This year’s PolaRotary Plunge into Lake Arrowhead took place on Saturday, February 4th, 2023. Your Rim of the World Historical Society participated again this year with a record eight members. Participants were Bill Pumford, Al Stearns, Connie Johnson, Paula Anderson-Beswick, Niki Petrick, Philip Johnson and Kurato Sato and as a group were called Team Lumberjacks. The Rotary recently sent a check in the amount of $1900 to the Historical Society for the donations garnered by the eight participants which is the most in recent memory. Congratulations to all the jumpers. The weather was nice and the water temperature was in the mid-40s so very tolerable. If you are interested in jumping next year contact the Historical Society.
This spring the Rim of the World Historical Society will sponsor a tour of the famous Pinecrest Resort for Society members. This article will provide a brief history of the resort.

The history of Pinecrest begins in 1890 with Dr. John Nathaniel Baylis who, as a young doctor, arrived in the San Bernardino Mountains. In 1892 Baylis became one of the directors of the Arrowhead Mountain Club that built the Squirrel Inn Resort. He and his wife, Elvira, built a cabin at Squirrel Inn and enjoyed all the amenities of belonging to a pretty exclusive resort that the majority of regular people could not belong to.

While at Squirrel Inn in 1904 Dr. Baylis heard that the Guernsey Lumber company was to cut a large number of trees from the property next to Squirrel Inn. As what might be considered an early effort at conservation, Baylis went to the property owner, Bart Smithson, and purchased 160 acres to prevent the cutting and to create a resort. Dr. Baylis wanted a resort that catered to a broader group of people than the Squirrel Inn.

During the first couple of years the area was referred to as “Pine Crest” but soon became just the one word “Pinecrest.” In 1906 the building of the resort began in earnest with George Dexter, eldest of the Dexter brothers, assembling a crew for the ambitious construction program. First was the renovation of the Smithsonian Club House, then some cabins, a boarding house and stables. Also, the South Park Lodge (part of the Pinecrest Resort) was built across the road. In 1908 a circular pavilion with a dining room and a massive fireplace was completed which was called the Roundhouse. Construction continued with additional cabins, a general store, blacksmith shop, dormitory for employees, store, and a garage. An electrical system for the property was also installed.

The Pinecrest Resort was scheduled to open June 15th, 1909. In preparation for this Dr. Baylis had 10,000 brochures printed up. In addition, a variety of transportation companies were lined up to get visitors up the mountain. He also advocated for the Arrowhead Toll Road.

Welcome to the new year of 2023. Your Rim of the World Historical Society plans to again offer a variety of exhibits, events, and informative presentations including a tour of Pinecrest, the ever-popular History and Celebrity Cruises, the Tunnel Tours, the Crestline Bus in the Jam Days and Blue Jay Parades, 4th of July Ice Cream Social, Smokey Bear Birthday, Wooden Boat Show, and Rock Camp. Many of the exhibits are new this year and the Museum will be open from Memorial Day through the end of October. Come and visit and take a look around. As in every year, the Historical Society needs volunteers to docent at the Museum, help with exhibits, work in Collections, and help with the many sponsored events. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Cindy Burnett at 909-273-4291 or cindyburnett123@gmail.com. Collections has been going strong this year with many new and extensive donations. Chief among those donations was Russ Keller’s entire digitized photo and postcard collection numbering upwards of 10,000 images.

continued on page 3
to be turned over to the county which would then allow automobiles up the mountain. In
the previous year several cars demonstrated the capability of navigating the challenging road.

In 1911 a devastating fire threatened Pinecrest but they did not lose any structures. South
Park was not as fortunate as the lodge burned down completely. In 1912 there was a consider-
ation of rebuilding the lodge but it never occurred, although the original entrance pillars are
still there.

In 1916 planning began for a three-story hotel using some of the logs from the old South
Park Lodge. The hotel was 60x70 feet in size which included a metal roof, and opened out
onto balconies with wonderful views of the mountains and valleys. Construction was complet-
ed in 1917 and the hotel was called the “Rookery.”

By 1917 the resort had a pool, tennis and croquet courts, pear and apple orchards and
vegetable gardens for the guests. The resort could now accommodate over 500 guests. The
orchards and the apples became very famous throughout San Bernardino County.

A 1920 brochure for Pinecrest advertised Chalets/Bungalows for $15 per week and up
depending upon the size and number of people accommodated. Hotel rates were $4 per
day based upon the American Plan (room and meals covered). A post office was offered in
addition to a branch of the San Bernardino County Library which helped with the resort
experience.

As perhaps a precursor to COVID restrictions a hundred years later, the brochure clearly
stated that guests would not be received who had tuberculosis, pulmonary or contagious dis-
ease. During this period John Baylis IV and his wife Eleanor managed the resort in place of
his father Dr. John Baylis. John’s sister, Helen Baylis Coffman, also helped in the management
of the resort.

