



Ridge Route Communities  
**MUSEUM**  
& Historical Society

FALL 2017



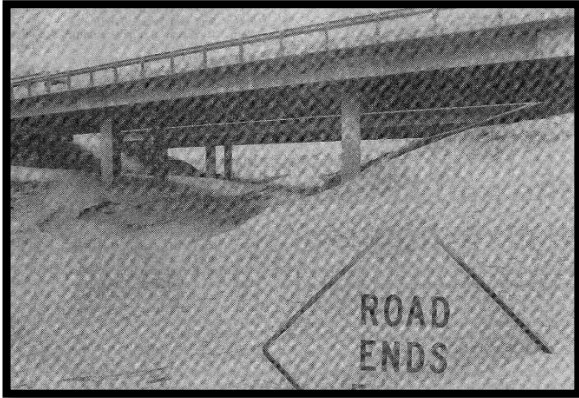
# The Ridge Route Rambler

We're nuts  about history.

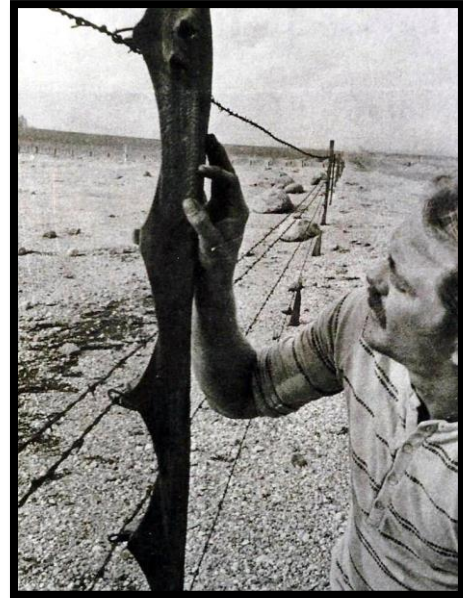
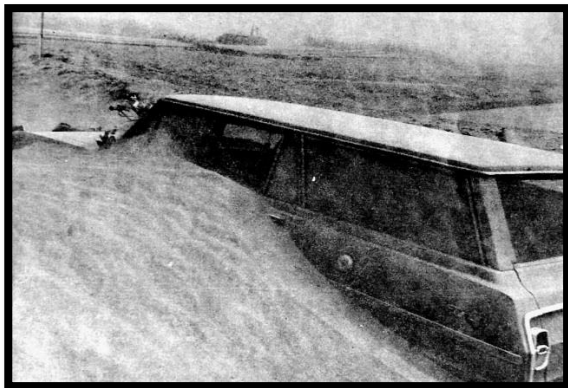
Editors: Chandra Sargent Mead and Bonnie Ketterl Kane

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**40 YEARS AGO** we experienced the most memorable dirt storm ever recorded in the southern San Joaquin Valley. It began on the morning of December 20, 1977 and continued for some 36 hours. Winds up to 200 miles per hour came down off the mountains from the southeastern end of the valley – the result of a weather system from the Rocky Mountains colliding with one from the Pacific Ocean. Pilots reported clouds of dirt that rose almost a mile into the air. Meteorologists described the storm as the worst weather to ever hit the area.



Millions of tons of soil were blown from fields, under bridges, filling the aqueducts and swimming pools in Bakersfield. Orchards were flattened, crops buried, cattle had their hides sandblasted from them and many animals died attempting to take shelter near fence posts. Railroad tracks were buried, and 400 utility poles were downed. Vehicle's paint jobs were sandblasted and windows were blown out of many cars traveling between Bakersfield and Fort Tejon, causing them to fill with dirt.



Shown above is what was left of a fence post after the storm

It took years for the foothills to produce the usual springtime carpet of flowers again, as they were stripped of the plants and the seed that produced them.

It was the Tuesday before Christmas and the highway was full of holiday travelers. Those who were able to take shelter filled the three restaurants that were located at the bottom of Grapevine Canyon in the 1970's. The restaurants had no heat, and as food supplies dwindled, stranded travelers shared with each other to stretch what they had left. Truck drivers braved the storm to move their trucks to create wind breaks around the buildings in an attempt to save the windows from blowing in. Supplies such as tarps and plywood were pulled from trucks to cover broken windows, and moving van pads were used as bedding and blankets. Fortunately, only five people lost their lives.

The following spring, the most massive mudslides that Grapevine Canyon had ever experienced resulted from the '77 dust storm, as Mother Nature continued to let us know who was in charge.

Photos courtesy of the Bakersfield Californian.

