

# The Ridge Route Rambler

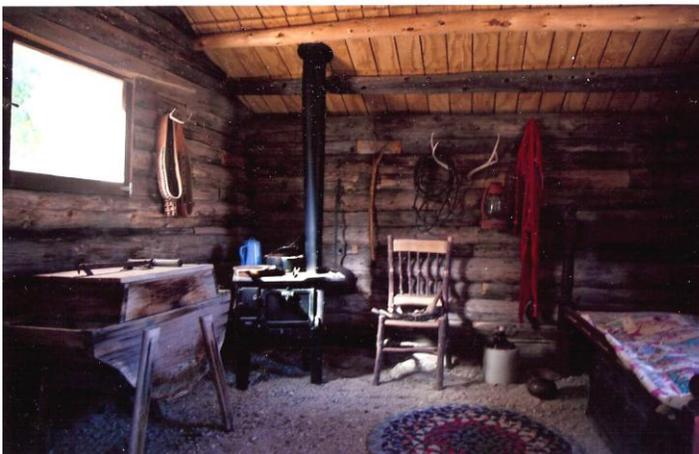
Published by the Ridge Route Communities Museum and Historical Society  
WINTER 2012

## HAPPY 2012!!!!

Since the loss of our President Dale Chitwood early last year, Daisy Cuddy has been filling that role as well as serving as our Treasurer. But we hope to lessen her load this year. Board elections were held at our December meeting and we are pleased to announce that three new members have become directors. They are Lois Lee from Lockwood Valley, Harry Nelson from Pine Mountain Club, and Bethel Billesbach from the old "Lebec Forest" subdivision on the way to Lockwood Valley (where Owl's Barn used to be).

Re-elected to the board were Susan Amon, Daisy Cuddy, David Goodkin, Jessie Jamar, Bonnie Kane, Peter Mack, Chandra Mead and Donna Turner. Our board members represent communities from throughout our mountain area such as Los Padres Estates, Frazier Park, Lake of the Woods, Lockwood Valley, Cuddy Valley and Pine Mountain Club. New Board Officers and a review of all areas of responsibility will be decided at our January meeting on Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup>. The public is welcome to attend, as always

## OUR ONGOING THANKS TO FRAZIER MOUNTAIN INTERNET FOR PROVIDING INTERNET SERVICE TO THE MUSEUM.



## GRANT PROFILE GOES "LIVE"

Thanks to the many hours of work by our Board Director David Goodkin, the RRCMHS's online Nonprofit Profile went "live" on the Kern Community Foundation's website in October. The site is now accessible to any donor seeking a prospective nonprofit that is a "fit" with their criteria for donations. To see the profile, go to:

<http://kernfoundation.guidestar.org/NonprofitProfile.aspx?OrgId=1066584>.

The Kern Community Foundation Profile can be used as a financial tool in fundraising efforts. It can also be used to inform and educate new board members about its operations, as well as to reflect on possible ways to improve the museum, evaluate progress on strategic goals, and to collaborate strategically with complimentary organizations. The profile can also be used as a marketing tool by making publically viewable information accessible to all.

KCF staff have offered to make themselves available for a brief presentation to the Board of Directors on the Profile and how it can be used as a development tool. Mr. Goodkin is arranging a meeting at the new library for this purpose; date to be announced.

## CUDDY CABIN

Renee Akana of Los Angeles, CA sent us this great picture of the interior of the Cuddy cabin, originally built in the 1860's, then carefully dismantled from its original site in 2004 and reconstructed on museum grounds piece by piece.

## FRAZIER'S FIRST "REAL" LIBRARY...



The exterior of the new library  
(photo by Gary Meyers, courtesy of Mtn. Enterprise)

