



The Gazette.

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SPRING 2007

YEAR 13, NUMBER 1

Calm Coming To Downtown.

By **CHRIS PRICE**,
ASSISTANT CITY ENGINEER,
CITY OF SANTA CLARITA.

**New Parking Pattern, Street
Restriping Designed To Fulfill
Vision Of Newhall Plan.**

The restripe is coming! The first major capital project specifically designed to fulfill the vision of the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan is on its way.

By the time you read this, city staff members will have recommended that the Redevelopment Agency Board award a construction contract to bring back-in angle parking to

Downtown Newhall. If you are reading this in late-February you may already have seen construction activities starting up.

The professional traffic and civil engineers mentioned in a previous article have completed the process of re-designing striping, signal modifications, and producing finished construction plans and specifications to shift one lane of traffic from San Fernando Road over to Railroad Avenue between 5th and 11th Streets.

That shift in commuter traffic will allow for back-in angle parking along San Fernando Road between Lyons Avenue and 5th Street. The Agency is expected to award the construction contract during the February 13 regular City Council meeting.

The act of awarding the restripe
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4.



**A SHIFT IN DOWNTOWN
TRAFFIC FLOW IS PLANNED
TO CREATE CALMER
CONDITIONS AND ALLOW
BACK-IN ANGLE PARKING.**

North Newhall Plan On Hold.

By **JASON SMISKO**
SENIOR PLANNER,
CITY OF SANTA CLARITA.

Rail Crossing Raises Eyebrows At PUC.

**Council, Planning Commission To Hold Joint Session
May 1 To Tackle At-Grade Crossing Issues.**

The North Newhall Specific Plan has been put on hold while the City develops a strategy to gain government approval for a rail crossing that's integral to the North Newhall improvement plan.

In December 2006, staff temporarily suspended the land use planning of this project in order to concentrate on issues specific to vehicular circulation and rail crossings. It had come to the project team's attention that obtaining multiple agency approval (most notably, the Public Utilities Commission) for an at-grade rail crossing of the potential Lyons Avenue extension north into the project boundary could be exceptionally difficult.



**THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION HAS A PROBLEM WITH THE
CITY'S PLAN TO CHANGE THE RAIL CROSSINGS
IN THE NORTH NEWHALL PROJECT AREA.**

In December, the project team met with potential consultants from the railroad industry to discuss the achievability of the plan's objectives and to begin strategizing for agency
CONTINUED ON PAGE 11.

Best In The West Saddle Up For 14th Annual Cowboy Fest.

By **MICHAEL FLEMING**
ARTS AND EVENTS COORDINATOR,
CITY OF SANTA CLARITA.

**City's Event To Feature
Top Names In Western
Entertainment.**

Put on your chaps, grab your hat, and dust off those old cowboy boots for the City of Santa Clarita's fourteenth annual Cowboy Festival, April 25-29.

Recently named by True West Magazine as one of the best cowboy festivals nationwide, the City of Santa Clarita's Cowboy Festival will showcase the best performers in western entertainment at Melody Ranch Motion Picture Studios and other local venues throughout the Santa Clarita Valley.

"The 2007 Cowboy Festival promises to be a memorable year for all our guests," said City Mayor Marsha McLean. "Each year, our City, with the help of Melody Ranch and all the great Western performers, showcases a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience life in the old West," she added.

Each year, the Cowboy Festival attracts western singers, balladeers, storytellers and poets from around the country, for what is considered to be the premier festival of its kind.

The 2007 cowboy lineup includes headliners such as cowboy poet/comedian Baxter Black, cowboy balladeer Don Edwards, heart-felt ballads and cowboy swing music from Wylie and the Wild West, and western melodies from the Sons of the San Joaquin.

Festivities will include the
CONTINUED ON PAGE 11.

Old Town Newhall Gazette.

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LEON WORDEN, Editor and Publisher.

EDITORIAL.

We Must Save The American.

What would you say if a developer came to you with a plan to rip out one of the most historic and architecturally unique buildings in Newhall, the Santa Clarita Valley's first freestanding movie theater, built in 1941 by no less a figure than William S. Hart, and replace it with apartments?

Would you laugh in the developer's face? Would you scream?

Well, it actually happened. A developer came to the city with a plan to do just that.

As part of its planned reconfiguration of the streets in Old Town Newhall, the Santa Clarita Redevelopment Agency (i.e., the city of Santa Clarita) put some of the construction projects to bid. One of the projects is the realignment of San Fernando Road and Lyons Avenue, with new construction at the terminus of San Fernando. (San Fernando, aka "Main Street," will dead-end at Lyons; the through street will be Railroad Avenue. The plan is, if you're driving on San Fernando and you come to a stop at Lyons, you'll be looking up at a new public library building.)

The city didn't receive much interest from developers. In fact, the only bid that was even remotely within the ballpark came from a developer who wanted to build a much smaller library and cram a bunch of new homes behind it. In the process, the American Theater would be demolished. City officials said the developer "didn't see any value" in keeping it.

Hello? The American was the first building in our valley that was expressly built as a movie theater. You might know it as the American Legion Hall today. (See the

story by Bill Crowl on page 3 of this edition of the Gazette.)

If the American Theater isn't worth saving, nothing is. And if this developer doesn't "see any value" in it, we need a different developer to carry out the city's plans — which do call for the American Theater to be preserved.

Surely there will be some deviations from the City Council-approved Downtown Newhall Specific Plan. When it comes time to turn the dirt and pour the concrete, it's inevitable that there will be a few changes.

But there is no way the city should abide this radical a departure — and in the end, the city didn't. The city rejected the bid and started the process over again.

When the new bids come in, the city should accept nothing less than a nice, big library building — or at least some landmark public building that will attract patrons to Old Town Newhall — and it should insist on the preservation of the American Theater.

Who knows? Maybe the good folks at America Legion Post 507 can work with the city and start showing old Westerns or new art films in the old theater building once in a while. It would make a great addition to Newhall's budding Arts District.

The fact that the future of the American could even come into question underscores a bigger problem not just in Newhall, but throughout the Santa Clarita Valley.

If there's one thing that differentiates our valley from every other cookie-cutter, tract-home subdivision in California, it's our history.



CURRENT NEWHALL RESIDENTS ARE LIKELY TO KNOW THE HISTORIC AMERICAN THEATER AS THE HOME OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 507.

We were the location of California's first gold discovery (1842, Placerita Canyon, six years before Sutter's Mill). We were the birthplace of the California oil industry (1876, Pico Canyon). We were the place where the rails came together to link Los Angeles with the rest of the nation. (1876, Canyon Country). We were one of the earliest and most popular locations for filming, dating from the beginning of the last century when the movie industry relocated from New York City to Hollywood.

We're fortunate to have a few remaining buildings and landmarks to commemorate our unique history. We've lost more than we've kept, but we've still got some good ones.

And yet, sadly, our city has no historic preservation ordinance.

Why not? Cities with far less history have laws and rules to protect their historically and culturally significant houses, neighborhoods and commercial buildings.

It's not for lack of interest. It's more a matter of initiative. The idea of a historic preservation ordinance comes up every few years in this city, then qui-

etly dies. The idea is back in play again, and this time, the city needs to follow through.

As the city goes forward, it needs to do some rethinking.

You see, there is this "list" of historic properties in the Santa Clarita General Plan. The list includes 33 homes, commercial buildings and locations that have state or national landmark status, or were deemed to be a "city point of historical interest."

The problem is, the list was written back in 1991 when the city was new. The list is riddled with errors and, more importantly, omissions. Yes, the Hart Mansion is on the list. Yes, Melody Ranch is on the list. Yes, the buildings in Heritage Junction are on the list.

But incredibly, the American Theater is not on the list. Neither, for that matter, is the Saugus Speedway — whose grandstands were built around 1927 when it was a rodeo grounds. Neither are the Harry Carey Ranch buildings in Saugus. (True, the Harry Carey Ranch, aka Tesoro Del Valle, is outside of city limits, but the list includes other properties outside of city limits, such as Mentryville — indi-

cating that the list was not intended to be bound by city limits.)

The list is supposed to serve as a trigger. If a developer comes to the city with a plan to alter or demolish one of the properties on the list, a red flag is supposed to go up. It hasn't always worked; many years ago the city forgot to check the list and approved the demolition of a home on Chestnut Street in Newhall that had been built in 1908 by the family of a onetime Los Angeles County sheriff.

