



# The Heritage Junction Dispatch

A Publication of the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society

Volume 37, Issue 1

January-February 2011

## Calendar

### Saturday, January 8

First of four Saturday classes on film history of SCV

### Monday, January 24

Board of Directors Meeting  
6:30 PM Saugus Station

### Tuesday, February 1

Deadline for the March - April Dispatch

### Saturday, February 26

Talk on Early Warner Brothers' Studio, 2:00 PM Saugus Station

### Monday, February 28

Board of Directors Meeting  
6:30 PM Saugus Station

Check [www.scvhistory.org](http://www.scvhistory.org) for other upcoming events.

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

## President's Message

by Alan Pollack



You ain't seen nothin' yet!! Many of us in the Santa Clarita Valley have experienced two major earthquakes in our lifetime, the Sylmar quake of February 9, 1971 and the Northridge quake on January 17, 1994.

But none can compare with the "Big One" which occurred at Fort Tejon back in 1857.

### THE SYLMAR EARTHQUAKE

As a young child growing up in North Hollywood in the 1960's, I remember a number of smaller earthquakes which were actually rather "fun" to experience, watching the swimming pool sloshing around and feeling the mild undulating motions of the ground underneath. For me, all the fun ended in the early morning hours of February 9,

1971, when I and many others were jolted out of a sound sleep by a massive 6.6 magnitude earthquake. Although it has been referred to as the Sylmar (or San Fernando) earthquake, the epicenter of this quake was actually in our neck of the woods, the Sand Canyon area. The Sylmar earthquake resulted in the collapse of a wing of Olive View Hospital, the loss of 49 lives in the collapse of the Veterans Administration Hospital in San Fernando, the collapse of the just completed 5-14 interchange in the Newhall Pass, and a near catastrophic partial collapse of the Van Norman Dam which could have flooded the northern San Fernando Valley. In total, 65 people were killed in the 1971 quake. I can't say that I've ever "enjoyed" an earthquake since then.

### THE NORTHRIDGE EARTHQUAKE

You would think one major earthquake is enough for anyone's lifetime, but alas that was not to be the case. Two years later, I was

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**LECTURE AND BOOK SIGNING ON  
EARLY WARNER BROTHERS' STUDIO-  
SAUGUS STATION  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2:00 PM**

**FREE; SEE PAGE 3**

## President's Message

*Continued from page 1*

vacationing in Mexico City, and was awakened yet again, this time by a 7 point earthquake centered in Puebla, Mexico. The hotel actually split in half. Being a quake veteran, I remained "brave and calm" while the other tourists ran wildly out of the building.

In 1991 I moved from the San Fernando Valley to the SCV, and these earthquakes seemed to follow me wherever I went!! As if the third time was the charm, the 1994

Northridge earthquake rocked me out of a sound sleep on my couch in Newhall (yet again in the early morning). This 6.7 magnitude shaker, with an epicenter at the intersection of Reseda Blvd. and Saticoy St. in Reseda, caused billions of dollars of damage throughout Los Angeles and Santa Clarita. Once again the freeway interchange in the Newhall Pass collapsed, causing months of traffic nightmares for SCV commuters. Policeman Clarence Wayne Dean lost his life when he drove his motorcycle off of a collapsed freeway bridge; today the interchange is named in his memory. The largest death toll occurred at the Northridge Meadows Apartments, where 16 people were killed when the building collapsed.



*Sylmar 1971*

### THE BIG ONE - FORT TEJON!!

These were big earthquakes, but they were not the "Big One!" The last monster earthquake to occur in Southern California, dubbed the Fort Tejon Earthquake, took place at 8:20 AM on January 9, 1857, on the San Andreas Fault, which passes within 40 miles of the SCV. Regarded as probably the largest recorded quake in California history (stronger even than the similar magnitude 1906 San Francisco earthquake), this 7.9 temblor ruptured 225 miles of the San Andreas Fault from Parkfield to Wrightwood. The epicenter was considered to be in the Parkfield/Cholame area (later the site of James Dean's fatal auto accident in 1955). Thankfully, there was little loss of life due to the sparse population at the time. It is sobering to note that the modern-day towns of Frazier Park, Lancaster, Palmdale and San Bernardino would have been right on top of this mammoth shaker. The heaviest shaking and greatest damage occurred at Fort Tejon, which had just been established in 1854. Only 2 lives were lost in this quake.

