Totally Trains - Ten Years and Running!
June 18 - August 21, 2022

Totally Trains is returning this summer for its 10th consecutive year. It is the Museum’s most attended exhibit. Children and adults alike enjoy stepping back in time to experience the simple pleasures of a classic train layout.

The majority of the popular items will be returning. You will see the addition of a new bridge designed by Richard Bower and a surprise pony ride accessory on the main layout. Also, another Rick Mangum designed model Danville building will be included. The main layout will feature a village scene with models of Danville and San Ramon’s present and past buildings. The newest addition is the classic A. J. Young House. The trains will travel over trestles, bridges and through a mountain. Thanks to your kind support, we purchased a "working" saw mill for our display.

Historical, eye-catching trains from private collections and Plasticville buildings from the 1950s are must see features. You will be greeted in the baggage room by a military recruit and a female railroad worker. Learn how men, women and the railroads helped shape the future of our country.

By popular demand the "Family Pass" will be returning. The price will remain the same at $15 and will entitle a family unlimited entry for the exhibit.

If you haven’t seen the exhibit before, come and see what you have been missing. If you have seen it before, come and see what is new. You will be delighted.

The Exhibit opens June 18th and closes Aug. 21st. The Museum's summer hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 to 1pm and Sundays from 12 to 3pm.

Tassajara One-Room School Gala & Online Auction Returns!
Saturday, July 16, 2022, 4-7pm

The Museum's Gala is back IN PERSON on Saturday, July 16, 2022! We are happy to announce that the Back to School Under the Stars Gala at the Tassajara One-Room School returns after a two year hiatus.

Join friends, family and other Museum lovers as we enjoy a wonderful catered picnic, live entertainment, and a raffle with exclusive prizes. Jessica Aguirre, NBC Bay Area News anchor, is our guest host.

If you cannot attend the gala, you can still support the Museum by participating in the online Silent Auction. The auction preview starts on July 5 with active bidding from July 11 through July 17. This year’s offerings are more bountiful and substantially enhanced from prior years, so check it out on the gala web page!

Please join us for both events and enjoy double the fun. Tickets can be purchased via MuseumSRV.org, go to Events & Programs, then the Back to School Under the Stars page. We hope to see you there!
Her Side of the Story Moves On

Diary excerpts and photographs from many California pioneer women with artifacts from museum collections were featured from February to May at the museum. Many compelling, sometimes heartbreaking, stories came from women recalling the 1850s. Here are a few of them:

Mary Ann Jones “My husband died in 1870 when he was only 42 years old, leaving me with 9 children, some of them grown. God provided and we worked hard at farming and ranching.” Arrived in California in 1846.

Rachael H. “I was born in Glendale and am fifth generation Los Angeles. My great great grandmother and grandfather settled in the area of Chatsworth and there is a dirt road in the hills called Johnson Mountain Rd and an area called Fern Ann falls named after them.

Jennie A Cheney “My father very sick with the cholera, my mother was sick with the scurvy... At the same time my brother, sister and myself were sick with the measles. I wonder how we all lived through it. We were travelling all the time. I often think it was certainly owing to ‘Pioneer Spirit’ never to give up.” Arrived in 1849 from Missouri.

Mary B. Burke In San Francisco “The liveliest day of the week was Sunday. On that day the men did their washing. Telegraph Hill being the dressing room. The sports were gambling and bull fighting.” Arrived in 1851 from Connecticut.

The Third Thursday Virtual Programs

Summer is here and the virtual program will be taking a well earned summer vacation for June and July.

We ended our second year with an interesting program presented by author Mary Volmer on the women of the Gold Rush who helped shape the region and the nation, yet their stories have been largely forgotten.

This program used more of a conversation between Dan Dunn who hosts the programs and our presenter. This is different than the usual presentation style we have used over the past two years. Going forward you will see us use this style when appropriate.

Stay tuned for announcements on the museum website for our August program. If you have a speaker or topic you would like to see a program on please let us know. Have a great summer and see you in August.

From the Museum Store

“Hey mom, there’s nothing to do” “Go outside and play” “Get off your phone”

The Museum store has the answers for these popular sayings of summer. We have stocked up with games that the whole family can play, inside or outside. And, no phone or device needed.

We offer a great selection of books (yes, real books!) that cover many aspects of Valley history.

We invite you to come in and look at the wide variety of items we offer from toys, games, books and great candy and locally made jam.

Leave it to the House Committee

The Museum’s House Committee maintains the depot and Tassajara Grammar School, a really important task with historic buildings well over 130 years old. Led by Richard Bower, the group also moves exhibits in and out, sets them up and helps mount our changing exhibits. On May 31 at our NIKE storage, the committee was captured at work.

Regular (un-pictured) House volunteers are Rick Mahan, Ginny Fereira, and Ross Smith. Others who helped in May: Ron Cave, Linda Best, Vivienne Wong and Beverly Lane. Pictured are: Mark Harrigan, Bob Miranda, Ric Mangum, Richard Bower, Marcia Estrella, Michael Slattengren and Dennis Musante.
Shops & Hops Craft Beer Stroll a Success!

