Legend’s of Hart Park: Frank Matthews

by Tim Murphy, director

Frank Matthews was a retired Lockheed engineer when he moved to the Santa Clarita Valley in 1982. He and his wife got involved at William S. Hart Park by becoming docents and giving tours of the Hart Museum. Frank was also passionate about art. He created the Friends Of Hart Park “Two-Gun Bill” logo, contributed his wonderful drawings to the newsletters, designed membership forms, award certificates, event invitations, and many flyers to promote the Park and Museum.

In 1987, he even made some Directory signs for the park, to show visitors where everything was located. He cut-out shapes to represent the places or things found throughout the park, and attached them to a beautifully painted map. When installing them, a group of children gathered, pointing at the shapes to identify the animals, buildings and objects in the park. To Frank, that made all the hours of work on his back patio worthwhile.

Frank was a founder, lifetime honorary member, devoted docent and board director of Friends Of Hart Park. He passed away in 1997, at the age of 77.

I never knew Frank Matthews, but once I was aware of the many things he had done, I found that his legacy was everywhere. His many talents and tireless service during the early years of our organization influenced many important changes to the Park and Museum, making him a true “Legend of Hart Park”.