

Hathaway Ranch Museum



News From the Ranch

4 Autumn 1999
Volume 9, Number 3



ANNUAL VOLUNTEERS PICNIC

The annual museum volunteers picnic will be held Sunday, October 10, 1999, at the museum at 1:00 p.m. A BBQ chicken and rib dinner will be served to all active volunteers and their spouses. We do need a count of those who expect to come. Anyone who wants to come and is not a volunteer must reserve a space by sending \$10.00 to the Hathaway Ranch Museum prior to October 3, 1999.

Frank Martinez' band will be on hand to entertain us with many old time favorites.

Please Note: The museum building will not be open for visitors on October 10, 1999, because this is docents' day off.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Luis Franco, Joe R. Ramirez, Adeline Rocha, Harold G. Rummel, and Don Powell, former Santa Fe Springs city manager all recently aired their views in the "Letters to the Editor" column of the Whittier Daily News.

The Whittier Historical Society celebrated Founder's Day in Central Park in Whittier in May. Francine Rippy and Ellen Anderson and others sold freshly churned butter served on freshly home-baked bread to eager customers.

Frank Martinez and Eddie Aycock again took part in the Santa Fe Springs Community Playhouse's summer production of Meredith Willson's "The Music Man." Betty Putnam is President of the playhouse, May Sharp is Secretary, and Lynda Short is Treasurer. Paula Minnehan is a member of the Board of Directors.

Albert L. Sharp 17-year Councilman and 4-time Mayor died suddenly August 26, 1999, after a long struggle with illnesses.

NEW PICO RIVERA MUSEUM

The City of Pico Rivera and the Pico Rivera History and Heritage Society dedicated the Pico Rivera Historical Museum on August 13, 1999. The museum is located at 9122 Washington Blvd., in Pico Rivera.

SANTA FE SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL ELECTS NEW MAYOR AND MAYOR PRO TEM

At the July city council meeting, Councilman George Minnehan was elected mayor for the 1999-2000 fiscal year. Mayor Minnehan is a 34 year resident of the city and was first elected to the council in 1994. George also served as the city mayor for 1996-97. Betty Putnam, Councilwoman, was elected as the city's mayor pro tem. Betty has been a Santa Fe Springs resident since 1954 and was elected to the city council in 1997.



Santa Fe Springs Mayor George Minnehan and Mayor Pro Tem Betty Putnam.

Both George and Betty have demonstrated a strong interest in local history. George, who is himself part Indian, has pushed for the City of Santa Fe Springs' newest cultural exhibit, which is nearing completion. Willows were cut at Whittier Narrows for the building of the Native American dwellings - called "Kis" - and the ground has been blessed. The Tongra Nation is working closely on this project to ensure authenticity. The opening is scheduled for late September.

The exhibit will eventually include activities such as story telling and arts and crafts as a way of teaching about Native American culture.

Betty Putnam has long been a proponent of preservation and worked for many years with the Santa Fe Springs Historical Committee.

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.

Special Events

Sunday, October 10, 1999 1:00 P.M.
Annual HRM volunteers picnic at the museum.
Musical entertainment will be provided.
Reservations required—see front page for details.

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 The Hathaway Ranch Museum
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Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
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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

Jo Anne & George Holiday

Generous Members

Since previous acknowledgment

Henry Clyde & Marty Newton
Betty & Marvin Putnam

Change of Address

Aaron & Ellen Hathaway
1224 24th Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94122

Volunteers

The following people gave time to the museum during the second quarter of 1999.

Frances Agapoff
Mary R. Bertucci
Mildred Carlzen
R.A. Gibson
Jeanne Grant
Elizabeth Hathaway
Jean Hathaway
Jesse R. Hathaway
Karen Hathaway
Loline Hathaway
Meredith Hathaway
Remy Hathaway
William Hathaway
Richard F. Hathaway, Jr.
Jack Johnson
Carrie Long
Henry Lynn

Frank Martinez
Frank Moody
Betty Putnam
Josie Ramirez
Francine Rippey
Slats Seeley
Melvin Smith
Ray Stenson
Mollie Teschler
Louise Thorson
Joyce Virnala



Gilbert Alvarez, Josie Ramirez and Carrie Long enjoying a rest on the porch of the Hathaway Ranch Museum Visitor's Center.

Biola University

During each spring and fall semester, Professor Dr. Dave Peters of Biola University in La Mirada takes his class in United States History to visit the Hathaway Ranch Museum. He is kind enough to send us the critiques that he requires his students to write after their visit.

