Due to quick sell-out of March 23 event, a second tour has been scheduled for April 27. Get your tickets now!

After being flooded with requests, we found another date
A second tour of the St. Francis Dam site, accompanied by a lecture on the 1928 disaster, has been scheduled for Saturday, April 27. Tickets are available now on Eventbrite (https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-newly-added-st-francis-dam-disaster-lecture-and-bus-tour-tickets-850261925307?aff=oddtdtcreator). Ticket holders will meet at 10:30 a.m. for a lecture at College of the Canyons University Center, Room 258. Speakers include Dr. Alan Pollack, Ann Stansell, Dianne Hellrigel, and the "Dam Man" Frank Rock, who will share fascinating insights into the causes, consequences, and aftermath of this significant event.

The lecture will be followed by a bus tour to the site of the St. Francis Dam and follow some of the path of the flood waters. The tour includes snacks, water, and motor coach transportation. The first tour sold out in a short time; be sure to get your reservations now, as it is impossible to guarantee that seats will be available for purchase on the day of the tour. Don’t miss out on this historic opportunity.

(Thanks to Pony Horton for the use of his colorized image above)

Retired realtor checks on one of his old “listings”

While doing some preventative restoration around the Kingsburry House, Leon Worden was surprised to see a familiar face walk up to the porch – Jim Droz, one of two community leaders who donated the structure to the Historical Society years ago. The Kingsburry House was built in 1878 and was originally located at 8th Street and San Fernando Road (now Railroad Avenue). It was moved to Walnut Street in
1911 and was purchased by the Kingsbury family in 1943. Charles Kingsbury was a veteran of the Spanish-American War and helped build the powerhouse in San Francisquito Canyon. In 1987, the house was purchased by Droz and Dr. Allan Fine, DDS, and donated to the SCV Historical Society. It was moved to the History Center in 1987 and was furnished by local Quester groups, who gave tours of the house on weekends and during special events. The house is currently being sealed against the elements and the Questers furniture and decorative items are being added to the artifacts belonging to the Society.

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**Getting ready for Cowboy – there’s a sign for that**

Workers from the City of Santa Clarita and the Society did a walk-through of the History Center this week to mark placement of new informational signs at each building. Board member Greg Wilzbach has created a conceptual layout of the History Center (which you can see if you stop by our booth at the Cowboy Festival) and, with overall project manager Leon Worden, worked with City staff to pick the best exposure for each sign. Most of the new signs will be in place by the Cowboy Festival at the end of April.
Speaking of signs: Collections mystery #983

While cleaning out a storage unit at the History Center, Leon found a sign that is obviously local, but its provenance is a bit muddy. Where did it come from and how did it get there? If you recognize this sign and remember where you’ve seen it installed before and maybe how it got from where it was to where it is now, could you please contact us? Drop an email to egritz@scvhs.org and solve the mystery!
Digging ditches has never been so much fun

The recent rains have eroded the hillsides at the Center, bringing them a bit too close to the Kingsburry House and Little Red Schoolhouse, so our volunteers have shifted their workload to dig away much of the moving ground. Guy Horanberg took up the shovel and even managed a smile. There’s still a lot of manual labor to be done; if you’d like to volunteer or make a donation so we can hire someone to do the work and speed the process, email crock@scvhs.org. You can even make that donation by visiting our PayPal link here.
Bodle joins Historical Society Board

The board of the Society is excited to welcome Joseph Bodle to the fold. Joseph is a citizen of the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians and a descendant of the village Chaguayanga (present
day Six Flags). He is heavily focused on the betterment of both his tribal and local communities. As an elected senator for the tribe’s first district, he chairs their Legislative Committee and is a member of the Human Resources and Tribal Historical and Cultural Preservation Committees.

Presently, Joseph serves as a volunteer on the planning committee for the Hart of the West Pow Wow and frequently donates his time and resources to community organizations such as Granada Hills Little League and Pukūu Cultural Community Services. In additional to his tribal and community involvement, Joseph is a 26-year veteran of Teamsters Local 399. He currently works as a Motion Picture/Television Transportation Dispatcher.

Rudy Ortega, Jr. recognized for climate protection efforts

SCVHS Advisory Board member Rudy Ortega, Jr. was recognized by Climate Resolve, a nonprofit foundation that addresses climate change and honors individuals and groups that tackle global problems with local action. As the Tribal President, Ortega Jr. (seen above with Climate Resolve founder Jonathan Parfrey) helped establish his Tribe’s first conservation corps, land conservancy, economic development, and co-management agreement with the City of San Fernando for village lands. He currently serves as chair of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, as a board member for both the Mountains
It’s happening, there will be a Cowboy Festival wedding!

