



Clayton Chronicles

A Publication of the Clayton Historical Society

PO Box 94 * Clayton, California * 94517
(925) 672-0240

www.claytonhistory.org

WINTER 2024 Issue #177

Dear Members and Friends,

The Clayton Historical Society will host the 48th Annual Silver Camellia Tea at the Museum on February 18th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in celebration of Clayton's history. All are welcome. Stop in and have a cup of tea, coffee, or punch and cookies while you enjoy visiting with members of the community. Museum docents will be honored for their volunteer service by pouring tea.

The first Camellia Tea was held in 1977 when descendants of Clayton Pioneer families and friends, along with many long time residents including organizers, Bob & Eldora Hoyer and Edith Mazzei, gathered at a residence on Morgan Territory Road. All were interested in the historical background of the Clayton area. The view of the most rugged side, the North Peak of Mt. Diablo, was a beautiful



Photo provided by "The Pioneer"

The Clayton Historical Society was founded in 1974 to "research, collect, record, preserve, display, borrow, share, and interpret local history information and memorabilia, and to promote understanding of Clayton origins and development."

backdrop along with the driveway that was filled with blooming camellias.

While you are at the museum, be sure to view the new exhibit prepared by Linda Pinder. See pages 4-6 for more information about the new exhibit. See "how the museum began" on page 8 of this newsletter. Also, be sure to pick up a Contra Costa County Passport Book which lists over 50 places to visit.

Debbie's History notes are always fun to read.

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Also in this newsletter, there are a few more historical lectures at Los Medanos Adult Learning, see page 9.

The new Membership Year begins January 1, 2024. To financially support the Museum, please indicate whether you prefer to give via Membership and/or combine it with a Friend category online via www.claytonhistory.org/give or on the attached form on page 22.



Be sure to read about our docents Sally Turner & Ray Strong, (great great grandson) of Joel Clayton in the Memorial pages as well as Doc Hale who shared his knowledge and kind heart.

If you have not purchased a brick for the museum garden brick and paver and wish to, see pages 17-19.

Lastly, we are always looking for stories to share. Please contact Linda Cruz or the Clayton Museum.

Sincerely,
Linda Cruz, Editor
lindajeancruz@gmail.com

Welcome to our newest Directors, Linda Pinder, Museum Operations and Paul Jordan, Maintenance

A very special thank you to Linda Pinder for preparing the new exhibit—Clayton Valley Area Photograph & Artwork

YouTube Channel

We are pleased to announce the new [Clayton Historical Society YouTube Channel](#). Volunteers at the Clayton Museum are looking to promote Clayton's rich history in new ways. From the safety of your home, please check out our video channel to see videos on Clayton history, recordings from meetings past and present, and new content published monthly.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>CHS Camellia Tea</i>	<i>Feb 18</i>	<i>1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.</i>
<i>CHS Board Meeting</i>	<i>TBD</i>	
<i>Art & Wine</i>	<i>Apr 27-28</i>	
<i>CVGC Plant Sale @ Endeavor Hall</i>	<i>May 11</i>	<i>9:00 a.m -1:00 p.m.</i>
<i>CHS Gardens Tour</i>	<i>May 17-18</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.</i>

Museum is open Sundays & Wednesdays 2:00—4:00 pm

*The Clayton Historical
Society's 48th Annual
Silver Camellia Tea*



*Sunday, February 18, 2024
1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.*

*Clayton Historical Society Museum
6101 Main Street, Clayton*

claytonhistory.org 925-672-0240

Free Event-Free Parking

*Honoring Our Museum Docents
Old-Timers and New-Comers Welcome*

Clayton Historical Society Museum

Presents



Clayton Valley Area Photographs & Artwork

For this exhibit, we have an impressive collection of photographs of the Clayton Valley area from two talented photographers, with a few other surprises mixed in.

Dick Ellis: One of the original founders of the Clayton Historical Society. Hired by Clayton Valley High School in 1961 to develop their graphic and photographic arts program, where he taught for 30 years. His photos range from the 1970's to the 2000's.

Hugo Steccati: Born in Oakland in 1916, Steccati obtained his B.A. degree at the California College of Arts and Crafts in 1938. The photos we have of his are from 1937-1939 and are of the greater Clayton Valley area.

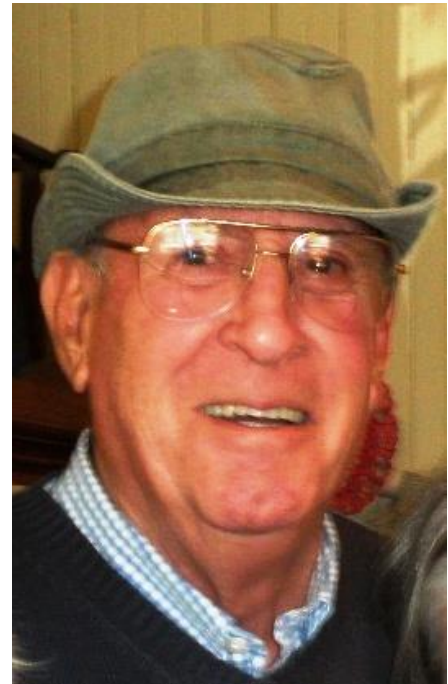
Open Hours:

2pm to 4pm, Wednesdays and Sundays

Dick Ellis

Dick Ellis was born and raised in San Francisco. After high school, Dick attended St. Mary's and San Francisco State Colleges. In 1951 he joined the Marine Corps and in 1953, while stationed in Japan, he purchased his first camera – a Yamaha with a bellows lens. He returned to San Francisco State and received his teaching credential with a concentration in graphic arts and photography.

After teaching in San Francisco for three years, he moved to the Clayton area and was hired to teach at Clayton Valley High School in 1961, for the purpose of designing a graphic arts and photo building and program. He taught there for thirty years.



In 1963 Dick became interested in the history of Clayton and started to photograph many of the still-standing buildings and locations. He also re-photographed over 500 prints from pioneering family albums. These are all on file in the Clayton Museum. In 1973, Dick became involved with the Clayton Historical Society as an Honorary Charter Live Member. He served on the board of directors for over thirty years and as president of the Society for 10 years.

