President's Message
by Alan Pollack

I

t is with a great sense of honor that I have accepted the Presidency of the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society in addition to my duties as Program Chairman and my most cherished role, as a docent at the Saugus Train Station. These are big shoes to fill considering past presidents such as Tom Frew, John Mann, Leon Worden, and most recently Carol Rock.

The Board of Directors would like to thank outgoing President Carol Rock for her many years of dedicated service to the Board and the Historical Society. We wish her well and look forward to her continued active participation in the Society in the future. With the help of all my colleagues at the Society, I hope that we can continue the success that they have all brought to this organization. Much has been accomplished in the last few years, but we still have many goals and dreams that we hope to attain in the future.

Our most important mission is to preserve and teach the rich history of our rapidly changing valley. Since I moved to Newhall in 1991, I have seen much open space replaced by new homes and shopping malls, and many new people come to the valley. I'm sure those who have lived here longer than I have witnessed even more profound change.

While change will continue to happen, it is important that we keep alive the amazing stories of the pioneers who settled and built the foundations of civilization in this area; people such as Ignacio Del Valle, Sanford Lyon, Henry Clay Wiley, Alexander Mentry, and, most importantly, town founder Henry Mayo Newhall.

Through the years of development, we have lost many historic structures to the wrecking ball, but we have managed to save eight buildings which make up Heritage Junction, including our flagship, the Saugus Train Station. We would like to continue the restoration of these buildings, and hope to some day open them all to the public....but that takes a lot of money. We are working on ways to improve our fund raising efforts so that we may accomplish this long standing dream. There are still other historic buildings in Santa Clarita that deserve to be preserved. We hope to be in the forefront to make sure these structures do not meet the fate of so many others that have been lost to development and “progress”. We would like to have significant input as well in the restoration of Old Town Newhall. We have also had preliminary discussions with the planning consultant for the owners of the Beale’s Cut area in the Newhall Pass. They have expressed an interest in restoring Beale’s Cut to its former glory and have asked for our help.

As part of our mission to teach the general public about our history, we have in the past

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Tesoro Adobe
Outdoor Movie Night

On Saturday, July 14, the 1948 Western “Red River will be shown at Tesoro Adobe Historic Park, 29350 Avenida Rancho Tesoro in Valencia. Gates open at 7:00 PM, and the movie starts at 8:00 PM. There is no charge. There is limited seating in the amphitheater and on the lawn.

The film stars Harry Carey, Sr., Harry Carey, Jr., and John Wayne, and is presented by the Los Angeles County Dept. of Parks and Recreation. For information call 661-702-8953, e-mail Djallo@parks.lacounty.gov, or view their Web site at http://lacountyparks.org.

Recent Docents

Thank you to the following members who served as docents during April and May:

Frank Adella  Barbara Martinelli
Phyllis Berman  Sandy Neill
Jeff Bouldinghouse  Alan Pollack
Laurie Cartwright  Pat Salterore
Sioux Coghlan  Konrad Summers
Sarah Floyd  Gordon Uppman
Francesca Gastil  Kristyn VanWy
Bill and Karen Limbaugh  Michele Veasman

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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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year re-established a lecture program that has regularly been drawing up to 100 people at the Saugus Train Station. We have presented well received programs on such topics as the Ridge Route, movie making history, Ramona, Henry Mayo Newhall, with distinguished speakers like Harrison Scott, Marc Wanamaker, and Tony Newhall. As Program Chairman, I will continue to work on bringing interesting and exciting speakers to the train station. Coming in September (date to be determined), we will be featuring Bob Lopez, a descendant of Francisco Lopez, the man who discovered gold in Placerita Canyon in 1842. Mr. Lopez will speak on the gold discovery and his ancestor. I hope you will all continue to be with us at these important programs.

I would like to thank and honor all the docents and board members I have had the pleasure to meet over the past two years. You are the backbone of our organization, and perform a great service for the public. We are all volunteers, giving of our time for an endeavor and a cause that we all love. I hope to maintain an atmosphere where everyone…docents, board members, and other volunteers continue to get joy, pleasure, and fulfillment out of their activities with the Society. After all, that is why we all came here in the first place. I will continue to work with Executive Director Pat Salterore and board members Jeff Bouldinghouse, Sue Yurosek, Laurene Weste, Duane Harte, Cathie Kinchloe, Cathy Martin, Glenn Rollins, Nancy Cordova, and Barbara Martinelli to keep our organization strong and growing.

I would urge all the members of our organization to consider taking an active role in your Society. Volunteerism increases your sense of fulfillment and purpose in life. It is a wonderful way to give to the community. We would welcome your time and talents to help us expand what we can offer to Santa Clarita. If you are interested, please contact Pat Salterore at 661-254-1275. I promise you won’t regret it!!! We would also like to invite those who are not members to join our organization and help us preserve the history of the Santa Clarita Valley. This organization can only survive with continued growth in our membership.
Order Boards and Train Orders
by Gordon Glattenberg

Nowadays, most railroad main lines in the United States use Centralized Traffic Control (CTC) to enable a dispatcher in a central office to direct the trains to move forward or to enter a siding to meet other trains, by changing the signal indications or electrically operating switches. In earlier years, the dispatchers used telegraph or telephone to send instructions to lineside stations, where the operators issued written "train orders" to the trains. Saugus was one such station on the Southern Pacific Railroad.

Each train order station had an "order board", a manually-operated semaphore signal that indicated with its arms in a "stop" position that a train had to pick up orders. An order board has recently been installed in front of the Saugus Station in Heritage Square, located in front of the agent's office just as it was in the original location.

Trains usually picked up the orders without stopping. The orders were folded and tied in a loop of string, which was held in the spring-loaded arms of a "train order hoop." The orders typically included information on meets with other trains and temporary speed restrictions.

Saugus Station in Heritage Square with the Order Board in Place

Saugus Station with the Original Order Board, January 5, 1974

A Train's Fireman Picking Up Orders From a Train Order Stand

"Hooping Up" Orders at a Station Without a Train Order Stand:
Gordon Glattenberg at Summit, CA, Santa Fe Railway in Cajon Pass on August 9, 1959
Why People Volunteer

Some common motivations for volunteering are:

To have an impact
To be an advocate
To be part of a particular organization
Because of a commitment to a cause or belief
To be part of a team
To get to know a new community
To meet people and make friends
To learn something
To explore a career
To gain experience and build their resume
To gain a sense of personal pride and fulfillment
To feel needed and appreciated
For fun
As an excuse to do something they love
To use a particular skill
To give something back to the community
Because they were asked

(list from The Volunteer Recruitment Book by Susan J. Ellis)

Outside the Gates
by Pat Saletore

The Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend, we had a visit from the members of Grace Baptist Church with their “Outside the Gates” event. Every year the members of the church give up some of their Sunday to demonstrate that they believe in a life of service. What a beautiful expression of their faith! It also demonstrates their commitment to our community and our heritage. We had over 80 volunteers working at Heritage Junction sprucing up the park and cleaning the Station (I really love this part). This was not like “ho-hum...put in my time,” either. They hauled mulch, which was generously donated by Agromin, to the roses after taking out the weeds, painted, cleaned up...MOPPED THE STATION.

They have a crew of people who prefer to work inside and they just make the place shine. Their support gives us the confidence to start projects we couldn’t otherwise approach with our existing volunteers. I think the most beautiful part of the visit is that at the end of the visit, they THANKED us for having them. It is a stunning example of how much can be accomplished when we all work together.