

HART OF THE MATTER

FRIENDS OF WILLIAM S. HART PARK & MUSEUM NEWSLETTER



Volume 32
Number 1
2019

Cowboy Festival
p1

Bill Hart Trivia
p2-3

Jane Novak
Cookbook p3

Event Pictures
p4-5

Critter Corner
p6

Sorry to Say Goodbye
Terry Earp p7

Happy 90th B-Day
Betsy Gay p7



April 12-13
Cowboys Festival

Fridays May 11 - July 20
Music in the Park

May 18-19
Artisan Row Arts &
Crafts Show

June 8-9
SCV Quilt Show

June 23
Saxtravaganza Concert

Fridays June 28 - Aug 16
Movies in the Park

August 10
Silents Under the Stars

October 5
Pow Wow

October 13
Bow Wows & Meows

The 2019 Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival will be in William S. Hart's Park!

It's that time of year again!

Time to wake up and smell the grits! Time to trade in our business casual for chaps, our hardhats for Stetsons, and ride into town on a paint instead of a Pontiac.

That's because, saddle-pals, once again here comes the Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival! And this year, Friends, Hart Park will be at the "Hart" of the action!

The Friends of Hart Park is especially proud to host two very special nights of entertainment. Get your tickets to the fun at cowboyfestival.org!

Friday, Apr. 12th at 6:30pm for \$20
cowboyfestival.org/cowboy-dance-with-cow-bop

Cowboy Dance with Cow Bop



Start your Cowboy Festival dancing to great western music!

Join the Friends of Hart Park for an evening of western swing music and dance with returning Cowboy Festival performers Cow Bop, who mix swingin' grooves, thrilling riffs, sweet and hot vocals, western sensibilities and tons of fun for an electric performance. The band's collective experience crosses the spectrum of American music, from the hottest jazz and the coolest swing to the most down-home honky-tonk.

Doors open at 6:30 pm. Dance lessons provided between 6:30 and 7:00 p.m. Beer and wine available for purchase. Parking provided onsite at William S. Hart Park.

Saturday, Apr. 13th at 8pm for \$15
cowboyfestival.org/national-cash

A Night with National Cash A Tribute to Johnny Cash



Join the Friends of Hart Park for an evening of music with National Cash, a tribute to Johnny Cash. National Cash expertly escorts the audience on a trip down memory lane through Johnny Cash's musical repertoire, intertwining local stories and historical anecdotes with the music to help bring Johnny's bad-boy reputation to life, giving fans a taste of his time spent in the Ojai Valley. The perfect show for Johnny Cash fans new and old. National Cash's Johnny Cash Tribute is truly a show not to be missed.

Doors open at 7:30 pm. Beer and wine available for purchase. There is no onsite parking. Parking is available at the Cowboy Festival Shuttle Site and a free courtesy shuttle will drop off and pick up from the park. Last shuttle leaves the park at 10pm.

Betcha You Didn't Know This About Bill...

by John Boston

Newhall's most famous citizen is William S. Hart. He was the silent film star who created the modern model for the movie cowboy. I've got tons of little tidbits about the SCV's legendary actor, but let's start with a dozen tidbits not often shared by the mansion's plucky tour guides:

1) Darryl Zanuck bought the rights to William S. Hart's life's story. Zanuck hired producer Sol Siegel and Cy Bartlett to write an epic screenplay about our Western superstar. Small problem. Zanuck bought the rights from Hart's son, Bill Jr., who didn't OWN the rights. The estate of his father would be embroiled in lawsuits for about a decade. No movie has ever been made about the amazing life of one of the most influential cowboy stars in movie history.

2) A certain plucky local satirist and Camille Stuart, the granddaughter of legendary Hall of Fame cowboy Liandro (Andy) Jauregui came up with quite the prank in the mid 1970s. Posing as a film production studio, complete with a Beverly Hills phone and address, they notified Newhall's 4th of July Parade committee that they were making a mini-series on the life of William S. Hart. Could the two stars (Signal humorist and Cammy) possibly ride in the parade? Officials were giddy. Of course! Quickly, the prank got out of hand. Locals called the BH number and asked if the "actors" would mind being division marshals, then, a day later, co-GRAND MARSHALS. The fake movie company called to apologize and report funding for the project had dried up.

3) Both Bill Hart Sr. and Bill Hart Jr. started their families late in life. Hart Sr. had Bill Jr. at 60 and Bill. Jr. fathered children when he was 59 and again when he was 63. Both men lived to age 81.

