



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

SPRING VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Bancroft Bulletin

February/March 2020 • Vol. 21, No. 4

From the President's Desk . . .

Welcome to tumultuous 2020! In these times of international uncertainty, the impeachment trial and upcoming national election, and local concerns regarding homelessness, affordable housing and immigration, the average citizen can easily become overwhelmed and paralyzed; I know because I often feel that way. One of the unintended consequences of this situation can be a decrease in public participation in local grass roots organizations, whether they be service clubs, church groups or any number of small volunteer organizations including our **Spring Valley Historical Society**.

Happily, we are not in that category and in fact have increased both our general membership and our leadership team with some truly energetic people. Earlier this month we held our annual planning meeting. The results exceeded our expectations; not only did we set calendar dates for our meetings and other events, but we also had a very productive brainstorming session that generated new ways of expanding our presence in the Spring Valley community. As a result, it is the intent of the Board of Directors to create partnerships with local businesses and organizations to instill civic pride and to also promote Spring Valley throughout the east and south county.

We will be rolling out some of these ideas in the months to come and their success or failure will be directly proportional to the amount of volunteer hours that can be allocated. At its most basic, there are three ways of volunteering.

Talent – sharing any special skills or connections to others that would benefit the Society

Time – learning to be and serving as a docent and/or growing plants at home to donate to the Garden Center

Treasure – providing in-kind donations or cash donations to offset specific project costs

Hopefully you will find some way of supporting the Society beyond the annual membership dues. After all, “Many hands make light work”.

I hope to see many of you at this month's meeting!

– **Rob Case**

FEBRUARY 1st PROGRAM

Emma Saylor

**Founder of Progressive Elder Care.
The Fredericka Home for the Aged**

Our President Rob will share his research on his great-grandmother Emma Sutemeier Silva Saylor who moved to San Diego in 1906 with her second husband, Daniel Saylor. Emma was anything but a typical 19th century woman. Her dream was to establish a campus where the elderly could live out their golden years in comfortable surroundings with caring staff. Emma established The Fredericka Home for the Aged in 1908, thus creating perhaps the earliest progressive-care retirement facility in the country. The facility started with a beautiful Victorian house on a 10-acre orchard in Chula Vista.

Come hear about this remarkable woman who also published three books; one in 1917, titled *The Last Mile Stone*, a love story woven by 25 letters.

See you there!

SVHS DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb. 1	Program – 7 pm Preceded by Potluck – 6 pm
Feb. 17	Board meeting – 7 pm
Mar. 1	County Grant - deadline
Mar. 16	Board meeting – 7 pm
Mar. 26	Newsletter deadline
April 4	<i>S. D. Co. Spinners</i> Program – 7 pm
May 16-17	Annual Rummage Sale
June 6	Program – 7 pm
Aug. 1	Summer BBQ & Raffle – 5 pm



SVHS Officers/Committees

President	<i>Rob Case</i>	462-7928
Programs	<i>(Pending)</i>	
Ways/Means	<i>Nancy Hagan</i>	
Treasurer	<i>Carol Serr</i>	
Secretary	<i>Carol Myers</i>	
Membership	<i>Carol Serr</i>	
Bldgs&Grnds	<i>Chris Hagan</i>	550-8482
Curatorial	<i>Pat Case</i>	462-7928
Historian	<i>OPEN</i>	
Publicity	<i>(Pending)</i>	
Hospitality	<i>Nancy Hagan</i>	
Newsletter	<i>Carol Serr</i>	698-1242

e-mail: SpringVlyHistSoc@aol.com

Caretaker *Jim Van Meter* 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

Starting the New Year 2020 with many planned projects here on Memory Lane. Some of the projects involve general maintenance and perseveration that is required for this Historic Landmark. As mentioned many times, volunteers and their efforts will provide needed work that will help the Landmark and the Historical Society into the future. Happy New Year 2020 to all.

Memory Lane still wrestling with the abandoned cars, illegal parking, dumping of trash, an ugly view. Our parking lot has cones to deter those wanting to park in our private parking lot. Our Moose Lodge neighbor has put a chain across their entrance to block access when their facility is not open to prevent cars, trucks, people from trespassing; a future automatic gate is in the planning.

The street is hard to maneuver on Mon. thru Fri. with the coming and going of so many cars, delivery trucks parked, double and triple parking. Patience is necessary moving in and out of Memory Lane. Safety first, along with a smile works a little for me.

Barnyard News: Still keeping local resident hen and two roosters in a safe pen. A large white rooster appeared after Christmas and is roaming around crowing; he seems to like the place. This may be a beginning for some future range chickens. Have no idea Who donated the new rooster. He has been named "Rowdy the Rooster." The winter rains have made the gardens and grounds here green! Nice photo opportunity.

Bancroft Book Club meets 3rd Mondays at 9:45 am to 12:30. We thank their members for their donations for use of the Annex room.

Walk-in tours were numerous during the holiday season. Spring Valley resident Cindy D'Ambrosia, of Helix Street, visiting with her family saw her photograph in our carousel display on past Miss Spring Valley pageant winners. She was a contestant in the 1973 pageant. Cindy's father's (retired contractor) mailbox on Helix Street is one of a kind - made of steel - to protect from hoodlums/vandals from driving by and smashing it with a baseball bat. The design is a large head of a claw hammer. Good idea; maybe you've seen it?

Hope to see you all at the next pot-luck.

Yours faithfully,

Jim Van Meter - Caretaker/Director/Raconteur

****Apologies for this briefer issue; the Editor is swamped with too much work 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 members:

Earna Miller
Cindy Schmidt
Sarah Moore
Raquel Veluz

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

Carol Serr

March is WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Register Now for the 55th
Annual History Conference
March 13 & 14, 2020
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

The theme for the Congress of History's 55th Annual Conference is **Remarkable Women: Breaking Down Barriers/Creating Legacies**. Lecture topics celebrate the deeds of women of the San Diego region and how they impacted history.

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:

SVHS expressed great appreciation for an anonymous generous donation of \$1,000 to add to our developing **Building Fund** – established to lift and stabilize the north wall of the Annex building. This project will be a major undertaking! All contributions, of any amount, for this project are greatly appreciated.

Remember such donations are tax deductible!

NEW BOARD MEMBERS:

Two of our new members have offered to serve on our Board of Directors! **Sarah Moore** is eager to take on as 1st VP in charge of Programs. She already has many great topic ideas.

Raquel Veluz is interested in helping with getting the society out into the social media world, aka Instagram. Along with her, Dustin Bennett is going to provide his services for improving our internet presence.

These Board positions will be presented at and voted on by attendees at our Feb. meeting.

DUES INCREASE:

It has recently been suggested that with the new 2020 decade, our membership dues should be adjusted/revised, both in categories as well as price. A charge of **\$20 per person** would simplify things. What do you think? Please attend our February meeting for further discussion. This is a Bylaws issue so will require a vote by our membership.

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).

Curator **Pat Case** has created a packet for docents to learn the history and refer to. Caretaker Jim can provide you with additional information about the history of our nearly **157-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 President Rob Case at our **Feb. 1st** meeting on his great-grandmother Emma Sutemeier Silva Saylor and the founding of **The Fredericka Home for the Aged** in 1908.



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
Life Member (1 individual)	\$150.00

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

**** DUES PRICE INCREASE PENDING ****

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: _____