



# The Saddlebag

Volume 30 #2

February 2008

The Kern River Valley Historical Society

**FEBRUARY MEETING.....7 PM Tuesday February 26<sup>th</sup>**, Veterans Hall, Lake Isabella.

Program Coordinator Vicki Middleworth

Another stellar evening is planned as we have as our guest speaker **Bruce Hafenfeld** President of the California Cattlemen's Association. Bruce owns and operates a family ranch headquartered in Weldon, Calif. There he raises commercial cows, calves and stockers on both private and federal grazing allotment on the Sequoia National Forest land. On his ranch, Bruce has enhanced habitat for a number of wildlife species and entered into perpetual conservation easements to ensure the property in Kern River Valley is always maintained as a working ranch. He has served as a board member of the South Fork School for the last 13 years and is deeply involved in 4 H activities. With a background as vast as his we can expect a varied program on ranching, and what it is like to be in the business of cattle raising in times like ours. Mark your calendar for *February 26<sup>th</sup>*.

\*\*\*\*\*

**FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP..California Living Museum (CALM) on February 19<sup>th</sup>**.

Field Trips

Coordinator Liz Bardos

California's premier native zoo and garden. During our visit we will get a close look at many unreleasable, native California animals. We will be touring the gardens planted to represent the natural life zones of California. As part of the tour we will also visit the DiGiorgio Education Center which houses various exhibits representing this area from 20 million years ago to the present. Even if you have been here before you will find new and interesting exhibits making this tour memorable and worthwhile. The cost is 4 dollars and the tour will be docent led. We will **meet at the Senior Center at 9am and leave at 9:15**. Bring your lunch and chairs. If the weather is cold we will eat inside the facility. **If you are going please RSVP Linda Diaz by February 15<sup>th</sup>**. This is always a great trip and one you shouldn't miss.

## Calendar of Events

*February 15<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup>..Whiskey Flat Days* in Kernville

*February 19<sup>th</sup>, 9am ...Tour to Calm* the California Living Museum

*February 26<sup>th</sup>, 9am... Board Meeting*, Episcopal Church Parish Hall, Kernville

*February 26<sup>th</sup>, 7pm...General Meeting* at Senior Center, Lake Isabella

---

**An Interesting note** from information gathered by Virginia Snyder..For the year 2007 we had 11,858 visitors to our museum from across the United States and from many foreign lands. Comments in our guest book rate our museum as one of the better museums visited. Says Virginia: "It is also a tribute to the docents who welcome and guide our visitors. "

THIS AND THAT.....

**Report on the January 22nd Field Trip to Havilah** by Charles Topping...Driving through Havilah, I've always asked myself, "How could this place have been the County Seat?" After visiting the Havilah museum, the answer gets clearer: It was a thriving place during the 1860's with gold as the main attraction. When you look at the model of the old town in the museum and then walk along the main road you can get a sense of what used to be 150 years ago. The weather for our tour day was beautiful and lunch at the Bald Eagle Ranch was perfect. Wes and Janet Kutzner opened the doors to their new home and welcomed 46 Society members with history stories and lunch. We sat and talked and looked around and hiked until the sun went behind the mountains. A wonderful, simple enjoyable day. With the Powers books, Chuck Barbees' movie and our museums as a guide, the Western heritage all around makes us realize that the Kern River Valley is a unique place to be living!!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Casey Christie** our program on January 22<sup>nd</sup> was outstanding. If you weren't there you missed a beaut. It was apparent how well known Casey was to his audience. Living here for over 20 years Casey is considered the premier outdoor photographic journalist in the County. He displayed many of his photos and told us what he went through to get those exact shots. One of his secrets was that for every picture he printed, he took and deleted dozens more. It was an evening of fine entertainment and a chance to see what a major photographer does for excellence.

\*\*\*\*\*

**BRICKS FOR SALE!!!** We have just sent in an order for 8 more bricks. The latest two from the Exchange Club and Joan Grant Stair. For those of you who have put off ordering your brick this is the time to do it. The price of bricks is going up on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Small bricks will rise from **\$50.00 to \$75.00**. And the large brick will go from **\$75.00 to \$100.00**. So get your order in now. Also by ordering now you can be assured that your brick will be in the museum front yard. If you want help with the wording, call chairman Vicki Middleworth. You can pick up an order form at the museum or call Vicki and she will send one to you. Don't procrastinate!!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Our New Sunshine Chairman is Juanita Kitchell.** Taking the reins from *PJ Sherlock* who has been doing a great job, but is ready for a respite, Juanita will be the one to call regarding members who are ill, or have passed away. Calls from the membership are the best way to let her know of member problems. Thanks Juanita for taking on this important job.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Artist Display** for February is from Gordon Delano. Retired and living in Wofford Hts Gordon works with wood in depicting wild life, western life, Indians, and people in general. Rustic and inspired by the beauty of the Kern River Valley, Gordon finds endless subject matter for his work

\*\*\*\*\*

**History Days are coming soon.** So mark your calendar for May 16<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be busy folks. And we will need many of you to help. Our visitorship more than doubles during these important days. We will be needing the efforts of the cookie bakers, who have always come through with goodies galore. And for those of us who will be docenting on these dates it will be great to see all of us in Western garb. Help set the scene buckaroos!! It'll be fun, I promise!!

