

The Echo

News from the Pleasant Valley Historical Society

Our 50th Don and Doña Barbeque Set for August 24

This year marks the golden anniversary of the City of Camarillo, the Pleasant Valley Historical Society and the Society's premier event, the honoring of men and women who, over the years, have made Camarillo and its environs a wonderful place to live. Each of the honorees has contributed far and above what is normally expected of a good citizen. Some are sons and daughters of long time area residents; others have made a difference in the community through their professional and volunteer efforts for at least twenty years or more. They will follow in the footsteps of the more than 400 residents in the previous 49 years. They are:

Barry Hoyland

Kevin Kildee

Betty Jo McDonald

Donna Morgan

Mary Parrent

Pat Roth

Walt Stallings

Bill Todd

Joy Todd

Katie Waunch

They will be honored on Sunday afternoon, August 24, in the Red Barn at the Camarillo Ranch House. Their friends and relatives are invited to join these festive activities, which include a Santa Maria Style Barbeque, a complimentary wine, beer and soda bar and an opportunity to mix and mingle with well-wishers. This is one of the most looked forward to events in town; the honorees are well chosen, the food is excellent, the beverages flow freely and a good time is had by all.

Tickets are \$50 for adults and \$15 for children. Paid reservations are available by mail to PVHS, P.O. Box 570, Camarillo, CA 93011-0570. Tickets will be held for you at the door. For more information, call Bob Rust at 484-6601. Seating is limited so make your reservations early. Doors open at 1 p.m., honorees are introduced at 2 p.m., meal service follows.

VISIT OUR DISPLAY AT THE VENTURA COUNTY FAIR

The theme of the 2014 Ventura County Fair is "A Country Fair with Ocean Air" and the Historical Society is preparing to exhibit in the Shadow Box event. This is a competition for museums and historical societies in the county and is a chance for fair visitors to learn about our respective organizations. This year, the fair opens on Wednesday, July 30th, and runs through Sunday, August 10th. The fair and exhibits open each day at 10 a.m. and the exhibits close in the early evening. The PVHS exhibit will be located in the south end of the Agricultural Exhibits building.

Burt Misevic is our designer/builder again this year. His creation last year won a Blue Ribbon for the Society. Will we win again this year? Maybe, maybe not, but you can be sure it will be worth viewing.

THE SANTA CLARA RIVER BRIDGE

(If you build it, they will come)

Highway 101 is the artery that connects Ventura County with the rest of California. How often do we cross over the Santa Clara bridge without a thought to its past, if we think about it at all. It is, after all, just one small necessary link between Camarillo and Ventura and it has been there forever. Or has it been there forever? Was there any time when its location was controversial?

The bridge, as it stands now, is in its third incarnation. In the years before 1898, there was a great deal of agitation for the building of a bridge over the Santa Clara River. Its building had become a crying need because the river during winter months was often impassable for days and weeks at a time. A bond issue to build a bridge was put to the people and was defeated. Another bond issue was called for and again it was defeated.

The opposition to the building of the bridge was intense and came from many sources. T. R. Bard of Hueneme, whose interests at that busy port were extensive, did not favor the bridge as naturally it would draw east side farmers away from Hueneme, going instead to Ventura with their products. Residents in Oxnard were in favor of a bridge but wanted it further southward along the Santa Clara River. People in Saticoy wanted it there and some favored Santa Paula as its location.

Voices in favor of its Montalvo location were Supervisors Mike Flynn, representing the eastern portion of the county and F. Hartman of Ventura. In order to get the bridge built by general taxation (since two bond issues has failed), they needed a third vote on the Board of Supervisors. Somehow, a little money for roadwork was found to help the supervisor representing Ojai and, voila, they had their third vote.

The citizens of Ventura County turned out in carriages and buggies to witness the dedication ceremonies in August, 1898, of this new wooden wonder that facilitated traffic between the east and west areas of the county. It served us for thirty four years until it was honorably discharged from duty in May, 1932. The cost of the original bridge, which was deeded to the State in 1924, was \$48,252.75. Traffic jumped from 3,000 vehicles a day in 1924 to 12,000 vehicles a day in 1929.

Its replacement in 1932 was said to be the longest in the State highway system, and was welcomed in a dedication ceremony by the notables of the day in limousines and by two caravans of automobiles, one from Oxnard and another from Ventura, who met at the center of the 1806 foot steel and concrete bridge, where a gold ribbon fluttered across the bridge. The cost of this one was \$289,000 and was expected to carry 15,000 vehicles a day.

