



SPRING VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Bancroft Bulletin

June/July 2020 • Vol. 21, No. 6

From the President's Desk . . .

I am hoping that the members of Spring Valley Historical Society are doing well in these tumultuous times. As I write this column for the June edition of the *Bancroft Bulletin*, the COVID-19/Coronavirus has devastated countless lives and has rendered economic chaos around the world, but the worst may be behind us. San Diego County is currently easing back certain restrictions in hopes of kick-starting our economy. In doing so, they are walking a tightrope: if they re-open too fast, COVID-19 cases might spike again but re-opening too slow will damage international economies even more. I hope all of you are using PPE; maintaining social distance; and following the other guidelines issued by health authorities.

Sadly, due to the current pandemic situation, there will be NO MEETING on June 6th but I have every confidence that we will hold our Annual Picnic and fund-raising Auction on August 1. We are in the early planning stages for some changes that should be entertaining.

Meanwhile, back at the [Bancroft] ranch house, a lot has been going on. High winds in April damaged the pepper tree in front of the Annex beyond salvation and it had to be removed (*see photo on page 4*). The good news is that we had \$2,000 of County Enhancement grant funds earmarked for tree trimming this year. The bad news is that removal cost \$2,400 - so the additional \$400 came out of our savings. Such unexpected expenses are why the society greatly appreciates all and any monetary donations made by our membership.

Regardless of when we re-open, the next time you visit the ranch house you will be amazed by the improvements completed by the Buildings & Grounds Committee - led by **Chris Hagan**. You simply won't believe your eyes! Several large deferred maintenance projects have been completed helping us cross things off our "TO DO" list!

In closing, I want to wish everyone good health and happiness. Like Roy and Dale Rogers used to sing at the end of their TV show episodes - "happy trails to you, until we meet again."

-- Rob Case



JUNE 6th PROGRAM

San Diego County Spinners

**** CANCELLED ****

The Spring Valley Historical Society Board has made the difficult decision to cancel the June 6 potluck dinner and presentation due to the continuing concerns related to the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic and the stay-at-home orders. The San Diego County Spinners will be rescheduled to present at an upcoming meeting. Updates will be posted to our website and our *Bancroft Ranch House Museum* Facebook page, as they become available.

We look forward to seeing you soon!
Stay safe and be well,

Your SVHS Board

See you in August (maybe)

Those of you with Facebook – please visit and Like our Museum page!

<https://www.facebook.com/Bancroft-Ranch-House-Museum-111098050441345/>

And our website is:

www.svhistoricalsociety.org

Meet your New Board members on page 5



SVHS DATES TO REMEMBER

June 6	Program – 7 pm ** CANCELLED **
June 15	Board meeting – 7 pm
July 20	Board meeting – 7 pm
July 22	Newsletter deadline
Aug.1	Program – TBD

SVHS Officers/Committees

President	<i>Rob Case</i>	462-7928
Programs	<i>Sarah Moore</i>	994-1749
Ways/Means	<i>Nancy Hagan</i>	433-9792
Treasurer	<i>Carol Serr</i>	
Secretary	<i>Carol Myers</i>	
Membership	<i>Carol Serr</i>	698-1242
Bldg/Grnds Ch.	<i>Chris Hagan</i>	550-8482
Curatorial Ch.	<i>Pat Case</i>	462-7928
Historian	<i>Pat Case</i>	
Publicity	<i>Raquel Veluz</i>	
Hospitality	<i>Nancy Hagan</i>	
Newsletter	<i>Carol Serr</i>	698-1242

e-mail: SpringVlyHistSoc@aol.com

Caretaker Jim Van Meter 469-1480

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 newsletter 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

Greetings to all who read this fine newsletter.

Memorial Day celebrations were rather quite here. At 8 am, a Korean War veteran, who lives in Casa De Oro, came by in his car and read a poem. He never got out of his car due to social distancing. Strange times. I raised a new flag today in honor of those veterans who gave their life for our freedoms.

There is a work party here today as I write this. Board members **Chris Hagan, Gary & Nancy Hagan**, and **Rob & Pat Case** are working in the Annex rehangng our old black and white photographs and other displays. The interior walls and floor of the Annex building have been repainted after many needed repairs have been completed over the last couple of months. All the repair work being done by our Buildings & Grounds chairman **Chris Hagan** and crew. It looks absolutely marvelous. Hopefully the museum can re-open soon so visitors can see the metamorphosis.

Yours truly has been working through the COVID-19 situation, here on Memory Lane.

