



Newsletter for the Friends of the

EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM

Preserving Inyo County's Past for the Future

P.O. Box 33 Independence, CA 93526

Summer/Fall 2018

Eastern California Museum Celebrates 90th Birthday with a Day of History



Members of the FECM Board of Trustees (from left to right) Jennifer Duncan, Mary Roper, Alina Berry, Pat Woods, Linda Hubbs, Sharon Avey, and David Woodruff attended the celebration

May 5, 2018 marked the Eastern California Museum's 90th birthday. To celebrate its history the Museum and the Friends of the Eastern California Museum hosted a day packed with history. A sturdy group of history enthusiasts gathered at the Museum on May 5 to listen to seven presentations on a variety of local historical topics. In between the talks, the group enjoyed sandwiches

and, of course, a birthday cake. Leading off the day, literally, was FECM Board Member Jennifer Duncan who led a 30-minute walk through historic Independence. The walking tour included stops at Mary Austin's House, the Inyo County Courthouse, the Edwards and Commander's houses and other historic high points. (cont'd)

FRIENDS OF THE EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM

Officers:

Dave Wagner	President
Mary Roper	Vice President
Linda Hubbs	Secretary
Jean Crispin	Treasurer

Trustees:

Sharon Avey	Jennifer Duncan
Alina Berry	Pat McLernon
Paul Fretheim	David Woodruff
Mary Roper	Pat Woods

Rich White (Past President)

Website: www.FECM33.org
 Address: P.O. Box 33
 Independence, CA 93526

FECM is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization

Stepping up once again, Jennifer Duncan shared her extensive research into the once-thriving and now almost forgotten “Pioneer Settlement of Thebe.” The little ranching town, south of Manzanar, had a post office and school before slowly fading away.

“The History of Water in the Owens Valley” is always a topic that generates great interest and great passion. Relating that history was FECM Board Member Mary Roper, whose father, Keith Bright, negotiated and signed the landmark Inyo-LA Long Term Water Agreement when he served on the Inyo County Board of Supervisors. Roper served as the Inyo County Clerk, and is President of the board of directors of the non-profit Owens Valley Committee, a citizen group involved with water issues in the Owens Valley

Friends Float Wins Award in July 4th Parade in Independence

Author, historian and former FECM Board Member Jane Wehrey had a unique perspective on the 50th anniversary of the completion of the current ECM museum building. Her father, Robert Phillips, was the LADWP Aqueduct Manager and the keynote speaker at the dedication of the building in 1968. Jane presented his remarks and insights into the effort to create, as the speech was titled, “A Place for History.”

An overview of the 90-year history of the Eastern California Museum was presented by present Museum Director Jon Klusmire. Starting with the efforts of the all-volunteer, non-profit Eastern Sierra Historical Society, which was formed in 1928, the collection has continued to grow and eventually the current museum buildings were constructed. The one constant over the past 90 years has been the support of the community.

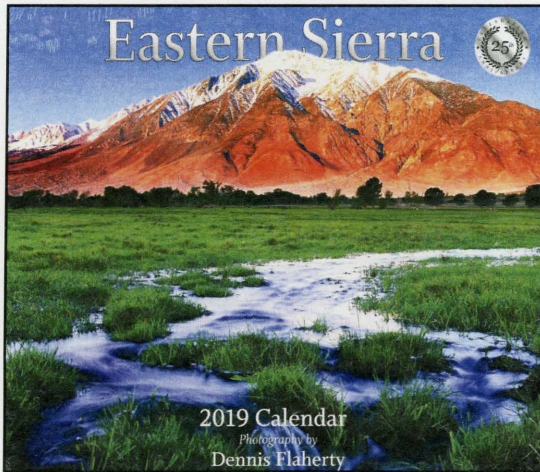
FECM Board Member Sharon Avey presented her popular program on Early Aviation in the Owens Valley.



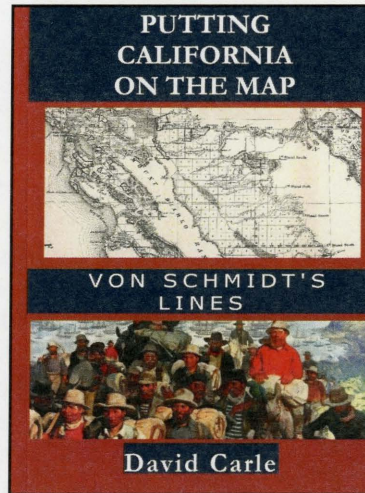
Sharon Avey with award winning FECM float featuring elk antlers from the Museum collection.

