Fall 2014 will mark the 150th anniversary of the Banning Residence, and we’re already planning the festivities to celebrate this amazing milestone!

When Phineas Banning built his home in 1864, he probably had no idea that one day it would become a City, State and National Historic Monument, nor that over 30,000 people would visit it annually. Yet, today, nearly 148 years after its construction, the historical importance of the beautiful Banning Residence is unquestioned and it stands proud and strong in Wilmington – just a few miles from the world-class port that General Banning helped to become reality.

Imagine for a minute what it must have been like in the mid-1800s to build a house of this magnificence without modern building techniques, local home improvement warehouses, or today’s power tools! It was quite an undertaking. But that was just the beginning. During Phineas Banning’s lifetime, the home was continually upgraded with additions like a modern kitchen, gas and running water – a testament to his ingenuity and forward-thinking mindset. And no doubt, these improvements enhanced the quality of life of the Banning family.

The home is still considered the finest existing example of residential Greek Revival architecture in Southern California. Needless to say, ongoing restoration and maintenance require great care and expertise. At Friends of Banning Museum, we consider it an honor and a great privilege to be stewards of its legacy and advocates for its future.

Over the next two years, we’ll keep you updated on our celebration plans, and share more fascinating information on the home with you. In the meantime, be sure to visit The Banning Museum again, or for the first time.

It’s a walk through history that you’ll always remember!
Dear Members and Friends,

This is going to be a very exciting year for The Banning Museum and Friends of Banning Museum! If you follow us on Facebook and our website, www.thebanningmuseum.org, you’ve probably noticed that we are quickly becoming more active than ever before. In addition to welcoming over 30,000 visitors to the Museum last year, here are just a few of the other activities that have been keeping us busy:

- Our resident rosarian, Gloria Leinbach, has presented several fascinating, free lectures in the beautiful Howard Rose Garden. Watch for more in the coming months!
- Our hard-working Volunteers recently planted over 100 daffodils in the Garden. What a splash of color we’ll have later in the spring!
- In October of last year, we participated in the 6th annual Los Angeles Archives Bazaar for the first time. The event was organized by L.A. as Subject and presented by the USC Libraries.
- More than 1,700 visitors joined us for our annual Victorian Christmas Open House, the traditional kick-off to the holiday season for the community.
- Events are always popular at The Banning Museum, and they also are an important source of support for Friends of Banning Museum. Victorian Christmas Luncheon was a great success in December, and February brought the Valentine Tea & Tunes. In a few weeks, we’ll be holding our annual fundraiser, Wisteria Regal 2012. This year’s theme will be Victorian Magic and it does promise to be a magical evening! Following close on its heels will be the Phineas Banning Birthday Celebration Concert in August.
- Our unique educational programs are underway for this year. Last year, we hosted over 10,000 students from the greater Los Angeles area.
- In 2014, the Banning Residence will be 150 years old, and plans are already underway for a celebration to mark this monumental milestone.

Follow us on Facebook and visit our website, www.thebanningmuseum.org, for the latest information on events, activities and so much more. And remember, if you’re not yet a member, we would love to welcome you to the family. Be a part of the excitement and important work that is Friends of Banning Museum!

Edward Carson Beall
President, Friends of Banning Museum

Michael Sanborn
Director, The Banning Museum

OUR SINCERE THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT:

NORRIS FOUNDATION
Banning Heritage Weeks (Spring and Fall)

TESORO CORPORATION
Evolution of a Town, our educational program for 3rd grade students, for the 2011-2012 school year

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD
2011 Victorian Christmas and the Living History School Program

VALERO ENERGY CORPORATION
2011 Victorian Christmas
Did You Know…

**Improbable Gateway: The Los Angeles Transportation Legacy** is a great place to learn some fascinating facts about early Los Angeles history! For example, you’ll find out …

- How much time was cut off the trip from the Mississippi River to Los Angeles with the creation of a national system of stage lines and the improvement of coach design. It still wasn’t fast by today’s standards, but the change was monumental.
- How much an Abbot, Downing & Co. Concord Coach cost in 1850 and what the roughly equivalent cost would be today. (You’ll be surprised!)
- What thorough brace suspension is, and how it made coach travel more comfortable for passengers and easier on the horses.
- How many mules it took to pull a heavy freight wagon through the Cajon Pass in 1855.
- The significance of the Los Angeles & San Pedro Railroad, built by Phineas Banning.
- Who made up the “Big Four” builders of the Central Pacific Railroad. (Hint: all the names are very well known, even today.)
- What the term “Castles in the Air” meant during the 1880s real estate boom.
- What city in today’s South Bay area was in competition with San Pedro to become Los Angeles’ deep-water harbor.
- Where the area’s first yacht club was located.

No, we aren’t going to give you the answers here! But you’ll find them when you visit **Improbable Gateway: The Los Angeles Transportation Legacy** at The Banning Museum. It’s a fascinating look at how transportation changed Southern California and impacted the nation. You’ll have a great time looking at the models, historic pictures, and artifacts and imagining yourself bouncing around in a stagecoach, riding on an early railroad, or maneuvering your cargo ship long before the days of the Port of Los Angeles!

