

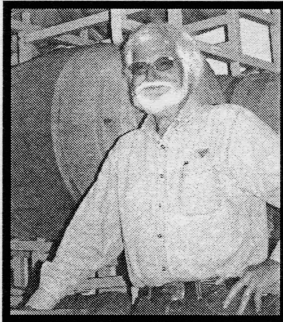
ARTI-FACTS

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Idyllwild Area Historical Society

Preserving the History of Idyllwild and the surrounding communities in the San Jacinto Mountains

Fall 2009

Idyllwild Reminiscences



Although he was never a full time resident, Joe Hart served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Idyllwild Area Historical Society for seven years, and became more involved in our community than do most full-timers. He and his wife, Nancy, are moving on, this time to a part time cabin near Bishop. His local

friends and colleagues will miss him. This is his story.

My first Idyllwild experience began in 1940 when we moved from El Centro to Hemet, to a rented farm house on Kirby east of Esplanade, shortly after my father had become a flight instructor for the Army Air Corps at Ryan Field. In those halcyon days the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley was a bucolic agricultural paradise, surrounded as it still is by hills and the majestic Mount San Jacinto. After renting for a year or so, we purchased a two-story house near the corner of Lyon and Esplanade, where we lived until we left Hemet.

My father, an inveterate weekend explorer, would load my mother and the four of us kids and some mouse-trap cheese sandwiches in the family Chevrolet, and head out, looking for interesting, little-used roads, frequently ones he had spotted from the air while instructing his Air Corps cadets. Much to our embarrassment, but not my father's, these roads often ended up in some farmer's front yard, where he would usually just wave as we turned around. Many of these explorations were in the San Jacinto Mountains. One I remember was the road, now Highway 243, from Idyllwild to Banning. It was then an unpaved dirt road, and when we came to Fuller Mill Creek, which was running fairly high (there was no bridge then) the road passed through a large and fairly deep pool of water, and stalled in the middle of the water was a black Ford sedan with a flooded distributor. My father, a real Chevrolet guy, made a disparaging remark "Oh, those Fords always stall out in water".

During the Ryan years we made some weekend trips to a cabin owned by one of my dad's fellow flight instructors, located either in Idyllwild or Pine Cove. At least one of

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Archive and Research Center Closer to Realization

The Board of Directors deeply appreciates the continuing support of IAHS members. Now more than ever, your dedication and generosity are crucial, as we proceed with our next major project: translating a dream into the concrete reality – literally – of the new Archive and Research Center.

On October 29, Aurelio Perez's crew moved onto the museum grounds and began to cut trees. It was not quite a ground-breaking, more of a "bark-breaking," but it did mark the first step in construction of the long-awaited new building. The building site behind the museum is now cleared.

(While we were at it, we also removed a few aged, overhanging oaks that threatened the museum itself.) Corner stakes



A view of the building site as it is today. A number of trees have been removed as a first step toward fulfilling our dream.

are in place, outlining the project's footprint on the sloped site. Architect Jim Marsh is preparing final drawings that will allow us to apply for the building permit and solicit bids from potential contractors.

For the past six years we have been quietly amassing construction funds. We've won three grants from the County Board of Supervisors and frugally conserved our annual income from members, museum visitors, home tour participants, and raffle ticket buyers. Our new book, *Idyllwild and the High San Jacintos*, has proven popular enough to trigger a second printing and provide an added boost to our treasury.

Continued on page 2 See Archive Center

Joe Hart (Continued from page 1)

those weekends was a snowy one, and in the cabin was a windup Victrola and some well-worn 78 rpm records, which my sisters and I played endlessly.

After the Ryan flight school was closed down in 1944, we moved to Cardiff-By-The-Sea, and I joined a very active Boy Scout troop, and one of our monthly campouts included the ascent of Mount San Jacinto. Later, after graduating from San Diego State, while teaching Junior High in Carlsbad, our Y Indian Guide group took the tram from Palm Springs with the intent of climbing Mount San Jacinto on Memorial Day weekend. We woke in the morning to falling snow, so we beat a hasty, bitterly cold retreat to the tram station.

After sixteen years I left teaching to pursue my wine passion by opening a small winery in the then-new Temecula wine region in 1980.