**Highlights from the Bookstore
Heather Todd**

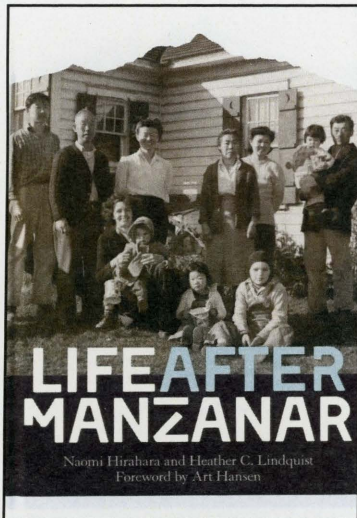
The ECM Bookstore is fully stocked up for summer with a huge variety of new titles and products. Here are just a few of our latest!



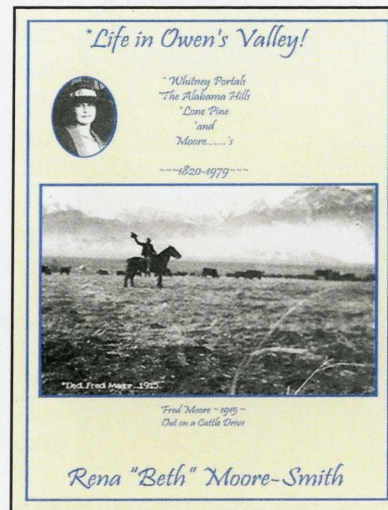
Dennis Flaherty's 2019 Eastern Sierra calendar, the 25th Anniversary edition -- \$15.95



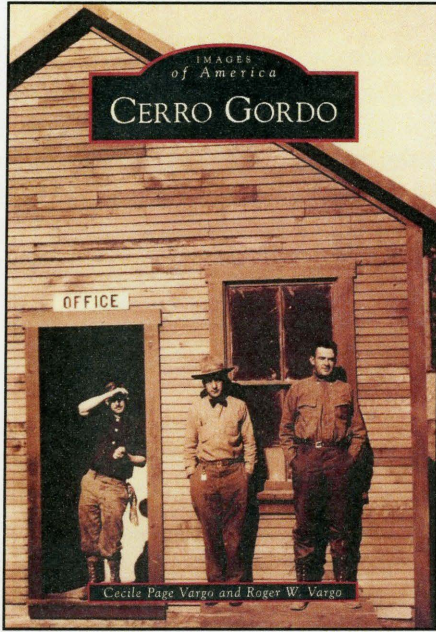
Local author David Carle has written a new book, Putting California on the Map: Von Schmidt's Lines -- \$16.95



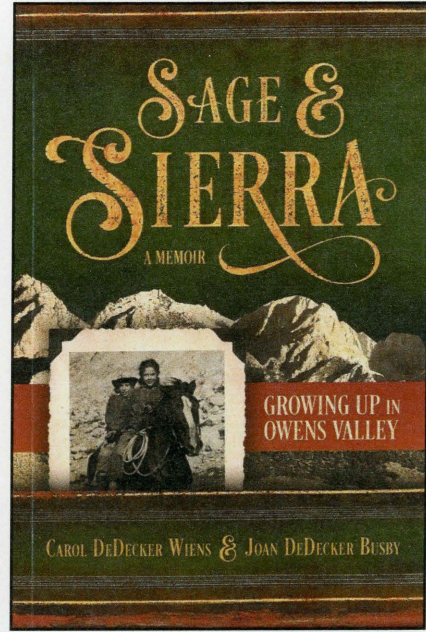
Published by Heyday Books in collaboration with the Manzanar History Association, Life After Manzanar, by Naomi Hirahara and Heather C. Lindquist -- \$28.00



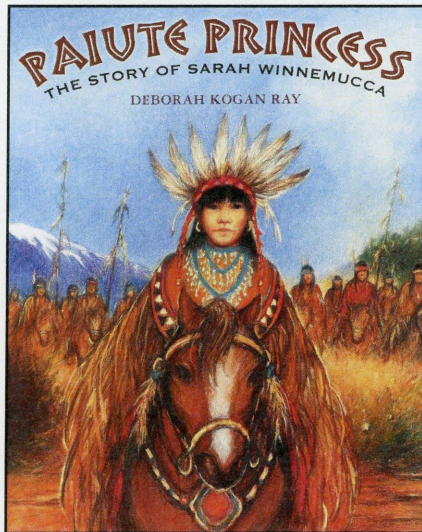
Travel back in time with stories and photos in Life in Owens Valley, by Rena "Beth" Moore-Smith -- \$15.95



