

The Echo

News from the Pleasant Valley Historical Society

Our Early Settlers—The Fulkersons

Historical background and pictures provided by Bob and Olivia Fulkerson

Here is a pop quiz for you. Can you name the store that has been in business in the Pleasant Valley area for over one hundred years? That has remained at the same location the whole time? And has been run by succeeding members of the same family? If you guessed the Fulkerson Hardware in Somis, give yourself a pat on the back. You know your local history.

Jonothan Floyd Fulkerson and his two brothers, James and Richard, arrived in the area in 1891, a year before Somis became a township. They came from Stacklan, Kansas seeking new opportunities and land they could call their own. James opened a blacksmithing shop in 1892 that he operated, assisted by Jonothan. Richard became a lineman for the Union Pacific.

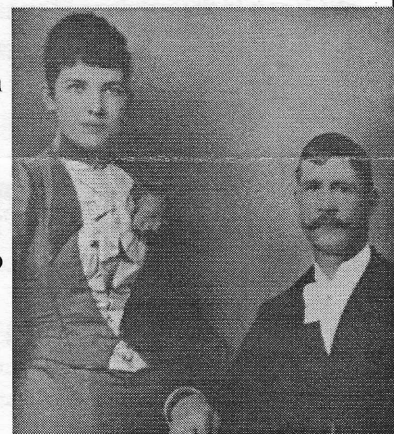
By 1900, James wanted to move to the new town of Oxnard and sold out his interest in the smithy to Jonothan who continued to run it for 12 years. Jonothan sold the smithy in 1912 and opened a hardware store, devoted to serving the needs of the local farming community. It is still there today, serving the needs of the local community, and run by the present generation of Fulkersons.

It is said that when Jonothan moved to town, he asked everyone he met just who they thought were the best dancers. The names that kept coming up were the Hughes sisters, Frances, May, Ethel, Pearl and Blanche. He must have found what he was looking for because he and Frances married in 1892 and had three children, Birdie, Inez and Jonathan, Jr. all born in Somis.

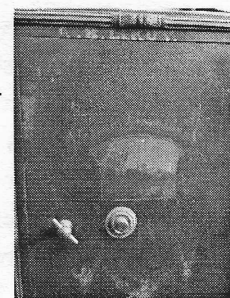
Frances' father, William Hughes, sold his farm in Illinois in 1864 and crossed the plains to California. Her mother, Marietta, was in the same wagon train as William. It arrived in Sutter County and, shortly after, in 1865, they were married. They came to Ventura County in 1868 and homesteaded 121 acres of land from the government. This land is at Lewis Road and Las Posas Road. It was ultimately sold and is filled with homes and commercial properties today.

Jonothan, Jr. known to all as Jack, was next in line to run the family business. He was considered the unofficial mayor of Somis and continued his father's legacy. Among the many stories associated with the store during his time as owner was one about the time in 1921 when a professional safecracker blew open the safe and took about \$100. The safecracker shut the door of the inner safe, turned the bolt and spun the dial. No one knew the combination of the inner safe and it hasn't been opened since. It was going to cost \$100 to open it so his father, Jon, said, "Hell, no. There are only canceled checks in it so there is no hurry." It is still there.

The current owner, Bob, took over from his dad in 1977. He and his wife, Olivia, live in a house built in 1938, next to the original family home, built in 1892.



Jonothan and Fanny on their wedding day



The safe! Still there!

Continued on Page 2

Book Review by Garden Chair, Betty Jo McDonald

California Bees & Blooms: A Guide for Gardeners and Naturalists

By Gordon W. Frankie, Robin W. Thorp, Rollin E. Coville and Barbara Ertter

Heyday Press and the California Native Plant Society

This beautifully illustrated guide is an essential handbook for gardeners who are interested in creating diversity in their city gardens. If you know something about native bees and are longing to see them in your garden, this is the book for you. If you know nothing about native bees and would like to learn something about these creatures which are pollinating your gardens largely unnoticed, this is the book for you.

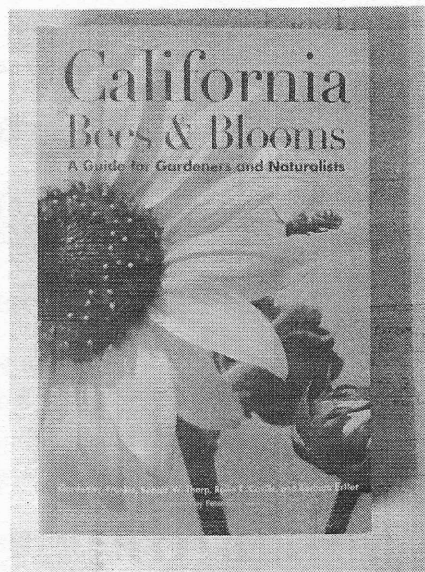
Get a copy and put a cover on it because it will be your gardening companion for many seasons to come.

