



The Heritage Junction Dispatch

A Publication of the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society

Volume 35, Issue 1

January - February 2009

Calendar

Saturday, January 10

Seminar on antiques, 9:00 AM,
Saugus station (see page 5)

Monday, January 26

Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM Saugus Station

Saturday, February 1

Deadline for the March - April
Dispatch

Monday, February 14

Seminar on antiques, 9:00 AM,
Saugus station (see page 5)

Monday, February 23

Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM Saugus Station

Saturday, February 28

Lecture and Movie "Rebel Without
a Cause"; see ad this page

Saturday, March 14

Seminar on antiques, 9:00 AM,
Saugus station (see page 5)

Saturdays Beginning March 21

Six classes on TV and cinema
in the SCV, Saugus Station (see
page 6)

Check www.scvhistory.org for
other upcoming events.

Also...

First Thursday of Every Month

Genealogy Club Meeting
7:00 PM Saugus Station

Articles and inquiries
regarding *The Dispatch* may
be made to 254-1275

President's Message

by Alan Pollack



“Goodbye
Death Valley”.

Looking back from
a high peak of the
Panamint Range
in California, the
Bennett-Arcan party
of Gold Rush 49ers
aptly named what
would later become

one of California's
national parks (a large sinkhole known as
the hottest place on the North American
continent), as the stranded members of a
group headed for the California gold fields
were rescued from certain death by two
young men who marched across the Mojave
Desert and ended up at the Rancho San
Francisco in the Santa Clarita Valley in 1850
seeking help for their compatriots.

Early on the morning of January 24, 1848,
James Marshall discovered gold at Sutter's

Mill on the south Fork of the American River
near Coloma, California. As word spread
throughout California of the gold discovery,
Edward Fitzgerald Beale was sent by naval
commodore Robert Stockton on a land
journey in disguise across Mexico to bring
proof of the gold discovery to the federal
government in Washington. He arrived with
his gold specimens in September, 1848.
Three months later, on December 5, 1848,
President James K. Polk delivered a landmark
State of the Union address in which he
announced the California gold discovery
to the world. In his speech Polk stated,
“The accounts of the abundance of gold in
that territory are of such an extraordinary
character as would scarcely command
belief were they not corroborated by the
authentic reports of officers in the public
service who have visited the mineral district,
and derived the facts which they detail from
personal observation.”

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JAMES DEAN AND THE 50'S IN THE SCV

**FEATURING A PANEL OF SPEAKERS TO INCLUDE AUTHORS CHRIS
EPTING (“JAMES DEAN DIED HERE”) AND WARREN BEATH (“THE
DEATH OF JAMES DEAN”); MORE GUESTS TO BE ANNOUNCED**

**TO SPEAK ON THE LIFE AND DEATH OF JAMES DEAN AND THE SCV
CONNECTION TO HIS LAST DAY,
FOLLOWED BY SHOWING OF DEAN'S MOVIE CLASSIC
“REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE”**

**COMING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28. MORE DETAILS TO BE POSTED
ON WWW.SCVHS.ORG SOON.**

President's Message

Continued from page 1

Polk's announcement would set off what was then the largest migration of humans in world history. The vast majority of the Gold Rush 49'ers came to California overland via the California-Oregon Trail, by sea through the Isthmus of Panama, or around Cape Horn at the tip of South America. However, some gold seekers chose routes through the southwest heading into Southern California before turning north toward the gold region. One of these groups, including a young man by the name of William Lewis Manly, arrived in the Salt Lake Valley in the fall of 1849. They knew it was too late to head due west to try to beat the snowfalls in the Sierra high country, as they did not want to meet with the same fate that befell the Donner party in the winter of 1847. But they also were eager to move on toward the gold fields and were fearful of wintering with the Mormons in Utah, who they believed would not act kindly toward them. So a group of 500 emigrants set out on October 2, 1849, to follow the Old Spanish Trail into California from Springville, Utah under the guidance of Capt. Jefferson Hunt of the Mormon Battalion.