In 1980, a friend who worked for the California Department of Education invited him to be the photographer for a group of educators that had been invited to visit China and their educational programs. Dick took over 1500 slides documenting that visit. The slides then were used for seminars in schools, including UC Berkeley. Dick conducted over 50 slide presentations dealing with Joel Clayton and the City of Clayton. For several years he taught summer seminars for the University of Phoenix.

Hugo Steccati

08/21/1916 – 09/09/2004

Born in Oakland, CA, Steccati attended high school in Concord (Oakland Tribune May 1930). He obtained his B.A. degree at the California College of Arts and Crafts in 1938. He then taught for five years in the high schools of Berkeley and Antioch and also for a while at Mills College in Oakland. He exhibited at the San Francisco Art Association in 1940, and studied with Laslo Moholy Nagy and George Kepes that year. In the summer of 1941, he studied with artist Fernand Leger.

In 1945, after his stint in the Navy as a photographer, he formed a photography partnership with Dean Stone. He photographed many important people, including three Presidents; Truman, Eisenhower and Reagan. He retired in 1990. But even in retirement he continued experimenting in art photography. He exhibited at the Tokyo Museum of Art (1982-85) and helped illustrate two books published by Shufunotomo, Tokyo.

The Oakland Museum of California holds his studio's archive. His work is on display as part of the permanent collection at UCSF Mount Zion Hospital, and is featured in many other institutional and private collections.

At some point, approximately 20 years ago, someone donated 10 of Mr. Steccati's prints of Clayton Valley area taken between 1937-1939 to the Clayton Historical Society. Unfortunately, the name of the donor has been lost. They have been hidden away in a box for many years and we decided it was time to share them with the Clayton community.



Debbie's History Notes

“EARLY LAW ENFORCEMENT IN CLAYTON”

Concord Police officer, Lawrence Joseph Lee, came upon a very strange scene in 1965 during his routine 1am check of downtown Clayton. Chubby Humble's was a popular and successful restaurant that normally would have been closed by this time, but there were cars in the parking lot and all the lights were on. Officer Lee walked through the open door and called out several times as he made his way through the dining room and kitchen---no answer, all was quiet. He noticed the padlock to the large walk-in freezer was unlocked and hanging on the hasp. He opened the door and to his astonishment found 8 people inside, all employees of the restaurant who had been robbed and then pushed into the freezer. The victims were found to be in relatively good condition when examined by the fire department, but it was soberly noted that all of them would have expired had they been trapped for another 30 minutes. The perpetrator of this crime was determined to be another employee and his friends. Officer Lee said, “To this day I have no idea why I opened the freezer door.”

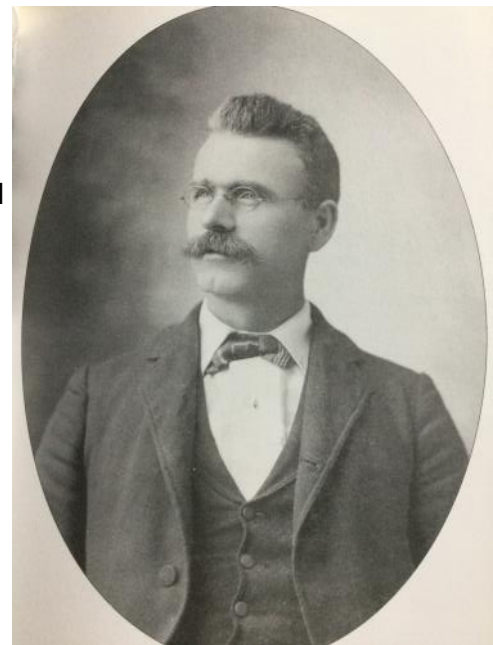


Debbie Eistetter

In that same year the officer went to the aid of a homeowner on Oak Street who had been rototilling his yard and struck an artillery shell. Luckily the shell did not detonate, and it was later determined to have landed in Clayton at the time of the Port Chicago Naval Munitions explosion in 1944. The shell was bundled in rags, gently loaded into the gentleman's car, and driven to the Concord Naval Weapons Station with Officer Lee leading the small convoy that progressed gingerly at 5 mph. This interesting episode ended with the shell being safely disposed of and no injuries having occurred. The Concord Police Department was contracted in 1965 to keep the peace in the newly incorporated city of Clayton, and a typical shift included 1 or 2 runs through town to check on the resident who lived in the eucalyptus grove and to monitor activities at the Clayton Club. In July of 1972 the Clayton Police Department was formed and was made up of three men dedicated to “3 areas of main concern: burglary, juvenile relations and traffic.”

In the early days a Clayton citizen appointed as “constable” was the small town's law enforcement who dealt with minor crimes and a “justice of the peace” handled minor legal issues. Three generations of the Chapman family were Clayton constables beginning in 1860: George, Charles and Victor. Recorded in a 1895 Justice of the Peace Ledger is a notation about Constable Charles Chapman seeking a warrant charging Mr. Charles Johnson of “willfully and maliciously driving his horse at a fast and unusual rate of speed on the public streets of the town of Clayton,” and recommending a fine of \$30 or 30 days in the county jail.

Interesting and amusing entries to the Clayton Police Daily Log continue in modern times like a complaint of someone burning garbage who turned out to be a neighbor merely barbequing his dinner. A woman requested the police dispose of a bowling ball found lying on a trail that she felt was sure to injure people walking by. Police answered a house alarm and arrived to find it had been set off by a gardener who had lost control of his lawnmower and crashed into the garage door. Law enforcement and the courts have to be ready for just about anything whether they be issues major or minor.



Gustave “Gus” Goethals,
Clayton Justice of the Peace, 1903-1920

Report by Vice President, JoAnn Caspar

In 1972 several Clayton residents began thinking about the history of Clayton and wanted to collect materials. In 1974, with Acting Director, Nan Wallace, the Clayton Historical Society was formed. A place was needed to store and display Clayton's history so the Joel Clayton home, which was located near the Keller house was given to the Clayton Historical Society (CHS). The Society asked the City of Clayton if the house could be moved to a better location. The City offered to lease the lot on Main Street for \$1.00 per year. It took five years for the CHS to raise enough money to put the Pap house on Oak Street with the Joel Clayton house to enlarge it and add a couple of buildings that were on the Keller property to use as the kitchen and back room. Finally, the museum was open to the public in January 1979. The mission of the museum is to research, collect, record, preserve, display, borrow, share and interpret local history, and to promote understanding of Clayton's origins and development. The museum has a resource library of approximately 100 binders on almost anything about Clayton.



