



The Heritage Junction Dispatch

A Publication of the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society

Volume 32, Issue 3

April-May 2006

Calendar

Saturday, April 8

Annual Tea, \$20 per person,
11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Saugus
Station

Monday, April 24

Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM Saugus Station

Thursday, Apr. 27

Art of the Chuckwagon \$35 per
person (Cowboy Festival partner
event; includes dinner, art show,
music, chuckwagon cooking
demonstration)

Monday, May 1

Deadline for the June-July
Dispatch

Saturday, May 6

Presentation on History of the
Ridge Route by Guest Speaker
Harrison Scott; free.
2:00 PM, Saugus Station

Monday, May 22

Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM Saugus Station

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 Carol Rock



preparations are underway for a year full of programs and activities.

Of course, it's not all play at the station and a couple of high-visibility events involve elbow grease and lots of teamwork. The Santa Clarita Rotary Club, which has always been a great supporter of the Society, will be painting the Newhall Ranch House in April, and a plug from Society member and

2006 has gotten off to a good start, with a good turnout for the dam tour (which was moved to March 19 due to road construction), tickets for our Cowboy Festival event "The Art of the Chuckwagon" are selling well, and

friend John Boston resulted in a query from the Kiwanis Club looking for a project to handle. Hooray!

The best part of all this as we see our neighbors wielding paint brushes or hoes or shovels is that every person who helps takes away a little piece of ownership and pride. When they drive by with friends and family, chances are they will point to the Junction and say "I helped fix that," or "I made a new friend" while they were in our park. The more owners, the more workers. The more workers, the more supporters. The more supporters, the more who celebrate our progress. Have you told two friends about the Historical Society today? Let's see what would happen if we all did!

I'd like to give special kudos to former President Leon Worden, who saw an

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COMING TO THE SAUGUS TRAIN STATION!

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2006 AT 2:00 PM

HARRISON SCOTT

PRESENTS

HISTORY OF

THE RIDGE ROUTE

**JOIN US FOR AN EXCITING POWERPOINT
PRESENTATION BY THE WORLD'S LEADING**

**EXPERT ON THE RIDGE ROUTE!!!
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
PAT SALETORE OR ALAN POLLACK**

AT 661 254-1275 (See page 4)

Wish List by Pat Saletore

- * Raise the semaphore signal! We need a concrete footing and a crane. John Lesperance will also need help getting it painted and rigged up to work.
- * Station housekeeping
- * Love power tools? Do you know how to run a trencher?
- * The telegraph clicker isn't working any more...do you have some simple wiring skills?
- * Paint the train yard fence.

We want to thank Bill Speer and Dale Cardelli, who have volunteered to refurbish the station's deck.

Annual Tea by Sue Yurosek

It's almost here!

The Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society's Annual Tea is coming a bit early this year! The Tea will be held on Saturday, April 8th, 2006 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Saugus Train Station. Yes, there will be a program!

Bring your mother, daughter, sister or brother, but seats are limited - so make your plans early. Cost will be \$20.00, with proceeds earmarked for restoration. For more information, contact Pat Saletore at 254-1275 or Sue Yurosek at 661 259-0810.



Cowboy Cooking by Cathie Kincheloe

The Cowboy Festival is coming and the Historical Society is offering a unique opportunity to experience "The Art of Chuck Wagon Cooking". Join us Thursday, April 27th for a wonderful meal featuring Shredded Beef, Chicken, Cowboy Beans, Green Salad, Biscuits, and finishing the meal with Cowboy Coffee and Peach Cobbler. Learn how the cowboys cooked on the open plains. The Newhall Ranch House will be open, with local artists displaying and selling art.

Dust off those cowboy or cowgirl boots and join us for an evening at Heritage Junction as we celebrate Cowboy Cooking!

Tickets are \$35 per person and are available from The City of Santa Clarita, www.cowboyfestival.org or call their ticket hotline at 661 286-4021.



Join the SCV Historical Society Today!

Life Member	\$350.00
Life Member with spouse	\$500.00
Corporate	\$200.00
Non-profit	\$50.00
Family Member	\$50.00
Regular member	\$25.00
Senior Member (60+)	\$15.00
Junior (18 & under)	\$9.00

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

President's Message

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immediate need and filled it. Some of you may have seen the defacing done by taggers to our storage shed next to the mogul engine. Several entities said they would handle the cleanup, but it was much longer than a month before anything was taken care of - and it was Leon who grabbed a can of paint and a brush to handle the job himself. No fanfare, no fuss. Just a friend of the Society who knew we needed immediate action. All credit and thanks go to Leon for removing this eyesore from the community.

Our work on partnering with the City of Santa Clarita is progressing; we are talking about architectural styles and designs for a visitor's center to be placed near Heritage Junction and the possibility of remodeling our entrance to make it more welcoming. An event bringing together the boards (and significant volunteers) of the Society and the Friends of Hart Park is being planned so we can learn more about each other and possibly do a little bridge-building.

