

The Hathaway Ranch Museum



NEWSLETTER

Spring 1997
Volume 7, Number 2



Increased Attendance at HRM

After an article about the Hathaway Ranch Museum appeared in Susan Peterson's column in the Long Beach Press-Telegram on April 29, there was an increase in attendance at the museum. Attendance tripled at the following open house. Several visitors were heard to say that they hadn't know this place was here, and gave credit to the article in the Press-Telegram. In appreciation of the coverage we receive, we want to help spread the word about other historic places, such as the Garden Grove Historical Society, which is located at the Stanley Ranch Museum. Members of this society exchanged visits this spring with ranch hands of the Hathaway Ranch Museum.

We are giving just the "vital statistics" of the Garden Grove location. We are not prepared to make the information as interesting as Peterson's article about HRM, but by gum, you will know where it is.

Material for the Newsletter

**We need our reader's help
in providing material for our newsletter.**

Each one of you has some unique information or remembrance that would be of interest to other readers. It doesn't have to be a life story. The recollection doesn't have to be dramatic, like the glimpse of life in a prison camp (see Luis Franco's story); or humorous, like the story about Charlie Cooper leaving his horse tied in Whittier's Central Park while he rode home to Los Nietos in the electric train (see Charlie Cooper's remembrances); or sentimental, like the fond memory of celebrating May Day at Little Lake School (see Nadine Hathaway's article).

Your little story can be like any of these, of course, but it will be your own. Please send it to the Hathaway Ranch Museum, 11901 E. Florence Ave., Santa Fe Springs.

Garden Grove Historical Society

The Garden Grove Historical Society was established in 1966. It is located at the Stanley Ranch Museum, 12174 Euclid Street, P.O. Box 4297, Garden Grove, CA 92842-4297.

The Stanley Ranch Museum is a two-acre park where several of Garden Grove's oldest homes and commercial buildings have been relocated. It is open to the public for guided tours from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. on the third Sunday. The tour takes about an hour. To see the entire museum plan to arrive no later than 3 p.m. The admission fee is \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children under 12. Membership in the Garden Grove Historical Society is \$10.00 per year. Monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month (except July and August) present programs on a variety of subjects.

Garden Grove was founded in 1874 and this two-acre park is dedicated to retaining its history. The maintenance is done by members through their generous contributions of time, talents and financial assistance. Anyone interested in helping may contact the Society by phoning (714) 530-8871.

The focus home of the museum is the Ware-Stanley House. It was completed in 1892 by Edward G. Ware, a noted horticulturist famous for developing the Eureka Walnut and for introducing the first Valencia orange tree to the area.

About Food at the Museum

Some members and friends of the museum are very generous in their cash gifts to the museum and it has occurred to us that perhaps we should assure them that their gifts are not spent in a frivolous manner. For instance, refreshments.

Museum funds are used for food served at the museum only in the case of the catered picnic in the fall which honors volunteers who give their time and energy and good will to keep the museum going. All other food or drink is donated. We just thought we'd let you know.

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

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

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.

Rose Garden Dedicated

The City of Norwalk, the Historical Heritage Commission and the Friends of Hargitt Mave dedicated a memorial rose garden to past docents of the museum and Friends of Hargitt. The garden is at the Hargitt House Museum, 12450 Mapledale Street, Norwalk.

Generous Members and Donors

These members have donated more than their basic dues since previous acknowledgment in the Winter, 1997 newsletter:

Rodger Applegate
Eddie Aycock
Mary Rose Bertucci
Sheila Y. Cantrell
Willa Enloe
E.M. Schroeder
Mollie Teschler
Richard H. Weaver

New Members

Mary Rose Bertucci
Richard (DIK) Lung
Alvin & Bonnie Rhodes

Change of Address

Evelyn Grembla
18800 Florida St., Apt. 270
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Volunteers

The following group of people gave time to the museum since acknowledgment in our Winter, 1997 newsletter:

Frances Agapoff
Mildred Carlzen
Jeanne Grant
Elizabeth Hathaway
Jean Hathaway
Jesse R. Hathaway
Karen Hathaway
Meredith Hathaway
Remy Hathaway
Richard F. Hathaway, Jr.
William Hathaway
Jack Johnson
Carrie Long
Henry Lynn
Frank Martinez
Frank Moody
Mary O'Connor
Betty Putnam
Josie Ramirez
Francine Rippy
Slats Seeley
Faye Smetanka
Melvin Smith
Phyllis Stenson

Ray Stenson
Irene Stephen
Mollie Teschler
Louise Thorson
Joyce Virnala

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO MAY DAY?