The city needs to cast aside any preconceived notions as it (hopefully) develops an ordinance to preserve our valley's important historical places.

Certainly, the city needs to pay attention to the list — but with so many errors and omissions, it needs to develop a better list. The city shouldn't be "married to the list," especially not the current one.

What should be preserved? Well, as noted at a city Planning Commission meeting when the issue last came up a couple of years ago (yes, it has been that long), a property shouldn't be preserved "just because" it is more than 50 years old. There needs to be some common sense to it.

What should private home and landowners be barred from doing? That's another question that will require careful consideration. In general, cities with historic preservation ordinances allow owners to alter the interior of their buildings however they want, but try to preserve the exterior.

What no city in its right mind would do is use eminent domain to take a historic theater building from an unwilling seller just so it can be torn down to make way for apartments.

The Gazette.

DISTRIBUTION: FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND.

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PUBLISHED IN COOPERATION WITH
THE SIGNAL NEWSPAPER.

The Movie House That Bill Hart Built.

Silver screen star and Newhall icon William S. Hart built this theater at the corner of Spruce and Eleventh Streets in 1940, six years before his death. The structure was used as a theater through the 1960s and still stands as the home of American Legion Post 507, which was chartered on December 5, 1934.

Bill Crowl, president of the Friends of William S. Hart Park (1999), writes:

WILLIAM S. HART AND THE AMERICAN.

Bill Hart treasured his role as one of the citizenry of Newhall. Our museum has photos of him entertaining the local schoolchildren and much has been said of his activities during the St. Francis Dam disaster. This is the tale of another contribution that William S. Hart made to his community.

Visitors to the Hart Mansion were often treated to showings of motion pictures in Bill's living room. A discrete projection room had been incorporated into the architecture because the movies had been Bill's business. However, the general population had to travel over the hill to see the latest films. Hart decided to do something about that.

In late August of 1940, William S. Hart invited friends Tom Frew Jr. and Fred W.

Trueblood to his mansion atop the hill. There, he announced, "I have for a long time believed that Newhall should have a picture theater. I also believe that the American Legion should be encouraged in its program of preserving patriotic American ideals."

Both of these men were members of Newhall-Saugus Post 507 American Legion. Hart, of course, was known as one of Hollywood's major fund raisers for Liberty Bonds during World War I, and for other patriotic efforts (see companion article).

At that time, Hart owned a number of land parcels in the Newhall area. He proposed to donate three lots at the corner of Spruce and 11th Street (valued at seventeen thousand dollars) plus nineteen thousand dollars in cash for construction and \$6,000 for furnishing of a new theater. The post's executive officers created a non-profit corporation and board of trustees to hold and administer the property.

This board was comprised of Commander C. V. Clark Jr., Vice Commander (and Signal editor) Fred Trueblood, Tom Frew Jr., Lewis Givens, Claude Shaver, Charles Hayes, Jess Doty, Dr. E. C. Innis, and Ronald Riedel. On November 7, 1940, at the old Bank of America (on what is now San Fernando Road), Mr. Hart formally signed over his land deed to the Trustees.

Construction began the



COWBOY FILM STAR WILLIAM S. HART COMMISSIONED THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE AMERICAN THEATER, WHICH WAS COMPLETED IN 1941.

following month, on a structure designed by nationally renowned cinema architect,

S. Charles Lee.

Nine months after its conception, the American

Theater was ready for dedication. The realization of Mr. Hart's generosity and affection toward his fellow townpeople, the labors of the builders, and the dream of the Trustees of American Legion Post 507 were fulfilled on May 23, 1941.

Mr. Hart made a short speech with all of the fire and dramatic effect of his years of acting experience, whereupon he handed the keys to Commander Clark. Clark thanked him for his magnificent gift and passed them to E. Harold Hall, who leased the building for a theater. As the opening night crowd entered, they were greeted by an additional rural valley rarity: fresh flowers in a bowl sculpted from ice. The feature film was "Tumbling Tumbleweeds." Hart requested that the theater continue to show one Western movie each week.

The American Theater continued to provide entertainment to valley residents until 1965, when it was closed — probably a casualty of home television. The Legion Post converted it to their meeting and entertainment center, as it remains today.

The author wishes to acknowledge and thank the following persons for their contributions: Estelle Walton Foley, historian of Post 507; Tom Frew IV; the staff of Santa Clarita Department of Building and Safety; the local office of the Los Angeles County Tax Assessor.

Looking Forward To More Progress In The New Year.

**By PHILIP ELLIS
Chairman, Newhall
Redevelopment Committee.**

**Redevelopment Committee
Proud of Accomplishments, And
Looking To The Future.**

Let me begin by extending to everyone the happiest wishes for a prosperous New Year! Although we



PHIL ELLIS.

of Newhall becoming more of a reality every day.

took a break from publishing the Gazette over the holidays, I can guarantee you that the Newhall Redevelopment Committee continued working diligently with the City of Santa Clarita and other partners to ensure our dream

That being said, I want to take a moment and reflect on everything that happened in 2006. We got a lot accomplished and we should all be very proud of the amount of work that was done.

◆ In January we began to participate in the implementation of the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan, which was adopted in December of 2005. January also saw the opening of the City's new Community Center. The facility is located near the Jan Heidt Metrolink station.

◆ In March and April we

participated in a number of training and outreach sessions and identified key issues to the implementation of the plan. At about the same time we learned that the City is working with The Master's College to potentially expand and enhance Creekview Park.

◆ In the early summer, the City and the Newhall Redevelopment Committee, in conjunction with Leon Worden, launched a website dedicated specifically to keeping the public up to date on everything

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4.

Enterprise Zone To Benefit Santa Clarita Businesses.

By **ANDREE WALPER**
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION, CITY OF
SANTA CLARITA.

**Gov. Schwarzenegger Names
Santa Clarita One Of Six
Enterprise Zones In Los
Angeles County.**

Continuing efforts to create jobs and a positive business

environment, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger named the City of Santa Clarita as one of six new Enterprise Zones established in Los Angeles County, part of twenty-three Enterprise Zones named statewide.

The California Enterprise Zone Program targets economically distressed areas using special state and local incentives to promote business investment and job creation. By encouraging entrepreneurship and employer growth, the program strives to create and sustain economic expansion in

California communities.

The Santa Clarita Enterprise Zone boundaries encompass more than 8,500 acres of commercial and industrial zoned land. They are under review by the State Housing and Community Development Department and must be finalized before the zone goes into effect. The City estimates that approximately two thousand five hundred industrial businesses and nearly one thousand two hundred commercial businesses will be eligible for tax incentives offered by the state for being located within

the zone. The Enterprise Zone designation is in effect for fifteen years.

Businesses located within the zone will be eligible for substantial tax credits and benefits such as:

- ◆ Tax credits for sales and use taxes paid on qualified machinery.
- ◆ Tax credits for hiring qualified employees.
- ◆ Lender incentives on loans to Enterprise Zone firms.
- ◆ Accelerated expense deductions and priority for various state programs and contracts.

For example, with each qualified employee hired, a company can earn \$31,234 or more in state tax credits, and companies purchasing twenty million dollars of qualified machinery and parts can earn sales tax credits.

The City is establishing an Enterprise Zone Office, and is recruiting for the position of enterprise zone manager.

For more information on the newly designated Enterprise Zone, visit www.scenterprisezone.com or contact the City's Economic Development Division at 661/255-4347.

Restripe, CONT.

FROM PAGE 1.

construction contract is a clear sign from the City that it means business when it comes to the revitalization of Downtown Newhall. With much calmer traffic conditions on San Fernando Road, residents and visitors alike will feel a more welcoming atmosphere along the future Main Street (San Fernando Road will eventually be renamed Main Street along this same stretch of roadway).

And, speaking of future, staff is also working on plans for a new "Streetscape" to further soften Main Street. New sidewalk treatments will grow from all of the intersections, creating more pedestrian areas along the way.

New benches, trees, rubbish bins, information kiosks and additional landscaping will eventually make Main Street a much more welcoming place to stroll or sip hot coffee and warm baked goods from the

local Panaderias.

