

The Branch Line

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

Summer 2011

NEW EXHIBIT OPENS CELEBRATING THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF CALIFORNIA WOMEN WINNING THE RIGHT TO VOTE



Jerry Warren, Linda Brewer, and Linda Sada at the newly opened Exhibit.

See our newest exhibit: *Remember the Ladies, Celebrating the Centennial of California Women Suffrage, 1911-2011*. It runs through July 16, 2011 and tells about the hard-fought campaign to win women the vote in California. California was the sixth, and largest Western state to approve woman suffrage on October 10, 1911.

The exhibit includes stories about the women of the San Ramon Valley who were rancher's wives, mothers, merchants, post mistresses, farmers, telephone operators and teachers. Many items on display are from the Museum's extensive collection. Circa 1900 garments from the Stone, Sandkuhle and Flournoy families grace mannequins in the center of the room, surrounded by farm equipment, games, Grange regalia and books. Items from Julia Noia Freitas are shown - her white dresser with mirror and beautiful Flower Garden quilt. A child's rocker from the Baldwin family and Viola Root's phone operator's head set are on display.

On Saturdays historic re-enactors greet visitors and programs from various speakers have provided talks. These are: Marcia Harmon of Cottage Jewel on June 11, County recorder Steve Weir on June 25 and curator Beverly Lane on July 9.

Twelve programs for service clubs have been given on the topic with Jean Blaser and Beverly Lane providing some history of the women's right movement and historic re-enactors sparking the program. Our actors are: Carmen Curtis (Mary Ann Jones), Betty Casey (Rose Peters), Pat Macsata (Eliza Glass), Sonya Seyler and Stan Wharton (Mary and R. O. Baldwin) and Joan Kurtz (Charlotte Wood).

Many thanks to our fabulous volunteers who put the exhibit together and gave these talks. The core exhibit committee is: Jan and Arni Habiger, Linda and Bob Sada, Kathy Fitzpatrick, Carmen Curtis, Linda Brewer, Jean Blaser, Betty Casey, and Beverly Lane.

**Thursday
June 23
7 pm
Bring a Friend
to the
Museum Night!**
Refreshments served.

Elegant Flea Market Benefits Museum this Fall

Please join your friends and fellow volunteers for the Museum's second Elegant Flea Market on October 22. Put away special items and donate them to the Museum beginning on October 1 (no clothing please). Jan Habiger and her Team Flea-Market will organize and price for the sale to be held during the Danville Fall Crafts Festival, 9-3, Saturday, October 22.

**The Toonerville
Trolley and Trains
are coming
to the Museum
July 26-August 21.
Don't miss them!**



"This computer is too slow!" We've heard that often. It's become an adage in its 30 years of common usage. Well, we did our bit for computer speed. Our administrators have a new desktop. We've added RAM to our old computers; we purchased the latest Microsoft Office products along with a professional level Photoshop application for our collections efforts. In addition, we've converted our collections data to a new and improved software program. So we're doing pretty well with hardware and software upgrades. And all of this increases our office productivity.

But our most important challenge regarding productivity is our personal outreach. To expand our horizons we're having a "Bring a Friend" night on June 23rd at 7 pm at the Museum. The idea is to get together with our friends – including some friends new to the Museum – sip on a drink, enjoy the **Remember the Ladies** exhibit and get to know each other better. Perhaps from this we can increase membership and volunteerism for the Museum. In the last newsletter I talked about sustainability and this is one way to move us forward.

Jean Ohman and I recently attended an Association of Fundraising Professionals WebConference. It focused on social networking to achieve success in both fundraising and membership growth. The presentation impressed us to the extent that we've got to be thinking about social networking as an avenue to connect with potential visitors and volunteers. The Museum does have an inchoate Facebook page but we need "friends." Oh, and by the way, we don't tweet – yet!

One of the building blocks to social networking is establishing a good website that's easy to use and tailored to what web visitors are looking for. A program from Google has allowed us to understand more about our website visitors. For example, between March 21 and April 20, 2011, we had 1568 visits, about 50 visitors per day. Visitors viewed slightly fewer than 3 pages per visit, and they spent a little over 2 minutes per visit. Additional data tells us what specific pages were visited and how our visitors found the website. We can enhance our networking with website design structured to get our visitors to the pages they're most interested in quickly. We'll be working on this in the coming weeks.

