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National Historical Landmark, 1962

SPRING VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Bancroft Bulletin

February/March 2015 • Vol. 16, No. 4

From the President's Desk . . .

Well ready or not, 2015 is here and there is a lot to look forward to in this new year. The Board held a planning meeting earlier this month and set the dates when specific events will occur, including the Founder's Day Open House in April, the Rummage Sale in May, as well as the regular membership meetings. It's going to be an exciting year at the old ranch house.

This year is also starting with a big bang for yours truly. By the time you read this column, Pat and I will have been to Fiji, then onto Melbourne and Sydney Australia, and will be at sea on the Celebrity cruise ship *Solstice* visiting Tasmania and New Zealand. It should prove to be a most wonderful vacation, and I'm sure we will return with many pictures and stories to share.

Speaking of sharing stories, do you have some fond memories of the 1950s that you would like to contribute to our upcoming "Spring Valley in the 1950s" exhibition? Did you take a vacation in the family car, go to a sock hop, get your first job or watch movies at the Drive-In?? Please write down what the 1950s were like for you – especially related to our community – and send them to **Pat Case**, the curator for the exhibit. These stories may seem trivial and insignificant to you but you couldn't be more mistaken. Future generations and especially any grandchildren or great grandchildren will treasure these "slices of life" of what it was like to live in the Fabulous 50s.

Also, if you have any artifacts characteristic of the 1950s please consider loaning them to the Society for the exhibition. It might be board games, books and magazines, appliances, clothing, anything related to the American culture as it developed during this dynamic decade.

Well, that's all for this edition. I hope you attend the membership meeting on Saturday – I know you will have a great time.

– **Rob Case**

Apologies for this briefer issue; the Editor is swamped with too many tasks at this time so had to keep things simple.

FEBRUARY 7th PROGRAM

*More Beauty, Less Water!
Gardening Tips from the
Water Conservation Garden*

The Water Conservation Garden inspires our community to create beautiful, water-saving landscapes through its six-acres of exhibits and award-winning programs. Their longtime Garden docent, Sue Ellen Benson, will tell us about The Garden's unique history and how it can help you cope with the current drought. This presentation includes easy, quick tips for the drought-tolerant gardener.

Water Conservation Garden is located at 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West, off Hwy 54, by the Heritage of the Americas Museum and can be reached by phone at (619) 660-0614. They are open daily 9am – 4 pm, by donation. They offer classes & events. Visit the Garden website to learn more here: www.thegarden.org.

See you there!



SVHS DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb. 7	Program – 7 pm Preceded by Potluck – 6 pm
Feb. 16	Board meeting – 7 pm
Mar. 1	Co. Enhancement Grant - deadline
Mar. 16	Board meeting – 7 pm
Mar. 26	Newsletter deadline

SVHS Officers/Committees

President	<i>Rob Case</i>	462-7928
Programs	<i>Kathy Viessman</i>	465-1830
Ways/Means	<i>Carolyn Kloss</i>	
Treasurer	<i>Carol Serr</i>	
Secretary	<i>Carol Myers</i>	
Membership	<i>Carol Serr</i>	698-1242
Bldgs&Grnds	<i>Ron Stahl</i> (buildings)	
	<i>Maureen Quinn</i> (grounds)	
Curatorial	<i>Pat Case</i>	
Historian	<i>Dolores Woodford</i>	
Publicity	<i>OPEN</i>	
Hospitality	NEEDED	
Newsletter	<i>Carol Serr</i>	698-1242
	FAX (858) 505-9658	Attn: Carol
	<i>e-mail: SpringVlyHistSoc@aol.com</i>	
Caretaker	<i>Jim Van Meter</i>	469-1480
Security	<i>Petey, the wonder dog</i>	

General meetings are held on the 1st Sat. of even-numbered months; & Board meetings are at 7 pm on the 3rd Monday of every month - both held at the Museum annex - at 9050 Memory Lane, Spring Valley, (619) 469-1480.

Visiting hours at the Bancroft Ranch House Museum and grounds are 1-4 pm, Fri. thru Sun. Group tours by appointment.

Caretaker Jim Van Meter is always looking for people willing to be docents to help with giving tours; please contact him.

The *Bancroft Bulletin* is a bimonthly publication of the Spring Valley Historical Society. Contributions are welcome and should be sent to the Editor, either by e-mail (preferably) or to: SVHS, P.O. Box 142, Spring Valley, CA 91976.



DISCLAIMER: Articles printed in this newsletter are informational in nature and do not necessarily represent the views or beliefs of the Board of Directors or the Society in general.



If you help sponsor this publication you can use your contribution as a tax deduction to a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Our Tax ID number is **237317982**. Please help us pay printing or postage costs.

Caretaker's Corner

A little bit of winter here on Memory Lane – rain, cold, wind. Hope we have more rain this year. The holidays here were nice. Happy New Year 2015 to all! The Christmas pot-luck dinner was enjoyed by those who could make it (*fewer than usual*). Walk-in Visitors enjoyed discovering the Museum during the Holiday rush. New member Gary Close donated some collectibles for a silent auction fund-raiser or for our famous rummage sale. Gary, a retired school teacher, moved back to San Diego recently and became an SVHS member in December. Thank you, Gary. He's no stranger to the area, with many friends here in San Diego. He had mentioned when he visited that he is friends of SVHS members **Lee** and **Phyllis Bourdeau** and **Rurik** and **Marge Kallis**. I am sure we will be seeing more of Gary.

