



The Heritage Junction Dispatch

A Publication of the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society

Volume 38, Issue 4

July - August 2012

Calendar

Monday, July 23

Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM Saugus Station

Wednesday, August 1

Deadline for the September-
October *Dispatch*

Monday, August 27

Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM Saugus Station

Check 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



Sometimes an historical event hits a bit too close to home. Pat Saleore has moved to Las Vegas, NV. Following husband Dilip's job opportunity to the "Entertainment Capital of the World", the only Executive Director that the Historical Society has ever known leaves behind a legacy of growth and accomplishment, and an organization which has truly blossomed under her stewardship. Pat has worn many hats during her tenure as Executive Director. She has been the face of the organization to the media and the outside community. She has overseen the daily operations at Heritage Junction, making sure the facility remains open

and running each and every day. She has spearheaded a herculean effort to organize the vast archives of historical documents and photos that lie in the vaults of the Saugus Train Station. But most importantly, Pat has been there to motivate and mediate the wonderful volunteers, without whom the Historical Society could not continue to exist. In any great organization, there can at times be creative differences of opinion. Pat has been there to help people find a common ground to move forward. She has placed countless phone calls to make sure there are always docents available to man the Train Station museum on weekends. If she was unable to find someone, Pat would show up and do it herself. She has been the Society's liaison to the County of Los Angeles, advocating and negotiating for the best interests of the organization. Pat is also one of Santa Clarita's legendary local

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*Off to Nevada ...
See above and page 6*

President's Message

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historians. She was the “go to” person to answer historical questions from the media and community at large. When the local newspapers needed a quote from the Historical Society regarding some issue, they knew where to find Pat. And Pat knew where to find them, promoting the image and activities of the Historical Society to the community. Pat was there to apply for grants to help fund the needs of the Society. She was there to open and close the doors whenever an event was held at Heritage Junction.

For me personally, Pat has been my mentor and wing-man. She has taught me a great deal about running a non-profit organization and helped me maneuver through the various hurdles and challenges that come with the job of President. I will truly miss her guidance, wisdom, and friendship. To me Pat has been the heart and soul of the Historical Society over the years. I know that it must be painful for her to leave behind this noble endeavor to which she has devoted her life for so long. But I have a feeling we have not seen the last of Pat Saletore in this town. Like General MacArthur, I am hoping that one day she too shall return to fulfill the dreams she has to preserve the great historical heritage of the Santa Clarita Valley.

You could say that Pat Saletore is part Japanese. She was actually born in Tokyo, Japan, while her folks were on active duty across the Pacific. The family came back to the U.S. in 1956 and settled in Lewiston, Idaho, where Pat lived before moving to Southern California in 1977. Pat earned a bachelor's degree in bacteriology from the University of Idaho, but she found her true passion when she became a docent for the historical society in Lewiston. While in Idaho, Pat met and married Dilip Saletore. Dilip would eventually get a job with Keysor Century in the SCV, which necessitated the move to California. At first, the Saletores chose to live in the San Fernando Valley, but they moved to the Santa Clarita Valley in 1978 to be closer to Dilip's job and, as Pat says, to get “farther away from cruise night”. After moving to California, Pat initially stayed at home to bring up her three children, but then decided to take some classes at College of the Canyons. Pat says of her decision, “watching Sesame Street pretty much rots an adult's brain, and never talking to anyone over the age of 10 can make you question your ability to process complex thought”. Her plan was to get a teaching credential for Chemistry. But then she took a required class in Political Science.

It was the mid 1980's and a movement was underway to obtain Cityhood for Santa Clarita. For a required project

in her Political Science class, Pat chose to follow the Cityhood movement. As part of the project, she met and befriended future City Councilwoman Jill Klajic, who was actively involved in the quest to make Santa Clarita a city. Pat volunteered for Klajic and became part of the Cityhood army. After the movement succeeded in 1987, Pat remained active in local politics. She formed the “Parents Lobby”, a group which ultimately forced developers to pay more per square foot of development so that more schools could be built in the Valley to keep up with a rapidly growing population.

