

Greetings All... About this time, you'd normally be receiving the latest edition of the Simi Valley Historical Society "Mail Cart." However, owing to the current pandemic and related "Stay Well At Home" order, the Board of Directors felt that a letter to all of our members would be more personal. Ergo, on behalf of the Board, I'm writing to send each of you sincere best regards. I hope that you're all staying well and safe, and that you're finding interesting and productive ways to pass the time. And while I know that we are all missing being together at our beautiful park, I am inspired by the time and efforts so many of you have invested in staying in touch with, and supporting each other during this challenging time. As American philosopher and psychologist William James (January 11, 1842 - August 26, 1910) wrote, "We are like islands in the sea, separate on the surface, but connected in the deep."



While we've had to delay the ribbon cutting for the Printz/Powell Colony House, the celebration of Pat's 90th birthday, and our generous benefactor Larry Powell's birthday (the day before Pat's birthday), it will be all the more special when we are able to gather again for those important events. Additionally, at a future date the Board will announce plans to commemorate the life and service of long-time Board Member Ruth Jacobs who recently passed. In the meantime, I'm honored to dedicate this communication to Pat, Larry, and Ruth. Additionally, because of her dedicated efforts during this challenging time to maintain the park, support Historical Society members, and ensure that our Facebook page remains active and informative, special thanks goes out to our very dedicated Park Site Director, Carolyn Valdez.

Because our "Mail Cart" always shares interesting information, I thought that it would be appropriate to do the same in this letter; and as I pondered what story to share, it seemed obvious that I should tell you about how our community fared during the Spanish Flu pandemic just over a century ago.

That California Colony.

CHICAGO, Oct. 27.—[Editor of The Tribune.]—In your Saturday issue is an exposé of a California Colony, and as our California Mutual Benefit Colony has sometimes been called the California Colony, I am instructed by our President, Dr. H. S. Sloan, to write a communication to THE TRIBUNE in order to prevent any possibility of our being in any way mixed up with the Chicago Park Colony. We are located in the Simi Valley, in the southern part of the State. We did not pay a large sum for the land, and each new member pays just the same price as the original members, thus forming a "Mutual Benefit Colony." As a number of good families leave Chicago for their future homes in Ventura County (Simi Valley) Nov. 8, we are anxious that no misapprehension should exist in regard to the reliability of those in charge of our colony. As nearly all of our people are good Republicans we put off going until after election, so that our men may vote.
G. A. CUTLER, M. D., Treas.

We all know that the Colony Houses were brought to our community from Chicago in 1888. An article on page 7 of the *Chicago Tribune* on Sunday, October 28, 1888, documented that the houses and the families who would build their homes and lives in Simi Valley, would leave Chicago for this area on Thursday, November 8, 1888. The article also recorded that the California Mutual Benefit Colony company "did not pay a large sum for the land and each new member pays just the same price as the original member..."

And an article on page 9 of the Sunday, November 18, 1888, *Los Angeles Herald* newspaper documented that the people who followed their houses and settled in our beautiful valley "were not only men of means, but of enterprise as well, and will make the Simi 'blossom as the rose.'"

While there were tests and triumphs in the years after arriving in Simi Valley, almost 30 years later the community, like the rest of the country and the world, confronted the challenges brought on by World War I (July 28, 1914 - November 11, 1918) and the Spanish Flu pandemic that spread worldwide during 1918-1919. It was first identified in the United States in military personnel in spring 1918. It is estimated that about 500 million people, or one-third of the world's population at that time, became infected with this virus. The number of deaths was estimated to be at least 50 million worldwide with about 675,000 occurring in the United States.

SIMI TO HOLD THRIFT STAMP MASS MEETING

The committee of the Simi valley in charge of the campaign for the sale of war saving certificates and thrift stamps have arranged for a mass meeting of the people of the Simi valley for Friday night, January 25, at the Fraternal Aid Hall in Simi at 7:30 o'clock.