The one most common feature mentioned by the students is the friendliness of the ranch hands and docents. That comes as no surprise to us, since we have long realized that our volunteers are our most valuable asset. It is interesting to us to read some of the other attributes which were pointed out in the most recent visit in February, and to share them with you:

"It really was an eye opener to see those old records, old record player, old toys and even the vast collection of hats that Mrs. Hathaway possessed. I have never seen such a large number of fancy hats in a house in my entire life."

"I cannot imagine milking a cow each morning for milk, planting, harvesting, and working the brutal ground day after day to produce a crop."

"This trip made me see, and took me into another time period and gave me a greater and deeper understanding of the roots in this country that I live in."

"I really enjoyed the field trip to the Hathaway Ranch. At first when we got there and we were looking around at all of the barns, old tractors, tractor parts and old rusty tools, I couldn't help but laugh. I felt I was touring someone's yard sale because where I come from (Placerville in Northern California) their yard looked a lot like the typical yard sale. So I really didn't think I was seeing anything real special. I did however, think that the old washing machines were pretty neat. I've never seen a washing machine quite that old before."

"I love things of the past, so of course I enjoyed this visit. Little pieces of every decade could be seen. In the Hathaway's mansion, there were rooms with themes. This was amazing. You would walk in and feel like you were entering another time era. One room had Nixon propaganda and a Sonny and Cher poster, the dreadful avocado green décor, and the beautiful and unique dresses hanging up next to the bed. Another had quilts strewn about and old mahogany wood furniture. In the downstairs dining room there were a mass of pictures, you could feel the trailing breeze of time having blown by."

"Without a doubt my favorite part of the tour was the museum. I was amazed at how much stuff was in there. Furthermore, it was all left like it was just used. I gained a lot of knowledge from the tour of the kitchen. The tour guide had a lot to say about the different cooking instruments and techniques that were used. Something I had never seen was the icebox that they used to keep their food cold."

"Upon first arriving at the ranch, we were gladly and warmly

greeted by a dear sweet lady who invited us to meet Mrs. Hathaway in the house. This house was simply incredible; it contained a whole millennium of history. It was amazing to see the years pass by in old photographs, and even just looking at the old beds and quilts."

"It was strange to me to see such big and beautiful orange trees. I have never seen an orange tree up close like that, only in groves driving by down in Orange County. So I can imagine that there are students who have never seen an apple tree up close like we have in Washington State."

"To end our trip, we went on a tour of the old garages and sheds. We saw old wagons and how they were packed for the long trip west – and old oil field and mining equipment. Basically, the trip provided a great overview of what things were like in the 20's."

"The milk barn was a really interesting experience because Dr. Peters got to perform for the class how to properly milk a cow! Even though the really tiny chair did not seem fancy, it was considered so. The milk separator was very fascinating also. It seems like living on a ranch would be an immense amount of work, especially having to milk a cow twice a day, seven days a week!"

"A lot of care and hard work is put into farm life, even for such a task as getting milk. Today, any corner drug store has milk for sale practically at the drop of a few quarters. Who knew that cows were such a responsibility? Not me, but now I do, and it makes me appreciate the effort that farms used to make. However, I'd never trade the easier way of life, it's what I'm accustomed to. There are other problems to worry about besides. I guess every era has it's own 'cow to milk'."

"I especially enjoyed the room that was full of the war memorabilia. The old uniforms, patches, and medals were things that I had only seen in movies. The lady that was working in that room was also wonderful to talk to. Though she was not a Hathaway, she had donated her husband's uniform to the collection, and had such a way of sharing about her experiences during that time that I shall not soon forget it."

"The museum contains domestic items from the late 19th to the mid 20th centuries, including clothing, children's toys, furniture and antique appliances. That's why the museum does not hold antiques in the usual sense of the word. The practice of the Hathaways reminds me of my dad and mom. They also don't like to throw away things which are already worn out. It's because the older Chinese generation has undergone wars during the past few decades, and they treasure everything they have in their lives."

Richard Hathaway was a collector with an avocation for local history. He collected and created thousands of historical photographs which he shared with his community. It is rare at his time! His extensive collection of books on California history, technical periodicals, photographs, maps and charts are being

Continued on page 4

Biola University *continued from page 3*

cataloged for the use of research scholars. His personal collection is much better than the public libraries."

"It was interesting to see how the machines worked because the technology back then was not as advanced as today. With machines today you do not get to see the significant parts that operate it. Those parts are covered and well hidden but many operating machines that the Hathaway Ranch used were not as advanced as today so it was a surprise to see how the machines operated."

