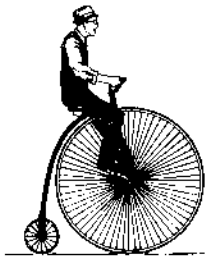


The Hathaway Ranch Museum



NEWSLETTER

Spring 1996
Volume 6, Number 2



LAKELAND SCHOOL HONORED

Lakeland Elementary School in Norwalk has been selected for the Program of Excellence Award for 1996 by the California Council for the Social Studies.

One of the schools of the Little Lake School District, Lakeland and its staff, have used Social Studies imaginatively as the core of an exciting resource-based instructional program which has attracted the attention of increasing numbers of educators.

One school or district in all of California is selected each year for the Program of Excellence Award. CCSS presented the award to Lakeland School at the 35th Annual CCSS Conference in Long Beach on March 8.

Tom Gibbons, the history-social science consultant from the Los Angeles County Office of Education, was instrumental in helping Tom Noesen and his teachers begin the planning that led to an outstanding program at Lakeland School. Gibbons says, "The key to Lakeland's success is that the staff have all made a series of commitments to improving their skills and their teaching around a history-social science core and have really grappled with the needs of their changing community."

"I REMEMBER IT WELL"

On March 9, 1996, the Whittier Historical Society celebrated 25 years of keeping the past alive by preserving the history of the Whittier area.

This has been accomplished through educational programs, publications, preservation activities, and the Whittier Museum. Thousands of artifacts have been assembled to present a unique 25th Anniversary Exhibit which will remain in place until July 28, 1996.

The Whittier Museum is located at 6755 Newlin Avenue in Whittier. Admission is free. It is open from 1 - 4 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday, except on holidays. Group tours are given during the week, Tuesday through Friday, by appointment. For more information please call (310) 945-3871.

SETTLERS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PERSONAL MEMORIES

Volume IX is off the press and for sale at the Hathaway Ranch Museum. It contains several impressive biographical or autobiographical sketches as well as documented material on the Norwalk and Whittier areas.

It is interesting to read of the vicissitudes in the life of **CORA KECK WILLSON SWINDLE** as written by her granddaughter, Brenda Berry Perkins, whose own early years were spent in what is now Santa Fe Springs.

ELNA SUE JOHANSON'S account of her life as a teacher, community activist, and preservationist is comprehensive and admirable.

The story of the life of **ARTHUR MARTINEZ** in the Santa Fe Springs-Los Nietos area, and his adventures in the South Pacific during World War II are first hand impressions, both humorous and touching. We are indebted to Francine Rippy for her prodding and patience in bringing to light and preserving in a permanent form that which would otherwise certainly have been lost. Ironically, Martinez and his wife of over 52 years, Rosie, died within a few days of each other just as their story came from the printer.

Virginia Mathony was responsible for the dramatic accounts of the adventurous lives of the **SPROUL BROTHERS** of Norwalk and of the **GEORGE W. COLE FAMILY** in Downey and Whittier.

The price of the booklet is \$2.50, plus tax. If all nine booklets in the series are purchased as a set, the price is then \$2 each, or \$18 plus tax.

Santa Fe High School has earned an 'A' in overall excellence from Redbook magazine's America's Best Schools Project. It was one of 63 schools in the nation and one of five in the state to receive the award in March, 1996. "It is a validation of the hard work and dedication the staff, students, and community have contributed to the entire school," Principal Sandy Thorstenson said.

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

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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.,

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.

Notice: The museum house is now open on week days by appointment, and on first Sundays. The grounds, shop and Visitor Center are open as usual on week days, except Wednesdays.

Gaspar de Portola and his party explored the Nietos & San Gabriel Valleys as early as 1769. When they approached the San Jose creek they had to construct a bridge to cross. Father Juan Crespie reported thousands of ducks and geese in marsh areas, as well as lots of flowering sage and dwarf lupine.

