

ARTI-FACTS

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Idyllwild Area Historical Society

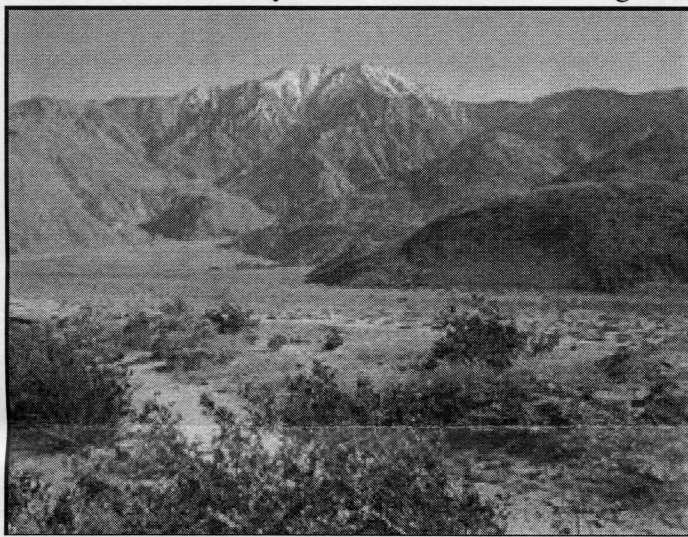
Preserving the History of Idyllwild and the surrounding communities in the San Jacinto Mountains

Summer 2008

OUR VERY OWN MOUNTAIN

By Ben Killingsworth

There are many things in this world we all take for granted, and one of them is this big beautiful mountain we live on. Many of us do so because we figure, "Well, it's a mountain, much like other mountains in the



The San Jacinto Mountains are the northernmost of the Peninsular Ranges, which run 900 miles from Southern California to the southern tip of Baja California. The highest peak in the range is San Jacinto Peak (10,834 ft) shown here from the North.

world, so what's the big deal?" The big deal is that, like most other mountains, it wasn't always here, but what makes our mountain more interesting than most is that the land it sits on wasn't always here, either, and neither was a large part of California. Not only that, in a few million years it will have moved north to become part of Alaska. Right now it's doing just that at a rate of about 2 inches a year.

Strangely enough, we can actually feel it move sometimes, and it's not a particularly pleasant experience when we do. That's because the dividing line between what's moving and what's not is the San Andreas Fault. You see, the two sides of the dividing line are very irregular and often get stuck against each other, which prevents some of California from heading north the way it wants to, until the force builds up to the point where it becomes unstuck, and "Bam!" - another California earthquake makes the headlines.

*Continued on page 2—See **Our Mountain***

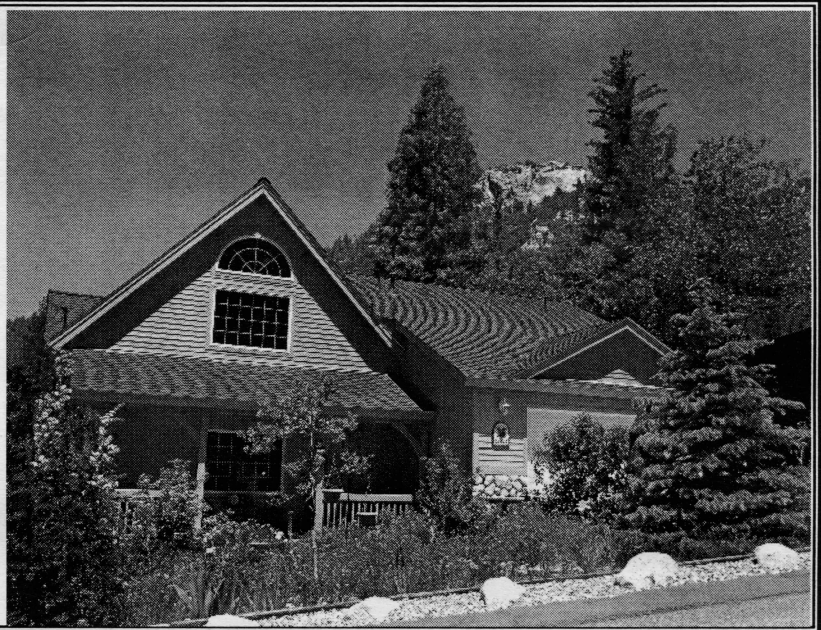
8TH ANNUAL IDYLLWILD HOME TOUR

Be sure to mark your calendars now for Saturday, September 13, 2008, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

This year we are offering six distinctive homes for you to explore and admire, so don't miss this opportunity to enjoy yourself, and at the same time support the Historical Society's main fundraiser.

