

The Hathaway Ranch Museum



NEWSLETTER

Summer 1995
Volume 5, Number 3



OLD THEATRE PROGRAMS

We have something special coming up for theatre buffs. At our October 1st Open House, from 2 - 4 p.m., we will have a display of old souvenir pictorial programs associated with musicals, plays, movies, revues and ballets. For those who enjoy ballet, come and see the colorful programs of the Royal Ballet, the American Ballet Theatre, and the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo plus programs of ethnic dancing groups.

Among the light opera or musical programs are ones from the Greek Theatre and Los Angeles Civic Light Opera. There are many programs of the old Whittier Civic Light Opera Association and the Whittier-La Mirada Light Opera Association.

...Continued on page 3

ANNUAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PICNIC

The annual volunteer recognition picnic will be held at the Hathaway Ranch Museum on Sunday, October 8, at 1:00 p.m. A barbecued Chicken and Sirloin Tri-Tip dinner will be served.

All active volunteers and donors of \$50 or more during the past year will be guests of the museum, but PLEASE, friends, remember that it is your responsibility to notify us if you plan to come. Call (310) 944-6563 or (310) 944-7372. (Otherwise you might find yourselves eating with the dogs.)

May anyone come? Anyone is welcome provided they send us a check for \$10 in advance. Please send reservations and checks made out to: Hathaway Ranch Museum, 11901 East Florence Avenue, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670. Reservations will be held at the door.

Please reserve _____ places for me at the HRM picnic at \$10.00 per ticket. Total enclosed: \$ _____

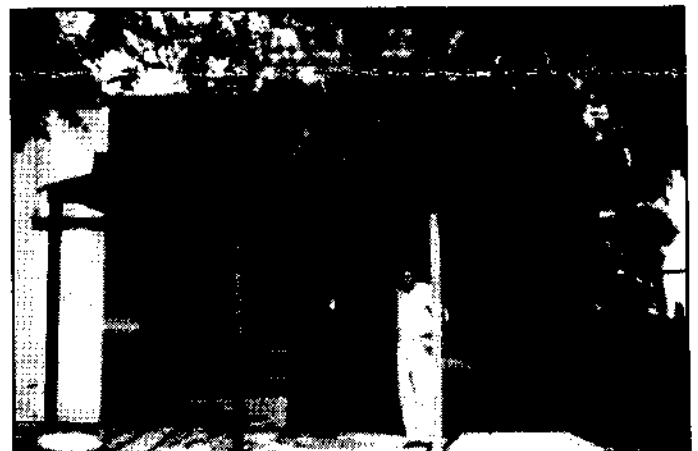
Please print name above: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: (_____) _____



Work progressing on the new visitor center front.



Aaron Hathaway stands in front of the new facade on the Visitor Center which he designed and built, using for a model a photograph of the old Koontz store, which stood, in 1872, at the southeast corner of Norwalk Boulevard and Anaheim-Telegraph Road.

HATHAWAY RANCH MUSEUM GUILD

Youth (high school or younger)	\$1.50
Individual	\$3.00
Family (two adults & minor children)	\$5.00
Business	\$10.00

"Angel" Membership Categories

Supporting	\$50.00
Sustaining	\$100.00
Lifetime	\$500.00

Make checks payable to Hathaway Ranch Museum, 11901 E. Florence Ave., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

Notice of membership dues are sent on a twelve-month basis. Donations are tax-deductible in the amount allowed by law.

The MUSEUM GUILD supports the aims and activities of the HATHAWAY RANCH MUSEUM, a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving and presenting the eras of farming, ranching, and oil development in early Santa Fe Springs.

Hathaway Ranch Museum Newsletter

Published by The Hathaway Ranch Museum
Mailing Address 11901 E. Florence Ave.
 Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
Telephone (310) 944-6563 or (310) 944-7372

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, 11901 E. Florence Ave., Santa Fe Springs, California 90670.

