

**San Antonio Valley Historical Association  
October 2024**



# Newsletter

WORKING FOR A FUTURE  
THAT CELEBRATES THE  
PAST

**IN THIS  
ISSUE**

- 1 Fall Luncheon and Lecture**
- 2 President Message**
- Scholarship Fund**
- 3 In memory of Robert Seifert**
- 4 SAVHA Updates**
- 5 More SAVHA Updates**
- 6 Railroad Avenue**
- 7 Jimsonweed**
- 8 Membership**

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## FALL AT THE HALL

**T**he San Antonio Valley Historical Society is hosting their annual fundraiser, “Fall at Hesperia Hall,” on Saturday, November 16, 2024. The event will take place at Hesperia Hall, which is located on Bryson-Hesperia Rd in Bradley, CA.

“Fall at Hesperia Hall” will be a great opportunity to learn more about the history of Hesperia Hall, the San Antonio Valley Historical Association and connect with the local community. A meet-and-greet begins at 11:30 AM, followed by an included lunch



at noon. During the program, three local historians will share insights and stories about the hall’s history.

Reservations are required by October 20th, and tickets are priced at \$20 for SAVHA members and \$25 for non-members. Space is limited so please secure your spot and make a reservation by contacting Maria Weinerth at 805 472-2780 or Patricia Woodfill at 831 385-0323. Checks should be mailed in advance to SAVHA, P.O. Box 145, Lockwood, CA, 93932.

Enjoy the event!

King City Rustler Advertisements Column 17  
November 1933

**OLD TIME  
DANCE!  
HESPERIA  
NOV. 25**

OVERALLS AND GINGHAM  
DRESSES

Music By  
**HESPERIA HILL BILLIES**  
A Good Old Fashioned Time

Admission 75c  
Good Supper 35c

**A week Later in the 26 Nov 1933 Rustler**

**Old-Time Dance Well Attended**

The Old Time dance at Hesperia hall last Saturday night was a grand success. King City, Salinas, Bee Rock, Paso Robles, Bradley, Hames Valley, Indian Valley, Templeton were represented. A general good time was had by all. Over 100 people were present. Music was furnished by King City musicians.

## P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

BY PAUL GETZELMAN

**D**ear Members,  
It's a pleasure to reach out to you with the latest newsletter and updates from our Association.

This fall, we have scheduled an event designed to foster a deeper understanding and an appreciation for the history of the Hesperia Hall and the historic significance of the surrounding community.

Thank you for being part of our community. We strive to bring you thought-provoking lectures and engaging walking tours of Southern Monterey County, we hope there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Stayed tuned for information on our 2025 Spring Tour. I know it will be interesting and worth the wait.

I encourage you to stay connected and involved by attending our events, participating in our online presentations, and sharing your ideas with your Board of Director members. Together, we can continue to advance the association and aid in the study of history while making a positive impact on our community.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our association.

## SAN ANTONIO VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OFFERS SCHOLARSHIP

BY SHARI SCHMIDT

**S**an Antonio Valley Historical Association is a California 501-c-3 non-profit organization. We give back to the community through numerous avenues. Some of those include historical tours, historical talks, oral interviews and digitizing our local newspaper. Recently, we had the opportunity to speak at the King City Rotary. All this is great, but is usually aimed at adults.

The SAVHA board of directors has recently voted to fund an annual scholarship for King City High School Seniors. Our hope is that it will foster an interest in our local history in our young people. History is only relevant if it can be passed from one generation to the next.



Scholarships are open to any King City High School Senior who has an interest in local history, preservation or architectural restoration. Students will need to be attending an institution of higher learning, but not necessarily a university. Trade schools and two year college students are encouraged to apply.

Students will need to have a GPA of 2.75 or higher, be a United States citizen and write a 500 word factual essay that may be published in this news letter. Subject matter could include local historical events, families, organizations, buildings or industry.

All applications will be distributed thru The King City Community Scholarship committee. They will present this information go all seniors. The scholarship must be used within two years of graduation.

So, if you're interested in local history, APPLY!

