Calendar

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

Friday, June 1
Deadline for the July-August Dispatch

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

Monday, June 25
Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM Saugus Station

Saturday, July 21
Christmas in July, details to be announced

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

Executive Director’s Report
by Pat Saletores

So much is going on at Heritage Junction right now, it is hard to keep up with it. We have volunteers painting the locomotive. Paul Lawrence is off on disability, but is able to do some of the work and supervise others who have helped him. Much of the metal was showing through and even starting to rust, so getting it primed and painted was very important.

Jeff Boultinghouse, one of our board members, has been working on sorting out the telephone problems at the Station. He called in AT&T and they came out to finally fix the scratchy line that has plagued the phone. This was quite a process, involving a jack-hammer, a compressor to blow out the stuff in the conduit, a “wire snake” to dislodge stubborn plugs, and about a dozen workmen at one point. It played out like a mystery novel, finding the places in the line that had problems and finally pulling a new cable that will guarantee our communications. It all ended well, and kudos must go to the men who were working on the problem.

John Lesperance and I are now both biometrically registered for the Volunteer Center: We haven’t had court referred community service workers for a while, that will all change, but not without some technological upgrades! Now when the community service worker comes to Heritage Junction, they will sign in using a

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FORMER MAYOR AND CITY COUNCILMAN CARL BOYER TO SPEAK ON THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF SANTA CLARITA

BOYER TO OFFER INSIDER’S VIEW ON THE CITY HE HELPED TO FORM AND GOVERN IN ITS EARLY DAYS

FREE: SATURDAY, JUNE 2 AT 2:00 PM

SAUGUS TRAIN STATION
Former Mayor to Speak on June 2
by Alan Pollack

On November 3, 1987 voters in the Santa Clarita Valley created a new city composed of the historic towns of Newhall, Saugus, Valencia, and Canyon Country. It was the birth of the City of Santa Clarita. One of the people responsible for putting Santa Clarita on the map and helping to govern the city in its infancy was Carl Boyer, 3rd. The Honorable Mr. Boyer will be telling the story of the events leading to the formation of the city and give an insider’s view of the first City Council to govern Santa Clarita when he appears before the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society on Saturday, June 2 at 2:00 pm at the Saugus Train Station, Heritage Junction in Newhall, California. Mr. Boyer’s talk will be based on his recently published book “Santa Clarita, The Formation and Organization of the Largest Newly Incorporated City in the History of Humankind”.

The town of Newhall dates back to 1876, but in all that time governance of the community was in the hands of the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County. Efforts to create an incorporated city in the Santa Clarita Valley began in the 1920's when the Newhall Chamber of Commerce was formed. Although no serious movement to form a city was to take place for several decades, over the years people in the valley grew increasingly weary of county rule and longed for a day when a more local government could respond to their needs such as building roads and preserving the valley’s rich history and natural beauty. The movement toward cityhood would be a long and hard road with much resistance encountered from County officials. Attempts to break away from Los Angeles County and form a new Canyon County failed at the polls in both 1976 and 1978.

Finally in 1985, the emergence of various housing tracts and strip malls built without regard for adequate infrastructure in the valley prompted the creation of a city formation committee to be chaired by SCV Chamber of Commerce President Louis Garasi. Other members of the committee were to include Connie Worden (vice chair), Jo Anne Darcy, Jan Heidt, Jill Klajic, and our speaker Carl Boyer. By 1987, Mr. Boyer would take over as chairman of the committee. An application for cityhood was filed with a county unit, the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). The original proposal for a city called for a 90 square mile area of the Santa Clarita Valley, but county politics resulted in LAFCO approving only 39 square miles for consideration for a city. The new city would include most of the towns of Newhall, Saugus, Valencia, and Canyon Country. Even in this smaller version, it would turn out to be the only city ever to incorporate with an initial population in excess of 100,000.

The long awaited day occurred on Tuesday, November 3, 1987 when over 67 per cent of the voters approved the formation of the City of Santa Clarita. The first city council would consist of future congressman Howard P. “Buck” McKeon, Jan Heidt, Jo Anne Darcy, Dennis Kozontz, and once again Carl Boyer. Mr. Boyer would become the third Mayor of the City in 1990. He did a repeat stint as Mayor in 1996. He was to serve on the first five city councils between the city’s formation in 1987 and when he finally retired from the city council after 11 years in 1998. Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society Board Member Laurene Weste became a city council member the year Boyer left and has served on the council since then, also serving as Mayor in 2001 and 2006.

