

# The Echo

News from the Pleasant Valley Historical Society

## OUR 2016 DONS AND DOÑAS



*Seated, l to r. Front row: Michael Ann Rockenstein, Don Valenzano, Roland Glover, Dr. Priscilla de Garcia.  
Back row: Myron Harrison, Stella Ling, Paul Dwork, Donald Seidler, Bruce Fuhrman Photo by Joan Rust*

The venue for this year's Don and Doña Barbeque was the Community Center. It was beautifully transformed into a colorful dining area under the creative direction of Janett Whitlock, Debbie Theissen, Judy Crenshaw and Joy Todd. Displays prepared by Valerie Tackett, Renee Higgins and Barbara Wetherell marked the revival of the silent auction for the first time in many years. Items were brought over from the Museum to decorate the lobby, stage and the walls, adding to the ambiance. Members of the Conejo Valley/Channel Islands Barbershop Chorus were well received. For those of you who were not able to attend, we present a thumbnail sketch of each honoree.

**PAUL DWORK** is a pharmacist, inventor and professional magician. He moved to Camarillo in 1977 and purchased Poggi's pharmacy. Now the owner of Merlin's Medical Supply and Merlin's Science and Magic, he has produced over 33 benefit shows for such groups as the Boys and Girls Club, The Brain Injury Center and Big Brothers and Sisters, among others. He was on the original Board for Hospice in the 80's, which brought Hospice to Camarillo. He has been involved with the Ventura County on Aging, Camarillo Health Fair, California Youth Authority, the Jaycees and has been a Rotarian for 15 years.

**BRUCE FUHRMAN** has been a local resident since 1962. He was involved with the formation of the Camarillo Nation of Indian Guides in 1968, was the Commissioner of the Pleasant Valley Boys Baseball in the 70's, cofounder of Los Primeros Structured School and is currently on the Board of the Camarillo Ranch Foundation, on the Camarillo Citizens Patrol and the Corvette Club. He was instrumental in helping with the restoration of the 1905 mule barn at the Camarillo Ranch House. He has repaired and painted rusty artifacts at the Ranch House.

## 2016 DONS AND DOÑAS Continued from Page 1

**ROLAND GLOVER** is an educator and minority advocate for Ventura County. He has lived in Camarillo since 1989. He taught Speech Communication at Moorpark College from 1967 to 1992 and at St. John's Seminary from 1989 to 2006. He was on the Citizen's Advisory Committee for building City hall, a member of the hiring committee for selecting County sheriffs, coached and provided student speakers for many local service organizations, introduced the forensic speech program at Oxnard College, and served as Staff Diversity Officer for the Ventura County Community Colleges.

**MYRON HARRISON** is a descendent of Jose Joaquin Moraga, a member of the DeAnzo party which founded the San Buenaventura Mission. In his business, E.J. Harrison and Sons, he supports many local charities, especially for youth and education. He has been deeply involved in the Boys and Girls Clubs throughout the County and was recently named a Life Member of the local club Board of Directors. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Ventura Boy Scouts for several years. His company received a 50 year membership award from the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce.

**STELLA LIN-HING LING** grew up in Canton, China. In 1957, she went to Great Britain to study nursing and midwifery and came to the United States in 1962 to complete her BS in Nursing. Upon graduation, she and her husband moved to Canada. In 1970, they immigrated to Camarillo. She is active in the Ventura County Chinese Association, in fundraising for the Boys and Girls Club, the Santa Rosa Technology Magnet School and California State University at Channel Islands. She provides language services to courts, human services and health institutions as needed.

**DR. PRISCILLA PARTRIDGE DE GARCIA** has lived here since 1975. She has been a Clinical Psychologist for over 40 years. Her involvement in Ventura County includes being president of Casa Pacifica and the Ventura County United Way. She was the founder of California Lutheran College's MFCT program, of AAUW in Thousand Oaks, the Alliance of the Arts at the Thousand Oaks Civic Center and the Oxnard College Faculty Senate. She has received many awards, among them the Clara Barton Red Cross Award, Baha'i Human Rights Award, and was named Woman of the Year in both Camarillo and the Conejo Valley.

**MICHAEL ANN ROCKENSTEIN** has been a tireless leader, volunteer, advocate and member of several non-profit, educational, government and community organizations. She led the effort to improve the transportation and safety of those children walking and biking to Camarillo Heights School. The result was a bike lane and sidewalk installed from Las Posas Road to the school. She has been a member, board member and president of Camarillo's AAUW, president of the American Business Women's Association, a member and director of No Room At The Inn and a volunteer in the County District Attorney's Office.

