

# 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 2024

## The Krone Philosophy and the Birth of a Dream

*By Edward Warner*

On June 30th, 1928, it was reported in the Idyllwild Breezes that the Rev. Dr. Lincoln Ferris was in town at his Marion View Drive mountain home, said to have one of the best views of the valley. “The Doctor is ... a student of astronomy. When up here where the stars are larger and brighter, he holds nightly vigils with the luminaries of the skies through a large telescope.”

That special home with an inspiring view was passed on to other visionaries when on Labor Day weekend 1941, Max and Bee Krone visited Idyllwild, invited by USC Law School Dean Robert Kingsley and his wife. Like many who make their way to these mountains, it was a simple trip to escape the heat and traffic, relaxing amid the forest and fresh air, hearing the song of the crickets in the evening. Was it the simple peace of this valley and the cool evenings with our brilliant night sky that caused the Krones to take a chance? On impulse, they purchased the Lincoln Ferris home for \$3,500 and as Bee remembered later, “That was an awful lot of money in those days and we did not pay for it all at once, because we did not have that much. We had a lot of nerve to do that, we figured you don’t get anyplace if you don’t take risks.”

Much has been written about the history of ISOMATA, now Idyllwild Arts Academy & Summer Program, but what do we know about these two “dreamers” arriving in Idyllwild with a fresh vision



**Max & Bee Krone, 1941, when they first visited Idyllwild.**  
*THE KRONE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM*

of how music and the arts might be integrated into society? These values forever influenced the culture and identity of Idyllwild but where were they conceived? Where did the organizational, promotional and performance skills originate? Like many residents of southern California, Max and Bee were transplanted Midwesterners. Max Thomas Krone grew up in Pennsylvania, Beatrice Minerva Perham a native of Wisconsin. Their early paths were remarkably similar with a foundation of teaching music to others using innovative methods.

Max was born to German Immigrants in 1901 in Pennsylvania, and attended school in Bryan, Ohio, where his musical education started in earnest. Early in school he was

taught to play a clarinet given to him by his sister, and soon after his father Eugene acquired a phonograph and piano store. The store piano teacher found a willing young student in Max, eager to learn classical music. Max enhanced that with many hours listening to records in the store and adding to his fondness for music that pleased his ear. As he grew up his skills led to performances in high school, events and clubs around town, cementing his love of the stage.

Max chose his college based on the outstanding reputation of the University of Illinois Concert Band and left for the Champaign Urbana campus in 1919. He became a member of that renowned band,

*See Krone, page 3*

## IDYLLWILD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Board of Directors

<i>President:</i>	Charlotte Groty
<i>Vice President:</i>	Marlene Pierce
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<i>Secretary:</i>	Jayne Hamil
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Carolyn Levitski
<i>Directors:</i>	George Groty, Linda Turner, Bob Greenamy, Dana Albano, Edward Warner, Nanci Killingsworth Chris Perreault and Laura Zarecky

*Board meetings are open to the membership  
and are held in the archive building on the  
second Friday of each month.*

### Current Volunteer Staff

<i>Accounting:</i>	George Groty
<i>Archive:</i>	Bob Greenamy, Laura Zarecky, Lynnda Hart, and Nanci Killingsworth
<i>Digital Media:</i>	John Drake and Rebecca Frazier
<i>Home Tour:</i>	Charlotte Groty, Nanci Killingsworth, and Chris Perreault
<i>Hospitality:</i>	Linda & Larry Turner
<i>Membership:</i>	Jayne Hamil
<i>Campus:</i>	Richard & Carolyn Levitski
<i>Museum Docents:</i>	Charlotte Groty and Chris Perreault
<i>Museum Operations:</i>	George Groty
<i>Museum Shop:</i>	Marlene Pierce
<i>Oral Histories:</i>	Lynnda Hart and John Drake
<i>Research:</i>	Lynnda Hart, Betty Parks, and Bob Smith
<i>IGC Liason:</i>	Keith Teeuwen

### Honorary Advisors

Harry Bubb and Walter Parks

### Arti-Facts

<i>Editor:</i>	Edward Warner
<i>Feature Writer:</i>	Edward Warner and Bob Greenamy
<i>Layout:</i>	Halie Wilson

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello to all our wonderful members!

First, I want to thank you for your continued support of the Idyllwild Area Historical Society. With this support we have had quite a year. Our last home tour was the most successful we have ever had. We have continued our outreach program with young people. Our archive committee works hard at maintaining and adding new historic items and documents to our collection.