After a number of postponements due to COVID 19, the Museum's "Shops and Hops Craft Beer Stroll 2022" fundraiser returned on April 28th through historic downtown Danville. Online ticket sales were sold out and 350 attendees lined up early to pick up a taster glass and a strolling map and began exploring the shops within walking distance of the Museum that hosted local craft brewers for the evening.

Host locations included some long-time "Shops" like Cottage Jewel, Danville Chocolates, and Danville Brewing Company and some new to this event like Gourmet Corner and Hopstones. While it is a good fundraiser for the Museum, it is a fun community event for all. If you missed out this year, put Shops & Hops Craft Beer Stroll on your calendar for next spring!

Relics on Railroad: an upscale artisan market
Labor Day, Monday, Sep 5, 9am-3pm

On Monday, September 5 from 9-3, the parking lot behind the Museum of the San Ramon Valley at 205 Railroad Ave Danville CA will once again transform into a marketplace of upscale recyclers and makers. This yearly event is truly a Danville tradition not to be missed.

This year will be sellers offering quilts, cottage trunks, vintage clothing, and old train sets. If you are getting ready for Halloween take a look at some of the unique handmade holiday decor.

Spend part of your Labor Day strolling through this unique marketplace. It is only here for one day and when it is over it is gone. Don't miss it.

San Ramon Valley Historical Interest Summer Calendar

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jun. 18-Aug. 21</td>
<td>&quot;Totally Trains&quot; exhibit</td>
<td>Museum of the SRV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun. 24, 5:30pm</td>
<td>&quot;The Missing Chapter - the Glass/Elissondro House&quot; with Harry Lindstrom and Elaine Ove</td>
<td>*Forest Home Farms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul. 2 @ 2pm</td>
<td>&quot;Danville at Forty&quot; program with Dick McNeely and Beverly Lane</td>
<td>Museum of the SRV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul. 5</td>
<td>&quot;Back to School Under the Stars&quot; online auction preview begins</td>
<td>MuseumSRV.org</td>
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<td>Jul. 11-17</td>
<td>&quot;Back to School Under the Stars&quot; online auction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul. 16, 4pm</td>
<td>&quot;Back to School Under the Stars&quot; Gala</td>
<td>Tassajara One Room School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul. 22, 5:30pm</td>
<td>&quot;The Norris Family: Conquest and Catastrophe&quot; with Bill Clarkson</td>
<td>*Forest Home Farms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 26, 5:30pm</td>
<td>&quot;James Witt Dougherty, a Pioneer Success Story&quot; with Beverly Lane</td>
<td>*Forest Home Farms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep. 5, 9am-3pm</td>
<td>&quot;Relics on Railroad&quot; Antiques &amp; Art Faire</td>
<td>Museum of the SRV lot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep. 15, 6pm</td>
<td>&quot;Stories from the Fereira Family&quot; with Ginny Fereira and Chuck Fereira</td>
<td>Black Bear Diner</td>
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* Open to members of the San Ramon Historic Foundation, www.srhf.org.

Historical Happenings in the San Ramon Valley

Black Bear Diner

* Open to members of the San Ramon Historic Foundation, www.srhf.org.
The importance of docents: The Impact of the Teaching Team in our First Peoples Program

Have you ever visited a dusty museum and looked at artifacts in a showcase? These objects, mute inside a closed case, convey little of their significance. So you turn away - a 10 minute visit ending in disappointment.

How different if a docent comes in and talks to you about what you are seeing. With awakened interest you notice the workmanship, marvel at its conception, and understand it as an icon of its culture.

Yes, it is the docent that brings alive the First Peoples Program. In the Fall, the Museum of the San Ramon Valley exhibits the First People of California. Carefully, the Museum lays out models of bark houses, tule houses, petroglyphs, pictographs, baskets, arrows - all showcase specimens. What they need is the voice of the docent explaining how these things are remnants of vibrant complex lifestyles, thriving throughout California two hundred years ago.

Fourth grade classes sign up each Fall for a First Peoples program. Step by step, the children see, hear and carefully touch ancient artifacts as the docent describes the culture of the Tatcan who inhabited Alamo and Danville and the Seunen who lived in San Ramon.

The docent might say to a 10 year old, "See that rabbit skin in the display case? It takes 70 rabbits to make a rabbit skin cape for a child. Imagine catching 70 rabbits, skinning them, curing their furs, and weaving a double sided rabbit blanket that you wear as a cape during the day and a blanket a night." You may be sure that eyes widen as they re-examine the furry object lying behind plexiglass.

Or the docent may lead a child to a mortar and pestle. "Feel this," she might suggest. "These are antique cooking utensils used 100 years ago by a Tatcan woman to pound acorns into flour." That child now has an appreciation of these stone instruments.

Objects displayed by the Museum may have originated from a lost civilization, but it takes a docent to infuse the material relic with meaning, and reveal its connection to modern times.

