

Epilogue

Frederick Hastings Rindge and May K. Rindge are gone but the essence of what they had is still here. You feel it in the sand on an early morning walk along a deserted beach ... or on a canyon horseback ride on a day that starts misty and suddenly breaks apart revealing lavender and chartreuse hillsides. Often the feeling returns when the Coast Highway quiets down and a bright magenta sun sinks slowly into a sequined sea.

The Rindge "castle" on Laudamus Hill was destroyed by a brush fire in 1970. The Malibu Potteries building burned in 1931 and was never rebuilt. The site later became the home for several years of the Malibu Yacht Club where modern catamarans and outriggers beach launched to sea as the tomols did in the days of the Chumash.

The Rindge's dam silted over and their railroad, having served its purpose, was abandoned. The corrugated iron shed, which once was the engine house for the railroad, was partitioned and remodeled many times for several stores and businesses. In 1984, it too was razed to become a modern office building site.

Soon all that remained of Malibu's poignant history was Rhoda Rindge Adamson's home on Vaquero Hill. The property was acquired by the California Department of Parks and Recreation in 1968. Then the house, too, was slated to be demolished to provide a parking lot for Surfriders Beach.

In an almost *deja vu* enactment, the Malibu Historical Society, through judge John J. Merrick and Ronald L. Rindge, with the tenacity reminiscent of May K. Rindge and Rhoda Rindge Adamson, fought for 14 years against the destruction of the last vestiges of a proud past. Through the sustained efforts of that society the property was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The house, with its 13 isolated acres and irreplaceable extravagance of tile, was spared to become the Malibu Lagoon Museum.

In January 1981 the Malibu Lagoon State Beach Interpretive Association (Malibu Lagoon Museum) was formed with Frederick C. May as founding president. Today volunteer members administer this museum out of love for the Malibu-its people past and present-who have contributed to make this place "near the ocean, under the lee of the mountains, with a trout brook, wild trees, a lake, good soil, and excellent climate" such a unique community.

It is said that you cannot love your land until you know its history. In presenting this saga the Museum hopes that you, too, will come to a truer appreciation of the legendary and very special place called Malibu.

This book was made possible by many members of the Malibu Lagoon Museum who contributed their time and effort. Luanne Pfeifer was editor. The chapters were compiled as follows: The Chumash by judge John J. Merrick, The Chain of Title by Thomas Doyle, The Rindge and

Adamson Families by Juanita Ringer, The Rindge Railroad by Luanne Pfeifer, The Coast Highway by Juanita Ringer, Malibu Potteries by Charlotte Laubach and Toni Doyle, The Malibu Movie Colony by Frederick May, The Surfriders by Thomas Doyle, and Epilogue by the editor.

Appreciation is extended to the members of the Rindge-Adamson families, especially Ronald Rindge and Sylvia Rindge Adamson Neville for their kind cooperation.

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