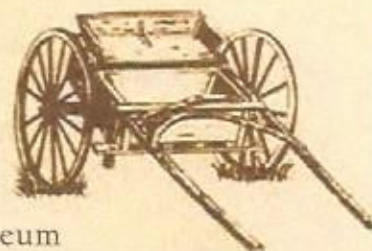


Second Issue 2015 ~ April-June  
Next Issue July 2015

# THE MAIL CART

Newsletter of the Simi Valley Historical Society and Museum



## *President's Message*

Hello, fellow lovers of Simi History!

Thank you all for your never ending support and passion for what we do. The Simi Valley Historical Society and Strathearn Historical Park & Museum would not be able to continue if it weren't for all of the amazing volunteers and supporters that make all of this possible.

Even after almost 50 years, Strathearn Park remains one of Simi's best kept secrets. It is difficult to visit the park and not overhear someone say, "This place is amazing, I've lived here my whole life and never been here." Therefore, I'd like to challenge everyone that reads this with a simple challenge for May and June. May and June should be **"Drag a Friend to the Park"** months. Find someone who has never visited Strathearn Park (should be easy) and bring them. If you can't bring them personally; schedule to meet them there for a walk, a lunch, a jog, a chat in the shade, or one of our events. If everyone does this just once in May or June, we will have hundreds of new visitors and hundreds of new fans. So, start asking around and drag a friend to the park (kicking and screaming, if needed).

See you there!

*Joe* - President, Simi Valley Historical Society



## Coming up on June 20th... **'Moments in History' at Strathearn Park!**

June will be here before you know it...and so will another fun event at Strathearn Historical Park! Plans for fun activities for the kids, great vendors, family fun, and more are in the works now! Bring a picnic or purchase food at the Park! This year you'll see some new things at this 'Moments in History' event. Stay posted... more details and information coming soon to **[www.simihistory.com](http://www.simihistory.com)** and **[facebook.com/StrathearnPark](https://www.facebook.com/StrathearnPark)** about this day that you DON'T want to miss!





Make reservations now for the...

# Tiara Garden Party!



Join us for a fun ladies social to benefit the Simi Valley Historical Society & Museum.  
Please wear a tiara, either homemade or purchased...  
fun, extravagant or as simple as you like.

**Host:**

Friends of Simi Valley  
Historical Society  
Debbie Thomas  
woodranch@aol.com  
805-581-2927

**When:**

Sunday, May 31 from  
2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

**Where:**

Robert P. Strathearn  
Historical Park  
137 Strathearn Place  
Simi Valley, CA 93065

General Admission ~ \$40.00

Reserved VIP table of Eight ~ \$500.00

Please make check payable to Simi Valley Historical Society  
and mail to 697 Noble Rd., Simi Valley, CA 93065 by May 20th.

Ticket Prices Include: live music ~ appetizer station ~ a ticket for the wine bar  
or martini bar ~ iced tea/lemonade bar ~ ice cream sundae station  
~ silent auction ~ tour the beautiful historical buildings ~ tiara contest ~ photo booth  
~ 50/50 raffle tickets available for purchase ~ shopping!

*No tickets will be sold at the door. Garden party attire. Adults only, please.*



## Volunteer Opportunities at Strathearn Park!

Get Involved at Strathearn Historical Park and Museum and with the Simi Valley Historical Society! Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity that will allow you to learn about Simi Valley's history at the same time?

Registration is now open for docent training classes scheduled for May 19th, 21st, 26th and 28th from 7 pm to 9 pm. The training covers the Chumash Indian, Spanish Rancho, and Pioneer periods of Simi Valley's history. All four classes must be attended for accreditation.

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.

If you are interested please call Karla at 818-388-3301 or email at [hubbell42@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hubbell42@sbcglobal.net)

*Karla Hubbell*



## History Brought to Life at Strathearn Historical Park

I would like to recognize and thank the following wonderful and hardworking individuals for effectively putting together an event that was loved by all.

This year's Civil War Days, formerly known as Civil War Encampment, was by far the best we have ever had. It started with a committee of 11:

Bruce Matzen – The Chair Person who put this outstanding team together, brought the North & South to our Park without a fight (sort of), invited the Lake Arrowhead Fife and Drum Corp. (a group of young people who played music that brought back memories and made you smile). He also went to the schools with Ed Headington dressed as Civil War soldiers for a presentation.