Pat would also become an active environmentalist in the valley. Along with current City Councilwoman Marsha McLean, Pat joined the fight against placing a landfill in Elsmere Canyon. Of her involvement with the Elsmere issue, Pat relates, “all of us in the core group spoke to the stupidity of the concept. It was foolish to consider putting yet another landfill in our area. My real value to the group seemed to be in exploration, and as a radical. Both of these positions were necessary and no one else was doing it. I found other hikers (stronger ones than I was - to keep me going), and we looked for natural and cultural justifications to stop the progress of the landfill. When we found beautiful waterfalls, rock formations and fossils, it sparked interest in the canyon that wasn't there before”. Pat's passion for the environment led to her becoming a Sierra Club hike leader. She eventually became Chair of the local Sierra Club group. She was also on the Board of the SCOPE organization for many years.

Pat's involvement with the Elsmere Canyon fight, along with her love of history, prompted her to become a docent with the Historical Society. Her initial objective was to get an overview of local history, and to further research the historical importance of Elsmere. But her interest in Santa Clarita history did not stop with Elsmere. Pat says “once I had a taste of SCV history, I was understandably hooked”. She eventually became a member of the Board of Directors of the Society. The Board recognized her dedication and passion, and when the need for an Executive Director of the organization became apparent, she was offered the position by then-President Carol Rock.

Pat has accomplished so much as Executive Director. She is most proud of her efforts to re-instill a sense of enthusiasm in the organization, a critical change which has set up the Society for continued success. Pat was instrumental in nurturing the success of the individuals who created the

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President's Message

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Heritage Haunt. Two of them, Ed Marg and Scott Sivley, are now members of our Board of Directors. She spearheaded the development of administrative offices in the upstairs rooms of the train station, where real historical work is now happening. She has established a new library which will soon be launched in the Pardee house, consisting of almost 2000 California history books. Her daily presence allowed us to obtain a sizable donation of valuable books on California history from the late John Margaretten, and she has worked closely with Maggi Perkins, granddaughter of local historian Arthur Perkins, to integrate a significant portion of Perkins' collection of books, documents and photos into the archives of the Historical Society.

To sum up her stint as Executive Director, Pat states "if you really think about the accomplishments, you will really see that it wasn't me who did the real work. One person could not do all of this. **Our organization** did all of this. Whether I am there or not, this organization is queued up to do some great things!" All that may be true Pat, but you will still be sorely missed by me and everyone else at the Historical Society. We wish you the best of luck and happiness in your new life in Las Vegas, but deep down we are hoping that someday you can return to complete your dream and continue the amazing things you have done for the people and historical legacy of Santa Clarita.

Alan Pollack

Recent Docents

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

Frank Adela	Anna Kroll
Wendy Beynon	Theresa Marg
Linda Casebolt	Barbara Martinelli
Sioux Coughlan	RuthAnne Murthy
Evan Decker	Alan Pollack
Lauren Dunn	The Questers *
Sarah Floyd	Konrad Summers
Francesca Gastil	Gordon Uppman
Harold Hicks	Michelle Veasman

Also, thank you's to the following, who opened the doors so that the docents could do their jobs:

Duane Harte	Barbara Martinelli
Ed Marg	Alan Pollack
Cathy Martin	

And thanks to these people who ran school tours:

Laurie Cartwright	Barbara Martinelli
Harold Hicks	The Questers

* Don't know who the Questers are?
See www.questers1944.org

Quester News by Roberta Harris

The Kingsbury House is sporting a fresh coat of paint, thanks to Oak of the Golden Dream Questers. Canyon Questers have made repairs to the Edison House Roof.

Ann Grayson of Heritage Reflections and Linda Hinz of Canyon have organized Quester volunteers to give school tours of both houses, the chapel, and the Schoolhouse to 3rd graders during April, May and June.

The Questers will be on board to welcome guests during SCV Wild West Days, July 1 and 2.

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>.

Two-Gun Bill as a Factory Foreman? by Rachel Barnes



New England factory foreman Robert Evans is concerned about the equipment in the shop – much of it is faulty and needs repair. Evans warns his boss, Henry Chapple, but Chapple is more focused on profit and contracts than the safety of his employees, and he brushes off Evans' concerns. Tragically, that same day Evans' son, Danny, who also works in Chapple's shop, is killed when he is caught in a defective conveyor belt.

