

Hathaway Ranch Museum

News From the Ranch

Autumn 2000
Volume 10, Number 3



Hammon Gets the Gertie



At left, Margaret Hammon, Cultural Arts Administrator, City of Santa Fe Springs, and at right is Betty Punam, Mayor of Santa Fe Springs.

Margaret Hammon came to work for the City of SFS just to help with the creation of the Carriage Barn exhibit, a job that was to last for a few months before she went on to other things. But, Hammon became hooked on our little city and its remarkable history. She has been here thirteen years, and feels as though there is still much more for her to do here. The City's determination to understand its own history, combined with the treasure trove of artifacts and information at the Hathaway Ranch, makes her job a history-lover's dream.

"The City leaders have grown immensely," she says, "in their attitude and commitment to historic preservation. In 1986 no one at City hall was really sure about how Heritage Park would be received. There were a lot of Doubting Thomases. Look at what has happened. Two years after the park opened, the City adopted a public art ordinance where public art had to be tied to the City's history. Five years after that, the Railroad Exhibit was opened. Last year the Tongva Exhibit was opened. What has been the catalyst for all this change? In my opinion it was the existence of the Hathaway Ranch, and its treasure trove of historic photographs. What if the 1890s photographs of the Hawkins Ranch hadn't been preserved by the Hathaway Family? Heritage Park couldn't have been built, and I wouldn't be with you today."

The Hathaway Ranch is grateful to Margaret Hammon for her steadfast encouragement and for making the unique history of our area easily accessible and enjoyable for all.

We are taking the liberty of printing a letter by Bill Bell, publisher and editor of the Whittier Daily News, which appeared in the News on September 2, 2000. We quote: "... as I go around town talking to people about getting rid of my 1982 blue Buick Le Sabre, I've come to realize that it has evolved into part of my persona." Nadine Hathaway, co-editor of the Hathaway Ranch Museum's Newsletter, feels the same way about her 1965 silver Buick Le Sabre, which currently resides in a 5000 barrel tank—that originally housed automotive supplies for the Ranch—located on the museum property.



Bill Bell, publisher and editor of the Whittier Daily News

The Le Sabre's odometer reads over 198,000 miles and Nadine might still be driving it if she had not felt the need to acquire a car with air-conditioning, something more comfortable for her husband, Dick Hathaway, because Dick's heart condition was conducive to making him feel the heat. Nadine thought that her Le Sabre was a beautiful car, as indeed it is, and one worthy to sit side-by-side with her late husband's 1941 International Station Wagon, affectionately known as "the old woody."

After narrowing the choices to buying a Le Sabre, Dick admonished Nadine, saying: "Now you don't need power steering."

Nadine: "No."

Dick: "You don't need power brakes."

Nadine: "No."

Dick: "You don't need electric roll-up windows."

Nadine: "No."

Dick: "You don't need air-conditioning."

Nadine: "No."

Dick: "You don't need an automatic transmission."

Nadine: "Wait a minute! Stop meddling!"

So Nadine's old Oldsmobile was traded-in for a beautiful, stripped-down Buick Le Sabre for \$3,000 in cash. Some of her children thought she had bought a lemon, but Nadine thought she had lemonade, a silver car that matched her graying hair.

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.

Submitting News Articles

Story material for inclusion in the Hathaway Ranch Museum Newsletter can be either mailed to the museum or it can be forwarded by e-mail to Terry Hathaway, co-editor, at terry@hathaworld.com

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.

Generous Members

Generous members are people who have donated more during the last quarter-year period than just their basic membership dues.

Joseph Hugh Da Rold
George Engler
Ray and Betty Jo Klausen
Henry and Marty Newton
May Sharp

Volunteers

Frances Agapoff	Mary O'Connor
George Bell	Betty Putnam
Mildred Carlzen	Josie Ramirez
R. A. Gibson	Francine Rippy
Jeanne Grant	Slats Seeley
Merrie Hathaway	Melvin Smith
Jack Johnson	Ray Stenson
Carrie Long	Mollie Teschler
Henry Lynn	Louis Thorson
Frank Martinez	Joyce Vimala

Members in the News

EDDIE AYCOCK appeared in her tenth performance in the Community Playhouse of Santa Fe Springs' production of Bye, Bye, Birdie.



