

The Hathaway Ranch Museum



NEWSLETTER

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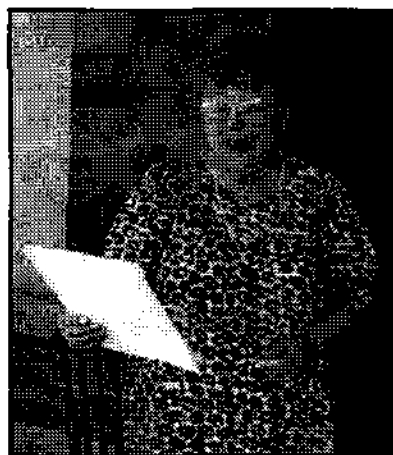


“GERTIE” AWARDED TO ELNA SUE JOHANSON

At its annual volunteer Recognition picnic, October 8, 1995, the Hathaway Ranch Museum in Santa Fe Springs presented to ELNA SUE JOHANSON of Whittier the “Gertie” award. The award is presented annually to some resident of the area once known as the Rancho Santa Gertrudes, and who has aided in an outstanding way in the preservation of history of the area.

Johanson organized the Whittier Historical Society (then known as the Whittier Area Historical Society) with meetings in her living room over a quarter of a century ago. From the 1960’s she had a hand in preserving the Bailey House, Whittier’s first house. After much hard work, the house was completely restored and presented to the City of Whittier in time for the Bicentennial in 1976.

Johanson was active in the docent program at the Pio Pico Mansion before the State of California took over the docent operation, and she co-authored a booklet, “Village Walking Tour.” For the past ten years she has spearheaded the “Save Our Depot” movement, known as SOD, in an attempt to save the Victorian Depot which stood at the end of Bailey Street in Whittier - one of four that remains in the state.



Elna Sue Johanson receives the “Gertie” award.

Johanson established the Swedish American Historical Society of California and received a gold medal from the King of Sweden for promoting Swedish American relations. She claims to have two goals at this point in her active life: a permanent site for the depot and the establishment of a Scandinavian Heritage Center.

HARGITT HOUSE RE-OPENED

After being closed for six years, while extensive repairs were being made, the Hargitt House in Norwalk was re-opened last year with a new roof, new foundation, new paint job and a new gazebo for the back yard, which the Friends of the Hargitt House financed with fund raisers. The Friends were responsible for the cleaning and for the sorting of artifacts.

During restoration, work on the project stopped while a movie was filmed on the location, “Dreamer of Oz.” Starring John Ritter and Rue McClanahan, the film was about the writing of the “Wizard of Oz.”



The house is named for Charles “Chun” J. Hargitt who was born in 1894 on the ranch of which it was a part, and who lived his entire life in it. Upon his death in 1975, “Chun” willed the house and furnishings to the City of Norwalk to be used as a museum. The house is built of solid redwood which was shipped from northern California to Anaheim Landing. It was floated ashore and loaded on wagons that brought it up the North Walk (now Norwalk Boulevard).

Open House Concert

Ruth Grams, well-known harpist in Southern California, will play Irish tunes (and others) on her Irish harp during our Open House from 2 - 4 p.m. on March 3. There is no admission fee.

VOLUNTEERS

(From August 16, 1995 to January 15, 1996)

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

MOST VOLUNTEER HOURS

For the Fiscal Year 9/1/94 to 8/31/95

Jack Johnson, 211	Frank Moody, 98
Harry Lynn, 171	Carrie Long, 67
Mel Smith, 118	Josie Ramirez, 63

TOP VOLUNTEER HOURS OVERALL

(to 8/31/95)

