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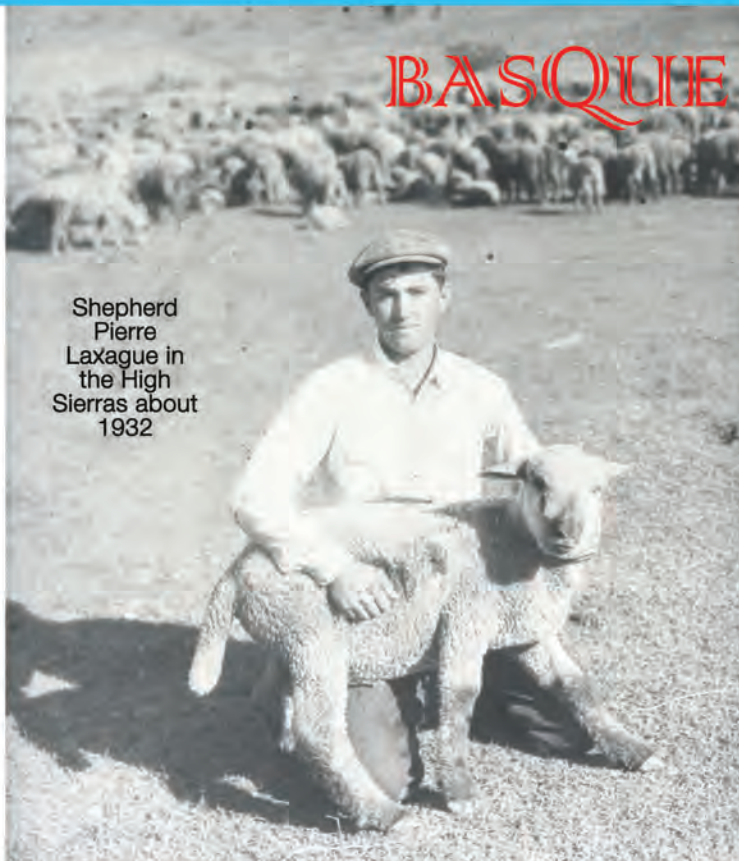
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BASQUE TRADITION

Local sheepman Fred Ansolabehere was at the museum for a meeting and noted that there didn't appear to be any exhibits celebrating the rich Basque culture of Kern County. "What about recreating one of the Sierra sheep camps?" he asked. At the beginning of the 20th century, the cattle and sheep business really took off in California's Central Valley. World War I gave the sheep business a boost with a high demand for mutton and wool. The tradition was soon was created where young Basque men would follow their sheep bands up into the High Sierras for summer grazing.



Shepherd
Pierre
Laxague in
the High
Sierras about
1932

Local businessman Dan Hay contacted the Museum and offered his help creating a new sheep camp exhibit. Thanks to the generosity of the Hay Brother's Sheep Company and Jim Etcheverry, Pioneer Village is now telling the story of the Basque shepherd. Local businessman Mark

Parsons restored one of the vintage sheep camp trailers for the exhibit along with a water tank and a drinking trough. Local historian Steve Bass contributed a number of artifacts related to the sheep business and camps for the display. Fittingly, the camp is right next door to the iconic Pyrenees Bakery that also served the Basque community.



Interior of
Sheepcamp
Trailer



Mark Parsons and Dan Hay
outside the sheep camp trailer

The young Basque shepherds, leaving hard scrabble pastures and farms in the Pyrenees Mountains, often showed up in Bakersfield with just the clothes on their backs and a small bit of money. They were soon connected with work on local ranches, farms, shearing sheds and the Sierra sheep camps. For the thousands of young Basque men, work in the sheep camps of California was a rite of passage. The work was difficult, sometimes dangerous, and very lonely. Yet, many old timers would say, it was the best time of their lives. And now another generation can now learn about that rich tradition of the Basques in Pioneer Village.

—from the— DIRECTOR'S DESK

BY DR. MIKE MCCOY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Striking it Rich!

We regularly get calls from local folks who want to donate antiques or family memorabilia. Sadly, most of the items do not meet our standard of local provenance, historic merit or support for a new exhibit. We turn down offers of pianos, old newspapers and sewing machines almost every week. Luckily, we sometimes strike it rich.

Antique dealer Dixie Brewer called a couple weeks ago and said she had found something "wonderful" for our museum's consideration. Local retiree Tony Lugo had been carrying around the original neon clock that hung over the famous Blackboard Café Bar. The Blackboard, like the Lucky Spot and Trout's Bar, were the incubators of the Bakersfield Sound and buildings are no longer standing. Memorabilia from these long gone honky tonks are very rare. Thanks to Tony, the clock is now the newest star of the Bakersfield Sound.