Today, we drive across the third version, opened in 2007, which from six to twelve lanes and includes a bicycle lane. It cost \$85 million dollars and carries 125,000 vehicles a day. The next time you drive across it, say a silent word of thanks to Mike Flynn and Mr. Hartman that it is not in Saticoy, Santa Paula or south Oxnard.

Pictured left: The original wooden Santa Clara River Bridge circa 1898

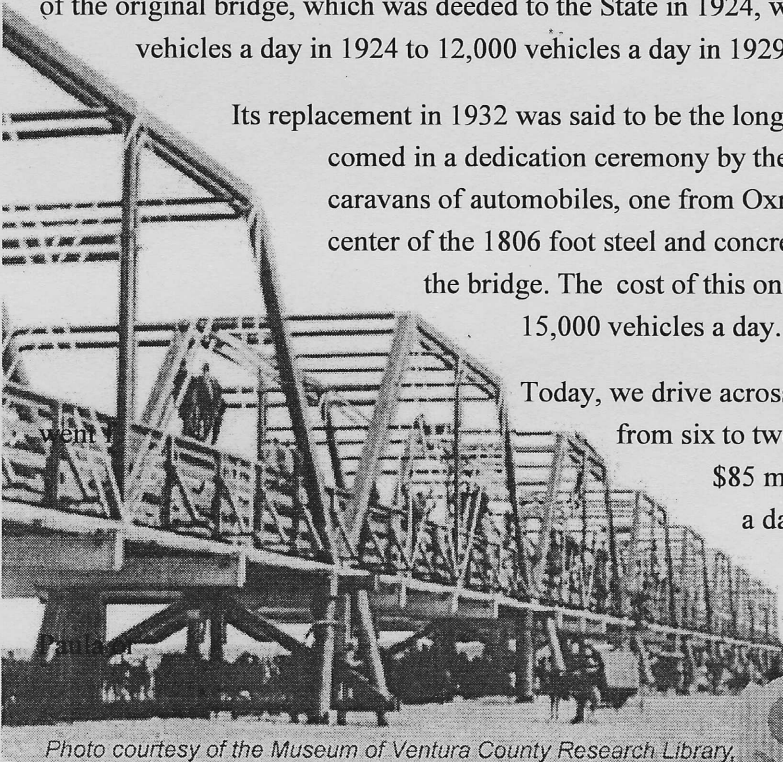


Photo courtesy of the Museum of Ventura County Research Library.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that it has been a year already since I was elected to serve as your President. We have had a great year and I want to thank all of you that have supported me but more importantly have dedicated your time to serve the Society and Museum. It is you, who give ten minutes or many hours on any given day, who make the Museum and Garden a wonderful place to visit throughout the year and we should all be proud that we are a part of this wonderful asset to the community. Many thanks to all of you; because of you, it is a pleasure to serve as your President.

Since we are closing out our official year and our newly elected Board will have their first meeting on July 1st, I would like to thank the outgoing Board members, Bob Hernandez, John Kitchens and Carol Pinto for their dedication and service. You have put your mark on all that we have accomplished in the Society and Museum while you served as a leader these past few years. We will miss your comments and your smiling faces at our meetings. To the new Board members and the reelected members I congratulate you and also thank you for wanting to be a part of our leadership. I want to acknowledge the new Board members, Dave Bratz, Ken Eastman and Dale Jacobs. The complete Board, for your information, is presented later in this edition.

Here is a capsulated version of what accomplishments we have made this past year:

Improvements: Painted and put on a new roof on our Gazebo, replaced the old rotten foot bridge, planted new types of plants to attract butterflies, new tower to display the old Pleasant Valley School Bell, modified display cases and other changes were made to improve flexibility in our displays, digitized/computerized all of our photos for easier access to view

Administrative: Requested City to extend our last five year extension to our existing lease, working with City to give us a new long term lease, meeting with Ranch House personnel to build a relationship so we can work more closely together

Events: Don and Donas Bar-B-Q (August), At Home In Camarillo in 1919 (October), Living History Day (May), Periodic display changes in Museum

Anniversary: Pleasant Valley Historical Society & Museum - 50th Anniversary this year. Max Copenhagen, Committee Chair, is planning many things for our celebration. We should also recognize others who are celebrating their Anniversaries this year: Adolfo Camarillo (150th), St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church (100th), St. Johns Seminary (75th), City of Camarillo (50th).

