



SPRING VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Bancroft Bulletin

February/March 2013 • Vol. 14, No. 4

From the President's Desk . . .

Well, we seem to have survived the Mayan Apocalypse and, ready or not, been thrust into 2013. So far this January, we have had cold winter storms with snow in the mountains broken up by warm Santa Ana winds. My Nissan Altima has a temperature sensor with a read-out on the dash panel. I'm in my car by 5:45 am weekdays, and the coldest morning registered a chilly 34° F (for S. CA) but a few afternoons saw the temperature reach 80° F or more. What a strange start to the new year. Here's what's going on with the Society.

The Board of Director's held a special meeting on January 7th to try to plan meetings, special activities, and exhibitions for 2013. A lot of really good ideas were suggested and discussed including: a mini-exhibit celebrating Hubert Howe Bancroft's 181st birthday; an exhibit and celebration of the Historical Society's 50th anniversary; a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the construction of the adobe house; and the possibility of creating a Spring Valley calendar as a fundraiser. Also discussed were options to replace the out-of-print and now scarce "Our Hills and Valleys" book that we traditionally give to our guest speakers. Throw in our usual Rummage Sale weekend and the August picnic & Country Fair Auction and you can see that we have got a lot of possible activities for 2013.

A lot of effort will be required to accomplish at least some of these goals and the Board of Directors would like to extend an invitation to all members to participate in one or more of these projects. There are many ways to participate. You can be part of a committee that takes on one of these projects or volunteer your time, talents, or other materials to one of the upcoming exhibits. You can start selecting gently used items to donate to the rummage sale or prepare home-grown, home-cooked, or home-made items for the Country Fair auction. Perhaps you would be interested in working on a calendar that will include interesting facts and photos about Spring Valley over the years. Whatever you happen to choose, you will learn new things, meet new people as well as work with old friends, and most importantly, have fun. I guarantee it!!

– Rob Case

FEBRUARY 2nd PROGRAM

Musical Performance by **Broad Reach**

Our program chair Kathy has arranged for members to be entertained by the wonderful guitar and bass guitar singing duo, **Broad Reach** – aka Raymond Ornallas and Scotty Humphries. They perform a mixture of Hawaiian, 50s & 60s, oldies, and light jazz music. They performed at the Fredericka Manor Senior Retirement Community's ice cream social last fall. We hope to see many members come enjoy their music.

["broad reach" is a sailing term for wind coming from behind the boat, at an angle]



2013 Marks SVHS's 50th Anniversary!

(and the adobe's 150th!)

Help your society make plans for a great celebration this year (see page 3). All ideas and assistance are welcome. Contact a Board member (see page 2).

SVHS DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb. 2	Program – 7 pm Preceded by Potluck – 6 pm
Feb. 18	Board meeting – 7 pm
Mar. 18	Board meeting – 7 pm
Mar. 27	Newsletter deadline

SVHS Officers/Committees

President	<i>Rob Case</i>	462-7928
Programs	<i>Kathy Viessman</i>	465-1830
Ways/Means	<i>OPEN</i>	
Treasurer	<i>Carol Serr</i>	
Secretary	<i>Carol Myers</i>	
Membership	<i>Carol Serr</i>	698-1242
Bldg/Grnds Ch.	<i>Ron Stahl</i> (buildings)	
	<i>Maureen Quinn</i> (grounds)	
Curatorial Ch.	<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: Editor 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.

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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.

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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.

Plants for Sale

Check out the Garden Shop near the entrance to the grounds (at gate). There are a variety of plants at great prices! We're always happy to take more plant donations.

Caretaker's Corner

Bells rang aloud at midnight in the new year here on olde Memory Lane. I rang the old bell outside the adobe while the infamous New Year's Eve party at the Moose Lodge next door chimed in with some bells of their own. The valley was a roar of noise makers – firecrackers and car horns, the occasional homemade bomb, the usual gunfire – all chimed in 2013. It seemed like a lot of people out that night cheering on the New Year. Guard dog Petey did not like all the noise.

