**Silents Under the Stars**

Another great evening under the stars is just around the corner! Mark your calendars, buy those tickets, and start anticipating one of *Friends of Hart Park’s* major events, ***Silents Under the Stars***. The date is Saturday, July 29th. Doors open at 6 PM when guests can sign in, select a favorite table, and take advantage of another value-packed silent auction. Vans will be available for those wishing to visit Bill Hart’s mansion up the hill, a must tour for anyone desiring to see how one of Hollywood’s most successful silent movie stars created his own authentic western paradise. Entertainment will be hosted by our own duo, Bill West and E.J. Stevens, whose humorous antics always delight and inform.

The Saguaro Sisters with Will Ryan will provide musical entertainment. Dinner, always delicious, is catered by Rattlers BBQ, followed by delicious deserts from *Nothing Bundt Cakes*. And the highlight of the evening, the purpose of the entire gathering, is another exciting silent movie. The evenings offering is ***Wagon Train***, Bill Hart’s silver screen story of the Santa Fe Trail, starring Bill and his one time sweetheart, Jane Novak. As always, the movie will be accompanied by the amazing Ray Lowe at the keyboard, recreating the experience of a silent movie that our grandparents might have seen nearly one hundred years ago.

***Silents Under The Stars*** is one of *FOHPs* major fund-raisers. The proceeds from the evening, mostly raised through silent auction bidding, are used to support the park in its quest to keep the memories of our western heritage alive. Tremendous effort is expended to gather items that will be attractive to guests. Available for bidding will be dinners at area restaurants, tickets to amusement parks, beautiful western art, tickets to sporting events, unique items of western culture, and on and on. Last year, over 90 items were available. Hundreds of hours of effort go into the gathering and preparation of auction items; please be generous in your bidding.

***Wagon Tracks*** is based on a story originally developed by Hart. Telling of the Santa Fe Trail from Missouri to New Mexico, it was filmed in three locations: the Mojave Desert, Victorville and Sacramento. In the film, Hart plays a trail boss whose brother is killed. Over the course of a journey along the Santa Fe Trail, Hart narrows down the suspect and in a singularly brutal way exacts a confession. It is quite a movie and one of Hart’s best performances, especially the scene where he discovers his brother is dead. This film and the one that followed, ***John Petticoats***, represented several turning points in Hart’s life. He was involved in discussions with four major stars planning the formation of United Artists (he dropped out of the negotiations). These were the last two films he made with long-time Collaborator Thomas Ince. It was also during the production of these two films that he met his future wife, Winifred Westover.

The Saguaro Sisters, Shona, Katrona and Karona, are known for their performance of Western Skiffle Jazz with the Official Singing Cowboy Band of Hollywood—Will Ryan and the Cactus County Cowboys. The sisters were the featured act for the Cicada Club’s Mother’s day show in 2015 and 2016, are regular performers at the Autry Museum, and at Bob Stane’s Coffee Gallery Backstage. Additionally they have sung at the Orpheum Theater, the Los Angeles Arboretum and the Levitt Pavilion in Pasadena. William Z. "Will" Ryan is an American voice actor, singer, musician and comedian, probably best known for his voice work in the Christian radio drama ***Adventures in Odyssey*** and ***Adventures of Teddy Ruxpin***.

If you’ve attended *“Silents”* the last few years you already know you can be assured of a great evening under Santa Clarita’s evening sky. If you haven’t been before, but are a fan of western history, and if helping to preserve this cherished part of our western heritage appeals to you, pick up that phone, or hop on the Internet and order tickets. Fifty dollars a ticket is less than you might pay for the dinner alone!

There is limited seating for this event and ticket sales are already moving at a brisk pace. **To order, call 661-222-9542, or go to www.friendsofhartpark.org/silents. Tickets are $50 each. On line payment is handled by Pay Pal.**