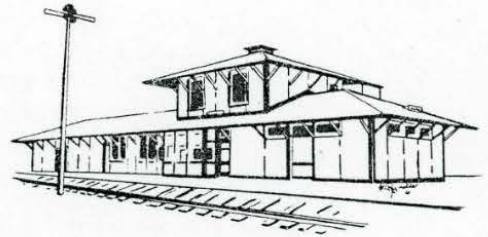


SANTA CLARITA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DOCENT TRAINING



THE SAUGUS STATION

On June 9, 1876 Henry Mayo Newhall granted a right-of way across his rancho San Francisco (later Newhall Land and Farming) to the Southern Pacific Railroad. Deed in the California State Library

Newhall Station was dedicated by Southern Pacific on September 6, 1876, Mr. John Gifford being the first station master. Newhall was then located directly across (east) San Fernando Rd. from the Saugus Cafe.

Mary Bruener-Notes in the Newhall Library

The wells ran dry on January 15, 1878 and the town, which consisted of a bar, boarding house, general store and the depot was moved 3 miles south to 6th and Railroad Avenues by February 16.

A.B. Perkins - Unpublished ms.

Henry Gregory Newhall, then president of Newhall Land and Farming (eldest son of H.M. Newhall) sold the station grounds and "Y" to S.P. on November 30, 1886. Map in the California State Library

The depot was to be called Saugus at the request of H.G. Newhall, as that was the birthplace of his father in Massachusetts. It is a Narragansut Indian word meaning a long sandy spit of land.

Ruth Newhall-History of the Newhall Ranch

Saugus Station was built of prefabricated redwood shipped down from a northern California forest on the site of old Newhall during the summer of 1887, Alexander Isaac Fraser, a Canadian by birth, installed as the first Station Master.

Jeanie W. Ganev, Grand daughter.

On August 20, 1887 an excursion train from Los Angeles, through Saugus, over to the coast, then up to Santa Barbara where a parade and grand fiesta was held, ran to celebrate the opening of the spur line. On the return trip, that night, "a defective culvert near the Camulos Ranch caused the cars, with 150 passengers, to plunge down an embankment-luckily with but few casualties."

Harris Newmark-60 Years In Southern California

The Spur Line from Saugus to Santa Barbara was officially dedicated on September 1, 1887 by David D. Colton, President of S.P., along with the governor and mayors of San Francisco, Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara.

Ventura Star, 9/2/87

Passenger rates were published on September 2, 1887 at 4¢ from Saugus to Sumner, 3¢ from Saugus to Santa Barbara and 3¢ from Saugus to Los Angeles.

Los Angeles Times:

The Official Map of Los Angeles County, drawn by V.J. Rowan, shows Saugus Station in 1888.

Bureau of Engineering, City of L.A.

Alexander Fraser, a native of Canada then living in Los Angeles, (age 31) married Ethel S. Forshner, a Canadian, then living at Saugus (age 22), at Saugus on April 4, 1891. The Minister was Richmond Logan, witnesses Neil Fraser of Los Angeles and L. Arnott of Newhall.

Registrar-Recorder, Los Angeles County.

The Alexander Fraser was not the same as the Station Agent, Alexander Isaac Fraser. While both men had the same name and came from the same region in Canada, they, apparently, were not related. Alexander was a railroad worker, supervising a construction crew.

Mrs. J.W. Gamey

President Benjamin Harrison, while on a whistle stop campaign in California, was met at Saugus by a deligation from Santa Barbara on April 25, 1891. The president had injured his hand while passing from one car to another near Riverside earlier.

Los Angeles Times, April 25, 1891

James A. Tolefree operated roadhouse type restaurants at Mojave and Saugus Stations, probably before 1891.

