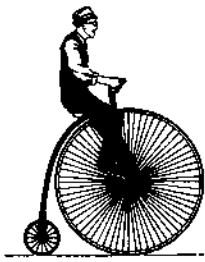


The Hathaway Ranch Museum



NEWSLETTER

Fall 1996
Volume 6, Number 4



LAKELAND SCHOOL WINS NATIONAL AWARD

The Lakeland Elementary School is the first nationally recognized school in the Little Lake City School District. It was selected to receive the National Program of Excellence Award for History and Social Science.

Lakeland was selected for California in 1996 and was recognized at the Long Beach Hyatt Regency Hotel during the State Conference of the California Council for Social Studies. At that conference, Lakeland was officially nominated for the National Recognition program of which it is now named.

Every state may submit up to five nominations to the national committee in five categories (Elementary, Middle School, High School, Teacher Education and District K-12). Lakeland was the only nomination from California.

Twenty-four "ranch hands" received recognition on October 13, when the Hathaway Ranch Museum honored them for a total of 1,260 hours given to the museum.

HISTORIC MARKER PLANNED

GLORIA DURAN, a member of the Governing Board of the Los Nietos School District, is spearheading a drive to collect funds to place a marker on the site of the first Los Nietos school at Norwalk Blvd. and Los Nietos Road.

Checks should be made payable to the City of Santa Fe Springs in care of the Historical Committee and sent to Monica Penninger, Director of Library Services, at 11700 E. Telegraph Rd., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670.

Duran wrote the article about Los Nietos and the Los Nietos School District that is included in this newsletter.



Jack Johnson and Henry Lynn, who accumulated the most Volunteer hours during the fiscal year from September 1, 1995 through August 31, 1996. Johnson gave 202 hours and Lynn gave 186 hours. Here both men appear in their railroad clothes.

They are also racking up volunteer hours at Heritage Park, where they help with railroad tours on Wednesdays.

CAWSTON'S OSTRICH FARM

was located in Norwalk first. In 1896 Mr. Cawston moved it to South Pasadena. Ostrich feathers were the rage for ladies' capes, boas and hats. Cawston had traveled to South Africa to get the 8-foot tall birds. He imported 52 by ship to Texas, then by rail to California. Few survived, but their eggs were fertile and he soon had 260 birds, then 3,000. They could be trained to carry a human rider or to pull visitors in two-wheeled "racing carts." They could live as long as 80 years and weigh up to 300 pounds. Today, only a historic marker identifies the farm.

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 Hargitt House

The museum has occasionally had inquiries about the Hargitt House in Norwalk, which is located at 12426 Mapledale Drive. It is open the first and third Saturdays of the month from 1-4 p.m. The phone number is (310) 929- 5612

PADDISON FARMS CORN FESTIVAL

One of the happy memories of last summer was the Annual Corn Festival held at the Paddison Farm in Norwalk. Fourth and fifth generation of JOHN PADDISON descendants hosted the festival on their 117-year-old, family-operated corn farm.

Festivities included hayride farm tours, old fashioned contests (corn-shucking, hog-calling, frog-jumping, turtle races, and watermelon seed-spitting), country crafts, pony rides, baby farm animals, mountain clogging, country western dance demonstrations, country western band and antique farm equipment (corn planter, corn sheller, corn grinder, and a variety of antique engines.)

GENEROUS MEMBERS

(Since acknowledgment in the summer newsletter)

Amat and Mary Ann Barcelon
Mary Bessent
Gil and Lucy Cota
Dale Epperly
Richard W. and Barbara Field
Teta Smart

NEW MEMBERS

Rosa and Ramon Lopez

VOLUNTEERS

The following people gave time to the museum during the third quarter of 1996

Frances Agopoff	Francine Rippy
Mildred Carlzen	Marjorie Rondeau
Jeanne Grant	Slats Seeley
Evelyn Grembla	Melvin Smith
Jean Hathaway	Phyllis Stenson
Meredith Hathaway	Ray Stenson
Jack Johnson	Irene Stephen
Harold Larsen	Mollie Teschler
Carrie Long	Louise Thorson
Henry Lynn	
Frank Martinez	
Frank Moody	
Mary O'Connor	
Betty Putnam	
Josie Ramirez	

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, December 1, 1996 2:00 to 4:00 P.M.
Christmas Boutique

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Sharing their opinions in the "Readers' Letters" section of the Whittier Daily News, since the summer newsletter, have been **GLORIA DURAN, JOE R. RAMIREZ, HAROLD RUMMEL, RITA MURRAY AND ALLAN ZOLNEKOFF**.