The **Victorian Ladies Society** held a pot-luck here for their first 2015 meeting. The Bancroft Book Club has returned to meet on the third Monday of the month, at 9:45 am. On Jan. 21, the grounds here were busy when the San Diego Home Economists in Home and Community (HEHC) held their February meeting here. They group of about 30 retired teachers and professors from the San Diego area had a tour, followed by a catered lunch provided by "Cupids Catering" of El Cajon. The weather was great for the event. Barnyard hens and roosters made the lunch, parading around, cackling, and enjoying the tidbits fed to them. I too enjoyed the lunch and tour. A few of them were from San Diego State - so we shared stories and did some name dropping of who knew who. None of the group had been here before so they enjoyed it all. What a nice day it was. And they gave us a nice donation. Thanks HEHC!

Barnyard News Flash: Petey the Guard Dog has been locating nests of resident hens; some fresh eggs - yummy. I think there are nine hens and four roosters. No little critters/varmints (skunks, raccoons, coyotes) here today, at least. Petey is on vacation (no Petey's Post). He has been here so long that he gets 30 days off, paid vacation, a lot of treats, and a day at the doggie spa - not bad, for a guard dog. Petey will be watching for the new chickadees this spring when he gets back to work.

A lot of planned work parties getting organized as the year kicks off. Some rummage starting to trickle in for our May Sale. Thanks go out to All who help here, and those that regularly help the Caretaker - members **John Klein**, **Vic Baker**, and **Paul Morales**.

Hope to see you at the next pot-luck meeting.

Yours faithfully,
Jim Van Meter - Caretaker/Director/Raconteur



Plants for Sale

Come by and check out our Garden Shop near the entrance to the grounds (at gate). We have a variety of plants – at great prices! And we're always happy to take more potted plant donations. Your plant purchase is greatly appreciated too.

Also check out our native plant garden, created by member Joel Hastings, on the east side of the property. Just ask Jim, if you can't find it.



Your Help Still Needed for Our Spring Valley in the 1950s Display

Many SVHS members lived in our community during the 1950s – so we hope you will get involved and share your memories of how things were back then, including what stores and businesses were in existence in your neighborhood, games you played as a child, whatever comes to your mind. Old photographs would be great too - we will scan and return them. And if you have any items that you could loan to us for the display, that would help too.

Please e-mail photographs, stories, or a list of items to loan for displaying to Curator, **Pat Case**, e-mail case619@cox.net or phone her to make arrangements to pick up items (619) 462-7928.

SVHS NOTICES

DONATIONS:

Thanks for the very generous donation from the **Victorian Ladies Society** and all the other smaller donations members have given. Any amount is greatly appreciated! Donations help preserve our local history by keeping the museum running.

WANTED: Our Garden Shop is in need of your second-hand plant pots for our volunteers to get some new startings planted to increase our nursery inventory. Any size pot appreciated.

DOCENTS NEEDED:

History buffs, or folks who like to talk – your help is needed with giving tours of our museum and grounds. Jim shouldn't be expected to carry this burden all himself. Drop by some time and learn the tour spiel from Jim. Then start giving tours during our visiting hours. Even if you can only commit to one Sat. or Sun. each month, your help will be greatly appreciated. Give Jim a call if you can help (619-469-1480).

SVHS Tote Bags Finally Available!

Those who attended the 2013 October program for our 150th adobe celebration were given a coupon to exchange for a Surprise Gift in the future. Well, that future is finally here! Our rugged tote bags have arrived, decorated with a lovely illustration of the adobe done by our Caretaker-extraordinaire Jim! Bring your coupon – or simply show up to our Feb. program – to get this One of a Kind bag that will advertise our society every time you use it. ☺



Raffle Items Needed for Our SVHS Meetings

If you received a present during the holidays that is not to your liking or you have no use for, please consider donating it to SVHS as a raffle item. Let our Raffle Organizer **Dolores** know or simply bring it (wrapped, if possible) to the next meeting.

Every donation helps towards raising funds for Your society. Thank you!

February is Black History Month

Membership News

Welcome new member:
Bob Sandoval

We thank all of you who have continued to support your historical society by renewing your dues. If you have friends and family who are interested in history, please encourage them to join SVHS too. Thank you!

Carol Serr
Membership Chair

SPRING VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 P O BOX 142
 SPRING VALLEY CA 91976-0142
 Visit our website at: svhistoricalsociety.org

Come learn gardening tips and help
 with our drought issues, at our
Sat. Feb. 7th program.



Please **save** SVHS the cost of printing & postage by having your *Bancroft Bulletin* e-mailed.* Thank you.



Membership Application / Renewal Form

Fiscal Year: July 1 - June 30

Annual Dues:

Individual	\$10.00
Family (2 adults + kids)	\$15.00
Organization	\$20.00
Sustaining	\$35.00
Student (under 22 yrs)	\$5.00
Life Member (1 individual)	\$150.00

Please make check payable to:

Spring Valley Historical Society

bring this form to a meeting and introduce yourself!

or mail to:

SPRING VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 P O BOX 142
 SPRING VALLEY CA 91976

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP: _____ - _____

e-mail: _____ PHONE: (____) _____

* I prefer a hard copy of the newsletter be mailed (if box **not** checked, a PDF newsletter will be e-mailed)

AMOUNT: DUES \$ _____ and/or CONTRIBUTION \$ _____

PLEASE CONTACT ME FOR HELP WITH: _____ Work Parties _____ Giving Museum Tours

_____ Serving on Board _____ Rummage Sale _____ Other: _____