Why did we let the communists take over as their symbolic date what was once, in this country, an old-fashioned celebration of good will toward men and an innocent rite of springtime?

When I was a child in our city neighborhood in the Larchmont district of Los Angeles we saved cottage cheese boxes for months prior to May 1. As the day approached we decorated the boxes with crepe or tissue paper. Remember how we could make the paper curl by running a scissors blade down strips of it?

On the day itself we filled the boxes with flowers from our mother's gardens (nearly every house had something floral or fragrant that could be used), added water and went off to leave our gifts of pleasurable surprise on the doorsteps of people we knew would appreciate our intentions.

30 years later, and a different location: Houses were few and far between in the Little Lake School District, which included parts of Norwalk and Downey and what later became known as Santa Fe Springs. The single school in the district became the hub of May Day activities, as it was of most social and community activities in the area.

Preparation began early. Each class, kindergarten through eighth grade, was drilled in the pageantry or dance routine that would be its particular offering for the program. A May Queen was selected, and members of her court. One year there was two May Queens, identical twin girls, Jean and Joan Moore who lived on Orr and Day Road near other members of the Moore clan.

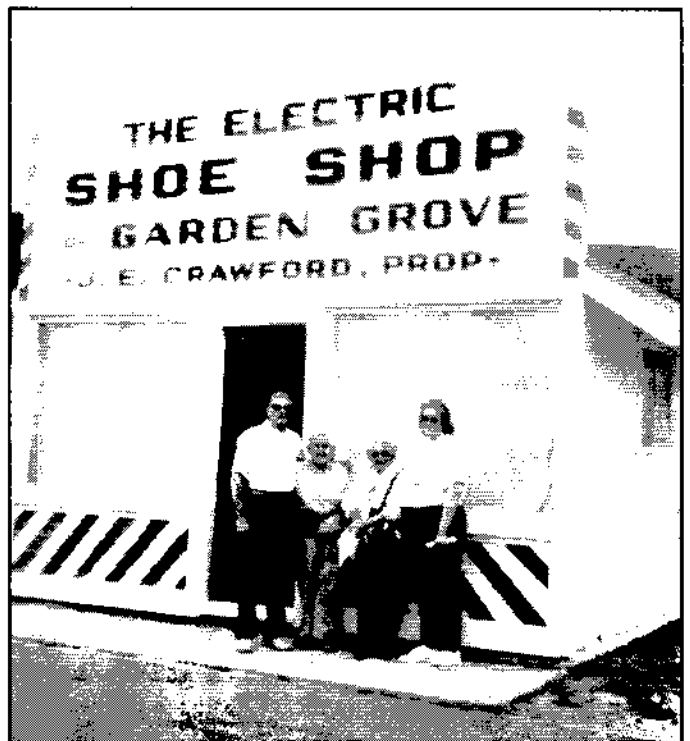
A may-pole was erected and ribbons fastened to the top of it, hanging loosely until it was time for them to be wound around the pole, an honor reserved for the 8th grade. The big day came and the program began. Proud parents, grandparents and neighbors watched as the kindergarten crew stood on each side of an imaginary aisle, clutching a long satin ribbon at intervals that led to a fern covered bower from which the queen(s) would survey the proceedings. The school orchestra — did you get that? ORCHESTRA — began to play and the program under the pepper trees was underway.

Whittier's Historic Depot finds a Home

Whittier's Southern Pacific Railroad depot is about to experience a rebirth. A permanent site has been chosen—the 7300 block of Greenleaf—for the historic train station, which will be moved over the next few years. It will be restored and refurbished to become a valuable addition to the southern uptown revival.



Ranch hands from the Hathaway Ranch Museum visit the Stanley Ranch in Garden Grove.



Jack Johnson, Mildred Carlzen, Carrie Long, and Kay Johnson visit the Stanley Ranch. Jack Johnson, an active ranch hand at the Hathaway Ranch Museum, is also on the Board of Directors of the Garden Grove Historical Society.

This picture shows The Electric Shoe Shop as it looked for thirty years except for a new coat of white paint applied in the spring of 1996. Then the familiar red and blue stripes and "The Electric Shoe Shop" sign were painted on.

