



# The Saddlebag

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The Kern River Valley Historical Society

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***February Field Trip.. ITS ON A WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 17) THIS MONTH***, and we are going to visit: **Black Gold, The Oil Experience** at the *Kern County Pioneer Museum in Bakersfield..(3801 Chester Ave)* At a cost of \$4 million dollars and 6 years in the making, this state-of-the-art interactive exhibit shows how oil was created, discovered and extracted through the years. Highlights in the exhibit are; a simulated travel under the sea in a diving bell, learning how oil is formed; an exploration into oil discovery; recovery and its transformation into many products we use today; and an old timer telling of asphaltum mining and its dangers. Kern County provides 64% of California's oil production and has been an important component of the local economy since 1895.

*...The tour is approximately 2 hours long. Afterward you may stay on your own at the oil exhibit or tour the museum grounds. (There's lots to see!!) You may also enjoy lunch at one of the many eateries in the area....(You could even visit the Lopez/Hill House there on the grounds!!).*

.....If 15 or more members attend the trip we'll have a docent led tour and receive \$2.00 off the regular price of \$9.00 admission for seniors 60 and over.. and \$10.00 for those under 60 (for the math impaired that is \$7.00 and \$8.00)

.....Here's how it works: **We will meet on Wednesday Feb 17<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Center parking lot in Isabella, no later than 8:45.** Your admission will be collected at the Senior Center or at the Museum parking lot if you meet us there. The museum prefers we pay in one lump sum. Late comers will not have the benefit of the \$3.00 discount

.....***FOR RESERVATIONS AND QUESTIONS CALL LIZ BARDOS.*** Do it right away before you forget and so she will know the headcount. This will be a lot of fun so mark your calendar and call Liz. Or call Liz and then mark your calendar. Just don't forget!!

(Did you forget?)

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**Our General Meeting is on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7pm at the Senior Center.** It will feature *Chuck Barbee* who will share his documentary film of *'The House With 3 Lives'* the *Lopez/Hill House*, its background, and eventual movement to its present location in Pioneer Village. Steeped in history and superbly filmed by Chuck who in Hollywood is a well known director of photography with scores of films on his credits. Pictures like... Star Trek.... Night Court.... The Trip.... and....Its 25 Years Charlie Brown. Chuck is a local who graduated from Kern Valley High and after employment at Bakersfield TV station KLYD moved on to Hollywood where he learned his craft and went on to his director of photography status. Chuck is an entertaining speaker and his insiders view of the Kern County history that surrounds those of us who live in the Kern River Valley will be well worth your time. So mark your calendar and plan to spend a really great evening with your fellow society members as we are entertained by master film maker *Chuck Barbee!!*

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## Calendar of Events

**February 17<sup>th</sup> ... 8:45am (Wed) Field Trip to Pioneer Museums 4 Million Dollar Oil Exhibit**  
**February 23<sup>rd</sup> ....9am Board Meeting (Tue) Kernville Methodist Church (new meeting spot)**  
**February 23<sup>rd</sup>....7pm (Tue)General Meeting featuring Chuck Barbee as our guest speaker**  
**All February.....See the Wood Work of *Gordon Delano* in the Museum Art Room and check out the Camera Collection of *Jim Whiteman* in our Museum Library.**

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**The January Field Trip to 'The Brewery'**, was a rousing success. Attended by 32 of our members who braved rain, snow and cold. The warm atmosphere and geniality of hosts Rebecca and Eric was outstanding. There was fun, food and great information about Beer Making in the United States. Special attention was given to our members, and the Breweries unique way of serving a large crowd made the luncheon service flawless. Our special thanks to Rebecca and Eric for a great day, a fine meal and an interesting lesson in Microbrewing.

(Eric and Rebecca invites us back to quaff a libation)

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**The February General Meeting**, featuring our own Dean Ott, proved once again that many of our finest and most interesting programs come from our own membership. With diagrams, and narration Dean took us through the training of the average citizen as they become active CERT members. CERT stands for Community Emergency Response Team and is composed of trained citizens like any of us who has taken this course and is able to respond to emergencies in a calm and able way. The course that spans 3 weeks covers, first aid, awareness, how to set up emergency centers and how to respond to different types of trauma situations. An interesting and informative evening .Interested in being a CERT team member?

Call Dean

(Way to go Dean!!)

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**Our Websites are working well.** In January on the Societies web (Mike Ludiker webmaster), there were 1771 accesses with 302 of them as first time visitors. On the museum website (Liz Bardos webmaster) for the year 2009 we had 1977 visits from 45 countries, 49 states, and 364 cities. 91% of them were new visits. Thanks to Mike and Liz for their hard work and this opportunity to make our Society information available to the cyber world.

(Good Job!!)

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**In The Art Room**, we have as our artist of the month, Gordon Delano. He became interested in woodworking while employed in Johnsondale in the 40s' Involved in all kinds of woodart, Gordon's specialty is fretwork. Interested in wildlife, western living, and people in general, his work is universal in scope. His art is displayed at several local restaurants and he participates in local art shows and is known throughout the valley. Visit the art room in our museum during February. ( Thurs thru Sun 10 to 4pm) and see Gordon's beautiful work.