By the way, do you happen to know what local airport used to be a bean field? We’ll give you that one – LAX!

This is your local history; come see it today at **Improbable Gateway: The Los Angeles Transportation Legacy** at The Banning Museum.
Chronicles
Activities of Note at The Banning Museum

Victorian Christmas Luncheon

The weather was lovely and mild on December 2, 2011 for our annual Victorian Christmas Luncheon. Guests enjoyed a presentation of “Victorian Christmas Traditions” by The Victorian Historians, then dined on a delicious lunch in the festively decorated Stagecoach Barn while being entertained by Devil’s Horn Sax Quartet. Tesoro Corporation presented a check for their support of Evolution of a Town, our educational program for 3rd graders, for the 2011-2012 school year. Tours of the Victorian Christmas Museum exhibition, Improbable Gateway and the Historic Red Cars of Los Angeles followed. Our thanks to FBM President Ed Beall for creating an original holiday-themed watercolor painting of the Museum. Each guest received a limited-edition copy of the painting at the luncheon.

Victorian Christmas Open House

This annual open house for the community was held on December 3 and 4, 2011. Over 1,700 visitors joined us during the 2-day event which featured tours, a horse-drawn trolley ride to the Drum Barracks Civil War Museum, children’s crafts, complimentary cookies and hot cider, entertainment and a visit from jolly St. Nick!

Valentine Tea & Tunes

Our 7th annual Valentine Tea & Tunes inspired guests to don their hats, gloves and finery to enjoy an elegant light luncheon and selection of special teas! Rosarian Gloria Leinbach presented “The Language of Flowers in Victorian Times,” and Shawna Selline Harp and Chamber Music delighted those in attendance. A special display assembled just for this event was featured in the self-guided tours of The Banning Museum that followed. What a very special and unique way to celebrate Valentine’s Day!

Wilmington Holiday Parade

On Sunday, December 11, 2011, The Banning Museum participated in the Wilmington Holiday Parade for the first time! Dressed in our Victorian-era finery, with horses and a beautiful stagecoach, we had a great time greeting the spectators along the route.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WISTERIA REGALE
Saturday, March 24, 2012
5:30 p.m.

VICTORIAN NAPKIN RINGS EXHIBIT
March - August 2012

SPRING BANNING HERITAGE WEEK
Week of April 23, 2012

PHINEAS BANNING BIRTHDAY CONCERT
Saturday, August 18, 2012
5:30 p.m.
FRIENDS OF BANNING MUSEUM CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

2012

WISTERIA REGALE

VICTORIAN MAGIC

HILTON DOUBLETREE HOTEL, SAN PEDRO
MADEO GRAND BALLROOM
2800 Via Cabrillo Marina, San Pedro, California
(310) 514-3344
SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2012
5:30 - 10:00 PM

SILENT AUCTION • ENTERTAINMENT • DINNER
LIVE MUSIC AND DANCING • HOSTED BAR

Scholarship Presentation Sponsored By:
Plains All American Pipeline • Wilmington Chamber of Commerce

Event Chairs:
Cheryl and Kjell Hellberg
Cost: $150 per person • $1,250 for table of 10

Also Featuring Award-winning Magic Castle Magician

NATHAN GIBSON

Nathan is known as the “Entertainer for Entertainers” and his A-list clients include Johnny Depp, Rod Stewart, Steve Martin, Jay Leno, and Justin Timberlake. He has been featured on major TV networks, with his most recent appearance on “The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson.”

FOR RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CALL FRIENDS OF BANNING MUSEUM AT (310) 548-2005 BY MARCH 16, 2012.
Sponsorship, underwriting, and silent auction item donation opportunities are available.
Contact the FBM Development Office at (310) 548-2005.
www.thebanningmuseum.org

The Banning Museum is a facility of the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks and is operated in cooperation with Friends of Banning Museum. Friends of Banning Museum is a non-profit organization. Tax-ID # 23-7401669. The Banning Museum is a City, State and National Historic Landmark.
There’s probably nothing more important to our future than the education of our children. Friends of Banning Museum is so dedicated to providing educational experiences to schoolchildren in the local area, that it’s part of our Mission Statement.

Museum Educator Cristina Lovett sums it up: “Every time I watch the students who participate in our programs, I see their eyes light up. It’s amazing to children growing up in the technology age to find out that kids in the mid- to late 19th century actually wrote school lessons on slate boards, or that clothes were washed on a wash board and families made their own soap and butter.

We often receive letters from students and teachers telling us how memorable their field trips to the Museum were. If we can make a difference in these children’s lives, if we can share with them the history of their local community and the legacy of Phineas Banning, who never believed in personal limitations, we’re doing something very special.”

The Banning Museum has three educational programs for students during the school year:

- The Living History School Program for fourth graders
- Banning Heritage Week, held in Spring and Fall, for fourth graders
- Evolution of a Town for third-grade students

We also hold Summer Days at The Banning Museum for local school-age children.