The book is the product of years of study of California's native bees and the discovery that they are found not just in wild areas, but in city gardens when we provide plants they favor. There are pages of color photographs of many different examples of some of the 1600 species of native bees which make their home in California. Detailed drawings make it easier to recognize the bees and understand how they function among the plants.

And the Plants! A huge section of plant profiles with color pictures guides gardeners as they create garden diversity to attract these tiny bees. The gardening section describes the plants, explains which bees each will attract, and how the insects use the plant.

The last two sections are designed for action. In "Recipes for a Bee Friendly Habitat Garden" there is even a "recipe" for a brown thumb garden—letting each of us believe we can create a diverse and bee friendly garden. "Taking Action on Behalf of Native Bees" then describes projects that citizen scientists, teachers and gardeners have developed to provide education, to spread the word about native bees and to get gardeners to plant more "bee plants."

This is not only a "bee friendly" book, it is a reader and gardener friendly book. The information is well organized and, while it is fascinating to read from cover to cover, it also serves well as a reference guide, including a very helpful appendix.



THE FULKERSONS, *Continued from Page 1*

The next time you visit the Museum, stop by the Jack Fulkerson Research Library. The Fulkerson family donated the funds to build the shelves to house the Society's extensive collection of research material, some of which was donated by Jack, a founding member of the Historical Society. The collection includes books, pamphlets and other material devoted to the history of California in general and Southern California in particular, dating from the Chumash era to the present.



The Blacksmith Shop 1909

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Pat and I hope that all of you have had a wonderful Holiday Season and were able to share it with your family and friends. As we begin our new year, 2015, we want to pause a moment to give "THANKS" for all of the many blessings that we are able to enjoy, with freedom, in this beautiful country of ours. We pray that some day soon all people throughout the world will live in peace, with freedom to enjoy those things that we take for granted each day, and that they no longer go hungry, nor get cold because they have no clothing or a warm place to live, nor lack medical attention that they need due to illness. We are so fortunate; we should share our joys, as we are able, with all of those that we meet each day.

We have just completed the year during which we celebrated the Society's "50th Anniversary." So many people are to be congratulated for their part in the celebration. Max Copenhagen, with Ken Eastman taking the lead, obtained some financial support from the City, and prepared the brochure entitled "101 Historical Highlights of Camarillo and the Pleasant Valley," which is full of facts about our community. We also had wooden nickels prepared which advertise our PVHS and Museum. New Tee Shirts were made which not only celebrated our anniversary but also the anniversaries of the City of Camarillo, St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church and Adolfo Camarillo's birthday. Bob Burrow scheduled a "Speaker's Series" of well known local community leaders, who discussed historical facts of the community regarding various topics of interest. As part of our celebration, PVHS received Certificates from the City of Camarillo presented by Mayor Kevin Kildee; from the Board of Supervisors of Ventura County presented by Supervisor Kathy Long, and from Congressperson Brownley of the House of Representatives who entered news of our anniversary in the Congressional Record. Thanks for all that was done in helping us celebrate our "50th Anniversary." PVHS and the Museum are now a little better known in the community because of your efforts.

As your President, I was happy to represent you in congratulating the City of Camarillo for 50 outstanding years. I presented to Mayor Kevin Kildee and the City of Camarillo, at their "50th Anniversary" City Commemorative Council Meeting, a plaque with a picture of the elected members of the first City Council.

The Society has had a wonderful and full year due to all of your individual involvements. Whether you gave only an hour or two of service once in awhile, donated hundreds of hours this past year, or supported us by paying your dues, I personally want to thank you. Your participation is appreciated and important to the PVHS and Museum and all that we do. I believe that the number of visitors this past year was greater than in any previous year. Keep it up and we will press forward for bigger and better things in the future.

Frank



Supervisor Kathy Long presents Frank with a certificate from the Board of Supervisors in honor of PVHS' 50th Anniversary as members of the Board look on.

THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT THE MUSEUM

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

January is the time to show support for your local museum by renewing, or beginning, your tax deductible membership. An envelope is included in this Echo mailing. Membership is our major source of income which will support the operation of our museum's utilities, supplies, insurance, and the Charles Honn Botanical garden. We do not pay office staff, volunteers or board members. We do pay for major garden upkeep.



