

CLOSED AGAIN
Check website:
pvhsonline.org

The Echo

News from the Pleasant Valley Historical Society

WE ARE OPEN AGAIN!

The museum and gardens are open. We recommend masks and social distancing. We clean everything each day. We opened the last weekend in May and have new signage to let people know they are welcome.

We have been closed for almost three months in accordance with rules in place to protect you and us during the worst of the coronavirus pandemic but we are open now and it is good to be back!

The past 3 months have been used to find, process and preserve the museum collection. We have expanded the signage in the barn and continued to organize and label the Fulkerson Library. We also repaired books that had weak spines or loose pages. We have the archival material to repair the books and in some cases cover the books with "archival sleeves" designed to protect covers and spines. We had a social distancing crew inside that worked on restoring and cleaning artifacts as well identifying "finds."

Outside, another crew worked on installing shelving in the out-buildings. Once the shelving was in, we began the process of moving and storing items from Bin 1. Each of the buildings has specific items stored in it. One building is our extensive typewriter and business machine collection (which will make an interactive display when we have room), one is related to the home/kitchen and pharmacy. It also houses textiles in archival boxes. This out-building has significant insulation to protect textiles. The third building is storage of items used once a year...living history, Don & Doña barbeque and items for display support.



Above

Three 12' x 8' storage sheds have recently had shelving installed to hold items for future display or use.

Left

Typewriters and other business machines are neatly shelved inside one of our storage sheds.



Past President's Message

As I end this last year as your president, I am appreciative of the support that has allowed us to accomplish a great deal in a strange time. We have been closed since March 19, 2020 as directed. The "Barn" is completed and is fully loaded with items of early Camarillo. Someone commented "there is a ton of stuff in there," which is what every barn should look like!

On April 26th, Pastor Chad Friestad of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church chose to video his on-line service in our garden. The music was provided by the church's praise team singing in the Gazebo. At the end of the service Pastor Chad did a video walk-through of the garden. In other times, he often brought his family to the museum and garden.

As the rules stand now, we will not be having the Don & Doña Barbeque or other events this year. Neither Living History nor Bee & Butterfly Day will be held. Social distancing and health concerns, as well as government rules, make it impossible to serve the numbers that would come

We still need to have the museum operating funds that were provided by the barbeque. Most of our costs are the garden. We have cut back as much as possible for museum preservation. We are fortunate that we have no paid staff. We need your support and donations!

We used this time to have our 1911 phonograph repaired. The Edison Standard got a new horn and the Edison Opera and Standard will be serviced. People love hearing the technology of the time and we must continue to present our machines of 1911. It was a very good year!

I look forward to the challenges to come and the leadership of the new President, Bob Burrow. We have worked well together for the past two years and I do not think he will skip a beat going forward.

Thank you all,

Joy Todd

The Charles Honn Botanical Garden

This spring in the garden was just beautiful; sorry you missed it. The mountain irises were especially lovely because of all the rain. It was a time to groom for the coming year. We had the hedges trimmed; they are about 10 feet tall, so it is quite a job. While Benito was on site, he was able to trim the laurel trees and further aerate all the trees reducing the potential for mold or disease. We will trim the California Buckeye tree after it is finished blooming. It is a spectacular array of white blossoms, loved by bees and butterflies.

We had some major plumbing issues, not a surprise with the age of the irrigation system. Marie and her team were able to do the repairs. We are so grateful for her dedication and oversight.

People visiting the museum, and they are visiting as we are open, are surprised and impressed by the garden. They are also pleased to see all the butterflies flitting about. (I tried to explain social distancing to the butterflies, but they would not listen and just went on their merry way.)

We have planted the plants prescribed by the bee lab in the bee garden and they are blooming. The bees are very appreciative. It is an opportunity to explain the contribution they make to the farming community as well as local homes growing fruit trees and vegetables. If you get an apricot or peach, thank a bee.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First of all, thank you very much for the opportunity to represent the PVHS Board as President for this next year. I have been on the board for several years and have seen all of the tremendous work that all of the members and volunteers have done to serve the community. All of your efforts reflect well on the Pleasant Valley Historical Society to meet its mission to preserve, protect and share the past of this area through a variety of exhibits, displays, events and materials.

For those of you who were able to attend the recent PVHS Annual Meeting, you heard a summary of the state of the PVHS operations. Joy Todd has served the museum well and deserves a tremendous amount of appreciation for her service. She is a very special person and we look forward to her continued efforts on behalf of PVHS.