The City of Santa Clarita can claim many achievements since its formation in trying to preserve the city as one of the finest places to live in the Southern California region. Carl Boyer from the start has played an integral role in making this all happen. He can present a unique view of the events leading up to cityhood and how the city has been governed since its formation. The Santa Clarita Historical Society is honored to present one of the founders of our city at the Saugus Train Station. Signed copies of Mr. Boyer’s book will be available for sale as well. The general public is welcome. Admission will be free. For more information on this and other upcoming programs from the SCVHS, please call Pat Saleatore or Alan Pollack at 661-254-1275. Website: www.scvhs.org.

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.
Executive Director’s Message

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finger print scanner that registers online. John and I went down to the San Fernando Valley to learn to use the scanner and the website. How cool is that? So we will be needing that crisp clear new phone line.

Other activities include meeting with College of the Canyons representatives planning the design for the new Canyon Country Campus. This is an exciting collaboration. We are also collaborating on a federal grant for the development of the library. I can’t be too positive about this, yet because we don’t know if we will be awarded anything but the idea that we have not been eliminated or disqualified is almost as exciting as the prospect of organizing our library. Almost... but not quite

Speaking of grants, the Newhall Family Foundation has again awarded us $10,000 to continue work on the Pardoe House. This money is specifically dedicated to finishing the walls in the building. Talk about exciting! The Pardoe House is coming right along.

If you haven’t been to the gift shop lately... you haven’t been. Cathy Martin has stocked it with some really tempting things, such as little pretties like the collection of rhinestone cowgirl pins and tea things. But if you have never had the chance to read “Man Made Disaster” by Charles Outland or “St. Francis Dam Disaster Revisited” by David Rogers... this is your opportunity. They are both back in print and available in the gift shop.

Sue Yurosek has also acquired a collection of mannequins, who will, as time goes on, be distributed into our displays. Two that have already taken up their positions are a woman in the Kingsbury house pensively reading a vintage letter and a gentleman who is serving as our station agent, poised at the telegraph key. The woman will soon be joined by a toddler and we will install another woman and child at the Edison House when it is ready. We are making plans to have these mannequins named and stories created for them by creating a competition through the elementary schools.

The Halloween Haunt guys have been hard at work too. Ed Marg Sr. has been working hard on the wiring in the Newhall Ranch House. Planning has gone forward to create a professional-class “haunted house” with an Old West theme appropriate to our venue. This is going to be a great fundraiser and just plain great fun. If you want to get involved, give me a call and I will let them know that you are interested.

If you called the Station and no one answered, it must have been between April 15 and 22. I was on vacation. But not before helping with the Pride Week festivities where volunteers came to clean up weeds and paint. We are also arranging for participation with Grace Baptist Church’s “Beyond the Gate” event. These volunteers will help by cleaning, painting and weed abatement as well.

AND by the time you read this, we will hopefully have gotten the arms of the Semaphore up where they belong, on the pole behind the Station. This will be after the cooperation of the City of Santa Clarita by loaning us the use of a lift truck, Metrolink by acting again as flagmen, and our diligent volunteers Mike Jarel and Jimmy Escalante. At the same time, we will be fixing a fire sprinkler that broke (quite dramatically) by freezing in the cold snap we recently had. So add to the above the coordination of the LA County Parks team of plumbers, especially Sam and Shaun, who have helped us through our frozen pipe difficulties.

Wow... I had a lot more to say than I thought! But SO MUCH is happening right now. If you want to get involved and be a part of it, don’t hesitate to call me. I am still at 661 254-1275

Recent Docents

Thank you to the following members who served as docents during February and March:

Frank Adella          Bill and Karen Limbaugh
Phyllis Berman       Barbara Martinelli
Jeff Boultinghouse   Alan Pollack
Laurie Cartwright    Pat Saletoe
Sioux Coghlan        E. J. Stephens
Sarah Floyd          Gordon Uppman
Francesca Gastil     Kristyn VanWy
Harold Hicks          Michelle Veasman
Marla Khayat
The Station Agent Is Not Very Talkative

Repainting SP 1629

Dated Material! Please Do Not Delay

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

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
Kingsberry House open the first Sunday
of each month from 1:00 to 4:00 PM

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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