Today, the CHS does much more for the community. Our volunteers work at the Clayton Business & Community Association's (CBCA) Art & Wine Festivals, Oktoberfests, and other events. The CHS has installed historical plaques around the City historical sites describing their history. Third graders from local schools come to the museum for spring field trips compiling with the school district standards in Social Studies curriculum for that grade level. The program includes a town tour, house tour, and hands on activities of Clayton pioneer life of the late 1800's. We also give private tours of the museum to a variety of groups including special needs groups. There is no fee, however, donations are appreciated. CHS is an all volunteer staff.

It takes about \$35,000 to keep the museum open and we receive no money from any agency. The Society raises funds by hosting the Annual Clayton Gardens Tour and the Clayton Christmas Home Tour. We receive funds from memberships, memorials, our Gift Shop, special events, and individual donations. As well as time, many of the volunteers donate their expenses rather than asking for reimbursements.

We have been very fortunate the CBCA has donated money to the museum for big expenses such as moving a tractor and fencing it in the garden. This year the old HVAC system needed to be replaced. CBCA is helping us with that big expense.

The Clayton Historical Society would like to thank the CBCA and all the generous donations from many people that help keep the museum open to the public.

As we all know, the expenses keep rising, insurance, electricity, water. Our 150 year old building is in constant need of maintenance and repair.

THANK YOU!

Contra Costa County Passport

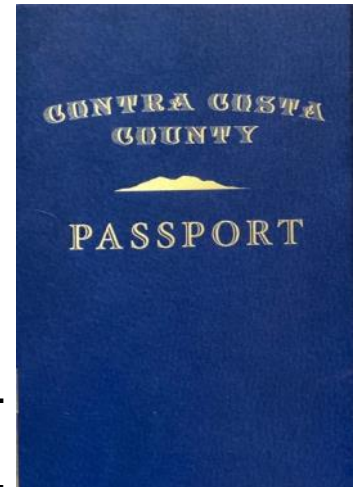
**Be sure to visit the Clayton Museum and pick up your
Passport Book
Sundays 2:00–4:00
Wednesdays 2:00–4:00**

**Your Invitation to Visit over 50
Historical Societies, Museums, Homes,
Parks, Native American Sites and Landscapes.**

**Commemorate your visits with a unique destination stamp
pressed onto a Visa page of the passport. Each museum,
historical society or heritage site has its own unique stamp.
There are over 50 destinations for you to enjoy.**

**If you already have a passport, show it to a docent here and
ask for it to be stamped.**

If you do NOT already have a passport, ask for one.



Los Médanos College, Brentwood Center Adult Learning
[Topics – 2-hour Lectures – 1 each Month](#)
3rd Tuesday of Every Month - 1 pm to 3 pm
Spring 2024 Term

- Feb 20 Prohibition and Bootlegging: Delta Roots
- Mar 19 WWI and WWII in the Delta: Defense Industry, Military and Food Production
- Apr16 Eastern and Antioch Electric Railway: Oakland Mole to Chico
- May 21 Movies in the Delta: From *Steamboat Round the Bend* to the *Young Indiana Jones*.

https://losmedanos.cr3.rschooltoday.com/public/getclass/category_id/-1/program_id/1

Each class is \$19 and held at Los Medaños College, Brentwood Center. No Zoom whatsoever - all in person. Payment is via the website. There is no check or cash at the door. Even those who show up at the door have to pay via the website.

Thank you for your support of the Clayton Historical Society. We depend on membership dues and community donations to pay for our operating expenses. A gift of any amount to our Memorial Fund is a lasting way to honor someone who has done something special for you, or the Museum, during the past year, or someone who has passed away. Please also consider making a donation for a birthday, wedding, or for the holidays. Donations can also be made in honor of one of the third grade students from Mt. Diablo Elementary, or one of the scouts or students from local private schools who come to the Museum Field Trips to learn about the history of our great town and area. We operate totally on the generosity of our members and the community of Clayton and the surrounding area. Thanks to your continued support – we are able to make improvements to our Museum and programs because of you! To make a donation, send a check made out to Clayton Historical Society, P.O. Box 94, Clayton, CA 94517 or come by the Museum on Wednesdays or Sundays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. or go to www.claytonhistory.org and select gift shop.



Memorial Funds

A gift of any amount to our Memorial Fund is a lasting way to honor someone special. Their names will be placed in the “**Book of Memory**” that is permanently displayed at the museum.

I would like to make this contribution of \$ _____ In Honor of In Memory of (check one)

Name of Person(s) to be honored or memorialized:



Please send acknowledgments to:

