

Arti - facts

The Newsletter of the
Idyllwild Area Historical Society

Volume II Issue 2

Spring 2002

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

Stories from the Past

When the Society first formed one and a half years ago and we were tossing around ideas for committees, one that quickly surfaced was Oral History. I have to admit that, at that time, I did not place a great deal of importance on this area. I have since come to realize that this is probably the most important and exciting project that we have undertaken.

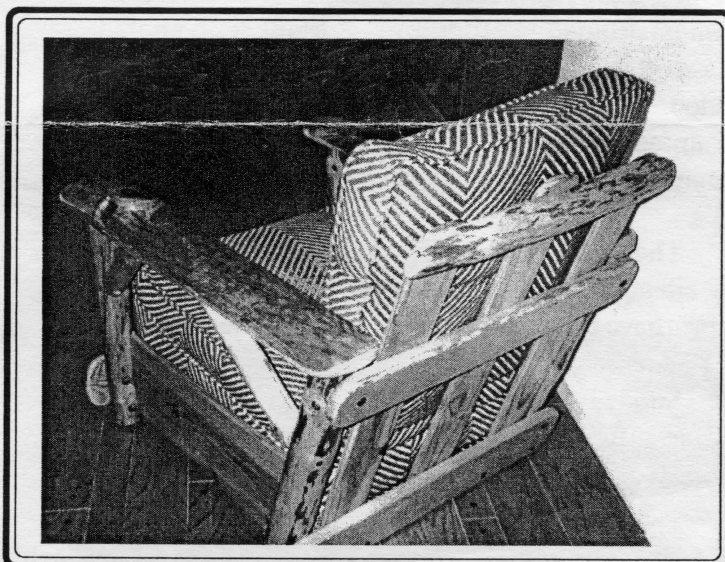
By videotaping the interviews with early pioneers and long time residents of our area, we can relive history and record for posterity the wonderful stories of the past. The telling and sharing of stories strengthens communities by "making people feel more connected to each other and the place where they live," according to the California Council for the Humanities.

Our Oral History committee is headed up by Alex Wilson, who has a vast amount of experience and skill in the realm of videos. She and her committee members have already interviewed several residents and have a long list of people to be interviewed in the future. These videos are also being transcribed in manuscript form. Another

goal is to create a documentary film or use excerpts of the videos as a feature in our future museum.

Oral histories taken so far are: Rayburn Hanzlik, Lee Dutton, Leona McGaugh, Anna Jorgenson, Packy Wassell, Reva Ballreich, Virginia Garner and Robert Lawrence Balzer. Thanks to all who are participating in this extremely worthwhile endeavor. Future generations will be grateful as well.

by Sheila Meyer, president



C. Selden Belden Retrospective Pinecraft Furniture

County Park Nature Center Auditorium

Sun. April 28, 3:00pm, no charge

Illustrated talk by Ted Belden.

Furniture on display for this event only.

Do you have any items to share? Call the Curator at 659-5170.

So many wonderful things come across my desk each day that it's hard to choose one over the other to write about. For instance, the Society was given a ledger, written in a lovely handwriting that only years of practice in a school primer could produce.

"The newly organized branch of the San Jacinto & Hemet Valley P.T.A. of the 23rd. Dist. at Idyllwild was held Wed. Oct. 24, 1934 at the Idyllwild School house."

The word house caught my interest so I went thru my files, pleased when I found the photograph of the one room house and the young children lined up in front. I thought to myself how lucky we are today that they took the time to capture that moment.

Carefully turning the yellowed pages, my eyes savoring the dips, swirls and flowing script written so long ago, I was stopped by the list of officers names: Johnson, Humphreys, Meeker, Nagel, Westcott, Hogue, Belden, Wendelken, Jolly, Teeple, Patton, Wassell, Morris and the popular Mr. and Mrs. Drummond who came to Idyllwild right after their honeymoon to teach at the school house in the mid 30's.

The names jumped from the pages, grabbing my attention, seducing me to read on. These family names have been my reading material for weeks now, as I've researched the 30's, 40's and 50's.

Suddenly a long ago time comes to life from the beautifully hand written and carefully kept pages of the ledger...

