



Ridge Route Communities
MUSEUM
& Historical Society

Spring 2017

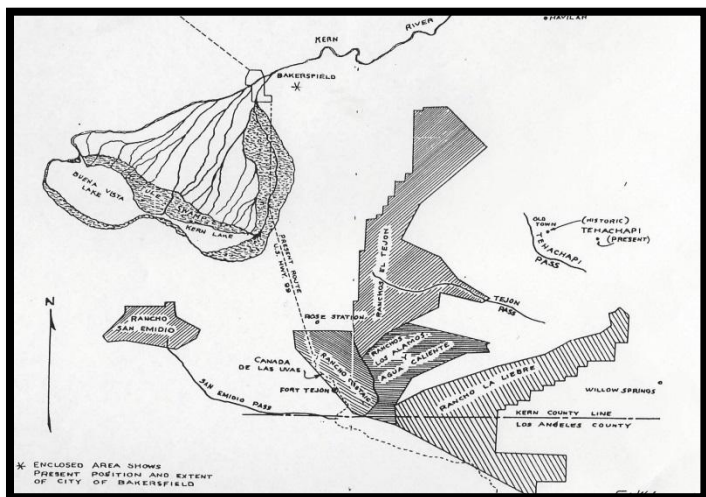
The Ridge Route Rambler

We're nuts  about history.

Editors: **CHANDRA SARGENT MEAD** and **BONNIE KETTERL KANE**

175 YEARS AGO . . .

In 1842, the first of five Mexican Land Grants was granted in our mountain area, "Rancho San Emigdio", shown middle left.



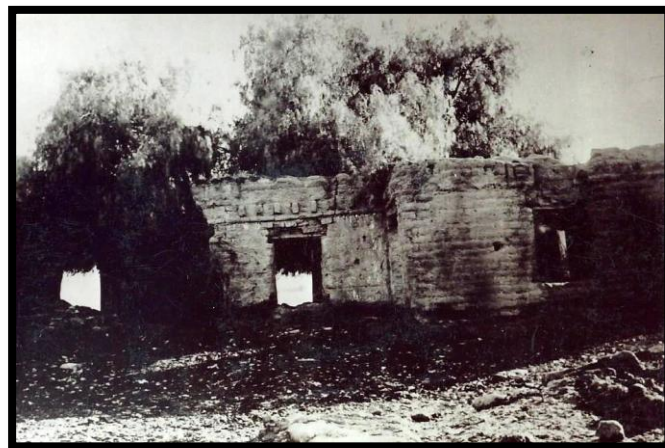
To back up a bit, to the late 1700's – during the Spanish occupation of Alta California – areas of land were designated as mission settlements to further Spain's claim to the land they called "New Spain". The San Emigdio Mountain area came under the responsibility of the Santa Barbara Mission. When Mexico defeated Spain, the mission locations were divided up into some 500 land grants to secure Alta California for Mexico. The first of these in our area was Rancho San Emigdio in 1842. Four other Grants, shown on the right of the map, were granted between 1843 and 1846, and later became today's Tejon Ranch.

Rancho San Emigdio was located at the mouth of San Emigdio Canyon and named when explorers held a mass there in 1806 on the Feast Day of Saint Emygdus, invoked by followers for protection against earthquakes. Little did they know they were just north of the largest fault zone in California, the San Andreas Fault.

No doubt, this grant was so located because it was along the most commonly used trail at that time, an Indian trail that the Spanish had been using since the 1600's. This trail became known, and is still known as "El Camino Viejo". It gave access to and from our

mountains via the San Emigdio Canyon. The grant location was at the lower, northern mouth of the Canyon, near the ancient native village of "Tashlipun", which by this time included Mexican residents and had become known as "los Pueblo de San Emigdio".

In the early 1800's the Santa Barbara Mission established an "asistencia", a mission outpost, in San Emigdio canyon to serve the people of the village and travelers along the well-traveled road. The recipient of the almost 18,000 acre Land Grant was Don Jose Antonio Dominguez and his family. Regrettably, just a year or so after the family established their home in the old mission building, a smallpox epidemic raged through the Pueblo and Senor Dominguez died. His wife, Francisca, and her seven children moved back to Santa Barbara "because the land grant was so far in the interior and too much exposed to Indian problems".



