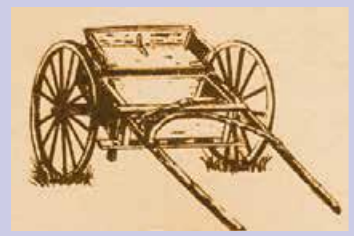


# The Mail Cart



*Newsletter of the Simi Valley Historical Society and Museum*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 24 - Dia de los Muertos
- November 5 - SVHS Annual Meeting
- December 5 - Holiday Open House
- December 9 - Volunteer Holiday Party
- March 5, 2022 Pat Havens retirement event

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## President's Message

Greetings to all,

I would like to begin by thanking our docents that are once again leading guests on tours of Strathearn Park and Museum. The pandemic shut down our public tours in March 2020. Earlier this year, our volunteers rallied and hosted Docents in the Park for three months before reopening in August. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, docents take our guests out to the buildings and share their knowledge and stories of Simi History. I would also like to personally thank Kris Grayson for all her support, hard work and perseverance. I honestly could not have navigated the pitfalls and curveballs of the past nine months without you.

We will be hosting our 7<sup>th</sup> annual Dia de los Muertos festival on October 24– new hours are 11am to 5pm. I look forward to seeing everyone at our Annual Membership Dinner on November 5. This year's dinner will have an apron theme. We invite everyone to wear your favorite apron – I promise that you will not have to wash dishes afterward. Pat Haven's newest book, ON THE TAPO, will be available for purchase at the Annual Membership Dinner. Please see information below for more book news.

If you have the opportunity to come by the park, stop by the Printz/Powell Colony House. New planter boxes (built by our Mechanical Restoration team) and landscaping is currently in progress. Kris Grayson and Brenda Lyum have power washed the wood skirting and applied a stain with water sealant, and it looks amazing.

Warmest regards,

*Linda Bosley*

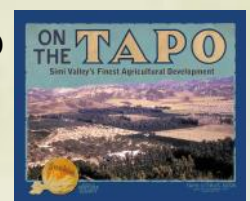


## ON THE TAPO - it's here!



The dynamic team of Pat Havens and Carolyn Valdez have written and edited the newest book on Simi Valley history entitled **On the Tapo, Simi Valley's Finest Agricultural Development**. The colorful 260 page book featured hundreds of original photographs and maps which illustrate and document Simi's agricultural era.

- ON THE TAPO in the Visitor's Center. Book can be purchased in the Visitor's Center Monday - Friday - 9am to 3pm.
- \$29.95+ tax - Shipping available for additional \$6.00 (Continental U.S.)
- Book signings with Pat Havens and Carolyn Valdez on September 26, November 7 and December 5, 2021 from 1-3pm.



## PRESIDENT'S AWARD

This quarter we would like to recognize three of our outstanding volunteers at Strathearn Historical Park – Jim Hoover, Ed Weigand and Steve Demski.

Jim, Ed and Steve are part of our Mechanical Restoration team that meets every Monday. The Mechanical Restoration team repairs and maintains the farm equipment, antique and vintage automobiles at Strathearn Park. They also take on a variety of projects that support the infrastructure of the park.

Jim Hoover and Steve Demski recently took on the job of reglazing the windows of the Barbershop. The arduous task took several days to complete. Jim is retired from aerospace. Board member, Richard Johnson, describes Jim as a conscientious, detailed oriented and a hard worker who takes pride in the work he does at the park. Steve's background is also in aerospace and the U.S. Navy. Steve is interested in the betterment of the Simi Valley Historical Society. In addition to working with the Mechanical Restoration team, Steve is an outstanding docent who has mentored a junior docent.

Ed Weigand retired from the United States Air Force and is an active volunteer with his church. Ed has an excellent skill set that he applies to automotive projects and woodworking according to Richard Johnson. Ed recently built the redwood planter boxes that will be staged between the Haigh/Talley and Printz/Powell Colony Houses.

