



The Heritage Junction Dispatch

A Publication of the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society

Volume 33, Issue 6

November-December 2007

Calendar

Saturday, November 10

Talk on the Mountain Passes of Santa Clarita Valley by Historian John Robinson, 2:00 PM, Saugus Station

Monday, November 26

Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM Saugus Station

Monday, December 3

Deadline for the January-February *Dispatch*

Friday, December 7

Friday Night Flickers, tentatively scheduled for Chaplin's "The Pilgrim". 7:30 PM Saugus Station

Saturday, December 8

Breakfast Board of Directors Meeting, 9:00 AM Saugus Station
Christmas Open House, 12:00 to 4:00 PM, Heritage Junction

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



It was the beginning of the proverbial rise and fall for William Mulholland. On the triumphant day of November 5, 1913, over 40,000 Los Angelenos gathered in the Northern San Fernando Valley

to witness the first waters to flow into the Valley from Mulholland's miraculous Los Angeles Aqueduct.

Los Angeles at the turn of the century had grown to over 100,000 population. The only water source at that time was the Los Angeles River, and it became obvious that if the city was to grow further, it would need

another source of water. Mulholland had driven on a buckboard through Newhall and Saugus in 1904 with his friend, former Los Angeles Mayor Fred Eaton, to explore the Owens Valley, which Eaton had visited in the 1890's. Eaton wanted to convince Mulholland, then Chief of the L.A. Bureau of Water Works and Supplies, that the Owens River might in some way be diverted to Los Angeles to become that extra water source that the growing city desperately needed. It was on that trip that Mulholland hatched the idea of building an aqueduct between the Owens Valley and the San Fernando Valley. The next year, Eaton began buying land from Owens Valley ranchers and farmers under the false pretense of using the land for a water reclamation project. Once enough land was secured to get water rights to build the aqueduct, the grandiose

Continued on Page 4

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

12:00 TO 4:00 PM

SAVE THE DATE!



SNOW IN SCV!

VISIT ALL OF HERITAGE JUNCTION!

DETAILS ON PAGE 3

Talk Planned by Noted Author on Mountain Passes of SCV by Alan Pollack

The mountain passes of the Santa Clarita Valley were a critical part of the early history of Los Angeles and the transportation history of Southern California. On **Saturday, November 10 at 2:00 pm**, the **Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society** will present a talk by **John Robinson**, an historian and author of the books "Gateways to Southern California", "Mines of the San Gabriels," and other books on mountain history and hiking. Mr. Robinson will be speaking on the history of the mountain passes of the Santa Clarita Valley, including the Newhall Pass, Tejon Pass, and Soledad Canyon. These mountain corridors possess a rich history that should excite the imagination of all in attendance. The talk will be given at the **Saugus Train Station at Heritage Junction in Newhall**.

The passes were first used as pathways by Native Americans such as the local Tataviam people, but the first European group to cross the San Gabriel Mountains between the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys was the Portolá Expedition in 1769. Led by Catalonian soldier Gaspar de Portolá, the expedition was sent to explore and colonize Upper California and establish settlements in San Diego and Monterey before they could be taken by Russian fur traders coming from Alaska. After establishing a mission in San Diego with famed missionary Father Junipero Serra, Portolá set out to find Monterey Bay, accompanied by a group of Spanish soldiers and Father Juan Crespi. They crossed into the Santa Clarita Valley, most likely through Elsmere Canyon in August of 1769. There they were greeted with a warm welcome by the local Tataviam Indians. Father Crespi was responsible for naming the valley that would become Santa Clarita. In his words: "*I named it for the lady St. Clare (Santa Clara), both that behind us and that which is still to come, trusting that in time it will become a very large mission, with a vast number of heathen folk, the finest that we have encountered so far.*"

Life for the Tataviam people had not changed significantly for hundreds of years since their arrival around 450 AD. Had they been able to predict the huge change in their lives within a few decades of the arrival of these "alien" people, they may not have been so tolerant of their new visitors. A mission was established in San Fernando in 1797. Within a few years, the Santa Clarita Valley had been depopulated of the Tataviam, most of whom were brought to the San Fernando Mission to serve and be "civilized" by the Spanish.

