

# Heritage Discovery Center

## March 2008 Update



### *Mustano's View*

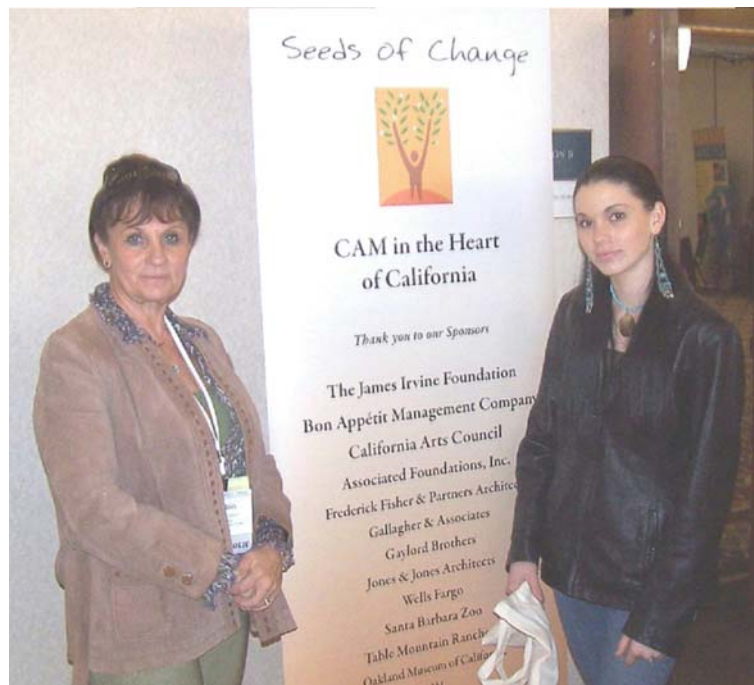
Thank you to everyone for all of your support and kind words. Many progressions have been made this last month towards our goal of opening a Californios Ranching Center at Pacheco Park. We've met with the California Department of Parks and the result was very positive and further plans are in development.

Some of our directors and staff have just finished attending the California Association of Museums Annual Conference in Fresno. In attendance were representatives from almost every Museum and Library in California. The latest information on collections management and tour presentations as well as the latest in technological presentation methods were discussed. Recently the 'Hybrid' philosophy of visitor experience is gaining in popularity and advancement. This combines the Virtual tour electronic experience and/or the personal visitation opportunity for many Museums and Libraries. Here are some of the highlights of the Conference.

### **The California Associations of Museums Conference**

#### *'Seeds of Change'*

Museums acknowledge the work and lives of peoples and culture. They are extremely important in the presentation of the 'human dimension'.



Today our vision of museums has new technology and is now offering the Virtual experience *vs* the Visitation experience. There are many wonderful opportunities to gain knowledge by electronically perusing the many wonderful museum locations now going high tech. The convenience of the electronic tour is remarkable and instantly brings a wealth of our world's art and history to our fingertips.

The Heritage Discovery Center will also strive to develop and maintain the most current and comprehensive technological virtual experience for all to utilize. The sharing of these data bases, which gives us knowledge and information, will encourage research and make our histories and ancestry readily available to a broad and diverse audience.

However I believe whenever possible the individual's presence and participatory experience to a museum is the most lasting and powerful.

Our keynote speaker shared that his mother has passed early in his youth and that some of the most cherished memories of his mother were the times that she had taken him to many museums and shared the history and beauty that museums are created to preserve. Without the personal experience we miss the emotional, sensorial, personal and spiritual connection to each other, history and to the collections of our past.

Respect for the earth and our own humanity is realized by connecting our thoughts and emotions with our heritage...this connection will preserve and protect the earth. **GO GREEN!**

To learn about our earth and our cultures, touches our spirituality and engages our respect for all life forms The truths of our histories helps us find meaning...our cultures have taught us through ceremonies, symbols, community, art and family. These things are how we develop and confirm our beliefs and create the diversity of humanity.

To appreciate the complex matrix of our earth and environment we must first experience it to become aware, to embrace and finally, understand our own heart/humanity. The Heritage Discovery Center was developed with

personal and experiential visitation as a model to engage the public in the nature/environment, native peoples and the colonization of Alta California. We will be a destination point to share with the world (all peoples) experiences about California's Nature/Wildlife, Native American, Maritime, Mission, Military, Ranching, Agriculture, and Equine/Domestic livestock. We will also have an indoor museum setting hosting collections, art, family histories/genealogy and library/resource facilities. Education will be our primary focus.



HDC's interpretative centers will present and honor the magnificence of our State and the cultures that have created our unique Legacy.

The HDC's 'living history museum' personal experience offers a far greater opportunity to recognize the 'seeds of change' and harvest the gifts of our past.

Our immediate responsibility is to educate the public about the treasure that the Spanish left behind...the Horse, and to preserve these lives together with their history. They were our partners that helped to develop our golden state. Now we must help conserve them as an intrinsic part of our Legacy.

Spring is right around the corner and our pastures are finally seeing the first blades of grass. The horses are thrilled, however our hay stack that is all too quickly coming to an end. We still have 30 horses that are unable to be on pasture due to their age or because individual stabling is required for our stallions and performance/re-enactment horses. With the



lack of hay in California we are purchasing our hay from Nevada. The cost of hay has reached almost \$300 for one ton and it is

anticipated to reach \$400 by the end of this month. This raises our cost for hay/feed and supplements to at least \$3000.00 a month.



We are reaching out to you specifically for donations for hay for feeding these endangered horses. You can visit our website at [www.heritagediscoverycenter.com](http://www.heritagediscoverycenter.com) for donations, or you can call us directly at 559-868-8680 or mail donations to: 40222 Millstream Lane Madera, Ca. 93636. All support would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

*O' happy day...hay is on the way!!*