



# The Barn Burner

Spring 2013 Newsletter

San Ramon Historic Foundation

## Hot News

### 2013 Sheep Shearing Day



**Saturday, April 20, 2013**

**Time:** 10am to 3pm

The San Ramon Historic Foundation presents Sheep Shearing Day 2013 at Forest Home Farms Historic Park – 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd, San Ramon.

Sheep Shearing is one of the San Ramon Historic Foundation's largest annual events drawing over 1000 people to the farm. It is an opportunity for community members of all ages to come together and enjoy a day on the farm while learning and having fun.

Over 100 sheep will receive their annual haircut and provide an opportunity for us to demonstrate how sheep are sheared. You will see how their wool is removed, cleaned and spun into yarn—all while the sheep dogs are herding the next sheep into line to get their haircut.

During your day on the farm you will have an opportunity to browse around the historic buildings and observe wool spinners, quilters and the valley's largest display of "Hit and Miss" irrigation engines.

You can also purchase refreshments, take tractor and train rides, and keep your children and grandchildren entertained with historic crafts and games.

Plus, don't forget to stop by the Foundation Gift Shoppe to pick up a souvenir from your special day on the farm.

**Order Early Bird Tickets on SRHF website at: <http://www.srhf.org/events/>**

**Early Bird** (before April 15th)

Adult – \$5

Child (3 to 12) – \$3 (children under 3 are free)

Member – \$3

Member child under 13 – Free

**After April 15, and at the gate:**

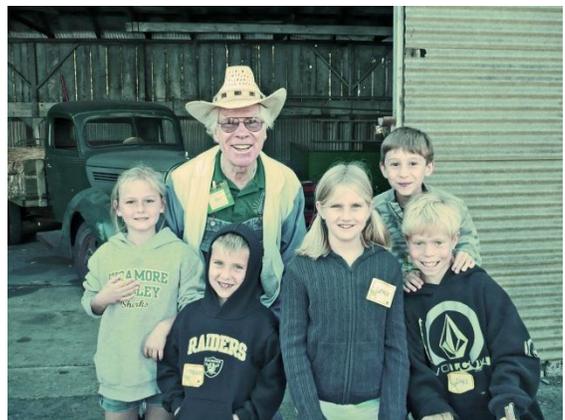
Adult – \$7

Child (3 to 12) – \$5 (children under 3 are free)

Member – \$5

Member child under 13 – free

## Farm History Interview



Rockwell Nathan Greene, one of Forest Home Farms first docents, kindly volunteered to share his early experiences with the Boone

family and establishing the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade educational program.

### **Nathan meets Travis Boone...**

Nathan helped in the early planning for turning Forest Home Farms into a park back in 1998 and was very involved in developing the educational program for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders.

In 1969, he and his wife bought a new home in the Orchards tract in what once was a walnut orchard. One walnut tree was left in each yard and when his first crop came in he decided to go talk to Travis Boone, who he knew processed walnuts. Ruth Boone was in the yard and directed him to the barn. Travis asked how many trees he had. Nathan said, "One!" Travis sort of grinned and said it would not be economical to crank up the processing plant for just one tree. You see, Travis had six lanes for shelling and washing the walnuts. They were delivered by the truckful and ended up in each grower's individual bin in the drying building. Years later, a Farm visitor told Nathan that it was his truck and trailer in one of the photos displayed and that it had held 800 huge bags of walnuts. After drying, the walnuts then went to the packaging building (which is currently used for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade education Program).

When Nathan mentioned he had grown up on a farm, Travis offered to put him to work at something at the farm, but Nathan was a pilot and just headed off to a long career with TWA.

But Travis did give Nathan a suggestion. That was to build a drying rack and dry his walnuts out in the sun in his back yard. So every day, Nathan turned the walnuts a quarter or half turn, covered them when it rained, and it worked just fine. Travis had started using this very method but found it was too much work to cover them up when it rained, so built the three buildings that made up the processing plant.

Nathan has many fond memories of the Boones. He had so much respect for them and enjoyed their company. And as for his years as a docent, his more heartwarming memory is having a child come up to him afterward and ask to give him a hug because he was "so nice". He treasures being able to make a favorable impression on a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader!

