

# *The Echo*

**News from the Pleasant Valley Historical Society**

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CAMARILLO!**

By Bob Burrow

Back in 1964 there was much discussion about how the community of Camarillo could be in the best position of charting its own course for the future. There was a certain excitement and anticipation mixed with the optimism of the decade. Many different perspectives were offered as to whether the timing was right and whether the young town was ready to take this leap. Ultimately, the decision was not to remain under the control of the county and instead, the City of Camarillo was incorporated. The community showed that it was ready to stand on its own.

Fifty years later, that decision has been proven time and time again to have been momentous and a sound decision. Witness the fact that the City of Camarillo has just been ranked 50<sup>th</sup> in the top 100 communities in the United States.

This year is indeed the golden anniversary for the community. The City is well underway with a program to celebrate that benchmark. An outreach is underway which will engage many residents, organizations, groups, businesses and others to help celebrate this event.

In considering this occasion, there are other important anniversaries to mention. It is truly unique that some of the most notable representations of the community share in celebrating major anniversaries this year. These occasions help to weave the rich historical representation of the community while almost seeming more than just happenstance.

As many are aware, one of the most iconic structures in the city is the St. Mary Magdalen Chapel. This building was purposely located on the prominent hill in what was then the Camarillo town site. This year marks the St. Mary Magdalen Centennial Celebration. For 100 years now residents and visitors alike routinely take a moment to enjoy the visual beauty of its classic design and recall its enduring history.

Another important remembrance this year is the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of Adolfo Camarillo himself. Born on October 28, 1864 this visionary and dedicated individual was one of the most critical links who shaped the early days of Camarillo and provided the foundation of the community. Adolfo Camarillo died on December 10, 1958 but will be long remembered as part of the history of the area.

Speaking of history, another group is celebrating an important milestone. That's us. The Pleasant Valley Historical Society began in 1964 as a fledgling group dedicated to preserve the history of the Camarillo, Somis, and Pleasant Valley area for the enjoyment and enrichment of future generations. Today the organization continues to serve its mission. While many residents of the area were not around for some of these historical events, everyone can learn what took place in the earlier times of the community and how the area transformed into the wonderful place it is today. The Pleasant Valley Historical Society will continue to be an important resource in the community as we participate this momentous year in telling the history of this great community.

## LIVING HISTORY DAY

Planning is well underway for our next "Living History Day" event that is scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Museum's Botanical Garden area. Our goal is to have fun with the children of the community and give them the opportunity to see how toys, food, and other things were made in the early days in Camarillo and all across America.

We are still looking for additional volunteers to help us participate in some of our many activities that are planned for our visitors, especially the children, to enjoy with "hands on" participation. You are too late to be the "First Volunteer" however, unless your name is Carol Pinto! She wants to be at her favorite activity station making the toy "Bull Rush" with the children. It is also known as the "Button and String" toy. Thank you Carol for your enthusiasm, love for the children and great smile.

Many of the activities that were provided last year and perhaps a few more will be available. Some of those that are presently being considered are: panning for gold, wood working, making butter, clothes washing using the scrub board and tub, making yarn dolls, making tortillas to eat, grinding grain, weaving and spinning, quilting, making clothespin butterfly toys and others. If you have a new suggestion and / or would like to help volunteer in any of our activities please call Pat Roth (482-3382) or Liz Daily (482-1036).

In addition, we hear that there is a good chance that we will be visited by soldiers from the Civil War era, both from the North and South, who have become friends since the war ended. They will be dressed in their uniforms and displaying their rifles and other things used in the war.

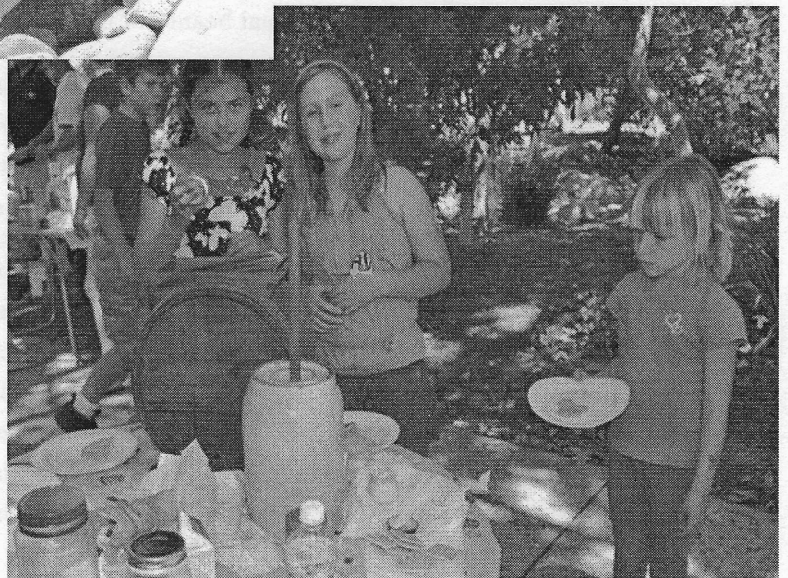


### ACTIVITIES LAST YEAR

(LEFT) Panning for gold.

