



Ridge Route Communities  
**MUSEUM**  
& Historical Society

# The Ridge Route Rambler

We're nuts  about history.

Editors: Chandra Sargent Mead and Bonnie Ketterl Kane

## CHRISTMAS CHEER IN TIMES OF COVID



Hopefully, if you were in Frazer Park in December, you got to see our "Christmas Village", as our local newspaper, "The Mountain Enterprise" called it. Sometime near the end of November (i.e. last minute), board members decided to bring some Christmas cheer to our little town, a first for us.

So, we put out the word, scoured the thrift stores for lights, trees, displays and decorations. Volunteers, headed up by G Rick, put in hundreds of hours stringing lights, setting up trees, hanging garlands and wrapping "packages".

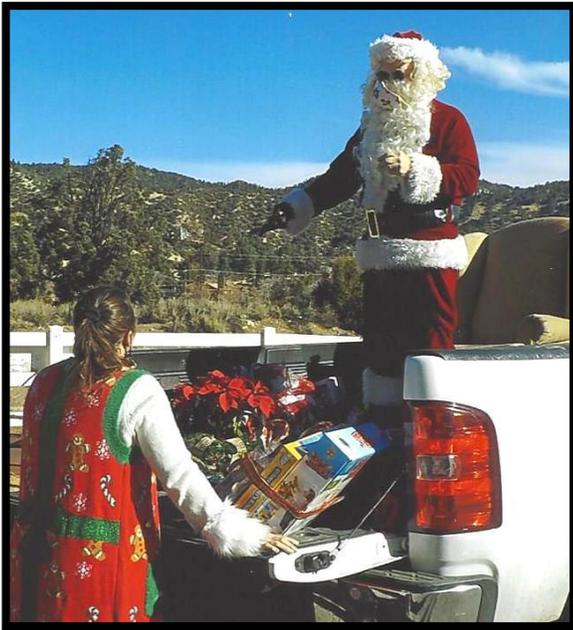


Bonnie Kane, Historian, and Bethel Billesbach, President



Gerard Palmisano of Zito Media used his bucket truck to string lights (almost) all the way up our 75-foot incense cedar tree. We even scavenged a full sized Santa statue from the dump. An inflated snowman lasted a couple of weeks until a windstorm tore him up beyond repair.

"Truckin' Santa" #1 (aka David Stenstrom), with the help of *Let's Live Local*, visited our village to collect letters to Santa, and gifts for children in need.



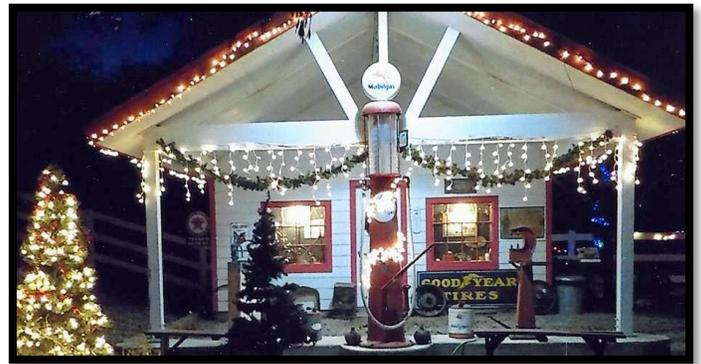
*Let's Live Local* brought Santa back a second week. Here is Truckin' Santa #2 (Frank Fiala) posing with our Santa rescued from the dump.



The Frazier Park Public Utility District staff and board gathered at the museum "village" to have their picture by Patric Hedlund of The Mountain Enterprise.



The response to our lights was very gratifying, with many asking us to leave them on as long as we could. We did keep them on until the end of January, but the huge increase in our electric bills limited us. We do hope to light up our spectacular tree to help celebrate other events in the community or at the museum throughout the year.



## THE YEAR AHEAD – MAYBE?

Because of shut downs and lock downs in the state of California due to COVID, you can imagine it's really hard to plan ahead. We can't begin to schedule speakers and it doesn't look like we'll be hosting any teas in the near future. We're hoping to have our **History on the Patio Program** all 5 Saturdays in July. We might be able to have a **Rib Basket Weaving Class** in June.

The one event that we are quite positive about is our annual fundraiser, the **Great American Yard Sale** on Labor Day weekend in September. Please begin saving your cast-off items for us. We will begin taking donations in August.

