

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 2010

IAHS EARNS STATEWIDE RECOGNITION

The Society of California Archivists (SCA) has selected Idyllwild Area Historical Society to receive its 2010 Archive Appreciation Award.

The award was formally presented at a May 14 celebration on the museum patio as 50 members looked on.

No other local historical society in California has been granted this recognition. As the tiniest entity yet to be so honored, we join the company of illustrious prior recipients like Walt Disney, Levi Strauss, Auto Club of Southern California, A. K. Smiley Public Library, and the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center.

For a group of nonprofessional volunteers in a remote mountain village to be so honored by the professional archivists of such a huge state is deeply satisfying. It's a high tribute to the foresight of our founders, the work of a dedicated crew of volunteers, and the steadfast support of our Board of Directors and generous members and friends over the past decade. So what is this

award all about?

IAHS's two-fold mission is to preserve and share the history of San Jacinto mountain communities. The sharing is familiar enough. Our seven-year-old museum hosts 4,500 visitors a year; our new book, *Idyllwild and the High San Jacintos*, sold over 1,400 copies last year; and you've all seen our newsletter.

But the preserving takes place out of sight, carried on by volunteers who rarely attract publicity. In truth, their work is really more fundamental, for without preservation there would be nothing to share.

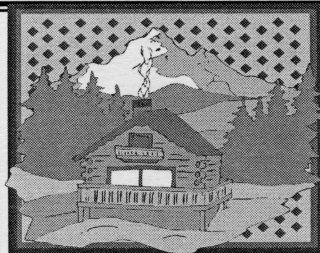
This is why "archives" – collections of photographs, documents, letters, and the like – are so important, and why the SCA seeks out and recognizes organizations that show an exemplary support for their archives.

Continued on page 3

See Award



Chuck Wilson, University Archivist of UC-Riverside & chair of the awards committee, presents the award to IAHS assistant curator and archivist Shirl Reid.



THE 10th ANNUAL IDYLLWILD HOME TOUR

SEPTEMBER 18, 2010 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

Five magical mountain homes, all representing the best of Idyllwild by capturing the uniqueness and beauty of our very special mountain community.

Purchase advance sale tickets by calling 951 990-3909, or by visiting our museum on North Circle Drive on any Friday, Saturday or Sunday between 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM. On the day of the tour you can purchase your tickets at the booth on Village Center Drive

NEW BUILDING SHAPES UP

Donations Still Welcome

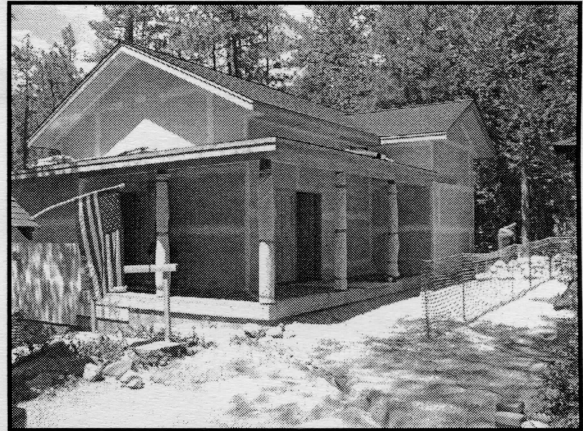
Construction is moving right along on the new Archive & Research Center. Work started on May 11 and should be completed well before summer ends.

Special donations and pledges during the past three months have insured that the building's exterior will match the museum's traditional Idyllwild river rock and cedar shingles. We're grateful to those listed below for this upgrade.

The Building Fund is now only \$1,500 short of what we need to finish the \$152,500 project. Can you help close the gap?

RECENT DONORS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| *Chris & Catherine Allen | Del Mar |
| *Joe & Nancy Hart | Carlsbad |
| *Lynnda Hart | Idyllwild |
| *Thomas & Karen Higgins | Idyllwild |
| *Ben & Nanci Killingsworth | Idyllwild |
| Mary Ann Miller | Idyllwild |
| Earl & Peggy Parker | Idyllwild |
| *Betty & Walter Parks | Riverside |
| *Pine Cove Property Owners | Idyllwild |
| *Shirl Reid | Idyllwild |
| (In memory of Shirley Charters) | |
| *David Raposa | Los Angeles |
| Nicola Watts | Covina |
- (* major donation)



Pictured above are two views of the new building, both taken on July 15th. Those (in addition to Bob) who have been keeping an eye on the progress have been amazed at how fast things have moved along. It's always nice to see a dream come true. *Photos by Ben K*

Idyllwild and the High San Jacintos

By Bob Smith

Order This Great Book About the History of Idyllwild

First book: \$26.95, which includes tax and shipping. Additional books: \$24.75 each.

