



Ridge Route Communities
MUSEUM
& Historical Society

Summer 2015

The Ridge Route Rambler

We're nuts  about history.

Newsletter editors: Chandra Sargent Mead & Bonnie Ketterl Kane

Museum website: www.rrchs.org
Museum email: rrchs@frazmtn.com
Location: 3515 Park Drive, Frazier Park, CA

Museum phone: 661-245-7747
Museum hours: Fri., Sat. & Sun. 12-4; summer 12-5
Like Us on Facebook: Ridge Route Communities Museum



Red white and blue



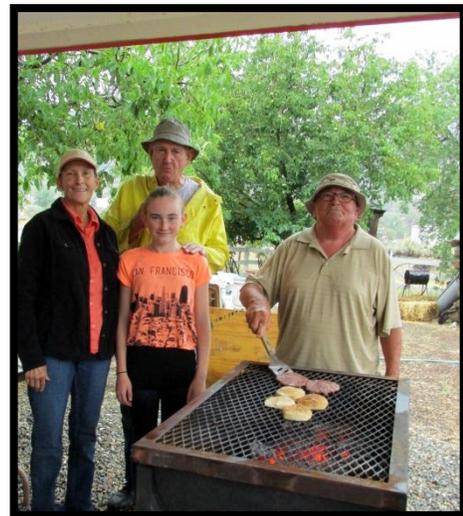
Approximately 25 “ponies” and 1 “bird” (Thunderbird) from the San Fernando Valley chapter of the California Mustang Club visited us in June

PICNIC . . .

One of the highlights of the year is our annual picnic – enjoyed by members, the community and staff. Great plans were made again this year, but dampened by rain – **lots** of rain. This rain storm was unlike any can remember, complete with lots of lightning and thunder, dumping more than 2 inches in just a few hours. Our little creek/drainage behind the museum ran full. Plans to sit under the trees and

gas station were abandoned for the porch and inside the museum.

Barbequing was done by Teresa Dyer and Martin Kegel under the canopy of the gas station. Jim Kane and grandchildren made numerous trips through the pouring rain to the museum porch to deliver the delicious meat. The freshly made hamburger patties were donated by the Frazier Park Market – so appreciated. The musicians found a dry corner inside and offered up some fantastic bluegrass music. A wonderful time was had by all. Don't miss it next year – rain or shine.



YARD SALE . . .

Time is fast approaching for one of our best fundraisers of the year – the MUSEUM YARD SALE. It will be held on the grounds of the museum on **Saturday, Sunday and Monday of Labor Day Weekend** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. You can help us greatly by donating unneeded items you have been storing. Bring them to the museum or call for pick-up or questions.

New to the yard sale this year will be the addition of excellent coffee and donuts provided by Cup of Joe's in Lake of the Woods.

DINNER

Our next fundraiser will be a wonderful "DESTINATION DINNER" on **Saturday September 19th**. This year Tejon Ranch has graciously allowed us to hold our event in the park at the Old Headquarters of the Ranch. This historic location was the center of all of Tejon Ranch operations from the late 1800's to the 1950's.

Bonnie Ketterl Kane will share with you the location's history through old photos and stories from the "old days". Former Ranch cowboy, Sonny Tubbs (a Cuddy Family descendent), will regale us with tales of living on the ranch, as well as music. The dinner will be catered by Kate Donahue, of the Work of HeArt Gallery – a delicious ranch style meal. Contact us early for your reservation. Tickets will be \$50 a person; registered guests will be sent directions. The Old Headquarters site is inside Tejon Ranch gates in the San Joaquin Valley, east of Grapevine Canyon. We hope to see you there. . .

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Plans are still under way for a gathering to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the old Ridge Route Road on **October 3rd**. The committee, headed by Harrison Scott and Bonnie Kane, both of whom have written books about the famous road, is putting together plans for the memorable event.

The historic old El Tejon School, which sits alongside the old road, will be the location of the gathering. There will be food, books and souvenirs for sale, displays and antique cars to view. A panel of speakers will take place at 1 p.m. – perhaps even some who drove the old road in the 1920's and 1930's. Come and share your memories of the old Ridge Route Road.

The event will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be no charge for the Centennial Celebration, but your help to preserve the old road is appreciated.

In the same neighborhood, just across the freeway at Fort Tejon, a living history program will be taking place as well.

EARTHQUAKE TOUR

On **Saturday September 26th** our resident geologist, Tim Elam of the Buena Vista Museum of Natural History, will once again lead us along the mysterious San Andreas Fault as he gives us a thorough look at its history. Numerous locations of visible activity over eons of time will be shown. Register for this tour by calling the museum at 661-245-7747. There will be a \$10 charge for the tour.

