



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers



CHARLES EMERSON HOAR'S HOME ON THE HUMMINGBIRD

Charles Emerson Hoar settled on the Hummingbird's Nest Ranch in 1872 or 1873. He was Simi's first gentleman farmer and probably the first college graduate to live in the Valley.

I recently had the privilege of examining Mr. Hoar's home on the Hummingbird. It was a very modest two-room wood frame structure to which a good-sized living room with a fireplace had been added at a later date. Rough cut 2" x 6" floor joists appear to have been placed directly on the ground - a common method of construction in pre-termite times. The wood flooring was attached to the joists with square nails. The wall studs were 2" x 3" rough cut wood that were ripped from the 2" x 6" lumber.

On a rock outcropping adjacent to the home someone carved the initials "C E 1909." Since Mr. Hoar died in 1912 and often signed his letters "C E" for "Charles Emerson," it is quite likely that he carved the initials and date. Nearing the end of his life on the Hummingbird, Mr. Hoar may have felt compelled to leave some indication on the Hummingbird

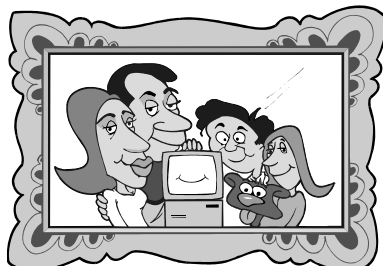
Cont. on page 2 Col. 1



**Happy New Year
to one & all**

RSTB CLUB MEETING

The monthly club meeting will be held at the Community Center
In the B-1 Room
1692 Sycamore Drive
At 7:00 PM
On
Wednesday, January 17th.



WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Colleen Clark

DECEMBER TRAIL WORK PARTY

Five trail workers drove to Oak Park to work on the China Flat Trail for the December Trail Work Party. The day was clear and mild. We lopped brush to widen the trail path, removed a huge Laurel Sumac stump that was sprouting in the center of the trail, added rocks to 2 small gully crossings and widened a dangerously narrow section of the upper trail. We worked from 8:00 AM-12:00 PM. Many thanks to the following workers:

Arlene Altshuler, Martin DeGoey, John Downey, Mike Kuhn, John Sabol

An unfortunate surprise awaited us when we returned to our cars. All 5 of us received parking tickets for parking in the bike lane on Lindero Canyon. For those unfamiliar with the trail history, the original China Flat trailhead is located at the end of King James Court, a short cul-de-sac off of Lindero Canyon. As the trail became more popular, homeowners complained of litter and

Cont. on page 2 Col. 3

that he had passed this way. In a sense, all graffiti is so motivated.

Mr. Hoar placed his home outside of the very large area rendered perpetually damp from spring flow. His home is immediately next to the site of the Pucillo Adobe - now reduced to an area of "adobe melt." Juan Pucillo and his mother had lived on the Hummingbird before the coming of Mr. Hoar and remained to work the land. Many of Mr. Hoar's plantings are still present, including the largest blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) in Simi Valley. A relict olive grove may predate Mr. Hoar's occupation.

In any case, Charles E. Hoar is not just an historical figure in Simi Valley. There is physical evidence that he passed this way.

THE BEST WILDFLOWER BOOK

If you've ever been on a Trail Blazer hike, you were probably exposed to the names of innumerable native and exotic plants. Learning our local flora is a matter of repetition. If you would like to know more and have an aide for self learning, the best wildflower book for our area is Milt McAuley's *Wildflowers of the Santa Monica Mountains*. The 496 color photos of flowers are arranged by the color of the flowers. Even I can find a flower that way. The book is 566 pages in length, comes only in paperback, and costs \$19.95. It can be purchased at the National Park Headquarters in Thousand Oaks and makes a great gift.

Mike Kuhn

Mike Kuhn

ANOTHER ROCK ART SITE

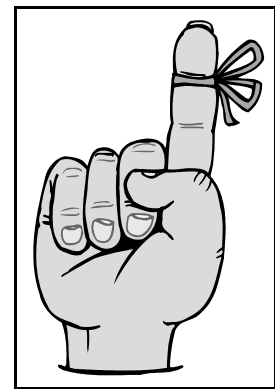
I received an E-mail some weeks ago from Gary Valle, an avid runner, rock climber and kayaker who lives in the San Fernando Valley. Gary had visited the Trail Blazer's website and was interested in discussing a possible Chumash rock art site he had found. Interestingly, the site that he described is involved with Winter Solstice sunrise alignments from four possible Chumash shrines in the Simi Valley area. Visiting that very location was on my list of things to do someday - who knew when. Without Gary's prodding, I probably would never have gotten there. The steepness of the rock combined with my fear of heights would have kept me in the "Gee, I wonder if there is anything up there" frame of mind for the next 20 years until even greater mental and physical infirmities set in. I certainly would not have attempted the climb by myself.

Well, off we went - climbing paraphernalia in tow. Gary, of course, simple walks up the rock. After doing it, all the rope stuff seemed kind of silly, but then, there wasn't a new widow back at my home.

early morning noise. As a result, about 18 months ago the Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District created another trailhead just east of King James Court. A sign was posted at the original trailhead requesting hikers/bikers to use the new trailhead. We have been, along with many others, parking on Lindero Canyon since that time, but no more. **DO NOT PARK IN THE BIKE LANE - YOU WILL BE TICKETED!**

The next work party will be held January 20, 2001, on the Wildlife Corridor and Lower Stagecoach Trails. We will meet in the parking lot of Corriganville Park at 8:00 AM and work to 12:00 PM. Hope to see you there.

