



# The Gazette.

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NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2008

YEAR 14, NUMBER 4

## School Auditorium Gets Second Chance.



SCVHISTORY.COM

**Partnership To Bring  
Historic Venue Back To Life.**

**Canyon Theatre Guild  
In Leading Role.**

**By PATTI RASMUSSEN,  
GAZETTE CORRESPONDENT.**

It has been decades since the community has heard the roar of laughter or the sound of applause from the old art deco building on Walnut Street.

The doors to the Newhall Ele-

mentary School auditorium, completed in 1941 with help from the Works Project Administration, once held seven hundred seats and a glamorous, Greco-styled framed stage and footlights.

It was closed in the mid-1970s to make room for a boom in student population. Later, the Newhall School District converted the auditorium into a warehouse for all of the district's records and paper supplies.

There the auditorium languished until the 1994 earthquake, when parents and administrators got a peek inside and found the structure to be in excellent shape. At once a

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 16.**



PATTI RASMUSSEN

The current Newhall Auditorium (left) wasn't the first for the elementary school. Built in the early 1930s, the original auditorium doubled as a movie theater for the community. William S. Hart personally showed his films there for a nickel during the Depression. The auditorium burned down along with the rest of the school on Valentine's Day, 1939 (above). The following year, Hart built a self-standing movie theater for the American Legion – the American Theater, aka American Legion Hall, which still stands on Spruce Street – while the federal government funded the construction of a new school auditorium that opened in 1941.

## The Growth Of A Promise: From A Pallet Of Bricks To Big Brick Buildings.

**By CAROLINA KELLY,  
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE.**

This year marks the fortieth anniversary of one of our town's oldest charities, the Boys Club of Newhall-Saugus – now the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Clarita Valley. This is the first installment in a series.

Santa Clarita was a small collection of housing tracts and strip malls in 1968. Although separated from the great megalopolis of Los Angeles by a range of rolling hills,

the residents were not immune to the tragedies that took place there and in Memphis that year.

The country had scarcely recovered from the shock of President John F. Kennedy's 1963 assassination, only to be stunned by the 1968 murders of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. and Senator Robert Kennedy. Adding to the national angst was the fierce fighting in Vietnam, which was claiming about three hundred American lives each week.

Fortunately for the country, there were some bright spots on the 1968 landscape. The United States dominated the Mexico Olympics, winning forty-five gold medals to the Soviets' twenty-nine; technological gadgets were enriching the average person's daily life; and young mothers were rejoicing over

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 15.**

**PLAQUES ARE PRESENTED TO  
SUPPORTERS OF THE ORIGINAL  
NEWHALL-SAUGUS BOYS CLUB.**



SCV BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

## The Old Town Newhall Gazette.

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LEON WORDEN, Editor and Publisher.

### EDITORIAL.

# In Newhall Time, Change Is Happening Fast.

Maybe you don't notice it by driving the streets of Newhall – or maybe you do – things have really been moving with lightning speed since the City Council adopted the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan a couple of years ago.

No longer is it a question of whether Newhall will see a rebirth, or what the town will look like, but rather what should happen first, and how quickly it can get done.

Folks can argue about the timing of projects – and they do – but when you stop and consider that way back in the early 1920s there were merchants who dreamed of fixing up Newhall, you realize that everything truly is relative.

Within the next three to four years – yes, even in this economy – we should see a new and bigger library, all five blocks of new landscaping and walkways along Main Street, and at least one parking structure with retail shops on the ground floor and residential units upstairs.

We know what's coming to Old Town Newhall. But what about the rest of Newhall – and, for that matter, the rest of Santa Clarita?

Where should new shopping centers go? Parks? Low-income housing? What should be preserved as open space? How will the new traffic flow?

The city of Santa Clarita is putting those questions to you right

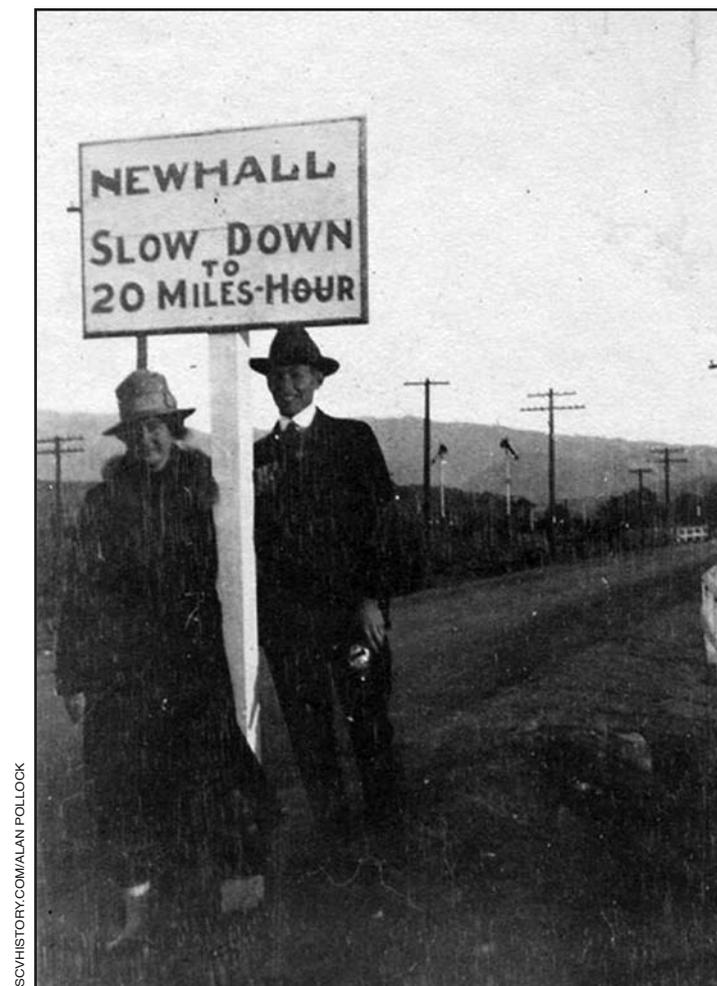
now as it works with Los Angeles County on a new general plan. You might have heard of it. It's nicknamed "One Valley, One Vision," the idea being that we are a single, unified area, regardless of which side of the municipal border we're on. What happens on one side of our valley affects people on the other, and we need to plan accordingly.

The city and county held a series of workshops in November to gather public opinion and will be holding more public meetings before the I's are dotted and the T's are crossed on the One Valley, One Vision plan next summer. Stay tuned to the city's website ([santaclearita.com](http://santaclearita.com)) if you want to have a say in the way your valley grows.

With so many new things coming, the city is keeping a watchful eye on what has gone before.

As we reported last time, in September the City Council approved a temporary "stopgap" ordinance to prevent the demolition of buildings deemed historically important in the city's current General Plan and the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan.

In October the council agreed to hire one of the top historic preservation consulting firms in Southern California, Historic Resources Group, to examine the



NEWHALLIANS IN THE 1920s DIDN'T WANT MODEL T DRIVERS TO ZIP THROUGH TOWN AND MISS ALL OF THE STORES. AND BESIDES, DO THIRTY AND YOU MIGHT KILL SOMEBODY. MERCHANTS FORMED THE "NEWHALL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION" IN THE EARLY '20s; THEIR EFFORTS PAID OFF IN 1926 WHEN THE STATE GAVE THEM PAVEMENT.

properties on those lists and determine which ones do and which ones don't qualify as historic. The lists aren't perfect. They include some properties that don't even sport a building anymore – it was already demolished.

At the same time, the lists don't include every historic structure in Santa Clarita. Far from it. While the city fast-tracks the removal of properties that don't belong on the lists, Historic Resources Group will also be meeting with preservationists and property owners to determine what should be added.

Read this edition and you'll see that loads of holiday activities are in store for you in Newhall dur-

ing December.