With our Summer Museum season upon us, a big "shoutout" to our docents who volunteer their time and energy meeting and engaging our many visitors. It is always fun to interact with the community and we will do so once again with our annual Free Ice Cream Social and yes, it is true, we make the best root beer floats!

Sadly, we recently lost two members of the IAHS family, Jayne Hamil and Larry Turner. We feel very privileged to have had their friendship, talent, and love of our organization.

Jayne spent many summers at ISOMATA cementing her love of this community. She had starring roles in community theater, then became a vital part of the famous Bird Cage Theater, a main stay at Knotts Berry Farm. She went on to become a talented television writer with credits for shows such as Jenny Jones, Dick Clark, Mario Lopez, The Osmonds, The Nanny and Still Standing, then winning an Emmy for the PBS series Wordgirl. Jayne and Scott moved to Idyllwild, where she joined our board, contributing unselfishly to our mission.

Larry Turner, a veteran of the US Navy, retired from the Arrowhead Water Company after 30 years, moving to his beloved Idyllwild. He contributed to our museum with his avid collecting, and both he and Linda catered for our team and our guests for numerous events and gatherings. His warm smile and humor showed as he filled your plate or handed you your "made to order" Ice Cream Sunday.

They will always be in our hearts and part of our history.

Finally, I have come to the end of my tenure as President of the Historical Society. It was quite an adventure. I have been introduced to many members of the community and their organizations, participated in many activities, all leading to the conclusion that indeed Idyllwild is a special place. I cannot conclude my time as president without acknowledging the Board of Directors of this organization. They are the hardest working, fun-loving and easiest group of people I have ever had the opportunity to work with. Thank you IAHS Board for giving me the opportunity to be your president. 🍷

Charlotte Groty  
IAHS President

## KRONE

*(cont. from page 1)*

while receiving his bachelor's degree in sociology in 1923. While at UI, he met Harriet Beach, who was a literary student and an accomplished athlete. In 1923 they were married in Champaign.

With a new wife and the responsibilities therein, Max went in search of a music teaching job, landing at the Oakland Illinois High School. There being virtually no music program in place upon his arrival makes the resulting 40-piece band, orchestra and choral program even more miraculous! With only a violin teacher in town, Max had to learn to play the other instruments in his first year, to teach them, keeping just a step ahead of the students! The salesmanship and promotional skills required to create a music program from scratch in a small Midwestern town in just two years evokes themes of Meredith Willson's 1950s "The Music Man" character Harrold Hill, (with the irony that Willson's play was partially developed while he taught at ISOMATA!)

In 1926, Max returned to the University of Illinois where he secured a job as the Assistant Director of the University Bands, later advancing to a teaching position in the University School Music Department. At the same time, the Urbana Public Schools engaged the University to use one of its grade schools as a teaching model for music education. They asked Max to design a new method that might engage more students more effectively in music education and appreciation. University students learning how to teach music would work in the laboratory school with the elementary kids, seeking to better sharpen their skills in a real-life environment.

In 1927 Max and Harriet welcomed their daughter Jean to their home, and Max shared that "they were taking psychology classes" from her, as children tend to do to parents. Demonstrating his work ethic, he also began his grad work at Northwestern University, somehow fitting that in with being a new dad and his teaching positions. Around this time, he also began to introduce folk music programs to students to give balance to the classical works typically taught at that time. He cleverly used his involvement in the All-State Choral programs to test a broader and more diverse range of music works and used polling and statistics to see how students enjoyed performing

these programs.

In a 1929 Interview, Max revealed an early vision of his eventual role here in Idyllwild, when he was asked what phase of his work he liked best. Mr. Krone answered, "All of it—from the first-grade rhythm band to my university classes. But I believe the thing that fascinates me most is the administrative end of it...trying to see everything in its true proportion and building an organization to meet the needs of every group."

Max and Harriet moved on to Cleveland Ohio, Max being hired in 1929 as Head of the Music Department at Western Reserve University. The next year Harriet gave birth to their son Bob (later an ISOMATA board member). Max honed his methods and developed even more innovative programs in his tenure at this very progressive institution. It was noted in a school newsletter that one of the new WRU music faculty members in 1930 was one Beatrice Perham.

With the depression worsening, Max and family in 1931 moved to Indianapolis Indiana where Max became the Director of the Arthur Jordan School of Music at Butler University. In that role he was also director of a 40 member A Capella Choir that by June of 1933 had given 15 concerts, one notably at The Chicago World's Fair. These events gave recognition to the skilled singers but also to Max himself for his work in developing these highly regarded groups. Max remained at Butler until 1935, also the year his personal life took a turn as he and wife Harriet were divorced. Harriet eventually remarried and moved with the children to Reno Nevada.