NEW MEMBERS

Gwen Bradley	Alvin & Bonnie Rhodes
Nancy Carley	E. L. & Ruth B. Shannon
Roy & Phyllis Mathison	

GENEROUS MEMBERS

Rodger Applegate	Francine Rippy
Willa Enloe	Santa Fe Springs Women's Club
Georgia Lee Gumper	E. M. Schroeder
Richard F. Hathaway, Jr.	E. L. & Ruth Shannon
Lawrence & Isabelle Meyer	Al & May Sharp
Marvin & Betty Putnam	Roy & Phyllis Stenson

VOLUNTEERS

(From January 16, 1996 - April 15, 1996)

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



Aaron Hathaway demonstrates the museum's computer to four members of the Board of Directors. Standing, left to right, are Richard Hathaway, William Hathaway and Remy Hathaway. Seated, left to right, are Jean Hathaway and Aaron Hathaway.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Whittier's Mayor pro tem, **ALLEN ZOLNEKOFF** captured the most votes in the April election for Whittier's City Council. He won a second four-year term on the Council. Zolnekoff, a long time generous member of the Guild of the Hathaway Ranch Museum, and a member of the Whittier Historical Society, has a reputation for being interested in conservation projects and being approachable on other topics as well.

HENRY LYNN, JACK JOHNSON and MELVIN SMITH, stalwarts of the Hathaway Ranch Museum, worked with other members of Western Antique Power Associates to make Knotts Berry Farm the place to be during the two weeks of Easter vacation, with their display of working old machinery.

CLINT HARRIS, 85, celebrated his 50th year at the helm of Harris Oldsmobile in Whittier. Harris said he never wanted to look back on his life as a series of missed opportunities, so he took some chances and played a few hunches. "When the street-car comes along, you have to jump on it," he said. HARRIS is known for his humanitarian efforts as well as for his financial successes. He said he's found new energy through his membership on the board of directors of Hillcrest Day Care Center in Whittier, where he helps people with Alzheimer's disease. He also works with the Boy Scouts of America and is on the Whittier College Board of Trustees.

VIRGINIA MATHONY was featured in an article in the Whittier Daily News written by E. Louise Smith, who writes weekly features about interesting senior citizens in the Whittier area. Mathony has had a long career in historical writing, teaching, and in working with educational institutions. Her first book originally ran as a series of columns, "99 and Counting" in the Whittier Daily News. Called "Whittier Revisited," the book celebrated Whittier's 1987 centennial. Her second book "Pioneer Families of Whittier," available soon, is about 40 families who settled in Whittier between 1887 and 1900. Mathony worked as a secretary in the Whittier Union High School District for 17 years. During those years she also went to classes at Fullerton College at night and wrote publicity releases for the Whittier Adult school, and eventually she taught secretarial skills in adult Education night classes.

The year before she retired, she heard about the University of the Seven Seas. She applied and was accepted as a secretary. She traveled with them around the world. In addition to a free voyage, she was paid for her work, and used the money for expenses at the various ports on the itinerary. After retirement from the school district, Mathony worked as secretary to the Dean of Adult Education at Rio Hondo College, then went to Chapman University as secretary to the Dean of International Education. Tiring of freeway driving, she returned to Whittier and accepted a

job as executive secretary and office manager at the East Whittier YMCA. From there she went to the Uptown YMCA as secretary to the Director. She retired again from both her day job and from teaching in the adult school and has spent the time since volunteering at the Whittier Museum, and at the YMCA during Capital Campaigns.

BILL BELL, publisher and editor of the Whittier Daily News, recently wrote in his column about the "flamboyant TETA SMART" and the way in which she kept him transfixed with her Scheherezade-like tales about growing up in Santa Fe Springs. Why not write a book about those days, Teta? We would like to hear about them, too.

VELMA DUNN PLOESSEL, who won a silver medal for platform diving for the United States in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, will help to carry the Olympic Torch from Los Angeles to Atlanta, Georgia. She will run her six-tenth mile segment in Manhattan Beach while hoisting a 3 ½ pound aluminum and pecan wood torch. The 77-year-old woman prepares by walking and jogging two miles each day.