Grief-stricken over the loss of his only son, Evans wanders aimlessly alongside a river when he witnesses Chapple's car, driven by a chauffeur, lose control and crash in the water. Evans rescues Chapple's infant son from the wreck, and bitter at Chapple's involvement in his own son's death, he kidnaps the boy to raise as his own, leaving Chapple and his wife believing their son died in the crash ...

No, this brief blurb isn't the beginning of the full story behind the latest news headline. This short intro is the premise of a Bill Hart film.

Wait, what? New England? Factory foreman? But Bill Hart was a *Western* film star – there isn't much "Western" in a New England set location and factory foreman main character. Well, believe it or not, Bill Hart did make a handful of non-Western films throughout his 11-year career, and this 1921 silent drama is one of them.

The film, entitled *The Whistle*, does not explore the cleansing spirit of the Western frontier as is typical Bill Hart fare, but rather peeks into the dark world of capital versus labor, and tackles the sensitive issue of labor exploitation and unrest – an especially sensitive topic given the film's release in 1921. *The Whistle* debuted immediately after almost 3 decades of workplace strife: labor unions developed, prolonged and deadly labor strikes occurred, and workplace disasters caused by poor working conditions were a reality, the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York City being one of the worst. The film's themes were true life conditions only a few years before its release, and it is reported that several states refused to release the movie because of its focus on labor strife.¹

¹ According to *The Complete Films of William S. Hart: A Pictorial Record* by Diane Kaiser Koszarski. Published in 1980 by Dover Publications, New York.

But today we celebrate this gem of a film, and you can come see it on the big screen on Saturday, August 11, 2012, at the annual *Silents Under the Stars* fundraising extravaganza. Enjoy this rare non-Western out "under the stars" after a delicious BBQ dinner catered by Rattler's and a rousing musical performance by the bluegrass group, All Digital String Band. We can't forget the famous "silent" auction featuring a variety of Western antiques and collectibles, as well as twilight tours of Bill Hart's mansion home, also a part of the evening's festivities. Tickets are \$50 / guest with no assigned seating, or \$500 to reserve a table for 10, and they are available now online at www.friendsofhartpark.org or by calling the Hart Museum at (661) 254-4584.

Hart Park News

The Music in the Park series will include performances on 3 Saturdays from 1:00 to 4:30 PM. Arts and crafts vendors are expected to be present.

Entry is free to the public.

July 14: Salsa, Merengue, Cumbia, and Latin Jazz

August 11: Gospel, Praise, and Inspirational

September 15: Bluegrass and Country



Construction of Magic Mountain's Superman Ride in May, 1996, required a crane nearly 500 feet tall

An SCV Record That Won't Make Guinness

by John Boston

Me, who has spent a life in this godforsaken high desert, loves rain. It washes away the dust nicely, pats down the soil, and fills the few places in the Santa Clarita still on well water.

I don't know if there is any science behind this or if it's just my own prejudiced eyes, but rain somehow makes grass grow better than water from a hose. Have you noticed? After even a modest sprinkling, the earth seems to take a grateful deep breath. Rain stays away for sometimes far too long around here, and there are months when it feels like Old Testament wrath. When I lived in Placerita, the only way to get home was to cross a normally dry creek. One year, when El Nino visited, we couldn't drive even the big 4-wheel drive truck across. The barranca had turned into an insane flood and roared like a never-ending, out of control train. I could never get my rain gear quite dry and one day, just climbed into a bathing suit and surf shoes to inspect the river's edge. That darn water. It crested, and the stream started flowing smack dab toward our front door. The creek behind started inching its way toward our back door.

A record ended on May 31st, 2012.

I may be the only darn person on the planet to notice it, and that frustrates me, I admit. I don't know how long this record goes back - it's at least more than 100 years old. Who knows; it may go back thousands of years.

Starting in August of 2009, it has rained every month of the year. If math serves me, that means it has rained 32 months in a row. That hasn't come close to happening since we started keeping records in 1888. So. Who knows? Maybe it rained for 33 months in a row prior to 1888. Maybe it didn't for - what? A century? Two? Ten?

I heard from oldtimers, who heard from oldtimers, that we had more than 100 inches of rain in 1861. But did it rain every month? Or was it all in a day?

It's rare. But we get sometimes get rain in May, maybe an odd dousing in June. It hardly ever, ever rains in July. Come August and September, a lost tropical storm may visit. But it's beyond strange where the SCV gets precipitation every month of the calendar. It's unheard of for it to rain just about every month for almost three years.

