

The Echo

News from the Pleasant Valley Historical Society

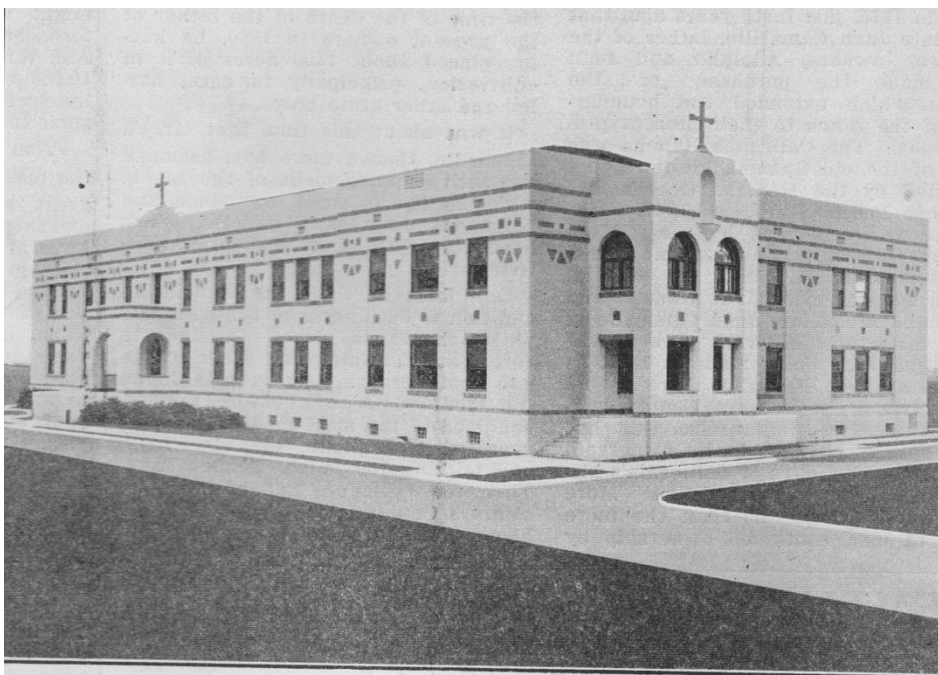
GROWTH of ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL

“Oxnard and Ventura County people should take pride in the fact that not even in Los Angeles is there a hospital so excellently equipped and so successfully handling maternity cases by this modern method, which doubtless accounts for the fact that a number of these cases have come to St. John's from points several hundred miles away, and as the name and fame of the institution spreads abroad we anticipate that there will be a corresponding increase in the number of out-of-town patrons who will avail themselves of its matchless facilities, not only in this particular department of its activities but in the general hospital and sanitarium features.” (yes, one sentence, written in 1915)

The hospital was “built and equipped at a cost of \$100,000.” The land was 8 ½ acres given by John Borchard. He also donated \$20,000 to the hospital. The other donors are a Who's Who of the Pleasant Valley. “It is the result of co-operation, based upon mutual confidence and esteem, between the management of the hospital and the citizens of Oxnard...”

The article references payment for services, but includes, “a large share of the work is purely charitable, the hospital is at all times receiving the deserving poor at reduced rates, or absolutely gratis.”

The first hospital in Oxnard was founded in 1912 by the Sisters of Mercy of San Diego. It was a small 6-room wooden frame building. Three years later they built this 25-bed St. John's Hospital on F St. It served the community and county until 1952 when the 75-bed hospital was opened on 3rd Street. The current 265-bed building on Rose Avenue was opened in 1992. St. John's merged with Pleasant Valley Hospital in 1993.



St. John's Hospital, Oxnard, Designed by A. C. Martin; Erected by T. H. Carroll.

