

# The Hathaway Ranch Museum

## NEWSLETTER



Autumn 1995  
Volume 5, Number 4



### SO SOON AGAIN?

It may seem that our autumn newsletter is following hot on the heels of our summer newsletter, and it is. There is a reason for it. As you read this, TERRY HATHAWAY (who long ago took pity on us when he observed our amateurish attempts at putting together a newsletter and offered to do better with his computer) is shaking the dust of Prescott, Arizona, from his belongings and is searching for new digs in Hawaii. His formidable computer equipment will soon be in storage. We were warned to hurry up with the next newsletter if we wanted his assistance, which we did.

We will bring you up to date early in 1996 with our winter newsletter. In the meantime, we wish Terry well in finding his blue heaven.

### THE GIFT OF TREES

Blessed by a bequest from the late Ormond K. Flood, the Board of Directors of the Hathaway Ranch Museum decided to spend the major portion of it on landscaping and on a tram to transport visitors around the property. Although the inheritance has yet to turn up in cash, funds were borrowed ahead so that the trees could be growing and the tram (which makes a hit with school children) could be giving people rides. THANK YOU, O.K!



Trucking in the trees.

### CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE & BOUTIQUE

We hope and trust that our members will bring hand-crafted items, homemade jams, jellies, and preserves, or home baked cookies, cakes, and pies and candy to be offered for sale at our Christmas boutique and open house on Sunday, December 3, 1995. The Open House is from 2 - 4 p.m., but donations should be brought to the museum that morning or the day before.

A note of explanation: The State Board of Equalization requires us to charge sales tax on all items that we sell except food items (just as we do not pay sales tax for food in the grocery store). Did you know that some states—notably Missouri—do charge sales tax for food? Things could be worse. Even donated items other than food must have sales tax added because once a price has been set, the sales tax applies. This seems unfair, but who are we to argue? We are the chickens which would probably get the axe.

By the way, the residence will be open—lower floor only—on December 3. Some of our visitors have asked about that. As a special treat, we will be entertained by MARGE CARLSON, a lady whistler.

### THE MUSEUM GOES DIGITAL

Dick Hathaway spent decades collecting and preserving thousands of historical photographs of Santa Fe Springs and the area. Some of the photos are well over a hundred years old, and others are fragile glass negatives. Handling and cataloging our massive and diverse collection of photographs has never been an easy task (it says something that no one really knows how many photographs we have, but the number exceeds five thousand). Who or what is shown in the photo, where was it taken, when was it taken? And how can all of this information be available to us when we're looking for a specific photograph or groups of photographs? While the collection is one of the museum's greatest treasures and resources, it has been little used over the years.

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## 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

## THE TRAM IS READY & RUNNING!



left: Elnora Young, Henry Lynn (driver), Aaron Hathaway and Betty Putnam are ready for a tour of the "back forty."

Right: The tram is available to show guests around Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



## 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 FREE

Sunday, October 8, 1995 1:00 P.M.  
Volunteer Recognition Picnic  
\$10 paid in advance, except for regular docents.

Sunday, December 3, 1995 2:00 to 4:00 P.M.  
Open House and Christmas Boutique FREE  
Marge Carlson, Whistler

## GENEROUS MEMBERS

Since acknowledgment in Summer, 1995 Newsletter. Received before August 20, 1995. Other donations will be acknowledged in our next newsletter.

Norfleet & Yvonne Blaine Clint & Liz Meche  
Kathryn Dobson John Pulice  
Richard & Barbara Field David & Pene Seiler  
Varlie & Elva Gordon  
Ray & Betty Jo Klausen  
Larry & Ruby Larrison

## VOLUNTEERS

From July 1, 1995 to August 15, 1995

Mildred Carlzen Josie Ramirez  
Jeanne Grant Francine Rippey  
Evelyn Grembla Marjorie Rondeau  
Jean Hathaway Faye Smetanka  
Meredith Hathaway Melvin Smith  
Jack Johnson Phyllis Stenson  
Carrie Long Ray Stenson  
Henry Lynn Louise Thorson  
Frank Martinez  
Frank Moody  
Mary O'Connor

## DIGITAL

*Continued from Front Page...*

By the time you read this, however, the museum will be knee-deep in technology that will put the entire collection at our fingertips. We are now using a computer to organize the collection. Computerized card catalogs at libraries allow you to search for books by typing in a subject, author, or title. The computer then tells you where to find the book on the shelves. Our system will go one step further—it will actually display a high-quality reproduction of the photo on the screen, along with any information that we have about it. Every photo in our collection will eventually be “scanned” into the computer, meaning that the computer will take a “picture” of the photograph and store it digitally. Once the photos are scanned, only rarely will we need to physically handle them.