In 1921 Pinecrest sponsored a novelty dance called “The Poverty Prance” where the pavil-
on was decorated to look like an alley complete with laundry strung up, old wooden boxes,
and tin cans made to be lanterns. Attendees dressed in appropriate costumes. This was rather
similar to the “Sadie Hawkins” dances that many of us grew up with.

In addition to operating the resort, Dr. Baylis was also a strong advocate for more and
better roads to and through the San Bernardino Mountains. He and other supporters got the
Rim of the World Highway completed and opened in 1915.

In 1955, Dr. Baylis sold the aging resort and the 160 acres of Pinecrest to the Assemblies of
God Church, who still own and operate it today as a successful conference center where thou-
ousands of young people have enjoyed experiencing the mountains in a Christian environment.

In 1973, most of the old Pinecrest structures were demolished and replaced with modern
buildings except for the pavilion, the dining room and post office which still stand today.

Some of the cabins demolished had been previously used in the cult classic movie “Devil’s
Eight.”

After a very fruitful life Dr. John Baylis passed away in June of 1952 at the age of 87.

**Pinecrest continued from page 2**

**COLLECTIONS**

**Fur and Feathers**

**Migrate to the Museum**

**Sheila Arnett**

Greetings from the Collections Crew at the Mountain Museum! We have some exciting ad-
ditions to our collection since the last Chronicles. The Blue Jay Library has generously donated sev-
eral critters to our taxidermy collections, located back in the “Canoe Room.” These include a Kit
Fox, Snowshoe Rabbit, and Ferret. Thank you, Blue Jay Library!

We are proud of our growing menagerie as it gives our visitors a chance to see the variety of
wildlife that also call our mountain home. Our feathery friends include a Canada Goose, Acorn
Woodpecker, Mallard Duck, Great Horned Owl, Pheasant, Quail, Cooper’s Hawk, Steller’s Jay,
Burrowing Owl, Raven, Bufflehead Duck and more! Our furry creatures include a Red Fox,
Albino Raccoon, Bobcat and Ground Squirrel. Since it’s so tempting to touch these amazing
beasts, we also have animal skins which include a Bear, Skunk, Raccoon, Opossum, Fox, Rabbit,
and Ferret. In our main room directly as you walk in (above the cabinet with Ye Squirrel Inn Exhib-
it), perches our Golden Eagle, Spirit, watching over the museum.

Spirit and the Red Fox were private donations. The Bear Skin was also a private donation from
a lakefront Lake Arrowhead cabin where it had been on display for several decades. Many of the
items are on long-term loan from Rhea Tetley’s private collection as well as several from the coun-
try museum.

So come on in and experience the wildlife of the Mountains even if they are not still “wild.”

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67th Annual Antique Classic Wooden Boat & Woodie Car Show

On Saturday, June 10th, the Rim of the World Historical Society is proud to once again present the Antique Wooden Boat Show and Woodie Car Show in beautiful Lake Arrowhead.

The Up the Hill Woodie Car Club of Southern California is assembling a wonderful collection of vintage wooden boats and Classic Woodie cars to be displayed throughout Lake Arrowhead Village for the enjoyment of locals and visitors alike. There will be many vendors at the event to browse for their unique gifts and crafts. Families will also be able to enjoy the many excellent restaurants the Lake Arrowhead Village has to offer.

The Wooden Boat Show would not be possible without the cooperation of the Arrowhead Lake Association and the Lake Arrowhead Village. There is a $5.00 per person fee for viewing the Classic Boats on the docks.

CURATOR’S CORNER

Cindy Burnett

The History Museum doesn’t officially open until Memorial Day weekend, but visitors to the Museum over President’s Day weekend were given a sneak peek at one of this year’s new exhibits. Yes, it’s Santa’s Village! The initial Santa’s Village display for Presidents Day weekend brought back many memories to those who visited the museum, with photos of Children’s TV personalities who regularly visited Santa’s Village such as Hobo Kelly, Sheriff John and the Popeye Show’s Tom Hatten. The Museum Exhibits Committee plans to add some additional items to the display before summer begins, such as a photo of the Santa’s Village Rose Parade Float which was entered in the Rose Parade the year that Santa’s Village officially opened to the public in 1955. Visitors to the Museum will also be able to view objects and memories from the original Santa’s Village, with all of its colorful remembrances of days gone past. On display will be some of the costumes worn by the staff and curios from the original Santa’s Village Gift Store, along with Santa’s chair and the dress worn by the Lollipop Lady.
Museum visited by LAE 3rd graders

By Rhea- Frances Tetley

Eighty third-grade students, from Kristin Cardram’s, Carl Zaeske’s and Laurie Johnson’s classrooms from Lake Arrowhead Elementary School visited the Museum on Thursday, November 3.