**DONALD SEIDLER** is a lifetime educator, community servant and a resident since 1957. In a 27 year career, he taught and coached at Oxnard High, was attendance officer at Thousand Oaks High, assistant principal at Rio Mesa High, principal at Hueneme High and principal at Frontier High. After he retired, he traveled to Germany where he taught Science to military dependants. He is an active member of the Camarillo-Somis Lions Club, fundraiser for the City of Hope and the Conejo Free Clinic. He tutors for the adult literacy program at the Camarillo library.

*Continued on Page 3*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have had a busy summer at the Museum and Gardens. In July, we had our first *Pollinators Day* in the Honn Garden with over 150 people attending. Thanks to Betty Jo McDonald and others for planning what we hope will continue to be a popular public event. In August, our Don & Doña BBQ was well attended, filling the Community Center. The silent auction and souvenir booklet helped to make it a productive and memorable event. Thanks to Joy and Bill Todd and Gail and Terry DeWolfe and others for making it a success.

After a lot of thought and discussion, the Board decided not to pursue the relocation of our Museum to the old firehouse. Although it is a good location for a museum, it would be a challenge to manage it due to the small size of our organization. It also would be difficult to keep the Honn Garden open and operating as a separate site which concerned many of our loyal supporters. Frankly, we just did not have enough support for an expansion of this magnitude. If the adjacent church is successful in acquiring the property, we wish them well and hope the historic value of the building will be preserved to enhance the old town area.

One thing we realized while considering the firehouse option, is that we do not have clear agreement on what we want for the future of the Society. We have a mission statement and a good set of annual goals, but we also need consensus on what we think is most important and how we want to develop as an organization. Over the next few months, the Board will be developing a strategic plan to serve as a long-term guide for future opportunities and direction.

Max Copenhagen, President

### **2016 Don and Doñas, Continued from Page 2**

**DON VALENZANO** moved to Camarillo in 1977 and was highly active in youth sports during his children's growing up years. That included Boy Scouting, Girl Scouting, Boys Baseball and Girls Softball. He headed up the program "Christmas Baskets for the Needy" with the Noontime Optimists, been on the Board of the Boys and Girls Club, delivered hot lunches for seniors through the Camarillo Health District, did fundraising for Casa Pacifica through the Rotary Club and helped out at the Pleasant Valley Baptist School lunch program.

### **MEMORIALS**

Fred Phipps and Cathy Trainer gave in memory of **Gerald Wong, Henry and Mary Marshall, Nancy Trainer, John Rochford, Shirley Seaver, Jan Anderson, Stan Smithro, Tom Varden, Annette Ingersoll, Glen Sanders, Bob Stallings**

Mr. And Mrs. T. Faragher and Randy Churchill donated in memory of **Stan Daily**

Jack and Lorna Arnot gave in memory of **Shirley Seaver**

Lisa Schewe donated in memory of **Colleen McAvoy**

### **HONORARIUMS**

Fred Phipps and Cathy Trainer gave in honor of the 2016 Dons and Doñas

Bev and Joe Yaeger donated in honor of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Val and Ted Rains

*Betty Jo McDonald, Garden Chair*

### **The First annual Bee and Butterfly Celebration Day**

In Celebration of our recently developed Native Bee and Butterfly garden, the Historical Society hosted a day in its honor on July 23, 2016. It was sunny and cool and the garden looked at it best.

Approximately 150 people attended, touring the garden, listening to speakers, getting tips on planting to attract native bees and butterflies, while Monarch butterflies obligingly fluttered about the garden.

We offered bee and butterfly attracting plants for sale, along with books on native bees and butterflies, with Marie Jasina juggling the sales and giving lots of planting advice for the plants. David Hibbits showed children how to make houses for Native bees and Carol Johnson helped the children (and many adults!) make antennae—bee or butterfly—whatever your imagination wanted. Everywhere you looked you saw heads with bobbling antennae. Our guests enjoyed refreshments including butterfly shaped cookies made and served by Renee Whitlock and Valerie Tackett.

Our first speaker was Dr. Gordon Frankie from UC Berkeley Urban Bee lab, who spoke on the importance of our California Native bees as pollinators and what to plant to attract them to our gardens. It was Dr. Frankie and his work with local farmers and avocado growers in attracting native bees, who sparked the beginning of our native bee garden. Along the way, he has donated the backbone of plants and offered advice and training to create the beautiful garden that we have.

A distinction was made during the day between the European honey bee and California's native bees. Both types of bees are suffering decline from habitat reduction and the use of poisons. While most of us can not help European honey bees, each of us can help native bees by planting particular plants in our gardens and urging the planting of these types of plants in public gardens. California has more native bees than any other state—an astonishing 1600 species of native bees live here.

Our second speakers were Lynn and Rick Krause who spoke on the plight of Monarch Butterflies and what can be done to help them. They told the story of their involvement with saving Monarch butterflies and how they have developed their program over the years, providing nourishment and habitat for Monarchs and releasing over 4,000 butterflies which were reared on plants on their property. Their work is magnified many times over by the hundreds of people whom they have introduced to butterfly gardening. They brought caterpillars, chrysalis, and newly enclosed butterflies so everyone could see the life stages of these fascinating creatures.