## IN MEMORY OF ROBERT SEIFERT

BY SUSAN RAYCRAFT

**D**eacon Robert Seifert came to St. Luke's Episcopal, Jolon, in 2010, as its part-time caretaker. His love for the historic church and grounds began attracting people to work with him in this place he soon called home. Like Robert, they saw the possibilities for creating community within its sacred space.

Robert set about restoring the physical plant, which had been neglected for decades, enlisting supporters in the tasks of rebuilding windows long unopened and a cemetery overgrown and uncared for. One Thursday night he invited locals SuRay and Nita Tully to join him in praying vespers after they brought a makeshift meal to share with him. Vespers Supper Club, was born; for many years from a handful to a couple dozen locals gathered weekly to share a potluck meal in the Guild Hall. Afterward, they prayed the Vespers service together, witnessing the gradual restoration of the historic structure to its 1883 glory.

Robert opened St. Luke's Guild Hall for community meetings and events, and quickly got involved himself. The SAVHA board started holding meetings there, and he joined as a board member, serving as Treasurer and Secretary from 2011 to 2019.

He loved local history and used historical documents to print accounts of St. Luke's founding and the early days of Jolon. At his own expense, he framed large prints of photos from SAVHA's book "Images of America San Antonio Valley" which hang to this day on the Guild Hall walls at St. Luke's. His weekly bulletin shared historic photos and documents from St. Luke's and SAVHA's archive of photos.

Robert liked to say he was the only living resident of the old town of Jolon, which in the 1880's boasted a population close to 1,000. He died in a Texas hospital on July 9th, 2024 of complications of Melanoma, for which he'd been treated for several months.

We honor Rev. Robert Seifert for bringing Jolon to life by revitalizing St. Luke's and making it a center of the area's physical and spiritual life. SAVHA is grateful for his service to the organization and its mission to preserve and celebrate the people, places and stories of our amazing history.



His spirit soars with ancestors and saints, and his physical remains will be planted in the cemetery he so lovingly cared for in a service on November 16 at 2 pm. The St. Luke's community invites all Robert's friends to join us in a memorial Vespers Supper Club (VSC) on Saturday, October 12, 2024, at 5pm. Bring memories and photos to share and one of those potluck dishes that made VSC special.

*Robert always made the main dish for Thursday night Vesper Supper Club. We will share his favorite Pork Roast with all who attend the memorial VSC for Robert on October 12th*



### San Antonio Valley Historical Association Newsletter

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P.O. Box 145. Lockwood, CA 93932

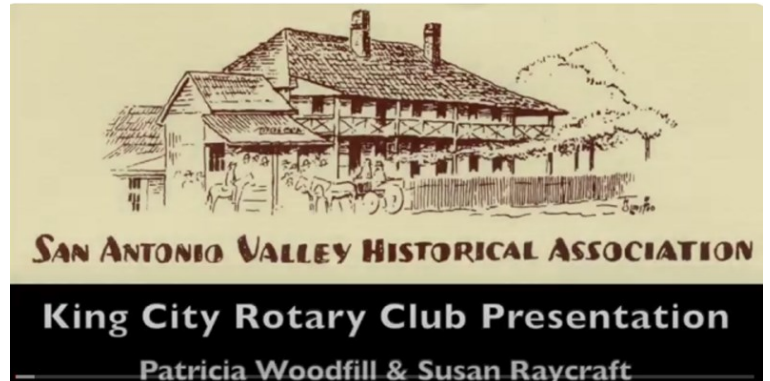
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## SAVHA UPDATES

### SAVHA PRESENTATION TO KING CITY ROTARY CLUB

On Wednesday, September 18th, Patricia Woodfill, a SAVHA Board member, along with Susan Raycraft, the author of "San Antonio Valley: Images of America," delivered a presentation on past and present SAVHA at the weekly meeting of the King City Rotary Club, which took place at the Cork and Plough restaurant in King City. The presentation is now available on SAVHA's YouTube channel.



### SAVHA'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL

SAVHA continues to add historic content to our YouTube channel. Most recent were interviews with Milton "Butch" Heinsen of Lockwood, Clarence Sayler of Lockwood, the Patterson family (Pam Davis, Barbara Koester and Lester Patterson) of Lockwood and John and Darlene Maggini of Bitterwater.