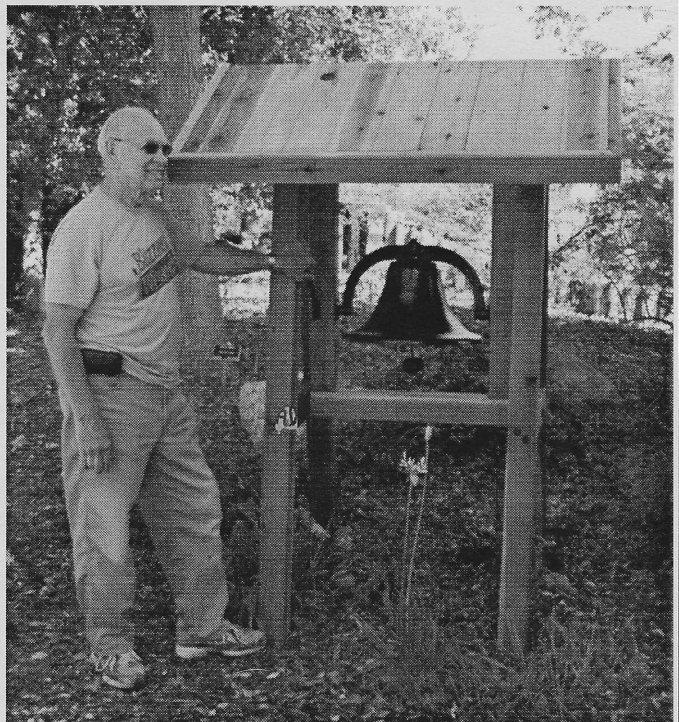
Future: Expansion of the display area and Museum (Working with City on extended long term Lease), New Board will develop a new long term list of goals.

I want to thank Liz Daily and Pat Roth for their leadership and the many volunteers who put on another successful "Living History Day" event in May. All had a wonderful time. Also I want to remind you of the upcoming dine out event at the Texas Cattle Co. on Tuesday, August 5 and the "Don & Doñas Bar-B-Q" on Sunday, August 24th at the Ranch House Barn. Put these on your calendar.

Again **THANKS** to all for a **Great Year.**

Frank Roth, President

Left: Frank Roth rings the Pleasant Valley School Bell in its new stand. Ring it yourself when you visit the Garden.



THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT THE MUSEUM

LIVING HISTORY DAY

Pat Roth and Liz Daily

On Sunday, May 18, 2014, many children and adults had a fun and learning experience in the Gazebo and Garden area of our Museum as we celebrated this year's Living History Day. Many, for the first time, saw how their ancestors lived and "for a day" wore their shoes by participating in activities that were common in each home many years ago. Thirty-nine volunteers made this event successful by working hard for a few hours. All were rewarded many times over when they saw the smiles on the faces of the children holding in their hands the various toys and food that they made or the gold that they found at the mine. We all wish that we could take a snapshot of each visitor's brain to see what all that they learned and their emotions as they participated in the various activities. Today's families are no longer required to churn their own butter, make their own flour, make toys, wash clothes by hand, spin wool and make quilts, etc. but many years ago this was a daily routine and they had fun while they did it. They enjoyed their food and toys even more because they had a personal part in their preparation. We speak for the Society in saying that we are so grateful to have given a few the opportunity to live a few hours like their grand and great grand parents did long ago.

We are sad to report that our attendance was down a little from last year and we believe that it was due to competition with six other events going on at the same time in the community. This didn't discourage our volunteers and we want to bend over backwards to say "Thank You" and pat them on the back for a job well done. You are all soooooo Great! Below is a list of the activities and volunteers. If we have missed acknowledging someone, please forgive us. *See pictures on Page 5.*

Set up & Clean up: Don, Jody & Liz Daily, Loretta & Paul Hawblitzel, David Hibbits, Renee Higgins, Roger & Todd Putnam, Frank & Pat Roth, Valerie Tackett, Bill & Joy Todd, Janet Whitlock

Welcome & Information Station: Paul Hawblitzel & Frank Roth

Refreshments: Jody & Liz Daily (Punch), Bob Burrow, Lois Grooms, Renee Higgins, Raelene Manzer, Betty Sullivan, Joy Todd, Barbara Wagner (Cookies)

Gold Mining: Don Daily & Bill Todd

Washing Tub: Loretta Hawblitzel

Tortillas: David Hibbits, Karen Moon, Danny Shroyer

Butter Making: Joy Todd, Kathy Vargeson

Docent: Ira Grooms

Bull Rush (String Button Toy): Doris Fournier & Carol Pinto

Wheat Grinding: Olivia & Bob Fulkerson

Yarn Dolls: Betty Sullivan & Gail DeWolfe

Wood Work: Terry DeWolfe, Roger & Todd Putnam (Wood and Tools)