Mr. J.E. Crawford came to Garden Grove in 1922 and purchased a lot on Euclid Street. A building, which had served as a barbershop, was moved to this location where Crawford cobbled shoes by hand. Later he purchased the first electrically powered fixtures in Garden Grove. The shaft that propelled the various finishes was sixteen feet long, making it necessary to enlarge the building. He operated under the name of "The Electric Shoe Shop".

THE LEGEND OF CHARLIE COOPER

We are indebted to Harriett Ebermayer for preserving the remembrances of her father, Charlie Cooper, an early resident of the Whittier-Los Nietos-Santa Fe Springs area. The following remarks were made before the Whittier Host Lions Club at a meeting on December 27, 1986.

For some 65 or 70 years a fellow by the name of Oscar Marshburn has from time to time kidded me about an incident that took place in 1912.

I was living in Los Nietos at the time. I rode my horse to Whittier which was about four miles, where I tied him to a hitching post in Central Park and went across Friends Avenue to visit my girl friend who lived in a house where the Red Cross building now stands.

I left her house about ten o'clock and walked downtown to the corner of Greenleaf and Philadelphia Streets, caught the red car that ran from Whittier to Los Angeles, got off at Los Nietos and went home before I remembered my horse in Central Park.

I walked four miles in the middle of the night to the park to get my horse.

My Grandfather had a ranch on Santa Fe Springs Road about 1884. My Father herded and grazed cattle on property now called Whittier. Grandfather hauled the first Quakers into Whittier from Norwalk in 1887 from the Southern Pacific Depot in Norwalk to Whittier. He built his home in 1887 on Philadelphia Street and Newlin Avenue where the Historical Society building now stands. My Aunt Mary started a temporary restaurant in a tent between Newlin and Pickering.

My Grandfather and Father hauled groceries and other articles from Los Angeles to the grocery stores in Whittier for several years. My Mother, who was the daughter of a Quaker minister in Long Beach, went to the Whittier Academy, which was the start of Whittier College in 1893 and was located on what is now the parking lot of the American Savings. She paid \$10.00 tuition fee and \$3.50 to \$4.50 per week for board and room. Walter Cammack's father was one of the trustees of the school.

My Father and Uncle Harry and a lady named Lou Henry were also in that class with my Mother. Lou Henry later became Lou Henry Hoover, the wife of the President of the United States.

They held a reception for Mrs. Hoover late in 1920's while Hoover was still President, at the William Penn Hotel and I told my Dad we should go to that reception so he could see his old friend Lou. My Dad said, "Okay, but she would not remember me after 35 years." We went to the reception and we had hardly got through the door when she spotted my

Dad and came across the room and greeted him like a long lost brother.

At one time the oil produced in the hills behind Whittier was run in pipelines to Los Nietos into large oil tanks. It was transferred to tank cars and shipped all over Southern California. My Father was the shipping clerk for the Murphy Oil Company and lived on the property. Sam Perkins had the same job for Central Oil Company just across the street.

There were four adobe buildings in Los Nietos at that time, one of those buildings was where the Perkins kids and the Cooper kids went to grammar school. The buildings were built prior to 1792 by the Spanish.

The first elementary school in the district was a 10 x 12 foot room located in the yard of W.P. Cooper on Santa Fe Springs Road. That was in 1884, and they had 13 pupils.

In 1885 a large bond election was held for the money for a new school located on Whittier Blvd. near Painter Avenue. That bond issue was for \$3,000.00.

In about 1908 my Father wanted to keep my two brothers and I busy and he bought the franchise for the Los Angeles Times and the Los Angeles Examiner. In those days the same people would handle both the Los Angeles Times and Examiner. The paper route took in Santa Fe Springs, Norwalk, Studebaker, South Whittier and part of Los Nietos. We usually carried the paper on horseback as the roads were pretty bad in those days. You could always tell who were Republicans and who were Democrats; the Republicans took the Times and the Democrats took the Examiner.

All around where the Sears store is on South Painter were olive orchards. South of the olive orchards were vineyards and a winery. The olive orchards had a number of dirt reservoirs. The water in those reservoirs was sulfur water and smelled like rotten eggs. The kids in the neighborhood would go swimming in the reservoirs and I know when we would get home my Mother would smell us before we got in the house and we would have to hose each other good and change clothes before she would let us in the house.

Almost every home and ranch house would have a windmill, a water tank, a horse trough and an out house.

In the early days, around 1910, four men decided to go from Los Angeles to San Diego, and decided to come through Whittier and see the town. As they left town they had a flat tire just as they got onto Whittier Blvd. and in front of Dick Morris' house. Having a flat tire in those days was a major operation to repair. While they fixed the flat, Dick furnished them with cold lemonade, as it was a hot day. I had better tell you who these four men were, they were John Muir, Harvey Firestone, Henry Ford and Thomas Edison.