Museum grounds look nice. The seasonal grass and weeds have been maintained, and now comes the hot summer months. The excessive rains helped a lot; our grounds and gardens look well. Museum remains closed till further notice. A new protocol in giving tours will be practiced.

Barnyard News Flash: Resident hens await arrival of new fowl. Late night uninvited skunks and raccoons still worry the feathers in the hen house. One new rooster with poor social behavior had to be removed from the grounds.

The SVHS Rummage Sale has been postponed, but donations are still coming in. Please note - we have no room to store furniture.

Hope to see you all at the next pot-luck, whenever that will be. Take care.

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

OUR MISSION

The Spring Valley Historical Society is dedicated to the discovery, collection, preservation, and dissemination of the heritage of the Spring Valley area to benefit and educate the local community.

OUR VISION

Is to promote community pride through the celebration of all people who have called Spring Valley their home.

2020-2021 OFFICER ELECTION at June Meeting

It's that time of year when your Society needs to fill the slate of officers for our fiscal year beginning in July 1, 2020. Here is the slate of nominees for our upcoming fiscal year. Normally voting takes place at our June meeting. But since our June meeting has been cancelled this year, we will be sending out a notice to vote digitally on *Mailchimp* (see lower right of page 5). We hope many members can respond. True, there are no opponents to any positions, but it is required that we present the ballot to our members to vote on, due to our non-profit status.

Board of Directors Slate

President.....	Rob Case	Buildings & Grounds...	Chris Hagan
1 st VP - Programs.....	Sarah Moore	Curatorial.....	Pat Case
2 nd VP - Ways & Means....	Nancy Hagan	Historian.....	Pat Case
Secretary.....	Carol Myers	Membership.....	Carol Serr
Treasurer	Carol Serr	Publicity.....	Raquel Veluz

Curatorial Committee Chair **Pat Case** can always use help with creating new displays for our museum. Our *Buildings & Grounds Committee* also needs additional helping hands.

Won't **YOU** please help your society??



Please Remember to Renew
your Dues in July!

Membership News

Our membership year **begins JULY 1st**. Please make the effort to **renew** your dues **sooner**, rather than later, so you don't risk the chance of missing your newsletter with notices of upcoming program changes and museum re-opening news. And get your friends and relatives to join too!

We hope members will continue their support at the increased \$20 Individual annual rate (see page 4). Your continued support is greatly appreciated. **Thank you.**

Carol Serr
Membership Chair

Need to Clear out Clutter?

Stuck home during COVID-19 lockdown? Now you have time to clean out closets the garage, etc. But **Don't** toss those old whatnots in the trash! **Donate** items like old school annuals, business brochures, advertising items (yard sticks, pens or pencils, ash trays, etc.), old photographs (with identification info), match books, postcards, vintage tools, and similar items that can tell a story about our Spring Valley community and your past.

Donate such items to the appropriate society, be it SVHS, OR the Veterans Museum (like military photo albums, medals, uniforms), OR the Women's Museum (old wedding dress, vanity sets), etc.



2nd VP - Ways & Means Report

Hello everyone!

We at SVHS want to wish you, your family, and friends healthy, happy, and wise moments at this time!

Due to the current social distancing issue, we will not be able to hold our annual Rummage Sale fund-raiser until it will be safe to do so. Please watch your *Bulletin* or our Facebook page (see page 7) for updates on this event.

There has been no slow down at the ranch house for our Buildings & Grounds chairperson **Chris Hagan** and his co-worker Juan. They've been using the last few months of shutdown to complete maintenance and repairs. A lot of time, effort, and money has gone into restoring what the 70+ years have done to break down our Annex building on the north side of the original adobe building. Thank you both so much for your many hours spent to ensure the current membership, and many others, will enjoy our museum for many more years to come!

At this time, SVHS really could benefit from participation from our members to help cover the expenses of their hard work. Please send whatever you can donate at this time.* We thank you so very much!

* A GoFundMe donation page is being set up and the link will be sent to members soon.

In order to keep up with inflation, the SVHS Board of Directors has proposed to raise the membership dues amount to \$20 for an Individual, per year. This revision would do away with the Student and Family membership categories, as indicated in the revision of the Bylaws shared with the membership on page 4 of the April-May issue of the *Bancroft Bulletin*. As of this time, no members have expressed any objections to this revision. But we will need members to vote on their Approval of the Bylaw revisions by our June 6 program date. Since this vote will not be possible to do in person, we urge our members to vote by e-mail or mail (see "Mailchimp" notice on pages 5 & 7). We may even get fancy and send out a voting survey to those of you who have e-mail. Watch for that in your Inbox.

