



This summer the **San Ramon Valley Kiwanis**, the **Town of Danville** and the Museum will commemorate a party and parade from 50 years ago, *Hay Days*. Picture the Valley that year – quiet communities in Alamo, Danville and San Ramon, well before the freeway opened; plenty of gas stations along the boulevard and orchards spreading out across the landscape.

Russel Glenn had begun renovations of the historic Danville Hotel and was full of ideas about how to improve and promote the entire downtown. **John** and **Margaret May** and family had moved here in 1951 and opened the Shoe Stable in the old More house on Diablo Road. **Tom** and **Gloria Ohlson** and family moved to Rose Street in the fifties and Dr. Ohlson set up the Danville Veterinary Hospital. The **Danville Rotary** began in 1955. These folks were all eager to promote Danville.

Dr. Ohlson was Danville Chamber President from 1957-58 and the Chamber sponsored the Danville Centennial Hay Days, to honor Dan Inman's 1858 purchase of downtown land. Hay Days lasted four days and the community went all out.

What a party they had!

September 4 - Old time bathing suit fashion show, acquacade and carnival

September 5 - Kid's Day, pet parade and carnival

September 6 - Junior Horseman's Show, Coronation of Miss Pioneer Belle, a dance and carnival

September 7 - Centennial Parade, Old Timers Flag Raising Ceremony, barbeque steak dinner and carnival.

The *Valley Pioneer* published a Centennial Edition on September 4 which featured letters of congratulations from President Dwight D. Eisenhower and other dignitaries. The edition had articles on the history of the Valley, agriculture, Mt. Diablo, schools and pioneer families including **Charles Wood**, **August Hemme**, **Joel Harlan**, and **R. O. Baldwin**. **Charlotte Wood** wrote a Centennial poem for the occasion as well.

In 2008, July 3 and July 4 will recall Hay Days and celebrate Danville's 150th Anniversary with an impressive array of events.

Beverly Lane

Attend the Debut of
VINTAGE DANVILLE 150 YEARS OF MEMORIES
 and support the **Danville Library Foundation**

Saturday, June 28, 7:00 p.m.

Danville Library

\$25 donation

RSVP VintageDanville@pacbell.net

Have you ordered your copy of *Vintage Danville* yet? Books are available to the public on July 1, 2008 and will sell out quickly.

Go to the Town of Danville's website www.ci.danville.ca.us to order your copy today!

**The
 Branch Line**

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley in the Depot

Summer 2008