This system allow us to have several permanent “copies” of the collection, stored entirely on a handful of discs. If a researcher requested some photographs, we wouldn’t have to send fragile negatives, or go to the trouble and expense of having a paper print made. Instead, we could copy and mail the digital photos on an inexpensive disc. The wonderful advantage of digital storage is that it is permanent (the discs have a life span of at least a century), and an infinite number of copies can be made without any loss of image quality. Not only that, but we have future plans to make the collection available “on-line.” For those of you who aren’t familiar with that term, it means that anyone with a computer, anywhere in the world, could look through our collection of photos. In fact, school children from anywhere in the country could take a “virtual” tour of the museum.

Of course, we could never replace the experience of a visit to the museum, nor would we want to. Instead, this technology will help us protect and make better use of one of our most stunning resources.

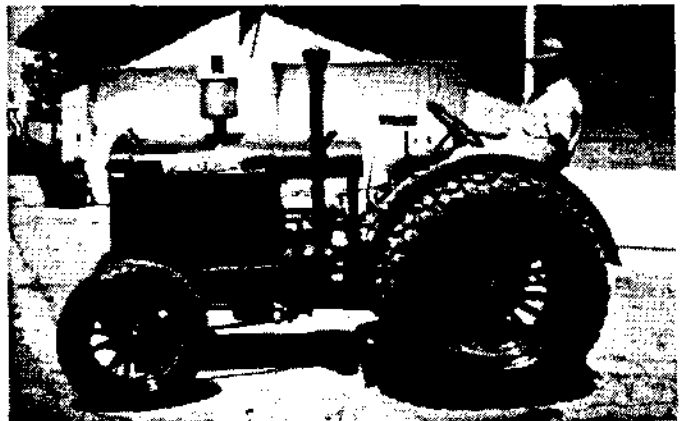
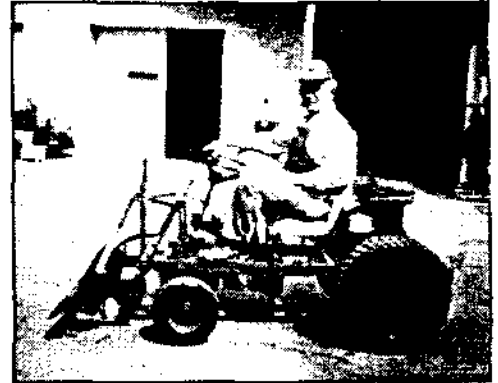
*by Aaron Hathaway*

## MEN AND MACHINES



*Left: Henry Lynn and Milton Clements with the engine for the Allis-Chalmers tractor (circa 1950), which is being restored by museum ranch hands.*

*Right: Melvin Smith rides his “no name” tractor, which he built at the museum. Smith has demonstrated his tractor in parades and shows throughout the Southland.*



*Harold Larson show off his newly restored McCormick-Deering tractor.*

## YES, PICO RIVERA HAS A MUSEUM

Lenie Medina, curator at the Pico Rivera Museum, is proud of the museum, as are other Pico Riverans, but she is saddened that so few local citizens know about it. The Museum is in a temporary facility donated by Gateway Center developers. Although the space is greatly appreciated, it is not large enough to display all the artifacts the Pico Rivera History & Heritage Society has. And, if a renter comes along, the museum will have to move. It is hard to display objects that would be difficult to move on a seven-day notice, so they have to be put away. According to Medina, Pico Rivera is the richest land in the world, but not many people seem to know it. Medina visits classrooms to tell children about the city’s history and invites adults to visit the museum and bring their friends.