Friends of Banning Museum is proud to support these acclaimed programs. This is especially important now, as education budgets are being cut and school field trips are so limited. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and members, our programs will continue to evolve and remain exciting and relevant to the students who participate.

Another aspect of our focus on education is our annual scholarship contest. Each year, we hold an essay competition for seniors at Banning High School in Wilmington. The winners receive college scholarships thanks to the generosity of our sponsors. This year, we sincerely thank Plains All American Pipeline and the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring the scholarship competition. The winners are announced annually at our Wisteria Regale fund-raising dinner.

For more information on our educational programs, please call Cristina Lovett at (310) 548-7777.

Membership in Friends of Banning Museum does make a difference – in the lives of children who will become our future leaders, scholars, and entrepreneurs!
Membership in FRIENDS OF BANNING MUSEUM means more than you might realize, and we need your support more than ever. Here’s why:

- The Banning Museum’s educational programs serve over **10,000 students** in the greater Los Angeles area each year. Friends of Banning Museum provides the needed support to ensure these deserving schoolchildren are able to take part in an educational experience that supports what they learn in the classroom in a very unique way: hands-on, up close, in an environment that itself is a part of history.

- **More than 30,000 people visit** The Banning Museum each year. Your support helps us continue our restoration efforts and make sure this important part of local history is here for future generations. The Banning Museum is a local jewel...it is a huge part of the history of Wilmington and the harbor area – and if it’s lost, it’s gone forever.

- Our exhibitions **enlighten, educate and entertain** thousands. To be able to present them takes resources that we wouldn’t have without your generosity.

While we know that you are inundated these days with requests for help from very worthy nonprofit organizations, we ask you to consider this: What will happen if tangible pieces of our history are gone? We can read about them, see pictures of them, but nothing is quite like walking up to them and realizing, “This is part of me; part of the past that formed who and what and where I am today.”

Please consider joining Friends of Banning Museum, or upgrading your membership. We have some amazing benefits for members – courtesies unique to Friends that you won’t find anywhere else. You can learn more about them on our website, www.thebanningmuseum.org. We also appreciate all donations in any amount, and hope you will consider us in your estate planning.

**THE BIGGEST BENEFIT?** Helping us preserve the past so future generations can learn from and be inspired by it. Is there any greater need?

Call Friends of Banning Museum at (310) 548-2005 for more information on membership and other giving opportunities.
Volunteers Needed!
Have Fun While You Make a Difference

If you want to make a difference, and your idea of volunteer work means contributing your time to a great cause, working with fantastic people and having a lot of fun too, consider becoming a Banning Museum Volunteer!

Once you complete a fascinating and enjoyable training course, you’ll be able to participate in a wide variety of activities, including:

- Leading public tours of the Museum, Stagecoach Barn and grounds
- Conservation and maintenance of antiques
- Decorative Arts exhibitions
- Lecture and discussion committees
- Living History School Program (may require additional training to familiarize new Volunteers to the program details)
- Assisting in the Harlyne and Kenneth Norris Museum Shop
- Special events

Our Volunteers also enjoy special activities, tours and trips especially for them. To learn more, and to find out the dates of our next training class or Get to Know Us orientation for prospective Volunteers, please call Cristina Lovett, Museum Educator, at 310-548-7777.

If you are passionate about history, enjoy having a variety of volunteer opportunities, and want to give your time and talents to something that really matters to the community, become a Banning Museum Volunteer!

“...learning about Phineas Banning and the history of Southern California. I also like the fact that as volunteers, we continue to learn through the various museum committees. But I’d have to say the best part is sharing the information with our visitors; they really enjoy hearing the Banning story. I’m smiling every time I leave the museum.”

— ANITA RIZZI
Banning Museum Volunteer, 8 years

Exhibit Reviews and Previews

Review: Scrimshaw
Late last year through mid-February 2012, the main hallway of the Banning Residence was the site of a fascinating exhibit on scrimshaw. The art of scrimshaw involves carving designs on bones or teeth of marine animals and was a popular pastime for American sailors on whaling ships in the 18th and 19th century. The collection in the exhibit featured 22 examples of this beautiful art, including: a pair of binoculars with a fascinating history used by a Confederate soldier; a gunpowder horn (the oldest piece in the collection); a miniature working umbrella; a farrier’s knife; a left-handed ruler; and a turtle with a small inlaid square of ivory scrimshaw.

Preview: Victorian Napkin Rings
From March through August 2012, the Harlyne and Kenneth Norris Visitor Center will feature Victorian Napkin Rings, an exhibit showcasing an extensive collection of these functional and beautiful table accessories. For more information, please visit our website, www.thebanningmuseum.org.

Binoculars at the Scrimshaw Exhibit belonged to a Confederate soldier.

BE THE FIRST TO KNOW
Subscribe online at www.thebanningmuseum.org to join our email mailing list and get updates and information on events, activities and exciting projects happening at The Banning Museum and Friends of Banning Museum.

IT’S A GREAT WAY TO STAY IN THE KNOW.

www.thebanningmuseum.org
The Banning Museum is a City, State and National Historic Landmark.
It's going to be magical!

Friends of Banning Museum Wisteria Regale
Read more inside…