**Some words about an upcoming raffle....**The museum has taken as one of its 2 major fund raising projects, the raffling of a print of only 5 known pictures ever taken of *Doc Holliday* noted gunman of the old west. *And* the only one which depicts him in action as the dentist that he was. . This numbered print valued at over \$3000.00 could be yours in this once in a lifetime offering. Our print is number 830 out of 900 with no more to be offered.. If you wish, come into the museum and see the picture. It's on the wall behind the display counter. Talk about the touch of the old west. This picture is it!! The tickets and more information will be coming next month

\*\*\*\*\*

**Membership, Renewals, and Donations...** As of this edition we have 475 memberships (if you used the old count method it would equate out to over 950 members). Along with membership renewals we received an additional \$337.00 in donations and remembrances. But first a word from *Shirley Fisher... Membership Chairman....*"A big thank you to the large number of members who have already renewed their memberships for 2008. You might be interested to know that membership dues are for the calendar year regardless of which month payment is made. Reminder notices will be in the Saddlebag through March, followed by a personal reminder letter to those who have not renewed.. Non-renewals will be reluctantly dropped in April. *We need you* as members, because your dues are what keeps our museum doors open. If you have questions, suggestions or address changes call me. Thanks and keep the renewals coming.!!!". Donations sent with renewals came from: **Bob and Marcie Robbins, Don Morrison and Jacqueline Morgan, Richard and Barbara Marine, Tim White of Tim's Auto Glass, and Jim and Darlene Young of Valley Excavating.** We also received a donation in memory of **Ruby Jenkins** from **Frank and Barbara Hancock.** And now for a special hello to our newest members *Denny and Mindy DeVault of Onyx, Joan Montano Grant of Bodfish, Keith and Jaci McConnell of Wofford Hts., and Gary and Velma Wulstein of Kernville.* Welcome to our Historical Society. You are especially invited to come to our general meetings and get acquainted with your new family. You are important to us and we all want to meet you. Our next General meeting is at 7pm on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Come for the program and stay for a visit.

\*\*\*\*\*

**A message from Eleanor Campbell.**"Many, many thanks to the Historical Society and the people directly involved in the special award and recognition I received at the annual dinner. A special thanks, too, to Charles Topping for the skill and imagination he used in creating my saddlebag pendant. I will wear it proudly and treasure the memories it will keep fresh in my mind. Being involved in the writing and production of *The Saddlebag* for 29 years was an enjoyable challenge each month and really was its own reward. My best wishes and thanks to Rod Middleworth as new editor of the Saddlebag."

\*\*\*\*\*

**Survivor Workshop.** Bill Jenkins has once again offered to present this class on what to do in case one of a married couple passes away. It gives the whys, and wherefores of what to do in this time of grief and decision. When the class completes you will have a notebook that covers all the things you will need to know and do, if, as Bill says, one of you falls off the perch The class will be held on 2 evenings and Bill says "If you are interested call me and when we have enough participants we will set a date". Several who have taken the class and sadly have used the Survivor book, claim it was invaluable. If you're interested call Bill. Cost is \$4.00

**She Did It!!** What you say, did she do and who is she? The she is **Linda Diaz** and the what she did, was to apply for and receive for the Historical Society a grant of **\$15,000** from the Board of Trade. The amount of time, the gathering of information, the effort of doing what was needed in an exact fashion all went in to applying and receiving this grant. Linda is to be congratulated for her herculean efforts. The check and guidelines for the grant is in the mail' Way to go Linda!!

\*\*\*\*\*

**And while we're at it..**Lets lend a tip of our hat or a wave of our hand to 2 important chairmen of 2 major committees. **Liz Bardos** Chairman for 12 months of Field Trips and **Vicki Middleworth** as General Meeting Chairman for the years programs. Both have held meetings, filled the dates and have done all the homework needed to ensure that this year will be exciting, informative and an outstanding reason to belong to our Historical Society.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Walker House** has been seeing more use lately and an interesting meeting will be taking place there on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>. It is the Zwinger Writing Weekend Workshop for new and experienced writers. For more information call Linda Adams at.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Some Final Words** about the Installation Dinner. Cindy Ott. Chairman of the dinner wanted to thank those who helped make the dinner the success that it was. The pre dinner musicians, Bill Whities and Susan Fisher, the mid evening entertainers, Larry Holochwost and Rich Zimmerman. Vicki Middleworth and Sally Partin for helping with the centerpieces and greeting at the door and Rod Middleworth for his MC duties. Great effort and a great night . Thanks!!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Some Special Words** to Chuck Barbee. After 4 nights of exhibiting to capacity crowds at the Wofford Hts 'Reel Cinema' it is apparent that his showing of '*Wild West Country*' was a rousing success. Cast members, families, Society Board Members, and of course *Marge Powers* were there. Accurately depicting stories from Bob Powers book '*Wild West Country*, the audience was entertained for 80 riveting minutes. Standing ovations from each of the 4 nights crowd was proof enough that Chuck had attained his goal of accuracy and entertainment. Although this showing was considered a rough cut by Chuck, we as an audience saw it as a beautifully finished. historic labor of love for our valley. Thanks Chuck for adhering so close to the work of Bob Powers.!!

\*\*\*\*\*