**Letter from the Editor**

*Dear Hart of the Matter reader, and true Friend of Hart Park,*

*I was thinking recently about the riches our valley has to offer.... We live in one of the safest large cities in the U.S... Santa Clarita is a great place to “live, work & shop”, as highway sign used to say about Bakersfield (or was that “Sun, fun, play, stay?”) We have lots of local history here (first gold discovered in California, first producing oil industry, so much more).*

*And, at the top of a hill, a gem that is William S. Hart's home. Bill Hart was, as all of you know, a famous movie actor, but what you may not know is that his prior stage career lasted long than his film career. And, did you know, he started his film career at age 49! (It's never too late, huh?)*

*Now, folks call his hilltop home his “retirement home”, but I don't think that's right. When his film career ended, he just changed careers again – at age 60 – and became a writer! And that got me to thinking.... not only has the legacy of Bill's film career continued to all the productions shot here today, but his writing career can be seen as the start of another treasure of this valley – our local writers!*

*Folks may not realize all the informative and entertaining books written by our neighbors here! So, this issue of Hart of the Matter attempts to correct this, but introducing you to just a few of our local authors.*

*Many of the authors' books – besides being available at your usual on-line store – may be purchased at the Trading Post gift shop in our own Hart Park... and signed copies too! So, if you want to give a nice holiday gift this year, consider “popping by the park”, and doing a little holiday shopping in our gift store! It benefits the park, its animals and that “house up on the hill” of local author (oh yeah, and stage & film actor), William S. Hart!*

*So, with no further ado, let's meet our local authors!*