President's Message
by Carol Rock

Greetings!
It's been a busy time around the junction and we've just had two great events that really put us on the map with the community - our annual tea, coordinated by Sue Yurosek and Nancy Cordova, and our Cowboy Festival event The Art of the Chuckwagon, chaired by Cathie Kincheloe, with some help from Duane Harte and Carolyn Levine.

It was standing room only at the tea, and it was clear that good friends were reuniting and new friends were being made. The centerpiece of treats was mouth-watering and the display of antique candy containers brought back memories for many - and the girls worked hard to keep those teapots filled throughout the day. Thanks SO much for all the hard work - it was a true fund- and friend-raiser for the Society.

The smell of biscuits baking and beef slow-roasting over the chuckwagon fire brought many a curious hiker to the park on April 27, many of whom came back and bought tickets that evening to enjoy the meal and camaraderie. The piano player from "Deadwood" - and a fine musician in his own right, Dave Bourne, played through the evening, putting everyone in the mood for a good time. Duane and Tom Hough were our jovial bartenders and kept the spirits flowing, while a dozen volunteers from the city of Santa Clarita - decked out in some wonderful Western finery, I might add -

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President’s Report

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did whatever Cathie needed...including cleaning up afterward. Carolyn made sure the artists who displayed (and sold) their artwork in the Newhall Ranch House had what they needed and our loom and spinning wheel were dusted off and used again, to many spectators' delight.

The numbers on this event are not in yet, but we've heard that the chuckwagons (we had two - one cooking, the other displaying and demonstrating - are ready to come back for a battle of the skillets next year!

And speaking of the Cowboy Festival, give Cathy and Tara Martin a pat on the back for taking our gift shop over to Melody Ranch for two days and ringing up some profits! Tara was sidelined with a broken leg, but kept shoppers entertained (funny how kids raised in the train station are good at that) and Cathy talked up the merchandise. We all owe Cathy a heap of kudos for keeping the gift shop interesting and enticing - so bring your checkbooks and credit cards next time you're at the junction!

Good news from the city - a draft historic preservation ordinance has been presented to the Newhall Redevelopment Committee for a first look and each board member has their own copy for review and comment. Leon and I are serving on an ad-hoc committee on the city level to work out the kinks and try to make this effort to save what little structures we have left for our future generations. If you're interested in seeing the ordinance, contact our executive director Pat Saleto at the station. The city is hoping to have this in place before the end of the year. It's an effort the Society has been working on for the last 18 years.

That said, I'd like to close with an announcement and invitation - one of the Society's favorite speakers, film historian Marc Wanamaker, will be doing a presentation on the history of film in the Santa Clarita valley on Saturday, August 26. It's a must-see for every docent and everyone who's watched the silver screen. Not only is Marc interesting, he's got a quick wit and knows more than anyone I've ever met about filming. No wonder his Bison Archives are the go-to resource for filmmakers today.

The invitation part - we'll be having an old-fashioned ice cream social just before Marc's talk - the frozen treats will be served at 1, Marc will begin his talk at 2. Why not bring a friend, neighbor, relative or co-worker to this event? It's free and a really good way to build our membership up, which will ensure our success in the years to come.

See you at the junction!

Carol

Recent Events

The Filipino American Association was here on April 8 for Pride Week, and they were a great help by cutting down weeds. AND they brought FOOD! They are discussing the possibility of adopting an area year round. That day we also had a couple of Community Service workers with weed whackers from the County Parks helping, too.

The Art of the Chuckwagon, held as a Cowboy Poetry Event this year at the Saugus Station, was a success. Everyone had a really great time, with two chuckwagons, a crusty cook, his dog and the piano player from the TV show Deadwood. The food was a great success, served on pie-tin plates with lemonade from mason jars! The dinner was topped off with peach cobbler.

Bartender Duane Harte was kept out of trouble because he was so busy and everything seemed to go well. Artists showed their work in the Ranch House and a weaver demonstrated her craft on the porch. It was a lovely evening. Thanks Cathy and Carol for putting it all together!
Lecture on the Ridge Route, and Other Activities: May 6
by Pat Saletoe

On May 6th, the Santa Clarita Historical Society hosted a talk on the Ridge Route by expert Harrison Scott. As you can see from the photo, he spoke to a packed room in the Saugus Station! He displayed articles found along the road and showed off some of his collection of old photos through a PowerPoint Presentation.

Alan Pollack, who arranged for the talk, collected e-mail addresses from several people who were interested in future historical speakers, and we also gathered a couple of new members. We sold a bunch of Scotty’s books on the topic, as well as other items from the gift shop.

While the Ridge Route lecture was going on, I set up a booth for the Historical Society at the Placerita Nature Center’s Open House May 6th and talked to a lot of people about our organization. I took the corn planter from the museum and a telegraph receiver and asked people as they walked by if they could guess what these mystery items were. I then told them that I could give a clue on the telegraph receiver, but if they wanted to know about the other mystery item, they had to sign up to volunteer at Heritage Junction. I acquired about 25 names and email address from people who wanted to get involved with us - or at least find out what the corn planter was!
Executive Director’s Report
by Pat Saletoe

Looking at you, kid

It is easy to sit there, and read this newsletter and think how nice it is that we have a Historical Society in Santa Clarita that is preserving the history of our valley and holding the doors open for residents to come and see it. It seems to just happen effortlessly. Right now the “usual suspects” of the Society are laughing ironically. Of course it doesn’t happen that easily. Whenever there is something to do for the Society, just like in Casablanca, the person in charge of it says “Round up the usual suspects” just like Claude Rains did. And the “usual suspects” usually turn out.