To get your presale tickets call 951-990-3909, or come by the Museum between 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM, Thursday through Sunday.

Tickets are \$20.00 per person.



IAHS ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, August 2, 2008
4:00 PM at the Rainbow Inn

Please Join us for an interesting afternoon featuring a talk by Margaret Jaenke, President/Curator of the Hamilton Museum and Ranch Foundation in the town of Anza, and author of "Around Anza Valley (Images of America)," published by Arcadia Publishing.

Of course, you'll also hear from IAHS President Marcia Donnell and other members of the board of directors as they bring us up to date on a variety of subjects. This will also be your opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions. Oh, and there will be a raffle and refreshments. Hope to see you there.



Margaret Jaenke

Our Mountain *(Continued from page 1)*

Perhaps the best example is the 1906 San Francisco earthquake when the two sides along the fault moved 20 feet in less than a minute.

We'll try not to make this too complicated, lest you stop reading or fall asleep, but the story begins about 150 million years ago with what geologists call "tectonic plates." A good way to describe these plates is to imagine the earth as a round egg whose shell has been broken into pieces. The pieces are still in place, but, unlike a broken egg, they move, running into each other as they reorganize the surface of the earth. Some of these plates are 60 miles thick.

In spite of the fact that the earth was formed an estimated 4.5 billion years ago, the tectonic plate theory was not advanced until sometime in the 1950s. It replaced an earlier theory proposed in about 1912 called the Continental Drift theory, which was never fully accepted. Still, arguments between geologists and between other scientists concerning the finer points of the tectonic plate theory continue unabated. Yet the basic theory is believed to have revolutionized scientists' understanding of the earth and its many mysteries heretofore unexplained.

North America sits on what is aptly called the North American Plate, with one exception; part of California, including Idyllwild, sits on the Pacific plate. The Pacific plate is one of many that are called Oceanic plates, which, for the most part, are under water. So, here we had the Pacific plate, under water, moving northeast until it crashed into the North American plate, which was, and is still, moving west. What a crash that must have been!

When plates collide they tend to buckle, forming mountains, much like what happens when you push one rug against another. Another result is what geologists call

Continued on page 6 - See Our Mountain

ATTENTION DOCENTS

You are cordially invited to attend a special get-together at the home of Linda and Larry Turner as a way of thanking you for your dedicated service to the museum.

August 20th
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

OH BOY -ANOTHER ICE CREAM SOCIAL COMING SOON



WHEN: Saturday,
August 30th
11:00 AM—2:00 PM

WHERE: Historical Society
Museum Grounds

WHO'S INVITED: Everyone—
members, and the general
public alike

COST: Absolutely Free!!

Send comments regarding this newsletter to Ben Killingsworth at BenBK@aol.com. Or mail to PO Box 3708, Idyllwild, 92549. We'd appreciate it.

THE COMPANY WE KEEP

FOUNDERS CIRCLE (lifetime members)

Evenson Design Group (Stan Evenson)	Culver City	Bob & Adele Smith	Idyllwild
Julie Masterson	Mendocino	Lynnda & Don Hart	Idyllwild
Jim Johnson	Idyllwild	Harry & Berdie Bubb	Newport Beach
Rayburn Hanzlik	Idyllwild	Mike Clifford	Los Angeles
Francie Spears	Cardiff-by-the-Sea	Katie Grigsby	Idyllwild
Lee Emerson	Piedmont	Lynn & Mitchell Lathrop	San Diego
David & Lois Butterfield	San Diego	Margaret & Bill Wootton	Prescott, AZ
Richard & Carolyn Levitski	Idyllwild	Sheila & George Meyer	Otter Rock, OR
Loraine & Bob Dyson	Del Mar	Nick Adamenko	Idyllwild
Kevin & Judy Underdahl	Columbia Falls, MT	Terry Casella & Harris Demetre	Palm Springs / Idyllwild