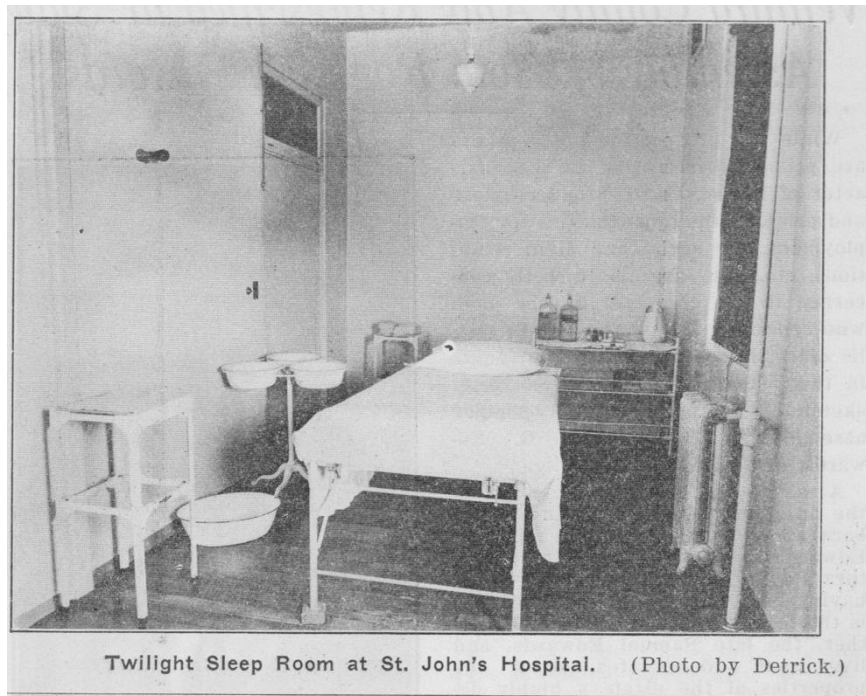
FROM OUR ARCHIVES

As we continue to discover, preserve and catalogue the collections of PVHS museum we find some treasures that pop-up as exceptional as they link the present to the past in a dramatic way. One recent example is a copy of *The Oxnard Daily Courier—1915 Progress Edition*. This publication verified some of the information we have from other sources.

W.R. Livingston, MD, was the bringer of “twilight sleep” to Oxnard. Our Fulkerson Library’s *Ventura County Biographical* (1926), has a great biography of Dr. Livingston. He was born in 1870 and spent his childhood in the Hueneme area. He went to the University of Chicago for his MD.

It was in 1914 that he went to Germany as a delegate to the American Clinical Congress and during that trip had the opportunity to study “twilight sleep” anesthesia under the originator in Freiberg, Germany. He brought the process back to Oxnard and became the chief of surgical staff at St. John’s Hospital. Our edition of *The Oxnard Daily Courier—1915 Progress Edition* includes a picture of the new St. John’s Hospital, designed by A.C. Martin (who designed Mary Magdalene Chapel in Camarillo, the Ventura Court House, Los Angeles Court house...among others). Included in the photographs is a picture of “Twilight Sleep Room at St. John’s Hospital”

It was W.R. Livingston’s practice of “twilight sleep” for child birth that earned the revenue to build and maintain the hospital. The entry ends “The Doctor is also a successful agriculturist and owns several well improved ranches in Ventura County and in Mexico. He is a Knight Templar Mason, belongs to the Country Club and is a Republican in his political views.” Dr. Livingston was married to Ruth Daily in 1929, after the death of his first wife. Ruth was the daughter of E.W. Daily and a longtime family friend of the Livingstons. She was 36 yrs. old when she married Dr. Livingston. Her legacy was to found the Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurses Association.



Put these dates on your calendar

Dine out (Patio dining or take out) at **Sharky's** on Tuesday, April 6—See Page 6 for coupon

Let's Take Out with Bruce's Barbeque on Tuesdays, May 4 and June 1. See Page 7 for details

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we leave 2020 and the winter behind us, we look forward to the onset of spring. The plants, bees and butterflies in the garden who will soon put on their annual show. The past winter has unfortunately brought dry weather, winds and shorter daytimes. We remain under limitations placed on us by the COVID regulations but start to look toward getting back our normal operations.

We will be cautiously reopening the garden and the museum when we are able. We want to be safe while serving our community in accordance with our mission statement. As we look forward to the months ahead, we know that our events will be postponed, limited in size or otherwise controlled. We have not forgotten about them and look forward to being able to once again sharing the garden and museum.

The plans for the expansion continue to take shape. The maintenance of the garden continues and the collection continues to be organized and catalogued thanks to our volunteers. We also look at the things we can do and how to change them up in order to maintain our presence. A prime example of this is the Let's Drive Thru events. These continue to be more successful than anticipated. It is great to see all of the organization to schedule them, the preparation to have them, and then the great response of the participants during the event.

We will begin having our monthly meetings and will offer socially distanced options. The support of members, volunteers and the community remain greatly appreciated. The garden and museum is a great community asset. It's always pleasing to hear new visitors saying "we have lived here for some time and this is our first visit" and seeing returning visitors exploring the exhibits in greater detail. Keep up the good work!

