

**San Antonio Valley Historical Association
October 2023**



Newsletter

WORKING FOR A FUTURE
THAT CELEBRATES THE
PAST

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PEARL'S DIARY



Pearl's Diary will be the featured topic for the San Antonio Valley Historical Association Fall Lecture and Annual Meeting planned for Saturday, November 18. The event will be held at St. Mark's Church in King City at the corner of Bassett Street and South Third Street. It will begin at 1 p.m. with a luncheon followed by a talk at 2 p.m. The public is invited.

Featured speakers will be Marvin Daniels of Pismo Beach, Dan Daniels of King City and Redding, and Marlene Daniels Thomason of Parkfield. The siblings have been working for nearly four years to transcribe 45 years of entries in the diaries of their mother, Pearl (Rist) Daniels. The writings are a fascinating glimpse into the life of a Southern Monterey County ranch wife including references to national and local events.

Starting Thanksgiving weekend 2019, Marvin Daniels began transcribing the diary that was given by her mother Virginia Belle (Bousfield) Rist in 1936 as a Christmas gift. Pearl started writing in the diary New Years Day 1937 and continued until shortly before she passed away February 10, 2002.

With help from brother Dan and sister Marlene, Marvin has spent a portion of each day for the last four years deciphering the tiny handwriting, then sending it to his siblings for clarification of spelling and details. Once approved, several days of the diary entries have been texted to a growing list of about 100 family and friends.

Pearl (Rist) Daniels was born and raised in the Peach Tree area, east of King City. She attended Peach Tree Elementary School, then King City High School, graduating in the class of 1931. She married Clarence Daniels and lived on Lynn Street helping care for her grandfather, Henry M. Rist, while raising her family. After her grandfather's death in 1946, she moved to the Rist family ranch in the Peachtree Valley on Highway 25 where she remained until her death.

Cost for the event is \$15 per person for SAVHA members or \$20 for non-members. Payment in advance is required and reservations can be made before November 1st by calling 831-385-0323 or 805-472-2780 or emailing savha4@gmail.com and sending a check to SAVHA P.O. Box 145, Lockwood, CA 93932.



P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E**B Y P A U L G E T Z E L M A N**

Welcome everyone

The San Antonio Historical Association has a rich history, reflecting the dedication of its members and the board of directors to preserve our local history and educate the community about it.

I encourage each of you to continue your support for SAVHA by attending our Fall Luncheon and lecture and participating in all our events. I encourage you all to share your ideas, voice any concerns, and actively participate as you are able.

Thank you for support, I look forward to visiting with you at the Fall Luncheon and Lecture on Pearl's Diary.

**In Memory of GLENN ALLEN HARRIS**

Pfc Glenn Allen Harris, 26, born February 16, 1916, to M. Ray and Myrtle Harris of the Bryson-Hesperia community, Monterey County, California passed from this life on July 26, 1942, while interred at Cabanatuan POW camp, Philippines. Glenn grew up on the ranch, enjoying family, fixing cars, and riding his Indian motorcycle. He graduated from King City High School in 1935 and subsequently attended Anderson Diesel School in Los Angeles and worked for Caterpillar Tractor Company in King City, CA.

Glenn enlisted in the Army Air Corp on October 11, 1940, and was stationed at Clark Air Base in the Philippines when Japan attacked it hours after Pearl Harbor. His unit retreated to the Bataan Peninsula but they and many thousands of others were captured by the Japanese and subjected to the Bataan Death March which he survived but succumbed to probable malaria about 3 months later. He was interred in a common grave with many other POWs. After the war, the Army disinterred the common graves and attempted identification of individuals. Given the science available at the time, ID was impossible to obtain for most and they were reinterred at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in the Philippines. Given the Army leave no one behind philosophy and the great advancement of science in recent years, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has recently been able to identify Glenn's re-

main and are returned them to his family for closure.

At the time of his death, in addition to his parents, Glenn left behind four brothers, Clifford, Forrest, Wayne and Dale as well as one sister Dorothy (Harris) Bilyeu and several nephews. He seemed to have always been a favorite brother and a best friend to everyone.

Glenn's sacrifice was honored at Keuhl-Nicolay Funeral Home in Paso Robles, CA. on September 30, 2023, with full military honors followed by a public ceremony and procession to Pleyto Cemetery for burial on the shores of Lake San Antonio.

SAVHA SUPPORTS MISSION MURAL IN KING CITY

New Mural Coming to King City

Sponsored by King City in Bloom



A historic mural planned for King City featuring Mission San Antonio de Padua in Jolon is being supported by the San Antonio Valley Historical Association.

At their July board meeting, directors voted to send \$150 to King City in Bloom to sponsor a brick on the mural that is planned for the corner of Lynn Street at 122 North Second Street across the street from the Hartnell College campus.

