

Volume 30  
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# HART OF THE MATTER

FRIENDS OF WILLIAM S. HART PARK NEWSLETTER

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Silents Under the Stars  
Saturday, Jul 29

High Desert Modular  
Model Train Show  
Saturday, Sept 9  
& Sunday, Sept 10

Pow Wow & Native  
American Craft Fair  
Sat, Sept 30 &  
Sunday, Oct 1

Bow Wows & Meows  
Sunday, Oct 8

SCV Artists Association  
Arts Classic  
Sat & Sun, Oct 14 & 15

SCV Rose Society  
Annual Rose Show  
Saturday, Nov 4

Hart Holiday Boutique  
Sat & Sun, Nov 25 & 26

Cowboys & Carols  
Saturday Dec 2

## Silents Under the Stars

Another great evening under the stars is just around the corner! Mark your calendars, buy those tickets, and start anticipating one of Friends of Hart Park's major events, **Silents Under the Stars**. The date is Saturday, July 29th. Doors open at 6 PM when guests can sign in, select a favorite table, and take advantage of another value-packed silent auction. Vans will be available for those wishing to visit Bill Hart's mansion up the hill, a must tour for anyone desiring to see how one of Hollywood's most successful silent movie stars created his own authentic western paradise. Entertainment will be hosted by our own duo, Bill West and E.J. Stevens, whose humorous antics always delight and inform.

The Saguaro Sisters with Will Ryan will provide musical entertainment. Dinner, always delicious, is catered by Rattlers BBQ, followed by delicious deserts from *Nothing Bundt Cakes*. And the highlight of the evening, the purpose of the entire gathering, is another exciting silent movie. The evenings offering is **Wagon Train**, Bill Hart's silver screen story of the Santa Fe Trail, starring Bill and his onetime sweetheart, Jane Novak. As always, the movie will be accompanied by the amazing Ray Lowe at the keyboard, recreating the experience of a silent movie that our grandparents might have seen nearly one hundred years ago.

**Silents Under The Stars** is one of FOHP's major fund-raisers. The proceeds from the evening, mostly raised through silent auction bidding, are used to support the park in its quest to keep the memories of our western heritage alive. Tremendous effort is expended to gather items that will be attractive to guests. Available for bidding will be dinners at area restaurants, tickets to amusement parks, beautiful western art, tickets to sporting events, unique items of western culture, and on and on. Last year, over 90 items were available. Hundreds of hours of effort go into the gathering and preparation of auction items; please be generous in your bidding.

**Wagon Tracks** is based on a story originally developed by Hart. Telling of the Santa Fe Trail from Missouri to New Mexico, it was filmed in three locations: the Mojave Desert, Victorville and Sacramento. In the film, Hart plays a trail boss whose brother is killed. Over the course of a journey along the Santa Fe

Saguaro Sisters with Will Ryan



Novak-Hart-Wagon-Tracks

## Silents Under the Stars *continued*

Trail, Hart narrows down the suspect and in a singularly brutal way exacts a confession. It is quite a movie and one of Hart's best performances, especially the scene where he discovers his brother is dead. This film and the one that followed, **John Petticoats**, represented several turning points in Hart's life. He was involved in discussions with four major stars planning the formation of United Artists (he dropped out of the negotiations). These were the last two films he made with long-time Collaborator Thomas Ince. It was also during the production of these two films that he met his future wife, Winifred Westover.

The Saguaro Sisters, Shona, Katrina and Karona, are known for their performance of Western Skiffle Jazz with the Official Singing Cowboy Band of Hollywood—Will Ryan and the Cactus County Cowboys. The sisters were the featured act for the Cicada Club's Mother's day show in 2015 and 2016, are regular performers at the Autry Museum, and at Bob Stane's Coffee Gallery Backstage. Additionally they have sung at the Orpheum Theater, the Los Angeles Arboretum and the Levitt Pavilion in Pasadena. William Z. "Will" Ryan is an American voice actor, singer, musician and comedian, probably best known for his voice work in the Christian radio drama **Adventures in Odyssey** and **Adventures of Teddy Ruxpin**.

If you've attended "Silents" the last few years you already know you can be assured of a great evening under Santa Clarita's evening sky. If you haven't been before, but are a fan of western history, and if helping to preserve this cherished part of our western heritage appeals to you, pick up that phone, or hop on the Internet and order tickets. Fifty dollars a ticket is less than you might pay for the dinner alone!

