Photo from IAHS archive



2012: Over 700 volunteers turned out for 5 days to build the new playground on the Idyllwild Community Center grounds
Photo by Frazier Drake

BREEZES ...

(continued from page 5)

and trails in the early days. “Major Lawrence, who was on the reception committee representing the [U.S.] army when the Graf Zeppelin arrived in Los Angeles, spoke. [He] was one of five people allowed to inspect the pit of the Zeppelin. In the distance, a quartet from Idyllwild Pines sang cowboy songs, and a potato race on horseback was won by Jack Hastings. The evening ended with the showing of a motion picture of Norway and Sweden taken by Charlie Hamilton and Mrs. Hamilton on their recent trip to the land of the midnight sun.” 📺

FOUNDERS CIRCLE

Each year we pay tribute to the people who through their generous support got IAHS off the ground in our first decade and have been granted life memberships. (Asterisks note deceased members.)

Nick Adamenko	Idyllwild
Charles & Charlotte Bird	San Diego
Corrinne & Ray Brown	Idyllwild
Harry & Berdie* Bubb	Newport Beach
David & Lois Butterfield	San Diego
Pete & Suzy Capparelli	Idyllwild
The Carratello Family	Idyllwild
Terry Casella & Harris Demetre	Palm Springs
Blair & Kay Cenicerros	Claremont
Mike Clifford	Los Angeles
Ann & Dave Dunham	Idyllwild
Bob & Loraine Dyson	Del Mar
C. Lee Emerson*	Roseville
Evenson Design Group	Culver City
Penelope Anne Frey	Idyllwild
Katie Grigsby	Idyllwild
Charlotte & George Gropy	Moreno Valley
The Hansen Family	Idyllwild
Rayburn Hanzlik*	Idyllwild
Don & Lynnda Hart	Idyllwild
Bob & Lorna Houck	La Mesa
Jim Johnson*	Idyllwild
Lyn & Mitchell Lathrop	San Diego
Richard & Carolyn Levitski	Idyllwild
Jim Marsh	Hemet
Julie Masterson	Mendocino
Bob & Cindi McKinney	Lakewood
George & Sheila Meyer	Otter Rock OR
Carol Murrel	Newport Beach



Idyllwild Garden Club volunteers prepare the museum grounds for planting the new heirloom rose garden.

Photo by Bob Smith

Our raffle prize this year is this handsome desk, built from local beetle-killed pine and donated by Jerry Holldber and the Pine Cove Water District staff.

Photo by Bob Smith



Jan & Nigel Priestley	Christchurch NZ
Shirl Reid	Idyllwild
Bob & Adele Smith	Idyllwild
Francie Spears	Cardiff-by-the-Sea
Judy & Kevin Underdahl	Columbia Falls MT
Bill & Margaret* Wootton	Prescott AZ
Jeff Wu	Irvine

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 to IAHS & mail to PO Box 3320, Idyllwild, CA 92549)

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

Name _____ Address _____

Museum Hours

11 am - 4 pm

**Summer Schedule (June 22 through September 3)
Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays, plus Wednesday, July 4**

**Fall Schedule (Starts September 8)
Saturdays & Sundays, plus Friday, November 23**

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

E-mail: info@idyllwildhistory.org

Website: www.idyllwildhistory.org

Admission Free

Donations Welcome

Dates to remember:

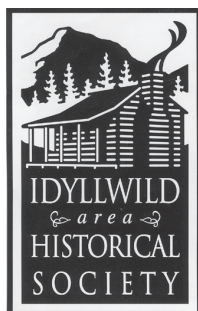
Sunday, August 12 — IAHS Annual Meeting

Saturday, September 1 — Ice Cream Social

Saturday, September 15 — 12th Annual Idyllwild Home Tour

Friday, December 14 — Raffle drawing

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



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