



The Saddlebag

Volume 30 #1 January 2008
The Kern River Valley Historical Society

JANUARY MEETING.....*7PM Tuesday January 22nd*, Veterans Hall, Lake Isabella
Program Coordinator Vicki Middleworth

Be prepared for an interesting and compelling evening with *Casey Christie*, premier photographer for the Bakersfield Californian. He will be telling us what it is like to move about Kern County taking pictures that illustrate the beauty and drama of our area. In particular many of you will note that many of his pictures are those of the Kern River Valley. And why not, he lives here! He has been a resident of the valley since 1979. Hailing from Sacramento he is married, has 4 children and has been a Sunday School teacher at The First Baptist Church for many years. He was a photo journalist at the Kern Valley Sun from 1979 to 1983 and is currently working at the Bakersfield Californian where he has been since 1983. So mark your calendar and be sure to be at the January 22nd meeting, you'll be glad you did..

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 15th, 9:30am.....*Tour to the Havilah Gold Country*. Meet at Tank Park at 9:30 and Caravan from there to the Havilah Museum and then on to the Bald Eagle Ranch. The tour will be led by Charles Topping and we will be hosted by Havilah resident Wes Kutzner.

January 22nd, 9:00am.....*Board Meeting*, Episcopal Church Parish Hall, Kernville

January 22nd, 7:00pm.....*General Meeting at Senior Center, Lake Isabella*. Program will be *Casey Christie* renowned Photo Journalist for the Bakersfield Californian.

January 23rd, 9:00am.....*First meeting of History Days Committee* Meeting at the Museum

We bid welcome to the newly elected and reaffirmed members of our Board. If you will note on our back page there is a listing of all the officers and board members of the Kern River Valley Historical Society for 2008. A look at the names should assure all of the membership, that we have a slate of hardworking folks whose interest lay in building and maintaining a Historical Society that we can all be proud of. These are the people who will be calling on you to help them make this a banner year. When they call, say **'YES'** and share the load....

Lots of This and That... ..

Report of December Field Trip by Linda Diaz. Fly fishing in the Kern River was the theme of our December field trip. In spite of the weather there were 12 members in attendance. We were richly rewarded for braving the cold and rain. Guy Jeans led us on a very exciting and informative journey to nearby places where you can find 3 of the 10 native trout species found in California. We viewed some of his video and slide collection as he shared his love for the Kern River and the sport of fly fishing. He demonstrated the basic cast needed to get out to where the fish live and let us try casting ourselves. We also learned about what local trout eat and what man-made files to use if we want to catch trout. We particularly enjoyed our stop at his shop where we learned what’s needed to get out on the river and get fishing. Our last stop was the perfect end to our tour, we had a fantastic lunch at El Jacalito Mexican Grill

January Field Trip set up by Charles Topping for January 15th. A trip to Havilah Gold country has been arranged for this Tuesday in January. The gold discovered in the Havilah district during the 1850's brought a rush of people looking for the next big strike. A stage coach line was established and the new town was almost designated as the county seat of Kern County. In our era, it is hard to recognize this area for what it once was and the excitement that the lure of gold caused. Our visit to the Havilah Courthouse and Library will give us a glimpse of the old days. Our host, Wes Kutzner, will open the Museum at 10am and has invited us to come to bald Eagle Ranch afterwards for lunch. He and his wife, Janet, have just moved into their new home on the 250 acre ranch that has been in the family since the 1860's. We will meet at Tank Park on Isabella Blvd. at 9:30am and then drive the 12 miles to Havilah. Bring \$5.00 per person for lunch. Please call Charles by January 11th if you plan to go, so he can let Janet know how many to prepare for.

History Days will soon be here!!Peg Greenberg is the coordinator and she says: “Happy New Year everyone!! It’s time to start thinking about our annual History Day’s celebration! Come on and join the committee and help us make this year the best History Day’s ever! We are ready to gather eager and reliable folks, so if you’re interested in being a part of the planning and wish to join in on the excitement, please give me a call on or before January 15th. The first meeting of the History Days’ Planning Committee will be on **Wednesday, January 23rd at 9:am at the Museum.**”..... (Don’t be surprised if you get a call for help from Peg!!)

Something Good is Happening!!.. Membership dues have been coming in at a good pace, but this year we are finding that many of our members have included an additional donation to the Historical Society along with their dues. To date we would like to thank the following for this extra help...*John and Dorleen Etcheverry, Glenn Middleworth, Pauline Braswell, Donald and Lois Chapman, Jim and Kathe Malouf, Ann and Detlev Lange of the Kern Valley Veterinary Clinic, Ron Bolyard, Ruth Valdez, Ben and Patricia Salvaty, James and Maria Hunt, Leah Fanning, Fred and Charlene Langer, Jolene Lema, George and Darlene Randall, Jerry and Caryl Kay, Jane VcClenahan, and Norman Wolff , Mr and Mrs Dick Brown, Mr and Mrs Neil Higgins, Victoria Peasley and Arthur Peck, Law Office of Sheri Connelly Vining, and Alta One Federal Credit Union.* If we missed you, let us know!! Our historic hats are off to all of you!!***

Art Gallery.....Dan Mancini, Coordinator
Artist of the month will be *Gene Verbeet* of 'Curmudgeon Studios'. Known to most of us as the colorful, in costume character, who was the living embodiment of many different historic men, he is showing another side of his wide variety of talent. Gene began his career as a teacher and in later years he retired and presented living history glimpses of our nations historic men to over 70,000 California students. This month in our Artists Room, will be many of Gene's color images of the natural world. With his camera while roaming the inspiring locations of the Kern River Valley he has captured much of the beauty that is found there. Come into our Museum and view these beautiful presentations, you'll enjoy every minute of your visit!

