



# The Sentinel

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Newsletter of the San Ramon Historic Foundation

Spring 08

## *The Gift Shoppe at Forest Home Farms Opens on Sheep Shearing Day*



San Ramon City Council members, Scott Perkins (*left*) and Carol Rowley (*center*), cut the ribbon to open The Gift Shoppe, while Foundation board members and others look on.

### *Shapell Homes with Division President, Chris Truebridge to build bridge at Forest Home Farms*

On May 15, 2008, the San Ramon Rotary Club inducted Chris Truebridge, Division President of Shapell Homes, into their second annual Business Hall of Fame. Chris and Shapell homes have been outstanding supporters of the historic Forest Home Farms and the San Ramon Historic Foundation. Chris's contributions have been invaluable as a member of a group of community leaders known as the Strategic Study Group. The group has explored ways to bring needed funding to the sixteen-acre farm site.

The first time Chris visited Forest Home Farms, he said to Pat Boom, "How do you get from this side of the farm with all the barns and buildings to that white Victorian House across the stream?"

Before Pat could answer, Chris said, "You need a bridge."

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Sheep Shearing Day, Saturday, April 26 was a red letter day for Forest Home Farms and the San Ramon Historic Foundation. In addition to the shearing of sheep, watching dogs herd, and all the related activities enjoyed by more than 900 visitors, the Historic Foundation opened a real gift shop. Members have dreamed about a gift shop for a long time as they watched Pat Boom packing up her gift-shop-in-box for every event. Now there is no more unpacking!

The Gift Shoppe at Forest Home Farms will be open every Saturday with the **Farmers' Market, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., from May through November**. Toys, penny candy, old-fashioned rock candy and cuddly sheep can be enjoyed by children while parents appreciate the fine tea related items that reflect Ruth Boone's love of Teas and Hats. Ruth Boone donated the property to the City of San Ramon, and The Gift Shoppe reflects her passions. The Gift Shoppe profits are dedicated to the preservation of historic properties in the City of San Ramon

Sharing The Gift Shoppe building is the City's Welcome Center, where visitors can watch a video of Ruth Boone discussing her memories and her life in San Ramon. She arrived with her new husband Travis in 1929 and lived there until her death in 1998. There are also numerous vintage pictures of the valley around the room. In the back of the building are two restrooms with running water. Not too many people missed the outhouses!

City Council members, Carol Rowley and Scott Perkins, presided over the opening of the building with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The Foundation board was well represented with The Gift Shoppe committee members Pat Boone, Dall Barley, Mary Wohlers, and Sue Yura. Foundation President Jean Ohman was also in attendance although most of the time she was working with Dee Touhy at the Foundation's hot dog booth. Other members were among the group of well wishers who applauded as the ribbon was cut and the building was open to the public.

Also present was Kim Guiliano, who has had an office at Forest Home Farms and run its programs and

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## *Glass Family History Lecture*

The City of San Ramon recently sponsored a lecture on the history of the Glass family. Claudia Nemir talked about her Glass relatives and their long prominence in the San Ramon Valley. She brought along pictures and some delightful stories. She was wearing a ring that belonged to her grandmother who when not wearing it hung it from a cup hook under a table.

A few Glass relatives attended from Sacramento, including Rob Churchill, great great grandson of David Glass, who shared his memories. Curtis and Ingrid Wood arrived with a beautiful hand woven blanket made by Curt's grandmother, and a very old family bible.

Another evening highlight was a tour of the Glass House. Basic repairs and electrical work have been completed and the house is now ready for its final restoration.

There is still much work to do before the furniture will be put in place, including original pieces that Glass family members have donated. The San Ramon Historic Foundation has actively raised funds to help furnish the house. Also, the Dublin/San Ramon Women's Club has donated money to furnish one room.

### *Funds Well Spent*

Ever wonder where your membership dues and other donations to the Foundation go?

The Foundation supports the Education Program at FHF and gave a \$2000 grant to the farm for its third grade half day program which is available to every school in the district. It also purchased enough ponchos for a class to keep students dry as they tour the farm. To preserve the persimmons and other fruit and vegetables for the program, SRHF purchased a new freezer for the farm.

Recently, several pieces of furniture were identified that were perfect for the Glass House; the SRHF was able to provide the funds for that purchase. It also provided partial funding for the furniture plan which identifies appropriate pieces of furniture.

Dedicated funds from the sale of Glass Pieces and from special donations are targeted for future furniture purchases.

**Bridge** (from pg. 1) The seed planted that day has resulted in an agreement with the City for Shapell Homes to build the bridge bringing the two sides of the farm together. Some people are suggesting we call it the "True Bridge."

The bridge should be completed early next year when the David Glass House opens as a Historic House Museum. Visitors will be able to stroll across the bridge to explore both sides of the farm. So Chris, on behalf of the City and the Historic Foundation, we thank you and Shapell Homes so much for your very generous contribution of the bridge and for all the many things you do for this community.

**Gift Shoppe Opens** (from pg. 1) renovation "since the beginning." She still will have Forest Home Farms under her capable wing, but her office has been moved and her duties expanded. The Foundation will miss her daily presence.

Members of the community took docent led tours of the property. The 30 to 45 minute tour is a great way to learn more about the Farm and the Boones. The tractor barn was open to view the many completely restored tractors, and many children found the tractor rides the best part of the day. But the highlight of Sheep Shearing is always watching the clever border collies round up the sheep to be sheared.

### *Upcoming Events*

#### **Artists Day at Forest Home Farms**

Saturday July 26, 9:00am to 2:00pm  
(free to Foundation members)

#### **Ice Cream Social**

Friday July 18, 6:00pm to 8:00pm  
(free to Foundation members)

#### **Victorian Tea**

Sunday, September 28, 1:00pm to 4:00pm. \$35.00  
Registration begins June 15 – forms available at The Gift Shoppe or through the mail to those on mailing list.

### **San Ramon Historic Foundation**

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