Ploessel recalls vivid memories of the 1936 Olympics, the last before World war II caused a 12-year hiatus in the games. She recalls that even in 1936, during the early years of Adolph Hitler's Third Reich, there were hints of the coming world war. German men and boys were dressed in army uniforms. "When Hitler came to the stadium, on both sides of the street, for miles, men in army uniforms stood shoulder to shoulder," she said. "It was a strange feeling."

After the 1936 Olympics, Ploessel returned to California and college and trained for what was to be the 1940 Olympics, which were never held. They were not held again until the 1948 London games. She graduated from the University of Southern California with a bachelor's and master's degrees in education, began a teaching career that would span more than 40 years, married fellow teacher HOWARD PLOESSEL and bore a son, Dennis and a daughter, Nancy. She retired from teaching after spending 17 years at South Gate Junior High School.

Ploessel, a former physical education teacher, stays fit with frequent swimming. She is current president of California Retired Teachers, Whittier.



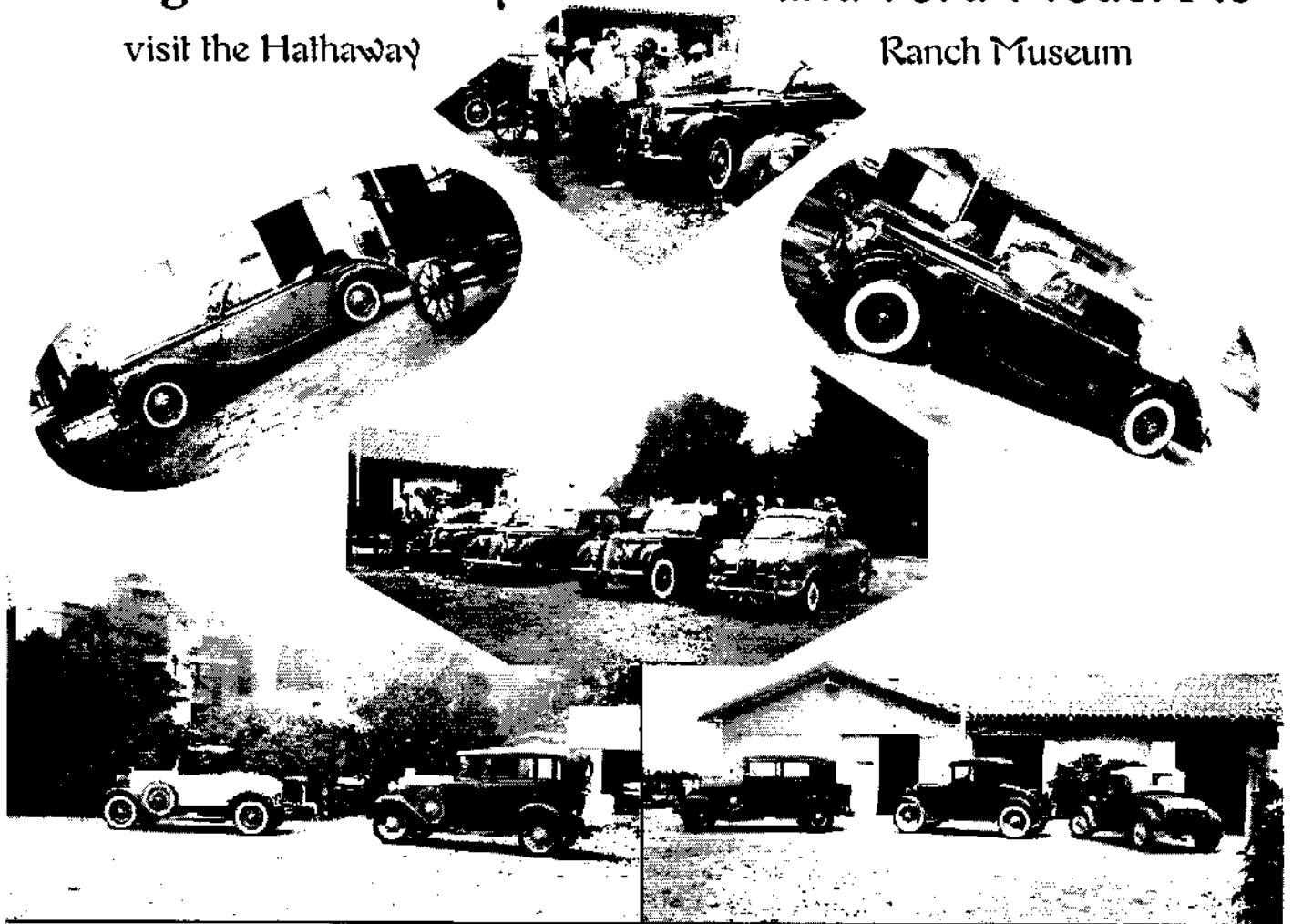
*Gertie & Cricket,
self-appointed
protectors of the
Museum
grounds!*