Rolling into 2013 with a lot of planned projects here, so one more time – Happy New Year! The fire hydrant project is still moving forward. The anonymous donor is a bit short on funds – they need to come up with \$41,000.00 to set a bond with the Helix Water District. This was known a while back when, at that time, monies were available. Twenty years ago when the fire hydrant project was in its birth, some SVHS members donated money for this great tax deductible project. The private donor will meet with a committee Feb. 1 to discuss the situation.

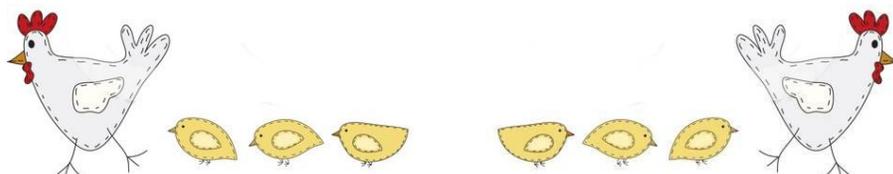
Groups having meetings here include the two book clubs, the **Victorian Ladies Society**, and a new group, Los Doñas Past Presidents Club, with our illustrious 1st V.P. **Kathy Viessman-Heath**. Spring Valley Woman's Club president Cheryl Cannon will head their board meetings held here the first Wed. of the month.

Thanks goes out to **Vic Baker** for making a stencil that reads "Museum Visitors Only" and painting it on the concrete bumpers in our parking lot. This year we have plans to upgrade the signage in our parking area – one of a many projects for 2013. Come to the meetings and hear about all the projects planned for this year. Get involved and have some fun. We serve pizza at the Board meetings (3rd Monday of each month)...yummy.

Barnyard News: We took on five more chickens...from La Mesa, which were orphaned. They are getting to know the Barnyard Rules. More for guard dog Petey to protect, and more to crow about. Only two ground squirrels spotted, eating with the resident chickens. More habanero peppers please! And more melodies to make, here on Memory Lane.

Hope to see you at the next pot-luck.

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



SVHS Turns 50 in 2013

Plans are underway for celebrating our society's 50th year in existence. Monte Vista High School art class students have been invited to create posters on the adobe history, museum displays will get some facelifts highlighting the Spring Valley pioneers and especially H. H. Bancroft and his Helix Farms development.

We hope SVHS members will get involved and offer their help in making this an exciting and eventful year. Please contact any Board member if you want to help (*see left side of page 2*). Our bimonthly program dates are listed below with their proposed happenings. We hope to see you there!

Save These Dates!

Sat. April 6 – Our monthly meeting will celebrate H. H. Bancroft's 181st birthday with added displays in the museum's Pioneer Room of the adobe.

Sat. June 1 – This month's meeting will celebrate the society's 50th anniversary with history of how it all began. Any previous Founding or Board members are encouraged to contribute to this program. We hope to have a surprise give-away for all who attend.

Sat. Aug. 3 – Besides our annual picnic and Country Fair Auction we hope to have swing dancers to close out our current 1940s display before replacing it with one on the 1950s. Please contact our Curator Pat, if you have items or stories to contribute to this decade's history in our community.

Sat. Oct. 5 – This will be an afternoon meeting celebrating the 150th year of the adobe that now houses our museum. We will also be displaying the art student posters and awarding prizes to the three winners of the contest. The students and their families will be invited to a hotdog dinner – and we hope many SVHS members will join us in celebration.

