



The Heritage Junction Dispatch

A Publication of the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society

Volume 34, Issue 3

May-June 2008

Calendar

Monday, May 24

Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM Saugus Station

Friday, June 6

Friday Night Flickers, silent
comedies with Buster Keaton,
Fatty Arbuckle, Keystone Kops;
7:30 PM Saugus Station. See page 4.

Tuesday, June 1

Deadline for the March-April
Dispatch

Monday, June 28

Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM Saugus Station

Also...

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 Alan Pollack



In the Wild West of the 1870's, lawlessness was rampant on the Western frontier. Jesse James and his James-Younger Gang terrorized the Midwest from Missouri to Minnesota and gained nationwide fame until they met their match against the citizens of Northfield, Minnesota in September, 1876. The citizens fought back against the outlaws, severely wounding the Younger brothers, who rode out of town with Frank and Jesse James, but were shortly thereafter captured in Madelia, Minnesota and sent to prison. Jesse James escaped to commit a few more train robberies, before he was gunned down and killed by Bob Ford in St. Joseph, Missouri on April 3, 1882. Billy

the Kid became famous after participating in the Lincoln County War, a battle between competing merchants and their cohorts in Lincoln, New Mexico, in 1878. Billy met the same fate as Jesse James when he was shot dead in the darkened bedroom of his friend Pete Maxwell by Lincoln County Sheriff Pat Garrett at Fort Sumner, New Mexico, on July 14, 1881.

While he never gained the same degree of fame as James and "The Kid", during the same time period California had its own legendary outlaw in Tiburcio Vasquez. Vasquez was born in Monterey, California, in 1835 and grew up during the romantic Spanish Rancho period. But as did many Mexican Californios, he felt victimized by the rapid influx of Americans from the East coast during and after the California Gold Rush. Vasquez began his life of crime after being accused of stabbing and murdering

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**FRIDAY NIGHT FLICKERS:
SILENT COMEDIES!
BUSTER KEATON, FATTY ARBUCKLE, KEYSTONE KOPS**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 6
AT THE SAUGUS STATION**

7:30 PM

SAVE THE DATE!

DETAILS ON PAGE 4

President's Message

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Monterey County Constable William Hardmount during a fandango in 1854. In the early days of his career he robbed cattle and horses, freight wagons and stage coaches. He spent most of the 1860's in and out of San Quentin prison, from which he was finally released in 1870. But Vasquez was just getting started.

Vasquez earned his "fifteen minutes of fame" when he led a sensational robbery in the town of Tres Pinos (modern day Paicines) just south of Hollister, California in the Monterey-San Jose area. In August, 1873, Vasquez led a gang of eight men into Tres Pinos, taking over the town and killing three men in the process. To his dying day, Vasquez denied ever killing anyone, but his testimony was contrary to that of eyewitnesses from Tres Pinos and his own gang member Abdon Leiva. After Tres Pinos, Vasquez became a sensation and a most-wanted outlaw. Sheriffs' posses were chasing him all over the state.

Vasquez had one fatal flaw which eventually ended his career.....he was a womanizer. After Tres Pinos, he had fled to a ranch at Lake Elizabeth near the Antelope Valley. There he had a tryst with Abdon Leiva's wife. Leiva caught them together and angrily quit the gang and turned himself in to William Jenkins, who brought him down to Lyon's Station and turned him over to Los Angeles officers. Leiva would eventually testify against Vasquez at his murder trial in San Jose.

Vasquez committed another infamous robbery, taking over and sacking the town of Kingston in Fresno County in December, 1873. The following month, California Governor Newton Booth offered an award for the capture of Vasquez - - \$2000 dead, \$3000 alive; the amounts were subsequently increased to \$6000 and \$8000. During the next few months Vasquez would elude capture as he was chased by Los Angeles County Sheriff William Rowland and Alameda County Sheriff Harry Morse. He robbed a stagecoach at the Coyote Holes stage station on the road between the Cerro Gordo silver mines in the Owens Valley and Los Angeles. He then headed south, eventually ending up in Soledad Canyon where he hid out in a strange appearing geologic formation that today bears his name - Vasquez Rocks.

By April, 1874 Vasquez emerged from his hideouts to take up residence at the Rancho La Brea home of Georgias Caralambo, better known as Greek George, a former camel driver for Edward Beale's camel experiment in the 1850's. Modern historians think that the ranch was located in present day West Hollywood near the intersection of

Fountain Avenue and Kings Road. It was here that Vasquez' penchant for women got him into trouble yet again and ended his outlaw days. After one final robbery at the Repetto Ranch in modern day Monterey Park, Vasquez was chased by a sheriff's posse up the Arroyo Seco into the San Gabriel Mountains. He crossed over the mountains and possibly camped out again at Vasquez Rocks before returning through Lyon's Station to the ranch of Greek George.

