

Arti-facts

The Newsletter of the
Idyllwild Area Historical Society

Volume IV Issue 1

Winter 2004

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

Don't Let History Happen Without You!

With the dawn of a new year, the Idyllwild Area Historic Society is moving into a challenging new era. We've come this far, this fast because a core group of volunteers contributed their time, resources, and skills, and we owe them a debt of gratitude.

Now we need more volunteers to take the pressure off the few who are carrying the load, and with the opening of the museum, **the need for more volunteers is even more pressing.**

Our most critical needs right now are:



Docent Coordinator

to recruit, schedule, and arrange training sessions for our museum docents.



Research Assistants

to do the detective work needed to enrich and verify exhibits, or help organize and document our archives.



Office Help;

to file incoming photos and historic documents, assist curator.



Oral History Coordinator

to contact potential subjects from an established list and schedule interviews. Be on the team that records and films the spoken word!



Newsletter Committee

to generate ideas and help in layout for articles from our archival collection of poems, photographs, letters and personal stories; send to **Arti-facts** editor and review proofs.

These are support positions for some of the established and very successful ongoing projects that your Society has initiated.

Among our large membership, we know you are out there with the right skills and interests to insure the continued success of these programs and your Society. Now is the time to step forward and help.

To volunteer:

Call us at

909-659-2717 or

e-mail to:

curator@IdyllwildAreaHistoricalSociety.org

"You make a living by what you get.

You make a life by what you give."

--Winston Churchill

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Blair Cenicerros
Joe Hart
Lynn Voorheis

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Field Trips	Anna Gerdes
Website	Francoise Frigola
Home Tour	Lynnda Hart

Since our last newsletter and the opening of the museum, your historical Society has been the beneficiary of many wonderful donations. As curator, my days are often filled with the excitement of having these artifacts placed in my hands and discovering how these items reflect the history of our community. I would like to share just a few of the many donations that we will be using in future exhibits to recreate the rich history of our Mountain communities.

Just before the opening we were given a mint green porcelain wood burning stove similar to the one originally here in our cabin museum. In near pristine condition, with all its parts, it now sits proudly in the future Museum Shop ready to dazzle one and all.

A large silk Bear Flag, which is the official state flag of the State of California, along with documentation from House Resolution No. 73, Adopted in the Assembly April 6, 1953, has come our way. The color of the flag – white – symbolizes purity, and red in the star and the bar, courage. The grizzly bear was regarded as an animal of great strength and on the banner it denotes this quality.

Our Native American exhibit has been further enhanced by the donations of Mountain Cahuilla and Soboba woven baskets. We now answer phone calls in the museum on a Stromberg-Carlson Bakelite black telephone. The vintage post cards, through their photographs and written messages, continue to expand our knowledge of what life is like here in the San Jacintos through the years!

All of these items are wonderful reminders that we need to look around and see what things we have tucked away. Large or small, if it's about the Idyllwild area, it's time now to share it with the community.

Call me at 909-659-2717 and arrange a time to bring in your bit of history!

On the Wings of Love

by Diane Olsen

Fate is a whimsical thing. I am standing in the meadow behind the Living Free animal sanctuary in Mountain Center, speculating on the incalculable odds that I am here at all or my children and my grand children, for that matter.

It all began, so long ago, because in late summer of 1931, my father, Ensign Lloyd W. Olson, while flying back to his aircraft carrier, the USS Lexington looked down over what is now Mountain Center, and saw what appeared to be a lodge. Being hungry, he noted the adjacent meadow and landed. It was, of course, Tahquitz Lodge and at that exact moment, my mother, Roberta Theobald was riding one of the lodge's horses along the edge of that same meadow. Tax-

ing to a bumpy stop, my father could not help but notice the striking young woman running her nervous horse alongside his plane. It was, he thought, a good day to have engine trouble! He decided to stretch the unscheduled stop into a couple of days before returning to his aircraft carrier anchored off San Diego. I smiled at the thought of my Dad filing whatever explanation that must have been required to cover his delay in returning to the flight deck.