The building believed to be the San Emigdio mission outpost

Next on the scene was John C. Fremont, who along with his partner, Edward Beale, came to the area to sell cattle to the government for the newly established Sebastian Indian Reservation. Beale later became Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the new state of California. In 1851 Fremont purchased a half interest in Rancho San Emigdio from the Dominguez family (for \$2,000) for the purpose of raising cattle. Fremont placed his good friend, Alexis Godey, in charge of the ranching operation and made a failed run for President of the United States as a member of the newly formed Republican Party in 1856.



John Charles Fremont

Because of financial difficulties Fremont deeded his interest in the Ranch to his daughter and Godey In 1860. Godey and his daughter then sold out to the Beale Family. The San Emigdio Ranch eventually became a part of the Wildlands Conservancy called the "Wind Wolves Preserve" in 1996. The acreage of the original Ranch has been expanded to over 96,000 acres and largely restored to its natural state, as it was in the days of the Mexican land grant.

Detailed information on this and all the grants mentioned may be found in the book "A View From The Ridge Route: The Ranchos", available in our store or on our website via PayPal.

SPECIAL REQUESTS. . .

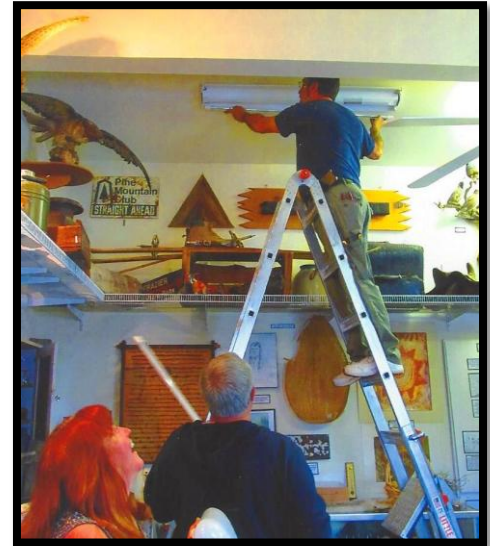
We had an email from a family in Wisconsin requesting a private tour of the San Andreas Fault in our area. We had a great time and want to let you know that we are available for similar requests to show you more about our historic area. Our historian, Bonnie Kane, is currently working on a self-guided driving tour of the San Andreas Earthquake Fault through our mountains – due out next summer. Watch for the announcement in the next newsletter.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

The response to our "Giving Opportunities" in the last issue was overwhelming and we thank you all so very much. We urge you to watch for future Giving Opportunities to help keep the museum fresh and alive.

Member Jeff Robins stopped by and wrote out a check to cover the cost of replacing the broken windows in the Cuddy cabin. Thanks Jeff!!

We had asked for help replacing the fourteen-year-old fluorescent lighting in the museum. Harry Spyrka at Frazier Park Lumber & Hardware surprised us with a call offering to provide new LED bulbs. Our maintenance manager, Don Billesbach and friend, Kenny Caverhill, did the installation. – what a difference it has made!



RRCMHS President Bethel Billesbach oversees the installation of the new bulbs.

Then lifetime member Sigmund Lichter wrote that he would like to fund the condor banner project as his Ranch at the east end of Frazier Park was a partner with the U.S. Wildlife Service in the Condor Recovery Program.



Jim Kane and Don Billesbach hang the banner of a life-sized condor on the ceiling of the museum for all to experience one flying overhead.

The extra support of all you members is so appreciated!! We have included an envelope if you feel inclined to make a donation, or just renew your membership; even send us a request or an idea.

BASKET WEAVING

Spring 2017 was the largest class ever – even some girl scouts (with helpers) learned to make pine needle baskets. Call to register for the Summer Class to make “Rib Baskets” from reeds on July 22. Cost of \$10 includes materials.



"Class of 2017"

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday **June 10** at 6:30 look to see our ornithology expert, **Lynn Stafford**, speak on local birds at the museum.

Saturday **June 17** we will do a new spin, an **Old Fashioned Social**, on an old idea, our picnic. Make and bring the kind of foods you might find at a pioneer table; bread, stews, pies, etc. We encourage you to pick a recipe from the museum's book "Heap of Eatin'", which is compiled from local residents' recipe books, to bring a dish to the potluck. There will be a barn dance demonstration, fun and (pioneer) games for the children, and a Dessert Box Auction to raise funds for the museum. Local artisans are invited to sell their wares at a mini-craft faire. Pioneer attire encouraged!