The people of Oxnard and vicinity are cordially invited to attend the meeting. Prof. Tulley C. Knowles of the University of Southern California will be present and give an address on "The War". Geo. E. Hume, cashier of the First National bank of Oxnard, has consented to be present also and will address the meeting on the "War saving certificates, what they are and how to get them."

A good time is guaranteed to all who attend the meeting and it will be well if a goodly representation of Oxnard would be present with the Simi people on that evening to help them start their campaign for this most laudable and patriotic purpose.

California Colony Enterprise.

The first party of settlers from the California Mutual Benefit Colony, of Chicago, numbering about forty families, arrived at San Francisco yesterday and immediately took stage, under the guidance of Mr. R. W. Poindexter, of this city, for their new homes in the Simi Valley. This colony was organized nearly a year ago by Dr. G. A. Cutler, of Chicago, and a committee was sent out from that city with instructions to find the best location in California. After several months diligent search over California, they finally selected Southern California as the most desirable location for a colony and a most favorable and satisfactory purchase was made from the Simi Land and Water Company. The party which arrived yesterday were not only men of means, but of enterprise as well, and will make the Simi "blossom as the rose." Other parties will follow in quick succession and before the spring they expect to have a handsome town.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, "Mortality was high in people younger than 5 years old, 20-40 years old, and 65 years and older. The high mortality in healthy people, including those in the 20-40 year age group, was a unique feature of the pandemic. While the 1918, H1N1 virus had been synthesized and evaluated, the properties that made it so devastating were not well understood. With no vaccine to protect against influenza infection and no antibiotics to treat secondary bacterial infections that can be associated with influenza infections, control efforts worldwide were limited to non-pharmaceutical interventions such as isolation, quarantine, good personal hygiene, use of disinfectants, and limitations of public gatherings, which were applied unevenly."

And as documented in an article from page 10 of the Friday, January 18, 1918, *Oxnard Daily Courier*, while the virus was quietly spreading across the country, the good people of Simi Valley were gathering to raise funds and awareness, and support the war effort.

By the fall of 1918, newspaper articles were documenting numerous cases of flu in the area and the people throughout Ventura County were being fined for not wearing face masks in public. In fact, there were "Special Influenza Police" throughout the County.

C. W. Whipple of Santa Susana has been brought to St. John's hospital suffering with influenza.

Oxnard Courier, Friday, November 8, 1918; page 6

Special Influenza Policeman Malone, who has been on the job for some two months, looking after the flu cases in Oxnard, has resigned his job and will go to work as a rancher.

Oxnard Courier, Friday, December 13, 1918; page 6

And newspapers across the country included advertisements for "Flu" Masks...

"Flu" Mask



Should be worn as protection against influenza, coughs and colds, as illustrated (4th Floor), at..... **18c**

Chicago Sun Times, October 1918

MANY PAY FINES FOR BEING UNMASKED

With all the drives now for the extraction of money from its denizens the city of Ventura has added one of its own. This is the flu drive, and it is beginning efficiently to separate the people from their money.

Listen to this from the Post:

The masking law is being vigorously enforced. Yesterday the sum of \$35 was gathered in by City Recorder Isensee from fines assessed against those who failed to wear masks. There have been 999 masks sold by the officers to date, and the sum of \$90 has been acquired from this source and is in the hands of Marshal Brakey, which will be turned over to the Red Cross.

It was a busy day in Recorder Isensee's court.

Following were fines assessed: Tom Newbz, \$5; Owen Boling, \$5; P. J. Kelley, \$5; Earl Foster, \$5; Lyle Love, \$5; C. B. Knox, \$5; O. T. Jones, \$5; Robert McBurney, \$5.

Oxnard Courier, Wednesday, December 4, 1918; page 1

MANY WANT TO BE SPEED COPS

The supervisors are again besieged for jobs as speed cops. A number of applications are in and there is evidence that there will be plenty of material to choose from.

Of late, because of the draft and work or fight order the number of cops became considerably reduced. At present because of the deaths in the Chrisman and Densmore families, by reason of the flu epidemic, the force has been reduced to a nominal state.