Vintage British Rileys

visit the Hathaway

and Ford Model A's

Ranch Museum

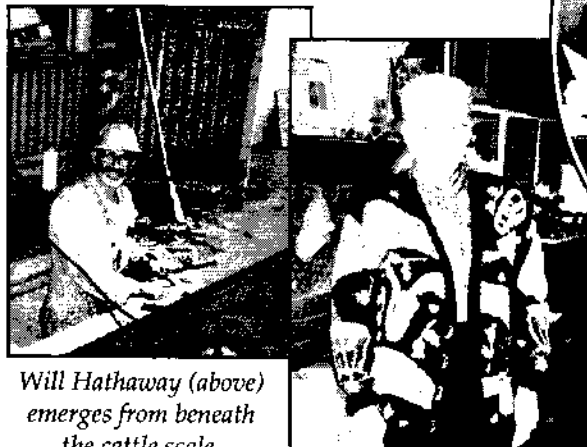


Miscellaneous Stuff from Around The Ranch....

Members of the Santa Fe Springs Rotary Club (below) bring their lunch to the museum.



Jeanne Grant (right) finds her name in a 1955 program of "Kiss Me Kate," which was produced by the Whittier Light Opera Association, Inc. Grant was Jeanne Bolton at that time.



Will Hathaway (above) emerges from beneath the cattle scale.

Marge Carlson (left), Whistler, who entertained at the December Open House.

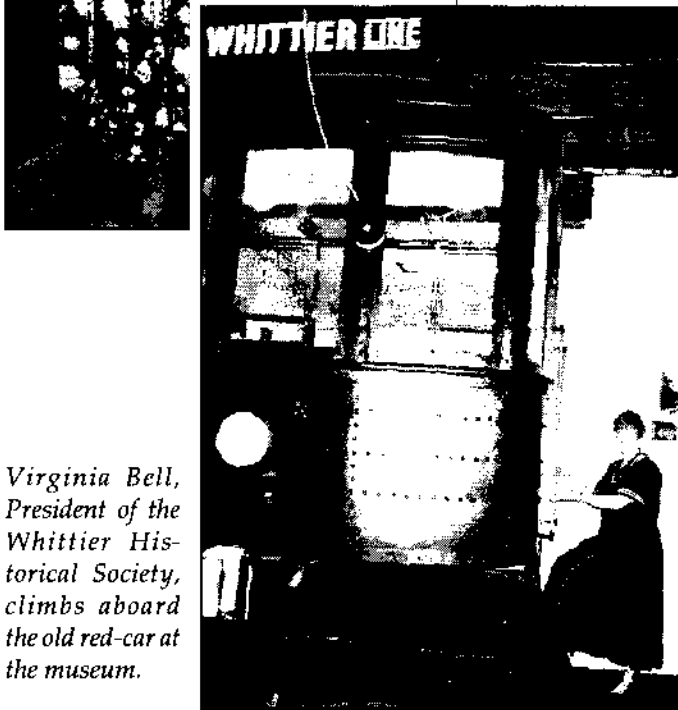
THE WHITTIER MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Nadine Hathaway, left, and Elna Sue Johnson recall the beginning of the Whittier Area Historical Society 25 years ago at a meeting in Johanson's living room.