4) Legendary icon and Signal editor Ruth Newhall shared a story with me long ago about an unusual golf three-some from the 1930s. Seems William S. Hart, comedian W.C. Fields (who lived across Market Street on 8th for a while) and one of the most famous entertainers of his day, Charlie Mack, used to go golfing together in Newhall. There wasn't any course in town then, but the trio would take a bottle of whiskey, a few clubs and a bag of golf balls. They would wander up and down the hills of Newhall, using distant tree stumps and fence posts for "holes." I used to play that very same game in the early 1960s with my best pal, Phil Lanier. We used to call it Hobo Golf.

5) Here's some trivia I'm betting the tour guides don't know. Before the George Babcock Smith ranch here in the early 1920s and teens, the

county fire department had a huge fire look-out tower right where the mansion sits today.

6) On Dec. 16, 1941, Hart returned from having successful eye surgery. He gets to his Newhall mansion only to realize the town was under strict black-outs due to the start of World War II. An interesting coincidence - Hart's operation was called an iridectomy. Hart had burned his eyes under the fiercely hot studio lamps while filming a movie. The iridectomy was a procedure invented by New York doctor C.R. Agnew in the 1870s. The first patient to be undergo an iridectomy? Nicholas Hart, Bill's dad. Story goes that Nicholas was chiseling some rock when a small particle of steel chipped off and went into his eye. After three unsuccessful operations and now being blind in one eye, Nicholas went to Dr. Agnew, who debuted the pioneering surgical technique. It restored Bill's dad's eyesight.

7) In 1925, workers were also busy constructing a small rustic cabin (the little museum/bunkhouse today) at the base of the road to the castle for Walter King. Mr. King, by the way, was an accomplished saddlemaker, silversmith and cared for Hart's horses. Some locals chuckled over building a rustic cabin "with the bark still on." The little cabin only cost \$600 to make.

8) Hart was one of the most famous people on earth and locals were stunned when he showed up here (Two-Gun didn't live here then) in September of 1922 for his premier of The Return of Draw Egan. Hart personally bowed and greeted every patron to the old Hap-a-Land Hall (the Courthouse Building on Market today).

9) In the 1930s, a strange man showed up late one night, knocking at the Hart mansion. Hart answered the front door, armed with two loaded pistols and told the creep to vamoose. The man drove around the SCV for several hours and ended up in Honby, where he murdered two people.

10) Hart made \$125 a week for "The Disciple" in 1915. Two years later, he made \$150,000 for "The Narrow Trail."

11) There are stories, some that are

head-scratchers, that Hart owned the future Spahn Movie Ranch in Chatsworth. Hart reportedly bought the 160-acre spread in 1920 to store stunt and movie horses. Some sources said he sold the place in 1948, which would have been tricky because he died in 1946. The ranch is most famous for being the home of Hollywood cult murderer, Charles Manson and his "family."

12) Before he died in 1946, Hart left all his belongings to the County of Los Angeles, ordering that his huge ranch and castle be a gift to the people. As — AS — Hart is about to be rolled into the crematorium fires, his son, Bill Jr., runs into Forest Lawn, waving a court order over his head to stop the funeral pyre and demanding his father's brain for autopsy. Hart Jr. would begin a decade-long series of colorful and controversial trials to get his dad's estate. His last Hail Mary was in 1956 when his lawyers pressed that the will was null and void because the Treaty of Hidalgo granting California to the U.S. was illegal. Hart Jr.? He ended up being a local real estate appraiser, driving past his father's holdings worth at their highest estimate at \$250 million.