Henry Lynn, 2,244	Mildred Carlzen, 176
Jack Johnson, 1,698	Frank (Fidencio) Martinez, 166
Carrie Long, 1,118	Betty Putnam, 164
Mel Smith, 898	Mary O'Connor, 146
Ray Stenson, 672	Jesse L. Hathaway, 141
Phyllis Stenson, 442	Marjorie Rondeau, 114
Josie Ramirez, 437	Frank Moody, 98
Evelyn Grembla, 378	Jean Hathaway, 95
Faye Smetanka, 322	Aaron Hathaway, 57
Meredith Hathaway, 320	Frances Agopoff, 42
Louise Thorson, 270	Ellen Hathaway, 24
Mollie Teschler, 269	Jeanne Grant, 10
Joyce Virnala, 261	

IN MEMORY OF JOHN HAFFEY

John Haffey, mentioned several times in this newsletter, passed away in early January, 1996.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

BETTY PUTNAM was re-elected to the Board of Directors of the Little Lake City School District. Also re-elected were incumbents **SARA MENDEZ** and **LOUIE GONZALEZ**.

JOHN HAFFEY won awards at the 1995 Los Angeles County Fair, joining the ranks with **FRANCINE RIPPY**, who has won awards for many years for her jams, jellies and preserves as well as for her craft items. This was a first time effort for Haffey, who claims that his hobby is cooking. He won a First Place for his apricot-pineapple preserves and a Third Place for his hot pepper jelly, and Fourth Place for his tomato pickles.

HENRY LYNN, JACK JOHNSON, FRANK MARTINEZ, ARTHUR SALDANO, REX SORENSON and **RAY STENSON** have all donated time to working on, or showing off, the steam engine and railroad exhibit at Heritage Park in Santa Fe Springs.

LOUIS J. FRANCO, JOE R. RAMIREZ and **HAROLD G. RUMMEL** have all expressed their opinions recently in the "Letters to the Editor" section of the Whittier Daily News.

JANE (SODERBERG) GOTHOLD has been honored by Whittier College with the first Alumni Community/Public Service Award. Gothold, class of 1955, has been a class agent since the inception of the program of giving annual Poet Awards. She served two terms on the Alumni Association board of directors and has been a member of every class reunion committee since her graduation.

Gothold is a founding member of the Pacific Coast Archaeological Society and helped build the Society's publication, "The Journal," into a work recognized by leading research schools and the Smithsonian Institution. She has directed a dig at China Ranch in Death Valley since 1971 and is in demand as a teacher in gifted classes studying California Indians.

Gothold was an incorporator of the Rancho Santa Gertrudes Historical Society which was later absorbed into the Hathaway Ranch Museum.

IRISH POTATO SOUP

Peel and boil 8 medium size potatoes with a large onion (sliced), some herbs, salt, and pepper. Press all through a colander, then thin it with rich milk and add a lump of butter, and more seasoning, if necessary. Let it heat well and serve hot.

This recipe is contained in the cookbook, "Here's What's Cooking," which is sold for \$7.00 in the museum gift shop.

HISTORY CLASS VISITS THE HATHAWAY RANCH MUSEUM

Last year, students from a U.S. History class taught by Dr. Peters at Biola University visited the HRM. Dr. Peters asked the students to write an evaluation of the tour. About 80 students returned evaluations. Some of their comments are shared below. They saw the experience as educational, fun, interesting, amazing, most worthwhile and most revealing. Many comments showed some deep thinking on the part of the students. The greatest praise was the appreciation they felt for the ranch hands who were on duty to tell them interesting facts and to answer their questions.

"As we drove into the driveway, we were greeted with smiles and a warm welcome."

"The driveway was like a porthole through time."

"If one would desire to step back in time, I would suggest to tour the Hathaway Ranch. The one thing that stood out most was the people who led the tours and answered my very pregnant questions. I found them to be energetic (not bad for some of their ages!), courteous and friendly (after all we were only a bunch of college kids)."

"I enjoyed talking to Carry Long because she was enthusiastic, had a good attitude and seemed to enjoy telling me about the ranch."

"The highlight for me was talking to some of the ranch hands."

"Perhaps my favorite part of the whole experience was listening to the older people there who absolutely loved sharing things important to them with my younger generation."

