



Ridge Route Communities
MUSEUM
& Historical Society

FALL 2020

The Ridge Route Rambler

We're nuts  about history.

Editors: Chandra Sargent Mead and Bonnie Ketterl Kane

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL

On August 18, 2020 the United States celebrated the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which granted women the right to vote (it prohibited any citizen being denied the right to vote on the basis of gender).

However, many (fifteen), mostly western, states granted women the right to vote prior to 1920, the first being the Territories of Wyoming and Utah in 1869. Another twelve granted women the right to vote for President only, starting with Illinois and the Territory of Alaska in 1913. The remaining states had to wait until after the passage of the 19th Amendment.

Suffrage for women was secured for municipal elections in 1887. That year Susanna Salter became the first woman mayor in the U.S., in the small town of Argonia, KS.

The state of California was one of those that granted women the right to vote earlier than the 19th Amendment, in October of 1911. The first woman to register to vote in Kern County (within 24 hours) was Sibyl Chenoweth, wife of Lawrence Chenoweth. Her husband was the publisher of the Bakersfield Morning Echo, a proponent of women's suffrage. His paper stated that voting was an "acquired prerogative, a privilege which will undoubtedly be used as intelligently and effectively as it has in states where women's suffrage has been recognized for some time."

By 1920 the Voter Registrations for Kern and Ventura Counties showed 46 women registered to vote in our local area, almost a quarter of the 199 total voters. Out of 119 in the Tejon Precinct, 30 were women. Out of 42 registered voters in Tejon Canyon Precinct, 12 were women. Out of 38 registered voters in the Lockwood Precinct, four were women.

A good number of these trendsetters were listed as "housewives", understandable considering the culture of the times. These include Florence "Flossie" Cuddy (wife of Joseph Don Cuddy), Lilly Cuddy (wife of rancher Robert Cuddy) and Cowee O'Brien (wife of Thomas O'Brien, of Lebec Hotel fame). Four were teachers: Cora May Bacon, Ruth Culbertson, Vera Holland and Alice Whitford.



Florence "Flossie" Cuddy

There was an assortment of waitresses and store clerks. Grace Snedden, wife of "stockraiser" Bertram Snedden, was *not* listed as "housewife" as you might expect, but as "rancher". The Lebec Postal Clerk, Mayme Gotchette, and Nurse Martha Richards were registered to vote that year. And one pioneer, Janet Estella Ives, was listed as a miner out at Stauffer in Lockwood Valley! Four of the MacKenzie women from Gorman



were registered. (shown left is Mary MacKenzie who married into the Ralphs family).

The party affiliations of these mountain women were 11 Democrats, 21 Republicans and two unashamed Socialists! Twelve declined to state. Of course, the definitions of Democrat,

Republican and Socialist have changed considerably in 100 years.

(Sources: Kern County Historical Society Newsletter Sept.2020, Vol.40, No.1; constitutioncenter.org, Ancestry.com)

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MILESTONES IN 2020

FRAZIER MOUNTAIN . . .

It's been approximately 150 years since the namesake of our area became known as "Frazier Mountain". Called "Toshololo" by native peoples, it was known as "Cuddy Peak" in the mid-1850's when John Cuddy homesteaded below it.

In March 1927, the FRAZIER MOUNTAIN NEWS, a newspaper printed as an advertisement by the land developers of Frazier Park, printed the story of how it became Frazier Mountain. The Frazier brothers were not the first to discover the area, but it's a great article anyway. It reads:

"And now we come to the actual discovery of Frazier Mountain and the beautifully wooded valley at its foot which is now known as Frazier Mountain Park. About the year 1870, Warren, Edgar and William Frazier, three hardy sons of the Gold Rush Days of '49, on a hunting and prospecting trip from their home in Bakersfield, had gone as far as Fort Tejon by wagon. There they left the clumsy conveyance and took to pack mules and horseback, packed back into the mountains in search of bear, deer, and other wild game, which was plentiful at that time, to sell to the markets in town. When a deer they shot ran off, they followed and where the deer fell, they noticed streaks of the precious metal in the formation of strata at their feet. To their trained eyes, this promised to be a fortunate discovery of a rich vein. From that time on they spent many years on top of this lofty mountain, crushing out the quartz with crude machinery much too light for this task.

