

The Echo

News from the Pleasant Valley Historical Society

Don and Doña Celebration Set for September 25

Each year the Pleasant Valley Historical Society recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the community. Once again, nominations were received and reviewed to determine this year's group of worthy recipients. The individuals selected for 2021 include a range of varying forms of service to the community to make the Pleasant Valley area even a more special place. PVHS congratulates the following:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Linda Braunschweiger</i> | <i>Dr. Neil Dixon</i> | <i>Bob Fierro</i> | <i>Dennis Gaiser</i> |
| <i>Rachel Resnik Miles</i> | <i>Mike Mishler</i> | <i>Linda Packham</i> | <i>Helen Shields</i> |
| <i>Barbara Swetek</i> | <i>Terry Tackett</i> | <i>Cathy Trainer</i> | <i>Virginia Wooten</i> |

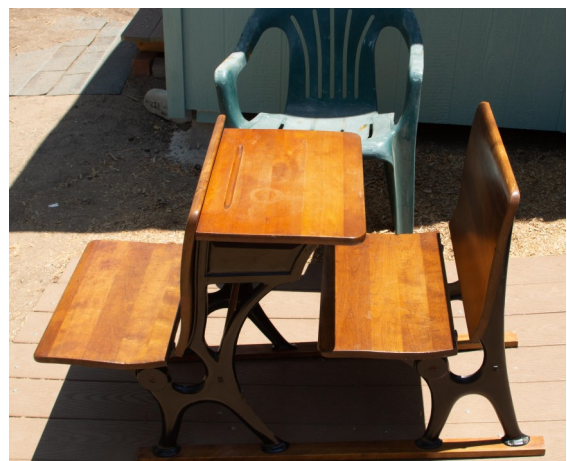
In September the honorees will be recognized at the annual Dons and Doñas Barbeque on September 25th at the Community Center. The Santa Maria barbeque-style meal will be catered by Bruce Jochums and will include tri-tip and chicken, vegetarian beans, salad, garlic bread and dessert. Beverages of your choice will be included in the price of a ticket. This is one of the most eagerly anticipated events in town; the honorees are highly deserving; the food is excellent and a good time is had by all.

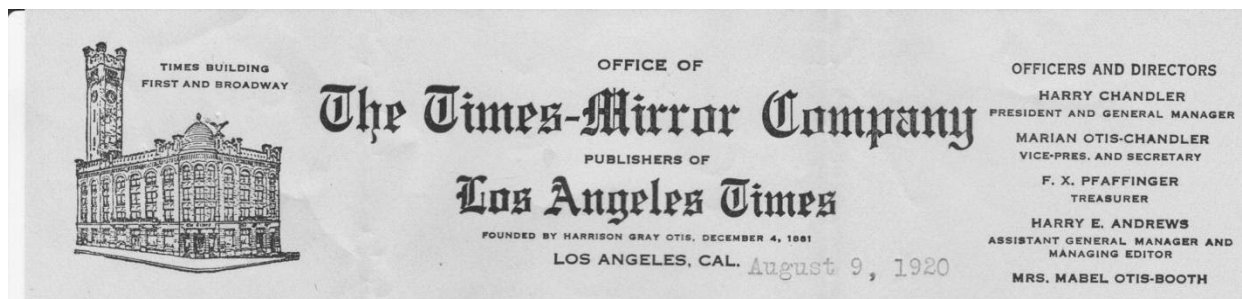
We cordially invite you to join the honorees, their families and friends at this gala event. Tickets are \$75 for adults, \$15 for children under 12. Paid reservations are available by mail to PVHS, P.O. Box 570, Camarillo, CA. 93011. You may also charge through PayPal. Tickets will be held for you at the door. For more information, access www.pvhsonline.org under Events. Formal invitations will be sent out in August.

Doors open at 1 p.m. for a social hour, the honorees will be introduced at 2 p.m., meal service follows.

Please join us in sharing this event. .