NEW MEMBERS (Second Quarter 2008)

Sponsor

Idyllwild Mercantile (Richard Shaha) Idyllwild
Margaret Stimson Eureka

Family

Dana Pare San Diego
Jim Walters & Jeanette Jones Palm Desert

Individual

Tiffany Thomas Barstow
Charlotte Cowan Idyllwild
Leslie Mouriquand La Quinta

RENEWING MEMBERS (Second Quarter 2008)

Sponsor

Kay Wanner & Charles Wix Idyllwild
Bobbie and Gary Glasheen Idyllwild
Bill & Pat Altman West Covina
Ben & Nanci Killingsworth Idyllwild
Anne Frey Idyllwild
Allen & Lenore Miller Idyllwild
Shirl Reid Idyllwild

Family

Katherine Boskoff San Diego
Robin & Sarah Oates Idyllwild
Lew & Irene Brahm El Cajon
Sharla & Dan Carpenter Idyllwild
Willard Johnson & Lorel Cornman Idyllwild
Barbara & Terry Richmond Idyllwild

Contributor

Wayne Donaldson Sacramento
Earlie May Brosterhous Hemet
Leona McGaugh Mountain Ctr
Dolores Ellison Idyllwild
David & Kim Leonard Riverside
Suzanne Bowman Idyllwild

Individual

Jorgine Brause Idyllwild
Connie Cowan Indio
Don Anderson Idyllwild
Carol Acosta Idyllwild
John Robinson Fullerton

Business/Organization

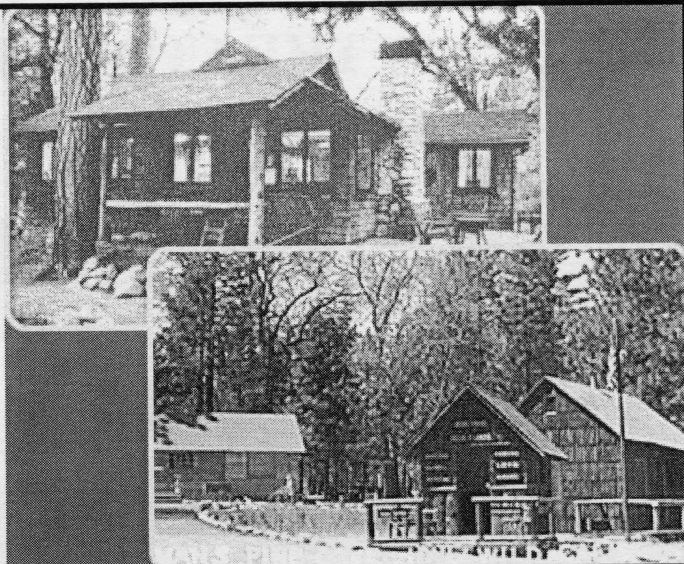
Idyllwild Garden Club Idyllwild

OUR NEW WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING!!

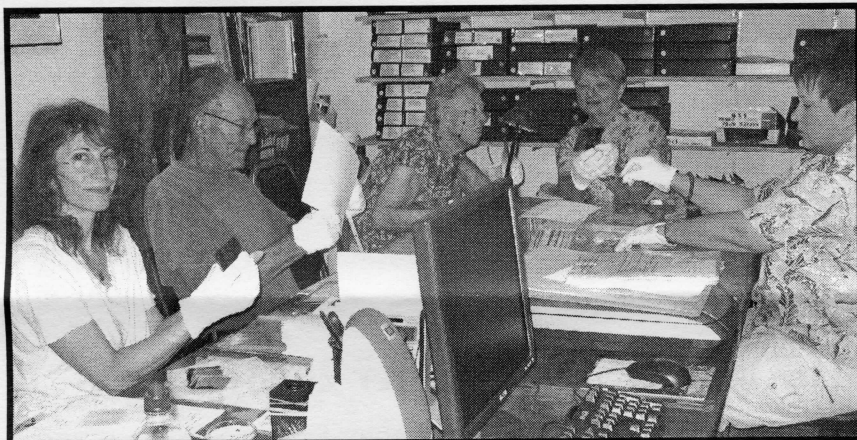
A huge vote of thanks to our vice president, Carolyn Levitski, for updating, revising, and agreeing to maintain our new, improved website: Idyllwildhistory.org.

