



The Heritage Junction Dispatch

A Publication of the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society

Volume 35, Issue 3

May-June 2009

Calendar

Saturday, May 2

"Flickers at the Junction", *Silent Movie*, starring Mel Brooks
Dusk, Saugus Station

Saturday, May 9

Seminar: "Antiques for Anyone",
9:00 AM, Saugus Station

Saturdays through May 27

Classes on TV and cinema in the
SCV, Various Locations 1:00 PM;
call for information

Monday, May 25

Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM Saugus Station

Monday, June 1

Deadline for the May-June *Dispatch*

Saturday, June 13

Seminar: "How to be an Antiques
Detective", 9:00 AM, Saugus
Station

"Flickers at the Junction",
Stagecoach, starring John Wayne
Dusk, Saugus Station

Monday, June 22

Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM Saugus Station

Saturday, June 27

Talk on the history of the San
Fernando Mission, 2:00 PM, Mentry
Hall at College of the Canyons

Saturday, July 11

Seminar: "Do I Need an Appraisal?",
9:00 AM, Saugus Station

"Flickers at the Junction", *The
General*, starring Buster Keaton
Dusk, Saugus Station

Check www.scvhistory.org for
other upcoming events.

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

President's Message

by Alan Pollack



From the "what was he thinking" file... Henry Clay Needham arrived with his family in Newhall in early 1888. Newhall at the time was a two block long wild west town with 4 saloons and few churches.

Into this picture came Needham, a rabid prohibitionist, who came to town with the intention of setting up an alcohol-free colony in the middle of Newhall.

Needham was born near Percival Mills, Hardin County, Kentucky in June, 1851. He received his education at Hamilton College in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. He eventually migrated to Illinois and Girard, Kansas, where he got work as a schoolteacher. In Kansas in 1878, he married Lillie F. Taylor of

Warren County, Kentucky. They eventually had 5 children, Nellie May, Blanche Pearle, Russell, Neal, and Henry Parke. After getting married, he tried a variety of jobs in Kansas including running a general store, real estate agent, notary public, and farmer. Then he developed an intense interest in the alcohol prohibition movement and became the Mayor of Arcadia, Kansas. He joined a temperance organization, the International Lodge of Good Templars, and was responsible at one of their state conventions for writing "dry laws" that were eventually adopted by the Kansas State Legislature.

Needham was friends with Kansas Governor John St. John and became a prolific speech maker, eloquently extolling the virtues of prohibition. In 1887, former Governor St. John, along with George B. Katzenstein of Sacramento and James Yarnell of Los Angeles hatched a wild idea to

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TALK ON THE HISTORY OF SAN FERNANDO MISSION

BY KEN AND CAROL PAULEY

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2:00 PM

ROOM 318, MENTRY HALL,
COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS (VALENCIA)

FREE

President's Message

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purchase 10000 acres of land in the young town of Newhall, California, from the Newhall Land and Farming Company with the intention of establishing a "dry" alcohol-free colony. They sent Needham out to California in 1888 to supervise the new St. John Subdivision. The land extended from the present day intersection of Lyons Avenue and Main Street (formerly San Fernando Road) up to Soledad Canyon. As further "enticement" to potential settlers, they wrote a provision into the grant deeds of any property sales which subjected the property to foreclosure in the event that any alcohol was found on the premises. What they failed to anticipate was the lack of teetotalers in Newhall in those days...there were few if any people interested in joining the new colony. Needham was eventually forced to give up this grand scheme, but that did not stop him from his crusade against alcohol.

Henry Clay Needham continued on his bully pulpit throughout the 1890's. A skilled orator, he built in 1890 a meeting place for the International Lodge of Good Templars on Pine Street. In 1893, after all hope was lost in the venture, this building was moved to the corner of Market and Walnut Streets (the current site of the Veteran's Memorial) where it became the home of oilman, constable, and livery stable owner Ed Pardee. Over the years this building went through several incarnations as a "Mixville" for actor Tom Mix, a telephone exchange for the Pacific Telephone Company in 1946, the Santa Clarita Valley Boys Club from 1969 to 1977, and the Newhall-Saugus Chamber of Commerce from 1977-1987. This building can now be seen at Heritage Junction where it was moved in August, 1992.