Here are a couple of items that didn't quite make deadline (don't ask us to explain, but we do Page 2 last):

\* The Egg Plantation isn't just for breakfast or lunch anymore. Saturday nights from 7 p.m. to midnight, the omelet house on Walnut Street is the place for live music, complete with a full bar, espresso bar, hors d'oeuvres and deserts. Age twenty-one and over only.

\* What better location than opposite the Metrolink Station on Railroad Avenue for Railroad Coffee? The new coffee house, owned by three local women, opened in mid-November inside the old courthouse building. Check it out.

'No longer is it a question of whether Newhall will see a rebirth, or what the town will look like, but rather what should happen first, and how quickly it can get done.'

## The Gazette.

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# NRC Looking Back At 2008, Ahead To 2009.

By PHILIP C. ELLIS,  
CHAIRMAN, NEWHALL  
REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

As the year draws to an end, I would like to take a moment and focus on the exciting and fulfilling role that the Newhall Redevelopment Committee has played in our community.

Tasked with the duty to move forward with the implementation of the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan, the NRC has been actively involved in looking at the future of Old Town Newhall with projects such as streetscape improvements, a new public library, and possible affordable housing and mixed-use projects.

All these development opportunities will help create the synergy and revitalization for Old Town Newhall that NRC has envisioned for several years.

NRC also made great strides this year toward the city's historic preservation efforts. The City Council adopted the necessary code amendments and Redevel-



Message From  
The Chairman.

opment Agency staff members are working with a qualified historic preservation consulting firm, Historic Resources Group, on the project.

NRC looks forward to having Historic Resources Group work with the community to finalize the historic list of properties that will be taken to City Council for consideration and approval, followed by a possible historic preservation ordinance.

During 2008, NRC members engaged in various special events that took place in Old Town Newhall, including the weekly Farmers Market and the Street Art Festival. What better way to end the year than with the upcoming new and expand-

**‘The Newhall Redevelopment Committee has been actively involved in looking at the future of Old Town Newhall with projects such as streetscape improvements, a new public library, and possible affordable housing and mixed-use projects.’**

ed holiday events in Newhall? NRC members encourage the community to join them on December 5 and 6 in Old Town Newhall for the holiday festivities.

On behalf of the NRC, we thank you for your continued support and participation in all the various activities in 2008. We want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very happy holiday season and look forward to an exciting 2009.

## Sharing The Holiday Spirit At The Community Center.



CITY OF SANTA CLARITA

AMR VOLUNTEERS POSE WITH SANTA AND MRS. CLAUS AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER.

### From The City Of Santa Clarita.

This time of year is a busy one at the Newhall Community Center.

The holiday season presents an opportunity for the center to reach out to families in need of both a festive and meaningful way and to further the mission of “serving, supporting and responding to the community.”

Located at 22421 Market Street, the Newhall Community Center hosts three major holiday events from October through December to provide families in the neighborhood with a chance to celebrate, interact and connect. Each holiday event is made possible through the combined efforts of the city of Santa Clarita, local organizations and businesses, and Community Center members.

In October, the center kicked off the holiday season with a Halloween Fiesta on October 24, thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Sunrise Rotary Club. This is the ninth year the

Rotary Club has sponsored the event, providing food, pumpkins, entertainment and prizes.

The center's Teen Group members constructed an elaborate haunted house; Rotary Club members judged a costume and pumpkin decorating contest with the grand prize winners receiving Magic Mountain tickets.

“The City of Santa Clarita appreciates the continued commitment by the Rotary Club to sponsor this event and to provide over 500 people with a memorable Halloween experience,” said Hope Horner, community services administrator for the city of Santa Clarita.

Also for the ninth consecutive year, the Newhall Community Center will provide a full-course Thanksgiving meal to members, complete with turkey, stuffing, vegetables and dessert. The event will be held November 25 and is sponsored by Parkway Super-center, which has graciously agreed to cover the cost of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14.

# Standing In The Ice Water At Two In The Morning.

By JOHN BOSTON,  
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE.

A few rainy days ago, I had the most interesting early morning adventure – the operative word being “early.” I’m naturally a nocturnal being, so I can do 2 a.m. standing on my head.

Vampires, coyotes and sleepy-eyed all-night diner waitresses in tight-fitting black mini-skirts – we all know each other by first name. But I never thought I’d be standing shin-deep in the river at the time when bars are just closing.

My friend got his truck stuck in the wash.

Like, at O-Dark Thirty.

My house sits at the end of a small box canyon on this dirt road between two creeks. To get home, or away from it, you have to ford a creek. No problem, because we live in essentially a desert and our water-



BOSTON.

When the barancha is ten feet deep and bank-to-bank, the decision to cross is pretty much a no-brainer. Navy Seals could inspect the churning rapids, shake their collective heads and say, “No way, hoser. Can’t be done. Discretion the better part of valor and all that, thank you very much nuh-uh.”

But when the rain is long gone, stars twinkling and the river level is a tantalizing shin deep – not knee deep, but shin deep –

ways are bone dry most of the year.

But there’s this thing scientists call El Niño and we normal people call winter. My allegedly dry riverbed is sometimes under Paul Bunyanesque amounts of raging water.

**‘When the barancha is ten feet deep and bank-to-bank, the decision to cross is pretty much a no-brainer. Navy Seals could inspect the churning rapids, shake their collective heads and say, “No way, hoser. Can’t be done.”’**

that’s when you get into trouble.

We have a tradition to have friends over Thursday evening for casual grub and TV. The rain marooned us. Some fell asleep and spent the night on sofas.

My pal with the truck waited for the water to go down. And waited. And waited.

The level fell enough to tempt my friend with safe passage.

I tried to catch up on foot and warn him as he approached the down-ramp and slowly inched into the icy waters. In the starlight, his rear wheels spun out huge ten-foot sprays of water, mud, rock and, I imagine, Santa Clarita being gold country,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5.

## Old Town Newhall Events

### November

25 – Thanksgiving Dinner – Newhall Community Center

28-30 – And Then There Were None –  
Repertory East Playhouse

28-30 – It’s A Wonderful Life – Canyon Theatre Guild

### December

4, 11, 18 – Old Town Newhall Farmers’ Market  
– Market Street

5 – Paint the Town – Main Street

5 – Metrolink Toy Train – Newhall Metrolink Station

5-7, 12-13 – And Then There Were None –  
Repertory East Playhouse

5-7, 12-14, 16-21 – It’s A Wonderful Life –  
Canyon Theatre Guild

6 – SCV Historical Society Christmas Open House

6 – Santa Clarita Literacy and Arts Festival – Hart Park

6 – Newhall Children’s Holiday Parade – Main Street

6 – Cowboys and Carols – Hart Park

23 – Holiday Party – Newhall Community Center

31 – Carnevale Di Venezia – Repertory East Playhouse



City of  
**SANTA CLARITA**

## Boston, CONT.

FROM PAGE 4.

diminutive samples of gold dust.

The temperature is in the thirties. I put on my fetching little surf waders – they just about cover the ankles – and some Bermuda shorts. I got a shovel and waded out nearly up to my knees and tried to dig him out.

Having lost a friend to drowning in mud currents many years ago, I kept the themes of Hubris, Karma and Don't Do Anything Real Stupid at the forefront of my mind.

I dug. I tried wedging small boulders under the rear wheels for traction. The stream kept spitting them out at me and let me assure you, with the snow level down to three thousand feet, run-off is mighty cold at 2 a.m.

Finally, we had to go to a Manly Man Source Higher Than Ourselves. I called Triple-A and my pal, Oscar the Tow Truck Guy, showed up. We yelled instructions and ideas over the raging water, hooked cable to axle and the truck was miraculously in a place of lesser humidity and on the freedom side of the wash in a painless few minutes.

There's no great moral or message here, except that I'm wired funny.

