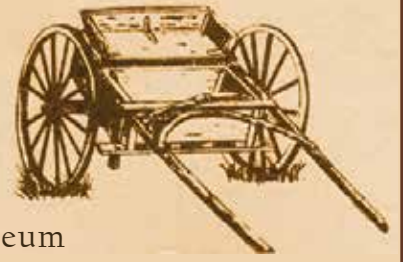


Second Issue 2019 ~ Apr-Jun
Next Issue July 2019

THE MAIL CART



Newsletter of the Simi Valley Historical Society and Museum

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SIMI VALLEY!

On October 10th of this year Simi Valley will celebrate its 50th anniversary of incorporation!

We can look forward to many more celebrations commemorating this special occasion...and the Simi Valley Historical Society has the pleasure of kicking off the festivities!

At this free community event on April 27, 2019, we encourage you to join us at Strathearn and "time warp" back to 1969 by dressing in your "grooviest" garb. Bring a picnic lunch, blankets, and/or lawn chairs to the party. Here at the Park you can view classic cars, listen to music, visit buildings and displays and much more.

There will be a 1969 fashion show, 'Memory Lane' a photographic exhibit featuring the Al Shack photo collection, and presentations highlighting Simi's growth.

Mark your calendars now and plan to "take five" and "make the scene" as part of the "in crowd." Come celebrate the 50th anniversary of the City of Simi Valley's incorporation at the "Time Warp Picnic" at Strathearn Historical Park and Museum from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 27, 2019. "Be There or Be Square!"

Free Community Event
Simi Valley Time Warp

Join us in celebrating the **50th Anniversary** of Simi Valley's incorporation!

STRATHEARN HISTORICAL PARK AND MUSEUM
Saturday, April 27, 2019.
From 11am-3pm

137 Strathearn Place, Simi Valley
805-526-6453
simimuseum@sbcglobal.net
www.simihistory.com
facebook.com/strathearnpark

"ROCK OUT" TO THE OLDIES
AND SURF TUNES
ENJOY A FAMILY GAME AREA
VINTAGE PHOTOS.
SPECIAL PRESENTERS.
CLASSIC CARS and fashions.
and more!

Dress in your **"grooviest"** garb.
Bring a picnic lunch, blankets, lawn chairs

snacks available from vendors

50 Years
CITY OF SIMI VALLEY
1969-2019

Simi Valley Historical Society & Museum
at Strathearn Park

simi Valley 1969



'PRESIDENT'S AWARD'

The Simi Valley Historical Society will recognize one individual quarterly with the "Simi Valley Historical Society President's Award" for outstanding service and commitment to the Community, the Historical Society, Strathearn Park, or local history in general. This award will be given 4 times per year. Individuals can be nominated for the award simply by sending an email to Simimuseum@sbcglobal.net with the subject line President's Award Nomination; include who is being nominated and why. The award can be granted to anyone in the community regardless of any affiliation with the Historical Society.

This quarter we would like to recognize an amazingly dedicated docent and volunteer here at Strathearn Park - **Stephanie Langlois.**

Volunteering runs in the blood of Stephanie Langlois! She started volunteering in Simi Valley Unified schools in 1990, helping out in each of her children's classrooms while they were in elementary school. She has continued volunteering in those classrooms, even though her children have long since left elementary school. In addition, she volunteered at Santa Susana High School's library including many years after her child graduated. She has been honored with all of the PTA's volunteer awards: *Very Special Person*, *Honorary Service Award*, *Continuing Service Award* and the highest award the PTA honors a volunteer with, *The Golden Oak Award*. In 2011 she received "Volunteer of the Year Award" from the Simi Valley Education Foundation.

Stephanie was an active Girl Scout Leader and still helps out her daughter's troop.

Having a keen interest in history, Stephanie took all of Pat Haven's Simi Valley history classes, when they were offered through the adult school. She became so knowledgeable about Simi Valley's history, that friends finally convinced her to become a docent at Strathearn Historical Park in 2011. She hesitated because she was not fond of speaking in front of groups. But, eventually she agreed, providing she could work with another docent and be the 'backup person.' She now is one of the Park's most knowledgeable and well versed docents! She often steps in and volunteers for many more days than she is scheduled, when she sees a need.

In addition to being a docent, she also heads the "Adopt a Room" program, which keeps the historic houses spic and span for visitors. She helps with the school tour program and special events.

Thank you, Stephanie for your dedication and willingness to help out with every aspect of Strathearn Park life! You are a valuable and cherished member of our volunteer family as well as our community!