Hobby Horse: Charmaine Beaumont & Liz Daily
Ventura County Hand Weavers & Spinners Guild:
Rosemary Schalfor

Clothes Pin Butterfly Toy: Jennifer Conn, Danielle & Mimi Timrott, Barbara Wagner

Garden, Tool Introduction & Butterfly Garden: Betty Jo and Sam McDonald

Music (Zither & Guitar): Barbara & Ed Miller

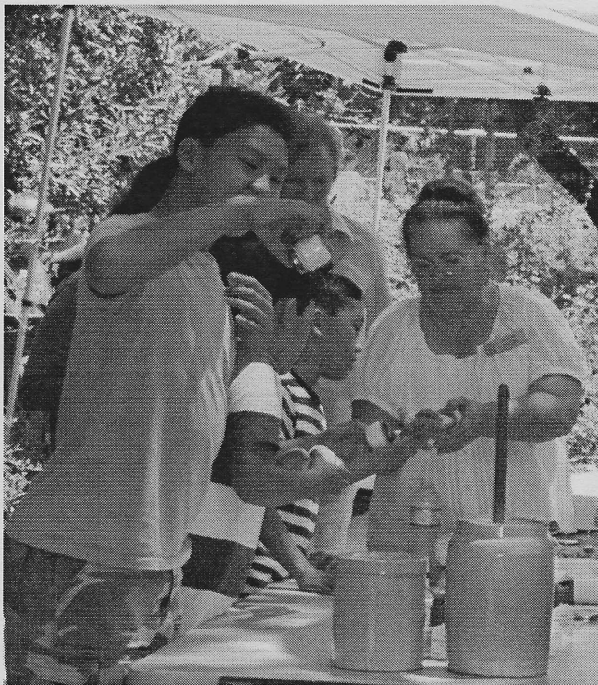
Civil War: North – Max Copenhagen

South – Bobbie & Dale Jacobs

IT'S DINE OUT TIME AGAIN

We hope to see all of you on Tuesday, August 5, at the Texas Cattle Company at Ponderosa and Arneill Roads in the Von's Shopping Center in Camarillo. They are open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. No coupon is necessary. Just tell your server that you are there to support the Historical Society and a percentage of your check will be donated to the Society.

LIVING HISTORY DAY ACTIVITIES



LEFT: Pat Roth and friends churn butter. ABOVE: Gold miners hard at work.

Pleasant Valley Historical Society & Museum - 50th Anniversary -

This is a big year, our 50th! The Historical Society was founded in 1964, the same year the City was incorporated. We are planning several things to celebrate our anniversary and bring people to the museum. There will be commemorative souvenirs and a new T-shirt design (see left). Use the inserted order blank.



Beginning in August, we will invite the public to attend free talks about local history. The 45-minute talks will be held every other Thursday evening in the gazebo with refreshments on August 7, 21, September 4, 18, and October 2. Bring along your friends and family to enjoy the garden on a long summer evening.

We also plan to rejuvenate the Old Town Walking Tour. We will print updated information and place new signs at key buildings to help people explore and learn about the area on their own self-guided tour. If you would like to help sponsor our anniversary booklet, please contact Ira at ira.grooms@gmail.com.

HELP WANTED: Someone to clip newspaper articles about Camarillo for our files at the Museum. You would do the work at home and bring the articles to the Museum to file. Call Liz Daily, 482-1036, for more information.

MEMORIALS

Jack and Linda Arnot donated in memory of Bill Seaver.

Fred Phipps and Cathy Trainer donated in memory of Phyllis Grant, Tom Martin and John Hills.

CHARLES HONN GARDEN

The "Dirt" on Dirt

Yes, we walk on it, dig in it and yell at people for tracking it onto our clean floors. My clothes and shoes are often covered with it because I am always digging in it. We use it as a metaphor for reporting something not so nice. "I have the dirt on him". We should all love it and probably should respect it more by calling it soil. If I had been the director of the movie "Gravity", I would have had Sandra Bullock kiss it instead of grabbing a handful at the end of the movie.

Soil is not simple. If you have a microscope you can see a fraction of the teeming, living ecosystem we walk on, shovel and cover with concrete and asphalt, wear out and let blow away as dust.

Everything alive on earth is dependent on this complicated brown stuff we take for granted. (Scientists don't call the part of earth beneath the ocean soil, they call it sediment, but I assume that the part of soil which washes into the oceans does influence life there.) Soil scientists say that each shovel full of soil that we dig has more living things in it than all the humans who have even been born.