### PERSONAL AND NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS

In 2006, Scripps Institute Of Oceanography (U.C. San Diego) published "Reports of the Great California Earthquake of 1857", a compilation of newspaper and personal accounts of the quake. In his official report from Fort Tejon, Lt. Col. B.L. Beale wrote "... at about six o'clock this morning, the

shocks of an earthquake commenced and have continued with more or less violence, at intervals of five or six minutes, up to this time. The destruction to property, both public and private, has been immense. Many of the buildings at this Post have been so injured as to be totally uninhabitable..." The Los Angeles Star newspaper of January 10, 1857, reported "Yesterday morning, about half past 8 o'clock, a very severe shock of an earthquake was felt here, the

vibrations continuing for fully two minutes...Doors were slammed to and fro, water was turned out of bowls and pitchers, and in the river the water rushed violently from one bank and then back again...It caused a general turn out, some rushing from their beds without stopping to dress."

Also reported in Harpers Weekly Journal of February 21, 1857: "At Fort Tejon and the Kern River district, the shocks were most disastrous, and had the country been thickly peopled, the consequences might have been fearful. The second shock at Fort Tejon was felt at half-past eight o'clock, and lasted from three to five minutes, resembling in sound the rumbling of a train of cars. Nearly all the buildings in the vicinity were seriously injured, and several narrow escapes are recorded. . . It is believed that the earthquake was more severely felt at Fort Tejon than at any other point in the State, and it will require much time and expense to repair the damage done."

One final thought. All of these quakes took place in the early morning hours, and all (except the Mexican quake) occurred in January or February! Coincidence?? Have you updated your earthquake kit lately??

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## President's Message

*Continued from page 2*

### HAPPENINGS AT THE JUNCTION

Keep your calendars open for some exciting events upcoming at the Historical Society! Be sure to sign up for SCVHS Board Member and film historian E.J. Stephens' popular "Newhallywood On Location: History of Film/TV in the SCV" Film Class starting on January 8. In four Saturday sessions, E.J. will take you through the history of movies and TV shows shot in the SCV. In addition to fascinating lectures, he will also take you to some of the actual film sites. E.J. will also be giving a free talk at the Saugus Train Station on Saturday, February 26 at 2:00 PM on his new book "Early Warner Bros. Studios" (part of Arcadia Publishing's "Images of America" series). A book signing will follow the talk.

We also have tentative plans for upcoming talks over the next few months: Some people whisper that the ghost of Milton Trumble still haunts the Santa Clarita Valley. On Saturday, May 14, in the Saugus Train Station, author Ann Mauer will present her research on the life of this secretive inventor who left his mark here. Trumble achieved global acclaim patenting the first continuous oil refining process in the early part of the 20th century. He butted heads with William S. Hart when Hart was settling in to his new mansion on the hill overlooking Newhall.

Also returning to the Train Station on Saturday, June 25 will be documentary film producer Ted Faye as he discusses the transition from mules to railroads for the Pacific Coast Borax Company (later U.S. Borax) and shows his film on one of the most dramatic events in Death Valley's colorful history. Archival film footage, interviews, and never-before-seen footage of some of the trains in motion make this a presentation you won't want to miss. Ted's access to the Borax Company archives over a period of several years gave him an extraordinary amount of literature and information which cursory research would not have revealed. This promises to be a fascinating event, with a presentation, artifacts, and an entertaining, informative film that will tell the Death Valley railroad story as it has not been told before. Join us for "The Great Desert Railroad Race!"

Heritage Haunt 2010 came and went, but only with an extraordinary effort by Scott Sivley and the Haunt volunteers. It seemed to patrons that the production just ran, even though there were a few speed bumps. But there was a LOT of work behind the scenes. Months of set up during the hot summer months tried workers' spirits. The nights of the Haunt, actors did the same thing, over and over and over. Then, when everyone else considered the event over, some diehards stuck around for the clean up. Scott has listed some

volunteers who really threw their back into the project. Among the "core group" were Ralph Nazarian, Roberto Torres, Patty Murphy, Glen Terry (aaarrrrrhg) and Ed Marg Sr. The following students were also singled out for recognition: Kyle Gibbs, Wyatt Thompson, Juan Jimenez, Ashley Murphy, Alonzo Torres, Christian Sivley and Jacob Sivley.

The bad news is: These dedicated volunteers are pretty burned out. So we might not be putting forth another event next year. It's disappointing not just because the event was great fun for the community, but the Haunt brought in thousands of dollars for the SCVHS! We all hope that with time and recuperation, they might consider doing it all again!!

