



Ridge Route Communities  
**MUSEUM**  
& Historical Society

SUMMER 2018

# The Ridge Route Rambler

We're nuts  about history.

Editors: Chandra Sargent Mead and Bonnie Ketterl Kane

## CCHS AWARD

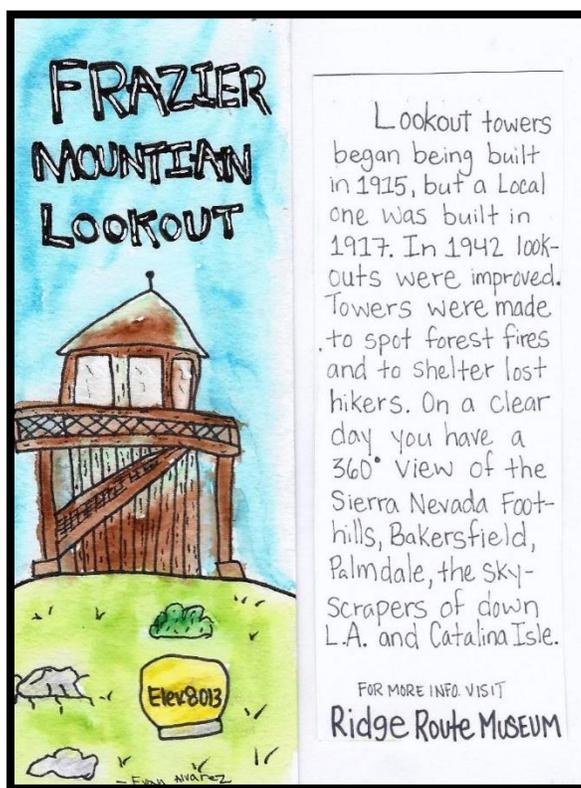
The Conference of California Historical Societies (CCHS) recently awarded the "Waddingham/Doctor Award" to our museum historian, curator and co-founder, Bonnie Ketterl Kane. This award is given as a "life-time" achievement award to persons who have spent twenty-five years or more of consistent and outstanding service to a local historical organization. We are so proud of Bonnie and know that the people of the communities of Frazier Mountain appreciate all that she has done to record and preserve our history. Bonnie was a founding member of the Ridge Route Communities Museum & Historical Society 21 years ago and the Fort Tejon Historical Society in the late 1970's. She has been preserving the history of this part of California for some 48 years, conducting interviews, collecting artifacts, photos and newspaper articles, writing books as well as speaking on local history, and encouraging a variety of events to keep the museum alive and going.



## BOOKMARK CONTEST

At the end of this school year, the Museum sponsored a contest open to all students on the hill in the 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Students were asked to make a bookmark based on events, persons or places from local history.

The Grand Prize (\$100, \$50 from the Museum and \$50 from the Mountain Enterprise) went to Evan Alvarez, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, from Inspire Charter Schools. His excellent entry is shown using the Frazier Mountain Lookout Towers in the Los Padres National Forest as his topic.



First through third prizes were also awarded at each school. At Peak-to-Peak Mountain Charter School, there was a tie for First Place: Emily Bolton, 6<sup>th</sup> grade and Julianne Burnet-Thoene, 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Second Place at Peak to Peak went to Siena Carruth, 8<sup>th</sup> grade; and Third Place went to Michaela Glover, 6<sup>th</sup> grade. El Tejon School's Madison Trotter, in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, earned Second Place. All winning bookmarks are on display at the Museum for the summer.

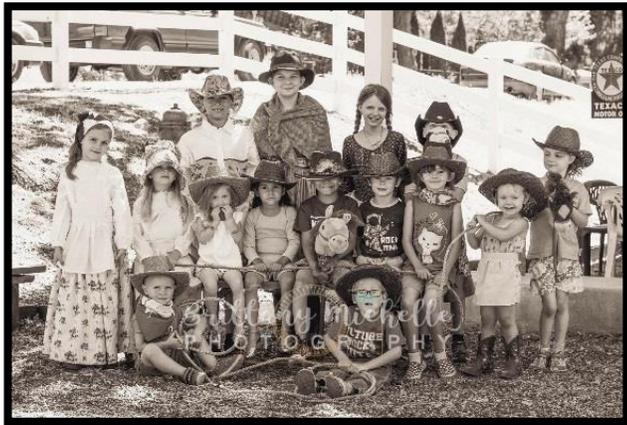
We hope to expand the contest next year, and include high school students in their own category.