Mark Your Calendars:

April 27, 2019 - Simi Valley Time Warp 1969

**October 27, 2019* - Dia de los Muertos
Celebration**

November 1, 2019 *-

**Annual Membership Dinner Meeting at
Rancho Santa Susana Community Center**

**December 8, 2019 *-Heritage Holiday Open
House**

***Tentative**

WANTED

Volunteer Opportunities... get involved in our community...and have fun!



WANTED: STORYTELLERS

Would you like to teach people about the interesting history of our community and tell stories to illustrate how life was lived a long time ago? Get Involved at Strathearn Historical Park and Museum and the Simi Valley Historical Society! We are looking for story tellers that enjoy learning and teaching our history!

At Strathearn Historical Park & Museum volunteer hours are flexible, and there are various activities and programs available to satisfy a broad spectrum of interests. Come and join a wonderful group of people who are dedicated to preserving as well as sharing Simi Valley's history.

LOVE TO DUST?

We have some historic houses which could use some TLC! Join our Adopt a Room program and help us keep our houses spic and span for our visitors!

WANTED: TYPEWRITER TECHNICIAN

We're serious. We have several functioning typewriters at Strathearn which are a favorite of the children who visit, and could use someone who can tinker with them, replace ribbon, and keep them working. Knowledge of Kelsey Letter Presses is a bonus!

THE HIGHEST AWARD OF A GOLD MEDAL
AT THE
PARIS EXPOSITION
WAS SECURED BY THE

REMINGTON
STANDARD TYPEWRITER



WHICH HAS BEEN FOR
Fifteen Years the Standard
And Embraces the Latest and Highest Achievements of Inventive Skill.
WYCKOFF, SEAMANS & BENEDICT, 327 Broadway, New York.



Are you interested in the history of Santa Susana Depot? Interested in railroad history or trains? Come join us for a friendly visit with knowledgeable docents and learn a bit of the railroad station history! **If you love it perhaps you'll consider becoming part of the volunteer family at the Santa Susana Train Depot!**

6503 Katherine Rd. ~ Simi Valley, CA 93063 ~ 805-581-3462
www.santasusannadepot.org

BE HANDY FOR HISTORY

Someone handy would be helpful at the Santa Susana Train Depot! Can you help?



If you are interested in volunteering please visit :



<http://www.rsrpd.org/recreation/volunteers.php>

or email volunteers@rsrp.us
Please indicate at which location you are interested in volunteering!

Nicholson's Liquid Bread

Is sold largely throughout the Union and abroad. Is an *absolutely pure malt extract* of delicious taste. Its health-restoring qualities are wonderful. An excellent liquid food for the sick or well. Recommended by physicians for debility, exhaustion, and wasting diseases. Also to nursing mothers and infant invalids. An excellent appetizer. An aid to digestion. A valuable restorative and constructive with lowest alcoholic development. Choicest materials used in its manufacture, and ripened by time.

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49 West Street

Pioneer Perspective

A Pioneer speaks by R.E. Harrington, from
Enterprise – Sun & News, Wednesday, February 12, 1969
Enterprise – Sun & News, Wednesday, July 17, 1968

Three Milestones in Simi Valley's growth

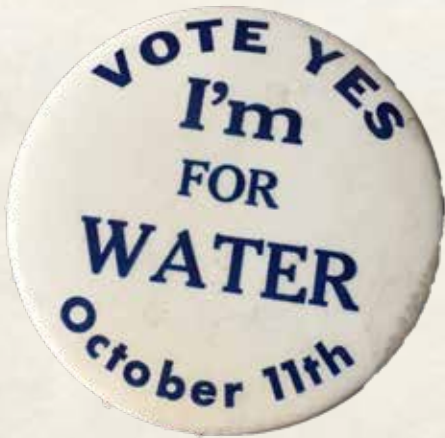
R.E. Harrington was a pioneer who came to Simi Valley in 1907 and lived here the remainder of his life. He wrote one of the early history books about Simi Valley; Early Days in Simi Valley. He also wrote a column in the Enterprise Sun & News in the 1960s into 1970 called 'A Pioneer Speaks' that touched on many topics of interest regarding early Simi history. The article below summarizes two articles he wrote about three milestones which he felt shaped Simi Valley's growth.

Three great events have contributed to the growth of the Simi Valley...The first was the railroad. At last word came that a main trunk line of the railroad was soon to come through the valley. What rejoicing this brought. This meant work for the teams and men in the valley and closer connections to the world markets. Before this, everything had to be hauled out by team and shipped by boat from Hueneme.