"Mrs. Belden told of her plans for a penny carnival"

"A bill for 29 cents for a Secretary's ledger and a stamp was presented"

"A motion to spend 21 cents on Easter eggs was made and accepted"

"Mrs. Drummond reported on the Penny May Carnival"

"A report of the P.T.A. Float was made by Mrs. Johnson. The float was decorated to present a Woodland scene. The front of the

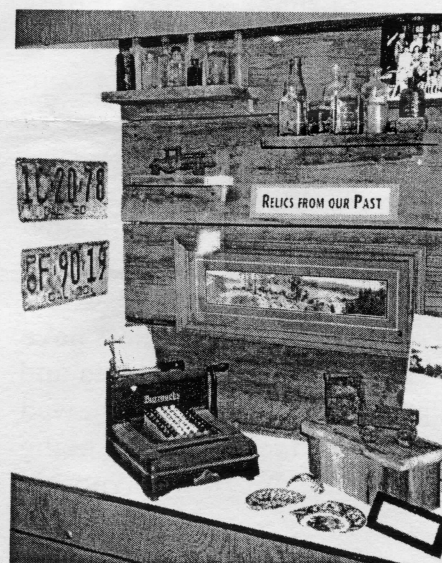
truck represented summer and the back winter. Four children dressed to represent the winter and summer sports rode on the truck."

And now I will share something with you from the year 2002, I love what I do – volunteering to be curator!

New Exhibits

Our newest exhibits at the
County Park Nature Center

"Unearthed Treasures,
Relics from our Past" &
"Idyllwild in Print, 1921-2001"



"Postcards from the Past"
is an exciting new exhibit at the
Idyllwild Post Office,
featuring postcards of Idyllwild from
1908-1950. Come in and enjoy the
lighted display and learn interesting facts
about the evolution of the postcard.

Events - Future and Past

UPCOMING EVENTS

C. Selden Belden Retrospective Pinecraft Furniture

County Park Nature Center

25225 Highway 243

Sunday, April 28th 3:00PM, no charge



Strawberry Valley Festival

(sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce)

Center of Idyllwild

Saturday, May 18 10:00am to 7:00pm

History of Idyllwild Area booth



Wildflower Show Exhibit

(sponsored by Friends of the Mt. San Jacinto
County Parks Nature Center)

County Park Nature Center

25225 Highway 243

Sunday, May 26 9:00am to 4:30pm

History of Idyllwild Area booth



Gilman Ranch and Wagon

Museum, Banning

Tuesday, June 4 10:00am to 12:00 noon

Entrance fee, \$2.00

Join in

Pioneer Games

RSVP 659-4427

Meet at Totem Pole,

Idyllwild at 9:15am

History of Harry James, the Trailfinders, and the James Reserve

Speaker, Dr. Mike Hamilton

Friday, Sept 20th, 10:00am to 2:00pm

History, film, picnic and walking tour

Limited to 50 people,

Call for information and
reservations, 659-4427



HARVEST HOME TOUR

Sat. October 26, 2002

Tour 5 distinctive

Idyllwild Area homes

Our only annual fund-raiser

SAVE THE DATE!

Past Field Trip to the Temecula Valley Museum



photo by Sheila Meyer

Pam Grender, docent at the Temecula Valley Museum explaining the items in an early pioneer exhibit. Looking on are Jan Jaspers-Fayer, and Bill and Sally Dermody. After the Museum tour, Pam led our group on a walking tour of old Temecula on February 7, 2002.

written August 4, 1948

Memories of Idyllwild, c.1903-05, by Serena Bland Prensler

Mrs. Orin Knowlton (Anita) and I, Serena Bland Prensler, spent three days in this beauty spot. This glorified Paradise still retains the general topography and aroma of cedar, pines and ferns that I enjoyed 1903-5 inclusive (summers, I mean).

Anita and I drove up in my rejuvenated (new engine, etc.) 1936 Chevrolet and stayed from Tuesday to Thursday with Mr. & Mrs. Casebeer in their delightful woodsy cottage that is amazingly modern, rustic and completely comfortable and charming all at the same time.

There are now several thousand people here in summer and at least 1500 in the winter months as against a couple of hundred in the summer and less than a hundred in the winter at that time.