Thank you again for your participation in our endeavors. The Board is here to serve the membership in any way we can, so please give us feedback, suggestions, comments, etc. We'd love to hear from you, please call me.

Serving you and our community,

Nancy Hagan
619-433-9792



A storm brought down this old pepper tree in April! Our Annex building is the white one, at right.

This unexpected cost is one reason the SVHS is in need of any tax-deductible donation you can make at this time.

GoFundMe page details provided soon.

Meet Your New Board Members

1st VP - Programs

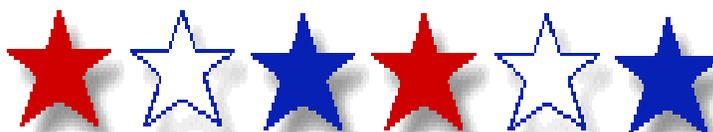
Hi everyone! My name is **Sarah Moore**. My home away from home is Grossmont College where I am Transfer Center Coordinator/Counselor. It brings me joy to be able to serve people, whether it be my family and friends, my students at Grossmont, or my church, Spring Valley Friends Chapel of which I have been a member for over 30 years and currently co-chair the Children's Ministry committee with my sister, Jessica.



One morning late last fall, while watering plants at church, long-time family friend **Chris Hagan** shared with me about his work at the Spring Valley Historical Society and the need the society has for volunteers. I realized I could use my event planning skills to help. At Grossmont College, I organize annual Transfer Options Fairs, numerous workshops, and other special events. I can bring these skills and use them to the benefit of SVHS in the role of the 1st Vice President - Programs. How special it has been to connect to a group that my great-grandmother, Nana (you may know her as Gertrude Cisco) was once connected! I look forward to meeting you in person when we are safely able to do so!

Publicity

My name is **Raquel Veluz** and am a Counselor and instructor in the local San Diego community colleges helping students with their educational and career goals. I am motivated in helping others pursue their career goals and am also driven and paying it forward to my community. I am part of the SVHS as I am motivated in helping communities that I am part of and belong to. This opportunity allows me to give back to the community, but also to work in collaboration with community members who also believe in the same mission.



SVHS to Use Mailchimp Platform

Dear Spring Valley Historical Members,

We wanted to inform you all that going forward in the month of June we will be using a new platform called Mailchimp; using the account name *SpringValleyHistoricalSociety*. We are using this more efficient method to allow us to reach all members via e-mail about upcoming events, updates, notices, etc. Therefore, we will no longer be sending out e-mails regarding meetings via AOL and will utilize Mailchimp instead. However, we are still keeping our AOL e-mail and you can always communicate to us there if you need to.

So, if you have an e-mail account but have never given it to the SVHS, or it has recently changed, please send it to us, via AOL. Thank you.

If you have any questions please let us know and you can e-mail us at: springvlyhistsoc@aol.com.



Check Out *Sidetrack Adventures*

Stuck at home these days? Or itching to get outdoors to explore but don't have the means to do so? Well, Steve Bryant has created short video adventures exploring destinations off the beaten path in the southern California backcountry. Check out his videos here: www.youtube.com/channel/UCdueDRFYVPVgzPAAOM_bxVWA/videos

Got Old Historic Spring Photos?

Does anyone have old photos of the historic spring that gave the valley its name? It is located between the adobe house and the Rock House located on James Circle – a bit to the south (see recent photo below; red arrow pointing to spring). This was an important water source to the early inhabitants in the region and later to the EuroAmericans who settled here in historic times.

The spring is but a muddy spot these days. If you do have photos, please share them with the SVHS! We have a display on Water in the breezeway between the adobe and the Annex building and would love to have additional images of the old spring.

Contact Curator **Pat Case** if you can share your photos. We can scan them and return them immediately. Thanks!



Some of his destinations include:

- [Exploring More of Abandoned Highway 80 Near San Diego](#)
- [Visiting the Pegleg Smith Monument in Anza Borrego - Is the Lost Gold Mine Nearby?](#)
- [A Trip Around The Salton Sea - A One Day Drive](#)
- [Exploring the Ghost Town of Hedges/Tumco](#)
- [San Diego's Pioneer Park - Hidden Cemetery](#)
- [Visiting the Former Site of Dinosaur Land in Alpine, CA](#)
- [The Ghost Town of Buckman Springs](#)
- [Exploring the Desert View Tower and Boulder Park](#)

Here's where San Diego Area numbers change this Sunday!

Hola, amigos!