Lifetime Members

O.K. Flood	Thomas Scott
Nadine Hathaway	Ray & Phyllis Stenson

MUSEUM SCHEDULE

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

(except for holidays) 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

First Sunday Of Each Month

(except for holidays) 2:00 to 4:00 P.M.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, October 1, 1995 2:00 to 4:00 P.M.
 Special showing of old theatre programs

Sunday, October 8, 1995 1:00 P.M.
 Volunteer Recognition Picnic

NEW MEMBERS

George & Diane Gush
 Steven & Jennie Grant

GENEROUS MEMBERS

(Since acknowledgment in Spring, 1995, Newsletter)

Mary Bessent	Hilda Lopez
William J. Bianchi	Lewis & Dixie Pollard
Tom & Virginia Boles	Ruth Smith
Steven Erwin	
Richard & Barbara Field	
Dr. & Mrs. Stuart Gothold	

DONORS

Members of Vicki Gonzales' Class, Lakeland School
 Seniors of Whittier Friends Church

VOLUNTEERS

The following people gave time to the museum during the second quarter of 1995:

Francis Agopoff	Frank Martinez
Mildred Carlzen	Frank Moody
Ellen DeLacey	Mary O'Connor
Jeanne Grant	Betty Putnam
Evelyn Grembla	Josie Ramirez
Aaron Hathaway	Francine Rippey
Elizabeth Hathaway	Marjorie Rondeau
Jean Hathaway	Faye Smetanka
Jesse L. Hathaway	Melvin Smith
Jesse R. Hathaway	Phyllis Stenson
Karen Hathaway	Ray Stenson
Meredith Hathaway	Mollie Teschler
Remy Hathaway	Louise Thorson
William Hathaway	Joyce Virnala
Jack Johnson	
Carrie Long	
Henry Lynn	

MORE GOLDEN WEDDINGS

Since listing in our Spring Newsletter the names of couples who made it to their 50th Wedding Anniversary, we have acquired the names of a few more:

Victor & Gwen Bradley	Sam and Virginia Nelson
Gil & Lucy Cota	Frank & Shirley Martinez

Come on, members, keep the names coming!

THEATRE PROGRAMS, *continued from page 1*

Mary Martin and Robert Preston starred in "I Do! I Do!" Mary Martin was unforgettable in "South Pacific." David Wayne was a whimsical Og in "Finian's Rainbow." Did you see Yul Brynner and Patricia Morrison in "The King and I" at the old Los Angeles Philharmonic Auditorium? Do you remember John Boles in an early version of "Show Boat"? Did you see Barbara Streisand in "Funny Girl"? Did you catch Micky Rooney in "Girl Crazy" at the Greek?

Then, there are the programs for plays: two comprehensive summer programs from the Oregon Shakespearean Festival in Ashland for 1978 and 1981. Julie Harris in "The Battle of Amherst"; George C. Scott in "Sly Fox"; Ethel Barrymore in "Whiteoaks"; Katharine Cornell in "Saint Joan"; Ingrid Bergman in O'Neill's "More Stately Mansions" (an American premiere during the Inaugural season at the Ahmanson).

Do you remember the long-playing "The Drunkard" at the theatre Mart on Clinton Street in Los Angeles, where you were invited to cheer the hero and hiss the villain? Life Magazine said it was the "Longest run play in the history of the theatre." Are you old enough to have seen John Steven McCroarty's "The Mission Play" at the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse? Do you think your grandparents might have seen the play and pageant "Ben Hur," with its souvenir program printed in 1900? And more Shakespeare programs.

There are special programs for movies: "For Whom the Bell Tolls," "The Egyptian," "Hawaii," "Thoroughly Modern Millie." Do you remember the Cinerama productions, especially the first one with that spectacular roller coaster ride?