The City's Arts & Events folks will be able to close the new "Main" street to vehicular traffic far easier than before in order to host bigger and better events downtown. Sunday morning socializing will be far livelier with regular breakfast patrons lining up to get a table at the Waystation, or walking off that big breakfast along the road while checking out a group of other patrons' Harley Davidsons leaning in a row angled backward like the cars on either side.

Speaking of backward, many people are asking what back-in angle parking is all about. While it is new for us here in Santa Clarita, it is employed in a number of localities all over the country. Research has shown several significant benefits to this newer configuration. For



CHRIS PRICE.

instance, if you have spent some time picking up that hard-to-find item from Newhall Hardware, or several gallons of Navajo White from the Newhall Paint store, it will be quite a bit easier to load all that gear into the back of your vehicle while standing on the sidewalk.

Also, if you are on your way to eat at one of the existing or forthcoming restaurants along Main Street with your excited children, the open doors of your car could well prevent them from running out into the street before you have a chance to stop them.

Finally, when it comes time to drive out into moving traffic, you will have a much safer and easier time pulling into your lane.

"Yeah, but how about backing into the space in the first place?" you might ask.

Well that may take a little more effort, and directional signage will be in place to remind folks to leave more room for the person ahead of them that is signaling to park.

"OK, but still!!!" some continue to bray, "Town Center Drive works just fine!"

Well there are two simple answers to that question as well. The first and most important is: Downtown Newhall will grow its own Main Street, it does not want to be Town Center Drive, it wants to be different, and different is sometimes a little hard to get used to.

The second fact of the matter is that the City and Agency are not in the business of creating problems. If the new style of parking becomes a problem, painted lines can easily be changed, and head-in angle parking could be only a few working days away. The Planners, Urbanists, Committee, Council, and Agency members who are so supportive of the overall reawakening of Downtown Newhall are not above listening to the people where vision and reality come together. If something really does not work, staff will be directed to find a solution. That is one of the characteristics that have continued to make Santa Clarita a great place to live.

So get ready, here it comes. The restripe project is just about here, and once it is done you may begin to see things you never noticed before.

Chairman, CONT.

FROM PAGE 3.

Newhall (www.oldtownnewhall.com).

◆ In August we participated in creating the North Newhall Specific Plan, a document being prepared by Moule and Polyzoides Architects that will provide a plan for the large vacant lot north of Downtown Newhall east of the intersection of San Fernando Road and 13th Street (For those of you who've been paying attention, you'll know that Moule and Polyzoides is the same firm that created the Downtown Newhall Specific Plan.).

◆ In September the City's Community Preservation division began working with residents in East Newhall to help clean up the neighborhood. I'm happy to report that in the first phase of the project ninety-four percent of the owners in the area have cleaned up their properties.

◆ No stranger to the arts and entertainment community, Newhall was the site of a variety of exciting cultural events. In April the annual Cowboy Festival was held. This included Cowboy Couture at the Canyon Theatre Guild, as well as other events at Heritage Junction and the William S. Hart Museum. In May an event was held at the Veterans' Historical Plaza and in

July the annual Fourth of July Parade made its way through Newhall. In October the Santa Clarita Street Art Festival was held. In November the Santa Clarita Valley Film Festival was held at the Canyon Theatre Guild. And in December we rang in the holiday season with the Old Town Newhall Holiday Parade.

I fully expect that the Newhall Redevelopment Committee will be every bit as busy this year as last year – if not more so!

One of the most significant items to occur in 2007 is the City's restripe project of San Fernando Road, Railroad Avenue and Lyons Avenue. I encourage you to read the article about this project on the

front page of this edition of the Gazette. I think when you've done so you'll be as excited about the project as I am.

I can guarantee you it will be another year filled with challenges and opportunities. Amelia Earhart once said, "Never do things others can do and will do if there are things others cannot do or will not do." I know that together we can accomplish anything.

The Newhall Redevelopment Committee meets the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m. The meetings are held in City Hall, 23920 Valencia Boulevard, in the Century Conference Room. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

Wanted: Volunteers For Historical Society.

By **PAT SALETORE**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
SANTA CLARITA VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society needs volunteers to get things done! We have a huge mission before us, and without community support, we just can't fulfill it.

Every place has a history and our Society is the place where the history of our valley is kept. We do that by maintaining information, images, stories and memories.

But we also have accepted the challenge of maintaining some of the buildings that evoke our collective past here in Santa Clarita. Anyone who has ever lived in an old building can tell you — they need a lot of upkeep. So, multiply that kind of problem by four, then add three smaller buildings, then add a train depot and a locomotive and the grounds to keep all that! It is pretty daunting to say the least.

In case you were thinking that we were funded by some governmental agency or someone else with deep pockets — think again. We operate on memberships, donations and volunteers.

Opportunities for helping out include all kinds of maintenance, like cleaning our museum in the depot and other buildings. We have all kinds of painting jobs. We have a number of projects that will require skilled work on construction jobs like a deck on the trackside of the depot, shelter for the farm equipment and plans for an active blacksmith shop display. We need drywall work and general minor fix-up jobs.

Also, we can always use more docents. If we had more docents, we could expand our outreach into the community. We could offer walking tours of the buildings or possibly even increase the number of days we can be open.

Heritage Junction Park is an important part of our community. Our history literally defines our community. We would like to invite the community to participate in our vital mission of preserving that heritage.



Above: MEMBERS OF THE FILIPINO AMERICAN SOCIETY CLEAN UP AROUND THE EDISON HOUSE AS PART OF PRIDE WEEK. THE HOUSE WAS BOUGHT FROM A CATALOGUE, AS A KIT, BY THE EDISON COMPANY AND BUILT FOR EMPLOYEES. WHEN THE HOUSES WERE NO LONGER

BEING USED, THIS BUILDING WAS DONATED TO THE SCV HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AND OTHERS LIKE IT WERE BURNED DURING FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING. Above Left: JIMMY ESCALANTE, A VOLUNTEER FROM THE SANTA SUSANNA SP DEPOT IN SIMI VALLEY AND A RETIRED RAILROAD ENGINEER, AND MIKE JAREL (in black), A SCVHS VOLUNTEER AND UNION PACIFIC ENGINEER, WORK ON THE "MAGNETIC FLAGMAN," OR WIGWAG, AS JOHN LESPERANCE, GROUNDSKEEPER AT HERITAGE JUNCTION, LOOKS ON. Left: A VOLUNTEER FROM GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH DEMONSTRATES HOW AN ORDER HOOP WOULD BE FITTED ONTO THE ORDER DELIVERY POLE, WHILE MIKE JAREL (back) WORKS ON THE WIGWAG POLE. THE ORDER HOOP WAS DESIGNED TO DELIVER A WRITTEN MESSAGE TO THE ENGINEER, CONDUCTOR OR OTHER WORKERS ON THE TRAIN. DIFFERENT LEVELS ON THE POLE INDICATED FOR WHOM THE ORDER WAS MEANT.

The Parallel Outlaw Careers Of Ti

By ALAN POLLACK, M.D.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT,
SANTA CLARITA VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

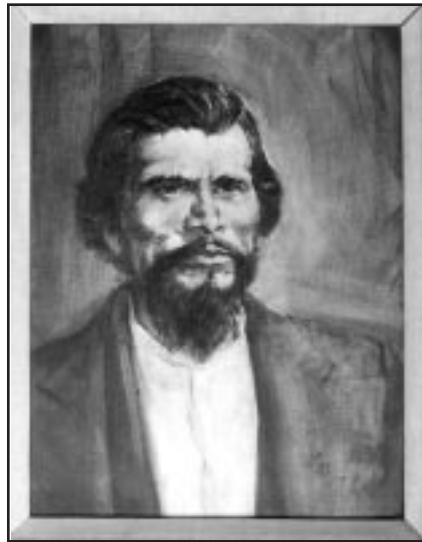
A Retrospective Through
Contemporary Newspaper
Accounts.

Famous Outlaws Bore
Similarities In Background
And Public Perception.

It recently dawned on me that there were several similarities in the lives and criminal careers of outlaws Tiburcio Vasquez and Jesse James.

Both men began their careers in retribution for perceived injustices heaped on them — Vasquez due to the mistreatment of Mexican Californios by the invading Americans, James due to the mistreatment of Confederate veterans in Missouri by the victorious Union soldiers at the end of the Civil War (and no doubt to avenge the defeat of the Confederacy).

