

The Echo

News from the Pleasant Valley Historical Society

Our 50th Don and Doña Barbeque Set for August 30

The Pleasant Valley Historical Society has been honoring outstanding citizens of the area with the title of Don and Doña since 1965. If you thumb through the pages of the Don and Doña scrapbooks at the Museum, you will be looking at the history of our Pleasant Valley. This year, our Golden Anniversary, is no exception. Our new honorees have contributed far and above what is normally expected of a good citizen.

Some are sons and daughters of long time residents; others have made a difference in the community through their professional and volunteer efforts for at least 20 years. They will all proudly take their places amid those who have gone before.

They are:

Jeanne Adams

Geoff Dean

Tom Fitzgerald

Lynn Jones

Richard Lee

Hillary Ling

Kevin Nunn

Joan Carole Olsen

Ada Lee Sullivan

Craig H. Underwood

They will be honored on Sunday afternoon, August 30, in the Red Barn at the Camarillo Ranch House. Their friends and relatives are invited to join in these festive activities, which include a Santa Maria Style Barbeque catered by Wood Ranch, a complimentary wine, beer and soft drink 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.

We have finally surrendered to inflation, raising our prices this year to \$75 for adults, but staying at \$15 for children under 12. The Society carefully uses all funds and donations to keep our doors open, to pay for utilities and supplies, and to keep our Charles Honn Botanical Garden beautiful. We continue to be an all-volunteer organization, and the Don and Doña celebration is our big fundraiser for the year. It is a tradition you don't want to miss.

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.

Pleasant Valley Historical Society Continues its Speaker Series

Last year, the Pleasant Valley Historical Society launched its Speaker Series in conjunction with its 50th Anniversary programming. The Speaker Series offered presentations by various individuals who spoke of the area's rich history as they told stories of earlier days. The series, which is held at the PVHS Botanical Garden Gazebo, was well attended by the community. In an effort to continue this opportunity to enrich the community's interest in the past, the 2015 Speaker Series has been announced.

This year's programs will include presentations on the Pleasant Valley area as well as the surrounding Ventura County area. Once again, the events will be held on a Thursday evening in the gazebo and will include a presentation, a time for questions and refreshments. The Thursday evening time provides an opportunity to enjoy the gardens while relaxing in the outdoors. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The presentations which have been scheduled for the summer months include the following:

JUNE 25th at 6:30 pm

THEN & NOW - Ventura

Presented by Stephen Shafer

JULY 16th at 6:30 pm

VENTURA COUNTY LANDMARKS

Presented by Nicole Doner

AUGUST 27th at 6:30 pm

HISTORY OF WATER IN CAMARILLO

Presented by Rick Dierksin

SEPTEMBER 17th at 6:30 pm

PLEASANT VALLEY FAMILIES

Presented by Val Rains

Plan on attending one or more of the events. Please contact PVHS should you have any questions about these or other events. The presentations are recorded and archived for the future. Also, if you know of any interesting topics for future presentations, let us know as we hope to continue this in future years. We look forward to seeing you there and stay tuned for future presentations as they are scheduled.

Membership Reminder

Please bring your membership current for the 2015 calendar year. Those in arrears will chance being removed from the mailing lists and/or receiving "*The Echo!*" The board has approved 2016 membership donations to: Individual--\$25; Supporter--\$40; Patron--\$100; Corporate--\$150; Benefactor--\$250; Lifetime--\$500. Our costs are rising, but most importantly, we are getting closer to making a decision on Museum expansion.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, summer is upon us and its time to enjoy the garden.

It's an honor to be elected President and I will do my best. I wish I could say that I am a long-time resident of the Pleasant Valley area but I am not, only having moved here in 2008. I did, however, grow up in a similar coastal climate, over in Palos Verdes, so it feels like home to me, especially in the cool moist mornings. I began as a history major at Cal Berkeley, but then changed to Forestry and that is where my career led me. I have always enjoyed history, but became enthralled when I began civil war reenacting while living in Virginia. I still enjoy hearing the call to "couter up" and wear the wool.

I want to commend Frank Roth for his service and success as President for the past two years. Under his leadership, important Goals were set for 2015, including:

- developing a program for recording the oral history of long-time community residents
- improving awareness of the Museum by painting a mural on the outside wall
- continuing the Speakers Series that began in the Gazebo last year
- awarding a scholarship for work on a subject of local historical interest
- considering efficient use of water and grounds to reduce Garden maintenance costs

Welcome to two new members of the Board - Gail & Terry DeWolfe; and thanks to outgoing Board members Albert Misevic, Dale Jacobs and Paul Hawblitzel for their years of service.

This is a volunteer organization and we appreciate every one of you. We have many effective committees that work year-round for the benefit of the Society. Thanks to the good committee chairs and many members who volunteer to help sustain our activities and programs.

Want to help? Let us know if you have a particular interest and would like to get involved in one of the committees. We are also in need of new docents and training will be provided. This is a good way to spend a pleasant afternoon in the Museum or perhaps do some research in the Fulkerson Library.