I feel like the man who has seen a UFO or Bigfoot. You can't help be animated about such an experience. I tell people about this rain record and they usually look distracted, like someone searching for safe ground when approached by a lunatic.

I remember the big rains of 1969, where God turned on the

fire hose every day in February, save for one. Up in Acton, they had 16 inches. That wasn't for the year. It was for one day. They evacuated animals on the upper Soledad from Africa USA, and what a sight, to see a giraffe and elephant being led to safety along the railroad tracks. That was when floods washed away the foundation under the big cat cages and handlers were shooting predators as fast as they could. Three full-grown African lions escaped. In a pounding storm, Sheriff's deputies held an unasked-for safari in a nearby trailer park where the beasts prowled. One officer shot a male as it charged at him. It dropped dead at his feet.

Can you imagine?

The surreal experience of coming home that night - your wife asking you: "So how did your day go today, dear?"

I marvel how over the decades, such a hubbub is recreated about the Polynesian Trailer Park is about to get washed away. Again. Take some time from speeding down Newhall Avenue near the 14 and just look.

Look up at the nearby mountains, framed by an ever-growing chain of higher and distant mountains. Ponder, for a moment, what was going through the builder's mind when he decided to put a mobile home community not only at the bottom of a creek, but at the base of an off-again/on-again Niagara Falls.

Foof.

I like the rain. As the years go on, I shall continue to tell disinterested yuppies that a marvelous record came and went. It rained for 32 months in a row in a dusty and often times brain dead suburbia and no one noticed.

Who knows. Maybe everybody was texting.

If I were king, or better, benign and powerful magician, I'd have it rain three times a week. Nothing monsoonal, just something to make rainbows and wash the dust off pick-up trucks, small children, dogs and leaves.

Short of that, I'd like it to rain at least once every month.

Wouldn't that be something?

If the record started up again this month and we went for 33 months? Or, please - longer?

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With 119 major writing awards, John Boston has been noted as one of America's top humorists and political satirists. Look for his major new multimedia website, thejohnbostonmagazine.com, to come out later this summer.

Tributes to Pat . .

Tributes have been pouring in for Pat Saletore as she bids farewell to Santa Clarita and the Historical Society. Here are just a few:

Duane Harte, Board Member:

“Some years back the Society Board of Directors decided that it would be in our best interest to hire an Executive Director. Someone to answer the phone and unlock the doors and generally do the day to day that none of us had time to do. We had no money to spend so it was difficult to hire someone that wanted to be paid for this job. Since Pat had been a member and docent of the Historical Society for quite a few years, it was decided that she was the perfect person to con, er, ask to fill the position. The rest is history.

As one of the recipients of her dozens of phone calls every day I always knew she was paying attention to business. Of course, as Treasurer, all I had to do was look at the monthly phone bills. Sprint didn't have a program large enough to handle Pats minutes. I think she's on their wall of fame. Then there were all the reimbursement expenses for various purchases that she swore were for the good of the Society. I must not forget the invoices from various vendors that Pat was buying from on what seemed like a daily basis.

Well, after all those expenses, what have we got? More members, more people giving and getting information on the Society, all of our archives gently and carefully protected for those who follow us and the Station looks great. Now we're stuck with the job of trying to find someone else to fill Pat's shoes which is, so far, an impossible task. WE MISS YOU PAT!

Duane”

Cathy Martin, Board Member:

“Pat and I go way back, not really all that long ago if we are speaking in 'historical terms'. I think it was in the 1980's some time. Pat was interested in composting and so was my mom, Laura Mehterian. I think I first met her at the Hart Park composting site. Laura and she were turning over a pile of compost. I'm sure Pat was manning the pitch fork. Later we would meet up again at one of the dump the dump rallies, and shortly after that at the Historical Society. I really got to know Pat when I was asked to serve on the Board of Directors as a mid term replacement, in the late 1990's. Pat was a great role model. Her main concern was preserving our historical sites, oak trees and river. At the time it seemed like we were losing

the battle on all fronts. Out of control development was taking over our valley. She was using a much smaller pitch fork now as recording secretary, but it was much more effective. Some years passed and the next time I see Pat she is back from Idaho, and the SCVHS is looking for an Executive Director. I ask her if she is interested in the job. Over a pot of tea, out in the patio of her home we hatch out a plan. I present it to the Board at the next meeting and everyone thought it was a great idea. She picked up the pitch fork again and really stuck it to the road blocks that were blocking our path. Many pots of tea later, the SCVHS has a REAL respected place in the community. For that, we can all thank Pat for a job very well done. I know in my heart that this won't be the last of our seeing Pat. She'll be back and we will be waiting for her.