William Manly, one of the unsung heroes of California history, was born in Vermont in 1820. His family eventually headed west and migrated to Wisconsin, where he was living with the family of Asahel Bennett when the Gold Rush fever hit in 1849. In the winter of 1848-49, both Manly and Bennett decided to head out along the Oregon Trail for California. Manly set out by himself on a pony a few weeks earlier than the Bennett and Arcan (called Arcane in Manly's 1894 book) families, who headed for California in March, 1849. He rode across Iowa after crossing the Mississippi River at Dubuque, and reached the Missouri River where he joined a wagon train led by Charles Dallas of Lynn, Iowa. They followed the trail along the Platte River, passing through Forts Kearney and Laramie, then along the Sweetwater River past Independence Rock, and then climbed through the South Pass of the Rocky Mountains.

After reaching the Green River in present day Wyoming, Manly and six other wagon drivers, including John Rogers, parted company with Dallas, and decided to float down the Green River to get to the Pacific Ocean and avoid the winter snows in the Sierras. As they floated down river, they met up with an Indian Chief Walker who informed them that they would not make it to the ocean by the river route. At this point they decided to head by land for Salt Lake City. Sixty miles south of Salt Lake City they encountered a wagon train heading on a southern route towards Los Angeles, which surprisingly included the Bennett family from

Wisconsin. Captain Jefferson Hunt was chosen to lead the group (called the Sand Walking Company) on a trail never before taken by wagons. It was October, 1849.

After two weeks on the trail, the emigrants tired of Hunt's slow progress. They met up with a wagon train commanded by a Captain Smith, who showed them a map with a shortcut that would cut off 500 miles from their trip and take them through Walker Pass instead of Los Angeles. Most of the 120 wagons decided to follow the cut off and left the remainder of Captain Hunt's party near present day Enterprise, Utah. Shortly after parting with Hunt, the wagon train was confronted with a huge canyon on the present day Utah-Nevada border; all but 27 wagons turned back to rejoin Hunt. The remainder, including Manly, Rogers, the Bennetts, and Arcans, continued on the shortcut.

After one month on the shortcut trail, this unfortunate group encountered a barren landscape with little water or vegetation. They reached Death Valley in November, 1849, weak, weary, and discouraged. Worse still, the pathway out of Death Valley was blocked by high mountain ranges. Running out of food except for their oxen, and with no way to cross the mountains with their broken wagons, the Bennett-Arcan party chose Manly and Rogers to go ahead across the mountains by foot to search for a settlement and more food.

Manly and Rogers bravely traveled across 250 miles of the vast, barren, and uncharted Mojave Desert in search of help, subsisting on whatever birds they could shoot. Manly later stated "As to these birds—the quail was as superb a morsel as ever a man did eat; the hawk was pretty fair and quite good eating; but that abominable crow!" They finally reached Soledad Canyon and entered the Santa Clarita Valley on January 1, 1850. Manly described the valley in his 1894 memoir "Death Valley in '49": "When the summit was reached a most pleasing sight filled our sick hearts with a most indescribable joy... There before us was a beautiful meadow of a thousand acres, green as a thick carpet of grass could make it, and shaded with oaks, wide branching and symmetrical, equal to those of an old English park, while all over the low mountains that bordered it on the south and over the broad acres of luxuriant grass was a herd of cattle numbering many hundreds if not thousands... such a scene of abundance and rich plenty and comfort bursting thus upon our eyes which for months had seen only the desolation and sadness of the desert, was like getting a glimpse of Paradise, and tears of joy ran down our faces."

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President's Message

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In the Santa Clarita Valley, Manly and Rogers were met by the vaqueros of the Rancho San Francisco and taken to the main house (presumably the Estancia de San Francisco Xavier on a bluff overlooking present day Magic Mountain) where they were provided with packs and horses. They followed two guides over the Fremont Pass into the San Fernando Valley, where they passed the San Fernando Mission and met up with a Mr. French who spoke English and Spanish. Mr. French rode back up to the Rancho San Francisco and explained their dire situation to the Spanish-speaking Californios. After learning of their plight, a kindly dark skinned lady (presumably Jacoba Feliz, the widow of Antonio Del Valle), provided Manly and Rogers with horses and provisions. They thanked their gracious hosts and headed up San Francisquito Canyon past Lake Elizabeth and back into the Mojave Desert.

