



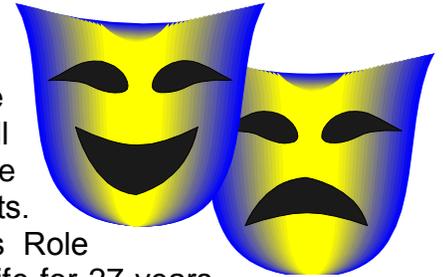
# The Sentinel

Newsletter of the San Ramon Historic Foundation

Spring 2012

## Tennessee Williams Visits Forest Home Farms

**About the same time Tennessee Williams was** beginning his long writing career, Ruth and Travis Boone were struggling to save Forest Home Farms, and in June, Tennessee Williams' short plays will be featured at Forest Home Farms in a special event celebrating the historic San Ramon Valley and one of America's greatest playwrights. The San Ramon Historic Foundation has partnered with Danville's Role Players Ensemble, a group that has been part of San Ramon Valley life for 27 years, to provide you with the opportunity to see three Tennessee Williams' short plays at various locations on the Farm.



The event will take place at 5:00pm on Saturday, June 23 and at 2:00pm on Sunday, June 24. Tickets for the event are \$50.00 and include all three plays, wine, hors d'oeuvres and dessert.

For more information call 925-820-1278 or contact [mail@danvilletheatre.com](mailto:mail@danvilletheatre.com) or [www.srhf.org](http://www.srhf.org)

Check inside for date and time of the 2012 Victorian Tea.

### 2012 San Ramon Arts and Wind Festival

Memorial Day weekend, Sunday and Monday from 10:00am to 5:00pm, is traditionally reserved by Tri-Valley residents for a visit over to Central Park to enjoy a number of children-friendly activities (some involving kites), to visit over 200 arts and craft booths and to watch entertainment throughout the day on three stages. A special treat is a kite flying demonstration that always amazes viewers

And what is a festival without a good hot dog stand! The Foundation fills that need for thousands of visitors as members sell them a great hot dog. Stop by, say "hi" and of course support our nonprofit.

### Music of the Night: Gems of the Stage from Mozart to Mama Mia!

The Foundation sponsored another artistic fundraiser in partnership with **Tapestry Vocal and Handbell Ensemble**, a talented group that performs throughout the bay area supporting a number of charities. The well attended event featured baskets of surprises, wine, savory bits and desserts.

The performance was Sunday, May 20, and in addition to proceeds from the \$25.00 admission, over \$500 was donated for the 5 beautiful baskets. The music was wonderful and a good time was had by all.

## SAN RAMON IS BORN

The history of San Ramon before 1850 is a history of land. The valley was part of Mission San Jose's grazing lands. In the 1833 Mexico's Secularization Act, missionaries were instructed to focus on spiritual issues only, and by 1836 the mission had given a number of land grants.<sup>1</sup> One grant was given to Jose Maria Amador; it encompassed old Dublin all the way to Crow Canyon Road and to the crest of the western edge and to the crest of the eastern edge of the valley and included Dougherty Valley. Rancho San Ramon was 4 leagues with each league equal to 7 square miles, approximate 19,600 acres but possibly up to 20,968 acres!<sup>2</sup> (Different sources quote different acreage.) The acreage that Amador sold in 1850 through 1852 greatly decreased the size of his rancho.

James W. Dougherty purchased 10,000 acres. Leo Norris purchased one league (4,400 acres) from Amador. The Norris property was in the northwest corner of the land grant, from before Bollinger Canyon to Crow Canyon Road. Samuel Russell bought 710 acres; part of that purchase became Forest Home Farms at a much later date.<sup>3</sup> Michael Murray purchased 1,000 acres in what is now Dublin; Jeremiah Fallon purchased 246 acres.<sup>4</sup>

It would seem that the ranches were now settled for a generation, but other ranchers wanted to settle in the beautiful valley. Joel and Minerva Harlan purchased over 2000 acres from Leo Norris. Their home El Nido was built on the old Mission Road north of the Russell (Boone) property. David Glass purchased 740 acres located between the Russell property and the Harlan property. The Glass family named the property Lora Nita Farm after their daughters.

In 1864, with the flatland already in private hands, the Weidemann family purchased 160 acres in the rolling hills, suitable for cattle grazing. The land was purchased under the Scrip Warrant Act of 1855. It was expanded with the purchase of 160 adjacent acres in 1875.

The picture of San Ramon in 1865 was one of a few large farms with family homes set acres apart along the road which much later became San Ramon Valley Road.