Technology can make us more productive but the bottom line is that it's about relationships – not technology. Bring a friend on June 23rd. Let's have some fun and strengthen relationships. Rewards will follow.

Don Metz
Steering Committee Chair

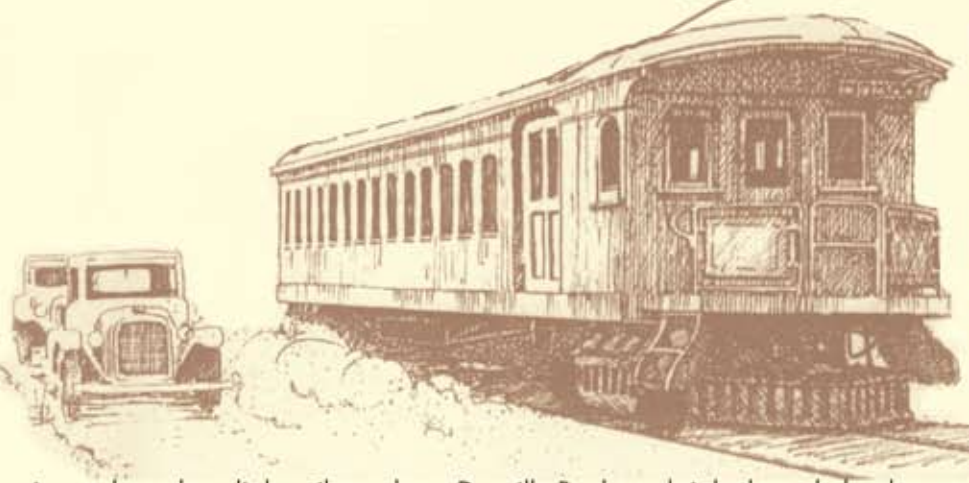
Donations to the Museum's Collections -- Thank you!

Bob Simpson	Indian stone tool	Betty Dunlap	Vintage clothing book
Myron B. Reynolds	Telegraph equipment	John Meese	Military Bible
Steven & Barbara Windle	Telephone switchboard	Phil Crum	<i>Stars and Stripes</i> , May 8, 1945
Holger Larsen	Model of electric railway car	Sara Bossatti	Campaign buttons from Valley
Bud Lentz	Kerosene lantern	Jan & Arni Habiger	1950s umbrella, memorabilia
James Kloss	Dalmatian/O'Neill photographs	Harold Hoskins	1940s Tuskegee airman photos
Lee Halverson	DVD with Vet Hall memories	Diane Schinnerer	PacTel brochure for Bishop
Jeanne & Bill Ryan	Copper pans, newspapers	Peter McCoy	Ranch Administrative Center, 1982
Paul M. Newitt	RR book, framed picture	Chuck & Mildred Ferreira	SP Depot in Danville, 1963 watercolor
Millie Freitas	Valley Pioneers memorabilia	Gigi DeTeo	Diablo Beauty Shop eqpt,
Bob & Linda Sada	Notebook from May 1 Vet Hall event	Don & Carole Johnson	SRV High School annual, ephemera
Anonymous	Jorgensen & Peterson photographs	Joan Ronnow	Poetry book by Charlotte E. Wood
Claudia Mauzy Nemir	Glass family memorabilia	Cynthia Jones	Antique child's desk
Sabra Johnson	RR picture, books, ephemera		Chastity belt, c. 1900
			1911 graduation dress, Ontario, CA



Toonerville Trolley and Model Railroads

July 26- August 21



Fifty years before BART, light rail connected Danville with San Francisco! Young George Wood commuted to his university classes in Berkeley on it and in 1915 you could take the light rail to the Panama Pacific Exposition near the Presidio. Because there were no paved roads, light rail eased the Valley into the larger world of the Bay Area. But light rail's imminent demise here was already predicted by antique automobiles putt-putting alongside the tracks on the graveled county road to Walnut Creek.

On July 26th the *Toonerville Trolley and Model Trains* exhibit opens at the Museum. Bring kids of all ages to enjoy model trains while you go back in

time to learn how light rail ran down Danville Boulevard right through the downtown and out to Diablo Country Club. It started out as the San Ramon Valley Railroad and morphed into the Oakland, Antioch and Eastern Railroad. It ended as the Sacramento Northern Railroad. Inter-urban trains from Danville connected to San Francisco via the Key Route ferries from Oakland and extended north as far as Sacramento and Chico. Lasting only a decade, the sparse population of the San Ramon Valley from 1914 – 1924 could not support a trolley line, especially once the county road to Walnut Creek was finally paved in 1920 and buses and cars proliferated.