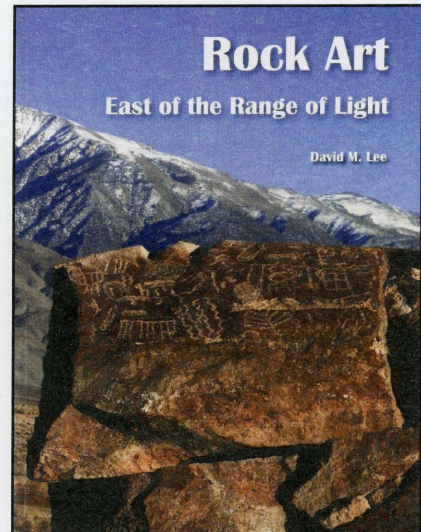
Maybe you've heard that the ghost town of Cerro Gordo is up for sale? Learn all about the history of the mining town of Cerro Gordo, by Cecile Page Vargo and Roger W. Vargo -- \$21.99



Carol DeDecker Wiens and Joan DeDecker Busby stopped by the museum with their book, Sage and Sierra: A Memoir -- \$14.95



It's never too early to teach kids about history! Pick up a copy of Paiute Princess: The Story of Sarah Winnemucca, by Deborah Kogan Ray -- \$17.99



Do you know someone who's wild for petroglyphs? Get them a copy of David M. Lee's book, Rock Art East of the Range of Light -- \$29.95

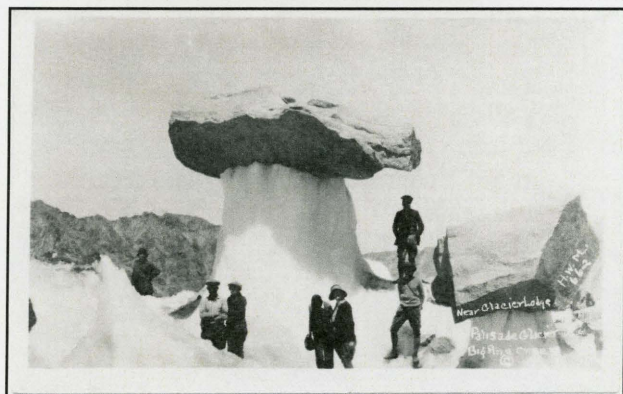
**New Donations to the Eastern California Museum Collection
Heather Todd**



This brass cross may be my favorite recent donation, and it came from the Congregation of Episcopal Church, Lone Pine. It is engraved on both sides, one of which says: "In Loving Memory of the Boys of Inyo County Calif. who made the supreme sacrifice in the world war 1917-1918." The reverse side says, "Made from base of cartridge of 6" field howitzer fired by Canadian artillery at Ypres 1916." (2018.8)



Cathleen Burns contacted us to see if we'd be interested in four paintings by local packer E. W. Thistlethwaite. She donated them in the memory of Gordon and Bobbie Dolan, previous owners of the paintings, and also her husband, William Burns. They are wonderful images of cowboy life featuring horses, cattle, and the desert. They are currently on display. (2018.10)



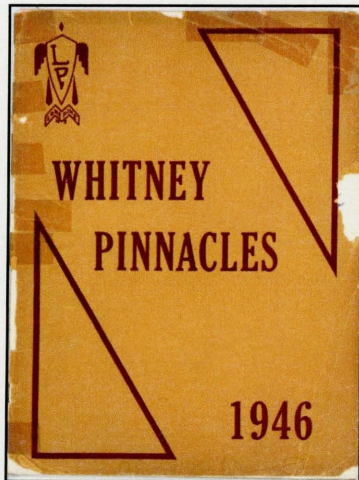
From D. D. Trent we received a H. W. Mendenhall photo postcard taken on Palisade Glacier. It's a thrilling image of seven hardy adventurers nonchalantly standing beneath a huge boulder suspended by a column of glacial ice! (2018.20)

(Cont'd)

The California Native Plant Society, Bristlecone Chapter deposited four index card boxes holding botanist Mary DeDecker's field notes and specimen records. DeDecker is known for discovering a shrub in the buckwheat family that had not been previously described. The shrub turned out to be a new genus and was named in her honor: *Dedeckeraeurekensis*!(2018.11)

David Blackwell donated a photo album that had been assembled by his father, Robert Blackwell, while living in Barstow. It includes photographs of China Lake, Trona, flora, fauna, and nearby petroglyphs. (2018.12)

Theona Wasson deposited three boxes of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power documents in memory of her husband, Sam Wasson. ECM staff is currently digitizing these documents to make them available for researchers and the public. (2018.14)



This 1946 Lone Pine "Whitney Pinnacles" Yearbook was sent to the museum by Richard Rosing. It belonged to his mother, Miss Virginia Hillard, who in the 1945-1946 school year taught Spanish 1st and 2nd years, Science, and Physical Education Jr. and Sr. high. (2018.9)



Justin Farmer recently visited the museum and, upon noticing that we didn't have a rabbit or throwing stick on display, donated one that he had carved out of alder wood. (2018.15)

Two vacancies of the FECM Board of Trustees

There are currently two vacancies on the FECM Board of Trustees. Members in good standing are eligible to serve as a trustee. Any member interested in serving as a trustee should send a letter of interest to the Friends of the Eastern California Museum, P.O. Box 33, Independence, CA 93526.

