



The Saddlebag

Volume 31 #9 September 2009

The Kern River Valley Historical Society

Calendar of Events

September 1stThrough Sept 30th Artist Alice Rankin Beard Shares her Paintings

September 8thMovies Under The Stars at the Museum (@8pm)

September 15thStage Stops and Maturango Museum Field Trip (@8am)

September 19thAnnual Highway Cleanup and Picnic (@8am)

September 22ndBoard Meeting at St Peters Church in Kernville (@9am)

September 22ndGuest Harrison Scott Relives The Old Ridgeroute via Power Point (@7pm)

On our Field Trip on September 15th hosted by **Rod and Vicki Middleworth** we will visit the old stage stops between Onyx along Highway 178 over Walker Pass and down to Highway 14. Along the way we will halt at the old Cane Break Stage stop (site of the ancient black walnut tree), The old Walker Pass Lodge, then on to the site of the Walker Pass wagon trail (still visible). We will continue on to the overlook at Freeman Junction. From there its on to the **Maturango Museum**. Admission there is **\$3.00** and following that, we will be free to lunch on our own. We leave **Pauls Place at 8am sharp**. Handouts and a map will be given out there and it is also a chance to double up on the ride. The only walking will be a 100 yard trek over level ground to view the old wagon trail. Everything else will be visible from our parking sites. There are lots of good places to eat in Ridgecrest and several of us are going to the Chinese restaurant located at the rear of **Dennys** parking lot. So remember, the date is **Tuesday September 15th, leaving from Pauls Place at 8am sharp**. If you are going, *call Rod or Vicki at 376-6039* and give your name and number in your party. Please call by September 8th if you plan to go...

Our Monthly Program at the Senior Center brought to us by **Jerry and Laura Oreskovich** will be **Harrison Scott**. *Mr Scott* was instrumental in gaining national recognition for the preservation and education to the public regarding the Old Ridge Route. Built in 1915 it was a link for autos from Los Angles to points north. *Mr Scott* formed the Ridge Route Preservation Organization, and it was through his efforts and those of the folks living in that area that this road was nationally recognized as California's first major mountain road and an engineering marvel. He is the author of "Ridge Route, the Road that united California" His work has been recognized by historical organizations throughout California and the United States and his work was featured by Huel Howser on the CBS program "California Gold". This will be one of the better programs of the year and one you won't want to miss!! **Remember** its at **7pm on Tues. Sept 22 at the Senior Center**. Mark your calendar, and bring a guest or two. They'll thank you for the invite!!!

Last Call for the superbly photographed 2009 calendars for sale in the Country Store. There are only 7 left and the historic prints alone are worth the paltry \$2.00 being asked. Quick!! Hurry!!

Reminder! On Saturday September 19th at 8am we will take part in the Annual Road Cleanup. We will gather trash on a section of Sierra Highway as part of a Valley Wide Highway Cleanup. Takes about 2 hours after which there is a Bar B Q where T Shirts are given out to participants. If you want to help, call Vicki at 376-6039 by September 8th. Its fun and a service to your Valley.

Movies Under the Starz will be held on Tuesday September 8th at 8pm in the Museum back yard at the Jenkins Pack Station Outdoor Theater. The Movie is **'Wyoming'** starring *Wild Bill Elliot* with some filming done in the valley, (years ago). There will be plenty of shooting and good and bad guys. Booing and cheering is encouraged. The movie is free, the popcorn is a nickel, soft drinks and bottled water are 50 cents. You can't beat this for a cheep date!

Once again we are privileged to have Alice Rankin Beard as our Artist of the Month. Her previous showings have brought crowds into the Museums art room and many happy buyers have gone home with smiles on their faces. Living in her grandparents old home in Walker Basin she does her inspirational work there. Specializing in watercolors, she paints what delights her. Many paintings are 'light and airy' with landscapes and some portraits to round out her repertoire. Schooled in Kern County she graduated from UCLA and married *Robert Baird*. That marriage brought about 4 children, 7 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. If you like talent and want to see it in person, come by the museum on Saturdays in September. You will probably find *Alice* there shmoozing with museum visitors. So come on by and say hello while you look around.