Bob Burrow

Erastus Wright Daily's house and ranch

The Oxnard Daily Courier—1915 Progress Edition included a picture of the new E.W. Daily home (It was located in the area of Marie Calendars in Camarillo) and an article related to his ranching. The article states—

"Mr. Daily's ranch is highly improved, with a modern home containing every comfort and convenience that the city dweller could get, and none of the disadvantages which the congestion of the town or city brings. A self-made man, who started as an employee of the Patterson Ranch when he first came to California in 1884, has through his own industry, good judgement and ability, acquired a handsome competence, and achieved commendable success, he is naturally a booster for the county."

The article finishes with, "And this reminds us that Mr. Daily's 1914 crop of lima beans was a record breaker. From 200 acres he got 6213 bags which sold for \$25,600. Forty acres of the 200 produced 1620 bags, or 40 ½ bags per acre, which is certainly "going some" and the entire crop was produced WITHOUT irrigation."



HOME OF E. W. DAILY

John Cabrera Tribute

Our dear friend John Cabrera passed away at his home January 27, 2021 at 93. John help PVHS understand a whole part of the history of Pleasant Valley. He was the son of farm workers and was born on the Lewis Ranch, today the site of CSUCI. He went to Pleasant Valley School and, at the age of 11, worked for Onorinda Jones (Principal of Pleasant Valley School), on her farm in the summer. He would hoe and plant lima beans.

John lived on the site that the museum occupies today. It was walnuts then and there were two small farm homes for families. His sister, Nancy, was born in one of those farm houses and passed away in the same house at about 6 months. John spoke fondly of the community of the “barrio” where he lived for many years. He left the area for a while to learn the upholstery trade but always wanted to come back, and he did.



“Voices lost whose lives should not be forgotten.” Meeting John and knowing him for the time we had, we are aware of the many people who made the Pleasant Valley what it is.

We featured in *the ECHO, Winter 2019, an oral history that John dictated to us. It is here for posterity to know Camarillo's “Johnny.”*

THE BIG STORY IN AGRICULTURE IN 1915 WAS LEMONS!

We have an original “Prospectus of the Pleasant Valley Lemon Co.’s Holdings near Oxnard-Ventura County California” written about 1916. The company had a temporary office in Los Angeles and that is where our copy originated. The need for additional revenue to accomplish the plans of the 1910’s farmers led to the promotion of the area as a lemon/lima bean producer. The company did test shipments of lemons—one by ship through the Panama Canal and one by rail. The fruit shipped by boat to New York commanded a higher price as it was in much better condition than that shipped by rail. Flat land was also a plus. The company boasted, “Practically all the land can be cultivated with engines and equipment (sic) from September to May at a cost of less than fifty cents an acre.”



The prospectus stated that PV has land and irrigation/water studies to assure investors of the viability of the area. Climate is addressed with references to the fact that “sea breeze cool the summer and temper the winter.”

Lemons were destined to outstrip both the lima bean and the sugar beets as the County’s principal crop. The impact of citrus would be immediate and long lasting. In 1922, Sunkist lemon-packing built two giant plants in Hueneme and became one of Hueneme’s largest employers. Within ten years, the production of sugar beets declined and land was put in cultivation of lemons and lima beans.

The lemon prospectus includes a map of the Pleasant Valley with identification of the families and individuals who owned the land. Interestingly, the Oxnard Bros., who never lived in the area but were sage investors, had quite a bit of land in the cultivation of sugar beets. From the information we have been able to gather, the Lewis Road Sunkist packing plant was built in the 1930s.

MEMORIALS

Donations were made by Fred Phipps and Cathy Trainer in memory of **Tom Blattel, Nancy Worthington, Mike Lonegan, Jim Bush, Mary Parrent, Jessie Monk**

Donations in memory of **Shirley Randall** were made by Jerrie Newman, Greg and Karin Farrin

Donations were made by Greg and Karin Farrin, Bill and Joy Todd in memory of **Tom Blattel**

John Cabrera was remembered by Bill and Joy Todd, Bobi Porras and Noella Belvedere