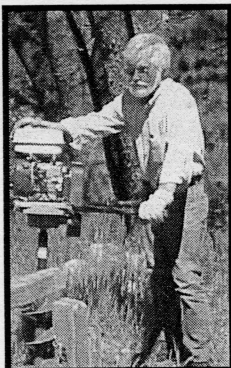
I quickly discovered that I could go up Highway 74 to places like Idyllwild, Devils Slide trail, and Thomas Mountain. A routine was established during this time of an annual trek up the Devils Slide trail, with daypack and lunch, past Saddle Junction to find a suitably private, off-the-trail spot where I would spend a few hours in splendid solitude.

My wife, Nancy, and I made occasional weekend trips to Idyllwild, renting a cabin at the Idyllwild Inn, enjoying dinners at the Gastrognome and breakfasts at Jan's Red Kettle or the Bread Basket. Somewhere along the line we became wine donors for the Morning Sky benefit auction and dinner at the Bread Basket.

During this time I made a solitary overnight ascent of San Jacinto Peak; this was during a November Santa Ana, and the view, especially that night, was amazing, with visibility so great that the channel islands were clearly visible. I spent the night on the peak, with not a soul within miles, as far as I could tell.

On one of our trips, we stopped to look at the real estate postings outside the Log Cabin office of Capparelli Realty, and purely on impulse we walked in and expressed an interest in purchasing a second home in Idyllwild. After several trips we found a charming A-frame on Forest Drive in Fern Valley with a magnificent view of Lily Rock. We loved it and enjoyed it immensely, winter and summer, for ten wonderful years.

During this time we continued to support the Morning Sky benefit, became members of the Art Alliance, the Nature Center, Idyllwild Arts, and the Idyllwild Area Historical Society, where I was privileged



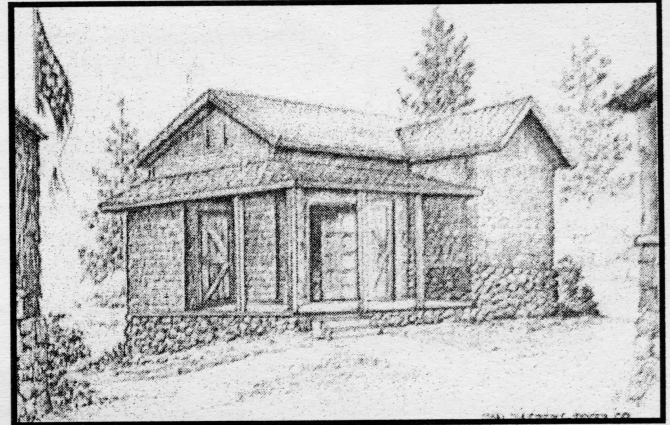
Joe Hart, lending a hand during construction of the IAHS Museum.

Continued on page 4 See Joe Hart

Archive Center (Continued from page 1)

In April we began openly soliciting designated gifts from members and friends of IAHS. Seventy donors later (see the accompanying list), we were within \$25,000 of our construction target, and at the September board meeting treasurer Bob Smith announced a challenge grant. He and Adele pledge to match dollar-for-dollar every gift or pledge received by the end of 2009 or until that \$25,000 is realized, whichever comes first.

For years we've dreamed of having a secure place to preserve memories of the Idyllwild area's past far into the future. This is your opportunity to make it happen.



Jan Jaspers-Fayer's drawing of the new Archive and Research Center as it will appear when completed.

BUILDING FUND DONORS

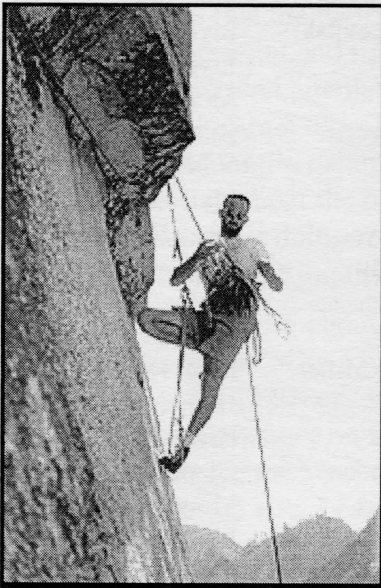
Following is a list, in alphabetical order, of those who have generously contributed to the Archive and Research Center Building Fund through October 2009. If you made a pledge or a contribution on or after November 1, your name will appear in the next newsletter.