This 1910 child's desk was manufactured by the A. M. Andrews Company of Chicago. Is made of iron and wood and is in beautiful condition. It was donated by Cathy Tobias.





We meet such interesting people working at the museum. Through our archives, we come to know them and feel their personalities, basically through paper.

We recently found a letter from the *Times-Mirror Company* publishers of *Los Angeles Times*; the letter is dated August 9, 1920. It was written to E. W. Daily, R.F.D. #1, Camarillo, CA. The letter begins,

"Dear Sir: We exceedingly regret the inconvenience caused by the non-delivery of the *Daily and Sunday Times*." There is an explanation of process to follow up the missed papers. "If the paper was missed, Mr. Daily, it was not intentional and the only cause we can advance is that someone either picked it up or the truck driver did not throw it off which he insists though, he did. We have given him a good jacking up and he informed us that he stopped and saw you."

The letter addresses another issue, "We note your statement that you had little personal trouble with the agent in Camarillo and since that time the paper had been stopped two or three times. This must have been coincidence ... You say you have paid to July 1, 1921—when, and to whom was this payment made? We cannot find the money in the office." The letter goes on with specifics and references to the other Dailys in the area. The papers were distributed to:

"W.P Daily, throw off at young lemon orchard

C.W. Daily, throw off ½ mile west, northside of road under pepper tree

E.W. Daily, throw off North side.

Now, your name and W.P. 's check, but instead of C.J. we have C. W. Should this be corrected to read C. J.? ... Trusting to hear from you in the near future and thanking you for the courtesy, we remain

Yours very truly,

THE TIMES-MIRROR COMPANY

Will Thilenius, Circulation Department"

What a time to live!

The botanical garden was beautiful this spring. The California Buckeye tree is in bloom next to "The Barn"



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President's Message

At our recent Annual Meeting I gave an update on all the happenings at the museum and garden. I wanted to share the information so as to inform everyone who could not attend the meeting.

First of all, we recently had an audit of our finances. This was done by one of our members who has had a successful career as an auditor. We owe her a big thanks for volunteering to undertake this effort. Her final report did not identify any problems. We received a number of suggestions which will aid in our bookkeeping methods and budgeting process. Speaking of budgeting, the 2021-22 Annual Budget was approved and we remain in good shape for the future.

We have recently filed for a number of grants and were successful in receiving grants from the State and County COVID Relief Funds to help offset operating costs this past year while our programs were on pause. A grant from the Meadowlarks Service Organization will cover the costs for a new exhibit in the garden, similar to the recently completed Barn exhibit. Finally, the City of Camarillo Community Service Grant will pay for the rebar to be used in the foundation for the expansion project.

Our 2021 Dons and Doñas were announced and are included in this edition. We are gearing up for the BBQ on September 25th at the Community Center. We look forward to seeing everyone there as well as other activities as we re-launch our operations. In the meantime we continue with the Drive Thru BBQ events which have been very successful and well supported by our members, the Lions Organizations, our volunteers and Bruce' BBQ. We appreciate all of the support!

We continue to make slow but steady progress with the expansion plans. We have received landscape plan approval, first plan check comments for the grading plan and are gearing up to get the building plan check completed. We will continue the fundraising program to help raise the revenue for this important undertaking.

Lastly, other important operations are ongoing including the maintenance of the garden, accessions for artifacts, construction of the storage sheds, and small group activities who use the gazebo for meetings. We are working with a group for a small filming opportunity as well as coordinating with other organizations including CSUCI and the Ventura County Museum. None of this could happen without all our members, docents, volunteers and community support.

Many Thanks! Bob Burrow

Docents Needed

The number of docent volunteers is dwindling. More visitors are coming now that we are open again. Please consider offering time to share with the public all the many things that we have to offer at the site. Visitors are pleasantly surprised. Contact us through the very active and current website if you can help. Easy training. Thanks!

