

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF LAKE ARROWHEAD YACHT CLUB

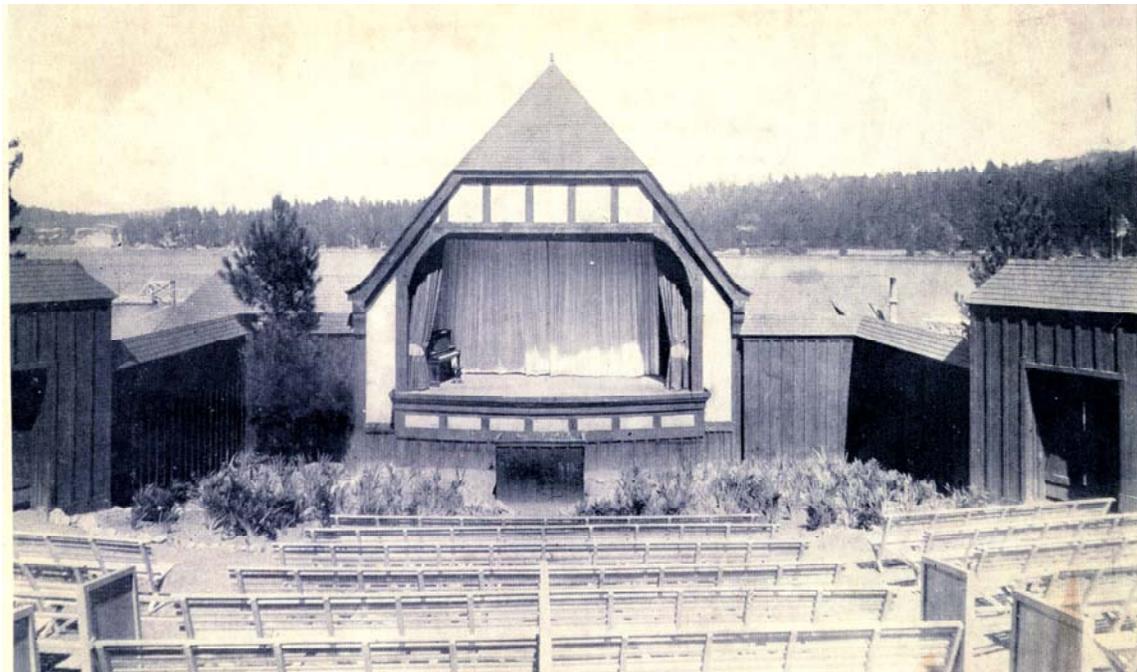
By Philip A. Homme, Club Historian, 2011

Ever wonder why the Lake Arrowhead Yacht Club has a boat parade every Labor Day weekend?

During the Great Depression, the Arrowhead Lake Company continued to market Lake Arrowhead in an effort to sell undeveloped lots. Their marketing efforts included an extensive program of summer and winter sports, entertainment and special events, including golf and tennis tournaments, a water carnival, a winter snow carnival, plays, pageants, and parades. Water sports included swimming events, power boat and sail racing, as well as their continued support of the Lake Arrowhead Yacht Club, which was formed in August 1930.

In 1930, the Arrowhead Lake Company, along with residents, collaborated with writers and actors to perpetuate the "Indian mystique" of Lake Arrowhead by producing a spectacular pageant play. Directed by Russell Stimmel (who at the time was widely known for his outdoor drama productions throughout California), the production recreated an Indian tribe similar to the ones that once roamed what is now Lake Arrowhead and involved a cast of nearly 100 individuals. The pageant was performed on June 14th and 15th, 1930, in the outdoor theater located in Lake Arrowhead Village. The theater's unique natural setting, with trees and the lake in the background, the evocative theme music, and elaborate sets and costumes created a memorable and transporting event.

Below is a photo of the outdoor theater, which was located in Lake Arrowhead Village. The back side of the theater building was the rear of the village's boat house, and the driving platform which use to be located were the McKenzie Water Ski School is now located can be seen the background.



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At the end of the summer of 1931, the Arrowhead Lake Company sponsored a boat carnival that included a parade of boats decorated with an "Indian mystique" theme. Several members of the Lake Arrowhead Yacht Club participated in the parade. Dressed in costumes, participants paraded their decorated boats past judges who viewed the procession from the Blue Jay excursion boat anchored just off shore from the Village boat rental docks. Trophies were awarded to those with the best decorated boats and costumes.

The photo below shows several children of charter members of the Lake Arrowhead Yacht Club, festively dressed in Indian costumes in their decorated outboard boat.



The two judges, employees of the Arrowhead Lake Company, are seen in the photo below, sitting in a fan tail deck chair on the stern of the Blue Jay excursion boat.



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As a result of the success of this event, the early 1930s saw the Lake Arrowhead Yacht Club members establish the tradition of dressing in costumes and parading their decorated boats past judges at the end of each summer. This annual event came to be known as Fleet Review.

The 1937 Lake Arrowhead Yacht Club Fleet Review was an elaborate and fun event.



Can anyone name the former LAYC Commodores in the above 1937 Fleet Review photo taken on the club's dock? Hint: One of the former commodores and his wife are dressed as peasants, their family has a peninsula, and two communities are named after them.

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, articles, etc., I would certainly appreciate the opportunity to borrow them. I would scan them to my computer and return them to you. I am looking to hearing from you to discuss your memorabilia.

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