Nearly four weeks after leaving the stranded '49ers, Manly and Rogers returned to find the Bennett and Arcan families still alive. Upon their arrival, Mrs. Bennett exclaimed "Good boys! O, you have saved us all! God bless you forever! Such boys should never die!" In February, 1850, the Bennett-Arcan group left behind their wagons and worldly goods to cross the Panamint Range into the Mojave Desert. Manly described the scene as they looked back to the east: "Just as we were ready to leave and return to camp we took off our hats, and then overlooking the scene of so much trial, suffering and death spoke the thought uppermost saying:— '*Good bye Death Valley!*'"

On March 7, 1850, the Bennett-Arcan party led by William Lewis Manly and John Rogers traveled through Soledad Canyon and arrived back at the Rancho San Francisco to be greeted by Jacoba Feliz and her vaqueros. One of the greatest rescue operations in California history had come to an end.

Moving from heroes of the 19th century, we salute our heroes of the 21st century, Ed Marg, Scott Sivley, and all of our haunters for their hard work and dedication that resulted in a successful and spectacular Heritage Haunt this year. Thousands of young Santa Claritans were entertained and spooked in the Newhall Ranch House and came out with rave reviews. Especially popular this year was the dance production of "Sleepy Hollow" held in the Train Station. Victor Feany and Dianne Vradenberg, and Gerry Sokolowicz were spotted every night helping out the haunters.

Scott Sivley also put together a great Pumpkin Festival with pumpkin carving for the kids which drew lots of people and met with great success for the Historical Society. Many

thanks to Scott who also organized our Christmas Open House this year with many fun activities for our visitors.

Then there is our Junction handyman extraordinaire John Lesperance who continues to handle much of the daily upkeep of the Junction. John recently rebuilt the ramp to the entrance of the Train Station which was in dire need of replacement. Thanks to John for all of his many contributions to the Society.

E.J. Stephens' "Flickers at the Junction" continued its popular run in December with the Buster Keaton movie "Go West" again featuring silent movie organist virtuoso and 96 year old Bob Mitchell. A great time was had by all in attendance.

Still in the planning stages, our upcoming shows will include a lecture on James Dean and the 50's by author Chris Epting ("James Dean Died Here") and Warren Beath ("The Death of James Dean"), followed by a showing of the classic movie "Rebel Without a Cause" on February 28. In March, Frank Rock will be doing his annual St. Francis Dam Lecture and tour. We are still on track for a special day commemorating the 39th anniversary of the California Highway Patrol's Newhall Incident to be scheduled on April 5, 2009 at the Train Station. Harry Ingold, one of the officers who arrived at the scene at the parking lot of J's Coffee Shop on present day Magic Mountain Parkway and the Old Road following the massacre of four highway patrol officers by two criminal suspects in 1970, will be sharing the story of this incident along with his personal recollections. We are also planning a talk on the local history of the Southern Pacific Railroad with railroad expert Chuck Wilkie, date to be determined.

Don't forget to sign up for John Boston's epic and popular "History of the Santa Clarita Valley" class which will be started up sometime in January or February. For more information, call Pat Saletore at 661-254-1275.

Finally, I would like to extend congratulations to newly reelected Board members Laurene Weste, Duane Harte, Sue Yurosek, Cathy Martin, and Barbara Martinelli. They are all well deserving, hard working members of our organization. I look forward to continue working with them to further the mission and goals of the Historical Society.

As we ring in 2009 in the Santa Clarita Valley, I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy New Year. Thanks for all your support of the Historical Society. We hope to have a great year upcoming in 2009. See you all at the Train Station.