There is limited seating for this event and ticket sales are already moving at a brisk pace. **To order, call 661-222-9542, or go to [www.friendsofhartpark.org/silents](http://www.friendsofhartpark.org/silents). Tickets are \$50 each. On line payment is handled by Pay Pal.**

***On June 3rd, the band "BaCoRaDo" performed at the first Music in the Park event. The band features Park Animal Keeper, Rachael Komulainen, as vocalist and drummer.***



# SANTA CLARITA VALLEY PACIFIC ISLANDER FESTIVAL

by Friends of Hart Park director,  
Gladys Farrell



**This past May at William S. Hart Park, the Pacific Islands came to Santa Clarita at the Santa Clarita Valley Pacific Islander Festival. Thousands of people from the community and all over Southern California came to enjoy and share the culture of the Pacific Islands for the fourth year at this event. Many came to enjoy the performances of the many Pacific Islander groups and**



**bands, from ukulele clubs to dancers who perform dances from the many Pacific Islanders. Along with the entertainment, there were a large variety of craft and food vendors for people to look through. The festival and the group that hosted the event, Kalakeke Pacific Island Dance Company, had the goal of sharing and spreading the culture of the islands with the community, with a focus on family and the values of the Pacific Islands. Also at the event, one of the members of the Kalakeke haumana, Kristin Tayo, was proposed to after her performance. Congratulations to them! We are looking forward to the next year of the festival!**



# Happenin's 'Round the House

by Margi Bertram, Museum Administrator



As we head into summer, we are looking forward to a busy season up at the Hart Museum, and we want to share with you some of the highlights...

## Getty Intern

The Hart Museum staff is delighted to welcome Lilia Jiménez, who joins us for the summer as our Getty Intern. Lilia is a student at Occidental College, graduating in May 2018 with a BA in Sociology. During her time at Occidental, she has been active as a campus tour guide, assisted in the on-campus daycare center, tutored other students, just to mention a few extracurricular activities. She studied abroad in Italy, and speaks Italian. She is also a resident of Newhall, which means she comes to us with a head start, knowing a lot about Mr. Hart and having visited the Hart Museum. Lilia has also been the recipient of a Henry Mayo Foundation Scholarship, and has made the Dean's List every semester. During the ten weeks of the internship, her project will focus on research, writing, and documenting objects in the permanent collection. One goal of this internship is to provide Lilia the opportunity to learn essential historical research skills and develop a written voice in a museum and curatorial context. She will also be helping out with tours, which our interns often feel is one of the most valuable parts of the internship, as this strengthens their public speaking skills.

## Spanish Language Tours

First piloted in May, the Hart will continue to offer Spanish language tours one day each month. These tours are staggered among our regular tours. This project has been a collaborative effort between staff and volunteers, and even some assistance from our security guard, Alex Morales. We are also working on a handout for Spanish speakers on our regular tours that will provide them basic information on William S. Hart, his life and career, his home, and some of the most significant artifacts on display.

## Museum Hours

Starting Saturday, July 1 the Museum will be testing out a weekend tour schedule starting every hour, rather than every half hour on Saturdays and Sundays. As we can only have one tour in the house at a time, for security reasons, this will provide those giving tours a degree of flexibility in pacing their tours when they have an especially interested and curious group. We believe this will provide a better experience for our visitors, as well as our volunteers. We will be looking at how this affects tour sizes, total number of guests for the day, and visitor comments. Weekday tours will remain on the every half hour schedule.

## Events at the Museum

- Every Saturday – we continue to offer a simple craft activity every Saturday (we call it "Crafterday"), located at a table on the back patio where visitors exit the museum at the end of their tour. Sometimes the craft will tie in to special days, such as Independence Day, National Paper Bag Day (yes, that's a thing), or Earth Day.

## Happenin's 'Round the House

continued

by Margi Bertram, Museum Administrator

- Wednesday, July 19 – Themed Open House (theme TBD), where visitors enter the museum as they arrive at the house, and once they've been given the rules. Then they are free to explore at their own pace, spending as little or as much time as they want. We have staff and volunteers stationed throughout the house to answer questions or talk about particular spaces. There will be some activity stations tied to the theme, both inside and outside the museum.
- Saturday, July 29 - Silents Under the Stars – again this year, we will have the house open from 6:00pm to 6:45pm for those attending this special screening. There will be shuttles transporting guests up the hill, and guests will have a chance to walk through the museum before the show starts down at Hart Hall. We will have staff and volunteers throughout the house to engage visitors.
- Thursday, August 17 – Creative Activity – this event for families will take place down at the Ranch House, and will have several things to do relating to a theme, and with an educational component.
- Saturday and Sunday, September 30 and October 1 – Pow Wow – the Museum will be represented at a table down in the picnic area, and will have an activity suitable for kids (and young-at-heart adults).

With all these great goin's on, we hope to see you up at the Hart Museum this summer!

**SILENTS**  
**Under the Stars**  
 Saturday July 29<sup>th</sup> at 6pm  
 Presented by the Friends of Hart Park and Museum

**Wagon Tracks**

costarring Wm. S. Hart's real-life sweetheart, Jane Novak!  
 Live accompaniment by Ray Lowe

**The Saguaro Sisters with Will Ryan**

BBQ Dinner by Rattlers!  
 Hart mansion tours!  
 Silent auction!

