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## Tulare County Museum Museum Matters

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## Noteworthy

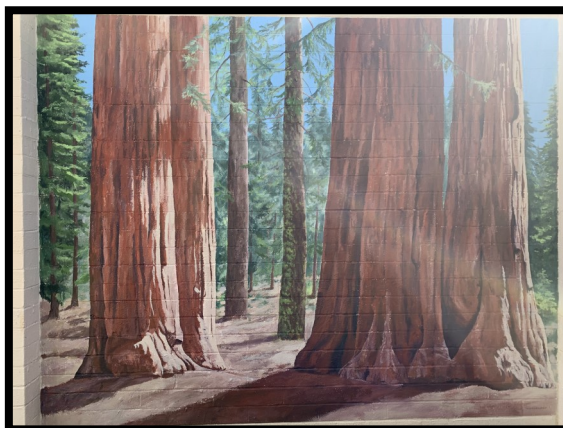


Jana Botkin is a lifelong resident of Tulare County, a farmer's daughter, and a graduate of Redwood High School, with an AA in art from COS. Using pencils, oil paint, and murals, her mission is to provide visible reminders that Tulare County is a place to be proud of. Her style is tight realism, and her work is recognized by its detail and accuracy. She has published two books of local cabin communities, *The Cabins of Mineral King* and *The Cabins of Wilsonia*, five local coloring books and *Mineral King Wildflowers: Common Names*. Jana accepts commissions, teaches drawing lessons, and blogs about her artful life five days a week on her website, [www.cabinart.net](http://www.cabinart.net)



Jana Botkin painted the mural for the Mountain Connection display in the museum about twelve years prior and it is stunning! She was the first person who came to mind when the idea of a mural on the front of the museum was presented.

The scene of the Sierras with foothills and orchards, the redwoods, and the Yokuts baskets were selected as the final choices after much discussion. These ideas are special because they introduce visitors to some of Tulare County's local history. The Sierra Mountains and orchards and the redwoods are the beautiful backdrop for this area and were painted from actual pictures Jana had taken of the landscapes. She even went to the lengths of photographing two Yokuts baskets from the museum collection and painted those very same baskets on the front of the building. Her renderings were presented to the museum board, who were overwhelmingly supportive of the idea and approved the ideas for each mural.



Jana spent the early weeks of March of this year painting the four murals on the front entrance of the original Tulare County Museum. It was an honor to see these beautiful scenes appear on the previously empty walls, bringing life to the entrance of our museum. Throughout her time painting at the museum, it was clear that she was disciplined in how she produced her quality work. Her skill so obviously comes from her passion for art and our local landscapes. We are so thankful for her murals and know our visitors are too!



## Special Shout-Out:



Each summer visitors to Mineral King can step back in time by entering the Honeymoon Cabin. It is the last of the small rental cabins which made up the Mineral King Resort. It is located at the trailhead to White chief, Eagle, and Mosquito Lakes. Photos and exhibits are on display inside, they tell the story of Mineral King and allow visitors a chance to learn more about the area. The historical name for the “Honeymoon Cabin” is the “Cabin on the Point”, or “Point Cabin”. It’s romantic setting brought about its obvious connection with honeymooning in Mineral King. The Honeymoon Cabin is a one story,



one bay, high front gable with exposed rafters, one room plan, frame structure with vertical board and batten siding, a wood shingle roof, a foundation of wooden posts set on rocks and a small entry porch. Though access into Mineral King isn't for the faint of heart, it is worth the journey for those interested in traversing the 26 mile winding road that is unpaved and one lane in many places. The beauty of this valley has been admired for generations. The Mineral King Preservation Society is a non-profit solely supported by donations. If you are interested in supporting MKPS, please consider joining as a member through our website, [www.MineralKing.org](http://www.MineralKing.org) or by calling us at (559) 561-1000.

~ Lisa Monteiro, Executive Director  
Mineral King Preservation Society

## From the Collection

A recent donation has brought a special story to our collection. Sara Grothe, of Chula Vista, was 24 and engaged to 29 year old Joaquin Parsons of Ducor. Sara and her mother looked all over San Diego for wedding dress fabric. Because of WWII, Sara could not find any nice fabric for a wedding dress. Sara told her fiancé Joaquin about the fabric shortage. Joaquin was an MT Sgt “Gunny Sgt.” for the Marines and was stationed at nearby North Island. He surprised Sara after he visited the gals who made the parachutes in the parachute loft. He brought to Sara some beautiful silk parachute fabric for her wedding dress. Both Sara and her seamstress were thrilled.