Alan Pollack

The Nature of Hart by Ayesha Saletore



Many people associate the William S. Hart Park and Museum with the vast picnic area and the amazing collection of artifacts, but for those of you who are nature fans, come by and enjoy the natural elements of the William S. Hart Park.

Home to a wide variety of flora, Hart Park fosters the growth of many native plants including cacti, oak trees, and yucca. These plants not only provide aesthetically pleasing ambiance and educational experiences, but also served in a variety of uses for the local Native American tribes here in Santa Clarita.

Start your self-guided tour of the nature of Hart Park on the Nature Trail. Shortly after beginning your journey, you will see the Prickly Pear Cactus (*Opuntia* spp.) near the Dog's Graveyard. The Prickly Pear Cactus was used hundreds of years ago and is currently used today as a food source. The cactus pads and fruit are both edible; however, remember that no picking or dining on any Hart Park vegetation is permitted. So, be sure to stop by the local market on your way home and see if you find the cactus pads or fruit in the vegetable section.

As you continue up the Nature Trail, you will see the broad topped oak trees providing you with shade. There are at least two different types of oak trees in the Park, including the Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and the Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*). You can decipher the two oak trees by the different leaves and acorns. Look for the slender acorn and holly-like leaves of the Coast Live Oak, or the thicker acorns and paper-like lobed leaves of the Valley Oak. Oak trees served a vital purpose for the two local Native American tribes, the Tataviam and Chumash. Acorns were generally made into a mush after being ground, then leached and cooked. This meal served as a staple in people's diet.

Lastly, you may see yucca (*Yucca whipplei*) scattered on the Hart trails. Also called Our Lord's Candle, the yucca has a base of long pointy leaves and a stalk that blooms creamy white flowers. The best time to see these beautiful blooms would be in spring. As did the oak trees, this plant also served a purpose for the Tataviam and Chumash; not only did they use part of it as a food source, but fibers from the yucca leaves were used for sewing.

There is so much to learn and enjoy from our local natural surroundings. Come by any day of the week to wander through the different trails in Hart Park. If you are visiting Wednesday through Sunday, be sure to pick up a free copy of the Hart Trail Guide at the Hart Museum, Hart Park Office, or Friends of Hart Gift Store, and you will be on your way!

Hart's Barnyard Zoo by Cheryl Hazama

After numerous delays, William S. Hart Regional Park hopes to have the Grand Re-Opening of their Barnyard Zoo in January. Thanks to the building fund from the County Board of Supervisors, our new Barnyard should be more spacious for the animals, following all guidelines for their care and well-being, as well as having better and easier access for the public to view the domestic animals at Hart Park. Come see the new animals that we plan to bring in!



Meetings and Board Election by Kristyn van Wy

The General Meeting on November 16th was a success. The members present discussed goal setting and a Master Plan for the Historical Society. The Master Plan will include anything and everything from restoration work to public programs. The purpose of the Master Plan is to identify and prioritize our goals as an organization so that we can all work together in order to achieve the results that we want. Input from all members regarding goal setting and the Master Plan is welcome and encouraged.

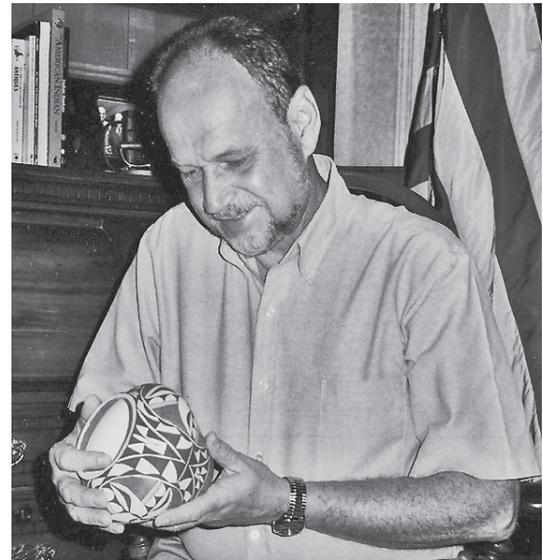
As always, Board meetings are open to the members and are announced in each issue of The Heritage Junction Dispatch.