Mr. Robinson will argue that the Newhall Pass is misnamed and should actually be called by an earlier name, the San Fernando Pass, but it was also known as Fremont Pass. Explorer John C. Fremont led a group of soldiers through the pass in January, 1847, on his way into the San Fernando Valley to accept the surrender of Andres Pico's Mexican forces at Campo De Cahuenga (near present day Universal Studios), to end the Mexican War in California. Historian Arthur Perkins noted that Fremont's troops most likely camped near the current intersection of San Fernando Road and Sierra Highway prior to crossing the mountains.

Prior to the 1860's, traveling between the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys was a difficult hike over rugged mountain pathways. In 1852, local pioneer Henry Clay Wiley (namesake for Wiley Canyon) established a windlass system at the top of the Fremont Pass to lower wagons into the Valley. Los Angeles freighting king Phineas Banning wanted to expand his business empire to the newly established Fort Tejon and to the Kern River gold rush. In 1854 his workers made a 30 foot cut to smooth out the pathway over the Fremont Pass. He attempted to drive the first stagecoach over his new cut, resulting in a tangled mass of horses and stagecoach at the bottom of the hill. He would still proclaim, as described in "Reminiscences of a Ranger" by Major Horace Bell, "*Didn't I tell you?*" said Banning. *'A beautiful descent, far less difficult than I anticipated.'*

As can be seen, Banning did not really succeed in easing the ride over the Fremont Pass. A much more successful operation was accomplished by Edward F. Beale in 1863. Beale had become well known in California for his heroics in the battle of San Pasqual during the Mexican War in which he breached enemy lines with Kit Carson during a siege of Stephan Watts Kearney's troops by the Mexicans under Andres Pico. He and Carson escaped to San Diego where they were able to get reinforcements that saved the Americans at San Pasqual from being massacred. Beale's other accomplishments included traveling to Washington to bring news of the California gold discovery to the rest of the country, first Superintendent of Indian Affairs in California, leading an experiment in the use of camels for transportation through the Southwest, and Surveyor General of California. Most significant for Santa Clarita History, Beale was commissioned by the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County to deepen the cut through the Fremont Pass to 90 feet, a project he completed in 1863. Named Beale's Cut,

Continued on Page 6

SCVHS Participates in COC Canyon Country Open House

The Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society participated in the October 6 Open House for College of the Canyons' new Canyon Country campus. The theme of the event was Canyon Country's history, and the Society was represented on the event's Historical Subcommittee. The mural below was painted for the occasion.



Ed Broadfield at Work

Christmas Open House by Cathy Martin

I know you don't want to hear about Christmas this early, we haven't even had Halloween yet! But at this busy time of year I wanted you to mark your calendars early so you won't miss out on our Christmas Open House from 12:00 to 4:00 PM on Saturday, December 8 at Heritage Square.

Our goal this year is to have SNOW at the Kingsbury house slope. The last time it snowed here was 1989, and it was just a few inches, not nearly enough to use your sled made from a cardboard box. Mother Nature can be so fickle! We will have snow from Newhall Ice Co, so there will be fresh powder that morning. Scotch Guard your pants, and don't forget your mittens!

This year the animal blessing will be back at the Ramona Chapel. The approximate time will be 1:00 PM. Please remember to follow the rules for the safety of you and your pet. You will receive a certificate of the blessing of your pet after the ceremony.

Many of you have been looking for things in the Historical Society gift shop that are made in the U.S.A. After a long search I found a creative fellow by the name of Ed Broadfield, a glass blower in the San Diego area. We now have some of his beautiful hand-blown glass ornaments, each one unique, and they are for sale in the gift shop. The proceeds from these works of art will go to the Pardee House restoration. They will also be a nice tax deduction for those of you purchasing more than one, and will make great gifts for that someone special on your list.

Santa Claus will be at the Ranch House again this year. We will have elf helpers taking your pictures with him, in case you forget your camera. Inside the train depot there will be refreshments and some Christmas carols played by some of our local talented youth.

