

Hathaway Ranch Museum



News From the Ranch

SPRING
Winter 1999

Volume 9, Number 1



KIDS OF AMERICA

"Kids of America," a group of talented young people sponsored by the City of Santa Fe Springs, entertained guests at the Hathaway Ranch Museum during the December Open House.

Kids of America started in 1996. Director and choreographer is Laurie Younkin, who graduated from U.C.L.A. in 1996 with her B.A. in "World Arts and Cultures." She is presently working on her M.A. at Pepperdine University.

There are presently 4 groups: Kids of America (sing and dance), Sweet Sixteen (musical theatre), Swing Kids (swing dancing and singing), and Twilights (senior group). They have done three musicales, ("Little Shop of Horrors," "Bye-Bye Birdie," and "Grease"). They are going on their 100th performance, which included a display of their talents at the non-alcoholic, family oriented "First Night" New Year's Eve community party at the Santa Fe Springs Town Center Plaza.

Their next play will be "Our Town," by Thornton Wilder. This is a dramatic play and will involve many community members. It will be performed at Heritage Park on April 15, 16, 17, and 18, 1999. Their next musicale will be "Into the Woods" and will be performed in the summer of 1999.

INDIAN VILLAGE TAKES SHAPE

Construction continues on the planned American Indian village at Heritage Park in Santa Fe Springs. It is expected to be completed this year.

Ernie Perez Tautemas Salas, a Gabrieleno tribal leader, performed the blessing last November during ground-breaking ceremonies for the village. Smoke from burning white sage was fanned into the air by a feather from a red-tailed hawk as Salas chanted in his Native American language.

The highlight of the village will be a Gabrieleno Ki, a single family dwelling made of willow branches. Margaret Hammon, cultural services supervisor for Santa Fe Springs, said other structures will include a sweat lodge, a bark canoe, and other Native American artifacts. She said the site will be a great resource

for young children to learn about the first people to set foot in what is now Santa Fe Springs.

Mayer Pro-Tem George Minnehan, who is part Wailaki Indian, was instrumental in getting approval for the exhibit from the city council.

Jane Gothold, of the Pacific Coast Archeological Society, said that all artifacts found during the dig will be analyzed and then displayed at the park's museum.



Whittier Daily News Photo

Gabrieleno Tribal Leader Ernie Perez Tautemas Salas blesses the site of the planned American Indian village at Heritage Park in Santa Fe Springs. The new exhibit is expected to be completed this year.

Raul R. Rodriguez, who graduated from Santa Fe High School in 1961, was again honored for the creation of prize winning floats in the 1999 Rose Parade. Rodriguez is considered Los Angeles' premier float designer.

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
Nadine Hathaway

Thomas Scott
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
Mailing Address

The Hathaway Ranch Museum
11901 E. Florence Ave.
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
(562) 944-6563 or (562) 944-7372

Telephone

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.

Generous Members

(Since acknowledgment in Autumn, 1998 Newsletter)

Edward J. Beaumont
Willa Enloe
Dale Epperly

Mary Jo Haller
Shirley and Harold Larson
Richard H. Weaver

New Member

Edward J. Beaumont

Volunteers

The following people gave time to the museum during the fourth quarter of 1998.

Mary R. Bertucci
Mildred Carlzen
Jeanne Grant
Elizabeth Hathaway
Jean Hathaway
Jesse R. Hathaway
Loline Hathaway
Meredith Hathaway
Remy Hathaway
William Hathaway
Jack Johnson
Carrie Long

Henry Lynn
Frank Martinez
Frank Moody
Betty Putnam
Josie Ramirez
Francine Rippey
Slats Seely
Melvin Smith
Roy Stenson
Mollie Teschler
Louise Thorson
Joyce Vinala

Award for Excellence

Santa Fe Springs City Manager Don Powell has received an international award for excellence, being recognized for his work among 5,000 other representatives of cities and counties worldwide. The International City/County Management Association awarded Powell the Mark E. Keane Award for Excellence, honoring him for his efforts to improve the quality of life in the city.