It was May, 1874; Vasquez made the fatal error of remaining at Greek George's ranch to continue a liaison with a señorita, after his friends had urged him to flee to Mexico. Sheriff Morse had gotten word of his whereabouts and relayed the information to Rowland. On May 13, Rowland sent a posse led by Under-Sheriff Albert Johnson to capture Vasquez at Greek George's. The posse hid out and observed the ranch from Nichol's Canyon in the Hollywood Hills. The next day, they apprehended a wagon driven by two Mexicans and forced them to drive to the house occupied by Vasquez. They surrounded the house just as a woman opened the door and shouted a warning to Vasquez. The ever wily Vasquez leaped out a kitchen window but was shot several times by posse members and was finally captured. He was brought to a Los Angeles jail where he spent 9 days as an instant celebrity, with throngs of reporters and women clamoring to see him.

Vasquez was charged with the murder of Leander Davidson at Tres Pinos and was brought to San Jose to stand trial. His celebrity status continued in San Jose, especially among the Spanish population who treated him as a hero. The trial took place in San Jose in January, 1875, where he was found guilty and sentenced to death by hanging. As were to be the fates of Jesse James and Billy the Kid after him, Tiburcio Vasquez met his untimely end on March 19, 1875 when he was hanged in San Jose. Live by the sword, die by the sword. His final word was reported to be "pronto".

After our excursion into outlaw history, now it's time to talk about the good guys. It has been an exciting couple of months at Heritage Junction!! We had a very successful weekend March 8/9 when two sold-out events took place - "A Celebration of Chaplin" in conjunction with Hart Park, and the 80th Anniversary St. Francis Dam Tour led by Frank Rock. Both events had to turn away **many** interested people after selling out. The Chaplin Evening is fully described in the article on Page 4. What was really special about this evening was our collaboration on the event with Hart Park.

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President's Message

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This really showed what we can accomplish when the two organizations work together to produce events. A hearty congratulations and many thanks to event organizers E.J. Stephens, Kristyn Van Wy, and Ayesha Saletore for a job well done. We hope to have many future joint events with Hart Park.

Never have we seen such a huge outpouring of interest in the St. Francis Dam story. While this has always been our most popular event, we had a record number of requests for this year's tour. 110 people accompanied dam expert Frank Rock and our Past President Carol Rock on two city buses to the dam site. An additional 80 people had to be turned away. We will be accommodating the overflow crowd with an encore bus tour on April 13. The dam story was featured in major articles in both the "Signal" and "Daily News" newspapers. Frank Rock was interviewed and featured on newscasts on KTLA channel 5 and KNBC channel 4. Frank did his usual great job of telling the story of this second worst disaster in California history. Participants were taken to the site to see the ruins of the dam base and then hiked up the hill to walk on the remains of the wing dyke of the dam.

Also this last month, our Haunt Team held the first annual awards night for the Heritage Haunt. A fun night was had by all as Ed Marg, Jr. showed video highlights of the Haunt and handed out awards to all those who participated in this inaugural event. Ed himself received special gifts presented to him by Scott Sivley and the Historical Society in recognition of his leadership and dedication to creating a highly successful haunted house which we hope will excite and scare Santa Claritans for many years to come. Ed was also honored recently by Los Angeles County at their Volunteer of the Year Awards show.

Pat Saletore, Duane Harte, and I attended the SCV Press Club Newsmaker of the Year Awards evening where the Historical Society received a nomination for Organization of the Year. We didn't win, but it was still a great honor for us to be recognized by the Press Club in front of a crowd of many of the "movers and shakers" of Santa Clarita, including City Council members and the Mayor. Several people came up to Pat and me after the show and said they were rooting for us to win, an example of the solid reputation that we have in town.

We would like to thank Maggi Perkins, granddaughter of historian Arthur Perkins, for allowing us into her home to view the photo and document collection left to her and

her family by the man responsible for preserving much of Santa Clarita's history. We will be working on scanning this collection for our archives.

Pat has developed a walking tour of downtown Newhall which we will be presenting at the next Old Town Newhall Marketing Meeting at City Hall. We have been asked by the City to develop this program as part of the efforts to revitalize downtown Newhall. The tour includes stops at Heritage Junction and Hart Mansion and would be led by our docents.

Be sure to keep your calendar open for our upcoming events. We are honored to present on Saturday, July 26, Dr. John Johnson, Curator of Anthropology at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and an expert on the culture and history of the Chumash Indians and their neighbors in south central California. Dr. Johnson will be speaking on the history of the Native Americans of the Santa Clarita Valley. Due to the summer heat, we will hopefully be obtaining an air conditioned venue on the College of the Canyons campus with the help of Patty Robinson, Dean of Social Sciences. More details will follow.

