

The Branch Line

Newsletter of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley in the Depot

Holiday 2011

Christmas Memories 📅 **November 15-December 31, 2011**
Exhibit Party, Tuesday November 29, 7 pm



Christmas Memories opens early this year, on Tuesday November 15. Bring your family and friends to our annual exhibit, which has become a treasured holiday tradition for many.

There will be a Santa's workshop, antique sleigh, flying Santa, Christmas trees, Christmas villages, our model train, doll houses, toys, Pooh Corner, songs of Christmas and more.

One of our treasure hunts this year will be to match a popular toy, one that "everyone had to have or give" with the year or era it was introduced. Come and share your favorite Christmas memory and your Christmas wish for 2011!



What possesses us to accumulate objects? Is it because of a personal connection? Is it because of the objects' particular beauty? Or is it because of a more deep-seated need to collect? Explore the history of early collections and the beginnings of museums while investigating our very own curiosity cabinet. Our Museum will exhibit a distinctive and eclectic variety of collections from San Ramon Valley hunters and gatherers. Perhaps these objects will give you flight to the imagination, wings to the mind, and gaiety to the spirit. How *Wild, Weird and Wonderful!* January 27-April 21!

Attention all parents and grandparents! The Museum would like to feature collections belonging to children in the 3rd-5th grades who live in the San Ramon Valley. They are to submit a photograph of their collection with their name, phone number and address on the back. Three collections will be selected to be shown during the **Wild, Weird and Wonderful** exhibit in January-April. All photographs are non-returnable but will be shared as part of the exhibit. Please submit the photos to Museum of the San Ramon Valley, P.O. Box 39, Danville, CA 94526 by November 30, 2011.



Looking for the perfect Christmas gift? Give Vintage Danville. Gift-wrapped and ready to purchase at the Museum.

Only \$50.



Coming to the Museum

Gold Fever

May 6 - July 14, 2012

STEERING COMMITTEE



The Southern Pacific caboos, resting quietly on its private track, needed a facelift. The planking beneath the caboos was slowly disintegrating and the caboose paint was not so slowly fading.

Our facilities manager, Jim Lane, found the contractors just right for the job and by the end of August we had new planking and a beautiful newly painted caboose with its special lettering reapplied. Others helped but Jim had the primary responsibility for these two projects. Jim has been our "House Committee Chair" for so many years that no one, not even Jim, could remember when he took the reins of the committee; it was probably around the turn of the millennium.

With those major projects under his belt, Jim decided it was time to pass the baton. He remains an active volunteer who represents the spirit of so many of our volunteers. A special thanks to Jim from the entire Museum staff, volunteers, members, and the Board of Directors!

* * *

Do you enjoy learning about the history of our San Ramon Valley? Are you interested in knowing about our founding families and our historic buildings and sites? Would you enjoy chatting with people also interested in our past? If so we invite you to be a walking tour docent.

Almost 1000 adults and students toured Danville and the Alamo Cemetery in 2010. Local schools, clubs, individuals and tour groups from as far away as Los Angeles use our services. Our season begins in early spring and ends in late fall. If you are interested or have questions, please call Patty Dobbin at (925) 838-0127.

* * *

Our annual *Christmas Memories* exhibit this year will continue to create those memories we all delight in. Check out the article in this newsletter and come and experience our *Christmas Memories* exhibit, opening November 15.

Don Metz, Steering Committee Chair



Alethea Ballard, Linda Sada, and Carmen Curtis creating their own lovely "patchwork" of patterns!

Quirky quilts, along with old fashioned ones, were viewed by more than 500 visitors from local towns, 12 states, and Scotland during the month-long exhibit, *Quirkology of Quilts: Warmth to Whimsy*.

Visitors were treated to the talents of Alethea Ballard and Margaret Linderman along with several other creative quilters. The exhibit included the history of quilting tools and accessories from past to present, soft quilt puzzles for children to complete, a raffle and two contests.

Special thanks go to the Town of Danville, Chevron, Cottage Jewel, Wooden Gate Quilts, and Co-Curators Carmen Curtis, Linda Sada, Alethea Ballard, and Margaret Linderman, who brought the exhibit together.

Winners of the Museum's contests are:
Grandma Moses Wall Hanging Raffle: Carolyn Thiessen
Locate the Quilts Contest: Judith Timmermans
Guess the Buttons Contest: Shelly Darrah

The *Toonerville Trolley* exhibit ran from July 22 through August 21. A special thanks to Jerry Warren for putting this very popular exhibit together. One visitor was overheard to say:

Favorite Part of the exhibit: Model trains for the kids and Valley history for me!



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Round Hill Country Club Turns 50

In 2011, the Valley celebrated the centennials of California woman suffrage, San Ramon Valley High School, and the Danville Women's Club. And a fifty-year celebration took place as well, at Round Hill Country Club. In great style, there was a large party (of course) and much research on the Club which featured newly framed historic photographs, interviews of longtime members on a CD, and a handsome anniversary book written by Janet Besse.