With his regional fame and notoriety, in 1936 he moved back to Illinois to become Director of All Choral Organizations at Northwestern University. That same year he married Beatrice Perham, his colleague back at WRU. Max continued to find the limelight with his choral groups when in 1937 the Northwestern University A Cappella Choir, under his direction won national attention with an 11-concert East Coast tour that ended with a nationally broadcast performance at Carnegie Hall.

Beatrice Perham, the oldest child of Edward and Minerva Perham, grew up in Sparta Wisconsin, where she began her music studies. Her father was a jeweler and watchmaker in a town known for the healing powers of the local artesian springs. She

*See Krone, page 3*



# THE COMPANY WE KEEP

## IAHS FOUNDERS' CIRCLE-LIFE MEMBERS

We are forever in gratitude to those who stepped up with significant contributions that enabled the Society to create our wonderful Museum.

David & Loie Butterfield	Margaret & Bill Wooton	Bob & Cindi McKinney	Pete & Suzy Capparelli
Francie Spears	Julie Masterson	Shirl Reid	Ann & Dave Dunham
Harry & Berdie Bubb	Don & Lynnda Hart	George & Charlotte Groty	Betty & Walter Parks
Lee Emerson Jr.	George & Sheila Meyer	Corrinne & Ray Brown	Doug & Pat Austin
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### PATRON

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Robin Levitski  
Lambert Timmermans  
Jimmie & Heddy Tyson

### BENEFACTOR

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Frances Perez  
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Terence Spencer  
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### RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Please make your tax-deductible membership check to IAHS and mail to PO box 3320, Idyllwild, Ca, 92549  
You can now also can renew membership online!

[www.idyllwildhistory.org/membership-application-2/](http://www.idyllwildhistory.org/membership-application-2/) and pay with a credit/debit card.  
Please list your name(s) as you want it to read in our newsletter.

## KRONE

(cont. from page 3)

attended Sparta High School, graduating in 1919. Sparta was a bit over 100 miles from Madison, home of the University of Wisconsin, where Bee enrolled as a music student focused on teaching. Upon receiving her degree, she began teaching music at nearby Stoughton High School for a few years, then moving to La Crosse to teach music in their high school. She continued her studies at UW, earning her master's degree, and then hired to teach music education there.

Bee was developing a keen focus on how teachers could more effectively teach music. She was hired at Western Reserve University, In Cleveland Ohio in 1930 where the Head of the Music Department was Max Krone. In 1933 she then accepted a position at Ohio State University, joining the special teacher's college, the University Lab School with similarities to the lab school that Max designed back in Champaign Urbana. Instead of college students going out into public schools to learn teaching methods, they taught at the university's own K-12 school to find ways to improve teaching in public schools. This was a very progressive program, breaking away from many of the long-established teaching methods in place at the time.

With considerable hands-on experience in both conventional and new methods teaching music, Bee, a single woman, embarked on writing a comprehensive guide developing the philosophy of music as a fundamental part of education titled *Music in The New School*. Bee and Max were married in Covington Ky, Nov. 13th, 1936 and the following year her milestone book was published. In it, she skillfully supports the argument that music is essential for the overall development of a student's creativity, critical thinking, and emotional balance. Bee credits the Lab School at OSU for much of the theory, and she does not limit her vision of a school music program to classical styles, including chapters on the value of folk music and letting kids develop natural human rhythms. The book is a departure from many of the traditional methods of music education and at the time, likely controversial in some circles, especially the late depression Mid-west. To this author her work seems to be the blueprint for the eventual philosophy of ISOMATA!

In 1939 Max and Bee were hired by the USC Music department, so made the Midwest to West Coast pilgrimage familiar to so many in this era. They settled in the Hollywood Hills and began their tenure sharing their innovative vision of musical education here on the west coast. Their 1941 impulsive decision to buy an Idyllwild vacation home resulted in a love for the Strawberry Valley that grew into a belief that this area was the perfect location for teaching, studying and creating music and art.

Sitting on the porch of their Marion View home where 13 years before Lincoln Ferris gazed into the heavens, the Krones sights were more down to earth but no less inspiring as they conceived of a special place in this valley for Music and the Arts. It was to be a summer camp based on the philosophies they shared, focused on teaching music and the arts. They approached their USC colleagues who together believed that the time was right for a mountain summer music camp in Southern California.