Please send me ___ books. Enclosed is my check or money order for \$_____

Name: _____ Mailing address: _____

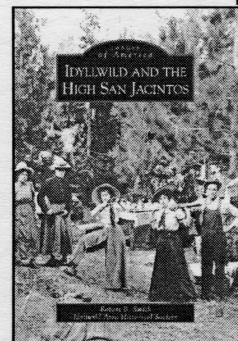
City/State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail address (Optional) _____

Please mail your check, payable to IAHS, along with this form to IAHS P. O. Box 3320, Idyllwild CA 92549. .

To see our ONLINE INDEX for this book, go to the publications page on our website, Idyllwildhistory.org, and click on the blue link.

If you have questions, please call (951) 659-8725



Award *Continued from Page 1*

. Its awards committee picked IAHS this year for a level of commitment that has run through the entire organization since its creation in 2000.

Founding president Sheila Meyer, curator Lynnda Hart, and assistant curator Shirl Reid realized that if we were going to ask people to donate treasured materials, we'd need to guarantee that their donations would be well cared for. Guided by professional museum curator and former board member Lynn Voorheis, they engaged experts and got themselves trained in the tools and procedures of the trade.

In collaboration with Lynnda, Shirl assumed the role of chief archivist and has guided the activity ever since. Helped for several years by her chief assistant, Sue Miller, she has overseen a changing crew that at various times has included Francoise Frigola, Mary Carroll, John Drake, Rebecca Frazier, Will Johnson, Suzi Questad, Nancy Fletcher, Joan McCullough, and Nanci Killingsworth. Now, with expanded quarters on the horizon, several new volunteers are learning

the ropes.

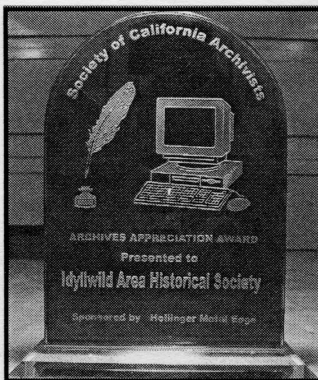
The IAHS board has consistently supported the unglamorous task of preservation. Board

members Lynn Voorheis, Joe Hart, Bob Smith and Marcia Donnell provided oversight on the Collections Committee, with Lynn guiding the establishment of appropriate policy and procedures.

The dominant priority for seven years has been to construct the secure, climate-controlled home for the archive that's now taking shape behind the museum. Toward that end, the board has been quietly controlling expenditures and setting aside surplus funds; landing \$32,000 in grants engineered by county supervisors Kay Cenicerros, Jim Venable, and Jeff

Stone; launching the successful capital campaign through which members and friends pushed the total available for the new Archive & Research Center past \$150,000.

Such a record of accomplishment by a small, all-volunteer organization certainly impressed the SCA awards committee. Our members can take pride in their association with IAHS and for their contributions to our success.



The Society of California Archivists 2010 Archive Appreciation Award. presented to Idyllwild Area Historical Society on May 14, 2010.

Pioneer Climbers Reunion DVD

Please send _____ DVDs
Each DVD \$24.75 (Includes shipping and handling)

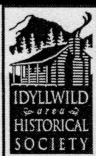
Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Enclosed is my check or money order for \$ _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Make check payable to IAHS. Mail with this order form to IAHS, PO Box 3320, Idyllwild, CA 92549



IDYLLWILD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President: Carolyn Levitski **Secretary:** Adele Voell

Treasurer: Bob Smith

Directors

Special Advisors

Joan McCullough

George Groty

Harry Bubb

Kent Steele

Nancy Borchers

Nanci Killingsworth

Kay Cenicerros

Lynn Voorheis

Linda Turner

Shirl Reid

Walter Parks

Janice Lyle

Assistant Curator: Shirl Reid

Media Consultants: John Drake & Rebecca Frazier

Office Volunteers: Susi Questad, Will Johnson, Carolyn Hall, Maureen Dunn, Gail Wilson and Jeremiah Vicondova, Rebecca Frazier, John Drake, and Leann Gudmundson.



