

# The Hathaway Ranch Museum



## NEWSLETTER

Winter 1997  
Volume 7, Number 1



### Members In the News

**Correction:** MARY ANN RUMMEL wants it known that it was not the Board of Trade/Chamber of Commerce records (Whittier) that she was going through but the Whittier City Council minutes, whose title before 1920 was the Board of Trustees.

Rummel shared this item with us from September, 1914:

Report from constable: The present equipment of the department is a one cycle motor cycle that cannot catch most speeders. A short time ago the machine broke in half. The proposed 6 MPH limit in the center of town would not help this situation. (There was only one constable.)

LUIS J. FRANCO, JOE R. RAMIREZ and HAROLD RUMMEL have contributed their views recently in the letters to the Editor section of the Whittier Daily News.

GLORIA DURAN, President of the Los Nietos School District Board, shared a dream she has that one day every district classroom will be hooked up to the Internet. "That's the future, that's the way we're heading. I want to be able to walk into classrooms and see children connected on the Internet, doing research."

A bulletin from Heritage Park since our last newsletter gives recognition to some of our members and we want to applaud them, too.

JACK JOHNSON fixed the pump in the tankhouse, which was a really messy task.

ART SALDANO and REX SORENSON and others gave No. 870 a bath and polished her bell. And Mary Jo Haller helped plant the spring railroad garden.

1925-26: Lola and Jesse's son, Elwood, graduated from Oneonta Military Academy where he earned a letterman's sweater. He later went to Fullerton Junior College where he met his future wife to be, Anna Kramer.

### Happy Birthday SFS!

The City of Santa Fe Springs is 40 years old this year. The majority of votes voted to incorporate on May 7, 1957, and eight days later the State of California announced that the city was officially declared the city of Santa Fe Springs.

Ann Bartunek knows the first hand story of what led to incorporation. Her words are backed up by newspaper clippings of the time which were compiled in a thick scrapbook. She was assisted in making ready the information for this article by her daughter Jean and her son Ron.

We are privileged to be able to present Bartunek's view of the crucial year and a half prior to incorporation. She is willing to answer phone calls concerning her article. She may be reached at (909) 626-3999.

### The Dictionary

Editing a dictionary is not a job for people with short attention spans — or short lives. The first great French dictionary, that of the Academie Francaise, took 56 years to complete and the Oxford English Dictionary 71 years. The basic German Dictionary was published in 1960, 106 years after it had been launched by the Grimm brothers, who relieved tedium along the way by collecting fairy tales. The standard Italian dictionary, begun in 1863, is still unfinished.

Dictionaries generally give the spelling pronunciation, and meaning of words, but the Oxford set itself the additional task of tracing the derivation of every English word known since 1150 and illustrating its usage with examples. For instance, the word "good" has had some 20 different spellings over the past 800 years.

Lexicographers have never really agreed on whether a dictionary should be "descriptive" and report what people say, or "prescriptive" and tell them what they should say. Noah Webster stated in 1806 that his concern was for "what the English language is and not how it might have been made."

### 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 nonprofit 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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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.

**THE LOMMIS HOME** is located at 200 East Avenue 43 at Carlota Avenue, at the Pasadena Freeway, Avenue 43 exit. It is an early California adobe home that shows how Angelenos lived before the city boomed in the 1880s. (213) 222-0546.

**HERITAGE SQUARE MUSEUM** is located at 3800 Homer Street in Los Angeles, at the Pasadena Freeway, Avenue 43 exit. The historical buildings which have been moved to Heritage Square for preservation reflect many different historic styles of architecture and design. (818) 449-0193.

## Generous Members

Donating more than their basic dues since previous acknowledgment in the Fall, 1996 newsletter

Mrs. Kenneth Ball	Ray & Betty Jo Klausen
William Bianchi	Hilda Lopez
Norfleet & Yvonne Blaine	The Meche Family
Steven Erwin	Virginia Nelson
Richard P. & Hazel L. Fields	David & Pené Seiler
Varlie & Elva Gordon	Faye Smetanka
Jack and Ruth Gray	Louise Thorson
Mary Jo Haller	
Clinton Harris	

We would also like to thank those who contributed items for our Christmas Boutique: baked goods, homemade candy, colorful craft items, and the like.