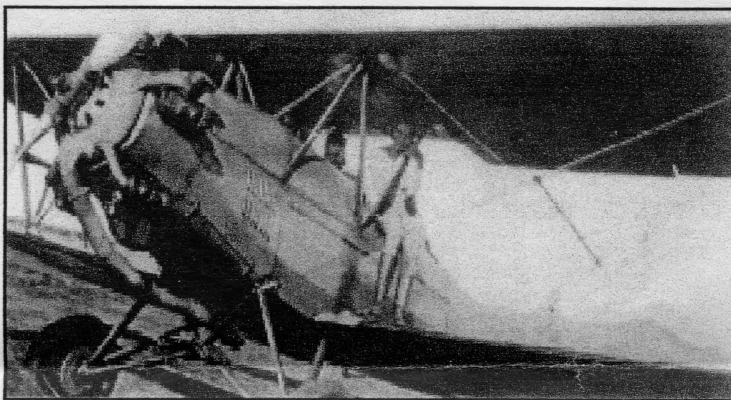
The romance continued with as many visits as could be arranged between the two lovers. One month later, they decided to elope to Yuma, Arizona. Roberta was only sixteen years old and at that time such a marriage was legal in Arizona. In later years, my grandparents said they were, in fact, delighted by this event. My mother, an only child, was known for her impulsive and headstrong ways.

My family first came to the Idyllwild area in 1915. My Mother, than one year old was having difficulty recovering from whooping cough. A friend of the family urged them to take my mother up to Tahquitz Lodge where he had recently stayed. It was considered then, a healthy practice, to bring people suffering with pulmonary problems up to higher elevations. My grandparents were so enchanted with the San Jacinto mountains that they always spent a good portion of their summers at Tahquitz Lodge. My grandmother learned to drive the big heavy Parkard up the control road. What now takes a couple of hours then took all

day. Jugs of water were necessary for the trip, my grandmother said, because the big car had to be driven back and forth, back and forth to maneuver it around the tight narrow corners there by causing the engine to boil over. Then she said, having finally arrived, you stayed the summer.

Mother became best friends with Louise, the daughter of Tahquitz Lodge's owners, Louise Elliot, who later married Henry Mills of the Tunnel fame. They were our dear, special friends. We called them puss and Boots because Louise loved to tuck in and read by the fire and Henry always wore his big, black engineer's boots. They maintained a home in Mountain Center until their deaths.

October 3, 1981, we celebrated my parent's 50th wedding anniversary. After the party we drove down to Mountain Center to take another look at the meadow where my family's story began. We found the old cement foundation for the Tahquitz Lodge. The structure had burned to the ground during the big fire of 1943. The meadow had recently burned in the Mountain Center fire of 1981 and so



L to R Lloyd W. Olson and Roberta Theobald, standing on wing. Taken Oct. 3, 1931, on their wedding day in Yuma Arizona.

we could see a large ditch full of rocks at the end of the meadow. "Look", I said to my dad, "you couldn't have landed here!" "Oh", dad said, "it was covered with grass then and I couldn't see it!"

And so, I look up at the magnificent San Jacinto mountains and I marvel at the twist of fate that started my family's journey here.

Diane Olsen was born in Long Beach, California and came to Idyllwild off and on during the summers. Tahquitz Lodge burned down in 1943 so the family then stayed with Nellie Wassell and her son Sam near Hurkey Creek, at what is now known as Camp Ronald McDonald.

Married in 1956 to Dr. Robert Olsen, they purchased property in Pine Cove in the mid 1960's and then had a cabin built by Otto Hoelzel.

Diane is a board member of the Friends of the San Jacinto Mountains County Park where she is very involved in developing school programs and is also a member of IAHS.

Museum Opening - October 18, 2003

All photos by George Meyer



L to R Member Ray Hanzlik and Jim Venable, 3rd District Supervisor, Riverside County, cutting the ribbon.



Your new Museum, at 54470 N. Circle Drive at Oakwood.



L to R Packy Wassell, Lynnda Hart, Ted and Bunnie Belden by Pine Furniture Exhibit.



Serving refreshments, our Treasurer, Cathy Priem.



L. to R Alma McGaugh Peters and Leona McGaugh, owner of the early Idyllwild Dairy

Members Dean Finmark, Mary and Steve Kenyon learning about the Emerson story.



Harvest Home Tour - October 25, 2003

All photos by George Meyer

Our third annual Home Tour was a resounding success. On a picture perfect day, approximately 600 people toured five very special homes in Idyllwild and Fern Valley. Thanks to the graciousness of the homeowners: Bob and Loraine Dyson; Bob Beck and Erin O'Neill; Ron and Sandy Korman; Shelley Laff; and the Carratello family, who made this event, our major annual fundraiser possible.

And to all of you who volunteered in various capacities, a hearty thank you! You made the tour so enjoyable as well as informative. We will see you next year on **Saturday, October 23** for the 4th annual Harvest Home Tour. Mark your calendars and don't forget to tell your friends.



