



RIO VISTA MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

www.riovistamuseum.com

January 2022

Message from Museum President Peter Hamilton

Since its inception in the 1970s, the Museum has been the key caretaker of Rio Vista's past. I sometimes refer to us as "Rio Vista's attic." As in any good attic, at the Museum you'll find memories of our past. As our community grows, the Museum is the way many new residents learn about where they now live.

The Museum guest book shows visitors from all over California, the United States, and even other countries. Repeatedly our visitors tell us how impressed they are with all that our museum has. "It's so much bigger than it looks from the outside" is a common refrain. This is due in large part to the generosity of our community which has donated objects to be shared. However, maintaining the building and its displays is only one aspect of the Rio Vista Museum. As an organization we provide other services as well.

One of the most common services the Museum provides is genealogy assistance. Throughout the year we get requests for information about relatives who had lived in the area. Many times the requests come with very little background information – a last name or just the fact that the family lived on 2nd Street around 1915. If possible we try to provide family photographs, pictures of homes or businesses, yearbook photos, even phone numbers (from our collection of phone books). I always enjoy it when people visit the Museum, and we can show them a photo or object connected to their family's history they had never seen before.

Similar to the genealogy requests, people come to the Museum looking for history on their homes. In many cases we can provide property maps, a history of the home's ownership, photos of the house throughout the years. The Museum has Sanborn fire insurance maps that show the locations of all the buildings that had been on a property.

People come to us for help regarding other types of information about Rio Vista, the Montezuma Hills and the Delta. We've helped high school students preparing displays for conferences and graduate students writing theses. A few years back a gentleman working with the U.S. air force to document military crash sites around the world came to us. He was documenting a crash that took place in the Montezuma Hills in the 1940s. The Museum was able to put him in contact with someone who remembered the incident. The Museum displays a shadow box showing artifacts from that crash. We've assisted fiction authors looking for details to put their stories in realistic settings. The Rio Vista Museum works with other museums in the area to provide materials and information for their own displays.

For many service clubs and organizations that do not have buildings or places to keep their histories, the Museum provides a depository for scrapbooks, meeting minutes, and other materials. In fact, the Museum encourages groups to contact us if it has things that they don't know what to do with.

Inside this newsletter you will find a membership envelope. Your membership provides an important role in the Museum's ability to provide our services. Thank you for your continuing support of the Rio Vista Museum.



One of the newly digitized photographs from Clarence Frederickson's glass negatives, taken in the first decade of the 20th century.

Annual Christmas Faire a Resounding Success

This year's Old Tyme Christmas Faire took place as usual over the first full weekend of December. The Christmas Craft Faire has become a much anticipated community event featuring local artisans and the ever-popular bake sale. Thank you to Nora Crane and her team for putting it on. Thank you to the many local vendors who always make this a special event. Thank you to those who contributed goodies to the bake sale, and a big thanks to those in the community who supported it. We'll see you next December!



Jerry and Nadine Penick were the lucky winners of this tree, beautifully decorated and donated by Janet Blegen.



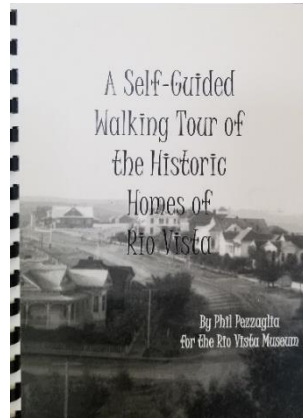
Upcoming Events



Come on down the rabbit hole for our 2nd Annual Mad Hatter's Tea Party at the Rio Vista Museum. Don't miss out on this fun event. Raffle prizes, photo booth, games and delicious food. Saturday, April 2nd at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are limited, so act fast! For tickets or information, contact Renee Tingey at (707)374-2455, Nora Crane (707)334-6191, or Dana Lapp at Rio Vista Muffler (707)374-2484.

Home Tour and Calendar

The Rio Vista Museum has updated its booklet of historic Rio Vista homes. The new edition includes more homes and longer detailed histories of the homes and their original owners. The Museum also has a few 2022 calendars still available. The calendar and the booklet are on sale at the Museum and at Rio Vista Muffler. They are also available by contacting our president, Peter Hamilton, 374-2145.



OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Peter Hamilton	President
Janet Blegen	Vice President
Renee Tingey	Past President
Carlos Zepeda	Treasurer
Judith Stinson	Recording Secretary
Nora Crane	Membership Secretary
Mary Anne Peterson	Corresponding Secretary
Suzanne Goldberg	Newsletter Editor
Beverly Bellows	Josiah Tingey
Dana Lapp	Jo Martin
Melissa France	

Clarence Frederickson Photographs

This is just one of the photographs taken by Clarence Frederickson between the years 1900 and 1910. The Museum had Mr. Frederickson's 280 glass negatives cleaned and digitized with plans to display the pictures. The photographs show a wonderful glimpse of life in the area at the start of the 20th century. Look forward to seeing more of these photographs.

Joyce Metcalf and Beverly Bellows In Memoriam

The Museum board wishes to express its condolences to the families of Joyce Metcalf and Beverly Bellows.

Joyce, along with her husband Jim, had been a member of the Museum board. After stepping down from the Board, Joyce continued to serve by dressing the front windows. Her kindness and graciousness will be missed.

Bev was a current member of the Museum board. She could always be counted on to support Museum activities. Bev was instrumental in working with Rio Vision to create the mural outside of the Museum. Bev's dedication will not be easily replaced.

Memorials

On behalf of the Rio Vista Museum, we would like to thank those who have made a memorial donation in the past year in honor of their loved ones.

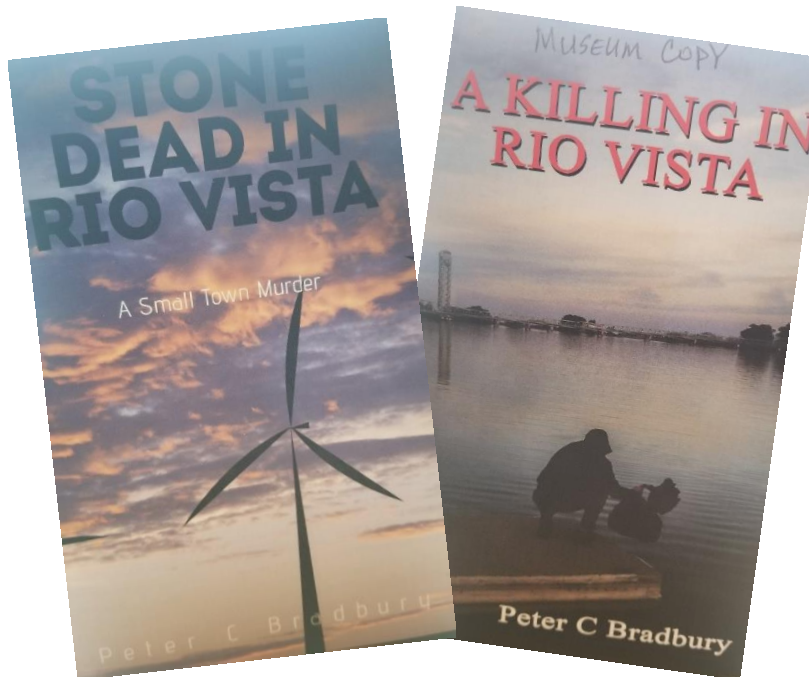
The following were so honored during 2021:

Joe Camacho
Joe Gates
Sandy MaCauley
Jerry Machado
Joyce Metcalf
Gracie Moody
Doug Reidmiller
Fran Reidmiller
Robert Watkins

***Peter Bradbury to Speak at
Annual Membership Meeting
Monday, January 31, 2022
6:30 p.m.***

Come to the museum to enjoy a program with local fiction author Peter Bradbury and to elect the 2022 officers and board members.

If you think you know mysteries, think again! Bradbury's *Stone Dead In Rio Vista* really shakes up the genre! Have fun watching the murderer evade the police time after time. Bonus points of fun for Rio Vista locals as Bradbury generously sprinkles the area's favorite places throughout!



***Check out the Museum
on social media!***

We have a Facebook page where you can see more pictures from the Christmas Faire and upcoming events. --
@riovistamuseum

We also have a website where you can see pictures and past newsletters.
riovistamuseum.com

2022 Museum Dues

Please return your dues in the enclosed envelope. Remember, the Museum depends on these funds, and there is extra need this year as we have not been able to hold several of our regular fundraising events.