We would also like to thank our dedicated volunteers, headed up by Francesca Gastil, for putting up our Holiday decorations this year. They included Cindy Chubb, Bret Cotton, Manny Santana, Stefanie Duarte, Vanessa Macias, Ashley Borow, Matt Valladares, and others. Heritage Junction looked spectacular for the Holidays, especially at night.

We wish everyone at the Historical Society a great 2011... and see you all at the Train Station!!!

Alan Pollack

### Recent Docents

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

Frank Adella	Barbara Milteer
Jeff Boultinghouse	RuthAnne Murthy
Laurie Cartwright	Alan Pollack
Sioux Coghlan	The Questers *
Sarah Floyd	E. J. Stephens
Francesca Gastil	Konrad Summers
Harold Hicks	Kristyn Van Wy
Karen and Bill Limbaugh	Michelle Veasman
Barbara Martinelli	

Don't know who the Questers are?  
See [www.questers1944.org](http://www.questers1944.org)

Bill and Karen Limbaugh will be leaving us in January. They are moving to Texas. Happy for them....sad for us. They are among our most reliable docents. All the best to you both!

## Election Time for the Board of Directors by Sioux Coghlan, Nominations Chairperson

**John Boston**, although his term was not finished, has decided to resign as a regular Board Member, in favor of being an Honorary Board Member. In his place the sitting board has appointed **Mike Jarel**, who has been the person responsible for putting up our train signals and signs. He is our resident expert on all things railroad here.

Nominations were taken at the November meeting for the Board of Directors of the Society. Regretfully **Nancy Cordova** has chosen not to return for another term in the coming year due to family responsibilities. She promises to continue to work with the Questers on the Kingsbury and Edison Houses, and with Sue Yurosek on the tea. She may run again for the Board in time. For this election, which will be by written ballot held on January 24 at 6:30 PM, we will consider the following candidates for 6 available positions:

### The Incumbents

**Duane Harte** runs a mailing house and is our current treasurer. He tracks the Society's income and expenses. He also acts as bartender, voice of fiscal reason, and occasionally, Santa Claus. Although he is active on several other boards, he can be counted on to show up at almost all of our events or in any emergency, no matter how small.

**Cathy Martin** is a checker at Ralphs Market in Valencia. She manages our gift shop, which is open on weekends. The shop is often complimented for the unique stock that she buys.

**Barbara Martinelli** is a retired math teacher. She has taken over the school tours project and is in love with the Mitchell Adobe. She brings a serious logic to all our considerations on the board. She is a no-nonsense kind of person who loves our history and is the only active docent who has been a docent longer than Pat.

**Laurene Weste** is just stepping down as Mayor of the City of Santa Clarita. She is the strong voice of the Society at the City. She is also involved in a great many other organizations, including as president of our sister organization, Friends of Hart Park. She has her own way of getting things done for the Society.

**Sue Yurosek** is a retired farmer's wife, but hardly idle. She is our Restoration Chair, in charge of work done in the buildings, and also a Quester, active in maintaining both the Kingsbury and the Edison Houses. She also puts on our annual tea fundraiser in the spring.

### The Non-Incumbents

**Paul Duryea** is a retired Glendale PD Detective. He has been a member for some time, but was not active. He started coming in once a week to help with the weed whacking in the train yard, but when it got too hot to do that, he came inside and started sorting loose papers from boxes in the "library" upstairs—every day! He now probably has a better grasp of the history of the Society than the current board.

**Ed Marg** is a fiber optics engineer. He started Heritage Haunt in 2007, and while he is no longer doing the haunt, he has fallen in love with our buildings. He brings a great deal of energy and enthusiasm, and also a wonderful technical background that should help us greatly.

## Hart Happenings by Ayesha Saletore



Through collaboration of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, the Hart Museum's mansion reopened on Wednesday, December 22, 2010 after having capital

improvements made to better protect the building and artifacts housed inside.

The Park and Museum are currently open for winter hours. The Park is open 7 days a week until 5:00 PM. The Museum is closed on Monday and Tuesday, but is open for guided tours Wednesday-Friday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM (last tour begins at 12:30 PM) and Saturday-Sunday from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM (last tour begins at 3:30 PM). Guests are welcome to view the Museum through guided tours which begin every half hour and last approximately 30 minutes. Admission is free. For more information on the Museum, visit [www.hartmuseum.org](http://www.hartmuseum.org) or call 661 254-4584. For more information on the Park, visit [parks.lacounty.gov](http://parks.lacounty.gov) or call 661 259-0855.



