

# *Santee Historical Society*

## Historical Happenings

Volume 11, Issue 3

July, August, September 2019



### **Santee Historical Museum at the Barn**

9200 Magnolia

**Open every Tuesday  
from 10 to noon...**

and one Saturday of each month  
from 10 to 2 pm.

**Check our website for dates  
and come visit...**

**everyone is welcome!**



P.O.Box 710636, Santee 92072



[www.SanteeHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.SanteeHistoricalSociety.org)



Santee Historical Society



[TheSanteeHistoricalSociety@gmail.com](mailto:TheSanteeHistoricalSociety@gmail.com)



619.449.2024

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Alan Thompson, President  
Robin Neece, Vice-President  
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Eloise Dowd, Outreach & Events Coordinator

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At Large -  
Chuck Brack

## President's Message



*Alan Thompson*

Summer has arrived, according to the calendar, but since we live in Santee, how can we tell? We are blessed with the finest weather in the continental United States.

There was excitement June 15th in the newly expanded Elaine Murphy Native Garden and Outdoor Amphitheater as we hosted the first annual flag retirement ceremony. American Legion Post #364 was the lead organization headed by new Post Commander, Robyn Nolin. Also participating were the Mission Trails Girl Scouts, Boy Scout Caleb Weedin playing the National Anthem, and Santana Band member Daniel Frahn playing Taps. Two local dignitaries, City Council Member Laura Koval and California State Assemblyman Randy Voepel were in attendance. This was a great event which will be repeated annually around Flag Day.

Thanks to the outstanding effort of Eloise Dowd, we will have two special events after July. On August 17th the Santee Historical Society welcomes local author Reena Deutsch to discuss her book, *San Diego and Arizona Railroad: The Impossible Railway*, on the 100th anniversary of its completion... there is a reason the street behind Sonic Restaurant is called Railroad Avenue. If past author presentations are an indication of the local enthusiasm, you had better make your reservation to attend. The Impossible Railroad centennial exhibit is on display in the barn thru August 17th.

September 21st will be the return of the Santee Fire Department Safety event with plenty of activities for the young and young at heart. This will be a chance to see local fire equipment up close and an opportunity to talk with local first responders. This is a big hit with the kids.

Summertime is the time for families to explore the Barn and its gardens as most children and grandchildren are out of school. Stop by and see the new additions to our displays as we strive to diversify our holdings. You will be amazed by the mechanical milking machine from the 1870's.

*Alan*

## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS



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**SANTEE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
 9625 Cuyamaca Street  
 Santee, CA 92071  
 619-258-2300  
 www.santeesd.net

## Upcoming Events

### July 2019

Museum Open ..... Tues 2 ..... 10-12  
 Museum Open ..... Tues 9 ..... 10-12  
 Museum Open ..... Tues 16 ..... 10-12  
 Museum Open ..... Sat 20 ..... 10-2  
 Museum Open ..... Tues 23 ..... 10-12  
 Museum Open ..... Tues 30 ..... 10-12

### August 2019

Museum Open ..... Tues 6 ..... 10-12  
 Museum Open ..... Tues 13 ..... 10-12  
**Speaker, Impossible Railroad**  
 ..... Sat 17 .... 10-1:30  
 Museum Open ..... Tues 20 ..... 10-12  
 Museum Open ..... Tues 27 ..... 10-12

### September 2019

Museum Open ..... Tues 3 ..... 10-12  
 Museum Open ..... Tues 10 ..... 10-12  
 Museum Open ..... Tues 17 ..... 10-12  
**Fire & Safety Fair** ..... Sat 21 .... 10-1:30  
 Museum Open ..... Tues 24 ..... 10-12

### October 2019

Museum Open ..... Tues 1 ..... 10-12  
 Museum Open ..... Tues 8 ..... 10-12  
 Museum Open ..... Tues 15 ..... 10-12  
**Halloween Guest Speaker TBA**  
 ..... Sat 19 ..... 10-2  
 Museum Open ..... Tues 22 ..... 10-12  
 Museum Open ..... Tues 29 ..... 10-12



# We Need You!

**The Santee Historical Society has lots of exciting projects in the works for 2019... and we would love your help!**

**We are currently seeking volunteers to help with:**

- Event staffing
- Collecting Oral Histories
- Assisting with historic site research
- Writing genealogies of historic families
- Archiving
- Transcribing and data entry
- Staffing the museum during open hours
- Assisting with curating displays

**We can match up our needs to your special interests.**

**Please volunteer some time...**

Get in touch with us at [thesanteehistoricalvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:thesanteehistoricalvolunteers@gmail.com)

or leave a message at

**619-449-2024**

## Meet Our Volunteer **Gracie L. Lancaster**

Gracie moved to Santee in 1997 from a small town in Riverside County. Since 2013 she has been fulfilling a long time passion for volunteering for San Diego County and loves it. Her career is in Audits, but her most rewarding job/privilege has been raising two incredible daughters.