\$50 Tickets • purchase at  
[friendssofhartpark.org/silents](http://friendssofhartpark.org/silents)  
 or call  
 (661)222-9542  
 proceeds benefit the park and animals

ADMIT ONE



## CRITTER CORNER

*by Rachael Kamulainen, Park Animal Keeper*

### New Beginnings

Whenever there are endings in life, there are also beginnings. With the passing of longtime Barnyard residents Norman and Gracie, two enclosures became available. The first enclosure was the double-sized one, where Norman resided. We had been considering different types of animals for that enclosure but with a goal of introducing something new to the park. Our main goal has always been education, so bringing new types of animals into the existing facility was a keen prospect. Additionally, we strive for win/win situations. By this I mean, if we can help someone else out in their situation (for example, rescuing animals in need of a new home), that is an added benefit. As fate would have it, we came upon a situation that worked out perfectly for all involved. As a result, we ended up taking in five female alpacas on April 19th. All five girls are different colors, with two mamas and three offspring. What a delight to get these beautiful girls! I let my Barnyard staff name them, with the only condition being that the names all start with the letter 'C.' They chose: "Cruella" for the gray mama; "Carma" for her daughter, the brown one with white on her face; "Clarice" for the black mama; "Coco" for the dark brown daughter; and "Chanel" for the light brown daughter. The Friends of Hart Park purchased new lead ropes and halters for each of them (THANK YOU, FOHP!!), and we have been getting them out regularly for walks around the park. Also,

they were sheared for the season on May 22nd. We are hoping to sell their fleece, once it has been processed into yarn, in the Hart Park Gift Shop.

The second enclosure available for new occupancy was where Gracie had been housed. Over two years ago, a local resident had approached me about taking his two Sulcata tortoises, if we had space. Since that time, I had been considering that possibility. Tortoises are not the typical 'barnyard' animal. However, I believe that William S. Hart was a visionary. He defended animal rights in the movies before there were official protections. And, he had the foresight to leave his estate as a gift to the public, instead of just passing it along to family and having its historical value get lost along the way. He thought 'outside the box.' As an Animal Advocate and Educator, I value all animals – not just the furry and cuddly kind. Reptiles are often misunderstood and feared, often times, without good reason. I believe that Mr. Hart would applaud the Barnyard embracing something new and exciting, that educates and promotes welfare of all animals. Therefore, on April 20th, we welcomed our two new Sulcata tortoises into the Barnyard. They were appropriately named "Bill" and "Mary Ellen" – after Bill Hart and his sister Mary Ellen Hart. Since tortoises can live to be up to 150 years old (and ours are only 17 and 15, respectively), the legacy of Bill and Mary Ellen will continue on for many future generations. Now, that is a legacy that we can all be proud of!

# Alpacas and Friends



**Our staff present a couple alpacas to the public. Pictured - Brandon Mathews (Recreation Services Leader), Laurene Weste (FOHP President), and Eric Relfman (Hart Park Superintendent).**



**Hart Park Barnyard had an Open House, featuring a 'Meet & Greet' of our newest residents-5 alpacas and 2 Sulcata tortoises, on May 10th.**



**LtoR: Chanel, Clarice, Cruella, Carma & Coco - just after their haircuts!**



**Full Size R1**

## The Trading Post

New stock in the FOHP Gift Store includes the Bill Hart non-western silent film "Cradle of Courage" (bringing our collection to more than 20 Hart films) and Jerry Schneider's 6 volumes on "Western Filming Locations".

Book 4 of the series will probably be of

greatest interest as it covers many sites in the SCV. We have also recently added a very attractive selection of framed art in the form of western theme fruit and vegetable labels and vintage cowboy sheet music. Our stock of original edition Hart books continues to increase and several of them are signed copies.

Shoppers during the recent Cowboy Festival were most interested in the selection of Wyatt Earp books as well as

the many different out-of-print western and local history books found in the Gift Store. We will be putting some of this stock on display for purchase during the upcoming "Silents Under the Stars" event this summer. Hope to see you soon!

Becki Basham  
Gift Store, mgr.



## Cowboy Festival events held in Hart Mansion



***In April, the Friends of Hart Park hosted two wonderful, sold-out events in William S. Hart's living room.... popular cowboy musician and entertainer Dave Stamey, and two Wyatt Earp historians, Nicholas Cataldo and Garner Palenske.***





# Barnyard Update

by Rachael Komulainen, Park Animal Keeper



Last newsletter, there was an article about "Gracie," our senior wild boar. Gracie had been battling cancer for some time and was in the final stages. About a week after the newsletter went to print, Gracie succumbed to cancer. It was exactly one week after our beloved steer "Norman" passed away. It actually seemed very apropos that they should part this world so close together,

as they had been neighbors in the Barnyard for a very long time. Gracie was a very special lady, and she was showered with love and treats until the end. Every time I entered the Barnyard, I would call her name and she would grunt her greeting to me. We miss our intelligent and sweet girl!

*Gracie - Enjoying her dinner on one of her last days. Besides her pig pellets and produce, she is enjoying a special treat of noodles mixed in. She was very spoiled and loved!*



On March 18th, Half Pint, our local celebrity/donkey was one of our featured animals in an animal education program before the free movie at Hart Hall.

Hart Park Barnyard was honored with the "Parks Make Life Better 2016" award on April 27th



# Special Membership



## Silver

Bill & Sally Sipes

## Patrons

Cathy Altuvilla, Stacie Gereb & Wade Ratzlaff

Nadiya Littlewarrior & John Davis, Richard Meier, William & Zettia Miller

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## Sponsor

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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.

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

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