



# The Saddlebag

Volume 30 #3

March 2008

The Kern River Valley Historical Society

**March Meeting.....7PM Tuesday March 25<sup>th</sup>**, Veterans Hall Lake Isabella.

Program Coordinator *Vicki Middleworth*

**Bill Jenkins**, who now claims he is not ready to slide off the perch, is our program for March. Bill who was president of our Society for 3 terms will be our guest speaker and will be making a talk/slide presentation of hiking in the High Sierras. With over 5000 miles of Sierra trail walking behind *Bill* and his late wife *Ruby*, he will be sharing a slide presentation of one of those trips from 1994. Carrying 14 days of food and supplies they started at Horseshoe Meadow following the Pacific Trail past Mt Whitney and on to Lake South America. From there they wended their way down to the Kern River and headed back to the Kern River Valley. The pictures and Bills recollection of those 14 days in that pristine wilderness will be shared with us on March 25<sup>th</sup> at our meeting at the Senior Center. This program should be a barn burner, plan on being there.

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**March Field Trip.....A Visit To Keyville...March 18<sup>th</sup>** We will meet at **9AM** at the entrance to Keyville. Field Trip Coordinator *Liz Bardos*

Hosted by *Rod Middleworth*, we will meet at the Keyville turnoff from Hiway 155 at 9am. We will caravaan, stopping at the *Indian Village*, and the old *Keyville townsite*. From there we will tour inside the old *Walker House* (we have a key) and yard, and time permitting will view the HiGrade mine and the old cemetary. From there we will caravaan to the *Painted Rock Lodge* where we will eat lunch and be given a tour of this beautiful facility. Our host there will be *Tom Teofilo* the owner. After the tour and lunch we will end by visiting the nearby site of one of the best preserved Arastras' in our valley. Bring your chairs, lunch and beverage. This should be a lot of fun and even if you've been to Keyville, you will see it in a different perspective. If you are going, please call Rod at and let him know how many are coming. Once again, mark your calendar for **March 18<sup>th</sup> at 9am**, and don't forget your lunch and chairs. This should be a fun tour.....

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## Calendar of Events

**March 18<sup>th</sup> 9am** .....*Keyville Tour*, Meet 9am at Keyville turnoff from Hiway 155.

**March 19<sup>th</sup> 9am**.....*History Days Meeting*, 9AM at the Museum

**March 25<sup>th</sup> 9am**.....*Board Meeting* 9am at the Episcopal Church Parish Hall Kernville

**March 25<sup>th</sup> 7pm**.....*General Meeting* 7pm at the Senior Center in Lake Isabella

**May 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>**...*History Days at the Museum*

**This and That..**

**History Days Update.....Peg Greenberg, Coordinator.**

.The History Days Committee members have been hard at work to make this year a spectacular event. We have added several new entertainers and of course most of our ‘regulars’ will return for another go around. We are also pleased to welcome the *Early Days Gas Engine & Tractor Association*. They will have on hand up to 30 antique motor and tractor entrees all organized by *Mike Morgan*. Our *Assay Office* will be up and running this year and we’ve also added a tour of the Walker House. And there is even more great stuff to come. You won’t want to miss *History Days* this year. If you have any skills appropriate to our History celebration you are encouraged to contact me and we’ll give it a look. Our next committee meeting will be at **9am on March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Musuem.....If you** are not on the committee but would like to participate, come and join us on the 19th.....**Mark your calendar!!**

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**The Art Room and Other Things** A month back, Gene Verbeet was the guest artist in our Art room at the museum.. As is usual when any of the artists’ work is sold our society gets a small percentage. And as was the case several of Genes’ works were bought. In the mail a few days back we received our percentage check from Gene and as a contribution he more than doubled the usual figure. Thank you Gene, your generosity is most appreciated.

And speaking of Donations, in addition to their membership renewal, Click Realty gave an additional sum to the Historical Society as a donation. Thank you!! The generosity of the members of our Society is unmatched and that’s what makes it what it is..