Both men were perceived by the local population as modern-day “Robin Hoods” and were shielded from the law by the locals. Both men used robbery to further their cause



(either for personal gain or to avenge injustice, depending on one's perspective) — Vasquez primarily robbing individuals, stagecoaches and whole towns; James mostly robbing banks and trains.

Both men's careers peaked in the 1870s, during which their most famous robberies occurred — Vasquez at Tres Pinos and Kingston in California, James at Northfield, Minnesota. Both men suffered violent deaths — Vasquez by a planned hanging in San Jose, California; James by an unanticipated (to him anyway) betrayal by one of his gang members who shot him in the back of the head in a small house in St. Joseph, Missouri.

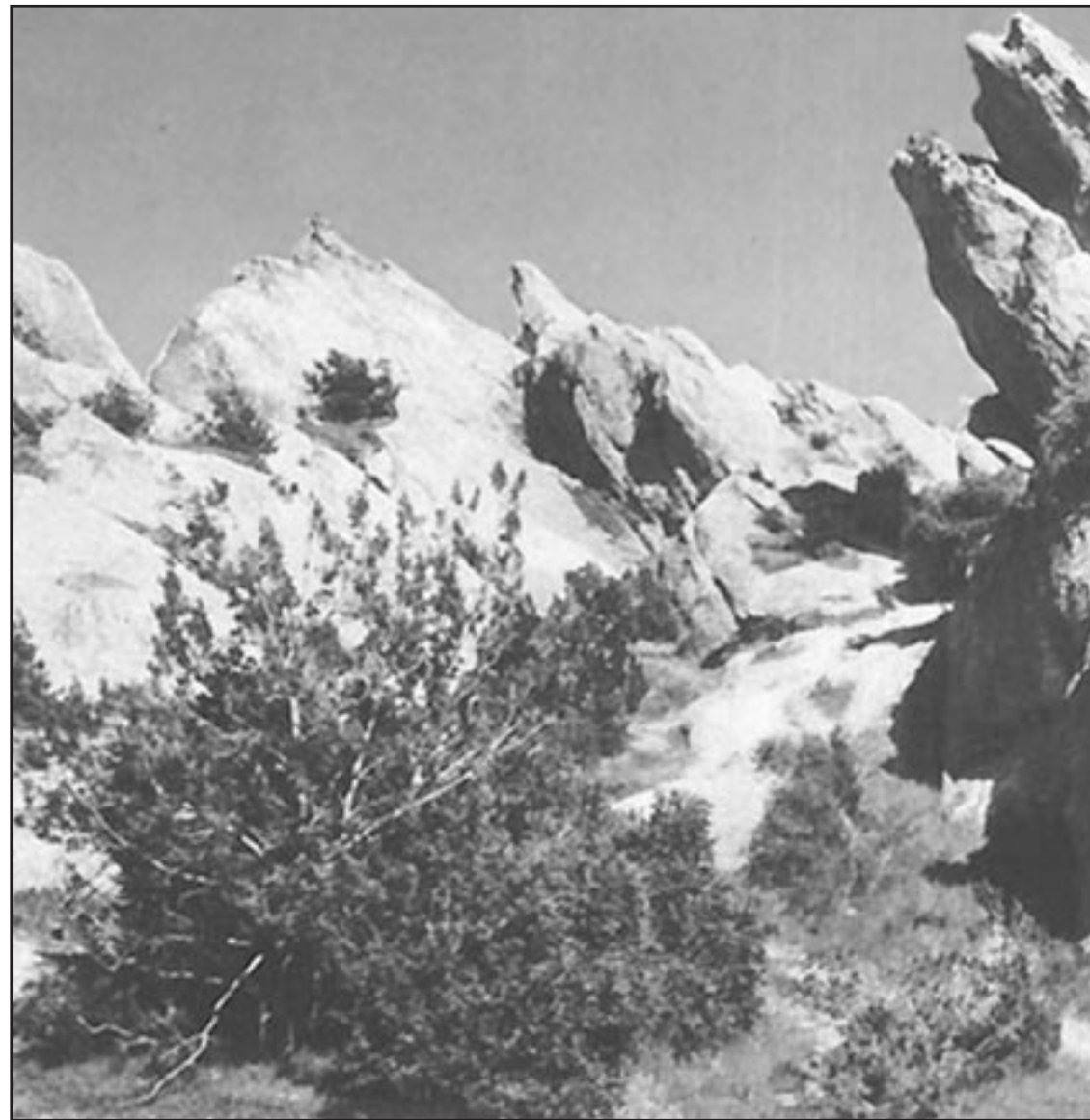
Today we will take a chronological journey through the careers of Vasquez and James using contemporary newspaper accounts to illustrate their outlaw endeavors. Most of the newspaper items you will see come from my personal collection. Some are from the collection of Eric Caren, one of the major newspaper collectors and dealers in the country.

EARLY LIFE OF TIBURCIO VASQUEZ.

Tiburcio Vasquez was born in 1835 to a well-to-do family in Monterey, California. One year before his birth the mission system in California had been secularized, and California at the time of his birth was just beginning the glory days of the Spanish rancho period. Very few Americans had settled in California at that time. There were still mountain men roaming the far West.

But within the next fifteen years, everything would change.

The first documented gold discovery in California actually



Top Left: A PAINTING OF THE FAMOUS OUTLAW TIBURCIO VASQUEZ HANGS IN HERITAGE JUNCTION HISTORIC PARK, IN NEWHALL. Above: THE ROCK WAS BELIEVED TO HIDE OUT, NOW BEAR HIS NAME. Right: SPURS BELIEVED FOUND ON THE TEJON RANCH IN THE LATE 1930s BY ROBERT ADDINGTON

occurred in Southern California, locally in Placerita Canyon. Francisco Lopez, a trained mineralogist from Mexico, was the uncle of Jacoba Feliz, the widow of Antonio Del Valle, who was the first non-Native American owner of the Santa Clarita Valley. He was supposedly sleeping under an oak tree, and when he awoke he dug up a wild onion and found gold sticking to its roots.

The Placerita Canyon discovery set off a minor gold rush, mostly involving Mexican gold seekers. For whatever reason the news of the discovery stayed within the Mexican population, did not spread to the American population, and therefore was rather lost to history in comparison with the more famous gold discovery at Sutter's Mill six years later.

Also about the time of the Placerita gold discovery, wagon trains were coming along the Oregon Trail to Oregon and California, bringing the first wave of American settlers to California.

War broke out between Mexico and the United States in 1846. It began as a territorial dispute over Texas, but ended up with the United States acquiring much of the Southwest. In January 1847, John C. Fremont led a group of troops over the pass later to be called Fremont Pass, or Newhall Pass, into the San Fernando Valley to Campo de Cahuenga (on Lankershim Boulevard near present-day Universal City) to accept the surrender of Andres Pico and the Mexican troops to end the war in California.

The next year, the American War of Independence ended with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which gave the American point the American California and reformed the territories to second-

John Marshall on the American Mill in January 1848, tenant Edward F. Washington, D.C. later with a gold bring news of the the East Coast. The coffin for the C days occurred on when President Ja ered his state of t and announced gold in California.

In the speed



VASQUEZ DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE, MARCH 20, 1875.

Tiburcio Vasquez And Jesse James.