So, you might well ask, “What’s wrong with a system that works?” Speaking as one of those who regularly gets “rounded up,” I think it would be nice if there were more of us! We U.S. (usual suspects) look like a pretty small group when you put us in a line-up. And if you put us all together in a fundraising event, we start looking kind of frantic at times. Yeah, I know. The “Usual Suspects” shown in Casablanca did look pretty frantic when we got to see them at all. But you have to remember...their side DID win in the end.

Hey! Why don’t you join the cause? Most of what we do isn’t that awful, and “many hands make for light work.” What are you waiting for? The following article is a sampling of the kinds of things you can help with. I will tell you the code words to get in: Just dial 254-1275 and say “Hello, Hello, Captain Reynaud? I want to volunteer at the Historical Society!” Do it now or you might regret it—Maybe not today, maybe not tomorrow, but soon - and for the rest of your life.

I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship!

Health Benefits of Volunteering

As if you really needed a reason to want to volunteer, some new ones can be found at www.webmd.com. One article you can find there boldly states that “people who volunteer their time at two or more organizations were 70% less likely to die from cardiovascular disease than those the same age and sex who don’t volunteer. These same volunteers, overall, cut their risk of death by 35%.”

Other conclusions include:

✦ More people had better health in communities with high levels of volunteerism.
✦ More people in communities with strong volunteerism said they’re “very satisfied” with their lives.
✦ Communities with lots of volunteer activity had fewer burglaries.
✦ Students in areas with high levels of volunteerism performed better academically.

Volunteer Opportunities at Heritage Junction Park—PLEASE HELP!

✦ Painting—This is an ongoing problem all over Heritage Junction. If you would like to do some painting...don’t bother with the code-words...just call

Projects with serious skill and TLC needed:

- Pardee House
- Saugus Train Station
- Mitchell Adobe

Projects that require less skill, but a lot of attention

- Fence around the train yard
- Newhall Ranch House
- Deck in front of the Station

Library

- Organize and Catalog

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Executive Director's Report

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♦ Fix Up
  ♦ Entrance door to the Station (so we can get a kitty)
  ♦ Screwing down the boards on the Station Deck
  ♦ Helping John L. with the trim on the Pardee House
  ♦ Back steps to the Station
  ♦ Troubleshooting bee problem
  ♦ Station roof is leaking a little
  ♦ Restore pieces of farm equipment
  ♦ Refinish furniture

♦ Organizational
  ♦ Putting sleeved photos in order. (Those which are already scanned have numbers)
  ♦ Putting organizational files in order
  ♦ Fine-tuning computer records in PastPerfect
  ♦ Organizing a telephone tree
  ♦ Outreach efforts to both children and adults
  ♦ Docenting
  ♦ Get involved with fundraising

♦ Cleaning
  ♦ Adopt a room in the Station. Just come sweep and dust once a month. Bring a friend and perhaps a few music CD's. Make our museum sparkle! Keep the Freight Room ready for company.
  ♦ Adopt a restroom; They don't get cleaned as much as they should.
  ♦ The poor, neglected school house.

♦ Gardening
  ♦ John wants to plant some native California plants and herbs...are you interested?
  ♦ Clearing weeds

♦ Events—taking volunteer applications for
  ♦ Christmas in July
  ♦ Halloween Haunt
  ♦ Christmas Open House

Thank you, Ged Jodele!

Ged Jodele, a contractor, of Saugus came in to see what kind of work we needed to have done. Although he has lived in Santa Clarita some years, he originally came from Europe and wants to feel more “rooted” to his new home. I can’t think of a better place for that! John Lesperance and I showed him some of the things that needed to be done. After he recovered from the shock, he cheerfully helped John fix the wobbly door in the Baggage Room. No rodents are getting in under THAT door anymore! And that was just his first visit to Heritage Junction ever! He said he would regularly be back to fix more things in the future. Thank you, Ged!

Recent Docents

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

Iris Arnold
Phyllis Berman
Jeff Boultinhous
Sioux Coglan
Greta Dunlap
Sarah Floyd
Francesca Gastil
Harold Hicks
Karen & Bill Limbaugh
Debbie Link
Barbara Martinelli
Bárbara Milteer
Ian Pollack
Pat Saleatore
Konrad Summers
Michelle Veasman

Join the SCV Historical Society Today!

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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.
History of Movie Making in the SCV: August 26
by Alan Pollack

Film historian Marc Wanamaker is scheduled to appear at the Saugus Train Station at 2:00 pm on Saturday, August 26. He will be giving a presentation on the history of movie making in the Santa Clarita Valley.

The Santa Clarita Valley has served as Hollywood’s backlot dating back to the earliest days of film making. Many of the early Westerns used the Valley’s rugged topography as a backdrop. Top film stars such as William S. Hart, Harry Carey, and Hoot Gibson filmed here and called the Valley home. Many other stars like John Wayne passed through the streets of Newhall on their way to filming at Monogram Ranch in Placerita Canyon (later to be purchased by Gene Autry and renamed Melody Ranch).

The Saugus Train Station itself was seen in movies featuring Charlie Chaplin and later Frank Sinatra.

Please mark your calendars for what should be a very entertaining presentation on August 26. More details to follow.