Nick & Shirl Adamenko	Idyllwild
(in memory of Mary Austin)	
Laura & West Allen	Corona
(in honor of Ben Killingsworth & in the name of Bob & Kathy Herrmann)	
Glen & Rosemary Ashcraft	Idyllwild
Maureen Boren	Palm Desert
Nancy Borchers	Idyllwild
Colonel Bo & Penny Bottomly	Idyllwild
Jorgine & Barney Brause	Idyllwild
Earlie Mae Brosterhous	Hemet
Harry Bubb	Newport Beach
Barbara Burgess	Idyllwild
Pete & Suzy Capparelli	Idyllwild
James Carlson	Idyllwild
The Carratello Family	Idyllwild
David & Mary Carroll	Idyllwild
Diann Coate	Idyllwild

Continued on page 4 See Building Fund Donors

Rock-Climbing Exhibit Opens at IAHS Museum

On Saturday, November 21, IAHS unveiled an exciting new museum exhibit on the history of rock climbing in the Idyllwild area.



Royal Robbins is credited with contributing to the establishment of the "Yosemite Decimal System," which was developed on Tahquitz and not in Yosemite as many believe.

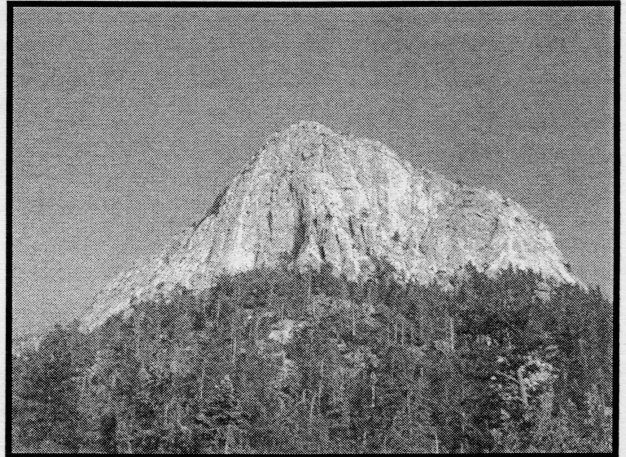
The opening will complement a public lecture IAHS co-sponsored with the Idyllwild Community Recreation Council on November 18 at the Rainbow Inn. The speaker was Royal Robbins, who dominated Idyllwild climbing in the 1950s, where he co-invented the decimal system for rating the difficulty of climbs, then went on to become one of America's most renowned climbers.

Climbing on Tahquitz (Lily) Rock began in 1936 with the first ascent of a route named "The Trough."

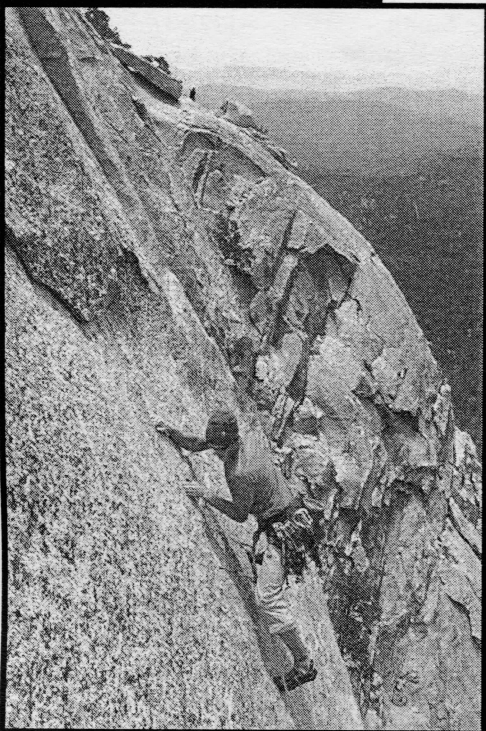
The first climb on Suicide Rock, the "Paisano Jam Crack" route, occurred in 1955. Today, climbers come from around the world to scale well over 300 documented routes of varying difficulty on these two rocks.

The museum exhibit, curated by Lynnda Hart, will feature a timeline noting major first ascents, a wonderful display of vintage and modern climbing gear, photos of pioneer climbers, and segments of interviews with early climbers Ellen Wilts and Glen Dawson. (Wilts was married to Chuck Wilts, who inspired Robbins, worked with him developing the rating system, and wrote an influential early climbing guide to Tahquitz Rock).