But there's something refreshing about living so close to civilization and yet being able to stand in mountain run-off with a shovel at two in the morning. I like lower-case adventures that pump the heart and don't end in tragedy.

A friend summed it up nicely when she succinctly described adversity: "It's nice that we're hearty."

Yup.

*John Boston's commentary appears in The Signal on Fridays and Sundays.*

# SANTA CLARITA'S LITERACY & ARTS FESTIVAL

Storytelling    Authors  
Books    Fun  
Stage Productions    Music    Food    Storybook Characters  
Crafts

Saturday, December 6, 2008

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Hart Park

Presented by SCV Education Foundation and the City of Santa Clarita

City of SANTA CLARITA

Paint the Town!

Holiday 2008

Window Painting Contest

Friday, December 5

3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Main Street

City of SANTA CLARITA

Metrolink Toy Train

Holiday 2008

Friday, December 5

7 p.m.

Newhall Metrolink Station

City of SANTA CLARITA

Children's  
Holiday Parade

2008

Saturday, December 6

8:30 a.m. line up

9:30 a.m. parade start

Paint the Town and Holiday Parade Award Ceremony

Saturday, December 6 10:45 a.m., Main Stage

Sponsored by

For more information call **661-414-4465**  
or visit [www.scveducationfoundation.org](http://www.scveducationfoundation.org)

**Cowboys  
and Carols**

Tickets for sale  
inside trading post  
store.

# A Century Later, Newhall Still Getting Shot.



CITY OF SANTA CLARITA

## News From The Santa Clarita Film Office.

Newhall has long been one of Santa Clarita's most successful film communities. The area's rich Western film roots date back to the early 1900s when Western stars such as William S. Hart, Gene Autry and Tom Mix filmed on location and at nearby Melody Ranch Motion Picture Studio. The area's diverse offerings made Newhall one of the most sought-after backdrops in the Los Angeles region.

Today the film industry continues to film on location in and around Newhall, thanks to the support of local businesses and residents in the area.

Santa Clarita is currently home to four locally based productions, including CBS' "The Unit" and "NCIS," HBO's "Big Love," and NBC's "Knight Rider." Several of these productions regularly film in the Newhall area, with recent film credits including:

- "The Unit," which filmed at a few area homes, Abe's Pawn Shop on Main Street, and at a gas station on Lyons Avenue;
- "NCIS," which filmed at the mobile home park on Railroad Avenue, did driving shots on Calgrove Boulevard, and filmed at a few area homes;
- "Knight Rider," which filmed at the Way Station Coffee Shop and a

vacant storefront on Main Street, while also filming at an area home and driving shots on multiple area streets.

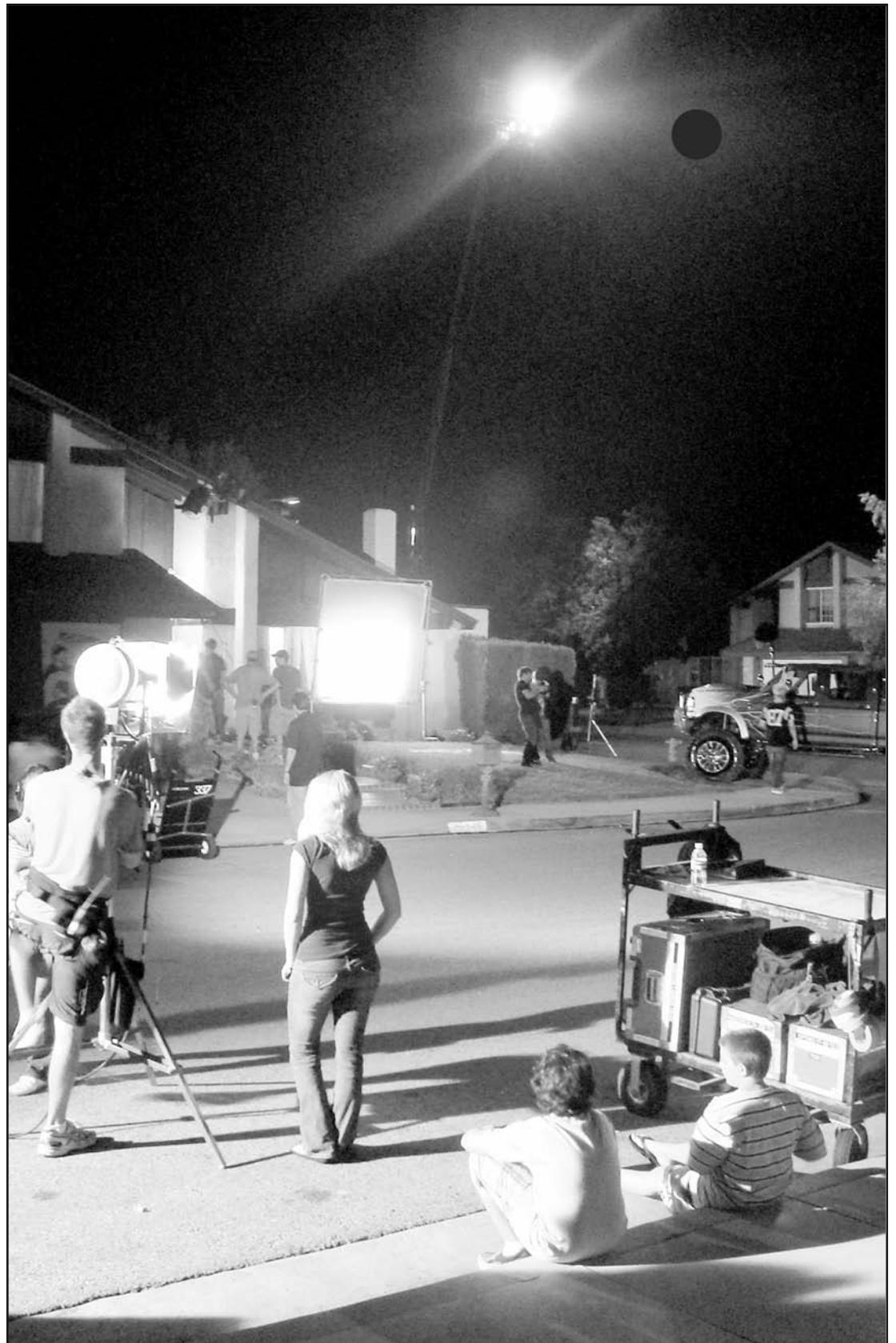
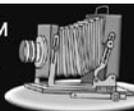
Other television shows, films and commercials that have concentrated filming efforts in Newhall include:

- ABC's "Criminal Minds" - First Presbyterian Church of Newhall;
- FOX's "House," CBS' "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" and "ABC Family" have all filmed at area homes;
- McDonalds commercial - Main Street business and Hart Park;
- Microsoft commercial - Newhall Park;
- "ABC Family" cable channel commercial - private home;
- "Stay Cool" (Polish Brothers feature) - based at Melody Ranch, business on Railroad Avenue, area streets;
- "Manure" (Polish Brothers feature) - based at Melody Ranch.

Newhall was the first community to put filming on the map in Santa Clarita, and its small town charm continues to attract a variety of film projects today, helping Santa Clarita maintain its position as one of the most filmed – and film-friendly – communities in the Los Angeles area.

SCVHISTORY.COM

Santa Clarita Valley  
History In Pictures



CITY OF SANTA CLARITA

THE VERSATILITY OF NEWHALL AS A FILM LOCATION ATTRACTS A VARIETY OF FILM SHOOT, INCLUDING (ABOVE) A NIGHT SHOOT IN NEWHALL AND (TOP LEFT) A SHOOT OF THE CBS DRAMATIC SERIES "SWINGTOWN" ON NEWHALL'S MAIN STREET.

# Newhall Library Architect Off And Running.

## Streetscape Project Going Out To Bid.

By CHRIS PRICE,  
ASSISTANT CITY ENGINEER,  
CITY OF SANTA CLARITA.

