



Porterville Historical Museum

257 North "D" Street
Porterville, California 93257
559-784-2053



Website: www.portervillemuseum.com Email: portervillemuseum@gmail.com

March 2024 Newsletter

Greetings Friends and Sponsors!

Spring has sprung, Dr. Don's beloved poppies are in bloom, and with your continued support we've got a lot of great things happening at the museum right now. But, before we dive into details, here are two upcoming museum events that you won't want to miss:



Porterville Historical Museum
257 North D Street, Porterville, CA 93257

**Please Join Us for Our Annual
Wine and Dine Party!
Saturday, May 4, 2024**



5:30 pm Social Hour/
Silent Auction
6:00 pm Dinner



**\$40 Per Person, or
\$275 Per Table (seats 8)**

Get Your Tickets Now:

Call: (559) 784-2053 (Leave Message)
Email: portervillemuseum@gmail.com
Website: portervillemuseum.com
Visit us on **Facebook**



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**Central California Model
Railroad and Historical Society**
In Cooperation with
Porterville Historical Museum
Proudly Presents



The D Street Train Show
Saturday May 18, 2024—10 AM to 4 PM
*Running Layout — Trains For sale — Test Track (All Gauges)
Repair Help — Scenery Help — Layout Ideas — Free Advice*

*Bring in those old trains stored in the attic or garage
by your ancestors. Let us help you identify them, get
them running, or find them a new home.*

FREE ADMISSION  **FREE PARKING**

Donations to the museum always welcome!



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257 N. D Street
Porterville, CA 93257
portervillemuseum.com



We hope you'll join us for both fine events!

Reminder: Annual Membership/Sponsorship Drive

Our annual fund-raising drive is still in full swing. As we work to repair and update our grand old building and exhibits, we truly appreciate and depend on the support provided by our friends, sponsors, businesses, and clubs/community groups.

And another Reminder: To get this newsletter and other museum announcements via email, simply email your request to portervillemuseum@gmail.com. If you have multiple email addresses, please email us from the address you would like us to use.

Now, a quick review of some recent museum happenings:

Porterville Library 115 Year Anniversary Celebration – February 3, 2024

The keynote speaker for this event was the California State Librarian Greg Lucas. Emceed by Porterville City Librarian Vikki Cervantes, this event also drew a large crowd including Mayor Martha Flores and other local dignitaries.

Bill Horst Lecture – February 11, 2024

Bill's PowerPoint presentation on local Native American rock paintings and carvings drew a near standing-room-only crowd and was felt by many to be one of his best lectures ever. The lecture was filmed by video pathway students from Monache High School, and once edited, will be available for viewing on the Porterville Historical Museum website. Many thanks to Bill for sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm and providing this unique look at some interesting local history!

Museum Masterpieces Children's Art Show – March 1-30, 2024

Featuring student artwork from small rural school districts in the Porterville area, and sponsored by the Tulare County Office of Education, as of this writing this delightful exhibit has introduced our museum to hundreds of local children and their families.

Dr. Seuss Birthday – March 2, 2024

Hosted by our museum Volunteers, this fun-filled event included reading, coloring, and other activities with children to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Kids and their families also got to see the TCOE Artwork display and, for many, take their first ever tour of our museum.

School Tours - A few recent Fridays, and one Saturday, saw our museum Volunteers busy hosting tours for local schools. Whether arriving on foot or by bus, many of these kids had their first exposure to the museum which included a special "Yokuts" segment where they saw and heard about woven baskets, tools, and other items from everyday Native American life.

Now, an update on just a few of the buildings/grounds projects we're working on:

Oh no, more roof leaks! - Disaster was avoided on a recent rainy Saturday when water was found dripping on one of the Porter Putnam exhibit cases. Fortunately, quick action by David Hawley, Don Stover, Joe Sanchez, and Jim Koontz prevented any permanent damage. This leak was new and not from an area repaired after last year's storms. Ryan Smith (Smith Roofing) has assessed the problem and will make repairs at no cost to us. Thank You, Ryan!