"I was most impressed by the older people who gave us the tour. These people had been there. They lived through this stuff too. One lady in the war room, told us how she felt during the depression."

"An enjoyable and education! experience. I have always wanted to experience life in those times; it allowed me to get a glimpse of how things actually were. It was history come alive."

"My mom's life as a child was on a farm; for once I actually had the opportunity to see some of the things she had talked about. It was a very good learning experience."

"It's hard to believe that there's a ranch just across town, ninety years old."

"Seeing the pianos and violin was a thrill since I am a musician."

"I love hearing about the past, especially from those that were able to experience it first hand. These volunteers were just a pleasure to talk to and a blast to walk around with."

"I found all of the musical instruments to be very valuable to me, and if I had the chance, I would have liked to have played them."

"I felt I stepped back into history and actually touched it!"

"I was impressed that one of the grandsons took his time to become involved in sharing his past family history with us."

The boys were fascinated with the machine shop and the variety and amount of work that could be done there by one engine."

"When I first arrived I was not impressed. Just a bunch of old machinery. Then an older guy walked in and started to talk about the history of the machines. I was impressed! I actually hope I get another chance to go back when I have more time to look around."

"Visiting the ranch was like a trip into history. Learning about old farm machinery, cars, lifestyles, and the way the ranch was run, were all a 'wonderful surprise' for me."

"I am a mechanic, so I was most impressed by the old fashioned machine shop. I learned to respect each and every machinery invention."

"I enjoyed the outside part. I was shocked by the enormous water pump and reservoir under the cement floor. All the machinery that they managed to collect; all of that stuff still functioned!"

"They loved all the kitchen gadgets, the ice box which several had never seen the likes of; the old fashioned stove and the dish washer and the house, itself, they found attractive."

"Comparing it to our lives now, it is neat to see how God has blessed us. I am thankful for Nadine's work to preserve this wonderful historical site, and I was very glad to be a part of it."

"It was interesting to see the ice box; you could pour water into the top, let it get cold, and then get a glass of water from the spicket, much like today's expensive, modern refrigerators. It makes me wonder how our generation is going to look at today's technology."

"I know I would not mind living in a place like that. The ceilings were very nice with the huge cherry wood cross beams."

"I loved the house. One thing that I realized is that the houses now days do not have any personality."

"The most incredible thing about the ranch was Mrs. Hathaway's house. I truly can say that Mrs. Hathaway's heart is into her house because there is such a warm feeling of love and precious memories that you immediately sense when you walk into the house."

"I was amazed that Mrs. Hathaway lets people traipse through her own house, but I am glad she did. She had pictures of her family spread throughout her home. It really made the history of the place come alive."

All the boys seemed excited about "Woody," the car made of wood that had traveled over a million miles and was still in running condition, but one girl had this to say:

"The 1941 International station wagon thrilled me so much that I called my father when I got home to tell him about it."

"Woody, that's incredible! It should be on commercials."

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HISTORY continued from previous page...

Does HRM have everything? Was there anything missing that the students would have liked to see?

"The only thing missing were the animals. All I saw were roosters, peacocks and parrots. I was expecting to see cows and horses."

"I thought there would be some live stock."

Some students had their doubts about enjoying themselves on the tour, or even about learning something new. They had been to their grandfather's farm, or had lived on one. But they were quick to point out how much they enjoyed it.

"I have to admit I did not want to go. But, once I got there I began to appreciate the environment. Particularly intriguing was that the grandson was there helping to give the tour."

"I enjoyed the field trip more than I thought I would. I would not mind going back again when I was not so pressured to run through it and there are not so many people around. I was particularly impressed by the machine shop."

The following comments show they did some deep thinking about what they saw on the ranch and in the house and museum when they compared it with conditions today. Perhaps the ranch is a place for college kids as well as for children.

"It gave me an incredibly practical look at progression. When I say progression, I refer to technological advances. Perhaps with these technological advances has come a decline in many things such as morals, family values and an overall work ethic. The visit raised interesting questions and hypothesis in my mind. Indeed, one felt like prophet looking backward."

