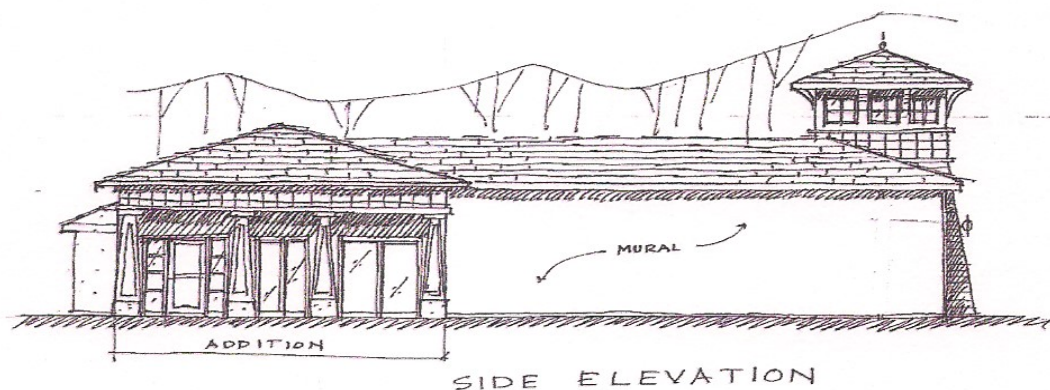
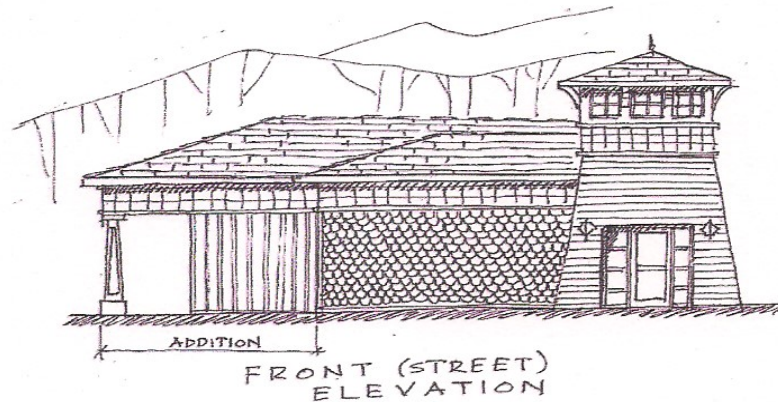


# The Echo

News from the Pleasant Valley Historical Society

## We're Growing!

Finally, a suitable setting in which to tell the story of Camarillo's growth from several Ranchos to the beautiful city it is today, a setting of which we can all be proud. These drawings are the designer's conception of how the Museum could look in the near future. Can you help us?



**LAUTERBACH & ASSOCIATES**  
ARCHITECTS • INC.  
Randy G. Lauterbach, Architect • Dana Scott, Architect • Mark S. Pivell, Architect  
288 MONTGOMERY AVENUE, SUITE 200, CAMARILLO, CALIFORNIA 93010 | 805.488.4422 | FAX 805.488.4423 | www.la-arch.com

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

We have a new lease! The City Council has agreed to give us a 25 year lease for the Museum and Botanical Garden property.

Now that we have the site secured for the foreseeable future, we are making plans for expansion of the Museum building. In response to the longtime interest in expanding the Museum, a number of options are being considered and the vision for the Museum expansion is being refined. The expansion project will give the Museum an exciting new look. Mark Pettit of Lauterbach Associates is helping in the planning process and has provided several conceptual sketches.

The idea is to expand the Museum to the lawn area in back of the existing structure. The area available for growth could include approximately 1,400 square feet of additional floor space, doubling the size of the building. The display area would be increased to provide space for the various collections as well as enhancing operations such as accessions. The plan would include a new porch, a redesigned entry, updated lighting and acoustics and a dedicated Fulkerson Library.

As part of the project, new restrooms would be provided and other updating for building code and security requirements. The Craftsman style exterior design would reflect the design of early farm houses in the area and complement the existing mural. An elevated feature on one corner would improve our visibility from the street.

Max

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE MUSEUM**

### **DOCUMENT DISPLAY OF THE ST. FRANCIS DAM DISASTER**

We are presenting a fascinating temporary display of original newspapers and copies of photos of one of the worst American civil engineering disasters in history. Our visual presentation of the March 12/13, 1928 St. Francis Dam break instructs visitors on the magnitude of this event, which inundated towns and farmland from north of Santa Clarita to the sea, via the course of the Santa Clara River. It was noted that some people actually sought refuge in the hills of Camarillo and Conejo. The flood took the lives of over 450 people, and contributed to the end of Chief Engineer William Mulholland's career. Read more about this disaster's tragic story from 90 years ago at the Museum. Our thanks to Lily Lindros, a high school student from NPHS, for being instrumental in preparing this exhibit.

### **SPEAKER SERIES**

Our popular Speaker Series will begin with the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 3 with Joy Todd as the featured speaker. Speakers for the following dates: Thursday, June 28; Thursday, September 6 and Sunday, September 23 will be announced in the July Echo. The Thursday programs are at 6:30 p.m. and the Sunday programs are at 2 p.m. and all are in the Gazebo. They are free and open to the public.