Several items from the Ruth Shade ranch have been given by Ruth’s daughter: a grinding stone and plow, a wooden fireplace mantel that Gilbert Barajas, a volunteer, arranged to have refurbished. A glass display case exhibits 1700’s coins, antique dolls, irons, etc. Medina and Barajas are working on a new display on the 1984 Olympics and paintings of vintage airplanes. On the walls are pictures of descendants of Pio Pico. The Museum needs other original family artifacts from local residents so that the history of Pio Rivera can be preserved. It is located at 9516 Whittier Blvd. in the Gateway Center. It is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Admission is free. Call Lenie Medina at 949-4026 if you can help, or come and see her

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

**ELNA SUE JOHANSON** and **LUIS J. FRANCO** have contributed recently to "Letters to the Editor" in the WHITTIER DAILY NEWS.

An alumni profile in the Spring/Summer, 1955, edition of Cal State L. A.'s "Connections" featured **LUIS FRANCO** who was 73 years old when he graduated from CSLA in 1993 with a BA in Theatre Arts. Franco is a playwright, actor and champion of Hispanic Civil rights and veterans' rights. He was a flight engineer in the U.S. Air Force and became a prisoner of war in WW II after his B-17 bomber was shot down over Berlin in 1944.

Franco was held for a year in a Polish prisoner of war camp near the Baltic Sea. While interned, he entertained his fellow POWs with reading and one-man shows. When he was liberated in 1945, he returned to his wife and children in El Paso, Texas. About ten years later, they moved to Santa Fe Springs, CA, where the family still resides. He worked as an accountant until he returned to college at age 66, first attending Rio Hondo College and then transferring to CSLA.

His writing is focused on POWs and MIAs, and over the years he has brought public awareness to the fact that for more than 30 years POWs did not have health care benefits. Ultimately, he told the health care benefits story on the TV program REAL PEOPLE to an audience of 6.5 million. Not long after, Congress enacted a health care benefits bill for former POWs.

**MARTHA RUSSELL**, a long-time resident of PICO RIVERA from the time when Pico and Rivera were two separate localities, remembers when students from her area rode the Pacific Electric Red Car to attend Whittier High School.

Ten high school graduates worked this summer in the Pico Rivera City Hall as interns in a Career Preparation and Opportunities Program. One of their projects was to compile an oral history of the days when agriculture was the city's main industry and when the city incorporated in 1958. Russell was on the list of long-time residents interviewed. She was on the original Board of Directors of the Rancho Santa Gertrudes Historical Society, which was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1983.

After the Hathaway Ranch Museum was incorporated as a nonprofit foundation in 1986, the Society was dissolved. Its assets were turned over to the museum, and the docents continued to give tours of the premises as they had previously when the grounds were the headquarters of the society.

**REGINA PHELAN** has completed her second book in a series on California History for the young reader. "They Came by Way of Panama" is the story of the Weinshanks, who came to California in 1855. They arrived in San Fran-

cisco, where they lived a year before moving to the pueblo of Los Angeles. They went into the business of preparing foodstuffs for the miners of Arizona and sold to the merchants of the towns as well. Many of these merchants were in the business of selling hides and tallow, which were taken by carretas to the waiting ships in the harbor.

"They Came by way of Panama," as well as Phelan's first in the series, "Gold Discovered in California," are available for \$19.95 each, plus \$2 for shipping and handling. To order, make checks payable to Regina V. Phelan and send to 1002 West Road, La Habra Heights, CA 90631.

**RUTH COVINGTON**, program coordinator at Heritage Park in Santa Fe Springs, has recently graduated from California State University, Long Beach, with a Bachelors degree in English Literature.

**JOHN PULICE**, former superintendent, Little Lake City School District, is now associated with U. S. Representative Esteban Torres (D-34th).

**LINDSAY MENDEZ**, daughter of **MIKE MENDEZ**, Recreation Director for the city of Santa Fe Springs and granddaughter of **SARA MENDEZ**, member of the Board of Education of the Little Lake City School District, played the role of Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz" this past summer. Lindsay has been performing in theatrical productions for half of her 12 years. She was an unforgettable Gretl in the "Sound of Music, also produced by the Santa Fe Springs Community Playhouse, as was "The Wizard of Oz."

Members of the Board of Directors of the Santa Fe Springs Community Playhouse who are also members of the Guild of the Hathaway Ranch Museum are **BETTY PUTNAM**, **PRESIDENT**, **TOM MURRAY**, **MAY SHARP**, **LYNDA SHORT**, **GEORGE MINNEHAN**, **EDDIE AYCOCK**, **PAULA MINNEHAN**, **ARMIDA TRUJILLO** and **ALBERT L. SHARP**.

