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Museum Matters

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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 under the oaks behind the History of Tulare County Farm Labor & Agriculture 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 listed below:

tularecountyhistoricalsociety.org/events/

The proceeds from the fundraiser will go toward the restoration of the Witt Blacksmith Shop that is in our 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!



Cliff Witt operated a blacksmithing and horse shoeing shop at Ducor for many years. During the latter part of his life, he was well known for making branding irons and burned imprints of many of these were on boards in front of the shop. These boards now form the background of the relocated Visalia Stock Saddle Company exhibit at the museum.

After Donald Witt's death, his widow gave the building and much of the equipment to the museum and members of the Society dismantled it and it was taken to the museum and re-erected. The building at the museum is the older part of the shop. A shed used for horse shoeing was of rather flimsy construction and was not retained.

~ Los Tulares Quarterly Bulletin of the Tulare County Historical Society No. 98 June 1973

Noteworthy:

On Tuesday, August 30 at the Tulare County Board of Supervisors meeting the Museum Alliance of Tulare-Kings Counties was recognized with a proclamation for Museum Day! The Museum Alliance of Tulare– Kings Counties is a group of local museums and their community partners established in 2019 with 22 organizations as members. It has grown to include 29 organizations, 7 of which are in Hanford our neighboring county. . One way that we can bring awareness to our local museums is by participating in Museum Day. Museum Day is an annual celebration of boundless curiosity hosted by Smithsonian magazine. Participating museums and cultural institutions across the country provide free entry to anyone presenting a Museum Day ticket. The Museum Day ticket provides free admission for two people on **Saturday, September 17, 2022**.

The amazing work that everyone in this group does deserves recognition! Many of the organizations are run solely with volunteers and minimal budgets. It is important for us to support each other so we can be prominent in our communities. This group continues to meet quarterly to discuss how we can promote the group, share events, ask for ideas and support, and to share valuable information. Tulare County's history and culture thrives thanks to these organizations and the valuable work they do every day!



Left to Right: Dwight Miller (Exeter Historical Museum & Gallery), Laurie Schwaller (Tulare County Treasures), Supervisor Shuklian, Supervisor Micari, Supervisor Townsend, Supervisor Valero, Amy King (Tulare County Museum) Brooke Sisk (GSA Director), Lisa Monteiro (Mineral King Preservation Society/ Tulare County Historical Society, Amie Rangel (COS Gallery), Dawn Sabala (Tulare Historical Museum), Steve Ptomey (CA State Parks), Supervisor Vander Poel, Nancy Brunson (Three Rivers Historical Museum), Kyle Taylor (GSA Deputy Director)



Save the Date:

This year on Saturday, November 19, 2022 the museum will be holding a commemorative event in honor of the 245th anniversary of Congress adopting the Stars and Stripes on June 14, 1777. There are many lessons to be learned through the study of this time in history and we are encouraging our local teachers to help us bring this important part of history to life for our students!

The museum is working with the Tulare County Office of Education to help spread the word to teachers about our project. We have compiled a list of essential questions for each grade level that can help teachers derive a lesson tailored to their class to learn about Veterans Day. A list of additional resources has also been created to help supplement the lessons and as part of the additional resources, museum staff has reached out to local veterans who will visit classrooms and talk with students about serving in the military. The culminating activity for every lesson will be to write a short note to a person in the military service or a veteran on a poppy (provided by the museum) that will be cut out by the students. The museum will collect and display these poppies from each participating class through Memorial Day, at which point the museum will mail the notes to members of our military service through the A Million Thanks program.

The commemorative event that will take place on **November 19, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Museum** will serve as the unveiling of the poppy display. The event will include the Central Valley Vietnam Veterans Color Guard, local veterans sharing history, poetry recited by students, and patriotic music played by the Mt. Whitney High School band. The event will be free and open to the public and we encourage all students and teachers who participated to attend the event to see the impact that they have had on our community through learning about history. Please join us in sharing how important it is to recognize our veterans for fighting for the freedom that we have as Americans!



Previous year's display of poppies at the Museum

Historical Highlights:

Hispanic Heritage Month is September 15 through October 15 this year. It is important to recognize the achievements and contributions of Hispanic American champions who have inspired others. The Tulare Historical Museum will be celebrating with a new exhibit at their museum in Tulare!

The Tulare Historical Museum will be featuring an art exhibit, *IDENTIDAD: Celebrating Hispanic Culture in the Arts*, which will be on display in the Heritage Art Gallery from Sept. 22 – Oct. 29. The group exhibition will feature artwork that is inspired by Hispanic culture and reflects its unique life and energy.

The Tulare Historical Museum has also partnered with Arte Americas for the history exhibit, *Searching for Joaquin: Mexican Bandits in 1850s Valley History*. The display will be on view from Sept. 22 – Nov. 5, in the museum's Depot Gallery. The exhibit examines the Gold Rush period of Valley history through the stories of Joaquín Murrieta, symbol of resistance in the Mexican American population and celebrated in the annual Cabalgata horse ride each July on the Valley's West Side.



Super Sleuths Needed!

With the major league baseball season coming to an end next month, we thought it would be fun to see if anyone can recognize this stadium or team!

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,

We are looking forward to fall and gearing up for some fun upcoming events! Thank you to everyone who donated holiday decorations so we can host our first annual holiday event at the museum. Stay tuned for details! We also have some new virtual tours for you on our website of the caboose and Surprise School. With the start of school there are field trips scheduled and we are excited to welcome students back to the museum! Stay cool and make sure to keep up with what is going on at the museum on our website and social media.