



# MOORPARK MEMORIES

Summer 2015

Moorpark, Ventura County, California

## President's Message

The end of summer is quickly approaching. As a local rancher of lemons and avocados, my harvesting for the year is mostly over for the season. The fruit on my trees has been picked and has been hauled to the packing house. If it is not already on its way to market, it soon will be, to places around the state, country and the globe. So goes the business of summer for the fruit industry in Ventura County and California as a whole.

As the president of the Moorpark Historical Society, this time of year makes me recall the stories of the harvest, which my grandfather, Paul Leavens Sr. told me as a boy. This time of year a hundred years ago would have meant that the apricots would have already been harvested and packed in large sacks.

The harvesting, pitting, drying, sulfuring, packing, storing and shipping of apricots was a huge annual endeavor for both the growers and townspeople of Moorpark. A tremendous amount of time and labor was needed to come together quickly to ensure that the fruit was harvested when ripe and then processed, so it could be shipped to market in prime condition.

By the end of the summer and early fall the sacks of dried fruit would be waiting in warehouses around the area, near the railroad depots, where they could then be shipped around the country, or even later by ship to counties around the world.

Del Monte Company was one of the largest buyers and shippers of apricots in the county, state and country. My great grandfather, Joe Leavens, as the Ventura County representative for Del Monte Company, would have been talking with the local growers all year long and making house calls to the ranches to check up on the crop and assess the progress of the season. Growers by now would be anxiously waiting for their checks from the company so they could pay off the bills from the past year and be ready for the next season.

Thinking about the next season and preparing for the fall are long held traditions, so too is the historical society thinking of the fall and preparing for traditions. In our case today the society is looking forward to Moorpark Country Days this October. The society is most fortunate this year in being named by the Moorpark Chamber of Commerce as the Grand Marshall of the annual Country Days Parade.

All of us in the Moorpark Historical Society look forward to seeing and visiting with the citizens of Moorpark at Country Days. If you're not a member, please consider joining our organization, so we can all work together in preserving and remembering our past, for future generations to come in Moorpark.

*David Schwabauer, President*



## Serving Moorpark for over 35 Years!

The Moorpark Historical Society, a non-profit organization, was founded in 1979 and our main focus has been to keep the history of our city alive via our walking tours, yearly membership meetings, high school scholarships, and partnerships with Moorpark schools. We are currently working to archive the Society's historical photos, ephemera, and memorabilia. We are also reaching out to others in the community who are willing to donate, loan, or allow us to reproduce and catalog their historically significant photos and objects from our city's past. One of our greatest challenges has been finding a suitable building to house our collection and also serve as a historical museum for the community.

We welcome the participation and support of the community in our endeavor to keep the history of Moorpark alive!

## Walking Tour of Historic Moorpark



Our Walking Tour of Historic Moorpark on June 20 was quite a success! Thanks to all those who came out and a special thank you to Doy and Helen Lanis and the Moorpark Southern Baptist Church for opening their doors and allowing us a peek inside this **121 year old structure!**

**Next Walking Tour: October 17 @ 10:00 AM– Meet in the parking lot of the Moorpark Chamber of Commerce**

## Moorpark Historical Society Scholarships

Each year the Historical Society takes great pride in supporting our local youth by providing scholarships to high school seniors in Moorpark. This year's recipients were:

### Moorpark Historical Society Scholarship

- \$1,000– Raul Huerta

### Dr. Everett Braun Memorial Scholarship

- \$1,000– Dylan Medlock

### Vernice Miller Memorial Scholarship

- \$1,000– Kayley Kryskowiak

### Charles Schwabauer Memorial Scholarship

- \$1,500– Megan Gratke

**Congratulations Class of 2015!**

### 14 Carat Cake

2 cups flour	1 ½ cups vegetable oil
2 tsp. baking powder	2 cups grated carrots
1 ½ tsp. baking soda	4 eggs
1 tsp. salt	8 oz. can (drained) crushed pineapple
1TBS. cinnamon	½ cup chopped nuts
2 cups sugar	



Sift together the first 5 items. Next, add the sugar, oil, and eggs. Last, add the pineapple, carrots, and nuts. Pour into a greased 9 X 13 pan and bake at 350 degrees for 35-40 minutes. Cool a bit and frost.