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**Bruce Hafenfeld** our speaker at the general meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup> mesmerized the crowd with his no hold barred glimpse at the life of cattlemen in California. In addition to being a successful cattle rancher Bruce is the current president of the California Cattlemen’s Association. This is a two year appointment and he is in the final nine months of an obviously successful leadership role. In addition he is also a member of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association Board of Directors. He covered subjects about land preservation, conservation, and the role of beef in world peace.(Ask those attending how that works) He talked about the recent meat packing incident in Chino and explained how the industry felt about what happened. There was no doubt in any attendees mind when Bruce finished that the association was appalled and were working to see that nothing like this should happen again. Bruce we want to thank you for an interesting, informative and compelling look behind the scenes of an association that we can indeed be proud to have involved in safeguarding this important protein that is a part of our daily food supply. A really great program.

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**Docents..A message from Jeri Hanson...**Just a cheery hello and a great big THANK YOU to all the docents who are such a vital part of our museum. Together, with the gals who call each month, You make our museum special. We couldn’t do it with out you. One little note I’d like to add. If you get up the morning (or afternoon) on your scheduled day and are unable to come in and you cannot reach me in person, call the museum and let them know that you won’t be there. Then they won’t be looking for you and they will know who else to call. Again a million thanks.

**Last months Field trip to Calm**, was enjoyed by 21 of our Historical members. The tour was docent led and gave members a glimpse of a facility that houses birds, mammals and reptiles. All of which at one time or another were sick or maimed. During and after their treatment they are housed and kept in a habitat that is close to what they would have lived in the wild. Unable to be released to the wild, they find a home here in Calm. The members were treated with the viewing of the Bald and Golden Eagles, Hawks, American Kestrels and other birds of prey. Debby Kroeger the manager of education and Volunteers was our guide and host. She opened the tour with a Peregrine Falcon on her arm, which stayed there for over an hour as she talked about the bird and others. She pointed out that the bird can dive at over 200 miles an hour and is the fastest of all birds, and whose favorite prey and dinner is the Mallard Duck. All members present considered this an exceptional presentation and a worthwhile trip. Those of our members who didn't make this trip are encouraged to take the time and effort to go to Calm on their own and see why this is such an extraordinary facility....

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**The Doc Holliday Picture Raffle** is one of two major fund raising projects we are holding this year. In with the Saddlebag you will find your tickets and an envelope to return your donation to this major project. A word about the picture. This is a print of one of only 5 known pictures of Doc Holliday. It is the only one which depicts him in action as the dentist that he was. The numbered print valued at over \$3000,00 could be yours in this once in a lifetime drawing. Our print is number 830 out of 900 with no more to be offered. If you wish, drop by the museum and see this exceptional picture on the wall in its custom frame. It is located just behind the checkout counter in the Country Store. Talk about a touch of the old west. It could be yours!!!....

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**Membership Information from chairperson Shirley Fisher.** Current membership count is 479 (the old method of counting would make it approximately 960) Newest members are: Gordon and Bonnie Delano of Wofford Heights, Joan Holg of Lake Isabella, Greg and Julie Cullen of Weldon, Barbara Hinkey Graham of Washington, Pat and Julie McPherson of Ojai, and Mike and Quita McBride of Wofford Heights. We welcome each of you. Those who live in the Valley, we would like to meet you at our general meeting which is the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the Senior Center. Or drop by the Museum and introduce yourself to our docents and ask them how things work. We'll be glad to see you!! Welcome aboard!!!

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**More about membership.** A special message from Shirley Fisher. Thanks to all who have renewed your memberships. And to those of you who are a tad tardy, we encourage you to bite the bullet and reup today. We need you. Our museum, and the Society is funded and kept going by the monies that come in as membership dues. You are important to us and we salute you.

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**The Survivor Workshop** is still being presented by Bill Jenkins. This is not about Wills and Trusts, instead it is about the practicality of what to do if one or both of you pass away. Or, if you are a single person, would your survivors know how to handle your affairs. Would they know about your wishes and would they understand about hospice and a million other questions they might have. Bill is still giving the classes to those who call him and set a time. If you are interested give Bill a call and find out the hot skinny.