The train yard will be open for the first time. You will be able to see the train up close and see our new (old) order board and wigwag up and working, and maybe blow the engine's whistle.

This is also the only time of the year that you will be able to look inside all our historic houses and see the progress that we have made. Since the Questors have adopted the Edison House, wonderful things have been happening in there. They have also completed a beautiful brick and stone walkway around Feed Trough Canyon connecting the Edison and Kingsbury houses. This will be a wonderful time to reconnect with your local history and have a fun time doing it. I look forward to seeing you there. For information, call Pat at 254-1275.

President's Message

Continued from page 1

plan was announced to the citizens of Los Angeles. Bond measures were passed in 1905 to finance Eaton's purchases, and in 1907 to build the aqueduct.

Mulholland designed and supervised the building of the aqueduct. What seemed like an impossible feat, was accomplished between 1908 and 1913, as the 233 mile long aqueduct was built on time and within budget. The water flowed solely by gravity without the need for any pumping stations. With the opening of the aqueduct in 1913, Mulholland became a huge hero to the people of Los Angeles. He was asked to run for mayor, and neighborhoods and a public highway were named for him. But to the people of the Owens Valley, Mulholland became a reviled figure. They felt duped by Eaton's land purchases, and complained that Los Angeles had stolen their water without adequate compensation. Beginning in 1924, Owens Valley locals began attacks on the aqueduct, dynamiting some sections and letting water loose into the valley, in what would become known as the Owens Valley Water Wars. This and other factors led Mulholland to build a series of reservoirs to provide Los Angeles a reserve of water close by in the event of a disruption of the aqueduct's operation.

The last of these reservoirs would provide the "fall" part of Mulholland's saga. The St. Francis Dam was completed in 1926. Mulholland was greatly responsible for building the dam, which turned out to be flawed both in design and geologic location. Shortly after the reservoir reached full capacity in March, 1928, it collapsed and sent a 180 foot high wall of water cascading down San Francisquito Canyon and the Santa Clara River Valley, killing an estimated 450-600 people in the second worst disaster in California history. Mulholland took full responsibility and was never the same until his death in 1935. But no one can take away the magnificent accomplishment that to this day provides water for Los Angeles. Without Mulholland's aqueduct, neither Los Angeles nor Santa Clarita could have grown into the cities we know today. Drivers in the Santa Clarita Valley pass by the aqueduct every day as it courses through San Francisquito, Bouquet, Soledad, and Placerita Canyons, then up over the Newhall Pass to its terminus at the Los Angeles Reservoir in Sylmar. For more information on William Mulholland and the St. Francis Dam Disaster, come see our museum and docents at the Saugus Train Station every Saturday and Sunday between 1-4 PM, or visit our website www.scvhistory.com.

Turning our attention to November, 2007, we continue to have exciting happenings at Heritage Junction. The Society owes a huge debt of gratitude to Ed Marg, Scott Sivley and their group of volunteers for their tireless day and night efforts to complete construction for the Heritage Haunt. At the time of this writing there is one week to go before the opening of the first of hopefully many years of this event. We can't wait to see the end result and hope for a great turnout. We will report on the outcome of the event in our next newsletter.

Speaking of a successful event, kudos go to docent E.J. Stephens for coordinating the return of our "Friday Night Flickers". The first classic movie night took place on Friday, October 5 with a crowd of over 50 people who enjoyed and laughed heartily at the antics of Buster Keaton in "Seven Chances" and Charlie Chaplin in "Modern Times". The Keaton movie featured a scene filmed in Beale's Cut, while the Chaplin movie ended with a scene filmed in Agua Dulce. A popcorn machine was also available for the attendees. The evening was definitely a smashing success. E.J. is already planning more movie showings, so we look forward to many entertaining evenings ahead.

Coming up in our ongoing lecture series will be John Robinson, expert on the history of the mountain areas of Southern California, and author of "Gateways to Southern California", "Mines of the San Gabriels" and numerous other books on mountain history and hiking. Mr. Robinson will speak at the Saugus Train Station on Saturday, November 10 at 2:00 PM. His topic will be the history of the mountain passes of the Santa Clarita Valley including the Newhall Pass, Tejon Pass, and Soledad Canyon.