LA JOLLA GLencourt 4	SAN DIEGO ACademy 2 5 3 ATwater 1, 2 5 4 CYpress 5, 6 5 8 BElmont 2, 3, 4 5 9 BRowing 7 COngress 4 JUiniper 2	LAKESIDE Hickory 3	ALPINE Hickory 5
PACIFIC BCH. HUdson 8	LA MESA HOplins 6 5 9	EL CAJON Hickory 4	
CORONADO HEllock 4	NATIONAL CITY GRidley 7	CHULA VISTA GARfield 2	
	PALM CITY GARfield 4		

• The map above shows where 175,000 telephone numbers change on Sunday, January 24th.

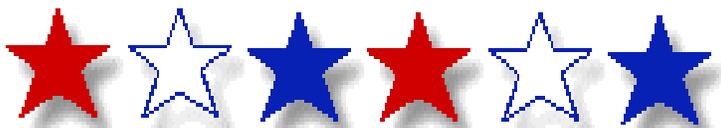
Beginning Sunday, look up all numbers in the new directory before you call. It shows the number and keep it before you dial. Dial the first two letters and the numeral in the prefix, then the four remaining figures.

Don't forget to throw away your old directory. Beginning Sunday, most of the numbers in it will be wrong. Curvet your personal number list, too. And remember, calls to old numbers cannot be completed after Saturday midnight.

Pacific Telephone

Remember the Old Phone Exchange Designations?

What was yours? Ours was HO9... Above, is a 1954 PacBell notice of a change that took place in January. These "alpha prefixes" were called "exchanges" and they referred to a physical location where all the network switching took place - typically a large, windowless building filled with racks of relay-controlled switches.

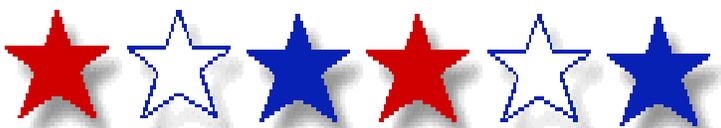


SVHS's Internet Presence

Visit our website at: svhistoricalsociety.org
 You will find a monthly calendar of SVHS events, meetings, and deadlines there.

Find us on Facebook:
 Under Bancroft Ranch House Museum
www.facebook.com/Bancroft-Ranch-House-Museum-111098050441345/

Members will soon be getting notices, ballots, etc. via a new "Mailchimp" account named *SpringValleyHistoricalSociety*. Keep an eye out for it in your InBox!



Have A Safe



SVHS NOTICES

DONATIONS:

Thanks for the generous donations towards our **Building Repair Fund** from the **Rob & Pat Case** and **Gary & Nancy Hagan**. We have set up a GoFundMe donation page to help with such needed repairs. Details will be provided soon.

DOCENTS NEEDED (WHEN WE RE-OPEN):

While we don't know when our museum will re-open for tours, local members can still prepare for becoming a docent. With so much down time, this would be a great time to learn more details about the museum, grounds, and local history. 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 **157-year old** adobe, etc. Please consider helping, even if it is only one day a month. Jim also needs Help when school or scout groups visit (i.e., children wrangling).

Time to RENEW DUES

We hope we can count on our members to continue their support of preserving the museum and local history in June – when annual membership dues increase to \$20 per person (see *Ways & Means Report on page 4*).

We Still Need Your Spring Valley Memories

Our **Spring Valley in the 1950s** display has been up for a while, but we still would like our SVHS members (or your family or friends) who lived in our community for many decades to Share your memories of how things were back when, including what stores and businesses were in existence in your neighborhood, games you played as a child, whatever comes to mind.

Please send your info to our Curator **Pat Case** by e-mail case619@cox.net (or our PO Box, on back cover) or contact her at (619) 462-7928.

SPRING VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P O BOX 142

SPRING VALLEY CA 91976

Visit our website at: svhistoricalsociety.org

Find us on Facebook: *Bancroft Ranch House Museum*;

www.facebook.com/Bancroft-Ranch-House-Museum-111098050441345/

**** Our June 6th Program is CANCELLED
due to the COVID-19 pandemic ****

But please **Vote** on the **Bylaws revisions** shown on page 4 of
the April/May Bulletin issue!!

And **Vote for your 2020-2021 Officers** (see page 3).

Watch for electronic *Mailchimp* e-mails coming your way

TO:

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 \$20.00

Organization \$50.00

Life Member (1 individual) \$300.00

Please make check payable to:

Spring Valley Historical Society

bring this form to a meeting and introduce yourself!

or mail to address shown in upper left corner of this page

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: _____