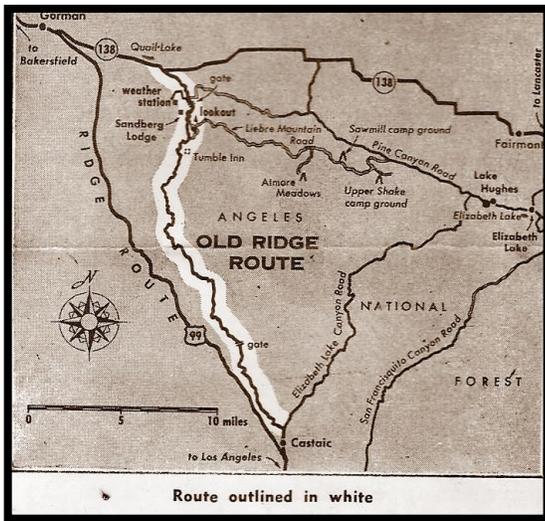
Our biggest event yet we hope will be our **Lebec Hotel Centennial Celebration**, tentatively set for October 2. We plan to offer a sit down dinner, big band music, a lecture and more.

We will also try to have both a spring and fall **Ridge Route Road Tour**, but that is again dependent on the state's COVID status. The first one will be filled largely with folks that had signed up for tours in the past that we had to cancel.

## RIDGE ROUTE TOUR 60 YEARS AGO . . .

Another item the museum has just received is a 1961 copy of the Classic Car Club of America – Southern California Region's newsletter and we want to share some pictures from it. The newsletter is done in magazine format and called "The Side Mount Mirror". The editor of the magazine was Jack Nethercutt, co-founder of Merle Norman Cosmetics, and the founder of the Nethercutt classic car collection.

Of great interest is the road trip that the group took on the old Ridge Route Road in May 1961. Forty-two classics, ranging from a 1930 Lincoln "Limosine" to a 1948 Lincoln Continental made up the caravan. Starting in the San Fernando Valley at Rinaldi Street the cars stretched all the way back to Mission Blvd. They traveled to Castaic Junction where they turned onto the old original Ridge Route Road and "found the pavement kept more or less intact by Los Angeles County as a fire road".



The article continued:

*"The view is quite impressive with mountains and canyons and valleys as far as the eye can see. One leaves the throbbing of busy Highway 99 onto the old Ridge Route and meets the serenity of unfilled space and the subtle music of wind interwoven with silence. It was quite an unusual sight to look across the canyons and see the cars of our caravan looking like children's toys, winding along the road behind us.*

*Mother Nature didn't let us down as we saw California poppies, purple Lupine, tall red flowers and many other varieties which were unknown to me. The tall stately Yucca, in bloom, were scattered along the roadside."*

The group was scheduled to stop at the Sandberg Lodge for lunch, but were very surprised and saddened to find that it had burned to the ground just a few weeks before they arrived.



A rare photo of the recently burned Sandberg Lodge

The caravan's next stop was for lunch at the newly built Caravan Restaurant in Gorman where they were treated to a fine steak lunch by their hosts, the Ralphs brothers, Harry and Lloyd. The return trip was made through the Antelope Valley to Palmdale where they picked up Bouquet Canyon Road and returned to Castaic.



The tour in the Gorman area with the original Standard Oil (now Chevron Oil) station on the right

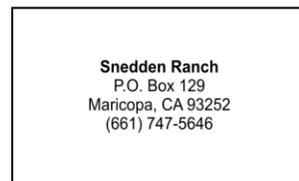
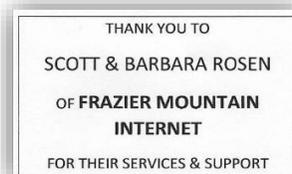
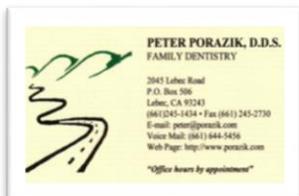
# MANY THANKS TO

*Tejon Mountain Village* 

## FOR THE PRINTING OF OUR NEWSLETTER

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### PLEASE SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT US!!!



### FUNDING

Despite being closed for most of 2020, we were very fortunate to get by on donations, book sales and yard sale proceeds. But, we are more than pleased to report that in December we received funds from both the Alfred Harrell Foundation and Kern Recovers. These funds will help see us through the first half of 2021 and some much needed maintenance work.

### VOLUNTEER PASSING

We are saddened to report the passing of Karen Anthony, long time mountain resident and museum & animal shelter volunteer. She died on October 20, 2020. More information available in The Mountain Enterprise dated December 4, 2020.

### ACQUISITIONS . . .

In the process of cleaning out a very old vault, Ryan Ralphs of the Gorman Ralphs family found and has graciously allowed us to house some forty odd documents from the late 1800's and early 1900's. They touch on many historic purchases of homesteads and property throughout the Gorman

area, which add to our knowledge about those involved. A real treasure . . .

One very interesting item of information is that Mr. Oscar Newell Ralphs purchased the Gorman Family Ranch in 1899 from the Gorman brothers for \$5,000 in gold pieces/coins.

Also, someone left two very old leather bound photo albums at our front door full of photographs from the mid 1800's, which we hope to display when we build an extension exhibit hall someday.





