



# SPRING VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Bancroft Bulletin

September/October 2023 • Vol. 24, No. 5

## From the President's Desk . . .

Dear Spring Valley Historical Society members and supporters.

I just want to let you know some of the things currently being discussed by our Board of Directors. The key issue is our dwindling supply of active volunteers to help the Society run smoothly, and the volunteers we have are being stretched to the limit. This is not a new problem; the need for the membership to donate time, talent, and/or treasure to help the Society in one way or another has been solicited many times in our newsletter. The obvious solution is perhaps the most difficult – recruit more new members who are willing to pitch in – but so far, this has not been very successful.

Another approach to the problem is to lessen the burden of the current volunteers by cutting back on some of the activities, particularly the bi-monthly membership meetings that are held in February, April, June, August, October, and December. A lot of planning and effort go into each meeting: determining the program subject, doing publicity, setting up before and cleaning up after the meeting, arranging for refreshments, etc. One idea brought up at the August Board meeting was to have only three major membership meetings, one in April to celebrate the founding of the Society, one in August for our annual Bar-B-Que picnic, and lastly our traditional holiday party in December. The other meetings in February, June, and October would be a time to socialize without any specialized programming. This would result in a much more manageable workload that would help our current volunteers.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions about recruiting new members as well as your feelings regarding changes to our meetings. Your input is vital and much appreciated.

Thank you and I hope to see you at our outdoor October meeting (*see info at upper right*).

— Rob Case



## OCTOBER 7th

### Snack Potluck & Story Time

In lieu of a regular program and potluck dinner, the October meeting instead will focus on a social gathering featuring a “Snack Potluck” – held from 3:00-5:00PM – outdoors around the fire pit. Everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite snack to share with your fellow members. Water and lemonade will be provided by the Society.

While enjoying our snacks, we would like to begin the Halloween season by having everyone share something that may have happened to you that seemed beyond the “Outer Limits.” It could be a story told to you by an older adult when you were young, something you saw or heard that you couldn’t explain, a déjà vu experience, an act of divine guidance, or something else. Whatever it is, we want to hear about it. So, plan your snacks to share, think about a story you want to tell, and prepare to have a lot of fun!

### See you there!



### SVHS DATES TO REMEMBER

- |         |                                                                                |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oct. 7  | Snack Potluck/Story Time<br>3-5 pm<br><b>!! Earlier time &amp; Outdoors !!</b> |
| Oct. 15 | Newsletter deadline                                                            |
| Oct. 16 | Board meeting – 7 pm<br>(at Annex room)                                        |
| Nov. 20 | Board meeting – 7 pm                                                           |

**SVHS Officers/Committees**

<b>President</b>	<i>Rob Case</i>	462-7928
<b>Programs</b>	<i>Sarah Moore</i>	994-1749
<b>Ways/Mean</b>	<i>Nancy Hagan</i>	433-9792
<b>Treasurer</b>	<i>Carol Serr</i>	
<b>Secretary</b>	<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>Chris Pierce</i>	
Hospitality	<i>Nancy Hagan</i>	
Newsletter	<i>Carol Serr (pro tem)</i>	
	<i>e-mail: SpringVlyHistSoc@aol.com</i>	
Caretaker	<i>Jim Van Meter</i>	469-1480

General meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. of even-numbered months; Board meetings are at 7 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month - both held at the Museum - 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; e-dress above) 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 consider helping us pay printing or postage costs.

## Caretaker's Corner

I'm glad to share some news regarding the Bancroft Adobe Ranch House Museum, Memory Lane, and surrounding area - the constant and ongoing efforts to keep Memory Lane litter free and the car issues (i.e. illegal parking and abandoned cars), among a few. The results are like the weather, always changing. Responsible parties pursuing this effort truly deserve an "atta boy," thumbs up for their/our efforts. The results are a cleaner corridor/street that introduces people to this wonderful Landmark adobe here on Memory Lane.

The rain from Hurricane Hillary was a blessing here. The couple of inches we got in August livened up all the grounds here. No damage to property, fortunately. Kind of a treat. The pink flowers (*Amaryllis belladonna*) aka "naked ladies" in the traffic circle are abundant! The slang term for these beauties results from the flower appearing after the green foliage is gone and then the flowers arrive on a bare stem. More this year than before, a lot more!

Tours have increased. A group tour with Assemblymember Akilah Weber was enjoyed with other local community leaders (see photo on page 3). President Rob Case provided an informative tour. Most of the attendees had never been here. Another tour was a sunset tour, with refreshments provided by the Caretaker, in the late afternoon for Mr. and Mrs. Petersen. Alden Petersen is one of the founders of the Professional Tree Care Association of San Diego. The PTCA has seminars, field days, and other events about taking proper care of old growth trees, etc. The Petersen's joined the SVHS as life time members, and provided a generous donation to Museum. Very, very nice; Thank you.