This was big, beautiful undertaking, and we're very grateful to her for her gift of time. We also have a new e-mail address and ask that you make a note of it:

info@idyllwildhistory.org.



BEHIND THE SCENES



WHISTLING WHILE THEY WORK

A typical Tuesday in our office, as busy volunteers wear cotton gloves to protect hundreds of Wendelken photo negatives, storing each in separate envelopes. L to R, Rebecca Frazier, Will Johnson, Joan McCullough, assistant curator Shirl Reid, and our newest office volunteer, Susi Questad.

SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS

Lately, research has become a more prominent part of IAHS's mission to preserve and share the mountain heritage. We try to respond to inquiries from our members and others. We do better on questions about familiar places remembered from childhood or past visits than we do on questions like "What information do you have on my family?" or "What do you know about my house?" But even when we can't come up with specific answers people seek, both parties may gain unexpected benefits. Some recent examples:

- We provided historical consulting from conception to

performance for Idyllwild Arts' recent dance project, "Mapping Idyllwild," which is highlighted on page 6 in this issue.

- Cindy McKenna of Paradise CA was looking for information on her husband's grandfather, Dr. Michael Null, who in the late 1940s planted the redwood trees scattered about town and served as superintendent of the Idyllwild School. We were able to supply her with a photo showing the inscription on the plaque dedicated to Dr. Null still standing in front of the school and to point her to the Idyllwild Library's Town Crier collection for his profile in a 1948 issue.
- We weren't able to come up with an authentic picture of the 1940s Butler Trading Post for Maggie Stimson of Eureka, but in the end she got a photo of the old totem pole (carved by her grandfather, Bill Butler) that now stands across from the Pine Cove gas station, once seen in its pristine glory in front of the Idyllwild Inn. And she gave us old photos and the story of that carving for our archive.

STRIKING IT RICH IN THE SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS

Thanks to Robin and Norma Miller, who recently donated a copy of this 1865 letter and accompanying envelope, our earliest documents relating to gold prospecting in our mountains. The writer's handwriting was elegant.

We're not sure whatever happened to Will, whether "Pet" kept his secret, or whether he died a rich man, but we're sure his Pet, Alice, was thrilled with the necklace and locket, secret map and all.

Los Angeles, Calif.

Aug. 1, 1865

My own Pet,

From my previous letters you probably thought I was low in spirit, but the worm has turned. I am now 345 miles southeast of San Francisco-this is one of the oldest cities in the western states it has about 5000 people. The best families have a high percentage of Spanish blood descended as they were from the original Spanish settlers.

Of course I travel by stagecoach, in a pitching, swaying wagon, dust spun up from the wheels on the way to San Jacinto just a small town a blacksmith shop, a general store and a tiny group of houses, then by horseback into the mountain-Guess what - I found very high grade gold and am sending you a necklace with locket-made of the first nuggets. There is a map inside the locket for safekeeping in case of an accident.

You are a dear good little darling and I am thinking of you always, we will be rich some day if my luck holds out. Till then be patient and please don't tell anybody about the gold as I want to keep it a secret for a while at least until we know what we wish to do. As soon as a report comes from the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia that is where I have to send the gold will let you know.

*Your ever loving
Will*



*Mrs. Alice Egan
Fox Lake
Wisconsin*

ANYONE SEEN ELVIS LATELY?