Some special exhibits and activities were prepared for them including grinding acorns by hand on actual metates with manos (hand rocks) as led by retired teacher Vickie Walton. This gave the students the experience the Serrano’s had when living in the Rock Camp meadow. The students have been studying the mountain Serrano lifestyle. In the museum, there is a model of a kiich, that the indigenous people made to live in while in the mountains.

Docent and retired teacher Rhea-Frances Tetley described the various animals and birds of the forest and heard from the students about their own interactions with wildlife on the mountain. The youth got to see how big a bobcat, or raccoon really are, and those that wanted to, touched the furs of a fox, raccoon, opossum, rabbit and skunk and were amazed at the various textures and densities of the animal's furs. They heard about the mountain men, like Jedediah Smith, who traveled through these mountains seeking these kinds of pelts.

Historical Society President Bill Pumford informed the students about the lumbering era and early pioneer history on the mountain in the 1800s, showing them the huge saws used to cut the trees. He explained why oxen yokes had to be made from wood, rather than leather which was used for horses and how the farming and agriculture in the area was often done for the benefit of the work animals.

Mountain News reporter, Ken Brafman, showed the train diorama he created of the engines, dump cars and the cement warehouse used to build the cement-core, compacted-dirt dam that created Lake Arrowhead. They saw the model of the blue concrete outlet tower that sticks up out of Lake Arrowhead, that they know well. That tower is now over 115 years old.

Many other docents showed the children many elements of the museum’s displays. The kids learned about the power of pulleys through a hands-on demonstration. In the general store, retired teacher Sheila Arnett showed, through the Proscope, the magnification of many things including feathers, coins, student’s hair and skin. The children were amazed.

Also, in the general store display are examples of items sold in a store 100 years ago and information about the first post offices in the mountains which established the various mountain communities. Each town has a separate story in the museum, with most personality driven by the pioneer family of each town. The history of the various communities was all around the kids on the walls of the museum, and they asked many questions. Every area of the museum had a docent which encouraged question asking.

In the theater Marilyn Mays showed some early day silent movies. Hundreds of those “two-reelers” were shot in the mountain communities in the early days of movie making because of the variety of seasons and scenery, making it a favorite filming location. Skyland Productions, a major movie studio, owned by cowboy movie star, Leo Maloney was located in Crestline, with a western movie village set built along what is today Lake Drive in Lake Gregory Village during the 1920s.

The tour was declared a success despite the snowstorm the previous evening which kept the kids inside while eating their lunch, instead of in the patio as originally envisioned when scheduled, and cancelled the Rock Camp half of the field trip as originally planned.

1. Bill Pumford showing the students about the logging history of the mountains. (photo by Rhea- Frances Tetley)
2. Ken Brafman with the train exhibit showing the construction of Lake Arrowhead’s dam. (photo by Rhea- Frances Tetley)
3. Vickie Walton demonstrating grinding acorns in metates. (photo by Rhea- Frances Tetley)
Rim of the World Historical Society

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

At our Historical Society Holiday Party Board President Bill Pumford was pleased to announce the Volunteer of the Year Award would be going to not one, but two of the History Museum’s volunteers. Connie Johnson and Paula Anderson were given the Award jointly to acknowledge the months of painstaking work they did on the restoration of the Goodwin’s Bear Mural, which now graces the outside of the History Museum in Lake Arrowhead. Using a variety of small brushes and tools, Connie and Paula were able to remove 20 years of old finish from the wooden mural in preparation for a fresh coat of Marine Varnish, which will hopefully keep the Bears looking good for another 20 years. It was tedious and time consuming work, but the two of them managed to get the job done. In addition to the Goodwin’s Bear Mural, both Connie and Paula have volunteered as Museum docents and have helped with the Museum’s various events. Connie, who is a retired teacher, has been instrumental in developing crafts and activities aimed at the Museum’s younger visitors. As for Paula, with her outgoing and cheerful personality, she spent many a Saturday morning this past summer checking in Tunnel Tour participants and making sure they made it down to the Tunnel. Both Connie and Paula have been valuable assets to the Historical Society and will no doubt continue to bring their own unique talents to the Museum in 2023.

Rim of the World Historical Society

VOLUNTEERS

The Historical Society is always in need of folks interested in volunteering at its Mountain History Museum in Lake Arrowhead. Besides needing docents for the Museum, we have lots of other volunteer opportunities. We need volunteers behind the scenes on Exhibits and in the Collection Room. We always need help for special events such as Smokey Bear’s Birthday Party, Lake Arrowhead Celebrity Cruise, Ice Cream Social, Bunny Business and various tours such as trips to Mozumbur and Rock Camp. We even have a new event in the works called Spooky Halloween Night at the Museum coming up this Fall.