Continued on page 5

In about 1908, a friend of my Father who was a cattle man had a cattle ranch in Santa Fe Springs and Simi Valley. He was going to move about 50 head of cattle to Simi Ranch from Santa Fe Springs and asked me if I would like to go along to be with his son on this trip. My Mother objected, but my Father was on my side and we persuaded my Mother everything would be all right, so she said okay.

We left at daybreak one morning with the cattle, a chuck wagon, two cowhands, Mr. Palmer and us two kids. We camped the first night west of Los Angeles and south of Hollywood. There was grass and sagebrush all around the camp and only one farmhouse about a quarter of a mile away. Little did we know that someday that land would be part of Hollywood.

Next morning we went straight north about three miles to the center of Hollywood. There was a large wooden building with the Post Office in one corner, a grocery store, a hardware store and a store that sold farm equipment of all kinds to farmers in the district, in front. There was a large windmill, a water tank and a long horse trough about 40 ft. long where we watered the animals. We took a winding dirt road up Conejo Canyon and around Western San Fernando Valley to Calabasas and over the hill to Simi Valley, stayed two days in the valley, left the cattle and came back home. Quite some experience those days for 12 year old kids.

The Saldano Award

Although a brief announcement was made in a former newsletter about the Award for the 1996 Santa Fe Springs Residential Citizen of the Year going to Art and Gloria Saldano, space and timing prevented us from including background information. We correct that now:

Mr. and Mrs. Saldano were nominated for their outstanding community volunteer efforts for 30 years. They are 45-year residents of Santa Fe Springs.

ART SALDANO is a lifetime member of the V.F.W. Post 4138; a former Read Program North Area Coordinator; volunteer for the Christmas Float for Santa Fe Springs, Railroad Exhibit Train Volunteer; member of the Friends of the Library; Historical Committee, Charter Member of The Hathaway Ranch Museum, former Heritage Park Docent, 40-year PTA member, Metropolitan Baseball League Volunteer, and former Support Volunteer for the Boy Scouts and Campfire Girls. He is a supporting member of the American Heart Association for AIDS Project L. A.

Mr. Saldano is a collector of jazz records, coins, and Downbeat Magazines. He is a baseball fan and a collector of train memorabilia, as well as train restoration at Heritage Park since 1989. Also, he has been involved in collecting dona-

tions for locomotive restoring, repair and location.

A native of California, he grew up in a family of five. He attended Jefferson High School in Los Angeles and Fallia Academy of Music. He is a veteran of World War II and served in the South Pacific.

Mr. Saldano was employed as a truck driver for Reliable Delivery Service for 30 years, and when Reliable went bankrupt, he worked another 14 years for Auto Fast Freight. He once won second place in Truck Rodeo. He retired in 1983.

He has been married to Gloria for 48 years. They have two daughters, one son, three grandsons and one great-granddaughter.

Among **GLORIA SALDANO's** many accomplishments, are her involvements in the Santa Fe Springs Women's Club, Hospitality and Health Chairmanship, Historical Committee, Program Committee, Friends of the Library, Charter member of the Hathaway Ranch Museum, Precinct Inspector for Los Angeles County, and City Worker for Elections. She is also a member of the V.F.W. Post 4138 Ladies Auxiliary.

Gloria is a former Heritage Park Docent, and the Saldano's were awarded the Santa Fe Springs Historical Society Award for Valuable Contribution for Development of Heritage Park. She has been an officer of Little Lake PTA Council, and has held many offices in school PTA involvement. She received a Continuing Service Awards and the Meritorious and Distinguished Service Award from the VFW Post 4138. She is also a volunteer for the American Heart Association and a Volunteer for the AIDS Project Los Angeles. She has received the PTA Honorary Service Award.

Gloria enjoys collecting elephant items, crocheting, and flower arranging. She designed the hats for the Heritage Park Barn display and for the docents. She and Art took second Place in the Christmas Home Decoration Contest in 1980 and an Honorable Mention in 1987.

Born in San Gabriel, she grew up with two sisters and one brother, and attended Garfield High School. She enjoys her family, two daughters and a son, and grandchildren as well as a baby great-granddaughter.