The award is the highest recognition given by the association and marks the first time the city has ever received an international award. "The award really recognizes the organization more than the city manager," said Powell. "It is given in the name of the city manager, but it was given to (city employees) because of what our people have done."

More than 150 students — kindergarten through twelfth grade — submitted entries for the second "Appreciate Whittier" contest sponsored by the Whittier Historical Society. Cindy French, the coordinator, reported that "the really prevalent theme with all the kids was they appreciate the hills, the trees and the friendliness of Whittier."

Adopt-A-Chair for Excelsior

Alumni and friends of Excelsior High School in Norwalk should be interested in the "Adopt-A-Chair" program being sponsored by the Norwalk - La Mirada Education Foundation and the Excelsior Alumni Association. Those who buy chairs will have a brass nameplate on the back of a refurbished chair in the Excelsior Auditorium.

Other renovation, including painting, roofing, and flooring, are being funded by the district, but district officials say they cannot find the more than \$10,000 needed to refurbish the seats. "We didn't want to buy new ones because these are antique", said project organizer Amy Tsubokawa.

Donations, at \$150 a chair, may be made in honor or in memory of a favorite teacher or family member. Checks or money orders should be made payable to:

Education Foundation of NLMUSD
c/o Amy Tsubokawa
20922 Callaway Avenue
Lakewood, CA 90715
Phone (562) 860-1594

Editor's note: Richard F. Hathaway, who graduated from Excelsior in 1930, is honored by a chair. Graduates of Little Lake School are invited to sit in one of eight chairs which used to be in the Little Lake Auditorium and are now located in the Visitor's Center of the Hathaway Ranch Museum. Also, a chair formerly in Hoover Hall at Whittier College is now in the Visitor's Center. Bring back memories, anyone?

Los Nietos School Marker

The unveiling of the Los Nietos School Historical Marker took place September 29th. The ceremony took place at the Los Nietos Middle School. Although the eventual location of the marker will be at the intersection of Norwalk Boulevard and Los Nietos Road, the site of the original school.

Monica Penninger, Director of Library Services for the City of Santa Fe Springs, extended a welcome to guests. George Minnehan, Santa Fe Springs Mayor Pro-Tem, introduced the donors who made the marker possible. Lupe Lopez talked on Native American history. Gloria Duran spoke on the school district history, and Corinne Munoz gave the history of the school bell. Student Council President Maribel Robles helped with the unveiling of the marker.

Lupe Lopez, a new member of the Santa Fe Springs Historical Committee, hopes to turn this event into an annual event, possibly at Los Nietos Park. She is urging people to share their memories of Los Nietos.

Ms. Lopez can be reached at 11668 Rivera Road, Whittier, CA 90606-3343. Her phone number is (562) 699-6906.

Members in the News

JOHN MCMILLEN, a long standing member of the Hathaway Ranch Museum Guild, is quartermaster and adjutant of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4138, which recently named **Whittier Police Officer SAL PRISCO** and **Santa Fe Springs Fire Department Engineer WILLIAM P. NOBLE** as the 1998-1999 Officer and Firefighter of the year. These men were recognized at a Santa Fe Springs City Council meeting for going above and beyond the call of duty.



LUIS FRANCO and **JOE R. RAMIREZ** regularly air their views in the Letters to the Editor column of the Whittier Daily News.



SARAH RIPPY was part of the cast in the program of the Whittier Historical Society's "Victorian Christmas Feast."



MARY ANN and **AMAT BARCELON**, continuously generous members of the Guild of the Hathaway Ranch Museum, were honored as residential citizens of the year by the city of Santa Fe Springs and the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce and Industrial League. Finalists for this honor were John McMillen, Mollie Teschler and George and Paula Minnehan, all members of the Guild.



On the day after Christmas, **BILL BELL**, publisher and editor of the Whittier Daily News, had this to say about one of our members:

"A very gracious lady, **FRANCINE RIPPY**, has provided a heated building on Washington Boulevard as a cold weather overnight shelter. It provides floor mats and blankets for up to 45 people from 7 P.M. to 7 A.M., with dinner and breakfast included.