All the machinery and provisions and supplies had to be packed to the mine on the back of the faithful burro. The mine was almost inaccessible. The Fraziers, we are told, took all the gold they wanted from the mine and later sold it to a company which is reported to have taken millions of dollars' worth of the metal in the course of a few years with more advanced equipment. The mine, however, as well as the mountain on which it was located, still retains the name of the three brothers who 'discovered' it. Frazier Mountain and the old Frazier Mine are today becoming quite popular among the hikers and horseback rider who spend their holidays and vacations in Frazier Mountain Park – immediately at the foot of old Frazier Mountain.

The surviving relatives of the Frazier brothers, as well as many friends and acquaintances, sincerely believe the world's richest gold mine is yet to be developed on Frazier Mountain. When this information is generally circulated, another little gold rush is expected in and around Frazier Mountain (1927) which is government-owned land and available for claims staking."



This photo of Frazier Mountain's east face shows why geologists call it a "turtle" back mountain – not only for its shape, but for its slow movement north along the Pacific Plate of the San Andreas Fault.

LEBEC . . .

It has been difficult to establish the founding date of Lebec. As a civilian community, it seems to have begun in the Fort Tejon era (1850's). The area's post office was moved there in 1895, making this the 125th official Anniversary of that community.

PINE MTN CLUB, PINON PINES, LOS PADRES . . .

These three communities opened their doors 50 years ago, as our mountain area experienced the largest population increase in its history.

CALIFORNIA AQUEDUCT, PYRAMID DAM & INTERSTATE-5 . . .

With a massive amount of lime taken to construct, these three monumental projects were completed through our mountains in and around the year 1970 – 50 years ago . . .

THE LATEST ON THE RIDGE ROUTE ROAD

Mike Ballard of the Ridge Route Preservation Organization has sent some interesting news. In light of the recent fires east of the north end, the Ridge Route Road was declared a firebreak road. As a result, rocks have been cleared from the road and brush from the roadsides from Sandberg to Templin Highway. Much additional work still needs to be done on drains and debris. Mr. Ballard will let us know when work parties on the road will resume.

EVENTS

We had hoped to be able to go forward with our fall Ridge Route Road Tour (which had to be canceled in the spring due to COVID), but due to the concern for fire danger, the Forests were all closed and we have had to cancel that tour as well.

All of our events for the remainder of the year are also on hold. These include the corn husk wreath class, the Christmas Tea, Night at the Museum, and the Mutau Flats

Tour and Lunch we had hoped to offer for the first time.

By the time we want to start events in 2021, hopefully the state will allow us to open to the extent that we can actually carry on those events. Look for news on the Centennial Celebration of the Lebec Hotel and so many of our other regular tours, talks, and classes in newsletters to come.

ANNUAL YARD SALE

The Museum had the most amazing yard sale ever. With COVID, it didn't exactly look like it has in the past. Since it was an outside event, we felt safe holding it, WITH precautions. We required masks, offered gloves and sanitizer and encouraged social distancing.

The Museum normally holds our yard sale on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday of Labor Day weekend, but we had so much nice stuff left Monday night, that we continued it on the following Friday and Saturday. We made almost \$8000, which will go a long way towards paying the bills for all the months that we have been (and will be) closed with no income. The phone, water, electric, alarm and insurance still have to be paid.

In past years, we have given the remaining clothes to a private party to donate to a worldwide cause. This year we donated two truckloads of clothing to Shar-On, a community outreach to the homeless in Taft, and even up into our mountain communities. Shar-On provides food, clothing, showers, support groups, classes, court cabs and a safe place to receive mail and store medications and documents. The participants of Shar-On in turn serve their community in "Doin' Good For Nothing" projects. This year Shar-On is also reaching out to the victims of fires and the Corona virus.