For regular readers of the Gazette, it will come as no surprise that the city's Newhall Library architect is off and running with the design of the new facility.

As mentioned in the last edition, several public meetings have already been held to discuss the size and makeup of this project. The first two public workshops for

the design of the library were completed, and a general site configuration has been agreed upon.

Richard D'Amato, principal architect for civic buildings from LPA Inc., has studied many layout concepts for the site and is working with city staff to concentrate on one so that he may move forward with the next step in the process.

Once a site layout has been preliminarily determined, the architects may then begin working on how the spaces inside and outside the new building relate to their surroundings.

As an example, a library building should separate its pri-

mary quiet study areas from nearby busy streets. Additional glazing could reduce noise and glare from headlights at night but could be distracting to both the public and motorists passing by.

In the current phase, the architect can now advance forward with preliminary designs for the building's floor plan and architectural features to best position all of the many great features the library will hold.

While the architect is studying the various ways the floor plan can be laid out, he will also begin to explore how the structure will

**'To many, the architecture is the single most important aspect of the project. The Newhall Library is intended to be a functional icon representing the oldest neighborhood and village in the Santa Clarita Valley. It must function as a state-of-the-art, 21st-century library, but not look like a space ship.'**

look once it is built.

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tion as a state-of-the-art, 21st-century library, but not look like a space ship.

Public participation at meetings and forums held during the preparation of the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan as well as the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9.

## Is Housing Discrimination



## Hurting Your Family?

**"The pool is for adults only"**

**"Children aren't allowed to be outside after 8 pm"**

**"You'll have to pay an extra deposit, in case your kids cause damage"**

Sound familiar? Having kids in your household does not mean you have to put up with discrimination. The law says when you rent an apartment your kids cannot be subject to special restrictions just because they are kids. The law also protects you against discrimination based on race, ancestry, color, national origin, marital status, source of income, disability, gender, age, religion, or sexual orientation.

Complaints of housing discrimination in the Santa Clarita Valley are investigated by the Fair Housing Council of the San Fernando Valley. To find out your rights, or to report suspected cases of discrimination please call (800) 287-4617.

Brought to you by the City of Santa Clarita through funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.



**(800) 287-4617**

The Fair Housing Council of the San Fernando Valley

# The Del Valles: First Spanish Owners Of The SCV.

**A Spoil Of War, The Rancho Would Fall On Hard Times Before A Novel Resurrected It.**

By ALAN POLLACK, M.D.,  
PRESIDENT, SANTA CLARITA  
VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

He was born on the 1st of July, 1808 in Jalisco, Mexico. Ignacio del Valle was destined to become one of the first landowners in the Santa Clarita Valley and a prominent citizen of early Los Angeles.

His father, Antonio del Valle, was a lieutenant in the Spanish military who accompanied an infantry unit called the San Blas Company to save Monterey, California, from Argentine pirates in 1819.

The late historian Jerry Reynolds described Del Valle's company as "a rag-tag bunch of thieves and convicts who caused so much trouble that the citizens petitioned for their ouster."

Mexico gained its independence from Spain in 1821. Having been booted out of Monterey, Antonio led his now-Mexican troops into the San Joaquin Valley in 1824 to capture a group of rebellious Indians at Santa Ynez. He returned to great acclaim in Monterey but got himself into trouble yet again with some shady political dealings and various affairs with local ladies, and was sent to prison in 1825 for insubordination.

Ignacio del Valle (also



spelled Ygnacio) arrived in Monterey at the behest of his father in July of that year.

Although at first they were happy to see each other, it was not in the cards for them to get along. Father and son would take opposite sides in 1832 when a power play blew up into warfare between Governor Manuel Victoria and Mexican Comandante General Don Jose Echeandía.

Ignacio had served under

Echeandía as a second Lieutenant before becoming commander of the presidio at San Diego. Echeandía's troops would be victorious, and it is said that Antonio and Ignacio never spoke to each other again.

Since the first California mission was established in San Diego in 1769 by Father Junípero Serra, the padres of the missions owned and controlled huge swaths of land in Alta California. But that was all to change when Mexico ratified laws to secularize the missions in 1834. Mission lands were given to native Americans, who were inexperienced in the concept of land ownership, and were easily tricked into giving away their

land rights to speculators.

That same year, Antonio del Valle would be assigned as the administrator of the San Fernando Mission. At the time, he counted 541 Indians still residing at the Mission. He held this post until 1837 when he was succeeded by Pedro Lopez, whose daughter, Jacoba Feliz, became his second wife. (Lopez' brother Francisco was the man who discovered gold in Placerita Canyon in 1842).

The next year, Antonio petitioned Governor Juan Alvarado for a grant of 48,829 acres of land in a valley north of the mission called the Rancho San Francisco. Alvarado signed off on the land grant on January 22, 1839, thus making Antonio del Valle the first owner of the

Santa Clarita Valley.

Ignacio himself administered the secularization of the missions at Santa Cruz and San Francisco. He was granted the Rancho Tejon in 1843 as a reward for his services to the government.

Antonio del Valle did not have long to enjoy his new property: He died in 1841, little more than two years later. Prior to his death, he tried to make amends with his son Ignacio, sending a messenger to offer him a portion of the Rancho San Francisco if he would settle down and get married. Unfortunately, before Ignacio could respond, the elder Del Valle

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12.



ABOVE: SEÑORA YSABEL DEL VALLE (LEFT) AND SENATOR REGINALDO DEL VALLE (RIGHT).

BELOW LEFT: IGNACIO DEL VALLE.

## Project, CONT.

FROM PAGE 7.

library-exclusive planning sessions have provided substantial input for the architect to use while developing the design of the building.

Once the preliminary site plans, floor plans, and architecture are combined with updated cost estimates, the City Council will then be asked to make decisions on moving forward with the full design plans for the entire project. Those decisions are expected to be made early in 2009 and will continue to include opportunities for the public to be involved.

Please stay tuned to the city's website and various e-mail newsletters to be ready to participate, should you choose to take that opportunity. Remember, this is your library, and it is intended to

serve your community for decades to come.

Also on the schedule is the bidding process for the exciting streetscape project. Over the last two years, city staff has been working on the design for this project and it is finally complete.

Staff will begin the public bidding process for this project in November, finish in December, and recommend the award of a contract in early January. The project will then go to construction.

You may recall that the project will be bid with an alternative proposal to construct two blocks of streetscape instead of just one. That determination will be made once the bids are received, opened and verified.

Keep your fingers crossed that bids come in low enough for two blocks to be completed at once.

## Braille Van Visits Senior Center.

The Mobile Solutions Van from the Braille Institute will be available for the visually impaired at the Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, December 3.

The Braille Institute Van offers a wide variety of services for the visually impaired without the time or trouble of visiting the Braille Institute

in Los Angeles. Services include the sale of assistive devices, library registration, resource referrals and more.

To meet with a low-vision consultant, you must make an appointment by calling John Taylor at the Senior Center, 661/259-9444 extension 125.

## Job Opening: School Principal. One Day Only.

From The William S. Hart  
Union High School District.

Reservations are currently available for parents, business executives and community leaders who would like to spend the morning with a superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal or assistant principal in the seventeenth annual Principal for a Day event, sponsored by the SCV Education Foundation. This year's event is Friday, January 23, but the earliest reservations will have their choice of school or administrator.

Principals and superintendents are available in the Newhall area for both the Hart and Newhall school districts. Participants spend the morning shadowing an administrator from one of the five school districts in the

valley, getting a first-hand perspective of the educational environment. The event concludes with a catered luncheon at the Santa Clarita Activities Center.

The tax-deductible donation ranges from \$150 for an elementary, junior high or middle school principal to \$400 for a superintendent, with \$200, \$300 and \$350 levels for administrators at other levels. Sponsorships also are available, starting as low as \$500. Proceeds help fund scholarships, Student Enrichment classroom grants and other Education Foundation projects.