"My favorite thing to see at the Ranch was the old Woody. The best part was that he had put so many miles on it and had several engines to keep replacing the old ones. I guess there is still one new engine that hasn't been used. It was fun to look and touch the car just knowing how old it was and how many miles it had gone."

"I also enjoyed seeing the hodge-podge of "junk" Mr. Hathaway had saved all those years ago. Probably, he saved all those old pieces of farm equipment out of some sort of pack-rat mentality, but now 100 years later, his bad habit – has helped to preserve history. It was amazing to see rare pieces of equipment, of which there are only a couple in the nation. It also showed great ingenuity on Mr. Hathaway's part to buy many new engines of a vehicle in order to preserve its life. I was so surprised to learn that his woody has over a million miles on it."

"As I turned down the narrow cobblestone driveway marked by a tattered sign that read "Hathaway Ranch" I realized that I was in for a fascinating experience. I was soon seated on a small vehicle driven by the stereotypical grandfather in overalls and a vintage straw hat. We embarked on a brief tour of the Hathaway estate. It was amazing to see the machinery and tools, some of which have outlived me by almost two centuries."

"Speaking with various elderly workers and Mrs. Hathaway herself provided me with keen insight into the life and times of near – American history. One woman shared her experience of getting married young and the difficulties of seeing her husband go off and fight in World War II. Another man shared his experiences of farm-life growing up in southern California. Mrs. Hathaway told story upon story of family memories at the ranch. It was truly enriching to see and hear the stories of people who have lived amazing lives in circumstances that seem so foreign to my own. All in all, the field trip to Hathaway Ranch was a beneficial learning experience.

"Gem of the Day"

According to Ann Landers: "History repeats itself, which is a good thing, because most people don't listen the first time."

Ray Gibson's Story

I was born in Brooklyn, New York, but moved upstate to a farm in the rural community of Red Hook, estimated population of 500. Mostly fruit and dairy farming.

At the age of 17 I went into the Navy on an eight-year contract: four years of school and four years of active service. At the end of Boot Camp Training I was accepted into a military trade school, but before I could go to school I had to decide on a military occupation. My decision was to be a diver and I was accepted to try out. The school training was fluid power and motion control. To stay in this school I had to keep a 90% average. After my first semester I was sent to the 7th fleet carrier groups for hands-on training. Also, for training as a Navy SEAL. I completed the training and was accepted into the SEAL teams and assigned to NAVSPECWAR. I completed Military School, then was sent to Vietnam.

At the time of my discharge I went back to school for training on engines, all construction equipment and farming equipment. To earn a living while doing this I worked as a line mechanic at a Chevrolet dealership. During this time I married my high school girlfriend, Eleanore. She has been a school teacher for the Little Lake City School District since 1969. We have 2 children, Wendy (a college professor) and Jon (an aeronautical engineer).

Later, I worked at Douglas Aircraft as a fluid power test mechanic. In the late sixties I went to work for Paul-Munroe Hydraulics, working in the field of fluid power, including drill rigs, oil tankers, offshore oil rigs, amusement park rides, government missile sites and nuclear power plants. I was assigned to the R & D engineering service department. This job took me around the world for some 25 years.

When Paul-Munroe sold out the R & D department, I went to work for Carlton Forge to design and build the largest hydraulic ring mill in the world. When this job was completed I retired.

Editor's note: Obviously, we are delighted to have Ray Gibson as a ranch hand volunteer.



Ray Gibson driving a tractor at the Hathaway Ranch Museum. Stats Seeley is standing at the left and Henry Lynn is standing at the right.

MARTHA RUSSELL 1903 - 1997

Martha Russell was born on September 25, 1903, in Rivera, California, in the family home: a two-room "ranch house" built by her father, John Russell, when he and Linnie were married in 1902. The Russells had three children: Martha, Imogene and George. As the family grew, so did the home, until it became a ten-room house. Here Martha lived until she passed away on December 20, 1997.

Martha attended Rivera Grammar School and Whittier Union High School. There were many memorable times while growing up, but the one thing that stood out most to her was going to high school on the street car. When the river was high, the electric car could not cross the river as the tracks were in the water. The passengers had to leave the car and walk across the river on the tracks, then board another car to continue their journey.

