



# The Saddlebag

Volume 31 #6 June 2009

The Kern River Valley Historical Society

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## Calendar of Events

**June 10<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)**. **Movies In the Jenkins Pack Station. 8 pm 'Under California Stars'**  
*With Roy Rogers, Jane Frazee, Andy Devine, Sons of the Pioneers  
and Trigger*

**June 20<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)**.. **Field Trip** *Over the Greenhorn Mountain via The McFarland Toll Road  
Leave the Museum at 8am SHARP Call Liz Bardos for Reservations  
by June 13<sup>th</sup>*

**June 23<sup>rd</sup>..(Tuesday)**..**Board Meeting at St Peters Church in Kernville 9am**

**June 23<sup>rd</sup>..(Tuesday)** .**General Meeting..7 PM, (Senior Center) 'Legacy of the Lake', The story  
of China Lake on film presented by Butch Partin**

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**The June Field Trip** is on **Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup>**, where at **8 am SHARP** we will be leaving the Museum in Kernville to trek up Evans Road where we will explore the McFarland Toll road over the Greenhorns...Transportation in the early 1800's into the Kern Valley and eastward was difficult if not prohibitive. There were historic Indian foot trails, and sheep herder trails coming from the west. Then oxen ruts. Then a road off to the south of the Greenhorns thru Black Gulch. All difficult trails over rough mountain terrain..and it was slow going. Then Gold was discovered in the Cosos, Keyesville, and Havilah areas. The call came for faster access for the oxen wagons needed to carry people and equipment in and mined riches out. And the McFarland toll road came into being.. Join us as we travel part of a Tubatalabal trail up (now Evans Rd.) into the Greenhorns to a spectacular and large site, then a short 4 wheel drive road (or you can walk down and back) to a calm spot under massive trees along Ice House Creek to the stage coach toll house road that was forged out of the wilderness. There it becomes part of the Visalia to Whiskey Flat road and beyond. And then on to the Cosos along which, gold and other minerals mined in these areas in the 1850's and 60's wended their way out of the Kern Valley to the Port of San Francisco.....

**On Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup>** we will leave the museum promptly at **8:00 am**. (So be there by **7:45** to check in) Phyllis Hix will be our tour leader. We will follow the gold from Keyesville to a joint miner/Indian site, then up Evans Rd. We may even come upon a fairy circle below a habitation cave. We may or may not be able to use the road, but assuming we have auto access it is still a tough 4 wheel road. The distance is short and walkable. Bring your lunch and water and we will come back down the mountain to eat our lunch at Phyllis's home. Plan on returning to the Museum around 3 or 4 pm. There is no charge to members for this tour. Non Members are welcomed to join us by paying a \$25.00 fee per family which include a years membership in the Historical Society. If you want to go on this really great and unusual trip, call **Liz Bardos** at for reservations. And remember this is a Saturday trip and it's on June the 20<sup>th</sup>..

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***The General Meeting is on June 23<sup>rd</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday).*** Its at 7pm and is at the Veterans center in Lake Isabella. The featured speaker is our own **Butch Partin**, who will be sharing words about our famous neighbor to the east, *China Lake*. The name of his program is **'Legacy of the Lake'**. It's a video about China Lake from the 1940's through the 1980's. The video was produced from a slide presentation made in the late 1980's, and was edited by Butch. He will be explaining in further detail, how and why those slides were made and from them the video. This promises to be a rare and insightful program about our China Lake friends west of Ridgecrest. So set aside a couple of hours on **June 23<sup>rd</sup>** and be prepared to be entertained. Butch promises that you will really enjoy this program It all starts at 7pm and after we will have cookies and refreshments. Butch says he will be prepared to answer any and all questions. This promises to be a great evening for your enjoyment. Will we see you there??? We hope so!!!

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***Movies in the Jenkins Pack Station will be held on Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup>.*** This is one of Roy Rogers better films and was filmed in Truecolor. Called **'Under California Stars'**. The Sons of the Pioneers will be there for the music, Andy Divine for humor, and Roy and the bad guys there for the action. This is an hour and 17 minute film. It will start at 8pm and will be over by 9:20. Admission is free, popcorn is only a nickel and if you want a soda, they are available also. Bring a cushion for your fanny and expectations for a fun movie. Parts of which were made here in the Valley. See if you can figure out where. Come ready to boo the Villains and cheer the Good Guy (Roy)...As a special treat, I hear that our own Roy Rogers look alike (Bill Nolt) will be there to dress up the gathering. You won't want to miss this...put it on your calendar...I'll wait.....There..... its down for 8pm on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June right?? OK!! See Ya!

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***Some words about our May 19<sup>th</sup> field trip from Liz Bardos.*** Yep, the Apoletea/Burlando House is haunted, by the witnesses accounts of Paranormal events. However, a few skeptics are holding out until they see firsthand. Dare to return at Halloween. Twenty four members stepped back in time to the 1880's as Jay Corlew of the Silver City Ghost town led us on a tour and gave us anecdotes about each of the buildings. Stepping back in time is not hard to do in this Valley, but the Ghost town has twenty historic buildings at one location and quite impressive. Definitely a trip to take when out of towners come to visit...All present had a great time.