The Downey Historical Society is preparing for two sesquicentennial events: (1) the arrival of John Gately Downey in California (he became California's 7th governor in 1860, and (2) California Statehood. Both happened in 1850. In 1998 the city of Downey will also be marking the 125th anniversary of its founding, which took place on October 13, 1873

Members in the News

BETTY PUTNAM, former member of the Little Lake City School Board of Directors, was elected to the Santa Fe Springs City Council in March. **AL SHARP** was re-elected to the Council. Both Putnam and Sharp are long-time generous supporters of the Hathaway Ranch Museum.

LUIS J. FRANCO and **JOE R. RAMIREZ** have recently sent their opinions or information to the Reader's Letters column in the Whittier Daily News.

ELEANOR ZIMMERMAN has been elected Mayor of the City of Norwalk. Zimmerman and her late husband "Bud" were long identified with historical preservation, including the restoration of a schoolhouse. She was very supportive and encouraging to the Hathaway Ranch Museum and its predecessor, the Rancho Santa Gertrudes Historical Society.

LUIS J. FRANCO, a long-standing member of the Guild of the Hathaway Ranch Museum and a frequent contributor to the Reader's Letters column of the Whittier Daily News, has stories to tell about life in a prison camp during World War II. The following appeared in the May 7, 1997 edition of the News.

Incidentally, since Franco has moved from Santa Fe Springs to Whittier, it seems to us that his letters have tamed down a bit: more informative, less critical. Any particular significance to that, Luis?

Life in a prison camp

A recent cable television program, which features historical facts, brought back memories of World War II and the plot to assassinate Adolph Hitler. This happened in July 1944 in East Prussia.

I had traveled in that part of Germany on my way to what was once Poland. A prisoner-of-war camp named Stalag Luftfour, 50 miles southwest of the then-free city of Danzig, was my home for nine months.

One July day, we noticed extra guards within the perimeter of the camp. I had become friendly with one of the guards, who confided in me that he had been a professor of economics at Berlin University; he also said he was Catholic and spoke Spanish. I was lucky that guard was on duty. I immediately went near him to see if he could tell me about the extra guards.

I had to be careful with the other guards, lest they suspect I was trying to obtain information. I did get information that Adolph Hitler had been assassinated at one of his retreats, which I understood was not too far from our camp. In my opinion, it meant that the war would soon be over. Later that day, I found out that Hitler had not been killed.

Some of the readers might like to know how I became friendly with that guard. Once in a while, a Catholic priest,

also a prisoner of war, would come into the camp to offer Mass. I volunteered to be the altar server. During the Mass, I noticed a guard not far from the services nonchalantly blessing himself. Later, I asked him why he was not an officer in the army, with his education, instead of being an ordinary private. He explained that he never joined the Nazi Party. He did admit he was Catholic.

*Luis J. Franco
Whittier*

McDonald's Historical Site

The original McDonald's drive-in restaurant in Downey, built in 1953, was marked for demolition after the 1994 Northridge earthquake. Instead, it has recently received a Los Angeles Conservancy Preservation Award. The conservancy celebrates excellence in historic preservation by honoring projects, people and programs during its annual awards luncheon.

The location of the drive-in, at Lakewood Boulevard and Florence Avenue, was the third in what became the giant chain. Plans were made to raze the building when it no longer fit the McDonald's image, but the completion of a two-year renovation project was celebrated last December.

McDonald's added outdoor seating for about 100 and an 800 square foot museum and gift shop.

CORNMEAL COOKIES

This recipe, from **Kelly Garcia**, appeared in a recent issue of HIT'N'MISS, the newsletter of the Western Antique Power Associates. It has been kitchen tested at HRM. Cornmeal enhances the texture and flavor of these golden, easy to make drop cookies, which have a hint of lemon and plenty of raisins.

For 2 1/2 dozen cookies you will need:

1/2 cup butter	1 tsp. baking powder
2/3 cup sugar	1/4 tsp. salt
1 egg	1 cup flour
1 tsp. lemon extract	1/2 cup raisins
1/2 cup cornmeal	

Preparation: Beat the butter and sugar together until creamy. Mix in the egg and lemon extract. Blend. In a separate bowl, combine the cornmeal, baking powder, salt and flour. Add the flour mixture to the butter mixture. Mix well. Stir in the raisins. Drop batter by teaspoons onto a lightly buttered cookie sheet. Bake at 375° F. for 10 to 12 minutes until bottom of cookies are browned. Remove. Let cookies cool a minute before placing on a rack to complete cooling.

Tip: Whole grain cornmeal adds texture and nutrition.