(Stop by and take a look)

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**Once A Month** several volunteers get this Saddlebag mailed. They collate, fold, staple, and prepare for mailing on the Monday following the General meeting. This is a job that was once handled by the Plasketts alone and was an all day task. But with this group of dedicated folks the entire job now lasts only an hour. These stalwarts are: Fred and Charlene Langer, Ann Haney, Jeri Hansen, Dick and Virginia Snyder, Jim and Norma Whiteman, Liz Bardos, Rod and Vicki Middleworth, Phyllis Nelson, Bob and Marcia Recker, Butch and Sally Partin, and Bill Whities

(A special thanks to you all for the superb job you all do.)

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**Have You Been To The Country Store Lately??** Well, it's brimming with exciting new items, books, and especially Cards. All kinds and a special rack of Leaning Tree Cards just received. The country store gave \$10,000 to the Society in 2009 and in spite of the 'recession' did well during a difficult period. Come in and browse around. Visit with some of the 100 volunteers we have operating our museum and Country Store. Look at the books, check out the T and Sweatshirts, they are one of a kind...In essence stop by and visit.

(You don't have to buy anything just drop by)

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**Our Curator Butch Partin** makes this announcement; 'My new hours at the Museum are the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Thursdays from 10 to 12. In addition because of space limitations I'm declining artifact gifts until further notice'!. Both he and assistant curator Dick Snyder are looking for additional space. When that happens they will let you, the gift sharing public, know.

(Butch and Dick do outstanding work)

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**The Beautiful Quilt that Marcia Recker and Cassie Hudson built**, was presented to the membership at our General Meeting last Tuesday in time for display and ticket sales for our annual Quilt Raffle (wonderful)

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**Renewals Are Due** and if you haven't taken time to send in your dues, dig down in the old purse and take out your moth ridden checkbook and send us your renewal today. We have no paid employees and all funds received are used in Society operation and in a yearly Scholarship Program. This is one time you can be assured that your contribution isn't eaten up by payroll. If you are a life member and need not send in dues, we would not be upset if you decided to send a donation. (We'd be tickled pink)

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**According To Rich**, The Graham Truck is entered in the Whiskey Flat Parade and this year we are going to have Society Members on the truck and in the Parade. This is your big chance to be in a major parade. If interested give Rich Burdge a call.right away at (Lets fill it up)

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**According to Sally Partin**, the Collection and Hobby Case is doing very well. She thanks *Glen Smith* for his January 'Wagon' collection and she reminds *Jim Whiteman* that his accumulation of cameras will be the display for February. The months of March and June and from October thru December are now available to show visitors your hobby or handiwork. Just call *Sally* if you are interested and would like to let folks see your collection. (Don't be Bashful)

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**A Special Welcome** to our newest members, *John and Bev Beck, Clarence and Darlene Semonious, and Tim Cox*. We urge you to take advantage of our General meetings, Our Tours, and our Country Store. This is your Historical Society so jump right in and join the fun!! (We're glad to have you!)

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**A Special Book Report....** In the Country Store are scores of great books to purchase for yourself or as gifts. This is about one of those books: Its called '**The Chinese of Kern County From 1857 to 1960** by *William Boyd* with a foreword by *Mary Ming*. It contains oral histories from *Jerry Ludeke, Ellen Miller, Eleanor Peterson, and Kimberly Whitaker*. It's a brilliant red hardbound book about a population of Kern County that few folks know of, the Chinese. Profusely illustrated, with historic pictures of these men and women, their lives, businesses and their worth in the building of Kern County. You will be fascinated by this book. Chapter one is the migration of Chinese to Keyesville, Kernville, Havilah, Tehachapi Mojave and China Lake. In this chapter as in many others we learn of how significant the Orientals were to our beginnings with their willingness to work, their lives, hopes and stories. In addition to the lineage of the Chinese in this book we have page after page of oral histories and the part they played in the Kern County story. This book is the best compilation of facts and anecdotes about the Chinese that you could ever hope to read. May I suggest that you toddle on down to our Museum Thursday thru Sunday from 10 to 4 (you pick) go into the Country Store, plunk down \$24.95 (a bargain) and be prepared for great reading and a superb book for your coffee table. (You'll be glad you did!!)

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**Docents, Docents, Docents.** Our museum is open 4 days a week, 8 hours each of those days. Each one of those hours needs a docent (museum guide) and Country Store operator. It takes over 100 volunteers to make it work and for the public, as it does, to say that; This is the finest Musuem of its type in California. Those volunteers come from our membership. Ask them, they'll tell you its not hard, its fun, its rewarding and they are doing their part in keeping the history of the Kern River Valley alive.. We need everyone of them and new guides as folks move away and retire. Come in and look around, talk to the folks working that day. Then call our docent coordinator *Peg Greenberg* and tell *her that you're interested and are willing to give it a try. She'll do the rest!!!* (It's a fun job)