Work Parties Chair
John Sabol



ALL RSTB MEMBERS

Check your mailing label on your RSTB Newsletter for **renewing** your **Yearly Membership**. Renewal Month and Year is found after your name on the Newsletter Address Label

I've gone on a lot of wild goose chances in my day, but this didn't prove to be one of them. Right smack dab on top of the rock is what appears to be the genuine article. The rock surface was prepared with a dark wash that appears to have been poured on the surface. Dark surface applications prior to applying rock art were widely practiced. The clear evidence that a black medium was applied in a liquid state seems to shed some new light on the practice. A red pigment figure with three straight elements extending perpendicular to the axis of the figure resembles other figures at least two rock art sites that I have visited that may have been used by shaman as dream quest sitting places to gain access to the spiritual world through the North Star. The ribbed figure is symbolic of the shaman's spirit rising to the upper world. One other ribbed figure is located in a cave about two miles from the Gary Valle' site. Another is in "Painted Cave" along Painted Cave Road above Santa Barbara. Painted cave can be visited by the public and is located right next to the road in our smallest State Park. All of this being said, the figure does resemble an ant.

The red figure is expose directly to rain, wind and sunlight. However, there are other rock art sites with traditional red pigments that are exposed to the elements and that may be thousands of years old.

There are some recent embellishments in white paint around the

figure. Fortunately, no damage has been done to the figure. There is an orange half sized depression a few feet southeast of the figure that seems to contain red pigment residue and may have been where the pigment was prepared.

What is certain about this site is that the black wash was applied first. Later, the red figure was executed. That figure appears to be quite old, consists of traditional red mineral pigment, and contains an element, i.e., the red bars, of which vandals would not have any knowledge.

All in all, it was a good day.



SUGAR BUSH

Sugar Bush (*Rhus ovata*) is a member of the Sumac Family and is closely related to Lemonade Berry and Laurel Sumac. (Poison Oak is also in the Sumac Family.) It is an evergreen shrub with glossy, green leaves which are folded along the midrib and pointed at the tip. Many, but not all of the leaves, are serrated along the margins. The leaves are somewhat more leathery and a lighter green than those of Laurel Sumac. Sugar Bush readily hybridizes with Lemonade Berry. Sugar bush is common on dry slopes in the Coastal Sage Scrub and in the Chaparral.



Happy Camp Hike

(Left to right) Carol Tucker, Arlene Altshuler, Champ, Jim Vandenberg, John Downey, Margarita Marsh, Mary Frisbey, John Sabol & Tom Frye.

		<h1>JANUARY</h1>					
		2001					
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1	2	3	4 Chumash Trail Hike, meet at 6 PM Read Schedule Happy Birthday Lyman Hays	5	6 La Jolla Valley Hike Meet at 8 AM Read Schedule	
7 Rocky Peak Trail Hike Meet at 4pm See schedule	8	9 Happy Birthday Roxanne McCarthy	10	11 Chumash Trail Hike, meet at 6 PM Read Schedule	12	13 Latigo Canyon to Castro Peak Meet at 8 am Read schedule	
14 Rocky Peak Trail Hike Meet at 4pm See schedule Happy Birthday Jason Franklin	15	16 Happy Birthday Ursula Christie & Robert Blomquist	17 RSTB Club Monthly Meeting See Page 1	18 Chumash Trail Hike, meet at 6 PM Read Schedule	19 Happy Birthday Mary Falkenstein	20 Stagecoach Trail - Corrganville Work Party See schedule Happy Birthday Phil Ferrall	
21 Rocky Peak Trail Hike Meet at 4pm See schedule	22	23 Happy Birthday Paula Wedgeworth	24 Happy Birthday Moon Gorsdorff	25 Chumash Trail Hike, meet at 6 PM Read Schedule Happy Birthday Rob Estrada	26 Happy Birthday Evelyn Bandel	27 Romero Canyon, Loop Hike Meet at 8am See schedule	
28 Rocky Peak Trail Hike Meet at 4pm See schedule Happy Birthday Sue Means	29	30	31				

RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

EXECUTIVE CHAIR:	MIKE KUHN	HM (805) 583-2345 WK (805)583-6776
TREASURER:	BILL FUNK	HM (805) 527-9339
PARK DISTRICT LIAISON:	COLLEEN JANSSEN	OFFICE (805) 584-4400
WORK PARTIES CHAIR:	JOHN SABOL	HM (805) 583-2541
WORK PARTIES VICE CHAIR:	BOB ALTIERI	HM (805) 526-6749
HIKING CHAIR:	ARLENE ALTSHULER	HM (805) 581-9735
WAYS & MEANS CHAIR:	MARTY RICHARDS	HM (805) 526-4414
WAYS & MEANS VICE CHAIR:	CONNIE ANKROM	HM (805)526-2747
OUTDOOR EDUCATION CHAIR:	JIM RILEY	HM (805) 522-4268
COMMUNICATION / PUB.CHAIR:	BYERS (JOHN) DOWNEY	HM (805) 526-8588

-----cut out and return with your payment-----

MEMBERSHIP

Please enroll me as a New () or Renewing () member of the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers for the annual donation fee of:

Single.....\$10 Family..... \$15

Name(s) _____ Address _____
 _____ Birth Mo. _____ Day _____ Phone wk/hm _____

How did you find out about the RSTB _____

Please make out tax deductible member dues check for the year Sept.-2000/Sept.-2001 to:

“Rancho Simi Foundation” mail it to “RSTB, P.O. Box 630399, Simi Valley, Ca 93063-0399

Please list any extra names and birthdays of more than one member (Day & Month Only)

Check out our Web Site at ...<http://rstb.homestead.com>



RSTB
P.O. Box 630399
Simi Valley, CA 93063-0399
805 584-4400

 U.S. Postage
