

The Wagon Wheel

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A Newsletter With a Few Things To Report

We debated whether or not to even put out a newsletter at this time, but we know many of our members are “sheltering in place” during these trying times, so maybe this newsletter will give you something to read for a few minutes. The museum staff is trying their best to keep the society “moving on down that road”.

Attached are some photos of us doing some yard cleanup on May 15 at the museum. The Museum may not be open, but our volunteers are hard at work getting the grounds in good shape for the summer months. Thanks to our historian, Russ Keller, and new board members Sandra Koos and Terry Ebert for their hard work on this clean-up day.

Our members and other people interested in our mountain history can follow us on Facebook at Rim of The World Historical Society (<https://www.facebook.com/rimoftheworldhistoricalsociety>). They will see a weekly Mountain Milepost post and other Historical Society updates. This is a good place for you to follow what we are doing and also a great place to learn interesting things about our history. Check the link above frequently; we are constantly adding new articles and pictures of interest.



Mountain Mileposts

THE ALPINE MALL IN LAKE GREGORY VILLAGE

The Alpine Mall in Lake Gregory Village started its life in the 1940's as a motel and was one of the original Lake Drive businesses. This week's image is taken from a real photo postcard and depicts the smaller half of the Mall as it looked in the 40's and 50's, when it housed Hal's Place. A very popular hot dog stand and cocktail lounge, Hal later added "Hot Dogs – Café Open – Home Cooking" at the bottom of the window. He would also drop the "chamber" slogan and replace it with "Visit The Corral," the name of his lounge.

Russ Keller writes in his book *Crestline – The Swingingest Town In America* that Hal "was the unofficial mayor of Crestline and also claimed to be a one-man chamber of commerce." Hence the slogan. To the left of Hal's stood Dinky Golf, now Ace Garden Center. The first of a dozen or so cabins is visible, and at the other end of the arch, which says Crestline Motel, is a larger building.

The arch came down in the 1970's and the front buildings were completely remodeled, as were some of the cabins. They were converted into various-sized retail stores, some of which would later be rented as offices. Larger businesses could be accommodated in the front buildings. The tall neon sign, which once said "Kelly's Crestline Motel," became the iconic new symbol for the ambitious new enterprise, reading "Alpine Mall."

The Mall has been family-owned for some 40 years and has hosted a diverse range of businesses and has served numerous functions. Many successful businesses got their start in the Mall, some going back 30 years. Many expanded into larger, successful enterprises. The Mall has been an anchor business for generations and has kept current. The entire operation got a major remodel and facelift over the past couple years and has been turned into a showplace. Check it out. We always need to support our local businesses.



By Ken Brafman; image from the Rhea-Frances Tetley Collection
Reprinted from the :March 26, 2020 issue of the "Mountain News."

President's Message

The Rim of the World Historical Society's Board of Directors has not yet been able to set a date on when to re-open it's History Museum in Lake Arrowhead. Currently, the Board is following the guidelines from the County of San Bernardino on closures due to Covid-19. Open air Museums will be allowed to re-open mid June, but since the History Museum is an enclosed museum, we will have to wait for the County's lifting of restrictions on enclosed museums. Further, because of the need for social distancing, the Board has had to cancel most of it's events planned for this summer, including the Classic Antique Wooden Boat Show, which would have been held in early June in the Lake Arrowhead Village.

In the meantime, work is continuing on the Museum's exhibits on an individual basis in anticipation of when the Museum can re-open. As for the Historical Society and the Museum, both will survive the current situation because of the continuing support of it's Membership. I know the phrase "we are all in this together" is being used a lot during the Covid-19 crisis, but I feel it is true and the Historical Society will emerge even stronger because of it's members and dedicated volunteers.

Cindy Burnett
Board President

Way Back When: ROWHS Events April – May 2010

The ROWHS Museum opened on Saturday and Sunday, June 5 and 6 for the 2010 season. Over the course of two days we hosted approximately 300 guests eager to see the exhibits and share their personal stories. An array of wooden boats out front, a big red banner and a huge museum sign caught a lot of attention. The museum was on its way.