Grand Prize winner, Evan Alvarez, shown (R) with Jane Robison, administrator of the contest (L)

## CHARTER SCHOOL VISIT

In June, the Museum hosted an event for the local Inspire Home School students, administered by Bari Moulin. The kids were able to pan for "gold", go on a "treasure hunt" inside the museum, tour the inside of the Cuddy cabin, and grind acorns, play games and listen to flute music at the Chumash exhibit.



The Inspire kids in "pioneer" attire, photo by Brittany Michelle

## THANK YOU . . .

Our thanks go out to the person or persons who secretly leave us large amounts of ink cartridges on our front porch. Office Depot gives us credit for them towards all the ink and paper we use. Whoever you are – Thank You.

We also want to thank all the folks who have joined the museum as Lifetime Members this year: Kenna Mattox, Hanni Mosig, Bruce Fredholm, and Barry & Barbara Lederman, These memberships really help make a difference!

## CHUMASH AP

Our newest museum docent, Kevin Wooten – a retired postal service worker, has graciously taken on a number of projects at the museum that were in need of improvement. One such project was our "Indian Center". Kevin, in the process of taking a number of survival courses, did a wonderful job of resurfacing our Indian shelter – or "ap" in Chumash. We very much appreciate his efforts to improve this special learning area of the museum are.



## CORVETTES

The museum recently welcomed the Corvette Club of Bakersfield – hosted by our volunteer, Kevin Wooten. There wasn't enough room in our parking lot, so they are shown in the Post Office lot with the museum in the background. We welcome all kinds of groups to visit us, and the beautiful Frazier Mountain area.



## CHRISTO UMBRELLA

In October 1991, Christo Vladimirov Javacheff and Jeanne-Claude opened two simultaneous environmental works of art in Gorman, California and Ibaraki, Japan. They covered the hillsides with 28-foot diameter umbrellas, yellow ones in California and blue ones in Japan. At the time, the Ralphs family owned much of the town of Gorman. Lorraine Ralphs (Harris) recently donated to the museum fabric from both projects given to her in gratitude for chauffeuring the Christo staff around the area.



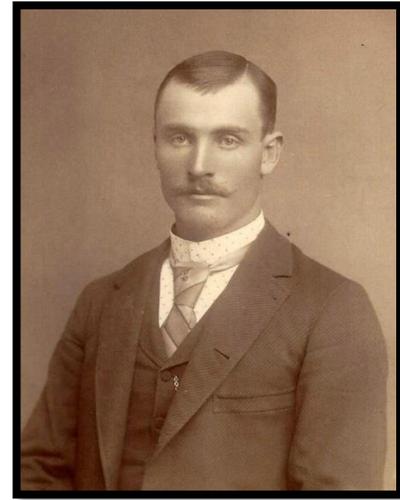
Photo in 1991 by Gordon Glattenberg

The museum is fortunate to have a very creative crafter in our midst, Diana Andrews, who has also put on our beautiful teas lately. We commissioned Diana to make the fabric into a fantastic one-half yellow and one-half blue umbrella to use at events at the museum. We thank her for her efforts.



## GORMAN'S HENRY GORMAN MAKES THE NEWS . . .

As it is bear season on Frazier Mountain, we share this bear story. An interesting article was located in the October 1, 1895 issue of the Los Angeles Times. It is entitled "A BEER-DRINKING BEAR" with the subtitle "Proved a Dangerous Pet for Henry Gorman". (This would be a second generation Henry Gorman, as he is named after his uncle.)



"A bear recovering from a jag is a dangerous pet, as Henry Gorman of Gorman's Station realizes. As the result of too much familiarity with a beer-drinking bruin, Mr. Gorman is nursing a frightfully incerated (*sic*) hand and arm. Bruin is dead, but he did not die before his body was literally pumped full of lead."