Looking at the current state of museum operations, we are operating and hope for some level of normalcy to return. After a couple of months of being closed in accordance with local and regional directions, the museum and garden have reopened. We will continue our efforts to comply with measures to work on keeping everyone safe so that we can share our facilities with the public. The garden looks great and the museum offers an opportunity to escape today's realities. In many ways the past is not looking bad at this point.

PVHS had continued many of its signature events, up until recently. The Living History Day will hopefully return next year. The Bees and Butterflies event will not be able to happen this summer due to limitations on the number of visitors being able to be served.

The annual Dons and Doñas event will be discussed further at the next Board meeting. The Community Center venue has cancelled on us, again due to the current situation and the size of the event. Just as many events across the country are facing similar issues, the August Dons and Doñas event date won't happen. The Board will look to see when the event might next occur. The volunteers who put on this event each year put a tremendous effort into this signature event. It is not just a matter of rescheduling, especially when a proper venue may be difficult to find. We simply don't know what the future will dictate. We will be looking at possible opportunities for other events that we might be able to have so that we can continue to share our resources and maintain a presence in community.

Another ongoing goal is the proposed museum expansion. Bob Fierro continues to do a great job working with the architect who is preparing the museum expansion plans. Currently the architectural plans are nearly 90% complete and remain on track to allow a submittal to the City for a plan check. This takes the preliminary plans to a detailed level to allow construction. Coordination will still be needed to make sure all of the different sets of plans (civil, landscape, structural, mechanical) match up and are also complete. We should be in a position to submit the plans as early as this summer, once we give the go ahead to the next phase. In the meantime we also need to settle on fundraising programs in order to be able to fund the project. That will be a major effort given the current economic uncertainties.

As we face the future together, PVHS is well positioned to weather this situation as far as basic services go. We will once again be able to share the opportunity to celebrate the area's past as we lay the groundwork for the organization's future. In the meantime, stay safe and let me know about any ideas or comments you might have.

Bob Burrow

Tax-Deductible MEMBERSHIP

If you have not already, please renew or join the Society for this calendar year. This financial donation provides the major way that we can continue to operate. We remind you that we have no paid employees, so the money goes for utilities, accession/preservation supplies, and for the maintenance of the beautiful garden.

Memberships levels are: Individual =\$25; Supporter = \$40; Patron = \$100;
Corporate = \$150; Benefactor = \$250; and Lifetime = \$500.
Checks can be mailed to: PVHS P.O. Box 570, Camarillo 93011

The Echo by e-mail. Interested?

A number of members have already chosen to receive the Echo by email. If you are a person who likes to read on line, you might be interested in receiving our quarterly through your e-mail instead of through snail mail. Featured colored pictures will shine. If so, send an email to: pvhs@pvhsonline.org. Include your membership name, street address, and the e-mail address to which you would like the Echo sent. We will still keep your address on file for other possible correspondence.

2020 Stan Daily Scholarship

Camarillo resident, Madison Mok, was chosen for the \$1,000 scholarship for her essay on St. Mary Magdalen Chapel. She graduated from Oaks Christian School, and plans to attend Williams College in Massachusetts in the fall. Because we are not printing a Don & Doña booklet this year, her essay will be in the Echo sometime in the future.

Accessions

In May, Mr. & Mrs. James Ball gave us a PBX switchboard, like the one used by Lily Tomlin in Laugh-In, a true “one ring-a-dingy, two ring-a –dingy” that is in pristine condition. It was originally in Thousand Oaks. They also added to our telephone collection with great signage and equipment displays.



For Sale

On the bookcase at the front entrance to the Museum, you will find bargain priced books for sale, including Stan Daily’s “Camarillo” at \$35 as well as multiple issues of Ventura County History Museum Quarterlies available at \$.50 each

This is a great deal for any one interested in Ventura County history.

A LOOK AROUND THE MUSEUM



Left

The Edison Standard with a shiny new horn complements our Edison Opera and Victor Talking Machines display.

When you next visit the Museum, ask the docent to let you hear the kind of music that once upon a time thrilled your grandparents.



Above

The “Barn” is completed and it is fully loaded with items of early Camarillo.

The large windows give you excellent viewing while protecting the many fragile and irreplaceable items within.



While you are visiting the garden, stop for a moment to catch your breath and reflect on what you have just seen. The beauty surrounds you, the heavenly aromas will fill your heart with joy.



Left

Earl Joseph was Camarillo’s first mayor and a long time local businessman. His store, *Earl Joseph Shoes*, originally located at the corner of Palm and the Boulevard, was a fixture in the Las Posas Plaza for many years. This display includes the familiar sign and shoe making objects.

