

# The KERN COURIER

2019 FALL EDITION



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## MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES

For more than 75 years, the Kern County Museum has been the steward of historical preservation, interpretation and education for central California. One of the most important programs the museum supports is an ongoing history lecture series on Wednesday evenings in historic Standard School. Held on alternate Wednesday evenings at 6:00 PM in the Spring and Fall, the series rotates special guest speakers with museum curator Lori Wear. Museum volunteer Linda Ward said "I always learn something new about Kern County and our history. It's my favorite place to be on Wednesday evenings."

Sponsored by the law firm of Chain, Cohn and Stiles, recent topics have ranged from the history of the Tejon Tribe, to the Spanish Influenza Epidemic of the early 20th century, to an early automobile race track located near the present museum site. Some topics such as a history of the Ku Klux Klan and a D Day lecture brought out standing room only audiences. Curator Lori Wear works hard to present a mix of topics that can include crime, sports, architecture and human interest stories to appeal to a wide audience.

Another popular addition to the lecture series has been Saturday walking tours of Kern County points of historic interest and field trips. The next tour will be Saturday October 5th at 10 AM where walkers will learn about "Downtown Mid-Century Architecture." This group will meet at City Hall. Another walking tour will be "Tour of Eastchester," on Saturday November 2nd at 10 AM. The tour will leave from the Bakersfield Museum of Art on R Street and learn about an older downtown neighborhood experiencing a revival. The tours generally last two hours and participants are reminded to bring water, wear comfortable shoes and a hat. The walking tours are \$10 for non-members and free to museum members. For more information on the lecture series, check out [www.kerncountymuseum.org](http://www.kerncountymuseum.org)

All lectures are free to Museum members  
\$10 General Admission & \$5 Students

- PRESENTED BY CHAIN, COHN AND STILES -



### Bakersfield's Notorious Honky Tonks

By: Lori Wear

Wednesday, October 2nd 6-8pm

The Blackboard Café, The Lucky Spot, and Trout's are just a few of Bakersfield's notorious Honky Tonks where a distinctive musical sound was born.

### Walking Tour of Downtown Bakersfield's Mid-Century Architecture

Saturday, October 5th 10am-12pm

The 1952 earthquake forced, urban renewal allowed local architects to reimagine the city. Location: City Hall South (1501 Truxtun Ave)

### Bakersfield Modern: Influence of USC School of Architecture

By: Sian Winship

Wednesday, October 9th 6-8pm

A fascinating look at a generation of local architects who went to school at U.S.C. and came back to reimagine the built environment in Kern County.

### Bootleggers, Booze, and Busts

By: Richard Roux

Wednesday, October 16th 6-8pm

Roux will discuss his book which explores the development, enforcement, resistance, and repeal of Prohibition in Kern County.

### Walking Tour of "East Chester"

By: Ken Hooper

Saturday, November 2nd 10am-12pm

Location: Bakersfield Museum of Art (1930 R Street)

### History of Kern County Motorsports

By: Dave Wolin

Wednesday, November 20th 6-8pm

Dave Wolin, retired pro race car driver, will present his research on the history of Kern County motorsports.





# MEET THE MUSEUM STAFF



The Kern County Museum is lucky to have a small but dedicated crew of employees who work in a variety of positions

Front row L to R: Nicole, Madison, Michelle, Mike, Lori, Eddie and Reuben  
2nd Row L to R: Shannon, Brenna, Steve, Juan and Jake

## STAFF PROFILES

### Mike McCoy: Executive Director

A North High grad, Mike holds degrees from Chico State University and U. C. Santa Barbara including a Ph.D. Mike was a career educator and worked all over the world with schools. He was a volunteer at our museum in high school.

### Lori Wear: Curator of Collections

Lori went to Bakersfield High, Bakersfield College and holds a degree from Cal State Bakersfield. A 20 year veteran of the Museum, Lori is recognized as an expert on Kern County and California history.

### Brenna Charetsaris: Events Coordinator

A Highland High School grad, Brenna brings a dozen years of events management experience to the museum. She enjoys working with community members who "want that perfect party."

### Nicole Bolinger: Community Engagement Coordinator

Nicole is a grad of Troy University in Alabama. She is the public face and voice of the museum and enjoys involving her three daughters in our activities.

### Shannon Fowler: Volunteer and Membership Coordinator

A Centennial High grad, Shannon also received degrees from B.C. and Cal State Bakersfield. She said she loves "being part of a positive organization which honors the history of our community!"

### Michelle Melton: Business Office

Michele is originally from Santa Fe Springs and has more than 20 years of bookkeeping experience with local accounting firms. She loves "watching the reaction of children when they walk into the museum."

