Goodwins Bears Dedication and Celebration of the California Grizzly Bear

The Rim of the World Historical Society held its ribbon cutting dedication of the Goodwins Bears at the Mountain History Museum Saturday, June 25, 2022. The Bears are wooden sculptures that had been carved from cedar trees that were burned during the 2003 Old Fire. They had been on display on the front of the Goodwin and Son's Market since 2006.

Over the 2021-22 winter, Museum volunteers Paula Anderson and Connie Johnson did the labor-intensive job of restoring the twelve-foot-tall cedar statues by removing the decades of grime and protective sealants. During the green ribbon cutting ceremony, they were recognized for their months of tedious labor and the wonderful result that is now on display.

Paula and Connie followed the expert direction of Daniel Martinez, Rim Forest Lumber Paint Department Manager, on the materials and techniques needed to rehabilitate the three beautiful sculptures correctly. Daniel had worked with the Bears in the past and supplied invaluable information and advice.

The Bears muralist, Wes Abarca, was recently honored by being selected to paint a mural for the Summit of the Americas, where leaders of the Western Hemisphere met at the Los Angeles Coliseum. Wes painted a mural on the western side of the Museum last fall as a backdrop for the Bears. It had been protected all winter with plastic while the restorations took place inside. Those who had visited the museum over the winter saw the sculptures lying on sawhorses having the old finishes being carefully removed with tooth brushes and dental tools. Some visitors were even allowed to spend some time also doing some brushing and scraping.

The original 2006 multimedia mural and sculptures were made to not only decorate the front of the Goodwin's Market building, but to educate the public about the indigenous, carnivorous grizzly bear and their demise from the local mountain area in the late 1800s by the loggers in the mountain area, after decades by Spanish and Mexicans also trying to do so. By the early 1900s, all the grizzly bears in the entire state were extinct. The current omnivore black bears that are in this area were brought to the mountains in the 1930s by the California Department of Fish and Game, when 34 were transferred here from the Yosemite area to reintroduce bears into the food chain.

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Celebrating
100 Years Ago in
Lake Arrowhead
Village

Russ Keller

The year was 1922, 100 years ago. The Lincoln Memorial was dedicated on May 30. The Navy’s first aircraft carrier, the U.S.S. Langley, was commissioned on April 20. President Warren G. Harding became the first U.S. president to have his voice transmitted by radio. A loaf of bread cost 10 cents. The English archaeologist Howard Carter discovered the tomb of 14th-century B.C. pharaoh Tutankhamun. The only circulating U.S. coins minted were the penny and the silver dollar. And, the original Lake Arrowhead Village officially opened on Friday, June 24, 1922, with a gala celebration. The opening ceremonies included speeches, music and a grand tour. Most of the thousand-plus in attendance were duly impressed with “the combination of the works of Nature with artistic and beautiful works of man.” Later, on July 4, 1922, the Dance Casino (now the location of Papagayos restaurant) opening was greeted with 300 couples dancing on its “floating floor” to the music of the Howard Patrick & Blondy Clark orchestra. A sign on each side of the entrance stated “HOB NAIL SHOES PROHIBITED,” meaning shoes with a short nail with a thick head used to protect the soles of shoes or boots. Later in the 1920s the Stu Peters orchestra played nightly at the “casino.” You may not remember Stu, but he had a very famous sister, born Jane Alice Peters. When signed to appear in her first film in 1921, she changed her name to Carole Lombard.

The Back Story: The year was 1919 and James Edmund Mooney, the owner of Little Bear Lake, the Little Bear Resort and over 5,000 acres of land, passed away, a victim of the flu pandemic. Pandemic death estimates range from 17 million to 50 million, and possibly as high as 100 million people worldwide, making it one of the deadliest pandemics in human history. An estimated 675,000 deaths occurred in America. As a result of Mooney’s death, the entire holdings of the Arrowhead Reservoir & Power Company were put “on the market.” At the time of Mooney’s death, he was the sole owner of the Arrowhead Reservoir and Power Company. He was an extremely wealthy man, owning the largest leather manufacturing company in the world, the largest coffin manufacturing company in America, and the largest starch manufacturing company in
depression and WWII, their holdings were purchased by the LA Turf Club in 1946. Included in the purchase was the North Shore Tavern, the “village,” and the vacant properties within the Arrowhead Woods. The Turf Club owned the Santa Anita race track in Arcadia. In 1960 the properties of the Turf Club were purchased by the Lake Arrowhead Development Company for $6.5 million, principal owner was Jules Berman, aka Mister Kahlua. When Jules Berman bought the distribution rights to Kahlua it was distributing 1200 cases a month. When he sold the distributorship, it was the largest selling liqueur in the world. By 1967 The Boise Cascade Corporation, through an exchange of stock and money, became the new owner. The Slymar earthquake of 1971 precipitated the sale of the village to the Metropolitan Advertising Agency in 1977. They sold the village in 1978 to G.C. Properties. And, in April of 1979, under the ownership of G.C. Properties, the original Lake Arrowhead Village was purposely burned. The “casino” being the only original structure remaining.

