... a look into the

TAHOE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

New Exhibit for the Baldwin Museum

TAHOE HERITAGE FOUNDATION TO LEAD EFFORT FOR A CHILDREN AND FAMILIES EXHIBIT

The early visitors to the Baldwin, Pope and Heller estates regularly included extended families. Grandparents, parents, children and nannies moved to Tahoe for the summer. How did they spend their time? How did they dress? The Nanny’s cabin and the schoolroom on the Pope Estate give a glimpse into the life of a child there, but it is a peek-through-a-door. The Children’s summer programs give a more in-depth view, but they are limited in number and schedule.

Over the last two years the Baldwin Museum has been reorganized, moving the retail area into a side room and leaving valuable space in the main room for new exhibit material. This last year volunteers noticed that large numbers of visitors were interested in the era and expressed interest in the toys and games of by-gone days. These were mainly visible as reproductions for sale in the shop. There was nothing to explain how they fit into the life of a child during a summer stay at Lake Tahoe. There was nothing to describe a typical day-at-the-Lake. This is an area of interest not only for the many families visiting during the summer, but also for the many grandparents that visit every fall. When Grandma takes home a truck and some old blocks or games to give to her grandchild for the holidays, wouldn’t it be wonderful if she could explain the many ways that these items were used to replicate the work being done by the adults on the estate. A wonderful sign in the Nanny’s cabin explains that the toys of the era were created so that boys and girls could emulate the activities of the grown-ups...dolls and small baby carriages so that the little girls could walk the baby just like the Nanny or Mommy did, blocks and trucks so that the boys could build a wall just like the carpenter did. And then there were the things made from the materials on-site like the Figure Four Trap and the Willow Whistle.

TAHOE HERITAGE FOUNDATION has taken on a project of collecting and preparing exhibit materials for the Baldwin Museum’s main room that will illustrate the life of children and families during their summer visits to Lake Tahoe in the 20s and 30s. There is a plan for a “treasure hunt.” Can you find the toy that was used to pretend that you are building a bridge across the pond? Can you discover what the young boys and girls used to catch fish? Can you tell how many ingredients were used for making country biscuits? Some of these exhibits will be tied to the children’s programs like Boat Buddies and Kitchen Kids, giving visitors an idea about the interesting educational programs that are offered.

In the photograph to the left Max and Morgan Wirth and Charlotte Babbitt, dressed in clothes of the period, enjoy themselves with traditional toys. They had so much fun posing for the picture that they didn’t want to leave. The old truck, blocks and doll really were engaging. If you would like to make a donation in support of the Children and Families Exhibit, please mark the “Children’s Exhibit” box on the donation card. Also if you have toys, games, or clothes from the twenties and thirties, the Tahoe Heritage Foundation would love to consider them for the exhibits, either as a donation or on loan. You can contact the Heritage Foundation office to discuss this at (530) 544-7383.
Notes From Taylor Creek... By M. St. Michel

There was lots of work to do last spring to get the Stream Profile Chamber and Rainbow Trail in shape for the opening on Memorial Day Weekend. As you may know if you were at the Lake in December, we had many days of rain that melted what little snow we had and led to the flooding of many creeks and rivers in the area. Taylor Creek was one of those creeks that flooded, and together with the power being out for about a day at the Stream Profile Chamber we had about six feet of water inside the building. Luckily, when the power came back on, the pumps worked like they were supposed to and pumped out all the water. But the walls, signs, windows, mural and rock work were left with a fine layer of silt that we washed off with the help of one of our fire engines.

This past summer Rangers led a wide variety of activities; some old favorites like the Rainbow Walk, Patio talks, evening programs and creek walks were augmented by some new activities, like storytelling for the younger kids 5-11 years old, a Lake Walk from the Visitor Center along the Lake of the Sky Trail to the Lake and evening openings of the Stream Profile Chamber and Visitor Center from 8-9:30 pm on August 7 to let visitors walk the area in an almost full moon.

There were also several special events in the Lake of the Sky Amphitheater in July and August...a guest astronomer (with several of his telescopes), Mark Twain again sharing his adventures at Lake Tahoe and out west, barwomen PutWinters with her Winged Protectors of the Night program along with her live bats, and photographer and Forest Service employee Tim Rains sharing his favorite photos and tips for photographing the Lake Tahoe Area.

Additionally, Jean Norman was very busy this past winter attending book fairs and reviewing lots of new publications which we re sold this summer through the Tahoe Heritage Foundation at the Taylor Creek Visitors Center. Many new children's books, two new maps, a new natural field guide on Fallen Leaf Lake and many more new titles were very well received. We plan to have even more new publications for next season.

The fall Kokanee Salmon Festival was again a great success. The tee-shirts sold out on the first day, so be sure to come early next year. And now it is time to prepare for the winter, to close down the summer exhibits and take out the snowshoes for Winter Trek adventures. The Visitors Center received A Job Well Done grant from the El Dorado Community Foundation for the Winter Trek program. This grant will be used to purchase additional snowshoes so that the number of 5th graders participating at any one time can be increased from 30 to 40. The program extends from the week after the Martin Luther King holiday through the end of March, and typically exposes about 600 students to the wonders of winter in the Sierra. Let it snow!

New “In Honor of…” Log

Since its founding, Tahoe Heritage Foundation has received donations in memory or in honor of special friends. Until now there has been no way to recognize those honored individuals. This past winter Bill Craven prepared a new log and placed it in with our donor logs. It now has plaques in honor of each of those special friends for whom a donation has been made. In the future you may want to see the name of one of your special friends included here; please consider an in-honor donation. It should be noted that “in memoriums” are not allowed on Forest Service property. For this reason all “in memorium” donations are treated as “in honor of” donations in our recognition area at the Tallac Historic Site.