Noelea Belvedere donated in memory of **Anita Disfano**

Terry and Gail DeWolfe donated in memory of **Fred Renich**

Richard Honn donated in memory of **Charlie and Ruth Honn**

Paul Rockenstein donated In memory of **Michael Ann Rockenstein**

Anonymous donations were made in memory of **Dede Green and Wendell Daily II**

Beverly Taylor Yeager donated in honor of **Ted Rains's** birthday

DONATIONS RECEIVED SINCE THE WINTER 2021 ECHO

Donations listed are ONLY for this quarter

Ken and Shirley Anderson	Rod Gilbert	Mary Jo McPherson
Helen Andrews	Gary and Barbara Goff	Susan Measures
Barbara Barker	Ann Gross	Anne and Mike Megowan
Ana Blattel	Myron and Sharon Harrison	The Miele Family
Carol Bly	Carol Haverty	Sherwood Milleman
Dave and Linda Blatz	Richard Honn	Art Miller
Elizabeth Daily	Eleanor James	Louis Oliver
Bob De La Torre	Bruce and Ellen Jochums	Gerry and Joan Olsen
Elizabeth Dilibert	Joanne Kennedy	Fred and Dorothy Penney
Chris and Pat Ehret	Richard and Madeline Lee	Paul Rockenstein
Michael and Diane Ellias	Jackie Levine	Donna Searcy
Barbara Emmitt	Ron and Nancy Lindsay	Bill and Pat Thomas
Tom and Joan Faragher	Richard Loft	Bill and Joy Todd
Greg and Karin Farrin	Linda Malone	Andrew Todd
	/Grace Martinez	

Stan Daily Scholarship

The Stan Daily Scholarship is offered to students living in the Pleasant Valley area, including Camarillo, Somis and the Santa Rosa Valley. An award of \$1,000 may be given to the graduating senior who produces the best piece of original research (750 words) related to the history of the Pleasant Valley area.

Past essays have been about local people, places and events. The deadline for applications is **April 30, 2021**. Three (3) copies of the completed work should be mailed to PVHS, P.O. Box 570, Camarillo, 93011.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

New calendar year memberships are always accepted throughout the year. However, come the beginning of the year, we would appreciate your renewals. Thank you for those who have already renewed.

WILLIAMS' MODEL CAR COLLECTION

New in the museum is a collection of mint condition die cast model cars given by Robert Williams. "Bob" collected the cars for the past 25 years or so and wanted to share them. A longtime resident of Santa Rosa Valley, he said that he enjoyed coming to the museum and thought they would have a good home. They are a delight for all to see. Unfortunately, Bob passed away this past December and we appreciate the family honoring his gift.

Preservation of St. Mary Magdalen 1914 Pew

Bruce Jochums is restoring and preserving an original 10-foot pew from the 1914 St. Mary Magdalene Chapel. It was removed in the 1970s to make room for a confessional.

The "pews are of the finest quarter sawed oak."

It was donated by the Louie Ayala Family

Pictured at right:

Bruce hard at work on the pew.



SHARKY'S
WOODFIRED MEXICAN GRILL

JOIN US FOR A *Fin-Tastic*
FUNDRAISER

Enjoy Fin-tastic food & help raise money \$\$ for our cause.
Bring or show this flyer and 20% Net Sales will benefit:
**Pleasant Valley
Historical Society**

**SAVE THE
DATE**

April 6th (Tuesday) 11:00 am – 8:00 pm
Sharky's Camarillo: 805-322-1441
Patio dining, Take Out, Phone Orders
Order Online & pick up at restaurant
Order Online for curbside pickup
Enter fundraiser name at checkout for
online orders: PV Historical Society
Please Wear a Face Mask & Respec
Social Distancing Guidelines

Thank you! We look forward to seeing you.

NOTE! Please remember to present* this flyer when ordering or picking
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can open this document, you can present it without printing it out.

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Not valid with any other discounts or offers. Valid on the date and location listed above. Valid for dine-in or take-out.
Manager, please attach flyer to guest check. Event proceeds void if flyers are distributed in or near the restaurant.

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*

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Gail DeWolfe

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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

BRUCE'S BBQ **"LET'S TAKE OUT"**



\$15



Tri-tip & chicken, salad, vegetarian beans, bread

Tuesday, May 4th and June 1st

pick up 5 PM to 6 PM

at: CAMARILLO CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1777 ARNEIL ROAD [corner of Las Posas]

Reservations REQUIRED by Fridays --

April 31st and/or May 28th

Leave message with name and number of meals at: (805) 482-3660

Or email: pvhs@pvhsonline.org

PAY at pick-up with cash, or check to: PVHS
or PayPal at pvhsonline.org. Click "Let's Take Out"

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.



Thank you to Ivy Lawn for providing
a very generous grant for printing costs
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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.