Security Cameras – Our museum now has a modern new surveillance camera system! With six cameras, its primary purpose is to deter theft and vandalism, but it also allows us to monitor the back museum gate and parking area from the office, so we know that visitors are on the grounds before they work their way to the front of the museum. The system can also be monitored remotely in the event there is a fire or burglar alarm while the museum is closed. Hats off to STOP Alarm for the neat and tidy installation job!

Emergency Gate - Construction of a new "Emergency Gate" is underway along D Street near the Car Barn. This gate will allow better fire and police access to the north end of the museum as well as the Old Barn, Car Barn, and Blacksmith Shop. It will also eliminate the need for us to drive over the Memory Bricks and Mosaics when we must get a vehicle to the north end of the grounds. We appreciate the help of Doug Hosfeldt (West Olive Welding) with this project.

Speaking of Mosaics - As mentioned in a past newsletter, the wonderful mosaics in front of the museum now have many loose or missing tiles, a result of last year's rainstorms and perhaps vehicles driving on them in the past. However, Springville area artist, Frances Pyles, will soon begin restoring the mosaics, after which we'll apply a sealer that should help preserve them. We want to extend a big THANK YOU to Frances for taking this project on and to Dr. Resa for funding the repairs.

Exhibit Hall Upgrades - Rich Stover, with the assistance of Joe Sanchez, has brought our exhibit hall into the 21st century with the recent installation of a remote-controlled roll-down projection screen, wireless sound system and modern ceiling mount LCD projector. This upgrade will enhance our ability to host lectures, meetings or other events that make use of PowerPoint presentations, You Tube videos or similar visual media. Great job Rich and Joe!

Looking ahead...

Our list of future projects is long. Some are simple, some are not. But two items, a major upgrade to our woefully antiquated electrical system, and the renovation of our costly and inefficient heating and cooling system, stand at the top of the list. There is presently no insulation in the museum attic spaces, so we hope to address that after the electrical and HVAC work is done. Our next priority will be to rebuild the large portico at the front of the museum. The existing 110+ year old beams are now beyond repair and must be taken down and replaced before they become a hazard. We'll keep you posted as these and other projects move forward, and again thank everyone for the continued support that makes these important and necessary repairs and upgrades possible.

In closing – There have been many great changes at the museum in recent months, and we hope you'll come by to see what your generosity is allowing us to accomplish.

Again, we thank you for your support, and wish you and yours a Happy Easter!

Porterville Historical Museum Board of Directors

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•Museum Curator: David Hawley •

← Please visit the back page for photos!



It's Poppy Time!



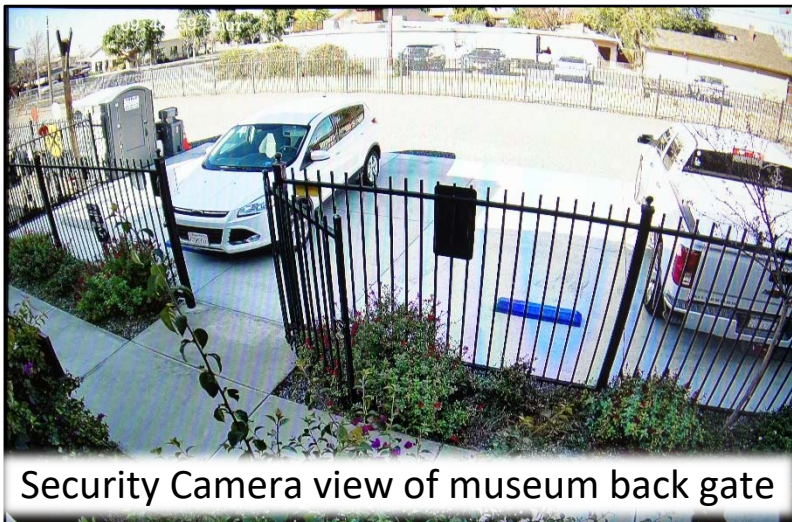
Crumbling Tiles On Mosaic



Posts for new Emergency Gate



Small glimpse of Children's Art Show



Security Camera view of museum back gate



New Exhibit Hall Projector Screen