



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

SPRING VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bancroft Bulletin

February/March 2019 • Vol. 20, No. 4

From the President's Desk . . .

Happy 2019 everybody! Ready or not, a new year has started and we at the Spring Valley Historical Society are hitting the ground running. As those of you who live here know, we've experienced some rain (finally) and wind events the last couple of months that have created some problems. The big pepper tree just outside the chain link fence next to the gate lost a really big branch and the arborist says more should be trimmed to give the tree better balance. Some of our 2018-2019 grant money is dedicated to tree trimming to ensure the safety of our visitors and several trees will be attended to the next month or so.

Another problem has been the drain line that runs parallel to and between the annex and the office/restrooms. It seems to have gotten clogged up, probably with sediment, but our amazing caretaker **Jim Van Meter** has rigged up some above-ground pipes that carry the runoff water away from the adobe and out into the picnic area. Ultimately, we will need to clear underground pipes of whatever is obstructing the flow of water.

Another issue that will be addressed in the near future is the uneven parking lot surface. Many years ago there was a large pepper tree growing in the vicinity of parking space 2, but it was cut down when the chain link fence and gate were installed. Over the years the underground stump has rotted and subsided, creating a large depression in the parking lot that is a potential hazard to pedestrians. This problem, like the tree trimming, was part of our current grant funding and the work to stabilize and level the parking surface will commence very soon.

On a more cheerful note, the database created by former curator **Glen Lindeneau**, containing 1,100 records, has been converted into *PastPerfect*, our museum software package, and has been loaded into our computer. Additionally, we have installed the latest updates to our other software and have linked our computer to our external hard drive and our external disc burner. The Spring Valley Historical Society now has both feet firmly planted in the 21st century and is steadily moving forward. I would like to invite all of you to join us as we build a better future by preserving our precious past.

I hope to see you at our February meeting!

– **Rob Case**

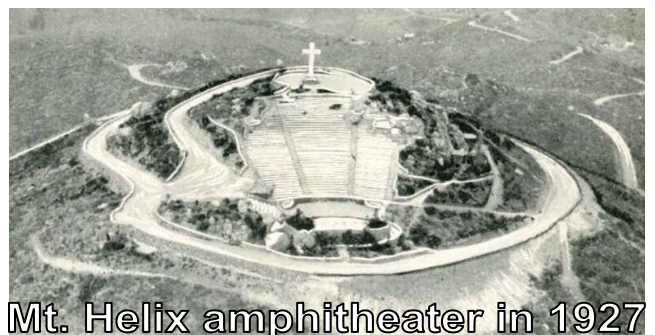
FEBRUARY 2nd PROGRAM

Around Mt. Helix: A Photographic History

Our speaker, Jim Newland, will share his research on the interrelated histories of Spring Valley, Casa de Oro, Calavo Gardens, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, Mount Helix, and Grossmont - the neighborhoods flanking the mountain.

Jim, long time La Mesa resident, San Diego State University graduate, and President of the La Mesa Historical Society as well as a historian for California State Parks, has authored four books – *La Mesa*, *Cleveland National Forest*, *Around Mt. Helix*, and his most recent *Grossmont Hospital: A Legacy of Community Service*. His most recent two books will be available for purchase and signing after his presentation.

See you there!



Mt. Helix amphitheater in 1927

SVHS DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb. 2	Program – 7 pm Preceded by Potluck – 6 pm
Feb. 18	Board meeting – 7 pm
Mar. 1	Co. Enhancement Grant - deadline
Mar. 18	Board meeting – 7 pm
Mar. 26	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	NEEDED	
Newsletter	<i>Carol Serr</i>	698-1242
	FAX (858) 505-9658 Attn: Carol	
	<i>e-mail: SpringVlyHistSoc@aol.com</i>	
Caretaker	<i>Jim Van Meter</i>	469-1480

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

Hello and Happy New Year to all those that read this fine newsletter. This year started with some much needed rain. All the gardens on the grounds have enjoyed the 2 inches of the wet stuff. The annual weeds that are sprouting are a good sign that the soil is healthy. And with the nice warm sun, it all comes alive and makes a nice green look to the grounds. First time in nine years that we have some weeds to pull! All are welcome to come by and join the weed pulling workout party.