The quaint Ramona Chapel will be the setting of nuptials for couples wishing to lasso the moon with their sweethearts, getting married as part of the City’s “Big I Do” program during the Cowboy Festival on Saturday, April 20.
The chapel was designed by composer Carrie Jacobs Bond (“The End of a Perfect Day” and “I Love You Truly”) as an homage to the one at Rancho Camulos made famous in Helen Hunt Jackson’s novel, “Ramona” and the interior features a 48-cup candelabra donated by Bond. Entrepreneur and showman Robert Callahan built the chapel using bits and pieces of old churches in 1926 and it served as the centerpiece of his Mission Village in Culver City until 1962, when the village relocated to Mint Canyon and became Callahan’s Old West. Callahan’s widow Marion donated the chapel to the Historical Society in 1987, when it was moved into the History Center.

Movie stars and real cowboys visited the chapel during its nearly-100 year history. Couples interested in getting hitched at the chapel should go to cowboyfestival.org and register.

Cowboys Love History too!

Two historic sites are hosting events as part of the upcoming Cowboy Festival –

Rancho Camulos Museum is hosting the Californio Fiesta de Rancho Camulos on Friday, April 19 from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Award-winning cowboy balladeer Dave Stamey will perform, there will be docent-led tours of the museum and guests will enjoy a delicious, authentic Vaquero buffet lunch. Tickets are $50 and available at cowboyfestival.org.

Also on Friday, April 19, at 7 p.m., the Art Deco-style Newhall Family Theatre, (c. 1941), will host the Cowboy Family Night, presented by Raising the Curtain Foundation and featuring more award-winning cowboy talent. Kristyn Harris will perform songs and share her yodeling skills with the youngsters, followed by Sourdough Slim (the “Last Vaudeville Cowboy”) and his sidekick Robert Armstrong on the
accordion, saw and other magical instruments. It's a family-friendly event and tickets are $10 for adults, $5 for kids 12 and under. They're available at cowboyfestival.org

HISTORY IS ALL AROUND US - Look what's happening in the area!
Friends of Hart Park has the Golden Ticket!

Everyone is invited to enjoy a free movie matinee on Saturday, March 30 at 1 p.m., when “Wonka” will be screened at Hart Hall, hosted by the Friends of Hart Park. Come enjoy a journey through pure imagination and a free popcorn!
Come to William S. Hart Park on May 18, where from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., you can enjoy a full afternoon of fun celebrating animals big and small. There will be a special visit from the La Brea Tar Pits Mobile Museum., LA County Shelters will have animals for adoption; there will be barnyard presentations and tours; animal crafts and games, lots of vendors, food trucks, and opportunities to win prizes! And it’s all FREE!
Spring’s here, get out to the Rocks!

Along with the exciting community activity featured above (where you just might see folks from the Santa Clarita History Center at a booth), Vasquez Rocks Natural Area has a variety of activities for all ages. Here are a few:

**At 10 am every Sunday, there is a family story and activity time.** All ages welcome, free program, no reservations needed. Indoors and outdoors, depending on the weather. Children MUST be supervised. Call 661-268-0840 for information.
Rise and Shine Community hikes and walks are held every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. Meet in Parking Lot 3 (next to “famous rocks”) for a 45-60 minute beginner-friendly group walk with park staff and volunteers. Free! Program is weather dependent.

Bring your babies and toddlers for a free Little Ones Nature Hour on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. at the Vasquez Rocks Interpretive Center. Activities include games, stories, walks, crafts, animal talks, sensory activities, songs and more. For children ages 0-3 with parent, guardian or caregiver. Reservations are required, visit Parks/LACounty.gov/Reservations.

Come be crafty on the Ridge Route

The artsy place to be in April is the Ridge Route Communities Museum and Historical Society, as they are hosting two crafty events; the first is a class on Book Folding on April 13 ($20 class cost includes all materials and instruction), followed by a Craft Faire on Saturday, April 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Booth spaces are available, discounts will be given to craft class participants. For details, email info@ridgeroutemuseum.org or call (661) 245-7747. The Museum is located at 3515 Park Drive, Frazier Park, CA 93225.

HISTORY HUB
We will be featuring short items from the organizations that surround our Center in every issue; in the meantime, please visit their websites to get information on their upcoming events.

Friends of Hart Park
www.friendsofhartpark.org

Walk of Western Stars
https://oldtownnewhall.com/walk_of_the_western_stars/

Old Town Newhall Walking Tour
https://oldtownnewhall.com/walking-tour/

Placerita Nature Center
www.placerita.org

Vasquez Rocks
https://parks.lacounty.gov/vasquez-rocks-natural-area-and-nature-center

Rancho Camulos Museum
www.ranchocamulos.org

Ft. Tejon Historic Park
https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page-id+585

Ridge Route Communities
www.ridgeroutemuseum.org

Fillmore Historical Museum
fillmore.museum@gmail.com

It’s not too late! Donate to the SCVHS now by clicking HERE! Thank you!

The Dispatch is edited by Carol Rock. Questions and comments can be sent to crock@scvhs.org.
Our mailing address is:

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