



THE BARN BURNER



SAN RAMON HISTORIC FOUNDATION

Dedicated to the preservation of San Ramon's early farms and homesteads

Camille Thompson-Editor

A Message From The Board

The City of San Ramon Parks and Community Services District and the San Ramon Historic Foundation presented Holidays on the Farm on December 14, 2019 at Forest Home Farms. It was a fabulous family event and was the first time for many families to attend. The Olympic Fields Brass Band played and a wonderful chorus strolled around the farm singing holiday songs. There were many activities and even tractor rides and visits to the Historic David Glass House. Watch for this enjoyable event in December, 2020.

The Foundation's Annual Crab Feed in January was the most successful EVER! All Funds raised go directly back to preserving the Farm. At the last Historic Foundation Board Meeting, the Board approved the following projects:

- San Ramon Depot Sign Restoration—\$6,000*
- Education Program-(supplies, marketing, handouts)—\$2,200*
- Glass House-Take Home Packet—\$350*
- Holiday on the Farm Entertainment (reindeer and puppet show)—\$3,350*
- Guide for Cell Mobile Tour Program—\$1,100*
- Trick or treat on the farm Entertainment—\$375*
- Complete the lighting in the Ole 1850 Barn—not to exceed \$40,000*

Your attendance at Holidays on the Farm, Annual Crab Feed and Oktoberfest on the Farm raise funds used to preserve and enhance Forest Home Farms, San Ramon's only HISTORIC park. Your annual membership dues in the San Ramon Historic Foundation go directly back to the Farm, too. Your membership is vital in the preservation of the Farm.

Thanks for your continued support of Forest Home Farms!

Carol J. Rowley
President of the San Ramon Historic Foundation

Crab Feed 2020 - Huge Success

It was a great crab feed! Changing to a Friday was scary, but it turned out to be a fantastic evening. We had 245 people in attendance, and they loved their crab! We ordered 650 pounds and there was very little left. (nothing to sell)

We had wonderful volunteers. Our silent auction was so popular that we had to get a larger container to hold the opportunity ticket stubs. There were three lucky winners. The special cakes for our live auction were outstanding, and the cannoli were super.

We were blessed to have Canyon Lakes Brewery serve their specialty beers and super good wine donated by Don Kowalski. Those bar tenders were busy all evening.

The servers were from Saint Raymond's School and provided everyone with excellent service. I cannot thank our volunteers enough and my list would be exceedingly long, but each know how much they are appreciated.

So To All – A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!

(See Crab Feed on pg. 2)



Crab Feed

(cont'd. from pg. 1)

If you didn't attend this year, you missed out on an incredible crab feed, one of the best in the area. Everyone was happy and chatted and this was the best crab feed ever and earned the most money. So those who attended, thank you for coming and having a good time.

So - you had better mark your calendar for Crab Feed 2021, and look at the last week of January for our next great crab fest.

My thanks to all,
Carol Lopez Lucey

Vintage Tractors Put to Work

Walter Sommer

Somewhat unique among farm tractor museums, the tractors at Forest Homes farms are operable and do useful work. As seen in the photograph, a 1950 Ford 850 with a front-end loader is placing manure and old straw in a spreader. The spreader is pulled by a 1959 Massey Ferguson. The material is spread on the sheep pastures to enhance grass growth during the winter and spring. The spreader, dating from the early 1900s, was completely rebuilt by the tractor and engine maintenance volunteers.

Also, each fall the sheep pastures are mowed using a 1952 Farmall Cub equipped with a side-mounted sickle blade mower. This tractor has proven to be highly maneuverable and gas-efficient. The volunteers enjoy these and other exercises at the farm, especially when they involve using the tractors.



Thank you!



Appreciation for These Generous Grants

The San Ramon Historic Foundation extends its gratitude for these generous grants.

The **Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley** is funding an immersive, self-guided audio tour of the farm. Visitors can visit the kiosk near the Welcome Center and pick up a tour brochure explaining how to access an audio tour of the site via cell-phone. This project is an extension of our efforts to make the rich history of the San Ramon Valley accessible to people of all ages.

Formed in 1956, the **Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley** is a service organization dedicated to supporting the community through volunteerism and grants. For more information, visit www.srvkiwanis.org.

The **Dublin/San Ramon Women's Club** and the **Dougherty Valley/San Ramon Rotary Foundation** are helping give elementary school kids an interactive and memorable experience of early farm life. For the past 13 years, almost every 3rd grade student in the area has visited the farm and participated in hands-on activities to learn about local history and life in the San Ramon Valley during the late 1800s and early 1900s. The farm programs, serving approximately 3,200 Tri-Valley students annually from both public and private schools, would not be possible without funding from these wonderful organizations dedicated to serving our community.

(See Grants on pg. 3)

Grants

(cont'd. from pg. 2)

The **Dougherty Valley/San Ramon Rotary Foundation's** mission is to raise money and make charitable contributions directed at youth and education within the San Ramon area and/or California, as well as causes which alleviate suffering in a time of crisis. For more information, visit www.dvsrrotaryfoundation.org.

Holiday on the Farm Fun for All Ages

Jessica Reaber

The annual Holiday on the Farm event took place on Saturday, December 14th. Over 1,300 people came out to play old-fashioned games, make holiday crafts, and enjoy hot chocolate while decorating cookies. People lined up to visit with Santa and his reindeer which included a camel this year! Participants also enjoyed entertainment from Olympia Fields Brass Band, the San Ramon Community Chorus, and the Puppet Company.

Holiday on the Farm is supported by the San Ramon Historic Foundation which sold grilled hot dogs, hot coffee and cider, and donuts for the morning visitors. In addition to food, the Foundation also saw much success in their gently used ornament sale, gift shop sales, and Stuff-a-Bear table.



Change in Barn Burner Distribution

Dall Barley

Beginning with this issue, all members will receive a copy of the Barn Burner via US mail. In the past, members for whom the Foundation had email addresses received their copy via email. The Foundation has decided that all members are entitled to receive a hardcopy of our colorful, informative newsletter. We value your membership and hope you enjoy the Barn Burner.

If we have not yet received your dues for 2020, please send your renewal check, made out to SRHF, to SRHF, P.O. Box 1, San Ramon, CA 94583. General membership - \$50; Ranch Hand - \$100 (includes up to family of six). Be advised that this will be the last issue you will receive until you renew your membership. If you have already remitted your dues, please accept our thanks.

COMING SOON!

March

Mar 7 – Pinecones
Mar 14 – Clothespin Dolls
Mar 21 – Butterflies & Bugs
Mar 28 – Food Painting & Stamping

April

Apr 4 – Calling Cards
Apr 11 – Easter on the Farm
Apr 18 – Laundry Day
Apr 25 – Sheep Shearing Day

May

May 2 – May Day
May 9 – Mother's Day
May 16 – Int'l Museum Day
May 23 – Closed-Memorial Day
May 30 – Old Fashioned Ice Cream

For details about these events, see the SR Parks & Comm. Svcs. Activity Guide

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WEB: <http://www.srhf.org>



FACEBOOK: San Ramon Historic Foundation



TWITTER: @srhforg



EMAIL: sanramonhf@gmail.com

Physical Address:

19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd.

San Ramon, CA 94583

925.973.3284

Mailing Address:

SRHF, P.O. Box 1, San Ramon, CA 94583

**SRHF
P.O. Box 1
San Ramon, CA 94583**