JANE GOTHOLD, a member of the Whittier Historic Resources Commission, has been helping to identify homes which may be placed on the local register of historic resources. Most of the homes, which are privately owned and built in Whittier before 1940, were discovered during a two-year, 3,000 home survey. Being on the list would give the homes a fighting chance against developers. It would require developers to wait 180 days before razing them, giving city officials and preservationists a chance to find a new buyer. The commission survey begun in 1994, triggered by the 1987 Whittier Narrows Earthquake quake damage, resulted in tearing down many of the city's historic treasures.

MARY ANN RUMMEL reported to **BILL BELL**, managing editor of the Whittier Daily News, that she has been going through Minutes books of the old Whittier Board of Trade (Chamber of Commerce) recently in the city records department. She came across the following information:

"H. M. Gordon asked permission to shoot pigeons at the Bailey Street School grounds. On motion of trustee Volkmor, permission was given to shoot, but without making the city liable for damage resulting therefrom."

Bell pointed out that the school in question was located in the heart of what is now uptown Whittier, and Rummel mentions that H. M. Gordon and Trustee Volkmor are long gone, but the pigeons are still there. (*Ed. Note: It may be some of the descendants of these pigeons who are harassing the Visitors' Center at the Hathaway Ranch Museum, Lacking a poopless version, as Bill longs for, we are open to suggestions from animal activists as to how to curtail the untidy proclivities of these admittedly endearing birds, before we take desperate measures.*)

We went on record several years ago to make it clear that we would not recognize birthdays of members who are less than 90 years of age. We have a new nonagenarian in our midst. **RUTH PFOHL GRAMS** celebrated 90 years with her family. Born on September 20, 1906, in East Bend, North Carolina, she was a former city Librarian for the City of Santa Fe Springs, is a member of many organizations and is a well known harpist in this area and beyond. Her daughters requested that her friends send a page of shared memories to be included in a book. We venture to say that it is not too late. Send your reminiscences to Ruth Grams, 13827 Franklin St., Whittier, CA 90602.

REGINA PHELAN WINS THE GERTIE

The Board of Directors of the Hathaway Ranch Museum has given the "Gertie" award for 1996 to **REGINA PHELAN**, who has written several children's books about the history of California as well as her own family history called "The Gold Chain." The "Gertie" award is presented annually to some member of the area once known as the Ranch Santa Gertrudes.

The title of Ms. Phelan's book comes from a story about her maternal grandfather, a bareback rider in the circus that traveled through the northern Lode country during the gold rush days. At the end of each performance, people threw gold nuggets at his feet, which he picked up and later had melted down and made into a waist length golden chain. Phelan is currently the owner of the chain and keeps it in a safe-deposit box.



Phelan said the circus is in the genes on her mother's side of the family. From the days of fairs in 1700 England to the present they were bare-back riders, tight-rope walkers, weight lifters and tumblers. The athletic genes continued. Phelan was a physical education teacher and her brother Tom, now 92 years old, was a beloved coach at Whittier High School.

Phelan is frequently invited to speak at education seminars and conferences. She takes the opportunity to talk to children and discuss the information in her books with them and their teachers. "The wonderful break for me," she said, "is that all of my books grew out of an experience of one of my ancestors and led me to research thoroughly the truth about much of California history."

THE HISTORY OF LOS NIETOS

By Gloria Duran

The Los Nietos School District commemorated its 135th anniversary on August 12, 1996.

