

The Echo

News from the Pleasant Valley Historical Society



Museum Item Illustration by TaylorConner.com

The above collage was created by Taylor Connor from photographs he took in our museum. We are unique in the history we hold. You can see the Springville Church model built by W.P. Daily, the eagle from the Cawelti farm, Juan Camarillo's mandolin and a Doctorman phone. See how many you can identify in his collage and know that it represents a wee part of our museum. We hope that you can see them for yourself

BACKGROUND HISTORY FOR BUILDING PROJECT FUNDRAISING.

Hopefully, you have received a letter from the building fund committee. We appreciate your support. The first two weeks brought over \$20,000 for the expansion of our museum. We have had interest in larger donations and are working with the building committee to get cost estimates and options.

PVHS has had a history of exceptional efforts made by individuals and groups. The Charles Honn Botanical Garden is an example of one man's vision and a group of dedicated volunteers who worked to fulfill that dream. It continues to surprise and delight visitors. The gazebo is unique in the county.

The museum has evolved over the last 30-plus years into an awesome living reflection of the talent, energy and passion of many dedicated people. Early years were concerned with collecting and storing artifacts, with somewhat less emphasis on displaying. The two cargo bins were a saving grace, allowing us to acquire thousands of fine artifacts. Our profound thanks to those early curators! It is impossible to name all the people who helped, but the Fulkerson family was instrumental in the early creation of the museum and of course, the library that bears Jack Fulkerson's name.

In 2015 the museum saw a renewed life. Siddharth Mehrotra volunteered his time for over a year, working four or five days a week, organizing and cataloging our collections, as well as preservation guidance. He taught us how to evaluate each item, research its history, record its provenance and catalogue it. We have stayed with his original plan. People ask if we are on line. "No." "How come? Are your archives on computer?" No, we want people to experience history so, we use a 36-drawer vintage card catalogue rescued from the VC Library. Each item is cross referenced and categorized. With the plan in place, our volunteers have continued for five plus years following his original teaching. People laugh, but they have fun looking through the card catalogue and finding what they were looking for the old-fashioned way.

We had a preservationist intern for almost 6 months, 3 days a week and 8 hrs. a day. Elizabeth Burton tested the interior of the museum for light and moisture, checked for bugs (we had carpet beetles, but that is another story) and guided our preservation of artifacts and paper. She removed the acid backing on one of our most interesting maps and eliminated most of the acid stains. It is now saved for posterity. Her guidance taught us preservation and protection of our collections, an on-going part of our daily operations.

Today we are truly viable and an asset in the Pleasant Valley Community. We have the history of the Pleasant Valley: agricultural, social, political and economic. It is preserved in the lives of the people who first developed the area and the things they needed to survive. It is a living history as we continue to add to our collections.

Please consider a donation to the building fund to help us add a beautiful building to our site that will be designed specifically, and give us space, to show off our pictures, artifacts and books in a fitting style

The Echo by e-mail

A growing 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's membership renewal time! Even though the museum has only been partially and intermittently open, we still rely on memberships to provide the necessary funding for its operations including utilities and other bills. The limitation on events has put a further restriction on our ability to raise funds, so please consider renewing your memberships to continue your support for the museum and garden. It will be greatly appreciated.

As you know, we did have the recent take out drive thru events. Many thanks to Joy and Bill Todd and the many volunteers who worked the event as well as Bruce Jochums and his crew for the cooking and serving! It actually was quite successful and we look forward to the next Let's Take Out events in 2021.

Another recent promotion has included the mailing of the Building Expansion fundraising program. The expansion fundraising committee put together the awesome flyer describing the ongoing building addition project and the opportunities to help with the costs. Over 700 flyers were mailed to community members asking for their support. This is only the beginning as we get close to being able to take the project to the next step.

The PVHS website has been updated to begin to track the progress on this exciting enhancement to the museum. Further progress continues with the expansion project with Bob Fierro reporting that the building and grading plans for the addition have been submitted for plan check to the City. This is the next step prior to obtaining building permits to allow for the beginning of construction once we are in a position to make further progress.