Screening of homeless must be done in advance by calling the Social Service Referral Center at (562) 693-4097 between 8 A.M. and noon. The referral service works in conjunction with the Whittier area's Inter Faith Council, offering the above mentioned shelter services."



Do **YOU**, our readers, have news or any kind of exciting information about any of our members that ought to be shared? If so, please let us know and send the news or other important information to:

Hathaway Ranch Museum
11901 E. Florence Avenue
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670-4494
(562) 944-6563

SIG AND ELLEN ANDERSON

By Virginia Mathony

Ellen and Sig Anderson came to California from Chicago. Sig was the manager of an A & P Store in Chicago, and that's where Ellen did her shopping and met Sig. They were married in March, 1941, shortly before he was drafted into the military service, where he served a total of five years. He was first sent to Camp Haan, California, with the 78th Anti-Aircraft Division. After war was declared, Sig served with the division at various Southern California Aircraft Manufacturing plants. When the division was transferred to the Aleutian Islands, Sig served with the Corps of Engineers. During the time Sig spent in the Army, Ellen was busy in Chicago where she worked as a Long Distance Telephone operator, instructor and supervisor for the Illinois Bell Telephone Company Toll office.

The Anderson's moved to California in 1947 with their first son, Anthony. They added three more sons to their family after they made their home in Cypress, and then in Whittier, California: Joel, Jim and Charles. Ellen worked in Virginia's Gift Shop at Knott's Berry Farm and Sig started working for Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in 1949 and retired thirty years later. When the boys were small, both Sig and Ellen became active in the Cub Scouts; Ellen as a Den Mother and Sig with the Webelos. When the children started school, Ellen joined the PTA and served on many committees which led to her being President of the Laurel PTA. Time marched on and suddenly three of the boys were married. The Anderson family then increased as they had three lovely daughters-in-law: Barbara, Ruthann and Amada. Grandchildren followed, five of them, and two great grandsons, for Sig and Ellen to spoil and have fun with.

In 1977, Ellen became a member of the Pio Pico Docent Committee of the Whittier Historical Society, where she spent seven years as a volunteer giving tours, and planning festivals at the Pio Pico Mansion. The festivals were held two or three times a year and were open to the public to help show visitors, especially children, how the people of early California lived. The docents sold slices of freshly baked bread, spread with newly churned butter. Ellen made churning butter look like so much fun, that the visitors lined up and anxiously awaited for an opportunity to turn the handle on the butter churn. Many tasted freshly churned butter for the first time. Sometimes wedding receptions were held on the Mansion grounds. Tom Pico's daughter held her receptions there, and Ellen had charge of the reception with other docents assisting. Sig always attended the festivals with Ellen and consequently he was asked to help in many ways. He became so interested in the docent's projects that he started projects of his own like building a model of the Pio Pico Mansion in his garage/workshop. The model was used in the Whittier Historical Society's exhibit at the Los Angeles County Fair in 1983. The exhibit was awarded Second Prize. The model is still on exhibit at the Whittier Historical Society.

In 1984, Ellen joined the Research Docents at the Whittier Historical Society/Museum. This was a volunteer group who

manned the Archives Room at the Whittier Museum and had a variety of assignments. Ellen's first assignment was to sort, accession and file photographs. Next she sorted the papers of the late Claire Radford, which had been given to the Museum, a tremendous assignment. Today it is all arranged so that researchers can have ready access to the papers. When Historian Martin Cole, former Curator at the Pio Pico Mansion, gave his Pio Pico collection of papers to the Whittier Museum, the job of sorting and filing was given to Ellen. They, too, are available in the Whittier Museum Archives for researchers.