Sat. **July 15** plan to be a part of the community **Frazier Proud** cleanup day.

Sat. **July 29** we plan to have Ben Teton from the Tejon Conservancy speak on and show pictures of the **Night Cameras on Tejon Ranch**.

Sat. **August 12** at 4:00 Lynda Finch will speak on **Finding History through Genealogy**.

Look for our booth setup at upcoming community events such as the Lilac Festival May 20-21, the Ridge Route Run Car Show May 27, and the Fort Tejon Old Fashioned 4th of July.

Time to begin gathering your saleable rummage items for the museum's biggest fundraiser of the year – our **YARD SALE**, which will be Labor Day weekend **September 2,3 and 4th**.

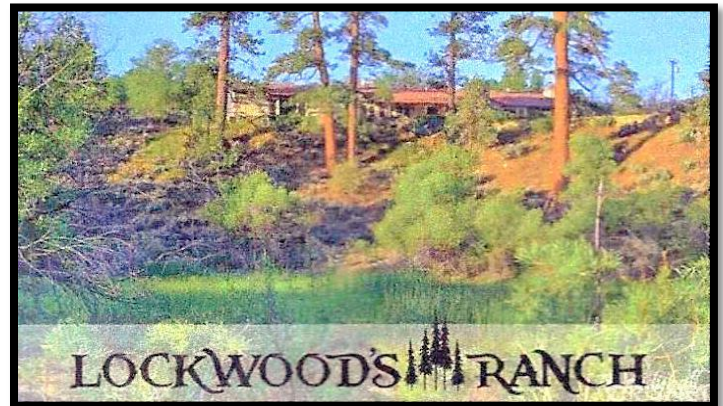
Call the museum for details on these and other upcoming events.

ADVANCE NOTICE!!!

Our most unique "**Destination Dinner**" yet will be held this year at another very historic location in our mountains. This fundraising dinner will be held on Saturday, **September 30th** at "Lockwood's Ranch" out in Lockwood Valley. This is where Bernard Lockwood is first recorded as living back in 1860. He sold his homestead to the Brown Family, possibly in the late 1800's, which then sold it to the Hollywood writer Dalton Trumbo in 1938. Trumbo expanded the Ranch which is briefly shown in the first movie about his life – "Trumbo" (2007).

Mr. Trumbo was blacklisted at the McCarthy hearings back in the 1950s and sentenced to prison. While he was incarcerated, his family lived at the Ranch and his children attended El Tejon School. The Ranch has been beautifully and lovingly restored by the present owners. Tours of the house will be given followed by dinner held in the newly renovated barn. Area historian, Bonnie Kane, will review the story of the Trumbo days at the Ranch at the dinner.

Make your reservations early!!



TREASURE DONATED. . .

Member and neighbor, Kenna Mattox, has donated her family's collection of old stereoscope cards – 535 of them!! They have been sorted by subject, photographer, etc. and many will be on sale to benefit the museum. Come and see them!

PLEASE SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT US!

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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!**

NEW HOURS STARTING FRIDAY JUNE 2ND!: 12:00 - 5:00

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR DUES!

Please Note: General Membership is now \$25 (and includes Family)

Ridge Route Communities Museum & Historical Society

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

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

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Donation: \$_____ (to help with our monthly expenses)

FOND FAREWELL

Founding member of the RRCM & Historic Society, **Curtis Newman**, has made the big decision to move away from his home here to be nearer to his son, Mark. We all wish him well and thank him for his 20 plus years of service to the museum.



Shown is the Newman family in the 1930's (Roy Conrad, Curtis, Esther, and Roy, Sr.) on the porch of the house Curtis's father built in Lake of the Woods, when there were no other houses!

Museum Location: 3515 Park Drive, Frazier Park, CA
Museum Hours: Fri. Sat. & Sun. 12-4; summer 12-5
Museum Phone: 661-245-7747

Museum Website: www.rrchs.org
Museum Email: rchs@frazmtn.com

RIDGE ROUTE COMMUNITIES MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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**PLEASE CHECK YOUR
LABEL FOR MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL DATE!**