## COMING EVENTS

### LIVING HISTORY DAY—MAY 20

It is time again for one of the PVHS's best-loved events: *Living History Day*. This is the day when we take you and your children back to earlier days and let you experience for a moment or two how your grandparents lived—no videos or television and, for many, no electric lights. They made many things at home—clothing, toys, growing food and preserving it.

On Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Museum garden, we will be having stations where the children can experience gold mining, churning butter, making tortillas, using tools, creating dolls and toys. They may also wash clothes, or grind wheat, and watch demonstrations of quilting and spinning.

The day is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be available. The Museum will also be open to view the current exhibits including the history of the development of the telephones and hand-made fire engine models.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS—JUNE 3

It has been an exciting year for PVHS with more to come. This year's speaker will be Joy Todd who will give a review of the year's accomplishments and the status of the museum collections. The meeting will be held in the garden gazebo at 2:00 p.m. with the introduction of the 2018 slate of officers.

In the past year, in addition to the popular Bill Doctorman phone collection, we have received two large maps—"Homesteaders from 1874-1896," and "Camarillo on Eve of Incorporation—1964" created by Gary Liss and found only at our museum. Visitors are fascinated by these and other recent acquisitions.

The Charles Honn Garden has received a great deal of maintenance that had been deferred. Pruning and removal of trees that suffered during the drought has opened the garden to more light.

We have lots to share and welcome your questions when you attend this meeting.

### DON AND DOÑA NOMINATIONS

Do you have a neighbor, friend, business associate or fellow church member who has gone above and beyond the norm in providing community service? Someone who truly deserves the honor of being named a Don or Doña of Camarillo? Well, now is the time to let us know about them. The form for submissions is on page 4. You may make as many submissions as you wish. The deadline is May 25.

We will only consider people who have lived in Camarillo, Somis or the Santa Rosa Valley for at least twenty years and have given their service to this area within the last ten years.

All names submitted are kept confidential, so don't let your proposed nominee know what you are doing on his or her behalf. If they are selected, think what a wonderful surprise when they are contacted and told of this honor.

Our annual Don and Doña Barbeque is set for August 18 at the Camarillo Community Center.

## Pleasant Valley Historical Society & Museum

Serving Camarillo, Somis and Santa Rosa Valley since 1964

720 N. Las Posas Road, P. O. Box 570, Camarillo CA 93011

Phone 805 482-3660 email: [pvhs@phvsonline.org](mailto:pvhs@phvsonline.org) website: [www.pvhsonline.org](http://www.pvhsonline.org)

### NOMINATION FORM

Selection of 2018 DONS & DOÑAS

Persons being nominated for a Don or Doña shall be:

An individual who has lived in the Camarillo, Somis or Santa Rosa Valley area for at least twenty years, and has provided outstanding community service for a minimum of ten years within these area, an/or to the Pleasant Valley Historical Society during that time.

Nominee's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The names submitted consideration shall be kept CONFIDENTIAL and shall only be made known to the Dons and Doña Selection Committee.

History of Nominee's Service:

Please attach additional page(s) if more space is required.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Completed Nomination Form must be mailed with a post mark date no later than May 25, 2018.

Send to: Dons and Doñas Selection Committee, P. O. Box 570, Camarillo, CA 93011



### ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS COMING ALIVE

Recently, long-time residents and classmates Doris Pitts Mahan (Doña 2005) and Betty Lidel, visited the museum and found their own history in our archives. We were able to share original papers of the *Pleasant Valley News*, the student newspaper of Pleasant Valley School in the 1930s. In these treasures, Doris and Betty found articles that they had contributed to the paper along with references to other family members. Then, perusing our extensive collection of digital pictures, we found their PV classmates, and early pictures of the local churches.



Pictured l. to r.: Vickie Holden, Donna Mahan, Doris Mahan, Betty Lidel

### RECENT DONATIONS

Much appreciation is extended for recent acquisitions from friends and members: American flags from Bob de La Torre and Al Lowe; a unique large map made for us by cartographer, Gary Liss, of “The City of Camarillo on the Eve of Incorporation, October, 1964;” a beautiful Singer treadle sewing machine from Cathy Trainer; a 1920s large oak display case from the Holly Tanner Estate; a turn-of-the-century walnut cradle with spindle rails from Ruth Newman; early pictures from Adele Walsh; documents from Val Rains; pictures, a wool, hand-knitted baby blanket and Civil War-era men’s leather wallet donated by Wendy Mullins, Linda Fowler and Ann Suhr, descendants of Frank and Josephine Case. Also a booklet, “Near and Different—The Story of Circle X Ranch” from Gary Liss.