## Volunteers

The following group of people gave time to the museum since acknowledgment in our fall newsletter:

Francis Agapoff	Frank Moody
Mildred Carlzen	Mary O'Connor
Jeanne Grant	Betty Putnam
Evelyn Grembla	Josie Ramirez
Elizabeth Hathaway	Francine Rippey
Jean Hathaway	Marjorie Rondeau
Jesse R. Hathaway	Slats Seeley
Loline Hathaway	Faye Smetanka
Meredith Hathaway	Melvin Smith
Remy Hathaway	Phyllis Stenson
William Hathaway	Ray Stenson
Jack Johnson	Irene Stephen
Patrick Kundtz	Mollie Teschler
Carrie Long	Louise Thorson
Henry Lynn	Joyce Virnala
Frank Martinez	

## Change of Address

Joe DaRold  
1404 Martine Ave.  
Plainfield, NJ 07060

Luis Franco  
11730 Whittier Blvd. # 51  
Whittier, CA 90601

Elna Sue Johanson  
6760 West Turina Rd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89102

## Pre-Incorporation Days

By Ann Bartunek

Incorporate! The word flew through the community on speeding wings. It was September 1954. The young men, newly equipped with college degrees received on the G.I. bill of rights, were establishing their careers. Their wives were concentrating on the needs of their children. The schools were on half day sessions because of the recent overcrowding. They were all working at putting their individual touches on their new tract homes.

A group of landowners, business men and industrialists located to the east of these tract homes between Norwalk Blvd., and the San Gabriel River had formed an "Industrial League" to represent their particular needs in the county. They hired an executive secretary C.W. Eib and opened an office on Imperial Blvd. One of the League's members, Bill Emmens, was having trouble with the re-zoning of his property. Eib suggested, "Why not incorporate? A local city government would allow us to maintain a better business climate."

A pivotal point arrived, when then Governor Pat Brown initiated a one percent sales tax to help with the rapid growth of cities all over California after World War II. The Industrial League petitioned the County for incorporation in July 1956 and they issued a press release. This press release galvanized the Homeowners! Some visited the League's offices on Imperial Ave. They were greeted with polite indifference. It took a letter written by myself, to get their attention. It was addressed to Mr. Eib, Mr. Emmens, and the League, it urged them to include the residents, near their western boundary, in their incorporation plans. The letter also called their attention to the Homeowners well known civic activity and our efficiency in managing these tasks. It hinted at the fact that an experienced group in governmental affairs could stop them cold.

Mr. Eib and Mr. Emmens began calling the Bartunek residence at all hours of the day with their questions. Eventually I requested they not call until 9 a.m., as I was busy with getting a husband off to work and two children off to school. The call soon became an established routine. The letter had gone out on teletype to the world headquarters of the big oil and industrial companies located in Santa Fe Springs. Eib said the returns were coming in favorably and soon it was plain that "Incorporation" was still the word! The League moved swiftly; the Homeowners moved slowly, but incorporation steadily advanced. In the mean time the League contacted our county representatives: Supervisor H.C. Legg, Arthur Wills, Chief Administrator of the Management Division and Bob Anderson who was assigned as the liaison officer for matters that were concerned with this endeavor. We were informed that there were three steps to cityhood—and our share of the one percent sales tax!

Those steps were:

1. Bring in signed petitions from 25% of the parcel/land holders in the area (industrial and residential). This meant the tax base had signed their permission to incorporate.
2. Set our boundaries. (Based roughly on the Little Lake School District area) Homeowners choice. The Supervisors would have the right to take out any area in which there was a valid complaint.
3. An election must be held. A date posted and all registered voters must be contacted or at least an attempt made to contact.

The League presented the County's "Three Steps to Cityhood" to a regularly scheduled Homeowners meeting. The Homeowners just naturally took over the job of getting the petitions signed! Bill McCann, Chairman of the Committee to Study Incorporation, quickly grasped the precinct work required and said, "I nominate Ann Bartunek." The appointment was unanimous because it was a well-known fact that I worked the precincts, for my Party in all the elections. I also had news contacts all over the area to be petitioned, since I wrote a weekly column for the Santa Fe Springs Independent Newspaper about neighborhood happenings and sometimes lead stories. Bill was good at bestowing titles. He named me Field Organization Director; I preferred to be called Ann.

