



# The Saddlebag

Volume 30 #7 July 2008  
The Kern River Valley Historical Society

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## Calendar of Events

- July 10<sup>th</sup> 8pm (Thurs).....*Movies Under The Starz in Museum Backyard*
- July 15<sup>th</sup> 1pm (Tues).....*Ice Cream Social.. Greenhorn Summit*
- July 22<sup>nd</sup> 9am (Tues).....*Board Meeting at St Peters Church in Kernville*
- July 22<sup>nd</sup> 7pm (Tues).....*General Meeting.. Guest Speaker Tom Anderson*
- July 24<sup>th</sup> 8pm (Thurs).....*Movies Under the Starz in Museum Backyard*

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*Movies Under The Starz are scheduled for July 10<sup>th</sup> and July 24<sup>th</sup>.* The picture on the 10<sup>th</sup> will be special and one you will not want to miss. In fact as you watch you will hardly believe your eyes..The picture on the 24<sup>th</sup> will be a western, complete with good guys and white hats and bad guys with black hats and evil faces. You will be able to cheer and boo, while eating 5 cent popcorn with your free admission. Mark your calendar for both of these dates. Entrance for the movie is through the gate in the Alley behind the museum. Bring a soft cushion for your tush...

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### *July 15<sup>th</sup> 1 pm at the Greenhorn Summit Ice Cream Ice Cream Ice Cream*

Once a year we gather at the Greenhorn Summit for our annual Ice Cream Feast. The time has again arrived!! Follow 155 to the summit, turn left and we will be about 220 yards up the Shirley Meadows road. Bring your chairs, a small TV tray, (if you wish), a big dish, spoons, and your appetite. Make your own or buy a carton of Ice Cream, some toppings maybe even a cookie or two and share them. Don't worry if there is too much..Blow your diet, who cares? We'll be there before noon, if you want, come earlier and have a sack lunch with us.

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*Our General Meeting this month will feature Tom Anderson President of the Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation,* who will speak to us about the history of the Heritage Foundation. He will also run through the history, highlights and plans for the Bob Powers Gateway Preserve. The Preserve consists of 18 acres of wetlands and is located at the intersection of Highway 155 and Freeway 178. Tom has had involvement in the valley for over a half century and is one of the founding directors of the Heritage Foundation. This visit by Tom is a great opportunity for the membership to find out first hand information on the Foundation, its function and future. Mark your calendar for **Tuesday evening July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm...** We'll leave the light on for you!!

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*The Art Gallery..*Featured for the month in our Gallery Room for July will be Cathy Miller. She specializes in landscape oil paintings of the Kern Valley. Cathy exhibits at art shows in Circle Park on Memorial and Labor Day weekends and at the Fair in Ridgecrest where she has won many awards for her beautiful work. Drop by after the 1<sup>st</sup> of July and see her talent on display.. The museum is open Thursday through Sunday from 10 until 4...See You??

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**Report on the June Field Trip to Lone Pine and the Alabama Hills .....Liz Bardos Field Trip Coordinator**

Thirty members braved the heat on the trip to Lone Pine on June 17<sup>th</sup>. We were treated to the newest addition of the Beverly and Jim Rogers Museum of Lone Pine History. The Cadillac that belonged to Nudie Cohn Costume Creator to the Western Stars. The Caddie was bedecked with silver plated guns, hand tooled leather seats, and a hood mounted 7ft steer horn. Winchesters, Colts, and Derringers became gearshifts and door handles. And most of the interior surface was covered with Silver Dollars. Very spectacular.. History of westerns, and the place where they were filmed was explored by the 30 members and their guide. The day ended for many at Whitney Portal and others at local eating spots. Definitely worth a return visit

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**June 2008 Membership Report.....Shirley Fisher Membership Chairperson**

The current count is 505 memberships (appx. 900 persons) and this includes a new membership application from Rod and Cassie Hudson of Mt Mesa.. A heartfelt welcome to our organization to you both, and a thank you to Lee and Kriss Embree who included an additional donation along with their renewal. While we writing about renewals, let me direct a plea to those of you who have yet to renew. There's not many, but you all count. Its how we keep our Museum running, how our scholarships are funded, how we preserve our heritage and how our Historical Society stays an integral part of the structure of the Kern River Valley. Check in the mail today? Great!!

