



The seasons are changing at the Museum. With autumn in the air, both the Steering Committee and the Board of Directors have approved a strategic plan with quantifiable objectives and time tables that will guide us as we move forward. For the skeptics among you, who may think the world will be better off once strategic plans are forever declared out of vogue, I'd like to offer some thoughts.

By legislative mandate, California cities are required to adopt general plans that contain broad policies and principles that govern future growth. These plans have mandated elements such as housing, conservation and traffic circulation. Cities are free (for the most part) to decide what goes into each element. Once adopted, however, a city's actions and decisions must be consistent with its general plan, which can only be modified a limited number of times per year.

Our intention is to utilize our newly adopted strategic plan as the Museum's general plan. Objectives will ideally be pursued within the time frames given, modifications to the plan will only be made when warranted and our plan will assist us in remaining focused on the future as we continue to grow.

In the meantime, we purchased our own "Trackless Train," had another successful *Quilts* exhibit and *Indian Life* program. The Indian Life display was the best ever! We also had a successful LPGA Big Band Affair, resulting in a number of people visiting the Museum for the first time. Thanks **Discover Danville** for your sponsorship!

Looking beyond the fall, we will once again have our *Christmas Memories* exhibit in December, featuring three Christmas trees from different eras and accompanying memorabilia. Moving forward, we will be participating in Danville's 150th celebration on July 3, 2008. The planning is underway and we are very excited about this opportunity. This will be in lieu of Train Day, as the timing is so close.

On a personal note, I am tempted to include names of committee members and other volunteers in this column. You all do a remarkable job! However, the possibility of leaving someone out, keeps me from doing so. On a different note, I remember participating in Danville's 100th Birthday Celebration in 1958, (I was 7) walking with a brother and dragging a wagon in tow, with eight newly born kittens. The area has changed a lot!

All for now. Thanks for your continuing interest in and support of the Museum!

Dave Larsen

### ***Agriculture in the Valley*** **Comes to the Museum January 22-May 10**

Starting in January, the Museum's exhibit will be *Agriculture in the Valley*. The San Ramon Valley was a very different place before World War II. Agriculture, as a means of earning a living, began disappearing as the Valley became filled with residential developments in the years following the war.

This exhibit uses many photographs, maps, and artifacts to show farming and ranching as it occurred and changed. It will also explain the inter-dependence between farmers and the businesses in the Valley. Photographs will be displayed on walls made of old redwood barn boards, some of which were cut in 1848. The exhibit is the work of **Ralph Cozine** and **Don Wood**, aided by many volunteers. It draws from many old farm-family albums, Museum archives, the Contra Costa History Center, private collections, and from other sources.

An example of farm machinery manufactured in Danville will be displayed out front. Inside, samples of barley, wheat, oats, nuts, and wool will be available for visitors to touch. A forge blower and old post drill can be cranked in a blacksmith shop section. The freight room scale will be operated as it was when trains came through Danville.

Most Saturdays there will be an old timer from the Valley available to talk with Museum visitors about how life used to be on a farm or ranch.

