

# HART OF THE MATTER

FRIENDS OF WILLIAM S. HART PARK NEWSLETTER



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Silents Under the Stars  
Saturday, Aug 11

High Desert Model  
Train Show  
Sat & Sun, Sept 15 & 16

SCV Artists Association  
Arts Classic  
Sat & Sun, Sept 29 & 30

Native American  
Pow Wow and Craft Fair  
Sat & Sun, Oct 6-7

Bow Wows & Meows  
Sun Oct 14

25th Annual SCV  
Rose Society Show  
Sat Nov 3

Cowboys & Carols  
Fri & Sat Apr 21 & 22

Hart Holiday Boutique  
Sat & Sun, Dec 8-9

*Who should come to*

## Silents Under the Stars

*Saturday Aug. 11th, 2018 at 6pm?*

**Film Fans** will enjoy one of William S. Hart's finest silent movies, *The Toll Gate* – the first movie produced by Bill Hart himself, with an ending written by Hart's sister Mary Ellen Hart, and also starring Hart's pinto pony Fritz!

**History Buffs** will appreciate seeing this landmark film, under the stars, on Hart's property just a few yards from Fritz's final resting place. Watch the stunt performed by Bill & Fritz that almost ended both their lives at the peak of their careers.

**Animal Lovers** will not only enjoy seeing Fritz in one of Hart's most best films, but will also know that with the purchase of their tickets, they'll be supporting the park and all the animals that call Hart Park home. Stop by and see our animals, including our 5 new alpacas!

**Foodies** will enjoy dining on a delicious BBQ dinner provided by Rattlers, along with beer, wine and a special dessert!

**Music Lovers** will enjoy the live cowboy/bluegrass music of The Grateful Dudes Cowboy Band prior to the movie. And the movie itself will feature original live accompaniment by the talented Ray Lowe!

**Treasure Seekers** will love the opportunity to bid on one-of-a-kind western collectables and other special items!

*In other words, you! How to get tickets?*

[www.friendsofhartpark.org/silents](http://www.friendsofhartpark.org/silents)

or call (661) 222-9542

*Tickets are \$50 a seat. Reserve a whole table!*

**SILENTS UNDER THE STARS**  
SATURDAY AUG 11 AT 6PM  
ENJOY A MOVIE – BBQ DINNER  
SILENT AUCTION – WESTERN MUSIC  
TICKETS: 661-222-9542  
[friendsofhartpark.org/silents](http://friendsofhartpark.org/silents)



*We're so sorry to say goodbye to long-time and much-loved Hart Park secretary*

## Cheryl Hazama



Cheryl Emi Hazama was born on April 7, 1956, in San Fernando, California to Katsuyoshi and Emi Hazama. Cheryl graduated from San Fernando High School, and attended Cal State Northridge, where she earned her B.A. and M.A. in English. After graduation, Cheryl went to work for Hughes Markets, moving on to work for the County at Olive View Hospital and Hart Park, where she made many dear and lifelong friends.

She lived in San Fernando and Sylmar, and attended Crossway Church of San Fernando Valley (formerly San Fernando Valley Holliness) from the time she was born. She loved music, was a talented artist and writer, read

voraciously and watched many, many movies. A passion for Arthurian Legend led her to travel to Europe to visit sites where Arthur might have been buried or lived, and studied hefty texts on the myths surrounding him.

Her friends and family were all-important to her, and she was fiercely loyal, kind and generous to all those she loved and befriended.

In 2014 Cheryl was hospitalized with cancer, but with her bravery, perseverance and faith, she returned to work and continued to live a full and happy life.

We are all blessed to have known you, Cheryl – you will be treasured and missed always!



# The Trading Post

The Cowboy Festival is one of the best annual events the city of Santa Clarita puts on each year, and it is especially good for us in Hart Park -- the diverse and numerous visitors who attend the Festival give proof that the spirit of the American cowboy still exists! Bill Hart would be more than pleased that so many people take the opportunity to enjoy the ranch, which he and Mary left to the public in their separate wills.

Those members of FOHP who volunteered in the Gift Stores had a great weekend meeting with the public and having the chance to tell many of the out of town visitors about the ranch and the Hart's generosity.



And with the mentioning of volunteers ... **WE NEED MORE FOHP**

**MEMBERS TO JOIN US AND VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH OUR VARIOUS EVENTS!!!** Volunteers can give as much or little of their time as they have available and will be provided with training for the activities that interest them. The Trading Post Gift Store is open on Saturdays and Sundays for 4 1/2 hours each day and offers a pleasant environment in which to meet and greet Park visitors, sell animal feed and shop merchandise, and provide Park information and directions to visitors. The bookshop has occasional used book sales and can always use help displaying the books and helping shoppers with their selections. If you enjoy books and visiting with all ages of book lovers, this is the volunteer event for you! There are a multitude of events throughout the year, such as Silents Under the Stars in August, which also need volunteer help, and there is always the barnyard and mansion which can use a helping hand.

