



The Heritage Junction Dispatch

A Publication of the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society

Volume 36, Issue 1

January-February 2010

Calendar

Monday, January 25

Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM Saugus Station

Saturday, January 30

General Meeting of SCVHS
members to elect Board members
1:00 PM Saugus Station

Talk on the history of Radio,
2:00 PM Saugus Station
(See page 4)

Monday, February 1

Deadline for the March-April
Dispatch

Saturday, February 13

Valentino for Valentine's: "Son of
the Sheik" 6:00 PM Hart Museum
(See pages 3 and 8)

Monday, February 22

Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM 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



Another myth
shattered.

Traditionally,
our local history
literature has stated
that First Lady Lou
Henry Hoover
(wife of President
Herbert Hoover)
grew up and lived
in Acton, that her

father Charles Henry was superintendent
of the Puritan Gold Mine near Acton, and
that the President and First Lady would visit
her parents in Acton. Thanks to a recent
correspondence with the Herbert Hoover
Presidential Library in West Branch, Iowa
(<http://hoover.archives.gov>), we now know
that this was not the case; however, there does
turn out to be a connection between Mrs.
Hoover and Acton after all. The Hoover Library
sent our Historical Society a copy of a letter
written by Mrs. Hoover on February 10, 1938,

in response to a letter she received from
local historian Harry E. Heinkel asking her
about her experiences in Acton. In her letter,
Mrs. Hoover states:

*"The inquiries in your letter of February 8 bring
back to me a very vivid recollection of Acton
from 1889-1891.*

*My father loved the mountains, and every
moment that he could steal away from his
indoor occupation we went exploring and
camping in what would be new country to us.
Thus, during those years, a number of times
we used Acton as a center and made trips
about in various directions. We never lived in
Acton, nor did I go to school there, although I
do remember the red brick schoolhouse, which
stood some distance beyond the store from the
railway track.*

*Across from the railway station, or 'depot', was
Mr. Nichols' store, -the only one in Acton when
I knew it. Within the store were the counters*

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DOUBLEHEADER!

JANUARY 30, SAUGUS STATION

GENERAL MEETING OF ALL MEMBERS TO ELECT BOARD MEMBERS, 1:00 PM

THE HISTORY OF RADIO! TALK BY CARL GOLDMAN, OWNER OF KHTS, 2:00 PM

FREE ADMISSION; SEE PAGE 4

President's Message

Continued from page 1

and shelves of general merchandise of all sorts desired by the ranching people. Mr. Nichols was also the postmaster, and one got one's mail there.

I remember it very well, as I rode down on horseback two or three times a week for the family mail during the one summer that we camped in the mountains behind Acton for practically the whole of the vacation. That summer was no doubt the occasion of a tradition's being started of my father's mining there.

It was 'mining' only in a very small way, the mining part being quite secondary to having the kind of pioneering vacation that we loved. Father and one or two acquaintances had bought an old prospect, I should say some eight miles from Acton, and he spent the summer watching the first developments toward proving the value of this property, which turned out to be nil. We camped not far from the small shaft, on which, if I remember rightly, only two workmen were engaged. My father potteded actively about, and lent a hand wherever he thought most useful at the moment.

We all had a most entertaining summer, and were really disappointed that the mining values proved so low that there was no need to go back again on the mining venture, although we did go back occasionally in the next two or three years for a few days' riding or hunting somewhere in the neighborhood. At that time Acton was certainly not a mining center. As I remember, there was only one active mine anywhere in the neighborhood, that being some eight or ten miles away, but not in the same direction as the one which was interesting Father. This, by the way, was not known as the Henry mine, nor have I ever heard of a mine by that name. I was from twelve to fourteen years old during those years of our visits.

Not during the time that I knew it, nor do I imagine any time before that, had it been the 'busy' place of which you speak. There was only one saloon in what might be called the town itself, around the neighborhood of the station, the store, and the school, not the dozen of which you speak.

Acton was no doubt the railroad section station between San Fernando and Mojave. There would have been the houses of those section hands, for the schoolteacher, doubtless a doctor. There would probably have been a carpenter, a tinsmith, no doubt a blacksmith's shop, and just a few such people as would be absolutely necessary to carry on the life of a very tiny village some hours from the nearest larger centers, which would be San Fernando, Barstow, and Mojave!"

History is a fluid endeavor. "Facts" change as new information becomes available. Here we have the truth from the "horse's mouth", Mrs. Hoover herself, about her connection to Acton, California. Another SCV historical myth has been shattered.