The League did a tremendous volume of work on the incorporation of Santa Fe Springs. They ordered a report on the financial status of the proposed city — the famous Kroeger and Associates Report. When they published the report in late 1955, it became apparent that Santa Fe Springs would be a very rich city. The Industrial League presented the report to the Homeowners at a dinner meeting at Paul's Restaurant. Also, those who read it knew they could have a very rich city and the one of which they had dreamed.

The League went to the County and asked for the names of all parcel holders within our boundaries. Mary Stoughton, of Downey, the League's stenographer, with the efficient volunteer help of Mrs. Eib (and eventually a stream of volunteer homeowner wives) put together lists of parcel holders into packets to be used for the petition signing.

The League members, often in groups of four or five, attended the regularly scheduled monthly Homeowners' meetings to exchange and discuss items that would come up. Their limousines dressed up the parking lot!

One evening, without previous warning, Mr. Eib arrived at the "Second Office of the League," as he referred to our home on Gridley Road. I hurriedly gathered, by telephone, the officers of the Homeowners: Bud Thompson, June

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*Pre-Incorporation - Continued from page 3*

Baur, Bill Camil, Bill McCann, Bobbi Cary and myself. Neighbors John Moreno, the Mulliners, the Millers, the Martinez, the Whites, the Harmon, the Gonzales, and several others (as many as I could get). The impromptu meeting "waved a red flag" that serious business was at hand! Several members could not come on such short notice and I could call only so many in the short time I had. I was glad the Homeowners' volunteer legal consul, attorney Bill Camil, could be there. Eib laid down a map the size of a Bay Window on the living room rug. He said, "We have to let the County know our District boundaries. We are on a deadline!" Eib himself put his two Industrial Districts in right away, with no trouble. He just cut the industrial side in half. Then he sat back. Districts, One, Two, and Three, were left to those assembled to designate. We did the best we could, and with a few adjustments, such as the line between Bill McCann and Betty Wilson's residences, as both wanted to run for council, everything was fine, and Eib met his "deadline."

Petition time was an extremely busy time! I put my "telephone tree" to work. Bart and I delivered ten packets of our pro-city pamphlets, along with the blank petitions to ten contacts who in turn delivered packets to five more people. This put a solid core of knowledge about the new city into every part of town.

Then I appointed two Captains, neighbor Warren Miller, a county engineer and Don Mulliner, a salesman. Warren

brought me a hand-crafted map showing every tax parcel (homeowners) in town. He wanted every petition-signer's house to be tinted green on the map. Each Captain was given a list of the Homeowners and from this list they recruited their petition carriers. We covered (and sometimes recovered the town). The excitement ran high and as the petition carriers began to trickle back in to "the Second Office" on Gridley Road, with their finished petitions. Each had a story to tell; from a dog bite or two, to meeting old friends long lost, and found once more, living in and working for the same city! Hank Gleeksman was working one side of a street, he was very conscientious, so he meticulously reeled off the many good reasons for incorporating while his co-worker, Bev Waller, a beautiful

woman, would knock on a door and effortlessly seemed to get signatures. Hank said he had a sore tongue and he was sore all over. He also observed that after watching Bev work, he felt that he would have achieved quicker results if he were a beautiful woman!

Petitioners colored in their signers on Warren's map, visited with each other and when the living room got too full, tactfully moved on. Don Trout volunteered to do both sides of his block. He, too, got all 18 homes with at least one petition signer. He had to wait for one man to get out of the hospital and one to return from vacation but he would not settle for less than 100%. And so it went. The petitions piled up and were immediately rushed to the Leagues' office and thence to the County Clerk, Gordon Nesvig, where they were counted. Nesvig said dryly, "You only need 25% of the parcel owners," but we turned in 44%! We felt we could carry the vote with our first job, getting a large number of petition signers would build a bulwark for eventual victory.

From the moment the League breathed the word "Incorporation" the fight over boundaries began! The League spent much of its time promising "not to or to" take in various businesses and just plain people. The roar of those who wanted out was more strident and loud. The Homeowners were more relaxed about the whole thing. They had asked that the area of the Little Lake School District be the city of Santa Fe Springs, but we knew the area of the North Norwalk Homeowners' organization would choose to stay Norwalk. The official boundary hearing was set for the