Their talk ended with the release of butterflies which circled around the gazebo to the delight of the crowd.



*To the left: Monarch caterpillar forming its chrysalis*

If you missed this wonderful celebration day, look for our announcement of our event next summer. Meanwhile you can visit the garden on Saturday and Sunday afternoons and pick up a brochure which shows pictures and descriptions of native bees you may see. The fall Monarchs are still fluttering everywhere around the garden. If you are interested in learning more about gardening for native bees, we still have several of Dr. Frankie's book, *California Bees and Blooms*, which is filled with pictures of Native bees and descriptions of what plants they like. It is a great gardening guide. If you simply want to carry a guide to have when walking through gardens we offer a pocket flip book, *Common Native Bees in Gardens of California*, with color pictures of various bees and the flowers they visit.

## **Bee And Butterfly Day *Continued from Page 4***

Although Rollin Coville was not present in person, he was every where during the day. It was Rollin's pictures of bees on their flowers which provided the visuals of the day from the large pictures displayed in the gazebo to the pictures in our brochures and publicity posters. Rollin's generous donation of his images to be used was a central part of the success of the day. Everyone present enjoyed the speakers.

The committee who put together the day based it on the success of Living History Day; the committee—Betty Jo McDonald, Carol Johnson, David Hibbits, Bob Burrow, Marie Jasina, Danielle Timrott and Max Copenhagen managed to pull together a great day. Barbara Wagner, of course, with publicity and that most difficult task of directing parking, when the parking lots were full.

I want to thank the entire Historical society for supporting this adventure and for all who showed up to help, the Rusts, the DeWolfes, the Manzlers, Ira Grooms, the Todds, the Copenhagens and Ron Mc Cown, who was always on hand to help out with the heavy lifting., and Ken Eastman who did all the work producing the brochures, the posters and the banner. And we have those beautiful garden signs because of David Hibbits, who wrote the grant proposal to provide the money and did the work of getting the signs.

I know I am leaving out someone—sorry—this was my dream day and I felt so supported by our group and the weather, the bees and the butterflies all cooperated.

And last, a very special thanks to the City of Camarillo for their generous grant to cover signs and printing for the day and for the crew of Greenheart Gardens: Juan, Rogellio, Angel and Manny—I can honestly say, Marie Jasina and her wonderful crew make the garden what it is. Thank you all!

### **SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

The Pleasant Valley Historical Society announces the Stan Daily Essay Scholarship Award, an opportunity for original research on local history. An award of \$250 will be made to the student, age 18 or younger, who produces the best piece of work. The subject can be a biography or an article about an early family, early industry, location or event. The selected paper will be considered for publication in the Society's newsletter. Members of the Society will be available to give a personal tour of the Museum to interested students and the Fulkerson Library will be available for research. Three paper copies of the completed work should be sent by April 1, 2017 to the Museum at P.O. Box 570, Camarillo, CA 93011.

### **BE A DOCENT**

Share the excitement when a first time visitor comes into the museum and says "Why haven't I come here before!" Visitors are surprised at what is there and excited to hear expanded stories and information from the docents about the Pleasant Valley area and the displays. Personal training is provided.

Contact Bill Todd, Docent chair at 482-0179 for more information.

## **CAMARILLO'S FIRST FIRE STATION**

By Dick Wilson, Assistant Chief, Retired

In 1935, the small town of Camarillo was dominated by the agricultural industry with warehouses, packing houses and food processing plants located along the railroad right of way.

The County Fire Protection District delivered Camarillo's first fire truck in April 1935. The pumper was a Mack chassis which was built into a fire truck at the Fire District's shop in Santa Paula by firefighters. This new open cab pumper had a 250 G.P.M. front mount pump and a 450 gallon water tank and was equipped with five-hundred feet of 1-1/2" hose.

The new fire truck caused excitement and enthusiasm through the town as local citizens took turns driving, blowing the siren and riding on the new truck. The bright red paint attracted undivided attention. The Fire District's eighth fire truck was first stored at the Knob Hill garage at 2401 Ventura Blvd. at North Glenn Drive. This is the location now of the Camarillo Plumbing and Paint store.

Camarillo elected Ed Hayes as Fire Chief and the Chief said that no one would be allowed to drive the fire truck except one of seven designated crew members, one of which was Eugene Putnam. Putnam was hired in 1940 by the Fire District as the first paid personnel at Camarillo and served a number of years as Camarillo's Fire Captain.

In 1941, Adolfo Camarillo donated property on the south side of Ventura Blvd. at Fulton Street and funding for a county building. This building also included a fire station with an apartment upstairs. Putnam and his family lived upstairs for a number of years until his retirement in 1962.