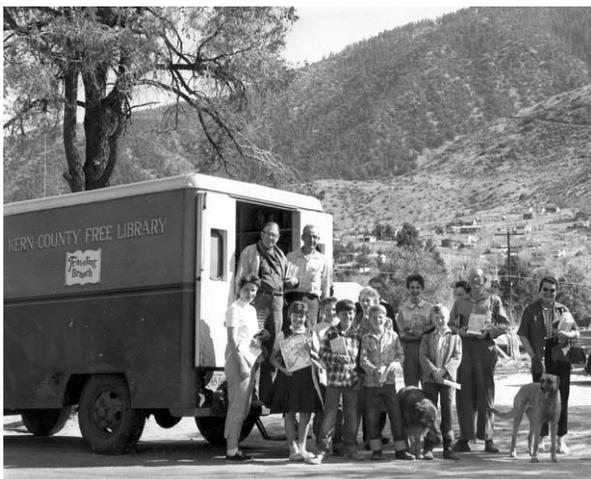


Interior of the new library on opening day.  
(photo by Chuck Noble, courtesy of Mtn. Enterprise)

A brand new, state-of-the art library was opened across from the park in Frazier Park on October 22<sup>nd</sup> – and (for you old-timers) in front of Doc Moody's house... The community packed the new beautifully decorated facility at the grand opening.

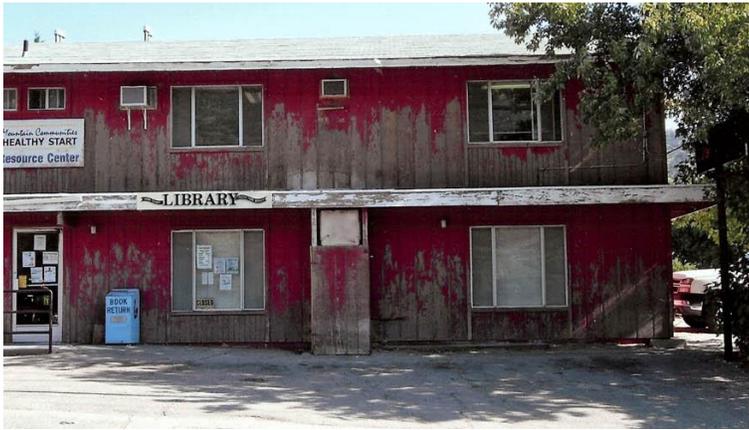
The first local library service began in the late 1800's when books from the county library were loaned to the Indian School in Tejon Canyon. The same service was then continued to all the local schools until the 1920's when libraries for the use of adults (a few shelves of books) were established in various homes and even the grocery stores, in Lebec and Frazier Park.

In the 1940's a county bookmobile began serving the rural communities and a regular schedule of service was begun in 1954. After a half hour stop in Mettler at 9 a.m., the bookmobile would slowly make its way up the Grapevine Grade, at 25 mph, reaching Lebec at 10:30 a.m. The next stop was Lake of the Woods in the early afternoon and Frazier Park at 3:15 p.m., in time to be available for the children getting out of school.



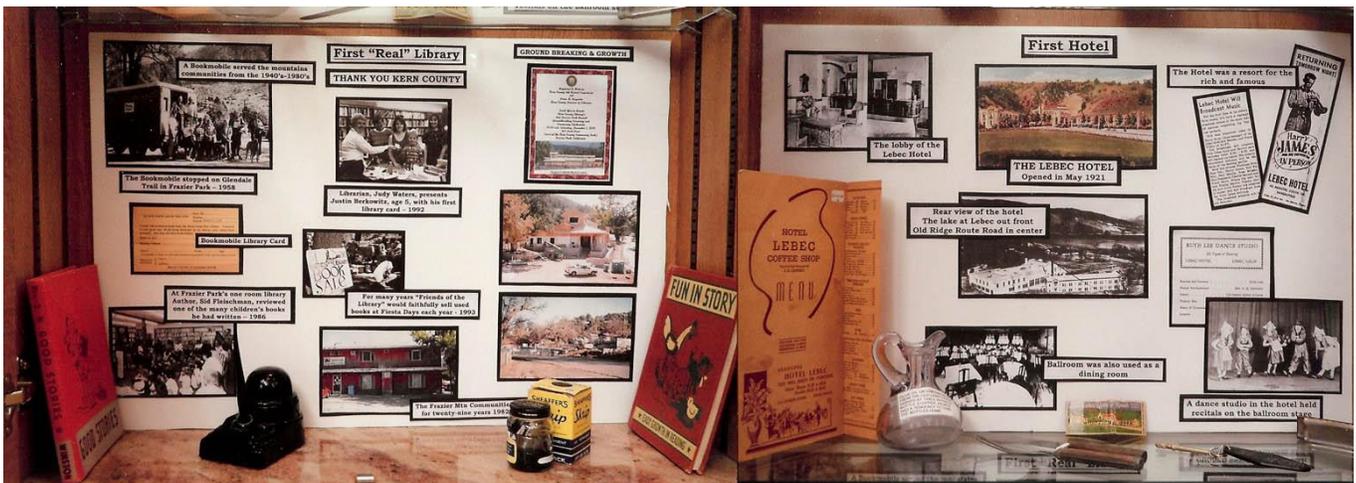
The bookmobile service continued for 28 years until June of 1982 when a small storefront location was leased at the east end of Frazier Park to serve the mountain communities as our first library branch. Judi Waters served as the branch supervisor for 27 years.