Sara was married in her new silk dress on March 31, 1946 and she and Joaquin were married for 72 years. They lived in Ducor, where Joaquin farmed and they raised their three children. As of October of 2019, Sara still lives in Ducor and is 99 years young.



Wedding dress on display



Sara & Joaquin—March 31, 1946



Sara viewing her dress on display—Oct. 2019



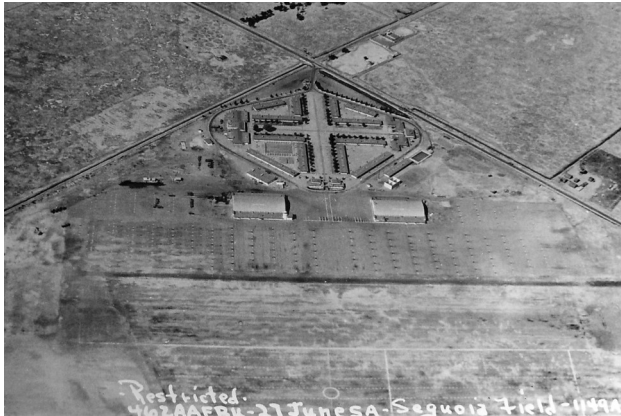
## Historical Highlights

The Tulare County Museum invites you to participate in a unique experience that gives you the opportunity to represent your heritage. By sharing your family history, you will be assisting in educating the local community on the cultural diversity of Tulare County. We are working to create an exhibit highlighting the Westward Settlers, the pioneers of Tulare County. We are looking for photos and artifacts that can be loaned to the museum for the exhibit. These exhibits are generally on display for approximately one year, so that visitors have plenty of time to visit and learn about our local history. The museum has been home to twelve previous cultural exhibits, each one unique in the story told through history.

If you or someone you know is part of a family that arrived in Tulare County during the mid to late 1800s, please contact the museum curator, Amy King, at [aking1@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:aking1@co.tulare.ca.us) or 559-624-7326. We would love to document your family history and share it with our community to tell the story of Tulare County!

## National Aviation Day

August 19, 2018



Sequoia Field

Ever since 1939, August 19 has been celebrated as National Aviation Day, the legacy of a presidential proclamation first made by Franklin D. Roosevelt. Selected because it was Orville Wright's birthday, the decision to revel in all things aeronautical came at an exciting time in aviation history. Just 36 years after the Wright Brothers flew the first heavier-than-

air flying machine in 1903, aviation was a growing – if not thriving – industry in the United States and around the world. New world speed and distance records were being set, airlines that still exist today were being formed and, as World War II began, both Allied and Axis Powers sought new ways to beef up aviation's role in warfare. During WWII, pilots were trained right here in Tulare County, at Sequoia Field and Rankin Field!

By 1939, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (N.A.C.A.) – NASA's organizational predecessor – was 24 years old and already well established with the nation's premiere aviation research laboratory in Virginia, and a brand new center just approved to be built in California. Fundamental problems with flight were being solved on the drawing boards and in the wind tunnels of the N.A.C.A., enabling aircraft to fly faster, higher, farther and with more and more cargo and passengers. Today, with the N.A.C.A.'s research heritage still alive and well at NASA, it can be said that every U.S. aircraft and air traffic control tower in operation today uses some kind of NASA-developed technology.



Sequoia Field



## Super Sleuths Needed!

In honor of Aviation Day, on August 19, we are sharing this picture of pilots at Rankin Field. We have a whole display dedicated to Sequoia and Rankin Fields where WWII pilots were trained. This photo will be posted on the Museum Instagram and Facebook page so you can comment there or email us at [tularecountymuseum1948@gmail.com](mailto:tularecountymuseum1948@gmail.com) with any clues you might have. Put on your Sherlock hat and get out your magnifying glasses out to help the museum solve the mystery of who is in this picture!

*Find us on the web:*

<https://tularecountymuseum.org/museum/>

*Call us: (559) 624-7326*

*Like and follow*



## Curator's Corner

Hello history heroes,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone doing well during the new and different times. Although the museum has been closed, we are still busy cleaning, adding new exhibits, and managing our collection. This time of closure has provided us with the time to create online resources as a different way to experience the history that the museum has to offer. Please visit our website to find your way through a maze, “color our collection”, or go on our digital scavenger hunt! I am looking forward to the day when the museum can safely host our visitors again. ~Amy King

