



The Kern Grapevine

Kern County Historical Society
Post Office Box 141
Bakersfield, California 93302

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APRIL 2018

Kern County Historical Society

2017-2018

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Candidates Needed To Serve

As Historical Society Trustees

If you are a local history enthusiast, enjoy sharing such knowledge with others, and would like to spend time with persons of a like persuasion, please consider serving as a trustee of the Kern County Historical Society. It is an interesting, engaging, and painless way to spend your spare time. Your two-year term would begin in May 2018. Notify a board member or contact us at KCHS1931@gmail.com if you desire to serve.

May 19th Program: "Highway 99"

Due to a lack of participation, our scheduled Rankin Ranch Weekend has been canceled. Instead, we will have as a guest speaker Stephen H. Provost, author of the 2017 book *Highway 99: The History of California's Main Street*.

Plan on joining us at the Kern County Museum's Black Gold auditorium for this timely program and a boxed lunch.

Schedule of Programs

2017-2018 Season

April 21st — Saturday

"History Day Winners," Student Historians

Kern County Museum, Standard School

May 18, 19, & 20, 2018

~~Weekend at the Rankin Ranch~~ CANCELED

May 19 — Saturday

"Hwy 99: The History of California's Main Street,"
Stephen H. Provost

Kern County Museum, Black Gold Auditorium

"Student Historians To Inspire and Impress the Historical Society"

Saturday, April 21, 2018 at Kern County Museum's Standard
School – 11:00 am

Admission is free ~ A box lunch from Too Fat's follows at 12:00.

Includes your choice of turkey, roast beef or a veggie sub sandwich,
chips, cookie and a drink. Price: \$15.00

For reservations, please call Jayne at 661-867-2414.

The Historical Society has invited several participants from the Kern County History Day competition to present their projects at our April program.

Individuals and groups of students competed locally on Saturday, March 3rd. Those with the highest scores have earned the honor of competing at California History Day in May. Winners from that event acquire the privilege of advancing to the National History Day competition held in Maryland.

"Conflict and Compromise in History" is the theme of this year's projects. Student research for the competition began at the beginning of the school year. The type of projects entered include historical papers, exhibits, performances, documentaries, websites, and posters.

Our program will include:

John Hefner, retired Fruitvale Junior High School principal, will explain the process of choosing a topic and the type of sources that are used for research.

Madeline Abernathy, winner of the Senior Division (grades 9-12) Individual Performance Category, will present her project, "Viet Nam War Memorial." She is a student at Bakersfield Christian High School.

Isabella Cabrales, Alex Fan, and Victoria Wilson are the winners of the Junior Division (grades 4-8) Group Exhibit Category. Their project title is "Chinese Exclusion Act." They are students at Fruitvale Junior High School.

Kern County students have long been successful at both state and national levels of this competition. The preparation and performances of these young historians is not to be missed!

Historical Plaques Replacement Project

The Kern County Historical Society needs your help to replace the plaques for three of our county's landmarks. We are currently accepting donations from the community to replace these missing plaques:

- **#539 Posey Station** is commemorated as being a stopping point of the famed Butterfield Overland Stage route.
- **#631 Garces Baptismal Site** records a 1776 baptism, the first in the San Joaquin Valley.
- **#660 Jedediah Strong Smith**, famed mountain man and early explorer, is recognized for his travels through Kern County. He traveled throughout the West keeping a journal and making maps of his travels.

Donations are tax deductible and much appreciated. Mail donations to the Kern County Historical Society, P.O. Box 141, Bakersfield, CA 93302. We thank you for your participation in making local history available to the public.

Monthly Book Sale Moved to Second Saturday

The Kern County Historical Society will continue to sell our publications each month at the Five & Dime Antique Mall, 1400 19th Street. However, beginning in March, we will be participating in Second Saturday. This monthly event for downtown Bakersfield connects with the Farmers' Markets and businesses which are open on Saturdays to create a fun, family-friendly experience across all of downtown.