From: Tony Newhall

To: Pat Saletore

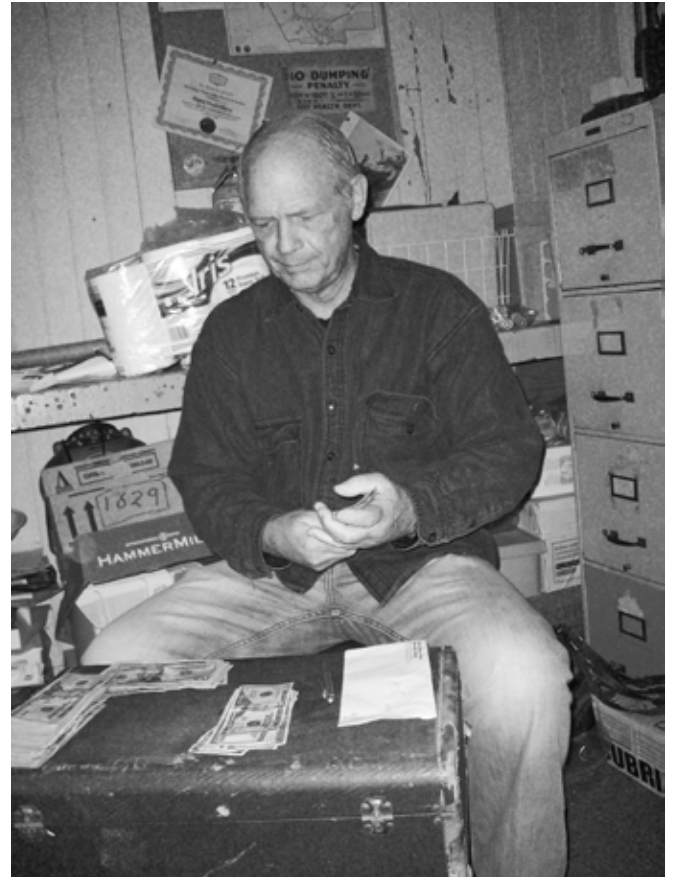
Sent: Fri, November 19, 2010

Subject: Re: photos

Everyone with the Newhall Foundation was very impressed with the Station. They rarely get to see any material benefits of the grants. The painting of the Station was an unusual exception, and they all liked it.

We are grateful to Sue and you for the personal tour of the Station and the look at the Mogul. This was the highlight of our two-day Foundation board meeting. Thank you.

Tony



*Duane Harte Counts Cash Taken in by Heritage Haunt*



*New World Dance Troupe Entertains a "Monster" During Heritage Haunt*

## Standing in the Ice Water at 2:00 in the Morning by John Boston

I remember more than a few rainy days ago, I had the most interesting early morning adventure - the operative word being "early." I'm naturally a nocturnal being, so I can do 2:00 AM standing on my head. Vampires, coyotes and sleepy-eyed all-night diner waitresses in tight-fitting black mini-skirts - we all know each other by first name, but I never thought I'd be standing shin-deep in the river at the time when bars are just closing.

My friend got his truck stuck in the wash. Like, at 'O' Dark Thirty.

My house was originally built in the 1880's and used to sit at the end of a small box canyon on this dirt road between two creeks. To get home, or away from it, you have to ford a creek. No problem, because we live in essentially a desert and our waterways are bone dry most of the year. But there's this thing scientists call El Niño, and we normal people call Winter. My allegedly dry riverbed is sometimes under Paul Bunyanesque amounts of raging water.

When the barranca is 10 feet deep and bank-to-bank, the decision to cross is pretty much a no-brainer. Navy Seals could inspect the churning rapids, shake their collective head and say, "Can't be done. Discretion the better part of valor and all that, thank you very much, nuh-uh."

But when the rain is long gone, stars twinkling and the river level is a tantalizing shin deep, not knee deep, but shin deep, that's when you get into trouble.

We used to have a tradition: Friends came over Thursday evenings for casual grub and "Seinfeld." The rain marooned us. Some fell asleep and spent the night on sofas. My pal with the truck waited for the water to go down. And waited. And waited. The level fell enough to tempt him with safe passage.

I tried to catch up on foot and warn him as he approached the downramp and slowly inched into the icy waters. In the starlight, his rear wheels spun out huge 10-foot-sprays of water, mud, rock and, I imagine, it being Placerita Creek, diminutive samples of gold dust.