Coming out of middle tunnel Chatsworth side of pass

The second great event that brought growth and prosperity to our valley was that of joining the Metropolitan Water Company. Water shortage was a problem with us for a long time. The bed rock under our valley is shaped like a big bowl, the bottom of which apparently lies a little north of L.A. Ave., and a little west of Tapo St. Our ranch lies on the Arroyo Simi. At first we had plenty of water, but as water was lowered in the bowl we found ourselves dependent entirely on a small stream flowing from their wells. No one else in the county would let us have any and we were about to dry up if the Calleguas Water District had not been formed, and with Richard Bard as chairman we were able through CMWD to get Metropolitan Water. My hills on our south toward the bottom of the bowl.



You may wonder what I consider the third great event which has brought growth to our valley. It is not necessary to show a picture of this, for the great growth that it has already brought to us is already very evident. It is our new Freeway. As it extends eastward to join the San Diego Freeway and the Pasadena and Santa Ana Freeways and westward to join the Santa Paula Freeway we will have one of the best locations in the county.

On July 8th we celebrated the opening of our wonderful new freeway over the pass. Only yesterday I was talking to one of the clerks in one of our big stores. She lives in Canoga Park and comes to work here daily. She timed herself and stated that in less than four minutes she had made the drive over the pass on the new road. What a big saving of time this will be. Spend more time at home, family life will never be forgotten. Little was said at the ceremony about the three earlier roads that have been built over the pass, the first of which was built 108 years ago.

Highest elevation on the project is almost directly on the Ventura - Los Angeles County line. Due to the rock strata, and the 3-to-1 slope it necessitates, the right-of-way at its widest point is 1,100 feet from top of cut to top of cut.

The Los Angeles Avenue Overcrossing, just west of the Ventura County line, will serve motorists desiring access to residential areas along Los Angeles Avenue from the County line to Santa Susana Park.

The remainder of the Simi Valley Freeway will be built under several contracts planned for construction in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Interchanges with the Golden State (Route 5), the San Diego (Route 405) and the Foothill (Route 210) Interstates will provide easy access for Simi Valley residents to the wide areas north, south and east served by these routes.

Meanwhile, interim improvements under way or scheduled for construction soon on Los Angeles Avenue west of Kuehner Drive include a 3.3 mile stretch from Smith Road to Tapa Street, and 5.2 miles from Tapa Street to Tierra Rejada Road. Present 2-lane highway will be widened to four lanes, and necessary bridge structures erected. Also under way is a Federal Aid Secondary highway project on Olsen Road, about 2.7 miles long, to open up an alternate route into the Valley between Thousand Oaks and Simi.

Sponsors: County of Ventura, Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce, P. W. Gillbrand Paving, Simi Valley Realty, Al Jackson Realty, Forest E. Olson, Inc., Moorpark Realty, Val-U-Realty, Harold K. Snow, Smith-Davis-Ord, Inc., Towner Realty, Rancho Realty, LaCarre Realty, Granada Realty, M. Dimnick Realty, A-1 Realty, Dempsey Realty, Dave Ross, Realtor, Vernon T. Keene, Hope Realty, Simi Valley Realty.

Setting of many a movie and TV serial episode, Hope Town is a faithful and detailed replica of the lively frontier villages of the Old West. The rugged grandeur of the surrounding terrain has become familiar to fans the world around.



This Souvenir Edition is to commemorate Ground-breaking ceremonies held in Simi and Santa Susana, Ventura County, on April 23, 1966, celebrating beginning of construction on the Simi Valley Freeway.

Prepared by the California State Division of Highways in cooperation with the Kirst Construction Company.

The Simi Valley FREEWAY



"Where the Old & New West Meet"

HOORAY
SIMI FREEWAY
UNDER WAY



...ABOUT THE ROUTE 118 FREEWAY...

Limits and length, this section: (a) construction of 3.8 miles of 6-lane freeway from Kuehner Drive in Simi Valley, Ventura County, through Santa Susana Pass to the extension of Route 27 (Topanga Canyon Boulevard); (b) grading of an additional .7 mile eastward to Variel Avenue in Chatsworth, Los Angeles County; (c) construction of 1.5 miles of 4-lane freeway from Devonshire Street north to Route 118 Freeway as an extension of Topanga Canyon Boulevard (Route 27).

Construction cost: \$14,470,000

Estimated completion date: Summer 1968

Contractor: Kirst Construction Company, Altadena. Project Superintendent: Ted Muram

Senior Resident Engineer for the State: Raymond P. Duffin. Field Office: 21325 Devonshire St., Chatsworth. Telephone: (213) 882-2802, 882-2803

Bridge Dept. Representative: M. O. Sheffield

Interchange: Route 118 / Route 127

Overcrossing: Los Angeles Avenue

Undercrossings: Kuehner Drive, Iverson Road

As an integral part of the California Freeway and Expressway system, the Simi Valley (Route 118) Freeway will stretch for over 53 miles between the Santa Paula (Route 126) Freeway near Satcoy in Ventura County to the Foothill (Route 210) Freeway near Sunland.