But the board will soon have a good force on. It sees the need of traffic officers in the recent stage accident on the Rincon and will without doubt shortly have a force of at least four cops.

When appointments are made, the board, according to promise, will give preference to those boys who went into the service for Uncle Sam. There are several of these, among them Sullivan and Murphy.—Free Press.

Oxnard Courier,
Wednesday, December 4, 1918; page 1

The war and the pandemic impacted public and private businesses and services throughout the region, and facilities were closed, opened, and closed again after they'd opened too soon and the flu raced through the region.

Oxnard Courier, Friday, November 29, 1918; page 6

There was a good attendance at both the movie houses last evening, on the occasion of the first opening since the flu ban has been lifted.

Oxnard Courier, Saturday, December 7, 1918 page 3

School Superintendent Mrs. Reynolds was notified yesterday that the Conejo school, which was closed by the flu and then opened again, is again closed down, the teacher and several of the pupils suffering from the disease.

Mrs. F. O. Todd who has pneumonia following an attack of influenza is greatly improved. She contracted her illness while caring for her two children who both had influenza but who now have completely recovered.

Oxnard Courier, Friday, December 20, 1919; page 6

Local folks came home from the war and worked to support and care for flu victims...

HELP WANTED TO CARE FOR INFLUENZA SICK

Mrs. Charles H. Weaver who is assisting in the present influenza epidemic says there is an urgent need of help to care for the sick, and asks for volunteers for nursing and also for cooking and otherwise helping.

While the present epidemic is perhaps not as general as the one we have gone thru the cases are more severe. Mrs. Weaver states, and the help is scarcer. Hence the need of volunteers.

Originally there were 20 nurses to care for the sick between Oxnard, Hueneme and Santa Susana. Of the original number only three are left, and altogether at the present time there are only nine.

Those on duty are nearly worn out with overwork. Moreover men are needed as well as women, men to remain on watch at night so that the nurses may get a little rest between times. It is at night that some of the patients get delirious and tax the strength of the women nurses to the utmost. Help is also wanted to do cooking.

Those who are in position to assist during this epidemic in any way whatever should telephone to Mrs. Weaver without delay.

The names of such volunteers will be on file at the Red Cross tea room and in the drug stores so that people needing them may call at those places and get information as to where help can be secured.

C. F. WILLARD HOME

Clarence F. Willard, who has been stationed at Ft. Rosecrans, San Diego, with Battery D, 25th Artillery, has returned to his home at Simi.

A. Mjos, also from the same camp, attached to the Sixth company, has also returned to his home at Hueneme.

Oxnard Courier, Monday, January 19, 1919; page 1

SIMI RED CROSS DOES WELL

Mrs. Frank Pitts, chairman of Simi Red Cross chapter says that 94 articles were given during the linen shower, as follows: Twenty-two bath towels, 34 hand towels, 22 men's handkerchiefs, 6 sheets, 4 napkins, 3 wash cloths, 1 pair pillow cases, \$2 in cash.

Oxnard Courier, Wednesday, December 13, 1918; page 1

Oxnard Courier, Wednesday, January 19, 1919; page 1

... and some local heroes died and were interred overseas...

SIMI SOLDIER DIES VERY SUDDENLY

Word has been received here of the death of Lieut. Lester Havens, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Havens of Simi, which occurred very suddenly three weeks ago on the coast of Italy.

Lieut. Havens and his captain had left Paris three weeks before the death for a tour of Italy. Both were taken ill suddenly and both died. More than that has not been learned yet.

Lieut. Havens was a student in the state university when the war broke out. He was among the first to volunteer, and was among the first to go across, being accepted for service before we actually got into the war.

His brother Charles also went into service the same way. He is a sergeant.

Oxnard Courier,
Wednesday, March 26, 1919 page 1

8 CALIFORNIANS ON CASUALTY LIST

Names of eight Californians appear among the casualties announced by the war department for today. They are:

Killed in action—Private Benjamin Brackmann, San Francisco; Private Elmer N. Lancaster (marine), formerly reported missing in action.