In this photo taken by Grace Bradley in 1958, the bookmobile is parked on Glendale Trail at what was the old county maintenance building. Those we have been able to identify thus far are: in the bookmobile door is a retired schoolteacher from Los Angeles who worked at the lumber yard and possibly Mr. Potts, the librarian. Second from the right is Roy Newman, a regular at the traveling library.



Left: The “old” library (photo by B. Kane) Right: Judi Waters shown here in 1992 giving Justin Berkowitz his 1<sup>st</sup> library card (photo courtesy of The Mountain Enterprise).

Funding for our new official county branch library was awarded in 2004 with the ground breaking held in 2009. Two years later the wonderful facility, which includes a children’s room, computer room, teen study rooms, a community meeting room and cozy chairs in front of a huge rock fireplace with beautiful views of the park and pond.



The museum had the honor of doing a display of local history for the opening which told the history of our local libraries as well. Above are two of the six sections of the display (photos by B. Kane)

## FROM OUR BOOK STORE

Volume I (The First People) of Bonnie Kane’s series “View from the Ridge Route”, originally published in 2001, has been out of print for a couple of years. The revised edition is finally out! Complete your set by coming in and picking one up (same original price of \$15). Bonnie is currently working on an index to “Heap of Livin” by Dolores McKenzie Atmore Gentry. If you already own Ms. Gentry’s book, call the museum to reserve a copy of the index (for \$1 plus postage). Future sales will include the index.

## RIDGE ROUTE REPORT

Harrison Scott (“Scotty”), founder of the Ridge Route Preservation Organization, reports that the pipeline companies have recently completed repair on the lines that were damaged in the washouts of 2005, but have not made repairs to the affected portion of the roadway. The entire road has become run down and in need of repair, creating liability issues for the National Forest, so it is unlikely that the road will reopen in 2012.

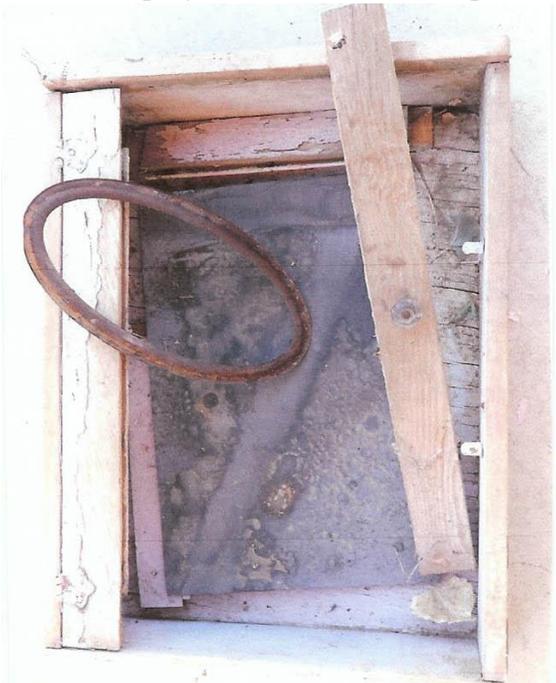
## RIDGE ROUTE REPORT (continued)

Another major issue on the southern end of the road is non-indigenous weeds growing along both sides as well as up through the road. RRPO is planning a volunteer workday to remove weeds in March 2012. Anyone interested in working as a volunteer on the old Ridge Route, contact the RRPO via email at [ridgeroute@yahoo.com](mailto:ridgeroute@yahoo.com) or leave a message at 866-262-7594.