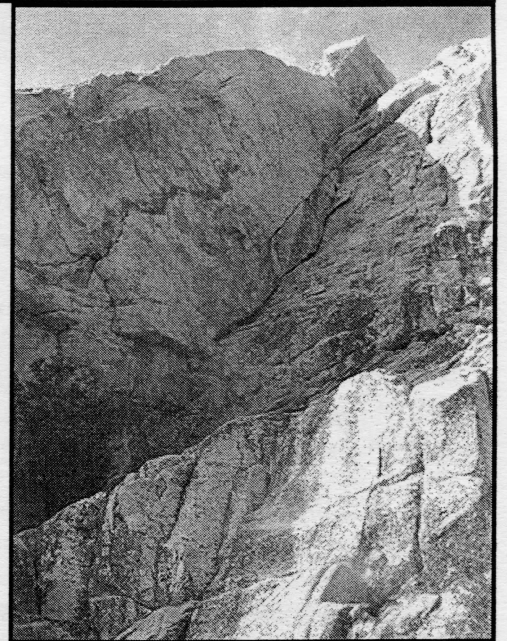
We invite you to drop in and learn about Idyllwild's history as a major rock climbing center.



Tahquitz Rock is the name used by climbers, but many call it "Lily Rock," the name given to it in 1897-98 by a USGS team. It may have gotten its name because it appears to be "lily-white," but on the back of an old photograph of Lily Eastman, daughter of Dr. Sanford Eastman, the first Secretary and a Director of the Southern California Colony Association, which later became Riverside, is written, "She was the one for whom Lily Rock was named".



A climbing route named "The Vampire" is one of the most difficult on Tahquitz Rock, reserved for highly skilled and experienced climbers



This climbing route on Tahquitz is known as the "Open Book." One of the toughest climbs in the country, Royal Robbins climbed it "free" in 1952, meaning he used only his hands, feet and other parts of body, and only used rope to prevent falls.

Joe Hart (Continued from page 2)

to serve on the Executive Board for seven eventful years.

Living on Forest Drive, part-timers that we were, was a special experience. We knew more people on Forest Drive and in the larger Idyllwild community, and became much more involved in the community than we had in Carlsbad, where we have lived since 1968.

The only cloud on the horizon during this ten-year idyll was the ongoing lure of the Eastern Sierra, a region with which I have had a long-running, passionate love affair since childhood, further exacerbated by my passion for catch-and-release, wild-trout fly fishing. So a couple of years ago we began to look at property in the Bishop area, and finally found a charming house in Aspendell, a small community about twelve miles west of Bishop at 8300 feet above sea level. The house is much like the place on Forest Drive, and best of all, has a large deck virtually hanging over Bishop Creek, a large and gloriously noisy creek and, surely, well-endowed with voraciously hungry trout. By the time you read this we will have moved on to the next chapter in our lives, but not without fond memories of our Idyllwild years and a real sense of regret at leaving the Hill.

We will continue to maintain Carlsbad as our principal residence and visit Idyllwild from time to time, and plan to continue to sponsor the Hart Winery-Café Aroma Jazz Festival, as we have done for a number of years now. So we'll be around!

Building Fund Donors *Cont from page 2*

Richard & Deanna Collins	Idyllwild
William Cooper	Idyllwild
Barbara Czescik & Frank Altobello	Del Mar
Terry Casella & Harris Demetre	Idyllwild
Dawn & Jim Deshefy	Laguna Hills
Nancy & Jack Fletcher	San Diego
Bruce & Carolyn Ganoe	Fallbrook
Harriet Hill Glass	Hemet
Richard & Janet Goldberg	Idyllwild
Ellis & Shirley Greenwall	Rancho Mirage
Katie Grigsby	Idyllwild
George & Charlotte Groty	Moreno Valley
Kathy & Hubert Halkin	Idyllwild
George & Carolyn Hall	Idyllwild
Ken Harrison	Cardiff-by-the-Sea
Joe & Nancy Hart	Carlsbad
Jane Harveston Family	Long Beach
Thomas & Karen Higgins	Idyllwild
Stephen & Noreen Hudson	Palm Desert
Jim Johnson	Idyllwild
Johnnie Johnson	Idyllwild
Barbara Jones	Idyllwild
Martin Jones	Idyllwild
Kathleen Kieferdorf	El Cajon

