SILENTS Under the Stars 2019

Once again the Santa Clarita Valley came out to support the Friends of Hart Park for their largest fundraiser of the year, SILENTS Under the Stars.  There were over 200 people in attendance that enjoyed a great BBQ dinner catered by Rattler's Bar B Que, delectable desserts by Nothing Bundt Cakes, and live music by The Grateful Dudes bluegrass band.  Guests got to start the evening by taking a tour of the Hart Mansion as they were shuttled to the top of the hill that overlooks our beautiful valley.

The FOHP board was worried that they wouldn't be able to hold the SILENTS event this year with the announcement of Sherron Blowers retirement, and preparing to move to Nevada with her husband Bill.  Luckily when Laurene Weste, current board president, asked who could become the chairperson in putting on the annual event, Nancy Gallardo, one of the newest members of the FOHP board, raised her hand.  She had some big shoes to fill of her predecessor who had done it the last ten years.  The event was very successful, and everyone really enjoyed the evening.

There was a special ceremony where Sherron Blowers, long time FOHP Board Member, was presented with a plaque including a replica of William S. Hart's branding iron.  It was very unexpected, and she was very touched by the recognition of her many years of service and hard work of putting on SILENTS in past years.

The silent auction was triumphant in aiding towards the fundraising efforts by featuring 97 items ranging from original art work by local SCV artists, gift baskets and gift cards donated by local businesses, and "not available to the public" special tours and movie night at Hart Mansion and Hart Park.  We were able to raise almost $8,500 through the generosity of the attendees.  These funds go towards the maintenance of the grounds, care and feeding of the barnyard animals, and improvements to Hart Hall and the park.  The board is really striving to make Hart Park a major event destination, while educating people about it's rich history.

All this rich history includes that of William S. Hart, and the legacy that he left behind for all of us to enjoy.  The main event of the evening featured the silent movie "Square Deal Sanderson" that Hart starred in, and was also celebrating the 100th anniversary of the film.  Unfortunately, through the years, these films become deteriorated.  Board member, Bill West, painstakingly recreated 162 slide images of the original narration of the film that were so blurry, they were illegible.  Ray Lowe, who provided the live accompaniment for the film, also aided in the editing the film to incorporate those slides.  We appreciate their attention to detail, and providing the exceptional presentation of the film.  We hope to have DVD copies of the restored film available to the public.

The Friends of Hart Park once again thank all that attended, and their generous support.  We look forward to seeing everyone again in 2020!

Article by - Nancy Gallardo - SILENTS Under the Stars, chairperson and FOHP Board Member