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***New Members are John and Julie Spoon of Kernville.*** Welcome aboard, we are glad to have you with us. Take advantage of all we offer. Trips, meetings, special events and the opportunity to work in the Museum as part of the over 100 docents (guides) that welcome visitors to our facility

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***We received a Thank You from Reid Hopkins*** for our support of the ***One Spade Mule Team*** which recently participated in the 40<sup>th</sup> annual Mule Days in Bishop. Consisting of 10 young Kern Valley men the team was active in many skilled events, and won several awards. Congratulations Reid and your 'One Spade Mule Team', and thanks for representing our Valley!!!

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***Membership Renewal is almost over.*** Have you renewed yet?. There are still a few out there who have yet to respond. Our doors stay open by your membership. Each of you are important and crucial to our existence. So shake out the mothballs and rejoin today...

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**Our School Tour season is over** and because of the following members we hosted over 150 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at our Museum. Thanks to the guides Dick Snyder, Marge Powers, Jim Richards, Ron Bolyard, Dave Freeland, Butch Partin Helen Witt, Charles Topping, Rod Middleworth, Glenn Adkins, and Ken Colbert It was because of them that this is always a success.

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**Our Artist of the Month for June is Eve Laeger**, watercolor artist. She is a self taught watercolor artist and started painting in 2007. She has always been attracted to watercolors and loves to experiment with this medium. Her favorite motifs are leaves and flowers and all things botanical. For many past years she has been a botanist and captures many of her ideas from past encounters with the natural world and also from images she has seen in her microscopes. Her work has been on display at several galleries throughout the west. Her website is at [www.isabellaflora.etsy.com](http://www.isabellaflora.etsy.com) and she will be a featured artist at Barnes and Noble in Bakersfield in July 2009.

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**According to Peg Greenberg chairman**, we had another wonderfully successful History Days! Many thanks to our docents, cookie bakers, demonstrators, entertainers and members of the organizing committee. We calculated approximately 750 visitors for the three day period most of whom were local. And a special thanks to the merchants who so willingly contributed to our raffle prizes: **Sierra South, Archie's, Petal Pusher Plus, Cheryl's Diner, LahDeDah, Kern Valley Golf Course, L&M Lumber, True Value and Golden State Surplus**. See ya all next year! Oh yes, for those of you who are pie lovers here is a list of the 3 winners. 1st Place June Brooks, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Linda Diaz, and 3rd Place was Liz Bardos..... Yum

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**A Special Request for Artifacts**. The historic Walker House in Keyesville has been spruced up and the surrounding area cleaned and weed whacked. It looks great, but now it needs some artifacts (Old tools shovels, and what have you) to give it the old time flavor. Look around and see what you have and if so. call BLM volunteer Ted Brummer at and he will arrange for someone to come by and pick up the items..

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**The Historical Society High School Scholarship Awards** were held in May and here are the winners. ( all graduating seniors.) Ethan Kennedy, Ashley Martin, Kary Hernandez, Tyler Gibson, Adriana Chaffin, and Jessica Chevallier. Congratulations to you all and our special thanks to the Awards Committee consisting of Ron Bolyard, Liz Bardos, Bill Whities, and June Whities.

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**At the General Meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup>** we had an attendance of over 145 children, parents, members and teachers for the awarding of cash prizes for the best Essays in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades at the various elementary schools. Here are the 1<sup>st</sup> place results. **From South Fork** Sadie Mellenauer, **From Kernville**, Alexis Lafarge, and Emma Lane. **From Woodrow Wallace**, Tristan Peterson, Kimberly Jones, Tyler Marshall, Ashley Yasin, Brandon Smith, and Jessica Alvarez. Each of the first place winners, read their essays and showed their project displays. The judges for this event spent many hours in viewing and deliberation. The committee consisting of Bob Woods, Cassie Wingender, Ron Bolyard, Liz Bardos, and Anne Litz. did an outstanding job in both presentation and judging. Thank you

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**Special Request**. The Havilah Centennial Group is looking for a few good men...and women, to be a part of their organization. According to Wes Kutzner, chairman, they need a shot of new blood and ideas. and are looking to the Kern River Valley for some help. This is an important and viable part of our history and if you are at all interested give Wes a call and make his day. Call him today hear him whoop and holler!

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**I promised Ron Bolyard that I would put his book report in this issue of the Saddlebag. And I have.** Get out your magnifying glass and read on. "The Hard Road West by Keith Heyer Meldahl... This book is a must read for the avid historian that has a 'bent' on learning basic Geology of the North American Continent. Mr. Meldahl has achieved this in this 300 page book of facts and history. He has superbly folded detailed history of the emigrants on the Oregon Trail, beginning in 1843, into a primer of how the North American Continent was formed and how the geology and landscape affected their 6 to 7 months of overland travel from the Mississippi River to the gold fields of California or to the fertile lands of the Oregon Territory. This book should have been prepared prior to the immigration of the westbound pioneers in the 1840's BUT the science of geology was just in its infancy when the concepts of our earth were just beginning to expose their secrets and complexities. Had this information been available to the immigrant and the trailblazers of that time, many of the hardships and tribulations of travel on the trails westward COULD have been lessened or perhaps even avoided altogether. But available it was not! Thus approximately 30,000 people and 60,000 mules, oxen, and horses migrated to the west with death, starvation, thirst, disappointment, false hope, etc. lurking at every turn along the trail west. What a testimonial to the tenacity and stubbornness of these people wishing a new life in the unknown west. This excellent book is available at the Museum Country Store and the cost is nominal compared to what you get in information...(Prepared by Ron Bolyard on 2/17/09)