Mommy is Home..., The Downey Group

A refreshing group of young mothers visited the ranch recently with their pre-school children, all of whom enjoyed rides on the tram and the hay wagons. We learned that a couple of the mothers met in a park one day and from this casual meeting was formed a group that now meets once a week at some site that their children would enjoy. Their enthusiasm and joy of life was contagious.



Two "mommies" and their young charges enjoy "riding" on the vintage saddles displayed in the museum's visitor center.

PAUL WESLEY SMITH and RICHARD F. HATHAWAY

The following dialog between Paul Wesley Smith, a resident of Whittier, and Richard F. Hathaway, Sr., a lifetime resident of Santa Fe Springs, was taped on May 16, 1976. A transcription of it was included in an anthology published by the City of Santa Fe Springs in honor of the country's Bicentennial, entitled "History in the making." Mr. Smith, who came to Whittier when he was six years old, was 96 years of age at the time of the taping. He was a rancher and nurseryman most of his life. His grandfather was A.C. Hazzard, who with his partner, Mr. Gunn, owned nearly a section of land in what is now Whittier, South Whittier, and Santa Fe Springs. Richard Hathaway, Sr., was 66 at the time of the taping.

Smith: I could tell you a whole lot about Santa Fe Springs. Santa Fe Springs is named after the sulphur springs they used to have here. That was a resort. People would come here to take sulphur baths. I remember my family used to come over to Santa Fe Springs and get sulphur water to drink. Lots of people don't like it. They think it tastes like rotten eggs. It has such a smell to it. But I like it. And then Mr. Gunn on his tract, he sunk a well and it come sulphur water, and he dug a big hole in the ground and made a pond there and my cousins and I used to go down there and swim.

Hathaway: Mr Gunn had quite a eucalyptus grove right in there.

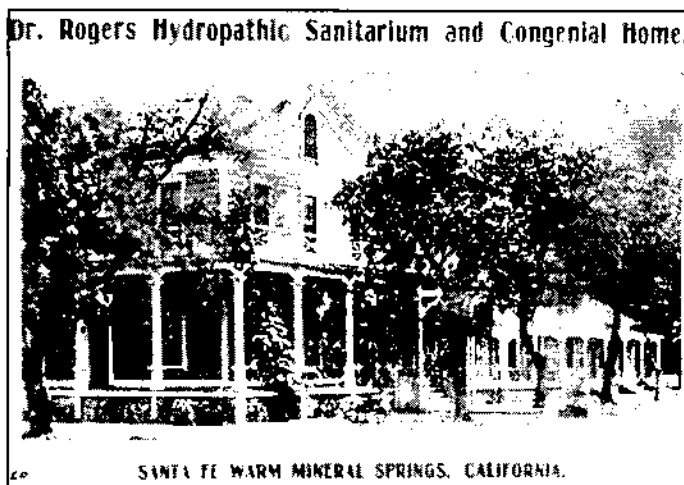
S: Oh yes, a big eucalyptus grove.

H: That wood was the source of everyone's cooking and heating in those days.

S: My stepfather and I used to go over in that eucalyptus grove and cut wood on shares.

H: What did you get for cutting it?

S: Half the wood we cut.



"Santa Fe Springs is named after the sulphur springs they used to have here. That was a resort. People would come here to take sulphur baths."

H: You got a lot of hard work, right?

S: I ran the bucksaw and split the wood and piled it up, ricked it up.

H: Four by four by eight. And it had to be all even lengths, too, or they wouldn't buy it for stove wood.

S: Well, we made wood for the grates and stove both, you know.

H: Jim Weaver, here in Santa Fe Springs, that did teamwork around, he would always have a good supply of wood for winter. Well, the neighbors went to stealing the wood from old Jim. so Jim, he took and bored a hole in a lot of the sticks and he put black powder in then he'd take another twig and drive it in there. Well, the neighbors steal the wood and in the morning, well you'd hear one explosion after another around through Santa Fe Springs and blow the stoves up. The lids would all go off the stove and the sticks of wood would blow up. But that's what old Jim would do to try to keep them from stealing his wood.

Did you know Cooper that had charge when they used to bring the oil by pipeline from Murphy-Coyote to Los Nietos and load it onto the trains there, did you know that fellow Cooper who had all those boys?

S: Yes, sir. I met one of them at Founders' Day (in Whittier) yesterday. I knew the old people Cooper and several of their boys.