NEW VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE TRAINING

Assistant Curator Shirl Reid gives new office and archive volunteer Maureen Dunn a pointer as Rebecca Frazier (far left) helps Leann Gudmundson figure out how to fill out a new form, while Joyce Miller, seated on the other side of the table, concentrates on learning how to fill out yet another form. The other new volunteers, Carolyn Hall, Jeremiah and Gail Vicondova, and John Drake, will get their turn soon. After the new people learn the ropes, they will join long time office volunteers, Susi Questad and Will Johnson. who, we're sure, will appreciate the extra help.

IAHS Co-sponsors Celebration of ISOMATA Pioneer

By Bob Smith

On Saturday, August 7, IAHS will join the Krone Museum at Idyllwild Arts and the Steere and Woodhead families in a celebration of the life and work of Lora Woodhead Steere, renowned sculptor and pioneer instructor at the Idyllwild School of Music and the Arts. Founded in 1950, ISOMATA lives on as today's Idyllwild Arts Academy and Summer Program.

Doors will open at the Rustic Theatre at 10:30 a.m. for a program featuring speakers, film, and music. At 1:00 p.m. the celebration will move to the Krone Museum on the Idyllwild Arts campus for the opening reception of a month-long retrospective exhibit of Steere's sculpture and scientific illustrations, plus archival photos, film, and letters from the Krone and IAHS archives, the Steere family, and others. Both events are free and open to the public.

Lora Steere played a key role in the postwar emergence of the arts as a global trademark for Idyllwild. IAHS is pleased to take part in this event on ISOMATA's 60th anniversary.

Our 10th Annual Meeting

The date is August 8, 2010, the time is 4:00 pm, and the place? Well it's pictured at right, in all its glory. But wait until you see what's behind it. If you didn't skip over page 2, you have a rough idea, but at 4:00 p.m. on August 8th (that's the day of the annual meeting) it will no doubt look a lot different.

There will a business meeting, of course, and an election, but the highlight will be about—you guessed it—that beautiful building behind the museum—the one Bob Smith will tell you all about. Its official name is the Archives and Research Center, and the grand opening will be in October, just in time to be a part of our official 10th Anniversary celebration.

As for the election, there are five directors, including the president, whose terms expire in 2011, and four directors; Bob Smith, Adelle Voel, Nanci Killingsworth and Joan McCullough, who are seeking re-election. In addition, Carolyn Hall, Laura Caster and Jeannette Schultejann are seeking two-year terms as board directors. The nominees for board officer positions are: Joan McCullough - Vice President, Adele Voell - Secretary, and Bob Smith—Treasurer.





ANNUAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON DRAWS A CROWD

“Oh the weather outside is frightful, But the fire is so delightful, And since we 've no place to go, Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow! ...”

What an apt song for this gathering on April 21st at Silver Pines Lodge when close to 50 volunteers and their guests braved a snowstorm to attend the annual *Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon*.

Guests Harold Voorheis and Gary Parton of the Idyllwild Garden Club outlined the club's 5-year plan for a demonstration garden of native and drought-tolerant plants in the front yard of our museum. Carolyn Levitski asked those interested in becoming museum or office volunteers to sign up for orientation sessions, and nearly 20 did. Bob Smith broke the news of IAHS's selection for the 2010 Archive Appreciation Award (see front-page story). As always, Larry & Linda Turner prepared a delicious lunch.

As you know, volunteers who serve as museum docents are referred to as members of the *Cabin Club*, and, according to IAHS Director Joan McCullough, who has the dubious honor of putting the docent schedule together, there are now 35 names on the list, including seven couples, meaning the total number available is 44, and counting. There are also two on the “summer only” roster. Recent additions to the list are: Joy Allgeier, Doug Austin and Pat Alvarez Murphy, Susie Bowman, Sara Clayton, Dottie Goldfarb, Leann Gudmundsen, Ron Perry and Doris Lombard, Jeanette Schultejan, Geri Sperling (our roving volunteer), Sallie Warwick, Barbara Wilke, and Helen Ziler.