Volunteers wanted to team teach The First Peoples Program at the Museum this September and October. The training is easy and at your own pace. You work with experienced volunteers who all enjoy teaching this program. You can make a difference! Contact: Vivienne Wong, viv8wong@gmail.com or (925) 309-9019.

Remembering our Friends

In the past months we have lost several intrepid Museum volunteers, including longtime docent Sandra Paiva, Linda Brewer, and greeter Pete Wilson.

One of the founding Museum members, Paula Sledge, passed in April. For twenty years she was the director of the Valley Parent Co-op Preschool. She sparked the first “Say It with a Brick” fundraising committee (all those bricks on the Railroad Avenue side) and began the Museum Guild which supported all sorts of activities including several memorable Train Days and many parties. Always smiling and full of energy, Paula left her fingerprints all over the Museum. Join her family for a celebration of life on August 12, 2:30 at the Vets Hall.
This summer, Danville is marking its fortieth anniversary as an incorporated town. It was named and had its first post office by 1860. But it wasn’t until the 1950s with suburban growth and the 1960s new freeway that voters began to call for a city in the San Ramon Valley.

The population of the Valley tripled between 1950 and 1960, and housing developments began to sprout everywhere. New residents were ready to change the status quo and replace the County government with a city. Supporters wanted better police protection, park and recreation services and local control over development. Opposition to incorporation efforts focused on a fear of higher taxes and a perceived loss of community identity; many were quite satisfied with County government. Developers frequently bankrolled the opposition, since they were uncertain about who would serve on the Council and preferred dealing with the County, who was "the devil they knew."

In 1955 the Alamo Improvement Association was organized to "preserve and foster the established character of Alamo as an agricultural and semi-rural residential area." They soon initiated several incorporation studies and Danville advocates joined them. The 1960 population was Alamo 1,791 and Danville 3,585. The first time a potential city came to a South County ballot was on September 29, 1964 when a City of Alamo-Danville was voted on. It lost by 2,000 to 1,958. Some very effective signs at the end of the campaign proclaimed, "ALAMO, DO YOU WANT TO BE SWALLOWED BY DANVILLE?"

Later that decade the potential City of San Ramon Valley went to the voters. It began as another Alamo-Danville effort, but Dick Fahey, President of the South San Ramon Homeowners Association, successfully argued to include San Ramon. In deference to the undeveloped Bishop Ranch, the boundaries left the Ranch out and attached South San Ramon to the northern communities with a line 200 feet wide. This "cherry stem" effort was voted down, 2,796 to 1,830, on December 19, 1967.

By 1970 there were 28,000 people in the Valley and, by 1975, 41,095. Representatives of local homeowner associations and the chamber of commerce again lined up against status quo residents, real estate interests and large land holders. The new owner of the Bishop Ranch, Western Electric, tried to be excluded but failed. An incorporation election was scheduled for January 23, 1973 with supporters optimistic that they would be successful. Again, it was defeated 5,623 to 5,178.

In 1976 another campaign was waged, but it also lost (10,426 - 7,846) on November 2, 1976. One anti-brochure read "IF YOU WANT TO LIVE IN A CITY, MOVE TO CONCORD!" Broadmoor Homes, which was in the process of developing the Crow Canyon Country Club, paid for a very effective opposition campaign which plopped lawn signs all over saying, WAIT (We’re Against Increased Taxes).

Issues of community identity, taxes, concern with an unknown new Council, fears of another layer of government and satisfaction with the County were consistent threads throughout all of these efforts. After Proposition 13 passed in 1978 and stabilized the property tax, the anti-property tax arguments no longer carried the same weight.

Finally, Danville activists successfully proposed a town for their single community and won at the polls on June 8, 1982, 5,809 to 4,952. Dublin had incorporated late in December of 1981. Framed by the two new cities, San Ramon voters approved incorporation with an overwhelming 3 to 1 vote (3,825-1,254) on March 8, 1983. Alamo voters rejected a city in 2009 and now an Alamo Municipal Area Council advises the County on local government issues.

There was much celebration as the new cities took their places in the eighties at the Mayors Conference. The new Councils tackled planning, public works, parks and public safety policy for their communities. It was an exciting time.

This summer “Danville At Forty”, a small exhibit on Danville’s first election and initial years, will appear in the Museum’s waiting room. The exhibit will display drawings of the first Town Council and campaign memorabilia during June/July. Now the story can be told about the determination, the intrigues and the savvy politics which led to Danville-only vote. On Saturday, July 2 at 2 pm, Dick McNeely and Beverly Lane will present a program at the Museum. Additionally, cousins Ginny Fereira and Chuck Fereira will share “Stories From the Fereira Family” at the SRV Historical Society meeting on September 15, 2022 at 6 pm.
RECENT DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM

1962 Chamber SRV map  Mary Fransen
Golden crowned kinglet mount  Nancy Powers
Large railroad lamp  Debra Higgs
Wood Ranch Buildings book  Cynthia W. Rivera
Drawing of The Branding Iron  Larry Thompson
Antique books  Jerry & June Bishop
One Room School books  Joan & Don Kurtz