(BELOW) Churning butter.

COME ONE, COME ALL. Refreshments will be served and we will all have fun and maybe you will learn a thing or two about how your Grandparents and Great Grandparents lived. **ADMISSION is FREE!** See you on May 18<sup>th</sup>.





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I can't believe it is almost Spring already and, as I was walking around the garden a couple of weeks ago with my daughter and son-in-law who were visiting from very cold Minnesota, I noticed that many of the plants were beginning to show spring growth and a blossom here and there. I also noticed two magnificent monarch butterflies dancing around enjoying our beautiful garden as well. I pray that the drought will end soon and that we will not have to cut back too much on our water consumption for the many varieties of plants that we have. Thanks to Betty Jo and her helpers for devoting so much time in making the garden look so beautiful for us and the butterflies. I invite you to take the time to stroll around the garden; you will find it helps relieve any stress you may be facing.

Pat is getting excited about this year's "Living History Day," which is coming up on May 18<sup>th</sup>. She is expecting a larger turnout this year. The children and parents, as well, have always enjoyed the many activities that are available for them to see and for their "hands on" participation. If you have never attended before, take the time to bring your grandchildren, children, neighbor kids or just yourselves. I assure you that you will have an enjoyable afternoon. If you have some spare time and would like to help for a few hours that Sunday, please call Pat Roth at 482-3382 or Liz Daily at 482-1036.

I want to remind you to mark your calendar for our Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, (1:00 to 3:00 p.m.) at the Gazebo. It is a time for some of us to meet new members, to eat (light refreshments), drink and be merry and to enjoy our Museum and Garden. This is the meeting at which our new Board of Directors will be elected. Each year one-third of the positions are to be filled. I am still working on our guest speaker and, if he can arrange his schedule, you will have a memorable experience.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Max Copenhagen, who is traveling around the World for the next six weeks, will be meeting when he returns in early April to nominate new Board Members and Officers of the Society for next year starting July 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested in serving, please call me or Max after April 5<sup>th</sup>.

It is also time for all of you to be thinking about any outstanding people who should be nominated as a "Don or Doña." See the Nominating Form included in this ECHO. The Bar-B-Que will be August 24<sup>th</sup>. Put this date on your calendar.

Bob Rust and I have continued to meet with Camarillo Ranch House members regarding how we can be more helpful to each other and one of the ways was to include each others' events in our newsletters. In this ECHO you will see their logo (below) and ours will be in their next issue.

We have heavy hearts at this time because we lost a long time friend, member and "Don" this past month. Bill Seaver, a retired teacher, principal, and Superintendent of Conejo Unified School District and a loving husband, father, grandfather and friend to everyone he met will be missed by us all. On behalf of the Society I want to offer our condolences to his wife Shirley and his family.

Again, I want to thank everyone of the Society and especially all of you who do that little extra to make the Museum and Garden and enjoyable time for our visitors.

You are so appreciated. Please join us on Dine Out Night at Applebee's on Tuesday, May 6. See coupon on Page 7.

Frank Roth



## THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT THE MUSEUM

### Don and Doña Selection Committee

Raelene and Bill Manzer,

Since the Pleasant Valley Historical Society's inception 50 years ago, Don and Doña honors have been awarded to 439 individuals over the years. We invite you to submit nominations for the 2014 Dons and Doñas. Nominations are accepted until June 1. Following that date, the Don and Doña Selection Committee will meet to consider all nominations. As stated in the Nomination Form (see Page 5), all nominations are confidential and only known by this committee. The Committee determines who will be selected and those selected are notified. The PVHS Board hosts a get-acquainted reception for the honorees and the Board in July. The Annual Don and Doña event to honor the recipients is August 24. We look forward to receiving your nominations. For information, please send an email to [manzerw@msn.com](mailto:manzerw@msn.com).

### Search for Charter Members

Did you receive a Charter Member Certificate in 1964? Did you live inside the new city limits and respond to the Camarillo Daily News article? If so, please send a note to [pvhs@pvhsonline.org](mailto:pvhs@pvhsonline.org) to let us know your name, if you still live in town and the names of anyone else you know who was part of this exclusive group.

