Calendar

Saturday, March 10
Free Lecture on the St Francis Dam disaster
1:00 PM, Saugus Station

Sunday, March 11
Lecture and Tour to the site of the St Francis Dam, $35 per person
Lecture 1:00 PM, Saugus Station,
Bus Tour 2:00 PM

Monday, March 26
Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM Saugus Station

Monday, April 2
Deadline for the May-June Dispatch

Saturday, April 21
Presentation on the History of Cameras and Photography by
Glenn Marshall, Free. 2:00 PM,
Saugus Station

Monday, April 23
Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM Saugus Station

Thursday, April 26
Stories Around the Campfire
(Cowboy Festival partner event; includes dinner, poetry,
music, chuckwagon cooking demonstration) $35 per person
6:00 PM, Saugus Station

Monday, May 21
Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM Saugus Station

Saturday, June 2
Lecture on the history of the City of Santa Clarita by Carl Boyer, former Mayor
2:00 PM Saugus Station

First Thursday of Every Month
Genealogy Club Meeting
7:00 PM Saugus Station

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

President's Message
by Carol Rock

I'd like to start off this message by welcoming our newest board member, Barbara Martinelli, to the hard-working core of volunteers that run your Society. She's already one of our most popular docents, sharing her love of history and teaching with our visitors; now we will gain her valuable input on the matters of growing our organization in the community. We're glad you're here!

Special thanks go to the Mistress of Tea, Sue Yurozek, who produced a wonderful Valentine's event on Feb. 10 that not only featured delectable treats, but also entertained guests with a program about Kewpie dolls. It's fundraisers like these that help us keep the lights on and the restoration projects moving. (It also helps that Sue is the Restoration Chair for the Society, so she knows how much income is needed to keep our buildings in their presentable best). A hearty brew of thanks to Sue and her crew!

Kudos also go to Alan Pollack, our programs chair, for another successful presentation. January's talk featured one of the Society's founding members (and former officer) Tony Newhall, speaking about his great-great-grandfather, Henry Mayo Newhall. It was a turnout crowd for an interesting talk. Alan's got several more programs lined up; our annual talk and tour of the St. Francis Dam site on March 10 and 11 (bussed sponsored by the City of Santa Clarita), and the history of photography on April 21, to name a couple.

Continued on Page 3
St Francis Dam Programs Planned for March by Carol Rock

Once again, the Society will present a program on the second-worst natural disaster to hit California: the failure of the St. Francis Dam on March 12, 1928, that killed more than 450 people, levelled farms and homesteads, destroyed property and livestock and changed the way dam safety was addressed forevermore.

Dam Man Frank Rock will conduct two programs on the topic.

* A free, two-hour lecture/Q&A session will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. March 10. No reservations are required, but early arrival is recommended.

* A ticketed ($35 per person) dam tour on March 11, the 79th anniversary of the disaster, with a lecture at 1:00 PM and departure at 2:00 PM, returning to the station at approximately 5:00 PM after visiting the dam site. The tour includes snacks and motor coach transportation. Only ticket holders will be admitted to the March 11 lecture.

We owe special thanks to the city of Santa Clarita and Santa Clarita Transit for providing the busses for the tour. Tickets may be reserved by calling (661) 254-1275 with credit card and contact information, or by visiting our website at www.scvhistory.com. Because this tour is a very popular fund-raiser, it is impossible to guarantee that seats will be available for purchase on the day of the tour.

Cowboy Festival: “Stories Around the Chuckwagon” by Carol Rock

The Society’s partnership with the City of Santa Clarita’s Cowboy Festival continues this year with a not-to-be-missed event that captures the essence of life on the trail.

At 6:00 PM on Thursday, April 26, Karen and Bryan Jones of Manfio Ranch will bring back their working chuckwagon and prepare a mouth-watering stew, drop biscuits, salad and apple-walnut cobbler for your dining pleasure. Cowboy coffee will be available to wash down the vittles, as well as lemonade and iced tea. For those desiring a little stronger beverage, we will have a no-host bar serving wine and beer.