What about special programs for the Follies Bergere in France, printed in the 1920s and showing bare-breasted young women in fancy dress? Enough to titillate prying young eyes in the household? What about a 1944 and 1954 Ice Capades program? A special program for the Sleeping Beauty Castle when Disneyland first opened? A program to accompany a performance of "The Black Watch," the senior Highland Regiment in the British Army?

There are community programs, too, including many of the Rio Hondo Symphony and some of the special programs put on by our generous member Teta Smart.

Of special interest are Community Concert Association programs. We noted that violinist Zino Francescatti and Erick Friedman, presented by the Association, were accompanied by Brooks Smith, who just happens to be the brother of Mynatt Smith.

Do you have a special program (or several) that you would like to share with us for one afternoon? If so, bring it along on October 1, 1995.

AS FOR LONGEVITY...

IRENE NUFFER of Montebello, formerly of Norwalk, celebrated her 100th birthday at the Norwalk Arts and Sports Center in July.

Irene's life story appears in Volume VIII of "Settlers of Southern California," which is on sale at the museum for \$2.50 plus tax.

BUSTER'S QUARTERLY SECURITY REPORT

- 1/7 Successfully terrified Federal Express man. Won't be seeing him again for a while.
- 1/13 Batman caught barking at orange tree. Told him it was a tree. He kept barking. Psychiatric evaluation recommended.
- 1/17 Was asleep when mail carrier was distributing bones. Everyone else got two—I got one, and I'm bigger.
- 2/3 Hot lazy day. Mom was gone from morning until night. Jumped all over her when she returned.
- 2/5 Spent all day in fig barn for open house. Tried to entertain myself with stuff in barn—not much success. Hay ride went by and I barked anyway.
- 2/8 Newspaper boy was handing paper to Mom. Batman and I got a little too excited. We fought. Mom soaked us with the hose. Felt real bad for a couple days.
- 2/11 UPS man still not giving out bones. Will keep barking at him until he does.
- 2/18 Carrie brought bag full of bones and left them with me after I promised to distribute them fairly to the other dogs.
- 2/28 Four sirens in one day. Got some howling out of our systems.
- 3/2 Rabbits still too fast. Chased three, but was no match for them. Must resume personal training regimen.
- 3/5 Enjoyed fig barn this time. Found something dead in corner of barn. They had to drag me away.
- 3/7 Mail carrier gave me four bones. Everyone else got two. Beginning to feel better.
- 3/10 Caught Batman barking at avocado tree. Saw cats up in tree. Not supposed to chase them, but they're so tempting.
- 3/12 Betty [K.] brought freezer-fresh bones for us. Forgot to tell other dogs. Was too late by the time I remembered.
- 3/14 Dug a pit for three hours next to white car, and slept under the stars.

Buster's Safety Tip: Bring bones for dogs, twice as many for big white dog.



[—Loosely translated by Aaron Hathaway]

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

TETA SMART and her daughter **SAMANTHA** teamed up to produce the annual Miss Whittier contest for 1995.

LUIS FRANCO and **JOE R. RAMIREZ** have expressed their opinions recently in the "Letters to the Editor" column in the Whittier Daily News.

FRANCINE RIPPY is hard at work preparing food entries for competition this fall at the Los Angeles County Fair. Last year she won first place in the Home Arts Division for her crocheted rug, preserved berries, low sugar apricot jam, fig jam and fig conserve. She also won second place for her woven afghan and more ribbons for various food products.

HARRIETTE and **GERALD PEEBLER** were quoted in the Memorial Day edition of the Whittier Daily News and pictured standing by the La Mirada Memorial Wall for the Vietnam Veterans. "When I look at this memorial wall, I see it's not just names, it's the sacrifice these boys made," said Harriette Peebler. The Peebler's son **CHRIS**, an Army sergeant, age 22, was killed in 1969 by sniper fire while leading a group of men in Vietnam. The Peeblers own Olive Lawn Memorial Park in La Mirada.

