



The Saddlebag

Volume 31 #8 August 2009
The Kern River Valley Historical Society

Calendar of Events

August 1stThrough August 31st Artist Jim Steel is showing his Creative Prints

August 18thPiute Mtn.Fire Damage Exploratory Field Trip

August 20thMovie at Museum Outdoor Theater @ 8pm

August 25thBoard Meeting at St Peters Church in Kernville

August 25thGeneral Meeting POTLUCK at Senior Center in Lake Isabella @ 6pm

Piute Fire Damage Field Trip will be held **August 18th**. We will meet at **Pauls Place** at **8:45 am**. According to trip leaders Mary Barcik and Bill Trott we will depart from Pauls Place at **9:am** sharp, heading to the Piute mountains. Bring your lunch, folding chairs, sun screen and a warm wrap.(We will be at 5000 feet) Good roads all the way and four wheel drive vehicles are not necessary. The purpose of the trip is to note the difference in forest loss between areas which were thinned and areas that were **not** managed. When we are at French Meadow we will visit the site where our 3 stamp mill (currently in our museum back yard) was located for over 100 years. Please call Mary Barcik and let her know how many in your party will be going. This should be an interesting and fun trip and we hope to see lots of you there!!

Pot Luck!!! We will be having our annual Pot luck on Tuesday August 25th at 6 pm at the Senior Center in Lake Isabella according to Social Chairman Diane Bach. She tells us to bring ourselves, place settings (plates and silverware) and our potluck dish serving 8 to 10 people. Coffee and tea will be provided. Here is the ALPHABETICAL ORDER for food contribution.

If your last name begins with **A** thru **G** bring a **SALAD**

If your last name begins with **H** thru **S** bring a **MAIN DISH**

If your last name begins with **T** thru **Z** bring a **DESSERT**

In honor of our new COOKBOOK, if you have a recipe in the book or have found one that you like, that corresponds with your alphabetical letter, bring it and put an index card by the dish indicating the books recipe and page number. Any questions call chairperson *Diane*.

Our Artist for the month of August is Jim Steel. He has been interested in photography since he was in the military during the Viet Nam war. He taught for 17 years in the Graphic Arts field. He does mainly landscapes with some close-ups of nature, using both film and digital camera. He does all of his own printing using archival 100% rag paper. *Jim will be in the museum gallery on Saturday August 15th. So come by for a chat between 10 am and noon.* If you can't drop by at that time the museum is open Thursday thru Sunday, 10 am to 4pm. Stop by and see his scenic prints!

Have you noticed our beautiful US Flag flying at the corner of our building? Beautiful!!!

Movies Under The Starz.. Our August movie to be shown in our outdoor theater will be **Son of Paleface** *Starring Roy Rogers, Bob Hope, and Jane Russell.* The movie will start at 8pm. The movie is free, popcorn is a nickel and soft drinks 50 cents. Where else can you be entertained for 55cents?? In addition to the movie, our own Bill Nolt who for years worked in Hollywood as a Roy Rogers look alike, will tell us what it was like and show us some fancy gun handling. So mark your calendars for *August 20th at 8pm at the museum outdoor theater.* Bring a soft cushion for your tush (the benches are hard) and standby to root for the good guys and boo the bad ‘uns!!

The July program at our General Meeting featured Kay Keith who gave us a real insight on what you need to know and where you need to go if you are at all interested in your family tree. Full of knowledge, Kay kept her audience enthralled with her often humorous description of things that are found while looking through the worlds of material in search of names and places. For instance did you know there is a line of books that help a person find if their ancestors were members of the ship Mayflower (crew or passengers.) Heavy stuff. We of the audience were amazed at the availability of information that is there to help us in the search for our past. A great program and well appreciated by the members and guests who were there.....

(Last month your editor forgot to mention that the June meeting was supposed to spotlight our curator Butch Partin, but he was flattened by the flu. We instead watched a video program on Death Valley. Butch is now scheduled for our November General meeting. It promises to be a good one, and there will be more information in the October Saddlebag).

The folks who run our Country Store want you to know that for a paltry \$2.00 you can own one of our beautiful 2009 calendars. We have only 20 left. The 12 pages of historic pictures all suitable for framing is reason enough to want one of these rascals for your own, to say nothing of the 5 remaining months still unused and ready for your perusal and use. The line forms at the cash register, be the first 20 there when the doors open and restrain yourselves.... Also our new cookbook called *Kern River Cooking* is one of the ‘hot items that are moving through our country store. We had one member buy 10 of them to take back to their eastern reunion as a gift to family members. What a great idea. And of course as birthdays and holiday arrive, a cook book is always appreciated and the recipes yummy. So think of our cookbook as the answer to gift prayers. Everyone likes and uses them. Drop in and pick up a calendar (if any are left) and a cook book or two (there are more than a few of those left) and think of your gift buying as ‘over.’