Ridge Route Communities  
**MUSEUM**  
A Historical Society

### Personal & Business Memberships

Membership	Cost	Rambler	Discount*	Adt Rambler	Online Adt	Travel Mug	Tickets†
Senior (62+)	\$15	•					
General	\$25	•					
General Gold	\$50	•					1
Lifetime	\$500	•			•		1
Lifetime x2	\$750	•			•		2
<b>Business</b>							
Silver	\$50	•		•			
Gold	\$100	•		•	•		1
Platinum	\$250	•		•	•	•	2

### Annual Event, Exhibit & Acquisition Sponsorship Opportunities

Events	Cost	Events	Cost	Events	Cost
Speaker	\$50	Cuddy Cabin	\$500	Prehistoric	\$1,000
Tea	\$75	Gas Station	\$750	Chumash	\$3,000
Patio Evening	\$100	Chumash Exhibit	\$1,000	Bell Tower	\$6,000
Tour	\$150	Landscaping	\$2,000	East Side Property	\$20,000
Tour w/ Lunch*	\$300	Irrigation	\$3,000	Barn Property	\$100,000
Destination Dinner†	\$500	Lebec Hotel Patio	\$4,000	2 <sup>nd</sup> Exhibit Hall	\$100,000
Speaker	\$50	Cuddy Cabin	\$500	Prehistoric	\$1,000

\* Discount on purchases of in the museum store.  
† Business Card ad in our quarterly Rambler newsletter.  
‡ Online Ad post our social media or a post on our website (with link).

Special Events

We're nuts  about history.

Museum membership, sponsorship, & gifts are tax deductible; please check with your tax preparer or CPA for details. FIN 77-0431597

<p><input type="checkbox"/> \$_____</p> <p><b>Donations</b> Any value is appreciated</p> <p><b>Membership</b></p> <table> <tr> <td><b>Personal</b></td> <td><b>Business</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Senior (62+)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Silver</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$25 General</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Gold</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$50 General Gold</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Platinum</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Lifetime</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$750 Lifetime Couple</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Sponsorship</b></p> <p><b>Events &amp; Exhibits</b></p> <table> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Speaker</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Cuddy Cabin</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Tea</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$750 Gas Station</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Patio Evening</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Chumash</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Tour</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$2,000 Landscaping</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$300 Tour w/ Lunch</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$3,000 Irrigation</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Destination Dinner</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$4,000 Lebec Patio</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Acquisitions</b></p> <table> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Prehistoric</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000 East side property</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$3,000 Chumash</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000 Barn property</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$6,000 Bell Tower</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000 2<sup>nd</sup> Exhibit Hall</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Personal</b>	<b>Business</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Senior (62+)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Silver	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 General	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Gold	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 General Gold	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Platinum	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Lifetime		<input type="checkbox"/> \$750 Lifetime Couple		<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Speaker	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Cuddy Cabin	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Tea	<input type="checkbox"/> \$750 Gas Station	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Patio Evening	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Chumash	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Tour	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2,000 Landscaping	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300 Tour w/ Lunch	<input type="checkbox"/> \$3,000 Irrigation	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Destination Dinner	<input type="checkbox"/> \$4,000 Lebec Patio	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000 East side property	<input type="checkbox"/> \$3,000 Chumash	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000 Barn property	<input type="checkbox"/> \$6,000 Bell Tower	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000 2 <sup>nd</sup> Exhibit Hall	<p><b>Mail-in Form</b></p> <p>Name / Company _____</p> <p>Mailing Address _____</p> <p>City, State, ZIP _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>Email _____</p> <p>Newsletter Format: <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> US Mail</p> <p>Return to</p> <p>Ridge Route Communities Museum &amp; Historical Society PO Box 684, Frazier Park, CA 93225</p>
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For more information  
please contact us  
at 661-245-7747 or  
[info@ridgeroutemuseum.org](mailto:info@ridgeroutemuseum.org)

Ridge Route Communities Museum & Historical Society  
3515 Park Drive  
Frazier Park, CA 93225  
661-245-7747  
[ridgeroutemuseum.org](http://ridgeroutemuseum.org)  
Fri-Sun 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

#### COVID-19 Update

We are closed until further notice due to the shelter-in-place order for the COVID-19 virus.

Not being open for the past many months has caused us to see a shortfall in our income. We would be very grateful for donations to help offset this shortfall.

## CONTINUED THANKS

We want to thank so many of you (like Chris Frykholm and William Waters) that have gone over and above to help us with significant donations to keep us going until we can reopen fully. Some of you (like Peter Porazik) have signed up for a Gold Membership. We know times are hard for many, but if you possibly can, remember us in your donations.

I know we've said it before, but we can't do it without you!!!



## HELP!!!!

As long as we're not open, here's how you can continue to help:

**RECYCLE** your used printer cartridges (you can leave them on our doorstep), or

**RENEW** your membership early, or

**SPONSOR** an event or exhibit, or

**BUY** from our website. Find out about local people, places and things. Or

**DONATE**, just because!



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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) or [info@ridgeroutemuseum.org](mailto:info@ridgeroutemuseum.org)

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

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