



The Kern Grapevine

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

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<http://kernhistoricalsociety.org/>

MAY 2018

May Program

Saturday, May 19, 2018 at Kern County Museum's Black Gold Auditorium - 11:00 am

Admission is free ~ Lunch from Too Fat's follows at 12:00. Includes BBQ ribs, chicken, cheesy potatoes, fruit, water and "something special" for dessert. Price: \$20.00

For reservations, please complete and mail the reservation form on the Page 3.

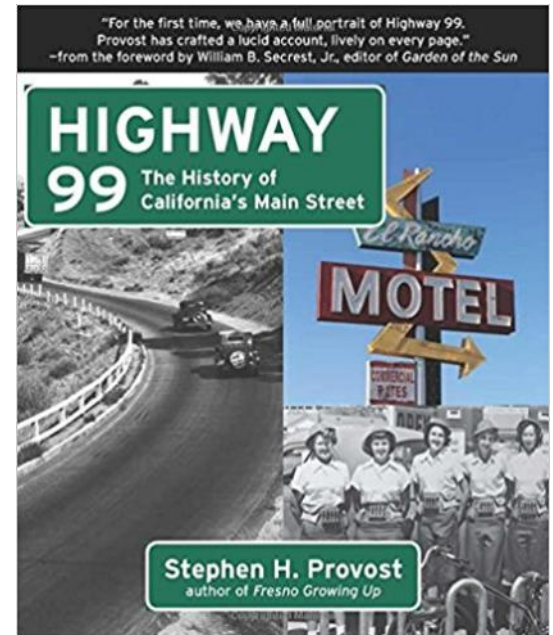
Stephen H. Provost, author of the 2017 book

Highway 99: The History of California's Main Street

In association with the Kern County Historical Society's project of installing signs to mark the original route of Historic Highway 99 our last speaker of the season will be Stephen H. Provost. Stephen is a Fresno native, a writer of a large variety of published works including newspaper columns, teen novels, and nonfiction such as his *Growing Up Fresno*. He is also a photographer and his 2017 book *Highway 99* is composed of many of his own photos.

As the back cover of this book states: "Before it was a modern freeway, California's State Highway 99 was the main street of California, a simple two-lane road that passed through the downtowns of every city between the Mexican border and the Oregon state line... Highway 99 is also the birthplace of classic American roadside culture – the motor court motel, the drive-thru window, the theme park, and the truck stop. *Highway 99* unearths detailed histories of the innumerable gas stations, hotels, restaurants, amusements, and whole communities that developed to cater to the motorist."

Copies of his book will be on sale for \$20.95.



In this issue:

- Highway Route 99 Sign Project Update
- Historical Plaques Replacement Project
- Book Sale at Five and Dime Antique Mall on Second Saturday
- Dues Increase
- Local Historical Interest Events Calendar
- Name Badge Order Form

Kern County Historical Society May Election

As the May meeting of the Historical Society is the last one for the 2017-18 program season, members also will be electing officers and trustees for two-year terms. We so appreciate those who are willing to serve and maintain the goals of the Society to preserve, restore, and educate the public of the richness and importance of Kern County's past.

Officers

Ken Hooper, President
 Jayne Hotchkiss-Price,
 Vice-President
 John Codd, Treasurer
 Lisa Meehan, Recording
 Secretary
 Kitty DeArmond,
 Corresponding Secretary

Board of Trustees

<u>One Year</u>	<u>Two Year</u>
Keith Montgomery	Steve Bass
Lynn Montgomery	Jon Doll
Steve Montgomery	Richard Jarrett
Krista Moreland	Therese Melbar
John Stegall	Elise Sotello



“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 Plaques Replacement Project

The Kern County Historical Society continues to need 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.

Mark Your Calendars!

The Kern County Historical Society will be selling our publications on May 12 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Second Saturday monthly event. You can find us at the Five & Dime Antique Mall, 1400 19th Street.

Here is a list of publications available for purchase:

- *Basques to Bakersfield* by Mary Paquette
- *Curtis Darling’s Postcard Collection* by Don Arnot and Jeff Nickell
- *Historical Site Markers of Kern County* by William G. Hample and Robert Crabtree
- *Inside Historic Kern, II* by the Kern County Historical Society
- *Jedediah Smith & His Monuments* by Raymond F. Wood
- *Kern County Place Names*, 2nd Ed. by Curtis Darling
- *Kern County Wayfarers* by William Harland Boyd
- *Kern County’s Desert Country* by William Harland Boyd
- *Land Policies in Kern County* by Paul W. Gates
- *The Life of Richard Hudnut (1828-1903)* by Herbert B. Hudnut, Jr., M.D.
- *Stagecoach Heyday in the San Joaquin Valley, 1853-1876* by William Harland Boyd
- *The Basques of Kern County* by Stephen Bass and George Ansolabehere

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:

DAUGHTERS OF THE UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR:

The DUV has accepted the responsibility of maintaining and improving the Grand Army of the Republic designated section of Historic Union Cemetery. On May 4 they dedicated ten new headstones that have been laid on the previously unmarked graves of local Union Veterans of the Civil War. They also placed American flags on each of the 93 graves, as well as left a penny each for remembrance. Last year the organization worked to refurbish the GAR cannon and plaque in the GAR plot.

KERN GENEALOGY SOCIETY:

May 15, 1:00 pm in the Tejon Room at Beale Library, The Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War will explain their research and share photos of the Grand Army of the Republic section of Historic Union Cemetery. Among those who have contributed to the research, restoration, and preservation effort are Shirley Jackson, Kirby Morgan, John Codd, Jose Leyva, Linda Finch, and Mari Carroll.

KERN COUNTY MUSEUM:

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

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.

FORT TEJON STATE HISTORIC PARK FRONTIER 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: June 2, July 4 (1856-style Fourth of July), August 4. 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, and Officer’s Quarters. For details visit the website at forttejon.admin@parks.ca.gov.

Reservation Form

Name(s) _____ Phone Number(s) _____

Reservation for _____ at \$20.00 per person for the May 19 Luncheon. Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail your reservation form and check by Wednesday, May 16 to:

Kern County Historical Society

P.O. Box 141

Bakersfield, CA 93302

Please observe the reservation deadline and send your check for the full amount by Wednesday, May 16.

We need to receive your payment by Friday, May 18. Contact Jayne at 661-867-2414 with questions.

Note: After the food expense is paid, the balance of your payment is donated to the Kern County Museum.

Kern County Historical Society

Name Badge Order Form

Member Name: First _____ Last _____

(Please print clearly)

Contact information: Phone _____ Email _____

Life Members and Board Members may have an additional line engraved on their badge, if desired. Please choose one of the following choices of life member or board member.

◊ I am a Life Member, please add Life Member to my badge. _____

◊ I am a current or past Board Member. Please circle your position:

Corresponding Secretary Past Secretary Recording Secretary Past Secretary Treasurer Past Treasurer Trustee (when did you serve?)
_____ Vice President Past Vice President President Past President

Badges are \$15.00 per badge, tax included.

Please send your completed request with payment of \$15.00 per badge made out to Kern County Historical Society:

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Badges can be picked up at our monthly board meeting or monthly membership meetings.