One of our greatest assets is our archive of historical photographs. A new policy was recently approved to allow free downloads for non-commercial use. A computer has been set up in the Library and special PVHS memory sticks are available in the Gift Store for this purpose. We look forward to exhibiting some of our most interesting historical photographs at The Loft gallery on Ventura Blvd. later this summer.

The recent Living History Day was very successful. Its good to see that we are recognized in the community and meeting an important educational purpose. Thanks also to "Woody" Milleman for a great program at the Annual Meeting.

Please let us know your ideas on what displays you would like to see in the Museum. Perhaps you have something interesting that you would like to share with the public.

This will be our 50th year of honoring our Dons and Doñas and we will have a special BBQ on August 30th. Hope to see you there! -

Max Copenhagen

LIVING HISTORY DAY

On Sunday, May 17, 2015 the PVHS Museum and Garden once again was a beehive of activity with 20 stations and 40 volunteers demonstrating and teaching children of the community to wear the shoes, for a couple hours, of their great grandparents when they were children. This year's annual event was the most successful of all previous events with over a 160 visitors, most of whom were children. It was truly a joy to see the smiles on the faces of the boys and girls as they strutted around the beautiful Garden, which was in full bloom. Their hands were full of things that they had just proudly made just like their ancestors did many years ago. Many of the workers said, after the event was over, that they had as much fun as the kids did and could not believe how fast the time went by because they were so busy. They too were rewarded with the many smiles, happy eyes and the "Thank you's" that they received from the kids and parents. Some of the activities that were available to the kids this year were making tortillas and butter, grinding wheat, making dolls, magnetic bees, string button toys and clothes pin butterflies, drilling holes in wood and using a hammer, saw and garden tools, spinning wool into thread, panning for gold and talking to a Southern Civil War Soldier.

Some of our old time workers were unable to be here this year for various reasons but we had a number of new helpers who stepped in and enjoyed themselves so much that many want to come back again next year. We graciously want to say "Thank You" to all that helped in this event and making it such a joyous fun filled time for all. Below is a list of the activities and volunteers. If we have missed acknowledging someone, please forgive us.

Co-Chairs: Pat Roth & Liz Daily

Gold Mining: Bill Todd, Bill Conn

Washing Tub: Lois Grooms, Jennifer Conn

Tractor & Farm Machinery: Bill Milligan

Tortillas: Dr. David Hibbits, Karen Moon, Danny Shroyer

Butter Making: Dr. Renee Higgins, Bob Rust

Bull Rush (String Button Toy): Doris Fournier, Gail DeWolfe

Wheat Grinding: Betty Jo McDonald

Dolls: Liz Daily, Barbara Wagner, Mimi Timrott

Woodwork: Don Daily, Terry DeWolfe, Jacob & Joey Root

Keg Hobby Horse: Terry DeWolfe

Docent: Ira Grooms, Joy Todd

Ventura County Handweavers & Spinners Guild: Rose Mary Schaffer

Clothes Pin Butterfly: Kathy Vargeson, Donna Lovato

and Friend

Music (Zither): Ed and Barbara Miller

Garden Tools Introduction & Butterfly Garden: Betty Jo McDonald

Magnet Bee: Carol Johnson

Civil War: Dale Jacobs

Welcome & Sign-In: Frank Roth

Refreshments: Joy Todd, Winaford Jordan, Betty Sullivan, Barbara Wagner, Bob Burrow, Liz Daily, Barbara Burrow, Dr. Renee Higgins

Set-Up & Clean-Up: Bill & Joy Todd, Liz Daily, Don and Jody Daily, Dr. David Hibbits. Bill and Jennifer Conn, Babara Wagner, Pat and Frank Roth

See us at the Ventura County Fair

PVHS will again enter the "Museum Shadow Box" display located in the rear of the Ag & Natural Resources Building. A committee of volunteers hope to earn another ribbon with their interpretation of the theme "A County Fair with Ocean Air" during the run from August 5th-15th.

LIVING HISTORY DAY



In the background, volunteers give children and their parents an opportunity to make their own tortillas while Bob Rust (in the foreground) demonstrates butter making in an old fashioned churn.

Yum. Warm tortillas with home churned butter. Lip smackin' good.

DINE OUT IN AUGUST

Please join us on Tuesday, August 4, at Texas Cattle Company any time between 11 a.m. and 9 p.m. for lunch or dinner to benefit the Society. This is a win-win for us all as you will enjoy a tasty meal and the Society will receive some much needed funds. Their address is 710 Arneil Road.

You do not need a coupon. Simply tell your server that you are there to support the Pleasant Valley Historical Society and they will do the rest.

Museum Docents Needed

Easy training! Call Joy Todd for more information at 482-0179.

MEMORIALS

Fred Phipps and Cathy Trainer donated in memory of Blake Bomstack, Bob Grether, Ray Hearon, Ray Fossee, Charles "Skip" Warner, Winifred Wilcoxson, Floyd Davis, Mel Vincent, Marguerite Daubert, Anne Thomas, Betty Powell, Bill Kohagen.

Bob and Olivia Fulkerson gave in memory of Bob Grether and Tristan Antes Colell-Silva.