Those honored to date are: Robert Morris, David Brown, Jerry Daum, Gary Daum, Vincent Johnson, Ruth Barkley, Jean Deansley, Stanley Pomin, William Schatz, Sue Burns, Destra Baldwin McGonagle, B. Thelps, Sandy and Isadene Murray, George McKee and Glenn Allen. As this is a new recognition activity for Tahoe Heritage Foundation, we are concerned that our records may not be accurate. If you have made a donation in honor of someone and that name is not on this list, please let us know.
Changes at the Tallac Historic Site... by Barbara Craven

Baldwin Courtyard Project

In Early October, with the help of volunteers and a generous donation, the unsightly dirt part of the Baldwin Court Yard was laid in slate. The stone work was done by Ted Wendell and some of the materials were donated by Tahoe Sand and Gravel. This improvement created a pleasing area for the visitors to sit, stroll and just enjoy the historic building surrounding the Courtyard. Thanks to all.

Garden Restoration at the Pope and Baldwin Estates

Thanks to the Grape and Garden Club and the South Lake Tahoe Garden Club for the care of the Baldwin garden. Their work this year was mainly maintenance. They received many compliments from tourists and locals who have watched their project. After receiving a very generous donation from Anita Gibson in honor of her mother, the RV gardeners and a few locals worked on the restoration of the remaining area. It was rototilled, the bushes and trees were trimmed and some planting was done. More will be done next year. The Pope Estate had trees trimmed to let in more light and to restore it to the airiness it originally had. This was made possible by a donation from Luana Hammet. Card Minard and Judy Shilling, who are RV Garden Volunteers, worked hours to replant and tidy the Pope gardens. The Probists, also RV Volunteer, built new fencing around the water fall in the same motif as the gazebo...no more posts and ropes. Thanks to all.

General Progress at the Estates Summer 2006

While we often report on the big projects, we thought that you might enjoy a summary of the accomplishments during just one summer. Our volunteers are always busy making the site better for our visitors. New flooring and new drapes were installed in the Pope living room, made possible by a donation from Mrs. Dillingham. The wall cloth was finished in Mr. Pope's office and new furnishings were installed...all donated by Adolphus and Emily Andrews. Another section of the Baldwin roof was replaced by the Nevada Air National Guard. The “In Honor of Log” was installed, the donor logs were oiled, and all of the plaques were brought up to date. Many of the records of donated items were checked and transferred from cards into the computer. An “as-built” was compiled for the water system, sprinklers, valves, tanks and drains. All of the valves were located and labeled. All equipment such as chainsaws, rototillers, lawn mowers were serviced and put in working order...much of which had not functioned properly for years. The shop was organized and all tools were labeled. Several Pope out-buildings were shingled and painted. And, as is done every year in the spring, the buildings were unshuttered, cleaned and exhibits set up, and in the fall, exhibits were packed away for the winter and the buildings were re-shuttered. It is amazing how much work is done every year to preserve and protect our wonderful flagship area. More than 12,650 volunteer hours were spent on projects at the Tallac Historic Site during 2006.
Another summer season is behind us, and the Forest Service Staff, RV Volunteers, and Volunteers of the Tahoe Heritage Foundation are please to report a very successful summer season with another popular Gatsby Festival and many happy visitors.

The Foundation worked over the past year on administering the California Tahoe Conservancy Grant for the Fredericks Cabin project and coordinated with the Tahoe-Baikal Institute and the involved consultants on the site improvement plans. As is always the case in Tahoe, the process has turned out to be a bit more involved than anticipated, but we are confident that the result will be well worth waiting for. The planning is expected to conclude next season, with the adoption of a conceptual plan, which will then proceed into the design phase and will allow ultimate construction of the project. We are gratified that the Tahoe-Baikal Institute and Staff are very excited about the improvements they expect for their programs, as well as the potential off-season use by others under the USFS permit. The Tahoe Heritage Foundation has hired consultant Deb Vreeland to serve as our Project Manager for this effort.

Speaking of the USFS, we have been pleased to get to know and work with the new USFS Forest Supervisor, Terry Maceron. She is proving to be a very competent and active supervisor, and is very involved with the TRPA Pathway 2007 process, which is important to Lake Tahoe and all of us. We look forward to establishing a good relationship with the new Forest Service Supervisor, and obtaining her input and suggestions as well as her assistance in fulfilling our mission.

I want to extend the Foundation's great appreciation to Director Gen Goldberg who recently resigned from the Board after many years of dedicated service and hard work at the site. Gen was responsible for much of the success of the retail fundraising operation conducted by the Foundation at the Tallac Site. Gen now finds the need to spend more time with her family, and we thank her and wish her well.

I would also like to welcome back Joyce Harris as our Office Administrator. Joyce had previously worked with the Foundation and “retired” when we moved in the direction of an Executive Director. With the new activists on the Board of Directors, we find that we can avoid the financial investment in an Executive Director, and instead spend our resources on important projects. We are pleased that Joyce is available to help us again in keeping the office running.

In addition to continuing to focus on the existing and ongoing projects, the Board intends to take a special look at the long-range plan, and hopes to identify special projects that it would like to tackle in the future. The Board welcomes any suggestions from all sources and from anyone who shares the Foundation's vision and mission.

Thank you again for your continuing support of the Foundation. If you have any questions or any suggestions, please let me know.

President

Look for us on our web site: www.tahoeheritage.org which will be updated early next year.

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