

The Heritage Junction Dispatch

A Publication of the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society

Volume 32, Issue 5

August-September 2006

Calendar

Monday, July 24

Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM Saugus Station

Tuesday, August 1

Deadline for the September-December *Dispatch*

Saturday, August 26

1:00 PM, Ice Cream Social, Invite Your Friends!

2:00 PM, Presentation on the History of Film in the SCV by Guest Speaker Marc Wanamaker; free. Both at Saugus Station

Monday, August 28

Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM Saugus Station

LOOKING AHEAD ...

Saturday, October 21

Heritage Haunt and Ghostathon, 3:00 to 8:00 PM, Saugus Station and Newhall Ranch House (See Page 2)

Sunday, October 29

Living History Event on the Mexican War in California, 2:00 PM < Heritage Junction

Saturday, December 9

Christmas Open House, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Saugus Station; in Conjunction with Downtown Newhall Holiday Events

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

Executive Director's Report by Pat Saletore



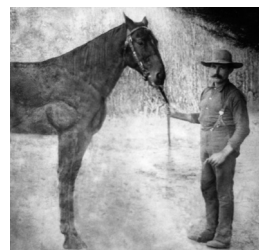
RuthAnne Murthy's book for third graders on Santa Clarita Valley History entitled *And The Years Went By* is finally in print! Copies have already been delivered to school districts in our valley. We hope to have a book signing and introduce it for sale to

the public in September. Watch for this event!

Think that Martha is our only ghost? Think again!

We're planning an outrageous Halloween event! This means that we will be needing volunteers! In an effort to tempt people to come and help us get interest, I want to put out some of our ghost stories into the general consciousness. Everyone in town seems to know about Martha, but pictured here, you see Rory MacGregor.

After several people from the street noticed "someone" in the upstairs of the Newhall



Ranch House, the SCVHS invited local psychic Rena Elliot Chiu to give us a reading on the house. While there, Rena met a man upstairs, and began describing him to the chairperson

working on the Ranch House. He wasn't tall, but wore 19th Century cowboy clothes with a big cowboy hat, and a handlebar mustache. Members who had attended on the moving of the Ranch House watched her with interest and one asked her to stop for a moment as he went to fetch something. When you move a building (and we have some experience with this), things fall out of the walls. How they get into the walls is something of a mystery!

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COMING TO THE SAUGUS TRAIN STATION!

**SCVHS PRESENTS: "HISTORY OF MOVIE MAKING IN THE SCV"
WITH FILM HISTORIAN MARC WANAMAKER**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2006

**MEMBERSHIP ICE CREAM SOCIAL AT 1:00 PM,
MAIN PRESENTATION AT 2:00 PM**

**COME LEARN ABOUT WILLIAM S. HART, HARRY CAREY,
TOM MIX, HOOT GIBSON AND MANY MORE!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT PAT SALETORE OR
ALAN POLLACK AT 661-254-1275
OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.SCVHS.ORG**

Executive Director's Report

Continued from page 1

He returned with one of these items, an old photograph of a man who fit the "ghost" she was describing right down to his suspenders! She told them his name was Rory MacGregor. This is the picture, on page 1. We don't know why he was there, but Rena described him as very polite, tipping his hat to her and speaking softly.

To sign up to work on the upcoming event call Pat at the Station: 254-1275. And look for more ghost stories in the Dispatch!

In recent days, several people have contacted me (unsolicited) to ask about becoming docents, plus we have a few brave souls who joined the ranks at the beginning of the year who are already serving WITHOUT any training... Thank you! You know who you are!!! The time has come to launch another class. We hope to start it on Saturday mornings beginning on September 9th at 9 am, to run for four weeks. There will be no charge for this, and at the end of the four weeks docents will be up to speed on the history of the Santa Clarita Valley and on how our museum and gift shop run. We haven't had a class for a long time and really do need some new docents! And here I already have people asking about it. How cool is that?