*Back row (left to right): Ann Bartunek, Earleen Pearson, Bev Mareno, Mary Gonzales, Lil White, Glen Bartunek, Margaret Lambros. Foreground (left to right): Don Mulliner, John Baranger, Warren Miller, Mary Treichel, Harold Harmon. Photographer: Frank White.*

end of January 1957. The cities of La Mirada and the Homeowners of Santa Fe Springs bused loads of people to the downtown area to appear before the County Supervisors. Though a bit overwhelmed by the placards, banners and a very excited but erudite, standing room only, crowd the Supervisors did all the legal things necessary for our incorporation to proceed. We would vote in about 60 to 90 days. Mrs. Wayne Baur, president of the Santa Fe Springs Women Club, who had worked so hard to include her neighborhood into the city was defeated when a Norwalk man stood up and requested his neighborhood be counted out. Mr. Legg, as he had been doing, rapped his ruler across the map and the whole south west part of the city remained Norwalk. It was

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the opposition's day. The scales of justice came down a little more to their side on that day. I later asked Supervisor Legg why he had whacked off so much of our city; he gave me a very satisfying answer, "So you can win your vote for a city!"

The Election was set for May 7, 1957. The Homeowner members were joined by hundreds who felt incorporation was possible and preferred. The "Aginers" (those who preferred the status quo) became very strong and we battled the rumors that floated through the town. Everyone in one way or another rose to the challenge and the registered voters in the about-to-be city decided the winners. Again it came through — a living, breathing thing "Incorporation." Five able and excited Councilmen were elected: William A. Emmens, William J. McCann, John Moreno, Foy Lee Peak, and Grace H. Wilson. The vote was close, we were contested but the canvass brought in several more votes for the City. Eight days later the State of California announced we were officially declared the "City of Santa Fe Springs!" Betty Wilson called me from Sacramento and said "I wanted you, of all people, to be the first to know, we are now an Official City."

I'm overwhelmed at the superb way people handled a chance to show our form of government at its best. L.A. County gave both sides all the help they could. The Homeowners and the League developed great respect for each other. I would like to reach out to all the unsung workers who contributed a great deal, such as the group of neighbors and others, who would come to "coffee" at my house between nine and ten o'clock every weekday morning to offer opinions when the League's call would come through. They provided an instant poll on how each idea would be received by people in general. The regulars were: Mary Gonzales, Bobbi Cary, Dottie Miller, Jane Thompson, Shirley Martinez, Earleen Pearson and so many others. Many women with jobs who could not be there phoned one or another of these women to keep in touch with the day's "problem" or "solution." If the League's office needed help that day some (or all of them) would go directly there to file, read reports, or stuff and address envelopes.

Those in rather regular attendance at the League office were: C.W. Eib, Bill Emmens, Ken Barrett, Dave Hearn, Bob Plomert, Carl Sturzenacker and Lynn Wiggins and many other "Leaguers." All these people and hundreds more carried high the torch of Democracy!

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## Regarding the Hathaway Ranch Museum

A Biola Student says: "History was no longer just a mass of words I had to memorize for a test. History was something that was real. And it was when I came to this realization that for the first time I could recall, history actually came to life for me!"

## Tournament of Roses

The marching band at **North Park Middle School** in Pico Rivera was the youngest band to ever participate in the Tournament of Roses Parade. The band is under the direction of Ron Wakefield, who gave up a career as a professional musician for the purpose of seeing what he could do with the music program at North Park. Wakefield said he had never regretted this decision. "As a soloist, I was in the spotlight. But I chose to put kids in the spotlight."

**Raul Rodriguez**, who graduated from Santa Fe High School in the late 1950's, was the designer of the California PTA float which won the Sweepstakes Award in the 1997 Tournament of Roses. Such recognition is not new to Rodriguez. He has won many awards since he first entered a float designing contest while he was still in high school. Beside floats, Rodriguez designs casinos and theme parks. He has traveled extensively and finds inspiration wherever he goes. When he's not traveling to other continents, he spends time locally giving lectures to students and art lovers. The Hathaway Museum owns three Santa Fe High School yearbooks whose covers were designed by Rodriguez while he was a student at the school.

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## ORANGE MARMALADE



10 oranges (I prefer navel oranges)  
2 lemons or 1 grapefruit

Cut off ends of oranges; slice thin. To each pound of sliced fruit, add 2 pints cold water and let stand for 24 hours. Boil for 45 minutes briskly. Let stand for another 24 hours.

Now weigh and to each pound, add 1 pound sugar and juice of 2 lemons.