The clothing/costume collection, that Claire Radford had gathered over the years, was also given to the Museum and Ellen became Chairman of this fine collection. With a group of three or four volunteers on her committee Ellen organized the collection, numbering and listing each garment with a description. Before each garment was placed in an acid-free box, Ellen put it on a mannequin and took a picture of it. The picture was secured to the outside of the box for easy identification. When it came time to exhibit some of these priceless garments, Ellen knew just how it should be done so worked along with the Exhibit Committee members. One time she arranged costumes on mannequins and displayed them at the Society's Annual Dinner for 100 guests to enjoy. When the Society sponsored a Design House as a fund raiser, Ellen was listed in the Design House booklet along with the designers. She had arranged clothing and accessories from the Museum's collection in a closet off one of the bedrooms of the house.

And where was Sig all this time? He had joined a group of men called the Museum Buffs. They met regularly at the Museum and did all kinds of building and repair work that is constantly needed in a new museum. When large items, such as Bob Downey's airplane was added to an exhibit, Sig helped bring the plane into the building and hang it for display. His hobby of cabinet making, building toy trains, doll houses, etc., gave him the know-how to build props for exhibits, cabinets and book shelves in other areas of the museum. He also helped in the construction of a replica of the Red Car in the Museum, and to build other exhibits that were entered at the Los Angeles County Fair by the Whittier Museum, winning First Prize as well as Superintendent's Prize.

Ellen has also been active in East Whittier Woman's Improvement Club where she has held the following chairmanships: Historian, Membership, Attendance and co-chairman of the Philanthropy committee. As a member of P. E. O. Ellen served as Treasurer, Auditor, on the Social Committee, Finance Committee, Recording Secretary and Chaplain. Both Ellen and Sig worked on the Los Angeles County Election Board for twenty years offering their home as an election place.

Ellen has spent most of her time at the Whittier Museum during the past four years between the Archives Room and the storage/workroom maintaining both areas with the help of only four part-time volunteers. Because there was a shortage of volunteers, she took on the accessioning of artifacts that arrive almost

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ANDERSON *Continued from page 4*

daily from people in the community. She taught the members of a newly formed Accessioning Committee how to handle this work and met with them monthly. In the Archives, she handles the mail and does research for people who request it. Requests are local, from out of state and from as far away as Great Britain and Denmark. Ellen meets with the Policy Committee. As the Museum grows, policies need to be looked at, sometimes changed, or new policies made, and she was recently made a member of the Personnel Committee. When a Coordinator was hired in October, it freed Ellen from much of the Archives work and she was able to spend more time with the costume collection and with Sig as he had to limit his volunteer time because of health reasons.

Ellen and Sig say, "our years of involvement in the community have been both interesting and rewarding. We have worked with and met many enjoyable people who have enriched our lives."

GHOST TRAIN OF THE CADYS

by John Vincent

John Vincent is President of the Downey Historical Society and Editor of their newsletter. He is a former winner of the "Gertie Award," which is presented by the Hathaway Ranch Museum and was given to Vincent for his continuing effort to preserve the history of Downey.

Folks, I've come to tell a story
Of those days of long ago
When a train ran through this valley
From up north - down to Ludlow.
Carried tools and beans and bacon
Even sometimes carried folks.
But it soon outlived its purpose
And became the butt of jokes.
Soon the roadbed was abandoned
(Railroad trains put up no fuss)
Rails were melted into pig iron -
But they left the ties for us.
And most rockhounds now will tell you,
When the wind is shrieking shrill,
On a blustr'y desert evening
You can hear that whistle still.
Hear the rumble of the flat cars.
See the smoke pour from the stack.
See the headlight bravely winking
As she pulls along the track.
It's the ghost train of the Cadys,
And it's there for you to see -
If you use imagination
Up along the old T and T.

Water Brought Life to Whittier

by VIRGINIA MATHONY

The following article appeared in the January 1999 edition of The Reporter, a publication exclusively for Fedco members.