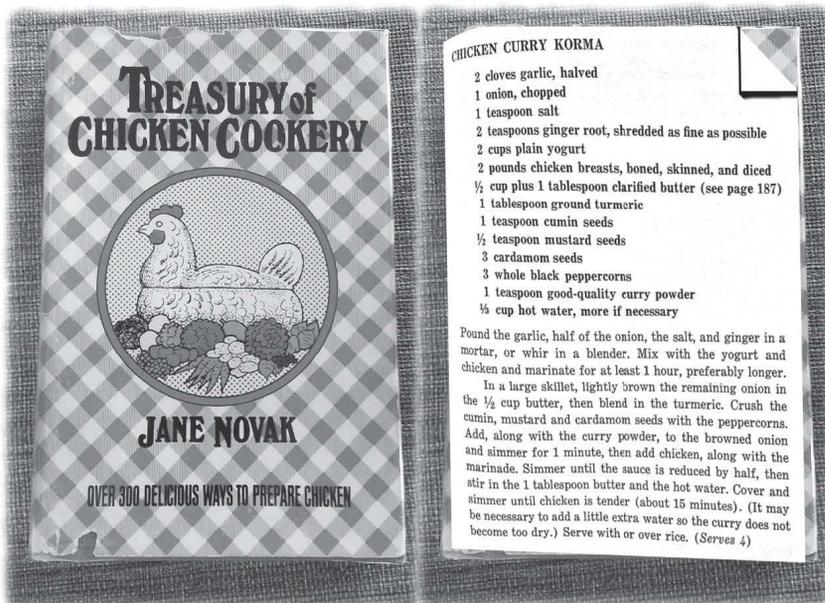
(John Boston has penned more than 11,000 essays, columns, blogs and features, making the most prolific humorist in world history. He has earned 119 major writing awards, including The Will Rogers Lifetime Achievement Award. He's been named Best Humorous and Best Serious newspaper columnist in North America, the United States, California and Los Angeles, several times.)

My Wife and Bill Hart's Girlfriend Made Me an Indian Dinner!

by Bill West

In 1974, long after Jane Novak starred in 5 films with William S. Hart, and long after their failed engagement, Jane wrote a cookbook, all about chicken. You can still find it on used bookshelves! I did, with the intention of holding it up as "show-and-tell" at the upcoming Silents Under the Stars in 2018 (I forgot).

Recently, my wife Liliana pulled it off the shelf and began reading me excerpts. It's a fun and fascinating read! We quickly got inspired to try one of her recipes, expecting them to be, well, greasy and bland like many recipes of the day. This was neither! In fact, it was quite exotic and a bit spicy! (Just like my wife and presumably Bill Hart's girlfriend!)



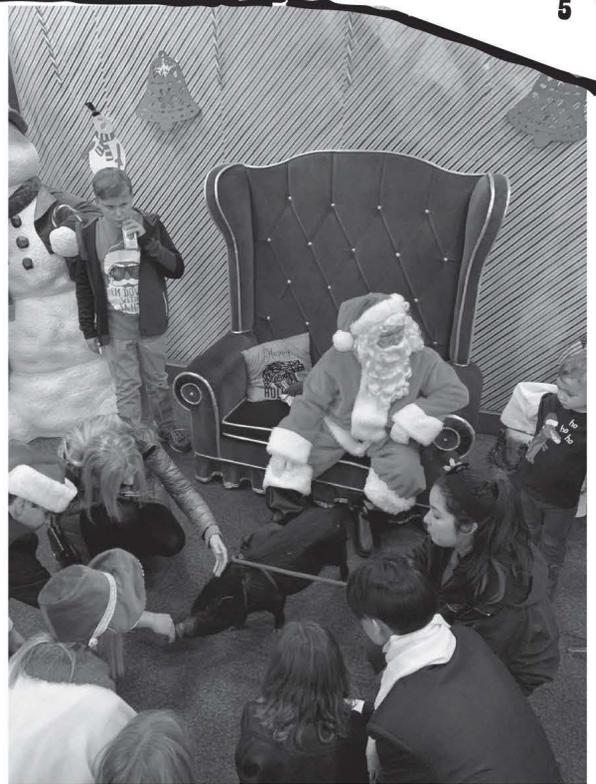


L.A. COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
Presents
MUSIC IN THE PARK

SATURDAY
11am-2pm

May 11th June 1st
June 15th July 20th

friendsofhartpark.org



L.A. COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
Presents
MOVIES IN THE PARK

- June 28th - Ralph Breaks the Internet
- July 12th - Aquaman
- July 26th - Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse
- August 16th - Mary Poppins Returns
- August 30th - Captain Marvel