## CEMETERY NEWS . . .

In keeping with the Halloween season, our speaker at the museum for October was John Codd, who has been the historian of Union Cemetery in Bakersfield for ten years. His subject, "WHERE ARE THEY BURIED?" told of the earliest local burials and death records of Native Peoples, such as the Indian cemetery in Tejon Canyon on Tejon Ranch and pioneer families such as the Cuddys. Mr. Codd took us on a tour from north of Pine Mountain Club, into Cuddy Valley, Frazier Park, out into the Antelope Valley, Fort Tejon and Tejon Ranch, including many solo graves.



John Codd (left) shown with his audience – a full house

Speaking of cemeteries, it was announced in October that the Frazier Mountain area will finally have its own cemetery. Through a very generous donation of 4 acres of land from Frazier Park resident Sigmund Lichter, and the diligent work of the South Kern Cemetery Board, the paperwork has been finalized and work is expected to begin next year. This public cemetery will only accommodate above-ground cremations. It is located south of Frazier Mountain Park Road, just east of Frazier Park, between the road and Cuddy Creek.

## LOOKING BACK . .

Our **Labor Day weekend** Yard Sale was our largest ever! So large, that we didn't just have items around the cabin and gas station, but also on the porch and patio. Next year we could really use help in the month before Labor Day to sort and set up, so let us know if you can!!

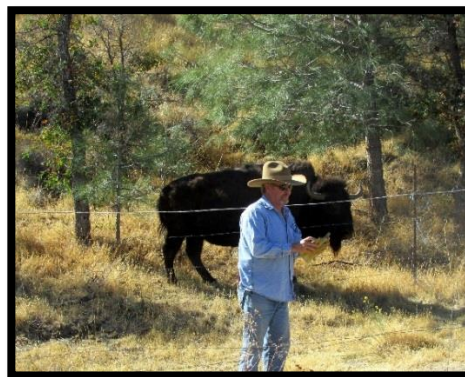
Our "Destination Dinner" on **September 30th** at Lockwood's Ranch in Lockwood Valley was a great success. The weather was beautiful and sixty-some people attended. Tours of the beautifully restored ranch house were given, followed by the dinner and program. As the home was greatly expanded by Mr. & Mrs. Dalton Trumbo in the 1940's, their time at the ranch was the emphasis of the evening. Among the honored guests was Larry Ceplair, who co-authored the latest book on the

Dalton Trumbo story with the Trumbo's son, Christopher. Museum volunteer Timothy Doe told of his great admiration for Mr. Trumbo and his writings, and our historian, Bonnie Kane, gave the overall history of the ranch. Shown below are some of our guests in the tranquil courtyard of Lockwood Ranch.



Watch this newsletter for the next "Destination Dinner" announcement.

On **October 28th**, we finally had another Ridge Route Road Tour, from Gorman south to the Tumble Inn gate, led by our historian Bonnie Kane, assisted by Don and Bethel Billesbach. At his ranch along the RRR, Frank Lloyd met the group with his dog, "Spot", I mean his buffalo, "Star".



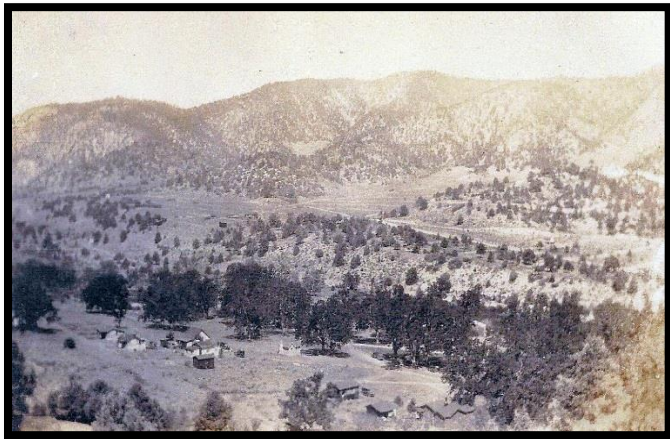
Tour attendees, John & Debbie Mallon, (shown below) took the time to walk past the Tumble Inn gate and locate these rarely seen tracks left in the concrete by a Model T during construction in the 1910's.