A happy group of Elvis fans from Las Vegas poses in front of our museum display of Elvis's film, "Kid Galahad," in Idyllwild. The club toured Idyllwild locations for the mid-century filming. Photo by Bob Smith

DOCENTS NEEDED

Maybe you're wondering what, just exactly, a "docent" does. Basically, they spend a little time once in a while just having fun. They get to talk to strangers, ask and answer questions, and pretend they're an expert regarding the history of Idyllwild and other matters. Right now there are openings at the museum and in September at one of the wonderful homes on the 8th Annual Idyllwild Home Tour. Please come join us.

IAHS Museum Site of Special Dance Performance

A group of eight interpretive dancers, calling themselves "Taskforce", gave a special performance on the grounds in front of the museum, dancing to the theme of Idyllwild history.

A few days before that they pored over a number of historical museum photos, looking for those which told a story they could interpret through dance. Herb Jeffries read his own poems as the dancers performed. It was quite a spectacle and thrilled the audience gathered to watch.

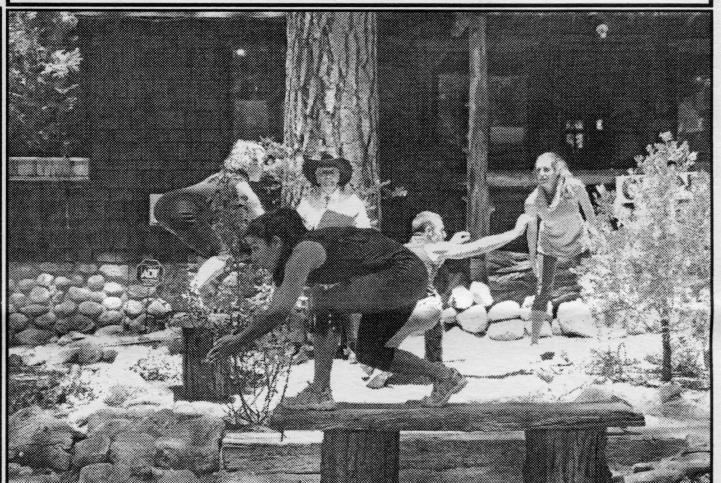
The dance troupe also performed at Idyllwild Arts campus, Inspiration Point, Humber Park, the Fort, and Town Hall. They are funded by a special grant and put on similar shows around Southern California.



Visitors listened and watched with rapt attention to the narration and the dancing. Photo by Adele Smith



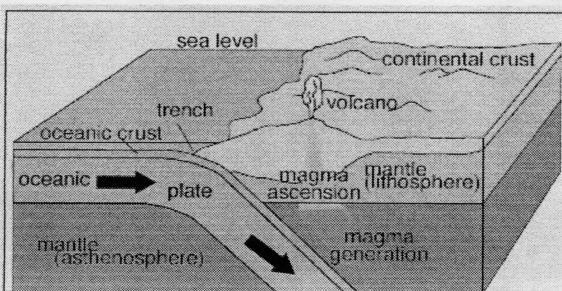
For their finale, the troupe enacted the visit of a group of eight hikers resting at North Fork Falls on the San Jacinto River. Photo by Sherri Breyer Photography



This dance sequence was based on a photo of girls from the historic Peak and Pine Camp, at the pool diving board. Photo by Adele Smith

Our Mountain (Continued from page 2)

a subduction zone which, in this case, was caused by the less dense Pacific Plate diving under the North American Continental Plate before it changed direction and began sliding and grinding its way north. An illustration of this is shown in the figure to the left.



When one plate dives under another, some of the diving plate is scraped off, forming low mountains such as our Coastal Range. And when the diving plate reaches the very hot magma, it bubbles up through volcanoes which turn into mostly granite mountains like the San Jacintos we live on. But that's only the beginning. Over millions of years the mountains erode, forming soil and sand in the valleys below along with soil on the mountains themselves. The best nearby example of that is the Coachella Valley, which was still under sea water until it was filled up with sediments flowing down from both the San Bernardino Mountains and our mountain.

And that, my friends, is how this big beautiful mountain we live on came to be.