If anyone else wants to get involved in something more active than docenting, we have a few jobs that really need some

attention! Work is progressing on organizing the upstairs of the station. Most people don't even know what is upstairs. In fact those of us who do know...well, wish we didn't! It's a mess! Once we get this done, we intend to start work on the "library." This will include working with books, documents, maps and Heaven only knows what else! If you are looking for adventure...you know what to do!

In May I got to meet Vicki Carrillo Norton, who is a descendent of Cyrus Lyon. She brought over her collected information on his descendents, including some original photos and other things. She promises to give me copies for the Society's library.

Three computer monitors are now set up in the Saugus Station to continuously run a slide show on our local history.

• We would like to especially thank the following for their generosity with their time:

During the recent "Beyond the Gate" event from Grace Baptist Church, a mob of people came, cleaning, doing weed abatement and lots of other, really, really hard work. But we would also like to recognize Bob Klar for doing some much needed welding during that event.

We would like to commend Becki Basham for taking on the rooms upstairs in the Station. This will be a long term project that is going to be a LOT of work.

Becki and Roger Basham also donated a computer monitor for use in the museum and are also arranging for Felicia Grady to donate one as well. Both are with Realty Executives. Thank you to both the Bashams and Felicia.

Heritage Haunt & Ghostathon! Saturday, October 21, 2006 by Greta Dunlap

Volunteers are needed for a spookingly fun event - **Heritage Haunt**, a fundraiser for the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society! Families will enjoy a haunted house in the Saugus Train Station (ages 6+), fortune telling, trick o' treating on Main Street, delicious food, and listening to ghost stories about the spirits at Heritage Junction. The Newhall Ranch House will be the site of the **Ghostathon**, an overnight which will include a ghost hunt, delicious dinner, continental breakfast and séance.

Please call Pat Saletore at 661 254-1275 to volunteer. Help is needed to set up the haunted house on weekends ahead of time and also on the day of the event, as well as ticket takers, walking spirits, staffing of the haunted house, handing out trick o' treats, clean up, and staffing our charming gift shop and museum. We are also looking for **sponsors to help** defray costs: restaurants, printers, party supplies, etc. Please let us know of any business we could contact.

A portion of the proceeds will help restore the Pardee House. **Thanks for your help.**

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>.

Recent News

NEWHALL.

Correspondence of the TIMES; W A BROPHY
Los Angeles Times (1881-1886); Sep 26, 1882

NEWHALL.

A Flourishing Town with a Future Before it—Lines of Business.

Correspondence of the TIMES.]

NEWHALL, Sept. 23, 1882.—The business prospects of our pleasantly situated little town were never better than at present. Newhall is destined at no distant day to be an important business center. The developments in the oil country continue very favorable, and lumber and machinery are being received here daily. A large warehouse is being erected near the depot by the oil company for the storage of oil and machinery. Four new boilers weighing 5000 pounds each are lying at the depot awaiting transportation to the wells seven miles distant. A new line of pipe has been laid from Santa Clara river to the wells for conveying water, and a pump weighing 7500 pounds placed at the river to force the water up to the wells some 1600 feet in elevation above the river. Five miles distant a new town has been laid out at the oil works called Mentryville, and five dwelling houses are already erected. The prospect of the Coast Railroad forming a junction with the S. P. R. R. at this place is good, as this is the nearest point that can be reached.

The following large companies are now operating in this vicinity: Pacific Coast Oil Company, California Star Oil Company, Pennsylvania Oil Company, and Palomas Placer Mining Company—the latter a hydraulic mining company.

The present business of Newhall is as follows: One large hotel, the southern grain warehouse, oil warehouse, depot, blacksmith shop, three saloons, two livery stables, one restaurant, kept by an enterprising Celestial, two Chinese laundries, one oil refinery, lumber yard and two large general stores. No doctor, lawyer or preacher nearer than thirty miles; one large, handsome schoolhouse and no church. W. A. BROPHY.