Round Hill Country Club was the brainchild of the dynamic Harlan S. Geldermann, a real estate developer and Republican Party activist. Geldermann moved to the family home, El Nido, as a boy of seven, attended local schools and graduated from Stanford after a stint in the Navy. He took over his father's (A. J. Geldemann) real estate firm in 1953.

To create the club, he put together a consortium with John Sparrowk which purchased the Squire and Mott ranches in Alamo, changed the zoning, designed, and built the club. Included was an 18-hole golf course designed by Lawrence Hughes and tennis courts which hosted international tennis stars such as Bjorn Borg (then a teen-age sensation) and Australian John Newcombe. In 1961, club memberships cost \$1,700.

Beverly Lane, Museum Curator



OUR MUSEUM'S PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOLS

Third Grade Local History Curriculum

Gail Kamerer is providing passports for third graders again this year, part of ongoing support for their local history curriculum. Since 2004, the Museum has provided a binder and CD for teachers, time lines (taken from the Museum's historical frieze), and local history DVDs to all SRV Unified School District schools. If you are interested in touring the passport sites yourselves, visit the Museum's web site at www.museumsvr.org: *Home page/Valley History/Places to Visit/Ten Trips Through Time.*

Indian Life Program and Exhibit

This October 1,600 fourth graders and their parents came to the Museum for a program on California Indians, designed and managed by Gail Faber, Stan Wharton and Craig Miller. Students came to learn about our first residents and view a new 8-foot condor in the rafters, created by Museum volunteer Geoff Bishop. Condors once lived in the East Bay and docents shared a condor (*Mol'luk*) creation account which featured Mount Diablo and Brushy Peak.



Tassajara School Program

Last spring the living history program for third grades reached 2,521 students and 774 adults. Joan and Don Kurtz coordinate this wildly popular program which takes students back to 1888 at the historic Tassajara Grammar School. 35 volunteers provided this program from January to June in 2011.

An open house for the public on Oct. 1 and 2 drew 90 visitors and helped kick off the first *Tri-Valley Heritage Happening* month. School Marm Sonya Borlandelli is seen at the right "instructing" students from Villa San Ramon.



Volunteer Social Media Coordinator Wanted!

As the Museum expands its presence on the Web and finds new ways to market itself and bring people into the Museum using vehicles such as Facebook, Google+, Twitter, and Texts, we are looking for a volunteer who has some experience in this area and would be willing to donate a few hours each month to help promote the Museum through social media. This could be a great opportunity for a high school or college student looking for professional experience on their résumé, or someone in our community who is already doing this for his or her own business and would like to help. Please contact Jerry Warren, jerrywarren@hotmail.com (925) 838-1108.

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P.O. Box 39 - 205 Railroad Avenue
Danville, California 94526
(925) 837-3750

Visit www.museumsvr.org
Email: SRVMuseum@sbcglobal.net

MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesdays - Fridays, 1-4
Saturdays 10-1

Editor: Candace Andersen
Edit: Marillyn Cozine
Layout: Fishworks Design

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2012 MUSEUM SCHEDULE

- January 7-8 O'Neill Presentations
- January 11 Volunteer Dinner, 5:30 pm
- Jan 19- June 12 *One Room School* (at the Tassajara School House)
- Jan 27 - April 21 *Wild, Weird and Wonderful: Collections from our Valley Exhibit*
- February 7 Annual Meeting. Blackhawk Museum, 7 pm
- April 28 *Alamo Cemetery Tour*
- May 6 - July 14 *Gold Rush Exhibit*
- May 12 & 18 *Walking Tours resume*

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



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Donations to the Museum -- Thank you!

- Carlo Borlandelli Wedding dress, veil, photographs from Lois Smith Borlandelli, 1958
- Paul de Horn Caboose pot belly stove and tender
- R. Brian Keefe Lions Club memorabilia
- Betty Casey Gloves, hats, wedding photographs, Charlotte Wood photograph
- Ray Marchetti Round Hill Country Club brochure, 1961
- Karlynn Fralick Black beaded dress
- Merle Sanchez Clothing from her family
- Harry Shaw Railroad books, including *Southern Pacific Depots in California*, Vol. 1
- Carol Anderson Hats, Treasure Island Fair Memorabilia
- Breit Everidge Small stone mortar
- Alice Reynolds Glass lamp and cleaner
- Jeanne Aitken Black lace dress
- Harry Lindstom Paper on the Lora Nita Ranch, 21 pages
- Jan Noonkester & Diane Morgan Photographs of Viola and Jim Root
- Blair Barry Wedding dress of Harriet Barry, 1940s
- Linda Gossett Mary Barbara Oswill's SRVHS prom dress, 1938
- Bruce Gardner Metal toys, reproductions
- Millie Freitas Collection from her family
- Karen Lang Round Hill CC anniversary book and CD
- Grace Caluwe Collection from her family
- Jean Miracle Photographs from Crozer, Parker, Hildebrant family
- Marie Hamel Map and c. 1890 railroad speedometer
- Craig Lyon Book: Tribes of California
- David Podva Danville Post Office Boxes and family collection

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