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Museum Matters

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Noteworthy:

TURN THE WORLD INTO YOUR CLASSROOM

Come visit the Tulare County Museum with our new augmented educational platform, Agents of Discovery, and explore the Museum led by our very own mascot, Duke the bison. (Duke is the name of one of the bison that used to roam Mooney Grove Park) We are excited to be one of the new sites joining Agents of Discovery in making our space into your classroom of learning!

Explore the Tulare County Museum in a whole new way! Join Agents of Discovery, the not so secret, secret agency dedicated to learning and playing outdoors. We have posted challenges all over the Museum grounds to teach our visitors about the unique history of Tulare County, from our extensive basket collection to the agriculture equipment and walking through our pioneer village you can step back in history to learn intriguing facts!



Before your next visit, download the free app through the app store or google play because we do not offer wifi service. Data rates may apply if downloaded at the museum.

To get started:

1. Download the free Agents of Discovery app to your mobile device.
2. After downloading the app, look for the Mission you want to play.
3. Preload the Missions and head out to the Tulare County Museum to start completing your challenges!

Tulare County
Museum needs YOU
for a our Mission!



Special Shoutout:

June 10, 2023 was the first of what will be an annual tradition for Exeter's newly branded Center for Art, Culture and History-Exeter (CACHE). About 250 guests showed up to enjoy opening appetizers, the Betty Berk art show in the gallery, dinner, two dedications, the first view of the museum, some grand fellowship, and great weather. Exeter's museum has been closed for the past year so the opening was a showcase of a new vision for telling the stories of the community and area.

The museum room itself is fairly small with only 1200 square feet. The CACHE team had to choose which of Exeter's many stories to tell. The room is divided into four separate color coded galleries, and the team decided to focus on four topics for the first year: 1. Exeter on Fire-History of the Fire Department 2. The Exeter Origin Story 3. Fibber Hirayama, EUHS 1947 alumni who recently has a school in Clovis Unified School District named for him. 4. Robert List and Kenny Guinn, EUHS 1955—The two men with Exeter roots who went on to flourish as governors of Nevada.

Many in the Hirayama and Guinn families were able to attend. Amie Rangel, COS Art Gallery Director and Instructor, was instrumental in leading the Exeter team into building and installing engaging displays. Her leadership, guidance and tireless efforts brought us to the finish line. One of her many ideas was to extend the information using QR codes to include video files from YouTube on the subjects. Another idea from Amie was to add track lighting to enhance displays. Some space was reserved for telling the stories of local Native American tribal communities. The CACHE team will be working with Wukchumni leaders on the best ways to tell and display their stories and add them as soon as possible.

CACHE is fortunate to be the receiver of artifacts that enhanced the stories to be told. Amy King-Sunderson of the Tulare County Museum loaned a 1913 hose cart that had been part of the Museum in Mooney Grove Park's display. That same cart was used by Exeter volunteer firefighters to win a 1913 competition at the Kings County Fair. Other artifacts from the Exeter Fire Department were lent by a local volunteer firefighter, and the medal of honor presented by Governor Schwarzenegger to Exeter Fire Captain Wes Grimm for heroism is on display. Several others also lent items to enhance the stories.

In June 2024, before the next CACHE Benefit, there will be an entirely new set of exhibits in the gallery. The current exhibits will be video archived and stored while new stories are added. A suggestion box was added for visitors to suggest possible future exhibit subjects-another Amie Rangel idea. The CACHE team will begin preparing those exhibits in July '23.



The dinner included the dedication of two long time artifacts of Exeter's history. First, the Beinhorn trough dates to Exeter's early days of 1902 when it was commissioned by Charlie Beinhorn from the Rocky Point Granite Company east of Exeter for his liquor store customers. The City moved it to Joyner Park in 1940 without identification. A plaque now sits next to it and the story is told on the Museum website <https://cach-exeter.org/> Many of the Beinhorn descendants were present for the dedication.

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In addition, the “Stanley Bell” was memorialized with a plaque, and its story is now on CACHE’s website. Chuck Stanley took possession of the bell in 1985 after 30+ years of requesting it. His daughter, Sharon Stanley Mumma donated it to the museum in 2012, but its story was never told. It was the first fire bell in Exeter in 1905 and after five years, it fell into a heap of ashes when the livery stable where it sat burned to the ground. It was never used again but is a memento of Exeter’s early struggles with fire.

CACHE is open Friday afternoons from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sundays from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. There is considerable optimism with what has been accomplished thus far and excitement about the future for both the museum and the art gallery programming.

~Article by: *Dwight Miller, President of CACHE Board*

Historical Highlights:

We are so excited to introduce our newest exhibit created by the Mineral King Preservation Society! This exhibit highlights packing in the Sierra Mountains. Included in the display are handmade cinches, a pack saddle, and makeshift campsite. Learn about the history of the Mineral King Pack Station and the surrounding area. If you are in Three Rivers don’t miss out on the Three Rivers Historical Museum where a gallery is dedicated to the Mineral King Preservation Society and you can learn even more!



Pack group in Mineral King, Bruton Peterson Collection



Super Sleuths Needed!

We are looking for any information about this photo! Do you recognize anyone pictured here or know where or when this may have been taken? Any information can be emailed to Amy at the email address below.

Find us on the web:

tularecountymuseum.org

Call us: (559) 624-7326

Email Amy: aking1@tularecounty.ca.gov

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Curator's Corner



Hello history heroes,

Summer is here and we are busy putting together new exhibits throughout the museum. Thank you to the teachers that brought your students on field trips to the museum this school year. We had 50 school groups with almost 3,000 students visit us this school year. The new Agents of Discovery app is so exciting and we hope you will explore the Museum in a new and interactive way with our new game. We will have several events coming up in the fall to look forward to in the coming months. Make sure to keep up with all that is going on by visiting our website and social media. We look forward to seeing you at the Museum!

~Amy King-Sunderson