Our Ice Cream Social was a Resounding Success. Over 50 members left the 110 degree weather in Wofford Hts and drove to the cool (79 degrees) at Alta Sierra. There we feasted on ice cream, cookies, cake, (Jack White brought his annual birthday cake with him to share.) We were entertained by the ‘Out of the Blue’ music ensemble. Katie Gallagher also had a birthday and the ‘Blue’ group was her son Mike, wife Pat and friend Terry. Great music, great food, great weather and good friends made this a special day. If you weren’t there you missed out!! Too bad!

Enclosed are our annual Quilt Tickets. Your \$10.00 contribution helps keep our Museum doors open. It also gives you a chance to win this beautiful quilt, or a \$150.00 Lowe’s gift certificate, or \$100.00 in cash. Send your stubs and check today, Its your Museum!!

Sunshine Chairman Cindy Ott reports that get well cards have been sent to the following. Don Reynolds, Dave Bardos, Kay Atkins, Ruth and Lee Rupel, and a sympathy card to Kris Embree on the passing of her mother Carolyn Pascoe Green. A special thank you was sent to Eugene and Mary Apalatea for their generous donation to the Historical Society.

Membership. Welcome to new members *Karen and David Dixon* who joined in July. We are glad to have you with us and hope to see you on our field trips, our General meeting and any time you drop by your museum. Speaking of members, we have just received a plea from *Jeri Hansen* for substitute volunteers. She would like to have a list of folks who can be called from time to time to fill in for an absent worker. You will be her friend forever if you will call and agree to help out. Also to members out there, being a museum guide is a lot of fun and so easy. What training is needed is super easy and presto you are a museum docent (guide) Its easy call *Jeri* today and make her a happy camper. Membership chairman *Linda Diaz* tells us we have 433 members (which under our old method of counting was over 900 persons) Good show Linda, lets have a membership drive.

Stuff and Such... We had a recent visitor to our museum, *Rob Kerbach* (the tree and bush guy from L&M). who repaired, fixed and rerouted our drip lines. He called it a 'tuneup'. All water lines are now working 'gooder' than new. He will be visiting from time to time to keep things ship shape. Next time you are in the L&M garden shop, stop by and thank him. **In the meantime** the *McBrides* our resident landscape gurus have gotten our yard front and back yards looking spiffy. Thank you *Mike and Quita* for a wonderful and consistent job!! We are very proud of you.

For those who like numbers here's some for you. According to our Web manager Mike Ludiker in July we had 1037 accesses to our site, 460 visitors, and 290 unique. The top 3 inquiries were Chronology, Calendar, and Museum 18 of these were from foreign countries.. Total to date Jan to July give us 7342 accesses, 3156 visitors, and 1910 unique. The world knows we are here and we're loving it!!

Here's a thought. Some museums are using areas in their facility as a place for a wedding. Don't you think our outdoor theater would be an unusual and unique place for a small wedding. We could charge a nominal fee for its use and even supply the PA system and some music. Its kind of wild but it is a thought. Maybe we could rent out our log cabin as a honeymoon cottage and have Dick Snyder sell popcorn and soft drinks. Ideas are limitless. Think big!!

Book Review *The Rough and Righteous of the Kern River 'Diggings' Authored by Ardis Walker.*

For those of us who live in the Valley and for many Historical Society members who visit during the summer or on weekends we find ourselves wondering how things were in the Olden Days. We wonder what kind of people lived here and what it would have been like to know them. If you are really serious about these old timers then this is the book for you. Rich in character and extensive in descriptive prose this book describes the movers and shakers, the misfits, the outlaws and the ruffians that wandered our valley. Ardis Walker had a way of making his characters real and at the same time giving us a flavor of those long ago days. In this book you will meet 33 characters, people like Grizzly Adams (Hunter), Tom Heston (Singer and Bouncer), Lovely Rodgers (Discoverer of the Big Blue Mine), Joseph Sumner (Money and brains of the Valley) and a host of other unique characters. All in all you'll find some of them loveable, some irascible, some crooked, but all interesting, and always entertaining. When you finish the book you'll not put it away, for you will want to visit with these pioneers again and again. Hardbound, lavishly illustrated, informative and a joy to own you'll want this book for your library. And its only 12 bucks at the Museum Country Store!!