Registration information and a downloadable registration form can be obtained by visiting the Education Foundation's Web site at [www.scveducationfoundation.org](http://www.scveducationfoundation.org) or by calling Ann Unger at 661/414-4465.



## CONSOLIDATED PLAN COMMUNITY MEETINGS

The City of Santa Clarita is preparing its Five-Year Consolidated Plan for fiscal years 2009-2013 and is offering three opportunities for public comments and input on the needs of the community and how grant funds should be spent during the next five years.

Your attendance is requested!

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2008**

**10:00 a.m. - Santa Clarita Valley Committee on Aging (Senior Center)**

**2:00 p.m. - Activities Center, Santa Clarita Room A**

**7:00 p.m. - Newhall Community Center**

For reasonable accommodations to participate, more information, or questions, please contact Project Technician, Terasa Sullivan at 661/255-4368 or by email at [tsullivan@wsanta-clarita.com](mailto:tsullivan@wsanta-clarita.com)



# Season's Greetings From The Hart.

By **AYESHA SALETORÉ,**  
ADMINISTRATOR,  
WILLIAM S. HART MUSEUM.

The holiday season is a wonderful time to visit the William S. Hart Museum in Old Town Newhall.

The halls of Hart are decked with bows of holly and holiday splendor. You truly feel the warmth of the comforting home and welcoming volunteers when visiting the William S. Hart Museum. Not only are we celebrating the holiday season, but also William S. Hart's birthday.

William S. Hart was born December 6, 1864, to Nicholas and Roseanna Hart. Although most people remember Hart as a cowboy film star, many do not realize he was born in New York.

Hart's personal experiences of the Western frontier began when he was a small boy while his father built and repaired flour mills. During this time, Hart's playmates were neighboring native American children and their playground was the Western frontier.

Hart never lost his interest or forgot the knowledge he gained from his childhood. In fact, he utilized his experiences as an actor, first on stage productions and then on the silent screen.

As a thespian on the live stage, Hart performed in a variety of plays including "Romeo and Juliet," "Ben Hur" and "The Man in the Iron Mask," as well as Western plays including "The Virginian" and "The Squaw Man."

Although Hart had an acting career on the stage for more than twenty years, he decided to bring his talents to the silent screen in order to create authentic Western films. Over the span of eleven years, Hart performed in more than sixty motion pictures while also writing, producing or directing a number of his films.

Throughout his tenure as a



Left: A magic lantern slide, the equivalent of a movie trailer today – promoting the 1917 film, "Square Deal Man," wherein the onetime Shakespearean actor portrayed "a square-jawed westerner who staked his all on the love of a girl and won." Hart also directed the picture.

Below: William S. Hart created the character of Messala in the stage production of "Ben Hur." He reprised the role in a fifteen-minute film version in 1907.

silent screen actor, Hart developed the prototype of the "frontier hero." Hart has been compared to artists Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell as an "artist whose paintings on the silver screen captured the reality of the Old West."

What a life Hart led.

In honor of Hart's birthday, the Friends of Hart Park and Museum hosts "Cowboys and Carols" every December.

The spirit of song will fill the Hart Museum on the evening of Saturday, December 6, as Curly Musgrave performs in the living room of the Hart Museum. Refreshments will be served. For ticket reservations, contact the William S. Hart Museum at 661/254-4584. Tickets are \$25 per person.

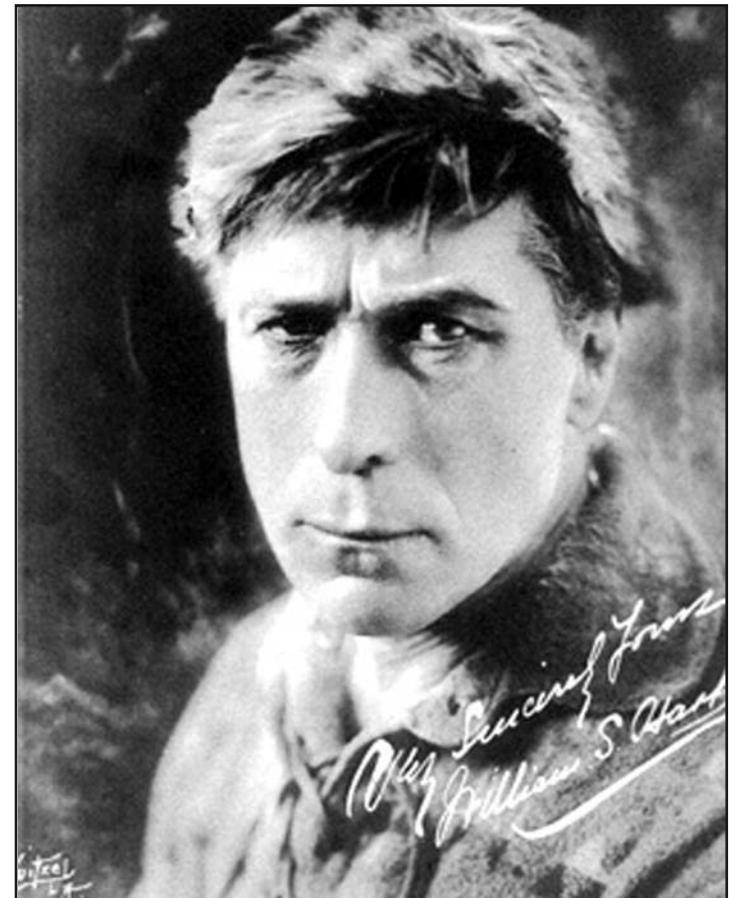
Also, while visiting the Hart Museum during December, guests will have a special opportunity to

view holiday cards and letter sent to William S. Hart from well known personalities including Russell and Wyatt Earp.

Imagine receiving a hand made, personalized holiday card from the most well known artists of our time. Be sure to bring your family and guests for a FREE tour of the Museum while it is decorated for the holidays, or join us to commemorate Hart's birthday and the holiday season with Cowboys and Carols.

The Hart Museum is open Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Saturday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tours begin every half hour and last for approximately thirty minutes. Note that the Museum will be closed on Christmas Day, December 25, and New Year's Day, January 1.

Happy Holidays from the Hart!



# Feel Good With CTG This Holiday Season.

By **PATTIFINLEY,**  
PRESIDENT,  
CANYON THEATRE GUILD.

"It's A Wonderful Life" has become almost as familiar to American audiences as "A Christmas Carol," and the Canyon Theatre Guild's holiday production of the classic Frank Capra movie is sure to help Santa Claritans get into the holiday spirit.

The saga of George Bailey, the "everyman" from the small town of Bedford Falls, is familiar to most of us, but the message it brings is universal in its appeal.

Bailey seems to have a picture-perfect life with a loving wife and children, and his own business. However, his early dreams of escape from the small town of Bedford Falls and finding adventure were put on hold as family obligations and civic duty took priority.

As his family grew, George worked hard to build the family business only to encounter a seemingly insurmountable disaster on Christmas Eve, when his Uncle Billy loses the cash they owe to the bank. The bank's owner, a Scrooge-esque Mr. Potter, threatens to take over George's business – driving George to the point of hopelessness.

Feeling that everyone would be better off without him, George contemplates suicide. He is saved at the last moment by the appearance of his guardian angel, Clarence Odbody, who saves George from despair when he shows George that his life is worth living.

The play celebrates the American philosophy of life: hard work, fair play and the love and support of one's family and friends will be rewarded and that it is, in fact, a Wonderful Life.

"It's A Wonderful Life" opens at the Canyon Theatre Guild's Old Town Newhall Playhouse on Friday, November 28, with a wine and champagne reception at 7 p.m.

Performances are every Friday and Saturday evening at 8 p.m., with Sunday matinees at 1 p.m. There will be Saturday matinees on December 13 and 20, in addition to weeknight performances at 7 p.m. on December 16, 17 and 18.

