

The KERN COURIER

2019 SPRING EDITION



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BY NICOLE BOLINGER

Saturday, May 11th, the Kern County Museum will be presenting the 3rd Annual Haggard Boxcar Festival celebrating the Bakersfield Sound! The festival doors will open at 3 PM and the concert main stage will begin at 4 PM. This year's lineup includes Merle's sons Ben and Noel Haggard and exciting new performer Mo Pitney. The main stage will also feature the popular local bands Truxton Mile and The Nightlife Band along with local favorite Susan Raye.

"The festival will also have great food, cold drinks and festival merchandise," said Events Coordinator Brenna Charatsaris. "You can enjoy a cold beer and listen to music on three different stages. We are getting calls from all over the country."

The Boxcar Festival was started after Merle Haggard's childhood home was moved to the Museum's Pioneer Village from Oildale. The history of the boxcar starts in 1935 when the Haggards moved to Bakersfield from Oklahoma. They purchased the boxcar as temporary living, until they built a permanent structure on their land. In 1937, Merle Haggard was born and then brought home to the now famous boxcar. In the late 1950's they left the boxcar for their new home on the same property. Over the decades the small house fell into disrepair and was being used for storage.

Haggard himself chose a spot across from the steam engine and Santa Fe caboose. The boxcar was completely reconstructed and renovated with the original wood and opened to the public for tours in April 2016 after a very generous gift from local philanthropist Cynthia Lake. The very first Haggard Boxcar Music festival was held in honor of Merle, exactly one year after the legendary country singers' death.

Food, drink and the Bakersfield Sound in the historic Pioneer Village on May 11th! We will see you there! ☺

HAGGARD BOXCAR MUSIC FESTIVAL - MAY 11 - 3PM

**BEN & NOEL
HAGGARD**

MO PITNEY

TRUXTON MILE

VINCE GALINDO

SPECIAL GUESTS:

**BAKERSFIELD MUSIC HALL
OF FAME TALENT WINNER**

THE APPLETONS

HOST KIM MCABEE

HOST KEN MCCLOUD

ALMEDA BRADSHAW

JOHN HOLLINS BAND

ED SHELTON & BRUCE COX

THE NIGHTLIFE BAND

HOST DAVID SIMPSON

KADIN HERNANDEZ

DREW HARNESS

TOMMY HAYES

HOST MAYF NUTTER

SUSAN RAYE

AMBER MICHELLE

TIM STYLES

THE HERNANDEZ FAMILY

**FULL LINE UP AND TIMES
ON OUR WEBSITE**

www.kerncountymuseum.org

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

BY MIKE MCCOY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Tara Brooch, circa 650 AD



The Cross of Cong

Like a lot of middle aged folks I have a “bucket list” of must see places for my life. This spring I was in Ireland for St. Patrick’s Day and able to check off several items on my life list.

My first day in Dublin found me touring Trinity College’s Old Library and the chance to see the beautiful Book of Kells. The beautiful illuminated manuscript, created in 800 AD, is an artistic representation of the four gospels, and is considered one of the most important works of art in the world. The library does an extraordinary job of sharing the history of the book and for managing the one million visitors that come to view the exhibition each year.

I spent the afternoon at the National Museum of Ireland’s Archaeology building. The artifacts here stretch back thousands of years to prehistory and include some of the great treasures of Celtic Ireland. The three objects that I sought out were the Tara Brooch, the Ardagh Chalice and the Cross of Cong. The brooch, circa 650 AD, is considered one of the most precious artifacts in Irish history and its design sparked a revival of Celtic pride in the 19th century. The chalice was found in 1868 by two young boys and is dated at 700 AD. Finally, the Cross of Cong, circa 1123, was designed to hold a piece of the true cross from the Holy Land.

People often question the value of museums and their relevance in this modern age of instant information. Taking a quiet day to explore Celtic history in premier museums was an absolute delight.