The route has been adopted for its entire length, generally paralleling present Los Angeles Avenue from Satcoy to the Santa Susana Pass area, thence hugging the foothills of the northern San Fernando Valley to its eastern terminus. When completed, it will provide the essential east-west link between bustling Simi Valley and the San Fernando Valley section of the City of Los Angeles.

Rich in California history, the Simi Valley (from the Chumash Indian "shimijii" meaning fleecy white clouds) in recent years has enjoyed an average 40% annual growth rate. Its rolling tree-carpeted hills and clear blue skies have proved irresistible to those seeking a quiet semi-rural home atmosphere close to the advantages and career opportunities of metropolitan Los Angeles.

These the new Simi Valley Freeway will bring even closer. First construction project is the six-lane 3.8 mile stretch from Kuehner Drive near the community of Simi to the interchange with the extension of Santa Susana Avenue north of the present Southern Pacific overhead near Chatsworth. This four-lane extension from Devonshire Street north to the interchange is about 1½ miles long.

The entire project, including grading of the roadway for about a half-mile east of the interchange to a point north of Variel Avenue ("balancing out" the project), is scheduled for completion in the summer of 1968.

The initial construction will require excavation of more than 8.5 million cubic yards of earth for roadway, 34,000 cubic yards for structure excavation, and the compacting of 108,200 square yards of original soil. Of unique interest are three reinforced concrete drainage structures of special high arch design to withstand the crushing weight of fills ranging up to 220 feet.



TWILIGHT TOURS AT STRATHEARN PARK



On the evening of March 23rd, as twilight descended on our Park, hundreds of luminarias flickered, and we hosted our second 'Twilight Tour' event!

Guests embarked upon a one hour tour of historic buildings, and enjoyed the very different ambiance that exists at our 'Park after dark.'

The event was a success, and we hope to offer this type of tour again in the future!

If you missed this special event this time around, keep an eye on our website: www.simihistory.com

We'll keep you posted as to when we'll offer this special tour again!



Spring Time in the Simi Store!

An all new selection of vintage, antique and hand crafted items are currently for sale in the Simi Store at Strathearn Park.

Here are some of the featured items:

- Knitted fry pan pads - great colors and they keep your pans from getting scratched up. Only \$6 for set of 3
- One of a kind tea cozies
- Custom made tapestry bags
- O&EG Royal Austria china - 10% off ticketed price
- Amazing selection of children's books
- Old fashioned toys, games and pencil sharpeners
- Strathearn Park books and souvenirs
- Curiosities and treasures for all
- Limited quantity of t-shirts commemorating the City's Birthday available soon!

Store hours vary. Please call museum at 805 526 6453 to confirm hours that follow:

Tuesday and Thursday - 9-11:30am - now until end of May

Saturday, April 27, 2019 - 11am - 3pm during 50th Anniversary Picnic -free event to public

Wednesday - Sunday - during docent led tours

Questions? Contact store manager -
Linda Bosley at lindabosley66@gmail.com



2019 Board of Directors

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Strathearn Historical Park & Museum

Historian	Pat Havens
Park Coordinator	Carolyn Valdez
Admin. Asst.	Louise Kaul

Docent Led Tours: Saturdays & Sundays: Between the hours of 1 & 4 pm

Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays: One tour at 1 pm

Donation: \$3 for Adults, Simi Valley Historical Society Members are Free

We are a Blue Star Museum - Active Duty Military Personnel and Families are Free

Week day Park Hours: Monday - Friday

9 am - 3 pm

For information please call (805) 526-6453

Email: Simimuseum@sbcglobal.net

Simi Valley Historical Society & Museum

P.O. Box 940461

Simi Valley, CA 93094-0461

www.Simihistory.com

www.facebook.com/Strathearnpark



Simi Valley Historical Society & Museum
Located at Strathearn Historical Park & Museum
137 Strathearn Place, Simi Valley, CA 93065



The Mail Cart is sent quarterly to all current members. The Simi Valley Historical Society & Museum's membership year runs from January 1 through December 31. If you haven't already...send in your dues for 2019 now!

The Mail Cart is electronically being sent to all members with an email address on file. If you are receiving a 'paper copy' of the Mail Cart and would like to receive it via email (*there are extra articles in the electronic version!*) please send us your email address. Any changes to your email address should be included to continue receiving the electronic Mail Cart! If you do not have an email address, or have requested a printed copy of the Mail Cart, the postal service will continue to deliver your copy. Questions regarding your membership? Call our business office at 805 526 6453 or email simimuseum@sbcglobal.net

**Have you renewed
your membership?**

Name _____

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Please select desired membership.
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