## NORWALK OLD TIMERS

Eighty-five people showed up for the Norwalk "Old Timers Luncheon" on June 11. The luncheon is always held on the second Saturday in June, the day chosen when the first one was held back in the 1940s, according to **RUTH SMITH**, who, with **SHIRLEY ELOFSON**, kept it going until two years ago.

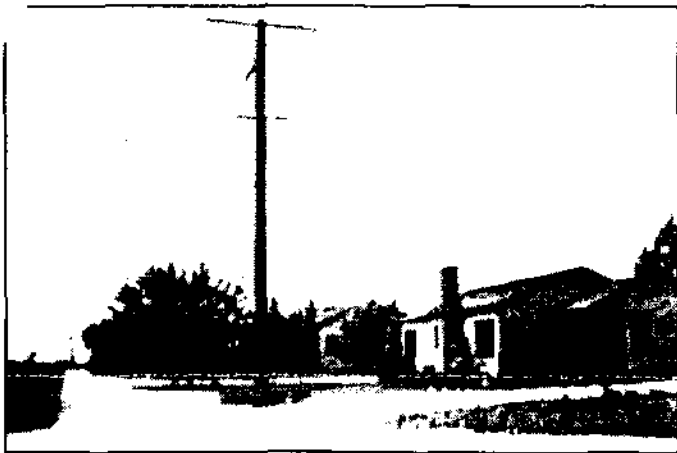
A different group of volunteers has taken charge. This year they advertised for people who had been in Norwalk at least 40 or 50 years and were rewarded by the attendance of some new people. The luncheon is held in the **NORWALK ARTS AND SPORTS CENTER**.

## EARLY LITTLE LAKE RESIDENTS

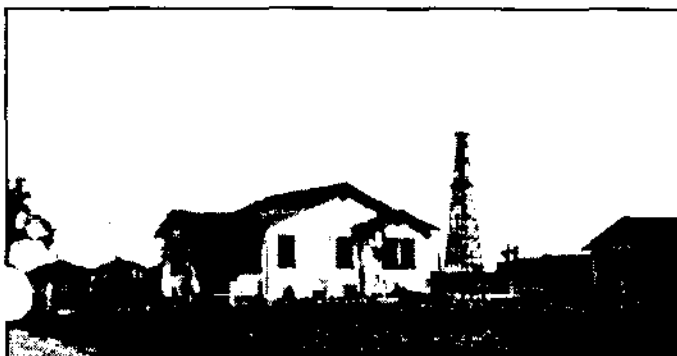
Recent visitors to the museum were BRENDA (BERRY) and JERRY PERKINS of Huntington Beach. Brenda was raised in Santa Fe Springs and lived in a house on what became Clarkman Street, across from what is now the Lake Center Middle School. She attended the now demolished Little Lake School on Florence Avenue (then Little Lake Road) with her brother Brent and her cousins and neighbors.

We asked Brenda to write something about her grandmother, CORA SWINDLE, who worked for awhile at the tiny Santa Fe Springs Post Office at the southeast corner of Telegraph Road and Norwalk Boulevard. She was a part-time assistant to the postmistress, MRS. EDITH MASON (mail could be picked up at this post office, but could not be delivered). Deliveries were made in the Santa Fe Springs area by the Norwalk Post Office.

Brenda complied with our request and sent us not only an interesting biography of CORA, which of course, includes information about Cora's family, but some pictures to add to our LITTLE LAKE files. We intend for the biography to be included in the forthcoming 9th edition of "Settlers of Southern California," but in the meantime we want to share some of the pictures with you. And speaking of the "SETTLERS" series, have you written YOUR story yet?



*The private road of the Keck and Willson families (July 1941), later named Clarkman Street.*



*The Willson house before orange trees were planted.*

## INCIDENTALS

When Tenaya Stewart Custer was on a special tour of the museum's library, she noticed a beautiful hardbound book entitled "CALIFORNIA MEMORIES," which was written by her Great-grandfather, Jackson A. Graves, copyrighted in 1930 and dedicated to his ten grandchildren. Tenaya fell a generation short of being included in the dedication.

Her father was Hugh Ford Stewart, Jr. Her grandmother was Alice Graves Stewart, Sr., and her grandfather was Jackson A. Graves. Graves also wrote "MY SEVENTY YEARS IN CALIFORNIA 1857-1927," copyrighted in 1927, which he dedicated to his wife, Alice H. Graves. Jackson A. Graves was President of the Farmers & Merchants National Bank in Los Angeles.