1891 Token in coll. of Dave Desmond.

To add to the Fraser confusion, Ethel's sister, Margaret Forshner, had married Station Master Alexander Isaac Fraser (probably 1889) and they had a daughter, Christine, who was born at the station on June 2, 1890. A second daughter, Margaret McKay Fraser was born there on June 22, 1891

Mrs. J.W. Gamey

The old Solemint Post Office was moved to Saugus on August 5, 1891, but was called Surrey.

Postal Records

Kate Matheson Fraser, daughter of Alexander and Ethel Fraser, was born at the station on April 23, 1892.

Jean W. Gamey is the daughter of Kate Fraser

Tolefree's "Saugus Eating House" was sold to Martin and Richard Wood in 1898, who changed the name to "Saugus Cafe." It occupied what was later called the Baggage Room and is presently a museum. Photographs from the period show a Wells Fargo Express Office, Western Union Telegraph and a Post Office.

Helen Wood Cone

On January 18, 1899 Richard R. Wood filed on a piece of land west of the railroad tracks "commencing at the telegraph pole, near the northeast corner of the present blacksmith shop at Saugus." This is the first indication that there was anything in Saugus other than the station. Martin Wood had the Smithy.

Los Angeles County Assessor

Cowboys used to shoot up the station as their way of greeting incoming trains.

Helen Wood Cone

President Theodore Roosevelt visited the station in May of 1903, then went out to the Acton Hotel as a guest of Governor Henry T. Gage, who owned several mines in the area.

Anita Ruby Jenkins Kellogg

Richard Wood built a small brick building on his property, moving the Saugus Cafe across the tracks, next door to his brother's blacksmith shop in 1905.

Ore W. Bercaw became Station Master in December 1906, building a general store south of the Saugus Cafe a year later (1907). Charles Kellogg, who owned a farm at Bouquet Junction, donated a piece of land in 1907 for a school. Bercaw, Martin Wood and Mr. Osborn kicked in \$100 each for a board and batt schoolhouse, hiring Miss Margaret O'Connell, from San Jose, as the first teacher.

The Surrey Post Office moved into Bercaw's Store, then, on September 4, 1915, became Saugus P.O.

Arthur W. Perkins

The Saugus Station shipped cattle, vegetables, ore and honey, dropping off supplies for merchants, farmers and miners, while providing passenger service. Elias J. "Lucky" Baldwin, William Workman, Francis P.L.F. Temple and James A. Reavis ("The Baron of Arizona") were some of the early visitors on their way to the Lazy Z Ranch of Bill Jenkins at Castaic.

Anita Ruby Jenkins Kellogg

The upstairs Station Masters Quarters and Freight Room were enlarged in 1920 while indoor plumbing and restrooms were installed. A boxcar was added to provide extra space for the Agent.

When the St. Francis Dam collapsed on March 12, 1928, waitresses at the Saugus Cafe drew water from the boiler of a locomotive at the station to make coffee for rescue workers.

Helen Wood Cone

"Buffalo" Tom Vernon derailed Engine No.25 on November 10, 1929, robbing its passengers of \$300. "The Owl" had just pulled out of Saugus at 7:35 P.M., when the great 5000 series locomotive rolled over on its side behind what is now called The Saugus Speedway. Vernon robbed another train near Cheyenne, Wyoming before being caught in Oklahoma. He spent 35 years in jail for the deed.

"Three Barrels Of Steam"

A great number of movies have been made at the Saugus Station featuring such stars as William S. Hart, Tom Mix and John Wayne. Charlie Chaplin used it in "The Pilgram" (1919), Frank Sinatra, "Suddely" (1954), "Big Bus" and "Rich Man, Poor Man" during the 1970s. Recently it has been used in Dennis Weaver's "Buck James" and "The Grifters" with Angelica Huston.

Jerry Reynolds

By 1979 *Freight* passenger service had been discontinued and Mr. Guthrie, the last Agent, was informed that Saugus would be closed. The Historical Society raised over \$60,000, moving the station from Saugus to Hart Park in Newhall during the night of June 24, 1980.

Cynthia Neal-Harris