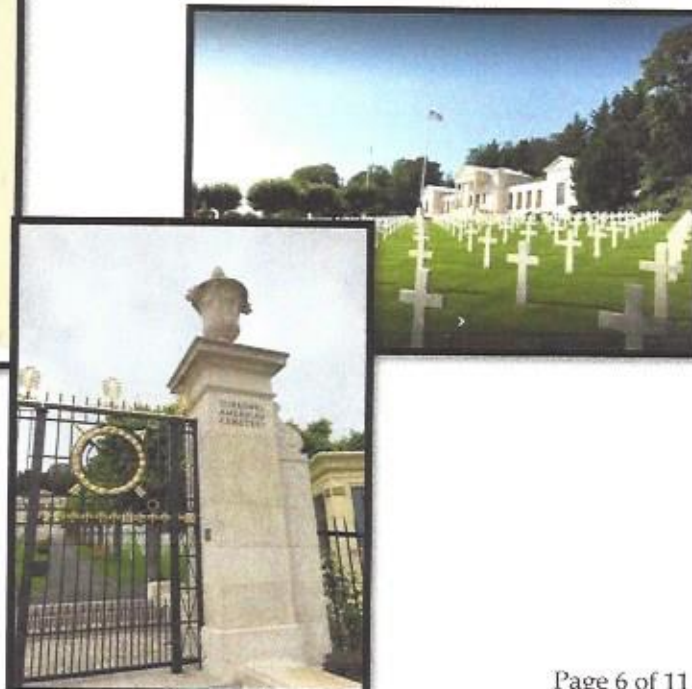
Died of wounds—Private Jasper N. Estes, Arbuckle.

Died of accident or other cause—Private John H. Morgan, San Francisco.

Died of disease—Sergeant Lester D. Havens, Simi; Private Charles Cavallini, Raymond; Private Kenneth C. Morrissey, Orland; Private Joseph M. Meery, Taylorville.

Oakland Tribune, Sunday, April 6, 1919; page 50

Twenty-five year old Lester Daniel Havens died in Italy on February 22, 1919, and was buried at Suresnes American Cemetery in Suresnes, France (Plot B; Row 1; Grave 2)



foothold.

TELL-TALE SYMPTOMS

You are perhaps conscious of that catarrhal affection of the nose, throat and bronchial tubes but never gave it any serious thought. What you do know is that you are not quite as brisk, not as ready to be up and at things as formerly. Your actions and ambitions lack the old-time punch.

Maybe you have noticed some indigestion, nausea, occasional vomiting, pains in stomach, bowels or back, rheumatic twinges in the limbs, constipation, headaches, dizziness. All signs of danger, Friend, all indicating a catarrhal condition of the organs involved.

PE-RU-NA

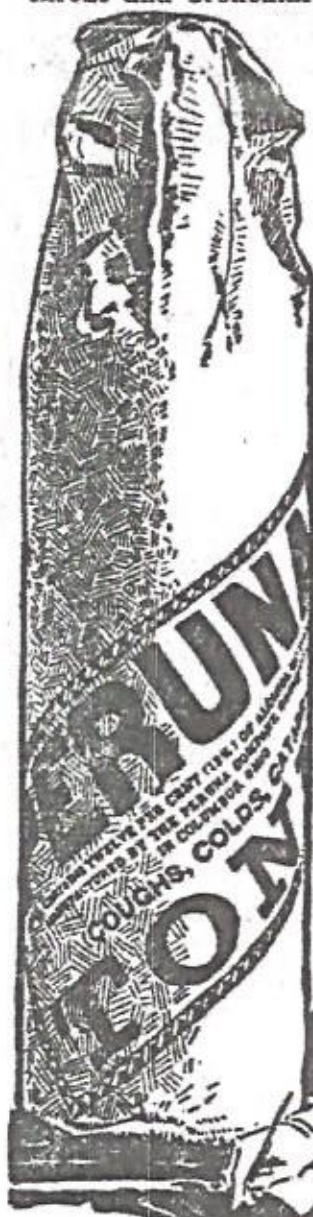
FOR CATARRH AND CATARRHAL CONDITIONS

There is no remedy in the world any better for persons in your condition than PE-RU-NA. It regulates the digestion, aids elimination, purifies the blood, revives the shattered nerve centers, builds up the physical strength and vigor, puts the mucous membranes in a healthy condition and tones up the whole system.