Donna Smith; Mayor pro-tem Allan Zolnekoff; Elva Gordon; Varlie Gordon and Elna Sue Johanson (left to right) enjoyed the 25th Anniversary dinner of the Whittier Historical Society.



Virginia Bell, President of the Whittier Historical Society, climbs aboard the old red-car at the museum.



Virginia Mathony admires a dress in the Whittier Museum where she spends much of her time doing research for her books.

Will Hathaway cleans out the Ranch Museum Visitor Center...



Lakeland School Principal Tom Noesen
holds award which states:



*California Council for the Social Studies
1966
Programs of Excellence
Lakeland School
for its excellent resource-based
instructional studies program
which links teachers, parents, and
community members to create literate,
caring citizens of its students.*



*The La Mirada
Historical Commission and
Friends of McNally Ranch
arrive in a van
for a visit to the
museum.*



*"Ranch Hands" of the Hathaway Ranch Museum listen
to Ruth Grams play her Irish harp for St. Patrick's Day.
Gathered around Grams are Phyllis Stenson,
Mary O'Connor, Josie Ramirez, Louise Thorson,
Mollie Teschler, Caroline Long and Joyce Virnala.*

LACE COOKIES

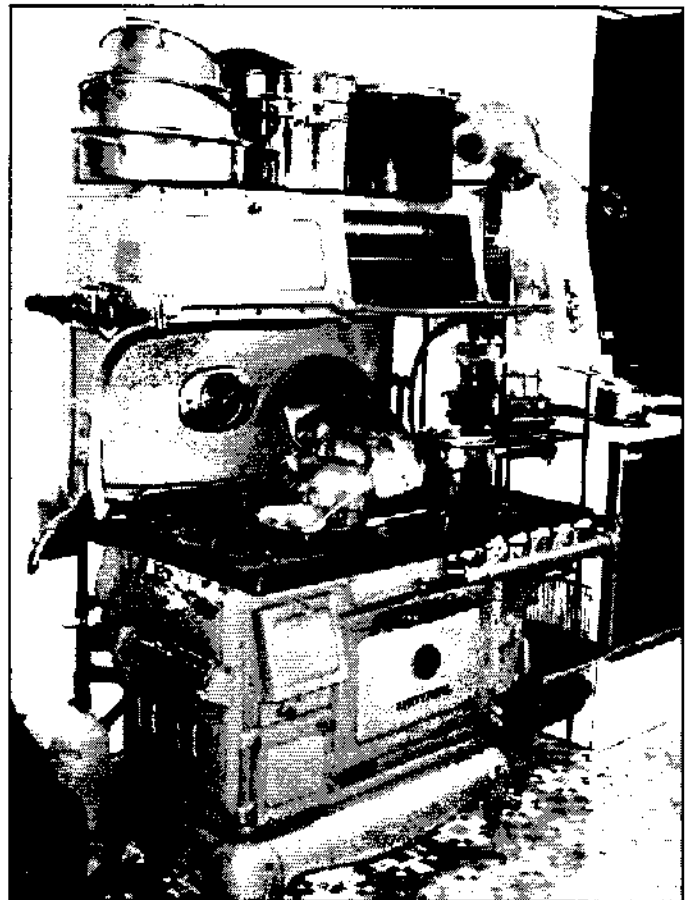
(Ruth Grams)



1 egg
1 c. melted butter or margarine
3 c. brown sugar
2 c. quick Quaker oats
1 tsp. vanilla
½ c. chopped nuts
pinch of salt

Mix all ingredients. Drop by teaspoon onto foil-covered cookie sheets. Bake at 350 degrees until brown, about 5 minutes. Cool before removing from foil.

Note: This recipe is one of many; incorporated in the cook book, **HERE'S WHAT'S COOKING**, which is for sale at the Hathaway Ranch Museum for \$7.00 plus tax.



*Yes, it really works. Ask any docent. This 1915 "Universal"
gas (or wood or coal) stove helps to heat the residence, cook
food and keep the tea kettle simmering. No, it doesn't have a
water tank to heat water.*