According to the Second Saturday website, they "work with businesses to encourage special discounts, offers or experiences for guests to make Second Saturday an event not worth missing. Every month, we release a new map of downtown the Monday before Second Saturday. The map includes details to all the businesses, farmers' markets, and events happening so that attendees can plan their route for a fun day."

Linda and Mark Sheffield, Mall owners and Society members, have generously extended to us this opportunity to sell our publications. Since beginning this partnership in June 2017 we have sold a total of \$1,537.48 worth of publications and have also increased our membership by at least ten. An added bonus for us has been the pleasure we have had visiting with other local history enthusiasts.

Drop by for a visit, browse the shops, enjoy a burger and shake at the only original and still operating Woolworth's lunch counter in the United States. We hope to see you at a future Second Saturday!



"Historic Highway Route 99" Sign

Project Update

The Historic Route 99 Signs have been ordered and the estimation is it will be about five months before they are installed. The "Historic Highway 99" badge and "Next Exit" sign will be integrated but made to resemble two separate signs. The Kern County Historical Society appreciates the community support we have received to make this project possible.

Historical Society Dues Increase

Beginning July 1, 2018 membership dues to the Kern County Historical Society will increase by \$5.00 per year. Individual memberships will be \$25.00, Families \$35.00, Organizations \$35.00 and Businesses \$55.00. Life Memberships for individuals will increase to \$250, and the member must be 50 years of age or older to qualify.

Membership in the Kern County Historical Society includes these benefits:

- ~Annual subscription to our newsletter The Kern Grapevine.
- ~Annual subscription to our quarterly publication Historic Kern.
- ~A 10% discount on all publications purchased from the Kern County Historical Society.
- ~Invitations to all meetings, field trips and events.
- ~Participation in a growing county wide network of persons and organizations committed to preserving Kern County's rich heritage.

Meetings and field trips of the Kern County Historical Society are held monthly from September through May, with the exception of December. The meetings feature speakers on subjects pertaining to county history, historical sites, and Kern lore. The Kern County Historical Society continues to believe the past is the light that will illuminate our future. Please join us in our efforts to preserve and present our county's rich and diverse history.

More Events of Local Historical Interest:

BUENA VISTA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY & SCIENCE:

April 13, 14, 15 - PALEO DIG: Would you like to be a Paleontologist for a Day? Join Museum Field Guides and find fossils in the quarries near the Famous Sharktooth Hill.

2018 Chester Ave. Admission prices are: Adults \$8, Seniors (above 55) \$6, Students \$4, Kids (age 3-11) \$4, Kids (under 2) Free.



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD:

“The Long Journey: A History of U.S. Immigration from 1790,” September 15 - June 15, 2018, Historical Research Center located in the Walter Stiern Library, Open Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 8:00 pm and Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. Using CSUB archival collections, this exhibit tracks and contextualizes the journey of ten Kern County immigrants, while exploring other facets of the immigration experience.



CSU Bakersfield

FORT TEJON STATE HISTORIC PARK FRONTIER ARMY DAYS:

Take a step back in time to 1856 and experience the life of the soldiers and civilians. 10:00 am to 3:00 pm (Adults \$5.00, Children \$3.00) Saturdays: May 5, June 2. Demonstrations may include 1850s Army Barracks Life, Blacksmith Shop, Artillery Drill, Open Hearth Cooking, Army Horsemanship, Military Drill, Carpentry Shop, Laundry/Candle Making, Weapons Demonstrations, Officer's Quarters. For details visit the website at forttejon.admin@parks.ca.gov.



California Department of
Parks and Recreation

KERN COUNTY MUSEUM:

April 22nd – 11:00 am - 6:00 pm - Second Annual Haggard Boxcar Music Festival - Tickets \$25.00 pre-sale, \$30.00 at the door. Visit the museum website for a list of entertainers.

Spring Programs:

April 18th — “Buffalo Bill Cody in California” by Gregory Hinton

April 25th — Wine & Paint Night (Ages 21+)

May 2nd — “The Weirdest Homes in Bakersfield” by Lori Wear

May 16th — “The Plague in the Boomtowns: The Spanish Influenza in Bakersfield and Kern County, 1918-1920” by Garth Milam

May 23rd — Ornate Mirror Painting