We're part of the Cyber Age!! Many of you might know that we now have our own website, which has news and activities of our Historical Society. For those of you who haven't visited the site or have yet to get the address on your list of favorites here it is

www.krvhistoricalsociety.org

If you have a computer and access to the web, give it a try. We have a webmaster, Ron Montague, who reported that we had 4218 visitors to the website in October. More information is going up on site all the time. Our museum has a new computer and also has access to the world wide web. Indeed we are becoming part of the the cyber world. So jump in and join us.

Just a word about November and December. Because there was no saddlebag in December, some activity reports got left behind. So here is a shortened version of some of the happenings' from November. *For the November Tour*, Ron Bolyard gave us an excellent show and told us about the Oregon Trail. Given at the St Peters Episcopal Church, this was considered part 1 of a 2 part series. Maps, stories and personal experiences were given as an adjunct to the tale of people and hardships along that arduous trek across the United states.. Because of the Holidays and our Banquet there was no board meeting for December. But of course there was one for *November* and here are some highlights from that meeting. Chuck Barbee gave us a brief preview of his upcoming documentary film from the Bob Powers book, '*Wild West Country*'. There is a plan to show the film on its completion at the Reel Cinema Theater in the near future. Quilt tickets brought in \$2,912 which was more than last year. In October we had 730 members visit the Museum from 19 states and 5 countries. The Saddlebag editorship changed hands as Eleanor Campbell handed the reins over to Rod Middleworth. More about that next month. \$1500.00 was given to the museum from the Country Store for its contribution from the 3rd quarter. The Walker House and responsibilities for its upkeep were discussed. Bids for re roofing it have been requested. Liz Bardos reported that the tour schedule will soon be complete and set for the new year. Scholarship funding was discussed with more to come on that in the next quarter. A grant is being applied for by Linda Diaz, who has been doing all the paperwork it entails. \$21,000 is there to be awarded. More on that in January. Eleanor Campbell was approved as Director to fill a vacancy (So she will still be around to make sure Rod doesn't go off the deep end while editing the Saddlebag) A letter regarding the naming of Powers Peak was read and discussed. Marge will check with Larry Holochwost regarding where we stand on paperwork and meetings. If you are interested in our board meetings, you are welcome to attend. Or you can read the minutes of the meetings which are kept on file at the museum. ****

The November Program was brought to us by Alison Sheehey, Outreach Coordinator for Audubon's Kern River Preserve. Her presentation of beautiful slides was accompanied by music which was tailored to each picture. She was a volunteer for the Audubon Society since 1986 and was finally hired as the Kern River Preserve's Outreach Coordinator last year. She is a naturalist with a degree in Anthropology and is working toward a degree in Biology. She has studied the natural history of the Kern River Valley for over 20 years and was the photographer for most of the magnificent birds shown on our screen. A great program and a great way to end the 2007 slate of programs. If you are interested Alison is the webmaster for the Kern River Preserve and her website is: www.natureali.org

Sympathy Cards were sent to: Joan Amos (Father), Jack White (Wife), Marge Powers (Sister), Ron Bach (Father), Tom Moore (Niece) and Don Tallman (Wife). Don and his wife Mae printed the Saddlebag in the early years along with a host of other Society duties..

A Special thanks should be extended to Charles Topping for the exquisite work done in fashioning the special necklace given Eleanor Campbell for her years of service as board member and Saddlebag Editor. Ask Eleanor to show it to you sometime, it is truly a work of art...

Some last words. Our last function of 2007 was our banquet. What an excellent way to finish out the year. We had a capacity crowd and a dinner that was outstanding. Music before dinner starring our own Bill Whities and joined by Jim Steele and Susan Fisher was superb. The entertainment music starring our own Larry Holochquist and his sidekick, Rich Zimmerman was the perfect interlude between eating and awards. Installation of officers was done well by past prez. Charles Topping. Special thanks should go to Social Chairperson Cindy Ott, and her fine cast of helpers. And of course Santa came by and passed out candy canes to all. A fine evening!!

Fine Tuning from your new Editor You are going to miss Eleanor, who had this Saddlebag job down pat. She was at this job for almost 30 years. This is my first issue. So I hope that, for a few more issues, I'm allowed to make big mistakes, miss deadlines, forget names, misspell words and in general mess up. Because of the holidays and me, this issue is a tad late, but now that I've got a handle on it, at least it will be on time, henceforth. If my english is incorrect, I would appreciate if all you retired teachers will give me a break for a few issues and not call me. If I fail to give you credit for something, give me a gentle call and I will rectify it. Above all, I do not like to call folks on the phone. (I worked for the phone company for 30 years and that was enough phone for me). So if you are a chairperson and you want or need to have something in the Saddlebag, you will have to call or E mail me, or it might not get in. Deadline for submissions will be the day of the board meeting. I will be putting the newsletter together the next day. This is an exciting time for me, and I hope with your help, to do a good job for all our membership!!

DON'T FORGET, MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE HAVILAH TOUR ON JANUARY 15THAND THE GENERAL MEETING WITH CASEY CHRISTIE AS OUR GUEST SPEAKER ON JANUARY 22ND !!