

# The Branch Line

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

Fall/Winter 2022

## Celebrate Holidays in the Valley at the Museum November 25, 2022 - January 8, 2023



In the spirit of the season, the Museum of the San Ramon Valley will be opening a new exhibit Holidays in the Valley. This holiday season exhibit is a celebration of trains, toys, dolls, and the many cultures of our area. Holidays in the Valley will open on November 25, 2022, and will close on January 8, 2023.

The main exhibit area will have a wonderful model train exhibit. The feature this year is the G Scale Christmas train. These large model trains are exciting for young and old alike. A large beautifully decorated Christmas tree and lots of other holiday decorations fill the room.



The museum will be celebrating the classic toys that were elected to the Toy Hall of Fame. LiteBrite, Bryer Horses, Pound Puppies, Nerf, and the Spinning top to name a few that will be there. These toys will bring back great memories for all.

A photo collection of dolls from around the world will help to celebrate the many cultures that make up the San Ramon Valley. Take a moment and look at these pictures of dolls representing the countries and cultures they are from.

Children will enjoy a playhouse for them to have fun in. This is also a great photo opportunity. Our young visitors will also have a location to write letters to Santa that are guaranteed to be delivered to the North Pole.

Before you leave Holidays in the Valley take a moment and visit the memory tree. This is an opportunity to write down your "Most Exciting Holiday Time". This is a great way to spread the holiday spirit.

### Exhibit in the Waiting Room



Sweaters: Chuck Ferreira ('64) & Lou Techiera ('47)

The Wolves of San Ramon Valley High School gathered for a reunion and viewed an exhibit to remember two classes from the early sixties. "A High School Reunion: 1961, 1962" is featured in the Waiting Room until November.

There are photographs and memorabilia from school alums, letter sweaters and a majorette's trophy from Stephanie Statler. Wolf Print newspapers will remind visitors about school activities in those years and school annuals (then called El Lobo) are available to leaf through. The sixties are featured with an original Woodstock poster and a classic flowered mini dress. Some school history and photographs have also been plucked from museum archives.



Stephanie Stich Statler's trophy & picture

# Around the Museum

## Museum of the San Ramon Valley's Virtual Programs

- Over the past two-plus years the museum has offered a free virtual program on the third Thursday of the month. Some of the programs have been John Muir's adventures, the Sunol Water Temple, Mare Island, and The History of Alamo to name just a few.
  - October will take us to Lake Merritt in Oakland. Learn about the history of the lake itself as well as the impact it has had on Oakland the extended East Bay.
  - November we go to the village/town/community of Canyon. Most of us have heard about Canyon but know little about it. Join us in November to learn more about this old and quite interesting community.
- We end the year with a program on Treasure Island. The 400-acre artificial island that was built in 1936-37 has played a major role in the Bay Area. We will learn about its storied past and get an insight into its future. We are still at work on 2023 programs but are confident we will continue to deliver interesting and entertaining programs. If you have a topic you would like to hear about please let us now. We are always looking for interesting and informative topics and programs.
- All of our past programs are recorded for later viewing. These recorded programs are located on our website and are easy to view by just clicking. To view our past programs go to our website [museumsrv.org](http://museumsrv.org).

## Fall/Winter Calendar of Events

Date	Event/Exhibit	Location
Aug. 27-Nov. 13	Celebrating San Ramon Valley High Classes 1961, 1962, 1963	Museum of the SRV
Sep. 10-Nov. 4	California's First Peoples Exhibit	Museum of the SRV
Oct. 22, 10am	Alamo Cemetery Tour	Alamo Cemetery
Nov. 25-Jan. 8	Holidays in the Valley	Museum of the SRV
Feb. 1- May 31	Stir Crazy Quilts: Quilting During the Pandemic	Museum of the SRV

## From the Store



The holiday season is coming and the Museum store has just what you'll want for adults and kids alike.

We are proud to offer a great selection of books on the valley including maps and hiking guides for Mt. Diablo as well as a wide selection of toys and stocking stuffers.

Find great gifts and support the Museum with one-stop shopping and local pick-up convenience!