H: Do you remember the train wreck where somebody left the switch open where they had all the tank cars there at Los Nietos? That would have been about August the 13th, 1913, when they had the big train wreck and the locomotives all piled up.

S: I remember of it, yes. Another thing I remember was, when we lived on south Painter, and the Santa Fe Springs oil came in. I went down to the first well that came in, that was a standard drilled well, drilled with standard tools. The black oil was flowing up, and they had several teams of mules there digging a big reservoir to catch it.

H: Well, that would have been Marius Meyer one or two — one started earlier — they were cable tools.

S: The first well that they dug in Marius Meyer's ranch didn't bring oil. It brought water and sea shells and gas.

H: Water and fish in it.

S: And sea shells up, you know, and they piped the gas out, and that burned for several years. You could see it all over the country. But the first well that came in, I think, was down — what was that man's name, he had a big ranch out here -

H: Well, then the second well in the shallower zones was Bell. The first one was Marius Meyer, and then the next one was Bell one. Then the one that blew out all over was Alexander one.

S: I think it was the Bell —

H: Alphonzo Bell, right.

S: I come up the morning that it came in, and the fella of course had been drilling on that well for, I don't know, a number of years.

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Paul Wesley Smith — Continued from page 3

H: That's right.

S: And it blew in, you know, and that's what started the spark for drilling all over this area. Now my grandfather owned land right up to this main — Telegraph Road. And he owned some land here in Santa Fe Springs, too. Then I had a schoolteacher, that was my first schoolteacher, that helped to build the first Santa Fe church here. It was a Methodist church.

H: The Gunns gave money to build that church, a Methodist church. The Woods — Harry Woods and some of that bunch — was in it, too, here, early.

S: Woods?

H: Yeh, Woods.

S: There was a preacher Woods, yes?

H: Yeh, because he would have been the one who married my mother and dad in that church in 1902.

S: That so? I went to that church for a number of years, and then my grandfather became minister of a church down at Artesia later than that, but he belonged to the Northern Methodist Conference and he was one of the directors of the University of Southern California. He was a great missionary man, too.

I attended the Founders' Day service in Whittier yesterday - May, 1976, and I met a grandson of Pio Pico, the last Mexican governor of California, and that Mexican governor, when we lived on south Painter Avenue, drove in our yard one day — nice horse and buggy — old gray-haired man and I had quite a conversation with him. And he pulled out one of these little chain-link pocket books out of his pocket and gave me a dime. I think I was six or seven years old then. When they told me after that who that man was, boy, I felt quite honored.

H: Did you used to know the Mason family that lived in Santa Fe Springs?

S: Yes, I knew them. All of those Masons were special friends of my mother and my grandfather and his sons.

H: He was one of the first supervisors for the county of Los Angeles when the county was formed.

S: They had a little grove over there of seedling oranges and we used to go over there and get a sack of seedling oranges. Boy, they were sour, though, compared to budded fruit.

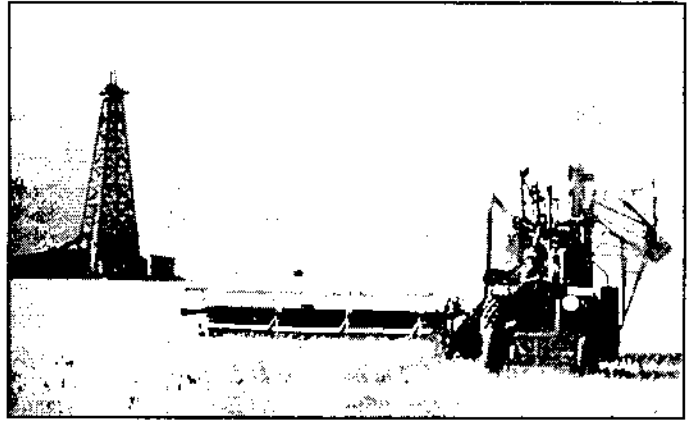
H: What did they call that sour seedling orange? I can't call the name of what they called that orange, but it was sourer than all get-out.

S: Well, it was — uh — sure ...

H: I'll think of it sometime, what they called it. I remember that grove.

S: It wasn't Navel or Valencia variety ... did it have a special name?

H: Yeh, that kind of sour orange had a special name.



"The first well that they dug in Marius Meyer's ranch didn't bring oil. It brought water and sea shells and gas."