Book of Kells



I watched children from a school group stare mystified at the faces of ancient human bodies found preserved in peat bogs. A group of seniors on tour were in awe over 1,000 year old jewelry. This visit reminded me of the great value of museums and the important purpose they play in our communities. Ireland also inspired me personally to continue our work in Kern County preserving the past so we can continue to inspire the future. 📷

COLLECTIONS CORNER


BY LORI WEAR, CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS



Warren and Coburn Dragster 1977

Frank and Demi Hinmon recently donated an extraordinary piece of racing history to the Kern County Museum. This sleek, and more importantly fast, dragster driven by James Warren and built by Roger Coburn won the Top Fuel championship at the U. S. Fuel and Gas Championships, also known as the March Meets, at Famoso Raceway three years in a row from 1975-77. Warren and Coburn, known as the Ridge Route Terrors, were sponsored by Marvin Miller of Rain For Rent. This history making dragster with Warren's skill as a driver beat top drag racers of the time like "Big Daddy" Don Garlits. The Warren and Coburn dragster achieved speeds in excess of 225 miles per hour burning up a quarter mile track in 5.75 seconds during its reign as Top Fuel winner at the March Meets.

James Warren had a racing career that spanned 17 years. He was the Division 7 Top Fuel champion from 1972 to 1976. In 1979, Warren retired from racing. However, Roger Coburn continued to race until 1983. James Warren was inducted into the Bob Elias Hall of Fame in 1983 and the International Drag Racing Hall of Fame in 1992. Roger Coburn was inducted into the International Drag Racing Hall of Fame in 1998.

Frank Hinmon expanded a tremendous amount of time and energy restoring this classic dragster to mint condition. He has amassed a collection of photographs and articles documenting its prominent place in drag racing history. Hinmon has preserved this amazing piece of local history and with his donation to the Kern County Museum ensured that it remains in our community for all to enjoy for generations to come. This dragster demonstrates how in 100 years we went from horse-drawn vehicles to traveling over 200 miles per hour for competition and entertainment. 

EDUCATION STATION

Camp Discover is Back!

The Kern County Museum will be holding its popular summer camp program from June 3rd to August 9th. "Camp Discover" has been a community favorite for years and provides local children ages five to 12 the opportunity to explore a number of different fun activities while learning history, science and health. Campers have the full run of Pioneer Village's 16 acres of historic buildings and tree shaded grounds. They will receive a camp t-shirt and afternoon snacks will be provided. Full day 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM and half day sessions from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM are offered.

Camp Discover will be broken up into five two week sessions:

Weeks One and Two: Earth Explorer- Kids will get their head in the clouds and dig below their feet! They will learn about dirt, water, weather, plants animals, and climate. Kids will learn about our own Kern River. Crafts and projects will stretch their imagination.

Weeks Three and Four: Dig It! Kids will dig up some fun and learn about dinosaurs! Identify fossils and stretch their prehistoric knowledge. In week two Archaeology! Children will channel their inner Indiana Jones and unearth the exciting journey from field to lab. They will learn about people who once lived in this area hundreds of years ago.



Weeks Five and Six: Messy Science: Our young scientists will spend the week getting their hands dirty as we dive into some messy science! Grab a lab coat, safety goggles and gloves, because it's time for them to be the scientist! Join us for some icky, sticky experiments. Mix and blend concoctions to learn which chemicals react to cause flashes and bangs!

Weeks Seven and Eight: Master Maker! From computers, to clothing, to candy, everything around us is engineered! Kids will join the maker movement and learn to use tools, explore different technologies and engineer designs of their own! They will learn to work with wood, clay and other materials including a project to take home!

Weeks Nine and Ten- Arts Explosion! Children will be creative and learn to draw, paint, mold clay and be a photographer. They will have the chance to create wonderful works of art and an arts show will be the culminating celebration of the week!

Call Misty at 661-437-3330 to enroll
or email mwhite@kerncountymuseum.org



It's Happening at the Village!



TROLLEY CAR STATION OPENS

The Trolley Car Station is now open! As part of the Ray Watson Transportation Exhibit, a 3,000 square foot storage space has now been transformed into a turn of the century rail station with a butler's pantry, beverage bar and seating for 80 guests. There is easy access for caterers with a new driveway and access door. Events Manager Brenna Charatsaris says "This new space will be perfect for corporate meetings and parties." With its bright yellow gold paint and charming interior finishes, it is one of the most unique party spaces in Kern County. Funding for the project came from the Harry and Ethel West Foundation and the Ben H. and Gladys Arkelian Foundation.



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The centerpiece of the station is a 1912 electric street car that used to run between the Santa Fe Rail station on F Street and the Southern Pacific Station on Baker. Acquired by the museum in 1980, the trolley car has been in storage waiting for its turn in the spotlight. It is now in the process of being restored by museum staff and will serve as a backdrop for the new entertainment venue.