According to Jeri Hansen All docents should mark their calendar for **Tuesday October 13th at 1 pm**. It will be a special 'Thank You to all docents (museum guides) for their work throughout the year or years. It will be held at the museum Outdoor Theater. (*Jenkins Packstation*). Just bring yourself and your spouse or significant other. It's a recognition lunch. There will be more info in the October Saddlebag but for now mark your calendar so you can hold that date open.

Sunshine Chairman Cindy Ott (376-1493) said a sympathy card was sent to *Cindy Stuler* in memory of her mother *Jean Watson* who recently passed away. Cindy says if anyone hears of a member who is ill or has had some tragedy in their family to call her at 376-1493

The Field Trip held on August 18th was everything it was touted to be. Leaders *Bill Trots* and *Mary Barcik* led the caravan of 6 vehicles and 16 passengers over doable but dusty roads in the Piute mountains. We visited the burn area from the June 28th 2008 fire that burned 37,026 acres. It made you want to cry to see the devastation that the fire brought about. Both sides of the road gave a view of what the carelessness of man can do. We were met by *Pat Dawwalder* of the US Forest Service at a point where the roaring fire met the managed and brush cleared forest. The fire stopped there and went completely around this area, a tribute to the belief and hard work of the forest service. We were impressed with the amount of work that was and is being done to protect our beautiful trees. Two of the field trip participants had an extra honor. As they were going home the had a bear cross directly in front of their truck, a stark reminder that we share the mountains with creatures of the forest and that preservation, is also for them!!

The Country Store... According to *Sally Partin* of the Country Store Team, a lot of new merchandise is now being featured. There is some scary stuff for Halloween with some really neat sound and color. "You will be the envy of your neighborhood with some of these goulish gifts.. Says *Sally*,"For our members and the public this is the best place to shop for gifts". *Cindy Ott* member of the team, says "Come by and check out the new books. We've got books on gold, on hiking, on decorating, and books about the old days. We've got new T shirts Cookbooks, and lots of children gift ideas. Look around and be prepared to fill out your birthday, holiday, and Christmas gift lists. We've got it all!! As a matter of fact the new 2010 calendar will be on our shelves by October 1st and you'll want to look them over. Of course the new Historical Society Cook Book "Kern River Cookin" is there and is the perfect gift for the hard to please. So come on by give us a look and be impressed.. We'll meetcha at the door"!

If how much everybody ate is any measure, then our potluck on Tuesday August 25 was an unqualified success. Anchored by a host of dishes made from the Society Cookbook 'Kern River Cookin' and by scores of other goodies, no one went home empty. Hosted by *Diane Bach* our Social Vice President, the tables were decorated with cooking utensils, recipe cards and cow and rooster holders. If you don't know what I'm describing, you should have been there and then you would know. Good job *Diane* and thanks for a food filled evening of gastronomic delight!!!

Quilt ticket stubs and donations are coming in at a good rate. As everyone knows this is our one big money maker and is used for operating expenses for our next years budget. The drawing is held at our Christmas party in December. For your 'perusal', the quilt is on display in the Country Store. Come by and check it out, it's a beauty. We thank everyone for your help in keeping your Society alive as a place to preserve our heritage..

This and That The cabinet in the back library room of the museum is now being used to show off the collections or hobbies of our members. Currently pink sun colored glass collected by *Marge Powers* is on display. September will feature the unusual knife collection of *Rod Middleworth*. Come by and take a peek. *Sally Partin* is in charge of keeping the monthly displays filled. If you are interested in having your collection or hobby displayed call **Sally at 379-1881** and let her know.

The Websites for the Museum and the *Society* are on the cover of the *Saddlebag*. Go over to your computer and type in the address. After it comes up, save it to your 'favorites' list and you'll have an avenue to read Society and Museum information. Give it a try.

Jeri Hansen says she sure could use some more docents (museum guides) It so easy and fun that folks should be lining up at the door shouting for a place on the roster. If you could be persuaded to spend 3 hours a month on a day of your choosing, give *Jeri* a call at 376-4923 and say "I'm ready coach, send me in!!"

When you're in the Country Store look in the section where the *Bob Powers* books are kept. If you have always wondered about the history of our valley and surrounding places then these are the books that you should consider for your library. Written in his style, Bob captured the true flavor of that earlier era. Chock full of information (used in the schools as reference) these books tell about the people, the places and what is was like back then. Stop by and give 'em a gander!.