ELNA SUE JOHANSON, who founded the Whittier Historical Society and has been a long time preservationists in Whittier, was given recognition recently in the Whittier Daily News. Johanson, a retired elementary and high school teacher, operates her own tutoring business in her home and can tutor in any subject through high school. The King of Sweden awarded her the Medal of Sweden two years ago for her extensive work in the Swedish-American Society here in California.

VARLIE GORDON, a former mailman who became the supervisor of Special Services in the Arcade and Terminal Annex before he retired, was reminded of his duties with the U.S. Postal Service when the Federal building in Oklahoma City was bombed in the spring. Gordon's desk was the destination of all suspicious items addressed to potential victims, which he delivered to postal inspectors for examination. He claims that he wasn't nervous "because it's when you open the envelope—that's when it explodes."

MARY ANN RUMMEL, who was associated with the Hathaway Ranch Museum as Curator for several years, was recently honored by the City of Whittier as a Volunteer. She has been a volunteer at the Whittier Public Library eight hours a week since 1991 working in the Whittier Room organizing and preserving the archives. Margaret Donnellan Todd, library director said, "Mary Ann has made a really significant contribution to our library and to the community." She copies newspaper articles, pamphlets, photos and other documents dating back from when the city was founded to the present—on acid-free paper, which won't disintegrate as will regular paper.

MARTIN COLE, a well-known historian, spent many years at the Pio Pico State Historic Park doing research. It wasn't an easy job as so many things about Pio Pico had been told incorrectly through the years. COLE was honored at the Park on Cinco de Mayo during a special celebration. Today, people rely on the writings of Cole, who has authored five books and 90 articles about local history and aviation.

RUTH GRAMS was honored by the Cultural Arts Commission of Whittier a few months ago with a fine article in the April-June Arts Calendar. Ruth was born Ruth Pfohl in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Her father was a Bishop in the Moravian faith and her mother the daughter of Moravian missionaries. Her parents instilled in her not only a love for their fellow man but also a love for music. For many years, Ruth has played her harp at many area functions and all who have heard her enjoyed her playing. One day when Ruth was a child she was playing baseball in her yard and the game was interrupted by her sisters' music teacher who wanted to see Ruth's hands. Quickly washing her hands, she showed them to the music teacher. Ruth had a lot of stretch between her thumb and forefinger, which indicated she could become an excellent harpist. That started Ruth on a career that she maintained throughout many years.

Ruth did many other things along the way. In 1963 she received her masters in library science from USC and started working as Children's and Reference Librarian for the city of Santa Fe Springs. By 1965 she became head librarian for the city, and she continued to play her harp with the Downey Symphony. In 1967 she joined the Rio Hondo Symphony where she continued to play.

ELLEN ANDERSON, her husband **SIG**, and **VIRGINIA MATHONY** were all cited recently for their volunteer work at the Whittier Museum. E. Louise Smith wrote in her column "For Seniors Only" in the Whittier Daily News about Virginia's research on lives of early settlers of this area. Ellen is a docent and chairwoman of the textile department. She is also responsible for much of the cataloging of memorabilia as it comes in. **SIG ANDERSON** is a member of the Buffs, who do work at the museum that needs to be done, building things and taking care of items that need care.

GIL COTA has been honored by Sheriff Sherman Block with a special commendation for the 1,200 volunteer hours Cota has spent with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Museum. The museum, at Colima and Telegraph Roads in Whittier, is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. week days. Admission is free. The museum opened three years ago at the sheriff's training academy complex and is popular with families, school children, seniors, and for anyone interested in local history. Especially popular items are a shiny black 1938 Studebaker sedan, a black and white late model Kawasaki police 1000 motorcycle and a bubble shaped Hughes 300 helicopter you can climb into and part of a huge Sikorsky rescue chopper complete with action dummies, realistic sounds and blinking lights.

"GILBERT" ALVAREZ

One summer day over ten years ago, "Gilbert" approached the car of Nadine Hathaway as she was pulling out of the driveway of what is now the Hathaway Ranch Museum and asked the driver if she needed a gardener. It would have been difficult to deny that she did not. Gilbert, the nickname for Humberto Alvarez, claimed that he didn't mind getting dirty and was used to hard work.

