



## Museum Matters

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## From the Collection:

The Tulare County Museum is excited to host a new cultural traveling exhibit in the History of Tulare County Farm Labor & Agriculture Museum! The exhibit will be on display at our museum, in Mooney Grove Park, from June 25 through the end of this year. *Caminos* follows the history of the valley's Latino-origin population since 1772, now marking 250 years. The exhibit is a collaboration with Arte Américas, the Valley's Latino regional art center in Fresno, and supported by local community groups and leaders. *Caminos* expands our offerings and is an opportunity to highlight our local history through outreach in our region.

*Caminos*, Spanish for paths or roads, aims to highlight paths the Latino-origin peoples have followed to the central San Joaquin Valley and the contributions they have made. The exhibit blends both a general historical overview with individual stories collected along the way. The guide for the exhibit has been Dr. Alex Saragoza, Madera native and now professor emeritus at UC Berkeley. Saragoza gives the exhibit both its context and a personal interest, while noting that California's historians generally focus more on the coastal stories of the missions and less on the valley. The *Caminos* exhibit defines the central San Joaquin Valley as Merced County to Tulare County. When it premiered in Fresno in 2019 *Caminos* highlighted the Fresno region. The stop in Visalia is designed to give more emphasis to the Tulare-Kings regions and to continue gathering stories, like a tumbleweed, before it goes on to Merced in 2023.

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*Maria Moreno (center)*

California in the Spanish and Mexican periods.

*Caminos* is a story of resilience that has given the valley its Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano, Hispanic, Latino, and Latinx population in all its diversity and stages of cultural integration, from fifth generation families to those coming to the valley today. This exhibit is visiting for a limited amount of time and not to be missed!



The exhibit highlights some key figures in each of the eras and will be augmented through a series of monthly *platicas* (discussions) led by Dr. Alex Saragoza and invited leaders and authors who have lived and documented this history. Dr. Saragoza will initiate the series on Sunday, July 10 at 1:00 p.m., with the first *platica* which introduces the beginning of the *camino*, coming to Alta



## Historical Highlights:



*Left to Right—Amy King (Museum Curator), Don Vieira (Historical Society), Lee Terkelsen (Museum Board), Kevin Caskey (Museum Board), Supervisor Micari, Supervisor Shuklian, Carl Switzer (Historical Society), Joanne Ledbetter (Museum Board), Tom Link (Historical Society), Brooke Sisk (General Services Agency Director), Darla Wegener (Tulare County Librarian & Museum Board)*

Tulare County Museum hosted a ground-breaking ceremony for our new building on June 16! We are excited to expand our offerings with this new building that will house our agricultural equipment collection. We have been working for several years on our AG Equipment Restoration Project with the Tulare County Historical Society. The Museum is proud to be partnering with the AG Mechanic teachers and their classes at the local high schools to have pieces of our collection restored. The restored pieces of the collection will be housed in the new building where they will be part of a timeline that tells the history of farm labor in Tulare County through the equipment. While there is not yet a projected date of opening to the public, we are aiming for

early 2023. We are thankful for all that have supported this program and new building and look forward to continuing to share local history with our visitors!



*Carl Switzer - Tulare County Historical Society*



*Left to Right—Kevin Caskey (Museum Board Chairman), Supervisor Shuklian, Clayton Smith from Congressman Valadao's Office, Supervisor Micari*



## Save the Date:

We are excited to announce the return of the Annual BBQ Fundraiser! The Tulare County Historical Society is hard at work planning the event for Saturday, October 1st from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The event will be hosted at the Tulare County Museum in Mooney Grove Park and will feature entertainment by James "Sinatra" Hitchcock and dinner prepared by the Happy Cookers. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased on the website [www.tularecountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.tularecountyhistoricalsociety.org) soon!

The proceeds from the fundraiser will go toward the restoration of the Witt Blacksmith Shop that is in the Pioneer Village. This structure was moved to the Museum grounds from the Ducor area and is in need of some work to make it safe for visitors to tour again. The inside will be set up to look like what the shop may have looked like long ago. The Museum is very fortunate to work with the Tulare County Historical Society to complete restoration projects so our visitors can experience local history.



## Noteworthy:



Don't forget to visit our little museum in Balch Park when you are camping! Just in time for the Fourth of July, the museum has been set up by Museum staff for visitors to learn more about the Balch Park area. You can view a display of old kitchen items, gold mining, and the Native Americans from the area. You can also learn more about the animals you might see, lumber operations, and recreation. Tulare County is expansive and has the history to match!





## Super Sleuths Needed!

Do you know the name of this tree located in Balch Park? The shape should give you a hint!

*Find us on the web:*

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

*Call us: (559) 624-7326*

*Like and follow*



## Curator's Corner

Hello history heroes,

Summer is in full swing and so is the museum! We have new exhibits to tour, we will be hosting monthly events, and are looking forward to hosting summer travelers to the area. Be sure to come see our new *Caminos* exhibit in the History of Tulare County Farm Labor & Agriculture Museum and attend the platicas to learn even more with Dr. Saragoza of UC Berkley. If you are looking for educational activities during the summer, check out our website under the School Tours tab for coloring pages, mazes, and our digital scavenger hunt.