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**High Fives of the Month go to Dick and Reita Hamilton**, who for well over 15 years have maintained the landscaping of our Museum. Their artistic talents and knowledge of local flora have made the Museum the showplace of the Kern River Valley. At least 2 days a week often in 3 digit heat, they have shown up to maintain the yards beauty. But alas, they have purchased a home in Hawaii and as of this week will have moved lock stock and barrel to the land of the trade winds. They will be sorely missed. Dick in years past was seen shotgunning golf balls all over the Kernville course. His favorite golf buddy was the late Bob Powers. Dick, a retired teacher was always available to guide busses of school children and other large groups through the Museum yet another place where he will be missed. And Reita also a retired professional took a UCLA extension class in landscaping for 2 semesters after which she revamped and beautified the landscaping in and around our Museum. If you were to tour the area around the museum you will find almost exclusively, local plants, trees and flowers, all native to our valley. So with a heavy heart we say 'Good bye dear friends we will miss you both and thank you for the labor of love you gave which became our beautiful landscaped Museum'...'Aloha'!!

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**Speaking About Landscaping and Upkeep.** Guess what?? We are now without someone to maintain what the Hamiltons planted. The plants are in, and so is the watering system. What is needed is someone to pull an errant weed, trim around the bricks and front fence. Someone who can tidy up and trim back Someone who is willing to talk to every Tom Dick or Harry who, when they see you, will usually strike up a conversation when you are there in the front yard. Many will offer suggestions, to which you will wisely nod and thank them..At any rate if you have just a few hours a month, and your thumb is even partly green, then we have just the perfect place and you can be our hero. *If you can do this Give our Museum Vice President Rich Burdge a call.*



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**Book Report 'John Wayne' By Michael Munn** If you are or ever have been a fan of John Wayne then this is a book for you. As accurately as possible the author introduces you to the real 'Duke' As you read you will find out quickly how Wayne got his nickname 'Duke' and why those who really knew him, called him that. Munn gives you a picture of John Wayne, warts and all. But through the entire book, as you get to know the Duke you will wish you could have met him in real life. You will also note I think that with the right circumstances most of us could become famous for something. We all have a special spark that if fanned could light a pretty big fire. Wayne found his spark and it was in acting. You will follow him from his beginning to end, and as you read you will realize that hard work, perseverance and ambition are the driving forces that bring fame and fortune. This book is a compilation of over 100 interviews with people, associates and employers that really knew him. You will read of his work with the Central Intelligence Agency and the reasons. Questions will be answered, others will come to mind, most of which are answered in this 384 page soft cover book. The cost is \$20.00 and the book can be found at the Museum Book Store. Traveling someplace by train or plane? Want something that is interesting, a great read and looks good on your coffee table or a conversation starter on public transportation? Well this is for you. Enjoy!!

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**For years Dan Mancini** has been our contact with the Art Association. It has been his job to see that the art room has a full complement of artists who show their talent in our art room. As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, Dan is turning over the reigns to Jane Causey who is already the coordinator for art exhibits in display areas throughout the valley. Welcome Jane, we're glad to have you!!

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**Docents, Docents, Docents,** What are they, who are they??... They are the backbone to the success of our Museum. It is they who take visitors on a trip to the past. It is they who tell the stories of the different eras that are preserved under the protection of our roof. It is they, the Docents, that work in the Country Store, it is they who welcome the visitor when they come in, and bid them a cheery goodbye when they leave. It is they who work a 3 hour shift once a month, and in some cases more. It is they who our visitors remember when they reminisce about what a great museum they visited in the Kern Valley. Where do we find these special folks?? I'll tell you where, right out of our membership. It's a fun and meaningful way to spend a few hours once a month. The new docent is given a short indoctrination and a docent to guide them. It isn't hard, our curators have labeled almost everything and with the label and a glance at the object, even the newest docent can explain what something is. You'll soon have some favorite stories of your own to tell and to add to the enjoyment of the visitor. We are open 6 hours a day for 4 days a week. The folks that fill those days are just like you. They wanted to help, they wanted to do something important. This is it!!...Something important and for those of you that work there I know feel that importance. What this is all leading up to is a request to our membership for some new volunteers to step up and work for 3 hours once a month. Make a difference and see what fun it is. All you have to do is call Jeri Hanson, and say to her..."JERI, I REALLY WOULD LIKE TO WORK AT THE MUSEUM. WHAT ARE MY CHANCES? WHEN DO I START? I CAN HARDLY WAIT, HOW ABOUT TOMORROW"?....or something like that. Its easy, its important and we sure would welcome you....How about it???

**Call today and surprise her !!!**