



Ridge Route Communities
MUSEUM
& Historical Society

Winter 2016

The Ridge Route Rambler

We're nuts  about history.



**RIDGE ROUTE
COMMUNITIES MUSEUM**

Museum Location: 3515 Park Drive, Frazier Park, CA

Museum Phone: 661-245-7747

Museum Hours: Fri. Sat. & Sun. 12-4; summer 12-5

Museum Website: www.rrchs.org

Museum Email: rrchs@frazmtn.com

THE BIRTH OF KERN COUNTY

The year after California became a state in 1850, an Indian Reservation was established in the canyons of the Southern San Joaquin Valley. This was followed by the building of Fort Tejon at the top of Grapevine Canyon in 1854 along the Los Angeles/Stockton Road, now known as Interstate 5.



Samuel Addison Bishop, who was assisting with the management of the Indian Reservation, purchased the Castac Mexican Land Grant that the Fort was located on. When the Fort was closed in 1861, due to the pending Civil War, all personnel were sent south to protect the harbors of Los Angeles. Mr. Bishop, who

served as the Justice of the Peace for the area, found himself with a sizeable settlement of fine adobe buildings. Bishop attempted to get the civilians and merchants, who had been serving the military personnel, to occupy the buildings but to no avail.

With an empty military post on his hands, Bishop, of whom it was said, "*had the keen intelligence which earned him his high position among men of business*", went to work on his idea to form a new County named "Tejon" out of a southern section of Tulare County and a northern portion of Los Angeles County, with the buildings of Fort Tejon serving as the county seat. The civilians and former soldiers of Fort Tejon, who had settled nearby and founded the communities of Lebec and Gorman, signed the petition Bishop presented to them. He then took the petition to the State Legislature, which passed a bill to form the new "Kern" County— named for the topographer, Edward Kern, who had traveled through the canyon with John Fremont in 1845.

On April 2, 1866 (150 years ago) Kern County was formally founded, and the elections of officials and establishment of a county seat were called for. Meanwhile, gold had attracted thousands of people to the mountains of the Kern River. Therefore Havilah in the Tehachapi Mountains was voted in as the first county seat since the majority of the population was located there. Havilah was the county seat for only 8 years, after which it was moved to Bakersfield. Despite his disappointment, Sam Bishop was chosen as one of the supervisors, an office he resigned only a few months later. Bishop sold Rancho Castac to Edward Beale and it became part of Rancho El Tejon. Bishop moved his family to his Owens Valley ranch in the area that later became Bishop, California. Later on he moved to San Jose where he became a pillar of the community.

Some years later, H. S. Foote wrote of Bishop: "*Few of the pioneers of California had led a more active and useful life, or contributed more largely toward the advancement of this state to its present proud position than Mr. Bishop. He is endowed with rare natural abilities, and a genial, kindly disposition.*"

Our historian Bonnie Kane will be speaking at the first of two Symposiums to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the County sponsored by the Kern County Historical Society. The first will be held on **Sat. February 20** at the Kern County Museum, 3801 Chester Ave., Bakersfield. The second will be held on March 19 with other speakers, from 10-2 each day.

CELEBRATING OUR 20TH YEAR!!

We are very proud of our growth over the last 20 years and all the volunteers that have made it possible. We are also pleased to announce that we finished the year 2015 in the black and are looking forward to a wonderful year ahead. In the future our goals are to pave our patio,



expand our building to create an exhibit hall and eventually acquire the land and barn next door.

We need about \$1500 a month just to meet our expenses. Without your donations our income is derived solely from memberships, store sales and events.