After you settle down for your meal, Karen will talk about the hardships and benefits—of a kitchen pulled behind the team, preparing the grub for a handful of whole herd of cowboys. Then the station will come alive with the music of the Lost Canyon Rangers, 2006 nominees for the Western Music Association Crescendo Award and winners of the Academy of Western Artists 2005 Rising Star Award. Accompanying them will be local cowboy poet and storyteller Joe Herrington, a 2005 nominee for Cowboy Poet of the Year. They’ll sing a little, talk a little, sing together, talk some more and Joe will send us home with a story that will touch the cowboy heart in all of us.

“I still love that big western sky and the wilderness beneath it,” he writes. “I have never forgotten the Western ways and traditions. I write my stories about those times and those amazing people of unblemished character and honor. And when the campfire flickers, I get a stir in my soul. A yearning swells within me to recall the events of good days past and tell their story.”

The cost is $35 per person and tickets may be purchased from the city’s Cowboy Festival office online at www.cowboyfestival.org or by calling (661) 286-4021. Of course, if you’d like to volunteer, your time and talents are welcome. E-mail the event chair, Carol Rock at rockmediascv@yahoo.com or call (661) 251-9457 and she’ll get back to you.

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.
President’s Message

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He’s even putting together a talk about two of history’s most interesting characters; a parallel between outlaws Jesse James and our own Tiburcio Vasquez that will be presented at a future date.

It’s also time to dust off your cowboy boots and chaps for another round of the city’s Cowboy Festival April 27-29. We are hosting one of the kick off events for the festival, “Stories Around the Chuckwagon” on April 26, featuring the delicious chuckwagon cooks from Manfl Ranch, as well as music by Western Music Association and Academy of Western Artists honorees “The Lost Canyon Rangers,” and storytelling by the popular cowboy poet Joe Herrington. When I took Joe for a tour of the station last month, he fell in love with the place and what we’re hoping to accomplish. He’s got a little storytelling program going in Canyon Country that we’ve invited him to grow here at Heritage Junction. Nothing like learning history from those who participated in the history we love so much.

As always, our reins are firmly held by the wondrous executive director Pat Saleto, who is our anchor as well as our dreamer. If you’ve got a few hours to spare, Pat has a few odd jobs for you. Call her up at 254-1275 and get involved!

Recent Docents

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

- Frank Adella
- Phyllis Berman
- Bjeff Boultinghouse
- Laurie Cartwright
- Sioux Coghlan
- Sarah Floyd
- Francesca Gastil
- Harold Hicks
- Marla Khayat
- John Lesperance
- Bill and Karen Limbaugh
- Debbie Link
- Barbara Martinelli
- Barbara Milteer
- Sandy Neill
- Alan Pollack
- Pat Saleto
- E.J. Stephens
- Konrad Summers
- Gordon Uppman
- Kristyn VanWy
- Michelle Veasman
Executive Director’s Report
by Pat Saleore

I have an idea! Oh no! Pat is thinking again. Duck for cover!

Hey... Just because I said I had an idea, it doesn’t mean that it involves a paint brush or even gardening tools. Before you all disappear under your respective tables, just hear me out.

We have recently acquired some usable computers from our friends at College of the Canyons and I want to dedicate one to the early residents of Santa Clarita.

Every now and then, we get a call from someone whose grandfather owned a store back in 1920 in Newhall. Do we have any information on them? Sometimes we sit around the Station wondering how this Chacanaca is related to that Cook. Was that grandfather actually there as early as 1920?

I am proposing we use one of those computers to record the old families and what we know about them. We can use Personal Ancestral File (PAF) to track the families and even to record their ancestors if we hear about them. Sources of information can be tracked on the program just as they are for our genealogies. The program is easy to learn. The information would be useful from a historical perspective and in years to come for future genealogists. All this project needs is a few good volunteers. A side benefit is that you get to know about the most important part of our local history—the people who MADE the history!

Do I hear the sound of a few good volunteers tentatively crawling out from under the tables? What I really need is for you to call me at the Station and tell me that you are willing to help enter the information. So call me at 254-1275.