Gentlemen, on behalf of the board of directors, thank you for all you contribute to Strathearn Historical Park



## You are cordially invited to our 56th Annual Dinner Meeting

Friday, November 5, 2021 at 6:00pm  
at Rancho Santa Susana Community Center  
5005 Los Angeles Avenue, Simi Valley, CA 93063



Please bring serving utensils and a dish that generously serves 10 people. Please label your utensils and dishes, so you can be happily reunited if you get separated. The Historical Society will provide tableware, paper goods, rolls and butter, ice tea, lemonade and water. Please bring dish as determined by your last name according to the following:

**A-M - Salad or vegetables**

**N - Z - Main Dish**

**\*\*Dessert provided by the Historical Society\*\***



*If you pay your 2022 dues the night of the dinner, you will be eligible for door prizes!  
This is always an enjoyable evening of great food and wonderful people. We hope to see you there!*

***This year will be an APRON THEMED dinner. Please wear your favorite apron and join in the fun!***

2021 Highlights and Updates \* Election of Officers and Board of Directors \* Docent Awards \*  
Presentation by our docents\*



A Pioneer Speaks:

By R.E. Harrington

Enterprise-Sun & News, Wednesday, May 11, 1966

## Oranges were valley's chief crop



Oranges were probably the chief crop of the valley. Besides the large plantings on the Tapo Ranch, there were many other plantings and although subdivisions have eliminated many groves, those on Tapo are in many cases still producing.

The large citrus packing house, built on the Tapo when it was first subdivided in 1914, was first used by the growers in our valley alone, but is now used by every grove south of the Santa Clara River Valley.

There are basically two kinds of pests affecting oranges. One would be all kinds of insects and the other would be bacterial diseases. In the early days, fumigation tents were thrown over each tree, and these tents were filled with cyanide gas. This gas was deadly both to insects and human beings and great care had to be exercised in its use. Because of this danger and because of the tremendous expense involved, this method of killing damaging insects, has been superseded by various methods of spraying.

Spraying was first done by hand. Sometimes the nozzles were extended on long poles, thus putting the spray high in the air. Because of the higher cost of labor, spraying is now often done by nozzles arranged along upright poles, attached to the rear of the sprayer, thus throwing spray sidewise on each side of the trees as they pass down the row. Another method is to spray from what is called a speed sprayer, the spray being thrown high in the air by a fast revolving drum mounted on the rear of a sprayer.

A still later method is to spray from a helicopter. This type of spraying has many advantages. For one thing, it can be done while the ground is wet following or during irrigation.

Another advantage it has, is that the helicopter makes a down draft, throwing the spray down on top of the tree, thoroughly drenching it. Also helicopters can go long distances, for instance helicopters here in Porterville have even gone as far as Riverside to spray. Spray Chemical Companies now manufacture a special spray for every kind of insect, scale or spider and even give directions for their use.

For the control of bacterial diseases, Bordeaux mixture of lime sulphur are used. These sprays are usually applied during the Winter when the trees are more or less dormant.

Nitrogen is the soil element most lacking in Simi Valley soils therefore chemical fertilizers containing nitrogen are almost universally used. Manure is sometimes used as a source of nitrogen and it also adds humus to the soil.

The two varieties of oranges most universally used are the Navel and the Valencia. The later variety is best adapted for juice. The trees grow larger and produce heavier. They usually ripen in May or June. In Europe and the Middle East they are heavily planted. In California they are usually planted in coastal areas. Both varieties are not picked until the sugar content is up. No attention is usually paid to color as Ethel gas will turn the greenest colored fruit a beautiful yellow when applied in the packing house.

The navel orange was introduced from Brazil. It ripens early, often before Christmas. The original, or parent orange tree is living on Arlington Drive near Riverside. All early plantings of this variety were made of trees grafted to this parent tree. Today there are some improved navels. Mr. C. G. Austin planted an acre of Navel Oranges way back in 1890. They were on the corner of what is now Erringer and Cochran.

Valencia's are now almost universally planted in Simi Valley.

Quick decline is the worst disease of oranges today. It started near Los Angeles and spread south toward Riverside. Trees on sour orange root are usually the first to succumb to that disease. Trees actually die and the only remedy seems to be a resistant root stock. Today Troyer Citrange seems to be the most resistant root stock and is almost universally used.

Wooden picking boxes have been replaced to a large extent by large bins handled on the trucks.

## MECHANICAL RESTORATION

Greetings from the Strathearn Park Workshop, our group of Volunteer workers have been busy working on several projects.

The 1946 Chevy Pickup Truck repairs are progressing nicely. The broken door window glass and regulator have been replaced along with the door striker plate. Radiator has been cleaned, repaired and is back in the truck ready to go. Electrical wiring is being evaluated and repaired as needed; more work is needed prior to finishing this project.