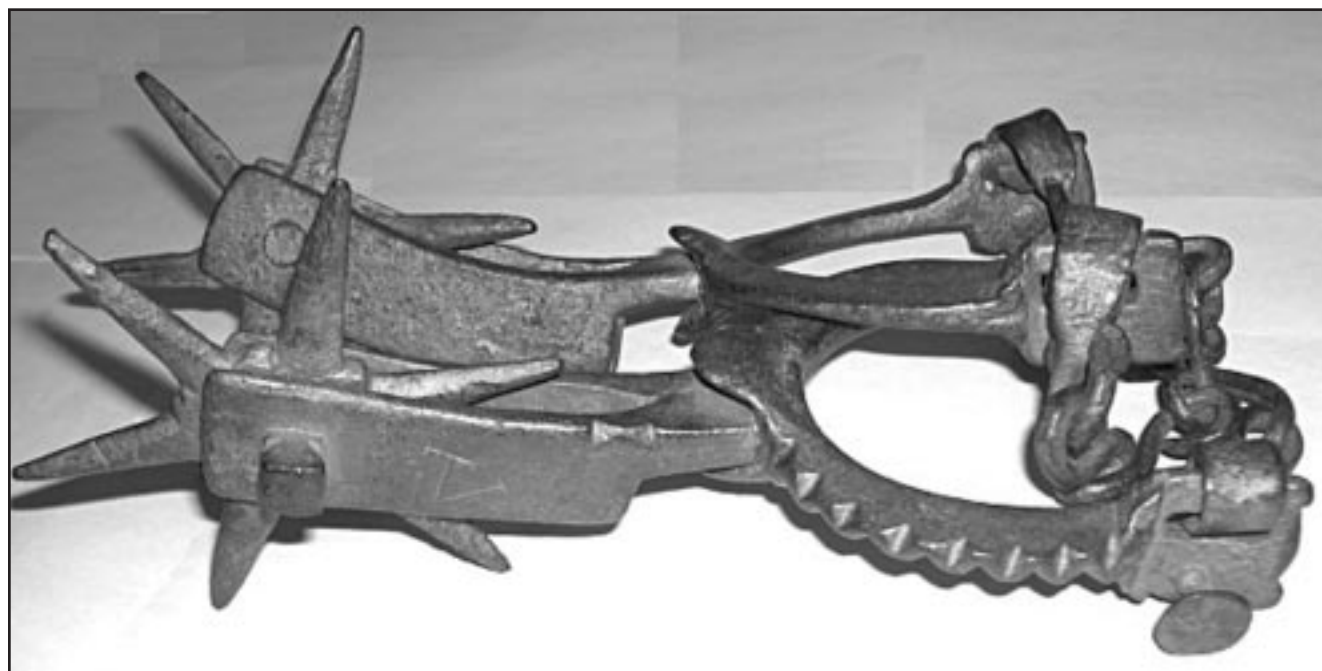


IN THE SAUGUS TRAIN STATION MUSEUM NEAR AGUA DULCE, WHERE VASQUEZ BELIEVED TO HAVE BELONGED TO VASQUEZ, ONE SPUR SHOWS A STYLIZED "TV."

near the Mexican-... ended with the... pe Hidalgo. At this... ns had taken over... elegated the Cali...-class citizens. ...ll discovered gold... River at Sutter's... 1848. Naval Lieu... Beale traveled to... , a few months... nugget in hand to... gold discovery to... the final nail in the... alifornio Rancho... December 5, 1848... mes K. Polk deliv... the union address... the discovery of... to the world. ...h, he said, "The

accounts of the abundance of gold in that territory are of such an extraordinary character as would scarcely command belief, were they not corroborated by the authentic reports of officers in the public service..."

The California Gold Rush was officially started after that speech. American gold seekers rushed to California by the thousands to get their share of the gold. San Francisco was practically depopulated as everyone in town ran off to the gold fields in the Sierra foothills. California quickly attained statehood, joining the United States in 1850. In the process, the Mexican Californios saw their previously idyllic Rancho lifestyle progressively destroyed. Many eventually lost their land to



the Americans and suffered mistreatment by the newcomers.

It was in this setting and sequence of events that Tiburcio Vasquez developed his resentment against the American "invaders" and began his career of outlawry.

EARLY LIFE OF JESSE JAMES.

Jesse James was born in Centerville (later to become Kearney), Clay County, Missouri, in 1847 to a farmer and Baptist minister, Robert James, and his wife Zerelda. He had three brothers, Robert Jr., Frank and John, and a sister, Susan. His mother later remarried a doctor named Reuben Samuel and they had two more sons, and two daughters, including Archie Peyton Samuel. In the years leading up to the American Civil War, Zerelda and Reuben acquired a total of seven slaves and grew tobacco on their farm.

As the Civil War began in 1861, Missouri was a border state, badly divided between Union and Confederate sympathizers. Missouri initially voted to stay in the Union as a neutral state but was also later

admitted into the Confederacy when part of the state government sympathetic to the South voted to secede. Neither side had full control of the state. Members of the same family, including the James-Samuel family, could be divided between Union and Southern sympathizers.

Jesse's older brother, Frank James, initially fought in Missouri with the regular Confederate Army, but later joined with the Confederate bushwhackers, a band of guerrillas who battled Union forces in Western Missouri. Both sides were to commit savage atrocities against the other. The warfare was largely waged by Missourians, often pitting neighbor against neighbor. Jesse's and Frank's stepfather, Reuben Samuel, was tortured by local Union militiamen who were hunting for Frank's band.

On August 21, 1863, a band of rebel guerrillas under the command of William Quantrill descended in the early morning hours on the sleeping town of Lawrence, Kansas, and embarked on a four-hour session of pillaging, "executions," arson and other mayhem. By the time Quantrill's men rode out of town, one in four buildings in Lawrence had been burned to the ground, including all but two businesses.

As well, most of the banks and stores had been looted. Left behind were between one hundred eighty-five and two hundred dead men and boys. Among Quantrill's Raiders that bloody morning were Frank James and Cole Younger. Although there is no definite evidence, sixteen-year-old Jesse James also later

claimed to have been involved in what became known as the Lawrence Massacre.

It is well documented, however, that Jesse joined the bushwhackers in 1864 and, with his brother Frank, participated under the command of former Quantrill lieutenant Bloody Bill Anderson in the notorious Centralia Missouri Massacre of September, 1864, in which twenty-two unarmed Union soldiers returning home on leave were pulled from a train and executed. The guerrillas also terrorized the town, robbing and burning stores and robbing stagecoach passengers. In a battle against pursuing Union forces, Jesse is said to have killed Union Major A.V. Johnson, who was one of the soldiers on the train, and is "credited" with taking the lives of seven other men. But the brothers' activities brought hardship on the family when Union authorities banished Reuben and Zerelda Samuel from the state of Missouri in January 1865.

The Civil War ended with the surrender of Robert E. Lee to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox, Virginia, on April 9, 1865. But the James brothers continued to fight in Missouri as Bushwhackers. In May of 1865, Jesse rode into Lexington, Missouri, carrying a white flag.

When he attempted to surrender, he was shot in the chest by occupying Union troops.

Afterward, he went to Rulo, Nebraska, to recuperate from his wound before returning to Missouri. In August of that year Zerelda James

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8.

Vasquez, CONT.

FROM PAGE 7.

and her husband returned to the family homestead in Missouri. Recovered from his wound, Jesse joined them in October, and Frank returned not long after. It was in this setting that Frank and Jesse James began their career as outlaws.

Claiming to have been forced into a life of crime because the family had been persecuted during the war, Frank and Jesse became the leaders of a band of outlaws, which included the Younger brothers and other ex-Confederates. Jesse justified much of his actions by his hatred of the industrial North, feeling as if he were continuing the fight through his outlaw activities.

Beginning in 1866, the gang robbed their way across the Western frontier for the next fifteen years.

1850s-1860s.

The 1850s belong to Vasquez. Jesse James was still a kid on the farm in Kearney.

VASQUEZ.

Vasquez developed a resentment against the Americans at an early age. He would later say he thought his acts of banditry might help Mexico regain California from the United States.

The details of the first incident known to involve Vasquez are somewhat controversial as to his age and the exact circumstances. Somewhere between the age of fourteen and eighteen (depending on the source), Vasquez attended a fandango, probably in Monterey (possibly in Sonora, California, according to another source). Again depending on source, he:

- Claimed that an American had insulted his sister at the party.
- Was involved in a fracas over a girl.
- Got into a fight due to his jealousy over the Americans' seemingly greater success at attracting señoritas than were his fellow Mexicans.
- Was the life of the



STAR TREK'S CAPTAIN JAMES T. KIRK SHOTS A SEGMENT OF "HOW WILLIAM SHATNER CHANGED THE WORLD" (2005) AT VASQUEZ ROCKS.

party, but was making too much of a disturbance, which prompted a deputy sheriff to try to remove him from the party.

In the ensuing fight, Vasquez was accused of stabbing and murdering Constable William Hardmount. It is not clear whether Vasquez actually committed the murder. However, guilty or not, he chose to flee rather than face American justice. He joined up with Anastacio Garcia, presumed to have been in the gang of outlaw Joaquin Murrieta.

