



California State Historical Landmark No. 626, 1958
National Historical Landmark, 1962

SPRING VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Bancroft Bulletin

December 2018 - January 2019 • Vol. 20, No. 3

From the President's Desk . . .

I can't believe that we were almost at the end of 2018. We survived Halloween and the even scarier midterm elections and as I write this column, I am preparing for the Thanksgiving holiday (I think most people still celebrate it before moving into full Christmas mode). I would like to take this time to give thanks to all those who support the Spring Valley Historical Society. First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude to **Jim Van Meter**, the heart and soul of the Bancroft Ranch House, for all his knowledge and hard work. I am equally grateful to the Board of Directors, **Carol Myers**, **Carol Serr**, and **Billy Milliken**, as well as our curator, **Pat Case**, for their efforts in keeping the Society moving forward. Also, a BIG "Thank You" to all our volunteers and members here in Spring Valley and around the country; you truly make a difference for both the Society and the community we represent. Lastly, I want to acknowledge the countless contributions in time, talent, and treasure made by the late **Mary Polk** and **Kathy Viessman-Heath**.

By the time you read this, the Case family will have put away the Thanksgiving decorations (three crates) and set up the Christmas decorations (seven crates) meaning that our Holiday Potluck is just around the corner. Once again Master Chef Van Meter will be cooking the turkey, yours truly will be baking the ham, and we will be serenaded by *Harmony Galore*. I don't know about you, but I always find that our Holiday Potluck really sets the mood for the season for me. Then, in a flash, it's over and we're in a New Year, 2019.

What can we look forward to in 2019? That's hard to say. But if **you** want a say in what the Historical Society does in the next year, join the Board members at a dinner meeting hosted by Rob and Pat Case where we will plan the events and activities for 2019. The meeting will be held on Monday, January 6th at the Case's, **9242 Hillside Drive**. Dinner will be served at 6:00 and the planning meeting usually lasts 1 to 1½ hours. We would love to have your input.

I hope to see you at the Potluck. Wishing you a Merry Hana-kwanza-mas and a peaceful New Year.

Yours truly, **Rob Case**



DECEMBER 1st PROGRAM at 6:30 pm (dinner at 5pm)

Well, the holidays are upon us, so to get everyone in the holiday spirit, our December program will once again be the lovely voices of **Harmony Galore** - a local group of businesswomen singing Christmas songs a *cappella*, in 4-part harmony.

Our potluck meal will begin one hour earlier than usual - at **5:00 pm** and the singers will perform at **6:30 pm**. Remember, the society will provide the turkey & ham, so bring your favorite holiday side dish to make a bountiful feast. Or you are welcome to bring some holiday treats for dessert.

After the entertainment, we will have a **Gift Exchange** game. This is the time to re-gift that lovely item you got but just can't find a place for at your house.

It should be valued at roughly \$10; please Don't bring "junk." Remember this is for **entertainment** (you don't have to participate, its fun just to watch) - and **anonymous!**



SVHS DATES TO REMEMBER

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Dec. 1 | Potluck – 5:00 pm
Followed by Program – 6:30 pm
@ NOTE EARLIER TIME @ |
| Dec. 17 | Board meeting – 7 pm |
| Jan. 6 | PLANNING MTG – 7 pm |
| Jan. 15 | Board meeting – 7 pm |
| Jan. 24 | Newsletter deadline |

SVHS Officers/Committees

President	<i>Rob Case</i>	462-7928
Programs	<i>OPEN</i>	
Ways/Means	<i>Billy Millican</i>	
Treasurer	<i>Carol Serr</i>	
Secretary	<i>Carol Myers</i>	
Membership	<i>Carol Serr</i>	698-1242
Bldgs&Grnds	<i>Billy Millican</i>	
Curatorial	<i>Pat Case</i>	
Historian	<i>OPEN</i>	
Publicity	<i>OPEN</i>	
Hospitality	OPEN	
Newsletter	<i>Carol Serr</i>	698-1242
	FAX (858) 505-9658 Attn: Carol	
	e-mail: <i>SpringVlyHistSoc@aol.com</i>	
Caretaker	<i>Jim Van Meter</i>	469-1480
	All area codes are 619	

General meetings are held on the 1st Sat. of even-numbered months; & Board meetings are at 7 pm on the 3rd Monday of every month - both held at the Museum annex - 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) 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 help us pay printing or postage costs.

Caretaker's Corner

Greetings from Memory Lane in beautiful Spring Valley, California. "A wonderful time of the year" - the holidays. They sure have a way of sneaking up on me every year. I guess Halloween is the pre-beginning of the sales tsunami that comes each year. So many sales promotions with great opportunities; seems like we get to have more than one Black Friday sale these days. Happy Hanukah, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year to all.

It's finally starting to feel like a fall season upon us here; cooler nights and some rain in the forecast. Guess it's time to upgrade my rain dance program.

Tours and walk-in visitors have been keeping staff here busy. Hosting the museum and herding people around, listening to their stories, and sharing twice-told tales has produced some nice donations. Big thanks goes out to all who donate money, rummage donations, and/or their time to help the Society: **Richard Schneider, Brita Ferm, Gary Close, Billy Deertz, Billy Millican, Vic Baker, Paul Morales**, and all other volunteers. And those who continue to donate all through the year. Thank you Cheryl Smelt, Richard Schneider's sister, for donating \$50.00! Any and all help here greatly appreciated.

The winds blew hard a couple days in a row. One large pepper tree limb crashed to the ground right in front of the gates. I removed it right away with the help of Juan, the neighboring mechanic, and his truck later; it was cut up and removed from property.