2010 was the year your historical society took over the sponsorship of the Antique Wooden Boat Show at Lake Arrowhead for the first time. There were many on our board who had more than a few reservations about taking over such a large event, but I'm pleased to say that us doubters were wrong. I don't remember the final accounting from that event, but it was obvious we came out in the black and earned quite a few dollars to support our museum and many other programs. The show was well attended and it was obvious that all attendees had a great time seeing all the classic wooden boats and "woody" cars.

The last week of May 2010, we sponsored 'Saw Mill Days' at the Lake Arrowhead Elementary School kindergarten classes, where our young future leaders were able to saw logs, wash clothes, pound nails, pet goats, and see a real lumberjack climb a tall tree and cut limbs. These children had the unique experiences of seeing, tasting, smelling and feeling the events our early mountain settlers performed each day.

June 2010 was a very busy month on the mountain and for the Rim of the World Historical Society. In the newsletter, we gave accolades to all the volunteers who toiled many hours to clean the outside areas of the museum and spread a layer of chipped wood on the landscape areas. Inside the museum, volunteers had worked tirelessly to sort and organize the extensive collection of photographs and artifacts.

State of the Museum Message

The Rim of the World Historical Society Board of Directors held their monthly meeting this past week, via Zoom. It was decided that due to Covid-19 and the County of San Bernardino's restrictions on the opening of enclosed Museums, the History Museum in Lake Arrowhead will not open this June. The Board has made the decision to review the issue of opening to the public on a month by month basis. As such, next month the Board will evaluate the possibility of opening in July, if and when the County gives the go ahead. Right now, as per County Guidelines, only open air Museums will be allowed to open mid-June.

Also discussed at the Board Meeting was the need to cancel the Celebrity Cruise due to the lack of social distancing. The Ice Cream Social at the Museum over 4th of July weekend is also cancelled. Smokey Bear's Birthday Party will also have to be cancelled since large groups and photo ops of pictures with Smokey would not be possible.

As for work at the Museum, the Exhibit Committee continues to work on exhibits on an individual basis in anticipation of when the Museum will be able to open at a future date. Collection work days on Fridays are also on hold due to the pandemic. I know Jeannie is missing all her helpers, but I also know she feels it's best to continue to not gather on Fridays since Collections is a small confined space. However, from time to time there will be volunteer maintenance jobs needed at the Museum, such as a week ago when volunteers raked pine needles and cleaned up the Museum grounds, all while maintaining social distancing. I thank everyone who helped with the yard cleanup.

This is an evolving situation at the Museum and all we can do is be patient. Things will get better at some point, and we will be able to open the Museum to the public once again. I have had many supportive phone calls from the volunteers and I sincerely appreciate every one's concern and support. Needless to say I am looking forward to when we can get back to working as a group to help support the Historical Society and the History Museum. Be safe and stay well.

Cindy Burnett: Volunteer Coordinator

Upcoming Events

May - June: At this time, there are no museum events being planned. This will all depend on what happens with the Corona Virus. Sorry, but members and guests are important to us.

2020 Museum Opening

Opening Day for the museum is now on hold until future notice.

New Members

We welcome the following new members to the Historical Society. We hope to see you at many of our upcoming events so we can get to know you. Welcome aboard.

Pat & Larry Jongeryas
Laura Coaty
Cheryl & Ken Bodger
Jane Goodall

Business Memberships

We wish to thank the following businesses who have purchased a *Business Membership*. Their generous support is greatly appreciated. If you have, or know of, a business, which would be interested in a business membership, give them the Membership Renewal form in this newsletter. If you are in need of the types of services they offer, please give them your consideration.



**Running Springs
Senior Citizen's Center**



Duane & Carol Banner



The following two mountain businesses have given generously their time, skills, and labor in restoring the Crestline Bus. As our thanks, we are giving each of them a business membership in the Rim of the World Historical Society.



**Your Business Card or Ad Could Be Here.
Contact Bill Pumford at 909-338-3544**

Jam Day Crestline Queen - 1987

At this time, it is fairly sure that there will not be a Jam Days in Crestline in 2020. We will all miss the parade, vendors, fireworks, and all the fun we all usually have there. Being in a nostalgic mood, I looked back at a lot of old pictures of Jam Days past. Here is the beautiful Crestline Queen and her Court 33 years ago. OK, Rhea, Russ, and you other researchers: What are the names of these young ladies who are all now somewhere around 50 years of age?



Rim of the World Historical Society

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