

Hathaway Ranch Museum

News From the Ranch



Summer 1998
Volume 8, Number 3



Councilperson Betty Puanam and Historian Margaret Hammon standing in front of a picture display at the SFS City Hall. Many of the pictures were furnished by the Hathaway Ranch Museum.



At left are docents Joyce Virnala and Faye Smetanka standing in front of McCormick-Deering

At right is Will Hathaway sorting out rejects from the museum Laboratory.



We are still looking for short articles by or about people who lived in this area or who were active in the community. Please send articles to:

Hathaway Ranch Museum
11901 E. Florence Avenue
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

Founding the Whittier Historical Society

By Elna Sue Johanson

Elna Sue Johanson is a former recipient of the "Gertie" Award, which is presented annually by the Hathaway Ranch Museum to someone in this area who has had an impact on the community in historical preservation. She now lives in Las Vegas, Nevada. We persuaded her to write what she remembered about starting the Whittier Historical Society.

At certain times the population of Whittier changed. It began as a Quaker community, but it was soon agreed that Baptists, Methodists and others would be welcome, but not the riffraff of the saloon type. In the 1920's, with the oil boom in Santa Fe Springs, the oil people nearly doubled the uptown population of Whittier. Some of the small cottages built for them in many back-yards still exist. The uptown was still the heart of Whittier with its quaint morality and its at least twenty seven churches.

However, further change was inevitable. This was evident when motion pictures came to town. The Scenic, the Strand or the Roxy theaters were never open on Sunday. But then, the Whittier theater was built just outside of the city limits, across the boulevard at the end of Hadley Street, to show talking pictures and to be open on Sunday. It was demolished after the 1987 earthquake. The citizens were enticed to the theater by the talkies, the wonders of the Spanish architecture and the twinkling stars and the floating clouds projected onto the ceiling. The ambience was attractive. It was obvious that the city restrictions on Sunday behavior were unreal. But the above and below the boulevard differences were determined and remained for a long time.

The greatest change in Whittier occurred at the end of World War II in 1945, when hundreds of GI homes replaced the orange groves and the walnut orchards on the flat land below the boulevard. After twenty years of growth, by 1976, many more people lived below the boulevard than lived in uptown Whittier. By 1976, the new GI families had lived in Whittier long enough to have roots in the city and to be aware of the rich heritage of Whittier.

It seemed possible that a historical society might bind the appreciations of the old and the new sections of the city. The whole

Continued on page 3

Generous Members and Donors

(Since acknowledgment in our Spring Newsletter)

Gilbert and Lucy Cota
 Steven M. Erwin
 Long Beach Model T Club
 Harold and Mary Ann Rummel

Museum Schedule

Except during major holidays
 the weekly schedule is as follows:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

Tours & Activities 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

First Sunday of Each Month

Tours & Activities 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Lifetime Members

O.K. Flood Thomas Scott
 Nadine Hathaway Ray & Phyllis Stenson

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 (562) 944-6563 or (562) 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.

New Members

Glenda Amoroso Angelo and Lucy Quintana
 George Engle

Volunteers

The following people gave time to the museum during the second quarter of 1998:

Mary Rose Bertucci	Henry Lynn
Mildred Carlzen	Frank Martinez
Jeanne Grant	Frank Moody
Elizabeth Hathaway	Betty Putnam
Jean Hathaway	Josie Ramirez
Jesse Hathaway	Francine Rippy
Meredith Hathaway	Slats Seeley
Remy Hathaway	Melvin Smith
Richard F. Hathaway, Jr.	Ray Stenson
William Hathaway	Mollie Teschler
Jack Johnson	Louise Thorson
Carrie Long	

Volunteer Recognition Picnic

The annual catered picnic honoring volunteers will be held at the Hathaway Ranch Museum on Sunday, October 11, 1998, at 1:00 p.m. A BBQ chicken and rib dinner will be served.

Volunteers whose names have appeared in the newsletter volunteers column or donors who have given \$50.00 or more to the museum during the past year will be guests of the museum. For all others there is a \$10.00 per person charge. **Reservations are required for anyone, whether guest of the museum, or not, and must be made by October 4, 1998.** Reservations will be held at the door.