On Saturday, January 12, at 2:00 PM at the Train Station we will be featuring speaker Mike Jarel who will bring attendees back in time and explain the operations of the Saugus Train Station when it was a fully operating depot on the Southern Pacific Railroad. Mr. Jarel is a long time engineer for the Union Pacific (successor to the Southern Pacific), and member and past Vice President of the Southern Pacific Historical and Technical Society. We are pleased to present both of these expert speakers and encourage everyone to attend. Admission will be free.

We are still in the process of setting up the Hart Foundation, a new Board whose responsibility it will be to raise funds for both the Historical Society and William S. Hart Park. It will take several months for paper work

Continued on Page 5

President's Message

Continued from page 4

to be submitted to formally establish the Foundation. The Historical Society will have three positions on the Board, one of which will be the President of the Society, and two others that the Society selects. We are currently talking to city officials to find out the exact functions of these three Board positions and then will proceed in our selection of people for the positions.

We are also still working with city officials to establish a historical preservation ordinance and to figure out which historic buildings are left in Santa Clarita that are in need of such protection.

Many thanks go to College of the Canyons librarian Leslie Bretall who volunteered her time to catalogue all the books in our library at the Train Station--a huge undertaking and a job well done.

Also, thanks to Board member Barbara Martinelli who is organizing and bringing back school tours to the Train Station. This greatly enhances our outreach to the young people of Santa Clarita.

On November 15, during a ceremony to be held at the Train Station, the Newhall Land and Farming Company

will hand over to the Society a number of boxes of Native American Artifacts that were dug up during their construction of the East-West Connector. We eagerly look forward to examining the contents of those boxes and thank Newhall Land for their preservation of the artifacts and contribution to the Historical Society.

Board member Cathy Martin is coordinating a special Christmas Open House at Heritage Junction to be held on Saturday, Dec. 8th, from 12 noon to 1 pm. Highlights to include imported snow, an animal blessing at the Ramona Chapel, pictures with Santa Claus, and you will have the only opportunity all year to look inside all of the buildings at Heritage Junction. For the first time, Southern Pacific's Mogul locomotive 1629, donated by Gene Autry from Melody Ranch in 1981 will be open to the public for a close-up look. Thanks to Cathy for her hard work and dedication to this annual event.

As always, I want to thank all the docents and Board members for giving of their time and expertise to the Society and general public. We are very lucky to have this great group of volunteers. See you all at the Train Station.

Alan Pollack



Opening Day at the Cascade in Sylmar: November 5, 1913

Mountain Passes

Continued from page 2

this passageway finally made the route between the two valleys much easier to accomplish. For his efforts, Beale was given a 20 year franchise to charge tolls to any travelers crossing through his cut.

The pass was renamed Newhall Pass after the establishment of the town of Newhall in 1876. That same year a 6,900 foot long railroad tunnel was completed by Chinese workers under the mountains of the pass which allowed the completion of the Southern Pacific Railroad at Lang Station in September, 1876. The pass would later be home to the Newhall Auto Tunnel, Sierra Highway, Highway 6, and presently Highway 14. Branching out into nearby Weldon Canyon would be Highway 99 and eventually Interstate 5.

There is much more to tell about these famed mountain passes of the Santa Clarita Valley. John Robinson has done extensive research into the history of the mountains of Southern California and will share his renowned expertise when he comes to the Saugus Train Station on November 10. **The general public is welcome. Admission will be free. For more information on this and other upcoming programs from the SCVHS, please call Pat Saletore or Alan Pollack at 661-254-1275. Website: www.scvhs.org.**

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>.

Friday Night Flickers by E. J. Stephens

The "Friday Night Flickers" film series made a triumphant return to a packed house at the historic Saugus Train Station in Heritage Junction, Newhall on October 5. The series, which is hosted by E. J. Stephens, showcases films that have a Santa Clarita Valley connection. The October program featured "Modern Times" with Charlie Chaplin, and Buster Keaton's "Seven Chances," which were both partially filmed in the area.