<http://www.ecommcode2.com/hover/research/photos/1891-5.html>

HAPPENINGS AT THE JUNCTION

Kudos and sincere thanks to Ed Marg, Scott Sivley and all their Haunt crew members for putting on the most successful Heritage Haunt yet!! This year we drew record crowds of happy and scared people. In addition to the original Newhall Haunted Ranch House, the venues this year included Psycho's Circus Maze with a cast of macabre clowns, the haunted hayride with the California Desperados, a haunted village, and a ghostly pirate ship. We also thank the New World Dance Company for their brilliant and hugely popular encore performance of "Legend of Sleep Hollow" ballet held in the Train Station. Other events related to the Haunt included the Pumpkin Festival at Heritage Junction and Hart Park, and a very picturesque Zombie March down the streets of Newhall. Special thanks to Sandra Slavin Of Burrtec Waste Industries for providing a 40 yard roll-off for clean up of the Haunt.

Don't miss the first special lecture event of the new year!! On January 30, the Historical Society will be hosting Carl Goldman, co-owner of local radio station KHTS, and recent Santa Clarita Man of the Year, who will be speaking on the history and future of radio broadcasting, including the checkered, yet successful history of our own KHTS. The talk will be held at 2:00 PM in the Saugus Train Station. This promises to be a most interesting and entertaining afternoon with one of the SCV's most celebrated figures.

We wish everyone a Happy New Year, and hope one of your New Year's resolutions will be to increase your participation in the activities of the Historical Society. Only with your help can we move forward with the important work of preserving our rich history and historic buildings of Heritage Junction. Thanks so much to all the Historical Society volunteers who helped us out throughout 2009. You are truly our guardian angels!! See you all at the Train Station.

Alan Pollack

Candidates for Board of Directors Positions

John Boston

Named Best Humor Columnist in North America by The National Newspaper Columnist in June 2009 for the second time, Boston was recently presented with the Will Rogers Humanitarian Achievement Award in Oklahoma. These are but a few awards Boston has received.

A long time resident of the Santa Clarita Valley and an ardent supporter of the Historical Society, Boston will bring a wealth of knowledge to Board of Directors. Boston has taught a local history class for many years. His personal history includes NBC news director, movie star manager, ranch hand, house painter, columnist for The Signal, and writer. Currently he is finishing "The Halcyon Tines & Rural Avenger."

Sioux Coghlan

I am currently a fifth grade teacher at Highlands Elementary School, but I have experience teaching all levels (kindergarten through eighth grade).

It was my years as a third grade teacher that brought me to the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society. I wanted to be able to share more about our local history with my students, so I joined a docent training group.

The training included a tour (led by Pat Saletore) of the historical sites in the Santa Clarita Valley. It made such an impression on me that I used it as a model for a yearly bus tour for my class.

My vision for the Society is to be sure we make the community aware of the importance of knowing and preserving our history.

Alan Pollack

I am currently President of the Historical Society. As program chairman, I am also responsible for booking and hosting our Historical Lecture Series. I write local historical articles which have been published in the Society's "Heritage Junction Dispatch" and the "Old Town Newhall Gazette" supplement to the Santa Clarita Signal newspaper. I also serve as a docent for the Saugus Train Station Museum.

My day job for the last 23 years is as an internal medicine physician at Kaiser Permanente in Panorama City.

My vision for the Historical Society is to continue to expand the educational opportunities that we make available to the public, and to improve our fundraising capabilities so that we may best preserve the historic buildings of Heritage Junction and the rich history of the Santa Clarita Valley.

Hart Happenings Next Door by Ayesha Saletore



This past year brought so many amazing programs taking place within our organizations throughout the William S. Hart Park. With the 2010 New Year, I thought it best to inform you of the upcoming Hart Museum happenings.

We are looking forward to working once again with the Santa Clarita Historical Society to launch another co-hosted silent film event after the sold out success of A Celebration of Chaplin in 2008. This year we bring you **Valentino for Valentine's**, an evening of Rudolph Valentino, the romance king of the silent screen!

Valentino for Valentine's Saturday, February 13, 2010, 6:00 pm

Join us for an evening of Rudolph Valentino, the romance king himself! The evening will include a special display of Valentino artifacts, catered dinner, and screening of Valentino's "Son of the Sheik." Advance ticket purchase is required and can be made by calling 661 254-4584. Ticket Price: \$40.00 per person. Sorry, no refunds will be permitted.