America. He owned over 40 different companies including railroads, lumber companies, utilities and banks. In 1921 a consortium of nine Los Angeles millionaires purchased the holdings of the Arrowhead Reservoir & Power Company, for an estimated $62500000. The nine were: J. Benton Van Nuys, Morgan Adams, A.L. Warmington, A.J. Salisbury, Jr., Harry Lee Martin, R.F. Gross, O.F. Brant, Wm. Allen, Jr., and O.P. Clark. Not happy with the name “Little Bear Lake” they formed the Arrowhead Lake Company and applied to re-name the Little Bear Lake post office, Arrowhead Lake. However, the U.S. Postal Service denied the request due to the existence of the Arrowhead Springs post office at the base of the mountain. Hence, the name Lake Arrowhead. They razed the existing Little Bear Resort and began construction of the original Lake Arrowhead Village (see images #1 & #2). The architect was McNeal Swasey who spent all winter of 1921/1922 mapping out a modern village of Norman English architecture. The village consisted of a beauty parlor, post office, telegraph office, real estate office, cafeteria, delicatessen, meat and grocery market, drug store, soda fountain, sandwich shop, art store, sporting goods store, cleaners, barber shop and a billiard and pool parlor. A model was constructed of the proposed village (see image #3). The Dance Casino under construction is pictured in image #4.

Update: The Lake Arrowhead Village, originally owned by the Arrowhead Lake Company, went through a number of owners. When the Arrowhead Lake Company was in receivership, due to the great
Lake Arrowhead Village
Museum Popup

Cindy Burnett

The Rim of the World Historical Society was invited to participate in Lake Arrowhead Village’s 100th Anniversary Celebration with a popup Museum. We set up our popup Museum the last weekend in August and stayed through Labor Day Weekend. Located inside the former Bass Outlet building, with an absolutely spectacular view of Lake Arrowhead, our volunteers set up a mini Museum and Gift Store. We had hundreds of visitors throughout the event, many of whom were members of the Historical Society who came to offer their support. Also on hand was local historian Russ Keller, who presented daily PowerPoint presentations on the history of The Village. Nancy Anderson from Wildhaven Ranch gave a presentation on how to live with our mountain bears. All lectures were well attended by the community and folks visiting The Village.

All of our volunteers are to be thanked for doing such a great job for making the event happen. There was Connie Johnson, Sheila Arnett, Paula Anderson, Mary Barlow, Gary Bancroft, Stephanie and Dennis Warnesky, John Stephens, Carol and Russ Keller, Karen Parish, Chandra Olivas, Phyllis and Ken Fowler, Sandra Koos, Zac Milan, Bill Pumford, Duane Banner and Greg Naylor. Special thanks also goes out to Rhea Tetley who arranged for our participation in the Celebration and who, along with myself, were on hand during the entire event to make sure everything ran smoothly. So a big thank you for a job well done Rhea!

The Rim of the World Historical Society wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the Lake Arrowhead Village Merchants Association for being instrumental in the Historical Society being invited to participate in the Village’s Centennial Celebration. We also want to thank Lake Arrowhead Village Manager, Josh Martin, for his support and assistance as well as his maintenance crew who were so helpful. It was a great opportunity to get out and talk to people about the Historical Society and the Mountain History Museum.

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Rhea Tetley, Past Historical Society President and Co-founder, introduced Mike Johnstone, General Manager, of Goodwin and Son’s Market. Mike, along with his sons Mason and Collin, attended the ribbon cutting to represent the Goodwin family. Mike told of his memories of his grandfather, George Goodwin, and visiting the current museum building as a child when his other grandfather, who was a firefighter, worked at that building. Photos from that 2006 dedication with his grandfather George Goodwin and that original 1,000-square-foot 2006 mural by Molly Collins were on prominent display.

The green ribbon draped across the sculptures was cut with the large scissors by Mason Johnstone. It was later said that this is the third time that Mason has gotten to cut a ribbon for a Goodwin event.

Afterwards, all went into the museum and enjoyed the museum exhibits and information from the numerous museum docents on hand, and homemade bear-shaped cookies and ice cream on the patio of the museum. Many had selfies taken with Smokey Bear, who was on hand for the Goodwins Bears dedication. Visitors also got to touch a real bear skin in an exhibit inside and to read the story board on the history of bears in the mountains.

The name of the sculptures “A Tribute to the California Grizzly” was explained by sculptor Conrad Sandoval in a written statement in the program. The keepsake program written by Ken Brafman explained the eradication of the grizzly and the history of the bear sculptures, and it was handed out to all. Be sure to stop by the museum and take some time to appreciate the beautiful Goodwins Bears sculptures.
Smokey Bear’s Birthday Bash

Over 350 Visitors Enjoyed Free Cake and Ice Cream with Smokey

Smokey Bear celebrated his 78th birthday at the Mountain History Museum on Sunday, August 7. This year’s party can best be described as "epic." The day was summed up by Museum Curator, Cindy Burnett, in an email to the field.

“The day began with Henry Johnson moving the Crestline Bus to the smaller parking lot so kids could climb aboard and get their photos taken. Gary Bancroft sat outside in the heat all day monitoring the Bus to make sure we didn't have too many kids on it at one time. So, Gary and Henry, a big thank you. The Bus was a hit with visitors of all ages.