Please contact us at the Trading Post Gift Store or at the Park Office if you can share some of your time to keep this wonderful Park churning along.

Becki Basham  
Gift Store mgr.





## Happenin's 'Round the House

Featuring the story and painting that go with the movie, *The Toll Gate*, shown at this year's *Silents Under the Stars*

By Margi Bertram, Museum Administrator

Some of you may be aware of the book, *Told Under a White Oak Tree*, authored by Bill Hart's pinto pony and film co-star, Fritz. In this book, Fritz is remembering his life in film to his friends, Cactus Kate and Lisbeth. He recounts several of the stunts he performed with Hart. As he opens the book, Fritz comments about the Boss, "You know, he thinks he owns this ranch, but he doesn't. Me and you and Lisbeth and Wolf, we own it, and by golly, we'll run it too. What have I got to show for my seven years' work in pictures – if we don't own this place? ...and I just want to tell you that this is Newhall, California, and right in the foothills, and land is worth something here."

After taking a break from films for a few years, Fritz returned back to back in the films *The Toll Gate* and *Sand*. As the film to be shown this year at *Silents Under the Stars*, we thought it would be fun to review what Fritz wrote about one stunt in *The Toll Gate*, reproduced for his book in a painting by James Montgomery Flagg. This painting can be viewed in the Guest Wing of the museum. In this telling, Fritz also references the cinematographer, Joe August. We hear Fritz set the scene, which took place at a location outside Sonora, near the Sierras. We know this location is part of the Natural Bridges Trail in Calaveras County. This two-mile round trip hike takes you to spectacular limestone caverns, used for this action in the film.



Natural Bridges cave today  
Photo by Dave Bunnell

"We was going up into the country what Bill likes, Snorer, or some such name as that. Anyhow, it's in the foothills of the Sara's mountains. I'm wrong on that name, too, but I'm doing the best I can on names...We found our river all right, and then I heard we was to get the water stuff.

"Then we went to our 'Toll Gate' location...It was a hole – a tunnel – or a sewer right through the mountain. You can call it what you like but that is what it was. It was about seventy-five or a hundred yards long. There was an overhanging cave where you went in and the same where you came out, and then it just narrowed down to a hole – just room for a horse to swim and a man to sit on him and not bump his head on the ceiling. It was about six feet wide at the water level. Bill, he looked at it a long, long time—longer than I ever see him look at any stunt before. Then he said, 'Any ledges in there under water to upset a hoss?' And Joe, the camera man, he said: 'I took off my clothes and went through there yesterday on some planks lashed together and I sounded all the way through with a pole. It averages about eight feet deep 'cept n one place, where there's a hole, about forty feet long, where I couldn't touch bottom at all.' And Bill said, 'Deepness don't matter none, but do you strike any ledges gitting out of the hole?' Joe, he said he didn't think so. 'Boys,' said Bill, 'This will be great for the story if we can git it. In this story this tunnel is the entrance to an outlaws' cave, and there's nine of us got to go through and carry pine-know torches n our free hand so Joe kin set up at the other end and have light to photograph us coming through.

"I swum all right, and pretty soon we hit a place where the water didn't hit me so hard, but it kind of pulled me down in round whirligigs, and away at the other end I could see Joe on a ledge of rocks, grinding his camera. He didn't look no bigger than a speck. And then all at once something happens that made me feel like death.



"My front feet hit a ledge of rock under the water, and I couldn't find nothing behind to climb on. Right there I seen it coming. You know we hosses can scent danger and see our finish quicker than a man. I tried to climb. Right there I could see me a drowning the Boss...I got my front legs way up, and the boss, he was quarter riding way off on one side to steady me, but I had nothing under me but that whirlpool of water a-sucking me down.

"I struggled and struggled, but it wasn't any good. And then I put everything I had into a mighty jump, but I couldn't make it – it couldn't be done, and over I come – right on the Boss – him staying right with me. The Boss has told me since then never to breathe under water. But I didn't know it then, and as we went down and down, I just kicked and lunged. I was strangling when we come up. The Boss was still with me. How I didn't strike him and kick him to death, I don't know, but there he was with his hand through my cheek strap, trying to get my head above water. Oh! I am plumb ashamed of myself, now when I think of it. I plumb lost my head. I was crazy.

"I just dug into it and climbed like a wild hoss that I was.

"The Boss, he wasn't there, but just in a second he come up, too, about ten feet away from me. I looked at him and tried to say, Good-bye, and I made a sound.