The scene on the mural will feature the mission with a sign noting that it was founded July 14, 1771. Local artists will be employed to create the mural, adding to the other murals that have been added to the town in recent years. It is expected to be completed this year.

Mission Memories Revived

King City Rustler

12 June 1939

The ancient hospitality of the 168-year-old Mission San Antonio de Padua was evident throughout the day yesterday as throngs visited the picturesque grounds to enjoy the huge barbecue and to attend the morning masses held in the Mission chapel—third oldest of all the Franciscan missions.

Funds for the restoration of the buildings are raised at the annual celebration in honor of the patron saint, San Antonio.

SAVHA UPDATES

SAVHA AT RANCHO DAYS AT THE ADOBE

SAVHA was represented recently at Rancho Days at the Adobe, the annual barbecue and open house for the Monterey County Historical Society in Salinas. Held at 333 Boronda Road on Saturday, September 9, the event brought together representatives of historical and cultural organizations from around the county.

Attending to represent SAVHA were Maria Weinerth, John and Karen Jernigan and Howard and Minnie Strohn. Also seen at the event were former SAVHA board member Ann Beckett and her husband, Paul; SAVHA member Renee Rianda representing the Native Daughters of the Golden West; and former County Historian and SAVHA guest speaker Margaret "Meg" Clovis.

Former Monterey County Historian and SAVHA Board Member, Kent Seavey was honored for his work in preserving Monterey County history.

SAVHA YOUTUBE CHANNEL

SAVHA continues to update our new YouTube Channel with historic information, the latest of which is an interview with Rudy Banuelos of King City.

Mr. Banuelos was interviewed in 2021 by Karen and John Jernigan, just a month before he moved to the Sacramento area. He died November 1, 2021. Earlier this year in May, a plaque was given to the King City Post Office honoring Mr. Banuelos for his years of service as a Postmaster.

If you go to Youtube.com and search for San Antonio Valley Historical Association (SAVHA), the link <https://www.youtube.com/@savha> will appear.

Also available on the channel are recordings of:

- ◆ James Perry of the Monterey County Historical Society, speaking about the Pat Hathaway photo collection in 2022
- ◆ Influential Women in Historic Southern Monterey County as presented by Susan Raycraft, Patricia Woodfill and Karen Jernigan in 2022
- ◆ Postcards of Southern Monterey County by Historian Michael J. Semas in 2021
- ◆ Roberta Oswald interview in 2019
- ◆ Women's History presentations about the Tully Family, Rachel Gillett, Ramona Duck Sutfin, Olive Wollesen and Beatrice Casey from 1986.

Check back often for more videos; we will upload them as they become available. Visit our Facebook page for news on our YouTube Channel.

MORE SAVHA UPDATES

KING CITY HISTORY CENTER

If you've been in downtown King City lately, you know that much is happening. Construction is underway for a downtown streetscape plan that will bring new landscaping, crosswalks and other upgrades to the historic areas of Broadway from First Street to Russ Avenue.

Also under renovation is the building at 110 North Vanderhurst Avenue which will be a new King City Visitor and History Center. Some old timers will remember it as the old Jo's Flower Shoppe or Benadom's Lockers. It is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

A portion of the building will be used by the King City Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture for a visitor information center. A room in the building will be dedicated to the preservation of the town's history.

During the renovation, residents and travelers are encouraged to continue to support local businesses by using the side streets to access Broadway.

Check it out and stay tuned.

Look for updates and news of SAVHA events on our website www.savha.org and our Facebook page www.facebook.com/SanantoniovalleyHistoricalAssociation

UPDATE ON DIGITIZING LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

A check for \$1500 from the San Antonio Valley Historical Association was sent recently to the California Digital Newspaper Collection to continue digitizing early issues of King City newspapers.

This is the fourth effort by the historical group to make early issues of the King City Rustler available to people from their home computers and cell phones. The Rustler started in 1901 and with SAVHA's persistence, issues through 1949 are currently available. This next batch, which is expected to be available March 2024, will allow issues through 1954.

In addition, the group is planning to digitize several years of the King City Herald from 1918-1921 and some years of the Land and It's People, an agricultural supplement of the Rustler, starting in 1956.

The California Digital Newspaper Collection is a project of the Center for Bibliographical Studies and Research (CBSR) at the University of California, Riverside.

The website <https://cdnc.ucr.edu/> allows for Optical Character Recognition (OCR) which makes it possible to search for information by family name or other topics.

