



Ridge Route Communities
MUSEUM
& Historical Society

The Ridge Route Rambler

We're nuts  about history.

Editors: Chandra Sargent Mead and Bonnie Ketterl Kane

TEJON'S 175th ANNIVERSARY . . .

Threatened with the loss of their lands to the north, Mexico began to issue land grants to their most respected citizens in the 1840's. The earliest grant in our mountain area was that of Rancho San Emigdio in 1842. It was located at the bottom of San Emigdio Canyon along the most traveled inland route called El Camino Viejo.

Then, between 1843 and 1846, four more land grants were issued, three in 1843 (Rancho El Tejon, Rancho Los Alamos y Agua Caliente and Rancho Castac) and Rancho La Liebre in 1846. The grantees had to prove up their claims by building and occupying an adobe structure and running herds of cattle.

By 1855, the Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the state, Edward Beale, had fallen in love with the area and purchased the Liebre grant which was some distance from the Reservation at the bottom of Grapevine Canyon. In 1865, when the government failed to ratify treaties with the local Indians, Mr. Beale, then the Surveyor General of California, also purchased the land that the reservation was located on, Rancho El Tejon, and made jobs available to the Indians that had settled there. That same year he purchased Rancho Los Alamos y Agua Caliente located further to the south near the Liebre Rancho and Rancho Castac – in the area of Grapevine Canyon.



Old Tejon Ranch Headquarters buildings



Old Tejon Ranch Dining Hall and Kitchen

These ranchos together became today's Rancho El Tejon comprising nearly 300,000 acres – the largest contiguous land holding in the state. The future of Tejon Ranch has been preserved in the Tejon Land Conservancy of 240,000 acres (which is celebrating their 10th Anniversary this year). Tejon Ranch continues efforts to develop commercial and residential areas along the Interstate 5 corridor.

The history of the Ranchos and Edward Beale is covered in detail in Volume 3 of Bonnie Kane's series of books entitled "A View from the Ridge Route: The Ranchos", available online and in our bookstore.

Test Your Knowledge (answers on page 5)

1. Edward Beale was one of those courageous men responsible for settling the West. He crossed the continent ____ times between 1847 and 1849 using three modes of transportation. In the 1840's these would be _____, _____, and _____.
2. Mr. Beale was one of those who encouraged the use of camels across the Mohave Desert, and with the help of those camels, he oversaw the creation of the first _____, later known as _____ and now known as _____.
3. Edward Beale also had a home in Washington D.C. Beale and President _____ were close friends and were known to race their _____ through the streets of that city.



OUR VISION AND HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are an endless number of non-profits that need support, but we hope that our appeal might stand out above the crowd. This is more than just about money; it is our hope to provide a sufficient setting to preserve our local history for present and future generations.

After twenty years, we have already grown far beyond our tiny initial storefront building and really need to continue expansion. Our current building is stuffed to the gills with exhibits, as well as serving as our bookstore, office, archive storage and occasional speaker room.

Our Vision is to add an exhibit and meeting hall, which would leave our existing building totally for research, the office and bookstore. A few years back, we had plans drawn up for the addition, and have so far failed to obtain a grant for the expansion. We not only need money for such a project, but help finding grants as well. Once we get a building fund going, matching funds will be easier to find. With your help things happen; without your help, they don't.

Please do not discount how important your membership is, since income from memberships, bookstore sales and events help us through our monthly expenses (and your membership gives you our great newsletter☺). Your ongoing support is always appreciated. Enclosed you will find an envelope to renew your membership and/or to donate towards building the exhibit hall. Thanking you in advance and HAPPY HOLIDAYS from the Ridge Route Communities Museum & Historical Society Staff . . .

THANK YOU and THANK YOU

We would like to thank Barbara and Barry Lederman whose lives have taken them away from the Frazier Mountain area, for all their help in grounds keeping and docenting and filing and decision making and planning and putting on events, and and and...We're going to miss them.



We would also like to thank the following folks that have recently supported us by becoming Lifetime Members: William Henning and Don & Bethel Billesbach.

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

This year we ventured out – with our flashlights – to put on our first “Night at the Museum”. It was so successful – due to our very creative museum volunteers – that we hope to make it an annual event. It was wonderful to see so many young families to the museum that had never been there before; we were pleasantly overflowing with children and their parents. They did a scavenger hunt to find Halloween surprises on our darkened grounds followed by refreshments, games and ghost stories inside the museum. A great success!!



Museum staff in costume

RIDGE ROUTE TOUR

This fall's tour was great fun as always. It seems every tour we see some form of wildlife: a condor, a bison on Frank Lloyds Ridge Route Ranch (check the Ranch out online) and, this time, coyotes watching us from the hills above Gorman. When an ambulance went by, we could hear coyotes howling from the surrounding hills.



Kevin Woten & Bethel Billesbach lead the tour at the Sandberg Inn marker.

Always a surprise is where everyone on the tour is from. This tour included folks from Ventura, Bakersfield, Fresno, Livermore, Castaic, Woodland Hills, Playa del Rey, Los Angeles and our local communities.

We have two private tours coming up early next year, as well as a public tour in the spring, which we will announce in our next newsletter.

We find we have a need for "Walkie Talkies" so that we can communicate between vehicles, to point out other items of interest and answer questions. If you should have any that you no longer use, please send them our way. Funds for new ones would be appreciated as well.