Kristy Grayson – Publicity (public address system, printing, designed banner at corner of LA and Madera)

Doug Moyer – Yankee Coordinator

Karen Olson – 'Celebrity' group tickets

Sandi Patterson & Wayne Ferber – flyer distribution and event clean up

Frank Sinsheimer – Food

Jerry Trapp – Confederate coordinator

Angela Willson – Front gate & food

Ed Headington & Devon Cormier – designed and printed all the flyers

Tony Villegas & Jim Gillespie – Parking control

I am sorry if you could not make it to this outstanding event 2015. You have another chance February 20 & 21, 2016 (the weekend after President's Day weekend), so mark your calendars now. Check our Facebook and website at [www.facebook.com/Strathearnpark](http://www.facebook.com/Strathearnpark) and [www.simihistory.com](http://www.simihistory.com) for updates and information regarding the goings on at our Park & Museum.

Georgia Trumble,  
Past President



## HISTORICAL SPEAKER SERIES "THE HOME FRONT-WWI & WWII"

In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of V E DAY, everyone is invited to a historical presentation, "Simi Valley Goes to War – The Home Front WWI & WWII."

On Friday May 8th at 7 P.M., the program will include reflections on: Victory Gardens, Rationing, Local Men and Women in our Armed Forces, Civil Defense, Rosie the Riveter & Sacrifice.

Representatives from the Simi Valley Historical Society, Veterans of Foreign Wars-Post 10049, Marine Corps League Ronald Reagan Detachment will present the program.

Admission is free. Location is the Museum of Military History, Simi Valley Town Center - Suite 220.



### Mark Your Calendars:

**May 31, 2015 - Tiara Garden Party**

**June 20, 2015 - Moments in History**

**And...something NEW this year: a Holiday Event in December 2015! Stay tuned for more details!**





## Mechanical Restoration

Well, I think summer has arrived in Simi Valley, daylight saving time gives us the opportunity to get started on those winter projects that did not reach completion. Our team of Volunteers continues to amaze me with their knowledge, skills, dedication to the cause, and their ongoing interests in Strathearn Historical Park and our collection of mechanical treasures.



I would like to share with you our most recent success story. The 1942 Farmall Model B refurbishment has been completed, and the tractor is ready for use. This was a 5 month project. We upgraded the Farmall by adding an electric starter, (no more hand cranking), replaced an incorrect carburetor, replaced the clutch assembly, changed the rear wheels and tires, rebuilt the radiator, added a kill switch, repaired the parking brake, upholstered and added a second seat for anyone wanting a tractor ride, cleaned, painted, and placed decals.



Next project is our completion of the 1929 John Deere D Tractor, this has been a 6 plus year project that was plagued by the difficulty of locating needed parts, remanufacturing obsolete items, and correcting many issues that were discovered when reassembly was started some months ago. Remaining challenges are minimal compared to

the hundreds of volunteer hours that have been spent to achieve this point of completion. The rest of the work needed on this project is cleaning and prep of all sheet metal and chassis parts, the painting of all components, the assembly of all sheet metal and other various items. Having a restored 1929 Tractor in our collection is quite an accomplishment, and a tribute to the original donor of the tractor, Mrs. Reba Hayes Jeffries. Thank you for the donation. I expect we will complete this project by the end of May, in time for this year's 'Moments in History' event on June 20th.

Waiting for refurbishment is our 1935 Caterpillar 22 Tractor. Preliminary work has begun on this item. One of our volunteers, Mr. John Manix who lives here in Simi Valley has many years of experience with Cat Tractors. We are so lucky to have him on our team.

The 1915 Ford Model T Touring Car is scheduled for minor repairs and a battery replacement in the next month or so, in time for our June 20th event.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact the Strathearn Park office at 805 526-6453. We meet each Monday around 9am -12 noon; our workshop is located at Strathearn Park.

Have a wonderful and safe summer,

Richard A. Johnson  
Simi Valley Historical Society  
Mechanical Restorations Director

## A Tale of TWO Organs!

A big THANK YOU to the Gillibrand Family! Joan Gillibrand Gladwyn, with assistance from Leyland and Dale Gillibrand, has donated an organ that belonged to their family to the Simi Valley Historical Society! The Gillibrand family has been in Simi Valley since the early 1900s.

This 1886 Organ was also used in the St. Rose of Lima Church for a time. Juanita Gillibrand Brooks played this organ as a young girl in the St. Rose Church. We think



that the Gillibrand family lent their organ to St. Rose until the Church was able to purchase one of their own. After the Church purchased the Story and Clark pump organ (below), the Gillibrand organ returned to the Gillibrand house. The Story & Clark organ was donated to the Historical Society in memory of Grace Simmons. We would love to learn more and

determine the dates when each of the organs was in use by St. Rose Church. Can anyone help? Help us fill in the details in this 'Tale of Two Organs!'



## HELP *our* HISTORIAN

**Our Historian, Pat Havens, is writing the story of the Tapo District. She is using the contents of the Tapo Mutual Water Company office. The Tapo Rancho was a portion of the north central El Rancho Simi. If you have information or photos to share, please get in touch!**





# HISTORY POLICE

In this thrilling installment of **HISTORY POLICE** we will continue to explore **THE STREETS OF SIMI VALLEY**.