Our Aug. 5<sup>th</sup> picnic had good weather and was an enjoyable time. The August SVHS board meeting was held in-person at the Annex for the first time since COVID!

As always, a lot of thanks goes to all that help and support from members, volunteers, and friends.

Hope to see you all at the next meeting.

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

### 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.*





# Membership News

## Welcome New Members

*Gary Mitrovich*  
and LIFE members *Ricki & Alden Pedersen*

And Thanks to all who have renewed for our 2023-2024 membership year, which began July 1.

- *Carol Serr*  
Membership Chair



On Wednesday, July 26th, Spring Valley citizens had a community discussion with 79th District Assemblymember Dr. Akilah Weber (5th from right). Photo contributed by Chris Pierce

## SVHS NOTICES

### DONATIONS:

A Big **THANKS** to new members *Ricki* and *Alden Pedersen* for their generous donation of \$1,400 in addition to becoming Life members. They run *Western Tree Service* on Mission Gorge Rd.

### HELP WANTED:

As our President Rob stated in his article, our organization could really use Your help on various projects. Even things like setting up for our programs. Show up 40 minutes early to help set out chairs, tables, etc. Or help our Curator, Pat Case, with entry in our PastPerfect collections program. Help our Caretaker with weeding or other tasks. Their contact info is on the left-side column on page 2.

## August Picnic Review

If you weren't among the 28 or so people who attended our August picnic, you missed a wonderful time! The weather was great, as was the food. **Gary Hagan** was our Grill Master, cooking the "dogs" to perfection. Over 20 items were donated for our raffle, which brought in \$65.

We wouldn't have had a success without all the volunteers who came early to set up tables, etc. - or those who contributed the tasty food items, raffle donations, and camaraderie. There were some new faces that we hope to see return to our bimonthly meetings.

Great appreciation to all those who brought donations for our raffle - and those who bought raffle tickets or donated funds on the food table. Every little bit helps raise funds for SVHS.



Nancy & Gary Hagan and guest, at the food table.

Thanks to Pat Case for the photos.  
If you took any, please share them with Pat for our society's history files.



Everyone chowing down on the great food and enjoying conversation with friends.

## Curator's Corner

by Pat Case

The Barbie movie opened in theaters this summer and has been a sensational hit for people of all ages, and has gotten good reviews. It got me to thinking about my first Barbie and Ken dolls, then my husband downloaded a blog from GenealogyBank.com about Barbie Homemade Fashion which I fully enjoyed. I thought I would make a book about the history of Barbie and Ken dolls. I also would like to have other people share their childhood stories about having Barbie and Ken dolls. I would like to include their stories in the book.

Here is my story...

Growing up in Chula Vista in the 1950s and 1960s, when you played "dolls" with your friends you played with the same type of doll. We would choose to play with baby dolls, little dolls, high heel dolls, Barbie & Ken, big dolls, or paper dolls. I was an only child and often played with a neighbor, Vicki, who was a year older and also an only child. We were fortunate to have a variety of dolls. Before 1959 the only dolls that were teen dolls and had fashions were paper dolls. You spent a lot of time cutting the clothing out and then tried to keep the clothes on the doll by the bent tabs on the side of the clothes, which often broke.

In 1959, Mattel came out with Barbie. I was 9 years old. Vicki and I fell in love with Barbie at first sight and wanted one so bad. Vicki and I would walk to downtown Chula Vista and visit the "Hunts for Toys" store and check out the dolls and all the dresses and accessories Barbie could have. We saved our money and purchased the original Barbie for \$2.98, which was a lot of money in those days. I still have her in her black and white striped bathing suit, black stand and box. However I chewed on her feet so she has teeth marks on her. Barbie was such a hit with all her small accessories and all the clothes you could buy (see photos at right). The clothes and accessories were expensive at about \$3.00 each. I still have the catalog that we would ogle over, dreaming of all the outfits we wanted to buy. Our parents also helped by sewing some of the Barbie outfits.

Around 1960, we also began to sew clothes for our dolls, but we were not very good at it. I had a little cast iron sewing machine you cranked to sew and made a few outfits. We couldn't afford the Barbie car, house and accessories but we made our own out of cardboard boxes. We collected small miniature items found in stores and when the Princess phones came out they gave away princess phone keychains; which immediately became our doll's phone.

In 1961, Mattel came out with the Ken doll for \$3.50 and again Vicki and I purchased him. We played with our Barbie and Ken through 6<sup>th</sup> grade and often took them on camping trips to the desert.

Looking back I remember enjoying my dolls but that I was never very attached to them. As I grew older, I stored my dolls away for my children someday. Well I had a daughter, Heather and a son, Scott, but they were part of the "Cabbage Patch Kid" rage. My daughter also had a Barbie but never enjoyed playing with it much. Heather would much rather be out playing with the boys or doing something athletic rather than playing dolls. However I now have a granddaughter, Anya, who is 6 and she has about five Barbie and Ken dolls and she loves to dress them.

