



## **California State Parks**

### **Sierra District**

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Free Living History Celebration on July 31 at Tahoe's Ehrman Mansion at Sugar Pine Point**

Sugar Pine Point, Lake Tahoe –

Pine Lodge, the Ehrman family mansion at Sugar Pine Point State Park, will host Living History Day – a celebration of lakeshore life in the 1930s – on Saturday, July 31, 2010, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All events at the celebration are free and the public is invited to enjoy the 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary festivities.

Outdoor activities abound on Living History Day at the California State Park. Bring the family and spend the entire day outdoors. Splash on the sun block, pack your bathing suit, towel, beach toys, and wear your hat. You will want to spend the entire day in the park. Sugar Pine Point has spectacular lake access which can be enjoyed from private coves, sandy beaches, the dock, or shady lawns. Remember to bring some walking shoes, too, so you can enjoy the guided hike along the Washoe Path of the Water Babies or find the former site of the “highest lighthouse in the world” as you identify flora and fauna in the Ed Z’Berg Nature Preserve. If the physical activities are exhausting, take a break and lounge on the lawn while listening to the blue grass melodies of The Wranglers and meet band member Warren Hellman, descendant of the family that built the mansion.

Enjoy the gracious lifestyle that Florence and Sydney Ehrman shared with family and guests at their summer retreat on the west shore of Lake Tahoe. Walk through the open house at the mansion and observe the vignettes being enacted in the many rooms of the mansion. Talk to the 1930s guests as they stroll through grounds, and chat with the Artists in Residence: Andy Skaff, Bill Clausen, and Cathy McClelland, as they paint

on the grounds. If you like, visit with some of the family descendants. Frances Dinkelspiel will be happy to share anecdotes about her great grandfather with you in her historical talk. She knows the real story behind this family of immigrants who started Farmers and Merchants Bank and built a financial empire with Wells Fargo Bank. Signed copies of her book, *Towers of Gold: Isaias Hellman and the Creation of California*, are available.

The Ehrmans were a wealthy San Francisco family who summered at the lake for 45 years. Pine Lodge was built by Florence Ehrman's financier father, Isaias W. Hellman, in 1903, and for 45 years the Ehrmans opened the mansion to family members and friends for lavish summer stays. The 2,000 acres and two miles of lakefront beach were closed to the public until Esther Lazard, Florence's daughter, sold the property to the state of California in 1965.

The Sierra State Parks Foundation has arranged a variety of educational exhibits. Vintage cars form the Concours de Elegance. Classic wooden and aluminum boats are on display at the mansion's two boathouses with docent and video presentations. Historical talks will be presented throughout the park. This may be your only opportunity to hear the history of Tahoe from Washoe elders and learn a little of the Indian language.

Children will receive a free passport to the 1930s that provides access to games popular in the 1930s such as croquet, badminton, bowling, pick up sticks and jacks. Children will make old-fashioned arts and crafts such as paintings of the lodge and an acorn souvenir. Children can also pose in 1930s knickers and vests or play fashionable dress-up as they pose for photographs. Parents, remember to bring your cameras. We'll provide the clean-up for the children who compete in the watermelon seed spitting contest.

Young and old will want to tour General Phipps' Cabin, the home of the frontiersman who came to Tahoe in 1860 to homestead 160 acres that eventually became part of Sugar Pine Point State Park. The cabin Phipps built in 1872 is still standing, and Living History Day is the only day of the year when visitors may enter. Phipps' pioneer friends will share stories as they work with their tools and load their black-powder rifles.

Pack your own picnic or buy hot dogs, sandwiches, ice cream bars and drinks on site. All the activities are free. Park visitors only need to pay the \$8 parking fee to enjoy the most memorable outdoor, family fun day in Tahoe.

Further information and a full schedule of events may be obtained by telephoning Ranger Heidi Doyle at the California State Parks Sierra District office at (530) 525-9528, visiting the website <http://www.laketahoelivinghistory.com>.

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