For coughs and colds PE-RU-NA is wonderful. Its value has been proved for warding off the Grip or Spanish Flu and to rebuild the health after an attack.

Don't be foolish. Don't neglect your health. Don't let yourself run down—get old. A bottle of PE-RU-NA is fourteen ounces of the same old pep, the joy of living.

Try it and see.



Tablets or
Liquid
Sold Everywhere

The LA Times, Sacramento Bee,
Oxnard Courier, et al
Throughout 1918-1919

Protect Your Home Against

"FLU"

SPRAY WITH FENTON'S
STAINLESS DISINFECTANT—

ASK YOUR DEALER

Manufactured By The

SACRAMENTO CHEMICAL CO.

But the flu continued to take a heavy toll in the area...

The influenza situation at Simi is critical. As the result of a dance given early last week 14 different families came down with the disease. in several instances most of the members of the families. Doctors are again being driven around the country at night attending to the cases and sleeping between visits.

Oxnard Courier, Friday, January 24, 1919; page 6

The funeral of Mrs. Beatrice Eimes was held this forenoon from Diffenderfer's undertaking parlors. She was 73 years old and died at Moorpark Tuesday from the flu. She is survived by one son, Frank.

Oxnard Courier, Wednesday, March 24, 1920; page 1

The condition of Miss Dora Maulhardt, who was taken last week to the sanitarium at Monrovia is reported as slightly improved. Altho the trip down was rather trying there is good grounds for the hope that the change of climate and special treatment she will undergo will prove of great benefit to her. Her mother, Mrs. H. W. Maulhardt, returned Saturday after a few days' stay with her daughter. She reports the sanitarium as being filled to capacity as a result of the recent flu epidemic.

*Oxnard Courier,
Friday, February 14, 1919 page 6*

SANTA SUSANA GIRL DIES

Miss Marie Rosamond Gillibrand, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Gillibrand, died yesterday at the family ranch, "Rancho Topcalto," Santa Susana. Besides her parents, she is survived by Leyland and Walton Clayton and Juanita Gillibrand, also by Mrs. A. Benkert and Mrs. George Gray, all brothers and sisters, and John Hesketh, her uncle. The funeral will be held Monday forenoon at 10 o'clock from the Simi church, when requiem mass will be celebrated. Interment will be at Tapoalto.

Oxnard Courier, Saturday, January 18, 1919; page 1

YOUNG LADY'S TOMB BLASTED BY FIVE BROTHERS AND FIANCE

Requiem high mass was held Monday, January 20, at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Los Angeles, by the Rev. Father Donahue, rector, for Marie Rosamond Dean Gillibrand, beloved daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Clayton Gillibrand, Rancho Tapo Alto, Santa Susana, and sister of Leyland, Walton, Clayton and Juanita Gillibrand, Mrs. R. A. Benkert and Mrs. George Gray, and niece of John Hesketh. The music was sung by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart. The Gillibrand and Mochenhaupt families, the relatives and friends, conveyed their dead home by road to Tapo Alto, where a vault had been blasted in the rocks, and built by the five brothers and her fiance, Lambert Mochenhaupt, in the family burial ground.

The service was sung by the Rev. Father Clifford, rector of Santa Clara church, Oxnard, assisted by the Rev. Father Leo Van Garsse, rector of Hyde Park, and Father Murray of the Sacred Heart, Los Angeles. At the conclusion of the service several hymns were sung by Mrs. John Hare and daughter, and Mrs. Torbet and daughter of the Doheny Tapo ranch.