In 1877, a group of Quakers from Chicago designated the president of the Society of Friends, Aquilla Pickering, to search for a desirable location to start a Quaker Colony in California. Pickering chose a site on the southern slope of the Puente Hills, east of Los Angeles. On his recommendation, 1200 acres of land, covered with wild mustard, was purchased. The Pickering Land and Water Company was formed to handle the business of the new colony, which they called Whittier, in honor of the Quaker poet John Greenleaf Whittier

Lots sold rapidly; homes, businesses, and a church soon sprouted up, but growth was hampered by a lack of irrigation water. When drilling for water proved unsuccessful, many families abandoned their land and moved away. The townspeople who stayed were forced to haul water from the San Gabriel River or from private wells beyond County Road, now Whittier Boulevard. These hardships continued until Simon Murphy arrived in 1888.

Murphy, a well-known lumberman from Detroit, along with several friends, made a down payment on 2,000 acres of land east of Whittier. They hoped to subdivide it, but land values suddenly hit bottom and there still was no water. Advancing funds to complete the land purchase, Murphy saved himself and his friends from financial disaster. The group formed the East Whittier Land and Water Company.

Determined to find water, Murphy asked A. C. Reed, a Chicago engineer, to come to California and appraise the situation. Reed found Murphy's solution in bubbling artesian wells located across the San Gabriel River near the town of El Monte. He recommended building a wooden flume to carry the water from the wells across the river on a timber trestle, to the acreage east of Whittier.

Murphy secured rights of way and hired Reed to supervise the project. A construction company from Los Angeles was engaged to complete the work. By 1891 a pumping station was built and water flowed across the river in a covered, concrete-lined conduit on a wooden trestle, through Whittier, to Murphy's land. Soon he had more water than he needed and sold some to Whittier Settlers to irrigate their crops. The people in East Whittier could now subdivide their land, and the lots, including water rights, sold briskly.

"Please accept our heartfelt thanks for allowing members of the Riverside-Corona Chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America to tour your wonderful ranch. What a great group of docents and ranch hands you have. They were able to make our visit such an informative event, due to their knowledge of the Hathaway life style."

Phyllis Keller, club member

“Kids of America”



Kids of America visiting at the Hathaway Ranch Museum. Santa Fe Springs City Councilperson, Betty Putnam, seated 4th from right, and Laurie Younkin, Director and Choreographer, seated 5th from right.



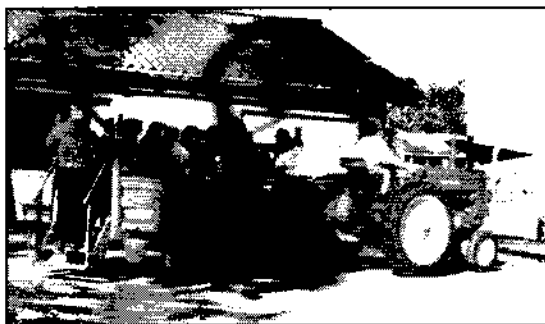
Kids of America performing at the Hathaway Ranch Museum.



Kids of America having refreshments after their performance at the Hathaway Ranch Museum.



Kids of America performing at the Hathaway Ranch Museum.



Kids of America enjoying an old-fashioned hay-ride at the Hathaway Ranch Museum.

A Hearty Thank You ...

goes to **Kevin Kuklok**, the operations manager for Phibro-Tech Inc. in Santa Fe Springs, and vice-president of community relations for the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce and Industrial League, who was honored as the business citizen of the year by the City of Santa Fe Springs and the Santa Fe Chamber-League. Kuklok was instrumental in bringing a crew of volunteers to the Hathaway Ranch Museum to help in cleaning out the museum's old laboratory.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission in Irwindale. In the late 19th century what is now Irwindale was little more than a desolate, dry and rocky landscape, east of the San Gabriel River. The first church was built in ten months by Mexican volunteers. In 1965 a larger church was built nearby, leaving the original structure unused. Then, in 1987 the handcrafted stone mission was damaged and put up for sale. Again, volunteers came to the rescue. No regular services are held anymore, but the restored sanctuary can be used by special arrangement with the city of Irwindale. To get there from the 605 Freeway, exit at Arrow Highway and go east. The mission is east of Irwindale Avenue at the corner of Morada Street.