And we were also pleasantly surprised to see the number of IAHS members renewing their memberships increase from 24 last quarter to 60 this quarter, and the number of new members increase from four last quarter to 15 this quarter. Does that mean even more volunteers?

OH BOY –ANOTHER ICE CREAM SOCIAL - COMING SOON

WHEN: Saturday, September 4th 11:00 AM—2:00 P M

WHERE: Historical Society Museum Grounds

WHO'S INVITED: Everyone, including the public

AND IT'S ABSOLUTELY FREE!!



THE COMPANY WE KEEP

NEW MEMBERS

Business

Mile High Café Idyllwild

Contributor

George & Jeanette Schultejan Idyllwild

Family

Joe & Leann Gudmundson Idyllwild
 Ron & Marcia Krull Idyllwild
 Ron Perry & Doris Lombard Idyllwild
 Jerry & Mary Milholland Winchester
 David & Helle Pearson Carlsbad
 Don & Grace Reed Idyllwild

Jim & Dawn Deshefy

Laguna Hills

Family Continued

Gregory Schanz Idyllwild
 Christina Stewart Idyllwild
 David and Barbara Wilke Idyllwild

Individual

Avianna Jones Idyllwild
 Gary Parton Idyllwild
 Ralf Reynolds Santa Ana
 Marianne Smith Eagle Mountain, UT
 Mike Van Zee Hemet
 Michael Voell Idyllwild

RENEWING MEMBERS

Founders Circle

Penelope Anne Frey Idyllwild

Sponsor

Helen Drummond Yuma, AZ
 Janet & Richard Goldberg Idyllwild
 Ben & Nanci Killingsworth Idyllwild
 Steve Lech Riverside
 Allen & Lenore Miller Idyllwild
 Harold & Lynn Voorheis Idyllwild

Business/Organization

Idyllwild Garden Club Idyllwild

Contributor

Barney & Jorgine Brause Idyllwild
 John & Susie Cook Idyllwild
 Dolores Ellison Idyllwild
 David & Kim Leonard Riverside
 Leona McGaugh Mountain Center
 Dan Osgood & Robin Levitski San Diego
 Joyce McGaugh Silberstein Anaheim

Family

Irene & Lew Brahm El Cajon
 Jeanne & Jerry Buchanan Idyllwild
 Dan & Sharla Carpenter Idyllwild
 Lorel Cornman & Will Johnson Idyllwild

Family Continued

Jim & Dawn Deshefy
 Wayne Donaldson Sacramento
 Dan Dukesherer Los Angeles
 Brent & Jean Dunn Long Beach
 Bob & Sherry Edwards Idyllwild
 Richard & Susie Hampson Idyllwild
 Joe & Nancy Hart Carlsbad
 Elisabeth & Jan Jaspers-Fayer Idyllwild
 Bob & Susan Krieger Riverside
 Lee & Robert Marshall Idyllwild
 Bob & Pat Parish Idyllwild
 Barbara & Terry Richmond Idyllwild
 Susan & Bob Righetti Idyllwild
 Melinda & Ron St. Pierre Idyllwild
 Kay Wanner & Charles Wix Idyllwild

Individual

Carol Acosta Idyllwild
 Nancy Borchers Idyllwild
 Bob Cox Idyllwild
 Harriet Glass Hemet
 Leslie Mouriquand La Quinta
 Bob Romano San Jacinto
 Joanne Tenney La Palma
 Lynn Wagman Rockville, MD

IAHS RECEIVES COMMUNITY FUND GRANT

IAHS has been awarded a \$872 grant from the Idyllwild Community Fund to help pay for equipment needed to conduct taped interviews of local people who have personal knowledge about our history that will be lost forever if not recorded and documented in a timely fashion. Called "Oral Histories," these interviews often provide detailed knowledge about our history that couldn't be found elsewhere. IAHS member Corrinne Brown wrote and submitted the grant proposal.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A MUSEUM DOCENT

By Ben Killingsworth

It was 11:00 a.m. on a cold Saturday morning when I arrived at the museum. The doors were already open, and after a brief "Good morning—have a great day," I heard the "opener" backing out of the driveway, and there I was — all alone, standing in a big room full of reminders of the past — maybe even a ghost or two. I quickly gathered myself, then began to take care of my first order of business — counting the money. I don't know why, but counting other people's money always makes me a little nervous. "What if I make a mistake?" I think to myself. "Will they think I stole some?"