Tickets for this heartwarming holiday treat are \$12 to \$15 for juniors and seniors and \$15 to \$17 for adults. The theatre is located at 24242 Main Street, Newhall. Call the box office for reservations at 661/799-2702.

## Holipalooza!

"HOLIPALOOZA! The Magic of the Season" is the theme for this year's youth fundraiser on Friday, December 5, at the Canyon Theatre Guild. The evening will be a magical, musical holiday event featuring the talented youth of the CTG.

The evening includes a pre-show light buffet, a no-host bar, silent and live auctions, a visit from Santa, and a cast of sixty! Ticket prices are \$40 for VIP seating, \$30 for preferred seating (\$25 for youths and seniors) and \$25 for regular seating (\$20 for youths and seniors).

All proceeds from this event will benefit the CTG's ongoing youth workshops and educational programs. In addition, the CTG will be accepting donations of non-perishable food items to be delivered to the SCV Food Pantry and Hunger Defense Fund.

For reservations, call 661/799-2702. The Canyon Theatre Guild is located at 24242 Main Street, Newhall.



NEIL HARRIS

**JEFF JOHNSON AS GEORGE BAILEY, SURROUNDED BY HIS FAMILY, PLAYED BY REBECCA COOMBS, CURTIS CRAWFORD, CAMBRIA JENKINS, JUSTINE KELLY AND JILLIAN KELLY.**

## Del Valle,

CONT.

FROM PAGE 8.

passed on without leaving a will.

Jacoba Feliz married her ranch foreman, Jose Salazar, and filed suit to claim the rancho. Eventually a judge awarded the western 13,599 acres (later to be called Rancho Camulos) to Ignacio, and the remainder of the rancho went to Jacoba.

Ignacio did not initially move to his Rancho Camulos. He resided instead in the Pueblo de Los Angeles (now the Olvera Street area) where he became heavily involved in politics. He was to serve on the city council, was a treasurer in the civil government under Governor Pio Pico, and in 1850 was elected *alcalde* (mayor) of Los Angeles. The Pueblo was a wild and lawless place when Ignacio took over as *alcalde*.

He decided to clean up the town and formed the California Rangers, headed by Major Horace Bell (later author of "Reminiscences of a Ranger," the first book published in Los Angeles). Bell was assisted by, among others, William W. Jenkins, who later became involved in the fledgling oil industry in Pico Canyon and a decades-long range war in Castaic; and Cyrus Lyon, a gunslinger who in 1855, with his twin brother Sanford, purchased a stagecoach stop on the Rancho San Francisco which became known as Lyon Station (the brothers are immortalized today as the namesakes of Lyons Avenue in Newhall).

The Rangers blasted their way through the pueblo, guns blazing first, questions asked later, and meted out frontier justice so efficiently that the outlaw element in Los Angeles was essentially neutralized within two years.

Ignacio also served in the California Assembly. He mar-



IGNACIO DEL VALLE'S RANCHO CALUMOS PROPERTY WAS MADE FAMOUS BY HELEN HUNT JACKSON'S 1884 NOVEL, "RAMONA."

ried fifteen-year-old Ysabel Varela in 1852.

Ignacio began building an adobe hacienda at Rancho Camulos in 1853. The first wing would become the south veranda, seen in multitudes of postcards in the early 1900s after the rancho was made famous by Helen Hunt Jackson's 1884 novel "Ramona." Ignacio and Ysabel moved permanently to the rancho in 1861.

The 1860s were a difficult period of both severe flooding and droughts, resulting in many of the old Spanish ranchos losing livestock and going bankrupt. The Rancho San Francisco was no exception. Jacoba Feliz was heavily in debt until finally her principal creditor, William Wolfskill, had to foreclose.

Wolfskill worked out a deal with Ignacio allowing him

to maintain ownership of Rancho Camulos. The remainder of the Rancho San Francisco was purchased in 1865 by Thomas Bard, an agent for Pennsylvania Railroad President Thomas Scott and the Philadelphia and California Petroleum Company.

Bard and Scott's primary interest was finding oil on the rancho. They were not successful and eventually gave up on the property, which was purchased in an 1872 sheriff's sale by Charles Fernald and J.T. Richards. Then, in 1875, the Rancho San Francisco was purchased by none other than Henry Mayo Newhall.

Ironically, Pico Canyon, which was just outside the rancho property, became the site of the first successful oil well in the West when Alexander Mentry drilled the famous Pico Number 4 in 1876.

Ignacio and Ysabel had a total of twelve children, only

five of whom lived to adulthood. One of them, Reginaldo Del Valle, followed in his father's political footsteps, becoming at age twenty-eight the youngest member ever elected as president of the state Senate.

Ignacio del Valle died in 1880 at age seventy-two. He was buried at Camulos until his still-mourning and ailing wife had him exhumed and brought to Los Angeles in 1905. She died shortly thereafter and they were buried in Los Angeles in the same coffin.

Ignacio did not live to see his Rancho Camulos gain worldwide fame as the "Home of Ramona" described in Jackson's novel.

Jackson, who was trying to use the novel to illustrate the plight of the Mission Indians of California, instead created a nationwide firestorm of interest

in the romantic and tragic story of Ramona and her Indian lover, Alessandro.

Jackson had visited Rancho Camulos in 1882 while doing research for the novel. Her purported use of Camulos as a backdrop in the book painted a romantic vision of the mission and rancho period of Old Spanish California.

Camulos became a major tourist attraction in the 1880s and beyond, as people all over the country became obsessed with seeing for themselves the home where the fictional Ramona "lived."

"Ramona" is widely credited with being a major factor in the large migration of new residents to Los Angeles starting in the 1880s, a time when a sleepy pueblo of some five thousand souls grew into a city of more than one hundred thousand people by the turn of the Twentieth Century.



## Things Are Happening In Old Town Newhall.

By **SUZIE SZABO, Manager,**  
**OLD TOWN NEWHALL ASSOCIATION.**

The last quarter of the year is always busy for the Old Town Newhall Association, and this year is no exception. Old Town Newhall has already sponsored several events and more are in the planning stages.

In September, OTNA held its annual fundraiser, The Silver Horseshoe Saloon, at the Walt Disney Company's Golden Oak Ranch. It was a big success, thanks to all of the kind folks who contributed with their time and money.

Two weeks later, the city put on its annual Street Art Festival right on Main Street in Old Town Newhall. Even though we had record heat, many people came out and

enjoyed the art, food and games.

Every Thursday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. we have our local farmers market on Market Street between Main Street and Newhall Avenue. For Halloween, OTNA and the farmers market donated somewhere between sixty and one hundred pumpkins for the children to paint and decorate while their parents shopped. Capelli's Salon donated face painting for all the "kiddies" who wished to have their faces painted, while CalNational Bank came out with coloring books for a coloring contest and handouts for the children, as well. And let's not forget the pony rides! Everyone went away with pumpkins, coloring books, lots of fun memories, and yummy fall produce.

On November 18, OTNA held another

tequila seminar, Tequila Seminar Part Deux. Tickets included a ten-minute video on the makings of tequila, one raffle ticket, "botanas" (appetizers), dessert and coffee. It was a great way to meet the people from around town.

Wait, there's more! Some of you may not have a place to go for Thanksgiving, or you might just want to spend your time with new friends. If you are in this category, feel free to join Newhall Bicycle for a free Thanksgiving feast on Thursday, November 27, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 24343 Railroad Avenue (across from the Newhall Metro link Station). For more information, call 661/284.6187.

To start your Christmas holiday month we will have "Paint Your Town" on Dec 5. Children volunteer to paint the windows of establishments in Old Town Newhall. They

will paint *their idea* of the holiday season. This event is from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. and will be judged immediately afterward.