A prominent member of Newhall society, Needham financed the rebuilding of the first Newhall Schoolhouse when it burned down in 1890. After the collapse of the St. John Subdivision he supported his family by opening a lumber yard and hardware store. He also made a living as a rancher and oil industrialist. In 1891 he helped found the First Presbyterian Church on Newhall Avenue. He and M. W. Atwood of Pasadena were the original developers of the Happy Valley neighborhood in Newhall in the early 1900's. He also ran the Newhall Water Company and one of the first gas stations in the valley.

Although he maintained a residence in Los Angeles, Needham also established a ranch on 770 acres extending to the south from the current Eternal Valley Cemetery on the land between Sierra Highway and Interstate 5. His ranch house and cabin, unfortunately burned down in the devastating fires of 1962 along with Gene Autry's Melody Ranch



Needham, to his last days, never gave up on his prohibitionist dreams. He became active in local politics, serving on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and becoming chairman of the California Prohibition Party. To keep the Prohibition cause alive, he ran for every state office that he could, including U.S. Senator. In 1931 he went to the Prohibitionist National Convention in Cincinnati as a possible nominee for President of the United States under the Prohibition Party ticket. Hopes for the presidency faded when he developed phlebitis and was unable to accept the nomination.

Called "Daddy Mo" by his family and a prohibitionist to the end, Henry Clay Needham died in 1936 at the age of 84. An obituary on the front page of the Los Angeles Times, February 22, 1936 stated "Uncompromising in his views, he insisted on complete abstinence and would not join the light wines and beer movement".

HAPPENINGS AT THE JUNCTION

Our James Dean event in February turned out to be one of the most extraordinary shows that we have done in the lecture series. The event explored the life and last day of the legendary Dean, and tried to answer the question, did James Dean stop at Tip's Restaurant in the SCV on his way to a fatal accident on September 30, 1955? We ended up hosting 7 panelists including Michael J. Sheridan, writer and producer, Jack Tucker, editor of the documentary "James Dean Forever Young"; Chris Epting, author of "James Dean Died Here"; Warren Beath, author of "The Death Of James Dean"; Tony Newhall, former publisher of the Newhall Signal; and very special guests Ernie Tripke and Ron Nelson, the two CHP officers who responded to and investigated the crash in 1955. Thanks to all these outstanding panelists for coming down to Newhall and bringing history to life for the over 120 people who packed Hart Hall that day. Also special thanks to Leon Worden for a fine job moderating

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President's Message

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the panel and for his spectacular video of interviews by E. J. Stephens with the three CHP officers involved in James Dean's last day (filmed on location at Mettler and Cholame). This video and a full length video of the panel discussion can be seen on SCVTV.com. I would also like to thank E.J. Stephens for co-hosting this event with me, and for his tremendous help in lining up the panelists and showing the movie classic "Rebel Without a Cause". Also thanks to Jeff Boultinghouse, who saved the day with his technical expertise in a challenging audio and video setup. Most importantly, we thank Norm Phillips and William S. Hart Park for co-sponsoring this event and providing us with Hart Hall as a venue. So, did James Dean stop in the SCV?? According to the panelists, the evidence leans towards supporting a stop at Tip's Restaurant at the current Marie Callendar's Restaurant site on the Old Road and Magic Mountain Parkway. But we still may never know for sure...

On April 5 we held our event commemorating the 39th anniversary of the tragic 1970 Newhall Incident. Speakers included Harry Ingold, one of the first CHP officers to respond to the scene after the shootings, and Gary Kness, the civilian hero who stopped at the scene during the shooting and tried to save one of the CHP officers. I will have more to say on this event in the next issue of the Dispatch.

Thanks go out to past President Carol Rock for hosting our ever popular Chuckwagon Barbecue, part of the Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival. The event featured cowboy singer Sourdough Slim and the award-winning cooking of ManFlo Ranch. Preceding the Chuckwagon was a new event hosted by Cathy Martin, featuring Patron Tequila Tasting. A great time was had by all at both events. Cathy also manned the Historical Society booth at the Cowboy Festival where a number of items were sold to support the Society.