MEMORIALS

Fred Phipps and Cathy Trainer donated in memory of Jay Crane, Eva Small, John Torkelsen, John McGarry, Ted Daniel, Susanne Kitchen.

Albert and Petra Lowe donated in memory of Shirley Randall

Camarillo House Ranch Docents donated in memory of Thomas Blatell

Donations in memory of Ted Daniel were made by John and Beverly Pearson, Bill and Joy Todd, Bob and Olivia Fulkerson, Greg and Paulette Marsh, Debbie Thiessen, Adele Walsh

Donations in memory of John Cabrera were made by Richard Cabrera, Susan Peterson, Carol Lopez, Gilberto Cabrera

HONORARIUMS

Fred Phipps and Cathy Trainor donated in honor of Jerry and Melanie Nosek's 50th Anniversary

Cindi Frederick donated in honor of Ira Grooms

Beverly Taylor donated in honor of Ted and Val Rains anniversary

DONATIONS FOR THE BUILDING FUND

Donations received this quarter only

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Jerry and Cheryl Bankston</i> | <i>Noella Belvedere</i> | <i>Gail Brockett</i> | <i>Bob and Barbara Burrow</i> |
| <i>Camarillo Amber's Light Lions Club</i> | <i>Leora Connor</i> | <i>Liz Daily</i> | <i>Grace Martinez</i> |
| <i>Darren Patnoe</i> | <i>P.E.O. Chapter RZ</i> | <i>Ted and Val Rains</i> | <i>Betty Sullivan</i> |
| <i>Andrew Todd</i> | <i>Bill and Joy Todd</i> | <i>Stephen Ware</i> | <i>Ryan and Andrea Wells</i> |
| <i>Carol Yung</i> | <i>Cindi Frederick</i> | <i>Bill and Mary Little</i> | |

Another Way to Support PVHS

If you use Amazon to order things on the internet, go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and register for the account of Pleasant Valley Historical Society. When you search for an item, go to your account by typing in smile.amazon first, and it will record any money you spend, then send it to our bank account monthly. Easy!

Addendum to "Twilight Sleep"

The last Echo featured St. John's Hospital and the work of Dr. William R. Livingston with "twilight sleep" as a birthing option in 1915. We had not found what the drug or process was for "twilight sleep." Of course we could have gone on the internet and looked it up, but that seems like cheating. If one wanted to know about it at the time there was no internet. We found a reference in a 1915 Cosmopolitan Magazine that the museum has. There was competition between the French creation of a processed drug with a treated base of morphine, and the German "Twilight Sleep" which Dr. Livingston had been trained to use. The German drug, a mixture of morphine and scopolamine, put the patient into an amnesiac state but still conscious.

Community Action Saves the Day
By Brandee Anderson, ACHS
2021 Stan Daily Scholarship Awardee

As a volunteer working at the Pleasant Valley Historical Society Museum, I was fascinated by the information available. The public interest in the closed-down Oxnard Air Force Base caught my attention.

During the 1970s, rumors flooded the county about the closed down 773 acres Oxnard Air Force Base located in Camarillo (OAFB). This large mass of land was soon to be sought out by multiple agencies and many of them wanted to split the land into different parts dedicated to different uses. Multiple meetings were then held within about three weeks of May to discuss the terms, conditions, and prices of this area's further use. Some of the agencies who sought the land were:

Oxnard Union High School District

County of Ventura

Park and Recreation

Federal Bureau of Prisons

City of Camarillo

Commercial Airports

Marine Corp

The General Services Administration (GSA), which was soon to take over the OAFB, indicated that they would not release the base until all governmental bodies involved had agreed on a plan for its use.

The City of Camarillo had passed two resolutions by the mayor, Stan Daily, the morning of May 13, 1971, that urged the Ventura County Community College and the Oxnard High School District to use the OAFB to push for educational purposes and even a third resolution was rumored to urge the Pleasant Valley Elementary School District to take similar action; however, councilmen stopped at the high school level. Many parents of the students agreed with these ideas and plan to push the allocation for education.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons wanted to have use of at least 150 acres as a youth rehabilitation facility. However, after attending the meeting and pushing for this land the Councilmen and city publicly stated their opposition to the prison proposal. This was not a happy thought for the citizens of Camarillo concerning their safety and personal wants.