SVHS NOTICES

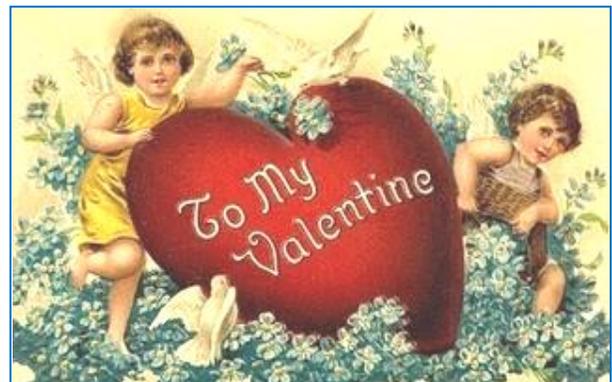
DONATIONS:

Thanks for the very generous donations from the **Victorian Ladies Society** and **Mary Polk**, and all the other smaller donations members have given. Any amount is greatly appreciated! Besides sustaining our website, Mary has donated funds to provide prizes for the student poster contest as well as to prepare for our 50th anniversary events this year. A Big Thanks to her!

THANKS: To member **Vic Baker** for painting the parking lot bumpers. With our limited parking spaces, hopefully this will keep non-visitors from parking there.

HELP 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).



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.

Our Raffle Organizer **Dolores** may be indisposed for a while, so we need someone to handle the raffle at our Feb. meeting. Please volunteer.

Register NOW for the 48th Annual History Conference March 1 (Fri.) & 2 (Sat.)

The theme for the this year's Conference is ***From Dream to Reality: The History of Science and Technology in the San Diego Region***. It will be held at the Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum (AGSEM) in Vista at 8:30 am to 4:30 pm both days. First presentation begins at 9:30 am.

Cost for the two days is only \$25 (Seniors 65+ only \$20; Student 12+ \$15). The exhibit & book sellers room will be open to the public during the conference. Lunch is not included, but a yummy BBQ plate for \$10 (includes drink) can be purchased at the AGSEM food court; or bring your own food & beverages.

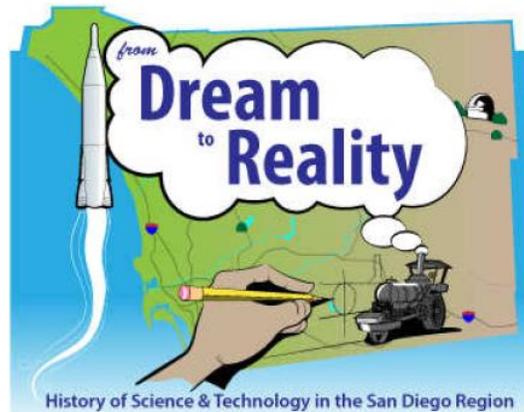
More details and registration form are available at: <http://congressofhistory.org> (click on Events)

Have questions? Contact Helen Halmay by e-mail hghalmay@aol.com or call 619-469-7283

Some of the Conference presentation topics are on the local histories of: Archaeology, farming, water storage and distribution, and alternative energy sources.

Also on: WWII coastal artillery; the Naval Research & Development Lab; and the Atlas missile program.

Another topic is titled: *Oops!* – on local technology failures.



To register by mail, send: name(s), address, phone no., organization affiliation, quantity of tickets, along with check (made to *Congress of History*) to:

**Conference Registration
Congress of History
PO Box 1346
Lemon Grove CA 91946-1346**

("Tickets" will be held at conference registration desk; your name tag will be your ticket)



Early 1900s Valentine's Day postcard.

March 1st Deadline for 2013 County Grant Proposal

The Board urges all SVHS members to **share** your ideas for enhancing, improving, or simply maintaining our society and the museum through funds we can hopefully continue to receive from the County's Community Enhancement Program. Either call, mail, or e-mail (see page 2) your thoughts if you can't attend our grant meeting (date to be arranged).

SVHS Needs Museum Docents

The Society **needs** docents to give tours at our museum. If you enjoy making history come alive, please offer your services as a docent to give tours at the Bancroft Ranch adobe during visiting hours (Fri.-Sun. 1-4 pm). Caretaker Jim will provide you with information to learn about the history of our **150-year old** adobe, etc. Please help even if it's only one day a month. And Jim can always use Help with school or scout groups (i.e., children wrangling).