In March, Frank Rock led a group of over 50 people on his popular tour to the St. Francis Dam site. Rock, the premiere historian on the Dam disaster, delivered a great lecture on the history of the dam prior to the bus tour. The lecture was filmed by Leon Worden for future showing on SCVTV.com.

E. J. Stephens continued his entertaining "Flickers at the Junction" series with a showing of the Beatles classic "A Hard Days Night" in April. The movie was shown outdoors in Heritage Junction to an enthusiastic audience. Upcoming

Flickers shows include the 1976 "Silent Movie" on May 2, and the 1939 John Wayne classic "Stagecoach" (featuring a scene of the stagecoach passing through Beale's Cut) to be held on June 13.

We are also hosting John Boston's "History of the Santa Clarita Valley" class, which will be ongoing until May 27 with his famous campfire class right here at Hart Park. This is the third time around for me taking this class, and I still love it. I credit John Boston with inspiring me to fall in love with Santa Clarita history and join the Historical Society as a docent a few years ago. John says this will be his last class. I do hope he changes his mind...

Sue Yurosek and Nancy Cordova hosted their annual Tea event in April, a fine day enjoyed by all in attendance. Thanks to Sue and Nancy for their hard work.

We also want to thank Bernie Gregory for his kind donation of antique furniture to the Society.

On May 30, the Questers organization will be holding a ceremony to commemorate the completion of restoration of the Edison House in Heritage Junction. What a fantastic job they did on this historic home to complement their fine maintenance of the Kingsbury House. We can't thank the Questers enough for their dedication to our historic buildings.

Finally, don't miss the next installment in our lecture series to be held at Mentry Hall on the Valencia campus of College of the Canyons (Room 318) at 2:00 PM on Saturday, June 27. This talk on the history of the San Fernando Mission will feature Ken and Carol Pauley, authors of a marvelous book on the Mission, "San Fernando, Rey de España: An Illustrated History". In the forward to the book, Dr. Doyce B. Nunis stated "This is the first attempt at an all-inclusive illustrated history of Mission San Fernando in Alta California. In their endeavor to produce a definitive visual mission history, the Pauleys have left, figuratively speaking, no photo collection unfurrowed. The end result is a comprehensive and fascinating graphic testament of the mission as caught by the camera in decades past as well as the present."

These are certainly exciting times at the Historical Society. Thanks to everyone for your continued support. See you all at the Train Station.

Alan Pollack

QUESTERS HELP MAKE SCHOOL TOURS REALLY SPECIAL

by Barbara Martinelli

Last year we had 63 classes (mostly third graders) visit Heritage Junction. We took them through the Train Station, the Museum, and the Mitchell Adobe. We showed them the Mogul locomotive and the spring pole. Standing in the garden area, we talked about the pioneers growing their own produce, and described the Newhall Ranch House and the Pardee House. Then we hiked up the hill and, after a short explanation of the Kingsbury House, Edison House, Ramona Chapel and Little Red Schoolhouse, let them walk up to the buildings and look in the windows.

This year attendance is down drastically, as only 15 classes have visited so far, and 6 more are scheduled. It appears that school budgets are hard pressed to provide transportation.

However, this year's tours are greatly expanded. For each of the tours, at least six Questers have helped us out by opening up the Kingsbury House, the Edison House, the Chapel and the Schoolhouse, and giving complete, wonderful tours. It provides the students with a much more thorough understanding of daily life more than one hundred years ago. The Questers' support with the restoration of these buildings (and now the school tours) is greatly appreciated. Many, many thanks, especially to Gloria Lovelace, who coordinates their volunteers. Thanks also to our always dependable SCVHS docents, Harold Hicks and Gordon Uppman.

Recently Maria Blue brought her first grade class from Plum Canyon Elementary to visit the Junction. They had been learning about life in the late 1800s, and arrived dressed appropriately. What a treat for all of us!