E.J. Stephens hosted another Friday Night Flickers on April 4, with the Harold Lloyd 1923 classic movie "Safety Last" featuring scenes in downtown Los Angeles. Thanks to E.J. for bringing these great movies to the Train Station.

The Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival came to Heritage Junction on April 24, when the Historical Society presented the Chuckwagon Dinner show featuring Western music singer Juni Fisher, storyteller Joe Herrington and the cooks from Manflo Ranch and 2 R Ranch. Carol Rock did a great job organizing this event which was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Finally, we bid a sad farewell to Newhall Hardware, a fixture (no pun intended) in downtown Newhall for many years, who recently had to close their doors. Thanks go to owner Victor Feany, who allowed the Historical Society to salvage what was left in the store including display cases, paint and hardware.

As you can see, we have some wonderful and dedicated people making things happen at the Junction. Thanks again to everyone for their great work on behalf of the Society. See you all at the Train Station.

Alan Pollack

“A Celebration of Chaplin” Held on March 8

by Kristyn Van Wy and E.J. Stephens

A *Celebration of Chaplin*, a presentation co-sponsored by the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society and the William S. Hart Museum, was held on March 8th to honor the 85th anniversary of the release of Charlie Chaplin's 1923 motion picture, *The Pilgrim*. The evening's guests enjoyed not only the Saugus Train Station (where part of the film was shot), but also the Hart Museum and Hart Hall.

The sold-out event began at 6:00 PM in Hart Hall where the guests browsed a display of props (courtesy of “History For Hire”) that were used in the 1992 film *Chaplin*, starring Robert Downey, Jr. From there, they were shuttled up the hill to the Hart Museum, where they heard a short lecture from Ayesha Saletore about William S. Hart's life and home. They were then led into the living room to view actual Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton artifacts brought from the Natural History Museum of L.A. County (NHM), as well as to hear a short speech about the artifacts from NHM's Collections Manager, Beth Werling. The guests went back down to Hart Hall for dinner, dessert, and a lecture on filming in the Santa Clarita Valley given by E.J. Stephens. After the guests finished their meals, they moved to the Train Station, where they saw a screening of Keaton's *The Paleface* with live accompaniment by 95-year-old Bob Mitchell, followed by the screening of *The Pilgrim*. The evening wrapped up at 10:00 PM with dozens of smiling faces leaving the park.

The success of this event was made possible by the tireless efforts of several people. The event organizers – Beth Werling, Ayesha Saletore, Kristyn Van Wy, and Kim and E.J. Stephens – owe a huge “thank you” to David Jallo for permitting the use of Hart Hall and the two park vans, as well as for providing the services of three staff members. They would also like to thank Jason Hauser, Al Ewing, and Harvey Johnson for safely shuttling our guests around the park and for helping with cleanup after the event. Special thanks go out to Jim and Pam Elyea from History for Hire; Mariah and Dylan Lieberman for helping serve meals; Michael Lyn and Ed Marg for assistance with set-up; and to film historian David Shepard, who provided the films and projector and served as the projectionist.

Representatives from the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society and the William S. Hart Museum are already meeting to discuss and plan future events similar to *A Celebration of Chaplin*. They are tentatively planning a celebration of Douglas Fairbanks in the fall, and a *Valentino for Valentine's* event for next February. Details will appear as they become available on the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society (www.scvhs.org) and William S. Hart Museum (www.hartmuseum.org) websites.

“Friday Night Flickers” To Continue Throughout the Year By E.J. Stephens

2008 promises to be a great year for classic film viewing as the “Friday Night Flickers” film series begins its first full year. This series, which began last December, is presented bi-monthly in the Saugus Train Station, and is sponsored by the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society.

The 2008 series began in February with a presentation of the Jayne Mansfield classic rock and roll musical, *The Girl Can't Help It*. This movie was shown to honor the birthday of late, great local rockabilly legend, Gene Vincent, who appears in the film.

A packed house filled the Saugus Train Station on Friday, April 4, to see the classic Harold Lloyd silent comedy, *Safety Last*. 95-year-old Bob Mitchell, who is one of the last accompanists from the silent era, played organ for the film. He also led the audience in a rendition of “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” during intermission, to celebrate the start of the baseball season. (Incidentally, Bob was the first organist at Dodger Stadium when it opened in 1962.)

Upcoming 2008 shows are planned for June 6, August 1, October 3, and December 5. In addition to these dates, the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society, in conjunction with the William S. Hart Museum, is planning a celebration in the fall to honor swashbuckling silent legend Douglas Fairbanks. They are also in the initial stages of planning a gala entitled *Valentino For Valentine's* for February, 2009.

