

The Heritage Junction Dispatch

A Publication of the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society

Volume 31, Issue 3

July-September 2005

Calendar

Monday, July 25

Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM Saugus Station

Monday, August 27

Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM Saugus Station

Thursday, September 1

Deadline for Articles for the
Autumn Dispatch

Monday, September 26

Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM Saugus Station

Postponed Events:

Christmas in July
Volunteer Recognition Barbeque
Fall Festival at Mentryville
(inaccessible due to rain damage)

ONE DAY IN THE LIFE OF SANTA CLARITA-

**ON SALE NOW at the
Saugus Station Gift Shop -
only \$15.00!
(See page 4)**

Articles and inquiries
regarding *The Dispatch* may
be made to Patti Rasmussen,
editor, at
Pattiras04@aol.com

Third-Graders' Tours of Local History

It has always been fun to hear the excitement in the voices of third-graders as they discovered the reach of history of our valley. For many years, the train station and other homes in Heritage Junction have been open to school children for history field trips. Because of the lack of weekday volunteers, though, the school tours have dwindled.

Beginning this school year (2005/06), the museum located inside the Train Station will be closed to weekday tours as we prepare to update our collection. To assist the elementary school districts with the study of local history during this period, the Society will hold a teacher in-service. With the assistance of Karen Haas and Joan Feldman, two Saugus School District teachers who have years of teaching this curriculum and are passionate about local history, the in-service will provide written materials and maps of all local historic sites.

Tentatively scheduled for late September, before the new school year begins, notices will be sent to all third-grade teachers in the Santa Clarita Valley. We hope they will take advantage of the in-service and we look forward to helping them inspire a new generation of history fans.



Students from the Saugus School District tour the train station

Photo by Patti Rasmussen



Board members Cathy Martin and Duane Harte have a few minutes to pose for the camera during the Weave of the West

Photo by Patti Rasmussen

Weave of the West by Cathy Martin

On April 28, the SCV Historical Society hosted the inaugural event “Weave of the West” to tie into the Cowboy Poetry Festival sponsored by the city of Santa Clarita. It was meant to be an art and song-style evening, but it was that and more. An art show was hosted in the Newhall Ranch House featuring local artists. Many of you wondered about the big wooden weaver’s loom sitting in the depot for years... well, the girls from the Weavers Cottage on Sierra Highway came by, fixed it up and demonstrated how it works.

Inside the Ranch House there was a great selection of art with water color, oil paintings, black and white photography, and even a few bronze statues. We were so lucky to have such great talent. Throughout the evening there was entertainment from Katy Moffat who sings about cowgirls of the old west with a little bit of poetry thrown in.

Yvonne Hollenbeck’s quilts, quick wit and poetry captivated the audience. Truly a one-of-a-kind artist, Yvonne makes all her quilts by hand and every stitch is perfect. If you’ve ever entered a quilting event and seen her name, just smile because she is a sure bet to win. Her quilts are just that good.

Guests were treated to some delicious hors d’oeuvres along with beer and some nice wine. Many thanks to our bartenders Duane Harte and Steve Colf. More thank you’s to those who helped ready the station for the event – Mary Ann Colf, Carol Rock and John Lesperance, and the chairperson of the event, Cathie Kincheloe.

The Society is planning to have more art show events, so if you missed this one, don’t worry as another should be coming along soon!



The Loom and Spinning Wheel in Action
Photo by Patti Rasmussen

Mike Yurosek

Mike Yurosek, husband of board member Sue Yurosek, died June 12, 2005, after a long battle with cancer. As the owner of Bunny-Luv carrots, Mike Yurosek made a name for himself in the mid-'80s and changed the way millions ate carrots. Growing tired of discarding bent and twisted carrots and feeding them to cattle (“there was no waste in farming,” said his wife Sue), Yurosek came up with the idea of cutting the crispy vegetables into 2-inch pieces, creating the baby carrot. The mini carrots were a huge success and are sold in grocery stores and served as a tasty snack on airplanes. In 1995, Yurosek and Son’s was sold to a competitor, and Mike Yurosek retired to travel and spend time with his family. The baby carrots still carry the Bunny-Luv logo.

