

Volume 4, Issue 3

Sept 2023



## Museum Matters

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## Save The Date:

We are partnering with the Tulare County Historical Society on our annual fundraiser to help raise funds to restore our 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 and we are excited to be working with the family that once owned this structure on this project. The Museum is also very fortunate to work with the Tulare County Historical Society to complete restoration projects so our visitors can experience local history!

Join us for an evening under the oaks and enjoy a BBQ dinner provided by the Happy Cookers, cookies from Max's Cookies, and entertainment guaranteed to get your toes tapping by the band Run4Cover. Tickets are \$60 and can be purchased on the website listed here [tularecountyhistoricalsociety.org/events/](http://tularecountyhistoricalsociety.org/events/)

TULARE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESENTS

# FORGING AHEAD



**Saturday,  
October 7**

**3:30 - 6:00 PM**

Tulare County Museum  
Mooney Grove Park

*Annual BBQ fundraiser benefiting the restoration of  
the Witt Blacksmith Shop at the Tulare County Museum*



Photo courtesy Run4Cover

**Entertainment provided by:** 3:30 - Social Time  
4:00 BBQ - Dinner by the Happy Cookers  
**Run4Cover** 5:00 - Entertainment by Run4Cover

**\*Tickets \$60**

For information call Peggy Bragg 559-786-4972, for tickets call Lari Ommen 559-799-1164.

\*Tickets can also be purchased on our website [tularecountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://tularecountyhistoricalsociety.org)

ORDER TICKETS TODAY! Send your check (payable "TCHS") to : TCHS, PO Box 295, Visalia, CA 93279

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for the BBQ Fundraiser. Enclosed in my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Sorry, I cannot attend. Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_, my donation for the TCHS museum improvement fund.

The Tulare County Historical Society is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

All proceeds will benefit the museum Blacksmith Shop exhibit restoration project.

## **Save The Date:**

The Tulare County Museum is honored to hold a Veterans Day celebration on Friday, November 10, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. This event aims to connect our local students with our community, and our community with our country. Tulare County schools have been invited to participate in a project created by the Tulare County Museum.

Teachers at participating schools will be conducting a lesson addressing different aspects of Veterans Day. The Museum has provided essential questions geared toward different grade levels to guide the lessons. Questions include: "What does it mean to be a hero?" and "Why do we celebrate Veterans Day?" and "How do many people make one nation?" As part of this program the Museum has arranged for local veterans to visit classrooms to talk with students as a community leader and expert to bring this part of our history to life. Our Veterans in the Classroom program has grown significantly year after year and we are so pleased with the participation from both the local veterans and the local schools.

Once the lesson is completed, all students will cut out a poppy and write a letter to a veteran on the poppy. These poppies will be displayed in the museum from Veterans Day through Memorial Day, after which time they will be sent out to our local veteran groups in Tulare County.

Our ceremony will include the presentation of colors by the Central Valley Vietnam Veterans Color Guard, the singing of the National Anthem by Sadie Ascanio, sharing of the history by veterans, speeches on the importance of veterans by students of Tulare Union High School, unveiling of the poppy display, a performance by the Mt. Whitney High School band with patriotic music and special guest speakers who are leaders in our community.

This event will be a beautiful celebration of our veterans who have given so much for this country. The Tulare County Museum has joined with other organizations to pay tribute to those that have been a large part of shaping our history. Please join us in commemorating this day at the Tulare County Museum in Mooney Grove Park, located at 27000 S. Mooney Blvd., in Visalia. The event will take place on Friday, November 10, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Museum and park entrance will be free!



# **VETERANS DAY EVENT**

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR  
VETERANS WITH A SPECIAL CEREMONY  
THAT WILL INCLUDE:

- THE PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS
- SINGING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM
- POPPY EXHIBIT UNVEILING
- STUDENT AND VETERAN SPEECHES

MUSIC PROVIDED BY THE  
MT. WHITNEY HIGH SCHOOL BAND

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10 @ 11:00 AM**

TULARE COUNTY MUSEUM @ MOONEY GROVE PARK  
27000 S MOONEY BLVD. VISALIA  
ENTRANCE FREE!



## From the Collection:

### *Player Piano Donated to the Tulare County Museum*

In July the Vollmer family donated a player piano, in memory of Ed & Betty Vollmer and Viola Vollmer, to the Tulare County Museum's permanent collection. This is an exciting donation as it is the first of its kind to be accepted into the collection! A player piano, also known as a pianola, is a self-playing piano containing a mechanism that operates the piano action through programmed music recorded on perforated paper or metallic rolls. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, there was a rise of the mass-produced piano for homes, making the player piano popular. However, with the improvement in phonograph and electrical recordings in the mid-1920s, the popularity began to decline.



The first player was invented in 1896 by Edwin S. Votey. It was all-pneumatic with foot operated bellows providing a vacuum needed to operate a pneumatic motor. These were initially sold for \$250, with later models being sold at a less expensive rate. While the original intention was for the operator to manually manipulate the control levers to produce the music, this player piano that has been donated to museum is electrified. Although it is electrified, it can still be played by pressing the foot pedals to use the bellows to create music. The Vollmer family also donated 142 rolls of music, including holiday music. We are very fortunate to be able to accept this donation and hope you will come by when we have it playing during future events!

## Historical Highlights:

September 15th through October 15th is Hispanic Heritage month and the theme this year is *Driving Prosperity, Power, and Progress in America*. The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Johnson and was expanded by President Reagan in 1988 to the current 30 day period. September 15th is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

Hispanic heritage plays a large role in the history of Tulare County and we would like to highlight a past traveling exhibit that we hosted called *Caminos*. Over the year that we hosted the exhibit we were so excited to see many visitors taking in the information and captivating photos. The exhibit is currently in Merced and there are plans to create a website where the bulk of the content from the exhibit will reside.

If you are interested in seeing a couple of the films that were included in the exhibit you can visit the following links:

Hard Won Progress -1980s – Early 2000s <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GkHSaTopiyo>

Mas Caminos: Are We there Yet? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyM9C0J6MRy>



## Super Sleuths Needed!

This photo was taken around 1915 on the JD Martin Ranch. We will have items on display in our new building from this ranch and we are hoping you recognize some of the folks in this photo so we can add it to our display! If you do, please email Amy at the address below.

Find us on the web:

[tularecountymuseum.org](http://tularecountymuseum.org)

Call us: (559) 624-7326

Email Amy: [aking1@tularecounty.ca.gov](mailto:aking1@tularecounty.ca.gov)

Like and follow



## Curator's Corner

Hello history heroes,

Fall is here and as the weather cools off, we have several events planned to host you and your family at the Museum. We hope to see you at our annual fundraiser on Saturday, October 7th and the following month at our Veterans Day event on Friday, November 10th. Museum staff is working on a new cultural exhibit to highlight the Southeast Asian culture in Tulare County and we look forward to opening that display in early 2024. We are already starting to host school groups and are busy thinking of ways to make history interesting and giving our community new ways to interact with that history. 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

