



The Saddlebag

Volume 31 #5 May 2009

The Kern River Valley Historical Society

Calendar of Events

May 15th, 16th, 17th*History Days (See enclosed Flyer)*

May 19th*Field Trip to Silver City Ghost Town at 9:40 am*

May 21st *Movies Under the Shingles 7:30 pm*

May 26th*General Meeting, School Essay Awards*

History Days is just around the corner. May 15, 16, and 17. This one will be big, entertaining, and a real gift to the community. If you are not involved, come by anyway. You'll be welcomed and will have a chance to see much or all of the entertainment. And speaking of entertainment check the flyer in this Saddlebag and note the usage of our outdoor theater The (Jenkins Pack Station.) There will be 3 full days of activity going on there. Plan on joining us for History Days.

Liz Bardos says our field trip on May 19th to the Silver City Ghost Town will be outstanding .

Represented are over twenty historic buildings (most not visible from Lake Isabella Blvd) from the mining camps of Keyesville, Whiskey Flat, Old Isabella, Claraville, Hot Springs, Miracle, Southfork and other local frontier settlements. Many buildings feature recently updated museum displays & thousands of area artifacts are scattered throughout the property. The buildings have been lovingly preserved to the way they may have looked in the 1880's...deserted when the original inhabitants left for new adventures in other mining districts You can go inside the original Isabella Jail (gunslinger Newt Walker was locked up here in 1905) and the Apaletea/Burlando House, which is believed to be the oldest (and most haunted, according to many visitors) standing structure in the Valley. The famous house is used to display a period country store and saloon. Silver City has been the location of numerous alleged sightings of ghostly apparitions by visitors and staff alike. The online version of the TV show, "This Old House", has the Apaletea/Burlando House listed as number six of the 15 most haunted houses in the United States. Other buildings are outfitted as period miner's cabins, post office and general store. The rustic church is a favorite with many visitors.

We'll meet at 9:40 am at the Silver City Ghost Town at 3829 Lake Isabella Avenue. Our cost for the docent guided tour has been given to the KRV Historical Society members for the special price of \$3 each. (A savings of \$6 per person). The regular rate for a docent guided tour is \$9 per person. All proceeds will be applied to the cost of the auxiliary plaque which honors major donors and supporters over the years. The monument dedication ceremony was May 3rd, 2009.

The Kern River Valley Historical Society is honored on the main plaque as a major sponsor for the monument itself. Anyone who can afford to do so is encouraged to drop additional funds in the donor Jar inside the ghost Town.

Please call Liz Bardos 376-3844 to make your reservation.

Just So You Know. This month (May) will see almost 200 children on 4 tours of our Museum. We provide docents for the tours from our membership. *You might even get a call.* The tours usually last an hour and are great fun. The kids are usually in costume and have this tour as an assignment. Lots of fun for both the tour guides (docents)and the youngsters

The Annual Essay and Project Contest for 4th and 5th graders will be our program this month. As always this is well attended and the excitement of the participants is lively and enjoyable. Bob Woods says that the projects and essays cover a wide variety of subjects, from Alcatraz to interviews with Native Americans. It is our chance to hear the selected winners read their essays and see their projects.. Bob and his crew spend many hours reading and grading the work of the youngsters. As of this moment his crew names are secret as are the winners. But next issue I will reveal the crew names so you can thank them for their outstanding work. Included will be the names of the school contest winners. Bob says the interest and participation is truly gratifying. Our thanks in advance to him and his crew. At our meeting on the 26th lets all make a concerted effort to be there to support our future leaders and to enjoy the warm fuzzy feeling when young folks do something really good and out of the ordinary. Don't miss this!

GUESS WHAT'S HERE????? COOK BOOKS IS WHAT!!! Co Chairperson Vicki Middleworth said that in 1994 several people thought it would be a great idea to have a cookbook with recipes from the members! So our first cookbook was born. We named it the "Valley Vittles" and it sold like pancakes (hot cakes?) There were so many good recipes in there that we had to re-order more so everyone that wanted one could have one! Now several years later those same people have said "How about another Cookbook?" So.....we pleaded with all you members for recipes and they came pouring in! We have 300 recipes in our "NEW" Cookbook which is called "**KERN RIVER COOKIN**". These recipes are 'scrumdiddleumptous', and you will want a book for yourself and all your family members, friends and neighbors! So hurry on into the ***Country Store at the Museum*** and get a copy or several copies! They are only a piddling \$12.00 and that's a buy. If you live far away and want us to send you one just send us a note with a check for \$16.00 (includes postage) and we will put one in the mail for you!! Incidentally if you are a Dutch Oven enthusiast, this cookbook has some great recipes that can be easily converted into a Dutch Oven recipe...*Yum-er-iffic Stuff!* **Hurry they're going fast!!** You'll want to get yours today!!