Also, quickly approaching in March, the Hart Museum is hosting the Lori Andrews JazHarp Trio for an exclusive concert in the beautiful living room of the Hart Museum:

Jazz at Hart Friday, March 19, 2010, 8:00 pm

Experience the Lori Andrews JazHarp Trio in the beautiful Hart Museum! Jazz up your evening with harpist Lori Andrews, who was described by Scott Yanow of "The All Music Guide to Jazz" as a musician who "shows that her delicate instrument can be used to produce swinging, soulful, funky and stomping music." Please call 661 254-4584 for ticket reservations, which are required. Ticket Price: \$10.00 Members / \$15.00 Non-Members.

We hope to see you soon!

Radio - The Medium That Refuses to Disappear

by Carl Goldman

In the early evening hours of November 2, 1920, the history of human communication changed forever when, atop the Westinghouse "K" Building in East Pittsburgh, PA, radio station KDKA began its first broadcast with reports of election returns in the Presidential race between Warren G. Harding and James M. Cox. It was the first radio station in the United States to be granted a limited commercial license. On Saturday, January 30, 2010 at 2:00 P.M., the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society will present local radio station KHTS co-owner Carl Goldman, who will give a talk on "The History of Radio Broadcasting". The event will be held at the Saugus Train Station in Heritage Junction at William S. Hart Park, 24101 Newhall Avenue (formerly San Fernando Road), in Newhall, California. Admission is free.

When Marconi first communicated from a radio in his attic to a receiver behind a hillside, he never envisioned the impact his invention would have on society. Radio became the first mass-communication medium. It entertained, informed and frightened. Whether it was FDR calming a panicked nation with his Fireside Chats, Jack Benny changing how families spent their nights together, or Orson Welles creating mass hysteria in 1938 with his fictitious Martian Invasion, "War of the Worlds," radio re-shaped our society.

As television became the dominant medium in the late 1940's and early 1950's, radio was given its death toll. Instead, it reinvented itself, thriving first as the music and later as the talk medium. Since then, radio has been declared dead on numerous occasions. 8-Track Cartridges, M-TV, Satellite Broadcasting and the Internet have all been claimed by the experts to be the death of radio.

Instead, radio has fought back, reinventing itself with each challenge. Today, radio is as strong as ever. But the death bells are ringing again as new technologies force it to once again re-invent itself as a medium. What's in store for radio for the next hundred years? KHTS co-owner Carl Goldman takes a look at radio's future by exploring radio's past. In this informative and entertaining discussion, Goldman will share some of radio's greatest moments and challenges. He'll also share the checkered, yet successful history of Santa Clarita's own radio station, KHTS, AM-1220. Join him for a compelling afternoon and discover what radio will be like during the next hundred years.

About Carl Goldman

Carl Goldman, along with his wife, Jeri Seratti-Goldman repurchased KHTS AM-1220, Santa Clarita's hometown station on October 24, 2003. Since then, they have rebuilt KHTS as a critical voice of the Valley. In 2008, Carl was named Santa Clarita's Man of the Year.

The couple moved to Santa Clarita in 1990 when they purchased a then-floundering KBET AM-1220 radio. They turned the station into a success, providing a variety of local news, traffic, sports and interviews. During the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, KBET became the voice of Santa



Clarita, delivering non-stop coverage for the entire six months our Valley was significantly impacted. In 1998, the Goldman's sold AM-1220 to the broadcasting conglomerate, Clear Channel Communications, who turned it into KIIS-AM. The Goldman's re-purchased the radio station in 2003. Since then, KHTS has again become the emergency voice of our Valley, providing minute-by-minute coverage of fires, floods and tunnel explosions over its airwaves and through its website, www.hometownstation.com.

Carl has a BA in Mass Communications from Hampshire College in Amherst, MA, and an MA in Communication Management from the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Southern California.

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>.

Attitude is Everything by Pat Saletore

Our recent Christmas Open House was a demonstration of the adage above How many times did I get asked “you’re not going to try to have this open house are you?” To be honest...I had the “closed due to rain” sign ready before I came. When all our worst fears for the weather proved well founded, I looked around at the volunteers who had come. They chose to open.

And the rain came down in BUCKETS!