At 7:30 p.m. the same evening, the Metrolink Toy Train and Firefighters Spark of Love Toy Drive will arrive at the Newhall Station. OTNA donates all the hot chocolate, cookies and candy canes to hand out to the crowd. It is a fun way to bring in the holiday season.

As you see, we are very busy with all our festivities, and we hope you will join us for some, if not all, of the events. If you need further information or would like to volunteer to help OTNA, please call the OTNA office at 661/253-0730 or visit our website, [www.otna.info](http://www.otna.info).

Hope to see you soon.

## Come To The SCV Historical Society Christmas Open House.

From 10:00am to 2:00pm,  
Saturday Dec. 6th

After the Old Town Newhall Holiday Parade, Come to Heritage Junction and Tour Inside the Historical Homes and Train Station

Bring a can or non-perishable item for the Hunger Defense Fund Food Drive

We will have live local bands, Showdown Performing Arts Program, Animal Blessings, and a special visit by Santa Claus!

Santa will be taking your requests so be sure to be good!

Event location:  
24101 Newhall, Ave. (formerly San Fernando Rd. ) Newhall

This Event is Brought to you by The SCV Historical Society with the help of:

William S. Hart School District

Feathers Photo

The local Questers group,

And Heritage Haunt!

# Agatha Christie Strikes Again At The REP.

By **OVINGTON MICHAEL OWSTON**,  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,  
REPERTORY EAST PLAYHOUSE.

The Repertory East Playhouse will end its 2008 Season with the highly anticipated return of Agatha Christie's murder mystery, "And Then There Were None," sponsored by Terry Bleeker and Gem Mortgage. This is considered one of Christie's finest plays and will leave you guessing until the very end.

In this suspense thriller – originally titled "Ten Little Indians" – statuettes of little soldier boys on the mantel of a house on an island off the coast of Devon fall to the floor and break one by one as those in the house succumb to a diabolical avenger.

A nursery rhyme tells how each of the ten "soldiers" met his death until there were none.

Eight guests who have never

met each other or their apparently absent host and hostess are lured to the island and, along with the two house servants, are marooned. A mysterious voice accuses each of having gotten away with murder, and then one drops dead – poisoned. One down and nine to go.

The REP will host a post-show discussion Sunday, November 23, immediately following the show. Join the cast and crew for an intimate discussion about the process of creating live theatre.

The REP is proud to announce its "Adopt a Character" program. Adopt your favorite character online at [repeastplayhouse.org](http://repeastplayhouse.org). Your tax-deductible contribution will help clothe, feed, and provide fuel for your character.

Director Mikee Schwinn has once again assembled a fine cast including Bill Quinn, Daniel Lench, Marla Khayat, Leila Zia, Nolan LeGault, Ron Kari, Steven

"Nanook" Burkholder, Tony Cicchetti, Travis Beaty, Adrian Iles, and Donna Marie Sergi.

"And Then There Were None" runs through December 13. Show times are Friday and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$17 for general admission and \$15 for students and seniors. Advanced reservations are highly recommended. For tickets, purchase online at [repeastplayhouse.org](http://repeastplayhouse.org) or call 661/288-0000. The REP is located at 24266 Main Street, Old Town Newhall.

**THE REPERTORY EAST PLAYHOUSE IS FINISHING ITS 2008 SEASON WITH THE AGATHA CHRISTIE MYSTERY, "AND THEN THERE WERE NONE," A SUSPENSE THRILLER THAT PLAYS THROUGH DECEMBER 13.**



**THANKSGIVING DINNER IS ONE OF THE MAIN EVENTS OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON AT THE CITY'S COMMUNITY CENTER.**

**Center,**  
**CONT.**  
**FROM PAGE 3.**

hundreds of meals that will be prepared by LA Trends Catering.

The Girl Scouts will host an arts and crafts project at the Thanksgiving event, and youth from the center's violin and guitar classes will provide entertainment.

Each year, Community Center members look forward to this event, where they can spend time together as a family over a warm and delicious meal.

Preparations for the annual Holiday Party are under way. This event provides more than one hundred fifty families with gifts, thanks to the support of numerous volunteers and sponsors including Wendy Collins from State Farm

Insurance and American Medical Response.

On December 23, in addition to presents, Community Center families in need will also receive a gift certificate for a local supermarket and youth will have an opportunity to take a picture with Santa and Ms. Claus.

These events, and the volunteers and sponsors who make them possible, are proof that the holiday spirit is alive and well in Santa Clarita despite the tough economic times. Their generous donation of time and resources makes the holidays special for so many families in need and makes Santa Clarita a wonderful place to live, work and play.

*For more information about these events or the Newhall Community Center, call Community Center Coordinator Yolanda Calderón at (661) 286-4006.*

**THE 1979 BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS  
MEETS TO DISCUSS  
PLANS FOR THE  
UPCOMING YEAR.**

SCV BOYS & GIRLS CLUB



**Club,  
CONT.**

FROM PAGE 1.

the introduction of "The Epidural," an anesthetic that eased the pain of childbirth.

On the local scene, there was also a reason for rejoicing. The children and teens of the Newhall-Saugus area were about to get a much-needed recreational boost.

Young families, which had flocked to the area to take advantage of its low-priced housing, discovered a cruel reality: Most developers had peppered the area with large tracts of houses, leaving little more than passive pocket parks to appease the exuberance of the homeowners' children.

The four elementary school districts were among the first to sound the alarm of neglected "latch-key" children, and bored youngsters using neighbors' yards as baseball fields and bike paths.

Current Valencia resident George Pederson was a sergeant working at the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department's Newhall office when Sheriff Peter Pitchess demanded some solutions to the area's recreational void.

Pederson was directed by Captain Joe Engar to make contact

with Larry Margolis and Herb Oberman of the Department of Social Services. The three men were charged with the responsibility of assembling community leaders to create an agency that would supply adult-supervised recreational activities for youngsters aged seven to eighteen.

What seemed a fairly straightforward task turned out to be anything but. After exhaustive study, it was deemed that an affiliation with the Boys Clubs of America would be a good first step.

Margolis, Oberman and Pederson next organized a board of directors, seeking men with organizational skills like those of school superintendent Dr. Jim Foster; the business acumen of entrepreneurs like Ed Bolden, Tony Marincola and Stan Dyer; the energy of restaurant owner Bill Kohlmeier; the salesmanship of insurance man Jack Boyer; and the public relations skills of Signal Publisher Jon Newhall and The Newhall Land and Farming Company's Larry Wade.

The board members set up quarters in a small, vacant church at the corner of 6th Street and Newhall Avenue, across from Hart Park, and called themselves the "Boys Club of Newhall-Saugus."

The group discovered that becoming a chartered club of the national agency was the easy part. The challenge would be to secure enough money not only to build a recreational facility, but also to keep it running.

The men went to the most obvious source of charitable dollars at that time, Tom Lowe, president of Newhall Land. Lowe gave the new board members two things: a large pallet of bricks to help them with a new building, and their first-ever grant — twenty-four thousand dollars that he secured from the San Francisco-based Henry Mayo Newhall Foundation, payable at a rate of eight thousand dollars per year for three years.

The annual pledge would have to be matched by the Boys Club board, and the directors would need to find a way of turning the bricks into a building.

The two tasks presented formidable challenges, but they were enthusiastically tackled under the leadership of charter president Bill Kohlmeier and newly hired executive director Al Vierra.

The pallet of bricks languished in a storage yard while fundraising efforts took center stage.

*See the next edition of The Gazette for part two.*

## Jim Ventress Honored with Neighborhood Excellence Initiative Award.

**Bank of America Directs \$5,000 Grant To Boys And Girls Club Of Santa Clarita Valley.**

From The SCV Boys And Girls Club.