We all know that erosion gives and takes away. Our rich deep topsoil in the Oxnard plain can be described as well drained loamy soil and was deposited here in alluvial fans by erosion from higher elevations. This plentitude of good soil is the base of our history, both literally and figuratively. The composition of the soil made this area what it is and determined our history.

If we took an elevator ride down into the earth we in Ventura county would ride though an unusually large area of topsoil. The depth and nutrition level of top soil determines what grows in an area. As we go deeper in our reverse elevator we would come to the subsoil where there is no organic matter but lots of rock particles full of minerals. Eventually we would reach bedrock and these two layers are just waiting for an upheaval of some kind such as an earthquake or a landslide to expose them so they can begin the process of creating new soil.

What is in this dirt or soil anyway? Well if you dig much you know there are rocks, large and small. There is sand, made up of tiny crystals, and clay, containing minerals and tightly packed molecules, which holds water and nutrients, and humus, the remains of dead and decaying plants and animals. Our soil also has large amounts of air and water.

The nutrients in soil are dissolved in water and held on the surface of soil particles for release to roots and the many microorganisms that live there and contribute to the health of our crops. These living creatures are earthworms, fungi, bacteria, insects, mites, nematodes. All of these are called detritivores because they turn dead plants and animals into nutrients. One of the most amazing of these underground creatures are the Mycorrhizae, a fungus which attaches itself to the roots of plants. It can not make food for itself so it feeds from the sugars produced on the plant roots. The plant benefits because the fungus brings in extra water and minerals to the plants roots. If we find our soil, through mistreatment or overuse of chemical fertilizers, to be deficient in this fungus we can actually purchase it in bags and add to our soil, greatly improving our trees use of water and nutrients.

When our soils are too wet, the lack of oxygen kills many of these tiny organisms; when the soil is too dry, some die but others simply go deeper in the soil to find moisture.

If you want to know more about what is in your soil, you can send a sample to Fruit Growers^{At} Laboratory:

Soil Analyses or Plant Tissue Analyses, 853 Corporation St., Santa Paula, CA 93060, 805-392-2000

You can also learn more about your soil by contacting :

University of California Cooperative Extension Agricultural and Natural Resources of Ventura County, 669 County Square Drive # 100, Ventura, CA 93003, 805-645-1451

The more you learn—the better you can grow! Any mistakes in this article are made by your dirt loving, dirt covered Garden Person, Betty Jo McDonald


Board of Directors 2014-2015

New members were elected at the June 1 Annual Meeting. The new Executive Board will be elected at the July meeting.

Jeanne Adams	Dave Bratz	Bob Burrow
Max Copenhagen	Liz Daily	Honorable Stanley Daily
Ted Daniel	Ken Eastman	Ira Grooms
Paul Hawblitzel	David Hibbits	Dr. Renee Whitlock Higgins
Dale Jacobs	Bill Manzer	Raelene Manzer
Ron McCown	Betty Jo McDonald	Bill Milligan
Albert Misevic	Roger Putnam	Franklin Roth
Patricia Roth	Bob Rust	Valerie Tackett
Bill Todd	Joy Todd	Betty Sullivan
Valerie Tackett	Barbara Wagner	

Committee Chairs of PVHS for 2014-2015

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: *Open*; Membership: *Bill Todd*; Newsletter: *Betty Sullivan*; Publicity: *Barbara Wagner*; Sunshine, Living History Day: *Pat Roth*; Site: *Bill Manzer*; Nominations, IT: *Max Copenhagen*; Signage: *Ira Grooms*.



150th Birthday
 Adolfo Camarillo

Camarillo Ranch
FOUNDATION
15th ANNIVERSARY

50th Anniversary
 City of Camarillo

Visit the Historic Camarillo Ranch!
2014 Events Schedule

Wednesday, July 16.....	Tales at the Ranch
Sunday, July 20.....	Summer Sunday at the Ranch
Wednesday, August 20.....	Tales at the Ranch
Sunday, October 26.....	Adolfo's 150th Birthday Celebration
Wednesday, December 3	Christmas with Santa
Saturday, December 6.....	14th Annual Holiday Gala
Wednesday, December 10.....	Christmas with Santa
Wednesday, December 17	Christmas with Santa

Please visit our website or call the office for more event information.

CAMARILLO RANCH FOUNDATION
 201 Camarillo Ranch Road, Camarillo, CA 93012
 Phone: (805)389-8182 • Fax: (805)389-8183 • www.camarilloranch.org