

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF LAKE ARROWHEAD

By Philip A. Homme, Lake Arrowhead Yacht Club Historian, 2012

Arthur C. Pesterre was Lake Arrowhead Yacht Club's Commodore in 1935.



Arthur C. Pesterre in 1935

Arthur C. Pesterre was the owner of Pesterre's, an English haberdashery which he opened in Beverly Hills in 1925. His clientele included many notable Southern California gentlemen – some of whom had, or were in the process of building, summer homes at Lake Arrowhead. These clients, who were also his friends, extolled the merits of lake life and encouraged Arthur and his wife Louise to join them for summer fun at Lake Arrowhead.

One such client and friend of Arthur's was LAYC Charter Member James Benton Van Nuys. Mr. Van Nuys was a well-known and respected businessman in California. Not only was he the President of the Van Nuys Investment Company, but he was also a rancher, a farmer, a hotel operator, a California real estate developer, and the President of the Arrowhead Lake Company, which owned and developed Lake Arrowhead and Lake Arrowhead Village. The City of Van Nuys is named after his family (the city is located on a small portion of what was formerly the family's expansive Van Nuys Ranch in the San Fernando Valley).

The lure of Lake Arrowhead, endorsed by friends, proved too hard to resist for Pesterre. Arthur and his wife Louise purchased a lake front lot by Lone Pine Island, built a summer home and embraced lake life. When Lake Arrowhead Yacht Club was formed in 1930, Arthur Pesterre was a Charter Member, and served as LAYC's Commodore in 1935. Daughter Joyce Pesterre raced Flatties (#112) for LAYC. When the International Flattie Yacht racing Association issued a Charter to the Lake Arrowhead Flattie Fleet, Joyce was a Charter Member.

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Several other clients/friends of Arthur Pesterre's were Lake Arrowhead residents and LAYC Commodores, including Joseph Horton, Edward Heinemann, William Welsh, A. Morice DeLong, Thomas Hamilton, Victor Montgomery, Albert Irish, Walter Woestman, J.W. Merrick, Barney Coleman, Dana Ketchum, William Fleetwood, and Leo Schrumf.

By 1935, Lake Arrowhead Yacht Club had very busy boating and social calendars. That summer, the Lake Arrowhead Yacht Club hosted several open air dinner and dancing events for its members at the North Shore Tavern, and members Thomas and Ethel Hamilton hosted LAYC's annual barbeque at their boathouse.

At the close of the summer (Labor Day weekend), LAYC members participated in the annual Fleet Review. The weekend events also included a trophy presentation for the participants in the LAYC summer race series. In the foreground of the photo below, Commodore Walter E. Woestman and wife Teddi are seen participating in the 1935 LAYC Fleet Review parade. They are in their Chris-Craft, the "Teddi-Too". The Woestman's (in Teddi-Too) lead the parade of LAYC members in their decorated boats past the launch (pictured just off the bow of Teddi-Too). On board the launch are Commodore Pesterre, the LAYC Flag Officers, and their wives. The excursion boat "Blue Jay" can be seen in the rear of the photo passing the diving board platform (where the ski tow is now located).



I am trying to prepare the old history of Lake Arrowhead and the Lake Arrowhead Yacht Club. If anyone has any old photographs, negatives, slides, films, newspapers, magazines, etc., please contact me.

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