As we close out 2020 (big sigh of relief) we look forward to the new year and getting back to the programs and projects in support of the PVHS mission. But do take heart in the fact that many museum volunteers continue to provide the care necessary and the planning for the next year when we can get back to normal operations.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year and continue to be safe. We thank you for your continued involvement.

Bob Burrow

JOIN or RENEW 2021 MEMBERSHIP

The membership dues' funds go to everyday operations, separately from our Building Expansion fund raising. The Echo is sent to over twice the number of dues-paying members. This means that if you are getting the Echo regularly and are not a "member," we would welcome you to make 2021 the year that you show your support by joining. An envelope is included for your convenience that lists the various levels from an equivalent cost of a meal, to higher support levels. You can also join by going to our website: www.pvhsonline.org, push the MEMBERSHIP link on the home page. Thank you.

Let's PICK UP

TUESDAY,

Check menu at website:
Ottavios.com and then

Mention PVHS and give



January 12

Order on line, or call 805-482-
3810 from 3:30-6:30 pm

Coupon at pickup

FROM METERS TO MUSEUM

As we look to remodel our current building and add on to it, we asked Rick Dierksen (right) to talk us through what it was like to work in the original building. Rick came to work at Camarillo Water District in 1979 and retired after almost 40 years on the job, rising from meter reader to Water Superintendent for the City. He has great stories about working in the City and helping it grow. He helped us see how the current building was used prior to being a museum.

Our museum building was built in the early 1960s as the El Camino Water Company building. In 1968 the water company was purchased by the newly formed City of Camarillo. The building contained an office for the Director of the water company and a front desk for the secretary. There was a large table, over by what is now restrooms, that was used to look over maps. That area was also used for meetings. There were 8 or 9 employees working to keep the water running to the new City. This site served western Camarillo to Arneill Rd. The eastern part of the City was served by County District 5 water, also purchased by the City to make up the City of Camarillo Water District.

The west and south walls were covered with telemetry dials that monitored the wells and reservoir levels. Calleguas Mutual Water District (Thousand Oaks) would supplement the needs of the City being blended with Camarillo well water. The Charles Honn Garden site was a reservoir for the area and fed the Getman tract directly through a pipeline on the east side of the of the property. It took several years to empty the reservoir and fill it with dirt once it was no longer needed.

What is now the small office of PVHS was used to test and repair meters. There was a door at the back that went into what is now a bathroom, but at that time was a shower for the men coming back from jobs.



The lot behind the museum was full of small buildings that were used mostly for storage. Trucks parked on the west side of the property where we park now.

In 1985, PVHS got approval from the City Council to convert the water building to a museum. Councilwoman, Sandy Bush, was very involved in the securing of the site as well as the driving forces of PVHS, President, Betty Rutherford, and Barbara Fulkerson.

For almost two years, volunteers cleaned and cleared the back acre and reconstructed the inside of the building to make it function as a museum. The bathrooms were built (the shower repurposed as a bathroom) and the office created for the business of PVHS. Six display cabinets, 4' x 4', were built by Charles Honn (below) and volunteers. One thing that stood out was the need to be frugal and multipurpose without being cheap. We still are using the display cabinets that were originally built. They also have storage below.



The parking lot in 1986 (right)

MEMORIALS

Donations were made by Fred Phipps and Cathy Trainer in memory of
**Marilyn Farwell, Carl Louck, Bob Lutz, Tom Malley Jr., Mitsuko Tanal,
Mary Levins Schwabauer, Shirley Finfrock, Shirley Randall**

Donations were made in memory of **Eleanor Banner** by Joey Hernandez, Neale and
Sue McNutt, Ray Sargent, and Patrick Loughman

HONORARIUMS

A contribution in honor of **Val Rains' birthday** was made by Bev Taylor Yaeger

A very generous donation for the Charles Honn Botanical Garden was made by
Richard Honn

BUILDING FUND DONORS

Anonymous	Robert & Harriet Hiji	Dan & Pat Moretti
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	Meadowlark Service League	Zwinkels Family

ACCESSIONS

Having the museum closed all year has made our members and the public miss some of our new acquisitions. We have changed displays, but few have seen them, so the last change is still up!