Whereas, yesterday, we drove up a wide, easy macadamized grade with a line down the center, when we came up here, 45 years ago, we rode in a surrey-like stage with four or six horses (I can't remember which) and drove galloping up the last few hundred feet to the lodge with the whip crackling and the horses galloping and came to a sudden, glorious full stop at the "Bungalow". At the lodge was the office, a large hardwood floor dance hall, a beautiful cobblestone fireplace and a huge dinning-room.

We slept in large tents on a platform several steps from the ground with privacy controlled by the sheet-like curtains strung on wires. Outside, each tent enjoyed wide burlap "sag seats" and a curving fire-place about 3 feet high, 5 feet wide and 2 or 3 feet deep at the center, made of huge cobblestones.

Our very dear friend, the late Chas. E. Green, owned the stables. His wife, Claire, was our very dearest friend, my sister's friend, who had lived at our home before her marriage. (She passed on recently, too.)

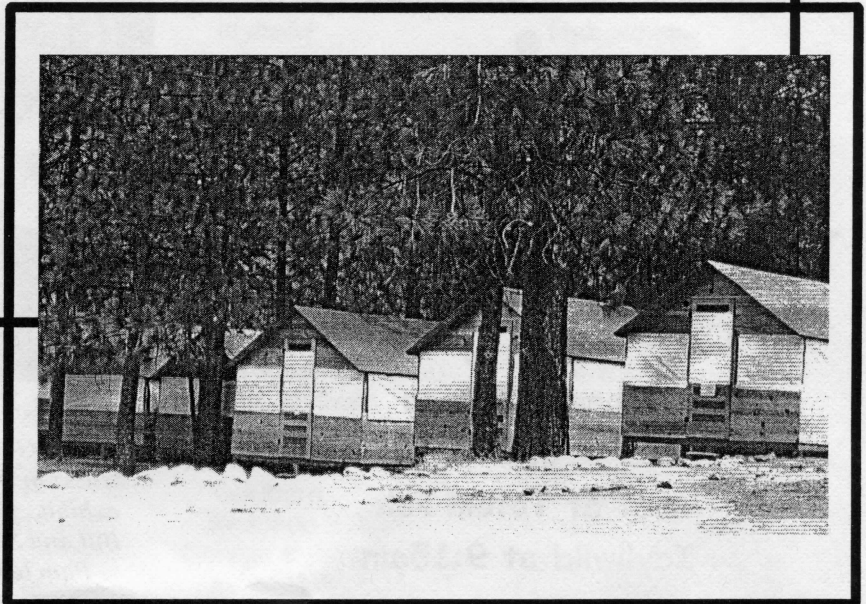
We made all the trips there were to make on horse-back, including the 3-day trip to San Jacinto Peak, camping two nights in a half-shelter tent with our clothes on at Tamarack Meadows.

We looked down on Palm Springs through the lovely canyon above it. Palm Springs then consisted of a couple of Palms Trees only at the time.

From San Jacinto Peak we looked into three states, Idyllwild has a very real part in my memories.

photo from the IAHS Archives

***"On the Old Campgrounds,
Idyllwild Pines"***



THINGS WE REALLY NEED!

The Historical Society needs and is actively seeking the following tax-deductible donations to assist us in realizing our vision of preserving Idyllwild's history:

- ✓ **The Society is in urgent need of a secure and dry storage space for large and small artifacts**
- ✓ **Office equipment (copy machine, fax machine, color printer, etc)**
- ✓ **Office supplies (archival supplies, paper, storage boxes, etc)**
- ✓ **Fireproof filing cabinet(s) to store Historical Society document collection**
- ✓ **Idyllwild area historical artifacts, photographs, receipts from early businesses, posters, letters, flyers, brochures, newspaper articles, postcards, books, etc**
- ✓ **Historical building or buildable lot in central Idyllwild for our Museum**

To donate these or other administrative or historical items, please call Lynnda at (909) 659-5170 or Sheila at 659-3569. Thank you!

Be sure to check out the upcoming summer Idyllwild Visitor Guide for the IAHS page on interesting facts about Tahquitz Lodge / Keen Camp near Mountain Center.

Check out our website at www.IdyllwildAreaHistoricalSociety.org for information on IAHS and our upcoming events

Membership Update

Welcome to our new members since the last newsletter. We look forward to seeing you at our *gatherings* and on our field trips. Your support is greatly appreciated!