Do not miss the soap opera tales of a job ending hold up, open umbrellas inside the train car, a quiet visit by a very famous American, and good natured partisan rivalry between the conductor and engineer. It was a simpler time when train operators and riders shared a common life in a tiny community.

Joining the exhibit once again is the larger size "S Scalers." They will be on display starting July 26th and closing on August 6th. The Museum will adopt "Train Time Hours" of 10 am – 2 pm Tuesday – Saturday for them. Following that, the spectacular European Train Enthusiasts (ETE) return with their beautiful "N" scale exhibit. ETE will open on Sunday August 7th from noon to 2 pm and operate through Sunday August 21st. On Saturdays ETE will open an hour earlier along with the Farmer's Market and they will run trains each Sunday. Thomas the Train will attract young visitors. The Museum is closed on Mondays.

REMEMBER THE LADIES: WOMEN WIN THE VOTE IN CALIFORNIA

California became the "Sixth Star" when voters approved woman suffrage on Oct. 10, 1911. It joined Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho and Washington after a vigorous state-wide campaign by women and men.

There was quite a bit of local excitement on the way to the October ballot. The Danville Grange #85 set up a debate on the issue on August 20, 1911, in the Grange Hall. In response to this program, women from the California Votes for Women campaign came to the Hall that day. They provided a program in support of women's vote which included songs and speeches. And they brought their snazzy 7-passenger touring car, dubbed the Blue Liner, which was a draw all by itself.

Nina Williams and Libbie Wood provided the pro arguments while Will Stewart and Rev. C. F. Woodward spoke for the opposition. In a rising vote (with the suffrage campaigners participating) the "yes" vote won the day. A Danville Equal Suffrage Club was also founded, with Lillian Close as President and Libbie Wood, Nina McPherson and Ada Cornwall as officers.

Two months later, California women won the right to vote by barely 2% statewide and by 21 votes in Contra Costa County. The *New York Times* headline read *California Farmers Give Vote to Women*. This did not include the farmers of Alamo, Danville and Tassajara who voted against; San Ramon and Walnut Creek voted in favor.

Don't miss the Museum's exhibit which runs through July 16. Local women such as Charlotte and Libbie Wood, Lillian Close, Anita and Loretta Glass, Flora May Stone Jones and Viola Scott Root are featured. The exhibit celebrates the Centennial of women winning the vote in California.





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The Museum of the San Ramon Valley in the Depot

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Visit www.museumsvr.org
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MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesdays - Fridays, 1-4
Saturdays, 10-1
Special Summer Train Hours
July 26 - Aug 21, Tues-Sat, 10-2

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2011 THE MUSEUM SCHEDULE

Saturday Morning Walking Tours of Historic Danville 2nd Saturdays, thru October, Museum, 10 am

Friday Evening Walking Tours of Historic Danville with Mayor Karen Stepper, 3rd Fridays, thru October, Village Theatre (233 Front Street), 6:15 pm

May- July 16

Remember the Ladies - 100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote Exhibit

June 23

Bring a Friend Night, 7 pm

July 26-Aug 21

Trains - Toonerville Trolley

August-Sept

Quilts Exhibit

Sept 5

Antique Appraisal Clinic

Oct 1

Tri Valley Heritage Event

Oct 22

Elegant Flea Market, 9-3

Oct 30

Alamo Cemetery Tour, 10 am

Oct 3-Nov 15

Indian Life Exhibit

Nov- Dec

Christmas Memories Exhibit

A special thanks to our sponsors:

CLAUDIA MAUZY NEMIR



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

LINDA GOSSETT

Jerry Warren did a fabulous job putting together our recent Bear in Mind Exhibit. Taking it down was no small feat for these Museum volunteers: Jerry Warren, Chuck Brydon, Bob Sada, and Earle Schremp.



We have a Winner!

Visitors to the Bear in Mind exhibit guessed how many stuffed

bears were in the plastic case. The winner, with a correct guess of 59 bears (and with a little help from his sisters) was Calvin Jorgensen, Age 2. His family just moved to Danville in March from Seattle. A Gift Membership and toys for Calvin were awarded to the family. Congratulations!



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