Tess Hoff of Newbury Park donated a C. 1950s circular “drum” table. It has a tooled Leather top with decorative gold etching. Three drawers, Sabre legs with brass feet are features of the table. She even included a glass table top protection. It will be great when we can display it. Also, she donated a 1950s O’Keefe & Merritt gas, white porcelain, four burner stove with griddle & “vanishing shelf.” The top of the stove has clock and window with baking temperatures for various items. Oven has lower broiling drawer. This was a top of the line stove in its day and would be appreciated by any cook today. It will be a great addition to our “kitchen” when we have room to display it.

Given by **Lillian Eichner**, a truly unique C. 1912 (pat. Pending) Model M. #315846 Copper Easy Vacuum Washer, made by Syracuse Washing Machine Corp, Syracuse, NY. The top is also copper. It has its original electric engine attached to the bottom and all the drains attached. It has a unique agitating system of three bowl-like dishes turned upside down that move up and down and side to side. The ringers are attached to the side of the top edge.

One of our assessors, **Phylliss Andersen**, has spent the last year going through the Fulkerson Library insuring the books are preserved and cataloged. She has processed new donations to the library as we expand with donations of interesting historically relevant books to the Fulkerson Collection.

We recently found a picture of the opening of the first bridge over the Santa Clara River. The information was written by Dr. David W. Mott and found in February 1961, *Ventura County Historical Society Quarterly*. The article is written in first person. He was a speaker at the dedication of the bridge in 1898. He was known as a “high water doctor” for his efforts to cross the river to attend the sick and injured, as well as his efforts to save the yearly group of people who drown trying to cross the river. **Adele Flynn Walsh** had reported that the iron sign we have in our barn with the names of the VC Supervisors of 1898 (her Grandfather, Michael Flynn one of them) was used on the Santa Clara River bridge. Dr. Mott was a speaker at the dedication of the bridge.



Update on the Scholle Farmhouse

As we reported in the previous issue of the Echo, Camarillo community members, along with the San Buenaventura Conservancy’s Stephen Schafer, rallied to petition the City of Camarillo to review the EIR on the project. It subsequently was approved to change the plan, resulting in the preservation of a local historical resource, the 1800s farm house.

There will be 158 new homes plus the preservation of the Scholle Farm house. It will be moved from its present location to a designated lot in the same housing development, to restore the outside appearance of the house, update the plumbing and electrical, and sold as a private residence. In the park to be built on the corner of Ponderosa Drive and Springville offramp, there will be signage indicating the historical significance of this farm house location.

“THANK YOU’S “ GO TO

PVHS Board Vice-President, **Greg Farrin**, WebMaster, is doing an amazing job making our website current and user friendly. New pictures have been added, and many more categories on the website home page make it easier for the first-time visitor to navigate. Check it out: www.pvhsonline.org. Between the Greg & Karin team, they handle all the techie stuff that previously has been lacking. Karin answers all the incoming phone messages and emails, as well as working with the accession team working to put the inventory into the computer.

And to **Charlotte and Mike Craven** for the research they did on the Meters to Museum article.

Board of Directors 2020-2021

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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

BACK AGAIN ! Mark Your 2021 Calendars now!

LET'S TAKE OUT

Tuesday, Feb. 2nd

& Tuesday March. 2nd

+Reserve by Jan. 29th!

+Reserve by Feb 26th!

pick up 5 PM to 6 PM

Featuring Bruce's BBQ

the same great food served at the Don & Doña event!



Meal includes: —

+ Tri-tip

+Hawaiian Chicken

+Vegetarian Beans

+Bread

+Salad

(all chicken if requested)

\$15 per person

**Pay at pick-up with cash or
check to: PVHS**

credit card at
pvhsonline.org
click DONATE



**PLEASE: Reservations
REQUIRED**

by previous Fridays.

**Leave message with
name and number
of meals at**

(805) 482-3660 or

email:

pvhspvhsonline.org

**5 pm to 6 pm PICK UP AT
CAMARILLO CHRISTIAN CHURCH parking lot:
1777 Arneil Road (corner of Las Posas)**

NEWS FROM THE PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Find us on
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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.



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Pleasant Valley Historical Society
P. O. Box 570
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Museum Open: Saturday and Sunday
12 noon to 4 p.m.