Mike Yurosek was born on Sept. 28, 1922 at Burbank Hospital, a first generation American from his family who immigrated from Poland. Yurosek’s uncle attended a Polish seminary with the late Pope John Paul II. Yurosek began working a farm with his older brother John in 1939 and returned to work in the Santa Clarita fields in 1949.

While the Yuroseks grew mainly carrots, other crops included turnips, rutabagas and parsnips. Yurosek and Son’s main operation was moved to the Bakersfield area in the mid-'70’s and the fields were expanded north to Santa Maria and south to the Mexican border, planting at different times of the year. More than 20,000 acres of carrots were produced annually.

“We all liked farming,” said Sue Yurosek who married Mike in 1953. “It was a good life and in (Mike’s) mind, he never stopped being a farmer. With both of his grandsons in the produce business, there was hardly a day that went by that he didn’t talk to one of them. He was a good farmer.”

When he retired, Mike and Sue traveled the world... and always checked out the carrots. “Nobody has carrots like the U.S.A.,” Sue said.

Yurosek was buried at Mission San Fernando Cemetery. He was preceded in death by his twin Joseph and brother John. Yurosek is survived by his wife Sue, daughters Johnsie (Mrs. Robert) Manlowe of Northridge, Lynn (Mrs. Gary) Grayson of Ventura, and son Michael David Yurosek of Bakersfield, and also 7 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations can be made to the American Cancer Society or the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society.

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Curator's Report by Ann Marie Mills

*"Why can't I just throw that in the wash?
It's only cotton..."*

A conservator has four options when deciding how and whether to clean a textile.

This decision must be preceded with the knowledge that "cleaning is one of the most irreversible of all conservation processes." The first option is not to clean at all. The second is to mechanically clean. The third is to mechanically clean followed by wet cleaning, and the fourth is to follow mechanical cleaning with solvent cleaning

Cleaning is almost always required in the conservation of historic textiles. The major objective is to increase the chemical stability of the textile by getting the pH as close to neutral as possible. From an ethical standpoint, chemical stability should come before aesthetics; for instance, bleaching a 19th century baptismal gown to make it as white as possible so that it looks attractive is a mistake. In preparing a conservation plan of action for a textile, the two main objectives are to determine what factors are accelerating degradation and how to best address them. The simple question of whether or not an object is dirty takes on new meaning when a conservator is preparing a treatment plan.

Dust is the most common foreign matter that a conservator comes across when examining an historic textile that has not recently been treated. The chemical nature of dust, most notably the salts that are often present, can react with the textile resulting in a product of ageing, such as corrosion. Additionally, the hygroscopic properties of dust (attract water) can create a breeding ground for molds.

The most effective way of removing dirt is wet cleaning, or washing. Water causes textile fibers to relax and swell, therefore releasing dirt particles. Upon making the decision to wet clean, a conservator must then decide what to clean with. Water alone will not dissolve many dirt particles, although it can be a choice for a fragile textile that does not require a deeper cleaning. Only soaps and other surface active agents (detergents) will form stabilized suspensions that lift dirt away and disperse it into the water. The downside of these cleaning agents is that they release of sodium ions which can dramatically increase the pH of the textile, when the goal is to neutralize the pH.

A non-ionic detergent can perform as well as soap without releasing sodium ions. Among the most frequently used and most popular non-ionic detergents used by textile conservators is sodium lauryl sulfate, sold under the brand name Orvus WA Paste. Belonging to a class of surfactants known as linear alkyl sulfates, Orvus is a foamy surfactant with good cleaning properties that rinses well, even in hard water.

Orvus WA Paste has been purchased and will be used on textiles that are candidates for wet cleaning.