Garcia is listed according to different sources as:

- His older cousin.
- His friend.
- His uncle.
- His older friend.

At any rate, Garcia presumably taught Vasquez the "art" of outlawry.

In those early days, Vasquez primarily rustled cattle and horses. He also robbed freight wagons and stagecoaches. In 1857 he stole horses from Rancho Camulos, but was caught when he tried to sell them to a relative of Ignacio Del Valle. Del Valle happened to be owner of both the horses and Camulos.

Being a judge as well, Del Valle tried Vasquez and sentenced him to San Quentin prison for five years for grand larceny. He escaped from San Quentin in 1859 and hid near Idria, but again engaged in horse stealing, was caught and returned to San Quentin, where he was incarcerated until 1863. He continued to engage in horse stealing and stage robbing and was returned to San Quentin in 1867 after a failed attempt to rob a store in Mendocino.

He was released for the final time from San Quentin in 1870.

JESSE JAMES, 1860s.

Following the Civil War, Jesse James continued his fight against the hated North by introducing bank robbery to the country. The 1860s were notable for a series of bank robberies committed by a gang of ex-Confederate guerrillas led by Jesse and Frank James and including Cole Younger and his brothers Jim, John and Bob. This band of outlaws would eventually gain nationwide fame as the James-Younger Gang.

It was the first daylight bank robbery in peacetime in U.S. history: On February 13, 1866, twelve men wearing faded soldier blue overcoats rode in from different directions into the town of Liberty, Missouri (now a suburb of Kansas City). Their intention was to rob the Clay County Savings Association Bank, located at one corner of the town square.

Although this robbery is felt to be the first associated with the James-Younger Gang, there is some controversy as to whether Jesse James himself was present in Liberty. There is little doubt that Jesse was the planner of the robbery. However, some contend that he was too ill to ride at that time, as he was still recovering from the chest wound he sustained when surrendering to Union forces at Lexington, Missouri.

On the other hand, some witnesses to the robbery claim to have seen Jesse James in Liberty appearing ill and having trouble staying

mounted on his horse. James Ross, great-grandson of Jesse James and author of the James biography, "I, Jesse James," claims that Jesse faked being ill from his wound back on the farm in Kearney in order to establish an alibi for not being present at the robbery, but indeed was present in Liberty and leading the robbery.

Although historians cannot state with certainty, other possible participants in the Liberty robbery included Frank James, Cole Younger, and about ten to fourteen total men.

While the others kept watch outside, two men entered the bank. It is uncertain exactly who they were. Various sources speculate they could have been Frank James, Cole Younger, George Sheppard, Arch Clements, or even Jesse James. Inside the bank were Greenup Bird, head cashier and his son and assistant, William Bird. One of the robbers requested a bill to be changed. As William approached the counter, the outlaws drew their guns and demanded money to be placed in an empty feed sack. Money, bonds, and tax stamps totaling over sixty-two thousand dollars were placed in the sack. The Birds were subsequently forced into the bank vault, after which the robbers exited the bank.

Two teenage boys were watching the robbery from across the street at the Green Hotel. One of them, George "Jolly" Wymore, a seventeen-year-old student at William Jewell College in Liberty, would become the first person murdered by the James-Younger Gang. As the robbers were fleeing the bank and heading out of town, one of them noticed Wymore watching them and shot him in the chest. Wymore died there in the street.

It is unclear who shot Wymore and exactly why they did it. Some speculate it could have been Frank James or Arch Clement. The Wymore family claims that a few weeks later they received a letter apologizing for the death of the boy. It was signed by Jesse James. After the robbery, the outlaws headed back to the James Farm in Kearney and split up the money and bonds.

As the James-Younger Gang started to gain attention, they would be blamed for many robberies, some of which they did commit, some they clearly didn't, and many that remain controversial as to their involvement. The outlaws went to great pains to establish alibis and hide their involvement in the crimes. The James brothers had many friends and admirers in Missouri who were more than willing to shield them from the law.

John Newman Edwards, an ex-confederate soldier who became editor of the Kansas City Times, became a staunch supporter of the James Gang and used his newspaper to launch the myth of Jesse James as a noble "Robin Hood." He would print letters from Jesse James denying involvement in robberies. Later he would portray James as a hero who "robbed from the rich and gave to the poor."

Therefore, at least some portion of the robberies attributed to the James-Younger Gang remains a mystery to this day as to whether they were actually present. One such case occurred several months after the Liberty Bank Robbery in Lexington, Missouri. Five men robbed the Alexander Mitchell and Company Bank in Lexington on October 30, 1866, and made off with two thousand dollars. They would have gotten more money (possibly up to one hundred thousand dollars), but the cashier claimed not to have the key to the bank vault. Some historians feel that Jesse and Frank James took part in this robbery, but others place them out of state at the time.

Another robbery attributed to the James Gang took place in Savannah, Missouri, on March 2, 1867. Five to six men attempted to rob the Judge John McClain Banking House of Savannah. The robbery was bungled and no money was taken. Historians can find no clear evidence that any of the James or Youngers took part in this robbery. One author called it a copy-cat robbery not attributable to the James-Younger Gang.

James Ross places Jesse James in Kentucky at the time of the robbery, still recovering from his chest wound.

A Recipe For Success In Newhall.

By **ALEX HERNANDEZ**
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANT,
CITY OF SANTA CLARITA.

Cookbooks Plus Is The Latest Addition To The 'Mom And Pop' Business Mix Of Old Town Newhall.

Old Town Newhall is a hub for small business. National chain fast-food restaurants and big box retailers are nowhere to be found. In an effort to highlight unique or new businesses, each edition of The Gazette will spotlight a downtown Newhall establishment. This month's spotlight is on Cookbooks Plus, located at 24339 San Fernando Road.

Cookbooks Plus was previously located in Canyon Country, off Soledad Canyon Road, and relocated to downtown Newhall in April 2006. Owner Mimi Hiller says she has always been drawn to downtown Newhall and "loves the hometown feel and how the buildings look like yesterday stepped into today."

Hiller believes this new location is central to most of the city with good drive-by traffic and signed a three-year lease for the roughly one thousand, five-hundred-square-foot space.

The brick and mortar storefront sells new and gently used cookbooks, including some rare and unusual ones, cookbooks signed by their authors, and historic and vintage titles. The cookbooks appeal to people at every cooking skill level from novice cooks to restaurant chefs. The store is also stocked with cookbooks for kids and some Spanish language cookbooks.

The store has a great selection of gift items in



supply for your favorite foodie. The most popular item is not actually a book, but a Microplane grater that has been featured by television celebrity chefs such as Rachel Ray, Emeril Lagasse, Martha Stewart, and Los Angeles local Melinda Lee.

The store also offers a wide variety of books for non-cooks such as house decorating, gardening, do-it-yourself home projects, crafts, sewing, knitting, quilting, photography, recreation and many more.

Mimi also provides a book search service for cus-

tomers to locate hard-to-find cookbooks and order quality copies for a low price. Mimi has had customers come from as far away as El Paso, Texas, who have previously placed Internet orders but dropped by to visit the store in Newhall.

Before opening a storefront, Mimi researched her market and competition. She visited cookbook stores all over the country and first began ten years ago with online sales of cookbooks from her original website, OverTheHillers.com, to

MIMI HILLER, OWNER OF COOKBOOKS PLUS, SAYS SHE WAS DRAWN TO DOWNTOWN NEWHALL AS A NEW LOCATION FOR HER BUSINESS, AND SHE LIKES THE "HOMETOWN FEEL" OF THE VALLEY'S HISTORIC OLD TOWN DISTRICT.

gauge customer demand.

Hiller found that Los Angeles County has only three cookbook stores. One sells only new cookbooks, while the other sells only used cookbooks. Cookbooks Plus currently has more than 14,000 books and is the only one in Los Angeles County shelved with new and used cookbooks.

Cookbooks Plus may also have a kitchen installed to further enhance the customer's experience in the store. Mimi hopes to provide cooking classes that will feature guest cooks and book signings.

Cookbooks Plus is a small business that relies heavily on technology to supplement in-store traffic and sales. Mimi and her hus-

Old Town Newhall Business Spotlight.

band maintain several websites, a mail order business, and catalog software to help Mimi thrive in a rather niche marketplace. Mimi also has Cookbooks Plus inventory on major Internet book retail sites such as Amazon.com.