Note: The museum buildings will not be open October 11. This is the ranch hands' day off.

Please send this reservation coupon, along with your check, to the Hathaway Ranch Museum, 11901 E. Florence Ave., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

For further information call (562) 944-6563. Reservations will be held at the door.

Please reserve _____ places for me at the HRM picnic at \$10.00 per ticket. Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: () _____

Whittier Historical Society *continued from page 1*

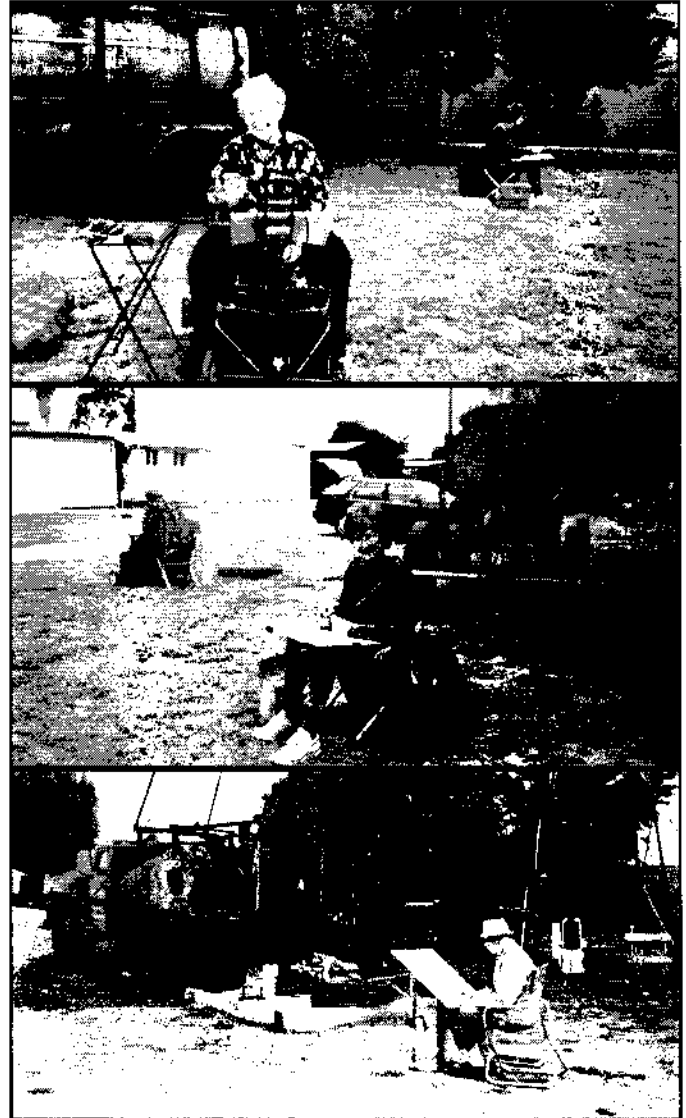
country was celebrating the 1976 Bicentennial, a time when Americans were vitally aware of their heritage. The city seemed ready for a historical society to save the Bailey House, the first house in Whittier. It was not imagined that a museum might be established, that the Pio Pico Mansion might be better appreciated, or that the depot would be saved.

The Society had actually begun when a group of distinguished men met to move the Bailey House, possibly to Central Park. It wasn't feasible and the idea diminished for a while. Then a group, including Catherine Phelan, Nadine Hathaway, Ed Perry and Dr. Nerhood were invited to meet at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Johanson on Enramada Avenue to reorganize the historical society. Subsequent meetings were encouraging, but enthusiasm faded and finally only three people came, it seemed all was finished,

Three ladies, Nadine Hathaway, Catherine Phelan, and Elna Sue Johanson, took stock of the situation and decided that "where two or three are gathered together ..." the idea of a historical group was viable, and we determined to meet again. From this meeting forward all went well. Bylaws were written, membership was developed and the heritage of the Whittier area was to be preserved.