Building Fund Donors *Continued*

Ben & Nanci Killingsworth	Idyllwild
David Kobosa & Frank Maurer	Los Angeles
Robert & Susan Krieger	Riverside
Dan & Mary Beth Lazzaro	San Diego
Carolyn & Richard Levitski	Idyllwild
Janice Lyle	Idyllwild
Leona McGaugh	Mountain Center
Mac & Marcia McQuern	Riverside
Bill Merkelson	Van Nuys
Sharen Metz	Idyllwild
George & Sheila Meyer	Otter Rock, OR
Penny & Mike Mihály	Columbia
Allen & Lenore Miller	Idyllwild
Dawn & Tom Miller	Idyllwild
Richard & Catherine Miller	Palm Desert
Sue Miller	Hemet
Betty & Walter Parks	Riverside
Tony & Carolyn Pearson	Glendale
Alma McGaugh Peters	Mountain Center
Sharon Price	Idyllwild
Susan Questad	Idyllwild
Larry & Gina Randall	La Mesa
Terry & Barbara Richmond	Idyllwild
Manny & Linda Rider	Palm Desert
Rotary Anns	Idyllwild
Karin Shurtleff	Cypress
Laurence Shute	Idyllwild
Bob & Adele Smith	Idyllwild
Margaret J. Stimson	Eureka
Deidre, Joe, Trenton & Tyler Vail	Walnut
Adele & Ron Voell	Idyllwild
Jeff Wu	Irvine

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QUESTIONS ABOUND

Acting as a docent at the museum is usually a lot of fun. But at the same time it can be a challenge, especially when it comes to answering questions. One advantage, or maybe it's a disadvantage, docents have, though, is that the people asking the questions often assume that the docent knows everything about Idyllwild, past present and future. But museum visitors aren't the only ones with questions. There are also those who write, send emails, or call our phone number. Questions are often based on memories from childhood, be it the location of a summer camp attended, the identity of a favorite swimming pool, or the whereabouts of an old family cabin, that regularly spark an inquiry to IAHS. Sometimes it's from an interested buyer, wondering about the background of an appealing property. Or it may be from a professional historian or archaeologist doing research. Our archive is rich enough to let us provide answers to questions small and large. Among the inquiries fielded so far this year::

- I've heard a story about a **naked woman dancing with a bear** at an Idyllwild restaurant or private club in the 1920s or '30s; can you identify and give me some history on the place?
 - Can you give me any information on **Pine-craft furniture** and how I can determine the value of my pieces?
 - Can I get a look at old **Tahquitz Peak registers**, to search for my grandfather's signature?
 - Whatever became of the buildings that housed the **girls' ROTC camp** I attended, and what was their early history?
 - Where was the old **Camp Roosevelt**, which I attended as a boy, located?
 - Who owns the old **Anton Scherman cabin** in Idyllwild now? (From a descendant of Scherman)
 - Do you have any information on a cabin occupied "on Thomas Mtn" by **noted artist Agnes Pelton**?
 - Can you help me identify the locations where **some old family photos** were taken?
 - Can you help me locate the **1930s Paine-Wilcox cabin called "Penymynydd"**?
 - Can you identify the purpose of the **stone-work structure beside my cabin** in the enclosed photo?
- Do you have any information or pictures of "**Acorn Lodge**," the camp I attended as a child?
- Can you direct me to the site of **old Camp Roosevelt**, where I attended summer camp as a child?
 - What information do you have about **Peak and Pine Camp**, which I attended as a girl?
 - Do you have any photos of **the Old Fire House** depicted on the wall at the Red Kettle?
 - Can you tell me the location of the swimming pool in some old family photos from the 1960s that I think we called the "**Hof pool**"?
 - Do you have any information about **Vernor Davy**, who is said to have built brick homes in Idyllwild?
 - How did **Humber Park** get its name?
 - Can you give me directions to some locations where **Elvis Presley was filmed in "Kid Galahad"**?
 - What information or photos do you have of the **sawmill built in Strawberry Valley** by my great-great-grandfather Anton Scherman?
 - Can you help me track down **Packy Wassell**, who used to work for the Forest Service there?