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Estella Simmers' Trip to Yosemite through Newhall, 1905

My Dear Florence,

I have my little red notebook here before me to help me remember and shall start my long letter to you now — tho when it will be finished I cannot say.

First the members of the party and a little about each one. There were Mr. And Mrs. Anderson, (Mr. A. conducted the party - owned the horses, etc.) who have been married only about five or six months. We all called them "Pa" and "Ma," tho they were not much over 30.

Then there were Mr. & Mrs. Green and two daughters, Helen aged 15 and Olive, a Willesly College girl who came from Mass. And joined us in Yosemite. The Greens are Mass. People who spent last winter in Pasadena.

Mr. Fowler and Mr. Twombly, both old bachelors - William Landon - Harry Fobes and Jesse Lerch all young fellows. Bessie Le - Myrtle Anderson - a cousin of Mr. Anderson joined us near the Valley and made the trip from there with us.

We had two wagons — a passenger and baggage - and two saddle horses one of them being Helen Green's. The wagon we rode in had four seats and two sometimes three rode on the front seat of the baggage wagon, which carried our "grub" box - mattresses beds and clothing. Our wearing apparel was in bags rolled up in our bed clothing and all rolled up in a large canvas. At night this canvas was used to put on the ground under our mattresses with half left to turn up over the outside of our covers. We four girls made our beds along in a row and slept together. But I am getting ahead of my tale — for we have not started yet - have we?

We did start about 10:30 am, June 19, 1905 drove for several hours then stopped for lunch at Eagle Rock School House. Here we decided that time was too short to say Miss and Mr. For a five weeks trip so first names came to the front. One of the boys named me "Sal," and "Sal" or "Sally" was the name I heard most —tho they called me by a dozen others. I do believe anything ending in a "fine" or "deen" - "Evangeline" - "Aberdeen" - which some wit changed to "Gaberdeen" - Stellafine" - "Josephine" sometimes - but mostly "Sal." I did not care much what they called me if only they called me in time for meals.

Well, after an afternoon's drive we made our night camp at San Fernando. A tent was put up for the girls, which we used as a dressing room - but our beds were just outside the tent so we could easily roll into the tent in the morning. Of course, we felt a little creepy sleeping out for the first time - and in fact had little sleep as trains passing kept us awake. We heard coyotes in the night.

Continued on Page 4

Trip to Yosemite - 1905

Continued from page 3

Next morning we were up with the sun – almost – and after a good breakfast were ready to start. We did not have a cook - so divided work up among us all. This day we had the Newhall Hill to cross, which Mr. Anderson says, is the steepest grade between here and the North Pole. We had a balky horse and we had trouble going up the hill - took three hours - but at last we were over it and on the way again. I rode horseback for the first time this day - and of course had some trouble keeping on when the horse went fast.

We camped in the San Francisquito Canyon for the night and next day drove to the summit over quite a hill. Then we had our first sight of the desert. We camped at a farm house - the only place we could find water - and heard so many rattlesnake stories that we girls slept in the header wagon. The wind blew a perfect gale all night and we were in fear every minute that our bed would blow over – but it didn't. The ride over the desert - next day was far from pleasant for the sun was hot - and the wind still blew. The

desert has no vegetation except sagebrush and yucca palms. I have a picture of a yucca palm taken there. We did not have a nice camp this night – were too many cows around – and too many 'stickers in our beds.

The next day - Friday - we crossed an 18 mile stretch of sand where there is no sign of vegetation except a few trees away off on the edge. The sun beat down upon us and the ride was slow for sand make hard pulling. No water at all for the horses - and only the little we could carry ourselves. Here we saw mule teams - from 18 to 24 mules to a wagon - hauling ore from the mines across the desert. The driver rides on the horse next the wagon with a single line, which is attached to the lead mule on the left side. It takes lots of cuss words and rocks to make them work - but most of the drivers are equal to the occasion. After we left the sand soon reached a good camping place on a large ranch.

Next day - Saturday - 23rd - we arrived at Bakersfield.



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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**