DONOR

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

HONOREE or FAMILY OF HONOREE

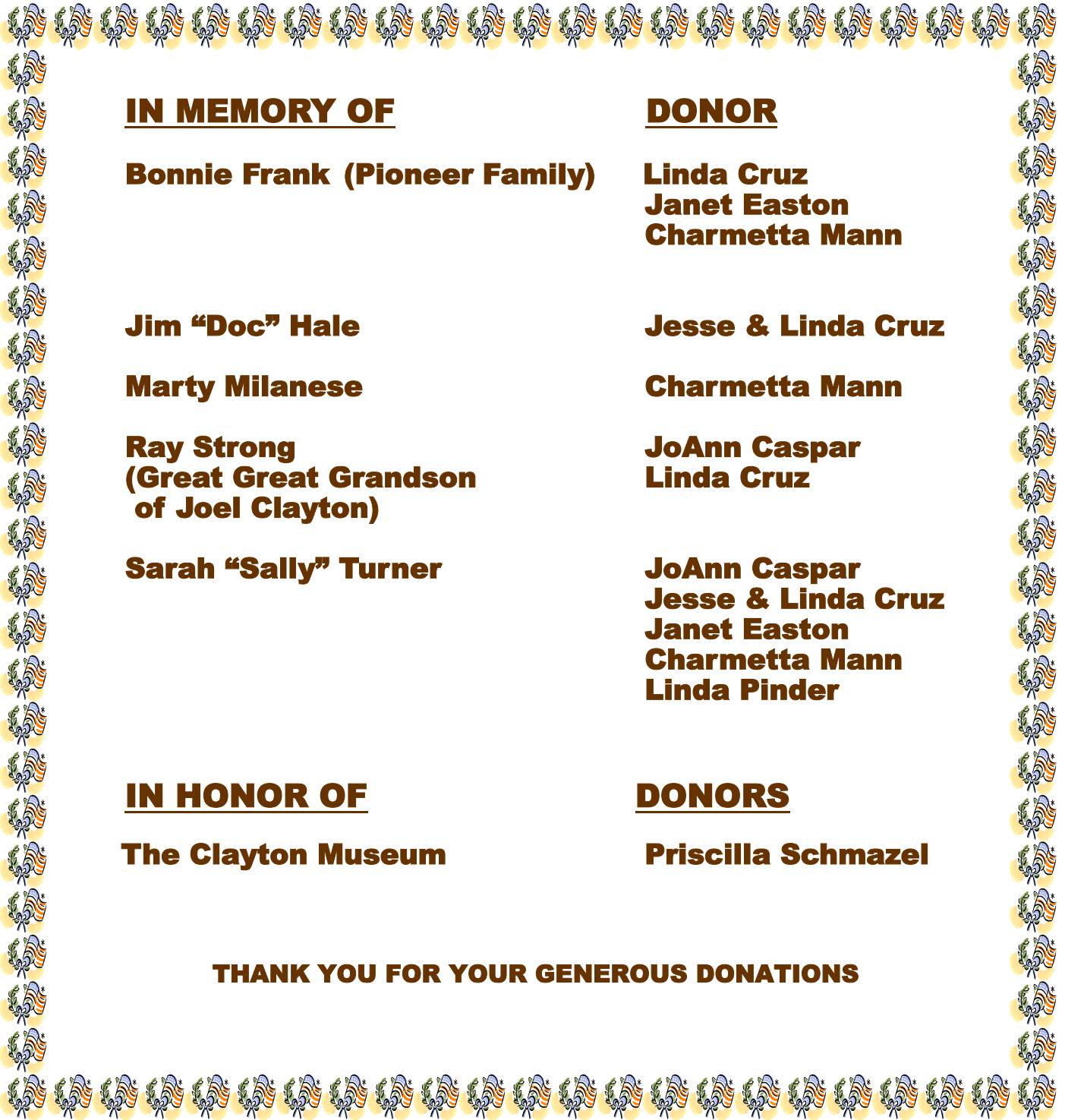
Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Memorial donations should be sent to Clayton Historical Society – Attention Memorials, PO Box 94, Clayton, CA 94517



IN MEMORY OF

Bonnie Frank (Pioneer Family)

Jim “Doc” Hale

Marty Milanese

**Ray Strong
(Great Great Grandson
of Joel Clayton)**

Sarah “Sally” Turner

IN HONOR OF

The Clayton Museum

DONOR

**Linda Cruz
Janet Easton
Charmetta Mann**

Jesse & Linda Cruz

Charmetta Mann

**JoAnn Caspar
Linda Cruz**

**JoAnn Caspar
Jesse & Linda Cruz
Janet Easton
Charmetta Mann
Linda Pinder**

DONORS

Priscilla Schmazel

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS

REMEMBERING SALLY TURNER

Sally was a docent at the Museum. Former curator, Renee Wing, remembers Sally as lovely, gracious, friendly, knowledgeable, funny, and a hard worker. She was always the first to volunteer when help was needed; totally devoted to her community, and active in the Historical Society and CBCA operations and functions. She served on the museum board as Treasurer for a number of years. She continued working with the museum and CBCA even long after she moved to Diamond Terrace. I have many fond memories of Sally as a coworker and a friend.



Former museum docent, Jerry Koehne, writes: Sally was one of the sweetest and smartest persons that I ever knew. We had so much fun on the quiet Wednesday's. Sally was knowledgeable about the history of Clayton, that between Sally and Charmetta, I learned more than I could have ever learned through research. Jerry thanks "Miss Sally" for all she did for Clayton.

Sally's son, Philip Turner, shares the following:

Sally passed away last November at 91 years old. She was a graduate of Sequoia High School in Redwood City, CA and later attended U.C. Berkeley where she met her husband to be. They eventually married and moved to Menlo Park and later purchased a home in Redwood City, CA where she had two children, Philip and Nancy. In 1970 the family moved back East to Lincroft, New Jersey, where they stayed until 1976 before returning to Clayton, CA.

Sally was an active part of the Clayton Historical Society & Museum for many years and leaves behind many cherished friends there. She was a kind, generous person who helped many others without question or hesitation.

Remembering Bonnie Frank (1952-2023)



The Clayton Historical Society & Museum would like to thank Bonnie Frank for the generous donations she made through the years to the Museum in Memoriam of her parents George and Carmen Frank.

Photo on right shows young George Frank.

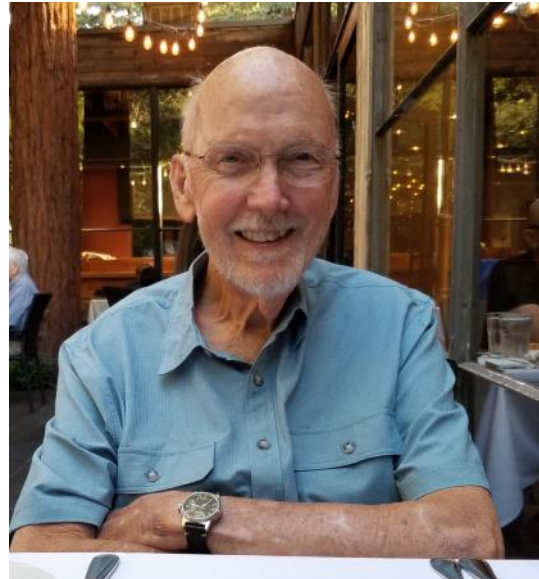


REMEMBERING RAY STRONG Great Great Grandson of Joel Clayton

Ray was a docent at the Clayton Museum and loved working there enjoying all the people he became friends with. He and Jerilyn visited Buxworth, England and became friends with Glenis, President of the ABC'ers. They even had dinner at Joel Clayton's home, Brierley Green Farms.