<sup>1</sup>Beverly Lane. Ranchos and Ranches, Museum of the San Ramon Valley <sup>2</sup>Richard Gorthy. The Wiedemanns: Early Pioneers to the San Ramon Valley. Copies at Forest Home Farms, local libraries and San Ramon Valley Museum. <sup>3</sup>Wikipedia. Rancho San Ramon (Amador) <sup>4</sup>www.dublinonline.com

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

This is your chance to work on a wonderful community event. **Holidays on the Farm** (December 1 and 8) volunteers are being sought by Jane Jennings as she works to put together all the many aspects to the two Saturday event:

1. Folks who want to serve on the committee to put the event together;
2. Someone who would like to specialize in publicity;
3. Someone to chair a Gingerbread House contest. We have some ideas but need help pulling it off!
4. Folks who can make stuffed toys. In the past we have had a small group who has pitched in and our Victorian Santa has given out several hundred toys each year. We'd like to expand the group that is doing this. We have patterns and some yarn and fabric, or you can create your own items.
5. Special vintage toys/games for loan to display in the Santa area. They would be carefully supervised and returned!
6. Stuffed bears! We are thinking about a special exhibit at the Glass House relating to bears (teddy and otherwise). Loaned and returned!
7. Gently used ornaments and small holiday decor for resale at the Gift Shoppe "Recycled Christmas" vendor booth.
8. We still have a few vendor spaces available. We are particularly seeking non-profit groups. We have sufficient jewelry vendors. Space is free.



For all of the above contact: Jane Jennings at [JayJaneJ2@aol.com](mailto:JayJaneJ2@aol.com)

ALSO:

9. Folks to serve on the committee to help with the Glass House holiday decorating;
10. Vintage ornaments to be donated to Forest Home Farms.

For these items contact: Joanne Ashmore at [Jo.Ashmore@comcast.net](mailto:Jo.Ashmore@comcast.net).

## FOUNDATION UPDATES

**Kiwanis Club donation** accepted by Paul Truschke, SRHF President, on May 24 at a breakfast at Round Hill Country Club. He accepted the donation of \$500.00 on behalf of the Foundation.

**Ice Cream Social** will be held on August 11, once again featuring free admission to the Farm and a scoop of ice cream along with old fashioned games and other special features.

**Shirley Ernest joins the Board.** Shirley is also a member of the Senior Advisory Committee where she adds her nursing expertise and an usher at the San Ramon theatres. And because of childhood memories of wonderful summers on the farm, she wanted to become part of the farm experience in San Ramon and make FHF a meaningful destination for generations of local children.

**Sheep Shearing Day** in April was sponsored by the Foundation. Everyone cheered the shedding of winter coats on an especially warm day, while enjoying activities such as tractor rides, face painting and crafts. Many took a few minutes to visit the Gift Shoppe and few can leave without a purchase or two. The day was a fun community event with the Foundation raising money to support the farm.

**San Ramon Historic Foundation Board**  
P.O. Box 1  
San Ramon, CA 94583  
[www.SRHF.org](http://www.SRHF.org)

**President:** Paul Truschke  
**Vice President:** Carol Rowley  
**Secretary:** Carol Lopez  
**Treasurer:** Mary Wohlers

**Board Members:**  
Dall Barley; Pat Boom; Shirley Ernest  
Dale Halterman; Donna Kerger; Jerry Warren

**Editor:** Sue Yura

**Newsletter for members.** To cut Foundation mailing costs, members are asked to provide their email addresses. Please email your email address to [customer\\_service@srhf.org](mailto:customer_service@srhf.org). If you do not have an email address please notify Dall at 925-735-7855. Mail distribution will be discontinued after the fall issue unless you have specifically requested a copy be sent to you. The newsletter is published on our website [www.srhf.org](http://www.srhf.org) after member distribution.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Victorian Tea

Sunday, Sept. 9, 2012

1 – 4pm

San Ramon Community Center

\$35/person



**San Ramon Historic Foundation**  
P.O. Box 1  
San Ramon, CA 94583

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPONSORED BY SRHF**

<b>Tapestry Joint Fund Raiser</b>	<b>May 20, Sunday, 7:00pm to 9:00pm</b>
<b>Art and Wind Festival</b>	<b>May 27 and May 28, 9:00am to 5:00pm Hot dog booth</b>
<b>Role Players Joint Fund Raiser</b>	<b>June 23, 5:00pm to 8:30pm June 24, 2:00pm to 5:30pm</b>
<b>Ice Cream Social</b>	<b>August 11, 10:00am to 2:00pm</b>
<b>Victorian Tea</b>	<b>September 9, 1:00pm to 4:00pm</b>
<b>Holidays on the Farm</b>	<b>December 1 and December 8, 10:00am to 2:00pm</b>

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