ALAMO STREET was originally Palm Avenue or Drive. The row of palm trees were planted as the south border of the Patterson Ranch Company development c1913 according to Joe Schreiber, who worked for the Tapo Mutual Water Company from its beginning in 1918 until its closure c1967. There are more than 140 Washingtonia filifera palms along Alamo. A few of the trees were moved around the corner to Tapo Canyon Road during modernization/addition of the DMV, etc. Alamo does not mean palm in Spanish (it means poplar). "Palma" means palm. No one has a good reason for the name change.



APPLETON ROAD was named for the wagon road that ran south from Royal Avenue to the John and Laura Appleton Ranch. Appleton came to Simi Valley in 1887 from Massachusetts and purchased the 160 acre ranch in 1891 from Charles Hoar. The ranch was sold to developers in 1962 and the Griffin Company built the Stonegate tract.

FITZGERALD ROAD runs west from Appleton Road to the Fred Fitzgerald ranch that was located where the present Hillside Junior High School is now situated.

INGRAM TRACT STREET NAMES: In the spring of 1947, a developer named Richard F. Ingram bought property from Pacific States Savings and Loan and placed it on the market. It was a chance for buyers to buy small acreage and build their own homes with several operating chicken/egg ranches in that area. PATRICIA STREET was named after the Ingram daughter. GALT, CHARLES, WILLIAMS and HUBBARD were named for early purchasers of the land.



PEPPERTREE LANE: Lined with pepper trees, this long straight road led from Los Angeles Avenue all the way south to the Eddie Maier Ranch. The square-shaped Maier House was built about 1912, around an atrium (the house no longer exists due to the 1994 earthquake). In the 1940s, the ranch was acquired by the Brandeis Institute, and eventually the adjacent Jim Arnese ranch was donated to Brandeis also. When the road was improved to accommodate the burgeoning modern industrial complex, the pepper trees, said to be old and diseased, were removed. Tapo Canyon Road was finally extended across the railroad tracks, and aligned with the old Peppertree Lane in 1993, and the name Tapo Canyon superseded Peppertree Lane. Now "Peppertree

Lane" begins at the entrance to American Jewish University (Brandeis/Bardin Institute), and is still lined with its original, ancient pepper trees. There is also a short "Peppertree Lane" in Susana Knolls which goes west from the west loop of Katherine Road, just south of the railroad tracks not far from Black Canyon Road.

TIERRA RAJADA ROAD (with an "a") shows on the diseño (Spanish map) of El Rancho Simi. When it was changed to Tierra Rejada with an "e" is not known. Whether it is a corruption of "roja," and related to the red color of stones in the area, or to crack or fissure (canyon or valley?), as "rajar" means "to split, rend, crack," is not known. It was definitely named in early Spanish rancho days.



Learn more about **THE STREETS OF SIMI VALLEY!** The Appendix in Simi Valley - A Journey Through Time has this information about street names...and MORE! **PICK UP YOUR COPY TODAY!**





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



The Mail Card is sent to all current members. If you've received this Mail Card your dues are paid through December 2015! Thank you! The Mail Card is electronically being sent to all members with an email address on file. If you are receiving a 'paper copy' of the Mail Card and would like to receive it via email (*there are extra articles in the electronic version!*) please include your current email address with your membership renewal. Please update your email if it has changed.

If you do not have an email address on file or have requested a printed copy of the Mail Card, the postal service will continue to deliver your copy. Questions regarding your membership? Call Caryl Barefoot at 527-2769 or email at [carylretired2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carylretired2@sbcglobal.net)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Credit/Debit Card: MC VISA Discover Card

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please select desired membership.  
 Make checks payable to SVHS&M

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual          | \$15.00    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family              | \$25.00    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Sustaining | \$100.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron              | \$500.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor          | \$1,000.00 |

(Payment Mailing Address) PO Box 940461, Simi Valley, CA 93094-0461

## 2015 Board of Directors

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Shawn Willson	

### Directors at Large

Steve Hansen  
 Joe Lansden

### Strathearn Historical Park & Museum

Historian	Pat Havens
Park Coordinator	Carolyn Valdez Phillips
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

Weekday Park Hours: Monday - Friday

9 am - 3 pm

For information please call (805) 526-6453

Email: [simimuseum@sbcglobal.net](mailto:simimuseum@sbcglobal.net)

### Simi Valley Historical Society & Museum

P.O. Box 940461

Simi Valley, CA 93094-0461

[www.simihistory.com](http://www.simihistory.com)

[www.facebook.com/Strathearnpark](https://www.facebook.com/Strathearnpark)

"History and experience tells us that moral progress cannot come in comfortable and in complacent times, but out of trial and out of confusion."

~ Gerald R. Ford, 38th U.S. President