No new nominations were submitted for the Board of Directors. By resolution of the members present at the November 16th meeting, the following six candidates have been re-elected to serve on the Board: Barbara Martinelli, Duane Harte, Cathy Martin, Sue Yurosek, Laurene Weste and Nancy Cordova.

Antiques Seminars Coming to the Saugus Station

Terry Sonntag, a long time resident of the Santa Clarita Valley and familiar to most area antique buffs, will present a series of informal seminars on Antiques Appreciation.

Terry has been an active collector, buyer, and seller of antiques, collectibles, and decorative arts since the 1970's in this valley. He was co-owner and Operations Director of the Country Antique Fair Mall from 1981 to 1995. He established the Santa Clarita Antique Center in 1996, running it until he retired in 2004. In 2007, he was asked by COC Vice President Dr. Mitjl Capet to create a Community Extension Series in Antiques Appreciation. He has presented the series into 2008 and he brings his hands-on approach to the Santa Clarita Historical Society with three Saturday seminars, beginning in January 2009. Terry is an Accredited Member of the International Society of Appraisers and the Appraisers National Association.



Terry Sonntag

THREE SATURDAY SEMINAR WORKSHOPS (ALL SESSIONS ARE FROM 9:00 AM-1:00 PM)

ANTIQUES FOR ANYONE January 10, 2009

This workshop will include antiques, decorative arts and collectibles. Development, historical aspects, trends and valuations will be explored. You may bring a few items of your own to share and discuss. Handout materials included. **Fee: \$45**

HOW TO BE AN ANTIQUES DETECTIVE February 14, 2009

Investigate the various aspects of construction, hardware, tools, fakes, reproductions, repairs, and trends. A portion of the seminar will explore the use of ultraviolet light and what it will reveal. Bring a few items to discuss and share. Handout materials are included. **Fee: \$45**

DO I NEED AN APPRAISAL? March 14, 2009

This consumer session is eye-opening as to ethical and professional standards of antique and personal property appraising. We will explore myths of popular TV shows, when and why you may need an appraisal, written and verbal reports, authentication, and how to approach valuation and research. This session will clear the air about insurance, estate, divorce and other legal appraisals that are required. Bring in a couple of items to share with the group. **Fee: \$45**

One book on antiques will be a door prize at each session!

Recent Docents

Thank you to the following members who served as docents during October and November

Frank Adella	Karen and Bill Limbaugh
Phyllis Berman	Barbara Martinelli
Jeff Boultinghouse	RuthAnn Murthy
Sioux Coghlan	Alan Pollack
Sarah Floyd	E.J. Stephens
Francesca Gastil	Konrad Summers
Harold Hicks	Gordon Uppman
John Lesperance	Kristyn Van Wy

Join the SCV Historical Society Today!

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Memberships make great gifts for your historically-minded friends and family! To join or renew online, visit <http://www.scvhs.org> .

Flickers Report by E. J. Stephens

2009 promises to be a busy year for the “Flickers at the Junction” film series at Heritage Junction. The series, which came to life as “Friday Night Flickers” in late 2007, has grown in popularity since its inception due largely to the talent and charm of 96-year-old organist Bob Mitchell. Bob will again be on hand for our 2009 shows, beginning with a special “Valentino For Valentines Day” presentation, which will take place on February 14. Flickers presentations are also scheduled for the months of May, July, September, and November. We have a wonderful lineup of silent films planned for the year, and are committed to keeping the admission price down to only \$5 (which includes a bag of popcorn!)

Not all films shown at the Junction this year will be silent. We are in the planning stages for a special lecture/film presentation in late February called “James Dean & the 1950s in the Santa Clarita Valley”. The lecture will focus on the life (and death) of the Hollywood icon, with tales of how he passed through our area on the fateful final day of his life. A special screening of “Rebel Without A Cause” will go along with the lecture. Details will be posted on the Historical Society Website as they become available.