## ACQUISITIONS

The pieces of a medicine cabinet (left below) were rescued by Dale Hansen from the old Lebec Hotel before the hotel was burned in 1971. Mr. Hansen said it came from the upper story and is thought to have been from an employee's restroom. The photo at

the right below shows the cabinet lovingly restored by Curtis Newman. It now hangs in the museum exhibit area next to the other Lebec Hotel memorabilia. If you know of any other Lebec Hotel items we would so enjoy adding them to our display.



## RECOGNIZING OUR LIFETIME MEMBERS

Glenn (Bucky) Alzola  
Ken & Laura Andresen  
Brian Blain  
Candace Huskey & Larry Brown  
Nancy Cole  
Alice Crandall  
Ray & Carol Darling  
Jan DeLeeuw  
Robert DeLoach  
D.R. Denson  
Phyllis & Ellen Fenger  
Chickie Jensen  
Tom & Gloria Johnston  
Jack & Sidney Kelley

Richard & Mary Kirkpatrick  
Robert A. & Lynette A. Lame  
Judy Steinhoff Lawson  
Mudd Means  
Aron Meltzner  
Marty Morehart  
Daniel T. Munoz  
Curtis & Alma Newman  
Michelle Nosco  
Nancy Steiger  
Doris Steinhoff  
Bill & Kerstin Wendt  
Evan & Ann Wride  
Susan Yarbrough

## “MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU”

Museum docent Donna Turner is in charge of our rotating exhibits and for December and January she has installed an amazing collection of Star Wars memorabilia. Donna writes:

“A new area in the museum has been dedicated to showcase mountain residents’ and museum members’ unique collections. The display will be changed at two-three month intervals. Our current display is from Mike Mehn who has been collecting Star Wars items for some 30 years.

From the mind of visionary film director George Lucas, the epic space fantasy became an instant classic and an unparalleled box office success. The “space opera” debut was on May 15, 1977. Equal parts fairy tale, western, 30’s serial

and special effects extravaganza with roots in mythologies from cultures around the world, the sequel films continue to evolve.”

The portions of Mr. Mehn’s collection that is on display includes such items as lunchboxes and action figures of Yoda, Darth Vader, Chewbacca, Han Solo, banthas, C3PO, R2D2 and many other of your favorite characters. The loan of the exhibit is greatly appreciated.

Donna is looking for items to add to the next exhibit that will be on display for February and March on loan from museum members as well as local VFW Chapter 9791. If you should have items you could share, please leave a message for Donna on the museum phone (661-245-7747).



## EVENTS – LOOKING BACK

On September 17<sup>th</sup> the Museum participated in the local Sierra Club's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual NatureFest, which is held each year to introduce families to the wonders of nature and beyond. This was the Museum's first year participating in this event and we had such fun and success, we will likely participate from now on. We had a number of our nature books on display as well as our interactive artifact table. People had fun trying to guess the usage of the artifacts we brought from the museum.



Left: Susan Amon at the NatureFest museum table. Right: Museum board members attend Chamber of Commerce mixer at Liebre Adobe in September. (photos by B. Kane)

Later in September approximately 35 people participated in our annual San Andreas Fault tour led this year by geologist Tim Elam, from the Buena Vista Museum of Natural History in Bakersfield (also a part time resident of Pine Mountain Club). Mr. Elam guided the group through the mountain communities showing how the San Andreas Fault winds through this area. Mr. Elam was informative and patient with all the questions he was asked.

On October 29<sup>th</sup> a local storyteller, Michi Knight, hosted a group of children at the museum for a Halloween story and craft time. Great fun and spookiness was enjoyed by all.

On November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, the Museum sponsored our annual Holiday Craft Faire at the Frazier Park Community Center. This year the weather turned cold, but some brave souls came out to enjoy the local artisans and crafters who presented their wares. Koral Hancharick won the year long raffle for the lovely Chitwood quilt.

## COMING EVENTS

There will be another ever-popular beginners Pine Needle Basket Weaving class will be held at the Museum on Saturday March 24, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. Call the museum to reserve a place in the class.

Look for our 2012 Events Calendar coming in January to your email address and the next newsletter. We will be offering some new events, which might be of interest to you.