## In Memoriam



In September, the Museum lost a longtime volunteer and friend when Marillyn Cozine passed away at age 91. A journalist and editor, Marillyn wrote and edited materials for the Branch Line and supported Don Wood and Ralph Cozine when they produced two blockbuster exhibits on the valley's agriculture (Agriculture: For a Century the Business of the Valley). She chaired the Silver Centennial Book Committee which produced a coffee table book called "DANVILLE Portrait of 125 Years" in 1984. In that book she wrote a memorable history of Danville. Among other book accomplishments, her fact-checks revealed that the Devil Mountain Brigade (which shoots off shotguns at the end of the July 4th parade) were not connected with E Clampus Vitas. She will be missed by friends, family and colleagues.





## Back to School Under the Stars Gala



The July 16, 2022 Back to School Under the Stars Gala was a huge success! NBC Bay Area anchor, Jessica Aguirre, hosted the event and led an exciting game of Jeopardy 1888, museum-style. Music filled the air with Jazz Room musicians and delicious food was prepared by Sunrise. We were honored to have former Tassajara School students in attendance, reminiscing on the hot days of summer.

Thank you to all of the sponsors, donors, and auction participants, the Museum raised over \$59,000 to support the Museum financially and help continue the stewardship of the Museum's mission.

The Gala committee met for months planning the event, especially Renee Morgan who chaired the auction, Mary Frandsen who facilitated our first raffle, and our gala chairperson, Candace Andersen. Thanks also to the National Charity League for helping to check in attendees and special guests.

This is such a fun event and a great committee. We invite volunteers and the community to get involved to showcase their talents and connections!



## Model Trains Draws Visitors



Popular hands-on 'engine' and light

From June to August, the Museum mounted another very successful summer Totally Trains exhibit and program, with some new features and many happy visitors. A total of 2,913 visitors, averaging 52 per day with 203 family train passes sold generated \$3,045.

This year balloons were hung and were set up to sail around the ceiling, nestled in clouds. So fun. Ric Mangum created a new model of the A. J. Young house; the Young house is still standing on San Ramon Valley Blvd. as part of a medical complex.

Many thanks once again to Bob and Cheryl Miranda and their intrepid crew of engineers who included Ed Best, Bob Burke, Richard Bower, John Cave, Al Foley, Dave Graham, Ric Mangum, Dennis Musante, Joe Panarello, Richard Perry, Judy Timmermans, John Urfer, and Bill Welch.

## Quest for Quilts

### Stir Crazy Quilts: Quilting During the Pandemic February 1 - May 31, 2023



The Museum of the San Ramon Valley is on a Quest for Quilts! We will be having a quilt show from February 1- May 31, 2023 and are looking for quilts.

But not just any quilts. Did you make a quilt during the Covid lock down? Any quilt made after March 2020 is what we would like to display. Due to limited space, we may not be able to accept all quilts.

If you have a friend or acquaintance who made a Covid lock down quilt, please ask them to submit their quilt. To submit a quilt please go to the Museum's website, click on Future Exhibits, then click on Quest for Quilts. We are accepting applications until November 15, 2022.

# Challenges of a First Peoples' Exhibit

## by Vivienne Wong



Putting up a First Peoples' exhibit that also serves as a classroom takes vision and the work of many hands. How does one put up dozens of artifacts for the perusal of Museum visitors while preserving open space for the groups of students who come on field trips?

A prime example is the condor, a bird revered by many First Peoples. Gliding high in the skies, occupying remote mountain heights, the condor was the legendary messenger to the Land of Dead Ancestors. The Museum's replica of the condor was built by Geoff Bishop who duplicated the bird's nine foot wingspan. It was a challenge to screw the three parts of condor back together. Then it required two people, Ginny Ferreira and Richard Bower, up two ladders to lift and attach its



flexible parts to three hooks. It was worth the effort. Mighty condor, aloft in the air with outspread wings, is an awesome sight for museum visitors.



In another part of the room Turtle, whom First Peoples legends say holds up the earth, presented another challenge. Turtle was placed on a wall, but looked lifeless. Hung from a rafter by Richard Bower, turtle sways as if swimming in the ocean. Students looking up to his broad shell can imagine turtle in the sea carrying the earth on its back.

Seated among a stack of photos, Renee Kullick selects pictures to be inserted into the Windows of the Past. She chose a theme of significant First Peoples Past and Present and installed pictures of prehistoric Del Mar Man as well as modern day First Peoples serving in public office.