Marie Gillibrand attended the first Santa Susana school and afterwards at the convent of St. Joseph's, Oxnard. She took the leading part in St. Joseph's church choir, Simi. Her loss is great to her family, to her relatives and to her friends. She was 23 years of age. Influenza was the direct cause of death.

The funeral was conducted by Robert Sharp and Son, Los Angeles. The pall bearers were John Mountain, Frank Hart, Frank Tapee, Eldridge Sartain, Roy Easley and Daniel Rolston.

Oxnard Courier, Thursday, January 23, 1919; page 1

And throughout it all the people of Simi Valley took care of each other and the community...

FOR SALE—90 acres of land, 10 acres 2-year-old apricots, 27 acres 5 and 8 year-old walnuts, the rest grain land. \$250 an acre. Inquire Mrs. S. Munroe, Simi, Cal., care Austin ranch. 11-8-21p

Press-Courier (Oxnard), Friday, November 14, 1919; page 2

FOR SALE

480 acres in Simi Valley, good for beans or hay; the best of Citrus land and can not be beat for apricot trees.

Part of the land would be good for walnuts. This is a good development proposition and will bring good results in that line.

It is owned by non-residents and they have placed a reasonable price on the property so as to make it inviting to buyers.

Price \$100,000 on terms to suit.

See H. P. Speer, at First National Bank of Oxnard, or H. K. Snow, Jr., Oxnard, Cal.

Oxnard Courier, Saturday, November 23, 1918; page 3

OLD HOTEL BUILDING TORN DOWN

(From Monday's Daily Courier)

W. R. Hoving, the contractor and builder of Hueneme, has just finished tearing down the old Simi hotel building, which has been razed to make room for a new ranch house which will be erected by the Santa Susana Development company.

Oxnard Courier, Friday, January 24, 1919 page 3

SIMI VALLEY SEES MANY IMPROVEMENTS

Judging by the present strides being made in the Simi valley it seems quite probable that within the next few years the valley will be one large grove of walnut and apricot trees. There has been around 375 acres on the Tapo ranch alone set out within the past two years, 300 of this to walnuts and the remainder to oranges and lemons. Acreage planted to apricots and walnuts the past three months runs around the 400 mark. Chief among those ranchers who have converted bean and hay land into orchards being H. J. Crinklaw who has completed recently the planting of 80 acres to walnuts; the Lehmann and Waterman ranch, known as the Santa Susana Development company, with 160 acres alternate trees of walnuts and apricots. The Lloyd ranch is now putting out 100 acres to walnuts and about that same number last year. The S. S. Oil company has planted 10 acres to walnuts with more to follow. On the Roussey place 25 acres have gone to walnuts, and at the foot of the grade the Joe Smith and Stein ranches which adjoin have put in 10 or more acres. R. M. Wright Sr. last spring set out 25 acres to walnuts and the previous spring 20 to apricots. There are many who recall the time when there were no trees (shade or otherwise) in the valley with the exception of the famous Wolff walnut grove and possibly one or two other places. If the coming nine years see as much development along this line as the past nine the Simi valley may well be proud of its achievements.—Post.

*Press-Courier (Oxnard),
Friday, March 19, 1920; page 1*

So as the folks committed to preserving and sharing the history of our community and its people, remember that, as contemporary author H. Jackson Brown wrote, "The most valuable antiques are dear old friends." And although we continue to be socially distanced from each other, as Helen Keller wrote, "True friends are never apart; maybe in distance but never in heart."

Again, on behalf of the Simi Valley Historical Society's Board of Directors, I send you all sincerest best regards. We look forward to seeing you all again at our beautiful park, and belatedly celebrating the ribbon cutting of the Printz/Powell House, Pat's 90th birthday, Larry Powell's birthday, and the life and service of long-time Board Member Ruth Jacobs. Until then...



... and ...



Very Truly Yours,
Alex Walker, President
Simi Valley Historical Society