Docent News by Jeff Boultinghouse

The Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society is always in need of friendly folks who are interested in local history. Becoming a docent means learning about our Valley's rich past and spending a few hours every month at the Saugus Station to share it with visitors to the Society's headquarters and museum. All it takes is a few sessions with one of our docent trainers. The Station is open from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM on Saturdays and Sundays, and docents normally work one day a month. You get to meet new people from our Valley, plus lots of visitors who come from all across America.

Docents are trained volunteers who greet visitors to Heritage Junction, sharing their knowledge of the Santa Clarita Valley's history and lore during tours of our museum and buildings under restoration. Docents often give presentations to groups of school children, Scouts and other organizations in the community. Docents are people of all ages and backgrounds who share certain traits: They are curious about our area's history; they like museums; and they enjoy working with children and adults. If you fit this description, please consider becoming a museum docent - and if you know someone with these interests, let them know about the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society's Docent Program.

Perhaps the most gratifying part of being a docent is the direct role you play in keeping our history alive by re-telling the stories of Santa Clarita Valley history to a new generation of children and adults, as well as introducing visitors to our important community resource - Heritage Junction and the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society. With your interest in history, you'll enjoy this most interesting and fun way of giving back to your community. Come and share our rich local history as a docent for the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society: call the Society at 661-254-1275 or e-mail us at info@scvhistory.org.

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>.

Leaping Lizards! Melody-Ranch Style by Cathy Martin

We did great at Melody Ranch during the Cowboy Poetry Festival activities, and we were hit as far as the kids were concerned. On the first day, we sold out our special "light up" lizards. All 72 of them are in the hands of some very happy kids. Our booth catered to both the younger cowboys and cowgirls because we also sold out of our ladies Battenberg umbrellas (of course, it didn't hurt that we were \$10 cheaper than other booths).

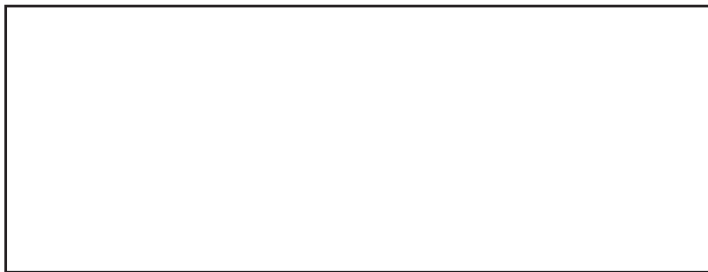
Sue Veluzat was, again, our knight (lady) in shining armor by providing us with a booth in a great location. Many thanks to her and her family. Because of their generosity, we were able to make approximately \$1,700 - that's big money for our pint-sized gift shop!

A big thank you to all of the volunteers who helped over that long weekend – Laurie Cartwright, Cathie Kincheloe, Duane Harte (and his truck), Carol and Sara Rock, Laurene Weste, and to my brother Dan for lending me his huge diesel truck so we could transport everything from the station to Melody Ranch.

One Day in the Life of Santa Clarita

It's been a year since more than 100 photographers took to the streets, hills, homes and businesses of Santa Clarita to shoot an average day in the life of our community. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the cost to publish the book was paid in full. The society has raised more than \$7,000 in sales, and we were able to donate one book to each local elementary, junior, and senior high school. With so many new schools opening, we may have missed one, so please don't hesitate to contact us!

In celebration of the success of the book sales and in honor of the one year mark, "One Day in the Life of Santa Clarita" will be on sale for a reduced price of \$15.00. What a bargain! And with the holidays upon before you know it, these beautiful coffee table books will make wonderful gifts for your friends and neighbors. Place your order now by calling the station at 661 254-1275 or Patti Rasmussen at 661 259-5333.



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The Heritage Junction Dispatch
P.O. Box 221925
Newhall, CA 91322-1925
scvhistory@yahoo.com

Telephone (661)254-1275
Headquarters: Saugus Train Station
Open to the public each Saturday and Sunday
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Kingsberry House open the first Sunday
of each month from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

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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**