### Cream Cheese Frosting

1 cube butter or margarine	1 tsp. vanilla extract
8 oz. cream cheese (soft)	1 one pound box of powdered sugar

Mix first 3 ingredients together. Beat in powdered sugar.

~ Irene Gianettoni

From *Drill Pickles and Drum Rolls*, published by the Moorpark Union High School Drill Team, 1976.

## Calendar of Events

### September 9

- Public Meeting, 6:00-6:30 PM (location TBD– Please check our website or Facebook page for details)

### October 3

- Country Days Parade– Downtown Moorpark

### October 17

- **Walking Tour of Historic Moorpark**– Meet at 10:00 AM in the parking lot of the Moorpark Chamber of Commerce

## Recent Acquisitions

A special thanks to Mark Trevor and Edna Burow Binns for making the trek by train from Los Angeles and bringing with them photographs and memorabilia from Moorpark's past to share with the Society! Please contact us on our website if **you** would also like to share your historic items from Moorpark's past. You may even be featured in our newsletter!



Join us at  
**Moorpark Country Days** where  
**The Moorpark Historical Society**  
Will be honored by serving as the  
**Grand Marshall of the Parade!**  
**October 3, 2015**



## **Moorpark Historical Society**

**Post Office Box 662**

**Moorpark, CA 93020**

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

### **Motto:**

“Preserving the Past for the Future”

### Board of Directors

David Schwabauer	President
Linda Plaks	Vice-Pres.
Diana Gould	Treasurer
Mike Winters	Historian
Patti Reuter	Secretary
Chris Childers	Director at Large
Gwyn Goodman	Director at Large

### Membership

Please complete and mail in the attached membership form to join or ensure your membership is up to date!

### Donations

We are working to preserve photographs, ephemera, and historical memorabilia that relate to the history of Moorpark, Epworth, and Fremontville. Donations are always welcome and we provide a mobile scanning service for those who would like us to come out to obtain copies from their collection.

**Contact us** on our website if you have a donation or if you would like us to scan your historic Moorpark items!

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Moorpark Historical Society  
P.O. Box 662  
Moorpark, CA 93020

MEMORIES  
MOORPARK



### Headlines from 100 Years Ago

#### **Pacific Rural Press, 15 May 1915**

Moorpark growers have organized a co-operative association, a branch of the California Walnut Growers' Association. The capital stock of the new association is \$5,000, and the directors in charge are: Wm. Bauer, W. S. Dunshee, J. C. Thompson, Jno. Laughlin, D. S. Hendry, J. M. Cornett, and S. L. Gisler, all of Moorpark.

#### **Oxnard Courier, 23 July 1915**

Right of way for the Creek road from Moorpark to Simi has been promised by R.B. Strathearn to the Moorpark chamber of commerce provided the road is of as good construction as any other county road, and that he is put to no further expenses of fencing. M.L. Wicks, M.A. Kennedy and M.W.P Wright were appointed a committee to put the matter before the county supervisors.

### Annual Membership Meeting

This year's annual meeting was held on February 8 at Lemmo's Grill. After the business portion of the meeting, the group was entertained by Ms. Katie Eich, teacher at Campus Canyon School, and one of her students, who presented a DVD her class created entitled *Great Moments in Moorpark History*. As part of her middle school enrichment class, students worked to create a short movie about a topic of significance to Moorpark's history. Topics chosen by students included agriculture and the railroad. After researching their topic, students went to Moorpark College and worked with college students to produce their movies. Overall, it was a fun-filled and informative meeting!