The John Deere Model L Tractor is in the shop for exhaust muffler and manifold corrections. Fuel systems need some minor attention along with an Oil Change and safety check. The Farmall B Tractor will be scheduled for annual maintenance in the upcoming weeks.

Our Crew has also been working on our Hit Miss Gas Engines with the guidance of Volunteer Jim Davis who has many years experience with these engines. We sometimes operate these engines on a Monday scheduled work day.

All the best for a great Fall Season. Please drop by the shop on a Monday morning and meet the Crew and have a cup of coffee.

Richard Johnson  
Director SVHS



Friday morning docent/volunteer meeting - April 2021

# Dia de los Muertos

Our 7th annual Dia de los Muertos festival will take place on Sunday, October 24, 2021. **New event hours - 11am-5pm.** Live entertainment all day long on the outdoor stage featuring Mariachis, Folklorico dancers, Spanish guitar and Azteca dancers. Enjoy food vendors, craft vendors, face painters and storyteller. Treasures, souvenirs and curiosities in the Simi Store -

special pricing on Day of the Dead merchandise. Visit the Wood Ranch barn to see poignant tributes to loved ones, showcased in beautiful altars.

Please join us for this family friendly event!



Simi Valley Historical Society & Museum presents...

## Día de los Muertos

Day of the Dead Celebration  
 Sunday  
 October 24th, 2021  
 11am-5pm  
 Strathearn Historical Park  
 137 Strathearn Place, Simi Valley  
 PRE-SALE: \$ 7 ADULTS \$ 5 KIDS (5-12)  
 Buy tickets online! [www.simihistory.com](http://www.simihistory.com)

DAY OF EVENT AT THE GATE:  
 \$ 10 ADULTS \$ 5 KIDS (5-12)  
 Music and Dancers!

Mariachi Camarillo

Ballet Folklórico Cielito Lindo de Simi Valley  
 Ballet Folklórico Fiesta Mexicana

Food Vendors, Face Painting,  
 Dia de los Muertos Craft Vendors  
 Dia de los Muertos items at the Simi Store  
 Story telling by True Thomas

"WHEN AVAILABLE, PERFORMANCE TIMES WILL  
 BE LISTED ON FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE"

Crafts for kids:  
 skull masks, tissue flowers and more!

Allars created by local families will be on display. Come in costume or get your face painted at the festival!

For more information: (805) 526-6453 + [StrathearnPark@gmail.com](mailto:StrathearnPark@gmail.com)  
[www.simihistory.com](http://www.simihistory.com) + [facebook.com/StrathearnPark](https://www.facebook.com/StrathearnPark) +  
 NOT AFFILIATED WITH SIMI VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## 2021 Board of Directors

### Officers

President Linda Bosley  
Vice President  
Secretary Shelley Howard  
Treasurer Karen Olson  
Past President Vicki Spilka

### Board Members

John Billinger Kris Grayson  
Richard Johnson Nancy Kidd  
Sylvia Moya Don Novell  
Nellann Wilson

### Directors at Large

Pat Havens  
Alan Shack  
Joe Lansden  
Ryan Valencia  
Carolyn Valdez

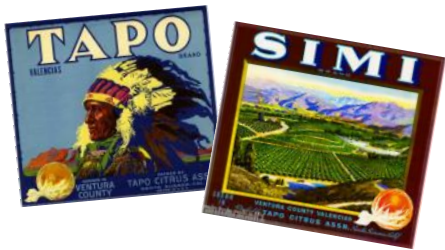
### Strathearn Historical Park & Museum

Historian Pat Havens  
Park Staff Jeannie Liss

Weekend Park Hours: Saturday and Sunday: 1:00 to 4:00 pm  
Week day Park Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm

For information, please call (805) 526-6453  
Email: [strathearnpark@gmail.com](mailto:strathearnpark@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.simihistory.com](http://www.simihistory.com)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/Strathearnpark](https://www.facebook.com/Strathearnpark)

Simi Valley Historical Society  
P.O. Box 940461  
Simi Valley, CA 93094-0461



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.

The Mail Cart is electronically 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 [strathearnpark@gmail.com](mailto:strathearnpark@gmail.com).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Credit/Debit card: MC    Visa    Discover Card  
# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ CVV# \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(Payment mailing address - P.O. Box 940461, Simi Valley, CA 93094-0461)

Please select desired membership  
Make checks payable to SVHS&M  
**\*\*Please circle type of membership\*\***

Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$ 25.00
Business/Sustaining	\$100.00
Patron	\$500.00