I have become "possessed" with the fascinating history of this small district and the Los Nietos Village. History tells us that, dating back to 1775-78, Jose Manuel Nieto accompanied Captain Juan Bautista de Anza on the expedition that brought the first Colonists to California. On behalf of the Spanish Crown, Governor Pedro Fages granted Nieto a cattle ranch of 300,000 acres. The rancho extended from the hills north of Whittier to the ocean and from the San Gabriel River to the Santa Ana River. What is now considered Downey, Whittier, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, La Habra and La Mirada was once part of the Nieto land grant.

The Nieto family must have thought very highly of education, because it is also recorded that in 1790 the Nieto family built the first school in this area, soon after they built their adobe homes. The school was an adobe building on what would be later known as Carpenter Lane and still later Los Nietos Road. This was the first Los Nietos School and later became a school district.

The adobe building was a two room single story building and was used until 1910. There are still descendants of students that remember the stories of this building. I remember talking to the late Mrs. Corral, who attended this school. Also, I have reminisced with Mrs. Martha Hittinger, whose aunt, Mrs. Ida Nelson, taught at this school.

It has been established that in 1861, Los Nietos School District was formed on August 12, which makes it the second oldest school district in California. I have personally searched the archive files at the Los Angeles County Office of Education to see if I could document the August 12, 1861 date. I have found that records dated from 1858 through 1865 are entirely missing. Also missing are the reports for the years 1872 through 1879.

I do know that Los Nietos was in existence in 1861, because I have found a document which is a petition signed April 24, 1866, requesting that the Board of Supervisors grant a separation from Los Nietos School District: "commencing at the Los Nietos Land of the San Gabriel river and following the Los Nietos road east to the northeast corner of the Zarton ranch thence south to the northern line of the Temple ranch thence, west along said line to the San Gabriel river thence north along said river including Stephen C. Foster to the place of beginning." Apparently the 14 petitioners felt that the: "distance are unable to send to the present school being an average of three miles distant ... which would include over seventy five children."

Also, another interesting document found was a copy of the original deed of the property on Los Nietos Road and Norwalk Boulevard. It was purchased in 1873 for \$30 in U.S. gold coins, between Eduardo Poyoreno and Antonia Poyoreno and Trustees of the Los Nietos School District.

There is another existing document dated Feb 3, 1879, which is a petition asking the Superintendent of Schools and Board of Supervisors to change the boundaries of Orangethorpe School District and Los Nietos Schools District to what probably exists today.

As you can see, I have become intrigued with the history of this area:

- 1769 - Sejat — Village of the Shoshonean Indians.
- 1775 - Captain Juan Bautista Expedition.
- 1784 - Original Nieto Land Grant.
- 1804 - The Nieto Grant split into five great ranchos: Santa Gertrudes / Los Coyotes / Los Alamitos / Los Cerritos / Las Balsas.
- 1836 - Governor Downey advocated educational taxes, compulsory school attendance and public funds for teacher's salaries.
- 1850-60 - Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Guiardo / Downey / Polloreno (there are two spelling for Polloreno / Poyoreno).
- 1860 - 2,000 people living in the Los Nietos Village.
- 1867 - Post Office established. Existing 20 native California families, 2 stores, a school house and a saloon.
- 1868 - School register show 28 boys, 14 girls enrolled in Los Nietos School.
- 1879 - 156 registered voters. Los Nietos Valley well represented in County and State Government.
- 1880 - Richest agricultural section in the State of California.

But these points are for another story.

Arthur and Gloria Saldano

of Santa Fe Springs were recently awarded the "Residential Citizen of the Year" award. The Saldanos' were early members of the Rancho Santa Gertrudes Historical Society and are active members of the Hathaway Ranch Museum Guild.

HISTORIC FRONT STREET ATTRACTS MOVIE EXECUTIVES

Film crews for the movie "Independence" starring Dean Cain and Drew Barrymore took over historic Front Street in Norwalk for three weeks. Cooperative business owners allowed filming in the streets as well as in their buildings. Harold Miller, owner of H.N. Miller Books, opened his doors to the "best film crews I ever worked with."