2015 RAFFLE UNDERWAY . . .

If you get this newsletter by mail, you will find an envelope as well as 6 raffle tickets enclosed. If you wish to buy tickets, send us \$5 for the tickets enclosed (and the stubs for the drawing with your name and phone number). If you wish to buy more (this year we offer another price break at 15 tickets for \$10) send us the additional money with a note and we will send the extra tickets to you. Our drawing will be held on Small Business Day, the Saturday after Thanksgiving (**November 29th**).

This year's prizes will be:
a vintage doll,
2 separate crocheted afghans,
a swedish-weaving throw,
a Tejon Conservancy tour,
a Wind Wolves Preserve Tour, and
a \$50 Original Roadhouse Grill gift certificate.



If there is an item in the raffle that you are particularly interested in, please indicate it on your tickets and if hasn't been drawn before yours we'll see that you get it.

HAPPY HIDDEN HISTORY HOUR

This year we tried a new event for kids ages 5-10 in late June. There were games (including Native American) and prizes, a treasure & a scavenger hunt as well as gold panning (shown below). Kids participated in a 19th century laundry. Residents with school age children, look for it again next year.



RIDGE ROUTE TURNS 100

By the time the Ridge Route Road opened in the fall of 1915, travelers road stops sprang up all along the route from Castaic to the Grapevine. Small aircraft could fly over the new road at night and follow a continuous stream of light from one end to the other from headlights, road stops, garages, auto courts (running on generators) and campfires.

Nighttime travel was popular and necessary in the summer months for tourists and truck drivers to avoid the heat. Night travel at high elevations also offered the traveler a view of the night sky no longer seen in the valleys below. Auto camps developed alongside the road stops where the "tin-can tourists" (camping in their "tin lizzies") could buy needed supplies. Some of the road stops even offered a community building where guests could cook and eat their meals.

The BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIAN of 8/05/1922 reported: "One of the most remarkable outgrowths of the new fad of motor camping lies in the establishment of a vast number of municipal and semi-private camping grounds in all sections of the country for the comfort and convenience of the rapidly increasing army of motor campers."

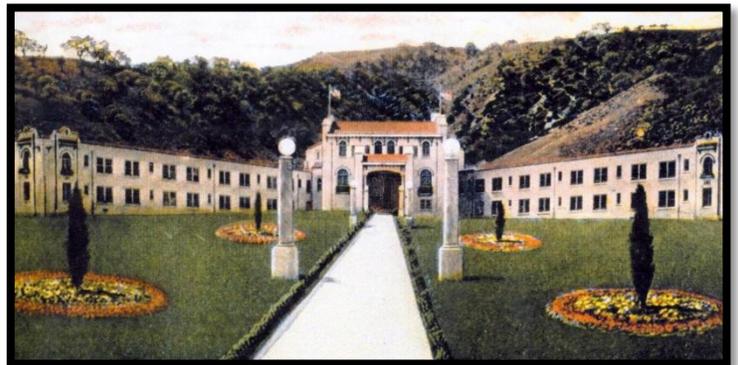
Soon bungalows were added to the "auto courts" and at the more luxurious stops one could even rent linens and bedding for the night. The most popular of the stops were the rustic Sandberg Lodge and the beautiful and fancy hotel in Lebec.

The "Sandberg Summit Hotel" once posted a sign that read, "Truck Drivers and Dogs not allowed", and all sorts of apple dishes were served from the Sandberg orchards nearby.



Sandberg Lodge

The Lebec Hotel became a hangout for the rich and famous, especially during the big band era. The hotel was designed by a San Francisco architect in Spanish mission style and could accommodate 400 guests. There were so many reservations for the Grand Opening in May of 1921 that two openings were held.



Lebec Hotel

There were more than 20 other road stops along the Ridge Route that catered to the average person and truck drivers. One of the most popular of these was Holland Summit at the top of the hill just south of Gorman and northwest of Quail Lake. Here trucker A. I. Bezerides is quoted as saying: "the waitresses were a good natured lot who could take a lot of horsing".



Holland Summit

The above information and other travelers stories can be found in Volume 5 of Bonnie Ketterl Kane's book, A VIEW FROM THE RIDGE ROUTE: THE ROADWAYS, available in the Museum Book Store and on our website.

Items are available on our website, linked through Facebook or on site in our bookstore.



BOOKSTORE ADDITIONS



The bookstore has added 3 new items: a Ridge Route Centennial button (\$1) and coffee mug (\$8), as well as a Museum magnet (\$4). The Self Guided Driving Tour of the Old Ridge Route Road is now available! (\$7)

A great big thank you to Barry Lederman for taking on the much needed job of painting the fascia boards on both sides of the museum building. Barry is shown on our north wall, against the mural painted by Michelle Nosco. Barry is a 7th grade teacher off the hill. He and his wife Barbara, also a volunteer at the museum, have a home in Frazier Park.

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR DUES!

Ridge Route Communities Museum & Historical Society

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

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