The Mack pumper served Camarillo until 1950 when it was replaced by a closed cab Ford pumper with a six-hundred G.P.M. pump and a four-hundred gallon water tank.

In 1954, the County Fire Chief organized the department into four battalions and assigned numbers to fire station equipment. Camarillo was in Battalion 3 with Station 31 in Thousand Oaks, Station 33 in Lake Sherwood. and Station 32 in Camarillo. Station 32 was changed to Station 54 when Battalion 5 was formed in the late 1950s. In 1995, Station 54 moved to its new station at 2160 Pickwick Drive on property purchased by the Fire District.

## **VISIT YOUR MUSEUM**

Changes are always evident inside the Museum. Besides the interesting larger display cases, look for a light fixture from Stein & Tally's Department Store. The store was in the 1916 Lewis Building on Ventura Blvd. Fred Stein and Terrance Tally operated it from 1920 until going bankrupt during the "Great Depression." These men were sons-in-law of Joseph Lewis who built the building along with the Knob Hill Garage—which is now Camarillo Plumbing and Paint.

You've probably seen the three-foot long panoramic pictures of the lima bean harvesting process. There are three more now hanging on the wall that include the identification and explanation of the elements in the pictures. Where is the "doghouse?"

## **WE NEED YOUR INPUT**

We are planning to paint a mural on the outside east wall of the Museum building. This wall is 40 feet wide and 18 feet tall. The mural will depict things about the local history of the Pleasant Valley area including the Santa Rosa Valley and Somis area. Your ideas, artistic ability and sponsorship will be appreciated. Sketches should be sent or brought into the Museum. For more information, call Max at 312-5506.

## Board of Directors 2016-2017

Max Copenhagen, *President*

Joy Todd, *Vice President*

Bob Rust, *Treasurer*

Bob Burrow, *Recording Secretary*

Gerry Olsen, *Parliamentarian*

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Ron McCown

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Roger Putnam

Patricia Roth

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Valerie Tackett

Bill Todd

### Committee Chairs for 2016-2017

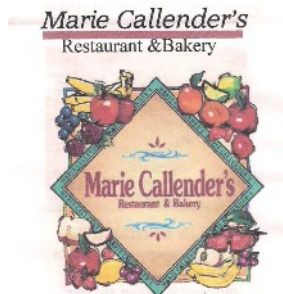
Accessions, Display, Cleaning: *Liz Daily, Joy Todd*; Annual Meeting: *Renee Higgins*; Facilities, Grants: *David Hibbits*; Finance/Budget: *Bob Rust*; Don and Doña Barbeque: *Joy Todd, Janett Whitlock*; Docents, Membership: *Bill Todd*; Don and Doña Selection: *Gail and Terry DeWolfe*; Gazebo Events: *Valerie Tackett*; Gift Shop: *Doris Fournier*; Policies: *Jeanne Adams*; Garden: *Betty Jo McDonald*; Newsletter: *Betty Sullivan*; Nominating Committee: *Frank Roth*; Publicity: *Barbara Wagner*; Sunshine, Living History Day: *Pat Roth*; Site: *Ron McCown*; IT: *Max Copenhagen*; Scholarship: *Liz Daily*; Signage: *David Bratz.*; Speakers Series: *Bob Burrow.*

*Thank you for supporting our Dine Out events. Funds generated help us keep the lights on at the Museum, maintain the garden and print and mail this newsletter.*

#### THE PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL

#### SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Invites you to Dine Out at



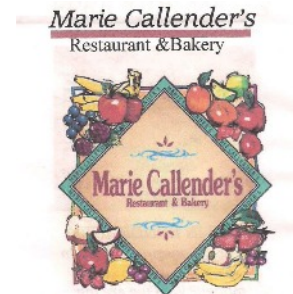
185 E. Daily Drive, Camarillo  
On Tuesday, November 1, 7 am to 10 pm

You must present this coupon to your server in order for the Society to be given credit.

#### THE PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL

#### SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

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**NEWS FROM THE  
PLEASANT VALLEY  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

*The Pleasant Valley Historical Society Mission is to identify, preserve, classify, restore and acquire artifacts, buildings, landmarks, photographs and historical documents of the greater Pleasant Valley area for the education and use of the general public, and to make the museum a focal point for the dissemination of the history of the area.*

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Betty Sullivan, 482-6340

**PUT THIS DINE OUT DATE ON YOUR  
CALENDAR**

Marie Callender's on Tuesday, November 1



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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U.S. Postage  
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Oxnard, CA  
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Pleasant Valley Historical Society  
P. O. Box 570  
Camarillo, CA 93011-0570  
Museum Open: Saturday and Sunday  
12 noon to 4 p.m.