HOMESCHOOLING CLASSES



Now that the county has allowed museums to have small family groups visit, the staff is inviting homeschoolers on a field trip to our home. Children will learn about the community they live in and many interesting things from the local past. Classes are available for K – 12 and may be scheduled by calling 661-245-7747.

HOLIDAY PLANS



The museum staff is making plans to light up our grounds for the month of December, to thank the Mountain Communities for their support through this difficult year. Residents interested in joining this effort by donating lights, lighted trees and figures and decorations would be welcome. Call the museum and let's light up the darkness for a beautiful winter's eve walk or drive.

MANY THANKS TO

Tejon Mountain Village

FOR THE PRINTING OF OUR NEWSLETTER

PLEASE SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT US!!!

THANK YOU TO
SCOTT & BARBARA ROSEN
OF FRAZIER MOUNTAIN
INTERNET
FOR THEIR SERVICES & SUPPORT

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Ridge Route Communities
MUSEUM
& Historical Society

Personal & Business Memberships

Membership	Cost	Rambler	Discount*	Ad/ Rambler	Online Ad†	Travel Mug	Tickets**
Senior (62+)	\$15	•					
General	\$25	•					
General Gold	\$50	•					1
Lifetime	\$500	•				•	1
Lifetime x2	\$750	•				•	2
Business							
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	Prehistorio	\$1,000
Tea	\$75	Gas Station	\$750	Chumash	\$3,000
Patio Evening	\$100	Chumash Exhibit	\$1,000	Bell Tower	\$6,000
Tour	\$150	Landsoaping	\$2,000	East Side Property	\$20,000
Tour w/ Lunch*	\$300	Irrigation	\$3,000	Barn Property	\$100,000
Destination Dinner*	\$500	Lebeo Hotel Patio	\$4,000	2 nd Exhibit Hall	\$100,000
Speaker	\$50	Cuddy Cabin	\$500	Prehistorio	\$1,000

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

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

Membership Options	Mail-in Form
<p>Personal</p> <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Senior (62-) <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 General <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 General Gold <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Lifetime <input type="checkbox"/> \$750 Lifetime Couple <p>Sponsorship</p> <p>Events & Exhibits</p> <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Speaker <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Tea <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Patio Evening <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Tour <input type="checkbox"/> \$300 Tour w/ Lunch <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Destination Dinner <p>Acquisitions</p> <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Prehistorio <input type="checkbox"/> \$3,000 Chumash <input type="checkbox"/> \$6,000 Bell Tower	<p>Business</p> <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Silver <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Gold <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Platinum <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Cuddy Cabin <input type="checkbox"/> \$750 Gas Station <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Chumash <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,000 Landsoaping <input type="checkbox"/> \$3,000 Irrigation <input type="checkbox"/> \$4,000 Lebeo Patio <input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000 East side property <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000 Barn property <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000 2 nd Exhibit Hall
	<p>Name / Company _____</p> <p>Mailing Address _____</p> <p>_____</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 & Historical Society PO Box 684, Frazier Park, CA 93225</p>

For more information please contact us at 661-245-7747 or info@ridgeroutemuseum.org

Ridge Route Communities Museum & Historical Society
 3515 Park Drive
 Frazier Park, CA 93225
 661-245-7747
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 weeks 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 (Barbara Norcross, Jane & Jeff Robison, Jeff Robin, Bob & Lynette Lame, Jack & Sidney Kelley) that have gone over and above to help us with significant donations to keep us going until we can reopen fully. Mark Newman signed up for a Lifetime Membership. Several people made donations in memory of Mark's father, Curtis Newman: Cynthia Icardo, Kitty Jo Nelson, Candace Huskey-Brown and J & J Peterson.

I know we've said it before, but we couldn'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, or

RENEW your membership early, or

SPONSOR an event or exhibit, or

BUY from our website. During our current stay-at-home life style, wouldn't it be a great time to read up on our local history? Or buy a book as a gift for the holidays. You won't believe what an interesting past those who have lived here before us have left for us. Or

DONATE, just because!

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 or 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!**