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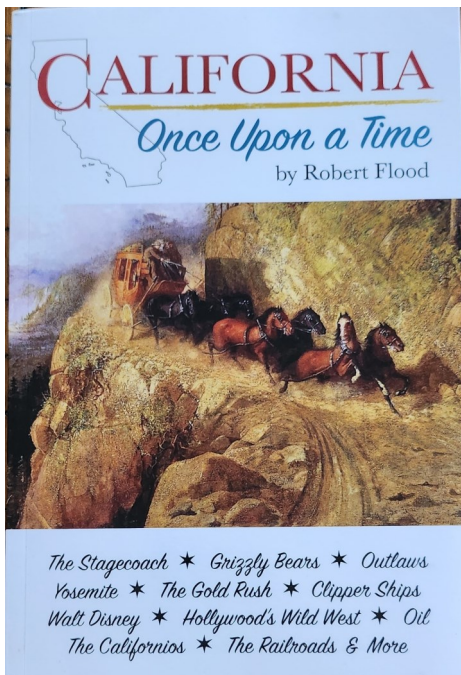
Microsoft Publisher

NOTES FROM A BIBLIOPHILE

Many years and newsletters ago, SAVHA board member and author, Ann Beckett wrote a column about the historical books she had recently read and then wrote up a review about the book. We would like to have this featured article return to our newsletter and we are asking our membership if any of you would like to take on the task of writing this column. We only publish the newsletter twice a year so you would have plenty of time to read and write the book review. Contact Patricia Woodfill at savha4@gmail.com, if interested.

To get you all excited about this returning column, here is one of the articles that Ann Beckett wrote for SAVHA's Spring 2017 newsletter

CALIFORNIA ONCE UPON A TIME, *A Vintage Journey from A to Z*. Robert Flood, Country Barn Publishing, Hobart Indiana, 2016.



When I came to California, I set about to read all of Steinbeck. This little book would have been a better start, a short introduction to California history; alas, 38 years have passed. I learned a lot, reading the book, even having read Steinbeck.

The book is set up in alphabetical order, with an intro stating “California is younger than you think” and detailing and detailing his family history. The author spent his teenage years at the Chalome Ranch and attended a one-room schoolhouse in Parkfield. He graduated from Cal Poly and had a career as a journalist.

Beginning with A “The Automobile” ending with Z “The Final Run of the CA Zephyr” with five bonus chapters, this book can be read from cover to cover or dipped into whatever stirs your fancy. Written at about a fourth-grade level, I found it full of arcane information and as I said, wish I had read it in 1968. This book would be invaluable in a fourth grade classroom, in a library or in anyone's collection. I bought it from a fundraiser program for Parkfield 4H.

HOW TO REACH US

Do you have a comment or contribution? Would you like to express an opinion to the board? Would you like to become a board member? SAVHA is always looking for fresh and old ideas, so if you would like to recommend a Spring Tour site or guest speaker for our Fall dinner and lecture, please forward the information to one of the below board members

We can be reached by mail at P.O. Box 145, Lockwood, CA 93932, or by email through the following board members:

SAVHA email: savha4@gmail.com

Paul Getzelman: pcgetzelman@gmail.com

Patricia Woodfill: patran2@gmail.com

HOLLYLEAF REDBERRY—NEW DISCOVERY

BY PATRICIA WOODFILL

As I was turning onto the driveway to my house in Davis Canyon, I noticed that the small trees or shrubs that I had driven by hundreds of times before were covered in small, translucent red berries that almost glowed from within. I always thought they were Scrub Oak but I knew they didn't have red berries like these. Then I thought I might be lucky and have a native Holly-leaved Cherry growing that I hadn't noticed before, so I got out and on closer examination I saw that they weren't Scrub Oak or Holly-leaved Cherry trees, but realized that I didn't know what this small tree with all those beautiful red berries was! I didn't have my camera or phone with me to take a picture, so I had to mentally remember all the details. I drove home and got out my books and then went online to try to identify. I asked "Google – what is a shrub or tree with bright red berries and leaves that look like holly?" And up came the bush that is actually called "Hollyleaf Redberry" (*Rhamnus ilicifolia*). All the years of driving past these trees I had never noticed them with berries and so many of them! I still wasn't sure that I had the right species, so I took a picture and looked it up with my handy PlantNet app. The app told me that I had identified the correct species.



Oh, red berries,
redberries!
Surprise in the
wilderness...
....A forest's
exclamation
mark
Berries, red
berries.
By Robin Hyde,
1930

Next, I had to find out if the red berries were edible! Red usually means toxic, so I wasn't going to do a taste test until further investigation, but my sister-in-love, SuRay popped one in her mouth right away! I waited to see if she got sick, but she didn't (die), I did more research and found they are quite edible, so I tried a few and found they were kind of bitter sweet with a touch of cinnamon. The berries have two large seeds that I spit out. I picked some and brought them home to look for more information, as I usually do on what the local Indians and early settlers used them for as it is important not to mess around with new plants until you are 100 percent certain they are edible, and if so how are they edible. On some plants the fruit is toxic but the bark and roots are used for tinctures and other medicinal uses. I will use the redberries that I picked for a syrup



2024 MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

_____ ZIP _____

Email _____ Phone _____

New _____ Households (\$25) \$ _____

Renewal _____

I wish to enclose a donation \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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