



Ridge Route Communities
MUSEUM
& Historical Society

Fall 2013

The Ridge Route Rambler

We're nuts  about history.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Susan Amon

This is our last newsletter for the year and I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our members for their support throughout this past year. I'd also like to thank our Board members, our docents and our special volunteers, who have contributed their time, energy, and resources to help keep the Museum afloat; as well as our fundraisers, events, and projects. As do most non-profit organizations, we've had our financial ups and downs this year. In spite of these difficulties, however, we've managed to put on a few new events and fund raisers this year, as well as some of our old favorites like the walking tour of Frazier Park, the San Andreas Fault tour, and the Barn Sale, which we hope some of you were able to attend. We've purchased some new books and are anxiously awaiting Bonnie Kane's latest book in her series, which she promises will be available in December. With your contributions, we've been able to finish two signs projects, which we hope will ease people's efforts in finding our location. All in all, we've had a pretty good year and with your continued support, we'll keep the ball rolling next year.

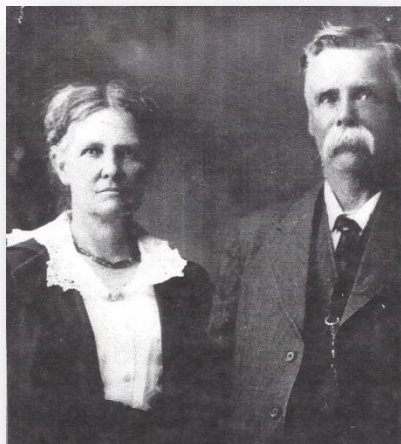


NEENACH'S 125th!...by Bonnie Ketterl Kane

This year marks the 125th anniversary of Neenach, based on the fact that the post office was officially established there in 1888. Located fifteen miles east of Gorman, the settlement formed as a result of many homesteaders, ranchers and farmers locating in that fertile valley in the 1870's. A number of the pioneering families had come from the Danish community of Neenah, Wisconsin. When a post office was established at 269th Street by postmaster John A. Coovert (125 years ago) someone got the spelling wrong and it became "Neech", which through the years has evolved to Neenach. Postal records indicate the post office continued operation until 1929. Another building to the west of the post office was advertised in a 1909 automobile club publication stating that: "good meals may be had at the Neenach Hotel".



Neenach Hotel (l), Post Office (r)



James and Elizabeth Barnes were among the earliest residents of Neenach. James filed their homestead claim in Los Angeles in 1887 for 160 acres at the corner of the present 300th Street and Hwy 138. Mr. Barnes had a contract with the county to keep up and improve roads in the Valley on up to Three Points.

Three of the Barnes' eight children stayed on in the Neenach area. Pete took over the family homestead and worked on the building of the aqueduct; Tom farmed in the area for thirty years; and Roy and his family have continued farming in the Valley to the present.

James & Elizabeth Barnes

Roy Barnes's wife, Mattie, came to Neenach with her parents in the early 1900's. Her father, James Anderson, was a line rider or patrolman on the Los Angeles Aqueduct. Most of the aqueduct then was an underground concrete channel that they would shut down periodically to check. Mr. Anderson would have to enter a manhole and walk the tunnel to check it out. His wife, Julia, or daughter, Mattie, would help him by riding their horse to the next hole. Sometimes he would lower one of them into the hole to walk the damp, dark tunnel while he rode on to the next cover. But for the most part, he would ride the surface to check for damage, as there were those in Northern California who were not happy about "their" water going to Southern California.



Another important anniversary in the history of our mountain area was the completion of the Los Angeles Aqueduct through the Antelope Valley in 1913; down the San Francisquito Canyon to the San Fernando Valley. It is not clear as to why the pipeline took a jog to the west to Neenach, but it may have been because of an agreement with the farmers of the Valley to provide water, which is still in place today. On November 5th of 1913, 100 years ago, 23,000 people gathered at the "Aqueduct Falls" at the north end of the San Fernando Valley to view the first of the Owens Valley water delivered to the Los Angeles area.

Crowds gathered to watch the first of the aqueduct water arrive

The wonderful old Neenach School building of the 1920's to 1970's was removed in the late 1980's. It was replaced in the early 1990's with the present school of the West Side Union School District (now empty), just north of the predecessor school.



The Neenach area has long been known for its almond orchards. Interestingly, during World War II the almond hulls were ground up for use in the making of gas masks.

Neenach has long been the center of activity at the western end of the great Antelope Valley. Growth was slow through the 20th century, but is picking up pace more recently.

