



Ridge Route Communities
MUSEUM
& Historical Society

The Ridge Route Rambler

We're nuts  about history.

DO NOTHING FESTIVAL – DOES SOMETHING!!

A great big thank you to those of you who responded to our winter fund-raising event! We received almost \$1,600 to help with the off-season expenses and to accomplish some things above and beyond our normal expenses. Thank you as well to members who used the "do-nothing" envelopes to renew their memberships!

We have already used \$200 of the money raised for the framing of two items that have recently been donated to the museum from Cuddy family descendants. These unique items were in need of archival protection. One was a foot long, dark brown braid of Margaret Cuddy, the wife of John Fletcher Cuddy. They were among the first "white" families to settle in the Fort Tejon area (Margaret was actually half Nez Perce Indian). The braid is thought to be have been saved by the family following her death in 1882. The other item is a boy's doll from the 1880's, that is said to have belonged to a Cuddy grandson, Emmett O'Reilly. Both of these items are now on display in the museum.



The doll's original owner, Emmett Mansfield O'Reilly, (shown as a boy & young man) was born in 1883 in Cuddy Valley. He was the maternal grandson of John Fletcher Cuddy and Margaret Gale Cuddy. Emmett grew up at the Cuddy homestead west of present Lake of the Woods, with his grandfather, going to school in the Lockwood Valley area and later Lebec.



As a young man, he was a stage actor in theatres as diverse as Salt Lake City; Auckland, New Zealand; Louisville, Kentucky; Hoboken, New Jersey and Syracuse, New York, eventually joining the Maverick Players and then the Celtic Players in New York. He dabbled in the early movie industry writing a short film called "Billie's Headache". Emmett became active in the Irish socialist labor movement, becoming the chairman of the Irish Progressive League and representing actors in Actor's Equity. He died in 1961.

RAFFLE

The Museum's annual raffle is once again under way. Prizes so far are shown below, an afghan crafted by Hanni Mosig and a lovely quilt made by Dawn Burns of the Frazier Mountain Quilters. We are hoping to add additional items to the raffle by year's end, when the drawing will be held. Look for your tickets to buy in the next issue of the Rambler.



75 YEARS OF GRADUATIONS

The first class to graduate from the present Gorman School was the Class of 1939. The school was built as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project in 1937-38 and opened in the Fall of 1938. The graduates were 3 boys: Le Von Brillinger, John Bowen and George Buchanan.

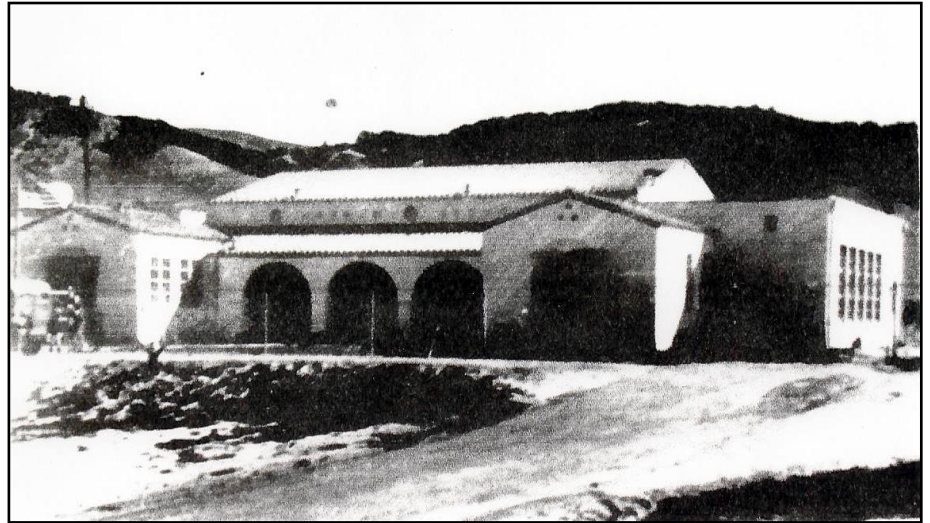
The school at Gorman had its beginnings in about 1906 when the Schenberger family of German (not Gorman) Station (a few miles southeast of Gorman) set aside a small building on their ranch for the purpose of educating their children and others from the area. It was located along what became the two lane Ridge Route Road, now Gorman Post Road. Other locations also served as the school over the decades until the present building was built in 1938.



Attendees of Gorman School 1938 (from the files of Vina Barnes Young - shown 2nd on left, middle row)



Horses waiting to take children home outside the first Gorman School



Present Gorman School under construction in 1938

MORE BOARD CHANGES - COMINGS AND GOINGS

Since the last issue of our newsletter, we have had even more changes to the Board of Directors. Sadly Peter Mack has resigned from his position on the Board, but has agreed to continue as Web Master in a volunteer capacity. He and his wife, Kathy, have served the museum in many ways for many years. The Museum recently honored them with Lifetime Memberships. We will miss both of their contributions. Additionally David Goodkin has resigned from his position as President of the Board. On the other hand we welcome the addition of Robert Glass, who has agreed to serve as interim President, and Kate Donahue to the Board.