In our "1950s" display in the Annex, I have my Barbie and Ken dolls on display and have put together a booklet on the history of Barbie and Ken. Also included are blog stories and pictures. Please check it out when you visit the museum.

(continued on Page 5)





**DID YOU KNOW...****The History of Barbie & Ken Dolls**

(from USAToday.com)

**Who created Barbie?**

Barbie was created by the Mattel toy company, co-founded by Ruth Handler and her husband Elliot in January 1945.

**What is Barbie's full name?**

Barbie's full name is Barbara Millicent Roberts. The doll is named after Handler's daughter Barbara, who was the inspiration behind Barbie's creation.

**The History of Barbie**

Barbie was created by Ruth Handler of Mattel who was the principal architect of the doll's campaign.

Handler was inspired by watching her daughter play with paper dolls that resembled adult women. At the time, baby dolls were the popular toy. There were not many dolls on the market that allowed girls to role-play and envision their future beyond motherhood.

Barbie's design was modeled after the Bild Lilli doll, which was created in the image of a German comic strip character (see photo, lower right). Lilli was initially a gag gift marketed toward adult males, but eventually became popular among children who enjoyed dressing up the doll.

Mattel bought the rights to Lilli and made their own version: Barbie.

The first Barbie was introduced on March 9, 1959 – now considered Barbie's official birthday. The doll was first launched at the American Toy Fair in New York City. The first Barbie, often referred to as "No. 1," was a reflection of the style at the time. She was available in two versions: one with blonde hair and one with brunette, both sporting a ponytail with curly bangs. She wore a black-and-white striped, strapless swimsuit, a set of gold hoops and black heels.

Within its first year, 300,000 Barbies were sold and the public's love for the doll has only grown. In 2021, over 86 million Barbie dolls were sold, that's around 164 Barbies sold every minute.

**Ken**

Barbie's on-and-off boyfriend Kenneth "Ken" Sean Carson was introduced in 1961, named after Handler's son Kenneth. Like Barbie, Ken made his debut wearing a swimsuit, but soon had his own fashionable line of clothing and accessories. And just like Barbie, but nowhere near as prolific, he also has an impressive CV, from barista to banker.

In 2004, Mattel announced Barbie and Ken had called a timeout on their relationship, choosing to remain just friends. However, they rekindled their romance on Valentine's Day in 2011, although it is unclear where it stands today. In the animated film *Barbie Dreamhouse Adventures*, released in 2018 and available to stream on Netflix, Ken was only described as Barbie's "next-door neighbor."

Since her introduction, Barbie has caused consternation among some parents. To counter criticism, Mattel introduced a number of characters, including her best friend Midge in 1963 and her sister Skipper in 1964. Then in 1968 came Christie, an African-American Barbie and one of the first such dolls on the market.

However, it wasn't until 1980 that Mattel truly diversified its dolls by introducing its first African-American doll that was called Barbie, rather than a different name. A Latina Barbie was also introduced that year.

Today there are more than 40 international Barbie dolls of various nationalities and ethnicities. Barbies come in more than 22 skin tones, 94 hair colors, 13 eye colors, and five body types.

**October is Archaeology Month****Arch in the Park**

**Sat. October 21 • 10 am – 3 pm**  
**Los Peñasquitos Adobe Ranch House**

The *San Diego County Archaeological Society* presents their annual FREE educational day of Archaeology and Fun held at the historic site.

Learn about archaeology in our county; see an excavation site. Fun activities for kids – mock excavation, games, etc.

Bring a picnic lunch or purchase fry bread "Indian tacos," snacks, and beverages.

Access from Black Mountain Rd. (west of I-15) via Canyonside Park Driveway and then dirt road to ranch house. For more info call 858-538-0935 or visit their website: [www.sdcas.org](http://www.sdcas.org)



ANTIQUE GAS & STEAM ENGINE MUSEUM  
PRESENTS

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**IN RUST WE TRUST**

OCTOBER 21 & 22 2023  
OCTOBER 28 & 29 2023  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ANTIQUE EQUIPMENT  
PARADE AT 1 P.M.

Adults - \$8.00  
Seniors - \$7.00  
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P O BOX 142  
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Visit our website at: [svhistoricalsociety.org](http://svhistoricalsociety.org)  
Find us on Facebook: Bancroft Ranch House Museum  
Or Instagram: springvalleyhistoricalsociety

Bring your favorite munchies/snacks to share  
with others at our **October 7th** program,  
where we will share scary stories, etc.

**THE "SNACK POTLUCK" BEGINS AT 3 PM**

Our membership year began on July 1  
Please **RENEW** your **Membership Dues**  
if you have not already done so.

**THANK YOU!**

 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: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate (day/month) – optional - for notice in *Bulletin* \_\_\_\_\_

**\*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: \_\_\_\_\_