In addition to a website that catalogs the store's cookbooks, Hiller has several other websites devoted to cooking such as Mimi Mart for kitchen items and Plotz-worthy for Jewish gifts. Recipe Circus was recently launched and allows users to create their own recipe archives for free. To date, that site has over 330,000 entries with over 4,000 people registered who have created their own online recipe archive.

Cookbooks Plus has another employee, who Mimi says has been invaluable in accepting donated books and shipping orders all over the world. Through her busy mail order business, together Mimi and Barbara mail more than 150 books each month. Mimi says walk-in traffic at the store has improved and hopes to have many more days like a recent one with a line waiting at the cash register.

Cookbooks Plus (www.cookbooksplus.com) is a business member of the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce. The store is located at 24339 San Fernando Road in downtown Newhall. They are open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and their business phone number is 661/296-4455 or call toll-free at 877/352-9713.

Farmer's Market: A Fresh Shopping Experience.

By **MICHAEL MARKS**
CITY OF SANTA CLARITA.

Old Town Newhall's Farm-Fresh Alternative Set To Reopen For The Spring.

Mark your calendars for every Thursday afternoon for our new hours of 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. beginning April 5, when the Old Town Newhall Farmer's Market reopens for spring!

The Farmer's Market is located in a parking lot at the corner of San Fernando Road and 6th Street right next door to the Rodger Dunn Golf Shop. Customer parking is conveniently located adjacent to the Farmer's Market. You can enter the customer parking lot off of Railroad Avenue or San Fernando Road by entering from 5th Street or 6th Street.

Consumers flock to farmer's markets for two main reasons: the wide selection of fresh, affordable produce and specialty food items and the opportunity to gather with friends.

So bring the whole family for a fresh food shopping experience.

The Old Town Newhall Farmer's Market features fresh produce from several different local farmers. Depending on the growing season, you will find strawberries, peaches, apples, citrus, cantaloupes, and delicious watermelons. You



will also be able to prepare dishes from the assorted vegetables such as onions,

lettuce, tomatoes, corn, squash, potatoes, broccoli and beets, to name a few. If

**THE OLD TOWN
NEWHALL FARMER'S
MARKET WILL REOPEN
FOR THE SPRING
ON APRIL 5, FEATURING
FRESH PRODUCE,
HERBS AND OTHER
TASTY OFFERINGS.**

you are looking for herbs you will find basil, rosemary, sage and many more.

The Farmer's Market also has vendors selling other tasty items such as assortments of nuts, fresh breads, desserts, and gourmet tamales. Grace your

home with fresh cut flowers directly from the grower to you. There is always someplace to sit down and enjoy a snack and a cold drink as you take a break from shopping.

While you are in Old Town Newhall, don't forget the area offers many fine stores to shop in before or after the Farmer's Market.

Travel back in time as you enter Newhall Hardware, which will be celebrating 60 years in the same location. This unique hardware store offers everything for your home repair needs.

The area also features many fine restaurants such as El Trocadero Steak House and fresh pastries at Jazmins Bakery. Or enjoy a night out on the town seeing a play at the Canyon Theatre Playhouse or the Repertory East Theatre.

Most importantly, we hope to see you and have you plan your weekly fresh shopping needs at the Old Town Newhall Farmer's Market.

If you are interested in getting a booth space at the Old Town Newhall Farmer's Market, please contact, Michael Marks at 661/286-4078 or email at mmarks@santa-clarita.com

If you are a local farmer or if you make your own craft items we have room for you at the Farmer's Market. The Old Town Newhall Farmer's Market is open Thursdays from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. from April 5 to November 1, 2007.

Come on down!

Watch Your Favorite
Santa Clarita Valley History
Programs Online 24/7 At
SCVTV.com

Old Town Newhall Event Calendar

Canyon Theatre Guild: Romeo and Juliet, currently running through February 24th; Sarah Plain and Tall, currently running through February 24th

Newhall Library: International Ghost Stories, February 28th at 4-5 p.m.

Repertory East Theatre: The Last 5 Years, March 9 - April 7

SCV Historical Society: St. Francis Dam Lecture, March 10

Canyon Theatre Guild: Bye-Bye Birdie, opens March 23rd

'Bye Bye Birdie' Rocks and Rolls into the Canyon Theatre Guild.

Bye Bye Birdie opens at the Canyon Theatre Guild with a champagne reception at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 23. Lively, captivating, and entertaining, this popular musical will have performances every Friday and Saturday evening at 8 p.m., through April 28. There will be Saturday matinees at 1 p.m. on April 7, 14, 21, and 28; Sunday matinees at 1 p.m. on March 25, April 1, 15, 22, and 29. There will be two Sunday twilight performances at 6:30 p.m. on April 22 and 29, and one Thursday evening show at 7 p.m. on April 26. No performances on Sunday, April 8. Tickets are \$11-\$14 for juniors and seniors and \$14-\$17 for adults. Call the box office at 661/799-2702.



THE SONS OF THE SAN JOAQUIN ARE AMONG THE WELL-KNOWN COWBOY AND WESTERN ACTS AT THE SANTA CLARITA COWBOY FESTIVAL.

Cowboy, CONT.

FROM PAGE 1.

Spaghetti Western Family Dinner, a Behind the Scenes Tour, and the Walk of Western Stars gala dinner and awards ceremony.

Since 1994, the City has continually brought to life the music, magic, and spirit of the old West for thousands who visit the festival each year. The festival's western music, cowboy poetry, authentic cowboy gear and food are always a highlight for attendees. Join the City of Santa Clarita for five days of cowboy culture and excitement!

For more information on the 2007 Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival, including tickets, event times, prices, venues and more, visit www.cowboymfestival.org or call the Cowboy Festival Ticket office at 661/286-4021.

North, CONT.

FROM PAGE 1.

approval and compliance. The next steps regarding this project and related issues will include the City hiring a rail consultant to study all rail crossings in the field, evaluate area traffic counts, develop a strategy for PUC application, reach agreement and support with other impacted agencies, and file an application with the PUC. This application and approval process could take approximately one year.

A joint City Council-Planning Commission study session is scheduled May 1 for the project team to present a proposed NNSP land use plan and to discuss the status and issues with obtaining approval for an at-grade Lyons Avenue rail crossing.

Downtown Plan Used As A Model.

Capitalizing on the successful planning effort that resulted in the 2005 Council-approved Downtown Newhall Specific Plan (DNSP), the City of Santa Clarita hired the same planning consultants, Moule and Polyzoides, Inc., to create the North Newhall Specific Plan (NNSP).

Located adjacent and north of Downtown Newhall, boundaries of the two-hundred-thirteen-acre NNSP project include Circle-J Ranch to the north, Market Street to the south, Placerita Canyon to the east and Newhall Creek to the west. Much of the property consists of vacant land that is annually used for parking for the City's Cowboy Festival.

Prior to beginning to create a land plan for the NNSP, the project team interviewed scores of community and public agency stakeholders in 2006. Also, community workshops were held in August and September 2006.

These interviews and workshops allowed the project team to gather input and ideas from the community and to gain insight on the issues and development options for the project area. This research culminated in a four-day community charrette (workshop) in September 2006 at Hart Park's Hart Hall.

This charrette was similar to the one followed in developing the DNSP in 2004. The charrette brought designers, engineers and other consultants together with community leaders, residents and property owners to solve design problems and development issues. Participants were divided into sub-groups to discuss issues, design ideas and present information. Presentations highlighted important topics and reviewed accomplishments.

Each day, the charrette was divided into general topic areas with Day One devoted to traffic and transportation; Day Two to environmental issues and landscaping; Day Three to financing of infrastructure and economics; and Day Four to design and code standards. The charrette was open to the public each day from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. with presentations on the day's topic area each day from noon to 1 p.m. and evening presentations summarizing each day's accomplishments from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"The charrette process allowed for greater community involvement and created a better plan through more diverse input," said Jason Smisko, sen-

ior planner for the City of Santa Clarita and project manager for the NNSP. "It has been successfully used to create positive plans in communities throughout the United States, as well as in Downtown Newhall. This charrette was extremely well-attended and the community helped drive and create the basis for this project's land use plan."

