Save the Date:

We are excited to partner with the Tulare County Sheriff’s Office for their Winter Wonderland event! In past years it has been a drive through light viewing, but this year, for the first time, it will be a walk through event and it will be held at the Tulare County Museum in Mooney Grove Park. Guests can view holiday decorations and lights in the Pioneer Village and also walk around the perimeter fence of the History of Tulare County Farm Labor & Agriculture Museum.

Thank you to all who donated holiday decorations to the museum so that we can spread Christmas cheer! We will make sure that you are on Santa’s nice list this year.

The event will be held Friday, December 9 through Sunday, December 11 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The entrance to the park will be on Avenue 272, the road along the north end of the park, and gates will open at 5:30 p.m. and close at 9:00 p.m. This event is free and fun for the whole family!

Enjoy some coffee or hot chocolate as you tour the festive lights, do some shopping with local vendors, and don’t miss your chance to wave to Santa! There will be Story Time at Surprise School in the Pioneer Village each night at 7:00 p.m. Our friends at the Tulare County Library have chosen some holiday stories to share with our guests that will put you in the Christmas spirit!
**Noteworthy:**

The new building is making some major progress! Construction started in August and we expect that the building will be complete by the middle of January. Plans have already begun for the inside with a layout that will take visitors through a timeline of the history of farm equipment used in Tulare County. Some of the equipment that has been sent out for restoration has already returned and is ready to be placed in its new home. We look forward to honoring all who have made this project possible with a ribbon cutting ceremony in early 2023. Check our website and social media to see when this exciting event will take place!

**From the Collection:**

This dollhouse, located in the West Wing of the Museum, was built by craftsman Howard Hill in 1981 and is modeled after the Hilliard Family Home. A county landmark until it was destroyed by a fire in 1983, the Hilliard House was located on highway 198 at Road 168, east of Visalia. The house was constructed in 1902 by Lorenzo Hilliard, the son of a Tulare County pioneer. Built at a cost of $1,300, the nine room home was seen as “one of the finest farm houses in the vicinity.”
From the Collection (cont’):

Now recognized as “The Visalian”, there are smaller versions of this dollhouse that can be purchased at collectable retailers and remain very popular. Several people have offered to donate similar dollhouses that were modeled after this house to the Museum and we wish that we had the space to accept them all!

Historical Highlights:

Don’t miss the final lecture in our series of pláticas for the Caminos exhibit! It will be held in our theater on Sunday, December 11 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Professor Alex Saragoza will discuss the prospects for Latinos of the Central Valley in light of the challenges that remain to be overcome. After his lecture, he will be joined by a panel of local leaders who will comment on the issues raised in Professor Saragoza’s lecture, namely how to address the inequities that still persist among the Latino population today.

This session will focus on the socioeconomic gaps that persist among the Latino population of the south Valley, such as educational inequities, income and wealth inequality, rates of incarceration, segregation, lagging electoral participation, among other related topics. The session will be presented in two components: first, an introductory lecture, and second, a panel discussion with younger members of the Latino population of Tulare/Kings counties region, who are leaders in their communities. Introductory remarks will note the recent progress that has been made in various fields, such as the increase in elected officials, professionals in social services, medicine, and legal fields, Latino-owned businesses, the growing number of Latino college graduates, etc.—yet, it is evident that there is much room for improvement in such forms of progress.

Join us in a discussion of connecting history to present day culture that makes up our Central Valley!
Hello history heroes,

This has been a very busy year for the Museum and we could not be more proud as this year comes to a close. The accomplishments we have made are thanks to the generous support of so many! We are looking forward to a new year filled with more events, exhibits, and experiences to share with our community. Thank you for supporting local history by supporting local museums! From all of us at the Museum, Happy Holidays and have a Happy New Year!

~Amy King-Sunderson

Super Sleuths Needed!

This picture was taken of a home near Tulare. We are unsure of the date or what home it is. The hammocks on the porch look fun! Does anyone know whose house this was?

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