Those of you who haven't been into the museum for awhile need to come see the handiwork of Sue Yurosek and Pat Saletore - they have redone labels with more information and in a very creative way - I'll save the surprise for your visit. Many items have been relocated into places that make them easier to see and appreciate. Come visit the museum and say hello to some of our new docents - they'd love to meet you and share their newly-learned history lessons with you.

I hope to see you at the Art of the Chuckwagon, as well as the informative presentation on the Ridge Route by historian Harrison Scott on May 6. Remember, the Society is a wonderful way to keep the heritage of our community alive - join us today!

Carol

Recent Docents

Thank you to the following members who served as docents during February:

Francesca Gastil	Carla Crancer
Marla Khayat	Jeff Boultinghouse
Konrad Summers	Barbara Martinelli
Barbara Milteer	Iris Arnold
Bill and Karen Limbaugh	Sioux Coghlan
Alan Pollack	Greta Dunlap
Harold Hicks	Michelle Veasman

Also, special thanks to Joanie Walters for adopting the chapel, which is now open on Sundays!

Executive Director's Report: The Rodent Wars! by Pat Saletore

OK...mice are a problem. Rats are a bigger problem, but I think **they** are getting under control; I am holding my own. The rats are "onto" the sticky trap thing, as they have enough intelligence to communicate the danger with each other. I have bought a humane rat trap and have already caught a mouse in only 2 days of operation. Current wisdom holds that is about all I will catch, because the rats are too smart. Judging by the amount of rat droppings, the population of rodents is holding steady.

Things are getting clearer now, however. We have SQUIRRELS! I went up to the "library," and just above the old newspapers was an 8 INCH HOLE. Apparently there was once a stovepipe there, and someone covered it with... something... and the squirrels chewed a hole in it! Then they went across the top of the newspapers to a hole in the transom. Standing by the newspapers you could see DAYLIGHT through the wall! John Lesperance plugged up the hole with a piece of metal and took the air conditioner out of the window because there was a big gap in that window, too.



I want a kitty! (But I need a door to the stairway first.)

I think we are finally winning the Rodent Wars, without resorting to spreading any poison. Talk about defending your borders! We are surrounded and WAY outnumbered. And now we have to worry about cleaning up after the invading forces are finally at bay! Anyone out there game for some housekeeping duty?

And in other news-

Docents: The walking tours finally happened, after being cancelled due to weather TWICE, and virtual tours are being distributed.

Rotary has agreed to paint the Ranch House! Pressure wash is scheduled for April 8, priming for April 15, and painting for April 22-23.

We now have about 1,500 photos catalogued on PastPerfect.

Sorting photos and placing them into archival sleeves continues, with Pat Boultinghouse helping at home with the Mike Brown and Jeanette Sharrar Collections

The Emergency Plan has been filed with LA County Parks, and is posted by the security pad and in the hallway to the

Harrison Scott To Speak On The Ridge Route

By Alan Pollack

As part of the newly re-established SCV Historical Society Lecture Series, we are proud to present Harrison Scott, noted author of the book "Ridge Route- The Road That United California" at the **Saugus Train Station on Saturday, May 6, 2006 at 2:00 pm.** Mr. Scott will be giving a PowerPoint presentation on the history of the famous Ridge Route, the road which preceded Highway 99 and Interstate 5 through our area. It was the first road to serve as a direct connection between the Los Angeles area and Central and Northern California. He will also be giving an update on efforts to restore the road, which was heavily damaged during last year's rainstorms.

Today as we travel easily and quickly along Interstate 5 to the San Joaquin Valley, it is hard to imagine a time when, along the same route, there was nothing but a formidable mountain barrier. In the early years of the 20th century, an auto traveler from Los Angeles taking the "Tejon Pass Route" would have to head up San Francisquito or Bouquet Canyons to the Leona Valley near Lancaster and then along the present day Route 138 to reach the Grapevine Grade. In 1915 the Ridge Route was completed along the crest of the San Gabriel and Tehachapi Mountains, thereby establishing a more direct

route between Newhall and Bakersfield. There followed a colorful 18 year period when Model T's, Cadillacs, Packards, and Studebakers would stop at establishments such as the National Forest Inn, Tumble Inn, and Sandberg's Summit Hotel. The road was very winding and dangerous, with 697 curves, equivalent to 110 complete circles, between Castaic and Gorman. The Ridge Route quickly passed into history upon completion of the 3-lane Highway 99 in 1933.

Harrison Scott rediscovered the Ridge Route on a 1991 trip with his son to Visalia, and he decided that this historic road needed to be saved. Eight years of research along with the help of two men from the Forest Service culminated in National Register status for the road as a historic highway. Mr. Scott is currently Executive Director of the Ridge Route Preservation Organization.

We urge you all to attend this exciting presentation. In the coming months we will work on bringing in more interesting speakers and topics and expanding the educational opportunities we can offer to our members and the general public. For more information on this or other upcoming programs please call Pat Saletore or Alan Pollack at 661-254-1275.



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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