"The Hathaways have taught me to be diligent in using my time to do the work myself, with the help of technology. It was a good experience for me to go to the Ranch. Sometimes we complain about the technology that we have now, but we shouldn't expect the machines to do the work."

"I wonder what would happen if a museum opened up eighty years from now that had stuff from today in it. I hope visitors would get the same reaction and sense of life about our generation that I received from visiting the Hathaway Ranch Museum."

"To live through so many things is wonderful, to see life progress is a miracle in itself. Mrs. Hathaway has truly been blessed with the miracle and promise of life. The simple wholesome way of life is exactly what I want for myself."

"Ms Applegate had spilled her private thoughts (in her diary) and wrote how pleased and excited the family was when her father telephoned from New York City. It told me much about the state of the family back then; that the father cared and the family cherished him. I hope my future family will be that tight-knit."

"I found the atmosphere at the ranch to be very inviting and warm. Not like other museums, but rather like we were visiting their home and being shown around by the actual family. I appreciated the hospitality of the volunteers at the ranch and

admire their genuine desire to see the ranch preserved for historical purposes rather than for profit."

"The experience has opened my eyes and broadened my view a great deal. As our car drove out of the driveway, I felt as if I were leaving one world and entering another completely different world. I looked around and saw modern houses and wondered which of the two worlds I would choose should I be given a choice."

The "Turban Squashes"

given to the museum by John Haffey were decorative during the holiday season, and the butternut squashes from the same source were delicious.

NEW BOOK ABOUT WHITTIER TO BE PUBLISHED SOON

A new book, **PIONEER FAMILIES OF WHITTIER, Vol. I**, by Virginia Mathony, is about ready to go to the printers. It covers about 35 early families, who settled in Whittier between 1887 and 1900. Most of these pioneers were hard-working Quakers who conquered the barren lands, the hot, dry summers; the muddy, rainy seasons, to build their "dream" city.

The first few pages give a history of the area during the Indian and Mexican periods, and introduce the reader to the people who lived on the land before the Quakers came. Whittier has a unique history, one that was exciting to research, and will prove interesting to read. It will also contain about 50 photographs of early Whittier and it's people. The book should be especially helpful for school teachers who include local history in their classes. It follows the struggles of each of the families as they worked together to build their home and their new homeland.

Some of the families included in the book are John Henry Gwin, a local businessman; Walter Cammack, Whittier city recreation director; Orville Espolt, photographer, who left a legacy of early photos; a school girl, Lou Henry, who grew up to be the First Lady, when she married Herbert Hoover; Paul Dahlitz, Whittier's first baker, who had to carry water from the Sorensen Ranch every day in order to keep his business going, and many more.

There are many other families who helped build Whittier, too many for one book, so there will be a volume II. **Mathony would like to hear from relatives of settlers who arrived before 1900 so they can be included in volume II. She can be reached at (310) 693-1194.**

PIONEER FAMILIES OF WHITTIER, Vol. I will be available in the spring.

ARTHUR MARTINEZ REMEMBERS

(as told to Francine Jessie Hathaway Rippy)

Arthur Martinez was born December 26, 1918, in Santa Fe Springs on the street by the old fire station. His dad was in a farming partnership on Studebaker Road, where the family lived before moving to Florence Avenue. His dad raised corn and alfalfa hay. He moved his wife and family to the Ed Journigan house, between Little Lake School and Norwalk Boulevard, on Florence Avenue (which was then called Little Lake Road). The property had been purchased from the Journigans by Jesse and Lola Hathaway.

Arthur's dad helped Jesse Hathaway (always addressing him as Mr. Hathaway) with the farming: cow milking, feeding and in the orchards. Arthur helped to milk cows and work with the citrus. Using the horse team and wagon, he would haul up from the lower orchard the fruit to be sold to buyers, who would arrive in Model T and A Fords to pick it up.

