



The Hathaway Ranch Museum &

RSG  
HS

- NEWSLETTER -

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## OUR NEW FACE



This newsletter begins a new era featuring a more descriptive and picturesque masthead along with other graphic improvements. You'll notice that both The Hathaway Ranch Museum and Rancho Santa Gertrudes Historical Society (RSGHS) are represented in this one publication. Since both organizations contribute to, benefit from, and closely work together on the newsletter, it seemed reasonable to officially change the masthead to reflect this close relationship. Further, the Hathaway Ranch Museum has been *footing the bill* by paying the composition and printing costs making it even more logical to include the museum in the identifying masthead.

Other changes are in store for our readers too. As always, RSGHS members will continue to get the newsletter as part of their membership. But soon, non-RSGHS members will be able to "subscribe" to the newsletter too. This offers the ability to expand our reader base for those interested in historical material, but not necessarily living in this area or unable to be a regular part of our activities. The exact mechanism for this future subscription service is as of yet undecided.

Some changes are being considered that will improve the graphic quality of photographs. Up to now the newsletter has been published for little cost by using low graphic resolution camera ready work. The low resolution is required due to the Xerox type duplication process used to "print" the newsletter. It's similar to using an office copy machine. But this low cost "printing" does not allow us to improve the appearance of certain graphic features. Nor does it allow us to use even the simplest of any color printing processes. Improving the graphic quality means moving to a true printing environment—and that increases the cost of the newsletter.

Now that the Hathaway Ranch Museum and RSGHS are becoming better known, we are beginning to feel the need to expand our printed communication to reach a larger audience. Therefore, it may become feasible to spend some extra time and effort to improve the now marginal resolution of photographic and certain other

graphic components. But we need our readers help in this expansion too. Submission of interesting and varied historical articles and stories are the mainstay of any historical publication. As we grow we will naturally attract more writers and historians eager to submit their material for publication. In the meantime, our membership is the key to our advancing success.

Editor

## A Recent Donation

The "IDEAL" rotary drilling draw-works, the "IDEAL" two cylinder steam mud pump and the "IDEAL" twin-cylinder steam engine (often called a "twin") manufactured by the Union Tool Company of Torrance, California, and recently donated to the Hathaway Ranch Museum by J. I. Hathaway was originally used to drill Duncan No. 1 (circa 1926-1927) during the fabulous heyday of the Signal Hill/Long Beach oil field. The Hathaway Company took control of the Duncan lease during the 1930s. Right after World War II, (1945-1946) the wooden derrick and rig front was demolished and a new steel derrick erected in its place. The original steam drilling equipment, including the original single-cylinder "Oilwell" steam engine for cable tool drilling, and which was also used to pump the well after drilling was completed, were removed and stored in the Hathaway Company yards as a keepsake of the earlier days of oil.

No one paid much attention to the old cast iron relics sitting in the yard except rabbits and other wildlife that could use the pile of heavy metal apparatus as shelter. As the years passed, what had once been just a pile of rusting junk became interesting once again. Not for its industrial use this time, but as a rare historic relic of the former glory days of oil. Rotary drilling came into use during the early years of this century, but it was cumbersome and not well developed so was not widely used. However, all that changed when the deeper oil fields such as Santa Fe Springs and Signal Hill/Long Beach were developed. Rotary drilling became the preferred method of drilling deep holes. The older cable tool methods were relegated to "spudding in" (starting) a new

well, and often for completion of the freshly "rotary" drilled hole.

When drilling was completed the rotary drilling equipment would normally be removed and utilized to drill a new well somewhere else since it would never be needed again for the finished well. But, fortunately, for some unknown reason the Duncan well rotary drilling equipment remained in place till the mid 1940s when it was removed and shipped to Santa Fe Springs for storage.

It was normal practice to keep the cable tool portion of the "rig front" in place after a well was completed. It was used to pump and service the well during its useful life. Often in later years, the original steam engine was replaced by a more efficient, and easier to maintain, gas engine. And in even later years the cable tool rig front was razed and a small (modern) pumping unit took its place along side the wellhead.

With the rotary works from Duncan No. 1 the museum is now another step closer to being able to construct a "complete" oil rig as used during the Santa Fe Springs oil boom in the 1920s. In fact, J. I. (Doc) Hathaway remembers the very same type of "IDEAL" rotary equipment used on the Hathaway Lease (the original ranch acreage owned by Jesse and Lola Hathaway) here in Santa Fe Springs.

Thank you "Doc" for entrusting the Hathaway Ranch Museum with this historic equipment.

**Combined Hathaway Ranch Museum and  
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This Newsletter is a general news journal and solicits articles regarding the general interest, and the technical aspects of historical maintenance or restoration. Submissions must be sent to the Hathaway Ranch Museum or RSGHS, 11901 E. Florence Ave., Santa Fe Springs, California 90670.