# Ridge Route Communities Museum & Historical Society

Membership Form

Mail to: PO Box 684, Frazier Park, CA 93225

New Member	Renewal	
_____	_____	Annual Individual Membership (\$20.00)
_____	_____	Annual Family Membership (\$30.00)
_____	_____	Annual Senior Membership (\$15.00)
_____	_____	Annual Business Membership (\$50.00)
_____	_____	Lifetime Membership (\$300.00)
Telephone _____		Cell Phone _____
Names(s) _____		
Address _____		
Email Address _____		
I would like to receive my newsletter by: _____ Email _____ US Mail		
_____ Gift Membership given to: Name(s) _____		
Address _____		
_____ Memorial Gift given in the name of _____		
Address where acknowledgment can be sent _____		
Donations: \$ _____ Building Fund    \$ _____ Publication Fund    \$ _____ General Fund		

Order form for books on local history (also available in our store or on-line)

TITLE	COST	SHIPPING*
The Art of Gathering & Making Elderberry Jam	\$2.50	\$1.25
Cuddy Cattle Drive	\$1.50	\$1.25
Dawn to Dusk (Poems of Florence Cuddy)	\$1.50	\$1.25
Growing Up in Wheeler Ridge	\$8.00	\$3.50
Heap of Eatin' Cookbook	\$10.00	\$3.75
Heap of Livin' (McKenzie family history)	\$20.00	\$4.25
Homesteaders Heyday (Lockwood Valley – 1920's)	\$12.00	\$3.50
Mines, Murders & Grizzlies (Lockwood Valley)	\$12.00	\$3.50
A View from the Ridge Route:		
Vol. I The First People	\$15.00	\$3.75
Vol. II The Fort Tejon Era	\$15.00	\$3.75
Vol. III The Ranchos	\$18.00	\$3.75
Vol. IV The Resources	\$22.00	\$4.25

\*Call for shipping & handling cost if ordering more than one book

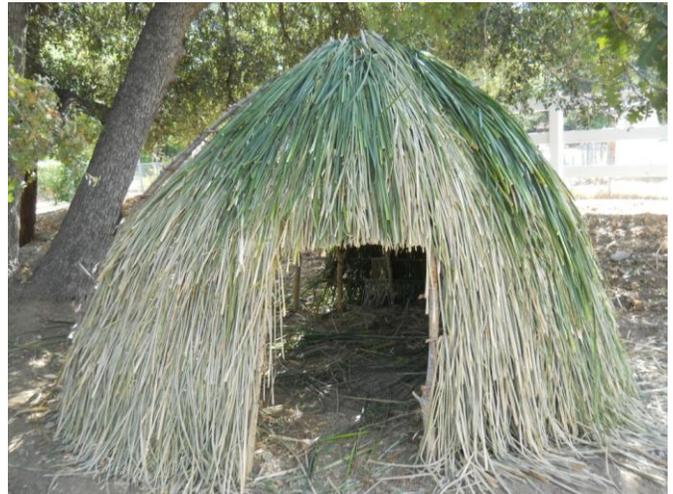
QUANTITY	NAME OF BOOK	COST	SHIPPING	TOTAL

Make checks payable to RRCH&HS TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## **CHUMASH VILLAGE**

For several months now, Chase Hawes of Pine Mountain Club has been working on constructing our Chumash Village as his Eagle Scout project.

Show below are photos of: the boys gathering reeds for the hut and shelter (Eric Hawes, Tristan Csulak, Forrest Csulak, Chase Hawes, Orion Zorich) and the completed Chumash hut or “ap”. (Hawes photo)



## **HOW TO REACH US...**

The Museum and Historical Society offices are located at 3515 Park Drive in Frazier Park – just east of the Post Office. Our hours are Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons, 12 noon to 4 p.m.

For donations our tax I.D. # is 77-0431597

Museum phone: 661-245-RRHS (7747)

Web site: [www.rrchs.org](http://www.rrchs.org)

Email: [rrchs@frazmtn.com](mailto:rrchs@frazmtn.com)

USPS mail: P.O. Box 684  
Frazier Park, CA 93225



**CHECK YOUR LABEL FOR YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DATE!**