### MEMORIALS

Fred Phipps and Cathy Trainer donated in memory of **Bennie Anderson, Ralph Alamillo, Willis Naysmith, Lando Goertzen, Bob Schumacher, Jerry Calhoun, Aurora Menchaca, Erick Anders, R. J. “Dick” Miller, James M. Chickasawa, Tim Griffin, Jerry Hegarty**

Jim Vargeson gave in memory of **Kathryn Vargeson**

Patricia Menne donated in memory of **David Menne**

Paul Rockenstein gave in memory of **Michael Ann Rockenstein**

Adele Walsh donated in memory of **Tim Griffin**

Robert Nunn gave in memory of **Mary Elizabeth Nunn**

### DONATIONS

**The Franz Trust** made a generous donation for general support of the Society

## CHARLES HONN MEMORIAL GARDEN

*Betty Jo McDonald, Garden Chair*

Dull, dusty, fallen leaves and spent flower blossoms—if you have walked through our garden in the last two months your impression might be one of dreary decay. Our perception of decline hides a period of regeneration for the garden. The flowering plants are at rest; the roots expand and store energy for the spring burst of flowers. Falling leaves decay to enrich the soil. The leaves of our native plants, covered with summer dust, are waiting for the cleansing rain. (This is also a human hope.)

The garden, like us, is waiting for nourishing rain. If you visit our garden now, turn left at the path in front of the gazebo, cross the bridge and look to the left of the path to see one of our most beautiful California native plants in full bloom: *Arctostaphylos* “Pacific Mist” manzanita. We have three of them, daring drought and cold to bring winter beauty to our garden.

Our trees have had their much needed trimming by opening up their crowns and having dead wood removed. Sadly, we had to remove our remaining *Pinus radiata* which was declining from an infestation of the pine pitch beetle. The garden committee thanks the wonderful and careful team of Cruz and Rosa for their work on our trees. Thank you to Ron McCown for recommending this team. I send my thanks to Marie Jasina and Joy Todd for handling most of the work getting the tree work done.

Our next garden project is construction of the artifact display in order to properly show our collection of tools used by people native to this area. This project is funded with a grant from the City of Camarillo. Thank you David Hibbits for obtaining this grant for us.

Spring work in the garden includes a clean up, which is on going by Marie’s crew, Rogelio, Juan and Angel. Thanks for your dedication to the garden and planting new butterfly and native bee plants. Celebrating Bees, July 15, will be held in the garden. Mark your calendars for this annual event. More information will be in the July Echo.

## WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE MUSEUM, Continued from Page 5

### MUSEUM RECEIVES HELP FROM TWO INTERNS

PVHS is fortunate to have two college level interns working with us. Amanda Condon from Camarillo goes to Cuesta College and is reorganizing the Fulkerson Library to make it more user friendly. Elizabeth Burton (pictured) from Porter Ranch is doing elaborate restoration work on pictures, newspapers and maps. She is receiving graduate credit through Northumbria University in Newcastle, England. Both ladies chose our Museum after visiting it and feeling their work would contribute significantly to our needs. They applied and we were thrilled to have them. The item Elizabeth is working on is a 1918 poster related to WWI and the soldiers returning to the United States. It has excellent color, but had a lot of damage at the top and along its sides. Elizabeth has been able to restore missing pieces and repair damage. We will be displaying the finished product in the Museum.



## Board of Directors 2017-2018

Max Copenhagen, *President*

Joy Todd, *Vice President*

Bob Rust, *Treasurer*

Bob Burrow, *Recording Secretary*

Gerry Olsen, *Parliamentarian*

Barbara Wagner, *Corresponding Secretary*

Frank Roth, *Immediate Past President*

Liz Daily, *Member at Large*

Ira Grooms, *Member at Large*

David Bratz

Terry DeWolfe

Randy Eccles

Bill Manzer

Betty Jo McDonald

Betty Sullivan

Debbie Thiessen

Liz Daily

Gail DeWolfe

David Hibbits

Raelene Manzer

Patricia Roth

Valerie Tackett

Ted Daniel

Bob Fierro

Dr. Renee Whitlock Higgins

Ron McCown

Daryl Smith

Bill Todd

### Standing Committees for 2017-2018

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

*Thank you for supporting our dine out events. They help us pay for Museum operation, maintain the garden and print and mail this newsletter.*

#### THE PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Invites you to DINE OUT at



1620 Ventura Blvd, Camarillo

**ON TUESDAY, APRIL 3**

From 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

You must present this coupon in order for the Society to receive credit.

### SCHOLARSHIP

The Stan Daily Scholarship is given for original research on local history. An award of \$1,000 will be made to the Camarillo, Somis or Santa Rosa Valley graduating student who produces the best piece of work. The subject can be a biography or an article about an early family, industry, location or historical event.

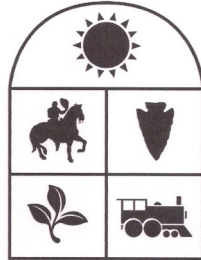
Interested students may consult with Society members on the selection of subject matter.

For further information, contact us at [pvhs@pvhsonline.org](mailto:pvhs@pvhsonline.org) or phone 805-482-3660. The deadline is April 30.

# NEWS FROM THE PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Newsletter Editor:  
Betty Sullivan, 482-6340

*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.*



**Pleasant Valley  
Historical Society**

## PUT THESE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR

Living History Day, March 20

Dine Out at Ottavios, April 3

Annual Meeting, June 3



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