What surprised me was the number of visitors, armed with umbrellas and raincoats, who came to visit. It wasn’t a big crowd, but they came. And what amazed me even more were the volunteers. No one even suggested that we close until about 4:00 PM. But even then, when a couple came, we kept the station open until they left at 5:00. What is even more astonishing is that I can say this even though early in the afternoon both of the toilets shut down and refused to work for the rest of the day, apparently due to a pressure problem. What kind of “Can Do” attitude is this? Huh? Kudos to Francesca Gastil, who stepped up to the plate to chair this event, with the steadfast help of her friend Cindy. Both of them put in a lot of time to make the lower part of Heritage Junction festive. Thanks to Nancy Cordova and her family who decorated, and the Questers who manned the upper part of the park...Sue Yurosek, June Myers, Linda Hinz, DeeAnn Woods, Judy Holland, Roberta Harris and Barbara Johnson. Docents Alan Pollack, Barbara Martinelli, Sioux

Coghlan, Sarah Floyd, Barbara Milteer and Konrad Summers gave tours and kept houses open. Harold Hicks was our Santa Claus. It was great to see Lou and Anne Kaulbach at the Station, and their cookies, too.

We didn’t have running water—and we were deluged with rain, but the show went on. And there was no whining, no complaints. WAY TO GO PEOPLE!!!

The Questers, as always, took care of the buildings up in Feed Trough Canyon. But Francesca and Cindy worked way too hard to get decorations up and cleaning done in the rest of the buildings. I would like to put this out for consideration: for next year...can we ask for people to volunteer to just take just ONE building to decorate? It would take SO much off the person chairing this event. Putting up lights and decoration in one building isn’t so bad, but doing it in 4 or 5 is just not fair to dump on one or two people. If you think you could adopt one of our buildings (or the locomotive) for NEXT Christmas, I would like to suggest that you volunteer to help take down the decorations this year. In that process, you could take what you think you will need for YOUR building, and store it all together. Then when the season rolls around next year, you can put up the decorations on YOUR building and be proud - whether you are there for the open house or not! What do you say? Can a few of you step up? Show me you have that kind of attitude, too. Call me at 661 254-1275.



Skip & 58-ish Counties by John Boston

Back when Gray Davis was being recalled as California governor, I got a phone call from my old pal, Skip Newhall. He had a most intriguing take on this California gubernatorial recall.

"There are 135 or so candidates vying for the governor's office," He noted. And yes. Skip's got the kind of education where he actually uses the word, "vying," out loud, in a sentence. "I think anyone wanting to run the state's executive branch should be able to at least complete one simple task."

Playing straight man, I asked: "What's that?"

"They should know how many counties there are in California," Mr. Newhall admonished. Skip's ancestor, Henry Mayo Newhall, was the founder of my hometown back in the late 19th century.

I hemmed. "Skip. I don't think I know how many counties there are. What. Sixty?"

"Fifty-eight," he efficiently corrected.

"Oh yeah, I remember," I said. "We lost two in the last earthquake."

"And you know what else?" His question was rhetorical. The "by cracky" silent but implied. "Anyone running for governor should be able to name all 58 of them."

Without killing an entire day or popping an eye vessel, I could rattle off about 20 of them. That would be an "F" back when I was in high school or - in today's lowered Wm. S. Hart public school expectations, an "A-minus." When I peeked and checked out a list, I lightly slapped myself in the forehead and made a grotesque face.

Cripes. I had visited most of them. With a quick refresher glance, I came up with 40, then went over the list again. I had never heard of Amador County. It's in upper-middle part of the state, easterly. In Spanish, Amador means, "to love..."

I don't recall ever hearing of Glenn County. I had been there years earlier to attend a Bigfoot Festival and had written a magazine article on the event.

Solano? Don't-know-oh.

Vacaville is in Solano. Solano is midway between San Francisco and Sacramento. I've driven through it. Don't remember.

I might have thought Yolo County was near Oregon. Wrong. It's west of Sacramento and is predominantly ag. country. Yolo comes from the Poewin Indian word meaning: "Abounding in the rushes." Something got lost in the translation because that phrase just does not make sense to me. I can see one "bounding through the rushes" or "Abounding in rushes," but "Abounding in the rushes" seems obtuse. Maybe it's Limbaugh country.

I've been to Alpine County. It's the smallest in the state with just 1,210 residents. My dad and I went there for Fourth of July, 1992. They didn't have a single stoplight then, although I heard civilization has reared its ugly head and the Alpinians were forced by some godless outside bureaucracy to install one or face invasion by the National Guard.

Couldn't point out Yuba on a map, although I imagine the supervisors there suffer from graffiti artists who keep adding "N's" at the end on the county signs. Been to Red Bluff. Couldn't remember that it was in Tehama County.