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| Scott & Norrie Anthony San Diego | H. C. Hollis, Hemet |
| Mary Arnaiz, Idyllwild | W. Lee Jones, Idyllwild |
| Terry Bauman/Charlene Wagner San Diego | Warren Kossub, Idyllwild |
| The Bike Route, Idyllwild (Bud & Barbara Hunt) | Gary Lunn, Mountain Center |
| Lilly Black, Long Beach | Grace Moore, Idyllwild |
| Geary Boedeker, San Diego | Geraldine Newton, Corona |
| Harry & Berdie Bubb, Idyllwild | Joe Pascale, Palm Springs |
| Jim Carlson, Idyllwild | Jeff Palmer, Palm Springs |
| Chadwick Studios, Idyllwild (Steve Chadwick) | Agnes Pearlman, Santa Ana |
| Hill Champion, Idyllwild | Don & Anne Polkingham, Idyllwild |
| Scott Crawford, Los Angeles | Bill & Sharon Price, Idyllwild |
| Ted & Joyce Cummings, Idyllwild | Righetti Family, Idyllwild |
| Carol Fine, Idyllwild | San Diego Loose Leaf (Gary & Bobbie Glasheen) |
| Gastrognome Restau- rant, Idyllwild (Lanny Wagstaff) | Idyllwild |
| Richard & Janet Goldberg, Redondo Beach | Bob & Adele Smith, Idyllwild |
| George & Carolyn Hall, Idyllwild | Dawn Sorenson, Idyllwild |
| | David & Robyne Taylor, Idyllwild |
| | Ron Taylor, Idyllwild |
| | Patrick & Celesta Wassell, Yucaipa |
| | John Woolley, Idyllwild |
| | Gayla Young, Menifee |
| | Loretta Zarza, Folsom |

Thank You!

We greatly appreciate the donation of items from the following people

George and Jan Allebrand, Paul Bargreen, Annette Bork, Joe Corrigan, Leigh Dutton, Francoise Frigola, Mel Goldfarb, John Holt, Darren Powell, Elaine Roberts, and Frank Schanze. Thanks also to Richard & Janet Goldberg for a cash donation.

We would also like to acknowledge the talent and services provided by

Vance Blaettler, Steve Chadwick, Craig Coopersmith, Ron Grassi, and Ron Taylor.

Won't You Join Us?, Send Your Annual Membership to:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone: _____

Gift card from _____

\$10 Individual \$20 Family \$25 Business/Organization

\$100 Sponsor \$500 Patron

\$1000 Founder's Circle: **Lifetime membership and plaque in museum**

Installment plan available - \$100 per year for 10 years

Send this membership form and check to:

Idyllwild Area Historical Society, PO Box 3320, Idyllwild, CA 92549 ● (909) 659-3569

- We appreciate your support -

All dues and contributions are tax deductible.

Join IAHS or Give a Gift Membership and Receive

- **Arti - facts** Newsletter
- Field Trips
- Gatherings
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Support of Historical Research, collection and documentation of photos and artifacts
- Support for future Idyllwild Area Museum

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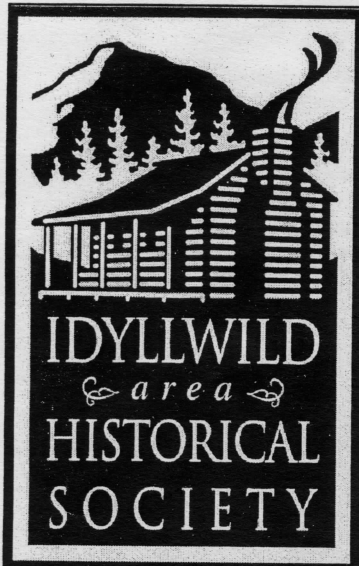
Arti - facts, the official newsletter, appears quarterly and is mailed to all members

Board of Directors: President - Sheila Meyer; Vice President - Phyllis Clark; Curator - Lynnda Hart; Treasurer - Nancy Harrison; Recording Secretary - Blair Cenicerros; Corresponding Secretary - Nancy Millsap

Committee Chairs: Preservation - Anne Frey; Membership - Theo Giannioses; Publicity - Joyce Harrison;

Oral History - Alex Wilson; Garner Valley Rep./Historian - Ann Ashby; Special Events - Janeen Irrgang
Computer / research - Francoise Frigola

Newsletter Editor - Terry Casella



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