Have you visited the museum recently? Most commonly heard comment from visitors: "We have lived here ump-teen years and never stopped in! It is such a surprise!" Our exhibits are well documented for instruction and are changed regularly. And it is one of the few county museums that has free admission!

Have you invited neighbors and friends to join? Personal invitations work best. Museum visitors who supply us with a complete address are added to our contact list with the hope they will join.

Thanks for your anticipated renewal! Bill Todd, Membership Chairman

IT IS DINE OUT TIME AGAIN!

In February, we are returning to Yolanda's for great Mexican dining. The date is Tuesday, February 3, and we have coupons on Page 5 for your use. Please give the second one to a friend. The more the merrier! The money we earn is used to augment funds from other sources to pay our bills.

MEMORIALS

Adele Walsh donated in memory of Louise Thiessen.

Fred Phipps and Cathy Trainer gave in memory of Louise Thiessen, Domingo Martinez, Jane Brewster, Susan Johanson, Richard Penrod and Trugio Hiji.

Pat Wise made a contribution in memory of Jane Brewster.

Betty Jo McDonald remembered Victor Nose, the man who did the architectural drawings for the Charles Honn Garden and served as a resource for issues with the irrigation system.

HONORARIUM

Val and Ted Rains and Katie and Don Waunch contributed in honor of Katie being named a Doña.

Val and Ted Rains and Kent and Karen Allen donated in honor of Dale and Jan Ackerman's 60th Wedding Anniversary.

DONATION

Richie Honn and Ann Snow made their annual contribution for the Charles Honn Botanical Garden.

Mark and Pauline Montgomery gave a copy of the book, *Images of Duarte*.

Board of Directors 2014-2015

Frank Roth, *President*

Max Copenhagen, *Vice President*

Bob Rust, *Treasurer*

Bill Todd, *Recording Secretary*

Barbara Wagner, *Corresponding Secretary*

Hon. Stan Daily, *Parliamentarian*

Bob Burrow, *Member at Large*

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Honorable Stanley Daily

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Dr. Renee Whitlock Higgins

Raelene Manzer

Bill Milligan

Franklin Roth

Betty Sullivan

Joy Todd

Committee Chairs for 2014-2015

Accessions, Display, Cleaning: *Liz Daily*; Annual Meeting, Facilities, Supplies, Grants, Don and Doña Bar-beque: *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: *Doris Fournier*; 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*.

THE PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

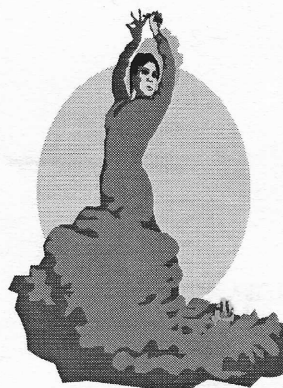


Invites you to
DINE OUT ON
Tuesday, February 3,
From 4 to 9:30 p.m.

At
YOLANDA'S
86 E. Daily Drive
Camarillo

You must present this flyer to your server in order for the Society to be given credit. Use this coupon for yourself

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NEWS FROM THE PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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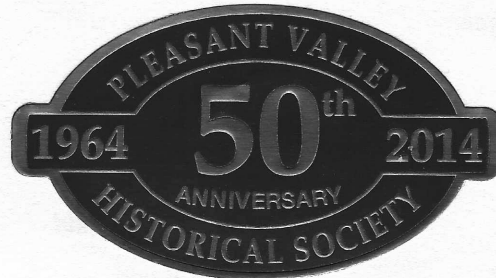
Newsletter Editor:

Betty Sullivan, 482-6340

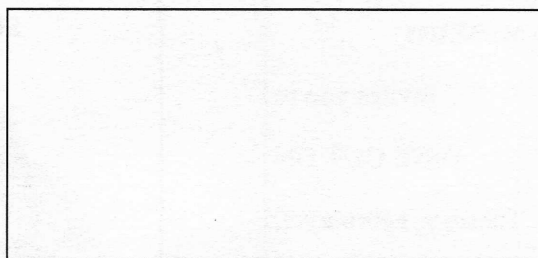


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The Pleasant Valley Historical Society Mission is to identify, preserve, classify, restore and acquire artifacts, buildings, landmarks, photographs and historical documents of the greater Pleasant Valley area for the education and use of the general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



Happy anniversary to the Pleasant Valley Historical Society (50th), City of Camarillo (50th), St. Mary Magdalen Church (100th) and Happy Birthday to Adolfo Camarillo (150th).



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Pleasant Valley Historical Society