After high school, Martha continued her studies at the University of California at Los Angeles where she earned her teaching credential. Automobiles were few in those days, and Martha again used the street railway system to go to and from UCLA every day, with a transfer or two along the way. Her teaching career began at South Ranchito School in Pico, where she taught seventh and eighth grades. She soon became a leader for Campfire Girls and enjoyed an association with some of her former students that lasted through the years. They often met for lunch and/or for afternoon social get-togethers until Martha passed away.

After the death of her parents in 1943, and during World War II, Martha resigned from South Ranchito School and moved to Washington, D.C. to work for the Army Signal Corps. She accepted a job as cryptographer and found it very challenging work as well as interesting. She was glad to be part of the group that "cracked" the Japanese Code and helped win the war.

Although Martha missed her home and garden very much, she stayed in the east after the war was over and enrolled at Columbia University where she earned a degree that prepared her to teach high school classes. She returned to her home and began teaching at Whittier Union High School in 1947. Her field was basic course, which included history and English at that time. One of her teaching contemporaries was Patricia Ryan (Nixon).

But Martha's first love was art. She had attended Chinard Art Institute during several summer sessions and also taught art classes at Whittier Union High School, which eventually led to her becoming head of the Art Department.

While teaching high school, Martha continued her studies at Whittier College and received her Master's Degree in 1954. It was presented to her at Whittier College by then Vice President Richard M. Nixon. Martha added counseling students to her many talents before she retired from teaching in 1969. After retirement she continued to counsel students for a few years at the beginning of each school year and she remained active in the arts, community activities, and in volunteer work.

She clocked up many hours volunteering at the Pio Pico Mansion during the 1970s where she contributed first-hand information about the history of the area in which she grew up and worked. As a volunteer at the Whittier Museum in the 1980s, Martha helped label and listed items of the museum's Textile Collection. She also served as a Research Docent in the Archives Room of the museum.

Martha enjoyed her historical roots and traced the Reynolds (her mother's) family to England, County Kent, circa 1530. They settled in Jamestown, Virginia, in the 1600s. Her grandfather, Samuel Thompson, married Margaret McKamy in Knoxville, Tennessee, and came west by flat-boat and wagon train in 1852. (That interesting story has been told in the "Settler's Series" books published by the Hathaway Museum.)

The family was headed for the gold fields, but settled in the "monte" (El Monte) due to illness. Margaret McKamy was a physician. They had four children along the way. One of them was Martha Ann (Martha's grandmother) who married Seabron Reynolds in 1859. In 1864, the Thompsons and the Reynolds bought adjoining ranches where Rosemead Boulevard and Telegraph Road intersect today. Martha's great grandfather, Samuel Thompson, was one of the founders of El Monte Cemetery, originally called Savannah. Martha's grandfather, Seabron Reynolds, built the first school house in Rivera.

The Reynolds had eleven children. Daughter Malinda (Linnie), seventh born, married John L. Russell who was from Shilo, Tennessee, in 1902. John had come west as a young man. He was a natural carpenter, well and pump man, and a ranch foreman.

Martha was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, Whittier College Alumnae Association, American Association of University Women, California Teacher's Association, National Art Education Association, Whittier Presbyterian Church, Whittier Historical Society, Hathaway Ranch Museum, and the Rio Hondo Symphony Guild.

Martha Russell, along with her sister Imogene Russell Johns, and her brother George Russell, left quite a legacy to their hometown when they helped organize the Pio Rivera History and Heritage Society in the late 1970s. Their Museum is in the Gateway Center at 9516 Whittier Blvd., Pico Rivera.

Martha attended the following colleges: University of California at Los Angeles, 1923-1926, and summer of 1930; University of California at Berkeley, 1929-1930; Whittier College 1939-1940; and summer sessions 1941, 1942, and 1946; Cornell University summer session, 1937; and Columbia University, 1945-46.

*By Marilyn Johns Carnes, niece of Martha Russell
and Virginia Mathony, friend of Martha Russell.*

Photo Album of Happenings Around the Hathaway Ranch Museum



2nd grade students from Lakeland School—Janice Harbin teacher—enjoying themselves in the main dining room of the ranch



WAPA Fun Day, in mid June of this year.



Santa Fe High School students returning from a tour of the museum back lot displays.



Santa Fe High School Student grinding corn.



Santa Fe Springs Christian School students visiting the Hathaway Ranch Museum.



At right: Santa Fe High School students next to the miniature drilling rig built (circa 1928) by J.I. Hathaway, youngest son of Jesse and Lola Hathaway. →



Santa Fe High School students with Teacher's Aide Joan Kato (3rd from left).



Santa Fe High School students at the blacksmith's shop display.



Santa Fe High School students and aides grinding corn.