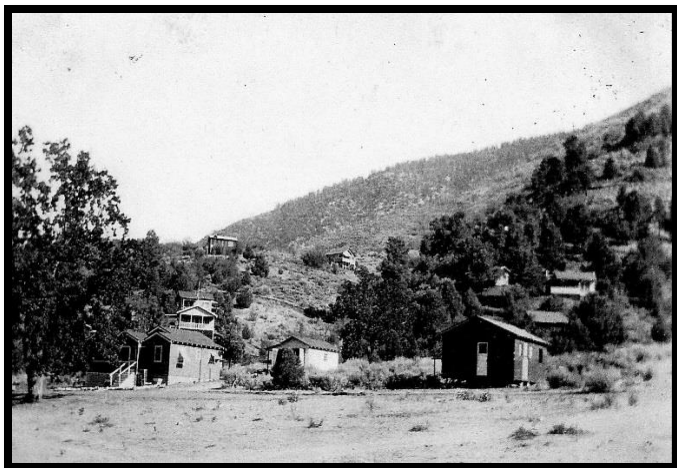
Additionally, Ms. Kane gave a private tour during the last few months to retired California State Park Rangers. Similar private tours can be arranged for a donation.

## LOCAL PHOTOS

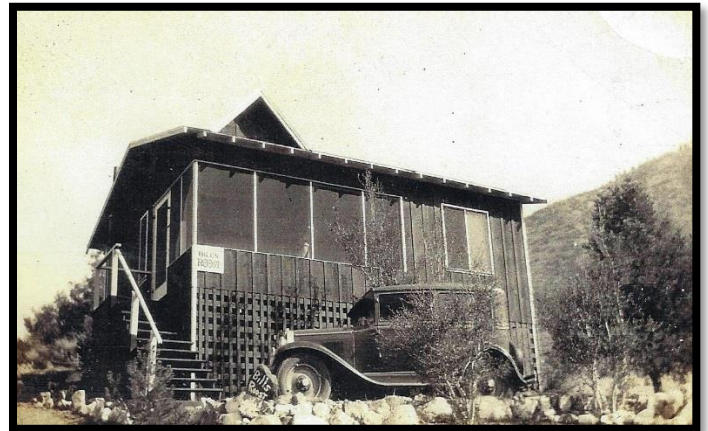
A few months back, we received some fantastic old photos of Frazier Park from Dennis Penna, probably taken in the 1930's. The first, below, is taken looking northwest, toward what is now the park, the north bank of Cuddy Creek and beyond, the area that is now called the "tree" streets, Locust, Poplar, Maple, Spruce, Walnut and Elm.



The next photo, below, is taken looking southeast, back up the hill, with what was Frazier Park's first doctor, "Doc" Moody's house (now on Encino Trail) on the left. Doc Moody's office was on his front porch. The beautiful County Library now sits in front of that house.



The 3<sup>rd</sup> photo, below, is of the top house seen on the hill in the prior photo, and is labeled "Bill's Roost".



We're pretty sure the last one, below, is facing south, but there is much debate as to where it might be. Perhaps the property that became Tait Ranch? Or around Pine Canyon and the park? If you have any ideas, or clues as to when or where any of these photos were taken, please let us know.



*MANY THANKS TO*

*Tejon Mountain Village* 

*FOR THE PRINTING OF OUR  
NEWSLETTER !!!*

and to **BARBARA & SCOTT ROSEN** of

**FRAZIER MOUNTAIN  
INTERNET**

**FOR THEIR SERVICES AND SUPPORT!**



## TIS THE SEASON . . .

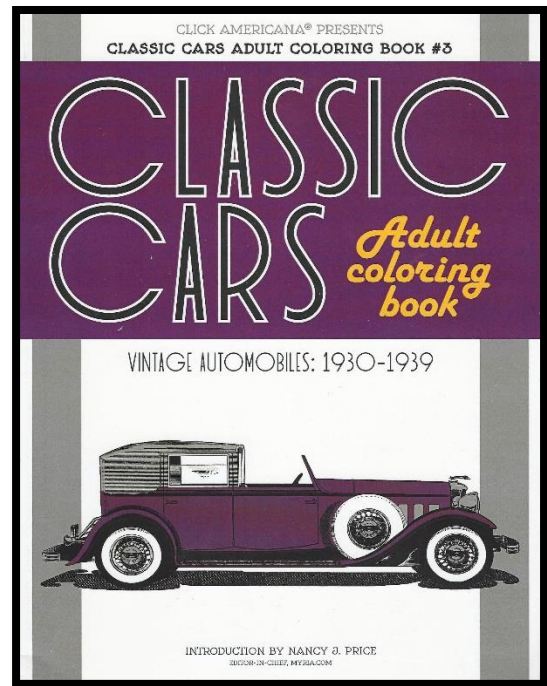
As the media has been touting it, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving is now referred to as "GIVING TUESDAY". Not to be left out, we have enclosed an envelope with this newsletter in case you might have the mind to make a year-end donation to one of your favorite non-profit organizations – THE RIDGE ROUTE COMMUNITIES MUSEUM. Our fall fundraisers have helped us make up the annual deficit, but in the winter months ahead donations and bookstore sales are always lean. It takes some \$1500 a month just to meet monthly expenses such as mortgage, insurance, utilities, office supplies, etc. We consider ourselves fortunate if we take in \$1,000 a month through book sales, memberships and donations, and try to make up the rest in event activities. HOPING TO HEAR FROM YOU.