As I started to count, I quickly glanced through a window toward the street, wondering if there might be someone walking by who notices the "Free" sign and starts trudging down the gravel walkway toward the museum. And that's exactly what happened, and wouldn't you know it, just as I had finished spreading out all the money on the desk top and began separating the \$20s from the \$10s, and \$5s from the \$1s.

In a matter of seconds, five people were at the door — including what appeared to be grandpa and grandma, two younger adults, and a little boy about five years old. "Better keep an eye on that little rascal," I thought.

I hurriedly shoved the bills and coins on the desk into the still open drawer, then began my usual spiel.

"Where are you folks from?" I asked.

"Palm Springs," they answered with obvious pride, and a look on their faces which said, "You've probably never been there, have you?" Well, I realized I was wearing a pair of old jeans and a plaid shirt, but did that give them any reason to think I'd never ventured off the mountain?

"Ever been up here before?" I asked.

"Yes, a couple of times, but it was a long time ago — when the kids were little," the man who looked to be grandpa answered. "We thought we'd bring the grandkid up to play in the snow, but there isn't any."

"Ever been in the museum before?"

"The what?" grandma asked with a shiver in her voice.

"The museum, you know — where we keep old things for people to look at."

"Can't say as I've ever had the pleasure," grandma said.

With that she fell in with the rest of the family as they stopped to look at the Emerson map.

"Yes, this Emerson was quite a guy," I began. "He came here in 1917 and bought the Idyllwild Inn and a thousand acres which he divided into lots. He did really well for a time — he put in a golf course, tennis courts, and a swimming pool, and all kinds of famous actors came up here, like Mary Pickford and Paulette Goddard."

"Who?" the boy's father asked.

"Why, Mary Pickford," grandma said. "She was one of my favorites. Don't you pay attention to anything?"

"Oh, and say, mister — Ben is it? Could you turn up the heater a little bit?" grandma continued.

Well, that's one thing Bob never told me about, but owing to a short stroke of genius I walked over to the thermostat and pretended to make an adjustment. "There — that should take care of it," I said.

By now we were all standing in front of the big picture of an ox-drawn logging wagon. "Yes, it all started with logging," I began. "When the loggers first came up here — it was about 1860 — there were no roads, and they built them. At first they were toll roads that cost loggers about 75 cents to take a wagon load of logs down the hill to where San Jacinto and Beaumont are today. The roads had some very steep grades — as steep as 30 degrees. Just imagine."

"Well, after a while the roads were opened up to the public and people began riding their horses and wagons up here, and then pretty soon the loggers put in little camp grounds, then added a store, then a small hotel. That's pretty much the way it all started." I droned on.

I think grandma was listening to my spiel, but I wondered when she said, "Thank you so much for turning up the heater, it's nice and warm in here now."

About then we moved on, first stopping momentarily at the Peak and Pine Girls Camp display, then made a full stop in front of the rock climbing display.

"My goodness gracious!" grandma said. "Where did they ever find a rock that big?"

"That's Tahquitz Rock," I said. "But some people call it Lily Rock."

"Tackwist — that's a funny name," grandpa said. "And you'd never find me climbing a rock like that."

A few moments later I could tell that most of the family had taken in about all they could during one visit, and they began sidling toward the door.

"Be sure and sign the register there on the desk, and don't forget to take a copy of our quarterly newsletter — in fact, take two."

Be sure to visit our wonderful museum!
54470 North Circle Drive
Open Friday to Sunday and holidays through Labor Day
11 am - 4 pm

For special tours and other business, call 951.659-2717

E-mail: 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

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

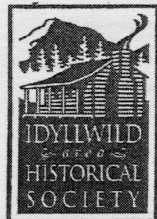
Name _____ Address _____

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



Return Service Requested

Sharen Metz
3939 Bennett Drive
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dates to Remember:

August 7, 2010 — Celebration of ISOMATA Pioneer August 8, 2010 — Annual Meeting
September 4, 2010 — Ice Cream Social September 18, 2010 — Idyllwild Home Tour

MUSEUM DOCENTS NEEDED

CALL JOAN AT 659 - 0567