Tony Lugo and the Blackboard Clock



Buck Owens' suit with Ashleigh
in our Research Department

Local educator Becky Duke also called regarding the new country western music exhibit. Her father had won one of Buck Owens' show costumes in a raffle many years ago. Her mother Mary Snow was cleaning out the closets and wondered if it should go to the Museum? Since the Owens family has a nice exhibit of Buck's memorabilia at the Crystal Palace, there are not a lot of his costumes and instruments available. The suit, a bright blue show costume covered with rhinestones, was perfect! It will also fit right into the Bakersfield Sound showcase that honors Buck Owens.

On another note, our Museum staff has started construction of the Native American Education Center this summer. The 1,600 square foot high ceilinged building will serve as the focal point for school tours and our work preserving the story of the many people who lived in our valley before the Spanish rode through. The center is slated to be completed this fall with funding from the William and Florence Wheeler Foundation, the estate of Bill and Claire Hanson, and the Virginia and Alfred Harrell Foundation. The 65 year old education program certainly deserves a permanent home.



CURATORIAL CORNER

Ashleigh Meyers and Grace Eribarne will be Research Fellows in our Museum's Curatorial Department for the Summer of 2022. Meyers is a History Major at St. Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula, California. Eribarne is a History Major at California State University, Fullerton.

Our Museum has been emerging as a center for historical source material with the construction of the Bakersfield Californian Research Center in 2016. Our recent work to digitize the document and photo collection has led to a lot of requests for assistance from other museums. A recent cooperative project on Chinese immigration with the Sun Yat Sen Library in Guangzhou China, has proven that our collection is worthy of international notice.



Rachel

MUSEUM HISTORIAN



Ashleigh



Grace

Ashleigh Meyers has worked in the Kern County Museum's Curatorial Department as an intern in 2021 and is back this summer as the "Arkelian Fellow." Supported by a grant from the Ben and Gladys Arkelian Foundation, Meyers will work with the Museum's historian on preparing Native American artifacts for the new Yokut Tejon Education Center. Meyers is a 2019 graduate of Centennial High School and is the daughter of Paul and Melody Meyers of Bakersfield.

Grace Eribarne will work in the Research Center as the "West Fellow." Her work is supported by the Harry and Ethel West Foundation and will also focus on chronicling the Museum's immense collection of historic artifacts, photos and documents. Eribarne is also a 2019 graduate of Centennial High School and is the daughter of Kathy Eribarne and the late Joe Eribarne of Bakersfield.

"We are absolutely thrilled to host two exceptional young historians in our Research Center this summer," said Museum Executive Director Mike McCoy. "This is important work and we are thankful to these two wonderful foundations for their support."

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Mike McCoy
Museum Executive Director



EDUCATION STATION



June 20 – June 24th

Campers will learn about Kern County historical figures and the roles they played to create Bakersfield. Campers will also enjoy crafts, activities guided tours led by docents and guests. On Friday there will be an end-of-summer camp celebration.

For questions about Camp Discover please email nancy@kerncountymuseum.org

FANTASTIC FRIDAYS

Museum staff will host special activities two times per month in the summer 10 AM to 1 PM:

July 1
Independence Day Craft

July 15
Ice Cream Puffy Paint Project

August 5
Home Made Cloud Dough Sandcastles

August 26
Paper Plate Lighthouse
Welcome Sign



www.kerncountymuseum.org

BEALE LIBRARY COLLABORATION

The Community Creativity Program, a pre-school/toddler event featuring an art project, sensory activities, and story time. Runs 10-11 AM on the following days

Wednesday	June 22
Wednesday	July 20
Wednesday	August 17

IT'S HAPPENING AT THE MUSEUM



*Coming
this Fall*

LECTURE SERIES

The Kern County Museum's popular lecture series returns after a hiatus due to pandemic for four dates in the Fall:

September 7
October 12
November 9
December 7

All lectures are held on Wednesday evenings in historic Standard School at 6 PM. The lectures usually run 45 minutes with time for Q&A.

"The topics are still under development," said historian Rachel Hads. "We promise great speakers on Kern County History as we have in the past. Watch the website for the topic announcement."

Join Us

2022

VILLAGE FLEA
AT THE KERN COUNTY MUSEUM

**SUNDAY
OCTOBER 9TH**
8 AM - 4 PM

Vintage Furniture ♦ Curiosities ♦ Clothing
Art ♦ Glass ♦ Local Handmade Items
Music ♦ Food

\$5.00 GENERAL ADMISSION ♦ CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE

For vendor application email: bebe@kerncountymuseum.org



Safe Halloween

The Museum grounds turn into a Haunted Village October 30 & October 31, 2022 from 5 PM to 9 PM. Music, family entertainment and food so all of the little goblins, ghosts and witches can have a fun safe trick or treat experience. The Museum is looking for sponsors and station donors. Check the Museum's website for more information.

FALL FLEA

Village Flea, the region's most popular antique fair returns Sunday, October 9th, 2022 from 8 AM to 4 PM. \$5.00 general admission, Children 12 & Under Free. Lot's of vintage clothing, housewares, decorative items and art work. Vendor and Food Truck forms will be available Mid-August 2022.

RESTORE *and* REFURBISH



Thank You!



