



The Saddlebag

Volume 31 #3 March 2009
The Kern River Valley Historical Society

Calendar of Events

March 17thField Trip, Kern County Museum and Pioneer /Village

March 24thGeneral Meeting, Isabella Senior Center Ron and Carol Wermuth, Speakers

April 24thJudging for Kernville Fourth Grade Essay Contest

May 15th, 16th, 17th ... History Days

Our Field Trip on March 17th will take us to the Kern County Museum and Pioneer Village. Even if you have been there before, this docent led tour will add fascination to the Bakersfield collection of artifacts and the historic stories of the rise of Kern County. In order for us to get the special rate of \$5.00 and to have a docent for the tour we need at least 20 participants. If you wish to go, call Linda Diaz at 376-1686 as soon as possible for sign up and count. Cutoff is Sat March 14th but don't wait til then do it now!! We will be meeting at the Senior Center in Isabella at 9am on the 17th for caravanning or car pooling. If you plan on meeting the group at the Bakersfield Pioneer Village let Linda know when you call for reservation so we won't be waiting for you. You might plan on bringing your lunch and use the picnic tables there on the grounds. Remember, we need 20 visitors to get the \$5.00 rate and a docent for the tour, so call early!!

The General Meeting on March 24th should be excellent. It will feature Ron and Carol Wermuth. Both will speak on local Indian lore. Carol will be talking on the uses of local native plants, food, and their healing properties. Ron will speak on local Indian religion and explain the sweatlodge ceremony. Ron has 25 years of working with California Native American Tribes and has been elected to many posts in California representing the Native American Indians. He is a Paiute-Shoshone Tribal Leader here in our valley. Carol under the guidance of tribal elders, has learned how to collect, preserve, and prepare native plants from Kern Valley and elsewhere. She's been given the title of 'Ethnobotanist', and is one of the more knowledgeable persons on plant life in our area. Be prepared for a fascinating evening with Ron and Carol

History Days....Peg Greenberg Coordinator 376-2988, says Peg, "We kicked off History Days with our first organizational meeting on February 10th and came up with some more new and great ideas for our 13th annual celebration. We will also be repeating the pie baking and costume contests and are looking forward to having our entertainment perform in the new Pack Station. This year History Days will be held on **May 15th, 16th and 17th**. We currently need volunteers to help with obtaining door prizes, so if you have any interest or if you'd like to help out in other ways, please contact me at 376-2988. Our next meeting will be on Tues March 10th, at 9am in the museum. It's going to be another great year!!"

A Reminder about the new Museum Website. It is up and running for our members and guests to view. The way to get there is [www,kernvalleymuseum.org](http://www.kernvalleymuseum.org) The website has current information about what the Museum is doing, such as, the next field trip and news about History Days. We plan to keep it up to date and fill the sparsely populated pages as we go forward. So give it a try. (Special thanks to Linda Diaz and Liz Bardos who have built this website and should be congratulated.) Additionally, you can visit the Historical Society website for Historic Chronology, the old Photo Gallery the current Saddlebag and more. This site can be visted by going to : www.kernvalley.com/kvmuseum., Mike Ludiker is keeping this site current A good job has been done all around as we enter the cyber age and find our Society info. everywhere...

Jane Causey 379-5329 Museum Art Room Coordinator tells us that Our March Artist is Shirley Davis, a local multi-media artist. Her work is inspired by her love for animals and the natural environment. Her artistic endeavors began when she retired from her administrative career at the City of Los Angeles in 1997. These paintings are acrylic on canvas. Her art can be viewed at the museum during March, Thur. thru Sun. from 10am to 4pm each day. Drop by and check it out.

The Sunshine Report by Juanita Kitchell 376-6712 says that sympathy cards were sent to *Mike Ludiker (Father)* and *Ruth Diffine (Husband)*. Get well cards were sent to *Harvey Malone, Diane Forbes, Donina Nolt, Juanita Kitchell, Joyce Easton,* and a Thinking of You card to *Bill Jenkins.*

Report on February Field Trip to the Walker House by Charles Topping notes that it didn't happen. Mother nature loosened the water works causing mud and an impossibility to have an outside cookout driving Charles Topping and his help into shelter. Cancellation was in order. The Walker House book tour and Dutch Oven Dinner will be held at another time at a later date. Meanwhile Charles and help are eating up \$150.00 worth of food before it spoils For those who are fiscally interested, no Society money was involved..

