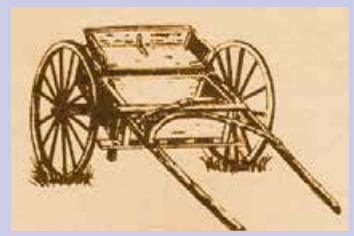
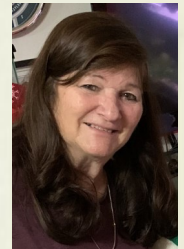


The Mail Cart



Newsletter of the Simi Valley Historical Society and Museum

President's Message



Happy New Year to all our Members and friends of the Simi Valley Historical Society!

I'm so excited to have this opportunity to introduce myself as your newly elected president. Before I do that, I feel it's important to reflect back and give thanks to our past President, Linda Bosley. Linda has accomplished so many things as President of the Simi Valley Historical Society. She started her term as President just as COVID hit, but she guided us through successfully, ensuring a safe and healthy environment for everyone. The Simi Store has been completely transformed because of all her hard work! Now you feel like you're stepping back in time into the W.S. Keir General Store in the early 1900's.

I have lived in Simi Valley since I was a child and have great memories of growing up in this community. Way back then, the city was slower and quieter. No freeways or shopping malls to be found and everything would close by eight o'clock in the evening. You may be surprised to know that Simi Valley did not have a police force back then. Instead, Simi had more of a security guard on patrol. If anything, seriously happened, it would be time to call the Sheriff. It makes me laugh to remember how people in Simi would even ride their horses through the center of town.

My family and friends are my greatest love and very close to my heart. Most of the time, you will find me crocheting, volunteering, watching a Hallmark movie or learning anything about history. Which is why I enjoy every moment I spend at Strathearn. Being involved with my community has always been very important to me. I have been a school teacher, Girl Scout leader, CCD President at Church, Chair of Relay for Life, and most recently I was President of the Simi Valley Kiwanis.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 24, 2023
School Tours Start
- March 4, 2023
Train Depot 120th Anniversary Open House
- April 1 -2, 2023
Civil War Days
- May 20, 2023
Pat Havens Celebration and Meet the Strathearns
- July 22-23, 2023
Timeline Event

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President's Message

As your incoming president, my hope is to find new ways to expand our reach throughout our community and neighboring cities and to share our amazing Strathearn Park and all the history we have gathered for them to enjoy and share with future generations. One of my ideas is to create "Fun Fact Nights" at Strathearn. These evenings would hopefully include Docent enrichment, shared knowledge, special guests, and maybe a few laughs. I consider myself an easy-going person so my goal is to create a fun, laid-back environment, where we can learn from each other and have a great time doing it. With this mindset we can expand our docent and volunteer program participation adding into our current amazing group.

Most importantly I want to be someone who you feel comfortable approaching with suggestions, new ideas, or even complaints. I want to be proactive in my support of Strathearn as we move into this new year. Strathearn is not only the place you enjoy being a part of but also a place we can all be proud of. With you by my side, we can make anything happen. As I always say, it takes more than one person to make a dream become a reality.

*Yours in partnership,
Hugs,
Nellann Wilson*



**Book Sale
January 2023-July 2023**

**The Strathearn Letters
Windows on the Past**

\$ 22.95



A Pioneer Speaks

By R.E. Harrington
Enterprise - Sun & News
Sunday, September 13, 1970

Our first high school was short lived. It burned about a year and a half after its construction – on New Year's night while a New Year's party was going on in the new Community Church on Los Angeles Avenue.

A boy named Bill Townsend left the party early, only to return and tell the party that the new school was on fire. Many would not believe him, but Mr. Pollock, then a teacher in the school, followed him out and affirmed his report. The fire started in the auditorium and because it was a one story building and there was a lot of help from the church party, much of the class room furniture was thrown out of the building and thus saved. Our son Arthur, then in the church party, helped throw some of the furniture out of the windows.

The trustees of the new school were Wayne Montgomery, F.J. Fitzgerald, I.V. Brown and Walter Osborne. The teachers were Caroline Brinkmeyer, English and history, V.E. Hebel, Spanish and Boys Athletics, Sarah Stoneman, vice principal, science and chemistry and a Mr. Simonds, music.

The principal was D.W. Adamson, who also taught commercial subjects and civics. There were only two graduates that first year, Margaret Silva and Margaret Cannell. I have written to both of these girls, but so far have only heard from Margaret Silva. She is now Mrs. Klee and has three very smart boys.

She has spent most of her life in Sacramento working for the Department of Motor Vehicles. As soon as I hear from Margaret Cannell, I will let it be known in some future letter. The first high school was insured for \$53,000 and by adding about \$23,000 the new and larger two story building was built to replace it. This two story building is still in use, and is known as the Center Junior High School. In a later letter we will picture this school and tell more about it.