GEOCACHING and POKEMON

For all you tech savvy folks, you may or may not be aware that the museum is a Geocache site. Geocaching is a sort of GPS treasure hunt, that you can do using an app on your mobile phone or a GPS device.

Another game that can be played at the museum on your cell phone is Pokémon Go, an "augmented reality mobile game". Apparently, there is a "Poke Gym" located on the premises, where players can do battle.

OUR MEMBERS SHARE . . .

We have recently heard from Dick and Peggy Hart. Their father, George Hart, worked in the refinery division of the General Petroleum Plant at Lebec – at the entrance to Lebec Oaks Road and Los Padres Estates – back in the 1940's.

Dick says: *"Our mother was Margaret Hart, Peg was 8 and I was 3 when we moved there but I have many wonderful memories of hiking, sledding, the excitement of wrecks on the old Highway 99, rattle snakes, company housing, three refinery fires and going to the new El Tejon School. During our time there, we also had a cabin in Frazier Park to get away from the refinery when we could."*

Peg sent a wonderful drawing of the General Petroleum Pump Station and Refinery with the placement of building, homes and even the clothesline. She listed all the families who lived there when they did and wrote, *"I remember the big fire at the refinery. Dad woke us up and told us to get our coats and blankets and run toward the highway. That was so exciting for me because I got to sit on top of one of the cars with all the big kids and watch the flames shoot high up into the sky. Firetrucks came from the north and the south. It was like watching fireworks on the 4th of July. We later*



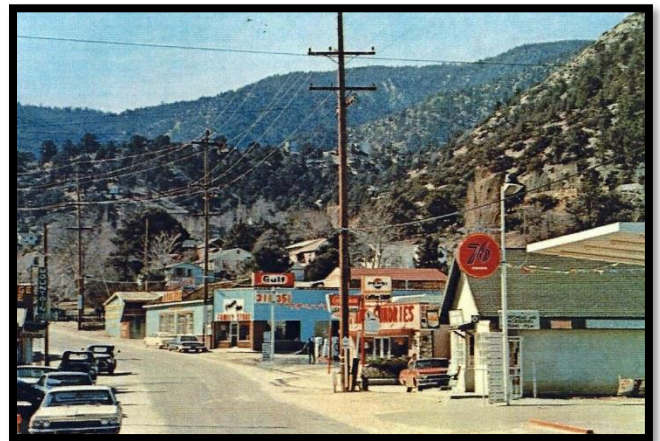
Peggy Hart in 1949 with her first pair of "real Levis", cowgirl shirt & boots, and brother Dick Hart

learned that our father was nearly killed by a falling insulator and my bike burned in the garage."

There will be more of their memories in the forthcoming Volume 6 of the series "A View from the Ridge Route: The Communities".

POSTCARDS, ETC.

Looking for a great Christmas gift for your history buff? Consider a book on our local history from our bookstore. Also, if you're looking for a memento from our area to send to someone special, buy one of our new line of postcards (only \$1). Shown below is a scene from the "main drag" of Frazier Park in the '60s. We also have postcards of local flowers by Lori Murphy, as well as her "Frazier Park" antique lettering.



3-2-1 CHALLENGE

The Mountain Communities Chamber of Commerce is offering the 3-2-1 Challenge, to hike 3 peaks in 2 counties in 1 day; an 11 mile hike to discover the southern Los Padres Forest by completing the highest points in Kern and Ventura County. Details are available at the museum or at www.mymountainchamber.com/321challenge.

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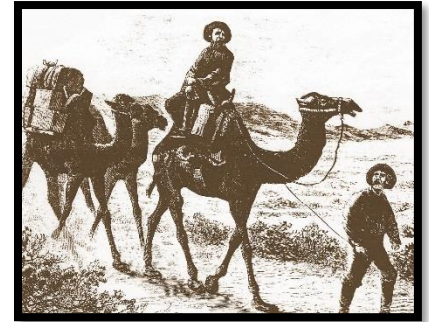
TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWERS



1. Lt. Edward Beale crossed this country 6 times between California and Washington D.C. during the years of 1847 & 1849, to carry military dispatches and the first news of the discovery of gold, by horse through Indian country and by ship when he reached the Gulf of Mexico. After docking, he traveled by coach.

Photo left is of a young Beale dressed as a Mexican to get through Mexican territory.

2. Edward Beale brought camels from Texas to Fort Tejon along the first wagon trail through the southwest that was later known as Route 66, and now known as Interstate 40. Shown right is an illustration from Harper's Weekly, 1877.



3. Mr. Beale and President Ulysses Grant would race their buggies through the streets. Grant even got a ticket for speeding once. Edward Beale was in charge of President Grant's funeral when that well-known man died. Shown left is Grant's first Tomb.

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)	\$25.00
_____	_____	Senior Membership	\$15.00
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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!**



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday **December 1** look for our group in the Holiday Faire parade

Wednesday **December 5**, Christmas Tea, \$15, call for reservations

We apologize for the cancellation of so many excellent events such as our Yard Sale, Destination Dinner, and Mutau Flats tour, but the health and availability of our staff members made it impossible. Look for them next year!

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

Museum Email: rrchs@frazmtn.com

RIDGE ROUTE COMMUNITIES MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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**PLEASE CHECK YOUR
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