The bi-monthly series is planned to continue on Friday, December 7 followed by a showing on February 1, 2008. The December 7 program is scheduled to start at 7:30 PM at the Saugus Station, to feature Chaplin's "The Pilgrim" if licencing questions can be resolved.

For additional information, please contact Pat Saletore at 661.254.1275 or visit the web site at www.scvhs.org.

Restoration Report of 9-24-2007 by Sue Yurosek

Oak of the Golden Dream Questers completed the walkway from the Chapel to front of Edison House and around to the side door and looks great, as seen in the photo below.

We looked at furniture to be donated by Ken Grosnick, and will pick it up as soon as the weather cools down. It will go into the Ranch House, but for now will be stored in the Edison House.

It's close to being finished, needs flooring in Kitchen and bath and bathroom fixtures.

Got 700 bundles of corn stalks from Boskovich Farms...they delivered them here for the Halloween Haunt

Will meet with drywall contractors for the Pardee House walls



Supervisor Antonovich Visits Heritage Haunt by Pat Saletore

Heritage Haunt 2007: Field of Screams is just a great memory now. It was a huge hit for a first year event. Just before it opened we were visited by Supervisor Mike Antonovich. Haunt master Ed Marg and his family, along with core haunters Tony Monton and Scott Sivley took him on a tour of the emerging maze. He seemed quite impressed with

the progress and told Ed he had “outdone Disney.” One of his assistants, who went on the tour as well, noted that he was bringing his kids back for the event.

The event was an enormous effort by the haunt team and their AVID helpers, but one of which they, and we can be really proud.



Hauntmaster Ed Marg gives Supervisor Mike Antonovich a tour of the Heritage Haunt maze construction



Heritage Haunt staff pose with Supervisor Antonovich in front of the “saloon” that was built for Heritage Haunt 2007: The Field of Screams.” Left to right: Theresa Marg; David Jallo, Superintendent of William S. Hart Park; Tony Monton; Supervisor Mike Antonovich; Ed Marg; Scott Sivley; and Pat Saletore

Executive Director's Report by Pat Saletore

We are working closely with the City of Santa Clarita these days on the Historic Preservation Ordinance and issues relating to the Newhall Redevelopment. We are sending representatives to a conference in Riverside on these topics. The City is also helping in the creation of a foundation to benefit Hart Park, Hart Museum and the SCVHS.

The College of the Canyons celebrated the opening of their Canyon Country Campus. The motif and many of the decorations in the new buildings sport a historical theme, thanks to the support of our society. One of the spectacular projects was the creation of a half hour video about Canyon Country history. We have one copy right now, but hope to obtain the rights to sell this production. Another key project was a large mural of the Solemint Store on panels. The College has already approached me suggesting that they would like to donate that mural, too. But this is certainly not the end of our relationship. Even before the dust from the grand opening had settled, we were already discussing future plans for collaborative efforts.

At the reception after the grand opening, I also met a member of the Nadeau family...who is going to contact me about a session on sorting out all the different Remi Nadeaus. She is

also a close friend of Catherine Mulholland. One never knows where these connections might lead!

Make a Difference Day will have come through by the time you have read this! This event always leaves us feeling a little cleaner and more energized. Why don't you come visit and see how things are looking? We are hoping to get the painting of the Mogul finished as one of the projects.

Recent Docents

Thank you to the following members who served as docents during September and October:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Phyllis Berman | Barbara Milteer |
| Jeff Boultinghouse | RuthAnn Murthy |
| Laurie Cartwright | Sandra Neill |
| Sioux Coghlan | Alan Pollack |
| Sarah Floyd | E. J. Stephens |
| Francesca Gastil | Konrad Summers |
| Harold Hicks | Gordon Uppman |
| Marla Khayatt | Kristyn VanWy |
| Bill and Karen Limbaugh | Michelle Veasman |
| Barbara Martinelli | |



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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

Historical Society Board of Directors

- | | | |
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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**