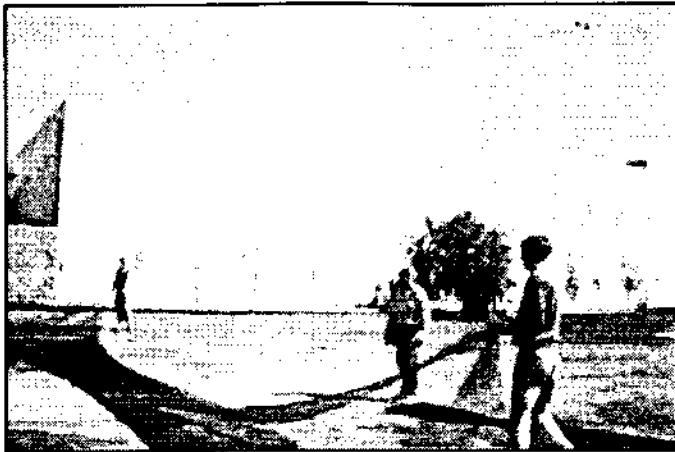


*The Sunday School class at the Methodist Church in Santa Fe Springs (circa 1923). Kathryn Willson, mother of Brenda Berry Perkins, is the 4th from the left in the back row. Earl Myer of Whittier is 3rd from the left in the front row.*



*Taken on Shamrock Road, now Pioneer Boulevard, between Anaheim-Telegraph and Lakeland (circa 1921). Kathryn Willson (later Berry), mother of Brenda Berry Perkins, is seated on the running board.*

# MISCELLANEOUS STUFF AROUND THE RANCH



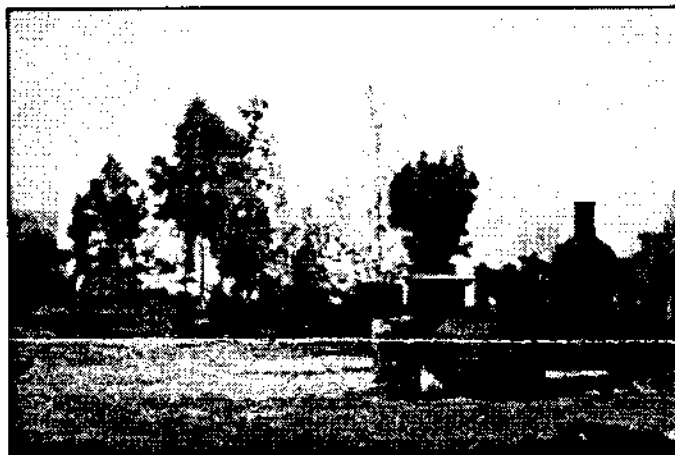
*Will, Beth and Aaron Hathaway prepare to encase a "cage" for the guinea fowl to keep these (sometimes called) "African chickens" from wandering down the road.*

The Southern Pacific Depot in Norwalk was built in 1875. Albert and Atwood Sproul donated and deeded 23 acres to the railroad for a train station and passenger stop. It was torn down in 1986.

Front Street, Norwalk, runs from San Antonio to Fuston and was the first business section, surveyed by Gilbert Sproul and sold as business lots before 1874.



*Trees planted along eastern boundary of the parking lot. Notice the growth in less that a year.*



*Steam roller in the parking lot, eastern boundary of the museum.*

A person in the early days of Whittier could protect his home with barbed wire, provided the fence was kept within five feet of street or alley. This was an essential privilege since horses, cows and other domestic animals had a habit of straying through town doing heavy damage to private property.

It was unlawful to drive or ride horses through the streets of Whittier in a fast and furious manner at a speed greater than six miles per hour in the early 1900s.

Bicycling was a favorite sport in the early days of Whittier. The Columbia Bicycling Club gathered at homes and planned trips. A favorite trip was to ride to Santa Fe Springs and have dinner at the Santa Fe Springs Hotel.

Spanish and Mexican Land Grants: To Bernardino Guirado, 875 acres, patent issued September 27, 1867; to Pio Pico, 8,891 acres, patent issued August 5, 1881.



*Scoop shovel and old tractor in the parking lot.*