CENTER OF THE WORLD GRANT

The Center of the World group was organized in the Pine Mtn. Club area to put on a festival every August to showcase area (and beyond) artists, musicians and actors. They recently received a storytelling grant and have asked RRCM&HS to join them in telling the stories of those who have brought about "The Coming of Asphalt" to our Mountain Communities. Bonnie Kane will be helping various organizations and individuals develop these historic characters whose stories will be told or acted out at the Center of the World Festival in 2015. It will surely be a performance worth the trip to the mountains to see.

EVENTS. . .

The Ridge Route Tour listed in the last newsletter for late April has been cancelled due to the closure of the entire mountain-top portion of the old road by the Angeles National Forest because of fire danger.

MAY

--The Museum will take part in the Pine Mountain **Lilac Festival** on the **17th**, joining with the Center of the World group in the parade and at a booth. Chandra Mead will drive her 1939 Chevrolet Master Deluxe and Don Billesbach his 1930 Ford in the parade with costumed actors from the COW walking beside them. Come join the festivities.

--Sat. May **24th** the Museum will offer a **History Rally** at the Ridge Route Run car show. Cost to enter will be \$25; winning Prize will be \$50. Learn about local history as you follow the directions.

JUNE

--The weekend of **May 31** and **June 1** the Museum will participate in **Fort Tejon's** Civil War Re-enactment **Invitational** Event with tables displaying local period history and our books on local history.

--We are tentatively planning a **"Night Talk"** on a Saturday in June featuring a Native American drum circle and speaker; the date has not yet been confirmed. Donations will be accepted.

JULY

--Our annual **picnic** at the museum is planned for Sat. the **19th** beginning at 4:00 p.m. Meat and drinks will be provided. Admission is free to members that bring a salad, side dish or dessert; and \$3 for non-members over 10 years old. Please join us!

-Bonnie Kane's **book signing** of Volume 5 - The Roadways, her newest book in the View from the Ridge Route series, will take place the same weekend as the picnic (**18th-20th**). For these days **only**, the price of this book will be reduced to approx. \$23; from July 21 on, the price should be about \$26. During the book signing, ALL other books in the store will be 10% off.

--On Wed. the **23rd** the Library will hold a **story telling event** relating to gold mining, and then adjourn to the museum to use our interactive gold panning display.

--On Tues. the **29th** Bonnie Kane will lead an informative **"Park Walk"** to view many historic locations in the Frazier Park park dating back to the 1920's. Cost of \$10 includes informative booklet with copies of old photos.

AUGUST

--The Museum will participate in the **Fiesta Days parade**, again with Don Billesbach's 1930 Ford and Chandra Mead's 1939 Chevy.

--Make plans now to attend our 2nd annual elegant **catered dinner** at the home of Hanni Mosig in Pinion Pines on Sat. the **16th**. Cost will be \$50 per plate.

GROUNDS WORK

Our new volunteer grounds manager, Don Billesbach, has been at work trimming trees, cleaning out the "creek" bed with his backhoe. The "creek" is a drainage ditch that runs across museum property from East End Drive. He has also enclosed the farm shed with chicken wire to protect the items inside and made improvements to our Native Center.



A grant has been applied for through the Bakersfield Californian Foundation to preserve all the wood surfaces that have been exposed to the weather for so long (especially the log cabin), and to have the handicapped parking space resurfaced. The upkeep of the grounds is an ongoing, never-ending project and we so appreciate those who help do so.

NEWS FROM TEJON RANCH

Tejon Ranch's Annual Report is just out with the latest news that the \$90,000,000 "Outlet Stores at Tejon", located at the Laval exit off Interstate 5, will open on schedule this August. Some amazing retail stores will be locating there.

Tejon also announced that the Ranch is has initiated the process for a third planned community called "Grapevine" to be located on both sides of the highway adjacent to and just south of the Laval Commercial Center. The community of 12,000

residential units will be designed as a series of villages connected by an extensive trail system and include commercial, industrial, retail and institutional space. Lots of changes ahead for the once quiet grape-vine covered Canyon.

books – A View From The Ridge Route: The First People. Ms. Finch has generously donated this wonderful work of art to our museum and is now on display.

ACQUISITIONS

Several other important items to our area's history have recently been accepted at the museum. Descendants of Mary Cuddy O'Reilly Barnes have donated many old albums, photos and clothing items.

A long-time resident of Cuddy Valley, UCLA Professor Jan Deleeuw has donated a three foot high stack of dissertations and studies he has collected over the years. Most all are about the Frazier Mountain area—historic, geological, anthropology, etc. – and those that do not relate to our specific area have been passed on to the local library. These items will be a great addition to our history files.

Lynda Finch of the Kern County Genealogy Society created a wonderful 175 piece diorama of the mountain Chumash people (shown right) that was on display at the Beale Library in Bakersfield. The depictions were based on Susan Sjoberg's illustrations in Volume 1 of Bonnie Kane's series of



Diorama by Lynda Finch (photo by Kane)

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR DUES!

especially Businesses (most expire in July)

Ridge Route Communities Museum & Historical Society

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