Jerilyn shared the following Obituary:

Raymond Haskell Strong, Jr. ("Ray") (87) of Danville, CA passed away surrounded by his loved ones on October 8, 2023.



Ray was born to Veva and Raymond on September 13, 1936. He was born in Santa Maria, California and raised on a small Shell Oil lease town called Bicknell. Ray fondly referred to Bicknell as being raised "in the sticks" and always told stories of the mischief he would get into in his "brush buggy." Ray attended Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo ("before they let girls in") and graduated with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. After graduation, he went to work for Westinghouse and they sent him to Pittsburgh, PA to obtain his MS degree, also in Mechanical Engineering. Ray spent his career working for Westinghouse, where he worked on several projects that directly impacted our national security during the darkest days of the cold war, until he retired after nearly 40 years. In his spare time, Ray loved to do anything related to trains – he chased them, rode them, helped put in the tracks for the Niles Canyon Railroad (NCRY) and also volunteered as a Brakeman with NCRY for many, many years.

Ray is survived by the love of his life, Jerilyn and their two children, Emily (Scott) and Jeff (Princess) as well as Christine (Jimmy) and Rachel from his first marriage, along with his ten grandchildren – Rachel, Chelsey, Kelly, Lauren, Julianna, Jacob, Andrew, Erik, Kevin, and Matthew.

Aside from his love for trains, Ray and Jerilyn traveled the world together, always up for an adventure or to see what was at the end of a road. Together they went to Canada, Mexico, India, China, South America, Alaska, and all over the United States. They owned a home together in Arnold, California, "The Stronghold", and that was one of Ray's favorite places to be.

Ray had a great sense of humor (always telling those corny dad jokes) and loved meeting and talking to new people. He also gave the best hugs and loved spending time with his family. He always said how proud of his family he was and what a lucky man he was.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Clayton Historical Society in Ray's memory.

REMEMBERING JIM (DOC) HALE by Linda Cruz

Many Claytonites and other locals might remember Doc. For many years the Clayton Library would host the "Creekside Arts" in spring where Doc would give a talk and walk about town sharing his expertise about Native Americans, plants, wildlife and history around the Clayton area. We lost Doc Hale last year. He will be missed. In the Spring issue of the Chronicles, Linda hopes to share a little about Doc Hale's last project in Orinda where he was restoring a creek at a historical site.

Linda Cruz first learned of Doc Hale in 2011 when she was Newsletter Editor and Club Representative to the Diablo Foothill District (DFD) of the California Garden Clubs, Inc. A member of the Blackhawk Bloomers Garden Club woke up one morning after a party. During the party she had her French doors open to the patio. In the morning she found a tiny owl sitting on her fireplace mantel. She called the Lindsay Museum who sent Doc Hale to help out. Doc rescued the tiny screech owl which fit in the palm of his hand, releasing it where it promptly flew up to a tree to roost.



Doc with rescued Barn Owl

Besides being a retired Professor from UC Santa Cruz, Doc was an ethnobotanist, so knowledgeable about plants, history of Native Americans and wildlife. He would rescue all sorts of wildlife, coyotes, mountain lions, deer, rattlesnakes, any critter that needed help. He was a wonderful kind man. Doc guided Jesse and Linda about owls living in their backyard. Jesse built a Barn owl box and the owls immediately took residence and began their families. We had owls in our yard for over 11 years. They would have 5 owlets each year; one year 7 owlets. Linda was in heaven watching the young owls learn how to fly (quite clumsy & funny) and how attentive the parents were to each other and to the young owls. Jesse built several owl boxes and we sold them at the Clayton Valley Garden Club Plant Sales.

Linda introduced Doc to Mary Spryer who was Museum Curator and Education Committee Chair at the time. Plans for the refurbished museum garden were coming along and we had already begun planting plants used by Native Americans. Our plan at the time was to add another section to the school field trips where Doc would share how Native Americans used native plants: examples such as the Soap Root for brushes, glue, food and many other uses; Sambucus or Elderberry plant for flutes and arrow shafts, and so many more.

Doc was doing a study about the Barn owl diet for Contra Costa County. He had three locations he collected from for the study; the Cruz backyard in Clayton, a site in Orinda, and Martinez. Linda supplied him with buckets of owl pellets. The barn owls main diet was gophers. In fall the owls ate many *Stenopelmatus* aka the potato bug or Jerusalem Cricket. We have lived in Clayton 44 years and never had gophers (yet). But the owls sure found plenty of gophers in Clayton.

Those of us who were fortunate to know Doc are grateful to him for sharing his love of nature and his kindness and respect for all life.

A FRIEND of local NATIVE PLANTS and WILDLIFE

By Steve Lane, Museum Garden Chairman



Doc Hale, May 3, 2014
Photo: Steve Lane

A friend since my first year as President of the Clayton Valley Garden Club back in 2013, was James M. Hale – commonly known as “Doc” Hale. Doc graduated from San Jose State with a masters in Zoology, and was a professor of the Wilderness Studies program at UC Santa Cruz. He was a consulting Wildlife Biologist, Ecological Consultant, Ethnobiologist to CA Fish and Wildlife, and other governmental agencies and non-profit organizations. Sadly, my friend, James “Doc” Hale passed away last October 13, 2023 at the age of 72. Doc impressed-upon me (and others) – the importance of sharing knowledge of our local (Clayton) Native American history, and of the local native plants and wildlife they sustained with, with the greater community.

In the summer of 2013, Doc helped the Clayton Valley Garden Club’s Boy Scouts Eagle Scout sponsorship project, coordinated by Linda Cruz, with candidate, Ryan Nebeker, to install (5) barn owl nesting boxes around Clayton, including the Clayton Museum Garden, Diablo View Middle School, Mt Diablo Elementary, and two private residence locations. An Eagle Scout, himself – Doc was delighted to help with the project. Clayton residents, Dr. Ray Bauer, and myself, each helped Doc with (3) of the installations.

A year later, Doc helped me with the initial California Native plant selections for the improved Clayton Museum Garden – primarily plants with multiple Native American Indian uses.

After a life-threatening bout with Metastatic Melanoma, Doc recovered amazingly, and eased back doing what he truly loved – lecturing and educating the public about our interesting local native plants and wildlife.