**Artist of The Month** is Jeanette Rodgers who in spite of being a integral part of many organizations and spokesperson for others, finds time to sketch using pen and ink with colored pencil high lighting and is artistically proficient in Calligraphy. Many of her works have appeared in Valley promotional activities, one coming to mind is the Whiskey Flat papers. Her art is highlighted on many of the pages. She is a member of the Kern River Valley Art Association and will be participating in the April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Arts Studio and Gallery Tour. The Historical Society is pleased to have her work displayed in our Art Room during the month of March. Make a note to drop by and see her work, you'll be glad you did!!

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**Once Again We Have the Privilege** of sponsoring the 5<sup>th</sup> grade *Biographical Essay Contest*. As an added feature the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Essay contestants will be included. We will judge the *Wallace Elementary School's* contestants the morning of March 27<sup>th</sup> and the *Kernville Elementary School's* entrants on April 10<sup>th</sup>. As in the past members are urged to set these dates aside, so that you can help with the judging at both schools. For those of us who have helped over the years, it is an interesting and gratifying experience and is also a lot of fun. If you are truly interested in how well our schools are teaching our children, be a judge, be there and see how well they do. If you can help give *Bob Dreiling a*. He'll be tickled pink to sign you up for one or both days. Pull out your calendar, check it and then call Bob, he is anxiously awaiting your call. Don't disappoint him (or the children) **Pick up the phone and call now**.....please!

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**Survive:** a book report. Written by Peter Deleo a true survivor of a bitter cold Sierra Winter. This is a story of incredible hardship suffered by one man as he struggled from the mountainous crash site of his airplane, to the Owens Valley floor. As we read, we feel the anxiety before and during the wilderness accident. From the time he makes a decision to walk out of the high country with no winter clothing and a broken leg until he stumbles into the Ranch House Café on highway 395 we are left with wonder at the spirit of a man who spent 13 days struggling through the treacherous terrain with 13 broken bones and little or no food. His story is packed with suspense as he is stalked by wild animals. While he is lost, he never thinks about giving up. Giving up was not an option because of the 2 men left behind at the wreckage, still alive and depending on him to save their lives. Many readers will recognize that many of the landmarks and places that he found shelter, are the very places that we Sierra Mountain hikers have walked. As a cap to the story, the author, knowing that finding the plane would be next to impossible without his help, went with the rescuers, broken bones, malnourishment and all. This is a story about bravery, courage and fortitude. You can buy this at our Museum Country Store for a piddling \$24.00. When you buy it and after you've read it, be sure to write your name on the inside cover. You'll be lending it to friends and relatives, because chances are the Country Store will be all sold out and with out your name it could get lost and not 'survive'. (A little play on words there!) Seriously this is a good book and a welcome addition to your library.

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**A Report from Our Curator Butch Partin.** He tells us that *Ron Bolyard* and *Charles Topping* are in the process of finishing the Assay Office in time for History Days. Butch also tell us that he is working with the Forest Service to provide a display in the big room in our Museum. Still in the planning stage is a cover for the outdoor theater. Watch next months Saddlebag for more info

**Bricks, Bricks, and more Bricks.** An order has been sent off to letter 7 more bricks for our Path of History. Those ordering include: The Exchange Club, Joan Grant Stair, Mary Nugent, Michael Gallagher (ordered 2 bricks), Richard and Lorienne Shaw, and George Stahl. We should have them back in about 6 weeks and they will be installed in the front yard of the Museum.

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**Sunshine Report,** Sympathy Cards were sent to the Rossback Family (mother), Linda Diaz (Sister), Ruby Davis (Husband)

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**Work Party Notification.** As spring approaches, and History Days nears, we are going to go into the museum beautification mode. You could be receiving a call from someone who knows how great you are with a paint brush, or a hammer or a saw or all three and more. If you have some wiggle time, say yes and give us a hand. Some of the more scheduled work parties will appear in the Saddlebag with dates and reasons for the work. When we work, the radio is on, we wear old clothes, we get paint on our shoes and noses and shirts. We have fun and we do good work. If you are called and can join the party...Do it, it's fun and worthwhile.

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