KAY AND MIC HALL

PAINTING THE TOWN

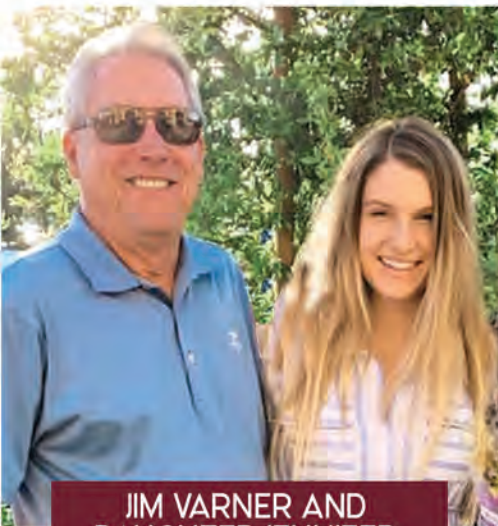
With more than 60 historic buildings on the 16 acre museum property, the Museum staff is constantly battling faded and peeling paint. Fortunately our community has stepped up and sponsored the restoration of most of our buildings. More than 25 buildings have



received exterior paint in the last five years and another 20 have received interior paint or wallpaper. Known affectionately by the Museum staff as "Scape and Paint," our goal is to have painted every building in Pioneer Village by 2023.

This summer's scrape and paint projects include the Weller Ranch House, the Photography Studio and the Santa Fe Caboose:

The Weller Ranch House was built in 1875 in the historic Rosedale English Colony. The board and batten house was last painted in the 1950's when it was moved to the Museum. It is now ready for a new coat of white paint and green trim. The interior wall paper will also be replaced and interior décor will be reorganized. The project is sponsored by the Harry and Ethel West Foundation.



JIM VARNER AND DAUGHTER JENNIFER

The Photographer's Studio was built in 1890 as a small cottage in the town of Kern. It came to the Museum in 1960 and hasn't been painted in 60 years. Thanks to a donation from local businessman Jim Varner, the sign, porch and roof are being repaired and a new coat of white paint will be applied. Jim's daughter Jennifer is a popular local photographer and this was a perfect way to honor her work.

Mic and Kay Hall were looking for a way to remember friend Mike Smith who lost his battle with leukemia. Mike was a career railroad man so they agreed to sponsor the restoration of the 1923 Santa Fe caboose. Brought to the Museum in 1956, it was painted in the 1970's but 50 years later is ready for another coat of red. This will be a tricky job because of all the signage painted on the wood siding.



NATHAN REBUILDING STAIRS ON PHOTO STUDIO

The Museum is down to four small projects to meet our 2023 goal of "painting the town;" the Fraternal Hall, the Harness Shop, the Assay Office and two small railroad sheds. Contact mmccoy@kerncountymuseum.org if you are interested in being a sponsor!

Viva VOLUNTEERS



Eric **WARNOCK**

When long time Kern County employee Eric Warnock retired, he finally was able to focus on something he had dreamed about for years...launching his career in standup comedy. Eric has made the circuit of local events and out of town clubs often billed as "The 99 Cent Comic." His hilarious stories about his childhood in Oildale and slanted take on popular culture have attracted a cult following. Wherever he goes in town with his red SUV emblazoned with his contact info, Eric gets horn honks and friendly waves.

Also as a new retiree, Eric found he wanted to give back to the community in some way. As a performer and comedian, he has found a ready stage in Pioneer Village at the Norris School House. Dressed in period costume as a Victorian school master, Eric gives children on school tours a real experience of life in a one room school. "I have been the school master for eight years and I am having a ball working with the kids," he said.

Transporting kids back 150 years ago is easy with the restored Norris School with its rows of desks, potbellied stove and community water dipper. Inevitably some student will talk out of turn or attract Eric's attention and they are then relegated to the time out stool and the dunce cap. He does refrain from using "the board of education," or paddle that was in constant use in the old school.

Eric said the trick is to get children involved in the lesson at the chalk board or by asking questions. "Most of the kids have no idea what the hitching post is for, the water pump or the water dipper," he said. "Their reaction to kids having to ride horses to school or use an outhouse at school is really funny."

With the return of school tours in the Spring of 2022, Head Master Eric is back in business with a new flock of students. He is looking forward to a full schedule of kids in the Fall of 2022 and already has worked some new jokes into his school master routine. His advice for local retirees? Find your passion and find a way to give back to the community! "Jump in and start out slow," he said. "Find a mentor and you will love helping children time travel."



MUSEUM HOURS

**WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM**

**CLOSED
MONDAY & TUESDAY**

WWW.KERNCOUNTYMUSEUM.ORG

2022

**CLOSED OCCASIONALLY FOR SPECIAL
EVENTS AND PRIVATE FUNCTIONS**

**ALL EVENTS RAIN OR SHINE. PROGRAMS
SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE**



**KERN COUNTY MUSEUM
3801 CHESTER AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

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