The February 17th General Meeting was a roaring success reports Chet Rock. Our speaker Reed Hopkins a BLM law enforcement officer and his drug sniffing dog Baron were a hit with the assembled membership. Reed held the audience mesmerized with stories of the incredible scent ability of his dog. We were told that a dogs nose is 200 times more sensitive than a human. As far as the dog is concerned it is all play and reward. We were given two demonstrations of the dogs ability. One where he found a hidden drug and another where he found a bad guy in the weeds. Most impressive. The bad guy in the weeds (Reeds helper) was Cody Lyons one of our scholarship winners from a few years back, and who with our financial help is now a horseshoeing blacksmith. He in addition to helping Reed, he took a few minutes to thank us for the financial help he had received through two \$500 scholarships he was awarded by the historical Society. It was a great evening and those of you who missed it, missed out.!!

According to Bob Woods, (376-2455) Volunteers are needed for the 4th and 5th Grade biographical essay judging held in April and May. These contests sponsored by the Historical Society are a fun and rewarding way to spend a beautiful April or May morning. Bob needs you to call him at 376-2455 and say "Bob, I will be happy to help, when do you need me? Please let me volunteer!!". And he will. All of the dates haven't been set yet but will shortly. So don't leave Bob out on a limb, alone, he needs you and your help...Call him at 376-2455. Today?

According to Chuck Barbee, Director and Cinematographer of the DVD Wild West Country, Episode One "The Lure of the Gold" it is now available to the many folks who have asked for a copy. Based on the nine valley history books written by Bob Powers about the Southern Sierra Region, this DVD covers the time span from the Walker Expedition of 1834 through the year 1861. Many of our Society members were involved in the filming of this episode and have asked when it will be available. Well the time is now! Call Chuck at 760-376-8784 for price and particulars.

According to Alexis Woods, Chairperson of our new Cookbook 'Kern River Cookin' it has been sent to the printers and we should have them in the Museum Bookstore before History Days. This edition has lots of family secret recipes and some new and exciting taste temptations to spice up your dining experience. (Editors Note "We can hardly wait!!")

This and That: Special thanks to the Mike and Quita McBride for their outstanding work in our Museum yard, front and back. For this time of year it has never looked better. Great Job McBrides, we salute you...**Liz Bardos tells us** that for History Days they will bring back the popular butter churning demonstrations. To complement that, they are looking for volunteers to make homemade bread. Liz says that 6 loaves would be plenty for the 3 days. So if your cooking fingers have a bread baking itch, scratch it by giving Liz a call at 376-3844 and letting her know!

According to Vicki Middleworth, we still have a few of those beautiful historic calendars left. 'They make beautiful gifts and the pictures in them are suitable for framing. All 12 of them. Go by the Museum and check them out. And while you're there eyeball the new T shirts in the Country Store, especially the one with 12 squirrels on the front...It's a gasser!! **Mike Ludiker** at our board meeting said that in the month of January we had 1048 accesses on our website and 493 visits to a particular location. The 2 most popular sites were the Museum, and the Saddlebag!

Some words on the dedication of the Jenkins Pack Station, our outdoor theater. A ceremony was held on February 21st in the theatre, with over 60 members present as *Diane Bach* emceed the affair. Speakers were *Larry Holochwost, Marge Powers, Ron Bolyard,* and *Bill Jenkins* who was presented with a plaque which will be hung in the Theater. Diane thanked *Rich Burdge* who oversaw the whole project, and *Jim Jones,* our contractor. Behind the scenes help was *Jim Whiteman and Dick Snyder.* Diane summed it up pretty well when she said that the project was done on time and on budget, quite unlike the State of California. Refreshments were served and everyone had a chance to see what a fine addition the Jenkins Pack Station is to our Museum.

Welcome to New Members Michael Neilsen, James Mahollan and Terri Jo Kumar. Thank you for joining. As new members we urge you to stop by our Museum and Country Store, attend our monthly meetings, join our monthly tours and become a part of our growing membership, again we welcome you!! Membership chairman Linda Diaz reports that current membership is 482 and yearly renewals are streaming in. If yours hasn't been sent, now is the time. We need you.

Docent Coordinator Jeri Hansen 376-4923, is still trolling for museum guides (docents). Its easy and rewarding. 3 hours a month is all it takes and there is a real satisfaction in walking thru our museum with a visitor who compliments the Museum and you as the guide. Call Jeri today!!