The program at its inception was designed to teach the gifted as well as less gifted students, designed for both active and vicarious participation in art and music. The Krones believed even simple participation in all kinds of music and arts enhanced human development, and more so if taught amid nature. At the core Max and Bee were teachers who cared deeply about their students and believed they had the power to improve not only their students' futures, but our world. With the Krone Philosophy, a dream was born that molded Idyllwild forever and lives on today in the mission of the school where art is an essential solution to global challenges! 🍷

*Email comments: [edward54625@gmail.com](mailto:edward54625@gmail.com)*

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*Sources for this article:*

*The Krone Library and Museum*

*The Idyllwild Area Historical Society Archives*

*The ISOMATA Story, Hellen Drusilla Bell, 1967*

*ISOMATA, The Place and its People, Michael Fuller. 1983*

*The Musical Observer, May 1929*

*Music in the New School, Beatrice Perham, 1937*

*The History Of The Idyllwild School Of Music And The Arts, Max T. Krone, circa 1950*

*Numerous Midwest Newspaper and Periodical Clippings, 1920 -1939*

# Idyllwild Home Tour:

Saturday, September 14, 2024, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Nanci Killingsworth has created an exclusive 2024 Home Tour Preview, just for our IAHS Members. Read and absorb her carefully chosen words and you, like me, will be drawn to these homes.

**Home #1:** Tucked into our forested village are makers and creatives who see their dwellings as an occasion to kick up the energy. Tiny homes dotted Idyllwild's landscape in the '30's and '40s offering refuge for families as well as hunters and fishermen. Our petite bungalow representing that era maintains some original features even after a sweet and thoughtful renewal. The dramatic pitched roof showcases a stone fireplace flanked by locally crafted stained-glass windows. A hearty vintage stove is grounded by classically chic cabinets as well as an aqua and white tile treatment which is repeated in the bath. Punctures of color from artwork and furnishings as well as a new deck and laundry all re-imagine this retreat for ease and comfort.

**Home #2:** Secreted down a short cul-de-sac, this is a home whose owners have successfully embraced a free-spirited aesthetic. The "Joy Shed" is whimsical space devoted to repurposing and upcycling. From grandma's chest of drawers to castoff tables and chairs, the owner has dipped many brushes and threaded many needles to guide her vision to fruition. Following the rock wall to the entrance the husband's passion is evident as well as he is a model train enthusiast. Not only is there a designated room devoted to display and housing, but tracks run into the foyer as well as skirting the living room ceiling. Dressing the mundane during the pandemic resulted in pantry and laundry revamps worthy of notice on HGTV. Curated art collections, family portraits along with the trains all weave seamlessly through this home shaping the owner's distinct story.

**Home #3:** Rumored to have been a neighborhood market, this 1936 home has undergone a dramatic restoration. A rustic lodge elegance influences each space as the owners are dedicated finders as well as restoration artists. Upcycled treasures hailing from thrift stores and roadsides co-exist happily alongside

piles of Pendleton blankets, handmade quilts and an extensive gathering of Pinecraft furniture as well as the exquisite original linoleum. Artwork both created and discovered is displayed with equal billing. A Great Room built by Jacob Lietz is reminiscent of a National Park grand lodge. With dramatic log beams, outsized handcrafted chandeliers. Kick off your boots and sink in seating surrounding the stacked rock fireplace, it's a refuge for all who wander. The galley kitchen was extended and revamped w/ hand hewn cupboards and pulls, soapstone countertops and to honor the legacy of this home the original stove remains.

**Home #4:** A remote hideaway edged by woods and wildlife, this home's greeting card is its front door, a pieced wood waving bear. The fanciful unfolding of the interior rooms showcases the owner's skill as a master carpenter. He has handcrafted tables and benches and with reclaimed remnants from other projects, fashioned shelving, door pulls, trim work, and bannisters as well as a "gallery worthy" hideaway for the water heater. Removing the garage door opened a space now dedicated to an expansive recreation/ game room for all ages. Sequestered at the top of one of the two staircases is a sleeping room adjoining a loft cozied with books and games. With a log bed and a Juliet balcony, the master suite rests atop the 2nd staircase. Collections of pottery and paintings created by the couple's children are on display and tucked into the cabinets is a hidden fairy door ideal for the tiniest of grandchildren. Good fortune has twined this unique home with owners seeking solitude and a canvas for creative expression.