Music and Fun with the Hart Museum

by Ayesha Saletore



The William S. Hart Museum has organized a number of events for this summer season, from live music in the Hart Museum to family-friendly events throughout the summer.

Come join us for some good fun!

Music in the Mansion: May 15, 2009, 8:00 pm

Joshua Pifer is back at the Hart Museum for an exclusive concert. Come hear pianist Pifer perform the magnificent works composed by Schubert, Balakirev, and Scarlatti. Ticket reservations are required and can be made by calling 661-254-4584. Ticket Price: \$10.00 per person

Summer Days at the Ranch!

Come on out to the Hart Ranch House for some good family fun! The event's activities are geared for 3-10 year olds, although all ages are welcome. These activities are free, but donations are always accepted. Activities will be held outside the Ranch House from 9 am to 12 noon. We require that at least one adult accompany any children. For more information, please call the Hart Museum Staff at 661-254-4584.

June 20, 2009: Saddles and Spurs: Cowboy Life

Yee-ha! Come on down to the Hart Ranch to learn all about cowboy life on the open range. Be sure to don your western gear because the best dressed Cowboy and Cowgirl will be awarded.

July 25, 2009: Squirrels to Snakes: Discovering Southern California's Wildlife

Explore our local plants and animals through a live animal presentation, crafts, and activities. Then join us for a guided hike up Hart Park's Nature Trail and see if you can spot some of the plants and animals in their native habitat.

August 22, 2009: Acorns, Sea and Sage: Chumash Native Americans

Discover how the Chumash used their natural resources to survive hundreds of years ago. You will also have the chance to grind your own acorns and make a musical instrument!

Stay tuned for more information on upcoming events such as the Friends of Hart Park's annual **Silents Under the Stars**, which will be held on Saturday, August 8, 2009. For further updates, you are always welcome to visit our website at www.hartmuseum.org or contact Hart Museum Staff by calling 661-254-4584.

Recent Docents

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

Frank Adella	Barbara Martinelli
Laurie Cartwright	RuthAnn Murthy
Sioux Coghlan	Alan Pollack
Sarah Floyd	Pat Saletore
Francesca Gastil	Konrad Summers
Harold Hicks	Gordon Uppman
Karen and Bill Limbaugh	Kristyn Van Wy

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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>.

Update from the Front on the Rodent Wars

by Pat Saletore



It has been brought to my attention that I have neglected to report on the progress on this ongoing conflict. I am happy to say that there has been no sign of rats or squirrels inside the station for months!

There are still skirmishes involving mice, however, since mice can fit through many of the gaps such as under doors, so this is not too surprising. In fact, I suspect they come and go at will. I have not been called to the Station with false security alarms since our security company moved the freight room sensor away from the door. This more or less confirms the theory put forward by company representatives that the little invaders have been setting it off by climbing between the sliding personnel door and the wall where it overlaps and “dancing the Watusi” on top of the door itself, only a foot from the sensor. Score one for the security guys, who were almost willing to say it was a ghost and be done with it.

We are apparently attracting a braver clientele of mice, though. At our March board meeting, we were visited by a little mouse who was not content to scurry away, but watched from the rafters of the freight room for the first half of the meeting. Growing bored with the board meeting’s direction, he climbed down the curtains which were then still hanging from the room’s recent use as a stage and buzzed around on the floorboards. This created an unfortunate distraction from our agenda, so I finally chased him down the hall and we went back to business.

NO! the story is not over. The next morning I came in to the office and turned on the space heater, as it gets pretty cold there on a winter morning. Working at my desk, I caught some movement out of the corner of my eye. I walked around the side of the desk and saw the source of the movement. It was a little brown mouse - not unlike the one from the night before, and no more fearful, either. I figured he would take off when I went back to my seat, but to my surprise he didn’t. He huddled near my space heater... along with me! I put some crumbs from a granola bar in the cover of a package of CD’s and placed it in front of my new little friend. He climbed into the container and I flipped it up to catch him. I now had a fearless little brown mouse, who was somewhat disappointed that his crumbs had fell into my beautiful green shag carpeting* before he could eat all of them. He still wasn’t too worked up, until I slipped some cardboard under him and took him outside.