Some of our best programs come from our members. And that was the case for the April 28th program. Our speaker was Tom McKinney who is also the chairman of the Annual Fishing Derby. In his quiet, offhand presentation we (the audience) were mesmerized with Toms account of the history of the Derby and its mostly ups and only a few downs. From its inception in 1989 the Derby has brought thousands of visitors to the Valley in hopes of catching the big one. This year there were several \$10,000 fish planted and 2 were caught. 8822 entries were taken. Here are some of facts given to us by Tom. Insurance for each \$10,000 fish is \$1300. Four pontoon boats went to all corners of the lake to plant the tagged and untagged fish. Over \$30,000 was paid out in prizes. At the headquarters and around there were 80 volunteers. There was a fishtank for kids, raffles. On the derby website set up by Rex Emerson, 65% of all the entries were done online as opposed to mailing, showing up etc. Entries came from all over the western U.S. Campgrounds were full, restaurants were full, stores were full, motels were full and the lake was full of fish and fishermen and women and kids. One comment from the father of one family. He said "We didn't catch a tagged fish, but we had a great time. It was all worth it to get my wife and kids out here enjoying the great outdoors". Thanks Tom for a truly outstanding program.

Art for May will be presented by Jan Montano. Early California descendent Joan Montano is a Portrait Painter and Sculptress. Joan has painted many of the wonderful old timers such as Dorothy Rossback, Don Duffus Legg, Buffalo Bill Cody (Ace), Johnny McNalley and Bob Powers (in the sculpture in front of the Museum) and many other people in the valley. She has won numerous awards and has demonstrated in London, Mexico and the U.S. She will be showing her art in the Museum Gallery for the month of May. Drop by and view her work Thursday thru Sunday from 10am to 4pm.

Membership Chairman Linda Diaz says that there are still a few members who have not renewed and she has sent them letters. But at the same time she tells us that we have 8 new members that just joined in the last few weeks. They are: "Linda Riccardi, Brenda Huddy, Linda and Mike Donner, Mimi Brown, Phil Allin, Rob and Julie Johnson, Carole Moritz, and Judy Smyth. We welcome you all to your Historical Society. This all belongs to you as a member and we are glad to have you with us and hope to see you all at our meetings, movies, and tours. Welcome!!

Movies Under the Shingles will be held at 7:30 at the Jenkins Packstation in the Museum back yard. Another surprise showing of the old west. There will be popcorn and cokes for those who wish to eat and imbibe while viewing the white hats versus the black hats. The movie lasts a little over an hour. Put it on your calendar and be ready to boo the bad guy and cheer the hero.

Survivor Class graduates (and non graduates), we are offering a workshop on *Understanding Living Trusts*. Questions will be answered such as *What is a Living Trust? What is Probate? How does it save on estate taxes? Do I lose control of the assets in my Trust? Doesn't a Trust and a Will do the same thing? What is a living Will?* You can learn the basics of estate planning from small to large estates and leave with a clear understanding of the difference of a Will versus a Living Trust. **Stephanie Lane**, with AmeriEstate Legal Plan, Inc, will present the information and answer your questions. There is no cost or obligation. If you are interested in attending this informal workshop, please contact Liz Bardos, 376-3844. Let her know if you prefer day or evening. If we have enough interest we will schedule a date.

Check out the display cabinet in the conference room. It has a display by Sally Partin which she calls "*Treasures of My Families Past.*" You will be impressed by its presentation. This is the first of what your curator **Butch Partin** hopes will be a changing array of collections by our members. If you would like to have a month to display your hobby or interest call him 379-1881

We are looking for a new treasurer to replace June Whities, who says she is getting little long in the tooth and is ready for retirement. Its not an easy job, but according to June it is rewarding and compared to pre computer days is so much easier. If you have an interest call Ron Bolyard at 376-6303. He will refer your interest to the treasurer replacement committee!

Hey Ho, we are soon to be graced with a new and modern Flag and Flagpole courtesy of Gene LaFond who is providing the pole, flag, installation and upkeep. Thanks much Gene!!!