



# 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



Due to Sheltering in Place, we have had no San Ramon Historic Foundation Board Meetings since February 26, 2020. We have kept in touch with each other and with Parks and Recreation employees via email, texts and phone calls. But on May 19, 2020, we had our first ZOOM Board Meeting! It was so wonderful to actually see and hear everyone and have a productive Board Meeting. Thanks to Brad Morrison for setting up our meeting and scheduling our next ZOOM meeting on June 22.

At the May Board Meeting, we discussed all our ongoing projects and events for the Farm. We received two grants which will provide funding for materials for our third grade program and the guided tour of the Farm. The Meat locker will be painted and the inside will be restored. The Garden Plan will be redesigned to create more plots and keep out varmints. The Sheep Barn has some repairs which will be completed soon. All of these projects are funded by membership dues and money raised at events sponsored by the San Ramon Historic Foundation. All the money raised goes directly into all the buildings on the farm and the general upkeep of our Historic Park. Some of these historic buildings go back to 1850, so it is important to maintain San Ramon's history for future generations



Due to directions from the Health Department of Contra Costa County, which the City of San Ramon must follow, the Historic Foundation had to cancel Sheep Shearing for April 25, 2020. We are also canceling OKTOBERFEST for October 3, 2020. Both of these popular events usually attract between 1500 to 2000 participants! They will both be back in 2021 with many additional activities. Watch for more news in the Barn Burner and the San Ramon Parks and Community Services Guide which is delivered directly to your home!

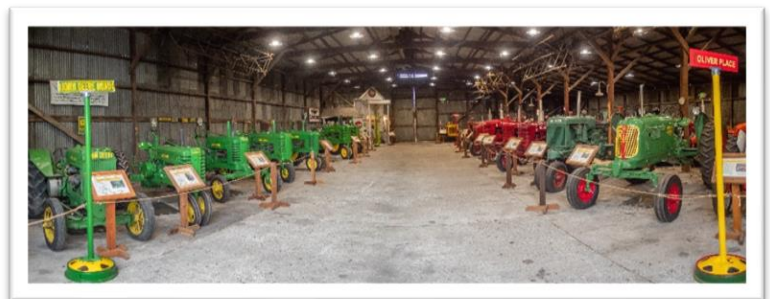
More news after our next San Ramon Historic Board Meeting on June 22, 2020!

Carol J. Rowley  
President, San Ramon Historic Foundation

## Tractor Museum on the Farm

*Ron Frye & Walter Sommer*

Forest Home Farms has approximately 45 tractors and a number of antique farm engines in their inventory. Most are stored in the "tractor museum." The tractor inventory includes John Deere, International Harvester/Farmall, Case, Oliver, Massey Ferguson, Ford, Allis Chalmers and Caterpillar. The antique farm engines on display include two throttle-governed engines by Fairbanks Morse (both ca. 1917), and throttle-governed engines by International Harvester (ca.1918-19220 and Maytag (ca. 1939). Hit-and-miss



**(See Tractor Museum on pg. 2)**

## Tractor Museum

(cont'd. from pg. 1)

governed engines include those from Baker (ca. 1919), De Laval (ca. 1919), Maytag (ca. 1936), Nelson Brothers (ca. 1915), and a rare Peerless (ca. 1904-1913).

They may be seen whenever the park is open. They are also on display at the farm special events programs. Popular demonstrations by the "tractor guys" include the antique farm engines and a gasoline engine powered washing machine.



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**, for the third year in a row, is funding an interactive, self-guided audio tour of the farm with the use of a cell phone. The tour has had favorable comments from visitors regarding the historical information and the ease of use. This grant allows us to continue the program and update the audio tour as restored buildings and items are added to the farm for public viewing. Visitors pick up a brochure explaining how to access the audio tour at the Welcome Center kiosk and are able to tour the farm at their own leisure. This program is an extension of our efforts to make the rich history of the San Ramon Valley accessible to people of all ages, and we are grateful for the continued support through this grant.

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](http://www.srvkiwanis.org).

For the past 4 years, the **Dougherty Valley/San Ramon Rotary Foundation** has helped give elementary school kids an interactive and memorable experience of early farm life. Once again, the Rotary has granted funding for the next school year. For the past 14 years, almost every third 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 this wonderful organization dedicated to serving our community.

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](http://www.dvsrrotaryfoundation.org).

## Say it Ain't So, Suzy



The time has come to bid farewell to Suzy McCreary, a beaming ray of sunshine at Forest Home Farms for nearly a decade. Suzy masterfully coordinates everything from booking school tours and group tours, to training our docents for the education program, leading group tours, and welcoming our schools at the beginning of each Farm Life Education tour before handing them off to the docents for the rest of the morning.

SRHF Board President, Carol Rowley, had the chance to observe Suzy in her role as Farmer Suzy. This is Carol's account.

The Pied Piper of the third grade students who participate in the Farm's student program, Suzy's smile and welcoming attitude assure them that they are going to have a great experience. Her cheerful enthusiasm conveys her joy having them at the Farm. She has often said that she has the BEST job in the whole world.

Suzy is a great teacher and works well with the students and their chaperones. She ensures that the participants know the rules and expectations, but the bottom line is that she wants everyone to have a wonderful learning experience at the Farm. Suzy's laugh and sunny smile make the Farm experience unforgettable. Students mention this Farm tour as the most fun that they have had in many months.

The Farm volunteers have become close friends with Suzy, as she is so supportive and encouraging of all the volunteers. She gives helpful advice and praise, and appreciates everyone's time spent helping her students. Suzy has made the Farm tour one of the best ever.

We will miss Suzy's sparkling personality and positive presence. We wish her success in the future, as she makes the move to Chico in the fall. We encourage her to keep in touch with her friends and fans at Forest Home Farms. She is our FARM STAR! We wish her the BEST!



## Change in Barn Burner Distribution

*Dall Barley*

Beginning with the March, 2020 issue, all members began receiving a copy of the Barn Burner via US mail. In the past, only 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.

Your membership and donations are especially appreciated during the Pandemic Stay at Home order. As you know, we've had to cancel events which we rely on for revenue.

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.

## Support our Local Businesses

During these challenging times, it is important to support our local businesses as they struggle to stay afloat. One way is to treat yourself and your family by ordering takeout meals at local restaurants.

We are all in this together. Let's do our part to help each other.



# COMING SOON!

*Due to the current uncertain times prompting last-minute program changes, please visit the City of San Ramon website for the most current information about Saturday events.*

[http://www.sanramon.ca.gov/our\\_city/departments\\_and\\_divisions/parks\\_community\\_services](http://www.sanramon.ca.gov/our_city/departments_and_divisions/parks_community_services)

## ----- BOARD MEMBERS -----

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