When I let him go over by the picnic area, he leisurely scouted the rock wall before leaving me. I returned to work and figured he was toast, since the hawks were back for their spring nesting behind the Mitchell House.

Follow up notes: A small brown mouse was spotted attending our April board meeting. He didn’t stay long and has not been seen since.

*The lime green shag carpet in my office is GONE! Maggi Perkins and Linda Rehberger could tolerate it no longer, so the three of us ripped it up to find a beautiful redwood floor. We put three coats of polyurethane on it and placed rugs under the chairs. All are welcome to come and see the new and improved office when I am around on weekday mornings. Call first, as sometimes I am out hunting little brown mice.



Tempting, but this is not how we do it!

I would also like to commend Alan Pollack, Jeff Boultinghouse, E.J. Stephens, and Leon Worden and his crew for pulling off our recent lecture events held at Hart Hall on James Dean and the Newhall Incident. Recognition should also go out to Norm Phillips and his Maintenance Crew, who were important partners in the process and to the officers at the Newhall CHP Station. I would also like to recognize Vic Feany and Diane Vradenberg for being there to help just when we needed it. And especially our speakers. We appreciate you all.

Our lecture programs are now drawing enviable crowds, and these last two were amazing, not just because they were interesting and well attended, but because everyone took their part of the job very seriously, did even more than was required, and worked harmoniously together. I am SO proud of this team!

Bootleggers!



The nemesis of H. C. Needham

SCV History Book Is Now Available! by John Boston

Hot off the presses is the John Boston/SCV Historical Society tome on the pageantry that is Santa Clarita, as Arcadia Publishing released its latest Images of America series, "The Santa Clarita Valley."

"Last summer I took a call from editor Jerry Roberts and he essentially shamed me into writing it," said Boston, local historian, author and columnist. "While it is essentially a photo album, it includes a detailed look at the story of the Santa Clarita Valley."

The book describes the eclectic story of the SCV with hundreds of rich photos and Boston's unique penmanship, covering everything from mining and range wars to Bigfoot sightings and the valley's century-plus heritage of the movie industry.

"For years, people keep asking when I'll write a history book," said Boston. "This was an assault on the senses to put together and I certainly couldn't have done it without the foundations laid by Pat Saletore and the Historical Society."

The book is \$21.99 and is available at Heritage Junction, the Wm. S. Hart Park gift shop and other local retail outlets. Boston also has personalized autographed copies for sale which can be ordered by calling 661 373-1293. Arcadia also published packets of SCV Historical postcards (\$7.95, plus tax). They too are available at the above locations.

"Few people realize how amazing, unique and interesting this valley is," said Boston. "I'm pretty confident folks will be amazed by their own story."

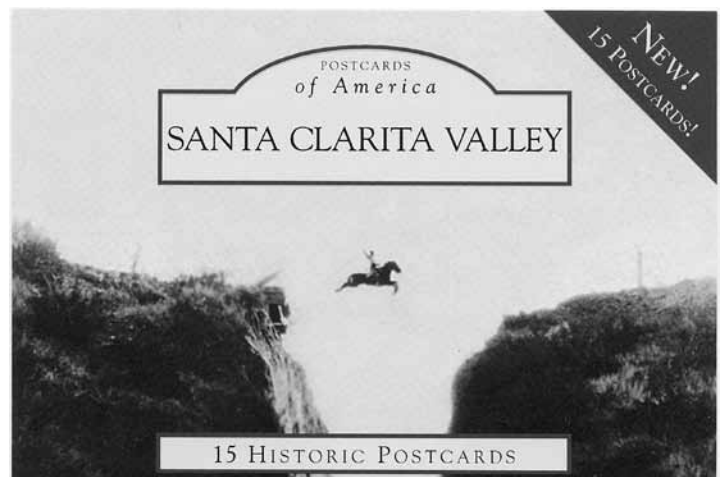
A reproduction of the book's cover is on page 8.

Flickers at the Junction Schedule

The following shows are scheduled for Saturdays in 2009 at the Saugus Station and will be outdoors, weather-permitting: Note that some dates have changed.