Neenach School about 1900

SCOTTY REPORTS. . . Summer 2013

The Ridge Route road has been on the National Register of Historic Places since the mid-1990's. For the past six years Scotty (Harrison Scott) and his team of Ridge Route Preservation Organization members have been working on getting the road appointed as a National Forest Scenic By-Way. This would have no negative impact on the Angeles National Forest budget, but would in fact it would provide funds for the maintenance of the road.

In July, Scotty met with Tom Contreras, supervisor of the Angeles Nation Forest, who stated that he would allow the scenic by-way paperwork to go through, but to become a Scenic By-way the road must be brought up to a required level of safety and must be open. Mr. Contreras said he would look into the cost of bringing the road up to the required minimum safety levels required for the appointment. Opening the road is still being held up by petroleum-line repairs following the washout of 2005. Due to the extreme fire danger for the last few years, no heavy equipment has been allowed to work on the line. Nevertheless the road is supposed to open late 2014 or early 2015. There is also a proposal to charge the utility companies for their use of the road, which would help with the maintenance.

Scotty has decided not to work from the bottom up any longer, but is now working from the top down. He has gotten letters of endorsement from two California congressmen, Kevin McCarthy and Buck McKeon. He is in contact with the Regional National Forest office as well as the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He is working on another article with the Los Angeles Times.

There are two approved Eagle Scout projects in progress on the route; one to replace all the monument plaques and the other on the cement work at the Tumble Inn.

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Ridge Route Communities Museum & Historical Society

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

New Member	Renewal		
_____	_____	Individual Membership	\$20.00
_____	_____	Family Membership	\$30.00
_____	_____	Senior Membership	\$15.00
_____	_____	Student Membership	\$10.00
_____	_____	Business Membership	\$50.00
_____	_____	Lifetime Membership	\$300.00

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MANY THANKS TO

Tejon Mountain Village 

FOR THE PRINTING OF OUR NEWSLETTER!!!!



**The Wild West
at the Tejon Corral**
presents

Joey Dillon & Will Roberts
As seen on TV, Cirque Du Soleil- and now Lebec!!

Saturday, November 2nd at 4pm
The Tejon Ranch indoor equestrian center, 1401 Crane Canyon Rd. Lebec, CA. Exit 207 off I-5

Enjoy an amazing program of fancy gunslinging, trick roping, music, & comedy by two of the nations top cowboy performers, Joey Dillon & Will Roberts

Arrive early to enjoy the scenery on the historicc Tejon Ranch, refreshments, door prizes, and to get a good seat!! Gates open at 3pm.

Tickets available at the door. Cash only please.
\$12 for Adults and \$7 for Children 4-11
Children under 4 are FREE

Ya'll Come Out To A Family Event

All proceeds from the event go to support the
Ridge Route Communities Museum & Historical Society, Frazier Part, CA.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat. Oct. 5: Ridge Route Car Tour guided by Bonnie Kane & Harrison Scott. Meet at the Quail Lake parking lot at 10:00 a.m. Limited to 25 people - call Museum to sign up. Picnic lunch suggested. Cost: \$10.

Fri. Oct. 11: 7:00 p.m. Town Hall Meeting at the Condor Room in PMC. Former board member Dale Sheldon will speak on genealogy.

Sat. Oct. 12: San Andreas Fault Tour led by geologist Tim Elam. Meet at the Museum at 9:00 a.m. Limited to 35 people - call Museum to sign up. Cost : \$10.

Sat. Nov. 2: "Wild West at the Tejon Corral" with gunslinger Joey Dillon and trick roper Will Roberts. See flyer.

BOOK RELEASE

James C. Lowery's second edition of "The Tracker's Field Guide" is now in print! The new edition is in color, has updated mammal range maps including Canada & Alaska, and has 39 new track & sign photos. It will be available in the museum bookstore or on the website.



photos by B. Kane

MUSEUM'S FIRST INVITATIONAL DINNER

On a beautiful Saturday in late September, the Museum held a fundraising dinner. Board Member Hanni Mosig was our gracious hostess at her lovely Pinon Pines home. Approximately 40 guests were treated to the piano entertainment of Renee Vanasse and an Italian meal catered by The Garden Spot of Bakersfield. From all the glowing responses that we've received, we hope that this will be the first of many!

A BIG THANK YOU TO SCOTT ROSEN & FRAZIER MOUNTAIN INTERNET FOR HIS SERVICES AND SUPPORT!

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

The Museum and Historical Society offices are located at 3515 Park Drive in Frazier Park – just east of the Post Office. Our hours are Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons, 12 noon to 4 p.m. (Summer 'til 5 p.m.)
For donations our tax I.D.# is 77-0431597
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RENEWAL DATE!**