The Historical Society of the Whittier Area, including Santa Fe Springs, was formed. Later, Nadine Hathaway organized the independent Hathaway Ranch Museum that has flourished. The Whittier Historical Society continued with its strong community service, including the brilliant Centennial celebration in 1987. Both organizations with strong Society leadership and generous membership support have, through the years, successfully accomplished innumerable and vastly significant projects. What a gift the three ladies gave to Whittier and Santa Fe Springs. These communities may be pleased and proud of the research, the historical sites and the museums that have enriched the lives of so many citizens. What a gift this is to the citizens of the future.

ARTISTS PAINTING AROUND THE RANCH MUSEUM GROUNDS



Second Grade

Members of Janice Harbin's second grade class at Lakeland School report on their research projects before the end of the school year in June, 1998.

The class visited the Hathaway Ranch Museum in late winter for a general tour, then followed it up in the spring to select items of special interest to them on which they could do research.



Story of My Life

By Richard F. Hathaway, Jr.

The following article was written by Richard F. Hathaway, Jr. when he was fourteen. We are grateful that his basic course teacher at Whittier High School made him comply with this class assignment. He would not have done it voluntarily.

I was born in 1939 in Whittier, California. I attended kindergarten at the Little Lake School in Santa Fe Springs, California. I went to Little Lake for nine years. I got fair grades. When I was four I saw my dad get hurt on a bulldozer on our ranch. When I was 4 ½ I fell from an 8 foot roof and cut my ear ¾ of the way off. My dad taped it back on.

I started driving a tractor when I was seven and then I drove a few small trucks around and I worked on them, too. When I was 8 I knew how to do a lot of things. My teacher said I was very mechanical. I ran an A frame at Little Lake School. We were pulling out a pepper tree.



Richard Hathaway at 21 years of age.

When I was nine I was building a lot of things and helping my dad and grandfather a lot. When I was ten I had a little shop where I spent quite a little time after school. When I was about 10 ½ I started going with my Uncle "Doc". I had a hard hat just like all the other men. There was only one thing. I was a little too short and not quite strong enough. I still have the same hard hat and I wear it every day. It has saved my head many times, too.

When I was eleven I went to Colorado with my cousin Bennie. I stayed in Colorado for about two weeks. I came back with my Uncle Elwood. I saw a lot of places. One of them was Boulder Dam. It was my first time out of the state. I had a lot of fun. I went in the summer.

When I was twelve we got a television set. It was a lot of fun to watch it for the first four months. In the summer I went to Colo-

rado again. I went with Bennie and his father, Elwood. Bennie is the same age as I am. I go around with him a lot. He lives across the street. This time I went to Colorado I worked. We worked on roads and built a new well location. I started there for about 2 ½ weeks. I had the Fourth of July back there. We had just about everything in the way of fireworks. When I got back they had drilled a well in our field. I spent a lot of time there after they drilled the well. They dug a ditch for a two inch water line from the well to our house. We had a little tractor. Then I got to fill in the ditch. I always wanted a big tractor job. Well, I got it. I never had so much fun in all my life. When they told me I could do it I was up at six o'clock the next morning.

When I was 13 I went to Colorado I got the job of running a bulldozer, building roads. I got paid three dollars a day.

I stayed in Colorado about three weeks. That same summer I worked on an air compressor truck. I took it all apart myself. It was a lot of fun. When I was 12 ½ or 13 I started collecting tools. Now I have enough tools of my own to rebuild a truck.

I have a lot of fun. I live on a big place. I have work to do every day. I work for my grandfather. He pays me by the month. I am very happy all the time. I put all of my money in the bank.

There are eight in my family. I have a brother that is eleven and my other brother is five. I have three sisters. One is 16, one is 15, and one is eight. My eight year old sister had all of her fingers cut off but her thumb. It happened when she was about two years old. I was named after my father. I plan to be a rancher or work in the oil fields.



Jack Johnson driving the tractor pulls the museum tour wagon filled with happy visitors.

BECOME AN AUTHOR....

Submit your life story as it relates to the history of Santa Fe Springs, or the surrounding communities, and see your words set down in print. It's easy! Just write down your historical experiences and we will complete any necessary editing, so you can share your story with our readers.