For anyone wishing to learn more about the cinematic history of our area, I will be conducting a class entitled “Newhallywood: The History of TV and Cinema in the SCV” on six Saturdays, beginning on March 21. This class will present the rich history of the classic movies and television shows that have been shot in our area since the early 1900s. Classes will take place at the Saugus Train Station at Heritage Junction, as well as at the actual filming locations. The cost is \$70, and anyone interested in attending should call Pat Saletore at 254.1275 to sign up.



Linda Rehberger Preparing a Door at the Saugus Station for Refinishing



Santa Considering Pat's Request for a Sewer in the Saugus Station



Bob Mitchell Celebrated His 96th Birthday Recently



Christmas Open House

Some January History of Entertainment in the SCV by John Boston

For more than a century, the Santa Clarita Valley has been a “Newhallywood,” home to movie stars and the filming site for hundreds of films, TV shows and mouthwash commercials. Here’s some interesting lore about our rich entertainment heritage for the month of January from yesteryear...

January 23, 1882

It would become one of the most significant books of the 19th century. Author Helen Hunt Jackson stopped off at the Camulos Ranch on January 23rd, 1882, off present-day Highway 126. There, she interviewed Blanca Yndart and from those tales would be born the inspiration for the novel, “Ramona.” This romantic novel would become one of the most influential books of the 19th century, helping to launch an epic real estate boom in California and debate amongst millions of Americans about the treatment of Indians.

January 6, 1922

A tent-show movie house set up in Newhall on this date and drew very small crowds. Seems their silent pictures were ancient even by 1922 standards. Back then, most folks drove into San Fernando to the Cody Theater for their flicks. Signal editor and film critic Blanche Brown was rather adamant about the inferior footage, noting: “The people of Newhall want up-to-date pictures or none at all.”

January 19, 1934

Remi Nadeau III was the grandson of Remi I who was one of Southern California’s most powerful men of the 19th century. Remi III would build a fabled deer park in Canyon Country, near the present-day Sierra Highway/Soledad Canyon intersection. It was Remi’s dream to bring every species of deer on the planet to his refuge. On this date, he had some rather famous visitors to his deer reserve - composer Ignatius Paderewski and Albert Einstein.

January 14, 1936

The SCV was home to perhaps more Western superstar actors than any place on the planet. On this date, Harry Carey was finishing up two movies - “Prisoner of Shark Island” and “Sutter’s Gold.” The former took place during the Civil War and in the latter, Carey played legendary scout Kit Carson.

January 5, 1943

It was as on this date that silent film screen legend William S. Hart left the St. Vincent Hospital after a successful eye operation. The same day, he announced that when he finally passed, he was going to donate his ranch to the community.

January 15, 1948

This was when the old Beacon Cafe lost its lease with Newhall Land and Farming. An old eatery friend took over the Beacon

and redecorated the coffee shop. The new owner? Tip Jardine, of Tip’s fame. Many of us still miss the old stomping grounds of the restaurant that moved all over the valley.

January 15, 1954

It was highly touted in magazines and a book called “Secret Eating Places of Southern California.” Still. Most locals had never heard of Marable’s. Charles Marable, owner of the Val Verde cafe, was creator of some of the best soul food on the planet.

January 30, 1955

I’ve always thought there’s something funny about photographers. On this date, Ross Rogers Wylie was convicted of making pornographic movies. When not making blue movies, Ross ran Newhall’s only photo store. Because he was a war vet with a good record, he drew a suspended sentence. think you’d undoubtedly smirk at the name of the male porn star: Stergos Sam Stamation. His female lead also has a pretty swank handle: Miss Connie LaRue Armstrong.

January 30, 1975

Big surprise. The Chamber of Commerce came out in favor of hosting the 1980 World’s Fair in Pico Canyon. Nearly 200 members of the chamber crammed into Sir George’s restaurant in Friendly Valley to salivate over some numbers. The World’s Fair would bring in an estimated \$10-\$15 billion in revenues to L.A. County, with many of those sticking right here in Santa Clarita. Of course, we never got the fair here. It ended up in Tennessee.