Boil for 45 minutes briskly and let stand; juice should be firm. Pack in jars, sizes to suit you. I like to add 1/2 pound kumquats sliced in halves perpendicularly. Add to first, stand for 24 hours.

*Martha Russell*

This recipe was taken from the cookbook. "Here's What's Cooking," which sells for \$7.00 plus tax, or \$7.58 in the museum. It appears at a time when navel oranges are at their peak. It was originally submitted by Martha Russell, an early board member of the Rancho Santa Gertrudes Historical Society, who is currently residing at The Springs in Whittier.

## COMMENTS ABOUT THE MUSEUM

from Biola University Students

Twice last year Dr. Dave Peters, a professor at Biola University, brought his class in United States History to the museum on a field trip. He was kind enough to share with us the comments his students made about their tour — and we want to share these comments with our readers:

- “Overall, I enjoyed the tour immensely. I was so interested with all the old antiques from years ago. The highlights are things I will never forget: the ‘Woody,’ the corn sheller, the attic playroom, and the quilt room. They made the tour very enjoyable and I am very glad I went.”
- “I enjoyed looking at the old yearbooks in the 60's bedroom. The tour guides were wonderful. They were helpful and extremely nice. They answered all our questions.”
- “One of the most interesting aspects of the tour was being able to see the tools they had used. At first sight their tools seemed to be only relics incapable of fulfilling even the simplest of tasks. But I became amazed when I saw them in action. The pulley system in the machine shop was remarkably complex and versatile in that they would use that one system to simultaneously complete number of different tasks.”
- “I think most of all I was fascinated by our tour guide. He was so funny. To think he was alive during those olden times that seemed so foreign to us.”
- “For the first time in my city life I actually got the opportunity to pump water from a well. And let me tell you, turning on a water faucet is not all its cracked up to be.”
- “There were many interesting things about the Ranch, but my favorite was the museum with the different rooms and mannequins set up as things had never changed.”
- “I was impressed by the butter making equipment and the big gas stove.”
- “The office of the company was very interesting, with all of its antique office machines.”
- “It seems amazing they could run their business without computers!”
- “I liked looking through all the pictures in the house because it gave you an actual picture of how people dressed and looked back then.”
- “I liked the architecture of the houses, but I was surprised to find that there was no heating in the museum. I could not believe that Nadine's husband was too cheap to have a heating system put in. If he were my husband, I would have made him put one in!”
- “Looking at the clothing from the twenties and the military uniforms was my favorite part. I love the fancy clothes the women used to wear and the hats that went with their outfits.”
- “The military uniforms were very interesting to see, my favorite uniform was the army uniforms from World War II.”
- “The group proceeded to visit a corn grinding invention and had the hands-on experience of plucking kernels from the cobs which Henry told us were later used for pipes. The best of his many anecdotes Henry related to us was of the one-legged rooster that hopped over to the corn crib every time he heard the grinding to beat the other roosters that would stampede and knock him over.”
- “Although I could go on about the house stuff, I will state one observation that I think characterizes the building. The library / study personifies the whole house. Simple in its design and architecture, the room captivated me. I enjoyed it so much.”
- “The children's playroom was captivating to me. It was a little room above the fireplace, so they would stay warm when they used to play in it. It had train sets and doll houses and all sorts of fun kid games. I wanted to crawl into the little space and start playing with all the toys.”
- “The milk barn was actually my favorite part of the museum. I've never been on a real farm myself, and never knew how they actually milked cows, so that was very interesting to me. The other thing I found most interesting was the fact that they still have the actual old wagon that brought Jesse and Lola's things in 1905. I can't believe it's been kept all these years.”
- “The men and women who took us around weren't young tour guides just doing a Job, but were experienced old timer's. who had lived it themselves and knew first-hand what they were talking about. They were extremely warm and friendly and seemed like grandparents to me.”
- “The part of the tour that I enjoyed the best was our tour guide. He was one of the funniest guides I have ever had. You could tell he truly loved what he was doing. He was very knowledgeable, and he loved the ranch he was working on.”
- “The Hathaway Ranch Museum was not merely a collection of artifacts that for me had no meaning nor did it showcase the usual expert speakers who bored you with their seemingly limitless knowledge of every obscure detail involved in the life of a twenties rancher. The Hathaway Ranch contained something far more valuable, and I believe, more beneficial. Something that the ordinary museum seemed to lack, the quality of life.”