Barnyard Newsflash: Uninvited night guests continue to ruffle a few feathers and disrupt sleep. Local raccoons and a family of skunks stop by for some water and possible late night treat. My cats (Mr. Bancroft and family) alert their presence by scurrying on the roof, which wakes me. So then I go outside to investigate, and scream, "Yikes skunks!"

The situation with too many parked cars is still an ongoing nuisance. My repeated efforts to lighten the problem are slowly showing minor progress. A mechanic who was previously employed had 13 cars on the street and the circle here on Memory Lane. He finally got removed along with 12 of his cars. We continue to try to halt this reoccurring mess of cars left parked and cars racing up and down street.

See you at the December pot-luck or see you next year.

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

**** Due to being out of town for the turkey holiday and too much going on in the Editor's busy life currently, this issue is abbreviated from the norm ****



Plants for Sale

Come by and check out our Garden Shop near the entrance to the grounds (at gate). We have a variety of plants - at great prices! And we're always happy to take more potted plant donations. Your plant purchase is greatly appreciated too.

Also check out our native plant garden on the east side of the property. Just ask Jim, if you can't find it.



SVHS NOTICES

HOSPITALITY HOST NEEDED: We are in **need** of a **Hospitality** person who can do this on a regular basis, decorating and setting our meeting tables for the theme of the program or season. Volunteers always make things get done quicker.

HELP NEEDED:

History buffs, or folks who like to talk – your help is greatly needed with **giving tours** of our museum and grounds. Jim shouldn't be expected to carry this burden all himself. Drop by some time and learn the tour spiel from Jim. Then start giving tours during our visiting hours. Even if you can only commit to one Sat. or Sun. each month, your help will be **greatly** appreciated.

Become a Docent!

Give Jim a call if you can help (619-469-1480).



Lakeside Historical Society's *Mrs. Claus's*

Christmas Resale Shoppe

Open Dec. 1 thru 23
Mon. – Thurs. & Sat. 10 am - 2 pm
Fri. 11:30 am - 4 pm
Open till 8 pm on Dec. 3rd

This shoppe features a cornucopia of color and everything Christmas. You can find those old-time decorations, lights, baskets, glassware, children's items, unique gifts, etc.

Located at the Olde Community Church at 9906 Maine Ave., Lakeside. For info call: 619-561-1886.

LHS Museum is regularly open 10am - 2 pm Sat.
www.lakesidehistory.org

Lakeside Historical Society's *Holiday Home Tour* Sat. Dec. 8 • 10 am – 3 pm

Visit four wonderful homes decked out in exciting decorations for the holidays on this self-guided tour. Donation is \$15 for adults (funds help maintain their 1896 church). Tickets available at the Olde Community Church at 9906 Maine Ave.
Call 619-561-1886

Great Gift Idea for the Holidays

Our Hills and Valleys is the story of the Helix-Spring Valley region of San Diego County, encompassing the Indian habitation of the area in the 1700s to the modern day land-uses, written by Thomas J. Adema, former photograph archivist for the San Diego Historical Society.



The book has information on the previous owners of our adobe and ranch grounds from early settler Rufus K. Porter, and Hubert Howe Bancroft, the wealthy California historian who planted olive and fruit trees on his Helix Farms ranch, to La Mesa Country Estates. There is also information on Alfred Isham, the unscrupulous businessman who bottled Sweetwater Springs water and sold it as a cure for baldness and so much more.

The origins of the region's many communities are described including Casa de Oro, Brookside, La Presa, Mount Helix, Sweetwater Springs, Rancho San Diego, Spring Valley Estates, Dictionary Hill, and Calavo Gardens. The book is beautifully illustrated with original photographs--many of them the work of Francis Eliote Patterson, a noted pioneer photographer and Spring Valley resident of the 1880s.

The book is 196 pages (softbound), includes 176 photographs; and sells for \$20.00 (includes tax) at the ranch house (see Caretaker Jim).

There are only a few copies left.

San Pasqual Battle Day Sun. Dec. 2 • 11 am - 3 pm

Re-live history of the bloodiest battle fought during the U.S.-Mexican War in 1846 by hearing the story told and experience the firing of a howitzer cannon. Enjoy seeing period craft demonstrations, music & dancing, and foods. A military encampment will be set up. Refreshments will be available.

San Pasqual Battlefield State Park is located just over 1 mi. east of the Safari Park on State Hwy 78 at 15808 San Pasqual Valley Rd. For more info call 760-737-2201 (weekends) or 619-220-5422. For more details, visit: <http://www.spbva.org/>

Parking available in upper lot of the San Diego Archaeological Center (to the right/east of the St. Park grounds). **Visit the Center for Free on this day also.**

SPRING VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P O BOX 142
SPRING VALLEY CA 91976-0142
Visit our website at: svhistoricalsociety.org

Get in the Holiday Spirit at our
Sat. Dec. 1st program. The singers
perform at 6:30 pm, **after** our potluck
dinner - starting **early** at 5:00 pm.

If you have not paid your 2018-2019 dues
this is your *LAST Bulletin*. We hope you
renew **SOON** if your address label reads
"DUES EXPIRED"



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	\$10.00
Family (2 adults + kids)	\$15.00
Organization	\$20.00
Sustaining	\$35.00
Student (under 22 yrs)	\$5.00

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

Life Member (1 individual) \$150.00

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP: _____ - _____

e-mail: _____ PHONE: (____) _____

* 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: _____