

The Echo

News from the Pleasant Valley Historical Society

The State of the Pleasant Valley Historical Society

As we look forward to the possibilities of 2020, we wanted to review the progress of 2019. The elephant in the room is the real possibility that the building expansion will happen. Your board and members have made great efforts to look for the needs of the community. We have created a museum and garden that looks to serve the community. The expansion will provide for a dedicated room for the Fulkerson Library. We plan an area to feature some of our treasured books. Examples of such special books; the set of 1828 geography books that belonged to Juan Camarillo Sr. and the 1791 Collins Bible. A place to hold meetings and for more display areas is planned for the expansion. A dedicated area for accessions is looked forward to by all of us who work each week, cataloging and preserving items for the museum.

In the past year we have had numerous smaller community events. Groups and families have used our site for their meetings and celebrations. We currently offer a smaller club a meeting site each week. For some of the members, the garden is a special outing for them. Butterflies and flowers greet them each week. They now meet inside the museum because of weather and enjoy seeing the inside of the museum as well.

A large event for us was the 23rd Annual Camarillo Hospice Spring Garden Tour. On May 5th of 2019, we hosted visitors and vendors. It was wonderful working with this generous organization. The visitors were surprised at our garden and its message of natural surroundings and low water needs.

We recently expanded our experience and hosted 3 days of second grade tours from the Moorpark School District. We had 24 students each day and divided them into 3 groups. Five of our members who are teachers by trade did the stations. Everyone enjoyed the days. We were pleased at how well it went and learned what we could do to improve the experience for the students. Who would have expected rain in November? The gazebo was perfect for staying out of the rain.

As a result of the school visits, we are looking into grants for bussing students from Pleasant Valley School District and Somis. We have a unique blend of history and science that makes a trip to PVHS museum and garden helpful to the curriculum of some classes. We worked with the teachers of the second graders to follow-up on the teaching they did in the classroom. We would like to do that in the future.

We are so thankful for our members who have been supporting our building fund with no guarantee the City of Camarillo will let us build. We have spent over \$80,000 on "preliminary" tests, reviews, papers and things that must be done to meet each step in the process of the approval of our expansion.

In October, Ottavio's Restaurant had a 50th Anniversary celebration and PVHS was given a full table to tell about our museum, garden and programs. We heard over and over, "I didn't know you were in the city." Our members manned the table and let people know who we are and where we are. Thank you to Noella Belvedere (one of our docents) and her family for giving us this opportunity and for the generous donations that people gave us.

We have been working with the Ventura County Community Foundation to develop materials to meet the requirements of grantees. Once we have the City's approval and permission to build, we will be developing fund raising activities. VCCF is also helping us establish an endowment fund to keep PVHS secure going forward. We are seeking on-going support grants as well as building grants.

Continued on Page 2

The State of the Society, continued from Page 1

PVHS has been linking with the other museums in the County. We are members of the Museum Alliance of Ventura County. Other museums in the county are moving away from history and putting more emphasis on the sale and display of art. Their attendance had been dropping and are looking to other ways to bring in visitors. Many museums count on “events” to bring people in. We have lots of history, but not so much parking.

Our displays change regularly and we realize the need to bring history forward so that it has meaning to families of today. This year has brought another year of increase in visitors, both first time and returning. We are looking to focus on smaller events that offer participation in “history.” When we had room, we had early American school days. The museum recently received two more early school desks. We are hoping to be able to “furnish” a classroom for children to experience education during other eras of the history of our area. The expansion will make the return of this program possible.

Joy Todd, President



This is a model the proposed expansion of the Museum. The next time you visit, see it for yourself

It's Time to Show Support

Enclosed in this issue of the Echo is an opportunity for you to identify with the only museum in Camarillo that focuses on the entire Pleasant Valley's historical past! The membership envelope is that vehicle.

Whether you are joining for the first time, or renewing your long-standing support, the acknowledgment of PVHS's presence is what counts. Our budget is small, no paid employees, so the money generated is necessary for preservation supplies for our vast collection of pictures and paper articles, maintenance of the beautiful Charles Honn Botanical Garden, and utilities.

Please show your annual support of PVHS by using the envelope to indicate your 2020 calendar year membership level, then come visit your local museum to see how we continue to preserve our history for fu-

Museum Expansion Update

In case you were curious about the Museum Expansion planning and had not heard the most recent details, we wanted to provide some current information.

PVHS has been involved with responding to the comments received from the City as a result of the pre-application review that was submitted last year. One of the more involved comments was that the property is within a conjectured fault zone. Welcome to California. As a result, PVHS elected to have an investigation conducted to determine whether it would be a deal breaker or whether plans could proceed and under what constraints. Bob Fierro worked with the City and the consultant hired by PVHS to have drilling and surveying done. This effort was to see if the area is subject to unsurmountable obstacles such as an identified fault line or other limiting factors. Kudos for Bob Fierro and the consultant for their work.

As a result of the investigation, it appears on a preliminary basis that the addition can be accomplished under certain circumstances. Soil conditions and physical improvements were a constraint on the CPT investigation, thus limiting the study area beyond the minimum limits of review. While we are still awaiting the final report and the City response, the site planning committee is back at their work and is addressing other comments received on the pre-application review. This will allow planning process and refinements to the plan to move forward while still being mindful of not getting the cart before the horse. So, keep your fingers crossed and stay tuned.

We hope you are as excited as we are with this endeavor. This will allow the architect and the committee to prepare formal renderings and a model of the expansion program. Once that is accomplished, and a hopeful City approval, construction documents could be prepared for the building permit and working with contractors for the project.