Unfortunately her oldest daughter witnessed the Santana High School shooting. She now works for the Riverside County DA. Her youngest daughter, also a graduate of Santana High, later received a full scholarship to Santee Christian college and presently works at Chick fil-A.

She loves the small town atmosphere of Santee, inhabited by a warm and welcoming community. She considers it an honor to work with the Santee Historical Museum.

*"Wear gratitude like a cloak and it will feed every corner of your life." ~ Rumi*





# San Diego River Days

Saturday, May 18, 2019

Thanks to all who came out to plant a butterfly-attracting garden,  
and thank you to our partners who helped create such a fun, educational day...  
The Zen of Monarch Butterflies, Project Wildlife, Santee Storm Water Program,  
Solana Center, and Non-Toxic San Diego.



*Photos courtesy of  
Lynda Marrokal*





# Flag Retirement Ceremony

Saturday, June 15, 2019

On June 15th, the Elaine Murphy memorial garden was filled with attendees as Santee Historical Society hosted its first Flag Retirement Ceremony. Thank you to American Legion Post 364, who did an outstanding job leading the ceremony, with assistance from Santee Girl Scouts, Caleb Weedon, and Daniel Frahn. Thanks to Mary's Donuts and Starbucks for donating refreshments, and Lynda Marrokal for such wonderful photos. We look forward to making this an annual event.



Photos courtesy of Lynda Marrokal



# Recent Acquisitions

We recently received some wonderful vintage pieces donated by Marla Waldie, Cindy Covarrubias and Tana Neubauer, in honor of their parents Thomas and Mary Purdum



Vintage Pie Cabinet  
with zinc top



Cast iron Parlor Stove with  
isinglass, circa 1890's

Peddle powered  
Velocipede Wood Shaver  
patented March 1870  
by John Barnes



Foot powered Mehring  
Milking Machine,  
circa 1890's



In June, the Santee Seniors 55+ group toured the barn. Led by historian Rita Lee, they viewed the displays, discussed the history of Santee, and the fascinating story of the Edgemoor property.



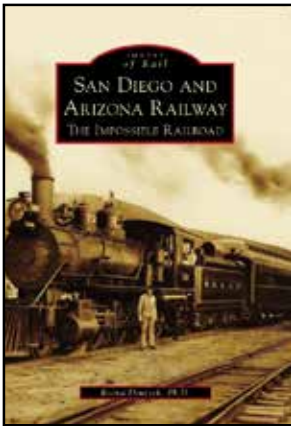
# Join us for a presentation on **THE IMPOSSIBLE RAILROAD**

by Reena Deutsch

**Saturday August 17th, 2019 - 11 am**

**2019 is the 100th anniversary of the completion of  
John Spreckels' San Diego & Arizona Railway construction**

The railroad, often dubbed the "Impossible Railroad" because of the challenges to build the route through brutal and hostile mountainous terrain, had a branch line through Santee and was the last link in the southern transcontinental rail network.



- Photo courtesy of San Diego & Arizona Railway Collection, Southwest Railway Library, Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association

The Impossible Railroad centennial exhibit is on display in the barn thru August 17th. Exhibit created and on loan from Pacific Southwest Railway Museum.



RSVP encouraged at [thesanteehistoricalvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:thesanteehistoricalvolunteers@gmail.com)

For more information, go to <http://www.facebook.com/thesanteehistoricalsociety>



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want to see yourself in print?**

***Become a Contributor  
and Write for Us!***

**We'd love to publish your ideas  
and stories relating to Santee's past.**

Call us at (619) 449-2024

or email us at

[info@SanteeHistoricalSociety.com](mailto:info@SanteeHistoricalSociety.com)

and let's talk!



## *Santee Historical Society*



PO Box 710636  
Santee, CA 92072

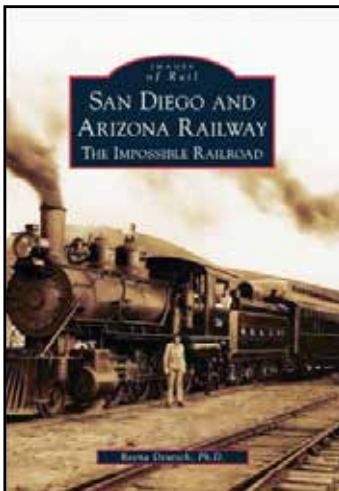
Alan Thompson, President  
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Arli Wolfson, Secretary  
Gary Strawn, Treasurer  
Carol Crafts, Past President  
Robin Neece, Sunshine Committee

*Printing courtesy of Bob Newton  
of Town & Country Printers*

# *Join us for a presentation of* **The Impossible Railroad** by Reena Deutsch

**Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**11 am**

Read the full story on  
this interesting presentation  
on Page 7



RSVP encouraged at [thesanteehistoricalvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:thesanteehistoricalvolunteers@gmail.com)  
For more information, go to <http://www.facebook.com/thesanteehistoricalsociety>

*Watch for info on our September 21<sup>st</sup> event...*  
**Fire & Safety Fair**