Silents Under the Stars

by Bill Blowers

The 2017 edition of Silents Under The Stars was a magical, fun, grand time for 230 delighted guests. Once again, this starlight evening, which has become the highlight event of FOHP’s calendar year, lived up to its billing and more. Entertainment, provided by the Saguaro Sisters with Will Ryan, is still being talked about!

The William S. Hart movie *Wagon Tracks* was not only the best quality film yet seen at an Evening Under The Stars event, but it also showcased Bill Hart’s dramatic acting ability. It also co-starred Hart's real-life sweetheart, Jane Novak.

And of course, what would the evening be without Ray Lowe’s musical accompaniment, marvelous as always with his original scores? Ray’s musical ability to make these silent classics come to life is considered so important that the evening was moved from its usual spot in the middle of August to July 29th to accommodate his schedule.

Highlights of the evening included an address by L. A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger and a presentation to long-term park manager Norm Phillips for his years of service and his close cooperation with FOHP. Also making a surprise appearance was actor Johnny Crawford, TV's Mark McCain from The Rifleman!

Sherron Blowers and her amazing committee are to be congratulated on the effort, planning, long hours, and frustration that go into the production of the evening. Without the talent, contacts, experience, dedication and persistence of five very committed people, the event most likely would not even exist. Planning began back in April, and the quality of the evening reflected the effort.

There are many ways to evaluate the success of an event. No matter how it is measured, every metric that can be applied to the evening of July 29 will register at or near 12 on a scale of one to ten.

And to put a cherry on top of the fun and enjoyment, proceeds from Silent Auction bidding and ticket sales exceeded last years record total, all of which will go toward the continuing maintenance and improvements at Hart Park.