The Tule Elk of Owens Valley

Tule elk are found in much of the Owens Valley but they are not native. Walter Dow, a Lone Pine business man and benefactor of the Eastern California Museum convinced the National Park Service to move the Yosemite tule elk herd to Owens Valley. In October 1933, Dow and volunteers rounded up the 28 tule elk in the Yosemite herd and placed each animal in a unique crate. The crates were hauled by truck to Owens Valley. The elk were released south of Tinemaha reservoir. (See photo on next page).



Walter Dow and volunteers unload a crated tule elk in Owens Valley in 1933. Photo courtesy County of Inyo, Eastern California Museum.

Your membership renewal date is now printed on your mailing label

**RENEWALS AND NEW MEMBERSHIPS SINCE THE SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Individual

Linda Buttler
Lone Pine Chamber
Shelly Davis-King
Richard DiPrima, Jr.
Jimmy K. Fukuhara
Bill Griswold
Don Harris
Elsie Ivey
Bernadette Johnson
Nancy Kappelmann
Father Brad Karelius
Penny Koines
Dennis Kruska
Sean Langevin
Yaney MacIver
Stephen F. Overturf
Garry Oye
Beth Pelfrey
Johnette Schuler Perry
Karen Riggs
Patricia Siegel
Nick Sprague
Pam Vaughan
Gloria Worman

Family

Tom & Debbie Allen
Terence & Gina Berger
Allison Brooker
The Ellsworth Family
Lynda Graham
Erica Hawley
Janet Hashimoto & William Hull
Art & Frieda LaCues
Lynn & Brian Lamb
Joey Peterson

Family Cont'd

Thomas & Arleen Place
Saburo & Anna Sasaki
Don & Deanna Smith
Cathy and Paul Wallace
Brian & Grace Webb

Contributing

Peter V. Barrett, MD
Sue Robin & Craig Harper
Allen & Carol Lilleberg
Eileen McCauley & Dennis Main
James Miller
Paul Rose
James R. Rosenthal
Sarah Sheehan
Kay Wilson

Supporting

Cindy Pridmore
Linda Riddle & Jay Nichols

Benefactor

Thomas A. Tormey

Donations

Jimmy K. Fukuhara: In Memory of Eve Fox Beckman
Sally Westmoreland: Independence Walking Tour Brochure

2018 Founders Patio

Colleen Miyano: In Memory of Jack & Masa Kunitomi,
Manzanar 1942
Keith & Mary Roman: In Memory of Philip Edward "Pep"
Partridge, Bishop, CA
Dan & Cyndi Signett: In Loving Memory Robert Signett
1923-2004 Gone Fishing "Forever"

Join the Friends of the Eastern California Museum

The Friends of the Eastern California Museum (FECM) work to promote, preserve and protect the important collections and memories that make up Inyo County's only regional museum. The Friends raise funds and contribute time and work to help maintain and improve the museum's buildings and grounds. We support special exhibits and arrange for speakers, field trips, and programs that inform and entertain Inyo County residents and visitors who come from far and near. We have partnered with the Carson and Colorado group to display and promote the restored Slim Princess steam engine. We also provide funds to maintain the Museum's collections and enhance its permanent exhibits. Every March we hold our Annual Meeting, with a potluck dinner and guest speaker. We invite you to join with us to support the Museum. FECM is a 501c3 Non-Profit Organization.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____ **YES, please send my newsletter via email**

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

INDIVIDUAL -- \$25 FAMILY -- \$40 CONTRIBUTING -- \$100 BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION -- \$150
SUPPORTING -- \$150 PATRON -- \$250 SUSTAINING -- \$500 BENEFACTOR -- \$1,000 AND UP

Enclosed is my payment of \$ _____
Independence CA 93526

Make checks payable to **FECM** and mail to **FECM, PO Box 33,**

DATE _____ **The membership year begins on the date your membership dues are received.**

New Membership **Renewal**

You can also pay for your membership with a credit card at www.fecm.org. Select the Membership tab at the top of the page.

Members receive a newsletter, email invitations to special events, programs and field trips, and a 10 percent discount at the Museum Bookstore

**If your mailing label shows you are past due, please use this form to renew today.
Your support of the Eastern California Museum is appreciated!**

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