HONORARIUMS

Fred Phipps and Cathy Trainer donated in honor of the Inductees in the VBC Educators Hall of Fame: Pat Craig, Raelene Manzer, Bruce Colell

DONATIONS

Keith Kwan of Chester's Asia made a generous contribution to benefit the Museum.

Caring for Trees During the dry times by Betty Jo McDonald, Garden Chair

Trees in Southern California, both those in home gardens and trees in wild areas, are becoming increasingly stressed because of lack of deep water from rainfall and restriction of home watering.

Your trees can show signs of stress that you may not notice at first: a paler green in the leaves and early dropping of leaves, indicating that the tree is having trouble producing the chlorophyll it needs. To understand what your tree needs, begin with the root system; the “underground tree”. Most of the roots are in the top 18 inches of soil, but they extend far out from the trunk of the tree. The majority of roots which take in nutrients, water and oxygen are in the top 6 to 8 inches. The large roots which we sometimes see intruding into our lawns and lifting our hardscape are the “ballast” for holding the immense weight of a huge tree upright.

Think like a tree: Long slow watering is best for all trees. If you have a tree in your lawn and you stop watering the lawn, think what has happened to the tree—likely its trunk has been sprayed almost daily (causes rot) and it got some water each day but had to compete with the grass for the nutrients. Now it is getting very little water, so it slows down its life processes to survive. Some trees are better than others at this.

Quercus agrifolia, our iconic coast live oak, does this every summer naturally. The problem for these trees in the wild is that they have not had deep water from rains and have not been able to store up the starches and nutrients they need to make it through the normally dry summers.

In our gardens, our coast live oaks are accustomed to getting more water and they should be supplemented like our other garden trees. A long slow soak is best, keeping water away from the trunks. There are complicated and sophisticated ways to soak your trees—you can order “soaker rings” from the internet or you can have a landscaper install “Netafim” or “Agrifim” drip lines or install them yourself.

The easiest and fastest way to take action is to buy what is called a “leaky hose” and a hose end timer. It would probably help to buy some bent metal garden stakes to hold the leaky hose in place. Place the hose in rings around the tree—if you have the room, go out to the “Drip line” of the tree—where the branches end. Don’t get too close to the trunk. Attach the hose end timer to your faucet, a feeder hose to the outlet of the timer, then hook that to your leaky hose which you have laid out in rings around the tree. Turn on the water (and the timer—it won’t allow water to come out when it is in the off position) and adjust the water volume so that the leaky hose doesn’t spray out—just leaks. Set the time to 2 hours—the maximum time. Use a probe or a long screw driver to check the depth the water has penetrated. (B&B Hardware has all the items you need)

Some rules:

No matter how you decide to do it, deep water all of your trees

Newer and smaller trees—once or twice weekly—but they won’t need as much water as the large trees

Older large trees water twice a month—don’t kill them with kindness because they need oxygen in the soil to survive.

Do not fertilize a stressed tree.

Don’t prune them in the summer if they are stressed—they need all their leaves to make food.

Good luck and save your trees.

Board of Directors 2015-2016

Max Copenhagen, *President*

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Bill Manzer

Raelene Manzer

Ron McCown

Betty Jo McDonald

Bill Milligan

Roger Putnam

Patricia Roth

Betty Sullivan

Valerie Tackett

Joy Todd

Committee Chairs for 2015-2016

Accessions, Display, Cleaning: *Liz Daily*; Annual Meeting, Facilities, Grants: David Hibbit; Don and Doña Barbeque, Docents: *Joy Todd*; Don and Doña Selection Committee: *Bill and Raelene Manzer*; Gazebo Events: *Valerie Tackett*; Finance/Budget: *Bob Rust*; Policies: open; Garden: *Betty Jo MacDonald*; Fund-raising: *Stan Daily*; Gift Shop: *Doris Fournier*; Membership: *Bill Todd*; Newsletter: *Betty Sullivan*; Publicity: *Barbara Wagner*; Sunshine, Living History Day: *Pat Roth*; Site: *Bill Manzer*; IT: *Max Copenhagen*; Signage: *Ira Grooms*.

The Big Thirst by Charles Fishman

Great book to Read on Water Reviewed by Betty Jo McDonald

I will state up front that I have not finished reading this wonderful book but I highly recommend it to you if you are interested (or even obsessed as I am) by the subject of water.

I am thinking of water as never before! The water we have is all we will ever have and all we ever had. I might be sipping from the same water source as Tyrannosaurus Rex. And that got me to wondering, "How much water did a T Rex sip in a life time? More than an almond tree or a lawn?" And how the heck do you wash sheep's wool?

I am questioning even more than I did before I started this read, "Why don't we have an over all water policy in California instead of hysteria over lawns, long showers and bottled water." And who is the real villain in the bottled water furor? In 2009 8.4 billion gallons of bottled water were sold in the U.S., equaling 27 gallons per person. If you take one bath per year you use twice that much.

This book is full of startling and fascinating facts about water. It is worth a read. It is available at the BookWorm in the Ralphs shopping center. Support our local bookstore!