The station will be part of four integrated design elements that will make up the transportation center. The first is the Union 76 filling station with newly renovated restrooms. The neon plaza features a dozen iconic signs from Kern County and is a dynamic outdoor entertainment space. The Trolley Car Station will serve as an entry point to the Ray Watson Transportation Exhibit Hall that is scheduled to open this fall thanks to the generous support of the Virginia and Alfred Harrell Foundation and other individual donors.





RESTORE AND REFURBISH

The Kern County Museum's Pioneer Village is home to 60 historic structures that range from the elegant Victorian Howell House to the recently restored Metcalf House. Of these buildings, more than 20 have community benefactors who stepped up with much needed dollars for paint, carpentry, landscape and improved artifacts. Many of our donors have a connection with the building like local farmer Norman Lum and his support of the Joss House project. Some donors want to give back to the community like the Woman's Club of Bakersfield and their support for Metcalf House. Two new donors have recently stepped forward to sponsor buildings.

Ray Mish has been contributing to his community for his entire life. Ray and Mission Funeral Home have been long time supporters of the museum and our programs. He recently provided the funds to restore the Funeral Parlor exhibit in Pioneer Village. Thanks to Ray's generosity and his partners Kenny Mount Jr. and David Mish, the 90 year old building had carpenter repairs, new paint inside and out, a new concrete walkway and improved exhibits. "It's important to remember the past," said Ray. "And that's why museums are important." Ray, Kenny and David are also sponsors of the hearse in the new transportation exhibit.

Kaiser Permanente agreed to refurbish the Drug Store building in honor of their pharmacy employees last fall. The 100 year old building has been at the Museum for 64 years and was formally a small freight office on 18th street. Museum staff gave the building a new coat of paint, rebuilt the front porch and painted a new sign. The building was formally re-dedicated at the Kaiser Permanente employee picnic in October 2018. "The building is now good for another 50 years," Maintenance Lead Eddie Valdez commented.

If a local family, company or community group is interested in adopting one of our buildings, please call the museum at 661-437-3330 and ask for Mike. There are lots of opportunities to support the village.

Viva VOLUNTEERS!

BY MISTY WHITE, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR



When Linda Ward moved back to Kern County eight years ago from Oregon, she immediately began to look for volunteer work in the community. A retired postal worker who lived in Bakersfield when she was in school, she wanted to find a place to contribute her time and talent. "I worked at the county library in Klamath Falls for seven years after my time in the post office. I really like being active," she said.

Linda has turned into the museum's "super volunteer" running the costume department, conducting tours and doing curatorial work. School children visiting the grounds have a better visitor's experience when the tour guide is wearing a Victorian dress or a top hat. Linda makes sure that the several dozen docents have the right hat, dress, suit and shoes to portray Bakersfield in 1890. She is especially appreciative of the Lowe's Local Heroes program that completely remodeled the costume shop last year. Linda serves as the seamstress and laundress and checks all costumes in and out of Heller Hall. "I love the new washer and dryer!" she said.

"I have a great love for the museum," Linda said. "I love looking at the old houses and trying to imagine the people who lived there." Norris School is favorite place to volunteer portraying the teacher from over 100 years ago. "Working with our community's children is wonderful. You can't believe the questions we get asked." Linda also enjoys her work in the curatorial department sorting the thousands of photo negatives. "I feel like the curatorial work is very important," she explained.

When Linda is asked about advice for other retirees considering work at the museum "It's been very rewarding. I love the staff and we work hard... but it is a lot of fun!"



Upcoming EVENTS

2019 SPRING EDITION



BEN & NOEL HAGGARD
MO PITNEY · TRUXTON MILE · MORE

<https://kerncountymuseum.org/haggardboxcarmusicfestival>

SATURDAY
MAY 11, 2019
DOORS OPEN 3PM



GENERAL ADMISSION \$25
PRE-SALE / \$30 AT DOOR



MAY

May 1st Lecture Series 6pm
May 2nd Frontier Life Day 9am
May 8th Plein Air Event 8am
May 11th Boxcar Festival 3-11pm
May 18th Kidsfest 11am-3pm
May 26th Menudo Cook Off
May 27th Memorial Day

JUNE

June 1st Closed for Private Event
June 16th Sports Cars at the Museum
Fathers' Day Car Show
June 3rd- August 9th Summer Camp



JUNE 3 - AUGUST 9TH



MUSEUM
HOURS

TUESDAY - SATURDAY
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

SUNDAY
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM



2019

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, CALIFORNIA 93301