LIFETIME MEMBERS

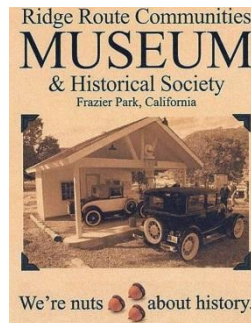
We would like to honor our members who have given at a "Lifetime" level, currently \$300. Or perhaps we should say: beyond Lifetime, as you may recognize that some of the folks below are deceased. Our Lifetime Members are:

Glen (Bucky) Alzola
Ken & Laura Andresen
Brian Blain
Lloyd (Sparky) Bright
Larry & Candace Husky Brown
Nancy Cole
Alice & Jerry Crandall
Don & Daisy Cuddy
Gloria Cuddy
Ray & Carol Darling
Jan DeLeeuw
Robert DeLoach
D.R. (Speedy) Denson
Jack & Teresa Dyer
Phyllis & Ellen Fenger
Hazel Garland
Chickie Jensen
Jim & Bonnie Kane
Jack & Sidney Kelley
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Frank & Jessica Hahn Lloyd
Pete & Kathy Mack
Mudd Means
Aron Meltzner
Marty Morehart
Daniel T. Munoz
Lynn Murphy
Frank & Debbie Nelson
Roy Newman
Curtis & Alma Newman
Michelle Nosco
Doris Jeppson Phillips
Eloise Richer
Richard & Kimberly Rink
Harrison Scott
Nancy Steiger
Ronald Uhler
Bill & Kerstin Wendt
Evan & Ann Wride
Susan Yarbrough

RAFFLE WINNERS

The winners of our year-long raffle drawn on December 5, 2015 were:

Vintage Doll: Barbara Norcross of Bakersfield
Wind Wolves tours: Bob & Lynette Lame of Pine Mountain Club, and C.E. Trotter of Bakersfield
Swedish Weaving Throw: Mary Kirkpatrick of Pismo Beach
Yellow & Brown Afghan: Ken Putnam of Bakersfield
Lavender Afghan: Ellen Fenger of Carpinteria
Roadhouse Grill gift card: Mary Sitts of Rapid City, SD
Congratulations!



\$18 for 2X.

NEW T-SHIRT DESIGN

Our museum t-shirt is back by popular demand, this time with the words "Frazier Park, California" added. You can order them through PayPal on our website, or come in and purchase them from our store. Prices are \$15 for sizes S-XL, and

SURVEY

Included in this newsletter you will find a survey and a return envelope. We would like to get feedback from our membership on what we are doing well and what we are not. We would also like to know what else you would like to see us do in the future. We will extend your membership an **additional 3 months** as an incentive to complete and return the survey. We look forward to hearing from you.

PLEDGE DRIVE AND MEMBERSHIP DUES

This year we would like to try a new fund raising device by asking members to pledge a monthly amount in addition to their annual dues. Even \$5 a month will help. In the envelope provided, you can either include 12 checks dated for each month of the year or send a one-time donation.

General Memberships have increased to **\$25**. We have eliminated family and student memberships (your family piggybacks on your general membership now). Senior memberships remain \$15, and business memberships \$50. As always, there is a membership form in the newsletter that you can also return with the enclosed envelope, and your membership expiration should be printed on your mailing label.

RIDGE ROUTE MUSEUM 2016 MEMBER SURVEY

Name & Address: _____

Current Membership Expiration: _____ Extended Expiration: _____

How long have you been a member? _____

Why did you join? _____

How did you find out about the Museum? _____

Have you ever visited the Museum? _____

If so, have you used the Museum's history files? _____

The Museum's library? _____

If so, what do you like most about the museum? _____

What do you think needs improvement? _____

What do you think draws people to the Museum? _____

Have you ever bought a book, or other item from the Museum? _____

Is there anything that you would like us to carry in our store? _____

Please rate each of the Museum past events:

Liked Neutral Disliked Never Attended Year Attended

Destination Dinner _____

Bloomer Tea Party _____

Yard Sale _____

Wild West Show _____

Craft Faire _____

San Andreas Fault Tour _____

Ridge Route Driving Tour _____

Nite Talks (specify _____) _____

Walking tours _____

Picnic _____

Ridge Route Centennial _____

Happy Hidden History Hour _____

What events would you like the museum to put on that you would come to?

What do you like about the newsletter? _____

What do you not like about the newsletter? _____

What would you like the newsletter to cover that it doesn't currently? _____

Have you visited the museum's website? _____

Have you liked us on Facebook? _____

How do you think the Museum could play a more crucial role in the community?

Are there any member benefits that you would like to see offered? _____

What would you like to get out of your membership that you don't currently?