ANOTHER WAY TO HELP is to visit our Museum Book Store on SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY, November 25<sup>th</sup>, online or in person.

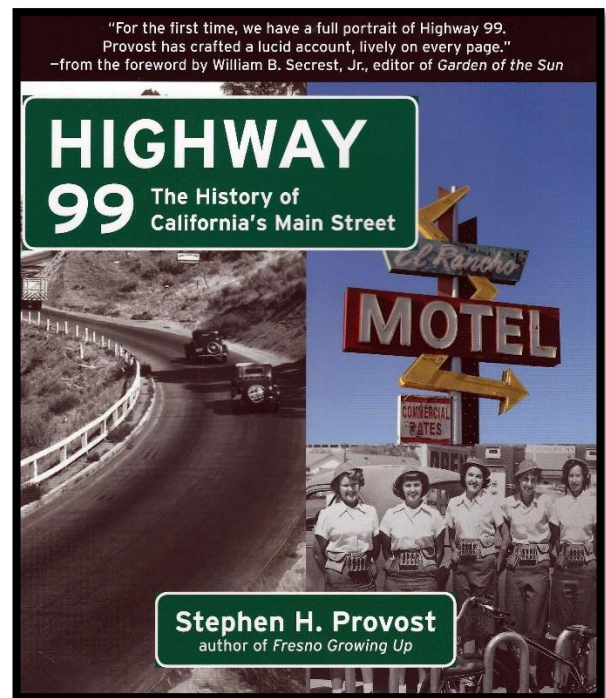
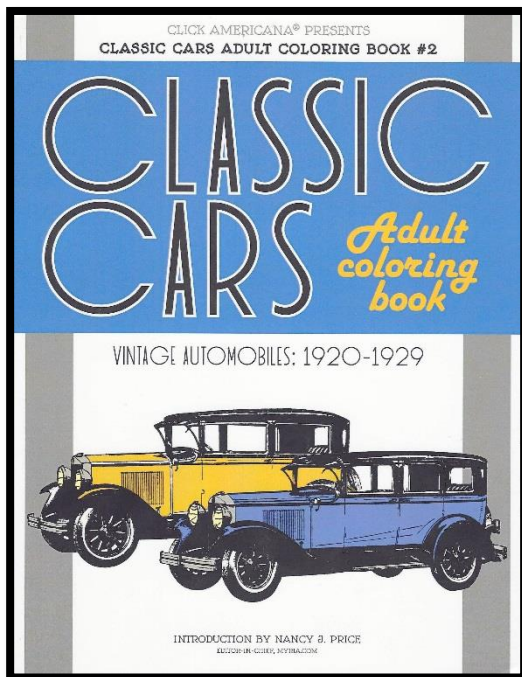
## NEW ADDITIONS

In conjunction with Bonnie Kane's mid-year rib basket weaving class, we now carry a book on the subject, in case you want to continue the basket you started, or get fancy and start a different one (\$20 including tax).

Seeing as how the museum is automotive related, we now carry these two adult coloring books for car buffs (\$10 including tax).



And for you "roadies", we now carry this recently released book by Stephen Provost, (\$20 including tax). It is the most complete history of Highway 99 ever published, containing a full history of its creation, as well as covering the hotels, restaurants, roadside attractions and amenities for the traveler that flourished alongside the highway.



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# **DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR DUES!**

## **Ridge Route Communities Museum & Historical Society**

PO Box 684, Frazier Park, CA 93225

New Member	Renewal		
_____	_____	General Membership (includes spouse & family)	<b>\$25.00</b>
_____	_____	Senior Membership	\$15.00
_____	_____	Business Membership	\$50.00
_____	_____	Lifetime Membership	\$300.00

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I would like to receive my newsletter by: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ US Mail

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Address where acknowledgment can be sent \_\_\_\_\_

Donation: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (to help with our monthly expenses)

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**Museum Location:** 3515 Park Drive, Frazier Park, CA  
**Museum Hours:** Fri. Sat. & Sun. Noon-4:00; summer 12-5  
**Museum Phone:** 661-245-7747  
**Museum Website:** [www.ridgeroutemuseum.org](http://www.ridgeroutemuseum.org)  
**Museum Email:** rrchs@frazmtn.com

**RIDGE ROUTE COMMUNITIES MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**P.O.BOX 684**  
**FRAZIER PARK, CA 93225**

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