And the answers are? For that you'll have to ask Bob Smith at rbsmith9@greencafe.com

THE 2009 HOME TOUR WAS A GREAT SUCCESS

After months of hard work Nanci Killingsworth and Corrinne Brown breathed a sigh of relief when the final numbers for the Home Tour were in. According to Bob Smith's figures, we grossed \$8,560 with expenses of \$1,542 for a net profit of \$7,018. That's down about 12 % from last year, but still a great showing in view of our present economy. As you know, most of our local businesses are really suffering, which makes our success all the more remarkable. The homes selected for the tour went over very well, and the volunteers did an outstanding job. But, would you believe that work has already begun on next year's tour? In fact, most of the homes have already been lined up, but experience tells us not to count our chickens.

THE COMPANY WE KEEP

August through October 2009

Note: Occasionally a member will ask why their name did not appear on this page. Much as we'd like to include every member's name in every issue, there simply isn't room, so we only list new members and those who renewed their membership during the past three months. That doesn't mean we don't appreciate everyone's continued support. Your participation is what allows IAHS to survive.

NEW MEMBERS

Sponsor

Joseph and Raphael Plunkett Diamond Bar

Contributor

Chris & Catherine Allen Encinitas

Family

Eugene Hubbard San Diego
Bill & Margo O'Connor Pasadena
Penny Vasquez South El Monte
West and Laura Allen Corona

Individual

Julieann Abels-Fisher Idyllwild
Ted Belden Lake Arrowhead
Ann Copeland Palm Desert
Richard Davis Moscow, ID
Kathy Dickey Cardiff-by-the-Sea
Ron Kelley Rancho Mirage

RENEWING MEMBERS

Founders Circle

Corrinne & Ray Brown Idyllwild
The Carratello Family Idyllwild
Bob & Lorna Houck La Mesa

Sponsor

Glen & Rosemary Ashcraft Idyllwild
Ann & Dave Dunham Idyllwild
Joe & Nancy Hart Carlsbad
Idyllwild Arts Foundation Idyllwild
Dorothy Koepcke Palos Verdes Estates
Bill Merkelson Van Nuys
Jan & Nigel Priestley Idyllwild
Quiet Creek Inn Idyllwild

Contributor

Kimberly Maywald Idyllwild
Carson & Donna Struthers Kailua, HI
Larry & Linda Turner Idyllwild

Family

Cathy & Robert Curtis Sun City
Bruce & Carolyn Ganoe Fallbrook
Melinda Gardner & Scott Solomon Calabasas
Clark & Lana Hapeman Riverside

Family continued

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David Kobosa & Frank Maurer Los Angeles
Don & Mary Beth Lazzaro San Diego
Bob & Dot Pentz Menifee
Cathy & Ralph Priem Hemet
Carol & Gene Rice Idyllwild
Brian Travis & family San Diego
Deidre Vail & family Walnut
Lloyd & Shirley Wood Idyllwild

Individual

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Donna Curran Morongo Valley
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THANKS TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR
JOINING TOGETHER TO HELP MAKE OUR IDYLLWILD
AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY THE VERY BEST IT CAN BE

Be sure to visit our wonderful museum!

54470 North Circle Drive

FALL DAYS & HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays, 11 am - 4 pm

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

Our e-mail address is Info@Idyllwildhistory.org

Visit our new website at www.Idyllwildhistory.org

Admission is free

Donations are welcome

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) _____ Address _____

Telephone _____ Email Address _____

Please select one of the following categories:

Individual \$15 Family \$25 Contributing \$35 Business/Organization \$35

Sponsor \$100 Benefactor \$250 Patron \$500 Corporate \$750

Founder's Circle \$1,000 (one-time or cumulative qualifies for lifetime membership)

If this membership is a gift, please list donor's name and address:

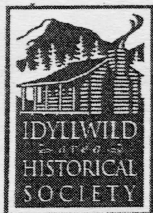
Name _____ Address _____

Please make your check payable to IAHS and mail with this application to

IAHS, PO Box 3320, Idyllwild, CA 92549

All dues and contributions are tax deductible.

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Idyllwild, CA 92549



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****** DATES TO REMEMBER ******

November 28, 2009 - Carved Eagle Raffle Drawing at Town Hall