Earlier this year interviews were added featuring the late Ernest Clement, formerly of King City; the SAVHA 2023 Fall Lecture featuring the Pearl Daniels Diary with Pearl's sons, Danny and Marvin Daniels, and her daughter Marlene Daniels Thommason; as well as the 2023 SAVHA Spring Tour video "The Bridges of Southern Monterey County."

<https://www.youtube.com/@savha>

## MORE SAVHA UPDATES

### KING CITY VISITOR AND HISTORY CENTER

Progress continues on the King City Visitor and History Center next to the Downtown Plaza on the northeast corner of Vanderhurst Avenue and Broadway.

Running concurrently is the construction of a park-like area that will be a focal point in King City's downtown. This corner was originally home to Vanderhurst Hall built in 1889, shortly after the town was founded in 1886. In 1931 Vanderhurst Hall was torn down and replaced with a service station supporting vehicles traveling down Highway 101 through town. In July 2019 the lot was leveled to make way for the Downtown Plaza which will feature a gazebo for outdoor entertainment as well as wind art and other landscaping features.



Those of you who appreciate history will be interested to know that the Downtown Plaza entrance pedestals will include four interpretive panels highlighting major segments of King City's history.

*One of the rooms will be used for historical research*

Next door to the Downtown Plaza is the small "castle-like" building at 110 North Vanderhurst Avenue which is being prepared to be a visitor and history center. The King City Chamber of

Commerce and Agriculture is scheduled to move from the 200 block of Broadway into this facility. One of the rooms will be used for historical research and display of photos of how the town has evolved over the years.

This historic building has housed numerous businesses since it was built in 1931 starting with The King City Rustler newspaper and later Benadom's Meat Locker, Jo's Flower Shoppe and Graphic Designs.

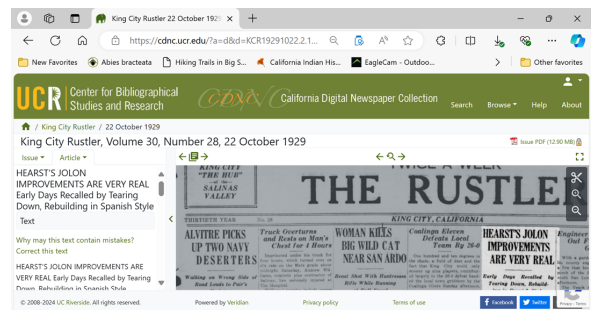
Watch for progress through the Fall 2024 with completion of the King City Visitor and History Center anticipated at the end of the year.

### UPDATE ON DIGITIZING LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

October 2024 is when more issues of the King City Rustler newspaper should become available on the California Digital Newspaper Collection website ([cdnc.ucr.edu](https://cdnc.ucr.edu)), a project associated with the University of California at Riverside.

For several years, SAVHA and its members have been providing funding to upload 47 years of issues of the King City Rustler to this website making issues accessible to the public at no charge. The Rustler started in 1901 and that first issue from May by Publisher Fred Vivian can be read as well as all issues through 1948.

With SAVHA's latest support, issues from 1949 to 1954 should be available as well as the agricultural supplement, the Land and its People, from 1956-1962.



During the early part of the 1900s from 1914 -1937, King City had two newspapers, the Rustler and the Herald. Issues of the King City Herald from 1918-1921 are being digitized and should be available in October as well.

Keep watch at the [cdnc.ucr.edu](https://cdnc.ucr.edu) website.

Look for updates and news of SAVHA events on our website [www.savha.org](http://www.savha.org) and our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/SanAntonioValleyHistoricalAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/SanAntonioValleyHistoricalAssociation)

## RAILROAD AVENUE

BY HOWARD STROHN



**G**rowing up in San Ardo and until I left in 1984, the easternmost roadway was named Railroad Avenue, as it ran parallel the train tracks.