In 2018, Doc helped me plan a unique feature for the Museum Garden – local wildlife animal paw/foot/hooft prints, in addition to Doc’s Native American symbol of an eagle (created for him by a Native American tribe) and his handprint, to be imprinted in the concrete wall caps/seats surrounding the Garden’s “Wagonwheel Plaza.” Speaking of – one of the proudest moments for Doc (not present) and myself, was seeing a young girl run towards the Museum Garden and say “*I want to see the animals,*” as her family followed. Together, they admired the imprints of: Deer, Mountain Lion, Coyote, Bobcat, Gray Fox, Badger, Opossum, and Squirrel – our “animal friends,” as Doc would say. Sadly, *our* friend, James “Doc” Hale will be *dearly* [sic] missed by all.

To learn more about Doc Hale, and to see his plant and wildlife photos, please visit his website: dochale.com



(Above) Doc Hale’s Native American Eagle symbol.

(Left and Right): Doc Hale, Dr. Ray Bauer and Steve Lane install the barn owl box at the Museum, July 11, 2013



(Above Left) Steve Lane imprinting Doc Hale’s handprint into the wet concrete of a Museum Garden wall cap/seat May 9, 2018. (Above Right): the Doc Hale Garden wall cap/seat in the Museum

Museum Garden Report – February 2024

By Steve Lane, Museum Garden Chairman

After some time away from physical work and group work parties in the Museum Garden, from Memorial Day 2023 to the end of the year (due to a broken collarbone, fixation surgery, and a long recovery), I am looking forward to getting my hands dirty and getting more projects done in the Garden this new year, 2024.



Ingela Nielsen at the Butterfly and Pollinator Garden, where she recently filled the last bare spot with pollinator-attracting CA Native plants.

Thanks to **Nancy Niemeyer** (CHS member, Clayton Valley Garden Club member, CA Native plant expert & propagator) – we have some new donated CA Native plants in the Museum Garden this year. Plants Nancy donated include: (2) “Bee Plant” (*Scrophularia californica*), (1) “Coral Bells” (*Huechera micrantha*), (2) “Johnny Jump Up” (*Viola pendunculata*), (2) “Sunflower” / “Rosilla” (*Helenium puberulam*), and (1) “California Buckwheat” (*Erigonum fasciculatum*). Museum Garden Caretaker, **Ingela Nielsen**, recently planted these 8 plants in the Museum’s CA Native Butterfly and Pollinator Garden (west of the CBCA Storage Shed), and in the CA Native American Plant Garden (around the “Wagonwheel Plaza”). Ingela has also done a great job maintaining the Garden the past few years, and most recently raked and bagged five huge bags of leaves and debris from the Garden. Thank you Ingela!

Mark your calendars for **Friday, February 16, 9AM** for a **Museum Garden Work Party**, two days before the annual Camelia Tea Event at the Museum, Sunday the 18th. Please join us, if you would like to help tidy-up the Museum Garden and grounds prior to the event, no experience necessary, tools and snacks will be provided – just show-up, please.

Clayton Museum Garden & Rory Richmond Memorial Garden – Project Update

February 2024

Dear Project Supporters -

The City of Clayton Planning Dept. has approved the construction plans I voluntarily drew up for the Museum Garden improvements and the Rory Richmond Memorial Garden projects. To date, the plans have received three cost estimates/bids from landscapers. We are soliciting for a fourth bid as I write this message. Once we get 4-5 reasonable bids from the landscape contractors, the CHS Board of Directors and the Rory Richmond Memorial Garden Committee will discuss and plan how the projects will proceed. We expect that the construction of both projects and installation of all purchased personalized pavers & bricks will begin this year. I truly appreciate the patience and generous support of everyone who has purchased a brick or paver for either project to date, and as recently as this past January. If you have purchased a paver or brick through the Clayton Historical Society / Online Gift Shop – rest assured your purchase was received, and your brick(s) and paver(s) will be installed, hence the reason why you are receiving this message.

If you have not yet ordered your own personalized, laser-engraved brick or paver, or would like to make a cash donation to help build the memorial garden in honor of the late Rory Richmond, or to help fund the final Phase II Museum Garden Improvements - it is not too late. Just go to the Clayton Historical Society (CHS) website’s online gift shop at: <https://clayton-historical-society.square.site/> to help support these two worthy downtown public garden projects. More information on these projects can be found in elsewhere this edition of the Chronicles. Thanks again, for your patience and support.

Regards,

Steve Lane, Museum Garden Chairman

RORY RICHMOND MEMORIAL GARDEN

The City of Clayton Planning Commission and City Council have approved a vacant site adjacent to the Clayton Museum Garden and the Downtown Parking Lot Entrance to be developed into the **Rory Richmond Memorial Garden**, with support and funding from the Clayton Valley Garden Club, the Clayton Historical Society, and the Clayton Business and Community Association.

The Rory Richmond Memorial Garden will be in honor of a very active



Clayton resident and community volunteer, who passed away August 22, 2020. Rory was a member of most of the civic groups in Clayton, including the Clayton Valley Garden Club, the Clayton Historical Society (who maintains the Clayton Museum) and the Clayton Business and Community Association (CBCA), chairing and growing the very popular Clayton CBCA Barbecue Cook-Off into a major community event.

Rory was an avid succulent gardener and this Memorial Garden will focus on succulents, particularly local varieties, and will serve as the western-themed succulent "leg" of the Clayton Museum Educational / Demonstration Garden. The Garden will also illustrate our local geology with varied rock, stone, mining-related materials and artifacts,

and plants that grow in the Mt. Diablo region, the Clayton Valley area, and beyond.