### Debra Patrick: Gift Shop/ Guest Services

Deb is a BHS and Bakersfield College grad. Deb is the friendly face that greets visitors when they come in the museum and she loves working special events.

### Rachel Hads: Guest Services

Rachel is a Bakersfield College student majoring in history and anthropology. She loves hearing the stories of visitors who were here 50 years ago.

### Madison Dowell: Guest Services

Madison is a Graces High grad and a student at Bakersfield College. She loves interacting with visitors from all over.

### Eddie Valdez: Maintenance Lead

Eddie is a proud BHS Driller and has been a loyal staff member at the museum for six years. He enjoys the challenges of maintaining 60 buildings and 16 acres of grounds.

### Jacob Trask: Custodian

Jake is a grad of Stockdale High and likes the variety of work in his day and "interacting with persons who have genuine interest in the historical value of the Museum."

### Juan Vizcarra: Custodian

Juan has a degree in business from the University of Guadalajara and is finishing a master's at CSUB in Spanish. Juan loves history and nature so working at the museum has been a joy for the last four years.

### Ruben Escalante: Groundman

Ruben is an East High grad and has the challenge of maintaining 16 acres of turf and flower beds. When not pruning roses, Ruben is attending live music events.

### Steve Humphreys: Grounds

A retired BPD police officer, Steve was a volunteer at the museum doing grounds work and mechanics. He was persuaded to take a staff position last year. Steve is also a noted expert on Bakersfield architecture and historic structures.



# COLLECTIONS CORNER

BY LORI WEAR, CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS

Kern and Tulare counties were the only counties in California to have two Farm Security Administration camps that provided housing and other basic necessities to those displaced by the Dust Bowl. The Farm Security Administration opened the North Shafter Farm Labor Camp in November of 1937. Initially, this camp had only 240 tent cabins available to those seeking work and a better life in Kern County. Eventually, metal cabins and small wooden cottages were constructed for those living at the camp.

In August 2019, Susan Grisham donated a small wooden house from the North Shafter Farm Labor Camp to the Kern County Museum. Her father, Roland Grisham, a Shafter pharmacist, bought this cabin in the late 1960s and moved it to the backyard of his house in Shafter to use for storage. The possibility of receiving a small building from the North Shafter Farm Labor Camp, one of the two Farm Security Administration's camps in Kern County, was incredible. Especially since, Steve Cox donated a metal cabin from the federal migratory labor camp near Arvin to the Kern County Museum in 2002.

The 1930s-era metal housing unit from the Arvin Farm Security Administration Camp (now the Sunset Migrant Labor Housing Center) donated by Steve Cox was displayed in the museum's AERA Gallery in 2004 as part of an exhibition on migration to Kern County. However, after the exhibition ended the Arvin camp building was put in storage until the Ellen Baker Tracy Guild approved the necessary funds to move the Shafter cabin to the Museum and restore both Dust Bowl-era cabins creating a new exhibit in Pioneer Village, which will open in October 2019.

In the early 1960s, these Dust Bowl-era metal housing units (measuring 20 feet long by 12½ feet wide) were sold to make room for more modern wooden housing units at the camp. Mr. Cox purchased this metal housing unit from the Arvin federal camp in the 1960s for \$25.00. He used this building as a laundry and storage room behind his house. The structure consists of corrugated metal panels bolted to a metal frame. Luckily, these Dust Bowl-era housing units served a purpose in our community after their use as living quarters ended and their history is being preserved in the Kern County Museum's Pioneer Village.



**The house from Shafter moved to the Museum this summer**



# EDUCATION STATION

BY SHANNON FOWLER- VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Are you seeking a tour which will fulfill California State Social Studies standards for your class and give your students an unforgettable experience, too? The Kern County Museum offers six fascinating tours which will bring Kern County and California history to life! Our era-appropriately costumed docents, our historic buildings, and our learning stations offer a remarkable enrichment opportunity! Contact Shannon at [shannon@kerncountymuseum.org](mailto:shannon@kerncountymuseum.org) for more information.

## KERN COUNTY MUSEUM TOURS

### CALIFORNIA HISTORY DAY

FEBRUARY 21 & APRIL 2, 2020 (SCHOOL TOUR DAYS)

Step back in time to when the first European explorers visited Kern County! Enjoy guided tours of many of our exhibits and interesting educational hands-on stations which focus on California History. This tour has been specifically designed to fulfill 4th-grade California State Social Studies Standards for your class. The education provided on this day can cross over to other grade standards, as well.