When I returned 2 years ago the signs showed Railroad Street, what happened to our historic Ave. Last year at Supervisor Lopez's listening session I brought up the issue and he said, "It didn't happen under my watch". So, when did it occur? He asked public works to look into it and Michael Goetz concluded it should be Railroad Ave. Monica from Supervisor Lopez office contacted me to tell of public works conclusion which agrees with the 2 maps I have in my research room, the original filing of the town of San Ardo by Meyer Brandenstein in 1887 and the Monterey County road map of the "old" Dist. 4 (south county) of 1936 and corrected to 1955.

This year in August the new signs with Railroad Avenue were put in place, eleven months after the matter was brought up.

The roadway had earlier problems when in March 1915 the supervisors voted to abandon it. Their order was to abandon the streets in the Abadie Addition to San Ardo which is east of the railroad tracks and Railroad Avenue, but, somehow it got included in the order.

In January 1916 the supervisors voted to rescind the order of abandonment of Railroad Avenue.

In the meantime, the McLaughlin Land and Livestock Company planted grain and erected a fence. When the county reopened the road, the company filed suit saying the reopening would mean tearing down the fence and loss of the grain crop already planted.

At the trial in May Frank McLaughlin testified in support of the suit. George Dudley, who would be elected supervisor in November, testified for the county, saying Railroad Avenue had been dedicated as a public highway.

In July Judge J. A. Bardin issued a ruling enjoining Monterey County from removing the fence and for costs.

Bottom line we have our Historic Railroad Avenue back.

### HOW TO REACH US

**D**o 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](mailto:savha4@gmail.com)

Paul Getzelman: [pcgetzelman@gmail.com](mailto:pcgetzelman@gmail.com)

Patricia Woodfill: [patran2@gmail.com](mailto:patran2@gmail.com)

## JIMSONWEED: NATURE'S MYSTERIOUS JEWEL

BY PATRICIA WOODFILL

**D**riving along the country roads of Southern Monterey County, you have probably seen a sprawling plant with broad, dark green leaves and large, white flowers, which can reach up to 8 inches in length and are sometimes tinged with purple. These fragrant blossoms open in the late afternoon and last until noon the following day, attracting nocturnal pollinators like sphinx moths. This plant is *Datura wrightii*, commonly known by many names such as Jimsonweed, Sacred Thorn-apple, Thorn-apple, Angel Trumpet, or Sacred Datura. It is a captivating and somewhat mysterious plant that graces the roadsides and open fields of Southern Monterey County in late summer. Its large, white, trumpet-shaped flowers and its ability to thrive with minimal water make it a striking addition to the landscape.

In Southern Monterey County, *Datura wrightii* thrives in the dry, arid conditions typical of the region in summer. It is commonly found along roadsides, in open fields, and in disturbed areas where it can take advantage of the full sun and well-drained soil. One of its most remarkable features is its drought tolerance; once established, it requires little to no water, making it a resilient addition to local flora.

Despite its beauty, *Datura wrightii* is highly toxic. All parts of the plant contain tropane alkaloids, which can cause severe symptoms if ingested, including hallucinations, delirium, and even death. This toxicity extends to animals as well, so it's crucial to keep children, pets and livestock away from the plant. Historically, some Native American tribes used it in religious ceremonies for its psychoactive properties, but such use requires extreme caution and expertise.

Sacred Datura holds a place in the cultural and spiritual practices of several Native American tribes. It was used in rituals and to induce visions. However, due to its dangerous nature, these practices were conducted under strict supervision and with deep respect for the plant's power.

For those who wish to cultivate *Datura wrightii* in Southern Monterey County, it can be a striking addition to a garden. It prefers full sun and well-drained soil. While it doesn't need much water, occasional deep watering can help it thrive. Gardeners should handle the plant with care, wearing gloves to avoid skin contact with its toxic sap.



*Datura wrightii* is a plant of contrasts—stunningly beautiful yet dangerously toxic. Its presence in the garden can be both a visual delight and a reminder of nature's potent power. Whether admired from a distance or cultivated with caution, Sacred Datura remains one of the most fascinating plants of Southern Monterey County.

**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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Lockwood CA 93932

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