From Spielberg to Disney, Harold Miller has been there from the start. He has done background research for various movies, provided materials for sets and even appeared in a couple of films since 1948. H.M. Miller Books has been in business in Norwalk since 1960 and has been the source of many films and productions both in front of the camera and behind the scenes.

Miller's book collection of over 3,000 has provided background research for aviation, military, and space movies. Miller has also provided materials for movie sets. Movie director and producer, Stephen Spielberg, used sheet music that Miller had in his collection for the movie "Always," and his tools were used as props in the Disney movie "Rocketeer."

Front Street will be featured in the Brad Jenkel production of "Independence" due out next spring.

THE INVENTION THAT WASN'T.

In the 1870s George B. Selden had developed detailed designs for a "horseless carriage," powered by a gasoline engine and complete with an ignition system, a clutch, brakes, and other details. He never built even a prototype for such a machine, apparently because he was unable to obtain financing. Nevertheless, in 1895 he was issued a patent for a "road engine." He assigned his patent to the Association of Licensed Automobile Manufacturers, and for many years this group licensed the actual manufacture of cars, charging a small royalty. Henry Ford, however, refused to recognize the Selden patent, and in 1911, after a complicated legal battle, a U.S. circuit court decided in Ford's favor.

THE FRED C. NELLES SCHOOL

in Whittier, is a California Registered Historic Landmark, and has logged more than a century of service. The cornerstone was laid in February 1890, marking the beginning of a state-wide system of reformatories operating today as the California Youth Authority. The school began as a home for boys and girls who would have otherwise gone to prison. In 1916 the girls were transferred to a Ventura facility.

MUSEUMS AND ART GALLERIES

RICHARD NIXON LIBRARY AND BIRTHPLACE, 18001 Yorba Linda Blvd., Yorba Linda. (714) 993-5075, Exhibits change from time to time, Book signings, lectures.

WHITTIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM, 6755 Newlin Ave., Uptown Whittier. (310) 945-3871. Tours Saturday and Sunday from 1-4 p.m.; Tuesday through Friday by appointment. Free.

SHERIFF'S MUSEUM, 11515 S. Colima Rd., Whittier. (310) 946-7081. History and current activities of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Free. Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

DOWNEY MUSEUM OF ART, 10419 Rives Ave., Downey. (310) 861-0419. Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 2-5 p.m. Free.

BANNING RESIDENCE MUSEUM. 401 E. M St., Wilmington. (310) 548-7777. Banning is considered the founder of the Los Angeles Harbor. Museum offers year-round events and public tours of its Victorian-Greek Revival house, a national, state and city historic landmark. Tours at 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, and 3:30. Tour donations \$2 (children 12 and younger free).

SAN GABRIEL HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION MUSEUM, 546 W. Broadway, San Gabriel. (818) 308-3223. Highlights local history including the Gabrielino Indians. Wed., Sat. and Sun. 1-4 p.m.

SAN GABRIEL MISSION, 537 Mission Dr. San Gabriel. (818) 282-5191 Church and grounds provide a glimpse of life for missionaries in 18th and 19th century California. Hours: daily, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$3 general, \$1 children.

WILDERNESS NATURE CENTER. 2240 Highland Oaks Drive, Arcadia. (818) 355-5309. Nature exhibits and live animals. Weekdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., weekends by reservation only.

JONATHAN BAILEY HOME AND PARK, 13421 E. Camilla St., Uptown Whittier. (310) 945-3871. Guided tours of house and gardens of Whittier's first residence. Sundays 1-4 p.m. and Wednesdays 1-3 p.m., except rainy days and holidays. Group tours by reservation weekdays.

LA HABRA ART ASSOCIATION/GALLERY. 215 N. Orange Ave. La Habra. (310) 691-9739. Tuesday - Saturday, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

LA MIRADA ART GALLERY. 15040 Imperial Hwy. La Mirada. (310) 943-5846. Sunday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

WHITTIER ART ASSOCIATION/GALLERY. 8035 Painter Ave., Whittier. (310) 698-8710. Thursday-Saturday noon - 4 p.m.