### LIVING HISTORY DAY (FRONTIER LIFE)

OCTOBER 18, 2019

March 27 & May 28, 2020 (School Tour Days)

Join us as we learn about the chores, crafts, and activities that made up life on the frontier, with a focus on Westward Expansion. Trained docents will lead tours of historic buildings and introduce fun educational hands-on stations. This tour has been specifically designed to fulfill 5th-grade California State Social Studies Standards for your class. The education provided on this day can cross over to other grade standards, as well.

### PRICING

#### California History Day and Living History Day (School Tour Days)

- ♦ 2.5 hours duration
- ♦ No minimum or maximum attendees
- ♦ \$8 per child/student (ages 3 - 12)
- ♦ Teachers and Chaperones are free for this tour

#### Guided Tours and Lori Brock Discovery Center

- ♦ 1+ hour duration
- ♦ Minimum of 5 people for the Guided Tours
- ♦ Minimum of 20 (who arrive all together) for the Lori Brock tour
- ♦ \$5 per child/student (ages 3 - 12)
- ♦ 1 Teacher and 2 Chaperones free per class size of 25
- ♦ Any additional adults are \$10 per person
- ♦ \$8 per student (age 13+)
- ♦ 1 Teacher is free per class
- ♦ Any additional adults are \$10 per person
- ♦ \$10 per adult for non-school related groups

### SELF-GUIDED OR GUIDED TOURS

#### Native American Life (Guided Tour)

Experience the religious beliefs and customs of Native Americans, and learn how they adapted to their natural environment. Native American artifacts are presented in a lecture format, accompanied by an acorn grinding station.

#### Black Gold Tour: The Oil Experience (Guided Tour)

This indoor and outdoor exhibition tells the story of oil: its formation, its discovery, the many extraction techniques developed, and its ultimate uses throughout our lives. Enjoy a guided tour by trained docents with deep knowledge of the oil industry.

#### Home Tours (Guided Tour)

Tour inside the homes of three prominent historic families. Enjoy the beautiful, two-story Victorian-style 1891 Howell House, the early 1900's Lopez-Hill House, and country music legend Merle Haggard's family boxcar home. Get an up-close and personal tour of their history and lifestyle lead by a trained docent. These tours are not available during the summer months.

#### Lori Brock Discovery Center (Self-Guided)

This self-guided tour features the discovery of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) through hands-on play.

#### Norris School (Guided Tour)

A costumed docent will take you on a journey back to the 1880's. An hour of "class time" in the historic Norris School provides an opportunity for your group to learn about the lessons, customs, and manners of the 1880's. This tour is not available during the summer months.

#### Pioneer Village (Self-Guided or Guided Tour)

Explore 16 acres of 50 genuine and re-created structures of Kern County history.

### PIONEER VILLAGE TOUR

#### (Group Self-Guided)

- ♦ Adults only
- ♦ Minimum of 20 people
- ♦ Must arrive all together
- ♦ \$8 per person





# It's Happening at the Village

BAKERSFIELD'S FAVORITE HALLOWEEN FAMILY TRADITION IS BACK



At The Kern County Museum

**KERN COUNTY MUSEUM'S LARGEST ANNUAL FUNDRAISER  
TWO NIGHT SPECTACULAR**

**SAFE, FAMILY ORIENTED, SPOOKY HALLOWEEN EXPERIENCE**  
for more than 10,000 people each year

FAMILIES WILL ENJOY  
DANCING IN CENTRAL PARK  
COSTUME CONTESTS  
MAGIC SHOWS AND  
PLENTY OF CANDY!

**NEW**  
THIS HALLOWEEN SEASON  
HUGE HALLOWEEN PHOTO BACKDROP  
TAKE A PICTURE AS A FAMILY OR WITH YOUR  
FRIENDS TO POST ON SOCIAL MEDIA

JOIN US THE  
NIGHT BEFORE HALLOWEEN  
OR HALLOWEEN NIGHT

Tickets are available on  
Eventbrite and at the gate  
Children 4 and under Free  
Children 5 -14 \$10  
Adults \$5

The Kern County Museum welcomes local businesses and organizations to take part in the festivities by setting up a spooky trick or treat station. Each station provides candy, toys and other goodies to children as they visit trick-or-treat stations throughout the Museum streets.

This event is a wonderful opportunity for businesses and organizations to promote, network, team build and have a ball while giving back to the children of Kern County.

We are currently accepting applications for both Sponsorship and Trick-or-Treat Stations.

We encourage you to participate and experience the Halloween magic and excitement that surrounds the Safe Halloween event at the Kern County Museum.