Cathy Martin”

Tony Newhall, former publisher of the Signal newspaper:

“With the departure of Pat Saletore, the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society is losing one of its most valuable assets. It was she who faithfully staffed the office and Station-master's desk – often alone – welcoming Society members and visitors, and conducting business, day-in and day-out. Early in this past decade, it was Pat who got me re-involved with the Historical Society (I had departed after the early years, 1975-85). I found myself visiting the Station office to look for historical books or souvenirs to buy for out-of-town visitors. Pat would always be there to greet me, showing me the latest publications, postcards, and dispensing news. She would remind me of coming Society programs – which were always fascinating!

Pat always was looking after the interests of the Society. She continually invited directors from the H.M. Newhall Foundation to drop in, and for whom she gave personal tours. She never ceased giving ideas of where money was needed to refurbish the buildings at Heritage Junction. She constantly kept us apprised of the need of support, inviting us to tour the Heritage Junction buildings to witness the work being done and to see the plans of the docents and restoration crew. We could never turn down her invitations – because they always came with cookies, cakes and beverages, served up by Pat.

Pat was instrumental in securing two recent Foundation grants for the painting of the Station. To stress the need, she even carved off pieces of the blistered lead-based paint from the Station walls and asked us to hand-carry them back to our Foundation meetings where we made the grant decisions.

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Tributes

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Pat was particularly of help to me personally when Alan Pollack requested me to put together an historical program on Henry Mayo Newhall for the Society in 2007. I had never done anything like this. Pat suggested using PowerPoint, which was totally foreign to me. She walked me through the program, showing me how to write title pages, how to scan photos, and how to use special effects. Her tutelage was so good that I continued to give the show many, many times at other historical and genealogical societies in the San Fernando Valley and Antelope Valley over the next four years.

For all this I am grateful for the help of Pat Saletore. I trust that her move to Las Vegas will offer her a chance to rest. But it has created a monumental challenge for us – how can we ever replace Pat at Heritage Junction?!

Pat, good luck and thanks.

Tony Newhall”

Barbara Milteer, Historical Society Docent:

“Dear Pat, We live in a beautiful part of the USA and I was fortunate to know you and pick your brain. Hope your future is bright and sunny and regards and all the best to you and Dilip. Best regards,

Barbara Milteer”



Santa Paula Branch by Gordon Glattenberg



The train shown above and on page 8 is in Saugus, traveling along the north side of Magic Mountain Parkway, about a half mile west of Bouquet Canyon Road, on December 31, 1971. It is running westbound on Southern Pacific’s Santa Paula Branch, at a location that is now a car dealership.

Southern Pacific’s main north-south line through the San Joaquin and Santa Clarita Valleys was completed at Lang in 1876. Construction of a line from Saugus west along the Santa Clara River through Piru, Fillmore, and Santa Paula, to Montalvo started in April, 1886, and was completed within a year.

By 1901, a through line was completed north along the coast to San Francisco, but in 1904 completion of the Santa Susana tunnel opened a direct main line from Montalvo through Simi and San Fernando Valleys to join the original main line at Burbank Junction, and the Saugus-Montalvo line became a branch once again, mostly handling citrus products.

Following floods in 1979, the line from Saugus to Piru was abandoned in 1984. The main lines from Los Angeles through Saugus and Montalvo are now owned by Metrolink, and a part of the branch around Fillmore is now the Fillmore and Western, a tourist railroad. A portion of the branch west of Tourney Road has just opened as The Iron Horse Trail, including the 1898 bridge shown below.





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is
this?*

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

Historical Society Board of Directors

- Alan Pollack ----- President
- Ed Marg, Jr.----- 1st Vice President
- Scott Sivley ----- 2nd Vice President
- Sioux Coghlan ----- Recording Secretary
- Barbara Martinelli ----- 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
Photo, Text Archives: www.scvhistory.com**