For further details, please check out the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society's website at www.scvhs.org, or call (661) 254-1275. If you would like to be put on the “Friday Night Flickers” mailing list, please e-mail deadwrite@yahoo.com.

Upcoming “Friday Night Flicker” Schedule; all will be at 7:30 PM in the Saugus Station (programs are subject to change):

June 6 Silents – Buster Keaton, Fatty Arbuckle, Keystone Kops

August 1 Westerns – John Wayne, Hoot Gibson, Harry Carey

October 3 Classic Horror – Lon Chaney, Bela Lugosi

December 5 Silents – Buster Keaton, Charlie Chaplin



David Shepard, the projectionist at *A Celebration of Chaplin*



Event Honoring Volunteers from LA County Parks; from left, David Jallo (Hart Park Superintendent), Sue Yurosek, Theresa and Ed Marg, Mary Gallant (Senior Center) and friend, and Jason Hauser (Hart Park)

Recent Docents

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

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Frank Adella | Barbara Martinelli |
| Phyllis Berman | Barbara Milteer |
| Jeff Boultinghouse | Sandra Neill |
| Laurie Cartwright | Alan Pollack |
| Sioux Coghlan | Pat Saletore |
| Sarah Floyd | Konrad Summers |
| Francesca Gastil | Gordon Uppman |
| Harold Hicks | Kristyn VanWy |
| Bill and Karen Limbaugh | Michelle Veasman |

Gift Shop by Cathy Martin

With Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day around the corner, the gift shop in the Saugus Train Station is stocked full of great gift items, so come in now while the selection is good. Are you are looking for a unique gift that is Western-inspired? We are your gift shop!

We are stocked full of coffee mugs, beer steins, and shot glasses that look like rattlesnakes! We have a cool selection of tin signs for your walls and plenty of cast-iron wall hooks, everything a cowboy or cowgirl could use to decorate their home. Does your mom collect tea cups? We have a nice selection of tea cups and tea pot cozies that will make nice Mothers' Day gifts.

I would like to remind you that when you buy from the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society, your sales help us with the restoration and upkeep of Heritage Junction. We couldn't do it without your generous patronage of our little gift shop!

We take Master Card and Visa for your convenience, and our hours are 1:00 to 4:00 PM on Saturdays and Sundays.

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>.

A Message From the Hart... by Ayesha Saletore

Spring is a wonderful time of year at the William S. Hart Park & Museum. There are so many activities that you can partake in during this lovely weather. Whether it is hiking on the trails, picnicking in the Park, or touring either of our organizations' museums; there is something for everyone. This May, you are welcome to attend the annual Mary Ellen's Tea Party which will be held in Hart Hall at 12:30 PM on Saturday, May 17. Indulge in a variety of refreshments including specialty teas, scones with cream, assorted finger sandwiches, and delicious desserts. This makes a great gift for Mother's Day, so be sure to order soon! Tickets are \$40 per person and reservations are required. Stay tuned for future events by visiting www.hartmuseum.org.

If you are unable to join us for any special events, I also invited you to stroll up the Nature Trail to enjoy the luscious Oak Trees and join us for a tour in the Hart Museum. We hope to see you soon!

March 8 Dam Tour a Sellout by Carol Rock

The 80th anniversary of the St. Francis Dam disaster brought a lot of attention to the Society, as nearly 100 people attended a lecture on March 8. A bus tour the following day was a complete sellout. The City of Santa Clarita provided two comfortable motorcoaches for the event.

More than 100 people hiked the canyon to stand at the original site of the dam, led by dam historian Frank Rock. Many of those participating came from the San Fernando Valley, some traveling from as far away as Riverside to learn about the disaster.

Rock was also the subject of two TV news features, on KNBC and KTLA which played on the actual anniversary, March 12.

Demand for the tour was so overwhelming, a second tour was scheduled for April 13. Both were fundraisers for the Society.



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

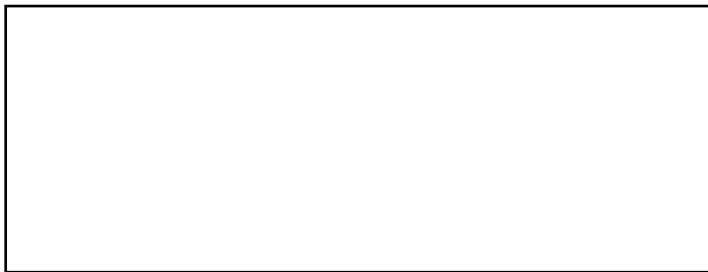
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Gordon Glattenberg ----- *Dispatch* Layout

"Preserving the best of the past for the good of the future"

**Society Info: www.scvhs.org
Photo, Text Archives: www.scvhistory.com**



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