Trish Tuley, docent points out features of the antique stove in the Dyson cabin, to Kim Leonard



Ron Korman, homeowner explains how he built his log home



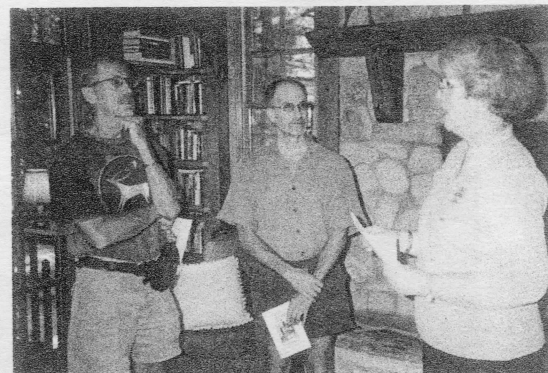
Home Tour participants look on as Sandy Korman, homeowner, demonstrates her technique of making chaps



Docents Mary and Doug Austin, and Loraine Dyson homeowner, take a break to pose for the camera at Strawberry Corner



Blair Cenicerros, IAHS Board member and docent, explains methods of construction at Sundance Lodge



Visitors to the Beck/O'Neill home listen to interesting facts about the antique furnishings

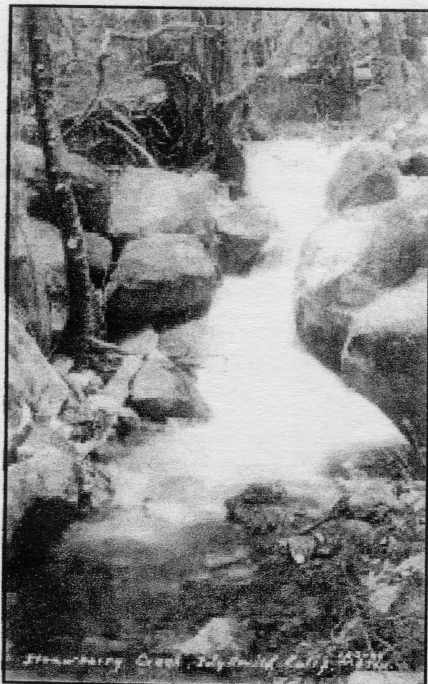
Strawberry Creek

Song: Copyright 1954
Words by Anna Doan Stephens
Music by Rose Eisner Joseloff

*Where are you going,
Oh, Strawberry Creek
Through our green woodland,
And what do you seek?
You rest in the depths
Of the pools you pass by,
Then surge over barriers
Where stepping stones lie.
Your banks have bright fringes
Of Strawberries, where
The sun-rays pierce through
To warm the cool air;
But you bask only briefly
What is it you say,
Leaping on through,
To hurry away?*

*Where are you going,
Oh, Strawberry Creek
Through our green woodland,
And what do you seek?
From where do you come,
And where are you going,
Where are you going,
Oh, Strawberry Creek?*

*Played by
Melva Farwell
Bills as a flute
solo at the
dedication of
Dr. Marion
Null's plaque in
front of the
Idyllwild
School.*



Thank You!

We greatly appreciate the donation of items and/or services from

Tom & Carol Ann Adamson, Bob Beck, Terry Bauman, Susanne Bowman, Terry Casella, Chuck & Sara Clayton, Louise Cole Campbell, Bob Cox, Bruce Clark, Greg Demetre, John Emerson, Cindy Irvine, Jim Johnson, Judy Butts Kyle, Janetta Landry, Bernice Leve, Richard Levitski, Leona McGaugh, Diane Olsen, Charlene Price, Carol Ripley, David Scherman, Chuck and Vickie Streeter, Pat Wilder, Ron White, The Woodies.