With that in mind, the fundraising committee has been meeting in order to strategize as to how this can happen. The two efforts are synching up so that everyone's vision is to expand the museum so that it can even better serve the Pleasant Valley region.

What's Happening In The Museum?

We recently received a beautiful 1880s, Thonet Austria, child's high chair with "lift over" attached feeding tray. It is bentwood with cane back and seat and was donated by Mr. & Mrs. Ken Bauer.



Our 1911 Aolian player piano was donated by Bill Nelson. In the 1970s, Bill's grandfather got tired of the strain of pumping it. So, in the great American tradition, a motor was installed to play the piano by electricity. The "button" to turn the motor on is part of a red pencil with an eraser. It fascinates children and adults alike. Just to hear it begin to play brings a smile. People light up!



Once we had a carriage "house." The great winds of October lifted the 2,000 lb plus structure up and over the fence, part of the twisted metal landing in our neighbor's yard. The buggy was inside the "house" when it was lifted off, but sustained no injury. The iron-edged wheels were the only thing touched and they were stronger than the roofing metal. We were amazed! The buggy is now in the gazebo.

MEMORIALS

Donations were made by Fred Phipps and Cathy Trainer in memory of **Linda Abbott, Laura Beemon, Peter Cole, Larry Cordonier, Doris Mahan, Ernie Merritt, Diane Molnar, Margaret Moore, Gladys Walker, Joe Yaeger, Patricia Meredith**

Contributions were made by Noella Belvedere in memory of **Doris Deagon** and **Hakman Haklar**

Gerald and Joan Olsen contributed in memory of **Carole Olsen-Bryan**

BUILDING FUND CONTRIBUTORS

Anonymous Sol Chooljian James Dark Gerald and Joan Olsen

John and Beverly Pearson

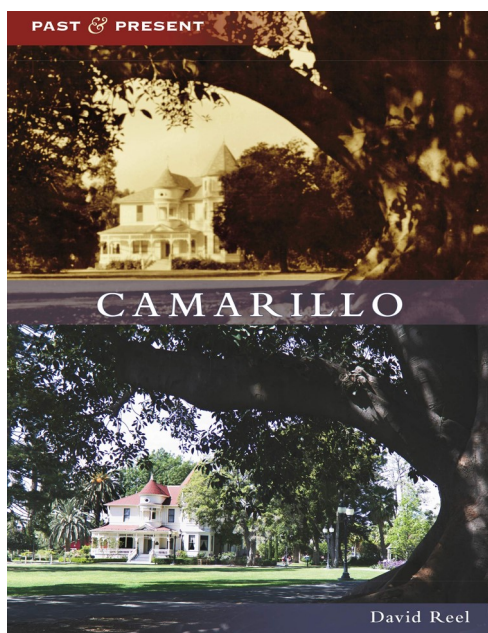
Janett and Roger Whitlock

CONTRIBUTED FOR THE GARDEN

Richard Honn

.Book Signing by Local Author

Born and raised in Camarillo, local historian, **David Reel** has recently published a beautifully documented book of historic interest to Camarillo citizens. Uniquely formatted with side-by-side pictures from earlier days and comparing to present, it is delightful to look at and reminisce the past. It is entitled, ***Past & Present Camarillo***. *David will be at the PVHS Museum on Saturday, January 18th, from 1:00 – 2:00 to chat with you as well as autograph a purchased book for \$20.*



Pizza Night! Family Fundraiser

Benefitting
PVHS

Where: Toppers Pizza Place
425 Arneill Rd.
Camarillo
(805)385-4444 or 495-4444

When: Tuesday, January 7, 2020
3:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

What: Toppers Pizza will donate back 20% of pre-tax sales generated by our group!

How to Help: Just follow these steps to help raise funds!
1) Bring the whole family to Toppers during the above period for a great pizza!
2) Show this flyer to the cashier **when you place your order** (or tell operator for phone orders).
3) No coupons or other discounts will be honored in conjunction with this fundraiser.
4) No flyers may be handed out in or around the restaurant during the event.
5) Online Orders are not included.

TOPPERS PIZZA PLACE
Proud to be part of the community!

Board of Directors 2019-2020

Joy Todd, *President*

Liz Daily, *Corresponding Secretary*

Bob Burrow, *Vice President*

Max Copenhagen, *Immediate Past President*

Bob Rust, *Treasurer*

Ira Grooms, *Member at Large*

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

David Bratz

Terry DeWolfe

Gail DeWolfe

Michael Ellias

Bob Fierro

Randy Eccles

David Hibbits

Bill Manzer

Raelene Manzer

Betty Jo McDonald

Beverly Pearson

John Pearson

Paul Rockenstein

Patricia Roth

Frank Roth

Betty Sullivan

Valerie Tackett

Bill Todd

Dr. Renee Whitlock

Standing Committees for 2019-2020

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. 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 on Tuesday, February 4



1620 E. Ventura Blvd., Camarillo

11 am to 9 pm

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

THE PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

invites you to

DINE OUT on Tuesday, March 3



YOLANDAS RESTAURANT

86 E. Daily Drive, Camarillo

4 to 9 p.m.

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

NEWS FROM THE PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

720 Las Posas Road

PO Box 570

Camarillo, CA 93011-0570

(805) 482-3660

E-mail address: pvhs@pvhsonline.org

Web site address: pvhsonline.org

Newsletter Editor:

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

Dine Outs at

Topper's on January 7

Ottavios on February 4

Yolanda's on March 3

Send in your dues for 2020

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Permit No. 128

Oxnard, CA

PAID

U.S. Postage

Non-Profit Org.

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