That darn Skip. He inadvertently sent me on an Internet hunt that lasted until 2:00 AM. There's this government site, www.csac.counties.org that has all this wonderful gee-whiz info. Well. It's interesting if you're a history buff or have wanderlust.

I've been through Calaveras County many times. It's from whence Mark Twain's celebrated jumping frog hailed. What I didn't know is that the word means, "skulls." The white explorer who first set foot in it named it so because of all the Indian skulls along the river. The native Americans had died either from famine or from fighting over fishing and hunting territories.

Obviously, we have a rich Spanish heritage. But all these years and I didn't know "Fresno" meant "ash tree" or that "Madera" means "timber." "Bernardino" literally means, "Bold as a bear." It's also the name of the patron saint of mountain passes.

There are many counties named after Indian terms. "Inyo" comes from the sanctity of the great Sierras. Translated: "Dwelling place of the Great Spirit." "Napa" could mean "Grizzly bear," "Motherland," "House" or "Fish." I guess you'd have to watch your accents in the Patwin tongue. Same thing with Tuolumne County, where Yosemite is. Tuolumne could mean "Where the mountain lions live," "Straight up sheep" or "Where the people live in stone houses." I prefer "Straight Up Sheep." It's a good band name.

Imperial is the youngest of all California's counties, founded in 1907 (there were originally just 28 counties when the state was founded in 1850). I can't say we came close, but we here in the Santa Clarita tried to become California's newest county. Twice in the 1980s local movers and shakers tried to break away from Los Angeles and form Canyon County - not to be confused with Canyon Country.

I seem to remember some local, immature wag of a columnist suggesting that either Canyon Country or Canyon County change the first two letters of their handle to "K's" so people wouldn't be confused. 'T' weren't necessary.

Twice the measure passed resoundingly 65-35 locally and was defeated county-wide by the exact same margin. That would

Continued on Page 7

Counties

Continued from page 6

have been a hoot, having a board of supervisors AND a city council throwing pies at one another.

That darn Skip. Always causing trouble.

He pointed out that should some over-achieving candidate be able to cough off, say, 55 of the 58 counties, he'd probably be in B-I-G trouble with the three he couldn't recall. I guess that'd be all right if he or she forgot Alpine and a much different story if they got stage fright and couldn't recall Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego. You wouldn't want to be snubbed by those voters.

Skip's final gauntlet toss that the truly-informed candidate would know all 58 of the county seats in California.

Me? I truly lament we never got to become California's 59th little jurisdiction. Even better, it would have been grand to get one of those mouth-watering hot doughnut establishments there, run by a white supremacists' organization.

We'd call it, of course, the Ku Klux Klan Krispy Kreme in Kanyon Kounty.

In Case You Were Wondering ...

Alameda	Alpine	Amador
Butte	Calaveras	Colusa
Contra Costa	Del Norte	El Dorado
Fresno	Glenn	Humboldt
Imperial	Inyo	Kern
Kings	Lake	Lassen
Los Angeles	Madera	Marin
Mariposa	Mendocino	Merced
Modoc	Mono	Monterey
Napa	Nevada	Orange
Placer	Plumas	Riverside
Sacramento	San Benito	San Bernardino
San Diego	San Francisco	San Joaquin
San Luis Obispo	San Mateo	Santa Barbara
Santa Clara	Santa Cruz	Shasta
Sierra	Siskiyou	Solano
Sonoma	Stanislaus	Sutter
Tehama	Trinity	Tulare
Tuolumne	Ventura	Yolo
Yuba		

Some Christmas Decorations



Recent Docents

Thank you to the following members who served as docents during November and December:

Frank Adella	Barbara Martinelli
Jeff Boultinghouse	Barbara Milteer
Sioux Coghlan	RuthAnne Murthy
Sarah Floyd	Alan Pollack
Francesca Gastil	Pat Saletore
Harold Hicks	Konrad Summers
Karen and Bill Limbaugh	Kristyn Van Wy

VALENTINO for VALENTINE's

featuring the 1926 Silent Film Classic
"Son of the Sheik"

Event will also include:
Display of Valentino
Costume and Props
Buffet Dinner



Tickets: \$40/person
For ticket orders, call
661-254-4584

Saturday, February 13, 2010
6:00 PM
William S. Hart Park

Made possible through
Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society, William S. Hart Park & Museum, and Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

(Also see page 3)



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

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