Membership Update

Welcome to our new members since the last newsletter. We look forward to seeing you at our new museum. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Trudy Adler, Idyllwild	David & Linda
Linda Allen, Idyllwild	Livingstone, Idyllwild
Glen & Rosemary Ashcraft, Idyllwild	Sally McManus, Palm Springs
Beck Family, Santa Barbara	Mac & Marcia McQuern, Riverside
Deborah Belleau, Idyllwild	George & Gail Montwill, Upland
Elva Cook, Los Angeles	Chris & Wendy Read, Idyllwild
Donna Curran, Morongo Valley	Joan Read, Idyllwild
Lorraine Dyson, Del Mar	Reta Roth, Studio City
Cindy Irvine Jory & Jeremy Irvine, Sherman Oaks	Tom Sandler, San Diego
Joy Eicher, Palm Springs	Hank Sipila, Rocky Point, NY
Drs. Michael & Stephanie Erlich, Pine Cove	Gary and Cindy Snidecor, San Diego
Hollis Fulmor, Idyllwild	Larry & Nancy Shute, Idyllwild
Steve Grassbaugh & Francis Stoner, Long Beach	Gary & Diane Stephens, Pomfret Center, CT
Fred Guenther, Vista	Karen Stevenson, Idyllwild
Patricia Hair, Hemet	Sondra Thiederman, San Diego
Gary & Ann Hammond, Idyllwild	Jackie Thompson, Idyllwild
Ken Harrison, Cardiff by the Sea	Bill & Debra Triplett, Idyllwild
Bob & Lorna Houck, San Diego	Kevin & Judy Underdahl, Idyllwild
B. Venson Hughes, Germantown, TN	Steve Wassell, Vacaville
Idyllwild Arts Foundation	Art, Lynn & Alexandra Wagman, Rockville, MD
Leslie Jacobson, Bellingham, WA	Helen Wellington, Orange
Joe & June LaManta, Palm Desert	Dave & Bertha Young, Encinitas
Ralph Lewis, Idyllwild	

Upcoming Events

The Princeton Nassoons Alumni

Friday, March 26 - 5:30 - 7:00pm
Idyllwild Nature Center

A "Once in a Lifetime Event"
from all corners of the nation.
Singing new arrangements and old
favorites from the 1950's and 60's.

Admission \$5 - a IAHS fundraiser -
Bring your friends

**Advance tickets for sale at the Museum office,
Monday - Friday**

Field Trip to Hamilton Museum

39991 Contreras Rd., Anza
Saturday, April 24 - 10:00am
Margaret Wellman Jaenke
will be our host and guide.

See the 1910 Contreras Homestead
as well as the Hamilton House, now a museum.

Bring a picnic lunch and meet at the museum.

Directions: take Hwy 74 to Hwy 371 to Anza.
Turn left on Contreras Rd. at the Little Red School House
Go about one mile to end of road and turn right.

Please call 659-2717 by April 5 to RSVP

New Membership Categories and Dues

At our Annual Meeting on December 4, vice-president, Bob Smith presented the IAHS Board of Directors decision on changes to the dues and membership categories. Because of postal increases and the cost of printing and mailing our newsletter and other announcements and flyers, the previous \$10 individual and \$20 family dues were simply inadequate to run the office/archives and newly opened museum. Notice that we also added new Contributing and Corporate categories, as well as a schedule of benefits for members. No opposition to the changes was expressed by members during discussion at the meeting.

These changes will go into effect with the February renewals and will also be listed in our new museum brochure.

The new categories, dues and benefits of membership are as follows:

All members receive 10% discount in the museum store. Members also receive the quarterly newsletter, *Arti-facts*, and invitations to special events.

Individual	\$15	
Family	\$25	
Contributing	\$35	Add a special gift
Sponsor	\$100	Add one special event a year. *
Patron	\$500	Add the above plus two Home Tour Tickets
Founders Circle	\$1000	Add the above plus lifetime membership with permanent recognition in museum and newsletter
<hr/>		
Business	\$35	20% discount on ads and special recognition in newsletter
Corporate	\$750	Ad in Home Tour Booklet or use of Museum facilities for special event.

*Note: Sponsors who renew at this level for 10 years will automatically become a Founders Circle member with lifetime status.

Membership Information

Join IAHS or Give a Gift Membership and Receive

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

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

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Email Address _____ Telephone: _____

Gift card from _____

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Contributing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Founder's Circle: |
| Lifetime membership and plaque in museum
Installment plan available - \$100/year for 10 years | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Business | <input type="checkbox"/> \$750 Corporate | |

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.

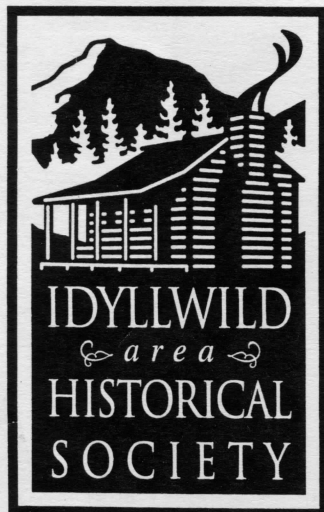
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