S: From that sour orange is what we got our seeds or root stock to bud onto.

H: That's right.

S: I budded thousands and thousands of trees, but more on the sour root than on the sweet root.

H: Yeh, that was your best root, the sour root ... Osage orange! That was the Osage, sour Osage root. Then Bronson had quite a nursery of them, that he was taking the sour root from there and propagating them.

S: You know, when some of these wells in the Springs came in, they'd blow in. I've seen them blow in dirt, oh, carload of dirt at a time. And then I don't know just what street that was on, but I'm trying to think of the man's name that — well, Getty put wells on that that looked like trees on there, they were so thick. That man had an acre of ground.

H: That man was Nordstrom. Right.

S: Nordstrom, yes. Nordstrom and his wife put \$15,000.00 into the Calvary Baptist Church in Whittier. That's Calvary Baptist Church. They were members and wife and I were members there and that church at that time, I think, cost \$55,000.00. They've remodeled it and put in a lot of extra buildings there and that's a big church now, Calvary Baptist Church.

H: Those dollars were big dollars, though, in those days. They bought a lot. Today the dollar won't buy that much.

S: But Nordstrom and his wife, they got extremely wealthy out of that acre of ground, and he used to be a painter and a paper hanger in Whittier. And you take this Santa Fe Springs ground, the ground isn't very productive. There's lots of hard pan here, you know.

H: Yes, he was right in the middle of it there. That was right. But Getty, what they call seventeen, was a productive well on the Nordstrom.

S: They say he's one of the richest men in the world today — Getty.

H: That's what they claim. But Getty was a man who didn't care

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Paul Wesley Smith — Continued from page 4

whose head he stepped on or whose fingers, he was going to be top man, and he just kept climbing that way.

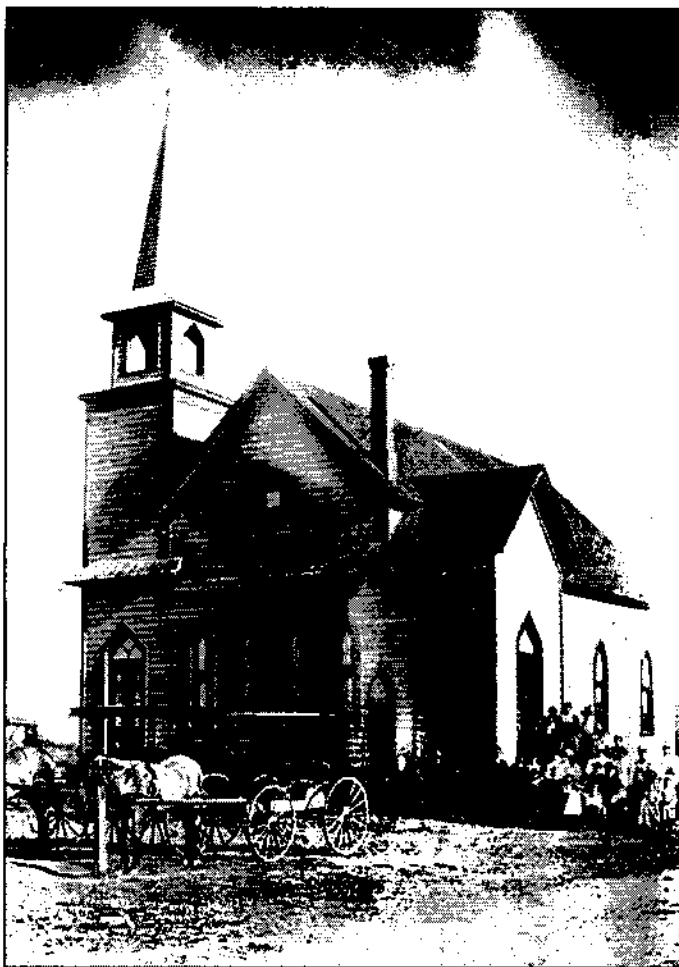
S: You know, when some of those oil wells in Santa Fe Springs would blow in, it would shake our house, just like an earthquake, rattle windows in Whittier, you know, but think of the millions of cubic feet of gas that was wasted in those wells.

H: O-oh, unbelievable.

S: If they could have kept that gas, you know, these wells, old wells would be flowing today.