Although there is not yet a formal proposed project, characteristics of the potential land use plan that arose out of the charrette process included:

- ◆ An equestrian center north of Placerita Creek;
- ◆ A regional park south of Placerita Creek;
- ◆ An off-street multi-use trail east of San Fernando Road;
- ◆ Approximately six hundred fifty residential units of varied housing types;
- ◆ Approximately seven hundred thousand square feet of commercial industrial space with much of it to front San Fernando Road and with a neighborhood commercial center at the location of the future connection of the Dockweiler Drive and Lyons Avenue extensions;
- The two-hundred-foot-wide Metropolitan Water District easement to be landscaped and used as passive open space and a multi-use trail;
- Plans to rebuild the historic Southern Hotel;
- Extension of Lyons Avenue at-grade crossing Railroad Avenue and the railroad tracks into Placerita Canyon and the planning area and connecting to the future Dockweiler Drive extension with a traffic circle (roundabout); and
- Closing of the 13th Street vehicular

entrance in the Placerita Canyon community.

All of the above is still subject to further planning, evaluation and change as staff is still working through key project design issues and constraints.

Once completed, the North Newhall Specific Plan will provide property and business owners with the tools to entice quality investment, ensure a consistent development pattern with complementary uses, preserve environmentally sensitive areas and provide mechanisms to construct public improvements.

The plan is estimated to cost \$850,000 and take approximately a year and a half or longer to complete. Following resolution of the Lyons Avenue rail crossing issue, staff will begin the process of completing the draft specific plan and draft environmental impact report. After the drafts are completed, there will be numerous study sessions and public hearings before the City's Planning Commission and City Council.

The North Newhall Specific Plan is part of a larger planning effort in the greater Newhall area. Other separate projects being reviewed or processed include the DNSP development and implementation; the re-striping of lanes along San Fernando Road and Railroad Avenue; build-out and implementation of the Gates-King project; The Master's College master plan and expansion; and the Dockweiler Drive extension.

For more information on the North Newhall Specific Plan, please contact Jason Smisko (jsmisko@santaclarita.com) or James Chow (jchow@santa-clarita.com) in the City's Planning Division at 661/255-4330.

Castaic Junction or Chaguayabit?

By **DARRYL MANZER**
GAZETTE CORRESPONDENT.

Whatever The Name, It Is Still The First, And Best, SCV Crossroads.

If I were of Tataviam ancestry I'd be just a little bit angry. Someone named a village at the center of Tataviam territory using a derivative of a Chumash word for a Chumash village miles to the north.

Nobody knows when humans first saw what we now call the Santa Clarita Valley. Geologic and fossil evidence indicate that it could have been at a time when the valley was covered in dense forests at the end of the last Ice Age. This time period coincides with the time some evidence suggests that early nomadic hunters and gatherers were moving into North America. Some sources say it might have been as long as 26,000 years ago.



Darryl Manzer.

While historians and archeologists search for evidence of human habitation of the SCV in those very early days, little definitive proof has yet to be found.

There is ample evidence of the people who arrived in the SCV sometime between 450 and 500 AD. We don't know what they called themselves but we now use the name given to them by other nearby Native American Tribes, "Tataviam," meaning "people of the sunny slopes."

We know so very little about the Tataviam people. What we know of their language indicates that it was a dialect of Shoshone with Ute-Aztec roots. Again it appears that they were part of a migration of the Shoshone peoples slowly moving west.

Since we do know that during the same time period many Native Americans had established trails and trade routes covering thousands of miles, it isn't too far of a leap of logic that the earliest Tataviam followed some of the routes west until they entered the SCV. It was an area with adequate water and food for them to survive in peace. (Except for problems with the Chumash people living to the west and north).



LYNNE WIDINER

PREVIOUSLY UNPUBLISHED PHOTOGRAPHS OF ROOF AND/OR FLOOR TILES FROM THE OLD ESTANCIA AT CASTAIC JUNCTION. THE TILES WERE UNEARTHED IN JANUARY 1973 BY READER LEROY JOHNSON OF BISHOP, CALIFORNIA, AND ARE STORED AT DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK. PHOTOS BY READER LYNNE WIDINER OF CARPINTERIA, CALIFORNIA.

The Tataviam settled in several small villages located throughout the valley. Historical evidence from the Gaspar DePortolá expedition of 1769 indicates that one of the larger villages was located at a crossroads of trails near what we now call Castaic Junction.

DePortola did recommend that the site of the village become a site for a future mission and outpost of the Spanish Empire. He was the first to start land speculation in the SCV! It wasn't until 1804 that the Spanish finally moved into the Tataviam lands from Mission San Fernando and subjugated the locals, moving them to the Mission to the south.

We aren't sure what the Tataviam called the place now named "Castaic Junction." The first buildings the Spanish built, they called *Estancia San Francisco Xavier*. Early chronicles say the Tataviam named their village there "Chaguayabit" or "Chaguaianga," a definitely Ute-Aztec word. We do know "Cashtec" or "Kashtiq", (a Chumash word), referred to the creek and trail leading to the Chumash village near present Tejon and Lebec, but not the present-day Castaic or Castaic Junction.

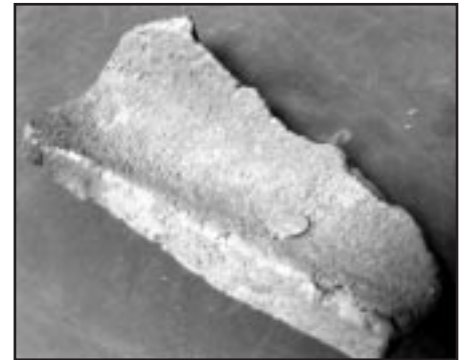
It was probably the Southern Pacific Railroad that gave the place its current name, "Castaic Junction,"

because it was located near Castaic Creek. The railroad even erected a "station" at the junction in 1887. (Present-day Castaic wouldn't even start until about 1915). The station was about the size of a large "outhouse" without doors. There was a large sign indicating you were in "Castaic" posted on the roof.

Newhall Land and Farming operations were centered in Castaic Junction. In time state roads were constructed alongside the tracks all the way to Ventura and north toward Bakersfield via the Ridge Route. Soon the required "Service Station" appeared to supply gasoline to those early travelers.

The St. Francis Dam disaster on March 12, 1928, wiped out the buildings of Newhall Land and Farming, the train station, and the service station, too. The entire area of "Castaic Junction" was covered in about six feet of mud, silt, and debris left by the destructive waters.

The Junction was rebuilt and the roads repaired. By the 1950s Mr. Tip Jardine's restaurant, (Tip's), had become a mainstay of the community. Matchbooks from that era indicate it was considered part of Saugus. One of my earliest memories of Castaic Junction is of the large brass or copper pots at the lunch counter in the



main dining room and the very "exotic" bar décor. (I remember the bar because that is where my father supplemented his low deputy sheriff salary by tending bar).

At that time Route 126 and Highway 99 continued the tradition of being a major crossroads in the SCV. Why, there was even a stoplight (one of six or seven in the whole SCV), and a modern Standard Oil Company Service Station across from Tip's and the Newhall Land offices and buildings.

Like today, there were trucks hauling the commerce of the day. Double trailers of alfalfa bales headed to the dairy farms in Placerita Canyon and in the San Fernando Valley. Trainloads of oranges, oil, onions, sugar beets, and cattle also passed through the junction. It was indeed a crossroads then and remains so to this day.

The construction of I-5 isolated Castaic Junction. Soon after, Tip's moved away and the service station even closed for a time. Newhall Land and Farming stopped farming and started home building. Soon there may be houses constructed from Castaic Junction all the way into Ventura County.

The large industrial center now at the junction is but the beginning of what should happen to the largest original village in the SCV. It should become once again the center of commercial activity in the valley. The railroad right of way is still there, as are the highways. The roads to Chumash territory on the coast and to "Kashtiq" going north, are bigger and better than ever. The place remains the crossroads of the SCV, as it has been for millennia.

Those first Native Americans in the SCV found the perfect place for trade and commerce. We would do well to do the same today with that little village/estancia/ranch: Castaic Junction is ripe to once again be the center of the valley.

The circle of history in the SCV is returning to where it began, at Castaic Junction or, if you prefer, Chaguayabit.