### From Membership Chair, Bill Todd

Thanks to all of you who have already renewed your tax-deductible membership dues for the calendar year 2014! We rely on these funds as our primary source of revenue. If you have misplaced the renewal envelope, just enclose a note with your check indicating your membership level: Individual-\$15; Family-\$25; Patron-\$100; Benefactor/Corporate-\$250. Mail to PO BOX 570, Camarillo, CA 93011. Additional contributions are always welcomed, and can be designated for certain areas of interest. Also, many members have donated monies in memory of or in honor of a special person. Thank you for your support.

### MEMORIALS

Fred Phipps gave in memory of **Phil Villa, Ed Nuckols, Buzzy Manzer, and Norma Maidel**. He and Cathy Trainer made donations in memory of **Alice Underwood, Max Grant, Bill Seaver and Mark Borchard**.

Stan and Liz Daily gave in memory of **Max Grant, Ed Nuchols and Geri Graham**.

Raelene and Bill Manzer gave in memory of **Buzzy Manzer, Annie Laurie and Robert Jochums and William Seaver**

Ray Abbott donated in memory of **Phil Daily**.

Jeanne Adams gave in memory of **Ronald Adams**.

### DONATIONS

We would like to thank Tom Faragher who came into the Museum and offered to repair the Grandfather clock that sits by the side door. The dial is now polished and the clock runs. It is from the early 1700's and was made in England by a man named Noch. It was made with only one hand to tell the time.



# Pleasant Valley Historical Society & Museum

Serving Camarillo, Somis, and Santa Rosa Valley since 1964

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

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



## NOMINATION FORM Selection of 2014 Dons and Doñas

Persons being nominated for a Don or Doña should be:

1. An individual whose family and/or personal history is significant in the root history to the Pleasant Valley.
2. An individual whose outstanding performance of community service and/or service to the Historical Society may be considered to satisfy the requirements for nomination as a Don or Doña only if services have been consistently provided by that person who has lived in the area for 20 years or more.

The names submitted for consideration shall be kept CONFIDENTIAL and shall only be made known to the Don and Doña Committee

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

History of Service:

Please attach additional page if more space is required.

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

Please mail completed nomination forms to: Don and Doña Selection Committee,  
P. O. Box 570, Camarillo, CA 93011, No later than: June 1, 2014

## CHARLES HONN GARDEN

By Betty Jo MacDonald, Garden Chair

### California Wildflower Season is Coming Soon

All wild plants in California have flowers, even though some are so tiny they are difficult to see. When we refer to "Wildflowers," we are thinking of annuals, those colorful masses of flowers that seem to spring from barren hills and fields almost overnight. That is when wildflower viewing sites appear in newspaper articles and on websites. There is a rush to see and photograph them because, when the hot days arrive, these flowers have produced their seeds and are finished with the flowers.

California's wildflowers are popular all over the world. Gardeners love to grow them in their flower gardens. They can be planted from seed and some are sold already sprouted in flats at nurseries. California Poppy is easily found in 6 plant pot packs and can be planted over a long season—especially in coastal regions. The seeds of our native annual flowers usually germinate after the fall's first rains. In a year like this one, we have had no wildflowers germinating in the Botanic Garden. They will sprout after these late February rainy days, but if we have a hot and dry spring, they may be short lived.

If you want to try growing wildflowers in your home garden, "*California Native Plants for the Garden*," sold at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Book Store, has a list of favored native annuals. I will give you a list of a few of the popular flowers mentioned in this book.

*Clarkia amoena* (Farewell to Spring)/*Clarkia concinna* (Red Ribbons)/*Clarkia unguiculata* (Elegant Clarkia) are the Clarkias which I have found grow best from seed.

*Collinsia heterophylla* (Chinese Houses) I don't know if these seeds are readily available but I mention them because they are so interesting to look at. The blossoms are stacked on a center stalk, and said to resemble pagodas. I saw an entire hillside covered with them after one of the fires in Malibu, proving that their seeds had lain dormant in the earth under the chaparral plants just waiting for a fire to clear the way for them. Each year, as the chaparral grew back, there were fewer flowers.

*Layia platyglossa* (Tidy Tips) has a yellow white tipped daisy like flowers and looks great planted as a lower plant around lupines. There are many kinds of lupines growing in California. The Cal Flora web site lists 139 plants in the genus *lupinus*. I think the most common one we see is the variety with the vibrant blue and white flowers. Last season I planted seeds for a vibrant yellow lupine that was so dazzling you had to stop and savor the beauty of the plant. I hope to see them again this spring in the Butterfly garden.

*Eschscholzia californica* (California Poppy) is our beautiful state flower. When I first came to California, I thought it was called "The Golden State" because during the summer the hills were golden with dried grasses and in early spring they were golden with California poppies. This is probably the most widely known of our wildflowers and the easiest to grow in a home garden. They self seed like annuals and they also produce a long tapered orange root which resembles a carrot that can live through the winter and produce a new (and larger) plant in the spring. This is the best known of our wildflowers as it has naturalized in Mediterranean climates around the world. It has filled a niche in Chile and is as common there now as in its native home.