Ten years later, Gilbert still works for the museum every week day morning. He feeds the animals, does gardening and maintenance work, and helps to entertain young visitors by letting them help feed the chickens and gather the eggs. This is a retirement job for Gilbert, who grew restless in retirement after a career with Continental Can Company for thirty-one years. He had started packing cans and became a lead man, supervising the loading and unloading of box cars.

Gilbert was born in Deming, New Mexico. He graduated from high school there, joined the Army in 1951 and had two years of service, one year state side and one year in Korea. He returned to Deming when he was discharged from the service, but decided to come to California, where he started working for Continental Can Co. Gilbert has lived in the Whittier area since 1960. He remembers "all the derricks" and the wild growth that used to be Heritage Park. And one more thing: his great grandfather was killed by Geronimo.



Gilbert with Cricket, the gander, one of his charges.

COLLECTING INSULATORS

The hobby of collecting insulators began seriously in the late 1960's or early 1970's. It probably evolved from bottle and Mason fruit jar collecting which are quite similar in that the color of the glass plays a part in the value of the item. The colors of the insulators are shades of green aqua, amber and clear. Those made of pottery are shades of brown. Often it is difficult to determine the green from the aqua.

There was no need for an insulator before the early 1800's, so the date of the "cups of glass," as they are sometimes called, is rather easy to identify. They were not needed until the telegraph was invented in 1832. It was Ezra Cornell who applied for and received the first patent in 1844. Millions of these items were manufactured from 1850-1900 and were used for both the telegraph (1832) and the telephone (1875).

"Drip points" were introduced later to help water run off the glass before it had time to cause a short. The "double skirt" helped to isolate the moisture from the peg or pin. Insulators were threadless at first and were unsatisfactory since the peg came out easily and separated the glass. The threaded pin was introduced by L. A. Cauvet at the close of the Civil War and kept the insulator from separating.

Insulators have changed very little through the years. Their only function is to prevent "current leakage." No one has become wealthy by collecting insulators, but if you like to spend time out of doors, you will find insulator collecting well worth your while.



Glass and porcelain Insulators on display at the Hathaway Ranch Museum Visitor's Center.

LEARN FEST AT LAKE CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Little Lake City School District held its first-ever Learn Fest at Lake Center Middle School in May. The event focused on early America and included cannon and musket fire demonstrations. Trustee Betty Putnam demonstrated butter churning, something she did as a child on an Oregon farm. "I think people should know how people lived as pioneers without modern conveniences," Putnam said.

At right, Jimmy Long, Caroline Long and Aaron Hathaway tend a table at "Learn Fest" at Lake Center School.



WEDDING GOWN DISPLAY

In our spring newsletter we suggested that members bring their wedding or anniversary dresses to display at the museum during our regular monthly Open House on Sunday, June 4, from 2 - 4 p.m. A satisfying number complied and the room was abuzz with stories and comments. Below are some pictures of the taken during the eventful afternoon:



At left, Josie Ramirez, second from left, displays the wedding dress she wore nearly sixty years ago. Phyllis Stenson, Anna and Frances Agopoff look on.

Phyllis Stenson, at right, remembers her 50th wedding anniversary when she wore this dress.



Jack Johnson, at left, wearing his grandfather's dress coat of 1896, stands behind a mannequin modeling the wedding dress of Nadine Hathaway's grandmother, circa 1880.



Lucy Cota, at left, shows a copy of her 1931 wedding certificate to Phyllis Stenson.

Evelyn Grembla, below, displays her wedding dress.



Josie Ramirez, above, holds the dress she wore to her 50th wedding anniversary. On the dressmaker's dummy is the dress that Nadine Hathaway wore to her 25th anniversary celebration.

Virginia Nelson, below, shows her wedding dress of over 50 years ago.