FREE ADMISSION

Fridays At Dusk

friendsofhartpark.org

COWBOY FESTIVAL
OLD TOWN NEWHALL
CALIFORNIA
EST. 1994

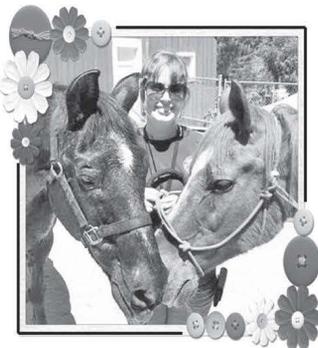
CELEBRATING OUR WESTERN PAST

FREE PARK ADMISSION

FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY
CHUCK WAGON BBQ
SERENADE PERFORMERS
ONE OF A KIND VENDORS

Hart Park April 13-14, 2019





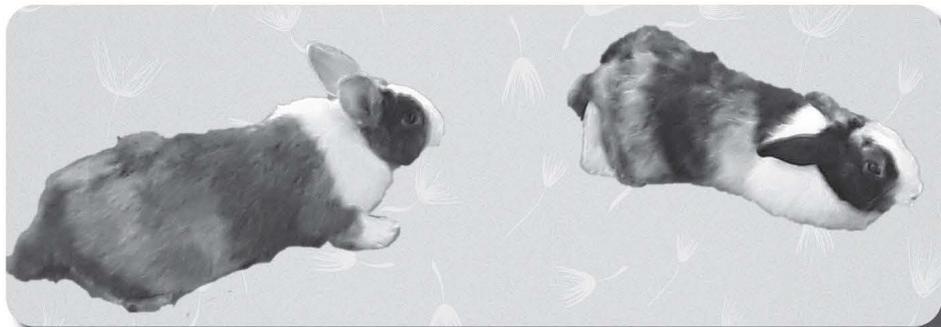
Critter Corner: Volunteer Highlight – Dawn La Bounty

By: Rachael Komulainen, Park Animal Keeper

On August 7, 2018, Hart Park Barnyard acquired two new potbelly piglets. The piglets were rescued by a dog rescue group in Puerto Rico, treated medically, then flown over to Los Angeles and given to us within a week of their arrival. We named them "Puerto Rico" (nicknamed 'Rico') and "Pig Newton" (nicknamed 'Newt'). Shortly after acquiring the piglets, we were fortunate enough to have a local pig rescuer and trainer – Dawn La Bounty – agree to help train the piglets. Over the months, she has trained both piglets to do multiple tasks. They follow commands to wait, sit, push their ball, do figure eights and, most importantly, to be harnessed and walked around the park. Pigs are really smart and the training serves multiple purposes: it stimulates their mental faculties, and it allows staff to be able to move the pigs easily for educational events or emergencies. Dawn has been such an asset to the park and we are so grateful for all of her help! Thank you, Dawn La Bounty, from the staff and critters of Hart Park!



Come meet our newest Barnyard residents, two additional rabbits, named Stanley & Stella. They are 6-month old siblings that we received from Castaic Animal Shelter. Stanley has the gold ears and Stella has the black ears. They are Tri-Color Dutch rabbits.



We're sorry to say goodbye: Terry Earp

On February 15, 2019, we lost a true Friend of Hart Park, Ms. Terry Earp. She along with her husband, Wyatt Earp (the great-nephew of the famous OK Corral gunfighter and lawman) have both given generously and tirelessly of their talents to William S. Hart Park.

They performed up here on at least 7 occasions from a nighttime Campgrounds campfire performance to filling the Mansion for Cowboy Festival, always selling out. On one occasion, their performance even brought Hugh O'Brien, TV's "Life and Legend Of Wyatt Earp", out to the Mansion. Hugh spontaneously got up and spoke to the sold-out crowd on how wonderful they were and reflected on shooting the series at Melody Ranch.

Terry was the author of their play as well as performing in it as Mrs. Wyatt Earp. Never taking any money, they traveled from Arizona on their own and donated all of the proceeds back to the FOHP. Generosity was what they were all about.

Terry was the engine behind it all. She was the author of numerous plays, ran a playhouse in Phoenix, traveled the world performing as Mrs. Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday's Woman. She will be greatly missed.



Happy 90th Birthday to original Our Gang member and Santa Clarita resident, Betsy Gay, shown here with Friends of Hart Park board members E.J. Stephens and Bill West. Look for an interview with Betsy, coming up on SCVTV and scvinthemovies.com.



Our members in the Friends of Hart are essential to keep the preservation, beautification and enhancement of William S. Hart County Park and Museum.

Special Membership

Silver

Christina McAleer

Patrons

Laurene Weste &
James McCarthy



William S. Hart's Newhall Home, by Friends of Hart Park Director, Tim Murphy

Tell your friends about us and invite them to join at
FriendsOfHartPark.org/membership. Thank you very much for your support.

*www.hartmuseum.org
www.friendsofhartpark.org*

*Printing
George Lester Litho*

*Graphic Design
All Graphic*

*Editor
Bill West*

*President
Laurene Weste*

*24151 Newhall Avenue
Newhall, CA 91321
(661) 254-4584*

William S. Hart Park & Museum

Friends Of The