These are some of the volunteer opportunities available, and you don’t need extensive knowledge of our mountain history. Becoming a volunteer is a great way to learn about the history of our beautiful mountains, as well as a chance to make new friends and get involved in the community.

For more information contact Cindy Burnett at 909-273-4291, or email Cindy at cindyburnett123@gmail.com.
2023 SPECIAL EVENTS

MEMBERS ONLY EVENTS

Museum Reception
As the saying goes, “Membership has its privileges”. Belonging to the Rim of the World Historical Society is no exception. Our Membership will be invited to an exclusive Reception at the Museum in Lake Arrowhead. Over refreshments and appetizers, our Members will be able to explore the Museum and view its new Exhibits.

Diane Wilk “Images of America - Lake Arrowhead Architecture”
Diane Wilk, AIA, is a very accomplished and award-winning architect, teacher, writer and speaker. Arcadia Publishing just released on April 2, its newest book in their Images of America series on “Lake Arrowhead Architecture” compiled and written by Wilk. She is a multi-generational property owner in Lake Arrowhead, spending her childhood summers on the lake, and has designed and built homes in the area.

This new book explores the many fascinating Lake Arrowhead architects who have designed homes for the area, and how Lake Arrowhead built its reputation as a first-class place to live and recreate, partially though home design. Her book examines the fascinating variety of styles which have beautified the Lake Arrowhead landscape and created the Lake Arrowhead design style, that were approved by the Arrowhead Lake Association architectural committee. She showcases homes designed by famous architects; Lloyd Wright, Frank Lloyd Wright’s, son, famous black architect Paul Revere Williams, and the first “A” frame by Rudolf Schindler and so many more. The book explores the many vacation retreats built by famous movie stars, celebrities and aviators including Elizabeth Taylor, Charlie Chaplin, Cary Grant, Marilyn Monroe, Liberace and Amelia Earhart.

The preopening members-only event at the museum will be on May 20. During the reception, Wilk will give a short, half-hour Power Point video presentation on her new book on the topic of “What is Lake Arrowhead Architectural Design?” When she did a similar presentation last fall, it was standing room only for the talk. Her new book will be available for purchase and autographing that evening.

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Rim of the World Historical Society
HOLIDAY PARTY

On December 10, we stepped back to the Roaring 20’s at the Resort in Lake Arrowhead. We mixed and mingled in our 20’s finery. A gourmet buffet dinner was served in the elegantly decorated Lakeside Room. As like last year at the Club San Moritz, guests joined Gold Medal winning Ballroom Dancer, Steve Valentine, on the dance floor and danced to the best music of the era!

Next year’s Holiday Party will take place December 9th at the San Moritz Lodge. See you there!

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Officers and Directors of the Rim of the World Historical Society 2023

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 Museum Pre-Opening, Tunnel Tour and Holiday Party.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Rim of the World Historical Society, please visit www.mtnmuseum.org for further information.

President Bill Pumford
Vice-President Marilyn Mays
Treasurer Greg Naylor
Assistant Treasurer John Stephens
Secretary Ken Brafman
Curator Cindy Burnett
Directors Duanne Banner
Terry Ebert
Sandra Koos
Chandra Olivas
Castulo Olivas

Tunnel Tours

Also, our Members will have the opportunity to take the fascinating Lake Arrowhead Tunnel Tour. These fascinating tours, which can include walking in ankle-deep water, as well as having borks and debris to climb will take place July 8th & 22nd - July tickets go on sale June 1st; August 5th & 19th - August tickets go on sale July 1st; September 2nd & 23rd - September tickets go on sale August 1st.

PUBLIC EVENTS

Saturday June 3, 11:00 a.m. - Self-Guided Rock Camp Walking Tour with Ken Brafman. Meet at the Rock Camp Station on Highway 173, no ticket required. Free to all.

June 10, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. - Antique Wooden Boat Show in beautiful Lake Arrowhead, Saturday. In addition to the antique wooden boats, the Up the Hill Woodie Car Club will once again take over the Lake Arrowhead Village with classic woodie cars. $5.00 per person fee for viewing the classic boats up close on the docks. Lake Arrowhead Village, 28200 CA-189, Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352.

Sunday, July 2, Ice Cream Social at the Mountain History Museum, Noon – 3:00 p.m. FREE to all.

July 15 & August 19 - Celebrity Cruise includes a talk conducted by Rim of the World Historical Society Narrators. Champagne Reception dockside before the cruise at 5:15 p.m. Dockside Champagne Reception, 6:00 p.m. Narrated Cruise $3500 per person, must have advanced tickets: https://mtnmuseum.org/product/queen-tour-2023/

Sunday, August 6, Smokey Bear Birthday Party, Mountain History Museum, Noon – 2 p.m. FREE to all.

Sat.-Sun., Oct 21 & 22, Halloween Event FREE to all.

Sun. December 3, Holiday Open House, FREE to all, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.