The temperature was in the 30's. I put on my fetching little surf waders — they just about cover the ankles — and some Bermuda shorts. I got a shovel and waded out nearly up to my knees and tried to dig him out. I lost a friend and

former publisher to drowning in mud currents a few years ago. I kept the themes of Hubris, Karma and Don't Do Anything Real Stupid at the forefront of my mind.

I dug. I tried wedging small boulders under the rear wheels for traction. The stream kept spitting them out at me, and let me assure you, with the snow level down to 3,000 feet, run-off is mighty cold at 2:00 AM. Finally, we had to go to a Manly Man Source Higher Than Ourselves. I called Triple A and my pal, Oscar the Tow Truck Guy, showed up. We yelled instructions and ideas over the raging water, somehow hooked cable to axle and the truck was miraculously on the freedom side of the wash in a painless few minutes.

There's no great moral or message here, except that I'm wired funny. But there's something refreshing about living so close to civilization and yet being able to stand in mountain run-off with a shovel at 2:00 in the morning. I like lower-case adventures that pump the heart and don't end in tragedy. Someone near and dear to me summed it up nicely when she succinctly described adversity: "It's nice that we're hearty."

Yup.

*John Boston was named Best Humor Columnist in America by the National Society of Newspaper Columnists last year to go along with 118 other major writing awards. He still lives in the SCV. He authors thebostonreport.net.*

### Join the SCV Historical Society Today!

Life Member	\$350.00
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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>.



*Installing Christmas Lights  
On the Saugus Station*



*Santa's Helpers Bret Cotten and  
Ed Marg Help Decorate SP 1629, the Mogul Locomotive*



*Saugus Station  
with  
Christmas Lights*

# Upcoming Film Events by E.J. Stephens

I'm writing to let you all know about a couple of things coming to the Santa Clarita Valley.

First, I will be teaching another "Newhollywood On Location: History of Film/TV in the SCV" class on four Saturdays in January, 2011, beginning on January 8. The class features lectures, guest speakers, and clips from several of the films and television shows filmed around the area, as well as trips to the actual locations themselves. The class will be held at the Saugus Train Station at Heritage Junction in Newhall. The cost is \$50, or \$15 for any individual class if you can't make the full session. Classes last from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. For more details, contact Pat Saletore at 661 254-1275, or visit [www.scvhs.org](http://www.scvhs.org).

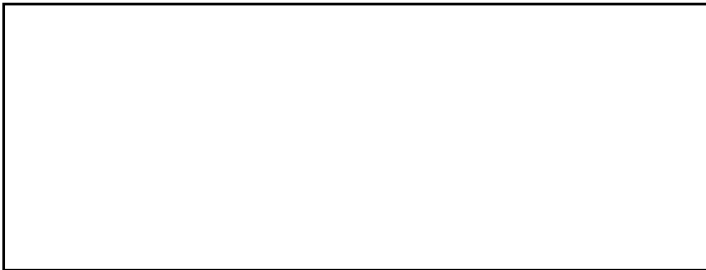
Also, on the weekend of February 5, the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society will be helping host the "2011 Santa Clarita Valley ChaplinFest," to honor the 75th anniversary

of the release of Charlie Chaplin's 1936 epic comedy, *Modern Times*. The final iconic scene from this film was shot nearby on Sierra Highway. It was the last scene of the entire silent era. For more information on this event, please go to: [www.scvchaplinfest.org](http://www.scvchaplinfest.org).

Additionally, If you would like to make a donation toward a historic plaque we hope to place that weekend at the site of the final scene, please visit the website, or go to our Facebook page at "Modern Times Plaque - Santa Clarita Valley ChaplinFest."

Information about these events is also available on my blog, "Deadwrite's Dailies," at [deadwrite.wordpress.com](http://deadwrite.wordpress.com)

Thank you all, and have a wonderful holiday season!



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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  
Kingsbury House open the first Sunday  
of each month from 1:00 to 4:00 PM

### Historical Society Board of Directors

- Alan Pollack ----- President
- Jeff Boultinghouse ----- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
- Sue Yurosek ----- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
- Sioux Coghlan ----- Recording Secretary
- Nancy Cordova ----- Corresponding Secretary
- Duane Harte ----- Treasurer

Gordon Glattenberg----- *Dispatch* Layout

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

**Society Info: [www.scvhs.org](http://www.scvhs.org)  
Photo, Text Archives: [www.scvhistory.com](http://www.scvhistory.com)**