# RESTORE AND REFURBISH

The museum always has a number of construction and restoration projects going at any one time. Recently two smaller projects were completed that had been on the backburner for a number of years. While not major projects, they are very interesting from a historical standpoint and will add a little extra interest to Pioneer Village.

## THE RALLS WINDMILL

There has been a windmill on the property for a number of years on the southside of the property. The windmill came from the Ralls family and was originally on a ranch near Caliente. Sitting near a well shed and the Weller Ranch House, it helps visitors imagine what life was like on an early Kern County farm or ranch. A few years ago the windmill began to tilt a bit. Museum staff propped it up but then the leaning tower became more pronounced. This spring museum staff made the decision to take the windmill down and rebuild the base.

After the structure was down and in the maintenance shop, we became aware of how much dry rot was in evidence.

Volunteer Dale Hopwood worked with maintenance staffers Steve Humphreys and Eddie Valdez in recreating the base and getting it ready for reinstallation. The windmill is now ready for another generation of visitors.



**Eddie finishes up the new windmill base**



**Dry rot is a constant enemy in Pioneer Village**

## THE MONOLITH FLAGMAN'S HOUSE



In 1979, Kern County Museum Director Richard Bailey requested that a Flagman's House from Monolith outside of Tehachapi, be donated to the museum by the Southern Pacific Railroad. Bailey was a train buff and there must have been a rumor the small building was going to be demolished with the demise of signalmen and flagmen. A flagman notified travelers of an approaching train and directed rail, automobile and pedestrian traffic safely over the tracks. The building was donated to the museum in June of 1979 and was brought to the rear of the property. For some reason the small building has been sitting on the sidelines for 40 years. Curator Lori Wear recently had the building craned onto a new foundation between the locomotive and the caboose across from the Bena Depot. It is now having its windows replaced by volunteer Dale Hopwood and is finally back in the spotlight.



# Viva VOLUNTEERS

**DALE HOPWOOD**

Dale Hopwood became a super volunteer at the museum through an unusual angle. Working as the science and math specialist for Bakersfield City School District, Dale was charged with developing curriculum with the Black Gold Oil Experience committee. He began to work at the museum setting up the new exhibit and stayed on after the project as a historical docent. Dale gave history tours to school groups with a focus on science. Retiring after 39 years in the school district, the Kern County Museum soon became a weekly commitment. For 20 years now, Dale has become a reliable part of the museum's docent team.



In addition to serving as a tour guide, Dale also is the go-to expert on building restoration. Dale's father was the long time wood shop teacher at Washington Junior High so Dale says "we lived wood." Dale put his own fine woodworking skills to the test with repairs to the 60 buildings in historic Pioneer Village. Often working out of his home wood shop, Dale says "I like the variety of different things you get to do and the history is fantastic. You often feel like a history detective on how things were built during different eras. I can now walk through a building and tell you how old they are."

In addition to his work at the museum, Dale enjoys gardening at home and his own wood projects for his four children and five grandkids. "I'm always being asked to repair, fix or design something," he said. After recently working on the windmill project, the signalman's shack and the dustbowl exhibit, Dale laughed when asked what his next museum project will be. "An outhouse!" he said. "It will replace one that finally collapsed."







# Upcoming **EVENTS**

2019 FALL EDITION

**JOIN US!**

**Fall VILLAGE FLEA**  
AT THE KERN COUNTY MUSEUM

**SUNDAY**  
**OCTOBER 27, 2019**  
8 AM - 4 PM

**\$5**  
GENERAL ADMISSION  
CHILDREN UNDER 10 FREE

VINTAGE FURNITURE  
Curiosities ♦ Clothing ♦ Art  
Glass ♦ Hand-Crafted Items  
AND MORE

For vendor application email: [bebe@kerncountymuseum.org](mailto:bebe@kerncountymuseum.org)

## OCTOBER

**OCT 1**

1st Bi-lingual Storytime 10:30-11:30

**OCT 2**

Lecture 6pm

**OCT 12**

Brunch Fest

**OCT 16**

Lecture 6pm

**OCT 20**

Bridal Show 11-2

**OCT 27**

Village Flea 8-4

**OCT 30 & 31**

Safe Halloween 5-9pm



## NOVEMBER

**NOV 3**

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Día De Los Muertos

**NOV 5**

Bi-lingual Storytime 10:30-11:30

**NOV 9**

Kern Energy Festival

**NOV 10**

Lori Brock

Día De Los Muertos Event

1-3

## DECEMBER

**DEC 14**

Lori Brock Holiday Event 10-12

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**

[www.kerncountymuseum.org](http://www.kerncountymuseum.org)