Jim Ventress, chief professional officer for the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Clarita Valley, was one of 10 Local Heroes named at Bank of America's fifth annual Neighborhood Excellence Initiative Awards ceremony, which was held Oct. 28 at the Los Angeles River Center. In recognition of their dedication to serving Los Angeles neighborhoods, honorees had the opportunity to each direct a \$5,000 grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation to an eligible non-profit organization. Ventress chose the Boys and Girls Club where he has worked since 1985.



**JIM VENTRESS.**

One question in the nomination form asked how Ventress has made a difference and what made him a hero. The response included the following, "Jim's passion to guide youth in the Boys and Girls Club's movement by increasing their educational achievement, improving their self confidence and personal development, and shaping their futures is evident in the community of Santa Clarita. Jim spearheaded feasibility studies, strategic planning, and fundraising, which led to the construction of two multi-million-dollar Boys and Girls clubhouses. Jim's favorite motto is 'Give kids attention, recognition and affection, and they will contribute to society, not take away from it.'"

Gary Saenger and Jay Thomas from the Club's governing board of directors attended the ceremony in Los Angeles with Ventress, who only found out about his nomination after it was submitted. "My staff and the board snuck this one by me. I was stunned and honored to learn that I was one of the recipients," he said.

The Boys and Girls Club of Santa Clarita Valley is a member of Boys and Girls Clubs of America, an organization with more than four thousand clubs nationwide. The local Club was formed in 1968 by a group of community leaders who recognized the need for high-quality programs and facilities at affordable costs for area young people. The Boys and Girls Club of Santa Clarita Valley now serves more than three thousand, five hundred youth. Programs engage members in education and career exploration, the arts, sports, recreation and fitness, character and leadership development, and healthy life choices. For more information, visit [www.scvkids.org](http://www.scvkids.org).

**“The Newhall Elementary School auditorium is more than a building. It represents community history and tradition centering around the arts, as begun with cinema star William S. Hart.”**

– SUZAN SOLOMON,  
Newhall School Board.

## Auditorium, CONT.

FROM PAGE 1.

non-profit group, Theatre Arts for Children, was formed and began the task of raising money to restore the building.

With help from the Newhall District and funds from a local bond, all of the supplies were removed to a new warehouse location. More than \$3 million was needed to bring the building up to code. Theatre Arts for Children raised enough money to install basic fire and safety elements and bring the auditorium up to current seismic standards, but much more was needed and the group realized that further restoration was beyond its reach.

Enter the Canyon Theatre Guild, a longtime community theatre group that operates a three hundred-seat theatre on Main Street in Old Town Newhall.

The Guild has always dreamed of creating a theatre group devoted to children. It approached the school district and recently received a lease to the building.

The lease allows the Guild exclusive and joint use of the

space and elements of renovation. The Guild will raise funds, supervise construction and ultimately produce child-oriented performances.

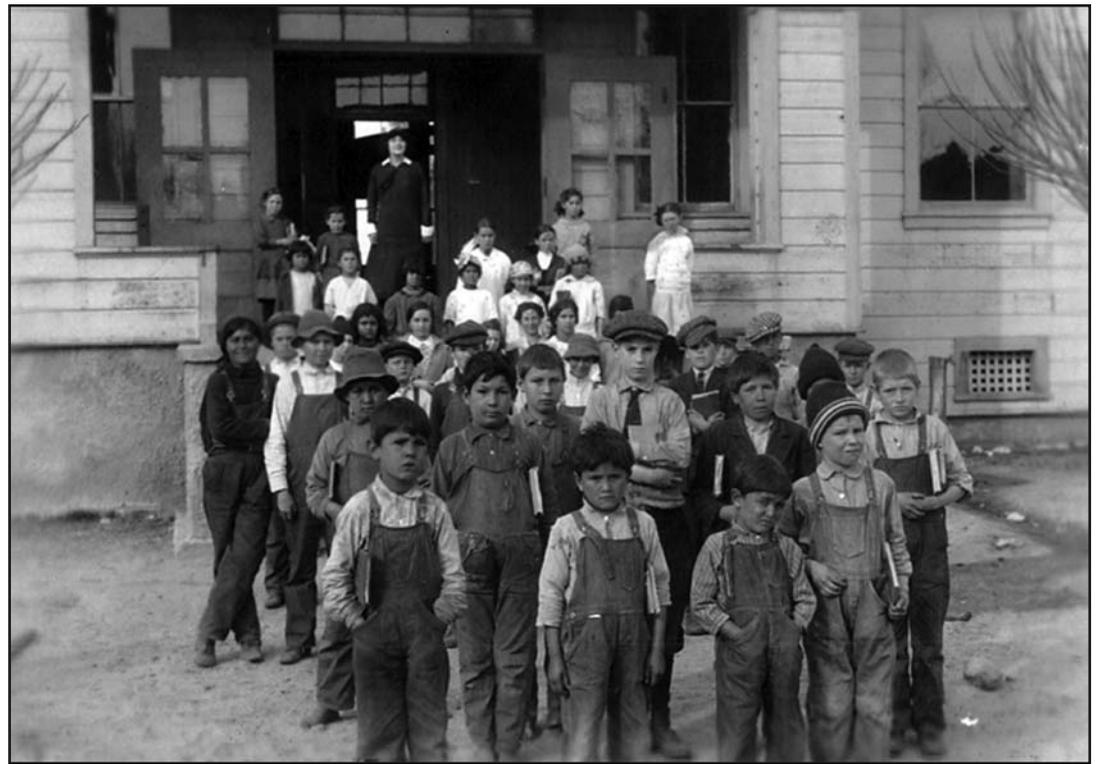
Tim Ben Boydston, the Canyon Theatre Guild’s executive director, said he was thrilled with the district partnership.

“Once this space is completed, we will be able to bring magic to the children of Santa Clarita by presenting a full season of children’s shows,” he said. “In addition, we will be able to use the space to expand our existing education programs for youth. This is a win-win-win collaboration.”

So, what does it take to

bring this historic venue up to snuff? Boydston said the list is extensive, but he is hopeful that trades people and others will be interested in helping the youth of the community.

“The exact cost of renovation has not been determined, but we expect that it will be about \$1 million to open the



SOVHISTORY.COM

**THESE DUSTY NEWHALL KIDS HAD NO AUDITORIUM AT THEIR SCHOOL, WHICH WAS LOCATED WEST OF NEWHALL AVENUE ALONG TODAY’S LYONS AVENUE WHEN THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN ABOUT 1915.**



## EXPLORE HISTORIC MENTRYVILLE.

*Birthplace Of The California  
Oil Industry ~ Right Here  
In The Santa Clarita Valley.*

**WWW.MENTRYVILLE.ORG**

doors,” Boydston said. “Our timeline for completion is about five years.”

Among the needed repairs are a new water supply and plumbing system, electrical, HVAC, seating, flooring and renovation of the lobby and office areas. The Guild hopes to expand the stage, create dressing rooms, add a new lighting and sound system and build entirely new restrooms.

Artistic Director Patti Finley said the Guild has been dreaming about the day it can offer classes in dance, stage, voice and acting techniques.

With the addition of the auditorium to the Guild’s venues, Finley said the Family Season would have a space of its own to present a full season of productions and expose even more children to the magic of live theater.

Longtime Newhall School Board member Suzan Solomon has been involved in the audito-

rium restoration effort for many years. She is thrilled at the prospect of what the Canyon Theatre Guild can accomplish, and she looks forward to reopening the doors.

“The Newhall Elementary School auditorium is more than a building. It represents community history and tradition centering around the arts, as begun with cinema star William S. Hart,” Solomon said. “The Canyon Theatre Guild understands and respects that legacy and shares the vision of bringing the auditorium into the 21st Century while maintaining tradition.”

The first fundraiser for the auditorium will be Holipalooza, a December event in which all net proceeds will go toward renovation. The Guild is also engaging the services of an architect to draw up the design plans.

*For more information about the Canyon Theatre Guild and the Newhall auditorium, contact Boydston at 661/799-2700.*