Kneeling among mortars and pestles, Dureen Bishop readies acorns. The children sit on the mats around the acorn grinding tools which become a focal point of the exhibit. Looking upward at turtle and condor, the children become immersed in the lifestyle of First Peoples.

Through the effort of skillful workers who artfully place animals, photos, and models, the room has been turned into an exhibit which also serves as a classroom.



If you like Ace Hardware and working with hammers and ladders, join the Museum team. Call Donna Grier (925) 837-3750 or email [museumsanramonvalley@gmail.com](mailto:museumsanramonvalley@gmail.com) to volunteer.

## Volunteer Corner

We say "Goodbye" with many thanks to Greeter Coordinator Claudette LaBreche who is retiring. Claudette produced the Greeter Calendar for uncountable months, always maintained a positive attitude when changes were necessary (and usually a surprise).

Claudette leaves with a well organized procedure and template, and we are actively looking for someone to take over the position.

We always need new volunteers. If you know someone who has a few hours a week to contribute to this incredible museum, please have them contact Lynne Call, [lynne223@yahoo.com](mailto:lynne223@yahoo.com) or the museum. We will send them information on the many volunteer opportunities offered.

Lynne Call

Volunteer Committee Chair







"Our New High School Building"

## **The Valley's High School** **by Beverly Lane**

For 55 years, there was only one high school in our area, the San Ramon Valley Union High School. It began in 1910, with the second high school, Monte Vista, opening in 1965. Hence "San Ramon" -- as people often call it -- is located in Danville.

Two groups worked to create the high school beginning in 1909, the Grange and the Valley Improvement Association. Charles J. Wood did much of the research, figuring out how many students would be needed (200) and how such a district would be created. A successful election created the SRVUSD in 1910 and approved a bond of \$20,000 for a new school.

Inez Butz, a dedicated historian, wrote a fine history of the school's early years, using the school board minutes and interviews. She also told the story of how the minutes were saved from fire two times. The first time was on May 27, 1932 when the Presbyterian Church on Front Street burned down during a ferocious wind storm. Nearby resident Jim Root rushed to the building and rescued many items from the unlocked office. Evidently Will Stewart, who was school board secretary and a church deacon, stored the school minutes from 1910 to 1923 in the church office.

When the Stewart house was being cleared after his death in 1955, Will's sister invited Inez to come and take some of the books. While she was there, she inquired about a box of newspapers near the door and learned they were going in the incinerator, so she offered to take the box home.

Inez wrote: "Months later when I had a bad cold I got that box out of my wood box and began to go thru them. Way down in the box I came upon this record, "The Dist. Clerk's record book of the SRVUHS Dist CCC". This volume, beat up as it is, is living history as alive today as the day it was recorded – names, dates, action, reactions, questions, doubts – it is all there." She also wrote that "minute books...hold for the historian relievable facts, not only of the history of the high school but of life itself in the valley during these years."

The school opened in 1910, using a vacant house on Church Street (on land which is now the Harvest Restaurant), then moved to the second floor of a building on Front Street from 1914-1917. In the meantime, William Meese and other Trustees worked to find property and an architect for a new high school building. Architect Norman Coulter designed a mission-style school around a courtyard on 11 acres purchased from Robert McAdue for \$5,515.

In May of 1917 the new high school opened to students. By 1920 students attended from the San Ramon and Tassajara Valleys plus seven young people from Walnut Creek, Saranap and Lafayette.

Minutes and histories written about the school trace its changes and today none of the original buildings remain. Its many alumnis enjoy getting together and remembering their high school years. A small exhibit featuring school history and memorabilia from the classes of 1961 and 1962 may now be viewed in the Museum's waiting room.





The Museum of the San Ramon Valley in the Depot  
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#### MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesday - Friday 1:00 - 4:00 pm  
Saturday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Sunday 12:00 - 3:00 pm



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# THANK YOU



#### RECENT DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM

May Family essay	Deedy May Ogden
Portable typewriter	Terry O'Meara
Books, calendars, scale, tool	Carole & Don Johnson
Depot restoration documents	Gary DeAtley
Polaroid camera	Carlo & Sonya Borlandelli
High school memorabilia	Jan Berckfeldt
2020 election brochures	Pat Boom
High school pin, programs	Bob Nickerson

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