SLATE PRESENTED BY NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Our nominating committee, consisting of Shirl Reid, Nanci Killingsworth and Adele Smith, has presented the names of new and renewing board members and officers, for approval at our annual meeting, August 2. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

George Groty offers valuable financial experience to our board. A CPA, he retired from UC Riverside as assistant vice chancellor for financial services. He has been one of our museum docents for two years and helps Bob Smith with the treasurer duties. George also volunteers as a fire lookout host at Black Mountain. He and his wife, Charlotte, have three children and three grandchildren, and been residents of Idyllwild since 1990.

Current board members who are willing to serve another two-year term are: **Carolyn Levitski, Adele Voell, Bob Smith, Corrine Brown, Nanci Killingsworth and Nancy Fletcher.**

Carolyn Levitski is our Vice President and has agreed to continue serving in that position. She is also in charge of updating and maintaining our website.

Adele Voell is our Secretary and has agreed to continue serving in that position. She also serves as a museum docent.

Bob Smith has been our Treasurer for several years and plans to continue serving in that position. Bob has also served as Vice President.

Corrinne Brown, besides being a docent at the museum, oversees the scheduling and training of docents. She's been involved with planning the Home Tour for several years and currently is co-chair of that event with Nanci Killingsworth.

Nanci Killingsworth has served capably as chair of the society's annual Home Tour, and serves on the Museums Exhibit Committee. She also serves as a docent at the museum

Nancy Fletcher has served as museum shop manager and helps wherever needed with office work, mailings, and calls our docents to remind them of the schedule.

The remaining current board members are in the middle of their current two-year term of office, and will be up for re-election next year.

The board is pleased to announce the appointment of an additional special advisor; **Janice Lyle**. Janice is the center director for the Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands, where she'll develop the new historic house museum and visitor center on the 200-acre Annenberg Estate in Rancho Mirage. Previously she was executive director of the Palm Springs Desert Art Museum, and has chaired the Palm Springs Historic Site Preservation Board. Janice holds a Ph.D. in art history from UCSB and has lectured extensively on art, architectures and

IDYLLWILD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Officers

President: Marcia Donnell
Vice President: Carolyn Levitski
Secretary: Adele Voell
Treasurer: Bob Smith

Directors

Corrinne Brown
Scott Fisher
Sue Miller
Shirl Reid
Nancy Fletcher
Joe Hart
Nanci Killingsworth
Kay Wanner

Assistant Curator: Shirl Reid

Office Manager: Sue Miller

Media Consultants: John Drake &
Rebecca Frazier

Special Advisors

Harry Bubb
Craig Coopersmith
Kent Steele
Kay Cenicerros
Walter Parks
Lynn Voorheis
Janice Lyle

Committee Chairs

Budget: Bob Smith
Buildings & Maintenance:
Richard Levitski
Collections Committee: Joe Hart
Docents: Corrine Brown
Exhibits & Museum: Marcia Donnell
Grants: Scott Fisher
Home Tour: Nanci Killingsworth &
Corrinne Brown
Hospitality: Linda & Larry Turner
Membership: Sue Miller
Museum Shop: Nancy Fletcher
Newsletter: Ben Killingsworth
Nominating Committee: Shirl Reid

museum issues. She and her husband will soon be moving into a new home they designed in Fern Valley.

Be sure to visit our wonderful museum!

54470 North Circle Drive

SUMMER DAYS & HOURS

Thursday - Sunday

June 26 - September 1

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 _____

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) (Lifetime, with name on museum plaque)

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

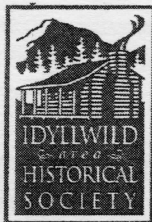
Name _____ Address _____

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

PO Box 3320, Idyllwild, CA 92549

All dues and contributions are tax deductible.

PO Box 3320
Idyllwild, CA 92549



Non-profit
Organization
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Idyllwild, CA
Permit No. 3320

Dates to Remember

August 2nd - IAHS Annual Meeting
August 20th - Docent gathering at the Turners
August 30th - Ice Cream Social

September 13 - 8th Annual Home Tour
October 6th - Art Alliance Art Walk and Wine Tasting