Timing of the Garden Development: The volunteer group developing the Garden has received the required approvals from the City of Clayton, and is in the process of having construction / bid plans donated and drawn. The goal is to have the construction and planting completed in

PERSONALIZED ENGRAVED PAVERS AND PROJECT DONATION OPPORTUNITIES ARE NOW AVAILABLE. PLEASE VISIT THE PROJECT INFO AND PAVER ORDER SITE: <https://clayton-historical-society.square.site/memorialgarden>

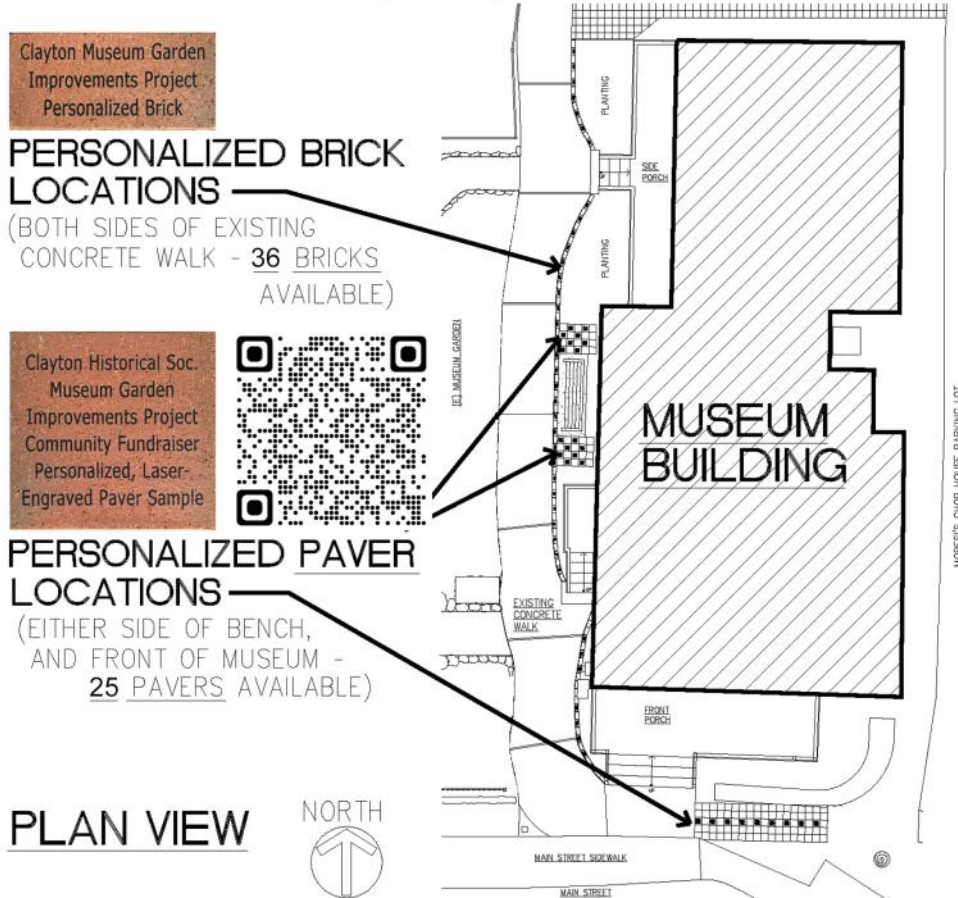


MUSEUM GARDEN IMPROVEMENTS PERSONALIZED BRICK AND PAVER ORDER FORM

PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THE HARDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CLAYTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM'S EDUCATIONAL GARDEN, BY PURCHASING A PERSONALIZED BRICK OR PAVER THAT WILL BECOME A PERMANENT FEATURE OF THE COMPLETED HARDSCAPE DESIGN!

PERSONALIZED BRICK AND PAVER INFO:

1. BRICKS AND PAVERS ARE LASER-ENGRAVED - LEAVING PERMANENT BLACK OBSIDIAN TEXT, WITH DONOR'S NAMES AND/OR PERSONAL MESSAGE.
2. BRICKS ARE STANDARD 4" x 8" FACE; (3) LINES OF TEXT PER BRICK; 23 CHARACTERS PER LINE.
3. PAVERS ARE STANDARD 8" X 8" FACE; (6) LINES OF TEXT PER PAVER; 23 CHARACTERS PER LINE.



YOUR ENGRAVED BRICK MESSAGE (36 BRICKS AVAILABLE - \$150 EA):

LINE: BRICK MESSAGE (PLEASE USE INK AND PRINT CLEARLY):

1.																																				
	(1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23)													
	(23 CHARACTERS MAX. PER LINE - BLANK SPACES, DASHES, COMMAS, ETC. ALL COUNT AS ONE CHARACTER)																																			
2.																																				
3.																																				

MUSEUM GARDEN IMPROVEMENTS

PERSONALIZED BRICK AND PAVER ORDER FORM

YOUR ENGRAVED PAVER MESSAGE (25 PAVERS AVAILABLE - \$250 EA):

LINE: PAVER MESSAGE (PLEASE USE INK AND PRINT CLEARLY):

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(1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23)
(23 CHARACTERS MAX. PER LINE - BLANK SPACES, DASHES, COMMAS, ETC. ALL COUNT AS ONE CHARACTER)

2.

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6.

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More info and
online order form
and payment here:



PLEASE ORDER ONLINE AT: <https://clayton-historical-society.square.site/museumgarden>

Or FILL-OUT THIS FORM CLEARLY and COMPLETELY,

And mail to: CLAYTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 94, CLAYTON CA, 94517

NOTE: THE CLAYTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT 501(c)(3) EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Brick and Paver Selection(s) and quantity: _____

___ WALK EDGE BRICK(S) - \$150 ea. / ___ IMPROVED WALK PAVER(S) - \$250 ea.

Total Enclosed: \$_____ (Please make check payable to: Clayton Historical Society)

NOTE: FOR MULTIPLE BRICK OR PAVER ORDERS - PLEASE MAKE PHOTOCOPIES OF THIS FORM

ANY QUESTIONS - PLEASE CONTACT: JULIE PIERCE at: (925) 518-4446, or

julie_pierce@comcast.net

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE MUSEUM GARDEN IMPROVEMENTS!

MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

At the Clayton museum gift shop there are several items for sale that might be of interest. There are coffee mugs, historic-style soaps, license plate frames, train whistles, tee shirts, aprons, books, mouse pad, coaster sets, cards, paintings of Clayton sites, Christmas ornaments, hand sewn pandemic masks and beautiful woven Clayton throws.

Available online at giftshop. www.ClaytonHistory.org

Although the museum has reopened, purchased items can be delivered to your doorstep, (within a 10 mile radius of the museum), or picked up at the museum by appointment. Call 925-672-0240 for arrangements.