Mr. Hathaway purchased redwood box gopher traps by the full case at the hardware store on Front Street in Norwalk. Arthur used the traps to catch gophers in the orchards, some days catching up to 40 and 50. Mr. Hathaway paid him five cents, then later ten cents, for each gopher. Arthur took the money home to give to his mother, who encouraged him to keep some of it for a bicycle. But he never got the bike, figuring that he'd lose trapping time if he walked to Norwalk to get the bike.

As a boy of about nine years old, Arthur would leave the house as though going to school. Instead, he'd go to work for Mr. Hathaway. Eventually, Arthur got in trouble with the school authorities for ditching school to go to work.

One time when Arthur's parents went on a rare trip Arthur invited guests over to eat. He took a large steak from the wood ice box, chopped it and added onions and garlic, then marinated it with wine and lots of lemon juice before cooking it. His guests were Bob Myers and Acton Miller. They loved the royal treatment and asked Arthur when his parents would be away again.

One day when the Hathaways were away, No 3 son, "Doc" (Julian) decided to take their new Model T Ford pickup out for a trial run on Florence Avenue, a narrow road at the time. Dick, No. 2 son, (Richard) warned that the "T" should not be taken out, but Doc insisted. Doc drove and Dick went along. Arthur got in the back with the yard dogs. The tail gate of the "T" was not put up. Doc drove fast, shutting the ignition off and on as he drove down the road, which caused the muffler to blow off. It shot a long way off and scared the dogs, which then baled out, along with Arthur, and rolled onto the side of the road. The dogs got up and ran. Dick picked up the muffler and tried to repair it before their parents returned home.

Arthur remembers baby sitting for Jean Hathaway on the "yacht" that Elwood and Doc bought without their father's knowledge. Arthur took care of Jean below deck, while a party was in progress on the top deck. (Jean says his dad bought the 34-foot boat at a sheriff's sale.)

Arthur signed up for the U.S. Army before World War II and stayed in until it was over, five years later. He went into the Army at Camp Lee, Virginia. He was given a five-day pass to travel to California to marry Rosie; then report to San Francisco. Arthur and Rosie were married in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Whittier at 5 a.m. on February 18, 1942, with only their sponsors with them in the empty church. Arthur had to leave by bus the next morning. Later, Rosie received a letter from Arthur's commanding officer saying he had been sent to the South Pacific. They were separated until the end of the war—four and one-half years.

While in New Guinea, he was one of 80 men to be flown to the Philippines, but some officers enroute to Australia for R & R needed a plane, so Arthur and the others were off-loaded onto another part of New Guinea. Seemingly forgotten there, they took turns going to the coast and flagging down a passing ship using white clothes. It was a wooden Norwegian ship with a crew of 15 and 16-year old boys who needed work that finally picked them up. The ship was hauling supplies for the United States. Anything that the men wanted to eat was prepared for them. They were ferried to their destination—as close as the ship could get them to shore—then they jumped into neck-deep water to swim the rest of the way. They helped with the second invasion of the Philippines.

Arthur and Rosie live on Rosehedge Drive in Whittier, where they have lived since 1964. Prior to that time they lived on Danby Drive in the area called Flood Ranch, in Santa Fe Springs. Rosie said that Dick and Mr. Hathaway both helped them to finance the property and build the house on Danby Drive. They lived there for 19 years.

Arthur worked for the Hathaway Company most of his adult life, with time out to serve in World War II. He later worked for Lacey Oil Tool Company in Long Beach. Arthur saw Dick Hathaway a week or two before his death in 1986. At that time Dick told Arthur that he had some work for which he needed Arthur's help.

Arthur was a jack of all trades for the Hathaway Company and helped in many ways. The Hathaways have felt close to Arthur and his family for the many years that they have known each other.

Quick-Frozen Foods were invented by Clarence Birdseye, who first experimented with the concept while he was a fur trader in Labrador before World War I. Birdseye invented the term quick-freeze and sold his patents in 1929.