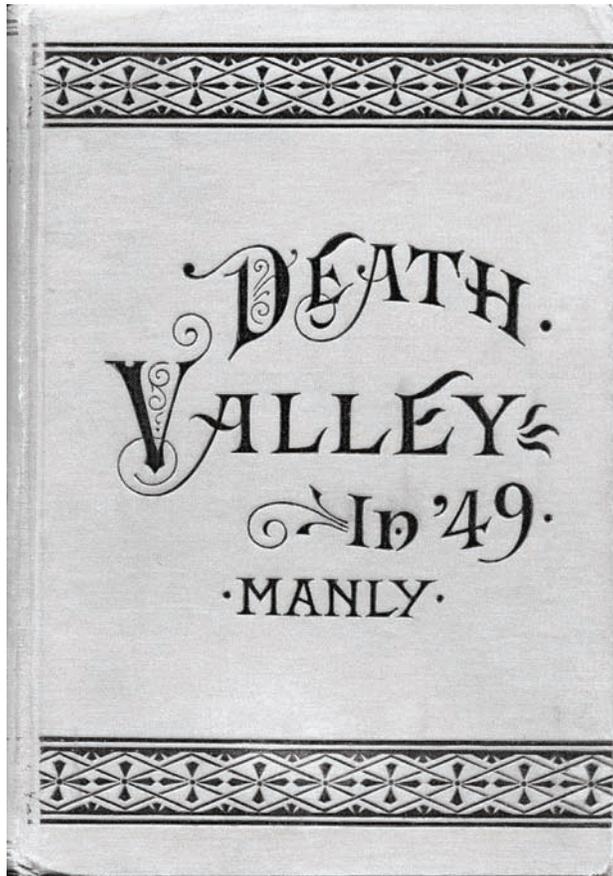
January 18, 1982

A few Newhallians were wondering what all the gunfire was about on San Fernando Road. A high-speed car chase ended with one vehicle flipping over. A man got out and started popping off rounds from a sawed-off shotgun and he got dropped by the driver of the other car. Turns out they were shooting an episode of the old TV show, “The Fall Guy.” Footnote to that, the TV crew caused double trouble. They didn’t bother alerting anybody - the local Sheriffs, the Chamber or anyone in the County - that they were shooting. So, several merchants called the cops when they saw what they thought were several heavily armed Hell’s Angels wandering up and down San Fernando Road. Sheriff’s deputies rushed over, ordered the actors to eat concrete and cuffed them until the matter was straightened out.

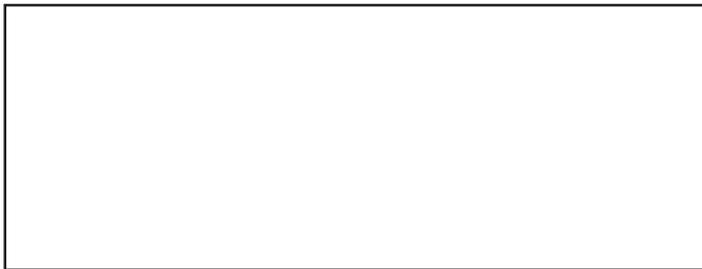
January 8, 2003

For me, the most entertaining thing to happen in the history of Western Civilization was the birth of my daughter, Indiana Boston. She’s 6 this month and a force of nature. Happy birthday, o mighty Indy Pie...





Read the story in the President's Report, starting on page 1.



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Telephone (661)254-1275
Headquarters: Saugus Train Station
24101 San Fernando Road, Newhall
Open to the public each Saturday and Sunday
1:00 to 4:00 PM
Kingsberry House open the first Sunday
of each month from 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Historical Society Board of Directors

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"Preserving the best of the past for the good of the future"

**Society Info: www.scvhs.org
Photo, Text Archives: www.scvhistory.com**