Barbara Carey ran the cash register during the entire party and sales out of the Gift Store were the best we've ever had in a single day. In the General Store we had Marilyn Mays and new volunteer Kathy Taylor checking Scavenger Hunt cards and giving out prizes. Rhea-Frances Tetley and Ken Braifman were also on hand to greet visitors and explain the exhibits. Black Annie even decided to be good, and she ran all day.

Last, but not least was the big guy himself, Smokey Bear. As always, Smokey’s many fans came to help celebrate his Birthday. Our sincere thanks go out to Matt Rice who every year puts on the Smokey Bear suit in the August heat to celebrate Smokey's Birthday at the Museum. I also want to thank Margaret Potvin for helping as Smokey’s handler, making sure Smokey had a clear path through the crowd of well-wishers. So, thank you everyone for your hard work on what was probably one of the hottest days this summer.”
The Women's Club of Lake Arrowhead (WCLA) celebrated their Annual Installation Luncheon on July 20th at the Mountain History Museum in Lake Arrowhead. In attendance were 45 members of the Women's Club who were hosted by current Rim of the World Historical Society Board President Bill Pumford, who presented a PowerPoint on the history of the WCLA starting in 1926 when the Club held its first meetings at the Raven Inn, now known as the Saddleback Inn. Polly Sauer, WCLA Board President, expressed her gratitude to the Historical Society for hosting the Women's Club and providing the briefing on the history of the WCLA. Over the years, the WCLA has contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to many of the area’s non-profits, as well as providing scholarships to many college-bound students. In addition, the Women's Club has been instrumental in the cultural enrichment and betterment of the community, as well as being heavily involved with conservation endeavors. Polly Sauer presented the Historical Society with a check for $500.00 which was accepted by Bill Pumford on behalf of the Society.
DONATIONS

ROWHS is pleased to announce that on July 16th Teri Ostlie, Community Service Chair of the Rotary Club of Lake Arrowhead presented President, Bill Pumford, a donation in the amount of $2,327.40. Much needed new tables and chairs were purchased with the grant funds for use at the many functions held at the Museum.

On July 20th Polly Sauer, President of the Women’s Club of Lake Arrowhead (WCLA) presented ROWHS President, Bill Pumford, a donation check in the amount of $500.00.

We were also grateful to the Lake Arrowhead Village Merchants Association for their generous donation of $2,500.00.

A grant from the Mountain Sunrise Rotary Club in the amount of $665.00 was awarded to fill the need for audio & video equipment for Historical Society events held at the Museum and events held offsite.

COLLECTIONS

In this issue of the Mountain Chronicles, we have another item from our Collections Room brought to us by Duane Banner. The photo is a picture of a late 19th century corn sheller. This type of device was first patented in 1839 by Lestor Denison of Sayville, Connecticut. Denison’s machine is credited with starting an industry that at one time numbered several hundred manufacturers. The purpose of the sheller was to remove the kernels from dried ears of corn and maize for the feeding of livestock and other uses on farms in the 1880’s. It consisted of a freestanding hand-operated machine that removed individual kernels of corn by pulling the cob through a series of metal-toothed cylinders which stripped the kernels off the cob. The Corn Sheller we have on display at the History Museum in Lake Arrowhead dates from the 1880’s and still displays its original coat of red paint. Drop by the General Store in the Museum and take a look.
Rim of the World Historical Society

MEMBERSHIP

Memberships are the life and blood of the Rim of the World Historical Society. Your membership helps us to hold talks and events, maintain yearly costs related to the Museum, and to provide visitors with first class exhibits at the Museum among other things. Members enjoy a 10% discount on gifts and books in the Museum Store and online. Also, there are member only events like our Tunnel Tour and Holiday Party. We now have 341 Members.

Our 2022 Lifetime Members are:
- Mark & Gail Curtis
- Brandi Elliott
- Francie Jones
- Marilyn Mays
- Charles & Eileen Ordahl
- Laura & Daniel Sharp
- Ed Wagner
- Diane Wilk – Arrowhead Architects

We sincerely thank you for your membership!

If you are not a member yet but are interested in becoming a member of Rim of the World Historical Society, please visit www.mtnmuseum.org for further information.

A Message from the President

Bill Pumford

The Rim of the World Historical Society has had a wonderful year. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of our volunteers who worked so hard to support not only the Museum but all the events that we sponsored. We had our busiest Smokey Bear Birthday this year, dedicated our new bear murals, and participated in the 100th anniversary of the original Lake Arrowhead Village. The Tunnel Tours and Celebrity Cruises were very successful and helped the participants to better understand the history of Lake Arrowhead. We have had some program changes – Connie Johnson has agreed to head up our Oral History program and Sheila Arnett is our new Collections Manager. The Mountain History Museum will be open during the Thanksgiving Weekend which gives our mountain residents and visitors to enjoy the Museum as well as purchase gifts for the Christmas holidays. Our annual Holiday Dinner will take place on December 3rd at the Lake Arrowhead Resort & Spa. Hope to see you at the Holiday Dinner.