"And then the Boss said, 'Now, old man, come ahead – come ahead' – and I felt we was going toward the light, but I couldn't see much. I seemed to be going blind, but I kept my feet working, and all at once I felt a lot of hands grab me, and I was outside, and I felt awful sick all over, but I see the Boss laying stretched out on the rocks and I pushed through the boys and tried to nose him. And then a terrible dizziness came over me and I felt like everything was going round and round, and I was falling, and a whole lot of hands grabbed me again, and the boys was bracing their bodies up against me, and the let me down easy aside the Boss.

"...and the Boss, he was down on his knees beside my head, and what do you think he was doing? – doggone if he wasn't washing my mouth out with WATER and a sponge. Just like I hadn't had enough of WATER. I got mad right there, and the Boss said, 'Let him up, let him up,' and up I come – and the madder I got, the Boss just kept laughing and laughing and doing a regular dance, and then he just hollered. 'There's life in the old boy yet!'"

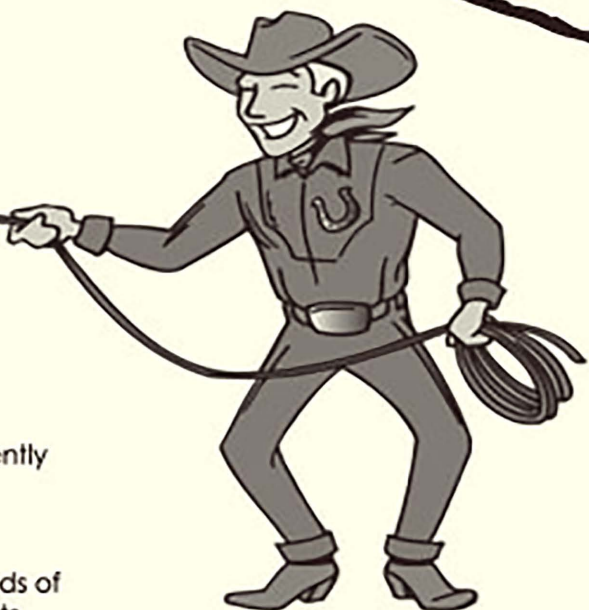
We hope you will join us at **Silents Under the Stars** on Saturday, August 11, and that you will take a moment to visit the Mansion before dinner, to take a close up look at the painting representing this exciting action – we'll make sure to point it out!



"I just dug into it and climbed like a wild hoss that I was."

The painting by James Montgomery Flagg you can see in the mansion, that shows the action from Silents Under the Stars movie, The Toll Gate





A very "Hart-felt" THANK YOU to all of y'all, who recently made donations to The Friends of Hart Park via the website!

It's fine folk like you and all the members of the Friends of Hart Park who help maintain our animals and artifacts, and we SO appreciate your kindness!

For others interested in a one-time donation or joining The Friends of Hart Park, please visit our website at [friendsofhartpark.org](http://friendsofhartpark.org). To donate, look for the button at the bottom of the page; to join, click on "Membership".

Also, thanks to those who buy tickets, and even full tables, at Silents Under the Stars. Those purchases also help our park and animals. From [friendsofhartpark.org](http://friendsofhartpark.org), click "Silents" to join in the fun.

To get the best of both worlds, join the Friends of Hart Park at Patron level or above, and get 2 free tickets to Silents Under the Stars!!!

## THE FRIENDS OF HART PARK AND MUSEUM



*"Your Time is Up Partner!"*

*"Join Today!"*

[friendsofhartpark.org](http://friendsofhartpark.org)

*Friends of Hart Park Present*

# SILENTS UNDER THE STARS

Wm. S. Hart starring in a 1920's classic **THE TOLL GATE**

Saturday August 11th at 6 pm

Music by **The Grateful Dudes Cowboy Band**

**\$50 Tickets** \*purchase at  
[friendsofhartpark.org/silents](http://friendsofhartpark.org/silents)  
or call (661) 222-9542



Artwork by Tim Murphy

**BBQ Dinner by  
RATTLERS**

**HART Mansion Tours**

**LIVE accompaniment  
by Ray Lowe**

**SILENT Auction**

**Proceeds benefit  
the park & animals**



# Special Membership



## Silver

Andre & Candy Valuzat

## Patrons

Jeff & Pam Wheat, Bill & Zettia Miller  
Kelly Phen, Sandra Cattell

Our members in the Friends of Hart are essential to keep the preservation, beautification and enhancement of William S. Hart County Park and Museum. Tell your friends about us and invite them to join at [FriendsOfHartPark.org/membership](http://FriendsOfHartPark.org/membership). Thank you very much for your support.

**Friends Of The  
William S. Hart Park**

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