MEMORIALS

Donations were made by Fred Phipps and Cathy Trainer in memory of **George Durr, Bill Lebert, Nanette McCarthy, Terry Stollcop, Dee Skeels**

Mary Chunn contributed in memory of **Evelyn Chunn**

HONORARIUM

Beverly Taylor contributed in honor of **Val and Ted Rains'** anniversary

Beth Miller made a donation in celebration of **Bob Fulkerson's** retirement

BUILDING FUND CONTRIBUTORS

Rich Bergman

Bob and Barbara Burrow

Marilyn Farwell

Ira and Lois Groom

John and Beverly Pearson

Ted and Val Rains

GARDEN CONTRIBUTIONS

Nadine Hatcher

Janice Theberge

Charles Honn Botanical Garden

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Many members have been able to use our beautifully situated 27' Amish Gazebo for small gatherings, receptions and meetings. At this time, government rules and guidelines restrict the use of the gazebo. We will keep you posted on its availability.

Our mission is to help the community as we can. Our garden is more and more a source of enlightenment and education. People see what they can do in their own little patch of earth and leave inspired

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

PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Invites you to

DINE OUT on Tuesday, August 4 at



425 Arneill Rd. from 3:30 to 9 p.m.

Please give this coupon to your server so that the Society will receive credit.

If you forget the coupon, just tell the cashier that you are there on behalf of the Pleasant Valley Historical Society

TOPPERS PIZZA PLACE

Board of Directors 2020-2021

Bob Burrow, *President*

Liz Daily, *Corresponding Secretary*

Greg Farrin, *Vice President*

Joy Todd, *Immediate Past President*

Bob Rust, *Treasurer*

TBA, *Member at Large*

Debbie Thiessen, *Recording Secretary* Gerry Olsen, *Parliamentarian*

David Bratz

Max Copenhagen

Terry DeWolfe

Gail DeWolfe

Michael Ellias

Karin Farrin

Bob Fierro

Ira Grooms

David Hibbits

Bill Manzer

Raelene Manzer

Betty Jo McDonald

Beverly Pearson

John Pearson

Paul Rockenstein

Patricia Roth

Betty Sullivan

Valerie Tackett

Bill Todd

Dr. Renee Whitlock

Standing Committees for 2020-2021

Finance: Bob Rust; Museum Operations: Bill Todd; Events: Joy Todd; Garden: Betty Jo MacDonald; Facilities: Bob Burrow; Communication: Max Copenhagen

From the President

At the 2020 PVHS Annual Meeting there were seven Board Members who were given new three year terms. We thank them for their continued assistance with the operations for the museum and garden.

One prior Board Member, Frank Roth, is leaving the Board after nearly 10 years and has contributed a great amount of time, energy, common sense and support to the organization. This has included serving on various committees that help the museum continue to operate as well as having been a past Board President. He is to be commended for all the talent that he has given and he will be missed at the meetings going forward. Thank you, Frank, on behalf of the Board and we look forward to seeing you when we have events in the future.

2020 Don and Doña BBQ Cancelled

Because of the Corona virus epidemic, the PVHS Board of Directors has voted to put a hiatus on this year's event. There are too many unknowns to even postpone it a few months in the future.

Also, our venue, the Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District's Community Center will not permit an expected attendance of 250.

Thank you for those who submitted nominations for the award; the nominations will all be held over for 2021. Hopefully, "normality" will be restored next summer and we can truly celebrate the local citizens who give so generously of their time and talent.

Let's Dine Out /Let's Dine In

Although we have a Toppers Pizza planned for Tuesday, August 4th, it has been difficult for other favorite restaurants to offer organizations discounts during this financially unsure time. We appreciate their past support and look forward to "dining" with them again.

Let's Dine Out is an integral part of our budget. A plan is being finalized to offer Bruce Jochum's BBQ meal monthly as a drive-by pick-up. His tri-tip, chicken, beans and salad that attendees have raved about at the annual Don/Doña BBQ will be served. Logistics are being worked on, but advance reservations will be needed. Check the museum website: www.pvhsonline.org later this summer for specifics.

NEWS FROM THE PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Betty Sullivan, 482-6340



Find us on
Facebook

The mission of the Pleasant Valley Historical Society and Garden is to acquire, identify, restore and preserve artifacts, documents and photographs related to the Pleasant Valley community; to make the museum and garden a focal point for the dissemination of local history and the education of the general public, and to recognize local residents who have provided outstanding service to the Pleasant Valley community.

THINGS TO DO IN COMING MONTHS

Visit the Museum and garden

Dine out at Toppers on August 4

Renew your membership or join

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oxnard, CA
Permit No. 128

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