May 2	Dusk	"Silent Movie"
June 13	Dusk	"Stagecoach"
July 11	Dusk	"The General"*
August 1	Dusk	"The Wizard of Oz"
September 12	Dusk	"North by Northwest"
October 3	7:30 PM	"Dracula/Plan 9 from Outer Space"
December 5	7:30 PM	"Wings"*

* Live organ accompaniment by 96-year old Bob Mitchell, "Last of the Silent Era Organists"



Also Available

SANTA CLARITA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

A trade crossroads dating back to Native American times, Santa Clarita may be relatively new in the story of Los Angeles County's suburban sprawl, but old-timers also recall it as the "Navel of the Universe." A Chinese general once declared the Santa Clarita Valley one of the top 10 military targets on earth. Located east of the Ventura County line where the valley creates a break in the Angeles National Forest, Santa Clarita has been home to cowboys, movie stars, farmers, and pistol fighters. With a diverse population of 250,000 today, the Santa Clarita Valley still boasts an eclectic heritage. The West's first major oil refinery is located here. The ground was bloodied by at least 21 deaths in one of America's last and greatest range wars. And the one-time declared largest grizzly bear ever shot was killed here.

Author John Boston's 100-plus writing awards include the 2006 Will Rogers Humanitarian Achievement Award. A former ranch hand, television news director, talent manager, editor, and columnist, Boston has lived in the Santa Clarita Valley for half a century, today on Scared o' Bears Ranch with Walt, his father, and Indiana, his daughter. Curator Pat Salemore and Pres. Alan Pollack of the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society provided this book's evocative images.

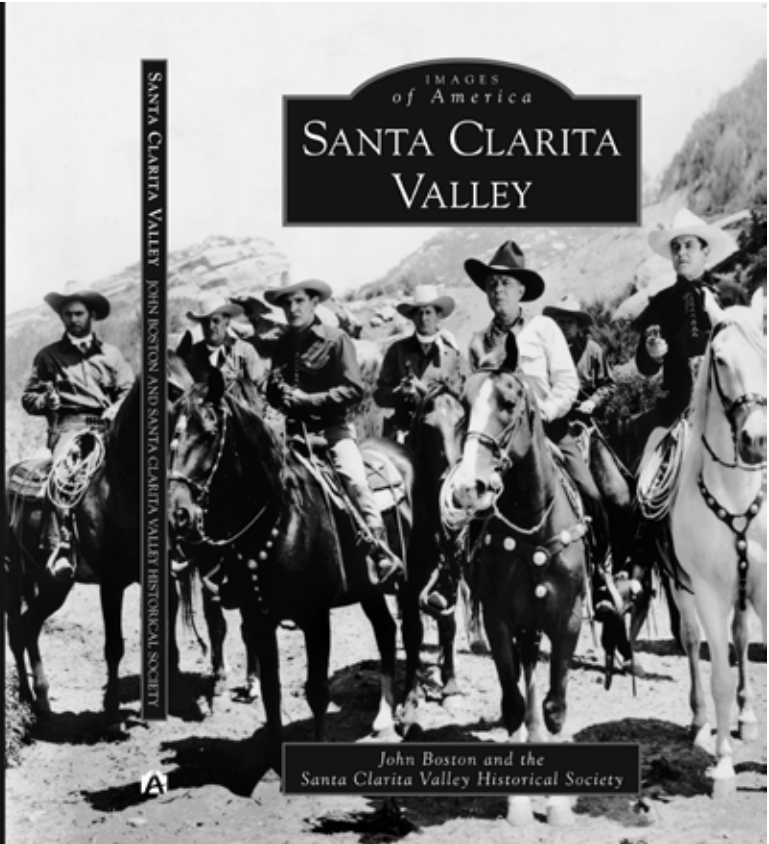
The Images of America series celebrates the history of neighborhoods, towns, and cities across the country. Using archival photographs, each title presents the distinctive stories from the past that shape the character of the community today. Arcadia is proud to play a part in the preservation of local heritage, making history available to all.

ARCADIA PUBLISHING
www.arcadiapublishing.com
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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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