Other comments: _____

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AND
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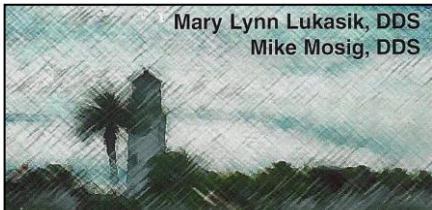
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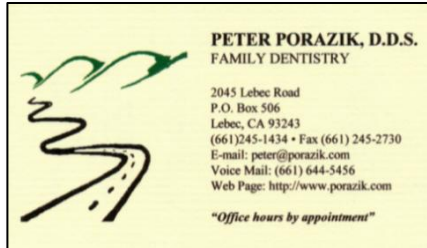
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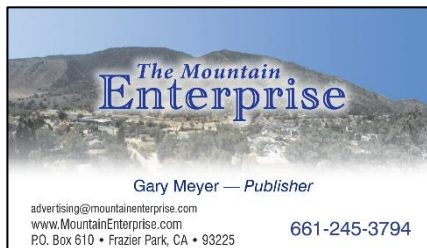
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Tejon Mountain Village 

FOR THE PRINTING OF OUR NEWSLETTER!!!!

A BIG "THANK YOU!"

TO TABATHA OF TABCLEAN FOR MUSEUM HOUSEKEEPING



TO SCOTT ROSEN & FRAZIER MOUNTAIN INTERNET FOR HIS SERVICES AND SUPPORT!

AND TO PCPal FOR THEIR CONTINUED SOFTWARE SUPPORT

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR DUES!

Ridge Route Communities Museum & Historical Society

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

New Member	Renewal	General Membership	\$25.00
_____	_____	Senior Membership	\$15.00
_____	_____	Business Membership	\$50.00
_____	_____	Lifetime Membership	\$300.00

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Email Address _____ Telephone(s): _____

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

Gift Membership for: Name(s) _____

Address _____

Memorial Gift given in the name of _____

Address where acknowledgment can be sent _____

Donations: \$ _____ Building Fund \$ _____ Publication Fund \$ _____ General Fund

2015 VISITORS

This last year we had 1389 visitors, about the same as the year before. We had visitors from as far away as Sweden, Mexico, Chile and France, from all over the country: Texas, Washington, North & South Carolina, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oregon, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Arizona, Nevada and New Hampshire as well as all OVER the state. Many locals (some of which "didn't know we were here", but thanks to our sign down by the freeway, and signs here in town, have now found us). If you haven't yet, please come and visit us!

COMING EVENTS



We are still working out the final details on our 2016 calendar. In **February** Bonnie Kane will hold a pine needle basket weaving class on Sat. the **27th** here at the museum. Cost will be \$10.

On **Saturday April 2nd** we will have a "Spring Bonnet" tea party, hosted by our English volunteer, Deborah Yeager, who hails from Yorkshire near the Downton Abbey area. Wear your best period attire and bonnet. You might win one of our door prizes!



Other ideas include a mini PowWow, a dramatic reading from the local history book "A Heap of Livin'", Mysteries at the Museum (perhaps a Ghost Tour), Movies at the Museum (most certainly the newest "Trumbo" movie, and perhaps a tour of the Trumbo ranch) an art show and Music at the Museum. We plan to have our annual Picnic in **July** and our Yard Sale over Labor Day weekend in **September**. We plan to put on another "Destination Dinner" at an historically significant local venue. We will have our usual San Andreas Fault tour, and may be able to offer another Ridge Route tour in conjunction with a "Centennial Plus One" event. We plan to have a booth at the Ridge Run Car Show **Memorial Day** Weekend and Fiesta Days in **August**, as well as participate in the parades of Lilac Festival, Fiesta Days and Holiday Faire. We will offer another "Happy Hidden History Hour" for children under 10 in **June**.

For details, call the museum, or look for more info in future editions of this publication.

NATIONAL FOREST NEWS. . .

The Los Padres Forest Watch does a very creditable job of helping restore our forest. Their latest publication reports that they removed 2,650 pounds of trash and 3,200 square yards of cape ivy in 2015, and that one million trees in the forest have succumbed to the drought.

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

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