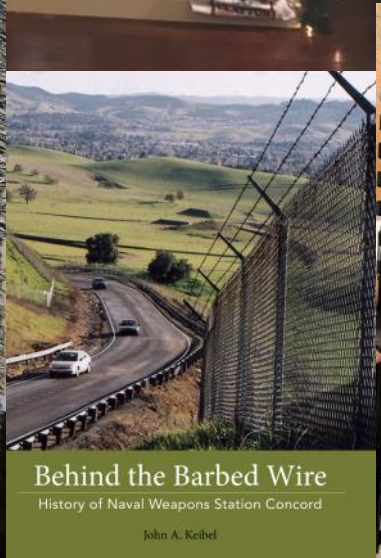
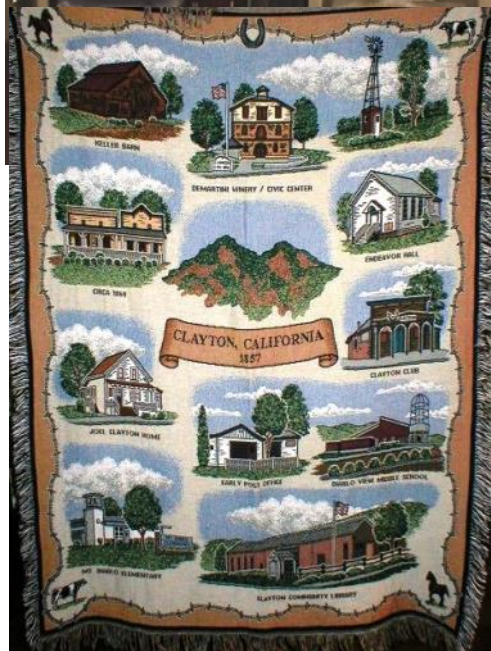


Bay Point and Clayton Railroad Company
TIME TABLE No. 8
To Take Effect Monday, February 17, 1936
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF EMPLOYEES ONLY

SOUTH BOUND		STATIONS	NORTH BOUND	
No. 2 Miles	Distance		Distance	No. 1 Miles
6:08 P.M.	0.00	Leave FORT CHICAGO Arrive	8:00	3:20 P.M.
6:13 P.M.	1.47	JCLYDE	7:53	5:13 P.M.
	2.94	"BOLLMAN'S SIDING"	7:44	
	4.41	"MATHESON"	7:35	
6:20 P.M.	5.87	Arrive COWELL Junction	7:25	5:05 P.M.
6:25 P.M.	7.34	Arrive COWELL	7:15	4:55 P.M.

Connect with Train No. 8 of the Sacramento Northern Railway at Clayton. Regular Depot Connection with Santa Fe or S. P. Co. at Fort Chicago.
*Flag Station.
Maximum Tonnage South Bound Train, 300 Tons.
Maximum Speed of All Trains Will Be Twenty Miles per Hour.
North Bound Trains Have Right Over South Bound Trains.
All Trains Must Stop Before Crossing Sacramento Northern Railway at Clayton.

J. A. KASCH, Asst. Traffic Manager R. B. MITCHELL, Traffic Manager W. H. GEORGE, General Manager



Behind the Barbed Wire

History of Naval Weapons Station Concord

John A. Keibel



CLAYTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY FUNDRAISER

By JoAnn Caspar

The Clayton Valley/Concord Sunrise Rotary and Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary have a program called "Cars Second Chance." If anyone is interested or if you know of anyone who has a car, boat or motorcycle they no longer want and would like to write off on their taxes, please call the Clayton Museum at 672-0240. You will get a nice write off and the Clayton Historical Society will get half the sale money.

Now On YouTube: San Ramon Valley Branch Line Model Railroad Group



20-minute TSG Multimedia-produced video documentary of the sectional Model Railroad Layout display at the Concord Historical Society Museum, and of the SP San Ramon Valley Branch Line's history.

Visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YWJcUI7UMrs&t=4s>



Scan QR Code to Watch!

The logo for "Cars 2nd Chance" features the text "CARS 2ND CHANCE" in a stylized font with a yellow "2", and "CONCORD, CA" below it, all within a blue circular graphic.

**Donate A Vehicle And
Make A Difference
In Someone's Life**

A front view of a classic red Volkswagen Beetle.

**Donate Your Vehicle,
Running or Not!
CARS • TRUCKS • MOTORCYCLES**

We will accept anywhere
from within 100 miles of
a major city.

Visit us and donate online today at:
Cars2ndChance.org
Call for more info: **(925) 326-5868**

Three vehicles are shown: a red motorcycle, a blue sedan, and a white pickup truck.

Ask about our **Charity Partner
Program**, almost anywhere
in the USA!

Rotary The Rotary International logo, a yellow gear with a red center and the words "ROTARY INTERNATIONAL" around it.

Sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of
**Clayton Valley/Concord Sunrise
and Lamorinda Sunrise**



Clayton Historical Society Membership Form

Your monetary donations support the society's activities and provide finances required to maintain our museum. The society's donors are invited to the annual meeting, receive the Clayton Chronicles via email.

The society is a 501 (c)(3) organization and your donations are fully tax-deductible

Annual Membership Categories:

Individual \$30 Couple \$50

Friends of the Museum Donation:

Twin Peaks + \$25 Mt. Zion + \$50 Eagle Peak + \$100

Mt. Olympia + \$250 North Peak + \$500 Mt. Diablo + \$1,000

Please PRINT all of the following information:

Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email 1st Person: _____

Email 2nd Person: _____

Make checks payable to: Clayton Historical Society, Attn: Annual Giving
P.O. Box 94, Clayton, CA 94517

Or Donate On-Line at: www.claytonhistory.org

FOR ANY QUESTIONS: Call the museum at 925-672-0240 and leave your name, phone number, and questions or email museum@ClaytonHistory.org and someone will contact you.



A note from CHS Clayton Chronicles editor:
THANK YOU TO ALL THAT SUBMIT ARTICLES!

If you have suggestions or input for future
"Clayton Chronicles" please contact Linda Cruz at
(925) 672-0503 or
lindajeancruz@gmail.com

Your ideas are welcome.

Also, we would appreciate your stories and/or photos
from Clayton's past or other personal history.

Please do share with us!

SPRING Newsletter articles DUE date **APRIL 20, 2023**



Clayton Historical Society
PO BOX 94, Clayton, CA 94517

Clayton Historical Society
Board Members

President:

Vacant

1st Vice President:

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