## **Embers from the Past**

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### *2013 Annual Crab Feed*



**O**n January 26th, over 235 members of our community enjoyed eating some 900 pounds of delicious crab and all the fixings at the SRHF Annual Crab Feed.

Councilman David Hudson and his wife Barbara got that crab into the pans to be served with staff members from the City of San Ramon assisting. Pat Edwards, City Clerk, Renee Beck, Deputy City Clerk, and Esther Lucas from Parks and Community service were in charge of the desserts. Becky from Maintenance and her sister Bonnie Mertz from Parks & Community Services helped us keep the kitchen in order. And our thanks to Kay Wang for contributing photos of the event.



**Schubros Brewery**, brand new to San Ramon, offered two of their new beers to guests. Thanks to Ian Schuster for organizing this and to Abram Wilson and his assistants for bartending.



Our servers were 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders from St. Raymond's Catholic School. A special thanks to Carol Lopez, our SRHF event chair.



SRHF Board members solicited local bakeries and other establishments that provided special cakes and desserts for the live dessert auction. The highest price cake fetched more than \$160. Nicole Blazin's special cake pops brought \$100 for each dozen. This year the Foundation netted over \$9000 with this fund raiser event.



Save the date for next year's crab feed.  
Saturday, January 26, 2014.

## Farm News

### Cluckingham Palace

Our four feathered residents of Cluckingham Palace have new digs thanks to the efforts of Joe Kreuger, Tony Hurt, and their crew. A new sign painted by visiting 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes will soon be added.

Out with the old...



....and in with the new



Joe Kreuger and the new Coop

**Veronica**, a Silver Spangled Hamburg, is joined by her friends **Connie**, a Silver Penciled Cochon Bantam, **Rosie**, a Barred Plymouth Rock, and **Lucy**, a White Faced Black Spanish. Some are still daily layers. The Farm started with two chickens that were dropped off by families. Others were adopted later and those who fell victim to local coyotes were replaced.



Home at last



Chow in the Tractor Barn

# City Council Presentation



Paul, Mary, Dall and Carol L.

**F**our Board Members of SRHF attended the San Ramon City Council meeting to present the goals and accomplishments of the Foundation.

The goals cited were to raise funds to supplement San Ramon costs for restoration and structures, to educate the community regarding the agricultural history of the San Ramon Valley, and to support, with funds and volunteers, programs and events at Forest Home Farms.

Current projects include the creation of a video production about the Glass House, installation of a demonstration nut orchard, development of new interpretive programs, replacement of the irrigation system in the organic garden, and ongoing promotion of Forest Home Farms as a community destination.

Recent successes reported were raising \$9000 with the Crab Feed, and achieving a net revenue of \$5000 at the Wind Festival and \$7300 with last year's Sheep Shearing day

## Foundation Updates

### To Receive this Barnburner Newsletter

Please send your email address to:  
dallbarley@sbcglobal.net

The newsletter is also published on our website  
<http://www.srhf.org/newsletter/>.

**VOLUNTEER:** We are always searching for adult and teen volunteers to assist with Foundation events, serve as docents, help restore tractors, and keep our gardens growing.

Go to Volunteer Page at [www.srhf.org](http://www.srhf.org)

## SCHEDULE OF FOUNDATION EVENTS

### SHEEP SHEARING DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2013

10 AM TO 3 PM

AT FOREST HOMES HISTORIC PARK

### ROLE PLAYERS ON THE FARM

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, JUNE 22-23, 2013

THREE MELODRAMAS

AT FOREST HOMES HISTORIC PARK

### VICTORIAN GARDEN TEA

SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2013

3 PM TO 5 PM

AT FOREST HOMES HISTORIC PARK

### MONTHLY HISTORIC PARK TOURS

SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

FOREST HOMES FARMS TOURS

11 AM AND 1 PM

GLASS HOUSE TOURS

10 AM, 11 AM, NOON, 1 PM

AT FOREST HOME FARMS HISTORIC PARK

### MEMBERSHIP SRHF ~ GENERAL \$35

[www.srhf.org/about-srhf/membership/](http://www.srhf.org/about-srhf/membership/)

## SAN RAMON HISTORIC FOUNDATION

19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd.

San Ramon, CA

[SRHF.ORG](http://www.srhf.org)

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