"The tragedy occurred Sunday evening at the road-house in Cahuenga Pass of which Mr. Gorman is part proprietor. One of the attractions at this resort for several years past has been an Alaskan black bear" (*probably a common black bear brought down from the hills around Gorman*). "At the time of his death he was about seven years old and was an inveterate toper. The chief accomplishment of this bear, in fact, was the consumption of beer and other intoxicants and when drunk his antics were exceedingly comic. But during the after stages of his jags, Bruin was very ugly and quite dangerous."

"The chain by which the bear was tethered was old and rusty, so last Saturday, during Mr. Gorman's absence, a new chain, somewhat longer, was substituted. Sunday evening Mr. Gorman went out to feed the bear some meat. Being unaware of the increased length of bruin's chain, he ventured as close to the animal as usual. The bear was just recovering from the weekend's entertainment, and, coming up toward Mr. Gorman as though to get the meat offered him, he made a sudden spring and grabbed Gorman by the right arm with his claws. He ripped the skin frightfully, then got the man's hand in his mouth and began crunching the bones."

"Gorman screamed for help and Constable Harvey Branscom of Calabasas, who happened that way, emptied his six-shooter into the savage beast, but the bear still held on to his prey. James Gorman, brother of the unfortunate man came to the rescue and fired eight more bullets into bruin's body before he gave up the ghost."

"Sixteen stitches were put into Gorman's hand to bind the mangled shreds of flesh together, and under the doctor's care he is doing as well as could

be expected after such a rough experience. The wounds are painful, but the hand will not be permanently crippled."

## ANOTHER ANIMAL STORY FROM GORMAN . . .



This article comes from the Los Angeles Times of May 3, 1898 and takes place in today's Gorman. It is entitled "THREE PRETTY PETS" with the subtitle: "Mountaineer Brings Up Orphan Lynxes by Hand" (we suspect that they were probably bobcats). A bit graphic, it reads:

"J. W. Heart, a rancher at Gorman's Station in the northern part of the county, brought in yesterday three lynx kittens, about

two weeks old, which he is "raising by hand". The little bobtail babies with tufted ears take to the bottle kindly, and when one is sucking the rubber nipple, the other two squall lustily for milk.

"The three kittens are orphans. Heart is their stepfather, and the bottle is stepmother. Heart found them in an old mine tunnel on Frazier Mountain. He saw their parents go into the tunnel, and crawled in after them with a six-shooter in hand. He blew off the top of Mrs. Lynx's head and plugged her spouse in the spine, and then he put the rest of the family in his pocket and went home.

"The youngsters have opened their eyes, and are fat and lively. Heart thinks they will be beautiful pets, but is a little doubtful of the wisdom of giving them to the children as playmates, because their claws are already larger than an adult house cat's, and never seem to be sheathed. He has taken them to his family at the Palms."

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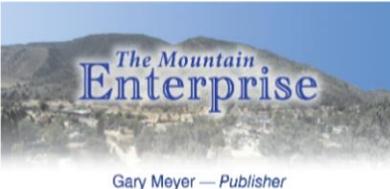
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### **Ridge Route Communities Museum & Historical Society**

PO Box 684, Frazier Park, CA 93225

New Member	Renewal		
_____	_____	General Membership (includes spouse & family)	<b>\$25.00</b>
_____	_____	Senior Membership	\$15.00
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and to

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**FRAZIER MOUNTAIN  
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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Saturday **August 11** at 7:00 Scott Rosen, local amateur astronomer, will present a slide show on astrophotography.

Saturday **September 8**, Jayne Hotchkiss-Price, Kern Co. Historical Society will speak on "Law & Disorder"

Saturday **September 15**, we intend to lead a tour of Mutau Flats

As of press time, it is still uncertain if we will have our Yard Sale over Labor Day weekend, or our Destination Dinner on the last weekend of September. Call the museum for further details.

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**Museum Location:** 3515 Park Drive, Frazier Park, CA

**Museum Hours:** Fri. Sat. & Sun. Noon-4:00; Summer Noon-5

**Museum Phone:** 661-245-7747

**Museum Website:** [www.ridgeroutemuseum.org](http://www.ridgeroutemuseum.org)

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

**RIDGE ROUTE COMMUNITIES MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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