If you have a fairly large space to plant, go to Green Thumb Nursery and look for the packages of "Native California Wildflowers". There are many types of flower packs labeled as "native" but unless they are labeled "California," they have a lot of non native seeds. You can buy packs of straight California poppies at Home Depot. Sorry, I haven't found truly native seeds in other stores.

We are lucky in Camarillo that we still have a few places within a short drive to see some native flowers in bloom each spring. The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, 1212 Mission Canyon Drive, Santa Barbara has a meadow full of spring flowers and grasses just inside the entrance of the garden. You don't have to hike to see this display. Check their website at [www.sbbg.org](http://www.sbbg.org) to see when flowers are blooming.

Check in with our own Botanic garden to see if our wildflowers are in bloom. There isn't a large space but they will wow you when you look carefully at an individual flower.

Satwiwa Native American Culture Center in Newbury Park is a short walk from their Parking lot and beside it is a meadow area that has grasses and wildflowers.

For locations and times of Wildflowers in bloom call Theodor Payne's Wildflower Hot line, March through May at 818-768-3533; other hotlines are 760-767-4684/760-786-2331/and 760-367-5500. These last 3 are for desert areas and the Great Central Valley.



## Executive Committee 2013-2014

Frank Roth, *President*

Max Copenhagen, *Vice President*

Bob Rust, *Treasurer*

Bill Todd, *Recording Secretary*

Barbara Wagner, *Corresponding Secretary*

Hon. Stan Daily, *Parliamentarian*

David Hibbits, *Member at Large*

Ira Grooms, *Member at Large*

**Board of Directors:** New members were elected at the June 2 Annual Meeting.

Jeanne Adams

Liz Daily

Ira Grooms

David Hibbits

Bill Manzer

Betty Jo McDonald

Carol Pinto

Patricia Roth

Bill Todd

Valerie Tackett

Bob Burrow

Honorable Stanley Daily

Paul Hawblitzel

Dr. Renee Whitlock Higgins

Raelene Manzer

Bill Milligan

Roger Putnam

Bob Rust

Joy Todd

Barbara Wagner

Max Copenhagen

Ted Daniel

Bob Hernandez

John Kitchens

Ron McCown

Albert Misevic

Franklin Roth

Valerie Tackett

Betty Sullivan

### Committee Chairs of PVHS for 2013-2014

Accessions, Display, Cleaning: *Liz Daily*; Annual Meeting, Facilities, Supplies, Grants, Don and Doña Barbeque: *David Hibbits*; Docents: *Joy Todd*; Don and Doña Selection Committee: *Bill and Raelene Manzer*; Gazebo Events: *Valerie Tackett*; Finance/Budget: *Bob Rust*; Policies: *Burt Misevic*; Garden: *Betty Jo MacDonald*; Fundraising: *Stan Daily*; Gift Shop: *Carol Pinto*; Newsletter: *Betty Sullivan*; Publicity: *Barbara Wagner*; Sunshine, Living History Day: *Pat Roth*; Site: *Bill Manzer*; Nominations, IT: *Max Copenhagen*; Signage: *Ira Grooms*.



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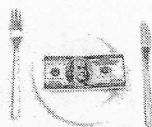
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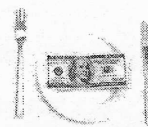
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Join us on May 6 for Dine Out at Applebee's. Use one coupon for yourself and give the other to a friend. See you there!

# NEWS FROM THE PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Camarillo, CA 93011-0570

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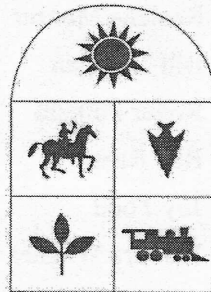


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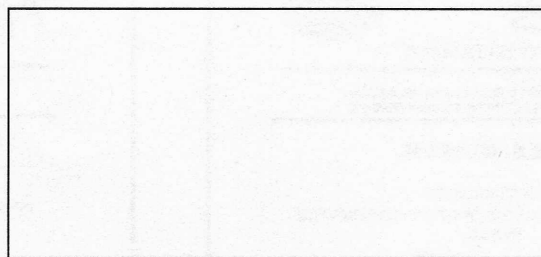
*The Pleasant Valley Historical Society Mission is to identify, preserve, classify, restore and acquire artifacts, buildings, landmarks, photographs and historical documents of the greater Pleasant Valley area for the education and use of the general public, and to make the museum a focal point for the dissemination of the history of the area.*

## REMEMBER THESE DATES

**Dine Out is on Tuesday, May 6 at Applebee's,  
Living History Day is Sunday, May 18 and the  
Annual Meeting is Sunday, June 1.**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CAMARILLO!**



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