**Home #5:** In 1989 the Idyllgazers picnic provided platters of potato salad and watermelon as well as a fortuitous meeting between an architect w/ tax issues and the homeowners. Spurred on by recollections of backwoods camping and landing fish on lake shores, this couple purchased a lot in 1978 happily anticipating the future building of a mountain home. Budget restraints due to an expanding family paused architectural plans until the fateful picnic. After design deliberations, a few glasses of lemonade and

*See Home Tour, page 7*

## 2024 IAHS entry in July 4th Parade

IAHS wants to thank members Heddy and Jim Tyson for bringing out their 1955 Chevy Wagon for this year's July 4th Parade. Jim never lets anyone look under the hood raising suspicions that it may be a sleeper and wise to not race for pinks! 🐾



George Groty and Bob Greenamyre entered the July 4th Parade's best legs contest however were disqualified on a technicality.

## Idyllwild Garden Club Partnership

Keith Teeuwen in support of the partnership between IGC and IAHS again coordinated two workdays this spring and the purchase of 4 new rose bushes (planted by Laurel Owens). On May 9th Garden Club and IAHS volunteers performed a day of spring maintenance, raking beds, pruning and weeding. The IGC team was Bronwyn Jones, Wendy Reed, Joanna Hill, Aquarius & Aurora, Hanns Lee, Helen Strahan, and Laurel Owens. From IAHS, Nancy and Dan Lauderback and Ed Warner.



Gary Parton Teaching Volunteers

Later in June, we were grateful to have Gary Parton give a group of IGC/IAHS volunteers a lesson in how to properly dead head lilacs after their spring bloom. Armed with those newfound skills we performed this important work on our mature lilac section of the garden. We hope to reap the rewards for next year's bloom!

Thank you, Keith, and the IGC! 🐾

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## The Mission of the Idyllwild Area Historic Society

**To preserve the history of Idyllwild and neighboring communities in the San Jacinto Mountains; to maintain artifacts thereof in a manner accessible to the public; and to promote public awareness of local history for the enrichment of visitors and residents.**

Furthering the mission of our organization our lead Archivist Bob Greenamyre has recently digitized and posted all 71 past issues of this newsletter to our website, [Idyllwildhistory.org](http://Idyllwildhistory.org). Typically, each issue beginning 23 years ago,

featured a well-researched article that illuminated people, places or events from our past. These issues with their feature articles were authored by highly regarded local writers including Bob Smith our notable Idyllwild historian, Ben

Killingsworth and John Blodgett, amongst others. This is a valuable free resource now available to anyone on our website or the result of an online search of an Idyllwild area historic subject. Enjoy these fine articles! 🐾

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## HOME TOUR

*(cont. from page 6)*

a handshake both parties agreed the payment would be a tent trailer. Completed in 1990 sited on 1/4 acre, this five-gabled home with sky reaching windows has gifted the family with a long-awaited retreat. Multi levels offer easy staging of travel finds, local and global art as well as the family story. David Salk's free form platters echo the lake hues of the quartzite countertops, and the early Avery Fields photo of Idyllwild School is a nod to the owners teaching career. Pete Holzman

created a masterpiece dining table utilizing Parota, an uncommon wood found deep in Mexico's forest. The delicate bronze sculpture balanced atop the table lends a whisper of rhythm to its heft. Playful funk includes rag rugs from Coronet Five & Dime as well as Orville the Owl who presides over the grilling deck. This home lives large in a forested dream with youthful memories of campfires and well-trodden trails. All because of a tent trailer.

The IAHS Home Tour is September 14th. Tickets are available on our website on the day of the event in the center of town at our will call booth. 🐾



## Museum Hours

**11 am to 4 pm**

**Saturday and Sunday  
and Monday Holidays**

Also daily between Christmas and New Years

**History Gardens Open Tuesday Thru  
Sunday 9 am to 4 pm**

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**Donations Welcome**

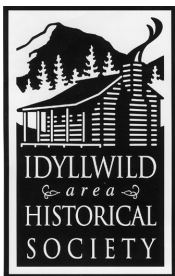
## Upcoming Events

**FREE Ice Cream Social**, Saturday August 31st, 2024, IAHS Museum Garden,  
Noon to 2:00 pm. Hand scooped Ice Cream Sundaes and Root Beer Floats.

**IAHS Home Tour** Saturday, September 14th, 2024

**Art Alliance Art Walk & Wine Tasting**  
at the History Museum Saturday October 12th, 2024

P O Box 3320  
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