HACIENDA HEIGHTS RESIDENT AT PEACE WITH HER BUSY LIFE

A few months ago the following article about Francine Rippy appeared in the Whittier Daily News. Rippy was a charter member of the Rancho Santa Gertrudes Historical Society and the Hathaway Ranch Museum. She usually rides the hay wagon around during the First Sunday Open House at the Museum and explains the use of the equipment to visitors.

By E. Louise Smith
Correspondent

HACIENDA Heights: Francine Rippy's mother must have warned her about the danger of idle hands. Someone scared this petite 59-year-old into feeling guilty if she isn't doing at least two things at a time.

Rippy takes care of her large home and 4.9 acres in Hacienda Heights, a ranch in Oklahoma and spends her afternoons looking after Fred R. Rippy, Inc., her late husband's manufacturing business in Whittier.

He died not long after they bought the fixer-upper Rippy now lives in. With his death in 1986, she ended up doing most of the fixing up her-self.

Many of her sentences begin with, "I'd like to, but I just don't have time" ... to continue painting work on stained-glass windows, sculpt, be a docent, serve on more boards, attend meetings, watch television or go to the movies.



Francine Rippy with her Arabian mare.

She is an active member of at least 12 organizations, including her church, the Whittier Nature Center, the Audubon Society, the Shelter's Right Hand and Hillcrest Senior Care.

When she runs out of time to give, she finds other means of supporting various organizations: donating home-made jellies to sell, rugs for prizes, fresh flowers to sell at the garden tours - the opportunities are endless.

Rippy is a consummate recycler. She never wastes anything.

not even a magazine or newspaper. She plants only what requires little moisture and installed a gray line from her kitchen to water the fruit trees.

Her large property is fenced in, and a sign on the gate states, "If you need to come in, honk and wait." Two large dogs are the first to acknowledge your presence, then a totally indifferent cat strolls into view, climbs on the hood of your car and turns his tailless backside in your face.

Rippy is a licensed chiropractor who no longer practices, but her interest in health and nutrition remains strong.

She raises chickens and has three geese to provide her with plenty of eggs. The chickens are allowed to die of old age. Rippy's studies have convinced her that the lecithin in the yolks protects the eater from the dangers of fat.



Francine Rippy gathering grass-hay for her horse.

The chickens are let out of their coop to run around at noon every day. Living where she does, Rippy cannot just let her animals run wild. Several times she has looked out her uncurtained windows to see a coyote looking for a quick meal. Her dogs and cat are trained to not go far from the house. There is also the danger of human predators.

She does make time for fun. There's Scottish dancing at night for recreation and she plays several musical instruments. She has lots of company and family, including a daughter, and is constantly working on projects for gifts.

A large bowl of guacamole just made from her own avocados sits on the kitchen counter. Huge canning pots and pans are on the stove. She cans year around and naturally shares her products — tomato juice, peaches and apricots.