One reason that we know so much about our schools is because we had four children, all attended our local schools and turned out well.

At the first graduation of the two girls mentioned above, Dr. Lee gave the invocation and Dr. Rogers the address.

The Community Methodist Church, gave the high school room in the unfinished church, after the first high school building was destroyed by fire. Most of the rough frame work was up and by tacking building paper on the rough two by four frame, class rooms were created.

BITS AND PIECES

*Dia de los Muertos
October 2022*



*Annual
Membership
Meeting
November 2023*

*Holiday Open
House
December 2022*



*Third Grade School
Tours started on
January 24, 2023.
We have 21 schools*

Newest Board Member Clyde Billups Oliver



I was born in Farmville, Virginia in 1956 and lived on the family farm in Crewel, Virginia, until 45 years old. Our farm was a commercial egg production farm that produced, process, and distributed our products to local grocery stores, convenience stores, and institutions including prisons and hospitals.

Eventually the company was selling over 1 million eggs per week. We also had 150 plus head of beef cattle on 2 to 3 farms. In 2002, the family business was closed due to loss of market and the building of many super stores, which in turn caused local businesses to fail and close.

In the fall of 2002, I moved to Quartz Hill, CA, and studied for and received my real estate license in the spring of 2003. I was in the process of my 20-year renewal of that license, when I moved to Simi Valley in the fall of 2014. Currently, I hold the position of Chairperson on the Council of Aging and will retire this year as my four-year term is up.

I have two children, John Marcus Oliver and Charlotte Leigh Oliver. Marcus and his wife, Kim, have 9 year old twins and live in Durham, North Carolina. Marcus has a PHD in Electrical Engineering and works for a private company on contracts for DOD. Charlotte and her future husband Curtis Ogle, reside in Fruita, CO. Charlotte has a PHD in Biology with a focus on fungus and mold affecting wine grape production.

I currently live in West Simi Valley with my husband, David, and our sausage dog, Gunner.

I am super interested in the local history of the area, especially the Chumash Native American culture, and look forward to contributing to the Historical Society and it's mission of preserving the history of the area and sharing that history with the general public.

*Welcome to new volunteers: **Dave Howe, Lynn Sacks, and Kimberly Beach.***

2023 Board of Directors

Officers

President Nellann Wilson (23-24)
Vice President Vicki Spilka(23-24)
Secretary Shelley Howard(23-24)
Treasurer Karen Olson(22-23)
Past President Linda Bosley(22-23)

Board Members

John Billinger (21-22) Kris Grayson(22-23)
Richard Johnson(23-24) Nancy Kidd(22-23)
Sylvia Moya(23-24) Bill Oliver(23-24)

Directors at Large

Pat Havens
Don Novell Ryan Valencia
Judy Pepiot Carolyn Valdez
Alan Shack

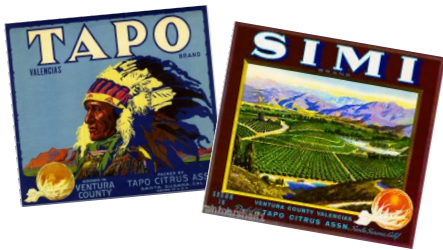
Strathearn Historical Park & Museum

Historian Pat Havens
Park Staff Jeannie Liss
SVHS Admin. Karen Olson
Staff Admin. Nikki Bim
Staff Admin. Kris Grayson

Weekend Park Hours: Saturday and Sunday: 1:00 to 4:00 pm
Week day Park Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm

For information, please call (805) 526-6453
Email: strathearnpark@gmail.com
Website: www.simihistory.com
Facebook: facebook.com/Strathearnpark

Simi Valley Historical Society
P.O. Box 940461
Simi Valley, CA 93094-0461



Simi Valley Historical Society & Museum
Located at Strathearn Historical Park & Museum
137 Strathearn Place
Simi Valley, CA 93065



The Mail Cart is sent quarterly to all current members. The Simi Valley Historical Society & Museum's membership year runs from January 1 through December 31.

The Mail Cart is electronically sent to all members with an email address on file. If you are receiving a "paper copy" of the Mail Cart and would like to receive it via email (there are extra articles in the electronic version!), please send us your email address. Any changes to your email address should be included to continue receiving the electronic Mail Cart. If you do not have an email address, or have requested a printed copy of the Mail Cart, the postal service will continue to deliver your copy. Questions regarding your membership? Call our business office at (805) 526-6453 or email strathearnpark@gmail.com.

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_____ Exp. _____ CVV# _____

Signature _____

(Payment mailing address - P.O. Box 940461, Simi Valley, CA 93094-0461)

Please select desired membership
Make checks payable to SVHS&M
****Please circle type of membership****

Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$ 25.00
Pioneer	\$ 50.00
Business/Sustaining	\$100.00
Patron	\$500.00