The past holiday season went well, with new visitors discovering the Museum and the peacefulness that radiates here. The wind and rain marched through the grounds with little disturbance. Some pepper trees lost some branches, as the wind kicked about. But no leaks on any of the buildings, so all went well. Could be a good rain year ahead.

Members dropping off rummage items for our May sale continues. Long-time Spring Valley resident Pat Brackmann came by to donate an old article for our records. It is an 18-page program in very good condition, dated 1949. The Spring Valley Chamber of Commerce and local merchants hosted a Community Fair here on Memory Lane on May 1949. It was quite a success. Always are grateful for people to visit and donate such items. Pat also asked me to say "Hi" to her friend **Phyllis Bourdeau** (Eileen and Ron Smith's daughter).

Work parties in planning stage for the year to come; for more info give a call to 619 469-1480.

Barnyard News Flash: Have been trying to catch feral cats hanging around here to have them spayed or neutered. So far, have only trapped three skunks; all young. Luckily none sprayed their perfume. Skunks were relocated. Current sanctioned animal count is two roosters, two hens, and four cats.

Memory Lane still wrestling with parked cars from businesses, a lot of auto repair shops exist at 9020 Memory Lane. Have been working with local authorities to help with problem. Today there are 21 vehicles parked along the short street. To keep them off SVHS property, we have put up traffic cones in the parking lot here. Memory Lane - always making memories and a few melodies. We have a great program coming up Feb 2. Hope to see you there.

Yours faithfully,

Jim Van Meter - Caretaker/Director/Raconteur

**** Apologies for this briefer issue; the Editor is swamped with too much work & being sick, so had to make things brief ****



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, created by member Joel Hastings, on the east side of the property. Just ask Jim, if you can't find it.



February is Black History Month

Membership News

Welcome new member:
Michelle Wright

We thank all of you who have continued to support your historical society by continuing your membership.

Carol Serr
Membership Chair

March is WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Register Now for the 54th
Annual History Conference
March 29 (Fri.) & 30 (Sat.)
8:20 am - 4:30 pm

The theme for the Congress of History's 54th Annual Conference is **Defining Moments – 250 Years: Extraordinary Events that Shaped the History of the San Diego Region (1769-2019)**. Lectures will explore the impacts of decisions that have brought us to where we are today.

The conference will be held at the Portuguese Historical Center (PHC), **Portuguese Hall**, located at 2818 Avenida de Portugal, 92106 in Pt. Loma. The exhibits & book sellers – all open to the public – will be in the conference room. Register now: \$35 for the 2 days; \$25 seniors (65+); \$15 students and active military. Children over 12 welcome to attend. Visit their website: www.congressofhistory.org or call 619-469-7283 for more info. There is free off-street parking at the Hall. Lunch is obtainable at many nearby restaurants.

SVHS NOTICES

DONATIONS:

Thanks for the generous donation from our Caretaker extraordinaire to start our **Building Fund** to repair the north wall of the Annex building. This will be a major undertaking! Remember such donations are tax deductible!

SAVE THESE SVHS EVENT DATES:

May 18-19 – our Annual RUMMAGE SALE

August 3– Summer BBQ & COUNTRY FAIR RAFFLE



SVHS Needs Museum Docents

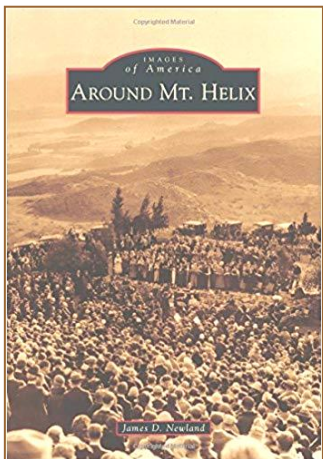
The Society **needs** docents to give tours at our museum. If you enjoy making history come alive, please offer your services as a docent to give tours at the Bancroft Ranch adobe during visiting hours (Fri.-Sun. 1-4 pm).

Caretaker Jim will provide you with information to learn about the history of our **156-year old** adobe, etc. Please help even if it's only one day a month. Jim also needs Help with school or scout groups (i.e., children wrangling).





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

Come hear an interesting talk by Jim Newland at our **Feb. 2nd** meeting on the history of **Mt. Helix** and its surrounding communities, landmarks, notable events, institutions, and individuals.



TO:

 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: _____