H: Right, right! If they could have conserved that ... well, the same was true with these lakes that were through here when you were a boy. If they hadn't opened up all those wells at Artesia and flowed them wide open and let the water all out of these lakes, we'd still had lakes here for many years, but they drained it all, by opening them up. No, Santa Fe Springs made a lot of wealthy people and made a lot of poor people out of them, too.

S: Well! We never know. We have to learn by experience. Experience is a dear teacher.



"Then I had a school teacher, that was my first schoolteacher, that helped to build the first Santa Fe church here. It was a Methodist church ... I went to that church for a number of years."

— Paul Wesley Smith

Whatever Happened to Joe Da Rold

It was exactly 6 years ago last month (September) that Joe returned to Plainfield, New Jersey, to become Director of the Plainfield Public Library. Plainfield is about 35 miles due west of New York City, where Joe was born. The house he finally purchased four years ago is only 3 miles from his family's home in North Plainfield, where Joe grew up.

Although Joe's return to the east coast was primarily due to the library's job offer, it was also to relocate near to his aging and ailing parents. His mother passed away two years ago at the age of 91, while his father, who recently turned 90, is in generally good health, although due to leg problems cannot walk unassisted.

The proximity to New York's cultural attractions is something Joe missed greatly during his 30 years in California. The convenience of taking a train or bus to see a museum, opera or Broadway show on the spur of the moment is something he grew up with. And if Joe does not get to as many cultural activities as he would like, it is because he has become an avid gardener. Most of the spring and fall weekends find Joe happily planting, transplanting, pruning, weeding and always carving up the lawn to create new gardens. His house and gardens have been featured on a charity house tour, but too many repair projects to take care of will prevent him from joining this year's tour.

Plainfield has the 9th largest library in the state. Currently, the library is in the first years of implementing its 10-year master plan, which means a lot of extra work for Joe. In addition, Joe has had great success writing grants to fund special projects, especially for the library's large, active Special Collections department. And the library is in the process of creating a climate-controlled Archives Storage Workroom. Among its collections are 20,000 historical photographs and 14,000 sets of architectural drawings of the residential and commercial buildings in Plainfield. Joe is using grant funds to microfilm and digitize all of these images, which are then used as architectural references by new homeowners. Another very special collection is fine art — the library owns three original Winslow Homers, and the City owns two Albert Bierstadts.

As you would imagine, Joe is very active in a number of city groups, and this year alone he was Chairman of the Mayor's Census Task Force, President of the Rotary Club, Secretary of the Cultural & Heritage Commission, and president of one of the local book clubs. Fortunately many of Joe's commitments had been completed before Memorial Day weekend, when he fell victim to a herniated disk, putting him out of commission for the entire summer. Fortunately, after two months of physical therapy Joe is almost fully recovered.

Joe asks that his greetings be extended to the many Hathaways he worked with at the Hathaway Ranch Museum, and to the volunteers who might still remember him. For those who do not remember, Joseph Hugh Da Rold was Deputy Director of the Hathaway Ranch Museum and contributed greatly to the museum's research efforts while he was with us here.

Fun Days at the Hathaway Ranch Museum

Photos by Merrie Hathaway



At left, during a recent visit by a Biola University class, Betty Putnam, Mayor of Santa Fe Springs poses with David Peters, Mayor of La Mirada, who is also a Professor of Political Science at Biola.



Left to right, attending the Volunteer's Picnic are Marvin Putnam, Betty Putnam (Mayor of Santa Fe Springs), Bill and Dorothy Hammon. Alan Zolnekoff (Mayor of Whittier) and Margaret Hammon (with microphone).



Above, Biola University Students on a recent visit to the HRM.



At right, Nadine Hathaway announces Margaret Hammon as this year's "Gertie" award winner during the Volunteer's Picnic.



The Band at the Volunteer's Picnic.

Jim Withycombe (trumpet), A. L. Righy (saxophone), Nora Niedenthal (keyboard), Frank Martinez (harmonica, singer and band leader), Bill Alexander (drums).



At the Volunteer's Picnic, from left to right, Alan Zolnekoff (Mayor of Whittier), Nadine Hathaway, Margaret Hammon, and Betty Putnam (Mayor of Santa Fe Springs).



The Docents attending the Volunteer's Picnic
Left to right, Henry Lynn, Phyllis Stenson, Ray Stenson, Frances Agapoff, Josie Ramirez, Jeanne Grant, Mary O'Connor, Joyce Virnata and Melvin Smith.