The County of Ventura was seeking the base as a commercial county airport. The City of Camarillo did not technically push for the land, but very much pushed against the idea of turning this "Camarillo Airport" into an annex for LAX commercial flights. The fight was argued for the reasoning of housing, environmental damage, and population explosion. The fight for the OAFB to become a commercial airport was fought until 1976. Even the discussion had gone all the way to the White House with President Nixon. Mayor Stan Daily met with Special Assistant to the President, John Davies, to continue to work on negotiations of the Air Force Base's Land.

Many teenagers during this time of the land being unclaimed and unused were using the parks for baseball games and youth enjoyment. Park and Recreation then saw this as an opportunity to join in and negotiate a way to use some of these parks, baseball fields, and other lands for the use of parks and areas for the public's use. Others, such as a member of the council, Thomas Martin, wanted to keep the facility "military in nature". The Marine Corp pushed for use of the base as an actual Air Force facility and training base. This idea has highly frowned upon after a pilot flew too low to the homes of Camarillo causing even more uproar about the use of the land.

Two of the final alternatives for the use of the land that council discussed...

The second alternative most closely reflects the uses seen today.

Alternative #1

Strongly support the private university for 440 acres of land

Request some 178 acres for use by the City of Camarillo

Apply 14 acres for an extension of Springville Road on top of the existing runway

Support the request by the County Board of Education for 7 acres of land

Recommend 115 acres be surplus sold to the highest bidder

Alternative #2 (if GSA refused the Health Education and Welfare (HEW) proposal in Alternative #1)

Request all 773 acres which were all of the base property uses being:

Provide general aviation airstrip of 265 acres with a 4000-foot runway

105 acres for vehicular recreation area

73 acres for Flood Control facility

10 acres for air Museum

14 acres for the right of way of Springville Road

Balance of 306 acres to be allocated to those other agencies which may desire to lease portions of the property

The remaining parcel would be under the jurisdiction of the City of Camarillo to develop as industrial uses

The citizens of Camarillo should be proud of the efforts and solutions that produced the airport we have today.

Sources for this paper were made available by the Pleasant Valley Historical Society of Camarillo

Committee Against Camarillo Airport—1969

In November of 1969 ordinance #151 created a “study zone” for OAFB to become a regional airport for LAX. A group of women created the “Committee Against Camarillo Airport” [CACA]

The committee divided the town up into neighborhoods and individuals walked their area informing and involving the community and getting petitions signed. The community responded—the first open meetings were so well attended that they had to move to the Community Center.

This is timely for our city as rumors are surfacing for expanding airport use, including Amazon who wants to use the airport for its huge cargo planes. We will be on guard for another “take-over” effort!

Board of Directors 2021-2022

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 2021-2022

Finance: Bob Rust; Museum Operations: Bill Todd and Greg Farrin; Max Copenhagen: Communications;

Events: Joy Todd; Garden: Betty Jo McDonald; Facilities: Bob Burrow

Support PV HISTORICAL SOCIETY with a great meal!

Bruce's BBQ Pick-up



\$15



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

July 6th and August 3rd

RESERVE by the previous FRIDAY, each month

Leave message with NAME and NUMBER of meals at 805-482-3660

or email: pvhs@pvhsonline.org

PICK-UP 5 pm to 6 pm at Camarillo Christian Church,
1777 ARNEILL ROAD (corner of Las Posas)

PAY at pick-up time with CASH, or CHECK made to PVHS,
or PayPal at www.pvhsonline.org. Click BBQ

NEWS FROM THE PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Betty Sullivan, 482-6340



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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
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of the ECHOES and other materials.



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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.