"THANK YOU" LETTERS

The following are thank-you letters written by fourth-grade students of Carol Loehman who visited the Hathaway Ranch Museum on April 19, 1996.

Thank you for letting us come. The ice cream was good. The next time I go I hope you could show me how to make it. Where did you get all those fish? I like to ride on the trolley it was fun. I like the hats that were in the display room. I wish I could have all those hats. In what year did you have a cow. I like all the tours except the one in the house those chairs were so comfortable. Well I hope I could come visit you soon, well got to go bye.

*Sincerely,
Denise Coca*

I really enjoyed the field trip, it was a fun and learning experience. I really liked the house and the museum and, I liked the ride and feeding the roosters. I liked everything. I also learned it was harder back then.

*Sincerely Nick
I hope I can come again.*

Thank you for letting us go to your house and let us look at different things. The best part of the trip is when I fed the chickens. Another thing I like is when I went into your house and played with your piano and your violin. Thank you very much.

*Sincerely,
Rubie*

Thank you for your time on our field trip the best things about the ranch is all the animals. the geese were big and strange. the roosters too. The most weirdest animals were the guinea hens from Africa. The museum was interesting and very big. The military room was my favorite.

*Sincerely
Karo*

Thank you for showing us around. I liked your animals and we liked the candy and I saw picture that was we played the piano and we played the violin and we liked the old dress and shoes I saw the kids toys that they play with and to see Mr. Hathaway's army clothes. I liked when your kids went to middle school my brother went to middle school to.

*Thank you
Love Kayla*

Thank you for your time to have us. We really appreciate it. The things I really liked about Hathaway is the museum, the chickens, and the tour on the tram. The thing I liked about the tram is that I got to sit in the back with my friends. The thing I liked about the chickens was that I got to get an egg and put it into the carton. The thing I liked about the museum is there fancy hats and clothes. I liked there army hats and clothes also. I wish I could've stayed but I couldn't. I also wish I could come more often, but I can't either because I have

to go to school. Well I guess I have to leave. Bye!

*P. S. Hope you have a great day.
Sincerely, Melane Morales*

Thank you for showing us around. I like it when the tour thank you Mrs. Hathaway I enjoyed it it was fun learning about how you lived. The best thing was how the water was high as 15 feet or something like that it was the best

*Thank you
Quintiliano*

Thank you for letting us come to your ranch and museum. I really enjoyed it there. How are you? I learned a lot from going to your ranch and museum. Like how to take chickens eggs without being pecked. My uncle has a lot of chickens. I was going to get an egg from his chicken and I got a scar from its peck.

*Sincerely
Anjelico Petris*

I liked what you showed us the two things I liked was your turkey they were loud and funny to we liked the tram ride it was fun and grinding the corn was fun to we liked the litter chickens they were cute and one chick was stuck in a get but my friend got it out and one was dead to it was sad we also liked the feathers.

Love Marcel

I really liked the museum and the ride in the car. Then animals, and the food. Best of all was the house with all the beautiful things and with all the rooms filled with such pretty stuff. I really, really, liked it I wish I can go every day well I have to go now

By Love always, Lupita Sosa

I like it at the Ranch and I counted 61 goldfish and 18 chickens and it was nice there and the people was nice and the car ride and the house was nice and I like the train set and I like the ride that you had. Thank you for letting us come there.

*Thank you
from the field trip kids*

I liked the field trip the parts I remember is when I saw the ducks and the hens. I thank you for the lemonade and ice cream and back I remember feeding the hens and counting the rate and seen the gold fish and seen the ginning hens from Africa and the tale of the old America flag without Hawaii and Alaska.

From student Alex Armendariz

I enjoyed being over there. I hope we go next year. I learned a lot. I loved the museum, the tram, the man that told us that we could touch the eggs. I learned in the museum that the ladies had to wear hats were ever they went even to the grocery store. Another thing that I learned in the museum is that the girls had to sleep on the second floor and so did the boy. The parents had to sleep on the bottom floor.

*Sincerely,
Elizabeth Chavez*