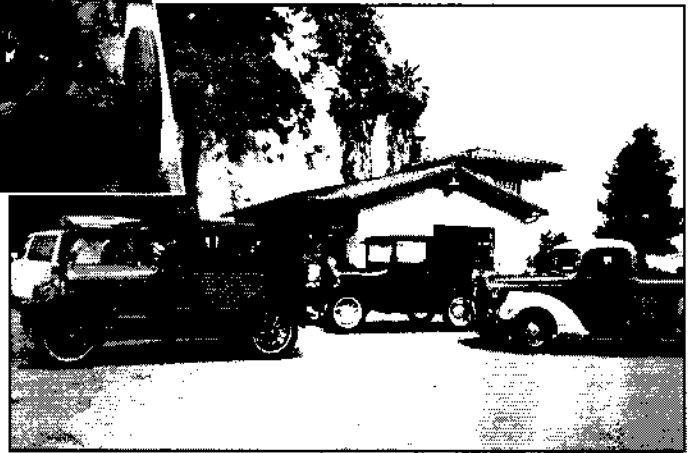
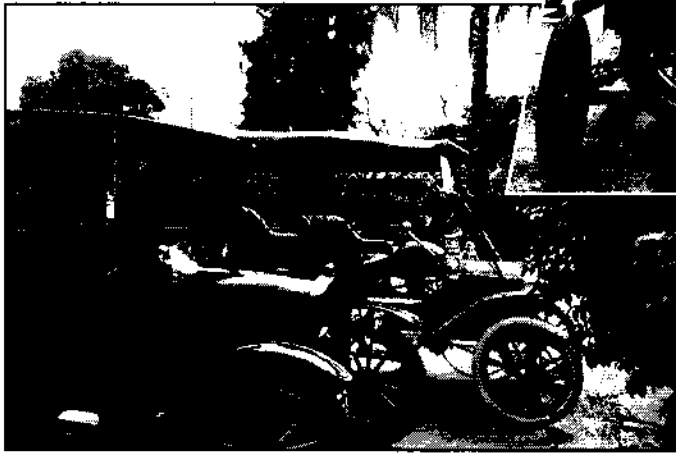
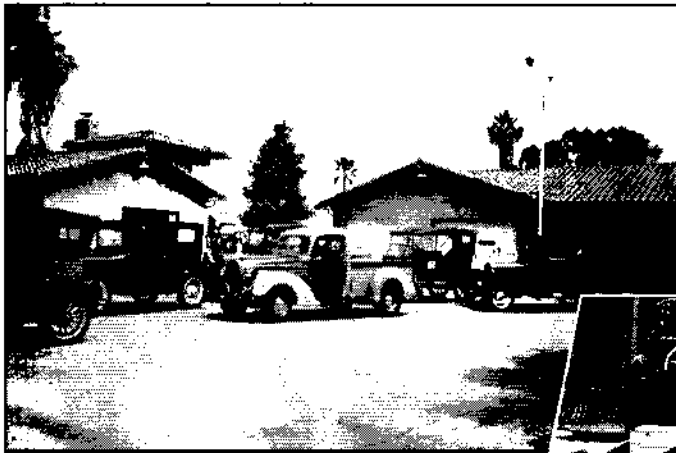
Most of the jars sitting on the long wooden counter have won ribbons. She has been entering her canned goods at the Los Angeles County Fair for 30 years.

During the Year of 1934....

Dick Hathaway took the Grand Championship for a Carload of Cattle at the Western Livestock Exhibition. William Randolph Hearst offered Dick a job raising cattle for him on the basis of this success.

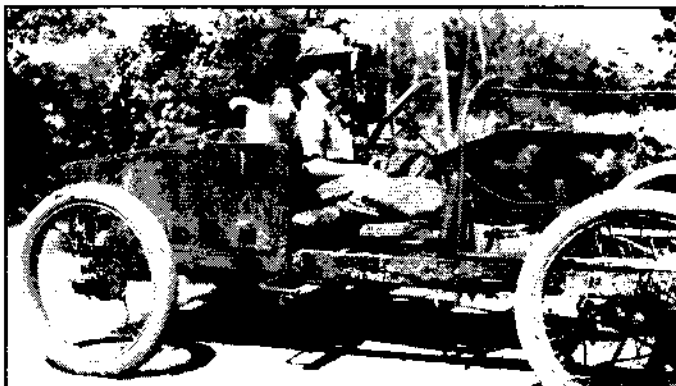
Nadine Applegate graduated as valedictorian of her class from Fairfax High School in the summer of 1934.

The Long Beach Model T Club Visits the Museum in June of 1998



ELWOOD'S CAR ... AS TOLD BY J.I. HATHAWAY

It had an old 1917 Harley-Davidson 45 motorcycle engine in it. One of the roughnecks up on the Howard lease (located on a part of the J.E. Hathaway ranch property) had the motorcycle, and he couldn't keep it running. He used to come to work on it. One day he asked Elwood and I if we wanted it. He had so much trouble with it, he couldn't keep it running, so he said you can have the darn thing. So, we took it and we fixed it up so that it would run and we put it into a car that Elwood built out of a wood frame. That was our "hot-rod." We'd go around the block in it every morning.



*Elwood Hathaway and Spot the dog
in Elwood's home-made automobile.*



*Left to right: Richard F. Hathaway, Elwood Hathaway (at the wheel),
Spot the dog and Julian I. (Doc) Hathaway.*